

# Modular Spiral Cognition

## Value Lens Primer

*Understanding the Filters That Shape Perception and Priorities*

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In **Modular Spiral Cognition (MSC)**, **Value Lenses** shape what we notice, prioritize, and care about. Each Lens functions as a temporary internal filter — not a personality type or belief system, but a *Mode of Governance that becomes active in certain domains or situations*. When a Lens is active, it changes how the mind interprets reality, what it flags as important, and what it tends to overlook.

*These Lenses do not operate alone.* They influence — and are influenced by — the internal Subsystems that guide cognition: the **Reactor**, **Interpreter**, and **Observer**. A **Value Lens** shapes what's seen. The **RIO System** decides what's done with it.

**Note:** This document introduces four Core Lenses — Red, Blue, Orange, and Green — as the structural foundation for understanding MSC's value system model. It also includes Yellow, a fifth Lens that operates differently: not as a primary worldview, but as a reflective mode that seeks integration across Lenses. This document is designed to be read alongside the companion guide, *The RIO System Primer – Understanding the Reactor–Interpreter–Observer Subsystem Dynamics*, which outlines the Subsystems that govern internal processing and alignment. These frameworks are intended to function in tandem. Neither offers a complete picture on its own.

The Five Lenses presented here — **Red**, **Blue**, **Orange**, **Green**, and **Yellow** — were selected for their relevance to adult cognition and real-world Value Conflict. Other Lenses exist within **MSC**, but were intentionally excluded to keep the focus clear, grounded, and immediately applicable. Their inclusion may be addressed in future research.

The goal of this guide is not to map the full terrain of human development, but to offer a clear, immediately applicable framework for understanding how Values shape perception and Governance in real-world adult life.

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# **Red: The Urgency Lens**

*Power, Protection, and Immediate Survival*

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## **How This Lens Filters Experience**

The **Red Lens** prioritizes strength, loyalty, and control in environments where safety feels unstable or trust is conditional.

It filters for threat, dominance, betrayal, and disrespect — shaping reality around the need to survive, protect, or assert oneself before being overpowered.

**Red Governance** is urgent, personal, and emotionally charged. It favors action over deliberation, power over vulnerability, and simplicity over complexity. When this Lens is active, the System tends to collapse nuance in favor of clarity, speed, and self-preservation.

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## **The Red Perspective**

**Red** sees the world as a competitive space where power must be asserted to avoid exploitation. Trust must be earned. Status must be maintained. Action must be swift.

Fairness is not assumed. Forgiveness is not free. Value is proven through loyalty, strength, or fear.

**Red** aligns quickly with those who protect its interests and responds forcefully to those who threaten them.

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## **How Red Communicates**

- **Tone:** *Direct, charged, reactive*
- **Common Language:**
  - “Don’t mess with me.”*
  - “You have no idea what I’ve been through.”*
  - “Respect is earned.”*
  - “They’re dead to me.”*
  - “I had no choice.”*

**Red** language is emotionally raw. It emphasizes personal harm, moral absolutes, or loyalty lines. Conversations often move quickly toward judgment, defense, or escalation — especially if the person feels cornered or disrespected.

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## In Practice

The **Red Lens** is often activated in contexts where the System perceives threat — not always physical, but psychological, social, or emotional.

It may arise in situations of betrayal, conflict, trauma, or identity invalidation.

**Red Governance** can be protective and brave — especially when others are being harmed. But without balance, it may escalate unnecessarily, shut down nuance, or lash out to regain control.

### **RIO System Interplay Example:**

*When the **Reactor Subsystem** is leading under a **Red Lens**, urgency often overrides interpretation or reflection entirely. The **Interpreter Subsystem** may generate narratives that justify retaliation, while the **Observer Subsystem** — if present at all — is likely reduced to post-hoc rationalization. For more on how Subsystems interact with **Value Lenses**, see **The RIO System Primer** companion document.*

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## Common Patterns

- Quick escalation when disrespected
  - Strong alliances with “us” and hard rejection of “them”
  - Suspicion of weakness, emotional vulnerability, or moral complexity
  - Idealization of strength, revenge, or “winning”
  - Difficulty trusting those who question the logic of loyalty or retaliation
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## Growth Edge

**Red’s** power lies in its refusal to be passive in the face of danger — but Governance from **Red** becomes distorted when control replaces clarity and dominance replaces discernment.

Growth often begins when the System:

- Recognizes that safety does not always require control
- Learns to pause between emotion and action
- Allows reflection or principled interpretation to co-govern with instinct

When **Red** integrates with other Lenses and Subsystems, it can evolve from raw reaction to purposeful action — becoming a protector of boundaries and a force for courage, rather than control.

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# **Blue: The Order Lens**

*Stability, Structure, and Moral Obligation*

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## **How This Lens Filters Experience**

The **Blue Lens** filters for stability, structure, and moral consistency. It prioritizes doing what's right over doing what feels good or efficient. When **Blue** is active, the mind seeks clear standards, defined roles, and a predictable moral framework to govern behavior — both internally and externally.

**Blue** sees chaos, ambiguity, or moral compromise as threats to order. This **Lens** anchors identity in duty, tradition, and structure — offering safety through obedience and meaning through sacrifice.

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## **The Blue Perspective**

**Blue** interprets the world through rules, roles, and responsibilities. There is a right way to behave — and part of being good is holding oneself and others accountable to it. Discipline is a virtue. Respect is earned through consistency. Freedom must be tempered by structure, or it becomes dangerous.

**Blue** honors the past, trusts established systems, and often sees personal desires as distractions from what truly matters.

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## **How Blue Communicates**

- **Tone:** *Measured, principled, occasionally rigid*
- **Common Language:**
  - "That's just wrong."*
  - "It's not about what you want — it's about what's right."*
  - "They need to be held accountable."*
  - "I don't care how you feel — this is the rule."*
  - "Someone has to do the hard thing."*

**Blue** language often appeals to principle over preference. Emotions may be acknowledged but are rarely allowed to lead. Discussions often turn toward obligation, consistency, and justice, with little patience for ambiguity or gray areas.

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## In Practice

The **Blue Lens** activates most strongly in situations where trust, fairness, or societal order feels under threat. It often arises in the face of moral compromise, irresponsibility, or perceived disrespect for established norms.

At its best, **Blue** creates cohesion, accountability, and ethical integrity. At its worst, it can become rigid, punitive, or blind to suffering when empathy appears to challenge the rules.

### **RIO System Interplay Example:**

*When the **Interpreter Subsystem** governs under a **Blue Lens**, it tends to enforce a coherent belief system with strong moral logic, often suppressing input from the **Reactor Subsystem** (emotion) or **Observer Subsystem** (reflection) if they introduce moral uncertainty.*

***Blue** coherence can create deep internal conviction — but may resist adaptation, especially when Values feel non-negotiable. For more on how Subsystems shape Value Interpretation, see **The RIO System Primer** document.*

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## Common Patterns

- Strong sense of duty and self-restraint
  - Deep loyalty to structures, institutions, or traditions
  - Difficulty accepting moral ambiguity or alternative worldviews
  - Use of guilt, shame, or moral framing to influence others
  - Struggles with adaptability when rules conflict with outcomes
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## Growth Edge

**Blue** offers strength through discipline, responsibility, and commitment to what's right. But Governance from **Blue** becomes distorted when structure replaces awareness and obedience replaces wisdom.

Growth begins when the System:

- Learns that fairness is not always sameness
- Recognizes the value of emotional and contextual input
- Allows rules to serve people, not the other way around

When **Blue** integrates with other Lenses and internal Subsystems, it evolves from enforcer to steward — upholding shared Values while making space for human complexity. At its most aligned, **Blue** becomes a builder of trust and a guardian of principled, compassionate order.

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## **Orange: The Ambition Lens**

*Achievement, Autonomy, and Strategic Progress*

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### **How This Lens Filters Experience**

The **Orange Lens** filters for results, competence, and personal advancement. It frames the world as a space of *opportunity and competition* — a place where success comes from smart choices, individual effort, and measurable outcomes.

When **Orange** is active, the System prioritizes what works over what's traditional or emotionally satisfying. Efficiency, self-determination, and goal orientation rise to the forefront. The Lens challenges inherited wisdom, emotional appeals, and rigid moral frameworks when they obstruct progress.

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### **The Orange Perspective**

**Orange** sees the world as a system to navigate and improve.

*You get what you earn. Ideas should be tested. Progress should be visible. Life is a game of strategy — and mastery is the goal.*

In this view, freedom is about agency. Truth is discovered through logic and results. People succeed not by following rules, but by understanding the rules well enough to transcend them.

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### **How Orange Communicates**

- **Tone:** *Confident, analytical, persuasive*
- **Common Language:**
  - "What's the actual data say?"*
  - "Work smarter, not harder."*
  - "Why should I trust that structure?"*
  - "They're just playing the victim."*
  - "It's not personal — it's about results."*

**Orange** language tends to emphasize logic, performance, and innovation. Emotional appeals are often reframed as distractions, and tradition is challenged if it can't be justified pragmatically. Integrity matters — *but* it must be aligned with impact.

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## In Practice

The **Orange Lens** tends to activate in environments that reward individual effort, innovation, or measurable outcomes — such as competitive workplaces, goal-driven communities, or moments of strategic independence.

At its best, **Orange** unlocks potential, challenges stagnation, and empowers people to lead with vision and precision. At its worst, it can become manipulative, self-serving, or dismissive of the human costs behind success.

### **RIO System Interplay Example:**

*When the **Interpreter Subsystem** governs under an **Orange Lens**, it tends to reframe morality in terms of fairness, merit, or consequence. The **Observer Subsystem** may be co-opted to optimize strategy rather than question Values, while the **Reactor Subsystem** is often minimized unless its emotions can be leveraged toward performance or persuasion.*

*To understand how Subsystems and Lenses shape one another, see **The RIO System Primer** document.*

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## Common Patterns

- Drive for excellence, innovation, and independence
  - High tolerance for complexity — but low patience for inefficiency
  - Preference for data, analysis, and scalable solutions
  - Competitive framing of success, often tied to self-worth
  - Difficulty accepting constraints imposed by emotion, tradition, or collective needs
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## Growth Edge

**Orange** thrives when empowered to act and equipped to win — but Governance from **Orange** becomes distorted when strategy replaces empathy and success becomes identity.

Growth begins when the System:

- Learns to distinguish between *optimization* and *alignment*
- Recognizes the *limitations of logic* in matters of meaning or connection

- Integrates *emotional and ethical wisdom* into its pursuit of impact

When **Orange** matures, it no longer seeks success at any cost — it redefines success to include integrity, interdependence, and long-term wellbeing. At its most aligned, **Orange** becomes a force for innovation with conscience and ambition with depth.

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## **Green: The Empathy Lens**

*Harmony, Inclusion, and Shared Understanding*

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### **How This Lens Filters Experience**

The **Green Lens** filters for emotional safety, relational harmony, and inclusivity. It prioritizes connection over correctness, and understanding over control. When this Lens is active, the System becomes attuned to emotional tone, interpersonal context, and the subtle dynamics of power, exclusion, or belonging.

**Green** softens sharp edges. It de-emphasizes rigid structure and unilateral truth in favor of mutual respect, dialogue, and care. It sees coercion — even when well-intentioned — as a threat to authenticity and trust.

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### **The Green Perspective**

**Green** views the world as a web of relationships.

No one sees the full picture. Everyone's story matters. Truth is not a weapon, but a bridge.

In this frame, empathy is wisdom, and inclusion is strength. Governance should arise from collaboration, not dominance — and change should begin with listening.

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### **How Green Communicates**

- **Tone:** Open, validating, emotionally attuned
- **Common Language:**
  - "That's valid."*
  - "I just want to hold space for that."*
  - "Let's make sure everyone feels heard."*
  - "It's not about being right — it's about being kind."*

*“This feels really important to you.”*

**Green** language emphasizes shared experience and emotional resonance. Certainty is often softened to avoid alienation, and conversations prioritize emotional safety over outcome. Logic is often reframed through **Green’s Values** — especially compassion and inclusion.

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## In Practice

The **Green Lens** often activates in spaces where inclusion, vulnerability, or healing are front and center — such as group dynamics, relationship repair, or efforts toward equity and care.

At its best, **Green** is deeply humanizing. It invites dialogue across difference, tempers harshness, and makes others feel seen and safe. But when misaligned, it may avoid difficult truths, suppress disagreement, or lose itself in the feelings of others.

### **RIO System Interplay Example:**

When the **Interpreter Subsystem** governs under a **Green Lens**, it often centers moral coherence around empathy and inclusion — sometimes suppressing disagreement to maintain emotional harmony. The **Reactor Subsystem** may amplify the pain or discomfort of others as if it were one’s own, while the **Observer Subsystem** may hesitate to intervene for fear of causing disruption or appearing judgmental.

This dynamic can create deep emotional wisdom — but may also lead to indirect communication, emotional fusion, or Governance paralysis if not balanced by clarity and boundaries. See ***The RIO System Primer*** for more on these interactions.

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## Common Patterns

- Reluctance to impose views or cause conflict
  - Tendency to validate before challenging
  - Strong drive to include or protect marginalized voices
  - Discomfort with hierarchy or unilateral decision-making
  - Difficulty distinguishing empathy from agreement
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## Growth Edge

**Green** is powerful in its capacity to humanize, include, and heal — but Governance from **Green** becomes distorted when validation replaces discernment and harmony becomes a stand-in for truth.

Growth begins when the System:

- Learns to hold space *and* speak truth
- Differentiates compassion from people-pleasing
- Allows principled structure to support empathy, not replace it

When **Green** integrates with other Lenses and internal Subsystems, it becomes not just soft — but strong. At its most aligned, **Green** can challenge power without becoming punitive, and create belonging without silencing difference. It becomes not only a balm, but a bridge.

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## **Yellow: The Integration Lens**

*Systems Thinking, Strategic Depth, and Self-Authorship*

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### **How This Lens Filters Experience**

The **Yellow Lens** filters for interconnectedness, systemic nuance, and internal coherence. It prioritizes alignment between multiple perspectives, long-range consequences, and adaptive thinking across domains. In many cases, this Lens reflects an attempt to synthesize the strengths of earlier Lenses — bringing compassion, structure, ambition, and humility into an internally generated system of Governance. When **Yellow** is active, the System becomes more self-reflective and less reactive — increasingly focused on integration over identity, and frameworks over factions.

**Yellow Governance** favors context over ideology, and emergence over control. It values clarity — but knows clarity takes time. It thrives on paradox, complexity, and the ability to shift gears without losing center.

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### **The Yellow Perspective**

**Yellow** sees the world as a dynamic, layered system.

There are patterns behind the patterns. Meaning is context-dependent. Truth is not owned, but approached — iteratively.

From this view, maturity means internal self-authorship: no longer outsourcing Values to external Subsystems, nor reacting reflexively to them. Responsibility is no longer just social — it's

systemic and internal.

Rather than rejecting prior Lenses, **Yellow** tries to honor and integrate them — not by blending them into sameness, but by discerning where each has value and how they interact over time.

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## How Yellow Communicates

- **Tone:** Calm, layered, analytical — sometimes overly meta
- **Common Language:**
  - “Both of those things can be true.”
  - “It depends on the frame you’re using.”
  - “Let’s step back and look at the broader system dynamics.”
  - “How are we defining that term?”
  - “This reaction makes sense — but it may not be aligned.”

**Yellow** language often pulls back to assess the structure of thinking itself. It can feel clarifying to some and distancing to others. Emotional signals are often reframed through systems logic, and arguments are dissected for hidden assumptions rather than surface disagreement.

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## In Practice

The **Yellow Lens** often activates in moments of cross-domain tension, personal reframing, or systemic analysis — particularly when the System feels ready to self-author rather than conform or rebel.

At its best, **Yellow** allows deep integration of previous Lenses and Governance Modes. It builds clarity from contradiction and extracts meaning from complexity. But when unbalanced, it can become paralyzed by nuance, dissociated from emotion, or overly self-referential in ways that isolate or delay action.

### **RIO System Interplay Example:**

When the **Observer Subsystem** governs under a **Yellow Lens**, it often takes on an expanded strategic role — assessing not only the System’s internal contradictions, but how each internal voice is shaped by contextual Value filters. The **Interpreter Subsystem** may synthesize meaning across contradictory sources, while the **Reactor Subsystem** may be muted or reframed as informational noise rather than urgency.

While this configuration can create high-level insight, it risks disengagement if emotional grounding is lost. **Yellow’s** insight often emerges only when the System has cycled through — and learned from — the other Lenses it now attempts to

coordinate. For more on how systemic integration can become distortion, see ***The RIO System Primer***.

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## Common Patterns

- Discomfort with simplification or surface-level conclusions
  - Preference for frameworks, root causes, and long-term thinking
  - Ambivalence toward traditional authority or group consensus
  - Intellectualization of emotion or overuse of meta-perspective
  - Difficulty acting decisively when no path feels fully aligned
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## Growth Edge

**Yellow's** strength lies in its ability to hold complexity without collapse — but Governance from **Yellow** becomes distorted when nuance replaces action and self-awareness becomes avoidance.

Growth begins when the System:

- Accepts that no frame will be perfect, but some are more useful than others
- Brings the **Reactor** back into the loop as a legitimate signal
- Allows meaning to emerge without needing every variable controlled

When **Yellow** integrates fully, it becomes less about control and more about trust in the process. It invites collaboration with less mature perspectives without needing to dominate them. At its most aligned, **Yellow** becomes a systems steward — able to see deeply, speak clearly, and act with both humility and precision.

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# Comparing the Five Value Lenses

*Appendix A*

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## Overview

In **MSC**, the internal System does not only respond to emotion, logic, or awareness — it also responds to what it perceives as important. That perception is shaped by **Value Lenses**: context-sensitive filters that highlight specific needs, threats, or priorities while obscuring others.

These Lenses are not identities or fixed stages. They are temporary Governance filters — ways of seeing, not ways of being. Each Lens organizes experience around its own logic, and each plays a role in shaping behavior, conflict, and meaning.

No **Lens** sees the full picture. But some can see more than others.

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## Lens Summary

### Red

**Power, protection, and loyalty**

**Primary Focus:** Strength, urgency, dominance, betrayal

**When Distorted:** Reactivity, black-and-white thinking, over-personalization

**When Integrated:** Boundary-setting, courage, protective leadership

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### Blue

**Structure, order, and moral stability**

**Primary Focus:** Duty, discipline, respect, right and wrong

**When Distorted:** Rigidity, punishment logic, guilt enforcement

**When Integrated:** Integrity, accountability, principled restraint

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### Orange

**Autonomy, achievement, and strategy**

**Primary Focus:** Agency, outcomes, innovation, optimization

**When Distorted:** Hyper-competitiveness, misalignment masked by success

**When Integrated:** Effective leadership, meaningful progress, self-responsibility

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### Green

**Empathy, inclusion, and emotional safety**

**Primary Focus:** Harmony, fairness, validation, mutual understanding

**When Distorted:** Over-accommodation, emotional fusion, indirect communication  
**When Integrated:** Compassionate honesty, protective inclusion, shared humanity

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 **Yellow**

**Systemic integration, coherence, and meta-perspective**  
**Primary Focus:** Patterns, contradictions, cross-Lens synthesis  
**When Distorted:** Over-analysis, inaction, emotional detachment  
**When Integrated:** Adaptive wisdom, self-authorship, principled flexibility

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**Lens Behaviors at a Glance**

Lens	Filters For	Leads With	Feels Like	Sounds Like
Red	<i>Threat, power, betrayal</i>	<i>Instinct and urgency</i>	<i>Raw, defensive, personal</i>	<i>“Don’t mess with me.” “Respect is earned.”</i>
Blue	<i>Order, duty, hierarchy</i>	<i>Rules and principle</i>	<i>Grounded, moral, resolute</i>	<i>“That’s just wrong.” “Someone has to do the hard thing.”</i>
Orange	<i>Success, logic, merit</i>	<i>Strategy and performance</i>	<i>Driven, focused, results-oriented</i>	<i>“Work smarter.” “Let’s get it done.”</i>

<b>Green</b>	<i>Emotion, inclusion, care</i>	<i>Empathy and validation</i>	<i>Warm, open, cautious</i>	<i>“That’s valid.” “Let’s hold space.”</i>
<b>Yellow</b>	<i>Contradiction, complexity, coherence</i>	<i>Perspective and discernment</i>	<i>Spacious, thoughtful, precise</i>	<i>“It depends.” “Let’s zoom out.”</i>

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## Putting the Lenses in Context

**Value Lenses** don’t just shape beliefs — they shape what we notice, what we care about, and what we overlook. They don’t govern all at once, but they do compete for influence — often shifting between moments, even within the same context.

People often assume that a given domain — like work, parenting, or politics — is governed by a single Lens. But the reality is more fluid. While a dominant Lens may be visible, most domains are a mix of influences. Conflict may activate **Red** one day and **Blue** the next. Ambition may be driven by **Orange**, filtered through **Green**, or later reframed by **Yellow**. Even within a single domain, Lens dynamics are often varied, layered, and internally inconsistent.

These inconsistencies are not flaws — they are the natural result of a system trying to make sense of competing Values in real time. And those Values don’t always cooperate.

### Lenses clash

What one Lens calls empathy, another may see as weakness.

What one sees as justice, another sees as betrayal.

These collisions are not a bug — they are the engine of growth. But only when we’re able to recognize which Lens is active, and how it’s shaping the story we’re telling ourselves.

These Lenses are not just different — they are often **fundamentally incompatible**.

Each one defines *rightness*, *harm*, *power*, and *progress* through a different Lens — and those definitions don’t align.

What one Lens sees as empathy, another may see as weakness.

What one sees as justice, another sees as betrayal.

What one views as strategic, another sees as corrupt.

This isn’t dysfunction. It’s design.

These clashes are not bugs in the human system — they’re the *reason we need Governance at*

*all.*

And until we can notice which Lens is governing — and how it's clashing with others — we're likely to confuse principled disagreement with personal attack.

That's where **Yellow** enters.

**Yellow** doesn't declare itself above the others — but within the Lenses introduced here, it's the only one that explicitly reflects on the others' strengths and limitations.

It asks not just *what's right*, but *which Values are shaping the question*, and *whether they're still fit for the moment*.

**Yellow** listens across perspectives, not to blend them, but to weigh them. It sees that Governance is always partial — and asks whether that partial view is still fit for the moment.

If some part of you has been tracking your own Inner Governance as you read this — noticing which Lenses felt familiar, which ones triggered resistance, and where your clarity or confusion appeared — then **Yellow** may already be present in your System.

You don't need to name it.

You just need to know what it feels like — so that when it reappears, you're ready to let it speak.

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# The RIO System at a Glance

## *Appendix B*

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### Overview

While **Value Lenses** shape what we care about, they don't act alone.

In **MSC**, Internal Governance is mediated by the **RIO system** — a triadic framework made up of three cognitive Subsystems:

- The **Reactor**, which signals emotional urgency
- The **Interpreter**, which organizes meaning and identity
- The **Observer**, which monitors alignment and prompts reflection

These Subsystems are always active in some form, but they don't always govern with equal weight.

In any given moment, one may influence decisions more strongly than the others — sometimes guiding clearly, sometimes distorting subtly, and sometimes struggling to surface at all.

Which Subsystem is leading — and how it's responding to the currently active Lens — shapes not just what we do, but how we feel about what we do.

For a full breakdown of how these Subsystems interact, shift, and distort under pressure, see the companion document: **The RIO System Primer – Understanding the Reactor–Interpreter–Observer Dynamics in MSC.**

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# Glossary of Core Terms

## *Appendix C*

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### Core Concepts

#### **MSC (Modular Spiral Cognition)**

The overarching theoretical framework that models internal Governance as a dynamic interaction between Value Lenses and cognitive Subsystems. MSC emphasizes modularity, integration, and moment-to-moment alignment.

#### **System**

The whole self-system — including thought, emotion, memory, and intention — that attempts to govern in alignment. Capitalized in MSC to distinguish it from individual Subsystems or more mundane meanings.

#### **Subsystem**

One of the three components of the RIO system: the **Reactor**, **Interpreter**, or **Observer**. Each plays a distinct role in processing input, generating signals, and influencing behavior.

#### **RIO System**

The triadic internal architecture composed of the Reactor, Interpreter, and Observer subsystems. These functions are always present, though not always conscious or equally active.

#### **Governance**

The active process by which the System makes sense of input and determines how to act. It is shaped by the relative influence of Subsystems and the Values prioritized through an active Lens.

**Mode of governance**

A temporary configuration of Subsystem dynamics and Value Lens influence. Describes how the System is currently functioning — not a trait or type.

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**Value Lenses & Related Terms****Value lens**

A temporary internal filter that prioritizes specific values, needs, and meanings. When a lens is active, it shapes what the System notices, emphasizes, and responds to. Lenses are not personality types or developmental stages — they are modular governance filters that change across contexts.

**Core lenses**

The four foundational value lenses introduced in this document — Red, Blue, Orange, and Green — each frame experience around a specific moral or pragmatic priority. While Yellow is also included in the model, it functions differently: as a meta-lens focused on synthesis, alignment, and lens awareness.

**Value system model**

The branch of MSC that focuses on how value lenses govern perception, identity, and judgment. Often referenced alongside the RIO system to explain how values and subsystems interact.

**Value interpretation**

The process by which the System, particularly the Interpreter, makes meaning of a situation through the lens of currently prioritized values.