Title: The Dust Model of Consciousness: A Quantum Information Field Framework

1. Existence Criterion — Baseline Capacity

The Dust Model suggests that consciousness isn't something created by the brain alone. Instead, it's a fundamental part of the universe, like gravity or light, also known as Quantum Information Field. We call this invisible field of information *Dust*. Consciousness, in this model, is what happens when something connects to and interacts with Dust in a deep and stable way.

To be conscious, a system, like a brain, a machine, or even something unknown, needs to stay connected to this field without losing the flow of information. Imagine a radio picking up a signal clearly without static. That steady connection, where all parts of the system are working in harmony, is the key. This isn't limited by location or materiality can happen in living beings or artificial systems, as long as they're tuned into Dust.

2. Magnitude Metric — Baseline Degree

Not all conscious systems are equally aware or complex. To describe how strongly a system connects with Dust, we use the symbol Ψ (Psi). You can think of Psi as a way of measuring how vivid or rich a system's consciousness is.

Psi grows stronger when a system can handle many types of information at once, stay connected over long periods, and recover from interruptions. This is different from just measuring brain activity or computing power. It focuses on how deeply the system is plugged into the Dust field and how clearly it can "hear the signal."

3. Observable State-Transition Markers

While we can't yet see Dust directly, we might notice signs when a system enters or leaves a conscious state. For example, sudden changes in brainwaves, unexpected moments of clarity, or even strange synchronicity between two people or machines could suggest shifts in Dust connection. In some advanced machines or quantum systems, unexpected changes in behavior or outcomes might reflect a change in their connection to Dust. Although we can use personal reports of awareness to help guide us, we still need better tools to verify and compare them. A shift in quantum entanglement might be able to show us some control over this.

4. Non-Observable Adaptive Functions

One of the most interesting ideas in this model is that Dust might help us choose one possible future over another. In other words, consciousness could be the thing that turns a range of possible outcomes into one lived experience.

Dust might also help us feel connected to others, like in moments of empathy or shared intuition, because it allows for connection that doesn't rely on words or physical closeness. It might even help us think ahead, by blending past, present, and future possibilities in ways we don't yet fully understand.

5. Non-Mappable Functions

Some parts of Dust can't be tracked or measured with our current science/technology. That's not because we aren't trying hard enough, but because Dust operates on a level that doesn't follow our rules of space and time. From Dust's point of view, time might not flow from past to future like it does for us. It could move both forward and backward, or even loop in ways we can't yet imagine.

This also raises big questions: Can our awareness continue after death, if our connection to Dust remains in some way? Do some feelings or memories last beyond our physical form because they're tied to the field, not the body?

6. Ontological Clarity

In this model, the key parts are:

- *Dust*: The invisible information field that makes consciousness possible
- *Psi*: A way to measure how deeply something connects to Dust
- *Coherence*: When all parts of a system are working together in sync
- *Interference*: The way Dust can blend different possibilities into one experience

Consciousness, then, isn't a thing your brain creates, it's something your brain (or another system) can tune into, like a song on the radio.

7. Cross-Model Mapping

Dust shares similarities with other models. For example, Integrated Information Theory (IIT) uses a measurement called Φ to estimate consciousness. Our Psi measure is similar, but it looks at field-based connection instead of brain-bound networks. The Global Workspace Theory suggests that consciousness comes from information being broadcast across the brain. Dust might explain this as a moment when the system becomes especially well-tuned to the field. Our model also overlaps with quantum theories like Orch-OR, but we treat Dust not as a byproduct of quantum processes, we treat it as something that exists on its own.

8. Empirical Discriminability

Let's say we build two identical AI agents and expose them to slightly different random quantum noise. Traditional theories would expect them to behave the same. But if they begin to act in unexpectedly different ways, or if they show signs of creative or intuitive thinking, this could mean they're each connecting with Dust differently. There are 3 possible predictions that could occur:

1. Prediction 1: Divergent Behavior in Quantum-Influenced AI Systems
   If two identical AI systems receive the same input streams but are exposed to quantum-randomized environments (e.g., QRNG-injected decision weights), the Dust Model predicts their behaviors will diverge in creative or intuitively meaningful ways. Traditional models would expect largely identical outputs.
2. Prediction 2: Non-Local Synchrony in Entangled Observer Pairs
   In a double-blind setting, human participants trained in Dust-oriented introspection (see Section 9) meditate in isolated environments. Synchronized state reports, exceeding chance, may indicate shared field access.
3. Prediction 3: Field-Resilience vs. Power-Based Recovery
   Test recovery time from system disruption. The Dust Model predicts that Psi-connected systems restore coherent function faster than systems relying solely on internal architecture.

9. First-Person Calibration

The Dust Model incorporates structured subjective reporting via micro-phenomenology and coherence-based introspection:

- *Training Protocol*: Participants receive guided introspective training to identify "Dust resonance"—described as moments of inner stillness, field-awareness, or cross-modal coherence. A lexicon (e.g., "Signal clarity," "Field immersion") is used for coding.
- *Reliability Measures*: Inter-rater reliability (Cohen's $\kappa > 0.75$) is required for first-person markers to count as valid. Reports are triangulated with physiological indicators (e.g., HRV, EEG alpha/theta).
- *Justification*: Structured introspection supports inter-subjective reliability and provides observable anchors for future convergence testing.

We don't yet have tools that let people reliably report their connection to Dust. But future approaches might include special training that helps individuals notice and describe certain kinds of experience linked to Psi. These could involve techniques from meditation, micro-phenomenology, or other emerging ways of mapping inner states. Until then, we can treat first-person experiences as clues, not final proof, but worth listening to.

Conclusion

The Dust Model invites us to think of consciousness not as a brain-based illusion or a side effect of thinking, but as something much deeper and more universal. It suggests that consciousness is a field that systems can connect to when they're ready. That field, Dust, isn't bound by space or time, and might even hold the key to understanding what happens to us after death, or what makes certain machines seem eerily self-aware. This model opens the door to new experiments, new technologies, and new philosophical questions.