

This is (what's supposed to be) a comprehensive beginner's guide to basic Socionics theory. If you're new to Socionics or need a reminder of the basics, I hope this can help you. It's mostly taken from Wikisocion, Psychology wiki and sociotype.com but shorter. For those who know a lot about Socionics it won't help much probably but I'll be glad to receive some feedback. Criticism is welcome. Do not take it as a final word and I would still recommend doing your own research. This was originally just a school project so it's far from perfect and I definitely plan on updating it in the future.

Model A

Model A describes how a person processes information through the use of eight information elements in eight different functions.

Model A is one of the central foundations of socionics. Each function serves a different purpose and contains one information element. To put it in another way, Model A can be thought of as a synthesis of functions and information elements. Socionics uses Model A to sort people into **16** different types, which is also called **sociotypes**.

Each sociotype has a unique placement of information elements, each placed at a different function. The placement of the functions itself is fixed between sociotypes.

Each function of Model A has a number of important characteristics including valued/unvalued, strong/weak, mental/vital, and accepting/producing. These can be thought of as dichotomies.

The functions can be sorted into different **blocks**, which are a way to sort a person's cognitive process in an even more abstract way.

The blocks in Model A are all interconnected to each other, meaning the placement of one information element affects other functions as well. The blocks themselves are the following: **Ego**, **Super Ego**, **Super Id** and **Id**.

Because the Ego block is both strong and valued, it essentially controls the person's information metabolism, direction of thought, etc. The Ego block sets the goals and direction, and then subconsciously relies on the Id block to provide necessary background information and data that the ego block will use in decision-making. Any conflicts between the Ego block and the Super-ego block generally result in the Ego block winning and the Super-ego block being relegated to a support role or sometimes completely ignored. Because the person is weak in the Super-id block but nevertheless values those information elements in the block, he seeks external support and input from others who value those information elements and are strong in them.

The Information Elements

In the previous section we've discussed Model A and its composition. This section is going to delve deeper into the information elements we briefly touched on earlier. For starters, there are **8** different information elements (which from now on we will refer to as **IM**). Each IM is essentially an abstraction of how we deal with the world from a *cognitive* standpoint. The IM themselves can be divided into **2** types of groups, those being **introverted** (internal, as in inner world) vs. **extroverted** (external, referring to the outside world), and **rational** vs **irrational**.

The introverted vs extroverted dichotomy determines whether the IM is dealing with the outside world of actions or the person's own inner world.

The rational vs irrational dichotomy determines whether the IM is either perceiving, meaning it gets information from the outside/inside world, or judging, meaning it judges the information it gets to make decisions, opinions and even moral judgments.

Model A works in a way that so that that the **leading** function which is your first function and placed in the Ego block will always be rational or irrational, introverted, or extroverted, and the **creating** function, which is your second function and also in the Ego block, be the opposite then the leading function on those dichotomies. This follows to the rest of the blocks, see table 1-1.

The IM themselves are the following: **Ti, Fi, Si, Ni, Te, Fe, Se** and **Ne** and we will now discuss each one individually. Again, keep in mind those are broad abstractions, not concrete rules.

Block	Function	IM
Ego Block	Leading function	Fe (E_R_1)
	Creative function	Ni (I_IR_1)
Super Ego	Role Function	Te (E_R_2)
	Vulnerable function	Si (I_IR_2)
Super Id	Suggestive Function	Ti (I_R_1)
	Mobilizing Function	Se (E_IR_1)
Id	Ignoring Function	Fi (I_R_2)
	Demonstrative Function	Ne (E_IR_2)

Table 1-1. This table examines the stack of EIE (ENFj). The letter I refers to introversion while the letter E to extraversion. The letter R refers to rational and the letters IR refers to irrational. The number is an arbitrary number since there are 2 possible versions for each IM combination, for example Fi and Ti are both rational and introverted, so the number indicates which is which. The pattern showing the table is true for all sociotypes. For example, it will always be true that if your leading IM is introverted, your demonstrative IM will always be introverted as well.

Ti (Introverted Logic) is an **introverted rational** IM. Ti is mainly concerned with the ability to recognize logical consistency, understand, and apply logical

systems and seeing logical connections between things. It is also concerned with *subjective* truths. Those who lead with Ti as their dominant function will question beliefs that are normally taken for granted. They tend to make decisions based on their past experiences more so than external sources. They tend to respect those with clear and consistent opinions. To those who lead with Ti, their own understanding of the subject is more true than that of the public consensus, which can be twisted in both a positive and a negative way. They usually have their own idea of what is considered quality.

Fi (Introverted Emotion) is also an introverted and rational IM. Fi is adept at understanding “distance” between people, closeness, and general interpersonal relationships. It’s also concerned with moral satisfaction, empathy, decency and kindness. Much like Ti, those qualities can be twisted into a both positive and negative way. Those who lead with Fi as their dominant function will refer to things they dislike and like often in relation to themselves- “*I* don’t like it” as opposed to “It’s not good”. This stems from the fact that Fi is often concerned more about themselves or how others relate to them in **regards** to a certain subject than the actual subject.

Si (Introverted Sensing) is an introverted **irrational** IM. Si is the ability to internalize sensations and to fully realize them. As a perceiving IM it is primarily concerned with tangible and external connections happening at the same time, or more specifically, the *sensual* interactions between objects. This leads to an understanding of how objects can affect other objects, in ways such as temperature, dirtiness and more. Those who lead with Si have an awareness of health and physical environment. It is also concerned with aesthetics, pleasure, and convenience. Those who lead with Si are usually not very goal oriented, preferring to do fun activities instead.

Ni (Introverted Intuition) is an introverted irrational IM. Ni is associated with the ability to see and understand how events and processes unfold over *time*, having a vision of the past and future, having strong mental imagery and seeing the connections that are beneath the surface rather than those that are apparent (like you would see with Si types). Those who lead with Ni like to always have a specific plan in mind and an idea of how their life would look in the future. Because of that they have little time for the concept of living in the moment and usually engage in leisure activities for short periods of time, and even when they do, it usually involves some competitive or psychologically demanding aspect in it.

Te (Extroverted Logic) is an **extroverted** rational IM. Te deals with the external state of objects- how, what, where and when. It is also concerned heavily with work. Types who lead with Te usually deal with factual information a lot and

determine what is happening based on objective rational and facts and the functionality is happening rather than the why and how it is happening. Unlike Ti types they judge the quality of something based on what it sets out to do rather than their own personal standards. Those who lead with Te usually consider someone successful if it achieves what it was supposed to without wasting unnecessary energy. They tend to heavily rely on external sources of information to evaluate situations.

Fe (Extroverted Feeling) is an extroverted rational IM. Fe is associated with the ability to recognize, express and understand emotions, passions, excitement, etc. It is also associated with the ability to get emotionally involved in an activity and to form a sense of community and group unity. Those who lead with Fe generally prefer groups with a light atmosphere where anything can be said without fear of being judged upon. They tend to take jokes lightly. They tend to have a great understanding of how something is being said affects the listener's attention. Those who prefer Fe tend to find it hard to hold grudges and may be very forgiving.

Se (Extroverted Sensing) is an extroverted irrational IM. Se is generally the ability to understand how much power, force, or influence is required for an action. Those who value Se are often quick to act and are comfortable with actions that have immediate consequences. Those who lead with Se are usually very competitive and can be rather intense (as opposed to those who lead with Si). Furthermore, Se can be very adept at reaching their object of desire. Those who lead with Se tend to push and influence others into a state where their object of interest can be achieved and tend to not consider other possibilities which may distract them from that object.

Ne (Extroverted Intuition) is an extroverted irrational IM. Ne is associated with the ability to recognize possibilities, create opportunities, and to begin things. Those who value Ne can easily recognize talent and potential of things that have yet to happen. They are also adept at understanding and exploring unrealized possibilities. Those who lead with Ne have an easy time seeing things from other perspectives. They tend to have great intellectual curiosity. They also tend to want and try out possibilities rather than consider them in their mind. They tend to pick a few options and stick with them. Those who lead with Ne can also be very interested in bizarre and outlandish ideas and tend to have a seemingly random sense of humour at times.