

# ***Critical Studies***

## ***Computation Thinking and Critical Practice***

### **Week 6**

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09/11/2021

Trade some privacy for the convenience of technology, will you?

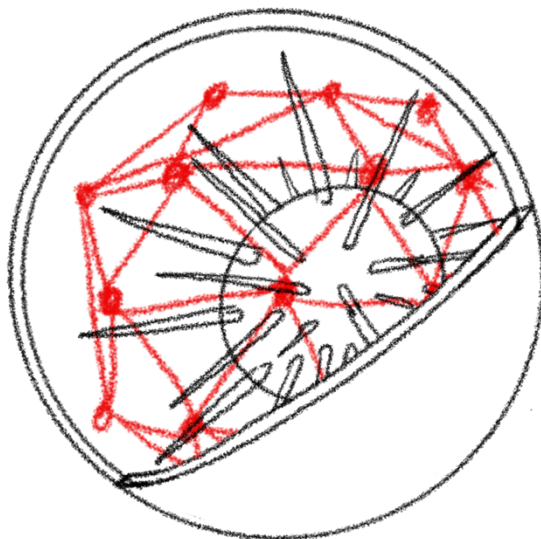
It seems that we are now living in symbiosis with big data by forming a Metaverse of ourselves that appears indistinct in a virtual way. Under most modern privacy regulations, the traces of our usage on the various apps of the Internet share data that constitute our image in the Metaverse.

Such images are initially distorted and oddly shaped, as in the specific content I would search for on a particular App: for example, to see photos of friends on Instagram, to read celebrity gossip on Twitter, to find out where to hang out on Tiktok. Respectively, these individual apps collect each type of information about its users to weave a vast web of data by sharing data to build virtual portraits ( the image and characteristics in the Metaverse).

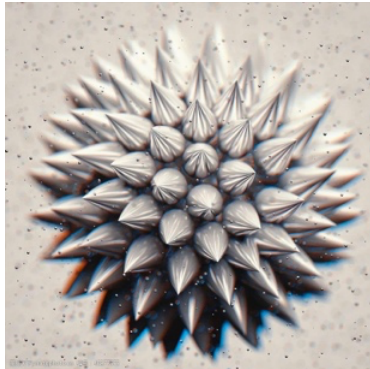
And all this information that I have searched for will also be influenced by the people around me, which shapes my own network of relationships. Ultimately, the image and labels of my Metaverse may even know me better than myself.

#### **A NEW IDEA : (I made a demo video to show how it works)**

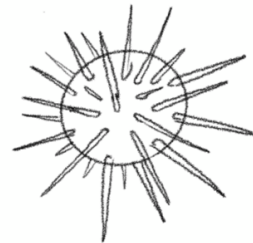
The relationship between ourselves, the Metaverse's big data collection, and the reality we are exposed to can be represented by three bodies.



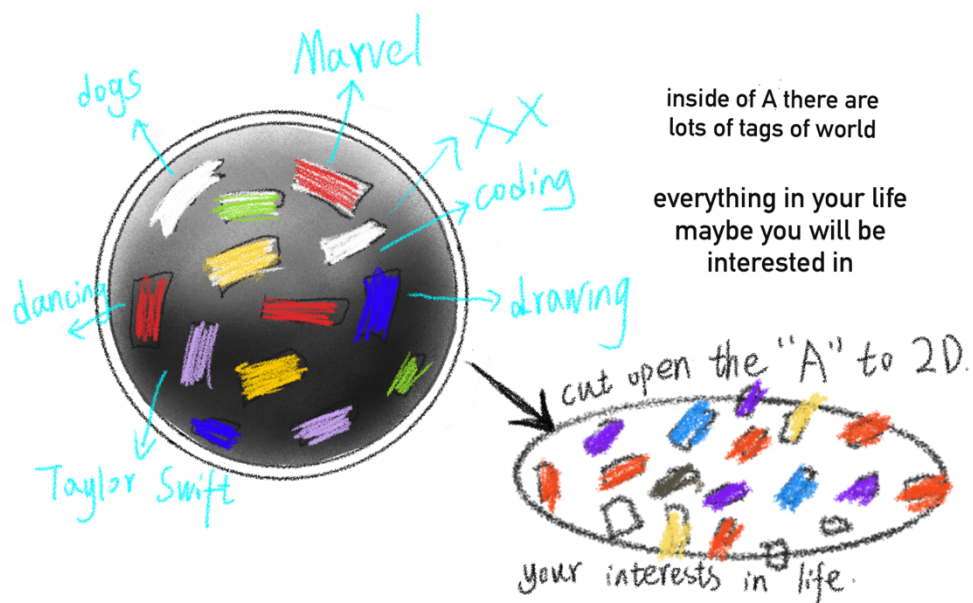
We are a thorned sphere (**C** for short), and the thorn stands for unknown interests and passionate concerns.



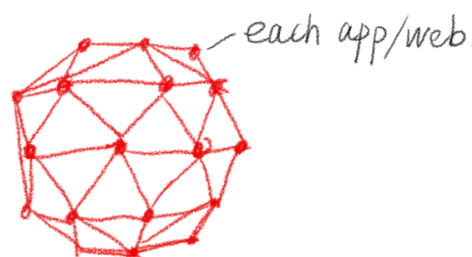
our curiosity and  
potential to the  
world



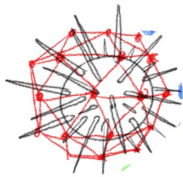
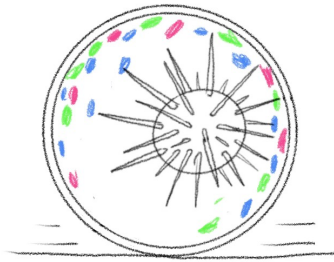
The reality we are exposed to is a much larger sphere (A for short) with an inner wall replete with hot spots, interests, information, etc. The barbed sphere is within this sphere.



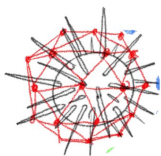
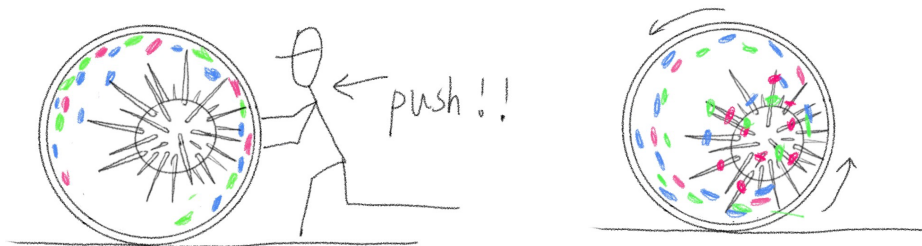
The Metaverse's big data collection is a mesh geometry between these two spheres (B for short), which intersects vertically and horizontally with each node being an information collection point.



It is stationary, undisturbed by external forces, and emulates our newborn form.



It initiates tumbling when interacting with humans, and C in the collision will randomly hit the inner wall of A, which sparks some interests (representing the random interest we develop online or in real life)



Upon the random collision to the thorns of C, B collects information (representing the part of privacy we trade). All the random information will gradually enrich B's connection network to make it more organized (which in turn leads to a gradual increase in contact with C, representing a gradual and finally complete disclosure of our privacy). What happens instead is that B constructs a complete and real C (which gradually replaces the original C, representing the fact that Metaverse's image will and even totally replace the real us).

