

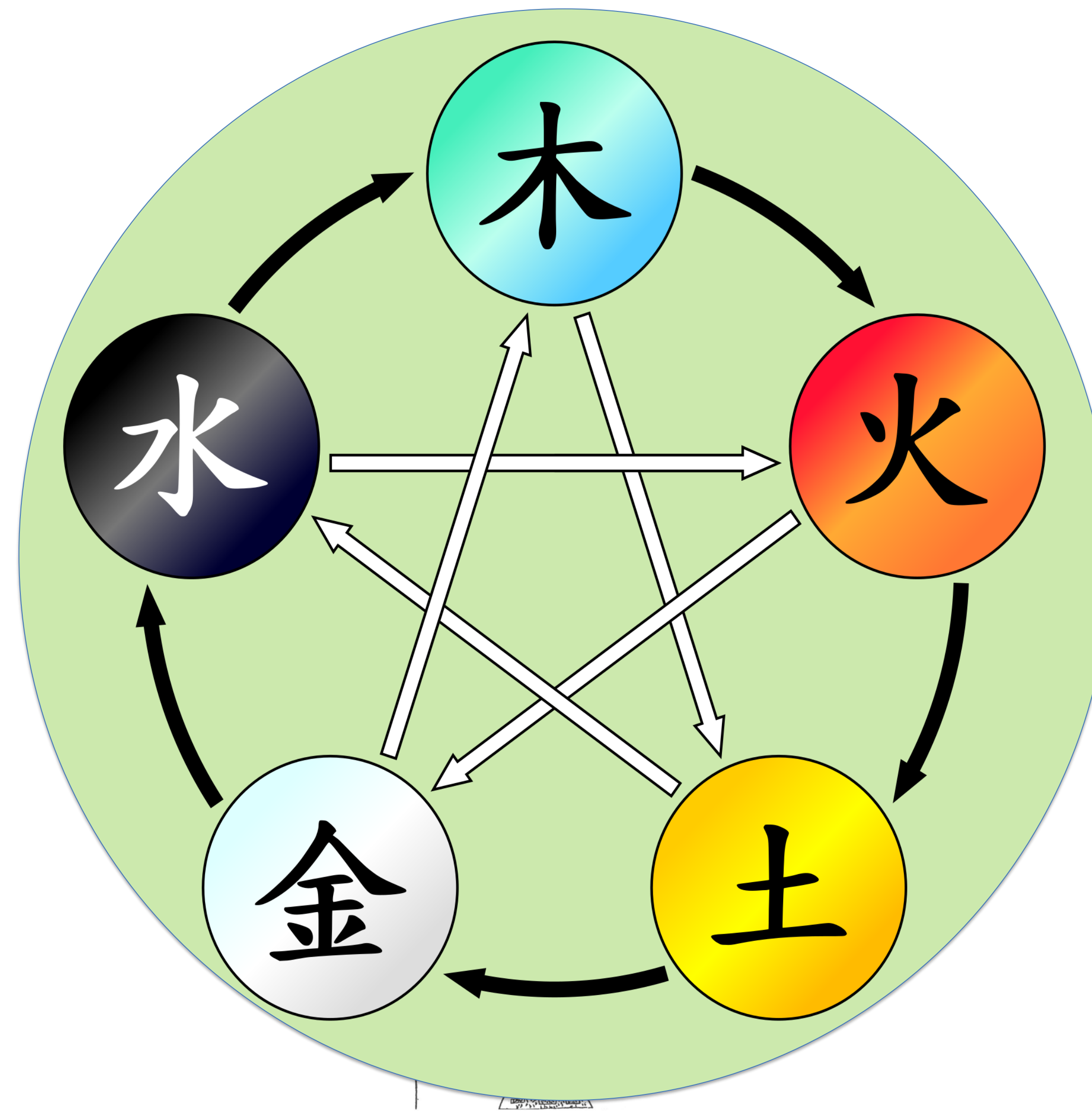


# Fire Pits, Ducks, and Chemical Warfare: A History of Pest Control in China

Trevor Mullen  
Advised by Dr. Ng  
History and Environmental Studies



## How Did Farmers in China Protect the Crops Before the Advent of Chemical Pesticides?



### Cycle of Overcoming

- The Five Elements were used to understand which animals could overcome pests
- Ducks, frogs, fish, wasps, and more recently, fungi, all used to protect crops

### Community Organization

- Large amounts of peasants were organized by the government to deal with locust swarms by hand
- Utilizes human labor and simple traps like fire pits and baskets

### Pest Philosophy

- Daoist and Buddhist ideas of what is and isn't a pest differ greatly from contemporary definitions.

### Crop Defenses

- Farmers grew many different types of crops at once and bred their crops to better suit local conditions over the centuries
- Modern crop defenses use GMO crops that kill insects that try to eat them.

### Acknowledgements

Thank you to Dr. Ng for advising me and pushing me into new experiences and to the History Department for funding my research in Taiwan

