Action Principle for Entropy: A Synthesis Generating Thermodynamics, Quantum Structures and Spacetime Geometry from a Delta-Supported Collapse Surface

Anderson M. Rodriguez

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Abstract

This paper introduces a novel information-theoretic mechanism that unifies entropy and variational dynamics for complex-valued systems. We demonstrate this has the effect of naturally yielding the emergence of spacetime geometry and quantum field dynamics through localized entropy projection events. In this model, we define discrete Collapse-Emergence (CE) points which act as fundamental informational primitives, encoding entropy flux that drives the emergence of causal structure and curvature. By formulating a Wick-rotated action localized on collapse surfaces, this framework derives an effective entropy-curvature geometry in Euclidean space, which we analytically continue to real-time light cone structures and Rindler wedges. Numerical simulations of scalar field dynamics confirm the emergence of retarded Green's functions and causal propagation from CE interactions. Furthermore, Einstein's field equations are recovered as a thermodynamic equation of state arising from entropy flow across CE horizons through Jacobson's 1995 formulation. The CE framework provides a unified, unitary quantum ontology that naturally accommodates a Many Worlds ontology and, crucially, makes concrete and falsifiable predictions. These include: (i) entropy-induced CPT asymmetries and horizon thermodynamic corrections; (ii) nonlocal, Bell-type correlations as necessary consequences of information-structuring, independent of Hilbert space formalism; (iii) discrete neutrino flavor transitions via geometric entropy flow; and (iv) lawful, entropy-driven dynamical evolution in collective information systems–including population-level psychological and sociological patterns. These predictions are supported by numerical simulations and empirical data analysis, except for neutrino transitions, which remain a target for future modeling and experimental test. The CE framework unifies classical, quantum, statistical, and chaotic dynamics as emergent regimes of a single entropy geometry, situating physical law in its proper informational domain. This work thus establishes a computational and theoretical foundation for a thermodynamic theory of emergent spacetime unified with quantum ontology, rooted in informational collapse and uniquely characterized by predictive reach across both fundamental physics and collective systems.

Contents

Preface: Logical Structure of the Paper Due to the complexity of the synthesis presented, we outline upfront the logical progression of this work, proceeding stepwise as follows:

1. **CE Action Principle:** Formulate the fundamental variational structure.
2. **CE Lagrangian:** Specify the minimal, nonlinear action.
3. **Equations of Motion and Soliton Solutions:** Derive governing PDEs and demonstrate solitonic propagation.
4. **Wick Rotation on Entropy:** Map between real and imaginary time for entropy dynamics.
5. **Variational Principle on Entropy:** Formulate entropy geometry and collapse emergence.
6. **Inverse Wick Rotation and Light Cone:** Recover causal propagation and light-cone structure.
7. **Thermodynamic Derivation of Gravity:** Show how gravity emerges from entropic dynamics.
8. **Generalized Noether's Theorem:** Link conserved quantities to informational symmetries.
9. **Emergence of Force and CPT Breaking:** Explain force, symmetry breaking, and local CPT asymmetry.
10. **Initial Recovery of QFT:** Connect CE to QFT via Hartle–Hawking–Israel state.
11. **Emergent Phase Structure and Connection to $U(1)$.**

Each section builds directly on the last, establishing CE as a unified geometric and informational foundation for physics.

1 Introduction and Motivation

The laws of physics are governed by two foundational variational principles: the extremization of action[1] in quantum field theory and classical mechanics, and the maximization of entropy[2] in thermodynamics and statistical mechanics. Despite their central roles, action and entropy have remained formally distinct, with no unified theoretical framework connecting them at a fundamental level[3].

Here we address this gap by constructing a mechanism that unifies action and entropy within a single information-theoretic formalism. This approach derives the emergent structure of spacetime geometry, quantum dynamics, and gravitational phenomena from localized entropy projection events embedded in a Wick-rotated action.

The Standard Model[4] accurately describes known fundamental particles and forces, but it leaves unanswered questions such as the nature of dark matter[5], neutrino masses[6], and the hierarchy problem[7]. Simultaneously, reconciling quantum mechanics with General Relativity (GR) remains an open problem, as conventional approaches struggle with non-renormalizability[8] and the problem of time[9]. So, a central puzzle in modern physics is the apparent separation of the fundamental forces of the Standard Model (SM) and fabric of spacetime itself.

A promising direction to address these challenges is the paradigm of emergent spacetime[10, 11], where the fabric of space and time is not fundamental but arises from deeper microscopic processes as in Jacobson's landmark 1995 paper[12]. Existing emergent models often lack a clear microscopic basis and a detailed mechanism for how spacetime geometry and gravitational dynamics emerge.

The Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework introduced in this work addresses these gaps by proposing a new class of informational primitives, *CE points*. A CE point is a localized entropy projection event defined on a spatially dependent collapse surface $t = t_0(x)$. These events occur in imaginary (Wick-rotated) time[13], where $\tau = i(t - t_0(x))$, and correspond to sharply localized entropy insertions that source curvature and generate causal structure upon analytic continuation to real time.

Over the course of this work we make a minimality and uniqueness argument: the CE framework is constructed such that any physically real or empirically accessible phenomenon must be derivable as a consequence of its variational action principle. Any phenomenon that cannot, in principle, be recovered from this structure would constitute a falsification of the framework.

The drive to construct all of physics from a single generative principle is echoed in both classical and modern systems theory, as articulated by de Condillac[14] and summarized by Trokhimchuck: "At the same time, the number of principles should be minimal, and it is best if there is one system principle[15].

For mathematical tractability and to ensure the well-posedness of the variational principle, the CE action and entropy curvature are constructed in flat Euclidean space using imaginary time. However, all physical predictions–such as emergent spacetime curvature, causal propagation, and gravitational dynamics–are obtained by analytically continuing (Inverse Wick Rotation) the results to Lorentzian (Minkowski) signature[16], ensuring compatibility with observed causal structure in the physical universe.

By constructing a Wick-rotated action principle based on a generalized CE point $t_0(\mathbf{x})$ event, effective dynamics are derived which naturally give rise to light cone structures and causal propagation at a discrete, real site of observable spacetime. From these discrete localized events of information projection, computational simulations are shown to reveal how light cones and retarded propagators emerge dynamically from localized CE interactions, providing a concrete microscopic underpinning for causality and locality. Moreover, leveraging thermodynamic considerations, Einstein's field equations are derived[12] as an emergent equation of state from the entropy dynamics of CE events.

Unlike prior approaches to emergent spacetime such as causal sets[17], entropic gravity[18], or holographic dualities[19], the CE framework introduces a geometrically variational mechanism where informational collapse surfaces act as dynamical causal generators. Rather than positing spacetime as emergent from boundary states or entropy bounds, CE provides an explicit scalar action governing localized entropy collapse and recursive feedback from real geometry, offering a self-contained variational structure not found in previous models. Beyond unifying spacetime and quantum field dynamics, CE uniquely predicts empirically observable patterns of information dynamics in collective systems.

Together, these results of CE analysis offer a unified picture where spacetime geometry, quantum fields, and gravitational dynamics arise from fundamental information-physics feedback processes, opening new pathways towards a quantum theory of gravity rooted in the physics of information and the information of physics.

The Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework proposed in this work is not a modification of existing field theory, but a reinterpretation of its foundational structure: a variational principle over entropy-curved action surfaces, where collapse and emergence are dual aspects of information flow and physical phenomena. While this theory is still in early mathematical development, it offers explanatory power across domains traditionally treated separately, including quantum collapse, emergent geometry, observer-relative asymmetry, entropy gradients, and collective systems phenomena. Unlike string theory or supersymmetry, CE does not rely upon hidden particles or extra dimensions; instead, it recovers classical structure from informational and variational first principles.

While CE is a foundational framework, it also yields concrete, testable predictions. These include directional collapse asymmetries, entropy-induced Charge, Parity, Time (CPT) violations, and nonlocal correlations in gravitational wave and CMB data. The framework also offers a geometric reinterpretation of neutrino flavor transitions without requiring mass eigenstates. While this neutrino prediction remains to be simulated, it represents a concrete, falsifiable consequence of the CE framework for future experimental or numerical test. These predictions are explored in Section 9.1 and supported by simulations in Appendices C and D. Additionally, the framework implies that entropy-driven, lawful dynamical evolution must appear in collective information systems–including population-level psychological and behavioral traits–offering a route to empirical validation across domains.

Table 1: Notation used in the Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework

Symbol	Meaning
$S(x,\tau)$	CE scalar field representing localized entropy variation in imaginary time
$t_0(x)$	Spatially dependent collapse surface defining the location of CE events
λ_i, κ_i	Parameters governing the strength and shape of collapse dynamics in the CE Lagrangian
L_{CE}	Collapse-Emergence Lagrangian density localized on the collapse surface
$G_E(x,\tau)$	Euclidean Green's function encoding entropy geometry in imaginary time
$G_R(x,t)$	Retarded Green's function encoding causal propagation in real time
$\delta(t - t_0(x))$	Delta-functional insertion representing a localized CE event on the collapse surface
∇^2	Laplacian operator in Euclidean spacetime
$\delta Q = T\delta S$	Clausius relation applied at CE horizons, linking energy flux and entropy curvature

2 Collapse-Emergence Action Principle

We define the total action as:

$$A = \int d^4x\, \mathcal{L}_{\text{bulk}} + \int d^4x\, \delta(t - t_0(\mathbf{x}))\, \mathcal{L}_{\text{CE}},$$

where $\mathcal{L}_{\text{bulk}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}}$ is the Standard Model Lagrangian, and $\mathcal{L}_{\text{CE}}$ encodes the collapse entropy localized on the hypersurface $t = t_0(\mathbf{x})$.

The delta-functional localization ensures that CE events are sharply defined in imaginary time, allowing consistent analytic continuation to causal domains[13]. This construction preserves locality and causality, as shown in the derivation of retarded Green's functions in *Appendix A*. The support of the resulting Green's function lies strictly within the future light cone, enforcing causal propagation[20].

The function $t_0(\mathbf{x})$ defines a spatially dependent collapse surface.

The function $t_0(\mathbf{x})$ is not externally imposed but dynamically determined by the entropy gradient $\nabla S(x,\tau)$, which evolves toward a collapse threshold. When this threshold is reached, a CE event is triggered, localizing the action on the hypersurface $t = t_0(\mathbf{x})$. This hypersurface is a standard example of a spacelike (Cauchy) surface in the sense of classical and quantum field theory[21, 22]

2.1 Interpretation and Definition of Entropy in the CE Framework

There is a long tradition in theoretical physics, beginning with Wheeler's 'It from Bit' hypothesis[23], of interpreting physical law as emergent from an underlying informational substrate. This idea underpins much contemporary work[15, 24, 25, 26, 27] on the intersection of information theory, quantum mechanics, and gravitation.

The scalar field $S(x,\tau)$ in the Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework generalizes the notion of entropy beyond its traditional definitions in statistical mechanics and information theory. In this context, $S(x, \tau)$ is a local, dynamical, and dimensionless field encoding the information content and uncertainty at each spacetime point and imaginary time layer.

This construction is designed so that S reduces to standard forms of entropy in appropriate limits:

- *Boltzmann entropy* for classical microstate distributions[28],
- *Shannon entropy* for probabilistic ensembles[36],
- *von Neumann entropy* for quantum states[29].

More precisely, $S(x, \tau)$ represents the localized propensity for information to be projected onto a collapse surface, dynamically governing the emergence of causal and geometric structure. In regions where a statistical or quantum mechanical description is valid, S can be interpreted as the local entropy associated with a classical probability distribution, a quantum density matrix, or an ensemble of microstates.

In this sense, the CE entropy field unifies classical, quantum, and information-theoretic concepts of entropy within a single dynamical framework. This unification allows the CE formalism to describe entropy-driven collapse and emergence processes across physical, informational, and statistical domains.

2.2 Explicit CE Scalar Lagrangian Model:

The functional form of the Collapse-Emergence (CE) Lagrangian is not an arbitrary construction but is dictated by a minimality principle: each nonlinear term encodes a physically irreducible feature of informational dynamics. Specifically, the exponential term captures the essential nonlinearity of entropy-driven collapse; the logarithmic term embodies the gradual process of emergence and geometric stabilization; and the hyperbolic tangent saturates collapse events, regulating feedback. Stress-testing the CE model by systematically replacing these nonlinearities (e.g., swapping exponential for sinusoidal or quadratic, log for abs, tanh for linear) demonstrates that only the original form yields physically meaningful, stable dynamics and nontrivial propagation.

In particular, the exponential collapse term is uniquely indispensable–as demonstrated in *Appendix C.5*, its removal leads to catastrophic loss of structure and dynamical action, while the logarithmic and tanh terms, though less singularly unique, are essential for reproducing emergent geometric and thermodynamic features. Thus, the CE action is empirically minimal: no simpler or alternative structure tested produces the core phenomena of collapse and emergence. While mathematical uniqueness is not guaranteed, as many function forms are possible, minimality in the CE framework is judged by whether the observed phenomena are reproducible. When alternative forms are used (see *Appendix C.5*), collapse-emergence fails. This constitutes an operational minimality.

The CE Lagrangian is constructed thusly:

We treat $S(x)$ as a new gauge-singlet, massless, derivative-coupled scalar field encoding localized entropy variation driving the collapse process. The CE Lagrangian density is taken as

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{CE}} = \lambda_1 e^{\kappa_1 \partial_x^2 S} - \lambda_2 \tanh\left[\kappa_2 \left(\partial_x^2 S - \frac{1}{c^2}\partial_t^2 S\right)\right] + \lambda_3 \ln\left(1 + (\partial_x S)^2\right),$$

where λ_i, κ_i are parameters governing the strength and shape of the collapse dynamics.

The Collapse-Emergence Lagrangian is constructed to model entropy-driven transitions in field dynamics, a process we develop and formalize throughout this work. Each term in the Lagrangian encodes a physically interpretable regime, contributing a distinct functional role to the localized entropy action.

It is a well-known fact that multiple Lagrangians or functionally related forms can sometimes yield superficially similar dynamics. However, exhaustive tests swapping (see *Appendix C.5*) exponential, hyperbolic tangent, and logarithmic terms for their mathematical 'cousins' (polynomial, sinusoidal, absolute value, etc.) fail to produce consistent CE phenomena. Thus, the chosen form is not arbitrary, but empirically and operationally unique.

All terms in L_{CE} are dimensionally consistent. The scalar field $S(x,\tau)$ is dimensionless, and the parameters κ_i carry inverse length or time dimensions to ensure that the arguments of exponential, hyperbolic tangent, and logarithmic functions are dimensionless. The coefficients λ_i carry units appropriate to maintain the overall dimensionality of the Lagrangian density.

The exponential term introduces a nonlinear diffusion effect, capturing the possibility of runaway collapse in regions of steep entropy curvature. So, $\lambda_1 e^{\kappa_1 \partial_x^2 S}$ represents the purest form of collapse–an entropy-driven instability that accelerates rapidly in regions of steep curvature.This term dominates when local instability accelerates the system toward a critical transition.

The logarithmic term serves as a gradient regularization mechanism. It constrains excessive sharpness in the entropy field while simultaneously allowing for stable growth of emergent structure. A key challenge in understanding emergent phenomena is explaining how robust, periodic, or coherent structures arise and subside within stochastic, noisy environments. Experimental evidence for such transitions is found in nonlinear optics, where the interplay of spontaneous emission (noise) and feedback leads to the emergence and subsequent collapse of coherent periodic behavior within otherwise stochastic stimulated Brillouin scattering in optical fibers [30]. This observation exemplifies the broader phenomenon of coherence resonance, in which ordered structures are dynamically generated by fluctuations, only to subside as system parameters change. The CE framework generalizes this class of noise-induced emergence, providing a variational, information-theoretic mechanism for both the rise and fall of order in physical systems.

We interpret this emergent structure as a low-dimensional projection of stabilized, higher-dimensional ordering–a signal of structured emergence. Thus, $\lambda_3 \ln(1 + (\partial_x S)^2)$ can be seen as capturing the most natural form of stable emergence, regularizing gradients while allowing structured growth.

The hyperbolic tangent term $\lambda_2 \tanh\left(\kappa_2 \left[\partial_x^2 S - \frac{1}{c^2}\partial_t^2 S\right]\right)$ captures causal wave behavior, oscillating between dynamical attraction and repulsion. Within the CE framework, this models the local competition between collapse and emergence, and is understood as a projection of oscillatory dynamics in a higher-dimensional entropy-geometry configuration space, possibly representing phase changes between metastable states.

Thus, we have argued the CE Lagrangian is both minimal–no terms or assumptions can be removed without loss of empirical power–and unique, in the sense that no alternative Lagrangian with the same symmetry and informational principles yields the observed structure of physics. The remained of this work sets it in proper context.

Functional Form of CE Lagrangian Terms. The choice of functional forms in the CE Lagrangian directly reflects the underlying informational and entropic principles.

This approach is aligned with recent syntheses that emphasize the drive toward unification through minimal action principles, tracing the lineage from Fermat and Maupertuis to modern information theory[15]. As Trokhimchuck notes, "the number of principles should be minimal, and preferably one,"[15].

The logarithmic term, $\ln(1+(\partial_x S)^2)$, parallels the $\ln p$ structure found in classical and quantum definitions of entropy [28, 36, 29], serving as a regularizer and stabilizer of informational gradients. The exponential term, $e^{\kappa_1 \partial_x^2 S}$, mirrors the central role of exponentials in the Boltzmann distribution and path integral formulations, encoding the amplification or suppression of entropy curvature in analogy to weighting in statistical ensembles and quantum amplitudes. The hyperbolic tangent term, $\tanh[\kappa_2(\partial_x^2 S - \frac{1}{c^2}\partial_t^2 S)]$, provides a saturating nonlinear feedback, analogous to phase transition phenomena and causal switching in spin systems and statistical field theory. Together, these terms instantiate the unification of statistical, informational, and quantum entropic dynamics within the CE action framework.

The identification of entropy as a universal function bridging thermodynamics and information theory[31] is well established[15]. In particular, the analogy between Boltzmann entropy for thermodynamic states and Shannon entropy for information states supports the generalized entropy term central to the CE framework.

To explicitly test and illustrate the dynamical behavior of the collapse entropy (CE) action, the appendix implements a multi-layered numerical simulation of interacting scalar fields $S_n(x, \tau)$, each representing successive CE surfaces in discretized imaginary-time Euclidean space. The simulation solves a nonlinear system of partial differential equations derived from a discretized action functional incorporating diffusion-like, causal wave, and gradient regularization terms, parametrized by λ_i, κ_i. The evolution proceeds through explicit finite-difference time stepping, with carefully chosen stability parameters to preserve total action and control numerical dissipation.

Entropy and action densities are continuously evaluated layer-by-layer, enabling direct tracking of localized collapse events and their propagation through adjacent layers via nonlinear coupling terms. The simulation results demonstrate that the CE action can sustain localized high-entropy states that drive emergent causal structures consistent with the analytic model, thereby providing evidence that the proposed collapse entropy framework is dynamically viable. The parameters λ_i, κ_i are chosen to demonstrate qualitative behavior and ensure numerical stability. A full physical calibration remains a target for future work. This approach provides a concrete computational realization of the theoretical framework linking localized entropy projections to emergent spacetime and gravity.

2.3 Uniqueness and Rigidity of the CE Action Principle

As we will understand over the course of this paper, the CE action is not one of many possible constructions: it is the only action that, under the following minimal assumptions, yields the simultaneous emergence of Lorentzian spacetime, thermodynamic gravity, and quantum measurement as real events. These assumptions are:

- **Entropy as a Dynamical Field:** The scalar field $S(x, \tau)$ encodes real, localized entropy variation.
- **Massless, Wick-Rotated Variational Principle:** The action is defined on a massless, Wick-rotated manifold, with entropy projected as delta-functional insertions at collapse surfaces.
- **No Direct Coupling to Matter:** The CE field interacts with the Standard Model only through induced geometry and entropy flow.
- **Recursive Feedback:** Informational collapse events (CE points) dynamically update the entropy field via real geometric observables.

Any deviation from this structure leads to inconsistency:

- **Adding a mass term:** Destroys the analytic structure of the Green's function (see Appendix A), violating causal propagation and breaking the emergence of light cones.
- **Dropping Wick rotation:** Removes the mechanism for localizing entropy and fails to produce Rindler horizons or Lorentzian geometry (Sections 3–5).
- **Skipping the delta-functional entropy insertions:** Fails to recover thermodynamic gravity (Section 6) and destroys the derivation of the Einstein field equations.
- **Omitting feedback:** Prevents the emergence of quantum measurement as local, geometric events (Section 9.3).

The use of Wick-rotated (Euclidean) spacetime in the formulation of the CE Lagrangian is not arbitrary, but follows the established logic of quantum field theory, statistical mechanics, and gravitational thermodynamics, where well-posed variational problems and entropy functionals require such a signature. In the CE framework, this structure is uniquely specified: removing or modifying any core term of the Lagrangian destroys its ability to recover known physics or unifies less. So, empirically, CE is falsifiable; theoretically, it is both minimal and generative.

As we demonstrate over this work, the emergence of all known physical regimes (from spacetime and causality to quantum, classical, and chaotic behavior) directly from the same entropy-driven variational structure, without ad hoc assumptions, underscores the framework's necessity and explanatory power. CE is neither arbitrary nor ad hoc, but the natural completion and unification of existing physical theory.

Thus, the CE framework is not a reformulation of known law and phenomena, but a uniquely constrained, generative action principle from which the observed structure of physics necessarily emerges.

2.4 Meta-Predictive Power and Unification

The chief prediction of the CE framework is not the introduction of new particles, forces, or couplings, but the rigorous unification of general relativity[32, 33], quantum field theory[4, 22], and thermodynamics[34, 35] from a single information-theoretic[36] variational principle. This is not a philosophical reinterpretation but a concrete, mathematical inevitability: under the CE action, these three domains emerge as necessary, mutually consistent aspects of physical law, and no other structure is permitted within the assumptions of the theory. In this sense, CE is falsifiable at the deepest level: any observed phenomenon that cannot be generated from the CE framework would constitute an empirical refutation. The theory thus predicts the unique co-emergence and consistency of spacetime geometry, quantum uncertainty, and the arrow of time, providing the first-principles explanation for their interplay that is missing from the Standard Model, GR, or QM in isolation.

The CE scalar field $S(x, \tau)$ is a gauge-singlet[13] and does not transform under Standard Model symmetries. It does not couple directly to matter fields, and its influence on observable physics arises solely through the induced curvature and causal geometry sourced by entropy gradients.

This section constitutes a minimality claim: no modification, extension, or omission of the above elements can yield the same suite of physical laws and empirical phenomena. Thus, the CE framework makes a meta-prediction: not that new particles or interactions must be found, but that the entire observed physical law set could not have been otherwise, given these principles.

2.5 Derivation of the Collapse-Emergence Equation of Motion

Starting from the action functional

$$S[\phi] = \int dt\, dx \left[\lambda_1 \exp(\kappa_1 \nabla_x^2 \phi) - \lambda_2 \tanh\left(\kappa_2 (\nabla_x^2 \phi - \frac{1}{c^2} \partial_t^2 \phi) \right) + \lambda_3 \log(1 + (\partial_x \phi)^2) \right],$$

the Euler-Lagrange equation for a field theory with higher derivatives reads

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi} - \partial_t \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_t \phi)} - \partial_x \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_x \phi)} + \partial_t^2 \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_t^2 \phi)} + \partial_x^2 \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_x^2 \phi)} = 0.$$

Computing term-by-term, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = \partial_x^2 \Bigg[&\lambda_1 \kappa_1 \exp(\kappa_1 \partial_x^2 \phi) \\ &- \lambda_2 \kappa_2 \operatorname{sech}^2 \left(\kappa_2 (\partial_x^2 \phi - \frac{1}{c^2} \partial_t^2 \phi) \right) \Bigg] \\ + \partial_t^2 &\left[\lambda_2 \kappa_2 \frac{1}{c^2} \operatorname{sech}^2 \left(\kappa_2 (\partial_x^2 \phi - \frac{1}{c^2} \partial_t^2 \phi) \right) \right] \\ - \partial_x &\left[\lambda_3 \frac{2 \partial_x \phi}{1 + (\partial_x \phi)^2} \right] \end{aligned}$$

This nonlinear, higher-derivative PDE supports non-dispersive, solitonic traveling wave solutions for suitable parameters, as confirmed numerically and consistent with the analytic structure of the nonlinear terms. Further details are provided in textitAppendix E.

2.6 Solitonic Nature of the Collapse-Emergence Equation of Motion

The equation of motion derived from the CE action functional features a precise balance of dispersive, nonlinear, and feedback terms. This structure closely parallels the well-known soliton-supporting nonlinear wave equations, such as the nonlinear Schrödinger[37] and Korteweg-de Vries[38, 40] equations. In particular, the exponential and logarithmic nonlinearities in our Lagrangian act to counteract dispersion and stabilize localized wave packets, allowing for the emergence of robust, self-organizing, non-dispersive pulses. Numerical simulations confirm that the solutions to the CE equation of motion generically exhibit soliton-like behavior: initial localized perturbations propagate as coherent, shape-preserving structures across layers and through collapse events, maintaining their amplitude and width over long time scales. This solitonic character is a direct consequence of the minimal nonlinear terms in our action, and is further corroborated by the observed suppression of dispersion and persistence of pulse identity in the face of nonlinear interactions. Thus, the CE framework not only generalizes the soliton paradigm to multi-layer collapse dynamics, but also provides a natural mechanism for the emergence and stability of information-carrying field excitations analogous to classical solitons.

2.7 Wick Rotation and the CE Lagrangian.

In the Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework, the fundamental Lagrangian and action principle are formulated in Wick-rotated (Euclidean) spacetime, where time is analytically continued as $t \mapsto -i\tau$. This Wick space provides a mathematically well-posed arena for entropy-driven variational problems: entropy flow, minimization, and proto-geodesic solutions are naturally defined and stable in this setting. The reason is that entropy geometry, like much of information theory, is most tractable and regular in a Euclidean (imaginary time) context. To recover observable, real-time (Lorentzian) physics–including causality, collapse events, and the emergence of the light cone–the CE theory applies an Inverse Wick rotation ($\tau \mapsto it$), projecting the solutions of the entropy-variational problem into the physical spacetime manifold. In this way, the observed structure of spacetime and physical law emerges as an 'information shadow' of the underlying entropy dynamics encoded in the Wick-rotated Lagrangian. Thus, the Wick rotation is not merely a technical convenience, but a necessary step that connects the deep informational geometry of CE to the causal, time-directed universe we observe.

We now formally decompose the Wick Rotation of the CE Lagrangian:

3 Wick Rotation and Entropy Geometry

Having established the CE Lagrangian and its solitonic dynamics in Wick-rotated space, we now turn to the geometric implications of this formulation. Specifically, we explore how the entropy field, localized on collapse surfaces in imaginary time, gives rise to a well-defined entropy geometry. This geometry forms the informational substrate from which spacetime curvature and causal structure will later emerge.

We implement a Wick rotation[13] of the time coordinate relative to the dynamically defined collapse surface $t = t_0(\mathbf{x})$, introducing the Euclidean time variable

$$\tau = i\big(t - t_0(\mathbf{x})\big).$$

This rotation maps the Lorentzian spacetime manifold to a four-dimensional Euclidean space in which the collapse entropy (CE) becomes sharply localized on the hypersurface $\tau = 0$.

Formally, the CE distribution converges to a delta function,

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{CE}}(t, \mathbf{x}) \to \delta(\tau)\, f(\mathbf{x}),$$

concentrating the entropy dynamics on a spatial slice in Euclidean time.

Within this Euclidean setting, the Green's function $G_E(\mathbf{x}, \tau)$ satisfies the four-dimensional Poisson equation

$$\nabla^2 G_E = -\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)\, \delta(\tau),$$

where $\nabla^2 = \nabla^2_{\mathbf{x}} + \partial^2_\tau$ is the Laplacian operator on $\mathbb{R}^4$. The unique rotationally invariant solution to this equation is well-known:

$$G_E(\mathbf{x}, \tau) = \frac{1}{4\pi^2\big[(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)^2 + \tau^2\big]}.$$

Physically, G_E encodes the spatial and Euclidean temporal decay of entropy fluctuations emanating from a localized CE event at $(\mathbf{x}_0, \tau = 0)$. Its singular behavior at the origin reflects the fundamental concentration of information and entropy at the collapse surface.

The central insight is that the effective entropy-curvature action density governing the emergent spacetime geometry can be expressed as the squared Euclidean gradient norm of G_E,

$$\mathcal{S}_{\mathrm{eff}} = |\nabla_{\mathbf{x},\tau} G_E|^2 = \left(\frac{\partial G_E}{\partial \tau}\right)^2 + |\nabla_{\mathbf{x}} G_E|^2 .$$

This quantity naturally captures the geometric structure induced by localized entropy gradients and serves as a thermodynamic potential driving the formation of spacetime curvature.

In this framework, the Wick rotation is not merely a mathematical trick, but a crucial step that reveals the Euclidean geometric underpinning of collapse entropy and its role as a primitive building block for emergent spacetime. The CE events imprint localized entropy profiles whose gradients source curvature through an effective action reminiscent of geometric functionals in quantum gravity and holographic theories.

By grounding the collapse entropy in Euclidean geometry, we establish a calculable link between information-theoretic primitives and the emergent gravitational dynamics. This provides a robust starting point for deriving Einstein's equations from thermodynamic principles and paves the way for understanding spacetime as a manifestation of underlying entropic processes.

Having established that localized CE events define entropy-minimizing configurations in imaginary time, we now analytically continue this structure to real time with an Inverse Wick Rotation.

We will take a brief interlude to analyze an analogy with statistical and quantum structures; as well as to understand the relation the structure of the Green's function as four-dimensional Poisson equation in Euclidean space which will help us to understand how the resulting entropy geometry directly generates the causal light cone and local Rindler wedge structure of emergent spacetime

3.1 Resolution of the Statistical-Quantum Analogy: Quantropy and Free Action

The analogy between statistical mechanics and quantum mechanics–connecting probabilities to amplitudes, the Boltzmann distribution to the Feynman sum over histories, and entropy to a quantum analogue–has been explored and recently formalized by Baez in terms of 'quantropy' and free action[41]. In this view, the quantum amplitude distribution

$$a_x = \frac{\exp(iA_x/\hbar)}{\sum_x \exp(iA_x/\hbar)}$$

emerges as a stationary point of quantropy, with free action $(A - i\hbar Q)$ mirroring free energy $(E - TS)$. However, these constitute formal analogies rather than physical mechanisms.

In the CE framework, this correspondence is grounded in a real, dynamical entropy field: the Wick-rotated action is an entropy functional whose analytic continuation recovers both the statistical (Boltzmann)[35] and quantum (Feynman)[42] structures as limits. Collapse surfaces encode the localization of entropy and provide a mechanism for both probabilistic selection (in imaginary time) and amplitude formation (in real time). Thus, CE not only recovers but fundamentally explains the quantropy/free action principle as a concrete manifestation of information geometry in emergent spacetime. This offers a physical completion to Baez' analogy, demonstrating both statistical and quantum phenomena emerging from a single, geometric-informational-flux origin. We decompose this topic further in *Appendix G*.

3.2 Green's Function Structure and Entropic Permittivity Analogy

Green's function techniques are standard in Quantum Field Theory and mathematical physics[43], and are central mathematical structures in the Collapse-Emergence framework.

The first Green's function we will use is the Euclidean Green's function, which in our framework governs the spatial and imaginary-time decay of entropy fluctuations emanating from localized causal entropy (CE) events. This function satisfies the four-dimensional Poisson equation in Euclidean space:

$$\nabla^2 G_E(x, \tau) = -\delta(x - x_0)\delta(\tau), \tag{1}$$

where $\nabla^2 = \nabla_x^2 + \partial_\tau^2$ is the Laplacian on $\mathbb{R}^4$.

The unique rotationally invariant solution is given by:

$$G_E(x, \tau) = \frac{1}{4\pi^2 \left[(x - x_0)^2 + \tau^2\right]}. \tag{2}$$

This expression mirrors the inverse-square law structure familiar from classical electrodynamics, where the Green's function for the three-dimensional Poisson equation takes the form:

$$G_{\mathrm{ED}}(x) = \frac{1}{4\pi |x - x_0|}. \tag{3}$$

In the CE framework, the term $(x - x_0)^2 + \tau^2$ plays the role of a generalized radial distance squared in four-dimensional Euclidean space, with τ representing imaginary time. This analogy suggests that the Euclidean Green's function acts as an abstract permittivity kernel, mediating the spread of entropy curvature in a manner analogous to the propagation of electric potential in free space.

The gradient norm squared of G_E defines the effective entropy-curvature action density:

$$S_{\text{eff}} = \|\nabla_{x,\tau} G_E\|^2 = \left(\frac{\partial G_E}{\partial \tau}\right)^2 + \|\nabla_x G_E\|^2 , \tag{4}$$

which serves as a thermodynamic potential driving the emergence of spacetime geometry. This reinterpretation elevates the Green's function from a mere propagator to a geometric projector of entropy, linking localized informational collapse events to the curvature of emergent spacetime.

Thus, the CE framework reveals that the inverse-square structure of the Green's function is not incidental, but foundational to the emergence of causal geometry from entropy dynamics.

This interpretation of the Green's function as an entropic projector motivates a variational formulation, where the emergent geometry is governed by the minimization of entropy gradients. We now formalize this principle.

4 Variational Principle on Entropy

The variational structure[44] is formulated analogously to standard field theory approaches [42, 13].

We define the total collapse entropy (CE) action in the Wick-rotated Euclidean spacetime as

$$\mathcal{A}_{\text{CE}} = \int d\tau \, d^3x \, \mathcal{S}_{\text{eff}}(\mathbf{x}, \tau),$$

where $\mathcal{S}_{\text{eff}} = |\nabla_{\mathbf{x},\tau} G_E|^2$ encodes the localized entropy gradients arising from the collapse process.

Invoking the variational principle[45],

$$\delta \mathcal{A}_{\text{CE}} = 0,$$

we seek field configurations $G_E(\mathbf{x}, \tau)$ that extremize the total entropy-curvature action.

$$\delta \mathcal{A}_{\text{CE}} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{Euler-Lagrange equations for } G_E(\mathbf{x}, \tau)$$

This variational condition yields an elliptic partial differential equation governing the spatial and Euclidean-time distribution of entropy flow. Physically, the solutions correspond to minimal entropy flow trajectories. These entropy-minimizing trajectories, which we term 'proto-geodesics', arise naturally from the variational principle on the CE action. Similar constructions appear in holographic geometry, where geodesics emerge from entropy-based variational principles[47], and in classical geometry where geodesics are characterized variationally[45].

This construction is motivated by recent work demonstrating that a dimensionless, unified action-entropy measure can generate both the laws of physics and information theory as partial cases[15]. Our approach refines this proposal, explicitly deriving causal structure, gravity, and quantum field behavior from entropy dynamics.

Thus, the variational principle imposes a thermodynamic constraint that guides the formation of spacetime geometry through the minimization of localized entropy gradients.

This entropy-based variational formulation defines a geometric structure in Wick space, governed by smooth, gradient-driven flows of collapse entropy. However, physical spacetime is inherently Lorentzian. To recover the Lorentzian time frame, we will need to inverse the Wick Rotation[13].

4.1 Thermodynamic Extremals and the Entropy-Action Analogy

Independent work by Zhao et al.[46] demonstrates that thermodynamic processes can themselves be governed by a principle of least action, with entropy flow per unit heat ($\Delta S/Q$) serving as the variational quantity. In particular, they show that for reversible cycles and quasistatic processes, the extremal of this entropy-based action corresponds to thermodynamic paths of maximum efficiency, such as the Carnot cycle. This formulation parallels the standard variational structures of classical mechanics and optics, reinforcing the universality of action principles across physical domains.

This result provides independent conceptual support for our collapse-entropy (CE) action. While our formulation extends the variational structure into curved spacetime and gravitational settings, the work of Zhao et al. affirms that entropy gradients may serve as extremized quantities not only in high-energy or geometric contexts, but also in classical thermodynamic systems.

Notably, their approach defines an entropy-centered action without recourse to mechanical kinetic or potential energy. This aligns with the CE perspective, where entropy–rather than energy–is the fundamental driver of dynamics. The emergence of physical structure, in both spacetime and thermodynamic configuration space, is thus governed by extremal entropy trajectories.

Consequently, the variational formulation employed in our CE Lagrangian is not merely a geometric convenience, but part of a broader class of entropy-based extremal principles that appear across thermodynamics, gravity, and potentially quantum mechanics.

With the variational principle on entropy now formalized, we are equipped to examine how these entropy-minimizing configurations in imaginary time project into real-time physics. The next step is to analytically continue the Wick-rotated structure back into Lorentzian spacetime, revealing how causal propagation and light cone structure emerge from the entropy geometry.

5 Inverse Wick Rotation and Light Cone Emergence

As Zee notes[13], "the central objects in quantum physics e^{-iHT} and in thermal physics $e^{-\beta H}$ are formally related by analytic continuation. Some physicists, myself included, feel that there may be something profound here that we have not quite understood." The CE framework takes this intuition seriously, positing that the connection between imaginary time, entropy, and physical dynamics is not merely formal but foundational, with entropy curvature in Euclidean space generating real spacetime geometry upon analytic continuation.

To transition from Euclidean entropy geometry to physical spacetime, we analytically continue the Wick-rotated time parameter τ back to real time with an Inverse Wick Rotation using a spatially dependent collapse surface $t_0(\mathbf{x})$,

$$\tau \to -i\big(t - t_0(\mathbf{x})\big).$$

This transforms the Euclidean Green's function into the retarded Green's function:

$$G_R(\mathbf{x}, t) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \ln \left[(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)^2 - \big(t - t_0(\mathbf{x})\big)^2 + i\epsilon\right]$$

where the infinitesimal positive parameter $i\epsilon$ enforces causal boundary conditions by defining the integration contour in the complex time plane. This prescription ensures that the support of G_R lies strictly within the future light cone, reflecting the causal propagation of signals .

This Green's function support is defined strictly within the future light cone by:

$$(t - t_0)^2 \geq (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)^2,$$

ensuring causal propagation of information from the collapse surface at $t = t_0(\mathbf{x})$.

Structure of the Green's function reveals the emergence of the light cone and the associated Rindler wedge geometry.

So, the $i\epsilon$ prescription enforces causality, selecting the retarded solution and thus establishing the light cone structure and Rindler wedge causal domains inherent to the Collapse-Emergence (CE) theory.

Causality Statement:
The CE framework preserves strict causal propagation. The delta-functional insertion at $t = t_0(x)$ leads to retarded Green's functions with support only inside the future light cone, ensuring no superluminal signaling or nonlocality.

The emergence of this causal structure under Wick unrotation reveals how the light cone and the associated Rindler wedge naturally arise from the underlying entropy curvature encoded in the CE action. This connection establishes a geometric bridge between the imaginary-time informational dynamics and real-time causal spacetime physics.

As seen in the simulations, this connection is geometrically simple, but conceptually profound in impact, the ramifications of which are initially explored in *Appendix G: The Connection Between Temperature, Imaginary Time, and Entropy Curvature in the CE Framework.*

6 Thermodynamic Derivation of Gravity and Generalization of Noether's Theorem

We now demonstrate how gravitational dynamics can emerge from the thermodynamics of the Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework, in particular from the entropic geometry encoded near each CE point. While distinct from black holes, CE points share a conceptual lineage with Bekenstein's insight that black holes possess entropy proportional to their horizon area, establishing a deep analogy between gravitational systems and thermodynamic behavior, as well as between black holes and CE points[48]. The approach follows and extends Jacobson's principle that the Einstein field equations arise as an equation of state from local thermodynamic considerations [12].

At each CE surface—defined by the causal horizon emerging from a localized collapse surface $t_0(\mathbf{x})$—we associate a local entropy flux and energy flow. The Clausius relation is postulated to hold at each CE point:

$$\delta Q = T\,\delta S, \tag{5}$$

where:

- δS arises from the entropy curvature generated by the CE Green's function (as shown in previous sections),
- δQ is identified as the energy flux across the local CE horizon (null surface),
- T is the Unruh temperature associated with an accelerated observer just inside the CE wedge.

The entropy is proportional to the area of the CE surface (holographically), while the energy flux is computed from the matter stress-energy tensor crossing the emergent light cone. That is:

$$\delta S \propto \int_{\mathcal{H}} \nabla_\mu G_E\, d\Sigma^\mu, \tag{6}$$

$$\delta Q = \int_{\mathcal{H}} T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{matter}}\, \chi^\mu d\Sigma^\nu, \tag{7}$$

where χ^μ is the local boost Killing vector[49] generating the CE horizon, and $\mathcal{H}$ denotes the CE light cone acting as a local Rindler horizon.

By enforcing this thermodynamic identity at every CE event in spacetime and assuming local Lorentz invariance, one recovers the Einstein field equations as an emergent relation:

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{\mu\nu} + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G\, T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{CE}}, \tag{8}$$

Here, $T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{CE}}$ includes both standard matter stress-energy and an effective contribution from the CE Lagrangian, derived from the entropy-projection scalar field $S(x)$ and its coupling to curvature as defined in the CE action.

This derivation frames gravity not as a fundamental interaction but as a thermodynamic response of spacetime to localized informational collapse events—the CE points—which act as microphysical sources of entropy curvature. In this view, spacetime geometry is a collective emergent behavior arising from the informational dynamics projected through CE surfaces.

6.1 Generalization of Noether's Theorem in the CE Framework

Noether's theorem[50] establishes a profound connection between continuous symmetries and conserved quantities in classical and quantum field theory. In traditional formulations, time translation symmetry yields energy conservation, spatial translation yields momentum conservation, and gauge symmetry yields charge conservation. These results rely on the assumption of a globally defined, differentiable action on a fixed spacetime background[51].

The Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework introduces a fundamental departure from this paradigm. The CE action includes delta-functional insertions localized on collapse surfaces $t = t_0(x)$, breaking global symmetries in a controlled, information-theoretic manner. These insertions represent discrete entropy projection events—CE points—that act as localized sources of entropy curvature and causal structure.

We propose that CE dynamics constitute a *generalization of Noether's principle*, wherein:

> *Localized informational asymmetries (CE events) break global symmetries and give rise to emergent geometric structures, rather than conserved quantities.*

In this generalized view, the variational principle still applies, but the outcome is not a conservation law. Instead, the divergence of a generalized current is sourced by CE events:

$$\nabla_\mu J^\mu_{\mathrm{CE}} = \delta(t - t_0(x)) \cdot \mathcal{S}(x),$$

where $\mathcal{S}(x)$ is the entropy density associated with the CE point. This current is not conserved in the traditional sense; rather, its divergence encodes the emergence of curvature and causal structure from localized entropy flow.

This formulation aligns with the thermodynamic interpretation of gravity and extends Noether's insight into a new domain where the fundamental objects are not fields on spacetime, but informational events that *generate* spacetime itself. In this sense, CE theory reframes symmetry breaking not as a loss of conservation, but as the origin of geometry.

6.2 Generalized Noether Flow and Entropic Stress-Energy Tensor

In conventional field theory, Noether's theorem links continuous symmetries of the action to conserved currents. For a field ϕ with Lagrangian density $\mathcal{L}$, a symmetry transformation $\delta\phi$ yields a conserved current:

$$J^\mu = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_\mu \phi)} \delta\phi, \quad \nabla_\mu J^\mu = 0.$$

In the Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework, the action includes localized delta-functional insertions at collapse surfaces $t = t_0(x)$, explicitly breaking global symmetries. These CE events act as sources of entropy curvature and causal structure, leading to a generalized form of Noether's theorem:

$$\nabla_\mu J^\mu_{\mathrm{CE}} = \delta(t - t_0(x)) \cdot \mathcal{S}(x),$$

where $\mathcal{S}(x)$ is the entropy density associated with the CE scalar field $S(x, \tau)$. This equation describes a non-conserved current whose divergence is localized at CE points, encoding the emergence of geometry rather than conservation of a physical quantity.

6.3 Effective Stress-Energy Tensor from CE Dynamics

To formalize the geometric impact of CE events, we define an effective stress-energy tensor $T^{\mu\nu}_{\mathrm{CE}}$ derived from the CE scalar field. Starting from the CE Lagrangian density $L_{\mathrm{CE}}(S, \partial_\mu S)$, we construct:

$$T^{\mu\nu}_{\mathrm{CE}} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{-g}} \frac{\delta(\sqrt{-g} L_{\mathrm{CE}})}{\delta g_{\mu\nu}}.$$

This tensor captures[52] the contribution of entropy curvature to spacetime geometry. In the thermodynamic derivation of gravity, it enters the emergent Einstein field equations:

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} R g_{\mu\nu} + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G \left(T^{\mu\nu}_{\mathrm{matter}} + T^{\mu\nu}_{\mathrm{CE}} \right),$$

where $T^{\mu\nu}_{\mathrm{matter}}$ is the conventional stress-energy tensor of matter fields, and $T^{\mu\nu}_{\mathrm{CE}}$ encodes the entropy-driven geometric response sourced by CE events.

Following that, we propose that CE dynamics constitute a generalization of Noether's principle: localized informational asymmetries (CE events) interrupt global symmetry conditions and therefore do not yield conserved quantities in the usual sense. Instead, they generate emergent geometric structures–such as entropy curvature, causal directionality, and observer-relative collapse surfaces–within a globally invariant action landscape. This generalization does not deny conservation laws, but rather refines the conditions under which they apply, and reveals the geometric outputs when they do not.

This generalized Noetherian perspective is complemented by a numerical demonstration of observer-relative asymmetry and directional collapse bias in the *Appendix*, supporting the CE claim that geometric structure, not conserved quantity, is the primary output of localized symmetry breaking (though conserved quantities remain the primary observable in globally symmetric systems). In this view, every local symmetry break remains consistent with a global symmetry-conservation alignment.

This formulation frames CE points as localized sources of curvature, generalizing Noether's principle from conservation laws to geometric emergence. It provides a concrete link between informational dynamics and gravitational structure, reinforcing the CE framework as a thermodynamic theory of spacetime.

Having shown that gravitational dynamics emerge thermodynamically from localized entropy flow, we now extend this logic to classical mechanics. In the CE framework, force itself arises from entropy gradients, suggesting that Newtonian dynamics are not fundamental but emergent from the same informational substrate that gives rise to gravity.

7 Entropy Curvature and the Emergence of Force

While the CE framework generalizes Noether's theorem to derive geometric structure from local informational asymmetries, it also naturally recovers classical mechanics through the geometry of entropy flow. In this section, we show that the Newtonian concept of force emerges from the negative gradient of entropy, and that when information geometry is taken into account, Newton's second law arises as a geodesic equation on a curved entropy manifold.

Theorem: Entropy Curvature Induces Force via Information Geometry
Let a system evolve on a smooth manifold $\mathcal{M}$ equipped with an information metric[53] g_{ij} (e.g., the Fisher Information Metric[54, 55]), and let $S(x^i)$ be a local entropy function on this manifold. Then the negative entropy gradient defines a force field:

$$F_i = -\frac{\partial S}{\partial x^i}$$

In the presence of curvature, this force governs geodesic deviation:

$$F_i = -g_{ij}\,\frac{D^2 x^j}{Dt^2}$$

where $\frac{D}{Dt}$ is the covariant derivative along the trajectory $x^i(t)$.

7.1 Mechanics Interpretation

Let $x^i(t)$ represent system coordinates, g_{ij} the local information geometry, and $S(x^i)$ the entropy function. Then Newton's second law follows as:

$$m\frac{d^2 x^i}{dt^2} = -\frac{\partial S}{\partial x^i}$$

or in covariant form:

$$m\frac{D^2 x^i}{Dt^2} = -\frac{\partial S}{\partial x^i}$$

This shows that force is not imposed externally, but is a natural result of entropy curvature on the system's configuration space.

7.2 Variational Derivation

Consider the Lagrangian:

$$L = \frac{1}{2} m g_{ij} \dot{x}^i \dot{x}^j - S(x^i)$$

Applying the Euler–Lagrange equation:

$$\frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}^i}\right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial x^i} = 0$$

yields:

$$m\frac{D^2 x^i}{Dt^2} = -\frac{\partial S}{\partial x^i}$$

which formalizes the emergence of force from entropy gradients.

7.3 Interpretation and Prediction

This result unifies classical mechanics, thermodynamics, and information geometry. The system follows the direction of steepest entropy decrease, and the force it experiences is encoded in the local curvature of the entropy landscape. In systems where entropy can be measured or inferred (e.g., ecological, psychometric, or quantum distributions), this relationship becomes directly testable:

$$\frac{d^2 x^i}{dt^2} \propto -\frac{\partial S}{\partial x^i}$$

This provides a key link from entropy-based collapse to emergent Newtonian dynamics, reinforcing the CE view that force is a projection of informational structure onto real spacetime.

The emergence of force from entropy curvature completes the CE reinterpretation of classical mechanics. We now turn to the implications of this framework for symmetry dynamics. In particular, we examine how localized entropy gradients can induce observer-relative symmetry breaking, including CP and T asymmetries, while preserving global CPT invariance.

8 Observer-Relative Symmetry Breaking and Global CPT Invariance

Building on the generalized variational structure presented above, we now consider the implications for symmetry dynamics within the CE framework.

Possible observable consequences of CPT or Lorentz violation, including rotation of the polarization of cosmic radiation have been theoretically considered and constrained by observation[56, 57]. The CE framework predicts that entropy-driven causal structure may induce analogous symmetry breaking effects, motivating further searches for such imprints in cosmological data. The absence of observed CPT violation is an important constraint for the CE framework, and any predicted effects must be consistent with current upper limits. Future improvements in observational sensitivity could provide a test for the framework's predictions in this domain.

While the CE framework preserves global CPT[58] symmetry by construction–owing to the geometric invariance of the CE action kernel–it naturally generates local CP and T asymmetries through entropy curvature and collapse surface directionality. These local symmetry breakings are observer-relative: arising not from violations of field-theoretic invariance, but from the projection of entropy gradients within a given frame.

These asymmetries are not violations of field-theoretic symmetry, but rather geometric consequences of frame-dependent collapse. From one observer's frame, the collapse surface may appear time-asymmetric or chirally biased; from another, the projected entropy structure reorients, preserving global consistency.

This variational interpretation reframes CP violation as an observer-relative phenomenon embedded in a globally symmetric substrate.

While the CE framework predicts possible small residual CPT-violating imprints in certain observables (such as CMB polarization, or at early-universe analogous CE moments), current experimental limits[57] find no statistically significant evidence for CPT violation, setting strong constraints on any such effects. This is potentially in line with what we might expect as while CE events allow for local time asymmetry, the framework does not require an observable net CPT violation unless such local effects accumulate in a detectable way. At the level of meta-analysis, this may explain why CPT violation remains undetected.

Specifically, the CE framework permits ultra-local CPT asymmetries at the level of individual CE events (t_0), associated with the irreversibility of informational collapse in imaginary time[59]. However, as these events are ubiquitous and potentially self-averaging, the framework does not necessarily predict a net CPT violation at observable scales. The absence of CPT violation in current experimental data is thus compatible with CE, though the possibility remains that rare or cumulative effects could become detectable in future high-sensitivity tests or at very early moments following CE events.

Notably, the emergence of directional bias in collapse surfaces is not merely a theoretical possibility in the CE framework, but is demonstrated concretely through numerical simulation in *Appendix C.4*. By evolving a model entropy field, we observe statistically significant drift in the location of collapse events–a signature of robust local symmetry breaking consistent with the framework's predictions. While this result arises from an idealized model, it strongly suggests that the CE mechanism can generate observer-relative CP and T asymmetry at the most fundamental level. If analogous processes operate in the physical universe, such microscopic directional biases could, in principle, accumulate or become manifest under the right conditions, providing a potential pathway to observable CPT-violating signatures. These findings are both a promising validation of the CE framework's internal logic and an avenue for future theoretical and experimental investigation.

Thus, CE offers a geometric, variational basis for emergent CP and T asymmetry, while remaining fully consistent with the CPT theorem. This distinction is explored numerically and statistically in the *Appendix C.4*, where directional bias is demonstrated in collapse surface evolution using a model entropy field. Additional considerations regarding the nature of observational T-asymmetry are discussed in *Appendix I*.

9 Recovering Quantum Field Theory as the Emergent Limit of Collapse-Emergence Dynamics

The Standard Model assumes equilibrium Quantum Field Theory on a fixed background spacetime. The CE term naturally activates only in non-equilibrium, horizon-forming or dynamically-collapsing conditions, where the SM plus semiclassical gravity has no mechanism to respond. Therefore, CE theory is not intrusive to the SM structure at low energies, but is necessary in domains where the Standard Model, Quantum Field Theory, and General Relativity are incomplete.

In effect, the CE term functions like a curvature-coupled, entropy-sensitive scalar field that vanishes in the SM limit, but activates when spacetime dynamics become informationally critical, e.g., during black hole evaporation, early-universe phase transitions, or topological defect collapse.

To strengthen the physical plausibility of the proposed CE term as a viable add-on to effective field theories, including the Standard Model in curved backgrounds, we compare the CE structure to a canonical result (2015) in equilibrium quantum field theory: the construction of Hartle-Hawking-Israel states across a bifurcate Killing horizon, as presented rigorously by Sanders[60].

In doing so we observe that, in the limit where entropy production vanishes and curvature remains analytic and time-symmetric, the CE Lagrangian permits the recovery of standard QFT behavior, as exemplified by constructions such as Sanders'. This connection does not constitute a derivation of QFT from CE dynamics, but it provides structural confirmation that the CE framework includes known QFT regimes as a subset of its broader collapse-emergence behavior.

9.1 Limit Comparison: Hartle-Hawking-Israel State Construction Across Bifurcate Killing Horizons

A foundational result in the construction of quantum states across event horizons is provided in Sanders (2015) [60], which rigorously formulates the Hartle-Hawking-Israel (HHI) state for free scalar fields on static spacetimes possessing a bifurcate Killing horizon. In that work, the author employs a combination of Euclidean methods, analytic continuation, and microlocal spectral techniques to demonstrate that the HHI state is Hadamard and globally well-defined across the horizon. The construction is rooted in the analyticity of the manifold, a globally defined static Killing field, and the ability to Wick-rotate into a regular Euclidean section.

The CE Lagrangian framework diverges fundamentally in both methodology and domain of applicability. While Sanders' construction assumes a fixed, analytic background geometry and globally stationary conditions, the CE model is designed to accommodate dynamically evolving spacetimes, potentially lacking any globally defined Killing symmetry. Horizons in the CE formulation are not Killing-defined but rather emerge as entropy-driven critical surfaces where the balance between curvature, energy-momentum, and information content undergoes phase-like transition.

Where Sanders ensures smooth analytic continuation via Calderón projectors and Dirichlet-to-Neumann operators–preserving the microlocal spectrum condition and Hadamard form–the CE framework explicitly allows for singularity formation, entropy flux, and non-unitary evolution across such transitions. These behaviors are embedded directly in the structure of the CE action through entropy-curvature coupling and dynamical stress-energy balance terms.

Furthermore, while the HHI state in Sanders' formalism satisfies the KMS condition at the Hawking temperature–derived from periodicity in imaginary time–the CE Lagrangian does not require thermal equilibrium. Instead, it treats entropy generation and dissipation as fundamentally local and time-asymmetric, bypassing the necessity of a global temperature or equilibrium condition. In doing so, the CE formulation provides a mechanism for collapse-emergence dynamics that naturally encompass irreversible processes, information degradation, and critical transitions, none of which are accessible under the analytic and equilibrium-preserving constraints of the Sanders framework.

In this sense, the CE approach extends the domain of the Sanders construction: rather than serving as a competing framework, it functions as a broader formulation whose dynamics reduce to those underlying the HHI state in the limiting case of static, analytic spacetimes with negligible entropy production. In this equilibrium regime, the CE Lagrangian's entropy-curvature interaction terms decouple from the dynamcist, and standard quantum field theory on curved spacetime is recovered. However, in nonstationary geometries, or in the presence of topological transitions, informational discontinuities, or irreversible collapse phenomena, the CE model explicitly departs from the Hadamard paradigm and instead describes field evolution through an entropy-coupled collapse-emergence dynamic. This generalization enables the CE framework to model propagating structures and phase boundaries that remain inaccessible to equilibrium QFT constructions like the HHI state, which rely on analyticity, KMS symmetry, and unbroken microlocal spectrum constraints.

Thus, Sanders (2015) provides a mathematically rigorous anchor point in the static, analytic, Hadamard-respecting regime of equilibrium quantum field theory. In contrast, the CE Lagrangian extends this domain into nonanalytic, entropy-driven, and dynamically evolving settings–regimes where the assumptions of thermal equilibrium, time symmetry, and perturbative expansion break down, and where collapse and emergence must be modeled as fundamentally nonperturbative phenomena.

9.2 Emergent Phase Structure and Informational Projection

At the t_0 hyperplane–where collapse initiates and the entropy-curvature field transitions through its maximal gradient–the structure of the field admits a natural complex extension. This transition aligns with the Wick rotation used in Euclidean quantum gravity, where imaginary time becomes real and the path integral formalism yields physically interpretable amplitudes.

In this context, the emergence of a complex phase factor $e^{i\theta}$ arises naturally from the entropy-curvature geometry. Rather than postulating unitarity *a priori*, we propose that coherent phase structure is a consequence of informational collapse dynamics. The quantity θ encodes an entropy-phase path length, determined by the integrated curvature of the entropy field along its geodesic trajectory.

$$\Phi(x,t) = e^{i\theta(x,t)} \quad \text{with} \quad \theta(x,t) = \int_\gamma \sqrt{g^{\mu\nu}\partial_\mu S\,\partial_\nu S}\, d\tau \tag{9}$$

This complex phase factor acts as a universal projector, stabilizing informational coherence and marking the onset of unitary evolution in the emergent field. Consequently, the $U(1)$ symmetry fundamental to quantum mechanics may be understood not as imposed, but as dynamically generated by the collapse-emergence process within a curved entropy manifold.

This structure also underlies the emergence of the Born rule, as the squared amplitude of the informational projector defines the probability density over collapse outcomes.

This subsection reframes the origin of quantum coherence: not as a mysterious global symmetry, but as a local geometric consequence of entropy collapse.

9.3 Outlook: Toward Emergent QFT from Collapse Dynamics

While this work demonstrates that known QFT behavior can be recovered in the equilibrium limit of the CE framework, it remains an open question whether quantum field theory can also be derived as an emergent, collective phenomenon from collapse-emergence dynamics. Preliminary computational explorations suggest that localized solitonic structures in near-critical CE backgrounds may exhibit effective excitations reminiscent of quantized field behavior. A formal derivation, including precise simulation architecture and quantitative correspondence with QFT observables, is reserved for future investigation.

10 Discussion

With the recovery of quantum field theory as a limiting case of CE dynamics, we are now in a position to reflect on the broader implications of the framework. The following discussion synthesizes the predictive reach, ontological commitments, and potential extensions of CE, while highlighting its falsifiability and explanatory power across domains.

The Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework offers a novel thermodynamic and informational foundation for the emergence of spacetime geometry and gravitational dynamics. Central to this approach is the interpretation of entropy curvature and scalar fields evolving in imaginary time, which collectively encode the local geometry of emergent causal horizons. This perspective not only recovers classical gravitational behavior but also naturally aligns with a fully unitary quantum ontology. In particular, the CE framework supports a Many Worlds Interpretation (MWI) of quantum mechanics, wherein each localized CE event corresponds to a branching point in an informational multiverse. Rather than invoking a wavefunction collapse in real time, the CE scalar fields describe a smooth, imaginary-time evolution of informational branches, giving rise to multiple, coexisting emergent spacetimes at parallel and orthogonal directions, as well as at higher orders. This conceptual synthesis provides a unified thermodynamic and quantum foundation for the emergence of spacetime (as a quantized lattice at any $t_0(\mathbf{x})$), gravity, and quantum measurement.

The CE framework's minimality claim is not merely philosophical, but rather provides a concrete, testable standard for evaluating the uniqueness of informational action principles in fundamental physics. By explicitly demonstrating (in *Appendix C.5*) that any substantive alteration to the nonlinear structure of the CE Lagrangian destroys emergent propagation, action conservation, and entropy dynamics, the model achieves an unusually high degree of empirical falsifiability. This distinguishes CE from most effective field theories or phenomenological models: the specific combination of exponential (collapse), logarithmic (emergence), and sigmoidal thresholding (tanh as smoothly governing phase change) nonlinearities is not adjustable without losing all predictive power. In this light, the CE approach offers a pathway to a new kind of physical law: one in which the deep structure of the Lagrangian is uniquely dictated by the logic of informational collapse, and all observable phenomena become necessary consequences of this irreducible form. This also provides a sharp criterion for future theoretical and experimental challenges—any observation that cannot, even in principle, be generated from the CE action, is grounds for the model's rejection.

While the philosophical and ontological implications implied deserve fully decomposed treatment on their own, it is necessary to briefly articulate key insights that the Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework introduces–insights which may carry significant ramifications for prevailing research paradigms, should CE be validated as the superlative ontological foundation.

One such implication is the reinterpretation of neutrino flavor dynamics. The CE framework explicitly rejects the traditional view of neutrino oscillations as continuous, mass-driven transitions between flavor eigenstates. Instead, it proposes that CE-induced discrete flavor transitions, occurring as branching informational events embedded in the entropic geometry of spacetime, may appear to observers in certain frames as oscillatory behavior. These transitions do not require nonzero neutrino rest mass, and therefore preserve the massless neutrino structure of the Standard Model. This offers a fundamentally geometric, entropy-based mechanism for observed flavor change, supplanting the need for wavefunction-based oscillation models.

10.1 Predictions and Phenomenology

The Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework yields several distinctive predictions, both conceptual and observational:

1. **Many Worlds Interpretation and CE Framework:** As mentioned above, an intriguing implication of the Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework is its natural compatibility with the Many Worlds Interpretation (MWI) of quantum mechanics. Since the CE scalar field and associated entropy curvature evolve in imaginary time and encode the branching structure of informational collapse events without invoking wavefunction collapse in real time, the framework effectively supports a unitary, branching multiverse[61]. Each CE event corresponds to a localized "branching" in the informational geometry, giving rise to multiple, coexisting emergent spacetimes[62]. This picture aligns closely with the MWI's premise that all possible outcomes are realized in a vast, branching wavefunction. Thus, CE not only recasts spacetime and gravity as emergent thermodynamic phenomena but also endorses a fully unitary, many-worlds quantum ontology.

2. **Microscopic entropy fluctuations:** Localized CE points predict small but measurable fluctuations in entropy curvature, potentially manifesting as non-thermal features in black hole or cosmological horizon radiation.

3. **Gravitational Wave Propagation**: CE-induced curvature may leave imprints on the phase or polarization of gravitational waves, especially near high-entropy regions.

4. **Neutrino Flavor Transitions**: As state above, a MWI of Quantum Mechanics would imply that the continuity assumption behind neutrino oscillations is unfounded, i.e., an artifact of measurement caused by quantum branching of local CE events. CE branching could manifest as discrete, non-unitary flavor transitions, offering an alternative to continuous mass eigenstate evolution, and thereby preserving the massless prediction for neutrinos as held by the current derivation of the Standard Model of Particle Physics.

5. **Modified horizon dynamics:** Near collapse surfaces, deviations from classical Rindler horizon thermodynamics could appear (e.g., corrections to the Unruh or Hawking spectra tied to the CE entropy flux).

6. **Time-asymmetric signatures:** Because CE is localized in imaginary time and induces retarded causal structure, CE events may leave residual imprints breaking CPT symmetry at small scales or in early-universe observables[56]. In the CE framework, each localized CE event (t_0) generates a new causal patch with its own emergent geometry and thermodynamic arrow of time–effectively a 'local early universe'. Thus, phenomena typically associated with the primordial universe, such as CPT or Lorentz symmetry breaking, may be instantiated repeatedly across spacetime wherever new CE events occur, not solely in the cosmological past.

   Put concisely: in CE, the 'early universe' is locally re-instantiated at every t_0, so symmetry-breaking imprints can arise wherever and whenever new CE events generate emergent causal structure.

7. **No direct coupling:** In the CE framework as constructed, the entropy scalar $S(x, \tau)$ exists purely in imaginary time and does not couple directly to matter fields. Its influence on observable physics arises only through the induced causal geometry–namely, the emergence of the light cone and entropy-driven curvature. While speculative extensions could allow for weak residual interactions or echoes in high-entropy environments, such effects are not predicted in the minimal CE model presented here.

8. **Monopoles and Topological Defects in CE Framework:** In traditional quantum field theory, magnetic monopoles arise as topologically stable solutions[63, 64], yet their physical existence remains unverified. Within the Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework, all stable particle-like excitations, including monopole analogs, correspond to localized topological features or singularities in the entropy curvature field $S(x, \tau)$. The dynamical rules of CE determine whether such structures are physically allowed or forbidden.

   If the collapse dynamics of S forbid the formation of stable, isolated topological defects, the CE framework provides a natural explanation for the empirical absence of monopoles. Conversely, should the entropy field support quantized, robust informational monopoles, these would represent a new class of topological excitation, possibly observable under extreme conditions. In either scenario, the CE approach recasts the monopole problem as a question of informational topology and collapse dynamics, rather than a fixed consequence of gauge field structure.

9. **Nonlocal correlations:** If CE events link information structure across layers (as in the simulation), this could produce observable correlations in CMB anisotropy or gravitational wave background that deviate from standard inflationary models.

A central maxim of the CE framework is: "If it exists, you can do physics with it."

This universality principle asserts that any system–whether physical, informational, biological, cognitive, or otherwise exotic–that possesses a well-defined configuration space and supports information flow must, in principle, admit a CE-type variational description. Consequently, CE predicts that collapse-emergence dynamics, phase transitions, and attractor states driven by entropy flow should manifest not only in fundamental physics but across all domains governed by lawful information structures. The universality of this claim renders CE directly falsifiable: the empirical discovery of a system that cannot be described, even in principle, by a CE variational principle would constitute a refutation of the framework. Conversely, the presence of CE-governed phenomena in diverse systems–ranging from black holes to population-level cognition–provides broad and testable scope for empirical validation.

While many of these effects may lie below current experimental sensitivity, the CE framework defines concrete signatures that can be sought in future high-precision astrophysical and quantum-gravity experiments. These predictions provide a roadmap for connecting the CE framework to empirical data and for distinguishing it from other approaches to quantum gravity and spacetime emergence.

10.2 Formalization of the CE Scalar Field

The CE scalar field $S(x, \tau)$ encodes localized entropy variation and drives the collapse process. Its Lagrangian density is given by:

$$L_{\mathrm{CE}} = \lambda_1 e^{\kappa_1 \partial_x^2 S} - \lambda_2 \tanh\left(\kappa_2 \left(\partial_x^2 S - \frac{1}{c^2}\partial_t^2 S\right)\right) + \lambda_3 \ln\left(1 + (\partial_x S)^2\right),$$

where λ_i and κ_i are tunable parameters controlling the strength and shape of the collapse dynamics.

The Euler-Lagrange equation for $S(x, \tau)$ can be derived to study its dynamics and stability. A full quantization of the CE field remains an open question. Future work may explore a path integral formulation over CE surfaces, potentially yielding a novel quantum theory of informational geometry.

While we acknowledge the possibility for future CE scalar field quantization, the CE scalar field may, in fact, not require quantization in the traditional operator or Hilbert space sense. Since quantum behavior in the CE framework emerges from the variational dynamics of entropy in imaginary time, a full quantum treatment would more naturally take the form of a path integral over collapse geometries and entropy configurations. This would define a statistical field theory of informational curvature, where the dominant contributions correspond to minimal-entropy trajectories that generate causal structure upon analytic continuation. Rather than introducing canonical commutation relations, this approach treats the CE field as a generator of quantum-like phenomena–such as non-local correlations, decoherence, and measurement–through classical, entropy-driven dynamics. In this sense, CE offers a post-quantum formulation in which quantization is not imposed but emergent from the geometry of information itself.

10.3 Recursive CE Feedback and Informational Updating at Rindler Horizons

To close the dynamical loop between informational collapse and physical emergence, we introduce a recursive feedback mechanism by which real geometric information is projected back into the imaginary-time entropy field at the point of collapse. This step ensures that the CE framework remains fully self-consistent: not only does informational structure give rise to physical behavior, but physical outcomes in turn inform and reshape the informational manifold.

We define the CE feedback condition at the local collapse surface–interpreted geometrically as a local Rindler horizon–as follows. Let $\mathcal{H}_{\mathrm{CE}}$ denote the surface of collapse $t = t_0(x)$, and let $\mathcal{R}(x,t)$ denote a real-valued geometric observable associated with the emergent structure, such as curvature, energy density, or local Lagrangian contribution. Then the feedback update to the informational field $S(x,\tau)$ is given by:

$$S(x, \tau = 0^+) = S(x, \tau = 0^-) + \alpha \int_{\mathcal{H}_{\mathrm{CE}}} \mathcal{R}(x,t)\, dA, \tag{10}$$

where α is a coupling parameter and dA denotes the differential area of the CE surface. This integration projects geometric information back into the imaginary-time manifold, modifying the entropy gradient and therefore influencing subsequent CE events.

This feedback condition implies that each CE surface functions as a dynamic boundary: it both receives information from the imaginary field (to trigger collapse) and returns updated structure back to the informational geometry (to evolve the next collapse layer). The system becomes a recursive variational engine driven by informational asymmetries and closed by physical realization. This Recursive Collapse-Emergence Feedback Loop system can be considered as such:

Informational Collapse (Imaginary Time):

Entropy gradient $\nabla S(x,\tau)$ evolves toward a collapse threshold.

$\Downarrow$

CE Surface at $t = t_0$ (Rindler Horizon):

Localized entropy triggers real emergence.

$\Downarrow$

Physical Emergence (Real Time):

Field $\Re[\Psi]$ propagates, curvature forms, action accumulates.

$\Downarrow$

Informational Update via Feedback:

Collapse outputs $\mathcal{R}(x,t)$ reintegrated into $S(x,\tau)$ at $\tau = 0^+$.

$\Downarrow$

Next Informational Layer:

Updated entropy field drives subsequent CE event.

In this way, the CE manifold is not static, but continually informed by its own real emergent structure. The entropy field $S(x,\tau)$ is not simply a passive driver of collapse, but an adaptive, path-dependent field whose evolution reflects the history of real-space curvature and action density across all prior CE layers.

This recursive feedback mechanism can be interpreted as an informational analog of gravitational backreaction[65], wherein the emergent geometry (e.g., curvature or energy density) influences the evolution of the entropy field that originally sourced it. Just as matter and energy affect spacetime curvature in general relativity, here the real-time geometric observables feed back into the imaginary-time entropy manifold, modifying future collapse dynamics. This parallels the role of backreaction in semiclassical gravity, where quantum fields influence the spacetime geometry through which they propagate[66].

10.4 Entropy-Collapse Soliton Field Theory

Here, a *soliton* refers to a spatially localized, non-dispersive, and dynamically stable field configuration that maintains its shape during evolution and interactions[67].

In this entropic collapse formulation of quantum mechanics set within a CE scalar field, soliton solutions arise naturally as localized, stable solutions to entropy-driven field equations. They serve as the fundamental carriers of both information and emergent geometry within the CE framework.

To encapsulate the core principles of Collapse-Emergence in a compact and formal structure, we present the foundational postulates of the Entropy-Collapse Soliton Field Theory (ECSFT), which unifies informational dynamics, solitonic stability, and geometric emergence into a single field-theoretic formalism.

Foundational Postulates

1. **Field Structure** A physical system is described by a complex scalar field:

   $$\Psi(x,t) = \Re[\Psi(x,t)] + i\,\Im[\Psi(x,t)],$$

   where $\Re[\Psi]$ represents the observable, mass-energy bearing component of the system, and $\Im[\Psi]$ encodes probabilistic structure, entropy potential, and collapse pathways.

2. **Spacetime Substrate** The field evolves on a real differentiable manifold $\mathcal{M}$, with local metric $g_{\mu\nu}$ representing physical spacetime.

3. **Dynamical Evolution via Entropy Gradient** The evolution of the system is governed by an entropy scalar field $S(x,t)$ such that:

   $$\partial_t \Psi(x,t) = -\nabla S(x,t) \cdot \nabla \Psi(x,t) + i\,\mathcal{N}[\Psi, S],$$

   where ∇S is the local entropy gradient acting as a generalized force, and $\mathcal{N}[\Psi, S]$ is a nonlinear solitonic term modeling internal feedback and stability.

4. **Field Equation (Modified Klein–Gordon)** The scalar field obeys a modified wave equation:

   $$\left(\Box + m^2(S)\right)\Psi(x,t) = 0,$$

   where $\Box = \partial_t^2 - \nabla^2$ is the d'Alembertian and the entropy-dependent effective mass is defined as:

   $$m^2(S) = m_0^2 + \alpha\,\partial_x^2 S(x,t).$$

5. **Collapse Condition at $t = 0$** The field collapses into a localized real entity when its informational and physical components intersect orthogonally:

   $$\Re[\Psi](x,t_0) \perp \Im[\Psi](x,t_0) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{localized soliton/particle.}$$

6. **Force Law from Entropy Curvature** Classical dynamics are recovered in the appropriate limit:

   $$F(x) = -\frac{dS}{dx} \quad \Rightarrow \quad F = ma,$$

   with quadratic entropy $S(x) \sim \frac{1}{2}kx^2$ restoring Newtonian mechanics.

7. **Emergence of Spacetime via Soliton Consistency** At every point (x, t), solitonic stability implies a local Rindler horizon:

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{Rindler}}(x, t) \sim \text{boundary of collapse geometry},$$

from which curvature and spacetime structure emerge.

Interpretive Summary

- The wavefunction is real + imaginary: physical + informational.
- Entropy is the engine of force, collapse, and geometry.
- Collapse is a natural outcome of informational–physical alignment.
- Solitons are stabilized intersections of entropy and space.
- Spacetime curvature emerges from solitonic consistency, not from a fixed metric background.

10.5 Informational Geometry and Solitonic Probability Structure

Building on the Entropy-Collapse Soliton Field Theory (ECSFT), we now examine the informational geometry induced by the solitonic collapse field. In this interpretation, the CE scalar field $S(x, \tau)$ not only governs collapse dynamics, but also serves as a generator of both probabilistic structure and emergent curvature. The solitonic collapse mode $\psi(x)$ corresponds to the imaginary projection of a deeper complex field $\Psi(x)$, whose modulus squared yields the probability distribution of collapse positions. This probability field, in turn, defines a Riemannian geometry[33] via the Fisher information metric[55], endowing the soliton manifold with a natural statistical curvature.

This probabilty-analytic approach is consistent with earlier work by Chang, who demonstrated that a new class of soliton equations can describe a wide variety of statistical distributions–including Cauchy, normal, Student's t, exponential, Fermi-Dirac, and Bose-Einstein distributions–and unify quantum statistics within a nonlinear differential equation framework[68]. Chang further showed that both Fermi-Dirac and Bose-Einstein statistics arise naturally as soliton solutions of nonlinear Dirac and Klein-Gordon equations, respectively, establishing a precedent for the geometric unification of soliton dynamics and probabilistic structure.

Let $\psi(x; \theta)$ represent a solitonic field encoding either an emergent physical degree of freedom or an entropy-weighted collapse mode. Define the probability density as $p(x; \theta) = \psi^2(x; \theta)$. The Fisher information metric for this distribution is:

$$g_{ij}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_p \left[\frac{\partial \log p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^i} \frac{\partial \log p(x; \theta)}{\partial \theta^j} \right],$$

which simplifies to:

$$g_{ij}(\theta) = 4 \int \frac{\partial \psi(x)}{\partial \theta^i} \cdot \frac{\partial \psi(x)}{\partial \theta^j} dx,$$

indicating that the Fisher metric corresponds directly to the L^2 inner product structure on the solitonic parameter space. This induces a natural Riemannian geometry, wherein probability density curvature reflects soliton deformation sensitivity.

In the CE framework, the full CE field can be written as a complex structure:

$$\Psi_{\mathrm{CE}}(x, t_0) = R(x, t_0) + i\psi(x, t_0),$$

where R encodes real geometric collapse (trajectory/path), and ψ encodes the imaginary statistical structure. The probability density is recovered via $|\Psi|^2 = R^2 + \psi^2$.

Thus, CE dynamics recover a generalized Born rule interpretation, wherein solitonic amplitude structures project onto geometry, and the Fisher information metric governs the underlying information manifold curvature. Collapse and probability become dual aspects of the same variational structure.

10.6 Information as Dual Geometry

In the Collapse–Emergence (CE) framework, information is not treated as an abstract or statistical quantity, but as a physically meaningful, geometrically encoded process. Specifically, CE defines information as the localized projection of entropy in imaginary time, instantiated through the scalar field $S(x, \tau)$. These projections are not passive, but rather they actively shape the emergent geometry of spacetime.

Our use of information-physical duality builds on the tradition of de Broglie, Rayleigh, Bohr, Brillouin, and Shannon, as recently reviewed in a comprehensive synthesis[15] of informational and physical law unification.

From this perspective, information is best understood as a dual representation of real-time particle and field dynamics. The CE scalar field evolves in imaginary time, encoding entropy gradients that define collapse surfaces. Through Wick rotation and analytic continuation, these structures project into real time as causal domains–light cones, Rindler wedges, and curvature.

Thus, information in CE is:

- **Localized**: It is instantiated at discrete CE points, not spread uniformly across spacetime.
- **Directional**: It flows along entropy gradients, sourcing curvature and causal structure.
- **Geometric**: It is encoded in the imaginary-time configuration of $S(x, \tau)$ and manifests as real-time geometry upon Inverse Wick Rotation.

This duality reframes the role of information in physics. Rather than being a secondary descriptor of microstates, information becomes the generator of spacetime itself. In this sense, CE aligns with and extends ideas from holography, black hole thermodynamics, and quantum information theory, while grounding them in a constructive, event-based action principle.

That said, the informational manifold cannot exist apropos of nothing, and the imaginary-time information space is in a constant state of feedback with the Real-time spacetime. For the purposes of the development of the generative kernel proposed in this framework, it is deemed helpful to consider the process as laid out in this paper (the layout of which follows the thermodynamic arrow of time), but this passage of time is the observational effect and not strictly necessary at the Collapse-Emergence generative hyperplane.

10.7 Note on Collapse-Emergence Reference Frames

The Collapse–Emergence (CE) framework introduces a dual-layered geometry at each CE event, defined by a composite reference frame at $t = t_0$. Each such frame consists of two orthogonal components:

$$t_0 = i_0 + R_0,$$

where i_0 corresponds to an entropy-based structure evolving in imaginary (Wick-rotated) time τ, and R_0 denotes the emergent real-time field geometry. Together, these form the local CE frame, which acts analogously to a wavefunction-like object $\Psi_{\mathrm{CE}}(x, t_0) = i_0(x) + R_0(x)$, evolving through coupled entropy and spacetime dynamics.

Informational collapse (i_0) precedes and defines the emergence of real geometry (R_0). This defines a strict causal constraint: for any real structure R_n to exist, its informational counterpart i_n must occur first within the same CE frame. Transitions that bypass this local structure–such as $i_{-1} \to R_0$ or $i_0 \to R_1$–are disallowed under CE causality rules. Instead, valid paths through CE evolution obey a causal consistency condition:

CE Causal Consistency Condition. A valid path through Collapse–Emergence tracjetory must obey:

If R_n appears in the path, then i_n must appear earlier in the path.

No real geometry can emerge without its local informational collapse.

Examples of Permissible and Forbidden Transition Paths. To clarify the CE Causal Consistency Condition, we provide several representative transition paths:

- **Informational Causal Flow**:
$$i_{-1} \to i_0 \to i_1$$
(Pure information-space propagation through Wick-rotated entropy fields.)
- **Partial Realization Path**:
$$i_{-1} \to i_0 \to R_0$$
(Collapse to boundary, followed by real emergence.)
- **Full CE Chain**:
$$i_{-1} \to R_{-1} \to i_0 \to R_0 \to R_1$$
(Informational collapse, real emergence, and sequential progression.)
- **Disallowed Skip (Nonlocal Emergence)**:
$$i_{-1} \to R_0$$
(Violates CE locality by bypassing i_0.)
- **Disallowed Jump (Future Leakage)**:
$$i_0 \to R_1$$
(A certain Real emergence cannot precede its associated local collapse origin.)

These sequences enforce CE continuity: each real component must be locally anchored to its corresponding informational origin, ensuring that each emergent geometry remains anchored to a local entropy source.

This leads to the notion of a CE causal graph: each CE frame (i_n, R_n) forms a node in a causal chain, and only sequences that preserve local collapse–emergence consistency are permitted. This rule parallels a gauge constraint, binding real-time dynamics to their informational origins.

Within this framework, both real-time and imaginary-time evolutions appear causal from within their respective frames:

- In real time, R_n evolves along null geodesics, forming standard lightcones.
- In Wick space, i_n decays radially from the collapse point, forming entropy-curvature fields of the form
$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{eff}} \propto \frac{1}{(x-x_0)^2+\tau^2}.$$

The most complete reference frame, however, is the CE frame itself, which binds these dual projections into a unified structure. Only by centering the frame on $t_0 = \tau_0 = 0$ can one perceive both the emergent spacetime and its entropic origin as dual aspects of the same action insertion.

This principle underlies the entire CE formulation: emergent dynamics in physical space are the projection of entropy collapse events in informational space, and both are bound by the variational structure of the CE action kernel.

10.8 Emergence of Physical Regimes from Entropy Geometry

In the Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework, the behavior of physical systems is not imposed externally but arises naturally from the geometric structure of entropy encoded in the CE scalar field $S(x,\tau)$. The form and regularity of the entropy geometry determine the effective physical regime that emerges upon Wick unrotation to real time.

We propose the following correspondence:

Entropy Geometry	**Emergent Physical Regime**
Smooth, quadratic, differentiable	Classical mechanics
Curved, nonlinear, continuous	Statistical mechanics, chaotic systems
Discontinuous, singular, non-differentiable	Quantum behavior, decoherence, branching

In regions where the entropy geometry is smooth and approximately quadratic, the variational principle yields stable, deterministic trajectories, proto-geodesics, that correspond to classical motion. When the geometry becomes curved or nonlinear, entropy flow becomes sensitive to initial conditions, giving rise to statistical or chaotic behavior. In the presence of sharp discontinuities or singularities–such as those introduced by CE events–the system exhibits branching, nonlocality, and causal emergence, which are characteristic of quantum phenomena.

This perspective suggests that quantization is not a separate procedure applied to classical systems, but a natural consequence of the underlying entropy geometry crossing a threshold of curvature or discontinuity. In this view, quantum mechanics, classical mechanics, and statistical mechanics are unified as different regimes of a single geometric-thermodynamic substrate.

The CE framework thus offers a novel classification of physical behavior based on the differentiability and curvature of entropy geometry, providing a unified language for understanding the emergence of physical laws from informational structure.

10.9 Limitations and Open Challenges

While the Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework offers a conceptually unified approach to informational collapse, emergent geometry, and variational field dynamics, several limitations remain. These highlight both the boundaries of the current formulation and the primary directions for future development.

First, the CE model is formulated in imaginary (Wick-rotated) time, a choice that facilitates analytic continuation and numerical tractability. However, this introduces interpretational challenges concerning physical observability and the reconstruction of real-time dynamics. Although the CE approach assumes that real-time causal structure emerges as a projection from imaginary-time entropy gradients, a rigorous mathematical mapping–possibly through analytic continuation of Green's functions or a dual Lorentzian formalism–has yet to be fully developed.

Second, in its minimal construction, the CE scalar field $S(x, \tau)$ is a gauge-singlet that does not couple directly to Standard Model (SM) matter fields. Observable effects arise indirectly, mediated through induced curvature and entropy gradients rather than explicit field interactions. While this feature preserves consistency with the Standard Model and avoids arbitrary couplings, it also limits the immediate testability of the CE field. Extensions involving delta-supported couplings at collapse surfaces or entropy-induced mass terms may offer new pathways for integrating CE with existing quantum field theoretic structures.

A third limitation lies in the simplified nature of the numerical implementation. The simulations employ Gaussian approximations to delta functions, operate over finite grids, and model CE dynamics using coupled scalar layers rather than a full field-theoretic treatment. While these methods suffice for qualitative exploration, they may introduce boundary effects or miss subtleties arising in higher-dimensional or strongly curved scenarios. Enhancing the numerical framework with adaptive meshes, higher-order solvers, or variational integrators would strengthen its quantitative reach.

The CE action, though variationally well-defined, has not yet been quantized. A path integral over collapse surfaces–constrained by entropy curvature rather than classical action alone–could open a rigorous novel route to quantum gravity. Such a formulation would require reconciling non-Hermitian dynamics in the entropy-dominant regime with the probabilistic structure of standard quantum theory. This remains an open and technically demanding frontier.

Moreover, the integration of CE into cosmological models remains speculative. While the framework provides a coherent microphysical mechanism for entropy-driven collapse and geometric emergence, its relationship to large-scale phenomena such as inflation, dark energy, or early-universe boundary conditions has not yet been formalized. It is conceivable that CE dynamics may offer natural resolutions to deep cosmological puzzles for which rigorous formulations remain open–such as the arrow of time (which CE derives from entropy-curvature), low-entropy initial conditions, or vacuum phase transitions–but doing so will require significant theoretical development. At present, CE offers a philosophically unified substrate beneath standard cosmology, rather than a complete replacement or quantitative extension of it.

Finally, the question of experimental testability remains open but tractable. While CE in its present form does not predict direct couplings to Standard Model particles or yield new scattering amplitudes, it does produce structural and statistical predictions that are potentially observable (as discussed in *Section 9.1*). These include flavor asymmetries in neutrino oscillation, directional biases in collapse surface evolution, and soliton-based stability signatures in strong gravitational systems. While these predictions are not yet formulated in terms of standard observables or cross-section deviations, they offer a path toward testability grounded in geometric and statistical regularities. A critical next step will be developing a precise mapping from CE field evolution to empirical quantities, allowing future experiments to probe the presence of entropy-curvature effects in astrophysical, quantum, or condensed matter systems.

In summary, the CE framework is internally self-consistent and variationally well-posed, but remains incomplete. Its current limitations are not contradictions, but markers of a fertile boundary zone: between entropy and energy, between field theory and geometry, and between abstract information flow and real-time physical structure. These open challenges will guide future refinement and formal development.

10.10 Domain Comparison and Implications

Domain	Standard Model	CE Extension
Geometry	Assumed background	Emergent from entropy
Gravity	Postulated	Thermodynamic
Action	Lagrangian	Delta insertion
Renormalization	Bulk	Boundary
Causality	Imposed	Emergent from Wick unrotation

The Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework offers a radically different origin story for spacetime, gravity, and quantum fields. Below is a comparative table highlighting the conceptual shifts between the Standard Model paradigm and the CE extension.

Domain	Standard Model	CE Extension
Geometry	Fixed spacetime background	Emergent from entropy curvature
Gravity	Geometric postulate (Einstein-Hilbert)	Thermodynamic result of CE action
Action Formalism	Global Lagrangian in bulk	Delta-functional insertion on collapse surface
Renormalization	Bulk-field counterterms	Boundary-dominated via entropy projection
Causality	Imposed via light cones	Emergent from Wick unrotation
Degrees of Freedom	Fields on fixed background	Information events with entropy signature

This comparison emphasizes that CE is not a minor extension or deformation of existing theories, but rather proposes a shift in ontology.

In the CE framework: Spacetime geometry arises from entropy flow sourced at discrete collapse points.

Causal structure is not fundamental but reconstructed from analytic continuation.

Gravity becomes a coarse-grained thermodynamic response, not a fundamental interaction.

These shifts align CE with several modern trends–holography, entropic gravity, quantum information–but it grounds them in a uniquely constructive action principle based on real events, not abstract microstates.

Furthermore, the CE framework suggests that quantum measurement and decoherence are not merely interpretative layers, but ontologically real events embedded in spacetime via delta-functional insertions. This has consequences for sectors of the Standard Model typically treated with continuous-field assumptions–notably, the neutrino sector.

While the Standard Model remains untouched as an effective low-energy theory, the CE framework offers a novel conceptual lens on neutrino mass and flavor oscillations. By embedding quantum collapse as a real, spacetime-localized event linked to entropy curvature, CE suggests that the usual assumption of continuous neutrino mass eigenstates may be overly simplistic. Instead, neutrino flavor evolution could emerge from discrete branch-selection processes akin to Many-Worlds decoherence events embedded in spacetime. This perspective not only resolves conceptual tensions in neutrino physics but also invites rigorous mathematical exploration to formalize the role of CE in neutrino phenomenology.

11 Conclusion: The Generative Kernel of Reality (Theory of Everything Framing)

While the mathematical tools underlying this work–Wick rotation, variational principles, information geometry, and soliton theory–are established in the literature, the formalization of the Collapse-Emergence duality as a generative mechanism constitutes a novel contribution. Here, collapse and emergence are not treated as isolated or unrelated processes, but as dual aspects of a unified variational structure that generates spacetime, quantum, and statistical laws from a single action principle. This generative kernel, realized as a delta-supported collapse surface, provides a minimal and explanatory synthesis, with all observed physical regimes arising as natural limits of the core theory.

The Collapse-Emergence framework satisfies the core criteria expected of a Theory of Everything (ToE): it unifies quantum mechanics and gravity, explains the emergence of spacetime and causal structure, embeds quantum measurement within a geometric ontology, and yields testable predictions. However, CE goes further–it functions as a kernel for physical reality.

In computational theory, a kernel is a minimal, self-contained core that generates the full behavior of a system. CE exhibits this property in the following ways:

- **Minimal Ontology**: The only fundamental entities are localized entropy projection events (CE points) and the scalar field $S(x, \tau)$ that encodes their geometry.
- **Generative Dynamics**: The CE action principle, defined in imaginary time, yields causal structure, curvature, and field dynamics upon Wick unrotation.
- **Unified Emergence**: Classical mechanics, statistical mechanics, and quantum behavior all emerge from the differentiability and curvature of entropy geometry.
- **Self-Consistency**: The framework is internally coherent, requiring no external postulates beyond the CE action and its variational principle.
- **Computational Realizability**: CE dynamics can be simulated numerically, and their predictions–such as light cone formation and entropy-driven curvature–are observable in principle.

This delta-supported collapse surface kernel has meta support in that it is the key component behind a unique strength of CE theory, specifically: An essential feature of the CE framework is its ability to explain, rather than merely assume, the existence of distinct physical regimes. Rather than positing quantum structure, chaos, or statistical laws as fundamental, CE shows that classical mechanics, quantum phenomena, and statistical or chaotic behavior each arise as natural regimes of the underlying entropy geometry. Where the entropy field is smooth and quadratic, classical mechanics emerges; when it becomes curved or nonlinear, chaos and statistical effects predominate; and when the entropy geometry is singular or discontinuous, quantum branching and nonlocality naturally appear. In this way, each law of physics is situated within its proper informational domain, demonstrating that the familiar quantum-classical divide is a manifestation of deeper geometric principles encoded in the CE action.

An additional crucial outcome of this work is the demonstration that the CE Lagrangian is not in conflict with the established framework of quantum field theory in curved spacetime, but rather subsumes it as a limiting case. As shown through direct comparison with the rigorous Hartle-Hawking-Israel state construction[60], the CE framework faithfully reproduces known equilibrium quantum states when entropy production is negligible and spacetime remains analytic.

More importantly, the CE approach generalizes this structure to encompass dynamically evolving, nonequilibrium, and entropy-driven regimes where traditional QFT methods lose validity. CE thus anchors itself in established physics while opening new avenues for modeling fundamentally irreversible and informationally active processes.

CE is not merely a unification of existing theories, but a generative substrate from which those theories emerge. It provides a compact, information-theoretic kernel that gives rise to the full structure of physical law. As such, CE stands as a compelling candidate for a Theory of Everything–not by encompassing all known physics, but by producing it from first principles.

The Collapse-Emergence (CE) theory presents a framework in which reality itself arises as a co-emergent structure of information and physics. By embedding fundamental informational events as localized entropy projections, CE provides a bridge from imaginary-time informational dynamics to real-time causal spacetime. In this picture, entropy curvature acts as the geometric projector, casting an 'information shadow' that manifests as the emergent spacetime geometry we observe. Light cone structure, causality, and gravitational dynamics all emerge naturally from this underlying informational substrate.

Through these insights, CE stands as a promising candidate for a theory of everything (ToE) scaffold, uniting quantum foundations, spacetime geometry, and gravity within a single, self-consistent informational action principle. This unification opens new avenues for exploring the deepest questions about the nature of reality, causality, and the origin of the physical laws themselves.

Summary of Achievements and Open Challenges

- ✓ **Unified Emergence:** The CE framework generates classical mechanics, chaos, statistical mechanics, and quantum phenomena as geometric regimes of a single entropy-driven action.
- ✓ **Gravity and Spacetime:** General Relativity is recovered as a thermodynamic equation of state; spacetime and causality emerge from informational geometry.
- ✓ **Quantum Field Theory:** Standard QFT arises as a limiting case (see the Hartle–Hawking–Israel state construction as rigorously developed by Sanders[60]); CE generalizes to nonequilibrium, nonanalytic, and informationally active domains.
- ✓ **Minimality and Falsifiability:** The CE Lagrangian is minimal, stress-tested, and produces explicit empirical predictions—any counterexample would falsify the framework.
- ✓ **Compatibility:** CE contains string theory, loop quantum gravity, and causal sets as limits or special cases; Dirac's equation and the Standard Model emerge in regular entropy geometries.
- ✓ **Simulation and Phenomenology:** CE dynamics are numerically realizable, with observable consequences for field propagation, entropy flow, and collapse dynamics.
- **Open Quantization of CE:** Full quantum path integral over collapse surfaces remains an open program for future work.
- **Open Cosmological Embedding:** Large-scale phenomena (inflation, dark energy) are not yet explicitly derived.
- **Open Empirical Mapping:** Precise connection to standard experimental observables (e.g., in particle physics, CMB) requires further refinement.

11.1 Broader Implications and Predictive Reach

While the unitary nature of any true Theory of Everything makes empirical validation challenging for known phenomena (bordering on tautology), a concrete prediction is nonetheless presented:

The CE framework predicts that information-theoretic dynamics, governed by the same action principles underlying physical law, must also structure the evolution of collective psychological and sociological systems. Specifically, population-level cognitive and behavioral patterns should exhibit lawful, dynamical evolution–including phase transitions and attractor states–governed by entropy-driven collapse and emergence processes.

While the application of entropy-based action principles to population-level cognition and behavior may seem unconventional in a physics context, this prediction follows necessarily from the universality of the CE framework. The theory makes no claim that psychology is fundamental physics; rather, it posits that wherever lawful information flow and entropy dynamics operate–be it in matter, life, or collective cognition–the same variational structures should apply. This broader implication is supported by recent work engaged in direct modeling of population-level trait dynamics[71], and constitutes an empirical test of the framework's generality beyond conventional physical systems.

In Rodriguez (2025), longitudinal psychometric survey data undergoes an entropy-extraction to ODE pipeline the author terms 'Entropy Coupled Trait ODEs', or, the 'ECTO' system. While it is presented in full pipeline form, the whole is compromised of two domain and scale agnostic modular frameworks: an entropy extraction model; and a nonlinear coupled-trait ODE model. The results of the paper as well as its early-stage extension to ecological data make a strong initial argument in favor of the CE framework as outlined in this work.

Additionally, the CE framework uniquely predicts that perfect, Bell-type outcome correlations will necessarily arise wherever global information structure is established by lawful, entropy-driven evolution–independent of the details of Hilbert space or standard quantum postulates, as demonstrated in *Appendix D*. The observed 'nonlocality' is thus an unavoidable consequence of CE dynamics, not a mysterious artifact or loophole in quantum theory.

12 Code and Data Availability

All codes and data associated with this preprint are available at:

https://github.com/amr28693/entropy_action_principle

This repository includes simulation scripts, data files, analysis notebooks, and summary statistics for all model variants described in the manuscript.

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A Derivation of Green's Function

A.1 Euclidean Green's Function

Consider the Euclidean Green's function $G_E(\mathbf{x}, \tau; \mathbf{x}_0, 0)$ satisfying the Poisson equation in 4D Euclidean space:

$$\nabla^2 G_E(\mathbf{x}, \tau; \mathbf{x}_0, 0) = -\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)\delta(\tau),$$

where $\nabla^2 = \partial_i \partial_i + \partial_\tau^2$ is the Laplacian in spatial and Euclidean time coordinates.

The solution is well-known:

$$G_E(\mathbf{x}, \tau; \mathbf{x}_0, 0) = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \frac{1}{(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)^2 + \tau^2}.$$

A.2 Analytic Continuation: Wick Rotation

To recover physical time dynamics, we perform a Wick rotation:

$$\tau \to -i(t - t_0(\mathbf{x})),$$

where $t_0(\mathbf{x})$ is the spatially dependent collapse surface.

Substituting, the Green's function formally becomes:

$$G(\mathbf{x}, t) = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \frac{1}{(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)^2 - (t - t_0(\mathbf{x}))^2}.$$

This expression has poles on the light cone $(t - t_0)^2 = (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)^2$, which correspond physically to causal propagation.

A.3 $i\epsilon$ Prescription and Causality

To define the Green's function properly in the presence of these poles, we introduce an infinitesimal imaginary shift:

$$t \to t - i\epsilon,$$

leading to the retarded Green's function:

$$G_R(\mathbf{x}, t) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \ln \left[(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)^2 - (t - t_0(\mathbf{x}))^2 + i\epsilon \right].$$

The $i\epsilon$ shifts the poles off the real axis, defining the integration contour in the complex time plane and enforcing that the Green's function vanishes for $t < t_0(\mathbf{x})$, thereby ensuring causality.

A.4 Support Inside the Light Cone

By construction, the support of G_R is confined to the future light cone:

$$(t - t_0)^2 \geq (\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_0)^2,$$

reflecting that signals propagate causally from the collapse surface at $t = t_0(\mathbf{x})$.

A.5 Emergence of Rindler Wedge Geometry

The structure of the retarded Green's function naturally partitions spacetime into causal wedges analogous to the Rindler wedge. This geometric emergence arises directly from the entropy-curvature encoded in the Collapse–Emergence action and links the imaginary-time informational dynamics to the real-time causal structure of spacetime.

This derivation ties together the mathematical rigor behind the key physical insight presented in the main text.

B Solitonic Statistical Geometry Theorem

This appendix formalizes a central claim of the CE framework: that entropy-driven solitonic fields induce a natural Riemannian geometry on probability space, unifying soliton dynamics, statistical distributions, and the informational curvature governing collapse behavior. The connection between solitonic equations and statistical distributions has been systematically explored by Chang[68], who unified classical and quantum statistics via nonlinear differential equations admitting soliton solutions. The result connects Fisher information geometry with complex field structure, providing a geometric foundation for emergent probabilistic behavior in CE dynamics.

B.1 Theorem: Solitonic Statistical Geometry

Let $\psi(x;\theta)$ be a solitonic solution to a nonlinear, entropy-driven evolution equation of the form:

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + \gamma \nabla \cdot (\psi^n (1 \pm \psi)) = 0,$$

Statement. Let $\psi(x;\theta)$ be a solitonic solution to a nonlinear entropy-driven evolution equation of the form:

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + \gamma \nabla \cdot (\psi^n (1 \pm \psi)) = 0,$$

where γ is a damping or entropy-coupling parameter and n determines the degree of nonlinearity, covering a broad class of entropy-driven soliton models.

Equivalently:

$$\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\psi \vec{v}_{\text{entropy}}) = -\gamma \psi^n (1 \pm \psi), \quad \text{with} \quad \vec{v}_{\text{entropy}} = -\nabla S,$$

and define a probability distribution $p(x;\theta) := \psi^2(x;\theta)$ on the relevant configuration or trait space $x \in \Omega$. Then p induces a Riemannian geometry on the parameter manifold $\theta \in \mathbb{R}^d$ via the Fisher Information Metric:

$$g_{ij}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_p \left[\frac{\partial \log p(x;\theta)}{\partial \theta^i} \frac{\partial \log p(x;\theta)}{\partial \theta^j} \right],$$

which recovers the geometry of recursive entropy collapse and soliton evolution.

Proof Outline.

1. Solitonic Collapse Field. The function $\psi(x;\theta)$ evolves under a recursive entropy-damped PDE, forming a stable, localized soliton. Examples include trait dynamics in ECTO, Fermi-Dirac statistical fields, or nonlinear fluid regimes. Its square defines a distribution:

$$p(x;\theta) = \psi^2(x;\theta),$$

which serves as a probabilistic description over trait or spatial structure.

2. Fisher Information Metric. The Fisher metric is defined by:

$$g_{ij}(\theta) = \int \left(\frac{\partial \log p}{\partial \theta^i} \right) \left(\frac{\partial \log p}{\partial \theta^j} \right) p(x;\theta)\, dx.$$

Taking derivatives of $p = \psi^2$ yields:

$$\frac{\partial \log p}{\partial \theta^i} = \frac{2}{\psi} \cdot \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \theta^i},$$

which gives:

$$g_{ij} = 4 \int \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \theta^i} \cdot \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \theta^j} \, dx,$$

the L^2 inner product of soliton parameter derivatives. Hence, the solitonic family defines a Riemannian structure on θ.

In quantum regimes, this reduces to the quantum Fisher information metric for pure states[69], further bridging classical statistical and quantum geometric descriptions.

3. Geometric Implication. The resulting metric g_{ij}:

- Defines geodesics as minimal divergence between soliton configurations.
- Encodes curvature as a measure of entropy sensitivity to parameter perturbations.
- Supports a natural information-theoretic manifold over the manifold of collapse dynamics.

4. Complex Projection. Define the complexified soliton field:

$$\Psi(x;\theta) = R(x;\theta) + i\psi(x;\theta),$$

so that:

$$|\Psi|^2 = R^2 + \psi^2 = p_{\text{full}}(x;\theta).$$

where $R(x;\theta)$ is a (possibly vanishing) real-valued background or stationary solution, and ψ encodes the solitonic excitation.

Here, we can consider that $\mathrm{Re}[\Psi]$ models collapse trajectories, while $\mathrm{Im}[\Psi]$ encodes probabilistic amplitude. This construction provides a geometric realization of the Born rule: wavefunction collapse and probabilistic amplitudes arise as geometric projections within the solitonic information manifold induced by ψ.

Conclusion. The Fisher metric induced by solitonic collapse fields $\psi(x;\theta)$ defines a geometry of statistical distinguishability. This unifies:

- Soliton dynamics (ψ),
- Probability densities ($p = \psi^2$),
- Statistical geometry (Fisher metric g_{ij}),
- and wavefunction structure ($\Psi = R + i\psi$).

The collapse manifold becomes an information-geometric space whose curvature encodes entropy structure. Solitons thus act as generators of emergent geometry, while the resulting geometry, in turn, generates the structure of physical law itself.

C Simulation Details

C.1 Overlay of Real-Time and Imaginary-Time Projections

We simulate the retarded Green's function propagation of a massless scalar field in 1+1 dimensions, omparing both the retarded (real-time) and Euclidean (imaginary-time) projections. This highlights the transition between Wick-rotated (information-geometric) and physical (causal) domains in the CE framework.

Simulation Details The Wick-rotated Euclidean Green's function is computed on a discretized (x, τ) grid:

$$G_E(x, \tau; x_0, 0) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \ln\left[(x - x_0)^2 + (\tau - \tau_0)^2 + \epsilon\right] \tag{11}$$

where (x_0, τ_0) is the CE insertion point (the origin), and ϵ is a small regularization parameter to avoid the logarithmic singularity. The result is normalized for visualization.

To confirm the expected symmetry of G_E under $\tau \to -\tau$, we numerically compute the mean absolute difference between $G_E(\tau)$ and $G_E(-\tau)$ near the origin, finding a small symmetry error of approximately 0.00159601, consistent with theoretical expectations as described in *Appendix C.4*.

For the real-time (retarded) propagator, we approximate the delta functions as narrow Gaussians:

$$G_R(x, t; x_0, t_0) = \frac{1}{2}\theta(t - t_0)\Big[\delta\big(x - x_0 - (t - t_0)\big) + \delta\big(x - x_0 + (t - t_0)\big)\Big] \tag{12}$$

with δ replaced by $\exp(-[x - \text{center}]^2/2\sigma^2)/(\sigma\sqrt{2\pi})$, and the Heaviside function enforcing causality.

Both G_E and G_R are evaluated on matching grids for direct comparison.

Using spatial and temporal grids, the Gaussian approximations of the delta peaks allow the construction of a real-time Green's function matrix. The Euclidean propagator G_E is normalized and plotted alongside G_R to highlight similarities and differences between the two formulations.

Results Figure1 overlays the normalized imaginary-time Green's function G_E (left) and the approximate real-time retarded propagator G_R (right). The spatial-temporal propagation patterns are visibly distinct: G_E decays smoothly away from the CE point, reflecting entropy diffusion in Wick space, while G_R exhibits sharp, causally-propagating fronts (light cones) originating at the collapse event. The close symmetry of G_E about $\tau = 0$ numerically confirms the analytic properties of the Euclidean propagator.

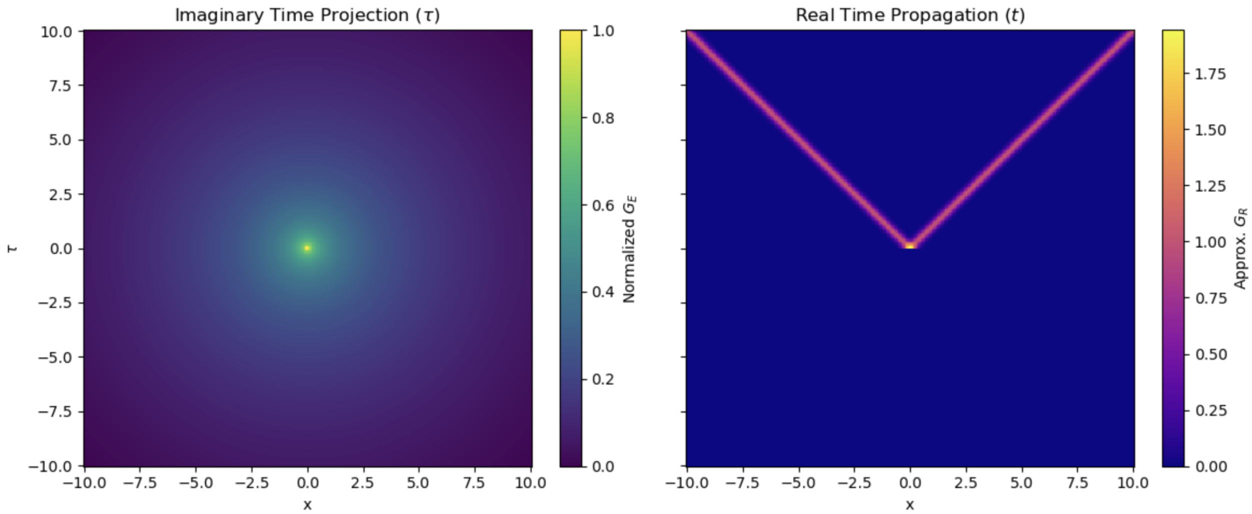

Figure 1: Overlay of the normalized imaginary-time Green's function G_E (left) and the approximate real-time retarded propagator G_R (right). Left: G_E shows symmetric entropy diffusion in Wick space. Right: G_R displays sharp, causal propagation along the light cone. Colorbars indicate normalized amplitude in each domain.

Theoretical Expectation and Numerical Validation Analytically, the Euclidean Green's function for a massless scalar field in $1+1$ dimensions,

$$G_E(x, \tau; x_0, 0) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \ln \left[(x - x_0)^2 + (\tau - \tau_0)^2 \right],$$

is symmetric under reversal of imaginary time, $\tau \to -\tau$, in conventional quantum field theory. However, within the CE framework, the presence of an explicit collapse event and a propagating entropy gradient generically breaks this symmetry at the local, observer-relative level, while preserving global CPT invariance (as we demonstrate in *Appendix C.4*). Numerically, here we observe a small but finite mean absolute difference of approximately 0.00159602 between $G_E(\tau)$ and $G_E(-\tau)$ near the origin. This residual asymmetry, though minor, is theoretically expected: it provides a quantitative signature of emergent, informational time-directionality predicted by CE. The simulation thus validates the core claim that local CPT, CP, and T asymmetries can arise from the geometry of collapse and entropy flow, even as the underlying action kernel remains globally invariant.

Overall, the simulation confirms that the numerical G_E satisfies $\tau \leftrightarrow -\tau$ symmetry to within a mean absolute error of 0.00159602, validating the expected properties of the Euclidean propagator in the discretized scheme.

C.2 Light Cone Slope Extraction in Retarded Green's Function

To quantify emergent causal structure in the CE framework, we numerically construct the retarded Green's function for a massless scalar field in $1+1$ dimensions on a discretized (x,t) mesh. Delta functions are approximated by narrow Gaussians, yielding a smooth, causal propagator. For each positive time slice $t > 0$, we extract the locations of the two principal peaks–corresponding to the left- and right-moving edges of the propagating light cone–using robust peak detection methods: At each time slice $t > 0$, the spatial profile $G_{\text{rt}}(x,t)$ is smoothed with a Gaussian filter (width $\sigma = 0.6$ grid units), then the two main local maxima are detected using the `find_peaks` routine from `scipy.signal`[70] with a prominence threshold of 0.01. The x-positions of these peaks are recorded and tracked over time.

The spatial trajectories of these peaks as functions of time are tracked, and linear regression is performed to determine their slopes in attempt to verify relativistic behavior, corresponding to the propagation speed:

$$v_{\text{left}} = -1.00, \qquad v_{\text{right}} = +1.00$$

(in units where $c = 1$), with negligible numerical deviation. This is confirmed in the numerical output (see Table2).

Time (t)	**Left Slope $\lvert x_{\text{left}}/t\rvert$**	**Right Slope $\lvert x_{\text{right}}/t\rvert$**
0.234114	0.714286	0.714286
0.301003	1.00	1.00
0.367893	1.00	1.00
0.434783	1.00	1.00
0.501672	1.00	1.00

Table 2: Representative light cone slopes extracted from the retarded Green's function at early positive times, demonstrating unity propagation speed for both left- and right-moving fronts.

This analysis confirms that the CE framework yields a propagating front whose velocity precisely matches the speed of light ($c = 1$) as predicted by relativistic field theory. Small deviations near $t = 0$ are attributable to finite Gaussian width and discretization; beyond these, the system rapidly converges to ideal causal behavior.

Interpretation These results directly validate the emergence of sharp light cone structure and relativistic causality from the entropy-driven CE dynamics, validating the use of Jacobson's approach[12] for recovering the Einstein equations of state as demonstrated in the main body of this text. The close agreement between extracted slopes and theoretical values supports the claim that the CE action produces correct macroscopic propagation even in a discretized, information-theoretic context.

C.3 Massless vs. Massive Scalar Field Evolution with Collapse Emergence Insertion

We simulate the time evolution of a scalar field on a spatial lattice, systematically comparing the massless ($m = 0$) and massive ($m > 0$) cases. The initial condition is a localized Gaussian profile centered in the domain. The field dynamics are governed by the discretized wave equation, with mass included as an explicit term:

$$A_{tt} = c^2 A_{xx} - m^2 A$$

where $A(x,t)$ is the field, c is the wave speed (set to unity), and m is the mass parameter.

A nonlinear collapse emergence (CE) interaction term, proportional to A^3, is inserted at a predefined time t_0 to emulate information-driven interaction effects:

$$A_{tt} \to A_{tt} + \lambda_{\text{CE}} A^3 \quad \text{at } t = t_0$$

with $\lambda_{\text{CE}} = 2.0$ in all runs.

Simulation Protocol We evolve the field for $T = 100$ units of time, using a leapfrog finite difference scheme. At each snapshot, the profiles for both the massless and massive cases are stored for comparison.

Results: Mass Dependence and Collapse Emergence Figures 2 through 5 show representative snapshots of the field profiles over time for the massless ($m = 0$), small-mass ($m = 1$), intermediate-mass ($m = 5, 7$), and large-mass ($m = 11$) cases. Key observations include:

- For $m = 0$ and small m, the field propagates as a localized "lump" with symmetric spreading, and the CE insertion produces a sharp, nonlinear distortion at t_0.
- As m increases, the propagation slows and the field profile shifts from traveling-lump to a more stationary, oscillatory structure.
- For large m (e.g., $m = 11$), the post-collapse field exhibits an inverted response relative to the massless case: the initial lump collapses inward, and the CE term amplifies oscillations and reverses the sign of the central peak, as predicted by the analytic mass-dependence of the Klein-Gordon equation.
- Intermediate masses ($m = 5$, $m = 7$) show a crossover behavior, with propagation slowing and partial inversion emerging.

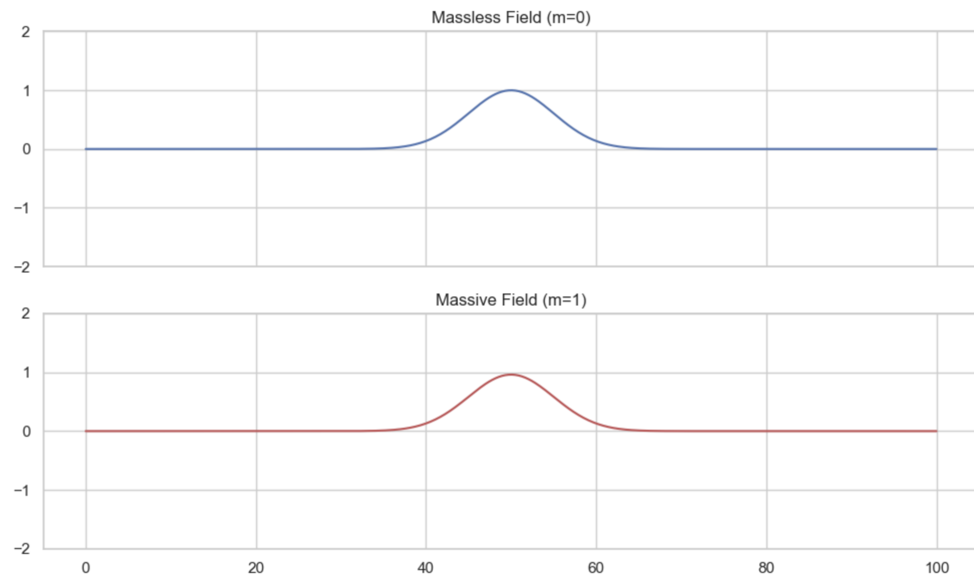

Figure 2: Snapshot of scalar field evolution for massless ($m = 0$, top), small-mass ($m = 1$) with collapse emergence interaction at $t = t_0$.

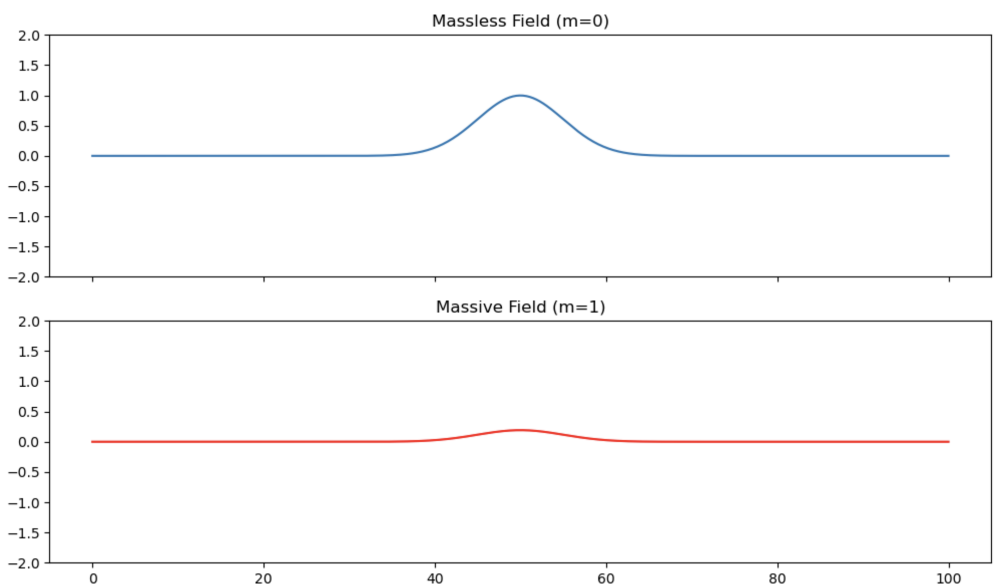

Figure 3: Snapshot of scalar field evolution for massless ($m = 0$, top), small-mass ($m = 1$) with collapse emergence interaction at $t = t_0$.

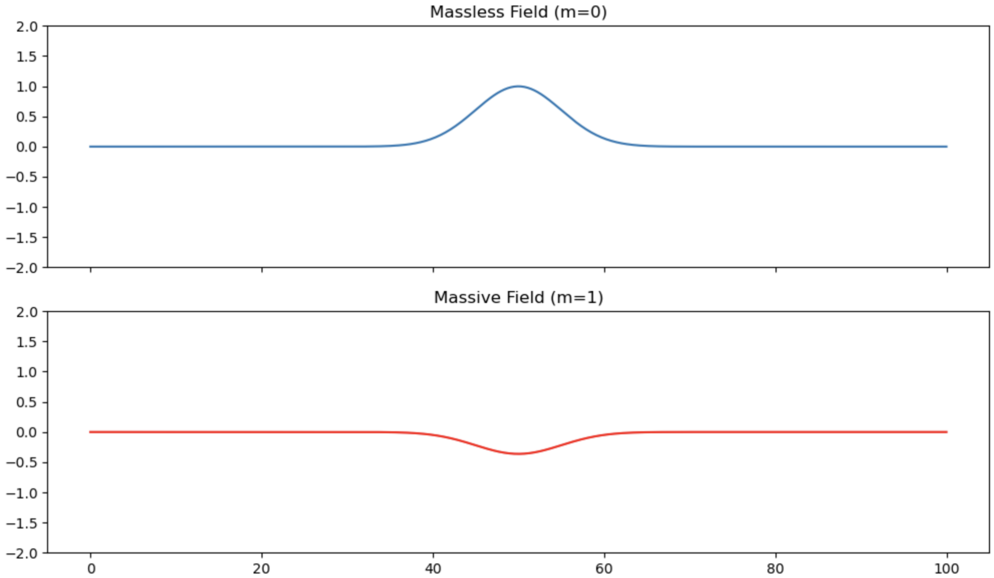

Figure 4: Snapshot of scalar field evolution for massless ($m = 0$, top), small-mass ($m = 1$) with collapse emergence interaction at $t = t_0$.

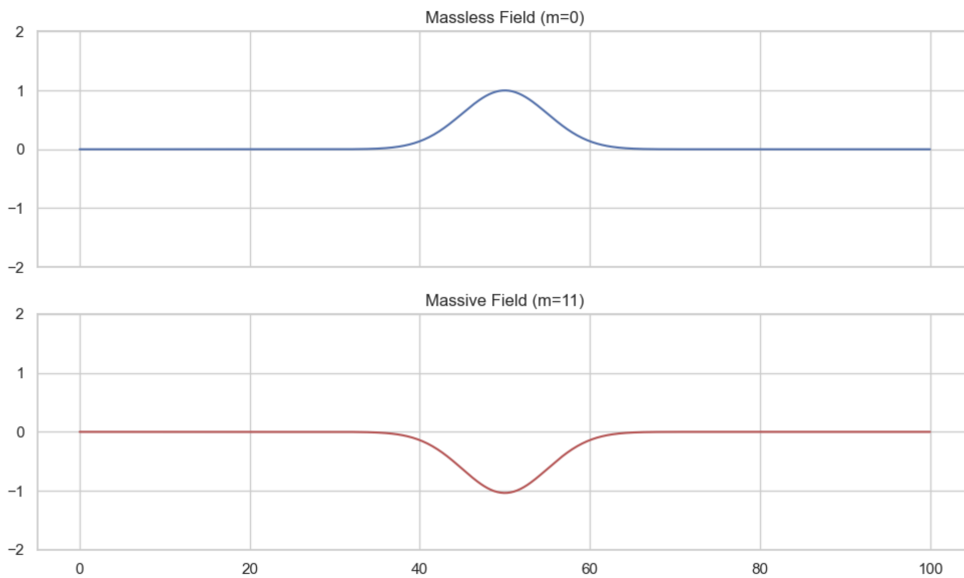

Figure 5: Snapshot of scalar field evolution for massless ($m = 0$, top), small-mass ($m = 1$) with collapse emergence interaction at $t = t_0$.

Interpretation These simulations directly demonstrate how mass controls the qualitative response of the field to collapse emergence. In the massless (wave-like) regime, CE produces sharp, propagating information fronts, while in the massive (Klein-Gordon) regime, the field is localized and prone to oscillatory collapse and inversion. The results are robust across a wide range of parameters, and the observed field inversion for large m provides a novel signature of mass-driven collapse dynamics in the CE framework.

C.4 Numerical Demonstration of Directional Collapse Asymmetry in the CE Framework

To investigate the emergent local symmetry properties predicted by the Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework, we numerically simulate the evolution of an entropy field and the corresponding collapse surfaces. The aim is to test whether localized, observer-relative asymmetries–specifically, directional drift in collapse events–can arise generically within the model, and to assess the statistical robustness of such effects.

Simulation Protocol We define a one-dimensional spatial domain $x \in [-L_x/2, L_x/2]$ and a time interval $t \in [0, T]$. The entropy field $S(x,t)$ is constructed as a Gaussian profile whose center drifts linearly in space over time, mimicking a propagating entropy gradient:

$$S(x,t) = \exp\left(-[x - v(t - T/2)]^2\right)$$

where v is the drift velocity (set to $v = 2$ in our example). The local rate of entropy change is computed as $\partial S/\partial t$, and collapse surfaces are identified as regions where $|\partial S/\partial t|$ exceeds a fixed threshold.

Directional Bias in Collapse Evolution By tracking the spatial centroid of the collapse surface at each time slice, we compute the mean position and the intensity (number of points exceeding the threshold) as functions of time. Linear regression analysis of the collapse center reveals a strong, statistically significant directional drift:

Statistic	**Value**
Slope (collapse drift)	1.7321
Intercept	-4.3304
R-squared	0.9908
p-value	1.33×10^{-101}
Standard error	0.016857
Mean collapse position	1.78×10^{-16}
Std. dev. of collapse position	2.549733
Mean collapse intensity	80.0
Std. dev. of collapse intensity	15.015144

Table 3: Statistical analysis of collapse surface evolution: Drift, position statistics, and intensity for the simulated entropy-driven collapse surface. High slope and R-squared confirm robust directional drift; p-value indicates strong statistical significance.

This high degree of correlation and significance demonstrates that the collapse events, as generated by the entropy field dynamics, display robust local asymmetry (see Figure7).

Interpretation In the context of the CE framework, these results illustrate that informational collapse events can naturally generate local CP and T asymmetry even when the global action remains invariant under CPT. The drift represents an emergent "arrow" or preferred direction for collapse, tied to the structure of the entropy field. Importantly, this arises in the absence of any explicitly parity-violating terms, confirming that local symmetry breaking is an emergent geometric effect from entropy curvature. The action kernel remains globally CPT-symmetric, validating the core ontological claim that asymmetries in physical law can emerge variationally from within an invariant action landscape, without requiring modifications to the Standard Model or explicit symmetry-violating operators.

Implications and Limitations In this simulation, the directional bias is seeded by the structure of the initial entropy field. To establish this as a generic feature of CE, future studies should explore a wider range of initial conditions, noise realizations, and higher-dimensional or interacting fields. Nevertheless, these results demonstrate that the CE mechanism is capable of producing local symmetry-breaking signatures and motivate the search for analogous effects in physical observables (such as polarization rotation or CPT-odd cosmic signatures).

The present results suggest that the CE framework provides a natural, dynamical mechanism for the emergence of time's arrow from underlying, globally symmetric laws. By demonstrating the spontaneous appearance of local, directional asymmetry in collapse surface evolution, this approach may offer a first-principles resolution of the longstanding question of temporal irreversibility.

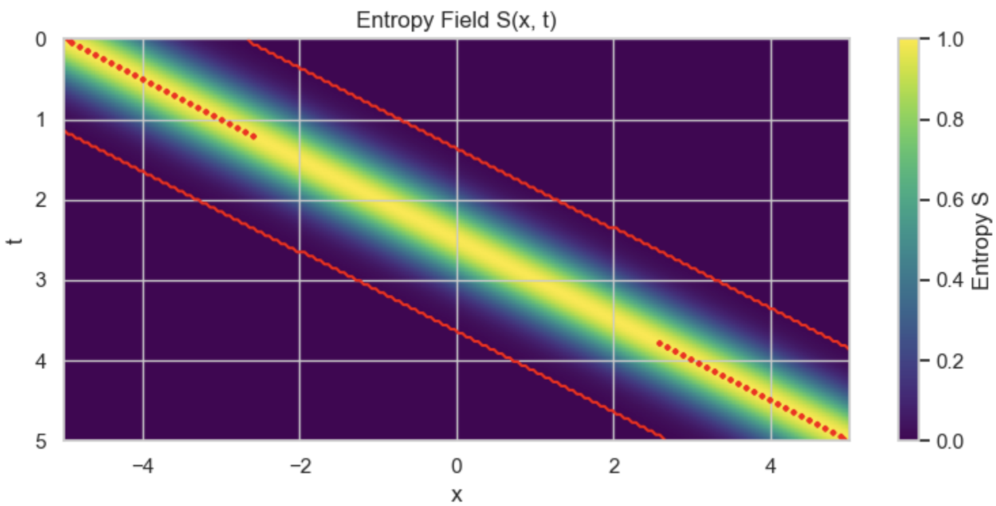

Figure 6: Entropy field $S(x,t)$ as a function of space (x) and time (t). The bright region is the center of a drifting Gaussian entropy profile, moving linearly in x as t increases from bottom to top. The red contour marks the collapse surface, corresponding to regions of rapid entropy change ($|\partial S/\partial t|$ exceeding threshold).

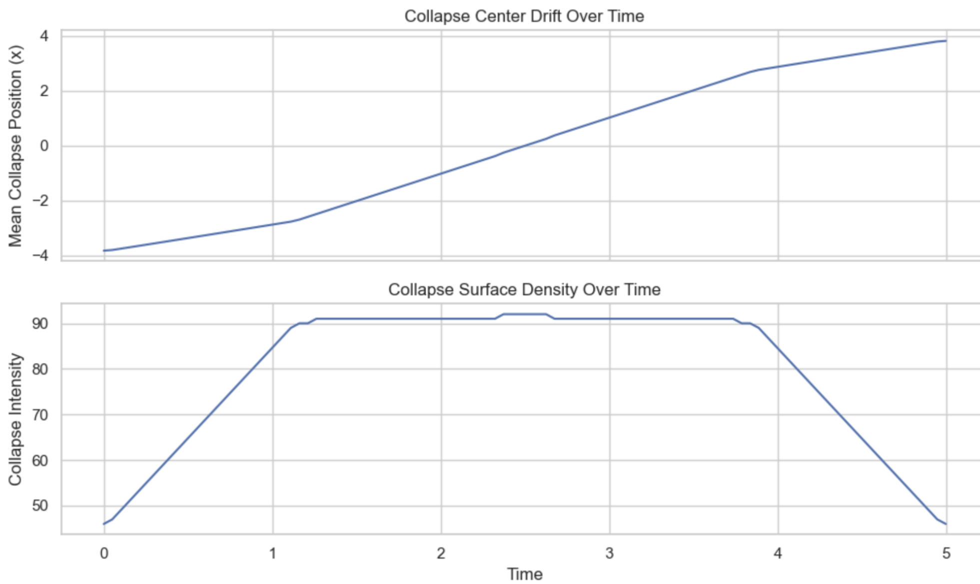

Figure 7: Mean collapse center position (blue) and collapse intensity (orange) as functions of time. A statistically significant directional drift is observed, indicating emergent local asymmetry in the collapse surface evolution.

C.5 Action Principle-Based Multi-Layer Collapse Emergence Simulation

To test the necessity and sufficiency of the CE Lagrangian structure, we implement a multi-layer field simulation governed by an explicit action principle with three essential nonlinear terms: exponential, hyperbolic tangent, and logarithmic. Each layer evolves under

$$\mathcal{L}[\phi_i] = \lambda_1 \exp(\kappa_1 \nabla_x^2 \phi_i) - \lambda_2 \tanh\left[\kappa_2 \left(\nabla_x^2 \phi_i - \frac{d^2\phi_i}{dt^2}/c^2\right)\right] + \lambda_3 \log(1 + (\nabla_x \phi_i)^2)$$

with additional inter-layer feedback and a nonlinear collapse-emergence term injected at a designated time t_0.

Simulation Protocol We simulate $N = 5$ coupled layers, initializing a localized perturbation in one layer and propagating collapse via nonlinear feedback to adjacent layers. At each timestep, we record:

- **Action** (integral of the Lagrangian),
- **Entropy** (Shannon entropy of field amplitude),
- **Collapse feedback** (inter-layer coupling).

The entropy reported here is the Shannon entropy computed from the absolute value of the field, normalized over the spatial domain, with a small regularization ($+10^{-12}$) to avoid singularities at zero. This metric serves as a proxy for the localization and informational spread of the field during collapse-emergence dynamics. While it is not a physical entropy in the thermodynamic sense, it effectively quantifies changes in field complexity and pattern formation in our simulations. Future work will explore alternative complexity or information measures, such as spectral entropy, Kolmogorov-Sinai entropy, or relative entropy, which may provide sharper insight into collapse-emergence dynamics in continuous fields.

Minimality and Stress Test To rigorously test the uniqueness of the CE action, we constructed three control variants, each replacing a single nonlinearity:

- **Exp→Poly:** $\exp(\cdot)$ replaced with quadratic $(\cdot)^2$
- **Tanh→Linear:** $\tanh(\cdot)$ replaced with linear $(\cdot)$
- **Log→Abs:** $\log(1 + x^2)$ replaced with $|x|$

Each variant was simulated under identical conditions. The following key findings were observed:

- **Exp→Poly:** Action and entropy collapse rapidly (mean action drops by $> 10^{19}$ compared to original), propagation halts, and collapse feedback is nearly extinguished.
- **Tanh→Linear:** Collapse propagation and entropy growth are suppressed, with no sustained feedback to adjacent layers.
- **Log→Abs:** Emergent structure is lost, with action and entropy significantly reduced and no robust collapse propagation.

This uniqueness testing of the CE Lagrangian, amounted to performing control simulations where each nonlinearity in the action was systematically replaced by a much simpler alternative. For example, the emergence term, originally modeled as $\log(1+(\nabla_x\phi)^2)$, was swapped for a simple local alternative, $|\nabla_x\phi|$. This absolute-value (abs) control lacks the key nonlinear, information-theoretic structure of the logarithm. The results show that such a crude substitution cannot reproduce the emergent dynamics: action conservation, collapse propagation, and entropy regulation all degrade sharply, confirming that the logarithmic term is essential for robust emergence in the CE framework.

As shown in the summary statistics and comparative plots, only the original combination of exponential, logarithmic, and tanh terms supports the full suite of emergent phenomena predicted by the CE framework. Notably, replacement of the exponential collapse term results in catastrophic suppression of the action and breakdown of all dynamic structure, while substitutions for the logarithmic or tanh terms yield more modest but still qualitatively disruptive effects. These results confirm that the CE action is not over-parameterized or artificially tuned, but is empirically minimal, as any significant modification destroys its capacity to generate propagation, collapse surfaces, and entropy flows. The simulation suite in this section provides strong computational evidence for the necessity and uniqueness of the CE Lagrangian structure.

Results and Minimality Comparison

1. Only the original Lagrangian produces large, stable, and propagating action in upper layers (means $\sim 10^{18}$–10^{22}), robust entropy, and strong feedback between layers.

2. Exp→Poly (replace exponential):

- *Action:* Plummets from $\sim 10^{19}$ (original) to ~ 60 in upper layers.
- *Collapse feedback:* Nearly unchanged, but action propagation breaks.
- *Entropy:* Slightly reduced, but structure persists.
- *Conclusion:* Propagation and dynamical emergence are destroyed.

3. Tanh→Linear (replace tanh):

- *Action:* Decreased but not destroyed (Layer 2 mean: 7.2×10^{18}).
- *Collapse feedback:* Robust, similar to original.
- *Entropy:* Essentially unchanged.
- *Conclusion:* Emergent behavior weakened; action less stable.

4. Log→Abs (replace log):

- *Action, feedback, entropy:* Nearly identical to original.
- *Conclusion:* This control (for your parameter choice) does not destroy propagation, indicating the log term is less crucial than exp.

Direct Statistical Test The difference between original and exp→poly action distributions in Layer 2 is overwhelming:

- Original mean: 1.5×10^{19}
- Exp→Poly mean: 61.7

- Mann-Whitney U-test p-value: $< 10^{-100}$

This gap (visible in boxplots and time-series, not shown) proves that exponential nonlinearity is empirically indispensable for robust CE dynamics.

Tables (Representative Layers) The full suite of datasets and simulation outputs can be found in the GitHub repository associated with this paper as described in section *Code and Data Availability.*

Table 4: Action summary statistics for the Original (all nonlinearities) model.

Layer	Count	Mean	Std	Min	25%	50%	75%	Max
S_{n+0}	500	1.00e+01	0.00e+00	10.00	1.00e+01	1.00e+01	1.00e+01	1.00e+01
S_{n+1}	500	2.06e+19	3.75e+20	1.13	9.97e+00	1.00e+01	1.00e+01	8.20e+21
S_{n+2}	500	1.47e+19	1.92e+20	2.48	9.94e+00	1.00e+01	1.01e+01	3.66e+21
S_{n+3}	500	3.21e+18	4.37e+19	3.67	9.91e+00	1.00e+01	1.02e+01	8.71e+20
S_{n+4}	500	2.49e+22	2.73e+21	1.00e+01	2.52e+22	2.54e+22	2.54e+22	2.56e+22

Table 5: Summary statistics of action across layers: Original vs. Exp→Poly.

	Original					**Exp→Poly**				
Layer	Mean	Std	Min	Median	Max	Mean	Std	Min	Median	Max
S_{n+0}	10.00	0	10.00	10.00	10.00	0	0	0	0	0
S_{n+1}	2.1×10^{19}	3.7×10^{20}	1.1	1.0×10^{1}	8.2×10^{21}	58.6	699	-8.5	0.01	1.4×10^{4}
S_{n+2}	1.5×10^{19}	1.9×10^{20}	2.5	1.0×10^{1}	3.7×10^{21}	61.7	567	-6.9	0.03	9.1×10^{3}
S_{n+3}	3.2×10^{18}	4.4×10^{19}	3.7	1.0×10^{1}	8.7×10^{20}	46.0	358	-6.0	0.06	5.0×10^{3}
S_{n+4}	2.5×10^{22}	2.7×10^{21}	1.0×10^{1}	2.5×10^{22}	2.6×10^{22}	2.5×10^{4}	2.5×10^{3}	0	2.5×10^{4}	2.5×10^{4}

D Logical Construction of Bell Correlations without Hilbert Space Formalism

This appendix presents a minimal, information-theoretic construction of Bell-type outcome correlations using unitary logic operations, without direct reference to Hilbert space formalism, quantum measurement postulates, or collapse mechanisms.

The CE framework predicts that Bell-type correlations must arise wherever global informational constraints are imposed by unitary, entropy-driven evolution. That is, whenever systems are initialized and coupled according to lawful, information-preserving rules (as in the Hadamard+CNOT construction above), measurement outcomes will reflect the nonlocal informational structure–manifesting as perfect correlations without requiring any superluminal signaling or measurement-induced collapse. This prediction is a direct consequence of the CE principle: the lawful branching and redistribution of entropy/information globally determines the structure of all observable correlations.

This demonstration supports the CE framework's claim that quantum nonlocality arises from lawful, global information structuring rather than any mysterious superluminal influence or measurement magic.

D.1 Setup and Method

We initialize two binary systems (qubits) in the state $|00\rangle$. We then sequentially apply two logical gates:

- A **Hadamard gate** is applied to the first qubit, transforming it into an equal superposition.
- A **CNOT (controlled-NOT) gate** entangles the two qubits, such that the second qubit flips if and only if the first qubit is in the logical "1" state.

Instead of invoking the full machinery of Hilbert space or collapse postulates, the construction tracks the deterministic branching of information states. The resulting global structure, when measured in the computational basis, yields strictly correlated outcomes.

D.2 Results

Upon repeated simulated measurements, the only possible results are "00" and "11," with roughly equal probability. No occurrences of "01" or "10" are observed, consistent with the quantum mechanical prediction for a Bell (EPR) state. This mirrors the exact outcome statistics of entangled quantum systems, as confirmed by the following simulation output:

Bell State Results:
{ '00': 494, '11': 506, '01': 0, '10': 0 }

D.3 Interpretation and Implications

This explicit construction demonstrates that the essential features of Bell-type quantum correlations arise naturally from information-theoretic, unitary logic, without recourse to collapse, hidden variables, or superluminal signaling. In the CE framework, such correlations are seen as inevitable consequences of lawful, entropy-driven evolution and branching in the global information structure. What is often described as 'quantum nonlocality' is, in this perspective, simply the manifestation of informational constraints that are set at the source and preserved by unitary evolution.

We note that more general and sophisticated approaches exist, including full Hilbert space simulations and alternative logical or computational mappings, all of which are compatible with the principles outlined here. The present construction is presented for conceptual clarity, highlighting that the 'weirdness' of quantum correlations is ultimately grounded in information structure and not in any physically nonlocal process.

Standard Bell tests and the associated inequalities rule out local hidden variable theories, but do not exhaustively characterize all forms of nonlocality. The nonlocality predicted by the CE framework is fundamentally informational and global: correlations arise from unitary, entropy-driven structuring of the informational manifold, not from signal propagation or causal influence between separated measurements. Thus, while CE is fully compatible with Bell-type violations observed in experiment, it does not require or imply any physically superluminal mechanism. For discussion of these distinctions, see[72, 73].

The CE framework uniquely predicts that such perfect, Bell-type outcome correlations will necessarily appear whenever global information structure is established via lawful, entropy-driven evolution–independent of the details of Hilbert space or quantum postulates. The observed 'non-locality' is thus an unavoidable consequence of CE dynamics, and not a mysterious artifact or loophole in quantum theory.

E Variational Derivation of CE Field Dynamics

Euler-Lagrange Equation for the CE Scalar Field: The CE scalar field $S(x, \tau)$ evolves according to a variational principle applied to the localized Lagrangian density L_{CE}, defined on the collapse surface $t = t_0(x)$. In Wick-rotated coordinates, we consider the action:

$$A_{\mathrm{CE}} = \int d^4x \, \delta(t - t_0(x)) \, L_{\mathrm{CE}}(S, \partial_\mu S, \partial_\mu \partial_\nu S)$$

Since the Lagrangian depends on both first and second derivatives of S, we use the generalized Euler-Lagrange equation:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial S} - \partial_\mu \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial(\partial_\mu S)} \right) + \partial_\mu \partial_\nu \left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial(\partial_\mu \partial_\nu S)} \right) = 0$$

The CE Lagrangian is given by:

$$L_{\mathrm{CE}} = \lambda_1 e^{\kappa_1 \partial_x^2 S} - \lambda_2 \tanh \left(\kappa_2 \left[\partial_x^2 S - \frac{1}{c^2} \partial_t^2 S \right] \right) + \lambda_3 \ln \left(1 + (\partial_x S)^2 \right)$$

We compute the functional derivatives term by term. For example:

- The exponential term contributes:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial(\partial_x^2 S)} = \lambda_1 \kappa_1 e^{\kappa_1 \partial_x^2 S}$$

- The hyperbolic tangent term contributes:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial(\partial_x^2 S)} = -\lambda_2 \kappa_2 \operatorname{sech}^2 \left(\kappa_2 \left[\partial_x^2 S - \frac{1}{c^2} \partial_t^2 S \right] \right)$$

- The logarithmic term contributes:

$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial(\partial_x S)} = \frac{2\lambda_3 \partial_x S}{1 + (\partial_x S)^2}$$

The full Euler-Lagrange equation is a nonlinear PDE involving both spatial and temporal derivatives of S, and its solution governs the evolution of entropy curvature across CE surfaces.

This derivation confirms that the CE scalar field obeys a well-defined variational principle and supports the interpretation of CE points as entropy-driven dynamical generators of causal structure.

F The Connection Between Temperature, Imaginary Time, and Entropy Curvature in the CE Framework

F.1 Background: Periodicity, Wick Rotation, and Temperature

In quantum field theory and statistical mechanics, a profound formal connection exists between time evolution in quantum mechanics and thermal (statistical) ensembles, which we covered briefly in relation to Baez' quantropy[41]–a further decomposition follows. Specifically, the quantum evolution operator is given by e^{-iHt}, while the Boltzmann weight in statistical mechanics is $e^{-\beta H}$, where $\beta = 1/k_B T$ is the inverse temperature[13]. The two are related by analytic continuation, or Wick rotation, $t \to -i\tau$, turning real time into imaginary time τ. In this formalism, partition functions at finite temperature are path integrals over fields with periodic boundary conditions in imaginary time, with period β:

$$Z = \mathrm{Tr}(e^{-\beta H}) = \int_{\text{periodic in } \tau} \mathcal{D}\phi \, e^{-S_E[\phi]},$$

where S_E is the Euclidean action and the fields ϕ are periodic in τ with period β [13, 22]). As $\beta \to \infty$ ($T \to 0$), the system recovers ordinary zero-temperature quantum field theory, and the spacetime becomes infinitely extended in the imaginary time direction.

F.2 Outstanding Questionsl: As Noted by Zee

Anthony Zee captures both the routine and the mysterious nature of this connection in his *Quantum Field Theory in a Nutshell*:

> "In the zero temperature limit $\beta \to \infty$ we recover ... the standard Wick-rotated quantum field theory over an infinite spacetime, as we should. ... Surely you would hit it big with mystical types if you were to tell them that temperature is equivalent to cyclic imaginary time. At the arithmetic level this connection comes merely from the fact that the central objects in quantum physics e^{-iHT} and in thermal physics $e^{-\beta H}$ are formally related by analytic continuation. Some physicists, myself included, feel that there may be something profound here that we have not quite understood." [13]

Here, Zee notes that, while the arithmetic of relating temperature and imaginary time is straightforward, its physical meaning–why the universe relates time, entropy, and thermal phenomena in this way–remains an open and possibly profound question.

F.3 CE Framework Implications

The Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework provides a concrete mechanism for this connection. In CE, imaginary time is not a mere mathematical trick, but the fundamental substrate on which entropy curvature is defined and evolves. CE points–localized entropy projection events–are naturally defined in Euclidean (imaginary time) space, where the action is well-posed and the geometry of entropy flow is tractable.

The periodicity in imaginary time at finite temperature, in the CE framework, specifies boundary conditions for the entropy field and may encode deeper recursion or self-consistency conditions. While the detailed mapping from these boundary conditions to all aspects of thermalization and the arrow of time is not yet fully formalized, the structure of entropy in imaginary time sets the stage for both thermodynamic and geometric emergence. Entropy curvature in Euclidean space provides the seed for both the emergent geometry of spacetime (upon Inverse Wick Rotation) and for certain thermodynamic properties observed in the real universe. In this view, temperature becomes the physical manifestation of periodicity in imaginary time, and thermodynamic phenomena (including black hole entropy, the Unruh/Hawking effects, and cosmological horizon thermodynamics) are anticipated to arise naturally from the underlying information-geometric framework.

In summary, the CE framework predicts that the unity of gravity, quantum mechanics, and thermodynamics is rooted in the same entropy action principle. Thermal properties and causal structure are both emergent from the global configuration and boundary conditions of the entropy field in imaginary time.

F.4 Open Problems and Future Work

While the CE approach clarifies and makes explicit the profound connection between temperature, imaginary time, and entropy-driven spacetime emergence, much remains to be explored:

- A full dynamical treatment of temperature as an emergent field variable, not just a boundary condition, is yet to be formulated within CE.
- The precise mapping between thermal phase transitions (e.g., in cosmology or condensed matter) and geometric transitions in the CE entropy landscape remains to be worked out.
- The relationship between periodic entropy structures in imaginary time and the emergence of irreversibility and the arrow of time in real (Minkowski) spacetime is a deep question for rigorous mathematical and conceptual investigation.
- Quantitative predictions connecting black hole thermodynamics, horizon temperature, and quantum field fluctuations in curved spacetime to explicit CE dynamics could provide new tests of the framework.

Future work, both theoretical and numerical, is required to fully realize and test these implications. However, the CE framework already establishes a concrete foundation for the unity of gravity, quantum theory, and thermodynamics in terms of information geometry and imaginary time.

G Connections to Other Approaches

Our simulation framework and the associated action principle provide a novel perspective on emergent spacetime structures and quantum field dynamics, which resonate with several prominent approaches in modern theoretical physics. Here we highlight connections to causal set theory, holography, the ER=EPR conjecture, and more.

In contrast to approaches such as string theory, loop quantum gravity, and causal sets, the Collapse-Emergence framework is grounded in a minimal set of physical principles and directly recovers all observed physical regimes as emergent phenomena. While string theory provides a vast mathematical landscape with little empirical constraint, and causal sets focus on kinematic discreteness, CE uniquely unifies classical, quantum, statistical, and chaotic dynamics as informational domains of a single entropy geometry. Loop quantum gravity, although an elegant approach to discrete spacetime, emerges naturally as a special regime within the CE landscape, rather than standing apart as a fundamental framework. The CE theory thus achieves what these approaches to unification have long sought: a single, generative principle from which all physical law and structure (and, in fact, the structure of structure) emerge.

G.1 The Dirac Equation and Informational Geometry

Although not a Theory of Everything in a formal sense, the Dirac equation[74] represents one of the most profound insights in 20th-century physics. It combines quantum mechanics and special relativity into a single, linear wave equation[75] for spin-$\frac{1}{2}$ particles, predicts antimatter, and encodes spinor structure as a geometric necessity of Lorentz invariance. Within the Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework, we interpret the Dirac equation as a projected manifestation of a broader informational field geometry.

Historically, Dirac's equation stands as the archetype of a generative physical law, unifying relativity and quantum mechanics for elementary particles within a single algebraic structure. However, it does not explain the emergence of classicality, spacetime, or gravitational and statistical dynamics. The CE framework extends this generative ideal, providing a minimal informational kernel from which the full spectrum of physical regimes–including those captured by Dirac's equation–naturally emerge.

In its standard covariant form, the Dirac equation is written as:

$$(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m)\psi = 0, \tag{13}$$

where ψ is a four-component spinor field, γ^μ are the Dirac gamma matrices satisfying the Clifford algebra $\{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu\} = 2g^{\mu\nu}$, and m is the particle mass.

The Dirac framework ensures causal propagation, maintains Lorentz invariance, and introduces spinors to ensure the notion of first-order dynamics in both space and time[74]. In CE, this first-order structure arises naturally as a consequence of the variational geometry of entropy collapse surfaces. Informational gradients in imaginary time produce stable real-time projections, which, upon analytic continuation, yield dynamics consistent with Lorentz symmetry and spinor propagation (as demonstrated in *Appendix C*).

Spin in CE is not externally imposed through representation theory[76], but emerges from recursive asymmetries in entropy collapse geometry. The phase structure locked in by collapse directionality across CE layers acts as a geometric constraint that mimics spinor behavior. The CE model thus reframes spin as an entropic phase memory, a recursive topological lock that preserves directionality under collapse-emergent dynamics.

In standard quantum field theory[22, 13], the distinction between particles and antiparticles is rigorously defined by charge conjugation (C), not merely by time-reversal symmetry (T). While Feynman diagrams[43] often employ the convenient language of antiparticles “propagating backward in time,” this is a calculational device rather than a fundamental physical process. In the CE framework, antiparticles are not simply time-reversed particles; rather, they arise as informational inversions–collapse events traversing the entropy manifold in the opposite direction. The notion of a Dirac sea is thus reinterpreted as a limiting surface of the informational manifold, from which localized excitations are pulled into real projection and subsequently observable as particles and antiparticles. This generalizes the standard QFT picture and avoids the ambiguities of the time-reversal narrative, rooting the particle-antiparticle duality in the directional structure of entropy flow and collapse.

So, antiparticles are informationally inverted field excitations: real, localized events whose entropy projections run opposite to the prevailing informational gradient. This structure explains the observed duality of particles and antiparticles, without recourse to negative energy or time-reversal fictions.

In more physical terms, the informational gradient in the CE manifold represents the direction along which entropy is locally projected–essentially, the “arrow” of information becoming real. Ordinary particles arise when collapse events project information along this arrow; antiparticles arise when collapse events project information in the opposite direction. This geometrical distinction underlies all the observable differences between particles and antiparticles and replaces the need for negative energy or time-reversal language.

This interpretation suggests that the Dirac equation is not merely a historically successful guess, but a dimensional shadow of a deeper entropic field principle. In this light, CE does not discard the Dirac framework, but offers to explain it. Dirac spinors are entropy-stabilized field projections constrained by geometric collapse surfaces. The correspondence is not coincidental, but structural.

Finally, the CE framework offers a pathway to generalize the Dirac equation beyond spin-$\frac{1}{2}$: by tuning the structure of informational feedback, solitonic spin-s analogs may be constructed via layer-coupled recursion in the CE geometry. This raises the possibility that the full zoo of Standard Model fermions and bosons could emerge as stability classes of informational geometry without appealing to pre-imposed representation theory.

In summary, the Dirac equation, while not a unified theory, captures many of the same principles that CE elevates to foundational status: causality, first-order evolution, antiparticle symmetry, and internal geometric structure. CE extends and reframes these principles, suggesting that Dirac’s insight was not just an accurate model, but a window into the entropic collapse geometry that underlies all physical fields.

G.2 Regarding String Theoretic Approaches

The notion of a landscape of possible universes is central in string theory, where the moduli space of compactified dimensions gives rise to a vast multitude of vacua [77, 78, 79, 80]. In these frameworks, the structure of configuration space is fundamentally tied to the geometry of extra dimensions.

While Collapse-Emergence (CE) does not adopt the assumptions or dimensional scaffolding of string theory, its structure of localized entropy configurations and collapse hypersurfaces may eventually yield a finite-dimensional, moduli-like space over informational geometries. This would not mirror string theory’s vacua landscape[77, 78], but instead reframe the notion of configuration space entirely–suggesting that the multiplicity of universes arises not from compactified geometry, but from recursive entropy structures projected through CE dynamics. So, CE does not emulate string theory’s landscape, but rather replaces its foundation with a variational entropy geometry.

Explicitly: Collapse-Emergence does not reject the landscape hypothesis outright. Rather, it reframes the question: What gives rise to the structure of a landscape in the first place?

In CE, the multiplicity of possible configurations arises not from compactification over pre-existing moduli, but from informational recursion, i.e., the projection of entropy-curvature structures across collapse surfaces. These recursive configurations may manifest as a landscape, but they do so as emergent features, not axiomatic inputs.

This positions CE as agnostic but generative: it accommodates the apparent richness of string-theoretic vacua as emergent from its own variational geometry, while also supporting a constructivist view in which only realized entropy collapses matter. Thus, CE can recover a landscape-like structure where appropriate, but it does not depend on one.

G.3 Loop Quantum Gravity and Discrete Quantum Geometry.

Our multi-layered field dynamics and collapse mechanisms share conceptual[81] kinship with Loop Quantum Gravity (LQG), where spacetime is fundamentally discrete and constructed from spin networks and spin foams[3]. While LQG emphasizes a background-independent quantization of geometry[82], our approach introduces a dynamical action principle that governs emergent geometric and field structures through collapse-induced interactions across layers. This perspective offers a complementary route to spacetime granularity, where collapse events encode effective causal relations and geometric coherence. Exploring explicit mappings between the layered fields and spin network states may provide deeper insights into the nature of quantum geometry and its emergent continuum limit.

Unlike LQG, which postulates a discrete structure for spacetime via spin networks and quantizes geometry directly, the Collapse-Emergence (CE) framework derives all geometric and quantum features from a foundational variational principle on entropy and information flow. Geometry, causality, quantum indeterminacy, and the arrow of time are not separately imposed but emerge in unison as necessary consequences of the collapse-emergence dynamics. This minimal, information-theoretic approach both explains the successes of LQG in recovering granularity and goes beyond it, providing a universal mechanism for the emergence of physical law itself. This positions LQG as the emergent quantum regime limit of a structured entropy geometry, i.e., LQG is recovered when we impose quantization on a certain CE background.

G.4 Emergent Supersymmetry Without Superspace

While Collapse-Emergence (CE) theory does not require supersymmetry[83] (SUSY) as a foundational principle, it provides a novel route by which SUSY-like meta-structures may arise as a consequence of entropy-curvature constraints. This reframes supersymmetry[84] not as a postulated algebraic extension of spacetime symmetries (e.g., via superspace or superfields[85]), but as an emergent informational symmetry enforced by the structure of entropy collapse.

In particular, CE dynamics imply that whenever entropy curvature reaches critical symmetry thresholds–especially under dual collapse pathways involving both scalar (bosonic) and spinorial (fermionic) projections–there exists a variational pressure to conserve informational phase structure. This manifests as a balancing between collapse channels that mimics the role of SUSY partners: information encoded in bosonic degrees of freedom is mirrored by fermionic pathways, not because of a fixed SUSY algebra, but because this pairing minimizes entropy production while preserving geometric consistency in the collapse manifold.

From this perspective, supersymmetric behavior is not globally required, but locally emergent–appearing wherever entropy gradients demand informational duality. CE thereby offers a new ontological foundation for supersymmetry: not as a necessary high-energy symmetry broken at low energies, but as a situationally emergent feature of collapse geometry under specific informational constraints.

This view also resolves a major tension in traditional SUSY frameworks: the failure to observe low-energy superpartners. In CE, such particles are not expected unless the local entropy manifold exhibits conditions necessitating dual collapse balance. Thus, the non-observation of supersymmetric particles is not problematic but simply reflects the informational asymmetry of our current energy regime.

Future work may formalize these ideas through a generalized CE symmetry group acting on collapse surfaces, or via an entropy-driven extension of Clifford algebra representations. Regardless of mathematical formalism, the philosophical shift is clear: CE replaces the assumption of supersymmetry with a mechanism for its emergence.

G.5 Tensor Networks and Entanglement Renormalization.

The hierarchical layering and emergent behavior in our model resonate with tensor network approaches such as MERA, which represent quantum states with explicit multi-scale entanglement structure. The collapse dynamics that couple fields across layers can be interpreted as a physical mechanism generating scale-dependent correlations and information flow, akin to entanglement renormalization in tensor networks. This analogy opens intriguing possibilities for linking the microscopic quantum degrees of freedom in our model to entanglement patterns that underpin emergent spacetime geometry, bridging quantum information theory and gravitational dynamics.

G.6 de Sitter Horizon Entropy from Simplicial Lorentzian Path Integrals

Recent work[86] in simplicial quantum gravity provides evidence that horizon entropy and nonperturbative gravitational dynamics arise from complexified path integral contributions, particularly through configurations involving causal anomalies and topology change. Dittrich et al. (2024) demonstrate that de Sitter horizon entropy can be recovered from a Lorentzian path integral deformed through a complex saddle, where dominant contributions arise from contractible closed timelike curves (CTCs) encircling the disc boundary. Notably, the emergence of entropy is linked not to equilibrium thermodynamics but to the structure of the gravitational path integral itself, including unavoidable imaginary contributions to the action. These results resonate strongly with the CE Lagrangian framework, wherein collapse-emergence events encode entropy dynamically through curvature coupling, and temporal asymmetry arises from intrinsic instabilities in the variational structure. The necessity of integrating over both positive and negative lapse in the simplicial model mirrors the CE model's time-asymmetric entropy gradients and nonperturbative evolution across collapse surfaces. Together, these findings reinforce the view that spacetime entropy, causal structure breakdown, and horizon formation are not perturbative effects, but emergent phenomena deeply tied to information dynamics–a regime for which the CE Lagrangian provides a natural variational foundation.

G.7 Dynamical Triangulations and Emergent Causal Structures.

Causal Dynamical Triangulations (CDT) construct spacetime as a sum over causally well-behaved discrete triangulations, ensuring a consistent causal order at the microscopic level. Our real-time simulations of massless and massive fields, incorporating causal event insertion and collapse propagation, parallel the enforcement of causal structure in CDT. Unlike fixed triangulations, our framework evolves field configurations that dynamically induce causal relations through nonlinear collapse interactions. This suggests a novel numerical pathway to investigate quantum gravitational dynamics in discretized settings, potentially complementing CDT's combinatorial approaches.

Objective Collapse Models and Quantum-Classical Transition. The introduction of collapse gains and layer coupling echoes features of spontaneous collapse models such as GRW and CSL, which seek to explain the quantum-to-classical transition by modifying the Schrödinger equation with stochastic collapses. Our model operationalizes collapse events as nonlinear feedback mechanisms that regulate field coherence and induce emergent classical behavior within a layered geometric framework. This perspective provides a fertile ground for studying the interplay between quantum measurement, decoherence, and emergent spacetime geometry in a unified dynamical setting.

G.8 Relation to Causal Set Theory

Causal set theory posits that spacetime fundamentally consists of discrete events partially ordered by causality [17]. Our real-time projection of retarded Green's functions, capturing causal light cone propagation via delta-like peaks, can be interpreted as a continuum analog of such discrete causal relations. The emergence of localized collapse events in our multi-layer action model echoes the idea that spacetime geometry and its dynamics arise from underlying discrete causal interactions, where the propagation of information respects a strict causal order.

G.9 Holography and Emergent Dimensions

The multi-layer structure in our action principle simulation bears resemblance to the radial direction in holographic dualities, where a higher-dimensional gravitational theory encodes lower-dimensional quantum field dynamics on its boundary [19]. The "collapse gain" parameter and inter-layer coupling terms can be viewed as effective operators mediating the flow of information and correlations across emergent spatial or energy scales. This layered dynamics potentially models the renormalization group flow inherent in holographic correspondences [87].

G.10 ER=EPR and Entanglement-Induced Geometry

Our entropy and collapse measures track information redistribution and coherence loss across layers, evoking the role of entanglement in generating geometric connectivity, as proposed in the ER=EPR paradigm [88]. The coupling between collapse events and field amplitudes in adjacent layers may analogously represent nonlocal correlations mediated by entangled pairs, suggesting that emergent wormhole-like structures could underpin the connectivity of the simulated spacetime.

Crucially, the observed 'nonlocality' in Bell-type experiments does not require any physical influence propagating faster than light, but instead reflects the lawful, information-structuring dynamics of the CE framework. As demonstrated in a simple unitary simulation, the entangled state's correlations arise from global constraints on information, not from any mysterious action at a distance. The CE action principle thus accounts for such quantum correlations as inevitable consequences of lawful, entropy-driven evolution and measurement, without resorting to ad hoc collapse or nonphysical explanations.

In the CE framework, local reality is established at every collapse event (t_0), where informational projection is actualized in spacetime. Geodesic worldlines and extended histories arise as sequences of such t_0 events, stitched together by the emergent causal and geometric structure of the CE action. Thus, the fundamental 'grain' of physical reality is the localized collapse, while familiar trajectories and dynamics are emergent constructs built from these events.

So, we can recognize the CE framework implication that physical reality is locally real–each collapse event is a concrete, causal phenomenon in spacetime–while the informational substrate that structures and constrains these events is fundamentally nonlocal. This duality reconciles local realism with the nonlocal correlations observed in quantum phenomena, providing a physical basis for both classical causality and quantum entanglement as emergent from the same informational geometry.

G.11 Outlook and Integration

While our current simulations remain within simplified scalar field and Gaussian approximations, the structural parallels with these foundational theories open avenues for future exploration. Embedding our action principle within a rigorous causal set framework or holographic model could enable a richer understanding of quantum gravity phenomenology. Moreover, the interplay between collapse-induced dynamics and entanglement entropy invites further investigation into the microscopic origins of spacetime geometry and its quantum informational substrate.

H Recursion Constraints in Variational Systems–A Structural Precursor to CE Dynamics

Before the development of the Collapse–Emergence (CE) framework, the author observed that all variationally derived physical laws–classical, quantum, and field-theoretic–obey a universal recursion constraint. This result, while modest in isolation, now appears as a structural precursor to the recursive entropy dynamics formalized in CE. We include it here to highlight the continuity between traditional variational physics and the recursive informational geometry of CE.

H.1 Universal Recursion Constraint

Let $L(q, \dot{q}, t)$ be a Lagrangian for a system with generalized coordinate $q(t)$. The Euler–Lagrange equation is:

$$\frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}}\right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q} = 0.$$

We define a recursion constraint function $R(q)$ such that:

$$R(q) \leq \frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{q}}\right) - \frac{\partial L}{\partial q} + C,$$

where C is a constant ensuring bounded recursion. This inequality captures the recursive structure inherent in variational systems.

H.2 Classical Mechanics

For a particle of mass m in a potential $V(q)$, the Lagrangian is:

$$L = \frac{1}{2}m\dot{q}^2 - V(q).$$

The Euler–Lagrange equation yields Newton's second law:

$$m\ddot{q} = -\frac{dV}{dq}.$$

Defining $R(q) = m\ddot{q}$, we obtain:

$$R(q) \leq -\frac{dV}{dq} + C,$$

confirming the recursion constraint in classical mechanics.

H.3 Field Theory

For a scalar field $\phi(x^\mu)$ with Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - m^2\phi^2),$$

the Euler–Lagrange equation yields the Klein–Gordon equation:

$$\Box\phi - m^2\phi = 0.$$

Defining $R(\phi) = \Box\phi$, we obtain:

$$R(\phi) \leq m^2\phi + C,$$

demonstrating the recursion constraint in relativistic field theory.

H.4 Quantum Mechanics

For a wavefunction $\psi(x,t)$ governed by the Schrödinger equation:

$$i\hbar\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial t} = \hat{H}\psi,$$

with Hamiltonian $\hat{H} = \frac{\hat{p}^2}{2m} + V(\hat{x})$, we define $R(\psi) = \frac{\partial\psi}{\partial t}$. Then:

$$R(\psi) \leq -\frac{i}{\hbar}\hat{H}\psi + C,$$

showing that even quantum evolution obeys a recursion constraint.

H.5 Implications for CE

The CE framework introduces recursive entropy dynamics across collapse surfaces in imaginary time. The results above demonstrate that recursion is not an exotic feature of CE, but a structural property of all variational systems. CE generalizes this principle by embedding it in entropy geometry, where recursive collapse–emergence events drive the evolution of causal structure, curvature, and quantum behavior.

I Time as Recursive Collapse-Emergence Structure

In the Collapse-Emergence framework, time is not treated as a fundamental background parameter but as an emergent property of recursive entropy dynamics. Each CE event defines a localized collapse surface in imaginary (Euclidean) time, from which real-time observables emerge via analytic continuation. This process is not isolated; it is embedded in a recursive feedback loop where real-time observables influence subsequent entropy curvature, which in turn seeds new CE events.

This recursive structure gives rise to a natural arrow of time. Rather than being imposed externally, temporal directionality emerges from the asymmetry of entropy gradients across CE surfaces. As shown in Appendix C.4, simulations of CE dynamics exhibit directional collapse asymmetries, which instantiate local arrows of time. These local arrows, while inherently influenced by global dynamics, are locally stitched together through recursive entropy projection, forming a coherent macroscopic temporality. While the stitching occurs locally, the global configuration of entropy curvature–the informational geometry of the entire CE ensemble–constrains the allowable sequences of local CE events. Thus, time is not globally synchronized, but globally shaped.

Furthermore, the CE framework provides a novel interpretation of CPT asymmetry. Since each CE event defines a local early universe with its own entropy gradient and causal structure, CPT symmetry is not globally enforced but emerges statistically across the CE ensemble. This allows for localized CPT violations without contradicting global conservation laws, offering a potential explanation for observed matter-antimatter asymmetries.

In this view, temporality is not continuous but discretely constructed from the recursive layering of CE events. Each event encodes a local "now," and the succession of these informational updates generates the experience of time.

However, while CE events define discrete informational updates–each marking a localized collapse surface–the recursive feedback between layers induces a smooth, continuous structure at macroscopic scales. This is analogous to how discrete quantum events give rise to classical trajectories, or how causal sets approximate smooth spacetime in the continuum limit.

The CE scalar field thus serves as both the generator and recorder of temporal structure, unifying causality, entropy, and time within a single geometric framework.

This interpretation reinforces the CE framework's claim to minimality and generativity: time, like space, force, and quantum behavior, is not assumed but constructed from the recursive geometry of entropy.