

MICRONAUTS!

Micronesian Navigators Have Been Practicing Relativity Long Before $E = mc^2$

$$L = L_0 \sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}} \quad T = \frac{T_0}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

AKA *etak*
Moving Island

Gravitational
Wave &
Space-Time
Curvature

AKA *di lep*
Subtle Wave

Papa Mau Piailug and Korent Joel, to name two of the most mastered ones. These “Micronauts” have successfully navigated thousands of miles of the Pacific Ocean without compasses, GPS, or any Western mechanical devices. Canoe navigators and voyagers are the explorers of new land and life throughout the Pacific, having built relationality with the land, sea, sky and universe over millennia. Micronauts from the Marshall Islands use stick chart maps that illustrate wave patterns and subtle currents that form between islands. At sea, navigators have been trained to recognize these intersections in the waves in order to know where they are in relation to the surrounding islands. Micronauts chart the stars and their paths to determine their position relative to the entire globe. This knowledge of self, place, and ancestral connections forms the embodied knowledge that transcends time and space. The relationships established between Micronauts, their ancestors, and the islands connected by the ocean have endured through generations of dedication to oceanic navigation. This knowledge that has been passed down precedes Einstein’s theory of relativity, a theory that was used to generate the atomic bombs detonated in the Marshall Islands. The colonial application of the theory of relativity has caused destruction and separation, while the Indigenous application of relative knowledge contributes to healing and revitalizing connections with one another. Micronauts use the knowledge of relativity to navigate life—and foster lives that are to come.



RiMeto
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