More on an IAMG session at GSA:

As Dr. Mann pointed out in the previous News Letter, an informal IAMG assembly at GSA meetings would serve several useful purposes; I hope he perseveres in the matter. But whether or not we should continue "... dispersing mathematical papers into inappropriate technical sessions" is a very difficult question for which there simply is no unequivocal answer.

I think it is correct to say that very few of us are deeply concerned with generating a new, separate discipline, and that most of us are primarily concerned with contributing in novel ways to existing disciplines. We certainly do this less effectively if we are unaware of comparable novel methods or applications being developed in other disciplines by other numerical-, statistical- or mathematical-geologists. But we can't do it at all if we get out of touch with, and lose our identities in, the specific disciplines to which we hope to contribute. Concentration of papers in our own sessions avoids the first difficulty; dispersion of our papers according to subject matter specialty avoids the second. But it's pretty clear we can't do both at the same time; the dilemma has two horns, and we can't get off one without getting stuck on the other.

Not having been at the Miami meeting, I am quite prepared to believe the situation there was even more chaotic than usual. And I would be delighted to attend a half-day session on mathematical geology at Salt Lake City. But I think it may be useful to point out that the programming problem Dr. Mann raises is neither fundamental nor soluble. It is practical, unavoidable, and insoluble. There are only two directions we can go, both wrong. And we can't stand still. So, after moving for a time in one, we proceed to move for a time in the other. One may be unhappy about the rate at which the pendulum moves, but if I am right about our general orientation and intent it would be unwise to attempt to stop it at either end of its swing.

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Centenary of Pioneer Geomathematician:

Rudolf Gottlieb Viktor Eigen (1833-1876) is remembered by all mathematical geologists for his elucidation of the matrix properties that bear his name. Less well known are his pioneer mathematical investigations of glacial topology that distinguish him as possibly the true "father of mathematical geology." Eigen was born in the Austrian mountain village of Heiligenblut, the second son of a local pastor, and following a brilliant student career at the University of Gottingen, became the youngest professor of mathematics in the history of that illustrious university. The stocky young professor was highly popular with his students although his stringent academic demands earned him the nickname of "Eiger" (ogre). Eigen's somewhat bohemian lifestyle resulted in conflict with the university authorities and ultimately led to his enforced resignation following a scandal that rocked the university and purportedly involved no less than five professors' daughters. The embittered Eigen returned to Heiligenblut and singlemindedly devoted himself to his second love of mountaineering. The mathematician eked out a modest living by acting as mountain guide for rich Victorian climbers and supplemented his income by delivering invited lectures to mathematical societies in England and France. Eigen was acquainted with many of the prominent European mathematicians of the day, including Charles Dodgson ("Lewis Carroll") who may have used him as the inspirational basis for the Alice character, "the White Rabbit." The Austrian was also a gifted ama-
R. G. V. Eigen (continued):

teur chess player who drew with Morphy in an
exhibition match in Paris, using a highly un-
orthodox opening (still known as the "Eigen
Gambit") that anticipated Réti's hypermodern
school by some fifty years. Eigen published
little and is chiefly remembered for his monu-
mental "Uberbrueckungs-schlusse der Zahlen" (out
of print for many years) and his fragmentary
and vituperative correspondence with Cayley
(originator of matrix algebra).

Eigen's life

was prematurely cut short when he fell to his
death in a crevasse on the Pasterzen glacier
following a successful ascent of the Gross-
glockner. On the centenary of his death, a
brass plaque will be unveiled at a bend of
the Hochalpenstrasse overlooking the Pasterzen.
The plaque's inscription commemorates the
distinguished mathematician's achievements and
will include mention of Eigen's pioneer geo-


cological studies. Would IAMG readers fa-
miliar with other biographical details or
possessing memorabilia of Prof. Eigen please
send this information to the Office of the
Western Treasurer for transmittal to the
Rudolf Gottlieb Viktor Eigen Memorial Commiss-
tee.

SEDIM-NICE program:
IAMG will sponsor a technical session at
SEDIM-NICE, convened by Prof. D.F. Merriam,
Secretary-General. Titles of the papers to
be presented include:

B. Buchbinder and D. Gill, Geological Survey
of Israel, Numerical classification of multivariate petrographic presence/absence
data by association analysis in the study of
the Miocene Qizluk reef complex of
Israel.

M.W. Clark and I.Clarke, University of London,
A sedimentological pattern recognition
problem.

C.D. Conley, Kansas Geological Survey, Grain-
size measurement by image processing.

J.C. Cubitt, Institute of Geological Sciences,
C-EXEC, a software package for the manage-
ment and analysis of sediment data.

J.C. Davis and P.W. Preston, University of
Kansas, Structure of pores in clastic
sediments.

J.H. Doveton, Kansas Geological Survey, Multi-
dimensional scaling ordinations of sand-
stone and sand depositional environments.

S. Henley, Institute of Geological Sciences,
Some new multivariate techniques for the
analysis of sediments.

G. Lea and E. Perrin, Geosystems, London,
Information theory and sediments.

D. Marsal, Gewerkschaften Brigitte und Elwer-
ath, Simulation technique of matching and
its stability.

W.A. Reed, Institute of Geological Sciences,
An assessment of some quantitative methods
of comparing lithological successions.

R.A. Reymert, P.Y. Berthou, and B.P. Moberg,
Paleontological Institute, Uppsala Univer-
sity, Statistical recognition of environ-
ments in Lower Cretaceous sediment of the
Algarve, Portugal.

K.P. Thrivikramanji and D.F. Merriam, Syracus-
University, Comparison of trend surface
maps: a cluster analysis approach.

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Canadian Publications:
"Computer use in projects of the Geological
Survey of Canada," by T. Gordon and W. W. Hutch-
ison (Paper 74-60).

"Computer-based systems for geological field
data (an international state-of-the-art review
for 1973)," by W. W. Hutchison (Paper 74-63).
Both available from the Geological Survey of
Canada, Publications-Information Office, 601
Booth St., Ottawa, KIA O68.

Who Says Nobody's Interested?
The AAPG Research Conference on Probability
Methods in Oil Exploration, to be held at Stan-
ford University this August, was sold out in
two days after it was publicly announced! The
Conference could only accept 65 members, and
at least that many more were turned down. This
augurs well for the IAMG session on exploration
strategy to be held at the IGC.
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COGEODATA, the IUGS committee on storage, automatic processing, and retrieval of geological data, has been restructured into five working groups under the direction of the COGEODATA chairman, W.W. Hutchison of the Canadian Geological Survey and COGEODATA secretary C. F. Burk, Jr., of the Canadian Centre for Geoscience Data. The five groups are

I. Data Capture and Display, A.L. Clark (USA), chairman.
II. Data Management Systems, J. Hruska (Czechoslovakia), chairman
III. International Aid, D.F. Davidson (USA), chairman
IV. Public Information, G.Y. Craig (U.K), chairman

V. Standards, H. de la Roche (France) and T. Hugi (Switzerland), chairman

COGEODATA and the IAMG share responsibility for guidance on matters related to systematic recording of data and statistical analysis for the International Geological Correlation Programme (IGCP). COGEODATA will be primarily responsible for specifications on minimum data content, standards, and formats for specific data.

A COGEODATA Newsletter can be obtained by writing the Secretary, Dr. C. F. Burk, Jr. Canadian Centre for Geoscience Data 580 Booth Street Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A OE4