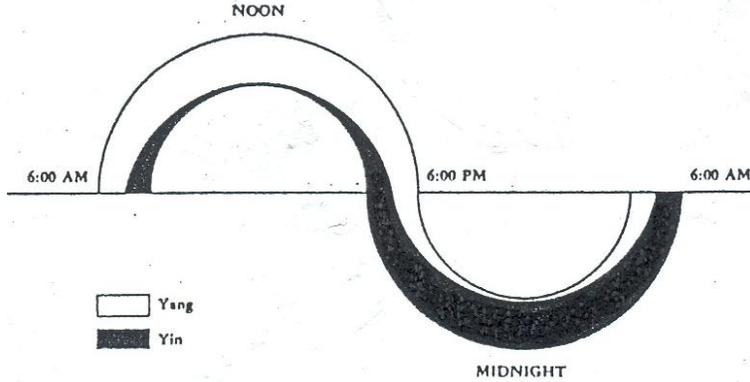


Yin-yang, the Five Phases (*wu-xing*), and the *Yijing* 陰陽 / 五行 / 易經



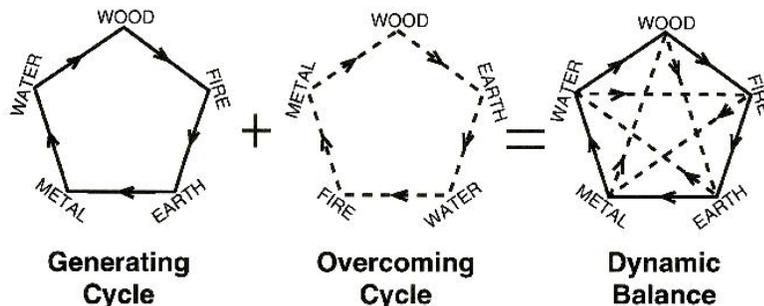
In the *Yijing*, *yang* is represented by a solid line (—) and *yin* by a broken line (---); these are called the "Two Modes" (*liang yi* 兩義). The figure above depicts the *yin-yang* cycle mapped as a day. This can be divided into four stages, each corresponding to one of the "Four Images" (*si xiang* 四象) of the *Yijing*:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. young <i>yang</i> (in this case midnight to 6 a.m.): unchanging <i>yang</i> | ☰ |
| 2. mature <i>yang</i> (6 a.m. to noon): changing <i>yang</i> | ☱ |
| 3. young <i>yin</i> (noon to 6 p.m.): unchanging <i>yin</i> | ☷ |
| 4. mature <i>yin</i> (6 p.m. to midnight): changing <i>yin</i> | ☴ |

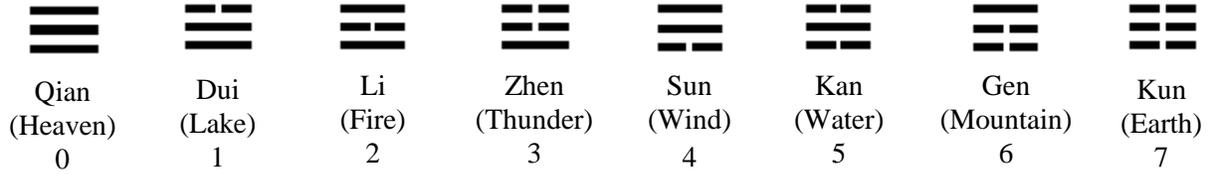
These four stages of changes in turn correspond to four of the Five Phases (*wu xing*), with the fifth one (earth) corresponding to the perfect balance of *yin* and *yang*:

	<i>yang</i>	<i>yin</i>	
	fire	water	
Mature	earth		
	wood	metal	
Young			

Combining the above two patterns yields the "generating cycle" (below left) of the Five Phases:



Combining *yin* and *yang* in three-line diagrams yields the "Eight Trigrams" (*ba gua* 八卦) of the *Yijing*:



The Eight Trigrams can also be mapped against the *yin-yang* cycle, represented below as the famous Taiji (Supreme Polarity) Diagram (*taijitu* 太極圖):



This also reflects a binary numbering system. If the solid (*yang*) line is assigned the value of 0 and the broken (*yin*) line is 1, the Eight Trigram can be arranged to represent the numbers 0 through 7. The Fuxi or *A Priori* (*xiantian* 先天) sequence of hexagrams (below) does the same with the 64 Hexagrams (each a combination of two trigrams):

