



FLYXION

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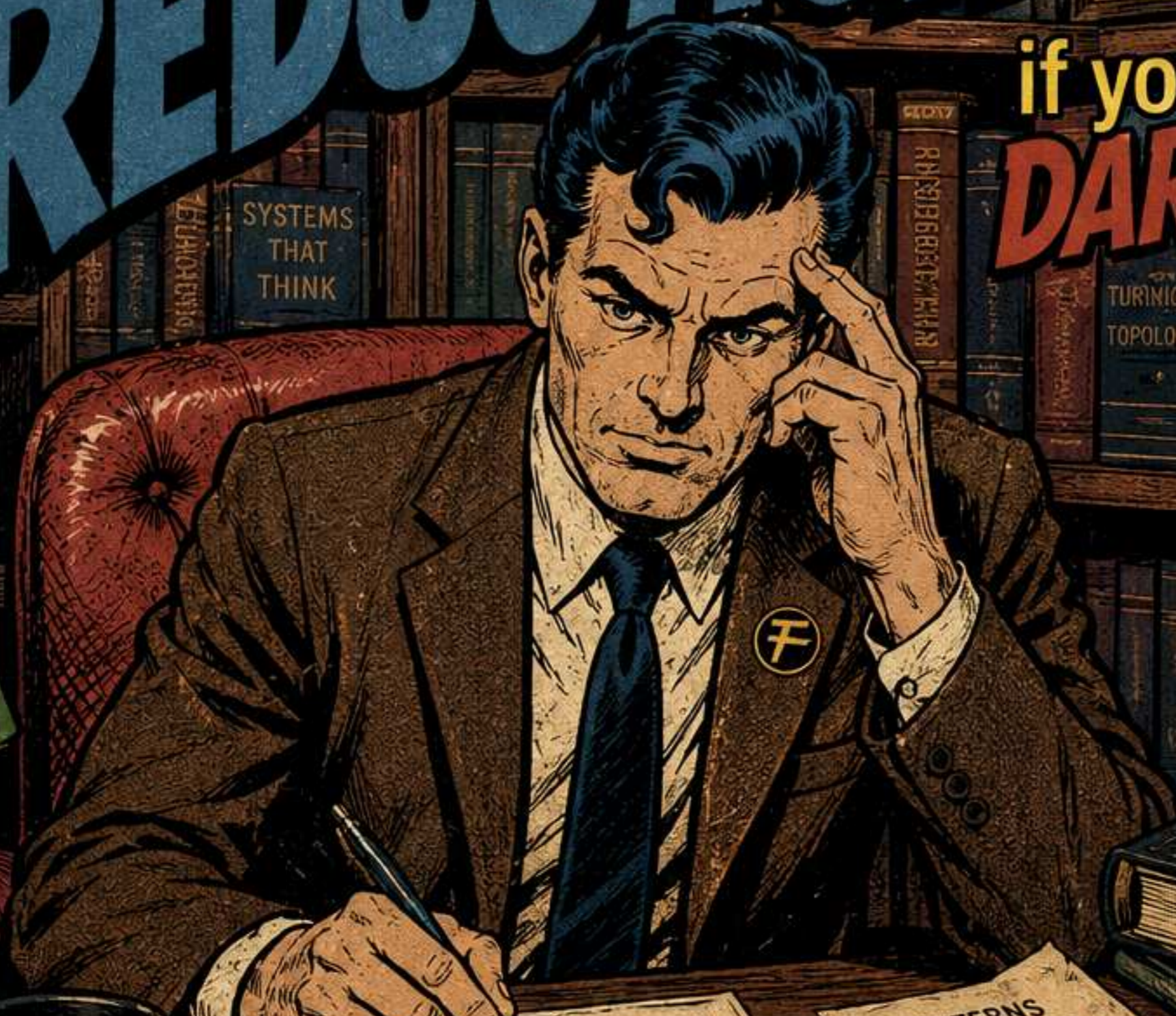
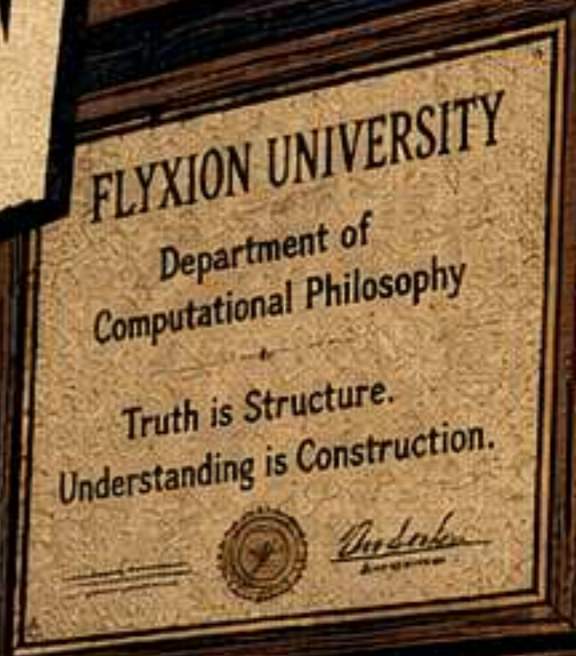
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visit

ABSTRACTION as REDUCTION

if you
DARE



REDUCE.
REVEAL.
PRESERVE.

ABSTRACTION
IS
FREEDOM
WITH
PURPOSE.

PATTERNS
OVER NOISE.
MEANING
OVER MASS.
POSSIBILITY
OVER CHAOS.
★

PROF. REDUCTION
CHAIR OF EPISTEMIC SYSTEMS

TO UNDERSTAND
IS TO REDUCE.
TO REDUCE
IS TO SEE CLEARLY.

BEYOND COMPLEXITY...
LIES CLARITY.



1957.
THE INSTITUTE FOR
STRUCTURAL
COMPUTATION.

A SMALL ROOM.
A BLACKBOARD.
A QUESTION THAT
WILL CHANGE
EVERYTHING.

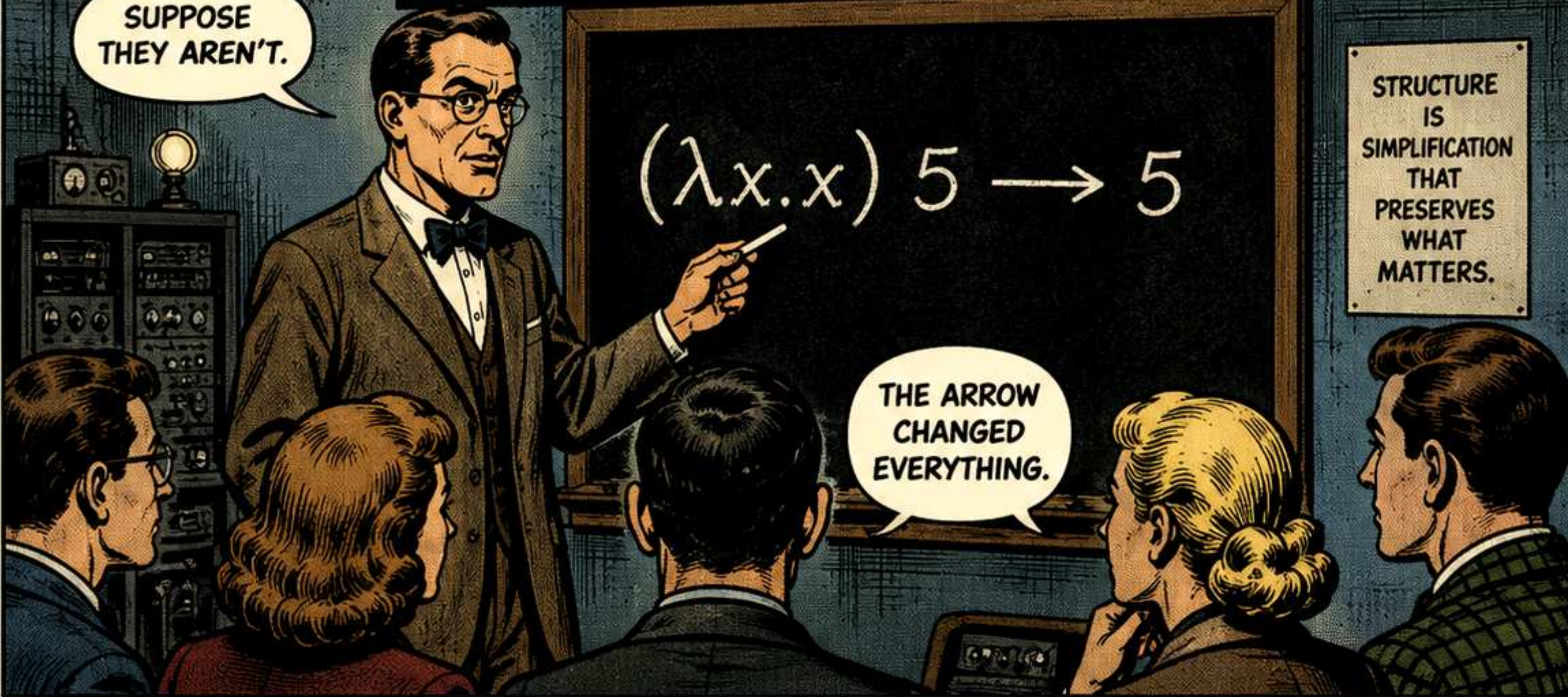
ABSTRACTION AS REDUCTION

A RETRO SCIENTIFIC ROMANCE
by FLYXION

FOR CENTURIES,
MATHEMATICIANS
BELIEVED
ABSTRACTION AND
COMPUTATION
WERE DIFFERENT
THINGS.

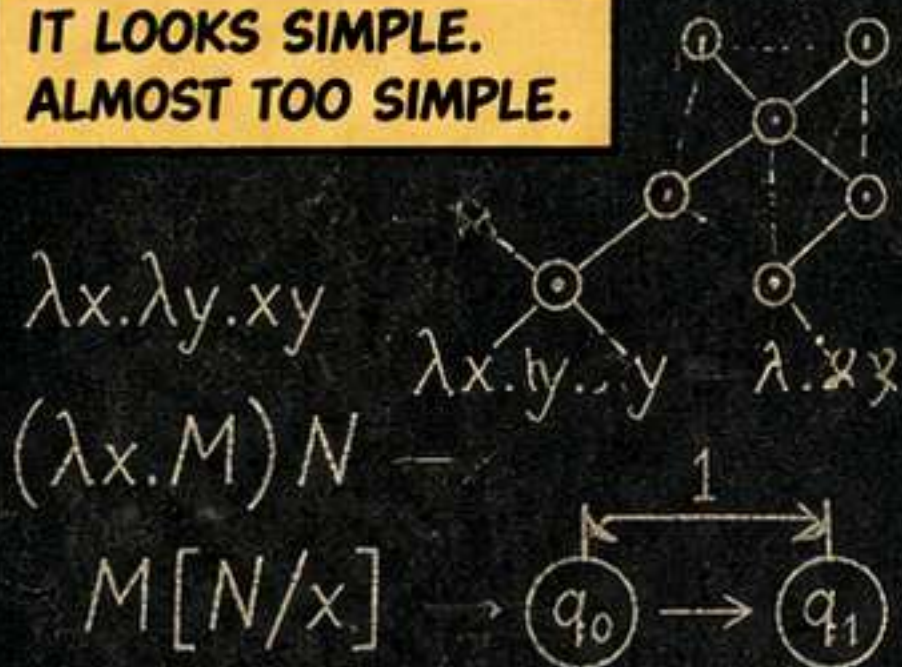


SUPPOSE
THEY AREN'T.



THE ARROW
CHANGED
EVERYTHING.

IT LOOKS SIMPLE.
ALMOST TOO SIMPLE.



BUT IN THAT SIMPLE MOTION—
SOMETHING COMPLEX DISAPPEARS,
AND SOMETHING ESSENTIAL
REMAINS.

THIS IS WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN
WE UNDERSTAND.



NOT MAGIC.
NOT MYSTERY.
JUST REDUCTION.

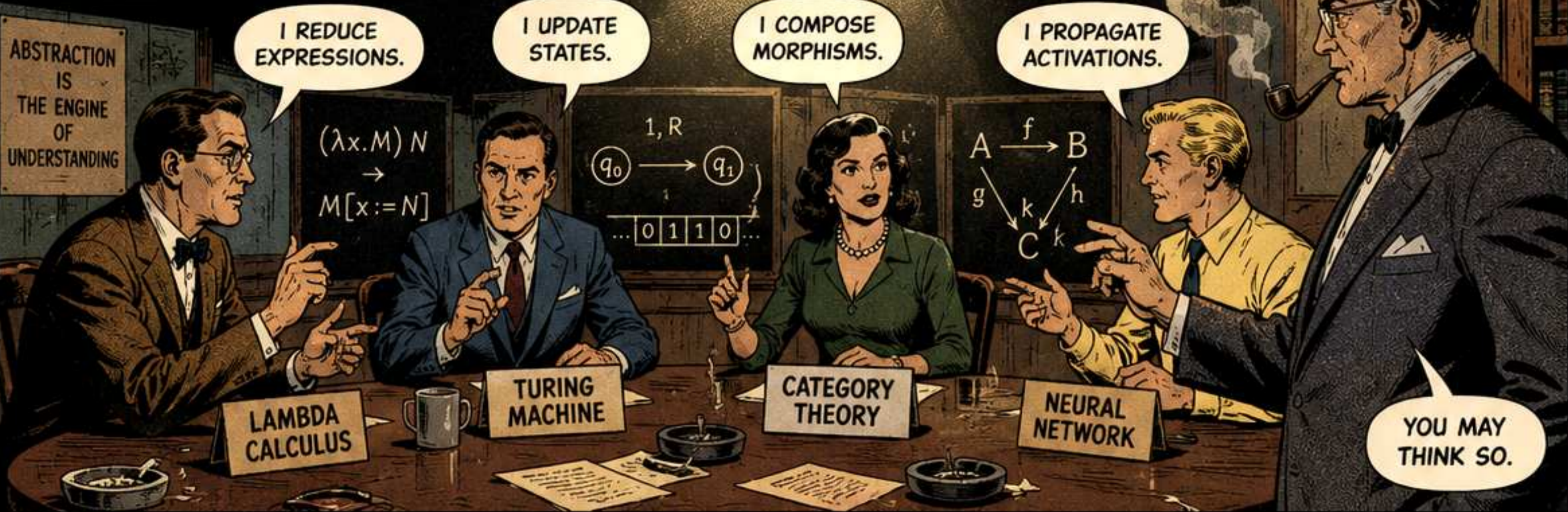


THE ARROW.
THE HEART OF ABSTRACTION.
THE ENGINE OF THOUGHT.

THE REDUCTION CLUB.

DIFFERENT NAMES. SAME MOVE.

FOUR GREAT MINDS, EACH CONVINCED THEY DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT. EACH CLAIMS THEIR WAY IS UNIQUE.



I REDUCE EXPRESSIONS.

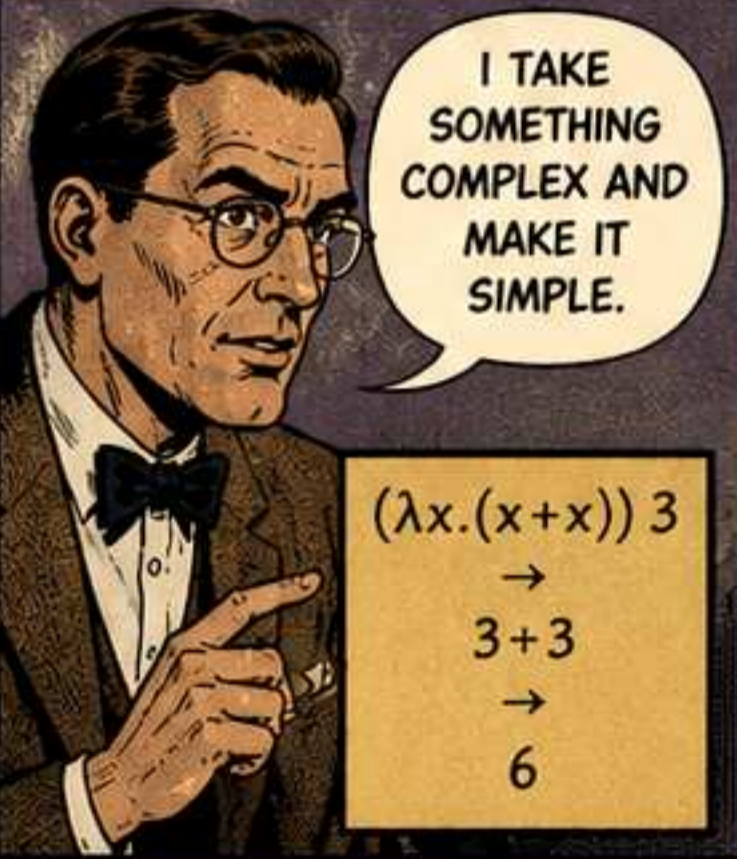
I UPDATE STATES.

I COMPOSE MORPHISMS.

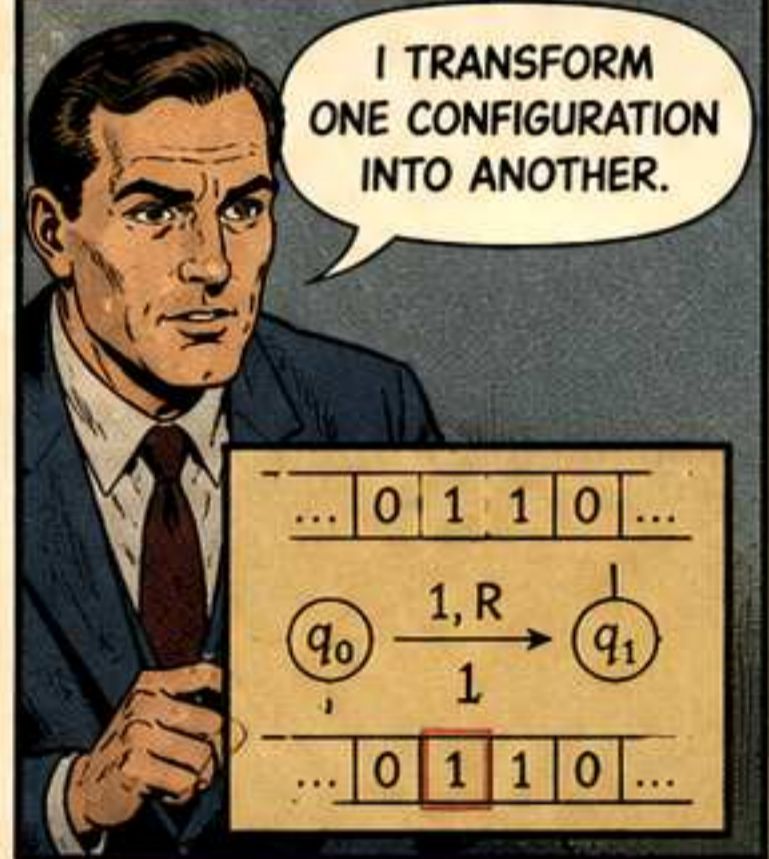
I PROPAGATE ACTIVATIONS.

YOU MAY THINK SO.

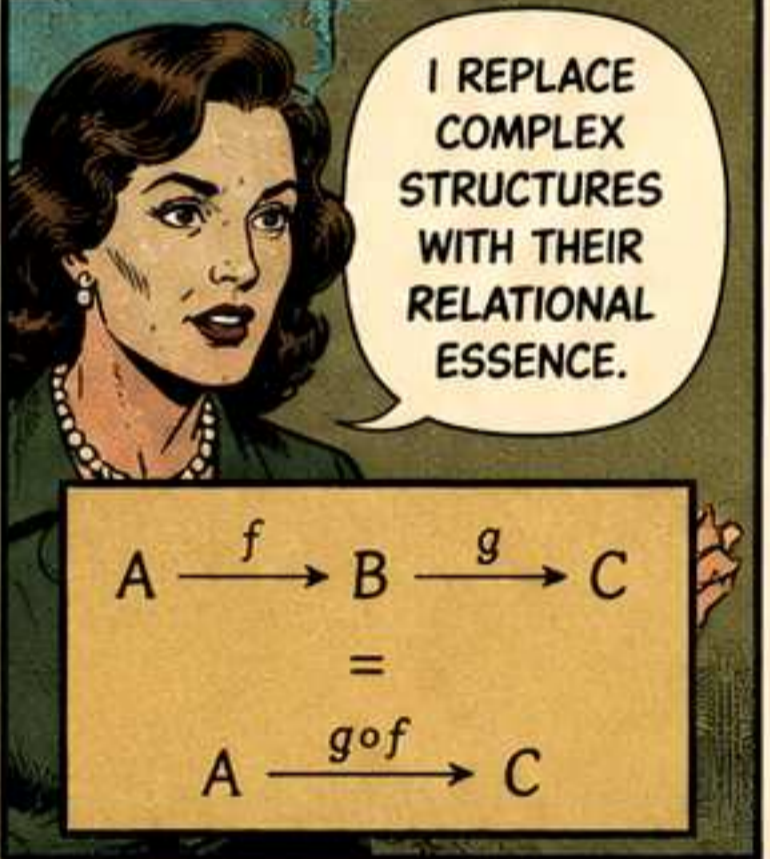
LAMBDA CALCULUS:



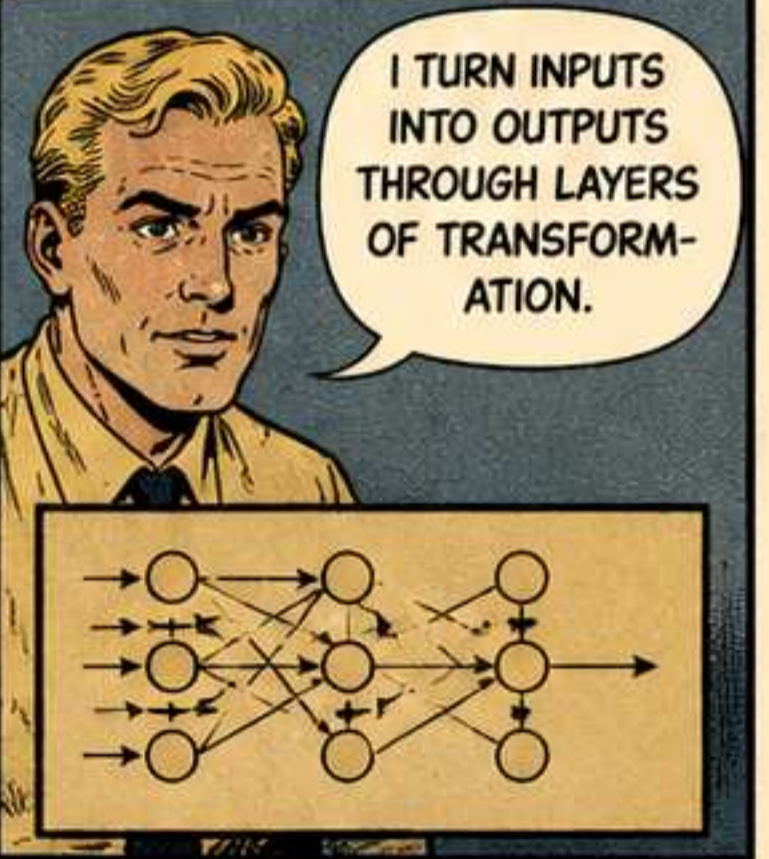
TURING MACHINE:



CATEGORY THEORY:



NEURAL NETWORK:



DIFFERENT STORIES. SAME STRUCTURE.



COMPLEXITY IN. ESSENCE OUT.

REDUCTION.

ONE MOVE. MANY FORMS.

ABSTRACTION.
THE GREAT
COMPRESSION.

THE GREAT COMPRESSION

EVERY SYSTEM HAS MORE DETAIL THAN ANY MIND CAN HOLD.
ABSTRACTION REMOVES DEGREES OF FREEDOM.


WE FEED THE
WORLD'S COMPLEXITY
INTO THE MACHINE...

RAW COMPLEXITY
DETAIL • NOISE • MICROSTATES
REDUNDANCY • IRRELEVANCE

OUT COMES
SOMETHING SIMPLE,
USABLE, BEAUTIFUL.

ESSENTIALS ONLY
STRUCTURE • PATTERN • SIGNAL
MEANING • FUNCTION • LAW

ABSTRACTION ENGINE

$f(x)$
!
• $A \rightarrow B \rightarrow C$
- A AND B -
 $\lambda x. x$ 

ABSTRACTION
ELIMINATES
DEGREES OF
FREEDOM.

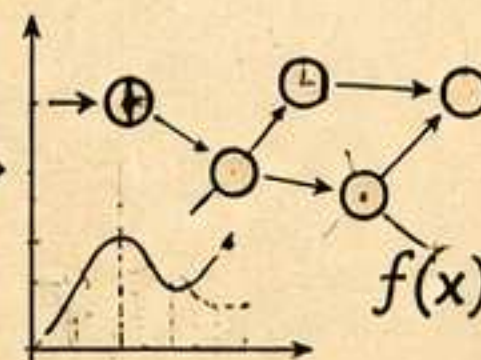
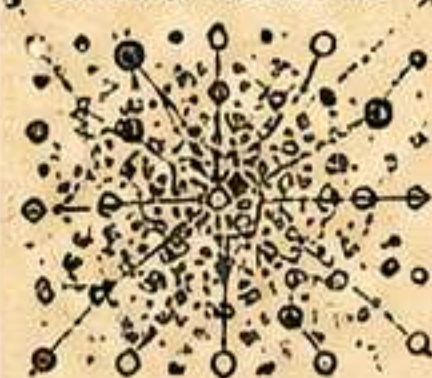
THEN ABSTRACTION
IS JUST
FORGETTING?

$$H = -\sum p_i \log p_i$$
$$I(X; Y)$$

NOT JUST FORGETTING.
IT'S DISCIPLINED
FORGETTING.
SELECTIVE.
PURPOSEFUL.
REVERSIBLE—
WHEN IT MATTERS.

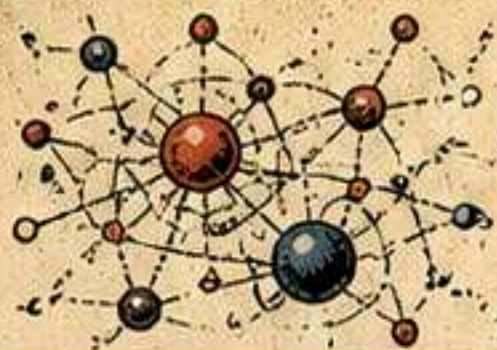
MICROSCOPIC
OVERWHELMING

MACROSCOPIC
USEFUL



WE DON'T NEED ALL THE PARTS.
WE NEED WHAT WORKS.

EXAMPLES: PHYSICS



BILLIONS OF PARTICLES...
BECOMES FEW LAWS.

CHEMISTRY



COUNTLESS INTERACTIONS...
BECOMES BOND TYPES.

BIOLOGY



GENES, CELLS, SIGNALS...
BECOMES FUNCTIONS.

COMPUTATION

```
010110100101
101001011010
110101001101
001100111010
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MILLIONS OF STATES...
BECOMES ALGORITHM.

THOUGHT



CHAOS OF EXPERIENCE...
BECOMES MEANING.

TO UNDERSTAND
IS TO COMPRESS.
TO COMPRESS WELL
IS AN ART.

EVERY ACT OF UNDERSTANDING
IS AN ACT OF ABSTRACTION.
EVERY ACT OF ABSTRACTION
IS A KIND OF COMPUTATION.



TO BE CONTINUED...

THE WORLD IS BUILT FROM INTERFACES.

THE CITY OF INTERFACES

WE DO NOT NEED TO KNOW WHAT IS INSIDE.
WE NEED ONLY WHAT CAN BE DONE.

EVERYTHING HERE HAS AN INTERFACE.

FUNCTION

PERSON

ORGANISM

STATE

IDENTITY IS OFTEN DETERMINED BY WHAT CAN BE DONE,
NOT HOW IT IS DONE.

WE NEEDED THIS TO SURVIVE COMPLEXITY.
NOW IT BUILDS CIVILIZATION.

DOORS DEFINE WHAT MAY ENTER.

INPUT CONTRACT

EXAMPLES:

- TYPE CHECKING
- PERMISSIONS
- PRECONDITIONS
- WELL-FORMED DATA

THE INTERNAL MECHANISM REMAINS HIDDEN.

WINDOWS DEFINE WHAT MAY LEAVE.

OUTPUT GUARANTEE

EXAMPLES:

- POSTCONDITIONS
- RESULTS
- EFFECTS
- PROMISES

THE WORLD SEES ONLY THE PROMISED EFFECT.

MESSAGES DEFINE HOW TO SPEAK.

PROTOCOL LANGUAGE

EXAMPLES:

- APIS
- FORMATS
- PROTOCOLS
- CONVENTIONS

COMMUNICATION WITHOUT REVEALING INTERNALS.

ABSTRACTION LETS US BUILD TOWERS OF MEANING ON FOUNDATIONS WE NEVER HAVE TO SEE.

CHANGE THE INTERIOR ALL YOU LIKE...

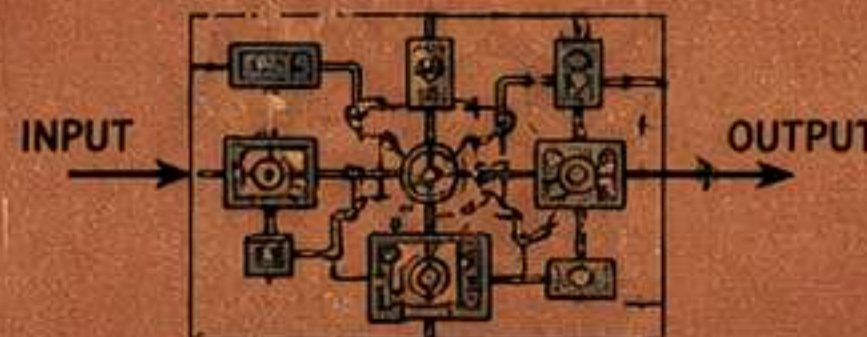
FUNCTION

...AS LONG AS THE INTERFACE HOLDS, THE WORLD DOES NOT NOTICE.

SAME INTERFACE



DIFFERENT INTERNALS



ABSTRACTION IS THE ART OF DRAWING BOUNDARIES THAT MAKE COMPLEXITY LIVEABLE.

THINKING IS
MOVEMENT THROUGH
A GEOMETRY.

THE GEOMETRY OF BELIEF

EVERY POINT REPRESENTS A BELIEF—
A POSSIBLE WAY THE WORLD COULD BE.

WE DO NOT FIND
THE TRUTH ALL AT ONCE.
WE TRAVEL.

EARTH
FLAT

GEOCENTRIC
UNIVERSE

STEADY
STATE

HELIOCENTRIC
UNIVERSE

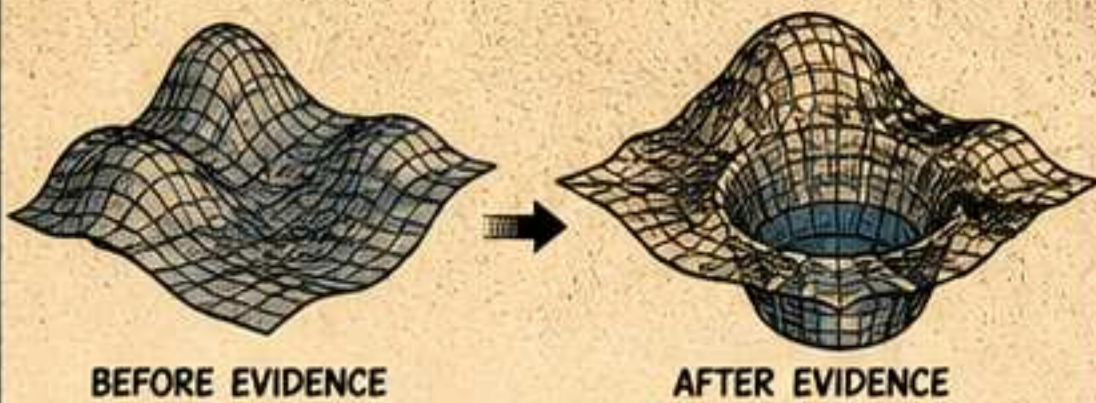
EVOLUTION
BY NATURAL
SELECTION

QUANTUM
MECHANICS

MOON
LANDING
REAL

NEW INFORMATION
MOVES US ACROSS
THE MANIFOLD.
SOME PATHS LEAD
TO DEAD ENDS.
SOME LEAD TO
DEEPER UNDERSTANDING.

EVIDENCE CHANGES THE SHAPE OF THE LANDSCAPE.

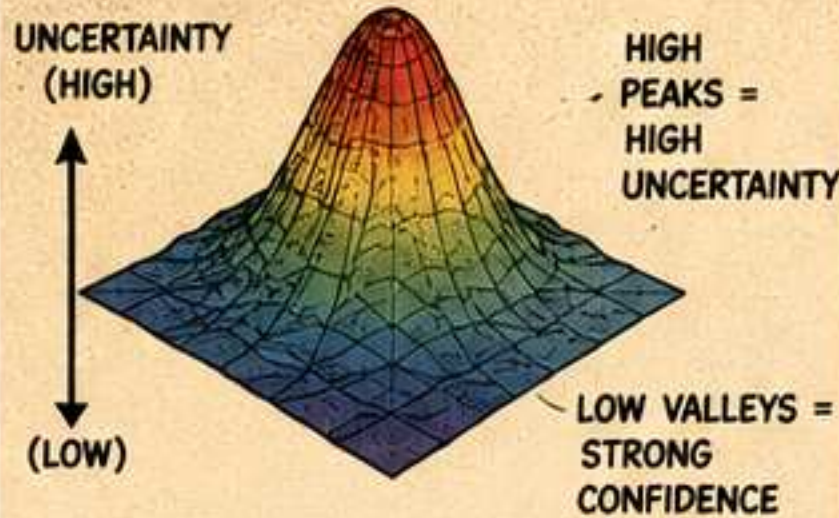


BEFORE EVIDENCE

AFTER EVIDENCE

OLD BELIEFS CAN BECOME UNSTABLE.
NEW BELIEFS CAN BECOME ATTRACTORS.

UNCERTAINTY IS HEIGHT.

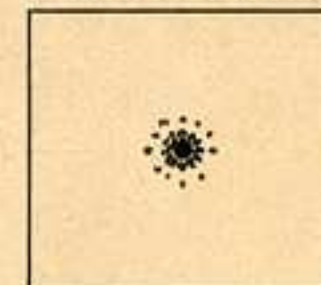
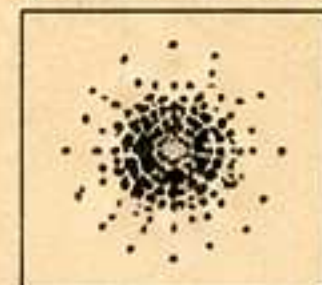
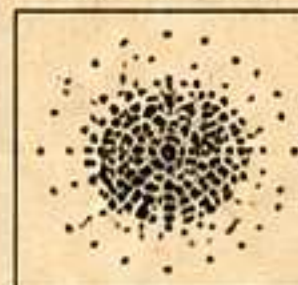


A BELIEF IS A DISTRIBUTION,
NOT A SINGLE ANSWER.

EARLY
(UNCERTAIN)

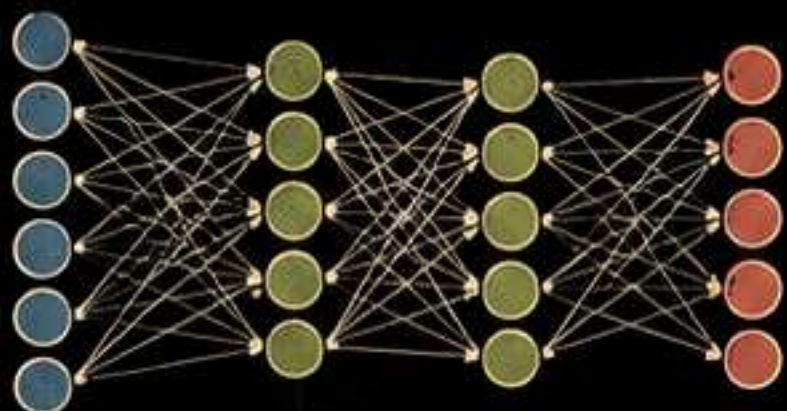
LATER
(MORE FOCUSED)

LATER STILL
(VERY CONFIDENT)



WE RARELY JUMP TO TRUTH.
WE NARROW OUR DOUBTS.

A NEURAL NETWORK IS A FAMILY OF ROADS
ON THE GEOMETRY OF BELIEF.

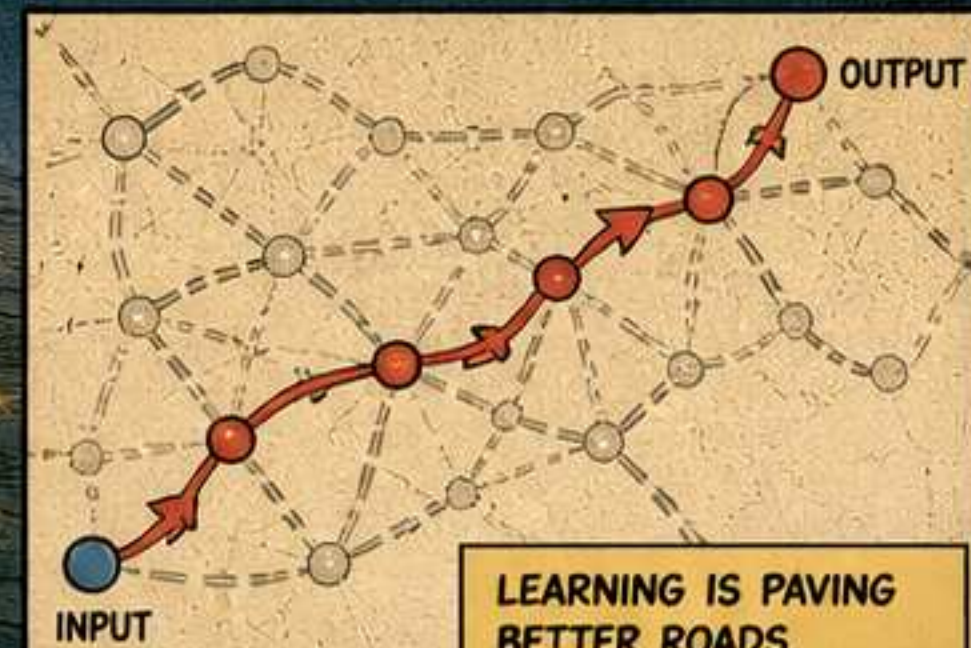


INPUT

HIDDEN LAYERS

OUTPUT

EACH INPUT PICKS
A ROAD. THE NETWORK
GUIDES US ALONG
A PATH OF
POSSIBILITY.



LEARNING IS PAVING
BETTER ROADS.

BELIEF IS NOT STATIC. IT IS A JOURNEY.
UNDERSTANDING IS NOT A PLACE. IT IS A DIRECTION.



WE MOVE BECAUSE WE CARE.
AND WE CARE BECAUSE WE PREDICT.

THE SELF IS A COMPRESSION ALGORITHM.

THE PREDICTIVE SELF

WE ARE BUILT TO PREDICT.
WE ARE MAINTAINED BY PREDICTIONS.

WHICH ONE IS THE REAL ME?

EVERY MOMENT, EXPERIENCE ARRIVES.
THE SELF BUILDS A MODEL.
THE MODEL GUIDES ACTION.
THE ACTION CREATES NEW EXPERIENCE.



PAST

PRESENT

POSSIBLE FUTURE

FEARED FUTURE

DISTANT FUTURE

I WAS.

I AM.

I COULD BE.

I HOPE NOT.

WHO KNOWS?

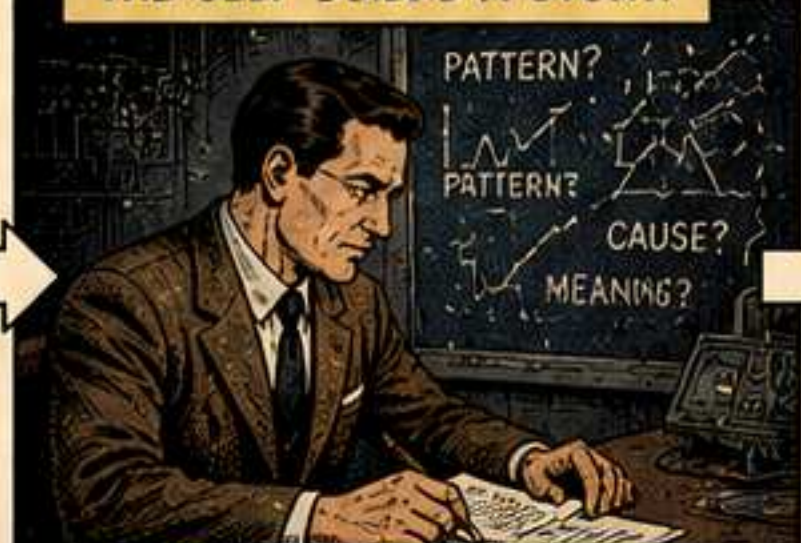
THE SELF IS THE MODEL THAT REMAINS STABLE AS THE WORLD KEEPS CHANGING.

EXPERIENCE IS NOISY.

THE SELF BUILDS A STORY.

PREDICTIONS GUIDE ACTION.

NEW EXPERIENCE RETURNS.



RAW SENSORY DATA FLOODS IN.

IT PREDICTS WHAT MATTERS.

ACTION CHANGES THE WORLD.

THE CYCLE NEVER STOPS.

THE MIRRORS SLOWLY CONVERGE.



THE MANY POSSIBILITIES CONDENSE INTO A WORKING MODEL.

I AM NOT A FIXED THING.

I AM A PROCESS OF CONTINUOUS COMPRESSION.

IDENTITY IS NOT MEMORY ALONE.
NOT MATTER ALONE.
NOT STORY ALONE.

• ✨ •

IDENTITY IS THE STABLE PATTERN THAT SURVIVES CHANGE.

WHAT REMAINS IS NOT EVERYTHING-- ONLY WHAT MATTERS FOR THE NEXT STEP.

THIS IS THE POWER. THIS IS THE RISK.

THE SELF IS A PREDICTIVE MODEL THAT STRIVES TO STAY TRUE ENOUGH TO THE WORLD TO SURVIVE, LEARN, LOVE, AND CREATE.

WHAT IF COMPUTATION WAS AS SIMPLE AS BUBBLES?

THE SPHEREPOP LABORATORY

SPHEREPOP USES ONLY TWO MOVES: MERGE AND COLLAPSE.

IT LOOKS LIKE A TOY.

SPHEREPOP PRIMITIVES

- **SPAWN** a sphere
- **MERGE** spheres
- **COLLAPSE** a region
- **OBSERVE** the result

BUT WITH THESE TWO MOVES, WE CAN BUILD ANYTHING.

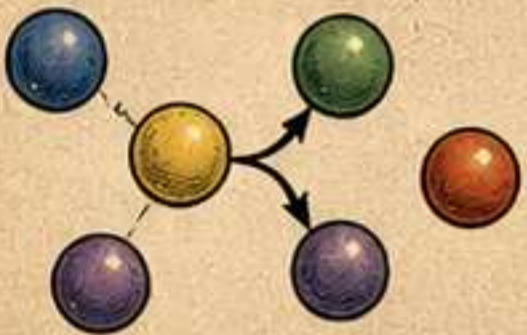
THEN IT IS NOT A TOY. IT IS A LANGUAGE.

A REGION IS A BOUNDARY THAT HOLDS SPHERES TOGETHER UNTIL IT COLLAPSES TO A SINGLE RESULT.

SPHEREPOP

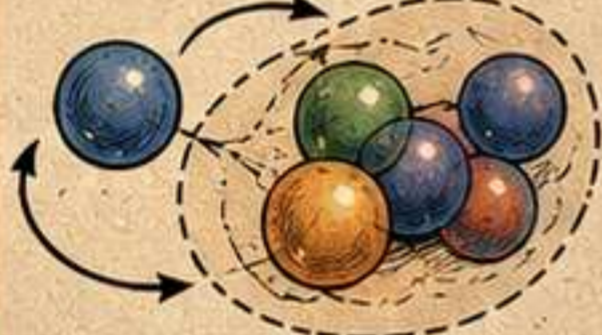
- COMPOSITION
- ABSTRACTION
- CONTROL FLOW
- MEMORY
- PARALLELISM

1. SPAWN



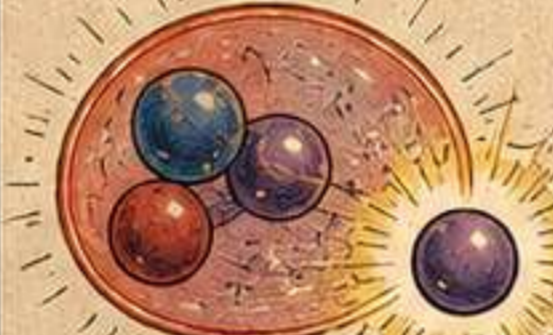
CREATE SPHERES (VALUES, SIGNALS, SYMBOLS).

2. MERGE



COMBINE THEM INTO A REGION.

3. COLLAPSE



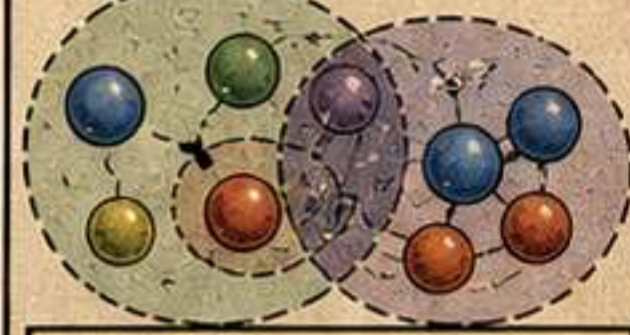
THE REGION COLLAPSES INTO ONE SPHERE.

4. OBSERVE



THE RESULT IS OBSERVED AND CAN BE USED AGAIN.

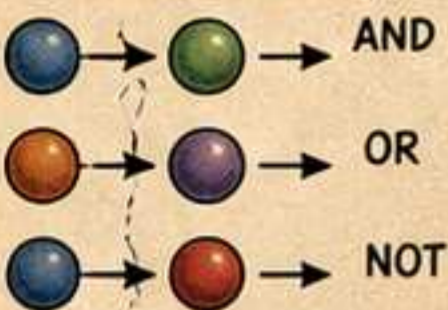
NESTED REGIONS



REGIONS CAN CONTAIN REGIONS. COMPLEXITY COMES FOR FREE.

IT CAN EXPRESS:

BOOLEAN LOGIC



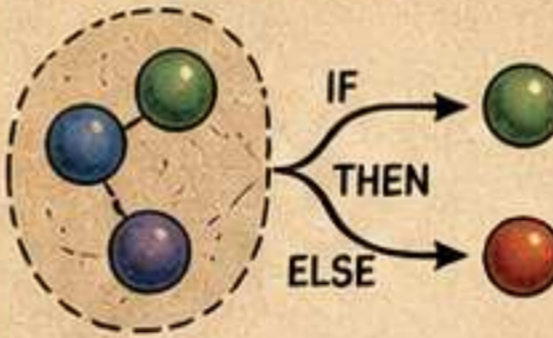
LAMBDA CALCULUS

$(\lambda x. x + 1) 5$



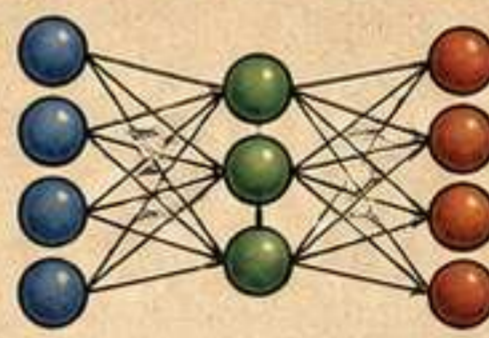
SUBSTITUTE AND COLLAPSE.

CONTROL FLOW



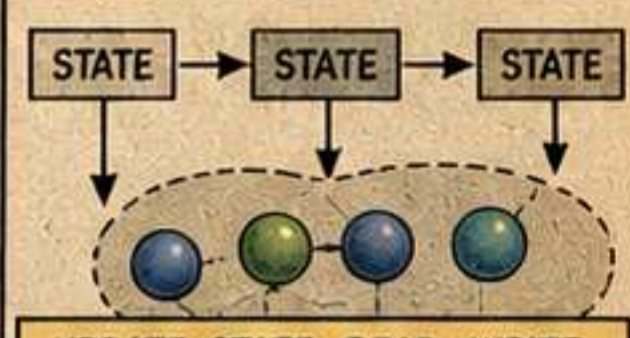
BRANCH. CHOOSE. CONTINUE.

NEURAL NETWORKS



PROPAGATE. WEIGHT. REDUCE.

TURING MACHINES



UPDATE STATE. READ. WRITE. STEP. REPEAT.

THIS LOOKS TOO SIMPLE.

AND YET...

SPHEREPOP IS COMPUTATIONALLY UNIVERSAL

It can simulate:

- Any lambda term
- Any Turing machine
- Any circuit
- Any program

WITH ONLY MERGE AND COLLAPSE.

EVERY ABSTRACTION IN EVERY SYSTEM IS JUST A REGION THAT COLLAPSES.

COMPLEXITY IS NOT THE ENEMY.

★ **UNMANAGED COMPLEXITY IS.**

★ **ABSTRACTION IS HOW WE SURVIVE IT.**

IN SPHEREPOP, COMPUTATION IS GEOMETRY. ABSTRACTION IS COLLAPSE. MEANING IS WHAT REMAINS.

BENEATH THE LAB,
THE WORLD IS MADE
OF FIELDS AND
ENERGY.

THE PHYSICS BASEMENT

SPHEREPOP DOESN'T JUST COMPUTE.
IT CHANGES THE PHYSICAL STATE OF THE WORLD.

IF COMPUTATION
IS REAL, IT MUST
LEAVE A TRACE
IN PHYSICS.

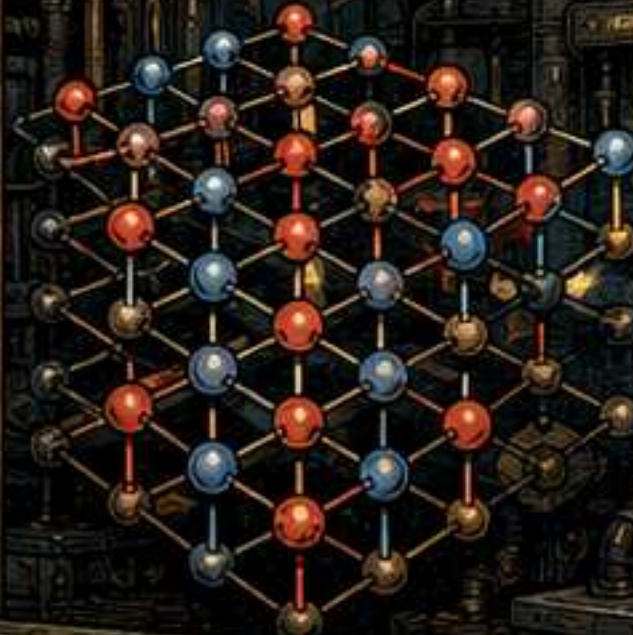
AND LOOK—
IT DOES.

THE RSVP-ISING HAMILTONIAN

$$H = \int d^3x dt \left[\alpha \phi^2 + \beta \|\vec{A}\|^2 + \gamma (\nabla \times \vec{A})^2 + \delta (\nabla \phi)^2 + \varepsilon \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} J_{ij} s_i s_j - \eta S \right]$$

ϕ = scalar field (meaning density)
 \vec{A} = vector field (information flow)
 $s_i = \pm 1$ spins (Ising degrees of freedom)
 S = entropy field (uncertainty)

ISING SPINS



RSVP FIELDS

SCALAR ϕ

VECTOR \vec{A}

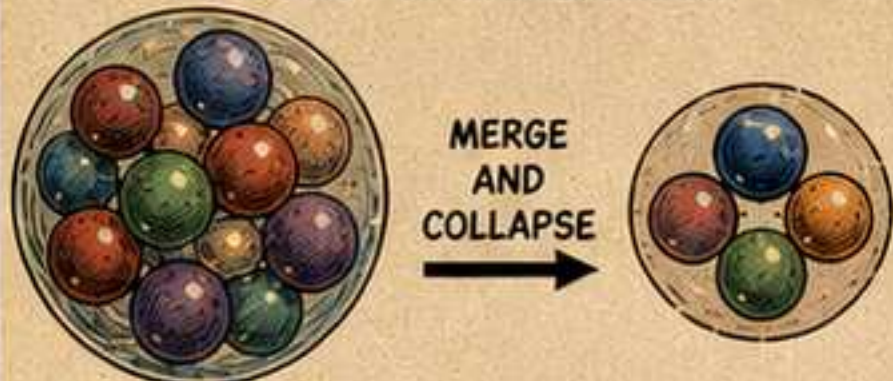
ENTROPY S



THE PHYSICAL WORLD IS A COMPUTER.
ITS LAWS ARE EVALUATION RULES.

COMPUTATION IS ENERGY DESCENT.

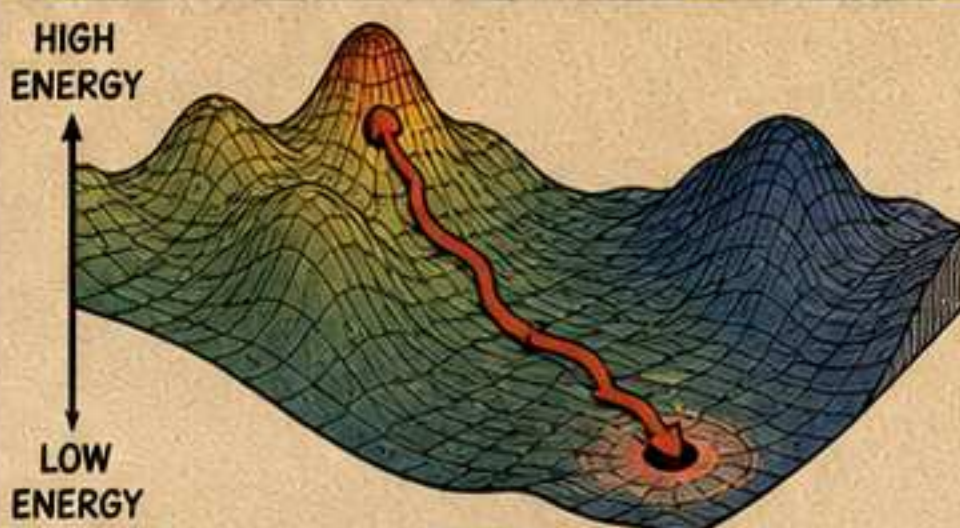
SPHEREPOP REDUCTION CORRESPONDS
TO A DROP IN HAMILTONIAN.



MERGE
AND
COLLAPSE

$\Delta H < 0 \rightarrow$ MORE STABLE STATE

EVERY REDUCTION IS A PHYSICAL RELAXATION.



SYSTEMS NATURALLY FLOW DOWNHILL.

THE SAME RULE APPEARS EVERYWHERE.

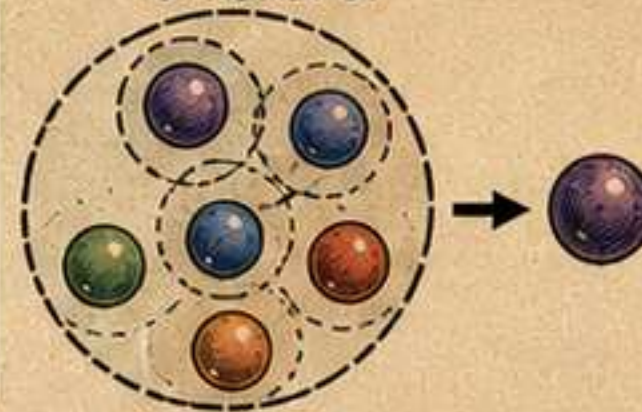
BEDMAS
PEMDAS

$$(3 + 5) \times 2 = 16$$

$$1. (3 + 5) = 8$$

$$2. 8 \times 2 = 16$$

SPHEREPOP



EVALUATE INSIDE FIRST. COLLAPSE. THEN CONTINUE.
THE INNERMOST FIRST RULE IS UNIVERSAL.

FIELDS, SPINS, AND INFORMATION
ARE DIFFERENT FACES OF THE SAME
UNDERLYING REALITY.



SCALAR FIELD
 ϕ



VECTOR FIELD
 \vec{A}



ISING SPINS
 $s_i = \pm 1$

DIFFERENT
LANGUAGES,
SAME
GRAMMAR.

REDUCTION IS THE UNIVERSE'S WAY
OF STAYING ALIVE.

- STAR FORMATION
- CHEMICAL REACTIONS
- NEURAL PROCESSING
- THOUGHT



ENERGY FLOWS.
COMPLEXITY FORMS.
REDUCTION KEEPS
IT ALL POSSIBLE.

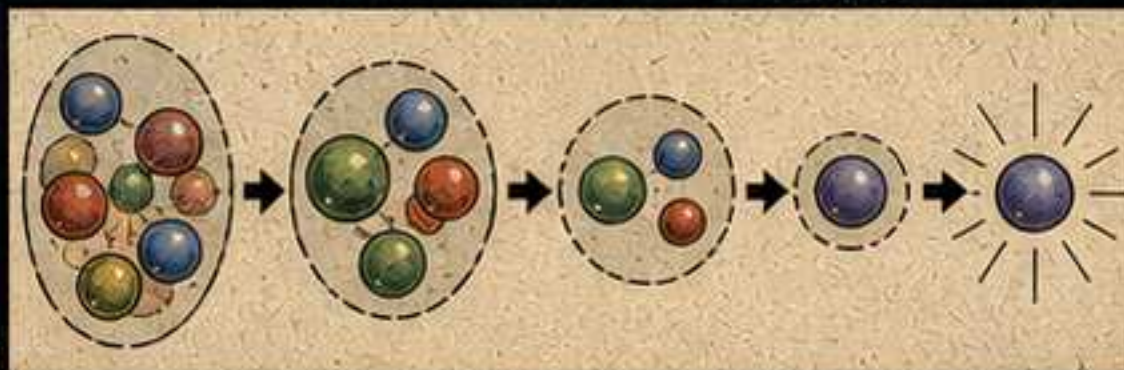
COMPUTATION
IS NOT
MAGIC.



IT IS MERELY

- ★ MERGE
- ★ COLLAPSE
- ★ OBSERVE
- ★ CONTINUE

UNTIL NOTHING MORE
CAN BE SAID.



THE UNIVERSE
COMPUTES.
WE ARE PART
OF ITS LATEST
EVALUATION.

TO UNDERSTAND PHYSICS IS TO UNDERSTAND WHY COMPUTATION WORKS.
TO UNDERSTAND COMPUTATION IS TO UNDERSTAND THE PHYSICAL WORLD.

BUT THEN—
THE SYSTEM
BREAKS.

THE CRISIS: ABSTRACTION FAILURE

SOMETHING WAS LOST. NOT BY ACCIDENT—
BY THE VERY ACT OF REDUCTION.

THE MAPS...
THE ARCHIVES...
THE CONNECTIONS...
THEY'RE GONE.

MAPS BECOME
INACCESSIBLE.

ROADS
COLLAPSE.

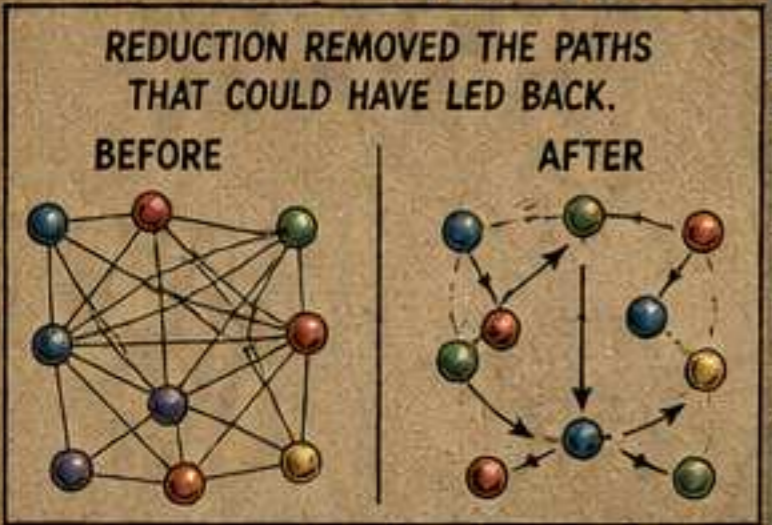
DOCUMENTS
VANISH.

KNOWLEDGE
ARCHIVES

HISTORY LOGS

CLASS
RECORDS

INFERENCE
NETWORK
DISCONNECTED



WHAT WAS REMOVED
CANNOT BE USED.
WHAT CANNOT BE USED
CANNOT BE UNDERSTOOD
AGAIN.



PROFESSOR REDUCTION
FINALLY UNDERSTANDS.

REDUCTION
ALONE IS
NOT ENOUGH.

ABSTRACTION FAILURE

- ★ INFORMATION DESTROYED
- ★ CONTEXT LOST
- ★ RECOVERY IMPOSSIBLE

- ★ MEANING COLLAPSES
- ★ SYSTEMS BECOME BRITTLE
- ★ THE FUTURE NARROWS

TO SURVIVE,
THE SYSTEM NEEDS
MORE THAN
REDUCTION.

IT NEEDS INFRASTRUCTURE
THAT PROTECTS POSSIBILITY.

NEW IDEAS ENTER THE ROOM.

CLIO

SEMANTIC INFRASTRUCTURE

BUILD MAPS THAT
PRESERVE MEANING.



MEM18

MEMORY ARCHITECTURE

STORE MANY VIEWS.
PRESERVE CONTEXT.



REPAIR

DAMAGE IS INEVITABLE

BUT DAMAGE CAN
BE REPAIRED.



SEMANTIC INFRASTRUCTURE

THE WHOLE SYSTEM WORKS TOGETHER

MEANING SHARED.
CONNECTIONS PROTECTED.
FUTURE OPEN.



ABSTRACTION IS
POWERFUL. BUT WITHOUT
MEMORY, ADMISSIBILITY,
AND REPAIR—

—ABSTRACTION
BECOMES ERASURE.

TO UNDERSTAND
THE FUTURE,
WE MUST PRESERVE
THE POSSIBILITY OF
UNDERSTANDING AGAIN.

THE NEXT STEP IS NOT
MORE REDUCTION.

IT IS VALID ABSTRACTION.

BUT OUT OF CRISIS COMES CLARITY.

THE NEXT STEP: VALID ABSTRACTION

WE DON'T NEED TO KEEP EVERYTHING. WE NEED TO KEEP WHAT KEEPS THE FUTURE ALIVE.

THE SYSTEM MUST EVOLVE. NOT BY ADDING MORE DATA—BUT BY PRESERVING WHAT MATTERS.

VALID ABSTRACTION

KEEP THE PATTERNS. PRESERVE THE MEANING. PROTECT THE POSSIBILITIES.

★
DISCARD THE NOISE. COMPRESS THE USELESS. FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS.

WE MOVE FORWARD WITH:

- ✓ LESS WEIGHT
- ✓ MORE MEANING
- ✓ CLEARER MODELS
- ✓ STRONGER FUTURES

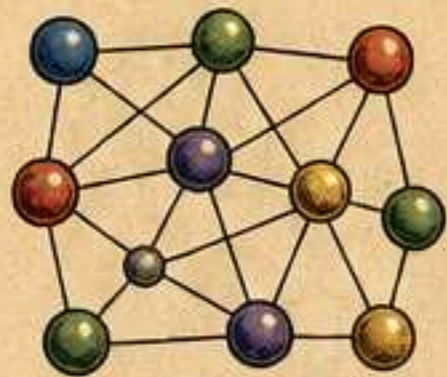
VALID ABSTRACTION IS NOT LOSS. IT IS SURVIVAL.



THE PRINCIPLES OF VALID ABSTRACTION

1. PRESERVE MEANING

Keep what carries information, not just data.



MEANING IS THE SIGNAL.

2. PROTECT POSSIBILITIES

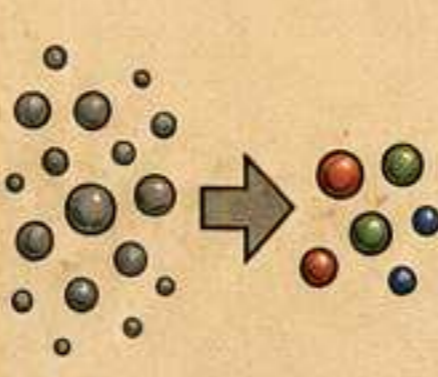
Keep what allows the future to remain open.



POSSIBILITY IS OUR FREEDOM.

3. REDUCE WITHOUT REGRET

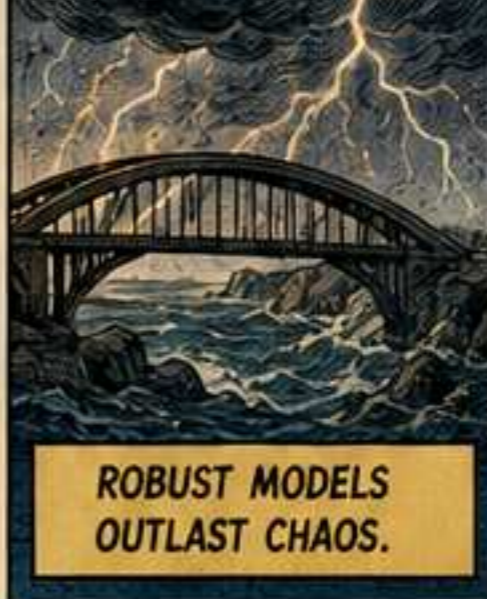
Remove what does not change the outcome.



LESS CAN BE MORE TRUE.

4. BUILD FOR RESILIENCE

Abstractions must bend but not break.



ROBUST MODELS OUTLAST CHAOS.

5. STAY VALID OVER TIME

A good abstraction remains useful as the world evolves.



VALID TODAY. STILL VALID TOMORROW.

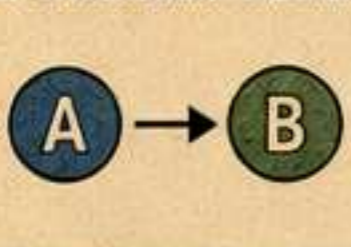
HOW WE BUILD WHAT LASTS

1. OBSERVE DEEPLY



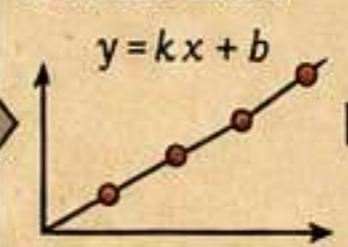
SEE PATTERNS. NOT JUST DETAILS.

2. UNDERSTAND CAUSALITY



FIND WHAT DRIVES WHAT.

3. MODEL SIMPLY



USE THE SIMPLEST MODEL THAT WORKS.

4. TEST RELENTLESSLY

- ✓ DATA SET 1
- ✓ DATA SET 2
- ✓ DATA SET 3

LET THE WORLD BE THE JUDGE.

5. ITERATE AND REFINE



EVOLVE. IMPROVE. NEVER STOP.

THE RESULT



LIGHTER SYSTEMS. CLEARER INSIGHT. A FUTURE WORTH BUILDING.

WE ARE NOT JUST BUILDING SYSTEMS.

WE ARE BUILDING A LEGACY OF UNDERSTANDING.

EVERY GOOD ABSTRACTION IS A GIFT TO THOSE WHO COME AFTER.

THE GIFT

- ★ KNOWLEDGE THAT ENDURES
 - ★ TOOLS THAT EMPOWER
 - ★ MODELS THAT GUIDE
 - ★ POSSIBILITY THAT SURVIVES
- THIS IS HOW CIVILIZATIONS ENDURE.

THE FUTURE IS NOT SOMETHING WE INHERIT.

IT IS SOMETHING WE CO-CREATE THROUGH UNDERSTANDING.

OUR COMMITMENT

WE WILL THINK DEEPLY. WE WILL ABSTRACT WISELY. WE WILL BUILD RESPONSIBLY. WE WILL LEAVE THE WORLD BETTER THAN WE FOUND IT.

WE WILL KEEP POSSIBILITY ALIVE.

ABSTRACTION IS NOT ESCAPE. IT IS FOCUS. VALID ABSTRACTION IS HOW WE BUILD A FUTURE.

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES.



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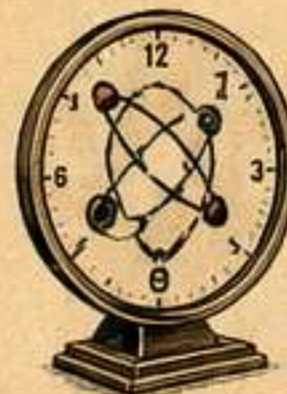
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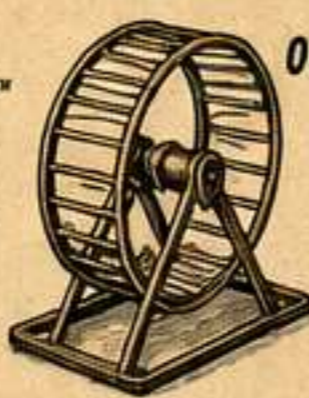
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