SESSION X SYMPOSIUM: SKED

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SKED symposium

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SKED consists of a set of systems for the PDP-8 computer for the control of behavioral experiments and for data acquisition. All SKED systems are based on the state notation of behavioral procedures. The state notational language has proved to be a powerful language, general enough to be useful for investigations involving a wide range of behavioral experiments. The participants in the symposium described new hardware for connecting the computer to various laboratory instruments and new applications of SKED in instruction and experimentation.

Several types of presentations were given. Two dealt with new interfacing between the computer and external devices: S. C. Fowler and M. R. Leberer described inexpensive analog-to-digital converters that are compatible with the State Systems interface typically used for SKED; M. G. Grisham and L. J. Frei discussed a new optical isolator card with built-in capabilities for 24 inputs and 36 outputs. State Systems, Inc. is considering offering the card as an option.

F. E. Butler and M. G. Grisham outlined a strategy for teaching the SKED system to undergraduates as one part of a course on experimental psychology.

Three papers presented additions and improvements on the Time-Share SKED system. R. M. Kadden discussed the use of Time-Share SKED with a .001-sec sampling rate to collect analog data. With the use of

special routines to condition signals, look for errors, and interact with the state table, four stations can be run while timesharing. Tim Elsmore described a time-of-day clock that can be used with SKED to start and end sessions at a certain time of day, thus adding a new dimension to SKED; Geoff Inglis¹ described a system in which one research lab runs many different studies at the same time, collects data, codes inter-response times based on preceding events, and plots three-dimensional graphs of the resulting data in the background while the experiment is still running.

Finally, A. G. Snapper described proposed variable changes and progress in the development of "Super SKED," including Dimension statements for setting up an array of variables and improvements to the compiler, such as improved error detection, deletion of bugs, and allowing some kinds of statements not allowed in the past. He then asked for input from the audience to be included in Super SKED. There was agreement on the need for including mathematical operations within the SKED system and the need to be able to directly access recording counters.

NOTE

1. The paper by G. Inglis, entitled "Deep SKED," was not submitted for publication.