

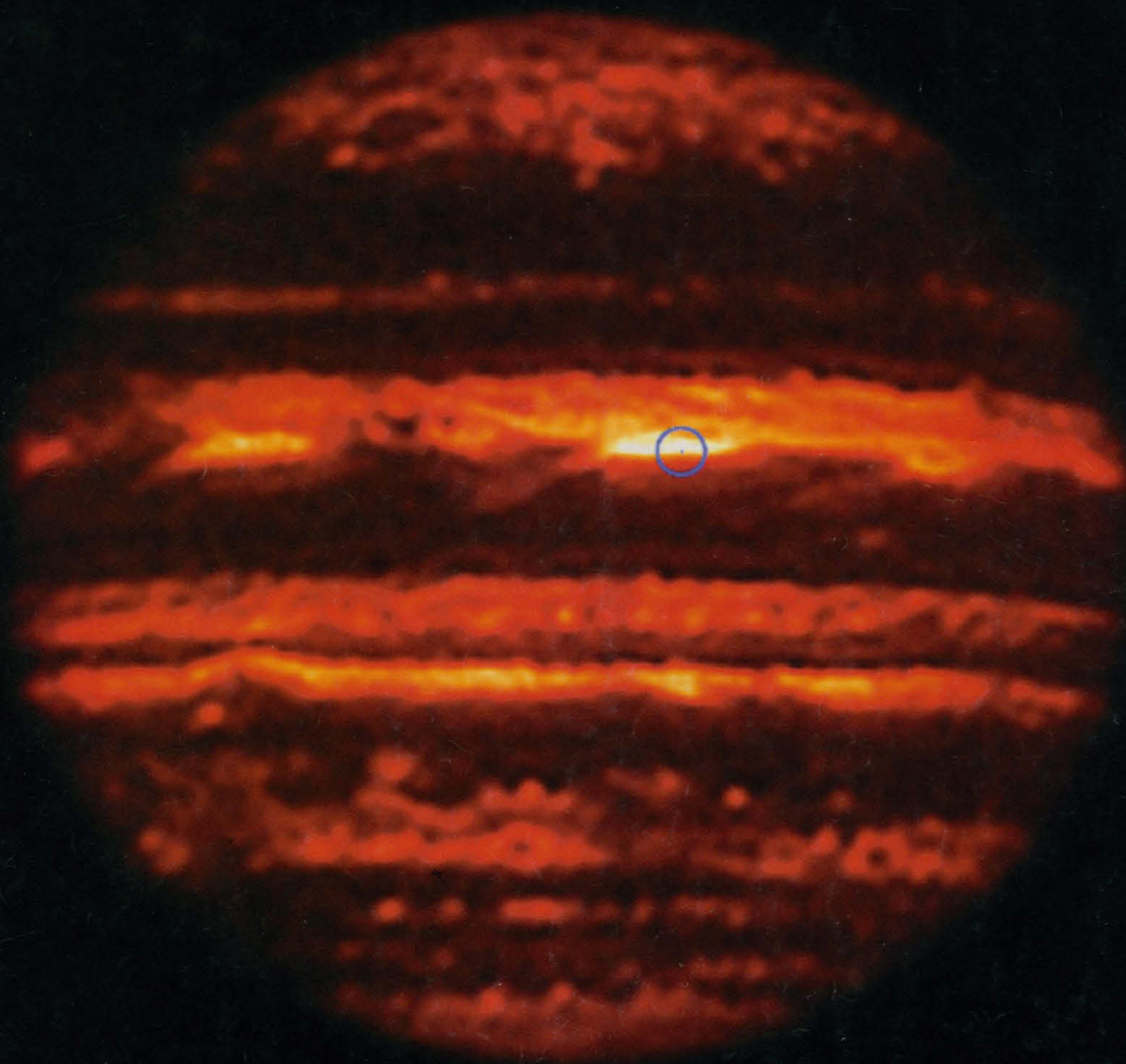


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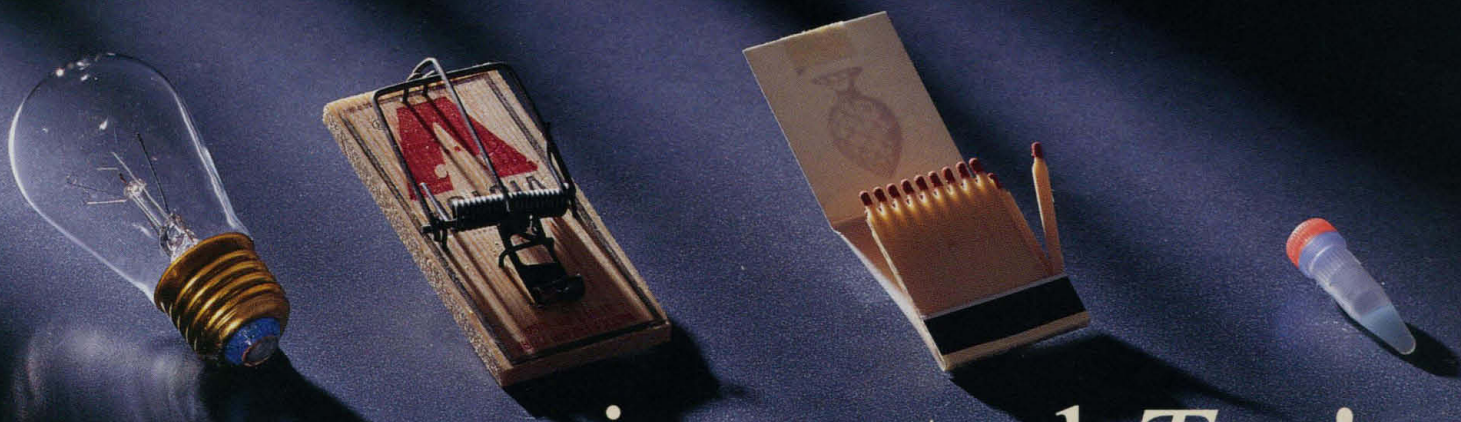
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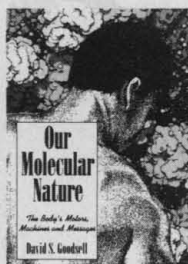
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Our Molecular Nature The Body's Motors, Machines and Messages

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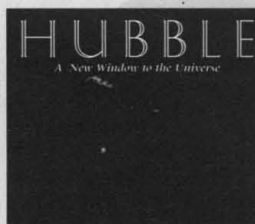
Insights of Genius Imagery and Creativity in Science and Art

Arthur I. Miller, *University College London, England*



From the evolutionary tree to Feynman diagrams to modern brain-imaging techniques, it's almost impossible to imagine science without pictures. To see is to understand. In this way scientists are like artists: both seek a visual interpretation of worlds both visible and invisible. In this book, the distinguished historian of science Arthur I. Miller, explores the connections between Modern Art and modern physics in a study that takes us through the philosophy of mind and language, cognitive science, and neurophysiology in search of the origins and meaning of visual imagery. Along the way, he takes on such questions as: What is the connection between common-sense intuition and scientific intuition? Are there limits to scientific progress and our understanding of nature? At a time when the media too often portray science as a godless, dehumanizing exercise that is undermining the very fabric of society, such questions are becoming increasingly important. This book will interest everyone who cares about science and its place in our culture.

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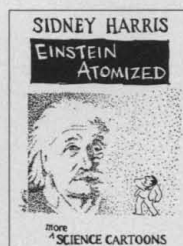
Daniel Fischer, *Editor, Sterne und Weltraum* and Hilmar Duerbeck, *University of Munster, Germany*

While a number of books for the general public emphasize the technological accomplishments of this multi-billion dollar project or deal with the well-publicized flaw in the telescope's optics, *Hubble: A New Window to the Universe* concentrates on its scientific achievements over the past five years. The authors use new and ground-breaking Hubble results to illustrate a wide range of astronomical topics, from the great questions about the universe as a whole to quasars and black holes, and from the life and death of stars to our planetary neighbors in the solar system. The text contains over 140 spectacular images, as well as self-contained portraits of astronomers and explanations of astronomical topics and instruments.

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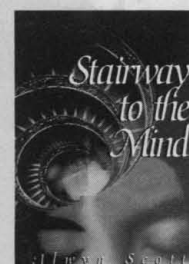
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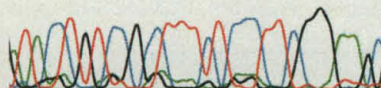
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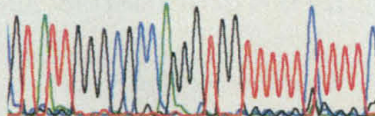
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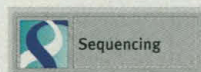


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1. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA*, 92, pp. 6339-6343, (1995).
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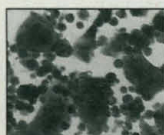
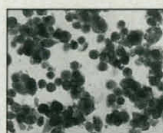
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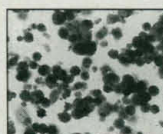
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872**

Cofactor for
HIV-1 entry
identified



NEWS & COMMENT

- Goldin Puts NASA on New Trajectory** 800
A New Reason for Being: Science 801
- Report Backs Science, Not New Station** 803
- Academy's About-Face on Forensic DNA** 803
- Five-Year Science Plan Under Debate** 804
- Monkey Study Prompts High-Level Public Health Response** 805
- NSF to Take Closer Look at How Support Shapes Careers** 806
- Scientists Seek Allies in Fight Against Pseudoscience** 807
- National Academy of Sciences Elects New Members** 808

RESEARCH NEWS

- Likely HIV Cofactor Found** 809
- Just How Old Is That DNA, Anyway?** 810
- California Social Climbers: Low Water Prompts High Status** 811
- Added Weight for Neutrino Mass Claim** 812
- SOHO Turns an Unblinking Eye on a Turbulent Sun** 813
- Revised Galileo Data Leave Jupiter Mysteriously Dry** 814

- A First Glimpse of Strange Matter?** 815

- Impact of DNA Replication Errors Put to the Test** 816

- Volcano-Ice Age Link Discounted** 817

PERSPECTIVES

- Recycling Osmium** 825
J. E. Snow
- Uncharacteristic Earthquakes on the San Andreas Fault** 826
L. B. Grant
- Transcription Factor IIA: A Structure with Multiple Functions** 827
R. H. Jacobson and R. Tjian
- Getting Down to the Core of Homologous Recombination** 828
A. Stasiak

- Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever** 829
A. A. James

RESEARCH ARTICLE

- Crystal Structure of the Yeast TFIIA/TBP/DNA Complex** 830
J. H. Geiger, S. Hahn, S. Lee, P. B. Sigler

REPORTS

GALILEO PROBES JUPITER'S ATMOSPHERE

- Galileo Probe: In Situ Observations of Jupiter's Atmosphere** 837
R. E. Young, M. A. Smith, C. K. Sobeck

DEPARTMENTS

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE 789 | SCIENCESCOPE 799 |
| EDITORIAL 791 | RANDOM SAMPLES 819 |
| German Science in a Changing World
H. Markl | BOOK REVIEWS 822 |
| LETTERS 793 | PRODUCTS & MATERIALS 898 |

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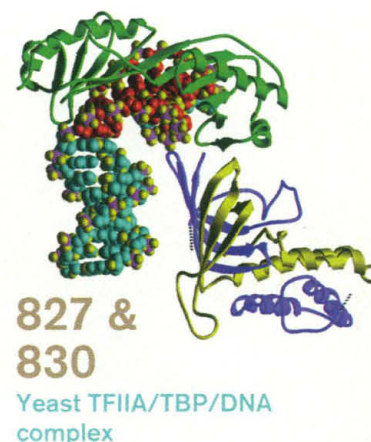
COVER

Thermal image of Jupiter's clouds at a wavelength of 4.85 micrometers. The image was acquired at the NASA Infrared Telescope Facility (IRTF), Mauna Kea, Hawaii, on 21 November 1995, 16 days before the Galileo probe entered the atmosphere at the location

in the cloud field indicated by the circle with the central dot. See page 839, the related Reports beginning on page 837, and the News story on page 814. [Image: G. S. Orton, J. I. L. Ortiz, T. Z. Martin, and the NASA IRTF]



Earth-Based Observations of the Galileo Probe Entry Site G. Orton <i>et al.</i>	839	Amino Acid Racemization and the Preservation of Ancient DNA H. N. Poinar, M. Höss, J. L. Bada, S. Pääbo	864
Comparison of Galileo-Probe and Earth-Based Translation Rates of Jupiter's Equatorial Clouds R. F. Beebe, A. A. Simon, L. F. Huber	841	Polymers with Very Low Polydispersities from Atom Transfer Radical Polymerization T. E. Patten <i>et al.</i>	866
Galileo Doppler Measurements of the Deep Zonal Winds at Jupiter D. H. Atkinson, J. B. Pollack, A. Seiff	842	Homologous DNA Pairing Promoted by a 20-Amino Acid Peptide Derived from RecA O. N. Voloshin, L. Wang, R. D. Camerini-Otero	868
Structure of the Atmosphere of Jupiter: Galileo Probe Measurements A. Seiff <i>et al.</i>	844	HIV-1 Entry Cofactor: Functional cDNA Cloning of a Seven-Transmembrane, G Protein-Coupled Receptor Y. Feng, C. C. Broder, P. E. Kennedy, E. A. Berger	872
The Galileo Probe Mass Spectrometer: Composition of Jupiter's Atmosphere H. B. Niemann <i>et al.</i>	846	Requirement of p27 ^{Kip1} for Restriction Point Control of the Fibroblast Cell Cycle S. Coats <i>et al.</i>	877
The Helium Mass Fraction in Jupiter's Atmosphere U. von Zahn and D. M. Hunten	849	A U1/U4/U5 snRNP Complex Induced by a 2'-O-Methyl-Oligoribonucleotide Complementary to U5 snRNA G. Ast and A. M. Weiner	881
Solar and Thermal Radiation in Jupiter's Atmosphere: Initial Results of the Galileo Probe Net Flux Radiometer L. A. Sromovsky <i>et al.</i>	851	Genetically Engineered Resistance to Dengue-2 Virus Transmission in Mosquitoes K. E. Olson <i>et al.</i>	884
Results of the Galileo Probe Nephelometer Experiment B. Ragent, D. S. Colburn, P. Avrin, K. A. Rages	854	Two Genetically Separable Steps in the Differentiation of Thymic Epithelium M. Nehls <i>et al.</i>	886
High-Energy Charged Particles in the Innermost Jovian Magnetosphere H. M. Fischer <i>et al.</i>	856	Chemical Usurpation of a Nest by Paper Wasp Parasites A.-G. Bagnères <i>et al.</i>	889
Radio Frequency Signals in Jupiter's Atmosphere L. J. Lanzerotti <i>et al.</i>	858	An Enhanced Immune Response in Mice Lacking the Transcription Factor NFAT1 S. Xanthoudakis <i>et al.</i>	892
Osmium Recycling in Subduction Zones A. D. Brandon <i>et al.</i>	861		
		TECHNICAL COMMENTS	
		Hydrogen-Based Microbial Ecosystems in the Earth E. L. Madsen; D. R. Lovley and F. H. Chapelle; T. Stevens and J. McKinley	896



827 &
830

Yeast TFIIA/TBP/DNA complex

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Biochemicals

Osmium odyssey

Oceanic crust and some crustal sediments return to Earth's mantle at subduction zones; in turn, arc magmas derived from melting in the mantle wedge above the subducting slab replenish the crust. Comparison of the fractionation and abundance of many chemical tracers in the subducting slab and arc magmas have revealed key details of this overall recycling process. Brandon *et al.* (p. 861) have now examined osmium isotopes, which are finding in-



creasing application in many studies (see the Perspective by Snow, p. 825), in pieces of the mantle wedge erupted from arc volcanoes. The data indicate that the mantle wedge may contain up to 15% of material recycled from the subducting slab.

Controlling radicals

Free-radical polymerization normally results in products with a broad distribution of molecular weights; methods that avoid chain propagation and termination steps, such as anionic polymerization, are used to produce polymers with a narrow range of molecular weights. Patten *et al.* (p. 866) have developed a polymerization method in which radical formation occurs but is controlled by a copper (I) complex that abstracts halogen atoms from the monomer or the growing polymer and produces a low steady-state concentration of reactive chains. They achieved low polydispersities for both polystyrene and polyacrylates.

A look at transcription initiation

Transcription is initiated by RNA polymerase II through the formation of a preinitiation complex (PIC) at the promoter. The binding of the central component of the PIC, TFIID, to the TATA box of the promoter, initiates PIC formation. The basal factor TFIIA associates with the PIC by binding to the TBP subunit of TFIID. Geiger *et al.* (p. 830; see the Perspective by Jacobson and Tjian, p. 827) describe the crystal structure of the yeast TFIIA/TBP/TATA promoter complex. TFIIA binds as a heterodimer to the TBP/promoter complex on the side opposite another basal factor, TFIIB, and does not alter the TBP/TATA promoter interaction. TFIIA associates with the amino terminus of TBP.

Social parasite

Parasitic wasp queens invade and colonize the nests of other wasp species. Bagnères *et al.* (p. 889) reveal that chemical mimicry is involved in the process of parasitization. Species and colony members recognize each other by means of the chemical signature of the cuticle. In usurping the *Polistes biglumis bimaculatus* queen, the parasitic *P. attrimandibularis* queen modifies its chemical signature to match that of the host queen; indeed, the signature displayed by the invading queen varies throughout the colonial cycle. This "tunability" of the glandular function of the cuticle is considerably more versatile than was previously realized and is associated with the ability to modify unsaturated hydrocarbons.

Mini RecA

Homologous recombination, a process crucial for the generation of genomic diversity, requires the two DNA molecules involved to pair at the regions of homology. In *Escherichia coli*, the RecA protein promotes homologous recombination. Vološin *et al.* (p. 868; see the Perspective by Stasiak, p. 828) show that a 20-amino-acid protein from RecA can mimic some of the functions of the entire

protein. It can pair a single-stranded DNA (ssDNA) to its homologous site on a DNA duplex and it can bind both substrates and unstack the ssDNA.

Fusing and entering

Although CD4 is the primary receptor for HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus-type 1), a human cofactor is also needed for this virus to fuse and enter the cell. Feng *et al.* (p. 872; see the news story by Cohen, p. 809) have identified this entry cofactor through functional screening of a complementary DNA library. Sequencing of a 1.7-kilobase insert revealed that the protein, called fusin, is a member of the superfamily of G protein-coupled receptors that have seven transmembrane segments. Nonhuman cells expressing both CD4 and recombinant fusin could be infected with HIV-1.

Splicing stages

Introns are removed from pre-messenger RNA by the spliceosome, a complex of small nuclear RNAs (snRNAs) and proteins. Ast and Weiner (p. 881) examined possible reaction intermediates in splicing by using an oligonucleotide complementary to

U5 snRNA. During splicing, they find a U1/U4/U5 snRNP complex that specifically recognizes the 5' splice site and that may serve as an intermediate in the displacement of U1 by U5.

Virus versus virus

Dengue (DEN) fever and related tropical illnesses have been difficult to control and result from transmission of DEN viruses from infected arthropods such as mosquitoes. These viruses have a positive-sense RNA genome and reproduce freely in the arthropod host. Olson *et al.* (p. 884; see the Perspective by James, p. 829) have limited the replication of DEN-2 virus in mosquitoes by infecting them with a recombinant Sindbis virus that encodes an antisense RNA to the premembrane coding region of DEN-2 virus. This treatment inhibited transmission of DEN virus through mosquito saliva.

NFAT1 now negative?

The NFAT family of transcription factors have been thought to play an important role in T cell activation, and mice lacking NFAT1 should display some signs of a compromised T cell compartment. Xanthoudakis *et al.* (p. 892) report that this is not the case: Both T cell development and in vitro functional responses are normal. More surprisingly, T cells from the NFAT1^{-/-} mice display enhanced responsiveness to antigenic challenge. The mechanism that underlies these unexpected findings is still unknown, and there may be functional redundancy within the NFAT family. The data are consistent with a negative regulatory role for NFAT1.

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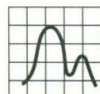
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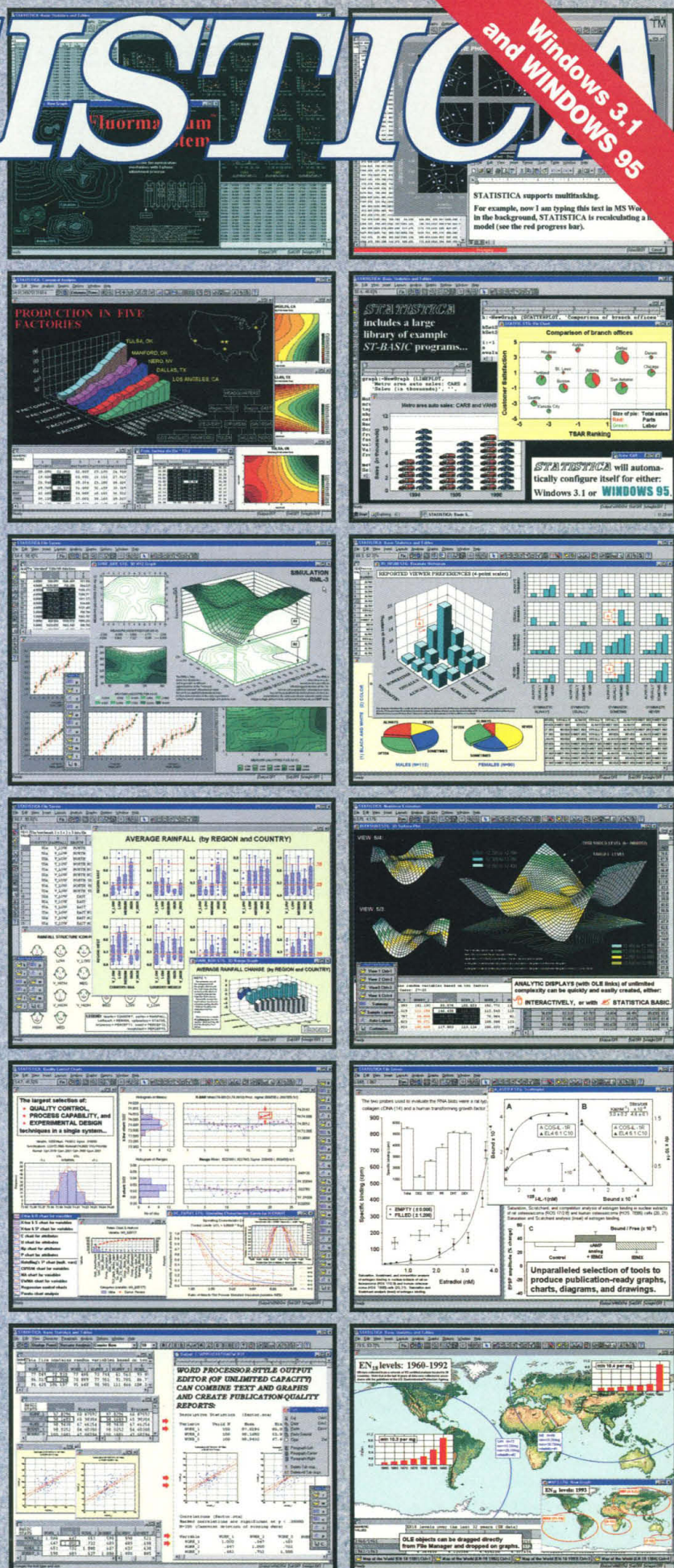
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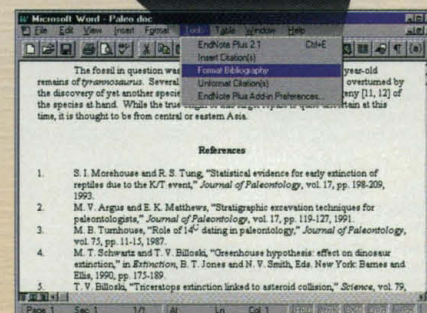
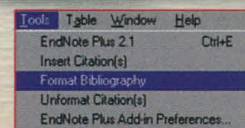
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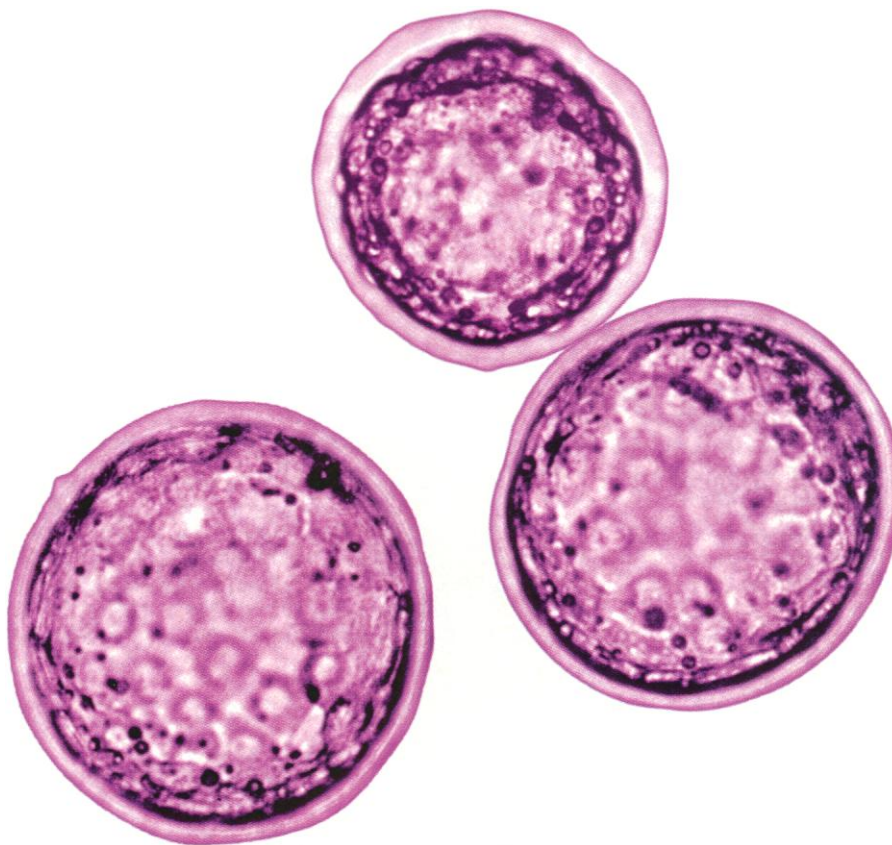
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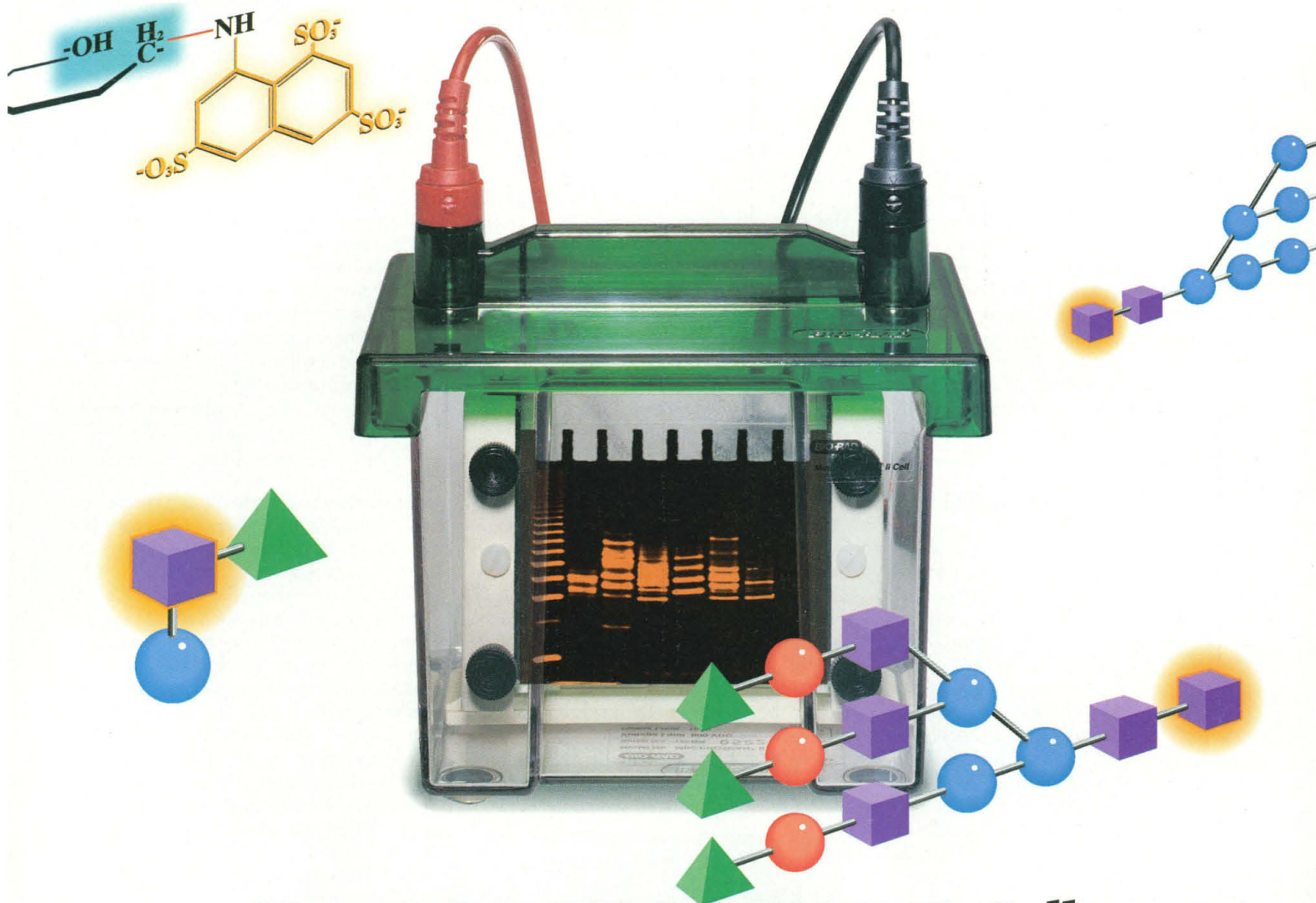
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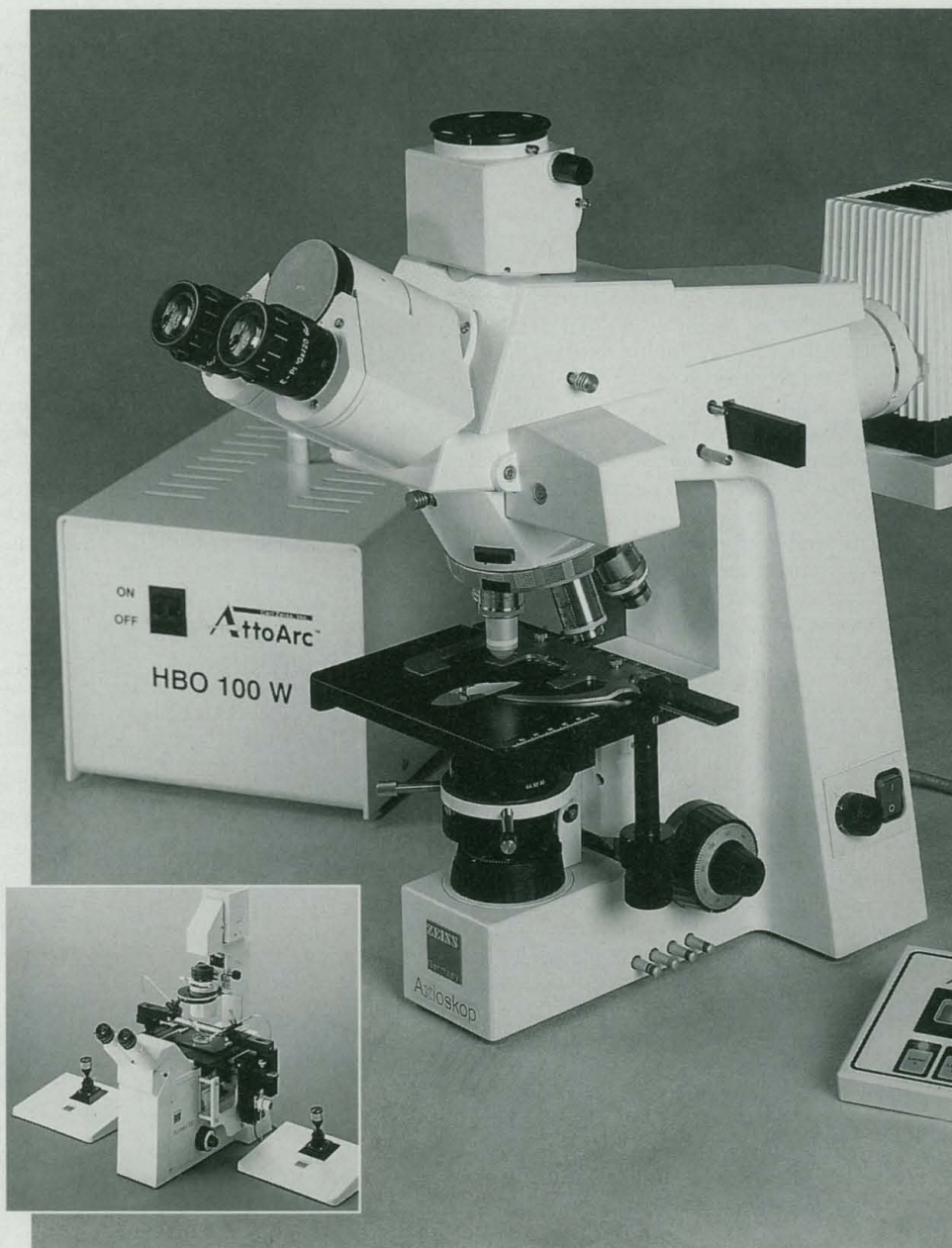
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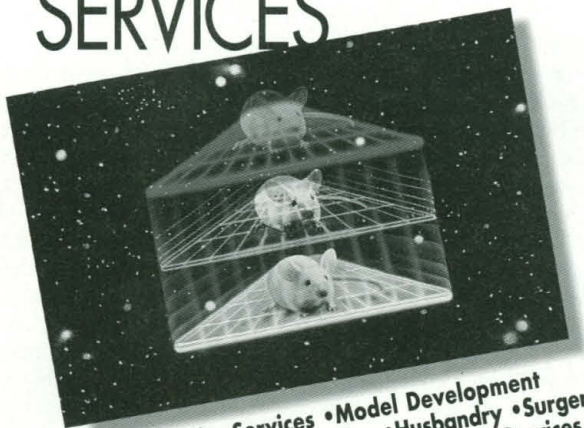
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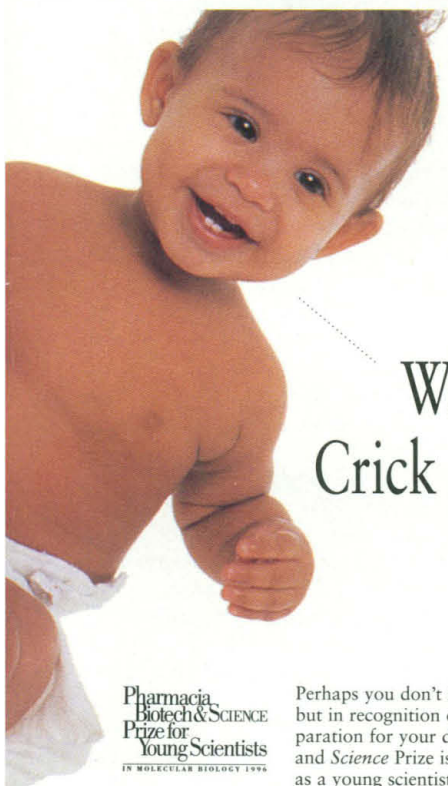
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