GOT-V1-2a-0

0. Part 2a: Prelude

Informational Architecture

Reader introduction • Non-canonical. The Part 2a papers govern technical definitions, arguments and evidence.

1. If This Were Possible

What if we could ground our worldview in an auditable account of how reality becomes available to us?

Humans have a problem with reality. We live within it, depend upon it, and have developed extraordinarily powerful ways of investigating it. Yet our access is always selective. We encounter the world through bodies and instruments, using distinctions shaped by earlier encounters.

At the frontiers of inquiry, even the nature of what exists can remain under question. Within familiar territory, our most successful accounts still have limits: what they capture, where they apply and what remains beyond their reach.

General Organisation Theory proposes that tracing the physical relations behind our observations can make those limits more explicit. Part 2a develops the architecture through which physical differences become available, registered and retained. It then asks what kind of realism follows from taking that architecture seriously.

If this account survives scrutiny, it could give different claims about reality a common empirical grounding: an inspectable and testable pathway connecting what we claim to the world that can support or correct it.

2. Why This Is Difficult

A photograph may preserve a real relation to an event while leaving most of that event unrecorded. Its clarity does not tell us what happened outside the frame. A precise measurement likewise tells us something under particular conditions; precision alone does not establish the reach of the conclusion we draw.

The difficulty grows when a useful account becomes an unquestioned worldview. Its categories can begin to seem exhaustive. What it cannot register may be mistaken for something reality does not contain.

Science already disciplines these risks through comparison and correction. The proposed task is to make their physical basis explicit: how the world constrains an observation, how the observer's organisation limits access, and where uncertainty enters the relation between them.

3. What We Propose

Begin with the pathway supporting a claim. Every signal is already a physical abstraction of the causal events that produced and carried it. Its path preserves some differences while filtering, transforming or losing others. This selection occurs before anyone interprets it: what arrives carries a constrained relation to earlier events.

Abstraction is therefore part of how finite observation is grounded. By preserving selected relations in a discriminable form, a signal can open a pathway into the history embedded in the observer's environment. That history constrains what the signal can support. The task is to establish which earlier differences still make a difference to what is available now.

The receiving system must be able to encounter that contrast and class it into distinguishable alternatives. Registration selects an alternative into state; retention can preserve the resulting distinction for later access or use. Where a classed registration is retained, the abstraction has a physical instance: a present state through which selected relations to the past can become readable.

The Relative Reference Point specifies the system, interface and conditions under which that distinction becomes available. These conditions are part of the claim's physical support. Something available to one observer need not be available to another.

Reference-Indexed Realism is the proposed worldview built on this foundation. Reality constrains our accounts; our access shapes what those accounts can preserve. We can compare different claims by examining their targets, the relations supporting them and the conditions under which they fail.

What remains omitted, untested or unresolved is the residual. Keeping it visible allows confidence to rest on demonstrated support while further inquiry addresses what the present account cannot settle.

4. What Had to Be Built

The architecture must make its claims testable and their physical support auditable. The final paper follows an ordinary example: a hot cup placed on a suitable table surface may leave a thermal footprint or a more persistent ring.

Its geometry may preserve something about the earlier contact. To examine that claim, we would compare contact shapes under suitably matched surface, temperature, moisture, pressure and duration conditions. Does the resulting trace vary with the contact geometry? Does the distinction remain identifiable over the stated period and at the scale being examined? If different contacts produce indistinguishable traces, that result counts against the proposed attribution of preserved geometry.

Persistence alone is insufficient. The account must identify which alternatives the material response distinguishes, how this contact selects a resulting state, and what relation that state retains. A later reader does not confer a physical registration already established at the surface.

The reader then establishes another relation. Inferring a cup from the trace depends on the available evidence and the organisation brought to interpreting it. Additional context must be identified as additional evidence. If kettle-brand differences leave no distinguishing contrast in the trace, brand cannot be recovered from the ring alone.

An audit must expose the target distinction, physical pathway, test conditions, comparison and result, including failures. Another investigator should be able to examine how the evidence supports the claim. This remains a conditional worked example; its application requires those physical conditions to be demonstrated and it reports no experimental result.

5. Why Four Papers

Relative Reference Points asks when a difference becomes operational information for a particular system. It establishes the access architecture and separates availability, classing, registration, retention and later use.

From Noise Cometh Signal asks how contrast can physically reach that architecture. It follows the selective abstraction already occurring through media, channels and noise, grounding availability in the relations preserved and the conditions that make discrimination possible.

Reference-Indexed Realism draws out the consequence for our claims about reality. It separates what we investigate from the finite model through which we investigate it, and makes unresolved remainder part of responsible closure.

Relational Form makes this account physical across retained states, histories and different carriers. It explains how prior organisation can change which further relations become reachable, then brings the architecture together in the everyday example of the cup and its trace.

6. What You Need to Grant – and What You Do Not

Only this much to begin: finite access can be investigated through the physical pathways and distinctions that support it. The proposed architecture remains open to examination.

You need not accept that every perspective is equally adequate, that reality depends on human interpretation, or that a retained record guarantees truth. Consciousness is not required for the elementary physical relations described here.

Information for a particular system also leaves other legitimate uses of information intact, including thermodynamic and Shannon accounts. Part 2b develops the further technical claims concerning knowledge, intelligence and observation.

7. Where to Attack It

First, the discriminator. Can the proposed classing and registration be identified from physical organisation and meaningful comparisons? If any persistent change can be labelled a retained distinction after the event, the architecture has failed to earn that attribution.

Second, the causal pathway. Does the claimed distinction survive the actual transformations, and what comparison would reveal its loss? If it is lost, the local claim must change. A persuasive interpretation cannot recover evidence absent from the path.

Third, explanatory value. Does the framework help distinguish stronger from weaker accounts, locate a missing relation or identify an informative next comparison? If it merely renames what we already describe, its added value remains unearned.

The architecture must accept correction under its own standards. Residual uncertainty should identify what would change the account; it must not expand indefinitely to protect a preferred conclusion.

8. If the Architecture Holds

Return to the ring on the table. Under the right conditions, a present state preserves something about an earlier contact. When we encounter it, our own history helps us form an account of what happened. That account remains answerable to the trace and to any further evidence we bring.

A photograph, another person's record or an instrument may preserve a different relation and extend what we can establish. Retained distinctions can become part of the scaffolding through which further distinctions become reachable. Relations to the same target can spread across different carriers without any individual possessing them all.

If the architecture holds, this could give our worldview a clearer account of how confidence is earned. We could ask what survives each pathway, what our abstractions omit, and what comparison might reduce the resulting uncertainty. Different perspectives would become answerable to a common discipline of physical relation and correction.

Part 2a therefore proposes an empirical system for managing substrate-agnostic information processing. Its common architecture would let us specify, trace, test and audit how distinctions become available, registered, retained and used across biological, technical and computational systems. Each application must establish its material carriers and causal pathways, and demonstrate the operations attributed to them.

The intended gain is a worldview we can put to work: using abstractions to follow the history available to us, testing what they preserve, and correcting our account where the world exceeds it.

Canonical source note

Derived from GOT-V1-2a-1, Relative Reference Points; GOT-V1-2a-1a, From Noise Cometh Signal; GOT-V1-2a-1b, Reference-Indexed Realism; and GOT-V1-2a-1c, Relational Form. All four canonical sources are Issue 1. The hot-cup example follows Relational Form, section 6, with the illustrative limits in endnotes 16–19.

The eight-stage structure follows GOT-SD-PRELUDE-01, Issue 2. The Part 1 Prelude supplies the editorial benchmark. The Part 2 concept map, glossary, guardrail register and bibliography, all Issue 1, remain secondary controls. This introduction does not redefine the architecture or establish empirical validation.