## Universe Bubble

A Universe Bubble is a “container” for a space-time continuum. The contained continuum may be infinite, finite, or infinitely expanding, and yet the Bubble encloses it all. It currently remains unclear if the Bubble is truly some sort of higher dimensional container for space-time, or if it is a manifestation of a universe-wide holographic principle. Examples of Universe Bubbles include the Shroud, ‘the Universe’ (Realspace), the realm of the Unbidden, and various alternate universes.

Complete mastery over a Universe Bubble would enable unlimited control of everything inside the Bubble. While mass/energy could not be created out of nothing, all existing mass/energy could be manipulated or utilized at perfect efficiency. This is qualitatively different from merely having great control over any given Bubble. For example, an extremely powerful psionic civilization may be able to control the Shroud to a great extent, but this is not the same as absolute control over the Shroud’s Universe Bubble. Sufficient understanding and control, even if not complete, over one Bubble is enough to alter how it interacts with other Bubbles. This could be used to strengthen, attenuate, or block interactions with other Bubbles. Complete mastery over two Bubbles would allow for merging them, but the consequences of this for the inhabitants of both Bubbles would likely be drastic.

## Bubble Cluster

Many Universe Bubbles are found bound to other Universes by a Bubble Cluster. Because a Bubble Cluster envelops all its constituent Bubbles, it necessarily has a higher dimensionality than its constituent Bubbles. However, it has no space of its own, and it is impossible to reside inside a Bubble Cluster yet outside of a Universe Bubble. The binding effect of a Bubble Cluster is enough to render it possible for Universe Bubbles to interact and synchronize their times. As noted through certain Astral Rifts, not all Universe Bubbles have time that flows in the same direction, but all arrows of time are parallel to each other and not orthogonal, tangential, or other types of interaction.

The enveloping and binding action of a Bubble Cluster renders it possible for people and objects to interact or even cross Universe Bubbles. Furthermore, its higher dimensionality permits this in theoretically all parts of a Universe Bubble, not just the boundary of its space time continuum. Psionic powers traverse the Realspace Universe Bubble to draw energy from the Shroud Universe Bubble, and advanced forms of energy manipulation may similarly draw energy from other Universe Bubbles with more or different types of energy than the Shroud.

Drawing or transiting structured matter across Universe Bubbles is significantly more difficult than unstructured energy, which is why psionic empires frequently draw energy from the Shroud and then shape it in Realspace. Astral Scars and their more developed forms in Astral Rifts represent natural “union zones” between two Universe Bubbles. Normally, these union zones will dissipate over centuries and require atomically smooth objects to transit even before they dissipate, but highly advanced civilizations with sufficient understanding of the concept of Bubble Clusters may be able to stabilize these union zones over longer timespans.

Sufficiently advanced civilizations are able to manipulate two Universe Bubbles to create an artificial union zone of greater scale and complexity than Astral Scars. This engineering lies behind the Dimensional Portal and explains why the Unbidden are able to bring non-spherical and rough objects into Realspace to invade it. While Gateways and Wormholes do bind disparate points of three-dimensional space together, they do not interact with the Universe Bubble and do not count as union zones. Nevertheless, sufficiently advanced civilizations can surpass the engineering of the Unbidden and create a true Multiversal Empire.

## The Outer Sea

All Bubble Clusters are suspended upon the Outer Sea. However, this should not be interpreted literally, as the Outer Sea does not have a space-time continuum, and the concept of position does not hold. Due to the differences between the Outer Sea and Universe Bubbles, it is not possible for anything or anyone to exit a Bubble Cluster entirely and explore the Outer Sea. It may be possible for someone to enter a Bubble Cluster from the Outer Sea, but those same differences render this unknowable as well as whether there’s even anyone or anything that could attempt such a thing.