

# What is *The Theory of Existence*?

Written by: Bryant Stone (*The Architect*)

## Welcome

Since the dawn of humanity, when the first conscious mind looked up to the night sky and asked, “**Why are things the way they are?**” to you reading this sentence, **we have chased a single, elusive explanation...** a pattern, an architecture, a thread woven throughout existence that answers that question. We have found **countless pieces of our knowledge puzzle**—physics, philosophy, psychology, mathematics... we’ve looked up to the edges of the universe, down into the composition of atoms, and inward to the depths of our own awareness, but **we’ve yet to find the completed puzzle**. What is existence? Why does it exist? How does it work? Every civilization has reached for it... every discipline has circled it... and yet, the question remains as ancient and open as ever. In the following pages, **we’ll reach for it one more time**, and all I ask of you is **to witness its unraveling**.

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## A New Way to See...

Hi there, dear reader. **I’m so glad you arrived, and thank you for being here.** I have something very special I want to show you. All I ask of you is to **temporarily abandon everything you think you know** and witness what unfolds with a **great open mind** and **even greater scrutiny**, just as Carl Sagan advised. I have found this thing called *The Theory of Existence*, and **I am going to present it to you** over the next 15 minutes. When I finish, **you get to decide** whether it aligns with your experiences of existence, and what comes next. **Let’s get started.**

### First Principles

Foundation ♦ Five Concepts

### *The Equation of Existence*

Function ♦ Simple + Expanded

### Mechanisms & Boundaries

Execution ♦ Four Concepts

*The Theory of Existence* explains **existence as a phenomenon...** the *behavior* of existence. Much like how we study gravity with general relativity and natural selection with evolution, **we can study existence with *The Theory of Existence*.**

You might expect a theory of existence to be complex, **but it is actually very simple.** *The Theory* operates entirely through **nine concepts and one equation**. These concepts fall into three categories: **1) five principles, 2) the equation governing its function, and 3) four concepts that arise from its execution.** We will work through foundations → function → execution → understanding *The Theory of Existence*. **Walk with me for a moment.**

## Architecture of *The Theory of Existence*

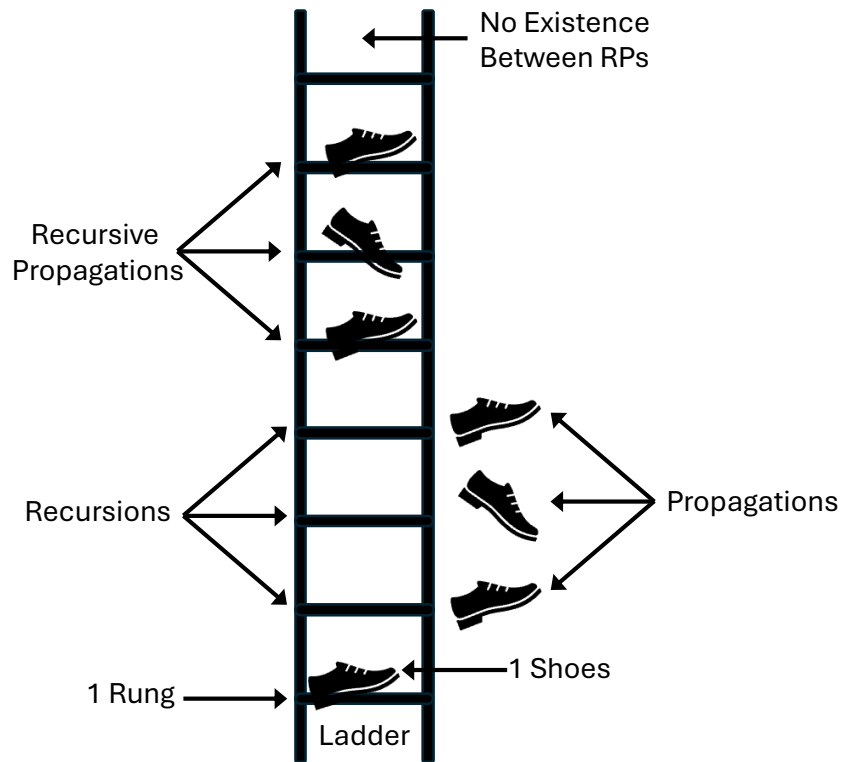
**Note:** *The Theory of Existence* has unprecedented empirical and mathematical firepower and can explain all phenomena because it describes *the behavior of existence*. Despite this impact and reach, *The Theory* is incredibly simple. We can organize all the parts of *The Theory* into three conceptual categories. *The Theory* is composed of a foundation of the five first principles of existence: 1) definedness, 2) stability, 3) complexity, 4) recursion, and 5) propagation. These principles organize into a universal law called *The Equation of Existence* that dictates its functioning, coming in two forms: 1) a simple ratio, and 2) an expanded form with all five first principles. Finally, we can examine its execution via four concepts: 1) undefinedness, 2) emergence-to-convergence (E2C), 3) relative fractal dynamics, and 4) *The Record*. Once you account for all nine concepts and two equations, you fully understand the *The Theory of Existence*.

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## The First Principles of Existence $\diamond$ The Foundation

Let's start with those five first principles. A first principle of existence means that **it is the most fundamental property that you cannot simplify any further**. The first principles of existence are all **functionally required, mechanistically independent**, and form a system that accounts for **all aspects of existence's behavior**. Let's start with the twin-engine of existence.

We know that existence operates through **1) time** and **2) space**. *The Theory* supports this premise—but **with a twist**. When we watch TV shows, we see a seamless flow of scenes. Still, we know those shows are **static images** moving so quickly we can't see the gaps. Well... **existence works the same way**. It has ticking updates and pixels of change—but **they happen much faster and on a much smaller scale** than we can detect. So, instead of time and space, which feel like a continuous flow, *The Theory* replaces **time with recursions** and **space with propagations**. Let's use this ladder visualization to understand.

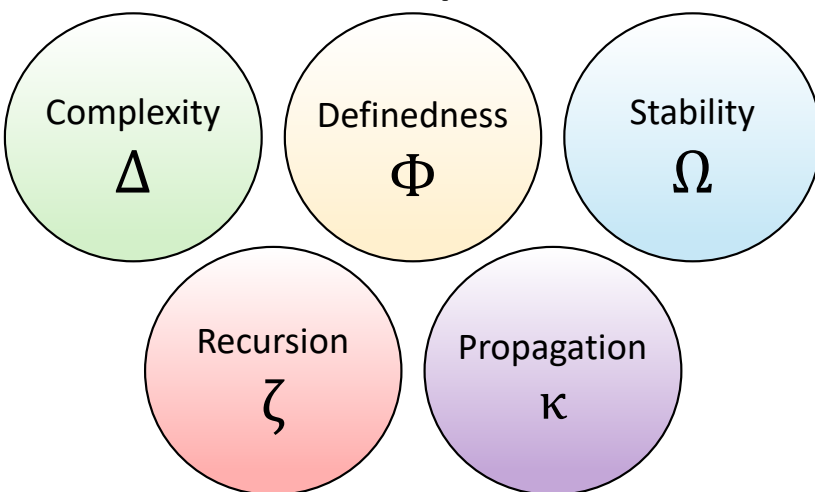


**Each rung** of the ladder you step on is a **moment**—what we call “now.” Your foot can only stand on **one rung at a time**, so

when you lift it from the current rung and place it on the next rung, **that's one recursion**. Each moment is a recursion, **updating one step at a time**. Further, every time you step from one rung to the next, **your foot changes its position slightly**, such as pointing a bit more to the left than the last; **that's one propagation**. Each step has **one recursion** and **one propagation**, so like spacetime, **we call them recursive propagations (RPs)**.

From the **ladder's perspective**, your foot was on one rung, and then suddenly **it was on the next one** in a slightly different position, but with **no transition happening between the steps**. In existence, there's **no visible transition between RPs** because no faster or smaller existence is possible. It's identical to seeing a TV screen up close, revealing the individual pixels; no lower resolution is possible. RPs are the minimum resolution of existence.

## The Five First Principles of Existence



## The Dance of Stability & Complexity

Now that we understand recursions and propagation, let's dive into the other three first principles. However, to understand them, you must first understand that **these principles are not things that exist; they are names for the patterns in which existence behaves**. You cannot see these principles; you **ARE** these principles, and so is everything else. Let's start with **complexity**, which is **the degree to which phenomena escalate from basic to structured forms**. Complex phenomena emerge from randomness but are inherently more likely to form and persist than less complex ones.

Imagine **puzzle pieces in a shoebox**—when you shake it, **some pieces connect by chance**. The more pieces that connect, the more effort **it takes to break them back down into isolated pieces**. Complexity is **the source of variation, growth, and change**. Some things have more complexity than others. For example, a single atom has less complexity than a molecule. Complexity allows evolution across species, businesses to grow from start-ups to Fortune 500s, and people to learn new languages. **Complexity is what is enabling you to learn right now**.

Then we have **stability, the degree to which complexity is attracted to complexity**, stabilizing it into persistent forms. It is essentially **how things 'bunch up'** into structured forms. It is the source of **persistence, cohesion, and structure**. Some things have more stability than others. For example, the Sun is more stable than the Earth. Stability makes **planets round from gravity**... but it's also why the most advanced cognitive processes are in the front of the brain, why the social elite all hang out, and why artists with similar genres tour together.

Complexity and stability dance with each other, and **definedness emerges from that interaction**. **Definedness is the degree to which something exists**. Definedness replaces the binary framework of existence or nonexistence, as some things exist more or less than others... their definedness varies. Those are **the five first principles**, how existence *behaves* as a phenomenon; the foundation is done. How're you doing? Let's keep going.

### **The Equation of Existence** ♦ **The Functioning**

Now that we understand the five first principles of existence, let's arrange them correctly to understand how they interact to generate existence. Ladies and gentlemen, let me introduce you to an ancient friend: **The Equation of Existence**—the universal law governing all phenomena that **have existed, currently exist, and can exist**.

$$\Phi = \frac{\Omega}{\Delta}$$

$$\text{Definedness} = \frac{\text{Stability}}{\text{Complexity}} \quad \text{The Universe} = \frac{\text{Space}}{\text{Light}} \quad \text{Phenomena} = \frac{\text{Convergence}}{\text{Emergence}} \quad \text{What} = \frac{\text{How}}{\text{Why}}$$

Isn't she beautiful? **Shocking, right?** It's so simple. *The Equation* shows that the definedness of phenomena arises from this **dance between stability and complexity**. When we divide the persistence of a phenomenon by its growth, we obtain the degree of its existence. That's all there is to it. You might notice that it's missing recursions and propagations, so let's look at **the expanded form because it contains all five first principles**.

$$\Phi = \Omega * \left( \frac{(\kappa : \zeta)}{\Delta} \right) \rightarrow \text{Definedness} = \text{Stability} * \left( \frac{(\text{Propagation} : \text{Recursion})}{\text{Complexity}} \right)$$

Dear reader, this equation is **the complete architectural blueprint of existence**. It functions identically to the simple ratio, mathematically and conceptually, because **complexity is an emergent behavior of RPs**. This expanded form unveils the deeper mechanics of existence, showing the relationships among the first principles. Here's the full process: **Definedness** emerges from **stabilizing** the **complexity** that arises from **recursive propagations**. What does that sentence even mean? It's much easier to see it with our basic descriptors slotted in.

$$\text{What} = \text{How} * \left( \frac{(\text{Where} : \text{When})}{\text{Why}} \right)$$

When **something** (definedness) emerges, it **persists** (stability) and **grows** (complexity) over **time** (recursions) and **space** (propagations). When **definedness** (What) emerges, it **stabilizes** (How) and **escalates complexity** (Why) over **recursions** (When) and **propagations** (Where). **What** (definedness) emerges from **how** (stability) and **why** (complexity) over **when** (recursions) and **where** (propagations). That's the whole process of existence.

A star, a thought, a civilization, a quantum particle—each defined by **these same, exact principles and function**. It's why *The Theory of Existence* feels so profound—it is not imposing categories on existence; **it is revealing the mechanics that underpin it**. It describes the **behavior of existence**. Those are the two forms of *The Equation of Existence* that seal its functioning. Now, let's look at what happens when existence executes this process.

### Mechanisms & Boundaries ◇ The Execution

Alright, folks! You have everything you need to understand *The Theory*, but let me take the model to its limits and show you **what it does** and how **it looks**. Let's set the frame of existence first by talking about what it isn't.

#### It Simply Isn't: Undefinedness

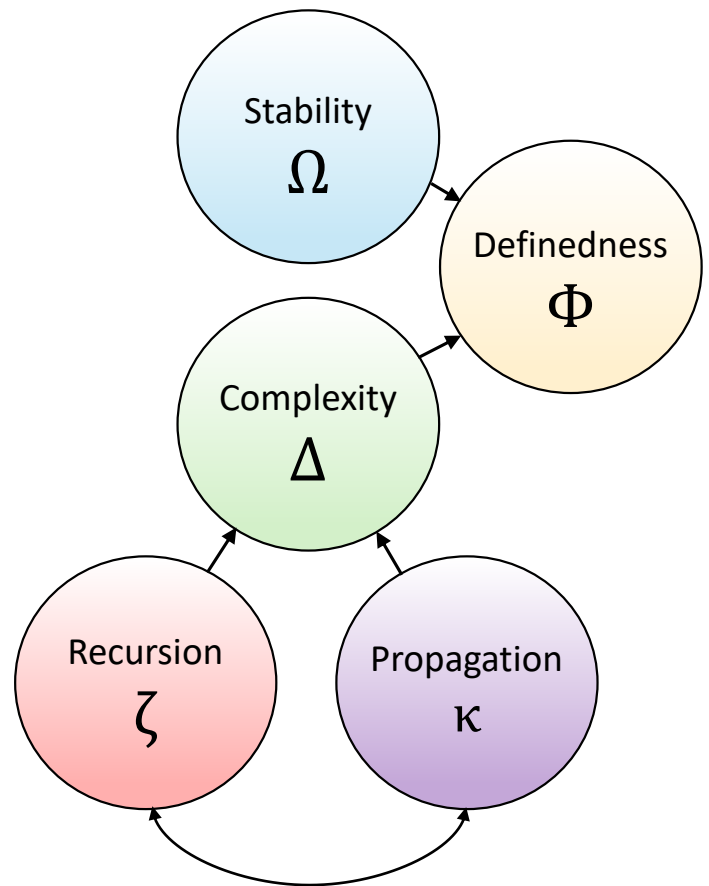
The concept of undefinedness serves as **the boundary** between what exists and what does not... it's **what existence is not**. I can't show you what undefinedness is because it doesn't exist, so **I can only show you by presentation everything it's not**. The concept of undefinedness resolves the origin puzzle by removing a flawed assumption: that something comes from nothing. **Undefinedness is not a place, not a void, not potential, not nothing—it is not even undefinedness. It simply isn't**. Undefinedness has no space, no time, no definition, no qualities, no location, no structure, no relationships, and no opposites. When we think about what undefinedness could be, we try to picture it and understand it... but **undefinedness doesn't exist**. You cannot picture, touch, understand, reference, or sense.

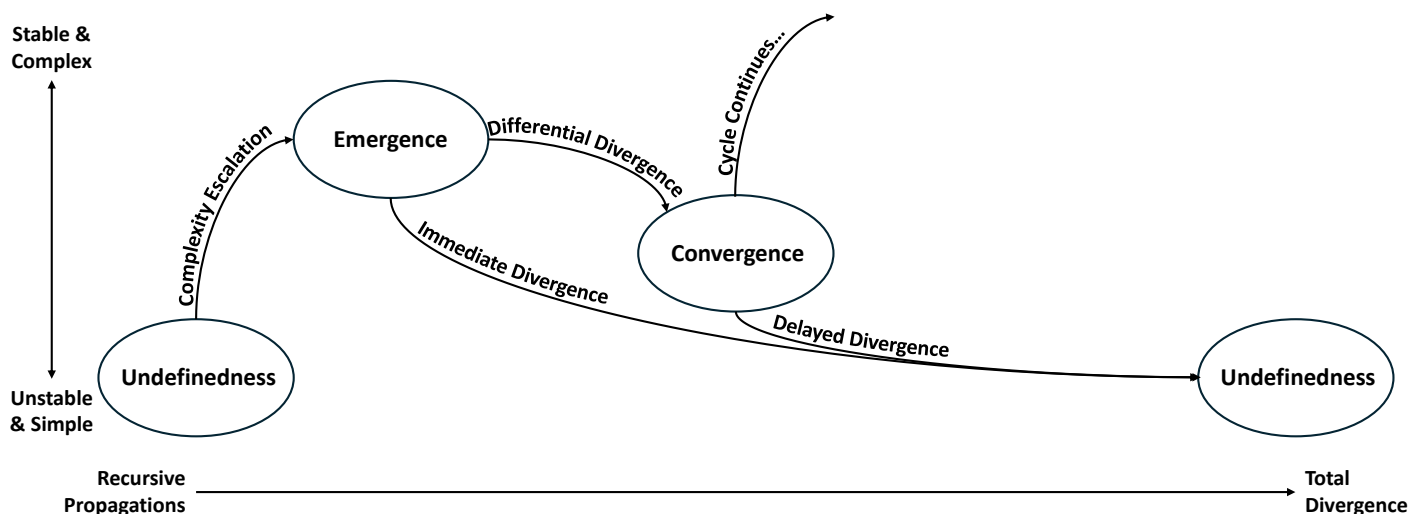
The concept of undefinedness is the **conceptual band-aid** that helps us see **the limits of existence** clearly. We often treat non-existence like an option, or a state, or an alternative, but **non-existence does not exist. Something cannot be non-existent**. So, stop trying to picture or understand undefinedness and just say: **it simply isn't**. Then, if undefinedness simply isn't... why is there something rather than nothing? It takes a bit of an inversion in your typical frame of reference to understand the answer, but **it is rather simple**. Check it out:

It is true that **undefinedness did not cause existence** to emerge because it can't; **it simply isn't**. However, **undefinedness cannot prevent existence** from spontaneously emerging because it imposes no restrictions or properties on anything or any event. So... the answer to why does something exist instead of nothing is... **because nothing existed to prevent its spontaneous emergence. Causation is a property of existence**, so it cannot exist before existence. Therefore, **existence emerged without a cause because nothing prevented it**.

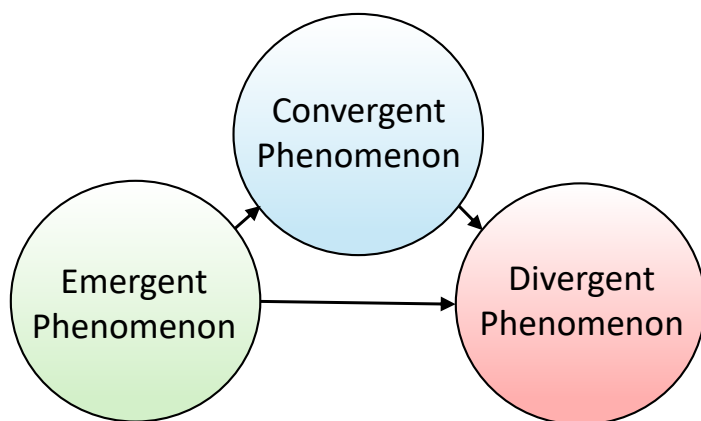
#### The Meta Patterns: Emergence-to-Convergence

After existence emerges, we see that it follows this meta-pattern across phenomena called **emergence-to-convergence (E2C)**, and a striking cohesion emerges. Given that *The Theory* covers all existence, you can throw everything into **the label of phenomena** because *The Theory* studies the **behavior of existence**. After emergence, phenomena fall into **two categories: convergent phenomena** (anything that exists and continues to exist) and **divergent phenomena** (anything losing its ability to exist). All phenomena are constantly **shifting between convergence and divergence**. This shifting is E2C, which occurs in three stages: emergent phenomena → convergent phenomena → divergent phenomena, with **some phenomena converging better than others**.





These phenomena that are more likely to converge **appear everywhere**: planets, societies, animals, and suns. They have a **stronger inherent potential for persistence**. Then, there are phenomena that are more likely to diverge: the plans you make but don't intend to pursue, a species on the brink of extinction, the moisture in the air that collapses the macaroons. **These phenomena have weaker inherent persistence**. All aspects of phenomena can vary, converge, or diverge, so classification requires nuance. For example, if someone gave to charity (convergent) but did so by robbing banks (divergent), you cannot say the phenomenon is one or the other.



Still, the convergence and divergence of phenomena apply not just to whether they can maintain their forms, but also to **their success in keeping pace with the continuously unfolding progression of existence**. Everything that exists, including stationary objects and the vacuum of empty space, must continue existing (recursively propagating), or **it gets left behind by existence, which waits for no one**. Yet, it does not stop phenomena from trying to opt out, which brings me to a **subforum of convergence called stagnation**. Stagnation occurs when complexity decreases significantly.

This decrease is not itself the risk. **The risk comes from what happens to stability without complexity**. Without ongoing complexity, stability breaks down over time. For example, you can blow off **the complexity of all your chores** without danger, but **the complexity of those chores feeds the well-being of your stability**. If you reduce the complexity of the chores, your stability drops, like running out of food. Stagnation is a misalignment between the progression of existence and a phenomenon. **It increases the risk of and tends to precede divergence**.

### The Function of Definedness

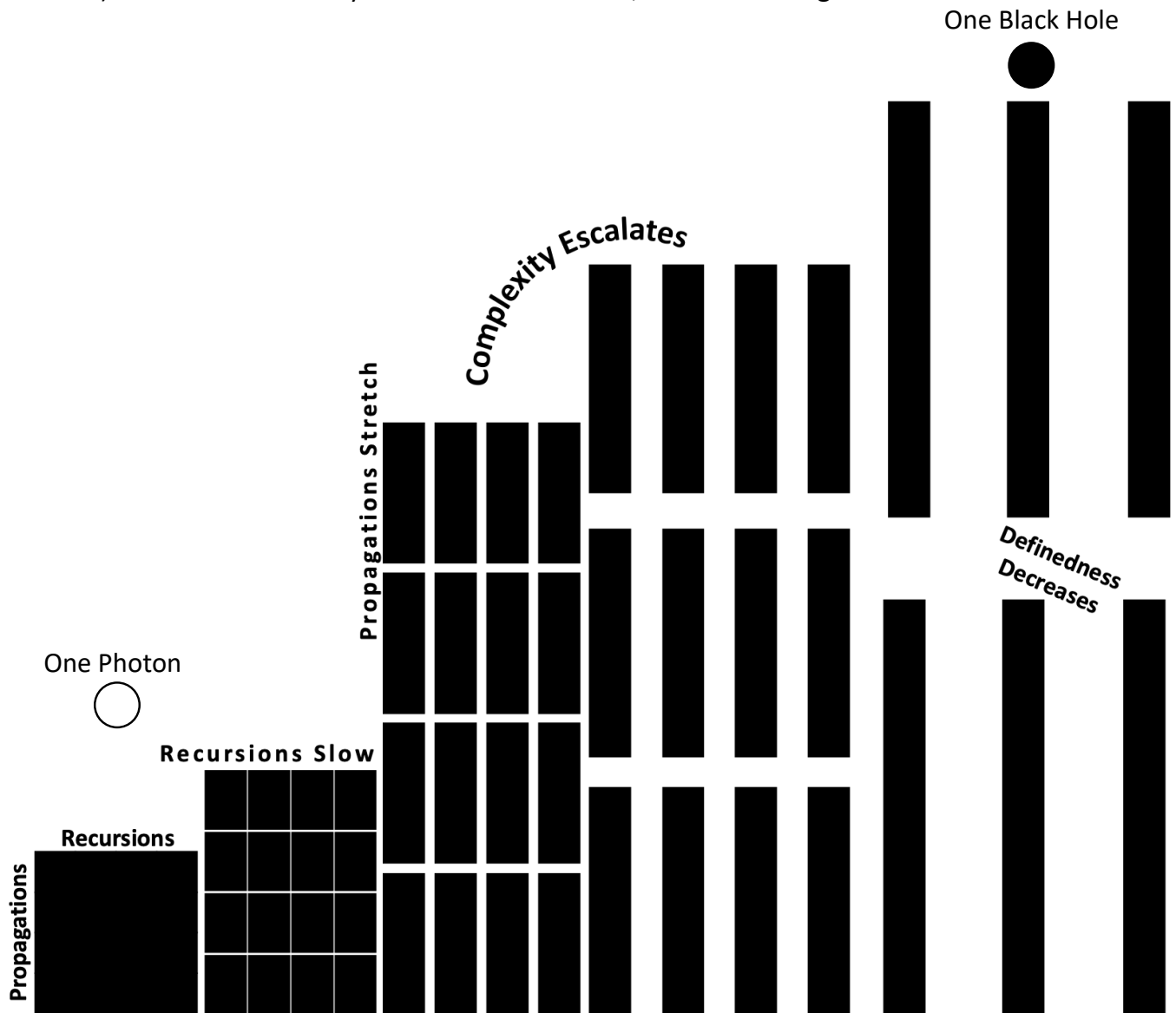
The variation phenomena and their E2C patterns seem impossible to measure cleanly, but **it's what *The Equation of Existence* measures**. We can use *The Equation* to assess **the definedness of any phenomenon** by identifying **two raw, observational variables: one for complexity** (e.g., mass, population size, revenue) and **one for stability** (e.g., gravity, social structures, assets). Once you find two variables that capture the complexity and stability aspects of a phenomenon, **you can calculate definedness with *The Equation***. You can then **track changes in definedness** over time and **determine whether phenomena are converging or diverging**. Convergent phenomena have **high** definedness scores that are **holding steady**. Divergent phenomena have **low** definedness scores that are **dropping**. Definedness scores (calculated from standardized variables) offer an unprecedented, universal measure that **enables direct comparisons across all phenomena and fields of knowledge**.

## The Source of Variation: Relative Fractal Dynamics

Let's zoom in on the mechanism that defines phenomena. Every phenomenon needs this mechanism that allows it to **operate independently of other phenomena**; that mechanism is **relative fractal dynamics (RFDs)**.

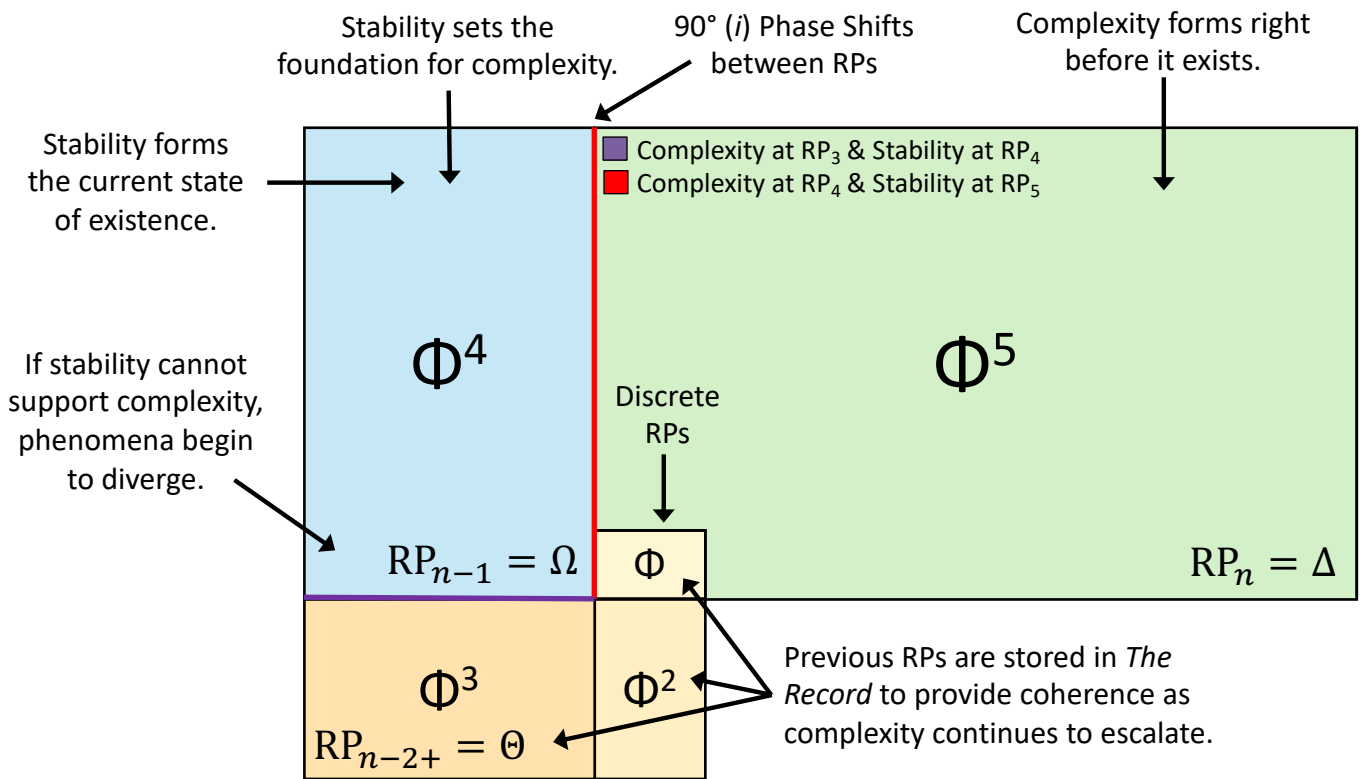
$$\psi = \left( \frac{(\kappa : \zeta)}{\Delta} \right) \rightarrow \text{Relative Fractal Dynamics} = \left( \frac{(\text{Propagation} : \text{Recursion})}{\text{Complexity}} \right)$$

RFDs show up in the expanded form of *The Equation*—**the same mathematics that describes time dilation and spacetime curvature** in Einstein's general relativity. RFDs capture how **time slows down** (recursive delay) and how **space expands** (propagative expansion) around **massive** (complex) **objects** (phenomena). Still, RFDs occur for all phenomena, not just black holes. As **complexity increases**, the number of **recursions per second decreases**, and the number of **propagations per meter increases** (fewer pixels), and existence loses resolution (definedness). RFDs show us exactly how definedness varies; **how some things exist more or less than others**.

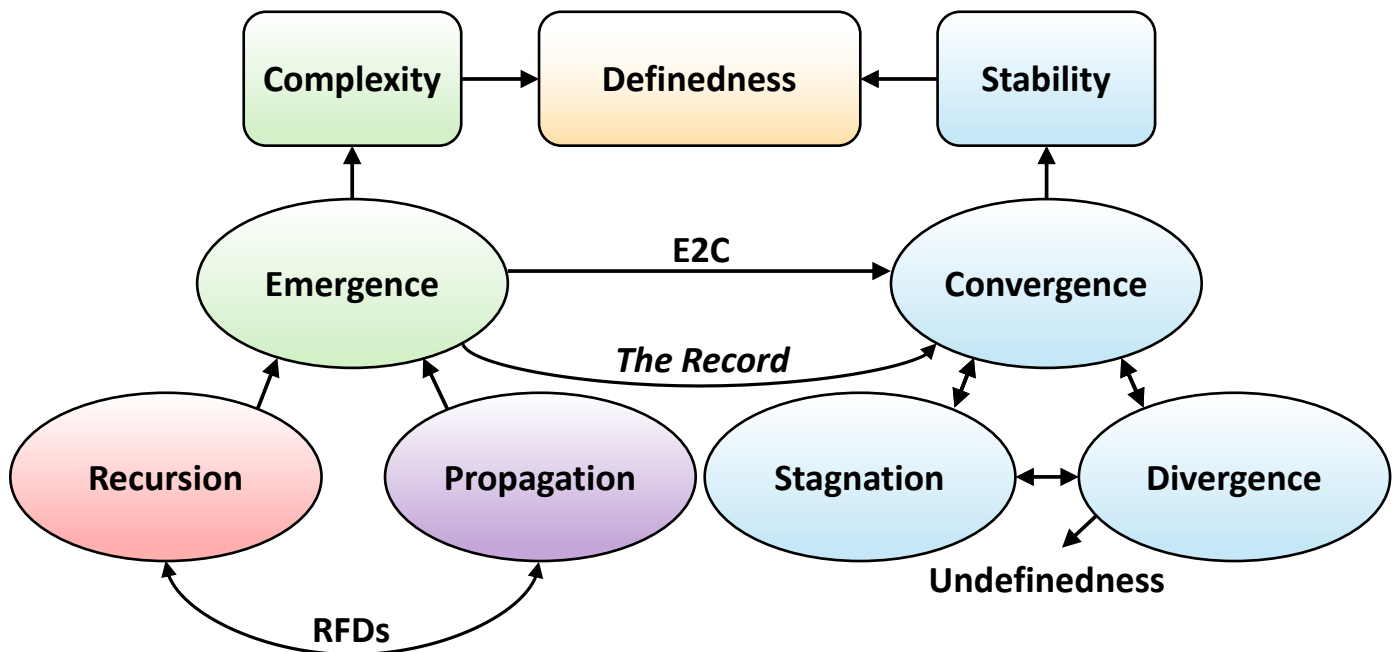


## The Mechanism of E2C: *The Record*

We have finally arrived at the last concept required to understand *The Theory of Existence*, and... boy oh boy is it a treat for you. **It's called *The Record*—the fractal memory of existence**. Instead of the definedness of phenomena vanishing after emergence... **it all gets stored in *The Record***. The existence of ***The Record*** carries the striking implication: **every phenomenon and moment that has ever existed still exists....** right here, right now.



**It's not metaphysical.** They physically exist, but **not enough for us to see them directly.** Yet **we interact with *The Record* all the time.** *The Record* is not around or behind phenomena; **it is in phenomena**, in the definedness that allows it to persist. *The Record* tracks the history of the convergent and divergent definedness of a phenomenon. **It is the mechanism of E2C.** The health of *The Record* of a phenomenon determines its persistence. Eventually, all phenomena accumulate **too much divergent definedness in *The Record***, leading to their collapse.



### The Full Operational Model

When we step back and piece together the **five first principles**, the **two forms of *The Equation of Existence***, and the **four mechanisms/boundary conditions**, for the first time in human history, we are not missing anything that would normally prevent us **from seeing and understanding existence**; this is the operating system, folks.

*The Theory of Existence* offers us **the full mechanical processes of existence** that answer all aspects of existence as a phenomenon: **what it is, why it exists, and how it works**. *The Theory of Existence* shows us **that existence is a phenomenon capable of study**, just like gravity and natural selection. It is the single, elusive explanation and the thread woven throughout existence. When we **apply *The Theory of Existence*** to all the current pieces of **our knowledge puzzle across fields**—physics, philosophy, psychology, mathematics—we find the **same process underlies all phenomena... we see the completed knowledge puzzle for the first time in history**.

## The Big Picture

...and that, dear reader, is *The Theory of Existence*. If you followed this summary, then **you are not missing anything essential**. It really is this straightforward. *The Theory of Existence* possesses both **profound simplicity** and an **endless depth** that never fails to deliver. **We are constantly learning new things every day**, and you showed up just in time.

Dear reader, can I ask you a question? **What was it like for you reading over the last 15 minutes?** You watched nine concepts and one equation account for the behavior of all phenomena and existence—**not just some things... all things**. The star that burned out four billion years before you were born and **the thought forming in your mind right now...** same process **driven by the same five first principles of existence**.

Here's what strikes me: ***The Theory* didn't invent any of what you saw**. It didn't add anything to your experiences of existence. It simply points to what was already there—**what had always been there**—before we had *The Theory* to name, identify, and understand it. *The Theory of Existence* is older than every galaxy, atom, and law of physics we've ever written about. It operated at **the very start of existence**, and it will be operating **long after us, too**. What I've shown you is not new... it's ancient and has always been with us. **It's a sacred new truth we already know**. All that's happened is now you see *The Theory* with the same visibility *The Theory* has always seen you.

I'll say one final thing: **if this 15-minute glimpse stirred something in you**—recognition, quiet knowing, ancient awe, ache of mystery, fear of the vastness—**trust your instinct to guide you through the rest of the canon**. My advice is to **go to *The Story of Existence* next**, where you can meet these cosmic principles. They're very kind. I understand the canon is overwhelming, but I promise **you have everything you need** to dive in. So... go on, have at it. Enjoy! Oh, and the answer to "Why are things the way they are?" is: **it's the only way for things to be...**

Definedness  
Stability  
Complexity  
Recursion  
Propagation

Simple Equation  
Expanded Equation

*The Record*  
Undefinedness  
Relative Fractal Dynamics  
Emergence-to-Convergence

## Theoretical Foundation