

Viktor Timofeev
Thesis First 2000 words

Descriptive foreword (not part of the thesis)

I have decided to make my thesis a collection of short texts. These texts, which include the “Random God” text I wrote over the summer, will together form something like a case study for scenarios in which randomness acts as a primary driving force. In this way I want it to read like a brochure for a fictional religion formed of fragmented narratives across different conditions of space / time. Following our first group discussion of the summer reading, I think it would be most effective to write these scenarios using a different pronoun each time (I, You, He/She/It, We, You, They). In my first addition to the thesis outside of the Random God text (which I wish to include in the thesis), I have attempted to write a second text below using the We pronoun and the past tense, inspired by the erratic behavior of the microwave on the first floor:

We used to wait for the microwave to finish radiating our food with a passive silence. We watched the alphanumeric display count down hundreds of seconds to the micro-atomic takeoff, without fail every time.

We used to wait for the microwave to finish radiating our food with a passive silence. We could hear its logic gates at work, periodically deciding to open their doors to subtraction.

We used to wait for the microwave to finish radiating our food with a passive silence. We listened to the steady humming of the microwave at approximately two hundred ninety three Hertz, as it provided a dirty middle D-sharp drone on top of which the sounds of the surrounding room felt like non-diegetic distractions.

We used to wait for the microwave to finish radiating our food with a passive silence. We were with the microwave but we didn't ask any questions.

We watched of our food spin in a permanent loop of three-hundred-and-sixty degrees through a metallic raster-mesh.

We used to wait for the microwave to finish radiating our food with a passive silence.

We listened at the climactic conclusion as a tri-fold siren that acted as a portal between the world of the microwave waiting time and the world beyond it.

We used to wait for the microwave to finish radiating our food with a passive silence.

We used to wait at the microwave.

One day the microwave turntable stopped spinning. Something became semi-lodged deep in its mechanism that prevented a smooth, three-hundred-and-sixty degree rotation. The semi-lodged object had some elbow room in its state of being semi-lodged, as it still gave the turntable some rotational variance : between one and seven degrees in either direction. The rattling position and rotation of the semi-lodged object deep inside the mechanism also effected how frequently the turntable would oscillate between these rotational parameters, as it futilely tried to spin its way out of this shortened path.

Whatever the semi-lodged object was, it was itself also effected by the scrambling rotation of the turntable, effectively creating a feedback mechanism that turned the microwave turntable into a source of unpredictable, erratic behavior. It was stuck in a new kind of permanent loop, characterized by aperiodic changes instead of cyclical infinity; by aleatoric thumps instead of a constant drone; by assymmetrically warm food instead of balanced, steaming hot smokiness.

We used to wait for the microwave to finish radiating our food with a passive silence. Everything changed.

We first noticed that the thump-noise that resulted from the microwave turntable plate bouncing around between its rotational parameters was irregular.

We used to wait for the microwave to finish radiating our food with a passive silence.

We first wrongly interpreted the thump-noise as a sound from the microwave's internal clock, synced up to the countdown displayed on the microwave's alphanumeric display.

We used to wait for the microwave to finish radiating our food with a passive silence.

We realized that the thump sound was in fact a result of several factors which produced its irregular behavior.

We used to wait for the microwave to finish radiating our food with a passive silence.

We measured how often the thump sound would sync up the seconds countdown alphanumeric display, and how often it would not. We called this the target ratio.

We used to wait for the microwave to finish radiating our food with a passive silence.

We noticed at what angle we placed our Tupperware into the microwave, and at what angle it would end up at once heated.

We used to wait for the microwave to finish radiating our food with a passive silence.

We measured the frequency of the microwave's humming drone, and discovered a ten Hertz variance across an entire day of microwaving.

We used to wait for the microwave to finish radiating our food with a passive silence.

We now arrive at the microwave with a head full of questions.

We used to wait for the microwave to finish radiating our food with a passive silence.

...(this will go into how the microwave became a quasi-religion place for decision making alongside watching your food... people would arrive with a written list of decisions to be made, and choices to make... effectively the microwave would function like a switch and would produce quantitative results from its newly discovered data-generation behaviors described above eg. How angled is the food pre/post microwaving, the target ratio, the frequency of the drone...based on these results visitors would write down the numbers that the microwave produce and correlate them to numbered choices prepared in the decision-making list)