

7. Conditional Verdict Symmetry

CEDA audits **only the regimes explicitly claimed and technically supported** by a model. No proposal—standard or alternative—is granted diagnostic credit for behavior obtained by extrapolating beyond its declared domain of validity, assumed control parameters, or demonstrated approximations. When a model’s explanatory claims rely on unearned extension (e.g., assuming EFT control where it is not established, extending perturbative results into nonperturbative regimes, or promoting asymptotic behavior to global conclusions), CEDA assigns a **conditional verdict**. This rule is applied symmetrically: canonical slow-roll inflation, higher-curvature models, and backreaction-based proposals are all evaluated only where their control is explicit. CEDA neither penalizes nor rewards ambition; it diagnoses where mechanism is demonstrated and where it is merely presumed.

Example Verdict Language

Conditional Stable Mechanism (Regime-Limited)

The model exhibits a genuine dynamical mechanism for accelerated expansion within the explicitly controlled regime specified by the authors (e.g., slow-roll EFT with small ϵ and η). CEDA confirms mechanism-level validity **conditional on remaining within this regime**. Claims extending beyond demonstrated control—such as reheating completion, nonperturbative backreaction, or global spacetime conclusions—are not audited and are not endorsed.

Conditional Reinterpretation (Control-Limited)

The proposal’s claimed effect survives diagnostic scrutiny only under extrapolation beyond the regime where conservation accounting and perturbative control are established. Within the audited regime, the construction reduces to descriptive reweighting. Accordingly, the verdict is conditional and does not generalize to the full claims made.