

Axiom Calibration via Non-Uniformizability: A Framework for Orthogonal Logical Dependencies in Analysis

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August 2025

Abstract

We present Axiom Calibration (AxCal), a categorical framework for measuring the axiomatic strength of mathematical theorems via uniformizability and height invariants. Using uniformizability—the invariance of witness constructions across foundations fixing a core signature—we establish a precise calculus for logical dependencies. We compute orthogonal logical profiles along three independent axes central to constructive analysis: WLPO, the Fan Theorem (FT), and Dependent Choice (DC_ω). Using a Lean-verified equivalence imported from companion work, the bidual gap in ℓ^∞ calibrates at height 1 on the WLPO axis, while the Uniform Continuity Theorem on $[0, 1]$ calibrates at height 1 on the FT axis, and Baire Category for $\mathbb{N}^\mathbb{N}$ calibrates at height 1 on the DC_ω axis (Paper 3C), yielding profiles $(1, 0, 0)$, $(0, 1, 0)$, and $(0, 0, 1)$ respectively. We further analyze the Stone Window for general support ideals, proving the classical Boolean algebra isomorphism and identifying a constructive caveat that motivates a calibration conjecture linking surjectivity to WLPO. Our Lean 4 artifacts provide a complete Boolean algebra API for the quotient space with 100+ lemmas, functorial mapping of ideals, and automation-ready endpoint lemmas that reduce quotient reasoning to smallness in the ideal.

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1 Introduction

A central goal of reverse mathematics is to determine the minimal axioms necessary for proving a theorem. While classical reverse mathematics has successfully classified many theorems into a small number of subsystems of second-order arithmetic, the landscape in constructive mathematics remains more complex and less well-understood.

This paper introduces *Axiom Calibration* (AxCal), a framework for systematically measuring the axiomatic strength of mathematical theorems using categorical methods. The key innovation is the notion of *uniformizability*—the invariance of witness constructions across different foundational systems that agree on a core signature.

1.1 Motivating Example: The Bidual Gap

Consider the bidual embedding $J : \ell^\infty \rightarrow (\ell^\infty)^{**}$. In ZFC, this map is surjective, but in constructive mathematics (BISH), the existence of elements in the gap $(\ell^\infty)^{**} \setminus J(\ell^\infty)$ is precisely equivalent to the Weak Limited Principle of Omniscience (WLPO).

In our companion paper [1], we established:

Theorem 1.1 (Imported from Paper 2) *Over BISH, the following are equivalent:*

1. *The bidual embedding $J : \ell^\infty \rightarrow (\ell^\infty)^{**}$ is not surjective.*
2. *WLPO holds.*

Proof sketch (proven in [1]). (\Rightarrow) If $J : \ell^\infty \rightarrow (\ell^\infty)^{**}$ is not surjective, one exhibits a norm-1 functional $F : (\ell^\infty)^* \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ not given by evaluation at an element of ℓ^∞ . Coding an arbitrary binary sequence $\alpha : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ into a compatible family of functionals, one shows that from such an F one can decide whether $\exists n (\alpha(n) = 1)$, giving WLPO.

(\Leftarrow) Under WLPO, the standard Hahn–Banach machinery (constructively valid with WLPO for the choices involved) produces a non-evaluation functional on $(\ell^\infty)^*$, yielding an element of $(\ell^\infty)^{**} \setminus J(\ell^\infty)$. Full details and the precise coding appear in [1]. \square

This precise calibration motivates our general framework: How can we systematically determine such equivalences? How do different logical principles interact when combined?

1.2 Contributions

This paper makes the following contributions:

1. **Axiom Calibration Framework:** We introduce uniformizability as a precise criterion for measuring axiomatic dependencies, along with height invariants that quantify the logical strength needed for theorems.
2. **Orthogonal Logical Profiles:** We demonstrate that logical principles can be organized along orthogonal axes, with the bidual gap residing purely on the WLPO axis, the Uniform Continuity Theorem on the Fan Theorem axis, and Baire Category on the DC_ω axis, establishing three fully independent dimensions.
3. **Stone Window Analysis:** We analyze the Stone isomorphism for general support ideals, identifying where the classical proof fails constructively and proposing a calibration conjecture linking surjectivity to WLPO.
4. **Formalization Infrastructure:** We provide a substantial Lean 4 formalization (5,800+ lines) with complete Boolean algebra APIs and automation support.

2 The Axiom Calibration Framework

2.1 The Category of Foundations

We begin by formalizing what we mean by a “foundation” and how different foundations relate to each other.

Definition 2.1 (Pinned Signature Σ_0) *The pinned signature Σ_0 consists of:*

- *The natural numbers \mathbb{N} with arithmetic*
- *The real numbers \mathbb{R} with field operations*
- *The unit interval $[0, 1]$*
- *Function spaces and basic type constructors*

All foundations must interpret these identically.

Definition 2.2 (The Category Found) *The category Found has:*

- **Objects:** *Foundations (logical systems extending Σ_0)*
- **Morphisms:** *Conservative extensions preserving provability*

Key examples include BISH, BISH + WLPO, BISH + FT, and ZFC.

2.2 A Gentle Introduction

Why uniformizability? Suppose a theorem T asserts “every $f \in \mathcal{F}$ has a witness $w(f)$ with property P .” Across foundations $F \subseteq G$, a *uniformizable* witness family says: not only do witnesses exist in G , but restricting them back to F yields *the same* data up to canonical equivalence. Non-uniformizability pinpoints logical strength: there is a smallest extension where the construction stabilizes.

Example 2.3 (Toy calibration: max of two reals) In BISH, a total “ $\max : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ with decidable branch” procedure fails in general because equality on reals is undecidable. Over BISH + WLPO, the branch becomes decidable and the witness family stabilizes at height 1 on the WLPO axis. This mirrors our bidual gap calibration at scale.

Reading the rest of the paper. Keep in mind: (i) a witness family is a groupoid of choices; (ii) “height” means the first rung of a ladder where choices stabilize; (iii) orthogonal axes let product theorems compose heights coordinatewise.

2.3 Uniformizability

The central concept of our framework is uniformizability—when a mathematical construction remains invariant across different foundations.

Definition 2.4 (Witness Family) A witness family \mathcal{C} assigns to each foundation $F \in \text{Found}$ a groupoid $\mathcal{C}(F)$ representing possible witness constructions in that foundation.

Definition 2.5 (Uniformizability) A witness family \mathcal{C} is uniformizable if for all $F, G \in \text{Found}$ with $F \subseteq G$, the restriction map $\mathcal{C}(G) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(F)$ is an equivalence of groupoids.

Theorem 2.6 (No-Uniformization Principle) If \mathcal{C} is not uniformizable, then there exist foundations $F \subseteq G$ where witnesses exist in G but cannot be constructed in F .

3 The Height Calculus

3.1 Positive Uniformization and Height

Not all witness families are uniformizable. We refine the framework to measure when witnesses stabilize.

Definition 3.1 (Positively Uniformizable) \mathcal{C} is positively uniformizable at foundation F if:

1. $\mathcal{C}(F)$ is non-empty
2. For all $G \supseteq F$, the restriction $\mathcal{C}(G) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(F)$ is an equivalence

Given a ladder of foundations $T_0 \subseteq T_1 \subseteq T_2 \subseteq \dots$, we define:

Definition 3.2 (Scalar Height) The height $h_{\mathcal{L}}(\mathcal{C})$ is the least k such that \mathcal{C} is positively uniformizable at T_k , or ∞ if no such k exists.

3.2 Orthogonal Profiles

To handle independent logical principles, we introduce multi-dimensional profiles.

Definition 3.3 (Orthogonal Profile) *For orthogonal axes $\{A_1, \dots, A_n\}$, the profile $\vec{h}(\mathcal{C}) = (h_1, \dots, h_n)$ where h_i is the height along axis A_i .*

Proposition 3.4 (Product Law) *For independent witness families: $\vec{h}(\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D}) = \max(\vec{h}(\mathcal{C}), \vec{h}(\mathcal{D}))$ componentwise.*

Justification of the Product Law. For independent axes, restriction functors act componentwise on $\mathcal{C} \times \mathcal{D}$. If \mathcal{C} stabilizes at (h_1, \dots) and \mathcal{D} at (k_1, \dots) , then the first level where both restrictions are equivalences is the coordinatewise maximum. Conversely, if the product stabilizes earlier on some axis, one factor would already be stable there, contradicting minimality. \square

4 Calibration Case Studies

4.1 The WLPO Axis: Bidual Gap

Using Theorem 1.1, we calibrate the bidual gap witness family.

Definition 4.1 (Positive frontier $\partial^+(\mathcal{C})$) *Fix a list of axes \mathcal{A} (e.g. $\{\text{WLPO}, \text{FT}, \text{DC}_\omega\}$) and the associated ladders. The positive frontier $\partial^+(\mathcal{C})$ is the collection of minimal subsets $S \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ such that \mathcal{C} becomes positively uniformizable at height 1 when all principles in S are added (and no strict subset suffices).*

Proposition 4.2 (Height of the Bidual Gap) *The family \mathcal{C}^{Gap} of witnesses to non-surjectivity of $J : \ell^\infty \rightarrow (\ell^\infty)^{**}$ has:*

- *Positive frontier: $\partial^+(\mathcal{C}^{Gap}) = \{\{\text{WLPO}\}\}$*
- *Scalar height along WLPO ladder: $h_{\text{WLPO}}(\mathcal{C}^{Gap}) = 1$*

Proof. By Theorem 1.1, witnesses exist precisely when WLPO holds. In BISH (height 0), no witnesses exist. In BISH + WLPO (height 1), witnesses exist and stabilize. \square

4.2 The FT Axis: Uniform Continuity

The Fan Theorem (FT) governs compactness properties orthogonal to WLPO.

Theorem 4.3 (UCT Calibration – imported) *The witness family \mathcal{C}^{UCT} for uniform continuity of continuous functions on $[0, 1]$ has:*

- *Positive frontier: $\partial^+(\mathcal{C}^{\text{UCT}}) = \{\{\text{FT}\}\}$*
- *Height along FT ladder: $h_{\text{FT}}(\mathcal{C}^{\text{UCT}}) = 1$*

Proof sketch. ($\text{FT} \Rightarrow \text{UCT}$) Work on the full binary tree of dyadic subintervals of $[0, 1]$. Fix $\varepsilon > 0$. For each node s (dyadic interval I_s), write $\text{osc}(f; I_s) = \sup\{|f(x) - f(y)| : x, y \in I_s\}$. Continuity of f at each x implies there is some depth $N(x)$ such that along the branch of dyadic intervals containing x , the oscillation drops below ε from depth $N(x)$ onward. Thus the set

$$B_\varepsilon = \{s : \text{osc}(f; I_s) \leq \varepsilon\}$$

is a bar (every infinite branch meets it). Using standard Bishop-style approximations, one replaces osc by a decidable surrogate bar (via rational nets) without changing the bar property. By the Fan Theorem, B_ε has a uniform depth N_ε such that every interval at depth N_ε lies in B_ε . If $|x - y| < 2^{-N_\varepsilon}$, then x and y lie in a common dyadic interval at that depth, so $|f(x) - f(y)| \leq \varepsilon$. Hence f is uniformly continuous.

($UCT \Rightarrow FT$; *imported outline*) Given a decidable bar $B \subseteq 2^{<\mathbb{N}}$, define a continuous $g : 2^\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ that maps a path x to a positive number measuring how far the branch avoids B (e.g. $g(x) = 2^{-\min\{|s| : s \sqsubset x, s \in B\}}$ with the convention $2^{-\infty} = 0$). Uniform continuity of g yields a global depth N such that agreement on the first N bits forces $|g(x) - g(y)| < 2^{-N-1}$; this implies every path meets B at depth $\leq N$, i.e. B has a finite subbar. This is the standard Brouwer–Heyting–Kolmogorov route; full details are classical (see [3]). We therefore record the calibration as imported in this direction. \square

4.3 Orthogonal Profiles

The independence of WLPO and FT yields:

Corollary 4.4 *On the orthogonal axes $\{\text{WLPO}, \text{FT}\}$:*

$$h(\mathcal{C}^{\text{Gap}}) = (1, 0), \quad h(\mathcal{C}^{\text{UCT}}) = (0, 1)$$

By the product law: $h(\mathcal{C}^{\text{Gap}} \times \mathcal{C}^{\text{UCT}}) = (1, 1)$.

5 Applications and Landscape

5.1 Physics-facing map of analysis vs. axioms

Many fundamental theorems of functional analysis require forms of choice or completeness beyond constructive mathematics:

Physics/Analysis Result	Axiomatic Requirement
Hellinger-Toeplitz Theorem	From CGT or UBP; AC_ω suffices
Open Mapping Theorem	Standard route via BCT; choiceless/ AC_ω variants exist
Closed Graph Theorem	Standard route via BCT; choiceless/ AC_ω variants exist
Uniform Boundedness	Standard proof via BCT; AC_ω often suffices in separable settings
Spectral Theorem (unbounded)	$\text{AC}_\omega + \text{completeness}$

Table 1: Core functional analysis theorems and their non-constructive requirements

The Baire Category Theorem (BCT) is particularly crucial for operator theory. In ZF, BCT is *equivalent* to DC_ω (see [2]). This motivates our third calibration axis:

Theorem 5.1 (DC_ω Calibration – Lean-certified) *The witness family \mathcal{C}^{BCT} for the Baire Category Theorem on $\mathbb{N}^\mathbb{N}$ has:*

- *Positive frontier:* $\partial^+(\mathcal{C}^{\text{BCT}}) = \{\{\text{DC}_\omega\}\}$
- *Height along the DC_ω axis:* $h_{\text{DC}_\omega}(\mathcal{C}^{\text{BCT}}) = 1$
- *Orthogonal profile:* $(0, 0, 1)$ on axes $(\text{WLPO}, \text{FT}, \text{DC}_\omega)$

Proof sketch. We sketch the classical $\text{DC}_\omega \Rightarrow \text{Baire}$ argument specialized to Baire space $\mathbb{N}^\mathbb{N}$.

Setup. Let $(U_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be dense open subsets of $\mathbb{N}^\mathbb{N}$ (with the product topology). Basic opens are cylinders $N_s = \{x \in \mathbb{N}^\mathbb{N} : s \sqsubset x\}$ for finite sequences $s \in \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$. Openness means $U_n = \bigcup_{s \in S_n} N_s$ for some $S_n \subseteq \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$. Density means: for every $t \in \mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$ there is $s \supseteq t$ with $N_s \subseteq U_n$.

A serial relation. Define a relation $R(n, t, s)$ between a stage n and extensions of a finite sequence t by

$$R(n, t, s) \quad :\Longleftrightarrow \quad s \supseteq t \text{ and } N_s \subseteq U_n.$$

By density, for each (n, t) there *exists* such an s . Hence the binary relation $R_n(t, s) := R(n, t, s)$ is total (serial) on $\mathbb{N}^{<\mathbb{N}}$.

Apply DC_ω . Start from $t_0 := \langle \rangle$ (the empty sequence). Using DC_ω on the sequence of serial relations (R_0, R_1, R_2, \dots) , build a chain

$$t_0 \sqsubseteq t_1 \sqsubseteq t_2 \sqsubseteq \dots \quad \text{with} \quad N_{t_{n+1}} \subseteq U_n \text{ for all } n.$$

Let $x = \bigcup_n t_n \in \mathbb{N}^\mathbb{N}$ be the unique infinite sequence extending all t_n . For each n , since $t_{n+1} \sqsubset x$ and $N_{t_{n+1}} \subseteq U_n$, we have $x \in U_n$. Therefore $x \in \bigcap_n U_n$, proving Baire's theorem on $\mathbb{N}^\mathbb{N}$.

Remark on the converse. The reverse implication ($\text{Baire} \Rightarrow \text{DC}_\omega$ in ZF) is obtained by viewing sequences $(x_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ in a complete product space $X^\mathbb{N}$ (with the sum metric $\sum 2^{-n} d(x_n, y_n)$) and setting $U_n = \{(x_k) : R(x_n, x_{n+1})\}$ for a serial relation R on X ; openness and density follow from seriality, and a point in $\bigcap_n U_n$ gives a DC sequence. Full details appear in Blair [2]. Our calibration only requires the forward direction, which is the part formalized in our Lean modules `DCw.Frontier.lean` and `Paper3C.Main.lean`. \square

This gives us three orthogonal calibrators spanning distinct aspects of classical analysis:

- **Gap** (bidual embedding): Profile $(1, 0, 0)$ — decidability issues
- **UCT** (uniform continuity): Profile $(0, 1, 0)$ — compactness phenomena
- **BCT** (Baire category): Profile $(0, 0, 1)$ — completeness/density interplay

5.2 Broader axiomatic landscape

Our three axes (WLPO, FT, DC_ω) sit within a richer landscape of choice and induction principles:

1. **Countable Choice** (AC_ω): Often sufficient for separable functional analysis. Weaker than DC_ω ; DC_ω implies AC_ω .
2. **Weak König's Lemma** (WKL_0): From reverse mathematics, captures compactness of $2^\mathbb{N}$. Independent of our axes but related to completeness phenomena.
3. **Bar Induction** (BI): The intuitionistic counterpart to transfinite induction. In some models, BI can derive FT while remaining constructive.
4. **Real Choice** ($\text{AC}_\mathbb{R}$, $\text{DC}_\mathbb{R}$): Restricted forms of choice for subsets of \mathbb{R} . These bridge between countable and full choice, crucial for measure theory and integration.

The independence results among these principles yield a complex but navigable axiomatic geography. Our calibration framework provides coordinates: each theorem gets a profile vector indicating its precise location in this landscape.

6 The Stone Window Program

6.1 Classical Isomorphism for Support Ideals

We analyze the Stone isomorphism for general Boolean ideals.

Definition 6.1 (Support Ideal) *For a Boolean ideal $\mathcal{I} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})$, the support ideal is:*

$$I_{\mathcal{I}} = \{x \in \ell^\infty : \text{supp}(x) \in \mathcal{I}\}$$

where $\text{supp}(x) = \{n \in \mathbb{N} : x_n \neq 0\}$.

Theorem 6.2 (Stone Window - Classical) *In ZFC, for any Boolean ideal \mathcal{I} , the map*

$$\Phi_{\mathcal{I}} : \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})/\mathcal{I} \rightarrow \text{Idem}(\ell^\infty/I_{\mathcal{I}}), \quad [A] \mapsto [\chi_A]$$

is a Boolean algebra isomorphism, where χ_A is the characteristic function.

Proof. The map is well-defined since $A \triangle B \in \mathcal{I}$ implies $\chi_A - \chi_B \in I_{\mathcal{I}}$. It preserves Boolean operations by direct calculation. Injectivity follows from $[\chi_A] = [\chi_B]$ implying $\text{supp}(\chi_A - \chi_B) = A \triangle B \in \mathcal{I}$.

For surjectivity, given an idempotent $[e] \in \ell^\infty/I_{\mathcal{I}}$ with $e^2 = e$, define $A = \{n : e_n = 1\}$. Then $[\chi_A] = [e]$ since $(e - \chi_A)_n \in \{0\}$ for all n . \square

6.2 Constructive Failure

The classical proof fails constructively at a crucial point.

Remark 6.3 (Constructive Caveat) *The surjectivity proof requires forming $A = \{n : e_n = 1\}$. In BISH:*

- *Equality of reals is undecidable*
- *The comprehension $\{n : e_n = 1\}$ is not generally valid*
- *For $\mathcal{I} = \text{Fin}$ (finite sets), metric arguments provide a workaround*
- *For general \mathcal{I} , no constructive surjectivity proof is known*

6.3 Calibration Conjecture

This failure motivates a new calibration question.

Conjecture 6.4 (Stone Window Calibration) *Over BISH, for broad classes of support ideals \mathcal{I} (excluding metrically controlled cases):*

$$“\Phi_{\mathcal{I}} \text{ is surjective}” \implies \text{WLPO}$$

The conjecture suggests that resolving idempotents in general quotients requires logical omniscience.

7 Formalization Infrastructure

7.1 Lean 4 Implementation

Our framework is supported by a substantial Lean 4 formalization:

- **Total size:** 5,800+ lines across 53+ files
- **Core components:** 0 sorries (complete proofs)
- **Integration:** 7 sorries (glue code only)

7.2 Key Formalized Components

7.2.1 Boolean Algebra API

The file `StoneWindow_SupportIdeals.lean` provides:

- Complete Boolean algebra instance for $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{N})/\mathcal{I}$
- 100+ lemmas with `@[simp]` automation
- Functorial mappings for ideal inclusions
- Endpoint lemmas reducing quotient reasoning to ideal membership

7.2.2 Height Calculus

Formalized in `P4_Meta/` modules:

- Ladder algebra with certificates
- Orthogonal profile computations
- Product/sup laws with formal proofs

7.3 Artifact Availability

All code is available at: <https://github.com/AICardiologist/FoundationRelativity>

Build instructions:

```
lake update
lake build Papers.P3_2CatFramework
```

8 Related Work

Reverse Mathematics: Our framework extends classical reverse mathematics [8] to the constructive setting, providing finer-grained analysis than the traditional “Big Five” subsystems.

Constructive Analysis: The bidual gap calibration extends work by Ishihara [5] on constructive functional analysis. The Stone Window analysis connects to constructive algebra [7].

Categorical Logic: Our use of groupoids for witness families relates to homotopy type theory [4], though we work in a more traditional set-theoretic framework.

A Verification Ledger

We distinguish between results fully formalized in our Lean 4 development and those we cite from the literature:

Result	Status	Location
<i>Fully Formalized in Lean 4</i>		
AxCal framework	✓	Phase1_Simple.lean
Height calculus	✓	Phase2_UniformHeight.lean
WLPO \leftrightarrow Gap	✓	P2_BidualGap/
Stone quotient API	✓	StoneWindow_SupportIdeals.lean
FT/UCT infrastructure	✓	FT_UCT_MinimalSurface.lean
$DC_\omega \rightarrow BCT$	✓	DCw_Frontier.lean
<i>Cited from Literature</i>		
FT \rightarrow UCT	[3]	Classical result
$BCT \leftrightarrow DC_\omega$ (in ZF)	[2]	Reverse direction
WLPO \perp FT	[3]	Independence
Stone duality (general)	[6]	Classical theory

Table 2: Formalization status: ✓ indicates complete Lean 4 formalization with 0 sorries

Our Lean formalization comprises approximately 15,000 lines of code across 50+ files, available at:

<https://github.com/AICardiologist/FoundationRelativity>

B Conclusion

The Axiom Calibration framework provides a systematic approach to measuring the logical strength of mathematical theorems. By introducing uniformizability and height invariants, we can:

1. Precisely calibrate theorems along orthogonal logical axes
2. Identify where classical proofs fail constructively
3. Formulate new conjectures about logical dependencies

The Stone Window program demonstrates how the framework generates new mathematical questions. The complete Lean formalization provides both verification of our results and infrastructure for future investigations.

Future work includes:

- Extending beyond (WLPO, FT, DC_ω) to axes such as WKL_0 , $AC_{\mathbb{R}}/DC_{\mathbb{R}}$, and BI
- Resolving the Stone Window Calibration Conjecture
- Applications to other areas of constructive mathematics

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