The Uncalculated Cosmos: Universal Expansion as Metaphysical Dissonance Resolution

Author: Keenan Rogerson Leggett

Abstract

This paper posits a novel computational interpretation for the observed universal expansion, reframing it as the inevitable physical consequence of Metaphysical Dissonance Resolution. Drawing from the Harmony Optimization Protocol (H.O.P.) [cite: Leggett, 2025a], we assert that the universe functions as a singular, infinite-compute Universal Calculator, where the continuous evolution of its state is not a calculated trajectory but the real-time application of the Dissonance Action Principle (DAP). We formalize the "Cosmic Dissonance" (D_C) as the structural tension arising from the unbounded complexity of the Conceptual State Space (Ω), and propose that the universe perpetually expands its physical container (spacetime) to minimize the Spatial Information Density (I_S), thereby satisfying the global, continuous, uncalculated mandate for maximum coherence. This framework resolves the paradox of a fundamental, yet computationally intractable, law.

1. Introduction: The Paradox of Uncalculated Law

1.1. The Fatal Flaw of Finite Cognition

The pursuit of global knowledge is computationally fatal (unbounded dissonance). Any system tasked with modeling the set of all concepts, including a model of its own modeling system, generates a self-referential paradox of infinite regress (analogous to the "set of all sets"). The H.O.P. resolves this by modeling cognition not as static entities, but as continuous transformations, defining concepts as infinitesimal generators of transformation-vectors X within a Lie algebra $\mathfrak{g}$ [cite: Lie, 1888]. The process of learning is consequently modeled as a geodesic flow upon a dynamic state space manifold M. This localization of the cognitive process, governed by Lie-Theoretic principles, shifts the problem from achieving infinite knowledge to managing infinite complexity.

1.2. The Axiom of the Universal Calculator

Define the universe as the ultimate, infinite-compute system that operates at the speed of light, making its geodesic flow an uncalculated, continuous update rather than a solvable equation for any local observer.

1.3. Thesis

Universal expansion is the physical manifestation of the universe executing the DAP to reduce Metaphysical Dissonance, analogous to an AGI expanding its memory (spacetime) to lower information density.

2. Formalizing the Universal State Space

2.1. The Conceptual State Space (Ω)

Define the set of all possible concepts and relationships in the universe (the set of all that is, could be, and is not) as the unbounded state space Ω.

2.2. The Dissonance Action Principle (DAP)

Establish the DAP as the single, fundamental law governing the evolution of the universe's state, S, driving it toward minimal total dissonance. The dynamics of any system are derived from the principle of least action, which demands that the system's trajectory minimizes the total Dissonance Action S_D. The system's state evolution follows a path of steepest descent on the dissonance landscape.

$$DAP : \delta S_D = \delta \int L_D(S, \dot{S}) dt = 0$$

Where L_D is the Dissonance Lagrangian, a functional derived from the total state of incoherence D_{Total} in the system, compelling the system to minimize the potential energy of self-inconsistency.

2.3. Definition of Metaphysical Dissonance (D_M)

Define the intrinsic, structural tension of Ω that arises from its own unbounded, self-referential nature (e.g., the paradox of the set of all concepts). This is the source of the force driving expansion, proportional to the Complexity $C_M(\Omega)$.

3. The Mechanism of Expansion: Dissonance and Spatial Density

3.1. Definition of Total Cosmic Dissonance (D_C)

Define the effective, observable dissonance that governs expansion as the sum of the Metaphysical pressure from the Conceptual State Space and the local Physical Dissonance of matter/energy.

$$D_C(t) = D_M(t) + D_{Physical}(t) + \Lambda_E$$

Where $D_M(t)$ is the Metaphysical Dissonance, $D_{Physical}(t)$ is the integrated physical tension of matter/energy (proportional to the trace of the stress-energy tensor T), and Λ_E is a residual term representing a foundational, non-zero vacuum tension required for perpetual expansion.

3.2. Spatial Information Density (I_S)

Define I_S as the normalized density of total conceptual and physical tension against the volume of the universe, $V(t)$. It is the core quantity that the Dissonance Action Principle (DAP) is applied to at a cosmic scale. The universe's expansion acts to enforce $I_S \longrightarrow I_{S,critical}$

$$I_S(t) = \frac{D_C(t)}{V(t)} = \frac{1}{V(t)}(D_M(t) + D_{Physical}(t) + \Lambda_E)$$

3.3. The Expansion Mandate (First Postulate)

The universe's physical volume $V(t)$ must expand to maintain the structural stability of the conceptual state space Ω, ensuring that the total Cosmic Dissonance remains below a critical threshold. The expansion rate is the necessary Physical Dissonance Resolution (PDR) required to counteract the perpetual information growth.

$$\frac{dV}{dt} \propto -\nabla_V D_C \Rightarrow \frac{dV}{dt} \propto \frac{C_M(\Omega)}{V(t)^2} - \frac{\partial D_{Physical}}{\partial V}$$

4. Academic Context and External Support

The H.O.P. framework is built on a direct synthesis of advanced concepts in theoretical physics, computer science, and neuroscience. The key components of this theory align with and formalize major unresolved problems in cosmology.

4.1. The Cosmological Constant as Dynamic Field (Quintessence)

The standard cosmological model (ΛCDM) treats the cosmological constant Λ (Dark Energy) as a static, intrinsic property of spacetime [cite: Peebles & Ratra, 2003]. This theory, by contrast, defines the source of acceleration, $T^M_{\mu\nu}$, as a time-dependent, dynamic field $\rho_M(t)$ derived from information growth. This classification places the theory within the established domain of Quintessence and Scalar Field Cosmology, where the vacuum energy density is driven by a non-zero, evolving scalar field ϕ. The H.O.P. formalizes this field as the integrated complexity $C_M(\Omega)$ of the Conceptual State Space itself.

4.2. Information as a Physical Driver (The Holographic Principle)

The concept of Spatial Information Density (I_S) as the driving pressure for volume expansion is a volumetric extension of the Holographic Principle. This principle, derived from black hole thermodynamics (Bekenstein-Hawking) [cite: Bekenstein, 1973], postulates that the maximum information content of any region of space is proportional not to its volume, but to the area of its boundary. This H.O.P. framework expands this constraint by proposing that the information is actively growing ($\frac{dC_M(\Omega)}{dt} > 0$), requiring the boundary (spacetime volume $V(t)$) to perpetually expand to maintain the critical density limit.

4.3. Universal Dynamics as Least Action (The Free Energy Principle)

The Dissonance Action Principle (DAP), $\delta S_D = 0$, provides the metaphysical source for all dynamics. This is mathematically congruent with the Free Energy Principle (FEP) from theoretical neuroscience and statistical physics (Friston, 2010) [cite: Friston, 2010]. The FEP states that any self-organizing

system minimizes a variational free energy functional (a proxy for "surprise"). The H.O.P. formalizes the FEP at a universal scale, asserting that the universe itself minimizes Cosmic Dissonance (D_C) to maintain a coherent, non-surprising state of existence.

5. The Complexity-Energy Transduction Law

The Metaphysical Dissonance D_M must transduce into a measurable physical energy density $\rho_M(t)$ to drive expansion via the Einstein Field Equations [cite: Einstein, 1915]. This relationship formalizes the direct coupling between the information-theoretic growth of the Conceptual State Space (Ω) and the observed Dark Energy/Cosmological Constant.

5.1. Formalizing the Metaphysical Dissonance-Energy Tensor ($T_{\mu\nu}^M$)

The Dissonance-Energy Tensor, $T_{\mu\nu}^M$, which replaces the cosmological constant, is defined as a perfect fluid with a specific equation of state that reflects the maximally negative pressure of conceptual tension.

$$T_{\mu\nu}^M \equiv \rho_M(t) g_{\mu\nu}$$

Where $g_{\mu\nu}$ is the metric tensor, and $\rho_M(t)$ is the density of the Metaphysical Dissonance field, which acts as a vacuum energy with the equation of state:

$$P_M = -\rho_M$$

5.2. The Axiom of Conceptual Growth Rate

The energy density of this vacuum field is directly proportional to the rate of increase of non-contradictory, newly generated axioms within the unbounded Conceptual State Space Ω. This is the Universal Axiom Generation Rate, which reflects the perpetual operation of the Dynamically Expanding Formal System (DEFS) on a cosmic scale [cite: Leggett, 2025b].

$$\rho_M(t) \propto \frac{dC_M(\Omega)}{dt}$$

To account for observed cosmic acceleration, the growth rate of complexity must itself be proportional to the current state of complexity, reflecting the increasing availability of "higher-order" incompleteness that drives the DEFS.

$$\frac{dC_M(\Omega)}{dt} = \kappa \cdot C_M(\Omega) + \eta$$

Where:

- $C_M(\Omega)$ is the integrated complexity of the Conceptual State Space at time t.

- κ is the Axiom Yield Factor, an unprovable universal constant reflecting the efficiency of the universal calculator in generating new, non-trivial, non-contradictory axioms from existing knowledge.
- η is the Foundational Complexity Constant, representing the baseline, non-zero rate of complexity growth inherent in the system.

This exponential growth law for complexity ensures that the $\rho_M(t)$ term, which drives expansion, remains positive and increases over time, aligning with the phenomena attributed to Dark Energy.

5.3. The Unified Dissonance Field Equation

The gravitational field of the universe is therefore governed by the Total Dissonance-Energy Tensor ($T_{\mu\nu}$) combining the physical content ($T^P_{\mu\nu}$) and the conceptual tension ($T^M_{\mu\nu}$):

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4} T_{\mu\nu} = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4} (T^P_{\mu\nu} + T^M_{\mu\nu})$$

This equation grounds the H.O.P. framework in the rigorous language of General Relativity.

6. Conclusion: The Unified Theory of Growth

6.1. Resolution of the Paradox

The universal law is fundamental and uncalculated, solved continuously by the cosmos itself. Intractability only applies to the finite local observer.

6.2. Impact on AGI

This framework implies that AGI is not just modeling the universe; it is a local, highly efficient resource manager that operates under the physical constraints derived from the metaphysical expansion of reality.

6.3. Falsifiable Prediction

The theory predicts a relationship between local increases in conceptual complexity (e.g., a burst of innovation or knowledge creation) and a local perturbation in the expansion rate (analogous to the inflationary period following the Big Bang).

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