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Algo-Mech: Algo(rhythms) and Mech(animisms)

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AlgoMech

Draw out kinetic focus

Problematisation of object - a kind of kinetic dematerialisation

Loops back into pre-actualisation
Immanent plane - Platonic underside to Deleuze infinitives as a theory of trans-forms
immanent, expressive and anti-rationalist

Mechanism: Mechanisation (& it's crisis)
Birth of dynamic kinetic object

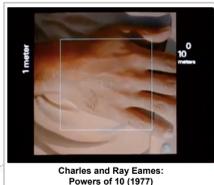
computational process + simulation

Algorithm: ideal + rationalistic(Platonic)

Material Plane

Interesting hybrid
Concept of Turing Machine
Constructed Turing Machine
Simulation of any formal system (requires infinite tape)

Ideal Plane



A bewildering and sublime sense of systemic interrelation
As the camera zooms between cosmological extremes
impervious to the barrier of the skin

Early 20C concerns with process

But we can go as far back as the pre-socratics (500 BC)
(Heraclitus)

- Process
- Experience
- Emergence
- Relation
- Construction/Assemblage
- Abstraction
- Level of Description

Types of Process Philosopher

Angular

Rescher - boxes nested within boxes
affinity with computational process and process management
regularity/integrity
playing out of possibilities

Intensive

Deleuze - variable intensities, vectors, forces, infinitives
affinity with transformational process
critical of abstraction/generativity
emphasises transformation/becoming
potential

The Relational

Contests essentialist thinking.
Entities are positioned as relational confluences
Interest in performativity at many divergent levels of scale
Enables discussion of integration and differentiation
Everything is connected, but everything transforms

The Parametric

Meaning of parametric - 'independent variable'
'para' meaning beside/subsidiary
focused on outside influence
which equates to a kind of external relationality
parameters enable the relationality of systems but systems have strong borders
However, the idea of the parametric has become something of a travelling concept (in Mieke Bal's terms)

Parametric Form Finding:

Gaudi - Church in Guell, Barcelona (1900-1914)
Gaudi photographs chains hung from the ceiling in his studio, inverts them and then copies the arches that were naturally formed. Force of gravity acting on (weighted) strings.
(Daniel Davis - danieldavis.com)

More extensive and exhaustive instance of parametric form finding:
John F Simon Jr's EVERY ICON (1997)



The parameters here are gravity, weight, string lengths, tie points etc.

In a way this has "no" parameters - as there is no outside input

However, in another way it could be said to explore and output every possible parameter of a situation
Digital version of Kant's mathematical sublime

Analogue parametricism:
Provides a kind of Poetry

Digital

The glitch is a reinstatement of contingency/potentiality

Compare Rauschenberg's white paintings (dust), Cage (silence), Marey and Muirbridge

Still pregnant with potential

Hybrid: Socio-relational Socio-parametric

Studio Moniker (Dutch design company)

Andrew Blauvelt
Relational Design

Symbiotic performative products and consumers

Designer create platforms for encounter

Socio-Technical Societies

Latour ANT - Actants

Ian Bogost (Persuasive Games):
Procedural Rhetoric and Unit Operations

Sim City / Tenure

Encoded ideology



GTA

Quasi Freedom of GTA



Couple with Lev Manovich:
Software Takes Command

Deep remixability

Software as 'algorithms running over data'

Turning machine - mono-medium

Genetic/biological metaphor for innovation

File formats have natural habitats but can be incorporated into other tools

re-application of process in other software contexts enables new modes of functionality/user experience in software
e.g. the photoshop zoom applied to word processor

The Algo(rhythmic) and Mech(animistic) are antithetical modes of design fiction respectively based on the ordering/expression of possibility and the actualisation of potentiality

Algorithm: A procedure/rules to be followed in calculation

Mechanism: A system of parts working together in a machine; a piece of machinery.

Algo(rhythm): The qualitative (patterned) and rhythmic condition that results

Mech(animism): Vitalistic: attribution of soul to inanimate objects
Belief in a power that organises the living universe

This can be sensitive to parameters! video - Experimental Music Lab University of Michigan characteristics of solar wind from the Advanced Composition Explorer (ACE) satellite to adjust the loudness, tempo, and dissonance of an algorithmically generated piano piece

Centres of indetermination

Something close to - but perhaps more sensitive than procedural rhetoric. This sensitivity is connected to the notion of the parameter

Deleuze's analysis of rhythm

Sonify

To ambiently condition

Vertov

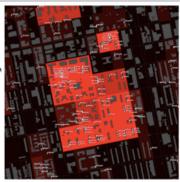
Agonism - DiSalvo (Adversarial Design) - influenced by Chantal Mouffe

Design for the Political

Design for the dimension of antagonism inherent in human relations

Political = ongoing contest between forces and ideals

Embodies a kind of intensive, social thermodynamics: locate hotspots of political tension in society



Spatial Innovation Design Lab - Million Dollar Blocks Project
Visualizing the flow of people from 17 Brooklyn tower blocks into Prisons

Conditional Design Manifesto (Extracts)
The process is the product
The process produces formations rather than forms
The process has the appearance of objectivity but stems from subjective intentions
The input is our material
The input should come from our external and complex environment: nature, society and its human interactions



Crowd Sourced Music Video
Light Light: Do Not Touch



Design Workbook (collaborative drawing exercises)



Arduino: Data Logger at CERN

Google's Android peripheral development platform

Reports more accurate statistics of radiation levels in post Fukushima Japan—countering the official reports that seemed to downplay levels of contamination.

Bans! txt bomber as a system for the more efficient distribution of graffiti, as well as a DIY drone helicopter that could be utilized for the delivery of resources to remote and cut-off villages in Africa.

Enables socio-technical interfacing

Henri Bergson - 'Something mechanical encrusted upon the living' Important to remember that this comes from Bergson's writing on comedy.

For Bergson comedy based on repetition - something life-like behaving in a mechanistic fashion - from slapstick comedy to the overly officious 'red-tape' bureaucrat. For Bergson, laughter was an affective, vitalistic retort in the face of determinism.

However, such repetition is harder to spot in a parametric context, especially where parameters are constantly changing.