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Seeking to Understand the Nature of Reality
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A Pragmatic Model of Reality

Brief

This paper is written by an engineer for people seeking to understand the nature of reality. As described here, that nature is based on black box analysis intended to identify functions, processes and relationships required to respond to known biological and Psi inputs to produce known Psi outputs such as body commands and psychokinetic influences. The model is organized into four parts: 1) the implicate nature of reality, 2) life field Expression, 3) life field Perception and 4) development of Comprehension. Based on known Psi phenomena and current consciousness studies, the model is intended to be a tool for people wishing to live more in accordance with the actual nature of reality.

Introduction

In the context of this paper, Seekers are those who have the sense of being greater than their physical body and who intend to understand what that means. This intention can be expressed as three questions which set the scope of the Seeker's Way:

1. What is the nature of reality?
2. What is my nature?
3. What is my relationship with reality?

This paper describes a Metacausal model derived from the study of such anomalous phenomena as Instrumental TransCommunication (ITC), (1) clairvoyance and mediumship. (2) These are considered Psi phenomena where "Psi" is generally defined as the expression or influence of thought. The model is referred to as the Pragmatic Model of Reality. (3) It has been compiled by an engineer and has not been peer reviewed.

Pertinent Theories

Theories that have influenced the Pragmatic Model:

Idealism – Reality is fundamentally mental. Aspects of reality are experienced as intended by individuals and collectives of life fields. (4) (5)

Dual-aspect Monism – Reality consists of thoughtforms that may have objective characteristics. (4)

Survival Hypothesis – The essence of who we are continues after bodily death. (6)

Fields, chaos and fractal theories help describe the nonphysical, possibly implicit nature of reality. (7) (8)

First Sight Theory – Suggests a ruleset for the way mind develops Expression and Perception. (2) (9) (10)

Hypothesis of Formative Causation – Also known as *Morphic Resonance*, the theory suggests a morphogenic model that allows for species specific evolving worldviews. (11) (12) It also provides a rationale for a two-mind model of a person. (13)

Pragmatic Model of Reality – The Pragmatic Model is considered a "*function, process and relationship model.*" For perspective, an electronics engineer can use such a model as a schematic to specify components and connections for a device that will respond to known inputs to produce expected outputs. The Pragmatic Model is not a component-level design, but a conceptual framework for visualizing reality. It can be tested by how well it predicts or explains known phenomena. (3) (14)

Important Concepts

A **Concept** is defined here as a thoughtform (a thought) that has specific intended meaning. Concepts evolve hierarchically in the sense that an elementary concept such as conveyance may be the root concept for such concepts as wagon, automobile and transmission. Those concepts in turn support more complex and specific concepts such as red wagon, two door automobile and telecommunications.

Concepts that provide a context for this model include:

1. **Psi is nonphysical** – Reality is fundamentally mental. (15) (5) (2) (3)
2. **Everywhere is here** – Reality is a dimensionless singularity that is *conceptually* infinitely large. (16) (17)
3. **Life fields** – Reality consists of life fields and their expressions. (18) (11)
4. **Two expressions of life** – Life fields express *meaning as thoughtforms* and *purpose as life fields*.
 - a. **Meaningful Thoughtforms** – Thoughtforms are coherent, gestalt-like, hierarchically related matrixes of meaning. (19) (20)
 - b. **Purposeful Life Fields** – Life fields are purposeful in that they inherit purpose and seek experiences intended to satisfy that purpose. (14) (21) With Personality discussed in Part 1, Part 2 and 3 of this paper describe life fields.

Pragmatic Model of Reality

The Pragmatic Model is composed of four parts:

Part 1 – Principles

Concerning the first Seeker's question, "What is the nature of reality?"

To understand our nature and how we relate to the greater reality, it is first necessary to have a sense of the "space" that is our natural habitat. These are the functions, processes and relationships of reality predicted by the Pragmatic Model. (3)

Initial state – The Initial State of reality (S^0) is modeled as curiosity. This is not to say that a life field expressed curiosity. It is to say that only implicate organizing principles and primitive thoughtforms existed that representing curiosity about the nature of reality itself.

This is conceptually comparable to the rapidly expanding singularity known as the "Big Bang" theorized to have formed the physical aspect of reality. Naturally occurring physical principles such as the electron charge and natural rate of decay are modeled as implicate characteristics of that initial singularity.

As the initial state of even the most fundamental questions in life such as "fight or flight" and "food?" and "procreate," curiosity appears to be a universal characteristic of life.

Life Field – The existence of curiosity, or more generally any question, implies an answer (*understanding*) and a mechanism by which the answer can be realized (*Creative Process*). (22) After State S^0 , State S^{0+1} is modeled as the natural emergence of an experiencing agent capable of developing perception and retaining acquired understanding. This emergent nature of reality is modeled here as a life field.

The expression of thoughtforms representing the intention to acquire understanding (purposeful agents) and thoughtforms representing visualization of what is understood thus far (meaning agents) in States S^{0+1+} are modeled as an evolving process. Perception of States S^{0+1+} is a function of worldview.

Personality – The core aspect of a life field. Personalities inherit purpose from their parent life field as well as applicable understanding previously acquired by the parent. The personality function (an attractor) binds the expression and perception functions as a life field fractal. (7)

Person – From the physical frame of reference, a person is defined here as *a spirit self entangled with a human avatar for the purpose of gaining understanding through experience*. Here, "spirit self" is defined as a discarnate personality (Mind 1) that becomes incarnate when entangled with a human avatar (Morphogenic Mind) at birth of the human. (13) During entanglement, both minds have discrete personalities but share their

mind's worldview function and Expression and Perception processes. Upon the death of the avatar, spirit self is once again discarnate with independent mind.

Frame of Reference – *An evolved hierarchy of meaning that defines a personality's perception of reality. A collective worldview.* (14) Related concepts include:

Rapport – *A life field's attention on a thoughtform or other life field that is purposeful and informed by memory.* Intentional influence exerted by a rapport network within a community of interest is thought to be cumulative with the potential of changing the community's frame of reference. (19)

Collective – The Pragmatic Model describes reality as evolving from the simple expression of curiosity toward increasingly complex understanding. This evolution is modeled as life fields expressing aspects of themselves (child life fields) to explore imagined characteristics of reality. Depending on the purpose, the resulting child life field may be autonomous, but its initial states of purpose, understanding and worldview are a subset of the parent's.

The anticipated result of life field aspectation is a parent-to-many children relationship of life fields. Collectives are defined as *a community of sibling life fields.*

A child life field is intended to experience a venue that is imagined by its parent life field which is based on a venue imagined by the super collective. The child life field's inherited purpose is to derive understanding from those experiences. (14) (23)

Venue – In this model, when a life field intends to experience a characteristic of reality, it imagines a situation or venue that would support the intended experience. It then expresses an aspect of itself to participate in the imagined venue. The imagined characteristic of reality is modeled here as *a venue for experience.*

The physical aspect of reality is modeled as a venue for experience that is imagined by many parent life fields that are related in a hierarchy beginning with a top or pinnacle life field. In this view, the top life field initiated the venue and is exploring its implications with one or more child aspects.

The resulting life field hierarchy for a major venue can be characterized as a pinnacle life field at the head of a *super collective.*

Organizing Principles

Development of this model indicated the need to identify naturally occurring influences that imply spontaneous emergent characteristics of reality. Forty-one Organizing Principles (24) have been identified in three categories:

Reality – Eight principles have been identified that specifically pertain to reality. They include such principles as Collective, Fields, Nested Hierarchy and Progression.

Formation – Thirteen principles have been identified that specifically pertain to the formation of reality. They include such principles as Aspectation, Evolution, Perceptual Agreement and Rapport.

Personality – Twenty principles have been identified that specifically pertain to life fields. They include such principles as Attention, Creative Process, Experience, Point of View, Understanding and Worldview.

Observer

Personality is considered the Observer because it expresses the intention to gain understanding. In effect, it does not interfere with the experience process and expects to receive understanding gained through experiences.

Part 2 – Attention

Concerning the second Seeker's question, *"What is my nature?"*

The Attention Complex (3) represents the mostly unconscious mind as a preconscious expression function that characterizes sensed information according to the life field's worldview. It is a Storyteller. This functional area is the life field's **Judge** because it decides for the life field what is true.

It is also the life field's **Navigator** because the expression signal is bound by worldview. Consequently, life fields cannot experience (perceive) aspects of reality that are not recognized in worldview. The primary characteristics include:

Input Signals

- Mind receives purpose and previously acquired understanding from Personality and sensed information from thoughtforms.
- When incarnate, inputs include sense signals from the avatar organism.
- Mind receives an Intention feedback signal from conscious self that may moderate worldview.

Output Signals

- Mind expresses an "opinion" about sensed information based on worldview. The streaming expression signal is in the form of meaning, sometimes purposeful thoughtforms that may be sensed by other life fields. Expression represents the life field's intended order.
- Expression also functions as a preconscious signal for the formation of conscious Perception. It is important to note that Expression precedes Perception.

Functions

- An **Attention Limiter** helps mind ignore irrelevant thoughtforms.
 - **Worldview** functions as a database populated with frame of reference, memory and acquired understanding, all moderated by temperament. For a person (incarnate personality), worldview includes morphogenic instincts and cultural influences as moderated by temperament. Worldview represents the formation of point of view (frame of reference).
 - The **Perceptual Loop** process considers sensed information and compares it with worldview. The resulting states are:
 - **Reject** – If the process does not recognize the sensed information, the information will likely be ignored.
 - **Agree** – The sensed information is unchanged and becomes the Expression signal.
 - **Maybe** – The sensed information will likely be modified to better agree with worldview before it becomes the expression signal. Sensed information *may* also modify the worldview function. (11)
 - The outcome of the Perceptual Loop process is the life field's **Expression** signal. It is the preconscious **Perception** signal.
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Part 3 – Intention

Concerning the second Seeker's question "*What is my nature?*" Part 2.

The term "conscious" is used here as common usage; however, "awareness" may be a more useful term for this functional area.

The conscious, aware Self is functionally "downstream" from the mind since it does not directly produce the life field's outward Expression. Instead, it considers what is being expressed and produces an intention feedback signal to mind. That feedback may change worldview, and therefore, it may change Expression.

This very rapid Expression-Perception-Intention loop appears to help explain presentment (25) and physiological precursors to awareness.

The feedback mechanism may account for evolution (11) and is critical in the formation of understanding.

Creative Process

This functional area supports the life field's expression of the Creative Process: (3) (22) (15)

- A **Perception** signal is derived from the Attention Complex's Expression signal.
- It is considered in a **Lucidity Feedback Test** asking, *"Is this what I intend?"*
 - If **Yes**, a neutral agree signal is sent to the Want process.
 - A **No** result sends the signal to a Modify Process that applies an *"I intended this"* change to the signal before sending it to the Want Process.
- The **Want** Process is a "Degree of modification" (intensity) forming process.
- The output of the Want Process is a streaming **Feedback** signal to the Attention Complex.
 - A neutral signal will not change worldview or expression.
 - A strong signal *may* change worldview. However, worldview is resistant to change, and the want signal may need to be strong or expressed many times to produce change.
 - Intensity of the feedback signal tends to enhance or diminish Expression. For instance, a strong agree may cause a normally moderate fearful Expression to become debilitating.

As a life field entangled with a human avatar, a person learns an "I think I am this" perspective of experience. Thus, conscious self is considered the **Experienter**. Some theoreticians speculate that the purpose of incarnation is to afford experiences from a physical venue perspective.

Part 4 – Comprehension

Concerning the third Seeker's question, *"What is my relationship with reality?"*

The Lucidity Feedback Test in Part 3 of the Pragmatic Model determines meaning of perception. (3) Such factors as inherited purpose and prior understanding are important for understanding how a person understands experience. (13) (26)

Discerning Intellect – *The presence of mind enabling a person to perceive the actual nature of an experience.* (27)

Lucidity – *The degree to which a self is able to sense the actual nature of reality.* Perceptual Agreement is influenced by lucidity as the life field becomes more able to associate with the actual nature of reality.

Temperament – *Individual life fields exhibit personally unique ways of interacting with the environment.* A four-temperament model (28) is a useful way to model the apparent influence of instincts and culture:

- *Leader* (aka Driver) and *Conformist* (aka Expressive) are mostly influenced by the avatar.
- *Wayshower* (aka Analytical) and *Seeker* (aka Amiable) are mostly influenced by incarnate life field.

The avatar's biologically evolved instincts are a dominant influence on a person's perception of experience at the time of incarnation. Over time, the avatar's influence is moderated by cultural teaching and accumulating memory. The incarnate life field's inherited purpose and previous understanding are typically a small influence.

In the sense that secret wisdom is for *"those who have eyes to see,"* Part 4 represents how a person develops *"eyes to see."* Discernment guides seekers to suspend judgement in order to avoid developing a strong "Agree" feedback to worldview. Perhaps the most useful guidance for Seekers is for them to examine the *implications* of what they think is true.

Purpose of This Model

The Seeker's Way is a personal response to the urge to gain understanding. Relatively few people step onto the path even though it is available to all. The Pragmatic Model of Reality is a tool intended to help people who follow

the Seeker's Way learn to understand their nature and the nature of the world they inhabit. Here, "pragmatic" is intended as "practical."

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With a BSEEE, Tom Butler worked as a communications network management engineer and long-range planner. He is an ordained Spiritualist reverend and credentialed medium, healer, and Spiritualist teacher. With his wife, in 2000, he assumed leadership of an organization focused on the study and practice of Instrumental Transcommunication (atransc.org). As co-director, he organized studies intended to ascertain the nature of apparently paranormal images and speech of ITC. Realizing it is not enough to study and theorize about the nature of ITC and related Psi phenomena, Tom has turned his intention to translating what he has learned into models intended to help the people find ways to apply lessons learned toward their personal progression.

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