3.3. MOLECULAR MODELLING AND GRAPHICS

The algorithm developed by Porter (1978) for shading spheres to be darkened near their peripheries also computes the proper appearance of the line of intersection of two spheres wherever interpenetration occurs, in contrast to some simpler systems which draw a complete disc for whichever sphere is forward of the other. Provided that all opaque spheres are drawn first, the system is also capable of representing transparent spheres by darkening the colour of the existing background inside, and especially near the edge of, discs representing transparent foreground spheres.

Other systems that produce space-filling pictures of a similar general character have been produced by Motherwell (1978), by Sundaram & Radhakrishnan (1979) and by Lesk (next section).

3.3.3.1.3. *Lesk & Hardman software*

The complexity of macromolecules is a formidable obstacle to perceiving the basic features of their construction and the stylized drawings produced by this software following the artistry of Richardson (1977, 1981, 1985) enables the internal organization of such molecules to be appreciated readily. The software is capable of mixing several styles of representation, among them the Richardson style of cylinders for α-helices, arrows for β-strands and ribbons for less-organized regions, or the creased-ribbon technique for the whole chain, or a ball-and-stick representation of atoms and bonds, or space-filling spheres. All these styles are available simultaneously in a single picture with depth cueing, colour and shading, and hidden-feature suppression as appropriate. It is also able to show a stylized drawing of a complete molecule together with a magnified part of it in a more detailed style. See Lesk & Hardman (1982, 1985).

3.3.3.1.4. *GRAMPS*

This system, due to O'Donnell & Olson (O'Donnell & Olson, 1981; Olson, 1982) provides a high-level graphics language and its associated interpretive software. It provides a general means of defining objects, drawable by line drawings, in such a way that these may be logically connected in groups or trees using a simple command language. Such a system may, for example, define a subunit protein of an icosahedral virus and define icosahedral symmetry, in such a way that modification of one subunit is expressed simultaneously in all subunits whilst preserving the symmetry, and simultaneously allowing the entire virus particle to be rotated. Such logical and functional relationships are established by the user through the medium of the *GRAMPS* language at run time, and a great diversity of such relationships may be created. The system is thus not limited to any particular type of structure, such as linear polymers, and has proved extremely effective as a means of providing animation for the production of cine film depicting viral and other structures. *GRAMPS* runs on all Silicon Graphics workstations under IRIX 4.0 or above.

3.3.3.1.5. *Takenaka & Sasada's system*

Takenaka & Sasada (1980) have described a system for the manipulation and display of molecular structures, including packing environments in the crystal, using a minicomputer loosely coupled to a mainframe. Their system is also capable of model building by the addition of groups of one or more atoms with a facility for monitoring interaction distances while doing so.

3.3.3.1.6. *MIDAS*

This system, due to Langridge and co-workers (Gallo *et al.*, 1983; Ferrin *et al.*, 1984) is primarily concerned with the display of existing structures rather than with the establishment of new ones, but it may modify such structures by bond rotations under manual control. It is of particular value in the study of molecular

interactions since two or more molecules may be manipulated simultaneously and independently. Visual docking of molecules is greatly facilitated by the display of van der Waals surfaces, which may be computed in real time so that the turning of a bond in the underlying structure does not tear the surface (Bash *et al.*, 1983).

3.3.3.1.7. *Insight*

This system, originally due to Dayringer *et al.* (1986), has a functionality similar to *MIDAS*. It has been replaced by *Insight* II (current version 2.3.5). It appears to be well suited to the study of intermolecular relationships in docking and in structural comparisons, and it is able to make modifications to structures. Objects for display may be molecular or non-molecular, the former having an atomic substructure and the latter consisting of a vector list which may not be subdivided into referrable components. Map fitting with the current version has been reported.

3.3.3.1.8. *PLUTO*

PLUTO was developed by Motherwell (1978) at the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre (CCDC) for the display of molecular structures and crystal-packing diagrams, including an option for space-filling model style with shadowing. The emphasis was on a free format command and data structure, and the ability to produce ball-and-spoke drawings with line shadowing suitable for reproduction in journal publication. Many variant versions have been produced, with essentially the 1978 functionality, its popularity deriving from its ease of use and the provision of default options for establishing connectivity using standard bonding radii. It was distributed as part of the CCDC software associated with the Cambridge Structural Database, with an interface for reading entries from the database.

In 1993 Motherwell and others at the CCDC added an interactive menu and introduced colour and PostScript output. New features were introduced to allow interactive examination of intermolecular contacts, particularly hydrogen-bonded networks, and sections through packing diagrams (Cambridge Structural Database, 1994).

3.3.3.1.9. *MDKINO*

This system, due to Swanson *et al.* (1989), provides for the extraction and visualization of selected regions from molecular-dynamics simulations. It permits stereo viewing, interactive geometric interrogation and both forwards and backwards display of motion.

3.3.3.2. *Molecular-modelling systems based on electron density*

Systems described in this section require real-time rotation of complicated transparent scenes and all used vector-graphics technology in their original implementations for that reason, though many are now available for raster machines. In every case the graphics are the means of communication between the user and software possessing high functionality, capable of building a representation of a molecule *ab initio* and to alter it, change its shape and position it optimally in relation to an electron-density map, with due attention being paid to stereochemical considerations, by one or more of several approaches.

3.3.3.2.1. *CHEMGRAF*

Katz & Levinthal (1972) have developed a powerful modelling and display system for macromolecules known as *CHEMGRAF*. This system permits the definition of many atom types which includes bonding specifications, so that, for example, four types of carbon atom are included in the basic list and others may be added.

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A molecular fragment with an unsatisfied valency (by which it might later be attached to another such group) would have that feature represented by a 'vanishing virtual' atom which removes the need for any organizational distinction between such fragments and complete molecules. Fragments, such as amino-acid residues, may be assembled from atoms, and molecules may be assembled from atoms and/or from such fragments invoked by name, by the superposition and elimination of the relevant vanishing virtuals. The assembly process includes the development of a connectivity tree for the molecule and provision is made for the 'turning' or reconstruction of such trees if the combination of such fragments redefines the root atom of one or more of the fragments. The system also provides for ring closure. Model building initially uses fixed bond lengths and angles, varying only the dihedral angles in single bonds, but has a library of preformed rings which could not otherwise be modelled on the simple basis. The results of such modelling may then be subjected to an energy-minimization routine using a steepest-descent method in the space of the dihedral angles and referring to the Lennard–Jones potential for non-bonded atom pairs. Atoms are first sorted into contiguous cubes so that all neighbours of any atom may be found by searching not more than 27 cubes.

The system is also capable of modelling by reference to electron density either by the translation and rotation of molecular fragments and the rotation of rotatable bonds within them or by the automatic linking of peaks in an electron-density map which are separated by less than, say, 1.8 Å, which is an important aid to interpretation when the resolution is sufficiently high.

3.3.3.2.2. *GRIP*

This system, developed by Professor F. P. Brooks, Dr W. V. Wright and associates at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA, was designed for biopolymers and was the first to enable a protein electron-density map to be interpreted *ab initio* without the aid of mechanical models (Tsernoglou *et al.*, 1977). Girling *et al.* (1980) give a more recent example of its use.

In its 1975 version *GRIP* is a three-machine system. Centrally there is a minicomputer which receives inputs from the user and controls a vector display with high-speed matrix-multiplication capability. The third machine is a mainframe computer with high-speed communication with the minicomputer.

The system develops a polymer chain from a library of monomers and manipulates it through bond rotations or free rotations of fragments explicitly specified by the user, with the aid of dials which may be coupled to bonds for the purpose. Bond rotations in the main chain either rotate part of the molecule relative to the remainder, which may have undesirable long-range effects, or the scope of the rotation is artificially limited with consequential discontinuities arising in the chain. Such discontinuities are removed or alleviated by the mainframe computer using the method of Hermans & McQueen (1974), which treats atomic position vectors, rather than bond rotations, as independent variables.

The system made pioneering use of a two-axis joystick to control orientation and a three-translation joystick to control position.

3.3.3.2.3. *Barry, Denson & North's systems*

These systems (Barry & North, 1971; North *et al.*, 1981; North, 1982) are examples of pioneering work done with minicomputers before purpose-built graphics installations became widespread; examples of their use are given by Ford *et al.* (1974), Potterton *et al.* (1983) and Dodson *et al.* (1982). They have the ability to develop a polymer chain in sections of several residues, each of which may subsequently be adjusted to remove any misfit errors where the sections overlap. Manipulations are by rotation and translation of sections and by bond rotations within sections. These movements are directly controlled by the user, who may simultaneously observe on the screen the agreement with electron density, or calculated estimates of potential or interaction energy, or a volume integral of the product of observed and model densities, or predicted shifts of proton magnetic resonance spectra. Thus models which are optimal by various criteria may be constructed, but there is no optimizer directly controlling the rotational adjustments which are determined by the user.

One of the earliest applications of them (Beddell, 1970) was in the fitting of substrate molecules to the active site of lysozyme using difference electron densities; however, the systems also permitted the enzyme–substrate interaction to be studied simultaneously and to be taken into account in adjusting the model.

3.3.3.2.4. *MMS-X*

The Molecular Modelling System-X (*MMS-X*) is a system of purpose-built hardware developed by Barry, Marshall and others at Washington University, St Louis. Associated with it are several sets of software. The St Louis software consists of a suite of programs rather than one large one and provides for the construction of a polymer chain in helical segments which may be adjusted bodily to fit the electron density, and internally also if the map requires this too. Non-helical segments are built helically initially and unwound by user-controlled rotations in single bonds. The fitting is done to visual criteria. An example of the use of this system is given by Lederer *et al.* (1981).

Miller *et al.* (1981) have described an alternative software system for the same equipment. Functions invoked from a keyboard allow dials to be coupled to dihedral angles in the structure. Their system communicates with a mainframe computer which can deliver small blocks of electron density to be contoured and stored locally by the graphics system; this provides freedom of choice of contour level at run time. An example of the use of this system is given by Abad-Zapatero *et al.* (1980).

3.3.3.2.5. *Texas A&M University system*

This system (Morimoto & Meyer, 1976), a development of Meyer's earlier system (Section 3.3.3.1), uses vector-graphics technology and a minicomputer and is free of the timing restrictions of the earlier system. The system allows control dials to be dynamically coupled by software to rotations or translations of parts of the structure, thus permitting the re-shaping or re-positioning of the model to suit an electron-density map which may be contoured and managed by the minicomputer host. The system may be used to impose idealized geometry, such as planar peptides in proteins, or it may work with non-idealized coordinates.

The system was successfully applied to the structures of rubredoxin and the extracellular nuclease of *Staphylococcus aureus* (Collins *et al.*, 1975) and to binding studies of sulfonamides to carbonic anhydrase (Vedani & Meyer, 1984). In addition, two of the first proteins to be constructed without the aid of a 'Richards' Box' were modelled on this system: monoclinic lysozyme in 1976 (Hogle *et al.*, 1981) and arabinose binding protein in 1978 (Gilliland & Quiocho, 1981).

3.3.3.2.6. *Bilder*

This system (Diamond, 1980*a*,*c*, 1982*b*) runs on a minicomputer independent of any mainframe. It builds a polymer chain from a library of residues and adapts it by internal rotations and overall positioning in much the same way as previous systems described in this section. Like them, it can provide user-controlled bond rotations, but its distinctive feature is that it has an optimizer within the minicomputer which will determine optimal combinations of bond rotations needed to meet the user's declared