

Gauge-Aligned Gravity Emergence (GAGE): SM-derived gravitational coupling $G(Q)$

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Within the SM at $\mu = M_Z$ ($\overline{\text{MS}}$), a unique primitive projector $\chi = (16, 13, 2)$ defines the gauge-log depth $\Xi = \chi \cdot \hat{\Psi}$. An even curvature gate $\Pi(\Xi) = \exp[-(\Delta\Xi)^2/\sigma_\chi^2]$ with $\Pi'(\Xi_{\text{eq}}) = 0$ yields a GR-normalized, massless tensor sector ($m_{\text{PF}} = 0$) and $G(x) = G(M_Z)\Pi(\Xi(x))$, where $G(M_Z) = \hat{\Omega}(M_Z)\hbar c/m_p^2$ and $\hat{\Omega} = \hat{\alpha}_s^{16}\hat{\alpha}_2^{13}\hat{\alpha}^2$ (hats: $\overline{\text{MS}}$ at $\mu = M_Z$). Two direct tests: (i) quadratic lab-null $\Delta G/G \simeq (\Delta\Xi/\sigma_\chi)^2$; (ii) closure/LOO with $\hat{\Omega}(M_Z)/\alpha_G^{(\text{pp})} = 1.09373393$ and $\hat{\alpha}_s^*(M_Z) = 0.1173411 \pm 1.86 \times 10^{-5}$. Inputs are SM-pinned; metrology is used only *a posteriori*.

Motivation. Despite its precision, the Standard Model has not yielded a self-contained derivation of Newton's constant G_N or a massless spin-2 graviton within its gauge structure. We propose an *alignment principle*: near the electroweak scale, the gauge system aligns with the soft eigenmode of the equilibrium kinetic metric, enforcing parity-even curvature at the lab point. At $\mu = M_Z$ in $\overline{\text{MS}}$, the SNF-certified projector $\chi = (16, 13, 2)$ fixes the gauge-log depth $\Xi = \chi \cdot \hat{\Psi}$; an even gate $\Pi(\Xi)$ with $\Pi'(\Xi_{\text{eq}}) = 0$ yields a GR-normalized, massless spin-2 sector with no new fields or tunable parameters and defines the emergent coupling G . The framework is parameter-free and falsifiable: with $s_\Xi \equiv \Delta\Xi/\sigma_\chi$, $\phi_\chi \equiv \Delta\Xi/\|\chi\|_{\mathbf{K}_{\text{eq}}}$, and $\Lambda_\chi \equiv \sigma_\chi/\|\chi\|_{\mathbf{K}_{\text{eq}}}$, one finds $\Delta G/G = s_\Xi^2 = (\phi_\chi/\Lambda_\chi)^2$; closure is tested *a posteriori* against metrology via $\alpha_G^{(\text{pp})} = G_N m_p^2/(\hbar c)$.

Premise. Work in logarithmic coupling space $\hat{\Psi} = (\ln \hat{\alpha}_s, \ln \hat{\alpha}_2, \ln \hat{\alpha})$, where multiplicative renormalization becomes additive and basis transports are linear [1–3]. We seek a *single*, basis-invariant scalar depth in this space that governs the curvature response and defines the emergent coupling $G(x)$. Its existence is not assumed but must arise from SM structure and be protected by a symmetry enforcing an even equilibrium response (*i.e.*, a null first derivative).

Alignment principle (physical motivation). Let $\mathbf{K}_{\text{eq}} > 0$ denote the equilibrium kinetic metric on $\hat{\Psi}$. Small variations organize along its *soft eigenmode*—the direction of minimal kinetic curvature. We find numerically, using SM pins [4, 5], that the gauge system aligns its response along this mode. Alignment has two immediate consequences: (i) **Parity protection.** Near equilibrium, the response is even, so the leading deviation is quadratic in the depth displacement. The resulting *parity-null* is directly testable—any observed linear term falsifies the mechanism. (ii) **Tensor-sector normalization.** With even parity at the laboratory point, the linearized tensor dynamics coincide with GR (luminal helicity-2, no Pauli–Fierz mass). The graviton sector thus *emerges* as the parity-even curvature response of the aligned gauge system [6, 7].

This alignment-first view provides the physical intuition

before the algebra: the next sections identify the unique direction (certificate), define the depth Ξ , specify the even gate $\Pi(\Xi)$, derive the β -function for G , and establish closure and falsifiers.

In Fisher-metric terms, alignment corresponds to motion along the soft eigenvector of \mathbf{K}_{eq} —the direction of least informational curvature. Equivalently, systems minimize Fisher resistance by cohering along the soft mode, the information-geometry analog of least action.

Integer certificate and depth. The alignment principle requires a single scalar coordinate in coupling space that remains invariant under renormalization–basis changes. From the one-loop decoupling lattice of the SM, the Smith normal form (SNF) isolates a unique primitive left-kernel generator [8–10],

$$\chi = (16, 13, 2),$$

certifying that only one integer combination of gauge couplings remains invariant under one-loop decoupling transformations (Appelquist–Carazzone regime). This integer projector defines the gauge-log depth

$$\Xi = \chi \cdot \hat{\Psi}, \quad \hat{\Psi} = (\ln \hat{\alpha}_s, \ln \hat{\alpha}_2, \ln \hat{\alpha}),$$

with local fluctuation $\Delta\Xi = \Xi - \Xi_{\text{eq}}$. Log coordinates render multiplicative renormalization additive and basis transports linear [1, 2]: $\hat{\Psi}' = A\hat{\Psi}$, $\chi' = A^{-\top}\chi$, so $\Xi = \chi \cdot \hat{\Psi}$ is basis-invariant. Under metric transport $K' = A^{-\top}KA^{-1}$,

$$\|\chi\|_K^2 = \chi^\top K \chi = \chi'^\top K' \chi',$$

so both $\|\chi\|_K$ and the gate scale $\Lambda_\chi = \sigma_\chi/\|\chi\|_K$ remain invariant under basis choice. The integer certificate, scalar depth, and their transport properties complete the algebraic foundation for the curvature gate introduced next.

SNF certificate (sketch). $\Delta W_{\text{EM}} = \begin{bmatrix} 8 & 8 & 224 \\ 0 & 1 & 18 \end{bmatrix}$ has integer rank 2, giving $\ker_{\mathbb{Z}}(\Delta W_{\text{EM}}) = \text{span}\{\pm\chi_{\text{EM}}\}$ with $\chi_{\text{EM}} = (-10, -18, 1)$ and $\Delta W_{\text{EM}}\chi_{\text{EM}} = 0$. Unimodular transport $M^\top \chi_{\text{EM}} = \chi = (16, 13, 2)$ fixes the primitive generator, unique up to sign (full proof in SM Sec. S1).

Even gate and definition of $G(x)$. Having identified the invariant scalar depth $\Xi = \chi \cdot \hat{\Psi}$, we introduce the curvature-response function (the *gate*) that modulates the emergent gravitational coupling. The gate must satisfy: (i) even parity about equilibrium [$\Pi'(\Xi_{\text{eq}}) = 0$]; (ii) analyticity and positivity for all Ξ ; (iii) normalization $\Pi(\Xi_{\text{eq}}) = 1$ (recovering GR at equilibrium); and (iv) minimal parameter freedom.

A minimal analytic, even, and positive form satisfying these is the Gaussian gate

$$\Pi(\Xi) = \exp\left[-\frac{(\Delta\Xi)^2}{\sigma_\chi^2}\right], \quad \Pi'(\Xi_{\text{eq}}) = 0, \quad \Pi(\Xi_{\text{eq}}) = 1,$$

which enforces parity-even curvature modulation and smooth suppression beyond the Planck-thin envelope ($|\Delta\Xi| \sim \sigma_\chi$). With $s_\Xi = \Delta\Xi/\sigma_\chi$, $\phi_\chi = \Delta\Xi/\|\chi\|_{K_{\text{eq}}}$, and $\Lambda_\chi = \sigma_\chi/\|\chi\|_{K_{\text{eq}}}$, the laboratory null becomes $\Delta G/G = s_\Xi^2 = (\phi_\chi/\Lambda_\chi)^2$. The width σ_χ is fixed by Fisher curvature from SM covariance at $\mu = M_Z$ [4, 5, 11], leaving no tunable parameters.

Gate parity. If Π is even and C^2 near Ξ_{eq} , then $\Pi'(\Xi_{\text{eq}}) = 0$ and $\Pi(\Xi_{\text{eq}} + \Delta\Xi) = 1 - (\Delta\Xi)^2/\sigma_\chi^2 + \mathcal{O}((\Delta\Xi)^4)$; any $\mathcal{O}((\Delta\Xi))$ term falsifies parity or alignment. Writing the laboratory template as

$$\frac{\Delta G}{G} = A s + B s^2 + \mathcal{O}(s^3), \quad s \equiv \frac{\Delta\Xi}{\sigma_\chi},$$

an even gate predicts $A = 0$, $B = 1$. Equivalently, in the ϕ_χ normalization,

$$\frac{\Delta G}{G} = A' \phi_\chi + B' \phi_\chi^2 + \dots, \quad A' = 0, \quad B' = 1/\Lambda_\chi^2.$$

Any reproducible odd term ($A \neq 0$ or $A' \neq 0$) falsifies alignment parity.

Definition (natural units). In natural units ($\hbar = c = 1$), the SM fixes the gravitational coupling via the dimensionless product

$$G \equiv \frac{\Omega}{m_p^2}, \quad \Omega \equiv \alpha_s^{16} \alpha_2^{13} \alpha^2, \quad G(x) = G \Pi(\Xi(x)). \quad (1)$$

For SI units, restore $\hbar c$:

$$G(M_Z) = \frac{\hat{\Omega}(M_Z) \hbar c}{m_p^2}, \quad \hat{\Omega} = \hat{\alpha}_s^{16} \hat{\alpha}_2^{13} \hat{\alpha}^2. \quad (2)$$

$$\Omega = \hat{\alpha}_s^{16} \hat{\alpha}_2^{13} \hat{\alpha}^2$$

$$G = \frac{\Omega}{m_p^2}$$

$$\frac{G_* \Pi(\hat{\Xi})}{G_*} = \Pi(\hat{\Xi}) = \exp\left[-\frac{(\hat{\Xi} - \hat{\Xi}^{(\text{eq})})^2}{\sigma_\chi^2}\right]$$

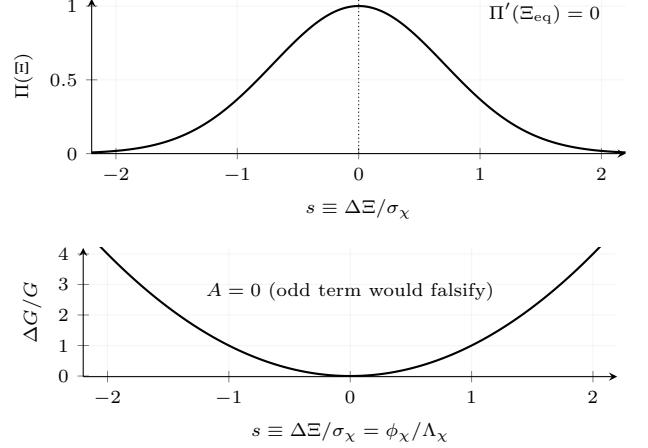


FIG. 1. Even gate $\Pi(\Xi) = \exp[-(\Delta\Xi)^2/\sigma_\chi^2]$ vs $s = \Delta\Xi/\sigma_\chi$ with parity condition $\Pi'(\Xi_{\text{eq}}) = 0$, enforcing the quadratic response $\Delta G/G \simeq (\Delta\Xi)^2/\sigma_\chi^2 = \phi_\chi^2/\Lambda_\chi^2$. Any odd term A s would falsify alignment.

Parity-even lab null and tensor sector. Even parity of the gate enforces a quadratic curvature response near equilibrium. With $K_{\text{eq}} \succ 0$ and alignment of $\hat{\chi} = \chi/\|\chi\|_{K_{\text{eq}}}$ to the soft eigenvector of K_{eq} ,

$$\frac{\Delta G}{G} \simeq \frac{(\Delta\Xi)^2}{\sigma_\chi^2} = \frac{\phi_\chi^2}{\Lambda_\chi^2}, \quad \phi_\chi = \frac{\chi^\top(\hat{\Psi} - \langle\hat{\Psi}\rangle)}{\|\chi\|_{K_{\text{eq}}}}, \quad (3)$$

$$\Lambda_\chi = \frac{\sigma_\chi}{\|\chi\|_{K_{\text{eq}}}}. \quad (4)$$

This constitutes the *quadratic lab null*: any linear term in $\Delta G/G$ falsifies parity or alignment.

No $h\phi$ mixing at linear order. $S \supset \frac{M_P^2}{2} \Pi(\Xi) R$. Since $\Pi'(\Xi_{\text{eq}}) = 0$, the variation $\delta\Omega = M_P^2 \Pi'(\Xi_{\text{eq}}) \delta\Xi$ vanishes, removing the $(g_{\mu\nu} \square - \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu) \delta\Omega$ term at $\mathcal{O}(h)$. The remaining equation $\mathcal{E}_{\mu\nu}^{\alpha\beta} h_{\alpha\beta} = 0$ is the Lichnerowicz operator with $m_{\text{PF}} = 0$.

Because $\Pi'(\Xi_{\text{eq}}) = 0$, the linearized equation reduces to

$$\Delta_L h_{\mu\nu} \equiv -\square h_{\mu\nu} = 0, \quad (5)$$

so the tensor mode is GR-normalized, massless, and luminal (helicity-2) [6, 7, 12, 13].

Pinned scales. With $K_{\text{eq}} \succ 0$, the gate scale is

$$\Lambda_\chi = \frac{\sigma_\chi}{\|\chi\|_{K_{\text{eq}}}}. \quad (6)$$

From SM pins at $\mu = M_Z$ one finds $\sigma_\chi = 247.683$ and $\|\chi\|_{K_{\text{eq}}} = 17.6278$, giving $\Lambda_\chi = 14.0507$ (derivation in the Supplement).

TABLE I. Equilibrium kinetic metric K_{eq} : eigenvalues and alignment diagnostics.

Eigenvalues ($\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_3$)	$\ \chi\ _{K_{\text{eq}}}$	$\cos \theta_K$	ε_χ
(0.7243, 2.0156, 3.2599)	17.6278	0.9999999998	$< 10^{-8}$

Running of G and Ward-flatness. Because G is composed of SM couplings, its renormalization follows theirs. Differentiating $\Xi = \chi \cdot \hat{\Psi}$ gives

$$\beta_\Xi \equiv \frac{d\Xi}{d \ln Q} = 16 \frac{\beta_{\alpha_s}}{\alpha_s} + 13 \frac{\beta_{\alpha_2}}{\alpha_2} + 2 \frac{\beta_\alpha}{\alpha} = 0$$

(1 loop; Ward-flat).

Thus Ξ and G are stationary at one loop, avoiding basis artifacts [1, 2]. Preregistered flatness windows and masks are evaluated in the SM; Fig. 2 shows the monitor $F(Q)$ within bounds.

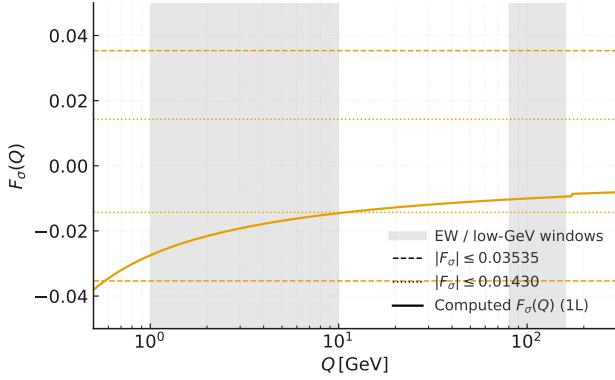


FIG. 2. Projected flatness monitor $F(Q)$ within preregistered electroweak and low-GeV windows. One-loop flatness corresponds to $\beta_\Xi = 0$; mild threshold kinks appear outside the EW window.

Beyond equilibrium, slow variation of K_{eq} produces adiabatic tracking of the soft mode (dynamic alignment) and a small two-loop drift (quantified in the Supplement).

The running of G follows directly:

$$\beta_G \equiv \frac{d \ln G}{d \ln Q} = 16 \frac{\beta_{\alpha_s}}{\alpha_s} + 13 \frac{\beta_{\alpha_2}}{\alpha_2} + 2 \frac{\beta_\alpha}{\alpha} = 0 + O(\hat{\alpha}_i^2), \quad (7)$$

so G is flat at one loop with bounded higher-order drift [14]. Physically,

$$G(x) = G \Pi(\Xi(x)), \quad G = \frac{\Omega}{m_p^2}. \quad (8)$$

At $\mu = M_Z$ ($\overline{\text{MS}}$), comparison is made *a posteriori* to the metrological coupling $\alpha_G^{(\text{pp})}$ [15, 16].

Closure and prediction. The closure test links the SM invariant to metrology:

$$\hat{\Omega}(M_Z) = \hat{\alpha}_s^{16} \hat{\alpha}_2^{13} \hat{\alpha}^2 \stackrel{?}{=} \alpha_G^{(\text{pp})} \equiv \frac{G_N m_p^2}{\hbar c}. \quad (9)$$

If equality holds within uncertainties,

$$G(\Xi_{\text{eq}}) = \frac{\hat{\Omega}(M_Z) \hbar c}{m_p^2} = G(M_Z). \quad (10)$$

Inverting gives the leave-one-out (LOO) forecast,

$$\hat{\alpha}_s^{\star}(M_Z) = \left[\frac{\alpha_G^{(\text{pp})}}{\hat{\alpha}_2^{13} \hat{\alpha}^2} \right]^{1/16} = 0.1173411 \pm 1.86 \times 10^{-5}, \quad (11)$$

consistent with the PDG mean (-0.73σ) [4, 5]. The closure ratio

$$\frac{\hat{\Omega}(M_Z)}{\alpha_G^{(\text{pp})}} = 1.09373393 \quad (+9.37\%) \quad (12)$$

serves as the empirical benchmark [4, 11, 15, 16].

Matching (UV→IR). Define the IR normalization via a dimensionless matching factor Z_G :

$$G(M_Z) = \frac{\hat{\Omega}(M_Z) \hbar c}{m_p^2}, \quad G_N \equiv Z_G G(M_Z), \quad (13)$$

$$Z_G = \frac{\alpha_G^{(\text{pp})}}{\hat{\Omega}(M_Z)} = 0.91430 \quad (-8.57\%). \quad (14)$$

This Z_G absorbs scheme, threshold, and higher-order effects; the full budget is detailed in the Supplement.

Helicity scale. At equilibrium, soft-mode alignment fixes

$$\Lambda_\chi = \frac{\sigma_\chi}{\|\chi\|_{K_{\text{eq}}}} = 14.0507 \quad (\approx 14.05), \quad (15)$$

$$\omega_{\text{hel}} = \Lambda_\chi^{-1}, \quad (16)$$

$$T_{\text{hel}} = 2\pi \Lambda_\chi \simeq 88 t_P. \quad (17)$$

This *Planck-thin curvature envelope* sets the coherence length of the emergent tensor mode and bounds the quadratic response $\Delta G/G \simeq \phi_\chi^2/\Lambda_\chi^2$ (see SM Sec. S8).

Falsifiers (any suffices). The construction is parameter-free; any single failure falsifies it:

1. **Non-unique integer certificate.** SNF must yield a unique primitive left-kernel generator $\chi = (16, 13, 2)$; any alternate integer solution of comparable norm breaks the projection symmetry [8–10].

2. **Odd (linear) curvature response.** With $\Pi'(\Xi_{\text{eq}}) = 0$, a measured linear term $A s$ in $\Delta G/G = A s + B s^2 + \dots$ (where $s = \Delta \Xi/\sigma_\chi$) contradicts the quadratic lab-null in Eq. (4). *Example (illustrative):* taking $s = 9$ from SM pins gives $\Delta G/G \simeq s^2 = (\phi_\chi/\Lambda_\chi)^2 = 1.32 \times 10^{-3}$, accessible to symmetric $\pm s$ clock/torsion tests; fits must be consistent with $A = 0$.

3. **Tensor-sector anomaly.** Any Pauli–Fierz mass or non-luminal dispersion violates GR-normalized propagation (Eq. (5)) [7, 12, 13].
4. **Metric instability or misalignment.** $K_{\text{eq}} \succ 0$ with $\cos \theta_K \simeq 1$ must hold; a negative eigenvalue or deviation beyond ε_χ signals ghost/locking failure (Table 1).
5. **Ward-flatness violation.** The projected flow must satisfy $\beta_\Xi = 0$ within preregistered EW and low-GeV masks (Eq. ()); significant drift implies RG-scheme dependence or breakdown of aligned projection [1, 2].
6. **Closure or LOO failure.** Deviation of $\hat{\Omega}/\alpha_G^{(\text{pp})}$ from unity beyond pinned uncertainties (Eq. (12)), or $\hat{\alpha}_s^*(M_Z)$ outside PDG bounds (Eq. (11)), falsifies identification of G as SM-derived [4, 5, 15, 16].

Implications. Gravity emerges as the parity-even curvature response of the Standard Model gauge sector, with

$$G(x) = G(M_Z) \Pi(\Xi(x))$$

fixed entirely by $\{\hat{\alpha}_s, \hat{\alpha}_2, \hat{\alpha}\}$ at $\mu = M_Z$ [4–6, 11]. Two direct signatures make the framework falsifiable: (i) the quadratic lab-null $\Delta G/G \simeq (\Delta\Xi/\sigma_\chi)^2$, and (ii) the closure ratio $\hat{\Omega}/\alpha_G^{(\text{pp})} = 1.09373393$. Any reproducible odd-parity term or closure mismatch beyond pinned uncertainties would refute the mechanism [7, 12, 13].

The spurion-even gate and χ -projection imply a conserved alignment current,

$$\begin{aligned} J_\chi^\mu &= \Pi(\Xi) \chi^\top K_{\text{eq}} \partial^\mu \hat{\Psi}, \\ \partial_\mu J_\chi^\mu &= 0 + \mathcal{O}((\Delta\Xi)^3, 2L \text{ drift}, \varepsilon_\chi), \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

the Noether current associated with rigid depth shifts of Ξ at equilibrium. This conservation law is the gauge-depth analog of energy–momentum conservation under spacetime translations: alignment preserves curvature “energy” within the gauge sector. Operationally, any reproducible odd (linear) response [$A \neq 0$ in $\Delta G/G = As + Bs^2 + \dots$] corresponds to $\partial_\mu J_\chi^\mu \neq 0$ and thus falsifies alignment.

Scope note. This Letter derives the gravitational coupling G from SM couplings and demonstrates empirical closure. Dynamic tensor-sector extensions—including the helicity frequency, Planck-thin envelope, drift law, and the conserved alignment current—are detailed in the Supplemental Material. All analytic derivations and pinned numerical checks are reproducible from the accompanying `GAGE_repo`. A companion study will extend the alignment–conservation framework to a fully dynamical formulation, developing the stress-energy, effective Lagrangian,

geometric-fiber, informational, and temporal extensions that complete the GAGE description of gravity.

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Data availability All pins, scripts, and figure data are archived at Zenodo (`GAGE_repo v1.0.0`, DOI 10.5281/zenodo.17537647). The Letter and Supplemental Material contain all equations, definitions, and figure descriptions. Additional materials are available from the author upon reasonable request.

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