

Organic Computing: Life without Software

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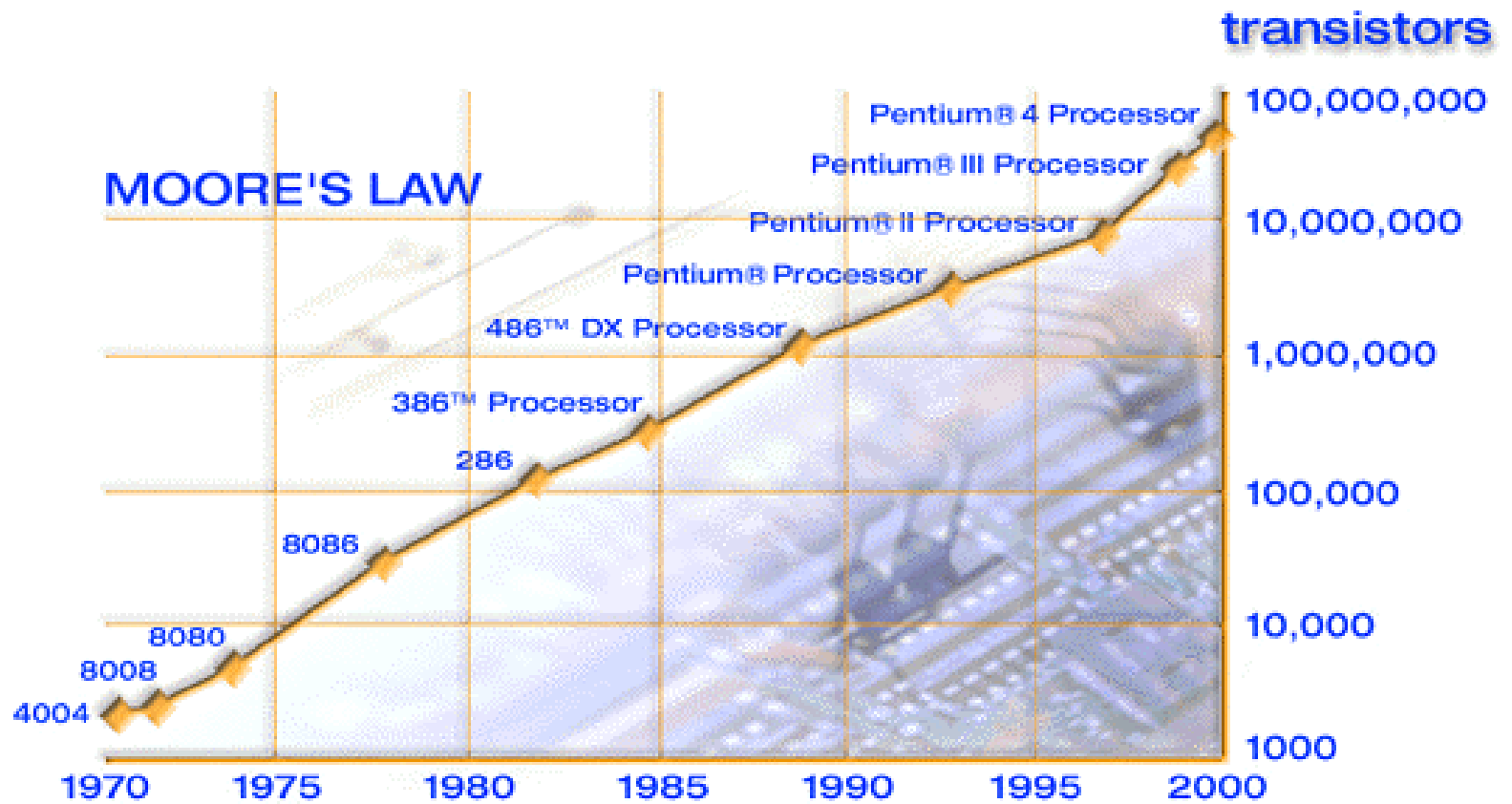
and

Computer Science Department

and Program for Neurosciences

University of Southern California





Chip complexity doubles every 18 months

Expectations

More Complex Functions

Flexibility, Robustness

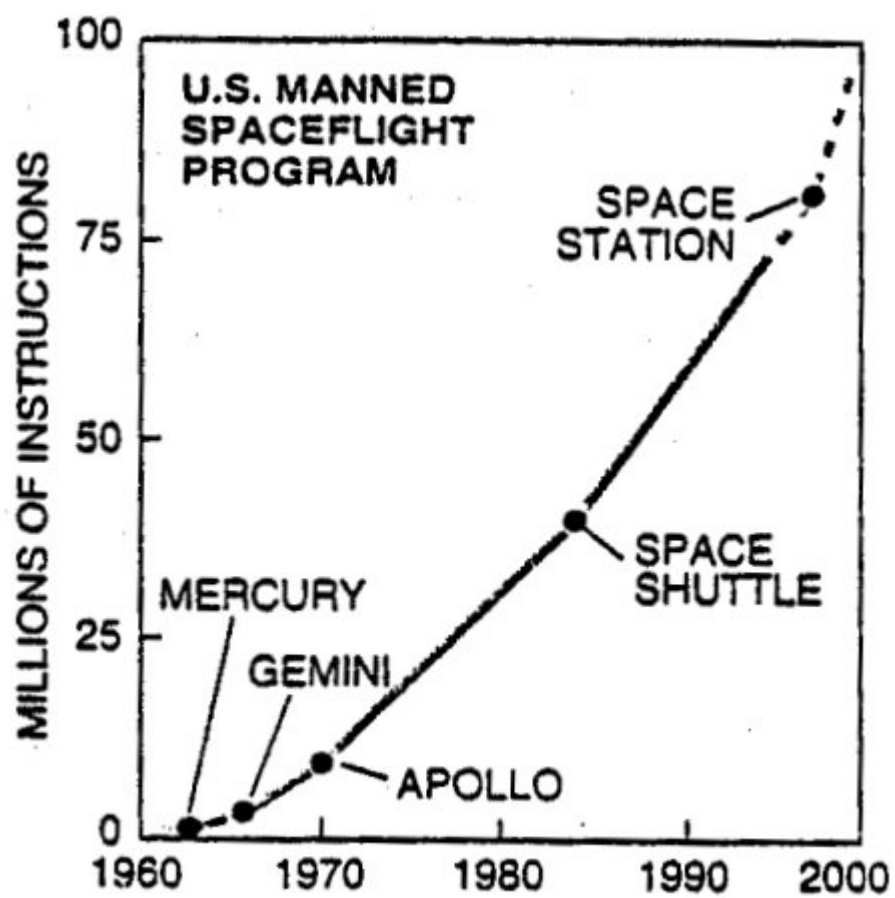
Adaptivity, Evolvability

Autonomy

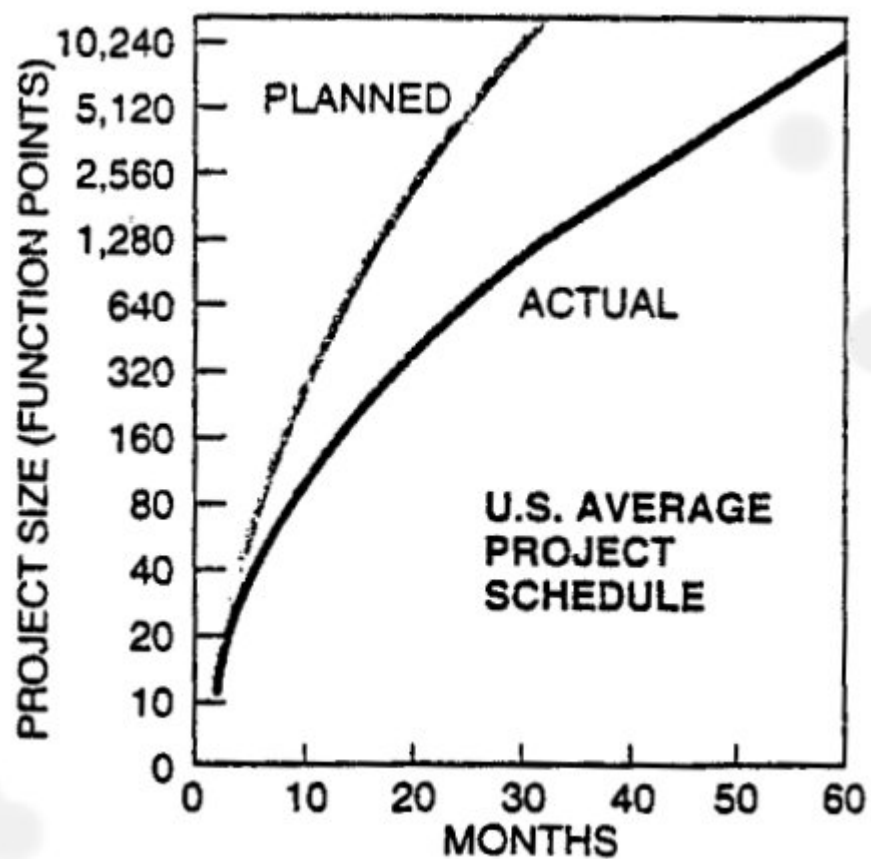
User Friendliness

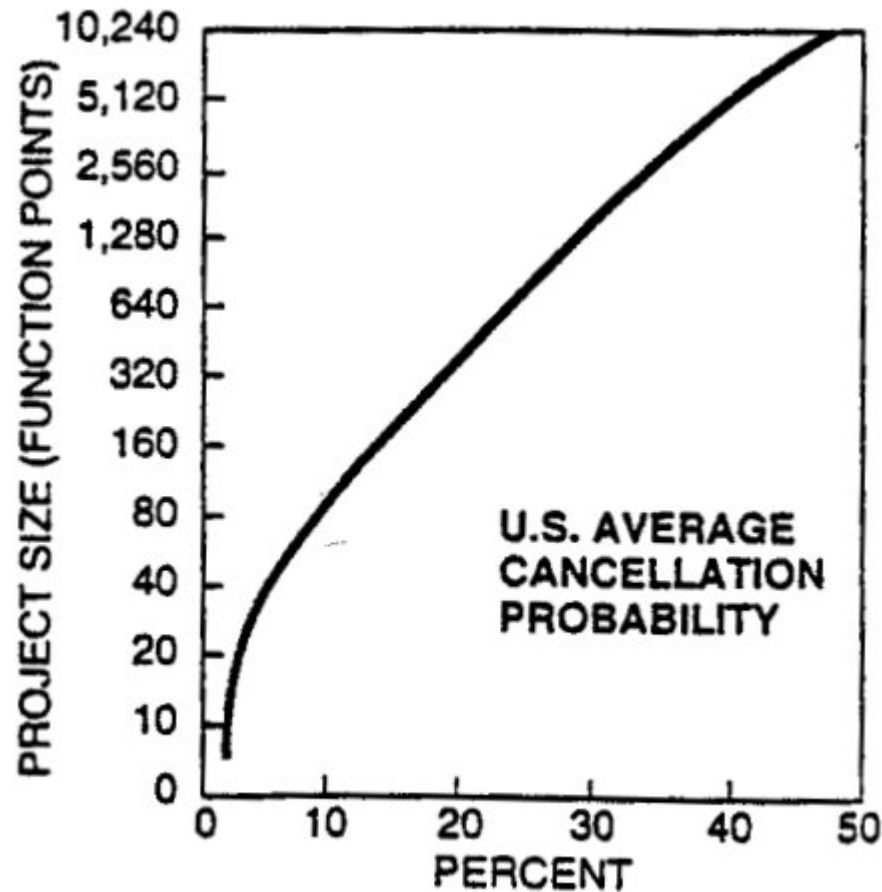
Situation Awareness

We expect our systems to
become intelligent!



SOURCE: Barry W. Boehm





SOURCE: Software Productivity Research

NIST study 02: yearly US losses due to SW failure: \$ 60 Billion

...and what if IT systems grow
by another factor of ten thousand?

Life: Computing without Software

- Living Cell: as complex as PC, but
flexible, robust, autonomous, adaptive, evolvable, situation aware
- Organism: more complex than all existing software
- Human Brain: intelligent, conscious, creative
It is the source of all algorithms!!
Estimated computing power: 10^{15} OPS
PC today 10^9 OPS,
By Moore's Law, the PC will equal the brain in 30 years
- But: Life is not digital, not deterministic, not algorithmic

Evolving Computing Needs:

- From Algorithms ...
Arithmetic, Accounting, Differential Equations
- ... to Systems
Coordination of Sub-Processes
Communication
Perception
Autonomous Action

A New Computing Paradigm:

Organisms are Computers

Computers should be Organisms

Organic Computing

Algorithmic Division of Labor

Human:

Creative Infrastructure:
Goals, Methods, Interpretation,
World Knowledge, Diagnostics

Detailed Communication

Machine:

Algorithms:
deterministic, fast, clue-less

Organic Computers

Human:

Goal Definition

Loose Communication

Machine:

Creative Infrastructure:
Goals, Methods, Interpretation,
World Knowledge, Debugging
Data, „Algorithms“

Fundamental Algorithm

Electronic Organisms

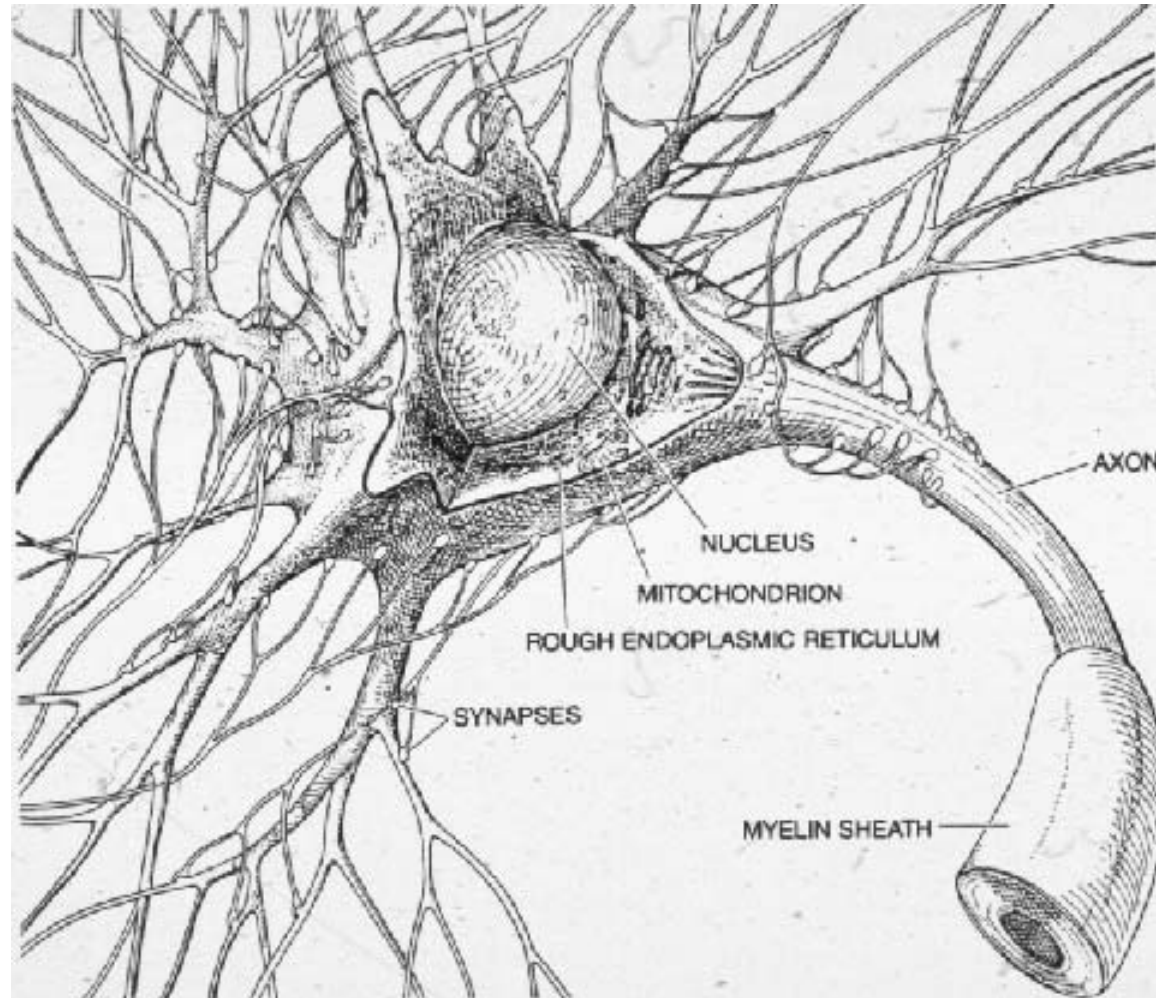
Algorithmic Machines...

are programmed
contain no infrastructure
may be simple
have to be simple

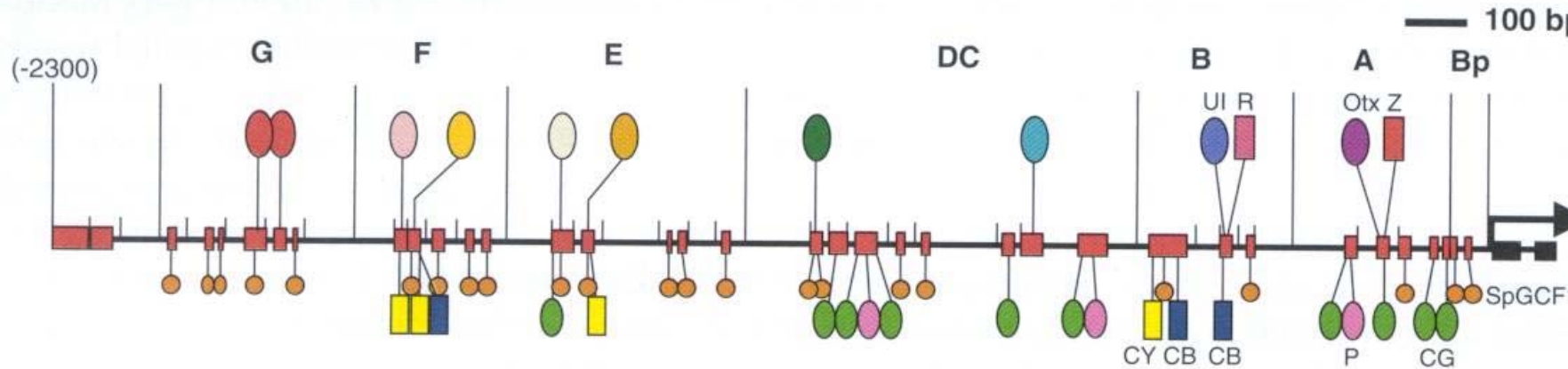
Electronic Organisms...

grow, learn
contain infrastructure
have to be complex
may be complex

Constraints set by Neuroscience



Constraints set by Molecular Biology



G Positive booster

F }
E } Repression in adjacent ectoderm

DC Repression in skeletogenic mesenchyme

B Expression in midgut of late embryo

Controls late rise in expression

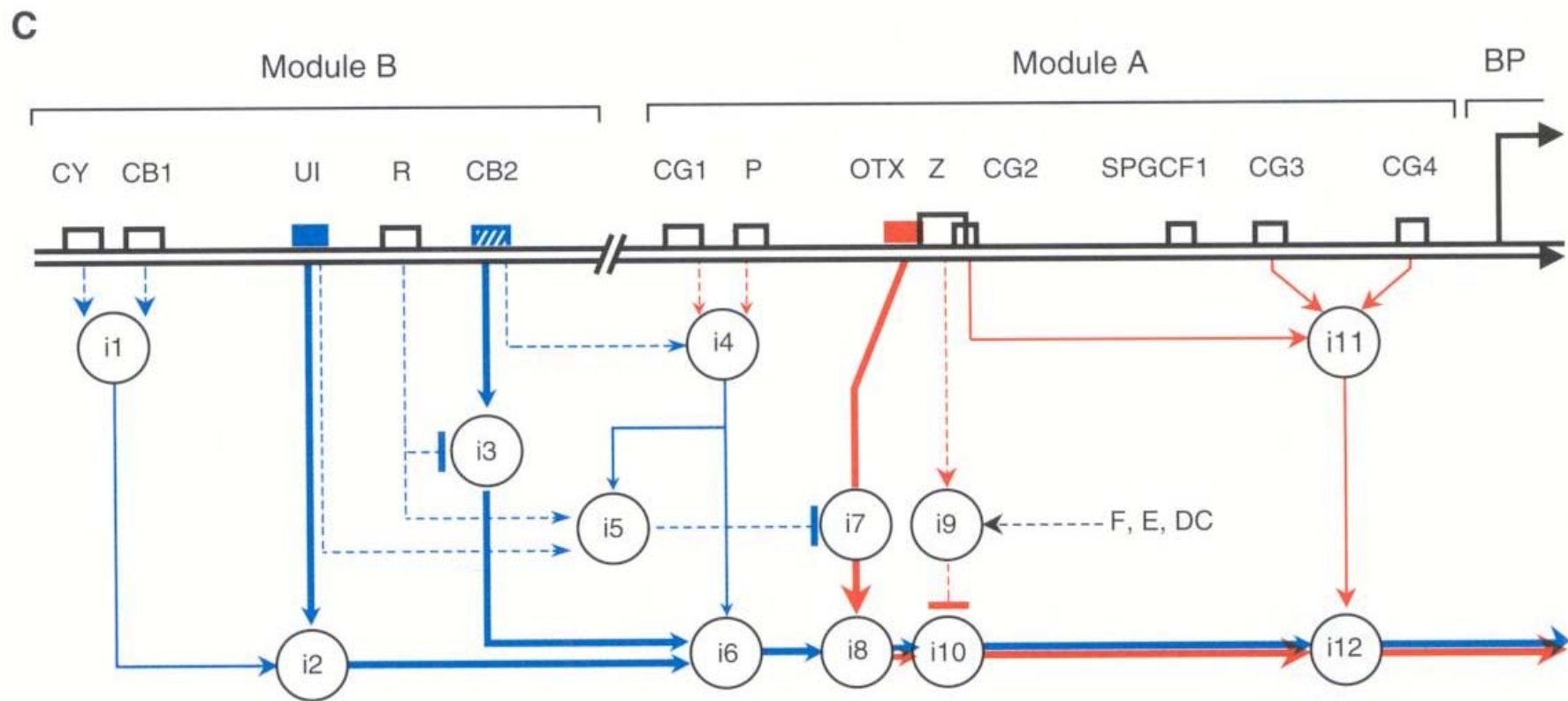
Activates switch resulting in exclusive use of its own input

A Expression in vegetal plate in early embryo

Sole communication to BTA for whole system

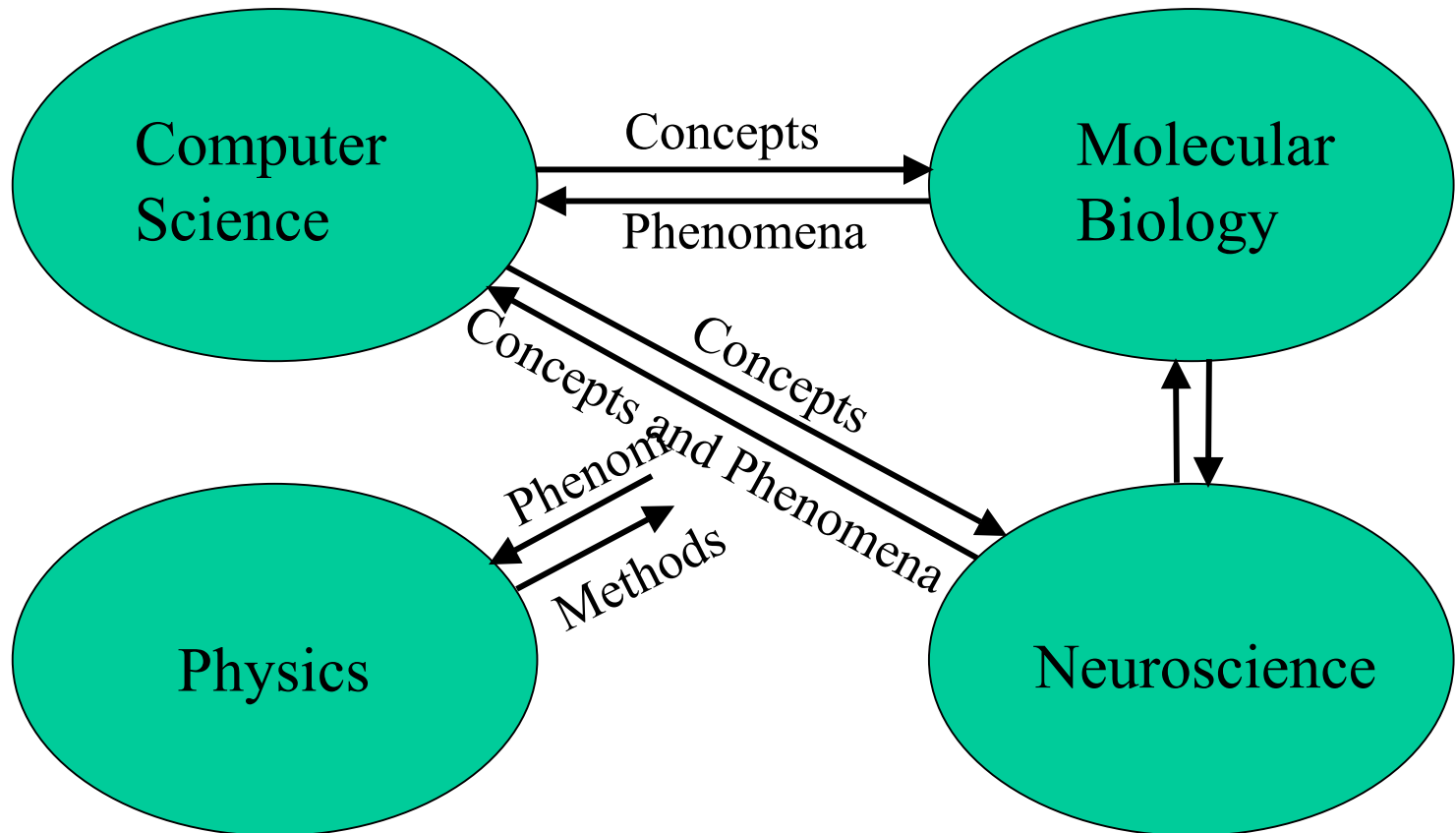
Synergistic amplification of B input

Transduction of FE, DC repression



Davidson 2

Interdisciplinary Cooperation



Existing Efforts

Neural Networks

Fuzzy Logic

Genetic Algorithms

Artificial Life

Autonomous Agents

Amorphous Computing

Belief Propagation

Production Systems

Some Current Initiatives

- IBM's Autonomic Computing Campaign

www.ibm.com/research/autonomic

- Organic Computing Web Site

www.organic-computing.org

- Britain's Foresight program:

Cognitive Systems Project

www.foresight.gov.uk

- GI (Gesellschaft für Informatik):

Organic Computing Initiavex

www.organic-computing.de

- DFG: Cognitive Systems Center

Call for proposals

Issues

- A Generic Data Architecture
- A Generic Process Architecture: Self-Organization
- Autonomous Sub-System Integration
- Goal Definition
 - by Humans
 - by Self-Organization
- Instruction (Man-Machine Interfaces!)
- Autonomous Learning from the Natural Environment

The Neural Gap

Algorithmic Computing

universal but dependent on man

Neural Computing

adaptive but not universal

The Dynamic Link Architecture

...as theory of the brain's function

Generic data structure: Graphs

Nodes: (groups of) Neurons as elementary Symbols

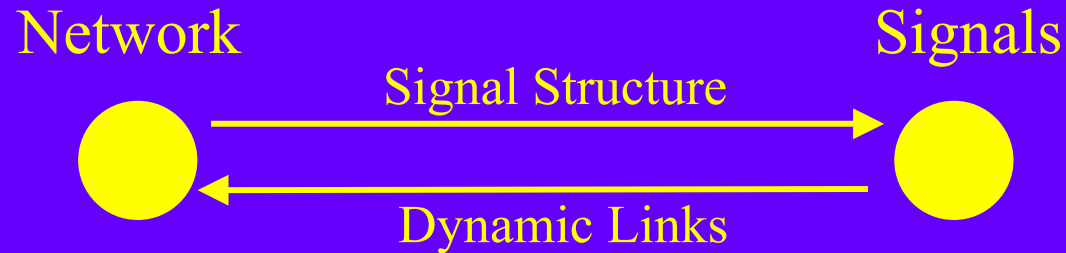
Links: basis for compositionality

Generic process structure: Network Self-Organization

Creating a structured universe

Important process: recognition of isomorphy

Rapid Network Self-Organization



Characterization of Attractor Networks:

- Redundant Pathways
- Sparsity

The Learning Problem

- Central problem: recognize *significant* connections and patterns
- Associative Memory: *all* connections are strengthened
Result: monolithic attractor states
- NN learning: significance defined as statistical recurrence
Result: learning time explodes beyond 100 bit input patterns
- Required: a definition of significance that ...
 - can be diagnosed in individual scene
 - incorporates purpose
- Statistics is context-dependent
Result: learning deadlock
 - without (context-) recognition no learning,
 - without learning no recognition

Schema-Based Learning

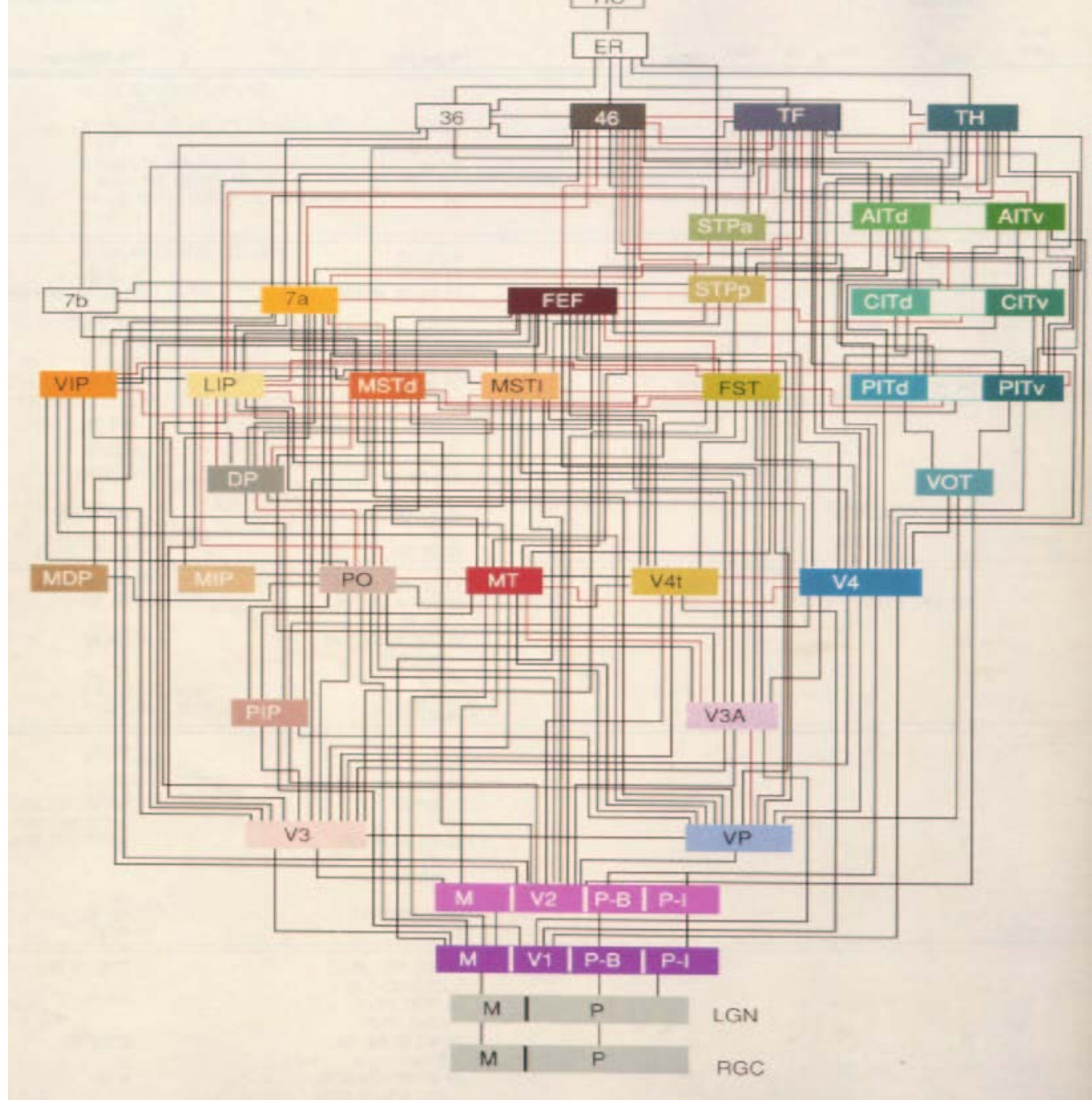
Functional significance defined by pre-existing schemas
(originating from evolution, culture, learning or design)

A schema is a flexible description of a situation

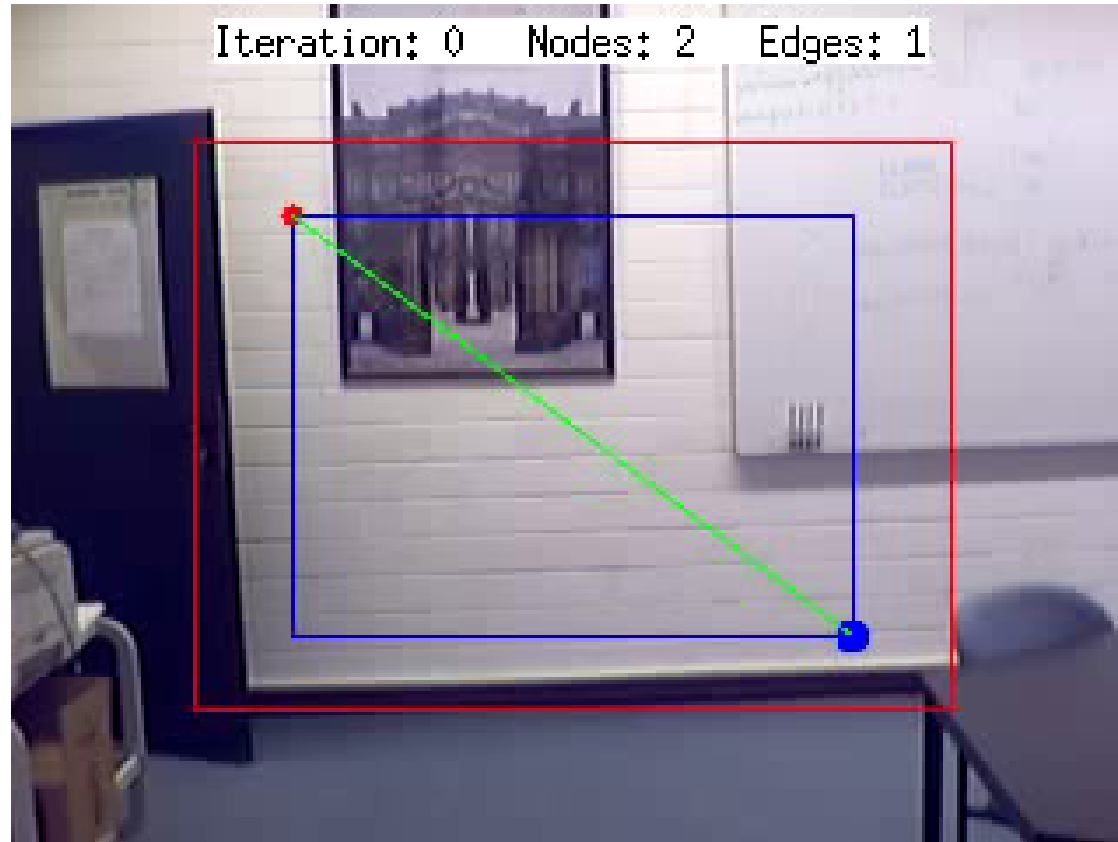
Learning proceeds by ...

1. Recognizing a schema
2. Extracting the recognized elements
3. Compacting such examples by statistical means

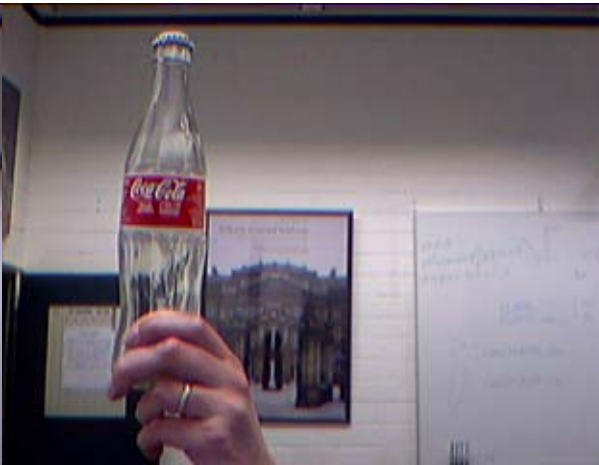
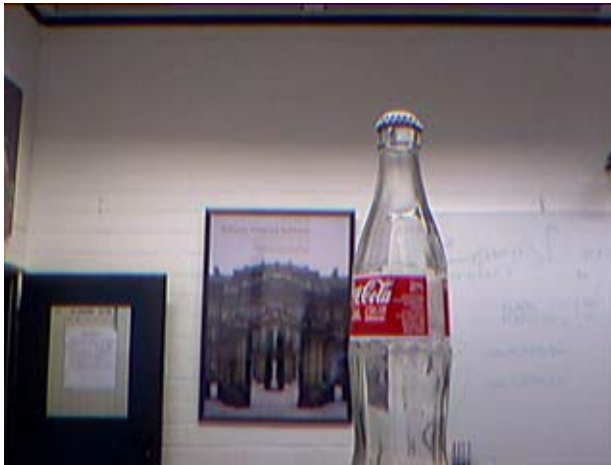
Vision as Major Application Domain



One-Click Learning

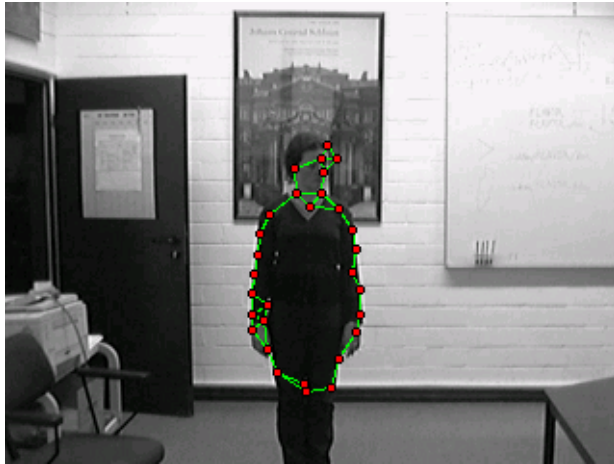


Hartmut Loos

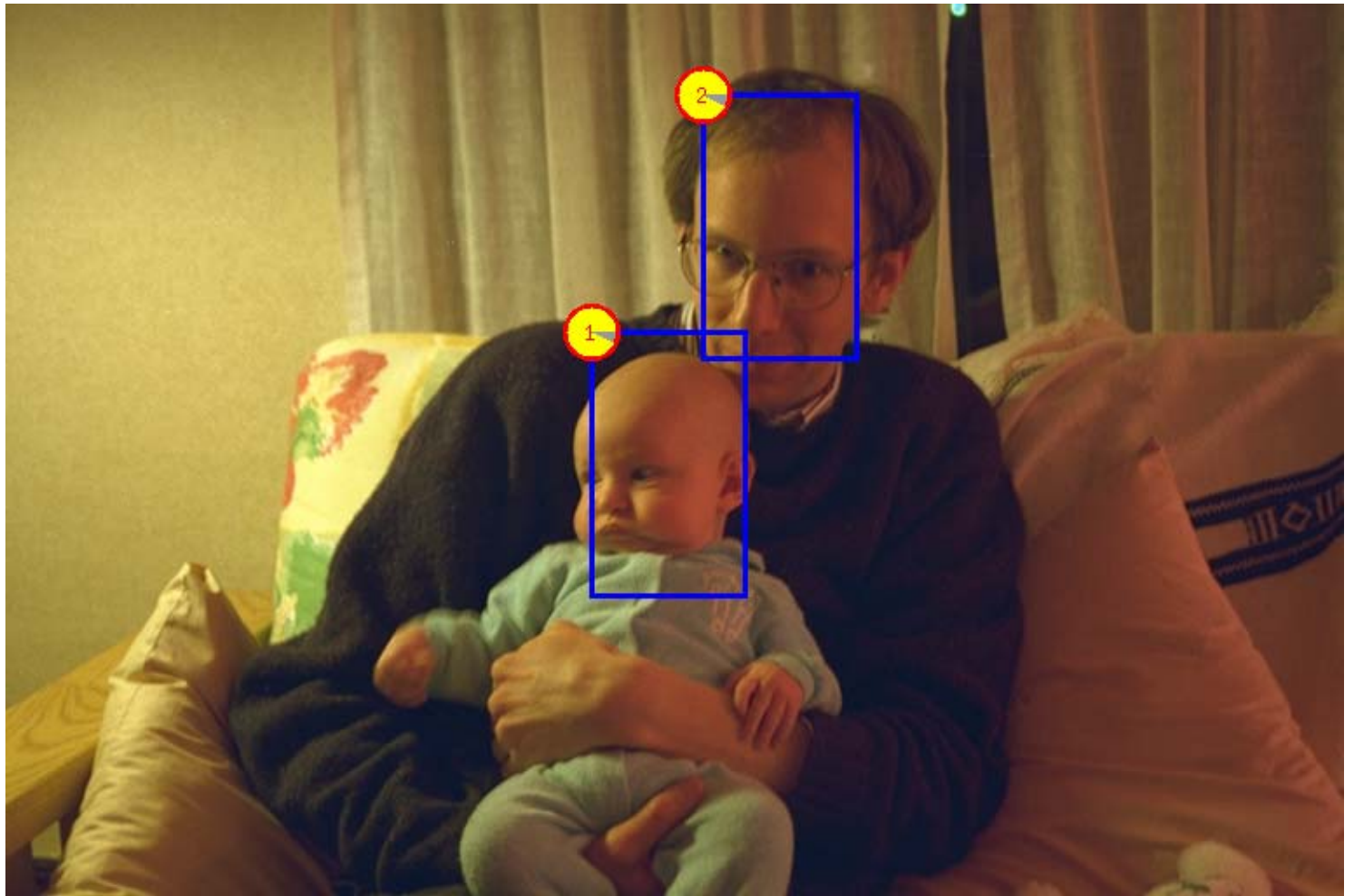




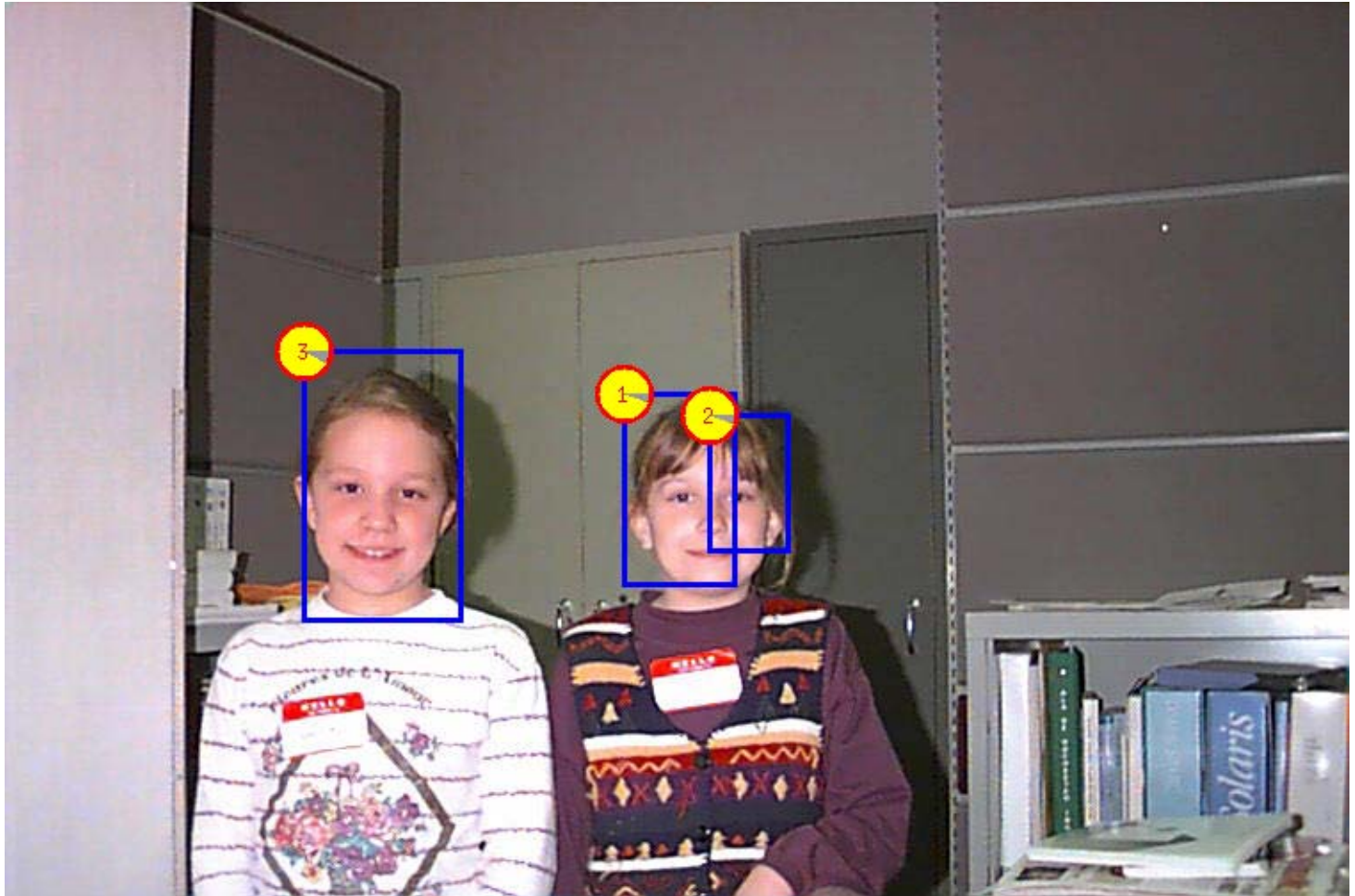
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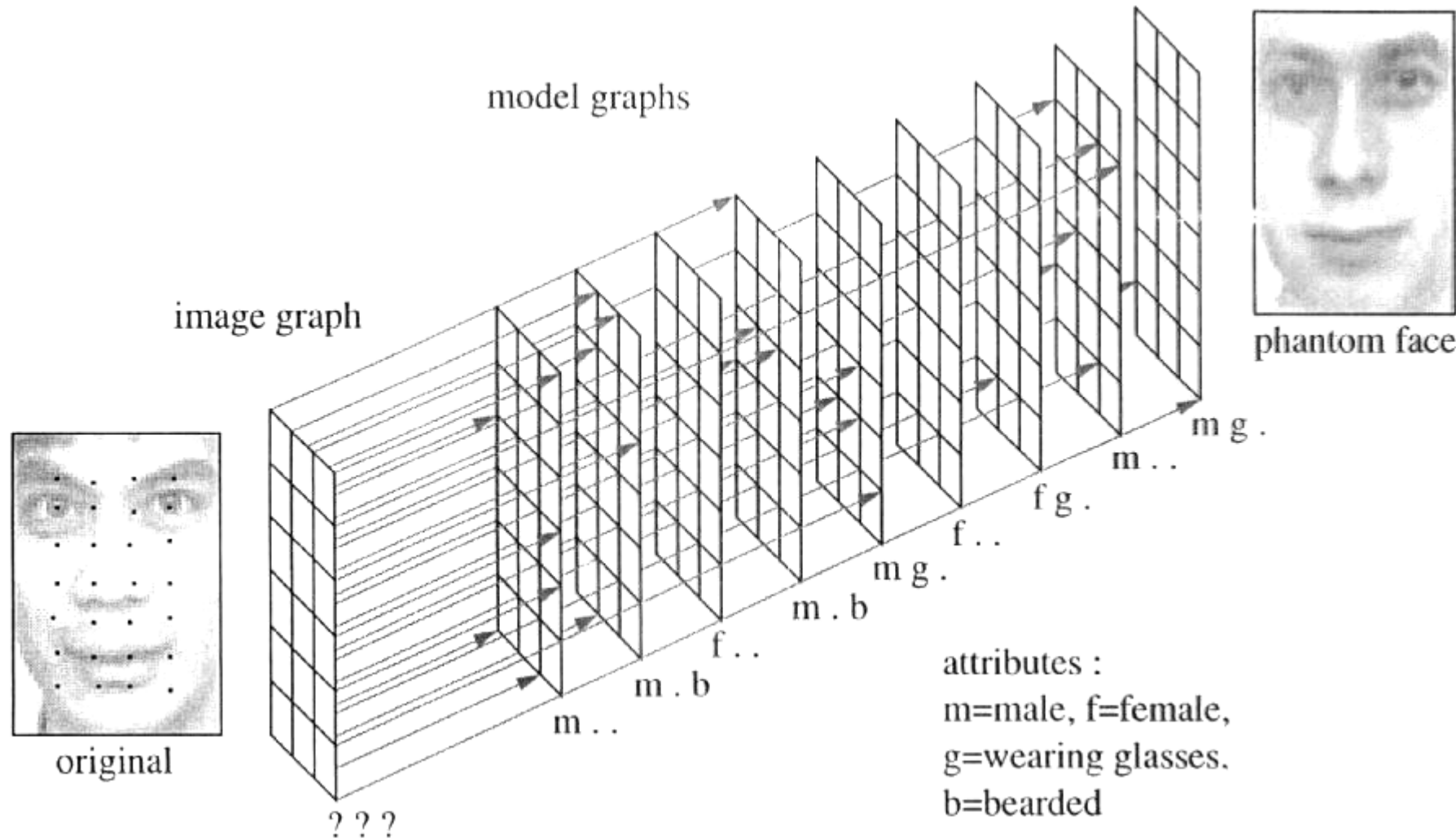
Hartmut Loos



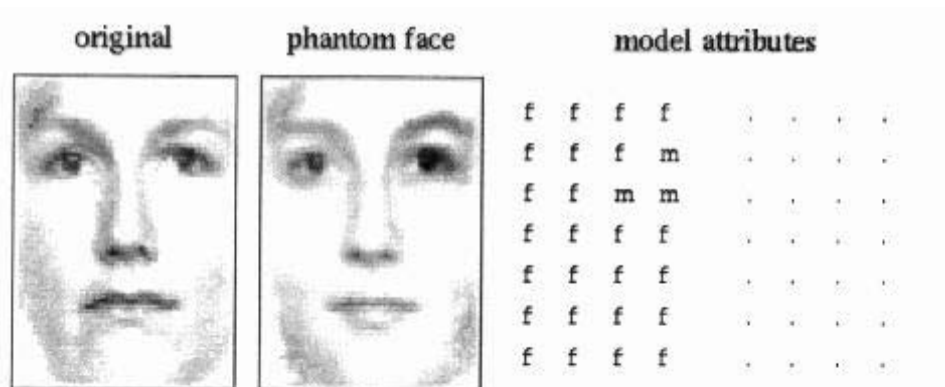
Kodak Data Base: failures



Interpreting Faces by Bunch Graphs



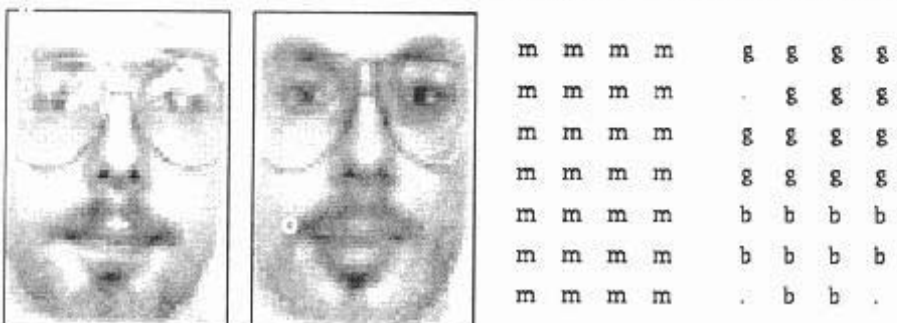
Laurenz Wiskott



attributes determined: person is female, has no glasses, and is not bearded

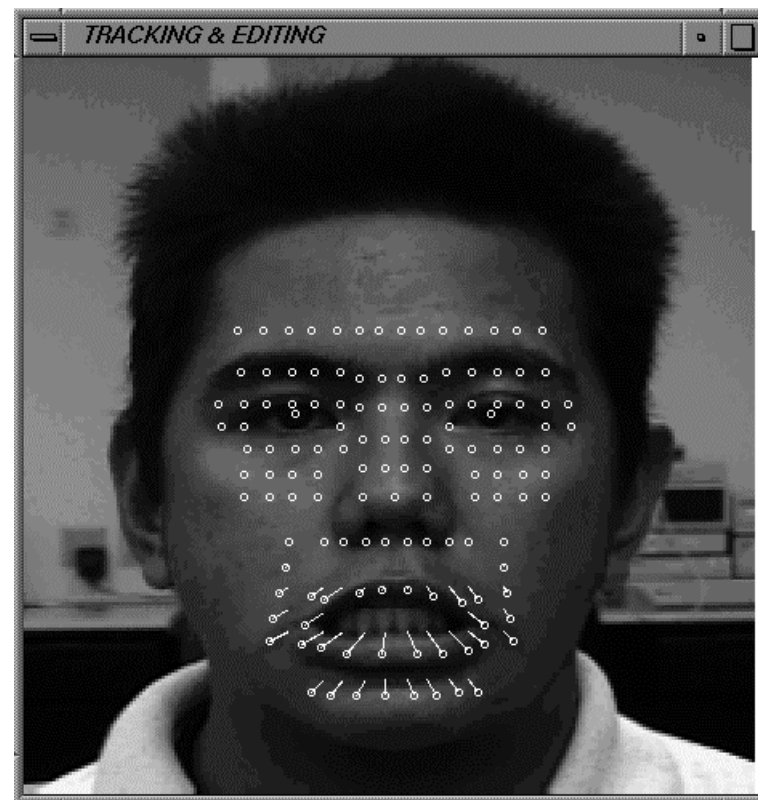
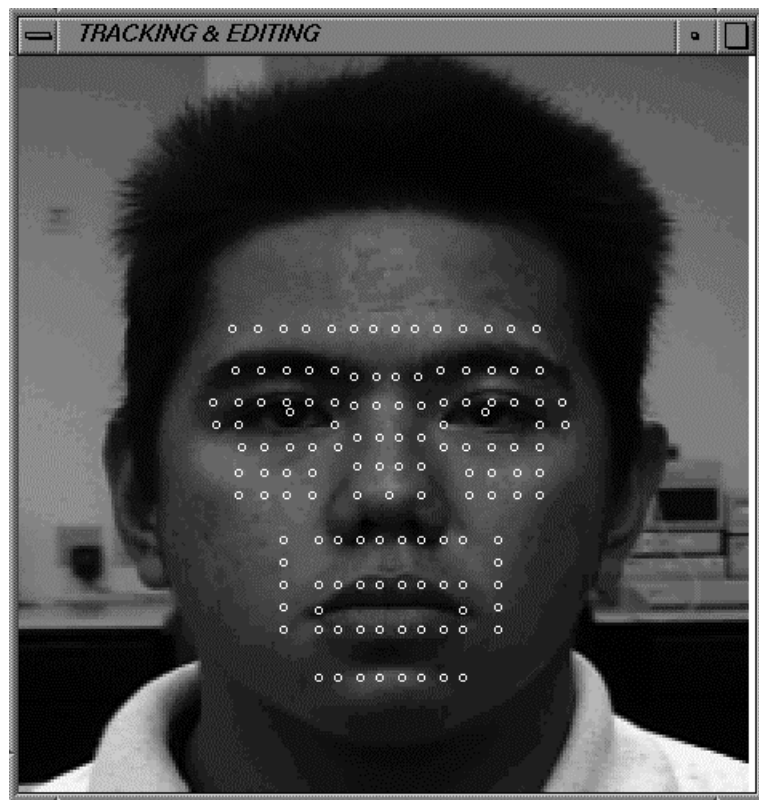


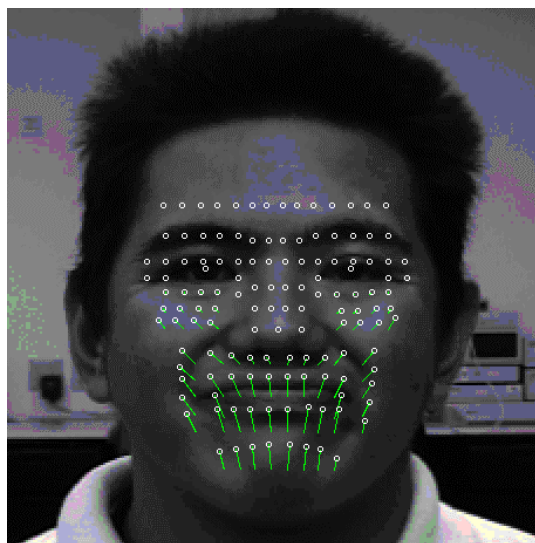
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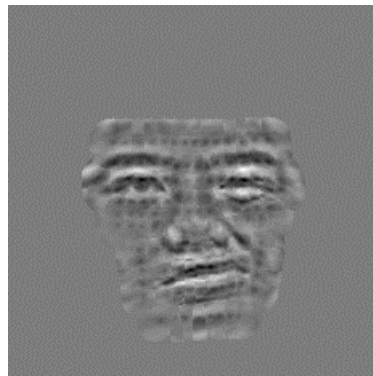
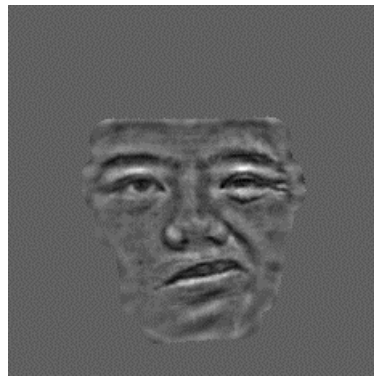
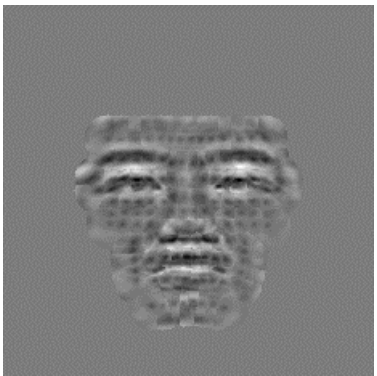
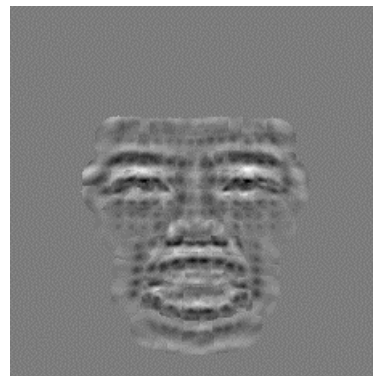
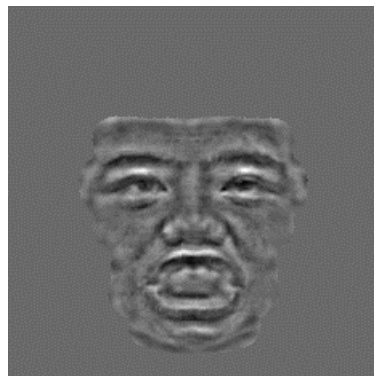
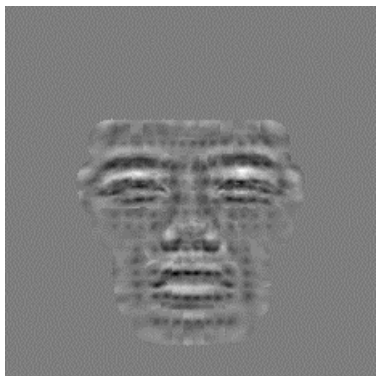
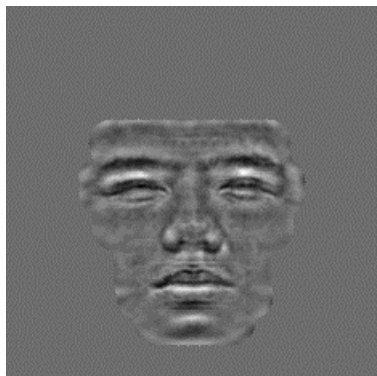
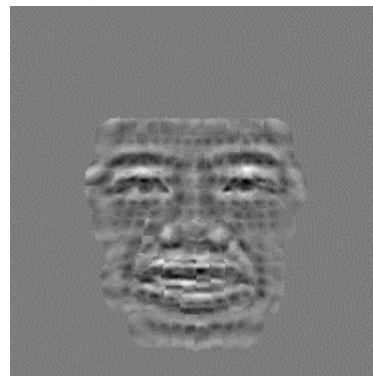
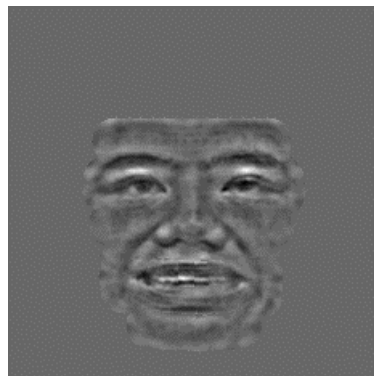
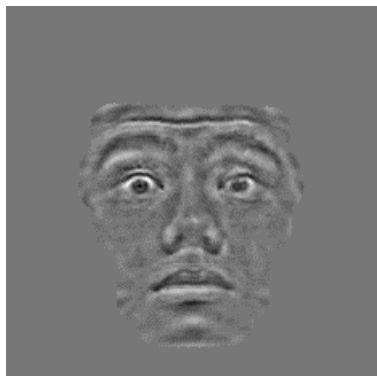


attributes determined: person is male, has glasses, and is bearded









Conclusions

- The complexity barrier to IT's progress forces major changes in system development methodology
- The algorithmic division of labor is a major stumbling block
- The example of living structures shows the way
- A generic system architecture must be a primary goal
- Present activities must be encouraged and coordinated
- As time frame for a major transformation of IT we must envisage 20 years