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A Block CSP
Tech Spotlight

One example of technology is called an automobile, or more commonly, a car. As its name states, the automobile is a moving object that runs automatically, and it serves to transport people and things from place to place. Cars have existed for only about 100 years, but they were a very important invention because they have become crucial to daily life around the world.

There are many different types of cars. However, they all have many of the same parts and functions. For example, every car has wheels for movement, a steering wheel to control this movement, and an engine to maintain this movement. The engine has to be turned on in order to start the car, and then a lever has to be pushed into the correct gear in order to go in a specific direction. Gas is kept within the car as an energy source; when the gas pedal is pressed, the car speeds up faster as the gas is used more quickly. To stop, a brake pedal is pressed.

Inside the car, there is a computer consisting of different sensors, devices that sense, or measure, and record some type of physical data. The sensors in cars are responsible for controlling multiple aspects of the car, such as speed, the locking mechanism, and the temperature of the engine. Once the sensor measures data, it sends electrical signals throughout the car's circuits in binary form—as 1s and 0s—which the car translates into instructions for specific functions. Therefore, after being processed from binary (bytes), a car's performance can measured in multiple different ways: speed (mph) and temperature (degrees), for example.

The most recent news about cars is about how we can build safer and more environmentally-friendly models—specifically, electric self-driving cars. Since most cars in use run on gas, they emit toxins into the atmosphere, which we have discovered contributes majorly to global warming and climate change. As a result, many companies are starting to push toward manufacturing fully electric cars, which run only by charging through a cable, releasing no toxins. Additionally, as technology becomes more advanced, people are installing smarter computers within cars with the goal to remove humans as drivers; human drivers have evidenced more risk than self-driving cars, as these cars eliminate dangerous factors such as road rage, drunk driving, and blindspots.

As mentioned before, cars were an extremely important invention because they allowed easy transportation like no one had ever seen before. Before cars, only much slower and more difficult means existed, such as boats, planes, trains, and during a very long time ago, horses and chariots. This meant that when people wanted to leave from where they resided, an intricate and well-thought out plan needed to be drawn up so that nothing would go wrong during movement. Since this invention, people's lives have improved tremendously: cars allowed people to live farther away from their jobs, see their relatives more often, have more employment from road and car building, and even collect cars as a luxurious hobby.

Cars have also had a tremendous impact on my life. Before I got my license this spring, I relied heavily on my parents and their cars, as they had to schlep me everywhere I needed/wanted to go. However, now that I have a car myself, it has become a very important part of my daily life, as I am now responsible for myself. I drive myself to my job at a movie theater, and also to locations where I shoot people's senior portraits; I would not be able to make money without a car. I drive myself to my doctor's appointments; I would not be healthy without a car. And most importantly, I drive myself to school everyday; I would not be able to learn computer science without a car.

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