TECHNICAL NOTE

RAPID COMPUTATION OF RATES
WITH A SIMPLE NOMOGRAM¹

Nomograms have been devised to aid in rapid calculation of body surface, basal metabolism rate, *etc.*

¹Reprints may be obtained from either author at Experimental Education Unit, Mental Retardation and Child Development Center, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98105.

(Geigy, 1962). Lindsley (1968) has also suggested their use in education. Figures 1 and 2 show two nomograms for obtaining rapid approximation of response rate. The right vertical axis is graduated along a time dimension, while the left axis is in a frequency dimension. When a straight edge is aligned across given values of time and frequency, the value on the diagonal

Fig. 1. Nomogram for determination of response rate.

at the point of intersection with the straight edge is the corresponding rate (frequency per unit time).

The nomograms shown are for two rate ranges commonly found in the classroom performance of children. However, a nomogram can be constructed for any values of time or frequency.

Keeping accurate records of the performance of 10 to 40 children in a public school classroom is at best a time-consuming task. It is important, however, that such data be kept on a daily basis so that they may provide a basis for decisions about the curriculum for the following day. The teacher must be provided with rapid methods of obtaining meaningful information from her data. Unless such methods are devised, the

teacher can hardly be expected to keep data which will be of only historical interest by the time it is processed.

REFERENCES

- Geigy Pharmaceuticals Division. *Documenta Geigy Scientific Tables*. 6th ed.; Ardsley, N.Y.: Author, 1962.
Lindsley, O. R. Personal communication, 1968.

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Received 3 July 1968.

Fig. 2. Nomogram for determination of response rate.