Unsquared Numbers and Conscious Fields: A Geometric Bridge from Visual Complex Analysis to Unistochastic Quantum Mechanics via the RSVP Superstrate

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Abstract

This paper synthesizes complex analysis, field theory, and quantum mechanics by reinterpreting complex numbers as "unsquared numbers"—a metaphorical framework for geometric operators encoding rotation and scaling transformations. Drawing on Tristan Needham's Visual Complex Analysis, we view complex numbers as torsion-inducing agents, extensible to higher-dimensional fields. The Relativistic Scalar Vector Plenum (RSVP) framework, defined by a scalar potential $\boldsymbol{\Phi}$, vector field $\vec{\sqsubseteq}$, and entropy density $\boldsymbol{S}$, generalizes this geometric intuition to spacetime dynamics governed by advection-diffusion and torsion equations. Through coarse-graining, RSVP field trajectories project onto unistochastic quantum mechanics, as formulated by Jacob Barandes, yielding quantum probabilities as emergent shadows of entropic flows. Additionally, RSVP's coherence metrics suggest a model for consciousness as a critical phase of field alignment. This framework unifies geometric realism, quantum transitions, and cognitive dynamics, offering implications for ontology, quantum foundations, and empirical validation through computational simulations. The analogy of "unsquared numbers" serves as a unifying thread, revealing complex numbers, quantum amplitudes, and conscious perception as manifestations of a deeper geometric substrate.

1 Introduction

1.1 Motivation

The mathematical and physical sciences are characterized by a persistent fragmentation among complex analysis, quantum mechanics, and consciousness studies, each employing distinct formalisms that obscure their shared geometric underpinnings. Complex numbers, traditionally treated as algebraic constructs, possess a profound geometric interpretation as operators of rotation and scaling, as elucidated by Needham (1997). Jacob Barandes's unistochastic quantum mechanics reframes quantum transitions as coarse-grained probabilities derived from unitary amplitudes, emphasizing emergence over fundamental Hilbert spaces (Barandes, 2020). The Relativistic Scalar Vector Plenum (RSVP) framework introduced here proposes a field-theoretic superstrate comprising a scalar potential $\boldsymbol{\Phi}$, vector field $\vec{\sqsubseteq}$, and entropy density $\boldsymbol{S}$, which unifies these domains by generalizing geometric transformations to spacetime dynamics and cognitive phenomena. The central question is whether these seemingly disparate fields—geometric transformations, quantum probabilities, and conscious perception—can be reconciled under a single geometric framework, with the "unsquared numbers" analogy serving as a unifying metaphor.

1.2 Thesis

We propose that complex numbers, metaphorically reframed as "unsquared numbers" to highlight their role as torsion-inducing geometric operators, form the basis for a broader field-theoretic framework. The RSVP superstrate extends this geometric intuition to higher-dimensional fields, where $\mathbf{\Phi}$, $\vec{\sqsubseteq}$, and S govern spacetime morphodynamics through nonlinear partial differential equations (PDEs). By coarse-graining RSVP field trajectories, we derive unistochastic transition matrices, aligning with Barandes's formulation and revealing quantum probabilities as emergent phenomena. Furthermore, RSVP's nonlinear dynamics and coherence metrics suggest a model for consciousness as a critical phase of entropic alignment, bridging geometric realism with cognitive science. This synthesis integrates Needham's visual geometry, Barandes's probabilistic quantum mechanics, and a novel field-theoretic approach to cognition, unified by the analogy of unsquared numbers as geometric transformation agents.

2 Visual Complex Analysis Revisited

2.1 Complex Numbers as Geometric Operators

Tristan Needham's Visual Complex Analysis reinterprets complex numbers as geometric transformations, moving beyond their algebraic definition (Needham, 1997). A complex number $z = a + bi$ is expressed in polar form as $z = re^{i\theta}$, where $r = |z|$ scales magnitude and $\theta = \arg(z)$ induces rotation in the complex plane. Multiplication by z transforms a vector $w \in \mathbb{C}$ via $w \mapsto zw$, scaling by r and rotating by θ. For a complex function $f(z)$, the derivative $f'(z) = \lim_{\Delta z \to 0} \frac{f(z+\Delta z) - f(z)}{\Delta z}$ encodes local dilation and rotation, preserving angles if f is holomorphic, thus defining a conformal map (Ahlfors, 1979; Conway, 1978). This perspective positions complex numbers as operators that deform the plane in a structured, angle-preserving manner, providing a foundation for the unsquared numbers analogy.

2.2 Unsquared Numbers: A Geometric Metaphor

The term "unsquared numbers" is a metaphorical reframing that underscores the geometric action of complex numbers. The imaginary unit i, defined by $i^2 = -1$, induces a 90-degree rotation rather than a positive scaling, distinguishing it from real number squaring (Yaglom, 1968). This torsion-inducing property suggests that complex numbers "unsquare" space, producing orthogonal or phase-shifted effects. In 2D, this is intuitive: multiplication by i rotates vectors perpendicularly. In higher dimensions, we generalize this concept using field-theoretic structures, where RSVP fields act as higher-dimensional analogs of unsquared operators, as detailed below.

2.3 Clifford Algebras as a Bridge to Higher Dimensions

Needham's framework is inherently 2D, confined to the complex plane. To extend this to 3D and 4D, we employ Clifford algebras, where complex numbers form the even subalgebra of Cl(2), and RSVP fields align with $\mathrm{Cl}(3,1)$, the Clifford algebra of Minkowski spacetime (Dorst et al., 2007; Selig, 2005). In Cl(2), the bivector e_1e_2 squares to -1, mirroring i, while in $\mathrm{Cl}(3,1)$, scalar and vector fields encode transformations analogous to complex multiplication. This algebraic structure provides a rigorous foundation for generalizing unsquared numbers to spacetime dynamics, bridging VCA with RSVP.

2.4 Cartan Frames and RSVP Pregeometry

Élie Cartan's method of moving frames offers a geometric scaffold for extending Needham's conformal geometry (Hehl and Obukhov, 2007). In VCA, conformal maps preserve angles; in RSVP, moving frames (tetrads) define local field alignments that incorporate torsion, generalizing conformal geometry to include entropic and vectorial dynamics (Frankel, 2011). This pregeometry sets the stage for RSVP as a field-theoretic extension of complex transformations, where Φ, $\vec{\sqsubseteq}$, and S deform spacetime configurations in a manner analogous to complex plane mappings.

Table 1: Comparison of Complex Numbers and RSVP Field Operators

Aspect	Complex Numbers (VCA)	RSVP Field Operators
Structure	$z = re^{i\theta}$	$\mathscr{X} = \Phi e^{\hat{L}}$, $\hat{L} = \vec{\sqsubseteq} \cdot \nabla + \theta \hat{T}$
Transformation	Scaling by r, rotation by θ	Scaling by Φ, flow by $\vec{\sqsubseteq}$, torsion by θ
Dimension	2D (complex plane)	4D (spacetime)
Geometric Role	Conformal mapping	Torsion-driven field flow
Algebraic Basis	$\mathbb{C} \cong \mathrm{Cl}(2)^+$	$\mathrm{Cl}(3,1)$

3 RSVP: The Relativistic Scalar Vector Plenum

3.1 Field Definitions

The RSVP framework posits a spacetime plenum defined by three fields: - $\Phi(x^\mu)$: a scalar potential, representing field amplitude or potential energy. - $\vec{\sqsubseteq}(x^\mu)$: a vector field, guiding directional flow and encoding negentropic structure. - $S(x^\mu)$: an entropy density, capturing temporal asymmetry and informational content.

These fields evolve over a 4D Minkowski spacetime with coordinates $x^\mu = (t, \mathbf{x})$ and metric $\eta_{\mu\nu} = \mathrm{diag}(-1,1,1,1)$, providing a relativistic substrate for geometric and cognitive dynamics (Penrose, 2004; Misner et al., 1973).

3.2 Core Dynamics

RSVP fields evolve via coupled PDEs, reflecting advection-diffusion, torsion, and entropy balance:

$$\partial_t \Phi + \vec{\sqsubseteq} \cdot \nabla \Phi = D_\Phi \nabla^2 \Phi + \sigma_\Phi, \tag{1}$$

$$\partial_t \vec{\sqsubseteq} + (\vec{\sqsubseteq} \cdot \nabla)\vec{\sqsubseteq} = -\nabla \Phi + \kappa \nabla \times \vec{\sqsubseteq} + \nu \nabla^2 \vec{\sqsubseteq}, \tag{2}$$

$$\partial_t S + \nabla \cdot (S\vec{\sqsubseteq}) = \alpha |\nabla \Phi|^2 - \beta S, \tag{3}$$

where D_Φ, ν, and κ are diffusion and torsion coefficients, σ_Φ is a source term, and α, β govern entropy production and decay (Jaynes, 1957; Jacobson, 1995). Equation (1) describes scalar advection-diffusion, (2) incorporates torsion and viscous effects, and (3) balances entropy transport with production from scalar gradients, reflecting thermodynamic irreversibility.

3.3 RSVP as a Nonlinear Sigma Model

RSVP fields map spacetime to a target manifold $\mathscr{N}$, defined by the configuration space $\mathscr{M} = \{(\Phi, \vec{\sqsubseteq}, S) \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^4)\}$. The dynamics derive from a variational principle with Lagrangian:

$$\mathscr{L} = \frac{1}{2}|\nabla \Phi|^2 + \frac{1}{2}|\vec{\sqsubseteq}|^2 + \mathscr{V}(\Phi, S), \tag{4}$$

where $\mathscr{V}$ is an interaction potential (Marsden and Ratiu, 1999; Arnold, 1989). This structure resembles a nonlinear sigma model, with gauge freedom under entropy-preserving diffeomorphisms, potentially modeled by a gauge field $A_\mu = (\Phi, \vec{\sqsubseteq})$. This formalism aligns RSVP with modern field theories, enabling connections to BRST/BV quantization (Pantev et al., 2013; Kontsevich and Soibelman, 2008).

3.4 RSVP as Generalized Complex Functions

We define a field operator $\mathscr{Z}(x^\mu) = \Phi(x^\mu)e^{\hat{L}(x^\mu)}$, where $\hat{L} = \vec{\mathcal{v}} \cdot \nabla + \theta \hat{T}$, and $\theta = \nabla \times \vec{\mathcal{v}} \cdot S^{-1}$ is a phase derived from curl and entropy (Krantz, 2006). This operator generalizes the complex number $z = re^{i\theta}$ to field-valued transformations, acting on spacetime configurations as unsquared operators that induce scaling and rotational flows, echoing Needham's geometric intuition.

4 From RSVP to Unistochastic Quantum Theory

4.1 Barandes's Unistochastic Framework

Jacob Barandes's unistochastic quantum mechanics reformulates quantum transitions using matrices $T_{ij} = |U_{ij}|^2$, where $U \in U(n)$ is a unitary operator (Barandes, 2020; Barandes and Kagan, 2014). These unistochastic matrices describe probabilistic transitions between macrostates, emphasizing coarse-graining and decoherence over fundamental Hilbert space dynamics (Zurek, 1991; Bengtsson and Życzkowski, 2017). This approach aligns with the emergent nature of quantum probabilities from underlying unitary structures, providing a probabilistic lens on quantum mechanics.

4.2 RSVP Transitions as Probabilistic Flows

In RSVP, field configurations $(\Phi, \vec{\mathcal{v}}, S)$ evolve through phase space, forming trajectories $\gamma \in \Gamma$. We define macrostates $\mathscr{C}_i$ as basins in $\mathscr{M}$, such as regions of high entropy or coherent vector alignment. Transition probabilities are:

$$T_{ij}^{\mathrm{RSVP}} = \int_{\mathscr{C}_i \to \mathscr{C}_j} |\mathscr{Z}(x^\mu)|^2 \, d^4x, \tag{5}$$

where $\mathscr{Z}$ is the field operator (Baez and Pollard, 2015; Petz, 1996). This mirrors Barandes's T_{ij}, with $|\mathscr{Z}|^2$ analogous to squared unitary amplitudes, projecting RSVP dynamics onto probabilistic transitions.

4.3 Time-Asymmetry and Entropy Flow

RSVP dynamics are irreversible due to entropy evolution in (3), contrasting with quantum unitarity but aligning with unistochastic irreversibility (Verlinde, 2011). Unitarity-like behavior emerges in low-entropy limits ($\beta S \approx 0$), where transitions approximate reversibility, bridging RSVP to quantum mechanics (Goyal, 2010).

4.4 Path Integral Formulation

We propose an RSVP path integral:

$$\langle \mathscr{C}_j | \mathscr{C}_i \rangle_{\mathrm{RSVP}} = \int_{\mathscr{C}_i \to \mathscr{C}_j} \mathscr{D}[\Phi, \vec{\mathcal{v}}, S] \, e^{iS_{\mathrm{RSVP}}}, \tag{6}$$

with action $S_{\mathrm{RSVP}} = \int \left(\frac{1}{2}|\nabla\Phi|^2 + \frac{1}{2}|\vec{\mathcal{v}}|^2 + \mathscr{V}(\Phi, S) \right) d^4x$. Coarse-graining this integral yields unistochastic transition probabilities, formalizing the projection from RSVP to quantum mechanics (Hardy, 2001; Kibble, 1979).

5 Holomorphicity, Coherence, and Consciousness

5.1 RSVP-Conformal Fields

We define an RSVP field operator $\mathscr{F}$ as conformal if it satisfies:

$$\partial_t \mathscr{F} = \mathscr{L}_{\vec{\mathcal{v}}} \mathscr{F}, \quad \nabla \cdot \vec{\mathcal{v}} = 0, \quad \nabla \times \vec{\mathcal{v}} = \lambda \vec{\mathcal{v}}, \tag{7}$$

Table 2: Connections Between RSVP Dynamics and Unistochastic Quantum Transitions

Aspect	RSVP Dynamics	Unistochastic QM
State Space	$\mathscr{M} = \{(\Phi, \vec{\sqsubseteq}, S)\}$	Hilbert space macrostates
Transition Mechanism	Field trajectories $\gamma \in \Gamma$	Unitary matrix U_{ij}
Probability	$T_{ij}^{\mathrm{RSVP}} = \int |\mathscr{Z}|^2 d^4x$	$T_{ij} = |U_{ij}|^2$
Temporality	Irreversible (entropy-driven)	Coarse-grained irreversibility
Geometric Basis	Torsion and conformal flows	Probabilistic geometry

where $\mathscr{L}_{\vec{\sqsubseteq}}$ is the Lie derivative (Frankel, 2011). This Beltrami condition ensures that $\vec{\sqsubseteq}$ preserves local alignment, analogous to holomorphic functions preserving angles in VCA, extending conformal geometry to field dynamics (Krantz, 2006).

5.2 RSVP Consciousness Metric

We introduce a coherence metric ϕ_{RSVP}, defined via Fisher information:

$$\phi_{\mathrm{RSVP}} = \int |\nabla \Phi|^2 S^{-1}\, d^4x, \tag{8}$$

measuring the alignment of scalar and vector fields against entropy (Friston, 2010; Lott and Villani, 2009). Consciousness is hypothesized to emerge at critical points where ϕ_{RSVP} is maximized, reflecting a phase transition in field dynamics, potentially linked to integrated information theory (Tononi, 2004; Oizumi et al., 2014).

5.3 RSVP-Entanglement and Tensor Networks

RSVP fields can be modeled on tensor networks, where local coherence in $\vec{\sqsubseteq}$ corresponds to entanglement across boundary conditions (Bialek, 2012; Tegmark, 2014). This suggests that quantum entanglement emerges from RSVP field correlations, with ϕ_{RSVP} quantifying shared information, offering a bridge between field dynamics and quantum states.

Table 3: RSVP Coherence Metrics and Consciousness Models

Aspect	RSVP Framework	Consciousness Models
Metric	$\phi_{\mathrm{RSVP}} = \int |\nabla \Phi|^2 S^{-1} d^4x$	Integrated information (IIT)
Dynamics	Critical field alignment	Neural phase transitions
Information	Entropy-driven coherence	Information integration
Emergence	Field-theoretic substrate	Emergent cognitive states
Validation	TARTAN simulations	Neuroimaging correlations

6 Implications and Philosophical Consequences

6.1 Redefining the Imaginary

The unsquared numbers analogy reframes imaginary units as generators of field curvature and torsion, grounding complex numbers in geometric realism rather than abstract algebra (Bohm, 1980; Hofstadter, 1979). This perspective aligns with RSVP's field operators, which induce transformations akin to complex multiplication in higher dimensions.

6.2 Consciousness and Quantum Mechanics

RSVP posits that consciousness and quantum mechanics are emergent layers of the same field substrate: consciousness as recursive field alignment, and quantum behavior as coarse-grained probabilistic flows (Seth, 2007; Calvin, 1996). This unifies cognitive and physical phenomena under a geometric framework, challenging traditional dualisms.

6.3 RSVP and the Measurement Problem

Measurement collapse is reinterpreted as the maximization of ϕ_{RSVP}, where field alignments project onto a coarse-grained macrostate, effectively selecting an observable reality (Everett, 1957; Deutsch, 1997). This offers a geometric alternative to Copenhagen's vagueness, grounding measurement in field dynamics.

6.4 RSVP as a Categorical Framework

RSVP forms a category with objects as field states $(\Phi, \vec{\sqsubseteq}, S)$ and morphisms as entropy-compatible flows (Baez and Pollard, 2015; Crane, 2007). Functors map RSVP to quantum categories (via unistochastic transitions) and complex analysis (via Needham's embeddings), providing a unified mathematical structure for physics and cognition.

7 Conclusion

This paper synthesizes Needham's visual complex analysis, RSVP field theory, and Barandes's unistochastic quantum mechanics under the metaphor of unsquared numbers. RSVP serves as a geometric superstrate, with quantum probabilities and conscious perception emerging from its entropic flows. Future work includes computational simulations (e.g., TARTAN) to validate RSVP-to-quantum mappings and explore applications in cosmology and cognitive science (Carney et al., 2021; Anderson, 2008).

8 Mathematical Appendix

8.1 A.1 Complex Numbers as Geometric Operators

A complex number $z = re^{i\theta}$ acts on $\mathbb{C}$ via $w \mapsto zw$, scaling by r and rotating by θ. The derivative of a holomorphic function is:

$$f'(z) = \lim_{\Delta z \to 0} \frac{f(z+\Delta z) - f(z)}{\Delta z}. \tag{9}$$

8.2 A.2 RSVP Field Dynamics

RSVP fields evolve via:

$$\partial_t \Phi + \vec{\sqsubseteq} \cdot \nabla \Phi = D_\Phi \nabla^2 \Phi + \sigma_\Phi, \tag{10}$$

$$\partial_t \vec{\sqsubseteq} + (\vec{\sqsubseteq} \cdot \nabla)\vec{\sqsubseteq} = -\nabla\Phi + \kappa \nabla \times \vec{\sqsubseteq} + \nu \nabla^2 \vec{\sqsubseteq}, \tag{11}$$

$$\partial_t S + \nabla \cdot (S\vec{\sqsubseteq}) = \alpha |\nabla \Phi|^2 - \beta S. \tag{12}$$

8.3 A.3 RSVP as Unsquared Operators

The operator $\mathscr{Z}(x^\mu) = \Phi(x^\mu) e^{\hat{L}(x^\mu)}$, with $\hat{L} = \vec{\sqsubseteq} \cdot \nabla + \theta \hat{T}$, $\theta = \nabla \times \vec{\sqsubseteq} \cdot S^{-1}$, generalizes complex numbers to field transformations.

8.4 A.4 Unistochastic Mapping

Transition probabilities are:

$$T_{ij}^{\mathrm{RSVP}} = \int_{\mathscr{C}_i \to \mathscr{C}_j} |\mathscr{L}|^2 \, d^4 x. \tag{13}$$

8.5 A.5 Path Integral

The RSVP path integral is:

$$\langle \mathscr{C}_j | \mathscr{C}_i \rangle_{\mathrm{RSVP}} = \int \mathscr{D}[\Phi, \vec{\sqsubseteq}, S] \, e^{i \int \left(\frac{1}{2} |\nabla \Phi|^2 + \frac{1}{2} |\vec{\sqsubseteq}|^2 + \mathscr{V} \right) d^4 x}. \tag{14}$$

8.6 A.6 Spectral Decomposition

The operator $\mathscr{L}$ admits a spectral decomposition, with eigenmodes corresponding to coherent field configurations. Non-Hermitian terms arise from entropy production.

8.7 A.7 Symplectic Structure

RSVP's configuration space $\mathscr{M}$ supports a symplectic form $\omega = d\Phi \wedge dS + d\vec{\sqsubseteq} \wedge d\vec{\sqsubseteq}$, enabling Hamiltonian-like dynamics (Guillemin and Sternberg, 1984).

8.8 A.8 Categorical Formulation

RSVP forms a category with objects $(\Phi, \vec{\sqsubseteq}, S)$ and morphisms as entropy-compatible flows. Functors map to quantum and complex-analytic categories (Crane, 2007).

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