

Response to Editor
Manuscript BIOSYS-D-25-00880R1

“Intelligence as High-Dimensional Coherence: The Observable Dimensionality Bound and Computational Tractability”

Ian Todd

December 21, 2025

I thank the Editor-in-Chief for the constructive feedback on the R1 revision. Below I provide detailed responses to each editorial comment.

Editorial Comments and Responses

Comment 1: It is more relevant to say that intelligence arises from the maintenance of high-dimensional coherence rather than that intelligence itself is high-dimensional, as intelligence is not a physical property like time and space.

Response: I agree entirely with this distinction. Intelligence is an emergent capacity, not a physical property, and the original phrasing conflated mechanism with identity.

Changes made:

- **Abstract:** Changed opening from “Intelligence must be high-dimensional” to “Intelligence arises from the maintenance of high-dimensional coherent dynamics.”
- **Section 1.1 (The Core Claim):** Changed “Intelligence must be high-dimensional because tracking complexity is what intelligence means” to “Intelligence arises from maintaining high-dimensional coherence because tracking complexity is what intelligence means.”
- **Section 1.1:** Changed “Intelligence is implemented through high-dimensional continuous dynamics” to “Intelligent behavior arises from high-dimensional continuous dynamics.”
- **Conclusion:** Changed “We establish intelligence as the capacity to maintain high-dimensional coherent dynamics” to “We establish that intelligence arises from the capacity to maintain high-dimensional coherent dynamics.”

This reframing strengthens the argument: the claim is now explicitly causal/mechanistic (“arises from”) rather than ontological (“is”), which is philosophically more defensible and scientifically more precise.

Comment 2: The abstract should be organized in one paragraph of no more than 250 words and be self-explanatory. Currently, it contains the statements that are at least partially explained in the main text but remain obscure in the abstract, e.g. regarding the values of D_{target} , the values of energy dissipation, etc. The statement is presented in bold font in the abstract, which does not correspond to the rules of formatting abstracts.

Response: The abstract has been completely rewritten to address all formatting concerns.

Changes made:

- **Single paragraph:** The abstract is now one continuous paragraph (previously three).
- **Word count:** Approximately 240 words (within the 250-word limit).
- **No bold formatting:** Removed all bold text from the abstract.
- **Self-explanatory:** Removed specific numerical values ($D_{target} \sim 10^1\text{--}10^2$, energy dissipation values, etc.) that required context from the main text. The abstract now describes concepts in accessible language without assuming familiarity with the notation.
- **Logical flow:** The abstract now follows a clear progression: (1) main claim, (2) core constraint, (3) how biology sidesteps the constraint, (4) implications for efficiency, (5) formal contributions, (6) connection to existing literature.

The revised abstract can be understood independently without reference to the main text.

Comment 3: Regarding the dimensionality of consciousness, it may be useful to consider the recently published papers in *BioSystems*:

- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biosystems.2025.105677>
- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biosystems.2024.105346>
- <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biosystems.2020.104151>

Response: I have integrated these three papers into the manuscript, situating the current work within the broader *BioSystems* literature on consciousness and dimensionality.

Changes made:

- **Section 7.1 (Integrated Information Theory):** Added a paragraph citing all three papers:

“Recent work in *BioSystems* has explored the relationship between consciousness and dimensionality from multiple perspectives: Ivancevic (2020) developed a neuro-geometric model linking consciousness to high-dimensional manifold dynamics, Beneventano (2024) examined the physical information approach to conscious experience, and Pepperell (2025) proposed a non-reductive naturalist account grounded in complex systems.”

- **Abstract:** Added closing sentence connecting to “recent work on consciousness and dimensionality.”
- **References:** Added complete bibliographic entries for all three papers with DOIs.

These citations strengthen the paper’s connection to ongoing work in *BioSystems* and demonstrate how the current framework contributes to the journal’s broader discourse on consciousness, complexity, and biological organization.

Summary of R2 Changes

1. **Philosophical reframing:** “Intelligence IS high-dimensional” → “Intelligence ARISES FROM high-dimensional coherence” throughout manuscript.
2. **Abstract reformatted:** Single paragraph, ~240 words, no bold, self-explanatory without undefined notation.

3. BioSystems literature integrated: Three recent papers on consciousness/dimensionality cited and discussed in context of existing theoretical frameworks.

No changes were made to the core theoretical framework, quantitative demonstrations, or empirical predictions from the R1 revision. The R2 changes address editorial guidance on framing and formatting while preserving the substantive contributions.

I thank the editor for the thoughtful feedback, which has improved both the precision and accessibility of the manuscript.