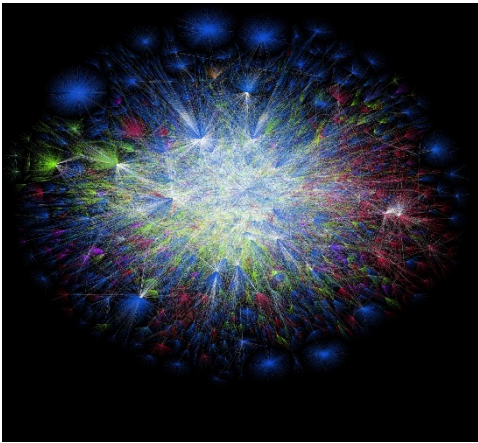Kami Roberts

CityTech

10/10/2021

COMD Theory- First Paper

      For my paper, I chose a piece from the MoMA website, "Mapping the Internet" by Barret Lyon. This piece was made in 2003 for the Opte Project which was basically an overview of how far the internet had gotten up to that point since 1997. They also made a 2021 remake of the art piece with new software to make it look more contemporary from its older counterpart. The visual displays a huge web that continues to grow and expand over the years.
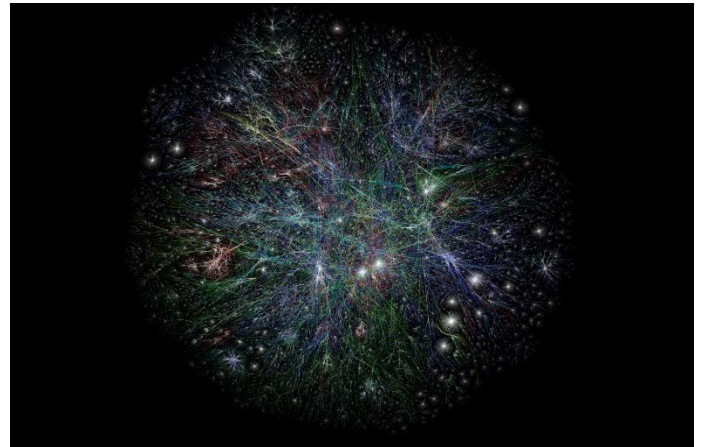
      According to wired.com, "The original version used "traceroutes," diagnostic commands that scout different paths through a network, to visualize the internet in all of its enormous complexity. But traceroutes can be blocked, spoofed, or have other inaccuracies. So, in a 2010 exhibit of the original Opte at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, Lyon explored an alternative. Instead of basing the map on traceroutes, Lyon used Border Gateway Protocol routing tables, the subway maps of the internet, to get a more accurate view. Now he's carried that approach into this next generation." The 2021 remaster looks much cleaner in comparison to its older counterpart and maps the network connections much better instead of being jumbled together. I think Lyon made this piece to demonstrate how far we've come as a species as well as in our overall intelligence. The amount of collective knowledge we have is amazingly vast and these pieces show that its also expanding.

These two pieces remind me of the László Moholy-Nagy reading from Week 4 when he says, "'Art' comes into being when expression is at its optimum, i.e., when at its highest intensity it is rooted in biological law, purposeful, unambiguous, pure." Moholy-Nagy was trying to tell us that an art piece should have some kind of meaning behind, a purpose for its creation. The purpose is supposed to help us view reality from a different perspective, preferably the artists. It also reminds me of the human brain because of how intricately complex the internet is. An article I found on Quora states, "The brain network and the internet are also similar in that they depend on communication between relatively complex units - neurons on the one hand, and computers on the other. Neurons transmit signals using action potentials or "spikes", which some researchers believe are similar to the binary digits used by computers." Furthermore, the internet, like the brain, is capable of creating new pathways/connections. The piece also looks similar to the all too famous, observable universe pictures of the cosmic web which is yet another analogy to how vastly complex the internet is with its web like features branching out everywhere.
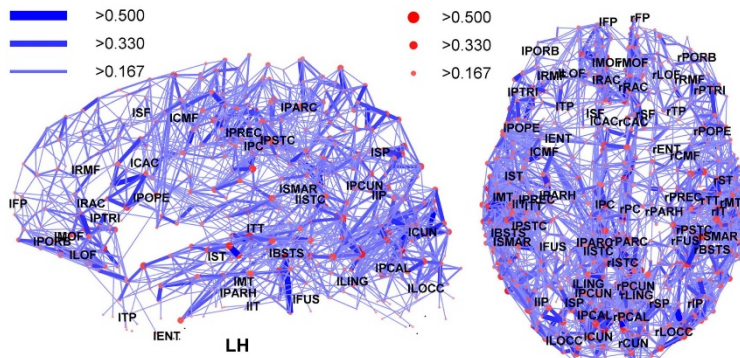
If they ever decided to make another, newer version of this then I would really like to see it in the shape of a brain maybe because of its' similarity and because the internet's origin from our minds. I think that would really drive home the idea that we as a species created something amazing and it benefited the world for the better.
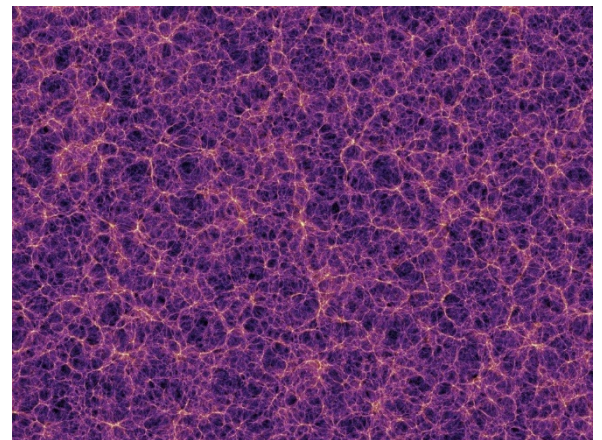
Opte Project: Original

Opte Project: 2021 Remaster

Human Brain Network

Observable Universe

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