

Blocks and Functions

A couple of important dichotomies:

Mental ring: Ego and superego blocks. Conscious, mental; information oriented.

Vital ring: Superego and id blocks. Unconscious, physical; action oriented - focuses on practical implementation of information.

Accepting function: The function in each block that accepts information from the outside world and then feeds it to the producing function.

Producing function: The function in each block that takes information from the accepting function and does something with it. Often the producing function is where the will/goal of the block comes from, while the accepting function is the means of achieving it. The accepting function doesn't really have any will (excluding the base function) or goals of its own.

Ego block

Self-realisation through oneself. Our most creative and confident block. Confident in our ability and consciously demonstrates it to the world. Doesn't "follow the rules;" May ignore information that you don't like with the intention of achieving your own goal. The ego block serves the superego; if the superego didn't exist, the ego would come across as overly arrogant.

Base

(accepting) The will of the individual. Extremely consciously aware, creative, and confident. Use feels very satisfactory & is a source of direct pleasure. Will never be shy. Will come to own conclusions; "I teach or I learn myself." The base is utilised to connect with the objective world.

Creative

(producing) More creative than the base, more performative. Never shy; an interest in showing off to garner attention. Utilised to create something new to amaze others. Very independent - less accepting of other viewpoints compared to the base. Isn't as open to friendly debate as the base function. Black and white thinking; good or bad, moral or amoral, etc.

Superego block

Other-realisation through society. The consciousness adapts to society through the superego. Socially conforming; gains as much objective information as possible in order to

conform as best as they can. Not creative; aims to perfectly imitate the social expectation. Learns about the world (in relation to the given IMEs) as if disconnected from it. All known facts are equal, so none are discarded. The individual is unable to use critical thinking to discard irrelevant knowledge in this area. No interests of its own. Tries to be socially inconspicuous to avoid criticism, but if criticism is faced, the individual is tormented.

Role

(accepting) Merges with the environment. Absorbs all of the information from the outer world and 'feeds' it to the PoLR (as this is the accepting element). The role is the means while the PoLR is the goal; The role gathers all necessary information for the PoLRs goal of conformity.

PoLR

(producing) The main source of all conflicts, hurt feelings, and misunderstandings. Biggest place of doubt and worries. Outside criticism is detrimental. The individual needs a steady and strong will in order to engage in the PoLR function as they don't gain pleasure from its usage as with the ego block. Extremely conservative and inflexible in thought and behaviour. They hate ambiguity in this area as they want to avoid any mistakes.

Superid block

Other-realisation through oneself. Psychosomatic realisation (the realisation of the physical connected to the mental. I do not know what that means either). Wants to produce an objective picture of one's own organism; wants to understand in depth the success and failure of one's own organism. Egocentric. Unconscious worries and fears. May torture itself through this block in search of love and attention. Inclination to self sacrifice with a need for external regulation. Tries to have its self-sacrifice criticised; if their sacrifice goes unnoticed, they become tormented by the guilt of those around them for not noticing. The individual uses the superid as a last resort to explain or work their way out of psychologically difficult situations with this block.

Suggestive

(accepting) Has no opinions, is indifferent and perfectly happy to turn over responsibility of this area to people more knowledgeable. Accepts others' will, instructions, and opinions. Becomes upset when demanded for an opinion. Unaware that they can have their own thoughts on these matters. When they are forced to deal with these matters themselves, the individual feels unsafe and unloved. Accepts all criticism in this area and perceives it as love.

Mobilising

(producing) Can mobilise the IME in question with the supervision of others. Sensitive to criticism as it expects unrelenting support. The individual can only be the way they are programmed to be and expected to be, unable to change.

Id block

Self realisation through society. The block of aspirations and desires. Strives to be a good example for others. Used when the other blocks are contradicting each other and creating friction in the consciousness - the Id impulsively breaks habit and looks for the one optimal solution, not worrying about all the possibilities. Realistic, direct solutions. Habitual and imitative (yet able to break habits when needed). People often use their id as a last resort; in extreme situations, the id shows exceptional craftiness. People don't invent anything new in this block, they only choose from a list of predetermined options. Does not need help aside from being provided with the necessary information. The information that arrives to the Id programs the organism's activity (vital ring).

Ignoring

(accepting) Submits to the social environment and its will. Adopts the goals of society that they deem personally acceptable. Submits to 'programmers' that they choose themselves, but may change programmers if it is in their best interest. They try to satisfy their own desires without drawing attention (to avoid ridicule) or asking for help. Can help others without asking for help themselves. Measures "capital investment" - what they have given to society through giving to other people.

Demonstrative

(producing) Means to achieve goals by changing the situation and affecting the vitality of others. Tries to attract attention & earn praise with their purely physical endurance. Every type happily demonstrates their demonstrative function.

Information Metabolism Elements (IMEs)

Important dichotomies:

Extroversion: Objects are seen as immovable and unchangeable, whereas relationships are seen as manipulatable. The object's literal qualities are objective and true in the extroverted IME's eyes. Extroverted IMEs don't feel as though they have a right to interfere with an object's state of being, but they will confidently manipulate the relationships between objects.

Fe, Te, Ne, Se

Introversion: Objects are seen as malleable whereas relationships are seen as static and immovable. Relationships between objects are the ultimate objective truth in an introverted IME's eyes. They do not believe they can interfere with or change the relationships between objects, but they can change the objects' qualities themselves.

Fi, Ti, Ni, Si

Note that extraversion and introversion have nothing to do with focusing on the inner or outer world; this is a misconception of the dichotomy. All IMEs receive information from the outside world and are therefore all tied to the outside world. Being focused on the inner workings of one's mind or the objective matters in reality are traits of social introversion and extroversion, not cognitive. This also means that every IME, regardless of the E/I axis, is just as objective as all the other ones seeing as all the information is received from the outer world.

Rationality (schizothyme): Schizothymes react to an emotion with an emotion and an action with an action. Their reactions are immediate as they don't have to wait to react to a feeling of their own first before reacting to other people. They base their reactions on previous experience; there is a set of predetermined reactions to choose from, which is why they don't have to think about it for as long as the irrational. However, until a "set" of reactions is made, the schizothyme struggles to interact with new people and their reactions are just as slow as the cyclothyme.

When rationals feel bad after a reaction, they dig through their past experience and carefully contemplate what they've done wrong and implement changes in future reactions.

Irrationality (cyclothyme): Emotions are impulsive and uncontrollable. Their actions and emotions are always a result of a feeling and a particular mental state; when the cyclothyme feels uncomfortable, comfortable, calm, or uncertain, this is when an action or emotion occurs. Irrationals need time to "get going" internally - time to react to a feeling and *then* do something. They don't immediately react to others' emotions or actions; they react to their own feelings evoked by other's emotions or actions. This makes their reactions slower and more suitable to the situation.

When irrationals feel bad after a reaction, they think about the future rather than the past; what can I do to change how I am feeling right now?

Static: Static IMEs absorb information by taking an object/relationship out of the context of the situation and studying it in static form. Eg, taking a photo of a cheetah chasing prey to study its physical form when sprinting rather than observing it in motion; noticing the qualities of the object as removed from the environment instead of noticing how the object interacts within the environment.

Note: the example above represents usage of Se more than the other static functions, but is still useful as an example of how the static type absorbs information.

Ne, Se, Ti, Fi

Dynamic: Dynamic IMEs absorb information by studying an object/relationship in motion.

Eg, the dynamic IME observes the cheetah sprinting in motion so that all elements of the cheetah itself as well as *why* it moves the way it does in the environment can be studied.

Note: the example above represents usage of Te more than the other dynamic functions, but is still useful as an example of how the dynamic type absorbs information.

Te, Fe, Si, Ni

Intuition: Intuition is the perception of occurrences in time. Intuition as a concept implies something beyond the physical; something you can't touch or see, but still exists as a concept.

Sensation: Sensation, as the opposite of intuition, is the perception of the physical. When you observe the qualities of something using your 5 senses, you are using sensation.

Logic: Logic is the perception of the objective world. In a way, it is the perception of how things exist in relation to each other.

Ethics: Ethics is the perception of energy. Energy is perceived and controlled by people and can flow inward or outward.

- In the introverted intuitive (dynamic, introverted, irrational, intuitive) the perception of occurrences in time manifests as event perception; how and when things did happen as well as how and when things will happen in the future. In the extroverted intuitive (static, extroverted, irrational, intuitive), time perception manifests as a perception of the inner qualities of objects and the future potential residing in them.
Note that intuition has nothing to do with creativity, daydreaming, being removed from reality, etc. While there is a focus on the metaphysical, all information elements receive their information from the outside world and are therefore tied to reality. All are just as objective as the others, and all have the potential to be creative and imaginative.
- The introverted sensor (dynamic, introverted, irrational, sensing) manifests as a perception of an object's relationship with other objects and how other objects make them feel sensorially; whether they feel comfortable, energised, tired, etc. The extroverted sensor (static, extroverted, irrational, sensing) manifests as the perception of literal physical qualities. Se is responsible for perceiving the appearance of objects as well as the kinetic energy of objects (If I drop this ball, how high will it bounce?).
- In the introverted logical type (static, introverted, rational, logical), this manifests in the perception of how objects "measure up" to each other. When you compare 2 cats to see which one is larger, you are using Ti (this specific example looks like Se, but remember that Se is just *seeing* the qualities of objects, not comparing them, and that Ti can also compare more abstract concepts). In the extroverted logical type (dynamic, extroverted, rational, logical), it manifests in the ability to see how objects interact in space, how to organise these objects and how to do it efficiently.
- The introverted ethical type (static, introverted, rational, ethical) manifests as the perception of desire - the push and pull between objects that leads to like or dislike.

The extroverted ethical type (dynamic, extroverted, rational, ethical) manifests as the perception of energy flow; how they and other people are feeling and the cues on or coming from that person's "object" that show their feelings.

To type yourself:

Socionics is different from Jungian typology in that you cannot just find the most relatable IME and make it your type. Socionics is a system and there are tens of elements that all work together to create a cohesive type. To be able to type yourself, you need to understand all of the important dichotomies, the IMEs, the blocks, the functions, and how everything flows together to create a type. You also need to understand that socionics isn't exactly about what you find "relatable" - it is not about behaviour. You need to do some deep introspection into your cognitive process to figure out how you actually process information.

To understand socionics, especially without relying on type descriptions, you need to be able to read between the lines and make connections on your own. This is why understanding the ins and outs of all of the little details is so important. You cannot accurately type yourself with a mediocre understanding of socionics. Learning how each IME manifests in each position as well as how the accepting IME flows into the producing IME of each block is basic, fundamental knowledge.