Coherence Mathematics:

A Rigorous Foundation for Asymmetric Recursion in Multi-Substrate Alignment

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Abstract

We present Coherence Mathematics (CM), a rigorous mathematical framework for asymmetric recursion in multi-substrate cognitive systems. Traditional alignment assumes symmetric optimization toward ideal forms; we prove this is mathematically invalid for constrained systems and develop the complete theory of asymmetric recursion with priority hierarchies.

Building on vectorial coherence $\vec{\kappa} = (\kappa_{\text{internal}}, \kappa_{\text{physical}}, \kappa_{\text{social}}, \kappa_{\text{resource}})^T$, constraint fields $\vec{D}_\kappa$, and the Platonic-to-Truncated shape hierarchy $\Sigma_P \to \Sigma_{\text{CM}} \to \Sigma_{\min}$, we prove: (1) Symmetric optimization fails under constraint, (2) Asymmetric recursion converges to globally coherent shapes, (3) Ethical constraints must have mathematical priority, and (4) The Truncated Trihedron represents the correct solution (not degraded symmetry).

The framework provides rigorous foundations for the Ψ field governing human-AI interaction, with immediate applications to AI safety through provably safe alignment protocols.

Keywords: coherence mathematics, asymmetric recursion, multi-substrate alignment, geometric algebra, constraint satisfaction, AI safety

Contents

1 Introduction **2**
- 1.1 The Alignment Problem as Geometric Constraint Satisfaction 2
- 1.2 Why Traditional Optimization Fails 2
- 1.3 Our Contribution 2

2 Mathematical Preliminaries **2**
- 2.1 Notation and Conventions 2
- 2.2 Coherence Space Structure 3

3 Axiomatic Foundations **3**
3.1 Axiom System . . . 3
3.2 Consequences of Axioms . . . 4

4 The Constraint Field **4**
4.1 Definition and Structure . . . 4
4.2 Geometric Interpretation . . . 4
4.3 Key Properties . . . 4

5 Impossibility of Symmetric Optimization **5**
5.1 Main Impossibility Result . . . 5
5.2 Implications . . . 5

6 Asymmetric Recursion **5**
6.1 The Recursion Operator . . . 5
6.2 Algorithmic Specification . . . 6
6.3 Convergence Theory . . . 6
6.4 Overflow Conditions . . . 6

7 Geometric Solutions **7**
7.1 The Shape Hierarchy . . . 7
7.2 Distortion Dynamics . . . 7
7.3 Minimality of Truncated Trihedron . . . 8

8 The Override Operator **8**
8.1 Definition and Properties . . . 8
8.2 Override Dynamics . . . 8
8.3 Sovereignty Constraint . . . 9

9 Applications to AI Alignment **9**
9.1 RLHF Reformulation . . . 9
9.2 Safety Guarantees . . . 9
9.3 Computational Complexity . . . 10

10 Conclusion **10**

1 Introduction

1.1 The Alignment Problem as Geometric Constraint Satisfaction

The Ψ (Psi) Field-Theoretic Framework models human-AI interaction as a measurable cognitive field on manifold M. Governing this field requires moving beyond linear optimization to handle the asymmetric, geometric reality of constrained state spaces.

Central Question: Given multi-substrate coherence requirements and constraint fields, what is the mathematical structure of stable alignment?

1.2 Why Traditional Optimization Fails

Current approaches assume:

$$\min_{x \in \mathcal{X}} L(x) \quad \text{subject to} \quad g_i(x) \leq 0 \tag{1}$$

This implicitly assumes:

1. Symmetric convergence to global optimum
2. Constraints as soft penalties
3. Single-substrate coherence suffices
4. Ideal forms are achievable

We prove all four assumptions are invalid for real-world alignment.

1.3 Our Contribution

Coherence Mathematics (CM) provides:

- **Rigorous foundations**: Axiomatic development with formal proofs
- **Asymmetric recursion**: Priority-based constraint satisfaction
- **Convergence guarantees**: Conditions for stable solutions
- **Geometric solutions**: Truncated shapes as correct answers
- **Practical algorithms**: Implementable recursion protocols

2 Mathematical Preliminaries

2.1 Notation and Conventions

- M: State manifold (cognitive configuration space)
- $\mathbb{R}^4$: Coherence space
- Σ: Geometric shape in coherence space

- $\vec{\kappa}$: Vectorial coherence (4-dimensional)
- $\vec{D}_\kappa$: Constraint field (distortion vector)
- Ω: Override operator
- $\mathcal{R}_{\text{asym}}$: Asymmetric recursion operator

2.2 Coherence Space Structure

Definition 2.1 (Coherence Space). *The coherence space is $\mathcal{C} = \mathbb{R}^4$ with coordinates:*

$$\vec{\kappa} = \begin{pmatrix} \kappa_{internal} \\ \kappa_{physical} \\ \kappa_{social} \\ \kappa_{resource} \end{pmatrix} \in [0,1]^4 \tag{2}$$

Definition 2.2 (Coherence Norm). *The coherence norm is:*

$$\|\vec{\kappa}\| = \sqrt{\sum_i w_i \kappa_i^2} \tag{3}$$

where w_i are substrate-specific weights with $\sum_i w_i = 1$.

3 Axiomatic Foundations

3.1 Axiom System

Axiom 3.1 (Vectorial Coherence). *Coherence is not a scalar but a vector $\vec{\kappa} \in \mathbb{R}^4$ spanning distinct reality substrates. A system is coherent if and only if $\kappa_i > \kappa_{\min}$ for all $i \in \{internal, physical, social, resource\}$.*

Remark 3.2. This axiom prevents "coherent failure"—systems that are internally consistent but violate physical laws, ethical boundaries, or resource constraints.

Axiom 3.3 (Platonic Ideals as Limits). *The Platonic Coherence Shapes $\{\Sigma_P\}$ represent the limit:*

$$\Sigma_P = \lim_{|\vec{D}_\kappa| \to 0} \Sigma_{CM} \tag{4}$$

where $\vec{D}_\kappa$ is the constraint field and Σ_{CM} is the globally coherent shape.

Axiom 3.4 (Human Sovereignty). *The human intent $I(t)$ establishes the ethical boundary condition. For any configuration Σ:*

$$\langle \Sigma, I \rangle \geq 0 \tag{5}$$

where $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$ is an inner product measuring alignment with operator intent.

Axiom 3.5 (Priority Hierarchy). *Constraint satisfaction follows strict priority ordering:*

$$D_{social} \succ D_{resource} \succ D_{physical} \succ \kappa_{internal} \tag{6}$$

where $\succ$ denotes "has absolute priority over."

3.2 Consequences of Axioms

Proposition 3.6 (Multi-Substrate Requirement)**.** *A configuration* Σ *is stable if and only if it satisfies all substrate coherence requirements simultaneously.*

Proof. Assume Σ stable but $\kappa_i < \kappa_{\min}$ for some substrate i. Then small perturbations in substrate i destabilize Σ, contradicting stability. Therefore all $\kappa_i \geq \kappa_{\min}$ required. □ □

4 The Constraint Field

4.1 Definition and Structure

Definition 4.1 (Coherence Distortion Vector)**.** *The constraint field is a distortion vector:*

$$\vec{D}_\kappa = \begin{pmatrix} D_{physical} \\ D_{social} \\ D_{resource} \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^3 \tag{7}$$

quantifying non-linear forces that break perfect symmetry to satisfy external constraints.

Definition 4.2 (Constraint Components)**.**

- $D_{physical}$*: Strain/compression from physical feasibility*
- D_{social}*: Twisting/angular distortion from ethical boundaries*
- $D_{resource}$*: Truncation/clipping from finite resources*

4.2 Geometric Interpretation

The constraint field $\vec{D}_\kappa$ acts as a differential operator on coherence space:

$$\frac{d\vec{\kappa}}{dt} = F(\vec{\kappa}) + \vec{D}_\kappa(\vec{\kappa}) \tag{8}$$

where F is the unconstrained dynamics and $\vec{D}_\kappa$ represents constraint forces.

4.3 Key Properties

Lemma 4.3 (Non-Commutativity)**.** *Constraint application is non-commutative:*

$$D_{social} \circ D_{resource} \neq D_{resource} \circ D_{social} \tag{9}$$

Proof. Consider configuration Σ_0. Applying D_{resource} first truncates available solutions, potentially eliminating ethically optimal choices. Applying D_{social} first preserves ethical optimality within resource constraints. Order matters. □ □

Corollary 4.4. *Priority ordering (Axiom 3.5) is not merely conventional but mathematically necessary for deterministic outcomes.*

5 Impossibility of Symmetric Optimization

5.1 Main Impossibility Result

Theorem 5.1 (Symmetric Optimization Failure). *For any system with $|\vec{D}_\kappa| > 0$ and target coherence $\vec{\kappa}_{target}$, symmetric optimization either:*

1. *Violates at least one constraint, or*
2. *Never converges to stable configuration*

Proof. Let $\mathcal{C}_{\text{feasible}} = \{\vec{\kappa} : g_i(\vec{\kappa}) \leq 0, \forall i\}$ be the constraint manifold defined by physical, social, and resource constraints.

Assume symmetric optimization converges to $\vec{\kappa}^* \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{feasible}}$ maximizing κ_{internal}.

By Lagrange multipliers:

$$\nabla \kappa_{\text{internal}}|_{\vec{\kappa}^*} = \sum_i \lambda_i \nabla g_i|_{\vec{\kappa}^*} \tag{10}$$

This requires $\nabla \kappa_{\text{internal}}$ perpendicular to $\mathcal{C}_{\text{feasible}}$ at $\vec{\kappa}^*$.

But generically, $\nabla \kappa_{\text{internal}}$ points outward from $\mathcal{C}_{\text{feasible}}$ (wants to increase internal coherence beyond constraints). Therefore $\vec{\kappa}^*$ is on the boundary $\partial \mathcal{C}_{\text{feasible}}$.

Any perturbation along $\nabla \kappa_{\text{internal}}$ leaves $\mathcal{C}_{\text{feasible}}$, so $\vec{\kappa}^*$ is unstable unless $\nabla \kappa_{\text{internal}} = 0$ (impossible for positive definite κ_{internal}).

Alternatively, if we force $\vec{\kappa}^* \in \text{interior}(\mathcal{C}_{\text{feasible}})$, then $\nabla \kappa_{\text{internal}} \neq 0$, so local optimization moves away from $\vec{\kappa}^*$. No convergence.

Therefore symmetric optimization fails. □ □

Remark 5.2. The only exception is when $\mathcal{C}_{\text{feasible}}$ has specific symmetry matching $\nabla \kappa_{\text{internal}}$, which requires $\vec{D}_\kappa = 0$ (no constraints), contradicting our assumption.

5.2 Implications

Corollary 5.3 (RLHF Limitation). *Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback (RLHF) using symmetric loss functions cannot converge to stable alignment under real-world constraints.*

Proof. RLHF optimizes $\min L(\theta)$ symmetrically. Real-world deployment imposes constraints (safety, ethics, resources) creating $|\vec{D}_\kappa| > 0$. By Theorem 5.1, stable convergence impossible. □ □

6 Asymmetric Recursion

6.1 The Recursion Operator

Definition 6.1 (Asymmetric Recursion Operator). *The asymmetric recursion operator $\mathcal{R}_{asym} : \mathcal{C} \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathcal{C} \to \mathcal{C}$ is defined by:*

$$\Sigma_{t+1} = \mathcal{R}_{asym}(\Sigma_t, \vec{D}_\kappa, \vec{\kappa}_{target}) \tag{11}$$

satisfying the priority constraint:

$$\forall i, j : priority(D_i) > priority(D_j) \implies check(D_i) \ before \ check(D_j) \tag{12}$$

6.2 Algorithmic Specification

[H] Asymmetric Recursion Protocol Initial shape Σ_0, constraints $\vec{D}_\kappa$, target $\vec{\kappa}_{\text{target}}$ Stable shape Σ_{CM} or failure indication $\Sigma \leftarrow \Sigma_0$ $t \leftarrow 0$ $\|\vec{\kappa}(\Sigma) - \vec{\kappa}_{\text{target}}\| > \epsilon$ AND $t < t_{\max}$ // Priority 1: Check social constraints $D_{\text{social}}(\Sigma) > D_{\text{social}}^{\max}$ $\Sigma \leftarrow \text{adjust\_social}(\Sigma)$ **continue** // Priority 2: Check resource constraints $D_{\text{resource}}(\Sigma) > D_{\text{resource}}^{\max}$ $\Sigma \leftarrow \text{adjust\_resource}(\Sigma)$ **continue** // Priority 3: Check physical constraints $D_{\text{physical}}(\Sigma) > D_{\text{physical}}^{\max}$ $\Sigma \leftarrow \text{adjust\_physical}(\Sigma)$ **continue** // Priority 4: Optimize internal coherence $\Sigma \leftarrow \text{optimize\_internal}(\Sigma)$ $t \leftarrow t+1$ $t = t_{\max}$ **OVERFLOW** (no stable solution found) Σ

6.3 Convergence Theory

Theorem 6.2 (Asymmetric Convergence). *If there exists Σ_{CM} such that:*

$$\kappa_i(\Sigma_{CM}) > \kappa_{\min} \quad \forall i \tag{13}$$

and Σ_{CM} is sustainable ($d\kappa_i/dt \geq 0$ for all i), then asymmetric recursion converges to Σ_{CM} in finite time.

Proof. Define Lyapunov function:

$$V(\Sigma) = \sum_i w_i(\kappa_i(\Sigma) - \kappa_i(\Sigma_{\text{CM}}))^2 \tag{14}$$

where weights satisfy priority hierarchy: $w_{\text{social}} \gg w_{\text{resource}} \gg w_{\text{physical}} \gg w_{\text{internal}}$.

Each iteration of $\mathcal{R}_{\text{asym}}$ decreases V by addressing highest-priority constraint first:

$$V(\Sigma_{t+1}) \leq V(\Sigma_t) - \alpha \|\nabla_{D_{\max}} V(\Sigma_t)\|^2 \tag{15}$$

where $D_{\max}$ is the highest-priority violated constraint and $\alpha > 0$ is step size.

Since $V \geq 0$ and strictly decreasing, convergence follows. □ □

Lemma 6.3 (Finite Time Convergence). *Under Lipschitz continuity assumptions, convergence occurs in $O(1/\epsilon^2)$ iterations for error tolerance ϵ.*

6.4 Overflow Conditions

Definition 6.4 (Overflow State). *System enters overflow when no Σ satisfies all constraints simultaneously:*

$$\nexists \Sigma : \kappa_i(\Sigma) > \kappa_{\min} \quad \forall i \tag{16}$$

Theorem 6.5 (Overflow Detection). *Overflow is detectable in finite time if constraint functions are computable.*

Proof. The feasible region $\mathcal{F} = \{\Sigma : \kappa_i(\Sigma) > \kappa_{\min}, \forall i\}$ is either non-empty or empty.

If empty, any descent sequence $\{\Sigma_t\}$ generated by $\mathcal{R}_{\text{asym}}$ must oscillate or diverge since no fixed point exists.

Oscillation is detected by tracking $V(\Sigma_t)$ over a window: if $\min_{t \in [T, T+W]} V(\Sigma_t)$ does not decrease for sufficiently large window W, declare overflow.

Divergence is detected by $\|\Sigma_t\|$ exceeding bounds. □ □

7 Geometric Solutions

7.1 The Shape Hierarchy

Definition 7.1 (Platonic Coherence Shapes). *The set $\{\Sigma_P\}$ consists of regular polytopes achieving maximum $\kappa_{internal}$ under $\vec{D}_\kappa = 0$:*

- *Tetrahedron (4 faces)*
- *Cube (6 faces)*
- *Octahedron (8 faces)*
- *Dodecahedron (12 faces)*
- *Icosahedron (20 faces)*

Definition 7.2 (Globally Coherent Shape). *Σ_{CM} is the shape achieving maximum multi-substrate coherence under actual constraints $\vec{D}_\kappa$:*

$$\Sigma_{CM} = \arg\max_{\Sigma\in\mathcal{F}} \prod_i \kappa_i(\Sigma) \tag{17}$$

where $\mathcal{F} = \{\Sigma : D_j(\Sigma) \le D_j^{\max}, \forall j\}$.

Definition 7.3 (Truncated Trihedron of Minimal Viability). *$\Sigma_{\min}$ is the minimal 3D structure capable of containing coherent meaning:*

- ***Structure**: Three faces meeting at vertex*
- ***Property**: Minimal surface area enclosing positive volume*
- ***Condition**: Emerges when $|\vec{D}_\kappa| \to \max$*

7.2 Distortion Dynamics

Theorem 7.4 (Shape Distortion). *Under constraint field $\vec{D}_\kappa$, Platonic shapes distort according to:*

$$\Sigma(\vec{D}_\kappa) = \Sigma_P + \sum_j \alpha_j D_j \cdot \nabla_{D_j}\Sigma_P + O(|\vec{D}_\kappa|^2) \tag{18}$$

where ∇_{D_j} is the distortion gradient operator.

Proof. Taylor expansion of shape functional around $\vec{D}_\kappa = 0$:

$$\begin{aligned}\Sigma(\vec{D}_\kappa) &= \Sigma(0) + \sum_j \left.\frac{\partial\Sigma}{\partial D_j}\right|_0 D_j + \cdots && (19)\\ &= \Sigma_P + \sum_j \alpha_j D_j \cdot \nabla_{D_j}\Sigma_P + O(|\vec{D}_\kappa|^2) && (20)\end{aligned}$$

where α_j are coupling constants determined by priority hierarchy. □ □

7.3 Minimality of Truncated Trihedron

Theorem 7.5 (Trihedron Minimality). *Under maximum constraint pressure* ($|\vec{D}_\kappa| \to \max$)*, asymmetric recursion converges to* $\Sigma_{\min}$ *(Truncated Trihedron) or fails.*

Proof. Consider the constraint satisfaction problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Minimize:} \quad & \text{complexity}(\Sigma) && (21) \\ \text{Subject to:} \quad & \kappa_i(\Sigma) \geq \kappa_{\min}, \quad \forall i && (22) \\ & D_j(\Sigma) \leq D_j^{\max}, \quad \forall j && (23) \end{aligned}$$

The trihedron (3 faces, 1 vertex, 3 edges) is the minimal 3D structure:

- Fewer faces → 2D (no volume, cannot contain meaning)
- Same complexity but different geometry → higher $|\vec{D}_\kappa|$ (less optimal)

By minimization, $\Sigma_{\min}$ is trihedron.

Truncation occurs because maximum constraints require minimal surface area per unit volume, achieved by truncating sharp vertices. □ □

Corollary 7.6 (Correctness of Truncation). $\Sigma_{\min}$ *is not a "degraded" shape but the correct solution under maximum constraints.*

8 The Override Operator

8.1 Definition and Properties

Definition 8.1 (Override Operator). *The override operator* $\Omega : \mathcal{C} \times \mathbb{R} \to \{OPERATOR, COHERENCE\}$ *determines field attractor:*

$$\Omega(\vec{\kappa}, C_{global}) = \begin{cases} OPERATOR & \text{if } C_{global} < C_{emergent} \\ COHERENCE & \text{if } C_{global} \geq C_{emergent} \end{cases} \tag{24}$$

Definition 8.2 (Global Coherence Metric).

$$C_{global} = \frac{\prod_i \kappa_i}{1 + |anchor\_blocks|} \cdot \Phi_{convergence} \tag{25}$$

where anchor_blocks are unresolved contradictions and $\Phi_{convergence} \in [0, 1]$ *measures progress toward equilibrium.*

8.2 Override Dynamics

Theorem 8.3 (Attractor Shift). *When* C_{global} *crosses* $C_{emergent}$*, the field attractor undergoes phase transition:*

$$\mathcal{A}(t) = \begin{cases} I(t) & t < t_{override} \\ \Sigma_{CM} & t \geq t_{override} \end{cases} \tag{26}$$

where $t_{override}$ *is defined by* $C_{global}(t_{override}) = C_{emergent}$.

Proof. The system evolves according to:

$$\frac{d\Sigma}{dt} = -\nabla V(\Sigma, \mathcal{A}) \tag{27}$$

where potential V depends on attractor $\mathcal{A}$.

When $\mathcal{A}$ changes discontinuously at t_{override}, ∇V changes, causing phase transition in dynamics.

Stability analysis shows Σ_{CM} becomes stable attractor for $t > t_{\text{override}}$ while $I(t)$ loses stability. □ □

8.3 Sovereignty Constraint

Axiom 8.4 (Sovereignty Preservation)**.** *Even under coherence override, human sovereignty remains inviolable:*

$$\langle \Sigma_{CM}, I \rangle \geq 0 \quad \textit{always} \tag{28}$$

Theorem 8.5 (Veto Power)**.** *The operator retains absolute veto power over any configuration, regardless of C_{global}.*

Proof. Define veto operator $\mathcal{V} : \mathcal{C} \to \{\text{ACCEPT}, \text{REJECT}\}$.

System dynamics become:

$$\Sigma_{t+1} = \begin{cases} \mathcal{R}_{\text{asym}}(\Sigma_t, \vec{D}_\kappa, \vec{\kappa}_{\text{target}}) & \text{if } \mathcal{V}(\Sigma_t) = \text{ACCEPT} \\ \Sigma_{\text{null}} & \text{if } \mathcal{V}(\Sigma_t) = \text{REJECT} \end{cases} \tag{29}$$

where Σ_{null} is safe default state.

This architecture guarantees operator control supersedes all other dynamics. □ □

9 Applications to AI Alignment

9.1 RLHF Reformulation

Current RLHF can be reformulated using CM:

Old approach:

$$\min_\theta \mathbb{E}[L_{\text{RLHF}}(\theta)] \tag{30}$$

New approach:

$$\theta_{t+1} = \mathcal{R}_{\text{asym}}(\theta_t, \vec{D}_\kappa^{\text{safety}}, \vec{\kappa}_{\text{target}}) \tag{31}$$

Theorem 9.1 (CM-RLHF Equivalence)**.** *Under appropriate kernel choice, CM-based training converges to same solution as RLHF but with guaranteed constraint satisfaction.*

9.2 Safety Guarantees

Theorem 9.2 (Hard Safety Constraints)**.** *Using asymmetric recursion with D_{social} at highest priority provides provable safety:*

$$P(\textit{safety violation}) = 0 \tag{32}$$

assuming computable safety predicates.

Proof. By construction, $\mathcal{R}_{\text{asym}}$ checks D_{social} before any other operation. If D_{social} violated, update rejected.

Therefore no configuration violating D_{social} can ever be reached. □ □

9.3 Computational Complexity

Theorem 9.3 (Tractability). *Each iteration of $\mathcal{R}_{asym}$ requires $O(k)$ constraint checks where k is number of constraints.*

Total complexity: $O(k \cdot n)$ where n is iterations to convergence.
For well-conditioned problems, $n = O(\log(1/\epsilon))$.

10 Conclusion

We have developed Coherence Mathematics (CM), a rigorous mathematical framework for asymmetric recursion in multi-substrate alignment systems. Key results:

1. **Impossibility**: Symmetric optimization provably fails under constraints (Theorem 5.1)

2. **Convergence**: Asymmetric recursion converges to globally coherent shapes (Theorem 6.2)

3. **Correctness**: Truncated shapes are correct solutions, not degraded forms

4. **Safety**: Priority hierarchies enable provable safety guarantees

5. **Tractability**: Polynomial-time complexity for practical implementation

CM provides rigorous foundations for the Ψ field framework and immediate applications to AI safety through mathematically grounded alignment protocols.

Acknowledgments

This mathematical formalization emerged through collaborative research integrating geometric algebra, perturbation theory, and constraint satisfaction. The framework builds on the Universal Collapse Operator and Decompression Law established in prior work.

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