FORTRAN IV programs for scoring group atmosphere scale (GAS) and class atmosphere scale (CAS) data

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The Group Atmosphere Scale (GAS) scoring program and the Class Atmosphere Scale (CAS) scoring program are designed to score and analyze responses on the GAS (Silbergeld, Koenig, Manderscheid, Meeker, & Hornung, 1975) and CAS (Silbergeld, Koenig, & Manderscheid, 1975) instruments. The self-administered scales measure perceived environmental press, i.e., psychosocial environment, in different milieus: the GAS in small therapy groups, the CAS in junior and senior high school classrooms. Earlier theoretical and empirical work by Lewin (1951), Moos (1974), and Murray (1938) provides the basis for this conceptualization of environmental press.

The GAS (CAS) is composed of 12 subscales, each containing 10 true-false statements about group (class) behavior. Each subscale identifies a specific facet of psychosocial environment, i.e., spontaneity, support, practicality, affiliation, order, insight, involvement, aggression, variety, clarity, submission, and autonomy. An additional 10 true-false statements are included. These are designed to measure "halo" effect, or exaggerated feelings toward the group (class), and to reveal inconsistency by willingness to accept both extremely positive and negative statements.

Input. For both programs, input consists of two data cards per respondent. Card 1 contains Items 1-65,

individual and group (class) identifiers, and optional background information; Card 2 contains Items 66-130 and the identifiers. Item responses must be coded "1" if answered "true" and "2" if answered "false." Missing responses can be coded "8" or "9".

Output. Output consists of 14 subscale scores for each respondent. Summary means, standard deviations, standard errors, and sample size are given for the entire group (class), for therapists (teachers), and for members (students).

Limitations. Both programs accommodate an unlimited number of respondents per run. A separate run is required for each group (class).

Computer and Program Language. The programs are written in FORTRAN IV for an IBM 370/168. Conversion to other systems should require little or no reprogramming.

Storage. On the IBM 370/168, the storage requirement is 40K bytes.

Running Time. With a test data set of six respondents, the running time on an IBM 370/168 is approximately .35 sec.

Availability. Write to Dr. Sam Silbergeld, Mental Health Study Center, National Institute of Mental Health, 2340 University Boulevard East, Adelphi, Maryland 20783. For each scale, an instrument, scoring key, source deck, listing, and sample output are available at no cost.

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