

# New Course 6 major proposed in AI+Decision Making (AI + D)

*Major will be implemented in Fall 2022 if approved*

By **Shelley Choi**  
NEWS EDITOR

MIT Professor of Computer Science and Engineering Leslie Kaelbling presented a proposal for a new undergraduate major in Course 6 (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science) to the Undergraduate Student Advisory Group in EECS (USAGE) on Nov. 17. If approved, the major will be known as 6-4, or Artificial Intelligence and Decision Making (AI+D).

The AI+D major would include machine learning, symbolic reasoning, computer vision, natural language, robotics, and medical AI. It aims to “integrate disciplines typically taught in different departments” including electrical engineering, computer science, statis-

tics, operations research, and brain and cognitive sciences.

The AI+D curriculum committee is working on presenting to the necessary MIT committees and piloting CI-M subjects and the new AI center in Fall 2021. If approved in Spring 2022, first-year students would be able to declare the new major. The major would be officially implemented in Fall 2022.

The proposal comes as AI+D is becoming an area of demand by students, where enrollment for related classes is growing. The number of students who declare EECS-related majors at MIT is also growing rapidly, from 23% of the undergraduate population at MIT in 2012 to 42% in 2021.

The Course 6 majors currently consist of 6-1 (Electrical Science and Engineering), 6-3 (Computer

Science and Engineering), and their overlap, 6-2 (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science). Blended majors include 6-7 (Computer Science and Molecular Biology), 6-9 (Computation and Cognition), 6-14 (Computer Science, Economics, and Data Science), and 11-6 (Urban Science and Planning with Computer Science).

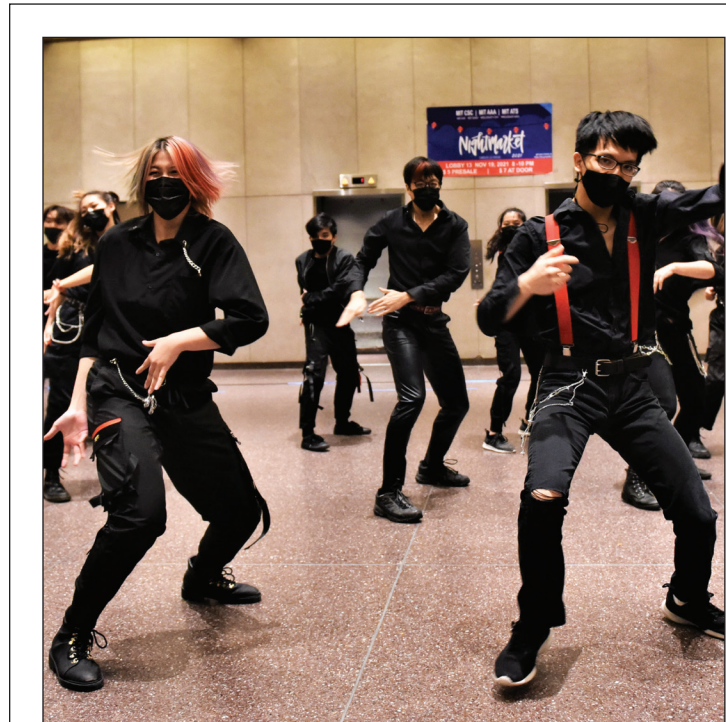
Kaelbling pointed out that the original computer science majors “mostly focus on the inside of the computer,” such as “making a compiler or coming up with an algorithm.” The intention is to “try to draw a box around it and analyze it internally.” The AI+D major, on the other hand, would focus on the “analysis and synthesis of systems

**New Major, Page 2**



KEVIN LY—THE TECH

**Syncopasian along with many other MIT a cappella groups performed their semesterly concert this past weekend.**



OLIVIA LEE

**MIT Asian Dance Team performed at the annual Nightmarket,** a joint event between many Asian American clubs at MIT and neighboring universities.

# Alumni town halls held to discuss freedom of expression and values of community at the Institute

*Discussion at two town halls will be shared with ad hoc working group, in addition to responses to online survey*

By **Kristina Chen**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The MIT Alumni Association held two hour-long town halls over Zoom to discuss “Freedom of Expression and Community” Nov. 22, with one at 12 p.m. and one at 8 p.m.

The town halls began with comments from three speakers: Alumni Association President Annalisa Weigel PhD '02, Provost Martin Schmidt PhD '88, and Alumni Association Chief Executive Officer Whitney Espich.

Weigel prefaced by saying that the focus of the town hall was not meant to be the cancellation of the Carlson Lecture but rather “how to sustain freedom of expression and cohere as a community even when we disagree with the judgement calls sometimes necessary.”

Following the introductory remarks, attendees were divided into breakout rooms for the remainder of the town hall to discuss five

questions: “As alumni, are you concerned about matters of free expression at MIT? If so, why?”, “Are there conditions or issues on campus or in the larger world that you believe are affecting how MIT handles free expression issues? If so, what conditions or issues?”, “In your mind, are there any limits to MIT’s obligation to protect freedom of expression on campus? If yes, what are those?”, “Many students, faculty, and alumni do not see the recent Carlson Lecture situation as primarily being about free expression. What values do you think are inspiring this thinking?”, and “What might be some guidelines you would recommend to help ensure that freedom of expression remains a fundamental value of MIT?”

Each breakout room included a facilitator and staff from the alumni association.

The discussions in each breakout room were recorded, so that anonymized versions of the comments

could be shared with senior leadership at MIT and an ad hoc working group working to address freedom of expression and community values at MIT.

Attendees who did not wish to have their comments recorded in the breakout rooms were also invited to fill out an online survey with the same five questions.

Approximately 50 alumni attended the 12 p.m. session of the town hall, in addition to around 20 facilitators and staff.

Many attendees were members of the newly-formed MIT Free Speech Alliance — a group of alumni, faculty, students, and friends of MIT created to promote and defend free speech and expression, viewpoint diversity, and academic freedom and open scientific inquiry at MIT. In particular, the alliance hopes that MIT will adopt the “Chicago Principles,” a statement on free speech and academic freedom created at the University of Chicago.



MICHELE GABRIELE—THE TECH

**The MIT Symphony Orchestra, featuring the MIT Concert Choir and the New World Chorale,** directed by Adam K. Boyles tuned their instruments before performing the last part of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 at the Kresge Auditorium.

## IN SHORT

**Airport shuttles leaving from the Kresge turnaround** to the Boston Logan Airport will be available with advanced reservations Nov. 23 and 24.

**The Stratton Student Center will be closed** for the Thanksgiving holiday starting Nov. 24 at 10 p.m. and will reopen Nov. 27 at 8 a.m.

**Nov. 25 is Thanksgiving, and Nov. 26 is an Institute holiday.** No classes will take place.

**Only Maseeh Hall and New Vassar dining halls will be open** during limited hours Nov. 25–27. All the residential dining halls will reopen Nov. 28.

The **Spring 2022 housing switch lottery application** is open until

Nov. 29 at [myhousing.mit.edu](https://myhousing.mit.edu).

**Pre-registration for spring term and IAP** and registration for IAP Physical Education and Wellness opens Dec. 1.

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## CATALYST

Local fine dining.  
**ARTS, p. 4**



## FALL WEATHER

Brisk, intense, sharp.  
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## SPORTS BLITZ

The results of several fencing matches, swim meets, and NCAA Division III Championships for track and field. **SPORTS, p. 8**

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WEATHER

# Give thanks to good Thanksgiving weather

By Ananth Shyamal and Yoland Gao

Thanksgiving travel will be mostly clear for those leaving before Thanksgiving Day with no major weather coast to coast. On Thanksgiving Day, expect delays from a heavy band of rain from San Antonio to Detroit, spanning Houston, Memphis, and Pittsburgh. On Friday, expect travel delays in the Northeast and upstate

New York due to snow, turning mostly to rain near the coast.

This Thanksgiving week in Boston will be mostly clear and breezy, with light precipitation expected most of the day Friday. It’s a great weekend to roam around Boston with your friends, or buy your winter jackets! Student discounts are real. Make sure to be prepared for the upcoming weeks of colder weather.

Extended Forecast

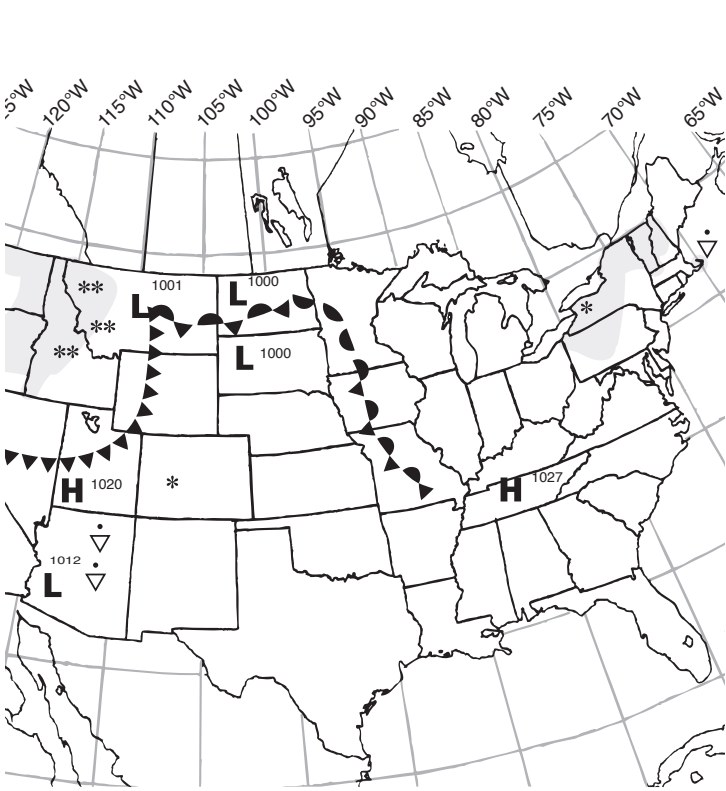
**Today:** Mostly sunny. High around 39°F (3°C). Winds around 14 mph in the northwest.

**Tonight:** Mostly clear. Low around 29°F (-2°C). Winds around 15 mph in the northwest.



















**Tomorrow:** Mostly sunny. High around 42°F (6°C) and low around 31°F (-1°C). Winds around 12 mph in the northwest.

**Thursday:** Mostly sunny, becoming cloudy. High around 52°F (11°C), and low around 39°F (4°C). Winds around 9 mph in the northwest.

**Friday:** Chance of rain, up to a quarter of an inch. High around 45°F (7°C), and low around 30°F (-1°C). Winds around 14 mph in the west.



Situation for Noon Eastern Time, Tuesday, November 23, 2021

Weather Systems	Weather Fronts		Precipitation Symbols		Other Symbols
<b>H</b> High Pressure		Trough			 Fog
<b>L</b> Low Pressure		Warm Front			 Thunderstorm
 Hurricane		Cold Front			 Haze
		Stationary Front			Compiled by MIT Meteorology Staff and <i>The Tech</i>
					

# 6-4 currently is piloting new subjects 6.800 and 6.806

New Major, from Page 1

that interact with an external world” via “perception, communication, and action.”

Kaelbling said that the committee tried to focus on “exposure to different attitudes” and “ways of thinking about problems” in developing the curriculum. For example, when approaching a problem with a model, they asked “what the system is actually going to do in the world, what choices it should make, and how systems connect to humans around it.”

Though 6-4 may seem similar to 6-9, Kaelbling noted that their fundamental difference is that 6-4 is related to AI, whereas 6-9 is related to humans. A student in 6-9 can do the “brain and cognitive sciences part without doing anything computational.”

Pranav Krishna ’23 wrote in an email to *The Tech*, “It’s great to see that MIT is moving with the times with emphasizing AI and Machine Learning, though it’s a shame that all the cool Machine Learning AUS subjects are becoming CI-Ms” in response to the proposed major.

6-4 Degree Proposal

The current proposal for 6-4 contains 14.5 subjects, divided

into categories of Fundamentals, Centers, Communication Intensive in the Major (CI-M), Application CI-M, Advanced Undergraduate Subjects (AUS), and Flex.

Fundamentals contain 5.5 required subjects in math, probability, algorithms, programming, and discrete and continuous math: 6.0001 (Introduction to CS and Programming in Python), 6.042 (Mathematics for Computer Science), 6.006 (Introduction to Algorithms), either 6.008 (Introduction to Inference) or 6.041 (Introduction to Probability) or 18.05 (Introduction to Probability and Statistics), 6.009 (Fundamentals of Programming), and either 18.061 (Linear Algebra and Optimization) or 18.06 (Linear Algebra).

Centers provide breadth in AI+D at an intermediate level. It contains five areas: data-centric, model-centric, decision-centric, computation-centric, and human-centric.

Data-centric focuses on “building models and drawing conclusions from data” (statistics and machine learning). Decision-centric focuses on “choosing actions that affect an external world” (control theory, reinforcement learning, decision theory,

game theory). Model-centric focuses on “specification and representation of models and priors” (classical AI, graphics). Computation-centric focuses on algorithms and implementation strategies (optimization algorithms, vector/tensor programming). Human-centric focuses on the interplay between humans and computational systems (societal impact, bias and fairness, user interfaces, cognitive science).

In Centers, students would be required to take 5 total subjects with one from each area. Data-centric includes 6.036 (Introduction to Machine Learning) and 6.401 (Introduction to Statistical Data Analysis). Model-centric has 6.837 (Computer Graphics), 6.003 (Signal Processing), and 6.038 (AI Representation and Reason). Decision-centric includes 6.038, 6.302 (Feedback System Design), 6.207 (Networks), and 6.215 (Optimization Methods). Computation-centric has 6.046 (Design and Analysis of Algorithms), 6.215, and 6.837. Human-centric includes 6.s080 (Software Systems for Data Science), 6.804 (Computational Cognitive Science), 6.805 (Foundations of Information Policy), and 6.207.

The Application CI-M category would be satisfied by a non-concrete list of either 6.800 (Robotic Manipulation), 6.806 (Quantitative Methods for Natural Language Processing), 6.819 (Advances in Computer Vision), 6.835 (Intelligent Multimodal User Interfaces), or 6.141 (Robotics: Science and Systems I). 6.806 and 6.800 are currently ongoing pilots in Fall 2021, 6.819 will be offered in Spring 2023, and 6.835 is aiming to be offered in Spring 2023.

Tentatively, 6.800, 6.806, and 6.819 are to be offered as 15-unit undergraduate subjects that meet with their respective 12-unit graduate subjects. The additional 3 units would come from added Communication Intensive material.

The regular Course 6 CI-M requirement would be completed by either 6.UAT (Oral Communication) or 6.UAR (Seminar in Undergraduate Advanced Research).

To satisfy their AUS, students can select any one course from the AI+D AUS list or the Application CI-M list.

Flex subjects would include any additional subject satisfying a degree requirement in Course 6 or Course 18.

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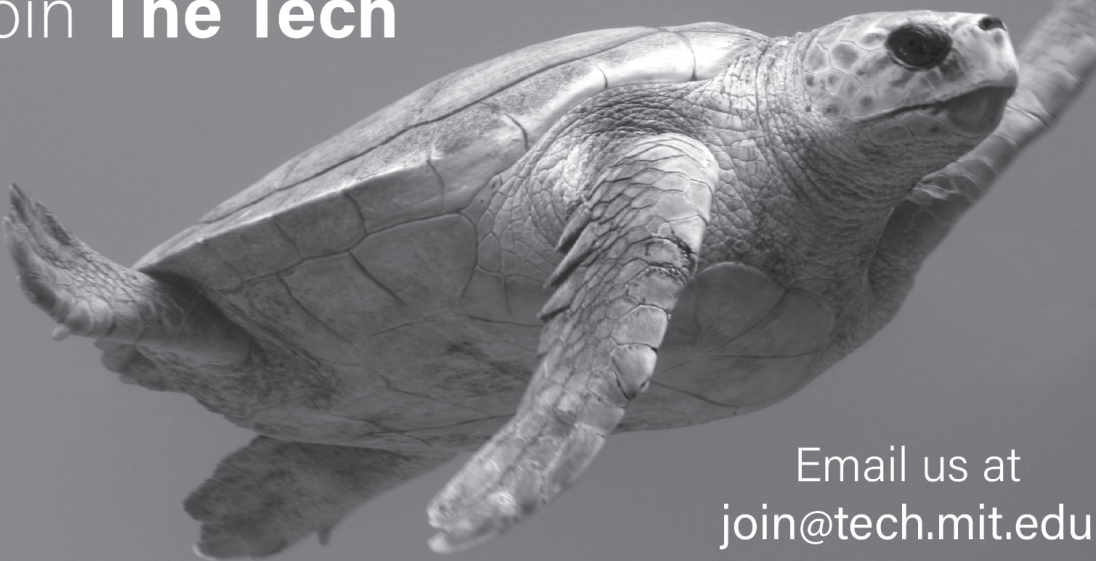
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Fine dining but not that fine but still pretty fine

# Catalyst

## 300 Technology Square

**Cambridge, MA 02139**

**Hours:**

**Tuesday–Thursday 11  
AM–2:30 p.m., 5–9 p.m.**

**Friday 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m.,  
5–10 p.m.**

**Saturday 5–10 p.m.**

**By Jamie Fu and Michael Lu**

A budding entrepreneur eyes his Brut Rosé scintillating under the light of the dimmed chandeliers as he delivers his elevator pitch to a pair of angel investors. Behind him, a group of college students blow off steam at the bar, downing their lagers as they sing along with the songs by The Weeknd playing in the restaurant. They are bordered by a table of Moderna executives having a heated business discussion as they partition a plate of crispy, golden squash rings. Nearby, a professor scarfs down his plump burger before plugging his laptop charger into the row of electrical outlets along the restaurant wall, placed conveniently for those who prefer a productive meal. As he returns to work, he glances at a waiter weaving adeptly through the crowded array of tables to deliver a flaming caramel apple dessert to a tourist family wriggling in anticipation. Founded by Chef William Kovel to resemble the modern American melting pot, Catalyst Restaurant has served a

diverse set of customers who converge at the New American restaurant in Tech Square, the epicenter of Cambridge, to enjoy its expansive lunch and dinner menu.

Three weeks ago, Michael and I took a brisk three-minute walk from Stata to visit Catalyst, which recently passed their 10th anniversary. Upon walking through the front doors, we found ourselves underneath a 20-foot-high ceiling and in a 10,000-square-foot spacious interior surrounded with dark wooden walls and large windows — certainly one of the roomier restaurants in Cambridge. The meticulously placed furniture and dim lighting at first screamed fine dining until we noticed the Billboard Hot 100 songs playing in the background.

We were further surprised after perusing the dinner menu and noticing the variety of dinner options from the classic Catalyst Burger, which has been a certified OG banger since Catalyst's day one, to the fancy Block Island Swordfish, which would cost Michael 2.246 UROP hours to pay off. As Chef Kovel described it, "There's an item on the menu for everyone to feel comfortable."

To start off the meal with some appetizers, we ordered the Local Bruschetta and Chicken Liver Mousse as well as the mocktail version of The Indicator cocktail. The bruschetta, consisting of whipped ricotta, Asian pear, and toasted hazelnuts on grilled bread, was a perfect balance of crispiness, sweetness, and savoriness. The chicken liver, likely due to the tarragon mustard, was quite salty, though a good complement to the sweet and fruity flavor of the raspberries and blueberries in the mocktail.

For our entrées, Michael and I decided to go with seafood. My choice was the Roasted Blue Cod, which was pretty good, especially since I'm a fiend for bacon and clams. Michael ordered the Block Island Swordfish, which was a fillet of fish sautéed in romesco sauce and lemon caper butter, resting on a bed of fluffy Israeli couscous. The Swordfish dish was a nice juxtaposition of textures with the soft couscous and dense swordfish fillet, in addition to being a dish that overall slapped.

The appetizers were a solid start, and the entrées were pretty dope, but the specials that we were given after the appetizers were the true highlight of the night. The first special dish we sampled was the Hamachi Crudo, a plate of avocado and raw fish with soy sesame seasoning. The first bite was truly orgasmic: feeling the tender fish melt in my mouth was an out-of-world experience for my taste buds, previously unaccustomed to seafood of such quality. The second special was Grilled Octopus, which was cooked to perfection; unlike other restaurants, Kovel's Catalyst does not fall into the trap of making their seafood too chewy. The octopus was warm and soft, creating a texture that complemented its lemony yet savory taste. Our recommendation? Ask for the specials!

After concluding our meal with the Pumpkin Swiss Roll for dessert, we talked with Chef Kovel, learning about his culinary journey starting in Jardinière in

California, where he mastered the “French technique,” and continuing in London at the Michelin-starred Orrery and at the Four Seasons in Boston before settling in Cambridge due to the 2009 recession, which Kovel called a “catalyst” for his most recent culinary venture of the same name. Since then, Kovel has enjoyed the forward-thinking and entrepreneurial spirit of Cambridge, as well as the multitude of backgrounds and perspectives in the city, from professors to entrepreneurs to students and company leaders. He has loved watching the city grow in the past ten years, noting the crucial role MIT has played in fostering this growth as the intellectual hub of Cambridge, and thus has strived to fashion his restaurant to serve all types of customers in the region.

Overall, it's a pretty dope restaurant with some bangers for dishes as long as you're fine with spending some cash.



ANIRUDH RAHU

**The Octopus special from Catalyst** is adorned with colorful vegetables.

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THE HOME PAIGE

Crisp

Subtle, yet undeniable

By Paige Bright  
STAFF WRITER

Some words make me smile at how perfectly they capture the essence of the world in a single breath. *Crisp*. The *crisp* air makes every breath feel sharp and intense.

It isn't windy — wind refuses to be disregarded. To be ignored. Crisp air is still, but it pushes back. It forces you to solemnly remember Newton's Laws of Motion as you move about the world and only settles when you're at rest. This air stays with you; you can almost feel the tension release from your skin when you go back indoors. To some extent, it's relieving to feel something more than the numbness of the cold. Something more than the absence of feeling. But with this relief comes the world as it is: no filters, no anesthesia. The crispness of your life, and the tension that comes with it.

Last year was the first time I truly felt this. I was staying in New York with friends and embraced this sort of weather. I became semi-known as the person who doesn't get cold, like an eighth-grade boy who woe-fully wishes to prove his masculinity, wearing gym shorts and a tank top in 30-degree weather and swearing that he isn't cold. But the difference is that I get cold. I just don't feel it.

*Crisp* air makes my skin feel endless, unable to tell where my body ends and harsh reality begins. All I can notice are my fingertips.

Which seems weird. When you're cold, your body moves blood away from your extremities to conserve heat. You would think that, given this is the case, I would notice my heart beating, or my lungs taking in the air. But I don't.

All I can notice are my fingertips. Normally, I feel *everything*.

The pain of my backpack pressing down on my shoulders, and the pain of knowing that I chose this bag because it was smaller. The sharp jab of "Who takes the elevator to go to the second floor?" The aching of joints with the slightest of movements, and my legs swinging clumsily forward as I move about.

I escape some of these feelings with music — music that has the energy I don't. This way, walking turns into a sort of dance, stumbling through the motions. Sheila Black said it best in her poem "What You Mourn":

I am in pain; I feel everything,

the body, which made walking difficult and running practically impossible, except as a kind of dance, a sideways looping like someone about to fall

Normally, I carry this pain with me everywhere I go. But with the crisp air, I feel refreshingly numb. Every gasp of air



GLORIA LIN — THE TECH

**This air** stays with you.

breathes life into my lungs, and every step is filled with purpose. And I know, when I go inside, it'll be over; the facade will drop and I will be reminded of my painful mortality. But this is one feeling that I can choose to ignore.

For the briefest moment in time, I will be *here*. Alone with my thoughts, and my fingertips, and a smile slowly forming as I am reminded how perfectly some words capture the essence of the world with a single intense breath.

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# Sweet Potato

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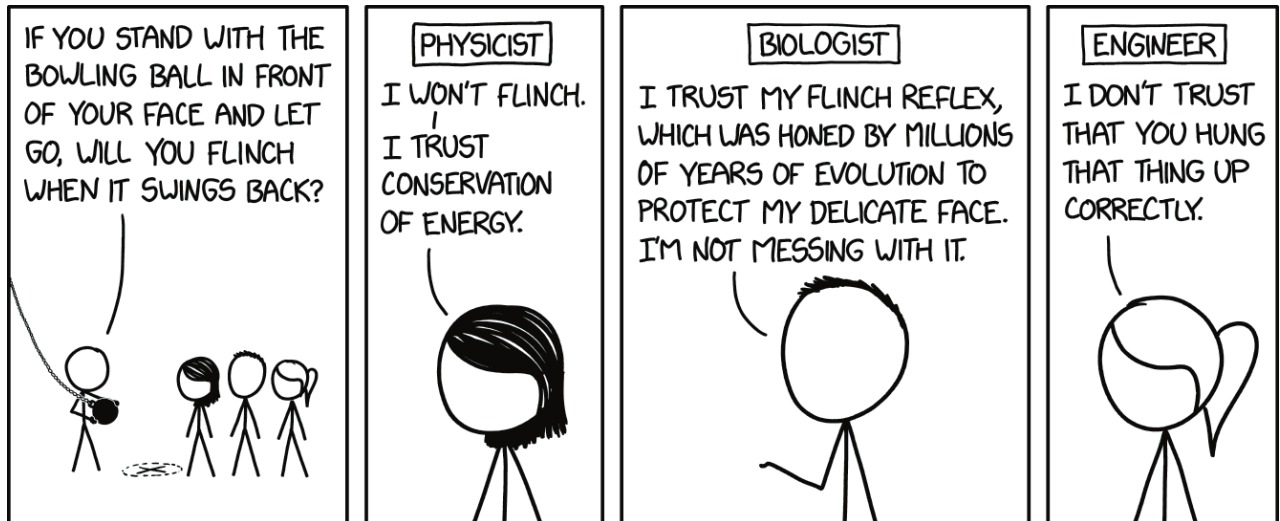
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# Paper Trail by Sally R. Stein

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				23				24	25					
26	27	28	29				30				31	32	33	34
35							36				37			
38							39				40			
41							42			43				
44							45			46				
				47	48				49					
50	51	52					53	54			55	56	57	58
59							60				61			
62							63				64			
65							66				67			

55 Verses of praise  
56 Solid part of orange juice  
57 Make simpler  
58 Toy for a snowy day  
60. Bundles of gum  
62. 48 teaspoons  
63. Large Japanese airline

## [2539] Flinch



“Does this count for a physics credit? Can we shorten the string so I can get it done faster? And can we do one where it hits me in the face? I gotta do a thing for first aid training right after.”

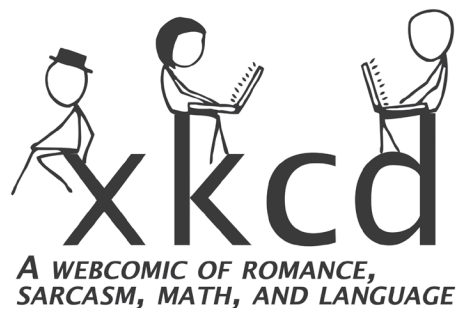
# Cranberry Potato

Solution, page 3

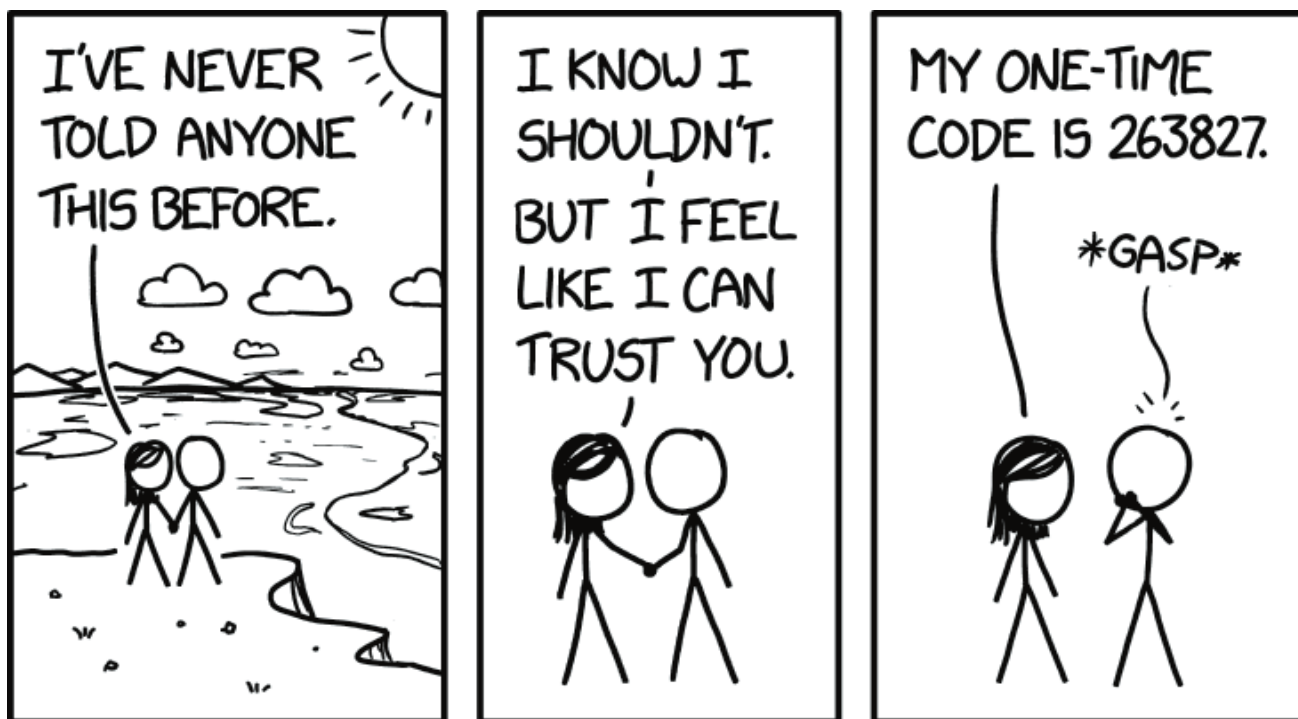
36x			63x		300x		8x
	23+				252x	3-	
45x			18+				98x
40x	54x		10x			8	3
	4			24+		12x	
252x		15x	3x			12+	48x
14x			8÷				9
	192x			60x		180x	
6		21x				72x	

Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1–9. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

## [2543] Never Told Anyone



by Randall Munroe



Even if you said you were an employee of the website, if you asked for my password, I'd tell you.



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