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United States Department of Commerce
Technology Administration
National Institute of Standards and Technology

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NIST, originally founded as the National Bureau of Standards in 1901, works to strengthen U.S. industry's competitiveness; advance science and engineering; and improve public health, safety, and the environment. One of the agency's basic functions is to develop, maintain, and retain custody of the national standards of measurement, and provide the means and methods for comparing standards used in science, engineering, manufacturing, commerce, industry, and education with the standards adopted or recognized by the Federal Government.

As an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department's Technology Administration, NIST conducts basic and applied research in the physical sciences and engineering, and develops measurement techniques, test methods, standards, and related services. The Institute does generic and precompetitive work on new and advanced technologies. NIST's research facilities are located at Gaithersburg, MD 20899, and at Boulder, CO 80303. Major technical operating units and their principal activities are listed below. For more information contact the Publications and Program Inquiries Desk, 301-975-3058.

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- High Performance Systems and Services
- Distributed Computing and Information Services
- Software Diagnostics and Conformance Testing

[1] At Boulder, CO 80303.
[2] Some elements at Boulder, CO.

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U.S. Department of Commerce—**William M. Daley,** Secretary
Technology Administration—**Gary R. Bachula,** Acting Under Secretary for Technology
National Institute of Standards and Technology—**Robert E. Hebner,** Acting Director

The Journal of Research of the National Institute of Standards and Technology features advances in measurement methodology and analyses consistent with the NIST responsibility as the nation's measurement science laboratory. It includes reports on instrumentation for making accurate and precise measurements in fields of physical science and engineering, as well as the mathematical models of phenomena which enable the predictive determination of information in regions where measurements may be absent. Papers on critical data, calibration techniques, quality assurance programs, and well-characterized reference materials reflect NIST programs in these areas. Special issues of the Journal are devoted to invited papers in a particular field of measurement science. Occasional survey articles and conference reports appear on topics related to the Institute's technical and scientific programs.

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