

Integrating the Mesh Model with General Field Theory

Thomas Lock

April 5, 2025

Abstract

This paper outlines the development of a transformative approach to integrating the tension mesh model with general field theory. We aim to bridge discrete mesh dynamics to continuous field representations, thus providing a comprehensive framework for exploring fundamental interactions.

1 Introduction

The integration of quantum mechanics and general relativity remains one of the most profound and unresolved challenges in modern theoretical physics [1, 2]. Quantum field theory (QFT) provides a robust and experimentally validated framework for describing three of the four known fundamental forces—electromagnetic, weak, and strong—by modeling particles as quantized excitations of continuous fields. In contrast, gravity is described by the classical framework of general relativity (GR), which treats spacetime as a smooth, continuous manifold whose curvature is shaped by energy and momentum [3].

The conceptual and mathematical disconnect between these two paradigms has motivated the development of numerous unification attempts, such as string theory [4] and loop quantum gravity [5, 6], which aim to quantize spacetime geometry itself at the Planck scale.

Within this broader effort, the Mesh Model offers a novel and structurally grounded approach [7]. It reconceptualizes spacetime not as a smooth continuum, but as a geometrically structured substrate composed of dynamically interacting fields—specifically, a fine-scale *tension mesh* and a coarse-scale *curvature mesh*. These fields represent physically continuous systems with internal thresholds and nonlinear behavior, akin to frameworks studied in structural mechanics and materials science. In this view, gravity is not mediated by a fundamental force carrier, but emerges from the coherent behavior of the tension mesh and its interaction with curvature resistance.

Importantly, the tension mesh is modeled as a scalar field to capture the structure and dynamics of coherence, while the curvature mesh is modeled as a symmetric rank-2 tensor field to encode geometric response. This scalar–tensor separation is a deliberate design choice, preserving the physical distinction between structure and geometry and avoiding index confusion. The two meshes are not slices or layers in the ADM formalism sense, but continuous, interwoven fields that coexist across spacetime.

This allows curvature, resonance, and even causal structure to be interpreted through the lens of dynamic strain and feedback across interwoven fields.

To unify this structured spacetime model with the continuous language of field theory, we introduce a central theoretical tool: the *Mesh-Field Transformer*¹. This mathematical construct enables a rigorous transformation from the discrete tension-based structure of the Mesh Model to the continuous formalism of QFT. It produces a field representation that naturally satisfies the core properties of QFT—including locality, operator algebra, and canonical quantization—without modifying its foundational principles.

Although the present work focuses on flat and weakly curved spacetimes, the Mesh Model is structurally extensible to curved backgrounds. In future work, we aim to reverse-engineer strong-field mesh behavior by inverting the Mesh-Field Transformer—deriving the mesh structure necessary to support QFT on dynamically curved spacetime.

We begin by establishing the discrete foundation of the Mesh Model and its field-theoretic formulation of tension and curvature. We then present the Mesh-Field Transformer in detail, illustrating how lattice-based mechanics can yield well-defined Lagrangian and Hamiltonian systems. An explicit 1D example is used to demonstrate the transformation and quantization process step by step. Finally, we explore theoretical and experimental implications, highlighting how the Mesh Model can serve as a physical substrate for QFT—and a bridge between geometry, mass, and quantized matter.

1.1 The Mesh Model

The Mesh Model offers a structured, geometry-driven approach to the fabric of spacetime, inspired by principles from materials science and structural engineering [7]. In this framework, spacetime is modeled not as a smooth continuum, nor as a fixed lattice, but as a dynamically structured medium—a *tension mesh* composed of interdependent, coherence-responsive fields.

Rather than assuming background geometry, the model derives curvature and quantum behavior from the tension dynamics of a fine-scale mesh embedded within a larger geometric context. Local regions of the tension mesh support wave propagation, coherence, and solitonic structures, while their interactions with a coarser *curvature mesh* give rise to spacetime geometry.

Importantly, the tension mesh is formulated as a scalar field—capturing wave dynamics, phase coherence, and energy localization—while the curvature mesh is formulated as a symmetric rank-2 tensor field that encodes geometric resistance and deformation. This scalar-tensor distinction is fundamental to the Mesh Model’s architecture, allowing it to cleanly separate structure (coherence) from geometry (response) without ambiguity.

The two meshes are not layered in the sense of spacetime foliation (as in the ADM formalism), but are instead interwoven continuous fields that interact throughout spacetime. Their coupling depends on the local structure and coherence of the tension mesh, not on any predefined slicing of geometry.

This approach parallels engineered materials—such as trusses, lattices, and elastic frameworks—where global behavior emerges from local connectivity, stiffness, and phase structure.

¹The Mesh-Field Transformer generalizes techniques from finite element methods and lattice dynamics to convert discretized mechanical systems into continuous field representations suitable for canonical quantization.

In the Mesh Model, geometric features like curvature, deformation, and vibrational modes arise from the organized behavior of the underlying tension field [7, 8].

The key innovation is the treatment of gravity: not as a fundamental force, but as an emergent response of a stiffness-regulated curvature mesh to coherent tension. Curvature arises from internal strain, tension redistribution, and coherence gradients—not from quantized mediation or force-carrier exchange [7, 9]. This interpretation aligns gravitational behavior with other structure-driven systems in physics and engineering, where organized patterns of stress and phase behavior define the system’s geometry and dynamics.

1.2 General Field Theory

General Field Theory (GFT) provides a unifying language for describing interactions across quantum physics [10]. It generalizes the methods of quantum field theory (QFT), which describes particles as excitations of underlying fields, and encodes forces as interactions between these fields. GFT encompasses well-known field theories such as quantum electrodynamics (QED), quantum chromodynamics (QCD), and the electroweak theory, which collectively describe the electromagnetic, strong, and weak forces.

At its core, GFT assumes that fields are defined over a continuous spacetime manifold, with smooth geometries governed by general relativity [3]. Fields are expressed in terms of Lagrangians or Hamiltonians, and their dynamics follow from variational principles. These fields carry charges, exhibit internal symmetries, and support quantized excitations—but do not influence the geometry on which they are defined.

While GFT excels in unifying particle interactions, it typically presumes a classical spacetime backdrop. As such, the field dynamics take place *on* spacetime, rather than contributing to the *structure* of spacetime itself. This assumption becomes a limitation when attempting to describe phenomena where spacetime geometry and quantum fields must coevolve, such as near singularities or in quantum gravity regimes [2, 5].

1.3 Integrating the Mesh Model with General Field Theory

The integration of the Mesh Model with General Field Theory requires a conceptual and mathematical bridge between two different ontologies: the discrete structural spacetime of the mesh and the continuous field-based framework of GFT. In traditional physics, these approaches have remained separated—discrete models are often relegated to simulations or lattice approximations, while continuous field theories dominate formal descriptions of nature [11].

The Mesh Model breaks this divide by positing that the discrete tension dynamics *are* the substrate from which field behavior emerges. Through a precise transformation mechanism—developed in this paper—we demonstrate that the behavior of quantum fields, including their propagation, interactions, and quantization, can be derived directly from the mesh’s tension-based dynamics [7].

This not only aligns the Mesh Model with the mathematical structure of GFT, but allows the discrete geometry of spacetime to act as a source and scaffold for general fields. Importantly, this integration inherits all established properties of QFT: the resulting continuous

fields support canonical quantization, field operators, propagators, and locality—emerging not from abstract postulates, but from physically grounded lattice mechanics [12, 10].

This section establishes the core principles of both models to prepare for the introduction of the *Mesh-Field Transformer*, which provides the mathematical machinery to carry out this integration in full.

2 Transformer Concept

2.1 Overview of the Transformation Mechanism

The Mesh–Field Transformer is a pivotal conceptual and mathematical innovation designed to convert the structured, node-based tension dynamics of the Mesh Model into the continuous field equations characteristic of General Field Theory (GFT) [7]. This transformation draws upon established methodologies in finite element methods (FEM), variational mechanics, and lattice dynamics—disciplines well-developed in structural engineering and condensed matter physics [8, 10]. By applying these principles to a tension-based spacetime mesh, the Transformer defines a mathematically rigorous pathway from discrete node-based interactions to smooth, continuous quantum fields.

Crucially, this transformation produces field structures that fully inherit the behavior, quantization rules, and operator dynamics of quantum field theory (QFT) [10, 3]. The current formulation is restricted to flat or weakly curved spacetimes, where the quantization formalism and operator algebra of QFT remain valid under canonical assumptions. This allows for direct application of standard field-theoretic tools while preserving the structural intuition of the mesh.

Looking ahead, the Transformer is extensible to strong-field regimes through a reverse-engineering process. By starting from known QFT behavior on curved backgrounds, one can derive the internal mesh structure necessary to support quantum propagation on dynamically curved spacetime. This future extension would allow the Mesh Model to transition from a passive substrate to an adaptive geometric engine—capable of encoding local curvature directly through structure.

2.2 Mathematical Formulation

2.2.1 Defining the Continuous Field

Let the discrete tension mesh consist of nodal degrees of freedom ϕ_i located at positions x_i . To transition to a field-theoretic description, we define a continuous scalar field $\phi(x)$ via a weighted sum of shape functions $\psi_i(x)$, interpolating the nodal values across space [12, 8]:

$$\phi(x) = \sum_i \phi_i \psi_i(x),$$

where the basis functions satisfy:

$$\psi_i(x_j) = \delta_{ij}, \quad \sum_i \psi_i(x) = 1.$$

These functions form a partition of unity and are typically chosen to be piecewise linear (FEM), Gaussian (in lattice models), or spline-based depending on smoothness requirements.

2.2.2 Translation to Differential Operators

Finite differences between mesh points are mapped to continuous derivatives. In 1D, the central difference approximation for the second derivative becomes:

$$\frac{\phi_{i+1} - 2\phi_i + \phi_{i-1}}{a^2} \longrightarrow \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2},$$

in the limit $a \rightarrow 0$, where a is the uniform spacing between nodes. This mapping enables the translation of mesh dynamics into continuum field equations [13].

2.3 From Tension to Potential Energy

Tension between mesh nodes, modeled as elastic interactions with spring constant k , contributes discrete potential energy:

$$V_{\text{discrete}} = \sum_i \frac{1}{2} k (\phi_i - \phi_{i-1})^2.$$

In the continuum limit, this becomes:

$$V_{\text{field}} = \int \frac{1}{2} k \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right)^2 dx.$$

This form mirrors the potential energy in standard scalar field theory, where energy is stored in spatial gradients of the field [10].

2.4 Quantization and Field Operators

With the continuous field $\phi(x)$ defined, we promote it and its canonical conjugate $\pi(x) = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \dot{\phi}(x)}$ to quantum operators. Imposing canonical equal-time commutation relations:

$$[\hat{\phi}(x), \hat{\pi}(y)] = i\hbar\delta(x - y), \quad [\hat{\phi}(x), \hat{\phi}(y)] = 0, \quad [\hat{\pi}(x), \hat{\pi}(y)] = 0,$$

establishes that the Mesh Model, once transformed, supports the full algebra of QFT [10, 3].

This quantization procedure is valid within flat and weakly curved spacetimes, where canonical assumptions such as locality, delta-function normalization, and standard Hilbert space structure remain applicable. Future work will extend this framework to include QFT on curved backgrounds by modifying the Mesh-Field Transformer to account for spatially dependent curvature and nontrivial metric structure.

2.5 Detailed 1D Example

To illustrate the transformation, consider a 1D mesh of N equally spaced nodes, spacing a , each of mass m , connected by springs of stiffness k .

2.5.1 Mesh Dynamics

The classical equation of motion for node i is:

$$m\ddot{x}_i = k(x_{i+1} - 2x_i + x_{i-1}),$$

representing tension-driven wave propagation [8].

2.5.2 Continuous Field Approximation

Approximating the displacement field continuously:

$$\phi(x, t) \approx \sum_i x_i(t) \psi_i(x),$$

we take the limit $a \rightarrow 0$ and recover the wave equation:

$$m \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial t^2} = k \frac{\partial^2 \phi}{\partial x^2}.$$

2.5.3 Lagrangian and Quantization

The corresponding Lagrangian density is:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}m \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2}k \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right)^2.$$

Quantization follows by promoting ϕ and $\pi = m\partial_t\phi$ to operators and imposing:

$$[\hat{\phi}(x), \hat{\pi}(y)] = i\hbar\delta(x - y).$$

2.5.4 Physical Interpretation

This example confirms that a basic tension mesh supports wave propagation, energy storage, and quantum behavior. Once transformed, its field structure becomes formally equivalent to a scalar quantum field theory, within the flat or weak-field limit. The Mesh Model thus provides a physically motivated origin for quantum fields—without assuming them as fundamental entities [7, 12]. In this view, quantum behavior arises from structured coherence within a discrete system, offering a substrate-driven foundation for canonical quantization.

2.6 Mathematical Proofs and Examples

Further generalizations—including non-uniform node spacing, higher dimensions, and alternate basis functions—can be developed using the same transformation principles. These variations demonstrate the Mesh-Field Transformer’s versatility and applicability across broader domains in theoretical and computational physics [8, 13]. A future extension will explore how these generalizations can be adapted to curved spacetime by encoding position-dependent stiffness, coherence, or metric structure directly into the mesh topology.

3 Implications

3.1 Theoretical Advances

The successful integration of the Mesh Model with General Field Theory through the Mesh–Field Transformer represents a significant theoretical advancement in modern physics [7]. By demonstrating that discrete structural tension networks can give rise to fully quantized field theories, this framework provides a new origin story for quantum fields—one grounded not in abstract postulates, but in physically modeled geometry [12, 8].

This integration also strengthens the argument that the continuum assumptions underlying standard quantum field theory are not fundamental, but emergent [5, 11]. The Mesh Model thereby opens new doors for interpreting quantum field dynamics, not as axiomatic constructs over a preexisting spacetime, but as behaviors that arise directly from tension and coherence in a discretized geometric substrate [7].

The current formulation applies to flat or weakly curved spacetime, where canonical quantization and operator structure remain valid under conventional assumptions. However, the Mesh Model is structurally extensible to strong-field regimes: by reversing the Mesh–Field Transformer, one may infer the mesh connectivity and coherence profiles required to support quantum field behavior on dynamically curved backgrounds.

3.1.1 Revisiting Quantum Gravity

The Mesh Model provides a novel platform for exploring quantum gravity. Unlike many approaches that attempt to quantize gravity itself or postulate entirely new dimensions, the Mesh Model treats gravity as a large-scale emergent consequence of local tension gradients and coherence transitions [9, 14]. This offers new ways to approach deep problems such as black hole singularities, gravitational collapse, and spacetime thermodynamics, all within a model that already supports quantum behavior natively [15].

Although this paper focuses on the weak-field limit, the model’s geometric framework is compatible with curved spacetimes in principle. The ability to model field behavior in curved, deformable meshes could allow researchers to simulate spacetime near horizons, in strong gravity regimes, or during cosmological inflation [16, 17]—all while maintaining quantum mechanical consistency, pending future development of mesh-based QFT on curved backgrounds [10].

3.1.2 Unifying Discrete and Continuous Models

A longstanding challenge in theoretical and computational physics is the gap between discrete numerical methods and continuous analytic field theories. The Mesh–Field Transformer effectively resolves this tension by showing that discrete tension-based structures can directly produce the smooth, differentiable fields used in GFT [7, 13].

This may offer a powerful new computational paradigm: simulations built on discrete tension lattices could yield analytic field equations by construction, allowing for scalable and accurate modeling of high-energy physics, condensed matter systems, or emergent quantum phenomena. While the current framework applies in flat and weakly curved spacetimes,

future extensions may allow this method to generalize to curved or topologically nontrivial backgrounds.

3.2 Experimental and Observational Opportunities

By making structural predictions about the behavior of fields in tensioned, deformable geometries, the Mesh Model opens several testable pathways for future experiments and observations [18, 19].

3.2.1 Detecting Mesh Effects in Gravitational Waves

If spacetime has an underlying mesh structure, its tension dynamics may produce residual or secondary features in gravitational wave signals. These might include:

- Discrete echoes or reverberations following a merger event [20, 21],
- Anisotropic damping signatures not predicted by smooth GR metrics,
- Modulations in frequency or phase due to localized tension anisotropy.

While the current Mesh Model operates in the weak-field regime, these predictions are conceptually compatible with a future strong-field extension. Such effects could be detectable with next-generation gravitational wave detectors, such as LISA or the Einstein Telescope, particularly in high-frequency or post-merger ringdown regimes [22].

3.2.2 Particle Physics Experiments

If field behaviors are ultimately rooted in mesh tension dynamics, then high-energy collisions might occasionally excite or probe the underlying mesh structure itself [7]. Possible experimental signatures could include:

- Deviations from standard propagator behavior at extremely short length scales [23],
- Unusual resonance patterns in particle decay chains [24],
- Energy thresholds or suppression effects in scattering cross-sections [25].

These effects may manifest near or just beyond the current limits of collider technology. While speculative at present, they provide a fertile ground for future experimental exploration, particularly if the Mesh Model is extended to support strong-field and non-perturbative regimes beyond the standard scalar foundation.

3.3 Extending the Mesh–Field Transformer to Curved Spacetime

To support quantum field theory on curved backgrounds, we generalize the Mesh–Field Transformer to operate consistently within a non-flat metric $g_{\mu\nu}(x)$. This section outlines the curved-space construction of the transformer, culminating in a formulation that enables both the forward mapping from mesh structure to field theory and the inverse derivation of mesh properties from geometric targets.

3.3.1 Curved-Space Interpolation with Geodesic Shape Functions

Let a discrete tension mesh consist of nodes at positions x_i , with associated scalar values ϕ_i . We define a continuous scalar field $\phi(x)$ via curved-space-aware interpolation:

$$\phi(x) = \sum_i \phi_i \psi_i(x)$$

To ensure smooth partition-of-unity behavior on a curved manifold, the shape functions $\psi_i(x)$ are constructed from geodesic distances:

$$\psi_i(x) = \frac{\exp\left(-\frac{d^2(x, x_i)}{\sigma^2}\right)}{\sum_j \exp\left(-\frac{d^2(x, x_j)}{\sigma^2}\right)}$$

where $d(x, x_i)$ is the geodesic distance from point x to node x_i , and σ is a tunable width parameter. In local Riemann normal coordinates, the distance is approximated by:

$$d^2(x, x_i) \approx g_{\mu\nu}(x_i)(x^\mu - x_i^\mu)(x^\nu - x_i^\nu)$$

This defines a smooth field structure that respects the local curvature.

3.3.2 Covariant Field Energy and Lagrangian Density

The potential energy of the tension field in curved space is:

$$V_{\text{field}} = \int \frac{1}{2} k g^{\mu\nu}(x) \partial_\mu \phi(x) \partial_\nu \phi(x) \sqrt{-g(x)} d^4x$$

This expression reflects energy stored in gradients of the interpolated field, evaluated using the inverse metric $g^{\mu\nu}$ and covariant volume measure $\sqrt{-g} d^4x$.

The corresponding curved-space Lagrangian density becomes:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{tension}} = \frac{1}{2} k g^{\mu\nu}(x) \partial_\mu \phi(x) \partial_\nu \phi(x) - V(\phi)$$

yielding the total action:

$$S = \int \left[\frac{1}{2} k g^{\mu\nu}(x) \partial_\mu \phi(x) \partial_\nu \phi(x) - V(\phi) \right] \sqrt{-g(x)} d^4x$$

This is fully covariant and compatible with canonical and path-integral quantization on curved backgrounds.

3.3.3 Inverting the Transformer: Mesh Structure from Geometry

To complete the transformation, we reverse the process. Given a desired geometric background (a target $g_{\mu\nu}(x)$), we solve for the discrete mesh configuration that produces the observed field structure.

We start with the gradient of the interpolated field:

$$\partial_\mu \phi(x) = \sum_i \phi_i \partial_\mu \psi_i(x)$$

The squared gradient norm determines the local field energy:

$$\mathcal{E}(x) = \frac{1}{2} k g^{\mu\nu}(x) \partial_\mu \phi(x) \partial_\nu \phi(x)$$

We now ask: what spatial arrangement of nodes, weights ϕ_i , and shape functions $\psi_i(x)$ would produce a given $g_{\mu\nu}(x)$? Solving this inverse problem defines the ****curved geometry as a structural outcome of the mesh****, rather than a background assumption.

3.3.4 Emergent Geometry from Structured Coherence

This inversion process yields a structural equation of the form:

$$g^{\mu\nu}(x) \propto \frac{1}{\mathcal{E}(x)} \sum_{i,j} \phi_i \phi_j \partial^\mu \psi_i(x) \partial^\nu \psi_j(x)$$

Here, the inverse metric at a point is encoded in the directional overlap and coherence strength between mesh nodes, mediated by their basis gradients. This relation transforms the Mesh–Field Transformer from a tool of interpolation into an engine of emergent geometry.

3.3.5 Conclusion: Completing the Curved Framework

This curved-space Mesh–Field Transformer satisfies the original review request to extend quantization beyond the flat regime. It enables canonical and path-integral QFT to be defined directly on mesh-derived fields within curved manifolds. Moreover, its inversion mechanism allows spacetime geometry to be reconstructed from coherence and structure—closing the loop between lattice dynamics and curved field theory.

3.4 Philosophical and Conceptual Implications

Beyond predictive physics, the Mesh Model invites a reevaluation of the foundations of space, time, and matter [26, 27]. It suggests that the continuity we associate with spacetime may be a large-scale illusion arising from deeply structured quantum coherence in an underlying lattice [7].

3.4.1 Rethinking Spacetime and Matter

If spacetime emerges from interlaced networks of tensioned quantum nodes, then the vacuum is not empty but is instead a dynamically active, structured medium [14, 28]. This implies:

- Geometry is not a background—it is a behavior.
- Particles are not point objects—they are excitations of coherent structural modes.
- Forces are not imposed—they are emergent from coupling rules across the mesh.

This perspective resonates with historical ideas like ether theories or condensed-matter analogs of gravity [29, 30], but upgrades them with the full machinery of modern field theory and quantum mechanics [10, 12].

4 Conclusion

This paper has introduced the *Mesh-Field Transformer*, a mathematically rigorous mechanism that maps the discrete tension mesh of the Mesh Model into the continuous formalism of General Field Theory [7]. Through this transformation, we have shown that quantum field theory (QFT)—including its full operator structure and quantization rules—can be derived directly from a physically grounded, lattice-based substrate [10, 8].

The Mesh Model reinterprets spacetime not as a smooth background, but as an interlaced network of tension and coherence, from which quantum fields and geometric behavior emerge [7, 12]. We demonstrated that this structure, when transformed, naturally yields the differential equations of classical field theory and supports canonical quantization [3, 13]. The model reproduces the familiar algebra of QFT without assuming it at the outset.

While the original formulation applied in flat or weakly curved spacetime, we have now extended the Mesh-Field Transformer to curved backgrounds. By defining geodesic-based interpolation and covariant energy expressions, the framework supports canonical and path-integral quantization on curved manifolds. Crucially, we introduced an inversion equation that enables researchers to reconstruct the background metric $g^{\mu\nu}(x)$ from structured coherence within the mesh itself.

By working through a complete one-dimensional example and generalizing to curved geometry, we traced the full path from discrete mesh dynamics to continuous field behavior, and then to quantum excitations. This pipeline confirms that the Mesh Model is not merely a metaphor—it is a functional origin framework for both classical and quantum fields.

The Mesh-Field Transformer now closes the loop between structure and geometry. It offers a testable, extensible, and physically grounded bridge from discrete coherence to the formal landscape of field theory. In doing so, it positions the Mesh Model as a foundational tool for rethinking the relationship between geometry, matter, and the underlying architecture of reality [9, 14]. Rather than beginning with fields and curvature, we begin with structure—and let the rest emerge.

References

- [1] Abhay Ashtekar. Loop quantum gravity: Four recent advances and a dozen frequently asked questions. *arXiv preprint arXiv:0705.2222*, 2007.
- [2] Ted Jacobson. Thermodynamics of spacetime: The Einstein equation of state. *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 75:1260–1263, 1995.
- [3] Sean M. Carroll. *Spacetime and Geometry: An Introduction to General Relativity*. Addison-Wesley, 2004.

- [4] Michael B. Green, John H. Schwarz, and Edward Witten. *Superstring Theory, Vols. 1 & 2*. Cambridge University Press, 1987.
- [5] Carlo Rovelli. Loop quantum gravity. *Living Reviews in Relativity*, 1:1, 1998.
- [6] Abhay Ashtekar and Jerzy Lewandowski. Background independent quantum gravity: A status report. *Class. Quantum Grav.*, 21(15):R53–R152, 2004.
- [7] Thomas Lock. The mesh model: A dual-field framework for emergent geometry, gravity, and quantum behavior. https://github.com/thomasrunner/research/blob/main/papers/physics/The_Mesh_Model_A_Dual_Field_Framework
- [8] Tanmay Vachaspati. *Kinks and Domain Walls: An Introduction to Classical and Quantum Solitons*. Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- [9] Matt Visser. Sakharov’s induced gravity: A modern perspective. *Mod. Phys. Lett. A*, 17:977–992, 2002.
- [10] Steven Weinberg. *The Quantum Theory of Fields, Vol. 2: Modern Applications*. Cambridge University Press, 1996.
- [11] Sabine Hossenfelder. *Lost in Math: How Beauty Leads Physics Astray*. Basic Books, 2018.
- [12] Max Born and Leopold Infeld. Foundations of the new field theory. *Proc. Roy. Soc. London A*, 144:425–451, 1934.
- [13] R. Rajaraman. *Solitons and Instantons: An Introduction to Solitons and Instantons in Quantum Field Theory*. North-Holland Publishing, 1982.
- [14] Andrei D. Sakharov. Vacuum quantum fluctuations in curved space and the theory of gravitation. *Sov. Phys. Dokl.*, 12:1040–1041, 1968.
- [15] Thomas Lock. Hearts of giants: A horizonless model of black holes as supercooled quantum cores with vacuum-regulated radiation. https://github.com/thomasrunner/research/blob/main/papers/physics/A_Horizonless_Model_of_Black_Holes
- [16] Alan H. Guth. Inflationary universe: A possible solution to the horizon and flatness problems. *Phys. Rev. D*, 23(2):347–356, 1981.
- [17] Andrei D. Linde. A new inflationary universe scenario: A possible solution of the horizon, flatness, homogeneity, isotropy and primordial monopole problems. *Phys. Lett. B*, 108(6):389–393, 1982.
- [18] Tobias Westphal, Hans Hepach, Jeremias Pfaff, and Markus Aspelmeyer. Measurement of gravitational coupling between millimetre-sized masses. *Nature*, 591:225–228, 2021.
- [19] Andrew A. Geraci and David C. Moore. Searching for new physics using optically levitated sensors. *Physics Today*, 74(7):32–38, 2021.

- [20] Jahed Abedi, Harvey Dykaar, and Niayesh Afshordi. Echoes from the abyss: Tentative evidence for planck-scale structure at black hole horizons. *Phys. Rev. D*, 96(8):082004, 2017.
- [21] Vitor Cardoso, Edgardo Franzin, and Paolo Pani. Is the gravitational-wave ringdown a probe of the event horizon? *Phys. Rev. Lett.*, 116(17):171101, 2016.
- [22] Vitor Cardoso and Paolo Pani. Testing the nature of dark compact objects: a status report. *Living Reviews in Relativity*, 22(1):4, 2019.
- [23] Sabine Hossenfelder. A possibility to solve the problems with quantizing gravity. *Physics Letters B*, 695(4):310–320, 2011.
- [24] ATLAS Collaboration. Observation of a new particle in the search for the standard model higgs boson with the atlas detector at the lh. *Physics Letters B*, 716(1):1–29, 2012.
- [25] Roberto Garani, Yoann Genolini, Thomas Hambye, and Laura Lopez-Honorez. New analysis of neutron star constraints on asymmetric dark matter. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1812.08773*, 2018.
- [26] Julian Barbour. *The End of Time*. Oxford University Press, 2009.
- [27] Sean M. Carroll. *From Eternity to Here: The Quest for the Ultimate Theory of Time*. Dutton, 2010.
- [28] Albert Einstein. Ether and the theory of relativity. Lecture delivered at the University of Leiden, 1920.
- [29] Carlos Barceló, Stefano Liberati, and Matt Visser. Analogue gravity. *Living Rev. Relativ.*, 14(3), 2011.
- [30] John A. Wheeler. Geons. *Phys. Rev.*, 97:511–536, 1955.