If the scientists say it's not possible, get me another set of scientists

(Dowding on Chain Home radar, ca. 1937)

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Dedicated to the memory of Air Chief Marshal Hugh Caswall Tremenheere Dowding (1st Baron Dowding), president of the Tunbridge Wells branch of the Flying Saucer Club; reportedly a member of the Fairy Investigation Society and the Ghost Club.

Overview

Sociology of Science and Methodology

Physics

History and Institutions

Scenarios and Governance

Path Forward

Scope and Definitions

- **UAP:** Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena.
- **NHI:** Non-human intelligence(s).
- **Disclosure:** Formal acknowledgment by a globally significant authority (e.g., UN Secretary-General or U.S. President) of NHI presence on Earth.
- **Evidence vs. conjecture:** I label archival records as *evidence*, public reporting as *claims*, and technical ideas as *hypotheses/speculation*.

Motivation and Stance

- **Motivation:** Curiosity about rapid, potentially superluminal, interstellar travel ("the Drive") and whether anomalous observations can inform new physics and measurement.
- **Stance:** I am not an experiencer; any personal observations (e.g., a tic-tac-shaped object in cloudy skies while swimming in a lake in Salzkammergut, Upper Austria) are treated as anecdotal and non-probative.
- **Background:** First read the Condon Report (UCB library, 1984); the executive summary conveyed a "no worries, almost nothing to see here; if true, relax" message unavailable to me earlier in Austria.
- **Focus:** Propulsion concepts and interfaces that, if real, could hugely accelerate scientific progress—indeed, might first obliterate and then revolutionize large branches of science.

Working Hypothesis

- **Working hypothesis (provisional):** NHIs are extraterrestrial, may have operated from bases on or near Earth already "for a some time". Human civilization may be unknowingly embedded within a larger galactic-scale hyper-civilization.
- **Caveat:** Many methodological and institutional points would still hold even if this hypothesis is false.

Three Messages (Preview)

1. **Expected value of inquiry:** Even with low priors, potential payoff justifies bounded, rigorous, and open investigation of UAP.
2. **Paradigm humility:** Anomalies may not fit current conceptual images and metaphors; pluralism, careful measurement, and falsification are essential.
3. **Institutions shape knowledge:** (Geo)Politics, as well as military and commercial actors, and pissibly even the NHI, determine what can be publicly known and what must remain secret; need to build transparent, international, civilian-led infrastructure.

Roadmap

Sociology of Science and Methodology

Physics

History and Institutions

Scenarios and Governance

Path Forward

A Pragmatic Framework for UAP Inquiry

- **State of theory:** General Relativity and Quantum Theory remain conceptually distinct; unification is unsettled. Advanced science could help!
- **Extraordinary claims:** Low priors require strong evidence (Sagan/Bayesian view). The burden of proof lies with the claimant (Russell's Teapot).
- **Expected value:** The potential huge payoff to physics and technology can justify bounded, rigorous investigation despite "very low" priors.
- **As-if reasoning:** Following Vaihinger, explore "as-if" models to test what would follow if certain claims were true—a common scientific practice.

Conceptual Images (Hertz)

- **Hertz's view:** The conceptual core of physical theories are "images" of our mind whose logical consequences mirror nature's consequences:

  "We form for ourselves images or symbols of external objects; and the form which we give them is such that the necessary consequents of the images in thought are always the images of the necessary consequents in nature of the things pictured. ... we do not know ... whether our conceptions of things are in conformity with them in any other than this one fundamental respect."

- **Non-convergence:** Successive images need not converge ontologically.

Gravity:

epicycles (Ptolemy)
$\rightarrow$ force (Newton)
$\rightarrow$ curvature (Einstein)
$\rightarrow$?

Implication:

Future images may reframe phenomenology without vindicating current images and metaphors.

Evaluating Images: Lakatos and Opacity

- **Lakatos:** Research programs—characterized by their respective images—are progressive or degenerative; early phases of progressive research programs can appear degenerative due to immature auxiliaries and scarce data; late degenerative phases can appear progressive due to a shielding by auxiliary constructions.
- **Opacity principle (Quantitative Clarke's Law):** Without explanatory transfer (an "NHI Prometheus"), technologies more than one conceptual "image" ahead are largely opaque to outsiders. – They would be perceived as "magic".
- **Example:** Post-WWII German technologies were assimilated quickly because the underlying images were similar and Nazi experts (via *Operation Paperclip*) were willing to explain them.

Methodology for UAP Investigation

- **Avoid overconfidence:** Prevailing models may not span all possibilities; assess claims against multiple images. Be wary of narcissism, ego-investment and the Dunning-Kruger effect: experts tend to "over-sell" their own pet theories.
- **Avoid misinterpretation:** Physically capacities implied by credible observations may be identified incorrectly by present means and images. For instance, seemingly impossible acceleration is no issue if inertia can be modified or even nullified.
- **Pluralism and testing:** Embrace methodological anarchy by exploring diverse research avenues based on diverse images (Feyerabend), then impose rigorous order through falsifiable experiments and critical pruning (Popper)—a cycle of creative chaos yielding to disciplined refinement, much like psychosis giving way to lucidity through neurotic rigor.

Roadmap

Sociology of Science and Methodology

Physics

History and Institutions

Scenarios and Governance

Path Forward

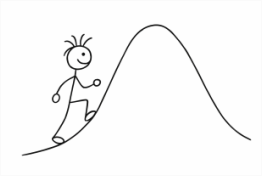
What is Inertia?

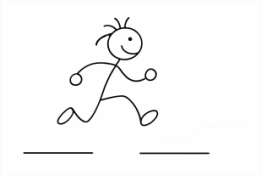
- **GR's core:** Inertial and gravitational mass are linked by the Equivalence Principle.
- **Key question:** If this linkage can be manipulated (reduced, enhanced, or effectively inverted), some reported UAP kinematics become less paradoxical.
- **Analogy:** The "inerter" in control theory attenuates motion; an inverse analogue suggests "negative impedance" behavior—an intuition for negative inertia, mass or anti-gravity (AG), not a claim.

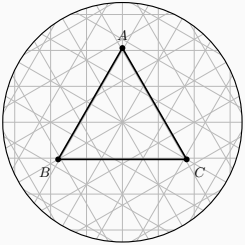
Speculative Mechanisms (My Own Pet Hypotheses)

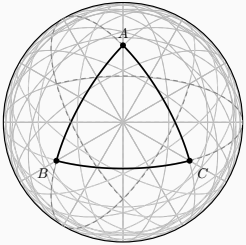
- **"Origins" of inertia:**
  - Higgs mechanism and interaction energy (e.g., photons, gluons) contribute to inertia; modifying couplings and electric and gluonic fields could modify effective inertia or mass.
- **Vacuum effects (lab-scale):**
  - Casimir effect: boundary conditions reduce vacuum fluctuations which in turn reduce mass.
  - Scharnhorst effect: reduced vacuum polarization between plates can yield superluminal "velocities" (no usable signaling).
- **Structured, "ponderable" space-time (Einstein revisited):**
  - "Holes" or fractal-like space-time structures might imply effective shortcuts by traversing "less" spacetime—a craft could be "hopping" through spacetime gaps—during geodesic motion. Could such a structure emerge from nonlinear processes?

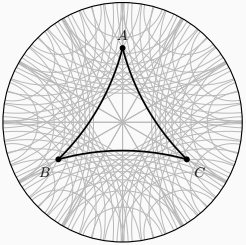
(Anti-)Gravity Through Fractal Space-Time, Equivalence Principle still holds











flat space-time
flat geodesics

gravity

anti-gravity

Caution: On the Use of “Quantum”

- **Avoid gray boxes:** “Quantum” is not a catch-all. The term “quantum” is often used as a hocus-pocus box for wishful thinking.
- **Entanglement:** Encodes (global) relational at the price of individual properties of constituents; respects no-signaling; cannot transmit controllable information instantaneously. Popular misuse to explain psi phenomena ignores its core properties.

A Speculation on Superluminal Events

One could even speculate that:

- Suppose if (as is currently unknown) there exist interactions or higher-dimensional effects that go beyond our currently known interactions—gravity, and the standard model of weak, strong and electromagnetic forces.
- Nuclear explosions might be so "powerful" that their occurrence causes this interaction to be sufficiently activated.
- Such "ripples" then might result in signals which might not even be bounded by the speed of light barrier.
- This might be detectable across interstellar distances.
- Such phenomena could potentially activate NHI protocols and trigger subsequent, observable events on Earth.

Roadmap

Sociology of Science and Methodology

Physics

History and Institutions

Scenarios and Governance

Path Forward

Private Funding of Anti-Gravity Research

- **Claim:** Noble sponsors (nomen nescio)
- **Evidence:** Postwar private initiatives included support from Roger Babson and Agnew Bahnson (see Kaiser & Rickles).
- **Claim:** Reports of a private initiative funded by the owner of *Church's Texas Chicken*. Personnel reportedly included Yakir Aharonov, Hal Puthoff, with brief involvement by Danny Greenberger (former NSA).
- **Note:** Attribution and documentation vary; treat as claims unless primary sources are available.

USAF Involvement and "Going Dark" (Claim)

- **Evidence:** American Institute of Physics (AIP) oral histories:
  - Joshua Goldberg: Recalls being hired at Wright-Patterson AFB because an officer believed an "anti-gravity device" was the next big thing. Confirms USAF was funding general relativity research in the late 50s/early 60s.
  - Louis Witten: Received a "cost-plus" contract from the USAF while at the Research Institute for Advanced Studies, a think tank established in 1955 by the Glenn L. Martin Company; Air Force interest in the mid-1950s.
- **Claim:** Private speculation on US efforts by Australian government physicist Harry Oliver Turner.
- **Evidence:** Mansfield Amendment (1969): Required military-funded research to have direct/clear military relevance; likely reshaped funding portfolios.
- **Hypothesis:** Some gravity/AG research lines may have moved into more clandestine channels and private entities post-1969, nurtured by today's Independent Research and Development (IRAD) programs.

Legacy Programs: Definitions and Custodianship (Claims)

- **Claim: Definition (as alleged):** Highly secret, compartmented "legacy" programs. A "member" has direct physical access to NHI-related materials (craft, biologicals, or artifacts).
- **Claim:** James T. Lacatski is the only public figure to date who has stated involvement in such a program.
- **Claim: Custodianship (as reported):** CIA's Directorate of Science and Technology (DS&T) as portfolio manager; CIA's Office of Global Access (OGA) for retrieval logistics.
- **Implication:** This operational structure makes past and present Deputy Directors of these departments the primary gatekeepers.

Historical Precedent: Chadwell (Assistant Director of OSI, 1952)

- **Evidence:** Marshall Chadwell (OSI) on British activity related to "UFOs":
  > *During the day, a "perfect flying saucer" was seen by these officials as well as RAF pilots. This is disturbing to Jones [[a WWII radar expert]] because he realizes* **that the creation or correction of public opinion is part of his responsibilities**.
- **Implication:** Government attention included both technical assessment and information management, with the US seeking to align allied efforts.
- **Open question:** If even Britain needed coordination and (re)alignment, what about, say, the WWI & WWII losers Germany or Austria?

Roadmap

Sociology of Science and Methodology

Physics

History and Institutions

Scenarios and Governance

Path Forward

Hypothetical: A UAP Incident taking place anywhere in the world

- **Hypothesis:** An extraction operation would likely be initiated within hours by military/security services—e.g., CIA-led OGA team with Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) component, with pre-existing local liaisons, thereby bypassing unreliable and unforeseeable civilian political channels.
- **A Stark Warning to Civilian Witnesses:** For the sake of survival, leave ASAP, and get out of anybody's way. There may be multiple conflicting extraction parties involved; you don't want to mingle!
- **Open question:** How can civil research proceed when access is constrained by enforced secrecy and extraordinary privileged extraction procedures where "all gloves are off"?

Geopolitics and the State of Exception

- **Claim:** Since World War II, a persistent "state of exception" (Schmitt, Agamben) has periodically shaped decision-making on UAP, suspending normal rules and fostering a "National Security State" at deepest executive levels.
- **Thucydides' Melian Dialogue as a Metaphor:** The empire takes what it needs, while the colonies (or allies) suffer what they must.
- **Question:** What does this mean for international partners (e.g., Europe) and scientific collaboration who may be viewed as potential adversaries in this context?

A Core Dilemma of Disclosure: Autonomy

- **Autonomy:** Do we, as a society or species, possess the autonomy to decide on disclosure—legally, institutionally, or practically? Or is that choice no longer ours?
- **Hypothesis: Containment:** If NHIs perceive risk from unconstrained human expansion, they might share limited knowledge while at the same time pursue containment, by withholding key propulsion details ("the Drive"). Because if we could effortlessly travel to them, we might cause inconveniences.

Roadmap

Sociology of Science and Methodology

Physics

History and Institutions

Scenarios and Governance

Path Forward

A Utopian Path Forward (If We Can Choose)

- **Utopian Strategy:** Adopt an Open Access approach, fostering dialogue between all relevant parties, including the US, Russia, and China. This may also involve consultation with NHI presence, if feasible.
- **Guiding Principle wrt Fear of Disclosure:** The Enlightenment sought to eliminate fear with rationality. Count Dracula was overcome by science; so will be the fear of disclosure.
  - A quote by Immanuel Kant, 1784 (in "Was ist Aufklärung"):
    Enlightenment is a person's emergence from self-imposed immaturity (selbstverschuldeter Unmündigkeit). . . . Sapere Aude! [[Latin translated: Dare to know, from Horace.]]
  - A quote by Sigmund Freud, 1930 (in "Das Unbehagen in der Kultur"):
    Wo Es war, soll Ich werden.—Where id was, there ego shall be.

Three Messages (Reprise)

1. **Expected value of inquiry:** Even with low priors, the potential payoff justifies rigorous, and open investigation of UAP.
2. **Paradigm humility:** Anomalies may not fit current images; pluralism, careful measurement, and falsification are essential.
3. **Institutions matter:** (Geo)Politics and military usage currently shape containment of the subject; in contrast prioritize transparent, international, civilian-led research.

Thank You for Your Attention

Slides: ORCID profile

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Security Information

18 December 1952

[redacted]

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: British Activity in the field of "Unidentified Flying Objects"

1. On 15 December, the recently arrived messenger from Britain reported the following. He had talked with R. V. Jones and [redacted]

2. The British have had a standing committee created about sixteen months ago on flying saucers. Presumably this is now under Dr. Jones through inheritance. The RAF are action people. The group has concluded that the observations are not enemy aircraft and that none have been over Britain.

3. The activity has been quiet and normal up to about ten to twelve days ago, at which time the Yorkshire incident took place. In some RAF field, there was some sort of demonstration to which high officials of the RAF in London had been invited. During the show, a "perfect flying saucer" was seen by these officials as well as RAF pilots. So many people saw it that many articles appeared in the public press. This is disturbing to Jones because he realizes that the creation of the correction of public opinion is a part of his responsibilities.

4. Jones reminded us of the Swedish incident (presumably he refers to the one in 1946), and reminds us of a paper on the origin of meteorites published in the French Academy of Sciences between 1760 and 1780 by Chladni.

5. The traveler told Jones of our interest at this time, mentioned the film which had been taken by the Naval non-commissioned officer (Tremonton incident). It is possible that Jones will write asking for a copy of the film or further on the same subject.

[redacted]

H. MARSHALL CHADWELL
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

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While there is no indication that these objects represent a direct threat to the national defense, there are certain potential dangers which are related to these sightings. These are:

1. The difficulty and delay in positive identification which could weaken the early warning system in alerting defense in the event of commencement of hostilities.*

2. The possibility of mass hysteria which might be purposely induced by an enemy at a critical time by faked reports.

3. The possibility that the emergency communications systems to command headquarters might be seriously overloaded at a critical time by such reports.

It is believed that the problems of communications confusion and overload and the serious effects of mass hysteria must be dealt with outside the intelligence community, and it is planned to bring these matters to the attention of those agencies with whom the prime responsibility appears to rest. With respect to mass hysteria, it is believed this problem would lie with the Federal Civil Defense Administration and/or the Interdepartmental Committee on Internal Security. Accordingly, it is planned to bring this to the attention of the FCDA and ICIS through established channels. With respect to emergency communications overloading, it is believed that each of the individual Military Services should examine this problem. Accordingly, we intend to introduce the subject at a meeting of the Joint Communications and Electronics Committee.

* According to Brig. Gen. AR Maxwell (ADOR) ADC is "cognizant of this potential danger" and does "express concern"

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