

# The Gap as a Condition

## Pre-Ontological Operatorics and the Primacy of Response

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### Abstract

**This paper formulates a theoretical interim position on the role of operators within a pre-ontological framework. It starts from the observation that central phenomena of modern physics, social theory, and epistemic practice cannot be understood as entities, fields, or things without generating paradoxes. Instead, it proposes to conceive of operators as response structures to non-eliminable gaps. The gap thus appears not as a deficit or lack of knowledge, but as a constitutive condition of reality. The aim of the text is not to provide a final theory, but to secure a conceptual framework within which the gap can be worked with, without closing it ontologically.**

(This paper is an interface text. The author's primary research corpus employs an autistic, non-linear, rhythmically recursive writing mode that cannot be fully preserved in academic English without structural loss of epistemic function.)

### **This paper is situated within the context of MNO theory, specifically in relation to:**

Speed, T. (2025). The Constructed Observer - World-Formation Beyond Representation - Why Perception Is Not Representation, but a Structural Achievement (2 English). Zenodo.  
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18006170>

Speed, T. (2025). MNO and Ontological Recurrence: A Non-Representational Account of Quantum Measurement and Conscious Experience (Version 1). Zenodo.  
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17913823>

Speed, T. (2025). Orch-OR with Recurrence: A Minimal Dynamical Condition for When Objective Reductions Yield Conscious Experience (1 English). Zenodo.  
<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17942531>

Speed, T. (2016/2025) *The Physics of the Poor: A Neurodivergent Meta-Theory of Consciousness (Artistic Research - Critical Neurodiversity and Science)* ISBN : 3695191287

Speed, T. (2025). *The All–Nothing Paradox - Ontological Openness as a Condition of World-Formation - Why Closure – Not Complexity – Marks the Limit of Artificial Systems (2 English)*. Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.18000820>

### **1. Problem Statement: When the Operator Is Not a Thing**

In many theoretical contexts, it is implicitly assumed that explanatory factors must be formulable as entities: as things, fields, forces, or at least as clearly localizable structures. This assumption reaches its limit, however, wherever phenomena occur that are real and effective without being ontologically stabilizable.

The concept of the operator used here is different from the outset. It does not denote a something, but an effect of structural non-identity. The operator is neither cause nor substance, but a form of response to a structural non-identity. This shifts the categorical question: no longer *what is it?*, but *what does it respond to?*

### **2. The Gap as a Primary Category**

Within this framework, the gap is not understood as a lack:

- not as a gap in knowledge,
- not as an ontological hole,
- not as a temporary remainder of explanation.

Rather, it appears as a primary condition. The gap designates the impossibility of complete self-identity of reality. Something is real without being fully integrated, closed, or stabilized.

Without a gap there would be:

- no gravitation (no falling),
- no emergence (no difference),
- no expansion (no withdrawal),
- no meaning (no response).

The gap is thus not an error of the world, but its operative precondition.

### **3. Operators as Forms of Response**

If operators are not ontological, then they are not agents either. They do not “do” anything in an intentional sense. They respond, insofar as reality must respond to its own non-closure.

Examples:

- Gravitation can be read as a physical response to spatial non-identity.
- Cosmic expansion can appear as a response to non-integrable global emergence.
- Social institutions respond to structural incoherences between value and reality.
- Epistemic practices respond to translation breaks between world and subject.

The operator is thus neither thing nor law, but a mode of response.

#### **4. Paradox as a Fundamental Condition**

Where ontology ends, emptiness does not appear, but paradox. This paradox is not a logical error, but an expression of the fact that reality is effective without being fully formulable.

Characteristic of this condition are:

- effectiveness without localizability,
- reality without full integration,
- order without origin.

Attempts to resolve this paradox ontologically regularly lead to theory inflation, metaphysics, or simulation. The approach presented here instead proposes to accept paradox as a working condition.

#### **5. What Kind of World Do We Live In?**

If reality primarily consists of responses to gaps, then we do not live in a world of stable things, but in a world of ongoing regulation.

This world is:

- not closed,
- not fully controllable,
- not definitively explainable.

Stability is secondary. Order is always a response, never an origin. Control remains local.

This insight has consequences far beyond physics – for work, value, the state, subjectivity, and knowledge itself.

#### **6. Knowledge as Gap Competence**

Within such a conception of the world, knowledge is not access to being, but a form of resonance capacity toward that which cannot be closed.

Knowledge then means:

- not resolution,
- not domination,
- but orientation within the non-identical.

This perspective brings non-standardized, non-representational forms of knowledge to the center – not as a deficit, but as a structural competence.

#### **7. Conclusion: An Open Interim Position**

This paper does not claim completeness or closure. It secures a position of thought at which it becomes clear that the concept of the operator is only meaningful if read pre-ontologically. The

gap is not a problem to be eliminated, but the condition under which reality becomes capable of response at all.

The further elaboration of this framework – formal, empirical, or political – remains open. Not out of vagueness, but out of consequence.