

THE EXPERIMENTAL COURSE IN MATHEMATICS 31

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An experimental course in Mathematics 31 is being conducted in 10 Alberta high schools. The course consists of two parts, each being taught for half of the school year. The first half of the course is trigonometry. In the second half, five classes are studying linear algebra, using a text called *Vectors and Matrices* by Elliott et al. Five classes are completing the course in calculus. Teachers were asked to evaluate the text, the course and student reactions.

The experimental program is being conducted in four Calgary high schools. At Bowness Composite, we taught the course in the first semester, completing it by using the text *Vectors and Matrices*. Our impressions are that the material and the text in *Vectors and Matrices* are suitable for students taking Mathematics 31.

Student response to the course was generally good. The material is sufficiently challenging to maintain the interest of the top students, while the slower students were able to cope with the material. The course requires that the student be familiar with at least the trig functions from trigonometry. Since all the experimental classes taught the trig in the first half of the year, this was no problem. If, however, the linear algebra were to be used with students not having had trigonometry, it would be considerably more difficult, although, we feel, the trig required could be presented successfully as part of the linear algebra course.

DIGIT DIALING

"Your all-numeral phone number is the same as your present one, except that numbers have been substituted for letters." - Pacific Telephone

Each letter's been replaced by a digit
(The phone company decided to swigit)

But I ask with a smile:

Just what do I dial,

A number or a numeral; which igit?

- Joseph Moray, 121 Chester Avenue,
San Francisco, California.

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