Substrate–Plexus Theory

Book 6 – Applications

Applications in the Substrate–Plexus Theory

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Contents

1 Introduction, Motivation and Organization **3**
1.1 Introduction . . . 3
1.2 Model Summary . . . 3
1.3 Organization . . . 5

I APPLICATIONS **6**

2 Scattering as Competition for Renewal Channels **7**
2.1 abstract . . . 7
2.2 Introduction . . . 7
2.3 Renewal Capacity of the Foam . . . 7
2.4 Renewal Demand of Particle Structures . . . 8
2.5 Competition Functional . . . 8
2.6 Renewal Occupancy Operators . . . 9
2.7 Scattering as Renewal Reassignment . . . 9
2.8 Renewal History Amplitudes . . . 9
2.9 Cross Section Scaling . . . 10
2.10 Elastic Scattering Probability . . . 10
2.11 Resonances as Shared Renewal States . . . 10
2.12 Discussion . . . 11
2.13 Conclusion . . . 11

3 A Search for Energy Extraction in Dynamic Casimir Systems **12**
3.1 abstract . . . 12
3.2 Motivation: What Has (and Has Not) Been Measured . . . 12
3.3 Core Hypothesis . . . 13
3.4 Observable: Steady-State Energy Balance . . . 13
3.5 Scaling to Be Tested . . . 13
3.6 Minimal Experimental Configuration . . . 13
3.7 Protocol: Closing the Budget . . . 13
3.8 Key Falsifiers and Controls . . . 14
3.9 Why This Corner Remains Underexplored . . . 14
3.10 Optional Theoretical Motivation (Nonessential) . . . 14
3.11 Resources and Conclusion . . . 14

4 Proton–Boron Fusion as Constraint Shedding **16**
4.1 abstract . . . 16
4.2 Introduction . . . 16

4.3 Foam–Plexus Basics 17
  4.3.1 Bias as constrained renewal preference 17
  4.3.2 Fusion as topological reorganization 17
4.4 Substrate–Mediated Biasing: Why EM Matters Even in Nuclear Outcomes 17
  4.4.1 Constraint transfer, not signal transfer 18
4.5 Binding vs. Constraint Shedding 18
4.6 Resonances as Topological Commensurability and Rare–State Amplification 18
4.7 Coherence–Limited Sweet Spot 19
4.8 Electron–Entropy Cliff as Collapse of Resonance Access 19
4.9 Beam–Driven Implementation and Resonance Sweet Spots 20
  4.9.1 Why thermal plasmas are inefficient 20
  4.9.2 Beam targeting of resonance windows 20
  4.9.3 Control knobs from the coherence metric 20
  4.9.4 Sweet–spot principle 20
4.10 Testable Predictions 21
4.11 Conclusion 21

II APPENDICES **23**

A Glossary of Core Concepts **24**

Chapter 1

Introduction, Motivation and Organization

1.1 Introduction

In the Substrate–Plexus (SPT) framework, the term “particle” is retained for continuity with conventional physics, but its meaning is refined.

A particle is a stable or metastable circulation structure formed from coupled sectoral modes.

These sectoral modes arise from the underlying substrate and correspond to distinct interaction structures:

- Electromagnetic (EM) circulation,
- Strong (tri-lobed) circulation,
- Weak circulation,
- Higgs (stored bias) response.

A particle is therefore not a point-like object, but a self-sustaining pattern of circulating phase structure that continuously renews itself through the substrate.

1.2 Model Summary

What if the smooth spacetime we experience is just a large-scale average of something fundamentally stochastic underneath?

The logic is familiar from everyday physics. When you zoom far enough into any image, you see pixels. Zoom out, and those discrete dots become a continuous picture. Water behaves as a smooth fluid even though it is made of molecules. Temperature and pressure are not fundamental objects — they are statistical averages.

Spacetime may work the same way.

At the smallest scale, the model assumes only a constantly renewing network of microscopic connections — The SUBSTRATE. These connections form, dissolve, and reconnect randomly. There is no permanent geometry, no stable ruler, no intrinsic clock. Only rapid, stochastic restructuring.

If you lived at that scale, nothing would look continuous.

This substrate has one important primitive property and we will call it connectivity. It describes how those microscopic conections, let's call them renewal pathways join together. And it varies. Below a certan value, connections are unlikely to form and even unliklier to persist. But at some critical value, this connectivity can change all of those probabilities. And in this case, certain types of pathways are more likely to form and join together than others. This BIAS in formation probabilities will eventually lead to structure, spacetime, and all the laws of physics. But if we look at it at the substrate level, it isn't easily visible. There is way too much "noise" from the substrate still forming and disolving pathways the come and too quickly to participate.

But when we coarse-grain — averaging over enormous numbers of these renewal events — patterns begin to emerge. Some types of connections statistically reinforce each other. They rebuild in similar orientations again and again. Those persistent patterns survive longer than the surrounding noise.

When that happens, order appears.

This is exactly how many familiar systems behave. Below a critical temperature, spins align and a magnet forms. Below another threshold, electrons condense into a superconductor. In each case, a random microscopic system suddenly develops long-range structure.

The Substrate–Plexus Theory (SPT) proposes that something similar happened to the universe itself.

Roughly 13.8 billion years ago, the underlying substrate crossed a phase transition. Connectivity became dense enough that certain renewal patterns stopped flickering randomly and began renewing with a bias.

At the microscopic level: • pathways still renew • connections still flicker • structures still dissolve • alignments still fluctuate

BUT, when averaged over huge numbers, patterns are now recognizable as the "bias" prefers certain connectivity over others. And these averaged connections are what we recognize as networks. the basic networks are Electromagnetic, Weak, and Strong, and taken together, they give rise to what we call spacetime.

Distance finally becomes meaningful because connections average to a persistent answer. Time becomes meaningful because renewals acquire direction and memory. Geometry appears not because it was imposed, but because average correlations have locked in... and a metric emerges.

In this picture, spacetime did not "begin from nothing." Rather, the substrate entered an ordered phase. The measured age of the universe—13.8 billion years—is simply how long this ordered phase has lasted so far.

Particles fit naturally into this view as well. Instead of point objects moving through space, they are self-reinforcing circulations of connectivity — patterns that reconstruct themselves faster than random fluctuations can erase them. Their mass reflects how much bias is necessary to keep them intact; their charge is equivalent to the circulation itself.

So, Einstein and General Relativity remain exactly right: matter really does shape spacetime. But that curvature is not imposed on a smooth continuum — it emerges from the statistics of an underlying, constantly renewing substrate: Wheeler's quantum substrate.

At everyday scales, all of this coarse-grains into the familiar equations of general relativity and quantum field theory. Those theories still work — just as fluid dynamics works without tracking molecules. They describe the emergent behavior, not the substrate. Zoom out far enough, and the jitter disappears. What remains looks continuous, curved, governed by Einstein's equations and quantum fields—because that's the only stable average left.

So the picture becomes surprisingly simple:

At the bottom: stochastic quantum substrate. Zoom out: persistent connectivity networks. Zoom out further: spacetime and fields. Zoom out further: matter, stars, and us.

What we call “laws of physics” are the rules governing which patterns survive.

Spacetime is not the stage.

1.3 Organization

This body of work is presented in five books as follows:

- Book 1 Foundations,
- Book 2 Particles,
- Book 3 Physics,
- Book 4 Chemistry,
- Book 5 Cosmology,
- Book 6 (This Book)Applications,

Some of the new ideas require precision use of terminology, and where such is true, there is a Glossary in Appendix .

Part I

APPLICATIONS

Chapter 2

Scattering as Competition for Renewal Channels

2.1 abstract

In the Foam-Plexus model spacetime is a quantized network of wormhole connections and particle propagation occurs through sequential renewal of topological structures rather than continuous motion through space.

We propose that particle interactions arise from competition between multiple renewal patterns for a finite set of locally compatible wormhole renewal channels.

Scattering occurs when local renewal demand exceeds available renewal capacity, forcing discrete reassignment of renewal histories.

A mathematical framework is introduced based on renewal capacity fields, sector-dependent demand functions, competition functionals, and discrete renewal occupancy operators.

Scattering amplitudes emerge as weighted sums over renewal histories, analogous to path integrals but defined over discrete topological configurations.

Resonances are interpreted as metastable shared-renewal states in which multiple structures temporarily pool access to the same renewal resources before decaying into outgoing channels.

This framework connects particle interactions directly to the microscopic topology of quantized spacetime.

2.2 Introduction

In quantum field theory particle interactions arise from exchange processes between fields.

In the Foam-Plexus model spacetime itself consists of a discrete network of wormhole connections forming a quantized foam. Particles correspond to stable renewal patterns propagating through this network.

Propagation occurs through sequential renewal of these structures.

Within this picture interactions naturally arise when multiple renewal patterns compete for locally compatible renewal channels.

This paper develops a formal description of this competition mechanism.

2.3 Renewal Capacity of the Foam

We define a sector-dependent renewal capacity field

$$R^{(a)}(x) \tag{2.1}$$

representing the number of renewal channels available at location x for plexus sector a.

Sectors include

$$a \in \{EM, Strong, Weak, Gravity\} \tag{2.2}$$

Because spacetime is quantized the capacity is discrete

$$R^{(a)}(x) = N_R^{(a)}(x) r_0 \tag{2.3}$$

where r_0 is a fundamental renewal unit.

2.4 Renewal Demand of Particle Structures

Each particle structure requires access to compatible renewal channels.

We define a sector-dependent demand function

$$D_i^{(a)}(x) \tag{2.4}$$

for particle i.

This demand depends on

- particle topology
- plexus sector
- phase compatibility
- local overlap

For example, photon renewal patterns demand electromagnetic-compatible channels while quark structures demand strong-sector channels.

2.5 Competition Functional

Local interaction strength arises when renewal demand approaches or exceeds available capacity.

We define the competition functional

$$\mathcal{C}(x) = \sum_a \left[\frac{\sum_i D_i^{(a)}(x) - R^{(a)}(x)}{R^{(a)}(x)} \right]_+^{\theta} \tag{2.5}$$

where

$$[y]_+ = \max(y, 0) \tag{2.6}$$

and $\theta > 1$ introduces nonlinear overload effects.

When $\mathcal{C}(x)$ becomes large renewal reassignment becomes likely.

2.6 Renewal Occupancy Operators

To quantize the system we introduce sector-dependent occupancy operators

$$\hat{N}^{(a)} = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{A}_a} n_k \psi_k \psi_k \tag{2.7}$$

where $\mathcal{A}_a$ denotes admissible renewal-channel states.

The available renewal capacity operator is

$$\hat{R}^{(a)} = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{A}_a} r_k \psi_k \psi_k \tag{2.8}$$

and the overload operator becomes

$$\hat{\Omega}^{(a)} = \hat{N}^{(a)} - \hat{R}^{(a)} \tag{2.9}$$

These operators enforce finite renewal capacity of the foam.

2.7 Scattering as Renewal Reassignment

A scattering event corresponds to a discrete reassignment of renewal channels between competing structures.

Incoming particle states

$$i \tag{2.10}$$

transition to outgoing states

$$f \tag{2.11}$$

through reconfiguration of renewal occupancy.

2.8 Renewal History Amplitudes

We define the scattering amplitude as a sum over renewal histories

$$\mathcal{A}_{i \to f} = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_{h \in \mathcal{H}_{i \to f}} W[h] \exp\left(\frac{i}{\hbar_{\text{eff}}} S_h \right) \tag{2.12}$$

where

- h labels renewal histories
- $W[h]$ is a compatibility weight
- S_h is the renewal action

The renewal action includes the competition penalty

$$S_h = -\int dt\, \mathcal{C}[h] \tag{2.13}$$

This construction parallels the path-integral formulation of quantum mechanics but operates over discrete renewal histories.

2.9 Cross Section Scaling

Scattering cross sections arise from counting allowed renewal reassignments.

We propose the scaling relation

$$\sigma_{i\to f} \sim \ell_0^2 \frac{N_{\text{allowed}}(i \to f)}{N_{\text{avail}}^2} F_{\text{phase}} \tag{2.14}$$

where

- ℓ_0 is a microscopic foam scale
- N_{allowed} counts compatible renewal reallocations
- N_{avail} is the available channel capacity
- F_{phase} encodes interference effects

2.10 Elastic Scattering Probability

For weak competition we approximate elastic probability using a Poisson process

$$P_{\text{elastic}} = \exp(-\lambda_{\text{comp}}) \tag{2.15}$$

with

$$\lambda_{\text{comp}} = \int d^3x\, \mathcal{C}(x) \tag{2.16}$$

Thus

$$P_{\text{scatt}} = 1 - P_{\text{elastic}} \tag{2.17}$$

2.11 Resonances as Shared Renewal States

Resonances correspond to metastable intermediate renewal states in which multiple particles temporarily share renewal resources.

These states form when renewal competition produces a locally stable shared occupancy pattern.

Let r denote such a resonance configuration.

The scattering amplitude becomes

$$\mathcal{A}_{i\to f} \sim \sum_r \mathcal{A}_{i\to r} \frac{1}{E - E_r + i\Gamma_r/2} \mathcal{A}_{r\to f} \tag{2.18}$$

where

- E_r is the resonance energy
- Γ_r is the decay width

The decay corresponds to redistribution of shared renewal channels into new stable allocations.

2.12 Discussion

The competition model provides a geometric interpretation of particle interactions that connects scattering directly to the microscopic structure of spacetime.

In this framework interaction vertices correspond to regions where renewal demand approaches local capacity limits.

Resonances arise naturally as temporary shared-resource states.

2.13 Conclusion

We have proposed a new interpretation of particle scattering based on competition for renewal channels within quantized spacetime foam.

Interactions correspond to discrete reassignment of renewal resources, while resonances represent metastable shared renewal configurations.

This framework provides a bridge between microscopic spacetime topology and observable scattering phenomena.

Chapter 3

A Search for Energy Extraction in Dynamic Casimir Systems

3.1 abstract

We propose a targeted, near-term experiment on existing Dynamic Casimir Effect (DCE) platforms to test whether the quantum vacuum remains a strictly passive equilibrium reservoir under sustained, high-Q parametric driving, or whether a measurable non-equilibrium occupancy excess can persist in the $T \to 0$ limit.

The question is deliberately conservative: after subtracting all known parametric pumping, thermal occupation, leakage, and classical noise-conversion channels, does a statistically significant residual power remain? A null result tightens experimental bounds on vacuum dynamics and is publishable. A reproducible residual would constitute evidence for non-equilibrium vacuum behavior and motivate deeper investigation.

The experiment requires no new technology—only careful optimization of quality factor Q, modulation depth ϵ, outcoupling, and long-integration power metrology on superconducting-circuit or hybrid optomechanical DCE setups. Estimated cost: \$3–5M as a focused collaboration.

3.2 Motivation: What Has (and Has Not) Been Measured

DCE experiments have convincingly demonstrated photon generation from vacuum fluctuations and verified predicted correlations and squeezing. However, comparatively little work has systematically closed a steady-state power budget in the combined regime of

- very high Q (target 10^6–10^8),
- sustained parametric modulation at well-characterized depth ϵ,
- impedance-matched outcoupling to a calibrated load,
- operation deep in the $T \to 0$ limit, and
- long integration to bound rare leakage.

This paper closes that gap with a platform-agnostic protocol.

3.3 Core Hypothesis

Null Hypothesis ($\mathbf{H}_0$): In the $T \to 0$ limit, the delivered steady-state power is fully explained by standard parametric amplification plus known loss channels.

Alternative ($\mathbf{H}_1$, narrow): A reproducible residual power P_{residual} persists after subtraction of all standard contributions, with scaling in (ϵ, Q) and weak dependence on base temperature.

3.4 Observable: Steady-State Energy Balance

For a resonant mode k of frequency ω_k coupled to an extraction port, the delivered power is

$$P_k = \hbar\omega_k\kappa_{\text{out}}\big(\bar{n}^k_{\text{eff}} - \bar{n}^k_{\text{load}}\big),$$

where $\bar{n}^k_{\text{eff}}$ is the effective mode occupation under modulation and κ_{out} is the engineered outcoupling rate. The experiment measures calibrated delivered power into a known load and subtracts known contributions to bound (or detect) any residual.

3.5 Scaling to Be Tested

Small-signal photon flux in DCE typically scales as $\Phi_k \propto (\epsilon Q)^2\omega_k$ (platform-dependent prefactors apply). The protocol extends this test into the sustained, high-(ϵQ), energy-extraction regime, searching for deviations from standard saturation/back-reaction expectations.

3.6 Minimal Experimental Configuration

Suitable platforms already exist (superconducting CPW resonators with SQUID/Josephson modulation, hybrid optomechanical systems, high-Q cryogenic photonics). Common requirements:

- precisely characterized $Q(\epsilon)$,
- calibrated modulation depth,
- impedance-matched outcoupling,
- redundant thermometry and EM shielding.

3.7 Protocol: Closing the Budget

1. **Baseline (no pump):** verify thermal occupation and noise floor.
2. **Standard DCE:** reproduce known pair/squeezing signatures at modest ϵQ.
3. **Outcoupling sweep:** confirm power scales with κ_{out}.
4. $T \to 0$ **stress test:** repeat at coldest reachable temperature with long integration.
5. **Residual accounting:** subtract pump feedthrough, thermal, leakage, and classical-noise terms; bound P_{residual}.

3.8 Key Falsifiers and Controls

The search is invalidated if any of the following dominate:

Falsifier	Control
Thermal leakage	Power tracks T and vanishes as $T \to 0$
Pump feedthrough	Direct RF leakage bounded below claimed residual
Classical noise conversion	Excess explained by pump phase noise or amplifier back-action
Standard saturation/back-reaction	Scaling matches expected saturation effects

Table 3.1: Key falsifiers and required controls. A null result with these controls tightly bounded is a clear success.

3.9 Why This Corner Remains Underexplored

Historical DCE work prioritized demonstration and correlation verification. Steady-state power accounting at extreme (ϵQ) with matched outcoupling and deep thermal suppression was not prioritized because standard theory predicted no excess. Modern improvements in Q, pump stability, and cryogenic metrology make the measurement timely and low-risk.

3.10 Optional Theoretical Motivation (Nonessential)

In the Foam–Plexus framework, vacuum modes carry effective dwell-time bias inherited from renewal constraints. Sustained, mode-selective driving may produce a measurable non-equilibrium occupancy excess beyond equilibrium expectations. The experiment stands independently of any specific model.

3.11 Resources and Conclusion

A \$3–5M program is minor in context and leverages existing infrastructure. Either outcome—a tight null bound or a residual—is scientifically valuable and publishable. This is a clean, decisive test of whether the vacuum behaves as a strictly passive background under strong driving.

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Chapter 4

Proton–Boron Fusion as Constraint Shedding

4.1 abstract

Proton–boron ($p + {}^{11}\mathrm{B} \to 3\alpha + 8.7\mathrm{MeV}$) fusion is aneutronic and fuel–abundant, yet conventional thermal–equilibrium analyses predict ignition temperatures exceeding 10^9 K due to bremsstrahlung and Coulomb losses. In the Foam–Plexus model, spacetime is a quantized wormhole lattice, and fusion is a topological reorganization that sheds sustained renewal constraints (bias). We show that p–^{11}B succeeds precisely by avoiding entropy maximization: its three–α final state minimizes Strong–plexus bias relative to the initial composite. Resonances ($\sim$160 keV narrow, $\sim$675 keV broad) correspond to geometric commensurability windows maximizing shared renewal pathways.

Crucially, yield is limited not by scalar temperature but by fast–ion coherence time τ_{coh} and phase–space overlap. We define a coherence–limited metric $\mathcal{C}_{pB}$ and predict an "electron–entropy cliff" beyond which rapid electron heating destroys resonance access by collapsing coherence and broadening the renewal ensemble. This explains the empirical superiority of non–thermal, beam–driven, and field–reversed plasmas, aligns with 2025 experimental trends (HB11, TAE, PROBONO), and offers falsifiable diagnostics for near–term tests.

A further implication is that engineered electromagnetic (EM) confinement and phase order do not enhance fusion by "pushing" the strong force, but by reweighting the foam renewal ensemble so that rare, resonance–accessing close–approach pathways occur with enhanced statistical weight.

4.2 Introduction

Proton–boron fusion,

$$p + {}^{11}\mathrm{B} \to 3\alpha + 8.7 \text{ MeV}, \tag{4.1}$$

produces only charged helium and no neutrons, enabling direct conversion and eliminating radioactive waste. Yet standard analyses conclude it requires ion temperatures $\gtrsim 10^9$ K due to bremsstrahlung dominance and Coulomb suppression—far above deuterium–tritium thresholds.

This conclusion assumes thermal equilibrium and Maxwellian distributions. Recent experiments (HB11 laser targets, TAE beam–driven FRCs, PROBONO workshop 2025 reports) show enhanced yields in non–thermal regimes. The Foam–Plexus model offers a geometric explanation: fusion is constraint shedding in Strong–plexus topology, not additive binding. Yield is governed by persistence of directed bias (coherence), not temperature.

The central claim of this paper is therefore conservative but sharp:

> *Proton–boron fusion succeeds when the plasma remains structured long enough to repeatedly sample the resonance–accessing microstates, and fails when electron–driven entropy production destroys that structure faster than it can persist.*

4.3 Foam–Plexus Basics

In the Foam–Plexus framework, spacetime is not assumed as a continuous manifold. It is a coarse–grained description emerging from a Planck–scale substrate of discrete space quanta connected by flickering wormhole oscillators. "Plexuses" are correlated subnetworks of wormhole renewal patterns. The known forces correspond to persistent susceptibilities of this substrate.

A minimal taxonomy is:

- **Gravity–Plexus:** universal amplifier of persistent wormhole–density bias.
- **EM, Weak, Strong, Higgs Plexuses:** channel–specific renewal regularities tied to face–like structures on stable fermionic excitations.

Particles are stable loop/polyhedral excitations. Interactions arise from biased wormhole renewal, not point collisions.

4.3.1 Bias as constrained renewal preference

Bias is a local excess of constrained renewal directions:

$$b_\mu \propto P_{\mathrm{persist}}(\hat{n}_\mu) - P_{\mathrm{iso}}, \tag{4.2}$$

where $\hat{n}_\mu$ denotes a direction or configuration class. Total bias,

$$B = \int b_\mu \, dV \, d\Omega, \tag{4.3}$$

is conserved in the sense that it cannot vanish globally; it can only reorganize, redistribute, and shed into less constrained forms.

4.3.2 Fusion as topological reorganization

In this view, nuclear reactions are not best described as two point particles "overcoming a barrier." They are transitions between constrained topological configurations in the Strong–plexus. Energy release corresponds to the shedding of stored renewal constraints into less constrained channels (typically kinetic energy of outgoing products).

4.4 Substrate–Mediated Biasing: Why EM Matters Even in Nuclear Outcomes

A recurring objection to any "field assistance" interpretation of fusion is:

> *How could electromagnetic structure matter when the strong interaction dominates at femtometer scales?*

The Foam–Plexus answer is not that EM directly modifies the strong force. Rather, EM is the only laboratory–engineerable handle capable of shaping the *renewal ensemble* from which all plexuses emerge.

4.4.1 Constraint transfer, not signal transfer

Let Ω denote the set of accessible foam microstates in a region, and let $P(\omega)$ be the renewal probability distribution over $\omega \in \Omega$. A coherent EM environment modifies the renewal weighting:

$$P(\omega) \to P'(\omega) = \frac{P(\omega)\, W_{\mathrm{EM}}(\omega)}{Z}, \tag{4.4}$$

where $W_{\mathrm{EM}}(\omega)$ encodes selection imposed by phase order, boundary geometry, and mode structure, and Z normalizes the distribution.

This is not an "extra force." It is a reshaping of which microstates recur frequently enough to matter. Because fusion probability is dominated by an exponentially rare subset of microstates corresponding to close approach and resonance access, even small changes in the weight of that subset can produce disproportionate yield changes.

Key principle.

In rare–event processes, a small bias in recurrence can look like a large gain in outcome.

Thus EM coherence and confinement can matter in fusion not by adding ion energy directly, but by improving the persistence and recurrence of resonance–compatible overlap pathways.

4.5 Binding vs. Constraint Shedding

Deuterium–tritium fusion adds constraints: two nucleons form a tighter composite, increasing total bias storage (higher binding energy per nucleon in ^{4}He). The reaction proceeds efficiently because its Coulomb barrier is modest and its cross section is high at comparatively low temperature.

p–^{11}B behaves differently. It begins with a complex, frustrated ^{11}B nucleus plus proton and reorganizes into three symmetric α particles. Each α has minimal Strong–plexus overhead (high binding per nucleon). The transition

$$\text{high–constraint composite} \;\to\; \text{three low–constraint symmetric knots} \tag{4.5}$$

sheds constraints, releasing bias as 8.7 MeV (mostly α kinetic energy).

In the Foam–Plexus interpretation, the "difficulty" of p–^{11}B is not that it releases too little energy; it is that the renewal pathway is narrow. Success requires repeatedly accessing a commensurate overlap window before decoherence and electron entropy production destroy directed structure.

4.6 Resonances as Topological Commensurability and Rare–State Amplification

The p–^{11}B cross section exhibits two resonances (lab frame):

- Broad primary at ∼675 keV ($\sigma \approx 1.2$ barn),
- Narrow secondary at ∼160 keV ($\sigma \approx 0.1$ barn).

In Foam–Plexus terms, these resonances are windows of *renewal commensurability*: proton and boron Strong–plexus boundary structures achieve maximal shared renewal pathways.

A thermal Maxwellian samples these windows primarily through a high–energy tail. But in a renewal framework, the resonance corresponds to a high–connectivity overlap class of microstates. These microstates are rare, but they dominate yield when accessed.

Rare–state amplification. The yield sensitivity is therefore extreme: a small increase in the recurrence frequency or occupancy time of resonance–compatible microstates can produce a large gain in fusion events, even if the mean ion energy is unchanged.

This naturally favors:

- beam–driven non–thermal distributions,
- structured phase–space confinement (FRCs),
- sharp boundary geometry and mode selectivity,
- suppression of electron heating pathways that broaden the ensemble.

4.7 Coherence–Limited Sweet Spot

Fusion yield depends on persistence of fast–ion structure before electron heating randomizes phase space. Define a coherence time:

$$\tau_{\mathrm{coh}}^{-1} \;\equiv\; -\Big\langle \frac{d}{dt}\ln C(t)\Big\rangle, \tag{4.6}$$

where $C(t)$ measures fast–ion autocorrelation (a proxy for persistence of directed bias and phase–space structure).

We define a coherence–limited metric:

$$\mathcal{C} \;\equiv\; \tau_{\mathrm{coh}}\,\frac{\langle\sigma v\rangle_{\mathrm{fast}}}{1+\chi_e}, \tag{4.7}$$

where χ_e quantifies electron entropy production (heating, turbulence, bremsstrahlung, and collisional broadening).

To specialize this to proton–boron, we introduce a resonance occupancy factor Π_{res}:

$$\Pi_{\mathrm{res}} \;\in\; [0,1], \qquad \Pi_{\mathrm{res}} \approx 1 \;\Rightarrow\; \text{meaningful dwell in resonance band}, \tag{4.8}$$

and define:

$$\mathcal{C}_{pB} \;\equiv\; \tau_{\mathrm{coh}}\,\frac{\langle\sigma v\rangle_{\mathrm{fast}}}{1+\chi_e}\,\Pi_{\mathrm{res}}. \tag{4.9}$$

Prediction. Yield correlates with $\mathcal{C}_{pB}$, not scalar T_i. Discharges with similar T_i but longer τ_{coh} and larger Π_{res} outperform hotter but incoherent ones.

This provides a conceptual reconciliation:

- thermal analyses are correct about equilibrium difficulty,
- experiments succeed by avoiding equilibrium and preserving resonance access.

4.8 Electron–Entropy Cliff as Collapse of Resonance Access

As power increases, electron heating initially grows slowly. Beyond a threshold, χ_e rises superlinearly, destroying ion coherence. Crossing this “cliff” causes abrupt yield degradation despite rising T_i.

In Foam–Plexus language, the cliff is the point where electron–driven scattering and turbulence broadly reweight the renewal ensemble faster than structured confinement can maintain resonance–selective weighting. Above this point:

$$\tau_{\mathrm{coh}} \downarrow \quad \text{and} \quad \Pi_{\mathrm{res}} \downarrow \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathcal{C}_{pB} \text{ collapses.} \tag{4.10}$$

Operationally, the optimal regime is therefore just below cliff onset, maximizing coherence and resonance occupancy while suppressing electron entropy production.

4.9 Beam–Driven Implementation and Resonance Sweet Spots

The coherence–limited metric

$$\mathcal{C}_{pB} = \tau_{\mathrm{coh}} \frac{\langle \sigma v \rangle_{\mathrm{fast}}}{1 + \chi_e} \Pi_{\mathrm{res}}$$

implies that fusion performance is governed primarily by phase–space structure rather than scalar temperature. This observation has immediate engineering consequences.

4.9.1 Why thermal plasmas are inefficient

In a Maxwellian plasma the resonance windows of the p–^{11}B cross section are sampled only through an exponentially suppressed tail:

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle_{\mathrm{thermal}} = \int \sigma(E) v f_{\mathrm{Maxwell}}(E)\, dE.$$

Most input energy heats electrons and ions that never approach the resonance energies. Increasing temperature therefore raises entropy and bremsstrahlung faster than useful reaction probability.

4.9.2 Beam targeting of resonance windows

A non–thermal beam concentrates phase space near the dominant resonances,

$$f_{\mathrm{beam}}(E) \approx \delta(E - E_r),$$

with

$$E_r \approx 160\ \mathrm{keV}, \quad 675\ \mathrm{keV}.$$

This maximizes the occupancy factor Π_{res} without requiring global heating. The same particles can repeatedly traverse the interaction region, increasing effective recurrence and dwell time.

4.9.3 Control knobs from the coherence metric

Each factor of $\mathcal{C}_{pB}$ maps to a practical design parameter:

This coherence-limited sweet spot aligns with recent trends in beam-driven FRCs (TAE Norman device, 2025–2026 reports) and laser-accelerated proton-boron targets (HB11, 2025), where structured phase space and low electron temperature appear to be the dominant performance drivers.

4.9.4 Sweet–spot principle

The optimal operating point is therefore not the highest temperature but the regime just below the electron–entropy cliff where coherence time and resonance occupancy are maximized. In this sense, fusion performance is coherence–limited rather than temperature–limited.

Do not heat the plasma. Structure it.

Metric term	Engineering handle
τ_{coh}	low collision rate, FRC/cusp confinement, low T_e
Π_{res}	monoenergetic or narrow–band beam injection
χ_e	suppressed electron heating and turbulence
recurrence	closed or reflected ion orbits

Table 4.1: Engineering handles corresponding to each term in the coherence-limited metric $\mathcal{C}_{pB}$.

4.10 Testable Predictions

The following predictions are falsifiable with existing diagnostics:

1. **Yield vs. $\mathcal{C}_{pB}$ collapses data better than yield vs. T_i.** This is testable across discharges in TAE, HB11, and similar platforms.
2. **Sharp performance drop at the electron–entropy cliff.** Diagnose via x–ray emission, electron temperature rise, and fluctuation spectra.
3. **Beam/FRC systems outperform isotropic thermal plasmas at equivalent $\langle T_i \rangle$.** This is already suggested empirically; the metric formalizes it.
4. **Coherence quality matters at fixed ion energy distribution.** At fixed measured fast–ion distribution (same $\langle E_i \rangle$ and tail), fusion yield should scale with EM coherence quality: cavity/field stability, mode purity, boundary geometry, and phase noise suppression. This is a distinct Foam–Plexus signature: engineered coherence affects outcome even when bulk energy accounting appears unchanged.

A null result for (4) would strongly constrain the plausibility of substrate–mediated biasing.

4.11 Conclusion

Proton–boron fusion is best understood as constraint shedding, not thermal binding. Its difficulty under equilibrium conditions is real, but its non–thermal success is natural in a renewal–statistical picture: the reaction depends on repeatedly sampling rare resonance–compatible microstates before electron entropy production destroys coherence.

The "sweet spot" is therefore coherence–limited phase–space overlap near resonance commensurability, quantified by $\mathcal{C}_{pB}$. Non–thermal, structured plasmas (beams, FRCs) naturally access this regime. Engineered EM confinement and phase order can matter not by altering the strong force, but by biasing the renewal ensemble so that rare close–approach pathways recur more frequently.

This interpretation does not modify standard nuclear physics. It reframes the optimization problem: maximize coherence and resonance occupancy while suppressing electron entropy growth.

Bibliography

[1] D. P. Wilkins, *From Quantum Foam to a Theory of Everything (The BEAST)*, Zenodo (2025).

Part II

APPENDICES

Appendix A

Glossary of Core Concepts

This glossary defines the core concepts of the Substrate–Plexus Theory (SPT) in precise terms. These definitions are intended to eliminate ambiguity and distinguish SPT terminology from conventional physics usage.

Connectivity

The fundamental stochastic structure of the substrate, defined by the ensemble of possible renewal pathways between configurations.

Connectivity has no intrinsic geometry, distance, or time prior to coarse-graining.

Connectivity is purely stochastic at the microscopic level.

Bias

A statistical preference within the connectivity ensemble for pathways with specific properties to occur more frequently than others.

Bias represents the first departure from complete randomness and gives rise to persistent structure.

Bias = non-random structure within stochastic connectivity (pathway type preference)

Plexus –¿ bias of the substrate circulation –¿ amplification of that bias
stored bias = coarse-grained description of amplified bias

First-Order Biases (EM, Weak, Strong)

The three dominant bias modes that emerge from the substrate:

- Electromagnetic (EM)
- Weak
- Strong

Each bias corresponds to a preferred class of renewal pathways and defines a distinct connectivity network.

Plexus

A plexus is a dynamic, bias-dominated connectivity network formed by one of the first-order biases.

Plexuses are:

- spatially extended,
- continuously reconstructed,
- statistically persistent,
- free of intrinsic gradients.

A plexus is a connectivity network defined by bias.

Plexus –¿ bias of the substrate, and circulation –¿ amplification of that bias, and
stored bias = coarse-grained description of amplified bias

Circulation

A closed, self-sustaining composite of renewal pathways of a specific type (EM, Weak, Strong) that persists under coarse-graining.

Circulations are responsible for lepton number, baryon number, and charge.

Circulation = persistent closed pathway structure after coarse-graining

Charge

Charge is a coarse-grained view of closed Circulation.

Plexus Gradient

A spatial variation in bias amplitude produced by circulation.

Plexuses contain no intrinsic gradients; but gradients arise when circulation modifies the local bias (pathway type preference) distribution.

Plexus –¿ bias of the substrate circulation –¿ amplification of that bias
stored bias = coarse-grained description of amplified bias

”Fields” arise from circulation-induced bias gradients. And since plexuses, circulations, and gradients are actual

Higgs (Retarded Response)

The Higgs is not a field or a sector. It is the dynamical response of the substrate to changes in bias configuration.

When circulation structures reconfigure, the substrate cannot instantaneously adjust. This produces a delayed (retarded) response.

Higgs = retarded response to bias reconfiguration

Retarded Bias

The residual bias pattern corresponding to a previous configuration, which persists temporarily due to finite reconstruction time.

When this bias cannot be locally reabsorbed, it may be expelled as radiation.

Radiation

Radiation is the expulsion of retarded bias that cannot be reabsorbed locally.

$$\boxed{\text{Radiation} = \text{expelled retarded bias}}$$

Photons and gluonic modes are interpreted as different manifestations of this process under different constraint structures.

Distance

Distance is not fundamental.

At the microscopic level, connectivity fluctuates too rapidly to define a stable separation between regions.

$$\boxed{\text{Distance emerges only after coarse-graining}}$$

Coarse-Graining

The process by which fluctuating connectivity is averaged over many renewal cycles to produce stable, observable structures. (Zoom out).

Coarse-graining enables:

- persistent pathways,
- measurable distances,
- continuous spacetime,
- quantum structure.

Planck Scale

The smallest scale at which connectivity structures persist under coarse-graining.

Structures below this scale do not survive long enough to contribute to observable reality.

$$\boxed{\text{Planck scale} = \text{minimum persistent connectivity structure}}$$

Spacetime

Spacetime is an emergent, coarse-grained description of persistent connectivity.

$$\boxed{\text{Spacetime} = \text{persistent large-scale structure of connectivity}}$$

It is not fundamental, but arises from statistical regularities in the substrate.

Momentum

Momentum is the directed transport of bias within the substrate. It is only defined relative to a frame of reference.

$$\boxed{\text{Momentum} = \text{organized bias flux}}$$

Energy

Energy corresponds to stored bias and the rate at which bias is reconfigured or transported.

Gravity

Gravity is not a first-order bias (plexus), but a second-order effect.

It arises from the collective influence of bias distributions on the connectivity structure.

$$\boxed{\text{Gravity} = \text{second-order response of connectivity to bias}}$$

Confinement

In the Strong sector, stable structures require simultaneous satisfaction of multiple closure constraints.

$$\boxed{\text{Confinement} = \text{inability to maintain partial closure independently}}$$

Summary

$$\boxed{\text{SPT replaces particles and fields with connectivity, bias, and circulation as fundamental concepts.}}$$