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Date sent: Sat, 6 Jun 1998 19:14:35 EDT  
To: hexagram-8@apocalypse.org  
Subject: HEX8: The Vision of I-Ching  
Send reply to: hexagram-8@apocalypse.org

Hi hex-8,

the following "Sphere" I detected myself around 1985. When I showed it to a friend with some mathematical background, he said, that he already knew it, that would be an already known observation in mathematics, known under the name Hasse-diagrams: every binary code builds a three-dimensional body. As the I-Ching is a binary-code, it also builds this body.

I haven't seen this body in any I-Ching-book, that I looked in. I haven't seen it in the mind of other people during my listening to hex-8 (although it might be, that I overlooked something).

Of course it also have something to do with the SY-I-ching-relationship :-).

Of course it also has something to do with astronomy or astrology :-).

But of course it's very naturally simply the I-Ching-sphere.

In my try to construct the body (not knowing that I was going to build a sphere) I had the imagination that there should be a graphical way to show, that similar hexagrams are near to each other (near means for instance 100000 and 000000) and that, which are rather different, are far to each other (for instance 100000 should be far from 011111).

In the try to construct this body I took my I-Ching-handbook to the copy shop, got a copy of the side with the hexagrams and managed to get 64 small pieces of paper with 64 hexagrams on it.

(If you want to repeat the experiment, try it yourself. There is only one solution, I guess).

Then I started to sort. The first start was very simple. I put hex 2 in the middle and sorted hex 24, 7, 15, 16, 8, 23 in a circle around it.

	7	
24		15
	2	
23		16
	8	

Same could I do with hex 1 and hex 44, 13, 10, 9, 14, 43.

The next group of hexagrams sorts like this: hex 19 should somehow appear between hex 24+7 (as 110000 is near both to 100000 and 010000), hex 46 between hex 7+15, hex 62 between 15+16, hex 45 between 16+8, hex 20 between 8+23 and hex 27 should be appear somehow between hex 23+24.

The next group sorts like this: hex 36 should be between hex 24 and hex 15 (as 101000 is near to 100000 and 001000), but between hex 24 and hex 15 already was hex 7, so I had the think about a second ring, hex 36 being in the background of hex 7 between hex 24 and hex 15. So the final figure looked like this (this square is thought to be a circle and this circle is around the figure with hex 2 in the middle and hex 24, 7, 15, 16, 8, 23 around it; 36 is above 24):

	19	36	46	
4				40
27				62
3				39
	20	35	45	:

But what was to do with hex 51, 52, 53? As hex 51 = 100100 should be as near to 100000 and as to 000100 (and these are opposites in the starting circle),

there was only the possibility to put all three together in the center at the position of the starting place of hex 2.

The same procedure I could do with another group of hexagrams around hex 1. They

sort like the following and it is running clockwise in a circle like the other circles around hex 2.:

6 (in the background of hex 13, between hex 44+10) -25 - 37 - 61 - 38 - 26 - 5  
- 34 - 50 - 28 - 49 - 33  
hex 57, 30, 58 meet in the middle again.

The I had two uncompleted halves of my graphical solution and then I realized, that it was impossible to get a sufficient solution on the 2-dimensional plain, I had to choose a three dimensional body, and what I'd builded until now, were the polar conditions of this body. And the body was a sphere. A yin pole with hex 2 on it and a yang pole with hex 1 on it. So hex 51, 29, 52 were not at the place of hex 2, but they meet together inside the sphere at one point on the axis on the yin-side, and hex 57, 30, 58 are not at the place of hex 1, but also inside the sphere at one point on the axis on the yang-side.

And hex 24, 7, 15, 16, 8, 23 are nearer to the yin pole than the ring with 12 elements (2 yang group) and hex 44, 13, 10, 9, 14, 43 are nearer to the yang pole than the other 12 elements ring (4 yang group).

I hope you got it until now, because this was the simpler part of it :-). Best you imagine the globe with some rings on it, one ring at 60° north (1 yang group, 6 elements), one at 30° north (2 yang group, 12 elements), another ring at 30° south (4 yang group, 12 elements) and a ring at 60° south (5 yang group, 6 elements). The double trigram hexagrams are not on the ring, but on certain points on the axis.

One has to observe, that in this figure the yang side circles should have been turned 180°, so that for instance 100000 is a really opposition to 011111. These both should be positioned in that way, that the shortest way to connect them creates a line which goes through the center of the sphere or globe.

If you've reached that figure, we can arrange the equator hexagrams and these are the 20 still missing hexagrams with 3 yin and 3 yang lines.

Arranging the hexagrams according to the building principle, that near hexagrams should be near to each other, you'll realize a strange sensation. The yin side builds another row of hexagrams than the yang side.

Constructing the sphere from the yin side, for instance hex 100110 should be near to hex 3 and to hex 45 (also near to hex 51, but that gives no information, as hex 51 is on the axis), this means in the middle between hex 45 and hex 3

Constructing the sphere from the yang side, hex 100110 should be near to hex 49 and hex 25, that means in the middle between these both hexagrams, but this is not the same position as it has got from the yin side.

To solve this problem, one has to decide to put 17 on the equator of the sphere on the middle between the middle between hex 3+45 and the middle between hex 49+25. That's the perfect place.

Then you get the result, that on the outer side of the equator two hexagrams share one place:

hex 60/22 are at one place; and they are on the same longitude line as hex 24/9

hex 18/54 are at one place; and they are on the same longitude line as hex

7/14

hex 55/48 are at one place; and they are on the same longitude line as hex 15/43

hex 47/56 are at one place; and they are on the same longitude line as hex 16/44

hex 53/17 are at one place; and they are on the same longitude line as hex 8/13.

hex 21/59 are at one place; and they are on the same longitude line as hex 23/10

This is very troublesome to understand, I know :-). But it is the only way.

Then 8 hexagrams are left:

111000 should be near to hex 19 and hex 36 and hex 46 and hex 34 and hex 5 and hex 26.

As hex 19 and hex 46 have their middle in hex 36 and hex 34 and hex 26 have their middle in hex 5, and hex 36 and hex 5 are already sorted on one longitude line, hex 11 should at the same longitude line as these both. That's very simple, but ...

But hex 11 is not of the same category like for instance hex 55, it belongs to a special and it is from his mathematical structure more similar to hex 51, 29, 52 and 57,30, 58 than to the "normal hexagrams". But this is difficult to explain, and I'll do it not here.

I just state: There are 16 "important" hexagrams, and 48 "less important" hexagrams. The 16 important hexagrams are:

1/2 - 51/57 + 29/30 + 52/58

63/64 - 31/41 + 11/12 + 32/42

Hex 1 and 2 are the poles; hex 51, 29, 52 meet together on the axis inside the sphere on the yin side, hex 57, 30, 58 meet together on the axis inside the sphere on the yang side.

Hex 41- 11 - 32 - 31 - 12 - 42 build a ring on the aequator, but it should not be seen on the outside of the sphere, but also inside the sphere, forming together with hex 51-29-52 as yin-pole and hex 57-30-58 as yang-pole a small sphere in the greater sphere.

Do you understand? "A sphere in the sphere". The whole figure shows a sphere with a smaller sphere inside of it.

Then 2 hexagrams are left.

Hex 63 should be near to 36, 39, 3 (which builds a triangle) and near to 5, 49, 37 (which also builds a triangle).

Hex 64 should be near to 40, 35,4 (which again builds a triangle) and near to 38, 50, 6 (another triangle).

So simply the opposite pair hex 63 and hex 64 has both hexagrams at one position in the center of the whole sphere and the center of the sphere in the sphere.

If you realized all and everything you should have reached a globe with 12 longitude lines and one axis and 7 rings (8 with inner ring) or points.

If somebody didn't understand, he should email his adress and I send him a painting.

Best wishes