

Death as Address-Sequence Completion

An informational account of biological death and the persistence of the register imprint

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Abstract

We give, within the Universal Force of Time, an informational account of biological death. On the framework's ontology an organism is individuated not by its matter, which is continually replaced, but by a register address — a unique coordinate in the T-field, written into the organism's genetic structure — and its life is the reading-out of that address across a determinate span. Death is then defined not as the failure of the organism's machinery but as the completion of the address sequence: the point at which the register ceases to update. We show that the account assigns lattice values to the principal biological intervals — the gestational construction of the address (270 days = $2 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5$) and the characteristic span of its reading (of order 27,375 days = $3^3 \cdot 10^3 + 3 \cdot 5^3$) — and that it distinguishes, in a principled way, the completion of a sequence from its curtailment by disease or injury, locating the latter as the proper domain of medicine. We relate the account to the biology of replicative senescence and to programmed theories of ageing, to the philosophy of personal identity, and to the question of post-mortem persistence, on which the framework's modest claim — that the completed address persists as a conserved imprint, by analogy with the cosmological imprint of an ended event — is stated and bounded.

Tau (T) is the living fabric of time itself — the sole substance of which all physical reality is composed. Every particle, force, wavelength, and conscious experience is a structured configuration of T-flow. There is no gravity, no electromagnetic force, no strong nuclear force as separate entities: all are registers of the single T-field operating across dimensional levels. The conservation law $d\Sigma T=0$ governs all change: T is never created or destroyed, only redistributed.

1. Introduction

Two questions attend death, and are usually run together. The metaphysical question asks what, precisely, ends; the biological question asks by what mechanism. The standard biological answer — the failure of homeostasis, following cellular and molecular attrition — is well supported but answers only the second question, and leaves the first strangely untouched: it accounts for why the machinery stops without saying what it is whose stopping we mark as the end of a person. The framework proposed here addresses the metaphysical question directly, by treating an organism as an informational object and death as an informational event, and it does so without departing from a physical ontology.

The central move is to individuate the organism by an address rather than by its matter. This is not an appeal to an immaterial soul; the address is a structure in the T-field, physical throughout. But it is not identical with any particular collection of atoms, which the organism exchanges many times over in a lifetime, and it is this that lets the framework say what ends at death: not the matter, which disperses and persists, but the reading of an address, which completes.

2. The register address as the criterion of identity

The persistence of an organism through the wholesale turnover of its material constituents is a standard datum of both biology and the philosophy of personal identity, and it forces the identity criterion to be something other than material continuity. Psychological-continuity theories locate it in the connectedness of mental states [1]; the framework locates it in the register address — the coordinate that, on its account, is inscribed in the organism's genetic structure and locates it uniquely in the field. The large non-coding fraction of the genome, conventionally regarded as functionless, is read here as this address space.

Definition (identity). An organism is individuated by its register address: a unique coordinate in the T-field, inscribed in the organism's genetic structure. Identity through time is continuity of address, not of matter; the organism is the reading of that address.

So construed, a life is the reading-out of a determinate address across a span, and its identity is carried by the address throughout the exchange of its material substrate. The account is thus a physical realisation of the intuition behind continuity theories of identity, with the continuant specified as an informational structure rather than left as a psychological primitive.

3. The sequence: construction and span

If a life is the reading of an address, it has a beginning at which the address is written, a span across which it is read, and settings that hold the reading to the organism's register. The framework assigns lattice values to each. The gestational

interval, during which the address is constructed from the genetic template, is 270 days — a value which factors exactly as $2 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5$ and sits on the lattice rather than approximating it. The living register is held to fixed settings throughout the span: a body temperature of $36.864 \text{ }^\circ\text{C}$ ($2^{12} \cdot 3^2 / 1000$) and a coherence rhythm near 40 Hz, the Earth’s circumference divided by a thousand, so that the organism’s reading is clocked to the planetary register. The characteristic span of a long human life is, on the same account, of order $27,375 \text{ days} = 3^3 \cdot 10^3 + 3 \cdot 5^3$ — the length of the address to be read (Figs. 1, 2).

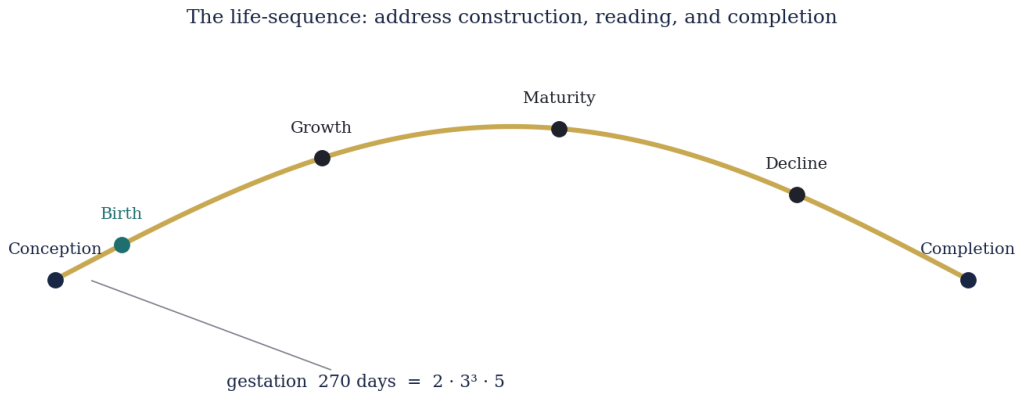


Figure 1. The life-sequence. The address is constructed during gestation (270 days = $2 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5$), read across the span, and completed. Conception and completion are the endpoints of one determinate sequence; identity is carried by the address throughout.

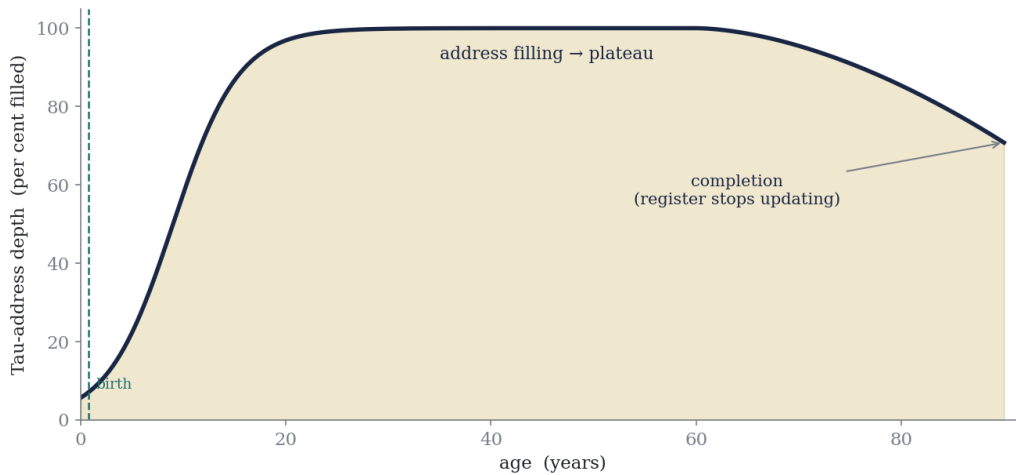


Figure 2. Register-address depth across a human life: written rapidly after birth, held through maturity, and returning toward zero as the reading nears the end of the address. Death is the point at which the register ceases to update.

4. Death as completion, and the completion-decay distinction

The definition of death now follows.

Proposition 1 (death). Death is the completion of the address sequence: the point at which the register ceases to update, having reached the end of the address it was reading. The cessation of homeostasis and the disaggregation of the organism are consequences of this completion, not its constituents.

The account must be distinguished carefully from two neighbours. It is not the claim that death is mere decay: decay is the material aftermath of completion, not its content. Nor is it committed to a naïve programmed-death thesis. The biology of ageing is contested between damage theories, on which senescence is the accumulation of stochastic injury — of which replicative senescence and telomere attrition are characterised instances [2] — and programmed theories, on which organismal death is under genetic control [3]. The present account is compatible with either as a description of mechanism, because its claim is at the informational level: whether the reading terminates because damage accumulates or because a programme completes, what death is, on this account, is the termination of the reading of a determinate address. The framework's specific commitment is only that the span is a property of the address — that there is an address length to be read — and this is a testable demarcation from the pure-damage view, on which no such intrinsic length exists.

5. Completion versus curtailment

The account yields a principled distinction between two events ordinarily conflated under the word "death." A life may end because the reading of its address completes, or because the reading is curtailed before the address is exhausted — by pathology, injury, or environmental insult. The framework treats the second as the corruption or interruption of a register that had further address to read, and locates it as the proper object of medicine: the domain in which a curtailed reading may, in principle, be restored. The first — completion — is the terminus the account takes to be constitutive of a finished life. The distinction is not merely terminological; it identifies which endings are, in the framework's terms, faults to be corrected and which are the reading reaching its end, and it aligns the concept of premature death with the presence of unread address.

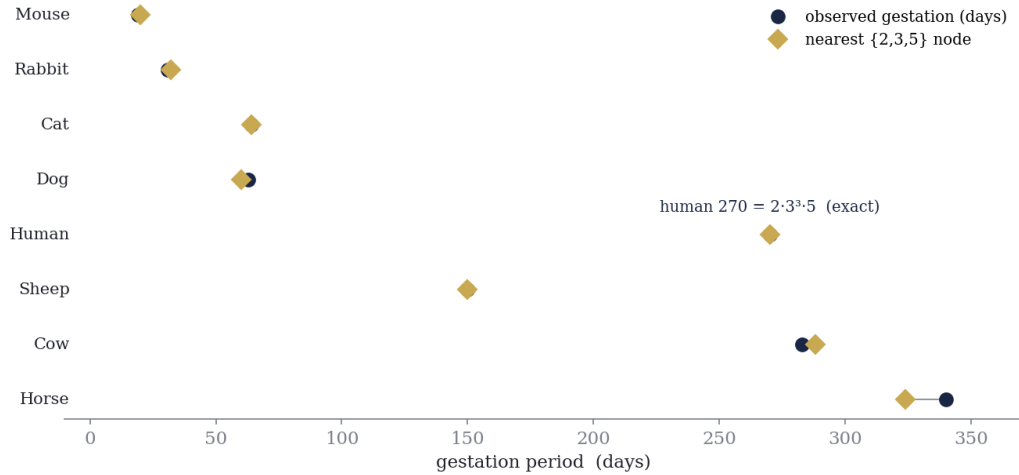


Figure 3. Gestational intervals across species against nearest $\{2,3,5\}$ lattice values; the human value $270 = 2 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5$ sits on the lattice. The framework reads the interval as the construction time of the register address, a property of the address rather than an incidental biological average.

6. The persistence of the imprint

On the question of post-mortem persistence the framework makes a bounded claim, and its bounds are as important as its content. The conservation law governing the field, $d\Sigma T = 0$, entails that information is redistributed rather than destroyed; the completion of an address is therefore the closing of a reading, not the erasure of the address that was read, which persists as an imprint in the deeper register. The framework draws an explicit analogy to a physical precedent: the electromagnetic imprint of the early universe, the cosmic microwave background [4], is the conserved trace of an event long completed, present everywhere though the event is over. The completed register address is held to persist in the same sense — as a conserved trace, not as a continuing subject.

Proposition 2 (persistence; bounded). By $d\Sigma T = 0$ the completed register address is not erased but persists as a conserved imprint in the deeper register, in the sense that the cosmic microwave background persists as the imprint of a completed event. The claim is of conserved information, not of a continuing conscious subject; the framework does not assert the latter and does not require it.

The restraint is deliberate. The account is committed to the conservation of the informational imprint, which is a consequence of its physics; it is not committed to the survival of the person as a subject of experience, on which it is silent, and it should not be read as smuggling that stronger claim in under the weaker one.

7. Commitments

The account's commitments are as follows. It is committed to the identification of organismal identity with an informational register address rather than with material or purely psychological continuity; to the existence of an intrinsic address length, distinguishing it from pure-damage theories of ageing on which no such length exists; to the lattice values of the gestational interval and the characteristic span; and to the conservation of the completed imprint under $d\Sigma T = 0$. Each is a point at which the account may be tested or contested. It is not committed to a mechanism of ageing, to the survival of the conscious subject, or to any therapeutic claim.

8. Conclusion

The framework treats an organism as an informational object individuated by a register address, a life as the reading of that address across a determinate span, and death as the completion of the reading rather than the failure of the machinery — of which the failure is the consequence. It assigns lattice values to the construction and span of the address, distinguishes completion from the curtailment that is the object of medicine, and makes a bounded, physically grounded claim about the persistence of the completed imprint while declining the stronger claim of personal survival. Its contribution is to answer the metaphysical question that the biological account leaves open — to say what it is that ends — and to say it in terms that remain within a physical ontology: what ends is the reading of an address, and what the reading leaves is an imprint the field conserves.

References and notes

- [1] D. Parfit, *Reasons and Persons* (1984) — psychological continuity as the criterion of personal identity; cf. J. Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690).
- [2] L. Hayflick, *Exp. Cell Res.* 37, 614 (1965); E. H. Blackburn, C. W. Greider et al. — replicative senescence and telomere attrition (damage theories of ageing).
- [3] V. P. Skulachev, "Programmed death phenomena", and the phenoptosis literature — programmed theories of organismal ageing and death.
- [4] A. A. Penzias, R. W. Wilson, *Astrophys. J.* 142, 419 (1965) — the cosmic microwave background as the conserved imprint of a completed cosmological event.
- [5] Universal Force of Time: organism individuated by a T-register address (non-coding genome as address space); gestation $270 = 2 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5$ days; characteristic span $\approx 27,375 = 3^3 \cdot 10^3 + 3 \cdot 5^3$ days; body temperature $36.864 \text{ }^\circ\text{C} = 2^{12} \cdot 3^2 / 1000$; coherence rhythm $\approx 40 \text{ Hz} = \text{Earth circumference} / 1000$. T is the sole substance, conserved by $d\Sigma T = 0$. See the Master theory of the Universal Force of Time.