The principle characteristic of a self-regulating system is the presence of a control loop whereby system comportment may be modified on the basis of information inputs regarding performance and the comparison of performance with a criterion value. The control loop may be a "closed loop" existing within the boundaries of the system, or it may be an "open loop", in which part of the control information flow takes place outside the system boundary.

Charles R. Dechert

a: time, simultaneous duration of temporal processes (measured relatively by an organism or other self-regulating system).
b: contextual threshold, the closed loop, margin of behaviour.
c: interactive threshold, the open loop, feedforth.
d: paradigm, source of criterion value directing c.
e: interface, interval of discontinuity.
f: the present as interface.

Editorial Note: Frank Gillette's book, Between Paradigms, will be published soon by Gordon and Breach.