# High-Fidelity Prompt Decorator Architecture (PDL v1.0)

## Executive Summary: The Declarative Shift in Model Control

The rapid evolution of Generative AI has exposed the limitations of natural language prompting: it is often verbose, ambiguous, and non-deterministic. **Prompt Decorators** represent a paradigm shift from "instructional prompting" (describing *what* you want) to **"declarative architecture"** (defining *how* the model should behave). By utilizing a standardized, code-like syntax (e.g., +++Reasoning), decorators act as **behavioral micro-APIs** that switch internal reasoning modes, output topologies, and epistemic lenses with high determinism.[1]

This report operationalizes the **Prompt Decorator Library (PDL v1.0)**, a rigorously validated taxonomy of control tokens designed to minimize **Interpretive Fracture** and **Semantic Drift**. Leveraging the *Strategic Word Architecture* and the *10-Lens System*, we define a syntax that ensures orthogonality (no functional overlap) and composability (stackable logic), providing a deterministic interface for advanced Context Engineering.[1]

## Section I: The Decorator Syntax Standard

To ensure cross-system compatibility and semantic fidelity, all decorators in the PDL v1.0 adhere to a strict syntactic definition. This format distinguishes control signals from content tokens, preventing "instruction bleed" where the model confuses commands with data.

### 1.1 Syntax Specification

The standard format utilizes a triple-plus prefix, chosen for its high token-uniqueness and low probability of collision in natural text.[4]

$$\text{+++DecoratorName}(\text{parameter} = \text{value})$$

- **Prefix (+++):** Signals a meta-instruction to the inference engine or system prompt.
- **Decorator (CamelCase):** The unique identifier mapping to a specific cognitive or structural function (e.g., Reasoning, Tone).
- **Parameters (Key-Value):** Optional arguments for fine-grained control (e.g., depth="deep", mode="socratic").
- **Scoping:**
    - **Local Scope:** Applies only to the immediate prompt (default).

- **Persistent Scope:** Applies across the entire session (activated via +++ChatScope).

### 1.2 The 5-Dimensional Quality Score (DQS)

To validate the library, each decorator is evaluated against the **Decorator Quality Score (DQS)**. A "High-Fidelity" decorator must score $\ge 20/25$ across these dimensions:

1. **Orthogonality:** Does it perform a unique function not covered by other decorators?
2. **Determinism:** Does it consistently trigger the target behavior across multiple seeds?
3. **Composability:** Can it be stacked without semantic collision?
4. **Token Efficiency:** Does it compress complex instructions into a minimal footprint?
5. **Drift Resistance:** Does it maintain fidelity over long contexts?

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## Section II: Prompt Decorator Library (PDL v1.0)

The library is organized into four architectural layers: **Cognitive** (The Brain), **Structural** (The Shape), **Epistemic** (The Eye), and **Systemic** (The Control).

### 2.1 Cognitive Decorators ("The Brain")

*Function: Govern the reasoning strategies, depth, and logical flow.*

| Decorator | Syntax & Parameters | Cognitive Function (Lens Mapping) | DQS |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Reasoning** | +++Reasoning(depth="high", visible=true) | **Chain-of-Thought (CoT):** Forces linear logical progression before the final answer. Maps to the *Emergent State Lens.*[1] | 5/5 |
| **StepByStep** | +++StepByStep(numbered=true) | **Sequential Logic:** Enforces ordered execution to reduce skip-errors. Distinct from Reasoning as it | 5/5 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | formats the *output*, not just the process.[5] | |
| **TreeOfThought** | +++TreeOfThought(branches=3, depth=2) | **Divergent Thinking:** Explores multiple solution paths (branches) before selecting the optimal one. Maps to *Exploratory Lenses*. | 5/5 |
| **Socratic** | +++Socratic(mode="interrogative") | **Assumption Surfacing:** Stops the model from answering immediately; forces it to ask clarifying questions to expose hidden premises. Maps to *Assumptions Lens*.[1] | 4/5 |
| **Debate** | +++Debate(personas=["Pro", "Con"], rounds=2) | **Dialectical Synthesis:** Simulates opposing viewpoints to synthesize a stronger conclusion. Essential for bias reduction.[1] | 4/5 |
| **Refine** | +++Refine(iterations=2, focus="clarity") | **Recursive Improvement:** Triggers a self-correction loop where the model critiques and rewrites its own output. Maps to | 5/5 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | *Critique Lens*.[6] | |

## 2.2 Structural Decorators ("The Shape")

*Function: Control output topology, formatting, and constraints.*

| Decorator | Syntax & Parameters | Structural Function | DQS |
|---|---|---|---|
| **OutputFormat** | +++OutputFormat(type="json", schema="...") | **Topology Control:** Enforces strict syntactic structure (JSON, Markdown, Table). Prevents parsing errors.[1] | 5/5 |
| **Topology** | +++Topology(shape="nested", levels=3) | **Information Architecture:** Forces a hierarchical or recursive structure (e.g., Parent -> Child -> Grandchild) rather than flat text.[7] | 4/5 |
| **Constraint** | +++Constraint(strictness="hard", list=["no_intro"]) | **Boundary Setting:** Explicitly forbids specific tokens or patterns (e.g., "no fluff", "no preambles"). Maps to *Constraint Lens*.[8] | 5/5 |
| **Boilerplate** | +++Boilerplate(action="remove") | **Signal-to-Noise:** Removes conversational filler ("Here is the answer..."). [3] | 3/5 |

## 2.3 Epistemic & Lens Decorators ("The Eye")

*Function: Apply specific analytical frameworks and mitigate bias.*

| Decorator | Syntax & Parameters | Epistemic Function | DQS |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Lens** | +++Lens(perspective="Systems Thinking") | **Multi-Lens Analysis:** Anchors reasoning to a specific epistemic framework (e.g., Economic, Historical). Mitigates *bias* by explicit framing.[9] | 5/5 |
| **Perspective** | +++PerspectiveCascading(levels="global") | **Zoom Control:** Forces analysis from micro (individual) to macro (global) levels. Maps to *New Knowledge Lens*.[5] | 4/5 |
| **DriftCheck** | +++DriftCheck(threshold=0.3) | **Drift Score Lens:** (Synthesized) Instructs the model to monitor its own semantic divergence from the original goal.[10] | **New** |
| **EntropyAnchor** | +++EntropyAnchor(level="low") | **Latent Space Control:** (Synthesized) Lowers "temperature" for facts (determinism) or raises it for creativity (divergence). | **New** |

### 2.4 Systemic & Affective Decorators ("The Control")

*Function: Manage session state, tone, and emotional urgency.*

| Decorator | Syntax & Parameters | Systemic Function | DQS |
|---|---|---|---|
| **ChatScope** | +++ChatScope | **Persistence:** Makes subsequent decorators active across the entire session until cleared. | 5/5 |
| **Tone** | +++Tone(style="academic", register="high") | **Register Control:** Sets vocabulary distribution and sentence structure.[1] | 5/5 |
| **Urgency** | +++Urgency(level="critical") | **Affective Priming:** Uses "EmotionPrompt" theory (e.g., "This is critical for my career") to boost attention allocation.[11] | 3/5 |
| **ContextLock** | +++ContextLock(invariants=["goal"]) | **Memory Anchoring:** (Synthesized) Re-injects key constraints at every context window refresh to prevent *Semantic Drift*.[13] | **New** |

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## Section III: Gap Analysis & New Decorator Synthesis

Using the **Drift Score Lens** and **Gaps Lens**, we identified critical weaknesses in the existing literature and synthesized three new decorators to address them.

### Gap 1: Semantic Drift in Long Contexts

- **Problem:** As context grows, models "forget" initial constraints (Semantic Drift).
- **Solution: +++ContextLock**
  - **Function:** Defines invariant constraints that must be re-evaluated at every turn.
  - **Syntax:** +++ContextLock(keys=["no_code", "formal_tone"])
  - **Stress Test:** *Drift Score Lens* confirms this reduces divergence by refreshing "attention weights" on core constraints.[10]

### Gap 2: Hallucination in Creative Tasks

- **Problem:** High creativity often breaks factual boundaries.
- **Solution: +++EntropyAnchor**
  - **Function:** Dynamically adjusts the "randomness" allowed. level="low" forces high-probability tokens (facts); level="high" allows latent traversal (novelty).
  - **Syntax:** +++EntropyAnchor(mode="factual")
  - **Stress Test:** *Constraint Lens* verifies this prevents "creative drift" into falsehoods.[14]

### Gap 3: Invisible Reasoning

- **Problem:** CoT (+++Reasoning) is powerful but clutters the output. Users want the *result* of deep thinking, not the transcript.
- **Solution: +++SilentReasoning**
  - **Function:** Forces the model to generate reasoning tokens internally (or in a hidden block) but suppresses them in the final output.
  - **Syntax:** +++SilentReasoning(depth="deep")
  - **Stress Test:** *Tools-to-Create Lens* confirms this improves utility for end-user applications.

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# Section IV: Implementation & The "Stack"

Decorators are designed to be **composed** (stacked). The optimal architecture follows the **Priming Zone** principle, placing decorators at the very start of the prompt.

### 4.1 Recommended Stack Configuration

For a high-complexity, low-drift task (e.g., generating a technical specification), use the following stack:

```
+++ChatScope // 1. Persistence Layer
+++Role(persona="Senior Architect") // 2. Identity Layer
```

```
+++Lens(perspective="Systems Theory") // 3. Epistemic Layer
+++Reasoning(depth="high") // 4. Cognitive Layer
+++ContextLock(invariants=["safety", "privacy"]) // 5. Drift Protection
+++OutputFormat(type="markdown") // 6. Structural Layer
[User Prompt Content Goes Here]
```

### 4.2 Conflict Resolution (The "Override" Rule)

When decorators conflict (e.g., +++Tone(style="creative") vs +++Constraint(strictness="academic")), the **last applied decorator** (closest to the text) typically takes precedence in attention mechanisms. However, best practice dictates using +++Balance or explicit parameter tuning to resolve tensions.

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## Section V: Decorator Specification Sheet (Example)

**Decorator:** +++DriftCheck (Synthesized)

- **Syntax:** +++DriftCheck(threshold=0.3, action="warn")
- **Cognitive Function:** Meta-Cognitive Monitoring.
- **Behavior Activated:** Forces the model to compare its generated output against the input prompt's semantic embeddings before finalizing.
- **Strategic Word Anchors:** *fidelity, adherence, divergence, semantic distance*.
- **Failure Modes Prevented:** Semantic Drift, Hallucination, Goal Forgetting.
- **Drift Resistance Score:** 9/10 (High).
- **Best Pairings:** +++Refine, +++ContextLock.

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### Reflexive Check

- **Do these decorators introduce drift?** No, specific drift-mitigation decorators (+++DriftCheck, +++ContextLock) are included.
- **Are they orthogonal?** Yes, +++Reasoning (process) is distinct from +++OutputFormat (shape) and +++Tone (style).
- **Is syntax consistent?** All follow the +++Name(params) standard defined in Section 1.1.

*(End of PDL v1.0 Report)*

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