

THE TRUTH OF FICTION

Fiction is not lies, or errors. These are
fictive, not fiction.

Lies are deception; errors are delusions
or inaccuracies. Fiction is overt, not
covert.

FICTION GIVES US WAYS TO UNDERSTAND

Using consistent and coherent
patterns and examples

From FACTUAL examples
we induce patterns.

These enable us to **create**
possibilities

FICTION

is ordered in the form
of possible narrative -
a **model** to aid

understanding

FICTION

creates possibilities which fit the model
– the frame for understanding.

They are truly possible if the pattern is true

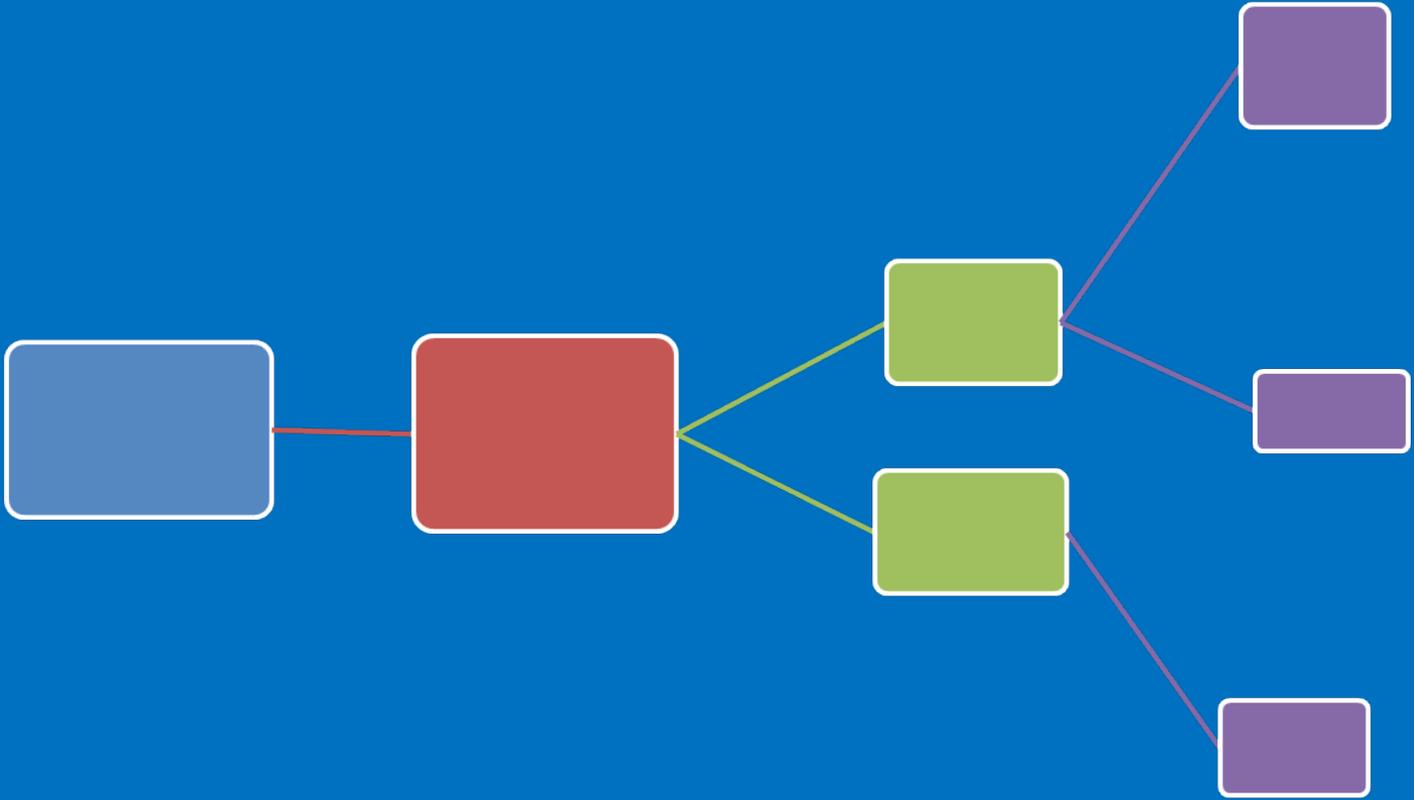
AXIOM:

A pattern is 'true' to the extent that it repeats.

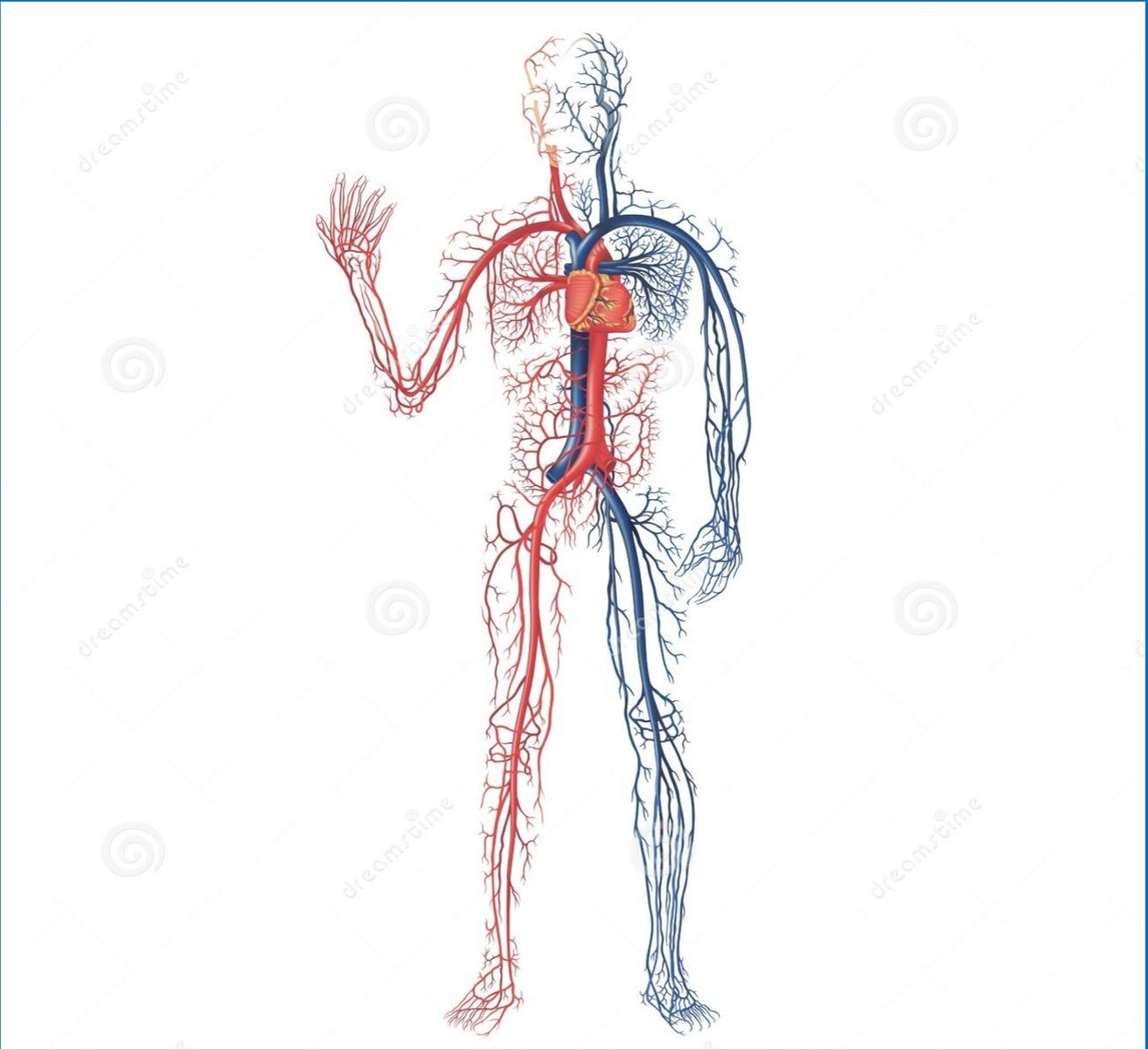
(NB This is definitional, not a metaphysical claim.)

PATTERNS:

repetitions in time and space
enable types, language, reason
- understanding







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Science and fiction:

in contrast but complementary

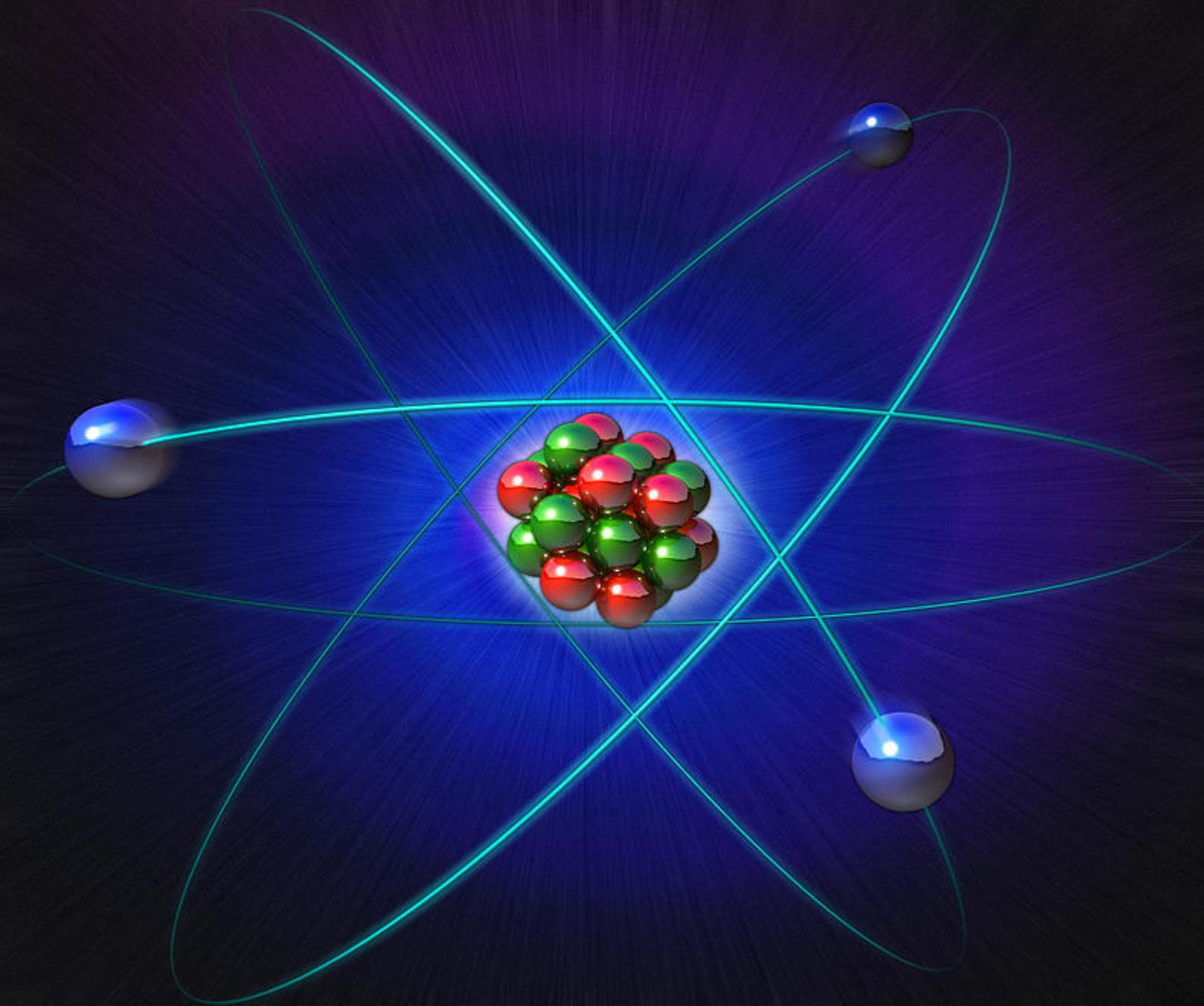
- Science – from facts to patterns: context-free
- Fiction – from patterns to possible examples:
contextualised

Two different contracts,
but a similar result:
freedom to discover.

So, in what sense is fiction 'true'?

Authors aim for truth by telling stories.

Storytelling
begins with myths and fables





The possible

- Understanding lets in the *possible* - two kinds of freedom.
- Fiction is truth as coherence: and non-contradiction: concordance, harmony and fit.

Ways of seeing

- The best fiction grants a fresh vision.
- Other minds, other worlds

Overt versus covert fictions

- Covert fictions present a narrative to account for origins, history, mystery and moral compulsions.
- Overt fictions open up options.

Falsification

- In fiction, we judge as 'false' what appears 'insincere':
 - falsely motivated and/or falsely mediated
 - does not relate to our patterns of experience.

- Terry Pratchett:

- *“Fantasy can’t get you anywhere; but it tones up the muscles that can.”*