

## EP 59 - The Geometry Of Stability

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Today I'm getting geometric about how I think about systems. The more angles you have in a system, the harder it becomes for one single point within it to affect the balance point of the entire system. It's an analogy applicable to many things. It can help us avoid binary thinking and advocate for more diversity of opinions and experiences.



Imagine a straight line drawn between two points: A and B.

This shape is a system, with two opposing points at the ends of the line.

This system can represent everything in between two opposite perspectives:

- Start and finish
- Good and evil
- Positive and negative
- Love and hate
- Democrats and Republicans

Within this single-line system, the end points dictate the entire scope of possible options between them.

Each point carries a lot of power.

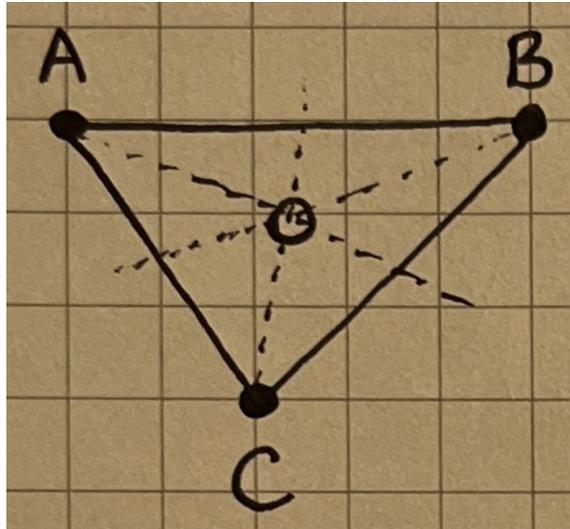
Consider when A moves further away from B, or outside influences force them apart.

The middle of that system will shift exactly half the distance of that change.

Such a system lacks stability.

There's a reason tables don't have 2 legs.

Yet the line creates the first dimension: With infinitely more scope than a single point of view.



Adding a third perspective point takes us into the second dimension.

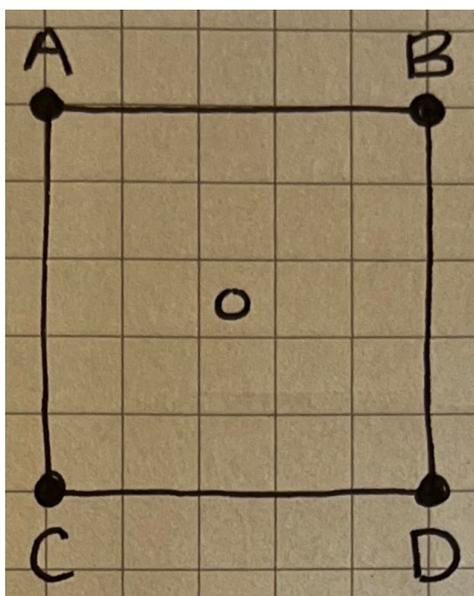
Our single-line system becomes a triangle.

Now, a shift in one point results in the middle of that system shifting only a third of the distance of the change.

The entire system is therefore better anchored.

It's balance impacted less merely by the presence of that third point.

There's infinitely more options in the shape of triangles than of lines.





Yet each remains important to the balance of the overall system.

Removing them reduces the integrity of the system.

Making it harder to withstand the impacts of the outside world.

What anchors have we provided ourselves?

More perspectives provides us greater stability to navigate our world.

The easier it becomes to stand strong when a leg is kicked out from under our metaphorical table.

The easier it becomes to see all the shades of color between black and white.

For those craving greater stability, a solution becomes clear: Seek more perspectives of high quality.

Advocate for more angles in our society: More voices around the table.

With stronger, more stable systems, together we can better handle outside forces.

King Arthur's round table provided equal status to his many seated and trusted voices.

## Episode Quote

Today's quote comes from one of the inspirations for today's episode:

The book [\*Flatland: A Romance of Many Dimensions\* by Edwin Abbott](#).

This book from 1884 is an early classic of science fiction, which layered mathematical & philosophical theories onto variations of worlds existing in different dimensions. The quote itself is out of context and doesn't do justice to the book, but it's a fun way to close out the episode.



*"If you would talk less nonsense, you would remember more sense."*