*Void*

from old French *voide, viude* “empty, vast, wide, hollow, uncultivated”  
from Latin *vocivos* “unoccupied, vacant”

1610 “unfilled space, gap”  
1727 “absolute empty space, vacuum”

“a large empty space”   
often used figuratively

(Britannica dictionary)

(astronomy) an extended region of space containing no galaxies

(materials science) a collection of adjacent vacancies inside a crystal lattice  
(fluid mechanics) a pocket of vapor inside a fluid flow  
(construction) an empty space between floors and walls

Robert Temple: “Voids are of immense importance, though rarely recognized. There can be no internal architecture if structures are not separated from each other by voids. The structures must be separated from the rest of the mass by a space, otherwise it is no longer a distinct structure.”

*Kenon* ~ ancient Greek word for void  
  
Alice Pisani, Ph.D. Princeton University “Cosmology with Cosmic Voids”

The cosmic web (the meta pattern of galaxies) ~ among the latticeworks, between the walls and knots and filaments, are the great voids. Stretching anywhere from 20 million to hundreds of millions of light-years across, these are the true deserts of the cosmos, almost entirely devoid of matter. Galaxies are gravitationally bound together, creating huge cosmic structures known as galaxy filaments.  
  
Growing the cosmic web ~ density fluctuations increase over time ~ denser spots had slightly more gravitational attraction than less dense spots ~ matter becomes concentrated in the cosmic web structures, leaving matter-less spaces = voids (high-density spaces, low-density spaces) ~ creation of voids is part of the evolution of the cosmic web

Very little is known about void’s relationship to dark matter and dark energy.

Particle physicists expect the voids to consist of a kind of “quantum foam” – full of virtual particles that appear and disappear instantaneously.

Universe = dark energy (68%) (primary effect is to drive the accelerating expansion of the universe) + dark matter and baryonic matter (26%) + neutrinos, photons

Q U I N T E S S E N C E ~ the fifth fundamental force ~ hypothetical form of dark energy, postulated as an explanation of the observation of an accelerating rate of expansion of the universe

Aristoteles ~ quinta essentia, the fifth element, the essence of the celestial world (aether)

Dark energy is currently the most popular explanation for the acceleration in the expansion of the universe. Considered a form of energy that affects the universe on the largest scales. It dominates the universe’s mass–energy content because it is uniform across space.

*Altar*

from Old English *alter*

from Latin *altare* ~ influenced by *adolere* “to worship, to offer sacrifice, to honor by burning sacrifices” (“burnt offerings”) ~ influenced by *altus* “high”  
  
“A usually raised structure or place on which sacrifices are offered or incense is burned in worship” ~ “Often used figuratively to describe a thing given great or undue precedence or value especially at the cost of something else”  
(Merriam Webster dictionary)

Altars in antiquity:  
Greek Kylix showing an offering before an altar, around 480 BC  
Greek Altar of Pergamon, 2nd century BC  
Celtic Sacrifice Rock, Austria

Horned altar at Tel Be’er Sheva, Israel, 11th century BC, Iron Age

*Attar*

“perfume from flowers” (especially roses)  
from Hindi/ Urdu atr “perfume”  
from Persian & Arabic ‘itr “perfume”

“an essential oil or perfume made from the petals of flowers, esp. damask roses”  
(Collins dictionary)

Typically essential oils or absolutes derived from natural sources.

“The story of attar is as ancient as the human civilization itself.”  
  
Earliest record of developed attar techniques by Ibn al Baitar (1188 CE) in Granada, Spain  
Egyptian attars: Ibn Sina, some of the first attars: jasmine, saffron, roses  
Mughal Empire: cinnamon, sandal, myrrh – animal substances: anbar, musk

Herbal attars, mitti attars (distillates of baked soil over liquid paraffin or sandalwood essential oil via water distillation), animal attars

*Holographic*

*holograph* from late Latin *holographus* “written entirely by the same hand” “written in full”  
*holos* “whole” + *graphos* “written”

*hologram* coined by scientist Dennis Gabor, physics ~ from Greek *holos* “whole”*,* in his studies in the sense of “three-dimensional”

*holography*

“a technique that enables a wavefront to be recorded and later reconstructed”   
  
“a method of generating three-dimensional images”  
  
**“a recording of an interference pattern that can reproduce a 3D light field using diffraction”**

in optics & laser technology: “a technique to record and reconstruct a three-dimensional (3D) scene on a two-dimensional (2D) plane (a hologram) based on optical diffraction and interference.”

*Holon*

“a holon is something that is simultaneously a whole in and of itself, as well as a part of a larger whole. a holon is considered a subsystem within a larger hierarchical system.”

The holon represents a way to overcome the dichotomy between parts and wholes, as well as a way to account for both the self-assertive and the integrative tendencies of organisms. Holons are sometimes discussed in the context of self-organizing holarchic open (SOHO) systems.  
(Arthur Koestler)

Greek *holos* meaning “whole” + suffix *-on* which denotes a particle or part (as in prot*on* and neutr*on*)

“Holons are self-reliant units that possess a degree of independence and can handle contingencies without asking higher authorities for instructions (i.e., they have a degree of autonomy). These holons are also simultaneously subject to control from one or more of these higher authorities. The first property ensures that holons are stable forms that are able to withstand disturbances, while the latter property signifies that they are intermediate forms, providing a context for the proper functionality for the larger whole.”

The term was coined by Arthur Koestler in “The Ghost in the Machine” (1967), using it to describe natural organisms as composed of semi-autonomous sub-wholes (or, parts) that are linked in a form of hierarchy, a *holarchy*, to form a whole. The title of the book itself points to the notion that the entire '[machine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machine)' of life and of the [universe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universe) itself is ever-evolving toward more and more complex states, as if a ghost were operating the machine.

*Hologram*

David Bohm ~ crucial in-form-ation is hidden, not just in particles, but also in fields; and the entire universe is triggered by the interaction between them  
  
a particle contains information, some of it is triggered into action when the particle interacts with an underlying field ~ Bohm suggests that large amounts of information within a particle interact with known fields + but also with a yet unknown field, cosmic intelligence = *the implicate order*  ~ the explicate order unfold out of the implicate order ~ **unfolding process is a hologram** ~

a hologram is a record of what an object looks like at every angle ~ if a hologram is broken into pieces, each piece entails an image of the entire object

“the entire universe is a hologram, the unfolding of the intelligence of an implicate order that underlies everything”

DB focus on in-form-ation, rather than energy

*Holonsphere*

*-sphere*   
  
*spere*, Middle English, “cosmos, space, conceived as a hollow globe about the world”  
*espiere, espere*, Old French, “globale, ball, celestial sphere”

From late 14c. in reference to any of the supposed concentric, transparent, hollow, crystalline globes of the cosmos believed to revolve around the earth and contain the planets and the fixed stars; the supposed harmonious sound they made rubbing against one another was the *music of the spheres* (late 14c.), Milton's *sphery chime*.

geometry: "solid figure with all points equidistant from the center”  
  
1600s extended meaning: “range of something, place or scene”

*\*holonsphere*

*Crystalline Lattice*

the symmetrical three-dimensional structural constellation of atoms, ions or molecules inside a crystalline solid ~ the geometrical arrangement of the atoms, ions, molecules as points in space

characteristics: each atom, ion, molecule is represented by a single point (points are called lattice site or lattice point) ~ points are joined together by a straight line ~ when lines are connected, the 3D structure is the crystalline lattice  
  
*Robert Temple*   
“There are very few non-crystalline solids.”  
“Lattice means that the crystal has an ordered inner structure”  
“Plasma clouds are poly-crystalline.”

*Humors*

*humorism / humoral theory / humoralism*

a system of medicine detailing a supposed makeup and workings of the human body, adopted by Ancient greek and Roman physicians and philosophers

concept of *humors* has origin in Ancient Egyptian medicine, or Mesopotamia, but not systemized until ancient Greek thinkers

Alcmaeon of Croton  
“chemical systems regulating human behavior”  
*humors* including fundamental elements such as water, earth, fire, air  
  
Hippocrates   
*humors* are the vital bodily fluids such as blood, phlegm, yellow bile, black bile

“the 4 essential elements”  
access or deficiency of any of the humors can be a sign of illness

behavioral patterns are created through the moderate imbalance in the mixture of these fluids

~ describes fundamental biochemical substances and structural components in the body

Galen further develops Hippocrates’ concept

Hippocrates writes:

“The Human body contains blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile. These are the things that make up its constitution and cause its pains and health. Health is primarily that state in which these constituent substances are in the correct proportion to each other, both in strength and quantity, and are well mixed. Pain occurs when one of the substances presents either a deficiency or an excess, or is separated in the body and not mixed with others.”

*Templography*

*temple*

Old English, Latin *templum*: building for worship, edifice dedicated to the service of a deity / deities

*-graphy*

process of writing or recording

originally “to scrape, scratch (on clay tablets with a stylus)

etymologically : the process of writing / recording spaces for worship

Elan: the study of the templates & equations used to build / create temples

*Phase State*

Matter is anything that has mass and occupies space.  
States of matter are the physical form taken by the phases of matter.

States of matter are: solids, liquids, gases, and plasma

The state is the form taken by matter at a given temperature and pressure.

Matter undergoes phase transitions to change from one phase to another.

The states of matter are phases, but matter can exist in different phases yet remain in the same state of matter. E.g. liquid mixtures can exist in multiple phases, such as an oil phase and an aqueous phase.

Phases of matter:  
*Solid* - closely packed particles with a fixed volume and shape

*Liquid* - fluid particles with a fixed volume but variable shape

*Gas* - Fluid particles with neither a fixed volume nor shape

*Plasma* - Charged particles with no fixed volume or shape

*Bose-Einstein Condensate* - a diluted, cold boson gas

*Mesophases* - intermediate phases between solid and liquid

There may be multiple phases within a single state of matter.

At equilibrium, there is a narrow space between two phases where the matter doesn’t exhibit properties of either phase. This region, known as interface, may be very thin, yet can exert significant effects.

*Scalar*

Scalars and vectors are two kinds of quantities that are used in physics and math.  
  
Scalars are quantities that only have magnitude (or size), while vectors have both magnitude and direction. Scalars are quantities that are fully described by magnitude (or numerical value) alone.

“We live in a (at least) four-dimensional world governed by the passing of time and three space dimensions; up and down, left and right, and back and forth. We observe that there are some quantities and processes in our world that depend on the **direction** in which they occur, and there are some quantities that do not depend on direction. Mathematicians and scientists call a quantity which depends on direction a **vector quantity**. A quantity which does not depend on direction is called a **scalar quantity**.” *NASA*

Scalar Quantities: length, area, volume, speed, mass, density, pressure, temperature, energy, entropy, work, power   
  
Vector Quantities: displacement, velocity, acceleration, momentum, force, lift, drag, thrust, weight

*Diatom*

Any member of a large group comprising several genera of algae, specifically microalgae, found in oceans, waterways and soils of the world.

Living diatoms make up a significant portion of the Earth’s biomass; they generate 20-50% of the oxygen produced on the planet and constitute nearly half of the organic material found in the oceans.

Diatoms are unicellular organisms; they appear either as solitary cells or in colonies. Diatoms have two distinct shapes: a few (*centric diatoms*) are *radially* symmetric, while most (*pennate diatoms*) are broadly *bilaterally* symmetric.

*Omni Synesthesia*

omni – “all, every, the whole, of every kind”

synaesthesia – “sensation in one part of the body produced by stimulus in another”   
  
syn – together

aisthēsis – feeling  
(from French, modern Latin, and Greek)  
  
Also psychologically as perceived through the senses, e.g. a specific color that seems to the perceiver to always have a particular scent, etc.

Perceiving multiple (multi-dimensional) embodied sensations / the whole through non-direct stimulus and perception correlation.

*Overtone*

is any resonant frequency above the fundamental frequency of sound

Overtones are all pitches higher than the lowest pitch within an individual sound; the fundamental is the lowest pitch.

From German *Oberton*, first used by German physicist Hermann Ludwig Ferdinand von Helmholtz (19th century).

Literature: an idea or quality that is suggested without being said directly.

Cosmogeometry

the geometry of the cosmos

geometry – Greek *geometria* “measurement of earth or land”

cosmos –

Greek kosmos “order, good order, orderly arrangement”  
secondary sense of “ornaments if a woman’s dress, decoration”

Pythagoras is said to have been the first to apply this word to “the universe” – perhaps originally meaning “the starry firmament” but it was extended to the whole physical world, including the earth.   
The word *cosmos* often suggested especially “the universe as an embodiment of order and harmony.

3 geometric theories: flat, spherical and hyperbolic

main testing methodology: measuring cosmic triangles

flat  
ordinary infinite space as flat three-dimensional shape : Euclidean space

other possible flat shapes: torus, slab

\*most believed theory

spherical

circular geometry that closes in on itself

hyperbolic  
geometry opens outward; infinite expanse

Tantra

Type of Hindu religious book, from Sanskrit *tantram*, literally “loom, warp” – figuratively “groundwork, system, doctrine”, from *tan* “to stretch, extend”.  
  
An esoteric yogic tradition that developed on the Indian subcontinent from the middle of the 1st millennium CE onwards in both Hinduism and Buddhism. The connotation of the word *tantra* to mean an esoteric practice or religious ritualism is a colonial era European invention. The term is based on the metaphor of weaving, where the Sanskrit root *tan* means the warping of threads on a loom. It implies “interweaving of traditions and teachings as threads” into a text, technique or practice.

The word appears in the hymns of the *Rigveda* with the meaning of “warp (weaving)”, also in the *Atharvaveda* and many *Brahmanas* with the meaning of tantra being that which is “principal or essential, the main point, framework, feature”, and in the *Smritis* and epics of Hinduism as “doctrine, rule, theory, method, technique or chapter”.

A key feature of these traditions is the use of mantras, and thus they are commonly referred to Mantramārga (“Path if Mantra”) in Hinduism or Mantrayāna (“Mantra Vehicle”) and Guhyamantra (“Secret Mantra”) in Buddhism.

In Buddhism, the Vajrayana traditions are known for tantric ideas and practices, which are based on Indian Buddhist Tantras. Tantra had influenced the art and iconography of Tibetan and East Asian Buddhism, as well as historic cave temples of India and the art of Southeast Asia.

Tantric Hindu and Buddhist traditions have also influenced other Eastern religious traditions such a Jainism, the Tibetan Bön tradition, Daoism, and the Japanese Shintō tradition. Certain modes of non-Vedic worship such as Puja are considered tantric in their conception and rituals.

\*Alchemical Gyration – \*Algyrocal Substance

gyrate (v.) – “move in a circle or spiral”

gyration – the process of gyrating, rotation / any one of the whorls of a spiral-shapes shell

in geometry : gyration is a rotation in a discrete subgroup of symmetries of the Euclidean plane such that the subgroup does not also contain a reflection symmetry whose axis passes through the center of rotational symmetry – e.g. a rotating sphere around any point but the center is a gyrating sphere; if the sphere is rotating around the center, the rotation would be symmetrical and would not be considered gyration

pressurized gyration (PG) is a fiber-forming technology that combines high-pressure with rotary spinning systems

radius of gyration : (gyradius) of a body is always about an axis of rotation; characterized as the spiral distance to a point which would have a moment of inertia. The radius of gyration is a geometric property of a rigid body, e.g. the center of mass. It is equivalent to the body’s real dissemination of mass. If the all-out mass of the body is concentrated.

Causal Time Loop / Temporal Causality Loop

Einstein’s general theory of relativity allows for the possibility of warping time to such a high degree that it actually folds upon itself, resulting in a time loop. This construct is called “closed time-like curves”. The general conclusion emerged from previous research is that nature forbids time loops.   
  
Different physical phenomena may intervene to prevent closed time-like curves from developing in physical systems. The most common is the requirement for a particular type of “exotic” matter that must be present in order for a time loop to exist. Exotic matter has a negative mass. Negative mass is not known to exist in nature.

Caroline Mallary developed a new model for a time machine – in which no negative mass is needed. C. Mallary has shown the possibility of a time loop in her experiment. (requires that the center of the object has infinite density, temperature, or pressure)

In the context of time travel and theoretical physics, a causal loop, also known as a closed time-line curve, refers to a sequence of events in which an event is both the cause and the effect of another event, creating a loop without a clear origin or endpoint in time.  
  
Causal loops are cause–effect relations.

time loop in fiction : a plot device whereby characters re-experience a span of time which is repeated, sometimes more than once, with some hope of breaking out of the cycle of repetition

Interstellar Communication

Is the transmission of signals between planetary systems.

“inter” ~ between

The distances from Earth to other inhabited systems introduce prohibitive delays, assuming the limitations of the speed of light.

Mediums and methods:  
  
Radio frequencies of the electromagnetic spectrum. Specifically the *water hole”* – an especially quiet band of electromagnetic spectrum between 1420 and 1662 megahertz, corresponding to wavelengths of 18-21 centimeters.

Lasers operating at visible light frequencies.

Gravitational wave emissions. Waves of the intensity of gravity that are generated by the accelerated masses of binary stars and other motion of gravitating masses, and propagate as waves outward from their source at the speed of light.

*Archaeology, Anthropology, and Interstellar Communication by Douglas A. Vakoch* [*paper*](https://www.nasa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Archaeology_Anthropology_and_Interstellar_Communication_TAGGED.pdf?emrc=9e061d)

Intrastellar

“intra” ~ within

“stellar” ~ of or pertaining to stars

*in the vicinity of or within stars*

Embodied Phenomenon

*also Embodied Cognition*

Is a concept suggesting that many features of cognition are shaped by the state and capacities of the organism. The embodied mind thesis challenges other theories, such as cognitivism, computationalism, and Cartesian dualism (Cartesian model: all mental phenomena are non-physical and therefore not influenced by the body). The theory emphasizes the active and significant role the body plays in the shaping of cognition and in the understanding of someone’s mind and cognitive abilities.

“Mind is an embodied phenomenon. The mind is encoded in the brain as ever-changing webs of neural connectivity. The brain is part of the body, interconnected with the rest of the body by a vast network of nerves. The activity of the mind and body creates changes in the brain; changes in the brain affect both mind and embodiment. Mind, brain, and embodiment are intricately entwined in a single complex system. We’re not minds riding around in bodies, we’re bodyminds.” Nick Walker

Margaret Price “The term bodymind insists on the inextricability of mind and body and highlights how processes within our being impact one another in such a way that the notion of a physical versus mental process is difficult, if not impossible to clearly discern in most cases.”

Sutralize

Sutra –

Sanskrit “well spoken” or “thread”

(collection of) aphorisms in the form of a manual or, more broadly, a condensed manual or text; a concise, terse, laconic, or memorable expression of a general truth or principle;

rooted in texts found in Hinduism (literary compositions of short aphoristic statements, any short rule), Buddhism (often the oral teachings of Gautama Buddha, detailed), Jainism (canonical sermons)

– ize / – ise

word-forming element used to make verbs ~ denoting the doing of the noun or adjective to which it is attached

– the process of forming a series of aphorisms (sacred principles, truths, teachings)

Harmony

late 14C. “combination of tones pleasing the ear”

Greek *harmonia* “agreement, concord of sounds”

related to *harmos* “fastenings of a door; joint, shoulder”

also “settled government, order”

ar– “to fit together”

also the personification of music

agreement; accord; harmonious relations ~ a consistent, orderly, or pleasing arrangement of parts; congruity

Experiential Research

Explores the meanings, views, perspectives, experiences and / or practices expressed in data.

“Participants’ interpretations are prioritized, accepted and focused on, rather than being used as a basis for analyzing something else. Not to be confused with un-theorized or non-interpretative research that solely summarizes what participant’s said; experiential research is often richly theorized. Within this framework, researchers envisage a world waiting to be discovered – and language gives a window onto this” Victoria Clarke

Vs. Critical Qualitative Research – takes an interrogative stance towards the meanings or experiences expressed in the data, and uses them to explore another phenomenon. Analyst’s interpretations become more important than participant’s.

*Experiential research* [*paper*](https://johnheron-archive.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Experiential-Research.pdf) *by John Heron*

Encode

Code –

13C. Latin *codex* “systematic classification of statutory law”

Also related to *caudex* “tree trunk”

18C. “cipher, system of signals and the rules which govern their use”

1946 “system of expressing information and instructions in a form usable by a computer”

En –

in / into

also used to form verbs from nouns and adjectives, with a sense “put in or on”, also “cause to be, make into”, and used as an intensive

– the process of converting into a coded form

“Field Amplification;

The field shape is a giant tear drop. All spheres are held in resonant harmony position relative to eachother. Suns hold eachother in space. The fields are like soap bubbles cushioning all spheres from eachother. This gravitational phenomena is the essence of beauty.” Sandy Rower

Precognition

pre ~ before | cognitio ~ knowledge

foreknowledge of an event, especially foreknowledge of a paranormal kind  
  
the psychic phenomenon of seeing or becoming directly aware of events in the future

One of the earliest cases of precognition can be traced back to Homer’s epic poem *The Iliad*, where Cassandra is granted the gift of prophecy by the god Apollo.

Nostradamus, a 16th century French physician and reputed seer, is famous for his cryptic predictions.

Dr. Jessica Utts (professor of statistics at University California) was commissioned by the U.S. government to review the existing research on precognition and other psychic phenomena. Her report concluded there was significant evidence supporting precognition.

Daryl Bem (Cornell University): 2011 study about participant’s ability to predict the location of randomly places images on a computer screen

Theories :

Precognition could be a form of extrasensory perception, a term used to describe a range of psychic abilities, including telepathy, clairvoyance, and precognition. Individuals with precognitive abilities might access information about future events through their senses.

Precognition could be related to quantum mechanics, a branch of physics that deals with the behavior of matter and energy at the atomic and subatomic levels. Researchers have suggested that quantum entanglement, a phenomenon in which particles become inextricably linked and can instantaneously affect one another, could play a role in precognition. The entanglement of particles in the brain could allow for the transmission of information about future events.

q u a n t u m e n t a g l e m e n t : the phenomenon of a group of particles being generated, interacting, or sharing spatial proximity in such a way that the quantum state of each particles of the group cannot be described independently of the state of the others, including when the particles are separated by a large distance (John Bell, Albert Einstein, Erwin Schrödinger) ~ separated particles remain connected without being in direct contact

r e - e n t a n g l e m e n t : drops the solely mental approach into the synthesiac entanglement ~ the entanglement of the senses ~ our extended / greater perception organs (philosophical term vs. quantum physics)

o m n i s y n t h e s i a

Factors: stress (heightened stress has often been correlated with increased precognitive abilities), emotions (strong emotional connection to people, places, or events might increase likelihood of experiencing precognitive insights), sleep (dreams have long been associated with precognitive experiences)

o r a c l e : a person or animate object considered to provide insight, wise counsel or prophetic predictions, most notable including precognition of the future

Ancient China : practice of divination involves the interpretation of various signs in an attempt to predict the future  
  
Ancient Rome : the interpretation of dreams was considered an important means of gaining insight into the future

>< Science and the Akashic Field. Ervin Laszlo.

O R D E R

from Latin “ordo” ~ arrangement, rank, or series

Old French “ordre”

The concept of order evolved over time ~ can refer to a sequence (mathematics), a command (legal contexts), or a state of stability.

*order – inter-play between material and spiritual realms*

In spiritual contexts “order” often relates to the notion of harmony, balance, and the organization of the universe. Many spiritual traditions emphasize a cosmic order or divine plan that governs existence, suggesting that everything has its rightful place and purpose.

~ cosmic order : belief systems (like Hinduism and Taoism) speak of a natural order in the universe that individuals should align with to achieve spiritual fulfillment

~ moral order : many religions hold a notion of moral order, where actions are aligned with divine will or ethical principles, leading to spiritual growth and enlightenment

~ rituals and structure : spiritual practices and ceremonies as conduits of connecting with the divine

~ inner order : on a personal level, achieving inner order through mindfulness, meditation, and other practices

Order becomes a vital concept in understanding the interplay between the material and spiritual realms.

*c o s m o l g i e s*

~ Hinduism : “dharma” reflects cosmic order and duty

~ Buddhism : “samsara” (the cycle of birth and rebirth) and the Eightfold Path illustrated an ordered approach to achieving enlightenment and liberation from suffering

~ Taoism : emphasizes the importance of aligning with the Tao, the fundamental order of the universe

~ Christianity : the belief in God’s order is central, with scriptures often reflecting themes of moral and spiritual order within creation and human society

~ Islam : “fitrah” is the natural order, the divine law, and the principles that govern existence that one should live in alignment with

~ Ancient Egypt : the concept of the “maat” represents truth, balance, cosmic order, emphasizing the need for harmony in both the universe and human affairs

~ Gnosticism : often explores the duality of order and chaos, seeking to understand the divine order hidden behind material existence

p h y s i c a l / e n e r g e t i c r e a l i t y  
v s . h u m a n c o n s t r u c t

order reflects the underlying principles and structures in the universe, e.g. natural laws (like gravity) and patterns (like the arrangement of particles) ~ suggests an inherent order in physical reality ~ order can be observed in the predictable behavior of systems, e.g. orbits of planets, growth patterns of plants etc.

cognitive frameworks, language, cultural systems shape how we perceive and organize information ~ culture-making and story-making is also a human notion of order to make sense of complexity

there may be a fundamental order in the universe, and our understanding and interpretation of that order is influenced by our perceptions, experiences, and cognitive frameworks ~ this interplay shapes how we relate to and navigate the world around us

o r d e r & e n t r o p y

thermodynamics : entropy measured the degree of disorder or randomness in a system ~ higher entropy value indicates a greater level of disorder, a lower entropy corresponds to more order

second law of thermodynamics : in an isolated system, entropy tends to increase over time ~ the system naturally evolves from order to disorder

information theory : entropy measures uncertainty or information content ~ a highly ordered dataset has low entropy, while a random dataset has high entropy

cosmic perspective : the relationship between order and entropy can symbolize the tension between chaos and structure in the universe

t h i n k e r s o f o r d e r

Plato  
Aristotle

Thomas Aquinas   
René Descartes

Immanuel Kant

Friedrich Nietzsche

\*Fritjof Capra : “The Tao of Physics” : explores order from a systems thinking perspective, connecting scientific insights with Eastern philosophies

\*David Bohm : proposes a notion of an “implicate order” in the universe, suggesting a deeper, interconnected structure underlying observable phenomena

B E A U T Y

w o r d

from Latin “bellus”; meaning: pretty, handsome  
Old French “beaute”

~ word has come to encompass a broad range of meanings related to aesthetics and sensory pleasure  
  
~ philosophical roots : Plato viewed beauty as a reflection of the divine ~ Aristotle considered beauty in relation to harmony, proportion, and order

~ cultural variability : different cultures and traditions have distinct definitions and standards of beauty, often influenced by social, historial, and environmental factors

c o n c e p t

~ divine reflection : many spiritual traditions view beauty as a reflection of the divine or the sacred (e.g. Christianity : beauty in nature and art is seen as a manifestation of God’s creativity and glory ~ in experiencing beauty we are lead to a deeper connection with the divine)

~ aesthetic experience : in Buddhism, beauty is often associated with the experience of mindfulness and presence ~ the appreciation of beauty in the natural world can serve as a path to enlightenment, fostering a sense of interconnectedness and compassion

~ harmony & balance : in Taoism, beauty is linked to the concept of harmony with the Tao, the natural order of the universe ~ the appreciation of beauty in simplicity and natural forms emphasizes balance and the flow of life

~ transformation & healing : in various indigenous and shamanic traditions, beauty is seen as a source of healing and transformation ~ engaging with beauty can promote emotional and spiritual well-being

~ Sufi mysticism : beauty is considered an essential aspect of the divine ~ experiencing beauty leads to spiritual awakening

~ cultural expressions : various spiritual practices incorporate beauty through rituals, art, music, and architecture are designed to inspire and connect practitioners with a sense of the sacred ~ in these ways, beauty is not just an aesthetic quality but a profound spiritual concept that fosters connection, reflection, and attunement

t h i n k e r s o n b e a u t y

Plato

Aristotle

David Hume  
Friedrich Schiller

John Dewey

John Stuart Mill

Walter Benjamin  
Arthur Schopenhauer

Henri Bergson  
Martha Nussbaum

A E S T H E T I C S

from Greek aesthetikos – of or for perception by the senses, perceptive (“by sense or the mind”) – to feel

Walter Pater : used aesthetic to describe the late 19c. movement that advocated “art for art’s sake”

contemporary : “of or pertaining to sensual perception” – “of or pertaining to the appreciation of the beautiful”

Indian Aesthetics / Neerja A. Gupta

* the word aesthetics belongs to the field of science and philosophy of fine art
* primarily concerned with poetry, music and architecture (but also sculpture and painting)
* the art of sign and symbols
* “the non-exhibition of art accompanies the non-existence of aesthetics as a whole”
* art and life in india have been inextricably intertwined from the ancient to the contemporary ~ art as a way of life, art as ritual, art as unity
* the arts in ancient india strived to home the intellectual sensibilities, raising humans to the level of the transcendental (Brāhman)
* vedantic philosophy: thoughts precede form
* the role of art was a step towards experiencing a state of being that was more or less akin to the experience of bliss – which arises from the knowledge and contemplation of the ultimate truth. The ultimate pleasure that art provides can be judged the same as the one attainable from the communion of God. This supreme blissful state is the means to experience *Brāhmanandasahodara*.
* both pleasure and pain are contemplated as an aesthetic experience ~ when the nature of the world, possessing both pleasure and pain is depicted by means of representation through gestures and the like (.e.g speech, dress, temperament…) it is called *nātya*. *Nātya* is said to provide the ultimate happiness, which recommends both pleasure and pain in the same intensity.

*Art makes it possible for humans to experience transcendental states; the same state we enter in communion with god. This supreme blissful state includes both pleasure and pain in the same intensity (non-duality, zero point).*

Baharata: Rasa Theory

* rasa means “essence” or “taste” ~ the emotional flavor that an audience experiences during a performance ~ a deep, emotional connection with the art
* partaking in rasa allows the audience to dissolve individual identities and enter a shared emotional journey creating a bond that transcends time and space
* in a contemporary context, the rasa theory serves as a reminder that art, at its core, is a reflection of life’s emotional tapestry ~ “to taste the essence of our shared human experience”

Beauty and The Brain: Culture, history, and individual differences in aesthetic appreciation   
/ Thomas Jacobsen

* aesthetic processing entails evolutionary, historical, cultural, educational, cognitive, (neuro)biological, individual, personal, emotional and situational factors
* the understanding of the cognitive processes underlying human aesthetics needs to be considered from multiple perspectives, along with the need to relate these approaches to the human brain architecture that underpins and accommodates all facets of aesthetics experience and behavior
* aesthetics are related to a process of sensation ~ an aesthetics judgement of beauty requires a sensory process
* sensory-based judgements of beauty & memory-based judgements of beauty
* Gestalt psychology had a strong influence on the psychology of art and aesthetics
* \*aesthetic experiences and behavior are subject to a complex network of stimulus-, person-, and situation-related influences; examples: symmetry–asymmetry, novelty–familiarity, proportion–composition, significance or mere exposure of a stimulus, emotional state, social status, education, cultural and historical background, situational aspects (the spaces of the experience), the multitude of stimulus dimensions
* all of the qualitatively different multifaceted processes of aesthetic perception are supported by dynamically configured neural networks; “this is the current challenge – a challenge of successfully bridging art and science, aesthetics and neuroanatomy
* framework of psychological study (Jacobsen, 2006); introducing 7 perspective pillars: mind, body (these 2 are at the heart of neuroaesthetics), content, person, situation, diachronia (the perspective that takes change over time into account), ipsichronia (vantage point focusing on comparisons within a given time slive, e.g. comparison between cultures, sub-cultures or social systems (“the nature nurture debate”)



* diachronia: the perspective that takes change over time into account; can be pursued at different levels of analysis, e.g. the perspective of evolutionary biology / anthropology (e.g. human aesthetic behavior at the substantial changes from non-human to human primates) & cultural evolution (Tomasello), e.g. history of civilization as informed by the availability of tools, materials, production techniques (e.g. Kadinsky’s colour-form assignment and its transformation into an icon for the Bauhaus school of design)