What characterizes a good first sentence? Leslie says to “avoid passive wimpiness,” but to be simple and direct. “Get right down to business.” Of course, once you have hit your readers in the gut with your first sentence, you can’t let them down with your second. Continuing in this vein, by induction, “When you come to sentence number 2079, you’ve got to keep socking it to them.” (He illustrated this by reading an arresting sentence from the middle of The Four Quartets by T. S. Eliot, choosing the sentence at random.)

Leslie finished his lecture by saying, “I am not T. S. Eliot. I need to pay more attention to my writing. As do we all.”

§32. How I changed my co-author’s draft

In this section, we discuss some of the highlights of the research area. We discuss some of the most significant, elegant, and useful algorithms, and some corresponding lower bound results. Since the literature in the area is vast and varied, we have found the selection and organization of these results to be a formidable task. We have chosen to simplify our task by restricting our attention to four major categories of results: shared memory algorithms, distributed consensus algorithms, distributed network algorithms and concurrency control. Each of these categories has a very rich research literature of its own, and we think that together, they provide a representative picture of work in the area. Still, our description is incomplete, since we neglect many other interesting topics.

In this section, we discuss some of the most significant algorithms and lower bound results.

We restrict our attention to four major categories: shared memory algorithms, distributed consensus algorithms, distributed network algorithms and concurrency control.

Although we are neglecting many interesting topics, these four areas provide a representative picture of distributed computing.