

## A TEST OF POLYMORPHOUS-PERVERSE INSTINCTUAL DEVELOPMENT

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### ABSTRACT

It is first shown from the factor analytic studies of eight investigators that groups of attitudes, objectively measured, mark some six ergs ("instincts") as unitary factors. It is then shown that in addition to the high markers certain other attitudes load these factors in anomalistic low degrees. These indicate connections that may not be clinically easy to perceive or verify. A theory is developed that a more "dense" data base could yield primary factors below the general ergic factor, that represent Freudian and other concepts of polymorphously perverse instinctual fixations. A basis of separation of ordinary low loaded attitudes from such perversion manifestations is thus a suggested possibility.

### INTRODUCTION

Since psychoanalysis began to look for experimental support, the results have not been particularly successful (Eysenck, 1992). The most general reason for this is that the experimentalists followed the mainstream Wundtian concept of bivariate experiment, tested by ANOVA. Meanwhile multivariate, factor analytic methods were regarded, with a few exceptions like Kline (1972) and Cattell and Child (1975), as an irrelevant mathematical development. But one cannot experimentally represent a broad concept by the single variable in a bivariate experiment. For example, many pointless experiments have represented anxiety by a measure of skin resistance, whereas, as the OA Battery (Cattell & Schuerger, 1978) shows, at least eight diverse variables are needed to measure the factor analytically defined unitary concept.

A search for the nature and number of primary unitary instincts shows not one or two as Freud suggested, but seven or eight; sex, fear, narcissism, assertiveness, parental protectiveness, gregariousness, curiosity, pugnacity, and possibly rest-seeking and laughter. In scientific psychology these supersede the intuitive lists of Freud, Murray, Droyer, McDougall and others.

To avoid getting entangled in concepts of instinct for which we have no experimental basis, we have called those forces ergs, permitting the adjective ergic. Each points to an area of ultimate satisfaction to which our attitudes are subsidiated (to use Murray's term). In the factor analysis of a large number of human at-

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attitudes in our culture, the nature of these goals is indicated by the highest-loaded attitudes in each. For example, "I want to satisfy my sexual needs" loads mating (sex) .60, and "We must destroy our enemies" loads pugnacity .80.

The new dynamics, incidentally, does not measure attitudes by questionnaire but by objective test devices. The validity of these, such as projection, fantasy, learning rate, perseveration, systolic blood pressure change, decision speed and GSR, can be read in the opening researches (Cattell & Child, 1975). One should also note that the same ergic patterns have been found in the study of attitudes as states, in P-technique (Cattell, 1950; Cattell & Cross, 1952; Cattell & Horn, 1963).

### THE THEORY OF POLYMORPHOUS DEVELOPMENT

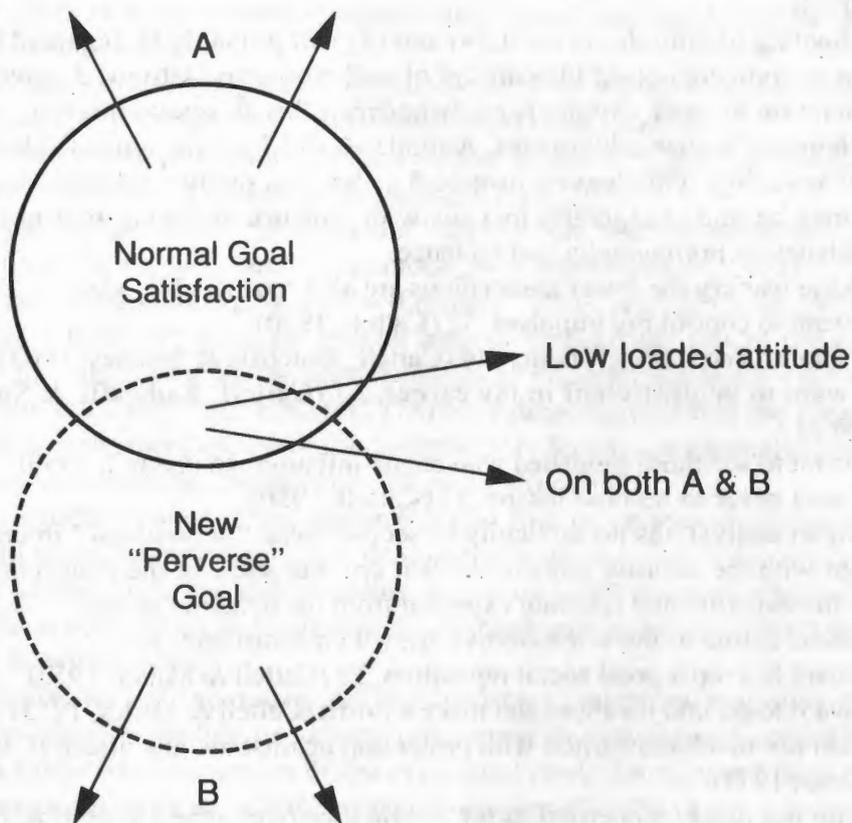
For reasons not yet understood (or capable of being understood at the advent of measurement) the ultimate goals to which ergs are naturally directed are sometimes subject to change. Sublimation may be considered such a case, though perhaps different in cause and nature from the early life "misdevelopments" which Freud described. They are perhaps due to sudden blockage of the normal outlets or to conflict with other ergs; but this question does not concern us at the present point. Our theory departs from Freud's only in assuming that the changes are not peculiar to sex, but can take place in any erg, and notably in fear, narcissism, and parental protectiveness (compassion).

Assuming that the change is gradual, we should soon have, in general, a situation as in Figure 1, in which the departing new center of desires, B, still overlaps with the old A. We should now expect to find among the attitudes loading A some of low loading, because they arise only from the remnant of A still in B.

It is necessary to consider this point also in factor analytic terms. When we find an attitude with a low but significant loading on a factor it may be due (a) to other factors accounting for much of its communality, (b) to an intrinsically weak action of the factor on that attitude, or (c) to the choice of variables being so restricted that the factor which really loads it does not appear on the factor list. The last can probably be ruled out in the experiments to be cited, because the experimenters were deliberately led by the personality-sphere rule. That is to say, they included variables touching every region of the interests of an individual in our culture.

The choice of (b) is to be based partly on a psychological judgment that the nature of the low attitude does not fully express A, and partly on the assumption of small overlap of the factors, which causes only a part of the variance of A to be active.

There is no solution yet to be obtained from knowing what new desires operate in B. In fact it might be argued that if B really exists, we should already have picked it up as an attitude loading pattern. But in our experiments no pathological attitudes were used to pick up B, and it would be likely to appear in only a minority of subjects, thus escaping factor analytic representatives in the general public. We must therefore look for significantly but low loaded attitudes in A which appear to have no very good connection, psychologically, with A.

**Figure 1**

### EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

We may now examine a variety of experiments in which low loadings have occurred in addition to the high loadings marking the erg. The instrument used in these experiments was the MAT (Cattell & Child, 1975). The samples of normal adults used varied from research study to research study. One study involved 160 married couples, another study used 199 Air Force cadets, and in another study, 277 normals were used. The factor analytic procedures laid particular emphasis on rotation to maximum simple structure. A full summary of studies to 1975 is found in Cattell and Child (1975).

A classical instance is the notoriously polymorphously perverse sex erg, which, in addition to unquestionable sex markers (See Cattell & Child, 1975, p. 38) has shown the following loadings:

1. I want to indulge in smoking .34 (Cattell & Baggaley, 1958)
2. I want to indulge in drinking .45 (Cattell & Baggaley, 1958)
3. I want to travel and see the world .32 (Cattell, 1950)
4. I want to visit more good restaurants .34 (Cattell, 1950)
5. I want to see more violent movies .25 (Cattell & Child, 1975)
6. I do not care about my general reputation .34 (Cattell & Child, 1975)
7. I am not concerned with a sense of duty .29 (Cattell & Child, 1975)

8. I want an alcoholic drink .27 (Birkett & Cattell, 1988)

From now on, for ease of reference, attitudes will be designated by their numbers in this article.

The loading of attitudes (1), (2), (4) and (8) will probably be regarded by any Freudian as confirmation of the concept of oral eroticism. Attitude 3 agrees with the association in most mammals of "wandering" with sexual interest, and the leaving home of human adolescents. Attitudes 6 and 7 are the typical side effects of a free sexuality. This leaves attitude 5 as beyond ready explanation, unless movies may be said to regularly mix sex with violence, but adds evidence to the recent debates on pornography and violence.

With the fear erg the lower associations are also reconcilable, viz:

9. I want to control my impulses .32 (Cattell, 1950)

10. I want to know myself better .44 (Cattell, Radcliffe & Sweney, 1963)

11. I want to be proficient in my career .37 (Cattell, Radcliffe & Sweney, 1963)

12. I want to see those punished who create inflation .44 (Cattell, 1950)

13. I want never to become insane .37 (Cattell, 1950)

Again an analyst has no difficulty in seeing these "anomalous" interests as consistent with the security aims of the fear erg, but some of the connections are scarcely the experimental learning expected from the dynamic lattice.

The same is true of the self-assertive erg which contributes to:

14. I want to keep a good social reputation .28 (Cattell & Miller, 1952)

15. I want to go into business and make a profit (Cattell & Miller, 1952)

16. I am not much concerned with protection against nuclear attack (Cattell & Child, 1975)

17. I am not much concerned to see public vice overcome (Cattell & Baggaley, 1958)

18. I want to have an easy time .47 (Cattell & Baggaley, 1958)

In this case we scent a slightly different quality from that popularly assigned to self-assertion, namely a self-centered dismissal of public responsibilities.

An interesting discovery in the early days of the factorial experiments in dynamic calculus was that Freud was right in distinguishing two forms of the sex drive, namely, the ordinary heterosexual drive and what I have shortened in past writings as narcissism. Its revelatory attitudes, beyond those of the primary, self-centered sensuality items are:

19. I want to rest late in bed .86 (Cattell & Baggaley, 1958)

20. I do not particularly want to stick to my job .61 (Cattell & Baggaley, 1958)

21. I want to see divorce made easier (Cattell & Child, 1975)

22. I want to see more violent movies .55 (Cattell & Child, 1975)

23. I want more time to myself .43 (Cattell & Child, 1975)

24. I want to drink more alcohol .58 (Birkett & Cattell, 1978)

In this case, the arguments for subsidiation to a narcissistic goal are obscure in the cases of attitudes 21 and 22. But the data shows definitely that a connection must be found, in the average person. We observe, however, that the narcissistic erg has given a few anomalous results in associated experimental work. For example, among 250 medical doctors, it was at a significantly higher level in those who held presidential, secretarial, treasurer, etc. positions in local medical societies. It is possibly an erg that has a special facility to sublimate. Besides its correlation

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of .58 with the ordinary sex drive, it has a correlation of .42 with autism (M Factor in the 16PF test) and of .35 with the protective pitying erg (Cattell & Horn, 1963). There is room for more intensive study of the Narcism factor, in both its U and its I components

We next approach pugnacity, a component often mixed with self-assertion in "aggression". There are two significantly loaded non-markers:

25. I want more protection against a nuclear bomb .45 (Cattell & Child, 1975)

26. I want to take life easy .31 (Cattell & Child, 1975)

The parental protective "compassion" erg also has two non-markers:

27. I want to see birth control expanded .34 (Cattell & Child, 1975)

28. I do not mind damaging my "self respect" .29 (Cattell & Child, 1975)

This points to the erg being the general basis of altruism and lack of self-concern.

For the busy clinician the time demands of P-technique make it a "deluxe" treatment, but Cattell and Birkett (1978) have demonstrated that the time on a P-technique experiment can safely be powerfully reduced, to a clinically practicable series of occasions, say 50, without loss of the structure.

The general upshot of this research is that firm correlational evidence can be given to trace the particular ergic depth origins of most interests, and with secondary assumptions, for understanding the nature of perversions which clinicians have been compelled to recognize as changed goals on intuitive procedures (Fogel & Myers, 1990).

The problem of separating the low loading of attitudes that arise from the attitudes sharing loading on several other ergic factors from those which arise from a sublimated distortion of the ergic goal itself can perhaps be tackled by other observations than we have primarily suggested in (b) above. Meanwhile we have a method for throwing the attitude (or symptom) into one of a two class category. Possibly more developed factor analysis will present a better way to recognize these ergic goal variants.

The experiment required to check this adequately would be to take a more refined, closely-packed data base of attitudes (much as Goldberg & Norman used in the personality field) obtaining subprimaries which placed the original 16PF primaries as if they secondaries (second order factors). We hypothesize that in sex there would appear individual differences in each of several "perverse" (or undeveloped) satisfactions in such primaries as oral erotic sex, anal erotic sex, homosexuality, and so on.

This experiment is of the highest importance in the developing field of the dynamic calculus (Cattell, 1985). It is true that an early pioneer study of the oral erotic personality by Kline (1972) failed to give a definite, positive result in finding unity factors for Freudian concepts. But this study was undertaken in an early stage of the art of factor analysis and should not discourage opening up the whole question of determining the structure of dynamic factors in terms of factor analytic defined areas of satisfaction.

The above experiments are mainly carried out by R-technique (correlations across people) but the agreement is good with P-technique (Birkett & Cattell, 1978) results treating ergic levels within an individual.

In summary we have shown (1) that factor analytic correlational methods can reveal the ergs and the ergic goals of any specific course of action (and therefore

of symptoms), and (2) that lower loadings in certain conditions, can reveal that an attitude (symptom) derives from a changed form of an ergic satisfaction pattern, and is what Freud described as polymorphously perverse.

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