

Random Stuff I Find Interesting

Matthew Dockrey

May 8, 2009

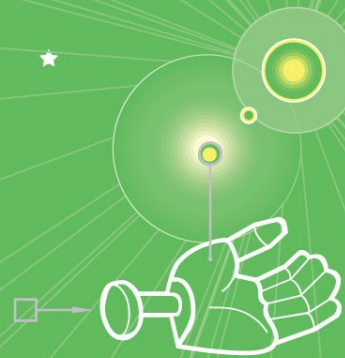
24-Hour Time



Adhocracies

"He sparkles! He fizzes! He does backflips and breaks the furniture!
Science fiction needs Cory Doctorow."

—Bruce Sterling, author of *The Hacker Crackdown* and *Distraction* ★



DOWN and **OUT**
in the
Magic Kingdom

Cory DOCTOROW



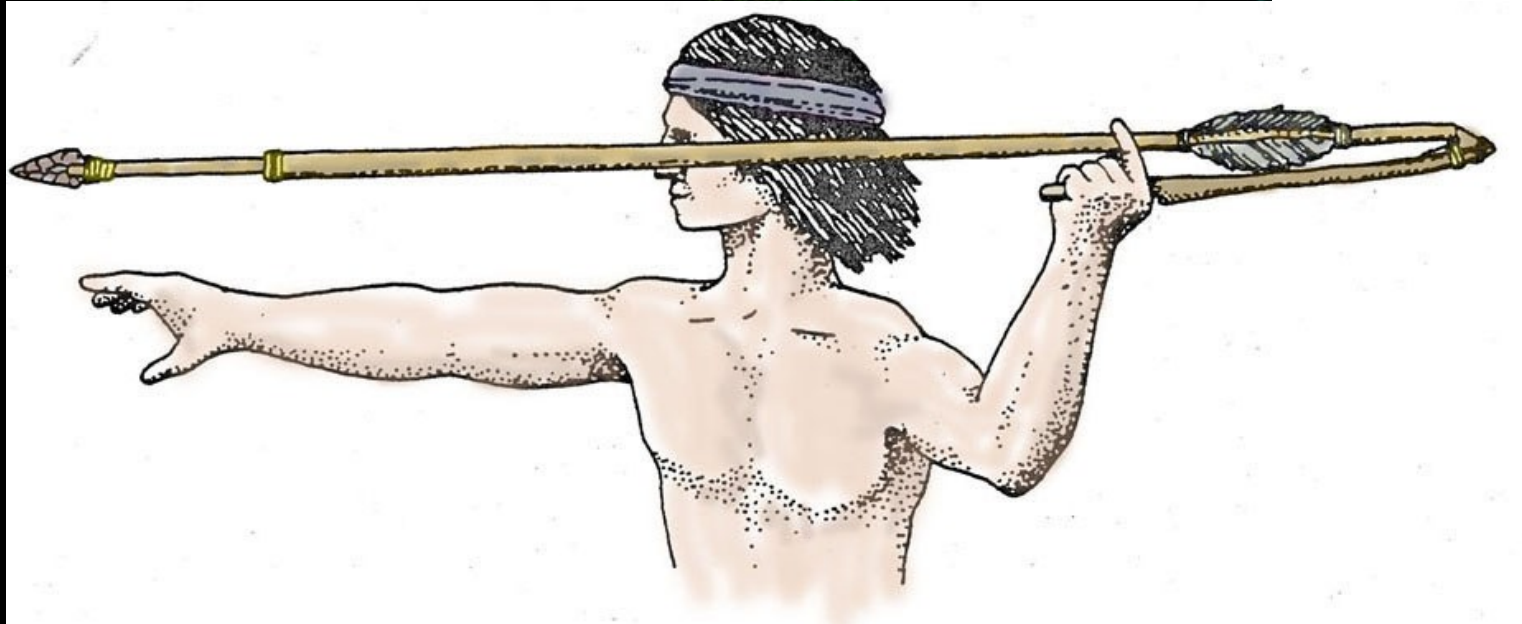
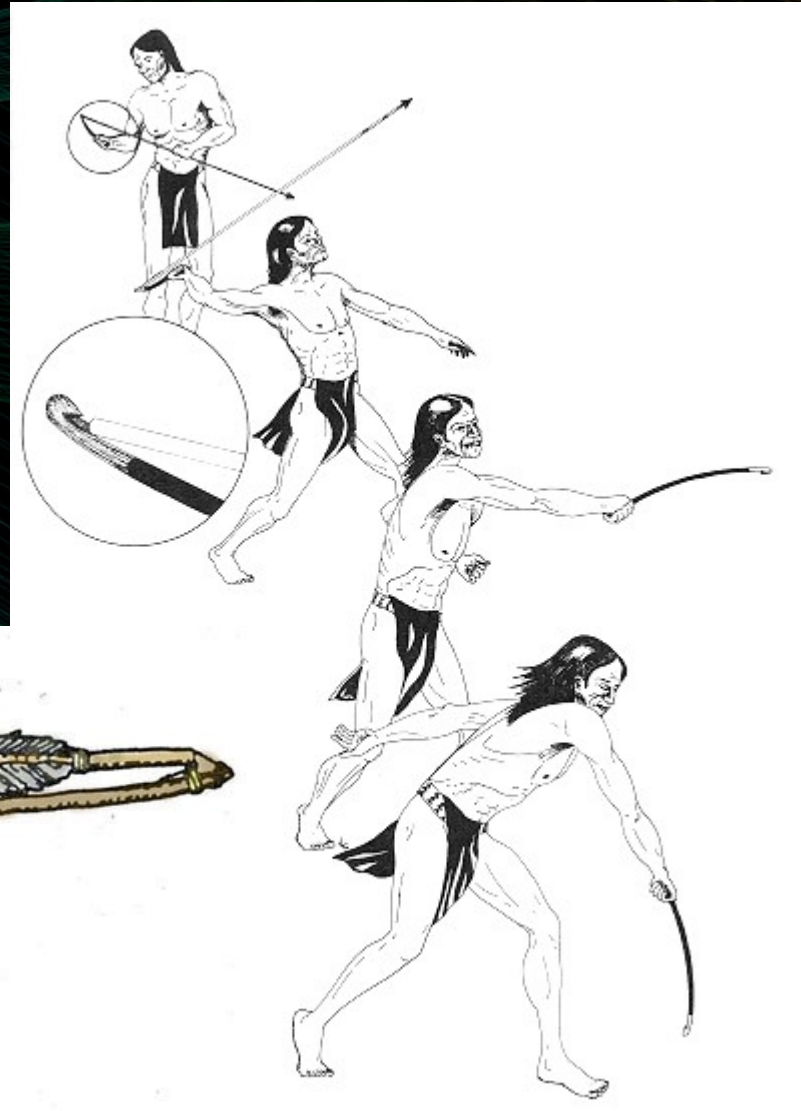
Anarcho-capitalism

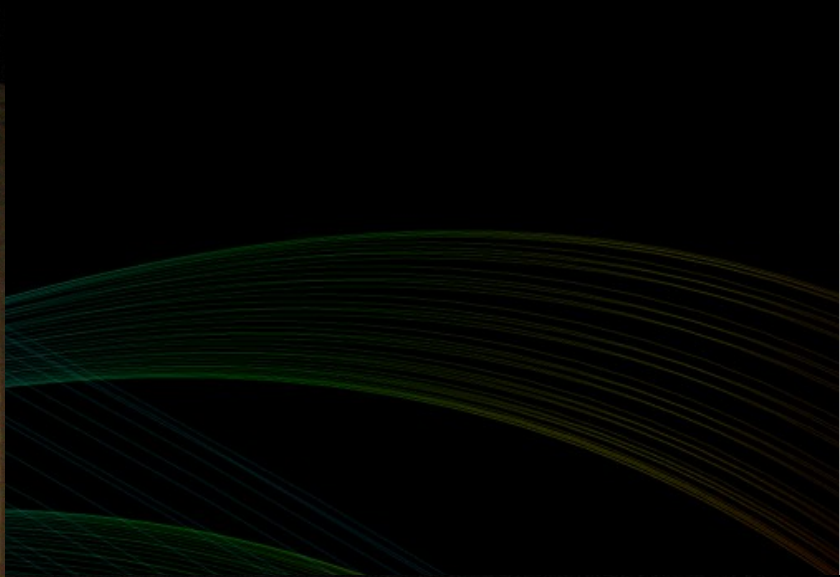


FRACTAL WRONGNESS

You are not just wrong. You are wrong at every conceivable scale of resolution. Zooming in on any part of your worldview finds beliefs exactly as wrong as your entire worldview.

Atlatls





English

For most of its being, mankind did not know what things are made of, but could only guess. With the growth of worldken, we began to learn, and today we have a beholding of stuff and work that watching bears out, both in the workstead and in daily life.

The underlying kinds of stuff are the *firststuffs*, which link together in sundry ways to give rise to the rest. Formerly we knew of ninety-two firststuffs, from waterstuff, the lightest and barest, to ymirstuff, the heaviest. Now we have made more, such as aegirstuff and helstuff.

[...]

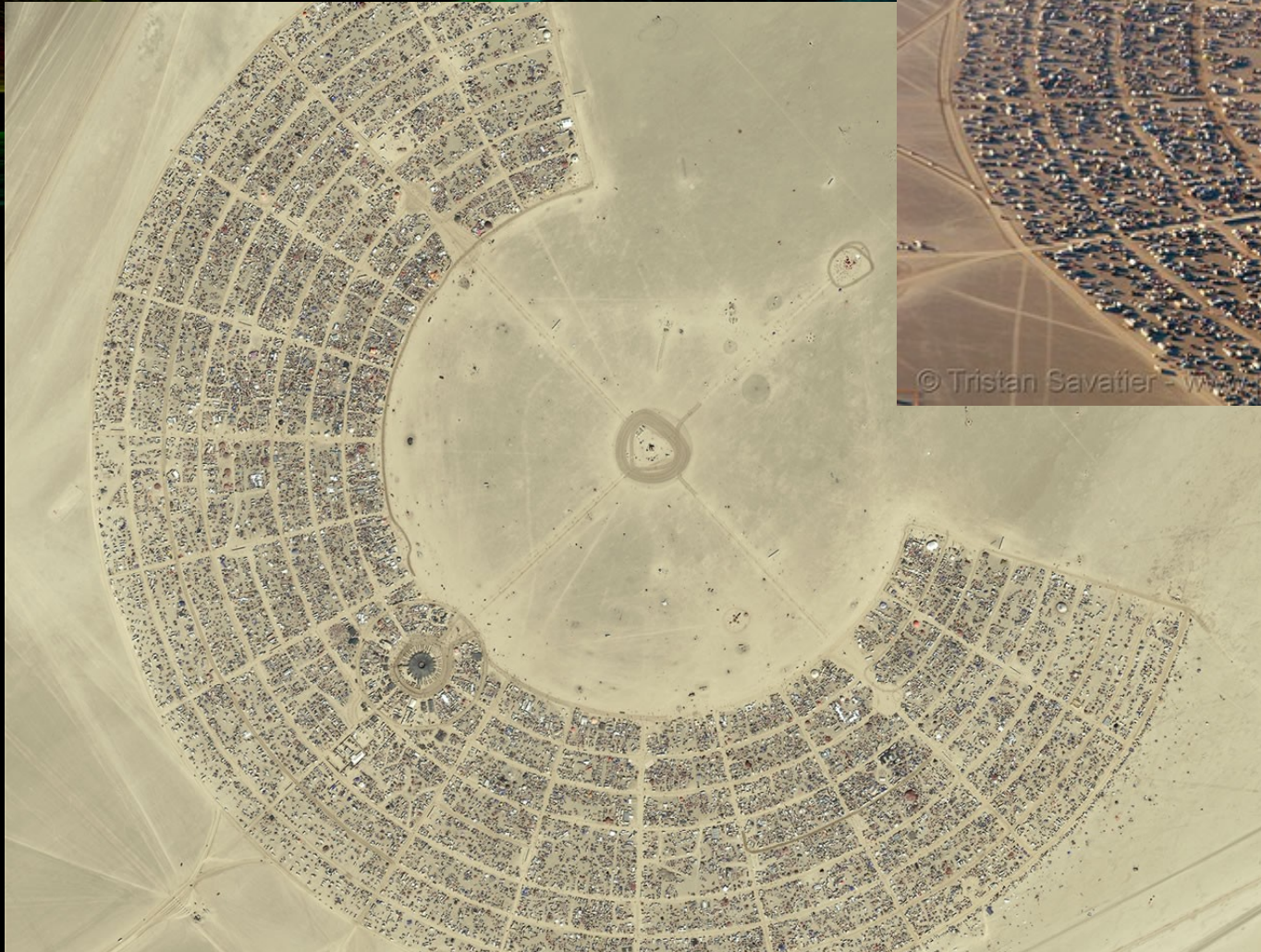
With enough strength, lightweight unclefts can be made to togethermelt. In the sun, through a row of strikings and lightrottings, four unclefts of waterstuff in this wise become one of sunstuff. Again some weight is lost as work, and again this is greatly big when set beside the work gotten from a minglingish doing such as fire.

Today we wield both kind of uncleftish doings in weapons, and kernelish splitting gives us heat and bernstoneness. We hope to do likewise with togethermelting, which would yield an unhemmed wellspring of work for mankindish goodgain.

Soothly we live in mighty years!

--Uncleftish Beholding, Poul Anderson

Black Rock City



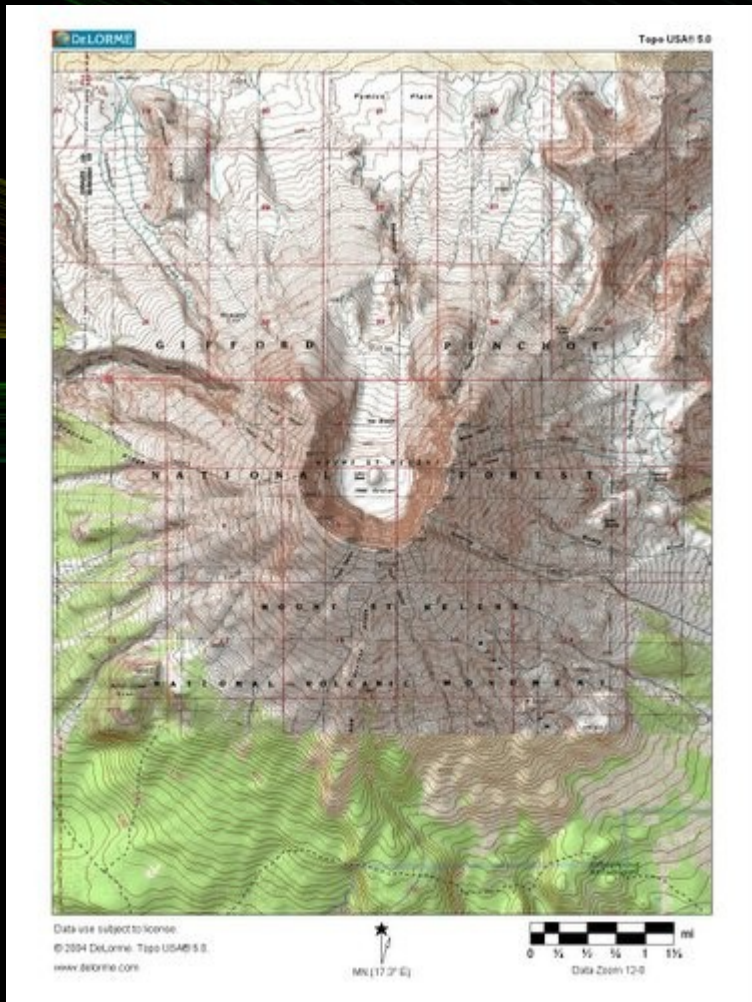
Boeing Surplus



Cargo Cults



Cartography



Carte Figurative des pertes successives en hommes de l'Armée Française dans la campagne de Russie 1812-1813.

Dressée par M. MIMAZD, Inspecteur Général des Ponts et Chaussées en retraite Paris, le 20 Novembre 1869.

Les nombres d'hommes présents sont représentés par les largeurs des zones colorées à raison d'un millimètre pour dix mille hommes; ils sont de plus écrits en travers des zones. Le rouge désigne les hommes qui entrent en Russie, le noir ceux qui en sortent. — Les renseignements qui ont servi à dresser la carte ont été puisés dans les ouvrages de M. M. Chiers, de Léguir, de Fezensac, de Chambray et le journal inédit de Jacob, pharmacien de l'Armée depuis le 28 Octobre. Pour mieux faire juger à l'œil la diminution de l'armée, j'ai supposé que les corps du Prince Jérôme et du Maréchal Davout qui avaient été détachés sur Minsk et Mobilow et ont rejoint vers Orscha et Witebsk, avaient toujours marché avec l'armée.

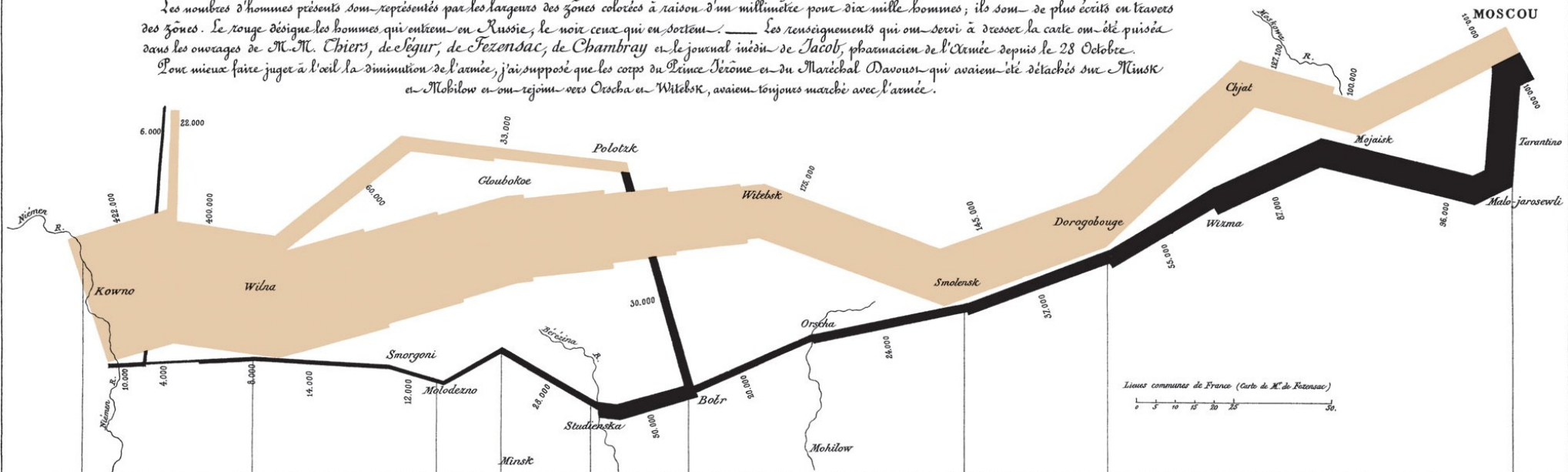
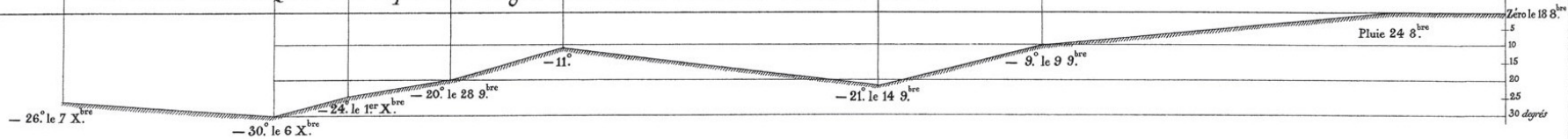


TABLEAU GRAPHIQUE de la température en degrés du thermomètre de Réaumur au dessous de zéro.

Les Cosaques passent au galop le Niémen gelé.





Confucianism

Heaven is my father and Earth is my mother, and even such a small creature as I finds an intimate place in their midst.

Therefore that which fills the universe I regard as my body and that which directs the universe I consider as my nature.

All people are my brothers and sisters, and all things are my companions.

The great ruler is the eldest son of my parents, and the great ministers are his stewards. Respect the aged--this is the way to treat them as elders should be treated. Show deep love toward the orphaned and the weak -- this is the way to treat them as the young should be treated. The sage identifies his character with that of Heaven and Earth, and the worthy is the most outstanding man. Even those who are tired, infirm, crippled, or sick; those who have no brothers or children, wives or husbands, are all my brothers who are in distress and have no one to turn to.

When the time comes, to keep himself from harm -- this is the care of a son. To rejoice in Heaven and to have no anxiety -- this is filial piety at its purest.

He who disobeys the Principle of Nature violates virtue. He who destroys humanity is a robber. He who promotes evil lacks moral capacity. But he who puts his moral nature into practice and brings his physical existence into complete fulfillment can match Heaven and Earth.

One who knows the principles of transformation will skillfully carry forward the undertakings of Heaven and Earth, and one who penetrates spirit to the highest degree will skillfully carry out their will.

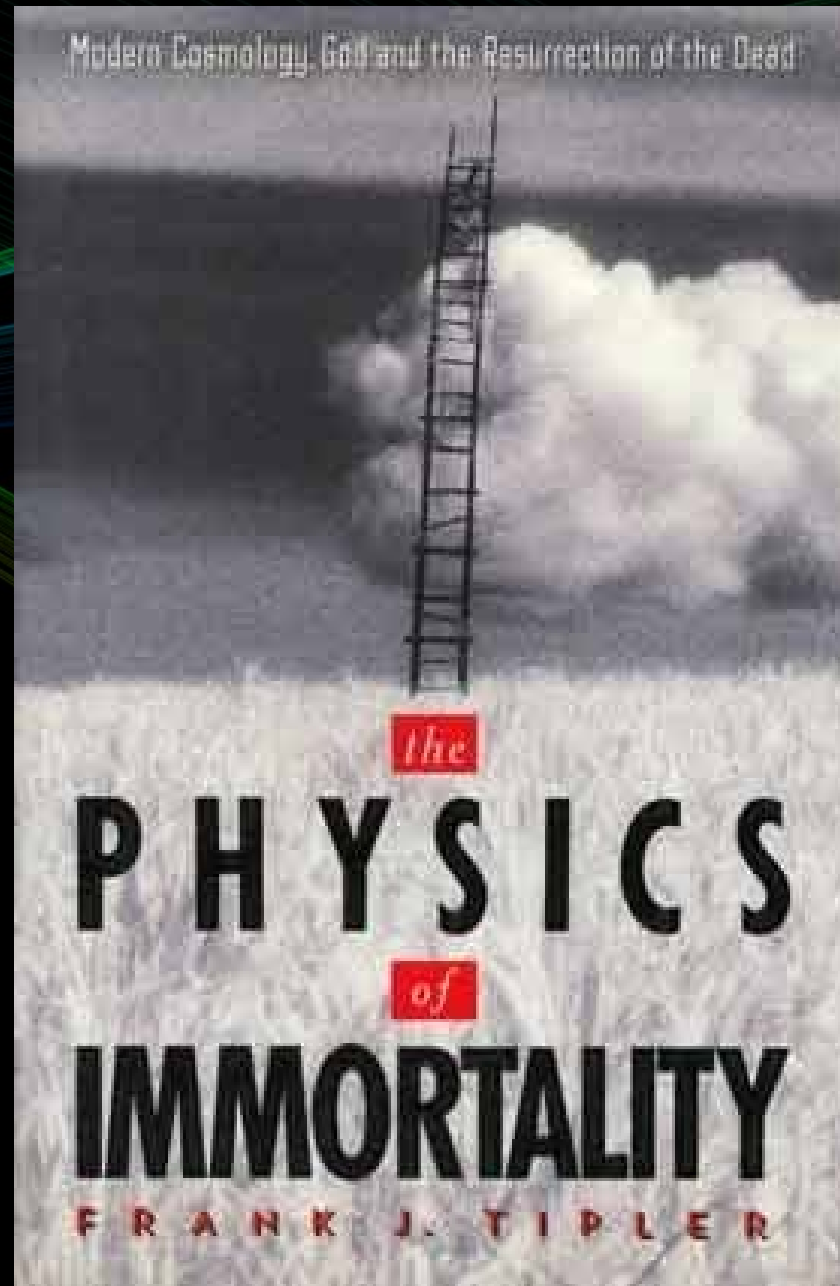
Do nothing shameful in the recesses of your own house and thus bring no dishonor to them. Preserve your mind and nourish your nature and thus serve them with untiring effort.

Wealth, honor, blessing, and benefits are meant for the enrichment of my life, while poverty, humble station, and sorrow are meant to help me to fulfillment.

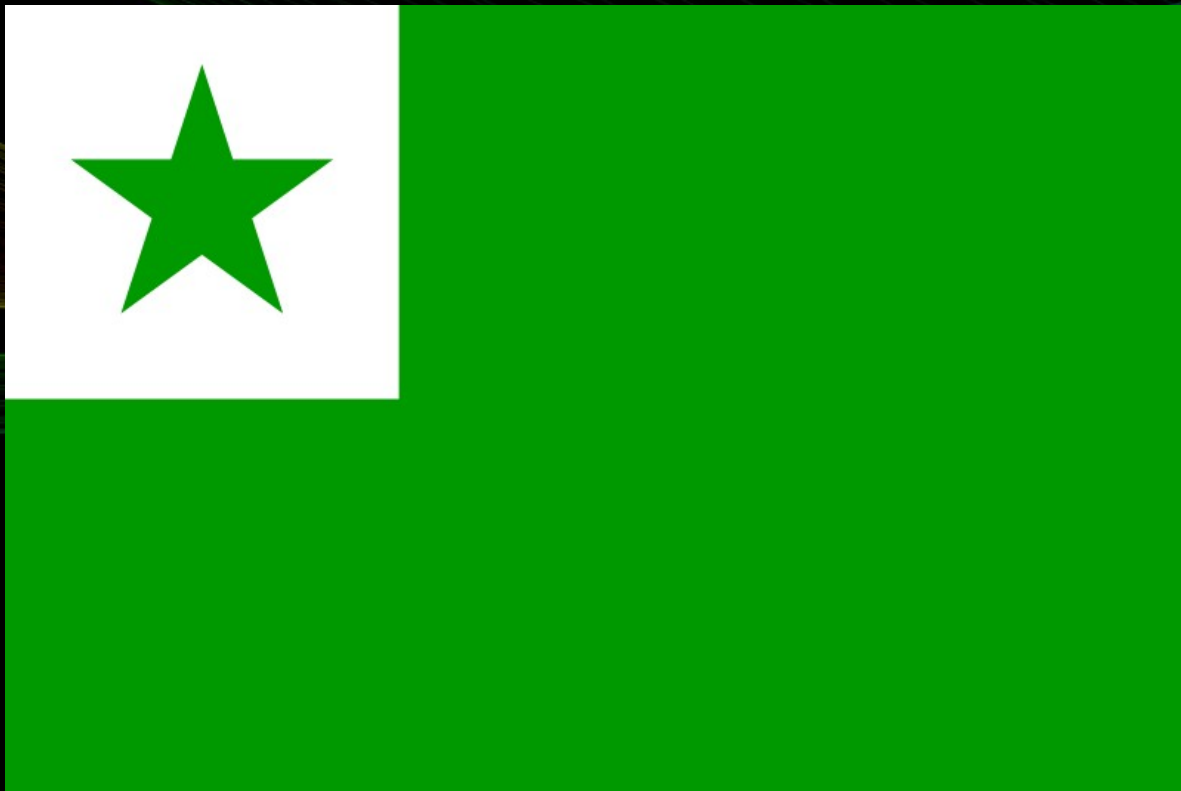
In life I follow and serve Heaven and Earth. In death I will be at peace.

-- Zhang Zai (1020-1077)

Eschatons



Esperanto



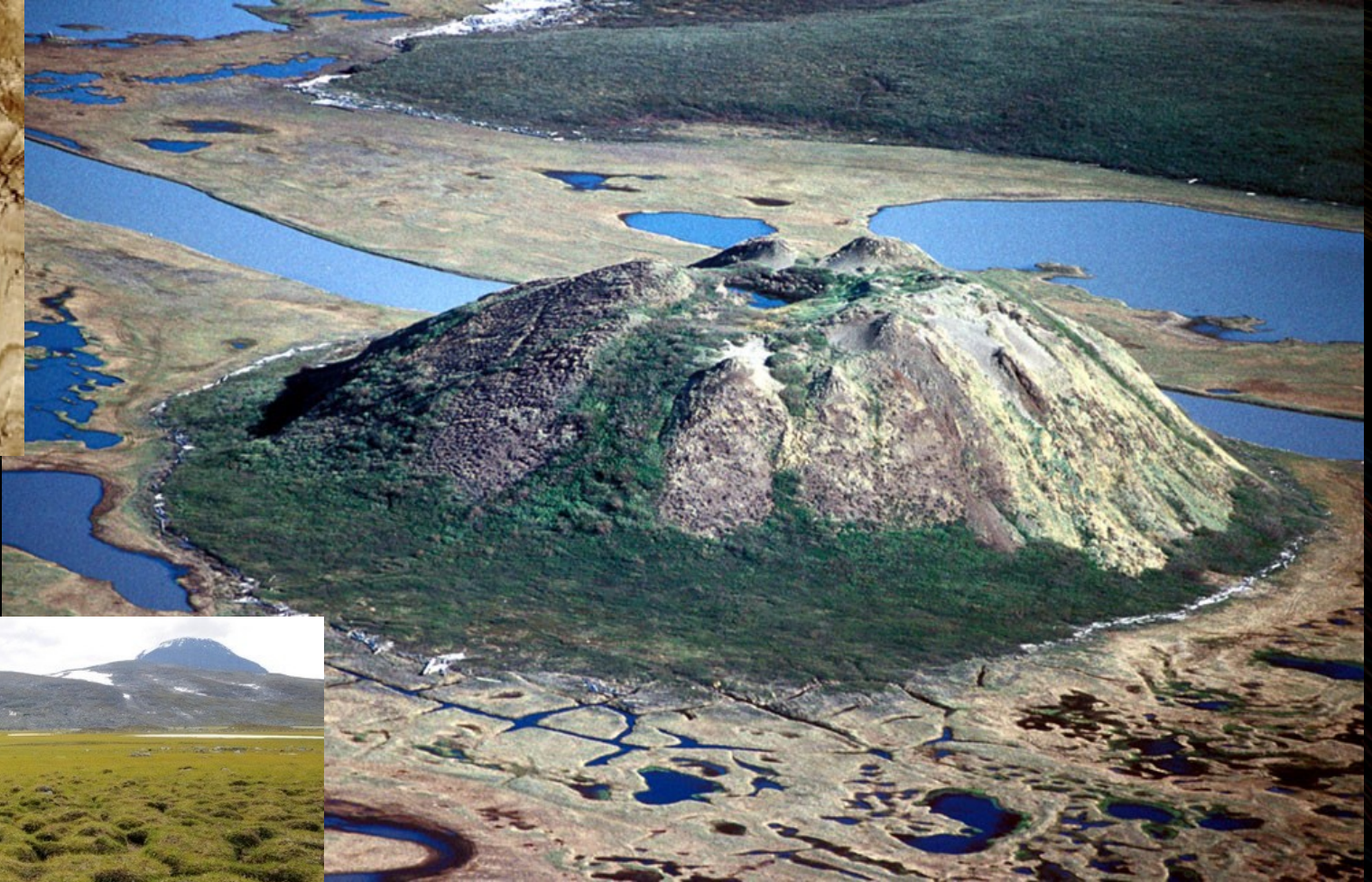
Filk



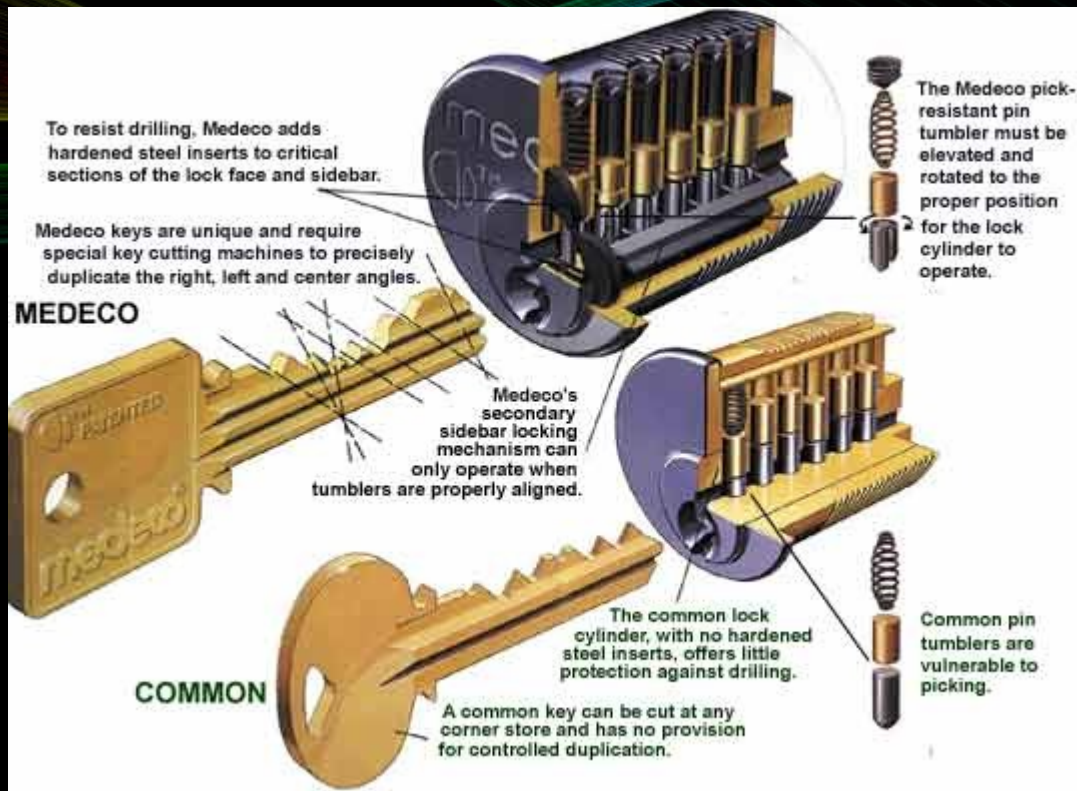
Flintknapping



Geocryology



Locksmithing



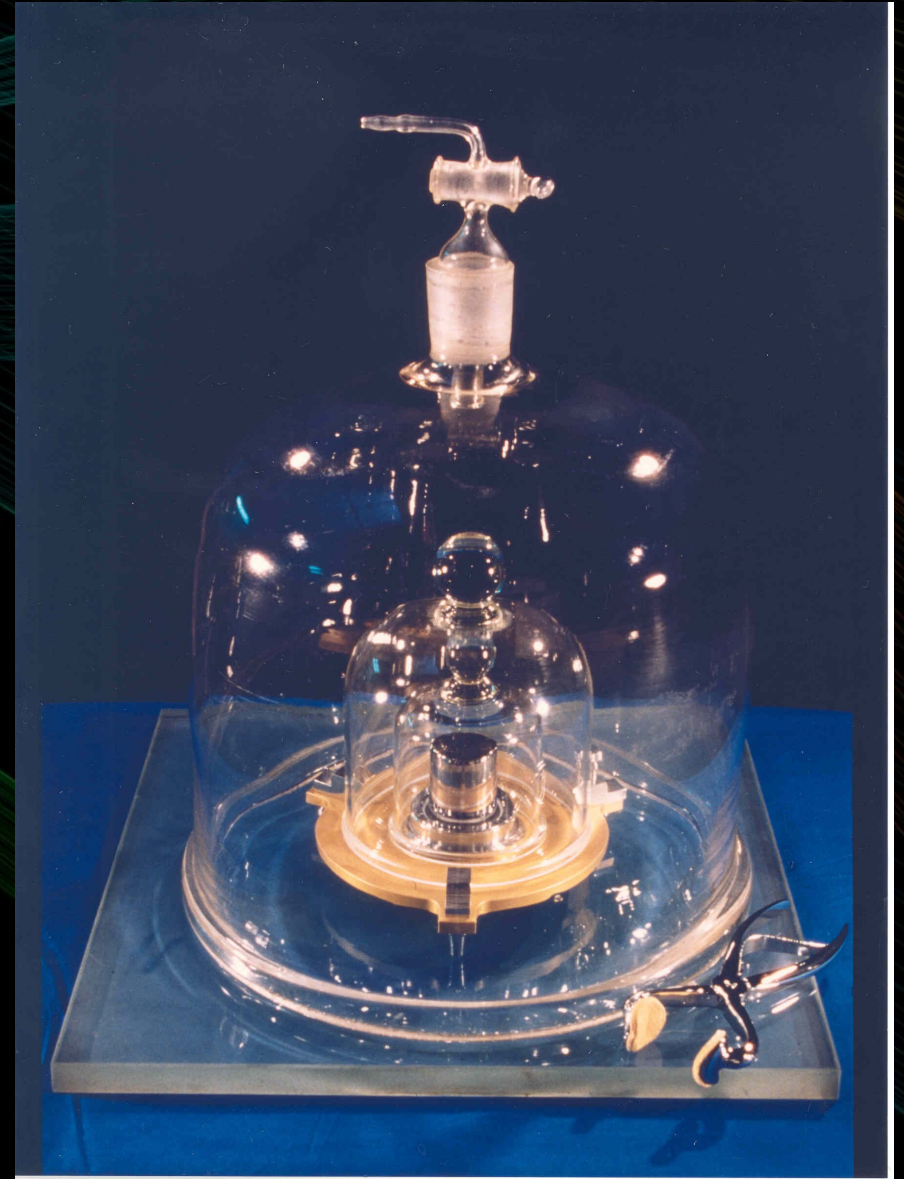
Machining



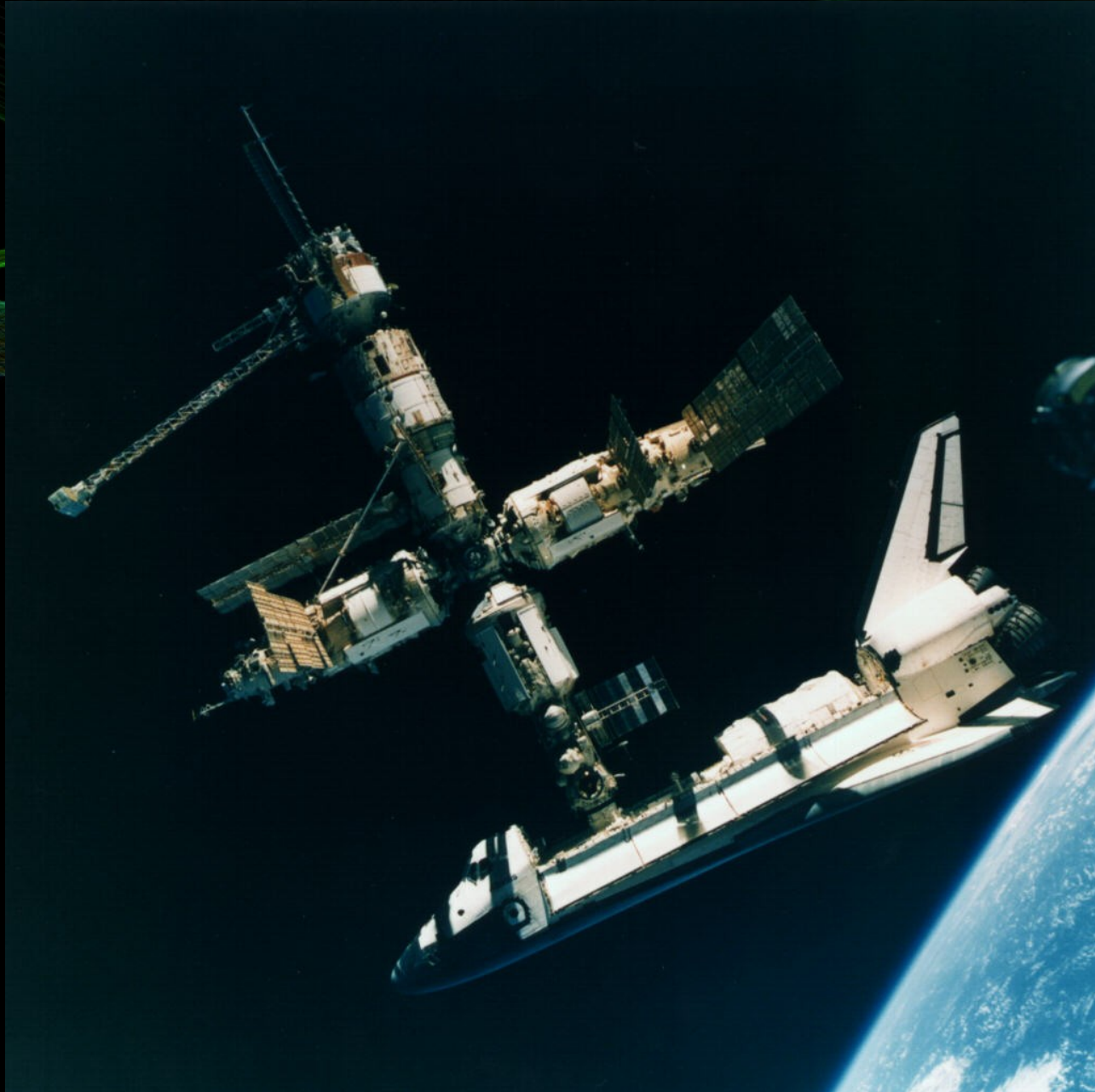
Massive Soviet Technology



Metrology



Mir



Opposable Thumbs



Recursive Functions

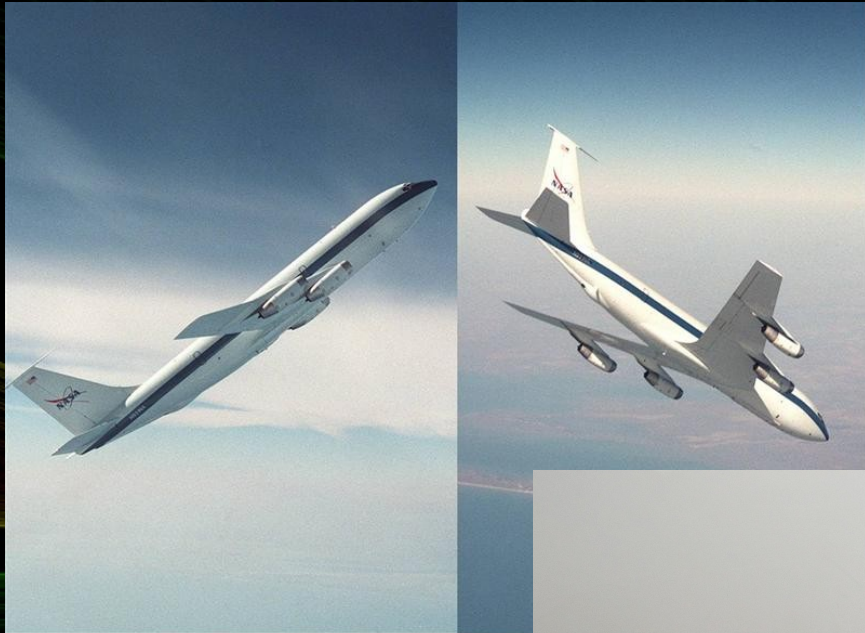


Space Robots



The United Nations

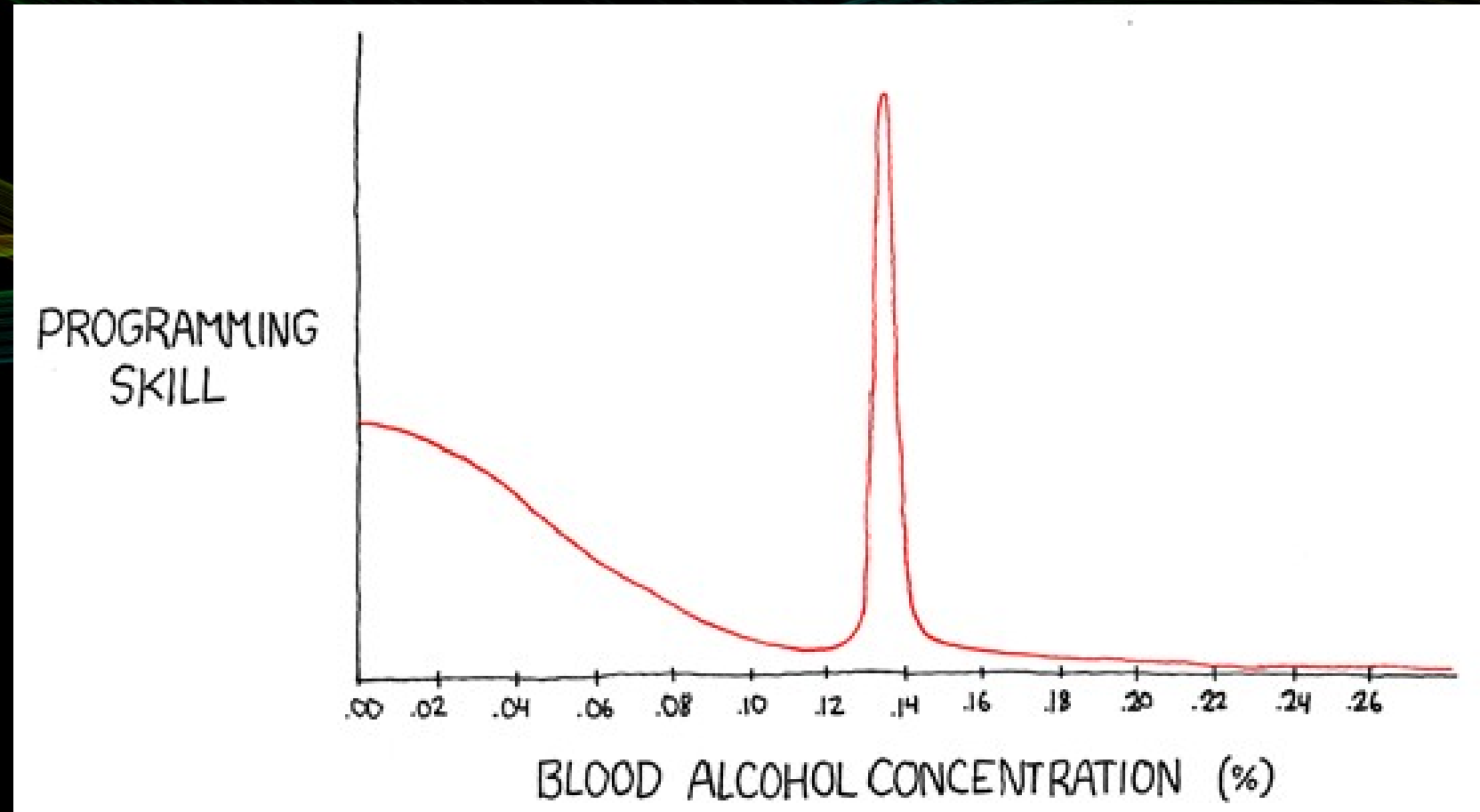




The Vomit Comet



xkcd



(The end!)