

ALVARO VIDELA - @old\_sound

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**METAPHORS WE COMPUTE BY**





**HOW I WENT FROM SELLING FOOD IN  
THE STREET TO WORKING IN TECH**



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# acmqueue



Association for  
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Hootsuite:  
In Pursuit  
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IoT: The  
Internet of  
Terror

**Is There  
a Single Method  
for the Internet  
of Things?**

## METAPHORS WE COMPUTE BY

*Complete table of contents on the following two pages*

<http://queue.acm.org/detail.cfm?id=3127495>

**THE YEAR IS 1980**

GEORGE LAKOFF & MARK JOHNSON

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# METAPHORS WE LIVE BY

**METAPHOR ISN'T JUST A  
MATTER OF POETRY AND  
RHETORICAL FLOURISH**

METAPHORS PERMEATE ALL AREAS OF OUR LIVES

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**METAPHORS DICTATE**

METAPHORS PERMEATE ALL AREAS OF OUR LIVES

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## METAPHORS DICTATE

- ▶ How we think



METAPHORS PERMEATE ALL AREAS OF OUR LIVES

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## METAPHORS DICTATE

- ▶ How we think
- ▶ How we behave

## METAPHORS DICTATE

- ▶ How we think
- ▶ How we behave
- ▶ How we perceive

## METAPHORS DICTATE

- ▶ How we think
- ▶ How we behave
- ▶ How we perceive
- ▶ How our conceptual system is built

**ARGUMENT IS WAR**

# ARGUMENT IS WAR



## ARGUMENT IS WAR

- ▶ Your claims are *indefensible*

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- ▶ Your claims are *indefensible*
- ▶ He *attacked every weak point* in my argument

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- ▶ I *demolished* his argument

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- ▶ I never *won* an argument with him

### ARGUMENT IS WAR

- ▶ Your claims are *indefensible*
- ▶ He *attacked every weak point* in my argument
- ▶ I *demolished* his argument
- ▶ I never *won* an argument with him
- ▶ His criticisms were *right on target*



**WHAT IF ARGUMENT  
IS A DANCE?**

**I'M NOT CONVINCED**

**LET'S TALK ABOUT  
POLITICS**

# HOW METAPHORS SHAPE WOMEN'S LIVES

Consider an experiment that explored how the metaphors of crime can affect people's decision-making. In 2011, Lera Boroditsky and Paul H Thibodeau at Stanford University asked students to read one of two crime reports; one described crime as a "wild beast preying on the city" and the other as a "virus infecting the city". The solutions that the students presented to reduce crime were fascinating: 75% of the 'beast' students thought jail or punishment would resolve crime and 25% suggested social reforms. Yet of those that had been told crime "plagued" neighbourhoods, only 56% opted for more enforcement and 44% wanted social reforms.



# BEAST VS PLAGUE

# FEMINISM CONFRONTS TECHNOLOGY

J U D Y  
WAJCMAN



are referred to by the female pronoun! Similarly, the complementary values of hard/soft are also used to legitimate female exclusion from the world of engineering.<sup>8</sup> Masculinity is expressed both in terms of muscular physical strength and aggression, and in terms of analytical power. 'At one moment, in order to fortify their identification with physical engineering, men dismiss the intellectual world as "soft". At the next moment, however, they need to appropriate sedentary, intellectual engineering work for masculinity too.' (Cockburn, 1985, p. 190)

No matter how masculinity is defined according to this ever-adaptable ideology, it always constructs women as ill-suited to technological pursuits.

**I'M STILL NOT  
CONVINCED**

# HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



**PEOPLE ARE NOT RESOURCES**



**TRIGGER  
WARNING**

**GIVING A PLATFORM  
TO RACISTS**

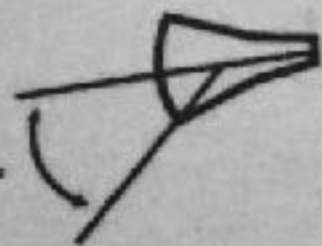


**“WRESTLING WITH  
INCLUSION AT XYZCONF”**

**“WRESTLING WITH  
INCLUSION AT XYZCONF”**

**LET'S TALK ABOUT  
COMPUTERS**

40°, ± 7°



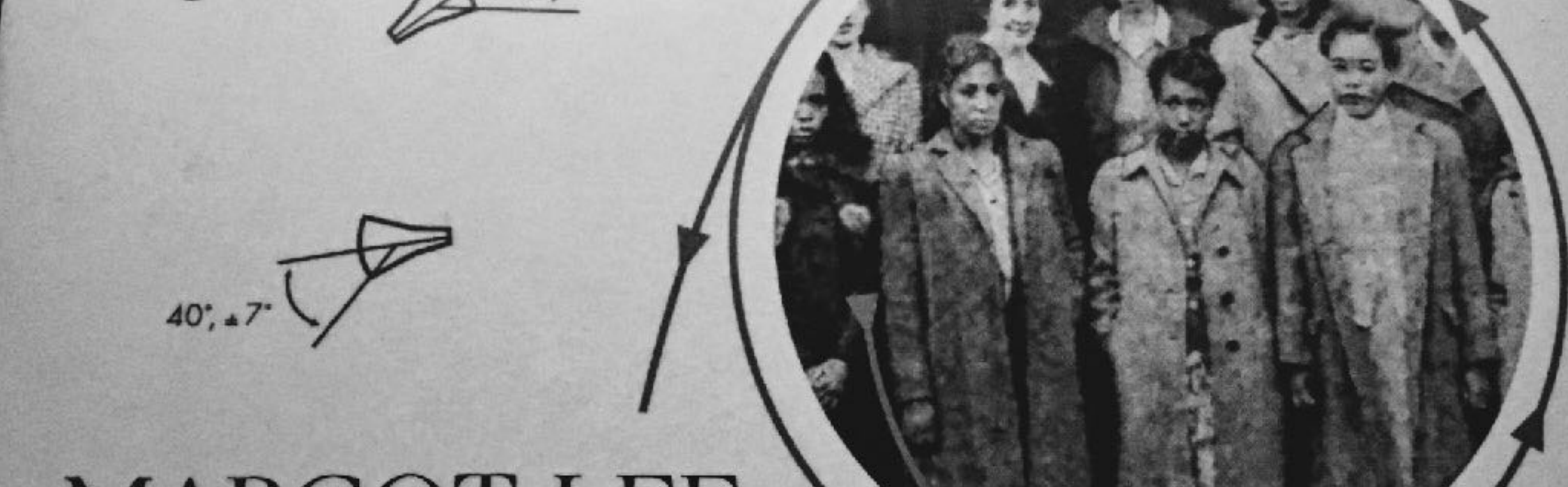
MARGOT LEE  
SHETTERLY



HIDDEN



ENCLOSURES



COMPUTERS

HIDDEN +  
INCLINED



**METAPHORS ENABLE  
UNDERSTANDING**



**JULIET IS LIKE THE SUN**



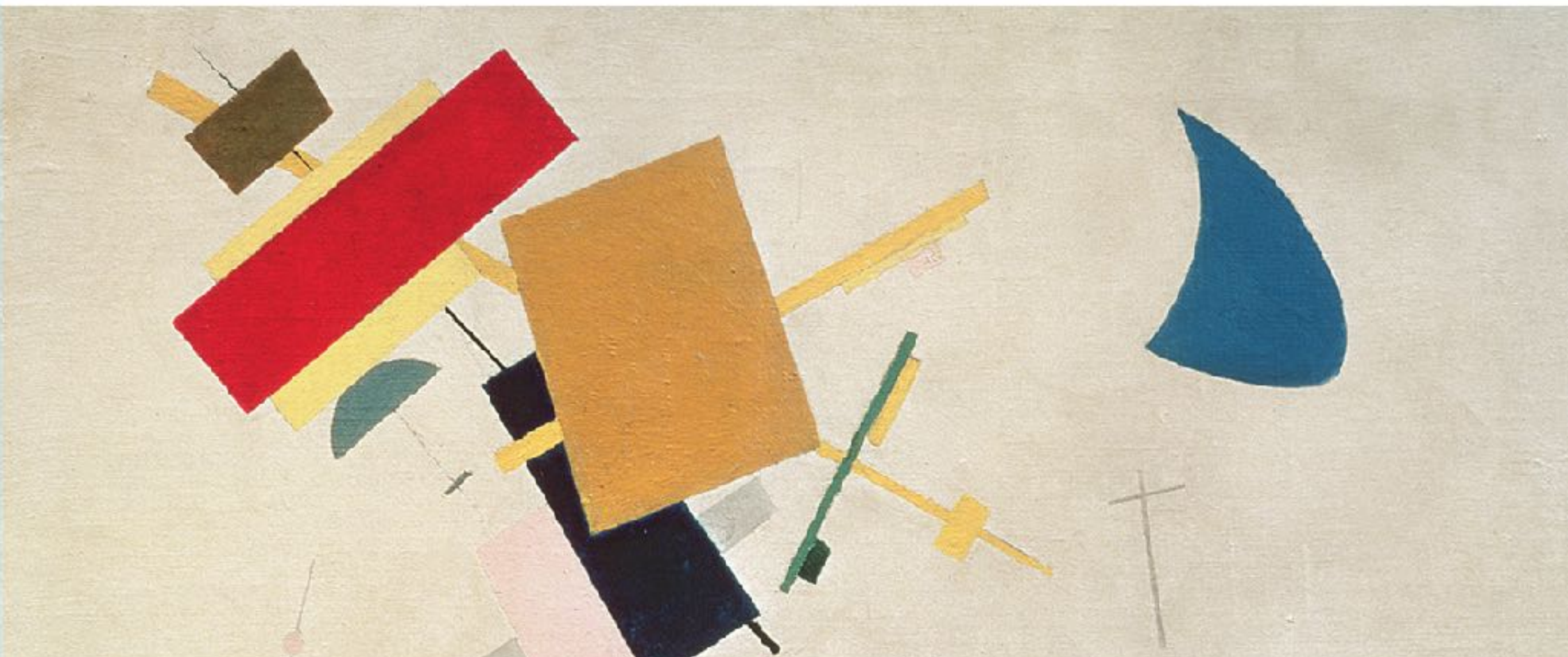
**JULIET GAVE ME  
SKIN CANCER**



# THE GEOMETRY OF MEANING

SEMANTICS BASED ON CONCEPTUAL SPACES

PETER GÄRDENFORS



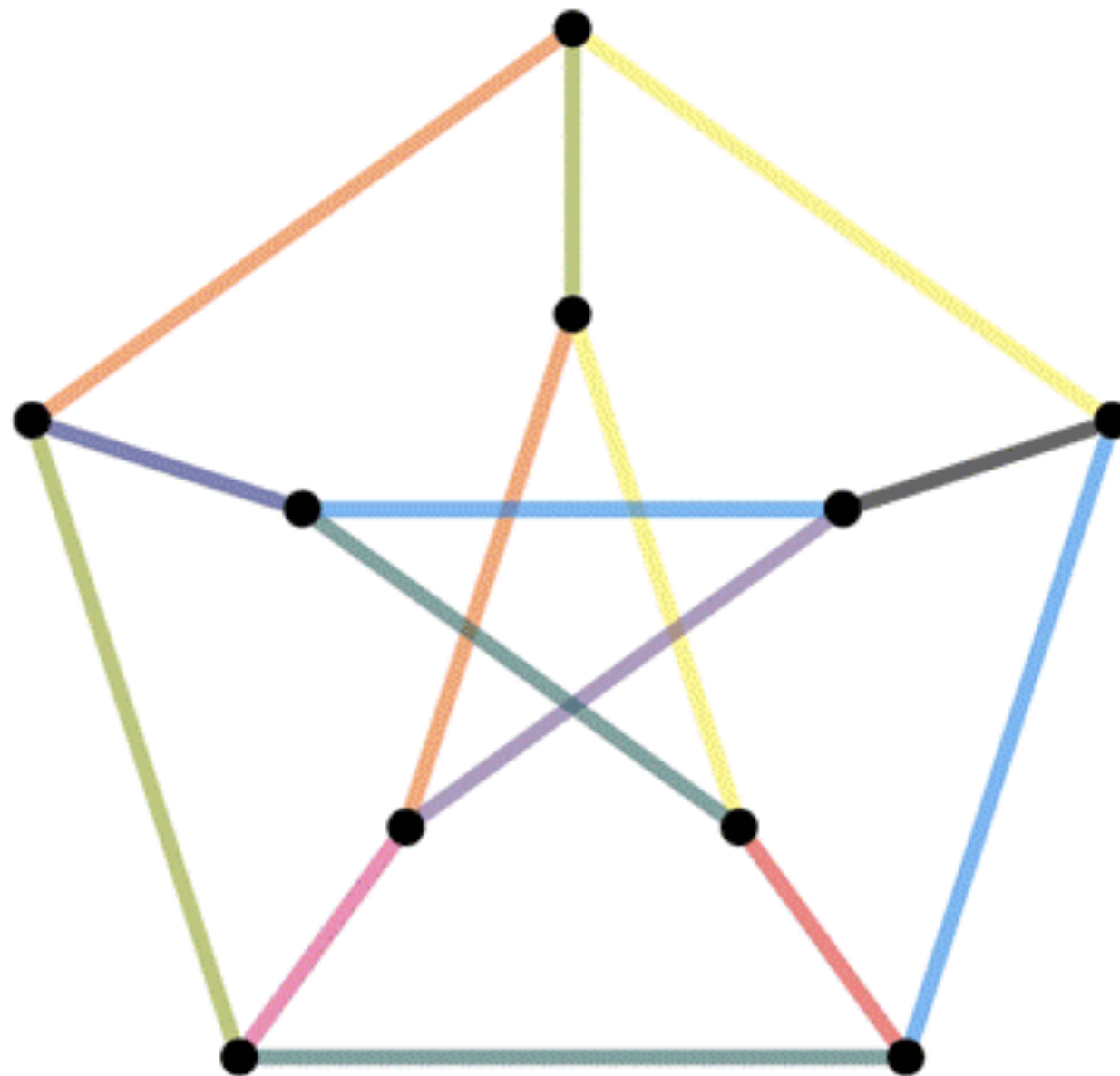
**METAPHORICAL  
MAPPINGS PRESERVE THE  
THE COGNITIVE TOPOLOGY  
OF THE SOURCE DOMAIN**

**IN A WAY CONSISTENT  
WITH THE INHERENT  
STRUCTURE OF THE  
TARGET DOMAIN**

**METAPHORS TRANSFER  
INFORMATION FROM  
ONE CONCEPTUAL  
DOMAIN TO ANOTHER**

**WHAT IS TRANSFERRED  
IS A PATTERN RATHER  
THAN DOMAIN  
SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

**A METAPHOR CAN THUS BE  
USED TO IDENTIFY A  
STRUCTURE IN A DOMAIN  
THAT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN  
DISCOVERED OTHERWISE**



## GRAPH ISOMORPHISM

<https://www.quantamagazine.org/algorithm-solves-graph-isomorphism-in-record-time-20151214>

**THIS IS HOW  
METAPHORS CREATE  
NEW KNOWLEDGE**



**METAPHORS OBSCURE  
UNDERSTANDING**



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# TELE-GRAPH

**“SOMETIMES OUR TOOLS DO WHAT WE  
TELL THEM TO. OTHER TIMES, WE  
ADAPT OURSELVES TO OUR TOOLS’  
REQUIREMENTS”**

**Nicholas Carr**

**METAPHORS ARE THE  
TOOLS OF THOUGHT**

# METAPHORS AND CODE

# WHAT A PROGRAMMER DOES

It has been believed that a programmer occasionally writes code and gets it running on a computer, and that this is what he is paid for. In spite of his obvious inefficiency, no one else seems to do this work more effectively. However, his activity is still observed principally as loafing—a kind of ritual (like the British and teatime) which must be put up with.

Another view of what a programmer does addresses more constructively all that “wasted” time and

cludes more than the running code, more than the symbolic code, or even the operator’s guide, the maintenance guide, or the design guide. For in fact, in response to any serious breach of the program’s integrity, a programmer will become involved, as part of the integral organization built by the original programmer. If one now looks closely, he can begin to recognize the intent of those steps in the ritual of programming.

# WHAT A PROGRAMMER DOES

It has been believed that a programmer occasionally writes code and gets

cludes more than the running code, more than the symbolic code, or even

## BEST UNKNOWN PAPER

company as running a kind of ritual (like the British and teatime) which must be put up with.

Another view of what a programmer does addresses more constructively all that "wasted" time and

part of the integral organization built by the original programmer. If one now looks closely, he can begin to recognize the intent of those steps in the ritual of programming.

**“TO PROGRAM IS TO WRITE TO  
ANOTHER PROGRAMMER  
ABOUT OUR SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM”**

What a Programmer Does



**“PROGRAMS MUST BE WRITTEN FOR  
PEOPLE TO READ, AND ONLY  
INCIDENTALLY FOR MACHINES TO  
EXECUTE”**

**Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs**

# **THE USE OF SUB-ROUTINES IN PROGRAMMES**

**D. J. Wheeler**

**Cambridge & Illinois Universities**

# THE USE OF SUB-ROUTINES IN PROGRAMMES

D. J. Wheeler

Cambridge & Illinois Universities

The above remarks may be summarized by saying sub-routines are very useful-although not absolutely necessary-and that the prime objectives to be born in mind when constructing them are simplicity of use, correctness of codes and accuracy of description. All complexities should-if possible-be buried out of sight.



The library of tapes on which subroutines are punched is contained in the steel cabinet shown on the left. The operator is punching a program tape on keyboard perforator. By placing library tapes on the tapereader shown in the center of the photograph, the operator can copy them mechanically onto the tape she is preparing.

# METAPHORS AND CODE

**TYPES ARE THE CHARACTERS  
THAT TELL THE STORY OF  
OUR PROGRAMS**

## PROGRAMMING WITH ABSTRACT DATA TYPES

Barbara Liskov  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Project MAC  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

# PROGRAMMING WITH ABSTRACT DATA TYPES

The motivation behind the work in very-high-level languages is to ease the programming task by providing the programmer with a language containing primitives or abstractions suitable to his problem area. The programmer is then able to spend his effort in the right place; he concentrates on solving his problem, and the resulting program will be more reliable as a result. Clearly, this is a worthwhile goal.

Unfortunately, it is very difficult for a designer to select in advance all the abstractions which the users of his language might need. If a language is to be used at all, it is likely to be used to solve problems which its designer did not envision, and for which the abstractions embedded in the language are not sufficient.

This paper presents an approach which allows the set of built-in abstractions to be augmented when the need for a new data abstraction is discovered. This approach to the handling of abstraction is an outgrowth of work on designing a language for structured programming. Relevant aspects of this language are described, and examples of the use and definitions of abstractions are given.



**WITHOUT TYPES WE JUST  
HAVE OPERATIONS ON  
STREAM OF BYTES**

# CHOOSING THE RIGHT DATA STRUCTURE

---

# CHOOSE THE RIGHT DATA STRUCTURE

---

# CHOOSE THE RIGHT DATA STRUCTURE

- ▶ Array

---

# CHOOSE THE RIGHT DATA STRUCTURE

- ▶ Array

- ▶ Set

---

# CHOOSE THE RIGHT DATA STRUCTURE

- ▶ Array
- ▶ Set
- ▶ LinkedList

---

# CHOOSE THE RIGHT DATA STRUCTURE

- ▶ Array
- ▶ Set
- ▶ LinkedList
- ▶ Queue



---

# CHOOSE THE RIGHT DATA STRUCTURE

- ▶ Array
- ▶ Set
- ▶ LinkedList
- ▶ Queue
- ▶ Stack

**A PROGRAM'S EXPLANATORY  
POWER IS THE MEASURE OF  
ITS OWN ELEGANCE**

**DATA STRUCTURES  
HAVE EXPLANATORY  
POWER**

**COGNITIVE LEAPS**



# TASK SCHEDULING

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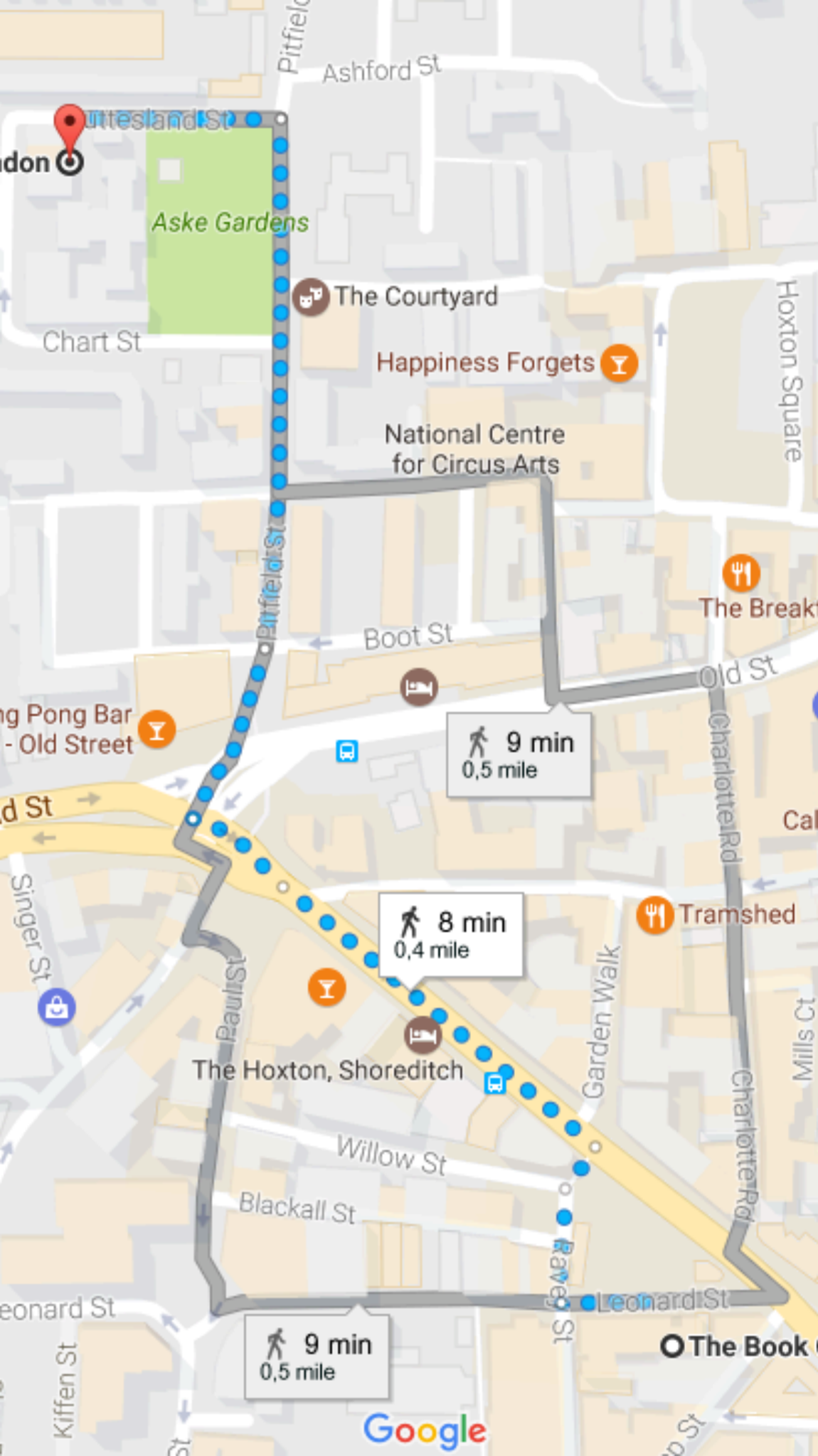




TASK SCHEDULING

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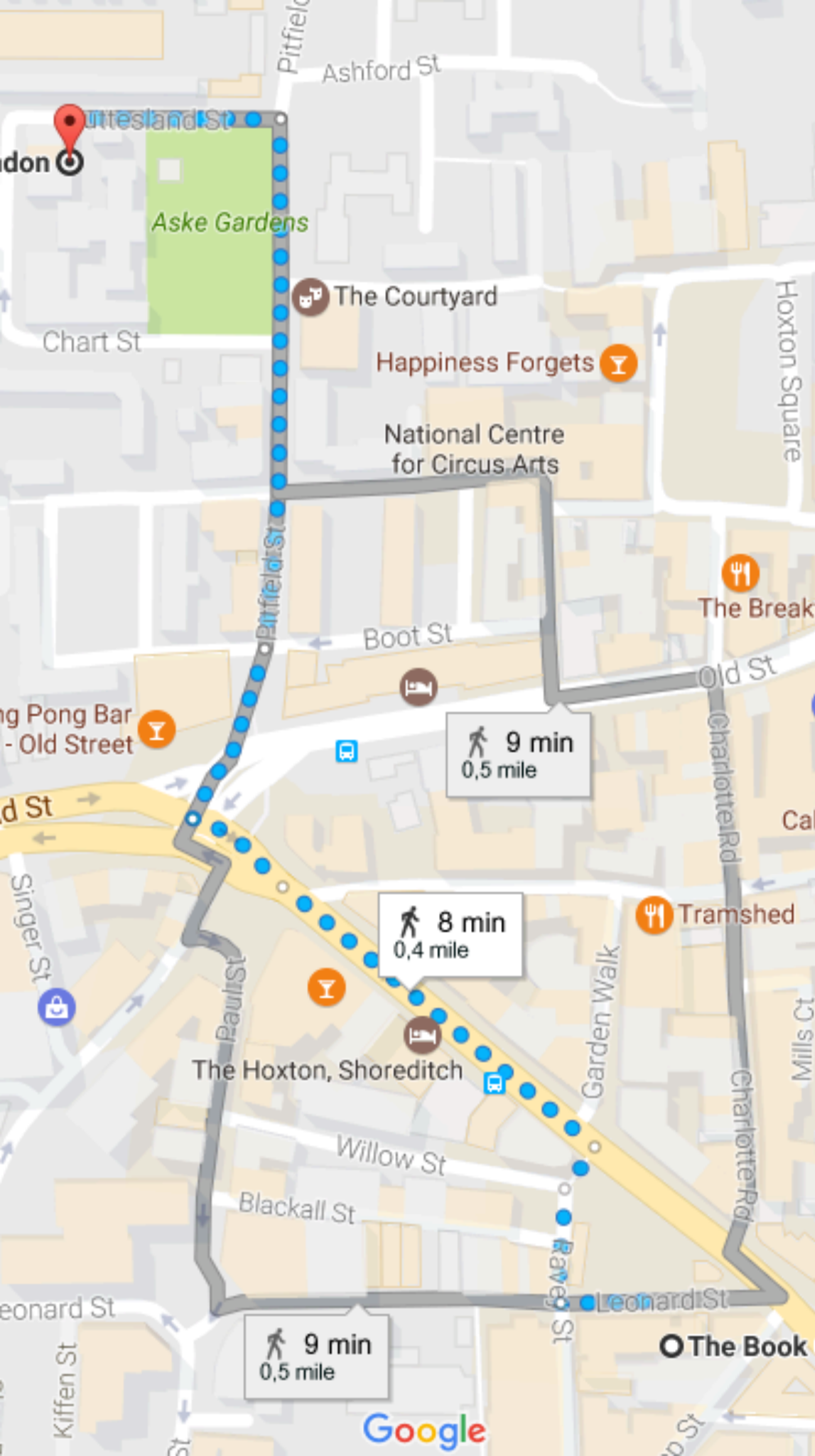
QUEUEING  
THEORY



# ROUTE PLANNING

---





# ROUTE PLANNING

# GRAPH THEORY



# DATABASE REPLICATION

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DATABASE  
REPLICATION

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RUMOUR  
MONGERING

# THE MATHEMATICAL THEORY OF EPIDEMICS

NORMAN T. J. BAILEY, M.A.

Reader in Biometry, University of Oxford;  
Formerly Statistician to the Medical School,  
University of Cambridge



LONDON  
CHARLES GRIFFIN & COMPANY LIMITED

## DATABASE REPLICATION

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# EPIDEMICS

**SO EVERYTHING IS A  
METAPHOR?**

**I DON'T BELIEVE YOU**



# DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS METAPHORS

Whenever *nodes* need to *agree* on a common value, we start a *consensus* algorithm to *decide* on a value.

There's usually a *leader* process that takes care of making the final decision based on the *votes* it has received from its *peers*.





## SEVEN METAPHORS

# DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS METAPHORS

Nodes communicate sending *messages* over a *channel*, which might get *congested* due to *too much traffic*. This could create an information *bottleneck*, with *queues* at each end of the *channels* backing up.



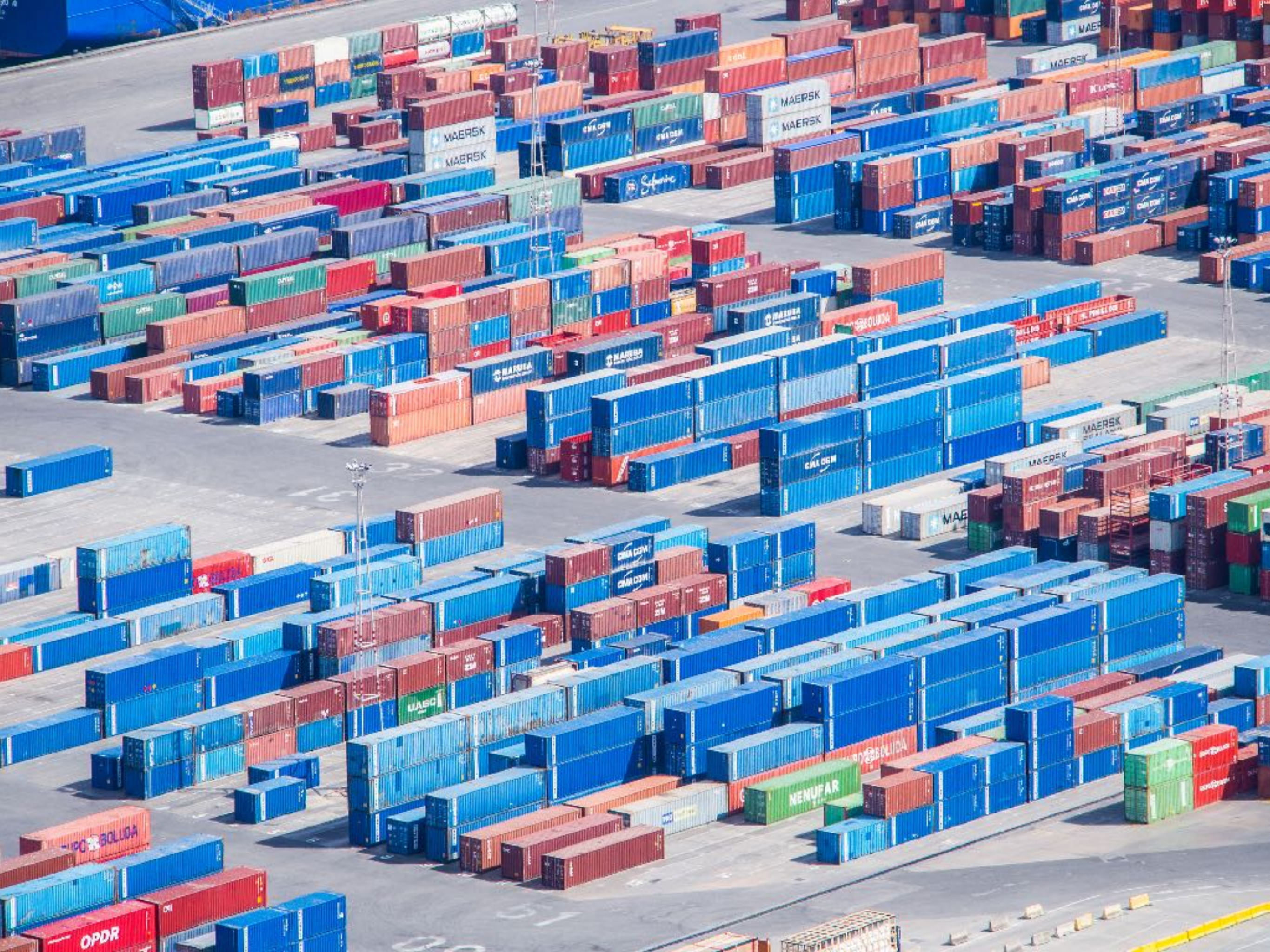
# DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS METAPHORS

These ***bottlenecks*** might render one or more nodes **unresponsive**, causing ***network partitions***. Is the process that's taking too long to ***respond dead***? We won't know unless we set a timeout...



**BUZZWORDS**

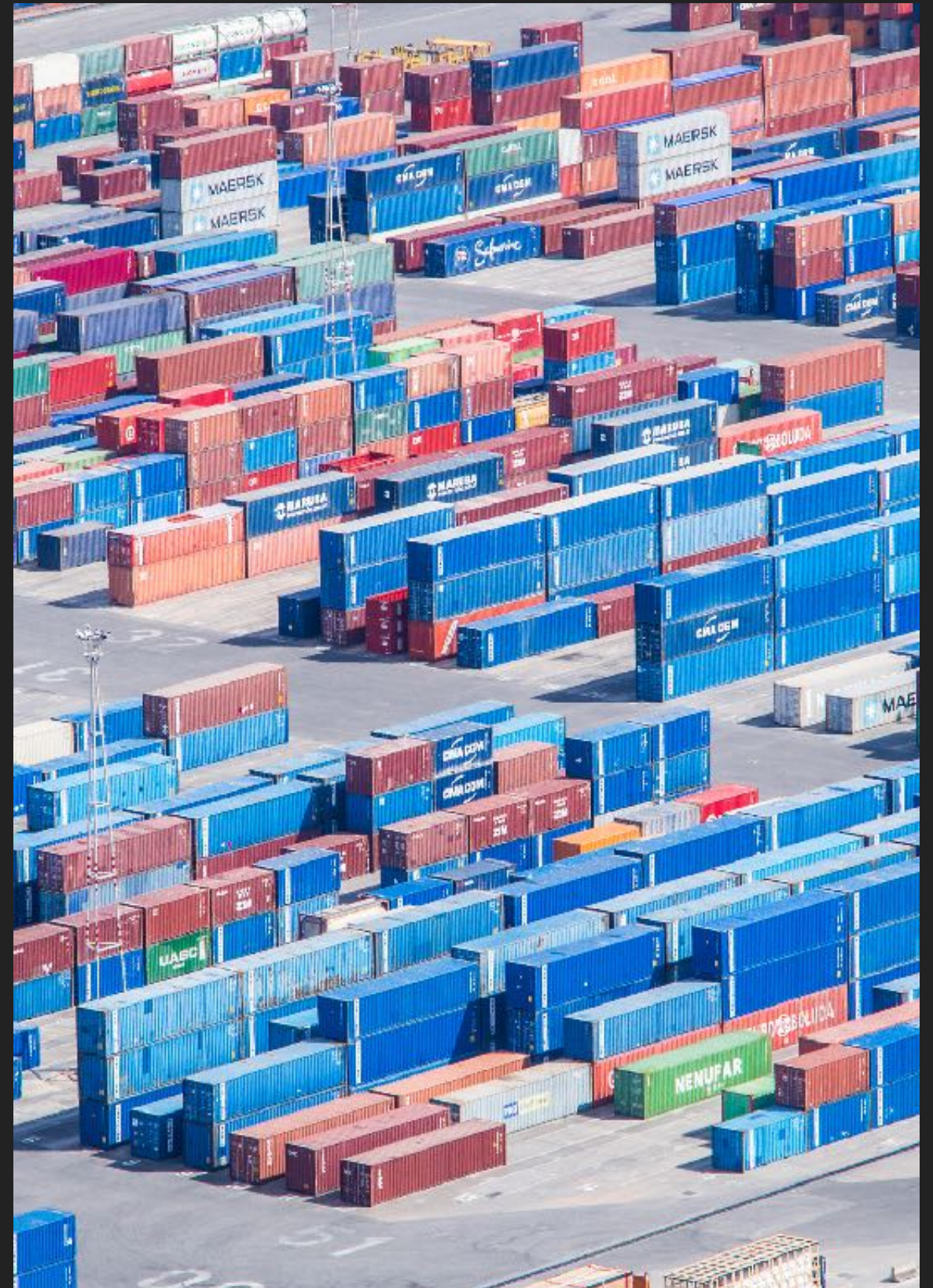






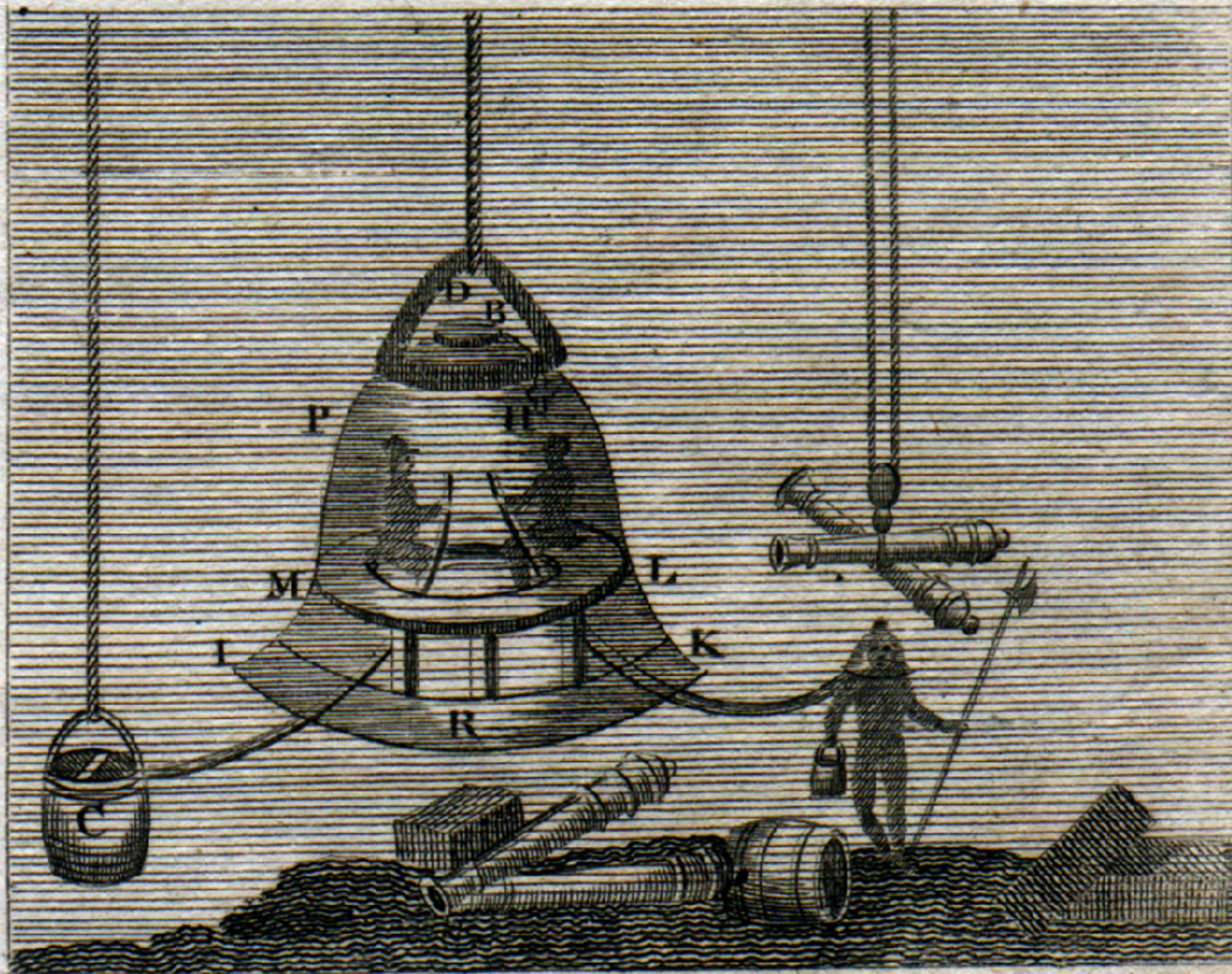
# CONTAINERS

- ▶ Standard
- ▶ Ship Anywhere
- ▶ Train, Ships, Trucks
- ▶ Stackable
- ▶ Reusable





# Halley's Diving Bell.





# Microservices

a definition of this new architectural term

# MICROSERVICES

25 March 2014



## James Lewis

James Lewis is a Principal Consultant at ThoughtWorks and member of the Technology Advisory Board. James'

interest in building applications out of small collaborating services stems from a background in integrating enterprise systems at scale. He's built a number of

## Contents

Characteristics of a Microservice Architecture

Componentization via Services

Organized around Business Capabilities

Products not Projects

Smart endpoints and dumb pipes

Decentralized Governance

Decentralized Data Management

Infrastructure Automation

Design for failure

Evolutionary Design

---

# MICROSERVICES

- ▶ Decentralised Governance
- ▶ Monolith vs. Microservice
- ▶ Isolation
- ▶ Collaboration
- ▶ Small is better - Big is cumbersome
- ▶ David vs. Goliath



**ERLANG ANYONE?**

**“IN ANOTHER DIRECTION, ONE COULD ARGUE THAT MICROSERVICES ARE THE SAME THING AS THE ERLANG PROGRAMMING MODEL, BUT APPLIED TO AN ENTERPRISE APPLICATION CONTEXT”**

**WHAT'S ERLANG'S  
ELEVATOR PITCH?**

**FIRST GET PEOPLE TO  
UNDERSTAND THINGS**

**THEN EXPLAIN HOW  
THINGS ACTUALLY WORK**

**RABBITMQ**

**A JOB SERVER?**

# CONCLUSION

# MASTER THE ART OF METAPHOR SELECTION



**MASTER THE ART OF  
MEANING AMPLIFICATION**

**OUR PROGRAM IS THE  
METAPHOR FOR THE  
SOLUTION WE FOUND**

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- ▶ Demers, Alan, Dan Greene, Carl Hauser, Wes Irish, and John Larson. "Epidemic Algorithms for Replicated Database Maintenance"

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- ▶ Consensus: <https://flic.kr/p/aws7dH>
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- ▶ Gossip: <https://flic.kr/p/4bCDr2>
- ▶ Containers: <https://flic.kr/p/nWLQxE>

THANK YOU!

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