

New Orleans, July 2021

Dr. Noble,

Enclosed is my clumsy attempt at a synthesis between game theory in systems biology and the philosophy of your colleague David Deutsch. I hope I have cited game work accurately in the paper, if not I hope you will please correct me so that I can amend it before publication.

It goes without saying that this paper would not have been possible if I had not found game work, which gave me a firm grounding in empirical biological results to support what otherwise would have been a merely intuitive realization. Discovering that you had been here before, and already collected much of the pertinent evidence and analyzed it, spelling out for the world how the purely upward-caused, reductionist explanations of life actually doesn't serve as a coherent complete view, ~~was~~ has been one of the most rewarding intellectual adventures of my life so far.

Deutsch's contribution was to force me to see biology through the lens of Popper's epistemology, as a process of conjecture and refutation. I realized because of his work that if a human body contains knowledge somehow, then in some sense it must be an embodied conjecture that is sensitive to refutations that come from its environment. This helped me to see the difference between the

human niche and other places where humans cannot live, and to realize that there must be a downward causal logic that operates on living beings that is as simple and universal as the upward logic of Neo-Darwinism.

I hope that the idea in this paper meets with a receptive audience somewhere — it is my task to keep trying until I find that audience. If it does, hopefully I will be able to raise funding to test it empirically or interest others in doing so.

Thank you for the courage of your ideas. It must be very difficult for a person in your context to continue challenging ideas as basic and fundamental as the reductionist dogmas in biological science. We are all conservative about things we love, so in some ways specialisation has only raised the level of entrenched opposition to intellectual change. I can imagine that it has been a hard task to build momentum for the view you have developed, but you well know that progress depends on work like that. You have made a great personal impact on me, both in shaping my worldview and in giving me a role model to follow.

Sincerely,  
Charlie

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