Using LEARN and CALC to Count the Words in Your Text

-- an Application of the Canon Cat

25 Oct. '87

The Canon Cat's CALC command can count words, paragraphs, pages, instances of a particular word or phrase, or anything else in your text.

In order to use the counter

1. Type the expression [0] + 1, highlight it and CALC it. The result "2.00" appears on your screen. This expression means "each time you do a recalc, add one to the number at this position." The first time you CALC this expression the Cat adds one to the total when it pockets the expression (result, 1.00), then it makes a recalc of the entire text, adding one again (final result, 2.00).

   To reduce the recalc time, eliminate any other calculations you have in the text. You can retain the calculations in your recorded text, simply eliminate them from the on-screen versions for the purposes of the word count. After counting the words, throw out the text.

2. Erase the ".00" so that the result displays as a whole number "2".

3. Leap to the beginning of the text you want to count. Let go.

4. Press [USE FRONT]-[LEARN]-[1] to begin a LEARN command.

5. Leap to the first example of what you want to count. For example, if you were counting words, you would leap to a space character.

6. Let go of the LEAP key, then use the CALC command (press [USE FRONT]-[CALC]). When the CALC command recalculates the expressions in the text [0]+1 will increase by 1; in other words, "2" will change to "3".

7. Press [USE FRONT]-[1] to start the LEARN command autorepeating. The cursor will leap from space to space, increasing the count by "1" each time it does the CALC command. This will give you an approximate word count.

8. To make the word count 100% accurate, subtract 2 from the total, then do two more counts: Add one word for each double return (this corrects for the system's failure to count the last word in each paragraph). Subtract one word for each double space (this corrects for the extra word added to the count at the beginning of each sentence, assuming each sentence begins with a double space).

Note that the inaccuracies caused by double returns and double spaces tend to cancel each other out. The recount is necessary only where extremely accurate word counts are called for.

An Added Refinement -- Correcting for the "2.00"

After the cursor finishes leaping through the text and calculating the number of words, the result will be left wherever you typed it, often at the beginning of the text. Also, since the count started at "2" rather than "0", it will be slightly inaccurate. You can start the count at "0" and display the result at the end of the text by doing the following:

1. Type

    a:[0]+1

    - 'anywhere in your text; highlight and CALC. The following result will display:

    2.00

2. Leap to the end of your text and type

    a-3

    Highlight this expression and CALC it. The result ".00" appears.

3. Erase the double zero in the second result, but not the period -- ".00" becomes "."

4. Now go back to the beginning of the text and start your LEARN command. When the cursor gets to the end of the text the correct word count will be waiting for you.

Trying It Out

A word counting LEARN program has been recorded on this disk. To use it, leap to the beginning of the text and press [USE FRONT]-[0]. Counting all the words will take a few minutes, thus you might want to start your word count last thing in the day, then just walk off and let the Cat complete the word count overnight.

The word count for this text will appear at the end of this paragraph. The total word count is ,,