The Evolution of Life and Mind

Larry S. Yaeger Distinguished Scientist Apple Computer

http://pobox.com/~larryy

Digital Biota 2: Cyberbiology

Magdalene College Cambridge, England September 10-13, 1998

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- Hydro-carbon chains

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- List of characteristics

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• the word we ascribe to...

the word we ascribe to...
complex dynamical processes that persist...



- the word we ascribe to...
- complex dynamical processes that persist...
- and, typically, reproduce.

- the word we ascribe to...
- complex dynamical processes that persist...
- and, typically, reproduce.
- Life interacts with and, often, adapts to its environment, within the lifetime of an organism, and/or over multiple generations of organisms.

Answer: Mind is...

intelligence...

Answer: Mind is...

- intelligence...
- plus, sometimes, self-awareness.



• the word we ascribe to...

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- complex behavioral responses that foster persistence...

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- the word we ascribe to...
- complex behavioral responses that foster persistence...
- and, typically, reproduction.
- Intelligence is what allows a living organism to effectively interact with and adapt to its environment within its own lifetime.

That which survives, persists.



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- That which reproduces, increases its numbers.



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- That which survives, persists.
- That which reproduces, increases its numbers.
- Things change.
- Life is the inescapable product of the tautology of evolution;
 and so is intelligent life.

The Map is not the Territory

Study what mind *is*, not what it is like
Study what life *is*, not what it is like

But Maps are Good

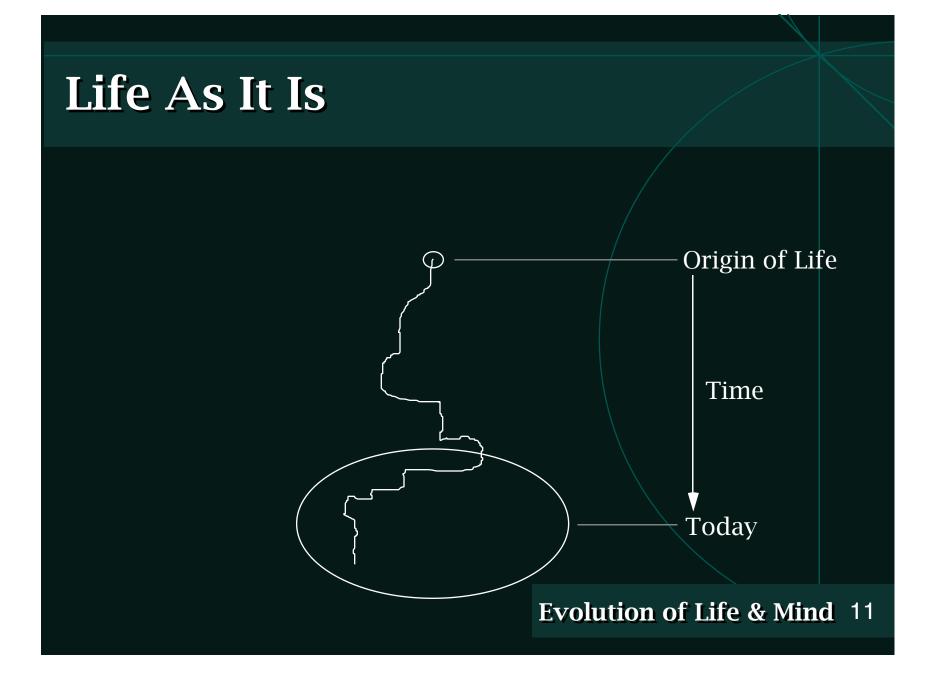
 Maps confer an evolutionary advantage

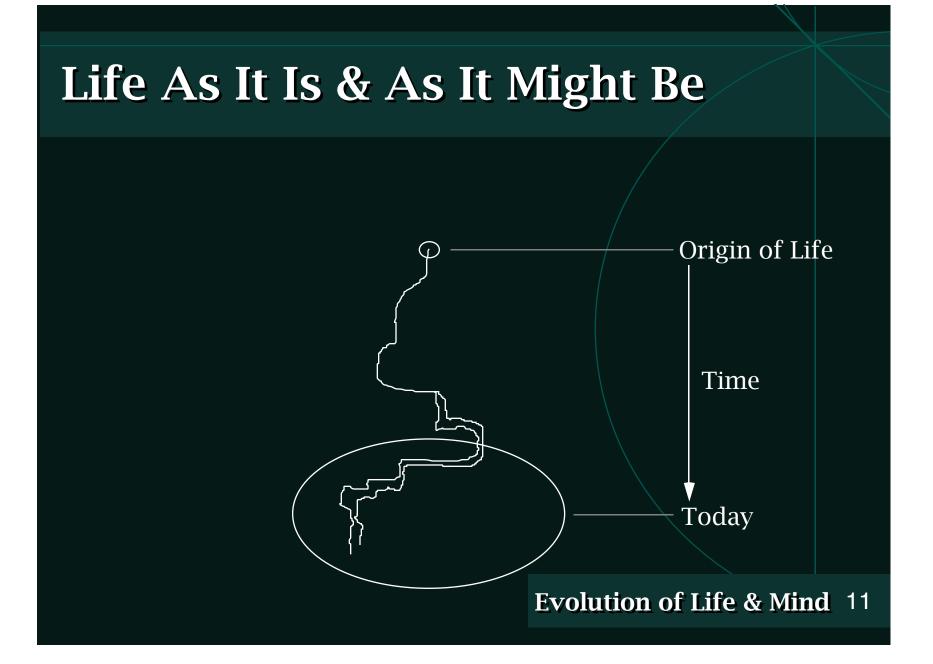
But Maps are Good

- Maps confer an evolutionary advantage
- The origin of the map is the origin of self-awareness

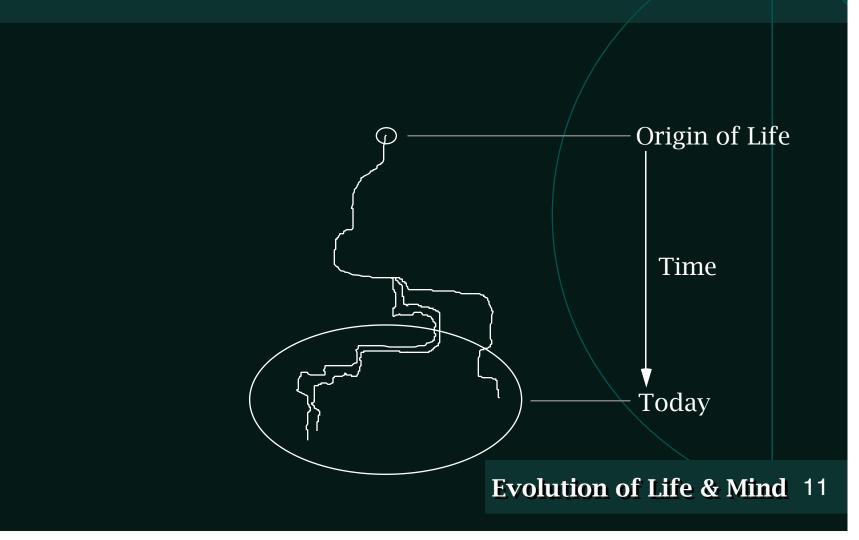
Learn from What Might Be

 Artificial Life is the study of "life as it might be" informing "life as it is".

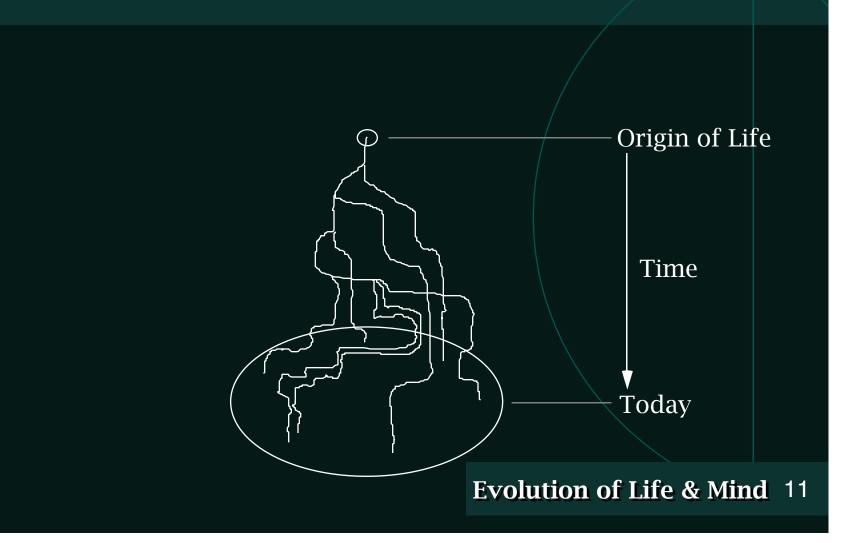




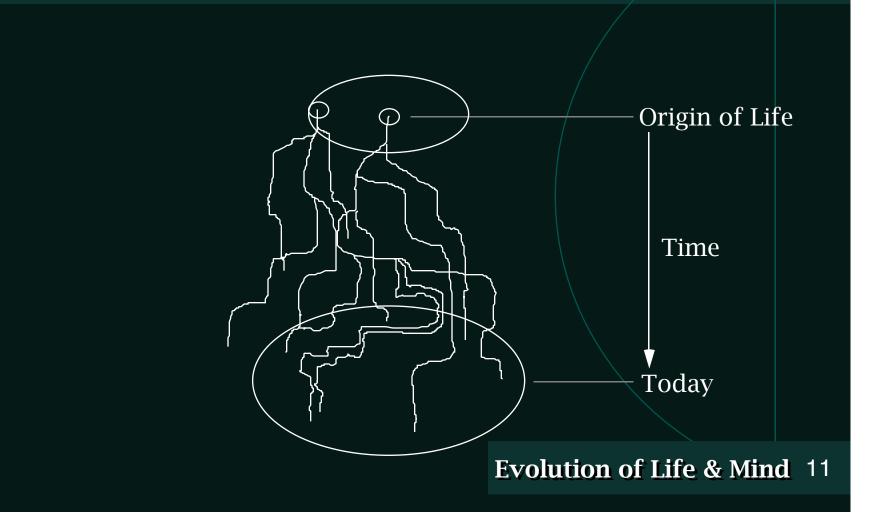




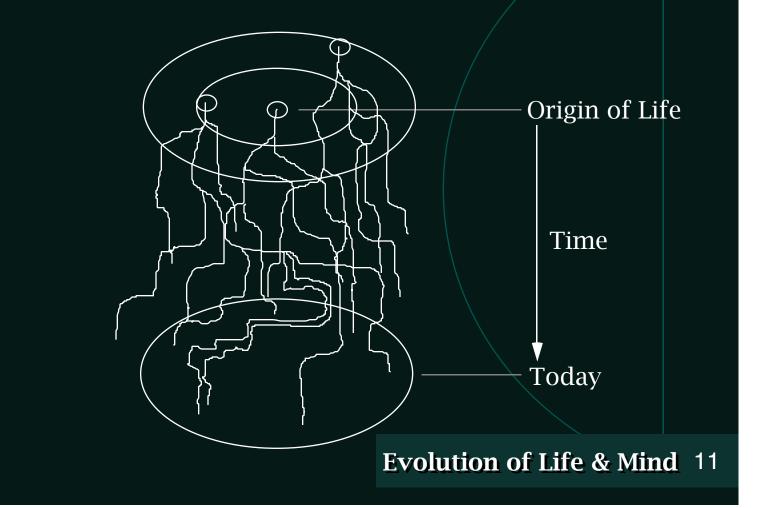




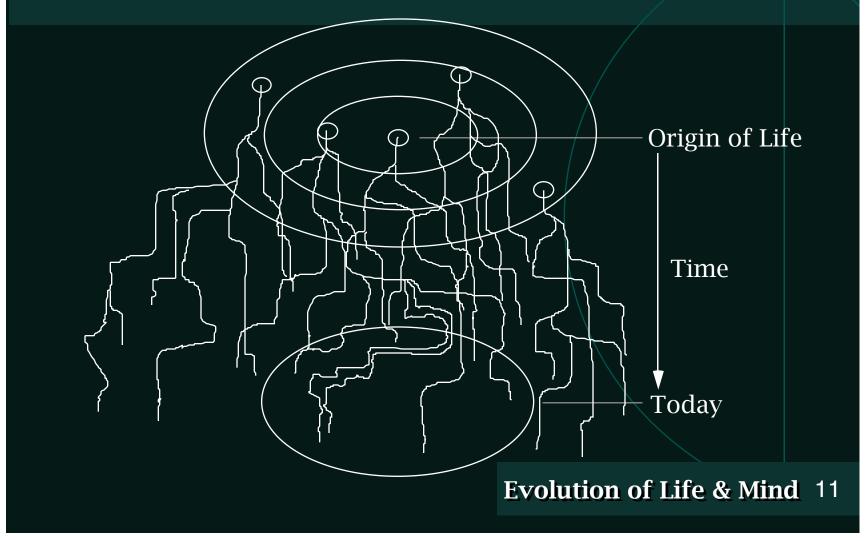
Life As It Is & As It Might Be



Life As It Is & As It Might Be







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Learn from What Might Be

Artificial Life is the study of "life as it might be" informing "life as it is".
It can also be the study of "mind as it might be" informing "mind as it is".

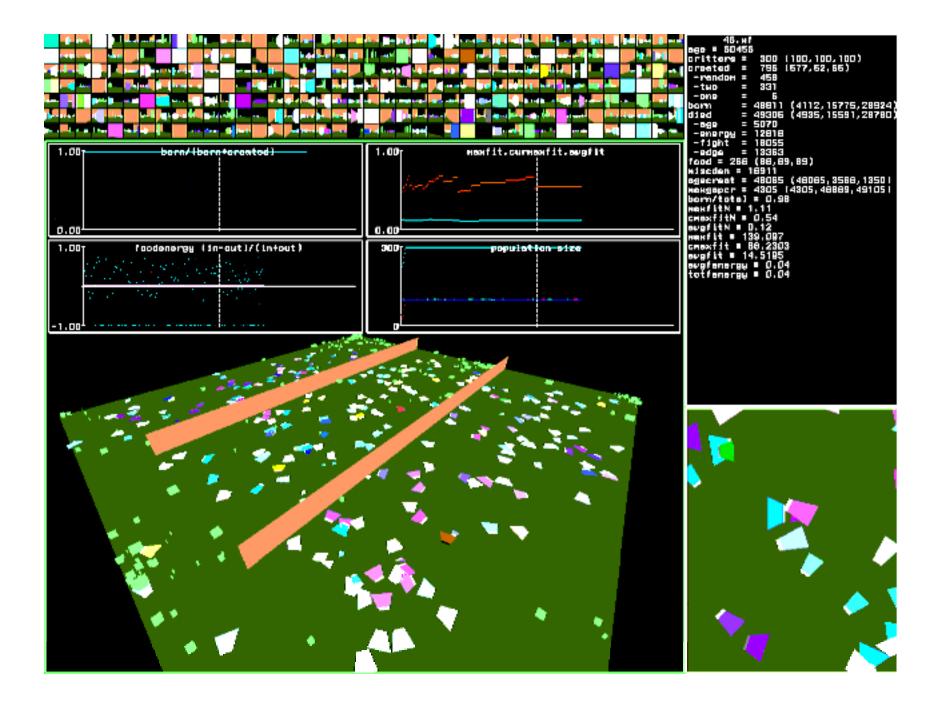
Road Map to Artificial Life & Mind

- Provide a suitably rich physics
- Provide adequate energy
- Invoke evolution
 - By its nature, it produces what we seek
- Wait

Some Shortcuts

- Use biologically inspired models
 - Provide a rich genetic structure
 - Provide a rich ontogeny
 - Provide a rich environment
 - Use neural models
 - Every natural example of higher intelligence is based on these.
 - Invoke evolution
 - Wait, but not nearly as long





Evolving Neural Architectures



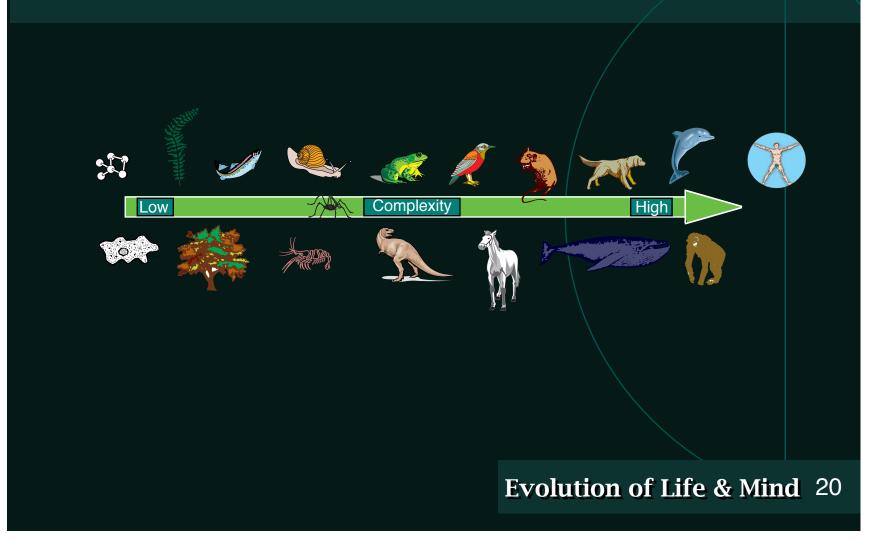
Speciation and Complex Emergent Behaviors

- "Joggers"
- "Indolent Cannibals"
- "Edge-runners"
- "Dervishes"
- Visual response
- Fleeing attack
 - Fighting back
- Latest simulation...
 - Foraging / Grazing / Food attraction
 - Swarming / Flocking
 - Following / Chasing

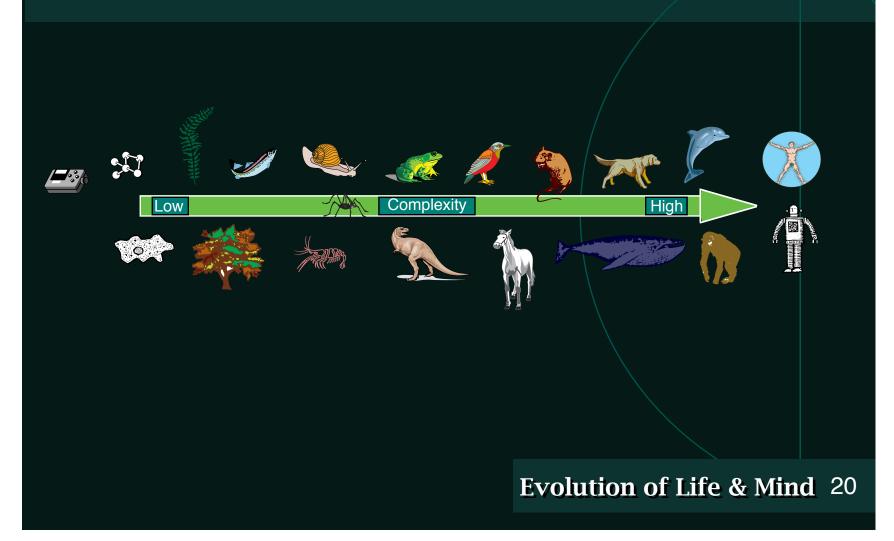
PolyWorld Video



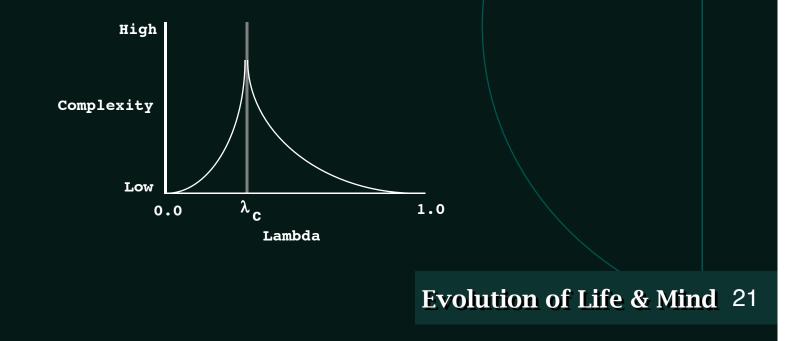
Spectrum of Life and Intelligence



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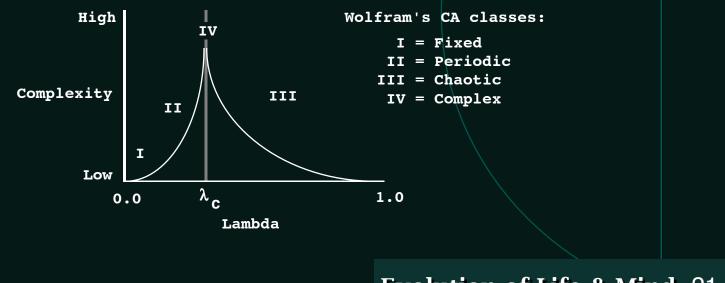


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 - Complexity = length of transients
 - $\lambda = \#$ rules leading to nonquiescent state / # rules



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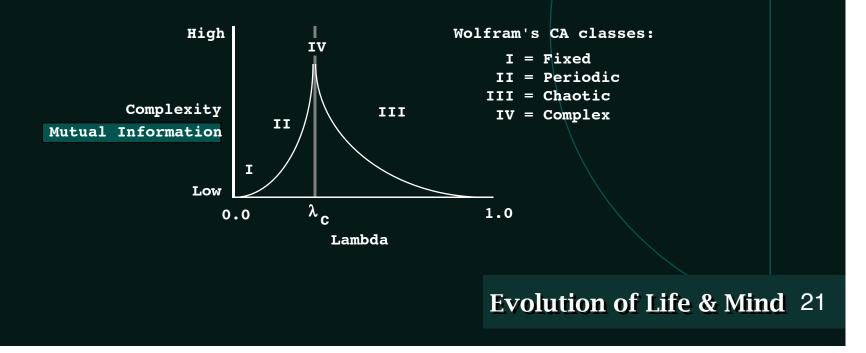
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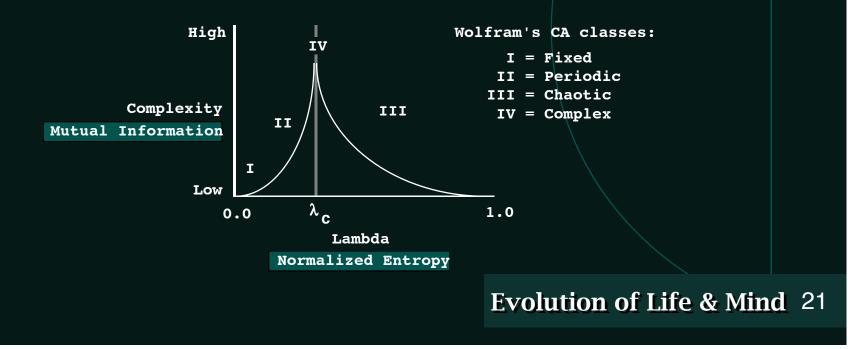
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Measuring Life and Intelligence

- Measure state and compute complexity
- What complexity?
 - Mutual information
 - Other
- What state?
 - Chemical composition
 - Electrical charge
 - Value of a software variable
- What scale?
 - Multiple

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 - Measure behavioral states?

- In addition to biologically inspired shortcuts...
- Define suitable measure of complexity
 - Must be well behaved
 - Measure neural states
 - Measure behavioral states?
- Use complexity directly as the fitness function

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