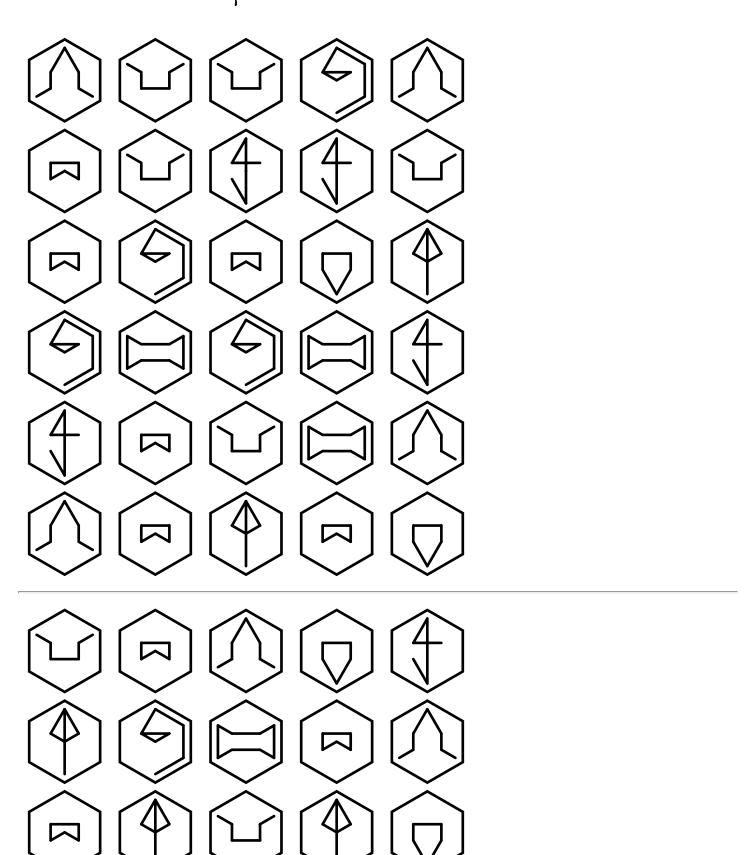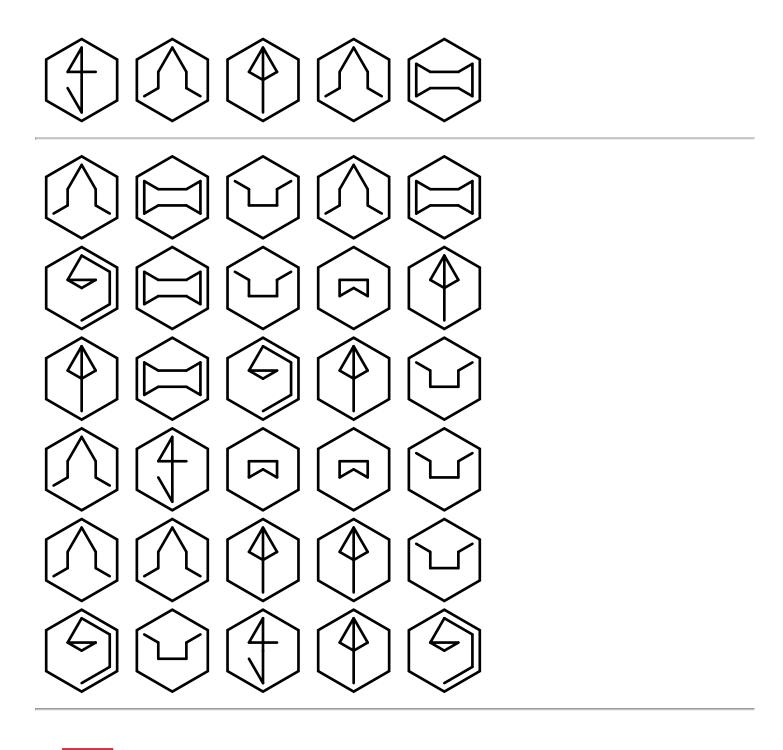...the signal is so black and white; is there no middle ground between these two paths...