

Synthesized Roots: A Unified Theory of Personality Type

**Connecting the Jungian Functions, 16-Type, Socionics, the Enneagram, Spiral
Dynamics, and Generational Theory**

Niels Bonde Jensen

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AI Assistance Statement

This manuscript was reviewed and edited with the assistance of AI language models (including ChatGPT by OpenAI and Claude by Anthropic) to help with grammar, clarity, style, fact-checking, and the preparation and review of figures and references. All ideas, arguments, and original research are the author's own. Interpretations of others' work are expressed in the author's voice with appropriate attribution. The author reviewed and approved the final text and takes full responsibility for all content.

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Part I.

Foundations

1. Introduction

A Note to the Reader

This book blends introductory material with original ideas and interpretations. Some of the statements and conclusions reflect my own perspectives, which may differ from mainstream views. I invite you to approach the content with curiosity and a healthy measure of critical thinking.

PEOPLE differ in deep and surprisingly orderly ways—in how they think, decide, and perceive the world. Beneath the everyday variety there are real patterns to these differences, patterns that thinkers from Hippocrates onward have tried to chart, and that C. G. Jung gave a modern psychological grounding in *Psychological Types* [1]. Building on Jung, Katharine Cook Briggs and her daughter Isabel Briggs Myers co-created the *Myers–Briggs Type Indicator*® (MBTI®)¹; Isabel later set out the model for a general readership in *Gifts Differing* [2], written with her son Peter B. Myers.

The idea of dividing personalities into **16 types** took shape in this work—four dichotomies yielding $2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 2$ possible combinations. (Jung described the first three contrasts; the fourth, Judging versus Perceiving, was added by Briggs and Myers, building on Jung’s rational/irrational distinction.) In Lithuania, Aušra Augustinavičiūtė independently adapted Jung’s ideas into *Socionics*, which also defines sixteen types. The two systems are fraternal twins: the family resemblance is clear, but they differ in notation, focus, and certain theoretical assumptions. Over time, both have inspired many extensions and reinterpretations, revealing new and sometimes surprising patterns in human cognition and interaction.

The system presented here—Synthesized Roots Personality Typology, or simply SR—emerges from this tradition. It describes 160 SR types:

ten variants for each of the 16 types—ten distinct ways each type can be built from its roots—which the Enneagram’s nine positions turn out to index almost perfectly (Chapter 13 shows exactly how). If the 16-Type system is a well-built house, SR is a mansion—larger, more intricate, and with considerably more rooms to explore.

This book sets out to do three things. First, it offers a high-resolution account of Jungian cognitive functions—including a new model that plausibly explains where the eight functions come from: why perception splits into *S* and *N*, and judgment into *F* and *T*—and revisits the systems built on them: 16-Type, Socionics, Reinin’s dichotomies, and the Objective Personality system of Dave Powers and Shannon Renee. Second, it proposes a unified geometric framework that links the 16-Type system, Socionics, and the Enneagram, and uses that framework to construct SR. Third, it extends the reach of function-based thinking into territories it has not usually entered: Spiral Dynamics and generational theory—specifically the Fourth Turning model.

The book is structured accordingly. Chapters 2–6 build the foundation: Jungian functions, function sizes, the sixteen types as function pairs, elementary and nuanced functions, and the four-function model. Chapters 7–9 survey the systems built on that foundation: 16-Type theories, Objective Personality, and the characteristics of the 16 types. Chapter 10 introduces SR itself;

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1. Introduction

Chapters 11–13 connect it to Socionics, explore its qualities, and derive the Enneagram from it. Chapters 14–15 apply the model through worked typings—including the author’s own—and a thought experiment. Chapters 16–17 extend function-based thinking into Spiral Dynamics and generational theory. Chapter 18 is a personal epilogue—the sequence of “Aha!” moments, over some three decades, out of which SR grew—and the appendices that follow gather reference material for readers who want to go deeper. The table of contents groups the chapters into five parts that follow this same arc. Readers already fluent in 16-Type and Enneagram can move quickly through the parts that cover familiar ground, but each chapter also develops ideas specific to this book, so it is worth watching for what is new rather than skipping ahead; those new to the field should read the early chapters in order.

None of these connections are forced, but some are speculative. I believe in these ideas—but belief is easy; evidence is harder. My hope is that they will eventually be tested, and either confirmed or refuted, by the scientific method. Since SR is a new theoretical framework, perfect alignment with every existing system is neither the goal nor something to be expected. What I aim to show is that the pieces fit together well. That fit is not proof, but it is a kind of light evidence. My hope is that you’ll see these 160 types reflected in the real people you know. I certainly do.

As a literary device, you’ll meet eight characters throughout the book, each named for the Jungian function they represent: Felicia (*Fe*, extraverted **F**eeling), Sean (*Se*, extraverted **S**ensing), Terra (*Te*, extraverted **T**hinking), Neville (*Ne*, extraverted **iN**tuition), Tim (*Ti*, introverted **T**hinking), Silina (*Si*, introverted **S**ensing), Finnian (*Fi*, introverted **F**eeling), and Nicole (*Ni*, introverted **iN**tuition). Jung first described these eight functions in *Psychological Types*. Here, they return as guides and voices of

perspective, helping illuminate the theory from different angles—and occasionally arguing with each other.

Felicia: I’m uneasy with the idea of putting people into boxes. It feels like it risks reducing someone to a label.

Tim: Personality typing is a tool, not a verdict. A good model reveals patterns you wouldn’t see otherwise. What you do with that information is up to you.

Finnian: Still, everyone is unique. Even if the boxes are valid, I’d expect a lot of individual variation inside each one.

Silina: That’s fair—but variation within a pattern doesn’t invalidate the pattern. We don’t reject weather forecasting because no two rainstorms are identical.

Terra: And practically speaking, many people spend decades trying to figure themselves and others out, often with limited success. If this framework holds up, it could save real time and real frustration. The 16-Type and Enneagram systems have already helped many people. SR aims to go further—into history, politics, and the structures underneath personality.

Neville: Which is the exciting part, honestly. What if the same functions that shape individual cognition also shape how cultures evolve? That’s worth exploring, even if some of the connections turn out to be wrong.

Felicia: I suppose that’s the trade-off. A model that risks nothing explains nothing. If it highlights what’s usually hidden, even imperfectly, it can still be valuable.

Nicole: Agreed. And the parts that don’t hold up will point us toward what does. That’s how frameworks improve—not by being right about everything, but by being specific enough to be tested.



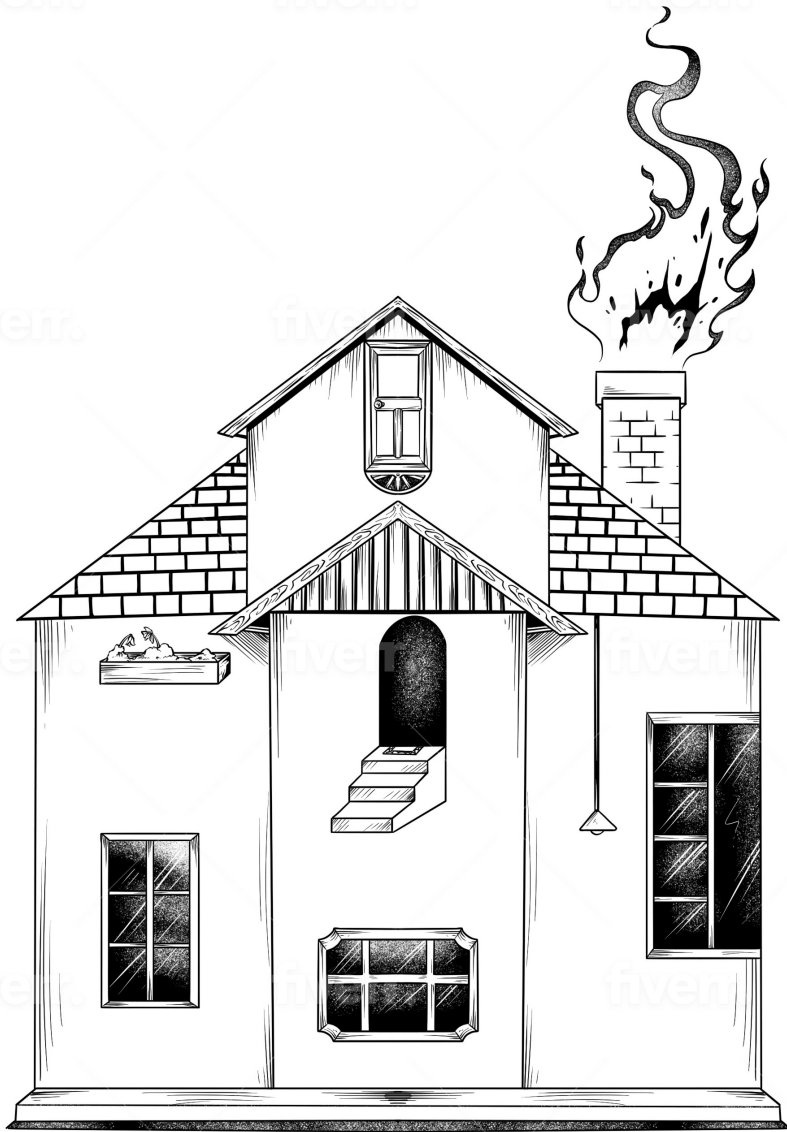


Figure 1.1.: Even with blueprints, building a mansion is risky—without care, it can collapse. SR is my attempt to build carefully. *Artwork by Articult.*

2. The Jungian Functions

IF YOU’VE spent any time with the type systems in the Jungian family—16-Type, Socionics, and their relatives—you’ve encountered the eight Jungian functions, even if you didn’t always call them that. They are the building blocks: four extraverted (*Fe*, *Te*, *Se*, *Ne*) and four introverted (*Fi*, *Ti*, *Si*, *Ni*). Every typology in this book is built from these eight pieces. Get them right and the rest of the system falls into place almost on its own; get them muddled and no amount of later detail will save you. So it’s worth slowing down here. 🧠

Table 2.1.: The Eight Jungian Functions

<i>Fe</i>	Extraverted Feeling	<i>Fi</i>	Introverted Feeling
<i>Te</i>	Extraverted Thinking	<i>Ti</i>	Introverted Thinking
<i>Se</i>	Extraverted Sensing	<i>Si</i>	Introverted Sensing
<i>Ne</i>	Extraverted Intuition	<i>Ni</i>	Introverted Intuition

2.1. Extraverted and Introverted Functions

Extraverted functions engage directly with external, objective reality—what we can see, hear, and interact with. They thrive in live contexts: browsing for a gift in a shop, catching the nuance in a friend’s tone, or adjusting in real time to changing circumstances. Their attention is anchored to the here-and-now situation and the concrete objects within it.

Introverted functions, by contrast, emphasize internalized generalizations—patterns, stored impressions, and conceptual connections—often drawn from long-term memory. They compare present situations to a rich inner archive, placing less emphasis on the raw object and more on its place within a larger internal network.

A simple way to remember the distinction: extraverted functions ask “*What’s happening?*” Introverted functions ask “*What does this mean?*”

Felicia: So extraverts are always “in the moment,” while introverts pull from the past?

Silina: Not quite. Introverts notice the present, but they filter it through what they already know. The present is the input; the archive is the lens.

Finnian: And extraverts can reflect, but their focus keeps snapping back to what’s happening right now.



2.2. Binary or Continuous Information Handling

2. The Jungian Functions

Sensing and intuition are perceiving functions—tools for taking in and organizing experience. Sensing favors continuous information: textures, shades, and measurable details. Intuition works more with binary or discrete elements, combining them into new possibilities—often asking “what if?”

Thinking and feeling are judging functions—tools for evaluation and decision. Thinking judges by *logic*: does this fit together, does it work, is it consistent. Feeling judges by *worth*: is this good, right, fitting—a felt sense of whether something is as it should be. That sense of correctness is not inherently emotional; it can land on an argument, a design, or a solution as readily as on a person. Emotion and sociability are simply the domain where feeling is most active and most visible, because that is where “is this good?” presses hardest. Extraverted judging functions (*Te*, *Fe*) act in the outer world—*Te* with a bias toward efficiency, *Fe* toward fittingness; introverted judging functions (*Ti*, *Fi*) evaluate more privately—what makes sense to me, what aligns with my values.

In this framework, “binary” means the information is handled as distinct units (yes/no, fits/doesn’t fit). “Continuous” means it is handled along a spectrum—gradations, intensities, or degrees.

Two more terms will recur throughout: an **object** is any entity a function perceives or evaluates—a person, a thing, an idea, an emotional state. A **connection** is any relationship between objects—a causal link, a resemblance, a logical dependency, an emotional bond. Every function handles both, but differs in which it foregrounds and whether it treats that element as binary or continuous. For instance, *Ne* foregrounds objects (treating each idea as a discrete, present-or-absent unit) while handling the connections between them as a fluid, continuous web; *Si* shares this binary-object/continuous-connection structure but shifts the emphasis—directing its attention to the relational web rather than the discrete units.

So far we have two binary distinctions. The first is **orientation**: does a function foreground *objects* or the *connections* between them? The second is which of those two it renders in high

resolution—does it treat its material as **continuous** (graded, rich) or **binary** (present-or-absent)? A function that foregrounds objects must still handle connections, and vice versa; what differs is which one it renders continuously and which it collapses to binary. So this second distinction is really a single choice—*which element gets the continuous treatment*—stated once.

Two binary choices give four combinations, and four is not eight. Two functions land in each cell:

- objects, continuous object: *Se* and *Fe*
- objects, continuous connection: *Ne* and *Te*
- connections, continuous object: *Ni* and *Fi*
- connections, continuous connection: *Si* and *Ti*

The two functions sharing a cell are structurally identical in how they take in their material. What separates them is what they *do* with it. This is the third distinction, and it is independent of the first two: **role**. A *perceiving* function (*S* or *N*) uses the structure to *take in*—to register what is there. A *judging* function (*T* or *F*) uses the same structure to *evaluate*—to decide what fits, what matters, what should change. Same lens; one stops at the reading, the other acts on it.

Three independent binary axes—orientation, continuous-target, and role—give $2 \times 2 \times 2 = 8$. And the eight slots are filled *exactly*: every combination names one function, no combination is empty, and no two functions share one. The eight Jungian functions are not a list to memorize but the complete enumeration of three yes/no questions. That completeness is the claim this book rests on; the rest of the system is built by combining functions, and the combinations inherit whatever structure these eight corners possess.

It is worth being plain about what is and is not derived here. The arithmetic does not *prove* the three axes are the right ones—it shows that *if* you accept these three binary distinctions as real and independent, the eight functions follow with no slack and no gaps. The wager of the chapter is exactly that: three distinctions,

no more, each doing work the other two cannot.

Tim: Shouldn't we say "discrete" instead of "binary"? More than two options might be possible. Ternary logic—true, false, and unknown—could be more accurate.

Neville: Sure, but "binary" is snappier. And in practice, most of these functions *do* collapse things to two states: it fits or it doesn't, it's there or it isn't.

Tim: Fair enough—under protest. But here's the bigger one: two axes only gave us four boxes. You needed a third to reach eight—so why call it "the binary/continuous model" as though one idea did the work?

Neville: Fair again. It's three ideas, not one—but they're the same *kind* of idea, each a single yes/no. Orientation, which-side-is-continuous, and take-in-versus-evaluate.

Tim: Then say three. Three independent bits, eight functions, every corner occupied once. That I can check—and it checks.

Silina: And if one of the three turned out to depend on the others, the cube would collapse—you'd get fewer than eight, or a repeat. It doesn't. That's the part worth trusting.

Tim: Protest downgraded to mild suspicion.



Table 2.2.: The eight functions as three binary axes ($2^3 = 8$): orientation $\times$ continuous-target $\times$ role. Every combination names exactly one function.

Orientation	Continuous	Role	Fn
Object	object	Perceive	<i>Se</i>
Object	object	Judge	<i>Fe</i>
Object	connection	Perceive	<i>Ne</i>
Object	connection	Judge	<i>Te</i>
Connection	object	Perceive	<i>Ni</i>
Connection	object	Judge	<i>Fi</i>
Connection	connection	Perceive	<i>Si</i>
Connection	connection	Judge	<i>Ti</i>

Table 2.3.: Binary vs. Continuous Focus of Each Function

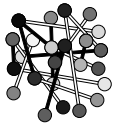
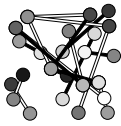
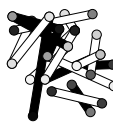
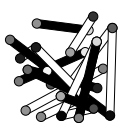
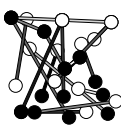
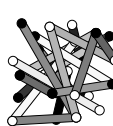
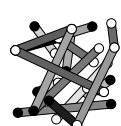
<i>Ne, Te</i>	<i>Ni, Fi</i>
Object-oriented	Connection-oriented
Binary objects	Binary connections
Continuous connections	Continuous objects
<i>Se, Fe</i>	<i>Si, Ti</i>
Object-oriented	Connection-oriented
Continuous objects	Continuous connections
Binary connections	Binary objects

2.3. Graphical Interpretation

2. The Jungian Functions

A **circle** denotes an object; a **line** denotes a connection. Each function can be visualized according to whether it focuses more on the object or the connection, and whether that focus is binary or continuous. 🧠

Table 2.4.: Graphical interpretation of the eight functions (circle = object, line = connection).

<i>Se</i>		<i>Fe</i>	
<i>Ni</i>		<i>Fi</i>	
<i>Ne</i>		<i>Te</i>	
<i>Si</i>		<i>Ti</i>	

For example, *Ne* treats ideas like discrete “dots” to be connected—binary objects woven into continuous networks—while *Si* emphasizes a continuous backdrop of impressions, where each new detail finds its place in memory’s tapestry. This way of visualizing makes the functions easier to compare at a glance.

Reading the diagrams: a *bold, shaded* circle or line means continuous (rich, graded); a *thin, outline-only* circle or line means binary (present or absent). So *Se* shows a large shaded circle with thin connecting lines—rich object, minimal connection—while *Ni* shows the reverse: thin

circles linked by bold lines. The same logic governs the rest, and we’ll see each diagram again alongside its function below, so there’s no need to memorize them now.

Neville: That’s exactly how *Ne* feels to me—spotting dots and then racing to connect them into some bigger picture.

Silina: And for *Si*, it’s the opposite. Every new detail has to settle into what’s already stored, like fitting a puzzle piece into place. Nothing really stands alone.

🧠

2.3.1. Why these three axes?

A clean enumeration is not yet an argument. Three binary axes fill eight slots exactly—but so would any three binary distinctions one cared to invent. The question that matters is whether *these* three carve cognition at real

joints, and the honest way to test that is to ask what each axis would have to *predict*. An axis that only labels what we already believe earns nothing; an axis that forbids certain behaviors, and could be caught being wrong, earns

its place.

Two of the three turn out to be distinctions the typing literature already knows—and that is a point in their favor, not against. **Orientalion** (object- versus connection-foregrounding) tracks the familiar extraversion/introversion divide: the four object-oriented functions are exactly the four extraverted ones, the four connection-oriented functions the four introverted ones. **Role** (perceive versus judge) tracks the equally familiar distinction between information-gathering functions and decision-making ones. Neither is new, and because each is the same distinction under a new description—the same functions sorted the same way, not merely a coinciding label—both inherit whatever evidence already supports *E/I* and the perceiving/judging split. The framework reproduces them rather than inventing them; corroboration is exactly what one wants from a foundation.

The third axis is where the model stakes something of its own. **Continuous-target**—whether a function renders *objects* or the *connections between them* in high resolution—does not line up with any single existing letter. It cross-cuts them: the continuous-object group (*Se, Fe, Ni, Fi*) mixes sensing, feeling, and intuition, and so does the continuous-connection group (*Ne, Te, Si, Ti*). No rearrangement of *S/N, T/F, or E/I* produces this grouping. If the axis is real, it is genuinely new; if it is empty, this is where the model should break.

Reassuringly, the distinction this axis rests on is not invented here. Whether a mind attends to discrete objects or to the field of relations *among* them is one of the more studied individual differences in cognitive psychology. Witkin’s work on *field dependence/independence* describes exactly this contrast—field-independent perceivers separate an object from its surrounding context, field-dependent perceivers experience the parts as an intermingled whole [3]—and the *global/local* tradition that grew from Navon’s “forest before trees” studies measures a comparable bias toward wholes-and-relations versus parts-and-details [4]. The continuous-target axis borrows this established object-versus-relation distinction; what the model *adds* is the claim that it operates function by function, and reaches beyond perception into how a mind feels and reasons. The appendix

Research Bearing on the Continuous-Target Axis (page 253) sets out this empirical literature in full and is candid about where the established findings end and the model’s own conjecture begins.

That addition is the part genuinely at stake, and it can be stated as a prediction. Two functions that differ *only* in continuous-target—*Se* and *Ne*, say—should diverge in a fixed direction: degrade the *objects* in a scene and the continuous-object function feels the loss more; scramble the *relations* while leaving objects intact and the continuous-connection function feels it more, with the same flip holding across all four pairs (*Se/Ne, Fe/Te, Ni/Si, Fi/Ti*). The claim comes in two strengths:

- **The strong reading (the bet).** A falsifiable prediction: run the comparison and the flip must appear, in the stated direction, across all four pairs. Find the difference absent or reversed, and the original part of the model fails.
- **The soft reading (the insurance).** If the strong claim does not survive scrutiny, keep only the *direction of attention*, without the experimental commitment: continuous-object functions stay oriented toward *objects*—the things a function attends to, whether a fact, a person, or a possibility—so their characteristic strengths and failures show up there (a telling detail caught, or one missed); continuous-connection functions stay oriented toward the *connections* between those objects, so theirs show up in structure (a connection well drawn, or one over- or under-built). This is an interpretive lens, not a measured result; it cannot be cleanly falsified, and it claims correspondingly less.

The reader should know which is load-bearing: the strong version is the wager, the soft version only the fallback. The supporting literature, and the honest caveat that its own construct validity is contested, are set out in Appendix 20.

One consequence is worth drawing out, because it shows the three axes are not merely three of the four familiar letters in disguise. The standard letters re-emerge here as *combinations*, not

2. The Jungian Functions

primitives. *T* versus *F*, in particular, is nowhere among the three axes; it falls out of **role** crossed with **continuous-target**. The four letters of the older model are, on this account, surface read-outs of three deeper distinctions—two of which the older model already had, and one of which it never named.

Tim: Two of your three axes are just *E/I* and perceive-versus-judge with new paint. Why should I be impressed?

Neville: You shouldn't be impressed by those two—you should be reassured. If they *didn't* line up with something already measured, that'd be the worry.

Tim: Granted. So the new one is continuous-target, and everything rides on it.

Silina: And it's checkable. Same person, same scene—blur the objects, or scramble how they relate. *Se* and *Ne* should care about opposite halves of that.

Tim: And if they don't?

Neville: Then the axis is wrong, and we say so. There's a softer reading to fall back on, but we'd owe you the admission that the strong claim lost.

Tim: A model that can name how it loses. I'll allow it.



2.4. Change Chain of the Eight Jungian Functions

We all change our minds, but not all functions yield for the same reasons. This model rates *resistance to revision*—what it takes to justify a change—not raw speed. Ignoring *E/I*, the ordering it proposes, on the reading developed below, is the *change chain*: $S > T > N > F$. The illustrations that follow are meant to motivate that ordering, not to establish it; they are how the pattern looks to me, not measurements.

- *S*-functions are the most stubborn without new facts. They do not move for opinion or theory. Yet once the *data itself* changes, *S* updates with very low friction.
- *T*-functions revise when a flaw or counterexample is *demonstrated*. They insist on checking the proof, then update.
- *N*-functions keep scanning for new possibilities. They will reframe when a clearly stronger pattern coheres, but a working frame is not dropped lightly.
- *F*-functions often flip a surface verdict quickly to fit context (“acceptable / not acceptable”). But the *deeper* values and loyalties behind those calls are the most resistant to change of all.

Surface vs. depth. The layers reverse for *S* and *F*. *S* is hard to budge at the surface (no new facts, no change) but easy to revise in depth once evidence shifts. *F* is easy to relabel at the surface, yet its core standards resist deep revision. *T* and *N* sit between: *T* yields to proof; *N* yields to a better pattern.

For example, on a project: *S* holds course until fresh measurements demand an update; *T* drops a plan once a contradiction is verified; *N* keeps multiple framings alive and swaps when one clearly outperforms; *F* may relabel options fast to fit shared values, while the value-base itself stays stable.

To see the *S/F* inversion concretely: an *S*-dominant person may refuse to change their view on a topic for months, then update overnight when shown new data—no argument required, just evidence. An *F*-dominant person may agree with the room easily, but try shifting their core ethical stance and you'll find it's the most immovable thing in the building.

Finnian: If *S* won't budge without new facts, isn't it simply the most resistant?

Tim: At the surface, yes. But once the readings change, *S* changes with them. No argument

2. The Jungian Functions

Description: *Se* processes reality through *continuous objects*. It notices how something looks, feels, and sounds in its full gradation of detail—not just *that* something is happening, but *how intensely and how precisely*. Connections matter only in a binary sense (“in play” or “out of play”).

Longer view: I call it **Realization** because *Se* delivers unfiltered presence. It anchors us to what is immediately happening, with a quickness that can be life-saving—or overstimulating if relied on too heavily.

Sean: When the floor’s slick and the pass is coming fast, you don’t theorize—you

move.
Tim: And when the floor’s slick because you didn’t check the conditions beforehand, moving fast just means falling faster.

Sean: Sure—but you can’t check conditions in the middle of a play. That’s the whole point. *Se* handles what’s happening *now*; your *Ti* handles what should have happened in theory.

Felicia: And sometimes that’s the difference between reacting in time and missing your chance entirely.

Finnian: Exhilarating, yes. But if you never step back, you burn out—or you drag everyone else into your pace.

2.4.2. Understanding *Ni*



Ni
Introverted Intuition
Connection-oriented
Binary connection
Continuous object

One-word cue: **Insight**

Comedic caricature: The Quiet Oracle (exaggeration of foresight)

Typical line: “There’s a deeper pattern here—look again.”

Short take: *Ni* detects which connections “fit” or “don’t fit,” turning scattered impressions into a unified frame.

Description: *Ni* works through *binary connections*: a link either belongs to the underlying pattern, or it doesn’t. Objects provide the raw

material—their qualities blend and shift as the pattern takes shape—but *Ni*’s attention is on the structure that connects them, not the objects themselves.

Longer view: I call it **Insight** because *Ni* compresses vast experience into sudden clarity. It is not mystical but synthetic: it strips away noise until only the essential connection remains.

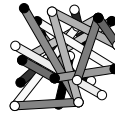
Nicole: It’s not prophecy—just practice in pattern-spotting. The more data you’ve absorbed, the sharper the convergence.

Felicia: While *Se* reacts to the moment, *Ni* seems to map out the endgame three moves ahead.

Sean: Great—call me when the pattern shows up on the court so I know where to guess.
be.

Nicole: That's exactly what *Ni* does. You just 🧐

2.4.3. Understanding *Si*



Si
Introverted Sensing
Connection-oriented
Continuous connection
Binary object

One-word cue: **Knowledge**

Comedic caricature: The Encyclopedic Friend (knows “how it’s always been done”)

Typical line: “In my experience, this plays out differently.”

Short take: *Si* measures the present against an archive of impressions, stabilizing perception through comparison.

Description: *Si* emphasizes *continuous connections*—gradual similarities and differences with the past. Objects are judged in a binary way (“same as before” or “different”; “belonging” or “not belonging”), but the relational web is nuanced.

Longer view: I call it **Knowledge** because *Si* grounds us in continuity. It does not merely 🧐

recall the past—it uses the past as a measurement standard for evaluating what is in front of it right now. Every new impression is weighed against what came before, providing reliability and caution—sometimes at the cost of flexibility.

Silina: It's not just recalling facts—it's remembering how they lived in real situations. The context is part of the data.

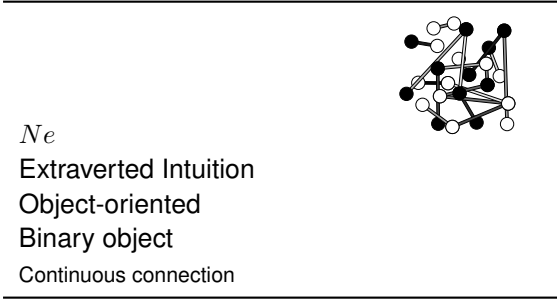
Neville: But sometimes the context has changed and *Si* hasn't noticed. You're comparing the present to an archive that might be outdated.

Silina: And sometimes the archive is the only reason we don't repeat a mistake that killed the last project. Outdated isn't the same as wrong.

Nicole: That double-check can reveal a consequence others miss entirely. I've learned to listen when *Si* says “we've seen this before.”

Finnian: At least with *Si*, I know someone's watching the ground beneath us.

2.4.4. Understanding *Ne*



One-word cue: **Possibilities**

Comedic caricature: Idea Cascade (cartoon of endless brainstorming)

Typical line: “Or... what if we flipped it completely?”

Short take: *Ne* sees discrete objects as switches to combine, generating new scenarios at speed.

Description: *Ne* works on *binary objects*—a thing is either there or not. The web of connections is continuous, offering endless recombinations and “what if” branches. In practice, the connections are felt as gradients of plausibility: some combinations are more promising than others, and *Ne* surfs that gradient, drawn toward whichever constellation feels richest.

Longer view: I call it **Possibilities** because *Ne* multiplies alternatives. It thrives by scanning for

new constellations, sometimes faster than they can be tested—which is both its power and its trap.

Neville: Without options, we’d never know which path was better. The trick is generating enough to compare.

Silina: The trick is also *stopping*. My *Si* has watched you generate twelve alternatives and test none of them. At some point, possibilities without follow-through are just noise.

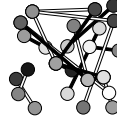
Neville: That’s harsh. But fair. The follow-through is what *Te* and *Si* are for—I just need to hand off sooner.

Finnian: My *Fi* asks a different question: not which option works, but which one we can live with.

Terra: Pick one, test it, measure the result. The data will sort it out faster than the debate will.



2.4.5. Understanding Fe



Fe

Extraverted Feeling
Object-oriented
Continuous object
Binary connection

One-word cue: **Attunement**

Comedic caricature: Social Radar (over-the-top sensitivity to the room)

Typical line: “Is everyone okay with this?”

Short take: Fe assesses whether things are in tune and works toward fit—most constantly the emotional field between people, which it registers and synchronizes.

Description: Fe emphasizes *continuous objects*, assessing each in full gradation for whether it is *fitting*—right, well-formed, as it should be. Connections are handled in a binary way: a thing is either “in tune” or “out of tune” with how it ought to be. People and their emotional states are the objects Fe assesses most readily and most often, perceiving mood and rapport in fine gradation; but the same evaluation of fittingness applies to a phrase, a melody, or a room’s arrangement. This operates at every scale— Fe reads a single person’s emotional state with the same resolution it reads a room, or judges whether a sentence sits right.

Longer view: I call it **Attunement** because Fe is about alignment, like tuning instruments to play together—sensing whether things are in tune and adjusting toward fit. Its most constant application is social: it monitors the group’s emotional balance and intervenes when the harmony is at risk. But the same attunement judges whether anything continuous sits right, from a phrase to a composition; the social case is the most important instance, not the whole.

Felicia: Sometimes we step in before the music turns to noise. That’s not people-pleasing—it’s maintenance.

Finnian: But risky when harmony costs you your own truth. Keeping the peace isn’t always the same as keeping the faith.

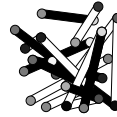
Tim: And “in tune” according to whom? Fe assumes the group’s emotional state is readable and manageable. Sometimes it’s neither—and the attempt to manage it makes things worse.

Felicia: That’s a real risk. But the alternative—ignoring the emotional field entirely—has a worse track record.

Neville: Without Fe , groups fracture faster than they form. Someone has to read the room, even imperfectly.



2.4.6. Understanding Fi

 $\underline{Fi}$

Introverted Feeling
Connection-oriented
Binary connection
Continuous object

One-word cue: Alignment

Comedic caricature: Inner Compass (comically rigid but sincere)

Typical line: “This has to feel right, or it’s not worth doing.”

Short take: *Fi* checks whether links are consistent with inner values—a private audit of authenticity.

Description: *Fi* works on *binary connections*: a thing is either in or out of alignment with an inner standard of worth—right for one or not. Objects are treated as continuous, weighed in nuance even while the verdict is binary. The standard is most charged around people and personal choices, where *Fi*'s sense of what one can and cannot stand behind is strongest; but it judges the worth of an idea or a course of action by the same inner measure, not only relationships.

Longer view: I call it **Alignment** because *Fi* constantly compares reality with the self's value map. Its strength is integrity. Its core risk is that the binary nature of its connection-handling can lose nuance—something either aligns with the value or it doesn't, with little room for “mostly aligned.” In practice, this sometimes produces silence when speaking up would serve everyone better.

Finnian: *Fe* reads the room; I'm checking against something the room can't see. It's quieter, but it's the way I can live with myself afterward.

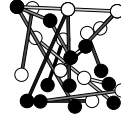
Felicia: I admire that. I just wish it didn't sometimes mean missing the moment.

Nicole: *Fi* often clarifies what really matters before anyone else has worked it out. That's worth the wait.

Tim: Strongest when it's consistent across cases. Check the principle, not just the feeling.



2.4.7. Understanding Te



Te

Extraverted Thinking

Object-oriented

Binary object

Continuous connection

One-word cue: **Execution**

Comedic caricature: The Get-It-Done Boss (parody of blunt pragmatism)

Typical line: “If it works, keep it; if not, fix it.”

Short take: Te organizes objects into working systems for measurable output.

Description: Te treats *binary objects*: a process either works or it doesn’t. Connections are *continuous*, permitting incremental efficiency improvements.

Longer view: I call it **Execution** because Te turns intention into structured external action. It thrives where results can be tracked, iterated, and optimized—and grows impatient where they can’t. The shape of that action varies: anchored by concrete experience, Te refines existing procedures step by step; oriented toward a longer trajectory, it will restructure or discard a working system to reach the larger objective. Either

way, Te structures external reality—building procedures, metrics, and standards that other people can follow, turning individual competence into scalable systems.

Terra: Targets, metrics, iteration—ship it, learn, improve. Everything else is commentary.

Finnian: That’s efficient, but “everything else” includes the question of whether you’re building the right thing. Metrics can’t tell you that.

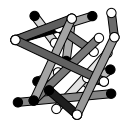
Terra: They can tell you faster than a values debate that runs three days and produces no decision.

Silina: Though sometimes the system changes before it’s had time to prove itself. That’s Te ’s blind spot—optimizing before the data is in.

Neville: And sometimes that’s exactly what keeps the project from stalling in analysis paralysis. Te accepts “good enough for now” in a way Ti never would.



2.4.8. Understanding *Ti*



Ti
Introverted Thinking
Connection-oriented
Continuous connection
Binary object

One-word cue: **Refinement**

Comedic caricature: The Puzzle Solver (endless tinkering toward elegance)

Typical line: “This doesn’t quite fit—let’s rethink the structure.”

Short take: *Ti* tests conceptual relationships until they hold with internal consistency.

Description: *Ti* emphasizes *continuous connections*—evaluating and adjusting the correctness of logical relations. Objects are seen in binary terms: valid or invalid within the system.

Longer view: I call it **Refinement** because *Ti* trims away inconsistencies until a lean, coherent

framework emerges. But *Ti* also *constructs*—assembling axioms into systems that didn’t exist before. It prizes elegance: the feeling that nothing could be removed without the whole thing breaking.

Tim: Give me a clean axiom set and consistent definitions—then we can talk.

Felicia: Admirable... and occasionally maddening when the rest of us just want an answer.

Nicole: But without that structure, none of our insights hold up under pressure.

Silina: *Ti* can spend hours on one detail if it’s off. That’s not pedantry—it’s load-bearing.



2.5. Four Aspects of Functions

How do *Te* and *Ti* relate? Both treat *objects* discretely (binary) and *connections* as graded (continuous). What separates them is the remaining axis, orientation: *Te* foregrounds the objects themselves—specific, situational contexts—while *Ti* foregrounds the generalized connections between them. Because *Ti* emphasizes connections, it can span more abstract or far-reaching structures.

The same kind of contrast appears across all

eight functions. By grouping them according to whether they are judging or perceiving, and whether they share the same binary/continuous signature (which element they treat as discrete and which as graded), we can identify four practical “aspects” of mental activity:

Logical aspect — *Te* and *Ti*. Both are judging and object-binary/connection-continuous, so they tackle *fit*, structure, and correc-

tion of error. They address *logical problems*.

Evaluative aspect — *Fe* and *Fi*. Both are judging and object-continuous/connection-binary, so they weigh *worth*: whether a thing is good, right, fitting. They address *evaluation problems*. It is worth stressing that this is broader than emotion or sociability. A common objection runs: if the logical functions are busy on a proof or a mechanism—something no one has feelings about—why would the evaluative ones be engaged at all? The answer is that the evaluative functions do not only assess feelings; they assess *fittingness*. Alongside *Ti*’s question “is this logically valid?” sits *Fe*’s “does this sit right, is it well-formed, is it the good version?”—a judgment that applies to an argument or a design as much as to a person. Emotion and sociability are feeling’s most important special job, the domain where it is most active, but not the whole of what it does. This is why the evaluative functions stay engaged across domains where, on the narrow reading, they would have nothing to do.

Knowledge aspect — *Ne* and *Si*. Both are perceiving and object-binary/connection-continuous, so they explore and stabilize *what is known*. They address *knowledge problems*. These two are often described as opposing functions, and in practice they can feel that way. But structurally, both handle objects in binary terms and connections as continuous gradients. They address the same kind of problem—*what do we*

know?—from different directions: *Ne* by generating new knowledge, *Si* by preserving and verifying what is already known.

Realization aspect — *Se* and *Ni*. Both are perceiving and object-continuous/connection-binary, so they engage immediate concretes and deep through-lines. They address *realization problems*—the raw present and its hidden trajectory.

Notice the pattern: the Logical and Knowledge aspects share one binary/continuous signature (binary object, continuous connection), differing only in whether they judge or perceive; the Evaluative and Realization aspects share the other (continuous object, binary connection). The two axes of the grouping are therefore *judging vs. perceiving* and *which binary/continuous signature the pair carries*—not object-vs-connection orientation, since each aspect in fact pairs one object-oriented function with one connection-oriented function.

As a rule of thumb, the extraverted functions tend to act more locally (in-situation adjustments), while the introverted functions stabilize things more globally (broad, long-range balance). For example, strong *Fe* may be highly agreeable in the moment, while strong *Fi* can feel equally kind but calibrated to a wider, longer-term inner alignment. Likewise, strong *Se* notices what just shifted in the room, while strong *Ni* projects how that shift fits into the long arc of events.



Table 2.6.: The Four Aspects (Logical, Evaluative, Knowledge, Realization)

Aspect	Pair	Primary Focus
Logical aspect	<i>Te, Ti</i>	Structure, fit, and error-correction; object binary + connection continuous
Evaluative aspect	<i>Fe, Fi</i>	Worth and fittingness—is it right? (harmony is the social case); object continuous + connection binary
Knowledge aspect	<i>Ne, Si</i>	Exploration vs. consolidation of known relations; object binary + connection continuous
Realization aspect	<i>Se, Ni</i>	Concrete immediacy vs. deep thematic meaning; object continuous + connection binary

Felicia: The evaluative aspect feels like home—a sense of whether something is *right*. Reading a room is the famous case, but it is the same faculty that tells me a sentence is off, or a plan sits wrong, before I can say why. Reading the room versus staying true to inner alignment is just that sense turned outward versus inward.

Silina: And the knowledge aspect captures *Si* well: check the present against what's been proven to work. *Ne* scans for what *might* work—complementary, not compet-

ing.

Sean: In the realization aspect, *Se* keeps me sharp to what just happened. *Ni* sees the story unfolding ahead. Between the two, not much slips through.

Finnian: Useful map. Just remember—global alignment can matter more than looking agreeable in the moment.

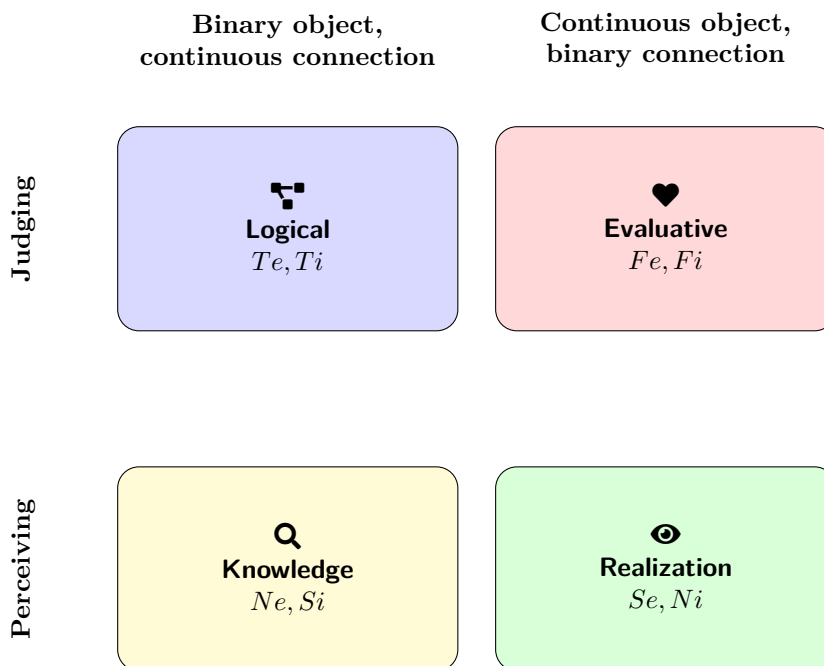


Figure 2.1.: The four aspects in a 2×2 matrix: Judging vs. Perceiving (rows) crossed with the pair's binary/continuous signature (columns). Icons highlight their character:  structure and fit (Logical),  values and harmony (Evaluative),  exploration and consolidation (Knowledge),  vision and immediacy (Realization).

