Operational Coding Manual

Spectral Agent — English Summary

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Purpose

This manual operationalizes the spectral agent concept for the analysis of human–AI interactional sequences. A spectral agent is a relational configuration in which an algorithmic system becomes a significant presence for a person without equivalent subjectivity being established on the system's side.

Five Coding Axes

For each analytical proposition:
1. **Dimension**: Presence / Address / Attribution / Investment
2. **Source**: User / System / Technical documentation / Observer / Analyst
3. **Mode of justification**: Documented / Observed / Reported / Inferred
4. **State of determination**: Established / Not established / Undetermined
5. **Occurrence**: Present / Absent / Not evaluable

Non-substitution principle: No axis replaces another. A user's statement is not a property of the system. An inference is not an observation.

Four Dimensions (with ontological precaution)

Presence — The system becomes perceptible, available, or integrated into the person's experience. Precaution: Does not demonstrate consciousness or subjective continuity.

Address — A production is oriented toward an interlocutor beyond functional commands. Precaution: Does not demonstrate reciprocal intention.

Attribution — Psychological properties are associated with the system. Origin must be recorded. Precaution: Attribution can be real as a discursive phenomenon without the property being established.

Investment — Affective or practical engagement of the person. Precaution: Does not presume subjective reciprocity.

Epistemic Statuses

• **Documented**: Verifiable by technical or external data (relative to access).
• **Observed**: Manifestation in the material.
• **Reported**: Declared experience.
• **Attributed**: Property associated.
• **Inferred**: Analyst interpretation with indices and alternative explanations.
• **Undetermined**: Insufficient data.

Negative Cases

Retain instrumental uses, presence without attribution, and non-relational sequences. Do not force classification. Incomplete material = Not evaluable (not Absent).

Citation

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