

*Functionalist Psychology*

# Conceptualization

The Pathway towards Adaptiveness



The Unicist Research Institute  
Pioneers in Complexity Science Research since 1976

Conceptual Psychology

# Conceptualization

## The Pathway towards Adaptiveness

*This document is based on the research works led by Peter Belohlavek  
at The Unicist Research Institute.*

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*Concepts make you adaptive!*  
*(See Annex)*

*"The value of a glass is given by its hollowness.  
The cost is given by its solid part.  
Costs add no value.  
Values add no costs.  
But both integrate the glass."*

*Peter Belohlavek*

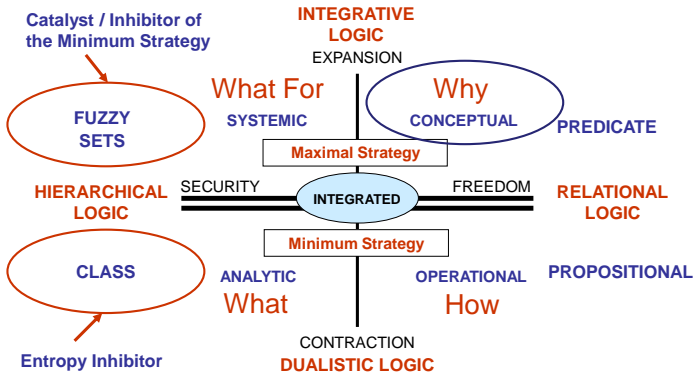
# Managing Concepts

## A Unicist Logical Approach

Conceptual knowledge provides the structure of the functionalist approach. The conceptual approach requires people to know why something is happening. This is unnecessary at an operational level but is a fundamental question when dealing with adaptive approaches. The “know-why” is driven by a logical approach to reality that allows managing its concept making it reasonable, understandable, and provable.

### Unicist Ontology of Conceptual Thinking

The Ontogenetic Map in Unicist Standard Language



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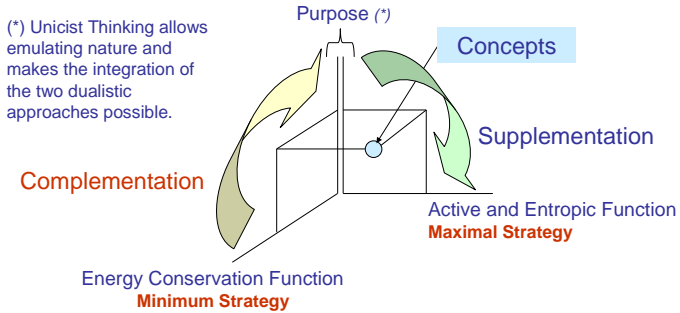
When the boundaries of an activity are being expanded, individuals need to apprehend the concept behind its operational aspects to influence a new environment. It requires leaving a comfort zone behind and entering a new comfort zone. This implies apprehending the unicist ontology (nature) of its concept and its dynamics.

On the one hand, the conceptual approach to reality became possible based on the discovery of the structure of concepts, defined by a purpose, an active and entropic function, and an energy conservation func-

tion, which allowed apprehending the nature of facts and actions (unicist ontology).\*

### The Unicist Ontology of Concepts

Ontogenetic Map in Unicist Standard Language



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On the other hand, the discovery that the concepts people have in mind work as behavioral objects that drive their behavior made this conceptual approach necessary to deal with adaptive approaches.

## The Origin of Conceptual Thinking

The endless “Why?” question posed by children (nearly 3 years old) is what allows the establishment of the neural network needed by a person to apprehend and manage concepts. This process starts when children begin to look for understanding what they are interested in.

This endless “why” questioning has three main benefits:

- 1) It sustains the development of the neural network that allows dealing with the origin of things and not only with the operational aspects.

- 2) It expands the language of the child driving her/him to deal with implicit integrative, fuzzy, and predicate logic.
- 3) It provides the “why” that allows children to approach their games, which develops their systemic thinking approach.

Conceptual diagnoses, conceptual design, and conceptual management became possible using the unicist logical approach, which made “concepts” tangible and provided the structural-functional approach to develop diagnoses, strategies, and architecture.

*\*Based on the research on Human Conscious Intelligence, developed by Peter Belohlavek at The Unicist Research Institute.*

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# Introduction

## Philosophical Precedents

The term concept in Western philosophy can be found in the works of Plato and Aristotle. Their approach led to the definition of concepts as describing the essence of things defined as a universal realm.

In Eastern philosophy, the Tao is homologous to the essential intrinsic concept of things and the Yin and Yang are the active and energy conservation principles that define the functionalist principle.

Ernst Cassirer (Substanzbegriff und Funktionsbegriff) included the definition that concepts not only define the essence of things but also their functionality.

Descartes can be considered as the initiator of a new stage integrating the term idea as homologous to concept. But empiricism, with Locke and Hume gave the terms idea and concept only a psychological meaning.

Immanuel Kant gave the term concept a functional meaning, considering it as the framework of any possible action.

## The Integration in the World of Science

Peter Belohlavek went further. He developed a functionalist approach to science to deal with adaptive systems and environments that integrated philosophy, science, and action in a unified field: reality.

This introduced a scientific approach to concepts and conceptualization, which is based on the unicist logic which defines the functionality, dynamics, and evolution of things.

On the one hand his approach to intrinsic concepts, that define the structure of the functionalist principles allowed managing the functionality of things and the root causes of problems.

On the other hand, his approach to extrinsic concepts, which are the ones deposited by humans on the elements of their external reality, defined that such concepts have a functional structure that emulates the ontogenetic intelligence of nature.

He discovered that such concepts have these three elements:

- 1) A purpose that is homologous to the purpose in nature.
- 2) An active function that is homologous to the active principle in nature.
- 3) An energy conservation function that is homologous to the energy conservation principle in nature.

The knowledge of the structure of concepts makes their access easier and allows using them as the “stem cells” of knowledge and actions.

He also discovered the complementation and supplementation laws that are implicit within each conceptual structure and the concept of anti-concepts that is homologous to the concept of anti-matter.

With the unicist approach, Peter Belohlavek integrated the Western and the Eastern approaches but focused on a different purpose, which is adapting to the environment by generating value and earning from its counterpart to foster sustainable evolution.

This work will give you access to the conceptualization process to be able to apprehend the nature of what is happening and influencing it while being influenced by the environment.

This document is an introduction that clarifies the abstraction process that is necessary to emulate reality in mind based on the concepts that underlie each function.

# Conceptualization

## The Pathway towards Adaptiveness

### Abstract

In plain language, conceptualization implies knowing what one is truly doing having the concepts of the actions, which includes having their functional structure and being able to transform the concepts into value adding actions.

Conceptualizing implies being able to have an adaptive behavior driven by the capacity of understanding the nature of what one is doing while being able to manage the operational aspects of the actions.

The discovery of the ontogenetic intelligence of nature allowed finding the roots of evolution, involution, and mutation.

This intelligence drives the purpose of the living entities in nature based on an active principle that sustains growth, change and mutation and an energy conservation principle that saves energy while it sustains the purpose controlling the entropy produced by the active function.

Conceptualization deals with any proactive action in the field of adaptive behavior. That is why it applies to individual, institutional, and social behavior.

Conceptual thinking is an abstract thinking process that is based on discovering the concept at an operational level, emulating their structure in mind, and transforming this emulation into value adding actions.

The research on how the human logical thinking process works, allowed defining four levels: operational thinking that deals with the “HOW”, analytic thinking that deals with the “WHAT”, scientific /

systemic thinking, that deals with the “WHAT FOR” and conceptual thinking that deals with the “WHY”.

The objective of any thinking process is to be able to emulate in mind the models that underlie the tangible aspects of the world that need to be accessed through sensory experiences. The objective of conceptual thinking is to emulate the nature that underlies specific aspects of reality to influence the environment.

Functional concepts are cross/cultural and timeless. They remain unchanged as long as a function exists.

Having the concepts of what one is doing allows being extremely effective and flexible. An individual can adopt new operational approaches or technologies without needing to change because the concept remains the same.

Conceptualization, or the ability to form concepts,  
is a defining characteristic of human cognition.

## Why Go Beyond Dualism?

The neural functionality is dualistic. Neurons are “on” or “off”. Dualistic Dialectics vs. Double Dialectics is the battle between the exclusive disjunction “OR” and the conjunction “AND”.

The dualistic dialectics of Hegel and Marx transformed this dualistic approach into a social myth that provided an oversimplified perception of reality and a way to influence it. Marx’s and Hegel’s dialectics are fallacious because they do not emulate the structure of nature.

Dualistic thinking necessarily fosters a non-adaptive behavior that is driven by idealistic, ideological, materialistic, spiritual, or egocentric needs. Dualism is necessary when personal needs prevail over functional adaptation.

The consequence of dualistic thinking is that people believe in dialectical behavior. Adaptation becomes impossible when using dualistic thinking.

Dualistic dialectics has proven to be fallacious to understand and influence evolution.

The unicist logic, which is a double dialectical logic, allowed using the dualism of neural functionality but emulating the functionality of nature. In the short run, the benefit of using dualistic dialectics is that it transforms humans in judges of reality instead of responsible participants.

## The Unicist Logical Approach to Manage Concepts

The unicist logic was developed to deal with adaptiveness. It is necessary to emulate the dynamic structure of adaptive systems to influence them. It allows dealing with living beings or any complex

adaptive system based on one's empathy and the capacity to emulate their functionality in mind.

It is based on the discovery of the intelligence that underlies nature and of the roots of human intelligence which allowed discovering and emulating the structure that underlies living beings and complex adaptive systems and drives their evolution. This structure was named concept and led to the definition of the functionalist principles.

Concepts define the intelligence of an adaptive system and are integrated by a purpose, an active function and an energy conservation function. They define the functionalist principles. The active function defines the maximal strategy of an entity to sustain growth, reproduction and change while the energy conservation function defines the minimum strategy to ensure the individual survival.

The knowledge of the concept and the maximal and minimum strategies allows dealing with living beings or any complex adaptive system. The Unicist Logical Approach was developed to deal with the functionality of things centrally focused on adaptive systems and environments.

Using unicist logic to deal with the adaptive aspects of systems implies managing their concepts and using maximal and minimum strategies. The approach to conceptual structures of reality requires going beyond dualistic thinking to apprehend the dynamics of complex adaptive systems. It allows for defining the unicist ontology of things and their functionalist principles.

## The Unicist Logical Approach

The unicist double dialectics of the unicist logic allows dealing with human adaptive systems managing the integration of their double dialectical behavior.

With this double dialectical approach (purpose - active function, purpose - energy conservation function) one can understand the structure of an adaptive system and its evolution, and establishing the functionalist principles that sustain their functionality.

Unicist double dialectics is based on the emulation of adaptive systems, emulating the ontogenetic intelligence of nature (purpose, active principle, energy conservation principle).

To approach a reality integrated by three elements with a dualistic mind it is necessary to consider it as a dualistic integration of binary elements. To perceive dialectics, it is necessary to have the necessary abstraction capacity and the operational knowledge of the field one is approaching.

Those who do not have the abstraction capacity or knowledge consider dialectical behavior based on observable facts and build a fallacious hypothetical emulation of reality. They cannot differentiate essential complementary and supplementary relationships from dualistic cause-effect relationships.

Individuals who have the necessary functional intelligence and the will to add value to an environment, and use the unicist logic, develop unicist binary actions, which are two different actions to ensure results: on the one hand, they impulse action and on the other hand, they develop actions to inhibit entropy.



# Unicist Conceptualization

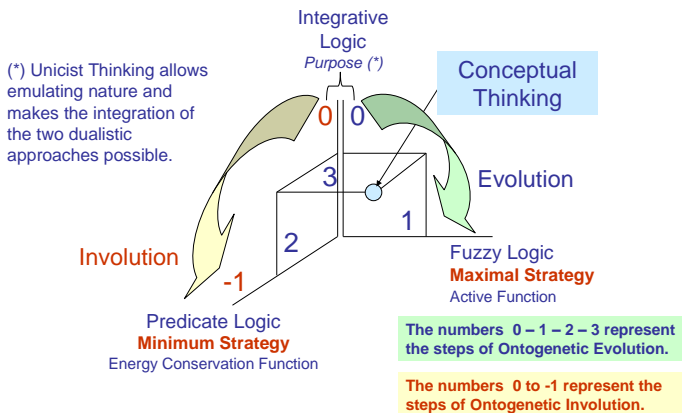
## Introduction: About Conceptual Thinking

Conceptual thinking is the most abstract thinking process. The research on how the human logical thinking process works, allowed defining four levels: operational thinking that deals with the “HOW”, analytic thinking that deals with the “WHAT”, scientific/systemic thinking, that deals with the “WHAT FOR” and conceptual thinking that deals with the “WHY”.

The objective of a thinking process is to be able to emulate in mind the models that underlie the tangible aspects of the world that can be accessed through sensory experiences. The objective of conceptual thinking is to emulate the nature that underlies specific adaptive aspects of reality in order influence them. These concepts define the functionalist principles of things and allow developing the unicist binary actions to influence them.

### The Unicist Ontology of Conceptual Thinking

The Ontogenetic Map in Unicist Standard Language



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The purpose of conceptual thinking is to integrate with the environment in an adapted way. It implies establishing a symmetric complementation which allows influencing the environment while being influenced by it.

## About the Fuzzy Logical Approach

An extrinsic concept has a credibility zone that defines the limits of its functionality. The active function of conceptual thinking deals with the fuzzy aspects of reality which require accepting that there are aspects that are certain, but that conceptual knowledge has a limit where it becomes false. A concept is a “fuzzy set”.

The approach to the credibility zone of a concept needs to be done using a “fuzzy approach”. It requires knowing that at some level of the integration of the elements of a concept reality becomes “functionally absolute”. This means that it produces results in all the cases where it is used.

But the limits of the zone are fuzzy because the concept has different levels of probabilities to function when the values included are subtly changed until the change exceeds the level of functionality, and the credibility zone ceases to exist. Concepts cannot be addressed without having a “fuzzy approach” in mind.

## About the Predicate Logical Approach

The energy conservation function of conceptual thinking is the predicate logic that sustains the action of the purpose to make intrinsic concepts functional.

People tend to perceive concepts as “fixed assets”, as nouns. Therefore, they tend to talk about concepts, on the one hand, and about the real world, on the other. A predicate logical approach is needed to perceive intrinsic concepts as the “intelligence” that drives the ac-



This structure that regulates the nature of living beings was named intrinsic concept and is described by a unicist ontological structure that was named ontogenetic map. In a specific living entity or adaptive system the active principle becomes an active function and the energy conservation principle an energy conservation function.

This structure underlies the living beings, their actions, and deeds. When dealing with inanimate functional entities the concepts of their functionality are intrinsic and the concepts of their use were defined as extrinsic because they are deposited on them by the living entities. Extrinsic concepts are also defined as having a purpose, an active function, and an energy conservation function.

These concepts are abstractions that describe the essential functionality of the use of an entity. When approaching the concept of an entity it has to be considered that while the active function of a concept can be observed and measured, energy conservation can be perceived, and the purpose needs to be intuited.

As the structure of a concept in its unit is a complex system that cannot be observed, the only way to confirm conceptual knowledge is by measuring the results of the actions the concept regulates. This implies that the extrinsic concepts can only be confirmed by the facts they produce.

Therefore, the confirmation of conceptual knowledge requires forecasting the evolution several times and measuring results produced until the forecast becomes accurate and the structure of the concept can be considered as valid. We consider that five accurate forecasts are necessary to validate conceptual knowledge.

## Concepts are Homologous to Embryonic Stem Cells

Intrinsic concepts describe the living creatures' essences and their evolution laws. Living creatures possess intrinsic concepts. On the

other hand, inanimate beings have intrinsic and extrinsic concepts. Intrinsic concepts define the functionalist principles that make them work, while extrinsic concepts are deposited on them according to the functionality of their use. Intrinsic and extrinsic concepts define the natural behavior of living creatures and their evolution.

As there is a generic concept for each species that defines its purpose, its expansive and entropic function, and its conservation function, such concept is cross-cultural and timeless, if the species does not become extinct.

The function of stem cells in the human body is homologous to the function of intrinsic concepts in the field of human actions. While stem cells can give rise to specialized cells and thus organs, essential concepts allow building processes and unicist objects.

## Properties of Stem Cells and Concepts

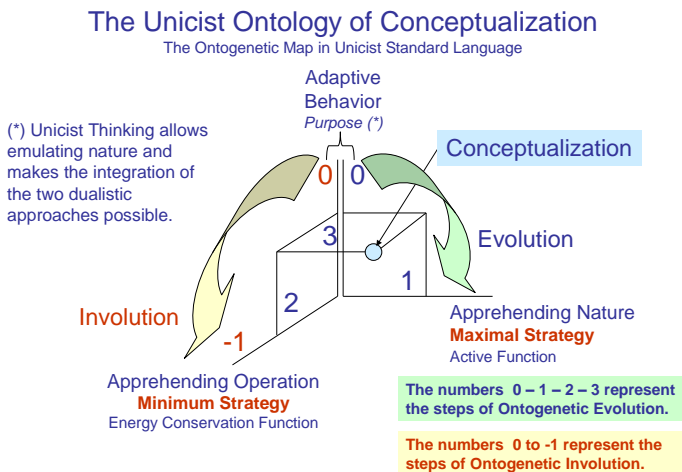
<b>Stem Cells</b>	<b>Concepts</b>
They are unspecialized. They are capable of self-renewal. They can give rise to specialized cells.	They are universal. They are timeless. They allow building operational functions.

Thus, stem cells and concepts are homologous. While intrinsic concepts allow the construction of objects to insert into human adaptive processes, stem cells allow the building of organs that work as unicist objects to sustain the functionality of a complex adaptive system such as the human body.

# The Unicist Ontology of Conceptualization

Conceptualizing implies being able to have an adaptive behavior driven by the capacity of apprehending the nature of what one is doing as well as the operational aspects of the actions.

Conceptualization is necessary to drive proactive adaptive actions. That is why it applies to individual, institutional, and social behavior. In plain language, conceptualization implies knowing what one is truly doing, having the concepts of the actions, which includes knowing their functional structure and being able to transform these concepts into value adding operational actions.



Concepts can be approached intuitively and can be approached consciously. This intuitive approach is made by recognizing a specific aspect of reality based on the preconcept one has. The first approach to a concept is necessarily intuitive. It requires using abductive reasoning based on unicist logic.

This preconcept might be functional or stagnated. If it is functional, it allows using feedback from the environment to transform it into a conscious concept.

If it is stagnated, it is non-conscious and drives to innovation blindness, where all those aspects that exceed the definition of the preconcept need to be eliminated in order confirm the preconception.

Stagnated preconcepts sustain prejudices, which are fallacious myths the individual has, that avoid assuming the responsibility of adapting to an environment.

In the conceptualization process, after the intuitive approach takes place, the individual needs to decide if s/he will change her/his role of observer and become a participant. The true intention of being adaptive resides in his capacity to take this role.

The extrinsic concept of an inanimate entity defines its adaptive use value. Therefore, a concept can only be apprehended by integrating the “observer” within the unified field composed by the entity and the individual, in which case the individual is transformed into a participant.

Conceptualization, from this standpoint, is defined as the conscious approach to an entity to exert influence in the environment. Conceptualization cannot be done as an intellectual exercise or practice. Conceptualization only works if it has been preceded by real experiences, by a decision to influence the environment, and followed immediately by real actions to make the influence come true.

The maximal strategy of conceptualization requires apprehending the nature of the environment to define the amplitude of the credibility zone to expand the use of the concept as far as possible. The unicist destructive tests have been developed to measure the amplitude of the functionality of a concept.

The minimum strategy of conceptualization requires apprehending the operational aspects of the entity, which require having sound knowledge of the operation. It is based on a technical-analytical approach sustained by systemic thinking to apprehend the concept at an operational level.

Both destructive and non-destructive tests are needed in the conceptualization process. The non-destructive tests have been developed to confirm the apprehension of the functionality of the operational aspects within the limits that have been validated by the destructive tests.

The use of metaphors, which are universal homologies to define the nature of the concept of what needs to be done, is a natural way to confirm consensus when a group needs to share a conceptualization.

In this sense, the use of metaphors is only meaningful when individuals truly understand the metaphor and are able to make multiple essential analogies to confirm the understanding. The use of “riddles”, which includes the use of metaphors that have multiple functional answers, is a way to learn to deal with the nature of entities.

## The Unicist Ontology of Personal Adaptiveness

Concepts can only be approached by people who are adaptive. As concepts cannot be observed, there is no room for observers. What can be observed are the consequences of the functionality of the concepts of an entity.

The apprehension of concepts requires an adaptive behavior where there are no observers but participants.

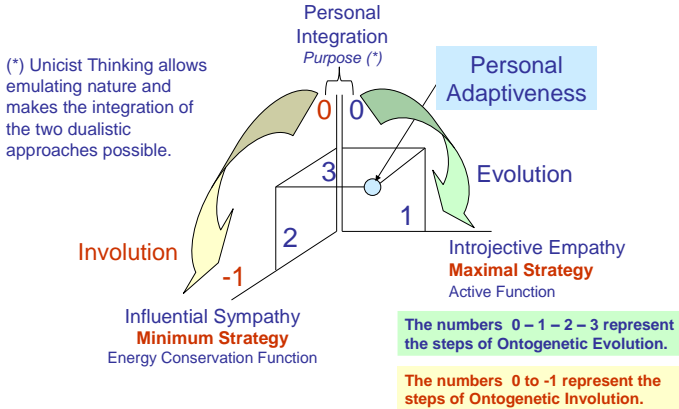
Adaptiveness integrates individuals and concepts as part of the “unified field” of a solution. It requires a real adaptive personal integration with the aspects of reality that need to be conceptualized. This



integration implies that the individual sees the external reality as a part of her/his “circle”, which implies being integrated by the pronoun “we”.

### The Unicist Ontology of Personal Adaptiveness

The Ontogenetic Map in Unicist Standard Language



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Observers cannot be adaptive because they are outside, judging the environment. Participants are those who are not outside but inside and need to have the concept that regulates the environment to be adaptive.

This process of personal integration requires having the necessary empathy to find a homology with the external reality within one’s mind that allows integrating with the environment.

That is what has been named introjective empathy, which requires making a reflection process to find a homological entity “inside” that allows integrating with the external reality. An individual can begin to exert influence in the environment when s/he has found that s/he shares the concept of the environment.

On the other hand, an individual needs to have the necessary influential sympathy to influence the environment.

“Sympathetic resonance or sympathetic vibration is a harmonic phenomenon wherein a formerly passive string or vibratory body responds to external vibrations to which it has a harmonic likeness.”

Influential sympathy implies that the individual influences the environment without exerting power on it.

Only individuals who can apprehend the environment based on their empathic approach and their capacity to influence without exerting power are able to adapt to it.

Personal adaptiveness allows expanding the boundaries of an individual’s actions which allows her/him to be flexible.

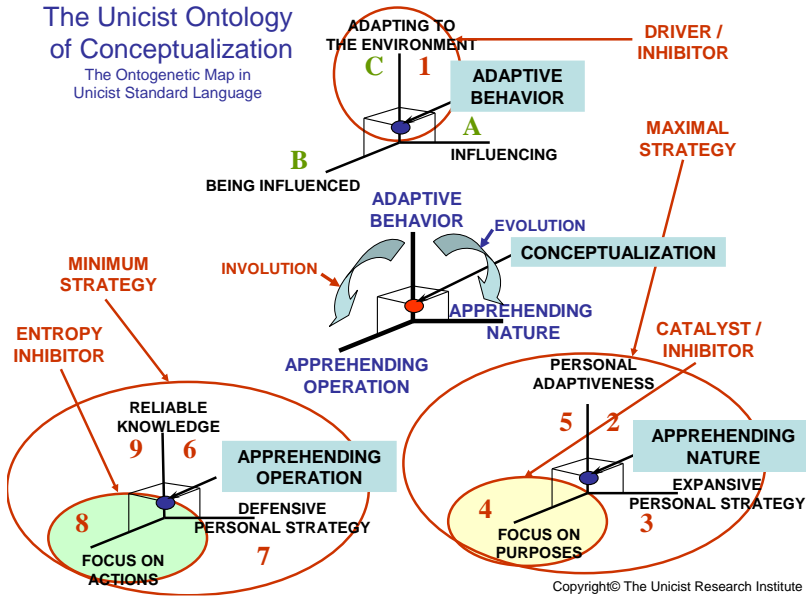
Rigidity is the consequence of being unable to expand the boundaries one has and drives naturally towards over-adaptiveness, which implies submitting, dominating, or opposing the environment.

Adaptiveness implies having a high level of consciousness in the field the individual adapts.

## The Ontogenetic Map of Conceptualization

The ontogenetic map of conceptualization describes the different concepts and sub-concepts that integrate the process of conceptualizing some aspect of reality.

Concepts are only needed in complex adaptive environments where there are no univocal cause-effect relationships that can be managed with a systemic approach.



## About Adapting to the Environment

Complex adaptive systems can only be influenced by having the concepts that regulate their evolution. They have (among other aspects) open boundaries, and their elements are integrated by bi-univocal relationships integrated by the conjunction “and”.

As the goal of conceptualizing is to adapt to the environment, conceptualizing is meaningless when individuals do not need to adapt to the environment. Adapting, as it has been said, implies integrating with the environment to become part of it.

## About Influencing

The adaptive behavior begins by exerting influence in the environment, which implies establishing a complementary relationship with

it. Complementation is what allows exerting influence in an environment without exerting power.

This complementation can be symmetric or asymmetric. Symmetric relationships are those that are established between equals and asymmetric relationships are the ones in which one of the parts has a superior level of influence than the other one.

This asymmetry can have a positive or negative slope. Being influential without exerting power requires building a complementation with negative slope to have an authoritative role and then establishing a symmetric relationship that makes participation possible.

## About Being Influenced

The environment, working as a system, influences those who participate in it. Therefore, individuals who have an adaptive behavior necessarily need to behave within the rules of the game of the environment.

The influence of the environment naturally drives individuals towards competition. The influence of the environment fosters competition since individuals compete with the environment to minimize its influence.

Competition implies establishing supplementary relationships where individuals need to be redundant with the environment while proposing a different solution in their area of influence. This competition can have a negative or a positive slope in terms of the evolution of the environment.

When individuals propose alternatives that diminish the responsibility of the members of the environment, the slope is negative, and the environment is degraded. When the solution proposed simplifies the assumption of responsibilities the slope is positive, and the environment evolves.

## About Personal Adaptiveness

This aspect is the driver of the maximal strategy for conceptualizing. Personal adaptiveness is a condition to apprehend the nature of some aspect of reality and is naturally driven by the ethical intelligence an individual has.

The true intention of adapting is defined by the ethical intelligence an individual uses in a specific field. It drives towards the development of expansive strategies.

## About Expansive Strategies

Expansive strategies are those strategies that drive actions beyond the existing boundaries of an activity. To develop expansive strategies there are two basic conditions that need to exist:

- 1) Have the knowledge that the environment one is expanding towards is homologous to the value propositions that are being made.
- 2) The existence of differentiated propositions that have more value than those existing in the environment.

Conceptualizing requires having an expansive strategic approach because it deals with complex adaptive systems, which have open boundaries that require using both a minimum strategy to survive and a maximal strategy to benefit from the open boundaries.

## About the Focus on Purposes

Focusing on purposes requires having a high level of abstraction capacity. Purposes are not observable; they underlie the actions of individuals in an environment. Personal adaptiveness needs to be sustained

by having an extreme focus on purposes to be able to exert influence on the environment.

This focus needs to be a set binary actions that includes the active function of the purpose on the one hand, and the energy conservation function of the purpose, on the other hand. Both synchronized actions allow accessing the purpose.

This focus on adaptive purposes allows going beyond the influence that is exerted by the environment. It has to be considered that, hypothetically, the less energy consuming action is the one that is being proposed by the environment. The focus on a purpose proposes a superior solution for the environment that works as a catalyst for the conceptualization process.

This purpose needs to have a superior functional value to work as a complement to the environment that fosters a positive slope for its evolution. Personal adaptiveness can be achieved when the purposes the individual focuses on have a superior functional value.

## The Minimum Strategy

The minimum strategy of conceptualization is based on apprehending the operational aspects of a specific aspect of reality. Apprehending the operation implies emulating the system that underlies operation.

The building of a minimum strategy is an operational approach but based on emulating its systemic structure which is based on cause-effect relationships between processes. This strategy is functional to deal with a static approach to reality within the boundaries of what is being done.

## About Reliable Knowledge

Having the necessary reliable knowledge is basic to manage the operational concept. This knowledge requires having full technical-

analytical knowledge and having the knowledge of the fundamentals that define the limits of the problem that is being solved.

The approach based on reliable knowledge begins being hypothetical until it is confirmed using pilot tests. The knowledge begins to show its functionality when it is put into action.

## About the Defensive Personal Strategy

Defensive personal strategies are based on developing actions to conceptualize the operational aspects to ensure results. Operational actions are driven by forward chaining driven actions that allow managing the operation of simple cause-effect relationships that ensure results using a strict control system and standards.

The development of defensive personal strategies implies having a structural pattern driven approach that is based on the use of the patterns of the operational concepts that are used within known boundaries, based on the knowledge where the probability of success is nearby “1”.

## About the Focus on Actions

Being focused on actions allows conceptualizing the operational aspects of a given reality. It requires having reliable technical knowledge to implement adequate technologies that are available within the limits of the objectives that have been established.

The core of this process is to define the actions profiting of the operational concepts and the knowledge of: the “objectives to be achieved”, the concept of “what needs to be done” and “how the process needs to be developed”.

The full focus on actions implies that the knowledge of the concept is limited to the observable aspects and the patterns that can be identified and used. Reliable knowledge can be put into action when a de-

fensive strategy to ensure conceptualization has been implemented and there is a full focus on actions.

## Levels of Conceptualization

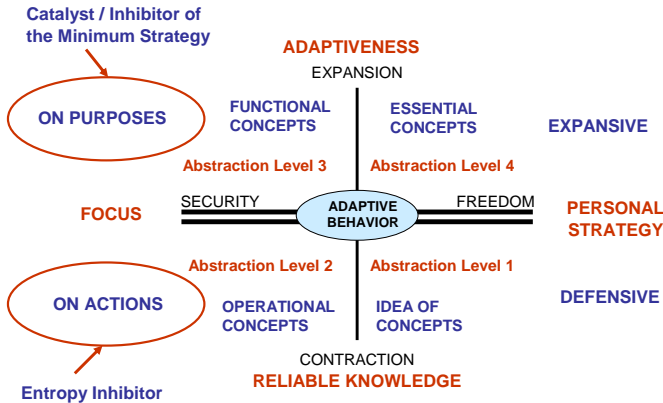
Four levels of conceptualization have been defined. These levels depend on the abstraction capacity, knowledge, and the doing-capacity of individuals.

It has to be considered that the unicist conceptualization implies that concepts can only be accepted as valid, when they have been materialized in value generating actions. These levels are:

- 1) Idea of Concepts – Abstraction Level 1
- 2) Operational Concepts – Abstraction Level 2
- 3) Functional Concepts – Abstraction Level 3
- 4) Essential Concepts – Abstraction Level 4

### The Unicist Ontology of Conceptualization

The Ontogenetic Map in Unicist Standard Language





## 1) Idea of Concepts – Abstraction Level 1

This abstraction level requires being able to apprehend the categories of actions that are within an intrinsic or extrinsic concept. It requires having the necessary predicate logical and fuzzy logical approaches that allow defining the actions and being able to install them into real processes.

It requires being able to define: “WHAT” is the process? “WHAT is the process FOR?”, in order to focus on the purpose of the concept, and “HOW does the process work?”, not in terms of operational actions, but in terms of categories of actions.

The idea of the concept is the first step for conceptualizing. It is based on having a sound technical-analytical knowledge and is driven by the need to ensure results. The idea of a concept is necessary to develop a minimum strategy.

The absence of the idea of the concept of what needs to be done hinders the existence of secure operational processes that drive towards results.

The access to this level of conceptualization requires having completed the second level of the unicist reflection process.

## 2) Operational Concepts – Abstraction Level 2

This conceptualization level is the second level of abstraction that needs to be achieved to define operational processes. This level of conceptualization requires being able to apprehend the sub-concepts that are within the concept that is being apprehended.

These sub-concepts are more operational and make a concept “tangible”. This conceptualization level is necessary to apprehend such sub-concepts using a fuzzy logical approach. This implies dealing

with diffuse boundaries that need to be apprehended to be able to emulate their functionality in mind.

The predicate logical approach allows us to define the actions of these operational concepts.

The operational conceptualization is based on having a reliable knowledge of the technical-analytical aspects and of the operational processes to make the sub-concepts happen. It requires having a functional approach to reality to be able to analyze and integrate concepts.

This level is based on being focused on actions, which allows apprehending the integration of the operational emulation in mind with the real actions that happen in the environment.

The access to this level of conceptualization requires having completed the third level of the unicist reflection process.

### 3) Functional Concepts – Abstraction Level 3

This abstraction level requires being able to emulate in mind the functionality of an entity that is installed in an adaptive environment. It requires having an integrative logical approach to integrate the entity with the environment in which the conceptualist is included.

A high level of energy is needed to exert a sympathetic influence on the environment and an empathetic relationship with the environment. This conceptualization level requires being able to apprehend the functional aspects considering the double dialectical processes that are implicit in the functional concept.

The adaptive capacity of the one that is conceptualizing is basic in this process. This requires having both the knowledge of the fundamentals of the environment and the technical aspects that deal with the systemic process that is included at an operational level.

It requires focusing on the purposes that need to be achieved, and not losing focus when the functional activities expand the boundaries of the present operational concept to adapt to changes.

The access to this level of conceptualization requires having completed the fourth level of the unicist reflection process.

#### 4) Essential Concepts – Abstraction Level 4

This level of abstraction requires having value adding ethical intelligence. This allows us to be integrated in the environment that is being conceptualized. The use of a mature introjective empathy and the energy of a sympathetic influence are basic conditions for this level.

It requires emulating in mind both the essential concept that is being apprehended and the restricted and wide context where this concept works. In this context, it becomes necessary to emulate the nature of reality in mind and at the same time have the capacity of transforming this abstract knowledge into concrete binary actions.

This level of conceptualization is based on the existence of a personal expansive strategy which is based on generating value and having a high level of influence to expand the boundaries of actions in an adaptive environment.

This level of abstraction needs to deal with the complexity of an adaptive reality, which requires being able to emulate in mind the functionalist principle of what is being done. The access to this level of conceptualization requires having completed the fifth level of the unicist reflection process.

## Conclusion

Conceptualization and the use of the concepts that are apprehended are a basic condition to influence adaptive environments.

This process can be accelerated by providing the structure of concepts that have been discovered which provides a guide for their re-discovery.

Another support is the use of unicist logical tools which provide information to manage the first and second level of abstraction (idea of the concept and operational concept).

## The Discovery of Concepts as Behavioral Objects

The discovery of behavioral objects explains how concepts drive human conscious actions, integrating the data available in the long-term memory, involving the semantic, episodic, and procedural memory. It explained that the deeper the level of conceptualization of individuals is, the higher the level of abstraction capacity that is needed and the better their capacity to emulate a reality is.

Concepts are the behavioral objects that drive human conscious actions; the level of depth of these objects defines the actions that are driven. The lack of concepts makes the information stored in mind work as independent entities.

Behavioral objects are entities stored in the long-term memory that drive human actions. They transform data, stored in the long-term memory, into meaningful information to generate the restricted context for adaptive actions. A behavioral object is a type of knowledge object that is fully action oriented.

The research that led to this discovery showed that the concepts individuals have work as the behavioral objects that guide their actions.

It has to be considered that human actions are triggered by intuition and intuition is driven by conceptual short-term memory. Intuitive approaches are spontaneous impulses that are based on the analogies, precepts or concepts individuals have in mind. In this sense, analogies foster illusions, precepts avoid personal risk-taking and concepts allow emulating in mind the nature of an external entity to drive conscious actions.

The research on the ontology of concepts described their structure composed by a purpose, an active function, and an energy conservation function. This essential structure that is implicit in nature (ontogenetic intelligence of nature) including human beings and their creations, is the basis for conceptualization. When the unicist structure

of a concept has been apprehended, conceptualization is possible, and the individual is able to emulate in mind the structure of a concept.

The use of the unicist ontology of concepts began in the early '80s. This allowed developing multiple applications with the participation of individuals who had different levels of conceptualization. The research was developed using the complexity science research methodology.

This document describes the conclusions of how concepts work as behavioral objects establishing the framework that provides the necessary security to empower personal inner and external freedom to develop value generating actions.

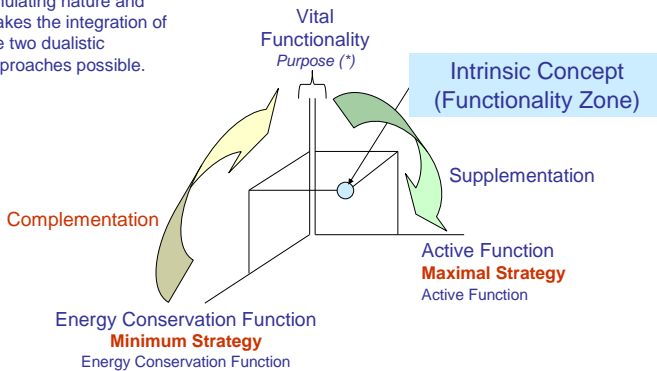
## Unicist Concepts

Concepts describe the living creatures' essences and their evolution laws. That is what we call their ontogenetic intelligence. Living creatures possess intrinsic concepts. This means that these concepts exist in themselves and only need to be discovered.

### The Unicist Ontology of an Intrinsic Concept

The Ontogenetic Map in Unicist Standard Language

(\*) Unicist Thinking allows emulating nature and makes the integration of the two dualistic approaches possible.



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On the other hand, inanimate beings have intrinsic concepts that define their functionality and extrinsic concepts, which are deposited on them according to their functional use value.

Intrinsic concepts define the natural behavior of living creatures.

As there is a intrinsic concept for each species that defines its purpose, its expansive action (and entropy) and its conservation function, such concept is cross-cultural and timeless, until the species becomes extinct.

## Functionality/Credibility Zone

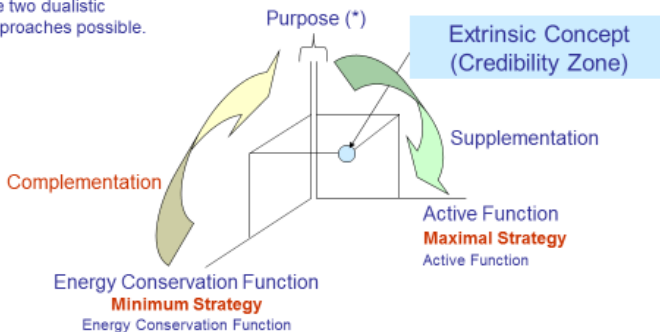
Intrinsic concepts are functional. They do not exist because someone believes them or not. They exist intrinsically.

On the other hand, extrinsic concepts describe the use value of an entity and depend, for their existence, on the fact that they are believed.

### The Unicist Ontology of an Extrinsic Concept

The Ontogenetic Map in Unicist Standard Language

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While intrinsic concepts are defined by their functionality zone, extrinsic concepts are defined by their credibility zone. In both cases, concepts are not integrated by three different elements, they are “one”, which requires being able to emulate their integration.

## Complementation and Supplementation Laws

The purpose, the energy conservation function and the active function of a concept are integrated by logical rules which sustain their unity.

While the purpose and the active function are sustained by the supplementation law, the purpose and the energy conservation function are integrated by the complementation law.

## Supplementation Law

The supplementation law is a relation between elements with redundant purposes and active functions, having a different energy conservation function.

In an evolutionary context, the active function has a superior energy conservation function that challenges the evolution of the entity.

## Complementation Law

The complementation law is an interdependent relation between two elements, actions, or ideas.

Each one of these elements has what the other element requires, and they both have a coincident energy conservation function, that establishes a common goal.



## Concepts as Strange Attractors of Information

The idea of a concept is stored in the semantic memory and allows integrating the information that permits transforming the idea of the concept into actions. This role is homologous to the function of the strange attractor of the chaos theory.

The idea of a concept makes lateral thinking possible and allows understanding homological patterns going beyond analogical patterns.

A concept has been apprehended if it has been stored in the long-term memory.

*Long-term Memory is integrated by:*

- 1) ***Episodic memory***, to recall personal experiences from our past.
- 2) ***Semantic memory***, to store facts, information, concepts, rules, principles, and problem solving skills.
- 3) ***Procedural memory***, to remember how to perform or employ a strategy.

*These three types of long-term memory are integrated. They store the cognitive objects that people need to respond on time to influence an environment.*

## *Knowledge Objects Storage*

*The objects stored in mind must fulfill several conditions:*

- 1) *They must include their conceptual structure to be meaningful.*
- 2) *They must be secure, to be reliable.*

3) *They must include the individual's beliefs, to be remembered. When the individual's beliefs are not included, they are forgotten.*

4) *They must include knowledge, which includes the possibility of application.*

5) *They must include groundings, which have to be reasonable, comprehensible and provable.*

6) *They must include action procedures to make the objects useful.*

*A knowledge object is stored in the three types of long-term memory:*

- 1) *Episodic memory pictures the object's functional experiences, which permit an analogical approach.*
- 2) *Semantic memory stores the idea of the concept, its structure and mechanics.*
- 3) *Procedural memory contains the taxonomy to implement the actions that are included in the structure of the cognitive objects.*

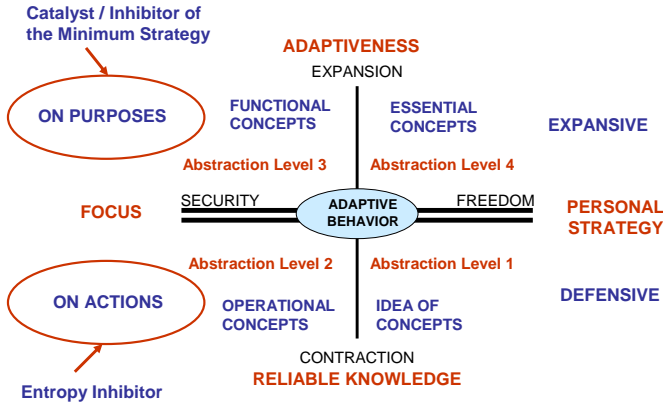
## Concepts as Behavioral Objects

Concepts regulate and drive human actions. The concept an individual has defines the purpose the individual wants to achieve. The absence of concepts generates meaningless actions or inactions. Concepts have different depth levels according to the conceptualization capacity of an individual. These levels are:

- 1) The idea of the concept
- 2) The operational concept
- 3) The functional concept
- 4) The essential concept

## The Unicist Ontology of Conceptualization

The Ontogenetic Map in Unicist Standard Language



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Each of these concepts works as a behavioral object, which is a special type of knowledge objects that defines the possibilities of individuals' actions. Understanding the functionality of these behavioral objects requires managing the rational description of their concepts and having a high level of consciousness.

### Level 1) The Idea of the Concept

The functionality of the idea of the concept is a behavioral object that allows an individual to focus on a purpose and integrate the functional information that is necessary to build an intellectual image of what wants to be done. The idea of a concept gives meaning to the data included in the semantic memory and integrates it.

### Level 2) The Operational Concept

This behavioral object includes not only the idea of the concept an individual has but also the behavioral patterns the individual has ex-

perienced, allowing the individual to categorize the actions in multiple ontological segments. It integrates the information included in the semantic and the episodic memory.

### Level 3) The Functional Concept

This behavioral object includes the operational concept an individual has but also the procedures an individual needs to follow to achieve specific results. It allows following the necessary actions focusing on the different patterns of the ontological segments. It integrates the data included in the semantic, episodic, and procedural memory.

### Level 4) The Essential Concept

This behavioral object includes the functional concept an individual has and also the capacity of dealing with the future based on the knowledge of the nature of what is happening in the present.

The essential concept integrates semantic, episodic, and procedural memory with an extreme abstraction capacity that allows integrating the previous stages with the knowledge of the nature of the environment. It integrates the data associated with the concept itself and the data associated with the concept of the environment in which it is included.

## Conclusions

Concepts are the behavioral objects that drive human conscious actions; the level of depth of these objects defines the actions that are driven. The lack of concepts makes the information stored in mind work as independent meaningless entities.

People need to have concepts to associate the data they have in mind. Therefore, the use of concepts is basic in any adaptive process or learning activity. Accumulating non-associated data in mind is a meaningless effort that can generate no intelligent action.

Analogies and preconcepts are a fallacious substitution of concepts to avoid needing to assume the responsibility for generating value. The lack of concepts is perceived through the actions of an individual that produce no results and destroy her/his reliability in the environment.

The level of conceptualization an individual has can be upgraded by developing actions and measuring their results in fields where the individual has assumed the responsibility for generating value. It takes time. In real life, these upgrades, based on personal experiences, drive individuals towards wisdom.

## Annex:

### Conceptualization makes you Adaptive

**Conceptualization makes you free is not a motto. It is a fact that is sustained by the functionality of conceptual knowledge to drive human actions. People's actions are driven by the concepts they hold in their long-term memory. Having the concepts of what one is doing allows one to be effective, flexible, and adaptive. That is what is made possible by the "personal freedom" an individual has. Personal freedom cannot exist without having conceptual knowledge of what one is doing and vice versa.**

## The Use of Concepts to Deal with Adaptability

Conceptualization is necessary to deal with adaptive environments. The level of complexity of a problem depends on the quantity of interdependent autonomous entities that integrate the “unified field” of the solution of the problem and the openness of its boundaries. The larger the number of entities, the wider the unified field is, and the more complex it is. The more open the boundaries the higher level of feedback dependence the system has.

Concepts cannot be imagined, they need to be discovered following an action-reflection-action process based on acting in the real world. It has to be clarified that conceptual knowledge implies having the abstract emulation of the concept in mind that also includes the operational procedures.

The more complex a problem is, the higher the level of conceptualization is required.

As complex problems cannot be divided into parts without changing their nature, this is a limit to solve complex problems.

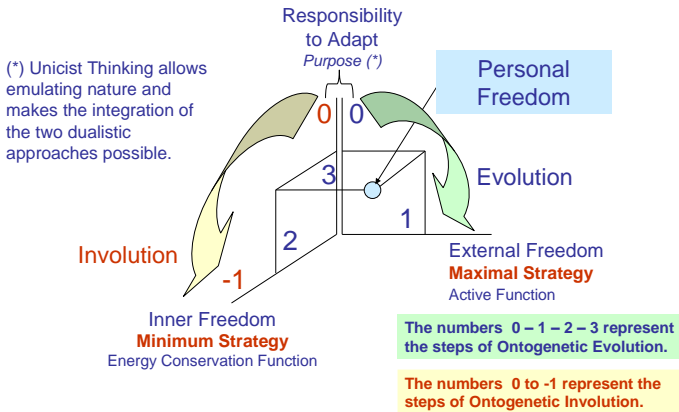
## Personal Freedom is needed to Apprehend Concepts

To discover or apprehend a new concept an individual needs to have the necessary external and inner freedom to open the mind in order to be able to learn about it without “transforming” it into a preconcept s/has. Inner freedom implies that one’s comfort zone has flexible boundaries, to include new knowledge.

That is why personal freedom is the psychological driver to apprehending concepts. Freedom, by definition, is associated with the assumption of responsibility and the management of risks.

Personal freedom requires having assumed the responsibility to adapt to an environment, which implies being able to influence the environment while being influenced by it. It implies that individuals are not observers but participants.

### The Unicist Ontology of Personal Freedom The Ontogenetic Map in Unicist Standard Language



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The external freedom drives the maximal strategy of the development of personal freedom. The expansion of freedom is a step by step process that begins by developing the freedom to do, being aware of the actions one is doing and ensuring that they are adapted and add value to the environment.

When external freedom begins to be earned, it is necessary to expand inner freedom which requires reinforcing the “responsibility to be” and includes assuming a transcendent responsibility, a social responsibility and an individual responsibility.



Inner freedom also requires being able to make adapted decisions, which imply having the courage to do, the need to do and the true will of paying the necessary prices to expand this inner freedom.

**It has to be considered that each “inch” of freedom that is gained requires abandoning solutions that were subjectively functional before. The old comfort zone pays the price and the new comfort zone provides the benefits.**

The last step towards inner freedom is to have the necessary consciousness to integrate the outside with the inside but knowing the fuzzy limits that separate beliefs from external facts.

The individual needs to be able to discriminate the perceptions in order to go beyond analogical comparisons and be able to integrate them with conceptual comprehension. This allows individuals to “in-troject” new elements based on the discovery of homological patterns that allow recognizing an external reality.

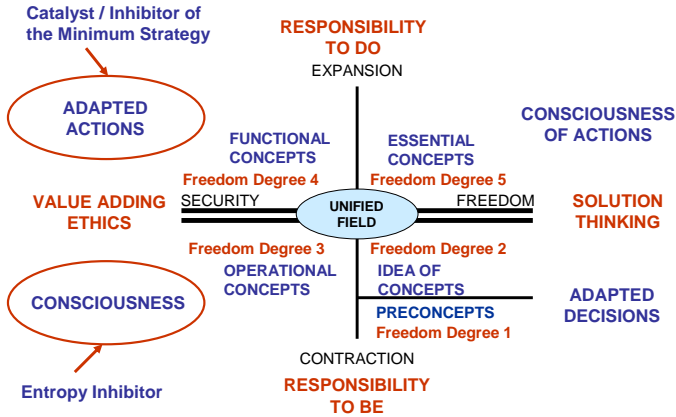
Finally, the use of ontointelligence, meaning the integration of ethical intelligence, strategic intelligence and the logical type of thought, allows transforming abstract consciousness into functional knowledge that closes the circle of the expansion of inner freedom.

## Degrees of Adaptability and Personal Freedom

The levels of adaptability and personal freedom are fully associated with the levels of conceptualization an individual has.

## The Unicist Ontology of Personal Freedom

The Ontogenetic Map in Unicist Standard Language



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The concept of “Degrees of Personal Freedom” is homologous with the concepts of Degrees of Freedom in Statistics, Physics and Mechanics. It is recommended to learn about them.

### Degree of Adaptability 1 – Preconceptual Approach

Preconcepts are dynamic or stagnated knowledge objects that individuals have in mind that are used intuitively, without being aware of their existence, when reacting to the needs generated by the environment. When they are stagnated, they are called prejudices.

Preconcepts inhibit the exertion of personal freedom, which is replaced by a freewill action that does not include assuming the responsibility for adapting.

Freewill provides a perception of freedom which is sustained using subjectivism and rationalism. In this case, the foundations of actions are inexistent; but instead, actions are confirmed by empirical justifications that build a pseudo-freedom driven environment.

When foundations begin to be used the individual begins to access a superior level of adaptability.

## Degree of Adaptability 2 – Idea of the Concepts

The idea of the concept an individual apprehends establishes the operational patterns that allow discriminating the actions that fit into the idea and those that appear to be dysfunctional. This idea of the concept is based on having an operational focus on what needs to be achieved. It doesn't allow managing the possibilities in the environment.

Individuals are able to decide what contributes to the achievement of the operational results in which they are focused on and what does not.

This degree of freedom suffices to manage situations that have a low level of complexity and adaptability.

This level of freedom uses empirical foundations that allow sharing with others who have the same experiences. Therefore, this level of adaptability is functional in the restricted operational environment of equals.

## Degree of Adaptability 3 – Operational Concepts

Managing operational concepts allows individuals to exert the freedom to decide among structurally segmented actions. This level of adaptability is functional to use a segmented adaptive process that increases the influence of individuals in the environment based on the patterns they use to define actions. It is based on having a logical/rational focus on what needs to be achieved.

Their decision field includes the segment they belong to and also the adjacent operational segments that can be apprehended. It gives them the possibility of expanding their use of language to adapt to the segments they do not belong to.

This degree of adaptability is necessary to manage segmented environments that have a low level of complexity.

This degree of freedom uses logical foundations which require having a sound knowledge of the problems and the solutions. This degree of adaptability is functional when dealing with operational aspects of reality.

## Degree of Adaptability 4 – Functional Concepts

Functional concepts allow individuals to manage the dynamics of complex adaptive problems. The functional concept regulates basically the activities that deal with going beyond the boundaries of an individual to build a solution to solve a problem.

In this case, the focus is driven by the bi-univocal cause-effect relationships of the elements that integrate the solution. It allows managing the binary actions that ensure the functionality.

This degree of freedom allows apprehending the action and the energy conservation function that are implicit in any functional entity. It allows defining what is possible to be achieved and the actions that need to be done and how the energy needs to be saved to obtain results.

This degree of freedom allows individuals to develop maximal strategies to expand the boundaries of what needs to be done and minimum strategies to survive. These strategies allow defining the binary actions that make things work.

This degree of adaptability uses causative foundations which require having a reliable knowledge of the situation and its environment. It is functional when dealing with complex functional problems.

## Degree of Adaptability 5 – Essential Concepts

Essential concepts allow individuals to manage the nature of complex adaptive problems. As essential concepts are cross-cultural and timeless, this degree of adaptability allows managing cross-cultural solutions and their timing. This degree permits focusing on the nature of the solution and thus on the problems.

This degree of adaptability makes the management of entities and their restricted environment possible. It allows developing present and future scenarios of the evolution of the concepts involved to better adapt to the environment.

It uses both maximal and minimum strategies, their corresponding binary actions, and allows developing catalysts to influence the environment.

This degree of adaptability uses conceptual foundations which require having the knowledge of the functional and essential concepts of the entities involved in the solution of a problem. This degree of freedom is functional when dealing with problems that have a high level of complexity or feedback dependence.

## Conclusion

Conceptualizing to achieve personal adaptability and using personal freedom to discover or apprehend concepts are necessary for any adaptive behavior in complex environments. This applies to all the roles an individual has in life, including fields such as: family, friendship, work, pastime, etc.

Conceptualizing implies being able to have an adaptive behavior driven by the capacity of apprehending the nature of what one is doing while being able to apprehend the operational aspects of the actions.

The objective of any thinking process is to be able to emulate in mind the models that underlie the tangible aspects of the world that can be accessed through sensory experiences. The objective of conceptual thinking is to emulate the nature that underlies specific aspects of reality in order to influence the environment. This nature includes the information of the episodic, semantic and procedural long-term memories.

Essential concepts are cross-cultural and timeless. They remain unchanged as long as a function exists.

Having the concepts of what one is doing allows one to be extremely effective and flexible. This degree of freedom can be expanded by upgrading the level of conceptualization of the environment where the individual can, wants and needs to adapt.

**Peter Belohlavek** is the creator of the unicist functionalist approach to science that is a pragmatic, structuralist, and functionalist approach that allows managing adaptive systems and environments. Its application fields include individual, social, economic, and business evolution.

(More information: <http://www.unicist.org/peter-belohlavek.php> )