

# Paper 1

I consider this paper to be the main work in this thesis. It is here that the foundations are laid. This paper presents the general framework of evolution and shows how it can be applied as a model of the mind.

The model that the paper presents is to a great extent inspired by the work on Neural Darwinism by Gerald Edelman. I had the pleasure of hearing him lecture here in Lund in connection with an anniversary of the Nobel Award. My own contribution to this field, I feel, is an application of the evolutionary concepts to cognitive processes that is more straightforward than the Neural Darwinism of Edelman.

Another main source of inspiration for this paper is Robert Pirsig's metaphysics of Quality. This metaphysics deals with systems that *change*. The theory emphasizes that a system cannot describe its own dynamics and Pirsig builds his metaphysics around this fact. His work helped me to recognize that this is also an important feature of evolution. This paper could have used the terminology of Pirsig to describe the very same things that it now does. The terminology is, after all, merely a tool that we use to point to the idea we are trying to advocate. But since Pirsig's terminology is not as widely recognized as the evolutionary apparatus, I chose to utilize the latter.

Since I consider this as the main work of the thesis, the other papers relate to this one in one way or other. The second paper, "An Inquiry into Meno's Dilemma," is probably the most obviously related paper. It simply applies the evolutionary view of the

mind to the issue of knowledge acquisition. The other three papers concern a model of motion detection and it might be harder to see the relation of this main paper to that model. The model of motion detection, however, can be seen as an illustration of the principles outlined in the main paper. In this model, like in the evolutionary view of the mind, noise, in the form of spontaneous neural activity, plays a crucial role. The model of motion detection, therefore, serves as a concrete working example of the more abstract ideas outlined in the "Mind as Evolution and Evolution as Such" paper.