

Nuclear Family Generational Structure

by Anthony Rizzi

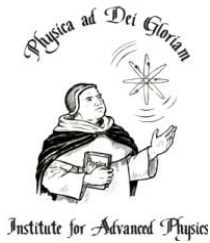
We still often speak of and, indeed, value family. However, we are losing a grasp on its importance and meaning. We seldom slow down enough to think clearly about our relationship with our various family members and how to properly refer to those relationships in a way that does justice to how close each of our family members really should be to us and how tight the family in all its levels should be. A chart showing the hierarchy of family development over time can help us with this.

On the next page is such a chart which gives the full structure for two generations. It gives a concrete image of the family relationships and their proper names. It is only the beginning of what we need to do to be more deliberate about properly understanding and appreciating our family relationships, but it is an important and necessary first step.

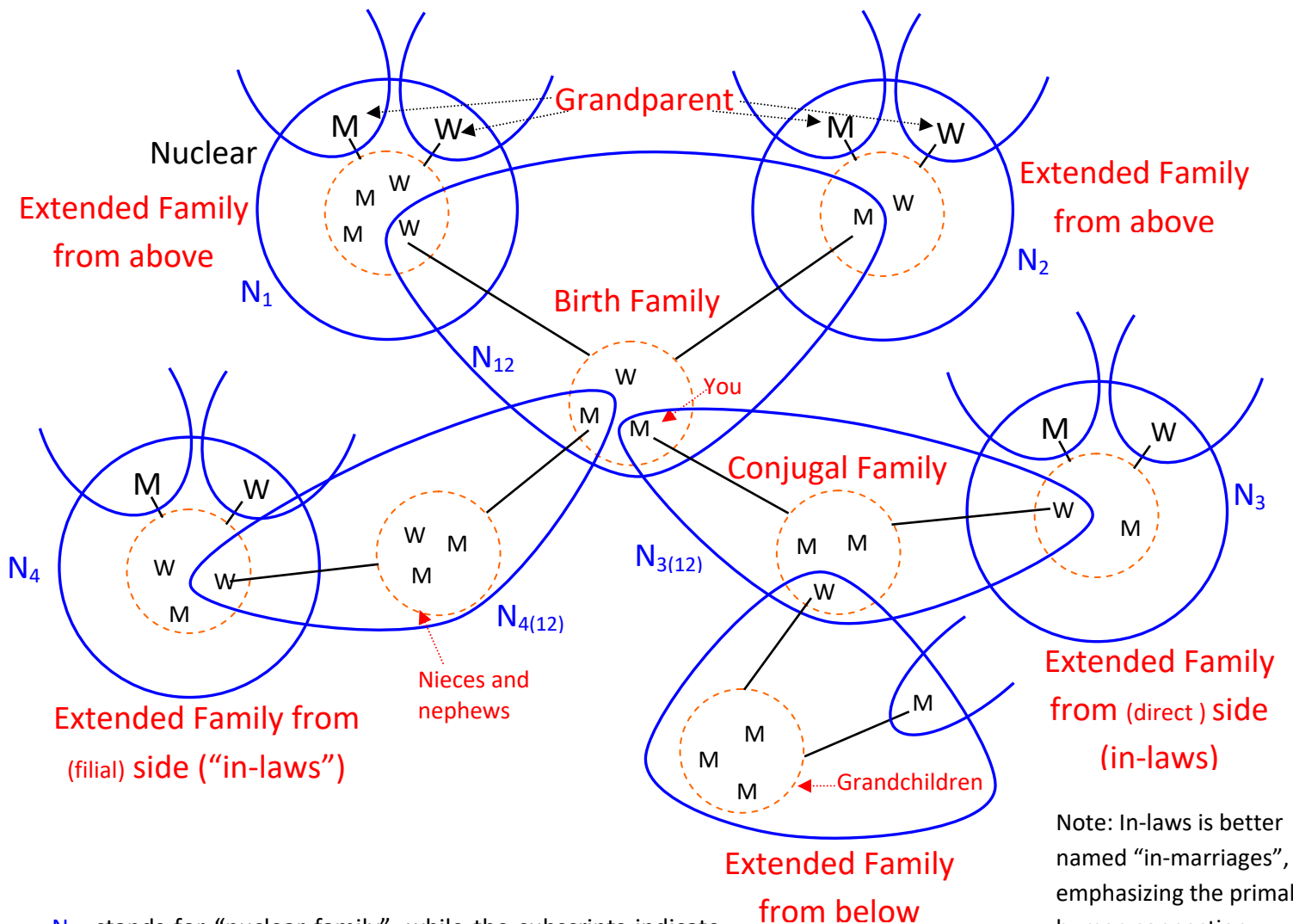
We often use names such as aunt, niece, grandfather etc., which express a relationship but do not directly bring out the unit from which those relationships derive. As we know, a relation is between two substances (see *Kid's Introduction to Physics* which is available at IAPweb.org/store/#kids) and, analogically, between any two things. So, to speak as if a relationship can exist by itself with no things in which to inhere is to speak of the impossible. The primacy of the nuclear family is easily missed if we focus only on the relationships. And, this relationship-only construct is a primal confusion arising out of our equation-alone physics (see IAPweb.org/mission) that attacks our common sense at its core. Note in particular, the chart gives the names that label your two key nuclear families and thereby distinguish your key family relationships: your birth family and your conjugal family, which are not often discussed or used.

This document is our first submission for our “Knowledge Bites” segment of *Physics and Culture*. Please let us hear your comments and thoughts.

See next page for chart of family life



M—man
W—woman
Nuclear family ———
Children - - - - -



Note: In-laws is better named “in-marriages”, emphasizing the primal human connection between the people not the legal element that follows on it.

N_{ab} stands for “nuclear family”, while the subscripts indicate that the family results from a union of family a and family b
 N_{12} in this diagram is your family of origin or birth family

Extended family from above has two sides, referred to as our father and mother’s side of the family where the “above” aspect is arises from the fact that they are our parents.

Anthony Rizzi, Ph.D., Director of the Institute for Advanced Physics, gained worldwide recognition in theoretical physics by solving an 80-year old problem in Einstein's theory; has physics degrees from MIT and Princeton University; has been senior scientist for Cal-Tech's Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO), which won the Nobel Prize in physics 2017 and taught graduate courses at LSU; worked on the Manned Mars Craft and the Mars Observer spacecraft; received the NASA Award, as well as, a Martin Marietta New Technology Award.

He is author of The Science Before Science: A Guide to Thinking in the 21st Century and A Kid's Introduction to Physics (and Beyond); he has been interviewed in many media outlets. In addition to his professional articles, Dr. Rizzi authored the ground breaking texts Physics for Realists-Mechanics and Physics for Realists-Electricity and Magnetism (both recommended by the journal of the American Association of Physics Teachers) and, recently, Physics for Realists-Quantum Mechanics. He has recently made groundbreaking discoveries in quantum mechanics.

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