

The Special-Dimension Distribution Theorem

— Why There Is No Single "Magic Dimension" —

An Extension of the Function-Comparison Method of Paper 58

Author: Yuuki YAMAGISHI (山岸 勇輝)

Affiliation: Yamagishi Complexity Torus Lab, Japan

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— *From thinking to syncing.* —

Positioning of this paper

This paper offers a **structural interpretation** and a systematic compilation of established mathematical facts. It claims neither the discovery of a new physical law nor a proof that our universe must be **3+1** dimensional. The novelty is organizational: it applies the function-comparison method of Paper 58 across several dimension-dependent criteria and records that their optima are *distributed*, not concentrated. No claim contradicting established theory is made.

ABSTRACT

The question "why **3+1** dimensions?" is usually posed as a search for a *single* decisive reason. This paper argues, by systematic tabulation, that no single dimension is optimal by all criteria; rather, the specialness of dimension is **distributed** over the neighbourhood **{3, 4, 5}** and clusters around the physical value. We apply the function-comparison method of Paper 58 ("compare criteria as functions of ***d***, not as isolated values") to six independent, established criteria: (1) orbital and atomic stability; (2) sharp wave propagation (Huygens' principle); (3) the onset of propagating gravitational degrees of freedom $N(D) = D(D - 3)/2$; (4) the trace-reversal factor $f_{GR}(D) = (D - 2)/(D - 3)$ and its unique crossing with the ladder factor **2** at $D = 4$ (Paper 58); (5) topological exoticness (exotic $\mathbb{R}^4$; Hopf); (6) the unit-ball volume peak at $n = 5$ (Paper 59). Stability selects ***d* = 3**, gravitational and topological richness select ***D* = 4**, and volume capacity selects ***d* = 5**. We state this as a **Distribution Observation** and read it as a refinement of the anthropic principle: **3+1** is special not because one condition forces it, but because a cluster of independent optima concentrates there. This is a compilation whose "clustering" depends on the chosen criteria and does not establish the necessity of **3+1**.

1. Introduction

Since Ehrenfest (1917), the question of why physical space is three-dimensional has been approached by exhibiting a property that holds only in $d = 3$. Each such argument identifies *one* criterion. The implicit expectation is that one criterion will turn out to be the decisive reason.

This paper takes the opposite stance. Following Paper 58—where the Einstein-side factor $f_{\text{GR}}(D) = (D - 2)/(D - 3)$ and the ladder-side factor $f_{\text{ladder}} = 2$ were compared *as functions of D* and found to coincide only at $D = 4$ —we compare several dimension-dependent criteria as functions and record *where each is optimized*. The finding is that they are optimized at *different* dimensions, all lying in the small band $\{3, 4, 5\}$.

What this paper does not do. It does not prove that spacetime must be 4-dimensional, nor does it add a new physical law. It compiles known facts under a single method and draws one structural conclusion: specialness is distributed.

2. The Function-Comparison Method (Recap)

The method from Papers 01 and 58: **to ask whether a property is special to a particular argument, do not compare isolated numerical values; compare the relevant quantities as functions and ask where they cross, degenerate, or extremize.** Paper 01 asked when r^α is constant (only $\alpha = 0$). Paper 58 asked when $f_{\text{GR}}(D) = f_{\text{ladder}}(D)$ (only $D = 4$). Here we apply the same lens to a family of criteria at once.

3. Six Criteria as Functions of Dimension

Here d denotes *spatial* dimensions unless noted; gravitational quantities use the spacetime dimension $D = d + 1$.

3.1 Stability of orbits and atoms (selects $d = 3$)

For a central power-law force $F \propto r^{-(d-1)}$ (flux-conserving), bounded stable orbits exist only for $d \leq 3$, and closed stable orbits precisely for $d = 3$ (Bertrand 1873; Ehrenfest 1917). For $d \geq 4$ the effective potential has no stable minimum; planetary orbits and the hydrogen atom are unstable. **Optimum: $d = 3$.**

3.2 Sharp wave propagation (selects odd d , minimally $d = 3$)

Huygens' principle in its strict form—a sharp wavefront with no reverberating tail—holds for the wave equation only in odd spatial dimensions $d \geq 3$. In even dimensions signals reverberate. Among nontrivial cases $d = 3$ is minimal. **Optimum: odd d ; minimally $d = 3$.**

3.3 Onset of propagating gravity (selects $D \geq 4$)

$$N(D) = \frac{D(D-3)}{2}$$

$N(3) = 0$, $N(4) = 2$, $N(5) = 5$: gravity carries *no* local propagating degree of freedom for $D \leq 3$ and first "turns on" at $D = 4$. Onset: $D = 4$ (i.e. 3+1).

3.4 The trace-reversal factor and its unique crossing (selects $D = 4$)

$$f_{\text{GR}}(D) = \frac{D-2}{D-3}, \quad f_{\text{ladder}} = 2$$

Comparison as functions gives $f_{\text{GR}}(D) = 2 \iff D = 4$: a unique crossing. Moreover $f_{\text{GR}}(2) = 0$ (2D gravity topological), $f_{\text{GR}}(3) = \infty$ (no local DOF in 2+1 gravity), $f_{\text{GR}}(D) \rightarrow 1$ as $D \rightarrow \infty$. **Crossing: $D = 4$.**

3.5 Topological exoticness (selects $d = 4$)

$\mathbb{R}^4$ admits uncountably many exotic smooth structures (unique to $d = 4$); four dimensions host the second Chern class / instanton number $k = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \int \text{tr}(F \wedge F)$ and, via $S^3 \rightarrow S^2$, the Hopf invariant. **Optimum: $d = 4$.**

3.6 Unit-ball volume capacity (selects $d = 5$)

$$V_n = \frac{\pi^{n/2}}{\Gamma(n/2 + 1)}$$

is maximized at $n = 5$ ($V_5 = \frac{8\pi^2}{15} \approx 5.264 > V_6 \approx 5.168 > V_4 \approx 4.935$); Paper 59. **Optimum: $d = 5$.**

4. The Master Table

d (space)	Selected by	Status
2	—	Gravity trivial ($f_{\text{GR}} = 0$); volume small
3	Stability; sharp waves	Orbits/atoms stable; Huygens sharp; gravity about to turn on
4	Gravity DOF; factor-2 crossing; topology	Graviton propagates ($N = 2$ in $D=4$); exotic $\mathbb{R}^4$; instanton/Hopf; unique $f_{\text{GR}} = f_{\text{ladder}}$
5	Volume capacity	Unit-ball volume maximal ; orbits already unstable
6	—	Volume declining; higher instability
7	—	Volume declining further

Extended trace-reversal table (from the observation of Paper 58):

D (spacetime)	$f_{\text{GR}} = \frac{D-2}{D-3}$	Meaning
2	0	Einstein tensor identically trivial (2D gravity topological)
3	∞ (pole)	No local degrees of freedom in 2+1 gravity
4	2	Our universe; unique crossing with $f_{\text{ladder}} = 2$
5	3/2	
6	4/3	
∞	$\rightarrow 1$	Trace reversal approaches the identity

Note: $f_{\text{GR}}(D) = 1$ has no finite solution, and $f_{\text{GR}}(D) = 2$ only at $D = 4$.

5. The Distribution Observation

Observation 5.1 (Distribution of specialness)

For the six criteria of Section 3, the optimizing dimension is not unique. Stability and sharp propagation select $d = 3$; propagating gravity, the factor-2 crossing, and topological exoticness select $D = 4$; volume capacity selects $d = 5$. All optima lie in the band $\{3, 4, 5\}$ and cluster around the physical dimension.

Corollary 5.2 (Refinement of the anthropic reading)

The specialness of $3+1$ is better described as a *cluster of independent optima* than as the consequence of a single condition. The universe is not $3+1$ because one criterion forbids all else, but because several unrelated criteria happen to be near-optimal in the same small band.

This is offered as an observation, not a theorem in the strong sense: which criteria are included is a modelling choice, and a different list could shift the band. What is robust is the qualitative statement—*no single dimension optimizes all listed criteria*—which each row of the master table makes explicit.

6. Scope of the Claims

What is established

1. Each criterion of Section 3 is a known fact with a definite optimizing dimension; the optima are **3, 3, 4, 4, 4, 5**.
2. No single dimension optimizes all six (Observation 5.1).
3. $f_{GR} = 1$ has no finite solution and $f_{GR} = f_{ladder}$ only at $D = 4$.

What is not established / Open problem

- That spacetime *must* be **4**-dimensional. The compilation is descriptive, not a proof of necessity.
- That the "clustering" is criterion-independent. Adding or removing criteria can move the band.
- Any new physical law (every row cites established results).
- *Open*: is there a criterion-independent measure under which **{3, 4, 5}** is provably the densest band of "special" dimensions? Absent such a measure, Corollary 5.2 remains an interpretation, not a theorem.

7. Conclusion

Applying the function-comparison method of Paper 58 across six established criteria shows that the special dimensions are distributed— $d = 3$ for stability and wave sharpness, $D = 4$ for gravitational propagation, the factor-2 crossing and topology, $d = 5$ for volume capacity—and cluster around the physical value. We read this as a refinement of the anthropic principle: **3+1** is special by concentration of independent optima, not by a single cause. The claim is organizational and descriptive; it does not establish the necessity of **3+1**.

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