



TECHNICON Internal Memo

Date **Aug 16, 1984**

Memo 10 **R Volin**

From D A Burns

Subject Trip Report - Diffuse Reflectance Symposium

This week the Second International Diffuse Reflectance Symposium is being held at Wilson College in Chambersburg PA. I attended the first 5 of 9 half-day sessions, presenting "Indicator Variables: How to Use Them" at the opening session on data reduction, chaired by Dr Wm Hrushka, and participating as a panel member in place of John Judge. For me, the meeting was very worthwhile. Nearly all of the leaders in the field were there, and I talked with most of them during breaks, free periods, and at meal time.

Howard Mark and I drove to Chambersburg in a large rental station wagon with a full I/A 500C system, including x-y plotter. The instruments performed well, and were a basis for many discussions during the time they were exhibited. Neotec didn't exhibit; Trebor did.

Our hospitality suite was well attended, and essentially served supper for many on Sunday evening (since conferees were on their own for the evening meal). Dennis Derango handled all the details after Howard and I set it up initially.

While it will take time to digest all that was presented, certain things stand out and will be identified herein:

- Most users seem to feel that existing hardware, (from all manufacturers) is pretty good. This includes instrument noise, sensitivity, reproducibility, accuracy, range, etc. However, they also seem to want more and better software. What is available is good, but software is dynamic: and can/should be changed as needs (real or perceived) change. We must be a leader here; see the next items for examples.
- We ought to reconsider our stand on FT/NIR. Following Fred McClure's talk at LABCON a year ago, I asked why we don't address this. I didn't like the answers then, and I still don't. Peter Griffiths made it very clear that different instrumentation (eg. an interferometer) isn't required, and that we're talking only about alternate software. McClure's arguments re storage space savings (97%) and shorter computation times will very likely result in manufacturers offering more than one data reduction scheme, and Technicon ought to be the first.

- Our correlation plots go from 0 to 1, displaying only $|r|$. A better plot is probably -1 to +1, as others showed in their various presentations. It would be nice if we had a menu option here.
- Data transfer over phone lines is becoming increasingly important as users want to exchange information. Transmission time may not be nearly as important as we have presumed. I will be discussing this at length with Steve Jackson in anticipation of sending a typical data file via modem to Karl Norris next week (or as soon as it can be arranged).

Additional reports will no doubt be forthcoming from H Mark and F. Stark.

xc : S Jackson
J Judge
H Mark
E Stark

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Steve' or similar, located to the right of the distribution list.