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COMPUTERIZED WORK-FACTOR

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At the conference of the Work-Factor Association of September 1968, a computation program was presented, by means of which methods of work are analyzed at the Wofac Company. The first form of this program was elaborated in the FORTRAN language in December 1964 and was improved in 1966. In 1968 the program was further developed for the general use of the various economic activities.

Taking certain restrictions into account, various sequences of motions are generated by means of the computer, the corresponding pre-determined time period being associated to them.

The improved variant of the program also takes into consideration various movements of the hands and body. The logic of the program allows a sequence to be deduced, ensuring a very efficient utilization of both hands. Likewise, the distance between the hands and various objects can easily be computed. The results of the program stand out in the form of short sentences in English, by which each operation studied is described. The user thus obtains the description of the working place and the final composition of the elements of the work to be performed. The ratio between the output and inupt data is approximately 33 : 1, i.e. very advantageous.

The program can be extended to the card indexes: structure of movement, to which new technologies or working conditions may be added ; economy of movements to which new elementary time periods may be added.

In the author's opinion, as the programs improve, computers assume an ever grater responsibility, eliminating analysts from routine work and giving them the possibility to devote themselves to the improvement of working methods.