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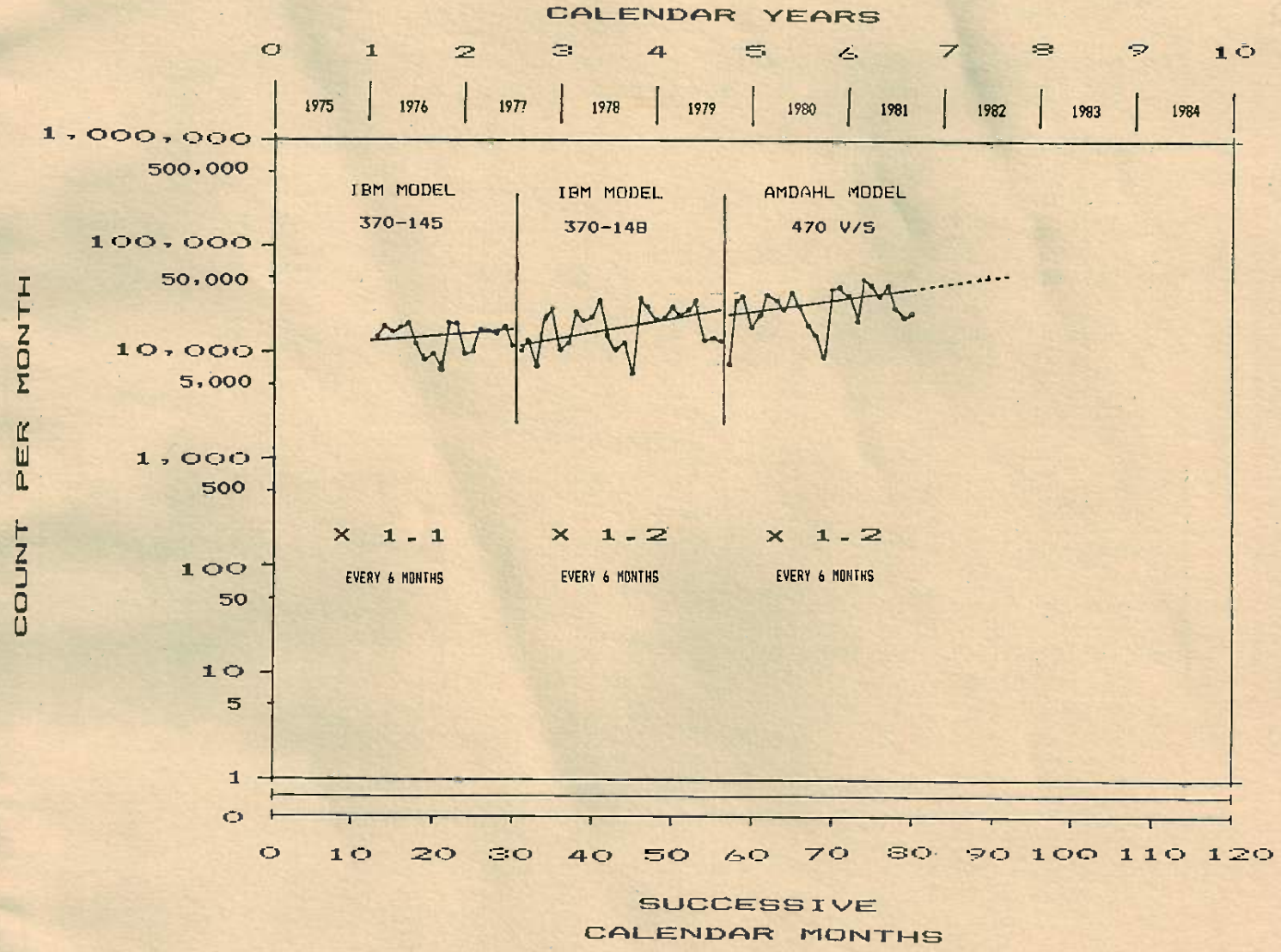
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY COMPUTER CENTER

ACADEMIC BATCH JOBS AND TERMINAL SESSIONS



Newsletter Guest Article

All users are welcome to participate in the Computer Center Guest Section. Its purpose is to relate the various computing projects in progress on the campus. The only rules are that the article must be typed, double-spaced, and no longer than 500 words. The Center reserves the right to edit if necessary. Articles can be submitted to the Computer Center office, Tod B101, Monday - Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Fall 1981 Newsletter Guest is Dr. Stephen A. Graf, an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology.

The Standard Celeration Chart

The figure on the cover of this edition of YSU/Online is plotted on a special type of chart. While unfamiliar to many of us, this chart turns out to be so useful that I thought you might like an introduction, if you haven't already made its acquaintance.

It's called a "Standard Celeration Chart". Why "Chart"? It is, very obviously, a chart. But why "Celeration"? The person most responsible for the development of the chart, Ogden Lindsley (U. of Kansas), says that the name of a chart should be whatever it is that you see when you look at the chart. So, when we look at a celeration chart, what we're seeing is celeration.

Now, what in the world is "celeration"? We tend to have a general notion of "acceleration" and "deceleration" from physics, or we know that the accelerators on our cars, when pushed, can get us going faster and faster. Celeration is used as the general term, without committing to "faster and faster" or "slower and slower". To be somewhat technical, the formula for celeration is count/time/time.

The count/time on the celeration chart on the cover is count per month, and that's what we read when we go up-the-left of the chart. The count, in this specific case, is the combined number of batch jobs and terminal sessions handled in a month by the YSU Computer Center. When we read across-the-bottom of a celeration chart, we look at time again. The celeration chart on the cover has months across the bottom. In the formula then, jobs & sessions per month per month is the celeration we see on the cover.

Why "standard"? The nice feature of a standard chart is that once you know one, you know them all. Unfortunately, most of the charts we're used to seeing are "one of a kind" models, and we have to decipher each of these oddities on its own if we want to make sense out of what we're seeing. A standard chart, however, is something to which we can relate. Our interpretative processes are speeded up because we're dealing with something old and familiar (once we've shifted to standard charts!).

What's standard about the Standard Celeration Chart? First and most importantly, what we see as corner-to-corner celeration (lower left to upper right) is always a doubling, something which is multiplying times two (every six months, when the time counted across the bottom is months). Also, any celeration anywhere on the chart that is parallel to the corner-to-corner slope is also doubling (every six months). A celeration running corner-to-corner from upper left to lower right would be halving, or in other words, dividing by two (every six months).

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Three celerations are seen on the cover: one for each of three different model computers in use at the YSU Computer Center at different times as indicated. The count is of academic batch jobs and terminal sessions. Quite a bit of bounce can be seen in the celerations, indicative of seasonal variations in usage. The heavy use months are about six times heavier than the lightest months. The growth has increased from times 1.1 every six months under the IBM 370 Model 145 to times 1.2 every six months with the two later models. If the present celeration of growth continues, months of 100,000 batch jobs plus terminal sessions can be expected by the spring of 1983, and the following spring in 1984, the average number of these jobs will be at 100,000 per month.

The Standard Celeration Chart can be a useful tool with which to view and project growth and decay, and with which to make decisions based on projected changes. It virtually forces us to "see" where something's headed, if conditions remain the same. What aspect of your job or life should you be plotting on such a chart?

Future Seminars

In the past, it has been a service of the Computer Center to provide seminars for the academic community dealing with computer-related topics. Areas of interest are not easily predictable, since the needs of faculty and staff change from quarter to quarter. For this reason, we would appreciate your views pertaining to seminar topics that would be beneficial to you as computer users. Listed below are topics which have been offered in the past or that we feel should be introduced as new topics. Please check those items which are applicable to your needs and which you would like to attend. Additional suggestions should be indicated in the space provided. You may return the completed form to the Assistant Director for Academic Consulting through Campus Mail. Announcements will be made at a later date concerning which seminars will be offered and at which time.

1981-82 SEMINARS

Name:_____ Phone:_____ Department:_____

_____ PHOENIX

_____ SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences)

_____ SAS (Statistical Analysis System)

_____ Introduction to Interactive Processing (CMS)

_____ New User's Introduction

_____ JCL (Job Control Language)

Others:_____

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