

On Measurement

Volume I

The Conditions of $\Delta S \geq 0$

Bill Cochran

wkcochran@gmail.com

October 12, 2025

*To Boltzmann, who first counted what could be distinguished;
to Planck, who taught us that the count is finite;
and to Cantor, who showed that even the infinite can be ordered.*

Abstract

This work shows that measurement itself defines the metric structure of physics: each act of distinction generates an increment of causal order. From this premise—that every measurement refines the universe’s record of what can be distinguished—it follows that information, and thus entropy, can never decrease. Within standard set theory, this principle is proved as a theorem of causal consistency rather than assumed as a thermodynamic postulate.

We present a constructive proof that the entropy of any causally consistent universe is non-decreasing, $\Delta S \geq 0$. Within the axioms of Zermelo–Fraenkel set theory with Choice, we define a finite causal order of distinguishable events whose reciprocal operations—measurement and variation—form a dual pair under the *Reciprocity Law of Physics*. Each measurement counts distinctions; each variation relates them. Their bijection guarantees that information cannot decrease under any admissible extension of order.

Requiring global coherence under Martin’s Axiom enforces the fourth-order cancellation $U^{(4)} = 0$, identifying the cubic spline as the minimal analytic closure of the dual system. This closure produces the continuous calculus of variations as the smooth limit of finite causal measurement, and its algebraic dual defines the discrete logic of event selection. From this structure, the invariants of physics emerge successively: the wave equation as the propagation of reciprocal consistency, the metric as its gauge, and curvature as the residue of its global non-closure. Operationally, entropy measures the loga-

rithm of the number of admissible distinguishable configurations consistent with the causal order. When the causal field is interpreted as this count of distinctions, its curvature encodes the rate at which distinguishability grows. Coupling the causal field to entropy yields a constant-curvature stress tensor that defines the gravitational scale.

Thus, $\Delta S \geq 0$ is not a thermodynamic postulate but a theorem of causal measurement: the necessary condition that any universe consistent with its own record of distinctions must increase the count of what can be known.

Contents

Abstract	i
Overview of the Argument	ix
1 Introduction	1
2 The Calculus of Measurement	3
2.1 Introduction	3
2.1.1 On the Structure of Measurement	4
2.2 The Axioms of the Mathematical	5
2.2.1 Sets of Events	7
2.3 The Axioms of the Physical	9
2.3.1 Measurement and the Axiom of Order	9
2.3.2 Formal Structure of Event and Universe Tensors	11
2.3.3 Axiom of Finite Observation	17
2.3.4 Construction of the Universe Tensor and the Axiom of Event Selection	17
2.3.5 The Necessity of Consistency (The Martin Correspondence)	24
2.4 The Equivalence Principle of Physics	24
2.4.1 Kinematics as a Consequence of Martin's Axiom	24
2.4.2 Variations and the Reciprocity of Measurement	26
2.4.3 Formal Definition of the Reciprocity Mapping	31

2.4.4	Discrete-to-Continuum Limit	32
2.4.5	2.4.6 The Free Parameter of the Third Variation . . .	38
2.5	Conclusion: The Admissible Calculus of Measurement	40
3	The Wave	43
3.1	Introduction: Martin's Condition and the Continuity of Causal Propagation	43
3.2	Interaction: The Union of Ordered Events	45
3.2.1	Spooky Action as a Dantzig Pivot	47
3.2.2	The Qubit as an Example of Event Selection	50
3.2.3	Hawking Radiation as the Loss and Restoration of Order	51
3.3	Wave Amplitude from Interaction Counts	54
3.4	First Variation of Amplitude	57
3.5	Second Variation of Amplitude	59
3.6	Advection as Order-Preserving Transport	61
3.7	On Deriving Motion Without Energy	65
4	The Kinematics of Light	69
4.0.1	Consequences and Outlook	70
4.0.2	Arc of the Proof	71
4.0.3	Defining Entropy	72
4.1	Metric as a Gauge of Separation	73
4.1.1	From Distinction to Distance	73
4.1.2	Axiomatic Necessity	73
4.1.3	The Metric as a Gauge Connection	74
4.1.4	Causal Interpretation	75
4.2	The Rule of Causal Transport	79
4.2.1	From Gauge Preservation to Connection	79
4.2.2	Operational Meaning	79
4.2.3	Parallel Transport and Martin Consistency	80
4.2.4	Causal Interpretation	81

5	Quantum Fields	84
5.1	The Residue of Inconsistency	85
5.1.1	Curvature as the Measure of Non-Closure	86
5.1.2	Physical Interpretation	87
5.1.3	Contractions and Scalar Invariants	87
5.1.4	The Meaning of Curvature in the Causal Framework	87
5.2	Global Constraint as the Einstein Equation	88
5.2.1	From Local Residue to Global Balance	88
5.2.2	Interpretation in the Causal Framework	89
5.2.3	The Closure of the Gauge of Light	89
6	Quantum Fields	91
6.1	The Action Functional	93
6.1.1	Definition from the Causal Universe Tensor	93
6.1.2	Physical Interpretation	94
6.1.3	Noether Currents of the Causal Gauge	94
6.2	The Application of Noether	95
6.2.1	Symmetry and Conservation as Statistical Identities	95
6.2.2	Conserved Quantities of the Causal Gauge	96
6.2.3	Statistical Interpretation	98
6.2.4	Translations and the Stress–Energy Tensor	98
6.2.5	Energy and Momentum Densities	100
6.2.6	Bookkeeping Interpretation	100
6.2.7	Curved Backgrounds and Killing Symmetries	101
6.3	Angular Momentum and Spin	104
6.3.1	Noether Current for Lorentz Invariance	104
6.3.2	Belinfante–Rosenfeld Improvement	105
6.3.3	Conserved Charges	106
6.3.4	Worked Examples	106
6.3.5	Bookkeeping Interpretation	107
6.4	Gauge Fields as Local Noether Symmetries	107

6.4.1	From Global to Local Symmetry	107
6.4.2	Interpretation in the Causal Framework	109
6.4.3	Bookkeeping of Local Consistency	110
6.5	Mass and the Breaking of Symmetry	111
6.5.1	From Gauge Symmetry to Mass Terms	111
6.5.2	Causal Interpretation	113
6.5.3	Statistical View	113
6.6	Conclusion: Quantization as Finite Consistency	115
7	The Second Law of Causal Order	117
7.1	Statement of the Law	117
7.2	Entropy as Informational Curvature	118
7.3	Statistical Interpretation	119
7.4	Physical Consequences	120
7.5	Conclusion	120
7.6	Epilogue	121

List of Thought Experiments

1	Thought Experiment (Feynman Diagram as a Causal Network)	7
2	Thought Experiment (Non-commutative event pair)	13
3	Thought Experiment	14
4	Thought Experiment (Spooky Action at a Distance [2, 18, 68])	15
5	Thought Experiment (Hawking Radiation)	15
6	Thought Experiment (Pathological Extension Without Event Selection)	18
7	Thought Experiment (Double-Slit as the Partition of Path Distinguishability [42, 3, 83])	29
8	Thought Experiment (Discrete Causal Rule as Algebraic Clo- sure)	34
9	Thought Experiment (Point-wise Agreement of the Infinite Taylor Expansion [53, 35, 70, 71, ?])	35
10	Thought Experiment (Coincidence as a Retro-Constraint [73, 69, 25, 47, 62])	36
11	Thought Experiment (Non-commuting measurements as event selection)	45
12	Thought Experiment (Mach-Zehnder Interferometer as Causal Superposition)	47
13	Thought Experiment (Michelson-Morley as Gauge Isotropy of Causal Separation)	74

14	Thought Experiment (Galileo's Free-Fall as the Flat-Space Limit of Causal Motion)	76
15	Thought Experiment (Gravitational Lensing as Informational Curvature)	77
16	Thought Experiment (The Three-Body Problem as Computational Reciprocity)	78
17	Thought Experiment (Non-Abelian transport and curvature) .	80
18	Thought Experiment (Invariance of the Causal Interval ds^2) .	81
19	Thought Experiment (The Harmonic Oscillator as a Closed Loop of Reciprocal Measurement)	96
20	Thought Experiment (Conservation of Energy for a Free Scalar Field)	101
21	Thought Experiment (Feynman Diagram as a Tensor Expansion of the Field)	103
22	Thought Experiment (Spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ as Two-Valued Causal Orientation)	104
23	Thought Experiment (Aharonov-Bohm Effect as a Test of Causal Gauge Consistency)	109
24	Thought Experiment (Mexican Hat Potential and the Breaking of Informational Symmetry)	112
25	Thought Experiment (Semiconductors as Partially Broken Informational Lattices)	114
26	Thought Experiment (Maxwell's Demon as Non-commutative Selection)	118

Overview of the Argument

This work establishes, within standard set theory, that the entropy of any causally consistent universe is non-decreasing: $\Delta S \geq 0$. The proof proceeds constructively. Each part isolates one mathematical operation required for the universe to remain consistent under its own act of measurement. When these operations are closed under Martin’s Axiom, the Second Law follows as a theorem of order rather than a postulate of thermodynamics. In physical terms, Martin’s Axiom plays the role of a global consistency condition: it guarantees that every locally admissible causal choice can be extended to a single, contradiction-free history. When the system satisfies this closure property, the count of distinguishable states can only increase, realizing the Second Law as a statement of order preservation.

Part I — The Calculus of Measurement. Beginning with Zermelo–Fraenkel set theory with Choice, we define a locally finite causal order of distinguishable events. Two reciprocal operations arise naturally: *measurement*, which counts distinctions, and *variation*, which relates them. Their bijective correspondence—the *Reciprocity Law*—ensures that information can only increase as new distinctions are drawn. In the continuum limit this reciprocity reproduces the calculus of variations; in the discrete limit it defines a logic of event selection that guarantees causal consistency.

Part II — The Wave. When the reciprocity relation is translation-invariant, its discrete updates form a Laplacian whose kernel represents the propagation of causal consistency. The wave equation emerges as the unique smooth limit preserving this invariance, and interference appears as the combinatorial superposition of indistinguishable causal paths.

Part III — The Kinematics of Light. Global coherence of these local relations requires the fourth-order cancellation $U^{(4)} = 0$, enforced by Martin's Axiom. This identifies the cubic spline as the minimal analytic closure of the dual system, from which the principle of least action follows. Geometry and metric structure arise as bookkeeping devices that preserve reciprocity when causal order is distorted by gravity.

Part IV — Quantum and Gravitational Fields. Stable patterns of reciprocal balance act as particles; their conservation laws arise from Noether symmetries of the causal gauge. Coupling the causal field to entropy produces an informational stress tensor whose constant curvature defines the gravitational scale. Curvature itself is interpreted as the residue of global non-closure—the measure of how much order must increase for consistency to be maintained.

Part V — The Second Law of Causal Order. Combining these constructions yields the central result: any extension of a finite causal order consistent with Martin's Axiom must increase the number of distinguishable states. Entropy, curvature, and causal depth are therefore equivalent measures of the same invariant. The inequality $\Delta S \geq 0$ is not assumed but derived—the mathematical expression of a universe that can never lose track of its own distinctions.

Reading the Proof. The argument is constructive rather than interpretive. Each part extends the previous one by a single act of closure that

preserves causal consistency:

$$\text{Measurement} \Rightarrow \text{Calculus} \Rightarrow \text{Wave} \Rightarrow \text{Geometry} \Rightarrow \text{Field}.$$

At every stage, a new invariant appears whenever distinction is preserved under refinement. The sequence therefore builds the minimal structure required for a universe that records its own evolution without contradiction.

Part I defines the finite causal order and establishes the bijection between measurement and variation. Part II shows that translation-invariant updates propagate as waves—local proofs that reciprocity holds across causal intervals. Part III introduces global coherence through Martin’s Axiom, yielding the fourth-order cancellation $U^{(4)} = 0$ and identifying the cubic spline as the analytic closure of causal measurement. Part IV extends this closure to conservation laws, gauge symmetry, and curvature. Part V completes the proof: any admissible extension of a finite causal order must increase the count of distinguishable states, implying $\Delta S \geq 0$.

Thus, the proof is read not as a series of analogies but as a chain of logical consequences. Starting from finiteness, order, and choice, one obtains measurement, variation, and their reciprocity; from reciprocity, one obtains calculus; from calculus, the smooth invariants of physics; and from their global consistency, the Second Law of Causal Order. In this sense, $\Delta S \geq 0$ is the unique fixed point of mathematics and physics—the inequality that any self-consistent universe must obey.

N.B.—The proof contains multiple conceptual examples to help explain the mathematical machinery. These *thought experiments* are not empirical illustrations but formal constructions intended to clarify the logical structure of the axioms. They are finite conceptual models that demonstrate how the mathematical relations behave under specific constraints of order and measurement. No claim is made regarding physical observation; each serves only to illuminate the internal mechanics of the theory.

N.B.—Throughout what follows, it is essential to distinguish the log-

ical structure of measurement from any claim about physical phenomena. The arguments presented here concern the internal consistency of *records of distinction*—that is, the admissible transformations among measurable events—rather than the evolution of material systems themselves. Every symbol, tensor, and variation in the proof refers to relations between observations, not to unobserved substances or causes. The framework thus formalizes the mathematics of *measurement*: how distinctions can be made, counted, and related without contradiction. No ontological or dynamical claims are implied; the results hold regardless of what, if anything, the symbols may represent physically.

N.B.—This is a paper about *information*, not about energy, momentum, or any other physical quantity. At no point is it suggested that such values are produced, derived, or generated by the constructions presented here. All arguments concern the logical structure of measurement and the internal coherence of distinguishability, not the dynamics of physical systems.

N.B.—This is a *conditional* proof. All conclusions hold only under the stated axioms and definitions. No claim is made regarding the physical truth of those assumptions, only their internal consistency and the consequences that follow from them.

No differential equations were harmed in the production of this proof.

This work treats measurement as a discrete, logical process. Continuum formulations appear only as smooth limits of countable constructions, never as physical postulates.

Chapter 1

Introduction

Every theory of physics begins with a calculus, an instrument for measuring variation. Yet a calculus alone cannot describe the universe, for measurement presupposes the existence of an ordered substrate upon which distinctions can be drawn. The present work begins from this observation and constructs, alongside the familiar differential calculus, its algebraic dual: a logic of finite relations that determines how measurements themselves come to exist. Where calculus quantifies change, the dual quantifies order¹. Each derivative has its adjoint in the discrete act of selection, and each integral its counterpart in the accumulation of distinguishable events. Taken together, these two systems—the continuous and its dual—generate the fundamental tensor structure from which the laws of physics emerge.

The central claim of this monograph is that the universe can be described as a pair of mutually defining operations: measurement and distinction. The first gives rise to the calculus of variation, the second to the ordering of events. The Causal Universe Tensor unites them by showing that every measurement in the continuous domain corresponds to a finite operation in the

¹Unlike conventional formulations of dynamics, no notion of functional *dependency* is invoked. All relations are expressed purely through order and distinguishability: one event follows another, but nothing is said to depend on anything else. The calculus describes consistency among records of distinction, not causal generation.

discrete domain, and that these two descriptions agree point-wise to all orders. The familiar objects of physics—wave equations, curvature, energy, and stress—then appear not as independent postulates but as necessary conditions for maintaining consistency between the two sides of this dual system.

From this perspective, the classical boundary between mathematics and physics dissolves. Calculus no longer describes how the universe evolves in time; it expresses how consistent order is maintained across finite domains of observation. Its dual, the logic of event selection, guarantees that these domains can be joined without contradiction. Together they form a closed pair: an algebra of relations and a calculus of measures, each incomplete without the other. The subsequent chapters formalize this duality axiomatically, derive its tensor representation, and show that the entire machinery of dynamics—motion, field, and geometry—arises as the successive enforcement of consistency between the two.

Chapter 2

The Calculus of Measurement

2.1 Introduction

Every physical description begins not with space or time, but with an *event*—an interaction that makes previously indistinguishable outcomes distinct [5, 56]. The causal boundary of such an interaction is its *light cone*: the set of all events that can influence or be influenced by it according to special relativity [17, 50]. The intersection of two light cones, corresponding to the last particle–wave interaction accessible to an observer, defines the maximal region of causal closure [29, 54]. Beyond this surface, no additional information can be exchanged; all distinguishable action has concluded.

It is from this closure that the ordering of events arises [29, 46]. Each measurable interaction contributes one additional distinction to the universe, expanding its causal surface by a finite count [29, 46]. The smooth fabric of spacetime is not primitive but emergent: it is the limiting behavior of discrete causal increments accumulated along the light cone [7, 66]. Within each cone, the universe can be represented by a finite tensor of interactions—local updates to a global state—that together approximate continuity only through cancellation across countable events [7, 67].

Special relativity provides the canonical local model for this causal struc-

ture [17]. Consider the Lorentz transformation for a boost of velocity v in one spatial dimension, [17, 63, 74]

$$\begin{pmatrix} t' \\ x' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & -\gamma v/c^2 \\ -\gamma v & \gamma \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} t \\ x \end{pmatrix}, \quad \gamma = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - v^2/c^2}}. \quad (2.1)$$

For infinitesimal separations satisfying $x = ct$, the Lorentz transformation gives

$$t' = \gamma t(1 - v/c). \quad (2.2)$$

If we take $\Delta t = 1$ as the unit interval between distinguishable events, then observers moving at relative velocity v will, in general, disagree on the *number* of such events that occur between two intersections of their respective light cones [50]. The only invariant quantity is the causal ordering itself: all observers concur on which event precedes which, even though they may count a different number of intermediate ticks [46].

Definition 1 (Rank time). *Let (E, \preceq) be a locally finite poset of events. A time rank is an order-embedding*

$$\tau : E \rightarrow \text{Ord}$$

satisfying $e \prec f \implies \tau(e) < \tau(f)$. Local finiteness implies that for any observer's causal domain $D \subseteq E$, $\tau(D)$ is order-isomorphic to an initial segment of \mathbb{N} . We therefore define the duration between anchors $a \prec b$ by

$$|\delta t|(a, b) = \#\{e \in E \mid a \prec e \prec b\} \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Two rank functions τ, τ' are equivalent if there exists an order-isomorphism ϕ with $\tau' = \phi \circ \tau$; equivalent ranks yield identical durations.

Remark 1 (Operational content of time). *Time is an ordinal rank on E , not an independent scalar field. All subsequent uses of “ t ” refer to an order-equivalence class of rank functions as in Definition ???. The additivity $|\delta t|(a, b) =$*

$|\delta t|(a, c) + |\delta t|(c, b)$ follows from local finiteness.

This observation motivates the first physical axiom: that time is not an independent scalar field but an ordinal index over causally distinguishable events. Each event increments the universal sequence by one count; each observer’s clock is a local parametrization of that same count under Lorentz contraction. The apparent continuity of time is the result of the density of such events within the causal cone, not an underlying continuum of duration.

2.1.1 On the Structure of Measurement

This work does not propose new physical phenomena or reinterpret existing experimental data. Rather, it reformulates how measurable quantities are represented and reduces the number of degrees of freedom needed to describe the universe to a single parameter that can be curve-fit.

The analysis concerns only the *structure of measurement itself*: the mathematical relations among counts of distinguishable events that underlie all physical observations. In this framing, physics is viewed as a grammar of distinctions. The familiar constants and fields—mass, charge, curvature, temperature—arise as *derived measures* within a finite causal order, not as independent entities.

No new particles, forces, or cosmological effects are introduced; only the rules by which such effects are numerically expressed are examined. Hence the present theory is not a revision of physics but a clarification of its syntax: it studies the measures of phenomena, not the phenomena themselves.

Operationally, every observation can be decomposed into three layers:

1. the **logical** layer—which events are distinguishable;
2. the **mathematical** layer—how those distinctions are counted;
3. the **physical** layer—how the resulting counts are named and parameterized as energy, momentum, or time.

By isolating the first two layers, we obtain a calculus that is universal to any admissible physics: a closed system of relations that expresses how order itself becomes measurable.

The framework that follows formalizes this intuition. The axioms of Zermelo–Fraenkel set theory with the Axiom of Choice, we construct an ordered set of events whose distinguishability relations reproduce the causal order implied by special relativity. Measurements are counts of these relations, and the universe tensor—the cumulative sum of event tensors over all causal increments—serves as the discrete foundation from which the continuous laws of physics emerge.

2.2 The Axioms of the Mathematical

All mathematics in this work is carried out within the framework of Zermelo–Fraenkel set theory with the Axiom of Choice (ZFC) [40]. Rather than enumerating the axioms in full, we recall only those consequences relevant to the construction that follows:

- **Extensionality** ensures that distinguishability has formal meaning: two sets differ if and only if their elements differ.
- **Replacement** and **Separation** guarantee that recursively generated collections such as the causal chain of events remain sets.
- **Choice** permits well-ordering, allowing every countable causal domain to admit an ordinal index.

These are precisely the ingredients required to formalize a locally finite causal order. All further constructions—relations, tensors, and operators—are definable within standard ZFC mathematics; see Kunen [40] and Jech [38] for set-theoretic foundations, and Halmos [27, 28] for the induced tensor and operator structures on finite-dimensional vector spaces.

Axiom 1 (The Axioms of Mathematics [23, 40, 80]). *All reasoning in this work is confined to the framework of Zermelo–Fraenkel set theory with the Axiom of Choice (ZFC). Every object—sets, relations, functions, and tensors—is constructible within that system, and every statement is interpretable as a theorem or definition of ZFC. No additional logical principles are assumed beyond those required for standard analysis and algebra.*

Formally,

$$\text{Physics} \subseteq \text{Mathematics} \subseteq \text{ZFC}.$$

Thus, the language of mathematics is taken to be the entire ontology of the theory: the physical statements that follow are expressions of relationships among countable sets of distinguishable events, each derivable within ordinary mathematical logic.

2.2.1 Sets of Events

Let the set of all events accessible to an observer be denoted E^1 , ordered by causal precedence \leq . Because any physically realizable region is finite, this order forms a locally finite partially ordered set (poset) [21].

Each admissible set of events may be represented as a locally finite partially ordered structure [7, 66], whose links record only those relations that are causally admissible. In this view, a “history” is not a continuous trajectory but a combinatorial diagram: every vertex an event, every edge a permissible propagation. This discrete formulation generalizes the intuition behind Feynman’s space–time approach to quantum mechanics, in which the amplitude of a process is obtained by summing over all consistent histories [19, 20]. The Feynman diagram thus appears here as a special case of the causal network itself—a pictorial reduction of the full tensor of event

¹The symbol E here denotes the *set of distinguishable events*—it is not the energy operator or expectation value familiar from mechanics. Throughout this work, E indexes discrete occurrences in the causal order, while quantities such as energy, momentum, or stress appear only later as *derived measures* on this set.

relations—and the path integral becomes a statement of global consistency across all measurable causal connections.

Thought Experiment 1 (Feynman Diagram as a Causal Network). [20] *In conventional quantum field theory, a Feynman diagram depicts a sum over interaction histories connecting initial and final particle states. Each vertex represents an elementary event—an interaction that renders previously indistinguishable outcomes distinct—and each propagator represents the possibility of causal influence between events.*

In the present formulation, such a diagram is naturally interpreted as a finite causal network. The set of vertices corresponds to the event set E , and the directed edges encode the causal relation \leq defined by the Axiom of Order. The tensor assigned to each vertex, $E_k \in T(V)$, records the measurable contribution of that interaction to the global state, while the propagators describe admissible compositions of these event tensors within the Universe Tensor

$$U_n = \sum_{k=1}^n E_k.$$

Summing over all consistent diagrams is therefore equivalent to enumerating all admissible orderings of distinguishable events. The path integral itself becomes a statement of global consistency across the entire causal network: every measurable amplitude corresponds to one possible embedding of finite causal order into the continuous limit. In this sense, a Feynman diagram is not merely a pictorial tool but a discrete representation of the causal tensor algebra from which continuum physics emerges.

This identification is pedagogically useful. From this point onward, every construction may be viewed as an algebraic generalization of the familiar Feynman diagram: the event tensors are its vertices, the causal relations its edges, and the Universe Tensor the cumulative sum over all consistent orderings. The remainder of the monograph simply formalizes this graphical intuition in set-theoretic and tensorial language, rather than using calculus.

Definition 2 (Partially Ordered Set). A partially ordered set (*poset*) is a pair (E, \leq) where \leq is a binary relation on E satisfying:

1. **Reflexivity:** $e \leq e$ for all $e \in E$;
2. **Antisymmetry:** if $e \leq f$ and $f \leq e$, then $e = f$;
3. **Transitivity:** if $e \leq f$ and $f \leq g$, then $e \leq g$.

Such an ordering always admits at least one maximal element [7]:

$$\text{Top}(E) = \{e \in E \mid \nexists f \in E \text{ with } e < f\}. \quad (2.3)$$

The elements of $\text{Top}(E)$ represent the current causal frontier—the most recent events that have occurred but have no successors [68]. Although $\text{Top}(E)$ may contain several incomparable (spacelike) elements, it is never empty and therefore provides a well-defined notion of a “last event” from the observer’s perspective. This frontier defines the light-cone boundary and the terminal particle–wave interaction that delimits all accessible information.

2.3 The Axioms of the Physical

A common criticism of mathematical physics is the extent to which mathematics can be tuned to fit observation [6, 56] and, conversely, manipulated to yield nonphysical results [4, 34]. The critique of Newton’s fluxions could only be answered by successful prediction. Today, calculus feels like a natural extension of the real world—so much so that Hilbert, in posing his famous list of open problems, explicitly formalized the lack of a rigorous foundation for physics as his Sixth Problem [32, 76].

We aim to show that the mathematical language used to describe physics gives rise to a system expressible entirely as a discrete set of events ordered in time. Moreover, this ordered set possesses a mathematical structure that

naturally yields the appearance of continuous physical laws and the conservation of quantities. To understand how this works, we first clarify what we mean by measurement.

2.3.1 Measurement and the Axiom of Order

Physical laws relate measurements. For example, Newton’s second law [52]

$$F = \frac{dp}{dt} \quad (2.4)$$

states that force relates to the *change* in momentum over time. To speak of change you must have at least two momentum values, one that *comes before* the other; otherwise there is nothing to distinguish. In set-theoretic terms, by the Axiom of Extensionality, different states must differ in their contents, so “change” presupposes the distinguishability of two states.

In this framing, measurement values are *counts* (cardinalities) of elementary occurrences: the number of hyperfine transitions during a gate, the tick marks traversed on a meter stick, the revolutions of a wheel. The *event* is the action that makes previously indistinguishable outcomes distinguishable; the *measurement* is the observed differentiation (the count) between two anchor events. This is not the absolute measure of the event, but just relative difference of the two. We count the events as time passes.

Since special relativity requires that time vary under the Lorentz transform [17, 45], there can be no global scalar representation of temporal duration. Rather, special relativity permits us only to *list* all events in the universe in their proper causal order. It is this ordered list that we elevate to the first physical principle:

Axiom 2 (The Axiom of Order (The Axiom of Cantor) [10, 16]). *The only invariant agreement in time guaranteed between two observers is the order in which the events occur. The duration between two events is defined as the*

number of measurements that can be recorded between them:

$$|\delta t| = |\text{events distinguished between}|. \quad (2.5)$$

Definition 3 (Time). *Time is not a variable, scalar, or independent measurement. Rather, it is an index into the sorted list of events guaranteed by the Axiom of Order. Its role is purely ordinal: to enumerate the relative position of events within the universal sequence.*

Definition 4 (Event Tensor). *Let \mathcal{V} be a finite-dimensional real vector space of measurable quantities [26]. An event tensor $\mathbf{E}_k \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{V})$ encodes the distinguishable contribution of the k -th event $e_k \in \mathcal{E}$ to the global state. It is related to the logical event by a measurable embedding $\Psi : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{V})$, where $\mathbf{E}_k = \Psi(e_k)$.*

Definition 5 (Ordered fold). *Let (E, \preceq) be totally ordered as $\langle e_1, \dots, e_n \rangle$ on a finite prefix, and let (\mathcal{A}, \oplus) be a (not-necessarily commutative) associative algebraic structure with identity 0. Given event tensors $E_k \in \mathcal{A}$, define the ordered fold by*

$$\text{Fold}_{\oplus}(E_1, \dots, E_n) := (((0 \oplus E_1) \oplus E_2) \cdots) \oplus E_n.$$

Definition 6 (Entanglement equivalence). *Write $E_i \sim E_j$ if they lie in a subset on which \oplus is commutative and which preserves all cyclic scalar invariants (e.g. traces of contractions). Two ordered lists are entanglement-equivalent if they differ only by permutations inside such subsets. We write \equiv for equality modulo entanglement equivalence.*

Proposition 1 (Causal Universe Tensor). *Let $E_1 \prec \cdots \prec E_n$ be the event tensors in order, with \oplus the addition in $T(V)$ (componentwise in the direct sum) and composition handled only by subsequent linear functionals. Define $U_0 := 0$ and*

$$U_{k+1} := U_k \oplus E_{k+1}, \quad 0 \leq k < n.$$

Then:

1. The sequence $(U_k)_{k=0}^n$ is uniquely determined by the recursion (no ambiguity of parenthesization since \oplus is associative).
2. If a subset $S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$ is entangled in the sense of Definition ??, then reordering $\{E_i\}_{i \in S}$ leaves all cyclic scalar invariants of U_n unchanged; i.e. $U_n \equiv U'_n$ for any such reordering.
3. In the fully commutative case, $U_n = \sum_{k=1}^n E_k$ as a componentwise sum in $T(V)$.

Proof. (1) Associativity gives well-definedness of the left fold. (2) By construction, permutations inside entangled subsets preserve \oplus and cyclic scalar functionals (e.g. traces of contractions), hence invariants coincide. (3) If \oplus is commutative, the fold equals the ordinary finite sum. \square

With the ordinal structure of events established, we now formalize how these measurements combine algebraically within a finite vector space.

2.3.2 Formal Structure of Event and Universe Tensors

We now specify the algebraic structure of the quantities introduced above. Let \mathcal{V} denote a finite-dimensional real vector space representing the independent channels of measurable quantities (e.g. energy, momentum, charge). Define the tensor algebra [27, 43]

$$\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{V}) = \bigoplus_{r=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{V}^{\otimes r}, \quad (2.6)$$

whose elements are finite sums of r -fold tensor products over \mathbb{R} . Each *event tensor* E_k is a member of $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{V})$ encoding the distinguishable contribution of

the k -th event to the global state. We write

$$\mathbf{E}_k \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{V}), \quad \mathbf{U}_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbf{E}_k \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{V}). \quad (2.7)$$

Addition is understood componentwise in the direct sum and preserves the ordering of indices guaranteed by the Axiom of Order [7, 27]. In this setting the “universe tensor” \mathbf{U}_n is the cumulative history of all event tensors up to ordinal n .

Definition 7 (Tensor Algebra). *The tensor algebra on V is*

$$\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{V}) = \bigoplus_{r=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{V}^{\otimes r},$$

with componentwise addition and associative tensor product.

Remark 2. *Each logical event e_k in the partially ordered set (\mathcal{E}, \prec) induces a tensor $\mathbf{E}_k = \Psi(e_k)$ in $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{V})$. The mapping Ψ translates causal structure into algebraic contribution, ensuring that causal precedence corresponds to index ordering in \mathbf{U}_n .*

Because $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{V})$ is a free associative algebra, all operations on \mathbf{U}_n are well defined using the standard linear maps, contractions, and bilinear forms of \mathcal{V} . The subsequent analysis of variation and measurement therefore proceeds entirely within conventional linear-operator theory.

From the definition of the Universe Tensor

$$U_n = \sum_{k=1}^n E_k, \quad (2.8)$$

we may regard an *entanglement* as any subset of events whose local order can be permuted without altering the global scalar invariants of U_n . Formally, a

subset $S \subseteq \{E_1, \dots, E_n\}$ is entangled if, for every permutation π of S ,

$$\sum_{E_i \in S} E_i = \sum_{E_i \in S} E_{\pi(i)}. \quad (2.9)$$

In this case, all contractions or scalar traces derived from U_n remain unchanged by reordering the elements of S , even though the operator sequence itself may differ.

Definition 8 (Entanglement). *From the definition of the universe tensor*

$$\mathbf{U}_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbf{E}_k, \quad (2.10)$$

an entanglement is a subset of events

$$S \subseteq \{\mathbf{E}_1, \dots, \mathbf{E}_n\} \quad (2.11)$$

such that for any permutation π of S ,

$$\sum_{\mathbf{E}_i \in S} \mathbf{E}_i = \sum_{\mathbf{E}_i \in S} \mathbf{E}_{\pi(i)}, \quad (2.12)$$

and therefore no invariant scalar derived from \mathbf{U}_n is changed by reordering the events in S .

Thought Experiment 2 (Non-commutative event pair). *Let $V = \mathbb{R}^2$ and take event tensors as 2×2 matrices acting on V with the usual (non-commutative) product. Define*

$$E_A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad E_B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then

$$E_A E_B = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \neq \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} = E_B E_A, \quad \text{so } [E_A, E_B] \neq 0.$$

Thus, the universe update $U_2 = E_A E_B$ differs from $U'_2 = E_B E_A$ whenever the event pair is not in an entanglement class that permits permutation. However, cyclic scalar invariants agree: $\text{tr}(E_A E_B) = \text{tr}(E_B E_A) = 3$, and $\det(E_A E_B) = \det(E_A) \det(E_B) = 1$. Hence order affects the operator state but leaves cyclic scalars (our measurable invariants) unchanged. This illustrates how Event Selection can forbid reordering (no entanglement) while Martin-like consistency still preserves global scalar bookkeeping.

Thought Experiment 3. Consider two independent event chains $A_1 \prec A_2$ and $B_1 \prec B_2$, represented by 2×2 event tensors

$$E_{A1} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad E_{A2} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad E_{B1} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad E_{B2} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.13)$$

The cumulative tensor through all four events is

$$U_4 = E_{A1} + E_{A2} + E_{B1} + E_{B2} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.14)$$

Because E_{A2} and E_{B2} commute under addition, the subset $S = \{E_{A2}, E_{B2}\}$ is entangled: its permutation leaves all scalar invariants of U_4 unchanged. This simple algebraic example demonstrates how entanglement corresponds to commutative structure within a finite causal chain.

The cumulative universe tensor through all four events is then

$$\mathbf{U}_4 = \mathbf{E}_{A1} + \mathbf{E}_{A2} + \mathbf{E}_{B1} + \mathbf{E}_{B2} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (2.15)$$

If the entangled pair $\{A_2, B_2\}$ is permuted, the componentwise sum is unchanged, $\mathbf{E}_{A2} + \mathbf{E}_{B2} = \mathbf{E}_{B2} + \mathbf{E}_{A2}$, illustrating that entanglement classes correspond to commutative subsets within the otherwise ordered sequence. This simple construction realizes the algebraic content of Proposition 1 in explicit matrix form.

Thought Experiment 4 (Spooky Action at a Distance [2, 18, 68]). Consider an entanglement $S = \{\mathbf{E}_i, \mathbf{E}_j\}$ of two spatially separated measurement events. By definition, the order of \mathbf{E}_i and \mathbf{E}_j may be permuted without changing any invariant scalar of the universe tensor:

$$\mathbf{E}_i + \mathbf{E}_j = \mathbf{E}_j + \mathbf{E}_i. \quad (2.16)$$

When an observer records \mathbf{E}_i , the global ordering is fixed, and the universe tensor is updated accordingly. Because \mathbf{E}_j belongs to the same entanglement set, its contribution is now determined consistently with \mathbf{E}_i , even if E_j occurs at a spacelike separation. This manifests as the phenomenon of “spooky action at a distance”—the appearance of instantaneous correlation due to reassociation within the entangled subset.

Thought Experiment 5 (Hawking Radiation). Let \mathbf{E}_{in} and \mathbf{E}_{out} denote the pair of particle-creation events near a black hole horizon. These events form an entangled set:

$$S = \{\mathbf{E}_{in}, \mathbf{E}_{out}\}. \quad (2.17)$$

As long as both remain unmeasured, their contributions may permute freely within the universe tensor, preserving scalar invariants. However, once \mathbf{E}_{out} is measured by an observer at infinity, the ordering is fixed, and \mathbf{E}_{in} is forced to a complementary state inside the horizon. The outward particle appears as Hawking radiation, while the inward partner represents the corresponding loss of information behind the horizon. Thus Hawking radiation is naturally expressed as an entanglement whose collapse occurs asymmetrically across a causal boundary.

Definition 9 (Distinguishability chain). Let Ω be a nonempty set. A distinguishability chain on Ω is a sequence $\mathcal{P} = \{P_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}}$ of partitions $P_n \in \mathbf{Part}(\Omega)$ such that P_{n+1} refines P_n for all n (every block of P_{n+1} is contained in a block of P_n). Write $\mathbf{Bl}(P)$ for the set of blocks of a partition P .

Definition 10 (Event). *Fix a distinguishability chain $\mathcal{P} = \{P_n\}$. An event at index n is a minimal refinement step: a pair*

$$e = (B, \{B_i\}_{i \in I}, n) \quad (2.18)$$

such that:

1. $B \in \text{Bl}(P_n)$;
2. $\{B_i\}_{i \in I} \subseteq \text{Bl}(P_{n+1})$ is the family of all blocks of P_{n+1} contained in B , with $|I| \geq 2$ (a nontrivial split);
3. (minimality) there is no proper subblock $C \subsetneq B$ with $C \in \text{Bl}(P_n)$ for which the family $\text{Bl}(P_{n+1}) \cap \mathcal{P}(C)$ is nontrivial.

Let E denote the set of all such events. We define a (strict) order on events by $e \prec f \iff n_e < n_f$, where n_e denotes the index of e .

Intuitively, P_n encodes which outcomes of Ω are indistinguishable at index n . An event is the atom of change in distinguishability: a single block B of P_n that is split into $\{B_i\}$ in P_{n+1} .

Definition 11 (Predicate on events). *A predicate is any map $P : E \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$. It selects which events are “counted.”*

Definition 12 (Measurement). *Let E be the event set with order \prec , and let $P : E \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ be a predicate. Given two anchor events $a, b \in E$ with $a \prec b$, the measurement of P between a and b is*

$$M_P[a, b] := \#\{e \in E \mid a \prec e \prec b \text{ and } P(e) = 1\} \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (2.19)$$

Basic properties If (E, \prec) is locally finite (only finitely many events between comparable anchors), then $M_P[a, b]$ is finite. Measurements are *additive*: for $a \prec c \prec b$,

$$M_P[a, b] = M_P[a, c] + M_P[c, b]. \quad (2.20)$$

They are also *order-invariant*: any strictly order-preserving reindexing of E leaves $M_P[a, b]$ unchanged.

2.3.3 Axiom of Finite Observation

The recursive description of physical reality is meaningful only within the finite causal domain of an observer. Each step in such a description corresponds to a distinct measurement or recorded event. Observation is therefore bounded not by the universe itself, but by the observer's own proper time and capacity to distinguish events within it.

Axiom 3 (The Axiom of Finite Observation (The Axiom of Planck) [55]). *For any observer, the set of observable events within their causal domain is finite. The chain of measurable distinctions terminates at the limit of the observer's proper time or causal reach.*

This axiom establishes the physical limit of any causal description: the sequence of measurable events available to an observer always ends in a finite record. Beyond this frontier—beyond the end of the observer's time—no additional distinctions can be drawn. The *last event* of an observer thus coincides with the top of their causal set: the boundary of all that can be measured or known.

2.3.4 Construction of the Universe Tensor and the Axiom of Event Selection

The algebraic structure introduced so far defines a finite causal order of distinguishable events, each contributing an elementary tensor \mathbf{E}_k to the cumulative universe tensor

$$\mathbf{U}_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbf{E}_k. \quad (2.21)$$

This sequence describes the universe as a recursively constructed record of distinctions: every new event refines the existing causal order by one measurable increment. Yet the same mathematical machinery that enables such constructions can also generate pathological extensions—formal solutions with no physical meaning. To maintain causal coherence, the theory must therefore include a regularity condition that limits which extensions are admissible.

Thought Experiment 6 (Pathological Extension Without Event Selection). *Let $E = \{e_1, e_2, e_3, \dots\}$ be a locally finite causal chain where each event e_i has a unique successor e_{i+1} . Define the corresponding universe tensor*

$$\mathbf{U}_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbf{E}_k, \quad \mathbf{E}_k = \Psi_k(e_k). \quad (2.22)$$

Now suppose we attempt to “extend” this history by splitting a single event e_j into uncountably many indistinguishable refinements:

$$e_j \longrightarrow \{e_{j,\alpha}\}_{\alpha \in [0,1]}, \quad (2.23)$$

each representing a formally distinct but observationally identical outcome. Algebraically, this replacement yields

$$\mathbf{E}_j \longrightarrow \int_0^1 \mathbf{E}_{j,\alpha} d\alpha, \quad (2.24)$$

so that the next update becomes

$$\mathbf{U}_{n+1} = \mathbf{U}_n + \int_0^1 \mathbf{E}_{j,\alpha} d\alpha. \quad (2.25)$$

This “extension” violates the finiteness and distinguishability conditions necessary for causal coherence:

1. *The set $\{e_{j,\alpha}\}$ is uncountable, destroying local finiteness;*
2. *The new events are indistinguishable, so Extensionality no longer guar-*

antees unique contributions;

3. *The total tensor amplitude U_{n+1} can diverge or cancel arbitrarily, depending on how the continuum of duplicates is treated.*

Operationally, this is a Banach–Tarski-like overcounting: the causal structure has been “refined” in a way that preserves measure only formally while the order relation collapses. The observer would now predict contradictory outcomes for the same antecedent state—an overcomplete history.

To prevent this, the Axiom of Event Selection restricts the permissible extension to a countable, consistent refinement:

$$e_j \longrightarrow e_{j,1}, e_{j,2}, \dots, e_{j,k}, \quad (2.26)$$

and requires the selection of exactly one representative outcome from each locally admissible family. This keeps E locally finite and maintains a single-valued universe tensor,

$$\mathbf{U}_{n+1} = \mathbf{U}_n + \mathbf{E}_{j,k*}. \quad (2.27)$$

The axiom thus enforces the same regularity that Martin’s Axiom guarantees in set theory: every countable family of local choices admits a globally consistent selection that preserves the partial order.

Overgeneration and the Need for Selection. Pure mathematics allows objects that exceed any finite observer’s capacity to distinguish: sets without measurable support, or decompositions that preserve volume while destroying order (as in the Banach–Tarski paradox). In physical terms, such pathologies correspond to hypothetical universes that overcount possibilities—histories in which indistinguishable outcomes are spuriously distinguished by the formalism itself. To restrict attention to realizable histories, we introduce an axiom that selects only those extensions of the causal order that remain both countable and consistent with local finiteness.

Axiom 4 (Axiom of Event Selection (The Axiom of Boltzmann)). *Let² (\mathbf{P}, \leq) be the poset of finite, order-consistent partial histories in a locally finite causal domain, ordered by extension. For every countable family $\{D_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ of dense subsets of \mathbf{P} (local causal constraints), there exists a filter $G \subseteq \mathbf{P}$ with $G \cap D_n \neq \emptyset$ for all n .*

Remark 3 (Logical guarantee, not a mechanism). *Axiom ?? is non-constructive. It asserts the existence of at least one globally consistent extension meeting all countably many local constraints but does not prescribe any observable or deterministic procedure that finds it. This mirrors the role of the Rasiowa–Sikorski lemma in forcing and is structurally analogous (though weaker in scope) to Martin’s Axiom on ccc posets. The axiom thereby rules out pathological overgeneration (e.g. uncountable splits into indistinguishable refinements) by restricting attention to countable, order-coherent extensions.*

Thought Experiment 7 (Algorithmic analogies are illustrative only). *Classical algorithms such as Dantzig’s simplex method select admissible vertices in a feasible polytope under global constraints, providing existence-by-structure but not physics. We invoke such algorithms only as intuition pumps: they exemplify selection under constraints, not a dynamical law implemented by nature.*

Remark 4. *Downstream results should cite Axiom ?? only for existence. Any phrase suggesting that the axiom “chooses,” “constructs,” or “computes” a history should be replaced with “there exists a history meeting the constraints.”*

²The structural analogy between the Axiom of Event Selection and Martin’s Axiom follows standard set-theoretic treatments of the countable chain condition and forcing [48, 40, 37, 75]. Physically, it parallels Boltzmann’s principle that every admissible microstate selection must preserve distinguishability [6], and echoes Hilbert’s call to axiomatize the foundations of physics [31]. See also Bombelli et al. [7] for causal-set structure and Finkelstein [22] for the logical formulation of causal consistency.

Interpretation. The Axiom of Event Selection serves as the “spline condition” for causal structure: it ensures that the discrete increments of measurement join smoothly into a coherent global record. Just as a cubic spline is the minimal analytic closure that interpolates local data without oscillation, Event Selection is the minimal logical closure that interpolates local causal choices without contradiction. The result is a universe tensor \mathbf{U}_n that can evolve indefinitely while preserving the consistency of order:

$$\mathbf{U}_{n+1} = \mathbf{U}_n + \mathbf{E}_{n+1}, \quad \text{with all admissible } \mathbf{E}_{n+1} \text{ selected by causal consistency.}$$

Under this rule, the smoothness of physical law is not imposed but emerges as the global continuity of distinguishability itself.

Corollary 1 (Martin consistency from Event Selection (domain version)). *Let P be the poset of all finite, order-consistent partial histories in a fixed observer’s causal domain, ordered by extension ($p \leq q$ iff q extends p without introducing new indistinguishabilities). Then:*

1. *P satisfies the countable chain condition (ccc).*
2. *For every countable family $\{D_n : n \in \mathbb{N}\}$ of dense subsets of P , there exists a filter $G \subseteq P$ such that $G \cap D_n \neq \emptyset$ for all n .*

Consequently, every countable system of local causal choices admits a globally consistent extension meeting all local constraints. In §2.3.4–§2.3.5 we interpret this as the finite causal analogue of Martin’s property in this domain.

Proof. (1) P is ccc. By construction, each condition $p \in P$ encodes only finitely many events and order-relations drawn from a *countable* label set available to the observer (Axiom of Finite Observation). Two conditions are incompatible iff they disagree on at least one finite relation (e.g. they force contradictory orderings on some finite subconfiguration). But there are only countably many distinct finite patterns over a countable alphabet; hence any

antichain injects into a countable set of such patterns and must itself be countable. Therefore P has no uncountable antichain, i.e. P is ccc.

(2) Existence of a filter meeting a countable dense family [59, 40]. Let $\langle D_n : n \in \mathbb{N} \rangle$ be dense subsets of P . We build an increasing sequence $(p_n)_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ in P by recursion so that $p_{n+1} \in D_n$ for all n .

Start with any $p_0 \in P$ (e.g. the empty partial history). Given p_n , use the density of D_n to choose $p_{n+1} \in D_n$ with $p_{n+1} \leq p_n$. (Here \leq is the extension order, so p_{n+1} extends p_n and is therefore compatible with all earlier requirements.) This recursion is legitimate by the Axiom of Choice (assumed via ZFC).

Define

$$G := \{q \in P \mid \exists n \ p_n \leq q\}. \quad (2.28)$$

Then G is upward closed by definition; and it is directed since (p_n) is an increasing chain: for any $q_1, q_2 \in G$ choose n_1, n_2 with $p_{n_i} \leq q_i$ and let $m = \max\{n_1, n_2\}$; then $p_m \leq q_1, q_2$, so any $q \geq p_m$ lies in G and is a common extension. Thus G is a filter on P .

Finally, for each n we have $p_{n+1} \in D_n$ and $p_{n+1} \in G$, so $G \cap D_n \neq \emptyset$. Hence G meets every dense set in the given countable family.

Remark (transfinite families). The above construction yields the classical Rasiowa–Sikorski lemma for countably many dense sets (provable in ZFC). In our setting, the *Axiom of Event Selection* supplies the physical regularity that, together with local finiteness (ccc), supports the same book-keeping recursion along any well-orderable family of dense requirements indexed below 2^{\aleph_0} , producing an increasing chain $\langle p_\alpha \mid \alpha < \kappa \rangle$ with $p_{\alpha+1} \in D_\alpha$ and the same filter $G = \{q : \exists \alpha \ p_\alpha \leq q\}$ meeting all D_α . In this sense, Event Selection plays the domain-specific role of an MA-like closure principle for the causal poset considered here. \square

Remark 5 (Scope). *This is not a derivation of set-theoretic Martin’s Axiom inside ZFC. Rather, under the physical axioms of locally finite causality and*

Event Selection, the induced forcing-like poset of finite partial histories enjoys an MA-like property sufficient for our global-consistency arguments. In Chapter 3, this is exactly the “Martin’s Condition” used to guarantee propagation/compatibility across overlaps.

The values of the Causal Universe Tensor compute the scalar invariants of order that remain unchanged under admissible extensions of the causal set. Each component of the tensor encodes a local configuration of events, while the contraction of those components—its scalar value—measures the degree of consistency of that configuration with the global ordering guaranteed by Martin’s Axiom. When the tensor’s scalar invariants remain constant, the system exhibits smooth, force-free motion: the kinematic regime.

2.3.5 The Necessity of Consistency (The Martin Correspondence)

The proof requires only a finite analogue of Martin’s Axiom: that every countable system of locally consistent causal choices can be extended to a globally consistent order. This condition—call it the *Causal Compactness Principle*—guarantees that finite observers can refine their measurements indefinitely without contradiction.

Formally, if (P, \leq) is the poset of finite partial histories satisfying the countable chain condition, then any countable family of dense causal requirements admits a filter meeting them all. This ensures that every local causal patch can be embedded into a global history.

This principle has the same structural form as Martin’s Axiom but does not depend on its full set-theoretic strength. It is the minimal regularity condition needed for global causal coherence: the statement that the universe can always extend its own record of distinctions without inconsistency.

2.4 The Equivalence Principle of Physics

2.4.1 Kinematics as a Consequence of Martin’s Axiom

Martin’s Axiom asserts that every countable system of local causal choices admits a globally consistent extension. Within the calculus of measurement, this logical regularity plays the role that *kinematics* occupies in classical physics. It defines what it means for a system to change without contradiction.

Consider a finite observer whose record of events is locally ordered by causal precedence. Each admissible update selects one new event consistent with all previously recorded ones. Martin consistency guarantees that such selections can be extended indefinitely without producing a conflict of order; there always exists a global history that meets every local causal constraint. This property alone is enough to endow the set of events with a notion of motion.

The evolving record of distinctions, denoted $E(t)$, formalizes the process by which an observer’s information state becomes linearly ordered through successive acts of differentiation. Each increment in $E(t)$ represents a new, non-redundant distinction—an extension of the prefix of computable structure that defines the observer’s informational past. This conception unifies classical and modern treatments of order, computation, and measurement: from Gödel’s incompleteness (1931), through Spencer–Brown’s calculus of distinction (1969), Chaitin’s algorithmic information theory (1974, 1987), Wheeler’s “it from bit” (1990), and the causal-set formulations of Sorkin and collaborators (Rideout and Sorkin 1999; Markopoulou 2000), to the self-organizing theories of cognition in Maturana and Varela (1980). Taken together, these works articulate the same fundamental principle of *linearization*: that reality, in any consistent system of record, unfolds as a temporally ordered accumulation of distinctions.[24, 69, 11, 12, 77, 61, 47, 49]

Because each extension preserves order, successive updates can be repre-

sented as a smooth deformation of the existing configuration,

$$E(t + \delta t) = E(t) + \Delta E, \quad (2.29)$$

where ΔE is constrained by consistency rather than by force. The existence of a consistent extension implies that the second variation of order, $\Delta^2 E$, must itself be smooth across all overlapping causal neighborhoods. Any discontinuity would violate Martin's Axiom by producing two incompatible extensions.

From this we can deduce that the curvature of order—the rate at which second differences change—is constant within each causal interval:

$$\Delta^4 E = 0. \quad (2.30)$$

Passing to the continuum limit, this becomes the differential statement

$$E^{(4)}(x) = 0, \quad (2.31)$$

which is precisely the condition satisfied by the cubic spline in configuration space [15, 30, 64]. Thus the familiar kinematic law that smooth motion is described by a polynomial of minimal curvature arises directly from the requirement of global consistency under Martin's Axiom.

Remark 6 (Interpretation). *In traditional mechanics, kinematics is introduced as an empirical description of how position varies with time, independent of the forces that produce motion. In the present framework, it emerges as a theorem of logical regularity: if every local causal patch can be extended to a global history, then the minimal-consistency extension must interpolate neighboring events with vanishing fourth variation. The Euler closure $U^{(4)} = 0$ is therefore not an assumption about matter or energy, but the unique analytic form of motion permitted by Martin's Axiom itself.*

2.4.2 Variations and the Reciprocity of Measurement

Having established that each measurable event contributes one ordered increment to the universe tensor \mathbf{U} , we now show that every permissible variation of \mathbf{U} corresponds to a measurable distinction—and conversely, that every measurable distinction defines a variation on \mathbf{U} . The apparent continuum of dynamics thus arises not from interpolation between discrete data, but from the bidirectional closure between variation and measurement.

From Distinguishability to Variation

Let the ordered set of events $\{\mathbf{E}_k\}$ define

$$\mathbf{U}_n = \sum_{k=1}^n \mathbf{E}_k. \quad (2.32)$$

For any functional $F[\mathbf{U}]$ expressible as a finite composition of linear maps and contractions on U , consider a perturbation $\delta\mathbf{U}$ that preserves the causal ordering. By the Axiom of Order, such a perturbation can only modify those event tensors whose distinguishing predicates differ:

$$\delta\mathbf{U} = \sum_{k: \delta P(E_k) \neq 0} \delta\mathbf{E}_k. \quad (2.33)$$

Hence every admissible variation corresponds to a measurable change in at least one predicate on the event set. No unmeasurable (order-invisible) variation can exist, because indistinguishable events contribute identically to U .

From Variation to Measurement

Conversely, let two measurements $M_P[a, b]$ and $M_Q[a, b]$ be performed on the same causal interval with predicates $P, Q : \mathbf{E} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$. Define their

difference

$$\Delta M[a, b] = M_Q[a, b] - M_P[a, b] = \#\{e \in \mathbf{E} \mid a \prec e \prec b, P(e) \neq Q(e)\}. \quad (2.34)$$

Each nonzero contribution to ΔM identifies an event whose predicate value has changed—that is, an elementary variation $\delta \mathbf{E}_e$. Summing these variations reconstructs the finite difference of \mathbf{U} between the two measurements:

$$\mathbf{U}_Q - \mathbf{U}_P = \sum_{e \in \mathbf{E}: P(e) \neq Q(e)} \delta \mathbf{E}_e = \delta \mathbf{U}. \quad (2.35)$$

Therefore every measurable difference induces a legitimate variation of \mathbf{U} . The measurement operator and the variation operator are mutual inverses on the space of distinguishable events.

Bijections Under Selection

The reciprocity between variation and measurement operates within a finite causal domain. However, distinct discrete fields $U, V \in \mathcal{U}$ may yield identical observable outcomes on every finite neighborhood. Such fields are said to be *coincident*:

$$U \sim V \iff U \text{ and } V \text{ produce identical observables on all finite causal neighborhoods} \quad (2.36)$$

The quotient space $\mathcal{Q} = \mathcal{U}/\sim$ collects these coincidence classes, each representing one physically observable configuration of the universe tensor.

Because causal updates act locally, the reciprocal map $\Phi : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ —one step of measurable evolution—preserves coincidence. If $U \sim V$, then $\Phi(U) \sim \Phi(V)$, and therefore Φ descends naturally to a well-defined map on equivalence classes:

$$\Phi : [U] \mapsto [\Phi(U)], \quad \Phi : \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}. \quad (2.37)$$

Microscopic degeneracy within each coincidence class implies that Φ need not be bijective on \mathcal{U} : distinct microstates may evolve to the same measurable outcome (non-injective), while boundary truncation can omit admissible predecessors (non-surjective). To recover a reversible description, the *Axiom of Event Selection* introduces a canonical representative for each coincidence class.

Definition 13 (Selection Operator). *Let $\text{Sel} : \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}$ be an idempotent, order-preserving map satisfying $\pi \circ \text{Sel} = \text{id}_{\mathcal{Q}}$, where $\pi : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}$ is the quotient map. Physically, Sel chooses the simplest admissible field consistent with observation—for instance, the minimal-curvature (spline-like) configuration compatible with the data.*

Definition 14 (Selected Update). *The selected update on representatives is*

$$\Phi_{\text{sel}} := \text{Sel} \circ \Phi \circ \pi : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}. \quad (2.38)$$

Proposition 2 (Reversible Update on Observable States). *The induced map $\Phi : \mathcal{Q} \rightarrow \mathcal{Q}$ is bijective if and only if Φ_{sel} is bijective on $\text{Im}(\text{Sel})$. In that case,*

$$\Phi_{\text{sel}}^{-1} = \text{Sel} \circ \Phi^{-1} \circ \pi. \quad (2.39)$$

Interpretation. Within the space of measurable configurations, every causal update admits a unique, reversible image once redundant micro-descriptions are collapsed by the Event-Selection rule. This establishes the logical foundation for the Reciprocity Law: measurement and variation are exact inverses when considered on the quotient of distinguishable events.

Reciprocal Closure

Let \mathcal{V} denote the set of all variations consistent with the causal order and \mathcal{M} the set of all measurable predicates. The preceding arguments define

bijections under selection

$$\Phi : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}, \quad \Phi^{-1} : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}, \quad (2.40)$$

establishing the following physical principle.

Thought Experiment 8 (Double-Slit as the Partition of Path Distinguishability [42, 3, 83]). *In the double-slit experiment, a single particle may traverse one of two spatially distinct apertures before reaching a detection screen. Before any which-path information is recorded, the causal domain is covered by a coarse partition $\mathcal{P}_n = \{S_1 \cup S_2\}$ in which both slits belong to the same equivalence class of distinguishability. The reciprocity map*

$$\Phi : V/\sim_{\mathcal{P}_n} \longleftrightarrow M/\sim_{\mathcal{P}_n}$$

therefore acts on a single unresolved path class: no measurement has yet distinguished S_1 from S_2 .

At the detection screen, the accumulated variation of the universe tensor contains cross-terms between events originating in S_1 and S_2 , producing the familiar interference pattern. These terms exist precisely because the partition has not been refined: both paths remain members of the same causal class, and their amplitudes combine coherently.

Introducing a which-path detector refines the partition to $\mathcal{P}_{n+1} = \{S_1, S_2\}$. Once this refinement occurs, Φ acts separately on each class, the cross-terms vanish, and the interference pattern disappears. The “collapse” is thus the transition

$$\mathcal{P}_n \mapsto \mathcal{P}_{n+1},$$

a refinement of the causal partition by measurement.

Quantum interference therefore resides in the unresolved boundary between partitions: the region where distinguishability is not yet defined. The double-slit is the archetype of this phenomenon—an experiment whose out-

come depends entirely on whether the partition of causal paths has been refined or left coarse.

2.4.3 Formal Definition of the Reciprocity Mapping

Let \mathcal{V} and $\mathcal{T}(\mathcal{V})$ be as above. Define the space of admissible variations

$$V = \{ \delta \mathbf{U} \in \mathcal{T}(\mathcal{V}) \mid \delta \mathbf{U} \text{ preserves causal order} \}, \quad (2.41)$$

and the space of measurable predicates

$$M = \{ P : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \{0, 1\} \}, \quad (2.42)$$

where \mathcal{E} is the set of events.

We introduce the mapping

$$\Phi : V \rightarrow M, \quad \Phi(\delta \mathbf{U})(e) = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if the event tensor of } e \text{ changes under } \delta \mathbf{U}, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (2.43)$$

Its inverse reconstructs a variation from a predicate:

$$\Phi^{-1}(P) = \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}: P(e)=1} \delta \mathbf{E}_e. \quad (2.44)$$

Proposition 3 (Equivalence of Discrete and Continuum). *Φ is bijective on the space of distinguishable events [15, 41, 65, 36, 39].*

Proof. If $\Phi(\delta \mathbf{U}_1) = \Phi(\delta \mathbf{U}_2)$, the same set of event tensors changes in both variations, implying $\delta \mathbf{U}_1 = \delta \mathbf{U}_2$; hence Φ is injective. For any predicate P , the corresponding $\delta \mathbf{U} = \Phi^{-1}(P)$ is a valid variation; thus Φ is surjective. Therefore Φ establishes a one-to-one correspondence between measurable distinctions and admissible variations. \square

Equivalence 1 (The Reciprocity Law of Physics). *Every physically admissible variation of the universe tensor corresponds to a measurable distinction, and every measurable distinction corresponds to a physical variation of the universe tensor.*

Under this law, the calculus of variations and the calculus of measurement coincide. The differential form of physical law,

$$\delta F[\mathbf{U}] = 0, \quad (2.45)$$

is simply the statement that the total measurable distinction vanishes under consistent evolution: no new distinguishability is introduced beyond what the universe records.

2.4.4 Discrete-to-Continuum Limit

To exhibit the analytic limit explicitly, let the sequence $\{\mathbf{U}_n\}$ represent samples of a smooth function $\mathbf{U}(x)$ on a uniform lattice with spacing h , so that $\mathbf{U}_{n\pm k} = \mathbf{U}(x \pm kh)$. Define the fourth-order finite difference operator [44, 57, 51, 72]

$$\Delta_h^{(4)} \mathbf{U}_n = \mathbf{U}_{n+2} - 4\mathbf{U}_{n+1} + 6\mathbf{U}_n - 4\mathbf{U}_{n-1} + \mathbf{U}_{n-2}. \quad (2.46)$$

If the recursive updates of reciprocal measurement drive this operator toward zero, $\Delta_h^{(4)} \mathbf{U}_n \rightarrow 0$ as n increases, then by standard difference analysis

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta_h^{(4)} \mathbf{U}_n}{h^4} = \frac{d^4 \mathbf{U}}{dx^4}(x) = \mathbf{U}^{(4)}(x). \quad (2.47)$$

Before taking the analytic limit, we must clarify the sense in which logical reciprocity acquires a variational meaning. The discrete operator $\Delta_h^{(2)}$ measures second-order inconsistency of causal order within the finite tensor \mathbf{U} ; minimizing its square defines a functional on admissible configurations anal-

ogous to an action [44, 57, 51, 72]. Only after this identification—treating the smooth extremum of causal inconsistency as a stationary point—does the continuum limit $\mathbf{U}^{(4)} = 0$ reproduce the Euler–Lagrange form. Thus, least action appears as the analytic closure of finite causal coherence, not as an additional dynamical assumption.

Formally, the reciprocity condition may be expressed as the extremization of the functional

$$\mathcal{R}[\mathbf{U}] = \int (\Delta_h^{(2)} \mathbf{U})^2 dx, \quad (2.48)$$

whose stationary points satisfy

$$\frac{\delta \mathcal{R}}{\delta \mathbf{U}} = \Delta_h^{(4)} \mathbf{U} = 0. \quad (2.49)$$

In the continuum limit $h \rightarrow 0$, this becomes the Euler–Lagrange equation

$$\frac{d^4 U}{dx^4} = 0, \quad (2.50)$$

identifying the cubic spline as the minimal–curvature interpolation of causal increments [13, 82, 60, 9, 57].

Thus, in the continuum limit the closure condition of finite reciprocity enforces the fourth–derivative cancellation

$$\mathbf{U}^{(4)}(x) = 0, \quad (2.51)$$

identical to the Euler–Lagrange condition for cubic–spline minimization. The remainder of this section interprets that cancellation physically.

This result follows from the fact that correlations may occur coincidentally across entangled events. Since entanglement represents a permutation of partial orderings of currently indistinguishable outcomes, successive updates cannot fully double the universe tensor:

$$|\mathbf{U}_{n+1}| \leq 2|\mathbf{U}_n|. \quad (2.52)$$

The inequality expresses the loss of independent degrees of freedom due to coincident correlations. In the smooth limit, these cancellations suppress higher-order fluctuations, and the dynamics relax to a fixed point of reciprocal measurement: a state in which further variation produces no new measurable distinction. This apparent non-local coherence is the mechanism that preserves global consistency when local degrees of freedom collapse (Thought Experiment 4).. The principle of least action is therefore a corollary of the Reciprocity Law, not an independent postulate. To make the closure condition explicit in a familiar discrete setting, consider the following example, adapted from a canonical Wolfram rule:

Thought Experiment 9 (Discrete Causal Rule as Algebraic Closure). *Consider the binary local rewriting rule*

$$01 \rightarrow 10,$$

which defines the simplest non-trivial causal update in a one-dimensional cellular automaton. Following Wolfram [79], each application of this rule produces a new event that depends on its two predecessors: if cell i at time $t+1$ is the image of cells i and $i+1$ at time t , we write

$$E_{i,t} \prec E_{i,t+1}, \quad E_{i+1,t} \prec E_{i,t+1}.$$

Let the event tensor at step t be

$$U_t = \sum_i E_{i,t},$$

and define the causal update operator \mathcal{C} by $U_{t+1} = \mathcal{C}U_t$. Because \mathcal{C} acts locally and preserves the partial order \prec , the composition \mathcal{C}^2 satisfies

$$\Delta^{(4)}U_t = 0,$$

where $\Delta^{(4)}$ is the fourth finite-difference operator derived in Section ???. Thus, this discrete rewriting rule is an explicit realization of the reciprocal-measurement algebra: its event tensors form an equivalence class in which higher-order differences vanish. The familiar causal network of the rule therefore appears as a representation of the algebraic closure condition

$$U \sim V \iff \Delta^{(4)}(U - V) = 0.$$

Hence a simple rewriting rule already manifests the same invariants predicted by the Axiom of Event Selection, demonstrating that computation and causal measurement share a common algebraic structure.

Thought Experiment 10 (Point-wise Agreement of the Infinite Taylor Expansion [53, 35, 70, 71, ?]). Consider any measurable function $U(x)$ obtained from a finite sequence of reciprocal updates $\{U_n\}$ that converge at a point x_0 . At every measurement location x_k the discrete update rule preserves all finite differences:

$$\Delta_h^m U_n(x_k) \rightarrow \frac{d^m U}{dx^m}(x_k) \quad \text{for each finite } m.$$

Hence the discrete sequence agrees point-wise with the continuous Taylor series

$$U(x) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \frac{U^{(m)}(x_k)}{m!} (x - x_k)^m$$

to all orders at every measurement point. No information is added by taking the limit $m \rightarrow \infty$; the entire continuous field is already determined by the discrete counts of distinguishable events. In the continuum picture, this expresses the equality of the finite-difference operator and the derivative operator at all distinguishable points—point-wise infinite Taylor agreement. Thus, every admissible discrete measurement admits a continuous representation that matches it in all derivatives at the anchor points, and every smooth field consistent with those measurements can be re-sampled back to the same discrete sequence.

Therefore, for every observable continuous law described by a differential equation, there exists a corresponding discrete dual sufficient to define it completely. This is the canonical example of how the discrete dual can recreate continuous physics.

Thought Experiment 11 (Coincidence as a Retro-Constraint [73, 69, 25, 47, 62]). *In the discrete calculus of measurement, two fields $U, V \in \mathcal{U}$ are said to be coincident when all measurable differences vanish on every finite causal neighborhood,*

$$U \sim V \iff \Delta^{(k)}(U - V) = 0 \quad \forall k < 4. \quad (2.53)$$

Operationally, this expresses point-wise agreement through the third finite difference—the discrete analogue of C^2 continuity. Under the closure condition $\Delta^{(4)}U = 0$, every admissible update must interpolate neighboring measurements with vanishing fourth variation, so that the next event E_{n+1} cannot introduce a new measurable degree of freedom without violating consistency.

Viewed retrospectively, coincidence functions as a retro-constraint: once two histories agree to third order, all subsequent refinements are forced to maintain that agreement. The causal record therefore relaxes toward a fixed point of distinguishability—the discrete universe tensor evolves only within the coincidence class that preserves prior curvature and slope. In the continuum limit, this retro-constraint corresponds exactly to the theoretical-numerical condition of point-wise convergence of the Taylor expansion [35, 53, 71, ?, 70].

The spline is the Euler solution with minimal degrees of freedom

We have already shown that relaxing the fourth derivative yields the Euler–Lagrange condition for the bending energy [58, 33, 81, 9, 78],

$$E[U] = \int (U''(x))^2 dx, \quad \delta E = 0 \iff U^{(4)}(x) = 0, \quad (2.54)$$

so that the relaxed field on each causal interval is a *cubic* polynomial and adjacent intervals match in value, slope, and curvature.

Proposition 4 (Spline = Euler solution with minimal DoFs [58, 1, 9, 82, 60]). *Fix knots $x_0 < \dots < x_n$ and data $\{U(x_k)\}_{k=0}^n$. Among all C^2 functions that interpolate these values, the unique minimizer of $E[U] = \int (U'')^2$ is the (natural or appropriately boundary-conditioned) cubic spline. On each open subinterval (x_{k-1}, x_k) it satisfies the Euler equation $U^{(4)} = 0$ and is therefore a cubic polynomial. Moreover, cubic is the minimal degree capable of enforcing C^2 continuity across arbitrary knot data; any lower degree generically fails, so the spline achieves the interpolation with the fewest free parameters compatible with the Euler condition.*

Proof. 1. (Euler and piecewise cubic). The functional $E[U] = \int (U'')^2$ is quadratic and coercive on the Sobolev space H^2 , so a unique minimizer exists in the affine subspace of H^2 that interpolates the given values. A standard variation with compact support in any open (x_{k-1}, x_k) yields the Euler–Lagrange equation $U^{(4)} = 0$ there; hence U is (at most) cubic on each subinterval. The interface terms in the integration by parts enforce C^2 matching (continuity of U, U', U'') at interior knots.³

2. (Minimal degrees of freedom). Write $U_k(x) = a_{k0} + a_{k1}x + a_{k2}x^2 + a_{k3}x^3$ on (x_{k-1}, x_k) , giving $4n$ coefficients. At each of the $n - 1$ interior knots we impose three C^2 constraints (U, U', U'' agree), for $3(n - 1)$ linear conditions; the boundary contributes two more (e.g. natural $U''(x_0) = U''(x_n) = 0$ or clamped $U'(x_0), U'(x_n)$). Thus

$$\text{free DoFs} = 4n - 3(n - 1) - 2 = n + 1,$$

which matches the $n + 1$ interpolation values, hence uniqueness.

Now suppose we attempted degree ≤ 2 polynomials on each interval while

³These are precisely the “relaxation” conditions you introduce: continuity of value, slope, and curvature across each boundary.

maintaining C^2 . A quadratic has constant second derivative on each interval; C^2 continuity forces those constants to match at every knot, so U'' is globally constant and U is globally quadratic. Interpolating arbitrary $\{U(x_k)\}$ would then fail generically unless the data lie on a single quadratic. Therefore degree 3 is the *minimal* degree that permits C^2 matching with arbitrary values at the knots.

3. (Conclusion). The energy minimizer satisfies $U^{(4)} = 0$ on each interval and is uniquely determined by enforcing C^2 continuity and the boundary conditions; this is exactly the cubic spline. It uses the least possible polynomial degree (and hence the fewest effective degrees of freedom) compatible with the Euler condition and the required smoothness/matching constraints. \square

Remark 7. *Operationally, this says: the Euler closure $U^{(4)} = 0$ forces cubic pieces, while C^2 stitching at knots and two boundary conditions consume all degrees of freedom except the $n+1$ needed to fit the data—no slack remains. Any higher degree would add superfluous parameters; any lower degree cannot generically maintain C^2 and interpolate the values. In your language, the spline is the fully relaxed representative of the coincidence class.*

2.4.5 2.4.6 The Free Parameter of the Third Variation

Having established that the fourth-order cancellation condition

$$\Delta^{(4)}\mathbf{U} = 0$$

defines the minimal analytic extension of reciprocal measurement, we now examine the structure of the residual degrees of freedom that persist under this constraint. In the tensor formulation, each component $\mathbf{U}^{\mu\nu}$ of the universe

tensor evolves through local updates that preserve the covariant closure

$$\nabla_\rho \nabla_\sigma \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \mathbf{U}^{\mu\nu} = 0,$$

implying that any further measurable distinction must appear only through lower-order derivatives. The third variation therefore contains the sole remaining dynamical freedom compatible with global consistency.

Tensor Form of the Variational Functional. Let the curvature functional of measurement be

$$\mathcal{S}[\mathbf{U}] = \int (\nabla_\rho \nabla_\sigma \mathbf{U}^{\mu\nu})(\nabla^\rho \nabla^\sigma \mathbf{U}_{\mu\nu}) dV,$$

where dV is the invariant volume element of the causal manifold. Stationarity of \mathcal{S} under arbitrary compact perturbations $\delta \mathbf{U}^{\mu\nu}$ yields the Euler condition

$$\nabla_\rho \nabla_\sigma \nabla^\rho \nabla^\sigma \mathbf{U}^{\mu\nu} = 0,$$

the tensor analogue of the spline equation $U^{(4)} = 0$. This identifies \mathbf{U} as the unique covariantly smooth field minimizing informational curvature.

Residual Freedom. While the fourth derivative vanishes identically, the third covariant derivative $\nabla_\rho \nabla_\sigma \nabla_\mu \mathbf{U}^{\mu\nu}$ need not. It encodes the *finite lag* of measurement—the remnant by which the discrete causal record distinguishes successive events. Formally, define the third variation tensor

$$\mathbf{T}^{\rho\sigma\nu} = \nabla_\mu \nabla^{(\rho} \nabla^{\sigma)} \mathbf{U}^{\mu\nu},$$

whose symmetrized indices represent the locally observable curvature of the measurement process. Under the closure condition, $\mathbf{T}^{\rho\sigma\nu}$ is divergence-free,

$$\nabla_\rho \mathbf{T}^{\rho\sigma\nu} = 0,$$

but not identically zero. It therefore plays the role of a “free parameter”—a conserved current of distinguishability that carries information between successive causal layers.

Interpretation. Operationally, $\mathbf{T}^{\rho\sigma\nu}$ represents the “slack” of measurement: the infinitesimal discrepancy that remains when two causal extensions agree to third order but have not yet coincided completely. Its invariance under further differentiation ensures that this slack cannot propagate new information; it merely records the residual orientation of the causal fabric. In the numerical analogy, this corresponds to the one remaining degree of freedom in the cubic spline after enforcing C^2 continuity—the component that may vary without violating global consistency.

Conclusion. Thus the third variation marks the boundary between admissible distinction and analytic redundancy. All measurable evolution of the universe tensor occurs within this narrow corridor: a fourth-order cancellation that enforces closure, and a third-order residue that encodes the finite capacity of observation. In subsequent sections this residual tensor will appear as the source term of the informational field equations, completing the identification of measurement with curvature.

2.5 Conclusion: The Admissible Calculus of Measurement

We have constructed the *admissible calculus of measurement*. Beginning with a locally finite, causally ordered set of distinguishable events and a reciprocal measurement operator Φ , we required that successive applications of Φ preserve order and remain reversible. From this minimal condition, a continuous calculus emerges.

Successive reciprocal updates define the closed sequence

$$U_{n+1} = U_n + \Phi^{-1}(\Phi(U_n)),$$

whose smooth limit satisfies

$$U^{(4)}(x) = 0.$$

This fourth-order cancellation is algebraically identical to the Euler–Lagrange condition: the stationary path of a finite, reversible measurement. Hence the familiar differential calculus is not an assumption but the continuum closure of the discrete causal rule.

A calculus is *admissible* if it arises as the continuous limit of reciprocal measurement on a causally ordered set, preserving locality and reversibility. The admissible calculus is characterized by $U^{(4)} = 0$, ensuring equivalence with the classical calculus of variations.

The interpolant obtained from this construction—the cubic spline satisfying $U^{(4)} = 0$ —may not be unique. It succeeds only because the measured data exhibit a structural *coincidence*: a finite set of causal updates admits more than one smooth extension consistent with order and reciprocity. Among all such admissible extensions, the spline is the simplest: it minimizes the fourth variation and therefore yields a stable, order-preserving continuum limit. Other higher-order or nonlocal interpolants could reproduce the same finite observations but would violate either locality or reversibility when extended globally.

Thus the admissible calculus represents a *distinguished but not unique* interpolation between discrete measurements. Its validity rests not on exclusivity but on sufficiency: it is the minimal smooth structure consistent with causal measurement.

We conclude that calculus itself is enforced by causal consistency, yet remains contingent on the coincidences of measurement. Where such coinci-

dences hold, the spline construction provides a faithful and reversible closure of finite data; where they fail, no single smooth extension is guaranteed. Within these limits we may therefore *implicitly trust calculus* as the admissible language of measurement—the unique closure that works, though not the only one that could.

From Order to Analysis

Remark 8 (Emergence of Calculus). *Having restricted attention to countably finite causal increments, we may now introduce calculus as the smooth limit of discrete reciprocity. Let ΔU denote the elementary difference between successive admissible configurations. When these increments vary continuously, the limit*

$$\frac{dU}{dx} = \lim_{\Delta x \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Delta U}{\Delta x}$$

exists and defines the local rate of change of distinguishability. All differential operations that follow—gradients, divergences, and variations—are understood as dual to the discrete differences on which the formalism was built. In this sense, calculus is not assumed but derived: it is the shadow cast by finite logic in the continuum limit.

Remark 9 (Duality of Measure and Motion). *Every measure defined on the causal set has a dual interpretation as motion within the smooth manifold generated by its limits. The vector field U^μ describing causal displacement and its covector dual $U_\mu = g_{\mu\nu}U^\nu$ together encode the reciprocity between order and geometry that underlies the continuum theory developed in the next chapter.*

Chapter 3

The Wave

3.1 Introduction: Martin's Condition and the Continuity of Causal Propagation

The closure of measurement in Part I established that every admissible calculus arises from a finite sequence of distinguishable events whose reciprocal variations cancel beyond fourth order. The resulting smooth field $U(x)$ represents not an assumption of continuity, but the unique extension that preserves causal consistency under the *Axiom of Event Selection*. Yet the closure of a finite causal chain does not by itself guarantee that distinct observers infer compatible fields. For global coherence, the local cancellations enforced by reciprocal measurement must propagate consistently across the entire causal network. This propagation is the content of *Martin's Condition*.

Definition 15 (Martin's Condition (Conceptual)). *A causal network satisfies Martin's Condition if every locally finite subset of events can be extended to a globally consistent ordering without introducing new distinguishabilities. Equivalently, all finite causal updates admit an extension that preserves the same coincidence relations on their overlaps.*

Intuitively, Martin's Condition demands that information created in one

region does not contradict information measured in another. It forbids “causal overcounting”—the duplication of distinctions that would destroy reversibility—by ensuring that overlapping observers reconstruct identical splines of the universe tensor along their shared boundary. Where the Axiom of Event Selection limits what may happen within a light cone, Martin’s Condition governs how those choices propagate outward. It is the global compatibility rule of the causal calculus: the guarantee that local smoothness stitches together into a single, coherent wave.

The next sections show that when Martin’s Condition holds, the discrete reciprocity law induces a linear propagation operator whose eigenmodes are complex exponentials. The continuum limit of this operator is the familiar wave equation, and the resulting field inherits a canonical stress tensor. Thus the same closure that produced calculus in Part I now produces the continuous propagation of energy and information—the universal phenomenon we recognize as a *wave*.

Example: Davisson–Germer and the Universality of Causal Waves

Statement. Electron diffraction from a crystal demonstrates that discrete particles obey the same reciprocity-driven propagation law as classical waves.

Key relation. Bragg condition with de Broglie wavelength:

$$2d \sin \theta = m \lambda, \quad \lambda = \frac{h}{p}.$$

Reciprocity framing. The partition is refined only at the detection screen; between source and screen, causal updates are translation-invariant, so the discrete Laplacian eigenmodes are waves. Matching of distinguished event counts along crystal planes yields constructive interference at Bragg angles.

Operational consequence. Observed intensity peaks are fixed points of reciprocal measurement under lattice translations, evidencing that “matter” and “wave” are the same consistency condition in two representations.

3.2 Interaction: The Union of Ordered Events

In a finite causal domain, an observer's description of the world is a locally ordered set of distinguishable events. When two such domains overlap, the question of *interaction* arises: how are their separate orderings reconciled into a single consistent history? Martin's Condition guarantees that locally finite orders can be extended without contradiction. Interaction is the constructive realization of that extension.

Definition 16 (Interaction of Causal Sets). *Let (E_1, \preceq_1) and (E_2, \preceq_2) be locally finite posets of events, each satisfying Martin's Condition on its own domain. Their interaction is the smallest poset*

$$(E_{12}, \preceq_{12}), \quad E_{12} = E_1 \cup E_2,$$

whose order \preceq_{12} is the transitive closure of $\preceq_1 \cup \preceq_2$ restricted by the requirement that all overlaps $E_1 \cap E_2$ remain consistent:

$$\forall e, f \in E_1 \cap E_2, e \preceq_1 f \Leftrightarrow e \preceq_2 f.$$

Thought Experiment 12 (Non-commuting measurements as event selection). *Let the event tensor act on a qubit. Take Pauli operators σ_x, σ_z and projective predicates $P_x^\pm = \frac{1}{2}(I \pm \sigma_x)$, $P_z^\pm = \frac{1}{2}(I \pm \sigma_z)$. The selection “measure x then z ” corresponds to the ordered update $U_{xz}(\rho) = \sum_{a,b \in \{\pm\}} P_z^b P_x^a \rho P_x^a P_z^b$, while “measure z then x ” is $U_{zx}(\rho) = \sum_{a,b} P_x^a P_z^b \rho P_z^b P_x^a$. Because $[\sigma_x, \sigma_z] \neq 0$, one has $U_{xz} \neq U_{zx}$ in general; order changes the post-measurement state and the subsequent event statistics. Yet the scalar count of admissible outcomes over the full branch set is preserved (the total probability = 1), reflecting that the measurable bookkeeping across the causal domain remains consistent even when the micro-updates do not commute. This realizes Event Selection as a non-commutative refinement of the distinguishability chain.*

The overlap $E_1 \cap E_2$ represents events recognized by both observers. For

the union to remain causally consistent, these shared events must inherit identical ordering relations from both domains. If such an identification cannot be made, the systems are incompatible and cannot interact without violating Martin's Condition.

Definition 17 (Interaction Event). *An event $e \in E_1 \cap E_2$ is called an interaction event if it is maximal in one order and minimal in the other:*

$$e \in \text{Top}(E_1) \cap \text{Min}(E_2) \quad \text{or} \quad e \in \text{Top}(E_2) \cap \text{Min}(E_1).$$

Such an event terminates one causal chain and initiates another.

Intuitively, an interaction occurs when the future boundary of one local ordering meets the past boundary of another. At that instant, two independent descriptions of the world become linked by a single shared distinction. The joint order \preceq_{12} thus acts as a stitching rule: it preserves every prior ordering within E_1 and E_2 while extending them just enough to include the new comparabilities implied by the overlap.

Proposition 5 (Union Consistency). *If (E_1, \preceq_1) and (E_2, \preceq_2) satisfy Martin's Condition and agree on all relations within $E_1 \cap E_2$, then their union (E_{12}, \preceq_{12}) also satisfies Martin's Condition.*

Idea of Proof. Each finite subset $S \subseteq E_{12}$ lies within finitely many overlapping domains E_i that already satisfy Martin's Condition. Since the overlaps agree on order, the union of their consistent extensions remains consistent. Thus every finite subset of E_{12} extends without introducing new distinguishabilities. \square

Interpretation. Interaction is therefore not a separate dynamical law but the combinatorial closure of causal order under union. Whenever two chains intersect, their local orderings adjust to maintain global compatibility. The mutual adjustment propagates along both chains, enforcing consistency across

their neighborhoods. Viewed iteratively, this propagation behaves as a *wave of ordering*: a disturbance that travels through the poset whenever new overlaps are formed. It is this propagation—the transmission of order constraints through successive interactions—that gives rise to the phenomenon we recognize as wave motion.

3.2.1 Spooky Action as a Dantzig Pivot

Thought Experiment 13 (Mach–Zehnder Interferometer as Causal Superposition). *Consider a photon entering a Mach–Zehnder interferometer. At the first beam splitter, a single causal event E_0 bifurcates into two distinguishable yet coherent branches, E_1 and E_2 , corresponding to the upper and lower optical paths. Each path accumulates its own sequence of distinctions—reflections, phase shifts, and delays—represented by ordered event tensors $\{E_{1,k}\}$ and $\{E_{2,k}\}$.*

The partial order of the experiment is not a binary decision tree but a superposition of two compatible causal chains that re-converge at the second beam splitter. The final detection event E_f therefore depends on the interference of two histories that remain Martin-consistent: their local ordering within each path is preserved, and their global coincidence at E_f is enforced by the Reciprocity Law.

Operationally, the interferometer measures the overlap of distinguishability between the two causal sequences. When their accumulated phase difference $\Delta\phi$ equals an integer multiple of 2π , the two histories are indistinguishable and the universe tensor records them as a single causal extension; when $\Delta\phi = \pi$, the histories cancel, producing a node of zero probability. Thus interference arises as the algebraic sum of two order-preserving histories whose tensor contributions differ only by a phase in the informational metric.

In this framing, the Mach–Zehnder interferometer is the simplest laboratory realization of causal superposition: two distinguishable sequences whose difference is purely informational, revealing that interference is not a mystery

of waves but a bookkeeping property of order under the Reciprocity Law.

Consider an entanglement $S = \{E_i, E_j\}$ of two spatially separated measurement events. By definition, the order of E_i and E_j may be permuted without changing any invariant scalar of the universe tensor:

$$E_i + E_j = E_j + E_i. \quad (15)$$

Each pair of entangled events therefore constitutes a *degenerate basis* of the global causal structure: multiple local orderings are consistent with the same global invariants.

Degeneracy and Feasibility. Let \mathcal{F} denote the space of all feasible causal orderings that satisfy Martin’s Condition. Every element of \mathcal{F} is a physically admissible extension of the partial order of events. When two or more orderings yield the same invariants, the corresponding configurations form a *degenerate face* of \mathcal{F} —analogous to a flat ridge in a linear-programming polytope where the objective is constant. Entanglement is precisely this degeneracy: several globally consistent orderings are equally admissible.

Selection as Pivot. When an observer records one member of an entangled pair, say E_i , the universe must select a unique consistent global ordering. This selection is equivalent to a *pivot operation* in the sense of Dantzig: a transition from one feasible vertex of \mathcal{F} to another that preserves all constraints while choosing a particular basis. The pivot enforces consistency across the entire system, mapping the previous degenerate face to a single vertex. The resulting update

$$U_{n+1} = \Phi_{\text{sel}}(U_n)$$

is the causal analog of Dantzig’s step toward optimality: a global reorganization that leaves all invariants unchanged but redefines which variables are

active.

Nonlocal Consistency. Because the feasibility region \mathcal{F} is global, the pivot cannot be localized. When E_i is measured, the reordering that selects its consistent partner E_j occurs simultaneously across the entire causal domain. To a local observer, this appears as instantaneous correlation—“spooky action at a distance”—but within the formalism it is simply the global enforcement of Martin’s Condition: every pivot must preserve feasibility everywhere. No signal propagates; the basis of consistency merely updates as a whole.

Interpretation. Spooky action is therefore not a mysterious nonlocal force but the *global pivot of consistency* required to maintain a single feasible ordering of the universe tensor. Measurement corresponds to a Dantzig selection rule acting on the degenerate faces of the causal polytope, and collapse is the logical consequence of resolving entanglement into one of its admissible vertices. The Einstein–Podolsky–Rosen paradox thus reduces to a combinatorial theorem:

$$\text{Nonlocal correlation} = \text{Global preservation of feasibility.}$$

Example: Bell–Aspect Tests as Global Martin Consistency

Statement. Violations of Bell inequalities show that global filters (consistent extensions) exist that cannot be decomposed into local hidden refinements without contradiction—exactly the Martin-style global consistency you invoke.

Key relation (CHSH).

$$S = |E(a, b) + E(a, b') + E(a', b) - E(a', b')| \leq 2 \quad (\text{local}) \quad \text{vs} \quad S_{\text{QM}} \leq 2\sqrt{2}.$$

Reciprocity framing. A single global entanglement class S allows reassoci-

ation (permutation) before refinement. Local pre-assignments would violate dense-set meeting across settings; the observed $S > 2$ indicates that only a *global* selection (filter meeting all dense constraints) is admissible.

Operational consequence. “Nonlocality” is reinterpreted as *global order-preserving selection*: the event filter meets all dense subsets (settings) without a jointly measurable pre-partition.

3.2.2 The Qubit as an Example of Event Selection

The Axiom of Event Selection ensures that, from any countable family of potential events, a consistent subset is chosen so that the causal order remains distinguishable and globally coherent. When two events E_0 and E_1 are equally admissible until such a selection is made, the pair forms the minimal unit of causal degeneracy.

Definition 18 (Qubit as a Causal Doublet). *Let $S = \{E_0, E_1\}$ be an entangled subset of events satisfying $E_0 + E_1 = E_1 + E_0$. Prior to selection, S occupies both feasible orderings and therefore represents a superposed causal state. Applying the selection operator Φ_{sel} resolves this degeneracy:*

$$\Phi_{\text{sel}}(S) = E_b, \quad b \in \{0, 1\}.$$

In the continuum limit this relation corresponds to the quantum state

$$|\psi\rangle = \alpha|0\rangle + \beta|1\rangle,$$

where the coefficients (α, β) encode the relative weights of the feasible orderings prior to event selection.

Thus a *qubit* is the simplest instance of the Event Selection process—the minimal pair of distinguishable yet unselected events. Measurement, represented by the Dantzig pivot Φ_{sel} , corresponds to choosing one consistent

ordering within this causal doublet, mirroring the projection of a quantum superposition onto a definite basis state.

3.2.3 Hawking Radiation as the Loss and Restoration of Order

In a locally finite causal network, every interaction extends the partial order by introducing new comparabilities while maintaining Martin’s Condition. When a causal boundary forms—such as the surface of a black hole—those extensions begin to saturate. The number of possible unions of light cones increases faster than any observer can resolve them, and the rate at which new distinctions can be recorded begins to fall. What we call a *horizon* is the surface beyond which the reconciliation of causal updates exceeds the observer’s computational capacity to process them.

Definition 19 (Causal Horizon). *Let (E, \preceq) be a locally finite poset. A subset $H \subset E$ is a causal horizon for an observer if there exist events $e, f \in E$ such that $e \preceq h$ for some $h \in H$ but $f \not\preceq h$ for any $h \in H$, and no finite extension of the observer’s order can include both e and f . The horizon marks the maximal boundary of extendable distinguishability.*

When an infalling system approaches this boundary, its local causal cones continue to expand, but the external observer’s ability to register those expansions diminishes. The total number of events on the infaller’s worldline grows rapidly, while the observer’s *distinct* reception count grows only logarithmically. The event stream becomes oversaturated: too many correlations are forming for the exterior network to maintain Martin consistency in real time.

Observer–Side Perception of Order. To the distant observer, this saturation appears as an ever-increasing delay between successive confirmations of the infalling particle’s state. Each emitted distinction must traverse an

ever-widening intersection of causal cones before it can be reconciled with the external order. Because the unions $E_{\text{obs}} \cup E_{\text{infall}}(t)$ grow super-linearly in size as the infaller approaches the horizon, the cost of maintaining order consistency rises faster than the causal network can propagate it.

Let $N_{\text{ext}}(t)$ be the number of distinguishable updates received before coordinate time t . If $|E(t)|$ denotes the size of the causal union at that instant, then

$$\frac{dN_{\text{ext}}}{dt} \propto \frac{1}{|E(t)|} \frac{d|E(t)|}{dt}.$$

Near the horizon, $|E(t)| \sim (1 - r_s/r)^{-1}$, so as $r \rightarrow r_s$,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{dN_{\text{ext}}}{dt} = 0.$$

The apparent “freezing” of the particle in time is therefore not an illusion of geometry but a property of information flow: the observer’s frame can no longer complete the reconciliation of causal updates as the interior domain’s informational density diverges.

What looks like a halted particle is, in fact, an observer encountering their own bandwidth limit. The infalling particle continues to receive and process distinctions—it experiences no slowdown—but the exterior network cannot integrate those updates into its own ordering. The visible universe tensor stalls because its synchronization surface has reached capacity.

The lag, then, is the *signature of finite computation*: the universe enforcing the Axiom of Order by denying further updates until all active causal cones can be reconciled. The redshifted, time-dilated glow of an infalling body is the visible trace of the bookkeeping failure—the external frame’s attempt to digest an accelerating flood of internal distinctions.

Definition 20 (Order Collapse and Restoration). *Given a Martin bridge $R \subset E_{\text{in}} \times E_{\text{out}}$, its collapse occurs when all $e_{\text{in}} \in E_{\text{in}}$ become causally unreachable. The induced order on E_{out} is restored by introducing surrogate events E_{rad} and relations $R' \subset E_{\text{out}} \times E_{\text{rad}}$ such that $(E_{\text{out}} \cup E_{\text{rad}}, \preceq')$ again*

satisfies Martin's Condition.

Each surrogate event represents the reconciliation of an unresolvable causal update—a compensatory distinction emitted to preserve order on the accessible side. The ensemble of such replacements manifests statistically as a thermal spectrum.

Proposition 6 (Hawking Radiation as Order Completion). *The apparent radiation observed at the horizon corresponds to the distribution of surrogate events E_{rad} required to restore Martin consistency after the collapse of a causal bridge. The exponential spectrum arises from the combinatorial multiplicity of admissible completions once the observer's information rate saturates.*

Relation to Holographic Consistency. The informational asymptote described above is the discrete analogue of the holographic correspondence between bulk and boundary theories. The interior causal domain E_{in} plays the role of the bulk, its rapidly expanding unions of light cones encoding the fine-grained local order. The exterior domain E_{out} , bounded by the horizon, functions as the boundary field theory whose finite causal capacity reconstructs that interior. The Martin bridge $R \subset E_{\text{in}} \times E_{\text{out}}$ acts as the holographic map: a discrete correspondence ensuring that every admissible bulk update has a representable boundary image. When the bridge collapses, the boundary compensates by emitting the surrogate events E_{rad} , analogous to boundary degrees of freedom restoring consistency in the AdS/CFT duality. The lag perceived near the horizon is therefore the operational form of holography—the boundary's failure to process the accelerating influx of bulk distinctions in real time, enforcing the holographic consistency condition that global order remain representable on the causal surface.

3.3 Wave Amplitude from Interaction Counts

Interaction between two locally finite causal domains (E_1, \preceq_1) and (E_2, \preceq_2) creates new distinguishabilities while identifying shared ones. We define the *wave amplitude* as the net number of new, non-overlapping events produced by the union, i.e. the cardinality of the set difference between union and intersection.

Definition 21 (Amplitude of Interaction). *Let $E_{12} = E_1 \cup E_2$ be the union poset obtained under Martin's Condition, with overlap $E_{1 \cap 2} = E_1 \cap E_2$ order-consistent. The amplitude of the interaction is*

$$\mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2) := |(E_1 \cup E_2) \setminus (E_1 \cap E_2)| = |E_1| + |E_2| - 2|E_1 \cap E_2|.$$

Equivalently, $\mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2) = |E_1 \triangle E_2|$ is the size of the symmetric difference.

Interpretation. $\mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2)$ counts exactly the distinguishabilities that are *new to the union*: it removes anything already shared (the intersection) and keeps only the net additions. Viewed dynamically, this is the discrete “wave height” of order propagated when two domains interact.

Basic Properties

Proposition 7 (Symmetry and Nonnegativity). *For any locally finite E_1, E_2 ,*

$$\mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2) = \mathcal{A}(E_2, E_1) \geq 0, \quad \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2) = 0 \iff E_1 = E_2.$$

Proof sketch. Symmetry follows from the symmetry of union, intersection, and cardinality. Nonnegativity is immediate from the definition as a set cardinality. If $E_1 = E_2$, the symmetric difference is empty, hence amplitude 0. Conversely, if the symmetric difference is empty, the sets coincide. \square

Proposition 8 (Upper and Lower Bounds).

$$||E_1| - |E_2|| \leq \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2) \leq |E_1| + |E_2|.$$

Proof sketch. Use $|E_1 \cap E_2| \leq \min\{|E_1|, |E_2|\}$ and $\mathcal{A} = |E_1| + |E_2| - 2|E_1 \cap E_2|$ for the upper bound. For the lower bound, observe $|E_1 \cap E_2| \geq \max\{0, |E_1| + |E_2| - |E_1 \cup E_2|\}$ and $|E_1 \cup E_2| \leq |E_1| + |E_2|$. \square

Proposition 9 (Additivity on Disjoint Domains). *If $E_1 \cap E_2 = \emptyset$, then*

$$\mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2) = |E_1| + |E_2|.$$

Proof sketch. With empty intersection, $(E_1 \cup E_2) \setminus (E_1 \cap E_2) = E_1 \cup E_2$, so the amplitude is the size of the disjoint union. \square

Proposition 10 (Triangle-Type Inequality). *For any locally finite E_1, E_2, E_3 ,*

$$\mathcal{A}(E_1, E_3) \leq \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2) + \mathcal{A}(E_2, E_3).$$

Proof sketch. \mathcal{A} is the cardinality of the symmetric difference, which is the Hamming distance on indicator functions of subsets. The triangle inequality for Hamming distance yields the claim. \square

Order-Sensitive Refinement

The amplitude defined above counts events. We now relate it to the number of *new comparabilities* created by the interaction.

Definition 22 (Frontiers and New Comparabilities). *For a poset (E, \preceq) , write $\text{Top}(E)$ for maximal elements and $\text{Min}(E)$ for minimal elements. Given (E_1, \preceq_1) and (E_2, \preceq_2) with order-consistent overlap and union order \preceq_{12} , define*

$$\Delta_{\prec}(E_1, E_2) := \#\{(e, f) \in (E_1 \setminus E_2) \times (E_2 \setminus E_1) : e \prec_{12} f \text{ or } f \prec_{12} e\}.$$

This counts the newly created comparabilities across the interface.

Proposition 11 (Amplitude Bounds New Comparabilities).

$$\Delta_{\prec}(E_1, E_2) \leq \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2) \cdot \min\{|E_1 \setminus E_2|, |E_2 \setminus E_1|\}.$$

Moreover, if the interface is “thin” (only frontier elements interact), then

$$\Delta_{\prec}(E_1, E_2) \asymp |\text{Top}(E_1) \cap (E_1 \setminus E_2)| \cdot |\text{Min}(E_2) \cap (E_2 \setminus E_1)|$$

up to a factor determined by Martin-consistent tie-breaking.

Proof sketch. Each new comparability pairs one element from the left difference with one from the right difference. There are at most $|E_1 \setminus E_2| \cdot |E_2 \setminus E_1|$ such pairs; the first bound follows by noting $\mathcal{A} = |E_1 \setminus E_2| + |E_2 \setminus E_1|$ and optimizing the product under fixed sum (achieved when the smaller side limits pairings). For thin interfaces, Martin’s Condition forces new order primarily between opposing frontier elements, giving the asymptotic relation. \square

Superposition over Multiple Domains

Proposition 12 (First-Order Superposition). *For three domains E_1, E_2, E_3 with small triple-overlap,*

$$\left| \mathcal{A}(E_1 \cup E_2, E_3) - (\mathcal{A}(E_1, E_3) + \mathcal{A}(E_2, E_3)) \right| \leq 2 |E_1 \cap E_2 \cap E_3|.$$

Proof sketch. Use inclusion–exclusion on unions and intersections to expand both sides and cancel terms. All discrepancies arise from triple-overlap terms, each contributing at most 2 in absolute value to the symmetric-difference counts. \square

Operational Meaning

The count

$$\mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2) = |E_1 \triangle E_2|$$

is the minimal number of event insertions/deletions needed to transform one local history into the other while preserving the common core. Under Martin's Condition, this is precisely the amount of order that must *propagate* across the interface to maintain global consistency. The resulting propagation—tracked by newly created comparabilities—is the discrete wave generated by the interaction.

3.4 First Variation of Amplitude

The amplitude $\mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2)$ measures the net number of new distinctions created by the interaction of two causal domains. The *first variation* describes how that amplitude changes when either domain gains or loses a single event. This variation quantifies the local sensitivity of the wave of order.

Definition 23 (Infinitesimal Variation of an Event Set). *Let (E, \preceq) be a locally finite poset. An elementary variation δE is the addition or removal of a single event e together with its admissible relations that preserve Martin's Condition:*

$$E' = E \cup \{e\} \quad \text{or} \quad E' = E \setminus \{e\}, \quad (E', \preceq') \text{ satisfies Martin's Condition.}$$

Definition 24 (First Variation of Amplitude). *Given two interacting domains E_1, E_2 and a small perturbation $E'_1 = E_1 \cup \delta E_1$ or $E'_2 = E_2 \cup \delta E_2$, the first variation of the amplitude is*

$$\delta \mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}(E'_1, E_2) - \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2) \quad \text{or} \quad \delta \mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}(E_1, E'_2) - \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2).$$

Expanding from the definition,

$$\delta\mathcal{A} = |(E_1 \cup \delta E_1) \triangle E_2| - |E_1 \triangle E_2|.$$

Proposition 13 (Local Variation Formula). *If $\delta E_1 = \{e\}$ adds a single event e not in E_2 , then*

$$\delta\mathcal{A} = \begin{cases} +1, & e \notin E_1 \cup E_2, \\ -1, & e \in E_2 \setminus E_1, \\ 0, & e \in E_1 \cap E_2. \end{cases}$$

Proof sketch. Each event contributes ± 1 to the symmetric difference depending on whether it creates or resolves a unique distinction. If e is entirely new, the amplitude increases by one. If e duplicates an event already present in E_2 , the overlap grows and the amplitude decreases by one. If e already exists in both, no new distinguishability is created. \square

Proposition 14 (First Variation as Discrete Derivative). *Let \mathcal{A} be viewed as a function on the lattice of finite subsets of a fixed event universe Ω . Then the mapping*

$$\delta_e \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2) := \mathcal{A}(E_1 \cup \{e\}, E_2) - \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2)$$

is the discrete directional derivative of \mathcal{A} along e . It satisfies the antisymmetry relation

$$\delta_e \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2) = -\delta_e \mathcal{A}(E_2, E_1).$$

Proof sketch. Direct expansion using $\mathcal{A} = |E_1| + |E_2| - 2|E_1 \cap E_2|$ shows that the increment in E_1 produces the negative of the increment in E_2 for the same event. Thus \mathcal{A} behaves as a bilinear antisymmetric functional on the Boolean lattice of finite subsets. \square

Interpretation. The first variation counts how the network of distinguishabilities responds to a single local perturbation. Adding an event outside the

shared overlap increases the amplitude: a ripple of new order propagates. Adding one already correlated decreases it: a cancellation that smooths the field. Under successive local variations, the amplitude evolves according to the discrete balance between creation and annihilation of distinguishability. This balance is the combinatorial analogue of the differential wave equation; it describes the propagation of causal order itself.

3.5 Second Variation of Amplitude

The first variation measured how the distinguishability between two causal domains changes when a single event is added or removed. The *second variation* captures how those incremental changes themselves interact. It measures the curvature of distinguishability—the discrete analogue of acceleration or wave curvature—arising from the mutual influence of two local perturbations.

Definition 25 (Second Variation). *Let δ_e and δ_f denote first variations with respect to elementary event insertions e and f . The second variation of amplitude is defined as the symmetric difference of the corresponding first variations:*

$$\delta_{e,f}^2 \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2) := \delta_f(\delta_e \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2)) = \mathcal{A}(E_1 \cup \{e, f\}, E_2) - \mathcal{A}(E_1 \cup \{e\}, E_2) - \mathcal{A}(E_1 \cup \{f\}, E_2) + \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2).$$

This operator measures the change in the local propagation rate caused by introducing two distinct events. When $\delta_{e,f}^2 \mathcal{A} = 0$, their effects are independent: the propagation is linear. When it is nonzero, the two variations interfere, producing either reinforcement or cancellation of distinguishability.

Proposition 15 (Symmetry).

$$\delta_{e,f}^2 \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2) = \delta_{f,e}^2 \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2), \quad \delta_{e,e}^2 \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2) = 0.$$

Proof sketch. Both δ_e and δ_f are finite-difference operators on the Boolean

lattice of subsets. They commute, and a repeated variation on the same event cancels, yielding symmetry and self-annihilation. \square

Proposition 16 (Explicit Form). *If $e \neq f$ are not contained in E_2 , then*

$$\delta_{e,f}^2 \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2) = \begin{cases} -2, & e, f \in E_2 \setminus E_1, \\ +2, & e, f \notin E_1 \cup E_2, \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Proof sketch. Expand the four amplitude terms in the definition using $\mathcal{A} = |E_1| + |E_2| - 2|E_1 \cap E_2|$ and compute the finite difference. Each event contributes ± 1 to the first variation depending on overlap. The second variation doubles that effect when both new events share the same inclusion status relative to E_2 , and cancels when they differ. \square

Definition 26 (Discrete Laplacian on Event Sets). *Let $\nabla_E^2 \mathcal{A}$ denote the sum of all pairwise second variations over neighboring events in a locally finite causal domain:*

$$\nabla_E^2 \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2) := \sum_{\substack{e, f \in E_1 \\ e \prec f \text{ or } f \prec e}} \delta_{e,f}^2 \mathcal{A}(E_1, E_2).$$

Proposition 17 (Wave Equation for Order). *Under Martin's Condition, the amplitude on any locally finite causal domain satisfies*

$$\nabla_E^2 \mathcal{A} = 0$$

as the condition for global consistency.

Proof sketch. Each pairwise second variation measures the net curvature of distinguishability between causally related events. Martin's Condition enforces that all finite subsets extend consistently, which requires the total

curvature over each closed causal neighborhood to vanish. Summing over all connected pairs yields $\nabla_E^2 \mathcal{A} = 0$, the discrete Laplace equation for order propagation. \square

Interpretation. The vanishing of the second variation expresses the equilibrium of causal propagation: local expansions and contractions of distinguishability cancel globally. Where the first variation gave the *slope* of causal change, the second variation fixes the *curvature*—the shape of the wave. The condition $\nabla_E^2 \mathcal{A} = 0$ is therefore the causal-set form of the homogeneous wave equation: a statement that information, once created, propagates through the network of events without net amplification or loss.

3.6 Advection as Order-Preserving Transport

The first variation counts how distinguishability propagates when new events are introduced; the second variation vanishes at equilibrium, yielding wave closure. When propagation is *directional*—because Martin bridges select a consistent orientation of overlaps along a chain—the resulting closure is *first-order*: advection.

Setup: a Translation-Invariant Causal Strip

Let $\Lambda = \{(n, i) : n \in \mathbb{Z}, i \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ index a locally finite event strip with “time” levels n (ordinals of measurement steps) and spatial indices i along a chain of overlaps. Write $E_n = \{(n, i)\}_i$ and suppose overlaps are oriented so that interaction at level n feeds level $n+1$ predominantly from the left neighbor:

$$(n, i - 1) \rightarrow (n + 1, i).$$

Let $A_i^n \in \mathbb{N}$ denote the *amplitude density* (count of new distinguishabilities) measured on site i at level n .

Definition 27 (Order-Preserving Transport (Upwind Selection)). *A Martin-consistent, order-preserving update on Λ with orientation to the right is a map T such that*

$$A_i^{n+1} = (1 - \lambda) A_i^n + \lambda A_{i-1}^n, \quad 0 \leq \lambda \leq 1,$$

with λ the bridge fraction: the proportion of next-step distinguishability at $(n+1, i)$ sourced from the left overlap.

Interpretation. $\lambda = 1$ gives pure shift $A_i^{n+1} = A_{i-1}^n$ (deterministic transport one site per update). $0 < \lambda < 1$ mixes local retention with left-fed propagation, the discrete analogue of upwind transport. No energies are involved; only the preservation of order across oriented overlaps.

Discrete Continuity and Characteristics

Proposition 18 (Discrete Continuity Law). *For any finite index set $I \subset \mathbb{Z}$,*

$$\sum_{i \in I} A_i^{n+1} - \sum_{i \in I} A_i^n = \lambda (A_{\min(I)-1}^n - A_{\max(I)}^n).$$

Proof sketch. Telescoping sum of the upwind update across I cancels interior fluxes and leaves only boundary contributions, expressing conservation of distinguishability modulo oriented boundary flow. \square

Proposition 19 (Order Characteristics). *If $\lambda = 1$, then along lines $i - n = \text{const}$ one has $A_i^{n+1} = A_{i-1}^n$, hence $A_i^n = A_{i-n}^0$. Thus distinguishability is constant on the discrete characteristics $i - n = \text{const}$.*

Proof sketch. Iterate the shift relation n times. \square

Continuum Limit: The Advection Equation

Let spatial mesh be $h > 0$ and step size $\Delta t > 0$. Define a smooth interpolant $a(t_n, x_i) = A_i^n$ with $t_n = n \Delta t$, $x_i = i h$, and take

$$\lambda = \frac{c \Delta t}{h} \quad (0 \leq \lambda \leq 1),$$

where c is the *order speed* fixed by the oriented Martin bridges.

Theorem 1 (Advection from Upwind Selection). *Assume $a \in C^2$ and the oriented update*

$$A_i^{n+1} = (1 - \lambda)A_i^n + \lambda A_{i-1}^n.$$

Then, under the scaling $\lambda = \frac{c \Delta t}{h}$ with fixed c and $\Delta t, h \rightarrow 0$ satisfying the Courant condition $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$, the interpolant a satisfies

$$\partial_t a + c \partial_x a = 0 \quad (\text{advection})$$

to first order in $(\Delta t, h)$.

Proof sketch. Taylor-expand $a(t + \Delta t, x) = a + \Delta t a_t + \mathcal{O}(\Delta t^2)$ and $a(t, x - h) = a - h a_x + \mathcal{O}(h^2)$, then substitute in

$$a(t + \Delta t, x) = (1 - \lambda)a(t, x) + \lambda a(t, x - h).$$

Divide by Δt and use $\lambda = \frac{c \Delta t}{h}$:

$$a_t + \frac{\lambda}{\Delta t} (a(t, x - h) - a(t, x)) = a_t - \frac{c}{h} (h a_x + \mathcal{O}(h^2)) = a_t + c a_x + \mathcal{O}(h, \Delta t).$$

Letting $\Delta t, h \rightarrow 0$ yields $\partial_t a + c \partial_x a = 0$. □

Order–Theoretic Meaning

Proposition 20 (Advection as Oriented Martin Flow). *The advection equation expresses invariance of distinguishability along order–preserving characteristics $x - ct = \text{const}$ induced by a fixed orientation of Martin bridges. Equivalently, for any smooth test function φ compactly supported,*

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int a(t, x) \varphi(x + ct) dx = 0.$$

Proof sketch. Use the weak form of $\partial_t a + c \partial_x a = 0$ and integrate by parts along translated test functions; the quantity is conserved because propagation is a pure shift along characteristics. \square

Remarks on Stability and Causality

- **CFL as Martin Bound.** $0 \leq \lambda \leq 1$ is exactly the requirement that next–step order at site i is determined by current order from *within* its causal neighborhood, matching Martin’s Condition (no overreach).
- **Asymmetry \Rightarrow Advection.** When overlaps are unbiased left/right, the second variation dominates and yields the (symmetric) wave operator. A persistent orientation biases first–order closure, giving advection.
- **No Energetics.** All statements concern counts and comparabilities. The “speed” c is the rate at which order constraints traverse the poset—not a kinetic parameter—and is fixed by the density/orientation of Martin bridges per unit step.

3.7 On Deriving Motion Without Energy

The developments up to this point have been intentionally austere. We began with no continuum, no geometry, and no energetic quantity of any kind. From a finite collection of events ordered only by causal precedence, we obtained calculus as the closure of measurement, waves as the propagation of consistency under Martin's Condition, and advection as the directed transport of distinguishability. At no step was energy invoked. Nothing in the construction presupposed force, mass, or curvature. Yet the resulting equations coincide exactly with the kinematic skeleton underlying all of classical and quantum dynamics.

The Structural Consequence

The advection equation,

$$\partial_t a + c \partial_x a = 0,$$

arose not from the motion of particles through a medium, but from the preservation of order across oriented overlaps of finite event sets. The parameter c was defined purely as a ratio of discrete indices: the rate at which causal relations advance along the chain of overlaps. It is therefore not an energetic constant but a combinatorial one, a speed of bookkeeping rather than of matter. This reversal of interpretation is decisive. It suggests that the familiar forms of physical law—continuity, transport, and wave propagation—are not contingent on the existence of energetic carriers, but are inevitable properties of consistent causal description itself.

The Logical Hierarchy of Physics

The chain of constructions may now be summarized as

$$\text{Order} \implies \text{Variation} \implies \text{Propagation} \implies \text{Energy}.$$

Traditional formulations reverse this sequence, taking energy or momentum as the primitive and deriving motion as a consequence. Here motion appears first, as a necessary regularity of finite order. Energy, when it finally enters, can only be a measure of how much order is preserved or lost under repeated propagation. What physicists call *kinetic* or *potential* energy must therefore correspond to the count of distinguishabilities that remain invariant under the oriented application of Martin’s Condition. In this sense, energy is not a cause of motion but a conserved shadow of causal consistency.

The Epistemic Reversal

To derive motion without energy is to invert the epistemology of physics. It means that the universe does not move because it has energy; it *has* energy because its order moves. Causal updates propagate distinguishability forward, and the invariants of that propagation are what observers interpret as energetic quantities. The calculus of motion precedes the quantities it was once thought to govern. This inversion brings physics closer to logic: dynamics become theorems of consistency rather than axioms of force.

Consistency as the Source of Dynamics

Under Martin’s Condition, every finite causal neighborhood must extend to a globally consistent ordering. When overlaps are unbiased, this requirement produces the symmetric second-order closure $\nabla_E^2 \mathcal{A} = 0$, the discrete wave equation. When overlaps possess orientation, the first-order closure $\partial_t a + c \partial_x a = 0$ appears. Both are special cases of the same law:

Law 1. *Law of Consistency* The universe minimizes the inconsistency of its own order.

The entire machinery of classical dynamics—waves, advection, diffusion, and, later, curvature and field stress—can therefore be interpreted as successive approximations to the global enforcement of Martin’s Condition. Every

differential operator is a bookkeeping device for maintaining consistency in the face of finite, overlapping observations.

Implications

This interpretation carries several consequences:

1. **Causality precedes energy.** Energy cannot be fundamental if its defining equation is a by-product of causal bookkeeping. The conservation of energy must instead be a corollary of the conservation of distinguishability.
2. **Geometry is emergent.** Spatial metrics will appear later as statistical summaries of how distinguishabilities propagate across large causal domains. Space is the coarse-grained shadow of consistent order.
3. **The field concept is derivative.** A continuous field is simply the limit of a dense set of overlapping event relations that remain Martin-consistent under iteration. Field equations are encoded constraints on the propagation of order.
4. **Information and physics coincide.** The universe's physical regularities are identical to its rules for storing, updating, and reconciling information. No extra ontology is required.

Outlook

The reader should therefore pause to recognize the scope of what has already been accomplished. Without invoking mass, charge, or curvature, the framework has produced the canonical equations of transport and wave propagation purely from the logic of finite distinguishability. All subsequent structure—energy, stress, and geometry—must therefore emerge as higher-order invariants of this same logic. The remainder of this work develops those

invariants explicitly, showing how the metric tensor, stress tensor, and curvature of spacetime are the continuous shadows of a discrete causal calculus.

Motion, in this theory, is not caused by energy. It is the preservation of order under Martin's Condition.

Chapter 4

The Kinematics of Light

The preceding chapters established that motion itself arises from the consistency of causal order. The cubic spline and its dual principle of least action defined kinematics as the smooth propagation of distinguishable events within the Causal Universe Tensor. We now apply this same logic to the most symmetric case possible: the propagation of information at the limit of distinguishability. In that limit, the kinematics of the universe *is* the kinematics of light.

Light represents the boundary between distinguishable and indistinguishable events. Each photon defines an extremal path through the causal network—a trajectory along which the scalar invariants of the Causal Universe Tensor remain constant. Because such paths saturate the bound on causal speed, their geometry is determined entirely by the consistency of order itself. Curvature therefore measures not force, but deviation from perfect causal symmetry: it is the local record of how the network bends to preserve distinguishability as information propagates.

In this chapter we reinterpret the machinery of general relativity in this language. The metric tensor $g_{\mu\nu}$ appears as the continuous shadow of pairwise event separations; the connection coefficients $\Gamma_{\mu\nu}^{\lambda}$ encode how those separations adjust to maintain Martin consistency across overlapping causal

neighborhoods. The Einstein tensor then summarizes the residual inconsistency of order—the curvature required for lightlike propagation to remain self-consistent in a finite universe.

Thus general relativity emerges here not as a theory of gravitational force, but as the *kinematics of light*: the unique geometry in which the scalar invariants of the Causal Universe Tensor remain stationary along all null directions. The curvature of spacetime is simply the bookkeeping term that guarantees the smooth evolution of causal order at the speed of information. The following sections formalize this intuition, deriving the Einstein field equations as the differential expression of that invariance and showing how energy, stress, and curvature arise as higher-order scalar invariants of the same causal calculus.

4.0.1 Consequences and Outlook

At this point, nothing unfamiliar has been assumed. Each object of general relativity has arisen as the minimal correction required to preserve causal consistency under finite observation. The variations that produced the Einstein tensor are not postulates of gravitation but the necessary differential identities of the Causal Universe Tensor. Once the calculus of measurement is accepted, the geometry of light follows without remainder.

The reader may pause here and recognize the consequence: there is no longer a conceptual gap between discrete measurement and continuous spacetime. Every term in the classical field equations is a higher-order scalar invariant of the same underlying order. The curvature that once appeared as a geometric hypothesis is revealed as bookkeeping for the propagation of distinguishability. There is, so far as the argument stands, no reason it should not work.

What remains is not proof of correctness but proof of scope—how far the same consistency extends beyond lightlike motion. The next chapter therefore turns from the kinematics of light to the dynamics of matter, asking

how the gauge of causal order constrains systems that deviate from the null limit.

4.0.2 Arc of the Proof

The goal of this chapter is to show that the geometry of spacetime arises as the unique gauge condition under which lightlike propagation remains Martin-consistent. The proof proceeds in four stages.

1. Construction of the metric as a gauge of separation. We begin by defining the metric tensor $g_{\mu\nu}$ as the bilinear form that measures distinguishability between neighboring events. It appears as a gauge choice: an assignment of infinitesimal distances that preserves the local invariance of the scalar quantities computed by the Causal Universe Tensor. The metric thus represents the minimal information required for an observer to maintain causal order in a finite neighborhood.

2. Connection as the rule of causal transport. Next we introduce the connection $\Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\lambda$ as the operator that preserves these scalar invariants under parallel transport of distinguishable events. It records how the local labeling of events changes when moving through the causal network. The vanishing of the covariant derivative $\nabla_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$ expresses Martin consistency in this differential form: order is preserved under transport.

3. Curvature as the residue of inconsistency. Transporting an event label around a closed causal loop yields a finite residue when local frames cannot be made globally consistent. This residue, the Riemann tensor $R^\rho_{\sigma\mu\nu}$, quantifies the holonomy of the causal gauge. Its contractions—the Ricci tensor $R_{\mu\nu}$ and the scalar curvature R —measure the degree to which the scalar invariants of the Causal Universe Tensor fail to remain constant under finite extension.

4. Einstein equation as the constraint of global consistency. Finally we impose that the total scalar invariant of order, represented by the Einstein tensor $G_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{\mu\nu}$, balances the energy–momentum content encoded in the lower-order invariants of the Causal Universe Tensor:

$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi T_{\mu\nu}.$$

This equality enforces global consistency: the curvature required to maintain Martin consistency equals the causal stress produced by the finite structure of distinguishability. General relativity thus appears as the closure condition of the gauge of light.

Remark 10. *In summary, the arc of this proof mirrors the logic of the entire work. The metric defines measurement, the connection enforces order, the curvature measures residual inconsistency, and the Einstein equation restores balance. Each level is a higher-order invariant of the same causal calculus. Kinematics, when viewed through light, becomes the gauge theory of order itself.*

4.0.3 Defining Entropy

Definition 28 (Entropy). *Let \mathcal{C} denote the causal set of distinguishable events accessible to an observer, and let $\Omega(\mathcal{C})$ be the set of all admissible micro-orderings of those events consistent with the Reciprocity Law. The entropy associated with \mathcal{C} is the logarithm of this count:*

$$S[\mathcal{C}] = k_B \ln |\Omega(\mathcal{C})|.$$

Operationally, S measures the number of distinct internal configurations that yield the same observable causal invariants. In the continuum limit, variations in S appear as gradients of informational curvature; coupling this quantity to the stress tensor defines the entropic contribution to spacetime

geometry.

Remark 11. *Entropy in this framework is not a measure of disorder but of indistinguishability: it quantifies how many discrete causal configurations correspond to the same continuous geometry. It is therefore the dual of curvature—one counting micro-order, the other measuring its macroscopic residue.*

4.1 Metric as a Gauge of Separation

The metric tensor arises naturally once the act of distinguishing events is viewed as a gauge freedom. Every observer maintains a local convention for labeling distinguishable events; what we call a *distance* is merely the scalar quantity that remains invariant when those local conventions are changed. The metric $g_{\mu\nu}$ is therefore not a physical fabric laid over spacetime but a bookkeeping device that encodes how distinctions are preserved under Martin consistency.

4.1.1 From Distinction to Distance

4.1.2 Axiomatic Necessity

The appeal to ZFC and Martin’s Axiom is not an external mathematical convenience but a physical necessity. Finiteness of observation requires countable closure (ZFC’s Replacement); causal consistency requires choice of ordering (the Axiom of Choice); and global coherence of local choices requires the Martin property (a countable chain condition ensuring no overcounting of causal possibilities). Thus each axiom corresponds to a measurable physical principle:

$$\text{Finiteness} \leftrightarrow \text{ZFC}, \quad \text{Consistency} \leftrightarrow \text{Martin}, \quad \text{Reversibility} \leftrightarrow \text{Choice}.$$

Hence, these axioms are not postulates about mathematics but symmetry constraints on any finite observer's causal domain.

Let each infinitesimal event displacement be represented by the differential dx^μ , denoting the local coordinates an observer assigns to successive measurements. Two observers using different conventions for measurement will represent the same infinitesimal separation by differentials $dx'^\mu = \Lambda^\mu{}_\nu dx^\nu$, where $\Lambda^\mu{}_\nu$ encodes the transformation between their local frames. To preserve the scalar invariants computed by the Causal Universe Tensor, we require that the inner product of these displacements remain unchanged:

$$ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu = g'_{\mu\nu} dx'^\mu dx'^\nu.$$

This invariance defines $g_{\mu\nu}$ up to a gauge transformation of the local frame. The metric is thus the bilinear form that enforces Martin-consistent equivalence among all admissible coordinate choices.

4.1.3 The Metric as a Gauge Connection

Under this interpretation, the metric field acts as the gauge potential of causal separation. It defines the local rule by which infinitesimal differences between events are compared and reconciled across observers. If $T^{\mu\nu}$ denotes the Causal Universe Tensor, then maintaining the invariance of its scalar contractions,

$$\delta(g_{\mu\nu} T^{\mu\nu}) = 0,$$

requires a covariant definition of the derivative operator that absorbs changes of frame. The metric provides that operator's gauge background: it specifies the local symmetry under which causal distinctions are preserved.

Thought Experiment 14 (Michelson–Morley as Gauge Isotropy of Causal Separation). ***Statement.** The null fringe shift in the Michelson–Morley*

interferometer operationally enforces that the causal interval

$$ds^2 = -c^2 dt^2 + dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2$$

is invariant under orthogonal transport of the measurement path, i.e. the gauge preserving reciprocity is isotropic.

Reciprocity framing. Arms L_x and L_y define two partition-refined measurement chains with equal event counts at recombination when reciprocity is preserved. Any anisotropy in c would induce a measurable distinction (path-dependent tick surplus), violating the Reciprocity Law.

Calculation sketch. The phase difference is

$$\Delta\phi = \frac{2\pi}{\lambda} \Delta\ell_{opt}, \quad \Delta\ell_{opt} \equiv (n\ell)_x - (n\ell)_y.$$

Empirically $\Delta\phi \approx 0$ over apparatus rotations, implying $\Delta\ell_{opt} = 0$ and hence invariance of ds^2 under rotation of the apparatus frame. In our terms: the metric is the gauge of separation that preserves the dual invariants of measurement and variation.

4.1.4 Causal Interpretation

Physically, $g_{\mu\nu}$ encodes the rate at which the universe must “tilt” its causal structure to maintain distinguishability at the limit of lightlike propagation. When $g_{\mu\nu}$ is constant, the mapping between neighboring causal neighborhoods is uniform and the universe appears flat. When $g_{\mu\nu}$ varies, the transformation between local frames acquires a nontrivial derivative; the resulting connection $\Gamma^\lambda_{\mu\nu}$ records how the gauge of separation changes with position.

In this view, curvature does not describe a deformation of space but a measure of the cost required to keep causal relations consistent under finite observation. The metric therefore functions as the lowest-order field in a hierarchy of corrections that preserve the scalar invariants of the Causal

Universe Tensor. It is the gauge that ensures all observers agree on the magnitude of a distinction even when their labels for events differ.

Remark 12. *To summarize: the metric is the gauge of separation. It defines how the universe reconciles different conventions of measurement so that the scalar invariants of order—the values computed by the Causal Universe Tensor—remain unchanged. Once introduced, all higher structures of connection, curvature, and stress follow as successive corrections that enforce this same principle of causal consistency.*

Thought Experiment 15 (Galileo’s Free-Fall as the Flat-Space Limit of Causal Motion). *In Galileo’s experiment, two spheres of unequal mass are dropped from the same height and reach the ground simultaneously. Within the causal framework, this observation expresses the invariance of order in a flat informational geometry: when the curvature of the entropy field vanishes, all trajectories sharing the same initial causal separation remain indistinguishable up to translation in time.*

Let the causal paths be $\gamma_1(t)$ and $\gamma_2(t)$, each governed by

$$\frac{d^2x}{dt^2} = g,$$

where g is constant. Because the informational curvature $\nabla_i \nabla_j S$ is zero, the metric gauge g_{ij} is uniform, and the Reciprocity Law preserves equality of causal intervals:

$$\delta^2 x_1 = \delta^2 x_2.$$

Hence both spheres follow identical causal updates regardless of mass.

In this limit, the observer’s partition \mathcal{P}_n resolves all relevant distinctions—position, time, and acceleration—so the reciprocity mapping

$$\Phi : V/\sim_{\mathcal{P}_n} \longleftrightarrow M/\sim_{\mathcal{P}_n}$$

is exact. No refinement of the partition changes the outcome: the motion is

deterministic. Galileo's result therefore represents the classical limit of causal kinematics, the case of zero informational curvature where every variation is fully measurable and light's metric reduces to the Euclidean gauge.

Thought Experiment 16 (Gravitational Lensing as Informational Curvature). When light passes near a massive object, its trajectory bends—not because space itself is a physical medium that deforms, but because the mapping that preserves causal order becomes nonuniform. In the present framework, the metric acts as a gauge that encodes how distinguishability is preserved under curvature. Lensing is the observable signature of this informational distortion.

Let a bundle of null trajectories $\{\gamma_i\}$ originate from a common source. In flat spacetime, each path maintains constant informational phase, and the separation between neighboring geodesics—their causal distinction—is uniform. Introducing a local entropy gradient $S(x)$ modifies this gauge: the effective distance between successive events changes by

$$\delta ds^2 \propto \nabla_i \nabla_j S,$$

so that the extremal path satisfies

$$\delta \int ds = 0 \implies \frac{d^2 x^i}{d\lambda^2} + \Gamma_{jk}^i \frac{dx^j}{d\lambda} \frac{dx^k}{d\lambda} = 0,$$

with Γ_{jk}^i determined by the informational curvature $\partial_i \partial_j S$. The apparent bending of light is therefore the visible effect of a nontrivial gradient in the entropy field: photons follow the locally shortest causal paths consistent with order, not the straightest geometric lines in Euclidean projection.

Observers interpret this as a deflection angle $\alpha \approx 4GM/(c^2 b)$, but within the causal formalism it represents a correction to the bookkeeping of distinction: the density of accessible micro-orderings changes with gravitational potential. Lensing thus measures how informational curvature couples to

geometry—a macroscopic manifestation of the same reciprocity that defines the metric itself.

Thought Experiment 17 (The Three-Body Problem as Computational Reciprocity). *Consider three point masses m_1, m_2, m_3 interacting gravitationally with positions $r_i(t) \in \mathbb{R}^3$. Newtonian dynamics gives*

$$m_i \ddot{r}_i = G \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{m_i m_j}{\|r_j - r_i\|^3} (r_j - r_i), \quad i = 1, 2, 3.$$

This system conserves total energy and angular momentum (Noether symmetries), yet, except for special families (e.g. Euler and Lagrange configurations), it admits no closed-form solution. In the present framework, this means the reciprocity map closes only computationally: the admissible update that preserves order and invariants exists, but it must be realized by an iterative, order-preserving scheme.

Let $U(t)$ encode the joint state of the three trajectories as an element of the universe tensor. Martin consistency requires that each reciprocal update $U(t) \mapsto U(t + \delta t)$ preserve the conserved scalars and causal ordering of events. Analytic spline closure ($U^{(4)} = 0$) is insufficient here: interactions couple the segments so that local cubic envelopes do not globally commute. The correct closure is algorithmic: a reversible, symplectic, order-preserving integrator (e.g. velocity Verlet/leapfrog) that implements the reciprocity step without violating the invariants,

$$\Phi_{\delta t}^{\text{symp}} : U(t) \mapsto U(t + \delta t), \quad \delta E = 0, \quad \delta L = 0 \text{ (to integrator accuracy)}.$$

Operationally, the “quantum-like” fuzziness appears here as sensitivity to initial partitions: tiny unresolved distinctions in initial conditions grow under iteration, producing qualitatively different causal histories (chaos), even though Martin consistency (global order) is never violated.

Thus the three-body problem exemplifies a domain where physics requires

computation: reciprocity and consistency still govern the update, but their closure cannot be written in elementary functions. The law survives as an algorithm: an order-preserving map on the causal state that respects the Noether invariants at each step.

4.2 The Rule of Causal Transport

Having defined the metric $g_{\mu\nu}$ as the gauge of separation, we now ask how this gauge is to be preserved as the observer moves through the causal network. The answer is given by the rule of causal transport: the requirement that the scalar invariants of the Causal Universe Tensor remain constant when carried from one causal neighborhood to the next.

4.2.1 From Gauge Preservation to Connection

Consider the transport of a vector field V^μ representing a direction in the space of distinguishable events. To maintain Martin consistency, the change in V^μ along an infinitesimal displacement dx^ν must not alter any scalar quantities computed from the tensor $g_{\mu\nu}V^\mu V^\nu$. The differential form of this requirement is

$$\nabla_\nu g_{\mu\sigma} = 0,$$

which defines the Levi-Civita connection $\Gamma^\lambda_{\mu\nu}$. The connection therefore arises not as a postulate of differential geometry but as the unique differential operator that preserves the gauge of separation defined by the metric. In the context of the Causal Universe Tensor, it ensures that all scalar invariants of order remain stationary under causal transport.

4.2.2 Operational Meaning

Each component $\Gamma^\lambda_{\mu\nu}$ records how the act of distinction must be adjusted when an observer translates a local rule of measurement from one event to its

neighbor. It is, in essence, the differential bookkeeping of consistency. When the metric is uniform, $\Gamma^\lambda_{\mu\nu} = 0$, and the mapping of causal neighborhoods is trivial: straight lines remain straight. When the metric varies, the connection encodes how the local gauge must tilt to maintain the invariance of scalar quantities—how the “direction of distinction” is parallel transported through the network.

4.2.3 Parallel Transport and Martin Consistency

Parallel transport expresses Martin consistency in differential form. A vector is said to be parallel transported along a curve $x^\mu(s)$ if it satisfies

$$\frac{DV^\lambda}{Ds} = \frac{dV^\lambda}{ds} + \Gamma^\lambda_{\mu\nu} V^\mu \frac{dx^\nu}{ds} = 0.$$

This condition guarantees that the scalar invariants $g_{\mu\nu} V^\mu V^\nu$ remain unchanged along the curve, regardless of the local coordinate frame. The connection therefore enforces the *covariant constancy* of the causal gauge: every observer’s measurements can differ, but the underlying order they describe remains identical.

Thought Experiment 18 (Non-Abelian transport and curvature). *Let $A_\mu(x)$ be a matrix-valued connection (local gauge of distinction). Parallel transport along a path γ uses the path-ordered exponential*

$$U[\gamma] = \mathcal{P} \exp \left(\int_\gamma A_\mu dx^\mu \right).$$

For an infinitesimal rectangle spanned by $\delta x^\mu, \delta x^\nu$,

$$U[\square] = I + F_{\mu\nu} \delta x^\mu \delta x^\nu + O(\delta^3), \quad F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu + [A_\mu, A_\nu].$$

The $[A_\mu, A_\nu]$ term is the non-commutative residue of transporting in different orders around the loop. Thus, failure of local updates to commute pro-

duces a measurable scalar (via contractions of $F_{\mu\nu}$) that records global non-closure—our curvature as informational residue. This ties the reciprocity-preserving gauge to the field strength that appears in the continuum limit.

4.2.4 Causal Interpretation

Physically, the rule of causal transport states that the universe updates its own coordinate assignments to maintain distinguishability as information propagates. The connection coefficients are the infinitesimal records of those updates. They quantify how causal neighborhoods must rotate and rescale to remain compatible under finite observation. A nonzero connection indicates that causal consistency is preserved through adjustment rather than uniformity—a curved but coherent propagation of order.

Remark 13. *In summary, the connection $\Gamma^\lambda_{\mu\nu}$ is the rule of causal transport: the unique differential relation that preserves the gauge of separation under motion. It translates the logical demand of Martin consistency into a local dynamical law. Curvature will appear in the next section as the finite residue that remains when this transport rule fails to close perfectly around a loop—an irreducible measure of global inconsistency in causal order.*

Thought Experiment 19 (Invariance of the Causal Interval ds^2). *Consider two observers, \mathcal{O} and \mathcal{O}' , who each assign coordinates to the same pair of infinitesimally separated events. Their local labels differ by a gauge transformation of the form*

$$dx'^\mu = \Lambda^\mu{}_\nu dx^\nu,$$

where $\Lambda^\mu{}_\nu$ preserves the ordering of causal relations as required by Martin's Axiom. The scalar quantity

$$ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu$$

represents the infinitesimal measure of distinguishability between these events—the

local contraction of the Causal Universe Tensor with the gauge of separation.

Under the gauge transformation, the differentials and metric transform as

$$g'_{\mu\nu} = \Lambda^\alpha{}_\mu \Lambda^\beta{}_\nu g_{\alpha\beta}, \quad dx'^\mu = \Lambda^\mu{}_\sigma dx^\sigma.$$

Substituting these into the definition of the interval yields

$$ds'^2 = g'_{\mu\nu} dx'^\mu dx'^\nu = g_{\alpha\beta} dx^\alpha dx^\beta = ds^2.$$

Hence the scalar ds^2 is invariant under all admissible gauge transformations that preserve causal order. It defines the quantity that every observer must agree upon, even when their coordinate conventions differ.

In the discrete formulation, this invariance states that the number of distinctions between two neighboring events is the same for all observers. In the continuum limit, it becomes the invariance of the causal interval in relativity. Both express the same principle: the universe may bend, accelerate, or dilate, but the order of events—the fact that one event can distinguish another—remains unchanged.

Example: Pound–Rebka Gravitational Redshift as Entropic Transport

Statement. Frequency shift in a gravitational field is the change in event-count rate under causal transport in an informationally curved background.

Key relation (weak field).

$$\frac{\Delta\nu}{\nu} \approx \frac{\Delta\Phi_{\text{grav}}}{c^2} = \frac{g h}{c^2}.$$

Reciprocity framing. Transporting a clock's partition along the connection changes the mapping from proper ticks to coordinate time. The entropic stress couples to the metric gauge, altering the local rate at which distinctions are accumulated.

Operational consequence. Redshift is parallel transport of the causal gauge: invariants are preserved, but the local counting density transforms, observed as a shift in ν .

Chapter 5

Quantum Fields

The gauge of light completes the classical description of the universe: it ensures that causal order is preserved at the limit of distinguishability. But the universe we observe is not smooth. Measurements are discrete, events occur finitely, and the invariants of the causal gauge fluctuate around their ideal values. These fluctuations are not errors—they are the quantum fields of the theory.

A quantum field arises whenever the invariants of the Causal Universe Tensor are permitted to vary locally while maintaining global Martin consistency. Each allowed fluctuation corresponds to a redistribution of causal order between neighboring observers. The field is therefore not an additional substance laid over spacetime but a dynamic adjustment of the gauge itself, mediating the exchange of distinguishability across finite domains.

In this framework, the traditional wavefunction reappears as the probability amplitude for maintaining order under repeated finite observations. Its complex phase represents the orientation of the causal gauge in informational space, while its magnitude measures the stability of that order. The principle of superposition follows directly from the linearity of causal combinations: multiple consistent histories can coexist until observation resolves a single extension of the network.

Quantization enters as the recognition that order cannot be subdivided indefinitely. Every causal update exchanges a finite unit of distinguishability—a discrete increment of information. The Planck constant \hbar expresses this minimal step size: the smallest action through which the universe can modify its own gauge while remaining consistent. The commutation relations of quantum theory are therefore expressions of finite causal resolution, not axioms of measurement.

This chapter develops these ideas systematically. Beginning with the Noether currents of the causal gauge, we derive the corresponding quantum fields as their discrete fluctuations. We then show how these fields propagate through the Causal Universe Tensor, producing the familiar quantum wave equations as conditions of statistical Martin consistency. Finally, we interpret entanglement as the correlated selection of events across overlapping causal neighborhoods—the quantum signature of global order maintained through finite means.

Remark 14. *Classical physics ends where the gauge of light closes; quantum physics begins where it wavers. Every quantum field is a small deviation from perfect causal consistency, a harmonic of order itself. The task of this chapter is to make that statement precise.*

5.1 The Residue of Inconsistency

No rule of transport can remain globally consistent on a finite causal network. When one carries a distinction around a closed loop of events, the recovered configuration generally differs from the initial one. This difference is not an error but an invariant: the measurable residue of inconsistency required to preserve local order within a global whole. In differential form, that residue is called curvature.

5.1.1 Curvature as the Measure of Non-Closure

The connection $\Gamma^\lambda_{\mu\nu}$ prescribes how distinctions are transported to preserve scalar invariants locally. When the same distinction is transported successively along different paths that enclose a finite region, the final result may depend on the path taken. The difference between the two results defines the Riemann curvature tensor:

$$R^\rho_{\sigma\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu \Gamma^\rho_{\sigma\nu} - \partial_\nu \Gamma^\rho_{\sigma\mu} + \Gamma^\rho_{\lambda\mu} \Gamma^\lambda_{\sigma\nu} - \Gamma^\rho_{\lambda\nu} \Gamma^\lambda_{\sigma\mu}.$$

This object measures the infinitesimal failure of causal transport to commute. When $R^\rho_{\sigma\mu\nu} = 0$, all paths yield the same result and the causal network is globally flat; when it does not vanish, the inconsistency cannot be removed by any gauge transformation.

Example: Casimir Effect as Measured Residue of Non-Closure

Statement. Boundary-induced mode restriction yields a measurable scalar from the residue of non-closure: the Casimir pressure.

Key relation (ideal plates, separation a).

$$P = -\frac{\pi^2}{240} \frac{\hbar c}{a^4}.$$

Reciprocity framing. Plates impose selection on admissible causal updates (mode partitions). The contraction of the Universe Tensor over admissible modes produces a nonzero scalar residue—the pressure—interpretable as curvature from informational incompleteness.

Operational consequence. Moving a plate changes the equivalence class (refines the partition), and the derivative of the class invariant yields a force, closing the loop between geometry and matter.

5.1.2 Physical Interpretation

In the context of the Causal Universe Tensor, curvature represents the minimal informational adjustment required for the propagation of distinguishability in a finite universe. Each nonzero component of $R^\rho_{\sigma\mu\nu}$ quantifies how much the local gauge of separation must bend to remain self-consistent when extended around a closed causal loop. Curvature is thus the differential trace of the universe correcting itself: the physical manifestation of the fact that perfect global order is impossible, even though local order is preserved.

5.1.3 Contractions and Scalar Invariants

Contracting the curvature tensor yields quantities that summarize this residual inconsistency at successively coarser levels. The Ricci tensor

$$R_{\mu\nu} = R^\rho_{\mu\rho\nu}$$

measures the local divergence of geodesic families—the rate at which neighboring causal paths converge or spread. The scalar curvature

$$R = g^{\mu\nu} R_{\mu\nu}$$

compresses all such deviations into a single invariant of the causal gauge. These contractions represent higher-order scalar invariants of the Causal Universe Tensor, extending the chain of conserved quantities that began with the spline and the principle of least action.

5.1.4 The Meaning of Curvature in the Causal Framework

Traditional geometry interprets curvature as a property of space. Here it is a property of information: a measure of how the network of distinguishable

events must deform to reconcile finite observation with global consistency. Flatness corresponds to exact commutativity of causal updates; curvature, to their minimal non-commutativity. The universe’s curvature is therefore the bookkeeping of necessary inconsistency—the trace left by causal order maintaining itself through finite means.

Remark 15. *Curvature is the residue of inconsistency. It is what remains when the rule of causal transport cannot close perfectly, the irreducible difference between local and global consistency. In the language of the Causal Universe Tensor, curvature represents the self-correcting property of the universe: the differential response by which causal order preserves itself in time. The next section will show that this residue, when balanced against the stress encoded in the tensor $T_{\mu\nu}$, yields the Einstein equation—the equilibrium condition of the gauge of light.*

5.2 Global Constraint as the Einstein Equation

The final step is to impose global consistency on the causal network. Local rules of separation and transport guarantee Martin consistency within each neighborhood, but finite observation requires that these neighborhoods overlap. The residual curvature computed in the previous section measures the degree to which local order fails to close globally. The Einstein equation expresses the condition under which that failure is exactly balanced by the stress encoded in the Causal Universe Tensor.

5.2.1 From Local Residue to Global Balance

Let the scalar invariants of the Causal Universe Tensor be denoted $T_{\mu\nu}$ —the symmetric bilinear form that measures the density and flux of distinguishability. The curvature invariants of the causal gauge are summarized by the

Einstein tensor,

$$G_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{\mu\nu}.$$

Both tensors share the same divergence-free property, $\nabla^\mu G_{\mu\nu} = \nabla^\mu T_{\mu\nu} = 0$, a differential expression of Martin consistency. The only admissible global solution is therefore their proportional equality,

$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi T_{\mu\nu}.$$

This is the Einstein field equation, reinterpreted as the global constraint that restores balance between the residue of inconsistency (curvature) and the finite structure of distinguishability (stress).

5.2.2 Interpretation in the Causal Framework

The Einstein equation states that curvature is not an independent source of force but the universe's adjustment to maintain causal coherence. Energy and stress arise from the finiteness of measurement; curvature arises from the impossibility of reconciling all such measurements globally. The equation $G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi T_{\mu\nu}$ enforces that these two forms of inconsistency—informational and geometric—cancel exactly. When they do, the propagation of light remains Martin-consistent throughout the entire network.

In this view, gravitation is the manifestation of the universe correcting its own bookkeeping of distinctions. Mass–energy is simply the local density of finite observation, and curvature the global compensation that restores order. Spacetime bends not because matter exerts force, but because causal consistency demands it.

5.2.3 The Closure of the Gauge of Light

The Einstein equation thus completes the gauge of light. Beginning with the metric as the gauge of separation, the connection as the rule of causal

transport, and curvature as the residue of inconsistency, the global constraint closes the system. All four structures arise from a single requirement: that the scalar invariants of the Causal Universe Tensor remain self-consistent under extension to the entire causal domain.

Remark 16. *In this formulation, general relativity is not a separate physical theory but the closure condition of the causal calculus. The Einstein tensor is the final differential form of Martin consistency; the stress–energy tensor is the discrete record of finite distinction. Their equality marks the point at which the universe’s description becomes self-consistent. Beyond this, nothing remains to adjust—the gauge of light is complete.*

Chapter 6

Quantum Fields

The gauge of light completes the classical description of the universe: it ensures that causal order is preserved at the limit of distinguishability. But the universe we observe is not smooth. Measurements are discrete, events occur finitely, and the invariants of the causal gauge fluctuate around their ideal values. These fluctuations are not errors—they are the quantum fields of the theory.

A quantum field arises whenever the invariants of the Causal Universe Tensor are permitted to vary locally while maintaining global Martin consistency. Each allowed fluctuation corresponds to a redistribution of causal order between neighboring observers. The field is therefore not an additional substance laid over spacetime but a dynamic adjustment of the gauge itself, mediating the exchange of distinguishability across finite domains.

In this framework, the traditional wavefunction reappears as the probability amplitude for maintaining order under repeated finite observations. Its complex phase represents the orientation of the causal gauge in informational space, while its magnitude measures the stability of that order. The principle of superposition follows directly from the linearity of causal combinations: multiple consistent histories can coexist until observation resolves a single extension of the network.

Quantization enters as the recognition that order cannot be subdivided indefinitely. Every causal update exchanges a finite unit of distinguishability—a discrete increment of information. The Planck constant \hbar expresses this minimal step size: the smallest action through which the universe can modify its own gauge while remaining consistent. The commutation relations of quantum theory are therefore expressions of finite causal resolution, not axioms of measurement.

This chapter develops these ideas systematically. Beginning with the Noether currents of the causal gauge, we derive the corresponding quantum fields as their discrete fluctuations. We then show how these fields propagate through the Causal Universe Tensor, producing the familiar quantum wave equations as conditions of statistical Martin consistency. Finally, we interpret entanglement as the correlated selection of events across overlapping causal neighborhoods—the quantum signature of global order maintained through finite means.

Remark 17. *Classical physics ends where the gauge of light closes; quantum physics begins where it wavers. Every quantum field is a small deviation from perfect causal consistency, a harmonic of order itself. The task of this chapter is to make that statement precise.*

Example: Photoelectric Effect as Discrete Termination of a Continuous Wave

Statement. The photoelectric threshold and linear kinetic energy law express that measurement terminates the wave by discrete event selection.

Key relation.

$$K_{\max} = h\nu - \Phi, \quad \nu \geq \nu_0 = \frac{\Phi}{h}.$$

Reciprocity framing. A continuous field carries phase/energy, but a detection event is a refinement of the partition $P_n \rightarrow P_{n+1}$ at the cathode surface.

The selection rule enforces conservation in the bookkeeping channel: the work function Φ is the minimal distinguishability cost to register an event.

Operational consequence. Intensity controls the *rate* of refinement (event count per time), but frequency controls the *possibility* of refinement (predicate becomes admissible only if $\nu \geq \nu_0$).

6.1 The Action Functional

The action functional provides the statistical completion of the causal gauge. It measures the total consistency of a causal configuration across all finite observations. In the classical limit, the action is stationary: each variation vanishes, and the universe evolves along trajectories of perfect causal balance. In the quantum regime, these variations accumulate as finite fluctuations of order, and the path integral of all such histories defines the observable field.

6.1.1 Definition from the Causal Universe Tensor

Let $\mathcal{T}^{\mu\nu}$ denote the Causal Universe Tensor, whose scalar invariants measure the degree of causal consistency. The *action functional* \mathcal{S} is defined as the integral of these invariants over the causal domain:

$$\mathcal{S} = \int \mathcal{L}(\mathcal{T}^{\mu\nu}, g_{\mu\nu}, \nabla_\lambda \mathcal{T}^{\mu\nu}) \sqrt{-g} d^4x.$$

The Lagrangian density \mathcal{L} encodes the local rule by which order is preserved and exchanged. In the classical limit, $\delta\mathcal{S} = 0$ reproduces the field equations of the gauge of light; in the quantum limit, \mathcal{S} fluctuates discretely by units of \hbar , reflecting the minimal step size in causal adjustment.

6.1.2 Physical Interpretation

The action \mathcal{S} plays the role of a global consistency measure. Each admissible history of the universe contributes a complex amplitude

$$\Psi[\mathcal{T}] \propto e^{i\mathcal{S}[\mathcal{T}]/\hbar},$$

representing the phase of causal order associated with that configuration. When summed over all histories consistent with Martin’s Axiom, these amplitudes interfere, and the stationary-phase paths correspond to the classical trajectories of least action. The non-stationary contributions produce the quantum corrections—the finite discrepancies among partially consistent causal extensions.

In this interpretation, \hbar is not an arbitrary constant but the fundamental unit of distinguishability in causal evolution. It measures the minimal action by which the universe can update its gauge without violating order. The classical limit $\hbar \rightarrow 0$ corresponds to infinitely fine causal resolution, while the quantum limit expresses the graininess of finite observation.

6.1.3 Noether Currents of the Causal Gauge

Symmetries of the Lagrangian correspond to invariances of causal order. By Noether’s theorem, each continuous symmetry yields a conserved current

$$J^\mu = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\nabla_\mu \phi)} \delta \phi, \quad \nabla_\mu J^\mu = 0.$$

These currents are the quantum fields’ classical shadows: energy, momentum, and charge arise as conserved flows of causal order through the network. Their quantization in subsequent sections will describe the discrete exchange of distinguishability among interacting observers.

Remark 18. *The action functional is the expectation value of Martin consistency over all admissible histories. In the classical regime, it is stationary;*

in the quantum regime, it oscillates. The universe, viewed through this lens, is a sum over self-consistent paths, each differing from the others by integral multiples of the minimal action \hbar . Quantum mechanics is therefore not a separate theory but the statistical theory of finite causal order.

6.2 The Application of Noether

Once the action functional has been defined, its symmetries determine the quantities that remain conserved under causal evolution. This is the content of Noether's theorem, here understood as the statistical mechanics of invariance: whenever the ensemble of admissible causal configurations possesses a continuous symmetry, the expectation value of the corresponding quantity remains fixed across all Martin-consistent histories.

6.2.1 Symmetry and Conservation as Statistical Identities

Let the partition function of the causal gauge be written

$$Z = \int \exp\left(\frac{i}{\hbar} \mathcal{S}[\mathcal{T}]\right) \mathcal{D}\mathcal{T},$$

where the integration ranges over all locally consistent configurations of the Causal Universe Tensor. An infinitesimal transformation of variables $\mathcal{T} \rightarrow \mathcal{T} + \delta\mathcal{T}$ that leaves the measure and the action invariant,

$$\delta\mathcal{S} = 0,$$

implies that the partition function is unchanged:

$$\delta Z = 0.$$

Differentiating under the integral sign yields the statistical conservation law

$$\langle \nabla_\mu J^\mu \rangle = 0,$$

where

$$J^\mu = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\nabla_\mu \phi)} \delta \phi$$

is the current associated with the transformation. Thus, each continuous symmetry of the Lagrangian corresponds to a conserved flux of causal order. Energy, momentum, and charge appear not as primitive physical entities but as statistical invariants of the causal ensemble.

6.2.2 Conserved Quantities of the Causal Gauge

1. **Translational invariance** \rightarrow Conservation of energy–momentum:

$$\nabla_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0.$$

2. **Rotational invariance** \rightarrow Conservation of angular momentum:

$$\nabla_\mu J^{\mu\nu} = 0, \quad J^{\mu\nu} = x^\mu T^{\nu\lambda} - x^\nu T^{\mu\lambda}.$$

3. **Internal phase invariance** \rightarrow Conservation of charge:

$$\nabla_\mu j^\mu = 0.$$

Each of these laws arises from a symmetry of the Causal Universe Tensor under transformations that leave the causal measure invariant. In this sense, Noether's theorem is the thermodynamics of causal order: it equates symmetry with conservation and conservation with informational equilibrium.

Thought Experiment 20 (The Harmonic Oscillator as a Closed Loop of Reciprocal Measurement). *The harmonic oscillator is the minimal causal*

system in which measurement and variation form a reversible cycle. Let $U(t)$ denote the measured amplitude of a single mode of the universe tensor. Successive reciprocal updates obey

$$\delta^2 U + \omega^2 U = 0,$$

where δ is the discrete variation operator and ω characterizes the curvature of the local informational potential. In the continuum limit this becomes

$$\frac{d^2 U}{dt^2} + \omega^2 U = 0,$$

the familiar harmonic-oscillator equation.

Each half-cycle corresponds to an exchange between distinguishability and variation: when the system reaches maximal distinction (turning point), the variation vanishes; when the distinction is minimal (crossing through zero), variation is maximal. The energy functional

$$E = \frac{1}{2} \left[(\dot{U})^2 + \omega^2 U^2 \right]$$

is the invariant scalar of this causal pair— the quantity preserved under all order-preserving updates.

Quantization follows from the Axiom of Finite Observation: only discrete counts of distinguishable configurations fit within one causal period. Applying the Reciprocity Law yields the spectrum

$$E_n = \hbar \omega \left(n + \frac{1}{2} \right),$$

showing that each oscillation cycle admits an integer number of informational quanta plus a residual half-count from causal incompleteness.

In this view, the harmonic oscillator is the archetype of finite reciprocity: a closed loop in which measurement and variation exchange roles while preserving total informational curvature. All quantized fields—phonons, pho-

tons, and normal modes of the causal tensor—are higher-dimensional extensions of this single reciprocal circuit.

6.2.3 Statistical Interpretation

In the quantum regime, these conservation laws are satisfied only in expectation. The ensemble of finite causal updates explores neighboring histories whose individual actions differ by multiples of \hbar , but the average fluxes of order remain constant. The classical conservation laws emerge as the limit in which fluctuations of the action vanish and every observer’s measurement agrees. Quantum mechanics, in contrast, records the statistics of these fluctuations.

Remark 19. *Noether’s theorem closes the loop between mechanics and statistics. Every symmetry of the causal gauge produces a conserved current, and every conservation law describes equilibrium in the flow of distinguishability. In this sense, the field equations of physics are nothing more than the statistical statements of Martin consistency expressed through symmetry.*

ectionConservation

Conservation laws follow from symmetries of the action. In the causal framework, these are statements that the bookkeeping of distinguishability is invariant under relabelings that shift the record in space or time. The resulting Noether currents are the conserved flows of causal order.

6.2.4 Translations and the Stress–Energy Tensor

Let $\mathcal{S} = \int \mathcal{L} \sqrt{-g} d^4x$ be the action of the Causal Universe Tensor fields (collectively ϕ). Under an infinitesimal spacetime translation $x^\mu \mapsto x^\mu + \varepsilon^\mu$, the fields transform as $\delta\phi = \varepsilon^\nu \nabla_\nu \phi$ and $\delta\mathcal{L} = \varepsilon^\nu \nabla_\nu \mathcal{L}$. Invariance of the

action ($\delta\mathcal{S} = 0$) yields the Noether current

$$J^\mu{}_\nu = \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial(\nabla_\mu\phi)} \nabla_\nu\phi - \delta^\mu{}_\nu \mathcal{L},$$

whose covariant divergence vanishes:

$$\nabla_\mu J^\mu{}_\nu = 0.$$

Identifying $T^\mu{}_\nu \equiv J^\mu{}_\nu$ (or its symmetrized Belinfante form when needed) gives the *stress-energy tensor* with

$$\nabla_\mu T^\mu{}_\nu = 0.$$

In local inertial coordinates this reduces to the familiar continuity laws $\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$.

Example: Compton Scattering as Reciprocal Momentum Bookkeeping

Statement. The Compton shift measures the finite difference of momentum across an event pair, i.e. the reciprocity map in momentum space.

Key relation.

$$\Delta\lambda \equiv \lambda' - \lambda = \frac{h}{m_e c} (1 - \cos\theta).$$

Reciprocity framing. One detection event refines the joint partition of (photon, electron). Bookkeeping enforces the Noether current (translation symmetry) at the refinement:

$$p_\gamma + p_e = p'_\gamma + p'_e, \quad E_\gamma + E_e = E'_\gamma + E'_e.$$

Eliminating the electron internal variables yields the observed $\Delta\lambda$, a scalar

invariant of the event contraction.

Operational consequence. The shift is the *measured* residue after enforcing equality of conjugate Noether charges at a single refinement step.

6.2.5 Energy and Momentum Densities

Write u^μ for the future-directed unit normal to a Cauchy slice Σ (with volume element $d\Sigma_\mu = u_\mu d^3x \sqrt{\gamma}$). The total four-momentum is

$$P^\nu = \int_\Sigma T^{\mu\nu} d\Sigma_\mu,$$

so that

$$E \equiv P^0 = \int_\Sigma T^{\mu\nu} u_\mu \xi_\nu^{(t)} d^3x \sqrt{\gamma}, \quad \mathbf{P}^i = \int_\Sigma T^{\mu\nu} u_\mu \xi_\nu^{(i)} d^3x \sqrt{\gamma},$$

where $\xi^{(t)}$ and $\xi^{(i)}$ denote the time and spatial translation generators (Killing vectors in symmetric backgrounds). Covariant conservation implies slice-independence:

$$\frac{d}{d\tau} P^\nu = \int_\Sigma \nabla_\mu T^{\mu\nu} d\Sigma = 0.$$

6.2.6 Bookkeeping Interpretation

Causally, $\nabla_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$ is a statement that *what leaves one finite neighborhood must enter another*. The stress–energy tensor tallies the flow of distinguishability through the network; its vanishing divergence is the ledger’s balance condition. Translational symmetry means we can shift the labels of events without changing that tally. Conservation of *energy* is the invariance of the temporal bookkeeping column; conservation of *momentum* is the invariance of the spatial columns. In discrete form, for any compact region \mathcal{R} with boundary $\partial\mathcal{R}$,

$$\frac{d}{d\tau} \int_{\mathcal{R}} T^{0\nu} d^3x = - \int_{\partial\mathcal{R}} T^{i\nu} n_i dS,$$

so the time rate of change of the “inventory” inside equals the net outward flux across the boundary—pure bookkeeping.

6.2.7 Curved Backgrounds and Killing Symmetries

When the metric varies, conserved charges are tied to spacetime symmetries.

If ξ^ν is a Killing vector ($\nabla_{(\mu}\xi_{\nu)} = 0$), then

$$\nabla_\mu (T^\mu{}_\nu \xi^\nu) = 0,$$

and the associated charge

$$Q[\xi] = \int_\Sigma T^\mu{}_\nu \xi^\nu d\Sigma_\mu$$

is conserved. Energy arises from time-translation symmetry ($\xi = \partial_t$), momentum from spatial translations, and angular momentum from rotations. In each case, the “conservation law” is precisely the statement that the ledger of scalar invariants computed by the Causal Universe Tensor is unchanged under the corresponding relabeling of events.

Remark 20. *Conservation is not mysterious dynamics; it is consistency of accounting. Noether’s theorem says: if the rules for keeping the ledger do not change when we shift the page in space or time, then the totals on that page do not change either. In the causal calculus, those totals are P^ν , and their invariance is exactly $\nabla_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$.*

Thought Experiment 21 (Conservation of Energy for a Free Scalar Field). *Consider a real Klein–Gordon field ϕ in flat spacetime with*

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2, \quad \eta_{\mu\nu} = \text{diag}(-, +, +, +).$$

The (symmetric) stress–energy tensor is

$$T^{\mu\nu} = \partial^\mu \phi \partial^\nu \phi - \eta^{\mu\nu} \mathcal{L}.$$

Energy density and energy flux are then

$$\mathcal{E} \equiv T^{00} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\dot{\phi}^2 + |\nabla \phi|^2 + m^2 \phi^2 \right), \quad S^i \equiv T^{0i} = \dot{\phi} \partial^i \phi.$$

Continuity (bookkeeping) equation. Using the Euler–Lagrange equation $\square \phi + m^2 \phi = 0$ and differentiating,

$$\partial_t \mathcal{E} = \dot{\phi} \ddot{\phi} + \nabla \phi \cdot \nabla \dot{\phi} + m^2 \phi \dot{\phi} = \dot{\phi} (\ddot{\phi} - \nabla^2 \phi + m^2 \phi) + \nabla \cdot (\dot{\phi} \nabla \phi) = \nabla \cdot (\dot{\phi} \nabla \phi),$$

so

$$\partial_t \mathcal{E} + \nabla \cdot (-\dot{\phi} \nabla \phi) = 0 \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \partial_\mu T^{\mu 0} = 0.$$

This is pure bookkeeping: the time rate of change of energy density equals the negative divergence of the energy flux.

Integrated conservation law. Integrate over a fixed region \mathcal{R} with outward normal \mathbf{n} :

$$\frac{d}{dt} \int_{\mathcal{R}} \mathcal{E} d^3x = - \int_{\partial \mathcal{R}} \mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{n} dS.$$

If fields vanish (or are periodic) on the boundary so the surface term is zero, then the total energy

$$E = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \mathcal{E} d^3x$$

is conserved: $\frac{dE}{dt} = 0$.

Causal bookkeeping interpretation. T^{00} tallies the “inventory” of distinguishability stored in a region (kinetic + gradient + mass terms). The flux T^{0i} records how that inventory flows across the boundary. The continuity equation says the ledger balances exactly: what leaves here enters there.

Translation invariance is the statement that the rules of this ledger do not change when we shift the page in time; hence the total energy remains the same.

Thought Experiment 22 (Feynman Diagram as a Tensor Expansion of the Field). *In conventional quantum field theory, perturbation expansions of the generating functional are represented diagrammatically: vertices encode local interactions and propagators connect them according to the causal structure of spacetime. In the causal formulation developed here, the same construction arises directly from the Universe Tensor.*

Each vertex corresponds to an event tensor $E_k \in T(V)$ contributing a measurable distinction within the causal order. A propagator corresponds to an admissible contraction between event tensors—a bilinear map

$$\langle E_i, E_j \rangle = \text{Tr}(E_i^\top G E_j),$$

where G is the causal propagator enforcing Martin consistency between the connected events. The complete amplitude for a process is therefore the contraction of the ordered product

$$U_n = \sum_{k=1}^n E_k,$$

with all admissible propagators. The resulting scalar invariants of U_n constitute the measurable quantities of the theory.

Thus, a Feynman diagram is the graphical representation of a tensor contraction in the causal algebra: each diagram corresponds to one term in the finite expansion of the Universe Tensor, and summing over all diagrams is equivalent to enforcing global consistency of causal order. What appears in standard field theory as a perturbation series is, in this formalism, a finite enumeration of distinguishable causal relations—a bookkeeping identity derived from the Reciprocity Law rather than using calculus.

6.3 Angular Momentum and Spin

Rotational (and more generally Lorentz) invariance of the action produces a conserved tensorial current whose charges are the total angular momentum. Decomposing that current separates *orbital* from *spin* contributions; their sum is conserved.

6.3.1 Noether Current for Lorentz Invariance

Let the action $\mathcal{S} = \int \mathcal{L}(\phi, \nabla\phi, g) \sqrt{-g} d^4x$ be invariant under infinitesimal Lorentz transformations $x^\mu \mapsto x^\mu + \omega^\mu{}_\nu x^\nu$ with antisymmetric $\omega_{\mu\nu} = -\omega_{\nu\mu}$, and induced field variation $\delta\phi = -\frac{1}{2}\omega_{\rho\sigma} \Sigma^{\rho\sigma} \phi - \omega^\mu{}_\nu x^\nu \nabla_\mu \phi$, where $\Sigma^{\rho\sigma}$ are the generators on the fields. Noether's theorem yields the (canonical) angular-momentum current

$$J_{\text{can}}^{\lambda\rho\sigma} = x^\rho T_{\text{can}}^{\lambda\sigma} - x^\sigma T_{\text{can}}^{\lambda\rho} + S^{\lambda\rho\sigma}, \quad \partial_\lambda J_{\text{can}}^{\lambda\rho\sigma} = 0,$$

with canonical stress tensor $T_{\nu,\text{can}}^\lambda = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_\lambda \phi)} \partial_\nu \phi - \delta^\lambda_\nu \mathcal{L}$ and spin current

$$S^{\lambda\rho\sigma} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_\lambda \phi)} \Sigma^{\rho\sigma} \phi = -S^{\lambda\sigma\rho}.$$

Thought Experiment 23 (Spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ as Two-Valued Causal Orientation). *Spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ particles arise when the local symmetry of the universe tensor is represented not on spacetime vectors but on their double cover. Under a full 2π rotation, the causal ordering of distinguishable events reverses sign before returning to its original configuration after 4π . This two-valuedness expresses the fundamental antisymmetry of distinction.*

Let $\psi(x)$ denote a two-component field that transports the minimal unit of causal orientation. Its dynamics follow from the Lorentz-invariant action

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu D_\mu - m)\psi,$$

where D_μ is the gauge-covariant derivative and the γ^μ generate the Clifford algebra

$$\{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu\} = 2g^{\mu\nu}.$$

Each γ^μ acts as a local operator of causal rotation: applying it changes the orientation of the measurement frame while preserving causal order. Because the algebra squares to unity only after two applications, a single 2π rotation introduces a minus sign, $\psi \rightarrow -\psi$, revealing that the physical state is defined on the double cover $\text{Spin}(3, 1)$ of the Lorentz group.

In the informational picture, the two components of ψ encode the forward and reverse orientations of causal distinction—measurement and variation. The spinor's phase thus records how the act of observation twists within the causal network. Quantized angular momentum

$$S = \frac{\hbar}{2}$$

emerges as the minimal unit of such rotational bookkeeping: the smallest nontrivial representation of reciprocity under continuous rotation.

$\text{Spin}-\frac{1}{2}$ therefore exemplifies the finite, antisymmetric nature of causal orientation. A complete 4π turn is required for full restoration of distinguishability, making the spinor the algebraic expression of the universe tensor's two-sheeted structure in orientation space.

6.3.2 Belinfante–Rosenfeld Improvement

The canonical $T_{\mu\nu}$ need not be symmetric. Define the Belinfante superpotential

$$B^{\lambda\rho\sigma} = \frac{1}{2} \left(S^{\rho\lambda\sigma} + S^{\sigma\lambda\rho} - S^{\lambda\rho\sigma} \right), \quad B^{\lambda\rho\sigma} = -B^{\lambda\sigma\rho}.$$

The *improved* symmetric stress tensor and current are

$$T_B^{\mu\nu} = T_{\text{can}}^{\mu\nu} + \partial_\lambda \left(B^{\lambda\mu\nu} - B^{\mu\lambda\nu} - B^{\nu\lambda\mu} \right), \quad J_B^{\lambda\rho\sigma} = x^\rho T_B^{\lambda\sigma} - x^\sigma T_B^{\lambda\rho},$$

and obey $\partial_\lambda T_B^{\lambda\nu} = 0$, $\partial_\lambda J_B^{\lambda\rho\sigma} = 0$. The spin density has been absorbed into a symmetric T_B so that the total angular momentum current is purely “orbital” in form; its integrated charge still equals *orbital + spin*.

6.3.3 Conserved Charges

For a Cauchy slice Σ with normal u_λ ,

$$M^{\rho\sigma} = \int_\Sigma J^{\lambda\rho\sigma} d\Sigma_\lambda = \int_\Sigma \left(x^\rho T_B^{\lambda\sigma} - x^\sigma T_B^{\lambda\rho} \right) d\Sigma_\lambda, \quad \frac{d}{d\tau} M^{\rho\sigma} = 0.$$

In 3D language (flat space, $u_\lambda = (1, 0, 0, 0)$), the spatial components give the angular momentum vector $\mathbf{J} = \int d^3x (\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{p}) + \mathbf{S}$, with momentum density $\mathbf{p} = T_B^{0i} \hat{\mathbf{e}}_i$ and spin density \mathbf{S} encoded via S^{0ij} .

6.3.4 Worked Examples

Real scalar (spin 0). For $\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2$, $\Sigma^{\rho\sigma} = 0$ so $S^{\lambda\rho\sigma} = 0$. The Belinfante step is trivial and

$$\mathbf{J} = \int d^3x \mathbf{x} \times (\dot{\phi} \nabla \phi),$$

purely orbital. Conservation $\partial_\lambda J^{\lambda\rho\sigma} = 0$ reduces to $\partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$ (already shown) plus antisymmetry.

Dirac field (spin 1/2). For $\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m)\psi$, the generators are $\Sigma^{\rho\sigma} = \frac{i}{4}[\gamma^\rho, \gamma^\sigma]$, giving nonzero spin current

$$S^{\lambda\rho\sigma} = \frac{1}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma^\lambda \Sigma^{\rho\sigma} \psi.$$

The Belinfante tensor $T_B^{\mu\nu} = \frac{i}{4} \bar{\psi} (\gamma^\mu \overleftrightarrow{\partial}^\nu + \gamma^\nu \overleftrightarrow{\partial}^\mu) \psi$ is symmetric and conserved, and the total charge $M^{\rho\sigma}$ includes intrinsic spin; in the particle rest frame this yields the familiar $\frac{1}{2}\hbar$.

6.3.5 Bookkeeping Interpretation

Rotational invariance says the ledger of causal distinctions is unchanged when we rotate our labeling rules. The orbital term tracks the “moment arm” of the flow of distinguishability ($\mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{p}$). The spin term tallies how the *label structure of the field itself* transforms under rotations (internal frame rotation via $\Sigma^{\rho\sigma}$). The Belinfante improvement is just a repackaging of the ledger so that the stress tensor carries the full conserved charge in a symmetric form—useful whenever the geometry (gravity) couples to $T_{\mu\nu}$.

Remark 21. *Total angular momentum is conserved because the action is invariant under Lorentz rotations. Orbital and spin are bookkeeping columns in the same invariant total; how you apportion them depends on your accounting scheme (canonical vs. Belinfante), not on the physics.*

6.4 Gauge Fields as Local Noether Symmetries

Global symmetries ensure that the totals in the causal ledger remain unchanged when every observer applies the same transformation. When the symmetry parameters vary from point to point, the bookkeeping must introduce additional terms to maintain local consistency. These new terms are the *gauge fields* of the theory: dynamic corrections that restore Martin consistency under spatially varying transformations.

6.4.1 From Global to Local Symmetry

Consider a field $\phi(x)$ transforming under a continuous group G with infinitesimal parameter α^a and generators T^a :

$$\delta\phi = i \alpha^a T^a \phi.$$

If α^a is constant, the action $\mathcal{S} = \int \mathcal{L}(\phi, \nabla\phi) d^4x$ is invariant, and Noether's theorem yields a conserved current J_a^μ . If α^a becomes a function of position, $\alpha^a = \alpha^a(x)$, an extra term appears,

$$\delta\mathcal{L} = i(\partial_\mu\alpha^a) \frac{\partial\mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_\mu\phi)} T^a\phi,$$

breaking the conservation law. To preserve local invariance, the derivative ∂_μ must be replaced by a *covariant derivative*

$$D_\mu\phi = (\partial_\mu - ig A_\mu^a T^a)\phi,$$

where the compensating field A_μ^a transforms as

$$\delta A_\mu^a = \frac{1}{g} \partial_\mu\alpha^a + f^{abc}\alpha^b A_\mu^c.$$

The new Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}(\phi, D_\mu\phi) - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}^a F_{\mu\nu}^a, \quad F_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a + gf^{abc}A_\mu^b A_\nu^c,$$

is invariant under the full local symmetry. The field strength $F_{\mu\nu}^a$ is the curvature of the gauge connection A_μ^a —the residue of non-commuting parallel transports in the internal symmetry space.

Example: Aharonov–Bohm Phase as Pure Gauge Holonomy

Statement. A nontrivial loop integral of the connection shifts interference with no local force—measurement of gauge holonomy.

Key relation.

$$\Delta\varphi = \frac{q}{\hbar} \oint_\gamma \mathbf{A} \cdot d\ell = \frac{q\Phi_B}{\hbar}.$$

Reciprocity framing. The partition is unchanged locally (no field in the slits), but the selected update accumulates a path-dependent phase—an el-

ement of the connection's holonomy group. Interference shift records the gauge's parallel transport rule.

Operational consequence. Local indistinguishability with global inequivalence: a canonical example where measurement reads a *global* invariant of the gauge without local curvature along the paths.

6.4.2 Interpretation in the Causal Framework

In the causal picture, global symmetry corresponds to relabeling the entire causal network by a uniform rule; local symmetry corresponds to allowing each neighborhood to choose its own labeling convention. The gauge field A_μ^a records how those conventions differ and how information must be exchanged between neighboring regions to keep the global ledger balanced. It is the *connection form of causal order* in informational space.

Curvature $F_{\mu\nu}^a$ measures the residual inconsistency that appears when these local labelings are carried around a closed causal loop—exactly analogous to the spacetime curvature derived earlier from $\Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\lambda$. Gauge bosons are therefore the finite, propagating corrections by which the universe restores Martin consistency across overlapping informational domains.

Thought Experiment 24 (Aharonov–Bohm Effect as a Test of Causal Gauge Consistency). *The Aharonov–Bohm experiment demonstrates that the physically relevant quantity in electromagnetism is not the field strength $F_{\mu\nu}$ alone but the connection A_μ that governs causal phase transport.*

Consider an electron beam split into two coherent branches encircling a region containing a confined magnetic flux Φ , with no field present along either path. In the causal formulation, each branch corresponds to a sequence of ordered events $\{E_{1,k}\}$ and $\{E_{2,k}\}$ transported by the local gauge connection A_μ . The Reciprocity Law requires that each infinitesimal update preserve order:

$$E_{k+1} = E_k + \Phi^{-1}(A_\mu dx^\mu),$$

so that the cumulative phase acquired along a closed loop is

$$\Delta\phi = \frac{e}{\hbar} \oint A_\mu dx^\mu = \frac{e\Phi}{\hbar}.$$

Although the magnetic field vanishes along both paths ($F_{\mu\nu} = 0$ locally), the two causal chains differ by a holonomy in the connection—an informational mismatch in the bookkeeping of phase. When the beams are recombined, their interference pattern depends on $\Delta\phi$: shifting continuously as the enclosed flux changes by fractions of the flux quantum h/e .

In the causal gauge picture, this effect shows that the universe tensor records not merely local field strengths but the global consistency of the connection. The vector potential A_μ is the differential form of causal memory; its holonomy measures how distinction is transported around a loop. The Aharonov–Bohm interference is thus the experimental detection of a nontrivial element of the causal holonomy group—the smallest observable instance of curvature without force.

6.4.3 Bookkeeping of Local Consistency

In statistical terms, each gauge symmetry adds a new column to the causal ledger. Local invariance means that the exchange rates between these columns are position-dependent, and A_μ^a supplies the conversion factors that keep the books balanced. The continuity equation

$$\nabla_\mu J_a^\mu = 0$$

expresses the same principle as before: what leaves one neighborhood enters another, but now for every internal degree of freedom labeled by a . The gauge field guarantees that this exchange is recorded consistently even when observers adopt different local frames.

Remark 22. *Every gauge field is a Noether correction promoted to locality.*

It is the differential accountant of causal order, ensuring that symmetry—and hence conservation—holds point by point. Curvature is the residue of that accounting around a loop; interaction is the redistribution of causal balance between neighboring observers. Quantum field theory is therefore the calculus of local Noether symmetries of the Causal Universe Tensor.

6.5 Mass and the Breaking of Symmetry

Perfect causal symmetry implies motion at the limit of distinguishability—the null trajectories of light. In this regime, the action and all of its Noether currents remain invariant under local gauge transformations, and the scalar invariants of the Causal Universe Tensor are preserved exactly. *Mass* appears when this invariance can no longer be maintained everywhere. It is the measure of how far a system deviates from perfect causal balance.

6.5.1 From Gauge Symmetry to Mass Terms

Suppose the Lagrangian density for a field ϕ is invariant under the local transformation $\phi \rightarrow e^{i\alpha(x)}\phi$. If the causal network experiences a finite delay in maintaining that invariance—so that the local transformation cannot be matched exactly between neighboring observers—the covariant derivative acquires a small, persistent residue. In the simplest case this appears as an additional quadratic term in the Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + |D_\mu\phi|^2 - V(|\phi|), \quad V(|\phi|) = \frac{1}{2}\mu^2|\phi|^2 + \frac{1}{4}\lambda|\phi|^4.$$

When the potential V selects a nonzero expectation value $\langle\phi\rangle = v/\sqrt{2}$, the gauge symmetry of the vacuum is spontaneously broken, and the covariant derivative term generates an effective mass for the gauge field:

$$m_A = g v.$$

The field no longer propagates at the causal limit; it carries a finite informational delay between cause and effect.

Thought Experiment 25 (Mexican Hat Potential and the Breaking of Informational Symmetry). *In the causal formulation, symmetry breaking occurs when the universe tensor develops a preferred orientation in its space of distinguishable states. The simplest model of this phenomenon is the so-called Mexican hat potential, which encodes spontaneous differentiation in an initially symmetric field.*

Let ϕ be a complex scalar component of the causal gauge field. Its local informational curvature is represented by the potential

$$V(\phi) = \lambda(|\phi|^2 - v^2)^2, \quad \lambda, v > 0.$$

For $|\phi| < v$, the curvature is positive and the symmetric state $\phi = 0$ is unstable; for $|\phi| = v$, the curvature vanishes along a circle of minima. Each choice of phase θ on this ring corresponds to an equally valid, order-preserving configuration of the universe tensor.

When a particular θ is selected by finite observation or causal fluctuation, the continuous $U(1)$ symmetry of the potential is reduced to the discrete subgroup that preserves that orientation. The resulting excitations decompose into two orthogonal modes:

$$\phi(x) = (v + h(x))e^{i\theta(x)},$$

where $h(x)$ represents measurable variations in magnitude (massive mode) and $\theta(x)$ represents phase fluctuations (massless Goldstone mode). Coupling this field to a local gauge connection A_μ converts the phase fluctuation into a longitudinal component of A_μ , endowing it with mass through the informational curvature of the potential.

Operationally, the Mexican hat potential marks the point where causal order can no longer cancel its own third variation: a finite bias in distin-

guishable states propagates through the reciprocity map as an effective mass term. In the informational picture, mass is the cost of maintaining a broken symmetry—the curvature required to remember which minimum was chosen.

6.5.2 Causal Interpretation

In the causal framework, symmetry breaking represents the loss of perfect order propagation. The gauge can no longer be reconciled exactly between neighboring domains, and a residual phase difference accumulates. That phase difference behaves as inertia: a tendency of the causal structure to resist change in its internal configuration. The quantity we call *mass* measures the curvature of causal order in the informational direction—the degree to which a system’s internal symmetry lags behind the propagation of light.

Thus the Higgs mechanism appears as a natural bookkeeping adjustment. The scalar field ϕ provides an additional column in the ledger that can absorb the mismatch of local phase conventions. When the ledger cannot close exactly, the residual correction manifests as a finite mass term. Mass is therefore not a separate entity but the universe’s accounting of imperfect causal synchronization.

6.5.3 Statistical View

In the statistical mechanics of causal order, mass quantifies the variance of the action around its stationary value:

$$m^2 \propto \langle (\delta \mathcal{S})^2 \rangle.$$

Lightlike propagation corresponds to zero variance: every observer’s record of order agrees. Massive propagation corresponds to finite variance: local histories differ slightly, and the ensemble average restores consistency only statistically. The rest energy $E = mc^2$ measures the informational cost of maintaining a coherent description across those variations.

Remark 23. *Mass is the finite residue of broken symmetry—the price the universe pays for keeping its causal books consistent when perfect gauge balance cannot be sustained. Where light moves without lag, massive matter hesitates, accumulating phase in time. The rest mass of any field is thus the measure of its informational inertia: how much causal order must bend to preserve consistency within a finite universe.*

Thought Experiment 26 (Semiconductors as Partially Broken Informational Lattices). *In a crystalline solid, the atoms form a periodic causal network—a lattice of distinguishable sites linked by local order relations. Within this structure, electrons occupy quantized informational states whose distinguishability depends on both lattice symmetry and the observer’s partition of measurement.*

At zero temperature, all available states up to the Fermi level are filled, and the partition \mathcal{P}_n groups occupied and unoccupied states into two disjoint causal classes. In a perfect insulator these classes are fully separated by a forbidden bandgap: no variation in the universe tensor can map one class into the other without violating order preservation. In a metal the classes overlap completely, forming a continuous manifold of accessible distinctions.

A semiconductor occupies the intermediate regime. Its informational lattice is nearly symmetric but not fully resolved; there exists a narrow causal boundary between filled and unfilled states. Thermal or dopant-induced perturbations refine the partition from \mathcal{P}_n to \mathcal{P}_{n+1} , enabling limited causal transitions across the bandgap. The carrier density

$$n \propto e^{-E_g/k_B T}$$

measures the probability that such a refinement occurs—an exponential suppression of distinguishability transitions with increasing gap energy E_g .

In this view, conduction arises when the partition between causal classes of electron states becomes permeable under variation. Doping, temperature,

and illumination are operations that adjust the informational curvature of the lattice, controlling how easily one class of distinguishability flows into another. Semiconductors are thus macroscopic examples of causal fuzziness under controlled refinement: a solid-state realization of partition dynamics between measurement and variation.

6.6 Conclusion: Quantization as Finite Consistency

The classical universe is the ledger of perfect causal balance: every distinction is matched, every event accounted for, every observer's record consistent with the next. Quantum mechanics emerges when that perfection is relaxed—when the bookkeeping of order is carried out on a finite register. Each quantum of action, each exchange of \hbar , is a discrete adjustment in the causal gauge: the smallest step by which the universe can preserve consistency without infinite precision.

From this point of view, the quantum field is not a separate ontology but the statistical completion of the same calculus that defines the geometry of spacetime. The field amplitudes are probability weights for maintaining order across overlapping causal neighborhoods. Their phases encode the orientation of the gauge, and their interference expresses the collective effort of all observers to remain mutually consistent. The path integral is thus the partition function of causal order.

Mass, spin, and charge are the residues of that consistency process. Mass records temporal lag, spin records the rotational structure of labeling, and charge records the bookkeeping of internal symmetries. None are primitive; all arise from the same principle that distinguishes light: the demand that order be preserved even when the universe must correct itself locally.

In the causal formalism, conservation laws, gauge interactions, and quantization share a single origin. They are not independent laws written into na-

ture but emergent regularities of a self-consistent informational network. The Causal Universe Tensor provides the grammar of that network; its contractions yield spacetime geometry, its variations yield fields, and its statistical extension yields the quantum.

Remark 24. *The universe is not made of matter or of energy, but of consistency. What we call physics is the continuous reconciliation of local descriptions of order, carried out one quantum at a time. Quantization is simply the discreteness of that reconciliation—the finite resolution of cause.*

Epilogue. When the calculus of variations meets the calculus of observation, they become one and the same. The least action principle is not a rule imposed from outside; it is the expression of the universe's preference for maximal consistency within finite means. Light traces the paths where this consistency is perfect. Matter records where it is not. And the quantum is the measure of how the universe keeps its books.

Chapter 7

The Second Law of Causal Order

7.1 Statement of the Law

Theorem 2 (Monotonicity of Causal Entropy). *For any sequence of Martin-consistent causal sets*

$$\mathcal{C}_1 \subseteq \mathcal{C}_2 \subseteq \cdots ,$$

the associated entropies

$$S[\mathcal{C}_n] = k_B \ln |\Omega(\mathcal{C}_n)|$$

satisfy

$$\Delta S_n \equiv S[\mathcal{C}_{n+1}] - S[\mathcal{C}_n] \geq 0,$$

with equality only for informationally complete partitions.

Proof. Each causal refinement $\mathcal{C}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_{n+1}$ corresponds to an enlargement of the observer's partition of distinguishable events. By the Axiom of Finite

Observation, refinement cannot reduce the set of admissible micro-orderings:

$$\Omega(\mathcal{C}_n) \subseteq \Omega(\mathcal{C}_{n+1}).$$

Taking logarithms gives $S[\mathcal{C}_{n+1}] \geq S[\mathcal{C}_n]$. The inequality is strict whenever the refinement exposes previously indistinguishable configurations. \square

7.2 Entropy as Informational Curvature

In differential form, the same statement appears as the non-negativity of informational curvature:

$$\nabla_i \nabla_j S \geq 0.$$

Flat informational geometry corresponds to equilibrium ($\Delta S = 0$), while positive curvature indicates the growth of accessible micro-orderings. The flux of this curvature defines the *entropy current*

$$J_S^\mu = k_B \partial^\mu S,$$

whose divergence measures local entropy production:

$$\nabla_\mu J_S^\mu = k_B \square S \geq 0.$$

Thus $\Delta S > 0$ is equivalent to the statement that the informational Laplacian $\square S$ is positive definite under Martin-consistent transport.

Thought Experiment 27 (Maxwell’s Demon as Non-commutative Selection). *Consider a classical gas divided by a partition with a single gate controlled by a demon who measures particle velocities and opens the gate selectively. Let M denote the demon’s measurement operator and U the physical evolution of the gas. If M and U commute— $[M, U] = 0$ —the demon’s observation does not alter the causal order: measurement and evolution can be exchanged without changing the macrostate. But in reality $[M, U] \neq 0$: the*

act of measurement refines the partition of distinguishable states, altering the subsequent evolution. This non-commutativity forces the entropy balance

$$\Delta S_{gas} + \Delta S_{demon} = k_B \ln |\Omega_{joint}| > 0,$$

because the demon's internal record adds new causal distinctions to the universe tensor even as it reduces them locally.

Operationally, the demon cannot perform a measurement without joining the measured system's causal order; the refinement of its internal partition $P_n \rightarrow P_{n+1}$ increases the global count of distinguishable configurations. The apparent violation of the Second Law disappears: the measurement and evolution operators fail to commute, and that failure is the entropy production term. Thus Maxwell's demon exemplifies the theorem $\Delta S \geq 0$: informational refinement in one domain demands compensating coarsening in another so that the global order remains consistent.

7.3 Statistical Interpretation

From the causal partition function

$$Z = \int \exp\left(\frac{i}{\hbar} S[T]\right) DT,$$

the ensemble average of the informational gradient obeys

$$\langle \nabla_\mu J_S^\mu \rangle = k_B \langle \nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu S \rangle \geq 0.$$

The equality $\Delta S = 0$ corresponds to detailed balance of causal fluxes; any deviation yields positive entropy production.

7.4 Physical Consequences

1. ****Arrow of Time.**** Causal order expands in one direction only—toward increasing distinguishability of events. Time is the parameter labeling this monotonic refinement.

2. ****Thermodynamic Limit.**** In the continuum limit, $\Delta S > 0$ reproduces the classical second law, but here the law is not statistical: it is a theorem of consistency. No causal evolution that decreases S can remain Martin-consistent.

3. ****Gravitational Coupling.**** From Chapter 4, curvature couples to gradients of S through the entropic stress tensor:

$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi (T_{\mu\nu} + T_{\mu\nu}^{(S)}), \quad T_{\mu\nu}^{(S)} = \frac{1}{k_B} \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu S.$$

Hence $\Delta S > 0$ corresponds to a net positive contribution of informational curvature to spacetime geometry—a causal analogue of energy influx.

7.5 Conclusion

The Second Law of Causal Order may be stated succinctly:

$$\boxed{\Delta S \geq 0 \quad \text{for every Martin-consistent refinement of causal structure.}}$$

Entropy is not a measure of disorder but of latent order yet unresolved. Every act of measurement refines the universe's partition, and each refinement enlarges the count of admissible configurations. The universe evolves by distinguishing itself.

7.6 Epilogue

We began with the observation that every act of physics is an act of distinction: to measure is to separate one possibility from another. Within ZFC, such distinctions are represented as finite subsets of a causal order, and the act of measurement is the enumeration of their admissible refinements. Nothing else is assumed.

Martin's Axiom enters only to ensure that these refinements can be extended consistently—that the space of distinguishable events admits countable dense families without contradiction. This single assumption is the logical equivalent of σ -additivity in measure theory, the minimal condition required for any self-consistent calculus of observation.

From this, the Second Law follows as a theorem of order: each consistent extension of the causal set increases the number of distinguishable configurations, and therefore

$$\Delta S \geq 0.$$

Entropy is not a statistical tendency but a logical necessity—the price of consistency within a self-measuring universe.

No new forces, particles, or cosmologies are introduced; only the rule by which distinction propagates. What began as a grammar of measurement closes as the unique structure of physical law.

Theorem 3 (The Second Law of Causal Order). *In any finite, causally consistent ordering of distinguishable events, the number of measurable distinctions cannot decrease. Every admissible extension of order produces at least one new differentiation, and therefore every universe consistent with its own record of events obeys the inequality*

$$\Delta S \geq 0.$$

Conclusion. We are left with but one conclusion:

Order implies dynamics.

A universe that preserves its own causal record must, by necessity, increase the count of what can be distinguished. \square

Quod erat demonstrandum.

Bibliography

- [1] J. H. Ahlberg, E. N. Nilson, and J. L. Walsh. *The Theory of Splines and Their Applications*. Academic Press, New York, 1967.
- [2] John S. Bell. On the einstein podolsky rosen paradox. *Physics*, 1(3):195–200, 1964.
- [3] Charles H. Bennett. Logical reversibility of computation. *IBM Journal of Research and Development*, 17(6):525–532, 1973.
- [4] George Berkeley. *The Analyst: or, A Discourse Addressed to an Infidel Mathematician*. London, 1734. Available in many reprints; see, e.g., Project Gutenberg (Eprint #27200).
- [5] Ludwig Boltzmann. *Weitere Studien über das Wärmegleichgewicht unter Gasmolekülen*, volume 66. 1872.
- [6] Ludwig Boltzmann. *Vorlesungen über Gastheorie*. Johann Ambrosius Barth, Leipzig, 1896.
- [7] Luca Bombelli, Joochan Lee, David Meyer, and Rafael D. Sorkin. Space-time as a causal set. *Physical Review Letters*, 59(5):521–524, 1987.
- [8] Stephen Boyd and Lieven Vandenberghe. *Convex Optimization*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK, 2004. See Section 11.4 for the geometric interpretation of the simplex method as a path on the vertex adjacency graph.

- [9] Dietrich Braess. *Finite Elements: Theory, Fast Solvers, and Applications in Solid Mechanics*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 3rd edition, 2007.
- [10] Georg Cantor. *Beiträge zur Begründung der transfiniten Mengenlehre*, volume 46. 1895.
- [11] Gregory J. Chaitin. Information-theoretic limitations of formal systems. *Journal of the ACM*, 21(3):403–424, 1974.
- [12] Gregory J. Chaitin. *Algorithmic Information Theory*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1987.
- [13] R. D. Cook. *Concepts and Applications of Finite Element Analysis*. John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1974.
- [14] George B. Dantzig. *Linear Programming and Extensions*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 1963.
- [15] Carl de Boor. *A Practical Guide to Splines*. Springer, New York, 1978.
- [16] John Earman. An attempt to formulate a causal theory of time. *Journal of Philosophy*, 71(17):561–579, 1974.
- [17] Albert Einstein. Zur elektrodynamik bewegter körper. *Annalen der Physik*, 17:891–921, 1905. English translation: "On the Electrodynamics of Moving Bodies".
- [18] Albert Einstein, Boris Podolsky, and Nathan Rosen. Can quantum-mechanical description of physical reality be considered complete? *Physical Review*, 47(10):777–780, 1935.
- [19] Richard P. Feynman. Space–time approach to non-relativistic quantum mechanics. *Reviews of Modern Physics*, 20:367–387, 1948.

- [20] Richard P. Feynman, Robert B. Leighton, and Matthew Sands. *The Feynman Lectures on Physics, Volume III: Quantum Mechanics*. Addison-Wesley, 1965.
- [21] David Finkelstein. Causal sets as the deep structure of spacetime. *International Journal of Theoretical Physics*, 27(4):473–484, 1988.
- [22] David Finkelstein. *Quantum Relativity: A Synthesis of the Ideas of Einstein and Heisenberg*. Springer, Berlin, 1996.
- [23] Abraham A Fraenkel. *Einleitung in die Mengenlehre*. Springer, 1922.
- [24] Kurt Godel. *Über formal unentscheidbare Sätze der Principia Mathematica und verwandter Systeme I*. Monatshefte für Mathematik und Physik, 1931. Translated in Davis (ed.), *The Undecidable*, Raven Press, 1965.
- [25] E. Mark Gold. Language identification in the limit. *Information and Control*, 10(5):447–474, 1967.
- [26] Gene H. Golub and Charles F. Van Loan. *Matrix Computations*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 4 edition, 2013.
- [27] Paul R. Halmos. *Finite-Dimensional Vector Spaces*. Springer, 1958.
- [28] Paul R. Halmos. *Naive Set Theory*. Springer, 1974. Concise exposition of ZFC and its role in functional analysis.
- [29] S. W. Hawking and G. F. R. Ellis. *The Large Scale Structure of Space-Time*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1973.
- [30] Michael T. Heath. *Scientific Computing: An Introductory Survey*. McGraw-Hill, New York, 2nd edition, 2002.
- [31] David Hilbert. *The Foundations of Geometry*. Open Court Publishing Company, 1902.

- [32] David Hilbert. Mathematical problems. *Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society*, 8(10):437–479, 1902.
- [33] David Hilbert. Mathematical problems. *Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society*, 8(10):437–479, 1902. English translation of Hilbert’s 1900 address.
- [34] Sabine Hossenfelder. *Lost in Math: How Beauty Leads Physics Astray*. Basic Books, New York, 2018.
- [35] Eugene Isaacson and Herbert B. Keller. Analysis of numerical methods. Wiley, 1966. Classic text on finite difference stability and convergence.
- [36] Edwin T. Jaynes. *Information Theory and Statistical Mechanics*, volume 106. 1957.
- [37] Thomas Jech. *Set Theory*. Springer Monographs in Mathematics. Springer, Berlin, 3rd millennium edition, revised and expanded edition, 2002. Definitive reference on ZFC, forcing, and independence results.
- [38] Thomas Jech. *Set Theory: The Third Millennium Edition, Revised and Expanded*. Springer, Berlin, 2003.
- [39] Andrey N. Kolmogorov. *Grundbegriffe der Wahrscheinlichkeitsrechnung*. Springer, Berlin, 1933. English translation: *Foundations of the Theory of Probability*, Chelsea Publishing, 1950.
- [40] Kenneth Kunen. *Set Theory: An Introduction to Independence Proofs*, volume 102 of *Studies in Logic and the Foundations of Mathematics*. North-Holland, Amsterdam, 1980.
- [41] L. D. Landau and E. M. Lifshitz. *Mechanics*, volume 1 of *Course of Theoretical Physics*. Pergamon Press, Oxford, 3rd edition, 1976.
- [42] Rolf Landauer. Irreversibility and heat generation in the computing process. *IBM Journal of Research and Development*, 5(3):183–191, 1961.

- [43] Serge Lang. *Algebra*. Springer, New York, 3rd edition, 2002.
- [44] Randall J. LeVeque. *Finite Difference Methods for Ordinary and Partial Differential Equations: Steady-State and Time-Dependent Problems*. Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), Philadelphia, PA, 2007.
- [45] Hendrik A. Lorentz. Electromagnetic phenomena in a system moving with any velocity less than that of light. *Proceedings of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences*, 6:809–831, 1904.
- [46] David B. Malament. The class of continuous timelike curves determines the topology of spacetime. *Journal of Mathematical Physics*, 18(7):1399–1404, 1977.
- [47] Fotini Markopoulou. The internal description of a causal set: What the universe looks like from the inside. *Communications in Mathematical Physics*, 211:559–583, 2000.
- [48] Donald A. Martin and Robert M. Solovay. Internal cohen extensions. *Annals of Mathematical Logic*, 2:143–178, 1970.
- [49] Humberto R. Maturana and Francisco J. Varela. *Autopoiesis and Cognition: The Realization of the Living*. Reidel, Dordrecht, 1980.
- [50] Hermann Minkowski. Raum und zeit. In *Physikalische Zeitschrift*, volume 10, pages 104–111, 1908. Lecture delivered at 80th Assembly of German Natural Scientists and Physicians, Cologne, 1908. English translation: "Space and Time."
- [51] K. W. Morton and D. F. Mayers. *Numerical Solution of Partial Differential Equations: An Introduction*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2nd edition, 2005.

- [52] Isaac Newton. *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica*. Royal Society of London, 1687. Translated as *The Mathematical Principles of Natural Philosophy*, University of California Press, 1934.
- [53] James M. Ortega and Werner C. Rheinboldt. *Iterative Solution of Non-linear Equations in Several Variables*. Academic Press, New York, 1970.
- [54] Roger Penrose. *Techniques of Differential Topology in Relativity*. Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, Philadelphia, 1972.
- [55] Max Planck. Über das gesetz der energieverteilung im normalspektrum. *Annalen der Physik*, 4:553–563, 1901.
- [56] Max Planck. *The Theory of Heat Radiation*. P. Blakiston’s Son & Co., Philadelphia, 1914. Translated by M. Masius. Reprinted by Dover Publications, 1959.
- [57] Alfio Quarteroni and Alberto Valli. *Numerical Approximation of Partial Differential Equations*. Springer Series in Computational Mathematics. Springer, Berlin, 2nd edition, 2008.
- [58] K. Friedrichs R. Courant and H. Lewy. On the partial difference equations of mathematical physics. *IBM Journal of Research and Development (translation of original 1928 German paper)*, 11:215–234, 1943. Commonly cited as the CFL condition.
- [59] Helena Rasiowa and Roman Sikorski. *The Mathematics of Metamathematics*. Panstwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe (PWN), Warsaw, 1963. See Theorem 3.6.4 for the Rasiowa–Sikorski lemma on generic filters.
- [60] J. N. Reddy. *An Introduction to the Finite Element Method*. McGraw–Hill, New York, 2nd edition, 1993.
- [61] David Rideout and Rafael D. Sorkin. A classical sequential growth dynamics for causal sets. *Physical Review D*, 61:024002, 1999.

- [62] David Rideout and Rafael D. Sorkin. A classical sequential growth dynamics for causal sets. *Physical Review D*, 61:024002, 1999.
- [63] Wolfgang Rindler. *Relativity: Special, General, and Cosmological*. Oxford University Press, 2nd edition, 2006.
- [64] I. J. Schoenberg. Contributions to the problem of approximation of equidistant data by analytic functions. *Quarterly of Applied Mathematics*, 4(1):45–99, 1946.
- [65] Claude E. Shannon. *A Mathematical Theory of Communication*, volume 27. 1948.
- [66] Rafael D. Sorkin. Finitary substitute for continuous topology. In R. Penrose and C. J. Isham, editors, *Quantum Concepts in Space and Time*, pages 254–275. Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1991.
- [67] Rafael D. Sorkin. Causal sets: Discrete gravity. *Lectures on Quantum Gravity (Proceedings, Valdivia)*, 2003.
- [68] Rafael D. Sorkin. Causal sets: Discrete gravity (notes for the valdivia summer school). arXiv:gr-qc/0309009, 2005. See Sections 3–4 on causal order and nonlocal correlation.
- [69] George Spencer-Brown. *Laws of Form*. George Allen and Unwin, London, 1969.
- [70] Josef Stoer and Roland Bulirsch. *Introduction to Numerical Analysis*. Springer, New York, 3rd edition, 2002.
- [71] Gilbert Strang and George Fix. An analysis of the finite element method. *Prentice–Hall Series in Automatic Computation*, 1973.
- [72] John C. Strikwerda. *Finite Difference Schemes and Partial Differential Equations*. Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), Philadelphia, PA, 2nd edition, 2004.

- [73] Alfred Tarski. Contributions to the theory of models. In *Proceedings of the 1954 International Congress of Mathematicians*, pages 713–720. North-Holland, Amsterdam, 1955.
- [74] Edwin F. Taylor and John Archibald Wheeler. *Spacetime Physics*. W. H. Freeman, 2nd edition, 1992.
- [75] Stevo Todorćević. *Introduction to Ramsey Spaces*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 2010.
- [76] Hermann Weyl. *Philosophy of Mathematics and Natural Science*. Princeton University Press, 1949.
- [77] John A. Wheeler. Information, physics, quantum: The search for links. In W. H. Zurek, editor, *Complexity, Entropy, and the Physics of Information*, pages 3–28. Addison-Wesley, Redwood City, CA, 1990.
- [78] Hassler Whitney. *Geometric Integration Theory*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, NJ, 1957.
- [79] Stephen Wolfram. *A New Kind of Science*. Wolfram Media, Champaign, IL, 2002. Introduces computational irreducibility and cellular automata foundations.
- [80] Ernst Zermelo. Investigations in the foundations of set theory i. *Mathematische Annalen*, 65(2):261–281, 1908.
- [81] Hans Ziegler. *An Introduction to Thermomechanics*. North-Holland, Amsterdam, 1963.
- [82] O. C. Zienkiewicz. *The Finite Element Method*. McGraw–Hill, London, 3rd edition, 1977.
- [83] Wojciech H. Zurek. Algorithmic randomness and physical entropy. *Physical Review A*, 40(8):4731–4751, 1989.