

Yet Further Addendum to Diagrams of Emergence (*emergdiags1a.doc*)

The heart of holist (Buddhist) philosophy is the Circle or Cycle of Change.

The essential feature is that development (**ordering** Change) seems always to bring us not merely order, but **recurring order** – it brings us back to something very similar to where we started from, and this is perhaps a very significant aspect of development. But, if seen as a mere circle, it is then also an inaccurate tyranny, in that no progress or actual development is involved. Forms do recur, but they don't progress!

Indeed, the Buddha defined his "escape" from this tyranny as leaving this perpetual cycle of Life behind for the ultimate and singular perfection of Nirvana.

Now, when Lenin considered this area, he insisted that the cycle of Forms was actually a **helix**, for there certainly could be, and indeed in the long run there was real progress.

But, even this is still a very simplified high-level model.

In diagram II of **Diagrams of Emergence** we addressed alternating Phases of Change and found relatively long periods of stability with only what I termed an Equilibrium of Change, where minor incremental changes were the usual fare, and where the most **accumulating** of these were quite clearly deleterious, and which always in the end precipitated a cataclysmic positive feedback drop into a general catastrophe and demise of the Level.

My version also addressed the surprising following Phase of super fast progressive and order-making Change, which was certainly a period of progress.

This Phase of oscillating opposites was not, of course, a steady situation. Each cycle got shorter and moved higher until a whole new, and self-maintaining Level was achieved.

An Emergence had been successfully completed.

Now in such interludes of massive Qualitative Changes both the cycle and the helix do not convey this trajectory at all.

In fact they both actually **hide** it. Both of these models are dominated by the seemingly permanent stable Levels, with their minor changes, and the obviously longer term and major Qualitative Changes are put down to a summation of these "pin-head" determinations and developments. In the Circle of Life there is NO progress, and in the helix, there is only a general "progress", measured upwards(?), which is altogether too vague to be called any kind of model.

These are both important mistakes!

And in the case of the helix, the "progressive" changes around the curve of the helix are very minor and mostly "technical" (or quantitative), that is as distinct from revolutionary (qualitative). Under such circumstances the only change which can accrue to some evident outcomes, are those of deterioration which ultimately TIP the stable Level over the edge and precipitate a major dissociation and demise of the Level. All the stability-maintaining and dominant processes are washed away and destroyed and for a time chaos reigns.

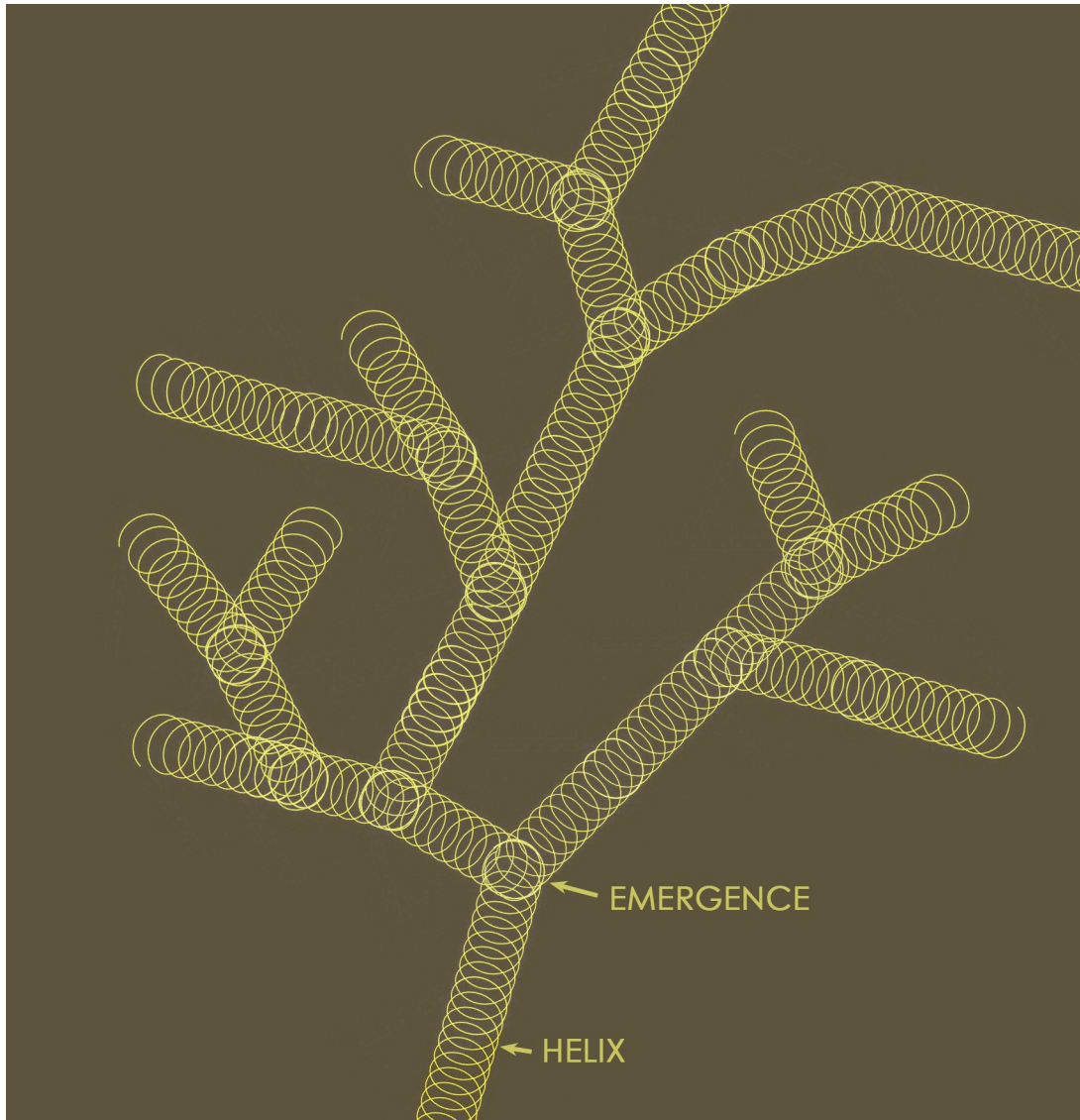
But, that form of chaos has **NO constraints**: anything can happen, and in such a situation (which is decidedly uncommon, happening **only** as a result of the forced dissociations within an Emergence, the Second Law of Thermodynamics is left with nothing to dissociate.

In such circumstances, the dominant tendencies are ones of **differential selection** from the many occurring processes, and the determining factor (as in Darwin's more restricted version – Natural Selection) is augmented growth in those processes, which are **mutually conducive** to one another, as compared to those, which are **mutually contending**.

In such circumstances the dominant tendency is towards development and increasing order!

Life is the clinching proof!

How else can you describe it?



Now another diagram of development is the analogy of the **tree** or **plant**. Using this more advanced model, any progress that does occur is not restricted to a single direction. Indeed, perhaps the main effect of Emergences is to produce New Alternatives *simultaneously*. The tracks of development **branch** – one “twig” becomes two, or even many. The tree of Life as Darwin originally sketched it, showed a multiple branching structure throughout.

Now, he was mostly concerned with Natural Selection whereby the most fit survived, and the rest perished, but we are concerned with the more general model of ALL development including ALL progress, whenever and wherever it occurs.

Our emphasis is to position the “radiations” of development AT our generalised Emergences. Where then must we position our cycles and helices of development?

The answer is “everywhere”, but initially we will make our helices the Form of the pinhead incremental changes: they will occur in helical forms *along* the individual branches of our “tree”.

The cycles at this level may seem too restricted, but there is no doubt that cycles do occur there too. The successions of generations are along those branches, and it is the successive changes in the sequence of individuals (as well as the unavoidable effect on their OWN ground (the environment) that developments and deteriorations accrues towards some sort of cataclysm. The helix therefore the branch, and the **branching** is the Emergence.

Now, by the very fragmentary nature of these ideas, it should be evident that these are not finished and fully co-ordinated ideas as yet.

Many simultaneous things are happening which together precipitate the crises, but nevertheless the usual “Complexity” ideas of commonly put forward in this area, is not our way. We must, whatever the gaps in both our Knowledge and Understanding still attempt to make headway in constructing meaningful models for these vital processes.

All of them will no doubt be radically revised to be unrecognisable in later versions, but a start must be made, AND in a new and more correct direction from what has been the case heretofore!

This series of diagrams and consequent musings have been invaluable in helping this author grasp the dynamic, holistic nature of evolution, and it will be on this ground that the next steps in our conceptions of the Evolution of Reality will be built.

(980 words)