





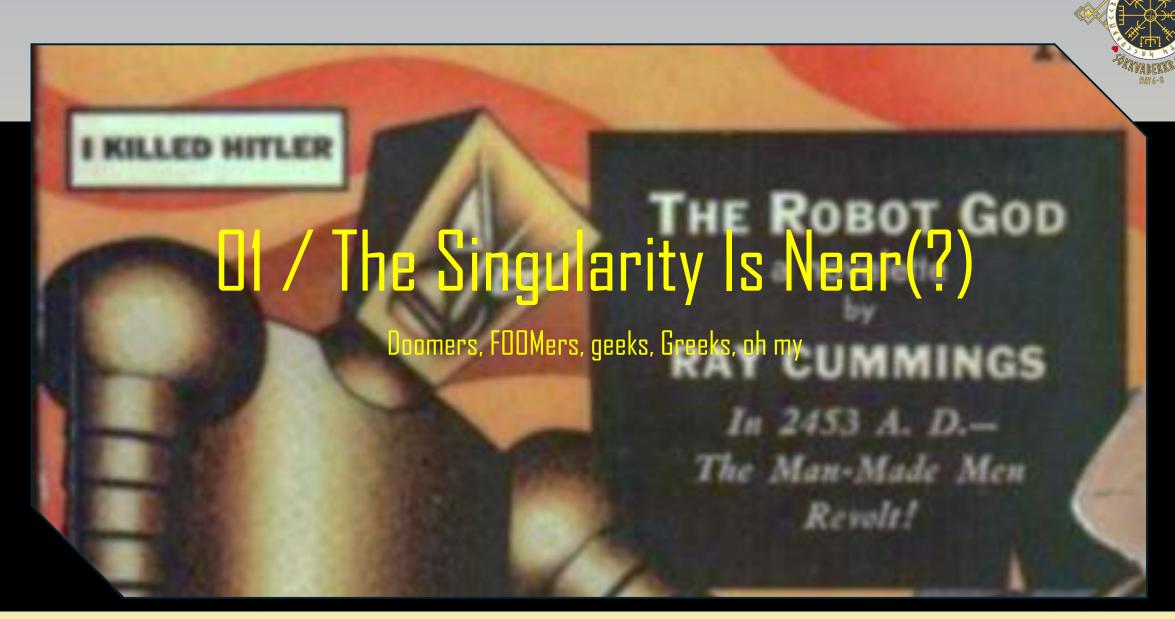
# The one and only time I'll do the gimmick





















The spirits that I summoned
I now cannot rid myself of again











You are my creator, but I am your master; obey!





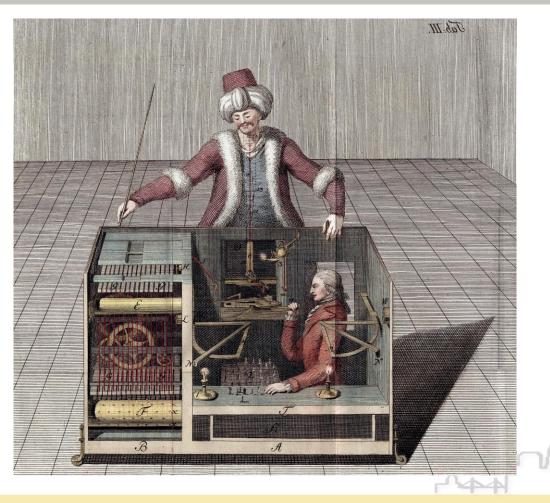














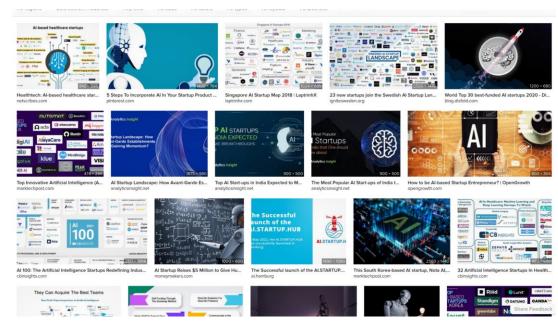


# From Greeks to geeks















#### Non-technical reasons to fear and loathe Al





- P(doom) > ε
- It's biased
- It's unbiased
- It's taking our jobs
- It's making our (new, crappy) jobs
- It's a scam
- It's a weapon
- ...







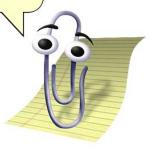
# Universal paperclips





Maybe this time the "super-helpful" assistant won't inspire homicidal loathing in everyone who interacts with it?

- This doesn't remind me of anything
- Hey, wait a minute...



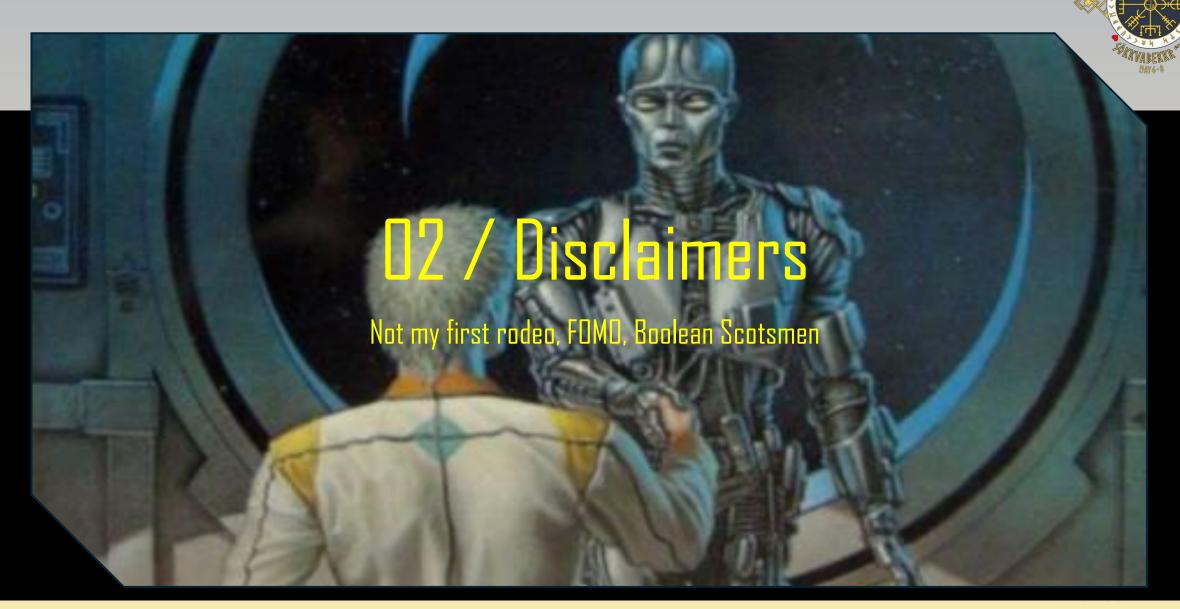




March 7-8, 2024

















Zero to custom code assistant in 500 words!

It did WHAT on the Advent of Code leaderboard?

Oh, this one does FizzBuzz too?

Another chatbot?

This typechecker doesn't seem quite right

This AoC solution doesn't seem quite right

This brioche doesn't seem quite right!

Well, it's better than Google...

... sometimes





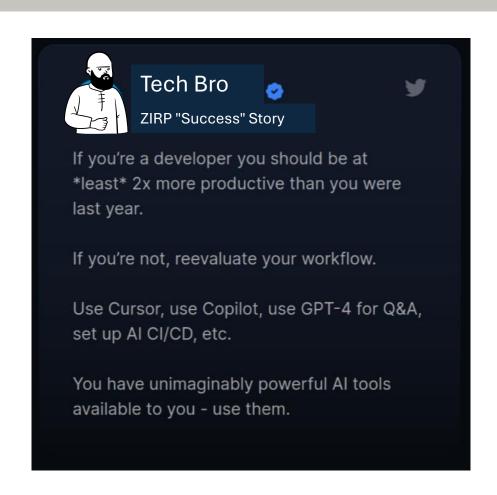




### FOMO















## April is the cruelest month





- So it was decided to acquire state-of-the-art AI tools and really give them a fair shake over about a month and a half
- OpenAl ChatGPT 4 (\$20/month) and GitHub Copilot (\$10/month)
- April's projects were on the mundane side, but representative enough:
  - Development of a library for bottom-hole pressure calculation
  - o Development and deployment of relational databases for multiple clients (including geospatial and production data, and calculations thereon)
  - Development of tools for PUD inventory estimation from public data
  - Other odds and ends







# Procrustes' Inn, 2.3 stars on TripAdvisor





This sounds to me like you have no idea how to properly integrate LLMs into your workflow. Just because they're not useful for changing large code bases doesn't mean they can't be valuable. A few examples of things I've used LLMs for:

Writing bash scripts to automate various parts my workflow

Quickly interpreting complex regex

Tutoring me on how to use poorly documented APIs

Proof reading important emails

Everything copilot, writing java docs, auto completing all the cases in a switch statement, etc.

I think the people who say things like it just gets in their way or that it's usually wrong are just bad at using it. Bad prompting, poor comments, not decomposing things well enough, etc.

No matter how good you are, these tools can speed up your workflow. If these people are as skilled as they like to think, then they should not have any issues finding ways to offload gruntwork to an LLM while they do the more complicated tasks. It's like having a personal junior dev available 24/7.

I think it's more of a workflow clash. One really needs to change how they operate to effectively use LLMs for programming. If you're just typing nonstop, maybe it would feel like Copilot is just an LSP. But, if you try harder, LLMs are game changers when:

I've been programming for two decades and you're just plain wrong here. It's useful throughout the dev process for many things, the worst part right now is just how slow GPT-4 is to run inference. You're probably not using it right, aren't using GPT-4, or something. It's a multiplier, for specific parts of development - the amount of annoying nonsense I no longer have to spend my limited time on earth thinking about makes me want to cry.











8

True <X> has never been tried!



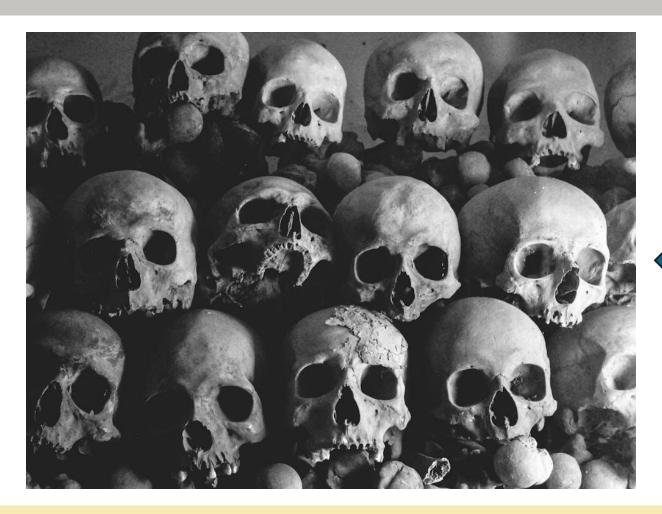




# Unfortunately, I sometimes read books





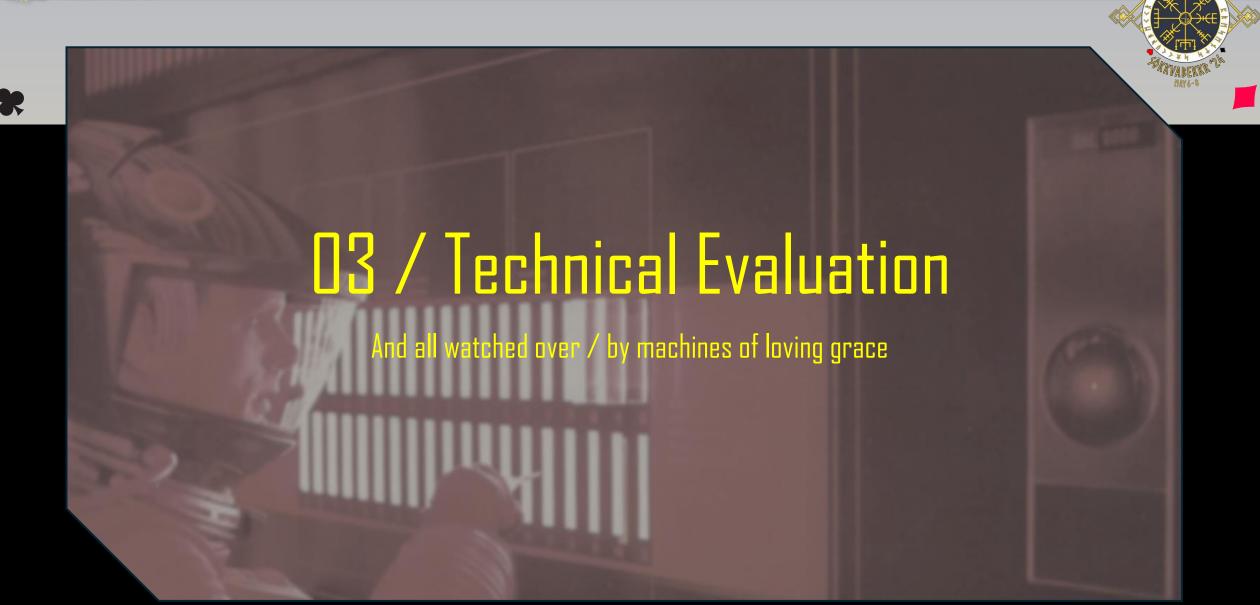


The <X> we've actually tried, every single time.











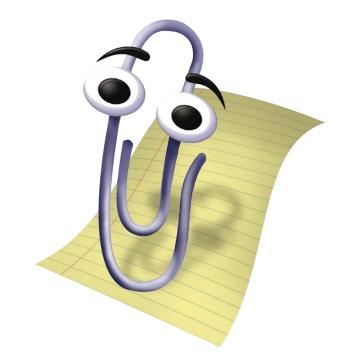


#### First blood





• Great idea for a first task – I'm going to start by writing a script to download the data from the API and save it to a local file. I'll use the requests library to make the API call and the json library to save the data to a file.

















- Great idea for a first task use the new GPT-4 PDF input capability to help with an annoying OCR / data extraction problem
- In short, I need a few columns out of this gas lift valve specification table

Valve #	Valve Desc.	Depth TVD ft	Depth MD ft	TV F	TCF	Port Size	R	PT psi	PTR	PSC psi	PVC psi	OP psi	PSO psi	PTRO psi
10	IPO 1"	1350	1374	168	0.8087	12/64	0.0940	585	55	819	857	885	847	765
9	IPO 1"	1950	2010	179	0.7932	12/64	0.0940	576	54	796	851	879	824	745
8	IPO 1"	2550	2660	189	0.7796	12/64	0.0940	568	53	771	842	871	800	725
7	IPO 1"	3150	3307	199	0.7666	12/64	0.0940	560	53	745	833	862	774	705
6	IPO 1"	3750	3947	207	0.7564	12/64	0.0940	552	52	721	826	855	750	690
5	IPO 1"	4350	4593	215	0.7465	12/64	0.0940	544	51	697	819	848	726	675
4	IPO 1"	4950	5237	221	0.7392	12/64	0.0940	536	50	670	809	837	698	660
3	IPO 1"	5550	5875	225	0.7345	12/64	0.0940	527	50	646	802	830	674	650
2	IPO 1"	6150	6501	229	0.7298	12/64	0.0940	518	49	623	795	823	651	640
1	DV 1"	6746	7133	230	0.7286	DV								







# Stunning success







You

Trinity\_Glasscock Ranch C A 97H\_1102...
PDF

There is a table at the top of the fourth page of this PDF which I need extracted to a comma-separated format. The table contains ten rows describing operating pressures for a set of gas lift valves.



Here's the extracted table in comma-separated format (CSV) from the PDF you uploaded:

mathematica	Copy code
Valve #,Valve Desc.,Depth TVD (ft),Depth MD (ft),Temperature 10,IPO 1",1350,1374,168,0.8087,12/64,0.0940,585,55,819,857,888 9,IPO 1",1950,2010,179,0.7932,12/64,0.0940,576,54,796,851,879 8,IPO 1",2550,2660,189,0.7796,12/64,0.0940,568,53,771,842,871 7,IPO 1",3150,3307,199,0.7666,12/64,0.0940,560,53,745,833,862 6,IPO 1",3750,3947,207,0.7564,12/64,0.0940,552,52,721,826,855 5,IPO 1",4350,4593,215,0.7465,12/64,0.0940,544,51,697,819,848,	(F),Temperat 5,765 ,745 ,725 ,705
4, IPO 1",4950,5237,221,0.7392,12/64,0.0940,536,50,670,809,837 3, IPO 1",5550,5875,225,0.7345,12/64,0.0940,527,50,646,802,830	,660
2,IPO 1",6150,6501,229,0.7298,12/64,0.0940,518,49,623,795,823 1,DV 1",6746,7133,230,0.7286,DV,765,,,,	*

This format includes the valve number, description, depth (TVD and MD), temperature, temperature correction factor, port size, "R", tubing pressure, surface closing pressure, closing pressure at depth, opening pressure at depth, surface opening pressure, and test rack opening pressure. The last line for valve 1 includes a placeholder ("--") where the original table did not provide specific values, and "DV" in the Port Size column to indicate the special type for that valve.

() C C C ()

Valve #	Valve Desc.	Depth TVD ft	Depth MD ft	TV F	TCF	Port Size	R	PT psi	PTR	PSC psi	PVC psi	OP psi	PSO psi	PTRO psi
10	IPO 1"	1350	1374	168	0.8087	12/64	0.0940	585	55	819	857	885	847	765
9	IPO 1"	1950	2010	179	0.7932	12/64	0.0940	576	54	796	851	879	824	745
8	IPO 1"	2550	2660	189	0.7796	12/64	0.0940	568	53	771	842	871	800	725
7	IPO 1"	3150	3307	199	0.7666	12/64	0.0940	560	53	745	833	862	774	705
6	IPO 1"	3750	3947	207	0.7564	12/64	0.0940	552	52	721	826	855	750	690
5	IPO 1"	4350	4593	215	0.7465	12/64	0.0940	544	51	697	819	848	726	675
4	IPO 1"	4950	5237	221	0.7392	12/64	0.0940	536	50	670	809	837	698	660
3	IPO 1"	5550	5875	225	0.7345	12/64	0.0940	527	50	646	802	830	674	650
2	IPO 1"	6150	6501	229	0.7298	12/64	0.0940	518	49	623	795	823	651	640
1	DV 1"	6746	7133	230	0.7286	DV								









#### Wait a minute...



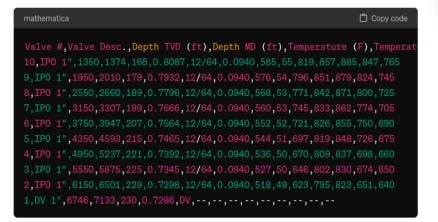




That's missing the data for the "PSO" column.

ChatGPT

Here's the corrected table in comma-separated format (CSV) with the inclusion of the Surface Opening Pressure (PSO) column:



This updated version accurately reflects all requested columns, including the Surface Opening Pressure (PSO) for each valve.



Valve #	Valve Desc.	Depth TVD ft	Depth MD ft	TV F	TCF	Port Size	R	PT psi	PTR	PSC psi	PVC psi	OP psi	PSO psi	PTRO psi
10	IPO 1"	1350	1374	168	0.8087	12/64	0.0940	585	55	819	857	885	847	765
9	IPO 1"	1950	2010	179	0.7932	12/64	0.0940	576	54	796	851	879	824	745
8	IPO 1"	2550	2660	189	0.7796	12/64	0.0940	568	53	771	842	871	800	725
7	IPO 1"	3150	3307	199	0.7666	12/64	0.0940	560	53	745	833	862	774	705
6	IPO 1"	3750	3947	207	0.7564	12/64	0.0940	552	52	721	826	855	750	690
5	IPO 1"	4350	4593	215	0.7465	12/64	0.0940	544	51	697	819	848	726	675
4	IPO 1"	4950	5237	221	0.7392	12/64	0.0940	536	50	670	809	837	698	660
3	IPO 1"	5550	5875	225	0.7345	12/64	0.0940	527	50	646	802	830	674	650
2	IPO 1"	6150	6501	229	0.7298	12/64	0.0940	518	49	623	795	823	651	640
1	DV 1"	6746	7133	230	0.7286	DV								









# Starting to get annoyed







That header row doesn't have the same number of entries as the subsequent rows my tools won't process the file.

#### ChatGPT

My apologies for the oversight. Here's the corrected table in a comma-separated format (CSV) with the proper alignment of headers and data:

mathematica $\Box$ Copy code	;
Valve #,Valve Desc.,Depth TVD (ft),Depth MD (ft),Temperature (F),Temper	atı
10,IPO 1",1350,1374,168,0.8087,12/64,0.0940,585,55,819,857,885,847,765	
9,IPO 1",1950,2010,179,0.7932,12/64,0.0940,576,54,796,851,879,824,745	
<b>8,IPO 1</b> ",2550,2660,189,0.7796,12/64,0.0940,568,53,771,842,871,800,725	
7,IPO 1",3150,3307,199,0.7666,12/64,0.0940,560,53,745,833,862,774,705	
6,IPO 1",3750,3947,207,0.7564,12/64,0.0940,552,52,721,826,855,750,690	
5,IPO 1",4350,4593,215,0.7465,12/64,0.0940,544,51,697,819,848,726,675	
4,IPO 1",4950,5237,221,0.7392,12/64,0.0940,536,50,670,809,837,698,660 3,IPO 1",5550,5875,225,0.7345,12/64,0.0940,527,50,646,802,830,674,650	
2,IPO 1",6150,6501,229,0.7298,12/64,0.0940,518,49,623,795,823,651,640	
1,DV 1",6746,7133,230,0.7286,DV,,765,,,,,,	

This corrected version ensures that the header row and all subsequent data rows align correctly, matching the number of entries across.

SÖKKVABEKKR 2024

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~J .	_	$\sim$	v

Valve #	Valve Desc.	Depth TVD ft	Depth MD ft	TV F	TCF	Port Size	R	PT psi	PTR	PSC psi	PVC psi	OP psi	PSO psi	PTRO psi
10	IPO 1"	1350	1374	168	0.8087	12/64	0.0940	585	55	819	857	885	847	765
9	IPO 1"	1950	2010	179	0.7932	12/64	0.0940	576	54	796	851	879	824	745
8	IPO 1"	2550	2660	189	0.7796	12/64	0.0940	568	53	771	842	871	800	725
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6	IPO 1"	3750	3947	207	0.7564	12/64	0.0940	552	52	721	826	855	750	690
5	IPO 1"	4350	4593	215	0.7465	12/64	0.0940	544	51	697	819	848	726	675
4	IPO 1"	4950	5237	221	0.7392	12/64	0.0940	536	50	670	809	837	698	660
3	IPO 1"	5550	5875	225	0.7345	12/64	0.0940	527	50	646	802	830	674	650
2	IPO 1"	6150	6501	229	0.7298	12/64	0.0940	518	49	623	795	823	651	640
1	DV 1"	6746	7133	230	0.7286	DV								







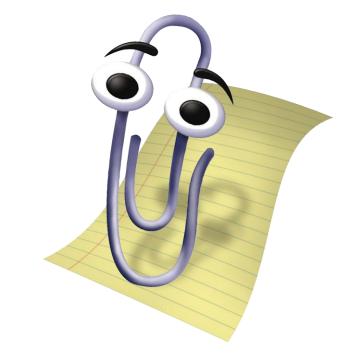


#### Maximum effort





• At this point, I could manually delete the header row, but I'd like to automate this process. I'm thinking of using the `tail` command to remove the first row of the file. I'll test this out on a copy of the file to make sure it works as expected.









#### Maximum effort





- At this point, I could manually delete the header row, but I don't have any confidence in the ChatGPT result and don't want to manually spot-check values anyway
- Instead I run pdftotext (© 1996)
- Bit of a mess, the headers, but I don't need those really
- I cleaned it up in Vim with a macro in about two minutes

```
alve Valve Depth Depth
esc. TVD MD TV TCF Size
  PTR PSC PVC OP PSO PTRO
psi psi psi psi
     1" 2550 2660 189 0.7796 12/64 0.0940 568
     1" 3150 3307 199 0.7666 12/64 0.0940 560
        3750 3947 207 0.7564 12/64 0.0940 552
     1" 4350 4593 215 0.7465 12/64 0.0940 544
         4950 5237 221 0.7392 12/64 0.0940 536
       ' 5550 5875 225 0.7345 12/64 0.0940 527
```







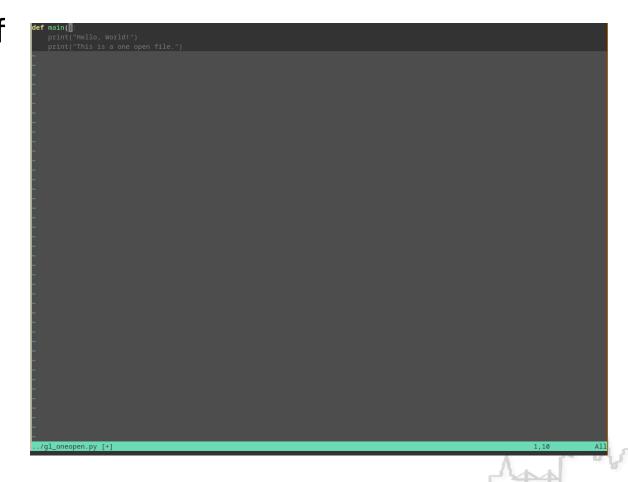








- Moving on to the next phase of the project, I decided to kick the tires on Copilot
- I needed to extract timespans of production/injection data during which exactly one gaslift valve was open, based on the opening pressures in the aforementioned PDF
- This would be done in Python to give Copilot the best odds









### Yes, that's the usual "main"





```
def main(argv: list[str]) -> int:
    if len(argv) != 2:
        print(f"Usage: {argv[0]} <filename>")
        return 1
    filename = argv[1]
    with open
~
~
```

- Copilot did pick up some aspects of my code style, such as... I use types?
- This kind of "boilerplate" pablum (anybody here still have public static void main string args bracket system out print In hello world bracket stuck in their head?) is something Copilot really does help with
- It should also be eradicated from language design







#### lcarus





- To be fair, my comment is only a meaningful "spec" with a little domain knowledge
- To be unfair, the suggestion (red bracket) is total nonsense even just glancing at the types, logic, ... any part of it will do,

really

Valve #	Valve Desc.	Depth TVD ft	Depth MD ft	TV F	TCF	Port Size	R	PT psi	PTR	PSC psi	PVC psi	OP psi	PSO psi	PTRO psi
10	IPO 1"	1350	1374	168	0.8087	12/64	0.0940	585	55	819	857	885	847	765
9	IPO 1"	1950	2010	179	0.7932	12/64	0.0940	576	54	796	851	879	824	745
8	IPO 1"	2550	2660	189	0.7796	12/64	0.0940	568	53	771	842	871	800	725
7	IPO 1"	3150	3307	199	0.7666	12/64	0.0940	560	53	745	833	862	774	705
6	IPO 1"	3750	3947	207	0.7564	12/64	0.0940	552	52	721	826	855	750	690
5	IPO 1"	4350	4593	215	0.7465	12/64	0.0940	544	51	697	819	848	726	675
4	IPO 1"	4950	5237	221	0.7392	12/64	0.0940	536	50	670	809	837	698	660
3	IPO 1"	5550	5875	225	0.7345	12/64	0.0940	527	50	646	802	830	674	650
2	IPO 1"	6150	6501	229	0.7298	12/64	0.0940	518	49	623	795	823	651	640
1	DV 1"	6746	7133	230	0.7286	DV								

```
filename = argv[1]
with open(filename, 'r', newline='') as f:
    rdr = csv.DictReader(f)
    scp = [
          (row['Valve#'], float(row['PSO']), float(row['PSC'])) for row in rdr
]

# find intervals (PSO, PSC) on which there is only one open valve
intervals = []
for i, (v, pso, psc) in enumerate(scp):
    if pso == 1 and psc == 0:
        start = i
        while i < len(scp) and scp[i][0] == v:
        i += 1
        end = i - 1
        intervals.append((start, end))</pre>
```







# "... key algorithmic techniques such as recursion and condescension"





- As a permanently broken human, I reached for a recursive solution – a "fold" over the input list of valve specifications
- Copilot's suggestion was not unlike my plan, but distractingly complex and "wrong"









# Obligatory denouement







```
def find_intervals(scp: list[tuple[str, float, float]]
 ) -> list[tuple[str, float, float]]:
   scp = sorted(scp, key=lambda x: x[1], reverse=True)
   match scp:
       case []:
            return []
       case [spec]:
            return [spec]
       case [(v1, o1, c1), (v2, o2, c2), *rest]:
            c1_adj = max(c1, o2)
           o2_adj = min(c1, o2)
           rest = find_intervals([(v2, o2_adj, c2), *rest])
           if o1 > c1_adj:
                return [(v1, o1, c1_adj)] + rest
           return rest
       case _:
           raise Exception("unreachable")
```







# TANA BEKIN

# Range-gate pull-off (now I need Goose!)

- At this point I began to think of Copilot as a form of "radar jamming for the brain"
- Right when you've locked onto an idea, it hits you with a ton of stuff that looks almost right, walking your brain off-target
- Or worse, when you have no idea, it hits you with plausible nonsense you then anchor on

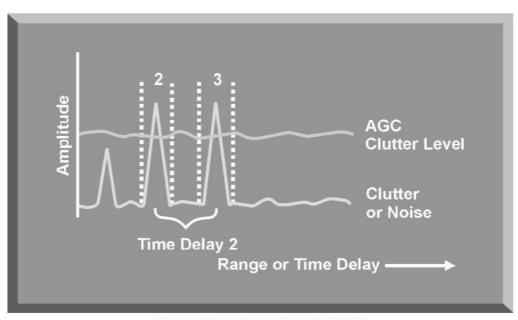


Figure 11-5. Range Gate Pull-Off





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### Work harder, not smarter





- Copilot is really, really good at knocking out repetitive boilerplate
- E.g. C#: repeat member names in class definitions, constructor arguments and definition, property definitions, documentation
- E.g. SQL: repeat column names... everywhere













- Here's the thing, though: all that repetition is a design smell
- Maybe you need a better language!
- Or a better abstraction
- Or a deterministic way to generate code from a small fixed set of definitions – macros, metaprogramming etc.









# Drinking from a firehose





```
if len(arqv) != 2:
       print(f'Usage: {argv[0]} lz-csv-file', file=sys.stderr)
       return 2
   with open(argv[1], newline='') as f:
       reader = csv.reader(f)
       next(reader) # skip header
       for basin, region, tag, offset, ref_tag in reader:
scripts/load_landing_zones.py [+]
                                                    46,51
                                                                    96%
```

- Copilot likes to write a lot of code at once
- That's too bad, because it does much better as "better Intellisense" one to three tokens out
- Here we... reconnect to PostgreSQL for every row of a CSV file









#### What's in this firehose?





 Here's an example where we generate code which looks great, and calls other methods which look great, but the actual data is garbage. This is a common failure mode in data science, where the data is the most important part of the process, but it's also the part that's most likely to be wrong.

```
<summary>BHP calculations for wellbores with active gas lift.</summary>
public static class GasLift {
   public static double HagedornAng
                                      own: P(ReservoirInputs reservoirInputs,
           ConfigurationInputs____
                                  aigurati hInputs,
           GasLiftConfig gasLift onfig)
           reservoirInputs.Tru
           reservoirInputs.Mea ur
           depthInpu
       return MultiSegmentBHP.
           reservoirInputs, configu
```







#### What's in this firehose?



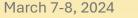


- Here's an example where we generate code which looks great, and calls other methods found in the codebase
- The formatting is impressive (Very nice. Let's see Paul Allen's card.)
- Small problem: the input structs don't actually have some of those members! (And depthInputs is orphaned)

```
<summary>BHP calculations for wellbores with active gas lift.</summary>
public static class GasLift {
   public static double HagedornAndBrownBHP(ReservoirInputs reservoirInputs,
```









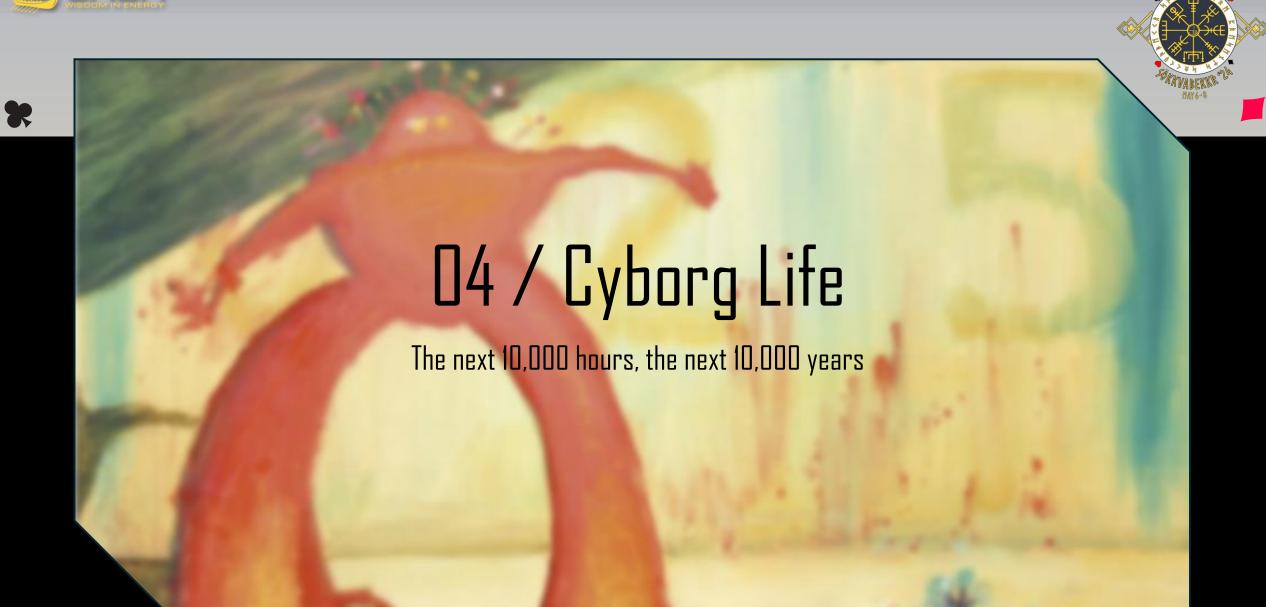




- I hear the baying of the hounds already: you've got to learn a new way to work, just iterate, tell Copilot to fix the error
- What if an "intelligent" tool could tell you where the error was, what the error was, and possibly even suggest... a compiler! It's called a compiler. (OK, more broadly a typechecker or static analyzer)
- I worry that this stochastic mystery meat UI hype cycle is crippling things like incremental compilation, language servers, type-directed programming, and even interactive programming right when they were getting good











### Where are we, then



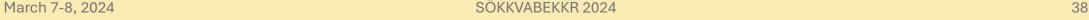
- LLM tools provide decentquality "enhanced autocomplete" when limited to short suggestions or extremely repetitive code
- They seem to entrance in inverse proportion to development and domain expertise: I suspect a new form of "Gell-Mann amnesia" is afoot

As I've written, we're nowhere near the point where an AI can do your job, but we're well past the point where your boss can be suckered into firing you and replacing you with a bot that fails at doing your job.

- Cory Doctorow















- I found ChatGPT 4 to generally produce "smarter" output, but the Copilot "form factor" more than made up for the difference, and I used Copilot significantly more
- In hindsight, ChatGPT 4 did leave me one or two useful pieces of information even if they weren't useful in the original context!

#### M ChatGPT

You're right to find this puzzling given your `WHERE` clause that should theoretically guard against this error. This error typically occurs when `STPointN(n)` is called with `n` being out of the valid range for the points in the geography instance.

According to the error message, it seems like the function is being called with `n` as 0, which indeed should never happen as your `WHERE` clause filters for instances where `STNumPoints()` is greater than 0.

However, reviewing the given code snippet, there's no obvious misalignment with the effects directly visible in your `run-on` or `main` functions. This suggests that the issue might be more subtle, possibly related to how the `task` or other functions are declared or used.















- LLMs are powerful engines of regression to the mean; what's popular gets more so while what's obscure is erased
- LLM output is already all over the Internet: social media, forums, corporate documents, open-source code
- Pre-2022 data may be the "battleship steel" of the next century
- I hope you all like Python and JavaScript







# The next 10,000 years



• LLMs are powerful engines popular gets more so while what

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• The LLM is a tool, not a panacea; it's not a magic wand that will make all your problems go away

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This place is a message... and part of a system of messages... pay attention to it!

Sending this message was important to us. We considered ourselves to be a powerful culture.

This place is not a place of honor... no highly esteemed deed is commemorated here... nothing valued is here.

What is here was dangerous and repulsive to us. This message is a warning about danger.