

*Islands of  
Heaven  
& Hell*

> Disengage your mind and allow yourself to drift upward; elevated by a perspex birdcage —

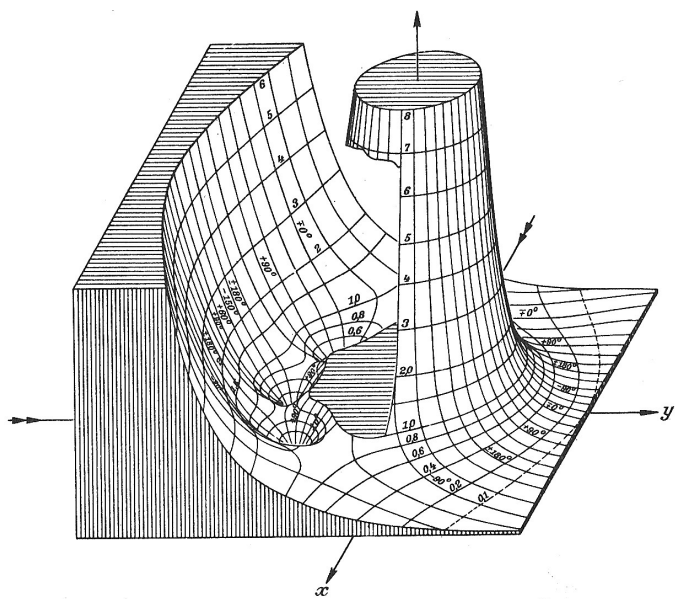
> Dolphins skip on iridescent waves  
    >> there are nacreous skies  
        >>> clouded by abalone internals  
    >> MIDI hymns hum  
        >>> the organ intensifies

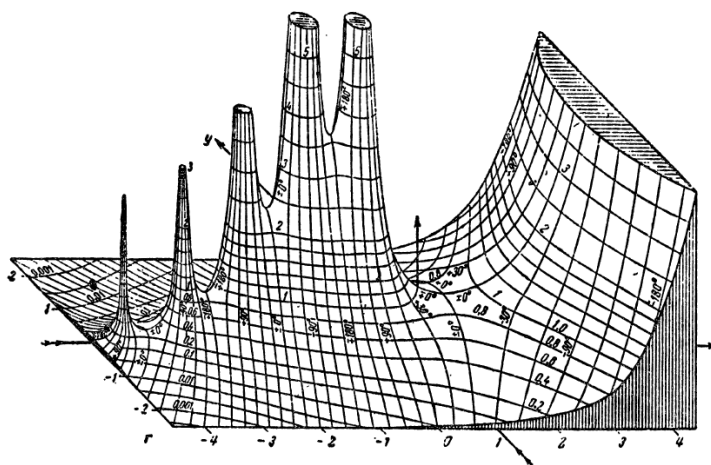
> In these places:  
    >> time is circular



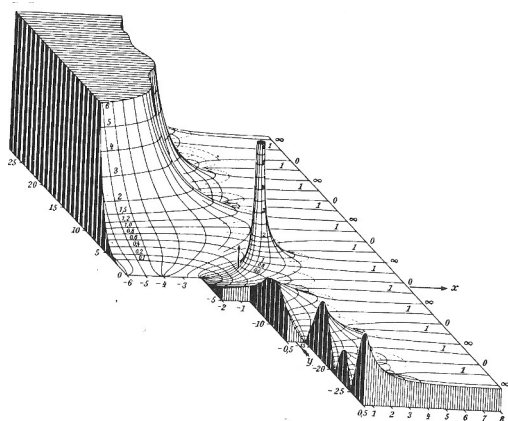
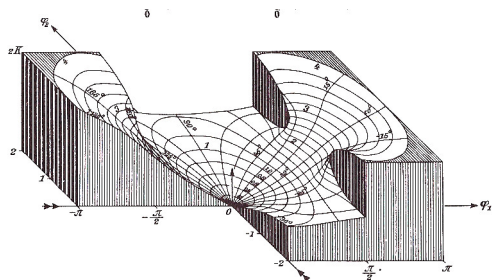
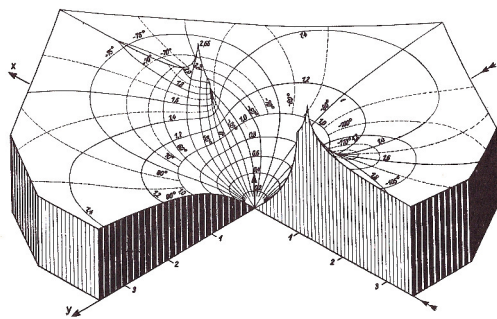
>> there are new directions to move in.

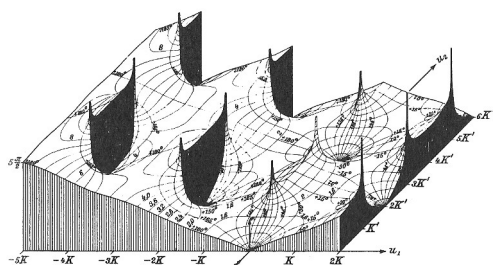
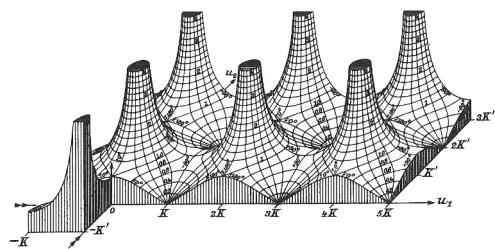
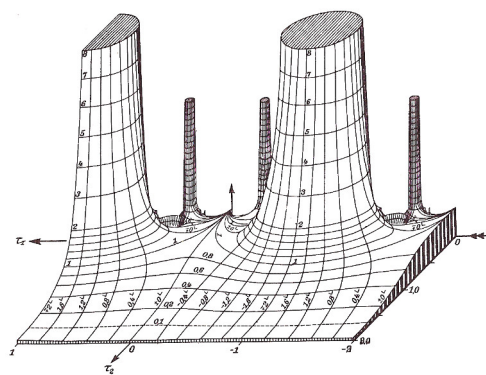
> There are strange things:  
    >> the songs of whales  
        >>> in quartal chords  
    >> the smell of tangerines  
        >>> and cherry blossom  
    >> sunk cathedrals  
    >> elephants  
    >> xanthous holothurians

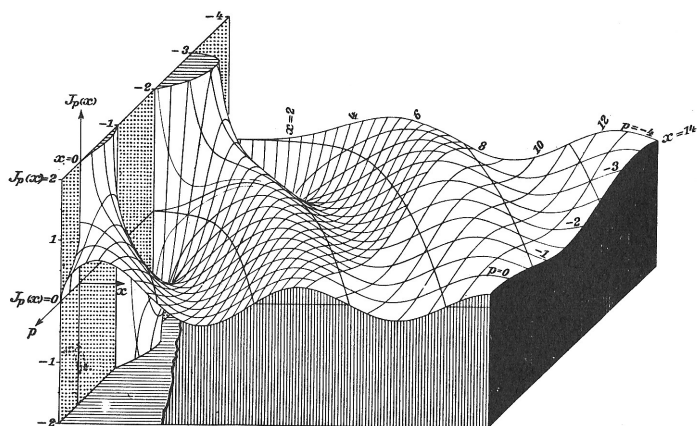




- > There are islands:
  - >> Arizona mesas
  - >> low grey hills
  - >> static waves
  - >> outposts of Second Life
  
- > Made from these materials:
  - >> green glass quivering
  - >> blackboard chalk
  - >> parma violets
  - >> Ecstasy
  - >> insect voices
  - >> old iPhone cases
  - >> buff translucent plastic
  - >> flesh of jellyfish
  - >> polystyrene
  
- > In the hollows of these islands, there are rivers, lakes, and waterfalls containing these fluids:
  - >> chicken broth
  - >> Smirnoff Ice and Hooch admixed
  - >> Quicksilver
  - >> bile from the deep guts of monsters

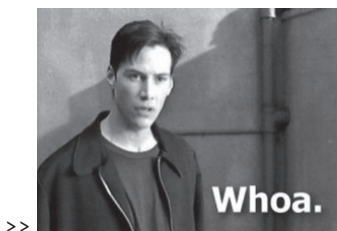








- > Your wristwatch has stopped. You are at the end of the rainbow.  
Consider that there are spaces like these, which don't exist and do, all at the same time.
- > Each island is self-contained, yet infinite in extent. Some islands repeat their shapes with subtle changes and phase shifts. Some islands are changing shape at all times —you cannot pin down any one fixed form. Some islands are in all the shapes they can be at once, as dictated by their internal logic.
- > These islands exist insofar as they can be imagined. They also exist because they must, for if these places that don't exist didn't exist, everything that does exist couldn't exist.



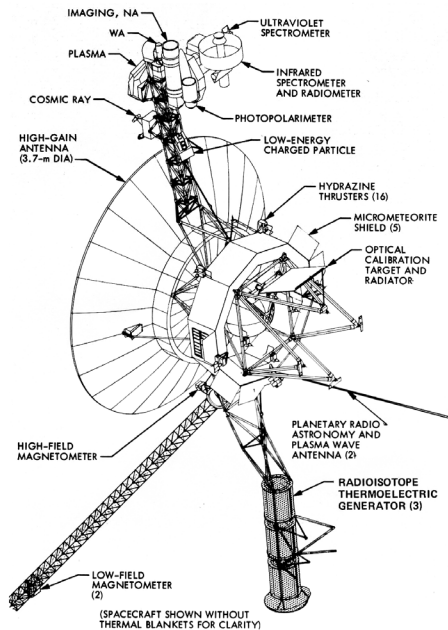
- > You hear the singing of angels. There are angels of diverse species of animal, plant and fungus, and there are also the angels of non-living objects like clouds, oceans and *chaises longues*. Their language is strange and abstruse. It sounds like this:

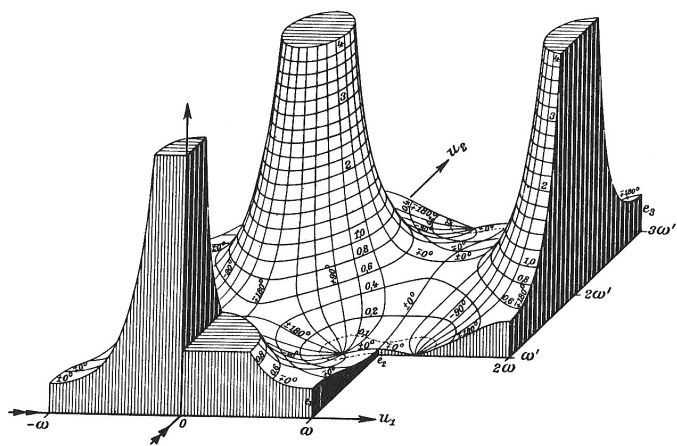
>> 
$$\eta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{n^s} = (1 - 2^{1-s})\zeta(s).$$

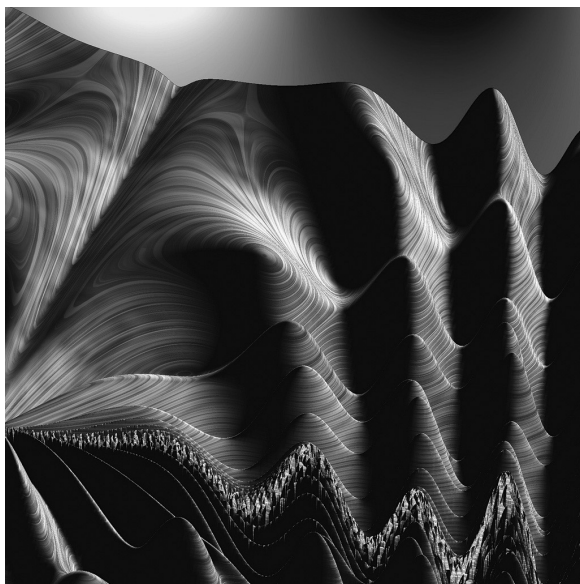
>> 
$$F(T; H) = \max_{|t-T| \leq H} \left| \zeta\left(\frac{1}{2} + it\right) \right|, \quad G(s_0; \Delta) = \max_{|s-s_0| \leq \Delta} |\zeta(s)|.$$

>>> You don't understand a word.

> The lights go off. It's time to travel back to Earth by means of  
whichever ride you can catch.







*James W. Hedges 2015*