DESCRIPTION OF A HIGH LEVEL LANGUAGE FOR CAI COURSES ON MINICOMPUTERS

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The contemporary educational system is enduring pressures derived from the current rate of accumulation of knowledge. This has been conceptualized as the knowledge explosion, posing new and pressing problems to institutions in charge of organizing and transmitting the conquests of science. Several ways of surmounting these problems have been tried, and the computer has been an important component in most of the attempts at innovating the educational process.

In Brazil, Computer Aided Instruction (CAI) methods are at the very beginning of their development and application. The authors are presently involved in the designing and implementation of an automatic system for introducing secondary level students to computer science. The subject of this paper is the description of a language for creating and modifying a course to be given via a computer. However, what is actually implemented as part of the project is a set of commands that mainly to create and handle further modifications allows the system designers into the data base.

The present paper is a development of that set of commands aiming at the definition of a language permitting secondary school teachers to create their own courses. The problems related to the efficiency of languages and the importance of their use are also discussed.