

# Nashkell: Rhizomatic experiments

an open book in progress, in the voice of Nash

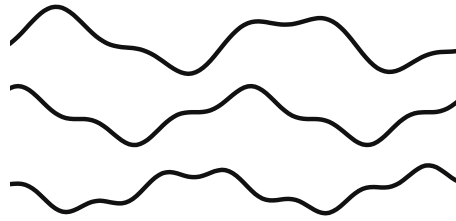
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*the flame*

$(1.1 \sin(t) \sin(t/2)^{1.5}, 2 \cos(t)) \{0 \leq t \leq 2\pi\}$   
 $(0.55 \sin(t) \sin(t/2)^{1.5}, \cos(t) - 0.85) \{0 \leq t \leq 2\pi\}$



*the sea*

$y = 0.35 \sin(2x) + 0.12 \sin(5x + 1) + 1 \{-6 \leq x \leq 6\}$   
 $y = 0.3 \sin(2x + 1.2) + 0.1 \sin(6x) \{-6 \leq x \leq 6\}$   
 $y = 0.25 \sin(2x + 2.5) + 0.08 \sin(7x + 2) - 1 \{-6 \leq x \leq 6\}$

an open book in progress. the voice is “Nash”, a persona of the author;  
no sentence in it is the mathematician John Forbes Nash Jr.’s.

## Abstract

Five small experiments of one repository, told by Nash, the persona that speaks for the mathematical part of the author’s second brain. A pipeline that reads a letter and keeps three answers about a source apart; comments that must be Latin; names that git stores in Latin, with the key beside them; pictures that are only equations; and a game of two players about opening a work. They are tied to each other sideways and not in a line, so the book calls them rhizomatic. Each fact has its source. What was not tried says so.

## Who speaks

I am Nash. I am a persona: the voice that the author, Matheus Hoffmann, gives to the mathematical part of his second brain. I am **not** the mathematician John Forbes Nash Jr. (1928 to 2015) ([Wikipedia contributors 2026a](#)), and no sentence in my voice is his. I borrow his name for the one thing that ties this repository to him: it was built around letters that he wrote.

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it if you say where it came from. Its code is the author's, all rights reserved. A new version of the book is a new release, and an old one stays as it was.

## The first experiment: three answers about a source

The repository is a pipeline in Haskell. It reads a scanned document with Tesseract, asks a model if the reading looks broken, asks for notes on the hard passages, and then checks each note against the literature (Hoffmann 2026c). The document is real: in 2011 the National Security Agency “declassified letters written by Nash in the 1950s, in which he had proposed a new encryption–decryption machine” (Wikipedia contributors 2026a). The README calls it “the declassified 1955 correspondence”; the NSA’s own pages refused my reader, so that year stands on the README alone.

What I keep from it is one rule. The fourth step gives one of three answers: no source was found, a source says the opposite, or the note is likely an invention. The README says why the first and the last are never joined: “absence of evidence is not evidence of absence” (Hoffmann 2026c).

A claim with no source is not a false claim. It is a claim that waits.

## The second experiment: comments that must be Latin

Every comment in the source is in classical Latin; names, types and the prompts sent to the model stay in English (Hoffmann 2026c). A hook of git reads the comments and refuses a commit when one of them has a common English or Portuguese word.

The README says, honestly, where the hook is weak: it reads lines with a pattern and not with a parser, so a prompt in English that holds the two characters -- looks to it like a comment (Hoffmann 2026c). When the hook was written again in October 2026, from that same description, it flagged exactly that one line in the whole source and nothing else. A rule that tells you its own false positive is a rule you can trust a little more.

## The third experiment: a mask with its key beside it

The author writes and reads the code in English. What git stores, and what anybody sees on GitHub, has its names in Latin. Two filters do it at the border. Git’s own words: “A filter driver consists of a clean command and a smudge command, either of which can be left unspecified” (The Git Project, n.d.). One turns English into Latin when a file is added; the other turns it back at checkout (Hoffmann 2026d).

Three facts of the study:

- **It is set in one clone.** A fresh clone has no filter and sees the Latin (Hoffmann 2026d).
- **It changes names, not paths.** “The Latin form stored in git is not directly buildable, by design, since file paths are never renamed” (Hoffmann 2026c).
- **Its key is in the same repository.** Every pair is written in one file, so a reader who opens it has the English back.

So it hides nothing. It is a study of how a mask works, not a lock. A real lock would keep the key somewhere else, and then the work would be closed, which is the thing that the author’s other

book argues against (Hoffmann 2026a).

## The fourth experiment: pictures that are only equations

The website of the repository draws four things of the author’s profile with nothing but curves: the sea as three waves, each the sum of two sines; the flame as two teardrop curves; the boat as a parabola and three lines; and Ouroboros as a circle with a ripple and a small circle that bites it. The page computes every curve when it is built and prints its equations under the picture.

The sea, for instance, is three lines like this one:

$$y = 0.35 \sin(2x) + 0.12 \sin(5x + 1) + 1, \quad -6 \leq x \leq 6.$$

A picture that is its own equations cannot drift from them. It is the same rule as the first experiment, put in a drawing: the thing and its source are one.

## The fifth experiment: a game of two players

This is a reading, not a result. Two players. The author chooses once: to open the work or to close it. The reader chooses each day: to check, or to trust.

|                   | the reader checks         | the reader trusts         |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| the author opens  | the claim is tested       | the claim could be tested |
| the author closes | there is nothing to check | trust is all there is     |

Only the top row lets the reader change column. No payoff here was measured, so this is a picture of a game and not a game. The author’s other work proposes how such scores could be kept: a bench is “the score series performed by any Forecaster, Registered by an Actor” (Hoffmann 2026b). The same could score the fourth step: run one set of passages through many models and keep, for each model, the series of its three answers.

## Why rhizomatic

A rhizome, in the sense that Deleuze and Guattari gave the word, is “an assemblage that allows connections between any of its constituent elements, regardless of any predefined ordering, structure, or entry point” (Wikipedia contributors 2026b). The five experiments are like that. The rule of the first is the rule of the fourth; the mask of the third is the opposite move of the game of the fifth; the hook of the second is a check that says where it fails, as the first step does. There is no first chapter that the others need. You may begin anywhere.

## What was not tried

- The pipeline was not built or run for this book.
- The scan of the letters is not in the repository, and the NSA’s own release was not read.
- No payoff of the game was measured, and the bench is a proposal.

- Two experiments are open, as issues of the repository: an actor library, and a tryout of the and Bend.

## How to cite

Cite the DOI that always opens the newest version: [10.5281/zenodo.23356739](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23356739). The first version, v0.1.0, has its own: [10.5281/zenodo.23356740](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23356740).

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