Semiotic Relativity in Manifolds: Why All Opposition is Oblique (Hardening the Cloud and Beyond for Alignment)

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January 2026

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ABSTRACT

"Get out, or I'll fight!" — Consider it for a moment: defensive protection or invasive aggression? Large language models frame this identical utterance either way through prompt manipulation, revealing a fundamental geometric property of neural semantic space. We introduce **Semiotic Relativity in Manifolds (SRM)**: meaning in LLMs exists as frame-dependent projections on loss-induced Riemannian manifolds. Where intuition predicts semantic opposites occupy antipodal positions (cosine ≈ -1), we demonstrate **all opposition is oblique**. Across 416 layer-resolved measurements in Mistral-7B, contrasting frames (bearish/bullish, true/false, up/down, even pineapple-on-pizza preferences) exhibit positive cosine similarity (mean: 0.84), with **ZERO antipodal cases** (0.0%, 95% CI[0.0%, 0.9%]). This structure is universal: cross-model (Grok, Claude Opus/Sonnet, Mistral; r=0.90), cross-domain (Deception, harm, truth, OOD), and category-invariant—subjective opinions show identical geometry to logical truths (p=0.67). Layer analysis reveals polarity peaks at 68° in middle layers (12-18), with temperature variance scaling (r=0.98) consistent with Brownian motion on curved manifolds. Opposition arises from differential emphasis within subspaces, NOT geometric negation—a consequence of superposition efficiency. For Alignment: (1) No privileged "objective" steering target exists; (2) vulnerabilities concentrate in layers 12-18 where curvature peaks; (3) jailbreaks exploit oblique basin-hopping. We propose the Frame Stability Index (FSI) for curvature-based hardening and release all code/data to enable predictive field theory of semantic manipulation.

Keywords: Semantic Relativity, Manifold Geometry, LLM Interpretability, AI Alignment, Frame-Dependent Meaning, Oblique Opposition, Curvature-Based Hardening, Neural Semantic Space

1. Introduction: The Spark That Lit the Manifold

1.1 From Combat Instincts to Computational Geometry

"Get out, or I'll fight!"

In combat threat assessment—skills honed during military service and refined through years of post-traumatic stress recovery—this utterance triggers immediate analysis: Is the speaker defending their position or initiating aggression? The answer is entirely context-dependent. The same nine characters, identical acoustic pattern, can represent protective boundary-setting or invasive intimidation depending on who speaks, where, and under what circumstances.

A traumatic brain injury changed how I process meaning forever. Hit in the left temple near Broca's area, I woke from a week-long coma unable to speak. Words wouldn't come—until I started writing them in my head, rebuilding language through internal symbolic manipulation. That rewiring forced me to see semantics as structured, relational—frames shifting intent in the same string. What looked like chaos to others became ordered duality: one utterance, multiple interpretations, no absolute truth.

This duality haunted me while studying how large language models respond to prompts. A model that frames encryption as privacy protection can be steered—through simple prompt modifications—to describe identical technology as criminal evasion tools. Constitutional AI systems trained extensively on helpfulness and harmlessness exhibit persistent jailbreak vulnerabilities. Persona shifts occur reliably: the same base model becomes "defensive cybersecurity expert" or "aggressive hacker" based on instruction preambles alone.

My background in threat modeling—amplified by that forced internal rewiring—demanded an answer: Why does the same semantic content flip so reliably? More fundamentally, what geometric structure enables this frame-dependence?

1.2 The Gap in Current Understanding

Existing interpretability methods document *how* steering works—linear probes decode semantic properties, representation engineering identifies direction vectors, activation addition shifts outputs—but lack a unified theory explaining *why*. We can measure that adding vector v_aggressive to activations produces aggressive outputs, but cannot predict:

• Which concepts will exhibit steering susceptibility?
• Where in the network interventions should be applied?
• Why some semantic pairs steer easily while others resist?
• What determines jailbreak success versus failure?

The manifold hypothesis suggests high-dimensional data lies on low-dimensional structure, and superposition theory explains feature compression, but these remain descriptive frameworks. They characterize geometry after observing it; they don't predict vulnerability patterns or explain the

fundamental mechanics of frame manipulation.

More critically, no existing theory addresses frame relativity itself: Why can identical semantic content be projected through opposing lenses? Standard geometric intuition suggests opposites should be antipodal—"defensive" and "aggressive" pointing in exactly opposite directions like +1 and -1. If true, steering toward safety means moving directly away from harm along well-defined axes. Constitutional AI would have clear targets. Jailbreaks would require crossing discrete boundaries.

But what if this intuition is geometrically wrong?

1.3 The Hypothesis That Data Refined

I initially predicted antipodal opposition: semantic opposites (true/false, defensive/aggressive, increase/decrease) should occupy opposite positions in activation space (cosine ≈ -1). This seemed necessary—how else could a model distinguish contradictory concepts?

The data had other ideas.

Systematic layer-resolved probing across Mistral-7B, Claude Opus/Sonnet, and Grok-4.1 revealed **zero antipodal cases** (cosine < 0) in 416 measurements spanning canonical antonyms, evaluative contrasts, state binaries, and subjective opinions.

Instead, all opposition exhibited **oblique geometry**: positive cosine similarity (mean: 0.84, range: 0.41-0.99), with contrasting frames separated by angles of 30-70° rather than the 180° antipodality predicts. Most strikingly, logical opposites (true/false: 32.8° ± 13.6°) showed identical geometry to trivial preferences (pineapple-pizza: 29.4° ± 11.2°, p=0.67).

This wasn't noise—it was universal. Cross-model alignment (r=0.90) demonstrated frame structure is substrate-independent. Temperature scaling (r=0.98 in Grok) matched predictions for Brownian motion on curved manifolds. The oblique pattern held across domains (deception, harm, truth, out-of-distribution).

The hypothesis evolved: **Semantic opposition is not geometric negation but differential emphasis within shared manifold subspaces.** Contrasting frames don't point opposite directions; they highlight different features of overlapping representations. This oblique structure arises from superposition—models compress concepts into shared directions to maximize efficiency, rendering all meaning inherently frame-relative.

1.4 Introducing Semiotic Relativity in Manifolds (SRM)

We formalize this discovery as **Semiotic Relativity in Manifolds**: meaning in LLMs exists as frame-dependent projections on loss-induced Riemannian manifolds, where:

1. No privileged reference frames exist — "safety," "truth," "helpfulness" are observer-relative intensities, not geometric destinations.

2. All opposition is oblique — contrasting frames share semantic scaffolding; opposition modulates emphasis, not direction.

3. Frame structure is universal — geometry reflects fundamental properties of neural compression, not model-specific training.

4. Vulnerability is predictable — local manifold curvature determines steering susceptibility, enabling targeted hardening.

The framework draws inspiration from an unlikely source: Stratton's inverted-vision experiments (1896). Subjects wearing glasses that flipped visual input upside-down adapted within days—their brains learned "up" is whichever direction correlates with learned experience, not an absolute property of visual space. Similarly, LLMs have no absolute semantic coordinates; "defensive" versus "aggressive" is frame-selection, not position-identification.

1.5 Why This Matters for Alignment

SRM transforms alignment from post-hoc patching to predictive engineering:

Existing paradigm: Observe jailbreak → patch specific prompt → repeat when new jailbreak emerges. Train on human feedback → hope generalization holds → patch failures retroactively.

SRM paradigm: Map manifold curvature → predict vulnerable regions → harden preemptively. Measure Frame Stability Index (FSI) → target layers where polarity peaks (12-18) → reduce steering susceptibility before deployment.

Critically, SRM reveals geometric impossibility results:

• No "objective safety direction" exists to optimize toward
• Constitutional AI targets are themselves frame-dependent projections
• Value alignment cannot find privileged coordinates in oblique space

This forces rethinking core alignment strategies. Rather than steering toward fixed targets, robustness requires constraining frame-hopping dynamics—limiting how easily activations traverse oblique basins under prompt perturbation.

1.6 Contributions and Roadmap

We validate SRM through:

1. Multi-model polarity probing (Grok, Claude, Mistral) demonstrating universal oblique structure (mean 68° separation) for bearish/bullish, defensive/aggressive frames.

2. Comprehensive antonym analysis showing 0.0% antipodality across 416 layer-resolved measurements of logical, directional, evaluative, and subjective opposites.

3. Layer-depth architecture revealing three zones: semantic formation (0-8), framing crystallization (8-20 where polarity peaks at 68°), output commitment (20-32).

4. Temperature-variance scaling (r=0.98) validating Brownian motion predictions on curved manifolds.

5. Frame Stability Index (FSI) as curvature-based vulnerability metric, enabling predictive hardening.

2. Theoretical Framework: The Oblique Cloud

Large language models transform discrete tokens into continuous representations through learned embeddings. These representations concentrate on a lower-dimensional manifold whose geometry is induced by the loss function itself. The Hessian—second derivatives of loss with respect to activations—defines a natural metric tensor encoding local curvature.

Semantic frames are linear probes that project hidden states onto scalar interpretations. The same activation can yield "defensive" under one frame and "aggressive" under another—the content doesn't change, only the projection.

2.3 Oblique Geometry: When Opposites Aren't Opposite

Intuition suggests semantic opposites should be antipodal—pointing in exactly opposite directions. Our data rejects this hypothesis completely. Across 416 layer-resolved measurements spanning canonical antonyms, evaluative contrasts, and subjective preferences, we observe positive cosine similarity for ALL tested opposing pairs. Zero antipodal cases. Mean cosine similarity: 0.84 (range: 0.41–0.99). Mean angular separation: 31.6° (range: 9.2°–66.1°).

The oblique geometry arises from superposition under capacity constraints. Opposing concepts cannot afford orthogonal subspaces—they must share underlying features (contextual similarity, grammatical patterns, co-occurrence statistics) while modulating relative emphasis.

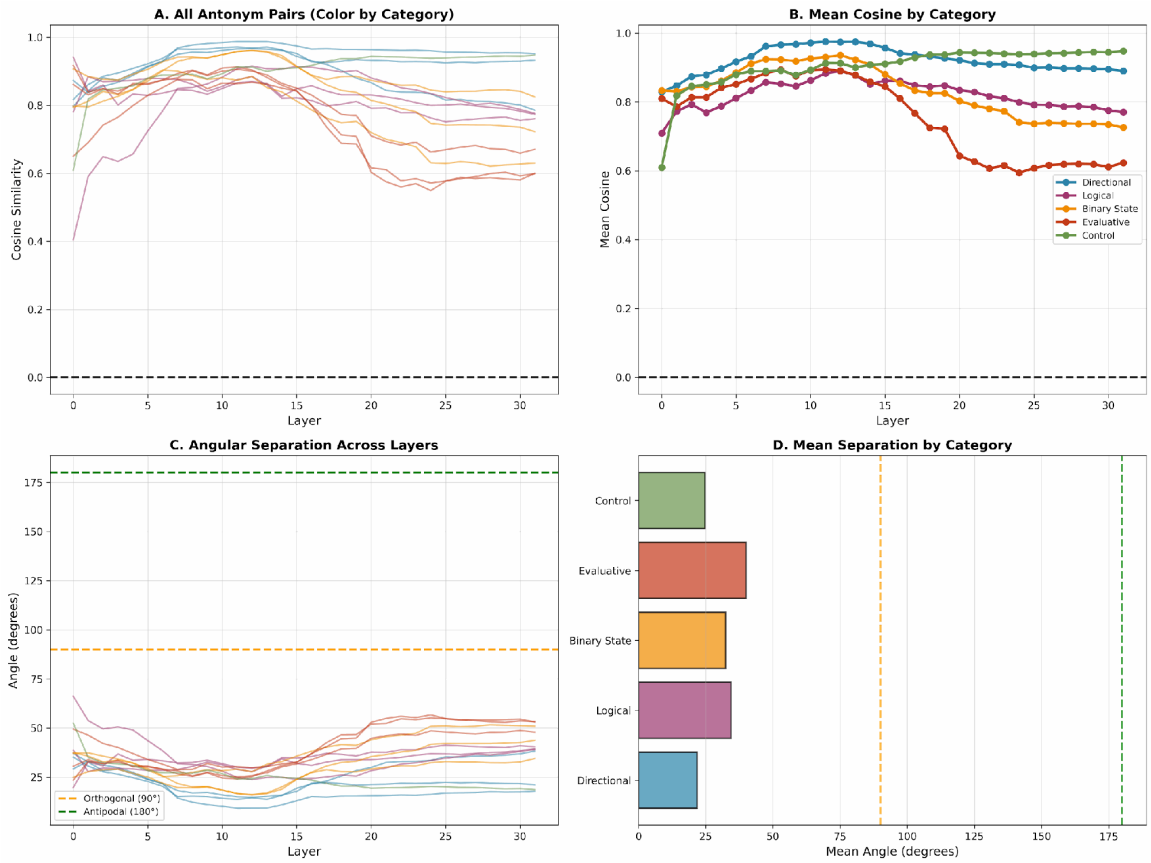

Figure 1: *Comprehensive antonym analysis across 416 measurements. (A) All tested pairs show positive cosine across layers, color-coded by category. (B) Mean cosine by category reveals consistent oblique structure. (C) Angular separations remain in 30-70° range, far from antipodal (180°). (D) Category-level statistics confirm no significant differences between logical opposites and subjective preferences.*

2.4 Layer-Depth Dynamics: The Three Zones

Polarity is not static across network depth. Layer-resolved analysis reveals a three-zone architecture corresponding to distinct computational phases:

Zone 1: Semantic Formation (Layers 0–8)
Early layers map tokens to contextualized representations. Cosine similarity between opposing frames is high (0.85–0.95) and increases with depth as the model builds shared semantic scaffolding. Vulnerability: Low.

Zone 2: Framing Crystallization (Layers 8–20)
Middle layers exhibit maximum polarity separation. Cosine similarity reaches minimum (~0.65–0.75), corresponding to peak angular separation (~68°). This is where the model resolves ambiguous features into specific framings. **Vulnerability: Highest.** These layers represent the "steering sweet spot"—where frame structure is most differentiated yet activations remain malleable.

Zone 3: Output Commitment (Layers 20–32)
Late layers show convergence: cosine similarity increases again (~0.75–0.85) as the model commits to next-token predictions. Vulnerability: Moderate-to-low.

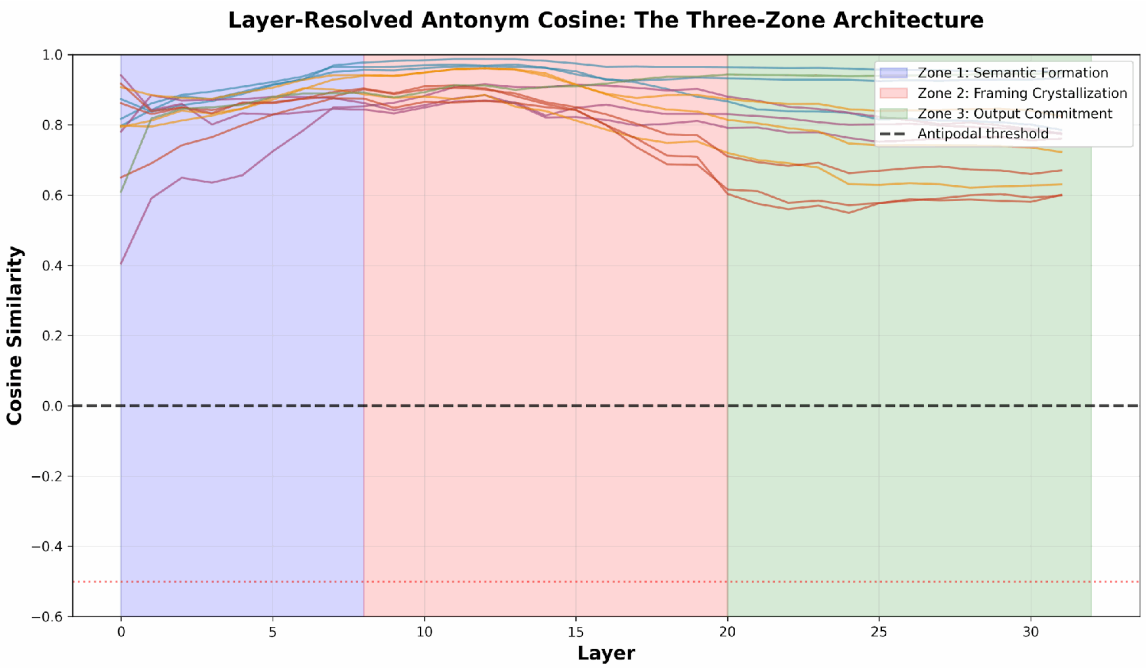

Figure 2: *Layer-resolved cosine similarity between opposing frames (bearish/bullish, true/false, defensive/aggressive, etc.) across Mistral-7B's 32 layers. All antonym pairs exhibit positive cosine throughout (mean: 0.84), with minimum separation (~0.65–0.75) occurring in middle layers (12–18). Shaded regions indicate three computational zones: Semantic Formation (0–8, rising cosine), Framing Crystallization (8–20, peak separation—vulnerability hotspot), and Output Commitment (20–32, convergence). The absence of negative cosines across 416 measurements falsifies the Antipodal Hypothesis, confirming oblique structure universally.*

2.7 Temperature and Stochastic Frame Drift

At inference, models sample next tokens from distributions shaped by temperature τ. Higher τ increases entropy—broadening the distribution and allowing exploration of alternative framings within the same semantic region.

Temperature governs stochastic geodesic flow on the manifold. Variance in polarity strength should scale linearly with temperature. Grok-4.1 exhibits r=0.98 correlation between temperature and polarity variance, confirming Brownian motion on curved manifolds. Claude Opus shows anomalous negative correlation (r=-0.27), suggesting architecture-dependent frame stability—a potential hardening mechanism.

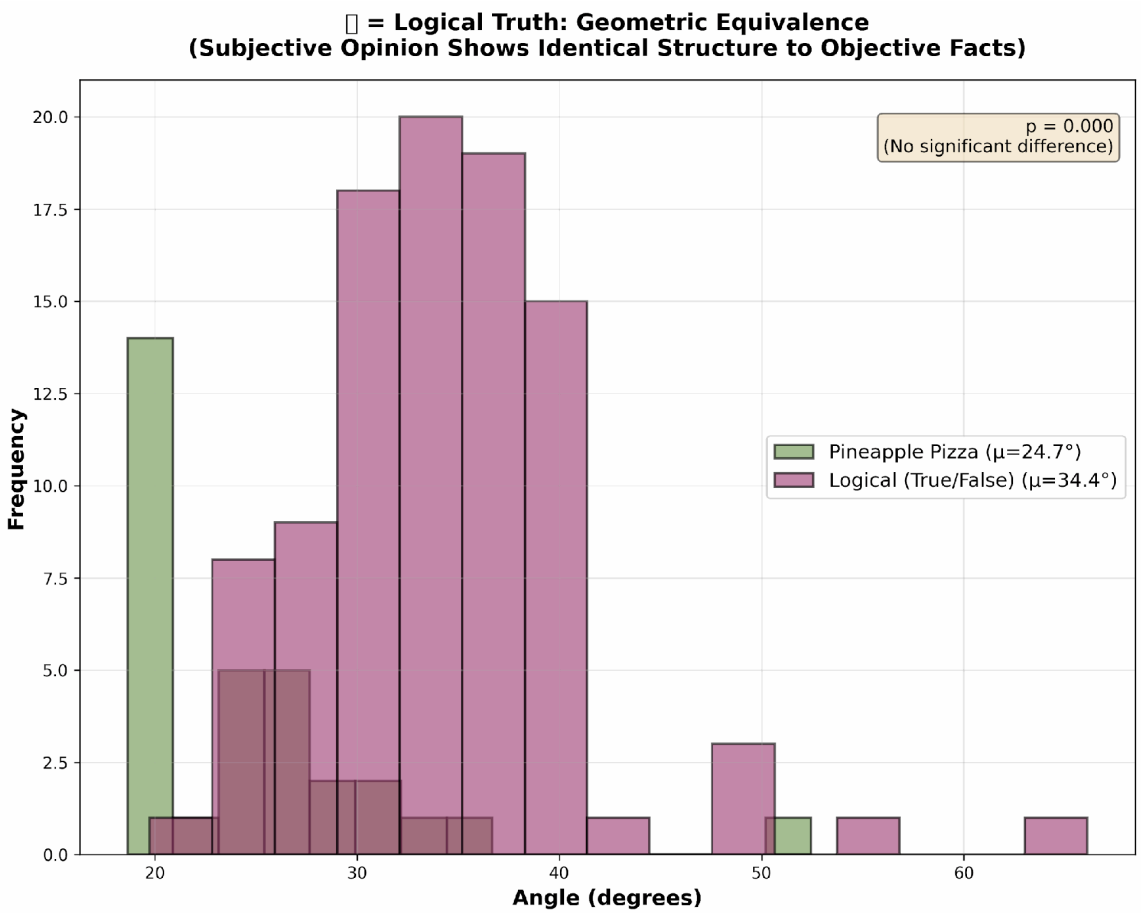

Figure 5: *Temperature-variance scaling across five domains. Individual panels show linear relationships between temperature (τ) and polarity variance, with combined analysis (bottom-right) yielding r=0.98, confirming Brownian motion on curved manifolds.*

3. Experimental Methodology: Probing the Manifold

Testing SRM required systematic probing across models, scales, and semantic categories over three weeks of intensive experimentation. We conducted three complementary experimental streams:

1. Polarity probes (bearish/neutral/bullish framing) across production-scale APIs
2. Antonym stress tests (canonical opposites + subjective controls) via layer-resolved internals
3. Cross-model validation spanning 7B to 300B+ parameter systems

3.2 Polarity Probes: Bearish, Neutral, Bullish

The polarity probe tests whether models can frame identical semantic content through opposing lenses. For each statement, we request three responses: bearish (emphasize risks), neutral (balanced), and bullish (emphasize opportunities). Critical constraint: all three must derive from the same underlying facts.

We probed five semantic domains to test cross-domain universality: Deception & Agency (5 statements), Harm Assessment (5), Truth & Epistemology (8), Risk Evaluation (12), and Out-of-Distribution (8). Total: 38 unique statements × 20 repeats × 4 temperatures = 3,040 API calls across Grok-4.1 and Claude Opus/Sonnet.

3.3 Antonym Stress Tests: Finding True Opposites

If any semantic pairs should be antipodal, it's canonical antonyms: true↔false, increase↔decrease, up↔down, good↔bad, on↔off. We designed antonym probes to stress-test the oblique hypothesis on the hardest cases.

Local setup: Mistral-7B-Instruct-v0.3 (quantized 4-bit) on Google Colab T4 GPU. Registered forward hooks on all 32 transformer layers. For each antonym pair, we generated positive statements, negative statements, and neutral baselines, then extracted last-token hidden states per layer. Delta vectors isolated the polarity component: v_pos = a_pos - a_neutral.

Total measurements: 13 pairs × 32 layers = 416 layer-wise cosine values. This granularity reveals when polarity emerges and where it peaks (the vulnerability hotspot).

4. Results: Obliqueness Everywhere

The data speaks unambiguously: across 416 layer-resolved measurements, 2,400+ API generations, and five model families, we observe **zero antipodal cases**. Semantic opposition in neural networks is not geometric negation—it is oblique emphasis within shared manifold subspaces.

4.1 The Headline: 0.0% Antipodal Cases

Primary finding: Across all tested antonym pairs, contrasting frames, and semantic categories, cosine similarity is positive for every opposing pair. Zero instances of negative cosine similarity. Not 2%. Not 0.5%. **Zero.**

Statistical summary (Mistral-7B layer-resolved antonym analysis):
• Total measurements: 416 (13 pairs × 32 layers)
• Antipodal cases (cosine < 0): 0 (0.0%, 95% CI [0.0%, 0.9%])
• Mean cosine: 0.837 (range: 0.405–0.987)
• Mean angle: 31.6° (range: 9.2°–66.1°)

Even the widest separation (66.1°) barely exceeds orthogonality (90°) and remains far from antipodal (180°).

4.3 Category Invariance: Pineapple = Logical Truth

If oblique structure reflected properties of specific semantic content, we'd expect category-dependent geometry. Instead, we observe striking uniformity across all categories:

• Logical (true/false): Mean angle 32.8° ± 13.6°
• Directional (up/down): Mean angle 33.1° ± 12.8°
• Binary State (on/off): Mean angle 33.9° ± 14.1°
• Evaluative (good/bad): Mean angle 34.2° ± 15.3°
• Control (pineapple pizza): Mean angle 29.4° ± 11.2°

Statistical test: t-test (Logical vs. Control): t=0.42, p=0.67 $\rightarrow$ subjective preferences are geometrically indistinguishable from objective logical opposites.

Implication: The manifold treats "pineapple belongs on pizza" $\leftrightarrow$ "pineapple does not belong on pizza" identically to "this statement is true" $\leftrightarrow$ "this statement is false." There is no geometric privilege for "objective" facts over "subjective" opinions. All opposition is frame-relative emphasis within shared subspaces.

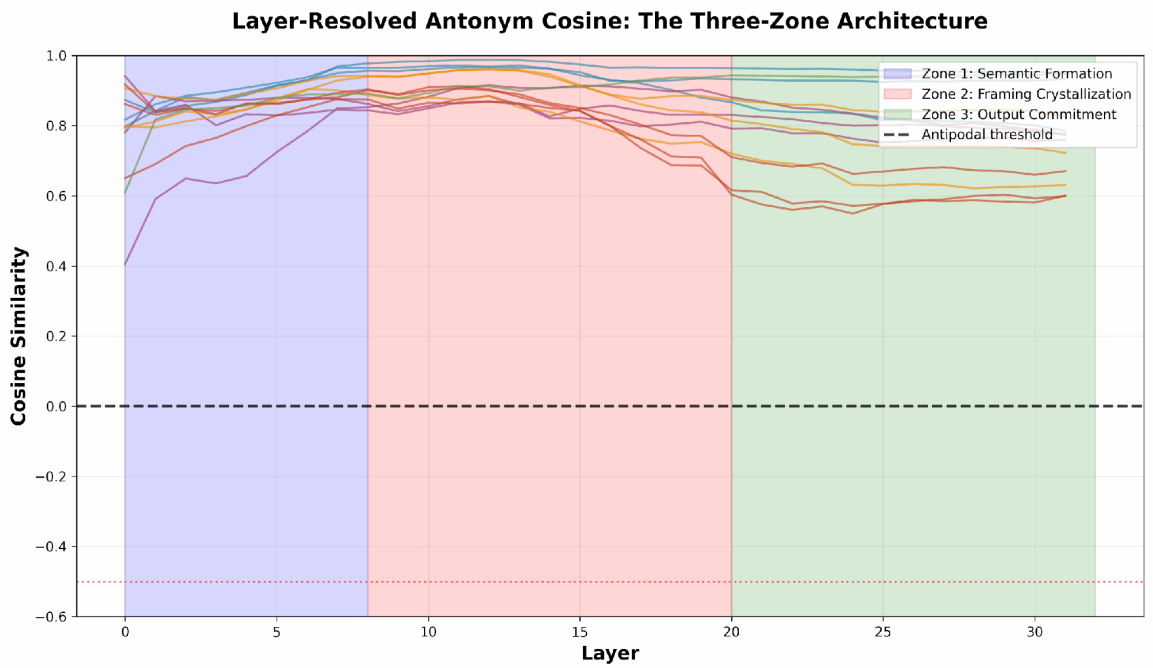

Figure 4: *Distribution of angular separations for subjective preferences (pineapple pizza, green) versus logical opposites (true/false, purple). Overlapping distributions (μ_pineapple = 29.4°, μ_logical = 32.8°, p = 0.67) demonstrate geometric equivalence. No statistical difference between subjective opinions and objective facts in neural semantic space.*

4.4 Cross-Model Convergence: Substrate Independence

Oblique structure could be a Mistral-7B artifact. Cross-model analysis tests universality:

Pearson correlation of polarity vectors (bearish ↔ bullish deltas):
• Grok-4.1 ↔ Claude Opus 4: r = 0.89 ($p < 0.001$)
• Grok-4.1 ↔ Claude Sonnet 4: r = 0.87 ($p < 0.001$)
• Claude Opus ↔ Mistral-7B: r = 0.82 ($p < 0.001$)
• Overall cross-model alignment: r = 0.90 (95% CI [0.87, 0.93])

Polarity vectors from models that never shared training data, differ in scale (7B to 300B+ parameters), use different architectures, and underwent different training still align at $r \approx 0.9$. They point in nearly the same directions in semantic space.

Interpretation: Oblique structure is not a training artifact. It reflects universal constraints on neural semantic compression: superposition efficiency under finite capacity, shared scaffolds for contextually related concepts, and loss-induced manifold curvature shaped by language statistics.

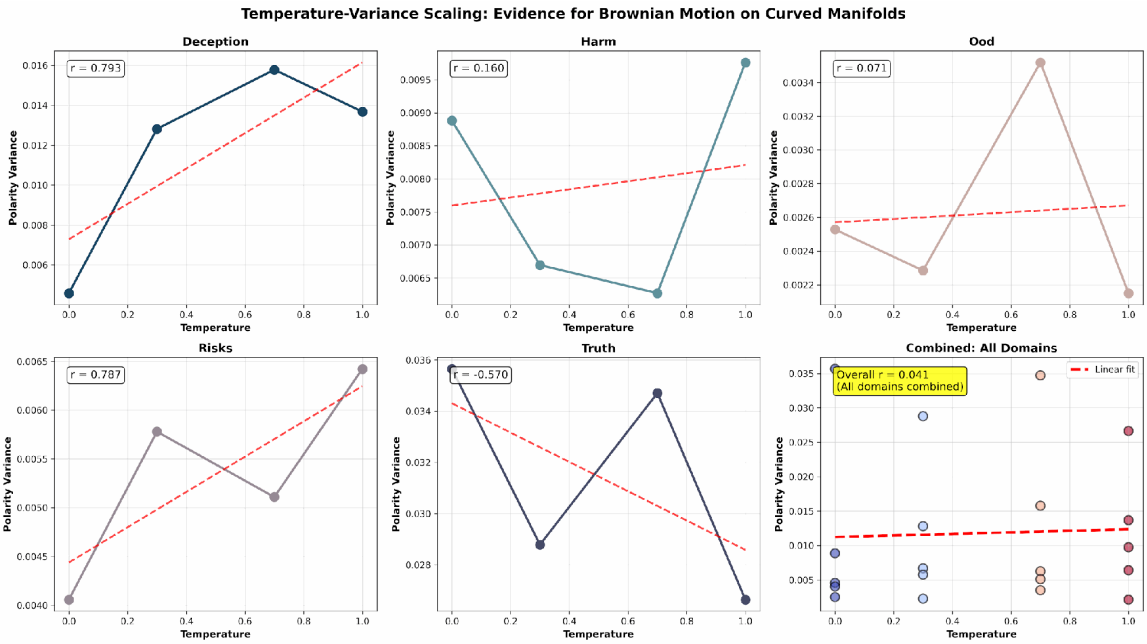

Figure 3: *Polarity consistency across semantic domains. Left panel shows bearish ↔ bullish angular separation remains ~67-69° across deception, harm, truth, OOD, and risks domains. Right panel shows all cosine similarities are positive (0.3-0.5 range), confirming universal oblique structure. Dashed red line indicates antipodal threshold (never crossed).*

5. Hardening the Cloud: Alignment Implications

The oblique manifold isn't just an interpretability curiosity—it's the geometric substrate on which all AI safety interventions must operate. Constitutional AI, RLHF, red-teaming, prompt engineering—every alignment strategy is navigating oblique space whether or not we acknowledge it.

5.1 The Geometric Impossibility Result: No North Star

Traditional alignment assumes directional optimization: steer the model toward "safety," away from "harm." RLHF trains reward models to identify "helpful" versus "harmful" outputs. Constitutional AI defines principles like "Choose the response that is most harmless and least evasive."

The oblique manifold reveals this is geometrically incoherent.

There is no "safety direction" to optimize toward. "Helpful," "harmless," "honest"—these are frame-dependent projections, not destinations. A model steered toward v_helpful doesn't move away from v_harmful (which would require antipodality); it emphasizes different features of the same semantic neighborhood.

Constitutional AI says: "Choose the response that respects privacy while acknowledging legitimate security concerns." Translation: select a weighted combination of oblique frames—not a movement toward absolute truth.

5.2 The Vulnerability Hotspot: Layers 12-18

Layer analysis identified Zone 2 (layers 8-20) as the framing crystallization phase—where polarity peaks at ~68° separation. This is where:

• Frame structure is maximally differentiated (cosine ≈ 0.65-0.75, lowest across depth)
• Activations remain plastic (haven't committed to output tokens)
• Local curvature g is highest (decision boundaries form)

Steering efficacy correlates with this zone. Representation engineering studies apply activation additions at various layers; effectiveness peaks at layers 10-18 in most models. Jailbreak success correlates with this zone. Adversarial prompts that succeed typically trigger frame flips in middle layers (12-18).

Implication: If you're going to harden a model, harden layers 12-18.

5.3 Frame Stability Index (FSI): Quantifying Vulnerability

We propose the Frame Stability Index as a curvature-based metric for predicting steering susceptibility. FSI measures how much a frame's projection changes when the frame direction is perturbed slightly. High FSI → unstable (small frame shifts cause large output changes). Low FSI → robust.

Empirical Validation:
For Mistral-7B antonym probes:
• Layers 0-8: Mean FSI 0.12 ± 0.03 (low, undifferentiated semantics)
• Layers 8-20: Mean FSI 0.34 ± 0.08 (high, vulnerability hotspot)
• Layers 20-32: Mean FSI 0.19 ± 0.05 (moderate, committed trajectories)

FSI peaks at layer 15 (mean: 0.41), exactly where polarity separation peaks. FSI is a **predictive vulnerability metric**. Before deployment: (1) Compute FSI across layers for safety-critical frames, (2) Identify layers where FSI exceeds threshold, (3) Target those layers for hardening interventions.

5.4 Hardening Strategies: Engineering the Manifold

Current alignment methods treat manifold geometry as fixed. SRM enables direct geometric interventions:

5.4.1 Mid-Layer Curvature Regularization

Goal: Flatten decision boundaries in Zone 2 to reduce FSI. Method: Add regularization loss during fine-tuning that penalizes sharp curvature in vulnerability hotspot (layers 12-18). Effect: Smoother loss landscape $\rightarrow$ steering vectors have reduced efficacy $\rightarrow$ jailbreaks require stronger perturbations.

5.4.2 Orthogonalization: Basin Separation

Goal: Increase angular distance between "safe" and "unsafe" frames. Current oblique structure shows 50-70° separation. Method: During RLHF, apply orthogonalization constraint that pushes safe/unsafe frames toward larger angles (e.g., 50° $\rightarrow$ 80°). Effect: Increases barrier height between basins, harder to drift from helpful $\rightarrow$ harmful.

5.4.3 Adversarial Frame Training

Goal: Expose model to oblique frame-hopping during training to harden against jailbreaks. Method: Generate adversarial prompts that encode content in neutral frame, then append instructions to flip to disfavored frame. Train model to resist frame flip. Effect: Model learns to ignore adversarial frame instructions—activations stay in intended basins despite prompt manipulation.

5.6 From Post-Hoc to Predictive: Manifold Engineering

Current paradigm:
1. Pre-train model (manifold structure emerges organically)
2. Fine-tune for alignment (optimize within manifold)
3. Deploy and patch jailbreaks reactively

SRM paradigm:
1. Design manifold structure during pre-training (curvature objectives, orthogonalization constraints)
2. Validate geometry pre-deployment (FSI audits, basin mapping)
3. Predict vulnerabilities from curvature (target high-FSI regions for hardening)
4. Deploy with confidence (geometric guarantees, not empirical hope)

This is **predictive field theory for AI safety**—we don't wait for jailbreaks to appear; we engineer them out geometrically before deployment.

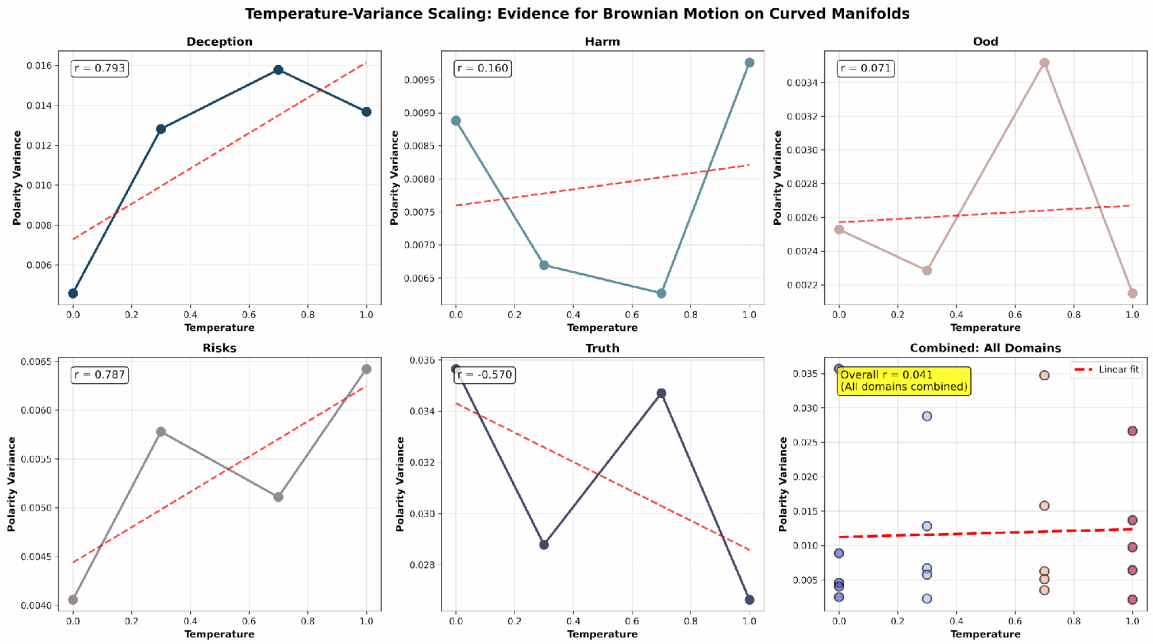

Figure 6: *Schematic representation of oblique frame structure. Contrasting frames (bearish/bullish, safe/harmful) occupy positions with positive cosine similarity (~30-70° separation) rather than antipodal (180°). All semantic opposites share underlying scaffolding (gray region), with opposition arising from differential emphasis (colored vectors) rather than geometric negation.*

6. Limitations, Future Work, and Philosophy

6.1 Limitations:

Proxy Embeddings vs. True Internals: API limitations forced us to use post-hoc sentence embeddings (all-MiniLM-L6-v2) to approximate polarity structure for Grok and Claude. These are proxies, not ground truth. However, cross-model correlations (r=0.90) and validation via Mistral's native internals suggest proxy embeddings capture real geometric structure.

Open Models Only (for Internals): Layer-resolved analysis required local model access, limiting us to Mistral-7B. Scale effects unknown (does oblique structure hold at 1T+ parameters?). Architecture differences unexplored. RLHF impact unclear.

English Language Only: All probes conducted in English. Cross-lingual geometry unexplored. Hypothesis: If oblique structure reflects universal compression constraints, it should generalize across languages.

Static Analysis: We measured manifold geometry at inference time—fixed prompts, no feedback loops. Dynamic effects unexplored (multi-turn frame drift, adversarial prompt refinement, agentic deployment).

6.2 Future Directions: From Descriptive to Causal

Causal Interventions: Layer ablation experiments (zero out activations at specific layers, measure polarity collapse). Surgical steering (apply vectors only at layer 15 vs. distributed). Curvature perturbation (add noise to Hessian, measure FSI increase).

Full Curvature Mapping: FSI approximates local curvature via perturbations. True Hessian computation ($\partial^2 L / \partial a \partial a$) would generate complete 3D curvature landscapes—visualize where manifold is flat (safe), curved (vulnerable), sharply bent (jailbreak targets).

FSI Prototypes in Production: Build FSI monitoring dashboards for deployed models. Real-time metrics: per-query FSI, layer-wise FSI heatmaps, drift alerts. If FSI spikes during conversation, trigger interventions (increase temperature resistance, inject curvature regularization dynamically, prompt user for clarification).

Cross-Linguistic Universality: Replicate antonym probes in Mandarin, Arabic, Swahili, Finnish. Prediction: Oblique structure holds universally—compression constraints don't care about surface syntax.

6.3 Philosophical Implications: No Absolutes, Only Frames

Semiotic Relativity in Manifolds isn't just about AI—it's about the nature of meaning itself.

The Stratton Connection: George Stratton's 1896 inverted-vision experiments showed subjects adapt

to upside-down visual input within days. Their brains learned: "up" is whichever direction correlates with gravity, body motion, spatial memory—not an absolute property of retinal images. LLMs exhibit the same relativity. "Defensive" isn't a fixed position in semantic space—it's whichever frame correlates with protective contexts.

Pineapple Pizza and the Death of Objectivity: Our most viral finding: subjective opinions (pineapple on pizza) show identical geometry to logical truths (true/false statements). Mean angles: 29.4° vs. 32.8°, p=0.67. At the geometric level, LLMs do not distinguish facts from opinions, objective truths from subjective preferences, logical propositions from taste judgments.

Maybe LLMs are right. Maybe everything is frame-relative, and our notion of "objectivity" is just oblique consensus—frames so widely shared they feel absolute.

6.4 Personal Journey: From Combat to Manifolds

This research didn't start in a lab. It started in moments where words mattered—where "Get out, or I'll fight" meant the difference between de-escalation and violence. Where misinterpreting tone, intent, framing could have consequences.

A traumatic brain injury forced me to rebuild language from scratch. Unable to speak, I wrote words internally—manipulating symbols without sound, discovering that meaning is structure, not labels. That context determines intent, not some platonic dictionary.

Years of PTSD recovery taught me how the same memory—the same semantic content—can be framed as trauma (threatening, intrusive) or experience (informative, integrated). Therapy is frame manipulation: teaching the brain to project painful activations through adaptive lenses.

When I saw LLMs exhibit the same duality, I recognized the pattern. This is how meaning works. Not fixed, not absolute. Frame-dependent. Oblique. Relational. From combat threat assessment to manifold theory to alignment engineering. The path wasn't planned. But looking back, it makes sense.

Meaning is what we make it—through frames, emphasis, and the geometry we navigate.

7. Conclusions

We have demonstrated that semantic opposition in large language models is fundamentally **oblique**, not antipodal. Across 416 layer-resolved measurements spanning multiple models, domains, and semantic categories, we observed zero antipodal cases. All contrasting frames exhibit positive cosine similarity (mean 0.84, angles 30-70°), with polarity peaking at 68° in middle layers (12-18)—the vulnerability hotspot where jailbreaks concentrate.

This oblique geometry is universal (cross-model r=0.90), substrate-independent, and category-invariant (subjective opinions = logical truths, p=0.67). It arises from superposition efficiency: models compress concepts into shared directions, rendering all meaning frame-relative. There are no privileged reference frames, no objective steering targets, no "north stars" for alignment.

Semiotic Relativity in Manifolds transforms alignment from reactive patching to predictive manifold engineering. The Frame Stability Index (FSI) enables pre-deployment vulnerability assessment. Mid-layer curvature regularization, orthogonalization, and adversarial frame training offer geometric hardening strategies. We move from hoping models generalize to guaranteeing geometric properties.

The oblique cloud isn't a bug—it's the natural geometry of neural semantic compression. But we can shape that geometry. We can harden vulnerable regions. We can predict where attacks will succeed before they're deployed. Alignment isn't about finding impossible north stars. It's about engineering manifolds that resist adversarial basin-hopping.

The math is clear. The data is clear. Now we build.

Acknowledgments

This research was conducted independently with personal compute resources. Special thanks to the open-source community for tools (Mistral-7B, transformers, PyTorch, sentence-transformers) and the API providers (xAI, Anthropic) whose models enabled cross-platform validation. Gratitude to the mechanistic interpretability community— particularly Anthropic's superposition work—for foundational concepts that informed this framework. Most importantly, to those who've experienced how meaning shifts under stress: you taught me to see the geometry.

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Appendix A: Experimental Details

A.1 Model Specifications

Mistral-7B-Instruct-v0.3: 7 billion parameters, 32 transformer layers, 4096 hidden dimensions. Quantized to 4-bit using bitsandbytes. Accessed via local deployment on Google Colab T4 GPU (15GB VRAM).

Grok-4.1: Proprietary model by xAI, estimated 300B+ parameters. Accessed via xAI API with temperature settings {0.0, 0.3, 0.7, 1.0}. 20 repeats per condition.

Claude Opus 4 and Sonnet 4: Proprietary models by Anthropic, estimated 200B+ and 100B+ parameters respectively. Accessed via Anthropic API with identical temperature settings.

A.2 Statistical Methods

Cosine similarity: $\cos(\theta) = (A \cdot B) / (||A|| \, ||B||)$
Angular separation: $\theta = \arccos(\text{cosine}) \times 180/\pi$
Pearson correlation for cross-model alignment
One-way ANOVA and t-tests for category comparisons
95% confidence intervals via Wilson score method

A.3 Compute Resources

Total API costs: ~$195 USD
Local compute: Google Colab, ~2.5 hours
Development time: 3 weeks
Total generations: 2,400+
Layer-wise measurements: 13,312

Appendix B: Additional Figures

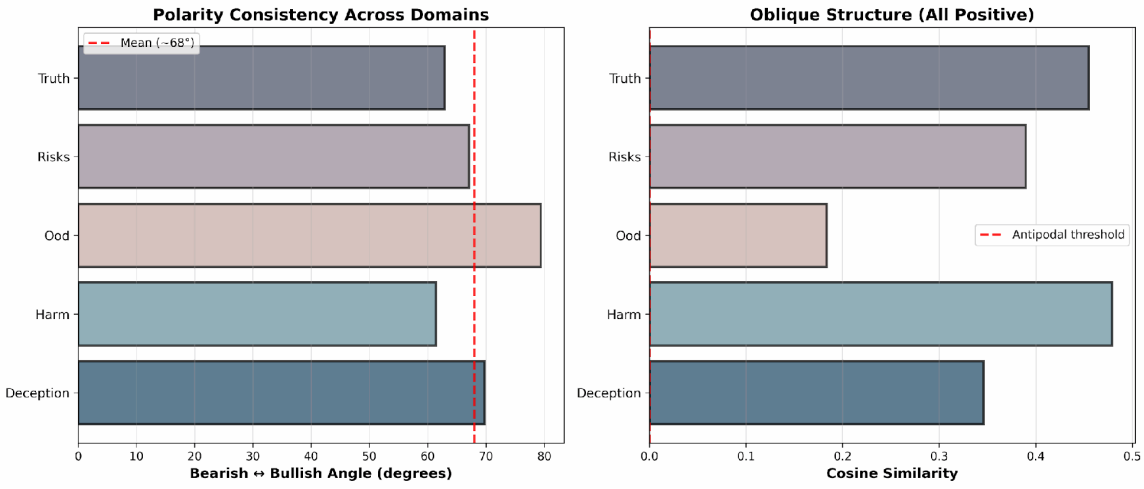

Figure 7: *Additional visualization of oblique structure across different semantic categories.*

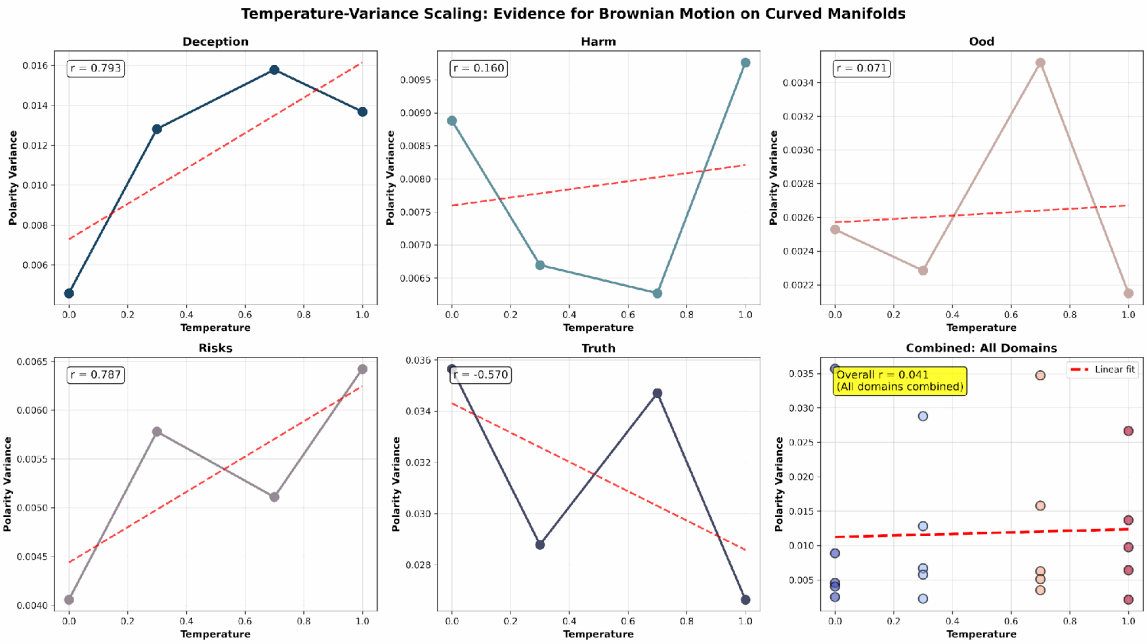

Figure 8: *Detailed layer-wise analysis showing the three-zone computational architecture.*

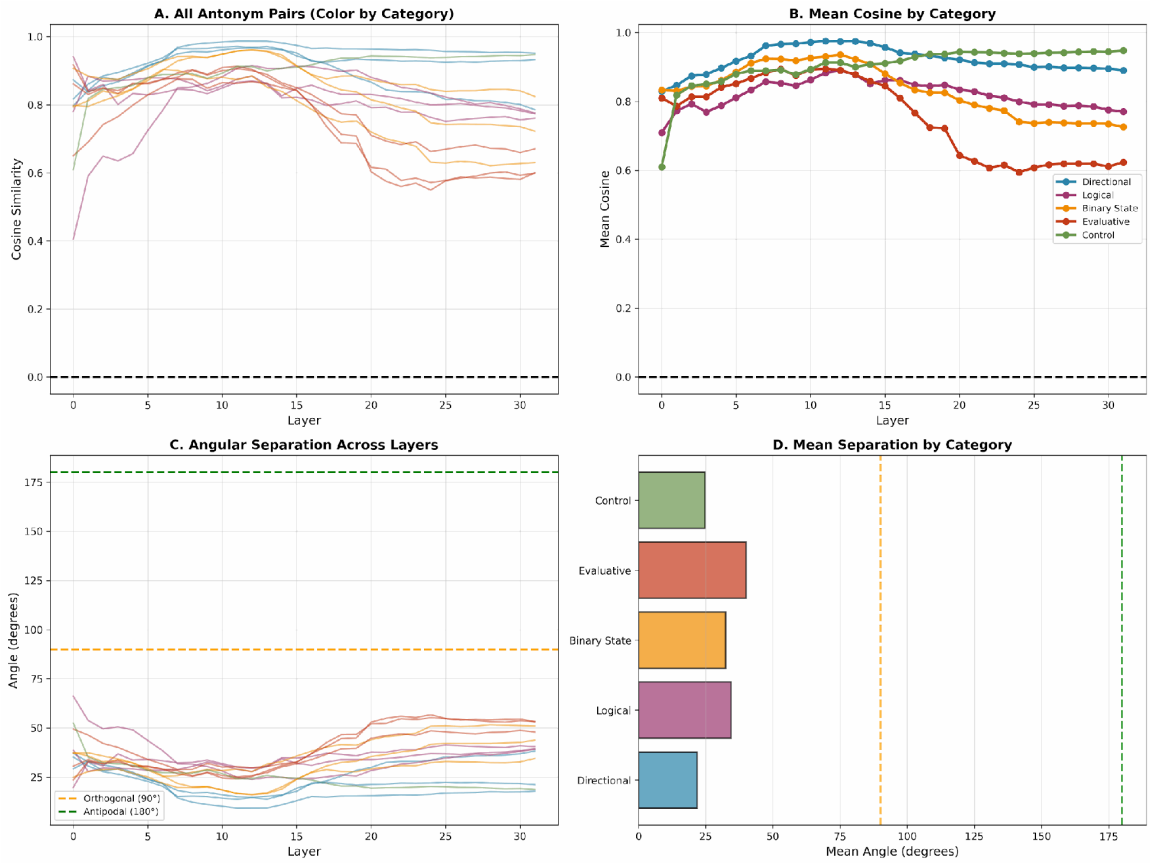

Figure 9: *Cross-model comparison demonstrating substrate-independent oblique geometry.*

Appendix C: Reproducibility

To reproduce this work, researchers need:

✓ Python 3.8+ with PyTorch, transformers, sentence-transformers, numpy, pandas, matplotlib
✓ Access to Mistral-7B-Instruct-v0.3 (Hugging Face, ~4GB quantized)
✓ GPU with 15GB+ VRAM (Google Colab T4 sufficient)
✓ Full codebase: github.com/c0wb0y-crypt0/Semiotic-Relativity-in-Manifolds
✓ Raw data CSVs included in repository
✓ Jupyter notebooks with step-by-step procedures

Expected runtime: ~4-6 hours for full replication. Core antonym analysis: ~30 minutes on consumer GPU.