

Don McNeil
P.O.Box 312
Wyalusing, PA 18853

Dear Don,

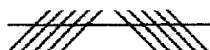
Thanks for your letter. I don't mind paper, used to use it all the time! If you did want to use email you still can from the library, even if you don't pick it up regularly, using one of the free web based services, like hotmail, google or yahoo.

So I gather you did the systems genealogy map all in basic? That's quite a task. Reminds me of my own efforts, first using basic on my old 512k Mac to create a general time series analysis software, then with AutoLisp in AutoCAD. I think it still may be the only data analysis system that allows you to treat time series data sequences as functions. Of course AutoCAD has been upgraded every other year since I wrote it so some work is needed to make the system functional again, and no one uses AutoCad for analysis or has written me about my work in 10 years or more anyway! Once they come I'll crank it up again I guess.

I'm at a disadvantage reading your systems genealogy. I recognize many of the names of course, but I don't really know what their contributions were or how they're connected. I guess the thing to do would be to insert links to the http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_people_by_name database (or be browsing it at the same time). What I personally most easily understand systems behavior from is growth curves, and what I'd like is to see the connections between the great thinkers as a timeline with some consistent measure assigned to all their work. That might be the number of citations of their work generated, or just some intuitive measure of their importance, or even their 'celebrity' (really, data is so hard to come by I'll take anything). That would begin to tell me when things were exploding and when they stabilized. I tried G° Klir looking for someone who could draw the growth curves of GST but no answer. Next I'll try Len Troncale. It's odd the ISSS version of your chart does not give you any credit or mention any of the other sources you do.

Really liked your piece on Debora Hammond's PhD. It helped a lot. I tried to write her through her current institution, but got no answer. Do you know where I can find her paper?

I've still to get into your paper on toroidal topology. I read slowly it seems. My original work on systems was with air currents, most of which are toroidal in some fashion, though they're windings (toroidal spirals, usually called vortex rings) rather than closed circles. Now I'm most interested in formless systems, things that grow and have no structure at all, like societies and conversations... since growth curve traces can sometimes pick them out easily and there's almost no other way.

10/4/2005


P. F. Henshaw 680 Ft. Washington Ave, NY NY 10040
synapse9.com © *pfh* (212) 795-4844