

STEP-NC Edition 2 Digital Manufacturing



Martin Hardwick

Professor of Computer Science, RPI

President STEP Tools, Inc.

Team Leader, ISO STEP Manufacturing



STEP Tools, Inc.

<http://www.steptools.com>

The standard for 40 years!

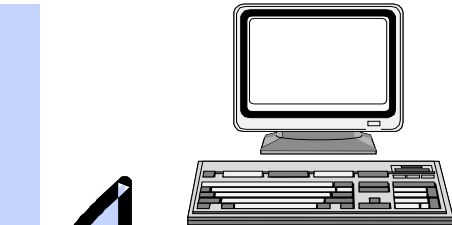
machine-specific part program with axis data generated by a postprocessor

vendor-specific extensions of the original standard

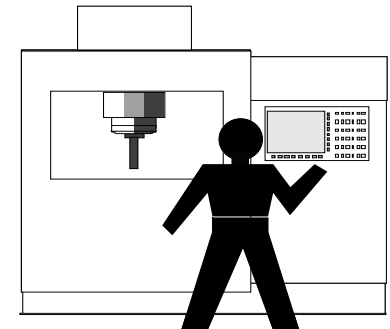
only primitive motion and switch commands

no standardized data format for spline processing and sophisticated NC technology

```
%  
N05 G54  
N10 G00 Z10.000  
N15 G91 G0 Z200  
N20 T5 D1 WW  
N30 G90 M5  
N35 G00 X0.000 Y-150.000  
N40 G00 Z5.000  
N45 M08  
N50 S3183.000  
N55 M03  
N60 F1477.000  
N65 G00 X60.000 Y-150.000  
N70 G00 Z5.000  
N75 G00 X60.000 Y-150.000  
N80 G01 Z-0.500  
...
```



Ideal for Paper Tape!



STEP-NC replaces this with a rich, integrated data format

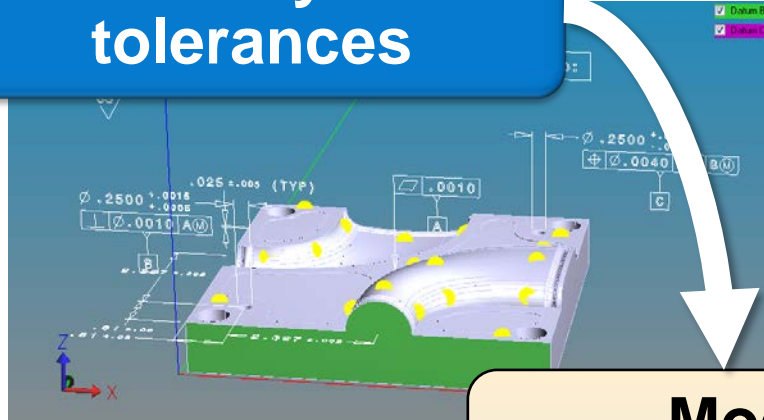
Courtesy WZL RWTH Aachen

Imagine driving using codes

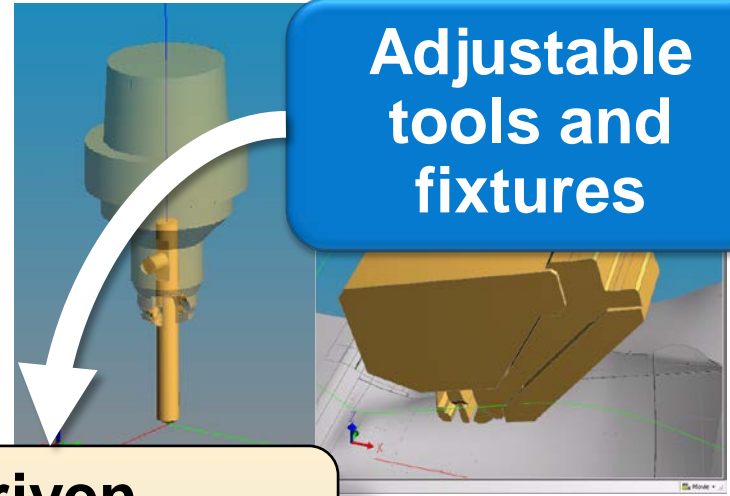
- **Driving from Albany to Washington DC**
 - Drive as fast as possible
 - Drive again with minimal gas and engine wear
 - The two results will be very different!
- **Now do it with your eyes closed**
 - Drive for 2 minutes 16 seconds at 69.1 mph
 - Turn left by 35 degrees and slow down to 55.4 mph
 - Etc. and enjoy! We never make mistakes!



Geometry with tolerances

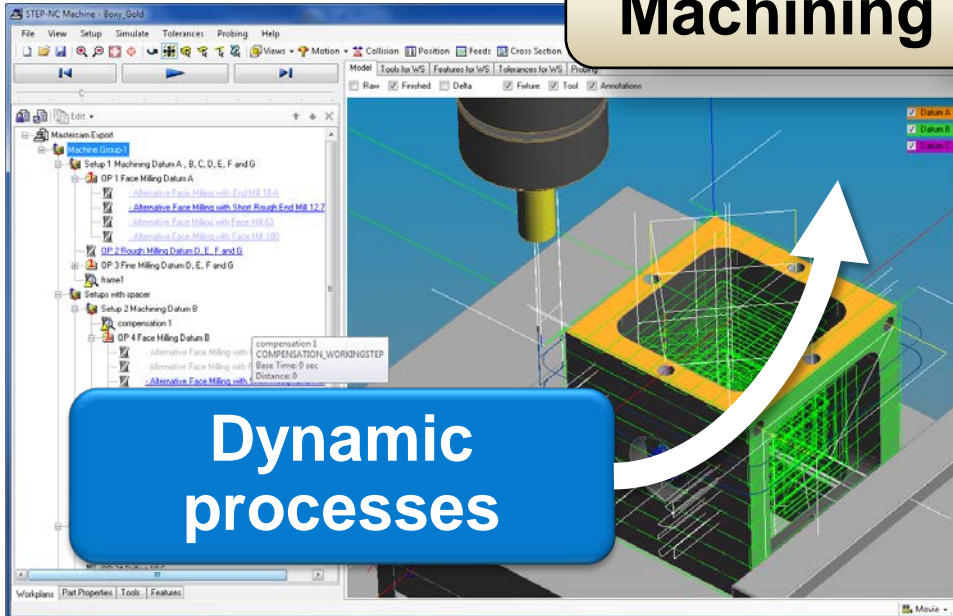


Adjustable tools and fixtures

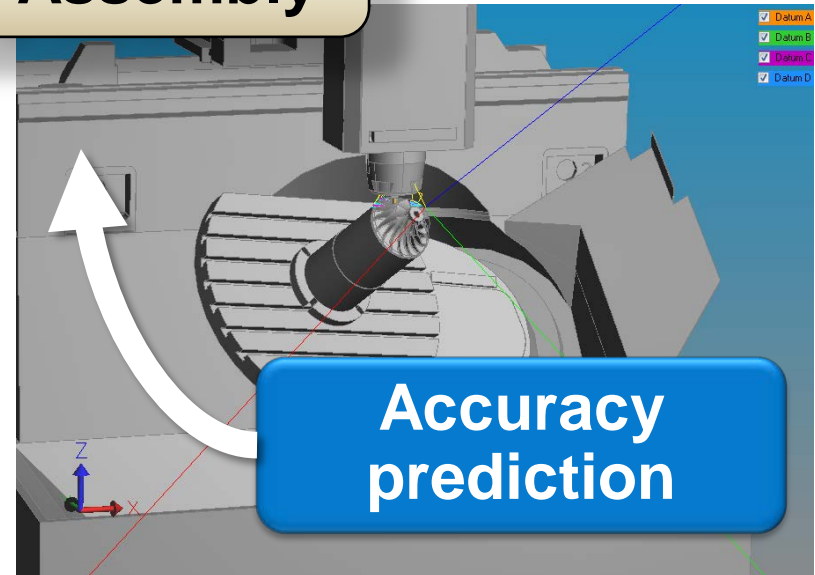


Model Driven Machining & Assembly

Dynamic processes



Accuracy prediction



10 years of testing shows it works



And produces 15% process savings

- We asked Sandvik and Iscar to optimize a Boeing machining program
- We sent them STEP-NC files for selected operations
- They read the files into their CAM systems and selected the best available tooling
- They returned an optimized process to Boeing as STEP-NC



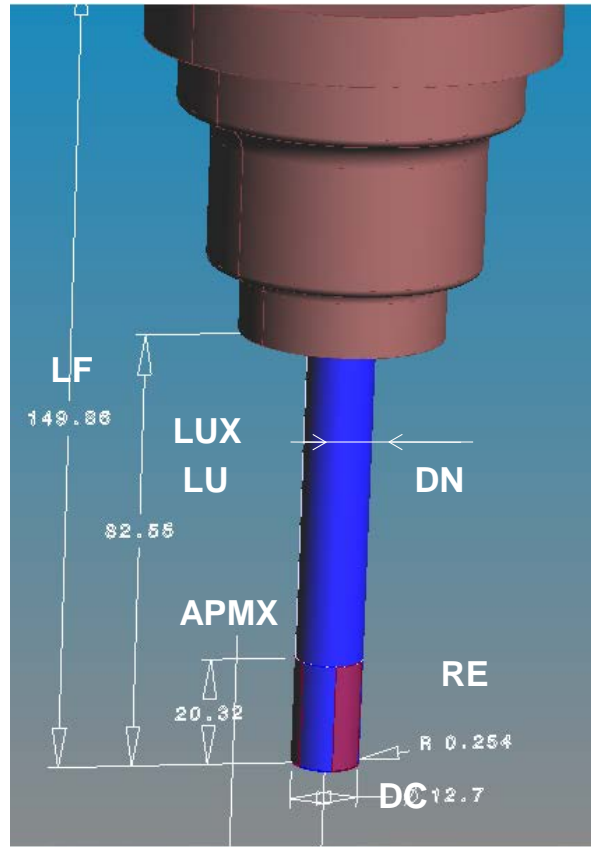
- Tests at Boeing and KTH (Sweden) confirmed our savings estimates
 - Profiling time 2,680 sec reduced to 859 sec
 - Pocketing time 1,104 sec reduced to 726 sec

Edition 1

Fixed scope AP

Each parameter mapped to aim by long series of constraints

Definitions for subtractive machining



2

Edition 2

Extensible scope AP

Each parameter associated to definition by EXPRESS constant

Modules for manufacturing processes

- **Documented**

- Toolpath Reference Direction
- Gage placement for simulation
- Toolpath placement on Workplan
- Enable/Disable Executable
- Via points for better High-Speed Machining support.
- Cross section parameters for Feed Speed optimization.
- Touch_probe as a real tool.
- Datum and Datum_target reference to workpiece
- Full workpieces for In-process geometry
- Improved AP203 compatibility

- **Not yet formally documented**

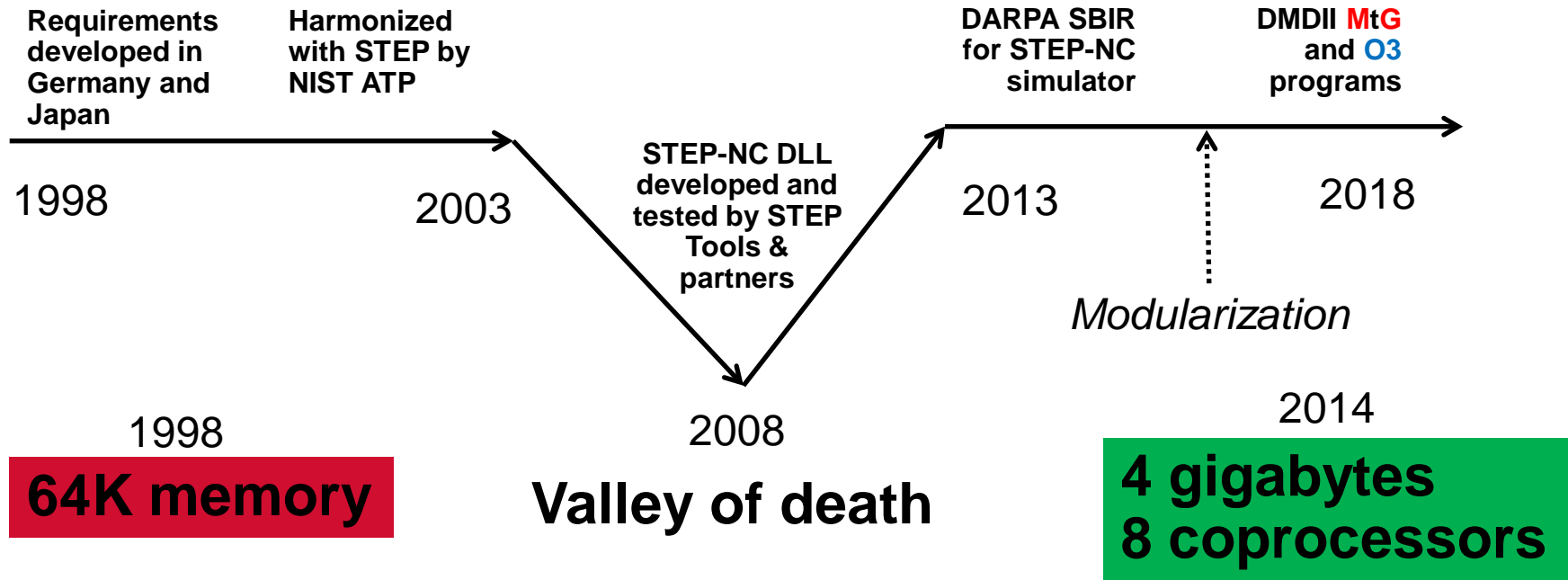
- Ordering of items in pattern features.
- Simplify rawpiece/finished piece
- Adopt presentation UOFs from AP214/AP203e2
- Curve probing operation and flexible setup extensions

**4D Facets for
process simulation**

During this time CNC machines have grown

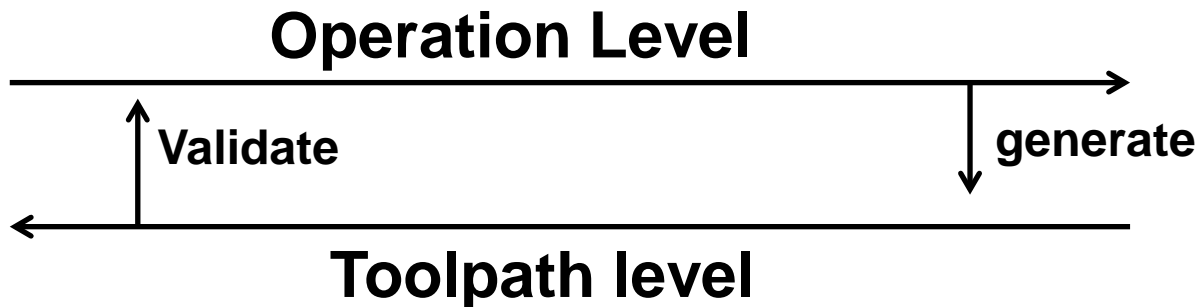
Concept stage

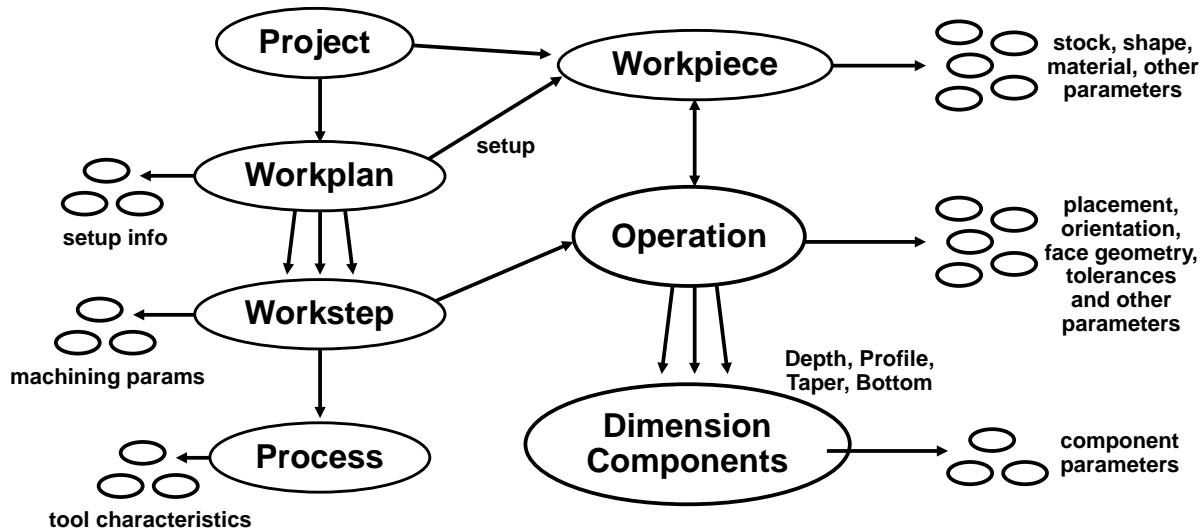
Pilot stage



First deployment planned for December 2016

- **Workingsteps apply operations to features**
 - Can be collected into workplans
 - Each step uses one tool
 - Feature and operation description is optional
- **Process data is organized into tool paths**
 - Each path describes a process (add or subtract)
 - Each path carries many curves





Extensive object orientation with functions distributed between objects as appropriate

<http://www.steptools.com/products/stepncmachine/>