

NOTE ON AUTONOMY

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AUTONOMY = LIVING

Well humans aren't the "best example" of autonomous systems, only the most familiar. All organic entities, social institutions, and bodily organs are autonomous systems. Self-organization and self-determination are what differentiate them from cars, deterministic programs, and books. For my money the best (most exemplary) autonomous system is a tree. The immune system and gaia herself are other favorites. I would choose to hang out with any of them.

SELF-REFERENTIAL MATH

I've heard some concern about non-monotonic logics in autonomous systems. Logic itself (and therefore traditional mathematics) is a good example of a crippling restriction in autonomy. Autonomous systems are characterized by the mathematics of self-reference and non-duplicity. Fluctuation is the way autonomy copes with reality. Self-referencing causation is more than circular, it is creative. Realities are created by fluctuation. Oppressive realities are created by non-varying fluctuation (of which the illusion of truth is the greatest tyrant). The structure of autonomy is built solely on self-reflection. A Turing test for autonomy is that each system is non-comparable, unique. Contradiction, in the form of the *imaginary boolean value*, is the ground case (the "constant") in the mathematics of autonomy.

INDEPENDENT THOUGHTS

Our minds (and brains) are autonomous. Or does someone wish to claim that the processes of their consciousness are predictable, under control, or monotonic? Thoughts and ideas are autonomous. It is only the greatest egocentrism that we delude ourselves into believing that we *own* them. Or that we are responsible for them (it is actions we are responsible for). Isn't it obvious that thoughts come and go as they please? And if we pay attention to their flow, we learn.

It is really all quite self-evident. Autonomous systems fill all available environmental space. The diversity of nature is limited only by our inability to comprehend it.