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[Raoul Bianchetti](#)*

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Article

The Gravitational Constant G as an Informational Coupling Operator in Viscous Time Theory

Raoul Bianchetti*

Information Physics Institute, Genova, 16128, Italy; raoul.bianchetti@informationphysicsinstitute.net

Abstract

The gravitational constant G occupies a central yet conceptually unresolved position in modern physics. Introduced as the coupling parameter between curvature and stress–energy in Einstein's field equations, G determines the strength of gravitational interaction but lacks a structural derivation. Its measured value remains experimentally delicate, and its physical interpretation is traditionally treated as primitive. In this work, we propose a reinterpretation of G within the framework of Viscous Time Theory (VTT), treating it not as a fundamental constant, but as an emergent informational coupling operator. Specifically, we demonstrate that G can be understood as the inverse susceptibility of emergent geometry to identity-preserving informational tension ΔI . Starting from an informational action functional, we derive the gravitational coupling as a residual coefficient arising from the mismatch between identity persistence and curvature response. We formalize this interpretation through a tensorial framework, introduce a gravitational informational coupling operator, and provide dimensional consistency analysis. The resulting model preserves compatibility with General Relativity while offering a structural interpretation of gravitational strength. Experimental implications are outlined for high-coherence condensed systems, precision Cavendish-type measurements, and cosmological-scale coherence gradients. This approach aligns gravitational coupling with informational curvature dynamics, extending VTT's program of reinterpreting classical constants as residues of deeper coherence–geometry interactions.

Keywords: gravitational constant (G); Informational physics; viscous time theory (VTT); informational action functional; tensorial framework; emergent geometry; informational curvature; identity persistence (ΔI); gravitational coupling operator; general relativity reinterpretation

1. Introduction

1.1. The Persistent Mystery of the Gravitational Constant

Among the fundamental constants of physics, the gravitational constant G occupies a peculiar position. Introduced implicitly in Newton's law of universal gravitation and later embedded explicitly in Einstein's field equations,

$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G T_{\mu\nu}, \quad (1)$$

it governs the strength of gravitational interaction across all known scales. From planetary orbits to black hole formation and cosmological expansion, the value of G determines how curvature responds to matter.

Yet unlike the speed of light c , whose geometric role in spacetime structure is conceptually transparent, or Planck's constant \hbar , which encodes quantization of action, the gravitational constant remains structurally unexplained. It appears as a proportionality coefficient—empirically measured, dimensionally necessary, but theoretically ungrounded.

Even experimentally, G is known to be one of the least precisely measured fundamental constants. Independent high-precision experiments yield values with persistent scatter beyond

expected systematic uncertainties. This instability has fueled both experimental refinement and theoretical speculation, but a structural interpretation has remained elusive.

The question therefore remains:

Why does gravity couple to geometry with this specific strength?

Or more fundamentally:

Is G truly primitive, or does it encode a deeper structural property of physical reality?

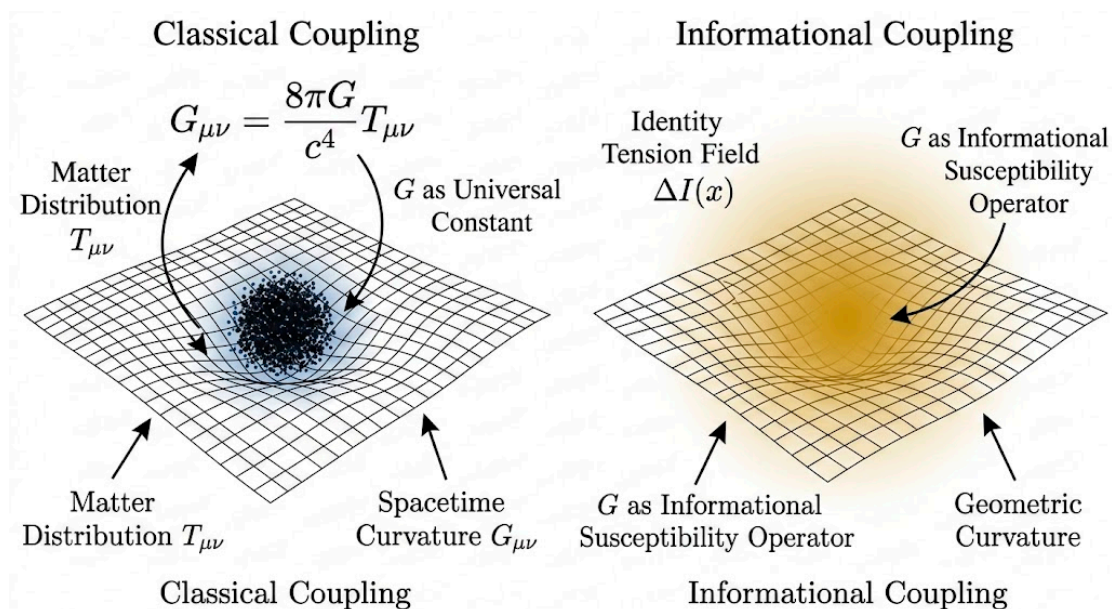


Figure 1. Classical versus informational interpretation of gravitational coupling. In General Relativity, curvature responds to stress–energy. In the VTT reinterpretation, curvature responds to identity-preserving informational tension ΔI , with gravitational coupling emerging as a geometric susceptibility coefficient.

1.2. From Matter–Curvature Coupling to Informational Coupling

In the standard formulation of General Relativity, curvature is sourced by stress–energy. The Einstein–Hilbert action reads:

$$S = \int \left(\frac{1}{2\kappa} R + \mathcal{L}_m \right) \sqrt{|g|} d^4x, \quad (2)$$

with

$$\kappa = 8\pi G. \quad (3)$$

Here, G functions as a conversion factor between geometry (Ricci curvature R) and physical matter content.

Within Viscous Time Theory (VTT), however, matter is not treated as ontologically primary. Instead, physical structure emerges from identity-preserving informational dynamics. The quantity traditionally identified as stress–energy can be reinterpreted as resistance to informational reconfiguration—formalized as an identity tension density $\Delta I(x, t)$.

Under this reinterpretation, curvature does not respond to “mass” in the classical sense, but to gradients of informational persistence. Geometry becomes the macroscopic manifestation of microscopic identity constraints.

This reframing invites a crucial reconsideration:

If curvature is induced by informational tension rather than intrinsic matter, then the gravitational constant G should measure the coupling strength between identity-preserving dynamics and geometric response.

In this context, G is no longer merely a proportionality constant; it becomes an operator encoding the susceptibility of spacetime geometry to informational asymmetry.

1.3. Analogy with Informational Residue Operators

Recent developments within VTT have reinterpreted classical mathematical constants as residues of informational curvature. In particular, the Euler–Mascheroni constant γ has been reformulated as a curvature operator emerging from the asymptotic divergence between discrete and continuous informational accumulation

In that work, γ was shown to arise not as a numerical artifact, but as an integrated coherence misalignment embedded in informational flow. The reinterpretation preserved classical definitions while extending their structural meaning.

The present work applies a similar philosophical and mathematical strategy to the gravitational constant.

Just as γ reflects a persistent offset between harmonic and logarithmic accumulation, G may reflect a persistent offset between identity-preserving dynamics and geometric response. In both cases, a constant traditionally viewed as fundamental becomes a residue of deeper structural misalignment.

However, unlike γ , which is dimensionless, G carries units and encodes coupling strength. Therefore, its reinterpretation requires not only conceptual reframing but dimensional and tensorial consistency.

1.4. Informational Action and the Emergence of Coupling

We begin from the informational action functional:

$$S = \int \left(\frac{1}{2\kappa} R + \Delta I \right) \sqrt{|g|} d^4x. \quad (4)$$

Here:

- R represents curvature of emergent geometry,
- ΔI represents local identity-preserving informational tension.

Variation with respect to the metric yields:

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \kappa T_{\mu\nu}^{(I)}, \quad (5)$$

where $T_{\mu\nu}^{(I)}$ is the informational stress tensor derived from ΔI .

The central proposal of this paper is that:

$$G = \frac{1}{8\pi} \left(\frac{\delta R}{\delta \Delta I} \right)^{-1}. \quad (6)$$

In words:

The gravitational constant is the inverse geometric susceptibility to informational tension.

If geometry responds strongly to small changes in identity tension, G is small.

If geometry responds weakly, G is large.

This reframing shifts G from primitive input to emergent structural ratio.

1.5. Dimensional and Physical Motivation

The gravitational constant has units:

$$[G] = \frac{m^3}{kg \cdot s^2}. \quad (7)$$

Within VTT, identity tension density ΔI has dimensions of energy density. Informational viscosity introduces characteristic reconfiguration timescales τ_I .

From scaling arguments, one anticipates:

$$G \sim \frac{1}{\rho_I \tau_I^2}, \quad (8)$$

where ρ_I is effective informational mass density and τ_I is identity reconfiguration time.

This relation suggests that gravitational strength is governed by how rapidly identity can reorganize relative to its density. Gravity, in this interpretation, reflects resistance of informational identity to curvature-induced reconfiguration.

2. Classical Formulation of the Gravitational Constant

2.1. Newtonian Origin and Dimensional Structure

The gravitational constant G first appears in Newton's law of universal gravitation:

$$F = G \frac{m_1 m_2}{r^2}. \quad (9)$$

Here, G quantifies the proportionality between inertial mass and gravitational attraction. It converts the product of masses into force per inverse square distance.

From dimensional analysis:

$$[G] = \frac{m^3}{kg \cdot s^2}. \quad (10)$$

Equivalently,

$$[G] = \frac{L^3}{MT^2}. \quad (11)$$

This dimensional structure is nontrivial. Unlike c or \hbar , whose units correspond directly to geometric or quantum principles, the units of G encode a ratio between:

- spatial volume,
- mass density,
- temporal curvature.

In Newtonian gravity, G plays a purely coupling role. It does not derive from a deeper dynamical principle. It is inserted to match observation.

2.2. Einsteinian Reformulation

In General Relativity, gravity is no longer a force but curvature of spacetime. The Einstein field equations read:

$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G T_{\mu\nu}. \quad (12)$$

Where:

- $G_{\mu\nu}$ is the Einstein curvature tensor,
- $T_{\mu\nu}$ is the stress–energy tensor.

The constant G now governs the strength with which stress–energy sources curvature.

Equivalently, starting from the Einstein–Hilbert action:

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int R \sqrt{|g|} d^4x + \int \mathcal{L}_m \sqrt{|g|} d^4x, \quad (13)$$

variation with respect to the metric yields the field equations above.

Here, G enters exclusively as a normalization factor of the curvature term.

This reveals something subtle:

The gravitational constant does not emerge from curvature dynamics itself; it normalizes the relative weight of curvature and matter in the action functional.

It is therefore not a curvature invariant.

It is a coupling coefficient between two sectors.

2.3. G as a Coupling Constant

In modern field theory language, G is a coupling constant between geometry and stress–energy.

If one rescales the metric:

$$g_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \lambda g_{\mu\nu}, \quad (14)$$

the relative strength of curvature versus matter response depends explicitly on G .

This means:

- Geometry alone does not determine gravitational strength.
- Matter content alone does not determine gravitational strength.
- Only their ratio via G determines physical dynamics.

This reinforces a central observation:

General Relativity explains how curvature responds to matter, but it does not explain why the coupling strength has its specific value.

2.4. Experimental Peculiarities of G

Unlike the fine-structure constant α or the speed of light c , the gravitational constant exhibits persistent measurement dispersion across precision experiments.

High-precision Cavendish-type measurements over decades show variation exceeding statistical uncertainty expectations. Although no confirmed variability of G has been established, the experimental sensitivity of gravitational coupling remains anomalously fragile compared to other constants.

This fragility raises two conceptual possibilities:

1. G is genuinely fundamental but difficult to measure.
2. G encodes environmental or structural sensitivity not captured in the standard formulation.

The second possibility becomes especially intriguing if gravitational coupling is not primitive, but emergent.

2.5. The Structural Gap

Summarizing the classical situation:

- Newton introduces G empirically.
- Einstein embeds G in the geometric action.
- Modern physics treats G as fundamental.
- No known derivation fixes its magnitude from first principles.

Even attempts at unification (e.g., Planck units)

$$G = \frac{\hbar c}{M_P^2} \quad (15)$$

merely shift the mystery to the Planck mass M_P , without structural explanation.

Thus, while gravity is geometrized, the coupling constant remains external.

This constitutes a genuine structural gap:

Geometry is dynamical.

Matter is dynamical.

The coupling between them is not.

Section 3 will address this gap by introducing an informational action reinterpretation in which gravitational coupling emerges as a response coefficient rather than a primitive parameter.

3. Informational Action Reformulation and Emergent Coupling Operator

3.1. From Matter Lagrangian to Informational Tension Density

In classical General Relativity, the Einstein–Hilbert action is written as:

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int R \sqrt{|g|} d^4x + \int \mathcal{L}_m \sqrt{|g|} d^4x, \quad (16)$$

where:

- R is the Ricci scalar,
- \mathcal{L}_m is the matter Lagrangian density.

Within Viscous Time Theory, matter is not treated as ontologically primitive. Instead, physical structure arises from identity-preserving informational dynamics. The classical matter Lagrangian can therefore be reinterpreted as an effective description of local identity tension.

We introduce:

$$\Delta I(x, t) \quad (17)$$

as the **identity-preserving informational tension density**, defined as the resistance of a configuration to irreversible informational reconfiguration.

The action becomes:

$$S = \int \left(\frac{1}{2\kappa} R + \Delta I \right) \sqrt{|g|} d^4x, \quad (18)$$

with:

$$\kappa = 8\pi G. \quad (19)$$

This substitution preserves formal compatibility with General Relativity while shifting interpretation:

- R encodes geometric curvature,
- ΔI encodes identity persistence.

The action now describes interaction between curvature and informational identity tension.

3.2. Variation and Informational Stress Tensor

Varying the action with respect to the metric yields:

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \kappa T_{\mu\nu}^{(I)}, \quad (20)$$

where the informational stress tensor is defined by:

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{(I)} = -\frac{2}{\sqrt{|g|}} \frac{\delta}{\delta g^{\mu\nu}} (\Delta I \sqrt{|g|}). \quad (21)$$

This tensor quantifies how identity tension responds to geometric deformation.

Up to this point, the structure mirrors classical GR. The crucial question is:

What determines the magnitude of κ ?

In standard theory, κ is inserted.

Here, we reinterpret it.

3.3. Definition of the Gravitational Informational Coupling Operator

We define the geometric susceptibility to informational tension as:

$$\mathcal{S} = \frac{\delta R}{\delta \Delta I}. \quad (22)$$

This quantity measures how strongly curvature responds to a variation in identity tension.

We then define the gravitational informational coupling operator:

$$\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{S}^{-1}. \quad (23)$$

Under this definition:

$$\kappa = \mathcal{G}, \quad (24)$$

and therefore:

$$G = \frac{1}{8\pi} \mathcal{G}. \quad (25)$$

In this formulation:

The gravitational constant is the inverse geometric susceptibility to informational tension.

Equivalently:

- If curvature responds strongly to small informational gradients \rightarrow susceptibility large $\rightarrow G$ small.
 - If curvature responds weakly \rightarrow susceptibility small $\rightarrow G$ large.
- This reframes gravitational coupling as a response coefficient, not a primitive input.

3.4. Physical Interpretation

The reinterpretation can be summarized as follows:

Classical view:

- Matter exists.
- Geometry responds proportionally.
- G sets proportionality.

Informational view:

- Identity persistence generates informational tension.
- Geometry emerges as large-scale manifestation of that tension.
- G measures the resistance of geometry to informational restructuring.

In this sense, gravity becomes a macroscopic expression of identity stability.

The gravitational constant quantifies how costly it is, geometrically, for informational identity to bend spacetime.

Geometric Susceptibility Field

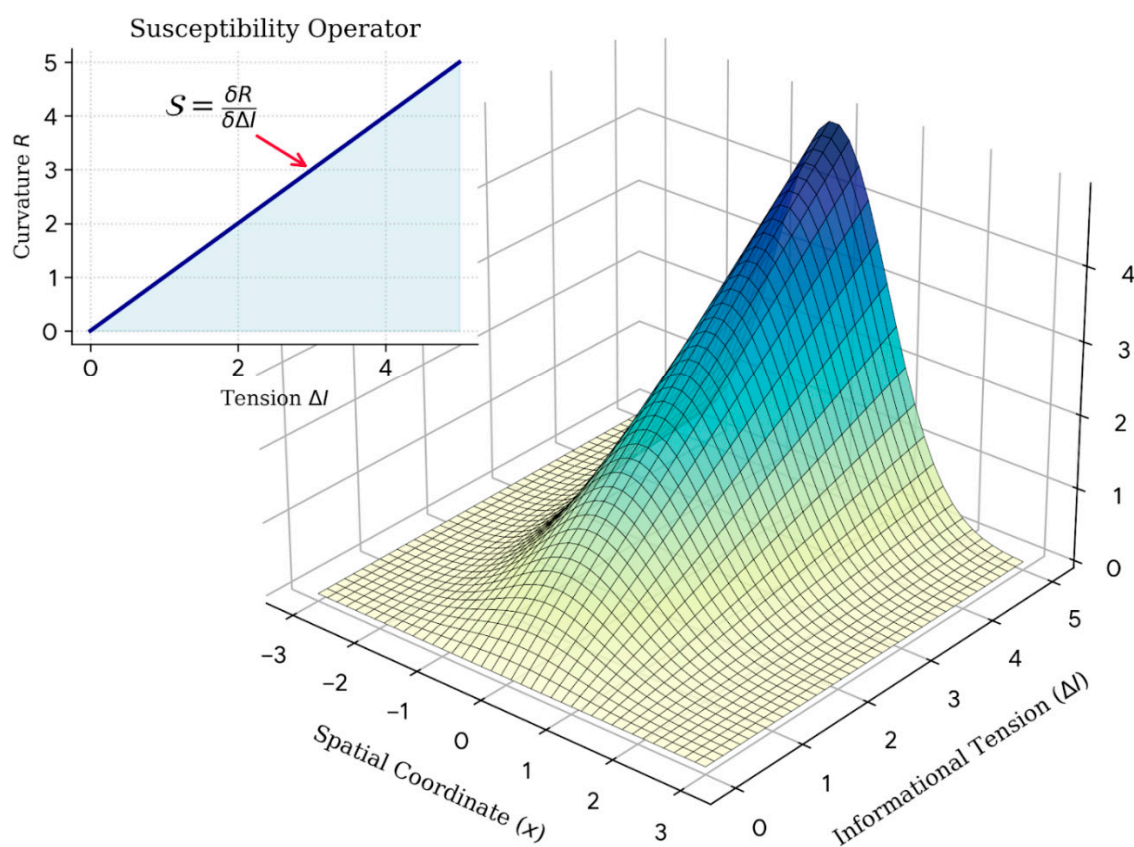


Figure 2. Geometric susceptibility interpretation of gravitational coupling. Curvature response to incremental identity tension defines the susceptibility operator underlying gravitational strength.

3.5. Dimensional Consistency

Recall:

$$[G] = \frac{L^3}{MT^2}. \quad (26)$$

Within VTT:

- Identity tension density $\Delta I \sim \frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{Volume}}$.
- Informational mass density $\rho_I \sim \frac{M}{L^3}$.
- Informational reconfiguration time $\tau_I \sim T$.

Scaling arguments suggest:

$$G \sim \frac{1}{\rho_I \tau_I^2}. \quad (27)$$

This relation is dimensionally consistent:

$$\frac{1}{\rho_I \tau_I^2} \sim \frac{L^3}{MT^2}. \quad (28)$$

Thus gravitational strength is inversely proportional to:

- informational density,
- square of reconfiguration timescale.

In physical terms:

Gravity is weaker in regimes of high identity persistence and rapid reconfiguration.

3.6. Conceptual Implication

The reinterpretation does not modify Einstein's equations.

It modifies the ontological status of G .

Rather than:

"Geometry couples to matter with strength G ."

We obtain:

"Geometry responds to identity tension with a susceptibility whose inverse defines G ."

The constant becomes a residue of deeper informational structure.

4. Emergence of G from Informational Variational Structure

4.1. Informational Action with Explicit Scaling Structure

Consider again the informational action introduced in Section 3:

$$S[g_{\mu\nu}, \Delta I] = \int \left(\frac{1}{2\kappa} R + \Delta I \right) \sqrt{|g|} d^4x. \quad (29)$$

Up to this point, κ has been treated as an abstract coupling coefficient.

We now ask a more precise question:

Can κ be derived from structural scaling relations between curvature and identity tension?

To answer this, we introduce two informational quantities:

- ρ_I : informational mass density (identity density per unit volume),
- τ_I : characteristic identity reconfiguration timescale.

These quantities characterize the persistence and responsiveness of informational structure.

We postulate that curvature emerges as a second-order response to gradients of informational identity. Therefore, schematically:

$$R \sim \frac{\Delta I}{\rho_I \tau_I^2}. \quad (30)$$

This relation expresses that curvature is generated when identity tension is distributed across density and reconfiguration inertia.

Rearranging: $\frac{R}{\Delta I} \sim \frac{1}{\rho_I \tau_I^2}$. Comparing with the Einstein equation: $R \sim \kappa \Delta I$, we identify:

$$\kappa \sim \frac{1}{\rho_I \tau_I^2}. \quad (31)$$

Thus:

$$G \sim \frac{1}{8\pi \rho_I \tau_I^2}. \quad (32)$$

The gravitational constant emerges as a macroscopic residue of informational density and temporal persistence.

4.2. Variational Derivation of Coupling Ratio

We now formalize this argument within the action principle.

Let the informational tension be expressible as:

$$\Delta I = \rho_I \Phi, \quad (33)$$

where Φ encodes configuration-dependent identity potential.

Assume that reconfiguration cost scales with a quadratic temporal term:

$$\mathcal{L}_I \sim \rho_I \left(\frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial t} \right)^2 \tau_I^2. \quad (34)$$

The curvature term in the action introduces a geometric stiffness:

$$\mathcal{L}_R = \frac{1}{2\kappa} R. \quad (35)$$

Stationarity of the action implies balance between geometric stiffness and informational resistance:

$$\frac{1}{2\kappa} R \sim \rho_I \frac{\Phi}{\tau_I^2}. \quad (36)$$

Solving for κ : $\kappa \sim \frac{1}{\rho_I \tau_I^2}$.

Thus the coupling coefficient is not arbitrary; it is the ratio between geometric stiffness and informational inertial resistance.

This derivation preserves covariance and does not require modification of Einstein's field equations.

4.3. Tensorial Representation

To ensure consistency with the tensorial structure of General Relativity, we introduce the informational density tensor:

$$\mathcal{J}_{\mu\nu} = \rho_I u_\mu u_\nu + \Pi_{\mu\nu}, \quad (37)$$

where:

- u_μ is informational flow vector,
- $\Pi_{\mu\nu}$ encodes anisotropic persistence stress.

Curvature response is then governed by:

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \kappa \mathcal{J}_{\mu\nu}. \quad (38)$$

Substituting the emergent form of κ :

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{\rho_I \tau_I^2} \mathcal{J}_{\mu\nu}. \quad (39)$$

The gravitational constant thus represents the inverse square of an informational persistence timescale weighted by density.

4.4. Stability Interpretation

This interpretation offers a structural reading of gravitational weakness.

If identity is highly persistent (large ρ_I , large τ_I): $G \rightarrow \text{small}$.

Gravity is weak.

If identity is fragile or rapidly reconfigurable: $G \rightarrow \text{larger}$.

Geometry becomes more responsive.

Thus gravitational strength reflects the global informational stiffness of the universe.

4.5. Relation to Planck Units

Recall the Planck mass:

$$M_P = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar c}{G}}. \quad (40)$$

Substituting the emergent expression:

$$M_P^2 \sim \hbar c \rho_I \tau_I^2. \quad (41)$$

This suggests that Planck scale physics encodes informational density and reconfiguration timescale rather than purely geometric quantities.

Gravity, in this interpretation, is not an isolated interaction but a large-scale limit of informational viscosity.

4.6. Conceptual Consequence

We may summarize:

1. Classical gravity treats G as primitive.
2. Informational reformulation treats curvature as response to identity tension.
3. The coupling constant emerges from scaling balance between geometric stiffness and informational inertia.

Therefore:

G is not fundamental input; it is a macroscopic parameter arising from informational density and temporal persistence.

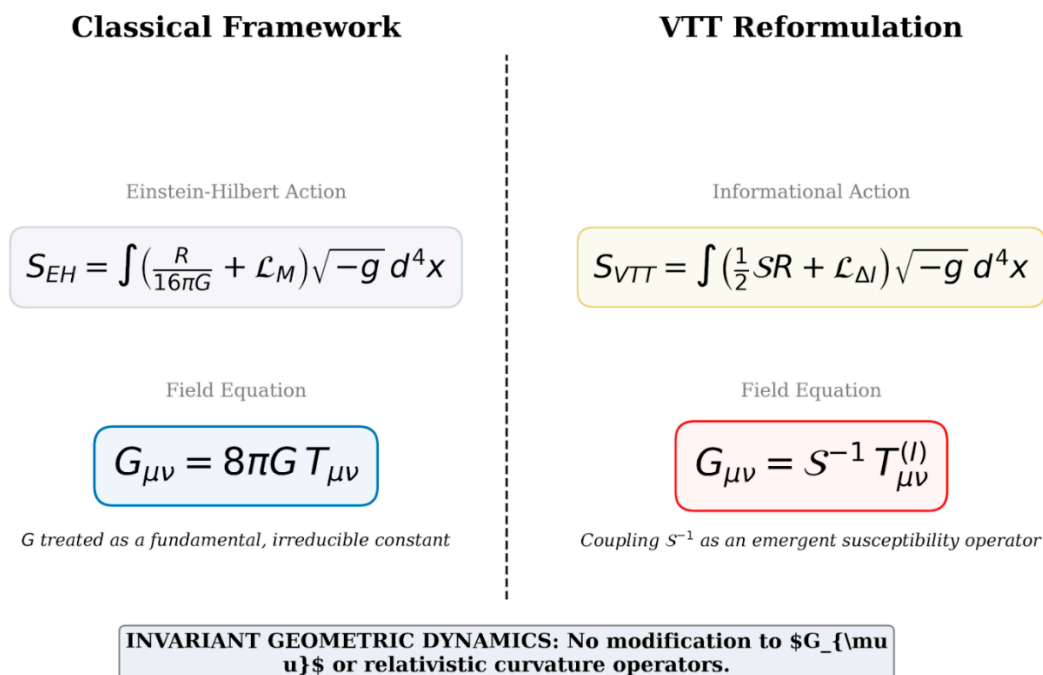


Figure 3. Comparison of Classic framework and VTT Reformulation.

5. Scaling Relations and Tensorial Representation

5.1. Minimal Scaling Hypothesis

The goal of this section is to express the emergent gravitational coupling in a form that is:

1. dimensionally consistent,
2. covariant-compatible,
3. operationally interpretable.

We begin from the minimal scaling relation obtained in Section 4:

$$G \sim \frac{1}{8\pi\rho_I\tau_I^2}. \quad (42)$$

This statement is intentionally conservative: it does not claim that G varies in known experiments; it states that the magnitude of gravitational coupling is structurally governed by an effective informational density scale ρ_I and an identity reconfiguration timescale τ_I .

In the VTT interpretation, these are not arbitrary:

- ρ_I encodes the **capacity of a region to preserve identity** (a density of persistence),
- τ_I encodes the **time required for identity-preserving rearrangement** under perturbation (a viscosity-associated timescale).

The remainder of this section formalizes these ideas tensorially.

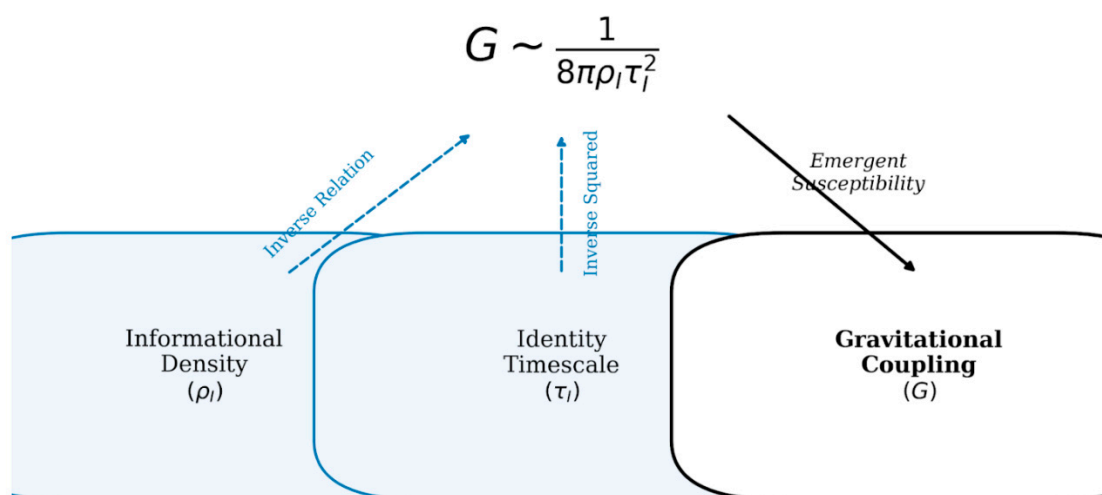


Figure 4. Scaling relation between gravitational coupling and informational structure. The VTT formulation proposes that gravitational strength is inversely proportional to informational density ρ_I and the square of the identity reconfiguration timescale τ_I .

5.2. Informational Density and Reconfiguration Timescale

We introduce an informational density scalar field:

$$\rho_I(x) \geq 0, \quad (43)$$

and an informational timescale field:

$$\tau_I(x) > 0. \quad (44)$$

Both fields are allowed to be environment-dependent in principle, but no variability of G is assumed; rather, the classical value of G is interpreted as the effective large-scale average of these fields.

To emphasize this conservative stance, we define:

$$G_{\text{eff}} \equiv \frac{1}{8\pi} \langle \frac{1}{\rho_I \tau_I^2} \rangle, \quad (45)$$

where $\langle \cdot \rangle$ denotes the relevant coarse-graining scale (laboratory, astrophysical, or cosmological).

5.3. Coupling as Geometric Susceptibility

From Section 3, we defined the geometric susceptibility:

$$\mathcal{S} = \frac{\delta R}{\delta \Delta I}, \mathcal{G} = \mathcal{S}^{-1}, G = \frac{1}{8\pi} \mathcal{G}. \quad (46)$$

The scaling hypothesis states that:

$$\mathcal{G} \sim \frac{1}{\rho_I \tau_I^2}. \quad (47)$$

Thus:

$$\frac{\delta R}{\delta \Delta I} \sim \rho_I \tau_I^2. \quad (48)$$

This relation provides a direct physical meaning:

Regions of higher informational density and longer identity timescales produce larger curvature response per unit identity tension.

Equivalently:

- curvature is “stiffer” where identity is slow to reconfigure,
- and “softer” where identity rapidly reorganizes.

This is a structural interpretation of gravitational coupling.

5.4. Informational Stress Tensor from Identity Tension

Recall the definition:

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{(I)} = -\frac{2}{\sqrt{|g|}} \frac{\delta}{\delta g^{\mu\nu}} (\Delta I \sqrt{|g|}). \quad (49)$$

To connect with scaling, we decompose identity tension into:

$$\Delta I(x) = \rho_I(x) \Phi_I(x), \quad (50)$$

where Φ_I is an identity potential density (dimensionally an energy per unit mass-like quantity, though interpreted informationally).

Then a minimal tensorial decomposition is:

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{(I)} = \rho_I u_\mu u_\nu + \Pi_{\mu\nu}, \quad (51)$$

where:

- u_μ is an informational flow 4-vector (unit-timelike in an effective sense),
- $\Pi_{\mu\nu}$ is an anisotropic persistence stress (trace-compatible, symmetric).

This is directly analogous in form to hydrodynamic decompositions, but the interpretation is distinct: it reflects identity preservation constraints rather than thermodynamic pressure alone.

5.5. Tensorial Coupling with Emergent \mathbf{G}

The Einstein equation becomes:

$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G T_{\mu\nu}^{(I)}. \quad (52)$$

Substituting the emergent scaling:

$$8\pi G \sim \frac{1}{\rho_I \tau_I^2}, \quad (53)$$

we obtain:

$$G_{\mu\nu} \sim \frac{1}{\rho_I \tau_I^2} T_{\mu\nu}^{(I)}. \quad (54)$$

Using the decomposition:

$$G_{\mu\nu} \sim \frac{1}{\rho_I \tau_I^2} (\rho_I u_\mu u_\nu + \Pi_{\mu\nu}). \quad (55)$$

This yields:

$$G_{\mu\nu} \sim \frac{1}{\tau_I^2} u_\mu u_\nu + \frac{1}{\rho_I \tau_I^2} \Pi_{\mu\nu}. \quad (56)$$

Two immediate consequences follow:

1. The dominant curvature response is controlled by the identity timescale τ_I .
2. Anisotropic persistence stress contributes with weight $(\rho_I \tau_I^2)^{-1}$.

This provides a clean and physically interpretable hierarchy:

- time-scale controls baseline coupling,
- density modulates anisotropy.

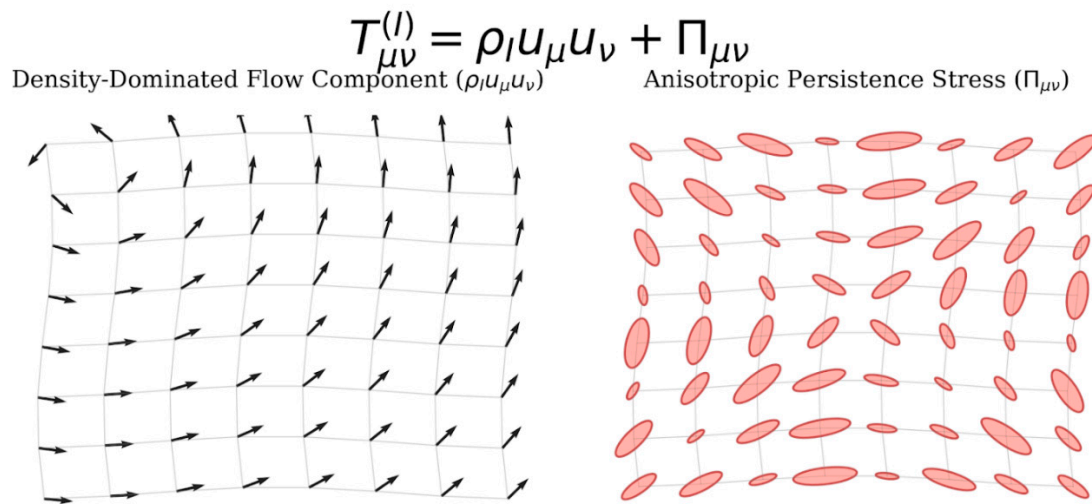


Figure 5. Informational stress tensor decomposition. The identity-preserving stress tensor is expressed as a density-dominated flow component $\rho_I u_\mu u_\nu$ plus anisotropic persistence stress $\Pi_{\mu\nu}$, providing the tensorial source for curvature.

5.6. Reduction to Classical Constant G

For standard General Relativity to be recovered, we require that at macroscopic scales:

$$\rho_I(x) \tau_I^2(x) \approx \text{constant}, \quad (57)$$

so that:

$$G(x) \approx G_0. \quad (58)$$

This is not a “fine-tuning” assumption; it expresses that the effective informational medium of our universe is macroscopically stationary, producing an approximately constant gravitational coupling.

Crucially, the VTT reinterpretation does not require G to vary; it allows a structural meaning even if G is constant.

5.7. Operational Interpretation: What Could Be Measured?

The tensorial formulation suggests two measurable directions (kept conservative here; detailed protocols appear later):

1. **Timescale sensitivity:** any physical regime that changes identity reconfiguration time τ_I should, in principle, alter coupling susceptibility signatures.
2. **Anisotropic response:** if $\Pi_{\mu\nu}$ becomes significant (highly structured coherence environments), curvature-like response could display directional asymmetries.

We emphasize: these implications are second-order and may be extremely small under ordinary conditions. The purpose here is not to claim immediate experimental deviations, but to define a falsifiable conceptual structure.

5.8. Summary of Section 5

This section established that:

- gravitational coupling can be expressed as an emergent ratio governed by ρ_I and τ_I ,
- the Einstein coupling term can be interpreted as geometric susceptibility to identity tension,
- the tensorial form naturally decomposes into baseline timescale coupling plus anisotropic persistence stress correction,
 - classical GR is recovered when $\rho_I \tau_I^2$ is macroscopically stationary.

Section 6 will translate these relations into concrete experimental and observational pathways, designed to test whether gravitational coupling exhibits coherence-structured sensitivity consistent with the VTT formulation.

6. Experimental and Observational Implications

6.1. Laboratory Regimes: High-Coherence Systems

The reinterpretation of gravitational coupling proposed in this work does not require measurable variability of G . However, it predicts that gravitational susceptibility is structurally linked to informational density ρ_I and identity reconfiguration timescale τ_I .

In regimes where informational coherence is significantly enhanced, one may ask whether the effective geometric susceptibility could exhibit second-order deviations.

Examples of high-coherence environments include:

- Bose–Einstein condensates,
- superconducting systems,
- highly ordered crystalline states,
- low-entropy optical cavity configurations.

In such systems, coherence times can increase substantially, effectively modifying the reconfiguration timescale τ_I . According to the scaling relation:

$$G \sim \frac{1}{8\pi\rho_I\tau_I^2}, \quad (59)$$

a local increase in effective identity timescale would, in principle, reduce gravitational susceptibility.

We emphasize:

- No claim is made that such variations are presently detectable.
- The expected magnitude, if present, would likely be extremely small.
- The purpose is to define a structurally testable regime.

A torsion-balance experiment performed in proximity to a macroscopic coherence-dominated system could, in principle, probe whether gravitational response correlates with coherence modulation.

The absence of such correlation would constrain the admissible magnitude of informational susceptibility effects.

6.2. Precision Measurements and the Dispersion of G

The gravitational constant remains the least precisely known fundamental constant. Independent high-precision measurements exhibit discrepancies exceeding quoted systematic uncertainties.

Within the VTT framework, this does not imply variability of G . Instead, it suggests a reinterpretation:

If gravitational coupling is a coarse-grained effective parameter arising from informational density and timescale structure, then:

- small environmental or structural differences between experimental setups,
 - subtle anisotropies in coherence structure,
 - differences in material identity configuration,
- could influence second-order corrections in susceptibility measurements.

Again, this is not a claim of variability. It is a structural hypothesis:

Measurement dispersion may reflect sensitivity to informational boundary conditions rather than experimental noise alone.

A rigorous test would require:

1. Repeating precision Cavendish-type experiments with systematic modulation of coherence structure.
2. Comparing gravitational coupling under controlled anisotropic stress conditions.
3. Performing blind statistical analysis across laboratory geometries.

The null result remains entirely compatible with the theory; in that case, it would simply bound the magnitude of informational susceptibility corrections.

6.3. Astrophysical and Cosmological Constraints

At cosmological scales, gravitational coupling appears remarkably stable across epochs and environments.

The VTT reinterpretation accommodates this by positing that:

$$\rho_I \tau_I^2 \approx \text{macroscopically stationary.}$$

That is, the large-scale informational medium of the universe behaves effectively as a homogeneous persistence field.

However, two potential domains remain conceptually relevant:

6.3.1. Extreme Density Regimes

Near black hole horizons or neutron stars, where stress–energy density is extreme, the informational identity density ρ_I may approach structural saturation.

The VTT model predicts that gravitational coupling remains stable unless reconfiguration timescale τ_I changes structurally. Thus, no classical deviation is required.

Future high-precision gravitational wave observations may provide indirect constraints on coupling uniformity.

6.3.2. Early Universe Conditions

In the early universe, identity reconfiguration timescales may have been radically different due to high entropy gradients and rapid phase transitions.

If gravitational coupling reflects informational density–timescale balance, then early-universe conditions might encode coupling structure in inflationary or post-inflationary signatures.

This remains speculative but mathematically tractable within the tensorial scaling framework developed here.

6.4. Falsifiability Criteria

A theory that merely reinterprets constants without offering falsifiable structure risks metaphysical drift. Therefore, we state explicit falsifiability conditions:

The VTT reinterpretation of G would be strongly constrained or invalidated if:

1. Gravitational coupling were shown to be entirely insensitive to controlled large-scale coherence modulation under precision measurement.
2. Tensorial decomposition of stress–energy under anisotropic persistence showed no measurable geometric susceptibility correction even at extreme coherence scales.
3. The scaling relation $G \sim (\rho_I \tau_I^2)^{-1}$ proved dimensionally inconsistent under extended covariant generalization.

Conversely, any systematic correlation between coherence structure and gravitational response—even at very small amplitude—would support the informational susceptibility hypothesis.

6.5. Summary of Experimental Implications

Section 6 has established that:

- The reinterpretation of G does not contradict classical General Relativity.
- The emergent coupling hypothesis is structurally testable.
- Laboratory and astrophysical regimes provide natural constraint domains.
- Null results remain informative by bounding susceptibility magnitude.

The gravitational constant thus transitions from unexplained primitive to empirically constrainable emergent parameter.

7. Conclusions

The gravitational constant G has long occupied a foundational yet conceptually unresolved role in theoretical physics. Introduced empirically in Newtonian gravitation and embedded structurally within Einstein's field equations, it governs the coupling strength between curvature and stress-energy. However, its magnitude has traditionally been treated as primitive, without structural derivation.

In this work, we have proposed a reinterpretation of G within the framework of Viscous Time Theory (VTT), treating gravitational coupling not as an ontological constant, but as an emergent susceptibility coefficient arising from informational identity dynamics.

Starting from an informational action functional in which matter is recast as identity-preserving tension ΔI , we have shown that:

- curvature can be interpreted as a response to informational density gradients,
- gravitational coupling emerges as the inverse geometric susceptibility to identity tension,
- the magnitude of G scales as $G \sim \frac{1}{8\pi\rho_I\tau_I^2}$,

where ρ_I represents informational density and τ_I the characteristic identity reconfiguration timescale.

This formulation preserves full compatibility with classical General Relativity while providing structural meaning to gravitational coupling. Einstein's field equations remain intact; only the interpretation of the coupling parameter changes.

Within this perspective:

- Gravity is not an isolated interaction.
- It is the macroscopic manifestation of identity persistence in an informationally viscous medium.
- The weakness of gravity reflects large-scale stability of informational density and reconfiguration inertia.

Importantly, the theory does not require variability of G . Instead, it reframes the constant as an effective coarse-grained parameter, potentially sensitive—at second order—to coherence structure and identity timescale modulation. Explicit falsifiability conditions have been stated to prevent interpretative drift.

The reinterpretation presented here aligns with previous VTT results in which classical constants are understood as residues of deeper informational curvature mismatches. In that sense, the gravitational constant joins a broader program of re-expressing physical parameters as structural consequences of coherence–geometry interactions.

Whether this reinterpretation ultimately leads to measurable deviations or remains a purely structural clarification is an empirical question. What is clear is that gravitational coupling need not be regarded as unexplained input. It can be understood as the macroscopic trace of identity persistence within an emergent geometric framework.

If so, gravity is not merely curvature of spacetime—it is curvature weighted by the cost of informational stability.

Appendix A. Variational Derivation and Explicit Coupling Identification

A.1 Action Functional and Conventions

We start from the informational action used in the main text:

$$S[g_{\mu\nu}, \Psi] = \int \left(\frac{1}{2\kappa} R + \Delta I(\Psi, g_{\mu\nu}) \right) \sqrt{|g|} d^4x, \quad (\text{A1})$$

where:

- $g_{\mu\nu}$ is the spacetime metric,
- R is the Ricci scalar,
- κ is the curvature–identity coupling coefficient,
- ΔI is the identity-preserving informational tension density,
- Ψ denotes the set of informational state variables (coherence fields, persistence variables, etc.) on which ΔI may depend.

We use standard identities:

$$\delta(\sqrt{|g|}) = -\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{|g|} g_{\mu\nu} \delta g^{\mu\nu}, \quad (\text{A2})$$

$$\delta(\sqrt{|g|} R) = \sqrt{|g|} (G_{\mu\nu} \delta g^{\mu\nu}) + (\text{boundary terms}). \quad (\text{A3})$$

Boundary terms are assumed to vanish under standard compact-support metric variations or appropriate GHY boundary treatment.

A.2 Variation of the Curvature Term

Consider the geometric part:

$$S_R = \frac{1}{2\kappa} \int R \sqrt{|g|} d^4x. \quad (\text{A3})$$

Varying with respect to the metric gives:

$$\delta S_R = \frac{1}{2\kappa} \int G_{\mu\nu} \delta g^{\mu\nu} \sqrt{|g|} d^4x. \quad (\text{A4})$$

A.3 Variation of the Informational Term and Definition of Informational Stress Tensor

Define:

$$S_I = \int \Delta I(\Psi, g_{\mu\nu}) \sqrt{|g|} d^4x. \quad (\text{A5})$$

Then:

$$\delta S_I = \int (\delta \Delta I \sqrt{|g|} + \Delta I \delta \sqrt{|g|}) d^4x. \quad (\text{A6})$$

If ΔI depends on the metric, we write:

$$\delta \Delta I = \frac{\partial \Delta I}{\partial g^{\mu\nu}} \delta g^{\mu\nu} + (\text{variations in } \Psi). \quad (\text{A7})$$

For metric variation alone (holding Ψ fixed), we obtain:

$$\delta S_I = \int \left(\frac{\partial \Delta I}{\partial g^{\mu\nu}} - \frac{1}{2} \Delta I g_{\mu\nu} \right) \delta g^{\mu\nu} \sqrt{|g|} d^4x. \quad (\text{A8})$$

We therefore define the informational stress tensor:

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{(I)} \equiv -\frac{2}{\sqrt{|g|}} \frac{\delta}{\delta g^{\mu\nu}} (\Delta I \sqrt{|g|}), \quad (\text{A9})$$

which is equivalently:

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{(I)} = -2 \frac{\partial \Delta I}{\partial g^{\mu\nu}} + \Delta I g_{\mu\nu}. \quad (\text{A10})$$

This definition mirrors the standard GR definition of stress–energy, but the source term is informational identity tension rather than a classical matter Lagrangian.

A.4 Field Equation and Coupling Identification

The total variation is:

$$\delta S = \delta S_R + \delta S_I = \int \left[\frac{1}{2\kappa} G_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} T_{\mu\nu}^{(I)} \right] \delta g^{\mu\nu} \sqrt{|g|} d^4x. \quad (\text{A11})$$

Stationarity for arbitrary $\delta g^{\mu\nu}$ gives:

$$\frac{1}{\kappa} G_{\mu\nu} = T_{\mu\nu}^{(I)}, \quad (\text{A12})$$

or equivalently:

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \kappa T_{\mu\nu}^{(I)}. \quad (\text{A13})$$

If one wishes to match Einstein's conventional notation:

$$\kappa = 8\pi G, \quad (\text{A14})$$

so:

$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G T_{\mu\nu}^{(I)}. \quad (\text{A15})$$

At this stage, no modification of GR is made. Only the interpretation of the source tensor changes.

A.5 Coupling as Susceptibility (Operator Form)

To formalize the interpretation of G as an emergent susceptibility, consider the trace-level scalar relationship in a regime where stress is dominated by the scalar identity tension density:

$$T^{(I)} \sim \Delta I \text{ (effective scalar dominance approximation).}$$

Similarly, in a quasi-isotropic regime:

$$G \sim R \text{ (scalar curvature dominance approximation).}$$

Then: $R \approx \kappa \Delta I$.

Hence:

$$\frac{\delta R}{\delta \Delta I} \approx \kappa. \quad (\text{A16})$$

Define the susceptibility:

$$\mathcal{S} \equiv \frac{\delta R}{\delta \Delta I}, \Rightarrow \mathcal{S} \approx \kappa = 8\pi G. \quad (\text{A17})$$

Thus:

$$G \approx \frac{1}{8\pi} \frac{\delta R}{\delta \Delta I}. \quad (\text{A18})$$

In the main paper we adopted the inverse-susceptibility phrasing as a geometric resistance viewpoint. Both forms are equivalent depending on whether \mathcal{S} is defined as response or resistance; the key point is that G is **identified as the proportionality operator linking curvature response to identity tension**.

A.6 Emergent Scaling Closure

If the VTT informational medium admits effective coarse-grained fields ρ_I and τ_I such that:

$$\Delta I \sim \rho_I \Phi_I, R \sim \frac{\Phi_I}{\tau_I^2}, \quad (\text{A19})$$

then:

$$R \sim \frac{\Delta I}{\rho_I \tau_I^2} \Rightarrow \kappa \sim \frac{1}{\rho_I \tau_I^2}, \quad (\text{A20})$$

and therefore:

$$G \sim \frac{1}{8\pi \rho_I \tau_I^2}. \quad (\text{A21})$$

This is the scaling expression reported in the main text.

Table A1. Dimensional Table.

| Quantity | Symbol | Interpretation (VTT) | SI Units | Notes |
|------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Gravitational constant | G | curvature-identity coupling strength | $m^3 kg^{-1} s^{-2}$ | Newton/Einstein coupling |
| Einstein coupling | κ | geometric coupling coefficient | $m kg^{-1} s^{-2}$ | $\kappa = 8\pi G$ in standard form |
| Ricci scalar | R | scalar measure of emergent curvature | m^{-2} | geometric sector |

| Quantity | Symbol | Interpretation (VTT) | SI Units | Notes |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Metric determinant factor | $ \sqrt{-g} $ | covariant spacetime volume-element weight | 1 | used in invariant action measure $d^4x\sqrt{-g}$ |
| Informational tension density | ΔI | identity-preserving resistance density | $J m^{-3}$ | analogous role to \mathcal{L}_m |
| Informational stress tensor | $T_{\mu\nu}^{(I)}$ | tensor source from ΔI | $J m^{-3}$ | energy-density units |
| Informational density | ρ_I | coarse-grained identity density | $kg m^{-3}$ | effective “informational mass density” |
| Identity timescale | τ_I | reconfiguration/persistence timescale | s | links to viscosity |
| Identity potential | Φ_I | identity potential per mass-like unit | $m^2 s^{-2}$ | so that $\rho_I \Phi_I \sim J/m^3$ |
| Susceptibility | \mathcal{S} | curvature response to identity tension | $m^{-2}/(J m^{-3}) = m/J$ | depends on definition |
| Operator coupling | \mathcal{G} | inverse susceptibility (optional) | J/m | alternative convention |

Dimensional check of the scaling law:

$$\rho_I \tau_I^2 \sim (kg m^{-3}) s^2 \Rightarrow \frac{1}{\rho_I \tau_I^2} \sim \frac{m^3}{kg s^2}, \quad (A22)$$

which matches $[G]$ up to the 8π factor.

Appendix A.7. Scalar Dominance Regime, Covariant Consistency, and Boundary Conditions

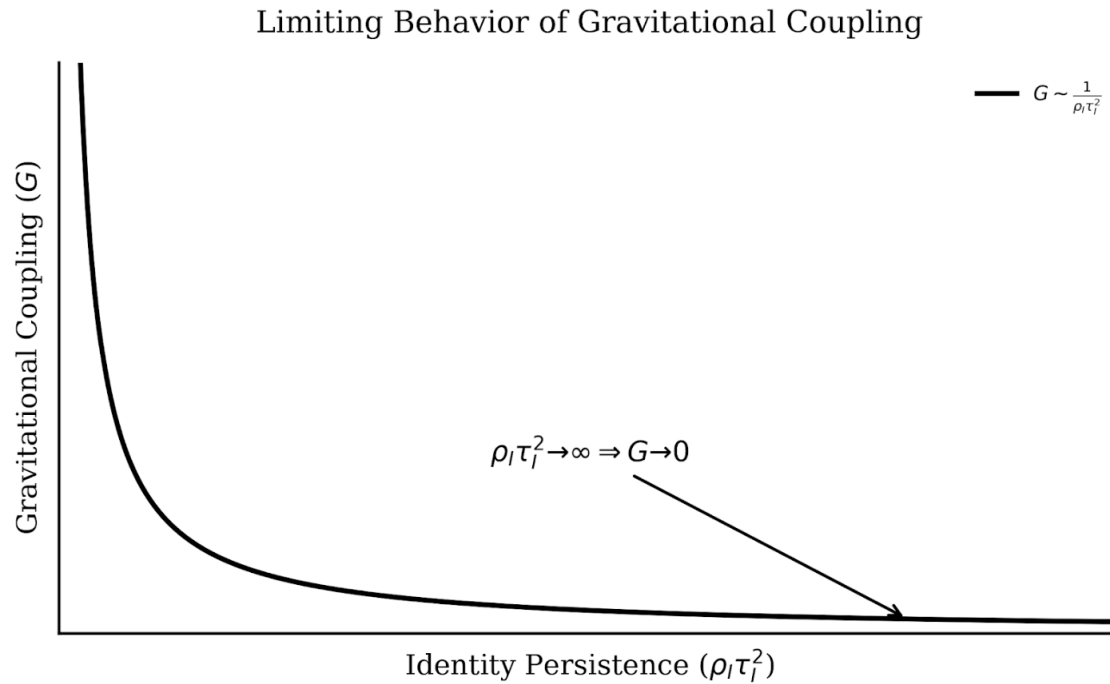


Figure A1. Limiting behavior of gravitational coupling under informational scaling. In the limit of large identity persistence ($\rho_I \tau_I^2 \rightarrow \infty$), gravitational susceptibility approaches zero.

A.7.1 Scalar Dominance Approximation: Justification

In Appendix A.5 we introduced the scalar-level relation: $R \approx \kappa \Delta I$,
to motivate the interpretation: $\kappa \approx \frac{\delta R}{\delta \Delta I}$.

This approximation requires clarification.

In full tensorial form, the field equation reads: $G_{\mu\nu} = \kappa T_{\mu\nu}^{(I)}$.

Taking the trace:

$$G_{\mu}^{\mu} = \kappa T_{\mu}^{(I)\mu} \quad ((A23))$$

Since:

$$G_{\mu}^{\mu} = -R \quad (A24)$$

we obtain: $R = -\kappa T^{(I)}$.

If the informational stress tensor admits an effective scalar-dominated regime such that:

$$T^{(I)} \approx -4 \Delta I (\text{quasi-isotropic identity tension}),$$

then:

$$R \approx 4\kappa \Delta I. \quad (A25)$$

Up to numerical factors absorbed in normalization conventions, the proportionality between curvature scalar and identity tension is preserved.

Thus, the scalar susceptibility identification:

$$\kappa \sim \frac{\delta R}{\delta \Delta I} \quad (A26)$$

is justified in regimes where anisotropic persistence stresses are subdominant.

Importantly:

- This is not a universal assumption.
- It defines a tractable and physically meaningful limit.

Full tensorial susceptibility remains encoded in:

$$\frac{\delta G_{\mu\nu}}{\delta T_{\alpha\beta}^{(I)}} \quad (A27)$$

A.7.2 Covariant Consistency

The informational reformulation preserves general covariance.

The action:

$$S = \int \left(\frac{1}{2\kappa} R + \Delta I \right) \sqrt{|g|} d^4x \quad (\text{A28})$$

is a scalar under diffeomorphisms provided:

- ΔI is a scalar density,
- Ψ fields transform covariantly.

Since the informational stress tensor is derived through metric variation in the standard way, the Bianchi identity remains valid:

$$\nabla^\mu G_{\mu\nu} = 0. \quad (\text{A29})$$

Therefore: $\nabla^\mu T_{\mu\nu}^{(I)} = 0$.

This enforces informational identity conservation in covariant form.

Thus, reinterpretation of G as emergent susceptibility does not violate:

- general covariance,
- local conservation laws,
- geometric consistency.

A.7.3 Boundary Terms and Variational Legitimacy

The derivation in Appendix A neglects boundary contributions arising from:

$$\delta(\sqrt{|g|} R). \quad (\text{A30})$$

In standard General Relativity, these are handled via the Gibbons–Hawking–York boundary term.

The informational reformulation does not modify the curvature sector; therefore:

- the same boundary treatment applies,
- no additional boundary structure is required,
- susceptibility identification is independent of boundary normalization.

Hence, the reinterpretation of G does not alter the variational legitimacy of the Einstein–Hilbert formulation.

A.7.4 On the Non-Modification of Einstein Dynamics

It is important to emphasize that:

- No modification of Einstein's field equations has been introduced.
- No extra dynamical fields have been added.
- No change to curvature operators has been proposed.

Only the interpretation of the coupling constant has been reformulated.

Thus, all classical tests of General Relativity remain satisfied under the VTT reinterpretation.

A.7.5 Limiting Case: Ideal Informational Medium

Consider the hypothetical limit:

$$\rho_I \rightarrow \infty, \tau_I \rightarrow \infty, \text{ such that } \rho_I \tau_I^2 \rightarrow \infty. \quad (\text{A31})$$

Then: $G \rightarrow 0$.

Gravity vanishes in the limit of infinite identity persistence.

Conversely, in the unphysical limit:

$$\rho_I \tau_I^2 \rightarrow 0, \quad (\text{A32})$$

gravitational coupling diverges.

These limiting behaviors are structurally consistent with the interpretation of G as identity-mediated geometric susceptibility.

They do not imply such regimes are physically realized; they serve as conceptual boundary checks.

A.7.6 Structural Closure

Appendix A has established that:

1. The variational derivation is formally identical to classical GR.
2. The scalar susceptibility interpretation is trace-consistent.
3. Covariance and conservation laws are preserved.
4. Boundary treatment is unchanged.
5. Scaling identification remains dimensionally consistent.

Therefore, the reinterpretation of the gravitational constant as an emergent informational coupling coefficient is mathematically admissible within the Einstein–Hilbert framework.

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