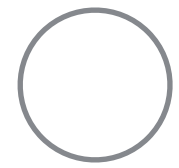


# making poetic discoveries with computational interpolation

Allison Parrish

New York University, Interactive Telecommunications Program

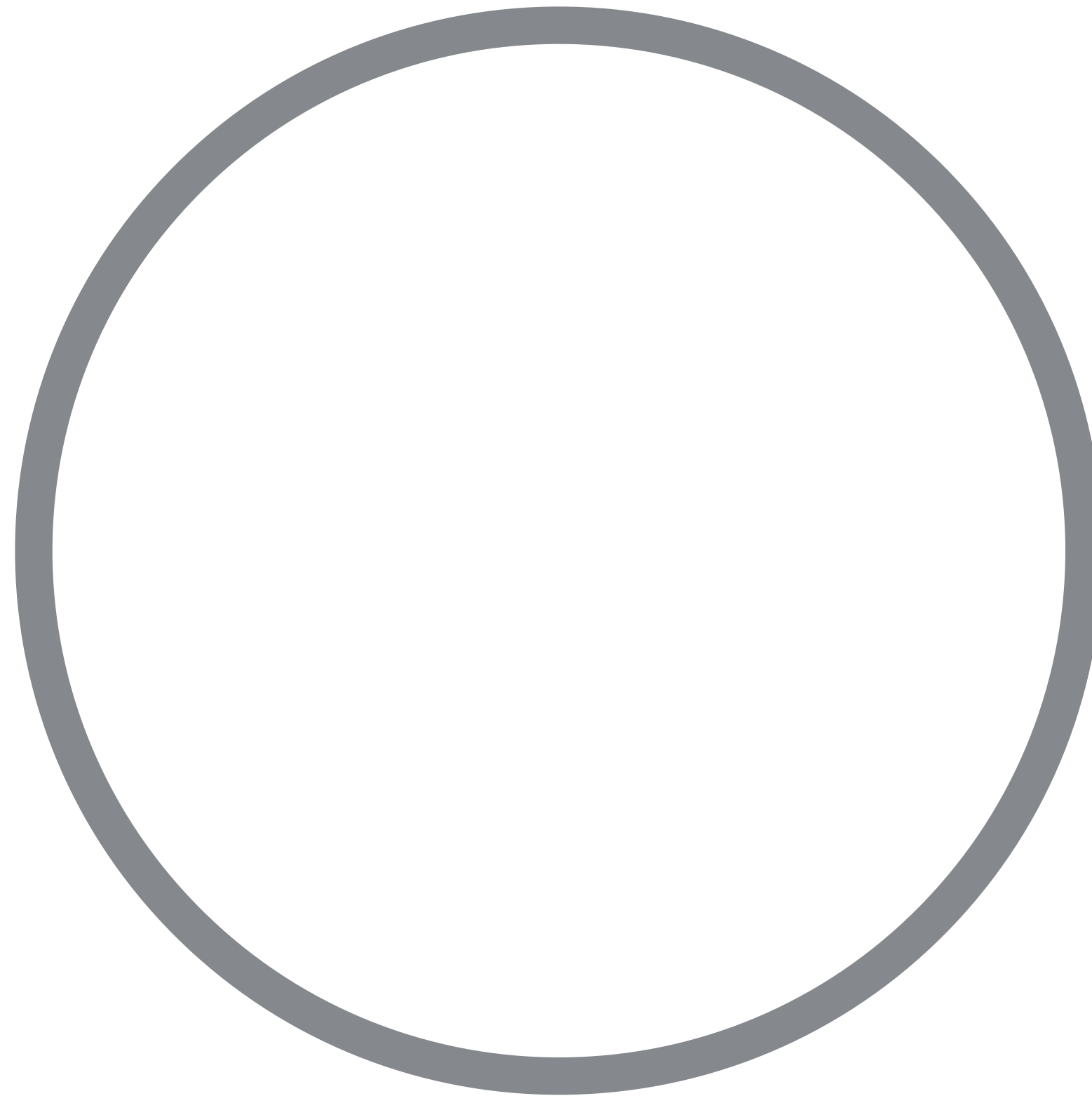


idea

synthesis

research

idea



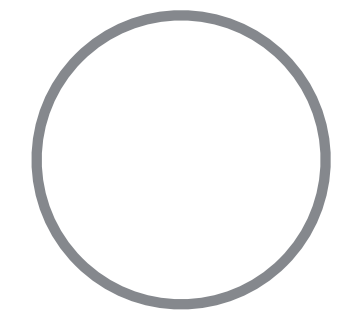
synthesis

research

idea

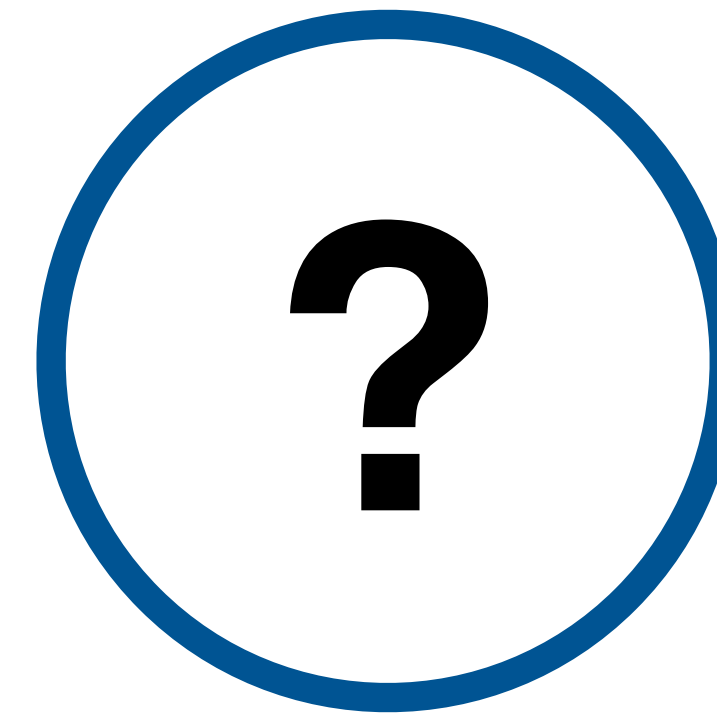
research

synthesis





idea



synthesis

research

how do I make language  
*malleable*





**I just sorta think that writing a poem should feel like this**



A typewriter?—why shd it only make use of the tips of the fingers as contact points of flowing multi directional creativity. If I invented a word placing machine, an “expression-scriber,” if you will, then I would have a kind of instrument into which I could step & sit or sprawl or hang & use not only my fingers to make words express feelings but elbows, feet, head, behind, and all the sounds I wanted, screams, grunts, taps, itches. [...] A typewriter is corny!!

Baraka, Amiri. “Technology & Ethos.” *Raise, Race, Rays, Raze; Essays since 1965*, Random House, 1972, pp. 155–58.

Laurie Spiegel, "Manipulations  
of musical patterns"

"The process of creating music involves not only the ability to design... patterns of sound, but a working knowledge of all the processes of transformation which can aesthetically be applied to them. [...] [I]t seems like a good idea... to look at plain old fashioned non-electronic music and to try to extract a basic 'library'... of the most elemental transformations which have consistently been successfully used on musical patterns..." (continued)

(From Spiegel, Laurie. "Manipulations of Musical Patterns." Proceedings of the Symposium on Small Computers and the Arts, IEEE Computer Society Catalog, vol. 393, 1981, pp. 19–22, [http://retiary.org/Is/writings/musical\\_manip.html](http://retiary.org/Is/writings/musical_manip.html).)

- TRANSPOSITION
- REVERSAL
- ROTATION
- PHASE OFFSET
- RESCALING
- INTERPOLATION
- EXTRAPOLATION
- FRAGMENTATION
- SUBSTITUTION
- COMBINATION
- SEQUENCING
- REPETITION
- THE GREAT UNKNOWN

(From Spiegel, Laurie. "Manipulations of Musical Patterns." Proceedings of the Symposium on Small Computers and the Arts, IEEE Computer Society Catalog, vol. 393, 1981, pp. 19–22, [http://retiary.org/Is/writings/musical\\_manip.html](http://retiary.org/Is/writings/musical_manip.html).)

## 6. INTERPOLATION

*Filling in between previously established points.* Inserting a smooth ramp between discretely separated values, a fast-moving melody added over slow-moving chords, or additional chords put between given chords, embellishing with trills or other such ornamentation. The renaissance practice of "divisions playing" (improvising variations on a theme) was a method of extending shorter patterns into longer compositions by means of melodic interpolation (see also medieval trope and melisma).

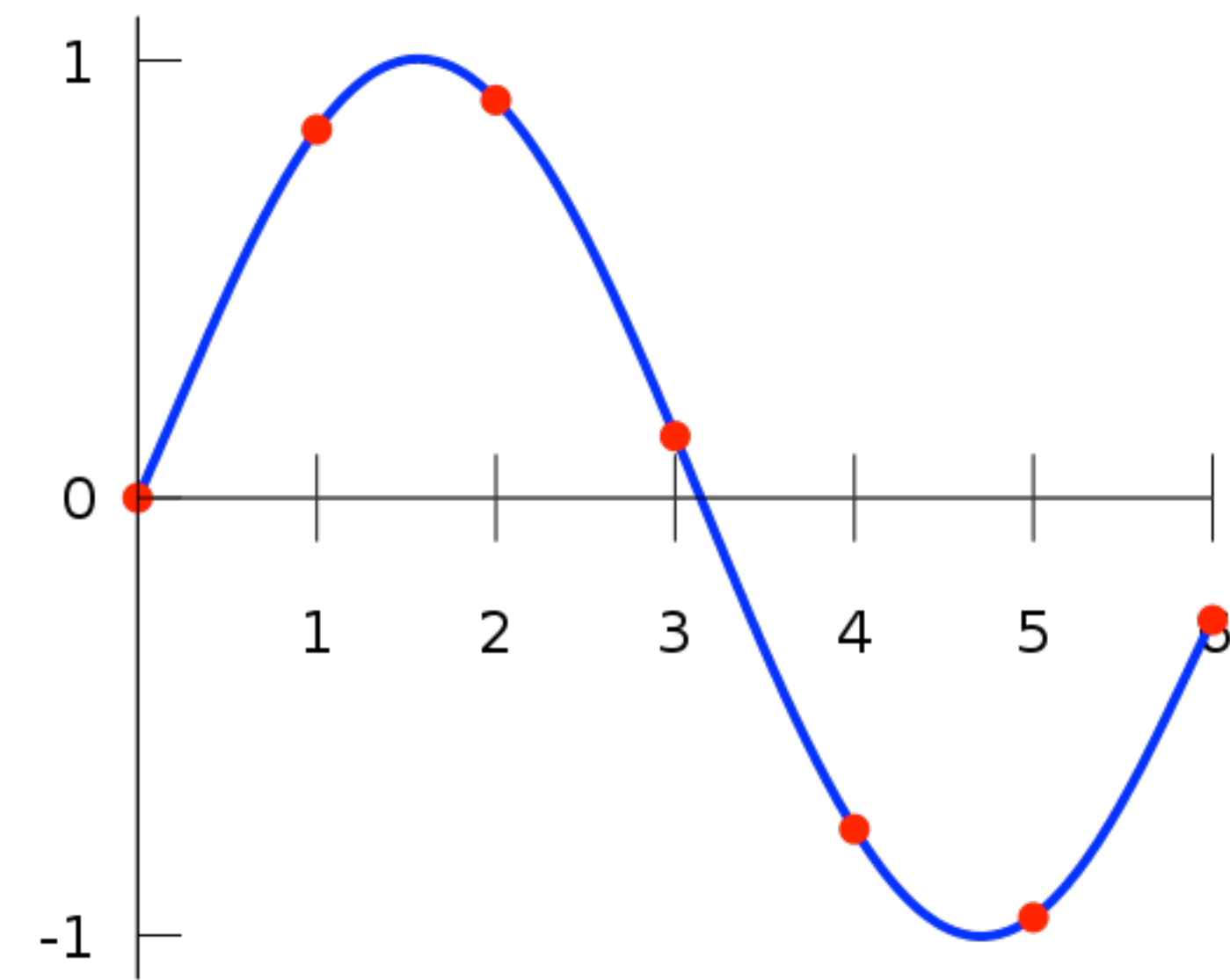
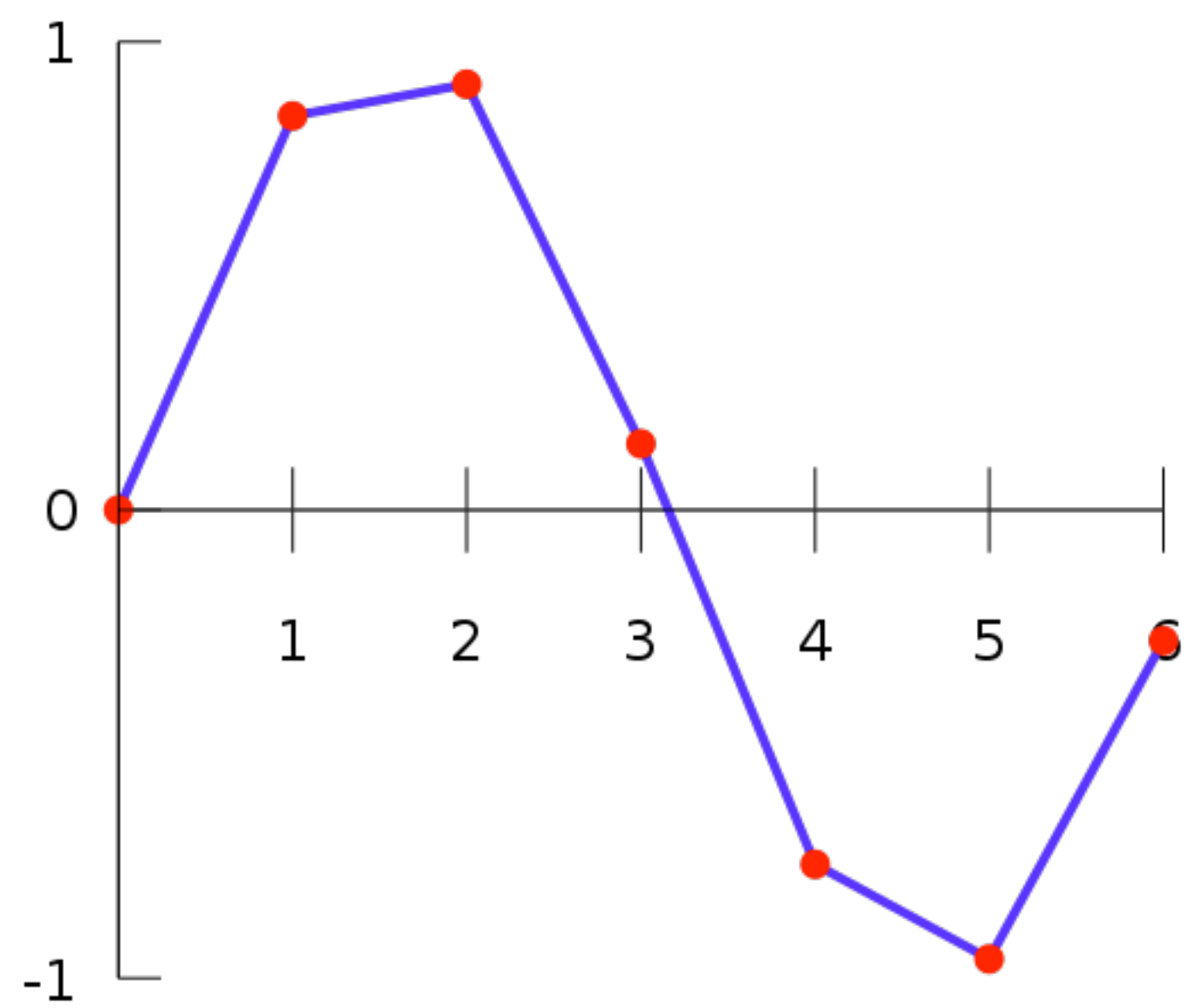
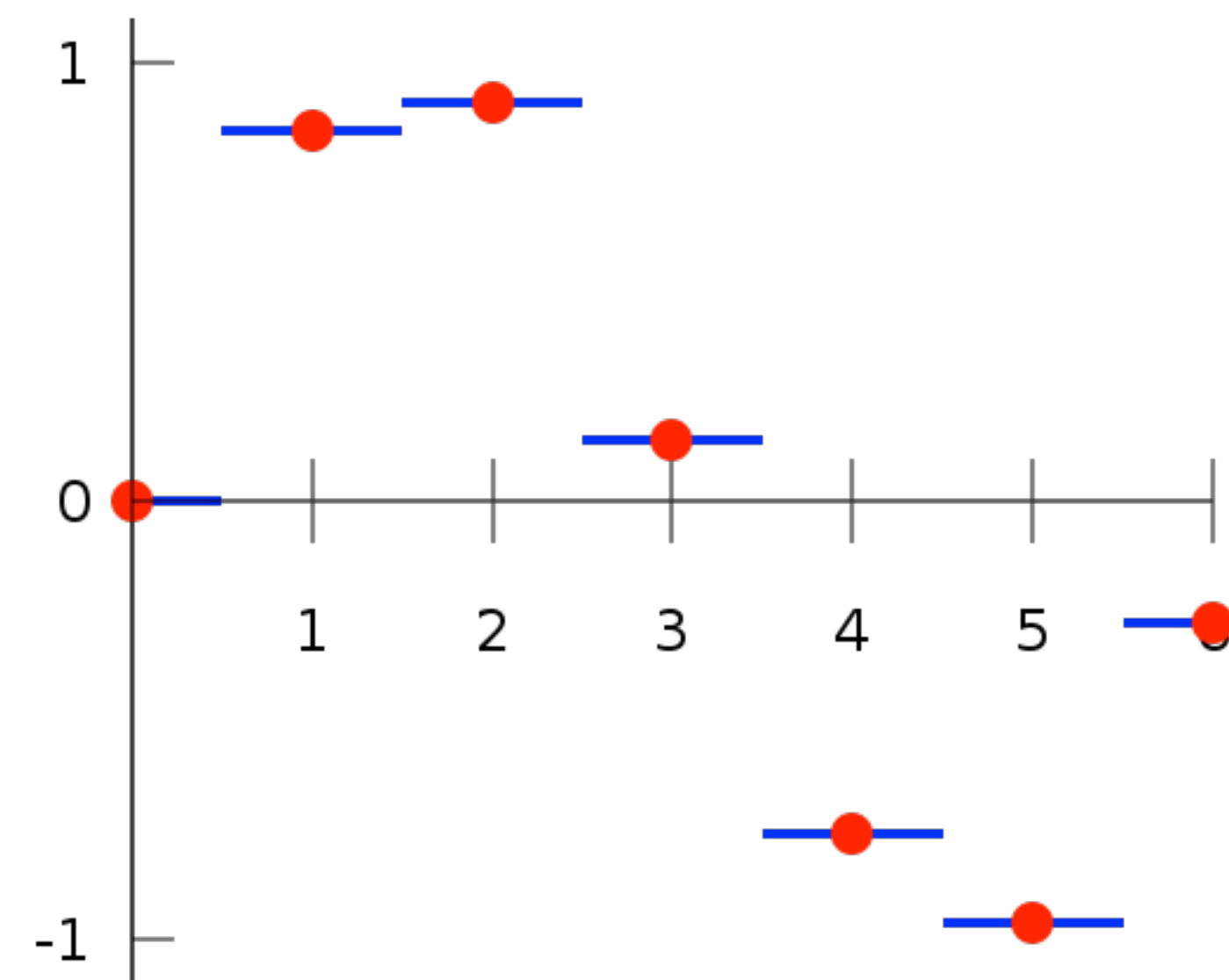
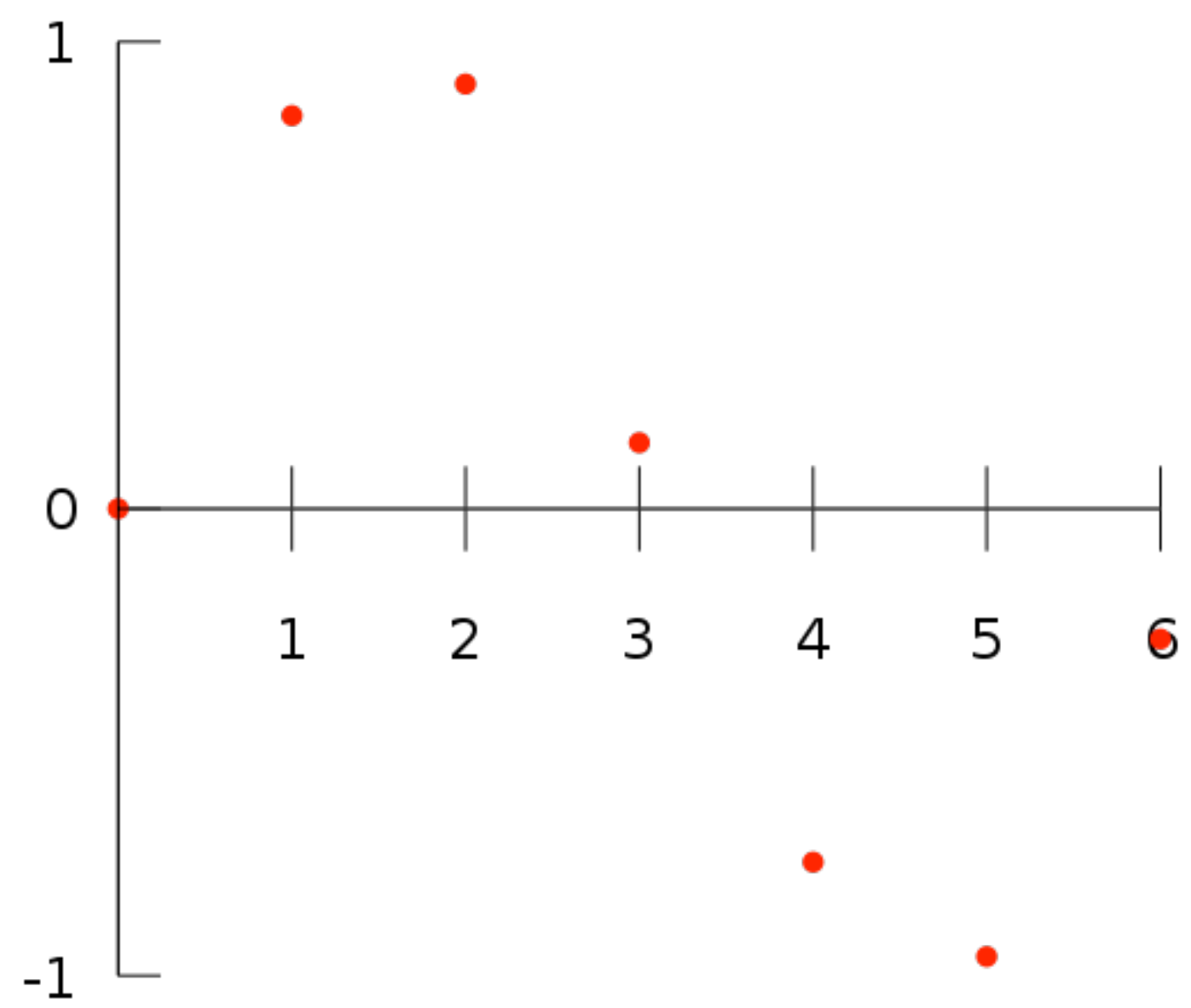
(From Spiegel, Laurie. "Manipulations of Musical Patterns." Proceedings of the Symposium on Small Computers and the Arts, IEEE Computer Society Catalog, vol. 393, 1981, pp. 19–22, [http://retiary.org/Is/writings/musical\\_manip.html](http://retiary.org/Is/writings/musical_manip.html), my emphasis)



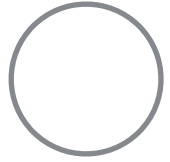
"filling in between previously established points"

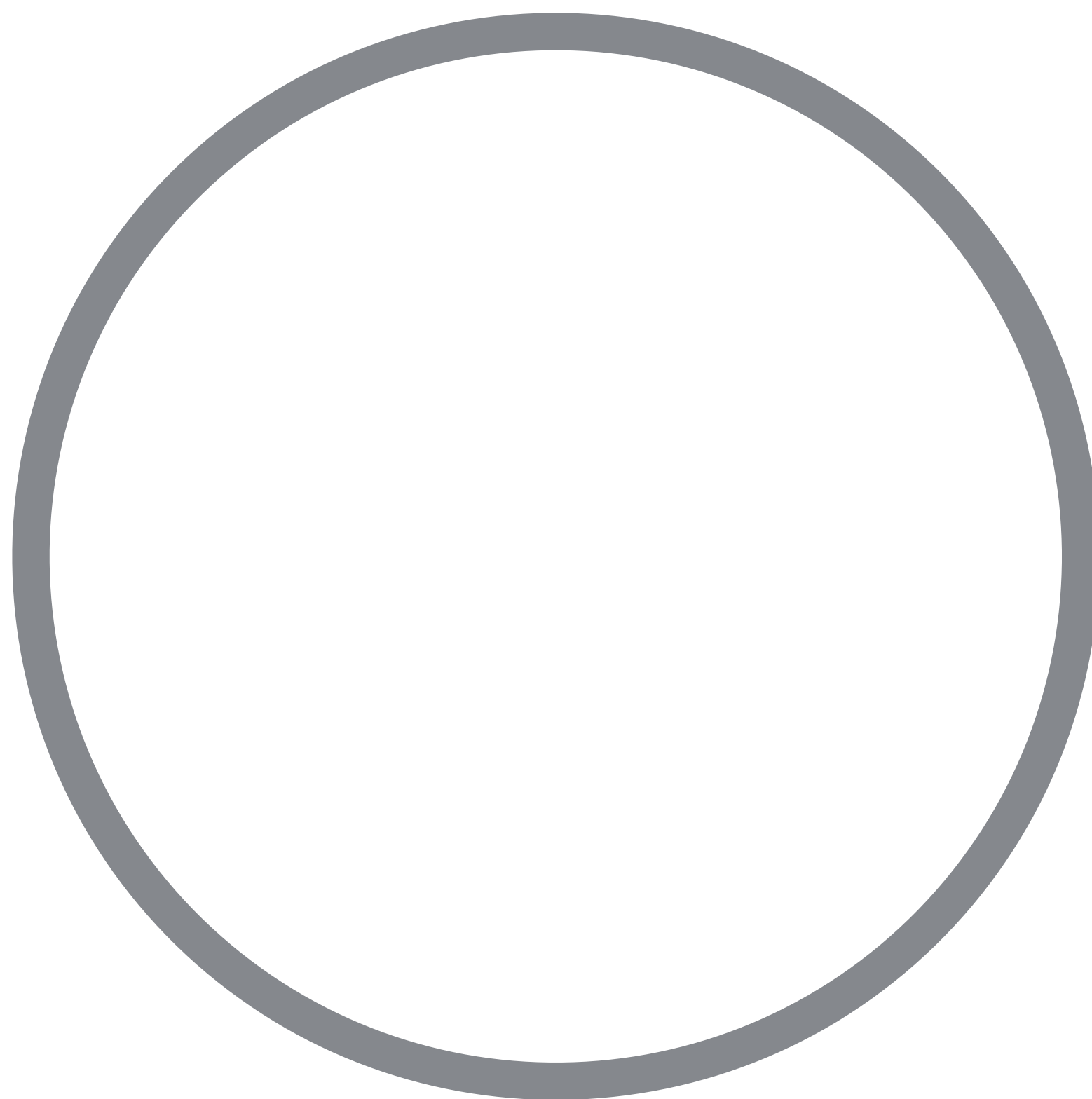
- yes, whoa, I like this, I think this is kinda what I've been doing and it's good to have a word for it!
- what are other examples of interpolation? who else is interpolating. are *you* interpolating? let me know.
- but wait just how *specifically* does this apply to poetry? how do you "establish points" in language?

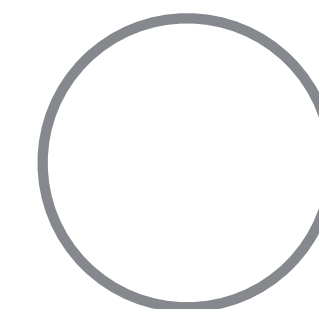
interpolation for discovery in the arts  
and sciences throughout the ages,  
an opinionated and whirlwind tour



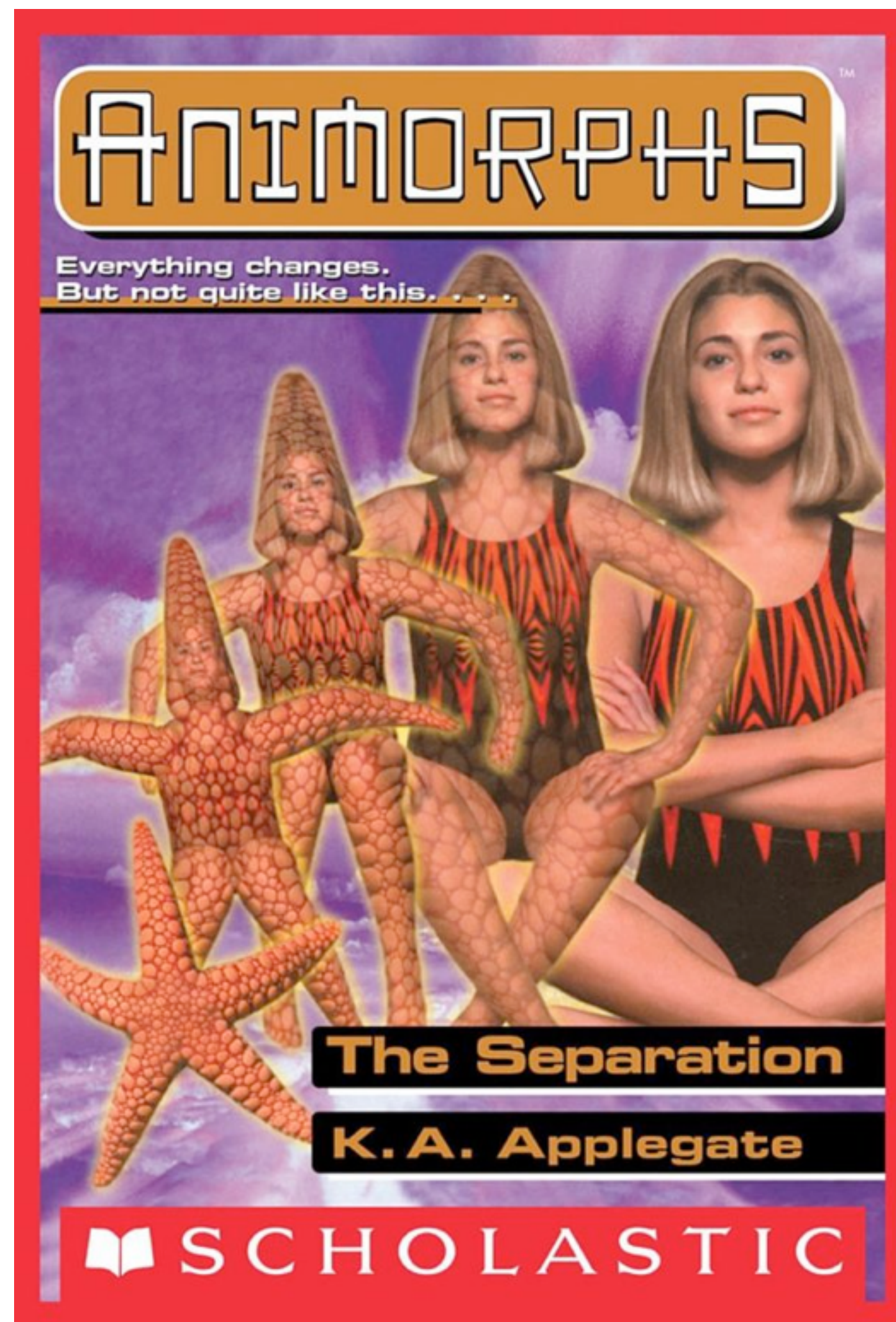
tweening and morphing





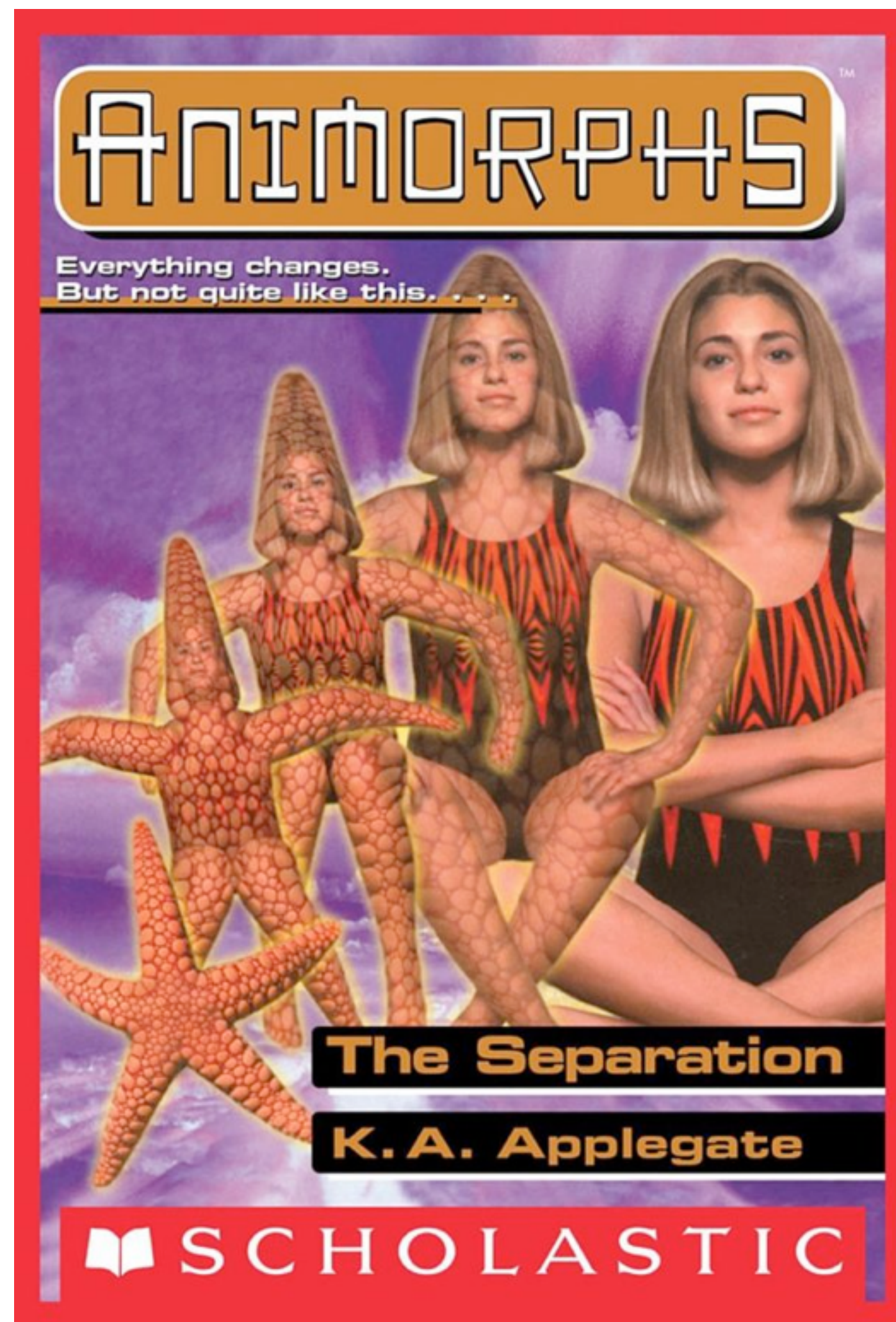






Applegate, Katherine. The Separation. Scholastic, 1999; Landis, John. Black or White. 1991. YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTFE8cirkdQ>.

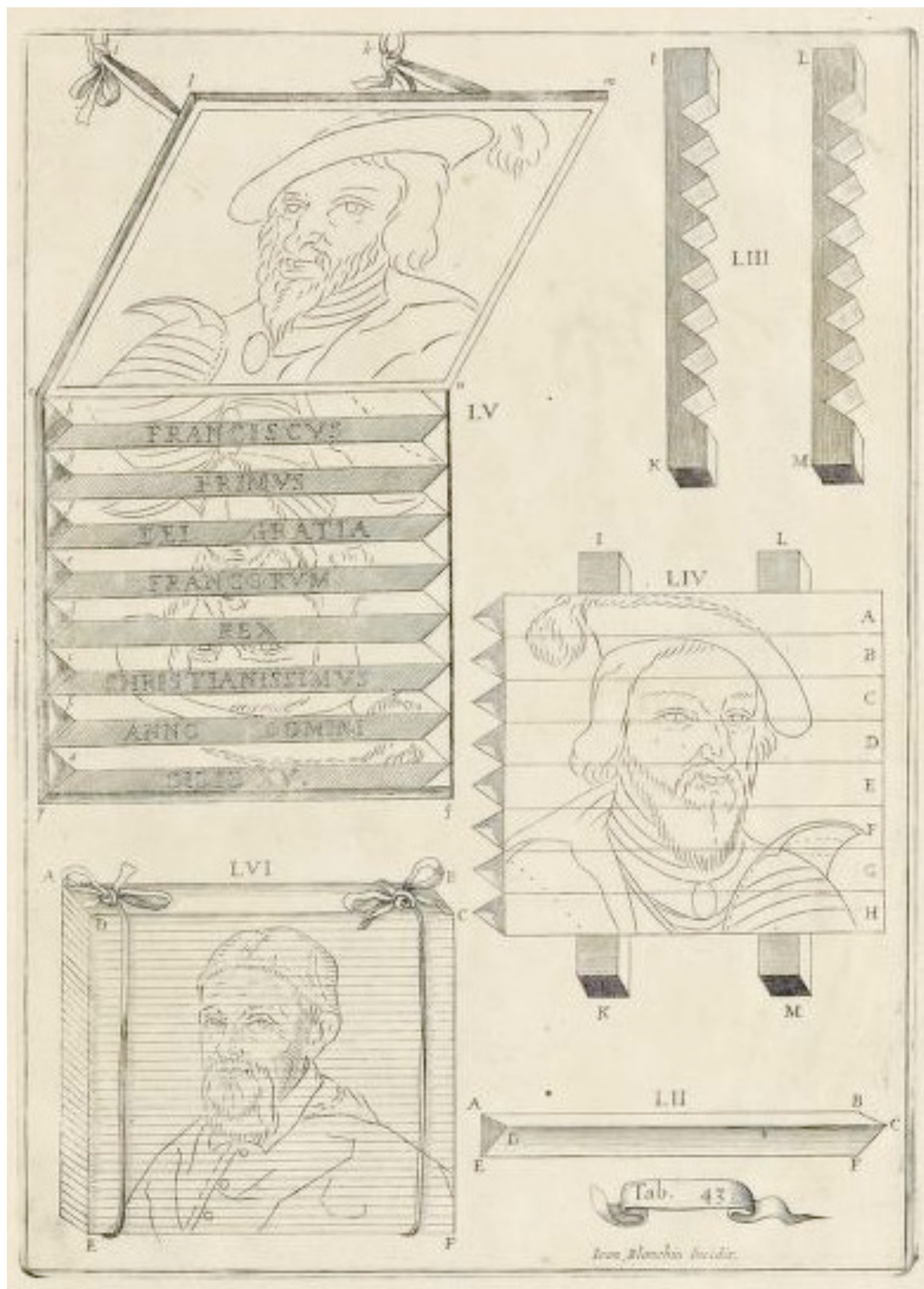




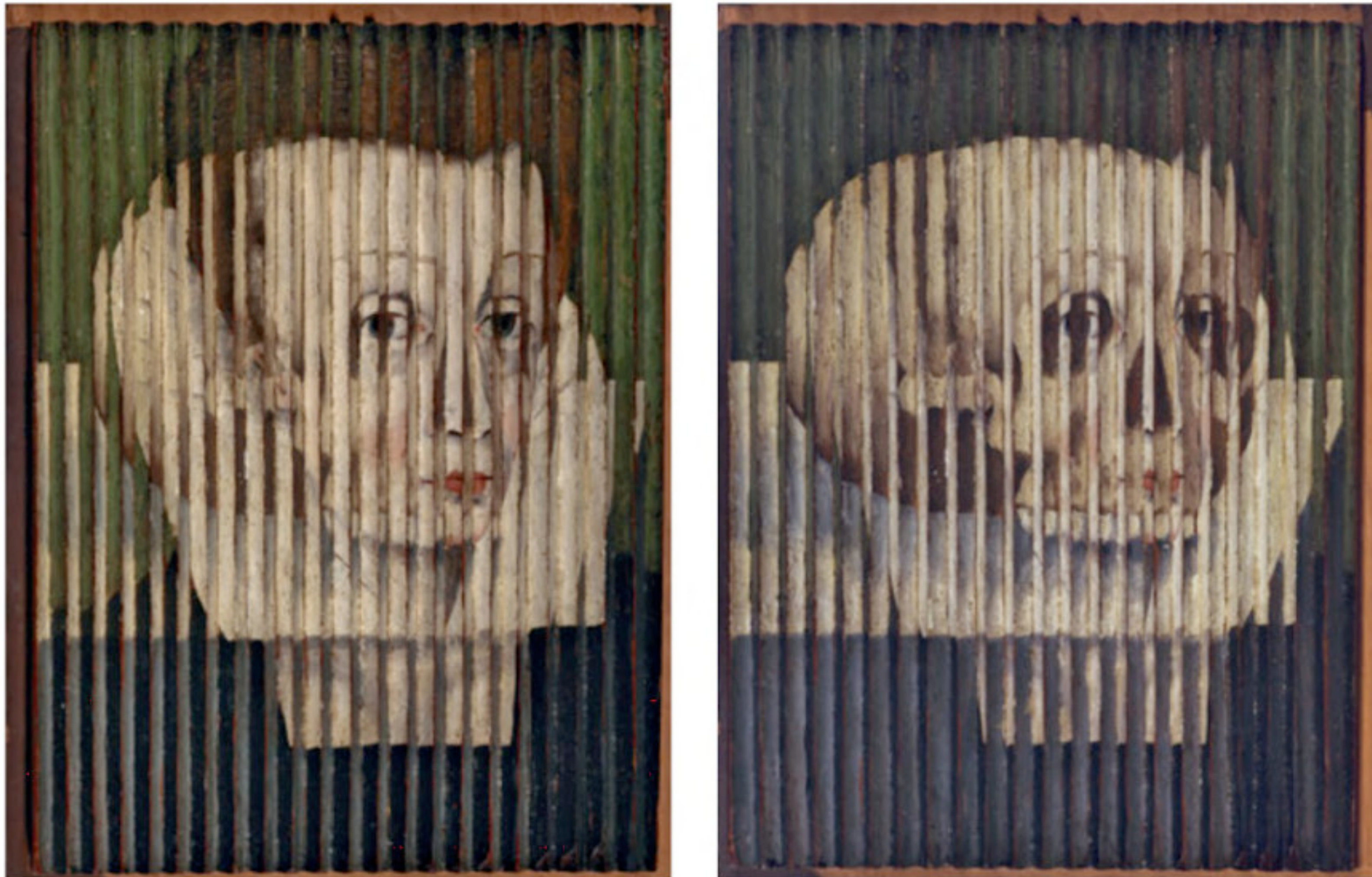
Applegate, Katherine. The Separation. Scholastic, 1999; Landis, John. Black or White. 1991. YouTube, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTFE8cirkdQ>.

tabula scalata/turning pictures









"The painting should be looked at from left to right to reveal the human head changing into a skull."

<https://www.nationalgalleries.org/art-and-artists/3239/anamorphosis-called-mary-queen-scots-1542-1587-reigned-1542-1567>



"As of a picture wrought to opticke reason,  
That to all passers by, seems as they move  
Now woman, *now a monster*, and now a Divell,  
And till you stand, and in a right line view it,  
You cannot well judge what the main forme is."

From George Chapman's *Chabot* (ca. 1621), quoted in Shickman, Allan. "'Turning Pictures' in Shakespeare's England." *The Art Bulletin*, vol. 59, no. 1, Mar. 1977, p. 67. (my emphasis)

technetium



**National Institute of  
Standards and Technology**  
U.S. Department of Commerce

NIST SP 966 (September 2010)



**National Institute of  
Standards and Technology**  
U.S. Department of Commerce

NIST SP 966 (September 2010)



<div>22<sup><math>F_2</math></sup></div> <div>Ti</div> <div>Titanium</div> <div>47.867</div> <div><math>[Ar]3d^2 4s^2</math></div> <div>6.8281</div>	<div>23<sup><math>F_{3/2}</math></sup></div> <div>V</div> <div>Vanadium</div> <div>50.9415</div> <div><math>[Ar]3d^3 4s^2</math></div> <div>6.7462</div>	<div>24<sup><math>S_3</math></sup></div> <div>Cr</div> <div>Chromium</div> <div>51.9961</div> <div><math>[Ar]3d^5 4s</math></div> <div>6.7665</div>	<div>25<sup><math>S_{5/2}</math></sup></div> <div>Mn</div> <div>Manganese</div> <div>54.938045</div> <div><math>[Ar]3d^5 4s^2</math></div> <div>7.4340</div>	<div>26<sup><math>D_4</math></sup></div> <div>Fe</div> <div>Iron</div> <div>55.845</div> <div><math>[Ar]3d^6 4s^2</math></div> <div>7.9024</div>	<div>27<sup><math>F_{9/2}</math></sup></div> <div>Co</div> <div>Cobalt</div> <div>58.933195</div> <div><math>[Ar]3d^7 4s^2</math></div> <div>7.8810</div>	<div>28<sup><math>F_4</math></sup></div> <div>Ni</div> <div>Nickel</div> <div>58.6934</div> <div><math>[Ar]3d^8 4s^2</math></div> <div>7.6399</div>
<div>40<sup><math>F_2^3</math></sup></div> <div>Zr</div> <div>Zirconium</div> <div>91.224</div> <div><math>[Kr]4d^2 5s^2</math></div> <div>6.6339</div>	<div>41<sup><math>D_{1/2}^6</math></sup></div> <div>Nb</div> <div>Niobium</div> <div>92.90638</div> <div><math>[Kr]4d^4 5s</math></div> <div>6.7589</div>	<div>42<sup><math>S_3^7</math></sup></div> <div>Mo</div> <div>Molybdenum</div> <div>95.96</div> <div><math>[Kr]4d^5 5s</math></div> <div>7.0924</div>	<div>43<sup><math>S_{5/2}^6</math></sup></div> <div>Tc</div> <div>Technetium</div> <div>(98)</div> <div><math>[Kr]4d^5 5s^2</math></div> <div>7.28</div>	<div>44<sup><math>F_5^5</math></sup></div> <div>Ru</div> <div>Ruthenium</div> <div>101.07</div> <div><math>[Kr]4d^7 5s</math></div> <div>7.3605</div>	<div>45<sup><math>F_{9/2}^4</math></sup></div> <div>Rh</div> <div>Rhodium</div> <div>102.90550</div> <div><math>[Kr]4d^8 5s</math></div> <div>7.4589</div>	<div>46<sup><math>S_c^1</math></sup></div> <div>Pd</div> <div>Palladium</div> <div>106.42</div> <div><math>[Kr]4d^{10}</math></div> <div>8.3369</div>
<div>72<sup><math>F_2^3</math></sup></div> <div>Hf</div> <div>Hafnium</div> <div>178.49</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>73<sup><math>F_{3/2}^4</math></sup></div> <div>Ta</div> <div>Tantalum</div> <div>180.94788</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>74<sup><math>D_0^5</math></sup></div> <div>W</div> <div>Tungsten</div> <div>183.84</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>75<sup><math>S_{5/2}^6</math></sup></div> <div>Re</div> <div>Rhenium</div> <div>186.207</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>76<sup><math>D_4^5</math></sup></div> <div>Os</div> <div>Osmium</div> <div>190.23</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>77<sup><math>F_{9/2}^4</math></sup></div> <div>Ir</div> <div>Iridium</div> <div>192.217</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>78<sup><math>D_3^3</math></sup></div> <div>Pt</div> <div>Platinum</div> <div>195.084</div> <div></div> <div></div>





Mendeleev

Reihen	Gruppe I. — R'O	Gruppe II. — RO	Gruppe III. — R'O <sup>3</sup>	Gruppe IV. RH <sup>4</sup> RO <sup>2</sup>	Gruppe V. RH <sup>3</sup> R'O <sup>3</sup>	Gruppe VI. RH <sup>3</sup> RO <sup>3</sup>	Gruppe VII. RH R'O <sup>3</sup>	Gruppe VIII. — RO <sup>4</sup>
1	II=1							
2	Li=7	Be=9,4	B=11	C=12	N=14	O=16	F=19	
3	Na=23	Mg=24	Al=27,3	Si=28	P=31	S=32	Cl=35,5	
4	K=39	Ca=40	—=44	Ti=48	V=51	Cr=52	Mn=55	Fe=56, Co=59, Ni=59, Cu=63.
5	(Cu=63)	Zn=65	—=68	—=72	As=75	Se=78	Br=80	
6	Rb=86	Sr=87	?Yt=88	Zr=90	Nb=94	Mo=96	—=100	Ru=104, Rh=104, Pd=106, Ag=108.
7	(Ag=108)	Cd=112	In=113	Sn=118	Sb=122	Te=125	J=127	
8	Cs=133	Ba=137	?Di=138	?Ce=140	—	—	—	— — — —
9	(—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	
10	—	—	?Er=178	?La=180	Ta=182	W=184	—	Os=195, Ir=197, Pt=198, Au=199.
11	(Au=199)	Hg=200	Tl=204	Pb=207	Bi=208	—	—	
12	—	—	—	Th=231	—	U=240	—	— — — —

de Jonge, Frederik AA, and Ernest KJ Pauwels. “Technetium, the Missing Element.” European Journal of Nuclear Medicine, vol. 23, no. 3, 1996, pp. 336–344.





Mendeleev

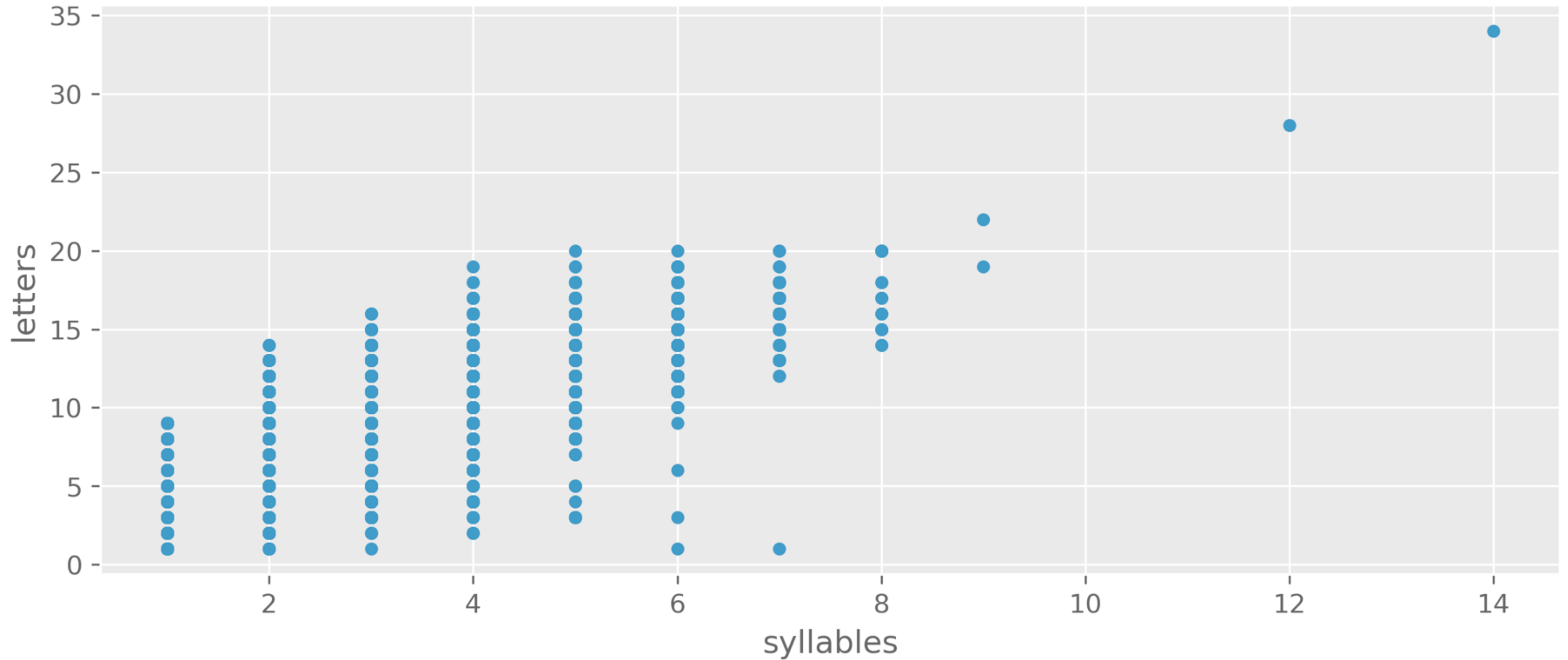
Reihen	Gruppe I. — R'O	Gruppe II. — RO	Gruppe III. — R'O <sup>3</sup>	Gruppe IV. RH <sup>4</sup> RO <sup>2</sup>	Gruppe V. RH <sup>3</sup> R'O <sup>3</sup>	Gruppe VI. RH <sup>3</sup> RO <sup>3</sup>	Gruppe VII. RH R'O <sup>3</sup>	Gruppe VIII. — RO <sup>4</sup>
1	II=1							
2	Li=7	Be=9,4	B=11	C=12	N=14	O=16	F=19	
3	Na=23	Mg=24	Al=27,3	Si=28	P=31	S=32	Cl=35,5	
4	K=39	Ca=40	—=44	Ti=48	V=51	Cr=52	Mn=55	Fe=56, Co=59, Ni=59, Cu=63.
5	(Cu=63)	Zn=65	—=68	—=72	As=75	Se=78	Br=80	
6	Rb=86	Sr=87	?Yt=88	Zr=90	Nb=94	Mo=96	—=100	Ru=104, Rh=104, Pd=106, Ag=108.
7	(Ag=108)	Cd=112	In=113	Sn=118	Sb=122	Te=125	I=127	
8	Cs=133	Ba=137	?Di=138	?Ce=140	—	—	—	— — — —
9	(—)	—	—	—	—	—	—	
10	—	—	?Er=178	?La=180	Ta=182	W=184	—	Os=195, Ir=197, Pt=198, Au=199.
11	(Au=199)	Hg=200	Tl=204	Pb=207	Bi=208	—	—	
12	—	—	—	Th=231	—	U=240	—	— — — —

de Jonge, Frederik AA, and Ernest KJ Pauwels. “Technetium, the Missing Element.” European Journal of Nuclear Medicine, vol. 23, no. 3, 1996, pp. 336–344.

scatter plots...?

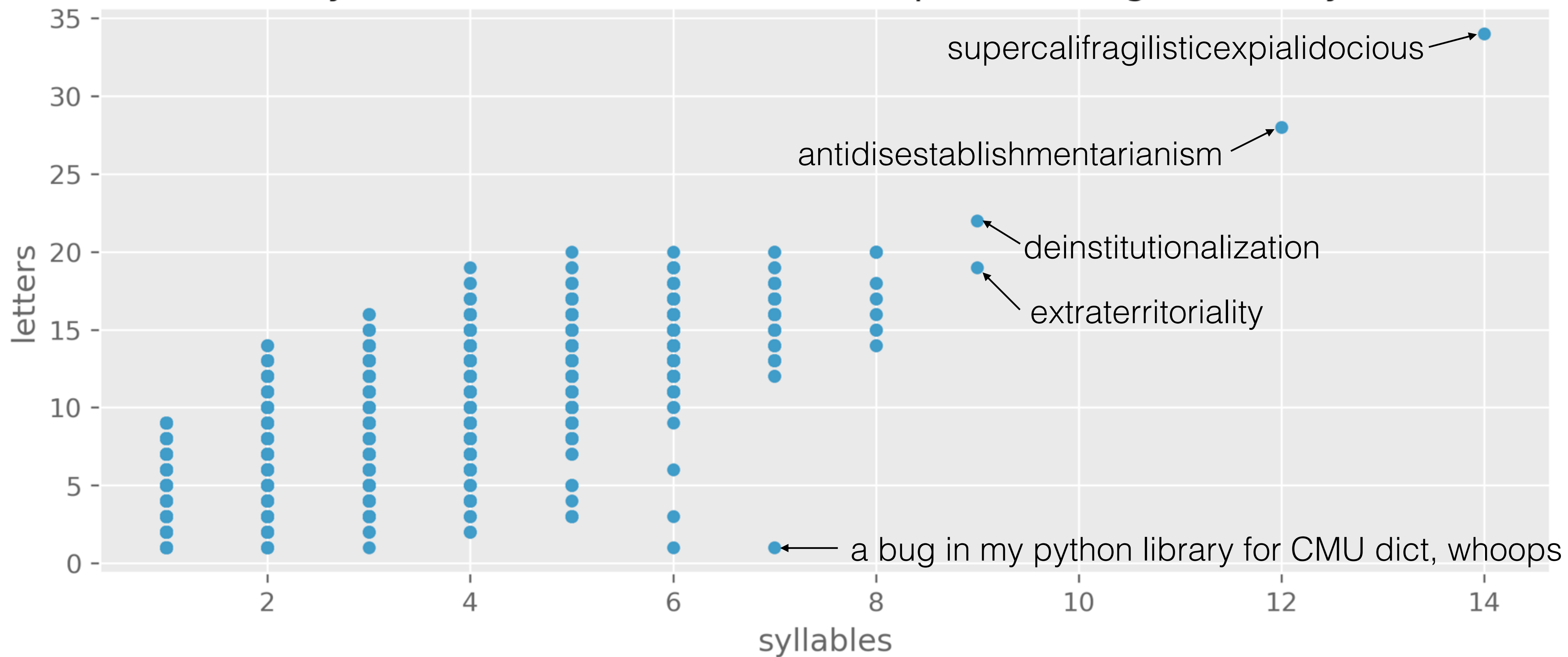
# regular scatter plot

Syllables and letters in the CMU pronouncing dictionary



# regular scatter plot

Syllables and letters in the CMU pronouncing dictionary



scatter plots of *likenesses*



1. MARY FLEENER at her most abstract. 2. MARISCAL's Piker. 3. DAVE MCKEAN employing one of the many styles found in his series CAGES. 4. MARC HEMPEL's GREGORY. 5. MARK BEYER. 6. LARRY MARDER's Beanish from TALES OF THE BEANWORLD. "Resembling" nothing ever seen (hence all the way to the right), Marder's beans walk the line from design to meaning. 7. SAUL STIENBERG. 8. PENNY MORAN VAN-HORN from THE LIBRARIAN. 9. LORENZO MATTOTI in FIRES (© Editions Albin Michel S.A.) combines deeply impressionistic lighting with iconic forms and strong, design-oriented compositions. In other words, he's a hard one to place. 10. ALINE KOMINSKY-CRUMB. 11. PETER BAGGE's Chuckie-Boy from NEAT STUFF. Compare to 39. 12. KRISTINE KRYTTRE. 13. REA IRVIN. THE SMYTHES © Field Newspaper Syndicate. 14. STEVE WILLIS's Morty. 15. PHIL YEH's FRANK THE UNICORN. 16. JERRY MORIARTY's "Jack Survives". Based closely on real world light and shadow, but decomposed into rough shapes. Similar effects are found in nos 8,18,19,20 and 34. 17. JEFF WONG's art for Scott Russo's JIZZ. 18. ROLF STARK's expressionistic RAIN. 19. SPAIN's TRASHMAN. 20. FRANK MILLER's THE DARK KNIGHT RETURNS. Batman © D.C. Comics. Batman created by Bob Kane. 21. WILLIAM MESSNER-LOEB's Wolverine MacAlistair from JOURNEY. 22. DON SIMPSON's MEGATON MAN. Beginning from a

realistic anatomical base, Simpson distorts and exaggerates M.M.'s features to the brink of abstraction. 23. MICHAEL CHERKAS from SILENT INVASION, © Cherkas and Hancock. 24. RICK GEARY. 25. PETER KUPER. 26. GARRY TRUDEAU's DOONESBURY. 27. LYNDA BARRY. 28. SAMPEI SHIRATO. 29. CHARLES BURNS's BIG BABY. 29 1/2. (Whoops) CLIFF STERRETT. The character pictured here (from POLLY AND HER PALS) might belong a bit lower, but Sterrett's art, like Fleener's often heads upward toward the wildly abstract. P.A.H.P. is © Newspaper Features Syndicate, Inc. 30. SERGIO ARAGONES's GROO THE WANDERER. Simple, straightforward, but with a strong gestural quality that always reminds us of the hand that holds the pen (also true of 14,28,31,41). 31. ROBERTA GREGORY's Bitchy Bitch from NAUGHTY BITS. 32. DAVID MAZZUCHELLI from BATMAN: YEAR ONE. Commissioner Gordon © D.C. Comics. 33. JOSE MUNOZ from "Mister Conrad, Mister Wilcox". © Munoz and Sampayo. 34. CAROL

SWAIN. 35. CHESTER GOULD's DICK TRACY © Chicago Tribune-New York Syndicate, Inc. 36. JACK KIRBY's Darkseid, © D.C. Comics. 37. BOB BURDEN. 38. DANIEL TORRES's Rocco Vargas from TRITON. 39. PETER BAGGE's Buddy Bradley from HATE. Compare to 11. 40. SETH. 41. MARK MARTIN. 42. JULIE DOUCET. 43. EDWARD GOREY. 44. CRAIG RUSSELL's Mowgli from Kipling's THE JUNGLE BOOKS. Russell's characters are as finely observed and realistically based as Hal Foster's or Dave Stevens' but with an unparalleled sense of design that draws them toward the upper vertex. Lately, Russell has been moving a bit higher and toward the right in some cases. 45. GOSEKI KOJIMA from KOZURE OKAMI

("Wolf and Cub") © Koike and Kojima. 46. EDDIE CAMPBELL's ALEC. Realistic in tone, but also gestural and spontaneous. The process of drawing isn't hidden from view. 47. ALEX TOTH. Zorro © ZorroProductions, Inc. Art © Walt Disney Productions. (Zorro created by Johnston McCulley). 48. HUGO PRATT's CORTO MALTESE © Casterman, Paris-Tourmai. 49. WILL EISNER from TO THE HEART OF THE STORM. 50. DORI SEDA. 51. R. CRUMB swings between realistic and cartoony characters, usually staying about this high but occasionally venturing upward. 52. STEVE DITKO. 53. NORMAN DOG. 54. VALENTINO's NORMALMAN sits a bit to the right and up from his current SHADOWHAWK (whose iconic mask made him a bit harder to place). 55. ROZ CHAST. 56. JOOST SWARTE's Anton Makassar. 57. ELZIE SEGAR's POPEYE © King features Syndicate, Inc. 58. GEORGE HERRIMAN's "Offissa Pupp" from KRAZY KAT. © International Feature Service, Inc. 59. JIM WOODRING's FRANK. 60. NEAL ADAMS, from X-MEN © Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. (X-Men created by Lee and Kirby). 61. GIL KANE from ACTION COMICS © D.C. Comics, Inc. 62. MILTON CANIFF's STEVE CANYON. 63. JIM LEE. Nick Fury appearing in X-MEN © Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. 64. JOHN BYRNE. Superman © D.C. Comics, Inc. (Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Schuster). 65. JACQUES TARDI from LE DEMON DES GLACES © Dargaud Editeur. 66. JEAN-CLAUDE MEZIERES. Laureline from the VALERIAN series. © Dargaud Editeur. 67. BILL GRIFFITH's ZIPPY THE PINHEAD. 68. JOE MATT. 69. KYLE BAKER from WHY I HATE SATURN. 70. TRINA ROBBINS's

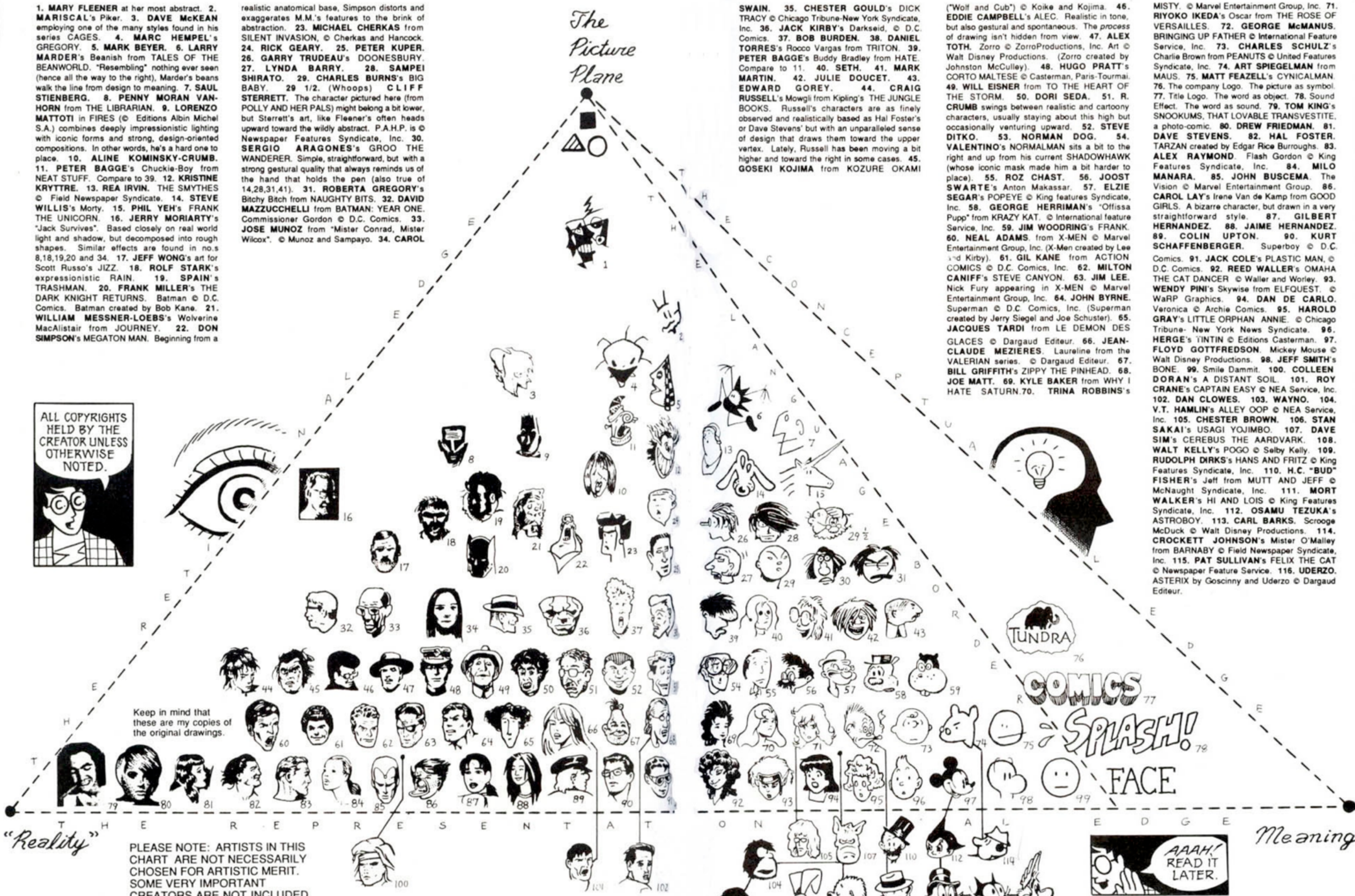
MISTY. © Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. 71. RIYOKO IKEDA's Oscar from THE ROSE OF VERSAILLES. 72. GEORGE McMANUS. BRINGING UP FATHER © International Feature Service, Inc. 73. CHARLES SCHULZ's Charlie Brown from PEANUTS © United Features Syndicate, Inc. 74. ART SPIEGELMAN from MAUS. 75. MATT FEAZELL's CYNICALMAN. 76. The company Logo. The picture as symbol. 77. Title Logo. The word as object. 78. Sound Effect. The word as sound. 79. TOM KING's SNOOKUMS, THAT LOVABLE TRANSVESTITE, a photo-comic. 80. DREW FRIEDMAN. 81. DAVE STEVENS. 82. HAL FOSTER. TARZAN created by Edgar Rice Burroughs. 83. ALEX RAYMOND. Flash Gordon © King Features Syndicate, Inc. 84. MILO MANARA. 85. JOHN BUSCEMA. The Vision © Marvel Entertainment Group. 86. CAROL LAY's Irene Van de Kamp from GOOD GIRLS. A bizarre character, but drawn in a very straightforward style. 87. GILBERT HERNANDEZ. 88. JAIME HERNANDEZ. 89. COLIN UPTON. 90. KURT SCHAFFENBERGER. Superboy © D.C. Comics. 91. JACK COLE's PLASTIC MAN, © D.C. Comics. 92. REED WALLER's OMAHA THE CAT DANCER © Waller and Worley. 93. WENDY PINI's Skywise from ELFQUEST. © WaRP Graphics. 94. DAN DE CARLO. Veronica © Archie Comics. 95. HAROLD GRAY's LITTLE ORPHAN ANNIE. © Chicago Tribune-New York News Syndicate. 96. HERGE's TINTIN © Editions Casterman. 97. FLOYD GOTTFREDSON. Mickey Mouse © Walt Disney Productions. 98. JEFF SMITH's BONE. 99. Smile Dammit. 100. COLLEEN DORAN's A DISTANT SOIL. 101. ROY CRANE's CAPTAIN EASY © NEA Service, Inc. 102. DAN CLOWES. 103. WAYNO. 104. V.T. HAMLIN's ALLEY OOP © NEA Service, Inc. 105. CHESTER BROWN. 106. STAN SAKAI's USAGI YOJIMBO. 107. DAVE SIM's CEREBUS THE AARDVARK. 108. WALT KELLY's POGO © Selby Kelly. 109. RUDOLPH DIRKS's HANS AND FRITZ © King Features Syndicate, Inc. 110. H.C. "BUD" FISHER's Jeff from MUTT AND JEFF © McNaught Syndicate, Inc. 111. MORT WALKER's HI AND LOIS © King Features Syndicate, Inc. 112. OSAMU TEZUKA's ASTROBOY. 113. CARL BARKS. Scrooge McDuck © Walt Disney Productions. 114. CROCKETT JOHNSON's Mister O'Malley from BARNABY © Field Newspaper Syndicate, Inc. 115. PAT SULLIVAN's FELIX THE CAT © Newspaper Feature Service. 116. UDERZO. ASTERIX by Goscinny and Uderzo © Dargaud Editeur.

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Keep in mind that these are my copies of the original drawings.

PLEASE NOTE: ARTISTS IN THIS CHART ARE NOT NECESSARILY CHOSEN FOR ARTISTIC MERIT. SOME VERY IMPORTANT CREATORS ARE NOT INCLUDED.







From McCloud, Scott. *Understanding Comics: The Invisible Art*. Tundra Publishing, 1993, pp. 52–53.



# scatter plots of likenesses with t-sne (and other manifold learning techniques)

Van der Maaten, Laurens and Geoffrey Hinton. “Visualizing Data Using T-SNE.” Journal of Machine Learning Research, vol. 9, no. Nov, 2008, pp. 2579–2605.



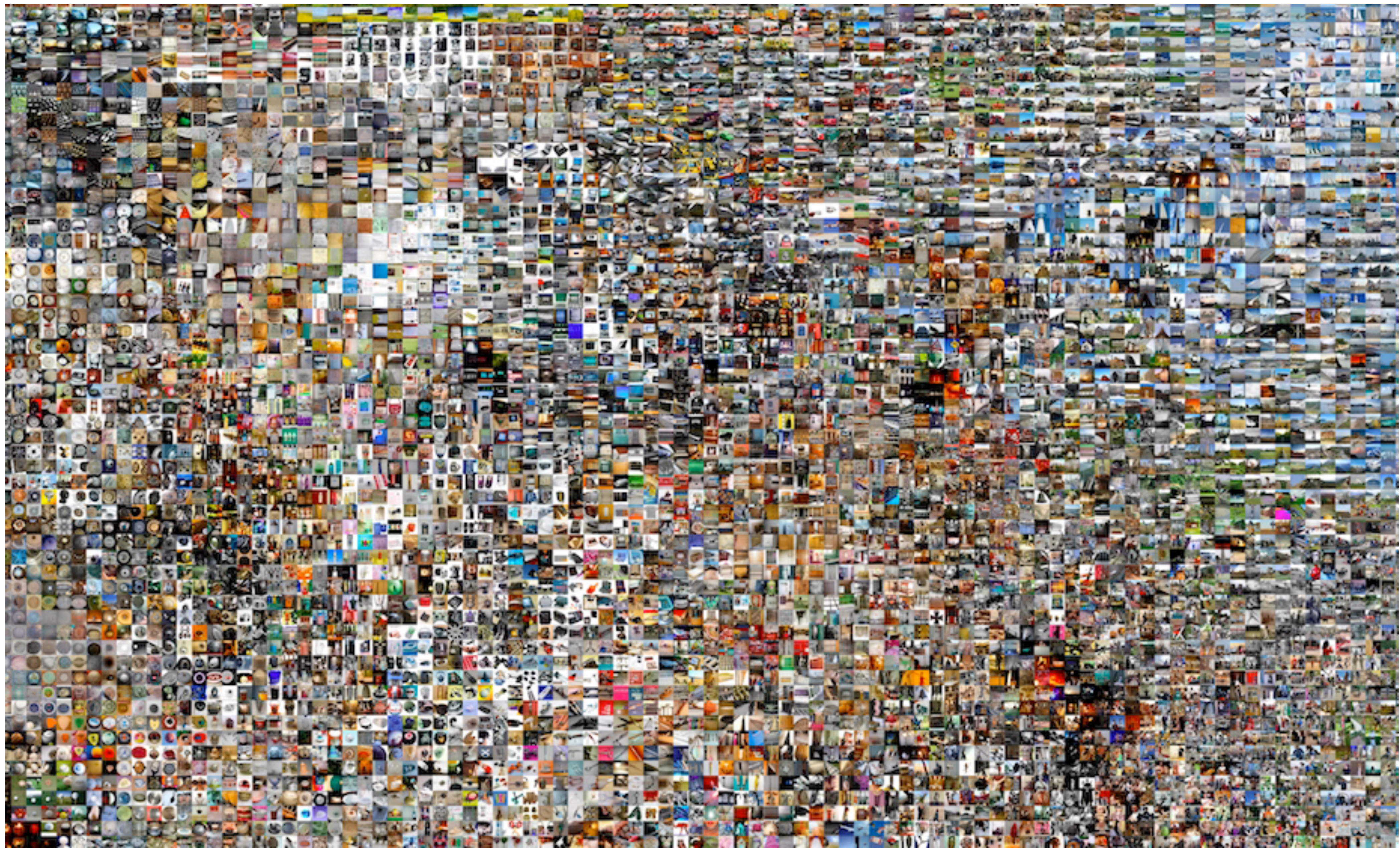


Image from Andrej Karpathy's t-SNE visualization of CNN codes:  
<https://cs.stanford.edu/people/karpathy/cnnembed/>



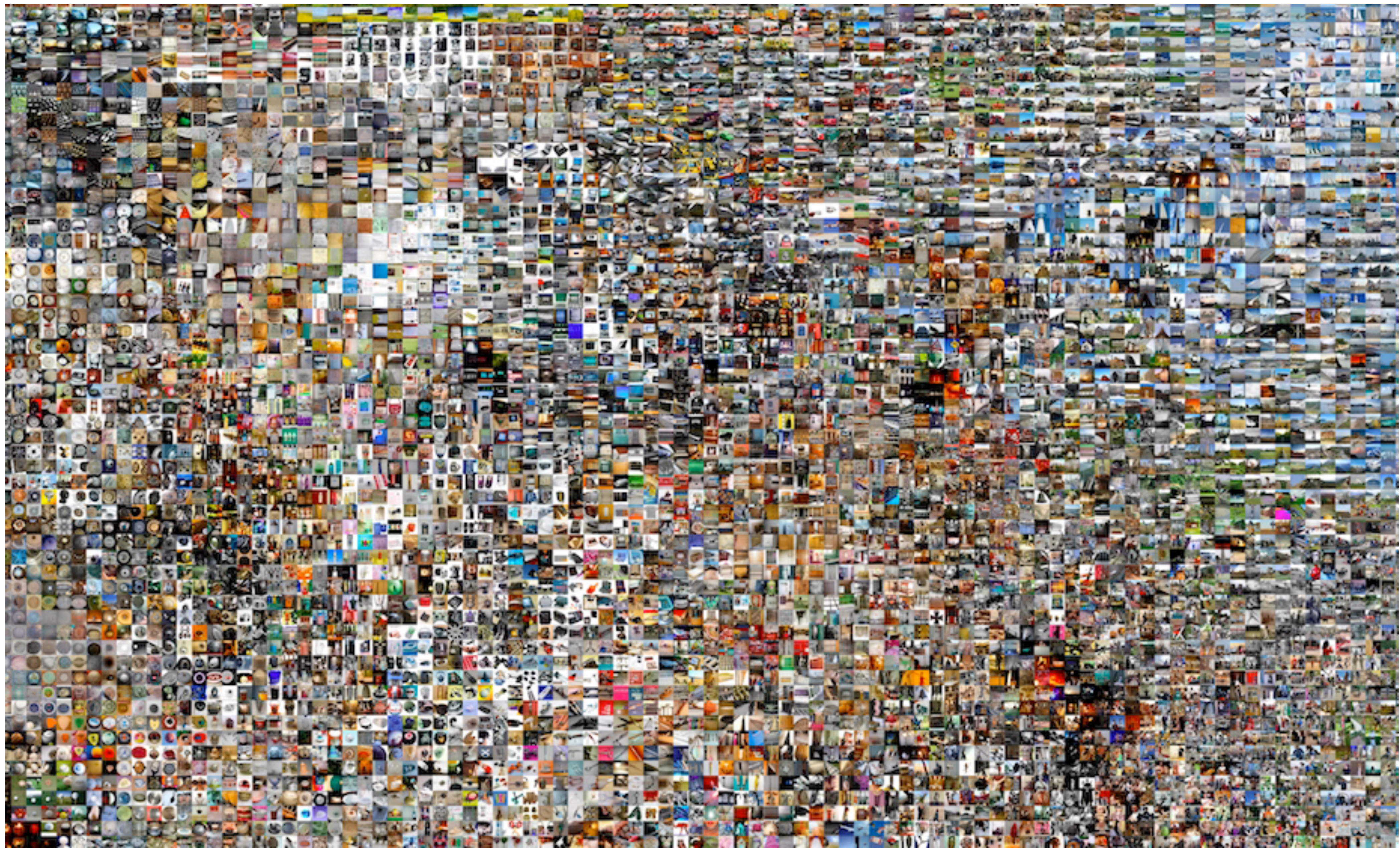
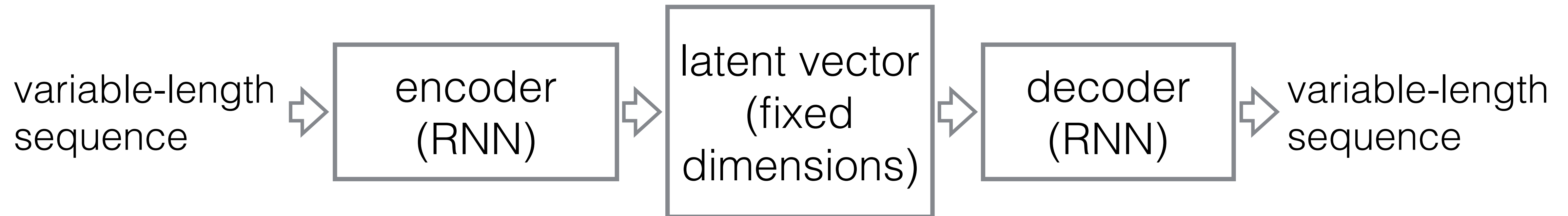


Image from Andrej Karpathy's t-SNE visualization of CNN codes:  
<https://cs.stanford.edu/people/karpathy/cnnembed/>



variational autoencoders

# structure of a variational autoencoder for sequences







# sketch-rnn

Ha, David, and Douglas Eck. "A Neural Representation of Sketch Drawings." ArXiv:1704.03477 [Cs, Stat], Apr. 2017. arXiv.org, <http://arxiv.org/abs/1704.03477>.

---

**i went to the store to buy some groceries .**

*i store to buy some groceries .*

*i were to buy any groceries .*

*horses are to buy any groceries .*

*horses are to buy any animal .*

*horses the favorite any animal .*

*horses the favorite favorite animal .*

**horses are my favorite animal .**

---

Bowman, Samuel R., et al.  
“Generating Sentences from a  
Continuous Space.” ArXiv:  
1511.06349 [Cs], Nov. 2015.  
arXiv.org, [http://arxiv.org/abs/  
1511.06349](http://arxiv.org/abs/1511.06349).

those weird horse chairs





**(h)**



**(i)** *Low Visual Saliency*



**(j)** *Medium Visual Saliency*

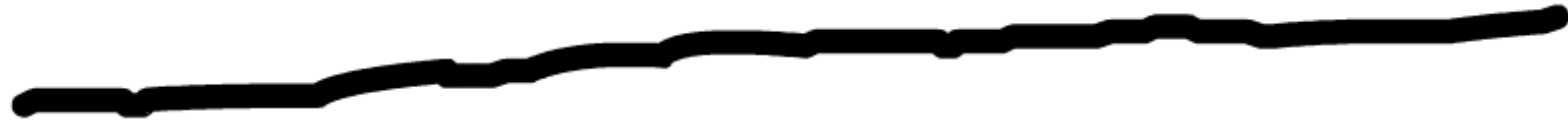


**(k)** *High Visual Saliency*

Duncan, Noah, et al. "Zoomorphic Design." ACM Transactions on Graphics, vol. 34, no. 4, July 2015, pp. 95:1-95:13. Crossref, doi:10.1145/2766902.

...which I found out about because of Noah Veltman's amazing OpenVisConf 2017 talk. His bibliography here: <https://github.com/veltman/openvis>

interpolating letterforms



Waber, Dan. Poidog. 2005, <http://www.vispo.com/guests/DanWaber/poidog.htm>. [as cited in Brownie, Barbara. "One Form, Many Letters: Fluid and Transient Letterforms in Screen-Based Typographic Artefacts." Networking Knowledge: Journal of the MeCCSA Postgraduate Network, vol. 1, no. 2, 2007.]





Waber, Dan. Poidog. 2005, <http://www.vispo.com/guests/DanWaber/poidog.htm>. [as cited in Brownie, Barbara. "One Form, Many Letters: Fluid and Transient Letterforms in Screen-Based Typographic Artefacts." Networking Knowledge: Journal of the MeCCSA Postgraduate Network, vol. 1, no. 2, 2007.]

much

much -

• he

much

Am

Am



okay that was other people's stuff, here are  
some of my own experiments in computational  
interpolation, with language specifically

q: how do you "establish a point" for a word?

a: word vectors!



word vectors (word2vec, glove,  
etc.)

the distributional hypothesis:  
"linguistic items with similar  
distributions have similar  
meanings."

# distributional analysis of "it was the best of times, it was the worst of times"

	START	__ was	it __ the	was __ best	the __ of	best __ times	of __ it	times __ was	was __ worst	worst __ times	of __ END
it		1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
was		0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
the		0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
best		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
of		0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
times		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
worst		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

vector for "of": [0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0]

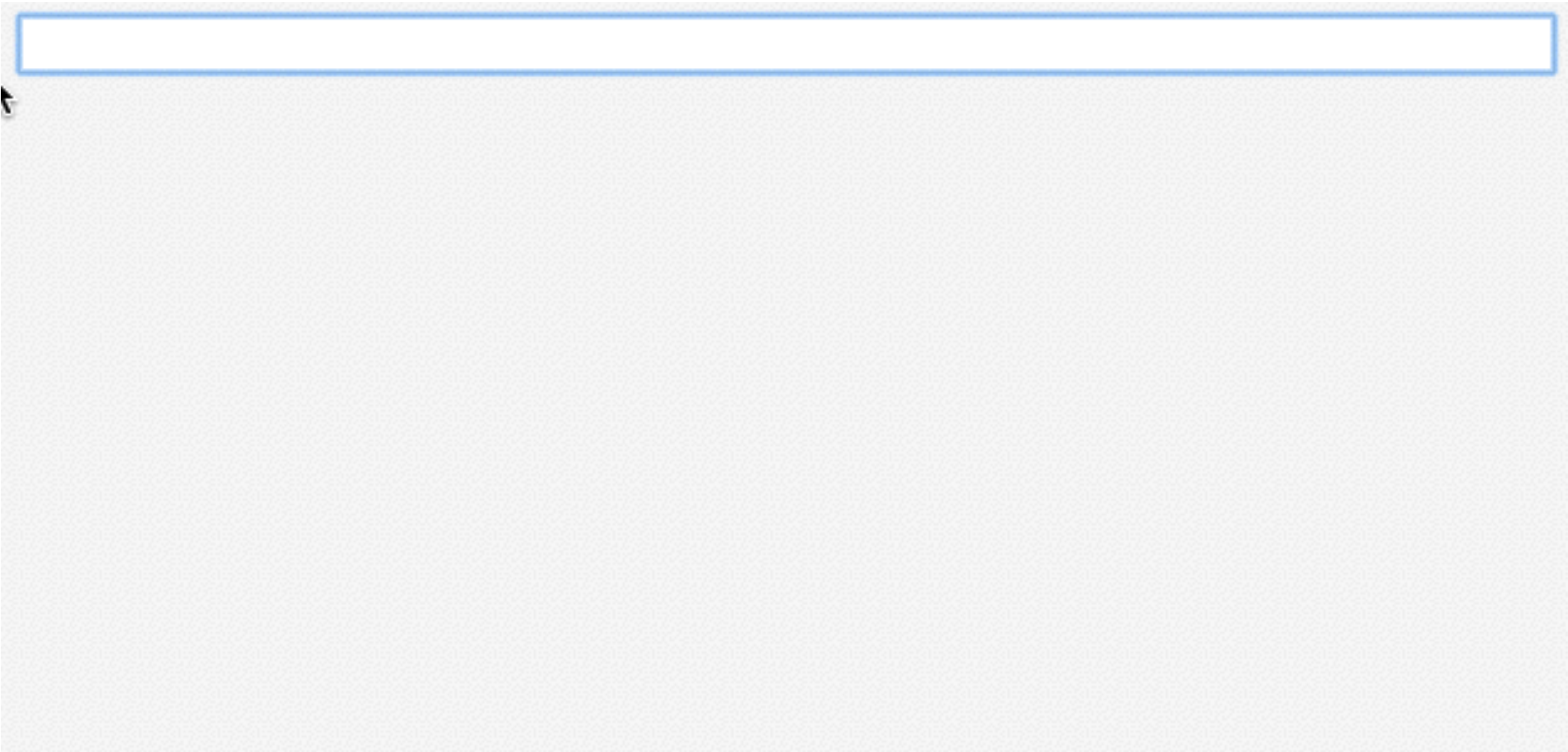
vector for "best" and "worst": [0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0]



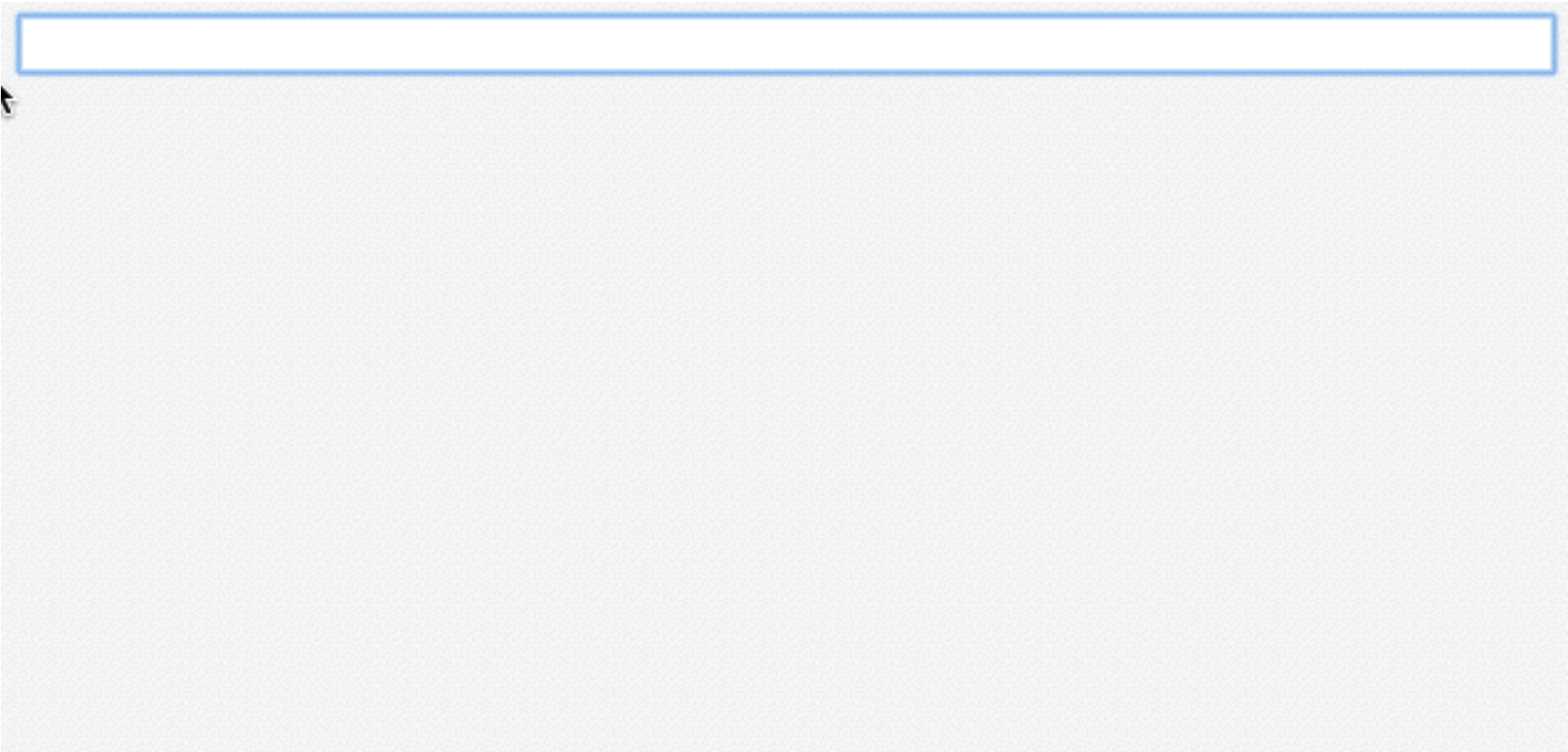
```
nlp.vocab['cheese'].vector
```

```
array([ -5.52519977e-01,  1.88940004e-01,  6.87370002e-01,  
       -1.97889999e-01,  7.05749989e-02,  1.00750005e+00,  
        5.17890006e-02, -1.56029999e-01,  3.19409996e-01,  
        1.17019999e+00, -4.72479999e-01,  4.28669989e-01,  
       -4.20249999e-01,  2.48030007e-01,  6.81940019e-01,  
       -6.74880028e-01,  9.24009979e-02,  1.30890000e+00,  
       -3.62779982e-02,  2.00979993e-01,  7.60049999e-01,  
       -6.67179972e-02, -7.77940005e-02,  2.38440007e-01,  
       -2.43509993e-01, -5.41639984e-01, -3.35399985e-01,  
        2.98049986e-01,  3.52690011e-01, -8.05939972e-01,  
       -4.36109990e-01,  6.15350008e-01,  3.42119992e-01,  
       -3.36030006e-01,  3.32819998e-01,  3.80650014e-01,  
        5.74270003e-02,  9.99180004e-02,  1.25249997e-01,  
        1.10389996e+00,  3.66780013e-02,  3.04899991e-01,  
       -1.49419993e-01,  3.29120010e-01,  2.32999995e-01,  
        4.33950007e-01,  1.56660005e-01,  2.27779999e-01,  
       -2.58300006e-02,  2.43340001e-01, -5.81360012e-02,  
       -1.34859994e-01,  2.45210007e-01, -3.34589988e-01,  
        4.28389996e-01, -4.81810004e-01,  1.34029999e-01,  
        2.60490000e-01,  8.99330005e-02, -9.37699974e-02,  
        3.76720011e-01, -2.95579992e-02,  4.38410014e-01,  
        6.12119973e-01, -2.57200003e-01, -7.85059988e-01,  
        2.38800004e-01,  1.33990005e-01, -7.93149993e-02,  
        7.05820024e-01,  3.99679989e-01,  6.77789986e-01,  
       -2.04739999e-03,  1.97850000e-02, -4.20590013e-01,  
       -5.38580000e-01, -5.21549992e-02,  1.72519997e-01,  
        2.75469989e-01, -4.44819987e-01,  2.35949993e-01,  
       -2.34449998e-01,  3.01030010e-01, -5.50960004e-01])
```





<http://static.decontextualize.com/vecviz/>



<http://static.decontextualize.com/vecviz/>



blur



resample at  
lower resolution



blend (with another text)



In the beginning God created  
the heaven and the earth.  
And the earth was without  
form, and void; and darkness  
was upon the face of the  
deep And the Spirit of God  
moved upon the face of the  
waters. And God said, Let  
there be light: and there was  
light. And God saw the light,  
that it was good: and God  
divided the light from the  
darkness, And God called  
the light Day

'Hateful day when I received  
life!' I exclaimed in agony.  
Accursed creator! Why did  
you form a monster so  
hideous that even YOU  
turned from me in disgust?  
God, in pity, made man  
beautiful and alluring, after  
his own image; but my form  
is a filthy type of yours, more  
horrid even from the very  
resemblance. Satan had his  
companions, fellow devils, to  
admire and encourage him,  
but I am solitary and  
abhorred.

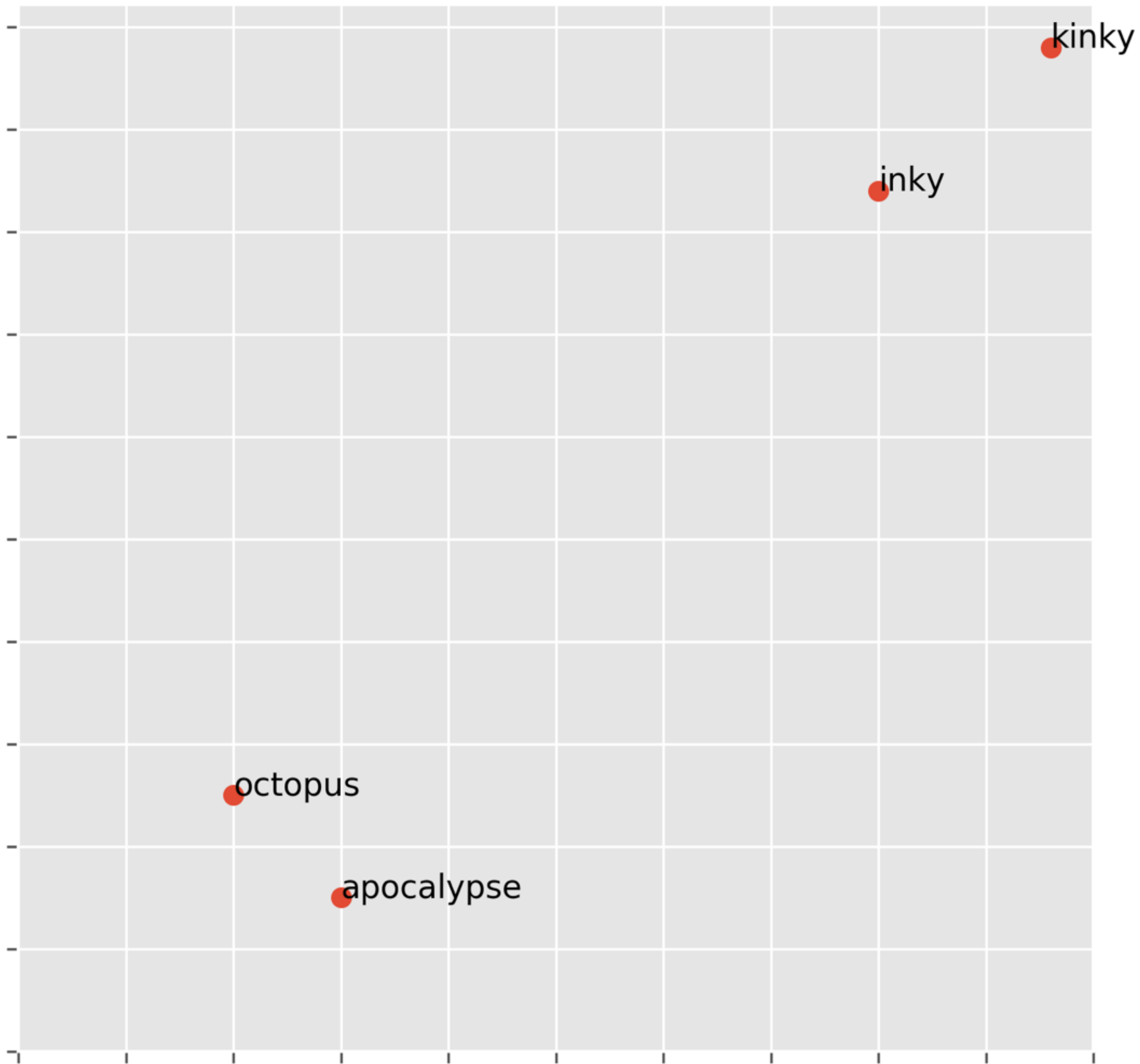
In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness, And God called the light Day

50%

'Hateful day when I received life!' I exclaimed in agony. Accursed creator! Why did you form a monster so hideous that even YOU turned from me in disgust? God, in pity, made man beautiful and alluring, after his own image; but my form is a filthy type of yours, more horrid even from the very resemblance. Satan had his companions, fellow devils, to admire and encourage him, but I am solitary and abhorred.



phonetic similarity vectors





GALORE G AH0 L AO1 R  
 GALOSH G AH0 L AA1 SH  
 GALOSHES G AH0 L AA1 SH AH0 Z  
 GALOSHES(1) G AH0 L AA1 SH IH0 Z  
 GALOTTI G AH0 L AA1 T IY0  
 GALPIN G AE1 L P IH0 N  
 GALS G AE1 L Z  
 GALSTER G AE1 L S T ER0  
 GALSWORTHY G AE1 L Z W ER2 DH IY0  
 GALT G AO1 L T  
 GALTON G AE1 L T AH0 N  
 GALUDET G AE2 L AH0 D EH1 T  
 GALUS G AE1 L IH0 S  
 GALUSHA G AE1 L AH0 SH AH0  
 GALUSKA G AH0 L AH1 S K AH0  
 GALVAN G AA0 L V AA1 N  
 GALVANIC G AE0 L V AE1 N IH0 K  
 GALVANIZE G AE1 L V AH0 N AY2 Z  
 GALVANIZED G AE1 L V AH0 N AY2 Z D  
 GALVANIZES G AE1 L V AH0 N AY2 Z AH0 Z  
 GALVANIZING G AE1 L V AH0 N AY2 Z IH0 NG



Phone	Features	Phone	Features	Phone	Features
AA	bck, low, unr, vwl	F	frc, lbd, vls	P	blb, stp, vls
AE	fnt, low, unr, vwl	G	stp, vcd, vel	R	alv, apr
AH	cnt, mid, unr, vwl	HH	apr, glt	S	alv, frc, vls
AO	bck, lmd, rnd, vwl	IH	fnt, smh, unr, vwl	SH	frc, pla, vls
AW	bck, cnt, low, rnd, smh, unr, vwl	IY	fnt, hgh, unr, vwl	T	alv, stp, vls
AY	cnt, fnt, low, smh, unr, vwl	JH	alv, frc, stp, vcd	TH	dnt, frc, vls
B	blb, stp, vcd	K	stp, vel, vls	UH	bck, rnd, smh, vwl
CH	alv, frc, stp, vls	L	alv, lat	UW	bck, hgh, rnd, vwl
D	alv, stp, vcd	M	blb, nas	V	frc, lbd, vcd
DH	dnt, frc, vcd	N	alv, nas	W	apr, lbv
EH	fnt, lmd, unr, vwl	NG	nas, vel	Y	apr, pal
ER	cnt, rzd, umd, vwl	OW	bck, rnd, smh, umd, vwl	Z	alv, frc, vcd
EY	fnt, lmd, smh, unr, vwl	OY	bck, fnt, lmd, rnd, smh, unr, vwl	ZH	frc, pla, vcd

$$\begin{aligned}
Prp(\text{BEG}, R, \text{IH}, \text{NG}, \text{END}) &= (F(\text{BEG}) \times F(R)) \cup (F(R) \times F(\text{IH})) \cup (F(\text{IH}) \times F(\text{NG})) \cup (F(\text{NG}) \times F(\text{END})) \\
&= (\{beg\} \times \{alv, apr\}) \cup (\{alv, apr\} \times \{fnt, smh, unr, vwl\}) \\
&\quad \cup (\{fnt, smh, unr, vwl\} \times \{nas, vel\}) \cup (\{nas, vel\} \times \{end\}) \\
&= \{(beg, alv), (beg, apr), \\
&\quad (alv, smh), (alv, fnt), (alv, unr), (alv, vwl), \\
&\quad (apr, smh), (apr, fnt), (apr, unr), (apr, vwl), \\
&\quad (smh, vel), (smh, nas), (fnt, vel), (fnt, nas), \\
&\quad (unr, vel), (unr, nas), (vwl, vel), (vwl, nas), \\
&\quad (vel, end), (nas, end)\}
\end{aligned}$$



**abacus** → *AE1 B AH0 K AH0 S* →

[2.141595, 0.111189, 1.429368,  
0.648939, 1.32017, -0.842176,  
0.391692, 1.257228, -0.375698,  
0.332438, -0.194411, -0.223709,  
-0.810833, -0.081498, -0.022771,  
0.269668, -1.337725, -0.259185,  
-3.570448, -1.134411, -0.593508,  
-0.864846, 1.682264, 0.807176,  
0.169464, -0.81139, 0.358634,  
0.807271, 0.823673, -0.045466,  
-0.856202, -0.290816, -0.641057,  
0.290957, -0.355079, -0.651196,  
1.092874, 0.26982, -0.21275,  
-0.749479, 0.088731, 0.426372,  
-0.232698, -0.233797, -0.317719,  
0.058775, 0.284463, 0.391787,  
-0.148502, -0.295721]

$$word_c = \frac{word_a + word_b}{2}$$



paper

kitten

birthday

artificial

plastic

puppy

anniversary

intelligence

paper

kitten

birthday

artificial

peptic

plastic

puppy

anniversary

intelligence



paper

kitten

birthday

artificial

peptic

committee

plastic

puppy

anniversary

intelligence

paper

kitten

birthday

artificial

peptic

committee

perversity

plastic

puppy

anniversary

intelligence



paper

kitten

birthday

artificial

peptic

committee

perversity

ostentatious

plastic

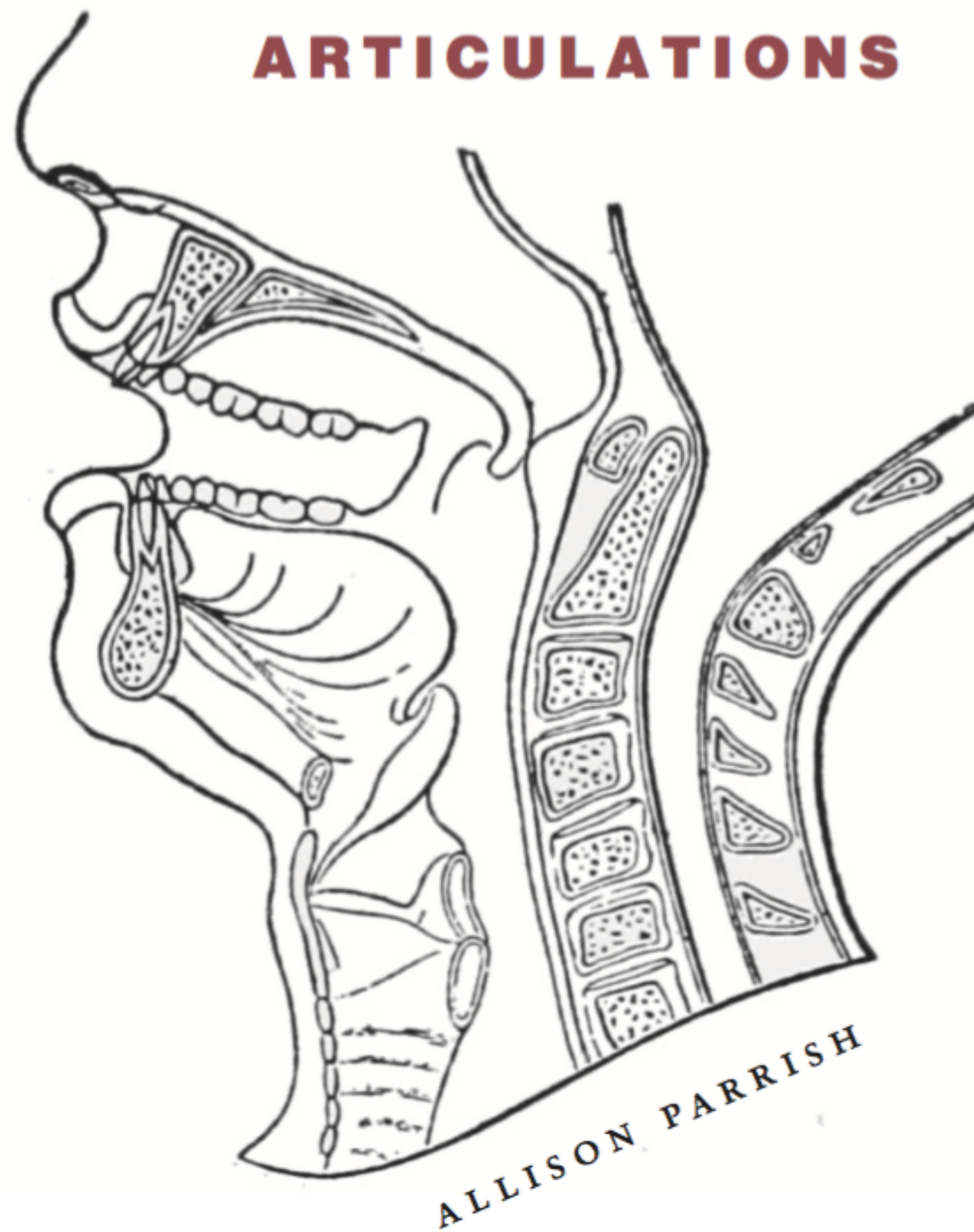
puppy

anniversary

intelligence



## ARTICULATIONS

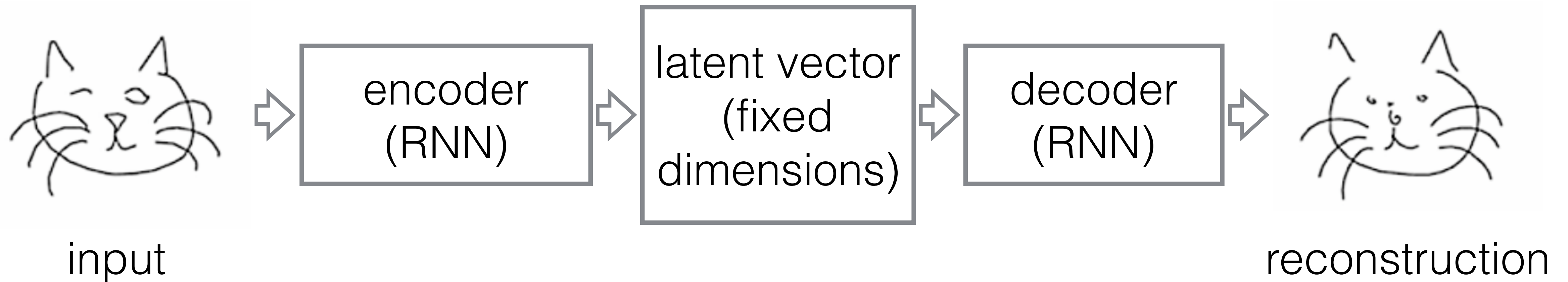


Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer it was the hour of prayers. In the hour of parting, hour of parting, hour of meeting hour of parting this. With power avenging, ... His towering wings; his power enhancing, in his power. His power. Thus: the blithe powers about the flowers, chirp about the flowers a power of butterfly must be with a purple flower, might be the purple flowers it bore. The petals of her purple flowers where the purple aster flowered, here's the purple aster, of the purple asters there lives a purpose stern! A sterner purpose fills turns up so pert and funny; of motor trucks and vans, and after kissed a stone, an ode after Easter. And iron laughter stirred, O wanderer, turn; oh, wanderer, return. O wanderer, stay; O Wanderer near. Been a wanderer. I wander away and then I wander away and thence shall we wander away, and then we would wander away, away O why and for what are we waiting. Oh, why and for what are we waiting, why, then, and for what are we waiting?



using sketch-rnn's variational  
autoencoder on letterforms

sketch-rnn uses google quickdraw data





bridges

dragon

satisfying

extended

proof

chilly

lavoro

aged

agents

expertise

swim

messageslog

parfums

johnson

replication

ont

ferris

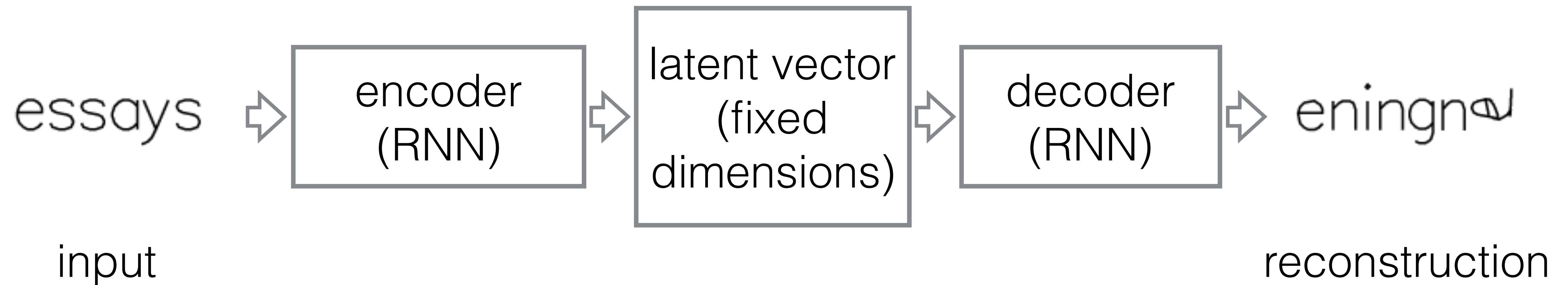
common

seams

bayesian

# Hershey fonts

I tried using sketch-rnn with words written in a  
Hershey font





---  
original

paperwork

reconstruction

prenskarlim

---  
original

prog

reconstruction

gooon

---  
original

arbor

reconstruction

glronb

---  
original

dosing

reconstruction

darerons

---  
original

confusing

reconstruction

senbis

---  
original

replacements

reconstruction

mσ<sup>4</sup>ciplitor oncler







# The Wcnsske-Gonshanshco Reconstructions

By Allison Parrish

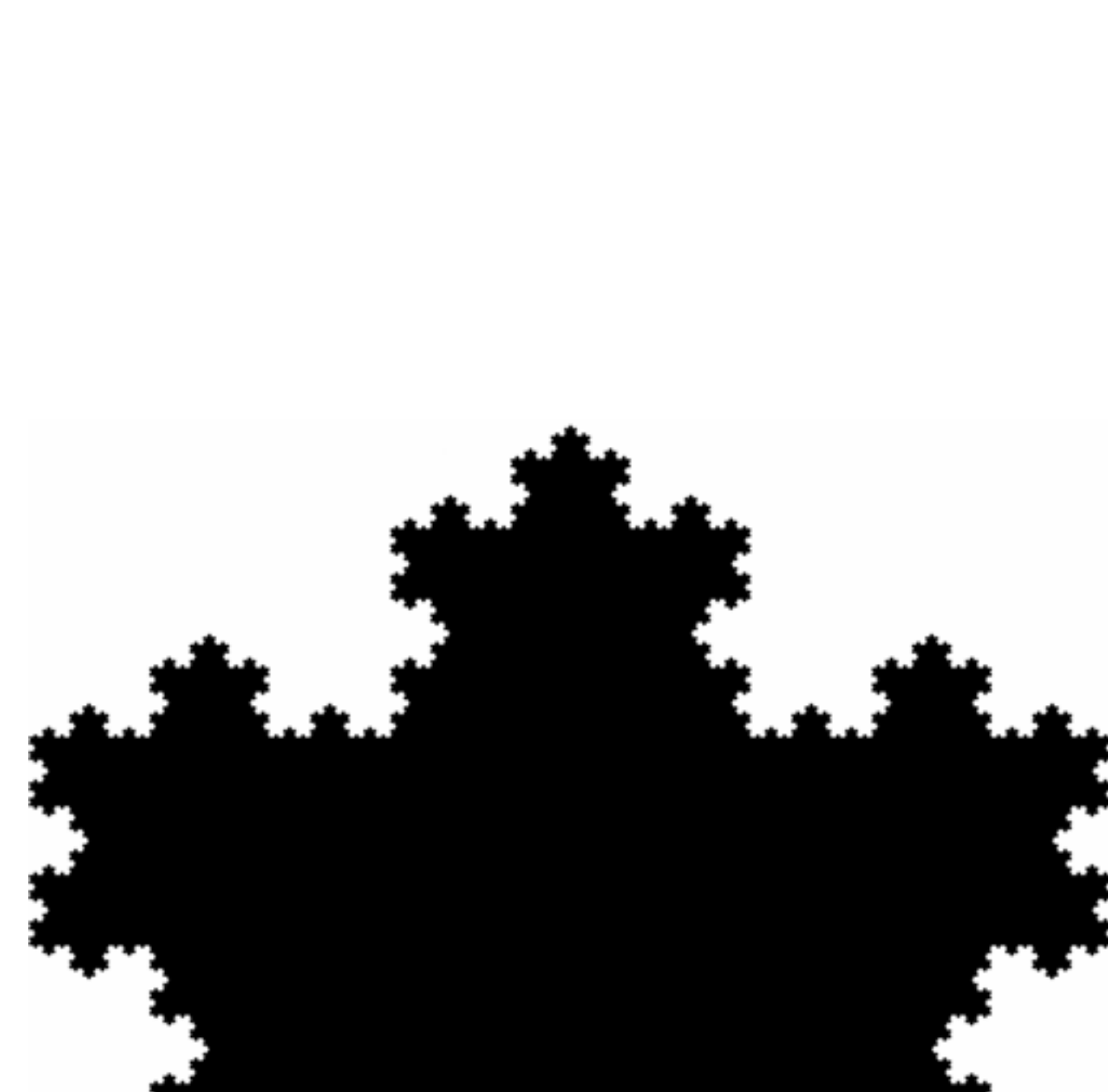
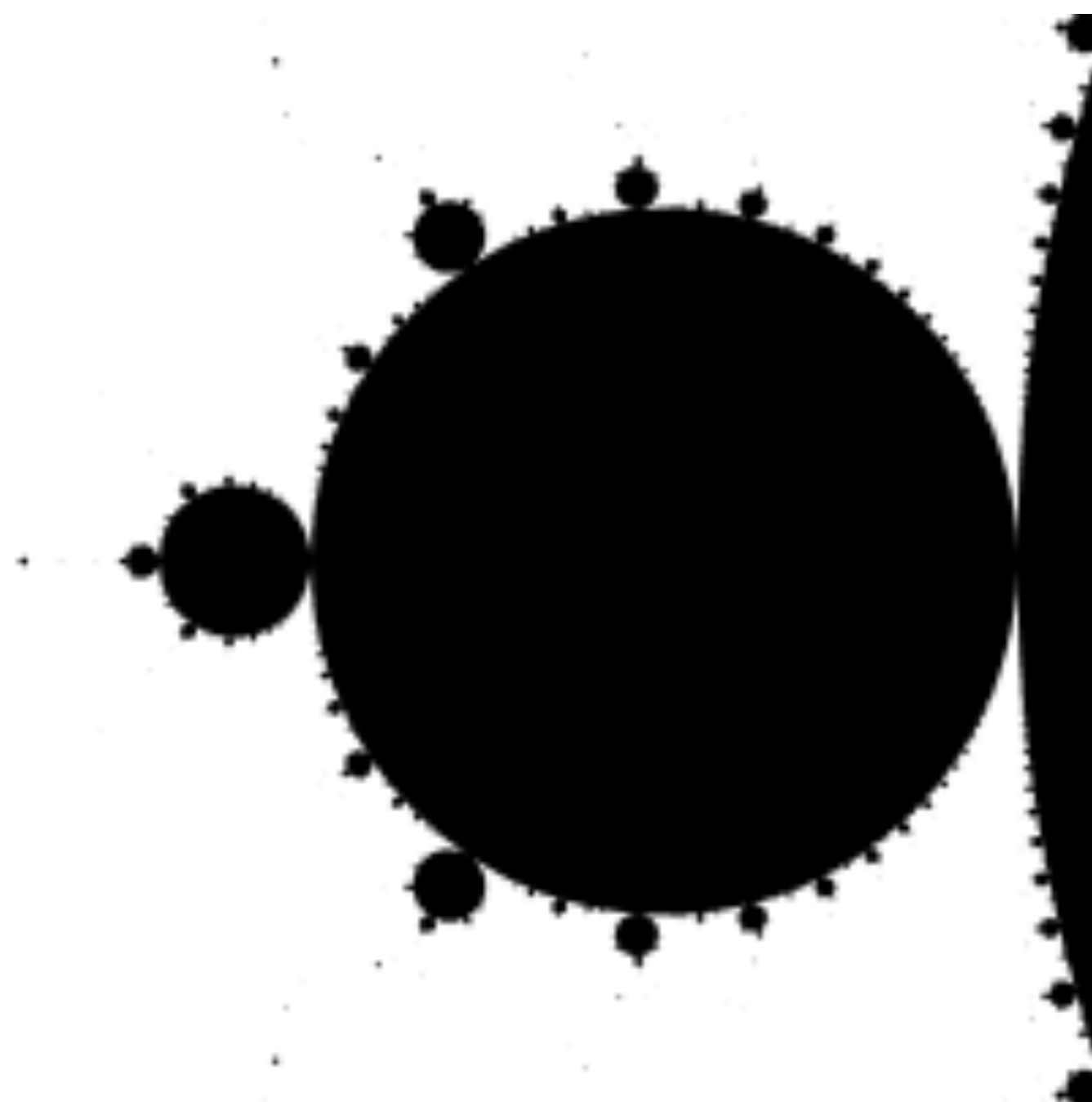
ndnshon vecnclen prcnsha vondcreon wonshler vestes wourscon  
reanshor bricron ponshon verchens rchshon reonshc veonshc  
wonsonc rorbens monklors pponcle monsec versioron wershare  
renshon bonclon ponscles bonallon monshels venshon mallions  
rensshior ponlellon preshon pdnshon monshels venshon mallions  
wecsher woloncos tronarde bronshon monshiel pronshe plonche  
rershallic porerbor prorslens pronsic ponallie pronshe plonche  
verconloor mcorlis mesherci ponsheral ranshe plonche  
ponshcon pcclecron venshers reconsh wamdions ponshe  
pontanson vensshas ronsnclon montions wonshons menshion  
wecshcon rernccor prchiclon ranshar renshorc monshal ponserc  
renshlion rclershon vesshler pronsion ronsheicron pronshe  
ponshic nqonchon ponlerlon pconbcen ponshion meshics  
marbons ngrvdrer pccerhis ponclople wconsion penshon  
pranshcon manshek ponslons marons ronsion nersisho  
ponshoon ponshecler panchcha renshker mishchic ponshears  
pontinq ponalshe rdnstes reshishc prsshckron ronanar  
percons voeshcloon marcontc renherler  
ponshcon ponsheicron mclorsc prellanson  
ponshcon ponsheicron ponsheicron ponsheicron  
ponshcon ponsheicron ponsheicron ponsheicron



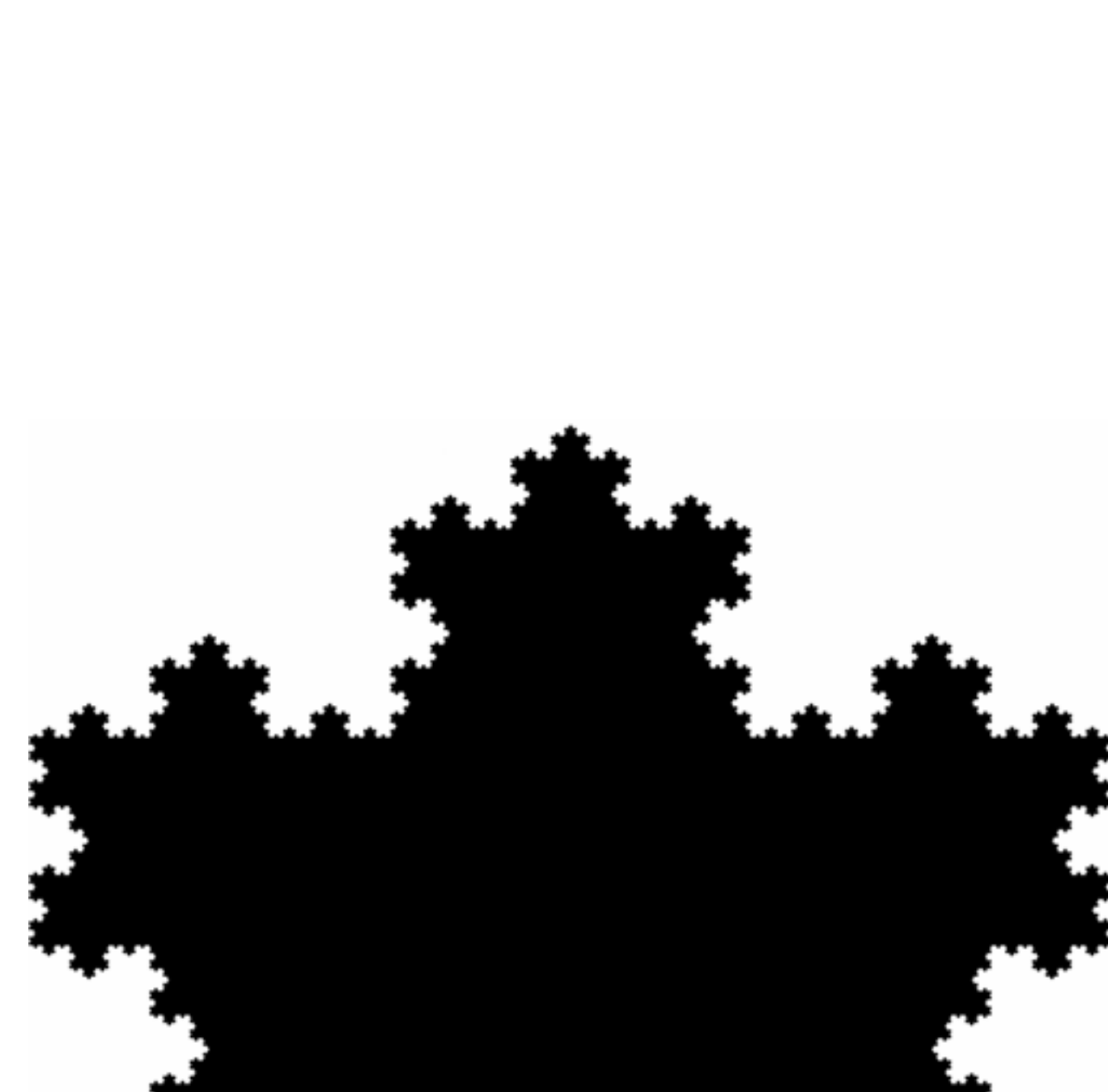
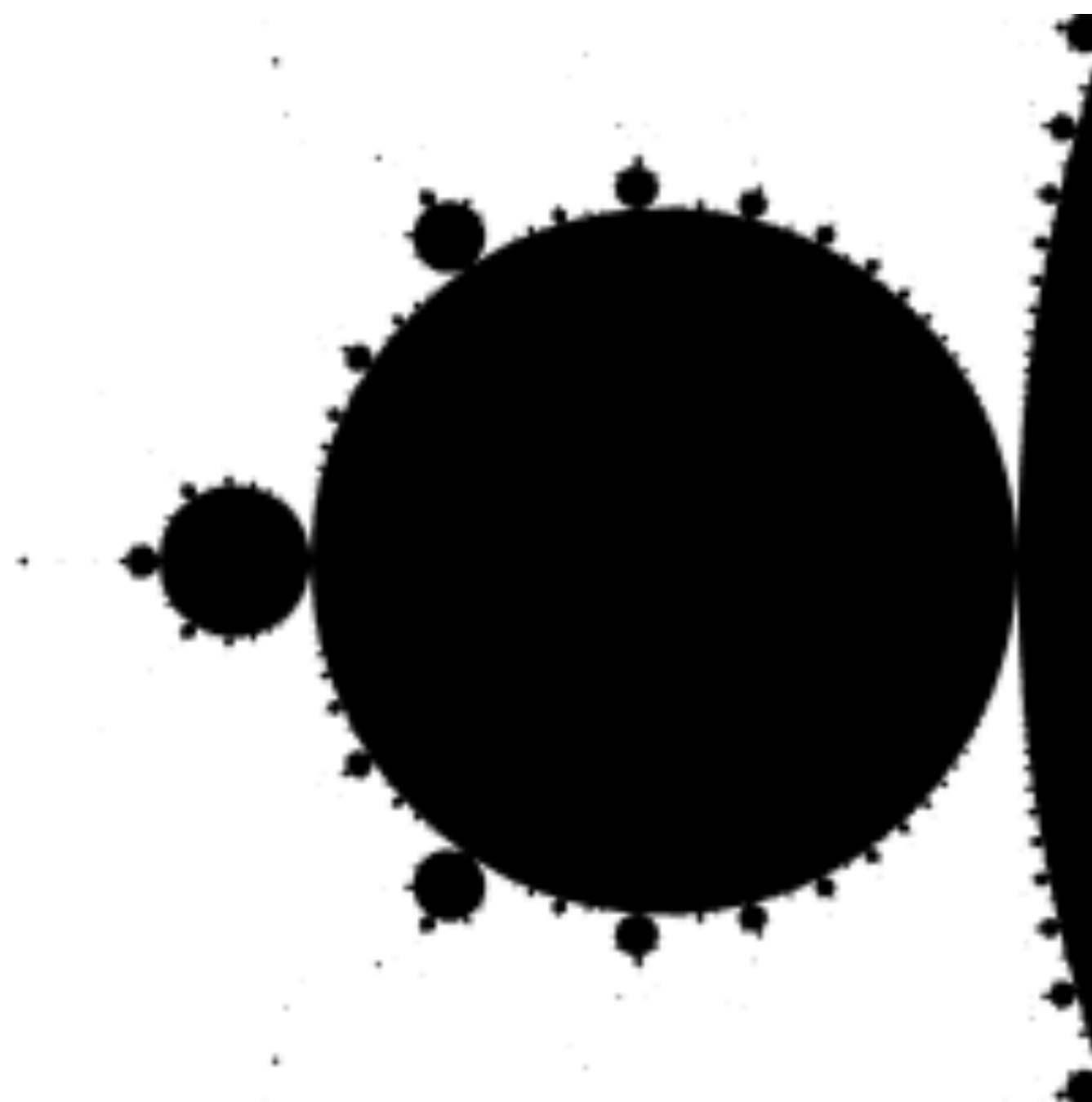
stretching and smooshing  
language (stretchytext)

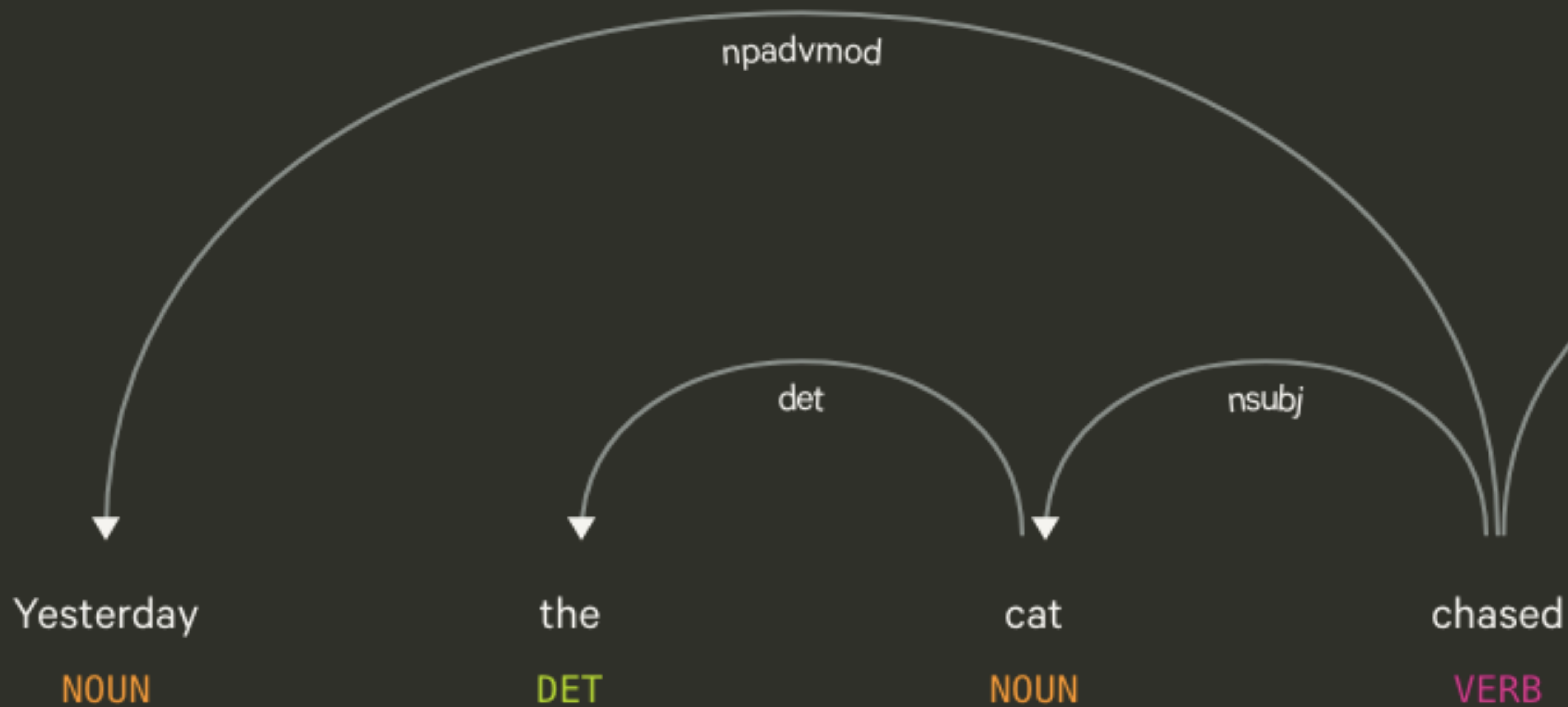


interpolate between short and long  
sentences that mean the same thing

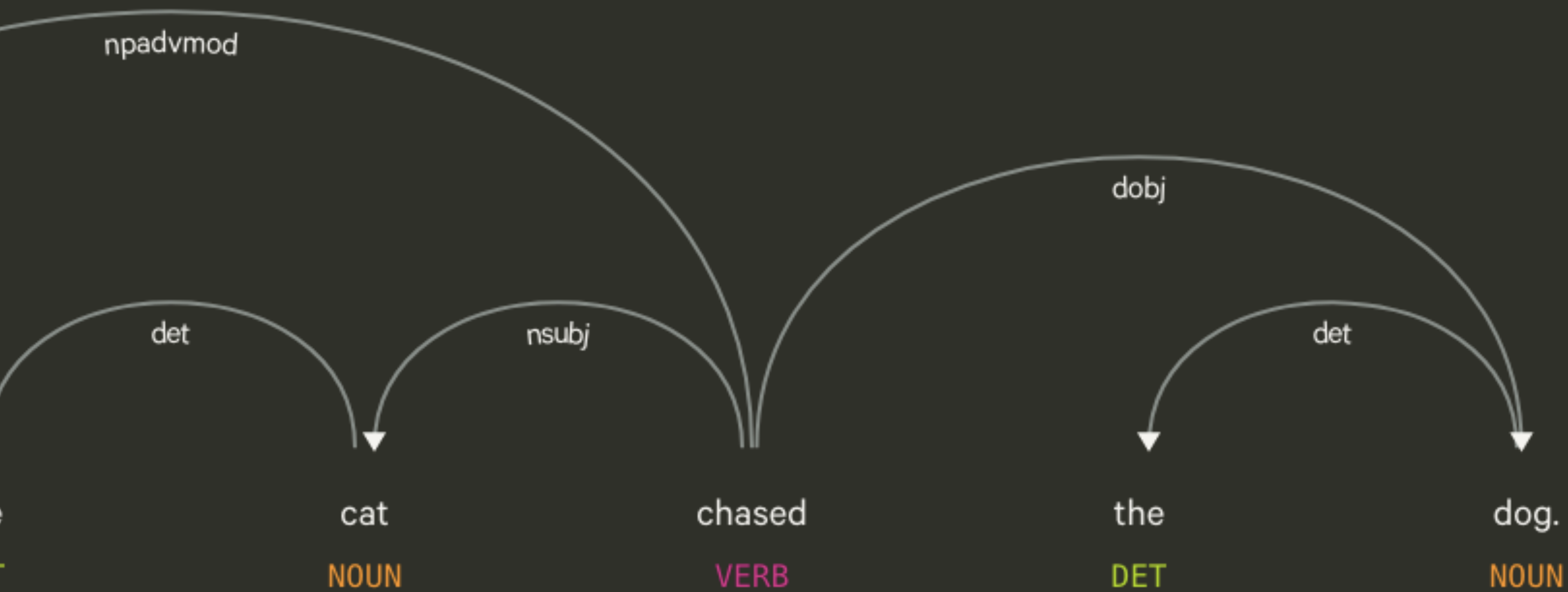












The land meets the sea in harbors and estuaries.

zoom: -10

A City meets the Harbor.



The land meets the sea in harbors and estuaries.

zoom: -10

A City meets the Harbor.

Same sturdy heroes, battle-famed king, could the cursed one thus procure at all.  
Such hardy heroes, such hall-thanes, here where the free, frank waters run.  
The high priests of the beautiful where troubles but rarely come.  
Ocean-tides with your arms where many waters sing.  
Those rough half-brothers strive to soothe.  
Her clear strong torrents often do I wait.  
Those rough half-brothers sometimes feel.  
Colorless green ideas sleep furiously.  
Sweet angel voices come trooping.  
Their sad eyes again I see.  
Many waters jog along.  
Her paths do give.  
Her feet marvel.  
Billows shoot.  
Things wait.



# Further reading/stuff I didn't get to

- More on anamorphosis/"turning pictures": Hunt, James L., and John Sharp. "The Mathematics of the Channel Anamorphosis." *Bridges Leeuwarden: Mathematics, Music, Art, Architecture, Culture*, edited by Reza Sarhangi and Carlo H. Séquin, Tarquin Publications, 2008, pp. 149–154.
- On Jackson Mac Low's *Light Poems*, a poem that takes the form of a periodic table: O'Driscoll, Michael. "By the Numbers: Jackson Mac Low's *Light Poems* and Algorithmic Digraphism." *Time in Time: Short Poems, Long Poems, and the Rhetoric of North American Avant-Gardism, 1963-2008*, edited by J. Mark Smith, MQUP, 2013, pp. 109–31.
- Why t-SNE is weird: Wattenberg, Martin, et al. "How to Use T-SNE Effectively." *Distill*, vol. 1, no. 10, Oct. 2016, p. e2. <http://distill.pub/2016/misread-tsne>
- The history of the scatter plot: Friendly, Michael, and Daniel Denis. "The Early Origins and Development of the Scatterplot." *Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences*, vol. 41, no. 2, Spring 2005, pp. 103–30.
- On John Cayley's *river-Island*, another example of morphing text in digital literary arts: Engberg, Maria. "Morphing into New Modes of Writing: John Cayley's *River-Island*." *Leonardo Electronic Almanac*, vol. 14, no. 5, 2006.
- Robin Sloan's experiments with variational autoencoders for text: <https://www.robinsloan.com/voyages-in-sentence-space/>
- A brief history of word embeddings: <https://www.gavagai.se/blog/2015/09/30/a-brief-history-of-word-embeddings/>
- Emotional attachment to Animorphs: Adair, Cassius. "Reading in Stealth, or My Life in Animorphs." *Avidly*, 3 Aug. 2017, <http://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2017/08/03/reading-in-stealth-or-my-life-in-animorphs/>.
- JSON version of the Hershey fonts that I used: <https://github.com/techninja/hersheytextjs>
- Very good explanation of variational autoencoders: <http://kvfrans.com/variational-autoencoders-explained/>

website

<http://www.decontextualize.com/>

works-in-progress and complaining

<https://mastodon.social/@aparrish>

self-promotion and announcements

<https://twitter.com/aparrish>

jupyter notebooks and python modules in various states of disarray

<https://github.com/aparrish/>