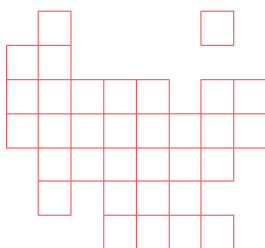
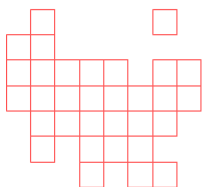
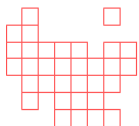


*“... In that Empire, the craft of Cartography attained such perfection that the Map of a Single province covered the space of an entire City, and the Map of the Empire itself an entire Province. In the course of Time, these Extensive maps were found somehow wanting, and so the College of Cartographers evolved a Map of the Empire that was of the same Scale as the Empire and that matched it point for point.*

*Less attentive to the Study of Cartography, succeeding Generations came to judge a map of such Magnitude cumbersome, and, not without Irreverence, they abandoned it to the Rigours of sun and Rain. In the western Deserts, tattered Fragments of the Map are still to be found, Sheltering an occasional Beast or beggar; in the whole Nation, no other relic is left of the Discipline of Geography.”*

From *Travels of Praiseworthy Men* (1658) by J.A. Suárez Miranda



... In the society that followed, knowledge demanded such precision that all decisions were based on analysing hundreds of possibilities using thousands of calculations and producing millions of data. In the course of time, the impracticality of a growing library of data led to the employment of Polyglots who curated the data, creating encyclopaedias and then charts describing their contents.

Following statements from the Chief Officers of Society, the Polyglots translated each chart into symbols and exhaustively renewed each based on comparisons between new calculations and old data points. At the same time, the improbability of each possibility, calculation and datum was assessed by the Polyglots, and encoded with the symbols into individual glyphs that any Officer or Citizen could examine.

The generations that followed found the whole process far too unwieldy, and distilled the glyphs (and so the libraries and encyclopaedias) into a single colour stating the future of Society, a colour which was flown in flags across the whole region.

Not without some considerable fatigue, and because all knowledge had finally eroded to metaphor and rumour, the flags were torn to tatters or worn as capes by beggars. Throughout society, no other evidence of these Practices is to be found, except as misunderstood relics attributed to creative crafts.

