

A Common Theory of Oriental Medicine

An Integral Model for the System of Acupuncture Channels

Temur Bako and Susanna Gabrielyan

Part 1

The Transformed Energy Circulation Cycle

The suggested integral model of the meridian system stems from the Energy Circulation Cycle (Fig. 1) as it is accepted by the traditional Chinese Medicine (*Wei level*).

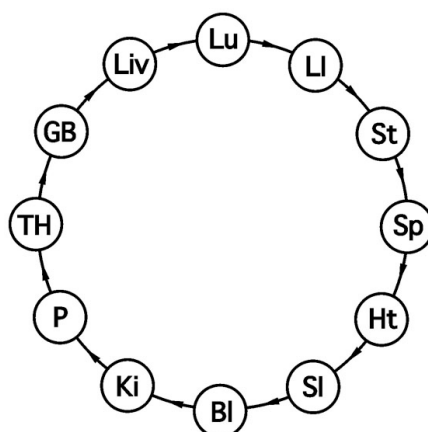


Fig.1. Energy Circulation Cycle.

Several subsequent modifications of the Energy Circulation Cycle provide a graphic base for what we called Transformed Energy Circulation Cycle (TECC). To achieve that we first marked all the *yin* meridians with dark-coloured tones, and all the *yang* meridians with light-coloured tones (Fig. 2A). Then we joined the coupled meridians together (Fig. 2B) and placed them along the cycle so that all the *yang* meridians were outside, and all the *yin* meridians were inside the cycle (Fig. 2C). The resulted in transformed image of the Energy Circulation Cycle consisted of six groups of coupled meridians. It should be noted that there is no fundamental difference between TECC (Fig. 2C) and the classical way of depicting the Energy Circulation Cycle (Fig. 1).

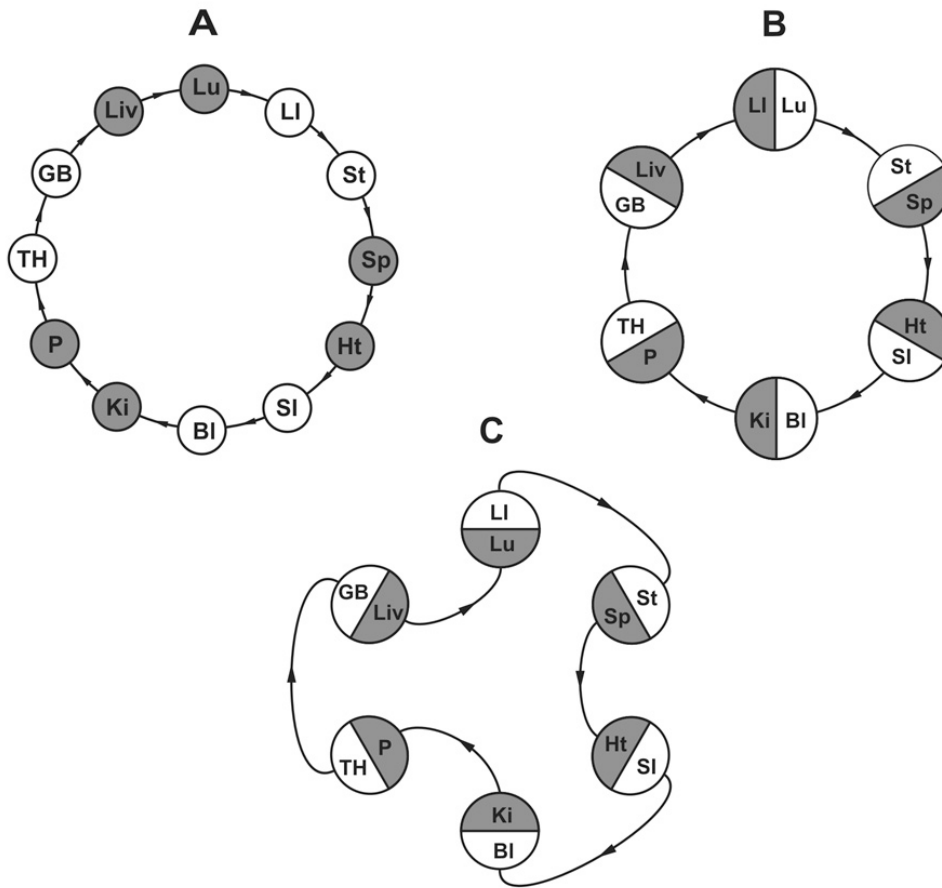


Fig. 2. Transformation of Energy Circulation Circle.

We can use TECC as a platform to follow up all the known connections between the meridians. This can be done by applying one simple principle: any link between meridians is to be shown as a line, straight or curved. For example, Fig. 3 shows three pairs of Hand-Foot *yang* meridians and three pairs of Hand-Foot *yin* meridians (Table 1) [4, 7, 10].

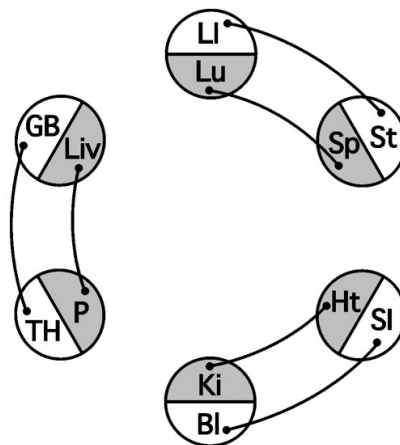


Fig. 3. Six Big Meridians.

Table 1. Six Principal Meridians.

Connection of meridians	Point of connection	Graphic designation of connection - <i>line</i>
Small intestine Urinary bladder	Bl 1	<i>SI - Bl</i>
Large intestine Stomach	St 1	<i>LI - ST</i>
Gall bladder Three heaters	HT 21	<i>GB - HT</i>
Spleen-pancreas Lungs	CV 12	<i>Sp - Lu</i>
Liver Pericardium	CV 18	<i>Liv - P</i>
Heart Kidney	CV 23	<i>Ht - Ki</i>

Similar representations can be made for other system connections.

The law of midday-midnight states that in each 24-hour period each official (meridian) has a period of 2 hours when it is at its maximum energy. Fig. 4 illustrates the meridian connections according to the law of midday-midnight (Table 2).

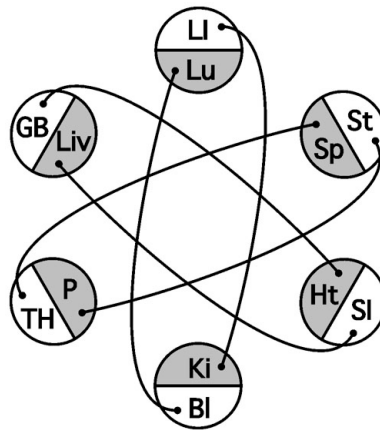


Fig. 4. Meridians Connected by 'Midday - Midnight' Law.

Table 2. Meridians Connected by 'Midday - Midnight' Law

Meridians	Hrs of max activity	Graphic designation of connection - <i>line</i>
Lungs Ur. bladder	3 - 5 15 - 17	<i>Lu - Bl</i>
Large intestine Kidney	5 - 7 17 - 19	<i>LI - Ki</i>
Stomach Pericardium	7 - 9 19 - 21	<i>St - P</i>
Spleen-pancreas Three heaters	9 - 11 21 - 23	<i>Sp - HT</i>
Heart Gall bladder	11 - 13 23 - 1	<i>Ht - GB</i>
Small intestine Liver	13 - 15 1 - 3	<i>SI - Liv</i>

Another example of meridian grouping is via meeting points [4, 7] connecting three upper yin meridians, three upper yang meridians, three lower yin meridians and three lower yang meridians (Fig. 5; Table 3).

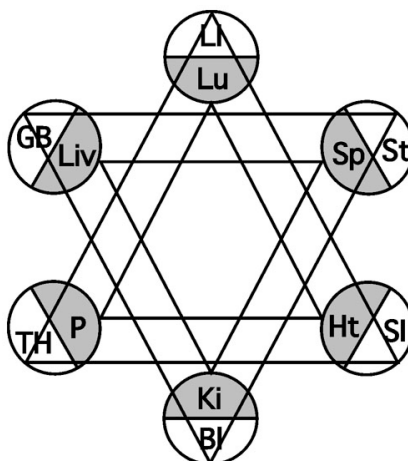


Fig. 5. Groupings of Hand and Foot (upper and lower) Meridians.

Table 3. Groupings of hand and foot meridians.

Meridians	Group lo-point	Graphic designation of connection - <i>triangle</i>
Lungs Heart Pericardium	P 5	<i>Lu - Ht - P</i>
Liver Spleen -pancreas Kidney	Sp 6	<i>Liv -Sp - Ki</i>
Large intestine Small intestine Three heaters	TH 8	<i>LI - SI - TH</i>
Gall bladder Stomach Ur. bladder	GB 39	<i>GB - St - Bl</i>

The 'missing' extraordinary meridians

When we applied our graphic model of the meridian connections to extraordinary vessels two additional pairs of extraordinary meridians emerged from the picture. In other words, we found two 'missing' links within the system. There are 8 known extraordinary vessels [4, 6, 7, 10]. Each of these meridians has an opening point or a master point, and a coupling point which connect the extraordinary meridians into pairs (Table 4A).

Table 4A. Eight Extraordinary meridians.

Group	Pair	Extraordinary meridians	Master point	Graphic designation of connection - <i>line</i>
I	I	Du mai Yang-chiao mai	SI 3 Bl 62	<i>SI - Bl</i>
	II	Yang-wei mai Dai mai	TH 5 GB 41	<i>TH - GB</i>
II	III	Ren mai Yin-chiao mai	Lu 7 Ki 6	<i>Lu - Ki</i>
	IV	Yin-wai mai Chong mai	P 6 Sp 4	<i>P - Sp</i>

If we look at all the diagrams described above (Fig. 3–5) we can see that all the links on them are symmetrical. When we transfer the known connections between the extraordinary meridians onto our graphic model (Fig. 6A) an unusual asymmetry catches the eye, and the possibility of existence of two more meridian pairs becomes apparent (Fig. 6B; Table 4B).

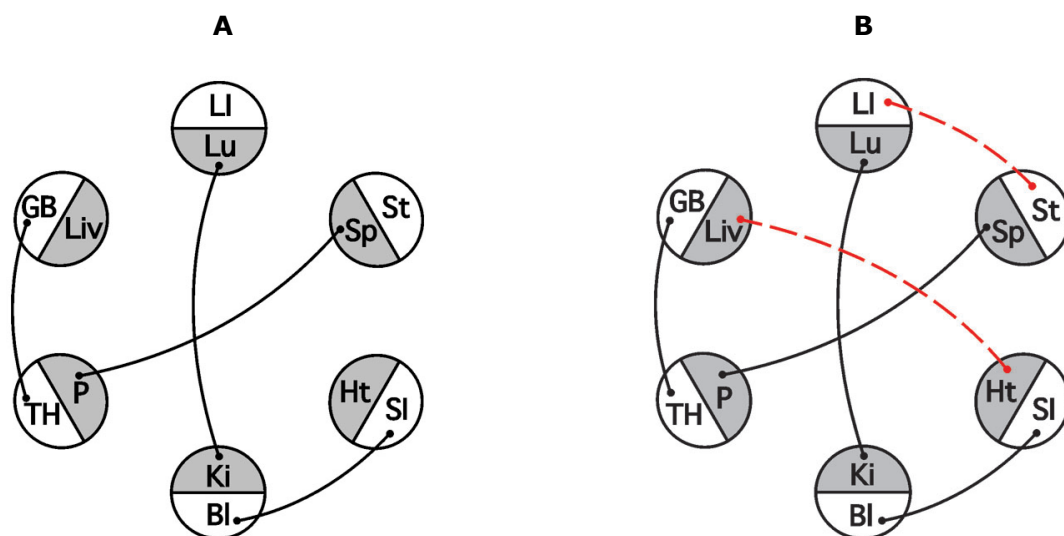


Fig. 6. 'Missing' Extraordinary Meridians

It is to be noted that the all known master points are located on the eight main meridians. A fundamental question arises: why cannot the remaining four channels carry similar key points? To find out what are the master points of the new extraordinary meridians we made the following observations:

- 1) all known master points are located on the 8 main meridians
- 2) 4 out of 8 known master points are junction points
- 3) the other 4 points are anatomically located between the junction points and the phalanx of toes or fingers
- 4) none of the known master points are source, sedation or Xi (Cleft) points [4,7].

Table 4B. Twelve extraordinary meridians.

Group	Pair	Extraordinary meridians	Master point	Graphic designation of connection - <i>line</i>
I	I	Du mai Yang-chiao mai	SI 3 BI 62	<i>SI - BI</i>
	II	Yang-wei mai Dai mai	TH 5 GB 41	<i>TH - GB</i>
	V		LI 3, 5, 6 St 41, 43	LI - St
II	III	Ren mai Yin-chiao mai	Lu 7 Ki 6	<i>Lu - Ki</i>
	IV	Yin-wai mai Chong mai	P 6 Sp 4	<i>P - Sp</i>
	VI		Liv 4 Ht 5, 8	Liv - Ht

Taken together these observations suggest the following plausible master points for the new meridians:

on the Heart channel – Ht 5 or Ht 8

on the Liver channel – Liv 4

on the Large Intestine channel – LI3, LI 5 or LI 6

on the Stomach channel – St 41 or St 43