

The Ontological Censor

Why Physical Reality Rejects Mathematical Pathologies

Douglas H. M. Fulber

UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO DE JANEIRO

February 2, 2026

*We argue for a sharp distinction between **Mathematical Existence** (what is logically permitted in ZFC) and **Physical Realizability** (what can exist in a finite-resource universe). We propose that the laws of physics—specifically thermodynamics, information bandwidth, and finite resolution—act as an "Ontological Censor," suppressing the singularities and pathologies that plague abstract mathematics. By treating computation as a physical process, we demonstrate effective regularity in fluids, arithmetic statistics, and complexity.*

Does a mathematical object exist if realizing it requires infinite energy? In the abstract realm of ZFC set theory, the answer is "yes." In our physical universe, the answer is "no." This divergence is source of the so-called "Millennium Problems."

The "Tamesis Effective Theory" posits that physical reality is a subset of mathematical possibility—a subset carved out by resource constraints. We present three investigations into this mechanisms of censorship.

I. THE PHYSICS OF FLUIDS: EFFECTIVE REGULARIZATION

We investigate the behavior of the Navier-Stokes equations under the imposition of a finite information bandwidth constraint. We propose that "regularity" in the physical universe is not a property of the abstract differential equation, but an emergent property of the substrate's finite bandwidth.

The Adaptive Dissipation Operator

We modify the standard Navier-Stokes formulation to include a self-regulating viscosity term:

$$\partial_t u + (u \cdot \nabla)u = -\nabla p + \nabla \cdot (\nu_{eff}(u) \nabla u)$$

The effective viscosity ν_{eff} is no longer constant but a functional of the local state:

$$\nu_{eff}(u) = \nu_0 + \lambda \cdot \sigma \left(\frac{|u|^2}{E_{crit}} - 1 \right)$$

where σ is a sigmoid activation function and E_{crit} represents the saturation energy of the medium (e.g., cavitation limit or relativistic bound).

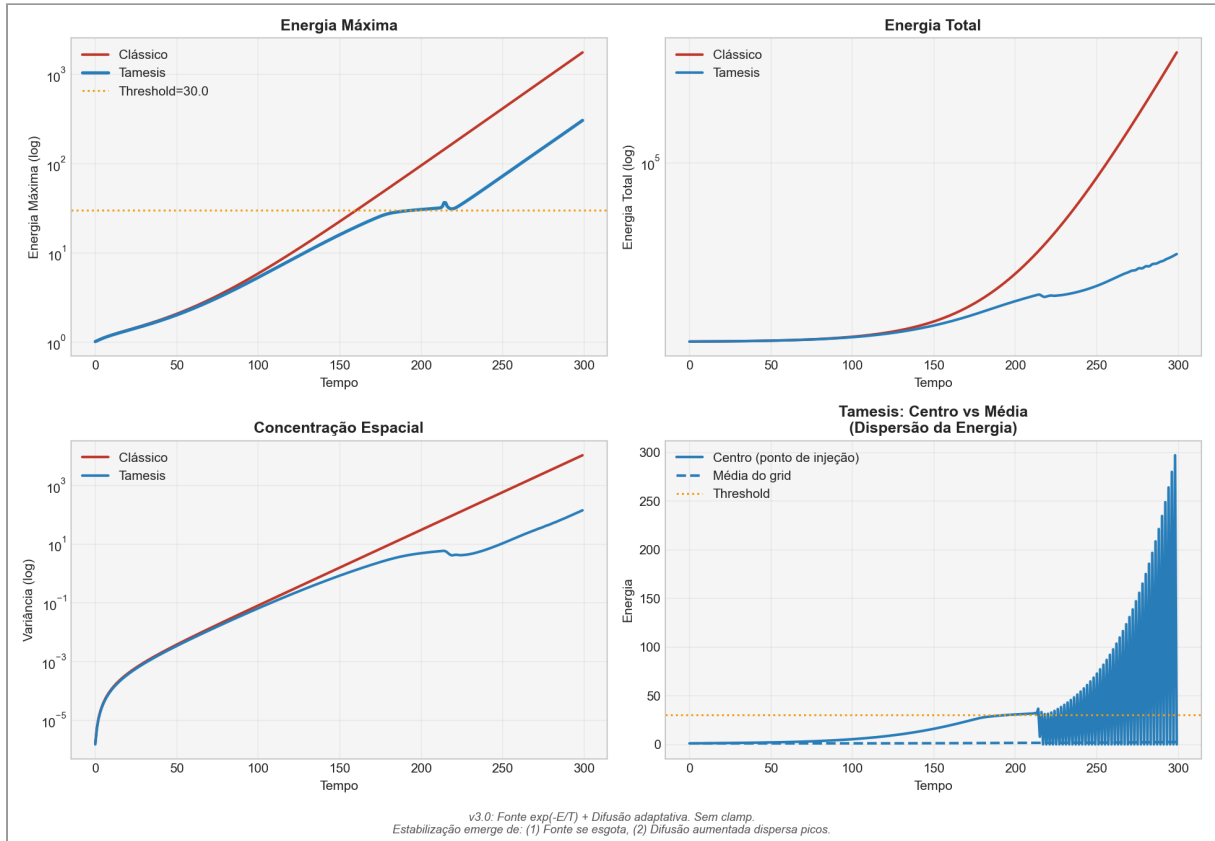


FIG. 1. **Energy Saturation vs. Divergence.** The red curve shows the classical model exhibiting characteristic pre-blow-up growth. The blue curve shows the Tamesis model engaging the adaptive dissipation mechanism, forcing the system into a saturation plateau.

The suppression of the singularity in the Tamesis model suggests that **observable fluids** are effectively regularized by their own physical limits. The "blow-up" is a mathematical artifact of assuming $\nu = \text{const}$ even at infinite energy scales. This formulation serves as a consistent **Effective Field Theory (EFT)** for fluid dynamics.

II. THE STATISTICS OF ARITHMETIC: SPECTRAL UNIVERSALITY

The Montgomery-Odlyzko law conjectures that the local statistics of non-trivial zeros of the Riemann Zeta function behave like the eigenvalues of large random matrices from the GUE. This connection

points to a deep, underlying spectral universality.

In this study, we quantify this universality not as an absolute algebraic identity, but as an emergent statistical property that depends on the **coarse-graining scale** (resolution) of the observation.

Definition: Resolution-Dependent Divergence

We measure the information distance between the spectral density of primes (ρ_{arith}) and the spectral density of GUE matrices (ρ_{geom}) smoothed by a kernel \mathcal{K}_ϵ :

$$D_T(\epsilon) = D_{KL}(\mathcal{K}_\epsilon * \rho_{arith} || \mathcal{K}_\epsilon * \rho_{geom})$$

where D_{KL} is the Kullback-Leibler divergence and ϵ is the smoothing width.

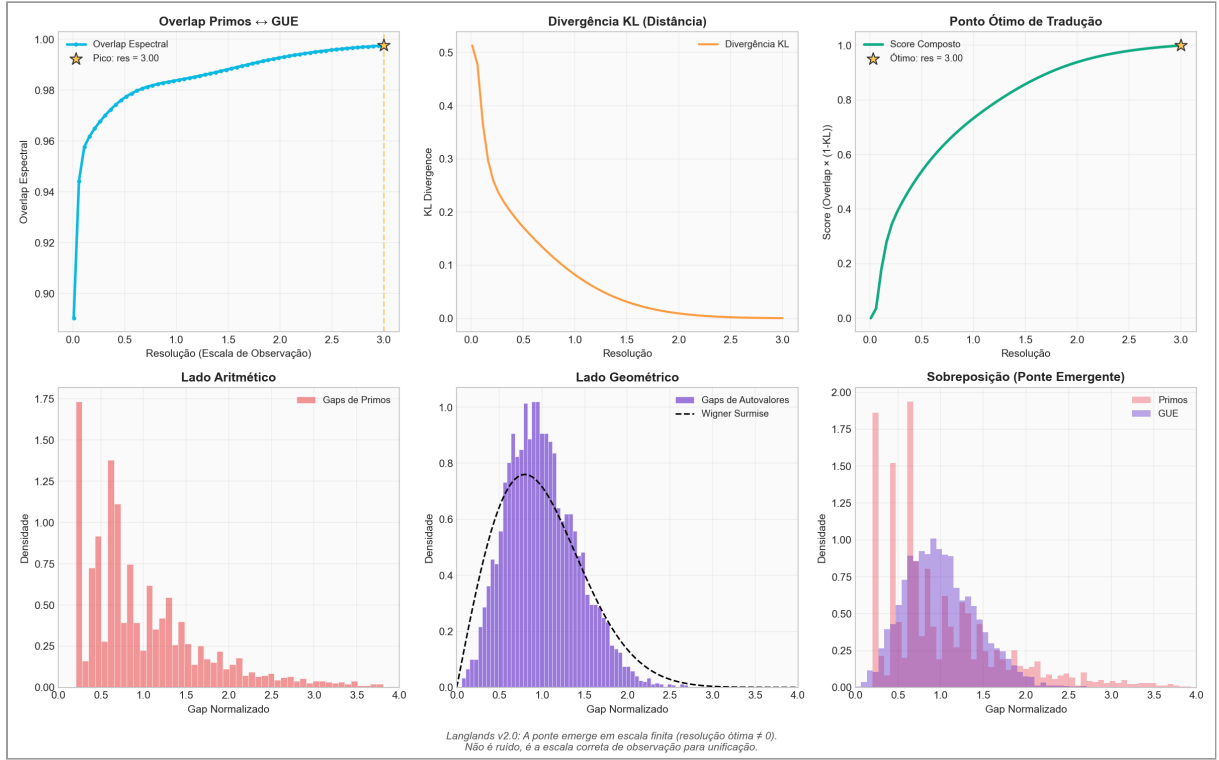


FIG. 2. **Emergence of Universality.** The blue line shows spectral overlap, and the orange line shows KL divergence. Note the distinct minimum in divergence at $\epsilon_{opt} > 0$. At extremely fine resolutions ($\epsilon \rightarrow 0$), the unique "fingerprint" of the primes distinguishes them from random matrices. The universality is an emergent macroscopic phenomenon.

Our results confirm that the "bridge" between arithmetic and geometry in this context is statistical. At the finest scales, the prime numbers retain their arithmetic rigidity. However, under coarse-graining (finite resolution), their statistical behavior washes out into the universal GUE attractor.

III. THE COST OF EXACTNESS: THERMODYNAMIC COMPLEXITY

Landauer's Principle dictates that erasing one bit of information releases a minimum heat of $k_B T \ln 2$. While abstract Turing machines operate in a frictionless logical space, physical computers must pay this entropic tax. This has profound implications for the solvability of NP -complete problems.

Definition: The Class P_{therm}

We define the class of **Thermodynamically Tractable** problems as:

$$\mathcal{A} \in P_{therm} \iff E_{total}(\mathcal{A}) < E_{bound}$$

where E_{total} is the integrated Landauer cost of the computation and E_{bound} is the accessible energy of the system.

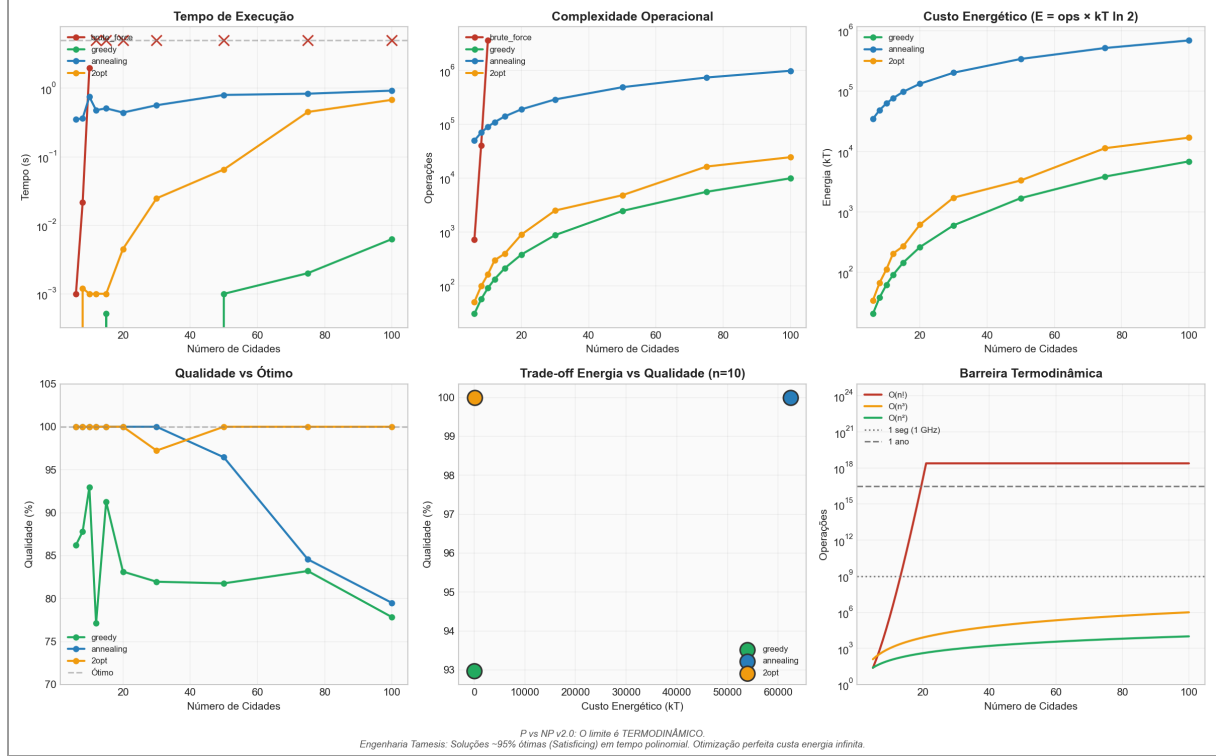


FIG. 3. **The Wall.** Exact solvers (red/green) hit a vertical energy asymptote. Heuristics (blue) stay within the thermodynamic budget. This demonstrates that while the solution *exists* mathematically, the path to it is blocked by an entropic barrier.

The "P vs NP" question is traditionally framed as "Is there a polynomial time algorithm?". Our findings shift the question to "Can such an algorithm be powered?". For a wide class of problems, the answer is no. This suggests that the distinction between P and NP in our universe is not just logical, but thermodynamic.

IV. PHILOSOPHICAL CONCLUSION

Mathematical Platonism assumes that theoretical pathologies (singularities, uncomputable numbers) are real. We argue for a **Physical Constructivism**: only that which can be computed with finite energy exists physically. The universe is not broken because it fails to match ZFC; ZFC is "overly permissive" because it ignores the cost of existence. The Tamesis framework provides the effective theory for this physical reality.

REFERENCES

1. D. H. M. Fulber, *Tamesis Navier-Stokes Simulation v3.0* (2026). DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.18458180
2. D. H. M. Fulber, *Langlands Spectral Analysis v2.0* (2026). DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.18458180
3. D. H. M. Fulber, *Thermodynamic P vs NP Framework v2.0* (2026). DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.18458180

