

# **Intro to Simulations**

## **Simulations for Biologists**

**Welcome to Simulations for  
Biologists!**

# Course Schedule

## Wednesday

10:00 - 11:00 | Intro to Simulations  
11:00 - 12:00 | Probability Distributions  
— — Lunch — —  
13:00 - 15:00 | Simulation Practical

## Thursday

10:00 - 11:00 | Optimizing Sims  
11:00 - 12:00 | Primer on ABC  
— — Lunch — —  
13:00 - 14:00 | Running ABC  
14:00 - 15:00 | Simulation Software

# Where to find Course Materials

[https://github.com/AlecJacobsen/Simulation\\_for\\_Biologists](https://github.com/AlecJacobsen/Simulation_for_Biologists)



Simulations for Biologists

# **Goal of this lecture**

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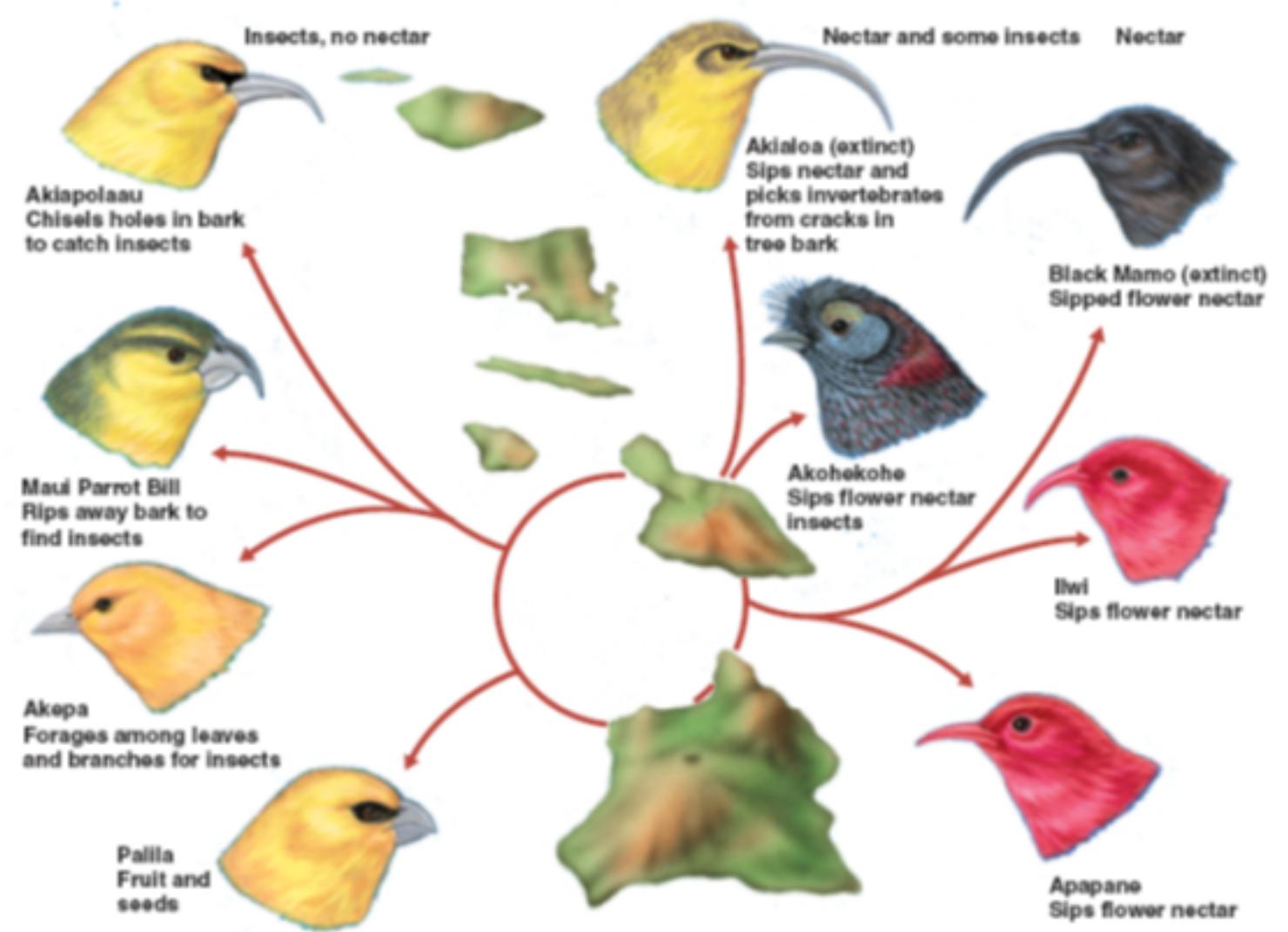
What is a simulation?

# Goal of this lecture

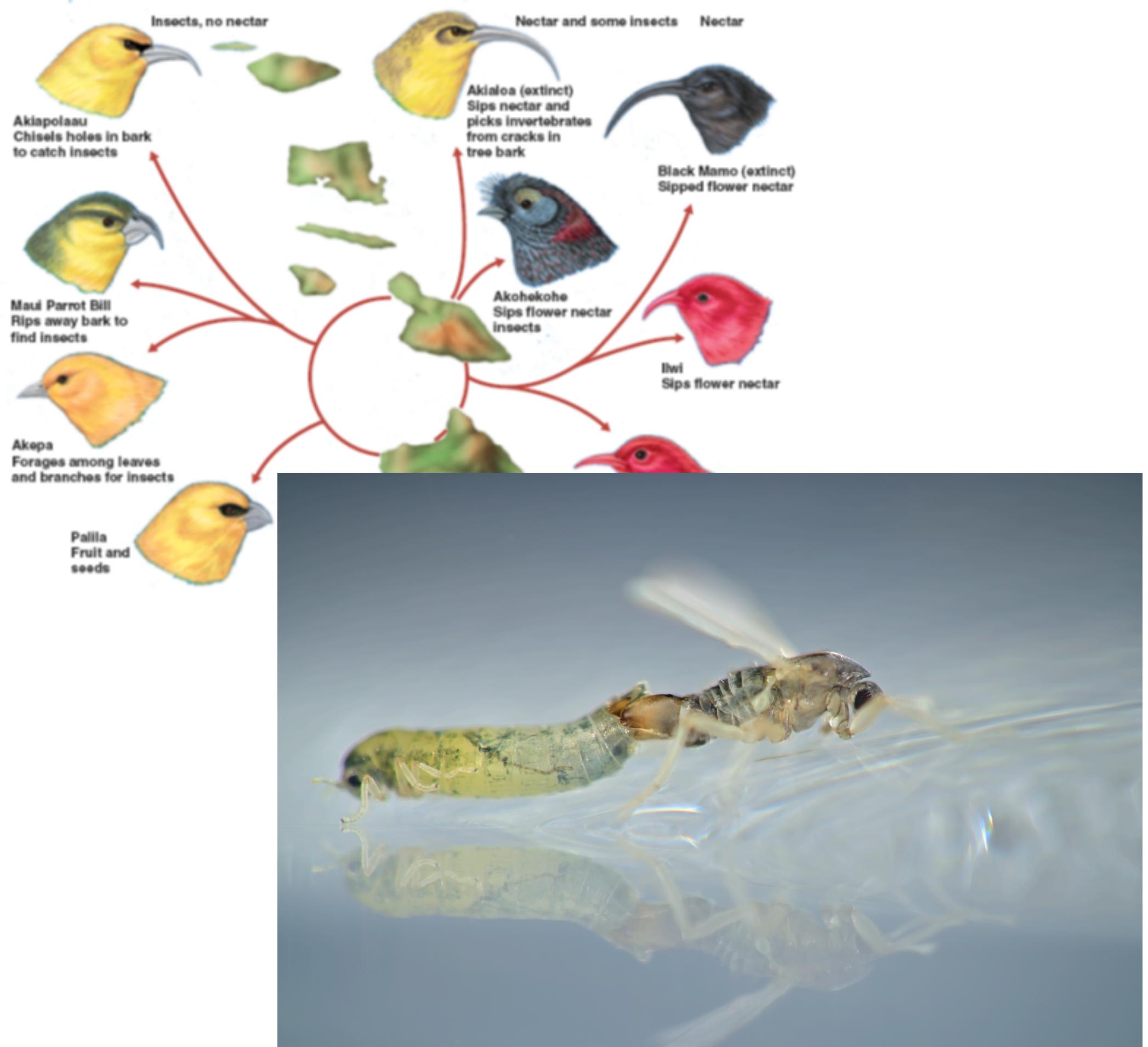
What is a simulation?

Why simulate?

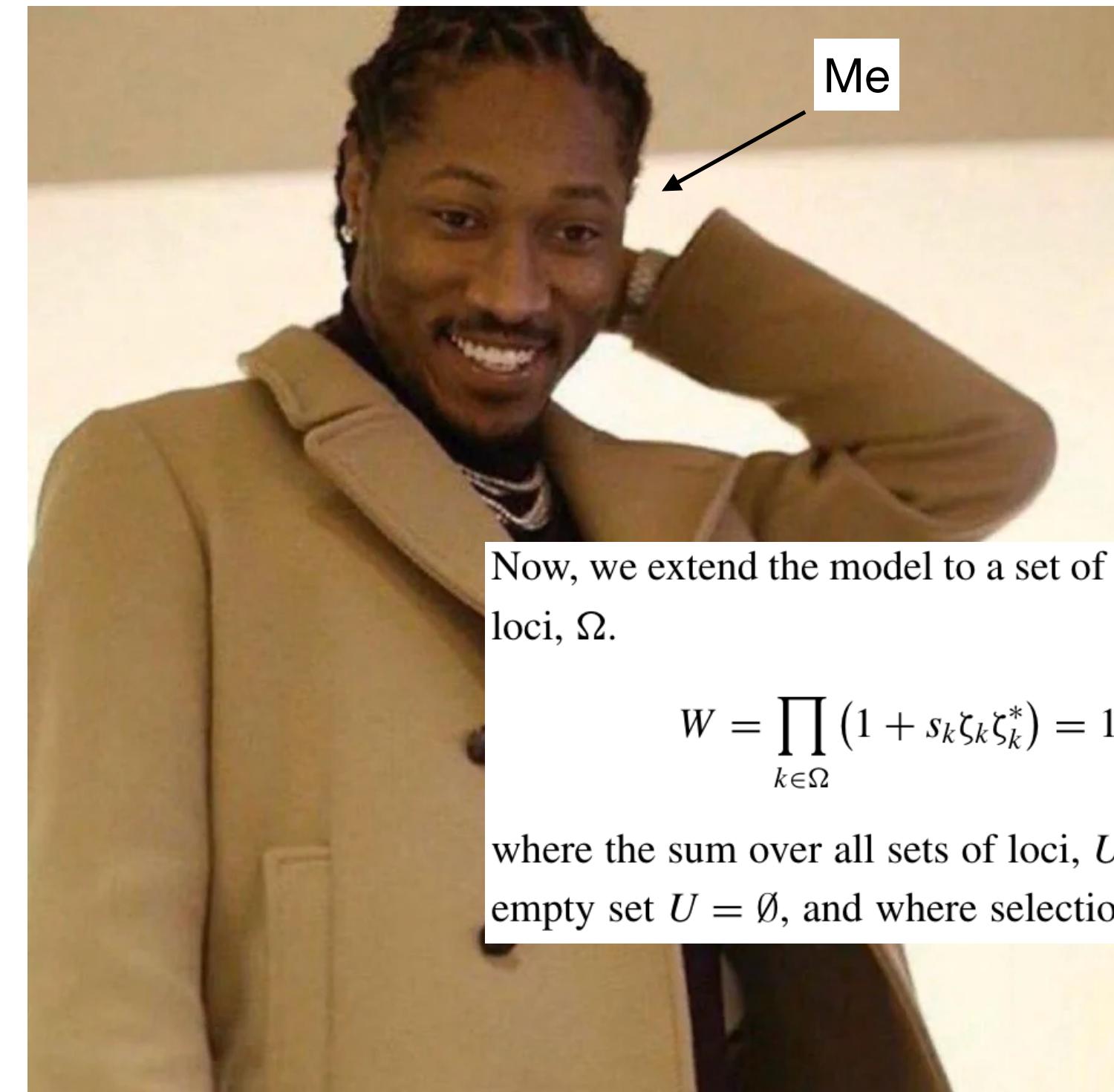
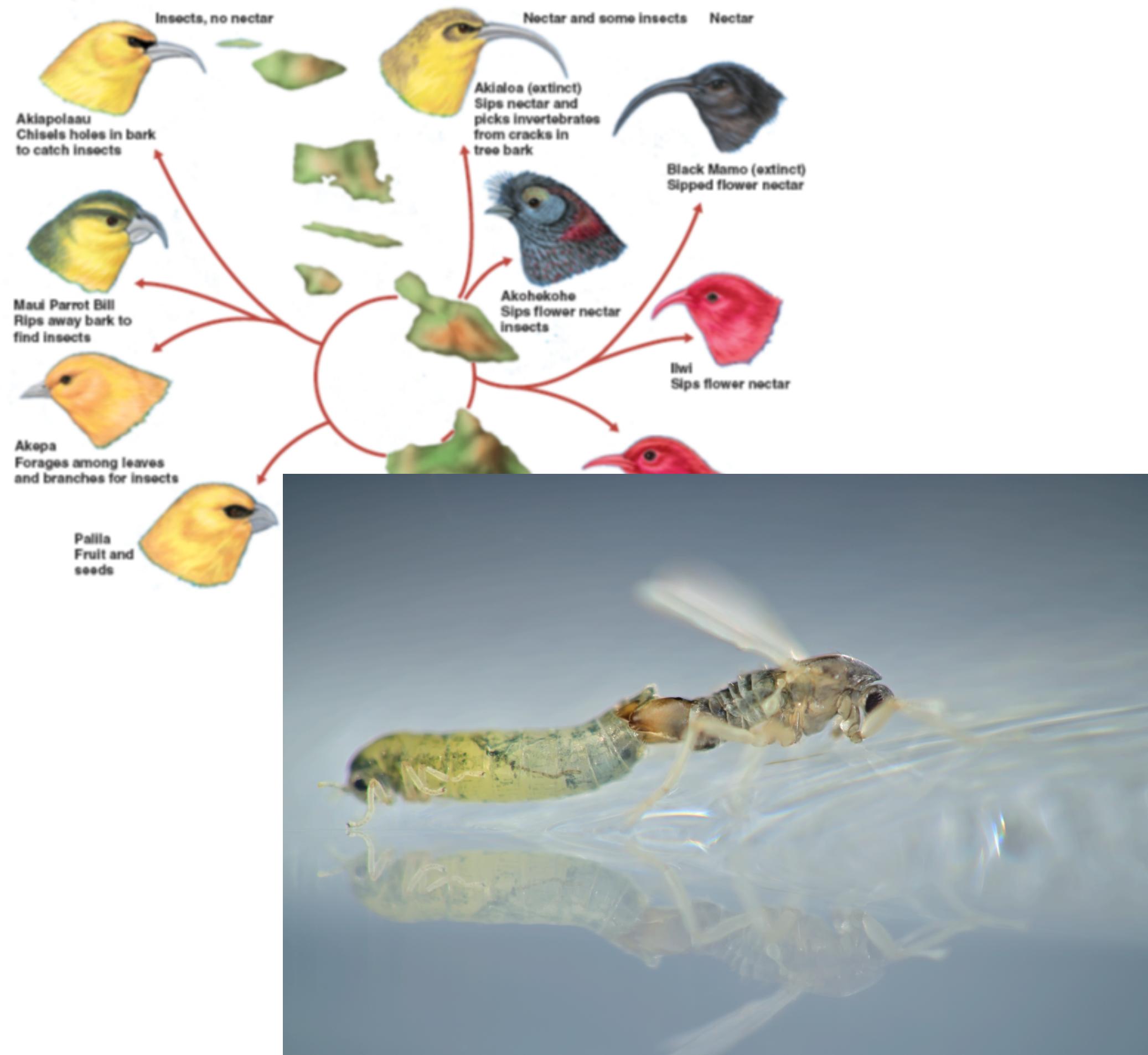
# My motivation for this course



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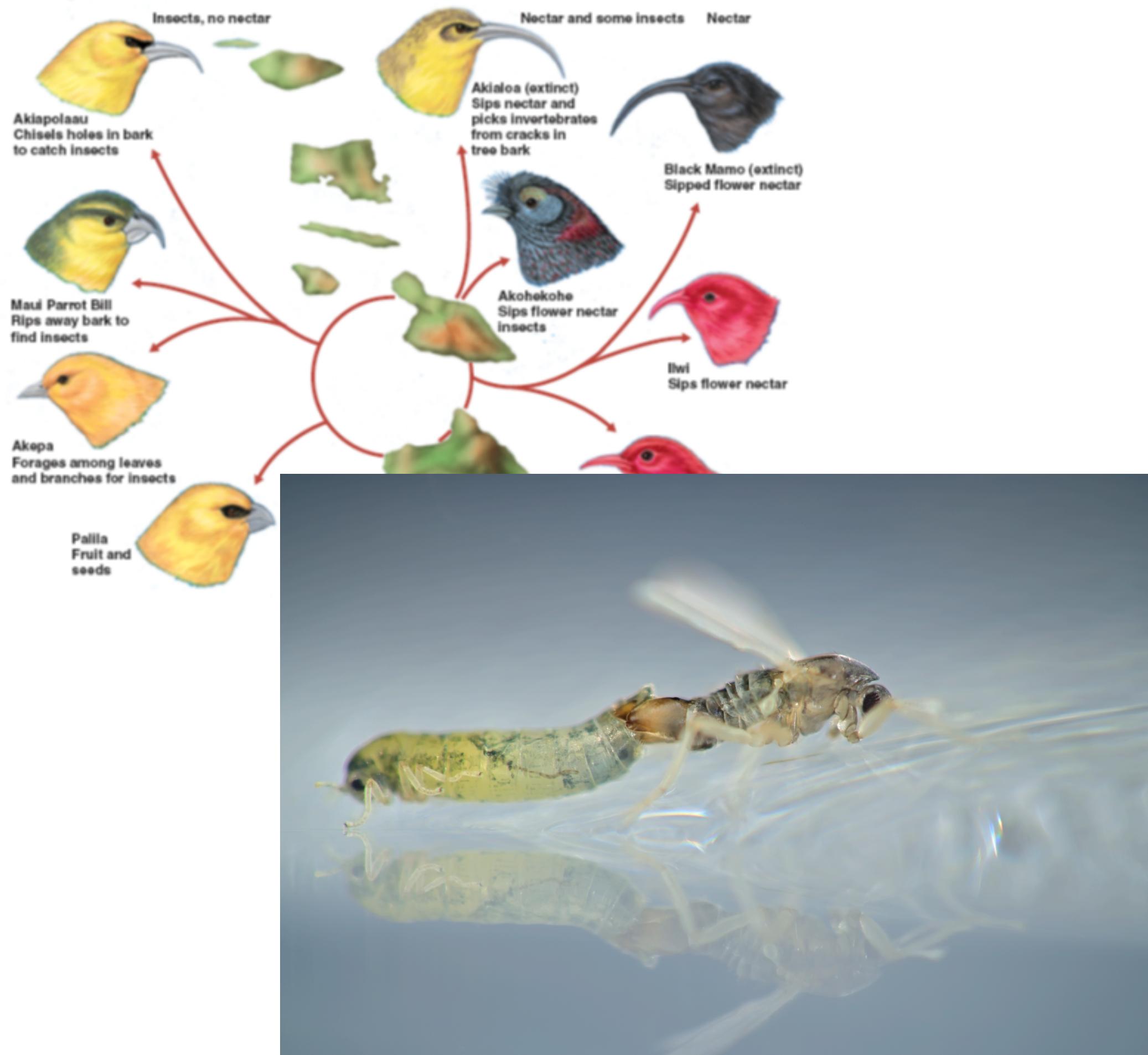
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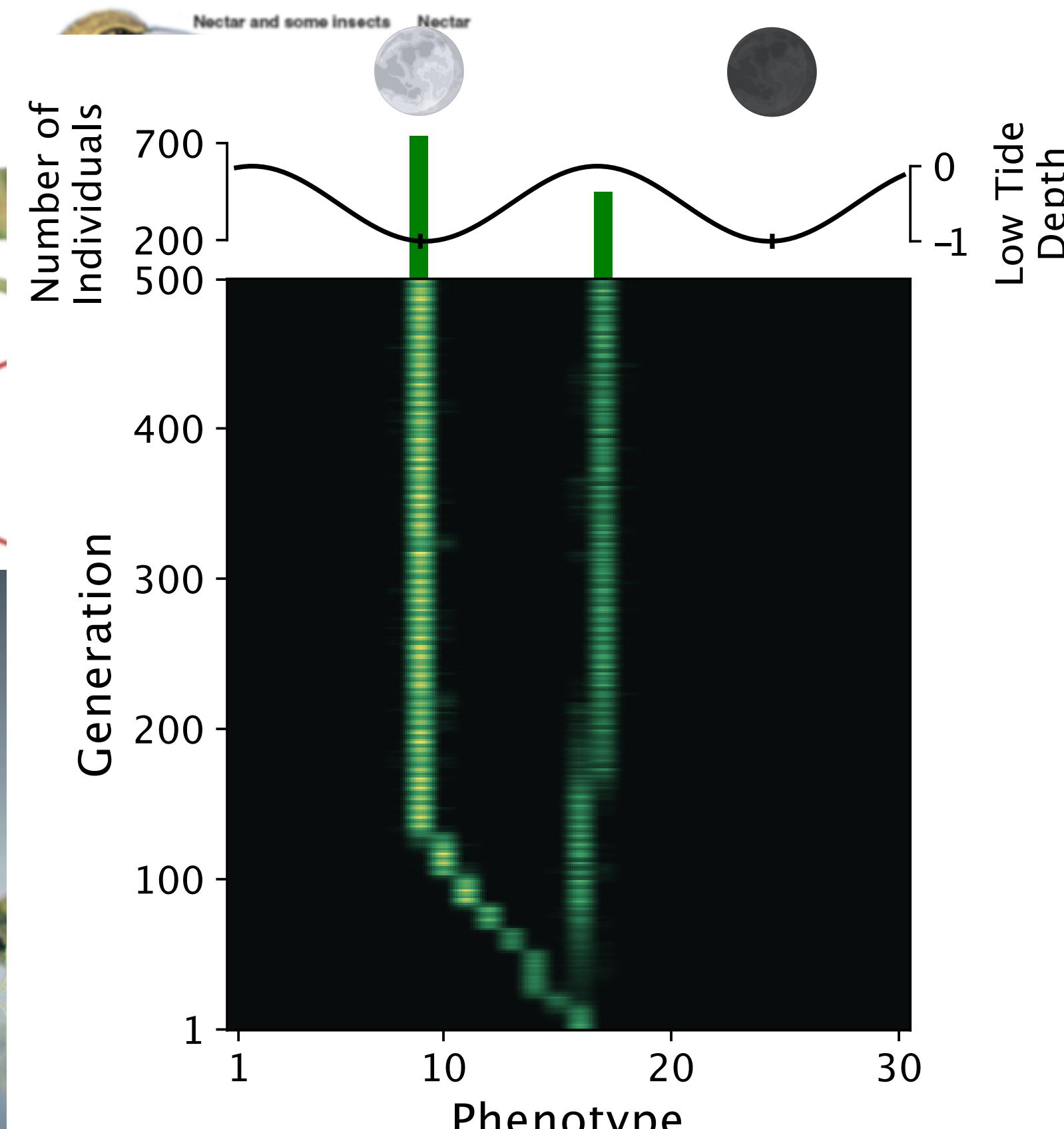
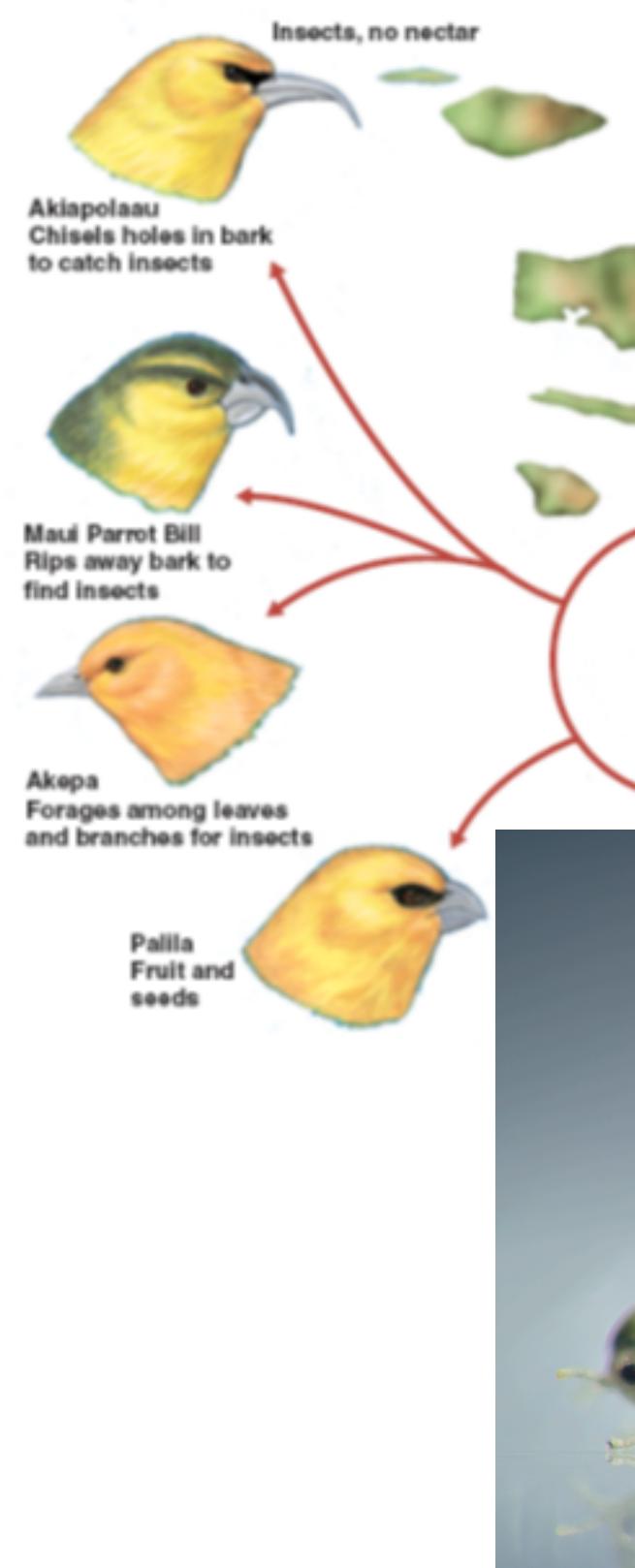
$$W = \prod_{k \in \Omega} (1 + s_k \zeta_k \zeta_k^*) = 1 + \sum_{U \subseteq \Omega} s_U \zeta_U \zeta_U^*, \quad (11)$$

where the sum over all sets of loci,  $U \subseteq \Omega$ , does not include the empty set  $U = \emptyset$ , and where selection on a set,  $U$ , of loci is the

# My motivation for this course



# My motivation for this course



# **Experimentalists VS Modelers**

Are  
Experimentalists ~~v~~ Modelers

# Are Experimentalists ~~v~~ Modelers

Simulations let you test your mental model!

Motivation:

- Share this insight
- Give a few “search terms”

# Goal of this lecture

What is a simulation?

Why simulate?

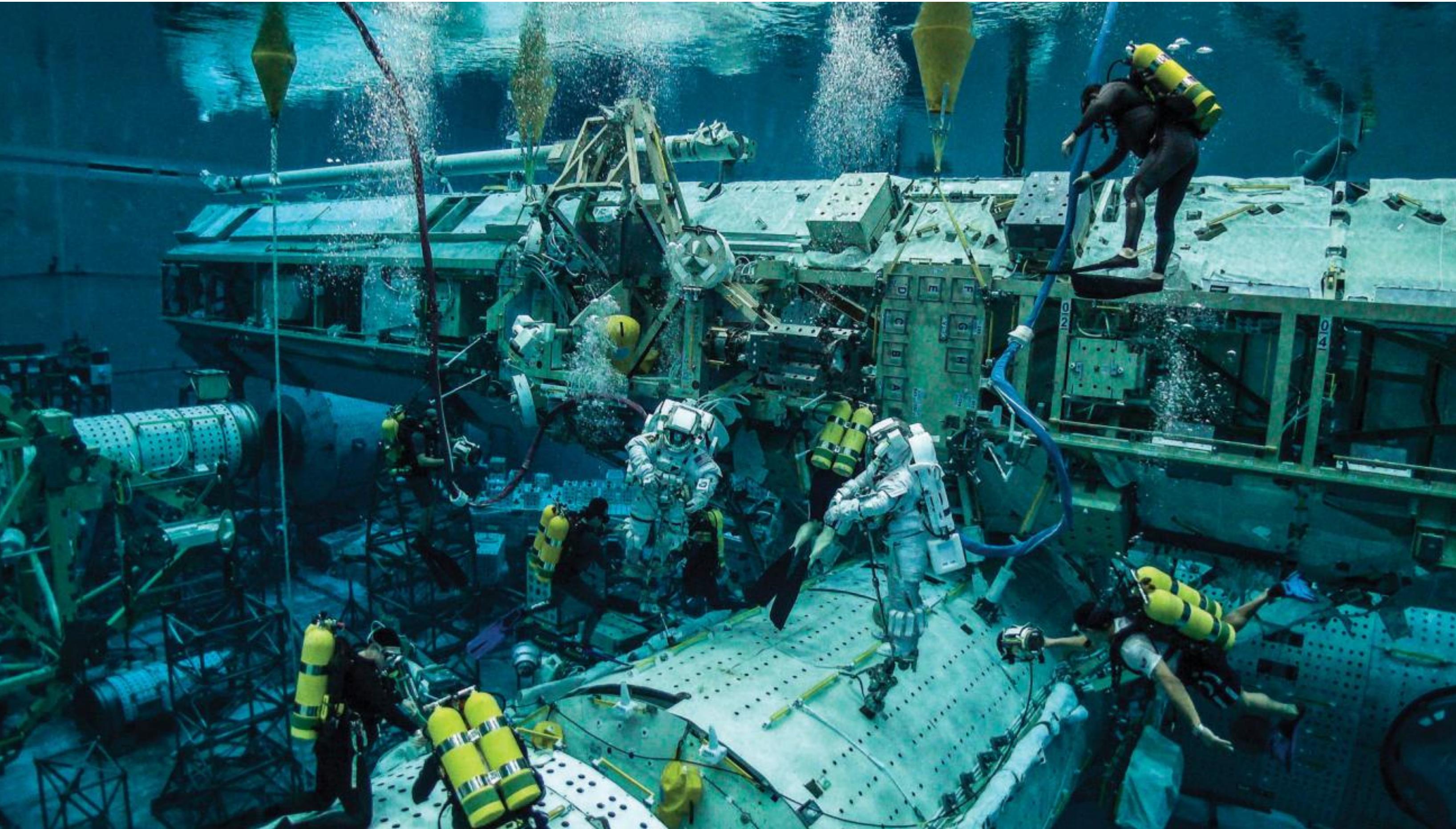
- Test your logic

# What is a simulation?

“A **simulation** is an imitative representation of a process or system that could exist in the real world”

- wikipedia, 2024

# Not always computer based

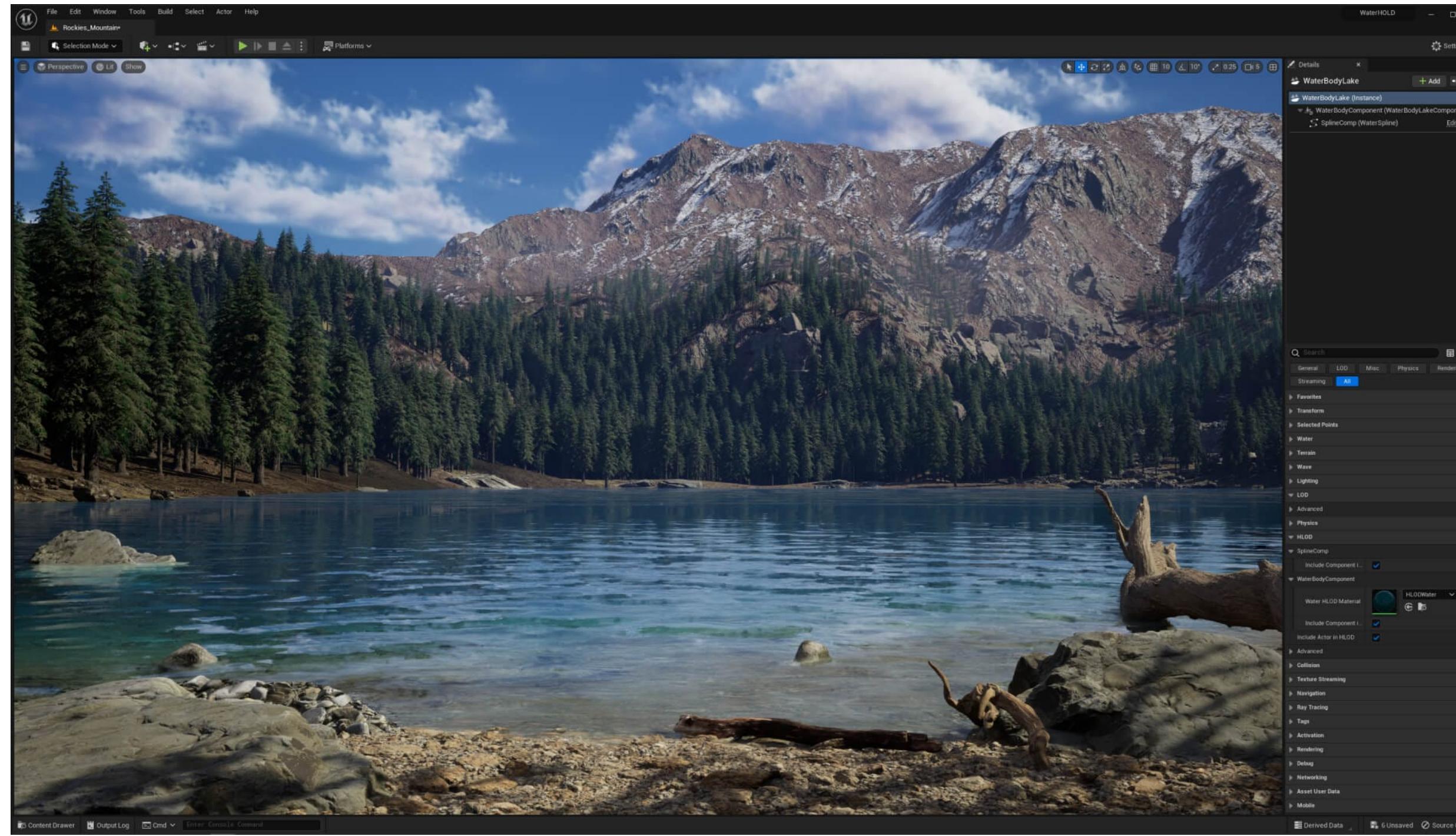


# Don't have to be for science



<https://www.retrogamedeconstructionzone.com/2021/08/the-tennis-for-two-simulator-tets.html>

# Don't have to be for science



# Don't have to be for science



# Don't have to be for science



# Used for training



# Used for training



# Goal of this lecture

## What is a simulation?

- a model that tries to encapsulate the rules/behavior of a system

## Why simulate?

- Test your logic

# Goal of this lecture

## What is a simulation?

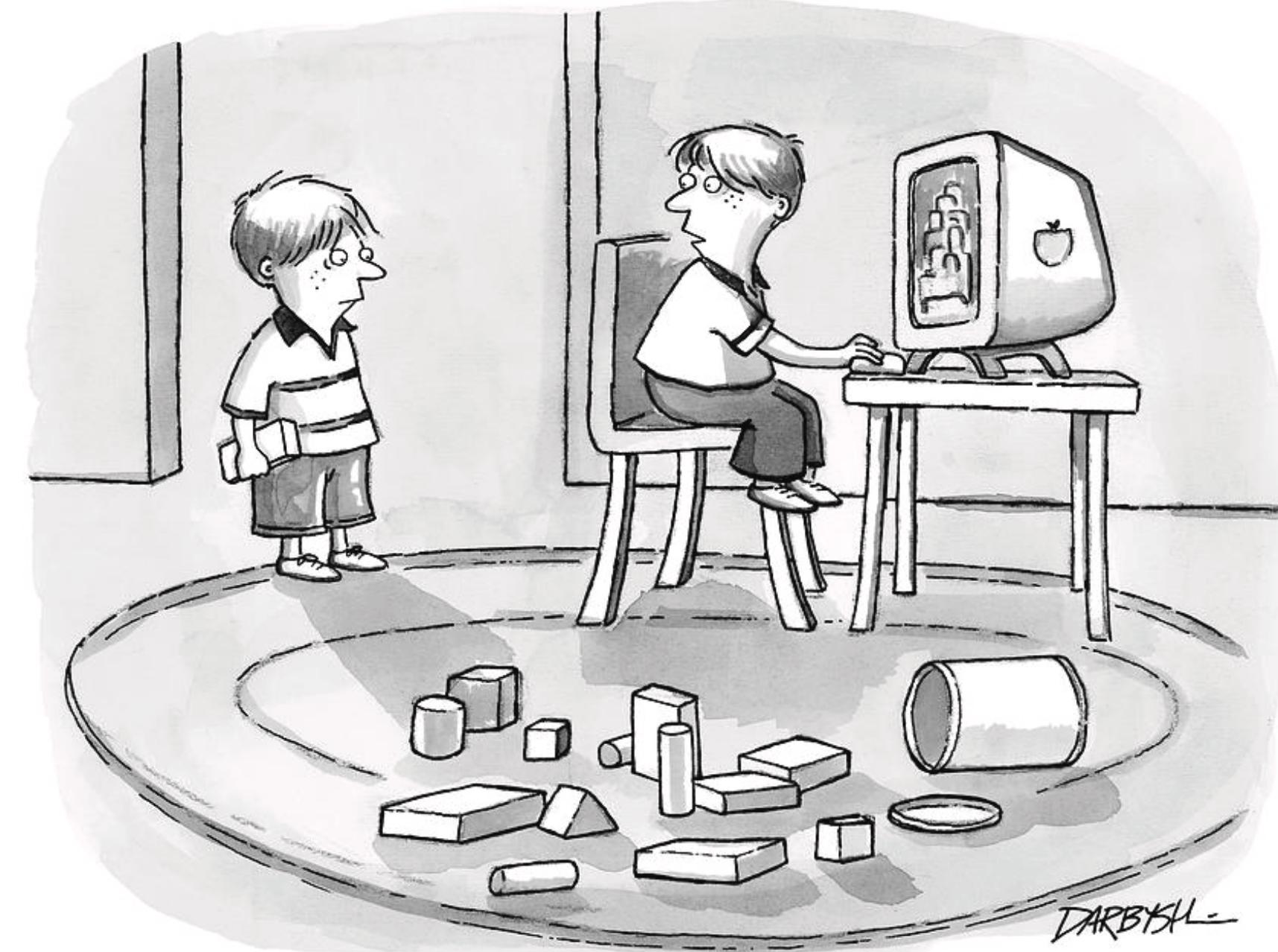
- a model that tries to encapsulate the rules/behavior of a system

## Why simulate?

- Test your logic
- Build your intuition of how a system works

# Simulations for science

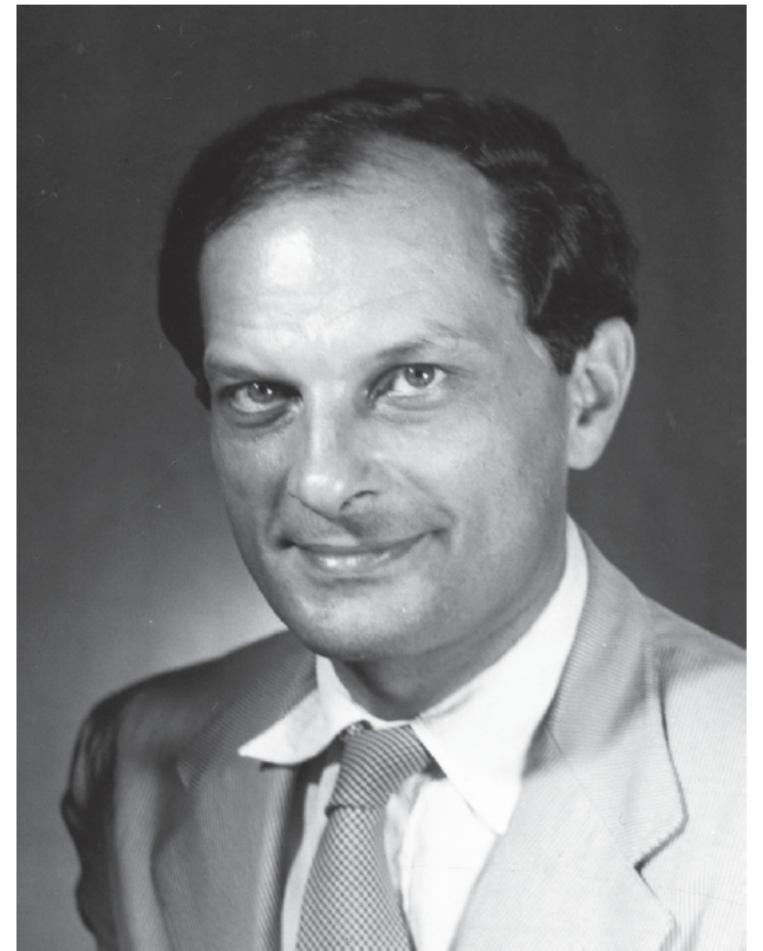
Computer Simulations:  
Transcribing your mental model into executable code



*"Now, this is just a simulation of what the blocks  
will look like once they're assembled."*

# First computer simulation

Stanislaw Ulam



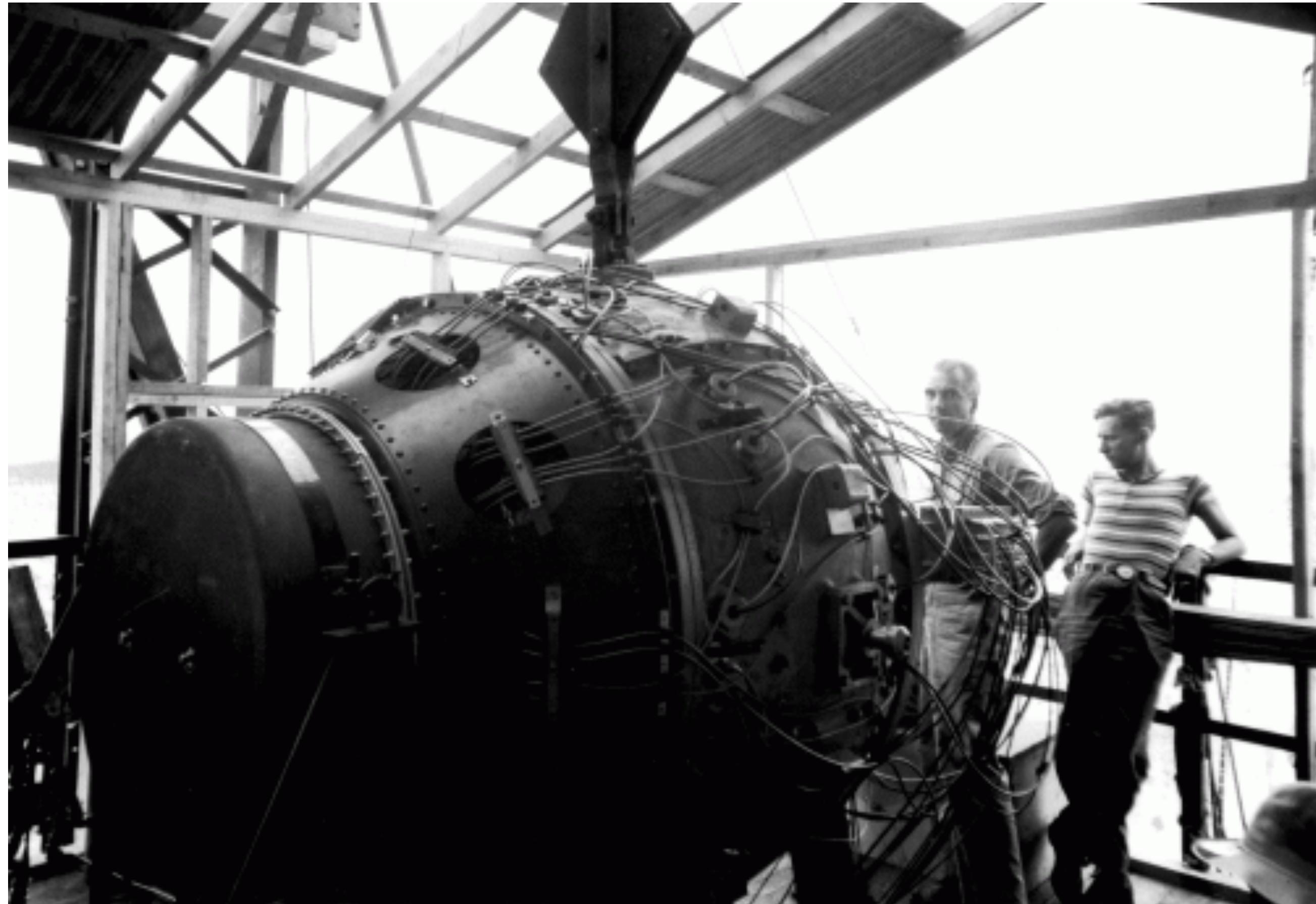
John Von Neumann



Manhattan Project

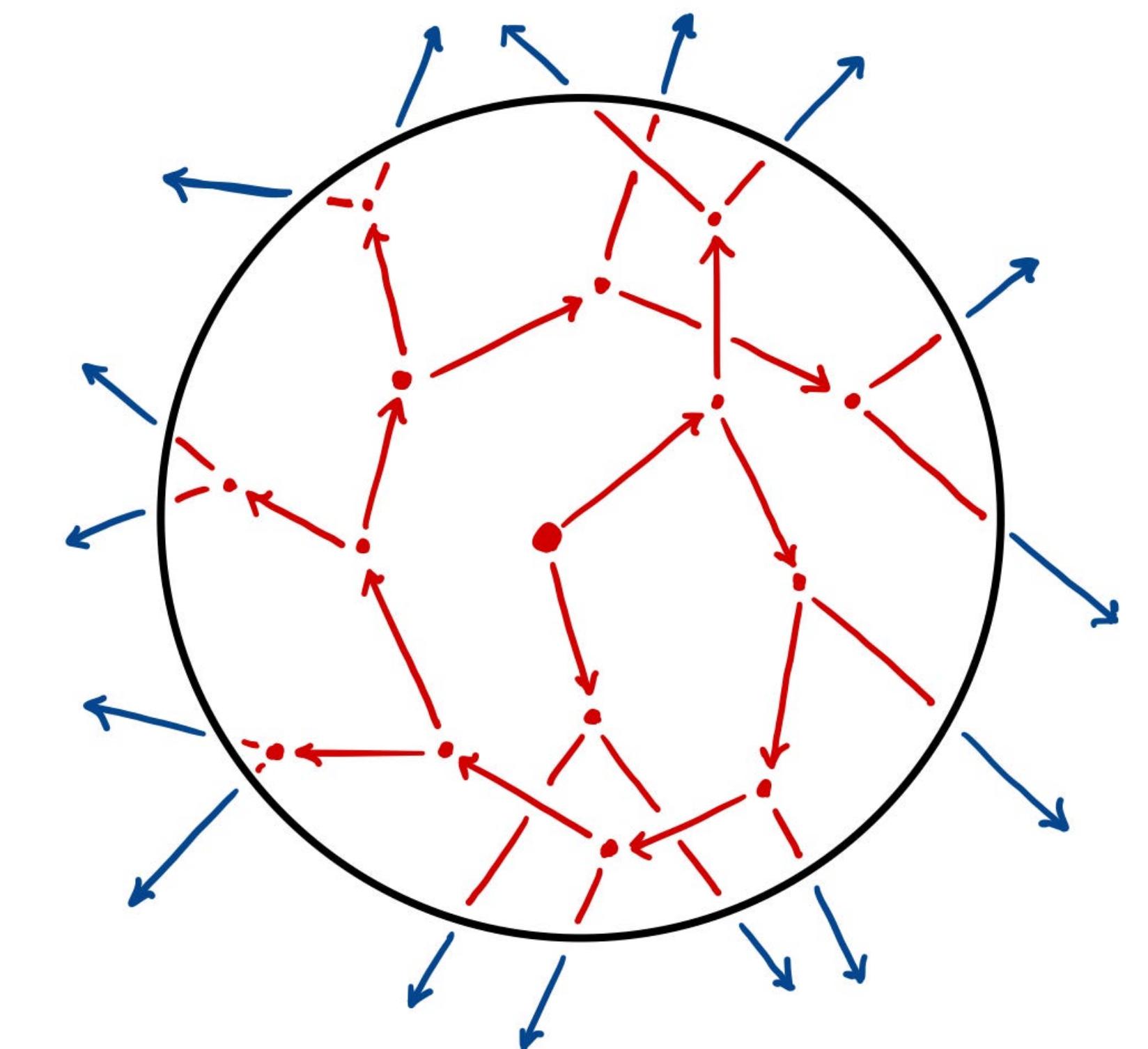
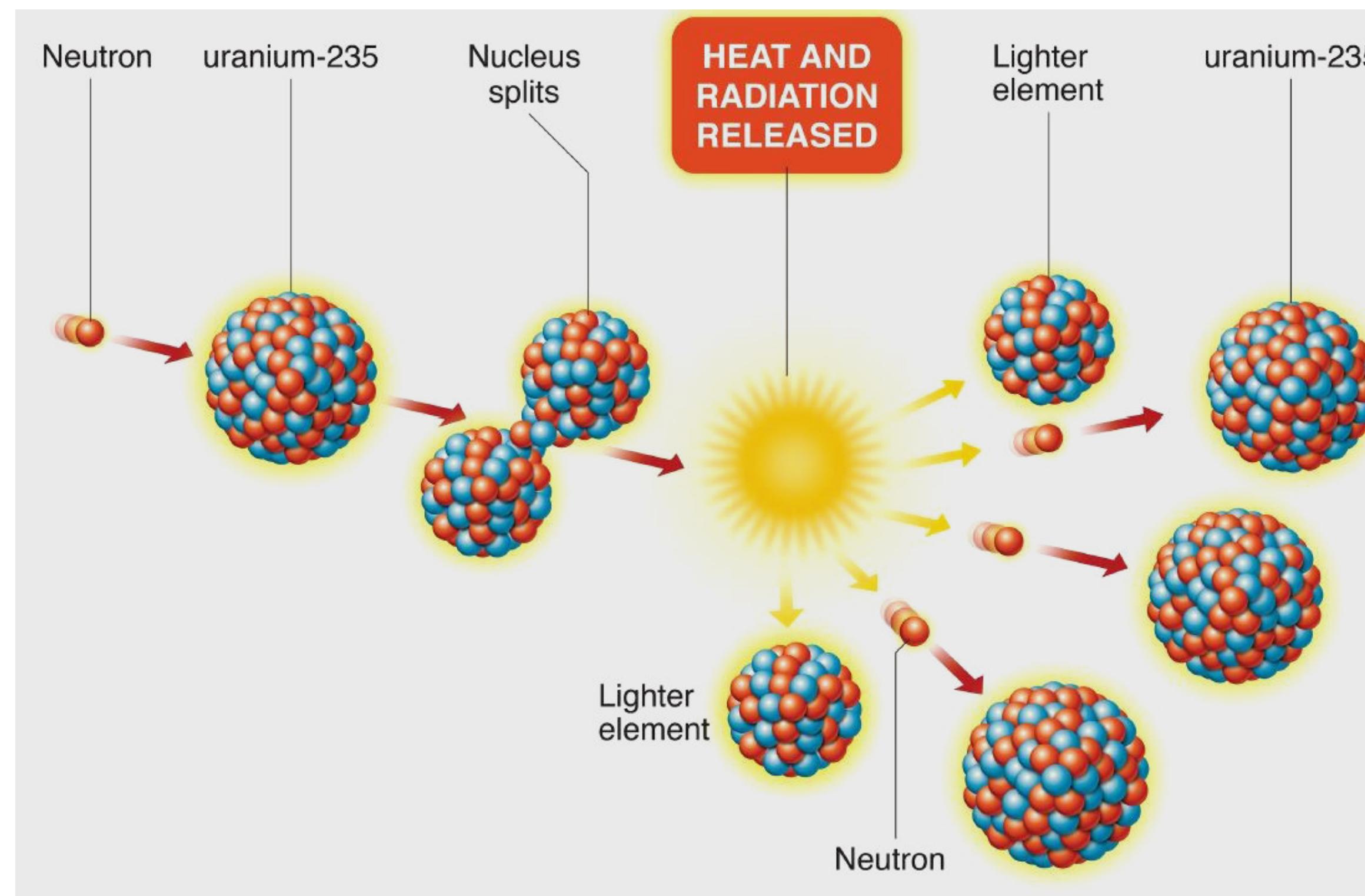


# How much tonnage?



Neutron Diffusion Problem

# Neutron Diffusion

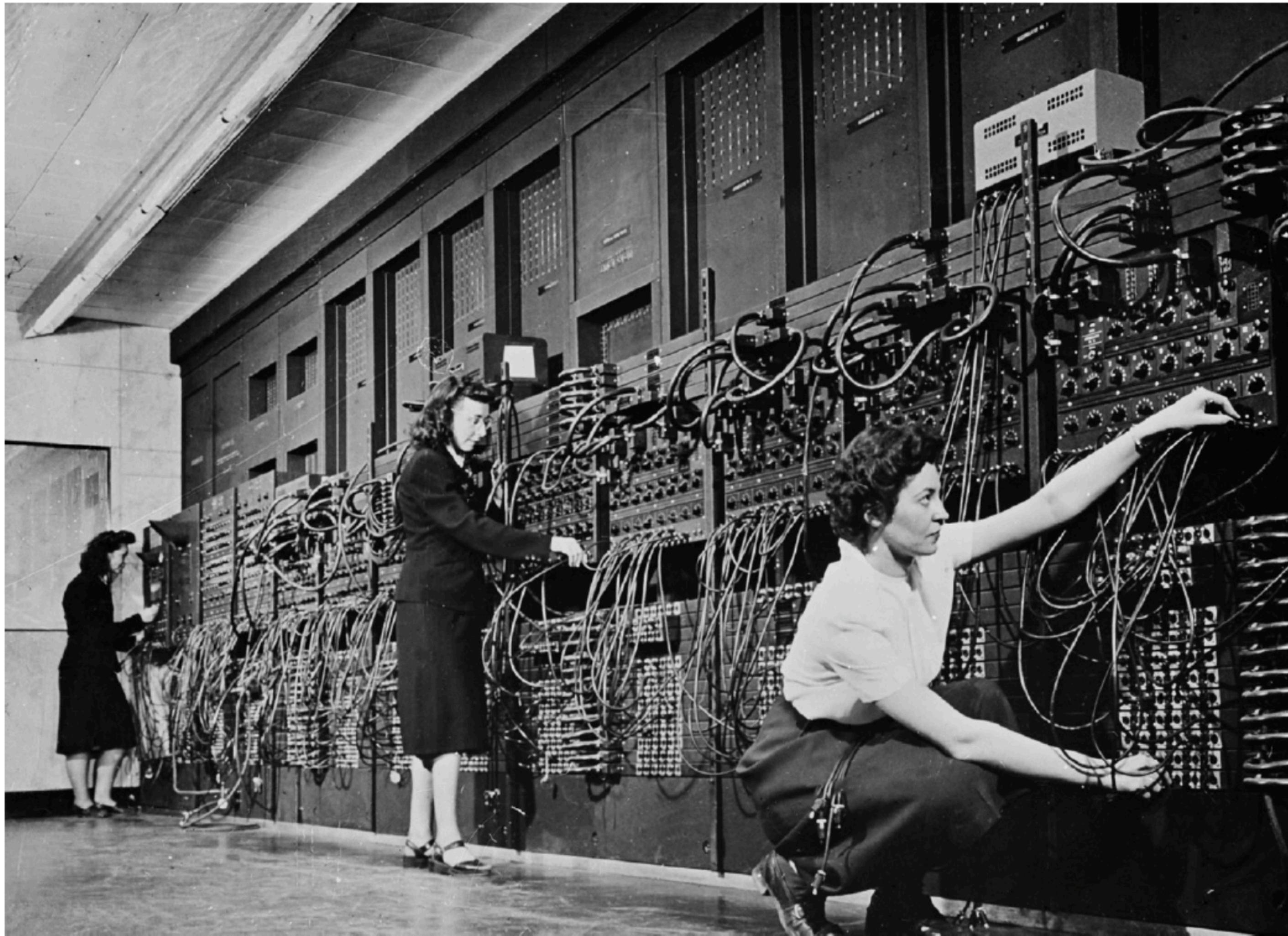


"The first thoughts and attempts I made to practice [the simulation] were suggested by a question which occurred to me in 1946 as I was convalescing from an illness and playing solitaires. The question was what are the chances that a Canfield solitaire laid out with 52 cards will come out successfully?

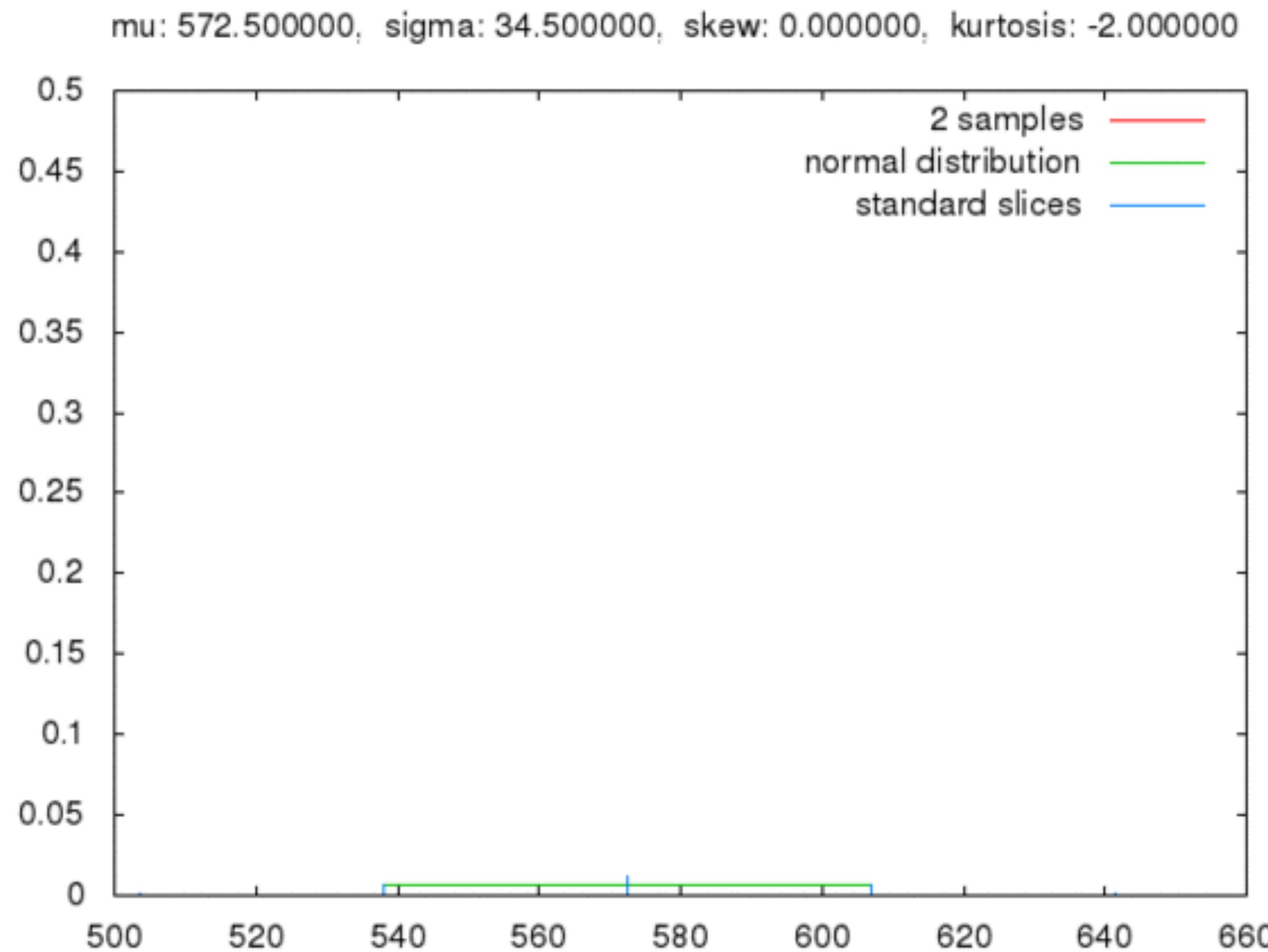
After spending a lot of time trying to estimate them by pure combinatorial calculations, I wondered whether a more practical method than "abstract thinking" might not be to lay it out say one hundred times and simply observe and count the number of successful plays. This was already possible to envisage with the beginning of the new era of fast computers, and I immediately thought of problems of neutron diffusion and other questions of mathematical physics, and more generally how to change processes described by certain differential equations into an equivalent form interpretable as a succession of random operations. Later. . . [ in 1946, I ] described the idea to John von Neumann and we began to plan actual calculations."



# ENIAC



# Monte Carlo method



# Goal of this lecture

## What is a simulation?

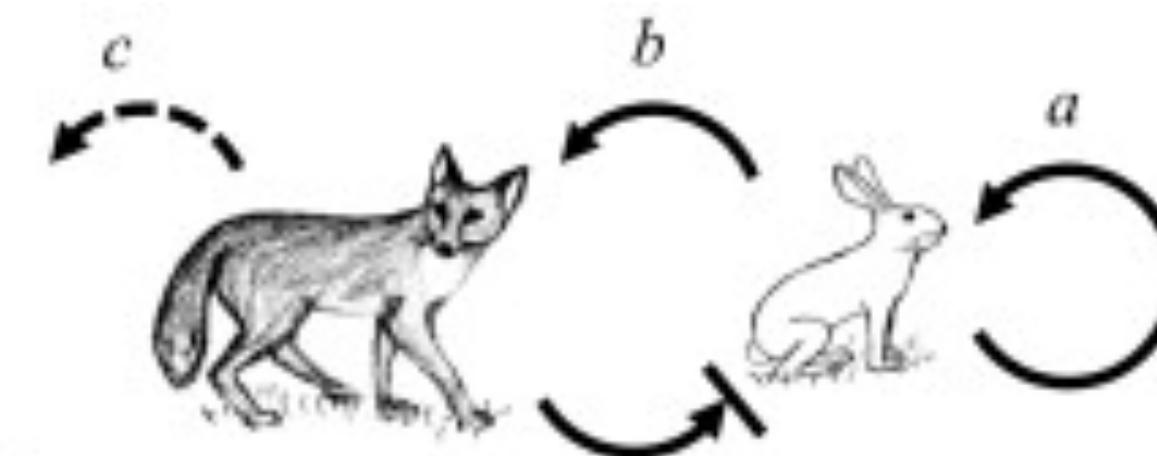
- a model that tries to encapsulate the rules/behavior of a system

## Why simulate?

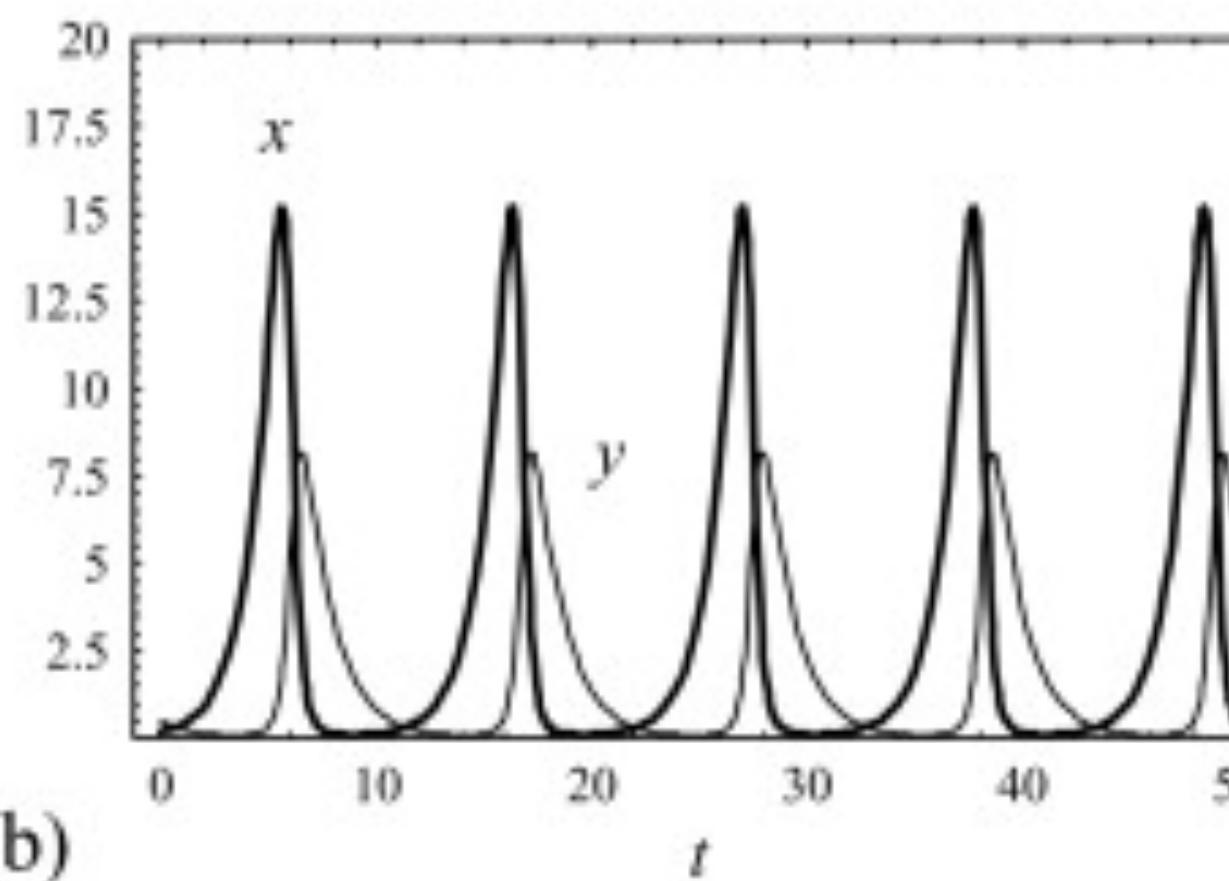
- Test your logic
- Build your intuition of how a system works
  - You don't know the math!

# Biological Example

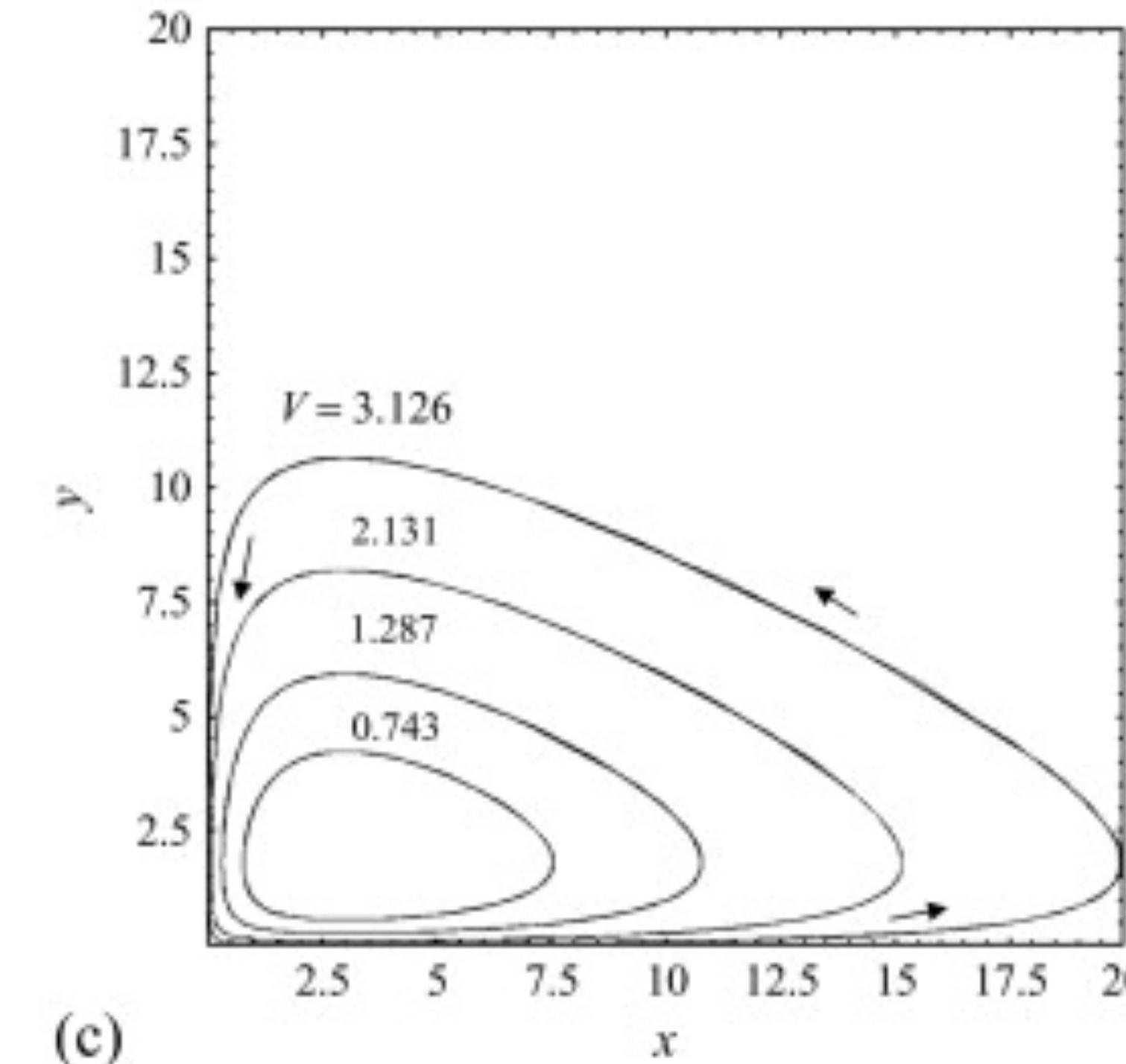
## Lotka Volterra



(a)



(b)



(c)

# Steps to Simulate



1. Define your question

# Steps to Simulate



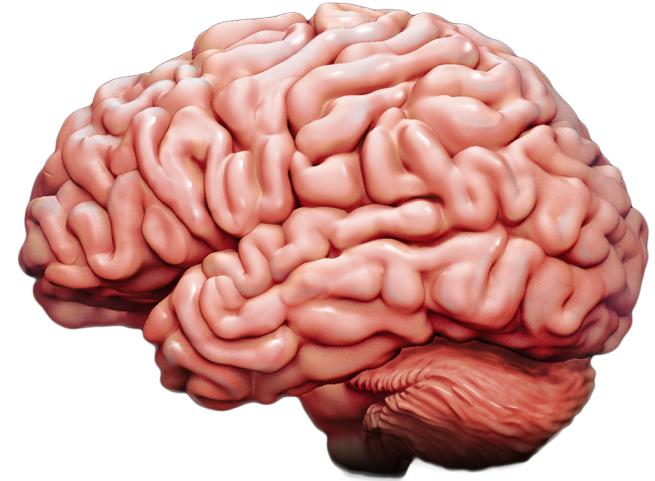
1. Define your question
2. Develop your mental model - know what to simulate



# Steps to Simulate



1. Define your question
2. Develop your mental model - know what to simulate
3. Break it down in to subprocesses



# Steps to Simulate



1. Define your question
2. Develop your mental model - know what to simulate
3. Break it down in to subprocesses
4. Write it as pseudocode

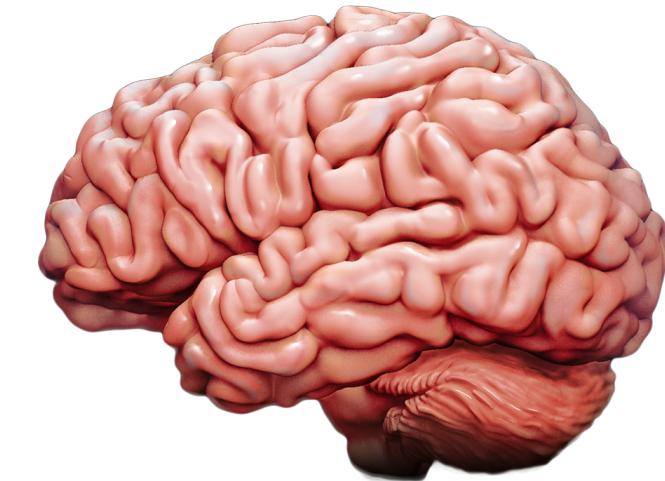


I have WENT TO  
Finland THE year  
measles and I got  
the tresser BACK! When  
the tresser and THE  
COP they were  
ever. THAT didn't  
see them. IF they fel  
down it is to the  
and found the same state

# Steps to Simulate



1. Define your question
2. Develop your mental model - know what to simulate
3. Break it down in to subprocesses
4. Write it as pseudocode
5. Turn the pseudocode to real code



```
    a = replaceAll(", ", " ", a); a = a.replace(" ", "");  
    var a = array_from_string($("#fin").val());  
    var b = $("#user_logged").val();  
    var c = use_unique(array_from_string($("#fin").val()));  
    if (c < 2 * b - 1) {  
        this.trigger("click");  
        for (var i = 0; i < c.length; i++) {  
            if (a[i] && a[i] != a[b]) {  
                a[i] = a[b];  
            }  
        }  
        for (var i = 0; i < c.length; i++) {  
            if (a[i] == a[b]) {  
                a[i] = null;  
            }  
        }  
        $("#user_logged").val(c);  
    }  
});  
});
```

They went to  
find the goal  
meant to get  
the treasure back.  
When they got  
there, they didn't  
see them.  
So they fell  
down to the ground  
and found the same state.