

THE BASEMENT - Part 5
By Alex Pomorski

Scene opens up in a park at night.

AREK comes running down the path. He looks beat up and is having trouble standing.

AREK runs off camera. Two big tough looking guys follow.

Cut to DEREK sitting in an office.

PRINICIPAL:

You, Derek, in a fight? I can't believe - What's more you shattered his jaw -

DEREK (voice over):

He...punched me right in the face, but I didn't feel anything...

Cut back to AREK. The two thugs finally caught him.

THUG 1:

Where the fuck is my money, Arek.

AREK: Two more days -

THUG 2:

That's what you said 2 days ago Arek.

Cut to a computer lab. SCIENTIST sits in chair with a folder open on his lap. He is talking on the phone.

SCIENTIST:

Yes, I understand, but...

(listening to the other end)

SCIENTIST:

Yes, I understand you're concerned, but its still a beta -

(listening on other end)

SCIENTIST:

The year 2015 at this rate.

(listening to other end)

SCIENTIST:

Yes, this end of the line is secure. I had someone check it for bugs, but...

SCIENTIST:

If thats' what you want it'll cost another 100 000.

(checking watch)

SCIENTIST:

I have to go. I have classes in an hour. The next hunt is scheduled to start this midnight.

SCIENTIST listens to other end

SCIENTIST:

You'll get it in the morning. Goodbye...No...this isn't the time for that...bye.

(hangs up)

The scientist closes the folder on his lap. Close-up on the folder: Written across the folder is "HAARP: PROJECT MONOCHROME"

Cut back to the park at night.

The two thugs are now beating AREK with a bat.

THUG 1: Either pay up or -

(THUG 1 starts chocking)

THUG 2: Hey man, are you al-

(THUG 2 is slammed by an invisible frce into a nearby tree)

AREK gets up. He is force choking THUG 1.

AREK:

Two more days...just two more fucking days...that's all I needed, but...nooooooooooooo...you had to keep pushing me!

(THUG 2 gets up and tries to tackle AREK). AREK grabs THUG 2 by the throat and lifts him off the ground with one arm will be standing on a step stool for the effect).

THUG 2: W-what the hell are you!?

Cut to darkened room

The scientist from before is giving a Proxima (projector) presentation to a class (the camera just stay focused on the speaker)

SCIENTIST:

The very concept of time travel makes no sense, since time doesn't flow. The fact that we think time passes is just the way our nervous system looks at things. In reality, time doesn't pass - we pass.

Cut to Park at night. Two more thugs start trying to attack AREK

Cut to Darkened room

SCIENTIST:

What HAARP has been trying to develop is not time travel, but more like space travel. To be precise, we use quantum technology to manipulate an orthogonal multiverse coordinate change. None of you know what I've

just said do you?

Laughter in the crowd.

SCIENTIST:

It means, we travel to another place in the multiverse.

Cut to Park.

THUG 3 is shooting a gun at AREK, but the bullets don't seem to be hurting him.

SCIENTIST:

100 years ago, physicists believed that energy, like light or magnetism or electricity, took the form of waves. We still use the terms light waves and radio waves. Recognizing that all forms of energy were wave-like was one of the greatest achievements of the 19th century.

A picture of MAX PLANCK appears on the Proxima.

SCIENTIST:

There was a small problem. It turned out that if you shined light on a metal plate, you got an electric current. Max Planck studied the relationship between the amount of light shined on the plate and the electricity produced. He concluded energy was not a wave - it was composed of smaller units called quanta.

Cut to Park.

THUG 3's gun goes flying into AREK's out stretched hand.

SCIENTIST:

the discovery that energy came in quanta was the start of quantum physics.

EINSTEIN appears on the Proxima

SCIENTIST:

Later, Einstein proved you could explain the photoelectric effect by assuming light was a particle - a photon. These photons struck the metal, knocked off electrons - producing an electric current. Soon scientist discovered all forms of energy was composed of particles. Atoms, electrons, everyone following me here? Forget I asked -

Cut to Park.

THUG 4 pulls out a knife and tries to stab AREK. Before he can, the thug falls to the ground clutching his head screaming in pain

SCIENTIST:

Energy, particles, are discrete units - quanta. So, we have the beginning of the quantum theory. It gets proven over and over again. However, it starts getting soooooo complicated that even the smartest people in the world have trouble understanding it. It's just mathematical description of a world physicist can't visualize because it sooo complicated. A particle can be here one moment - gone the next. Einstein hated it. But the theory kept getting confirmed. A lot of

scientists still refuse to accept it.

Cut to Park.

All the thugs are now on the ground. AREK is standing over them looking enraged

SCIENTIST:

A very simple experiment has been done for hundreds of years. Set up 2 walls, one in front of the other with a vertical slit in the first wall. Shine a light through the slit.

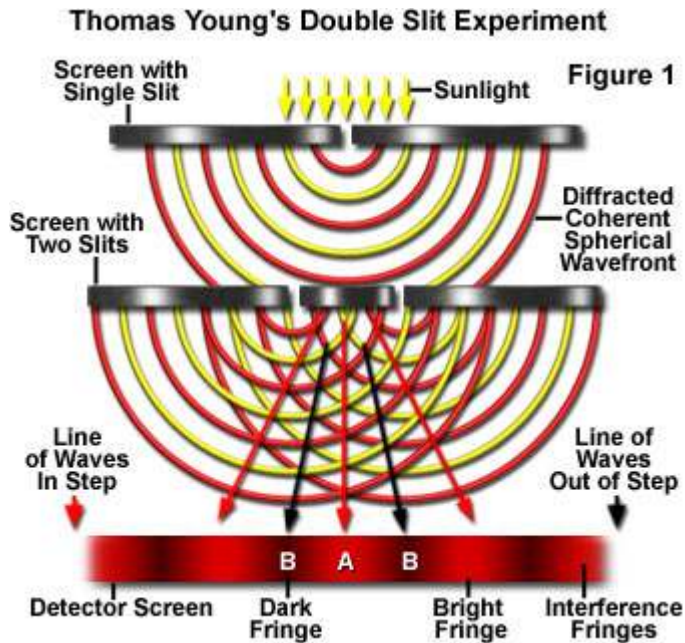


You get a bright spot on the far wall.



Now instead of one slit, put 2 slits in the first wall. You'll see a series of bright spots. However shine your light through 4 slits - you get only three bright spots. Less bright spots than with 2 slits.

This all shows that light travels in a wave. In the first example there was only one bright spot from one light source. However with 2 holes in the first wall, you have 2 sources of light. The light waves interfere with each other to produce a series of bright and light spots.



SCIENTIST:

You all remember this from high school right? Right?

Nervous laughter from the crowd.

SCIENTIST:

Sorry I asked. So anyway scientists tried an experiment. They got a really weak source of light (one that only let one photon through at a time) and shined it through single slit. What happened? The photons landed in some places, but not in others on the opposite wall. They interfered with something, but there was no other source of light from them to interfere with. It didn't take long for scientist to figure the extra mystery light (extra photons) were coming from another dimension - because there was no where they could have been coming from within our dimension.

Cut to DEREK back in the principals office. The principal is still droning on about something, when DEREK clutches his head in pain.

Cut to AREK running out of the park on to the street. His hands are covered in blood.

Cut to darkened room

SCIENTIST:

So, we come to the theory of the multiverse. Another universe is interfering with ours - the source of the extra mystery light. Why? Well, within the multiverse, universes are constantly splitting - which means there are other universes similar to ours. Each time we make a beam in our universe - beams of light are made in other universes. Those beams of light interfere with beams of light in our universe.

Student raises hand.

SCIENTIST:

Yes.

STUDENT:

Are all those universes similar to ours?

SCIENTIST:

No. in fact - some exist in an earlier time.

Cut to DEREK, now sitting in the Basement

DEREK:

Holy...holy shit...I...when MONOCHROME took me...it was right in front of the principal...they saw me...

DEREK groans in pain.

DEREK:

How am I going to explain this!?!?

Cut to AREK running down the street clutching his head in pain.

AREK:

NO! I got my fifty points leave me alone!!!!

The pain gets so intense AREK drops to the ground clutching his head.

Cut back to the dark room

STUDENT:

You said we can connect to these other universes?

SCIENTIST:

Through the quantum foam. When our universe started expanding after the big bang - it expanded as an imperfect sphere. There were tiny imperfections left over today in the sub atomic world. You have no idea what I'm saying

(Cue cricket sound effect)

SCIENTIST:

Quantum foam is just a way of saying that space-time has ripples and bubbles on a really small scale (think smaller than atoms). There may or may not be worm holes in that foam.

STUDENT:

How could you use the worm holes for travel - they're tiny - right?

SCIENTIST:

Think of a fax or a zip file. You can transmit anything, but sometimes you need to compress and encode it. The complete description of a human being (all the atoms that make you up and how they are arranged) is a huge amount of data.

Cut to CAMERON, involved in a karate tournament. He is winning when all of a sudden he drops to his knees and starts clutching his head in pain.

Cut to Lecture hall/ dark room

SCIENTIST:

It would take a very powerful computer to make up a description of human body right down to including the exact position of trillions of atoms. In fact only one computer powerful enough to do it exists today - MONOCHROME.

Cut to AREK & CAMERON now joining DEREK in the Basement.

DEREK:

Who the hell are you guys!?

AREK:

I got my points you bastard! You promised! You fucking promised!

CAMERON:

Never thought I would see this place again...

Cut to Lecture hall/dark room

SCIENTIST:

MONOCHROME is a quantum computer. You see normal computers, like your desktop computers and normal super computers, make calculations using 1's and zero's (like 01010001110101). These zeroes and ones represent 2 electron states in the quantum theory. 20 years ago, Richard Feynman suggested it might be possible to make an extremely powerful computer using all thirty two quantum states of an electron. Instead of just 010101 - there would be 32 symbols used for calculations. Today only one such computer exists - MONOCHROME.

Cut to The Basement. DEREK, AREK, &CAMERON are now joined by PHIL & JUDE.

PHIL:

Uhm, Derek right? That's your name, right?

DEREK:

Yeah.

PHIL:

Who are those guys? (pointing at CAMERON & AREK)

DEREK:

Beats the hell out of me. I guess they're new.

Cut to Lecture Hall/Darkened Room

SCIENTIST:

MONOCHROME is sooooo powerful that it can describe and compress a human being into a stream of electrons. Just like a scanner or fax. You can transmit the electron stream through a quantum foam worm hole and reconstruct it in another universe. Traveling between dimensions.

STUDENT 1:

How does this computer -

SCIENTIST:
MONOCHROME

STUDENT 1:
Yeah, how does it actually...teleport you?

SCIENTIST:
First, it needs to compress the enormous amount of data describing you. All compression programs look for similarities in data. Think about compressing a jpeg into a zip file. The compression program scans the picture line by line, and sees if the adjacent pixels are the same color. If they are then it writes an instruction to the computer to make this pixel red and all the adjacent ones -

STUDENT 1:
No, I don't think you understand my question. I just want a simple answer. How does it physically teleport you?

SCIENTIST:
I hate being interrupted. Okay, first it, MONOCHROME, needs to scan you (think of an MRI or an x ray in the hospital). After scanning you, MONOCHROME physically takes you apart atom by atom.

STUDENT 2:
How?

SCIENTIST:
Laser vaporization. You are destroyed in our universe. Broken down to your atoms. You are now small enough to fit through the worm holes in the quantum foam. After all your atoms are transmitted to another universe they are put back together again into you (one atom at a time - MONOCHROME is sooo fast it does it almost instantly). the transmission works like an email. An email with a package of electrons that is you and instructions on how to put it back together again.

STUDENT 2:
How does it find worm holes? How does it transmit your particles?

SCIENTIST:
It's just random guessing to find wormholes. But Monochrome is sooo powerful it can do a trillion random guesses in a second so one of these random guesses is bound to be right, and is bound to be the universe and time era it's looking for.

STUDENT:
Has anyone ever tried it?

SCIENTIST:
In 1999, using a normal computer, scientists were able to teleport a beam of light from North America to Australia. It's the same idea. Has anyone ever tried teleporting a human? No - we didn't have the computer power to do it.

STUDENT:
What about MONOCHROME?

SCIENTIST:
MONOCHROME isn't even finished yet.

Bell rings.

SCIENTIST:
All right that's all for today. Your assignments are -

Cut to The Basement.

DEREK (to AREK & CAMERON):
So, I bet you're confused as to what's going on -

AREK:
No, we know exactly what's going on. The question is why?

DEREK:
You guys know each other?

CAMERON:
We used to be like you - hunters for monochrome.

PHIL:
Used to be? You know about monochrome? But -

AREK punches a wall in frustration.

AREK:
I got my points you bastard. 50 points. You said I was Free!!!!

MONOCHROME:
Welcome kiddies. You really screwed up this time. You're all dead -

AREK:
I'm not dead. I didn't die. I got my points already. Let me go you -

MONOCHROME:
You still haven't learned to shut up have you, Arek. You should remember how much I hate being interrupted.

AREK drops to the ground clutching his head in pain.

MONOCHROME:
Hey, Cameron. How's it going?

CAMERON:
Pretty good, until you brought me here. Arek's right. We got our points. You -

MONOCHROME:
It's necessary.

Cut to an alley way in some street, in some time, in a dimension similar to ours -

A vending machine sits and waits.

Cut back to The Basement.

PHIL:

Points? You guys got fifty points - you should be free then -

MONOCHROME:

This is the latest target.

A picture of a vending machine appears on screen.

JUDE (laughing):

It's a coke machine.

MONOCHROME:

No, no, no. It's an evil alien monster.

JUDE:

Looks like a coke machine.

MONOCHROME:

It's an evil alien monster disguised as a coke machine. You have to kill it. Get your weapons ready.

Cut to SCIENTIST in his office

SCIENTIST (on the phone): Yes, Monochrome is about to start the hunt. Only 5 more targets are left after this hunt.

(listening to the phone)

SCIENTIST: It has to be done. We created those monsters in the first place. We just can't leave them alone - even if it's in another universe...well.

(listening to the phone)

SCIENTIST:

A universe that is our past...a universe that is our future... if a certain series of events are changed by the presence of the monsters... universes that take place in an earlier time merge together to form our present universe. So, yeah those monsters can easily fuck up our history.

(listening to phone)

SCIENTIST:

Well, its monochrome's fault they were created anyway. Listen, you're just the one paying for MONOCHROME -leave the decision making to the brains of the operation. The accident that created the monsters...it happened years ago alright. Once we perfect the technology your company will have a cheap and fast way of transporting people all around the world instantly. So, yes you have to pay a few million dollars now, but you'll make billions later on. Hell, you can go into the future and play the stock market or go back in time and fix all your mistakes -

The door to the office bursts open.

SCIENTIST:

Who the hell are -

(Close up of a black gloved hand holding a gun).

The scientist is shot dead

Cut to AREK, JUDE, DEREK, PHIL, & CAMERON, all transported to Square One (a mall).

DEREK:

Hey we're at Square One! City hall!

AREK (to Cameron):

You know the drill. Find the target & kill it.

CAMERON:

This shouldn't be happening.

AREK:

Let's just concentrate on finishing this mission. Then we can figure out why Monochrome called us back.

DEREK (to JUDE & PHIL):

Hey, guys check this out.

DEREK is holding a newspaper in front of him.

PHIL:

It's the Toronto Star.

DEREK:

Check out the date.

JUDE:

1995? It must be old.

Derek:

I got it out of that vendor. All the other newspapers and magazines all show the same date.

JUDE holds up his digital watch

JUDE:

Yeah, well my watch says its...1995!?!?

Cut back to the Basment - a clock starts ticking down from 1 hour on Monochrome's screen.

DEREK, PHIL, AREK, CAMERON, & JUDE are now all standing in front of a vending machine in the mall

PHIL:
Hey, check this out, guys.

PHIL starts waving his hand in front of some guys face.

PHIL:
Man, I can't believe no one can see us. Dude, we can get away with stealing anything!

AREK:
Never mind that - WHAT the HELL ARE YOU DOING!?!?!?!?

JUDE buys a coke from the vending machine.

JUDE:
Buying a coke.

CAMERON:
Look lets just kill this thing and go home.

JUDE:
It's a vending machine.

CAMERON:
It's the enemy. How long have you guys been doing this for?

AREK:
Stand back

AREK ignites his light saber

VENDING MACHINE:
No, wait, - don't! It's me!

AREK, PHIL, JUDE, DEREK, & CAMERON together:
PYDOPE!?!?!?

That's all Alex wrote. But here's an idea he had for an ending:

After a really bad hunt - only Derek is left alive. He goes insane and attack the monitor in the room who is the physical embodiment of monochrome.

Monochrome decides to bring everyone who was killed back to life to kill Derek as revenge.

Derek gains points by killing other people and saying the guy who kills Derek goes free.

Derek is torn apart emotionally because he doesn't want to kill anyone. The others start killing each other to be the ones to kill Derek - in gun fights and light saber duels.

Ends off with it being Derek vs Pydope (the most experienced hunter).

Derek somehow kills Pydope - goes free. Of course this is a really fast cheap ending.

And Alex's...extensive...notes on Monochrome:

Basically: A company was paying this university to develop a teleporter. They found they could travel to other universes as well. These other universes take place at earlier or later times than ours. A universe that takes place in an earlier time is actually our universe in an earlier time.

A computer named Monochrome was created to control the complicated process of teleportation. Monochrome is a quantum computer (a really powerful super computer).

Monochrome was designed to map out the entire human being, brake them up into individual sub atomic particles, and transport them in a stream of electrons. After reaching the desination of the teleportation, Monochrome would then put people back to together (one atom at a time). Like take an atom that makes up your finger and teleport it to somewhere else - and do the same thing for all the atoms making you up. In other words, monochrome was a computer brain that made teleportation possible by controlling the process.

When monochrome was still being developed they tried teleporting human test subjects (9 of them). Since monochrome still didn't even know what it was doing - it ended up messing up trying to put people back together after teleporting them.

the monsters Derek & others have been fighting are actually the nine original test subjects who were fucked up because monochrome didn't know how to teleport people properly yet.

Now, the scientists running monochrome ordered it to kill all the original 9 test subjects. Some of the test subjects were taken to a universe that is actually our universe but in an earlier time period. They need to be killed before they fuck up our history or the future.

So, monochrome starts taking people who are about to die and holding them ransome (telling them they have to kill aliens).

the room everyone is teleported to (the garage) is actually a sub dimensional hub between universes that monochrome created.

Monochrome has these people he's kidnapped gain points by killing the original test subjects. Some of the monsters (test subjects) are really hard to kill, and jsut come back to life in another universe after bieng killed. So, a lot of people have died trying to kill the monsters/original test subjects in hunts organized by monochrom.