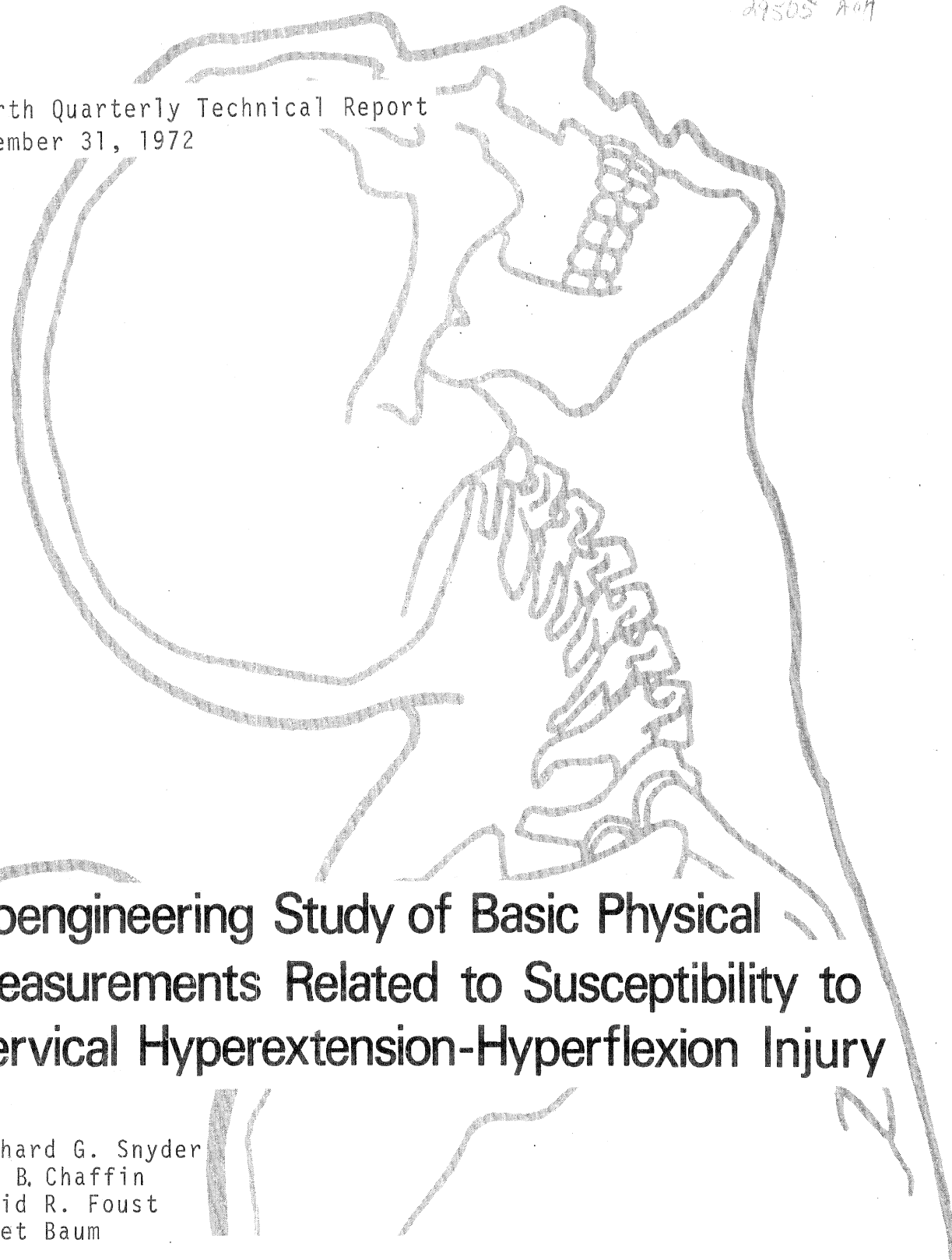


Fourth Quarterly Technical Report
December 31, 1972



Bioengineering Study of Basic Physical Measurements Related to Susceptibility to Cervical Hyperextension-Hyperflexion Injury

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SUMMARY

During this fourth reporting period, September 30 through December 31, the primary emphasis has been upon the collection of data, with concurrent data analysis. Some refinements of techniques are reported and in general the work is going smoothly with excellent results. The major serious problem remains that of obtaining data on all of the subjects specified in the experimental design within the time remaining for the data collection phase of the study. A brief summary of major task accomplishments during this period reflect the following progress:

1. A continuing search of the literature has resulted in acquisition of 300 additional references for a total to date of 2111 references cited. No new cervical motion studies, beyond the 23 reported earlier, have been located. An effort at accumulating foreign references was made during this period and a large proportion of the bibliography listed contains foreign references, indicating the international interest in this area.

2. The subject pool has been greatly expanded, with 250 medical questionnaires distributed to date to potential subjects, and 188 returned. Of these, 18 (13.9%) were rejected on a basis of medical history and 40 (30.5%) were rejected for other reasons in the 18-24 year age group. In the 35-44 year age group, 11 of 57 questionnaires returned (19.3%) were rejected for medical reasons, and 2 for other reasons, for an overall rejection rate of 23.2% for that group. During the next reporting period an emphasis will be placed on obtaining subjects in the third age group and a higher rejection rate is anticipated.

3. Forty-two additional subjects have been X-rayed, for a total of 85 sets of radiological data. Of these 80 were useful; five subjects to date being rejected on a basis of clinical review of the X-ray films. Several

changes of procedures described in the Third Quarterly Report have been continued with excellent reproducibility: the use of a "dropped-shoulders" lateral view, replacing the "soft-seat" view; the use of a metal reference rod attached to a headband to determine a reliable neutral position head angle; and the use of a reference line tangent to the skull to obtain reliable measurement of ranges of motion.

4. 77 sets of X-rays have now been analyzed for neutral head position, flexion, extension, and range of motion. Average range of motion for 40 females (26 young, 14 middle aged) measured from X-rays is 133.8°, and for 30 males (26 young, 4 middle aged) is 142.1°.

5. Photogrammetry has been completed for 76 subjects, with analysis of 70 of these. Use of high-contrast markers has proven a more reliable indicator of head position than the headband reference-rod arrangement previously used.

6. Anthropometry has been obtained from a total of 52 subjects to date, with information from 48 of the 52 coded and keypunched. A comparison between the subject population and the overall U.S. population for stature and erect sitting height measures demonstrates excellent correlation, and indicates that the population so far is representative.

7. Reaction time measurements for 40 additional subjects were taken during this quarter, for a total of 47 to date. Sample reaction times have been hand-analyzed from strip-chart records obtained from 20 female and 15 male subjects, and results show an average of 50 to 90 msec for both neck flexors and neck extensors. Several equipment refinements have increased efficiency and accuracy of data-taking.

8. Neck muscle strength measurements have been completed for a total of 47 subjects, and all data analyzed for 42 of these. Results indicate

that the neck extensors are stronger than the neck flexors in both sexes. In the current period 40 subjects were tested, resulting in 80 sets of strength tests. Females ranged from a low of 7.3 lbs. to a high of 45.5 lbs., while males ranged from 11.4 lbs. to 63.5 lbs.

9. The debugging process was completed for automated data analysis. Complete data were analyzed for 11 subjects and required 12-14 minutes each, and it is estimated that only 50 hours time will be required for initial digitalization and analysis of data from the entire projected subject pool. Two problems with the real-time data summary produced on the line printer are outlined.

I. INTRODUCTION

Neck injuries to motor vehicle occupants are a common consequence of rear-end collisions. Such trauma has been characterized as "whiplash" or hyperextension-hyperflexion injuries. However, recent field and clinical investigations indicate that there is a significant preponderance of "whiplash" symptoms among females. Little information is known concerning variation in head mass or center of gravity of the seated occupant or variation of neck muscle strength as related to age, sex, and physique differences, and no previous study has related variation in neck muscle response time to external acceleration stimulus. Such information would appear to be of basic importance in consideration of sensitivity to hyperextension-hyperflexion injury.

The basic objective of this study is to determine the range of physical variation in function and structure of the human neck, with variables of age, sex, and stature, as a basis for improved head protection design in vehicular occupant hyperextension-hyperflexion accidents. Specific tests and measurements are being conducted to result in several major types of information relating to the range of physical and sexual variation of the neck in a representative U.S. population. Neck measurements to be determined include anthropometry, radiography, photogrammetry, muscle strength, voluntary range of extension and flexion cervical motion, and muscle response time. Mathematical modeling is being used to predict dynamic sensitivity to changes in the parameters developed.

Technical accomplishments during the fourth 90-day period of this investigation are reviewed in the following report. Emphasis during this period has been upon data acquisition and initial data analysis.

II. TASK PROGRESS

1. Literature Survey

Efforts continued during this quarter to locate additional references related to the neck and its characteristics. The general body of literature is considerable, although relatively few studies directly pertinent have been located to date.

The bibliography format used in previous reports has been continued. Additional references located during this period are organized into five general categories: motion/mobility; mechanisms of injury; anatomy/radiography; experimental strength/stress; and injuries/fractures. We continue to find the bulk of references related to clinical reports to be of interest primarily because they emphasize the widespread concern with cervical injuries and their treatment.

The bibliography has been enlarged by nearly 300 additional references during this reporting period, and now consists of 2111 references. In keeping with past practice, we have included only new acquisitions in the bibliography for this report. The bibliographies from each quarterly report will be combined and included in the final report.

Effort during this quarter was placed on the international aspects of the cervical problem. Hence, foreign language references constitute a majority of the bibliography. The worldwide distribution of articles (Japanese, German, Russian, Italian, African, etc.) reflects a high level of interest in the neck and its characteristics throughout the medical profession.

Although an additional 25 references related to the category "motion/mobility" were located, no new or recently-reported studies were found. Most of the articles are concerned either with subjects whose normal mobil-

ity has become impaired, with total spinal mobility, or with motions other than in the sagittal plane. Consequently, the number of normal cervical motion studies remains at 23; these have been reported previously.

At this time, the references in each category of the bibliography are as follows: motion/mobility, 25 new references, for a total to date of 207; mechanisms of injury, eleven acquisitions which bring the total to 102; anatomy/radiography, an increase of 55 to a total of 336 reports; experimental strength and stress, 22 additional references for a total of 218; and clinical reports of injuries and fractures, an increase of 180 and a current total of 1248.

2. Subject Pool

The size of the subject pool expanded considerably during this quarter, as a major effort was undertaken to complete acquisition of subjects in the 18-24 age group and also to fill the 35-44 age group.

We had anticipated that it might be difficult to locate subjects for the 35-44 age group, since they do not tend to congregate in easily accessible groups (such as college students in dormitories). We decided to advertise, and in early October, a classified ad was placed in the local newspaper. The response was much larger than we expected - some 75 phone inquiries were answered. The largest number of respondents were females, and in many cases we were able to enlist their husbands at the same time. It appears that enough potential subjects were recruited from the ad to fill all female size classifications in the age group, as well as the male medium and tall sizes.

Locating short males and females in both age groups has been a continuing problem, but extensive word-of-mouth and bulletin board canvassing is having a positive effect. We now have sufficient "leads" or questionnaires on hand to fill all but the short male category in the 35-44 age group.

No major effort to enlist the elderly age group has yet been made, but several initial inquiries through contacts at local senior citizens' retirement centers have brought a positive response. Much of our subject pool activity in the next quarter will be directed at locating subjects in the 65-74 age group. While there are at least five non-convalescent retirement centers in the area, we may have a considerable problem with health questionnaire rejections. Depending on how acute this problem becomes, it may be necessary to increase the age range by five years to include 60-65 year-olds. Expansion of the age range will be undertaken only if insufficient

numbers of subjects are located in the preferred age group.

The current status of the subject pool may be summarized as follows. Approximately 250 questionnaires have either been distributed to groups or mailed out with return envelopes. Where possible, the name of a potential subject is obtained before a questionnaire is given out. Of those potential subjects thus identified, we currently have 30 questionnaires out but not returned (consisting of 5 from the young age group, 20 middle age, 2 elderly and 3 of unknown age). Since the start of the study, some 188 questionnaires have been returned. Of these, 131 fit into the young age group and 57 fit the middle age group. Questionnaires rejected on the basis of health history alone totalled 18 for the young age group (a rejection rate of 13.9%). When medical history rejections are combined with 40 questionnaires unusable for other reasons (moved, too old, category filled, etc.), a total of 58 responses, or 44.3% were unusable in the young age group. The medical rejection rate for the middle age group so far is 19.3% (11 of 57 questionnaires returned). This rate is slightly higher than that for the younger age group, which is to be expected. However, due to the more discriminate canvassing of subjects in this group (the newspaper ad) only 2 questionnaires have been unusable for other than medical reasons. Therefore the total rejection rate for subjects in this middle age group is 23.2%. No rejection rate for elderly subjects can be established until active recruiting begins in that group.

On the basis of subjects already measured plus approved questionnaires on hand, all subjects needed to fill all of the size categories in the young age group have been located (except for the short male group, which lacks 2 subjects). In the middle age group, all female categories plus that of tall

males are in hand, while short and medium-sized men remain largely unlocated. Follow-up of unreturned questionnaires is beginning and will hopefully aid in filling out these categories.

It will become apparent as this report is reviewed that our previously stated goal of running 10 new subjects per week during the quarter was not achieved. While 42 subjects were X-rayed and testing was completed on 40 subjects, these were far fewer than we had expected to process. Several factors were involved in causing this gap, but the chief problem was the inherent difficulty of scheduling human subjects. Despite the fact that we maintain a large pool of "available" subjects, it was not uncommon to have to place 5 or 10 phone calls to schedule one subject. The holiday period also had a major impact, making it difficult to schedule subjects in the week before Thanksgiving and Christmas. For example, in the week before Thanksgiving, 5 of 6 scheduled subjects either cancelled at the last minute or simply failed to appear. While we were able to reschedule most cancellations, the time period originally intended for testing that subject usually went unfilled. Scheduling difficulties, cancellations, minor equipment maintenance problems (which increase with heavier use), and the fact that our primary laboratory assistant is showing an allergy to something in the lab have all contributed to not being able to measure as many subjects as we would have preferred. The corrective actions being implemented to counter these problems are described in Section III of this report.

3. Radiography

The two changes in X-ray procedures described in the Third Quarterly Report have been in use during this quarter and have proven effective. The use of the metal reference rod attached to a headband provides a reliable neutral position head angle, and the reference line tangent to the skull (as previously described) is reliable in measuring ranges of motion. The use of a "dropped-shoulders" lateral view (instead of the "soft-seat" view) has been helpful in clinical evaluation of the cervical spine X-rays, since the C-7 (and sometimes T-1) vertebrae are shown more clearly with the shoulders lowered. We continue to analyze three X-rays for range-of-motion: hard seat neutral, hard seat flexion, and hard seat extension.

During the quarter, the X-ray (and photogrammetry) portions of the study were completed for forty additional subjects. A total of 85 sets of X-rays have been taken to date. Of these, 80 sets provide useful range-of-motion data. Five subjects to date have been rejected on the basis of clinical review of the X-rays. Three of those were reported previously. During this period, two subjects could not continue: one young male had a motorcycle accident history (though X-rays were inconclusive) and one 36-year-old female who showed arthritic degeneration abnormal for her age. In addition, five subjects who were X-rayed are no longer available to finish the study. Their results will not be included in the final analysis, even though the X-rays have been analyzed for range-of-motion.

The approved, usable X-rays on hand at the end of the quarter are broken down by category as shown in Table I. No X-rays of elderly subjects have been taken.

TABLE I
APPROVED X-RAYS BY SUBJECT CATEGORY

Sex/Age	Short	Medium	Tall
Females, 18 - 24	6	8	12
Males, 18 - 24	5	11	12
Females, 35 - 44	4	4	8
Males, 35 - 44	0	1	4
			Total 75

To aid in data analysis and reporting, a coding system has been developed to put all X-ray and photogrammetry range of motion data for a given subject onto two punched cards for computerized statistical analysis. The coding method is compatible with programs contained in the University of Michigan Statistical Research Laboratory library. It will be possible in the future to analyze our range-of-motion data using already-existing computer programs.

A total of 77 sets of X-rays have been analyzed for neutral head position, flexion, extension, and range-of-motion. The data from seventy sets have been coded and keypunched. For this report, only total range-of-motion was analyzed, with the following results. For 40 females (26 young, 14 middle age) the average range of motion measured from X-rays is 133.8 degrees, with a standard deviation of 20.8 degrees. The average range-of-motion for 30 males (26 young, 4 middle age) is 142.1 degrees, with 15.9 degrees standard deviation. Taken together, the 70 subjects analyzed to date averaged 137.4 degrees range-of-motion (standard deviation 19.2 degrees). This range is in fundamental agreement with the 130 degrees average compiled from 20 literature sources.

4. Photogrammetry

Data acquisition in the photogrammetry phase of the study progressed smoothly throughout the quarter. Use of high-contrast markers taped directly to the skin at the nasion and tragion positions has proven to be a more reliable indicator of head position than did the headband and reference rod arrangement used previously. Otherwise, procedures remain unchanged - the neutral, flexion, and extension positions are each being photographed three times, in sequence. Efforts to limit shoulder and upper torso motion by closely observing a shoulder bullseye have been successful. Subjects are asked to repeat the position if the shoulders move. This allows accurate range-of-motion measurement of the head and neck only without the necessity of seat belts or torso restraints.

As noted in the previous section, photographic range-of-motion data are coded onto two punched cards for computerized statistical analysis.

To date, a total of 76 subjects have been photographed. The photographs from seventy subjects have been analyzed, coded and keypunched. Range-of-motion analysis from the same forty women and thirty men as reported in the radiography section is presented in Table II. Note that the previously-described X-ray analysis is repeated in Table II. The average range-of-motion measured for these subjects is extremely consistent. This supports the preliminary conclusion reached earlier, that subjects exhibit a high degree of repeatability in their individual ranges-of-motion. The large standard deviations attained continue to indicate large variations in mobility between subjects.

TABLE II

RANGE-OF-MOTION ANALYSIS

One X-ray sequence and three photographic sequences

SUBJECTS	X-RAY		TOTAL RANGE OF MOTION, degrees					
	mean	std dev	PHOTO I mean	PHOTO I std dev	PHOTO II mean	PHOTO II std dev	PHOTO III mean	PHOTO III std dev
40 FEMALES	133.8	20.8	132.8	15.6	136.0	16.3	136.4	15.2
30 MALES	142.1	15.9	136.5	14.4	137.7	11.5	139.4	12.1
70 SUBJECTS	137.4	19.2	134.4	15.1	136.7	14.4	137.7	13.8

5. Anthropometry

All subject anthropometry obtained this quarter was taken using the 48 measures and the sequence described in the Third Quarterly Report. The procedure is refined and rapid; total time needed to mark the subject and take the measures averages less than twenty minutes. All measurements are taken by the same individual to avoid inter-measurer errors.

A system was devised during the quarter to code anthropometry measures onto four punched cards. As with the range-of-motion data, anthropometry may then be analyzed using existing University of Michigan Statistical Lab computer programs.

Anthropometry has been obtained from a total of 52 subjects to date, and 48 of the 52 subjects have been coded and keypunched.

A limited analysis of selected measures has been completed. Stature and erect sitting height were analyzed for comparison with other populations, and posterior neck length, superior and inferior neck circumference, and head circumference were analyzed for sexual and size comparisons. It was found that males were larger on the average than females in all measures. Also, with the exception of posterior neck length, it was generally true that the rank order of other measures correlates exactly with stature: i.e., the taller person has the larger head and neck. Posterior neck length tended to be random among women and not correlated to stature.

A preliminary comparison of the study population with the U.S. population upon which our size criteria were based reveals some encouraging results. The 50th percentile (non-weighted average) for the study population compares very favorably with the 50th percentile of the U.S. population in the same age group. Similar results were obtained when both stature and

erect sitting height were compared. These results are illustrated in Table III. While it is true that the study population averages are based on very limited numbers of subjects, there is a definite indication that a random, representative U.S. population is indeed being recruited for the study.

TABLE III
 INTERIM COMPARISON OF POPULATION MEASURES
 Stature and Erect Sitting Height

SEX	AGE	STATURE, in.		ERECT SITTING HEIGHT, in.	
		Study Pop.	U.S. Pop.*	Study Pop.	U.S. Pop.*
FEMALES	18 - 24	64.4	63.9	34.1	33.7
FEMALES	35 - 44	63.6	63.4	33.7	33.7
MALES	18 - 24	68.7	68.6	35.8	35.9

* U.S. Population figures are 50th percentile figures for the indicated age group, as reported in National Health Survey, Weight, Height and Selected Body Dimensions of Adults: United States, 1960-62, Public Health Service. This is the study upon which our subject size selection criteria were based.

6. Reaction Time Measurements

The reliable measurement of reaction time remains the most demanding portion of the testing program. Generation of a signal sufficiently strong to be analyzed by computer continues to be a difficult task. Several subjects have been encountered who have had inherently "stiff" necks (especially tall men of average or heavy build). Even at the maximum allowable acceleration of one G, these few subjects have had virtually no muscle response. Fortunately, these are the exception, not the rule, and should not adversely affect the overall project results. It should be noted that even if a computer-analyzable signal is not obtained, enough of a change occurs in the EMG signal monitored with a strip-chart recorder to allow hand analysis of the test.

No new technical problems arose during the reporting period, and several minor continuing problems were resolved.

The problem of low EMG signal strength from the splenius capitis and semispinalis muscles in the back of the neck was solved by using electrode placements recommended by Davis.* The electrodes are placed specified distances from the palpated spine of the second cervical vertebra. We have found this landmark easy to locate and measure from in the great majority of subjects, especially since we have a lateral X-ray of each subject available for reference. The only drawback to this placement technique is that the superior of the two electrodes lies on or slightly above the hairline at the nape of the neck. Fortunately, most subjects tested to date are wearing the currently popular long hair styles, and we have had little problem in obtaining permission to trim away enough hair to allow proper electrode

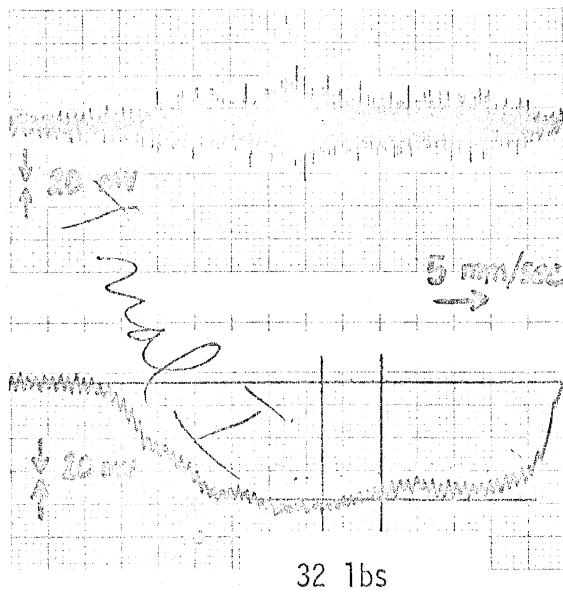
*Davis, J.F., Manual of Surface Electromyography, WADC TR 59-184, Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, December 1959, p 22-23.

placement and good adhesion.

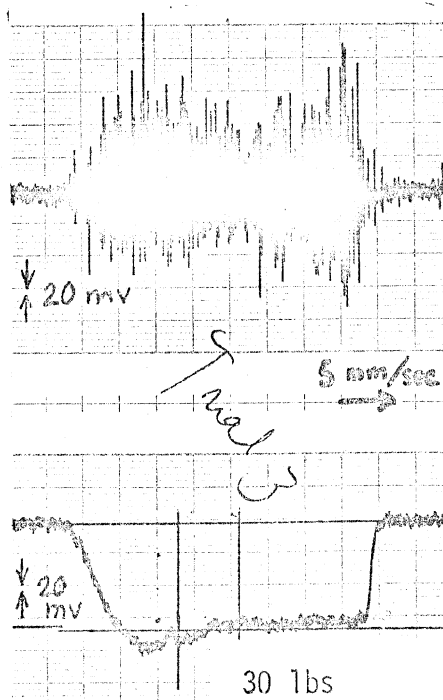
The effect of the new electrode placement on signal strength is illustrated in Figure 1. The recordings are strength tests of two tall women who developed approximately the same strength. The two recordings are directly comparable, and the large increase in signal strength is evident.

Efforts have also been successful during this quarter to reduce data losses to a minimum. The improvement in electrode placement has been the most significant advancement, but other techniques have also been helpful. For example, reaction time tests are very closely monitored. In most cases, a strip-chart record of the EMG and acceleration signals is taken from the tape recorder immediately after the test is run. In this regard, we have found that there is sufficient time to turn on the strip-chart recorder between the time the weight reaches the end of its travel and the time the recorded tape passes over the playback heads. This technique provides a check of the primary data channels virtually simultaneously with the running of the test. The edit feature in the control channel circuitry makes it possible to edit any test which does not produce measurable reactions. This real time check allows us to immediately increase weight drop distances and rerun a test. We are being persistent in rerunning tests until three analyzable reaction times are measured. Data losses, at least for the primary muscle group being tested, are now at a minimum.

Several equipment refinements described in the previous report were completed early in this quarter and have increased data-taking efficiency and accuracy. Figure 2 illustrates the work area used for controlling reaction time and strength testing. The tape recorder is mounted on a mobile cart with locking wheels. It is thus isolated from table vibrations which have in the past caused baseline shifts in recorded signals. The recorder



Subj FBZ-02 Tested 11-3-72
 Test #1850-SE Trial I



Subj FAZ-02 Tested 12-8-72
 Test #1340-SE Trail III

FIGURE 1

COMPARISON OF EMG SIGNALS FROM SPLENIUS CAPITIS MUSCLES

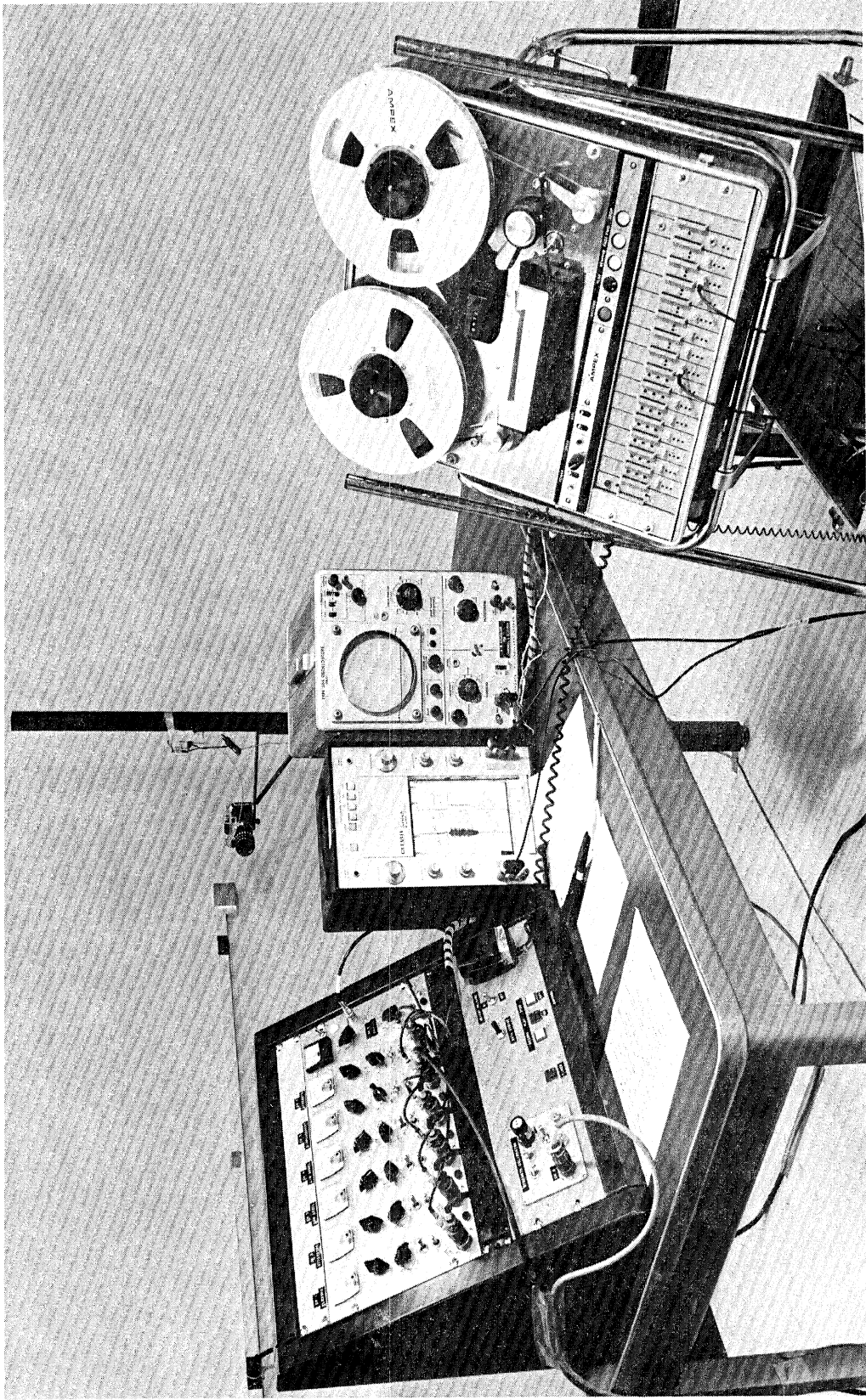


FIGURE 2
TEST CONTROLLER'S WORK AREA

This equipment is used to control, monitor, and record reaction time and strength testing activities. The equipment includes (from Right): the 7-channel Ampex recorder/reproducer, mounted on a cart for easy transportation to the computer which analyzes the data; an oscilloscope, used to monitor muscle reaction; a Brush strip-chart recorder, used to obtain data-check records of the tape recorded signal; and the monitor console, used to monitor and control the test sequence.

is now controlled remotely from a monitor panel in front of the test controller. To run a reaction time test, the controller observes the EMG from the primary muscle group in the oscilloscope. When the subject is relaxed, the controller turns on the tape recorder, releases the weight and watches for the muscle reaction in the CRO. If he is doubtful of signal strength or quality, he obtains a strip-chart record immediately from the playback section of the recorder. All controls are within easy reach and the progression through the reaction time and strength testing sequences moves very smoothly.

Figure 3 shows the monitor console in detail. When the controller faces the console, he may also observe the subject at a glance. All of the testing functions are handled from the console, which features gain controls for all channels, a monitor switch to allow monitoring of any one channel, a control channel test level selector, the strength calibrator for determining muscle strength, a microphone for voice track recording, off-on controls for the tape recorder and control channel (same switch works both), and weight release/control channel data strobe switches. The monitor console has proven to be highly reliable in daily use.

Forty additional subjects were tested for reaction time during this quarter. Valid reaction time data have now been collected from 47 subjects. Head accelerations now achieved are consistently greater than 0.5 G, and usually are in the 0.75 to 1.0 G range. This produces a distinct increase in muscle activity in all but a few isolated instances. Head displacements generally range from one to three inches.

Sample reaction times have been hand-analyzed from strip-chart records obtained from 20 female and 15 male subjects. The results obtained thus far show a range of 50 to 90 msec for both neck flexors and neck extensors,

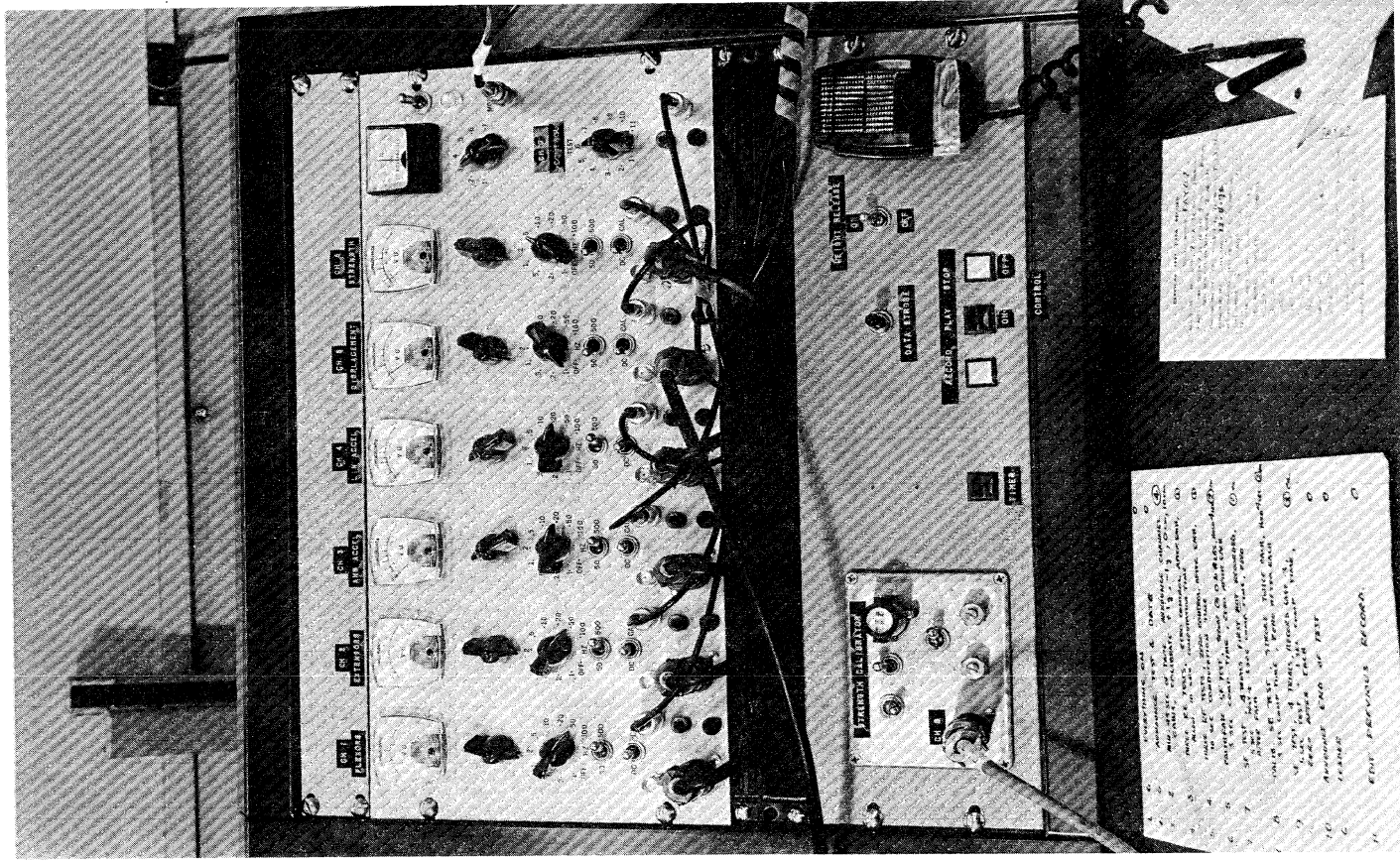


FIGURE 3

DETAIL VIEW OF MONITOR CONSOLE

This unit controls all recording and test functions. It includes channel gain controls, a control channel test selector, a meter which can be used to monitor any channel, the strength calibrator, the tape recorder microphone, off/on controls for the tape recorder and control channel, a weight release switch, and a silent data strobe switch which puts control signals on the tape (and releases the weight for reaction time tests if the weight release switch is "on").

but are of such great variability that it would be misleading to present them in more detail at this time. Additional subjects and more refined analysis techniques will provide more useful results in the near future.

7. Neck Muscle Strength Measurements

Neck strength measurement procedures in use during this quarter have not changed from those described in previous reports, except for the introduction of a "learning" exertion. The subject produces one unrecorded short-term exertion with neck flexors and neck extensors prior to recording the three maximum strength trials. This allows the subject to experience the sensations produced by the exertion and has probably reduced the degree of learning trend seen in the three strength trials.

Strength testing has been completed with a total of 47 subjects to date. All strength test data have been analyzed from 42 of these subjects: 24 females and 18 males. The results, which are summarized in Table IV, show first that the neck extensors are stronger than the neck flexors in both men and women and second that men are stronger, on the average, than women. These results are not unexpected, though individual differences resulted in some women being stronger than men of similar size and weight. It is also interesting to note the larger degree of variability among men than women.

The effect of instituting a "learning" exertion was reflected when individual results were examined. Two learning trends were noted in twelve observations during the previous reporting period (6 subjects, each with flexor and extensor tests), for a trend percentage of 16.7%. In the current period, 40 subjects were tested, with 80 sets of strength tests resulting. Of these 80 sets of three trials each, only seven, or 8.8% exhibited trends. A majority of the trends occur during extension tests, which is probably due to body bracing being achieved through the spine and legs with successive tests. Also, some self-competition has been noted in trend situations. However, most subjects were consistent in the strength achieved under maximum exertion conditions. (22 of 24 women and 14 of 18 men exhibited less

TABLE IV
SUMMARY OF STRENGTH TEST RESULTS

SUBJECTS	MUSCLES	1.6 SECOND* MEAN STRENGTH (Pounds)		TRIAL II		TRIAL III	
		TRIAL I MEAN	S.D.	MEAN	S.D.	MEAN	S.D.
24 FEMALES (16 young, 8 middle age)	Flexors	17.65	5.63	17.77	6.39	17.78	6.75
	Extensors	26.82	6.56	27.01	7.31	27.44	7.50
18 MALES (17 young, 1 middle age)	Flexors	32.55	11.02	32.87	11.46	31.57	9.80
	Extensors	37.35	9.55	39.87	10.15	42.00	8.87

*Strength test results were averaged over 1.6 seconds to allow comparison with computer analysis. Computer memory limitations currently restrict signal averaging to 1.6 seconds.

than 10% coefficient of variation - $\text{std dev} \div \text{mean}$ - in either flexor or extensor tests or both.) There is a great deal of variation between subjects, as indicated by the ranges of recorded strengths. Females ranged from a low of 7.3 pounds to a high of 45.5 pounds, and males from 11.4 pounds to 63.5 pounds.

8. Computerized Data Analysis

The major emphasis during this period was placed on data acquisition and specialized analysis other than with automated computer analysis. However, sufficient effort was devoted to the computer program to complete the debugging process. The program works very smoothly now, automatically converting analog tape-recorded signals into digital format, analyzing up to five data channels simultaneously, and delivering the information to both a digital tape unit and a line printer. The efficiency of the program was demonstrated by analyzing data from complete testing of eleven subjects. The analysis time consumed only 12-14 minutes per subject, and it was not necessary to stop either the recorder or the computer during the entire 2 1/2 hour period. At an average of less than fifteen minutes per subject, initial digitalization and analysis of data from the entire subject pool will require only about 50 hours. Statistical analysis of the digitized data will require additional computer time, but the initial processing of the vast amount of data collected during the reaction time and strength tests will be accomplished in a relatively short time period.

Two problems exist with the one-line data summary of each test which is produced on the line printer. First, due to the limited memory capability of the Hewlett-Packard mini-computer (8000 words of memory), it has not been possible to refine the one-line data summary with desired scaling and conversion factors. Therefore, the line printer summary does not reflect immediately-usable numbers (except for time values). However, a newly-acquired disk storage system and a planned increase in memory capability may relieve the problems of memory limitation to a large extent. In the meantime, the digitized tape will be used to produce more refined data.

The second data summary problem involves the establishment of accurate reaction time measurements. A statistical pairing technique with variable thresholds has been used. Some difficulty has been experienced with the earlier data in setting the thresholds to ignore background activity but still detect an increase in muscle activity. Additional trials with varying threshold levels will no doubt resolve the problem. Threshold setting should be more straightforward with later data, since more effort is now being expended to insure a large signal from the desired muscle response.

Some analysis results from the one-line data summary produced by the computer have been compared to those obtained by hand analysis of the data. Because of the threshold problem described above, the strip-chart values will continue to be reported until the threshold problem is resolved.

The computer analysis, however, has been verified as reliably accurate for strength test results. This verification was accomplished in two ways. First, the results of each individual strength test were compared - the computer results and those of strip-chart analysis. Sixty-five individual tests from the eleven subjects were compared. In only two cases did the computer and strip chart results differ by more than 1.9 pounds (two pounds is well within strip-chart measurement error since the signal was averaged by eye over a 1.6 second period). The average difference was 0.9 pounds. The second verification technique was one of logic. The data summary of each strength test consists of: (a) average signal strength of each of the EMG signals, and (b) a ratio of strength calibrator signals which can be converted into strength in pounds. Strength test results, strip chart records, and computer printouts were compared for several subjects. In every case, EMG signal size ranked in the same order as strength test results.

Also, the primary group of muscles exhibited logically larger strengths than did the secondary muscle group. For example, in a series of tests with subject FAZ-04, in which the extensor muscles were primary, the following computer results were obtained:

<u>Extensor Muscle signal</u>	<u>Flexor Muscle signal</u>	<u>strength (lbs)</u>
19	14	10.0
39	25	20.0
63	32	28.4
55	28	25.6
59	29	27.8

In this instance, muscle strength is directly reflected in muscle signal strength of both primary and secondary muscle groups. This may be interpreted as evidence of the accuracy and correct logic of the computerized analysis of strength data.

Some time will be devoted to additional computerized data analysis during the next quarter, with the intent of producing final product results directly from the computer for the parameters being measured. The threshold problem should be resolved soon, and reaction time data should be available in the near future.

III. WORK TO BE ACCOMPLISHED DURING THE NEXT REPORTING PERIOD, JANUARY 1 THROUGH MARCH 31.

Data acquisition will receive the major emphasis during the coming 3-month period. Measurements of subjects from the oldest (65-74 year) group will be initiated, and in January an attempt will be made to have a backlog of all required subjects' medical questionnaires completed and approved. Subject data acquisition continues to be our major problem. Projecting, in order to obtain all data on all 180 subjects called for in the experimental design will require radiography on 100, photogrammetry on 106, anthropometry on 128, strength data on 133, and reaction time response data on 133 subjects. It is extremely doubtful that more than a total of 60 additional subjects can be completed at the present rate of acquisition. To increase this, we have added the month of April to our data acquisition time, are attempting to find "backup" subjects who can be called upon on short notice to fill in when cancellations occur, have drawn upon additional technician assistance, and will continue to attempt to schedule seven days a week if necessary, since often subjects are not available until evening or weekends. Public Health officials have predicted that, in the month of January, the "London Flu" may be expected to affect 50% of Michigan residents, and if so, may also cause serious disruption in our future scheduling. In view of this, some alteration of our experimental design may have to be considered or other alternatives considered. Data analysis by computer will continue. No further mathematical modeling will be initiated until April.

Experience to date indicated that we can reasonably expect to complete testing on at least 60 more subjects during the quarter. The addition of thirty more subjects in April and the fifty already completed brings the total to 140, rather than the 180 originally intended. At this point, 140 subjects can be considered the minimum data base attainable, with 160 the

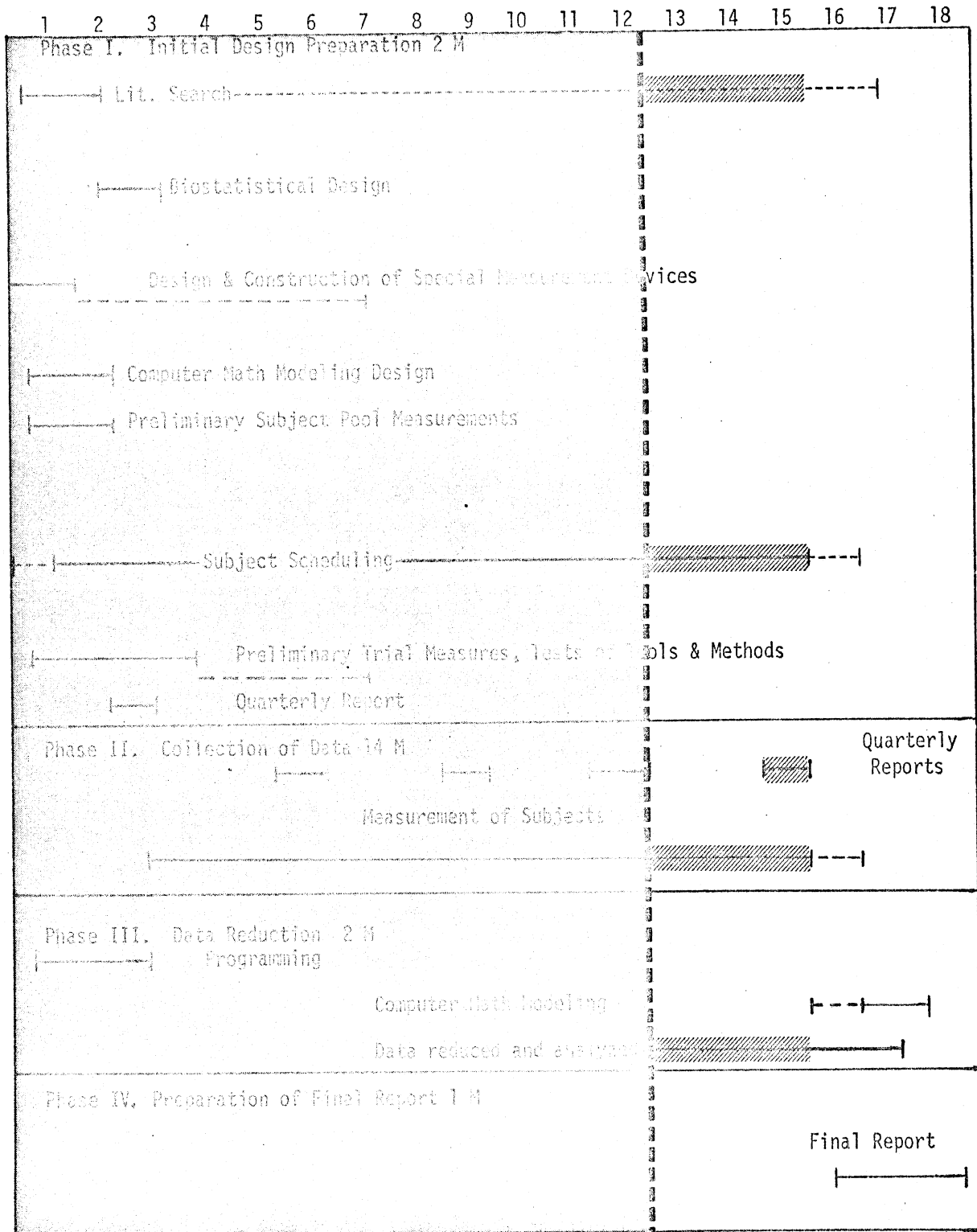
maximum that could feasibly be completed by the end of April.


The schedule of projected activities through the next quarter and to the end of the program is reflected in Table V.


TABLE V

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Months



 Indicates activities projected for Period 1 Jan. - 31 Mar.

 Portion of Program completed.

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