

**MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH NEWSLETTER, SECOND QUARTER 1987**

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Arty Fischell, guest editor

***Headline:***

Major breakthrough in breakthrough research *desperately* needed!

***Page 1:***

Parallel operators discovered for boundary numbers.  
Cut and paste numeric calculation now available.

***Page 2:***

Scandal erupts again as cherished concepts are shown to be unnecessarily complex. The notion of a variable is dual to the notion of equals. Both condense into the notion of a distinction network query.

***Page 3:***

Design options for constraint management system are being limited.

***Page 4:***

Artificial life conference in Los Alamos.

***Page 5:***

and on the self-referential level, folks...

Breakthrough Newsletter breaks the Time barrier,  
and appears before it is due.

## HEADLINE

Researchers are abuzz with the latest Washingtonian gossip, ever since a major advanced decision systems research lab (which will remain unnamed) proposed to study the feasibility of scheduled breakthroughs in research. The novel proposal to seek an understanding of breakthrough research was immediately funded when reviewers read the schedule of work, which promised scheduled breakthroughs in the major research questions of the evolution of knowledge.

What are the predictors of change? How can we evaluate the preconditions of a new direction? Why did video games die? Why is momentum stronger than quality? When are expectations more important than experience? Must old dogs die in order to learn new tricks? Just what is broken through when a breakthrough occurs, and how long does it stay broken?

Top officials have been heard to say: "We must break through the lack of breakthrough results. How will we know when we're done if we don't know when to schedule the finish? Only by specifying what we don't know can we hope to know enough to overcome our ignorance in this area."

## PAGE 1

[This technical section is presented in a separate essay entitled:  
BOUNDARY NUMBERS.]

## PAGE 2

[This technical section is presented in a separate essay entitled:  
VARIABLES AND EQUALS.]

## PAGE 3

Discussion of constraint management is omitted due to lack of space.

## PAGE 4

Artificial life conference in Los Alamos. Perhaps the best conference this year.

## PAGE 5

This page is just too intimate for distribution. So sue me for teasing.