

# 2,458,08X

*Faggot Guy; Language Note:  
Want; Moments in Cinema;  
Party Animals*

## 1.1 Reviving the MC project

I kinna put MC on hold while starting on the last decaday or so of job searching. Last night, however, I decided to profess a career in the applied mathematical sciences. To that end, the long-term goal is some kind of tenured position so I can at least get summers off to work on whatever I want to work on.

As such, I've realised that I don't want to work in industry or for some boss, even though it might be necessary in the short term. I can better use my time by writing the software now that'll help me in future. Then marketing that software and using it as an MVP to gain entry into YC.

In sum, I want to make a version of MC that I'd use and enjoy more than any other Linux distro.

*Ska vi gå?*



The first few steps seem to be documenting all the annoyances I have with the current system I use so I can fix them in MC. Also find all the things I like and keep them.

Oops, I forgot. The real, most-crucial step is to make an IDE for managing VMs. (kinna like Virtualbox...?)

## 1.2 Math Undergraduate Programmes

So in this work session I should be solving more problems from the probability book, but instead I'll be applying to the undergraduate programme in mathematics.

Yesterday, I decided that I could work as a mathematician for the next 10 years. However, I need to put food on the table and employers are reluctant to hire someone who doesn't signal math ability. So I'll get a math BS and PhD, which should cover my living expenses for the next 10 years or so.

I've already scheduled a phone call with the my undergraduate careers office for the 4th of December on whether this would make sense for me. But first I'd like to ensure that I don't miss any scholarship or financial aid deadlines by waiting till December to start applying. Until then, I'll continue studying my probability models.

## 1.3 Free Writing

All signs are pointing towards me rejigging my resume for finance jobs, spamming a bunch of trading companies, and seeing what response I get.



It seems like I'll have to put in more time into my math studies so that I've gone past chapter 1 by the time I'm ready to start sending out job applications.



So, I'm gonna ask this question, but it isn't so I can prematurely reduce the options available to me: I just want to know. Given a job offer at a hedge fund and admission to study math, which would I pick?



My mind instantly replied, "that's not even a question; pick the F U money." On further reflection, I should pick math so I can know math the way I know computer science. The money may finish, but the knowledge will always be with me.

(But remember, we're keeping *all* options open!)



Man, dreaming about the future is so much fun. Pity it never turns out exactly how I imagine, although sometimes it turns out better :)

So, I guess I have a bunch of options now: YC, school, and finance jerb.

Thought just hit me: why not go straight for a CS PhD. It's got prestige. I won't have

to pay for shit. I can take all the math classes I want.

(after shuddering for a while)

Y'know what? Yeah, CS PhD is also an option (why does this remind me of the year before I entered grad school?). So now my options are: YC, math undergrad, CS PhD in software engineering/ML, and finance jerb.



Make a bunch of money and solve the world's problems. Teach the next generation how to avoid the mistakes of the past, so the world becomes a better place to live.

Nah, it's all about the people. Make money and solve *people's* problems; teach the next generation non-standard ways of enjoying life. Make money by teaching the next generation non-standard ways of enjoying life, and use the money to solve people's problems.

Just solve people's problems already!

Easier said than done, homie. You know you can't help people who don't want to be helped; or don't need the help. You don't like helping people who don't appreciate the help.

Remember that essay you wrote in college? Well, it's not about you; it's about them. Even if they slap you in the face for it, as long as you helped someone, you helped someone. And if that's your goal, then go for it.

## 2.1 Honesty

Friend 6795 is so annoying. When I send him on errands, he often brings back *more* change than I'm expecting.

## 2.2 Tax Collector Tinzz

How do you cooperate with your neighbours when you don't respect them?

This morning I woke up at 6am to sit by our street gate (with Cl-, Ch-, and Mr. I-) to bully people into paying their street dues which are used for (and only for) paying the street gatemen.

We had M- lock the gate and would only let people leave, whether on foot or in a car, until they'd paid (or promised to pay) their outstanding dues. The biggest ower, Mr. S- owed \$190 (i.e. 22 months arrears), and quite luckily we got some of the debt paid off.

Here's how it happened. We let in the school bus into the street to pick up his kids. As the bus came back to leave the street, we blocked it and told the driver to let out his kids since we wouldn't let the bus pass until he'd paid up. Well, the driver called Sylvester and he came out to talk to us.

Mr. I- was quite angry at him because at a previous such gating exercise, he'd told I- that he'd paid \$60 but, um, that never happened. I- had also sent texts and calls which were unacknowledged.

So as S- walked up to ask what was going on, I- curtly asked, "Have you been receiving my texts and calls?" and S- had to admit that, Yes he had (while avoiding any apologies). He tried the a few feints: I'm gonna pay; I actually did pay that 60 etc. but I- wouldn't have it, so S- went back with his kids and the bus went on its way.

A few minutes later, a short woman walked up to us. She introduced herself as Mrs. S- and asked what the dealy-o was. After understanding the situation, she told us she was gonna pay \$190, then walked

back to her compound. Of course we were incredulous since, hey, this was the same thing her husband had done.

But about 20 minutes later, Mr. I- received the alert for 190. Mrs. S- came out too to confirm that we'd gotten the payment and we said, "Hellz yeah," and thanked her profusely. After she left, Cl- cheekily wondered what kind of marital arguments would be currently going on at Chez S-.

That was our biggest haul for the day. Two other people paid a sum of \$45, and we finally adjourned at around 8:30.

It sucked mondo shit nuts to see my neighbours bring out the same excuses over and over again to avoid paying for a common good. Whatever city/commune/living situation I create has to be able to deal with this.

## 2.3 Free Writing

Yesterday, I decided to stop solving my probability problems on paper then translating them to Racket for computation. Just like I realised in my first college semester, I think I should skip the long-hand step and just solve problems directly on the computer.



Oh Friend 4887, you silly child. When will you start acting like you have few friends?  
(I'm being petty)



I have a cold. It sucks. Nettipotting with lemon tea made my nostril hurt and didn't

help much. I should probably try it again for good measure.



Cherry Blossom by Hir-o. “This is my homeboy, Nujabes” *\*\*woo-hoo\*\**



What does it mean that in NGE kids have to pilot humanoid weapons? Who pilots the kids?

(adults)

Who pilots the adults?

(brains)

Who pilots the brains?

(stories)

Stories!?

Yes, stories about love and duty and revenge and dominance.

So who pilots the stories?

People.

And who pilots the people? Stories, right?

Yup yup!

So if I want to wield ultimate power (sthg. which I must never wield), I should tell the most compelling stories. To avoid the temptation of ultimate power, I must mark all my stories as Fiction.



As part of Beast Mode, I’ve begun trying to learn to split.

What else would The Beast do? Know undergraduate mathematics like the back of my hand. Then standby for further instruction.

There just aren’t enough hours in the day.

Horseshit. I didn’t give a deadline. So, yes, there are in fact enough hours in the day.

Can I push to do 0.5 days of fun per day? That way I’d get an extra deciday with which to study math. *That* would be worthy of the title, The Beast.

I’d have to make sure to take care of my shit efficiently during the self care fun session

(FYI I’m trying to frame “work” as fun)

So, professor Quirrell, what are some obvious things any student of mathematics would do to learn the entire undergraduate curriculum like the back of her hand?

1. Decide on a target undergraduate curriculum to understand (MIT’s)
2. Decide on a target level of understanding
3. Reflect on *why* you want yourself to understand mathematics that well
4. Ask mathematics teaching experts for advice on maximising learning
5. Fill every free time with a mathematical observation or recreation
6. Bah! Be on the lookout for mathematical observations constantly
7. Make notes about your mathematical observations
8. Find people to be mathy with
9. Find an open and interesting problem to test your skills with
10. Spend more time on it

*\*spit\** Well, ain't that some shit...



Holy shit: I should use workspaces instead of alt-tabbing so that all my tools are in stable places and I can build muscle memory for getting to them quickly.



Man, Age of Em is dry as fuck. And yet it contains good ideas. I'm still at 50%. I guess I could finish the book faster by... fuck it. I'm not in a hurry to finish it.

## Faggot Guy

Remember the faggot guy in grad school? I think I've mentioned this before. The fattish, Indian dude who would walk past you and mutter, "faggot" under his breath. Friend 1738 called him out on it and he denied it vehemently. He got me, too.



All these sensations that aren't me right now: light headedness/spaciness; dry-feeling, sore throat; a slightly blocked left nostril and a dripping right nostril that's causing me to out-sniff frequently; sheen of sweat between my shirt and skin; Vangelis L'Opera Sauvage; the noise of a petrol generator, muted cuz I closed the window to my right; darkness all around me except for the laptop screen and the night sky through the window.

## 2.4 The story of the vehement lioness

One evening, a lioness stealthily snuck out of her zoo, climbed to the top of a tall building and looked at the city below her. She wondered who it was that was directing these cars and people to constantly move this way and that, with hardly a collision, and at such speeds. It was not yet sunset but it was very cloudy, the sun nowhere in sight.

"If I had a pride of lions this numerous," she thought to herself, "I'd do things differently. I'd..." but there she stopped for she could not finish the thought.

Of course, she'd do things differently. She was a lion and they were humans. Why, the first thing she'd do with a pride of lions one million strong, would be to kill all the humans, fill the zoos and parks with tasty prey, and lounge about in luxury till she died or was overthrown.

This was a thought that had been with her since she could remember. But for some reason, looking out over the city, it didn't fill her with the comfortable rage that it usually brought.

As she looked, she saw, at the top of a far away building, a tiny speck of a person seemingly looking down on the city as well. This speck caught her attention as the evening breeze rushed past her. After a minute, the clouds parted and the setting sun shone across the city. And for a moment the lioness saw herself through that distant human's eyes.

And she further saw herself as the human, seeing herself through a distant lioness's eyes. A new city would grow on the

ashes of this one. Every human would be enslaved or killed and a new pride would rule.

No wonder her anger could comfort no longer. Her anger wasn't hers alone.

She turned to return to her cage at the zoo, there to await a new vision.

### 3.1 It's been a while

Wow, I've been working so hard that I'm glad to be sick now so I can enjoy not doing anything for a while.

### 3.2 Don't bother

Why would anyone create a 10-story tall machine that can move at Mach 2?

Friend 5641 could smell a cucumber I was eating from behind a door.

### 4.1 Cheerfulness

Friend 342 is good at holding conversations. I was trying to be cold to him because of his fucking dog but I still ended up laughing.

### 4.2 Fun scheduling

I should probably not spend 2 fun sessions a day on a single problem. Rather, work on separate problems in both sessions. I suspect that I do a good amount of background processing of math problems.

## 4.3 Free Writing

Behold: this is how the sausage of story writing gets made.

Let's construct a scenario in which it makes sense for a civilisation to embark on a journey to the centre of the galaxy.

A prophecy told them that if they went there, they'd be able to reverse time.

What conflicts will they face on their journey?

1. They'll fight among themselves about whether the prophecy was meant literally or figuratively.
2. They'll fight over whether to stop the project and tackle more pressing, short-term issues.
3. They'll fight off organisations who want to steal their resources.
4. They'll fight off people who just want to destroy them.
5. They'll fight off baddies who think the goodies are trying to compete with them.
6. They'll fight forgetfulness.
7. They'll fight despair.
8. They'll fight tiredness.
9. They'll fight weakness.
10. They'll fight laziness
11. They'll fight overconfidence.
12. They'll fight greed.
13. They'll fight calamities unrelated to their project.

14. They'll fight death.
15. They'll fight those they offended in the past.
16. They'll fight false prophets.
17. They'll fight misguided prophets.
18. They'll fight over who gets to run the project.

What aspect of this project will make people learning about it go, "Wow"?

Well, here are some things that make people go wow: physical size, variety, defying the laws of physics (aka magic), predicting the future, niceness, destructive ability. FYI the project members do the Wow things as fan-service for people observing them.

What time period will this story cover? Robin Hanson says he can't predict past a year or two of the em era. So I'll stick to all of human history up until the beginning of the em era. The spacecraft launch has to happen near the beginning of the em era so I can write about predictable things.

Who are the characters in this story? Ems and humans.

At least one magical thing has to happen in the story, though. I like how anime and Murakami's stories always have a bit of mystical-magic in them.

And I'd like a setting in which I can tell different series of stories. Perhaps one set on the craft about a year after launch. One (or more) in the human world a few years before launch. One in the em-world a year before launch.

Perhaps instead of sequential series of stories (which always turn into to-be-continued money-grabs), tell a *parallel* of

stories from different viewpoints onto the same event. Like one viewpoint per human, or em, or clan.

What is the call-to-action for readers of these stories?

## 5.1 Language Note: Want

Don't say, "I want X" unless you have a specific person in my mind who you want the thing from. I think this abuse of language has led me to implicit God-thinking where I say something like, "I want all of humanity to be happy" and hope that it will somehow happen.

## 5.2 Free Writing

Yesterday, while talking with Friend 342:

**Friend 342:** Do you want to rule a country?

**Me:** (*bashfully*)...yeah...?



No, no, no, you're doing it all wrong!

You're hoarding good memories instead of reviewing them, and you're saving complicated thinking for when you're depressed.



You might wanna wear a corset when you wanna seem imposing.



It feels nice programming my computer and myself to get a task done.



Create a Thank You app in which I thank the person for the donation.

Rewards:

1. Audio recording of “Thank you”
2. Audio of “[your name], thank you”
3. Picture of “[your name], thank you” (No more than that for the mobile app.)
4. Video of “[your name], thank you”
5. Video of some public thanksgiving event.
6. Text of “What’s the closest city to you?” then a request to meet up in person

In-game credits are meant to eventually be worth the minimum non-poor cost of living for a day.



NGE isn’t meant to make sense. It is just a cartoon for people like me.

Well, I’m too old for these cartoons. I wanna watch cartoons that also make sense.



Galaktikans do magic for fun



Thesis: artists use mystery to keep people’s attention.

## Pregnancy test

Did you know that it is pointless doing a pregnancy test until after you’ve missed your period?



I must ensure that the random ID of my world doesn’t identify some other concept, before I use it.



My blogging platform is an Alternate Reality Game.



What a price they pay to be leaders; how many lives they have on their consciences.

## 5.3 Moments in Cinema

Neon Genesis Evangelion Rebuild 3.33 from 1:23:50 to 1:26:15.

Soundtrack: Kindred Spirits + Theme Q<sup>1</sup>.

## 5.4 Cinematic Anime

It’s probably time to revisit Escaflowne and Vampire Hunter D again for close watchings. I doubt they’ll make any more sense now than then, but I may enjoy the process.

## 6.1 Not Sick

Officially not sick any more. I’m starting to cough up thick phlegm.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NSvibxt5yiI>

## 6.2 Glasses

While packing today, realised that It's been a while since I wore glasses while at the computer. How'd that happen?

## 6.3 Entanglement

Just imagine I and Friend 6 563 at the next CFAR reunion lying in a corner with our limbs tangled in each other's.

### 6.1 Taking it to the next level

For the first time, I'll be living with Friend 2 231 and Friend 3 657 rather than in a hotel. I guess I feel comfortable enough with them now.

Man, it's been quite a ride since my breakdown, huh? :)

## 6.2 Transmission 1

I come in peace.

So, Humanity recently gave me a trillion dollars. I've thought about it a while, and I'll be using the money to embark on an interstellar journey (among other things).

(Yes, Humanity's cool like that)

I'm thinking of a journey to the centre of the galaxy and back within the next 300,000 years or so. I'll probably need a spaceship, and a bunch of friends to come with me so I don't get too lonely.

What'll that spaceship look like?

Good question. As far as I can tell, no existing spacecraft can fly anywhere close to

0.1c. However, there exist a few proposals for designing such ships. Here are a few:

## 6.3 Show Notes

A trillion USD is a lot of money: why'd it give it to me? Because I asked for it.

How'd Humanity get a hold of that much money? It found it being wasted while looking at the accounts of lots of organisations, so it figured out how to get it to me. It's not all in a lump sum, though. It comes in as I need it.

300,000 years is pretty specific, dawg; why'd you choose that? It's easier for me to calculate with.

But you'll be dead in 300,000 years!!? Well, I hope that someone completes the journey within that time period.

## 6.4 NGE 4.04

I predict that Evangelion 4.04 will have no explanation for what the Human Instrumentality Project's aim is.

## 7.1 Friendliness

Your dream came true. Friend 2 231 now acts (in certain senses) like a big, cuddly, teddy bear :)

## 7.2 Don't overdo it, okay?

I think I was grinding my teeth in my sleep last night.

## 9.1 They don't really care about us

Friend 2231 learned a lot about politics in his time there e.g. no one cares about you; they're all there for the power.

## 9.2 Party Animals

The Yoruba distribute care of guests at a party to the family members who invited each guest.

Also: no speeches, just partying.

## 9.3 I miss you

When Nigerians say, "You no dey call person," what they really mean is, "I miss you."

## 9.4 Transmission 2

(spacecraft options elided)

According to the Tau Ceti foundation, there is no best method currently for interstellar travel<sup>2</sup>. Humanity needs to learn a lot more before being able to embark on such a journey.

In the meantime, I'll create an institution to remember this mission so that when it does become possible, the institution assembles a team to accomplish the mission. Well, come to think of it, travelling to the centre of the galaxy doesn't seem like an

unheard-of idea: people might just not be

<sup>2</sup><https://tauzero.aero/making-progress/propulsion-ideas>

talking about it since it is currently impossible. Heck, I even saw a story talking about my very mission on Tor.com (it was told in snapshots 30 years apart)

So, um. . . what can I do in the meantime?

It seems like the mission will be accomplished as long as there are humans who can accomplish it. So I need to ensure that humanity exists and continues to grow in strength until an interstellar journey becomes feasible.

Hmm, there are quite a few anti-existential-risk institutions (MIRI, FHI, FLI, BERI, CSER) and the people in it are pretty competent and competitive. I think humanity's pretty much as covered as it can be on that front.

That kinna implies that, until it is time to travel I might as well stay alive and play.

I'm not sure what game to play next. . .

I guess I could acquire flexible resources that can be deployed when the need arises (e.g. credentials, money, powerful friends).

## 9.5 Transmission 2 notes

Well, that proves the adage that says, "Don't worry about your form, just write!" I spent a lot of time designing the perfect blogging format and ended up stopping the "blog" after just the 2nd transmission.

Also, I seem to enjoy designing systems. Using them is another matter.