

Exploring the Hypothesis of “Energetic Attractions” in Romantic Compatibility

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Abstract

Energetic compatibility -- a concept consistent with bioelectrical energy systems -- is a hypothesized variable argued to be an important augment to traditional biochemical and psychological models for sustained romantic attachment and love, which emphasize small physiological and psychological effects that produce large emotional, attitudinal and behavioral consequences. While several studies are shown to be consistent with predictions of an energetic compatibility model, recent research by Houran and Lange (in press) presented seeming paradoxical findings that we interpret as demonstrating the mediating effects of True versus False Attraction. Both of these attractions produce short-term relationships with similar questionnaire levels of relationships satisfaction (chemistry), but relationship quality breaks down for mature relationships (two years or longer in duration) that are not grounded in True Attractions and alignment across four well-defined Lifestyle Traits. The cumulative results suggest that accommodation or conventionalization that many experts claim represents healthy adaption for a couple might actually prove to be a defense mechanism as a couple tolerates or attempts to rationale an incompatible or unsatisfying relationship.

Running Head: ENERGETIC COMPATIBILITY

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“If one of two lovers is loyal, and the other jealous and false, how may their friendship last, for Love is slain!”

Marie de France (12th Century poet)

Sustained Love as a *Dynamic Process*

Science has traditionally regarded compatibility as the interplay between *Erotic Love* (love closely associated with sexual desire for a partner) and *Companionate Love* which represents friendship-type platonic love towards a partner (for a review, see Masuda, 2003). Sternberg (1986) expanded this idea in his Triangular Theory of Love and Attachment. This model proposes that the amount of love or relationship satisfaction experienced by a person derives from the strength and interaction among three components: *Intimacy* (the feeling of closeness and bondedness), *Passion* (the drives that produce romance, physical attraction, and sexual intercourse), and *Decision/Commitment* (the decision that one loves another and the commitment to continue that relationship). However, recent research is rewriting the notion of simple, linear processes underlying these basic models. Instead, physiological and psychological evidence suggests that “long-term love” is not a *static* emotion but rather a set of complex, *dynamic* drives or processes whereby small changes to a person’s psychophysiological system result in large emotional, attitudinal and behavioral consequences.

For example, physiologically speaking, long-term compatibility involves a series of chemical reactions that produce different experiences of attachment. Initial attraction involves passionate love, which elicits the euphoria that comes early in a relationship. Induced in part by a stimulant-like effect (Cassell, 1984) caused by neurochemicals like Phenylethylamine (PEA), norepinephrine, dopamine and serotonin (Fisher, 2004), passionate love is typically short-lived, lasting approximately 12-30 months into a relationship (Lawrence, 1989; Money, 1985; Singer, 1987). After this phase comes the test of whether a couple can mature into the next stage where passionate love transforms into more of a companionate love, with two lovers having feelings of deep attachment and commitment to one another (Francoeur, 1991). Chemical endorphins released in a lover’s presence contribute to the sense of peace, calm and security one feels for a partner, basically the warm feelings of companionate love (Hatfield & Rapson, 1993). Oxytocin, another brain chemical, is also believed to contribute to long-term relationships. The production of this chemical is stimulated by touch -- especially sexual touch -- resulting in pleasure, satisfaction and the strengthening of interpersonal attachment (Fisher, Aron & Brown, 2006).

Biochemistry helps foster love and attachment across all phases of a relationship, but long-term satisfaction seemingly cannot be credited to this brain chemistry alone. Psychological processes called “item shifts” have also been identified. For example, Lange and colleagues (Houran, Lange, Wilson & Cousins, 2005; Lange, Jerabek & Houran, 2004) showed that couples who report greater relationship satisfaction have *qualitatively* different perceptions of their sources of content and discontent than those

reporting lower levels of satisfaction. In other words, relationship quality is a malleable cognitive phenomenon.

This cognitive process has been described in positive terms as “accommodation” or sometimes conventionalization. The process involves attitudinal or behavioral adaptations that each partner in a couple makes over time as the couple acclimates to the demands and needs of the other, as well as to the priorities dictated by a committed relationship. It is assumed that accommodation occurs over time, and thus accommodation is likely exhibited most by couples who have been together for relatively longer periods of time versus couples who are in the “newlywed” stage. For instance, high levels of relationship satisfaction can involve positive distortions (Fowers & Olson, 1993), or what Edmonds (1967) viewed as social desirability bias in relationship quality. This tendency to perceive a marital or committed relationship in unrealistically positive terms strongly resembles psychological constructs such as positive illusions (Taylor & Brown, 1988) and unrealistic optimism (Scheier & Carver, 1992), which have been shown to involve information-processing biases. Thus, the assessment or appraisal of one’s partner and the quality of marriage are similar to mathematical models of self-fulfilling prophecies (Houran & Lange, 2004). Indeed previous work (Levinger, 1986; Neff & Karney, 2003) suggests that global relationship satisfaction derives from the tendency to view positive perceptions as more important than negative perceptions, as well as the tendency to alter the importance of specific perceptions as needed. Such couples appear to have greater relationship satisfaction and fewer conflicts and doubts about their coupledom (Murray, Holmes & Griffin, 1996).

Finally, we would be remiss not to mention a provocative thesis put forth by King and Fielder (2006) in their seminal work *Sexual Paradox: Complementarity, Reproductive Conflict and Human Emergence*. The authors’ basic thesis directly and broadly bridges the concepts of love and attachment with dynamical systems. Specifically, *human cultural emergence* is conceptualized as a product of a complementary mutually-unstable self-organized criticality, in which neither sex (male and female) has the upper hand and gains super-intelligence by having to run the courtship race. It is a product of Geoffrey Miller’s ideas put into a more comprehensive framework in terms of the prisoner’s dilemma, the red queen, edge of chaos and considerable detailed investigations into human evolution, cultural origins in Africa and the founding of urban cultures and religions.

This fits with edge-of-chaos ideas consistent with the development of complexity. In terms of compatibility, it is also critical that the two sexes have highly asymmetric reproductive investment strategies, in fact more asymmetric than just about any other species, despite culture fair glosses minimizing sexual differences, because human pregnancy is such a massive and risky investment with long-term consequences for the mother. In particular, evolutionary perspectives stress the potential resources that men and women contribute to producing offspring (Buss, 1988). They suggest that women contribute their physical bodies, whereas men traditionally provide resources for the mother and offspring (for an overview, see: Whitty, 2004). A continually updated database of research and resources that speaks to King and Fielder’s ideas is available at: <http://www.dhushara.com>.

A Proposed *Energetic* Component to Sustained Love

MatchMatrix (www.MatchMatrix.com) hypothesizes that the physiological and psychological processes responsible for long-term love also involve a concept called *energetic compatibility*. The energetic patterns defined by MatchMatrix parallel the notion of an electromagnetic field inherent to one's body (e.g., Adley, 1993). In particular, Eastern philosophy and medicine has long talked about a *Qi* or *chi* energy within human physiology, and studies in psychophysiology and biology provide empirical support for such an energy that interacts with the physical environment and the energy system of other living organisms (see e.g., Green, Parks, et al., 1991; Levingood & Gedye, 1998; Schwartz, Nelson, et al., 1998; Waechter & Sergio, 2002). For ongoing research in this area, interested readers are encouraged to consult the journal *Subtle Energies and Energy Medicine*. According to the MatchMatrix model, how two energetic patterns merge determines the quality of platonic or romantic relationships. This idea was proposed thirty years ago when the system's developer Dick Nelson reportedly discovered that he could identify specific characteristics that consistently showed up when two patterns were merged in a romantic relationship.

Identifying and evaluating the compatibility of these energetic patterns is accomplished by comparing a couple's two birth dates using a proprietary mathematical algorithm. To this extent our method is an *oracle*, i.e., its predictions are treated as coming from a black box. However, we emphasize that this method is not numerology, astrology, biorhythms or traditional personality testing. There are three categories in the MatchMatrix energetic analysis:

1. The four **Lifestyle traits** include Communication Style, Activity Level, Sexual Response and Financial Logic. How two people are aligned in these traits determine the long-term potential of their relationship.
2. **Attractions** and the quality of chemistry can be calculated by this system. A person has True Attraction when their strong feelings are reliable guidance for selecting the right person. If they have False Attraction their strong feelings of chemistry will consistently lead to failed relationships.
3. There are five **Personality Modifiers**. A person can have no modifiers or one or more modifiers. They are the Achiever, Controller, Engager, Manipulator and the Perfectionist Modifiers. The Modifiers give a deeper look into personality.

The MatchMatrix's compatibility report details these categories of information for a couple, but the comparison of couples' two birth dates also generates two convenient indices pertaining to the potential of the couple's particular relationship -- a *Friendship index* and a *Lovers index*. These indices parallel the concepts of Companionate and Passionate Love noted earlier.

The remainder of this article discusses the validity of the information produced by the MatchMatrix method and how the accumulated evidence to date is consistent with predictions deriving from the hypothesis of energetic compatibility.

Empirical Work on the MatchMatrix Method

Many matching systems offered by online dating sites are advertised as being scientifically valid, but reviews have consistently found that such claims are not backed by peer-reviewed research (Houran, Lange, et al., 2004; King, Austin-Oden, & Lohr, 2009). Finn and Banach (2000) similarly noted the difficulties of ascertaining the credentials and identity of service providers, accessing accurate information, reliance on untested methods, difficulties in online assessment and the lack of standards and regulation regarding online human service practices. Accordingly, it is important to summarize the research to date that speaks to the efficacy of our matching method and feasibility of the notion of energetic compatibility.

Study 1: One popular test of the MatchMatrix method involved predicting the success or failure of celebrity relationships in the news journal *Celebrity Ratings*. Unlike relationships that require questionnaire studies, celebrity couples are easily studied at a high level using publicly verifiable information. MatchMatrix posted on its website a study of eighty-eight celebrity relationships. Eight do not involve couples leaving a net of eighty. Each relationship was assigned ratings using the same value system provided by MatchMatrix to indicate their quality and potential. The Celebrities are rated on a 100-point scale. The Friends rating includes Style of Communication and Activity Level. The Lovers rating adds the Sexual Response. All Friends and Lovers ratings take into account the five MatchMatrix Modifiers. The following correlates the status of the relationship with those rated below 38% and those above 58% for Friends. Ratings in the middle range are not as clearly defined and require explanation. The Celebrity write-ups took into account all three categories of energetic analysis referenced above. Out of those:

- 31 of the 35 relationships (89%) that MatchMatrix indicated have Strong Potential to survive are still in existence;
- 4 of the 35 relationships (12%) that MatchMatrix indicated have Strong Potential did not survive, and in many cases this was attributed to False Attraction and the impact of the modifiers noted above;
- 4 of the 6 relationships (67%) that had Moderate Potential to survive are still in existence;
- 2 of the 6 relationships (34%) that had Moderate Potential did not survive, and in many cases this was attributed to False Attraction and the impact of the modifiers noted above;
- 11 relationships were questionable;
- 5 of the 11 questionable relationships (46%) survived and the rest have ended;
- 10 of the 30 (34%) relationships that MatchMatrix indicated would not or should not survive are still in existence today;
- 20 of the 30 (67%) relationships that MatchMatrix indicated would not or should not survive did not last.

The MatchMatrix Friendship and Lovers ratings were correlated with the variables of (a) *Relationship Status* (together or not) and (b) *Longevity of Relationship* (in years). The accuracy rates of the

MatchMatrix method can subsequently be expressed as Pearson correlations to better understand the effect sizes involved. The MatchMatrix Friendship and Lovers ratings correlated significantly ($p < .05$) with Relationship Status .46 and .51, respectively. These findings suggest that MatchMatrix ratings have significant and moderate effect sizes in predicting whether a celebrity couple will remain together or not. The MatchMatrix Friendship and Lovers ratings correlated significantly ($p < .05$) with Length of Relationship .40 and .38, respectively. This suggests that the MatchMatrix ratings also were predictive of longevity of celebrity relationships to a moderate degree. Thus, this basic study of celebrity relationships reveals relationship patterns in line with the types of patterns predicted by the hypothesis of energetic compatibility.

Study 2: An independent investigation by Lange and Houran (in press) described two studies that examined the hypothesis of energetic compatibility. First, these investigators created a new questionnaire to measure relationship quality, called the *Relationship Success Scale*. This is a 42-item, Rasch-scaled questionnaire that asks about an individual's experience or perception across aspects of eight relationship issues, as listed here along with sample items:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 1. Activity Level | (“ <i>Differences in our activity levels often cause conflicts in our relationship</i> ”); |
| 2. Communication | (“ <i>My partner often ‘talks down to me’</i> ”); |
| 3. Energy Drain | (“ <i>I’m energized being with my partner</i> ”); |
| 4. Friendships | (“ <i>I know my partner’s friends</i> ”); |
| 5. Global Satisfaction | (“ <i>My partner is the right person for me</i> ”); |
| 6. Humor | (“ <i>My partner and I can banter back and forth until we are both laughing hysterically</i> ”); |
| 7. Misunderstandings | (“ <i>I often find myself snapping back in response to my partner</i> ”); |
| 8. Sex | (“ <i>I’m satisfied with the quality of sex with my partner</i> ”). |

These eight issues are not independent factors or subscales. Instead, they formed a single Rasch (1960/1980) factor, which can be characterized informally as a probabilistic version of a Guttman scale (see e.g., Bond & Fox, 2007). In particular, fitting Andrich’s (1978) Rasch rating scale model using the versatile Winsteps scaling software (Linacre, 2006), indicated that the internal Rasch reliability of the Relationship Success Scale is 0.93. Thus, the items defining the eight issues formed a probabilistic hierarchy of relationship compatibility, or satisfaction. This finding replicates previous research (Houran, Lange, et al., 2005; Lange, Jerabek, & Houran, 2004; Busby, Christensen et al., 1995) showing relationship compatibility is a hierarchical construct that can be measured at an interval-level. Moreover, in strong support of both construct and convergent validities, the items of the Relationship Success Scale formed a robust statistical Rasch (1960/1980) measure with many of the items from the major relationship questionnaires used today for clinical and research work¹.

¹ Love Attitude Scale (Hendrick & Hendrick, 1986); Marital Adjustment Test (Locke & Wallace, 1959); Passionate Love Scale (Hatfield & Sprecher, 1986); Relationship Rating Form (Davis & Todd, 1985); Revised Dyadic Adjustment Scale (Busby, Christensen, et al., 1995); Rubin Love and Liking Scales (Rubin, 1970); Sound Relationship House Questionnaire (Gottman, 1999); and Sternberg's Triangular Theory of Love Scale (Sternberg, 1997).

MatchMatrix proposes that one of the primary “experiential” aspects of the dynamic nature of energetic compatibility (or incompatibility) is the feeling of being energized (or energy drain) when in the presence of one’s partner. Note that one subscale (# 3 above) measuring this phenomenon was validated as part of the *Relationship Success Scale*. This finding lends psychometric support for emotions and cognitions that are fundamental to the notion of energetic compatibility, and it demonstrates that the hypothetical construct of energetic compatibility is related to processes of sustained love that have been traditionally discussed in the literature.

Houran and Lange then used an online survey format (cf. Gosling, Vazire, et al., 2004; Naglieri, Drasgow, et al., 2004; Skitka & Sargis, 2005, 2006) to test the accuracy of the MatchMatrix system in predicting individuals’ self-reported relationship quality. Respondents were solicited via snowball sampling and “open-invitation” methods. Snowball sampling is a recruitment technique whereby existing respondents to a questionnaire help recruit future respondents. An “open-ended” invitation refers to a public invitation to participate in a study that is emailed or posted across the Internet using a combination of press releases, distribution lists and postings on websites and chat rooms, e.g., websites and associations that catered to people seeking information on finding or sustaining romantic relationships, such as OnlineDatingMagazine.com, Happyfornoreason.com and Coffeytalk.com. The final sample ($M_{age} = 50.6$ yrs, $SD = 5.5$, range= 37-60 yrs.) was heavily skewed, with 78 women and only 11 men. In this sample, 48 individuals were in a committed relationship without marriage, 31 were married and 10 were classified as “Other” which denotes short-term or long-term dating partners who have not necessarily lived together.

Using the entire sample ($N = 89$), scores on the Relationship Success Scale showed correlations of 0.160 with the MatchMatrix Friendship rating and a correlation of 0.158 with the MatchMatrix Lovers rating. Both coefficients were in the predicted direction, but due to their low magnitudes they were not statistically significant ($p > .10$). This prompted Houran and Lange to examine the influence of Length of Relationship on the main findings, given that the variable of *accommodation* may have influenced the results.

Table 1: Pearson product moment correlations between scores on the Relationship Success Scale and MatchMatrix indices in Newly-Formed (less than 2 years, $N = 41$) vs. Mature (2 years or more, $N = 48$) Relationships (Houran & Lange, in press).

	MatchMatrix - Friendship index (newly-formed relationship)	MatchMatrix - Lovers index (newly-formed relationship)	MatchMatrix - Friendship index (mature relationship)	MatchMatrix - Lovers index (mature relationship)
Relationship Success Scale	0.523**	0.427*	-0.276	-0.169

Note: * $p < .05$, ** $p < .01$

As was expected, Table 1 shows that the variable of Length of Relationship was an intervening variable that over time changes the relation between the Relationship Success Scale and the MatchMatrix indices from positive to negative. That is, positive and moderately strong associations were found for relationships of *less than two years*, which they termed “newly formed relationships.” However, negative correlations of low magnitude and non-significance were found for relationships of *two years or more*. The investigators offered several possible explanations for these disparate results, and among these they acknowledged that mature relationships might have significant nuances that are not predicted well without taking into account all of the dynamic components of the MatchMatrix oracle not under consideration in their study.

These particular speculations of Houran and Lange (in press) deserve detailed commentary, since we hypothesize that the nuances in “Attractions” likely played a strong role in what seemed to be *prima facie* contradictory results. As will be shown, further analysis of the Houran and Lange dataset arguably support predictions that derive from an energetic compatibility model.

Origin and Impact of True and False “Attractions”

There is an old saying that “men are attracted to women like their mothers and women are attracted to men like their fathers.” MatchMatrix uses its recently studied energetic compatibility system to confirm that this is true on the energetic level. In response to this idea, women often say, “Yes, the men I’m attracted to are tall and good looking just like my father.” In fact, the attractions have nothing to do with physical appearance, mutual interests, sharing the same values or anything other than a spontaneous feeling of special connection. The MatchMatrix model postulates that romantic attractions are the result of the energetic imprint at the DNA-level from the opposite gender parent at the moment of birth. The quality of one’s relationship with one’s opposite parent is not a consideration, nor does it matter if a person never even knew his/her parent. The emotional imprint that defines a person’s attractions never changes. These Attractions are argued to affect intimate relationships, friendships, family members and business relationships.

MatchMatrix uses its energetic compatibility system to determine the Energetic Attraction Pattern™ (EAP) between an individual and their opposite gender birth parent. If the two EAP’s are the same, the individual is determined to have “True Attractions” and will be attracted to someone with the same EAP as their own. If their EAP is different than their opposite birth parent the individual is deemed to have “False Attractions” and will be attracted to a people with their parents EAP which is not energetically compatible to their own. Interested readers are referred to the Appendix for sample cases of True and False Attraction in celebrity couples, as taken from Study 1 noted above.

Upon further analysis of Houran and Lange’s (in press) dataset, we were able to demonstrate that False Attractions consistently lead to increased difficulties and poor relationship quality (measured by the

Relationship Success Scale) as the relationship matures beyond the "honeymoon stage". When the Atattractions are True, mature relationships scored the highest on the Relationship Success Scale.

Significant Challenges with False Attractions

If an individual's *Energetic Attraction Pattern™* (EAP) is different than his/her opposite gender parent then the person will be attracted to someone with his/her parent's EAP rather his/her own (i.e., a "False Attraction"). The attraction feels so "right" that a person follows it blindly until the conflicts that result from having a different EAP surface to seriously challenge the relationship. Following a False Attraction can result in being repeatedly attracted to the wrong person, which often results in painful conflict and usually relationship failure.

Anecdotally, False Attractions are described as feeling like an addiction. A couple can claim to be "in love," even though it is apparent to everyone that the relationship is disintegrating around them. Even after the relationship has deteriorated into ongoing conflicts, the individuals will constantly return to each other and try to recreate the powerful connection they felt at the beginning. Firestone, Firestone and Catlett (2006) referred to this as a "Fantasy Bond." Metaphorically speaking, this situation is akin to driving a car forward while looking in the rearview mirror. The person (or couple) keeps an eye focused on the mirror to recover or relive the wonderful feelings they experienced in the past while trying to move forward.

According to the MatchMatrix model of compatibility, matching the EAP of two people has the greatest impact on relationship success. This prediction was corroborated by Houran and Lange's data. In particular, 67% of the couples that scored the lowest on the Relationship Success Scale did not share the same energetic Communication Style. Of the 33% that shared the same Communication Style 50% of those did not share the same energetic Sexual Response Type. Our model suggests that these couples stayed together due to the strong but negative influence of False Attractions. Indeed, we found that when the respondents had False Attractions they married and stayed together well past the honeymoon stage (one year), despite the difficulty and conflict that they reported on the Relationship Success Scale. Those with True Attractions shared the same Communication Style but did not have the same Sexual Response alignment -- a condition consistent with the low scores found by Houran and Lange for some respondents.

As our study demonstrates, similar Communication Styles do not automatically ensure the long-term success of a relationship. Indeed, several other energetic factors must be considered. We have seen though, that people with True Attractions, once finding a partner will stay with that partner even when other issues such as energetic sexual misalignments exist.

True Attractions and Lasting Relationship Success

Seventy-five percent (9 out of 12) of the relationships scoring in the top third on the Relationship Success Scale in the Houran and Lange (in press) study shared the same Communication Style and also had True Attractions. Seventy-five percent also shared the same Sexual Response Type. The average length of the relationships was 2.45 years and the longest being four years.

However, also scoring high on the Relationship Success Scale were individuals in relationships in which both partners had False Attraction, as identified by the MatchMatrix metrics. None of these individuals were married and only one was in a "committed" relationship, supporting the idea that False Attractions can mask other issues in the relationship during the inception and earlier years. Therefore, we conclude that the longer a person is in a relationship with False Attractions the lower they will score on the Relationship Success Scale. On the other hand, those with True Attractions show higher scores over time. Thus, the apparent disparate results reported by Houran and Lange (in press) are rectified in terms of the modifying influence of True and False Attractions, as is predicted by the MatchMatrix model.

Discussion

The quest for understanding the spark of romantic "chemistry" and having the ability to calculate it has been pursued by many social scientists in the past (see e.g., Houran, Lange, Rentfrow & Bruckner, 2004). Now every major dating site, therapist, counselor and coach attempt to give us direction. The goal of psychologists and the dating sites is to have a way to match people for a mutual attraction. For some people a strong attraction is good guidance for selecting a partner; however, the present results lend support for the idea that following a strong False Attraction will predictably lead to a difficult or failed relationship. Therefore, we argue that the traditional biochemical and psychological models for sustained love are incomplete without including the concept of an energetic component. Rather than contradicting current theories, we submit that this concept expands the current understanding of why specific couples (satisfied or unsatisfied) stay together over the long-term or break up.

In particular, further analysis of Houran and Lange's (in press) data supported predictions from the hypothesis of energetic compatibility and suggested that False Attractions can override or mask major challenges in a relationship. Specifically, energetically people do not change in a relationship. The effects of having different MatchMatrix Lifestyle traits surface to challenge the relationship after the attractions deteriorate. This is when the honeymoon phase is over and people start "working" on the relationship.

Indeed, as is predicted by the MatchMatrix model, research shows that money and sex -- both issues related to power and control -- are among the leading sources of conflict and disagreement in intimate relationships (Goldberg, 1987, Stanley, Markman & Whitton, 2002). Of the four MatchMatrix energetic Lifestyle Traits Financial Logic is the only trait that deals with a tangible that is measurable i.e., money. Misalignments that cause conflicts in the other traits can cause money issues because money is often used to compensate. This can mean going shopping to feel better or going on vacation to try and manage the challenges. Counseling and other methods of accommodation can create financial demands.

Further, good sex requires a balance between satisfying the physical and emotional needs of the couple. This involves the quality of their attractions and the alignments the couple share in the other MatchMatrix traits. Sexual desire is a primary component of the energetic attraction calculation and their Sexual Response is one of the four lifestyle traits. The strong sexual feeling of connection at the beginning of the relationship (while the attractions are masking energetic misalignments) can quickly deteriorate when

their energetic differences in sexual response as well as the other traits come to the surface. That explains why sexual desire can shift dramatically in a short period of time and can be difficult to rekindle.

We anticipate that the basic premise of our paper -- birth dates as meaningful sources of information for calculating interpersonal compatibility -- will be controversial to many readers. However, we hypothesize that an epigenetic "imprint" of an opposite-gender parental figure occurring at birth is a plausible mechanism, after which the dynamical systems kick in. In particular, the epigenetic change creates a phase-space in the central nervous system (the autonomic nervous system, apart from the brain, could also be involved), serving as an initial condition in a system that is organized on the basis of "self organizing criticality" and "critical dependence on initial conditions." This phase-space expands on the basis of the epigenetic change and of "boundary conditions." The epigenetic change causes the phase space to expand, while other factors such as neglect, abuse, or absence of the opposite-gender figure may cause it to contract. Various other figures may foster expansion, perhaps including same-gender individuals, as we are all, in a sense, androgynous, and can play a variety of social or sexual roles. So the phase space is inherently dynamical. The phase-space has energy, or in dynamical terms, it is an "attractor" towards which the system is drawn. The phase-space landscape has many attractors. In general, dynamical systems must be energized, as, for example, by the attraction itself, in order for the phase-space of the attractor to emerge; then filled by the "feeling" of the attractor, then stabilized in the phase locking in the transition to order. Both conditions, the filling of the attractor and the transition of order, occur on a reiterating basis, with every state of the dynamical system. The person to whom we are attracted fills a kind of void. This might be why there is "love at first sight," and why, so often, this love may persist despite being unrequited by the unsuitability of the partner. So attraction as a term of love/compatibility and the dynamical "attractor" are, perhaps by coincidence. When the "right person" is found, the person, himself or herself fills, expands and deepens this "phase-space" through multiple iterations of the attraction, causing the person to "fall in love," perhaps further on in the relationship. The "persona" of the individual in whom the hypothetical initial imprint is made is also an attractor, which draws the individual into being or becoming his or her self. The persona, however, has a void, which is its complement, and that is the other, the loved one.

As complements, as physics implies, if self-love or other love is increased, the other is diminished. So, one becomes "lost in love" for the other. If self-love becomes too strong, one "falls out of love." The lover is mirrored in the loved one, and the loved one is mirrored in the lover. The two, the lover and the loved one, become a dynamical system, as does any process that iterates in this manner, and the product is, most often, a child or children that incorporate the two. The two must become "as one" as stated in traditional marital vows, and this is the underlying reason why our culture(s) endorsed the condition of marriage prior to conception, was monogamous, and why the vows are life-long. This is also why it was considered taboo to have intercourse unless one is "in love." Infidelity is a cause of divorce because intercourse is the culmination of the love-relationship; and by introducing a third person, love cannot exist in competition or rivalry. This is also why the death of a child so often leads to divorce, since the union of the two becomes one in the child. Culture itself is a dynamical system and is an important part of shaping the persona. Values are relative to a culture, and each has its own formula for the process in its need to exist as a single, dynamical system.

Transpersonal relationships seem to exist outside of the realm of known causality. One does not internalize the other as an object fashioned in his or her own mind. There is something much more real than this going on, and this has been quite well documented experimentally. The phase-space, ultimately, arises out of the quantum vacuum and zero-point energy fluctuations which arise thereof. Yet, as Nobelist Gerard t'Hooft and others have noted, space and time do not exist in the vacuum. Due to critical dependence on initial conditions, vacuum fluctuations are magnified in dynamical systems. Time goes forward and backward in the quantum world just outside the vacuum, and is referred back to initial conditions. This is why consciousness is referred backward, because the initial conditions, like the opposite-sex parent imprint, lead to the genesis of the phase-space. Every particle has a field, and every field exists within the vacuum. This is why we built huge particle colliders, because particles need to collide at enormous energies to allow these virtual particles to emerge from the vacuum. This is the reason why the quantum chaos of quantum dynamical factor must be invoked. Of course, this is an area of speculation. However, the connectivity between minds and the referral backwards in time have strong empirical support.

On a general level, our analyses imply that accommodation or conventionalization -- so often cited as a *positive* force in long-term relationship satisfaction and stability (e.g., Levinger, 1986; Neff & Karney, 2003; Murray et al., 1996) -- might need to be reconsidered and understood as a defense mechanism for coping with an incompatible or unsatisfying relationship. In other words, accommodation may be a symptom of a deteriorating relationship rather than healthy compromise and adaptation shown by a couple. If future research validates this idea, then many successful online dating sites and relationship coaches will need to revise their marketing messages and reanalyze their matching methods. Without longitudinal research to show the lasting effects of a matching system, many people could be paired "successfully" for the short-term only. False Attraction and True Attraction produce similar feelings in early stages of a relationship, but False Attraction show abrupt changes in satisfaction once the union matures. The ability to measure these Attractions is not only meaningful to individuals seeking a life partner, but it offers new research avenues for relationship science. Biochemical, psychological and energetic processes now need to be considered in a holistic, dynamical way, and MatchMatrix offers ongoing collaboration to any serious investigators who aim to understand the phenomenon of sustained love.

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Appendix: Sample cases of True and False Attraction using celebrity couples.

True Attractions

Three examples of celebrities who have followed True Attractions in selecting a partner:

Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver Friends 89% Lovers 89%

What a great match! Now we know how the Republican governor of the State of California and a member of the Democratic Kennedy family can be married for 22 years and totally support each other. It's in their energetic alignments. Maria said in a recent TIME Magazine interview that Arnold makes her laugh. That's because they have the same energetic Style of Communication, the same Activity Level and the same Sexual Response.

Maria shares the same **Energetic Attraction Pattern (EAP)** with her father Sergeant Shriver. Therefore she is attracted to men with that same pattern. When a person has the same **EAP** as their opposite gender parent they have True Attractions. This means Maria's strongest feelings of attraction are good guidance for selecting her partner. She followed her True Attraction in choosing Arnold. As a result they are also energetically aligned. Maria feels more connected everyday.

Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones Friends 70% Lovers 84%

Michael and Catherine have been married since 2000 (10 years) and have two children.

Michael has True Attractions and he followed them with Catherine. In fact this was the most powerful attraction possible because Catherine and Michael's mother have exactly the same MatchMatrix energetic profile.

Both Michael and Catherine were born on September 25 with 25 years difference in age. This brings up another feature of the Perfectionist Modifier. Michael was "at friction" with all his contemporaries. So he always did well with older or younger people where there was no friction. Catherine is a very comfortable fit for Michael. Their age difference does not matter. Catherine claims that when she first met Michael he said, "I'd like to father your children". That certainly works for both of them. They have three of the four Lifestyle traits including the same Logical Style of Communication and Physical Sexual Response Type.

False Attractions

An example of a celebrity who has followed a False Attraction in selecting a partner:

Jessica Simpson has False Attractions because she does not have the same Energetic Attraction Pattern (EAP) as her father, so she is attracted to her father's EAP in other men. As a result she is attracted to men who have a different EAP than her own, which is a major incompatibility.

Look at the effect her False Attractions had on the ratings in these three relationships.

Jessica married Nick Lachey (*Friends* 51 Lovers 32) in 2002. Nick has the same EAP as Jessica which means *she did not follow her false attractions*. As a result she was not attracted to him. This is the trade off a person with False Attraction must make. They must follow the MatchMatrix guidance and forgo their attractions to be with someone with whom they are energetically aligned. It is well known that Nick was smitten with Jessica from their first meeting and his strong feelings were the juice behind this relationship.

Like many people with False Attractions, Jessica was missing the feeling of a strong attraction. That desire prevented her from experiencing the deeper connection available through the energetic alignments she shared with Nick. They stayed together four years because of their *Newlyweds* reality show then divorced in June 2006.

Jessica *followed her False Attractions* in choosing **John Mayer** (*Friends* 6 Lovers 22) in August 2006. She did not share the same **EAP** with John. Look how the low ratings reflect their poor energetic alignments. Jessica said over and over again how much she was in love with John. She was clearly under the influence of her False Attractions. They were together for nine tumultuous months until May 2007. Her False Attraction masked significant energetic differences that created many challenges and eventually destroyed the relationship.

Jessica *followed her False Attractions* in choosing **Tony Romo** (*Friends* 18 Lovers 32) in November 2007. Once again, their low ratings reflect poor energetic alignments. She also did not share the same **EAP** with Tony. She talked openly to the press about Tony being the love of her life and she was looking forward to getting married. There was plenty of chemistry for Jessica because of her False Attractions, but those strong feelings masked significant energetic challenges. He abruptly dumped her on her birthday in July 2009.