

TopCount HTS Revolutionizes Microplate Counting — Again

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- Stack up to 40 plates or 15,000 samples for unattended counting.
- Interface with robotic systems for complete automation.

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extended 40 plate stacker. Load up to 40 plates with the TopCount ZipLoad stacker, carry them safely to the TopCount, load and count. It's that easy. If your experiments

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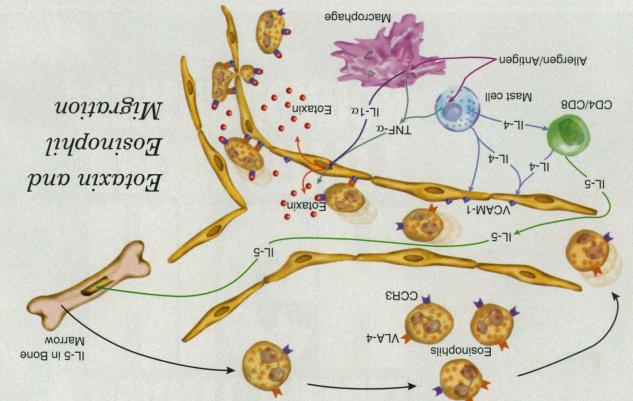
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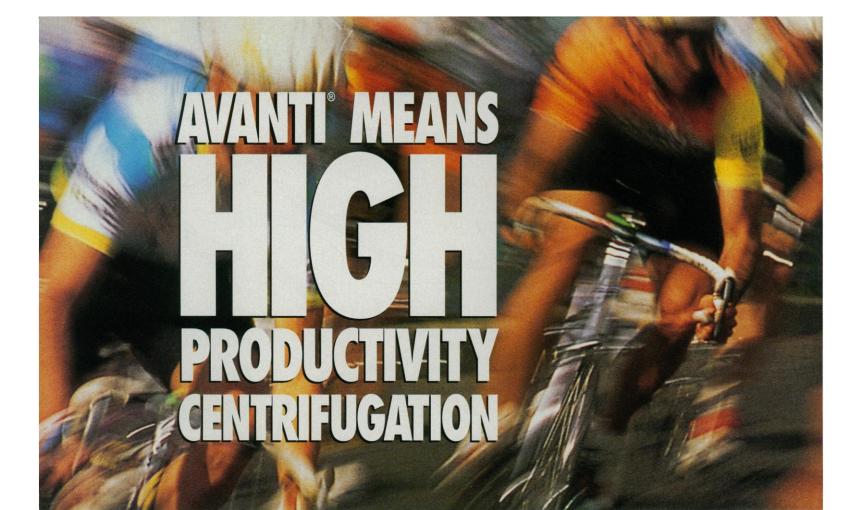


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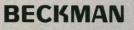
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1064 **Celestial mountainmaker**

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1080 & 1116 Spawning seaweed

The Breast-Screening Brawl How One Radiologist Turns Up	1056 1057	Elect
the Heat		Math Billia
Ionosphere Research Lab Sparks Fears in Alaska	1060	PER
Scientists Convene in Seattle to Discuss Science and Policy	1061	Rapid West C. H
U.S., Russia to Study Radiation Effects	1062	-
F T IO POI		Supe
France: Transgenic Corn Ban Sparks a Furor	1063	Antif N. 1
		Land Street
RESEARCH NEWS		Sync
	1064	Timi
Hipparcos Charts the Heavens	1064 1065	
	1064 1065	Timi
Hipparcos Charts the Heavens A Mapmaker That Was Nearly Lost Src Structure Crystallizes 20 Years		Timi M. 1
Hipparcos Charts the Heavens A Mapmaker That Was Nearly Lost Src Structure Crystallizes 20 Years of Oncogene Research	1065	Timi M. 1 Cont
Hipparcos Charts the Heavens A Mapmaker That Was Nearly Lost Src Structure Crystallizes 20 Years of Oncogene Research A New View of How Leg Muscles	1065	Timi M. 1 Cont P. C RES
Hipparcos Charts the Heavens A Mapmaker That Was Nearly Lost Src Structure Crystallizes 20 Years of Oncogene Research	1065 1066	Timi M. 1 Cont P. C RES A Ur
Hipparcos Charts the Heavens A Mapmaker That Was Nearly Lost Src Structure Crystallizes 20 Years of Oncogene Research A New View of How Leg Muscles Operate on the Run	1065 1066 1067	Timir M. 1 Cont P. C RES A Ur Symr
Hipparcos Charts the Heavens A Mapmaker That Was Nearly Lost Src Structure Crystallizes 20 Years of Oncogene Research A New View of How Leg Muscles	1065 1066	Timi M. Cont P. C RES A Ur

	Trapped Buckyball Turns Up the Amp	1069
	Electron Mirror Gives a Clearer View	1069
	Mathematics: How to Play Platonic Billiards	1070
	PERSPECTIVES	
	Rapid Sea-Level Rise Soon from West Antarctic Ice Sheet Collapse? C. R. Bentley	1077
	Superconductivity and Antiferromagnetism in High-T _c Cuprates N. Nagaosa	1078
	Synchronous Spawning: When Timing Is Everything M. Hay	1080
	Controlling Cell Death P. Golstein	1081
1 210	RESEARCH ARTICLE	
	A Unified Theory Based on SO(5) Symmetry of Superconductivity and Antiferromagnetism SC. Zhang	1089

DEPARTMENTS

THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE	1041	SCIENCESCOPE	1055
EDITORIAL Knowledge and Distributed Intelligence R. N. Zare IETTERS "Man of the Year": C. Gorman • Particle Pessimism: G. Kane • Fusion Firsts?: B. Risk Analysis: J. H. Austin, C. B. Connor, • Risks in Collaboration?: I. E. P. Taylor • Sequencing Efforts: E. Bond and M. J. F. A Goffeau • Doppler What?: R. D. North • "E Footprint": J. Rosenberg • Global Mean S Change: Correction: R. S. Nerem	Coppi • B. E. Hill Funding ustin; A. cological	 RANDOM SAMPLES French Researchers Out to Pasture? • Moo Sleep • China's Grain Future • Artificial Intel Goes Postal • Who's the Smartest of Them Web of Addiction BOOK REVIEWS Female Control, reviewed by R. H. Wiley • Circulation Theory and The Ocean Circulation Problem, K. Bryan GORDON RESEARCH CONFERENCES PRODUCTS & MATERIALS 	ligence All? • 1075 Ocean Inverse

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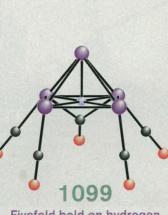
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COVER

In 1947, after 16 years of meetings in the Maryland Chesapeake Bay region, the Gordon Research Conferences moved to Colby Junior College (now Colby-Sawyer College) in New London, New Hampshire. Of the 10 Gordon Conferences that met in the summer of 1947, seven will meet this year. The meetings will take place in California, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and France and are noted with a "50 Years" symbol in the schedule announcement beginning on page 1143. [Photos: Colby-Sawyer College. Photo collage: Tracy Keaton Drew]

REPORTS Interaction and Regulation of **M** 1126 Subcellular Localization of CED-4 Nanofabrication of Small Copper 1097 by CED-9 D. Wu, H. D. Wallen, G. Nuñez Clusters on Gold(111) Electrodes by a Scanning Tunneling Microscope D. M. Kolb, R. Ullmann, T. Will 1129 Prevention of Apoptosis by Bcl-2: Release of Cytochrome c from Five-Coordinate Hydrogen: Neutron 1099 Mitochondria Blocked J. Yang, X. Liu, K. Bhalla, C. N. Kim, A. M. Diffraction Analysis of the Hydrido Ibrado, J. Cai, T.-I Peng, D. P. Jones, X. Wang Cluster Complex [H2Rh13(CO)24]3 R. Bau, M. H. Drabnis, L. Garlaschelli, W. T. Klooster, Z. Xie, T. F. Koetzle, S. Martinengo The Release of Cytochrome c from **I** 1132 Mitochondria: A Primary Site for Probing Single Molecules and Single 1102 **Bcl-2** Regulation of Apoptosis Nanoparticles by Surface-Enhanced R. M. Kluck, E. Bossy-Wetzel, D. R. Green, D. **Raman Scattering** D. Newmeyer S. Nie and S. R. Emory Role for the Amino-Terminal Region of 1136 Direct Measurement of Single-Molecule 1106 Human TBP in U6 snRNA Transcription V. Mittal and N. Hernandez Diffusion and Photodecomposition in **Free Solution** X.-H. Xu and E. S. Yeung Structural Convergence in the Active 1140 Sites of a Family of Catalytic Antibodies J.-B. Charbonnier, B. Golinelli-Pimpaneau, B. Mass Survival of Birds Across the 1109 Gigant, D. S. Tawfik, R. Chap, D. G. Schindler, **Cretaceous-Tertiary Boundary:** S.-H. Kim, B. S. Green, Z. Eshhar, M. Knossow Molecular Evidence A. Cooper and D. Penny Muscular Force in Running Turkeys: 🗾 1113 The Economy of Minimizing Work T. J. Roberts, R. L. Marsh, P. G. Weyand, C. R. Taylor Mass Spawning by Green Algae 1116 on Coral Reefs K. E. Clifton Calmodulin Regulation of Calcium 1119 Stores in Phototransduction of Drosophila A. Arnon, B. Cook, C. Montell, Z. Selinger, B. Minke Interaction of CED-4 with CED-3 1122 and CED-9: A Molecular Framework for Cell Death A. M. Chinnaiyan, K. O'Rourke, B. R. Lane, V. M. Dixit

Recience



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<u>This Week in Science</u>

edited by PHIL SZUROMI

Superconductivity and symmetry

There is still no complete model that explains why electrons form Cooper pairs in the high-temperature superconductors and cease to do so above their transition temperature. Zhang (p. 1089) now presents a theory which uses rotational symmetry in five dimensions, SO(5), to relate the *d*-wave superconducting state to antiferromagnetism in the higher temperature insulating state. Generalized phase diagrams can be constructed with the model to relate transitions to the chemical potential (doping level) of these oxide materials. In a Perspective, Nagaosa (p. 1078) discusses how this theory relates to previous models and outlines the challenges still to be met in understanding high-temperature superconductors.

Copper decorations

The scanning tunneling microscope has been used to place small copper clusters onto the surface of a gold electrode. Kolb *et al.* (p. 1097) deposited copper electrochemically from solution onto the end of the tip. The tip is given a controlled voltage pulse that causes it to touch the surface momentarily and transfer a small cluster. Patterns and arrays can be formed by repeating the process.

Singling out molecules

Two reports focus on single molecule measurements. Monitoring the diffusion of single molecules in free solution requires high temporal and spatial resolution. Xu and Yeung (p. 1106) show that fluorescence

Molecular connections in apoptosis

Insights into the role played by molecules that interact to regulate programmed cell death, or apoptosis, are presented in four reports (see also the Perspective by Golstein, p. 1081). Studies on the nematode (*Caenorhabditis elegans*) have shown that CED-9 (which

corresponds to Bcl-2 in mammals) can protect cells from death induced by CED-3 (which corresponds to ICE, or interleukin-1 β -converting enzyme, in mammals) and CED-4, but the mechanism for this inhibition has been unclear. Chinnaiyan *et al.* (p. 1122) show that CED-4 can simultaneously bind both CED-3 and CED-9, and Wu *et al.* (p. 1126) show that CED-

9 localized CED-4 to intracellular membranes, thus removing it from the cytosol. Another role for Bcl-2 was identified by Yang *et al.* (p. 1129) and Kluck *et al.* (p. 1132), who showed that Bcl-2 can block apoptosis by preventing the release of cytochrome c from the mitochondria.

images of a thin layer of solution recorded with an intensified charge-coupled-device camera allows continuous monitoring of single molecules at submillisecond time scales. The diffusion coefficients of the molecules could be determined from these measurements. Nie and Emory (p. 1102) present a technique that provides complimentary information to the methods that are conventionally used in single-molecule studies, such as laser-induced fluorescence. Surface-induced Raman scattering of single molecules that were attached to nanoparticles showed enormous enhancements of their scattering efficiency for selected nanoparticles; the signals are more intense and stable than those obtained by fluorescence measurements.

Five-coordinate

hydrogen

Hydrogen is usually coordi-

nated to only one or two atoms,

but in a few rare cases, coordi-

nation numbers of three and six

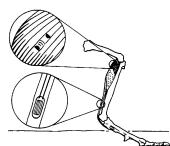
have been observed. Bau et al.

compound in which hydrogen is coordinated to five rhodium atoms in a metal cluster compound. The hydrogen atoms are located in square-pyramidal sites on the surface of the cluster. Only two of the six square pyramidal sites are occupied.

(p. 1099) have synthesized a

Turkey trot

Running takes a lot of energy, but for turkeys running on level ground, contracting muscles are not doing a lot of work. Roberts *et al.* (p. 1113; see the news story by Pennisi, p. 1067) im-



planted fiber-length and strain gauges to measure muscle force in the large calf muscles of running wild turkeys. The stretching and recoiling of tendons and the extended muscle (which acts as a spring) do most of the work. Active contracted muscle produces the high force needed to keep the turkey standing (and thus consumes metabolic energy), but contracts only a short distance and thus produces little work.



Mass survival

The origin and early evolution of birds has been widely debated, as has the effect of the extinction at the end of the Cretaceous, which marked the demise of the dinosaurs. Cooper and Penny (p. 1109) used molecular data from modern birds and estimates from the fossil record of minimum divergence times of pairs of related birds to estimate the number of modern bird lineages that survived through this extinction. Their analysis suggests that many lineages survived. Some of the implications and uncertainties related to the selection of the fossil pairs are discussed in a news story by Gibbons, p. 1068.

Busy terminal

The TATA-box binding protein (TBP) is required by all three RNA polymerases. The function of its nonconserved amino-terminal end has been unknown and its conserved carboxyl-terminal end can usually substitute for the full-length protein. Mittal and Hernadez (p. 1136) show that the nonconserved amino terminal mediates activity at the RNA polymerase III U6 small nuclear RNA (snRNA) promoter and recruits the snRNA activating protein complex to this site. It can also down-regulate TBP binding to the U6 TATA box and enhance U6 transcription.

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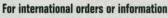
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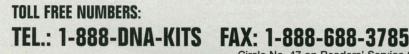
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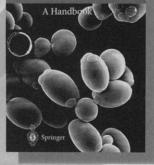
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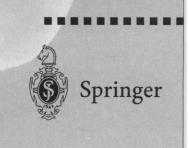
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J. F. Zayas Functionality of Proteins in Food

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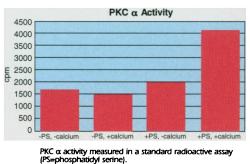
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Are you sure you're hooking the best leads?

New discovery techniques have today's laboratories teaming with potential lead compounds. But to find the best leads, you must be able to analyze all available information on your project. Without a way to view screening and assay results together with chemical data, you may be wasting your efforts on small fry.

How do you decide which leads are keepers? ISISTM for Microsoft® Excel outfits the familiar Excel interface with industry-standard capabilities for searching and manipulating biological data and chemical structures. Now you can access corporate data repositories, conduct sophisticated SAR analyses, and create comprehensive reports. All of which makes it easier to land leads with product potential.

ISIS for Excel comes from MDL Information Systems, Inc., the leader in discovery data management for nearly two decades. Talk to MDL today to put ISIS for Excel to work in your lab. Because while you talk about the one that got away, your competition may be reeling it in.

Call us at 510-357-2222, ext. 4747, or visit our website at www.mdli.com/isis_for_excel While we can't point you toward hot fishing spots, we can introduce you to some great information management solutions.

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Longer and More Accurate Amplifications from mRNA or total RNA Using AMV RTase

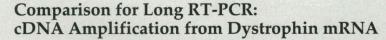
TaKaRa RNA LA PCR Kit (AMV), RR012A, 50 reactions:

RT and PCR reactions are completed in a single tube. This kit provides all necessary reagents for 50 reactions including *LA Taq*, AMV RTase XL, and RNase Inhibitor. RTase is conveniently pre-diluted and ready for immediate use.

TaKaRa LA Taq, RR002A, 125 U:

Available with a specially optimized buffer II (Mg²⁺ free) and MgCl₂.

* U.S. Patent 5,436,149 for LA Technology owned by TAKARA SHUZO CO., LTD.



 mk
 A M A+
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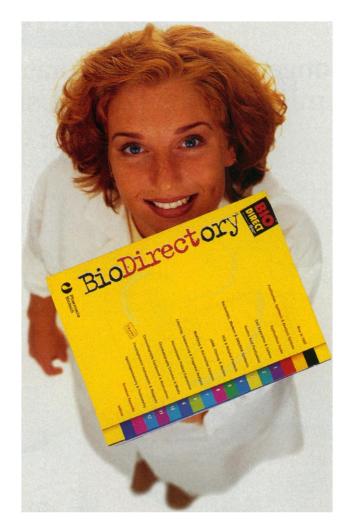
 8 kb
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RT reactions were carried out under optimum conditions for each enzyme, AMV RTase and MMLV RTase, in duplicate. One sample from each pair was followed by RNase H treatment. Then using two different primer pairs for 8 kb and 12 kb amplification, PCR was performed with *TaKaRa LA Taq* for AMV RTase products and Long distance DNA polymerase for MMLV RTase products respectively. No full length cDNA of 12 kb was detected with MMLV RTase.

mk λ Hind III marker

- A+ AMV RTase reaction followed by RNase H treatment
- M+ MMLV RTase reaction followed by RNase H treatment
- A- AMV RTase reaction only prior to PCR
- M- MMLV RTase reaction only prior to PCR





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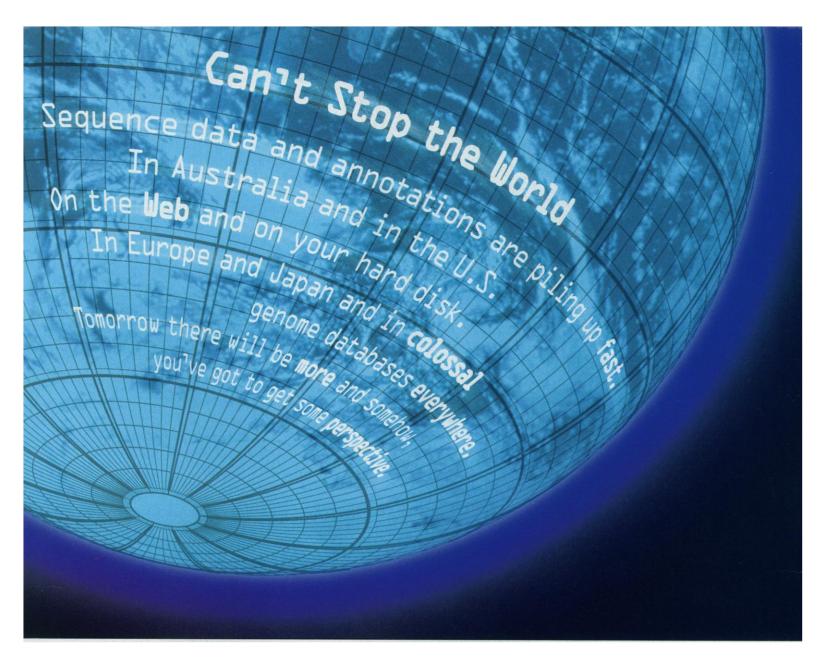
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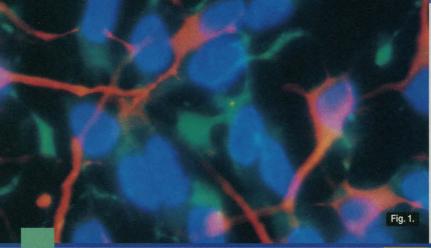


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Fig. 1. Multicolor detection using TSA-Direct. Courtesy of Kevin Roth, M.D., Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri.

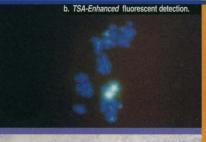
How does it work?

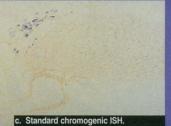
his technology uses HRP to catalyze the deposition of biotinyl or fluorescent tyramide onto tissue-section or cell-preparation surfaces that were previously blocked with protein. This reaction is quick (less than 10 minutes) and results in the deposition of numerous biotin or fluorochrome labels.

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Fig. 2







. Standard chroniogenic ISH.

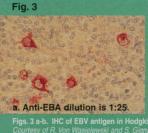
Enhance signal up to 1000-fold.

Figs. 2 a-b. Fluorescent detection of chromosome centromere probes in metaphase spr Figs. 2 c-d. In situ chromogenic detection of oxytocin in rat brain tissue sections.

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