

AAP BEETI

Texas Sunsets

SPRING 2026 · VOLUME I

Prabhchintan Randhawa



Contents

Analytic Philosophy <i>microservices</i>	5
Learn to Cope <i>cope</i>	6
Jalapeño Ranch Club Sandwich <i>chickfila</i>	7
Americano <i>americano</i>	8
Spam Welcome <i>spam</i>	9
Meditation is Narcissism <i>meditation</i>	10
Buy My Mixtape Fam <i>mixtape</i>	11
America's Next Top Model <i>tinlering</i>	12
Do It for the 'Gram <i>vieus</i>	15
Irony is Curvature <i>irony</i>	16
Just Introspect It <i>introspection</i>	17
Post Office Parking Lot <i>usps</i>	21
Mushroom Farm Tour <i>mushrooms</i>	23
Friday on the Porch <i>porch</i>	25
The Seen and the Unseen <i>seen</i>	27
Embrace, Extend, Extinguish <i>commerce</i>	33
Ajar Sourced <i>ajar</i>	34
Phir Se Retirement <i>retirement</i>	35
Ruled by Fandomness <i>shipping</i>	37
A New Kind of Stupid <i>stupid</i>	40
Cypherpunk Duct Tape <i>physical</i>	41
Can of Infinite Worms <i>incomplete</i>	42
Used to Be on Worldstar <i>worldstar</i>	44
A Block for All Chains <i>square</i>	46
Quantum Tinker <i>quantum</i>	51
Fool's Gold <i>april</i>	54
Kant Be Leibniz <i>leibniz</i>	55

Trading: Gambling for Poors <i>gambling</i>	57
Cnawlece Báis <i>information</i>	59
Easter Sunday <i>sunday</i>	63
Onto the Next One <i>ontology</i>	64
House on Fire <i>productivity</i>	67
Meta-Meta-Meta <i>meta</i>	70
Kant Be Modeled <i>kant</i>	71
Guru Gobind Singh <i>gobind</i>	73
Central Limit Theorem <i>clt</i>	74
Law of Large Numbers <i>lln</i>	77
Burger at P. Terry's <i>choeseburger</i>	80
Vaisakhi <i>vaisakhi</i>	81
Taxes, Gobi, Žižek <i>gobi</i>	82
Impostures Intellectuelles <i>nonsense</i>	83
Najane Kyun <i>strings</i>	85
Universal Basic Incoming <i>ubi</i>	86
Sim You Later Alligator <i>simulation</i>	89
Prediction Market Treasure <i>prediction</i>	91
End of an Era <i>exit</i>	94
Lindy Memetics Du Jour <i>lindy</i>	97
Das Venture Kapital <i>usvc</i>	104
Eternal Recurrences <i>recurrence</i>	106
Lighthouse not Bucket <i>lighthouse</i>	109
Quantum Alchemy <i>chemistry</i>	112
Markov chain Monte Carlo <i>mcmc</i>	115
Accidental Reddit Mod <i>reddit</i>	119
I'm the Boss (of You) <i>boss</i>	121
Show Me the Guru <i>guru</i>	123
Pain au chocolat <i>croissant</i>	127

Information Bankruptcy <i>bankruptcy</i>	129
Beautiful Day <i>sunny</i>	132
Breakfast & Mail <i>address</i>	133
Storm's Coming Mr. Wayne <i>fund</i>	135
Birds Are Chirping <i>chirp</i>	138
Celebrity Status <i>celebrity</i>	140
So Be It <i>eclipse</i>	141
Aap Beeti <i>mom</i>	142
American Caste <i>caste</i>	144
Normal Monday <i>monday</i>	146
Private Thoughts <i>privacy</i>	147
Toor Collection <i>toor</i>	148
Turing & Ising <i>ising</i>	149
Game Theory <i>game</i>	150
DIY Google Analytics <i>analytics</i>	151
Journal Publish <i>journal</i>	152
Slop & Anti-Slop <i>slop</i>	153
Self Publish <i>publish</i>	155
Double Taps on Tap <i>tap</i>	156

Analytic Philosophy

March 07, 2026



1

1. YouTube – <https://youtube.com/watch?v=y8OnoxKotPQ>

Learn to Cope

March 08, 2026



2

2. YouTube – https://youtube.com/watch?v=uwrHp_cxAvk

Jalapeño Ranch Club Sandwich

March 09, 2026

Had the new and seasonal Jalapeño Ranch Club sandwich at Chick-fil-A today, it was great.

Americano

March 10, 2026



I keep realizing the genius of an Americano the older I get. When I moved to America as a teenager, my first job was at a Walmart in Houston. It's where I first saw the trademark American drip coffee. It neither registered nor made much sense.

Then I worked at an oil refinery a few years later, and I saw again people drinking loads of black coffee there. It's where I realized that drip coffee is the American worker's coffee.

An "Americano" is watered down black coffee. The gentleman-laborer's drink.

Spam Welcome

March 11, 2026



his blog now includes a comments section. But not just any comments section, rather a comment section that may sound silly at first. The idea is to have a cost attached to actions that in large numbers may prove to be junk or spam. This has many benefits, two of my favorites being: I don't have to moderate comments, and I get to gain from any potential spam. The simple rule is:

⌋ *One must pay ~1 USDC to write a comment.*

Pricing via Processing (or *Combating Junk Mail*) was a pivotal paper written in 1992 by Cynthia Dwork and Moni Naor that proved to be an intellectual ancestor to blockchains. In this paper, they describe *a computational technique for combatting junk mail in particular and controlling access to a shared resource in general.*

dwork.seas.harvard.edu

Pricing via processing or combatting junk mail | Cynthia Dwork

3

Brilliant. All spam welcome.

Meditation is Narcissism

March 12, 2026

⌋ *Meditation is a way to be narcissistic without hurting anyone.*



One of the many Taleb aphorisms I like and remember. There's a lot of truth to that I think. Growing up, I subscribed to the unquestioned assumption that India is a fountainhead of spirituality. A very 1960s era view in retrospect. Steve Jobs goes to India and comes back enlightened, the Beatles visit some place there and play the sitar, Savitri Devi equates Hinduism with German Idealism and claims Adolf Hitler is an avatar of Vishnu; the list goes on. These are some of the images that flash in my mind, and there is a bottomless pit among academics waiting to lecture me on how I misunderstand it all it feels like; how I'm unaware of xyz school of thought, how I haven't yet read this, that, or the other; or if I have then how much I misunderstand it. It's all just a big misunderstanding.


The solution is to surrender to the idea that I just don't *understand*; that there is something I am missing, only to be gained by meditation.

I don't know, man. Feels suspect.

Meditation is narcissism.

Buy My Mixtape Fam

March 13, 2026


ust created a little store front for my website. I have been wanting to do this for years, years I tell you. The idea is that people should be able to connect their wallet to a website, pay for the product (in this case, Randhawa EP, a two track mixtape), and be on their way. No banks involved, no 3rd parties, pure peer-to-peer commerce. Love it.

I also added a feature to email yourself the links to the files that last 24 hours.

Physical products next?

America's Next Top Model

March 14, 2026

LMs are an interesting technology. I'm a self-taught programmer, something that always gave me imposter syndrome. Maybe learning it systematically at school really does have big advantages over tinkered self-learning. But if the script were flipped, the fact that I went to school for supply chain never has me thinking someone who's tinkered repeatedly knows less than I do; and it's quite possible that it's the other way around. If someone *does* something supply chain related, especially repeatedly, they have no other choice but to learn its intricacies; possibly better than someone who only half-paid attention in school. So the *learning is in the doing*. With code, LLMs completely change what it means *to do*.

Sure to improve in a variety of ways over the years, LLMs have already in their current state made the barrier to entry miniscule. So what does this do to programming? While talking to a friend, I found myself drawing the analogy to my experience with music production. As a teenager in the 2000s, I was in awe of music production software. I couldn't play any instruments for production-grade music, though I took sitar and piano classes as a kid. But I could click about on a computer and produce fun-sounding music. Previously niche, electronic music exploded and became a category of its own. Decades later, most music is produced and recorded electronically even if it *sounds* analog; human imperfection included.

What I noticed as I tinkered my way into a few mildly popular songs was that there was a section of the audience who didn't care about these under-the-hood details. To the casual listener, if it sounded fun, it was good music. As my homegrown bedroom experiments gained popularity, I noticed the experts sometimes claim what I and others like me were doing wasn't real music. Professional producers, classical musicians and people who played instruments would hint at the lack of any real skill in making music on a computer. Traditional DJs would say modern DJs are not actually, truly mixing music. "*DJs just press play and pause*" was a big meme, maybe it still is. It was similar to today's vibe-coding LLM discourse on what it means to actually program versus live-action-role-playing using an LLM. I never had too strong of an opinion on the methodologies of music production and thought what mattered was the

output. I don't consider myself an expert musician, nor the perfect programmer. In both areas, I am simply tinkering and having fun. And fun along the way is (very) important.

My teenage music production experiences taught me something long-term useful: that criticisms are simply future problems waiting to be solved. The fact that CDs and MP3s were lossy and vinyls lossless; that a computer didn't contain human imperfections or tasteful aesthetics; that new technology is responsible for an artisanal downturn...are all parallel comments to what I hear about LLMs nowadays. Eventually, music could be streamed losslessly, the music mixing and production software got ridiculously better, even at mimicking human imperfections, and at some point in time, the newschoolers became the old schoolers criticizing the next new disruption using the same sounding arguments. History rhyming?

⌋ *Criticisms aren't reasons to quit tinkering; they're pointers at problems to solve.*

Fast forward, I tinkered about this morning and added an audio/video upload feature to this blog. It's very cool to me that I can type new features into existence. That's something I could've only dreamed of doing without LLMs. I'm uploading my first ever audio note below as an example, let's see if it works. Play/pause all over again?



Audio – view at prabhchintan.com/tinkering

► *Transcript*

Title inspired by this KRAZAM video. Love their work.



4

4. YouTube – <https://youtube.com/watch?v=mVrCPo8eB3A>

Do It for the 'Gram

March 15, 2026



Added a view counter and likes with hearts to this website. I am capturing it here because fun as it was creating and implementing this feature, it occurred to me that the economics of likes and view counts are quite fascinating. I've had one of those X accounts where I tweet into the void with hardly any likes, an experience people should indulge in more often. Because a low engagement account like that has its upsides; you make real connections with real people instead of not knowing who you're writing out to or what the true count and nature of your audience is.

Let's see how this experiment goes. It would be interesting to see the numbers.

Today is day 0. Well, plus the likes and views I created while standing the thing up.

Irony is Curvature

March 16, 2026

What did the pirate say when hit with irony? Arch, that hurt.

I have long believed that the concept of irony is a fuzzy equivalent to the concept of curvature. Only difference being that one is defined informally for every day linguistic use and the other has a more technical inclination. But they are describing the same object in meme-space. What is irony, afterall? That one's stated meaning is in fact 'full-circle' opposite in reality. Meanwhile, the curvature κ of a smooth curve measures how sharply it bends at each point. Same-same, but different, but still same. Tin foil, or something to it?

Just Introspect It

March 17, 2026



ere great men of history introspective? Join me in a dual purpose post where I test how tweets show up on this website and wonder if there's something to this morning's viral discussion on X. Marc Andreessen, now-famous venture capitalist who co-built once-famous Mosaic and Netscape internet browsers, said on a podcast that introspection is hippie-dippie postmodernist BS. I'm paraphrasing here, but he claimed he's not much of an introspector and nor were the great men of history. It brings inaction was his point I'm assuming. Too long, didn't listen type beat. Anyway, let's see if the tweet embed works.



David Senra
@davidsenra



Great men of history had little to no introspection.

The personality that builds empires is not the same personality that sits around quietly questioning itself. @pmarca and I discuss what we both noticed but no one talks about:

David: You don't have any levels of...




March 15, 2026

5

5. Tweet by @davidsenra – <https://twitter.com/davidsenra/status/2033297822691516853>

Did it work? I made a post on a similar topic just the other day, [Meditation is Narcissism](#)⁶, in which I reference a Taleb quote saying meditation is narcissism without hurting others. Drawing on both instances, I'll mention a meta-point that folks mad over at X are missing. One version of what I'm about to describe is Stephen Wolfram's "Observer Theory", in which one must account for the observer's model of the world as part of their observations. In today's case, the observers are Marc and Taleb. Their statements cannot be fully made sense of without also incorporating the *world-model* they are running as observers.

writings.stephenwolfram.com



Observer Theory

Stephen Wolfram discusses building a general observer theory using discoveries from the Physics Project and NKS, including the ruliad. Read how the nature of observers is critical to determining the most fundamental laws we attribute to the universe.

7

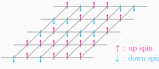
Everyone runs a model of the world. Whether they realize it or not, they run a model of the world inside their head. If they are yet to inspect it, chances are it's the same world-model everyone else around them is running. I find it funny when people sometimes blame me for discussing too many theories and ideas, because the underlying assumption is that I'm the *only* one running a world-model, while the other person is living in actual reality. But what's really happening is I'm simply interested in outwardly discussing my world-model and seeking criticisms of it to possibly improve it. What's also true is that someone uninterested in discussing their world-model and seeking criticisms is either unaware of their model, or uninterested in improving it. Uninterested in betterment and progression? Can't be me.

6. Meditation is Narcissism – this volume

7. writings.stephenwolfram.com Observer Theory Stephen Wolfram discusses building a general... – <https://writings.stephenwolfram.com/2023/12/observer-theory>

What's happening with Marc and Taleb is that people angry at them aren't considering their world-models as part of their stated ideas. Two assumptions of their world-models hidden in plain sight are *discreteness* and *non-linearity*. Which is to say that they both believe introspection and meditation are a) not continuous, and b) not linear. Once one takes these assumptions into account and re-runs their statements as programs incorporating them, what's being said becomes clear. My read is that they don't mean the *absence* of introspection and meditation is good, but that these activities are best kept *curbed and moderated*. More generally, all (most?) modern physics-based-world-models now include discreteness and non-linearity as assumptions. So, if one's world-model includes discreteness and non-linearity as assumptions, where objects and ideas are innately *curved and curbed*, Marc's comments don't cause a mental blue-screen-of-death.

A general methodology takeaway here is that one can go around doing this to any and every older world-model. The hack is to inspect its essential assumptions, then find out what happens when one re-runs the program with a new set of assumptions. The "Lenz-Ising model" is an example of such a new-kind-of-world-model that changes the way one incorporates and reacts to ideas based on new assumptions. Anyway, let's see how Wikipedia links look.



↑ - up spin
↓ - down spin

Wikipedia

Ising model

The Ising model, named after the physicists Ernst Ising and Wilhelm Lenz, is a mathematical model of ferromagnetism in statistical mechanics. The model consists of discrete variables that represent magnetic dipole moments of atomic "spins" that can be in one of two states. The spins are arranged in ...

8

8. Wikipedia Ising model The Ising model, named after the physicists Ernst Ising and Wilhelm Lenz, is a mathematical model of ferromagnetism in statistical mechanics. The model consists of discrete variables that represent magnetic dipole moments of atomic "spins" that can be in one of two states. The spins are arranged in ... - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ising_model

Post Office Parking Lot

March 18, 2026

Today's thought comes live and direct from my local post office parking lot. Yesterday I received a slip in the mail that said there are 3 packages waiting for me at the post office. Confusing. I hadn't ordered anything. I wasn't expecting anything. What could it be? I drove here first thing in the morning.

The clerk took a 10 minute stroll and came back asking if I knew what the 3 packages were. She couldn't find anything. What? What was that all about? One suspicion I had was that one of the numbers on the slip, a 6, kinda looked like a 5, so maybe one of my neighbors were meant to receive this 3 package slip? Nope. The neighbor's bins were also empty.

Interesting. Gonna try and click a live picture from this posting app I built to be able to post pictures on the go. Let's see how it works. It's 9:35 AM, a nice spring day here in Austin.



Mushroom Farm Tour

March 19, 2026



Yesterday I visited a farm called [Fallen Oak Mycology](#)⁹. I don't know the first thing about mushrooms; just came across their website browsing local farms in the Austin area. They piqued my interest so I reached out. Josh Googins their founder and CEO was kind enough to give me a tour. I want to capture my first impressions here because I will probably re-visit the place and learn more about it all; so I want to log that starting from zero. My vague thought is that I want to create a physical product with Fallen Oak I can sell.

The whole operation was very impressive and way bigger than I imagined. There were dozens of climate-controlled rooms, modern industrial machines akin to those at oil refineries, and sanitation was top-of-mind throughout. Josh started the company in 2014 and hearing more about his founder journey was great. Some things that stood out to me were that he said the first few years constantly felt like fight-or-flight, that he had been originally farming mushrooms since he was 17 in his apartment, and that he wants to support others bootstrap their farms or brands and what not.

I should have probably clicked some pictures, maybe next time. Check them out:

⁹. Fallen Oak Mycology – <https://www.fallenoakmycology.com>



fallenoakmycology.com

**Organic US grown mushrooms, extracts,
substrate and grow supplies**

Fallen Oak Mycology cultivates premium gourmet mushrooms and potent extracts, including Lion's Mane, Reishi, and Cordyceps. We supply fresh mushrooms, substrate blocks, and 10:1 extracts for chefs, wellness brands, and mushroom lovers. Grown sustainably in the U.S. and shipped na...

10

Friday on the Porch

March 20, 2026

Random thoughts from the porch on Friday. I wonder if I should do these posts as diary entries or make them more formal than that. I've been writing in my notebook for years and this is just an externalization of how I write there. I guess a structure can emerge over time. I'm still testing how things show up on the other end so I'm gonna post a song and see if it shows up as a nice looking link; been really enjoying this deadmau5 song this week:



11

Also saw the Hindi movie Dhurandhar The Revenge today and thought it was okay. It's a sequel espionage film that contained extreme violence and macho imagery. The first one was better I thought and the songs were nicer.

11. YouTube – <https://youtube.com/watch?v=QhaPj-wDDdY>

Got a free month of Apple TV for buying a movie ticket so gonna see if I like the show Slow Horses which I've had an eye on:

tv.apple.com



Watch Slow Horses - Show - Apple TV

Watch Slow Horses, an Apple Original thriller following a team of dysfunctional MI5 agents. Starring Gary Oldman, Jack Lowden and Kristin Scott Thomas...

12

12. tv.apple.com Watch Slow Horses - Show - Apple TV Watch Slow Horses, an Apple Original th... - <https://tv.apple.com/us/show/slow-horses/umc.cmc.2szz3fdt71d1ulnbp8utgq5o>

The Seen and the Unseen

March 21, 2026

Up next on introspection: Marc Andreessen ([again](#)¹³) described IBM as traditional large-scale business exemplar. He mentions how each layer of communication in big companies is polished to make teams look good, but a slight truth-spin ten or twelve times ends up detached from reality by the time it reaches the CEO. In reverse, he compares large company CEOs to kings surrounded by truth-blocking courtiers and department check ins to state visits. It reminded me of [this](#)¹⁴ Silicon Valley scene.

¹³. [again](#) – this volume

¹⁴. [this](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddTbNKWw7Zs&camp;it=2s) – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddTbNKWw7Zs&camp;it=2s>



David Senra
@davidsenra



IBM built a cloud of suits to make sure the CEO never talked to anyone actually doing the work. @elonmusk does the opposite.

"Elon's method is extreme focus on substance. Extreme focus on getting to the truth.

In any organization with multiple layers, there's compounding lies...



March 20, 2026

15

15. Tweet by @davidsenra – <https://twitter.com/davidsenra/status/2034788598227308810>

In a discussion over email, philosopher [Mahmoud Rasmi](#)¹⁶ told me about Friedrich Schelling who argued *we are opaque to ourselves*; that there's a conscious part of us we actively engage and an unconscious part that remains unobservable. I also learnt David Hume had some Bundle theory thing going; didn't care much for that one to be honest. I'll link Mahmoud's explanation below. What I got from it was that this game of IBM-style Chinese whispers isn't just happening inside large companies, it's also happening within *us* internally.

What is one to make of this fractal echo, CEO?

decaquest.com



The Problem With Introspection

Is introspection useless? A Schelling-inspired look at why self-knowledge comes from creating and acting, not endlessly looking inward.

17

Creation becomes the object of reflection.

Physicist David Deutsch argues science *explains the seen in terms of the unseen*. I've gained great appreciation for this phrase over time. Schelling might be referring to a similar idea about internal experiences; that we have seen and unseen parts of consciousness, and while we're able to directly engage the seen, an unseen exists that works in tandem. An example: while debated, Pythagoras is commonly cited as the first person to propose the idea of a spherical Earth. His explanation was philosophical and aesthetic: that a sphere is a perfect, harmonious, symmetrical shape. He explained something he could see, a sphere, in terms of something he couldn't, Earth as a whole. Aristotle in his book *On the Heavens* extended this

¹⁶ Mahmoud Rasmi – <https://decaquest.com>

¹⁷ decaquest.com The Problem With Introspection Is introspection useless? A Schelling-insp... – <https://decaquest.com/the-problem-with-introspection>

idea: Earth's shadow on the Moon in Lunar eclipses was circular, ships disappeared over horizons...and so on; further explanations of the seen in terms of the unseen.

Back to Marc who praises Elon Musk as CEO for having high preference for ground truth in comparison to IBM. This is a scaled-up equivalent of his introspection claim: that information several layers later ends up distorted whether in large companies or one's internal experiences. And similar cascades of distortion exist in markets, too. Seeming different at first, the common pattern in these cascades of distortion is the process of *induction*. Induction is what philosopher Karl Popper called this error-prone dynamic Marc describes. Popper's solution to the problem of induction is knowledge creation via processes of *conjectures and criticisms*. I much prefer Popper's conjectures and criticisms framing over the more common phrase *first principles thinking*, as the inclusion of criticisms provides an error-correcting mechanism for fallible first principles one may have.

JUST A NORMAL DAY AT THE NATION'S MOST IMPORTANT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION...



Easter egg: Claude Shannon proved that arbitrarily reliable communication is achievable over noisy channels. But what's the difference between information and knowledge?

Wikipedia

Information theory

Information theory is the mathematical study of the quantification, storage, and communication of a particular type of mathematically defined information. The field was established and formalized by Claude Shannon in the 1940s, though early contributions were made in the 1920s through the works of H...

18

18. Wikipedia Information theory Information theory is the mathematical study of the quantif... – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_theory

Embrace, Extend, Extinguish

March 22, 2026



Curious vibes in the world of agentic commerce lately. AI agents doing commerce seemed something far in the future but protocol fights happening now between Coinbase, Stripe etc. makes it seem closer. It is interesting that Stripe made their own chain and agent-commerce protocol instead of using Ethereum or Solana. Makes me think how in the 2010s big players wanted to make their own cloud infrastructure vs. using AWS or Google Cloud and what not. I should experiment with Tempo and see what it's like.

Separately within Ethereum there is unrest and criticism of Vitalik for not being too supportive of winning DeFi market share; the blame being that he's more interested in cypherpunk ideology branding than finance. I trust Vitalik's wisdom but time will tell how this ends up. Writing this as a bookmark to come back to it in the future.

Title inspired by the comment section of this article that I found interesting



Antonio García Martínez (agm.eth)

@antoniogm



And you're categorically misunderstanding the actual strategy behind the embracing of open standards.

March 22, 2026

19

19. Tweet by @antoniogm – <https://twitter.com/antoniogm/status/2035748273814638811>

Ajar Sourced

March 23, 2026



Do you like bugs? I close-sourced the repository for this website last weekend and ran into a bug I couldn't immediately trace back to the decision. GitHub gave me lots of warnings about making the repo private: it could break things, da da da. I couldn't think of anything that'd break; also this is just a tiny personal website, so what if it did.

I have a way to post on the go and a way to edit on the go, but I realized yesterday I couldn't edit my posts any longer. The sky didn't fall, I had multiple ways to edit, but it didn't immediately occur to me that my decision to privatize the repository caused it. Only once I got an AI to debug did it reveal that the edit app was trying to access the repo but not longer could. Everything added up.


I referenced protocol fights about agentic commerce [yesterday](#)²⁰ which on surface are about this open and closed topic. Do open systems always win, or is that just an engineer's fantasy? Conversely, are closed systems truly closed?

I'll have to think more on this, but currently I most like being ajar sourced. Not fully open, not fully closed. But a secret third thing: leaving repository doors ajar.

²⁰. yesterday – this volume

Phir Se Retirement

March 24, 2026

 anted to share a song I really liked from Hindi film Dhurandhar The Revenge I saw [last week](#)²¹, Phir Se; meaning *yet again*. The lyrics go something like *my eyes are watered yet again; thought sadness was behind me*. Amazing sounding. Give it a listen.



22

When I voluntarily quit oil & gas, I went through lots of formalities both on-paper and ceremonially in-person, that described me leaving as *retirement*. I didn't think much of the word until I used it with friends and family, after which I realized it's a heavy word to be using. Coincidentally a few coworkers also retired on the same day as me in the usual conventional sense. I could tell some perceived mine as failure, others as astronomical success,

²¹ last week – this volume

²² YouTube – <https://youtube.com/watch?v=Go4GQRwEc8>

but most overestimated it in either direction I felt. I also realized the default expectation is that retirement is a once-in-a-lifetime thing; that one is to work their entire life and *then* retire; so the fact that I was retiring young was signal that things had gone either extremely badly or extremely well. This sort of judgement call, I observed, gave people actually retiring at 65 or whatever the age is unease. I learnt people resist being perceived as not being useful.

Years later now that I've thought about it more, I think retirement like the song lyrics, is something that happens over and over even though the unexamined expectation is that once it's done with, it's ultimate and final. An expression I heard that made me chuckle while traveling recently was someone saying they were *retiring for the night* instead of the conventional *good night*.

Phir se retirement.

Ruled by Fandomness

March 25, 2026

⌋ *Thanksgiving is random for the turkey, not the butcher.*



Another day, another Taleb quote, another post office blog. After the 3 package fluke [last week](#)²³, I received another slip in the mail saying there's something for me at the post office. This boy *just* cried wolf. Could it be the mailman playing games? Could it be a random mistake? All sorts of guesses on my part. No shabby numbers on the slip this time, it was my address listed clear as day. Drove to the post office first thing next morning. Again.

This time a cubical box awaited! Aha. No fluke. Not random. Well, more on randomness in a second. The incoming cube traces back to my [farm visit](#)²⁴ earlier this month. Josh Googins from [Fallen Oak Mycology](#)²⁵ sent me Lion's Mane extract. Nice. During my visit, I'd asked for a sample unit and Josh generously give me one for free. I told him I'd go home and pay for it online so they shouldn't send me another...but they did anyway.

I wasn't expecting the cube so it felt random to me, but from the shipper's point of view this whole incident was very predictable. And now that I have more knowledge of it, it in retrospect is *also* predictable for me. But only in retrospect; not looking forward.

Some notes on the product: I've been taking Lion's Mane for a week or so now and this stuff is no joke. The first time I took it, it gave me a headache. I took too much. But I couldn't immediately reason my headache back to Lion's Mane. Only the next day did it hit me. Another not-so-random-after-gaining-knowledge pocket. I realized via this tinker what the product is and what it does. It's my first time ever trying Lion's Mane and this particular extract feels highly potent. I'm interested in further experimenting and selling it, maybe as-is or as a variant. Might put this extra bottle in my store.

23. last week – this volume

24. farm visit – this volume

25. Fallen Oak Mycology – <https://www.fallenoakmycology.com>

If you're reading this and want the extra bottle I just received, [email me](#)²⁶ and I'll ship you it for free. Anyway, here's another customary post office parking lot picture where I'm typing this from. Overcast March day here in Austin today.

²⁶ email me – prabhchintan.com/index



A New Kind of Stupid

March 26, 2026

⌋ *There's no limit on the size of errors we could make.*

Cypherpunk Duct Tape

March 27, 2026



ast few days I've expressed desire to ship physical products from this website. I just made it happen. Though that's not the best part, the best part is I was able to bypass Stripe, Coinbase, Gumroad etc. while at it; not needed at my scale. It's not like there are zero dependencies; I depend on my computer, which depends on already-built software and libraries; and I'm using two free APIs, *Resend* for emails and *Shippo* for logistics, plus Ethereum for transactions. It cost about 2 hours of time and \$25 in Claude tokens.

This is the type of aspirational cypherpunk duct tape technology that impresses nobody. To someone on the street, I imagine, this is pointless complexity for not that much return. Or any return. Why not just use Stripe? Well, I wanted to. But they ask too many questions. So many questions. Over, and over. I don't care for it. As a parallel tinker, I also wanted to give Stripe's new blockchain *Tempo* a test run. Nope'd out of that one quick.

The product for now is a simple happenstance re-sell from my [recent curiosities](#)²⁷ and post office visits, acts [I](#)²⁸ and [II](#)²⁹. It's very cool to me that I now have self-owned infrastructure to sell both digital and physical products on here without any serious dependencies. Good way to spend Friday morning. Wonder what it will evolve to in the future.

27. [recent curiosities](#) – this volume

28. [I](#) – this volume

29. [II](#) – this volume

Can of Infinite Worms

March 28, 2026

Bugs have been on my mind lately. Not too long ago I [posted](#)³⁰ about a bug while privatizing the GitHub repository for this website. I since learnt *git* is British slang for a *stupid, annoying, unpleasant person*; that Linus Torvalds, creator of the Linux kernel and distributed version control system *Git*, named it in self deprecating humor. What a legend. Git-style version control has far reaching value well past software, I think. While hearing people argue history for example, I often draw the conclusion that what's described in plain English as *apples and oranges*, is solvable via Git-style version control. I guess that's what epistemology is in a sense, and Git is simply computational epistemology. I'm a big fan.

A software phrase that's become commonplace in the last decade is whether something is a *feature not bug*, used when someone finds a perceived error which looked-at-another-way is beneficial. This feature-bug dichotomy sits on top of the idea that software shall forever remain *incomplete*. It is never *done*. It will always be open to both bugs and features upon further inspection. One could flex their philosophical underpinnings here and draw in the even-more-underlying *free will or determinism* debate, or an intermediate *John von Neumann or neural net architecture* discourse, among others, but the practical thing to be mindful of is *incompleteness*. And incompleteness is uncomfortable.

While making music or any sort of art, one also has to decide when a piece is *done*. This of course is another variant of the situation I describe above. Depending on who's looking at it, they could infinitely find more bugs or features to add or subtract in it. But the artist must taken upon themselves this burden and make that final call.

Yesterday I added the ability to ship physical products on this website. That was exciting. But there was an upward spiral of both bugs and features I spotted throughout the rest of the day. Shipping costs were not being charged for, wallets don't open the correct way in every browser, pictures could be better aligned. There were also obvious features to add. My main

³⁰. [posted](#) – this volume


complaint with Stripe was their onboarding process which I found extremely annoying. Enter Square, which I gave a shot later yesterday. Onboarding was a true delight in comparison. Jack Dorsey knows ball, I can tell. Need to add credit cards back I thought.

This whole thing is a can of infinite worms. The more I peek into it, the more bugs and features I come up with. It's fun for me, though. Incompleteness is fun.

We're done when I say we're done.

Used to Be on Worldstar

March 29, 2026

ew Kanye just dropped. I like his music. He's an entertainer who knows he's an entertainer. Which means I don't take his opinions seriously and consider them entertainment. I also heard the song *Turiya And Ramakrishna* by Alice Coltrane yesterday and thought it was beautiful. I will link both songs below.



31

31. YouTube – <https://youtube.com/watch?v=HBMy-y2wb4I>



32

The other thing I'm thinking about today is dashboards. What makes a good dashboard? What would I want to see on a dashboard for my life? I think I'd want to make it as art, like these songs above. But what is to be tracked? I have some ideas but want to think about them some more before putting them to practice. Soon.

32. YouTube – <https://youtube.com/watch?v=sinFLQh9U3c>

A Block for All Chains

March 30, 2026

Now accepting credit cards via Square.

Let's talk crypto. I believe I made my first transaction on the blockchain in 2017. It's hard to recall the precise moment, but I believe it to be in 2017. I recall it to be in the kitchen of my Houston apartment one evening after work. In my vague-about-it memory, what I am semi-certain about is that my crypto tinkers started as an ode to Ed Thorp while reading his book *A Man for All Markets* which had come out earlier that year. I was amazed that such a person existed, and that his book was easy enough to understand for an outsider and beginner like me. The book is very appropriately titled because Ed isn't just about *one* kind of market, or more broadly, one kind of dynamic. What he describes in the book is relentless pursuit of understanding how information, money, computation, and numbers work in the real world. It's further mind blowing that Ed worked with the great Claude Shannon to create the first wearable computer. True titan of industry, Ed.

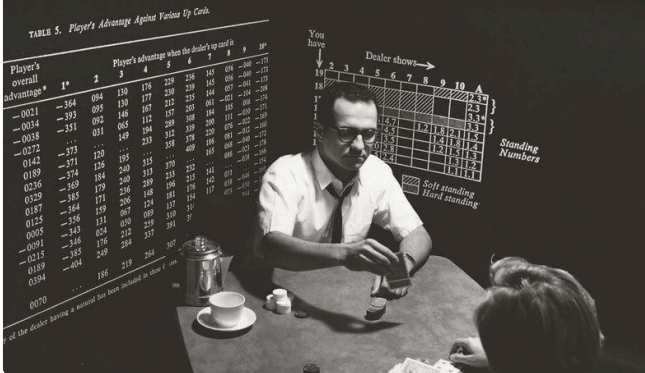
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

EDWARD O. THORP

A MAN FOR ALL MARKETS

From LAS VEGAS to WALL STREET,
HOW I BEAT THE DEALER
and THE MARKET

FOREWORD BY NASSIM NICHOLAS TALEB



Ed's life story and explanations had me hooked. His book inspired me to buy a cheap 2014 Mac mini and start learning about blockchains more seriously. A bit more vagueness here because I don't fully remember if I already had the Mac mini or I bought it for these experiments. But either way, soon after reading *A Man for All Markets*, I started tinkering and picked up more books closer to crypto which was starting to heat up by late 2017: *The Internet of Money*, *Mastering Bitcoin*, and *Mastering Ethereum* by Andreas Antonopoulos were my favorites. In parallel I ran Bitcoin nodes, created coins on Ethereum, and generally experimented onchain. Last vague memory of this piece but I sometimes wonder if I had ETH on the Mac mini I mention that I lost forever; or maybe it was never there? It was unclear back then if these assets had any serious value. In any case, because of this trial-and-error-based, path-of-least-resistance approach I found myself taking, I've long told people that my path to markets was crypto-first, fiat-second. The meaning and significance of that order flies under the radar and remains undetected to most, I think. What I mean when I say I learnt markets crypto-first is that I learnt information and money to be innately computational and programmable. In my own silly way, I was simply applying the kind of experiments Ed Thorp wrote about in his books. I only *later* learnt that traditional markets and people involved in them had drastically different approaches and schools of thought about economics.

Crypto is a dirty word in the 2020s just like oil was a dirty word in the 2010s. To be pro-crypto is to be some kind of an ignorant person that denies climate change or something like that. This used to mystify me in the 2010s but no longer does. I now know that innovation has *always* and perpetually been treated with ridicule. So now I expect that. Be free, be cringe type beat. This isn't to say that criticisms are to always be ignored, but that innovation in its time is hard to make sense of versus in retrospect.

I'm reflecting on all this because I recently added [products](#)³³ to this website, and up until now payment rails for them have been crypto-only. While designing the store, I started thinking about wallets, credit cards and dashboards. Like back in 2017, today too, my experiments just happened to be crypto-first because it was just so much easier to set up and program without

33. [products](#) – [prabhchintan.com/store](#)

asking anyone's permission. I wrote on here the [day before yesterday](#)³⁴ that Stripe annoyed me with their onboarding process precisely because it all felt so permission-seeking-and-giving. Square in comparison has been phenomenal. So starting today, I am accepting credit cards on this website. Coincidentally, Square is allowing Bitcoin payments received in either BTC or USD starting today, too. *And* they allow converting credit card sales to BTC, which I chose to do at the highest possible number allowed: 50%. Very cool.

I also mentioned developing a dashboard [yesterday](#)³⁵. I've created a sparkline under my profile picture on the [home](#)³⁶ page. It tracks aggregated view counts and contributions on GitHub. It starts off as a single, tidy blinking dot; and each day here on out it will add metrics for the previous day; showing a rolling 14 days worth of trends for me and my visitors to view.

And that's it. I'm now accepting credit cards via Square.

³⁴. [day before yesterday](#) – this volume

³⁵. [yesterday](#) – this volume

³⁶. [home](#) – [prabhchintan.com/index](#)



Miles 🌞
@milestuter



We're making it easier for millions of businesses to accept bitcoin.

Starting today, eligible U.S. @Square sellers will begin having Bitcoin payments automatically enabled.

Sellers who accept bitcoin will receive USD as default.

This is how bitcoin as everyday money begins.

March 30, 2026

37

37. Tweet by @milestuter – <https://twitter.com/milestuter/status/2038620026115145857>

Quantum Tinker

March 31, 2026

More crypto talk today. While describing my blockchain origin-story [yesterday](#)³⁸, among other times, I keep using the word *tinker*. Tinker this, tinker that. Sounds je ne sais quoi. What does it really mean to tinker? So I thought I will live blog today's tinker. It's about skimming quantum computing stuff. Key word: *skim*, more on which in a second. Two new papers came out describing methodologies and timelines on quantum computers breaking status quo cryptography. Sounds all *Imitation-Game-esque*; great film by the way. But the main tinker question we are answering today: what am I to make of this news in particular, and quantum computing's security threat to crypto in general?



Justin Drake

@drakefjustin



Today is a monumental day for quantum computing and cryptography. Two breakthrough papers just landed (links in next tweet). Both papers improve Shor's algorithm, infamous for cracking RSA and elliptic curve cryptography. The two results compound, optimising separate layers of...

March 31, 2026

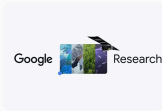
39

Ethereum researcher Justin Drake, a late-stage author to one of the papers by Google, shares his thoughts above. And I will paste relevant websites and papers below.

³⁸. [yesterday](#) – this volume

³⁹. Tweet by @drakefjustin – <https://twitter.com/drakefjustin/status/2038847732152996108>

research.google



Safeguarding cryptocurrency by disclosing quantum vulnerabilities responsibly

40

arxiv.org



Shor's algorithm is possible with as few as 10,000 reconfigurable atomic qubits

Quantum computers have the potential to perform computational tasks beyond the reach of classical machines. A prominent example is Shor's algorithm for integer factorization and discrete logarithms, which is of both fundamental importance and practical relevance to cryptography. ...

41

Don't let me hide from it: I don't have much idea what these papers mean! That's entirely what triggered this tinker in the first place. If I already knew what's up, there would *be* no tinker. So the game is to go from not knowing *anything*, to knowing *something* useful about the situation in particular, and takeaways for later use in general.

I mentioned the key as skimming because the desire to become an overnight expert on quantum physics and computation is seductive. It's a bit embarrassing to admit and say one

40. research.google Safeguarding cryptocurrency by disclosing quantum vulnerabilities respon... – <https://research.google/blog/safeguarding-cryptocurrency-by-disclosing-quantum-vulnerabilities-responsibly/>

41. arxiv.org Shor's algorithm is possible with as few as 10,000 reconfigurable atomic qubit... – <https://arxiv.org/abs/2603.28627>

doesn't fully understand or know what's going on. The more usual and commonplace persona is that of an expert explaining what's going on to others, not be the person scratching their head not knowing what to think. But that's exactly where the skimming tinker comes in. I lean into the uncomfortable, admit that I don't fully grasp it, and try to go $n+1$ from the current place in my ignorance.

So far my learning is that big fancy quantum computers can eventually break cryptography, and papers like these conjecture the timelines moving leftward; either because of more efficient computation or more efficient methodology. So the day it all becomes possible, *q-day* as Justin Drake puts it, is tentatively estimated to be in 2029 now.

⌋ *Back to the main tinker question: so what?*

A meaningful distinction to make is between individual time-series and the ensemble over time. In other words, what does this mean to *me personally* as just one individual player concerned with himself, and what does it mean for the group, the ensemble, all players in combination? It's increasingly clear that the quantum threat to crypto is real. What does it do to the technology, the market, the ensemble...and what does it do to my personal portfolio, my personal risk profile, my personal ability to sleep at night? Uncomfortable and uncertain, these questions. Without clear answers, might I add. But that's what one must get used to while tinkering.

The tinker takeaway: you don't have to be instantaneously prepared to fight and slay the dragon, knowing it exists and keeping safe distance from it is a great first step.

Fool's Gold

April 01, 2026

} *Today's a good day.*

Kant Be Leibniz

April 02, 2026

Bots happening in the world today. Some top hits for me: Google dropped a new local LLM. Separately, Vitalik Buterin blogged about running local LLMs. Marc Andreessen said that's hypocritical of Vitalik as he funds doomer organizations. Andrej Karpathy tweeted he's building a personal Wikipedia via Obsidian and markdown files. Cool! It's also one of the reasons why I started blogging recently. Great minds. What else, let's see; Attorney General Pam Bondi got fired; Stripe's joining Coinbase in x402 agentic commerce protocols stuff. Lots more.

vitalik.eth.limo

My self-sovereign / local / private / secure LLM setup, April 2026

42

Yesterday I saw the first 30 minutes of this livestream between Stephen Wolfram and Michelle Gilmore-Grier which I thought was interesting. I did not know that a) Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz thought there's **no ultimate, objective physical reality** (his *monads* concept were spiritual entities), and b) Immanuel Kant criticized Leibniz's ideas of space and time. How cool. Makes me curious about Kant.

Lots of eastern philosophies, too, have the same assumptions as Leibniz. The word *maya* comes to mind, which has multiple meanings most common of which reduces to *illusion*. I find it annoying when academics are too strict on what comes from where, and instead of understanding, it all becomes a game of who has read how many books. I just think the Leibniz view maps really well with eastern metaphysical assumptions, which out of intuition I

42. vitalik.eth.limo My self-sovereign / local / private / secure LLM setup, April 2026 – https://vitalik.eth.limo/general/2026/04/02/secure_llms.html

would wager is wrong or primitive-sounding compared to what we know now. I need to look deeper into Kant.

Trading: Gambling for Poors

April 03, 2026



he general phrase for financial markets in Hindi, Punjabi, and many Indic languages is *satta bazaar*, meaning *gambling market*. There's no surprise that finance and trading abstractions in markets are assumed to be synonymous with gambling in many cultures. The funny part isn't that this assumption is untrue, it's actually partly correct, more on which below, but that gambling-based explanations of markets are *self-fulfilling*. One can indeed gamble in financial markets, so in some sense they can be treated as casinos...but only if one chooses to. The point at which markets separate into gambling and not-gambling is *the self*. There's a path and mindset in which one may systematize their process and develop strategies, which is what separates *unexamined*, intuition-based-gambling from *examined*, conjecture-based-investing (or trading). But even there, I repeatedly come across a common criticism that the so-called examination and math-based theater is pointless; that *it's all just gambling with extra steps*. I believe that view to be misleading and wrong; usually held by people philosophically skeptical of STEM-based disciplines for a variety of reasons, or put another way, people who don't fully trust math and physics to work in load-bearing ways.

⌋ *All gambling is trading, but not vice-versa.*

The belief that financial markets are synonymous with gambling is often so deeply rooted that I've learnt not to argue it over time, or even bring it up for that matter. What people want is not to appear uncouth about money and have messy discussions of it tucked away from sight as they enjoy art and cucumber sandwiches. Discussing money is not class; one surely must be greedy or struggling to be actively discussing it and strategizing about it out loud in groups. Your unemployed friend on a Tuesday afternoon daydreaming business ideas comes to mind. Yet someone, somewhere in the chain of all wealth is inevitably concerned about ways to preserve it and make more of it. Like Adam Smith we must differentiate self-interest from unprincipled greed.

There's some benefit in not being bothered about money, which again, aggregates at the self. It's stressful to think about and feels distant from the more human aspects of life. A zoomed in version of interacting with the market way too much, called *day-trading*, is objectively a terrible, degenerative profession for any human (or AI, frankly). But the trouble with it is its high frequency of interaction with markets, not the trading part itself. What happens when one creates mindful distance from these highly frequent interactions with the market?

Investing is a classier word for trading done at a much lower pace and frequency. A lesson I have learnt after years of trading is that one must progressively bias towards *decreasing the frequency* at which they make transactions, while *increasing the ethical and moral considerations* of them with time. Which means a successful trader eventually merges with the investor. The part to avoid is throwing the baby out with the bathwater and claim all transactions are gambles and nothing more; then not partaking in the game altogether. That's too far the other way, and *also* a recipe to eventually become poor.

A joke I once heard this professor say on a clip at X was that *the difference between a trader and investment banker is that you'll never see a trader at the opera.*

Invest and generate. Don't gamble or degenerate.

Cnawlece Básis

April 04, 2026



ast month I wondered in one of these [posts](#)⁴³ about the difference between information and knowledge. I heard David Deutsch say on a podcast the other day that *knowledge is information with causal power*. I really liked that. He said it was a working, inevitably incomplete and informal definition, and that all definitions ultimately contain things that cannot be fully pinned down or transferred in their entirety. I also liked that. Sounds similar to Karl Popper saying *it's impossible to speak in such a way that you cannot be misunderstood*. That for some reason is comforting for me to hear.

Then [the other day](#)⁴⁴ I noticed Andrej Karpathy made this automation to have an LLM create something akin to a personal Wikipedia via tools like Obsidian. This *knowledge graph* business has been ongoing for a while. I was an early user of Roam Research, the flashpoint out of which Obsidian was born. I've been manually building knowledge graphs for years at this point, so I know a thing or two about how they work. There was a lot of hype when they first came by, popularized as *second brains* and such, and there was the just-as-expected mockery of the whole thing. I have started noticing more and more in the last few years that technological progress is simultaneously overhyped by certain crowds and as a reaction downplayed and ridiculed by some. The truth tends to be somewhere in the middle.

⁴³. [posts](#) – this volume

⁴⁴. [the other day](#) – this volume



Andrej Karpathy

@karpathy



Wow, this tweet went very viral!

I wanted share a possibly slightly improved version of the tweet in an "idea file". The idea of the idea file is that in this era of LLM agents, there is less of a point/need of sharing the specific code/app, you just share the idea, then the...

April 4, 2026

45

I will link Karpathy's idea-gist below, which I thought was a neat trick here; that what's being shared is not code, but purposefully open-ended instructions for an LLM to operationalize in its local environment. That, is cool. However, I do find myself wondering what changes if instead of me manually dropping notes, links, pictures and media, etc. in my Roam Research or Obsidian knowledge base...it's an LLM doing it?

45. Tweet by @karpathy – <https://twitter.com/karpathy/status/2040470801506541998>



I can imagine the knowledge graph's volume being a few magnitudes higher than mine as an LLM can read and write at an astonishing pace. But I'll ask the classic question I've been asking for similar new tech updates recently.

⌋ *Okay...so what?*

I'll have to actually do this to truly find out, to be fair. But I think the overall reality of the situation remains somewhat the same is my guess. As in, I find having knowledge graphs extremely useful and I use mine multiple times a day, every day. This little blogging experiment I started is quite simply my knowledge graph externally exposed to a website. I write in my knowledge graphs exactly how I write here. And I sometimes look up things I had put in there previously. When I first got into it, I think I overdid it and put too many things in there that made it really messy really quickly. Tweets, links, pictures, PDFs and what not that I never referenced again, and things seemed like one of those hoarding reality TV shows in a few months. Why would an LLM doing the same thing not yield the same result?

The best analogy I've heard on knowledge graphs over time is that of *gardening*. Because if you don't tend to it and maintain it, it's not a place you want to spend much time in after too long. LLMs are like tractors or green revolution type technology upgrades in that sense. I


46. gist.github.com llm-wiki llm-wiki. GitHub Gist: instantly share code, notes, and snippets. – <https://gist.github.com/karpathy/442a6b1555914893e9891c11519de94f>

won't be surprised if they enable huge knowledge graphs, and maybe some people need that. But the upgrade is in how automated one is able to do these tasks, not in the ultimate responsibility one has in owning and maintaining the garden or graph.

I should give it a shot. We'll see how it works out.

Title inspired by etymologies of knowledge and base.

etymonline.com




Knowledge - Etymology, Origin & Meaning

"acknowledgment of a superior, honor, worship;" for the first element see know (v). The... See origin and meaning of knowledge.

47

etymonline.com



Base - Etymology, Origin & Meaning

"foundation" (of a building, etc.); "pedestal" (of a statue), in general, "bottom of... See origin and meaning of base.

48

47. etymonline.com Knowledge - Etymology, Origin & Meaning "acknowledgment of a superior, ho... – <https://www.etymonline.com/word/knowledge>

48. etymonline.com Base - Etymology, Origin & Meaning "foundation" (of a building, etc.); "p... – <https://www.etymonline.com/word/base>

Easter Sunday

April 05, 2026

Happy Easter! 🐰

Onto the Next One

April 06, 2026

Been seeing more and more of this word *ontology* lately. I have never found myself using it, nor been observing it be used that much in the past. A quick Wikipedia scan shows it's a branch of metaphysics discussing general features of reality concerned with articulating basic structure(s) of being. Categorizing *particulars* and *universals* seems to be a theme; hey, kinda sounds like NFTs a little bit. In the face of bottomless ridicule, I maintain that the technology underlying NFTs was quite cool even if monkey JPEGs were not. Anyway, like anything interesting, there are a few different schools of thought to subscribe to in this ontology stuff: Plato siding with *objective realism*, and Wikipedia mentions something called *conceptualism* that asserts reality only exists in the mind, while *nominalism* denies its existence altogether. [The other day](#)⁴⁹ I mentioned Immanuel Kant and learning he criticized both Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz and Isaac Newton on their explanations of reality. I'm guessing that was ontology and Kant's somewhere between *conceptualism* and *nominalism*? More at 9.

Wikipedia

Ontology

Ontology is the philosophical study of being. It is traditionally understood as the subdiscipline of metaphysics focused on the most general features of reality. As one of the most fundamental concepts, being encompasses all of reality and every entity within it. To articulate the basic structure o...

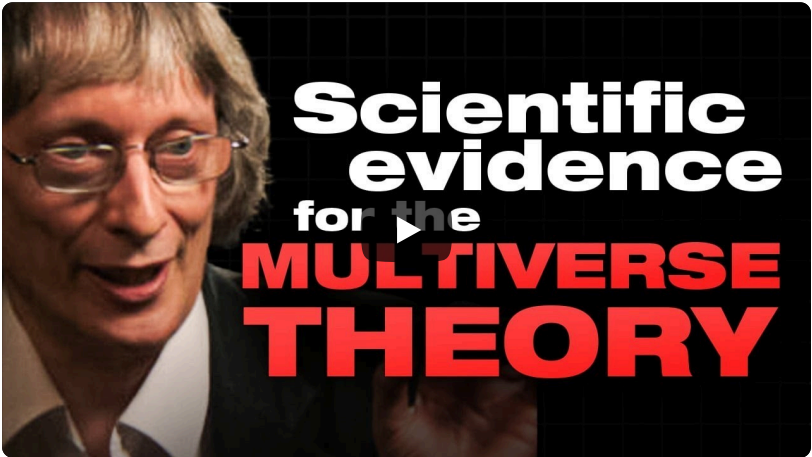
50

Funnily enough I don't have many of these tensions inside my mind. Of course it could be said that I only need to inspect it further and so on. And while it's true that one can always

⁴⁹. The other day – this volume

⁵⁰. Wikipedia Ontology Ontology is the philosophical study of being. It is traditionally und... – <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ontology>

find more bugs and infinitely improve upon their worldviews via criticism, I find myself enjoying these discussions on the nature of reality more as entertainment than genuine wonder. Same for discussions of *free-will or determinism* and other similar sounding abstractions. Newer physics presents ways in which these tensions are resolved and dissolved, and while they, too, can be critiqued and proven wrong, the point at large remains that we have made tremendous progress on these debates since their time of origin. In a [recent post](#)⁵¹ I mentioned the concept of *Git*, or *version-control* in simple English, and I believe that helps massively in structuring topics like ontology; because one is able to put in context what was said when, by who, and where things are today in-comparison by using mental-Git. Otherwise, it's all a big mess of many people saying many things and as an observer one doesn't know where to start or stand with it all.



52

51. recent post – this volume

52. YouTube – <https://youtube.com/watch?v=0xA5uzB6jRU>

Been binging David Deutsch lately so I'll mention him again as an example of great mental-version-control, observable in his explanations of different interpretations of quantum mechanics. I deeply appreciate Deutsch for calling out hesitations like *if you think you understand quantum mechanics, you don't understand quantum mechanics*, often attributed to Richard Feynman. It took me a minute and wasn't on my first try, but dare I say, now I *do* understand the different interpretations of quantum mechanics thanks to Deutsch; though there forever remain gaps to fill and more to understand. Deutsch's promotion of Hugh Everett's *many-worlds interpretation*, and separately, Stephen Wolfram's *multi-computation in branchial space* idea are describing eerily similar explanations, where Wolfram seems to be going one step further in describing quantum mechanics computationally.

There seems to be a general sense of revival in subjects like physics and philosophy, which is great. The source of it all appears technologically-driven on surface, but a better word to use in my opinion is *computation*; where what's changing and being upgraded are not just surface-level tools via technology, but fundamental assumptions we have of reality via computation. We are very early in the age of computation, and more and more things are sure to become computerized; to the dislike of many no doubt. But the fact that more and more things are increasingly being computerized in our environment leads people back to questioning the basics of reality, I think. Along the way one may get sucked up in one school of thought or the other, start perceiving other schools as enemies, and debate or fight them about these abstractions. In some sense these schools of thought somewhere along the lines start mimicking religions I've observed, which also seems to be reviving itself in popular culture in parallel. Good. More myth-making the merrier.

Onto the next one.

House on Fire

April 07, 2026



inance professor and hedge fund manager Patrick Boyle makes amazing YouTube videos. I only watch him here and there but he's consistently excellent. I saw him discuss the [Canadian economy](#)⁵³ yesterday and the [UK economy](#)⁵⁴ today. His analysis resonated with me and I wanted to comment on it for future reference. My main idea is that policy and planning done with the intention of controlling growth ends up stifling productivity and innovation, a theme I link to culture and its local posture.

In the last few years I've been noticing more how different cultures react to new ideas and knowledge that cause growth in productivity; in one word, *innovation*. It's still a working theory on my end but my current guess is that some cultures seem to structurally oppose and suppress new ideas by default; what Karl Popper would describe as *closed societies* and what Nassim Taleb calls *concavity*. I couldn't help but feel that the policy failures Patrick describes in Canada and the UK are *Keynesian* in nature; from ideas of John Maynard Keynes; an economist vouching controlled growth and thus productivity via policy making. Sounds concave and the polar opposite of Friedrich Hayek who was more of a libertarian, though not in the modern sense of that word, more on which some other day.

Two things caught my ear in both of Patrick's videos: in both Canada and the UK buying a house has overtime become the primary investment vehicle; and tax policies are structured in ways that disincentivize working hard or being too productive. I felt that in my bones because it's something I have observed every time traveling outside the U.S. but had no explanation for. Though I wonder if culture drives policy or it's the other way around; because this posture of rejecting new ideas and opting to build wealth via rent-seeking is observable both at the societal as well as the individual scale. It's also why Canada and the UK make for interesting subjects on the topic. These aren't places one thinks of pondering communism.

53. Canadian economy – <https://youtu.be/Q0jqfKUnQQk?si=vdvkqmHxLdthVgeH>

54. UK economy – <https://youtu.be/T3nejOdknqc?si=WRTrmRWhMTH6SjT>

So what gives?

People in countries like Canada or the UK are often more well educated than their American counterparts. Patrick mentions a few times how due to policy, in both places wealth is preferred to be parked in real estate over new ideas, and innovation is concentrated on coming up with ways to rent-seek or trick institutional systems; to stay below punishing tax brackets. In parallel, ambitious people move out to jurisdictions with better upward economic and status mobility. I can't help but imagine in the background a slow, subtle apocalyptic soundtrack that exists echoing a Francis Fukuyama style *end of history* type beat. Abundant higher education also means that policies causing downward economic spirals come dressed in elite sounding academic language, fancy aesthetics, and complicated explanations with deep emotional appeal; with extremely bad reasoning underneath that passes undetected; call me Keynes. It's highly seductive and thus popular which is why it takes over, but ultimately causes slow degeneration.

I find myself thinking India is also a place similar to how Patrick describes Canada and the UK. I'm hopeful for them all, but every time I visit either of the three I can't help but feel concavity lurking. New ideas *bad*, buying land *good*. Risk-taking *bad*, rent-seeking *good*. Innovation *bad*, intervention *good*. Since I grew up in India I find it easy to switch point of views and know how the rest of the world sees this American brand of innovation I am praising; short-labeled capitalism. Reckless and too money-minded. Busy all the time with no social life. Too atomic. Just as terrible in their books as Keynesian policies in mine. The main point of tension seems to be that of sharp ups and downs, aka volatility. But volatility is only bad if centrally managed at vast scales via bad policies, like in Canada, the UK, and India. On small scales it's much more manageable, nor does localized volatility cause exponential damage to one's neighbors and others uninvolved. It's even enjoyable if done right.

Anyway, Canada and the UK are on fire.

Keynesian point-of-view, innovation personified as Jeremy Irons in Margin Call:

1637, 1797, 1819, '37, '57, '84, 1901, '07, '29, 1937, 1974, 1987, '92, '97, 2000...and whatever we wanna call this. It's all just the same thing, over and over. We can't help ourselves. And you and I can't control it, or stop it, or even slow it. Or even ever so slightly alter it.

We just react.



55

55. YouTube – <https://youtube.com/watch?v=TR9oxoASqew>

Meta-Meta-Meta

April 08, 2026

Meta. There's always a meta, right? Wrong.

Kant Be Modeled

April 09, 2026



Continuing on the recent [trail](#)⁵⁶ where I learn for the first [time](#)⁵⁷ about Immanuel Kant, I heard the discussion between Stephen Wolfram and Luz Christopher Seiberth yesterday which I thought was tremendous. Philosophy can get annoyingly vague really quickly and jumbled up even further when multiple people add commentary to it, so I am enjoying doing things in my own silly way trying to make sense of it all. Of course it'd be easier for me to just pick up a book and actually read Kant. But who's kidding who, I'm not doing that.

There was a lot of good stuff said in there but my main takeaway was about the distinction Kant drew between *phenomenal* and *noumenal* worlds; being *idea-space* and the *real-world*, roughly speaking. Fast forward, Wolfram refers to *computational irreducibility* as a set of experiences that *cannot be modeled* upfront and *must be experientially gained*. In other words, computer programs in contrast to math equations cannot *jump ahead* to solve for x or whatever answer; we must *run the program* to find out what happens when it runs. Math equations on calculators are computationally *reducible* in contrast to this set of computationally *irreducible* programs we experience.

⌋ *Lecturing birds how to fly.*

This stands as a frequent point of confusion because the most common assumption and criticism of computational thinking I come across is that people involved in it are trying to model the world in a mechanistic or mathematical way, wanting to reduce people and experiences to equations. On my end that sounds like a very 1600s view and criticism of it all. The missing piece is *irreducibility*, but even more specifically *computational irreducibility*. The thing to realize here is that reality itself is *irreducible with pockets of reducibility in it*, as Wolfram puts it. I imagine it as Swiss cheese. Meaning most of the time we cannot shortcut

⁵⁶. [trail](#) – this volume

⁵⁷. [time](#) – this volume

our way through reality, but every now and then we find spaces in which we *can* shortcut our way through a calculator or some tool like that.

An example: economists are always fighting whether markets are *efficient or inefficient*. I'm so over it. These words can be replaced with *reducible* and *irreducible* and it gives us a massive upgrade in understanding how they're both simultaneously. My conjecture is that markets are *mostly inefficient with pockets of efficiency* in them that get exploited soon after they're discovered. Like Swiss cheese. Ed Thorp talks about this. AI bots will be unable to get ahead of irreducible pockets for that very reason; in markets, in science, in everything.



**Ep 2: Philosophy Discussion with
Stephen Wolfram and
Luz Christopher Seiberth**
April 8, 2026 | 3:30pm ET

Guru Gobind Singh

April 10, 2026

Saw this yesterday. Love Guru Gobind Singh Ji.



59

59. YouTube – <https://youtube.com/watch?v=3vo87hRUXMQ>

Central Limit Theorem

April 11, 2026



iving this thing called *Google Colab* a go, and comparing them to *Mathematica* in terms of how they both embed on this website. Let's see how they work. The idea is to have widgets that showcase the Central Limit Theorem with configurable sample sizes.

Interactive – view at prabhchintan.com/clt

Mathematica embeddings were messy so I took that off. Instead I took the Python notebook in Colab and hosted it on Hugging Face, then embedded it here. Cool concept, Colab.

Anyway, the main idea I wanted to showcase is that it doesn't take a large sample size for things to start looking like a normal (bell) curve. A random sample starts to look like a bell curve at n of 2 or 3 even. That's pretty astonishing.

Here is the Python code I used, generated with the help of Google Gemini:


```

import gradio as gr
import numpy as np
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

def plot_clt(dist_name, n):
    """Plot the distribution of sample averages to demonstrate the Central Limit
    Theorem."""
    # Generate 10,000 samples of size n for the selected distribution
    if dist_name == "Uniform (Flat)":
        samples = np.random.uniform(0, 1, (10000, n))
    elif dist_name == "Exponential (Skewed)":
        samples = np.random.exponential(1, (10000, n))
    else:
        samples = np.random.chisquare(2, (10000, n))

    # Calculate the average across each sample
    averages = np.mean(samples, axis=1)

    # Plot the resulting distribution of averages
    fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8, 4.5))
    ax.hist(averages, bins=50, density=True, edgecolor='white')
    ax.set_title(f"Distribution of Averages (n={n})")
    return fig

with gr.Blocks() as demo:
    # Interface components
    dist = gr.Dropdown(["Uniform (Flat)", "Exponential (Skewed)", "Chi-Square
    (Skewed)"], value="Uniform (Flat)", label="Distribution")
    n = gr.Slider(minimum=1, maximum=30, step=1, value=1, label="Sample Size (n)")

```

Law of Large Numbers

April 12, 2026



posted this widget [yesterday](#)⁶⁰ showcasing the Central Limit Theorem visualizing how quickly a sample n of even 2 or 3 measurements converge to a bell or normal curve, shout-out Johann Carl Friedrich Gauss. Two assumptions underpinning central-limit style *Gaussian distributions* are 1) that samples are independent from each other, and 2) that samples have finite variability. It's important to mention these two assumptions because they're implicit every time one sees a Gaussian function but almost never explicitly stated.

I thought I'd try another similar exhibition today and visualize what's called the *Law of Large Numbers*, a similar basic assumption underpinning almost any and every statistically oriented analysis. This law of large numbers states that *the average of the results obtained from a large number of independent random samples converges to the true value, if it exists*. In other words, coin tosses conducted fairly over time will converge to a 50% chance at head or tails. What's important to understand here is that again, each coin toss instance is independent and variations in their outcomes are limited to either heads or tails. If these assumptions are true, convergence to the average happens over a *large number of samples*.

Interactive – view at prabhchintan.com/lln

Here is the Python code I used, generated with the help of Google Gemini:

⁶⁰. [yesterday](#) – this volume


```

import gradio as gr
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt
import random

def simulate_lln(n):
    """Plot the running average of coin flips to demonstrate the Law of Large
    Numbers."""
    # Generate 1 or 0 for each coin flip
    flips = [random.choice([0, 1]) for _ in range(n)]

    # Compute the cumulative average up to each flip
    averages = [sum(flips[:i+1]) / (i+1) for i in range(n)]

    # Plot the running average over time
    fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(6, 3))
    ax.plot(range(1, n+1), averages, marker='o', color='black', markersize=4)
    ax.axhline(y=0.5, color='gray', linestyle='--')
    ax.set_ylim(-0.1, 1.1)
    ax.set_title(f"Running Average after {n} flips: {averages[-1]:.2f}")
    return fig

with gr.Blocks() as demo:
    # Interface components
    n_slider = gr.Slider(minimum=1, maximum=100, step=1, value=10, label="Number
    of Flips")
    plot_output = gr.Plot()

    # Event listeners
    n_slider.change(simulate_lln, n_slider, plot_output)

```

Burger at P. Terry's

April 13, 2026



hen I moved to Austin I thought P. Terry's was a funny looking shack. I wasn't sure what they sold, only to eventually realize it was burgers. Years later, I now think they have the best burgers in town. Gonna go have a cheeseburger for lunch.

Vaisakhi

April 14, 2026

} Happy Vaisakhi! 🌾

In Bengali it's called *Boishakhi* and I think that's cute.

Taxes, Gobi, Žižek

April 15, 2026

Almost forgot to post today. Crazy that I just randomly started writing these things about a month or so ago and have posted daily since. I wonder if I should purposefully miss a day because I don't mean this to be a vigorous exercise in blogging or something like that. I just ended up posting daily without intending to do so.

Did my taxes earlier today, made aloo gobi yesterday which turned out great; I had it with raita and roti. Life's good. Now watching this Slavoj Žižek and Alex O'Connor discussion.



61

61. YouTube – <https://youtube.com/watch?v=-d7oR0J9usQ>

Impostures Intellectuelles

April 16, 2026



In his book *Fashionable Nonsense: Postmodern Intellectuals' Abuse of Science*, physicist and mathematician Alan Sokal along with Jean Bricmont back in 1997 wrote a series of satirical essays essentially akin to modern-day LLM gibberish; coherent-appearing on surface, but having nonsensical meanings underneath them. Turns out LLM-style gibberish existed *well before* LLMs; in humanities intellectuals borrowing scientific concepts and terminology to explain away nonsense in various deep-sounding intellectual ways.

Wikipedia



Fashionable Nonsense

Fashionable Nonsense: Postmodern Intellectuals' Abuse of Science, first published in French in 1997 as *Impostures intellectuelles*, is a book by physicists Alan Sokal and Jean Bricmont. As part of the so-called science wars, Sokal and Bricmont criticize postmodernism in academia for the misuse of sci...

62

I originally learnt of Alan Sokal via Nassim Taleb years ago and have had a copy of *Fashionable Nonsense* ever since. Every now and then I experience something that reminds me of it. Today's reminder comes from the Žižek talk I saw [yesterday](#)⁶³, where he takes quantum physics as a jumping point to explain his philosophy on religion and atheism and the like. I

⁶². Wikipedia Fashionable Nonsense Fashionable Nonsense: Postmodern Intellectuals' Abuse of... – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fashionable_Nonsense

⁶³. yesterday – this volume

think Žižek is a funny guy and so I find it entertaining to hear him speak. But I couldn't help and notice that he was doing the Alan Sokal thing a bit. It seems to work as not many understand and can confidently speak of quantum physics; so one can use it as a jumping point for any absurd thing they want to say. Or it doesn't even have to be about quantum, or physics; and the general method still works.

I'm still trying to frame this correctly but the basic asymmetry I keep observing is this: there is tremendous merit in humanities and lots to learn there, even if some of it is trying to imitate science and bastardizing it in the process. But the opposite point of view doesn't appear to reciprocate this idea. I keep meeting humanities people that mention to me Kurt Gödel's *incompleteness theorem*; while misunderstanding what they're saying; assuming they're demeriting science and rationality in the process. I then find myself defending science or something like that in reaction, even though I didn't originally hold that position.

⌋ *That science has limits is not a grand surprising fact.*

I am simply trying to point out that STEM folks seem to agree that humanities and philosophy has deep merit, while humanities is either trying to hijack STEM or demerit it; never admitting that one can learn a lot there, too.

Sometimes I think it's all just in my head. But I keep coming across this asymmetry.

Najane Kyun

April 17, 2026



found a childhood favorite song called *Najane Kyun*, meaning *don't know why*, by a band called Strings after a very long time. Incredible even after all these years. They have many other amazing songs.



64

64. YouTube – <https://youtube.com/watch?v=BWKq4iXUnHs>

Universal Basic Incoming

April 18, 2026

Here was this guy Vilfredo Federico Damaso Pareto, known for what's commonly called the 80-20 rule; the *Pareto distribution*. There's a few realizations I've had about it these past few years that were mind blowing to me. Maybe they are obvious to others but I want to repeat them here in context of a topic that's being discussed nowadays: *universal basic income*; or a variant of the idea Elon Musk has been pushing called *universal high income*.

Wikipedia



Vilfredo Pareto

Vilfredo Federico Damaso Pareto was an Italian polymath, whose areas of interest included sociology, civil engineering, economics, political science, and philosophy. He made several important contributions to economics, particularly in the study of income distribution and in the analysis of individu...

65

Back to Pareto who finds out somewhere between mid-1800s and early-1900s that wealth seemed to be *power law distributed* everywhere he looked. What means? Means everywhere he looked, 20% of the population controlled 80% of the resources. I'm rough on the edges here so if you have a better explanation please [email](#) and correct me. What I didn't realize about this Pareto business until maybe the last few years is the following: 1) that this 80-20 "rule" is *multi-scale*; meaning 5% of the population hold 95% resources, 1% hold 99% and so on; and

65. Wikipedia Vilfredo Pareto Vilfredo Federico Damaso Pareto was an Italian polymath, whose... – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vilfredo_Pareto

2) that this *multi-scale* behavior is a *naturally occurring, universal phenomena* down to the level of quantum physics and up. What?

Probably the only thing more astonishing to me than facts 1) and 2) is what I've been hearing David Deutsch say lately: that this *might-is-right-style* power-law phenomena is the general case *until and unless one has constructive explainable knowledge to invert it*. In other words, multi-scale power laws or Pareto distributions are the natural base case...but one can construct their inversions using explainable knowledge with causal power. Again. What? That's incredible! I believe Deutsch is writing his next book on this specific topic and I cannot wait to be honest.

⌋ *Wat mean for universal basic/high income?*

Politicians like Bernie Sanders simply mean we hand out monthly checks to counter unemployment caused by AI when he uses the phrase. But someone like Elon Musk pairs his vision with massive amounts of automation and robot manufacturing via AI-enabled productivity. Same-same, but different. But still same.

The difference in Bernie and Elon is what Deutsch is talking about. If explainable knowledge can invert naturally occurring power laws, and we can *automate* explainable knowledge via AI and its applications via robotics, basically we can go down a path where we constantly flip naturally occurring power laws over and over until there is massive abundance, so much so that there's deflationary pressure on the economy that needs to be upregulated via government handouts. So Elon and Bernie are arriving at similar-sounding conclusions via different visions and construction mechanisms. Among the two, I like Elon's vision of robots-in-factories better; though they both ultimately sound kinda scary; because things will inevitably be volatile along the way. And [volatility scares people](#)⁶⁶.

The idea that we can automate power law flips via causal knowledge doesn't mean power laws go away by the way, it just means flipping them is now automated and thus constant. I think people need status, drive, purpose, meaning, etc. and the need of doing better than their neighbors is one tough nut to crack, no matter how many checks the government

⁶⁶. [volatility scares people](#) – this volume

distributes. So whether it's universal *basic* income or universal *high* income, Pareto distributions are here to stay; they're just flipping at a much faster rate going forward via robots and AI. Maybe the problems of the future will be less about having enough food to eat or money to pay one's bills, but that of meaning and more complex topics than that currently discussed solely by fancy intellectuals.

Sim You Later Alligator

April 19, 2026

All sufficiently complex simulations are *computationally equivalent* but ultimately simulations nonetheless. I disagree with the idea that *we live in a simulation*, but I deeply agree with the one that says *we are capable of universal simulation via computation*. This distinction is important because I often hear people mistake my preference for a computational worldview as an implicit acceptance of *the simulation hypothesis*, or some kind of reduced mathematical formula, or a model of the world and universe in which I dogmatically assert it works a particular way. Whereas I simply think that computation as a substrate is a good one to build worldviews with. Other universal ones seem to be language, empirical and/or rational reasoning, and symbolic logic.

I liked what the Pope said in the tweet I will link below. It's a good callout. Though I will add that the realization must exist and persist *within the same individual* and not be split in two, which is what one finds increasingly frequently; in which the person doing computations is being lectured by an academic on perceived higher truths or something like that. What instead is better is the person doing computational simulation *themselves understand* the difference between simulations and reality, the more human aspects of life, ethics and morality, beauty; and all those warm and fuzzies.



Pope Leo XIV

@Pontifex



When simulation becomes the norm, it weakens the human capacity for discernment. As a result, our social bonds close in upon themselves, forming self-referential circuits that no longer expose us to reality. We thus come to live within bubbles, impermeable to one another...

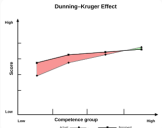
April 17, 2026

67

Prediction Market Treasure

April 20, 2026

Monday morning and Michael Saylor buys another 34,164 BTC, bringing his total up to 815,061 BTC of the 21 million bitcoin in total circulation. Tom Lee on the other hand doesn't appear much on my timeline nowadays; they both seem to be pushing the idea of *treasury companies* holding BTC and ETH as treasury assets. Like most innovation, an initial smart idea turns into massive hype, which people then confuse as *solely hype*, write off the entire thing including the incremental innovation underneath, and the thing then slowly creeps back up into existence. Dunning-Kruger type beat.



Wikipedia

Dunning–Kruger effect

The Dunning–Kruger effect is a cognitive bias that describes the systematic tendency of people with low ability in a specific area to give overly positive assessments of this ability. The term may also refer to the tendency of high performers to underestimate their skills. It was first identified by...

68

What's also starting to trend on my screens are *prediction markets*. I am yet to make a bet on these markets and the most I've used them till date are to track the last presidential election in America and the recent government shutdown. [Previously](#)⁶⁹ I have mentioned that day-trading of any sorts, betting or otherwise, is objectively degenerative. So my analysis of it all doesn't need to be in-depth. If you're trading your money multiple times a day, the cost is infinitely higher than any prize you could be getting out of it. I see ads for Kalshi and

⁶⁸. Wikipedia Dunning–Kruger effect The Dunning–Kruger effect is a cognitive bias that descr... – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dunning%E2%80%93Kruger_effect

⁶⁹. Previously – this volume

Polymarket on my feeds, and while I personally have no opinion of them, I can tell people dislike them with the underneath feeling of them robbing clueless people blind and enriching the already rich and powerful type thing. I enjoyed Patrick Boyle's analysis of them I saw this last weekend. Patrick is much more skeptical of crypto than I am but I agree with his criticisms a lot; he knows what he's talking about.



70

In other news, I have made various back-end infrastructure updates to this website, none of which are visible on the front I don't think, but I really like them so far. Basically I have improved my experience of writing: it now auto-saves my half-written draft thoughts, provides me a cleaner, more rich interface to write my thoughts by giving me formatting tools, recent posts, previewing notes and what not. But best of all, I now have a behind-the-scenes mechanism to take this blogging thing up a notch and start collecting my thoughts into a long-form book of sorts. I don't know what will come of that, but hopefully I can use these

70. YouTube – <https://youtube.com/watch?v=e0nsou-1Q2k>

tools and write a book systematizing my thoughts, which for now are a bit sporadic. We'll see how that works out.

Prediction market on me writing a book?

End of an Era

April 21, 2026

Today I am winding down my last Ethereum validator, at least for now, and it's a reflective moment for me. I go over my motivations for getting into the activity [here](#)⁷¹, discussing details of me first running a blockchain node in 2017. In some sense looking back at it from 2026, 2017 feels quite recent, while within crypto it feels ancient, as if I've been around forever. When I first got into it I didn't how to code, didn't have much idea of the *why*, or fully grasp what the point was. Those curiosities forever remain and have only increased, but I now find I have sufficient experience and explanations needed to run any and every kind of digital infrastructure, conventional servers, blockchains, or otherwise.



71. here – square

What I liked about this running-validators business most is the ability to hold and transfer wealth locally without depending on a centralized ledger to keep an account. Battle of Garigliano from the year 1503 pictured above for effect, I like to think that the ability to hold one's wealth locally *and* have the ability to transfer it without physically carrying around gold is truly amazing. Inb4 Peter Schiff argues gold can do that, too, if you tokenize it on a database and so on. Yes, yes, yes. More debate some other time.

The difference between a node and a validator is what's at stake for a network participant to lose. The act of running a node is that of participation in a peer-to-peer network, something that was exciting for me ever since I first used computers as a teenager. Eventually and years later came along *miners*, the technology Bitcoin still uses to run its *proof-of-work* consensus mechanism, where single-purpose-computers run algorithms like SHA-256 to burn electricity and potentially gain tokens as incentive to participate and protect the network. Ethereum meanwhile switched to a *proof-of-stake* consensus mechanism in September of 2022, which meant participating nodes did not burn electricity as proof-of-work; more than it takes to run a computer or server. Rather, each node wanting to participate in the validation of the network provided financial stake they were willing to lose for breaking the rules or going against the network. Fancy explanation for a simple profound shift in network dynamics.

"All the News That's Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

LATE CITY EDITION

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1933

ROOSEVELT ORDERS 4-DAY BANK HOLIDAY, PUTS EMBARGO ON GOLD, CALLS CONGRESS

HITLER BLOC WINS A REICH MAJORITY; RULES IN PRUSSIA

JAPANESE PUSH ON IN PEKING FIGHTING; CHINA CLOSSES WALL

BANKS HERE ACT AT ONCE

The President's Bank Proclamation

USE OF SCRP AUTHORIZED

PRISON FOR GOLD HARBOR

CONGRESS SETS THURSDAY

BEWILDERED CITY

OTW I DAVE IN PEKING

Had I started blogging sooner I would have probably went harder down a path of discussing the merits of and differences between gold, BTC, and ETH, among other discussions, but I find those arguments silly in today's context. At least now in 2026, I'm not here to debate crypto ideology, not for this particular purpose of tinkering anyway. The point for today's post is that I've run BTC and ETH nodes for years, and I am winding that down for a bit now. I am moving this summer among other reasons why, but even without that trigger, I have been wanting to really, actually see if the act of *exiting the system* is as doable as it sounds in these networks. Exiting is important, and a big idea behind these networks is that one should be free to exit. I personally believe that exiting should be much more relaxed than the requirements to enter and participate in a network; which seems to be the case.

Good experience. [441314](#)⁷², signing out.

Cursory price of Ethereum today: \$2,328 USD/ETH

⁷². [441314](https://beaconcha.in/validator/441314) – <https://beaconcha.in/validator/441314>

Lindy Memetics Du Jour

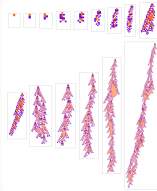
April 22, 2026

Back in the 2010s *lindy* was this esoteric-ish word out of Taleb's books with the origin story of some cafe in New York or whatever it was, comedians speculating their job prospects on which shows will last how long type thing. Then on Twitter it gained memetic acceleration describing these exotic Mediterranean aesthetics and soul nourishing visuals, at which point this guy Paul Skallas basically made it his thing to classify memes and trends as lindy or not-lindy. And now in the middle of 2020s the word *lindy* is heard everywhere, not to mention *black swan* and other phrases finding their roots to Taleb's books.

Cool to see Taleb making a technical paper out of it which I just read. I think he's following his own thesis and converting practitioner-findings into theories, rather than having theories convert to practices; something he argues against in his books. Though, with time, I now personally believe that both those routes can yield fruitful ideas and practices; and the more level-headed point might be that new ideas and knowledge may come from unpredictable sources. I guess I ought to read Paul Feyerabend to gain clarity on this.

I'm not gonna pretend I understand all the math in the paper, but I want to make note of some terms here that stood out to me in it. Also, there is this loosely synced behavior I notice between Taleb and Wolfram, in which they seem to hover around similar topics using different terminologies and disciplines, where Wolfram seems to have developed *an entire language* to describe things mathematically and a [physics project](#)⁷³ to go along with it. Personally I find Wolfram much easier to understand and think his stuff is like bitcoin in the early 2010s but at a much larger scale, and probably much more worthy and useful in the longer run. Deep lindy.

writings.stephenwolfram.com



Why Does Biological Evolution Work? A Minimal Model for Biological Evolution and Other Adaptive Processes

Stephen Wolfram explores simple models of biological organisms as computational systems. A study of progressive development, multiway graphs of all possible paths and the need for narrowing the framework space.

74

⁷³ physics project – <https://www.wolframphysics.org/>

⁷⁴ writings.stephenwolfram.com Why Does Biological Evolution Work? A Minimal Model for Biol... – <https://writings.stephenwolfram.com/2024/05/why-does-biological-evolution-work-a-minimal-model-for-biological-evolution-and-other-adaptive-processes>

Anyway, I asked Grok to give me the concepts in Taleb's paper:

Core Concepts and Framework

- **Lindy Effect / Lindy Property:** The idea that the longer something has survived (e.g., a technology, idea, book, or entity), the longer its expected remaining lifetime. In the paper, this emerges when the conditional survival probability improves with age under certain stochastic conditions. Mathematically tied to declining force of mortality with time (or age).
- **Absorbing Barrier:** A lower boundary (often at 0) in a stochastic process that, once hit, "absorbs" or ends the process (e.g., ruin, death, failure, or extinction). Survival corresponds to the distance or time until first hitting this barrier.
- **Brownian Motion (Wiener Process):** A continuous-time stochastic process with independent, normally distributed increments. Used here as the underlying model for the "health," "value," or "position" of the entity. Zero-drift or negative-drift versions are analyzed.
- **First-Passage Time (Hitting Time):** The random time at which the process first reaches the absorbing barrier. The distribution of this time determines survival probabilities and the Lindy property.
- **Force of Mortality (Hazard Rate, $\lambda(t)$ or $\mu(t)$):** The instantaneous rate of "failure" (absorption) at time t , conditional on having survived up to t . Defined as $\lambda(t) = f(t) / S(t)$, where $f(t)$ is the density and $S(t)$ the survival function. Declining hazard rate with t produces Lindy-like behavior.
- **Survival Function $S(t)$:** Probability that the process has not hit the absorbing barrier by time t (i.e., "still alive/surviving").
- **Drift (μ):** The deterministic trend or average direction of the process per unit time.
 - **Zero drift ($\mu = 0$):** Leads to power-law tails in survival times and declining force of mortality \rightarrow Lindy property holds.

- **Negative drift ($\mu < 0$):** Introduces a downward pull (like aging or entropy), eliminating the Lindy property; hazard rate may increase or behave differently.
- **Power-Law Survival / Power-Law Tails:** Survival probability $S(t) \sim t^{-(\alpha)}$ for large t (heavy-tailed decay). Arises in zero-drift cases; implies no characteristic scale and Lindy behavior.
- **Demarcation / Classification of Tails (Thin vs. Fat):** The paper provides properties distinguishing tail behaviors, often using a parameter λ (lambda).
 - **Thin-tailed cases** (e.g., exponential or lighter) typically have increasing force of mortality with time.
 - **Fat-tailed cases** (subexponential or heavier) can exhibit declining hazard.
- **Note:** Galley proofs contain noted typos (e.g., lambda values in the demarcation box on page 2; original had $\lambda=1$ for certain cases, with corrections discussed).

Key Distributions and Processes Mentioned

- **Lévy Distributions (Lévy Stable Distributions / Stable Laws):** A family of heavy-tailed probability distributions closed under addition (stable). Includes cases with infinite variance. Relevant for modeling processes with fat tails; the first-passage times or increments in the absorbing barrier model can relate to Lévy processes (generalizations of Brownian motion with jumps).
- **Cauchy Distribution:** A specific symmetric stable distribution (Lévy stable with $\alpha=1$, no mean or variance). Extremely fat-tailed (no moments exist). Often appears in limits or as a contrast in tail behavior discussions; hitting times or ratios in Brownian-related models can yield Cauchy-like properties.
- **Inverse Gaussian Distribution:** Sometimes arises in first-passage times for Brownian motion with drift (Wald distribution). Used in survival modeling.

- **Bessel Process (e.g., 3-Dimensional Bessel Process):** Arises from Brownian motion conditioned to avoid absorption or reflected at the barrier. Mentioned in related Taleb works on censored paths and surviving processes; positive drift in surviving paths after conditioning on non-absorption.
- **Subexponential Distributions:** Class of heavy-tailed distributions where the tail of the sum is dominated by the maximum (one big jump). Linked to fat tails and potential Lindy properties.

Other Technical Phrases and Concepts

- **Zero-Drift Process:** Brownian motion without systematic trend. Yields power-law survival times and declining force of mortality → classic Lindy.
- **Negative Drift / Aging Pull:** Introduces entropy-like degradation; removes the Lindy property as older entities face higher effective risk of absorption.
- **Conditional Survival / Remaining Lifetime:** Expected future life given current age. Increases with age under Lindy conditions.
- **Ergodicity / Non-Ergodicity:** Implicit in survival conditioning (paths that survive are a biased sample); related to Taleb's broader work but tied here to absorbing processes.
- **Thin-Tailed vs. Fat-Tailed Classes:** Demarcated by tail index or moments (e.g., via λ parameter in the paper).
 - **Thin tails:** finite moments, often increasing hazard.
 - **Fat tails:** power-law or heavier, can have declining hazard under zero drift.
- **Error Detection via Community / Lindy Proofs:** The paper's proofs help detect inconsistencies in models or claims about longevity/survival (community "Lindy testing" via time).

Brief Summary of Structure (from Shared Pages)

The four pages cover:

1. Introduction to force of mortality in the absorbing barrier context.
2. The underlying stochastic process (Brownian motion variants).
3. Derivations for zero-drift case \rightarrow power-law survival + Lindy.
4. Effect of adding (negative) drift \rightarrow loss of Lindy.
5. Demarcation properties for thin/fat tail classes (with λ parameter; typos noted in galley for $\lambda=0/1$ values).
6. Implications for survival, hazard rates, and real-world applications (ideas, technologies, institutions that "age" differently).

Das Venture Kapital

April 23, 2026



I've written previously a little bit [about trading](#)⁷⁵ and how it differs from investing: that in frequency of indulgence; meaning investing is just trading done slower while discussing art. But this difference in pace and the fact that investing seems more deliberate and thoughtful does not mean it generates results with higher certainty. In fact, one could make the argument that the investing dread just goes on longer instead of ripping the band-aid right off. Why would one sign up for ongoing pain and sleepless nights? Aha, now we're talking.

I'm just a rookie investor but I want to note things I've learnt along the way. And one of the main ideas is this: *invested money as venture capital is good as gone*. You will (probably) never see it again once it parts ways with your bank account. But sometimes, rarely, you *do* see the money again, and it's a bigger number than the one that left your account. Which seems nice and hopefully covers your losses, and those are the stories one hears in retrospect. But most of the time with venture capital, money just vanishes into a black hole. [Power laws](#)⁷⁶ are the name of the game and it's incredibly hard to choose the winners upfront. It all seems much more obvious and grand in retrospect, which is what marketers showcase.

OpenAI, Anthropic, xAI, Vercel. These are the names marketed by a new venture fund being discussed over on X called *USVC*. It's Naval Ravikant doing some kind of maneuvering to offer what's often called *retail investors* an opportunity to own (tiny) parts of these companies in private markets previously accessible to what's called *accredited investors*; to qualify for which one must either take an exam and be licensed, or make and have a bunch of money to lose. Gotta have money to lose money; no crying in the casino.

⁷⁵. [about trading](#) – this volume

⁷⁶. [Power laws](#) – this volume



Naval
@naval



Introducing USVC - a single basket of high-growth venture capital, for everyone.

No accreditation required, SEC-registered, and a very low \$500 minimum.

Includes OpenAI, Anthropic, xAI, Sierra, Crusoe, Legora, and Vercel. As USVC adds more companies, investors will own a...

April 22, 2026

77

Naval is interesting and fun to listen to on podcasts. And his tweets are sometimes good. Since he's running the show and putting his name on the line, it could well be worth it, who knows. People into the details don't seem to be happy with the fee structure and what not, saying it's a *grift* to take retail investors on a ride. I mean, participation in venture capital as a whole is being taken for a ride, so why should VCs have all the fun. I guess we'll find out how it goes. I threw in the minimum \$500 just to see what happens and follow along. They have a Steve Jobs clip on the home page; what's the worst that could happen.

usvc.com

USVC

78

77. Tweet by @naval – <https://twitter.com/naval/status/2046991137022648800>

78. usvc.com USVC – <https://usvc.com/>

Eternal Recurrences

April 24, 2026

One time I saw a TikTok of a hairdresser saying she could tell how the economy is doing by the kinds of hair styles people were opting for; that people tend to have stories explaining their choice of hair aesthetics, which in her point of view were coping mechanisms for the real reason underneath: *affordability of good and services*. Such observation invokes laughter but everyone has their own version of it.

One such signal I jokingly point at is freedom and sovereignty marketed as a product or service; or at least some kind of aesthetic version of it. YouTube videos of people quitting their jobs increasingly become frequent, encouraging others that *they, too, can quit their jobs* and join the free on a tropical island where people walk around bare feet, drink raw milk, and transact in bitcoin. Course selling shows an uptick and starts showing up more and more on screens. Funding announcements. Startup accelerators. *You, too, can start a company*. A big underneath driver of this in the 2010s is now said to be 0% interest rates by the U.S. federal reserve; abbreviated ZIRP, for *zero interest rate policy*.



The interesting thing about ZIRP is, it wasn't named until the decade had *already passed*. Nobody was calling it ZIRP *while it was going on*. It was given a name and explanation only *after* it was already over. So the next thing, which in my opinion is happening now, doesn't have a name yet. The details vary but a general feeling of increasingly being marketed to feels eternally recurring. There is a *bear case* that forms in response, meaning people start to *bet against* emerging trends. I hadn't heard the word *grift* all that much until a few years ago, but now it's very casually used for things one doesn't approve of. Regardless, this difference in opinion helps in forming and fueling the marketplace. People explain their choices with stories, both for and against, all while enacting affordances and flexes.

There's such an uptick happening right now it feels. Good. Great. I've found that there are lots of people who are aesthetically driven and they are starting to show up. It's a slow thing.

I look forward to it.

Nietzsche's portrait taken from [here](#)⁷⁹.

⁷⁹. here – <https://www.thoughtco.com/nietzsches-idea-of-the-eternal-recurrence-2670659>

Lighthouse not Bucket

April 25, 2026

In his book *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica*, Isaac Newton wrote about a thought experiment involving water in a bucket hung by a cord tied to a ceiling. The cord by which this bucket is hanging is first twisted sufficiently, then released. Newton categorizes the resulting spiral motions into three: first, *the bucket* starts to spin, then *the water* in the bucket starts to spin...eventually syncing with the bucket's spin, and ultimately the bucket comes to rest while the water continues spinning.

Newton's bucket experiment has many deep insights to ponder. Concavity, rotating motion, relativity, you name it. There are seemingly infinite things one can discuss about it. When I worked in oil & gas, I always found the smartest engineers to be those concerned with rotating equipment and from them I learnt that all machines, no matter how seemingly complex, like the kind you find in refineries, natural gas turbines, mines and steel mills, can be understood and controlled if only one understood the simple rules underneath governing their motions and rotations. Spinning buckets are an incredible metaphor.



Fast forward, I heard via David Deutsch an *even better* metaphor, originally by Karl Popper, that I wanted to share today. Popper in his *bucket theory of the mind* criticized buckets as a metaphor for knowledge, asserting that we as humans are not passive acquirers of knowledge akin to buckets in which water is filled via *an external source*. Instead, he proposed that knowledge creation is *an internally generated* process akin to a searchlight. I could be wrong but I believe Deutsch uses the word *lighthouse* which I like even better than searchlight, because a lighthouse at least in my mind creates an image of absolute space.

In any case, the more time passes the more I find myself appreciating this metaphor upgrade. Everywhere I look, people assume knowledge works as buckets: in education, in professional life, in consumption of media, you name it. But instead, the metaphor of a searchlight in a

lighthouse lets one know that they aren't just a passive observer with no control over what's being put inside their mind. Rather, we're an active force to create, modify, and test knowledge based on programs within. How cool.

Albert de Marees' *Coast at Night with Lighthouse* [here](#)⁸⁰.

⁸⁰. here – https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Albert_de_Marees_-_Coast_at_Night_with_Lighthouse.jpg

Quantum Alchemy

April 26, 2026



Today I learnt via a Wolfram [livestream](#)⁸¹ more about quantum chemistry and biology, subjects that I vaguely knew existed but hadn't thought about much. A few weeks ago I wrote about doing some [quantum tinkers](#)⁸² which were about cryptography, meaning prime numbers and their factorials essentially. But today's lesson was different, about Hydrogen atoms and molecules, multiple paths of history and the one we find ourselves in via measurements, and whether quantum discreteness has any affect on biological systems. Spins the brain a bit.

My main head-turning takeaway was that the *heliocentric* astronomical model is only an estimation of what's happening at the atomic level. The visual I learnt at school growing up was some kind of nucleus situation inside which there's a proton and what not, and electrons spin around the thing like earth spins around the sun, and moon around the earth, and so on. Turns out, that's not what's really going on at the atomic level at all. Of course, I had heard about Heisenberg's *uncertainty principle* and imagined some kind of tiny cloud, and had heard Schrödinger's cat references here and there; but I didn't have a visualization of it as clear until now. It's a bit mind shattering to realize that models shown to me growing up in classrooms now have better representations. Makes me have more sympathy for flat earthers or something like that when done to my own set of assumptions.

⁸¹. livestream – <https://www.youtube.com/live/ej0ikRYt8EE?si=U0WNItPklhEp3T1W>

⁸². quantum tinkers – this volume



Something I also find interesting is how in Wolfram's [physics project](https://www.wolframphysics.org/)⁸³, multiple paths of history and the future are an assumed, very matter-of-fact idea; while David Deutsch is very stop-and-smell-the-roses about the whole multiple universes thing it seems like. I wrote about this some before while [exploring ontology](#)⁸⁴, but I find comparing notes with both of them a very fruitful exercise. Deutsch excels at explaining and differentiating interpretations of quantum physics, insisting that only the Everettian one, or EQM, makes sense as it doesn't point to a supernatural explanation. Wolfram meanwhile takes an approach where he doesn't pause at this part, and marches forward explaining how a Hydrogen molecule may be

⁸³. physics project – <https://www.wolframphysics.org/>

⁸⁴. exploring ontology – this volume

reinterpreted and visualized in this new context of quantum mechanics. They both seem to be agreeing on multiple universes. Good stuff.

Alchemist in his Workshop by David Teniers [here](#)⁸⁵.

⁸⁵. here – <https://artblart.com/tag/destillierlabor>

Markov chain Monte Carlo

April 27, 2026

I had not heard of the abbreviation MCMC until the summer of 2024. I separately knew of Markov chains and Monte Carlo simulations, that too not so much in depth, but had not considered them together, or all that much individually for that matter. I will put their Wikipedia entries below, but essentially Markov chains are recurring probability calculations taking the output of each step as the input for the next one. Separately, Monte Carlo simulations use randomness to generate multiple probabilities which help approximations and optimizations estimate deterministic outcomes via random guesses. Used together, MCMC is akin to mathematically letting Pac-Man loose on a bounded space until it figures out the nature of probability distributions within it.

```

graph TD
    E((E)) -- 0.3 --> E
    E -- 0.7 --> A((A))
    A -- 0.4 --> E
    A -- 0.6 --> A
          
```

Wikipedia

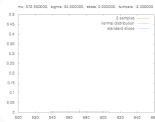
Markov chain

In probability theory and statistics, a Markov chain or Markov process is a stochastic process describing a sequence of possible events in which the probability of each event depends only on the state attained in the previous event. Informally, this may be thought of as, "What happens next depends o...

86

86. Wikipedia Markov chain In probability theory and statistics, a Markov chain or Markov pr... – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Markov_chain

Wikipedia



Monte Carlo method

Monte Carlo methods, also called the Monte Carlo experiments or Monte Carlo simulations, are a broad class of computational algorithms based on repeated random sampling for obtaining numerical results. The underlying concept is to use randomness to solve deterministic problems.

87

Impressive as it may seem, I must admit I remain skeptical of this methodology. It's Bayesian in its nature and philosophy, meaning it updates its knowledge of the state with each calculation. I don't doubt it works charmingly well in context, which my guess is bounded state space and bounded volatility; two assumptions I mention while discussing previously the [central limit theorem](#)⁸⁸ and [law of large numbers](#)⁸⁹. I just find these things more for laboratories than application in real life is all. This tends to annoy people who are big fans of these things in my experience. But to be fair I ought to spend more time with these things before finalizing my judgements.

⁸⁷. Wikipedia Monte Carlo method Monte Carlo methods, also called the Monte Carlo experiment... – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monte_Carlo_method

⁸⁸. central limit theorem – this volume

⁸⁹. law of large numbers – this volume



Wikipedia

Bayesian probability

Bayesian probability is an interpretation of the concept of probability, in which, instead of frequency or propensity of some phenomenon, probability is interpreted as reasonable expectation representing a state of knowledge or as quantification of a personal belief.

90

90. Wikipedia Bayesian probability Bayesian probability is an interpretation of the concept... – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bayesian_probability

Probably my most general comment about these fancy probability models is that they are great gatekeeping tools to keep criticism at bay. Hardly anyone knows or understands these things in depth enough to be able to hold a conversation about them, and what I've observed happens often is people bring these things up to exclude non-technical people from entering the discussion. Maybe that even has some merit to it because it acts as some kind of gated neighborhood situation with only high quality conversation allowed inside. And if that's the intention, then I'm all for it. But even other than that, I find that these things are great for increasing one's conceptual clarity and not so much in day to day life. Maybe I'm wrong and like I said before, I ought to spend more time with these models before passing judgement.

The Road to Monte Carlo by Claude Monet [here](#)⁹¹.

91. here – <https://www.wikiart.org/en/claude-monet/the-road-to-monte-carlo>

Accidental Reddit Mod

April 28, 2026

Deen posting serious things for the last few days so thought I'd share something funny and happenstance today. I have accidentally become a Reddit mod for a growing community (that I'd like to keep anonymous for now). It's both quite funny and enjoyable so far, so we'll see how long it keeps going. I started it on my phone running errands recently after noticing a growing discussion on something I myself was searching for. People immediately started posting on there, which is fun, especially since it's all civil and polite. So far anyway. If any of that changes or it gets boring, we'll see what I do.

Also saw this Žižek video on X yesterday that I want to comment on, which maybe I'll do tomorrow. Posting the video here to watch later.

Žižek has major Reddit mod energy.



Curt Jaimungal
@TOEwithCurt



Slavoj Žižek doesn't answer your question – he dismantles it, rebuilds it, and hands you something stranger and more useful than what you started with. Philosopher, provocateur, and self-described pessimist, he's spent decades insisting on something most thinkers shy away from:...



April 27, 2026

92

I'm the Boss (of You)

April 29, 2026



ots of humanities folks tend to have the idea that they're ultimately superior and shall inherit the earth and rule over everyone nerdy and technical. Conversely, there's this idea of *the revenge of the nerd* where a technical person who perceives themselves as oppressed schemes to fight back and *also* inherit the earth. Feels like some high school or college level tribal rivalry and both kinds are probably some universal wet dream of colonizing one's neighbors dressed up in intellectual garb with different sounding stories on top. A general thing to remember is that *formal systems inevitably exist inside informal systems*, so one ought to be humble and learn both disciplines.

I bring this up because of [two](#)⁹³ recent [instances](#)⁹⁴ of Slavoj Žižek bringing up quantum mechanics and going on a 10 minute rant on philosophy, leaving the listener thinking as if they're not sophisticated enough to understand his points, and that everyone should listen to him as he has many important contradictions to point out. Meanwhile it's a total mask-off moment for me listening to him talk, revealing he's blabbering without knowing what he's saying and just saying physics words nonsensically. I'm not sure of his philosophical standing outside this, but I start to have a very deep sense of skepticism on *every other opinion he holds* after hearing him talk about quantum physics.

It's [the asymmetry](#)⁹⁵. Again.

Anyway, in other news, I did a big transaction on the ethereum blockchain today. Those always feel nice. I re-watched the Hindi film [Khosla Ka Ghosla](#)⁹⁶ recently in which the story revolves around an unjust land transaction, and it had me thinking of the whole *the future is already here, it's just not evenly distributed* thing. Because the way transactions work is so archaic in a big part of the world. And because normal people don't actually do that many big

93. two – this volume

94. instances – this volume

95. the asymmetry – this volume

96. Khosla Ka Ghosla – <https://youtu.be/pgXDnEHxkKw?si=4jTHIT0TXKpmpVr>

transactions through the course of their life, the problem of having better mechanisms for transactions is an invisible problem to most. Or a luxury toy.

Show Me the Guru

April 30, 2026

My childhood friend Gurumehar Singh is now an entrepreneur with a portfolio of ventures in Punjab: a warehousing operation, innovation incubators and office spaces, real estate, probably more stuff I'm unaware of. Over the years in my infrequent visits, I've seen him get into and run a number of projects some of which have now faded into the past while others flourish. A true inspiration, yesterday he shared with me a video produced by [Roundglass Foundation](#)⁹⁷ in which they put him in the spotlight for a passion he enjoys deeply: *do-nothing farming*. I'll put the video at the end below, but first a picture I found while visiting in 2021 (I think) when I accompanied Guru and his dad to a land scouting trip when the subject of today's video was just a prospect idea.



97. Roundglass Foundation – <https://roundglassfoundation.org>

Wikipedia



Natural farming

Natural farming, also referred to as "the Fukuoka Method", "the natural way of farming", or "do-nothing farming", is an ecological farming approach established by Masanobu Fukuoka (1913–2008). Fukuoka, a Japanese farmer and philosopher, introduced the term in his 1975 book *The One-Straw Revolution*. ...

98

Before any of it was a thing, in his 20s Guru got into hydroponics, growing among other things Dutch lilies...in Punjab. He was always into farming and innovation with deep respect for nature, and seeing him stand the operation up from scratch was like an in-person [Clarkson's Farm](#)⁹⁹ viewing before it ever aired. Since then, he has developed a further keen eye for permaculture and native biota, of which he conserves and grows more than 50 varieties of at *Do Nothing Farms*, located in Pir Jain, Fatehgarh Sahib tehsil (district) of Punjab. Some of the biodiversity he discusses in the video are *Jungle Jalebi* (Madras thorn) that makes local birds and their nests feel safer, *Red Jatrophas*, white *Double Chandnis*, *Shahtoot* (Mulberries), and *Kachnar* (Bauhinia) whose leaves look like butterflies. Guru makes tea for the production crew with Lemongrass, Kachnar, and Tulsi (Holy Basil). If you're ever in the area and want to have this tea, [email Guru](#).

98. Wikipedia Natural farming Natural farming, also referred to as "the Fukuoka Method", "th... - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_farming

99. Clarkson's Farm - https://youtu.be/pW-iVG0_D34?si=JyD9OMKVwGIsyhpX



I then visited again in 2023 (I think), and the hydroponics Dutch lilly lessons had been learnt. Guru now was married and had his first child. Project *Do Nothing* was on. I haven't visited since and shall update on the latest and the greatest in another future post; I'll just say this for now: the word *gur* has a variety of etymological roots, from *lion's cub* in Hebrew to *a mountain* or some kind of powerful and sturdy structure in Proto-Indo-European languages, to even a unit of measurement in Mesopotamia apparently. But to me personally *gur* best translates meaningfully as the Indian word for *epistemology*, the branch of philosophy focused on the nature, origin, scope, and limits of human knowledge. A *gur-u* then is someone, a teacher-like figure, showing one the epistemological path to enlightenment. Guru's architect wife

Jasleen¹⁰⁰, his two children, Ajooni and Aadh, and his (grand)parents must be proud to have someone true to his name in their lives.

Ok enough yapping, watch the video!



101

100. Jasleen – <https://www.ajoonijasleenarchitects.in>

101. YouTube – <https://youtube.com/watch?v=Y-SOz0BgF4A>

Pain au chocolat

May 01, 2026



ever thought I'd say this but my local HEB makes possibly the best chocolate croissants I have ever had. All my life I thought croissants were a gimmick and all it took was one single amazing croissant to change my opinion.

Reported from the grocery store parking lot. It's raining here in Austin today. A nice Friday.



Information Bankruptcy

May 02, 2026



about a month ago I wrote about LLM-enabled [knowledge graphs](#)¹⁰² and what differentiates information from knowledge: namely *causation*. This working definition comes from *constructor theory* in which physicist David Deutsch further distinguishes knowledge from *explanatory knowledge*, a sub-sub-set of information that enables construction. David asserts that while evolutionary processes also contain genetic knowledge, humans yield the universal power to *explain the seen in terms of the unseen*¹⁰³. Lots to chew there. I imagine it vaguely as naturally occurring [power law distributions](#)¹⁰⁴, in which the game is to parse haystacks of information for needles of knowledge that explain reality, enabling us to solve problems, construct concepts or objects, and write new programs among other things.

What about competing explanations?

It used to be easier to differentiate unserious explanations from serious ones by visiting libraries, attending universities, finding smart people to talk to and debate with, probably other methods known to veterans of the trade. But with the printing press, the typewriter, the word processor, the internet, and now the LLM, it's both that the size of the haystack has exponentially increased, and everyone and their mom out there claim to have found many worthy needles in it. Even aesthetic compasses scanning for pleasing looking fine arts as proxy for intelligence and intellectual-looking academic papers can now be constructed with AI. What now? How does one distinguish between two needles of the haystack both of which claim to explain reality?

¹⁰². [knowledge graphs](#) – this volume

¹⁰³. [seen in terms of the unseen](#) – this volume

¹⁰⁴. [power law distributions](#) – this volume



writings.stephenwolfram.com



“I Have a Theory Too”: The Challenge and Opportunity of Avocational Science

Stephen Wolfram encourages amateur scientists to channel their passion, truly learn the subject that interests them and then systematically explore the computational universe using ruliology.

105

One of the more obvious answers here is that if people can automate the creation of academic-looking intellect, one can also automate the reception of it. It starts to look like some kind of high-frequency-trading situation, where if one transacting party has a bot doing its bidding, so does the other, and increasingly likely it's simply algorithms trading against each other at micro timescales. Knowledge similarly is being automated at blazing fast speeds, and one can imagine [bots emailing each other](#)¹⁰⁶ and taking actions, [conducting commerce](#)¹⁰⁷, going on dates, and whatever future one *cannot* imagine. I'm repeating a few Stephen Wolfram talking points here, and I thought his blog reflecting on the increasing number of amateur physics theories in his inbox was a hilarious example of what we can expect for *every field* in the near future. But even with automated distillation, when one is left with only a handful of competing theories, Karl Popper's idea of *falsifiability* acts as the final boss of this situation. Popper is a genius for this: an explanation can never be proved true, but it *can* be proved false; for which one must have a competing explanation to compare it with.

It may be a mistake to speculate too far out in the future and map what things may look like further out. But since the not-so-far-out future is more reliably mapped, a more sensible approach may be to be aggressive about building defensive technologies that enable one to continue being sane and at bay from information bankruptcy.

Bankrupt Bank by Vladimir Makovsky [here](#)¹⁰⁸.

106. bots emailing each other – https://community.wolfram.com/groups/-/m/t/3210142?p_auth=aW6xSIg0

107. conducting commerce – this volume

108. here – https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vladimir_Makovsky_-_Bankruptcy.JPG

Beautiful Day

May 03, 2026

Nothing to say today. It's a beautiful Sunday. Gorgeous day to be out and about.

Breakfast & Mail

May 04, 2026



he concept of taxes, state registrations, ongoing compliance paperwork, keeping up with regulatory frameworks and other stuff like that is stressful to think about. I am extremely grateful to live in the great state of Texas about this part, among other things, where it's always been easier to conduct business. Relatively anyway, as it takes me to leave Texas to realize how heavy this burden is elsewhere. Today has been all about paperwork it seems.

Breakfast Burrito Recipe

Warm flour tortilla, charred. Keep on the side. Fried omelette. Add on top of tortilla. Plus pimento cheese, plus diced onions and tomatoes, plus salsa verde.



I asked Grok to imagine it and that's what it gave me. Accurate picture I'd say. Absolute delight this breakfast. I didn't realize pimento cheese is a southern thing. Steals the show. Salsa verde, too. Pico de gallo works as well. I've been having it every morning recently.

Anyway, one minor admin update regarding this website is that I've changed its footer address to a mailbox in New York via *iPostal1*. My company is registered in Wyoming because I wanted the name *Randhawa* and similar to Texas, Wyoming's another business-friendly state; though with Clarity Act incoming it's become less of a worry. What I want to do is to detach physical locations from mailing addresses, a nice little upgrade.

Storm's Coming Mr. Wayne

May 05, 2026

Suddenly woke up around 4 AM hearing a thud on my bedroom door last night. What was that? Maybe I was imagining things. Another thud. Right outside. More sounds of movement. More thuds. Movement. Unmistakable sounds of movement right outside. Mind starts racing. *I'm being robbed* is my immediate thought. Am I dreaming? Please tell me I am imagining this. Another thud. I tiptoed to the door putting my ear to it. More sounds outside; I pictured someone walking around and picking things up. I didn't know what to do or how to act. I am not making this up, this really happened last night. I stood there a while at first, I had literally just woken up. I was still hoping it was some kind of a dream or another explanation could make sense of it. More sounds. I then tiptoed to the bathroom and grabbed a hammer. It was time to face it. I started walking around loudly and turned the lights on, waited, then stormed out.



All clear. It was my automated vacuum cleaner. Stuck under a chair by now. It had somehow triggered itself on after I moved stuff around it last night. That only added up after. Everything added up, only after. What a sigh of relief. A funny moment, but only after. Again, this really, actually happened last night and I didn't know what to do when I first heard the sounds. I mentally signed up to lose my stuff, started taking inventory of what my

most cherished things were. What I'd be able to start a new life with. What I'd miss. This was real. And in retrospect, I now laugh that in moments where I thought I was about to lose potentially everything, I imagined having at least some of my dumb digital assets to my name still. Funny. But *only in retrospect*.

I then went back to sleep and woke up a few hours later to see Coinbase was letting 14% of their staff go. Brian Armstrong's note was well written and humane I thought, but the message was clear: they're freeing up cash prepping for AI. I then saw Haun raised a \$1 billion USD crypto fund, and then that 16z also raised a new \$2+ billion USD crypto round. Curious synchronicity between these announcements in short order. Plus, I recently wrote briefly about [USVC](#)¹⁰⁹ which is Naval's new fund. What should one make of this? Where will this money go? Who will this benefit? It's time for the [eternal recurrence](#)¹¹⁰, Mr. Wayne. Storm's coming. What will this thing be called once we're able to fully explain what's behind the door that we're hearing thuds and noises about?

Surviving a Stagecoach Robbery by Andy Thomas [here](#)¹¹¹.

109. USVC – this volume

110. eternal recurrence – this volume

111. here – <https://www.truewestmagazine.com/article/surviving-a-stagecoach-robbery/>

Birds Are Chirping

May 06, 2026

Birds are starting to chirp louder. Summer is loading. Truth be told, I only recently realized that seasons are equally split up neatly into 3 months each, making a total of four seasons. I thought spring and fall were mini seasons and lasted like two, three weeks max. Apparently not. The AIs educated me on it. There's a couple different ways to go about counting seasons, some kind of hemisphere situation going on in there. And they all last three months each. So now I'm starting to pay more attention to it all. May is spring? If you say so.

mathandcode.com

2D Gaussian Scalar Field – Exact Spectral OU WebGL2

112

Another thing I don't fully understand but find interesting is what David Moore shared on X on May 4. I met David a few summers ago and was quite impressed by him and his work. David does computational physics and runs a website called *math and code*, plus he streams on Twitch. Probably one of the smartest people I ever met it feels like. I remember he suggested me a physics lecture that I'm yet to watch still. I find his work very interesting so sharing it here. More about it in his words below.

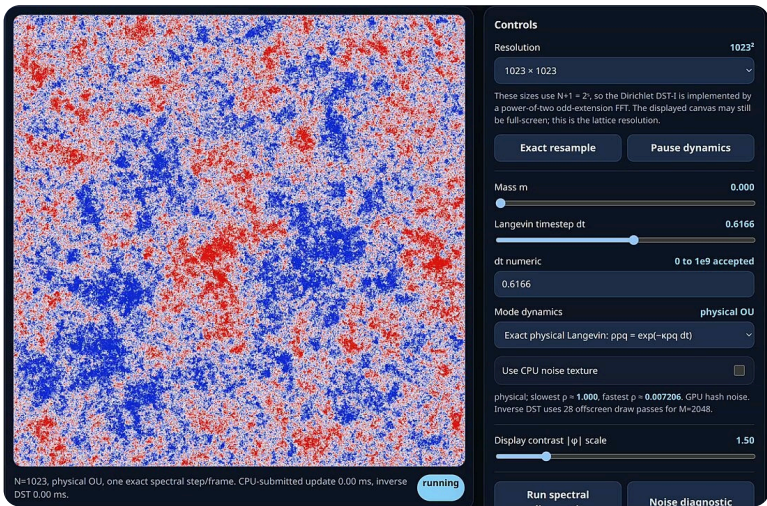
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David Moore
@physbuzz2



Exact time evolution of a free massless scalar field! This is a theoretically very boring thing (day 1, week 1 of a quantum field theory course), but... how do I explain this... to a lattice field theorist, a lot of algorithms scale really badly. Many PhD theses have been written...



May 4, 2026

113

Celebrity Status

May 07, 2026



he forum I started over on Reddit a couple of [weeks ago](#)¹¹⁴ now has tens of thousands of visitors and hundreds of posters. I don't know how to feel about that. Feels the same I guess. I was lucky enough to go viral in my teens many times over via music making, so online virality doesn't mean that much to me I feel like. I frontran Instagram-brain, though maybe it could be said I missed out on certain aspects of it by being super early; because people now set up merch shops and it all seems much more sophisticated compared to people just doing things in their bedrooms for fun like when the internet was new. It's been extremely civil and warm so far, so still very fun, the Reddit thing.

I guess if it keeps going I can share what community it is and not keep it private anymore. Another thing I've noticed spending time on the internet is that privacy and anonymity are not that well understood. In a lot of social circles privacy, which I consider closely defined to freedom, is considered suspect by default. There's probably some truth to it some of the time, but the expectation that *all* privacy by its very nature is criminal is extremely troubling to me. The other similar popular misconception is that all anonymity is bad, and that crypto as an industry is anonymous; whereas in truth it's mostly *pseudonymous* and actually much more transparent than traditional finance infrastructure. In any case, if my Reddit community keeps growing I can doxx it. I don't do anything online that would embarrass me; I'm just pro-privacy.

Made breakfast tacos this morning. They were great.

¹¹⁴. weeks ago – this volume

So Be It

May 08, 2026

Beautiful Friday today. Heard this song yesterday that I really liked. Happy weekend.



115

115. YouTube – <https://youtube.com/watch?v=URIPXepBZdo>

Aap Beeti

May 09, 2026

Spoke to my parents this morning at length which I do often. It's nice having a great relationship with them. Mother's day is tomorrow so wished my mom and we talked about many things. She was born in Badala and raised in Chunni Kalan, Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab until she moved to Chandigarh. She's a tremendous woman. Her uncle encouraged her to pursue nursing and she eventually ran big hospitals in North India, where I was born, got her PhD in administration of large hospitals, and moved to America later in life. Her favorite author and poet is Amrita Pritam and I find she's very keen on intellectual pursuits, which is probably where I get my version of it from. I love my mom!



She gave me many things in life, but one that cost her the most probably was our move to America, in which like many immigrants she had to give up her high status career and start from scratch all over again. My dad and I laughed earlier today about the adage *it's going to be harder than you think* people tell you when starting a new challenging journey, and how one inevitably thinks in response *whatever, how hard can it be*. The thing then ends up kicking your ass. My parents and I have the luxury to have such retrospective humor on our move to America, but in the moment these challenges were severe and tough; why I am even more deeply grateful of them with time. I think they instilled great values in me, and I lucked out having them as parents.



More on my dad soon. Love my dad!

American Caste

May 10, 2026

Page bait title to share something casual and funny. By the way, I find many if not most Indians themselves do not understand what caste is. The topic is simultaneously taboo and overly intellectualized so the confusion adds up. My best working definition is that caste is the *mapping* between ethnicity and profession. Caste is *not* one's ethnicity, and nor is it one's *profession*; but rather it's the hardcoded *mapping* between one's ethnicity and profession. My own ethnicity is *jatt*, and the casteist mapping to it would be farming, land-lording, and peasantry labor. At the expense of annoying repetition, a popular misconception is that *jatt* is a caste, whereas caste is the systemic expectation and coercion into a profession at the point of one's birth *because of* their ethnicity; not the notion of ethnicity itself.

Anyway, back to the funny thing. A common observation and joke Americans make while traveling is that boarding groups on flights vaguely represent the caste system in America. Do you even have the fancy credit card that lets you in the buffet lounge? Stop being low caste, just be rich. Quite funny. But talking to my parents yesterday I was reflecting on another such similar version of the thing. When I first moved to America I worked multiple blue collar jobs, out of both necessity and excitement. People in India where I grew up don't take up jobs to support themselves and the focus is on education and getting intellectual sounding college degrees for all, so many people's first jobs or at least the expectation of them is to be in some posh office among rich and intellectual people, while working at fast food joints and more labor intensive things is generally done by the less fortunate and all that usual socialist society jazz. Extremely ironic to me that societies obsessed with the notion of equality and diversity tend to have the deepest inequalities within them. Anyway, this was all changing while I was growing up in India in the 1990s and capitalism was creeping its way in. I read in a book one time that American children setup lemonade stands as their first business venture during summer vacation, so I imitated that one summer. Zero customers except my aunt who was visiting from Canada. People didn't understand what the point of it was. So when I moved to

Texas in the 2000s I was eager to go to American high school, the kind I had seen on TV, work jobs that I had seen kids work, and do more western culture things.

The punch line to this whole thing is that as my career took shape over the years, the kinds of jokes, comments, and things people bring up and tell me has changed with time. I delivered pizza for years, an eternity in retrospect. During that era, I remember people joking with me about having moved to America and still delivering pizza 5 years in. *You haven't even gotten yourself an 18-wheeler yet* was the joke among peers. Indeed, the best return on investment for many is to get into trucking and the general expectation is that trucking is the default career path. Jokes from the outgroup were about 7-Eleven gas stations and taxi driving. I never thought or perceived any of it to be racist or anything like that; it's just the general nature of jokes is what it was. Then, I got a bit of a nicer job selling computers to small businesses and immediately noticed the difference in the kinds of things people would ask me and joke with me about. Peers and customers would ask me about *Jim Corbett National Park*, the Bengal tiger, Himalayan mountain ranges, diamonds and marbles from Rajasthan, best spots to go fly fishing in India and so on. Quite the change. And more recently for the last few years, it's been relatively even more intellectual in nature. Manmohan Singh, economic policy, Arundhati Roy, Jawaharlal Nehru, Zohran Mamdani, Sikh history and philosophy, just a few topics off the top of my head. I don't think of myself as belonging to any of these groups more than the other. It all still invokes laughter in me same as working at Dominos and being asked why am I not a trucker yet. It somehow feels like that same question just in its more intellectualized form. I'm jestermaxxing here but that's been my American caste climb.

Normal Monday

May 11, 2026

Lovely day today. Having pizza for lunch.

Private Thoughts

May 12, 2026

Privacy seems to be the new trendy discussion nowadays. Zcash is cool, I guess. It's like Bitcoin but encrypted. X chat is encrypted. Meta apps stopped claiming to be so, made the news. Signal. Tornado Cash. Zero knowledge proofs. This, that, and the other. Private, private, private. I don't know what to think of that in its entirety. I guess cash is private? Would I want the United States Bullion Depository, where all the gold is supposedly kept over at Fort Knox be private? Absolutely not. I want it audited and transparent and verifiable. But I want my cash and assets to be private from surveillance. The question becomes that of the observer. Who is observing what, and what are the boundaries of this observation? A public good ought to not be private, and private assets ought to only be public by permission of their owner(s). But it's more complex than that in decentralized networks; probably because the problem is new, and not so much because it cannot be solved. I think who the observer is, is key to determine the subtleties.

Need to think more about this. Just writing my thoughts out loud for now. Once Clarity Act goes through, which is scheduled to be marked up on Thursday this week, this discussion will come about more loudly. Exciting times ahead.

Got work to do today so I'll give Claude max a shot or whatever the upper tier is called. Up until now I've only been using AI in chunks, and even there it kind of spazzes out after a while. Are the higher end plans really that much better? More at 9.

Toor Collection

May 13, 2026

Really enjoy the artwork in The Toor Collection. Great website, too.

toorcollection.com

The Toor Collection

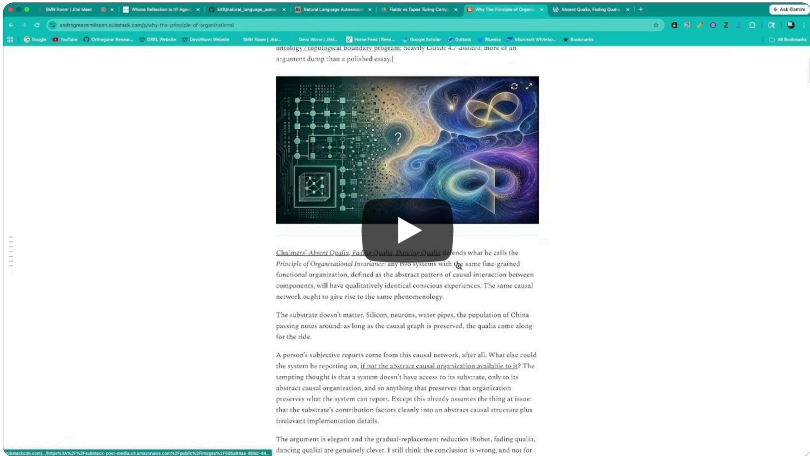
Toor Collection of Sikh Art, the world

116

Turing & Ising

May 14, 2026

Bookmarking this video to watch this weekend.



strategy, computational complexity, genetic networks, 4-10-2006, more of an argument during (the a polished essay)

Principle of Organizational Invariance (Kauffman) - This video explains what he calls the Principle of Organizational Invariance: any two systems with the same fine-grained functional organization, defined as the abstract pattern of causal interaction between components, will have qualitatively identical conscious experiences. The same causal network might give rise to the same phenomenology.

The substrate doesn't matter. Silicon, neurons, water pipes, the population of China passing notes around, as long as the causal graph is preserved, the qualia come along for the ride.

A person's subjective reports come from this causal network, after all. What else could the system be reporting on, if not the abstract causal organization available to it? The tempting thought is that a system doesn't have access to its substrate, only to its abstract causal organization, and so anything that preserves that organization preserves what the system can report. Except this already assumes the thing at issue: that the substrate's contribution factors cleanly into an abstract causal structure plus irrelevant implementation details.

The argument is elegant and the gradual replacement reduces (Huber, fading qualia, fading qualia) are genuinely clear. I still think the conclusion is wrong, and not for

117

117. YouTube – <https://youtube.com/watch?v=4Y5-UEEjdAM>

Game Theory

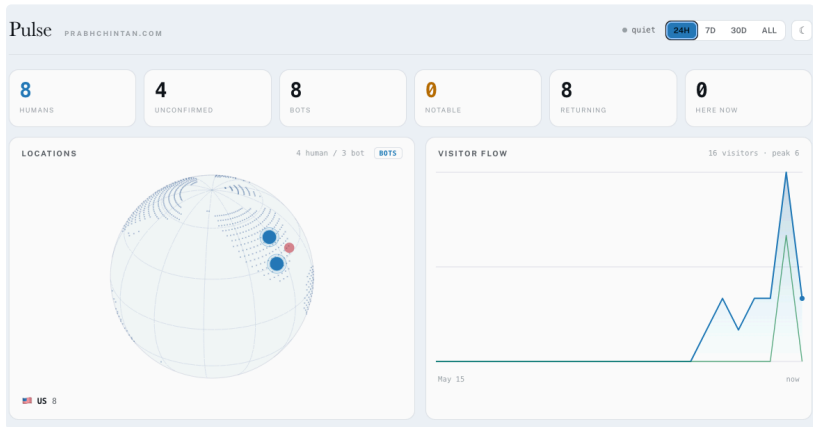
May 15, 2026

I'm suspicious of game theory.

DIY Google Analytics

May 16, 2026

I've coded a DIY Google analytics for this site today. I never used Google analytics with much enthusiasm, or any. It's cool that LLMs can help you make things you actually want to use. I also set up a daily newsletter for myself that I will improve upon with time. I think I should add more stuff to it than just site overviews, like highlights on social media and the news based on certain criteria, market prices, and other things I come up with.



Journal Publish

May 17, 2026



Got an idea today after working with Claude the past few days doing automation. I remember when the iPhone was new. Surprisingly, in retrospect anyway, I already had an expensive smartphone when the iPhone launched; a Nokia N95. My first impression was that the first iPhone wasn't that impressive in comparison. But I underestimated the iPhone's iteration and the speed at which Apple innovated, so I switched to an iPhone when the iPhone 3 came out. By that time, it was clear Nokia was in the dust. Back then, buying these things took everything I had, without exaggeration. I had to save for months and all that. So I started thinking what today's version of it would be. I think it would be a grand automation. Something that takes me months of work. And the first version of it doesn't have to be impressive, I just have to iterate on it with relative speed. So I'm thinking I'll try and publish a hard copy of my blogs this spring; with all my errors in it, as-is. Is *spring* supposed to be capital? Who knows. It's a few months worth of work, and I get to run some automation in the process. Let's see how it goes.

I'll try and chip at it daily. More to come.

Slop & Anti-Slop

May 18, 2026

There's been lots of use of the word *slop* lately, describing large outputs of AI-generated things. Text, media, code, what have you. Within code, but also generally, the claim is that so-called slop is entirely unusable and pointless, only worth hype and lacking substance. I don't think that's fully correct and more so a defense mechanism or some kind of rejection of the new technology. I've seen this game so many times now that I just know most people reject innovation and technology while coming up with increasingly sophisticated reasons for doing so, most often as some kind of taste and intellect thing; sometimes arguing for morality and ethics or aesthetics. Any kind of argument to make one sound better and more elite type thing. I think Vitalik is a highly balanced thinker and I liked what he said in his latest blog post, that LLMs are increasingly also good at bug finding and fixing. So the cure for slop is...anti-slop mechanisms also generated by LLMs. Neat.

vitalik.eth.limo

A shallow dive into formal verification

118

blog.zksecurity.xyz

The Final Form of Software Development

What if the final form of software development was just watching code and proof popping up while you sip a drink? Letting AI agents write assembly directly alongside Lean proofs sidesteps the whole compiler-trust problem. With a peck at real EVM 256-bit addition code and its spec...

119

In other news, I came up with a first-pass for the book project I mentioned [yesterday](#)¹²⁰. It's another example of the kind of things possible with LLMs, that I made an in-house Google analytics [the other day](#)¹²¹, and generated a functional first-pass for a book idea in half a day today. I am not happy with it yet, but it's indeed an impressive first-pass. As-is, it would make for slop. But to Vitalik's point, I can make LLMs hunt down bugs and de-slop the thing with more effort. It's both true that I am not bothering to look deep into the code, which is what bothers critics, but also that I am able to produce things unthinkable before. The claim that these productions are slop or only surface level creations are addressable and in fact next problems to chase. In any case, in the spirit of openly building I wanted to share first copies I just created.

[cover.pdf](#)¹²²

[interior.pdf](#)¹²³

119. blog.zksecurity.xyz The Final Form of Software Development What if the final form of sof... – <https://blog.zksecurity.xyz/posts/end-coding/>

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Self Publish

May 19, 2026



My self publishing experimentation continues. Played some more with the look and feel of the book, how it should be designed and thought of today. This blog will be part of it. I think I have a good rookie system set up and I learnt about choices publishers and everyone involved have to make in the process. I want to drop working versions here in case I have interest to look back on them some day. A working tentative title I am thinking about choosing is *Sunsetting Texas*. But the version I am attaching says *Texas Sunsets*. Sounds vague but I will add more commentary to it the next few days.

[cover.pdf](#)¹²⁴

[interior.pdf](#)¹²⁵

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Double Taps on Tap

May 20, 2026

Noticed something interesting in the attention tracking mechanisms on here; that likes and views sometimes jump up exponentially. I wrote more about setting them up [here](#)¹²⁶. This is just a personal website so it hardly matters, but on YouTube views and if it's stream counts on the new Drake album, these things start to matter. So I looked into it and implemented more fine grained controls; also reverted the like count on the home page back to 22 or whatever it was. It started saying 4,000+ people liked the page and obviously that never happened. Maybe there are similar errors on other pages so I'm capturing and acknowledging those errors generally here. Any awards granted to myself have the possibility of being inflated.

This phenomenon of a central party having the power to change numbers in a database of record is perhaps most seriously discussed and debated in blockchains which aim to solve this exact problem. Ethereum's famous DAO hack comes to mind where the chain was agreed to be reverted to a previous state. Something similar happened in the early days of Bitcoin apparently but I can't recall those details off the top of my head.

Maybe I can convert these mistakes into starting a service upregulating people's likes and views on social media sites. Start a whole bot farm or whatever they're called. I am kidding. In other news my book project is coming along well but I don't want to work on it today; maybe tomorrow. Also the daily newsletter thing is coming along well, I wake up to consolidated reports which is how I discovered this error. I should add more things to that but I need to think about what all I want to read about first thing in the morning.

Evening update: the view and like counter messed up again so I have removed it entirely. Site appears more peaceful without it. There was a sparkline at the homepage counting views that now displays number of words written and contributions made to the GitHub repository which feels more honest.

¹²⁶. [here](#) – this volume

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62. YouTube video, <https://youtube.com/watch?v=Go4GQQRwEc8>
63. YouTube video, <https://youtube.com/watch?v=4Y5-UEEjdAM>
64. YouTube video, <https://youtube.com/watch?v=HBMy-y2wb4I>
65. YouTube video, <https://youtube.com/watch?v=yLUqSW3lhjY>
66. YouTube video, <https://youtube.com/watch?v=TR9oxoASqcw>
67. YouTube video, <https://youtube.com/watch?v=y8OnoxKotPQ>
68. YouTube video, <https://youtube.com/watch?v=QhaPj-wDDdY>
69. YouTube video, <https://youtube.com/watch?v=0xA5uzB6jRU>
70. YouTube video, <https://youtube.com/watch?v=sinFLQh9U3c>
71. YouTube video, <https://youtube.com/watch?v=BWKq4iXUnHs>
72. YouTube video, <https://youtube.com/watch?v=mVrCPo8eB3A>
73. YouTube video, <https://youtube.com/watch?v=Y-SOz0BgF4A>
74. YouTube video, <https://youtube.com/watch?v=URIPXepBZdo>
75. YouTube video, <https://youtube.com/watch?v=3vo87hRUXMQ>
76. YouTube video, <https://youtube.com/watch?v=-d7oR0J9usQ>