6.871 SPRING 2005
Reading Summary: Lecture 5
Due Thursday, February 15

Lecture 5: Case Study Class Discussion

> Sviokla J, Smartwave: The Wave-Soldering Expert System, Harvard
> Business School Cases 187–062 and 187–063

This is a real problem, hence there is a lot of information in these descriptions; some of it is irrelevant to your needs; some of what you need may be missing. Your job is to find what you need, to ask about what you need but don't have, and to do the best analysis you can.

You should concentrate on the first case, Smartwave (A), trying to determine to what extent it meets the criteria outlined in the lecture. Then look briefly at Smartwave (B), to see what sorts of problems they faced in the next step of development.

Prepare a brief written report on the case analysis to use in the class discussion. Your write-up should concentrate on Smartwave A and explain what aspects of the task made it a good candidate and what aspects made it a poor candidate.

Your write-up, one page at the most, should also provide a list and description of the problems Smartwave encountered at the next stage (case B). What problems did they face and why?