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(WITH WEBSTER PROFESSOR ANNOUNCEMENT)

Dr. Ernst A. Guillemin, who always looks for the simplest way to solve the hardest problems, will retire this month as Webster Professor of Electrical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

"Guilleminian problems" have been encountered by generations of students in quizzes given by Professor Guillemin.

"There are two ways to do such problems," a faculty colleague explains. "One is an involved mathematical procedure -- by brute force. And you never have time to do it that way in a quiz.

"The other way is a simple, direct method that shows you really understand the fundamental principles. The numbers come out easy. That was the way that Ernie always hoped students would do his problems."

Professor Guillemin's field is network analysis and synthesis -- the study of complex circuitry which is necessary for today's electronic wonders in radio, television and so on. There are probably many laymen who have never heard of him, but he is revered by thousands of electrical engineers. The "Guillemin Line," referring to a type of radar circuitry developed during World War II, is a well-established term in technical language.

Dr. Guillemin was one of the leaders in the revolution which has occurred in recent years in engineering education -- the revolution involved in teaching scientific theory

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2. Professor Guillemin-- M.I.T.

rather than past practices so that young engineers would be able to cope with new kinds of problems. Professor Guillemin had a famous course in circuit theory which a decade ago he undertook to teach to sophomores, in spite of the belief of most electrical engineers that only graduate students could understand it.

By the clarity of his lectures, plus enthusiasm, a bit of exhortation, patient explanations and tough quizzes, Professor Guillemin proved that sophomores could absorb the subject. The textbook that he wrote for it, Introductory Circuit Theory, published in 1954, became a classic.

A bantam-sized man, he would face a class of 300 lusty sophomores and explain, threaten, joke, cajole, plead, rant and even cuss until he got his abstruse ideas across, and always a dozen or so staff would be in attendance to learn how he taught and what he taught.

"His greatest contribution has been to take the knowledge in the field of network theory, fill in the holes and then recast the theory in a form that could be presented systematically to students," Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner, now Special Assistant for Science and Technology to President Kennedy, said. "His books on this subject are classics and his students -- many of them now professors themselves -- regard him as a man to emulate."

Dr. Guillemin, who lives at 41 Woodlawn Ave., Wellesley, Mass., with his wife, the former Mary L. Moran, was born in Milwaukee in 1898. He received his B.S. in 1922 from the University of Wisconsin, and his S.M. in 1924 from M.I.T. In the same year he received the Saltonstall Travelling Fellowship for study toward the doctorate at the University

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3. Professor Guillemin -- M.I.T.

of Munich, Germany. He received the degree in 1926 and returned to M.I.T. as an instructor in electrical engineering. He was appointed assistant professor in 1928, associate professor in 1936 and professor of electrical communications in 1944.

He accepted an appointment in the fall of 1940 as consultant to the Microwave Committee of the National Defense Research Committee. In this capacity he spent about half of his time in consultation with various groups in the Radiation Laboratory at M.I.T. on a large variety of problems dealing with the design of electrical networks for special applications. In 1948 he was awarded the President's Certificate of Merit for his outstanding wartime contributions.

In 1960 Dr. Guillemin was named Edwin Sibley Webster Professor of Electrical Engineering. The professorship was established in 1954 and was held by various distinguished men from other universities and industry.

Dr. Guillemin's books include Classical Theory of Lumped Constant Networks (1931), Classical Theory of Long Lines, Filters, and Related Networks (1935), The Mathematics of Circuit Analysis (1949), Introductory Circuit Theory (1954), Network Synthesis (1956) and Synthesis of Passive Networks (1957). He also collaborated on Electric Circuits, published in 1940, and Applied Electronics, published in 1949.

Dr. Guillemin is a Fellow of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and has belonged to its Committee on Basic Sciences and its Communications Group. He is also a Fellow of the Institute of Radio Engineers, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Royal Society of Arts. He is a member of the American Society for Engineering Education, Tau Beta Pi, Eta Kappa Nu, and Sigma Xi. In 1961 he received the Medal of Honor from the Institute of Radio Engineers for "outstanding scientific and engineering achievements."

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