

Looking back on 2028

Tor Nørretranders

EUNIS 2048

University of Utopia

Why 2028?

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University of Utopia

Thomas More

1478 - 1535

Lawyer, author, statesman

Hans Holbein The Younger 1527



Book title
1516

Utopia

**What is the trick
behind the UoU?**

Chinese wisdom:

If you have one egg,
and I have one too,

If you have one egg,
and I have one too,
and we swap them,

If you have one egg,
and I have one too,
and we swap them,
each of us still have one egg.

If you have one egg,
and I have one too,
and we swap them,
each of us still have one egg.

If you have one idea,
and I have one too,
and we swap them,

If you have one egg,
and I have one too,
and we swap them,
each of us still have one egg.

If you have one idea,
and I have one too,
and we swap them,
each of us has two ideas.

University of Utopia:

Massive sharing
through real presence,
virtual universities,
blogging, wikis,
travel, fun,
mentalizing.

No patents, no copyright, no paranoia

**Why was that
a revolution?**

The disappearance of the ego

The merging of all texts into one searchable unit

The linking of all learned and educational institutions into one grand networked lecture bazaar

The appearance of instant translation between disciplines of knowledge

The acknowledgement of the complexity of everyday knowledge as compared to the abstract, formal knowledge of the old scientific disciplines

The appearance of art as the prime engine of knowledge

The flow of relationships in networks as the prime mover of the mind

The University of Utopia slogan:

*All humans are students,
all students are teachers,
no teacher is human
anymore.*

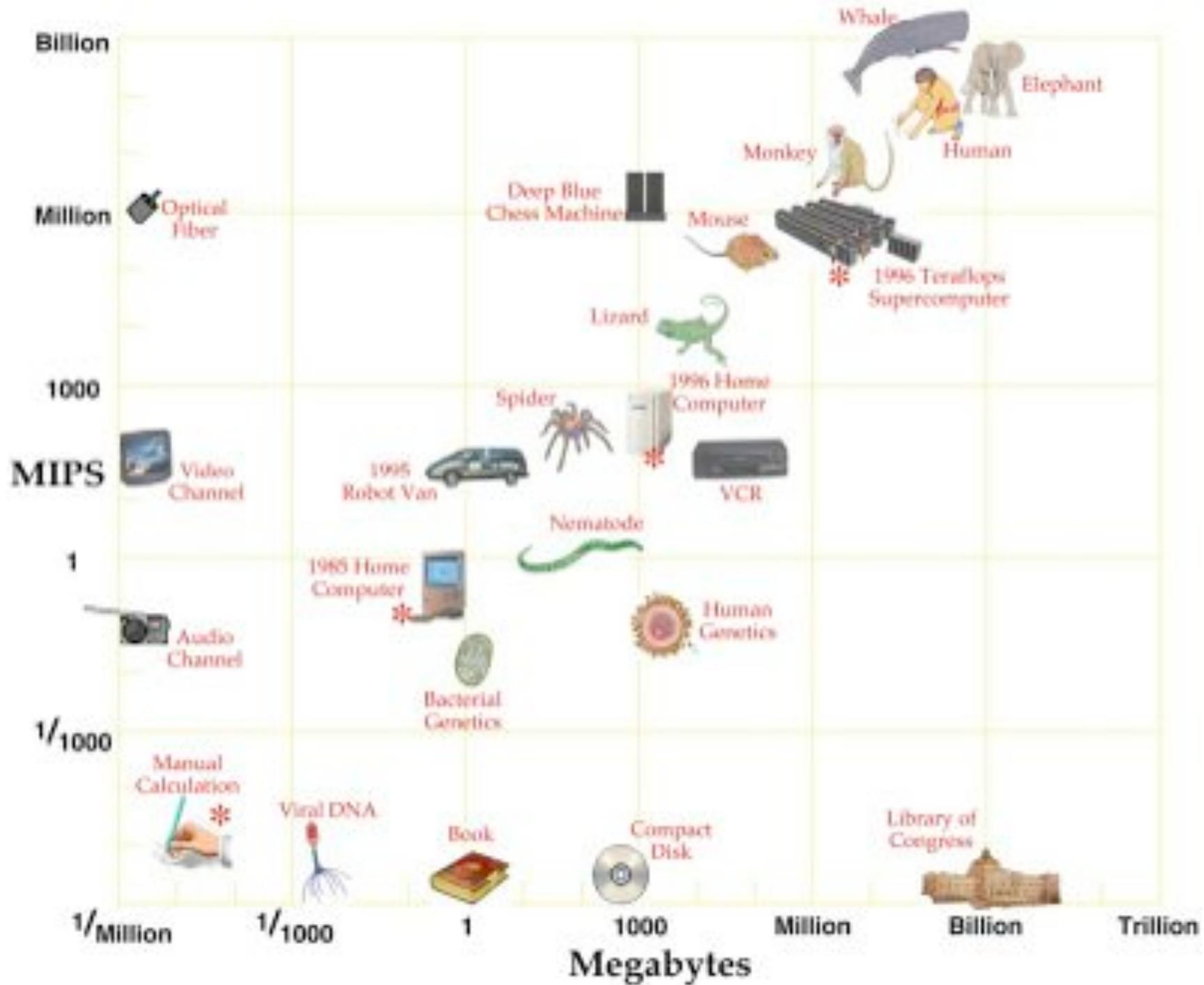
Why?

Phase transition

Singularity

Change

All Things, Great and Small



Mammals!



Robots in the kindergarten

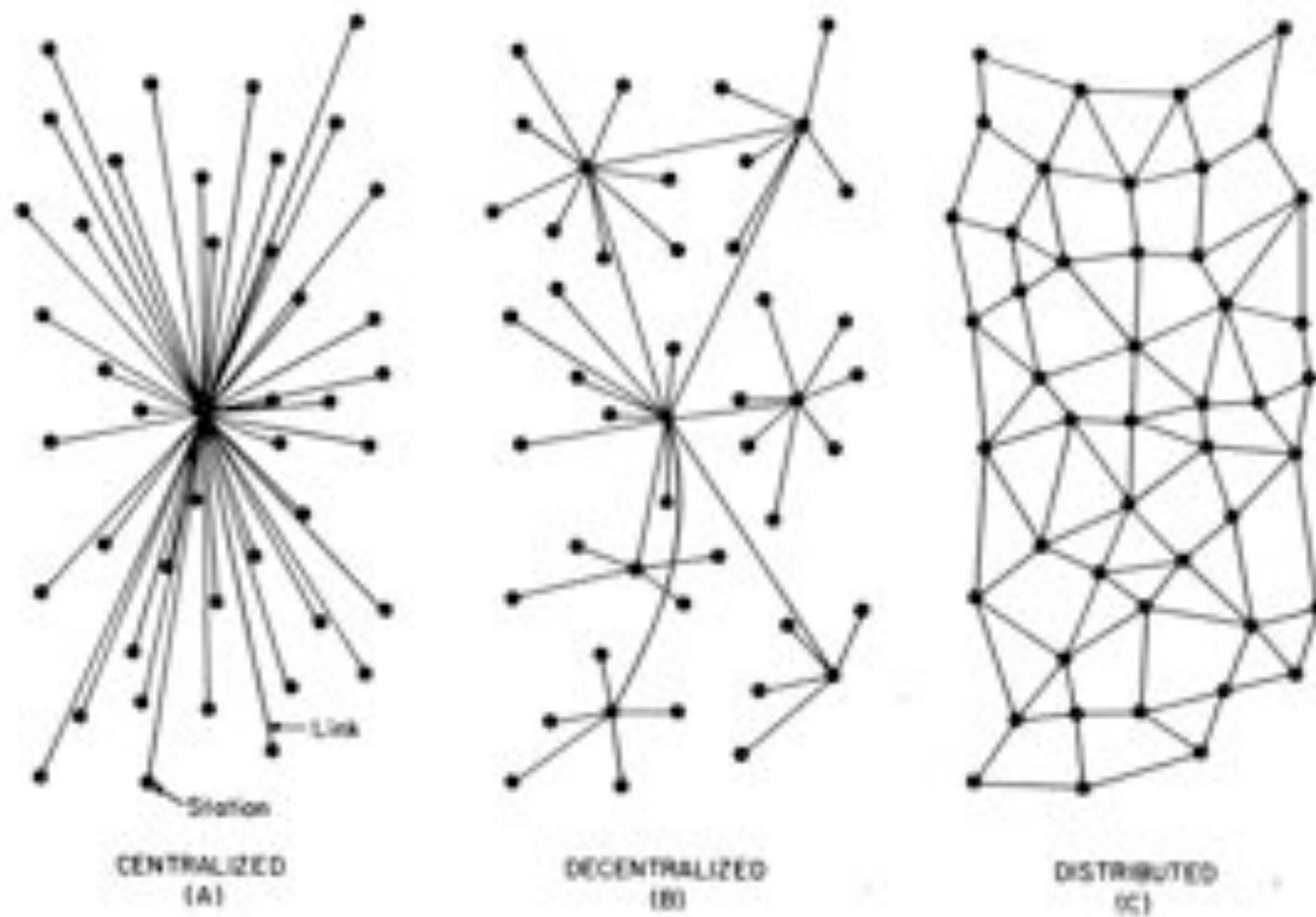


FIG. 1 - Centralized, Decentralized and Distributed Networks

Paul Baran



The

Link

Age

We have lived in a short
epoch
of scarcity and greed

How to show strength

Scarcity

Abundance

Own

Share

Have

Give

Close

Open

Know

Tell

<u>Civilisation</u>	<u>Years ago</u>	<u>Killer app</u>
0.5	1.000.000	Fire
1.0	10.000	Agriculture
1.5	500	Science
2.0	42	Links

New, old economy:
Gifts and sharing the long tail via search

New, old food:
Variety of wild plants and animals

New, old energy:
Renewable solar energy in the environment

New, old social order:
Bottom-up, peer-to-peer, no HQ

New, old habitation:
Nomads with bonds to the homeland

Why did the web create
a gift economy?

Marcel Mauss: *The Gift*, 1924

Hau - the spirit of the gift

In gift giving the relationship does not terminate
as in commodity exchange.

Gifts build societies.

Gifts build relations.

The gift economies of creativity

Warren Hagstrom, 1964:
Gift-giving as an organizing principle in science

Lewis Hyde, 1979:
A work of art is a gift

Pekka Himanen, 2001:
Open Source & work ethics

Gift economy and sharing are the best mechanisms for regulating the logic of generosity, creativity and openness

Market economy?

A market economy with pockets of gift economy

family
neighbourhood
networks
colleagues
'black economy'

United Nations statistics:

50% of human production
will end up in the gift economy:
It never becomes a commodity or service, there
is no wages involved

50% in the market economy:
commodity, services, etc.

UNDP:

Human Development Report 1995

Wilfred Dolfsma

Google was built on this logic
- the link structure of the scientific
literature:

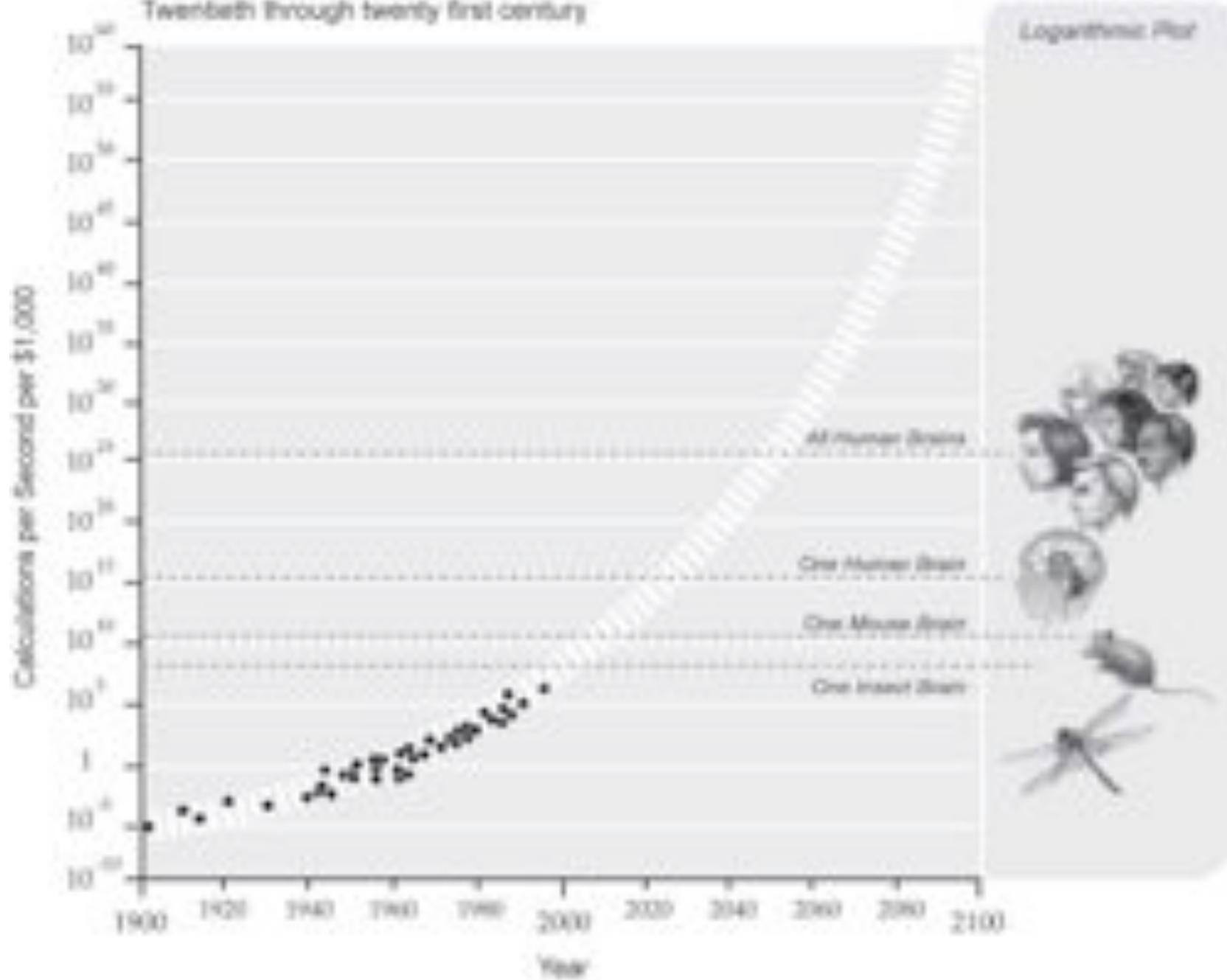
Seeing first the web and then business
as a giant graph



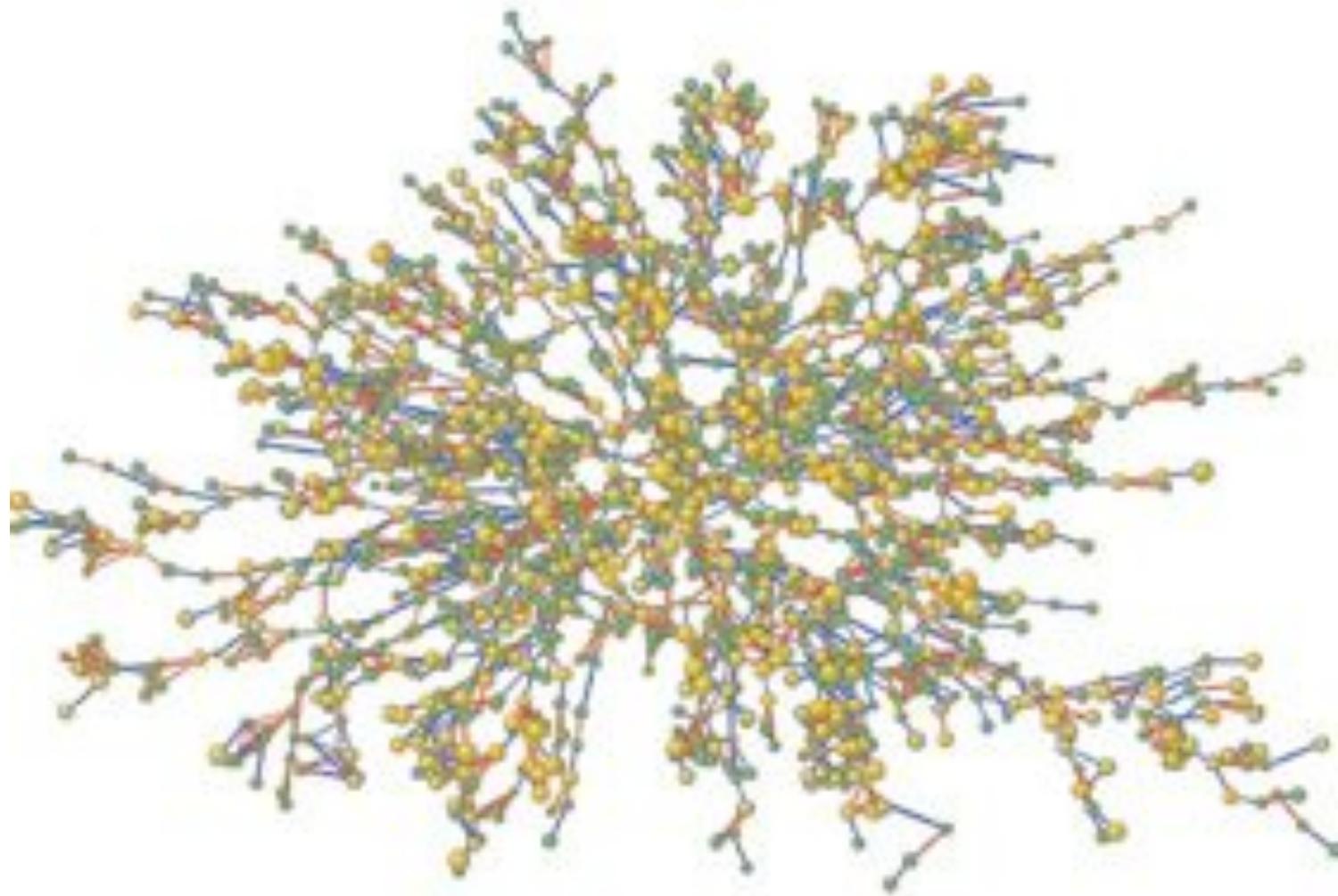
Networks

Exponential Growth of Computing

Twentieth through twenty first century



The Flow of Links



Obesity, Happiness

Nicolas Christakis & James Fowler

NEJM 357, 370-379, 2007

**Obese people,
happy people,
come in clusters!**

Spreading from person
to person in networks

Three degrees of
separation

**Influence beyond
your social horizon**

Obesity is social
Happiness is social

Lessons:

No rules - examples!

No HQ - self-organize!

The strategy of
Paul Feyerabend:
Everything goes!

We are mammals

University of Utopia
is the university for
mammals ... not robots

**What
is the
drive?**





**Attention,
please!**

Darwin didn't like it

The sight of a feather
in a peacock's tail ...
makes me sick!

Charles Darwin
April 3, 1860

Origin of Species:

Life is about

survival

Attention might
give you sex

Attention

is

dangerous

The
Handicap
Principle

Amotz Zahavi, 1975

Honesty in advertising:

Waste!

To prove that you have
vast resources:

Waste them

Take risks

**Honesty
in
humans?**



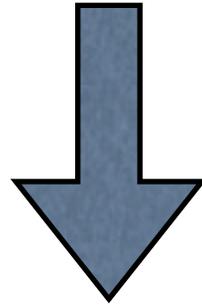
Altruism

Take risks
Be generous
Give comfort

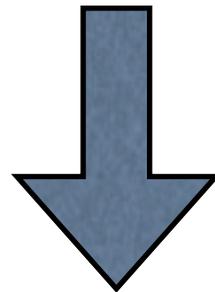
Oh, but you didn't have to ...

**Dare, care
& share**

Dare, care & share



Attention



Sex, jobs & recognition

**Sex is the origin
of
all that is noble**



But why, some say, the moon?

But why, some say, the moon?
Why climb the highest mountain?

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Why climb the highest mountain?

Why, 35 years ago, fly the Atlantic?

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John F. Kennedy
September 12, 1962
Rice University, Texas

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We choose to go to the moon
in this decade
and do the other things,

John F. Kennedy
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We choose to go to the moon
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not because they are easy,
but because they are hard.

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The Dyson Bifurcation, 2033:

Freeman's Fork

*Hi Tech Freaks can take another planet
Let's spare this one for those who care for it*

University of Utopia on Earth

University of the Universe in Space

William Blake

1757 - 1827

Painter, poet, mystic

Thomas Phillips, 1807



The opening four lines
from the poem
“Auguries of Innocence”,
ca. 1803.

To see a World

To see a World
in a Grain of Sand

To see a World

in a Grain of Sand

And a Heaven

To see a World

in a Grain of Sand

And a Heaven

in a Wild Flower

To see a World

in a Grain of Sand

And a Heaven

in a Wild Flower

Hold Infinity

To see a World

in a Grain of Sand

And a Heaven

in a Wild Flower

Hold Infinity

in the palm of your hand

To see a World

in a Grain of Sand

And a Heaven

in a Wild Flower

Hold Infinity

in the palm of your hand

And Eternity

To see a World

in a Grain of Sand

And a Heaven

in a Wild Flower

Hold Infinity

in the palm of your hand

And Eternity

in an hour

In space:

No mess, no dirt,
no sand, no flowers,
no rotting, no slime,
no irrationality, no mammalian nonsense,
no spiders, no beetles -

Pure brain!

They can't turn back -
What are they looking for out there?

What is the drive?

Here's their recent report:

"We found out...!"