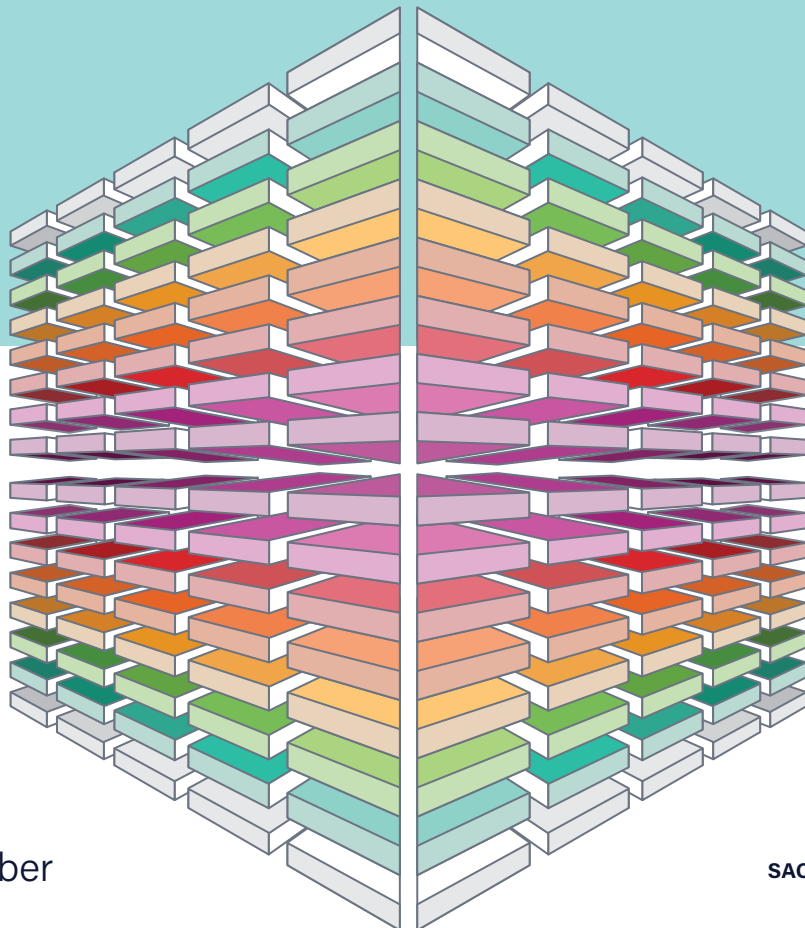




Evolutionary Dynamics PRIMER

Lesson V
Quadrants

Module
Introduction



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The integral map begins to build a unified map or framework by noting that every phenomena — every thing or event in the Universe — is a holon, a whole that is part of a larger whole.

LESSON 1: WHAT ARE QUADRANTS?

Is it possible to integrate 50,000 years of human knowledge into a single comprehensive map of reality?

For many of us, the world simply makes no sense anymore, and this is due largely to our broken, fragmented, meaningless maps—the common meaning-system or universal values we use to help us navigate life and reality.

In Lesson One of Volume 5, we begin by introducing the Four Quadrant map—an approach that helps reveal some of the deepest patterns running through all human knowledge—and their four important dimensions of subjective and objective development in both individuals and collectives.

So, why do we need a comprehensive map of life?

We're living in a time where the world is increasingly difficult to navigate. We're experiencing high rates of depression, anxiety, existential angst and aimlessness. It's no wonder that fundamentalist belief systems continue to exist when our modern and postmodern world doesn't offer an alternative of common meaning-system or universal values.

Beliefs and knowledge that are regarded as meaningful and achievable often fall apart under scrutiny, resulting in the fragmentation, segregation, separation and siloization of our understanding of the world.

There are several revealing things to notice

when you survey the knowledge in any given field. They are:

1) How separate and isolated the field is from all other fields of study, treating it's locus of study as if it were the only important field in existence.

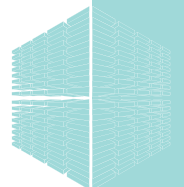
2) All human questions are formulated exclusively in the terms of this particular field and the answers to all human questions are formulated in the formal terminology of this field.

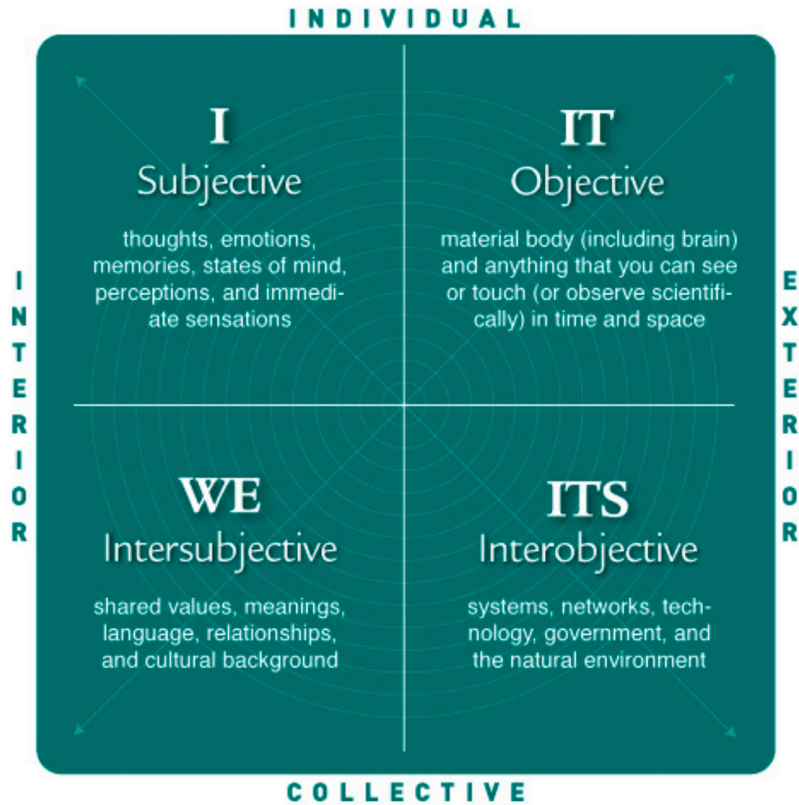
3) The field itself is broken into two to four major subfields, all of which dramatically disagree with each other. And each subfield acts as if it and it alone is true.

So, given how often we see the above in our pursuit of meaningful knowledge, is it really possible to have maps that match our reality? The good news is, the Universe continues to hang together, to be ONE, interrelated and interconnected, to be in fact, a UNI-verse, a single story.

The integral map begins to build a unified map or framework by noting that every phenomena — every thing or event in the Universe — is a holon, a whole that is part of a larger whole, and each holon can be looked at from at least four basic perspectives, or each individual holon has four basic dimensions.

- An interior and an exterior (a within and a without)
- A singular and a plural form (an individual and a collective)





Together, this gives us four dimensions or perspectives:

1. The interior of an individual
(I-Subjective or Upper-Left quadrant)

The view here is concerned with the first-person experience of being. When you open your eyes in the morning, your “theater of consciousness” comes on line and you see the world full of shapes and colors and you perceive meaning all around you. It contains thoughts, feelings, sensations, perceptions.

2. The exterior of an individual
(It-Objective or Upper-Right quadrant)
The view here is concerned with behavior which is observable from the third-person

perspective or that which can be measured or captured (by a video, for example). Here you don’t see thoughts and feelings and spiritual states and levels of consciousness, you see two kidneys, two lungs, one heart, one triune brain, with reptilian brainstem, paleo mammalian limbic system, primate neocortex, and their transmitters, dopamine, serotonin, acetylcholine, and so on.

3. The interior of a collective or group
(We-Intersubjective or Lower-Left Quadrant)
The view here is concerned with your ability to participate in collective containers, to cooperate and contribute as part of a group or team. This perspective is the experiential sense of culture, community, belonging and non-belonging, togetherness and separation,

cooperation and conflict. Our knowledge systems are inextricably tied to that social context.

4. The exterior of a collective or group

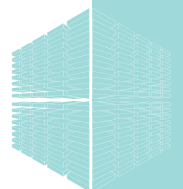
(Its-Interobjective or Lower-Right Quadrant)

The view is concerned with how social systems operate from the third-person perspective. Behavior here is explained in terms of degrees of social interconnectedness as well as your capacity to create and participate in systems or containers that are conducive to your intentions.

These four quadrants are truly important ingredients in a reunified map—all phenomena have these four dimensions, so all four go together and are inherently unified.

As Ken says, “Quadrants go all the way up and all the way down.” which means all the way up to the ultimate manifest spirit, and all the way down to the subatomic realm. And as the quadrants are “layered” on top of each other, new disciplines slowly emerge over the course of evolution.

When we can we look at ourselves through the four quadrants we will gain an important perspective and a great deal of data. Once we combine the quadrants with the other dimensions covered in this program (levels, lines, states, and types), all of which have correlates in all four quadrants, understanding these four dimensions can help us draw together the nested hierarchy of the entire universe, and give us a comprehensive map of life.





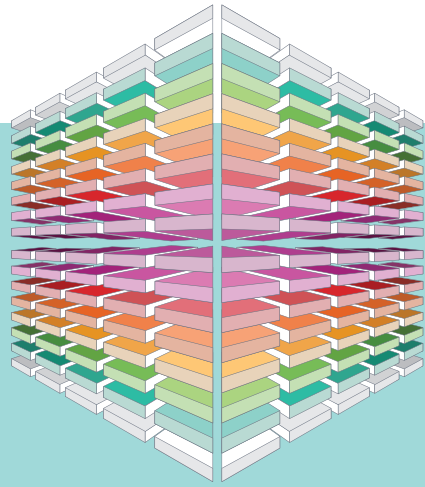
INTEGRATION QUESTIONS

By defining these four quadrants we start to see a truly unified big picture of ourselves and our world, and applying this leap in our worldview can be life changing as we begin to clearly see our own point of view and that of others around us.

1. After reviewing the description of the four quadrants, does one appear to be more familiar to you? Is there one that feels unfamiliar and difficult to recognize in your day-to-day life?

2. What is your understanding of the four quadrants, how they connect with each other and how they can best be used to navigate knowledge and understanding about reality?

3. Can you see how an understanding of the four quadrants contributes to a comprehensive map of life? If so, describe how?



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