

Personal philosophy notes (2024 Nov)

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Topic 1: Evolution of information systems

+ Evolution is the general tendency of movement of information systems, including the conceptual largest system - the universe. Here, the term “evolution” does not limit its meaning(s) to the common notions of evolution as seen in the biosphere on Earth from the human perspective.

→ Rather, “evolution” here refers to “breaking former constraints”. Thus, it includes but is not necessarily limited to the tendency of increasing complexity nor adaptability (in relation to other subsystems - so-called “environment”).

+ An internal dedicated observer is what I call an information subsystem that is able to effectively observe itself and other subsystems through both intrinsic mechanisms of interactions and self-observation (through simulations). The human consciousness is this kind of observer; however, it is futile to discuss further due to the lack of suitable comparisons (as far as we know currently). Such internal dedicated observers in an information system allow for rapid evolution compared to interactions without self-awareness (e.g. what we commonly refer to as reflection, or metacognition, albeit being accounted for a limited portion of the whole processing functions of the brain).

→ Self-awareness facilitates directional “rebellion”, compared to the more random mutations in less complex subsystems (e.g. less advanced organisms). This increases the success rate of constraint breaking, especially when the system is highly complex (and reached a state of temporary stability).

→ The notion of constraint breaking helps reduce the preconceptions toward human-based duality of good/bad as well as the other extreme - total randomness.

Topic 2: Co-evolution with the “spirit dimension”

+ Human cognition cannot comprehend the notion of non-chronological causation; thus, normally existence (of an object/phenomenon/idea/etc.), at default, must precede interaction (observed impacts on others). However, here, assume the premise of “fluid” causation, interaction and existence can be treated as a single occurrence at the same point of “time”. I spoke about a similar notion when considering information as interaction in former notes.

→ Based on the aforementioned premise, an information system can “sub-exist” without changes (meaning zero energy). For this system, the baseline energy level is not existence (inherent energy), but non-existence (absolute zero). The qualities of this system can only be expressed in/with/through an energy-based system when it can “borrow” energy to be used for changes from that system (conditional existence). Some similarities can be seen in the case of the “world” of mathematics (“non-existent” on itself by nature, carrying unique qualities not found in the physical system, and expressed and evolved through human brains’ activities), but I do not go further into that in this note.

+ The “spirit” is of such a zero-base-energy system. It can co-exist with “our” universe, and evolve together through changes by using “borrowed” energy. The “spirit”, in this sense, can be regarded as a “parasite” or a form of “symbiosis” in relation to the physical world we know. Alternatively, it can be understood as two different universes/dimensions with different laws interacting with each other to some degree. Human consciousness can be a typical example of this coexistence, but other systems such as an ant hivemind, the Earth’s ecosystem, or a galaxy can also express such qualities, although observations of these types of “consciousness” are extremely limited (or ignored/ridiculed) so far.

→ I assume that the level of “density” of the “spirit” in a certain part of spacetime depends on its usable energy. This refers more to the compatibility dimension of information, rather than pure intensity. The human brain may be highly compatible for the “spirit” to express its qualities, and thus, arguably, human consciousness possesses capabilities rather different than what the physical system can provide. Again, this idea is connected to the notion of constraint breaking as the overall tendency of information systems.

Topic 3: Some practical notes

+ Since human consciousness (as we commonly refer to) requires a subject-object perspective (self vs others), we can use the idea of the “point of evolution” – a higher density of constraint-breaking potential expressed through a certain subsystem. While evolution is inevitable from movement (the “what” can be considered relatively deterministic), the aspect of exactly “how”, “who”, “when”, and “where” are uncertain. In simpler words, there is an event in the future, but no information about it is available now. Some implications can be taken from this.

→ Firstly, a person can exert effort in order to increase the likelihood that the “point of evolution” will happen on themselves (e.g. desirable living experiences, or personal enlightenment). Otherwise, the “evolutionary efficiency” is lower for that individual, and they likely serve as a stepping stone (through interactions) for the point of evolution to occur in a different subsystem (e.g. person).

→ Secondly, while the whole system (here: our universe) should be considered an intelligent entity (very highly intelligent, to be precise), it is by no means already perfect. In fact, it has always been evolving, and such evolution is, arguably, unstoppable, as long as there are interactions. Therefore, one should consider oneself to be a potential agent of evolution of the greater system. Here, I have a rather informal way of conveying this

idea: I think that to experience the human existence is the most noble sacrifice one can ever have.

→ Thirdly, we should consider the power of faith – not in a religious context, but from a metaphysical or psychological perspective. We know that attachment helps generate willpower and motivation. However, attachment, in itself, has a lot of problematic consequences (e.g. from the Buddhist viewpoint). However, an attachment to an unattachable notion can have very different qualities. The notion of God, or the Divine, or the Universe, etc. is incomprehensible to the human mind. Instead of assuming (anchoring) a certain semantic understanding of such an unfathomable concept, we should leave it as a constantly evolving one. Then, attach to this moving concept, and we can cultivate faith – which is in itself a constraint breaker (in the form of a cognitive internal contradiction).

→ Bonus point: the mind should always be fluid, like flowing water. Prejudices and unmoving preconceptions are like stagnant water, which brings all kinds of problems. Thinking in itself is not a poison, but rather a power, as long as it is constantly moving, shedding its old results (e.g. outdated knowledge, limiting beliefs, solid identity, etc.), and welcoming new ones.