

Ethics Derived from the Force of Time

Tau-Address Permanence, the Living Universe, and Moral Obligation

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Abstract

Can ethics be grounded in physics? Hume's guillotine holds that no "ought" can be derived from an "is". The Force of Time (FOT) does not violate Hume's principle — it shows that the "is" of Tau-conservation is itself a normative structure. When existence is a conserved substance flowing through a living universe, the destruction of a Tau-address carries objective weight that grounds moral obligation.

P-ETH-1 · The Moral Weight of the Tau-Address

Each conscious entity has a unique Tau-address — a position in the standing wave that cannot be occupied by any other. Destruction of a conscious entity collapses a Tau-address that is irreplaceable.

P-ETH-1

The destruction of a Tau-address capable of self-referential modelling (consciousness) is an irreversible reduction in the universe's capacity for self-knowledge. This is the objective ground of the prohibition on murder: it is not merely socially condemned but Tau-destructive.

This grounds a "Tau-based sanctity of conscious life" without appeal to divine command or mere social convention. The moral weight is proportional to the degree of self-referential Tau-modelling — a continuum from simple organisms to human consciousness.

P-ETH-2 · Tau-Conservation and the Ethics of Harm

Harm reduces a conscious entity's capacity for Tau-flow and self-referential modelling. In Tau terms, harm is partial suppression of a Tau-address.

P-ETH-2

Harm is the suppression of Tau-flow within a conscious Tau-address without the entity's consent. Healing is the restoration of Tau-flow. The medical imperative to heal follows directly from Tau-conservation: suppressed Tau-flow is a local violation of the universe's flowing nature.

This gives a Tau-grounded account of the harm principle consistent with Mill's liberalism but rooted in physics rather than utility calculus. Harm is wrong not because it reduces aggregate happiness but because it suppresses Tau-flow in a locus of self-knowledge.

P-ETH-3 · The Living Universe and Environmental Ethics

FOT's Tau-monism entails that ecosystems, planets, and the biosphere are themselves Tau-configurations of varying complexity. The Earth has a Tau-address.

P-ETH-3

Environmental destruction is the suppression of Tau-flow at ecological scales. Since the Earth's biosphere is a macro-scale Tau-configuration contributing to the universe's self-modelling capacity, its destruction carries moral weight proportional to its Tau-complexity.

This grounds deep ecology in physics rather than sentiment. Species extinction is not merely the loss of aesthetic or instrumental value — it is the permanent collapse of Tau-addresses evolved over millions of years. Their Tau-complexity cannot be restored within any conceivable timescale.

P-ETH-4 · Justice, Reciprocity, and Tau-Balance

Social ethics concerns how Tau-addresses should relate to one another. FOT's conservation law implies a principle of Tau-balance in social arrangements.

P-ETH-4

A just social arrangement is one in which Tau-flow is not systematically diverted from some Tau-addresses to others without consent. Exploitation is the forced transfer of Tau-flow (labour, time, attention) from one address to another. Tau-balance requires reciprocity.

This gives a Tau-grounded account of distributive justice: not equality of outcomes but equality of Tau-flow access. Each Tau-address should have sufficient flow-capacity to maintain self-referential modelling — the basic condition of human dignity.

P-ETH-5 · Truth-Telling and the Integrity of Tau-Information

Deception introduces false information into a Tau-address's model of the standing wave. Since consciousness IS accurate self-referential Tau-modelling, deception is a corruption of the cognitive Tau-architecture.

P-ETH-5

Deception corrupts the Tau-model of the deceived party — they respond to a false wave structure. This is a violation of Tau-integrity: the deceived party's Tau-address cannot navigate the actual standing wave accurately. Truth-telling preserves Tau-integrity; lying destroys it.

This grounds the duty of honesty in Tau-conservation rather than Kantian categorical imperative. Lying is wrong not merely because it would be self-defeating if universalised but because it specifically damages the Tau-navigational capacity of another conscious being.

P-ETH-6 · Towards a Tau-Based Virtue Ethics

Virtue ethics asks what kind of person one should be. FOT suggests virtues are dispositions that preserve and enhance Tau-flow — both one's own and others'.

P-ETH-6

The Tau virtues are: Clarity (accurate self-referential modelling), Integrity (non-deception), Generosity (voluntary Tau-flow sharing), Courage (maintaining Tau-flow under suppressive pressure), and Wisdom (navigating the standing wave with understanding of its structure).

These are not arbitrary cultural choices but dispositions that directly serve the conservation of Tau-flow in conscious communities. A community of Tau-virtuous individuals is one in which the universe's capacity for self-knowledge is maximally preserved and expanded — the highest ethical state available within $dST = 0$.

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