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Prof. J. Gutknecht
Institut für Informatik ETH
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Wednesday 25 January 1989

Dear Gutknecht,

Thank you very much for your letter of December 20, 1988, which contained the nicest coding of the Boyer & Moore majority vote algorithm I have ever seen. (The usual coding stores, instead of s , variable n satisfying $n = m - 2 * s$.) In terms of s , the argument is much cleaner; moreover your algorithm is more efficient. Your solution is a beauty, and in order to do it the justice it deserves I wrote EWD1040, of which I enclose a copy.

That your "experienced programmer" annex "doctor of mathematics" could not find a solution, does not amaze me at all. In view of his experience, he probably has a double handicap. If you wish to give him a copy of EWD1040, please feel free to do so.

With the greetings and best wishes for 1989 from
my wife and
yours ever,

cc: EWD1040

Edsger W. Dijkstra