

Self-Image

Personal experiment log
Amplified inflation experiment

March 6: Once again the ivory tower theorists have blessed us with a surge of funding. This time it was their pontifications on dark energy which dazzled the deep pockets.

I read the internal brief and the convoluted papers. They surprisingly stumbled deep into my realm; the realm of experimental testability. When the money finally trickled down to my desk there was, as usual, not much more than enough to purchase the minimal equipment.

I suppose I should be grateful to get some new toys.

March 12: Parts arrived. Re-organizing lab layout.

As always, everyone else gets hoards of minions with their funding, and I just get hardware. I'm left to do everything, including labor, myself.

March 15: First test fire successful, full discharge of capacitor bank into the emitter, all according to specs and ahead of schedule as always.

Now to set up the isolation chamber. Funny... that seems almost redundant in my lab. Nobody ever visits or discusses what goes on here. Acknowledgement and acclaim are always hoovered up by the theorists and the administration.

March 17: Isolation chamber and sensor array set up. Tested the sensor array but only getting images of static noise. I'm not even firing the emitter yet. They must have bumbled the sensor specifications.

These situations always end up with me saying specs are wrong, them accusing me of not following specs, and finally me fixing their broken specs.

I have learned to fix it first, then wait for the right moment to point out "Actually... Those specs were completely wrong, I fixed your mistake though. You are welcome". If I wait for the right moment I can leave them with egg on their face.

March 18:static

March 19:static

March 21:Had enough, gonna let them know they have sent me garbage specs.

March 24:Been sending results up the ladder.

At first they made suggestions, useless and obvious suggestions, but something. Now they are barely responding at all.

I did learn the budget was primarily allocated to other experiments. Surprise surprise. They probably just stuck me with the lame duck long shot.

There are months of time left so I guess this is my new pet project.

I could just sit on my thumbs and milk this, like everyone else does in these situations, but I have a sense of responsibility. I'll follow through as best as circumstances permit.

March 27:Found some holes in the isolation spectrum. They probably just assume those holes don't matter to the experiment. Their arrogance and overconfidence bleed through in everything they do.

March 28:Static dampened by several orders of magnitude.

But now when I fire the emitter all I get is static.

March 30:Parameter adjustments have an effect, but there are far too many parameters. Time to use some brute force.

Wrote a simple script to score images based on pixel to pixel standard deviation and search for highest scores.

April 2:Actually honed in on something.

A linear pattern.

Manually tweaking any parameter weakens the pattern. Will try tweaking some physical alignment

April 2.2:I only made the slightest adjustment to alignment and lost the pattern completely.

Will run the software again.

Sharing results with the group.

April 3:Dr. Bramon, one of the lead authors, actually replied. Apparently one of the other experiments produced results that confidently excludes the theory.

Did anyone consider letting me know? No! Of course not!

The audacity! Thanking me for “All my valued efforts and continued hard work”

They are probably all off in search of greener pastures, leaving me to sit here beating a dead horse.

“Grateful for all my contributions...” That pompous windbag! Sitting on a reputation cornerstoned by a one hit wonder based on results I produced, leaving me barely a footnote. Doesn't even seem to remember who I am.

April 4:I was ready to just piddle away the time, but I'm going to do something none of them know how to do... Follow through.

At minimum I'll add some new tools to my toolbelt. Someday I'll have enough tools to escape this elitist and political dystopia.

April 6:Found it again. Couldn't make heads or tails of it.

Tried adjusting alignment again. Lost it again.
Fool me twice, shame on me.

Way more than enough remaining budget for some piezos. Ordered some. Will swap brutish manual adjustments for precise repeatable piezo control.

April 15:Piezos installed and tested, searching for pattern again.

April 17:Success. Found it again, adjusting alignment quickly loses it, but now I can get it back. Increments seem too large, ordered higher precision piezos.

April 27:Upgraded. Searching for pattern again.

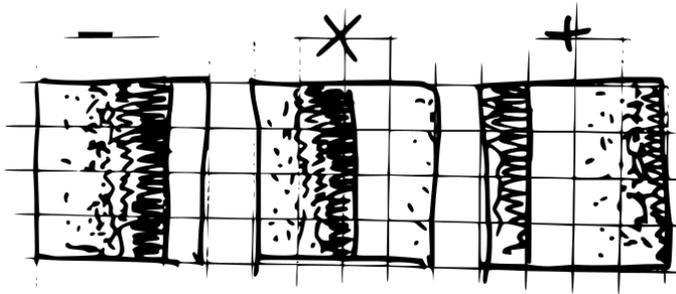
April 30: Got it. There appear to be 3 axes. They don't perfectly correlate to device axes, but Z is pretty close.

I'm going to name them X/Y/Z based on properties.

X causes the linear gradient to slide laterally

Y seems to do very little

Z adjustments loose the pattern and fade to static.



April 30.2: Moving the whole range of X there was clearly a stripe density change.

First impression: I'm probably looking at an interference pattern of some kind.

Will scale up range by adding yet another layer of piezos.

May 13: Upgraded again. Found pattern again. Linear density continues increasing and decreasing on the X axis.

This time I can see a clear increase in curvature in the direction of increased density.

Hit the end of range again, clearly need to dramatically ramp up range. Let's just go all out, try to make this the last time.

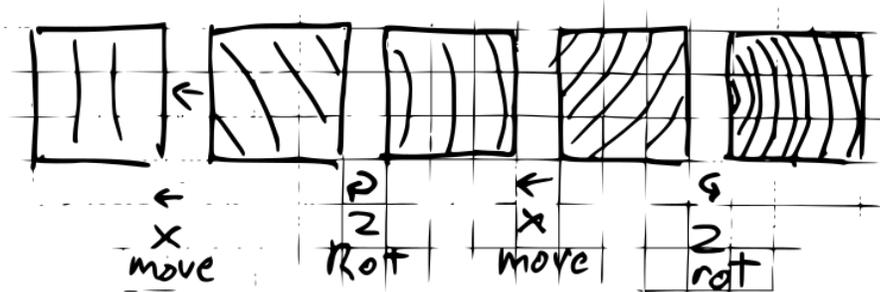
May 24: I was able to follow the curvature. As always I isolated the X axis, then I followed increasing curvature.

I needed to rotate around Z to continually "steer" into the curvature.

It worked and I eventually found the center.

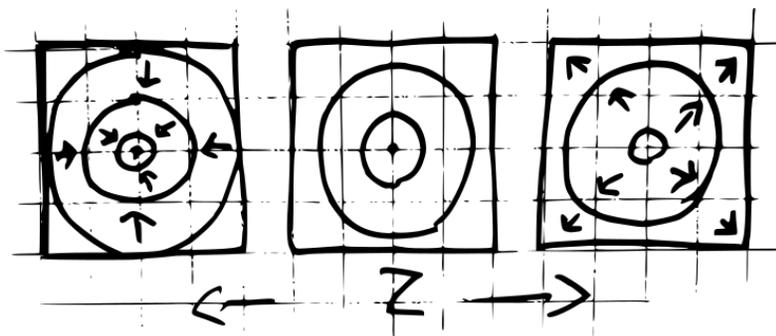
At the center there are concentric circles collapsing into a point.

Now I'm even more convinced this is an interference pattern.



May 24.2: Moving along the Z axis on the central point looks like radiating or collapsing circles.

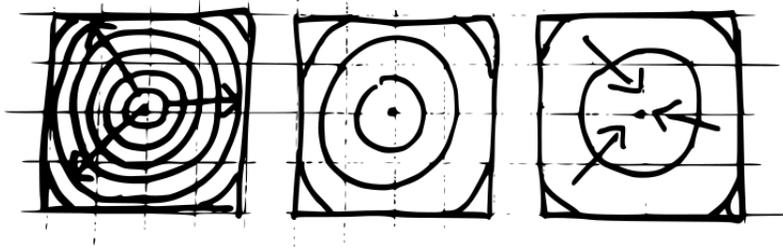
I would now bet the farm I am looking at some kind of interference pattern.



Will try to figure out precisely what it is.

No way I'm reporting another negative result, I can't take anymore of their condescension.

May 25:No progress identifying the source of the interference pattern yet, however exploring the Z axis I noticed the interval between circles decreases as they expand and increases as they contract.



May 25.2:Some structures coming into view, they don't seem organic, there are corners and edges.

May 25.3:I knew I recognized them. The structures are internal components of the device.

May 25.4:I pushed Z to the range limit and it kept "zooming out". Ended up with some macroscopic components of the device in the image.

No clue what the imaging mechanism is, but maybe, just maybe, it's something novel and potentially useful.

No more reporting results, the parasites would swarm immediately to gobble up credit.

Going to do one more massive upgrade to range.

April 6:Unbelievable!

Upgraded and replicated previous results again.

This time I continued "zooming out" and eventually could see the whole lab and even myself. It's a cross section, like a volumetric image focused to a specific depth. The strongest features are edges and boundaries, it resembles a radar image.

What on earth have I been exposing myself to?!?!

Those MORONS!

Their specs on radiation are clearly way off!

April 6.2:I calmed down and collected every radiation and particle detector I could get my hands on.

Nothing...

Nothing at all comes out of the isolation chamber.

April 6.3:What on earth is this thing?

Neutrinos perhaps? A Neutrino based imaging system? Dark matter? They were investigating dark energy, trying to stimulate expansion, so some unknown particles?

I think I really am looking at something completely new and unknown!

I think I have a breakthrough in my hands!

April 7:I've been scanning and analyzing images. It appears it can penetrate most materials. Time to test its penetrative power.

April 9:I have tried every material I can get my hands on as a barrier. Nothing, absolutely nothing can block the imager.

I can see objects inside fully sealed steel containers, submerged in water, behind a 5 cm lead plate... Nothing blocks it.

This is phenomenal!

April 11:I just rotated the device to get a vertical cross-section.

Then I zoomed out and eventually got a cross section of the entire planet.

Unfortunately all images are centered on the device itself, moving X or Y just turns into those interference curves and linear patterns.

So I can't resolve any fine details at a distance.

Even if there isn't much significant detail, it's still the first ever image of the interior of the planet, blurry though it may be.

This device is incredible...

I mean that literally.

How does it have infinite penetration yet still reflect back and detect the reflection to produce the image?

April 12:I got an email today from Dr. Bramon, thanking me for my efforts. I am surprised I haven't already been forgotten. I honestly feel a bit of pity. All that effort for a theory going into the wastebasket, yet here I am sculpting treasure from those scraps of garbage.

My hands nearly started typing "thank you for putting in motion this experiment..." but I came to my senses immediately.

I can't go broadcasting any of this until I'm prepared to do a full reveal. I need to refine and document the tech, and most importantly.. I must discover and describe its mechanism if I want to ensure my name is stamped on this breakthrough.

... Thanking me... it's kind of cute actually.

April 15:I noticed lights and screens in the images have some unique patterns. Will experiment with lights and lasers of various spectrums.

April 16:I found that it's pretty easy to see light sources if I tune some filters.

Laid a screen flat in the cross-section. Didn't work well, the image is clearly a very short exposure, PWM blinking of the pixels is very noticeable, pixels are either on or off.

Will build a small array of LEDs and a constant current driver system. I should be able to create a monochrome display within the scanned image.

April 16:That worked. will scale it up.

I think I can use it to run some training models to improve image quality.

- 1.Display a known image
- 2.Do a scan
- 3.Label it with known displayed content

I could auto generate a large labeled data set to train AI image filters.

April 18:Scaled up to a small screen, it works well. I'll do some tests.

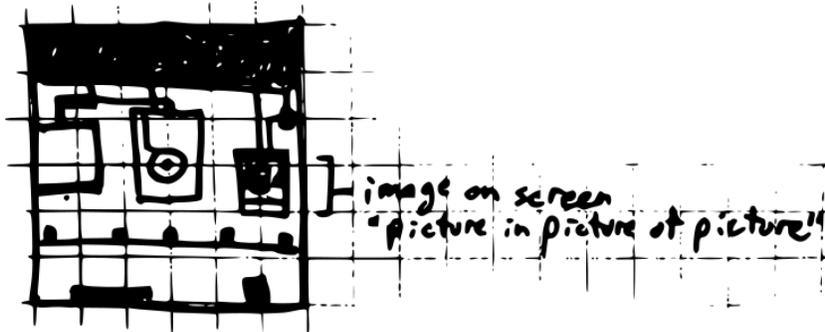
April 18.2: I don't understand how this is possible...

When I scan an image, the result is displayed on my computer screen. I decided to just mirror my computer screen to the experimental screen in the lab.

In the scan image is the screen... In the screen is the scan image...

It's low resolution and blurry.

I'll move the screen as close as possible to the device so I can zoom a bit more and get a higher resolution view.



April 18.3: It is. But it shouldn't be!

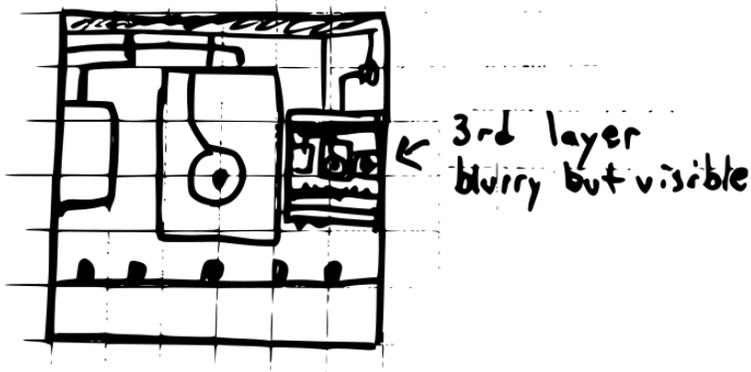
It's like when you point a camera at a screen displaying the camera stream.

The screen shows the screen... which shows the screen... Which shows the screen...

But that effect is based on a feedback loop. The image depth is created one layer at a time in intervals. Each embedded screen shows the image of a previous screen.

Here I have only taken a single image, there is no mechanism for a feedback loop...

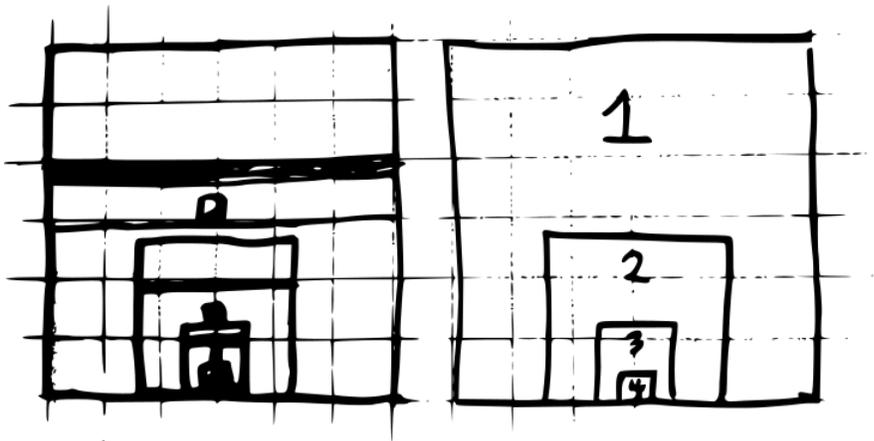
This device keeps producing more questions and no answers.



April 25: I got some cheap LED screen modules, swapping in some custom drivers I designed. 9m² and a screen resolution several times more than sensor's resolution .

I can clearly see several iterations before they shrink out of view.

As always the image can only be centered on the device, so my screen is on one side and is less than 1/4 of the image. The screen image shrinks to 1/4 each iteration, disappearing very quickly.



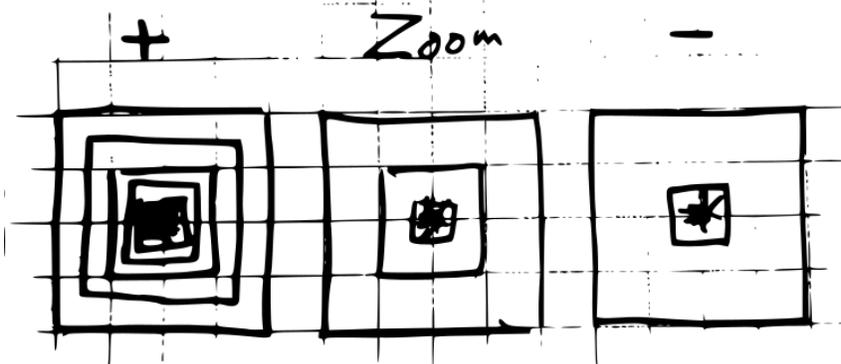
April 26: It took all last night and most of today... but I built a support frame and rebuilt the screen centered on and just above the device.

I can now see dozens of iterations of depth now.

Extrapolating this behavior, 1:1 ratio would in theory result in infinite depth. In practice, however, approaching 1:1 just fades into a full blur.

I still don't understand what mechanism is producing the feedback loop. The image is not displayed until after the sensor has captured a scan.

The device in the center of the image causes a mild starburst pattern obscuring the centermost pixels



April 28: There is an email thread for the whole group, the leads are officially calling the theory dead.

Everyone is being quite nice actually, especially considering they are all walking away with little more than wasted time.

Funny... They seem so much more relatable now, not being nearly as pompous and arrogant as before. Perhaps they have been humbled in the face of defeat.

May 1: I'm curious what happens if I put a timestamp in the image. So I'm writing some code to overlay some digital bits that will count up once the image is displayed.

I would say "obviously I'll see a timestamp from the moment in the image"... But with this device I have already learned not to assume things even if they seem obvious.

May 1.2: the group email threads are flaring up. Everyone is coordinating project summaries and administration wrap up. A bit premature though, seems like everyone still has plenty of allocated time and resources to burn.

This stuff all just feels so trivial, I forwarded the failure data sets so they can include them in the collection of negative results.

What I'm doing now is at best inspired by the specs to test their theory. I have deviated so far from the initial parameters and this is somehow related to time and matter not to dark energy.

I thanked them thoroughly for the opportunity to work together and exchanged general pleasantries. I didn't know that Dr Bramon liked idle chat so much, in fact, it would seem everyone is being more open, pleasant and friendly than ever before. It's funny how that works, when my own life is filled with such amazement and discovery... It is at that same time that the people around me start treating me with a more positive and friendly attitude.

I would consider going to the meet up they're planning, but I'm just so entrenched in these experiments right now.

May 1.3: Well, the timer worked as expected, there is a binary timestamp in the image. It shows the amount of milliseconds since the scan image was displayed.

The number is always about 230 milliseconds within a tolerance of about 20 milliseconds.

I suspect I can get a much more precise time value if I build a hardware timer connected directly to LEDs and wire it to start the moment the emitter fires.

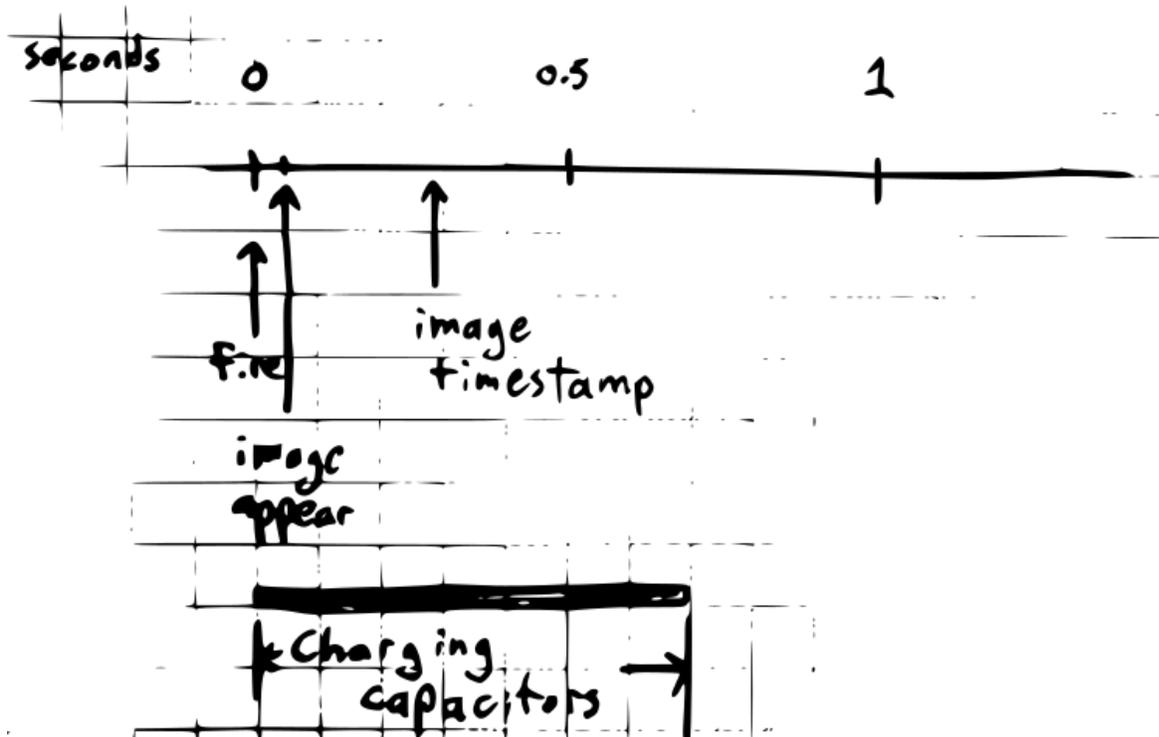
May 2: That worked. Now the time is always 273.6 milliseconds, precise down to tens of microseconds.

May 3: I started to wonder what would happen if I continually fired the device and produced a streaming video.

The result was a video feed but it was just a collection of stills, each image identical in properties to the single fire images. The video version was just a collection of single frames. I don't know why I expected something unusual.

But...

The latency between the emitter sending results and the computer displaying them appears to only be about 50 milliseconds, however the emitter requires about 700 milliseconds between firings, nearly all of that time is charging the capacitor bank.



So...

Current "frame rate" is about 1 frame per second.

The image is about 0.2 seconds "in the future."

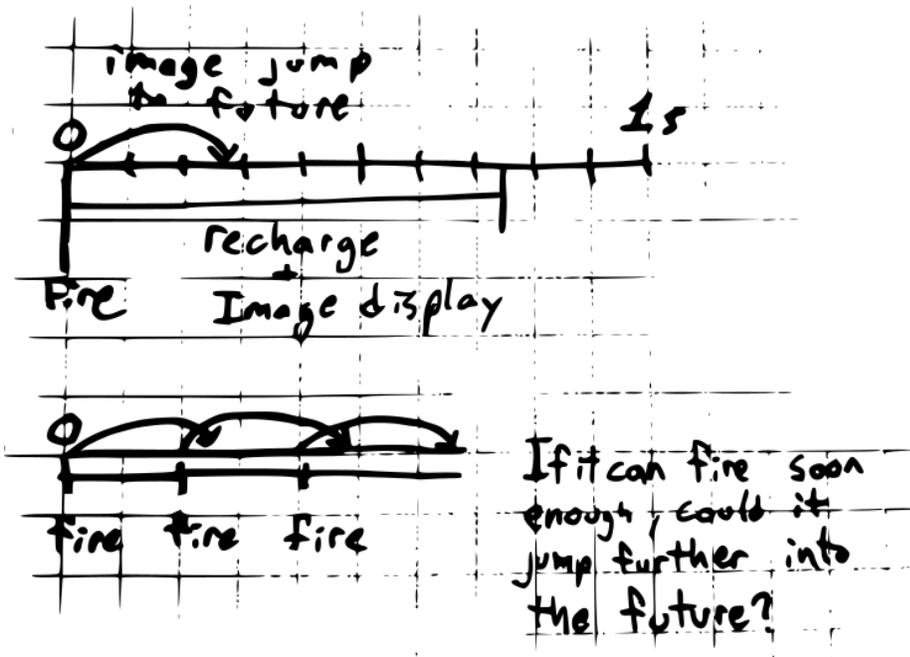
Which begs the question...

What happens if I speed up to 5 fps or more?

Will the screen in the future image show an image of its future?

Will I be able to see further into the future?

I'll see how much I can speed up the emitter firing rate.



May 4: It's a pure power problem now. I'm begging colleagues to borrow power supplies, and trying to be discreet about it.

Down to about 0.3 seconds per emitter fire. Almost there.

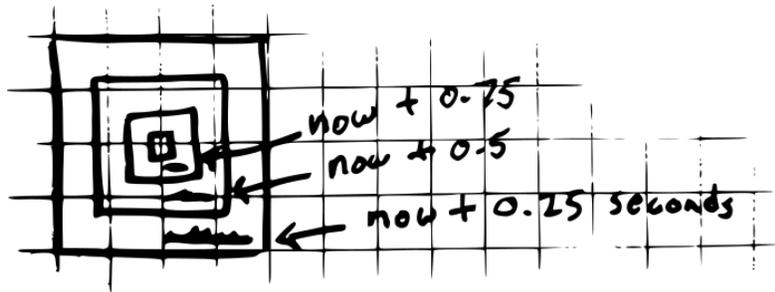
Maybe I'll see if I can salvage a bunch of power supplies from old computers in storage.

May 4.2:Wow!

Insane as it sounds.. It works!

Each inward frame is one step further forward in time.

I can only see the outer perimeter of each frame, but that is enough to confirm the timestamps.



May 4.3:I put some slowly moving and rotating mechanical parts in the visible region.

They are in the accurate position for each frame's timestamp... Even if I program them to stop or start moving at times.

May 5:I am still limited by the trade off between visible area and frame depth.

It is successfully predicting the future state of everything I test, but the limited visible area and very short time window are a bit frustrating.

Regardless, this is amazing. Every time I run a test I'm still amazed to see it accurately produce an image of the future.

May 6:Eureka!

Last night I had a bit of an epiphany. A loop escape!

When I tried a 1:1 ratio on the continuous capture mode I was adjusting the ratio. I never ended on 1:1.

What if it is only blurry because it is seeing too many layers deep?

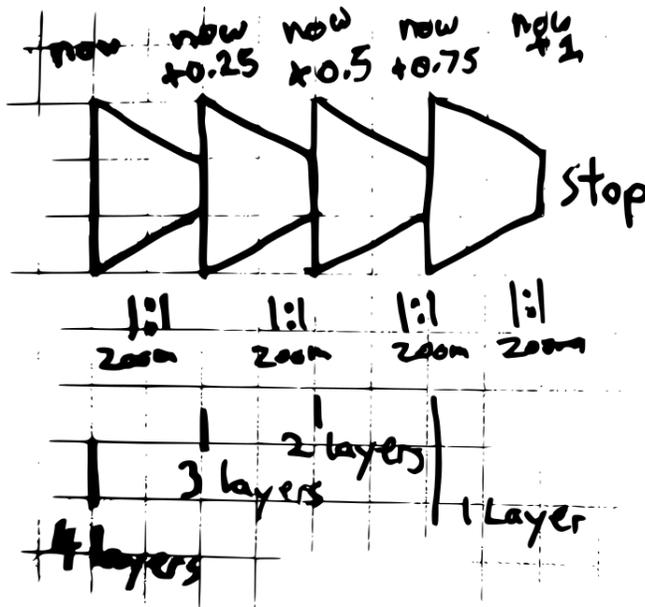
I can't possibly expect to perfectly align each image on top of each other, and if it was continually running it would be stacking up imperfectly, layer after layer, until it's just a blur.

A simple loop escape.

So I turned it on streaming, set it to 1:1, then just stopped it.

I opened up the saved image stream and it worked perfectly... the final frames were clearer and clearer... The last 3 were clear enough to see details.. The last 3 frames were all the same image, they were the image of the future after it stopped.

An "image of the future containing an image of that image's future"... as ridiculous as that sounds.



May 6.2: Ran it several times and with some image software I was able to analyze the blur as it builds with increasing layers. I think I have identified the offset.

By applying some filters to reverse offset before displaying it, the blur per layer decreased significantly.

However... The image manipulations I'm using (rotation, skew, etc...) are also adding some blur to each layer.

I think if I can get the physical screen aligned more precisely it will help.

May 7: Up all night, doing micro adjustments to a 3m*3m LED frame... My perfectionism will be the death of me.

But in the end it worked... with only these alignment corrections I can already see 5 frames deeper than before, even more with digital image correction.

May 7.2:I've programmed it to run 20 times then stop for a full frame, giving the loop of "self images" a loop escape.

This whole process runs on a loop, and I display the stream on my monitor.

I have made a setting for the zoom of the final image, luckily piezos are very quick so I can change the zoom alignment between frames without trouble.

Since the last image is "sent back in time by each layer", I can set the zoom to anything, Eg. the entire lab, and send that image back to the time the first image of that series is taken.

It can see about 5 seconds into the future. I can set it further but the image is too blurry, it becomes clear enough to make out details at 5 seconds and becomes clearer and clearer until it's no longer "buried".

May 8:I started watching myself in the observation room... seeing myself sitting at the desk focused on the monitor. The image only updates every 5 seconds, it's like a blurry radar video stream, nothing remarkable.

I stood up and started pacing... watching the monitor... then things got interesting.

The me in the video stream appeared to jump around, normal for 0.2fps, but sometimes the image of me jumped into places I never was.

It took some time to be sure, but the more I moved the more often there were deviations from reality.

I set up a video camera so I could compare the future images to the actual state at that time. There are random deviations, it is not always accurate.

Is my knowledge of the future changing my actions?

Or perhaps these "images of the future" are actually "predictions" instead?

May 8.2:I've done a series of tests. Simple mechanical systems seem to be predicted perfectly.

Digitally controlled systems also predicted perfectly, even when using pseudo random numbers... But...

When I seed the random value with a noisy sensitive analog input, like an analog photoresistor, then deviations start to appear.

It would seem it's predicting, or simulating, the future state with a less than perfect model or incomplete knowledge of the initial state.

May 9: I noticed something peculiar with the photoresistor random seed device. The deviations seemed to be lower now than before. The only change is that I moved it away from the window.

It previously had roughly the same deviation regardless of time of day. So it shouldn't be affected by sunlight levels, otherwise it would have different behavior based on time of day.

I have to meet with a couple of colleagues for lunch, I don't want to leave this unresolved, it's driving me crazy, but they want to discuss project wrap up so I have to go.

May 9.2: Well that was an intense test of self control. The urge to talk about all these amazing things is near overwhelming at times. Inside I felt like a child was jumping up and down, screaming to come out and say "look! Look! Look what I found! Isn't it amazing!"

Normally I always have so much to say. This time just reporting the negative findings... I think I would normally elaborate on them and discuss what errors were made, who made the mistake leading to negative results... but this time I just don't really care what errors were made by whom... all I can think about are my experiments... and obviously I can't talk about them yet.

Luckily I found that if I just ask questions it helps keep the ball rolling. Eventually I had to resort to asking them about their personal lives, which was honestly a nice break from the perpetual sense of "rigor and urgency" I have been feeling.

May 9.3: Prediction error correlates with distance.

I started testing the "photoresistor random output device" in various locations, with enough test locations it became obvious. Prediction error decreases the closer it gets to the imager

May 11: I feel like time is slipping by even though there are still several months left. No one is beating down my door with any new requests... but I'm finding almost no answers, just more questions... like I'm tumbling down a rabbit hole with no bottom anywhere in sight.

Eventually something new will land on my desk and I'll have to decide how to handle it. This is still all my secret, nobody has any clue what I've found, and I don't feel at all ready to present this.

I have no explanations, if I present now I'll just be some researcher showing off a fluke unexplained phenomena, something I just "bumped into" not something I "discovered".

May 12:I'm desperate for something more than an unexplained machine that can predict simple future states. It's amazing, but too abstract in application. I need something impressive. Something of clear value.

That scan of the earth's core. It was low resolution, blurry, and didn't reveal anything unexpected, but it was impressive in a way everyone can grasp. If I'm going to claim this thing and plant my flag on it then I need more results like that

I tried just zooming out but it's so hard to catch anything, space is so empty and I can't zoom in on anything far away, all images are centered on the device. Scans at astronomical scales are at most smudges and a few rare dots.

But...

If I were to rotate the device, around the X or Y axis, and take a series of images, I could produce a volumetric scan. Perhaps I can identify or discover some large scale structures.

May 15:I moved the device out from under the LED screen, and mounted it on a massive and stable rotating axis with a step motor and a precise gear down, I added brake pad locks for good measure.

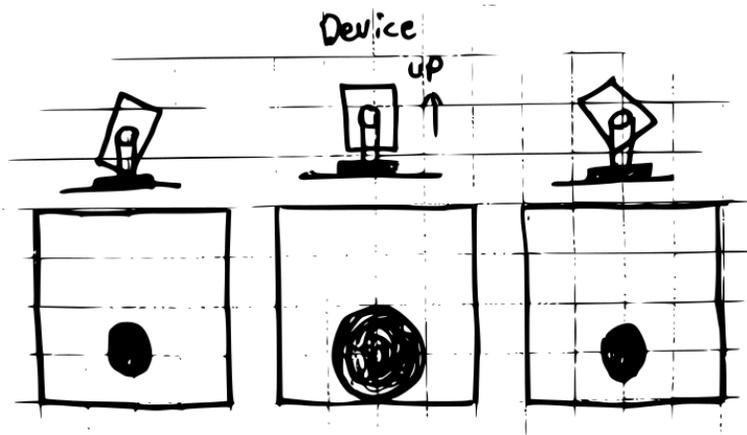
I made sure the new rotation hardware and mount are as slow, smooth and stable as possible. When the internal alignment changes even slightly I need to run the search program again to find the linear pattern and hone in on the center again. It can take up to a couple days for the program to find it, I obviously can't afford days per scan.

All the bumping around for this new set up already messed up the internal alignment. Running search program now.

May 16:Came in this morning, the program found it, just gotta find the center and we can try this out.

May 16.2:I started with the earth, first just a few cross-sections, then 200.

The resolution of the cross-section itself is low, but I could use ultra fine rotation increments. My pixels are equivalent to cylindrical coordinates, height and radial distance are fixed resolution, but I could theoretically achieve infinite resolution on azimuth angle, although I'm not sure how meaningful that would be considering the pixels would be so large and blurry. I suppose collecting multiple volumetric scans at slightly different zooms could be combined to extrapolate a much higher resolution.



May 16.3:Got a nice scan of the milky way, blurry, but there are probably some structural details that are unknown, unconfirmed or disprove some current accepted models.

May 16.4:Got to the cosmic web, more less just a fuzzy volumetric mesh pattern. Approaching the threshold of our knowledge.

May 16.5:Well...that's disappointing. Everything goes, well not noisy... more like fuzzy... and fades to nothing at the CMB.

Obviously it's ridiculous that we are the center of the universe. The image it produces does NOT appear to have redshift, so why would it end at the CMB?

Something about the mechanism it uses is bound by some common physical law which also restricts our standard model of physics.

This implies whatever this device is doing is not completely divorced from our models of physics and reality. Perhaps there is hope to understand what exactly is happening.

May 16.6:There is something beyond the “CMB fuzz wall”.

Some kind of non-uniform distribution... a clumping texture... something not smooth. The radial scans don't link up, it's like transition between images is becoming less and less continuous.. scans are more and more disconnected from their neighbors.

May 16.7:I keep zooming out, the spherical CMB bubble is not even a speck anymore. Now all I have is a clumpy structure, akin to the cosmic web, but “more clumpy and less stringy”.

May 16.8:It's a loop!!!

Zooming out too far somehow transitions back to “zero”.

Zooming out past the CMB... at some point it transitions back to the microscopic.. No.. The nanoscopic!

Was that clumpy stuff particles? quantum foam?

May 16.9:Loop confirmed. I “zoomed out 2 more whole universes”.

May 17:I haven't slept. I just can't.

I keep reconfirming the results.

Either...

Something creates a sawtooth pattern, resetting the zoom focus between the CMB and plank scale.

Or...

Reality is fractal... and since “zooming in” shows the future, that would imply that time is a continuous zooming in on a self-similar repeating pattern.

All reason points to the latter, and it finally allows both this machine and our current understanding of physics to coexist... I think... I'm still wrestling with this interpretation of reality.

As hard as it is to wrap my head around this in terms of physics... It's even harder to digest the existential implications.

May 19: Got lots of sleep.

Came in a couple times just to confirm everything again. If I spend long enough not actually looking at the results then I start to doubt it... to doubt myself and wonder if it was all a dream or delusion or error in the device or software bug... but it is real.

The more I think about it the more it all makes sense though.

Zooming in on a fractal requires calculating increasing precision, even with computers it takes longer to render deeper zooms. Nature may use a different mechanism to "render" a fractal, but it would still be intuitive that zooming is time consuming.

"Prediction error" correlates to distance, because similar to quantum many worlds, the universe that the device is seeing is not mine, mine is... well I guess mine is "inside me". The error goes down when I'm closer which implies my actual future is inside me, and the closer I get to the device the more our futures resemble each other.

It even gives an underlying mechanism. The original experiment was designed to artificially amplify dark energy, to stimulate an increased expansion rate of space.

It would appear the original experiment was a success. I can only assume the device is expanding a tiny pocket of space. It's not a microscope or a radar, it is stretching space like a balloon to make the image on its surface larger.

May 20: So...

Now here I sit... in existential crisis.

Paralyzed by "simple" questions... the same questions people have been asking since... well... Since the beginning of questions.

"What am I? "

"What should I do?"

"What does this reality mean?"

May 21:I found the cure for my existential paralysis.

"I'm not special"

"This is not special"

The universe is a fractal... So what?

When we invented microscopes and telescopes... when we discovered quantum theory and gravitational waves...

It never changed these questions.

It never even addressed these questions.

It could be argued that those questions are poorly formed, that the only "correct" answer is a tautology like "I am me", or cyclic reasoning like "asking the question is the answer".

The only thing I have is a device that performs a function.

What now?

That's where I am now stuck.

May 21.2:I feel unstuck, and it was the corniest little thing that got me unstuck.

It just popped into my head. A silly cliché, motivational cat-poster style quote, the kind of thing you hear over and over but never really take to heart.

"Love is a verb, not a noun"

It doesn't matter who I am, nor what I think, or even what I am capable of...

All that matters is what I do.

I needed to stop obsessing over "What this thing is" or "What it means"...

The question is "what will it do?"... Emphasis on the "will"...

What will we do with it?

Scientific discoveries? Yes, of course.

Predict and spy? Yes, definitely, and it will do them poorly, but we won't be able to resist looking. We will start reacting to things that might happen or things that only happen in another universe.

What will I do?

The reality is I must accept that I only have 2 options. Unless I blow this thing wide open, fast and wide, and all at once, then it will get classified and hidden away immediately for “national security reasons”.

I can't decide which road is the right choice.

- A) A full global blast (email, web posts, snail mail, etc...) making it impossible to hide. Just let the genie out of the bottle.
- B) Don't open Pandora's box, cover it up and move on. After all, the whole underlying theory is about to be relegated to the scrap heap of failed ideas.

May 24:I'm still stuck and can't decide, but in the meantime I'm going to indulge my curiosity. I moved the screen so it is over the device again.

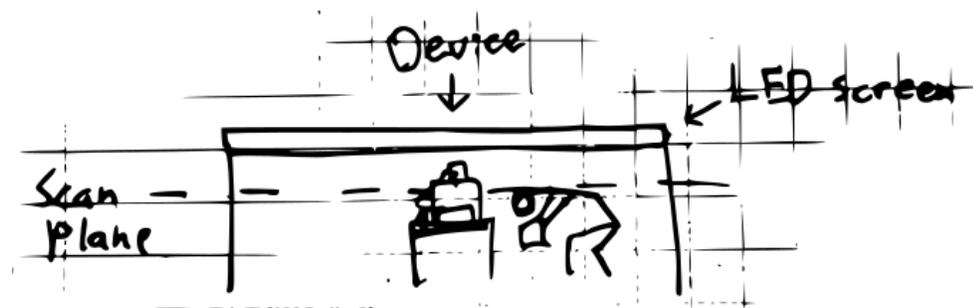
I'm trying to model how my behavior in other worlds deviates from mine. The limited resolution of the image means I have to reduce results to a string of bits. I think the simplest and best experiment would be a touchscreen that records touch/drag input and spits out a few simple results with various sensitivity to initial state.

May 25:After collecting enough samples the results started to converge on a simple answer.

Error = Distance squared
*scaled by some coefficient

May 26:Satisfying more curiosity. I tried crouching under the LED screen.

The bright pixels of the screen above partially obscure me, but the screen is further above the device so I'm actually quite visible because I'm closer to the scan plane than the screen.



1 meter away from the device, collecting data while holding the touchscreen and my head at different distances, I can confirm what was perhaps obvious...

The error correlates to distance from my head, not distance from the touchscreen.

I have to wonder if an octopus would get different results with its decentralized nervous system.

May 29:It seems silly, but I built an app with 2 buttons, each turns on a separate light.

One button is labeled "Publish"
The other says "Bury"

Perhaps future me knows what to do with this thing.

May 29.2:Nothing, I didn't push either button.

I'm going to set it up to continually refresh, and I'll make an effort to be impulsive.

May 29.3:I expected some kind of consistency, I usually answered repeatedly one way or another many times before I impulsively changed my mind and switched answers. The device reports much shorter streams of repeated results.

I'm going to try standing closer.

May 29.4:The closer I stand to the device the more repetitive the results become, converging towards my actual behavior pattern.

I'm going to try even closer.

May 29.5:Well... I have my answer.

I added a streaming view to the touch screen so I could watch it while crouched under the LED screen.

I started putting my head as close as possible.

As my head approached the isolation chamber I started to feel some discomfort. Each time the device fired I felt a flash of pressure, like a single throb of a throbbing headache.

I recalibrated the final image and zoomed in on me and the device.

It was no longer visibly deviating from reality.

I saw the prediction, and I would be in that position when the time arrived.

I tried to rebel against the prediction, I think I was able to be slightly out of pose a couple times, but I'm not sure because I don't have a video record of myself under the LED screen.

When I tried to intentionally "disagree with the prediction" my movements felt like I was fumbling, and I ended up "where I was supposed to be" anyways.

I pushed my head right up against the isolation chamber.

The next pulse was shockingly painful.

I mustered the resolve to hold on.

Pulse after pulse, the pain was unique, so strange and unfamiliar. I think I was fighting to hold on just to explore the nuance of that feeling.

Suddenly the future image of me moved, I saw extended arms...

In a flash everything made sense.

I reached forward and violently shoved the device off the desk.

I assume it hit the floor and made large crashing noises, I can't remember.

According to the video cameras, I stayed under the LED screen about 8 minutes after that, but I don't remember it being more than a moment.

I suppose it was a moment of clarity, of realization...

But it didn't feel like "realizing something new"... more like remembering things forgotten.

I remembered Sagan "The cosmos is within us. We are made of star-stuff. We are a way for the universe to know itself"

I remembered "the world is whatever you decide to make it".

I remembered Karma and "do unto others".

I remembered those and so many more... Things that until that moment were just words to me.

If I zoom out enough my universe is literally me.

My future universe is who I am now.

Who I am and what I do are what construct the universe I have to live in.

And then the thought popped into my head ... "But this device... It's inflating a universe..."

Maybe it was just the physical pain in the moment, but it seemed so obvious...

"This thing is destroying universes!"

So I broke it... to stop it immediately.

I will dismantle it and report back confirmation of what everyone already believes, that the theory is a dead end.

Sept 6: It's been 3 months.

Every piece of evidence has been erased or destroyed, except for this notebook.

I have decided I don't want that device "in my life" or "in my universe". I'm going to hope no one else discovers it in my lifetime.

I do, however, acknowledge that it's just a matter of time, and that the scariest scenario is it being discovered quietly in private. So I have set up a series of "dead man switch" releases. Shotgun broad spectrum blasts of this notebook.

I will selfishly try to enjoy my life in an unadulterated world, and leave this device and frightening dilemma for the rest of you.

Final note:

I'm old.

Life has been kind.
The kinder I have been,
The kinder life became.

I wonder what comes next.

Am I this fractal pattern?
Or just a point location in the fractal space?

Perhaps there isn't any "next"... or not even a "now..."
I already know time is far more abstract than how I experience it.

Perhaps my pattern reappears elsewhere... or here again later... Would they be "me"?

Perhaps I inhabit whatever patterns occur at this point location.

As much as I am curious..
The mystery is beautiful.

I truly don't know what will happen once this gets out. Surely it will just be dismissed until they dig up the past and reassemble enough puzzle pieces to replicate it. I have learned not to obsess over predicting the future.

I do know that distance matters... If they start building these things, I would stay as far away from them as possible.

I also know prediction error increases with complexity. If it has trouble predicting a single person isolated in a lab then imagine how useless it is on crowds and groups. I suggest getting out as much as possible, spending time among people, even just a walk in public spaces.

I have learned to most cherish and seek out those random and unpredictable things in life.

The device never really did anything for me except change my perspective. But it wasn't some grand insight into the nature of reality, it only gave one more arbitrary layer, one level deeper than our already amazingly deep knowledge and understanding of physics. I don't have any more "answers" than the next person.

I needed to feel like I made a great discovery to feel good about myself and escape a cage of my own creation. I hope that was my flaw and not yours...

Good luck!

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