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DISSERTATION ON THE THEORY OF MUTILATION

From the beginning of time, m an in his unquenchable thirst for knowledge has developed tools for his trade to help raise him from the depths of total ignornace. Out of the dark ages, the first flickers of light were seen as genius bloomed in the great minds of Leonardo da Vinci, Newton and more recently Einstein. Today, due to the complexity of modern problems, the calculus and other classical branches of so-called higher mathematics need supplementation to bring them up to date. This is especially true in aeronautics where each day the engineer strains to reach new goals set up by the fertile imagination of the Sales Department.

After years of research study and unbiased thinking, a new form of analysis has been developed. Problems which are not amenable to differentiation and integration are now completely subdued by mutilation. This is not to be confused with interpolation and extrapolation but is closely related to extravasative substitution which consists of letting all variables be equal except troublesome ones which are entirely omitted since they are not worth even writting down.

Any engineer who has accumulated much mileage is familiar with the mutilation of data (and some hibited characters never use anything else) but a need exists for a concise explanation suitable for on-the-job training of recent college graduates. This dissertation is a first attempt at filling this need.

The essential steps in this process are to pre-select a ball-park number for the result which is to be obtained from a given analysis and then to search frantically for some theory which will zero in on the desired trend and fit standard drafting templates.

In this short-hair branch of mathematics the rules are quite simple and only the following formalities exist:

1. Use Egduf Factors liberally. However only unscrupulous knaves resort to Backwards Egduf Factors (any number greater or less than one which gives the right answer). The distinction here is that B.E. Factors give perfect answers according to standard theories by judicious manipulation of the raw data, while mutilation is an intermediate operation performed between the initial and final steps and the object is merely to prejudice the results. (The extension of this process to the treatment of travel expense accounts is obvious, and the details are left to the reader).

2. If any variables in the problem become troublesome, divide them by themselves. The shrewd analyst can then elect to cancel the resulting constants against each other, two at a time, according to "The Law of Perfect Compensation" provided that he is in a fire drill-and not more than once in any analysis.

3. The practice of setting things equal to zero (as in differentiation) should be avoided since it can only yield nothing - and nobody wants nothing. Anyhow, you never want a maximum or minimum - only optimums.

The use of automatic computing equipment does not make the process any easier but it tends to snooker the customer so try it by all means. A new International Business Mutilator is being developed which will eliminate all but the most trivial solutions.

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5. Above all, don't goof. Real gone multilation may never win you a marble ash tray but failure means professional Hari-Kari.

6. If at first you don't succeed - iterate. It has been suggested that the operator in this field be called a mutual (hence the partial operator would be a pari mutuel) in keeping with the nomenclature of a differential and an integral. But such discussion is from nowhere because the symbols are not readily available. The only notation consists of undecipherable markings inserted between other calculations by means of a soft pencil smudged with the palm of the hand and typed over each other in final reports.

Finally, remember the key phrase: "If in doubt, don't differentiate - mutilate!!"