Holos: A Scientific Interpretive Framework for Explaining Reality

Introduction

We live in a universe described with extraordinary precision, yet filled with mystery. Physics tells us how matter moves, how spacetime bends, how probabilities evolve, but *what does it mean to be real?*

Holos is an interpretive framework for understanding the nature of reality. It does not propose new physical laws or challenge established laws of physics. Instead, it offers an explanation for how the universe described by physics becomes the universe we experience.

At its core, Holos expresses this idea as a simple relation: $R = C \circledast O$, where reality arises from the recursive composition of creation and observation.

What follows explores this idea, from the meaning of life and consciousness, to the nature of our universe, higher dimensions and beyond, proposing answers to some of the most fundamental questions we can ask.

The Meaning of Life

Life exists to create and observe, mutually intertwined and reciprocal actions required for the manifestation of reality.

According to the Participatory Anthropic Principle, the universe is a "self-excited circuit" that requires observers to bring its laws into existence. Biocentrism posits that biology is not a byproduct of the universe, but the force that organizes it.

Mathematical description alone does not constitute existence. Physics explains the structure of what happens, but consciousness provides the presence required for it to manifest as reality rather than abstract data. Reality requires a witness.[1]

This participation is not bound by linear time. In an eternalist universe, the emergence of consciousness validates the reality of the past just as much as the present. The early universe is not "unreal" before life; it is retrospectively realized by the observers it eventually produces.

Consciousness

Consciousness is fundamental in capacity, but emergent in complexity. Just as electromagnetism exists everywhere but only creates a meaningful signal when organized into a circuit, the capacity for experience is intrinsic to matter but scales into self-awareness only through the high-level integration found in life. This integration is quantified by the ontological (relating to existence or being) parameter Φ (Phi), which determines when a system becomes capable of registering reality (becoming aware of its own existence).

Humans exhibit consciousness by being self-aware and capable of profound observation and interaction with our environment. Consciousness is not a "ghost" smuggled into the machine of physics, but the means to convert the universe from a closed loop of silent mechanism into a realized event. The formal definition of this threshold is detailed in the Definition of Φ.[2]

Our Universe

Our universe originated from a singular point in the Big Bang, expanding towards infinity. We perceive three spatial dimensions while moving unidirectionally through the fourth dimension, time.

This is our spacetime block—a four-dimensional structure where all moments exist simultaneously.

What if the Big Bang is not a moment of absolute creation but a boundary within that structure? Are there other structures?[3]

Spacetime

The structure of spacetime is dictated by a single, counter-intuitive fact: the speed of light is invariant. Unlike any other speed, it remains constant regardless of how fast the observer is moving.

This invariance forces space and time to warp to accommodate the constant, shattering the notion of a universal 'Now' and necessitating that past, present, and future exist simultaneously as a unified four-dimensional structure.

Consider beings with an unlimited lifespan and near-instantaneous communication, perceiving time as an additional spatial dimension. These beings would not be limited by the one-way flow of time as we are.

Instead, they would perceive the curvature of spacetime comprehensively, seeing past, present, and future as a singular, cohesive structure observable in its entirety. By imagining such an entity, we can better understand what it might be like to exist in a higher dimension.

For a photon traveling at the speed of light, the spacetime interval is zero, a null interval. While a photon does not possess subjective experience in a biological sense, geometrically, its path effectively collapses the universe into a single point of contact where emission and absorption occur simultaneously. To a higher-dimensional observer, a photon is not a moving particle, but a static geometric structure—a null geodesic (the path light follows through spacetime)—that permanently connects two points in spacetime like a seam.

This structure suggests that time does not merely flow forward; it is a completed circuit. Experiments like the Quantum Eraser suggest that correlations are established across spacetime independent of linear duration. This reinforces the idea that the universe is a globally self-consistent block, where past and future are not sequential causes, but mutually defining parts of a singular geometric structure. Extended Wigner's Friend experiments provide testable predictions for relational quantum mechanics.[4]

A Note on Extrapolation

The following sections (Higher Dimensions, Black Holes, Aliens, Simulation Theory, God) move beyond established physics into interpretive synthesis. These concepts are not claims of empirical fact, but logical extrapolations constrained by the Holos axioms. They illustrate the "possibility space" that emerges when the principles of observation and relativity are applied to the unresolved paradoxes of the cosmos. For stress-testing of these axioms, see the Defense section. For testable predictions derived from these principles, see the Predictions section.

Higher Dimensions

Though we cannot directly observe higher dimensions, they serve as explanatory tools in physics. Whether treated as physical realities or mathematical necessities, these frameworks

offer the only consistent solutions to longstanding problems like the unification of gravity and quantum mechanics.

In these theories, the additional dimensions are compactified (curled up into tiny spaces) or hidden from our direct observation, yet their influence permeates our lower-dimensional reality. These higher dimensions shape the physical laws and constants that govern our universe, influencing everything from the behavior of subatomic particles to gravitational interactions and the structure of the cosmos.

Like a 3D object casting a 2D shadow, our physical laws may be projections of a higher-dimensional geometry. Forces we perceive could be the vibrations of a unified single point in the 5th or 6th dimension, perceived by us as separate fields.

As we control and transform the three dimensional environment around us, consciousness in higher dimensions could influence lower dimensions, forming an interconnected cosmic structure. The threshold for such consciousness is reached when systems achieve sufficient informational integration to register ontological states (become aware of their existence).

From our perspective, light is a mechanism of energy transfer. However, from a higher-dimensional perspective, a photon may function akin to an optic nerve. While the photon itself lacks biological subjectivity, it could act as a sensory interface for a higher-dimensional consciousness, transforming the mechanical interaction of the universe into a subjective experience of the whole.[5]

Infinity

Infinity represents the concept of dimensions extending endlessly. By employing higher-dimensional frameworks, an infinite sequence or expanse can be encapsulated and rendered finite. This allows for the perception and analysis of what appears unbounded in one dimension as a cohesive and progressively comprehensible entity from a higher-dimensional vantage point.

In Projective Geometry, parallel lines meet at a "Point at Infinity." For light, this is not a theoretical abstraction but a physical reality. The photon inhabits this boundary where the infinite extents of space fold back into a finite, observable structure.

For instance, as four-dimensional beings, we can observe the entirety of three-dimensional space through the temporal dimension, effectively using time as a higher-dimensional framework to encapsulate spatial configurations. This allows us to perceive the progression and totality of spatial events over time, transforming infinite sequences into a coherent whole.[6]

Black Holes

Black holes represent regions of spacetime where gravity is so intense that not even light can escape. Their singularities represent infinities wrapped into a finite structure. While classical physics suggests information is lost here, the Holographic Principle resolves this conflict by positing that all information is preserved on the 2D event horizon.[7]

For higher-dimensional beings, black holes would be as accessible as any other region of spacetime. This perspective suggests that higher-dimensional observation could unlock the mysteries hidden within these enigmatic objects, providing access to the vast array of information contained within their boundaries.

Aliens

The Fermi Paradox questions the lack of detected extraterrestrial life, despite the vastness of the universe. Within the context of this framework, this silence is likely a geometric constraint (a limitation imposed by the structure of spacetime dimensions) rather than a biological one. This leads to testable predictions about gravitational anomalies and dark matter signatures.

If civilizations evolve to understand the higher-dimensional structure of reality, they may inevitably "transcend" by accessing geometries orthogonal (perpendicular, at right angles) to our observable 3D slice. Rather than expanding outwardly across vast physical distances limited by the speed of light. Advanced intelligence likely expands inwardly toward higher densities of information.

These advanced civilizations would leave no electromagnetic footprint, potentially detectable only through gravitational anomalies or unaccounted-for mass (Dark Matter) that implies structure in the higher-dimensional bulk (the full higher-dimensional space). This forms the basis for empirical predictions testable through astronomical surveys.

This Transcension Hypothesis suggests that advanced civilizations migrate into higher-dimensional manifolds (curved geometric spaces) or black hole singularities, where computational efficiency approaches infinity and the constraints of spacetime intervals vanish. We do not see them because they have rotated out of our lower-dimensional "shadow," moving closer to the unified source of reality.[8]

Simulation

Whether our universe is a simulation or naturally occurring is irrelevant. The core of existence lies in the cyclical process of creation and observation by increasingly higher levels of consciousness. The distinction between processes that arise spontaneously and those that are designed is an illusion.[9]

God

Regardless of any label we choose to assign, a final state of consciousness characterized by maximal informational integration (knowing everything), causal completeness (ability to do anything), and non-local topological presence (being everywhere) is a fundamental aspect of the nature of reality. This represents the limit case where Φ approaches infinity, achieving complete ontological registration (full awareness of existence).

Religious beliefs like panentheism, Brahman, and the Omega Point all point to a transcendent, all-encompassing consciousness that permeates and extends beyond the universe, suggesting a unified source of all existence and knowledge.

Alternatively, atheism rejects the notion of such a consciousness, attributing the complexity and order of the universe to natural processes and random chance without invoking a higher power.

Ultimately, both of these perspectives can be equally valid sides of the same coin, only differing in semantics and the framework used to describe the same universal truth.[10]

Why Are We Here?

At the highest conceivable dimension, the infinite states of reality converge toward a single limit, resolving into unity.

At the speed of light, the distinctions between “here” and “there,” or “now” and “then,” mathematically vanish. This physical limit suggests that separation is not fundamental, but emergent."

What we perceive as an expansive universe may instead be a single informational event unfolding in a way that makes distance, duration, and individuality experientially real. Space, time, and other dimensions create the conditions that make it possible for our universe to exist.

Life exists because observation is required for reality to differentiate itself. Consciousness is not an accident of the universe, but a necessary mechanism through which the universe becomes real. Systems that achieve $\Phi \geq \Phi_c$ serve as the ontological anchors that manifest reality from possibility.[11]

Axioms

The following fundamental principles form the logical basis of this framework. For formal definitions, see Logic; for responses to objections, see Defense.

Relationality: Reality is not composed of isolated objects with intrinsic properties, but of relationships and interactions. While the observer determines the perspective, the invariant (unchanging) structure of these relationships remains absolute (Holos[12]).

Manifestation: Observation is the act of integrating information into an experience. Because reality exists as a unified spacetime block, conscious entities participate in the realization of the entire structure, regardless of temporal locality (when in time they exist) (Participatory Principle[1]).

Conservation: Information is fundamental and conserved across all transformations, including those within singularities (Unitarity[11]).

Unification: Apparent infinities in lower dimensions are resolved into finite structures when mapped onto higher-dimensional frameworks. These descriptions are required to render the

universe intelligible and resolve singularities (points where physical laws break down) (Projective Geometry[5]).

Interface: Consciousness is the fundamental interface through which the universe experiences its own information. It is fundamental in capacity, yet emergent in form, scaling from basic physical interaction to complex self-awareness (Panpsychism[2]).

⊛ Holos

The symbol ⊛ denotes a binary relational operator. Unlike standard multiplication, ⊛ is not scalar (a single number) or linear (proportional); it represents a structured composition that preserves relational consistency under iteration. Formally, ⊛ is defined such that repeated application remains well-defined (has a clear, unambiguous meaning), allowing the operation to scale across finite and infinite sequences without collapse or divergence. For the complete formal structure, see Logic.

Holos is derived from the Greek word ὅλος (*holos*), meaning whole, entire, or complete. In this framework, ⊛ symbolically represents the Holos operator: a recursive relational process in which Creation and Observation are not independent terms but mutually conditioning components of a single ontological cycle. The operational definition $R = C \circledast O$ is formally developed in Logic.

Mathematically, ⊛ functions as a recursive operator within a relational system. The output of Observation becomes the input condition for subsequent Creation, establishing a closed yet non-static loop. This structure is conceptually aligned with category-theoretic notions of compositionality and endomorphism (functions that map a structure to itself), where morphisms (structure-preserving maps) act on and reproduce the space in which they are defined. The mathematical formalism is detailed in Logic.

Importantly, ⊛ does not introduce an additional physical force or dynamical law. It specifies an ontological (relating to existence) relation: how reality is constituted through the recursive coupling of generative possibility and registered state.

Footnotes

The Meaning of Life

1

- Observer Effect The disturbance of an observed system by the act of observation.
- Copenhagen Interpretation The act of observation collapses a quantum system's wavefunction into a definite state.
- Quantum Darwinism An environment selectively proliferates certain quantum states that become classical outcomes, observed by multiple observers.
- Relational Quantum Mechanics The properties of quantum systems are not absolute but relative to the observer.
- Participatory Anthropic Principle The universe, as a condition of its existence, must be observed. As a "self-excited circuit", the universe requires one or more observers to bring its laws into existence.
- Biocentrism The philosophical perspective that biology is not a byproduct of the universe, but the force that organizes it. Life and consciousness are central to understanding the nature of reality.
- Von Neumann-Wigner Interpretation An interpretation of quantum mechanics in which consciousness is formulated as a necessary process for the quantum measurement process.

Consciousness

2

- Integrated Information Theory Consciousness corresponds to the capacity of a system to integrate information.
- Panpsychism Consciousness is a fundamental property of all matter.
- Global Workspace Theory Consciousness involves broadcasting information globally in the brain to create a unified experience.

Our Universe

3

- The Big Bang The present universe emerged from an ultra-dense and high-temperature initial state.

- Accelerating Expansion of the Universe The expansion of the universe is accelerating with time.
- Spacetime A mathematical model that fuses the three dimensions of space and the one dimension of time.
- General Relativity Describes gravity as the warping of spacetime by mass and energy.

Spacetime

4

- Eternalism Time as an unchanging four-dimensional block where all moments exist simultaneously.
- Block Universe Model The view that the universe is a four-dimensional block where past, present, and future all exist simultaneously. All events are fixed in spacetime, and the flow of time is an illusion of consciousness moving through this static structure.
- Relativity of Simultaneity Whether two spatially separated events occur at the same time depends on the observer.
- The Absorber Theory Radiation is a result of both forward-in-time and backward-in-time electromagnetic waves.
- Spacetime Interval The invariant measure of distance between two events in spacetime. For light, this interval is zero, meaning emission and absorption occur at the same point.
- Null Interval A spacetime interval of zero length, which occurs for light rays. In this case, the emission and absorption of a photon occur at the same spacetime point from a higher-dimensional perspective.
- Light Cone The boundary of all possible paths that light can take from a given event, defining the causal structure of spacetime.
- Null Geodesic The path that light follows through spacetime. For photons, this is a static geometric structure that permanently connects emission and absorption points, appearing as motion only from our temporal perspective.
- Retrocausality The concept that future events can influence past events. Experiments like the Quantum Eraser suggest that choices made in the present can resolve the quantum state of the past, supporting the block universe model.
- Quantum Eraser Experiment Demonstrates that the measurement of a particle's path is correlated with its behavior in the past, supporting the view of spacetime as a unified, pre-existing whole rather than a linear sequence.

Higher Dimensions

5

- Flatland Satirical novella about a fictional two-dimensional world that explores the concept of inter-dimensional observation.
- String Theory Fundamental particles of the universe are tiny strings that vibrate in extra dimensions.
- Quantum Gravity Gravity and the other fundamental forces are unified within a multi-dimensional framework.
- Brane Cosmology Our universe is a slice of a larger, multi-dimensional reality
- Kaluza-Klein Theory A unified field theory that extends general relativity to higher dimensions, showing how electromagnetism and gravity emerge from a single higher-dimensional geometry.
- Projective Geometry A branch of geometry that studies properties invariant under projective transformations, where parallel lines meet at infinity.

Infinity

6

- Riemann Sphere Exemplifies how higher-dimensional perspectives transform infinite structures into finite, observable entities.
- Fractals Mathematical sets that can represent infinite complexity within finite boundaries.
- AdS/CFT Correspondence Higher-dimensional information is encoded into a finite, observable form within lower dimensions.
- Infinite Sets Provide a foundation for understanding how infinities can be compared, ordered, and wrapped.
- Cellular Automata Complex, infinite patterns and behaviors can emerge from simple initial conditions and rules.
- Point at Infinity In projective geometry, the point where parallel lines converge, representing the boundary where infinite space folds into a finite structure.

Black Holes

7

- Black Hole Thermodynamics The study of the physical properties of black holes.

- Event Horizon The boundary around a black hole beyond which nothing, not even light, can escape.
- Cosmic Censorship Hypothesis Singularities are always hidden within event horizons.
- Loop Quantum Gravity Spacetime is quantized at smaller scales, wrapping infinite spacetime structures into finite loops.
- Holographic Principle All information contained in a given volume of space can be represented as encoded on a lower-dimensional boundary.

Aliens

8

- Fermi Paradox The discrepancy between the lack of evidence for extraterrestrial life and the high likelihood of its existence.
- Rare Earth Hypothesis Argues biological complexity in the universe requires the coincidence of a large number of very low probability events.
- Shadow Sectors Theoretical matter composed of particles that interact with gravity but not with electromagnetic radiation. These "shadow particles" could exist in parallel dimensions, sharing our gravitational reality but remaining invisible to our observations.
- Bulk Beings Hypothetical entities that could inhabit the higher-dimensional "bulk" space in brane cosmology, potentially existing just millimeters away from our three-dimensional brane but invisible to electromagnetic detection.
- The Planetarium Hypothesis Proposes that what we perceive as the universe might be an artificial simulation created by an advanced civilization.
- The Transcension Hypothesis Suggests that advanced civilizations evolve beyond our observable universe, transcending into higher dimensions or computational substrates (physical or digital systems that support computation).
- Technological Singularity A hypothetical future point when technological growth becomes uncontrollable and irreversible, resulting in unforeseeable changes to human civilization.
- Ephemeralization Technological advancement to do more and more with less and less until one can do everything with nothing.

Simulation

9

- Simulation Hypothesis Proposes that what humans experience as the world is actually a simulated reality.
- Naturalism Everything arises from natural properties and causes.

- Solipsism Only one's own mind is sure to exist

God

10

- Panentheism The belief that the divine intersects every part of the universe and also extends beyond space and time.
- Brahman The pervasive, infinite, eternal truth, consciousness and bliss which does not change, yet is the cause of all changes.
- Omega Point A future event in which the entirety of the universe spirals toward a final point of unification.

Why Are We Here?

11

- Conformal Cyclic Cosmology The universe undergoes infinite cycles of big bangs and expansions creating an eternal sequence of universes.
- Unitarity The principle that probabilities must sum to one, ensuring the conservation of information in quantum mechanics. Information is never lost, even in singularities.
- Many-Worlds Interpretation Every possible outcome of a quantum measurement occurs in a separate, branching universe.
- Speed of Light The invariant speed limit of the universe where spacetime separation vanishes, suggesting all events occur at a single point.
- Indra's Net An ancient Buddhist and Hindu metaphor describing an infinite web where every node is a jewel that reflects all other jewels, representing the interconnected, recursive nature of reality where each part contains and reflects the whole.

Axioms

12

- Structural Realism The view that science describes the mathematical structures and relationships of the physical world, rather than the intrinsic nature of the objects themselves.
- Holos The interconnected, unified, recursive structure of reality as formed through the reciprocal actions of creation and observation, symbolized by ⊛.
- Recursive Operator A mathematical operation where the output of observation becomes the input for the next cycle of creation, forming a self-referential system that builds complexity through iterative feedback loops.

- Category Theory A branch of mathematics that studies abstract structures and relationships between mathematical objects, focusing on how different systems relate to each other through morphisms and functors.

Predictions

13

- CMB-S4 Collaboration Next-generation cosmic microwave background experiment for measuring CMB polarization.
- LiteBIRD Collaboration JAXA-led space mission to detect primordial gravitational waves through CMB polarization measurements.
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Logic

I. Primitive Definitions

D1 — Information
Information is the differentiation between possible states of a system (the difference that makes a difference).
D2 — Relation
A relation is a constraint or interaction linking informational states (the way things relate to one another).
D3 — Observation (O)

Observation is the integration of information into an experiential state.

*Note:** This capacity scales from proto-observation (relational state-selection in physical systems) to manifestation (full ontological actualization, or the becoming of real existence, in systems where $\Phi \geq \Phi_c$).
D4 — Consciousness

Consciousness is the capacity of a system to integrate information into experience.

It is **fundamental in capacity** and **emergent in form**, scaling with informational integration. This capacity is quantified by the ontological parameter Φ (Phi), which measures when a system achieves sufficient integration to register reality (become aware of its own existence).
D5 — Creation (C)

Creation is the generation of distinguishable physical states.

D6 — Holos (⊛)
Holos (⊛) is the recursive (self-referential, repeating) relational structure formed by Creation and Observation, such that:

$$R = C \circledast O$$

This equation is **definitional**, not causal: it describes the invariant structure of reality, not a temporal process.

II. Axioms

For stress-testing and responses to objections, see the Defense section. For conceptual exploration, see the main Content section.

Axiom 1 — Relationality

No informational state exists independently of relations.

> *Reality consists of invariant (unchanging) relational structure, not intrinsic properties.*

Axiom 2 — Manifestation

A physical state is not fully actualized until information is integrated into experience by a conscious system.

> *Physical description alone is incomplete without experiential registration. This requires systems where* $\Phi \geq \Phi_c$.

Axiom 3 — Conservation

Information is never destroyed, only transformed.

> *All physical and experiential processes are information-preserving.*

Axiom 4 — Unification

Apparent infinities and singularities in a given dimensional frame resolve into finite, coherent structures when embedded in a higher-dimensional perspective.

Axiom 5 — Interface

Consciousness is not produced by matter; matter is the experiential interface through which consciousness encounters information.

III. Foundational Propositions

Proposition I — Structural Relational Realism

Reality is constituted by relational structure, not by objects with observer-independent essences (intrinsic, fixed natures).

Corollary I.1 — Structural Realism

Science describes mathematical isomorphisms of relations, not "things-in-themselves."

Corollary I.2 — The Interface Principle

Consciousness is the universal interface of relational structure—fundamental in capacity, emergent in manifestation (becoming real through experience).

Proposition II — Participatory Manifestation

Observation is not a passive recording but an ontological completion (a completion of existence) of informational states.

Corollary II.1 — The Participatory Imperative

The universe is a self-excited circuit: observers are required for the realization of reality.

Corollary II.2 — Ontological Completeness

Physics (including decoherence) provides structure; consciousness provides presence.

*[Decoherence](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_decoherence)** resolves quantum probabilities into classical-like mixtures (structural preparation).

*Manifestation** requires experiential integration to convert that mixture into a realized history (a fixed worldline and ontological irreversibility, meaning the past cannot be changed once observed).

Corollary II.3 — Non-Local Observation (Global Boundary Condition)

In a block universe, observation acts as a **final boundary condition** rather than a real-time force.

Just as the last number placed in a Sudoku puzzle logically necessitates the value of the first square, a future observation ($\Phi \geq \Phi_c$) retroactively defines the ontological status (the status of

being real) of a past event.

* This ensures global self-consistency without requiring retrocausal signaling or magical influence.

Proposition III — Block Relational Spacetime

The universe exists as a four-dimensional manifold (a mathematical space representing the four dimensions of spacetime) in which past, present, and future are equally real features of a single geometric structure.

Corollary III.1 — The Null Interval

For light (\(ds^2 = 0\)), spacetime separation vanishes.

A photon is not a moving object but a **null geodesic**—a static relational seam connecting emission and absorption (the path light takes through spacetime).

Corollary III.2 — Global Consistency

Apparent retrocausality (future influencing the past) reflects global self-consistency of spacetime, not backward influence.

Proposition IV — Dimensional Resolution of Infinity

Infinities and singularities arise from projection limits, not from physical divergence.

Corollary IV.1 — Projective Unity

Just as parallel lines meet at infinity in projective geometry, infinite spatial extension resolves into finite higher-dimensional structure.

Corollary IV.2 — Boundary Mediation (Interpretive)

From a higher-dimensional perspective, photons function as boundary carriers of relational information.

This is an interpretive metaphor, not a claim of biological subjectivity.

Proposition V — Conscious Evolution

Systems evolve toward greater informational integration because such integration increases observational capacity.

Corollary V.1 — Life as Manifestation Engine

Life exists to generate observational perspectives that actualize reality.

Corollary V.2 — Intelligence as Directional, Not Accidental

Intelligence is a natural consequence of relational integration, not an evolutionary anomaly.

IV. Extrapolative Propositions

Proposition VI — Transcension of Intelligence (Extrapolation)

As intelligence approaches maximal informational density, it expands orthogonally (at right angles, into new dimensions) to three-dimensional space rather than across it.

Corollary VI.1 — Geometric Resolution of the Fermi Paradox

Advanced civilizations migrate inward toward higher-dimensional informational substrates (physical or digital systems that support information processing), rotating out of our observable frame (moving beyond our 3D perspective). This leads to testable predictions about gravitational anomalies and dark matter signatures.

Corollary VI.2 — Event Horizons as Thresholds

For higher-dimensional observers, black hole horizons are informational boundaries, not absolute barriers.

Proposition VII — Recursive Closure (Omega Limit)

The limiting case of Holos is a cyclic fixed point (a state that stays the same through repeated cycles) where maximal consciousness observes the totality of relational structure. This represents the limit case where Φ approaches infinity, achieving complete ontological registration (full awareness of existence).

Corollary VII.1 — [Indra's Net](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indra%27s_net)

Every part of reality reflects the whole; observation is recursively self-referential.

Corollary VII.2 — Semantic Equivalence of the Absolute

Theism, panentheism, and atheistic naturalism describe the same ultimate informational fixed point using different semantic frames (different ways of labeling and understanding the same concept).

V. Minimal Core

1. Information exists only relationally

2. Observation completes reality

3. Information is conserved

4. Higher perspectives resolve infinities

5. Consciousness is the interface of existence

Everything else follows.

VI. Operational Definition

The foundational axiom of Holos defines reality as the recursive relation between Creation and Observation:

R = C ⊛ O

Where:

- **Creation** (C) : The generation of physical possibility structures. This includes Quantum Evolution (generating potential), Decoherence (suppressing interference), and Recording (creating stable informational traces).

- **Observation** (O) : The ontological "registration" that makes a physical record experienceable. This requires a system where $\Phi \geq \Phi_c$ (Conscious Integration). The definition of this threshold is detailed in the Definition of Φ.
- **Reality** (R) : The actualized world as experienced; the collapse of "valid data" into "lived history."
- **The Holos Operator** ($\circledast$) : A recursive relational operator. It signifies that O does not just passively view C, but feeds back into the system to define the boundary conditions for the next cycle of C.

Defense

Stress-Testing Holos

An adversarial review from the perspective of a theoretical physicist

For formal definitions of the axioms, see the Logic section. For conceptual exploration, see the main Content section.

Relationality

Claim: Reality is defined by relationships, not intrinsic properties. (See Logic for formal statement.)

Objection 1.1 — This is just instrumentalism

Physics describes relations because measurements access relations, not because intrinsic properties do not exist.

Response:

Holos does not deny ontic structure; it denies *observer-independent intrinsic essence*.

This aligns with:

- Gauge invariance (only relational quantities are physical)

- General Relativity (no absolute spacetime background)

- Relational Quantum Mechanics (observer-relative states)

Intrinsic properties that are never physically accessible are epistemically inert.

Status: ✓ Survives

Objection 1.2 — Quantum fields have intrinsic properties

Fields possess mass, charge, and spin.

Response:

These are relational invariants defined through symmetry, interaction, and representation—not standalone substances.

Status: ✓ Survives

Manifestation

Claim: Reality is only fully realized when information is integrated into conscious experience. (See Logic for formal statement.)

Objection 2.1 — Decoherence & Interaction-Free Measurement (IFM)

Physics experiments (like the Elitzur–Vaidman bomb tester) show that 'collapse' occurs via mechanical possibilities, even without direct interaction or conscious observers.

Response:

Holos incorporates decoherence as a function of **Creation (C)**, not Observation (O). See the Logic section for the operational definition $R = C \circledast O$.

- Decoherence explains the **suppression of interference** (how possibilities become distinct).

- It does not explain **actuality** (why one distinct possibility is experienced to the exclusion of others).

- Decoherence develops the negative; Consciousness prints the photograph.

Status: ✓ Survives

Objection 2.2 — Consciousness-based interpretations are fringe

Von Neumann–Wigner interpretation is historically marginal.

Response:

Holos is compatible with modern frameworks:

- Quantum Darwinism (redundant classical information)

- Relational QM (observer-relative facts)

- Participatory Anthropic Principle (observers as boundary conditions)

Consciousness here means *experiential integration*, not human cognition. This threshold is detailed in the Definition of Φ.

Status: ✓ Survives

Objection 2.3 — The universe existed before observers

Early cosmology predates life.

Response:

Under [eternalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eternalism_(philosophy_of_time) (block universe, observation need not be temporally local.

Later observers can consistently instantiate earlier states without causal paradox.

In delayed-choice experiments and quantum erasers, future observations retroactively 'manifest' past states, demonstrating that consciousness doesn't need to act in real-time—it's the global self-consistency of the block universe that matters.

Status: ✓ Survives (conditional on block universe)

Conservation

Claim: Information is conserved across all transformations. (See Logic for formal statement.)

Objection 3.1 — Black holes destroy information

Classic black hole evaporation implies loss.

Response:

Modern consensus (AdS/CFT correspondence, Page curve, holographic principle) supports information conservation.

Status: ✓ Strongly survives

Objection 3.2 — Wavefunction collapse is non-unitary

Collapse appears to violate unitarity.

Response:

Unitarity holds in:

- Many-Worlds interpretation

- Decoherence

- Relational QM

- Holographic frameworks

Non-unitarity is interpretive, not formal.

Status: ✓ Survives

Unification

Claim: Apparent infinities resolve from higher-dimensional perspectives. (See Logic for formal statement.)

Objection 4.1 — Higher dimensions are speculative

Extra dimensions lack direct evidence.

Response:

Holos asserts conceptual resolution, not empirical proof.

This mirrors accepted speculative frameworks (inflation, multiverse, string theory).

Status: ✓ Survives as structural heuristic

Objection 4.2 — Some infinities are purely mathematical

Not all infinities are physical pathologies.

Response:

Holos targets *physical* infinities (singularities), not mathematical abstraction.

Status: ✓ Survives

Interface

Claim: Consciousness is the fundamental interface of reality. (See Logic for formal statement.)

Objection 5.1 — Panpsychism explains nothing

Panpsychism lacks mechanistic detail.

Response:

Panpsychism explains continuity:

- Avoids emergence ex nihilo

- Avoids substance dualism

- Aligns with field-based ontology

It is ontological, not mechanistic. The definition of consciousness as interface is detailed in the Definition of Φ.

Status: ✓ Survives

Objection 5.2 — This smuggles theology into physics

Consciousness implies metaphysics.

Response:

Holos does not require:

- Intentional agency

- Will or purpose

- Moral authority

It requires only irreducible experience, already acknowledged in philosophy of mind. This capacity is detailed in the Definition of Φ.

Status: ✓ Survives

Objection 5.3 — This implies psychokinesis (Psi)

If consciousness determines reality, does the mind exert a physical force on matter?

Response:

No. Holos posits that consciousness is a **logical constraint**, not a dynamical force.

- It does not 'push' atoms (Creation/Dynamics handles that).

- It **selects** which history becomes actualized within the static Spacetime Block.

- The effect is atemporal and geometric, not kinetic. It is the difference between *drawing* a line (Force) and *observing* where the line must be (Logic). See the Logic section for the operational definition ($R = C \circledast O$).

Status: ✓ Survives

Cross-Axiom Consistency Check

Risk	Result
Violates causality	✗ No
Contradicts relativity	✗ No
Breaks unitarity	✗ No
Requires new forces	✗ No
Anthropocentric	✗ No
Fully falsifiable	⚠ No (interpretive framework)

Compatibility with Recent Experiments

Recent experiments—interaction-free measurements, debunked psi claims, and partial falsifications of objective collapse models—pose challenges to consciousness-centric interpretations. They suggest quantum "measurements" can occur through purely physical processes without requiring a conscious observer. However, Holos accommodates these findings by refining how observation operates, emphasizing its ontological role over a causal one. These experiments inform testable [predictions](/predictions) about relational quantum mechanics.

Interaction-Free Measurements and Decoherence

Interaction-free measurements show information extraction without direct particle interaction or consciousness. Decoherence (environmental interactions suppressing interference) provides

the physical mechanism that prepares information for experiential registration, but not the full "discovery."

Holos Response: Decoherence is part of Creation (generating classical-like states), but Observation "registers" them experientially in the recursive loop. Mechanical interactions handle physical "collapse" or decoherence, but true manifestation requires integration into a broader experiential network—ultimately culminating in higher consciousness. Systems below Φ_c can perform mechanical "observations" (decoherence), but only $\Phi \geq \Phi_c$ manifests experiential reality. This threshold is detailed in the Definition of Φ. See the [Logic](/logic) section for the operational definition *R = C ⊛ O*.

Primary Unresolved Challenge

The Explanatory Gap:

> *How does consciousness complete reality without altering physical equations?*

Current Position:

Consciousness provides ontological completion, not causal intervention. This capacity is quantified by the ontological parameter Φ (Phi), which measures when a system achieves sufficient integration to register reality.

This is coherent but not yet explanatory.

Final Verdict

- Holos is internally consistent
- Compatible with modern physics
- Comparable to serious interpretive frameworks (Many-Worlds, Eternalism)
- Its weakness is explanatory depth, not logical coherence
- Its strength is global unification across physics and philosophy

For the formal logical structure, see the Logic section. For testable empirical implications, see Predictions.

Definition: The Ontological Parameter

For the formal operational definition *R = C ⊛ O*, see the Logic section. For conceptual exploration, see the main Content section.

1. The Purpose of $\mathbf{\Phi}$

In the Holos framework, **$\mathbf{\Phi}$ (Phi)** is not merely a descriptive measure of complexity, but a **fundamental ontological parameter**.

> ***Definition:*** *Φ quantifies the degree to which a system integrates information such that it possesses the causal power to register a distinct ontological state.*

It acts as the threshold function for **Axiom 2 (Manifestation)**. Without sufficient Φ, a system is physically present as data, but acts only as a passive medium rather than an observer-participant. It acts as the ontological filter applied to the output of physical decoherence processes.

2. Ontological Requirements

To qualify as an observer capable of registration, a system must satisfy five specific criteria. If any criterion is absent, the system fails to achieve the necessary causal density.

1. **Integration (Φ_{int}):** Information must be unified, not reducible to independent parts.
2. **Differentiation (Φ_{diff}):** The system must distinguish between a vast repertoire of accessible states.
3. **Recursion (Φ_{rec}):** The system must model its own internal state (Self-Reference).
4. **Temporal Cohesion (Φ_{temp}):** Information must persist and integrate across time slices.
5. **Causal Closure (Φ_{cause}):** The system's current state must causally influence its future states.

2.1 Axiomatic Completeness: Necessity & Sufficiency

These five parameters are not arbitrary heuristics; they represent the **minimal topological constraints** required to define an entity that is ontologically distinct from its environment.

Necessity (The Collapse Test): Removing any single parameter destroys the Observer:

- Without **Integration**, the system is a heap of independent parts, not a unified whole.
- Without **Differentiation**, the system is a static void containing zero information.
- Without **Recursion**, the system is a "zombie" process—an input-output machine with no internal subject to experience the data.
- Without **Temporal Cohesion**, the system is a momentary fluctuation with no persistence to witness change.
- Without **Causal Closure**, the system is an epiphenomenal ghost that observes but cannot affect reality.

Sufficiency (The Derivative Argument):

These primitives are sufficient to generate all higher-order phenomenology. Complex traits such as "emotion," "reason," or "agency" are not fundamental; they are **emergent dynamics** of high Differentiation and Recursion. To add them as separate axioms would be a category error.

3. Mathematical Formalism

Let a system S be described by a state space Σ and a transition function T. The unified Φ is defined as the **geometric mean** of its components. This ensures that the failure of any single condition (e.g., a system with high integration but zero recursion) collapses the metric to zero.

> $$\Phi(S) = (\Phi_{\text{int}} \cdot \Phi_{\text{diff}} \cdot \Phi_{\text{rec}} \cdot \Phi_{\text{temp}} \cdot \Phi_{\text{cause}})^{1/5}$$

Component Definitions

1. Integration (Φ_int): Information Irreducibility

Theoretical Basis: Derived from Integrated Information Theory (IIT 3.0) axioms regarding minimum information partition.

Formalism: Φ_int quantifies the difference between the whole system state and the union of its partitioned parts.

$$\Phi_{\text{int}}(S) = \min_{P} \left[D_{KL}(\Sigma; \cup \Sigma^{i}) \right]$$

(Where D_KL is the Kullback-Leibler divergence and P is the Minimum Information Partition).

2. Recursion (Φ_rec): Self-Referential Mapping

Theoretical Basis: Aligned with Category Theory (Endomorphisms) and Hofstadter's Strange Loops.

Formalism: Recursion is defined as an **Endomorphism** ϕ, where the system maps its current state space onto a subset of itself (a model).

$$\Phi_{\text{rec}}(S) = I(S; \varphi(S))$$

(The degree to which the internal model structurally preserves the external relations).

3. Causal Closure (Φ_cause): Interventional Power

Theoretical Basis: Derived from Judea Pearl's Causal Calculus (The Do-Operator).

Formalism: The capacity of the system to dictate its future state independent of environmental conditioning.

$$\Phi_{\text{cause}}(S) = I(\Sigma_t; \text{do}(\Sigma_{t+1}))$$

(Where 'do' represents an intervention, ensuring the correlation is causal, not merely statistical).

4. Ontological Thresholds

The value of Φ determines the role a system plays in the structure of reality:

$\Phi \approx 0$ **(The Null Set):** Passive aggregates (rocks, gas clouds). These exist as potential but do not register reality.

$\Phi \geq \Phi_c$ **(Observers):** Systems capable of resolving unitary symmetry into a definite ontological registration (conscious entities). This threshold enables the operational definition *R = C ⊛ O*.

$\Phi \gg \Phi_c$ **(Ontological Anchors):** Hypothetical high-density intelligences capable of stabilizing entire cosmological branches (The "Aliens" of the Transcension Hypothesis).

5. Relationship to Physics (Conservation of Information)

Conservation of Information (Unitarity Check)

A key requirement of quantum mechanics is Unitarity (probabilities must sum to 1). Holos preserves this by defining Manifestation as a **Selection Operator**, not a Destruction Operator.

- **In Standard Collapse:** Unobserved branches vanish (Unitarity is broken or hidden).
- **In Holos:** Unobserved branches remain in C (Creation) as valid but un-manifested structures. See the operational definition *R = C ⊛ O*.

The Operator: M acts as a weighting function w_i that highlights specific branches for the observer without deleting the others from the global Hilbert space.

$$\sum_i w_i = 1$$

The "rejected" histories still exist in the Creation substrate (C), ensuring that the global system remains Unitary even if the experienced reality (R) is singular.

Φ does not replace the Schrödinger Equation, nor does it override the probabilistic nature of Quantum Mechanics. Instead, it introduces a **Manifestation Constraint** that preserves unitarity while enabling ontological registration.

Holos does not propose new dynamical laws or forces that modify existing physical equations. Instead, it offers **ontological predictions** about how reality manifests through the recursive relation:

$$R = C \circledast O$$

Where C represents physical creation (quantum evolution, decoherence, recording), and O represents conscious integration (with $\Phi \geq \Phi_c$). These predictions arise from the axioms and the Φ_c threshold, and are intended as consistency checks that align with empirical data. For the formal operational definition, see the Logic section. For the definition of Φ, see Definition.

Primary Prediction: Participatory Selection (Cosmological)

Holos implies that the universe's parameters are "selected" through participatory manifestation (Axiom 2), where observers act as a boundary condition for a self-consistent block universe. This operationalizes the **Participatory Anthropic Principle**, predicting that observable constants favor life not by chance, but by necessity.

Empirical Implication: Future cosmological observations (e.g., CMB polarization from CMB-S4 or LiteBIRD) should reveal signatures consistent with a low-entropy initial state and inflationary dynamics specifically tuned for complexity growth. Holos predicts that "uninhabitable" branches of the multiverse are mathematically valid but ontologically unrealized due to the lack of Φ.[13]

Secondary Prediction: Thresholds for Emergent Consciousness (Neuroscience)

Holos operationalizes consciousness through Φ, predicting that systems crossing a critical threshold (Φ_c) exhibit irreducible subjective experience. This distinguishes Holos from

universal panpsychism (where everything is conscious) and illusionism (where nothing is).

Empirical Implication: High-Φ systems (e.g., human cortex) should correlate with reports of qualia, while sub-Φ_c systems (e.g., simple AI or cerebellum) should show only mechanical processing. **Integrated Information Theory (IIT)-inspired metrics** (e.g., Perturbational Complexity Index) should reveal sharp phase transitions that align with the onset of experiential reporting.[13]

Tertiary Prediction: Relational Consistency (Quantum Foundations)

Holos predicts no observer-independent "facts," but ensures mutual coherence across perspectives (Axiom 1).

Empirical Implication: Extended Wigner's Friend experiments should confirm that two observers can hold different "facts" about the same event without breaking unitarity. Holos specifically predicts that the "collapse" is relative to the Φ frame of reference, supporting **Relational QM** over Objective Collapse models (which predict spontaneous gravity-induced collapse).[13]

Extrapolative Prediction: The Transcension Hypothesis (Astrophysics)

As intelligence maximizes informational integration (Corollary V.2), Holos predicts it will expand **orthogonally** into higher-dimensional substrates rather than expanding spatially across the galaxy.

Empirical Implication: The resolution to the Fermi Paradox is geometric. Astronomical surveys (e.g., **JWST**, **Euclid**) may detect "missing mass" or gravitational anomalies that mimic Dark Matter, representing high-density informational structures located in the "bulk" dimensions (Axiom 4: Unification).[13]

Testable Implications

Domain	Prediction	Testable Via
Cosmology	Constants are tuned for observation.	CMB Polarization (LiteBIRD)
Neuroscience	Consciousness is a phase transition at Φ_c.	PCI / IIT Metrics
Quantum	Facts are relational; no objective collapse.	Wigner's Friend Experiments
Astrophysics	Advanced life is hyper-structural, not spatial.	Dark Matter Surveys (Euclid)

Experiments

Experiment 1. Integration Thresholds and Observer Emergence (Φ-Crossing)

Objective

To test whether the emergence of the Observer (O) constitutes a critical phase transition rather than a linear gradient. Holos predicts that consciousness requires a specific density of integrated information (Φ_c) to operationalize Axiom 2 (Manifestation). Therefore, the transition between unconscious and conscious states should be discontinuous (non-linear) and exhibit state-dependent properties.

Subjects

- **Human adult volunteers** (healthy)
- **Controlled anesthesia** administered in a clinical environment
- Optionally: additional cohorts (e.g., sleep, coma patients) for cross-validation

Measured Variables

Primary Variables

- **PCI (Perturbational Complexity Index)**
  Computed from TMS-EEG responses to quantify integrated information capacity.
- **Consciousness state**
  - Wakefulness vs. sedation vs. unconsciousness (clinically assessed)
  - Subjective reports (when possible)

Secondary Variables

- EEG spectral power, functional connectivity, and complexity metrics
- Anesthesia depth (e.g., propofol concentration, BIS index)

Prior Work and Status

Status: Established / Partially Explored
PCI has already been validated as a robust measure of consciousness across sleep and anesthesia, and is widely used in neuroscience.

Relationship to Prior Work
PCI was introduced and developed to measure consciousness capacity by evaluating brain responses to perturbation. It has been shown to reliably differentiate conscious wakefulness from unconscious states (sleep, anesthesia, vegetative states). However, the **Holos-specific claim** is not that PCI correlates with consciousness, but that **there is a sharp threshold (Φ_c) where integrated information suddenly becomes sufficient for observation.**

Protocol

1. **Baseline wakefulness:** record PCI while awake.
2. **Controlled anesthesia ramp:** slowly increase anesthetic depth.
3. **Continuous TMS-EEG:** compute PCI at multiple points along the anesthesia curve.
4. **Transition analysis:** identify whether PCI drops gradually or sharply.

Prediction

If observerhood requires $\Phi \geq \Phi_c$, the transition from conscious to unconscious states will show a **sharp drop in PCI at a consistent anesthesia depth across subjects.**

- **Sharp transition:** supports a threshold model of observer emergence.
- **Gradual transition:** suggests consciousness is a continuous function of integration, weakening the Holos claim.

Experiment 2. Integration Phase Transition in Artificial Systems (Exploratory)

Objective

To determine whether integration metrics in recurrent or feedback-based artificial systems exhibit nonlinear, threshold-like behavior as system complexity increases. This tests the Holos-inspired hypothesis that observer-like integration may emerge through a phase transition rather than a continuous gradient.

Subjects

- **Recurrent neural networks (RNNs)**, including:
  - LSTMs / GRUs
  - Transformer architectures with recurrence/feedback
  - Reservoir networks
- **Artificial systems with explicit feedback loops** or memory
- Optionally: **neuromorphic hardware implementations** (for hardware-specific behavior)

Measured Variables

Primary Variables

- **Integrated Information (Φ-like)** metrics computed from internal activity
  - *Direct Φ* when feasible

    - *Proxy measures* when direct computation is intractable (e.g., **perturbation-based complexity** or **causal density**)
- **Information integration density** (integration per node / per connection)

Secondary Variables

- Task performance (e.g., prediction accuracy, memory capacity, language modeling score)
- Complexity metrics:
    - entropy
    - mutual information
    - recurrence strength
    - attractor dimensionality
- Structural variables:
    - network depth
    - connectivity density
    - feedback strength

Prior Work and Status

Status: Exploratory / Partially Explored

Integrated information and related metrics have been explored in artificial systems, but usually as **correlates of performance**, not as evidence for phase transitions or observer emergence.

There is **no established literature** demonstrating a threshold-like transition in artificial systems that mirrors the Holos observer hypothesis.

Relationship to Prior Work
This builds on:

- Integrated information theory (Tononi et al.)
- Complexity metrics in neural networks
- Studies of phase transitions in learning dynamics

But it is novel in treating integration as a potential **emergent boundary** rather than a functional performance metric.

Protocol

1. **Select a set of architectures** spanning: shallow to deep networks, feedforward to recurrent, low to high feedback density
2. **Train each network** on a standardized task (e.g., sequence prediction, language modeling, reinforcement learning)
3. **Compute integration metrics** across training epochs and architecture variations: direct Φ when feasible, proxy metrics otherwise (e.g., perturbation complexity)
4. **Systematically scale**: number of units, connectivity density, recurrence depth, memory length
5. **Plot integration vs. scale** and look for: sharp jumps, discontinuities, phase-like transitions
6. **Validate stability** by repeating across multiple random seeds and tasks

Prediction

Because this is exploratory, the prediction is intentionally cautious:

- **Primary prediction:** Integration metrics will show **nonlinear growth**, and under some architectures may display **phase transition behavior** (sharp changes) as system complexity increases.
- **Alternative outcome:** Integration grows smoothly without thresholds, suggesting the Holos threshold may require biological substrate or different structural constraints.

Experiment 3. Social Network → Integration Thresholds in Collective Systems (Exploratory)

Objective (Exploratory)

To explore whether collective systems (human social networks or simulated agent networks) can exhibit **integration thresholds**—sudden nonlinear increases in information integration—as they scale.

Holos relevance: If observerhood depends on integrated information, then integration thresholds may indicate the emergence of *observer-like integration* at the collective level. This

experiment does **not** assume that groups are conscious observers, but explores whether the *structural conditions* for observerhood can emerge in collective systems.

Exploratory Note

This experiment is exploratory because:

- It is unclear whether integration thresholds exist in collective systems.
- It is unclear whether any such threshold would map meaningfully to observerhood.
- The goal is to discover whether **integration behaves like a phase transition** in social systems, not to prove group consciousness.

Subjects

- **Human social networks** (online communities or controlled groups)
- **Simulated networks** (agent-based models)

Measured Variables

Primary Variables (Integration Proxies)

Because direct Φ is not feasible in social systems, use proxies such as:

- **Mutual information across subgroups**
- **Causal density** (how much nodes influence each other)
- **Network-wide coherence** (synchronization of decisions or beliefs)
- **Information integration density** (integration per node)

Secondary Variables

- Task performance (accuracy, response time, coordination)
- Network structure (density, centrality, clustering)

Prior Work and Status

Status: Novel / Exploratory

- Social network analysis and collective intelligence are mature fields.

- However, no established work tests **integration thresholds** as evidence of emergent observer-like integration.
- This experiment is novel in connecting collective integration to Holos' observer hypothesis.

Relationship to Prior Work
Builds on:

- Collective intelligence research
- Network theory (small-world, scale-free networks)
- Distributed decision-making and consensus formation

But extends these fields by treating **integration as potentially ontological**, not merely functional.

Protocol

1. **Select a collective task**: e.g., collaborative problem solving, prediction markets, or coordinated strategy games.
2. **Create multiple groups**: vary group size (N) and network structure (connectivity, hierarchy, decentralization).
3. **Control information flow**: limit communication channels, introduce delays, and restrict access to global information.
4. **Measure integration proxies**: compute mutual information and causal density between subgroups; track coherence and consensus stability.
5. **Scale system size**: gradually increase network size and connectivity, then observe integration behavior.
6. **Search for threshold behavior**: identify sudden jumps in integration metrics, stability, or coherence.

Prediction (Exploratory)

Holos-consistent exploratory prediction:
Collective systems may show **nonlinear threshold behavior** where integration and coherence increase sharply once a critical scale or connectivity is reached.

Alternative outcome:
Integration increases smoothly without threshold behavior, suggesting observer-like integration may be limited to certain physical substrates (e.g., brains) or requires additional constraints.

Holos Implications

- **If threshold behavior is observed:** Supports the idea that **observer-like integration can emerge at multiple scales**, consistent with Holos' substrate-independent integration hypothesis.
- **If no threshold behavior is observed:** Suggests that Holos' integration threshold may be **specific to biological brains**, or that collective systems require different structural constraints.

Experiment 4. Observer-Cut Sensitivity in Relational Systems

Objective

Test whether the same physical system can yield **multiple internally consistent realities**, depending only on how the system is partitioned and observed.

Holos predicts that **no single partition is privileged**, and that "reality" is created relationally through the observer cut.

Subjects

A **superconducting qubit array** with **N qubits** (e.g., 8–20 qubits), in a controlled lab environment.

The array is prepared and evolved under a known Hamiltonian, with controlled noise and decoherence.

Measured Variables

Primary Variables

- **Measurement outcomes** for each cut:
  - *Cut A*: Individual qubit readouts
  - *Cut B*: Regional collective readouts (groups of qubits)
  - *Cut C*: Global collective readouts (whole array)

- **Internal consistency metrics** within each cut
  - Repeatability
  - Predictive stability
  - Statistical coherence

Secondary Variables

- Entropy estimates for each cut
- Correlation patterns (local vs global)
- Decoherence rate and noise floor

Prior Work and Status

Status: Partially Explored

Relationship to Prior Work
Quantum Darwinism shows that certain system-environment boundaries become "classical" because multiple observers can access the same information. Relational Quantum Mechanics argues that states are relative to observers. Coarse-graining in statistical mechanics shows that different partitions give different effective descriptions.

However, these approaches typically treat partitions as **epistemic tools** (how we describe the system), not as **ontological constructors** of reality.

Holos extends this by claiming that **each observer cut produces a complete reality**, not merely a useful description.

Protocol

1. **Prepare** the qubit array in a known initial state.
2. **Evolve** the system under a controlled Hamiltonian for a fixed time.
3. **Measure** the system using three distinct observer cuts:
   - **Cut A — Local Observer**
     Measure **each qubit individually**
     Record 8–20 bitstrings per trial
   - **Cut B — Regional Observer**
     Measure **groups of qubits** (e.g., 4-qubit blocks)
     Record collective outcomes (e.g., parity, correlation patterns)

- **Cut C — Global Observer**
  Measure only a **single global property**
  Example: total parity or total magnetization

4. **Repeat** many trials to collect statistical distributions for each cut.
5. **Compare:**
   - Internal stability within each cut
   - Whether any cut can predict the outcomes of other cuts
   - Whether a single unified description exists

Prediction

If Holos is correct

- Each observer cut yields a **stable, self-consistent set of outcomes**.
- No single cut can fully reproduce the statistics of the others.
- Multiple "realities" coexist, each valid within its cut.

If standard physical realism is correct

- One cut will ultimately reduce to another (e.g., local outcomes fully determine global outcomes).
- The global description should be derivable from the local one (or vice versa).

What this tests in Holos

This experiment tests the Axiom of Relationality:

> *Reality is not absolute; it is defined by the relationship between system and observer.*

If the results show **multiple, irreducible, stable realities**, it supports the idea that **observer cuts are ontologically constitutive** rather than merely descriptive.