


April 10, 1975

clude that there is no justification for our assertions, that more work is needed.

The work reported in this paper was supported by the Science Research Council who paid £15,000 for a project, the title of which can only be said to bear a remote resemblance to the title of this paper. This money paid for a highly sophisticated microscope which turned out to be unnecessary, a digitiser of a type which it later transpired was possessed by many other laboratories within walking distance, a chart recorder which has been useful on a couple of occasions, a trip to America to give a ten-minute lecture at 8.20 on the first day of a conference, numerous train journeys to London to attend committee meetings the value of which the entire committee agrees privately is nil and a research assistant whose use has been minimal but whom the professor could find nobody else able to pay for.

Capital facilities were provided by the University Grants Committee and include my large office and personal laboratory which unfortunately remained empty during my sabbatical year.

I thank my research students who, initially unable to see the point of my work, are now unable to see the point of anyone else's. I appreciate their good-humoured forbearance whilst I wrote their theses for them, persuaded the examiners that this was a significant contribution to knowledge and set them up in university careers of their own despite their initial belief that they could be more productive in industry.

I thank my secretary for patiently retyping this manuscript in its entirety several times when I have discovered grammatical and punctuation errors. Her cheerfulness in re-making forty photocopies of the manuscript and dispatching them each time by air mail to my friends and enemies is acknowledged. Her skill in finding things to do during my sabbatical absence is also appreciated. Admittedly the absence was mitigated by her being able to type my book, for which I shall receive a modest royalty, and being able to look after my other private business interests for which the facilities of the department are occasionally most helpful.

I thank my wife for acting as laboratory assistant. Her initial untutored clumsiness did not deter her from continuing to try hard. She was particularly helpful as my personal assistant on my trip to America.

The computational work described in the paper was done at the University Computer Centre whose staff I

thank for their courtesy in helping me debug the program and in carrying over my paper output to me every day. They may be reassured that their work was not in vain—the final results agreed perfectly with predictions based on my pocket calculator. Although the amount of printing on each page of my output may have seemed to them somewhat slight, the paper is being put to good use for crayonning in my son's nursery school.

I thank the departmental tea-lady who never forgets to acquire, during her lunch break, a large cream bun which I particularly like to have delivered to my office with my cup of tea at four o'clock.

The equipment used in the experiments reported in this paper will not, as far as I can see, be used by me again. Nevertheless, I cannot, alas, see my way to letting anyone else use it, as it has certain characteristics which might confuse other users and there is always the possibility of damage. Likewise although the data which I have amassed is by no means completely described in this paper, I do intend some day to look once again at these results. In the meantime it would be inappropriate for anyone else to attempt to set up similar experiments; I am perfectly happy to share my unworked data with anyone. But I must point out that the information on the magnetic tapes is not self-evident, so anyone wishing to share would do well to visit my laboratory—I would happily co-author any paper that emerged from such a visit.

Finally, I must say something about this idea of accountability in science which some people are talking about these days. The thought that a researcher at the frontiers of knowledge should be spending the government's money and his own and his students' time other than in an efficient and conscientious way is quite alien to me and contrary to the spirit of academic freedom. I know I give value for money in my research and I need no small-minded bureaucrat telling me how to cut costs—besides 'value for money' is mercifully indefinable in the world of pure research. Yet, for what it's worth, I am prepared to say that I have rigorously observed the government's energy conservation measures. To conserve electricity, nobody on this project has been allowed to work in the laboratory during the hours of darkness. This has, of course, somewhat affected our productivity, but it reflects my concern that at a time like this we should not waste the nation's resources.

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