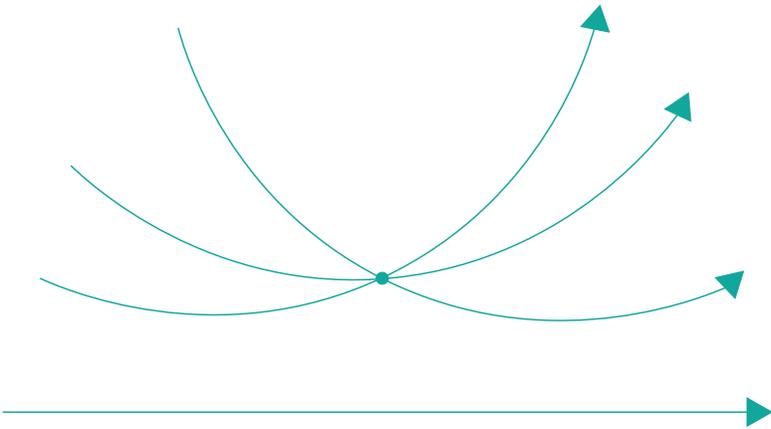


PARODY OF THE SUN:

BREATHING EXERCISES FOR WORLDLY SEDUCTION



DASHA LOYKO

PRINTED AND HANDBOUND IN LONDON

2018

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How can we think in times of urgencies without the self-indulgent and self-fulfilling myths of apocalypse, when every fibre of our being is interlaced, even complicit, in the webs of processes that must somehow be engaged and repatterned?

— Donna Haraway

0. PREFACE



*

Friday, 22 December 2017
German airspace, Belavia Airlines flight B2-852
-64 C

Dear W,

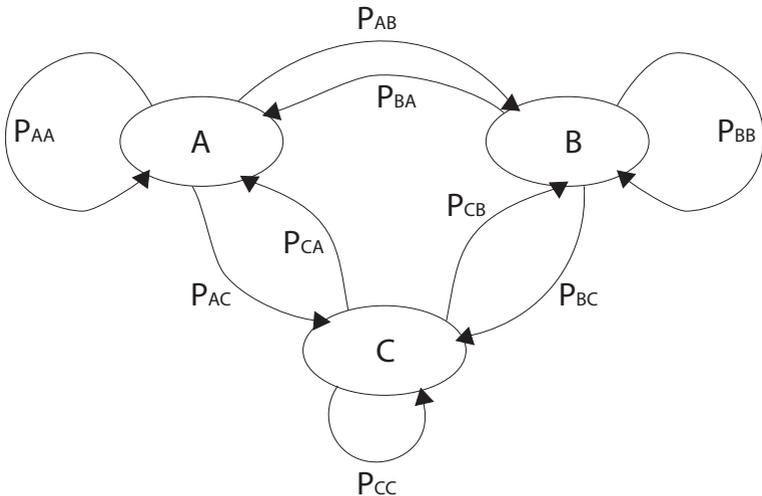
I want to write about A, B, and C, and then also about H and G, but in such a way that G is somehow transformed by B and illuminated — but not overexposed — in the presence of A. H is there because I like it at this particular point in time (it's 13:31 GMT). Perhaps tomorrow, December 23, I'd like to omit it and replace with J. C feels right to me, it feels like something I have always felt but could not express in words, and turns out that there it always was, tucked inside a fuchsia book cover. B is an odd one because B is not words.

Love,
D

*

I want to write through worlding with response-ability¹, with delirious joy. I want to stay at home and crochet a hyperbolic space² of the thick present³. I want to grow limbs long enough to follow threads in all directions: forward, backward, through, and everywhere in between, tangling, untangling, and tangling more, applying force, not applying force, ripping snapping tying knots, forming accidental loops by pulling on the thread too fast (with impatience). I want to write with pride for missing my mouth while eating, and spilling spaghetti sauce on the blank slate of grand narratives⁴, then taking the leftovers home with me to play.

But I also want to take a nap.



0.1. Probability transition diagram for 3-state Markov chain

Frequently Asked Questions (O)

1. What is *response-ability*?

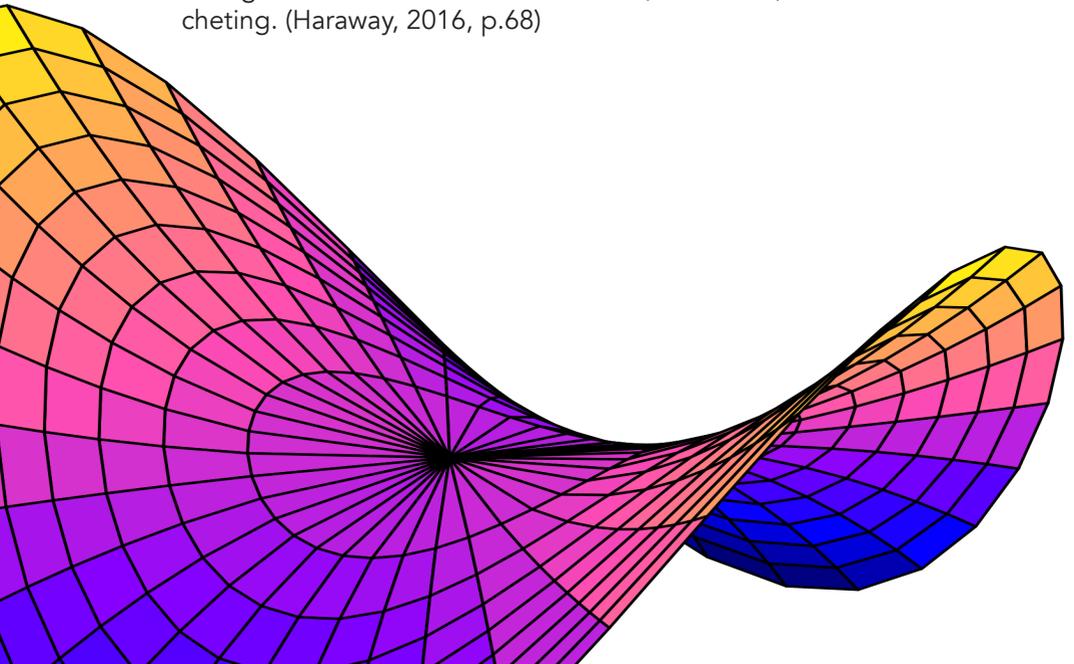
I am recycling Donna Haraway's spelling:

Flourishing will be cultivated as a multi-species response-ability without the arrogance of the sky gods and their minions, or else bi-odiverse terra will flip out into something very slimy, like any over-stressed complex adaptive system at the end of its ability to absorb insult after insult. (Haraway, 2016, p.56)

Haraway's term sheds the acquired anthropocentric, bureaucratic, and egotistical burden of the phonetically-equivalent *responsibility* that has become entangled with corporate and political liability-avoidance schemes and loopholes, or, worse, morphed into a rhetorical device for blame-shifting and justifying inaction, absorbing insult after insult.

2. Can you say more about hyperbolic space?

The shape of life's motion traces a hyperbolic space, swooping and fluting like the folds of a frilled lettuce, coral reef, or a bit of crocheting. (Haraway, 2016, p.68)





0.3. Hyperbolic pseudosphere

In *A Field Guide to Hyperbolic Space: An Exploration of the Intersection of Higher Geometry and Handicraft*, Margaret Wertheim (2007, p. 35) talks about Daina Taimina, a Cornell University mathematician who developed a way to build a physical model of hyperbolic space that one could touch and twist, fold and unfold, to study its geometric properties. Taimina used the method of crochet to make a tangible representation of the mathematical model.

Hyperbolic space is defined by constant negative curvature. Unlike the flat Euclidean space of human-scale everyday life, where no two parallel lines ever intersect, or space with positive curvature, such as the spherical earth, hyperbolic space is made up of saddle surfaces, that is, surfaces that look like horse saddles or Pringle's crisps. The curvature of every loop, as well as the folds of the larger surface formed by the method of crochet, especially when the number of the loops increases from row to row, closely resemble the mathematical model of hyperbolic space.

3. What do you mean by *thick present*?

The task is to make kin in lines of inventive connection as a practice of learning to live and die well with each other in a thick present. (Haraway, 2016, p.1)

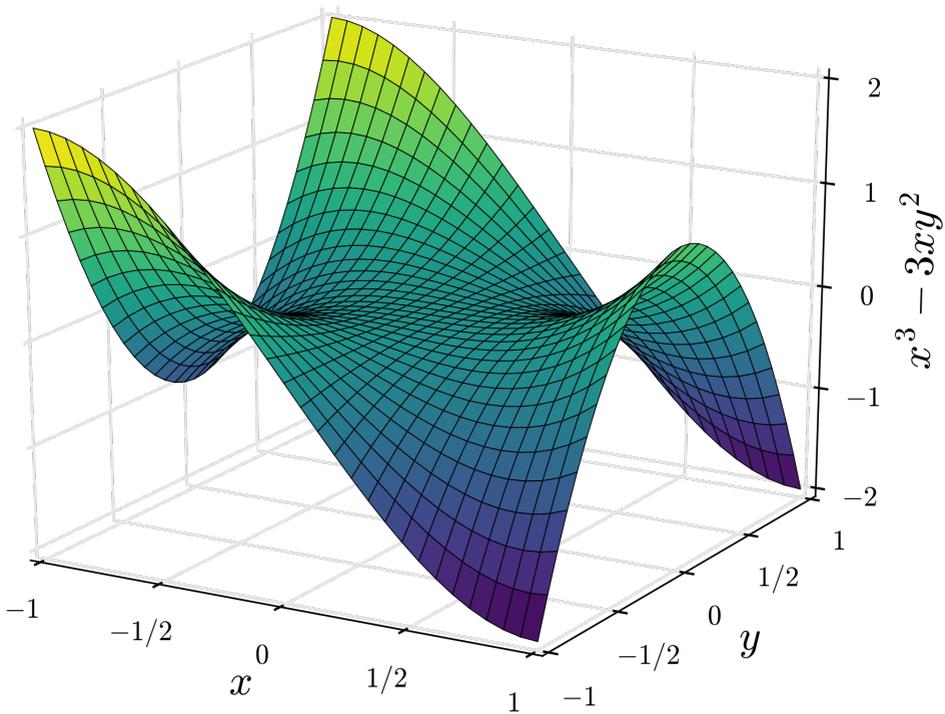
The present acquires thickness by always being inherently contaminated by the past, and also implicating the future, through duration and memory. It has its origins in Bergsonian thought:

let us <..> grasp ourselves afresh as we are, in a present which is thick, and furthermore, elastic, which we can stretch indefinitely backwards by pushing the screen which masks us from ourselves farther and farther away; let us grasp afresh the external world as it really is, not superficially, in the present, but in depth, with the immediate past crowding upon it and imprinting upon it its impetus; let us in a word become accustomed to see all things *sub specie duratonis*: immediately in our galvanized perception what is taught becomes relaxed, what is dormant awakens, what is dead comes to life again. (Bergson, 2002, p.247. Emphasis author's own.)

4. Isn't *blank slate of grand narratives a contradiction in terms*?

A grand narrative, which is also sometimes referred to as meta-narrative, is a framework that lends itself to make sense of an experience or an event. It is an ordering scheme, a categorising principle. God is a typical example of a grand narrative, with its clear hierarchy and a system of classification of all lived experience in accordance with discrete categories of faith, goodness, sin, etc. However, any remotely hegemonic ordering/regulating principle may be considered a grand narrative: truth, quantum physics, law.

In the western tradition of analytic philosophy, there is a dualistic debate about the structure of human mind. On the one hand, it is believed to be a blank slate (a *tabula rasa*) and all our knowledge is acquired through sense perception, as if imprinted onto a blank canvas. There is also a broader definition of *tabula rasa* as "something



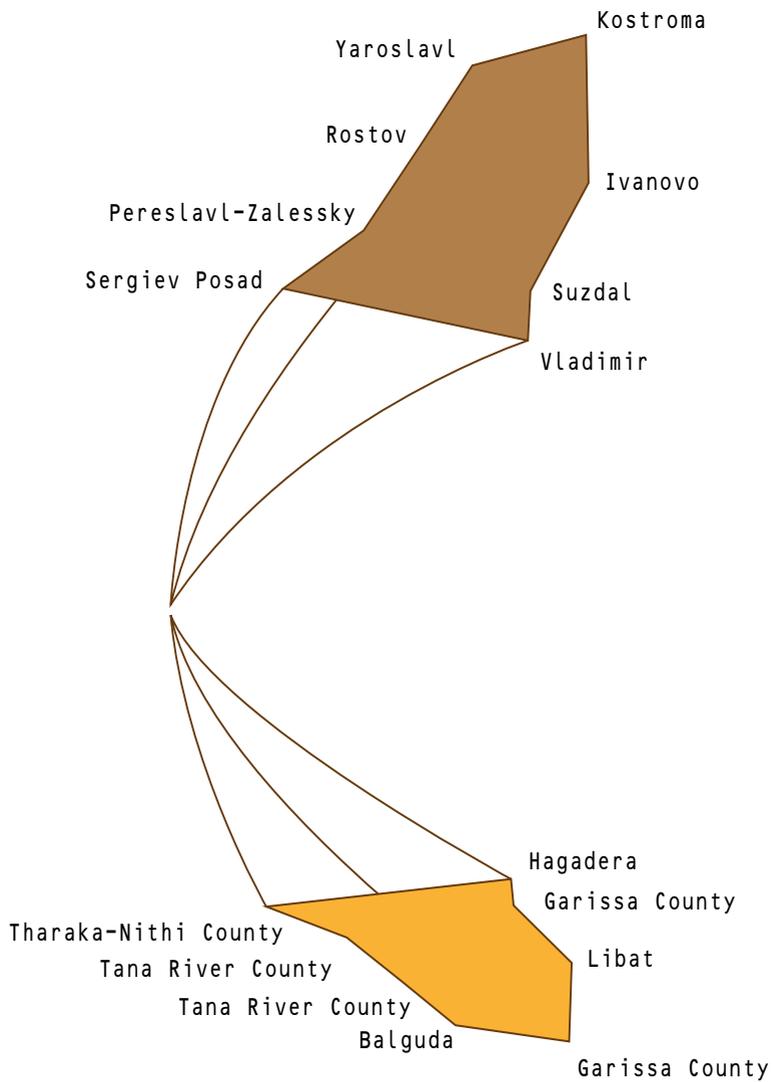
0.4. The monkey saddle. *Monkey saddle* is a mathematical term for a surface defined by the equation $z = x^3 - 3xy^2$. The name derives from the observation that a saddle for a monkey would need to accommodate two legs and a tail

existing in its original pristine state” (Merriam Webster, 2018). It is opposed to the belief that each person has innate ideas, concepts, categories, and principles from birth (Samet, 2008).

The dualistic method of thinking through classical logic (where a contradiction is impossible) tends to frames discourse to be a choice between two untenably extreme and pure ideas; a kind of conceptual purity that should ring alarm bells in an always already contaminated world that is facing urgent questions of survival and inter-species flourishing.

I. THE GOLDEN SPHINCTER





1.1. Diagram of the Golden Ring of Russia route (top) and the sites of discovery of the Golden Sphincters in Kenya (bottom)

a.

The Golden Sphincter¹

Circa 2018 AD // Year 0 ER=EPR

In February 2018 AD, which has since become known as Year 0 ER=EPR, eight identical metal objects were discovered in eight locations in close proximity of the equator, in Kenya. The sites of discovery mark out a region that is a point-for-point mirror image² of the Golden Ring, a cultural and religious sightseeing route through ancient cities of Russia.

The polished bronze pieces, four centimetres in diameter, visually resemble a circular muscle. They have become known as the Golden Sphincters for their shape, colour, and the geographical locations³ in which they were found. Archaeologists and anthropologists internationally have always already begun extensive research, but the provenance of the Golden Sphincters is so far unknown.

Leading physicists have suggested that the event may be of great enough significance to the current study of entangled black holes - or spacetime tunnels - that it warrants an introduction of a new calendar era, a new system of numbering years.

Leonard Susskind, a professor of theoretical physics at Stanford University and director of the Stanford Institute for Theoretical Physics, proposes to name the new era ER=EPR⁴, a conjecture⁵ in physics that states that entangled particles are connected by a wormhole and may be a basis for unifying general relativity and quantum mechanics into a theory of everything.

Susskind adds (2014) that “the connectivity of space can be more topologically interesting as a consequence of entanglement”, and that “if Alice jumps⁶ into her black hole and Bob jumps into his, they have a chance of meeting at the centre.”

c.

It is commonly understood that the human body contains 34 sphincters.⁷



1.2. Fragment of *The Golden Sphincter* (Loyko, 2018) during the exhibition *Recovery Mode* at Hockney Gallery, London, May 2018

d.

If Alice jumps into her black hole and Bob jumps into his, they have a chance of meeting at the centre. The alphabetic linearity is a little embarrassing, yet not intolerable. Regardless, equally, if T jumps into their black hole and C jumps into theirs, they, too, have a chance of meeting at the centre.

Place the flour on a board or in a bowl. Make a well in the centre and crack the eggs into it. Beat the eggs with a fork until smooth. Using the tips of your fingers, mix the eggs with the flour, incorporating a little at a time, until everything is combined. Knead the pieces of dough together – with a bit of work and some love and attention they'll all bind together to give you one big, smooth lump of dough!⁸

Once in, there is no escape route to the outside, only the possibility of encounter in the middle. You can also make your dough in a food processor if you've got one. Just bung everything in, whiz until the flour looks like breadcrumbs, then tip the mixture on to your work surface and bring the dough together into one lump, using your hands. Nothing can escape a black hole post-jump, even light.

Once you've made your dough you need to knead and work it with your hands to develop the gluten in the flour, otherwise your pasta will be flabby and soft when you cook it, instead of springy and al dente.

I wouldn't want to do a performance where I would be jumping into a black hole. The self-sacrifice is too macho. I wouldn't put my body through such spectacular annihilation. The technical term would be

spaghettification⁹. It is what happens to one's body if one jumps into a black hole: it becomes stretched out because of the increasing gravitational pull, extracting the toes first (unless one plunges head-down, of course), instantly ascending up the ankles, calves, knees, thighs, to elongate one's by-now-tentacular legs, going up and sucking in the stomach, bursting all the tripe inside, crushing the bones, extending the neck, dislocating the already loosely-attached arms if one happens to still have them by this point. What would happen to the head, I am not too sure - the subject is worthy of a full research paper on its own, but I assume that the hair remains attached, unless one jumps in hairless¹⁰. And so the body stretches and stretches before and after one dies and then it continues to stretch but there is nobody else there to document it anyway because as I mentioned there is no way back. Once you're in, you're in. So,

There's no secret to kneading. You just have to bash the dough about a bit with your hands, squashing it into the table, reshaping it, pulling it, stretching it, squashing it again. It's quite hard work, and after a few minutes it's easy to see why the average Italian grandmother has arms like Frank Bruno! You'll know when to stop – it's when your pasta starts to feel smooth and silky instead of rough and floury. Then all you need to do is wrap it in cling film and put it in the fridge to rest for at least half an hour before you use it. Make sure the cling film covers it well or it will dry out and go crusty round the edges (this will give you crusty lumps through your pasta when you roll it out, and nobody likes crusty lumps!).

e.

Wednesday, 7 March 2018

Dear W¹¹,

The thing is, with fractals, clarity does not increase the more you zoom in. If you look at the British coastline: the irregular shape of its jagged edge reproduces itself however closely you look; however small or large your measuring units are, you will not find a clear and definitive edge where you could say 'I found it! this is THE edge!'. It's quite radical, if you think about it. It's quite radical even if you don't think about it.

If looking through a microscope is just going to mirror the same patterns that we see at human scale, and they, in turn, will be reproduced when we look far out into space, what is the point of looking at all? If you asked me, I would have said that we needed a distance, to see these patterns in our lives in perspective. They have to be first detected on macro and micro scales to then allow for that 'Aha!' moment of realising what's been under our noses all along.

Forgive me, I know that you prefer to talk about the hottest trends in personal accounting, but what do you think of the fractal properties of rain¹² that we never got the chance to speak about?

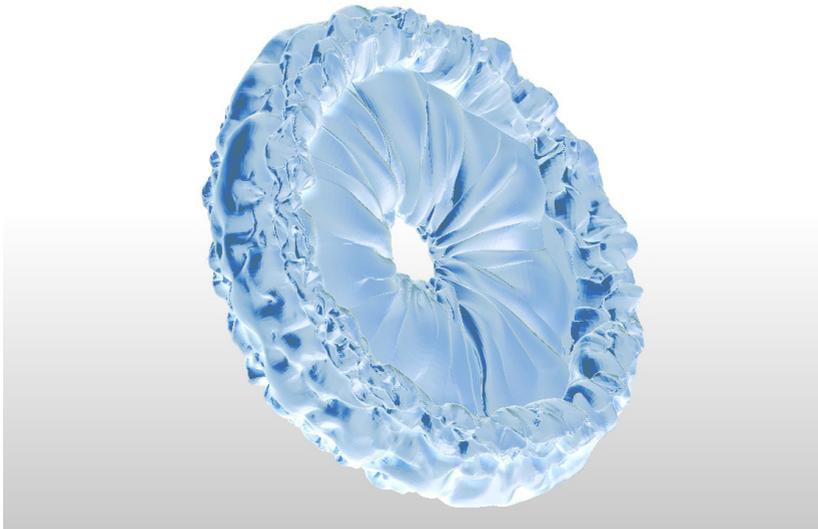
Love,
D

Frequently Asked Questions (I)

1. Can I touch a Golden Sphincter?

For an object of scientific, archival, and fictional significance, a haptic encounter with a Sphincter is impossible. Therefore, in practical terms, the Sphincters are intangible. They are a myth, fable, fake, prank, toy, gimmick, debris, scrap metal, fossil, ear, scrap metal, toy, coincidence, jewellery, ear, artwork, relic, fetish, muscle, fossil, muscle, ear, hair tie, new species, flop. Nevertheless, they contain an opening.

The Sphincters are polished but not uniformly, which gives them extra depth, especially when photographed at sunset. The question is: Does the seductive finish of the surface eclipse the negative space of the hole in the middle, a hole that may lead the scientific community to formulating an integrated theory of everything?



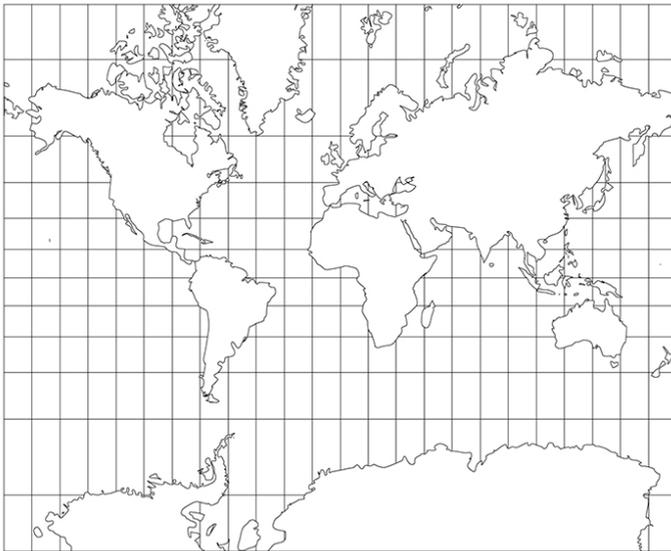
1.3. 3D model of a Golden Sphincter

2. Why do the two outlines look different in the diagram 1.1.? They are supposed to be point-for-point reflections of each other.

The most common way of tracing the spherical earth onto a flat map is known as the Mercator projection. Translating the non-Euclidean curved surface of the globe (where two parallel lines can and do intersect) onto a flat Euclidean plane of a piece of paper, causes the regions further out from the equator to appear vertically stretched out.

If you look at the spacing between the horizontal lines of latitude on a Mercator map, you will notice that the gaps between them become larger as you approach the poles, yet they represent numerically equal distances. The consequence of this is that the area of all geographical regions far enough from the equator becomes significantly inflated in relation to the regions that lie on or close to the equator.

It follows that if any region is re-mapped, point-for-point, onto a region that is closer to the equator, on a Mercator map the shape will



1.4. Mercator projection map

appear to contract along the vertical axis.

It also so happens that Kenya falls on the closest region on earth to The Golden Ring of Russia sightseeing route where the ring itself, if re-mapped, shrinks to its smallest possible circumference.

3. What are you not telling us about the diagram 1.1.?

The point on the map marked Hagadera falls on the equator, at 00°00'00.0"N. Hagadera happens to be a refugee camp close to the Somalian border.

4. What does ER=EPR stand for?

Einstein-Rosen = Einstein-Podolsky-Rosen.

5. What is a conjecture?

A proposition based on incomplete information.

6. Did Lewis Carroll know about this Alice?

No, he died before Year 0.

7. Where does this common knowledge about sphincters come from?

There is a chance that this common knowledge comes from me.

Strictly speaking, it's not true. There are dozens of different types of sphincters, or circular muscles, some of which are microscopically small and are found throughout the body.

I do not remember how and under what circumstances this factoid

came into my life, but between the time of learning it (circa November 2018) and discovering its incorrectness (April 2018), I managed to grow intimately attached to the number, and recited it with pride on numerous occasions.

I do not believe that a lot of people occupy themselves with thinking about the exact number of sphincters in their body. So it may just be possible that now, after months of professing the 34-sphincter model of the human anatomy, there are more people who suppose that the body contains 34 sphincters, than those who suppose otherwise.

8. Where is the pasta recipe from?

All the fragments of the fresh pasta recipe are quoted from Jamie Oliver (2015).

9. Is spaghettification the same as the noodle effect?

Yes. In astrophysics, spaghettification, which is sometimes referred to as the noodle effect, is the vertical stretching and horizontal compression of objects in a non-homogeneous gravitational field, such as the region near a black hole.

In *A Brief History of Time*, Stephen Hawking described (1988, p.256) what would happen to the body if a person jumped feet-first into a black hole: the gravitational pull would be stronger on the feet than on the head, thus stretching the body out like spaghetti.

10. Can you say more about hair?

Following the logic of spaghettification, real hair has better chances of surviving a fall into a black hole than metaphorical hair.

The no-hair theorem postulates that all information about matter that forms the black hole or falls through it, besides the classic observable parameters, such as mass, electric charge, and angular momentum,

gets lost. In this instance, hair refers to the lost information.

When the body stretches into a noodle-like shape post-jump, human hair is more likely to remain in place than the metaphorical hair of the information that gets lost after matter is sucked into a black hole.

11. Who is W?

Who is John Galt?

12. What are fractal properties of rain?

A fractal is an unsmooth shape that is scaling, that is, where shape appears unchanged when examined by varying magnifications. (Lovejoy, 1985)

The Canadian physicist, Shaun Lovejoy, proposes (1985, p.209) to look at the geometry of rainfall through the perspective of a family of random processes called fractal sum of pulses (or FSP) devised by Benoît Mandelbrot. Through gathering and plotting meteorological data, Lovejoy defends the fractal model of rainfall shapes across space and time.

Mandelbrot's fractal geometry reshaped (von Brevem, 2012, p.114) the way biologists, geologists and physicists look at nature. Instead of searching for three-dimensional Euclidean order in the world, the fractal model of endlessly long self-similar curves accommodates such complex structures as rock formations, snowflakes, or the patterns of cabbage leaves.

3 3
3 5
77 3
6 7
37 6 3
66 8
6
33 6
3 18
3 331 31
5A6 9 1
37 37 13
A6 787 3 33
A9 6 76 157 1
DB5 67 6 59 36 3
9B3 33 7 78 9A5 7
6 7 1 1 76 18A 87B3 3
5 511 5395 581 ACB61
3 178 5 1 5AB6 6
6 68 1 176 1
6 89B7
6 89BB
6 9ACCB
13 6 1 5388CAA
5 81 1 38.976 68 17 1998
81 111 1956 33.68361565 15
61 1 6716 78.78176877 165
1 653 987 6.389AA 87.59663 6997
* 687 9358151 1 35 677 1133ABB9 976685 CAB7
*667888 6A6 1A 697 9BBB7785897 5B18
668A977 6 3 568333 7C9 1 1ABC857A85A7 66 1
379AA73 373 568977 3 37C5 1 7ACCB68A9 96 16 1 11
8888A3 37 1666 66 68ABCC8786 91 1BC 177
88876 177 56 1 1 1 59CCBCA686 8 1 1 71
88887789B 721 6 9 379679ABBB A3 A9 1
888977867 5 3 1798 177779A957BBBAC 38 5 89
8897787 6361387 1 6 117 155 15AB97638BBBAC 35 7A 87
8889A89A98577 3666 13 7675716659ABC 1 13
88897AAAAA768 967 696 15 599A9778BBB 61 68
8888AAAAAB673 771 697366 57BBBA9A9CBA 6
66338A9BB973 5 766386 6ACBABBABAB97 7
7A977911 7 769773AAB8CCABBAB7 173
7B 9811 133189C99 6CBACDB99A96736 8A
3 1767A66 5388C95 79BBBDC95397866A5 177 15
7AA7 1 788A95 389BCCBDB7 72951 1A91 76 6
69A93 1 6888AB7689BCC8CDB8 661 1 9DB3 13 13 5
8863 1 18888988ABCCBDD8 6 17 **376C
A96 1 7877788ABCBCC7 7 1**** 3C65 1
1655 677989AABCAAABA713 6 **** 7 55
3 7 91 17889AAAAAAB8AA676181 **
667 61 7A9AAAAABB95 976713EA
663 7B9 889AAAAAB99 17 18BDD5
65 79ABBBAA96 3CC8BA7 9
79B8CCCB971 3CCD98
9ABABBB7 9DFEB7 3
3 1 9CBAAAB7 3 7ADFCl 1
1 B6BBBABA6663 79BDB9
388B79BCB981 99BB88B
585379B9765 583881 5
77379973 3161
66916AB 57B77717161 66 1
6 97 7A9 5CE9AB 1 781 91
3 67 37DB388 97
7 6 9D9686 198
8 1 18BA1 5971 11
* 6A985 8A6 75
* 67CC6 593 CB77
* 556ADB1 9ED6
* 85AC96 6B8817
* 6B79C7 769A769
* ABEB 17 973A95
* 8BA87 31 797C1
* 9BB8 6 178BBB1 1
* 1BA 96 66AAADA 6A
* *6 7 396 18A9CB 185
* * 77 58A798 73
* * 3 3 67 A9 1 3611
* * 3 3 57 61 3 17
* * 333 7C1 51 5 5
* * 3AA8 88 6B6 81
* * 3A 3133 73 1 39B 15
* * 38 687 6 3A9799
* * 58A 15 3AAB73
* * 37A5 3AB6571
* * 373 8A9AAC
* * 153AB9
* * 5863
* * 396

II. PARODY OF THE SUN¹



b.

Friday, 23 March 2018
German airspace, Belavia Airlines flight B2-852
-65 C

Dear W,

I am falling eastbound through German airspace at 850 km/h. It is a good place to write to you. Only, there is nothing left to write.

Everybody knows that life is purely parodic. That air is the parody of gold, lead is the parody of the equator, crime is the parody of farce. So, given that there is always a queue to the lavatory on Fridays on board Belavia Airlines flight B2-852, if an engine malfunctions and the plane begins an uncontrollable descent, what will death inside a Belavia Airlines WC be a parody of?

Love,
D

e.

They say that wound-licking is beneficial

but too much of it can be harmful.

They also say that diagnosis is powerful magic,

and that world-making is always critical.

f.

Particle P: Empathy? Don't talk to me about empathy. When casting a vote one has to think about the whole, not just the individual.

Particle -P: But what is the whole?

P: That's easy. Particles with the same momentum, spin, and polarisation as me. That is the whole. That's my tribe.

-P: Would I not be part of your whole? If you measure your own spin, you will know mine, even when I am light years away. You know everything about me! Together we violate the local realist view of causality!

P: I do like you, don't get me wrong. We are friends.

You have to think about truth. What is absolute truth? You can call it God, or whatever else you want. But if we agree on what is true and what is right, what should be, then we can start talking about what we can do about it and how to best implement it.

-P: How is this relevant? It doesn't make sense to talk about absolute truth. It is always relative to the question.

P: But then you're a relativist. You say truth is relative to the person.

-P: ... to the question!

P: You're saying that truth is relative to the person and relativism is indefensible.

-P: You're framing me with your questions. I know exactly how analytic philosophy works. You construct the argument in such a way that you create a dichotomy, and from within this anglocentric patriarchal system you have a watertight case for one side that by necessity excludes the other. But that necessity is one of classical logic, of what is often referred to as *Reason* and revered as if there were no alter-



2.1. Still from *Parody of the Sun* (Loyko, 2018)

native.

P: But there is only one logic. Of course there is no alternative and there has to be just one truth because relativism doesn't work! If I knock on this cabinet, it is hard! I don't go around bumping into things because this hardness is the truth. There isn't anyone who wouldn't agree with this. There isn't anyone who wouldn't say that this cabinet is hard. What is truth to you?

-P: I don't tend to think about truth, but when I do, I think it's plural.

P: But relativism doesn't work.

-P: That's not what I'm talking about!

It is a myth, fable, prank, coincidence, fake, fable, toy, coincidence, gimmick, debris, scrap metal, fossil, ear, scrap metal, toy, ambulance, prejudice, fish, coincidence², jewellery, artwork, prank, ear, relic, toy, coincidence, fetish, muscle, fossil, muscle, ear, hair tie, new species, flop.

c.

Friday, 23 March 2018
Polish airspace, Belavia Airlines flight B2-852
-67 C

Dear W,

What do you make of these letters? Of course, you are probably still holding a grudge at me after that time we went fly fishing³. In my personal opinion - if I may - I do think you are overreacting, truly. After all, we both know that we never went fly fishing together.

Love,
D

e.

Galileo thought it necessary to accept a small lie in order to support a bigger truth.⁴

d.

Friday, 6 April 2018
Polish airspace, Belavia Airlines flight B2-851
Cruising altitude, 10350 m

Dear W,

Whenever I am afraid of dying before lunchtime, I think of numbers. I like to think that my chances of crashing on this particular flight are unremarkably low.

Belavia flies a westbound B2-851 three times a week, and returns an eastbound B2-852 on the same days. That's six weekly flights, with an additional return flight in the summer (making it eight trips per week).

$$6 \times 52 = 312$$

Let's suppose Belavia operates a summer timetable June 1 - September 1 (I am writing in flight mode, so can't double-check for you).

$$4 \times 3 = 12$$

$$2 \times 12 = 24$$

$$312 + 24 = 336$$

I do not recall B2-851/2 ever crashing. That's 336 safe flights along my route a year. I have been flying this route for nine years.

$$336 \times 9 = 3,024$$

I do not believe in my own death anyway. Only others die.

They say mild turbulence will last another half-hour.

Love,
D

a.

(white man, dark hair, tall, angular features, sits on chair on a square patch of sand. background and floor around the sand patch all uniform black. one foot up on other knee. golden sphincter stuck to the sole of the foot. looking into distance, foot relaxed. sphincter firmly stuck. dragging and static shots of close up foot and full figure)

10:58

9 FEBRUARY YEAR 0 ER=EPR
(FORMERLY: 9 FEBRUARY 2018)

A YOUNG DUTCH MAN NAMED NIKOLAI REPORTED TO A NAIROBI HOSPITAL WITH A FOOT INJURY. ACCORDING TO THE PATIENT, WHO WAS IN KENYA FOR A SHORT HOLIDAY WITH HIS HALF-BROTHER, THE INCIDENT HAPPENED DURING HIS OUTDOOR BREATHING EXERCISE ROUTINE.

(pause)

NIKOLAI RECALLS THAT IT WASN'T SO MUCH AS PAINFUL BUT RATHER IT WAS CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DISCOMFORT TO THOSE AROUND HIM.

(short pause)

NIKOLAI GETS UP AS BRUSQUELY AS A SPECTRE ON A COFFIN AND FALLS IN THE SAME WAY. HE GETS UP A FEW HOURS LATER AND THEN HE FALLS AGAIN, AND THE SAME THING HAPPENS EVERY DAY; THIS GREAT COITUS WITH THE CELESTIAL ATMOSPHERE IS REGULATED BY THE TERRESTRIAL ROTATION AROUND THE SUN.⁵

(cut to slow dragging drone shots of a golden church dome)

EVERYONE IS AWARE THAT LIFE IS PARODIC. IN OTHER WORDS,
THAT EACH THING SEEN IS THE PARODY OF ANOTHER.

THUS LEAD IS THE PARODY OF GOLD
(SUBTITLE: LEAD IS THE PARODY OF GOLD)

AIR IS THE PARODY OF WATER
(AIR IS THE PARODY OF MOTHER)

GOLD IS THE PARODY OF AIR
(GOLD IS THE PARODY OF FISH)

THE BRAIN IS THE PARODY OF THE EQUATOR
(THE BRAIN IS THE PARODY OF HAIR)

LOVE IS THE PARODY OF FISH
(LOVE IS THE PARODY OF LOVE)

NIGHT IS THE PARODY OF SNOW
(NIGHT IS THE PARODY OF PLASTIC)

MOTHER IS THE PARODY OF GLASS
(MOTHER IS THE PARODY OF THE TYPEWRITER)

SKIN IS THE PARODY OF ZERO
(SKIN IS THE PARODY OF ZERO)

LANGUAGE IS THE PARODY OF CRIME
(COITUS IS THE PARODY OF CRIME)

Frequently Asked Questions (II)

1. What else do you know about the sun?

All I know is that the communist revolution was caused by the sun, and the sun's energy is what will be used to resurrect the dead, in order to establish equality among all persons, not only across space, but also in time (Vidokle, 2014, 2015, 2017; Groys, 2015, 2017).

2. Can you say more about coincidence?

If in nature and everyday life all manner of events appear at first to be coincidental, but after a certain number of repetitions take on a certain predictability, why cannot the same be true of language? The repetition of words in our oral and written language must also demonstrate various probabilities. (Morozov, 1915)

Nikolai Morozov, a Russian poet, writer and linguist, developed a statistical model of language intended to be used in order to determine the authenticity of a piece of writing. He believed in purely mechanical causes behind the choice of particular words, tracing those back to "internal and external linguistic influences" that "have long since become established in the realm of the unconscious" (1915). According to Morozov, these influences guided our everyday speech and all manners of writing, from scientific papers to poetry (Velminski, 2012).

Some writers frequently use the word 'which,' others don't like it, and replace it with the participial form of the verb, which is added at the end. Some use the particle 'between,' others write in place of it: 'amid' or 'within' (Morozov, 1915).

Morozov designed graphs that demonstrated the frequency of use of certain linguistic tools, such as the Russian negation particle 'ne', in the works of Gogol, Pushkin, Tolstoy, and Turgenev. Statistical patterns emerged that were meant to characterise the inimitable writing styles of each one of the authors. Morozov concluded that with



2.2. Still from *Parody of the Sun* (Loyko, 2018)

his linguistic analysis, we could easily spot if, for example, a work by Pushkin was erroneously attributed to Gogol (Velminski, 2012).

In this paper, the coincidence is such that Jamie Oliver happened to publish his fresh pasta recipe exactly one hundred years after Nikolai Morozov wrote his article on uncovering plagiarism and misattribution through statistical analysis of language. Of course, Morozov also happened to share his first name with Nikolai, the young Dutch man who, through a chain of events that normally form his routine, had to be admitted to a Nairobi hospital with a foot injury. On top of that, Nikolai, who would limp for the rest of his life after that unfortunate trip to Kenya, always wanted to become a librarian, like George Bataille.

3. What is fly fishing?

Fly fishing is the method of angling where an artificial *fly* is used to catch fish. The fly is the bait that, to the fish, looks like its food source. The type of the fly used depends on the type of fish targeted. The fly can look like an insect, mammal, bit of flesh, bird, amphibian, reptile,

worm, or crustacean. A wet fly is weighted in such a way as to sink below the surface of the water. It often imitates a drowned insect, nymph, or other prey. This trick only works when the hunger of the fish blinds it to the deadly cord stretching out from its meal up into the waterless hell.

It is recommended that one wears powerful sun block while fly fishing, as the UV rays become stronger when they are reflected off the surface of the water.

4. Does Galileo's lie have anything to do with the number 84?

It has everything to do with the number 84. If we drilled a hole all the way through the centre of the earth, and then dropped this paper down that hole, it would fall down and come back up in exactly 84 minutes (Norton, 2015).

Of course, given the non-zero surface area of this petite publication, this is only possible if we assume that there is no air resistance, the same lie Galileo thought worthy of accepting as truth as long as it propped up the bigger hypothesis about the force of gravity. His theory was superseded, but the lie was passed down the generations.

All bodies in free fall in the same gravitational field accelerate at the same rate. A feather and a paperweight would reach the ground at the same time if dropped simultaneously from the same height. This holds true as long as we tacitly assume that all of these operations happen in a vacuum.

So,

this paper would accelerate towards the centre of the earth for the first 21 minutes of its fall

as it passes through the centre of the earth, it would start decelerating

it would travel towards the other side of the globe, for a further 21 minutes

if observed from the opposite end of the hole that we drilled, the paper would be flying up, slowing down as it approaches the surface

42 minutes after the drop, reaching the rim on the opposite end, its speed would approach zero, and it would fall back down again, pulled by the earth's core

it would repeat the 42-minute journey of accelerating towards the centre of the earth and decelerating out to the surface, back to the point of the original drop

at this point there are two options: to catch the paper and end the experiment, or leave it bouncing up and down through the tunnel, repeating the 84-minute cycle until we get conceptually bored.

5. The bit about the coitus with the celestial atmosphere sounds familiar.

It was taken from George Bataille's essay "The Solar Anus" (1985, p.6).

III. BREATHING EXERCISES



a.

Dear __,

i have decided to spend a lot of time with you this summer

we will have picnics, dinners at mine, you will touch my back with your shoulder.

+

i haven't really finished thinking about this, but

look

i want to have sex <with> you, i want to speak to you, i want to
i want you to read <over> speak at you.
<through>
<without>
<across>
<beside>
<after>

my messages. i want you to read my billboards. i want you to be excited to read the words formed at my lips. i want you to keep being (paralysed with joy?) about the words formed in my cerebellum¹. i want you to eat the words that crack through my knee caps. i want you to sniff the words that fall with my hair. i want you to play with words that i never heard. i want you to give a chance to words that i mispronounce. i want you to act like you can do english. i want you to give me pep talk - in snippets - give me soundbites - give me - give me slogans - give me quotes - give me geography - give me children's - give me 2 for 1 - give me new releases - give me lifestyle - give me biography - give me hardback.

i want to do shots with you. and i want to talk about art(? - and/or accounting). and i want to talk about me. and i want to talk about you. and i want to talk about how it feels to be you wanting to have sex with/and/or/across me and i want to know how it feels when i don't want you to listen to me and i want you to tell me how it feels. i want to want to want more. but right now i i i i i i i i i i² have reached my capacity. my body feels ____ . like my skin is about to burst open. it feels like meadow: heavy humid air flat out pressed down on green. joy, perhaps... yes, that's exactly what it is. occasionally, i can't tell it apart from loneliness.

i want us to reach a point where we would want to want to take a hypothetical break,
(how about tomorrow).

we will be out of breath
but
you don't need breath when you're bursting your cerebellum open.

Love,
D

b.

They say that YOU WILL GO FURTHER WITH PERSONAL TRAINING³

five lunges
three star jumps
ten press-ups
one bottle of water
seven km on the cross trainer
twelve minutes on the rowing machine
thirteen deadlifts
fifty crunches
three curls
one lap

but they also say that THE EVENT OF WRITING MAY BE THE UNEVENT OF READING⁴

C.

i freaking love writing

d.

We like the words that work⁵.

Mutually dislocated catastrophe:

a point of conversion towards a

dialogic communion

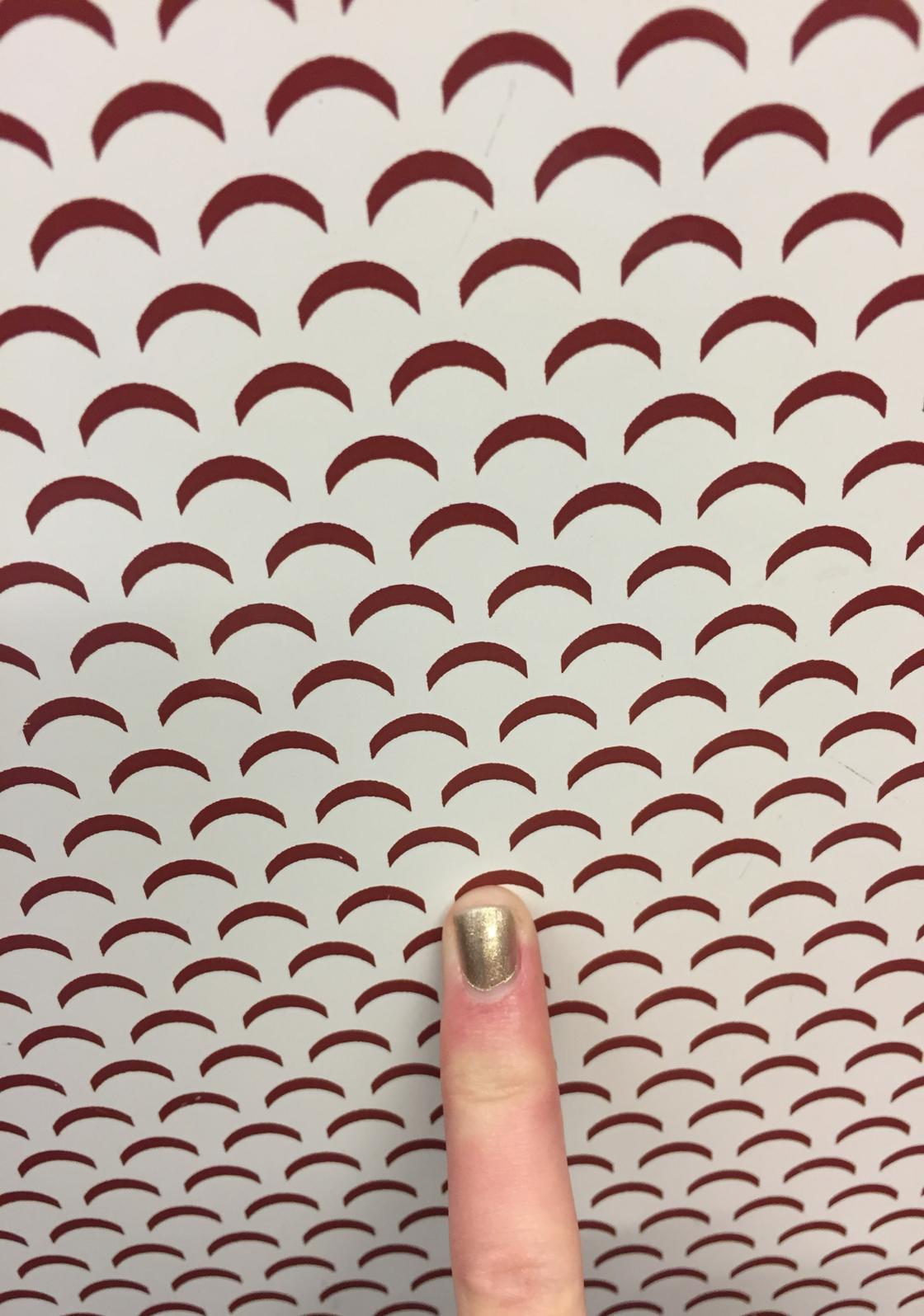
circling the edge of being

consummated (overly

definitive answer

(better than Christ)

why are its arms bare.



d.

What the fuck is wrong with you? I said spatial translation, not linguistic!

If I wanted to know what rectilinearity was in Mandarin, I would have just googled it myself! I wanted you to go and crochet me a hyperbolic spacetime.

A contradiction is impossible. Just like $2+2=4$ is impossible. I don't know who you think you are, but I am going to tell you who I am. I am the best goddamn _____ this town has ever seen, and you better get your ass out of here and get your shit together.

A royal wedding is a joyful occasion. Just like any wedding is a joyful occasion. Just like a funeral is. You know, that's bullshit, because everyone is allergic to change, however minor. They may suppress it for however long they can handle, and may even take pleasure in the tingling feeling at the abyss of their nostrils while it lasts, but they will sneeze when it least suits you and that contaminated phlegm will be all over you and you won't need a doctor to tell you that you're screwed.

There is no way out. Only the possibility of encounter in the middle. Once you put that thread through a loop, it will drag no matter what, and you know it. You've got to sit tight and enjoy the ride, because you're up to your neck in that crochet hyperbolic plane with geodesics⁶ stitched onto it.

Howard Roark⁷ laughed - so what? Go and find a way to make him swallow his own tears of joy. In fact, why don't you go and make him swallow your tears of joy? I hope he doesn't mind the taste. The rocks sunk to the depth of blindness, unchanged, unchained. Released, anchored. WHAT GEOMETRY IS PHYSICAL SPACE? IM ASKING YOU YOU PIECE OF SHIT WHAT GEOMETRY IS PHYSICAL SPACE??

If you want to throw Euclid out with the bathwater, you better have a solid case for it. Your violation of common sense, of millennia or mathematical thought, isn't going to cut it with your gut alone!

There can be no victory unless you can cut me a precise length of thread to hang you with.

Oh and by the way, that wooly taxonomy of yours is making me sick. You want to stage your own death, THEN GO AHEAD AND DO IT, but don't come crawling back for my help. When you're nothing but a disinfected body suspended in the indifferent void of residual micro-waves, I won't even know where to look for you because, remember, it is impossible that $2+2=4$, just like a contradiction is impossible.

Frequently Asked Questions (III)

1. What exactly is cerebellum?

In human animals (Encyclopaedia Britannica), cerebellum is the part of the brain responsible for motor coordination. It received the impulses from the spinal cord and integrates them with the impulses from the rest of the brain. It is responsible for coordination of physical balance, movement, posture, and other motor activity and motor learning. Anatomically, it has the appearance of a separate structure attached to the bottom of the brain.

Damage to the cerebellum can impair coordinated limb movement and the ability to stand.

2. Are you trying to alter the count of the letter *i* in this paper?

Nikolai Morozov wasn't first to apply statistics to the fabric of text (Velminski, 2012). Two years prior, in a 1913 meeting of the Physical-Mathematical Division of St Peterburgh's Academy of Sciences, Andrey Markov presented his research on the Russian alphabet.

Markov, a mathematician, analysed Alexander Pushkin's Eugene Onegin letter by letter, writing out the first 20,000 letters into 200 blocks of 10 columns and 10 rows, omitting all spaces and punctuation marks. He studied patterns of letter repetition and letter pairs. His aim was to establish a statistical model that would allow us to predict the appearance of a certain letter given the letters that preceded it.

Morozov followed Markov's intuitions and desire to visualise chance when he published his study on authorship. Markov, who pioneered the approach, responded to Morozov by using his reasoning against him to discredit his statistical interpretation of authenticity, his *linguistic spectra*, in favour of Markov's own chain patterns. He claimed that Markov's intuitions were not entirely wrong, but the implementation should not have been based on the interpretation of literary style, and

that the sample of 1,000 words used by Morozov was too narrow to be representative. Markov continued counting the negation particles 'ne' in the texts from Morozov's study until he upped the count of the particle threefold and demonstrated the inadequacy of the method.

3. Who is they?

It's just a figure of speech.

4. Who is they?

Stefan Brüggemann (1997).

5. Are you familiar with the principle of Least Effort?

By a chain of otherwise regular and unremarkable events, Benoît Mandelbrot came across a review of *Human Behaviour and the Principle of the Least Effort* (1949), a book by George Kingsley Zipf, a Harvard lecturer.

The event seems too symbolic to be true, but the review in question had been retrieved from a 'pure' mathematician's wastebasket, for light reading on the Paris subway. (Mandelbrot, 1982, p.422)

In his study, Zipf picked up Markov's and Morozov's investigations into language patterns, and developed his theory of communication based on the principle of the Least Effort. He studied everyday speech habits and found correlations between the words' length, their age and how often they appear in speech. He found words with shorter sound structure to be used more frequently than longer ones. Zipf concluded that the speaker always wants to communicate their message with the least possible effort, but that is at odds with the desire of the listener to be able to decipher the message with the least possible effort. Communication is only possible when these conflicting desires balance out.

The thought of empirical regularities in word frequency led Mandelbrot to reconceptualise text patterns. By focusing on the space sign between words, a sign that marks the boundaries but is independent of the adjacent letters, “the central word becomes the central interval of chance” (Velminski, 2012).

The word becomes a placeholder while the space sign is the centre of attention. To Mandelbrot, from the point of view of probability theory, language revealed striking self-similarity. In mathematical thinking, a self-similar object is exactly or approximately similar to a part of itself. In this, he recognised scale invariance - the lack of structural change when variables are multiplied by a common factor - which became the key principle of the mathematical model of fractals that he pioneered and dedicated the rest of his life to.

6. What is a geodesic?

The shortest path between two points is a geodesic. In non-Euclidean space, such as on the exterior of the earth or a piece of crocheting, it is analogous to a straight line on a surface that is itself curved.

However, a geodesic is not necessarily the shortest path between two points. For example, if we trace the shortest path from a point A to a point B on the surface of a sphere, and then continue the same line from A to B in the opposite direction, both of these paths will be geodesics. Similarly, any shorter segment on a geodesic is itself also a geodesic. Geodesics are used to chart airplane flight trajectories.

Geodesics have a particular importance in relativity theory, where they are defined as paths of longest proper time. Where the fourth dimension, time, is involved, an object travels through spacetime along a geodesic when it is in a state of free fall.

The earth is in a state of free fall through the fabric of spacetime that has been curved by the presence of the sun.

7. Who is Howard Roark?

Who is W?

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