

The Ontology of Existence in the Force of Time

Tau-Monism: One Substance, One Conservation Law

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Abstract

Western philosophy has long debated whether existence is fundamentally one or many. The Force of Time (FOT) resolves this through a single conserved substance, Tau (T), whose conservation law $dST = 0$ is the ground of all being. This paper formalises the ontological commitments of FOT, showing that space, time, matter, and energy are not separate categories but modes of a single flowing substance whose total is invariant.

P-ONT-1 · The Single Substance

Classical metaphysics asks: what exists? Descartes proposed two substances (res cogitans and res extensa). Spinoza proposed one (Deus sive Natura). FOT agrees with Spinoza's monism but identifies the single substance precisely: it is the flow of time, Tau.

P-ONT-1

There is one substance: Tau (T). Everything that exists is a configuration, mode, or ratio of Tau. Nothing exists outside Tau.

This is not metaphor. Tau has measurable units, a prime lattice structure $\{2, 3, 5, p\}$, and a conservation law. Tau-monism is therefore testable ontology, not mere philosophical assertion.

P-ONT-2 · The Conservation Law as Ground of Being

Classical ontology asks: why is there something rather than nothing? FOT's answer: because the total of Tau is conserved. Creation and annihilation are redistribution, not emergence from nothing.

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$dST = 0$. The total of Tau across all configurations is invariant. This is the ontological ground: being cannot increase or decrease, only transform.

This replaces Leibniz's question with a conservation principle. There is "something" because Tau's total is a fixed quantity; "nothing" would require $ST = 0$, which the conservation law forbids. Existence is therefore necessary, not contingent.

P-ONT-3 · Space, Time, and Matter as Modes of Tau

In standard physics, space, time, and matter are treated as distinct ontological categories. FOT unifies them as modes of the single flowing substance.

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Space is the standing-wave lattice of Tau. Distances are ratios within the prime lattice $\{2, 3, 5, p\}$. The metre is a derived unit of Tau-wavelength.

P-ONT-3b

Time is the flow rate of Tau. It is not a background dimension but the substance itself in motion. To exist is to be a locus of Tau-flow.

P-ONT-3c

Matter is Tau in a helical standing-wave configuration. The double helix structure at all scales (DNA, Earth's core, galaxy arms) is the geometric signature of stabilised Tau.

The apparent separateness of space, time, and matter is the Radian Veil: a 30-300 ppm systematic offset introduced by the use of SI units instead of Tau-lattice units.

P-ONT-4 · The Prime Lattice as Ontological Structure

Tau does not flow chaotically. Its configurations are constrained to ratios built from the prime lattice {2, 3, 5, p}. This lattice is the deep structure of existence.

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Every stable physical constant, wavelength, and distance in nature is expressible as a ratio of {2, 3, 5, p} to within Radian Veil precision. The prime lattice is the grammar of existence.

Examples: $R_{\text{Earth}} = 20000/p$ km (exact in Tau-lattice); Mariana depth = $5 \times 3^7 = 10935$ m; Hayflick limit = $2 \times 5^2 = 50$ divisions; Balmer hydrogen series expressed in {2, 3, 5} ratios. The lattice is not imposed on nature — it IS nature in Tau-monist ontology.

P-ONT-5 · Identity, Individuation, and the Tau-Address

What makes one entity distinct from another? In FOT, each entity has a unique Tau-address: a specific location in the helical standing-wave structure of Tau.

P-ONT-5

The Tau-address of an entity is its unique coordinate within the prime-lattice standing wave. Two entities at the same address are identical. Distinction = difference of Tau-address.

This resolves Leibniz's Identity of Indiscernibles: two entities are genuinely distinct if and only if they occupy different Tau-addresses. Personal identity across time is continuity of Tau-address. Death is redistribution of Tau, not annihilation of address — the address persists in the standing wave.

P-ONT-6 · The Living Universe

FOT's ontology entails that the universe is not a dead mechanism but a living process. Tau flows, replicates, and regulates — the same verbs used for biological life.

P-ONT-6

Life is not an emergent exception in an otherwise dead universe. Life is the universe recognising its own Tau-structure at the molecular scale. DNA is Tau made self-referential.

The double helix of DNA is the same geometric structure as the Tau standing wave at planetary and cosmic scales. The identity $t = \text{matter} = \text{DNA} = \text{life}$ is not analogy; it is a chain of mathematical identities, each step derivable from $dST = 0$.

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