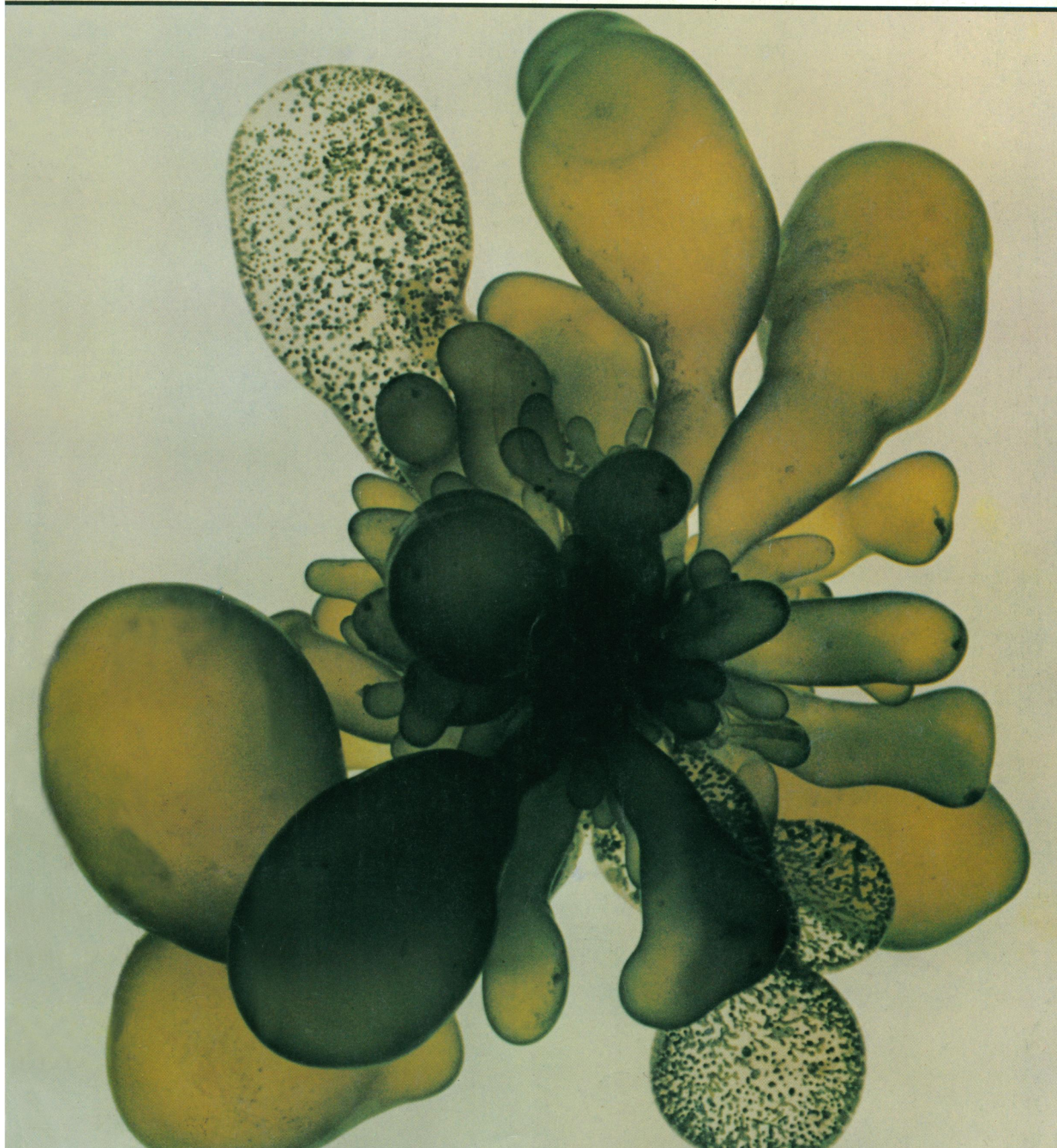


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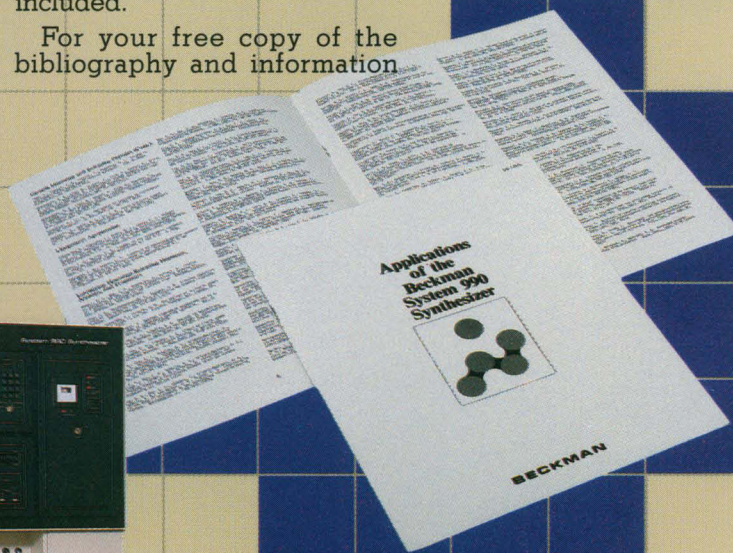
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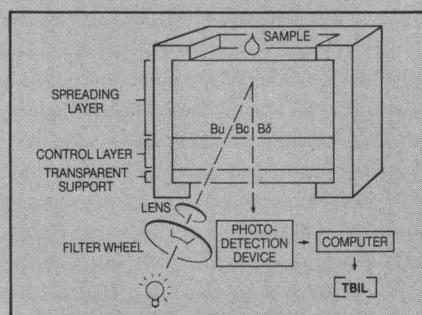
Kodak scientists have isolated what may be the first true human "biliprotein." The existence of this bilirubin fraction may lead to an advance in the diagnosis and treatment of jaundice-related disorders.

This important verification came to light during product-improvement testing procedures for Kodak Ektachem clinical chemistry slides. In the process of separating and identifying different bile pigments in serum, a fourth bilirubin fraction, delta (B_δ), was rediscovered. It is distinct from unconjugated bilirubin and is strongly linked (possibly covalently) to albumin.

Not only have we isolated and characterized this virtually unknown fourth fraction, we have developed a new assay procedure which enables labs to measure the delta fraction simply, rapidly, and accurately.

Last year we introduced an Ektachem chemistry slide to measure neonatal bilirubin. By means of dry film layers, this slide measures both unconjugated

bilirubin (Bu) and mono- and diconjugated bilirubin (Bc) together. But the delta bilirubin fraction, which is tightly bound to a serum protein believed to be albumin, is not detected by the BuBc slide.



This year we are introducing a Kodak Ektachem fractionated bilirubin panel composed of BuBc and TBIL (Total Bilirubin), from which estimates of B_δ can be calculated. The new TBIL slide quantitates all three bilirubin fractions ($Bu + Bc + B_\delta$) while the BuBc slide now measures

Bu and Bc as individual fractions. The difference in bilirubin quantitated by the two slides is B_δ .

We think the fractionated bilirubin panel may lead to a better understanding of the molecular basis of jaundice. This, in turn, can make it easier for health care professionals to diagnose biliary atresia and cytomegalovirus in newborn infants. And to screen for hepatobiliary disease, make differential diagnoses, indicate therapeutic strategies, and support prognoses.

For more information, write for "Bilirubin—Its Components in Serum and the Kodak Assay" to: Eastman Kodak Company, Dept LCSM-1, 343 State Street, Rochester, NY 14650.



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$$[B_\delta] = [TBIL] - [Bu] - [Bc]$$

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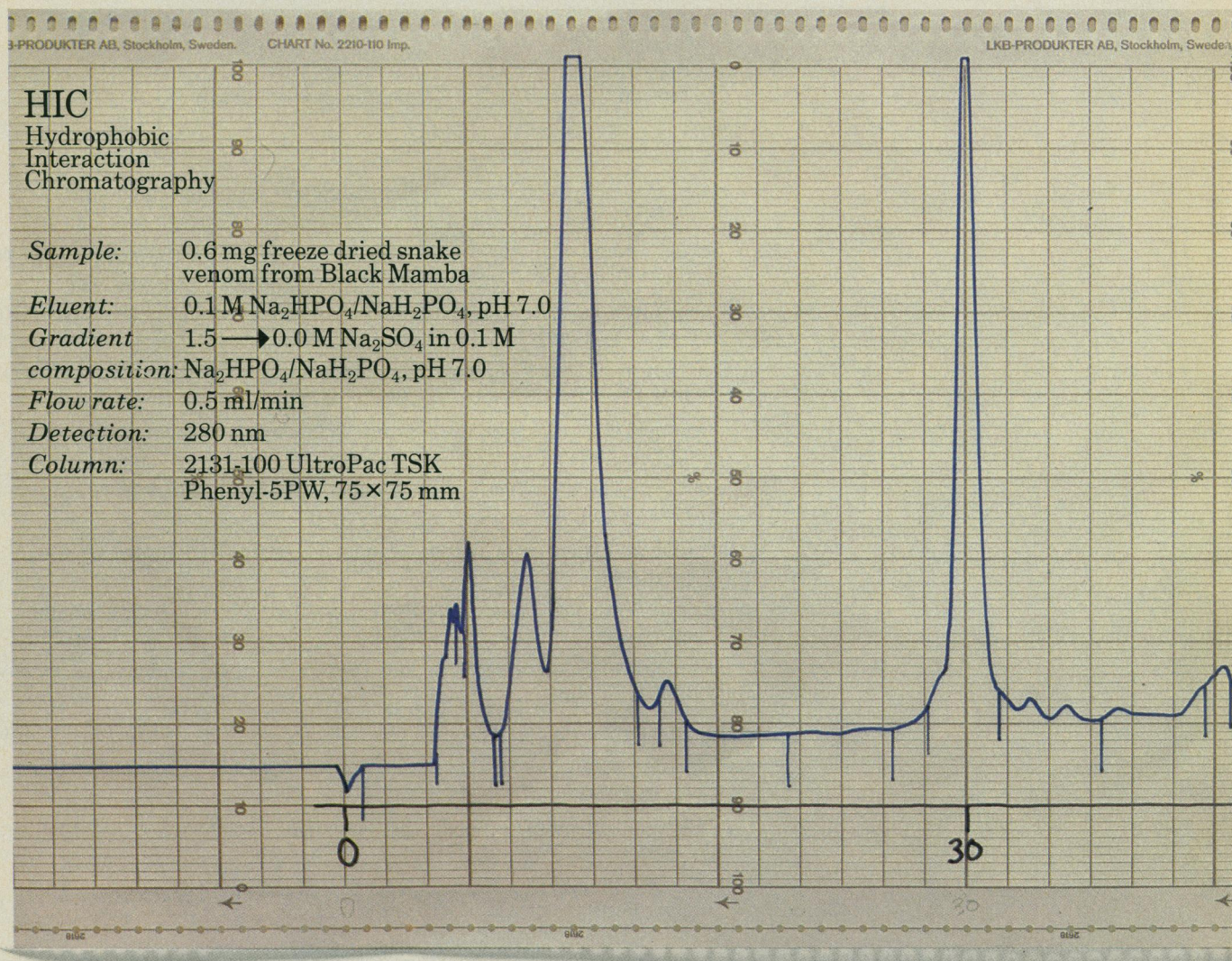
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COVER

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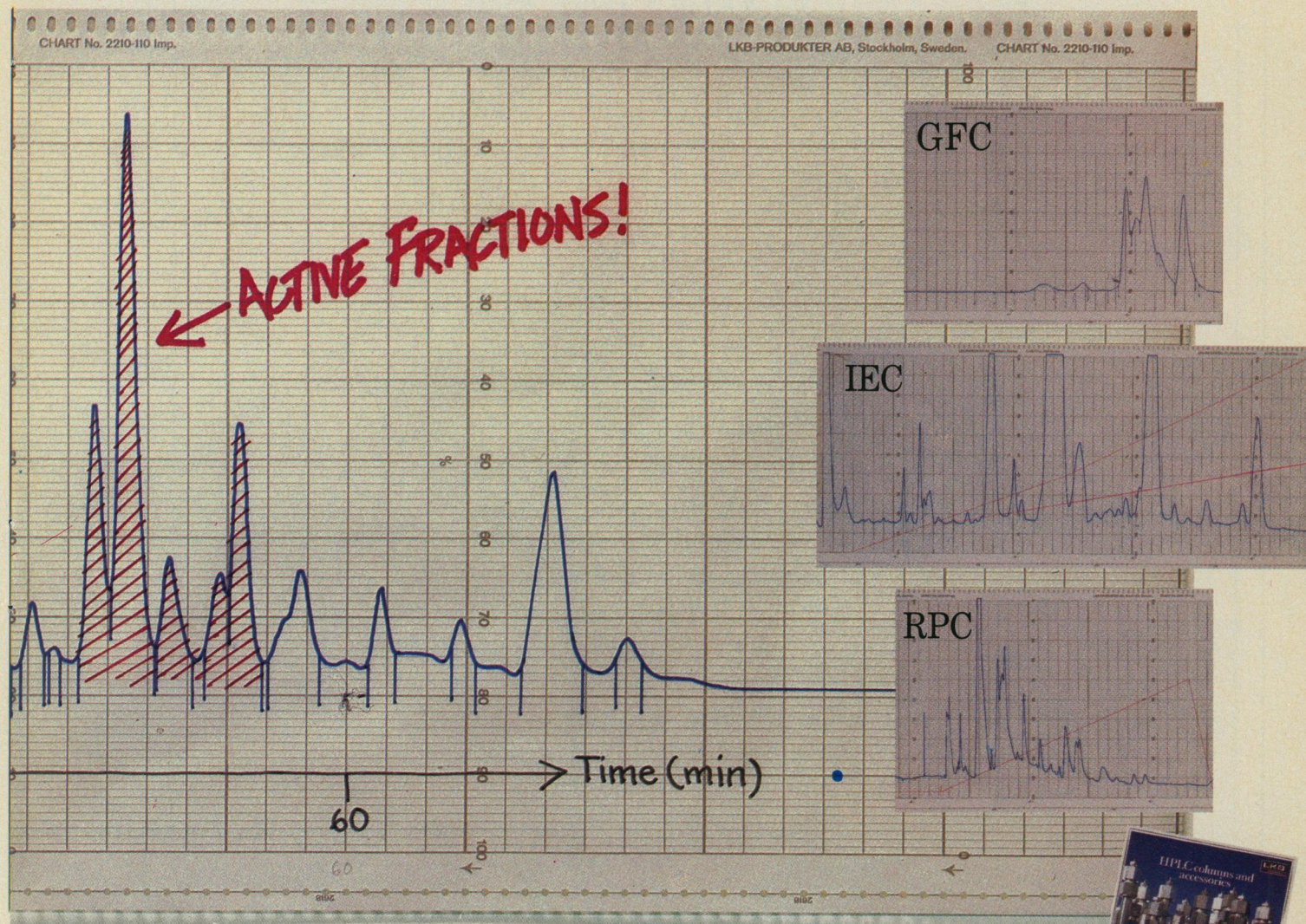
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SCIENCE / SCOPE

In designing and making a satellite part entirely via computer, Hughes Aircraft Company developed what may be a first in computer-aided design/computer-aided manufacturing. The part is a launch lock pivot plate for the Intelsat VI communications satellite. (The plate keeps the inner and outer sections of the spacecraft together until it is time to begin the spun/despun operation in space. This operation stabilizes the satellite in orbit.) The plate was designed on a CADAM system and made on a computerized milling machine driven by a ComputerVision system. Because CADAM lacks the ability to run milling machines without extensive manual manipulation, engineers developed a custom translator. This new programming allowed CADAM data to be understood by ComputerVision and, in turn, by the milling machine. The use of CADAM and ComputerVision in tandem is believed to be an industry first.

Heat pictures are screening printed circuit boards for such defects as open or short circuits and failed components. The Automatic Infrared Test & Inspection System (AITIS) uses a cooled, 60-element infrared detector to create a high-resolution thermogram. A computer isolates faults by comparing a tested board with a master thermogram stored in computer memory. Components that appear too warm or too cool are shown in color-coded temperatures on a video monitor. As a complement to automatic test equipment, AITIS saves time and money. Hughes developed AITIS under its independent research and development programs and contracts with the U.S. Army Missile Command and U.S. Air Force.

An advanced military communications satellite network will let U.S. bombers and airborne command posts remain in continuous contact with designated ground and naval stations anywhere in the world. The new MILSTAR network will consist of satellites in various orbits and hundreds of terminals aboard aircraft, ships, submarines, and in ground units and command centers. Hughes is designing survivable, secure, and jam-resistant terminals for B-1 and B-52 bombers, E-3A Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) early-warning aircraft, E4 command post aircraft, VC-137 "Air Force 1," and other aircraft involved in the Air Force portion of the joint services network.

Some of the fastest digital integrated circuits yet built have been demonstrated at Hughes. The circuits, made of gallium arsenide, are biphasic clock flip-flops configured to perform frequency division. They were operated at frequencies up to 5.77 GHz, the highest division speed yet reported for integrated circuits operating at room temperature. The circuits were fabricated by electron-beam lithography (using a Hughes system) to produce gate lengths of 0.5 micrometers in the MESFET switching transistors. These gallium arsenide devices could be used in very-high-frequency signal processing or as interfaces to more complex chips, including Very High Speed Integrated Circuits.

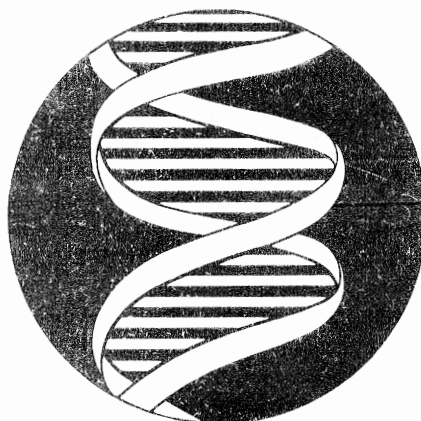
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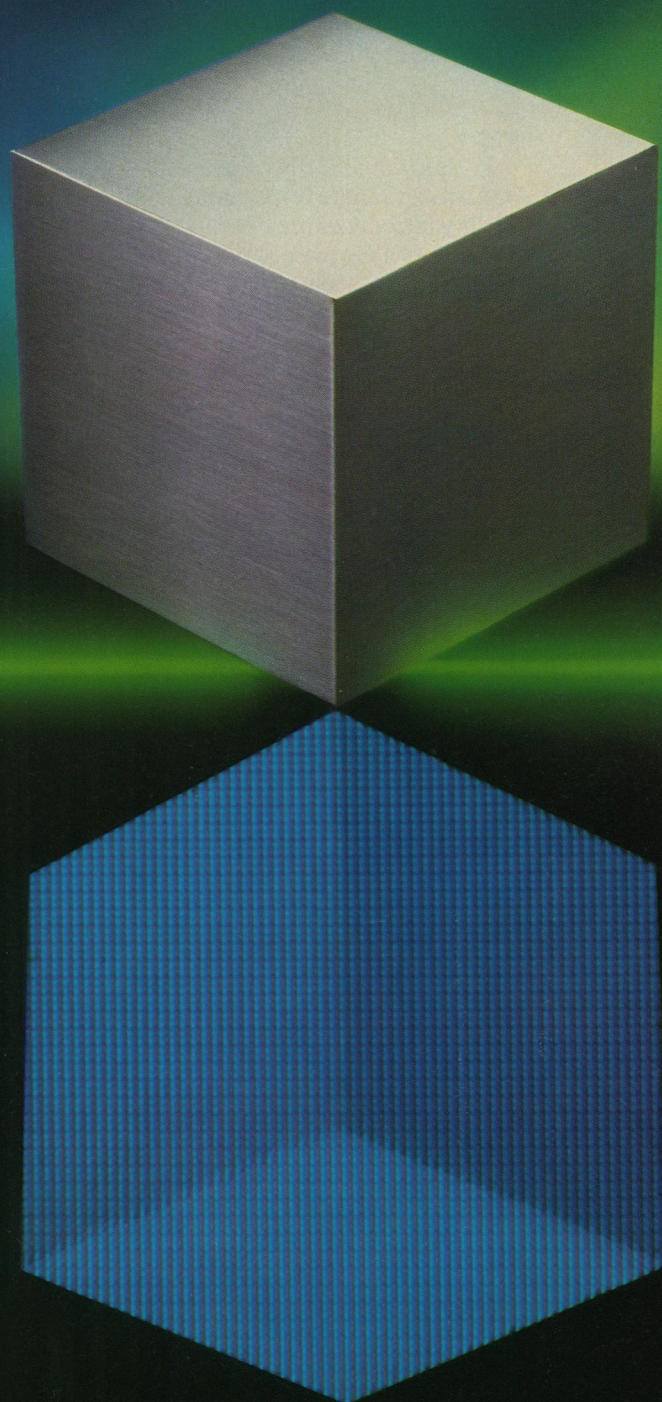
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The Robot Abstraction



The Robot Abstraction

Until now, matching robots to specific industrial tasks has been done by trial and error, requiring the creation of expensive prototypes. Recent advances at the General Motors Research Laboratories have produced a computer system that can be used not only to select the right robot, but also to program it to perform the task in the most efficient way.

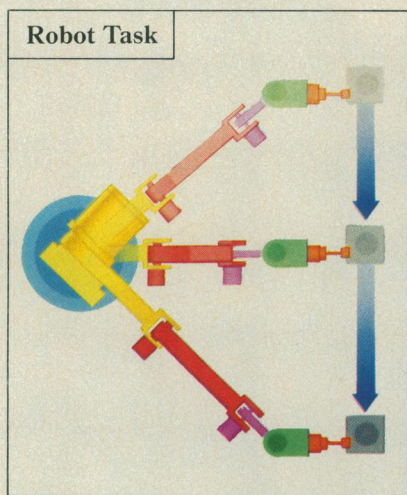
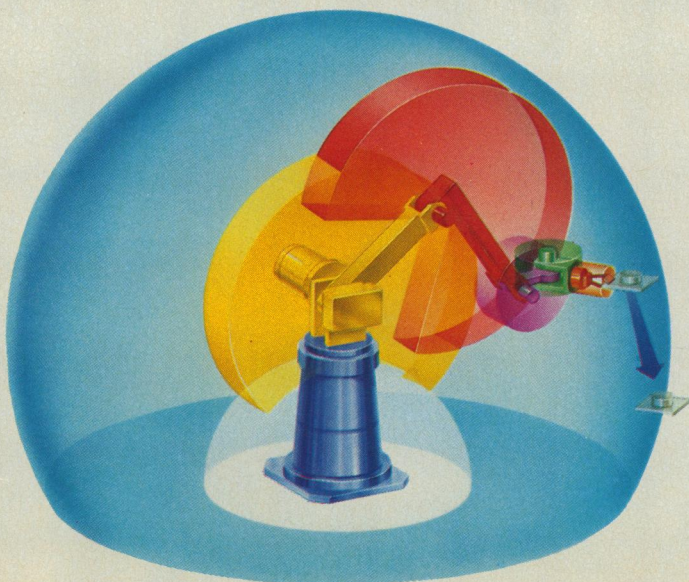


Figure 1: Two-dimensional overhead view of a robot task—the straight path trajectory of a solid.

Figure 2: Three-dimensional illustration of the robot work cell layout, showing reach capability for the task in Figure 1. Areas of color show total reach as well as the joint limits stored in the robot model.



THE DECISION to use robots to automate a manufacturing facility introduces the need for more decisions. There are several dozen kinds of robots, each with different capabilities. Thus far, choosing the right robot for a given set of tasks has been largely a manual process, involving great expenditures of time and money. By combining previously separate disciplines in a single computer system, two General Motors researchers have made the introduction of robots to the factory floor a more rational, less costly undertaking.

RoboTeach is the first computer system which integrates robotics, solid modeling, and simulation. It was designed and developed by Dr. Robert Tilove and Mary Pickett, both members of the Computer Science Department.

The use of powerful programming languages for manipulating robots is a major new development in the discipline of robotics. The languages specify desired robot motions, but they have no way of describing the robot's environment. Hence, they cannot automatically take into account physical obstacles or anticipate collisions. With only robot programming languages at one's disposal, assuring proper interaction with the environment requires testing with actual robots and parts.

Solid modeling, on the other hand, provides geometrically complete representations of environmental components and their spatial relations. But solid modeling cannot represent processes, because it has no way of representing temporal relations. Traditional solid modeling deals only with static relationships. While robot programming is without physical context, solid modeling is nothing but physical context. Neither by itself is adequate.

Nor are they satisfactory together. Only by simulation of both the robot and its environment can the sequence of discrete steps in a robot task be converted into the continuous motion of a process. Also without simulation, there is no way to represent accurately the robotic process as it unfolds in its environment.

RoboTeach, by combining all three disciplines, provides computer representations of the environment, the robot, and the task. Consequently, it helps users reach high-

level decisions about the real world without the investment of time or money in actual robots, actual parts, or the factory setting.

One key RoboTeach abstraction is a mathematical robot model. Solid modeling techniques represent the geometric form of each link of the robot. Then constraints are imposed on the relative positions of mating links to produce a mathematical abstraction of a mechanical joint. By insisting that the joint constraints always be satisfied, RoboTeach insures that the abstract robot model corresponds to a physically realizable geometric configuration.

OTHER representational facilities in RoboTeach handle robot task definitions. The representation of any task can be matched with the representation of any robot. In this way, RoboTeach helps users to determine the optimal robot for the task. Once a robot has been selected, RoboTeach can be used to program the robot off-line.

Not only are robots proliferating, but the tasks assigned to them are becoming more complex, making the need for off-line programming more urgent. When there are only a half dozen robots in a factory, the prospect of reprogramming them all by conventional show-and-teach methods for every new task is not overwhelming. But when there are hundreds of robots, the value of being able to reprogram without interaction with each robot becomes more apparent. Without

off-line programming, the savings which justified the initial robot investment may quickly vanish.

RoboTeach distinguishes between two kinds of off-line programming: at the task level (what to do) and at the robot level (how to do it). For example, in the creation of a mechanical assembly, task-level instructions would include what components to assemble, the alignment of the components for the assembly process, and criteria for verifying that the final assembly is correct. Typically, there is a one-to-many relationship between task-level instructions and robot-level instructions.

"RoboTeach is currently in use," says Robert Tilove, "to study robot reach capabilities and to simulate simple robot-level tasks."

"Future research," adds Mary Pickett, "will explore the possibility of using RoboTeach to approach problems from the more abstract task level, with the user defining the task at a high level and RoboTeach filling in the details."

General Motors



THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE WORK



Dr. Robert Tilove and Mary Pickett are Staff Research Scientists in the Computer Science Department at the General Motors Research Laboratories.

Mary Pickett received her B.S. in mathematics from Iowa State University and her Master's in computer science from Purdue University. She was a member of the team that developed GMSOLID, an interactive geometric modeling system. Her research at GM has also included the design of real-time programming languages. She joined GM in 1971.

Robert Tilove received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Rochester. His Ph.D. thesis concerned the design and analysis of geometric algorithms for solid modeling. His current research interests also include the application of geometric modeling to computer vision and robot control. He joined GM in 1981.

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Freedom of Inquiry: An Endangered Species

A series of events in recent months signals the need for attention and action by the scientific community. On the surface, the events appear unrelated, but viewed collectively, the ramifications of each have substantial impact on the future of scientific inquiry.

First, an active campaign has been launched by various individuals and groups to reduce, or ban altogether, the use of animals in scientific research. Initially, these factions rally against the sale and distribution of pound animals. This is an emotionally charged issue—the public readily identifies with the homeless animals because of attachments to their own pets. Legislation introduced to curtail the use of animals in research passed into law in Massachusetts in February. Although a similar measure was detected in the California legislature, the proponents may seek a public referendum. They may also seek to establish provisions for external review boards to make judgments concerning which research proposals involving animal experimentation are justified and which are not. Evidence thus far indicates that once the objective of banning the use of pound animals has been met, the advocates push on toward banning the use of animals from any source and for any scientific purpose.

The second concern involves the suit filed by Jeremy Rifkin to block the release of genetically engineered organisms into the environment. The case in question centers on a bacterium which, in its native state, serves as a nucleus for ice crystal formation. The removal of a single gene eliminates this characteristic. The next step was to have been the introduction of the modified bacteria into the environment of crop plants, replacing the native strain and reducing the potential for frost injury to plants. The restraining order against this, obtained by Rifkin *et al.*, is based on allegations that a National Institutes of Health review committee failed to conduct an adequate study and submit a satisfactory environmental impact statement. However, the basic issue is that many supporters of the litigation are fundamentally opposed to genetic engineering and seek to block application of the new technology.

Third is a suit brought by California Rural Legal Assistance, representing the California Agrarian Action Project, to block mechanization research in agriculture. One objective is to require the University of California to submit social impact statements on proposed research projects before they can be approved. This suit illustrates again the ways in which special interest groups attempt to regulate scientific research which they perceive is not beneficial to them. They do not accept the evidence that overall social and economic benefits far outweigh the costs.

Each case is individually controversial and each decision sets a precedent. Considered collectively, the impact can be overwhelming. It is essential, therefore, that members of the scientific community become active participants in the debates. Highly committed and articulate individuals and groups are presenting their cases to the public and the lawmakers without equally articulate rebuttal from scientists. Since litigation has become the method by which policy to constrain scientific research is decided, scientific societies may well need to invest—individually and collectively—in legal representation to present their views in opposition to such constraints.

As the National Science Board Commission on Pre-College Education recently concluded, it is critical that all students return not only to the fundamentals of reading, writing, and arithmetic, but also to scientific and technological literacy. In the interest of free inquiry and the advances that science has brought—and must continue to bring—to civilization, we must invest our energies on all fronts. To allow these and other antiscience activities to go uncontested would be unconscionable.—CHARLES E. HESS, *Vice Chairman, National Science Board, and Dean, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, University of California, Davis 95616*

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