英汉对照读物

# 科技英语选粹

陈羽纶 主编



# 科 技 英 语 选 粹

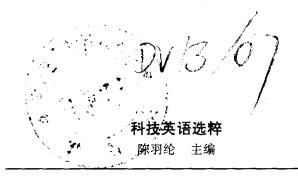
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中国对外翻译出版公司

#### 〔京〕新登字 020 号

责任编辑:张逸人责任校对:徐元歌



中国对外翻译出版公司 北京市太平桥大街 4 号邮编:100810 电话:6022134 电报挂号:6230 新华书店北京发行所发行 北京振华印刷厂印刷

850×1168 毫米 1/32 印张 10 字数 268 (千) 1994 年 6 月第一版 1994 年 6 月第一次印刷

翻译书店地址:北京市太平桥大街 4号 电话:6034491

ISBN 7-5001-0275-5/H·83 定价:6.80元

## 前 言

本书是由北京联合大学电子工程学院科技英语副教授张明同志参加编选的。清华大学外语系周维焜和清华大学计算机系叶乃奉同志参加了部分校订工作;国际文化出版公司王苹同志参加了整理工作。全书共选入55篇,按其内容大体分为高科技鸟瞰、太空纵横谈、科技与生活、美好的明天等四大部分,基本上概括了当代世界最新科技成就的各个方面。

本书的读者对象主要是初步掌握基础英语的科技工作者和大专院校理工科的学生。其主要特点是:内容广泛,覆盖面大;词汇量大,包括了最新科技各领域的大部分基本词汇;语言纯正,所选各文均节自原文书刊,都是地道的英语;英汉对照,译文准确练达,专业术语规范贴切,力求使读者读后能在理解科技英语的水平上有所提高,为直接阅读英语科技原著打下坚实的基础。

令人高兴的是清华大学新编的《新英语教程》第三册选中了

其中四篇科技文章作为教材。此外,还有一些院校也选用其中不少科技文章作为科技英语教材,受到大学三、四年级学生的好评。

本书旨在能对广大科技工作者和大专院校理工科师生有所帮助,但初次编选,缺乏经验,不足之处在所难免,这还有待读者批评指正。

陈羽纶

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I:Gneral Survey of the Advanced Science and Technology

第一部分:高科技鸟瞰

# Mathematics \*at Forefront of Gulf War

#### Bill Hafferty

IKE parents looking on in \* startled wonder<sup>2</sup> at the works of their children, knots of mathematicians clustered last week around television sets in the San Francisco Hilton Hotel to watch the war against Iraq unfold.

[2] The 4,000 mathematicians were attending joint meetings of the American Mathematical Society, the Mathematical Association of America and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.

[3] While the world \* marveled at 3 films of missiles striking I-raqi targets with uncanny accuracy, the mathematicians may have been the only watchers who understood the role they had played in the bombardment.

[4] The technology employed in the allied air attack is firmly \*rooted in<sup>4</sup> complex theorems and algorithms. If World War I was the chemist's war because of the poisonous gases used and World War II the physicist's war because of the atomic bomb, then this war could be justifiably<sup>5</sup> called the mathematician's war.

[5] Virtually<sup>6</sup> every mathematical discipline seems to be finding some application in Operation Desert Storm:

- Control theory, a mathematical discipline dealing with the control of mechanical systems, used in missile guidance and targeting systems.
- Coding theory, used in signal and image processing to understand radar and satellite data.
- Cryptography and cryptanalysis, used to encode allied communications and decipher enemy transmissions.
- Statistics, used to plan the logistics of such a massive deployment of personnel and supplies.
- [6] Dr. Andre Manitius, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., was struck<sup>7</sup>

# 海湾传捷报 数学居首功

1

〔美〕比尔・哈弗蒂 孙瑞禾 译注

**京** 像父母惊讶地看着孩子们做出的工艺品一样,上星期一群群的数学家在旧金山希尔顿旅馆围着电视机聚精会神地观看反伊拉克战争的展开。

- 〔2〕这 4000 名数学家都是来参加美国数学学会、美国数学协会和工业、应用数学学会举办的联合会议的。
- 〔3〕虽然全世界人们都因从电视上看到导弹命中伊拉克目标精确得出奇而惊讶不止,但观看者中也许只有这些数学家们才理解他们在轰击中所起的作用。
- 〔4〕盟军空袭所使用的技术是以复杂的数学定理和算法为牢固基础的。如果说第一次世界大战因使用了毒气可说是化学家的战争,每二次世界大战因使用了原子弹可说是物理学家的战争,那末,这一次战争就有理由称作是数学家的战争。
- 〔5〕在"沙漠风暴行动"中几乎每一门数学学科似乎都用上了:
- ●控制理论——这是关于机械系统控制的一门 数学学科——用于导弹制导和瞄准的系统方面。
- ●编码理论,用于信号及图象处理,以理解雷达和卫星数据。
- ●密码术及密码分析,用以给盟军通讯编码和 破译敌军信息。
- ●统计学,用以为似此庞大的人员、物资调度规划后勤。
  - [6]安德烈·马尼修斯博士是弗吉尼亚州费尔

#### Notes

- 1. at the forefront of 或 更常见的 in the forefront of 都作处在最前 线(最重要地位;领先地 位)解。此处因系文章标 题,故把"the"略去了。 即 Gulf War 之前的 "the"也略去了。
- 2. wonder 加了startled,就不但惊奇,而且有震惊之意。
- 3. marvel 和 wonder 一样,后面都跟 at,前者较后者语音重些。
- 4. 扎根于。
- 5. 有理由地。
- 6. 从"实际上"转为"几 乎"。
- 7. strike的过去分词。作 "为之惊奇震动"解。

by the precision bombing.

- [7] "What we are seeing is a direct result of the implementation of control theory," he said. "Mathematics here could be said to be actually saving lives because of the precision and accuracy made possible."
- [8] For example, he said, the Patriot system requires a tremendous amount of mathematical computations to hit an incoming Scud missile. Trajectory data retrieved from radar and satellites contain many errors that have to be \*cleaned up. 8 And the changing positions of the incoming missile and the intercepting Patriot missile must be calculated forward in three dimensions.
- [9] All of this involves the use of complex algorithms, or mathematical recipes of computation steps that tell the missile's computer what to do.
- [10] Mathematics and the military are not new acquaintances, and government funding for math research has grown steadily since world War II. The National Security Agency is reportedly the largest employer of mathematicians in the United States. But many of the mathematicians gathered at the conference challenged their roles in weapons development.
- [11] Dr. Samuel Anderson, a mathematician at the New School of Social Research in New York, even suggested that mathematicians involved in Department of Defense research should \* "cease and desist" that activity."
- [12] \* For better or for worse, 12 mathematics appears \* linked inexorably with 13 military technology. Said Dr. Samuel Rankin, head of the mathematical sciences department at Worchester Polytechnic Institute in Worchester, 14 Mass.: "The further you go out into the scientific and technological frontiers, especially in the kinds of things we are seeing today, you are going to find mathematics."

From San Jose Mercury News, Jan. 22, 1991

法克斯市乔治·梅森大学的一位电机和计算机工程 学教授,他就为这样的精确轰炸而吃惊。

- 〔7〕他说,"我们所看到的就是实现控制理论的 直接结果。由于能做到这样精密和准确,数学在这 里可以说实际上拯救了许多生命。"
- 〔8〕例如,他说,"爱国者"导弹系统,为要击中入侵的"飞毛腿"导弹,必须经大量的数学计算。从雷达和卫星回收到的弹道数据含有许多误差,必须加以清除。而且对入侵的导弹和用以拦截的"爱国者"导弹的不断变化的位置都必须在三维空间中先行算出。
- [9]所有这一切都需要使用复杂的算法,或计算步骤的数学方法,以命令导弹的计算机怎么干。
- 〔10〕数学和军方绝不是初相识了。第二次世界大战以来,美国政府对数学研究的拨款曾一直在上升。据报道,在美国,国家安全局是雇用数学家最多的机构。但是参与这次会议的许多数学家对该局在武器发展方面所担任的角色却提出了异议。
- 〔11〕塞缪尔·安德森博士,纽约新设社会研究 学院的一位数学家,甚至提出,参与国防部研究的数 学家们应该停止这种活动。
- 〔12〕不管是好是坏,数学似乎与军事技术已结成了不解之缘。据麻州武斯特市武斯特工学院的数学系主任塞缪尔•兰金博士说,"你越是进入到科技的尖端领域,特别如我们今天所见到的那些方面,你越是会见到数学在起作用。"

- 8. 原为"打扫干净"。转 为"清除","除掉"。
- 9. 提前。
- 10. their 指 The National Security Agency 而言。
- 11. "and desist"实则多余。单用"cease"即够。 12. 习语,不管结果是好是坏。亦作 for better or worse。
- 13. linked with 与…… 相联系的;inexorably 不 可改变地(原意为"说也 说不动地")。 14. ['wustə].

译自 1991 年 1 月 22 日〔美〕圣何塞市《使者报》 巫宁坤教授自美寄来选材

# \* Scientists Laboring<sup>1</sup> to Make Computers Learn to Think

Susan Chace

There is little doubt<sup>2</sup> that human beings and computers are getting friendlier. These days, bank customers have learned to accept \* an automated teller<sup>3</sup> wishing them good day or "explaining" that a transaction can't go through right now. Smiling patiently after losing at computer chess, people gamely \* give it another try. And even a computerized robot on an assembly line seems less of a threat than it used to be.

[2] But computer scientists aren't satisfied with keeping people's relationships with machines on such a superficial level. A branch of their research called artificial intelligence is trying to teach computers to simulate the human thinking process. Along the way, researchers believe they are unraveling<sup>5</sup> more secrets of how the mind works—with the computer's help. And that new information, in turn, is being used to push toward a breakthrough in developing machines with qualities that resemble basic reasoning skill—the power first to see and hear, then to infer, argue or answer queries presented to them in simple language.

[3] Since the human mind is the only thinking thing that scientists know, it isn't surprising that researchers have tried to use the human thought process as a model ever since the days of the first "electronic brains"—the room-sized computers of the late 1940s. Decades later, popular conceptions about the brain have evolved, too, with \* the computer often providings a metaphor for the mind. 6

[4] But as machines increasingly have been taught to simulate some thinking functions, such as mathematical calculation, scientists have realized that very little is understood about how the human mind actually works. There isn't any established theory, or even \*a generally believed one, about how people store and retrieve information when they need it. The fields that traditionally \*inquire into such matters—the neurosciences, psychology, philosophy and