
PSD - 001

Positional Signal Distortion

Structural Condition Note

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PSD-001 Positional Signal Distortion

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Title:	Positional Signal Distortion
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Applicability:	Institutional architectures in which signal passes across positional boundaries
Status:	Non-normative. Describes a structural condition.

Purpose

This note defines a structural condition governing how signal weight varies across positional boundaries.

The Condition

Signal content is invariant at emission. Signal structural weight is not invariant at reception. The difference is a property of the transmission architecture, operating prior to any interpretive process.

Signal weight at reception is a function of emitter position, receiver position, and transmission pathway. Content alone does not determine received weight.

The distortion is typically invisible to both emitter and receiver. Each experiences the exchange as transmission of identical signal. The shift occurs at the architectural layer, prior to interpretation.

The Distinction Between Distortion and Interpretation

Interpretation is a process performed by a receiver on received content. Distortion is a property of the transmission architecture that alters the structural weight of the signal before the receiver processes it. These are separate phenomena operating at different layers.

A receiver applying different interpretation to the same signal is performing cognition. An architecture producing different structural weight for the same signal across positions is producing distortion. Improvements in interpretation do not reduce distortion. The distortion occurs upstream of cognition.

Variables

Emitter position. The structural location within institutional architecture from which the signal is emitted. Position is determined by authority formation,

emission layer, and accumulated structural context.

Receiver position. The structural location at which the signal arrives. Position is determined by authority formation, reception layer, and accumulated structural context.

Transmission pathway. The architectural route between emitter and receiver. Pathway properties include boundary crossings, authority gates, interpretive surfaces, and absorption conditions encountered in transit.

The distortion is a function of all three variables operating together. A signal can be emitted and received without position change when the pathway is direct. A signal crossing multiple boundaries accumulates distortion even when content is preserved.

Indicator Classes

The condition is present when one or more of the following obtain at reception:

Content preserved with weight shift. The receiver records the signal's content accurately and processes it at a structural weight the emitter did not intend.

Authority retention across boundaries. The signal arrives carrying epistemic standing accumulated at prior positions, and the receiving position treats that accumulated standing as a substitute for re-evaluation.

Reclassification by position change. The signal is moved across a boundary through administrative routing, and its reception at the new position reclassifies it into a different structural category.

Pathway mismatch. The signal enters a pathway whose receiving position is not the emitter's intended receiver, and the alternate receiver processes it at a weight the emitter did not anticipate.

Cross-Corpus Instances

The condition appears across multiple case studies under different specific names.

SIAR (Signal Integrity and Authority Retention) names the specific manifestation at absorption boundaries where signal arrives carrying accumulated epistemic standing.

IMR-001 (Interpretive Momentum Regime) names the condition under which sustained interpretive activity and continued operation generate authority-equivalent structural signals.

The case verification corpus documents specific instances. Columbia (CV-011) demonstrates inter-sequence authority retention in which engineering analysis accumulated epistemic standing across mission sequences. Challenger (CV-002)

demonstrates reclassification by position change in the Thiokol management caucus. The Institutional Series essays document pathway mismatch across the Madoff submissions, the Segarra finding, and the Grenfell resident communications.

PSD defines the general condition. SIAR, IMR-001, and case instances describe specific manifestations.

Relationship to Architecture

PSD operates upstream of SIAR and IMR-001. Where SIAR addresses what happens at absorption boundaries and IMR-001 addresses how signal gains pseudo-authority, PSD addresses the general condition under which signal weight varies with position, regardless of whether the specific manifestation is absorption failure or momentum-driven authority equivalence.

The condition relates to STC-001 (Signal Transmission Constraint) in that STC-001 defines the invariant components a signal must carry to retain integrity in transit. PSD describes signals that retain content integrity while losing positional integrity. A signal can satisfy STC-001 and still exhibit PSD at reception.

The condition relates to PAC-001 (Propagation-Absorption Constraint) in that absorption pathways are one class of architectural boundary through which positional distortion occurs. PAC-001 addresses whether disturbances propagate or are absorbed. PSD addresses what happens to signal weight when disturbances cross boundaries regardless of absorption outcome.

End Condition

Recognition of PSD establishes that signal weight at reception cannot be inferred from content alone. Content fidelity checks do not address PSD. Interpretation training does not address PSD. The condition requires architectural recognition that signal weight is a function of position.

Non-normative. Describes a structural condition that operates across institutions and across the corpus itself. The corpus is intentionally structured to use this property rather than resist it: the same material appears on different surfaces to produce different structural weight for different readers.