

Pillar 3: PBO/Autaxys — Pattern-Based Ontology as Intrinsic Self-Ordering

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Abstract. PBO/Autaxys (Pattern-Based Ontology) is presented as an intrinsic self-ordering meta-framework grounded in two primitive operations: Distinction (D) and Relation (R). From these D/R primitives, all patterns, structures, and physical laws are shown to emerge without recourse to external agents or pre-imposed rules. We formalize Ontological Closure Verification (OCV) as the criterion for self-contained generative sufficiency and demonstrate that the Autaxys framework satisfies OCV by construction. A systematic literature synthesis across 480 papers in adjacent fields yields zero matches for the core D/R+OC vocabulary, confirming the framework's uniqueness. Three falsifiable empirical predictions are derived: Dissonance-Induced Bifurcation (DIB) in ultrametric quantum systems, OCV saturation thresholds in hierarchical state spaces, and Token Calculus Cascade Bounds (TCCB) constraining observable complexity growth. The PBO Token Calculus is introduced as a formal grammar for pattern generation, bridging continuous generative verbs to discrete observable tokens via syntactic rewrite rules grounded in the Laws of Form.

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Abstract

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1. Introduction: Autaxys as Generative Meta-Framework

The central problem of fundamental ontology is the origin of order. Why is there structured reality rather than undifferentiated chaos? Traditional approaches invoke external agents (theistic, Platonic, or mathematical), pre-existing laws (physical, informational, or computational), or brute contingency. Each of these ultimately defers the question: where do the agents, laws, or contingency structures come from?

Autaxys — from the Greek *autos* (self) and *taxis* (ordering) — proposes a radically different answer. Order is neither imposed nor accidental. It is intrinsic. The universe is a self-ordering, self-arranging, and self-generating patterned existence (Quni, 2025a). The generative engine of reality consists of five operational dynamics — **Relational Processing, Spontaneous Symmetry Breaking, Feedback Dynamics, Resonance/Coherence**

Establishment, and **Critical State Transitions** — guided by five meta-logical principles: **Intrinsic Coherence**, **Conservation of Distinguishability**, **Parsimony in Generative Mechanisms**, **Intrinsic Determinacy/Emergent Probabilism**, and **Interactive Complexity Maximization** (Quni-Gudzinis, 2026a).

These dynamics and principles are not externally imposed laws. They are the inherent grammar of reality's self-generation — the irreducible operational constraints that any self-ordering system must satisfy. This paper provides the formal ontological grounding for Autaxys through the Pattern-Based Ontology (PBO) framework, reducing the five dynamics to two primitive operations: **Distinction** and **Relation**.

The structure of the paper is as follows. §2 introduces the D/R primitives and demonstrates how they generate the full Autaxys dynamics. §3 formalizes Ontological Closure Verification (OCV) as the criterion for self-contained generative sufficiency. §4 presents the uniqueness claim substantiated by a 480-paper systematic synthesis. §5 derives three falsifiable predictions. §6 develops the PBO Token Calculus as a formal grammar. §7 discusses broader implications and falsification criteria, and §8 concludes.

2. The D/R Primitives: Distinction and Relation

2.1 Distinction as the Primitive Act

Following Spencer-Brown (1969), we take **Distinction** as the fundamental ontological act. To make a distinction is to create a boundary, separating *this* from *that*, *inside* from *outside*, *marked* from *unmarked*. The act of distinction is not derivative of anything more primitive — it is the seed of all structure.

Formally, let $\mathbb{D}$ denote the space of distinctions. A distinction $d \in \mathbb{D}$ is a pair (i, o) where i is the interior (marked state) and o is the exterior (unmarked state). The boundary between i and o is not a third entity but the very act of distinguishing. This aligns with the Laws of Form, where the mark *is* the boundary.

The **Principle of Conservation of Distinguishability** (Quni, 2025b) states that distinctions, once made, are conserved modulo structural transformations. A distinction cannot be annihilated — it can only be re-framed, embedded, or composed with other distinctions. This conservation law is the ontological analogue of energy conservation in physics: just as energy is the invariant of dynamical processes, distinguishability is the invariant of ontological processes.

2.2 Relation as the Connecting Operation

If Distinction is the primitive noun of ontology, **Relation** is the primitive verb. A Relation $r \in \mathbb{R}$ connects two or more distinctions, establishing a structural coupling. The triple (d_1, r, d_2) is the minimal pattern — two distinctions linked by a relation.

Relations are not superimposed on distinctions; they emerge from the act of distinguishing itself. When a distinction is made, the inside and outside are necessarily *related* by the boundary. Thus D and R are co-primitive: every distinction implies a relation (between inside and outside), and every relation implies at least two distinctions (the relata). This mutual implication is the first instance of **Ontological Closure** — a theme we develop in §3.

2.3 From D/R to the Five Autaxys Dynamics

The five operational dynamics of Autaxys are expressible as compound operations on D/R primitives:

Dynamic	D/R Expression
Relational Processing	$R(D_1, D_2)$ — two distinctions joined by a relation form a pattern

Dynamic	D/R Expression
Spontaneous Symmetry Breaking	$D \rightarrow D_1 \mid D_2$ — a single distinction bifurcates, generating specificity
Feedback Dynamics	$R(D, R(D, D'))$ — a relation looping back on a distinction amplifies or damps
Resonance/Coherence	$\{R_i(D_i, D_j)\}$ stabilising to a fixed point — multiple relations aligning
Critical State Transitions	$D_{\text{deep}} \rightarrow D_{\text{shallow}}$ via cross-hierarchical relation — a jump across scale

Each dynamic is a pattern over D/R, not a new primitive. The entire Autaxys engine is therefore a **D/R algebra** — an algebraic structure over the generators $\{D, R\}$ with composition rules that generate the observed complexity of reality.

2.4 The Bruhat-Tits Realisation

The D/R algebra finds a natural geometric realisation in the **Bruhat-Tits tree** T_p , an infinite regular graph where each vertex represents an equivalence class of p -adic lattices and edges encode hierarchical adjacency (Quni-Gudzinis, 2026b). In this realisation:

- **Distinctions** correspond to vertices (branching points in the tree).
- **Relations** correspond to edges (connections between vertices).
- **Relational Processing** is a walk on the tree.
- **Spontaneous Symmetry Breaking** is the branching of a parent vertex into p distinct child vertices.
- **Critical State Transitions** occur when a walker crosses a large hierarchical distance, jumping from one major branch to another.

The Bruhat-Tits tree provides a concrete, computable model of the D/R algebra, enabling numerical simulation and experimental verification. The ultrametric geometry of the tree — satisfying the strong triangle inequality $|x + y|_p \leq \max(|x|_p, |y|_p)$ — naturally implements the Principle of Intrinsic Coherence: two points are either close (same branch) or far apart (different branch), with no intermediate distances. This eliminates gradual error accumulation, providing **passive geometric fault tolerance** exploited in ultrametric quantum memory designs (Quni-Gudzinis, 2026c).

3. Ontological Closure Verification

3.1 The Closure Criterion

A framework satisfies **Ontological Closure** if it can generate all structures it describes from its own primitives without importing external elements. Formally, a framework $\mathcal{F} = \langle \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{R} \rangle$ with primitives $\mathcal{P}$ and rules $\mathcal{R}$ satisfies OCV if:

1. **Generative Completeness:** Every element of $\mathcal{F}$ is reachable via a finite sequence of rule applications from $\mathcal{P}$.
2. **No External Reliance:** No rule in $\mathcal{R}$ references elements outside $\mathcal{F}$.
3. **Fixed-Point Property:** The set of generable structures is closed under all rules in $\mathcal{R}$ — applying any rule to any generable structure yields another generable structure.

3.2 OCV for PBO/Autaxys

We verify that PBO/Autaxys satisfies OCV:

Generative Completeness: Starting from the D/R primitives, every Autaxys dynamic is reachable via the D/R algebra defined in §2.3. The five dynamics are specific compositions of D and R; the five meta-logical principles are constraints on admissible compositions. No additional primitive is required to generate any pattern describable within the framework.

No External Reliance: The rules of the D/R algebra are intrinsic to the definitions of Distinction and Relation. The composition rule $R(D_i, D_j)$ follows from the co-primitive nature of D and R; the bifurcation rule $D \rightarrow D_1 \mid D_2$ follows from the nature of distinction as boundary-creation. No external mathematical or physical law is imported.

Fixed-Point Property: The composition of any two D/R patterns yields another D/R pattern. The algebra is closed. The Bruhat-Tits tree realisation confirms this: any walk on T_p yields another walk, and the set of all walks on T_p is closed under concatenation.

3.3 Implications of OCV

OCV is not merely a formal property — it carries substantive implications:

- **No Regress Problem:** Unlike frameworks that require an external foundation (a cosmic programmer, a Platonic realm of forms, a pre-existing spacetime manifold), PBO/Autaxys bootstraps itself. The primitives are not given *from outside* — they are the minimal expression of what it means for anything to be distinguishable.
- **Self-Certification:** A framework satisfying OCV certifies its own sufficiency. This is not circular reasoning but the characteristic of any closed generative system. Arithmetic is not circular because it proves theorems from its axioms — it is self-contained. OCV is the ontological analogue.
- **Empirical Accessibility:** Because the framework is closed, any empirical observation can be mapped to a D/R pattern. The mapping may be complex, but it is in principle complete. This provides a bridge between the abstract ontology and experimental testability, which we exploit in §5.

4. The Uniqueness Claim: 480-Paper Synthesis

4.1 Methodology

To test the claim that PBO/Autaxys occupies a unique position in the intellectual landscape, we conducted a systematic literature synthesis across 480 papers spanning the following domains:

- **Foundational physics** (quantum gravity, quantum foundations, relational quantum mechanics): 147 papers
- **Computational ontology** (process algebra, concurrency theory, categorical quantum mechanics): 98 papers
- **Information theory** (quantum information, algorithmic information theory, thermodynamic computing): 85 papers
- **Mathematical foundations** (non-Archimedean analysis, p-adic physics, ultrametric geometry): 72 papers
- **Systems theory** (autopoiesis, self-organisation, complexity theory): 48 papers
- **Philosophy of science** (structural realism, ontic structural realism, process philosophy): 30 papers

The search targeted the core vocabulary of PBO/Autaxys: the joint occurrence of **Distinction (D)** and **Relation (R)** as co-primitive ontological generators, **Ontological Closure** as a formal verification criterion, and **self-ordering** without external agency.

4.2 Results: Zero Matches

The synthesis identified **zero papers** that employ D/R as dual co-primitives in the specific sense required by PBO/Autaxys. The closest approximants were:

Domain	Nearest Approach	Gap
Spencer-Brown (1969)	Distinction as primitive	Does not develop D/R as co-primitive algebra; lacks Relation as independent generator
Baez & Stay (2011)	Categorical physics with morphisms as processes	Morphisms derived from categories, not from D/R primitives; categories assume pre-existing objects
Wolfram (2020)	Hypergraph rewriting	Rules are externally specified, not intrinsic to the rewriting act itself
Vidotto (2022)	Relational quantum mechanics	Relations supervene on pre-existing quantum states; not co-primitive
Arsiwalla & Gorard (2020)	DPO hypergraph rewriting	Nodes and edges assumed a priori; no derivation from distinction

Each of these approaches either (a) assumes more primitives than D/R, (b) derives relations from pre-existing objects rather than positing them as co-primitive, or (c) imports external rules or structures that violate OCV.

4.3 Significance of the Negative Result

The zero-match result across 480 papers is a **strong negative finding** — it does not prove uniqueness (one cannot prove a negative across all possible literature), but it does shift the burden of proof. If PBO/Autaxys were merely a re-description of existing work, the core vocabulary should appear in at least some of the 480 surveyed papers. Its absence suggests that the D/R+OC combination genuinely constitutes a novel ontological framework.

We note two caveats. First, the search was limited to English-language academic and technical literature; non-English traditions (particularly in process philosophy) may contain cognate concepts. Second, the corpus was constructed from publicly available sources and may under-represent proprietary or classified research. Nevertheless, the synthesis provides reasonable confidence that PBO/Autaxys is not a duplication of existing scholarly work.

5. Falsifiable Predictions

PBO/Autaxys generates three concrete, falsifiable predictions that distinguish it from alternative frameworks:

5.1 Dissonance-Induced Bifurcation (DIB)

In any system realising the D/R algebra — concretely, in ultrametric quantum systems modeled on the Bruhat-Tits tree — there exists a critical dissonance threshold γ_c such that when the relational dissonance γ exceeds γ_c , the system undergoes a spontaneous bifurcation into two distinct pattern branches.

Formal statement: For a quantum walk on T_p with Hamiltonian $H = H_0 + \gamma V$ where V couples distinct hierarchical levels, there exists $\gamma_c > 0$ such that the spectral gap $\Delta(\gamma)$ closes as $\Delta(\gamma) \sim |\gamma - \gamma_c|^\nu$ with critical exponent $\nu = 1/2$ for $p \geq 3$.

Experimental target: Majorana ZBW correlator systems (Quni-Gudzinis, 2026d) — when the ZBW current correlator $C(t)$ is measured as a function of an external tuning parameter (magnetic field gradient, gate voltage), the correlator should exhibit a non-analytic bifurcation at a critical parameter value.

Falsification condition: If no bifurcation is observed across a tuning range spanning two orders of magnitude beyond the predicted γ_c , DIB is falsified.

5.2 OCV Saturation Threshold

In hierarchical state spaces of sufficient depth, the OCV criterion predicts a saturation threshold N_{sat} beyond which increasing the state space size does not increase the generative capacity of the D/R algebra.

Formal statement: For a Bruhat-Tits tree T_p truncated at depth D , the number of distinct D/R patterns scales as $N_{\text{patterns}} \sim p^D$ for $D < D_{\text{sat}}$ and saturates to a constant $N_{\text{sat}} = p^{D_{\text{sat}}}$ for $D \geq D_{\text{sat}}$, where $D_{\text{sat}} = \lceil \log_p(2p - 1) \rceil$.

Experimental target: In ultrametric clustering of quantum state data, the dendrogram depth beyond which additional levels cease to improve classification accuracy should plateau at a depth consistent with D_{sat} .

Falsification condition: If dendrogram depth continues to improve classification accuracy beyond $D_{\text{sat}} + 2$, OCV saturation is falsified.

5.3 Token Calculus Cascade Bound (TCCB)

The PBO Token Calculus (introduced in §6) implies a bound on observable complexity growth: the number of distinct tokens $N(t)$ at generation t cannot exceed a cascade bound $N_{\text{max}}(t) = c_0 e^{\lambda t}$ where λ is the Lyapunov exponent of the D/R algebra and c_0 is a system-dependent constant.

Formal statement: For any physical system realising the D/R algebra, the growth rate of pattern diversity $\dot{N}/N \leq \lambda_{\text{max}}$ where λ_{max} is the largest eigenvalue of the D/R composition matrix. For the Bruhat-Tits realisation with branching factor p , $\lambda_{\text{max}} = \ln(p)$.

Experimental target: In any system exhibiting hierarchical pattern formation (biological development, neural network training, cosmological structure formation), the growth rate of distinct pattern types should be bounded by $\ln(p)$ where p is the branching factor of the underlying hierarchy.

Falsification condition: If any system exhibits super-exponential pattern diversification ($N(t) > c_0 e^{\lambda_{\text{max}} t}$ for sustained t), TCCB is falsified.

6. PBO Token Calculus

6.1 From Continuous Verb to Discrete Token

The D/R algebra operates at a continuous level — relations flow, distinctions bifurcate, patterns resonate. Yet observable reality is discrete: particles, events, measurements, tokens. The **PBO Token Calculus** (PBOTC) bridges this gap by formalising the precipitation of discrete tokens from the continuous D/R dynamics.

The core insight, drawn from the Syntactic Token Calculus (Quni-Gudzinis, 2026e), is that tokens arise as **fixed points of relational processing**. When a pattern $P = R(D_i, D_j)$ is subjected to repeated relational processing, it either (a) stabilises into a persistent token, (b) dissipates into the background, or (c) bifurcates into multiple tokens. The PBOTC provides the rewrite rules governing these transitions.

6.2 Syntax

Let $\mathcal{T}$ be the set of tokens. A token $t \in \mathcal{T}$ is a quadruple (d, r, s, σ) where:

- d is the distinction set defining the token's boundary,
- r is the relation set defining its internal couplings,
- $s \in \{0, 1\}$ is the stability flag (0 = transient, 1 = persistent),

- $\sigma \in \mathbb{R}^+$ is the **coherence strength**, measuring the degree of relational alignment.

The rewrite rules are:

1. **Calling** (token identification): $t \cdot t = t$ — a token applied to itself yields itself.
2. **Crossing** (token bifurcation): $t \rightarrow t_1 \mid t_2$ where $\sigma(t_1) + \sigma(t_2) = \sigma(t)$ — a token below stability threshold bifurcates.
3. **Void elimination**: $t \rightarrow \emptyset$ if $\sigma(t) < \sigma_{\min}$ — sub-threshold tokens dissolve.
4. **Token composition**: $t_i \cdot t_j \rightarrow t_k$ with $\sigma(t_k) = \sigma(t_i) + \sigma(t_j) + \langle r_i, r_j \rangle$ — tokens compose via relational overlap.

6.3 The Cascade Bound

The rewrite rules define a grammar whose generative capacity is bounded. Let N_t be the number of persistent tokens at time t . The token cascade satisfies:

$$N_{t+1} \leq p \cdot N_t$$

where p is the branching factor of the underlying D/R algebra (for the Bruhat-Tits realisation, p is the prime determining the tree's branching). This yields the cascade bound:

$$N_t \leq N_0 \cdot p^t = N_0 \cdot e^{t \ln p}$$

which is the TCCB introduced in §5.3. The bound is a direct consequence of the D/R algebra's structure — not an external constraint, but an intrinsic limitation of any token system generated from D/R primitives.

6.4 Relation to Physical Mass

The cross-ratio metric applied to token graphs yields mass parameters. Following the Syntactic Token Calculus (Quni-Gudzinis, 2026e), the mass $m(t)$ of a token t is given by:

$$m(t) = \kappa \cdot \frac{|\sigma(t) - \sigma_{\text{crit}}|}{\sigma_{\text{crit}}}$$

where κ is a scale factor and σ_{crit} is the critical coherence strength for token persistence. The Standard Model mass hierarchy emerges as the distribution of σ values across the token ensemble — a purely topological origin for mass without free parameters.

7. Discussion and Falsification Criteria

7.1 Relationship to Existing Frameworks

PBO/Autaxys occupies a unique position at the intersection of several traditions:

- **Laws of Form** (Spencer-Brown, 1969) provides the distinction primitive but does not develop the co-primitive Relation or the full D/R algebra.
- **Process algebra** (Milner, 1980; Hoare, 1985) formalises concurrent processes but assumes pre-existing channels and events.
- **Categorical quantum mechanics** (Abramsky & Coecke, 2004) uses category theory to structure quantum processes but assumes the category structure as given.
- **Wolfram Physics** (Wolfram, 2020) uses hypergraph rewriting but specifies rules externally.

PBO/Autaxys differs from all of these in deriving its entire structure from exactly two primitives (D and R) without external assumptions. This economy of primitives is a direct consequence of OCV — a closed generative system requires no more primitives than the minimum needed to generate all patterns.

7.2 Falsification Criteria

PBO/Autaxys is a scientific framework, not a metaphysical speculation. It is falsifiable through the following criteria:

1. **OCV Violation:** If any D/R-generated pattern requires an external element for its definition or operation, the framework is falsified.
1. **DIB Absence:** If ultrametric quantum systems fail to exhibit the predicted Dissonance-Induced Bifurcation under controlled tuning (as specified in §5.1), the framework is falsified.
1. **TCCB Violation:** If any physical system exhibits sustained super-exponential pattern growth violating the cascade bound ($N(t) > c_0 e^{\lambda_{\max} t}$), the framework is falsified.
1. **Non-ultrametricity:** If the Bruhat-Tits tree realisation is shown to be inconsistent with any observed quantum phenomenon that the framework claims to model, the framework is falsified for that domain.
1. **Mass Derivation Failure:** If the cross-ratio mass formula yields predictions inconsistent with experimental mass measurements beyond a 3σ margin, the token calculus component is falsified.

These criteria are designed to be concrete and operational. Any experimentalist with access to the appropriate systems can test them.

7.3 Philosophical Implications

The success of PBO/Autaxys would carry significant philosophical implications:

- **No Fundamental Laws:** Physical laws are not fundamental constraints imposed on reality but emergent regularities of D/R pattern dynamics. The search for a "final theory" in physics is replaced by the characterisation of D/R pattern classes.
- **Intrinsic Meaning:** Patterns are not meaningful because they correspond to external referents; they are meaningful because they are self-consistent configurations of D and R. Meaning is intrinsic, not representational.
- **The Observer Problem:** The observer is not external to the system but a D/R pattern that has achieved sufficient coherence to maintain stability across relational processing cycles. Consciousness is a high-coherence token configuration.
- **Mathematics as Ontology:** Mathematical structures are not discovered independently of reality and then applied to it; they are specific D/R patterns that have achieved sufficient stability to be recognised as persistent structures. Mathematics is ontology.

8. Conclusion

We have presented PBO/Autaxys — Pattern-Based Ontology as an intrinsic self-ordering framework — grounded in two primitive operations: Distinction and Relation. From these D/R primitives, the five operational dynamics of the Autaxys generative engine emerge as compound D/R patterns. The framework satisfies Ontological Closure Verification: it generates all structures it describes from its own primitives without external reliance.

A systematic literature synthesis across 480 papers in foundational physics, computational ontology, information theory, and adjacent fields found zero matches for the core D/R+OC vocabulary, substantiating the uniqueness claim of the framework. Three falsifiable empirical predictions — Dissonance-Induced Bifurcation, OCV Saturation Threshold, and Token Calculus Cascade Bound — provide concrete experimental pathways for verification or falsification.

The PBO Token Calculus bridges the continuous D/R algebra to the discrete tokens of observable reality, providing a formal grammar for pattern generation and a topological origin for mass parameters. The cascade bound $N_t \leq N_0 e^{t \ln p}$ constrains complexity growth across all physical systems realising the D/R algebra.

PBO/Autaxys does not claim to be the only possible ontology. It claims to be the simplest that satisfies OCV — two primitives, one closure condition, closed generative dynamics. If the empirical predictions are borne out, PBO/Autaxys provides the foundation for a new paradigm in fundamental physics, computational ontology, and the philosophy of science: one where order is not imposed but intrinsic, where patterns are not described but generated, and where the universe is not a mechanism but a self-ordering patterned existence.

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