

Is Traditional Chinese Medicine Definitely an Exact Science?

Comparison Between Five Elements' Theory and Euclid Regular Polyhedrons' Postulates

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Abstract

Euclid was one of the greatest mathematicians of Ancestral Times. His contributions were key in Exact Sciences. His posthumous work," Elements"- of comparable diffusion to The Bible and The Quijote – is an example of the axiomatic-deductive system par excellence.

Their statements about the Five Regular Polyhedrons let be extrapolated to the Five Elements Theory of Traditional Chinese Medicine, recognizing a common origin in the Fundamental Theory of Classification.

A retrospective comparative analysis of the Five Dimensional Solids and the Chinese medical principles provides unprecedented support to this ancient Oriental Medicine parameters from Geometry - the oldest formal science ever known – justifying its diagnosis and therapeutic accuracy beyond its symbolical metaphorical language.

Keywords: Traditional Chinese Medicine; Exact Sciences; Polyhedrons

Introduction

Background: Euclid Postulate Origin

Euclid (330 – 275 B.C.) [1] was a virtuous and inspired mathematician who made transcendental contributions to Exact Sciences. His posthumous work, "The Elements" [2], of comparable diffusion to The Bible and The Quixote is an example of the axiomatic – deductive system par excellence.

According to Proclus, Euclid –Plato's Academy disciple in Athens – lived fascinated with the Five Regular Polyhedron origin, brilliantly explained in his Book XIII [3], the last one of his formidable work.

Material

Euclid statements and propositions

Regarding his "Elements", from Book VII to X, Euclid analyzed these Solids' Geometry; but in Book XIII presented the last statements of all Elements -the Five Regular Polyhedrons theorem and its circumferential areas - improving previous works developed by Theaetetus regarding Five Platonic Solids [3]. According to Spanish artist Alberto Durero (1471 – 1528):

"They cannot be other than those enrolled in its entirety tangent of a sphere" [4].

Euclidean study about the Five Elements

Axiomatic- Deductive Model and Fundamental Theorem of Classification

Euclidean study gave to Mathematics history the first example of Fundamental Theorem of Classification. As referred in his impeccable review, author Pedro Miguel Gonzalez Urbaneja [5], "The Elements" – and with it all Euclid brilliant work – culminates in the splendor of his last proposition, that ranks 465, XIII, 18, "Build the Five Regular Polyhedrons inscribed in the same sphere, and compare the edges of the resultant figures" (Figure 1).

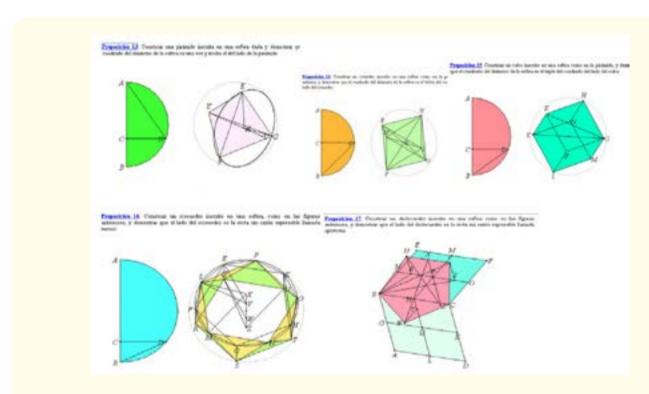


Figure 1: Conformation of regular polyhedra [5].

By sequential definition of the pyramid or tetrahedron (XI, 12); the cube (XI, 25); the octahedron (XI,26); the icosahedron (XI, 27) and the dodecahedron (XI, 28) [1-3]; and after diagramming them into the circumferential diameter of a sphere [4], he found the ratio of these Solids edges relative to latter, successively obtaining the corresponding figures of each Solid with singular geometrical genius (Table 1).

Polihedron	Proposition	Edge
Tetrahedron	XIII. 13	<u>2</u> R √6
		3
Cube	XIII. 14	R √2
Octahedron	X111.15	<u>2</u> R √3
		3
Icosahedron	XIII.16	<u>R</u> √10(5-√5)
		5
Dodecahedron	XXX.17	\underline{R} ($\sqrt{5}$ - $\sqrt{3}$)
		3

Table 1: Euclid polyhedral propositions [5].

Then he introduced his famous diagram (Figure 2), showing step by step each of the above propositions [5].

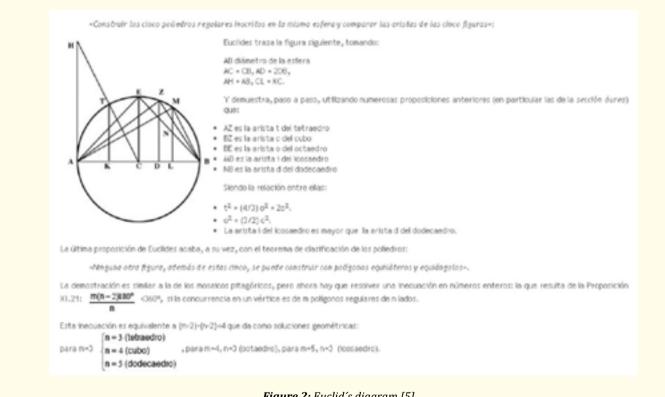


Figure 2: Euclid's diagram [5].

So, by the Fundamental Theorem of Classification of polyhedrons, Euclid was able to state that:

"Geometry has ruled that, although there are infinitely many polygons, the number of Regular Polyhedrons is five, neither more nor less..."

So, Euclid managed to form the faces of these Five Dimensional Solids, determining its beautiful setting in space (Figure 3).

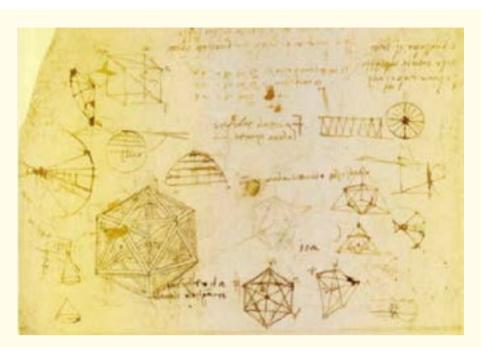


Figure 3: Leonardo Da Vinci studies on the geometry of polyhedral [15,13] [6].

Pedro Miguel Gonzalez Urbaneja raises Euclid epilogue to his Book XIII [6]:

"And in this wonderful but simple demonstration", concludes:

"I say now that, apart from the above figures, no other containing equilateral or equiangular edges could be built" (Figure 4).

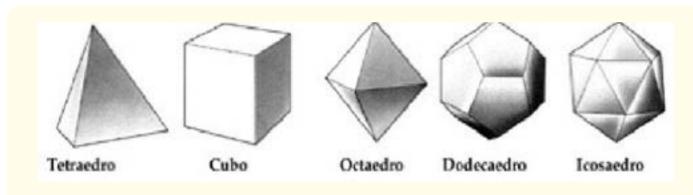


Figure 4: Regular Polyhedra [6].

As a conclusion, I transcribe W. Dunham comments:

"Euclid has shown that no logical argument can produce more of these remarkable figures, leaving a document mathematically unbeaten for 2300 years" [7].

Relationship between the Five Regular Polyhedrons and Universal Geometry

Proposed by Euclid in his Book XIII of "Elements" [3] analysis involves recognizing that, through the conformation of the Five Dimensional Solids – with its edges, angles and equal sides:

"God traced the map of Universe" [3].

In his book "Splitting of Time" [8], Garnier Malet justified through Quantum Physics that the innermost and depths of our atomic framework results from a structural synthesis of celestial microphysics architecture (Figure 5).

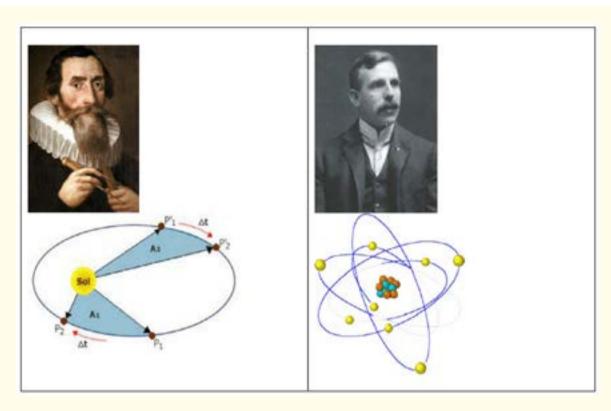
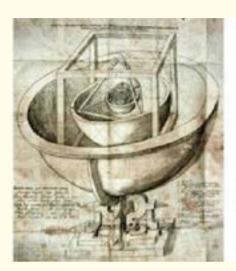


Figure 5: Examples on macrophysical and microphysical architectures.

Johannes Kepler (1571 – 1630) studied in detail Euclid postulates, setting cosmic patterns of planet movements and the design of stellated polyhedrons [4]. Quoted analysis let him to elaborate his laws about planetary movement, setting seed to Kepler's Polyhedric Cosmology (Figure 6) [5].



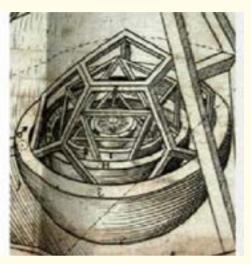


Figure 6: Polyhedric Cosmology according to Johannes Kepler [6].

Kepler's laws of Planetary Motion [8]

- All planets move around the Sun
- Radius-vector joining the planet to the Sun sweeps out equal areas in equal times
- For any planet, the square of the orbital period T (time of rotation around the Sun)
- A planet orbital period is directly proportional to the cube of the length of the semi-major axis of its elliptical orbit.
- T= K.a3

So, through its "Polyhedric Cosmology", Kepler assigned each of the Platonic Solids to the planets of our Solar System (Figure 6); and his postulates lead then to Space Age, allowing to determinate the orbital ellipses, setting background and development of Astrophysics [6] (Figure 6).

Method

Comparative - Associative Analysis between Euclidean and Oriental Theories of Five Elements

Relationship between Five Regular Polyhedrons and Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM)

The Five Elements' Theory [9], TCM explains causes and effects of its principles through the interplay among them, in a multi-parametrical based conception of the integrated components framed – like Euclid – in a Fundamental Theorem of Classification.

Establishing a meeting between Greek thought and Eastern philosophical world view that encourage those principles, let's go to Plato's "Timaeus" [10], looking for further matches that encompass such paradigms, curiously comparable to the Bible's Genesis:

"Before creation, by the way, all lacked proportion and measure. When God began to order the Universe, first shaped the fire, water, earth and air."

"God wrote such beautiful and sublime as possible of what was not".

"First, I think that is beyond my doubt that fire, earth, water and air are bodies".

"However, all corporeal form also has depth".

"It is necessary that the area surround the depth".

"Each side consists of triangles".

"Every triangle develops from two, each one with its right angle and others acute" (Figure 7).

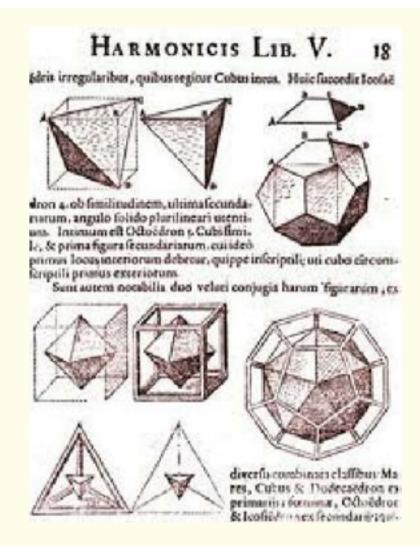


Figure 7: The Polyhedra in the Plato's Timaeus [10].

Subsequently, Plato offers his wonderful deductions on said polyhedra, providing the pertinent explanations that allow to clarify the structural functionality of each one of them:

"The solid figure of the pyramid(tetrahedron) is the element and germ of Fire; the second in order of birth (octahedron) represents the Air element and the third (icosahedron) is the Water. Finally, to Earth we attribute cubic form(cube), for this element is more difficult to move, the most tenacious, with the more solid foundations...

"Assume that this is the beginning of the fire and the other bodies, we must therefore strive to compose these four kinds of bodies of extraordinary beauty and say that we have grasped its nature" [6].

Cosmic Theories in Traditional Chinese Medicine

Until today, it was considered impossible to understand Acupuncture principles [9] following a logical Cartesian thought, typical of our Western cultural way of thinking.

There is always a Western tendency to minimize by simple, empirical, metaphorical or allegorical the essential concepts of TCM. We have forgotten that this civilization has been responsible for many advances in world history: the first walled cities; the use of oil as fuel; gunpowder and the compass; the origin of a writing system; printing and the decimal system were, among others, creations of Chinese thought from about 5000 years ago. Under this framework, Chinese philosophy matured with particular cosmological essentials governed by basic laws [11].

- Yin/Yang Theory
- Five Elements Theory

Yin /Yang Theory

Quoting Dr. Pablo Taubin, founder of Argentina Acupuncture Society and true relic that still enrich us by his knowledge [12]:

"According to ancient Chinese philosophy, man –compendium of Universe – is a microcosm subject to laws of macrocosm, which depends on the action of two essential, opposing and complementary forces that determine the quality of things and facts; that by itself constitute a whole; that have confirmatory properties; and which together are only a bipolar condition of a primary cosmic energy called Qi".

"Both cosmic events as our environment – as well as in depths of our molecular structure – should be built under this "polarities game" between two mean forces behind all that exists: The Yin and Yang, antithetical synthesis that explains everything that is, whether tangible or not" [12].

As noted by Prof. Rafael Cobos Romana and Jorge Vas Ruiz in their "Manual de Acupuntura y Moxibustión" [13], this qualitative distinction – applicable to the two opposite aspects always present within the same thing- the interaction between several complementary principles (Figure 8):



Figure 8: Complementary principles that rules Chinese Medicine. www.fengshui-doctrine.com.

Contradiction of all existing phenomenon, which contains conflictive natures in itself;

Interdependence between competing situations;

Growth/Decline as ongoing activity that reveals a permanent change;

Inter- transformation – consequence of the latter - understood as the ability to change – or mutate -an aspect of the same thing in its opposite.

Although the concept of equilibrium is still universally used with respect to the action of the principle of Yin/Yang in the therapeutic results of Chinese Medicine, the influence of Yin and Yang remains in relative balance (Qi flows two hours into the Yang and the two consecutive hours in the Yin) more like emulating the intermittent swing pendulum than the static and inactive condition of the plumb (Figure 9).



Figure 9: Foundation of pathological processes in Chinese Medicine.

We could now review those notions of Physics derived from the previous analysis that refer to the chrono-biological flow of human energy:

Equilibrium: (represents the example of the plumb) is a state of immobility of a system under two or more forces of same intensity acting in opposite directions, so that counteract or nullify. Defined as principle, refers to a static state subject to a number of forces that counteract to each other. This gives us the idea of Conflict: a situation that undertakes mutually antagonistic actions due to neutralize the opposing party, preventing such integration, innovation or change. Definitely, is opposed to an interaction, whether symbolic or concrete.

Balance: Essentially, it is a reaction to movement to efficiently perform functional activities and maintain a continuous alignment, guiding the system into the space. Contrary to the previous situation, it gives us an idea of Coordination: the ability to execute precise and controlled responses to movement and exists, for example, when two reversible processes occur simultaneously, as in Matter Changes of State.

For this quoted statement, Balance implies the reversal of opposite actions to allow the movement's synchrony. In Western medical terms, this concept seems to define what in biology is considered Homeostasis and Harmony in Oriental Medicine.

The breakdown of this balance is the foundation of any pathological process within TCM.

Five Movements Theory

This Five Elements' Theory [14,15] – homonymous with Euclid book's title- was also drawn more than three thousand years ago. It seems that since then – and subject to the Taxonomic Methodology – would be twinned one of the most ancient medicine of our planet with the oldest formal science in history (Figure 10).



Figure 10: Five Elements' interrelations Link: www.theepochtimes.com.

In the words of Dr. Eduardo Jovenich –current president of Argentina Acupuncture Society – the Chinese took into account the cosmic – telluric phenomena, relating them to this constituent Five Elements, product of Yin/Yang Inter-Transformation presented above [15]. Undoubtedly, keen observation of natural phenomena by Chinese people was a peculiar way for optimize their critical experience.

Geometrical demonstration of the Five Elements' Inter-Transformation

More than metaphysical speculations, these are precise, exact and formal confirmations of these Five Elements' changes or mutations. Here we can appreciate a precise and exact geometrical successive inter-transformation among quoted regular polyhedrons, setting mathematical basement to Timaeus references (Figure 11), even in a single regular polyhedron (Figure 12).

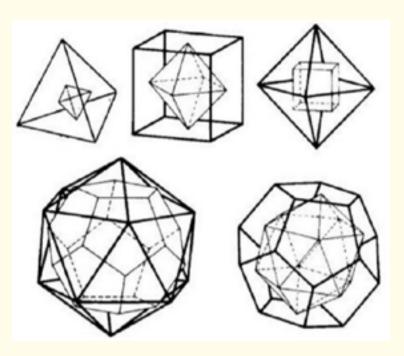


Figure 11: Sequential Elements' inter-transformation [5].

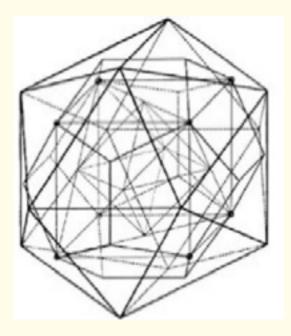


Figure 12: Five Dimensional Solids inter-transformations within a single polyhedron [5].

Dr. Jovenich– a personal disciple of Prof. Van Nghi for more than five years – invites and takes us back to the Chinese thought of fifty centuries ago, previous to all current knowledge. Their direct contact with nature allowed them to understand its cyclical development and successive chronological and seasonal stages [15] (Figure 13).

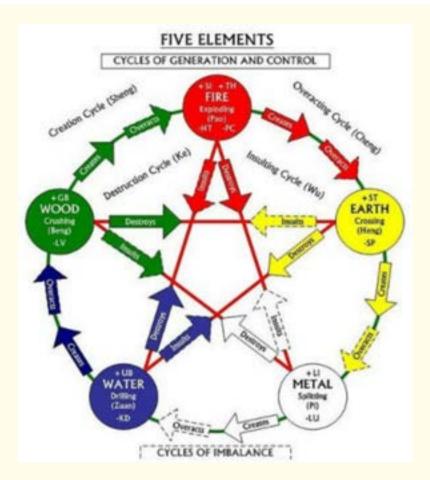


Figure 13: Cycles of Generation and Control in Chinese Medicine. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:FiveElementsCycleBalanceImbalance.jpg

In a continuous transformation through Generative (Cheng) and Destructive (Ko) cycles, Yin and Yang mutations clearly express in the opposing effects of the Fire (able to evaporate Water) and Water (capable of extinguish Fire); two Elements of different polarities but within the same dimension [15].

Following Jovenich's description, in the decline of Yin and the rise of Yang results the Dawn (chrono-biological cycle) and Spring (seasonal cycle). Precisely, in relation to the latter and its botanical development implies, this moment or Movement is called Wood.

However, the decline of Yang and the simultaneous growth of Yin is manifested in the Twilight or Autumn – characterized by involution of Wood- classifying it as step or Metal Movement, thus alluding to the action of ax or scythe over flora destruction.

The Fifth Movement is Man, who observes and is aware – centered from Earth – of all mutation phenomena occurring in the Universe surrounding him [16].

Interestingly, when plotting these Elements, this Fifth Movement – designed eccentrically accompanying others – allowed this Cycle to be diagrammed in the figure of a pentagon.

Again, in respect to conformation of the surrounding Universe, based upon these Five interrelated Principles, Jovenich conceives them: in a theoretical abstraction that relates all existence through its continuous mutation of mutual generation and reciprocal control" [16].

Discussion

Basic Relations between the Five Elements according to TCM

There is an ever-changing interplay of the Elements proposed by TCM principles. Such changes occur as a result of a Productive or Generative cycle and an Inhibitory – or also called Dominance cycle -, as Zou Yen named them in 400 B.C. [16].

Therefore, is not surprising that – even within the same meridian – there are the Five Antique Shu points, so as to include in themselves quoted parameters of this old theory in the physiopathology dynamics that each channel can experience in itself and in relation to others (Figure 14).

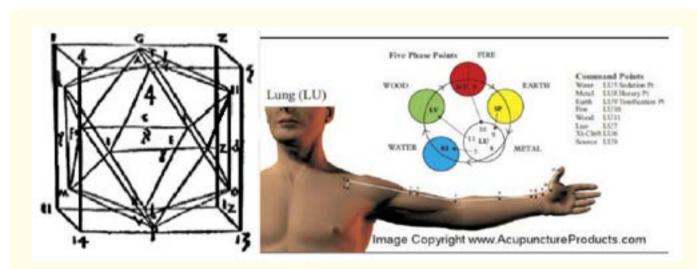


Figure 14: Five Element within an isolated polyhedral and Five Antique Shu points within the same meridian.

Specifically, in each of its stages highlights the Inter- Transformation of its Elements in an eternal render sequence. The process is such a perennial continuity, which prints the quality of impermanence to the pure definition of "Element" by itself.

It is for this reason that is also called "Movement". The concept of "Motion" or "Movement" graphics constant metamorphosis to which is subjected each Element [15].

Today, in Occident, Kinetics is that part of Physics doomed to study the nature of movements.

Curiously, Kinetic Theory of Gases (Figure 15) is an example to realize the changes of state of elements like TCM, so that we will study and then compare [17]. For instance, during a normal Generative cycle, Wood generates Fire through combustion; or Metal produces Water by condensation.

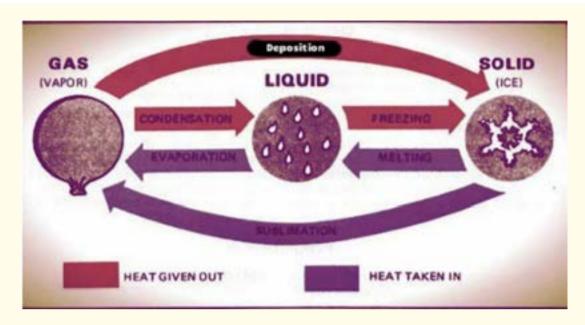


Figure 15: Schematic model of the Kinetic theory of Gases. Link: https://sites.google.com/a/maricopa.edu/obedchem/chemistry/09-30-2012-states-of-matter-and-the-kinetic-molecular-theory

Moreover, during the Inhibitory cycle, Fire can dominate Metal through melting; or in a Counter-Dominance position, Fire could usurp the power of Water through evaporation.

Synthetically, the nature of changes shows quoted conditions by Inorganic Chemistry since 1827-described the Molecular Kinetic Theory- then inspired Maxwell with his Matter Changes of States (Figure 16).

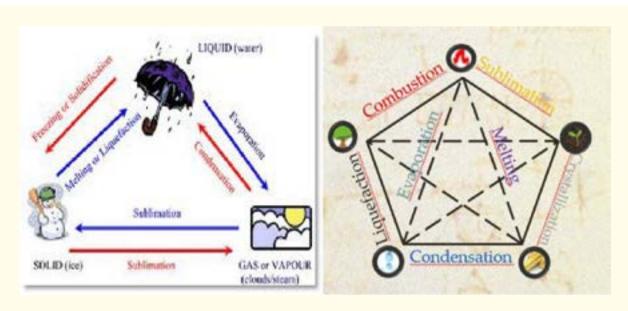


Figure 16: Changes of State of Matter in Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Precisely, for true solid state, molecules are in regular arrangement to which is associated a definite crystalline form [17]; and this coincides with the raised millenary structures of the Five Regular Polyhedrons that we set out to analyze in this work.

Balance between Structure and Function: Morphic Resonance [11]

Near the beginning of last century, André Thomas (Figure 17) created the concept of "Muscle Tone [18] and the approach of their respective disorders (hypertrophy – hypotrophy – dystrophy) [19], opening a new field into Neurology; focusing the research into these diseases during early neurological stages (Figure 18,19).



Figures 17, 18 and 19: André Thomas and examples of dystrophy and hypotrophy [18].

While Richard Buchminster Fuller defined Tensegrity referring in Architecture or Engineering to "structures or isolated but closely related components in a continuous tensed network" [20], was Kenneth Snelson who provides the notion of Integrated Tension, naming Tensegritic System to "those that can absorb compression and distension then to resume its original structural pattern" [21] (Figure 20).



Figures 20: Tensegritic system [21].

For Fuller, another feature of these structures under floating compression is its mirror –enantiomorphic (symmetrical) image [20]; a model of structural balance, as the connective tissue components are arranged to interconnect at fascial level as interstitial matrix (Figure 21).



Figures 21: Comparison between structural and anatomic tensegritic systems.

Mariano Giacobone [11], in his masterful essay on the relationships between structure and function, shows us how Nature adapts its forms to its purposes.

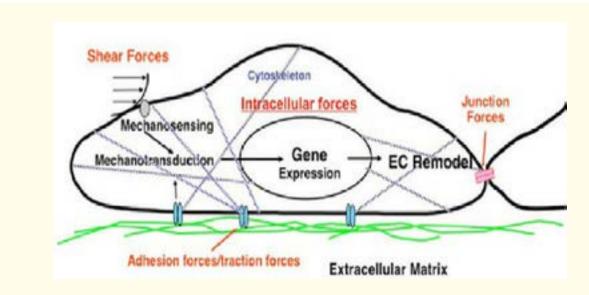
Extrapolated these terms expressed in TCM:

- Yin nourishes matter to enable its transformation into energy.
- Yang is the "embodied" energy function

Transferred to Human Biology, the various states of matter are recognized in both opposite polarities:

- Stroma: containment and support tissue
- Parenchyma: functional organ tissue [11].

When Fuller wrote about "bars" and "cables" components, made an indirect reference to membranes, as "elementary assemblies of connective tissue capable of providing resistance to torsion, compression, {traction} or both (flexion)". The fascial network – through its membrane function – can adapt it poured by André Thomas regarding "Muscle Tone" to that of "Cellular Tone", thus introducing the definition of "Mechanical Transduction" [11] on living tissue, thus allowing to understand it as: "the property of withstand constant tension on the cytoskeleton filaments" (Figure 22).



Figures 22: Intracellular Mechanical Transduction Reproduced from: http://chienlab.ucsd.edu/about

According to the author's opinion, this knowledge is clearly reflected in the physiopathology and therapeutic action of the relevant to each Tendinomuscular channel pertaining to its Main Meridian.

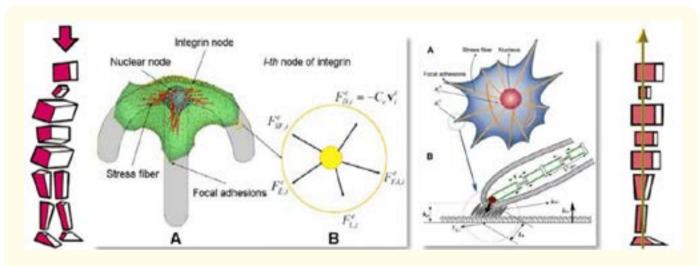
For Giaccobone, this property of Modern Physics enables the parenchyma to "encode" amplified or attenuated vibrations transmitted from the stroma as "widespread feeling" (T´ chi phenomenon) that reaches and influence on the cell nucleus [11].

This special feature, also called "Kinematic Indeterminacy", is a derived concept from Kinetics to understand changes within a (biological) system, adapting to maintain its internal balance. These complex bio-structural systems of Nature integrate the whole with each of its components for remain stable.

For this to happen, structure must have two fundamental properties:

- Tenacity
- Deformability

Both allow recovery of the original structural conformation, conceptualizing Tensegrity as a "Tensional Dimensional Integration" (Figure 23).



Figures 23: Reference from: http://web.mit.edu/smart/research/biosym/BioSyM-Research-Thrust%203.html

Finally, it said that Tensional Dimensional Integration lays its knowledge as heritage of Multidimensional Vector Geometry; and somehow we meet again with the statements delivered by Euclid, finding actual application in elation with the Morphogenetic Field Theory.

Relationship between Five Regular Polyhedrons and Morphogenetic Field Theory

In 1990, Rupert Sheldrake postulated the Hypothesis of Formative Causation following the theory of Morphic Fields: those whose organize and influence over shapes and behavior of natural systems.

Based upon Existential Inter-Dependence Theory, explained co-evolution by collective information fields nurtured by thoughts or habits that are in- forming the spice's memory, determining its development and progression. Quoted Morphic Fields describe the connection between the biological information encoded in cells and the Geometry that results of the development of that organism.

Morphogenetic structures conceptually summon Ancient Oriental wisdom –to be based on its perennial principles- and Euclid's Geometry as a mathematical support of its own reality. In some way, both knowledges can relate as they constitute – in the words of Rupert Sheldrake: in causative agents in the development and maintenance of biological forms" (Figure 24).



Figures 24: Biological polyhedral.

Following this line of thoughts, is worth analyzing the Criteria of Life promulgated by Fritj of Capra:

- Organizational patterns as configurative forms and order as their quality relations.
- Structure as physical embodiment of substance or matter according to amount ratio.
- Vital process by itself [11].

Discussion

Despite being current "official theory" of TCM, even in China was subjected to sharp criticism since ancient times, in an obvious satirical writings to its creator Zou Yen -350 -270 B.C. (nearly contemporary to Euclid). Skepticism was also manifested by wise Wan Cong, who considered is a rigid and imprecise system without corresponding scientific basis [22].

As such, the Five Phases' Theory classified countless elementary correlation phenomena in an attempt to categorize functions extrapolated from macrocosm to biological systems associated to growth and development.

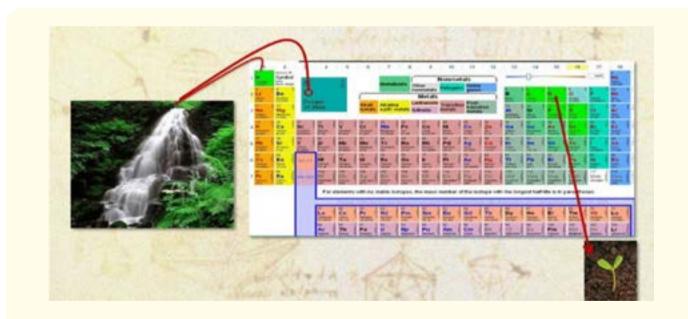
It was then, during the Han dynasty, these "medical speculations" were incorporated to the Chinese Medical Canon, culminating in the NeiJing to explain the etiology of causes, examining the Mutual Generation and Control of the Elements to apply them to the imbalance of the processes that give rise to each disease.

While it does not appear explicitly considered in the Wood within presented polyhedrons, it should be noted that –as the tetrahedron emulates the identical structure of the carbon atom – said polyhedron is related to the Element generated by it, which is Fire. It would be enough to consider coal as universal biological fuel for millennia to determine the appropriate of this correlation (Figure 25).



Figures 25: Similarity between the tetrahedron and the carbon atom structure.

Considering the other Regular Solids, Metal – represented by Lung and Large Intestine – can also be considered as Air. So is determined by TCM as well as Inorganic Chemistry since – as Professor Taubin [12] mentioned before – regarding hydrogen, it begins the Metals raw in Mendeleev Table. As it occurs in TCM, hydrogen can generate Water by combining with oxygen (Figure 26).



Figures 26: Earth and Metal element in Inorganic Chemistry and Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Finally, Earth is enriched with nitrogen from nitrifying bacteria, urea and other sources from "neighbourg" Elements as Fire (Figure 26).

The Molecular Kinetic Theory described in 1827 by the Scottish botanist Robert Brown [17] to discover the movement of colloidal micelles, was also endorsed by Maxwell and others that established the Kinetic Theory of Matter.

These theories can explain state changes of Elements and their Generation; Contradiction; Interdependence and Inter-Transformation, as Chinese Medicine proposed since millennia ago.

Precisely the same way succeeded Charles, Boyle, Mariotte and Vander Waals [17], stating its laws to explain evaporation through boiling, condensation and crystallization, applying Kinetic Theory to state changes.

Conclusion

It is possible to understand that the rigor of the exact Euclidean proof of the existence of five, only five to no more than Five Regular Polyhedrons can extrapolate the origin of the Five Elements to give foundation to Traditional Chinese Medicine principles.

Somehow, the oldest recorded medicine got solid basis to propose these Elements to study relationships between organizational structures, and thus explain both their physiology and possible pathological conditions resulting from their disharmony. Identical conclusions emerge when analyzing the Five Elements' Theory in the light of the knowledge given by Inorganic Chemistry: both give relevance to the same key elements needed for the origin of life in our planet: Carbon; Hydrogen; Oxygen and Nitrogen, essential for the development of amino acids; nucleic acids; amino sugars and its consequent polymers.

So early correspondence were established between climate and seasons; cardinal points and colors; between tastes, moods and foods; between emotions and their expressions; senses and sounds; between organs, viscus and their correspondent tissues; categorizing based upon a Fundamental Theory of Classification relationships between organizational structures; their physiology, pathology, behavioral and consequent energetic patterns. It is a wonderful symbolic system that still allow today understand and discuss the clinical reality of our patients.

Human energy is the basis on which Traditional Chinese Medicine is held; the exact cosmic projection as it was conceived in light of Taoism.

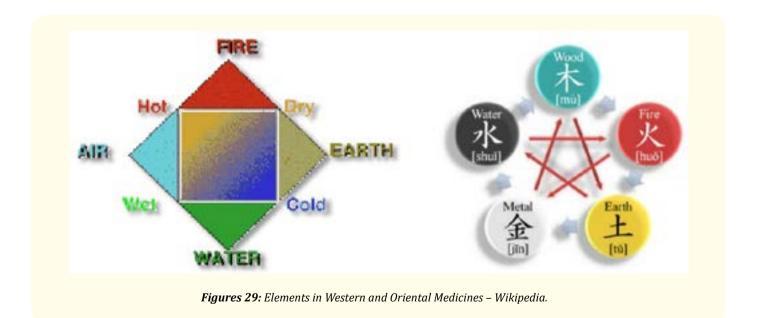
Identical origins had Hippocratic Medicine in Ancient Greece when Empedocles of Agrigento (504-433 B.C. (Figure 27) - almost contemporary to Zou Yen (Figure 28) formulated a made up of the essential elements, fully equivalent to East-looking, interpreting changes of matter in Nature and Man (Figure 29).



Figures 27: Empedocles of Agrigento.



Figures 28: Zou Yen.



According to Oriental sight, disease results from an energy imbalance that occurs on patient. For this reason, while Western medicine tries to resolve disease to relieve the sick, East heals the sick to let it overcome his illness.

This dynamic conception was performed on human chrono-biology for millennia, enabling the Chinese to manage complementary antagonisms of the human body as a self-regulated system by the delicate balance of their constant mutation.

Thus, it may be inferred that Chinese Medical Principles recognize an exact basis –derived from the oldest formal science there: Geometry – to support the dynamics of their precise relationships, linkages and inter-transformation, and their successful diagnosis and accuracy therapeutics through times.

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