60 years of IT progress

Romilly Cocking

A bit like earlier talks, but
UK based
A little less APL
A little more scandal

tl;dr

- 11 years of (comparative) innocence
- Addicted to computers since 1958
- 20 years an APLer
- 20 years an Object Addict (some overlap)
- Recovering since 2005

1956

1958

1958

```
v1 = 1.0
v2 = 1.0
v3 = 0.00001
v4 = 1.0
1) →2, v3 > v2
v2 = v2 / v4
v1 = v1 + v2
v4 = v4 + 1.0
→1
2) PRINT v1, 3026
STOP
(^0)
```

1966

1969
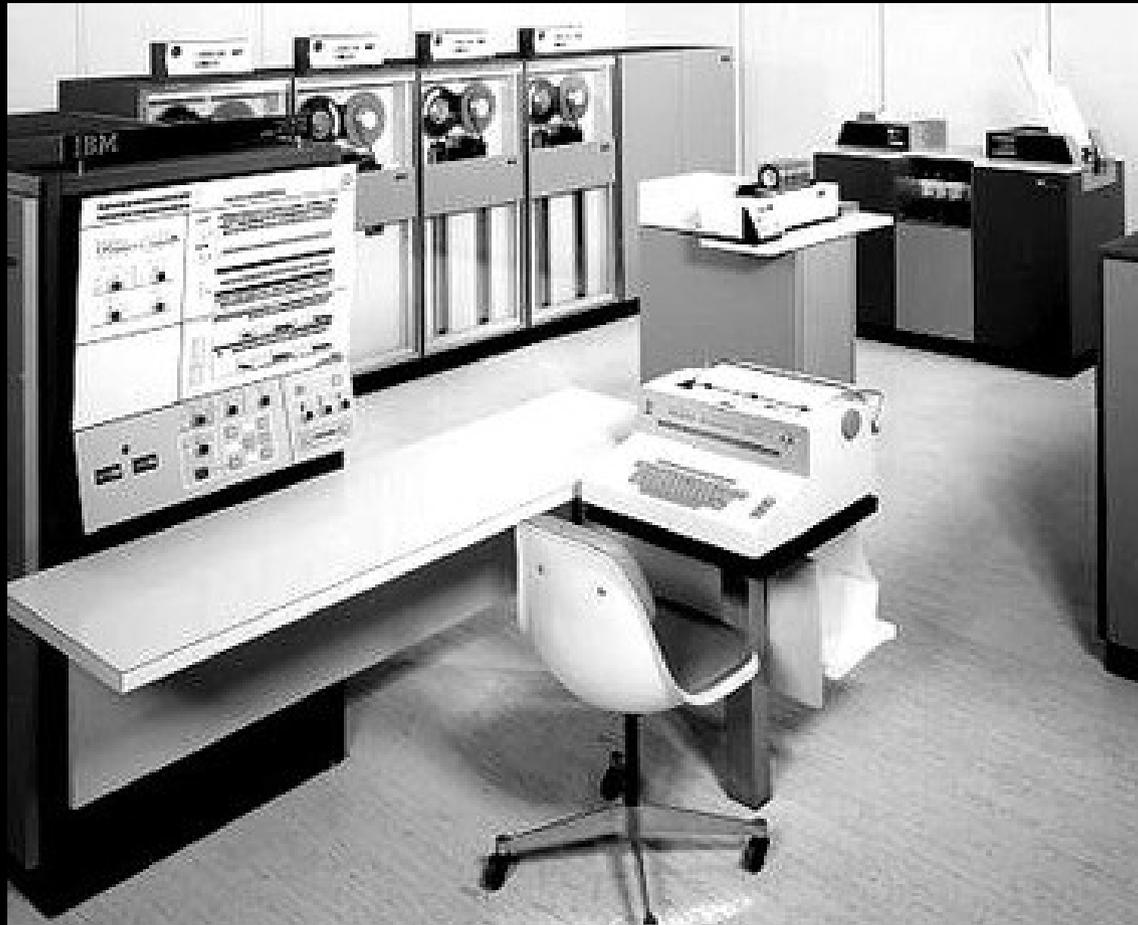
1974

- Brian Drury joins Teknotalk
- PSG sends Atkins student on IPSA course
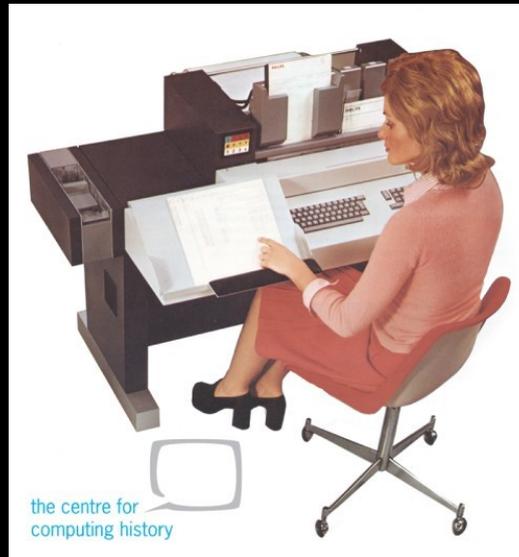
I write P350 disassembler in APL
I get bounced by IPSA)OPR
I learn not to loop

1976

- Cocking and Drury start up in London
- IPSA likes us
- APL User Group (now the BAA)

Later 1970s

- IBM 5100

- Dyadic start up

- STSC makes friends with ADM

- IPSA doesn't love us any more

- MicroAPL start up in London

- STSC open London Office

- Inner Product start up in London

- Jonathan Barman joins C&D

1980s

- NARS
- APL2
- APL83 in Loughborough
- C&D market Sharefile in UK
- APL*Plus PC
- C&D take over APL*Plus UK role
- APL86 in Manchester
- C&D - 40 developers, £1.2M payroll
- Brian Drury leaves C&D
- IBM IC/1 revenue falls through the floor
    - MF APL market starts to decline
- C&D Start selling Smalltalk

1990s

- MF APL market in serious decline
- Death by 1000 cuts for C&D
    - CLOB project
    - 4 new challenges at once
    - 5x cost over-run
- IBM goes O-O
    - Smalltalk, then Java
    - Croeso project
- 1994 C&D closes down
    - C&D s/w → Bloomsbury Software
- IBM starts OTU
   - Object immersion courses
    - Smalltalk, C++, Java

2000s

- Websphered
  - AFEB course
- TDD
- Some fun gigs...
 - BNP Paribas, Easynet
- And the project from hell
  - Time to retire

2010
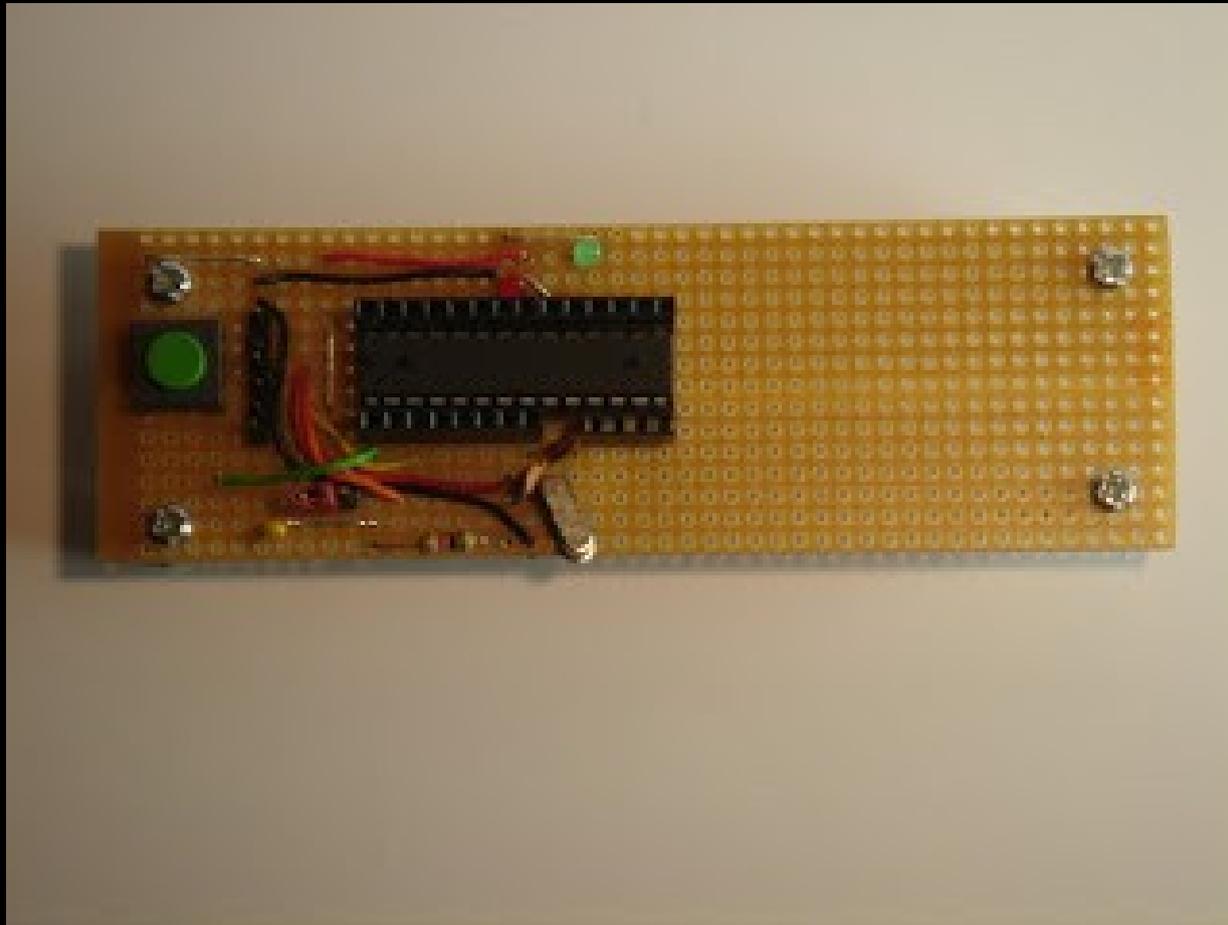
2011
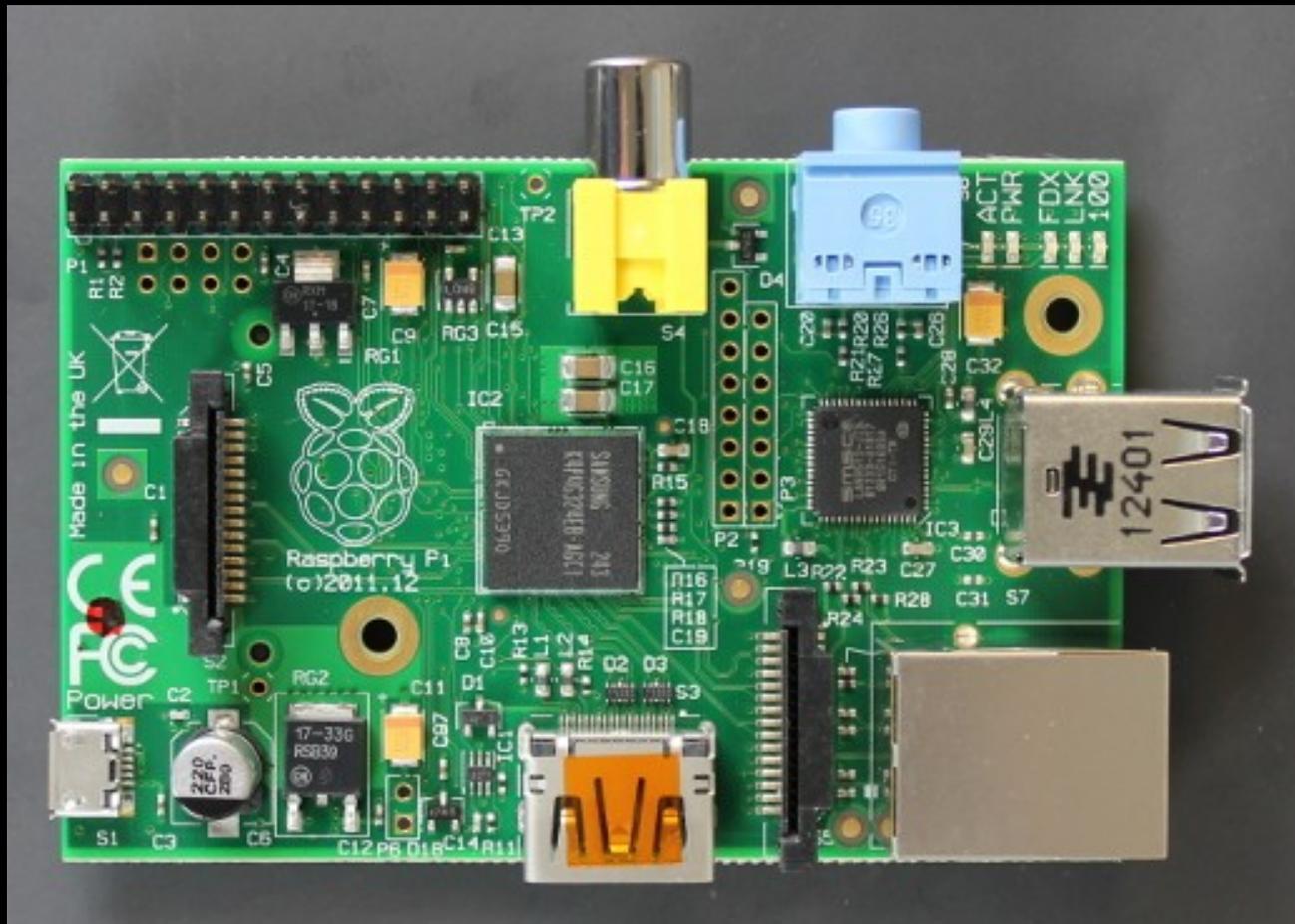
2014
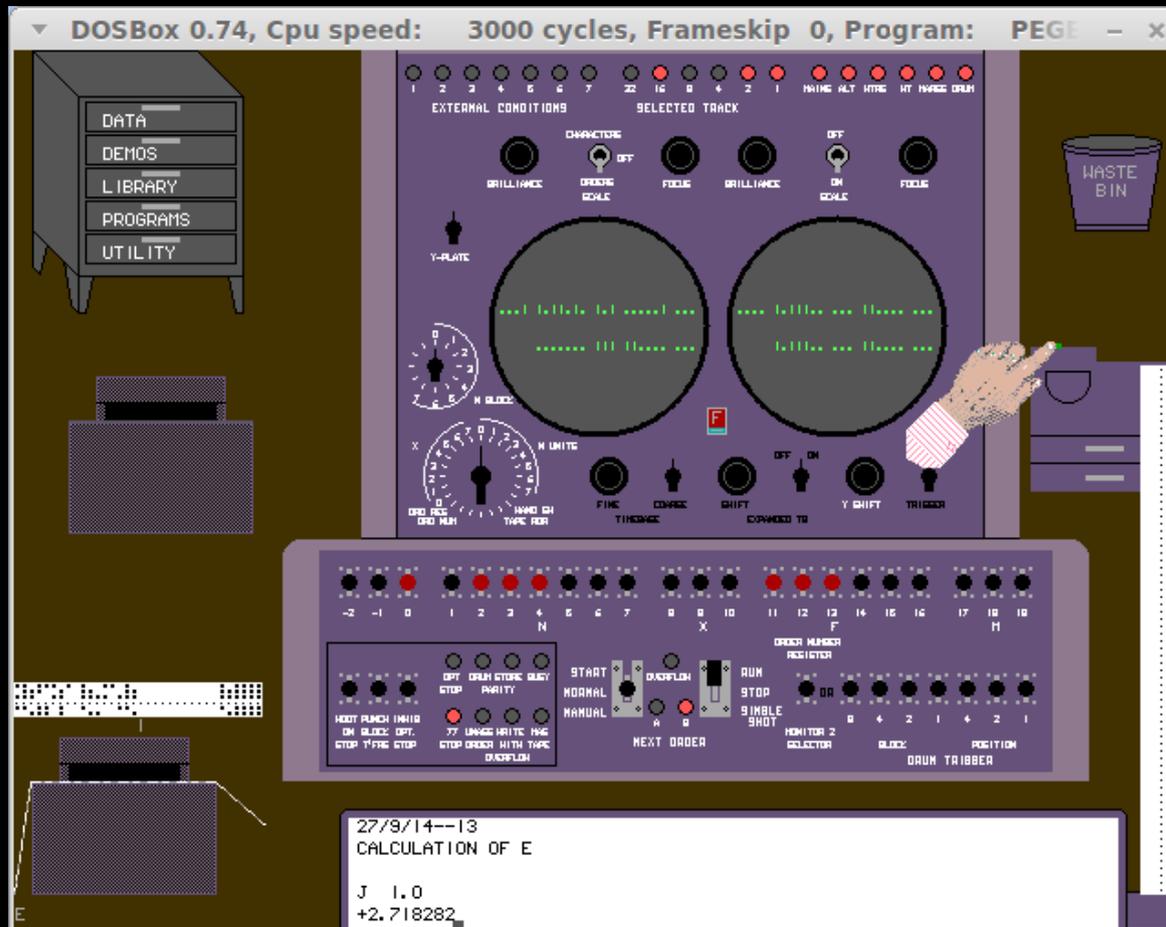
2015
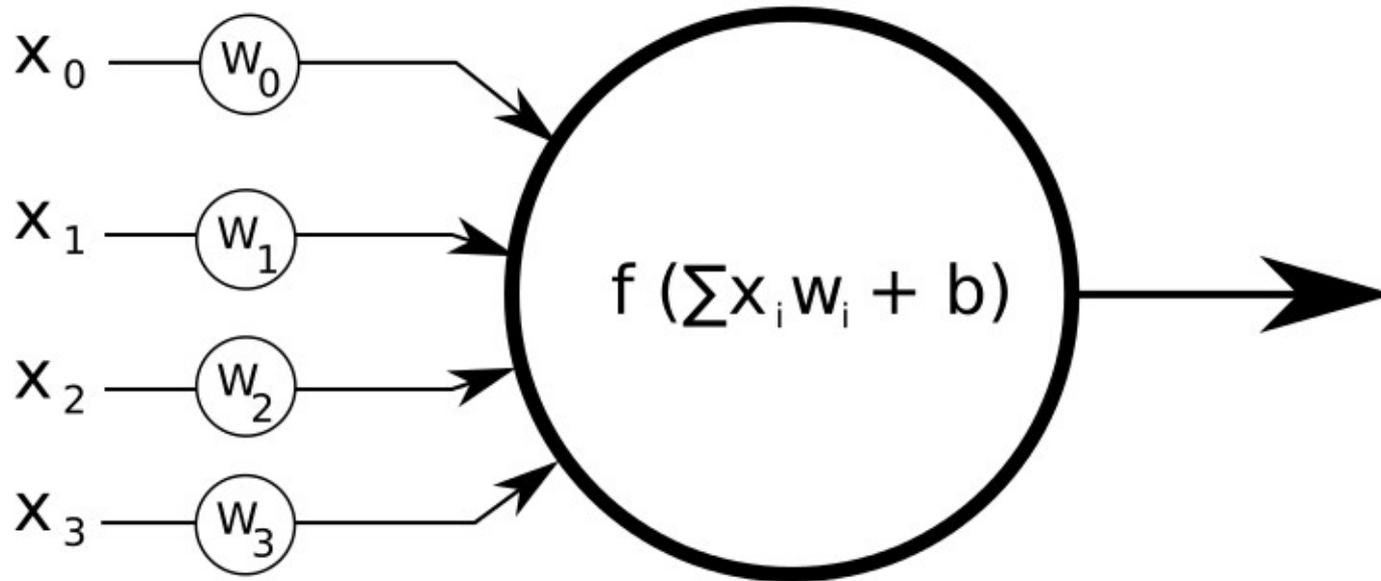
2015

```
cycle←{α granfire ω granuleThresholds α}
fireGolgis←{(0⌈+/,α)++/[1]+/[3]2 5 2 5⍴ω}
granfire←{ω<0⌈+⌿neighbours α}
granuleThresholds←{spread thresholds α fireGolgis ω}
neighbours←{ω⊖⍨(1⊖ω)⊖⍨(1⊖ω),[¯0.5]1⌽1⊖ω }
spread←{5 5\[0]5 5\[1]ω}
thresholds←{α←0 0.3 0.5 0.7 ◇ +/[0]α∘.≤ω÷25}
view←{0.2×α[;ω+⍳10]}
```

2016
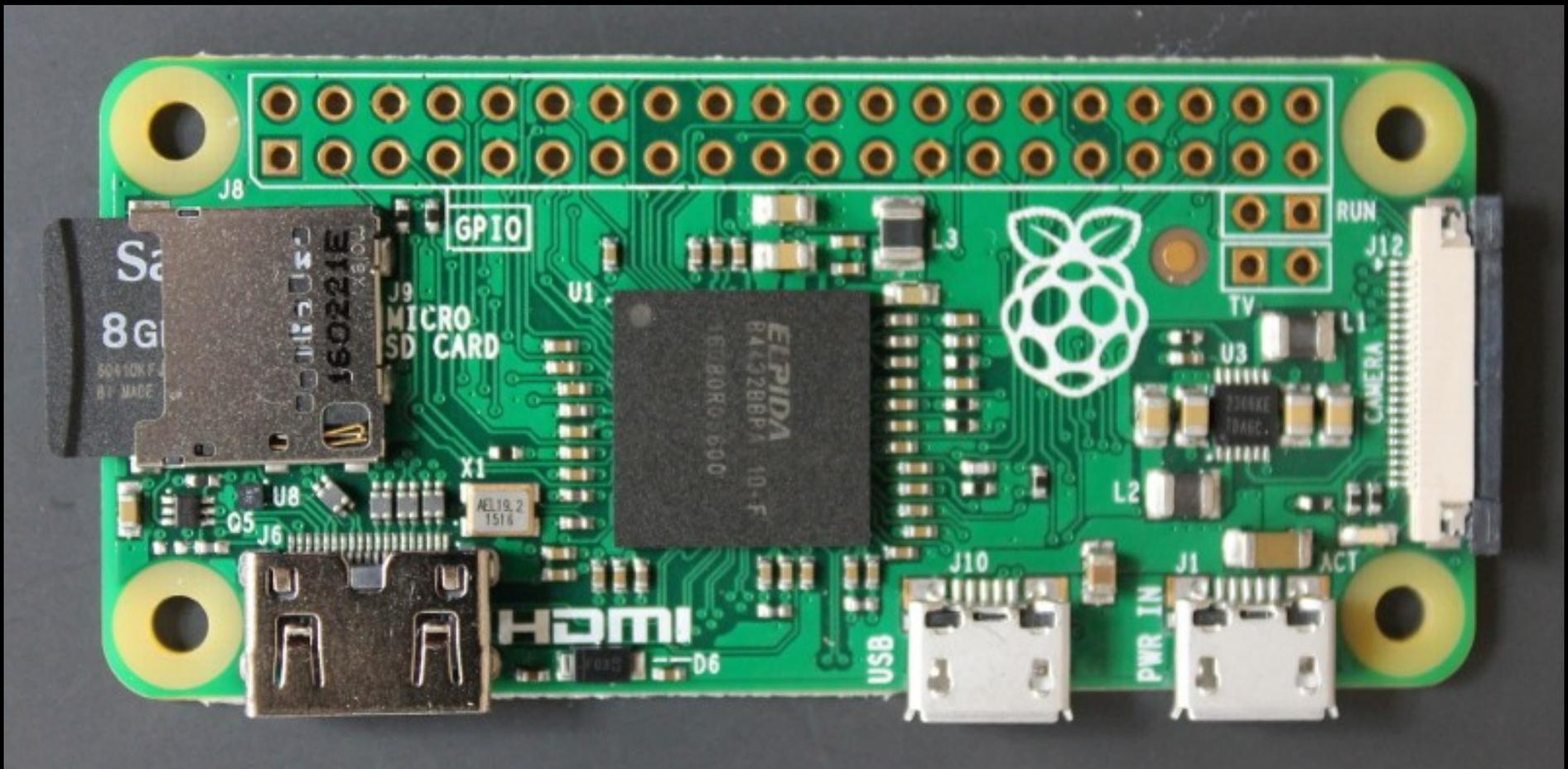
granfire←{ω<0⌈+≠neig

granuleThresholds←{s

neighbours←{ω,(1⊖ω),

Learn APL on the
$5 Raspberry Pi

Your fast track from ideas to code

nread←{n←ω □NTIE 0

sp

th

view←{0.2×α[;ω+⌈10]}
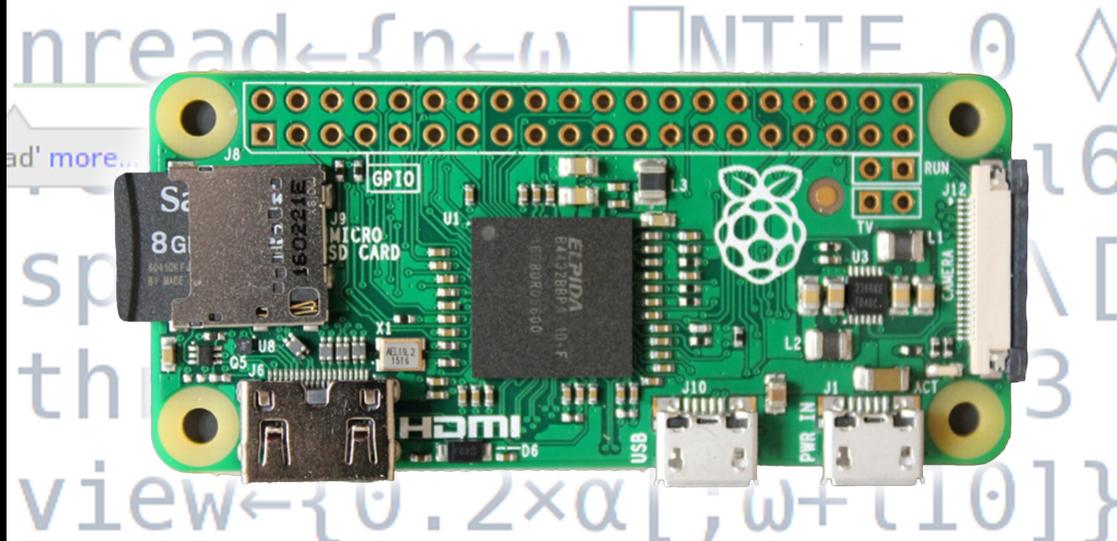
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(email me for free early access to the book)

Image credits

Thanks

- To Dyalog and the BAA for helping me to get here

- To Ken Iverson for APL

- To you, his successors, for keeping the flame alight

- Here's to the next 50 years!