

Prof. Rex Li's Writings

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Title: Nature and Morphology of Understanding and the Human Brain

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Summary/ Abstract: My initial thought on Nature and Morphology of Understanding and the Human Brain

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Nature and Morphology of Understanding and the Human Brain

(A) Problem

Futurologists will ask:

Where are we heading?



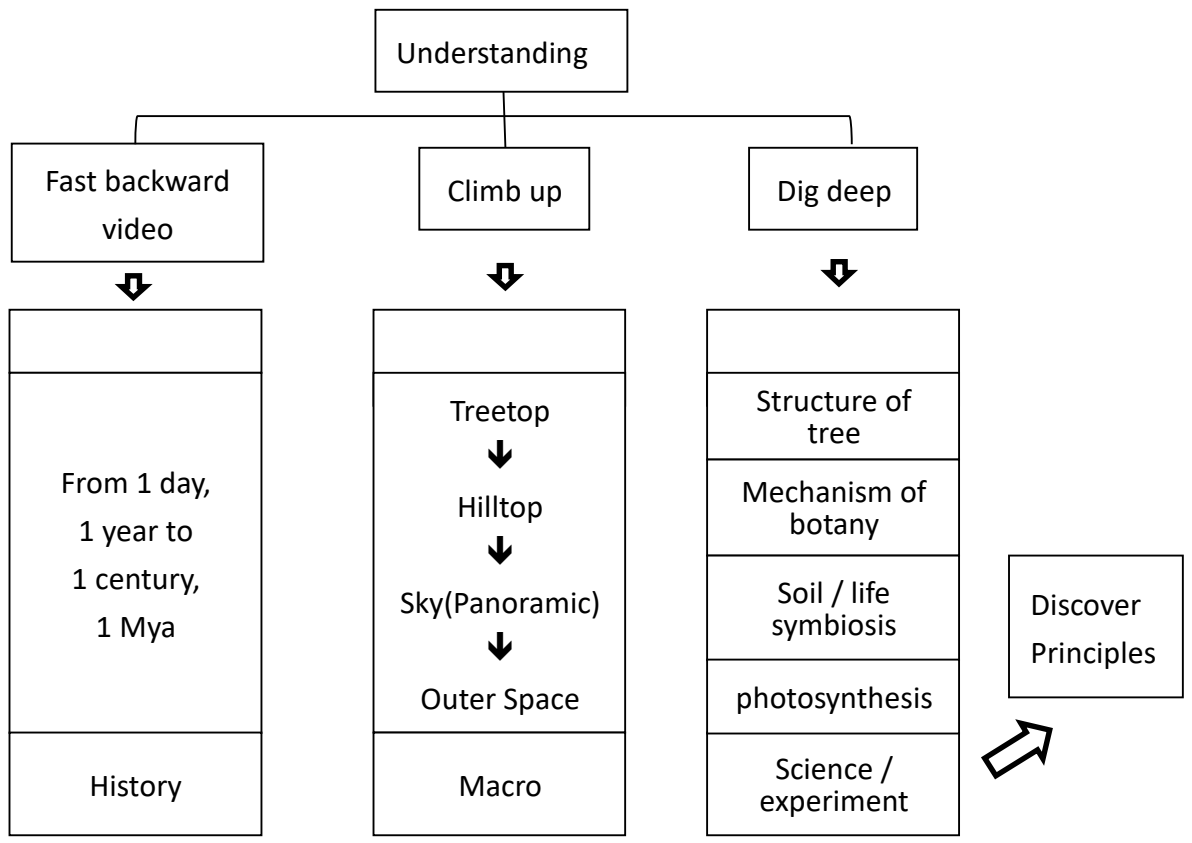
To answer it, we must first answer 2 questions:

- a) What is our past?
- b) What is present?

(a) + (b) + Forecasting tools (c) → A predicted future (d)

(B) How Can We Know / Understanding Our Past and Present?

Suppose you're now in a forest surrounded by trees. You want to understand your present situation (today's circumstances / environment) (要明白今天情况)



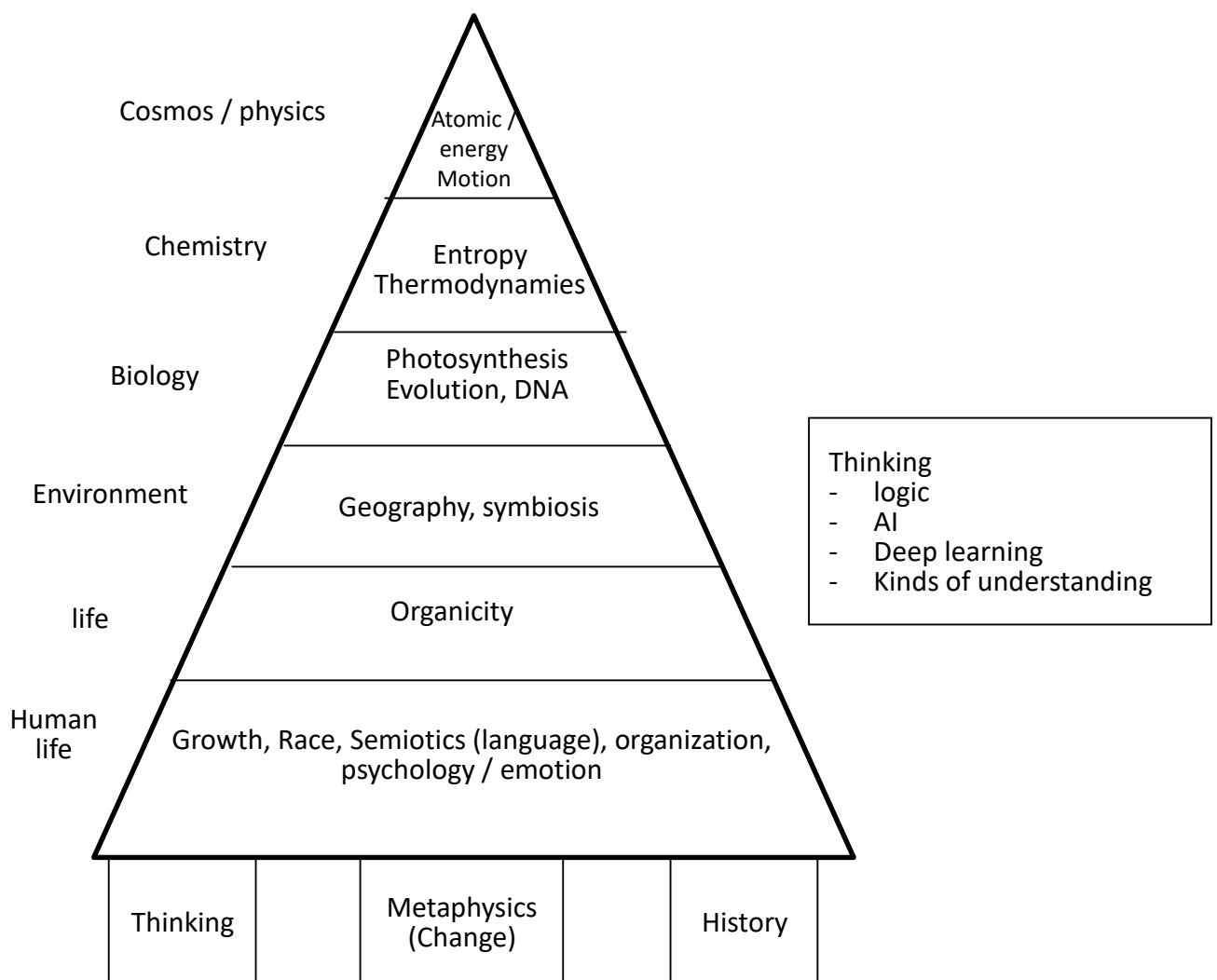
(C) Understanding By Intellectual Tools

- (1) Intellectual tools slowly evolve in our culture for survival and value (cf Egan)
- (2) We use these tools to think and collect data
form picture, confirm / elaborate a view

(D) Pursing Underlying Principles and Theories in Levels

It is human development (by science and rationality) to overcome mysticism / supernaturalism and dig deep for answers, resulting in discovery of lots of underlying principles / theory, probably in levels.

I need a taxonomy (maybe to search about books / topics on science / rationality / principle, etc).



(E) Metaphor From a Building Structure

We need a foundation / foundation stone / pillar (樁柱) to start with a building.

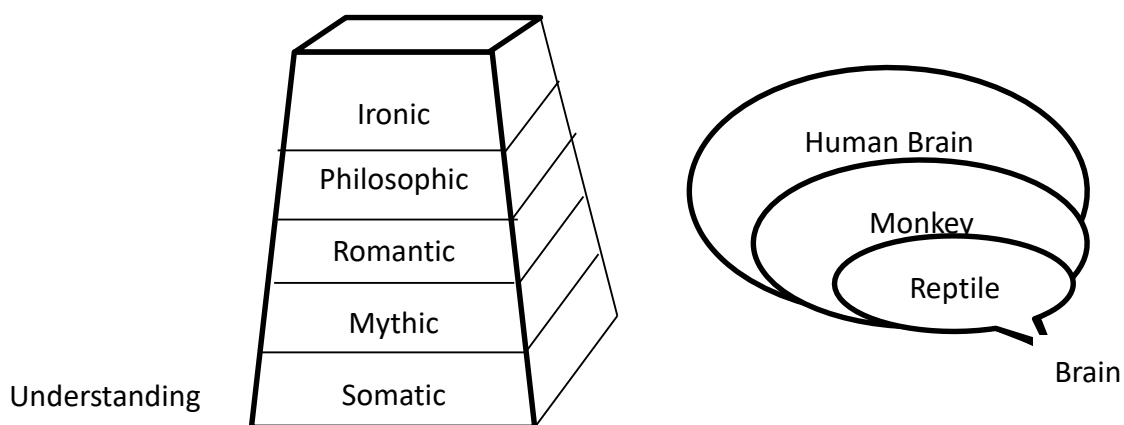


(a) We need four pillars to support the building, from 1st to 10th floor. One floor supports the next one. While top floor is supported by pillars, it is more supported by 9th, by 8th, etc. The beautiful interior design of 10th floors is not relevant to pillars, (except for its weight)

(b) One big pillar extends from G/F to 10th/F. This central pillar supports horizontal ones (橫樑) in each floor. Then the 10/F structure is very relevant to central pillar.

(F) Morphology of Understanding and Human Brain

Now, which morphology is our understanding? How often should we come back to mythic / somatic?



How relevant is reptile / monkey brain to us?

(G) Embodiment and Outgrowth Theory (Idea 918: 8)

(1) Embodiment Theory

- (a) Human brain embodies reptilian brain
- (b) Human written culture embodies primitive oral culture
- (c) Human body embodies physiology + psychology + culture



(2) Outgrowth Theory

- (a) Abandon old ones
It may outgrow and abandon old ones. Functions persist
Example: (a) 乳齒 → 恆齒
(b) old small house → move to big mansion
- (b) Enrich old ones to become new
Example: (a) Refurnish an old house, add new furniture, panting, fixture, etc.
- (c) Entire metamorphosis
Example: from gills to nose

(3) Why?

- (a) Growing from simple to complex
- (b) Picking information / accommodating to the system
- (c) Expanding, proliferating
- (d) Not teleological, but changing as system undergoes interaction with environment, simply changing, not even evolving to survive.
- (e) Change because of action / non-action / saving energy / efficient pathway.

