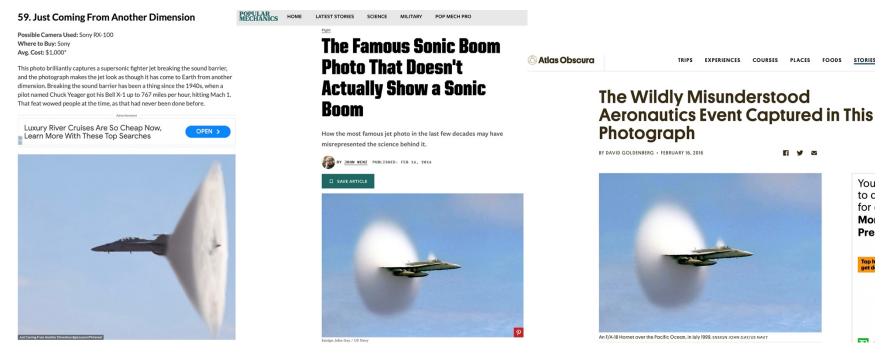
Another Example of How Misinformation Spreads & How Hard It Is to Correct It



https://www.popularmechanics.com/flight/a19466/the-sonic-boom-photo-that-doesnt-show-a-sonic-boom/https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/the-wildly-misunderstood-aeronautics-event-captured-in-this-photograph

More of how misinformation gets out there and stays there. The recent CNN article on the left claims the photo captures what happens when a plane breaks the sound barrier. Rather, though the plane may be at supersonic speed, the phenomenon is "flow-induced vaporization that sometimes forms around objects flying at high speeds in the right environmental conditions."

In *The Right Stuff*, a great and fun movie, when "Chuck Yeager"/Sam Shepard finally breaks the sound barrier, there are strange shimmering lights and a shuddering plane threatening to break in pieces; the boom is first thought to be the Bell X-1 (X-15) blasting apart with Yeager in it. I am still not sure what breaking the sound barrier is really like for the plane and the guy in it. But I would sure like to experience it.

The aerodynamics and aeronautics of all this reveals again how complex our universe is, how only incredibly sophisticated mathematics can begin to give the measure of it.