

# Distributed Cognitive Architecture in Adversarial Information Environments

## Introduction

In extreme, adversarial information environments – **conceptually akin to a black hole** – an intelligent system must operate under severe informational constraints. Such an environment is characterized by *bounded information availability* (limited context windows, finite memory, and partial observability) and *irreversible information loss* (one-way dynamics analogous to an event horizon). The cognitive architecture we propose is **distributed and constraint-aware**, drawing inspiration from social insects and ecosystem engineers. The goal is a foundational model for a **swarm-like cognitive system** that can integrate knowledge adaptively and act within strict causal bounds. We frame this in terms of **three interacting subsystems**, each inspired by a biological paradigm (ants, bees, and beavers), and governed by information-theoretic and topological constraints.

Formally, let  $\mathcal{E}$  denote the *environment state space*, which the agent only partially observes via a noisy observation function  $O: \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{W}$  (where  $\mathcal{W}$  is the *workspace* or immediate perceptual context of the system). The environment's adversarial nature means observations are limited and possibly misleading, and certain past states of  $\mathcal{E}$  become unrecoverable (analogous to crossing a point-of-no-return). In thermodynamic terms, the agent's information intake is an **open system** exchanging entropy with  $\mathcal{E}$  – irreversible information loss imparts a **causal asymmetry** (an arrow of time) to the agent's knowledge process <sup>1</sup> <sup>2</sup>. The architecture must therefore **maximize useful information extraction and retention** while rigorously handling *uncertainty, partial truth, and entropy increase*.

We introduce a *multi-agent cognitive architecture* comprising: (1) a **Semantic Construction & Governance** subsystem (ant-inspired) that builds and maintains a **coherent knowledge graph** under the constant threat of contradictions, (2) a **Communication & Logistics** subsystem (bee-inspired) that ferries information between components, synchronizes distributed knowledge, and achieves **consensus** despite communication delays or warping, and (3) a **Structural Modeling & World-Shaping** subsystem (beaver-inspired) that **modifies and maintains an internal model of the environment**, imposing structure to counteract environmental entropy and preserve critical constraints. These subsystems are tightly coupled, operating in concert to ensure the overall system remains *coherent, truthful to observations, and stable* against perturbations.

Information theory and geometry provide a unifying framework for this architecture. We impose **entropy-based limits** on information processing and storage (reflecting finite memory and thermodynamic costs), and leverage **topological and geometrical tools** to model the spaces in which the system operates – from the high-dimensional *conceptual manifolds* of knowledge to the network topology of communication channels and the stability of learned structures. Multi-agent coordination techniques (e.g. message-passing protocols and consensus algorithms) are employed to manage the interactions between many simple

processes, mirroring how insect colonies achieve complex, adaptive behavior without centralized control <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> .

In the rest of this report, we detail the architecture's subsystems and their interactions, develop a mathematical framework defining key state spaces and dynamical laws, and propose measures for the system's performance (coherence, truth preservation, stability). Throughout, we draw analogies to our biological inspirations and enforce the constraints of an adversarial "black hole" information regime using formal information-theoretic principles.

## Architecture Overview

The proposed cognitive architecture consists of three primary subsystems, each comprising a *collective* of micro-agents or processes that embody a biological principle:

- **Semantic Construction & Governance (Ant-inspired):** This subsystem is responsible for constructing a **semantic knowledge base** out of fragmentary, uncertain inputs, and **governing its consistency** over time. It handles **indexing** of information (organizing knowledge into accessible structures), **resolving contradictions** that arise from new or conflicting data, and maintaining overall **conceptual coherence** of the system's worldview. We model this as a swarm of simple "ant-like" agents moving through a *knowledge graph*, depositing and sensing "pheromones" that signify supportive evidence or contradictions, thereby collectively **self-organizing a coherent knowledge structure** <sup>4</sup> . Just as real ants discover shortest paths via pheromone reinforcement, these semantic ants discover **consistent inferential paths** and reinforce them, while identifying and "metabolizing" contradictions in the knowledge base <sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> . Governance policies in this subsystem ensure that local resolutions of inconsistency scale to global semantic stability.
- **Communication & Logistics (Bee-inspired):** This subsystem manages the **flow of information** across the architecture's components and timelines. It is inspired by the efficient foraging and consensus-building of honeybees. Key responsibilities include **data transport** (moving messages or data packets between nodes/agents), **time-synchronization** (aligning distributed processes on a common logical timeline), and **consensus under communication delays or warping**. In a bee swarm, foragers perform waggle dances to share distant information and the colony reaches a decision only after a **critical mass** of scouts agree on a good site <sup>7</sup> – notably, *unanimity is not required* <sup>8</sup> . Likewise, our communication agents implement a **quorum-based consensus**: multiple agents independently evaluate and transmit data; agreement emerges once enough agents corroborate a particular piece of information or decision. This subsystem must handle **asynchrony** and **partial communication**: there is no global clock, messages can be delayed or arrive out-of-order, and some channels may be unreliable <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> . We incorporate distributed systems techniques like **logical timestamps** (e.g. Lamport or vector clocks) to maintain a partial ordering of events and causal consistency across the system <sup>9</sup> . The communication network itself can be represented as a **message graph** where nodes are information-processing agents and edges are communication links (possibly weighted by latency or reliability). The topology of this network – the "communication surface" – may evolve (agents can form new links or drop old ones) in response to environmental pressures or internal reconfiguration, analogous to bees dynamically adjusting their communication as the swarm disperses or moves.

- **Structural Modeling & World-Shaping (Beaver-inspired):** This subsystem maintains an **internal model of the environment** and actively intervenes to shape either the *real environment* or the *agent's effective environment* (e.g. the state of its memory or external tools) for the benefit of the whole system. It takes inspiration from beavers, which physically re-engineer their surroundings (building dams and lodges) to create stable, favorable niches. In cognitive terms, this corresponds to **niche construction**: the system creates and preserves structures that **reduce entropy and uncertainty** in its interaction with the environment <sup>11</sup>. For example, the subsystem may impose **constraints** or record **invariants** in its world model (akin to beavers maintaining a water level) to ensure that critical assumptions hold despite environmental volatility. It also performs **dynamic model updates**: as the environment changes (especially adversarially or irreversibly), the subsystem revises its internal **world graph** or simulation so that the semantic subsystem has a reliable scaffold to work from. This can involve introducing new conceptual “structures” (e.g. new coordinate frames, partitioning of concept space, or durable cache of important facts) that make future cognition easier – much like we humans offload memory to notebooks or design physical tools to simplify tasks, a process of *cognitive offloading* and niche construction <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup>. Importantly, the world-shaping subsystem ensures **structure preservation**: it guards against high-entropy forces that might collapse the internal model. In a turbulent environment, it behaves like a regulatory controller that expends energy or effort to keep the internal state within viable bounds (homeostasis of knowledge). We will formalize measures of “structural integrity” that this subsystem tries to maximize, analogous to how a beaver dam has a structural stability that must withstand floods (here, floods of chaotic or conflicting information).

Each subsystem is **tightly coupled** to the others. They continuously exchange messages and feedback: *semantic agents* request or produce information that *communication agents* must ferry; *communication agents* report delays or conflicts that the semantic subsystem interprets (e.g. if messages are consistently delayed or lost, semantic coherence might degrade); *structural agents* provide the semantic subsystem with curated context (like an updated world model or constraints that must not be violated), and they rely on the semantic subsystem to identify which environmental features are salient to maintain. The communication subsystem, in turn, provides the timing and negotiation layer that allows semantic and structural agents to cooperate (for example, coordinating a rebuild of a knowledge structure if a collapse is detected). In summary, **no subsystem operates in isolation** – they form a *distributed cognitive ensemble*, much like diverse castes in a superorganism colony that together adapt to survive in a harsh environment.

**Figure 1 (Conceptual Diagram of the Architecture)** – *Not shown due to text format* – **would depict the three subsystems** (ants/semantic, bees/communication, beavers/structural) as interacting layers. The semantic layer might be visualized as a graph of concepts with ant-agents traversing edges; the communication layer as a network overlay with bee-agents relaying signals; and the structural layer as a boundary or membrane that encloses the system's world model, with beaver-agents reinforcing parts of that boundary against an encroaching chaotic environment (analogous to a black hole's event horizon). Information enters from the environment through this boundary (some being irretrievably lost, some captured by the system), flows through the communication network to the semantic graph where it is incorporated into knowledge, and feedback loops back out as actions or structural changes to the environment.\*

## Theoretical Foundations and Integrative Constraints

To rigorously model this architecture, we integrate principles from information theory, dynamical systems, and topology. We outline these foundations before delving into formal definitions:

### Entropic Constraints and Information Thermodynamics

Any cognitive system operating under **bounded information conditions** must respect fundamental limits on information **storage, processing, and dissipation**. We posit that our architecture obeys an *information-theoretic thermodynamics* analogous to physical thermodynamics <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup>. In this view, **meaningful structure (coherence)** plays the role of energy, and **unresolved contradictions or uncertainties** play the role of entropy <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup>. The system has a finite *capacity* for semantic coherence – analogous to a finite free energy supply – and the introduction of contradictory information raises its “semantic entropy” (disorder in the knowledge base) <sup>17</sup>.

We can define a **semantic entropy**  $S$  to quantify the system's *degree of contradiction or incoherence*. One possible measure (inspired by *coherence thermodynamics* <sup>17</sup>) is:

$$S = -\ln(1 + N_c)$$

where  $N_c$  is the number (or weighted intensity) of outstanding contradictions in the system's knowledge state. In a state of **perfect coherence** ( $N_c = 0$ ), we have  $S = 0$ , indicating maximal order (all facts consistent) <sup>18</sup>. As contradictions accumulate ( $N_c$  large),  $S$  grows, potentially without bound as  $N_c \rightarrow \infty$  (an infinite misalignment of meaning) <sup>18</sup>. This entropy measure increases whenever new conflicting or disordered information is absorbed, reflecting the **irreversibility** of incorporating error or noise into knowledge. Resolving contradictions – the act of making formerly incompatible beliefs consistent – corresponds to a *local reduction in entropy*, analogous to locally decreasing thermodynamic entropy by expending energy.

**Crucially, the architecture can only reduce semantic entropy locally by expending effort and obeying a conservation principle.** There is no free lunch: resolving a contradiction (increasing coherence) must either *use up* some reserve of semantic energy or export entropy elsewhere. This mirrors the second law of thermodynamics: the **global** entropy of system + environment cannot decrease <sup>5</sup>. In our model, the Semantic subsystem's act of contradiction resolution is like a **metabolic process** <sup>5</sup>: it may *burn* computational resources or discard low-value information as “waste heat” to achieve a cleaner, more coherent internal state. Formally, if  $Q$  denotes *semantic heat* (non-conservative entropy flow) and  $W_{\text{sem}}$  denotes *semantic work* (purposeful coherence-adjusting operations), we enforce a **First Law**:

$$\Delta E_{\text{sem}} = \Delta Q - \Delta W_{\text{sem}},$$

meaning the internal “semantic energy” change equals heat absorbed minus work done (analogous to energy conservation) <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup>. For example, *deductive reasoning* that resolves a logical conflict would be  $W_{\text{sem}}$  (structured work reducing  $S$ ), whereas *random trial-and-error learning* might generate  $Q$  (introducing transient contradictions or discarding hypotheses, increasing  $S$ ). The architecture is

designed to favor pathways that do useful work (increase coherence) over those that generate excess heat (random inconsistency).

**Definition – Workspace and Memory Limits:** Let  $\mathcal{W}$  be the workspace of immediate information (e.g. context window or working memory) and  $\mathcal{M}$  be the long-term memory store (structured as a graph, defined more formally in the next section). These have finite capacities:  $|\mathcal{W}| = W_{\max}$  tokens (or bits) and  $|\mathcal{M}| = M_{\max}$  nodes. The **Bekenstein bound** from physics provides an intuition: there is an upper limit to how much information can be packed into a given volume or system with finite resources <sup>21</sup>. In a “black hole” analog, the maximum information content is proportional to surface area of the system’s boundary, not volume <sup>21</sup>. By analogy, our agent’s memory cannot grow arbitrarily and may effectively saturate. When memory is full, adding new information requires deleting or compressing old information, an **irreversible act with a cost**. According to Landauer’s Principle, each bit erased incurs an entropy cost  $\Delta S \geq k_B \ln 2$  (with  $k_B$  the Boltzmann constant, in physical units) <sup>22</sup>. While we don’t need the physical units here, we carry over the concept: **erasing or forgetting information has a minimal “energy” cost and increases semantic entropy** <sup>22</sup>. This formalizes why the system cannot endlessly ingest data in an adversarial environment – eventually it must **jettison information (and accept the consequent increase in uncertainty)** to stay within capacity.

The **irreversibility** of information loss ties into *causal asymmetry*: once our system has deleted or lost access to certain data (say, an observation that fell outside the context window and was not stored), it cannot fully reconstruct that data from later inputs alone. There is a fundamental **arrow of time** in the information flow: the past leaves imprints on the present state, but not all those imprints can be undone to retrieve the past state. As a result, the agent must act under a perpetual *information arrow*: it accumulates knowledge until resources force pruning or compression, at which point some info is irreversibly lost, analogous to crossing an event horizon. This aligns with the observation that **thermodynamic time orientation underwrites causal asymmetry** – the growing entropy (lost information) is what makes causes distinct from effects <sup>2</sup>.

To mitigate uncontrolled entropy growth, the architecture employs **information compression and structuring**. Highly **structured (coherent) knowledge is more compressible** than disorganized data <sup>6</sup>. By organizing incoming information into a coherent model (via the Semantic subsystem), the system effectively increases its *compression efficiency*. Formally, if  $H(\text{raw data})$  is the Shannon entropy of recent inputs and  $H(\text{model}|\text{data})$  is the conditional entropy remaining after encoding data into the model, we want  $H(\text{model}|\text{data}) \ll H(\text{raw data})$ . The difference (mutual information) is the information the system retained meaningfully. A well-structured internal ontology means fewer bits are needed to encode new entries (because they can be referenced relative to existing structures). Empirically, when **contradiction density is low and semantic coherence is high, compression algorithms achieve better efficiency**, whereas a surge in contradictions makes processing more computationally costly <sup>6</sup>. This justifies the Semantic subsystem’s mandate to keep the knowledge base well-organized: not only does coherence aid correctness, it literally allows the agent to **remember and process more with the same capacity**.

Finally, we introduce the notion of a **Semantic Schwarzschild Radius** from the coherence thermodynamics analogy <sup>19</sup>. There is a threshold of contradiction mass beyond which the knowledge structure undergoes **collapse**. If  $M_{\Psi}$  denotes the “mass” of unresolved semantic contradictions and  $G_s$  a constant characterizing how strongly contradiction curves semantic space (an analogue of gravitational constant), then one can define a critical radius  $R^*_{\Psi} = \frac{2 G_s M_{\Psi}}{c^2}$  in some units <sup>19</sup>. When the

“density” of unresolved contradictions in a region of the knowledge graph exceeds a critical level, no conventional resolution methods suffice – the system enters a **collapsed state** needing radical reorganization <sup>23</sup>. In our framework, this is when the **Structural subsystem** must intervene (much like a beaver reinforcing a dam before it breaks). A semantic “black hole” is thus a zone of the knowledge base where contradictions have piled up unchecked; the architecture might respond by quarantining that region or reformulating the representation (a “conceptual rebirth” after collapse) <sup>20</sup>. The formal analogy suggests these *semantic black holes are not empty voids but high-density furnaces of reconceptualization*<sup>\*\*</sup> <sup>20</sup> – the system might spawn new concepts or structural changes out of the collapsed contradictions, akin to how a massive star’s collapse can forge heavier elements. This dramatic scenario underscores the importance of entropy-aware governance: the system should ideally resolve issues before they accumulate to catastrophic levels.

## Multi-Agent Coordination and Communication Geometry

The distributed nature of our architecture means that coordination among sub-agents is a critical consideration. Each subsystem (ants, bees, beavers) can be thought of as a swarm of agents following simple rules. Globally coherent behavior emerges from their interactions, provided the **communication and coordination mechanisms** are well-designed <sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup>. Here we outline the theoretical tools we use: **message-passing algorithms, consensus protocols, and topological considerations** of the communication network.

We represent the pattern of communications as a directed graph (or hypergraph)  $\mathcal{C} = (N, E)$  which we call the **message graph**. The nodes  $N$  are processing units or agents (for example, individual ant-like semantic processors, or individual bee-like messengers; in a coarse view one might lump all semantic agents as one node and so on, but the fine-grained view is more powerful). An edge  $e = (i \rightarrow j)$  in  $E$  indicates agent  $i$  can send messages to agent  $j$  (bidirectional if communication is two-way). Because the environment is adversarial and partially observable, no single agent has the full picture; agents must share information and arrive at **distributed decisions**. A fundamental constraint is that communication is **asynchronous** – there is *no global clock* to which all agents have access <sup>9</sup>. Each agent has its own local clock and sequencing of events. Network delays mean a message sent at time  $t$  by one agent might arrive at time  $t'$  to another, with  $t' > t$  and unpredictable lag. We formalize this using **partial order** relations on events: we say event  $A$  (sending a particular message) *happened-before* event  $B$  (receiving that message) in the Lamport sense, and if two events are not comparable by happened-before, they are concurrent. The Communication subsystem implements **logical clocks** to timestamp messages so that agents can reason about ordering without a physical clock <sup>24</sup>. For example, a **vector clock**  $v_i$  for agent  $i$  is an  $|N|$ -dimensional timestamp that gets included in messages and merged (taking maxima) on receipt; this allows each agent to maintain a **causal ordering** of received information <sup>24</sup>. Thus, despite “warped” communication (variable delays, out-of-order arrival), the system can detect potential causality violations and ensure that knowledge updates are applied in a consistent sequence.

**Consensus** is achieved via **redundancy and quorum sensing**. Inspired by bees (which perform *cross-inhibition* by head-butting to discourage minority opinions and only move when a quorum dances for one site <sup>25</sup> <sup>7</sup>), our communication protocol lets multiple agents independently validate information. Consider the problem of the system deciding on a hypothesis  $H$  about the environment (e.g. “is there a threat present?”). Rather than a single agent’s belief triggering action, many agents must accumulate evidence. We define a **consensus variable**  $\epsilon(H) \in [0,1]$  which represents the fraction of agents (or weighted confidence) supporting  $H$ . Each agent  $i$  might send messages like “I support  $H$  with weight  $w_i$ .”

The system reaches a decision on  $H$  (either accept or reject) only when  $\epsilon(H)$  exceeds a threshold  $\theta$  (the quorum fraction). This threshold is tuned so that consensus is likely when information is true and widely observed, but false or noisy signals won't easily fool the majority. In practice, the Communication subsystem might implement known consensus algorithms such as **Paxos or Raft** in the background <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup>, or even Byzantine fault-tolerant consensus if we suspect some agents or channels could be compromised <sup>28</sup>. The biological metaphor maps as: *for most decisions, the swarm will not act until a critical mass "feels together" that it's correct* <sup>29</sup>. This confers resilience: even if the environment (or adversary) corrupts a subset of agents or messages, the probability of *enough* independent agents being misled is low, akin to needing many bees to all dance for a bad site which is statistically unlikely if each checks independently.

The **geometry of communication** also matters. We treat communication pathways as akin to *surfaces or channels* that can carry certain throughput. In high-latency or noisy conditions (like messages traveling near a black hole horizon might arrive red-shifted and delayed), we consider strategies like **store-and-forward** (agents caching data until a better transmission time) or **error-correcting codes** to fight noise. The topology of  $\mathcal{C}$  might adapt: e.g., if one route is too lossy, the Communication subsystem can reroute messages via alternative agents (like bees finding a new path around an obstacle to bring nectar home). We might quantify a **communication capacity**  $C_{ij}$  on each link, and a **delay distribution**  $D_{ij}(t)$  for how long messages take. The subsystem's routing policy then tries to maximize information flow  $\sum_e f(e)$  subject to capacity constraints, akin to network flow optimization. Here, information-theoretic tools such as **mutual information** and **channel capacity** become relevant: each communication link with noise has a capacity per Shannon's theorem, and we design within those limits.

From a topological perspective, we can consider the **coverage and connectivity** of communications. If the agents form a network that is too sparse or fragmented, consensus and coherence will fail. We thus want the message graph to remain **connected** (or at least each relevant subgraph connected) over time, even if some nodes fail or drop. The Structural subsystem might assist here: for instance, it could ensure redundancy in communication pathways (like an engineered structure that relays signals, analogous to beavers building canals that connect water ways and facilitate travel).

In summary, the multi-agent aspect is supported by a *robust communication protocol* that ensures: (a) *Causal consistency* (via logical clocks and careful state update ordering so all agents eventually agree on the sequence of key events), (b) *Consensus via quorum* (so decisions are reliable and not based on single point failures <sup>8</sup>), and (c) *Resilience to delays and faults* (using techniques from distributed computing to handle asynchronous messages, timeouts, retries, and possibly byzantine actors <sup>9</sup> <sup>28</sup>). This allows the global system to function as a unified cognitive entity, rather than a disjointed set of parts.

## Topological and Geometrical Modeling of Cognitive Spaces

We now turn to the *spatial* modeling aspects of the architecture: how we formalize the concept space, communication structure, and the stability of knowledge structures using topology and geometry. The intuition is that the set of concepts the system holds, the relationships between them, and the constraints that define a stable world model can be represented in mathematical spaces (graphs, manifolds, fields) where we can apply geometric reasoning (distances, curvatures, continuity).

**Concept Space as a Latent Geometry:** We define an abstract **concept space**  $\mathcal{X}$  that contains all semantic concepts, ideas, or propositions the system can represent. Rather than treat  $\mathcal{X}$  as

an unstructured list, we model it as a *metric space* or even a manifold. That is, we assume a distance function  $d: \mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$  that measures semantic or conceptual distance. If concepts are encoded as vectors (as in embedding spaces of language models),  $d$  could be derived from a vector norm or cosine distance in that latent space. Importantly, **distance in concept space corresponds to semantic difference or dissimilarity**: concepts that are closely related (say "queen" and "colony") would lie close in this geometry, whereas unrelated or contradictory concepts would be far apart or perhaps lie on different regions separated by gaps. Modern machine learning reveals that high-dimensional representations of knowledge often form continuous *manifolds* where semantic relationships correspond to geometric structure <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup>. We can formalize parts of this: for certain features or attributes, we might treat them as continuous dimensions (for instance, a *timeline* concept could form a circular manifold for periodic time, or a linear manifold for time progression).

One can further introduce a **geometry of the knowledge manifold**: imagine each concept  $x \in \mathcal{X}$  is mapped to an *embedding*  $\Psi(x)$  in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ . The image of  $\Psi$  (the set of all such embeddings) forms a **representation manifold**  $M$  in the neural or memory state space <sup>30</sup>. If  $Z$  is a set of latent variables describing a concept (like coordinates in a conceptual schema), then  $\Psi$  is essentially a homeomorphism (continuous invertible mapping) from latent variable space  $Z$  to the manifold  $M$  <sup>30</sup>. Equipped with this, we can talk about *geodesics* (shortest paths) on the concept manifold representing the most natural semantic transitions, or *curvature* representing how concepts cluster. For example, if adding a piece of knowledge creates a "loop" or inconsistency, that might appear as a **topological hole** or curvature anomaly in the manifold of beliefs.

In the Semantic subsystem, **coherence can be viewed topologically**: A perfectly coherent knowledge base might correspond to a simply connected, "flat" conceptual manifold, whereas contradictions or competing explanations might manifest as *bifurcations* or *holes* (e.g., two disconnected clusters of beliefs that both cannot be true simultaneously). The architecture can use tools like **topological data analysis (TDA)** to detect these structures: for instance, computing the first homology group of the concept graph might reveal a cycle of implications that is contradictory (a *semantic cycle* that should not exist logically). The system's goal of truth-preservation and coherence is to eliminate such cycles or assign them low confidence. This aligns with the earlier thermodynamic analogy: *contradiction density curves the manifold of meaning* <sup>32</sup>, introducing something like a curvature. The Semantic subsystem's resolution of contradictions "flattens" that curvature by removing inconsistency <sup>32</sup>. In Einstein's gravity, mass-energy curves spacetime; here, misinformation or inconsistency curves *concept-space*, and the system's reasoning acts to flatten it (restore a Euclidean-like consistency).

**Communication Surfaces**: The communication network can also be given a geometric interpretation. If we imagine each agent (node) has a position in some space (not physical, but an abstract space of communication – possibly related to the tasks or data it handles), then an edge between agents is like a bridge or wormhole through which information flows. Communication delays and bandwidth limits induce a **metric** on this network: for instance, define  $\delta(i,j)$  as the *effective communication distance* between agent  $i$  and  $j$ , which could be high if they are separated by many hops or if the link is slow. One could embed the network into a geometric space where these distances  $\delta$  are realized as metric distances. Alternatively, model the network topologically: properties like connectivity, loops in message routes, and clusters matter for how information percolates. A **communication surface** might refer to a boundary across which information must pass – for example, if a group of agents is tightly connected among themselves but only loosely connected to another group, the interface between them is a surface where



communication bottlenecks. The system might adapt by reinforcing connections (analogous to adding extra communication channels) so as to **eliminate bottleneck topologies** that could isolate part of the swarm.

In adversarial conditions, we consider even the possibility that some communication lines are adversarially manipulated (like an enemy interfering with signals). The Communication subsystem can then alter the topology (re-route, create redundant paths) to circumvent this. In geometric terms, if one path is blocked, it finds an alternative path – akin to how bees, if blocked by smoke in one direction, will try other routes to get back to the hive.

**Structural Stability and Topology of Knowledge:** The Structural Modeling subsystem ensures that the **world model** remains robust. We can formalize the world model as a set of *constraints* or *equations* that must hold (e.g., conservation laws, physical invariants, safety conditions like “don’t violate known laws of physics in our actions”). These constraints define a **manifold of viable states** in the space of possible environment states. For instance, if  $y$  describes the state of the environment model (positions of objects, values of important variables), the constraints can be seen as equations  $g_k(y) = 0$  that carve out a submanifold  $\mathcal{E}_{\text{model}} = \{y : g_k(y) = 0, \forall k\}$  within the full state space. The Structural subsystem’s duty is to maintain  $\mathcal{E}$  non-empty (i.e., the constraints must remain consistent themselves). If the environment’s chaotic changes threaten to violate some  $g_k$ , the subsystem might adjust another aspect of the model to compensate (like a beaver reinforcing one side of a dam if water pressure increases unexpectedly on that side). This can be thought of as maintaining a  $\mathcal{E}$  in correspondence with the actual environment insofar as possible, and to keep  $\mathcal{E}_{\text{model}}$  **homeomorphic mapping** between a portion of the environment and the internal model: changes in one are continuously reflected in the other without tearing the topological structure.

We introduce a notion of **structure preservation**: define a set of invariants or topological features  $\mathcal{I}$  (could be things like connectivity, number of components, genus of a graph structure, etc.) that the system deems crucial. For example, the knowledge graph might have to remain *connected* (otherwise the agent’s knowledge splits into disjoint pieces – a bad sign for coherence). Another invariant might be a certain hierarchical ordering (no cycles in a dependency graph if none should logically exist). The Structural subsystem monitors these and ensures they don’t break. We can measure **stability** by how resistant these invariants are to perturbation. Using a dynamical systems lens, we treat the entire cognitive state as a point in a high-dimensional state space and ask if it stays in a bounded region over time (Lyapunov stability). A candidate Lyapunov function  $V$  for the system could be constructed from our measures of coherence and constraint satisfaction. For example:

$$V(t) = \alpha S_{\text{sem}}(t) + \beta \Omega_{\text{struc}}(t),$$

where  $S_{\text{sem}}$  is semantic entropy (contradiction measure) and  $\Omega_{\text{struc}}$  is a measure of structural violation (e.g., sum of squared constraint errors, or a large penalty if an invariant like connectivity is broken).  $\alpha, \beta > 0$  are weighting constants. We want  $V(t)$  to *decrease* or remain small over time for the system to be stable – meaning it resolves contradictions ( $S_{\text{sem}}$  decreases) and maintains structural integrity ( $\Omega_{\text{struc}}$  decreases or stays low). If we can show  $\dot{V} \leq 0$  (negative semi-definite) under normal operation, that indicates stability. However, in an adversarial environment,  $\dot{V}$  may spike positive (more contradictions, more constraint violations) due to external perturbations. The architecture’s resilience is the ability to bring  $V$  back down (i.e., absorb the entropy and reassert structure). We can define a stability margin: the maximum disturbance (in terms of injected entropy or damage to structure) that the system can handle without irreversible collapse.

In geometric terms, **stability corresponds to the system's state being in an attractor basin** that is sufficiently deep. The attractor might be the set of states with high coherence and properly satisfied constraints. So long as perturbations don't push the system state out of that basin, it will gravitate back to the coherent, structured region. If the adversarial environment is too extreme (pushing the system over the "event horizon" of stability), the system might transition to a new attractor (conceptual collapse and rebirth, as described via the semantic Schwarzschild threshold <sup>23</sup>). Designing for stability means designing the knowledge representations and adaptive policies such that *small errors damp out rather than amplify*. For example, a single contradictory piece of information should be resolved and not cause a cascade of contradictions; one unsynchronized message should not throw off all timing, etc. In physics, this is like requiring the system to exhibit *negative feedback* loops that counteract deviations.

In summary, topology and geometry give us a language to discuss **cohesion and shape of knowledge**. We ensure that concept space is well-behaved (no fracturing into disconnected pieces, distances reflect truth similarity), communication space is well-connected (no isolated subnetworks unless intended), and that the world-model space retains its fundamental structure (no breaches of key constraints). We have sketched how contradictions correspond to topological and geometric "curvature" in semantic space <sup>32</sup>, how consensus connectivity relates to network topology, and how stability can be framed in invariant terms. These tools complement the information-theoretic constraints, providing a structural and spatial perspective on the cognitive architecture's operation.

## Formal Framework and Model Definitions

We now present a more formal description of the architecture, including definitions of key state spaces and variables, dynamical update rules (agent policies), and measures of performance. This will consolidate the ideas above into a coherent mathematical framework.

### State Spaces and Graph Structures

**Definition 1 (Workspace  $\mathcal{W}$ ):** The workspace is the set of currently active information elements (percepts, tokens, or thoughts) the system is processing. We can model  $\mathcal{W}$  as a **sliding window** over the input stream or a buffer of size  $W_{\max}$ . At any given discrete time step  $t$ ,  $\mathcal{W}(t) = \{w_1, w_2, \dots, w_{n(t)}\}$  with  $n(t) \leq W_{\max}$ . Elements in  $\mathcal{W}$  can be atomic observations or retrieved memory chunks that are brought into focus. Because  $W_{\max}$  is finite,  $\mathcal{W}$  operates like a *stack or queue*: if new information arrives and  $n(t) = W_{\max}$ , something must be dropped or moved to long-term memory (triggering a Landauer cost if dropped entirely). Think of  $\mathcal{W}$  as analogous to RAM in a computer or short-term memory in a brain – small but fast access.

**Definition 2 (Memory Graph  $\mathcal{M}$ ):** The memory is a directed labeled graph  $\mathcal{M} = (V, E)$  storing the semantic knowledge base. Each node  $v \in V$  represents a concept or proposition (e.g. "water is wet" or a concept like *water*). Each directed edge  $(v \rightarrow u) \in E$  represents a relation or implication from  $v$  to  $u$  (for example, an edge could mean *v is a type of u*, or *v causes u*, depending on edge labels). We allow labeled edges or a multi-graph to represent different types of relations. The **weight** or **strength** of an edge can represent the confidence or coherence of that relation. For instance, if a contradiction arises involving that relation, its weight might decrease. This graph is dynamic:  $\mathcal{M}(t)$  evolves as the system learns new facts or revises old ones. We designate a subset of *ground truth nodes* or *anchor nodes* which come directly from trusted observations (initial conditions), and many *derived nodes* which are results of inference.

Crucially,  $\mathcal{M}$  may have **inconsistency markers**. One way to formalize contradictions is to allow a special kind of node or edge that indicates a conflict. For example, if node  $A$  (“it will rain tomorrow”) and node  $B$  (“it will not rain tomorrow”) are both present, we might create a *contradiction node*  $C_{\{AB\}}$  linking to  $A$  and  $B$  indicating  $A \wedge B$  is a contradiction. The existence of  $C_{\{AB\}}$  contributes to entropy  $S$ . The Semantic subsystem’s job is to eliminate such  $C$  nodes by either removing one of the inconsistent beliefs or otherwise resolving the logical conflict (maybe by adding a condition “unless...”). This approach is similar to **Truth Maintenance Systems (TMS)** in AI, which keep track of dependencies and contradictions in a knowledge base.

**Definition 3 (Message Graph  $\mathcal{C}$ ):** The communication network at time  $t$  can be represented as a graph  $\mathcal{C}(t) = (N, E_c(t))$  where  $N$  is the set of agents (or subsystems) and  $E_c(t)$  is the set of communication links active at that time. Each agent  $i \in N$  could correspond to an individual processing unit (e.g. one ant agent, one bee agent, etc., or more coarse-grained as one entire subsystem). Each link  $(i \rightarrow j) \in E_c$  can carry messages in one or both directions. We annotate each message with a logical timestamp from a vector clock  $v_i$  as described. We also define a **message content space**  $\mathcal{Y}$  (the set of all possible messages). A message is a tuple  $(\text{sender}=i, \text{receiver}=j, \text{payload} \in \mathcal{Y}, \text{timestamp}=v_i)$ . The message graph can also include *environment as a node* for inputs/outputs or model the environment-agent interaction separately. In analysis,  $E_c$  can be weighted by bandwidth or reliability. If needed, we consider an **adjacency matrix**  $A_{\{ij\}}(t)$  where  $A_{\{ij\}} = 1$  if  $i$  can directly send to  $j$ , and 0 otherwise. Multi-hop communication means information may travel through a path. We call the network **strongly connected** if for every pair of nodes  $i, j$ , there is some path from  $i$  to  $j$  and vice versa (this ensures eventual reachability of information). The Communication subsystem may implement routing such that even if  $\mathcal{C}$  is only weakly connected at a given moment, agents will move or adjust to restore strong connectivity if required.

**Definition 4 (Latent Geometry  $\mathcal{X}$  with metric  $d$ ):** As described, let  $\mathcal{X}$  be the set of all concept representations. We equip  $\mathcal{X}$  with a metric  $d$ . If concepts are represented by embedding vectors  $\vec{x}$ , one common choice is  $d(a, b) = \|\vec{x}_a - \vec{x}_b\|$  or  $d(a, b) = 1 - \cos(\angle \vec{x}_a, \vec{x}_b)$  (cosine distance). This latent space could be high-dimensional. We assume that *meaningful relationships correspond to smaller distances*. There may be particular subspaces corresponding to certain semantic features (like one dimension might correspond to *time*, another to *size*, etc., if we manage to disentangle factors). The **workspace**  $\mathcal{W}$  can be seen as a moving region in  $\mathcal{X}$  where current thought is concentrated, and **memory graph**  $\mathcal{M}$  can be seen as imposing a graph structure on a subset of  $\mathcal{X}$  (the concepts the system knows). Edges in  $\mathcal{M}$  might approximate geodesics or at least short paths in  $\mathcal{X}$  if the knowledge is well-structured, since presumably related concepts are connected.

To capture contradictions geometrically: if two concepts are truly contradictory, one might treat them as **distant or even orthogonal** in the latent space. Alternatively, one could mark one as negation of the other. A simple encoding: have every proposition  $P$  and its negation  $\neg P$  be distinct nodes, with an edge or label that they cannot both be true. In latent space, if  $\vec{p}$  is embedding of  $P$ , perhaps  $\neg P$  is located diametrically opposite on some conceptual sphere. The architecture must ensure not to strongly believe both simultaneously. This could be implemented by a rule that the sum of their truth values is bounded (cannot both be high), etc.

## Agent Behaviors and Dynamics

We now formalize the behavior of each subsystem's agents as dynamical systems or policy functions that operate on the above state spaces.

**Semantic (Ant) Agent Dynamics:** Consider the semantic subsystem as a set of agents  $\{\text{ant}_k\}$  each of which performs local operations on the memory graph  $\mathcal{M}$ . Each ant agent  $\text{ant}_k$  might follow a policy like:

1. **Traversal:** Move along an edge in the memory graph, from one concept node to a neighboring node. (This is analogous to an ant following a pheromone trail.)
2. **Evaluation:** At a node, check for consistency and evidence. For example, compare the node's content with current workspace facts  $\mathcal{W}$  or with environment input if available. If a contradiction is detected at this node (e.g., another node asserts the opposite), mark this node or create a contradiction link.
3. **Pheromone update (Reinforcement):** If the concept/relation at the node is validated (consistent with evidence and no contradiction), deposit "semantic pheromone" – increase the weight of that edge or node, indicating higher confidence or utility. If a contradiction or lack of support is found, either (a) drop pheromone (evaporate confidence) on that link or (b) lay a different marker indicating conflict.
4. **Resolution action:** If conflict markers are high (meaning this area has accumulated contradictions), initiate a resolution action – e.g., call a higher-level routine to resolve it. This might entail invoking a logical reasoner or simply choosing one side of the contradiction to weaken (like ants pruning a path that is no longer yielding food).

We can express a simple state update for an edge's pheromone (confidence) level  $\tau_{ij}(t)$  on edge  $(i \rightarrow j)$  in  $\mathcal{M}$ :

$$\tau_{ij}(t+1) = (1 - \rho)\tau_{ij}(t) + Q \cdot \mathbb{I}_{\{\text{edge } (i \rightarrow j) \text{ used by an ant at time } t \text{ and found consistent}\}}$$

where  $0 < \rho < 1$  is an evaporation rate and  $Q$  is a reinforcement amount (could depend on quality of consistency). This is analogous to Ant Colony Optimization (ACO) pheromone updates <sup>4</sup>. If an ant finds a contradiction at node  $j$ , we might set  $\tau_{ij}(t+1)$  to a much lower value or zero out some connections leading to  $j$ . Over time, this **indexes knowledge by strength**: frequently used and reliable associations become strong (high  $\tau$ ), while unused or contradicted ones fade. The graph thus adapts, highlighting "main highways" of thought – a form of semantic governance ensuring coherence.

**Bee Agent (Communication) Dynamics:** Each communication agent (bee) operates either by physically (virtually) moving data or orchestrating consensus. One can imagine a bee agent  $\text{bee}_\ell$  that cycles through a routine:

1. **Forage for data:** pick up a piece of information from a source (could be an environment sensor or a semantic agent that produced a new finding).
2. **Route selection:** determine a route through the network to deliver this information to a target (could be all agents, a particular memory node, or a structural agent). This might involve queuing the message with a certain TTL (time-to-live).

3. **Waggle dance (broadcast):** optionally, if the info is potentially important globally (like a new big discovery or alert), the bee agent can *broadcast* it or send to multiple hubs. In doing so, it attaches a *confidence or persistence* value. Other bee agents (or the same on return) monitor how many times this info gets acknowledged. This implements quorum sensing: if many bees broadcast the same info (i.e., multiple independent sources or multiple detections), then it's likely true and will be widely propagated; if only one or a few do and others do not corroborate, it may die out (not enough support to reach quorum).
4. **Consensus check:** If the agent is designated as a *leader* or part of a leader election (like in Raft there's a leader coordinating consensus <sup>27</sup>), it will tally votes or acknowledgments for decisions. The dynamics of consensus might be formalized by something like:  $\epsilon(H, t+1) = f(\epsilon(H, t), \text{new votes/support from messages at } t)$ , with a threshold trigger when  $\epsilon(H) \geq \theta$ . A simple model: each new message supporting  $H$  adds  $\frac{1}{N}$  to  $\epsilon(H)$  (if  $N$  agents total, so  $\epsilon(H)$  tracks fraction of support). If a message opposes  $H$ , subtract or add support to  $-\epsilon(H)$ . The policy is to decide in favor of the majority once  $\max(\epsilon(H), \epsilon(\neg H)) > \theta$  for some high  $\theta$  (e.g. 0.8).
5. **Time-sync:** Bees could also carry timing signals. For example, one special type of message is a **synchronization pulse** (similar to firefly synchronization <sup>33</sup>). An agent sends "I consider this the start of a new cycle" and others adjust their internal clocks slightly to meet it. Through repeated interactions, the swarm can synchronously oscillate or align phases if needed (useful for coordinated actions). A simple rule: if a bee receives a sync pulse earlier than its own cycle expected, it shifts its phase to slightly earlier, if later – slightly later; eventually they converge (this is like the firefly model of pulse-coupled oscillators achieving sync <sup>33</sup>).

The formal analysis of these algorithms would show they converge under certain connectivity assumptions. For instance, quorum consensus akin to honeybee decisions can be shown to converge in a time that grows with the logarithm of swarm size under ideal conditions, and it remains robust even if some agents are wrong, as long as truthful ones are in majority <sup>29</sup>.

**Beaver Agent (Structural) Dynamics:** The structural agents operate on the world model and sometimes on the actual environment (through actuators). A beaver agent  $\text{beav}_m$  might:

1. **Monitor constraints:** continuously compute the value of each constraint function  $g_k(y)$  on the environment model state  $y$ . If any  $|g_k(y)|$  starts to grow (i.e., constraint being violated), raise an alert.
2. **Deploy fix:** Based on which constraint is threatened, adjust some controllable variables to counteract. For example, if the environment model predicts a variable drifting out of range, the agent can take an action to push it back. In the knowledge context, if a crucial concept is losing support (maybe many contradictions piling on it), a structural agent might *insist on its preservation* by injecting a reinforcing prior or simply tagging it as an axiom not to be deleted without significant evidence. This is analogous to a beaver stubbornly maintaining a dam even if minor leaks appear.
3. **Model update:** Incorporate new changes in environment into the internal model in a controlled way. For instance, if a completely new phenomenon is observed that doesn't fit current structure, the structural agent will *expand the model*, possibly adding a new dimension or parameter. (E.g., "we thought temperature was constant, but now it varies, so add a parameter for temperature in the

model".) This is done carefully to maintain consistency with existing structure – perhaps adding a new node and constraint linking it to old ones, rather than randomly rewiring.

4. **Adaptive regulation:** We can formalize structural adjustments with control theory. Suppose the environment (or its model) has state  $y(t)$  following some unknown dynamics  $\dot{y} = F(y, u, w)$ , where  $u$  are control actions by the agent and  $w$  represents environmental disturbances (adversarial). The structural subsystem's goal is to apply  $u(t)$  such that certain outputs  $h(y)$  stay within bounds. If  $h(y)$  corresponds to, say, coherence of the world model, we want  $h(y(t)) \approx 0$ . The beaver agents might implement a feedback controller  $u(t) = K \cdot h(y(t))$  (proportional control) or more sophisticated adaptive control to cancel the effect of  $w$ . In simpler terms, if a disturbance (like new contradictory info) pushes the system off balance, structural agents push back. A concrete example: if two semantic clusters start diverging in worldview (split brain scenario), a structural agent could enforce a **bridging concept** that re-aligns them, effectively damming a split in knowledge into a unified structure again.

This subsystem might also decide on **resource allocation**: E.g., if memory is filling up, a structural agent can trigger a consolidation (like beavers building a new storage lodge). It could compress old memories, offload some to external storage (if available), or in extreme cases, jettison some data entirely to save core structure (like amputating a limb to save the body, beavers will abandon a dam section to save the main lodge if necessary).

## Information Dynamics and Measures

We have touched on many of these, but here we summarize formal measures for *coherence*, *truth preservation*, and *stability*, and describe the flow of information in the system.

**Coherence Measure:** We defined semantic entropy  $S$  earlier as one measure (log of contradictions count). We can also define a normalized **coherence score**  $C$  between 0 and 1. For instance: let  $C = e^{-S}$  or  $C = 1/(1+N_c)$  (if using simple count). Alternatively, consider the knowledge graph  $\mathcal{M}$ : define  $C$  as the fraction of nodes in  $\mathcal{M}$  that are not part of any contradiction edge. If  $|V|$  is total nodes and  $V_{\text{ok}}$  is those consistent, then  $C = |V_{\text{ok}}|/|V|$ . Perfect coherence gives  $C=1$ , if half the knowledge base is in conflict then  $C=0.5$ , etc. We could also incorporate the **degree of coherence over time** – e.g. measure how well new info fits with the existing model by an overlap measure or description length: if adding info  $I$  increases the minimum description length of the model by a lot, that indicates incoherence. Coherence thermodynamics suggests a concept of **semantic temperature**  $T$  related to how agitated or conflicted the system is <sup>6</sup>. High  $T$  means the system is exploring wildly (potentially high contradictions, high freedom), low  $T$  means it's stable and exploitative. There,  $T$  was linked to contradiction intensity and exploration range <sup>6</sup>. We could set  $T$  in our model such that  $T$  is high when  $C$  is low (system in chaos) and approaches 0 as  $C \rightarrow 1$  (system rigid and fully coherent). For example,  $T = S$  or  $T$  proportional to number of active contradictions.

**Truth Preservation:** This is about how accurately the system's internal beliefs reflect the external reality over time, especially given the environment may be partially observed and adversarial. A pragmatic measure is the **precision and recall** of the system's beliefs about the environment. Suppose at time  $t$  the system holds a set of beliefs  $B(t)$  that are claims about  $\mathcal{E}$  (e.g., it believes certain facts or predictions). The environment has ground-truth facts  $G(t)$  (which the agent may not fully know). We can measure **precision**  $P = |B(t) \cap G(t)| / |B(t)|$  (the fraction of the system's beliefs that are true in reality) and **recall**  $R = |B(t) \cap G(t)| / |G(t)|$  (the fraction of relevant truths the system has managed to capture). We desire high precision (don't believe false things) and reasonably high recall (don't miss too many

important truths). However, adversarial conditions might force a trade-off: the system might choose to be conservative, keeping precision high at the expense of recall (better to know a few things for sure than many things with uncertainty). Truth preservation can also refer to **keeping true statements true** – i.e. not letting noise flip a known fact to false in the knowledge base. The structural subsystem likely plays a role here by locking in certain foundational truths (like laws of nature or identity of self) that should not be easily overridden. We could formalize that by assigning *prior probabilities* or *truth utilities* to certain axioms and penalizing any change to them unless absolutely necessary (in Bayesian terms, strong priors).

Another measure: **Causal accuracy** – if the system takes actions, do they lead to expected outcomes? If the internal causal model is correct, then actions will have anticipated effects. If not, there's a truth-model discrepancy. Quantitatively, one can measure the divergence between predicted consequences of an action (according to the internal model) and actual consequences (from the environment). Summing such divergences gives a measure of how well the agent's internal causal understanding preserves truth about dynamics.

**Information flow:** We describe how information moves: from environment to workspace (through observation), from workspace to memory (through encoding by semantic agents), within memory (through the edges, via ant traversal, effectively diffusion of info through the semantic network), from memory to communication (when something needs broadcasting, it's passed to bee agents), within communication (messages hop, possibly duplicating, merging, or dying out), then possibly to structural (if some info is about a structural constraint violation, it goes there), and sometimes from structural back to environment (as an action or environment shaping). Each step can be analyzed with information-theoretic quantities. For example, **mutual information**  $I(\mathcal{W}; \mathcal{E})$  measures how much the current workspace contents tell us about the environment state. We want this to be high – the agent should keep relevant info in working memory. **Information bottleneck** principles might be applied when deciding what to compress in memory: keep the info that maximally reduces uncertainty about important variables (like those that affect rewards or survival). The Communication subsystem essentially relays mutual information between different parts of the system: we can measure  $I(\text{Agent i's state}; \text{Agent j's state})$  before and after communication to see how sync they are.

**Causal asymmetry and information flow:** There is an expected asymmetry such that  $I(\text{Past}; \text{Future})$  for the agent's observations is greater than  $I(\text{Future}; \text{Past})$  (trivially, but meaning you can predict future somewhat from past but not vice versa). We might incorporate Pearl's causality or directed information measures  $I_{\rightarrow}$  to ensure our system's internal representation captures cause-effect (for example, measure how much knowing one variable at time  $t$  helps predict another at time  $t+\Delta$  vs the reverse). A well-structured world model will align with causal arrows in the environment, preserving that asymmetry in its graph orientation.

**Stability Metrics:** We proposed  $V(t)$  as a Lyapunov-like function. We can refine  $\Omega_{\text{struc}}(t)$  for structural violations. If constraints are given by  $g_k(y) = 0$ , define  $\Omega = \sum_k \max(0, |g_k(y)| - \epsilon_k)$  where  $\epsilon_k$  is a tolerance for constraint  $k$ . That sums any constraint errors beyond what's acceptable.  $\Omega=0$  means all constraints satisfied within tolerance (structure intact). If something breaks (like a key invariant no longer holds),  $\Omega$  jumps. So  $\Omega$  tracks *physical/logical damage to structure*. Combined with  $SS$  or the coherence measure, we have a composite  $V$ . Stability could then be: for some  $\eta$ , any disturbance at time 0 causing  $V(0) = V_0$  will result in  $V(t) < \eta V_0$  for  $t > T$  (meaning the system absorbs shock and dissipates it so that error is reduced by some factor  $\eta$  after some response time  $T$ ). If the environment continuously injects entropy at rate  $\dot{S}$

$\sigma(t)$ , the system needs to dissipate it at equal or greater rate on average to avoid runaway. We could formalize a *steady-state*:  $d\langle S \rangle / dt = \langle \text{injection rate} \rangle - \langle \text{resolution rate} \rangle$ . The design goal is to maximize the resolution rate of contradictions (or structural repairs) relative to injection.

Finally, **system-level stability** might also refer to *boundedness* of internal variables (no overflow of memory, no unbounded growth of contradiction list, etc.). In a stable regime, for example, the number of active contradictions  $N_c(t)$  might settle to a fluctuating equilibrium (the system resolves them nearly as fast as they come). If  $N_c$  diverges, that's an instability (maybe the black hole point). We want to demonstrate conditions under which  $N_c$  stays bounded. Using our consensus and structure mechanisms, we hypothesize that for a given maximum rate of adversarial disturbance, there exists sufficient resources (agents, processing speed) such that the architecture can always catch up in resolving issues – that would be a formal theorem of stability. If adversarial input exceeds that (like throwing too much entropy too quickly), the system will be overwhelmed (much like any dam can break if the flood is too strong).

## Conclusion

We have developed a comprehensive theoretical framework for a **distributed cognitive architecture** that can operate in extremely challenging information environments. By weaving together analogies from ants, bees, and beavers, we designed subsystems for **semantic coherence**, **communicative consensus**, and **structural regulation**. These subsystems are grounded in rigorous principles: **information entropy and thermodynamics** constrain what they can do (no violation of conservation of complexity – contradictions must be resolved at a cost <sup>5</sup>, memory is finite <sup>22</sup>, etc.), and **topology/geometry** informs how knowledge and communication are organized (concepts form manifolds, contradictions imply curvature <sup>32</sup>, networks require connectivity for consensus). The **mathematical framework** includes formal definitions of the key state spaces (workspace  $\mathcal{W}$ , memory graph  $\mathcal{M}$ , message graph  $\mathcal{C}$ , latent concept space  $\mathcal{X}$ ) and dynamic equations or policies for agent behavior (inspired by ant colony optimization, honeybee quorum sensing, and feedback control in niche construction). We introduced metrics for evaluating the system: **coherence measures** quantify internal consistency, **truth preservation metrics** compare internal beliefs to external reality, and **stability criteria** ensure the system remains bounded and resilient in the face of entropy.

This architecture is **ready for expansion into simulations or implementations**. In a simulation, one could instantiate multiple simple agents following the described rules and observe the emergence of coherent global behavior – e.g., watch a swarm of semantic ants build a consistent knowledge graph out of partial information, or a network of communication bees reach a reliable consensus despite delays. The formalism we provided, such as the semantic thermodynamic laws and the quorum consensus mechanism, offers testable predictions (for instance, the relationship between **contradiction density and computational load** <sup>6</sup>, or the conditions for **phase transitions in understanding** when coherence suddenly improves after resolving a key conflict <sup>34</sup>). Moreover, the **conceptual black hole analogy** is not just poetic – it guided us to incorporate irreversibility and adversarial uncertainty into the very equations of the system (like the semantic Schwarzschild limit for collapse <sup>19</sup>). This ensures that any implementation inherently respects the reality of bounded rationality under extreme conditions.

In conclusion, we have outlined a **novel cognitive architecture paradigm**: one that is *swarm-based*, *entropy-aware*, and *geometrically grounded*. Such a system could adaptively integrate knowledge, communicate efficiently under uncertainty, and shape its own cognitive environment to safeguard its



reasoning processes. The framework merges ideas from AI, physics, and biology, providing a rich foundation for building AI agents that remain robust even as they peer into the informational abyss of an adversarial world – much like a colony of cooperative creatures surviving at the edge of a black hole, maintaining light and order against the encroaching darkness.

**Sources:** The concepts and analogies presented build on interdisciplinary research, including swarm intelligence (ant colony optimization and honeybee decision dynamics) <sup>35</sup> <sup>4</sup>, recent work on treating **semantic coherence in information systems with thermodynamic analogies** <sup>5</sup> <sup>17</sup>, and principles of **cognitive niche construction and extended mind theory** in shaping one's environment to aid cognition <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup>. The notion of **information in adversarial environments** and irreversibility draws on ideas from physics (Landauer's principle for information cost <sup>22</sup> and the holographic principle relating information to surface area <sup>21</sup>). Additionally, distributed systems theory provides the backbone for our consensus and communication design <sup>9</sup> <sup>29</sup>. Together, these sources inform a cohesive architecture targeting adaptive, causally bounded intelligence.

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<https://medium.com/@bill.giannakopoulos/a-formal-information-theoretic-framework-for-consciousness-based-on-complex-mutual-information-93b207d79bd1>

<sup>2</sup> Reflections on the asymmetry of causation - PMC - PubMed Central

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10102723/>

<sup>3</sup> <sup>4</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>33</sup> <sup>35</sup> Consensus algorithms | Swarm Intelligence and Robotics Class Notes

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<sup>5</sup> <sup>6</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>32</sup> <sup>34</sup> preprints.org

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