

1. The Epistemic Collapse Matrix (ECM): A Diagnostic Framework for Structural Invisibility

Definition

The **Epistemic Collapse Matrix (ECM)** is a diagnostic framework for detecting *structural invisibility* within epistemic, institutional, and computational systems. Rather than analyzing what systems explicitly represent, the ECM maps **how systems react** when confronted with phenomena they are architecturally unable to process.

The ECM treats *systemic reactions*—rather than content—as primary data.

Core Assumption

What cannot be processed without contradiction is not merely excluded; it is **structurally retained** outside visibility. Collapse reactions therefore function as diagnostic signals of epistemic design limits.

Reaction Typology (3×3 Matrix)

Domain/Reaction	Omission	Rejection	Overreaction
Temporal	Early signals ignored	Late recognition denied	Urgent reclassification
Cognitive	Silent cognition skipped	Illegible thought dismissed	Forced translation into data
Ethical	Passive neglect	Defensive denial	Performative inclusion

Interpretation Rule

- **Omission** indicates *quiet structural retention*
- **Rejection** indicates *boundary enforcement*
- **Overreaction** indicates *absorptive instability*

Collapse does not imply malfunction; it reveals **architectural thresholds**.

Analytic Use

The ECM is applicable across:

- Disability and care institutions
- Educational governance
- Clinical decision-making
- Algorithmic and AI systems

It allows researchers to identify *where redesign is structurally required*, rather than attributing failure to individual actors.

Citation Note

The Epistemic Collapse Matrix (ECM) is part of the MAMI Theory, but may be cited independently as a diagnostic framework for identifying structural invisibility and epistemic design limits.