## The RTM for the kids

Thanks to Mum, my favorite beta tester.

Thanks to Stéphane Laborde for this marvellous RTM. Hoping not to misrepresent its spirit.

Sources are available at the time of publication on: https://github.com/cuckooland/Cuckooland-Project © Cuckooland 2016 (GNU Plublic License V3) ISBN 979-10-96089-01-7

## Author's note

As a kid, you want to understand the world around you. You ask a lot of questions. As a teenager, you don't ask questions anymore, you're seething with anger ... and you talk about the "system" we must change. That's only natural, it's so obvious that something is wrong. And at the centre of the system – but also of the majority of the human conversations –, there's this thing called money ...

Who creates money, and for going to whom? Intuitively, a child quickly understands it: there's no equity in there, money is clearly a instrument of power which is in the hands of a few. So can we talk about democracy without feeling ridiculous? Some live that very well ... for my part, I never got used to it, money and democracy form a couple straight out of a humiliating and intolerable farce.

School should invite children to take a critical look on money, but it's not. Yet, there's food for thought, with substantive ideas like Basic Income, demurrage currencies, local currencies, RTM ... Why such humanistic, positive, heartening ideas are not taught at school? What a pity. Thus was born the desire for a presentation of the RTM intended for children.

CUCKOOLAND





"One man, one vote!" I heard it in a song.

Oh yes, I know! It says that every man must be able to express its opinion on equal terms with each other. This is known as a principle of symmetry.

The fairy

Elise



Elise

I know symmetries: when we look in a mirror, we say to ourself that we could exchange reflect with the real world, we would not see the difference. So, we say there's a symmetry.

> This principle of symmetry can be found in many sayings. You must know this one: "The right to swing my fist ends where the other man's nose begins."

Yes I Do! And I also know one, very important: "Don't do unto others what you don't want others to do unto you."





When humans work in a group and try to respect these principles of symmetry, we speak of democracy. "One man, one vote", it's a song that celebrates democracy. The fair

Elise

Sometimes Mum goes voting: we ask everybody to go in a place to say "YES" or "NO" to a question ... or to give the name of someone with who we agree ...







Yes, thanks to a small piece of paper called a ballot, they express their opinion. But you seem to think it's ridiculous?

A little, yes ... Mum says it's useless! She says it's money that rules the world. The fairy

Elise



The song should say "One man, one currency note", but it's silly, we don't distribute a note like we distribute a ballot.

Elise

You, humans, you are funny! "Money! Money!" You talk without stopping about a subject on which you know nothing. But when you feel it destroys your democracy, and even your life, you accept it, as if it was natural and inevitable.

Elise

Not true! It's adults who accept things and always answer "That's the way it is!" I'll try to better know the money.









I read that if we brought together all the euros in the world, we would count 10 million of million euros.

Elise

Elise

The fairy

The fairy

Yes, it's known as the money supply.

It's enormous! 10 followed by twelve zeros!

One million of million, it's one trillion.

10 000 000 000 000

So there're 10 trillion euros.









You have to choose what is called a reference, in other word, choose something to get your position relative to it. The fairy

I read that we are 330 million to use the euro, we should see what I have in comparison to them.  ${\rm Elise}$ 



We can calculate what would be an equal sharing of euros between all of you.

That is to say, look how much is 10 million of million divided by 330 million.



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It's a little more than 30 thousand euros per person.

Elise

Elise

The fair

So you are far from average store.

6

l'll talk to Mum to ask for a rise!







Mum told me: if you need money, you have to borrow it and then to repay it little by little. But you have to repay twice as much! Elise

in the take to borrow

To borrow. we that to pay interests

Yes, some have so much money they can lend part of it and, for repayment, they demand in addition what are known as interests.

To borrow, we have to pay .

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v interests

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So the rich are becoming more and more rich and the poor more and more poor!

These are known as vicious circles. It's far from being a system that drags everyone to an equal power.

Elise

The more I get money easily, the more I have influence.

The more I have influence, the more I get money easily.

The less I get money easily, the less I have influence.

The less I have influence, the less I get money easily.



Imagine at school: if I have an average mark below 10, then next month, I receive one 0 as punishment ... Elise

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Obviously, the chances of passing above the average are lower with this punishment.

The fairy

Month 1		М
Mark 1: Mark 2: Mark 3: Mark 4: Total: Average:	8/20 9/20 10/20 11/20 38/80 9,5/20	
below 10 hence punis	shment!	

Month 2		
Punishment:	0/20	
Mark 1:	11/20	
Mark 2:	11/20	
Mark 3:	11/20	
Mark 4:	12/20	
Total:	45/100	
Average:	9,5/20	
while without punichment		

Average: 11,25/20

... while those with an average higher than 10 are rewarded with a 20 out of 20!

The risk of dropping below the average is lower with this reward. The <sup>fairy</sup>

Month 1	
Mark I:	11/20
Mark 2:	11/20
Mark 3:	11/20
Mark 4:	12/20
Total:	45/80
Average:	11,25/20
lower tha	n 10 Vardl

1onth 2	
Reward:	20/20
Mark 1:	8/20
Mark 2:	9/20
Mark 3:	10/20
Mark 4:	11/20
Total:	58/100
Average:	11,6/20

while without reward ... Average: 9,5/20

Elise



In fact, the richest are encouraged not to spend very much, to keep what is known as a capital, to take advantage of the money they gain from lending it.

But less rich people are also encouraged not to spend very much, for fear of missing later!

That's right. We say that money is a store of value. Yet, it's also meant to be a means of exchange!

The fair



Yes, the purpose of money is to be exchanged! It's a hell of a contradiction, I wonder if we can solve this problem?

Elise

We have to reflect on this! Because rich and poor alike are trapped in these vicious circles: they are condemned to an increasingly violent and destructive competition ...









And this beautiful book you have there, what was its price? The fairy

It was expensive! 30 euros! Three weeks pocket money!

Elise

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You say it was expensive because you compare its price to the amount of your pocket money.

The fairy

Of course, when it's compared to the average store of 30 thousand euros, it's not expensive!

Elise



You just highlight two points of view, two frames of reference.

The fairy

The first is when I compare the price with my pocket money ...  ${\sf Eli^{\rm ge}}$ 

... and the second is when you compare the price with the average store of money, 30 thousand euros. Does one of these points of view seem to you better than the other one?

I don't know. For example, at school, if I get a mark of 10, I want to know what it's worth compared with the mark of other children ...

Yes, you will calculate the average of the marks of other children and compare it with yours.

The fairy

Elise

But I'm interested to know what it's worth compared to my marks of other days ...  ${\rm Elise}$ 



In fact, I can't see why we would favor one of these points of view, both are interesting! Elise It's true. However, you can verify around you, almost nobody knows the average store of money. The fairy
But how is it possible? Adults never stop talking about money, they must know the average store!

I believe for many people, money is just like gold or silver: a material whose the existing quantity is not well known. Yet it's false! They should demand strongly that it be communicated to all.

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 $\ensuremath{\mathsf{I}}$  read that the quantity of existing euros increases year after year.

Elise

That's right. Especially between 2000 and 2010, money supply has doubled. The fairy

So, the average store has also doubled ... As if in 2000, the scoring system was out of 10, then out of 11 in 2001, and so on, to finally be out of 20 in 2010.

In a way, but note two things ...



First, the creation of money doesn't have that steady pace over time. There're sudden changes. The fairy

As if in 2006, the marks were still out of 13, then suddenly in 2007, they were out of 18  $\ldots$ 

Elise

So if we want to compare a mark with previous ones, it's complicated!

This is known as a temporal asymmetry.

Ø

Elise



Secondly, these creations are made by a few people and only some others know about it.

The fairy

Some people mark out of 10 while others mark out of 12, and we aren't aware of it? So, a mark may seem huge, while it's not!

Yes. And that's how some prices may seem high but they are not that much. This is known as bubbles ... and spatial asymmetries.





It's cunning! There's even no more need to copy its neighbour for cheating!

This would be funny if the consequences were not so tragic. Because money should be a reliable unit of account. The fairy

Elise

Elise

That's true, how can we accept to measure something with so distorting glasses!

large? or ... small?







It would be much simpler if the amount of euros did not change. Everyone would know that the average store of money is 30 thousand euros, wherever it is, and whatever the moment.

It's true, when we mark out of 5, then out of 10, then out of 20 ... it's a bit complicated! It would be simpler to always mark out of 20. However ...

Elise







Would it not have been fair to create money and then distribute it equally, what is known as "respect a spatial symmetry"? The fain

Yes, of course, but that's all in the past, nothing more can be done!

No, this injustice doesn't belong to the past, it continues ... The fairy

Elise

You and all those yet to be born, will you receive 30 thousand euros?

The fairy

No, it's true ... and it's not fair ... Despite that, there's maybe a way to receive these 30 thousand euros and to keep unchanged the total amount of euros? How? By taking 30 thousand euros from others in order to give them to you?

The fairy

Elise

Yes, like Robin Hood, by taking from the rich and giving to the poor.







So let's increase regularly the number of euros ... and each time, let's share these new euros between all of us! It's somewhat as if the 30 thousand euros were repaid gradually.

Yes, we should do this, in order to comply with not only a spatial symmetry, but also what is known as a temporal symmetry.





Compared to 30 thousand euros, it's not a lot, but it will be every week, so with time ...  ${\rm Elise}$ 

Precisely! Don't forget, you decided to regularly expand the money supply so that everyone receives a fair share of money! The fa<sup>iry</sup>

Yes, I see the problem: 10 euros, compared with the amount of euros which is only growing, it's smaller and smaller ... like a piece of confetti laid on a balloon, which seems tinier and tinier when the balloon is inflated.

> Instead of 10 euros, let's use what is known as a relative value: 10 per cent, or 10 %, it means that for 100 euros which exist, we create 10 new euros.





Yes! And that's what it's fair to do!

Elise

This income to which everyone is entitled, it has a name, it's known as a DU. The DU word is actually an abbreviation of a french term: "Dividende Universel" – or "Universal Dividend" in English. The fairy

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10 for 100, it's convenient, it corresponds to a division by 10, we just have to shift the decimal point! For 100 euros, 10 are created; one week later, for 110 euros, 11 are created; two weeks later, for 121 euros, 12.1 are created.

Look at this elastic band: if it is lengthened of 10 % every week, its length will have almost doubled the seventh week. This kind of rapid growth is said to be exponential. The fair





There's no reason to create money as often. If we do it only every beginning of year, we fully comply with the temporal symmetry.



The first year, 10 % of new euros are created, that is 1 trillion euros. Everyone receives an equal share ... The division looks like the one done just now! That makes a little over 3 thousand euros as pocket money per person.

> We say that 10 % of new money is co-created. The following year, 10 % of money will be co-created again. The fairy

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Let's resume our elastic band: let's say that its surface area represents the money supply. We divide it into fine bands of equal width, one for each person. Let's draw the bands for 3 people instead of 330 million, it's easier.

Each fine band corresponds to the average, that is 30 thousand euros. And 10 % of a fine band corresponds to the DU, 3 thousand euros. 7 years later, the length of the band will have doubled. So the number of euros, but also the average and the DU double every 7 years!

Average: 30 thousand euros Average: 30 thousand euros Money supply at year 1 Average: 60 thousand euros Average: 60 thousand euros Band of individual 1 Band of individual 2 Band of individual 3 etc. 330 million bands Money supply at year 7

10 trillion euros

20 trillion euros



And to know the money supply, we just have to multiply the average by 330 million: that's 3,3 billion DUs. Now or 7 years later, we always find all the same.

Yes, at least if the number of people does not change! In this frame of reference, the money supply is said to be stable. Its growth is zero, it's no more exponential.







By counting in DU, we have used a new frame of reference, is that right?

Yes. We could also use your book as frame of reference. How much would cost the DU in number of books?

The fairy

Elise

The DU is worth 3 thousand euros, and the book is worth 30 euros, it's 100 times less. It's as if the DU was worth 100 books! Elise

You think it would make sense for everyone to use a book as a reference?
I don't think so, my friends don't enjoy reading ...

Elise

And there, you consider the spatial dimension, but there's also the temporal dimension: books have not always existed. Sometimes people want to impose their values, for example gold or silver, as frame of reference, it's unjustifiable and intolerable!

Well, then ... there's only one frame of reference that makes sense for everyone, it's man itself!



That's exactly it! For example, the average store of money is based on humans. The DU is also, because the one is 10 % of the other. They have meaning for everyone and at all times.

Yes, we have to use the DU as frame of reference! The book costs 100 times less, it's as if it was worth 1 cent in DU!

On the back of the book, instead of writing "Price: 30 euros", we can write "Price: 0.01 DU", and it will make sense for everyone, regardless of its position in space and in time. The fair.





Yes, in this frame of reference in euro, we say there's price inflation. Do you find this shocking?

The fair



I'm not sure ... The book has increased from 30 to 60 euros, but it's because at the same time, each received in equal parts plenty of pocket money ... Thus it compensates?

It certainly compensates, since we know that the money supply remained constant when we count in number of DUs! Why are you hesitating? The fair It's weird ... It reminds me of the story of the three sisters: there're two years between each one, and when they were children, the difference in age seemed huge ...

> ... but the difference seems tinier and tinier as their age increases, like our piece of confetti laid on a balloon inflated year after year! We have to take a closer look at that ...









Let's see three cases. First: the person who has the average of 30 thousand euros, that is 10 DUs, stays at this average of 10 DUs, that is 33 miles euros after emission of the new money. The fairy

We saw it with the elastic band: its length increases so that the average of 10 DUs of year 2 corresponds to 10 + 1 DUs of year 1.

It also reminds of the story of the three sisters: at 4 years old, the second sister is at the average age, and at 50, she will still be at the average age. The fain  $t_{\rm the}$  fain









With the elastic, we see that someone who has no euro at the beginning has 3 thousand at year 2, but it always misses 30 thousand euros to reach the average. Except that the number of euros is increasing and ...

... And these 30 thousand euros will seem tinier and tinier! Finally, if we count in DU, this individual will have received 0.91 DU after the 1st year; 8.5 at the 20th; and 9.8 at the 40th ...

It doesn't reach the average of 10 DUs, but it's very close!









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Small, but how much? If we do the calculation, we find that its store will represent only 39 % of the money supply at the 10th year; 15 % at the 20th; 6 % at the 30th; and 2.5 % at the 40th ...

Robin Hood gonna love this! Thanks to the DU, if my store is above the average, it seems to decrease, while if it is below, it seems to increase!

Yes, this time, we can speak of a virtuous circle.



If I have a lot of influence, the DU reduces my influence.

Rate 10%	Space occupied by
Average	the store of the on
10 DUs	having all the euros
1 year	90 %
10 years	38.7 %
20 years	<mark>15.</mark> 1 %
30 years	6.1 %
40 years	2.5 %

Elise

The fair









With this permanent increase, a store of euros which seems big one day, is not that much some years later. It looks like a trick to give it a limited life. Elist Elist

Yes, limited and well fixed! Humans dream about a money withstanding the test of time, it makes them feel secure. But it's madness! Now, we want a money in the image of man, both living at the same rhythm. And it's the rate of the DU which sets this rhythm.

Therefore, 10 % is maybe not a good rate! How are we going to know it?



We have calculated the average store of money by individual, but this time, we need their average life expectancy: it's about 80 years.

So to calculate a good rate, we must involve this 80 somewhere ... it doesn't get us far ...

We will divide the 330 million people into 2: those who are under the age of 40, let's call them the incoming people ... The fain the fai

Elise

Elis

... and the outgoing people, those who are over 40! You are still talking about a symmetry!



You guess right. After forty years, we have already calculated that incoming people almost received their 10 DUs. This side of the symmetry is satisfactory.

The fairy

The fair

Elise

Elise

Yes, let's now look at outgoing people: after forty years, there's not many of them left ...

And the money which existed when they were a part of incoming people, what's happened to it?

In fact, we have already calculated it: after 40 years, it also has almost disappeared, it represents only 2.5 %.

Rate 10%	Money	Space occupied by		
Average	issued by	the money supply		
10 DUs	an incoming	of outgoing people		
10 years	6.1 DUs	38.7 %		
20 years	8.5 DUs	<u>15.1</u> %		
30 years	9.4 DUs	<mark>6</mark> .1 %		
40 years	9.8 DUs	2.5 %		



2.5 % is a reasonable value, because the 40th year, we can consider that the outgoing people are few, but they still account for about 2.5 %.

The fairy

Why the outgoing people would be only 2.5 %?



2.5 for 100, it's the same as 1 for 40. Moreover, we can consider that every year, the same proportion of outgoing people disappears.

And the same proportion for 40 years, that means 1 in 40 people who disappear each year.

That's right. So we consider that the 40th year, it only remains the last fortieth of the outgoing people, that is 2.5 %. The fair  $T_{\rm the}$  fairs

We could recalculate with other values for the rate, see what happens with 1 %, 5 % or 20 %?

Elise

Elise

Look, the results are in these tables: we can see that 10 % is the value that best respect the symmetry which has been chosen. The fairy

All the better, 10, that's so convenient!

Rate 1%	Money	Space occupied by	Rate 5%	Money	Space occupied by
Average	issued by	the money supply	Average	issued by	the money supply
100 DUs	an incoming	of outgoing people	20 DUs	an incoming	of outgoing people
10 years	9.5 DUs	90.6 %	10 years	7.7 DUs	61.5 %
20 years	18 DUs	82 %	20 years	12.5 DU <mark>s</mark>	37.9 %
30 years	25.8 DUs	74.3 %	30 years	15.4 DUs	<mark>23.4</mark> %
40 years	32.8 DUs	67.3 %	40 years	17.2 DUs	14 %
Rate 10%	Money	Space occupied by	Rate 20%	Money	Space occupied by
Average	issued by	the money supply	Average	issued by	the money supply
10 DUs	an incoming	of outgoing people	5 DUs	an incoming	of outgoing people
10 years	6.1 DUs	<u>38.7 %</u>	10 years	4.19 DUs	<mark>16.</mark> 4 %
20 years	8.5 DUs	<mark>15.</mark> 1 %	20 years	4.87 DUs	2.9 %
30 years	9.4 DUs	6.1 %	30 years	4.98 DUs	0.73 %
40 years	9.8 DUs	2.5 %	sars	4.997 DUs	0.39 %







In fact, the incoming people who receive their DUs, it looks like an inheritance left to them by the outgoing people. Elise

> It's true. Your ancestors have passed on to you many things, such as the numerals and the letters we use today. You haven't had to work to gain access to them. All this has a great value and belongs no more to the ones than to the others. In a way, the DU represents this universal heritage. The fairy



Elise

The fair

Do you know a book about all this?

I know one, entitled "The Relative Theory of Money" by Stéphane Laborde, published under a free license.

I know the free licenses, it's when we can download, reuse, reprint, modify, distribute, copy ... the texts or the drawings! But, what does that mean "Relative Theory of Money"? Elise





We have seen some principles of symmetry. By applying them to money, we followed what we call the Relative Theory of Money. It also says that a currency is "non free" when it does not respect these principles, and when its functioning is not accessible to all.

Elise

These "non free" currencies are really lousy: they are poor tools, they measure badly and distort everything in a very unfair way. But we have seen what is needed for these currencies to be much better.



Elise

That's right! Some understood that they have everything to live with abundance, except they are in a vicious circle that slowly deprives their region of money ... Faced with this money drying up, they had the idea of establishing their own currency. The fairy



## So, there're already free currencies!

Elise

Not really. Some local currencies are called "perishable", meaning that the currency notes have a date of issue and their value decreases month after month. But none contains this idea of DU. However, this may soon change: free currencies are in preparation! Yes, but you know, the problem is the same as for free licenses: many people don't know all this ...

Don't lose hope! Because the success of free licenses is undeniable and has perfectly illustrated a famous phrase "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win."

Elise

Elise

So free currencies are gonna win! And we will sing "One man, one DU!"



