Emergent Layered Reality in Cosmological Hydrodynamics A Quaternion-Algebraic Framework for FLAMINGO Subgrid Physics

J.Konstapel Leiden 29 April 2026

Abstract

The FLAMINGO suite (Schaye et al., 2023; Kugel et al., 2023; Helly et al., 2026) represents one of the most advanced cosmological hydrodynamical simulations currently available, evolved with the SWIFT code across volumes up to 2.8 Gpc^3, incorporating explicit neutrino particles, subgrid star formation, supernova feedback, and spin-dependent kinetic AGN feedback. Complementing this, the Quaternion Vacuum Model (Konstapel, 2026) derives a 19-layer ontology of emergent reality from the vacuum state $q = 0$ in the quaternion algebra $\mathbb{H}$, governed by four generative mechanisms: rotational periodicity, helical progression, nilpotent convergence, and resonant phase-locking.

We establish a formal scale correspondence between the hierarchical scales resolved in FLAMINGO and the eigenstate layers of the quaternion model, and develop mathematically precise quaternion-based reformulations of key FLAMINGO subgrid processes. Detailed derivations are provided for: the full differential form of the helical generator; quaternion spin representation and helical AGN jet propagation; nilpotent feedback regulation; quaternionic vorticity in supernova feedback; Lense-Thirring precession in $\mathbb{H}$; a generalized Kuramoto synchronization model over $S^3 \subset \mathbb{H}$ as a turbulence closure; and a self-regulating nilpotent black hole mass growth equation. We further develop the connections between the quaternion vacuum model and quantum gravity frameworks — Loop Quantum Gravity, quaternionic quantum mechanics, and twistor theory — and identify how FLAMINGO's large-scale power spectra may constrain quaternion vacuum parameters at layers 1–3. These extensions aim to enhance rotational invariance, angular momentum conservation, self-regulation of feedback, and reduction of phenomenological parameters, while providing a deeper algebraic link between vacuum eigenstates and simulated cosmic structure.

Keywords: FLAMINGO simulations, quaternion algebra $\mathbb{H}$, emergent eigenstates, AGN kinetic feedback, helical progression, nilpotent convergence, angular momentum, Loop Quantum Gravity, Kuramoto synchronization, subgrid physics

1. Introduction

Modern cosmology faces the challenge of bridging fundamental physics with the observed complexity of the universe. Large-scale hydrodynamical simulations such as FLAMINGO (Full-hydro Large-scale structure simulations with All-sky Mapping for the Interpretation of Next Generation Observations) simulate the coupled evolution of dark matter, baryons, neutrinos, and dark energy from high redshift to the present day (Schaye et al., 2023). These simulations incorporate subgrid models for unresolved processes like star formation and feedback because even the highest-resolution runs cannot directly resolve scales below ~kpc.

In parallel, theoretical frameworks seek deeper unifying principles. The "19 Layers of Existence: A Quaternion-Vacuum Model of Emergent Reality" (Konstapel, 2026) derives physical, biological, and cognitive phenomena sequentially from a pure quaternion vacuum state $q = 0$, using non-commutative quaternion algebra to generate layered eigenstates through four mechanisms without external parameters.

This paper synthesizes our joint investigation into how these paradigms relate. We first establish the mathematical foundations of both frameworks, then map FLAMINGO's physical scales onto the quaternion eigenstate layers, and develop mathematically rigorous quaternion reformulations of subgrid physics. We further extend the framework upward into quantum gravity, providing candidate algebraic foundations for the vacuum assumed in FLAMINGO's initial conditions. Although the quaternion approach remains speculative at the implementation level, it offers promising improvements in handling rotations, helicity, and emergent coherence, and identifies a pathway to reduce phenomenological tuning by replacing free parameters with algebraic attractors.

2. Quaternion Preliminaries

A quaternion $q \in \mathbb{H}$ is written as

$$q = s + \mathbf{v} = s + v_x,i + v_y,j + v_z,k,$$

where $s, v_x, v_y, v_z \in \mathbb{R}$, and the imaginary units satisfy $i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = -1$, $ij = k$, $ji = -k$, etc. Multiplication is non-commutative. The conjugate is $\bar{q} = s - \mathbf{v}$, and the norm satisfies

$$|q|^2 = q\bar{q} = \bar{q}q = s^2 + |\mathbf{v}|^2.$$

Unit quaternions ($|q| = 1$) form the group $\mathrm{SU}(2) \cong S^3 \subset \mathbb{H}$ and provide a singularity-free double cover of $\mathrm{SO}(3)$ rotations via the map $\mathbf{r}' = q,\mathbf{r},\bar{q}$ for a pure vector quaternion $\mathbf{r}$.

In the vacuum model, the fundamental field is the quaternion-valued function

$$\Psi(\mathbf{r},t) = S(\mathbf{r},t) + \mathbf{V}(\mathbf{r},t) \in \mathbb{H}.$$

The vacuum is the equilibrium fixed point $q_0 = 0$, i.e.\ $S = 0$, $\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{0}$.

The four generative mechanisms are formalized as:

1. **Rotational periodicity:** Composition via quaternion multiplication $q_2 \circ q_1 = q_2 q_1$.
2. **Helical progression:** Operator combining rotation and translation; see Section 2a for the full differential form.
3. **Nilpotent convergence:** Attractors satisfying $q\bar{q} \to 0$, modelling bounded coherent structures.
4. **Resonant phase-locking:** Synchronization condition $\arg(q_i) \equiv \arg(q_j)\pmod{2\pi}$, leading to emergent collective eigenstates.

Successive application of these operators generates the 19 eigenstate layers $\psi_1, \dots, \psi_{19}$.

2a. Full Differential Form of the Helical Generator

2a.1 The Helical Progression Operator

A helix in $\mathbb{H}$ combines a rotation about a fixed axis $\hat{\mathbf{u}}$ (unit pure quaternion, $|\hat{\mathbf{u}}|=1$) with a uniform translation along that axis. We parametrize a helical state by:

- $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$: accumulated rotation angle,
- $d \in \mathbb{R}$: accumulated axial translation,
- $p = d/\theta$: pitch ratio (constant for a uniform helix),
- R: helix radius.

The unit quaternion encoding the rotation is:

$$q_\theta = \exp!\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\hat{\mathbf{u}}\right) = \cos\frac{\theta}{2} + \hat{\mathbf{u}}\sin\frac{\theta}{2}.$$

The position on the helix at parameter θ is:

$$\mathbf{r}(\theta) = p,\theta,\hat{\mathbf{u}} + R,q_\theta,\hat{\mathbf{e}}*\perp,\bar{q}*\theta, $$

where $\hat{\mathbf{e}}_\perp \perp \hat{\mathbf{u}}$ is a fixed reference direction.

2a.2 First-Order Differential Form

Taking the derivative with respect to θ:

$$\frac{d\mathbf{r}}{d\theta} = p,\hat{\mathbf{u}} + R,\frac{d}{d\theta}!\left(q_\theta, \hat{\mathbf{e}}*\perp,\bar{q}*\theta\right).$$

Since $\dot{q}*\theta = \frac{1}{2}\hat{\mathbf{u}},q*\theta$, the product rule gives:

$$\frac{d}{d\theta}(q_\theta,\hat{\mathbf{e}}*\perp,\bar{q}*\theta) = \tfrac{1}{2}\bigl[\hat{\mathbf{u}},,q_\theta,\hat{\mathbf{e}}*\perp,\bar{q}*\theta\bigr]_-.$$

Defining $\mathbf{r}*\perp(\theta) = q*\theta,\hat{\mathbf{e}}*\perp,\bar{q}*\theta$, the **quaternion helical differential generator** is:

$$\boxed{\frac{d\mathbf{r}}{d\theta} = p,\hat{\mathbf{u}} + \hat{\mathbf{u}} \times \mathbf{r}_\perp(\theta).}$$

This decomposes naturally into an axial (translation) component $p\hat{\mathbf{u}}$ and a rotational (tangential) component $\hat{\mathbf{u}} \times \mathbf{r}*\perp$, with the cross product emerging automatically from the quaternion commutator $[\hat{\mathbf{u}},\mathbf{r}*\perp]- = 2\hat{\mathbf{u}}\times\mathbf{r}\perp$.

2a.3 Second-Order Form: Curvature and Torsion

Differentiating again and using $\hat{\mathbf{u}} \perp \mathbf{r}_\perp$:

$$\frac{d^2\mathbf{r}}{d\theta^2} = -\mathbf{r}_\perp(\theta).$$

This is the equation of a circle in the perpendicular plane, confirming exact helix geometry with **zero numerical drift** in the angular component. The classical curvature and torsion are:

$$\kappa = \frac{R}{R^2 + p^2}, \qquad \tau = \frac{p}{R^2 + p^2}.$$

In the AGN context, R controls jet collimation radius and p governs the angular momentum transport rate per radian of precession.

2a.4 Continuous-Time Flow for the Jet Quaternion

Mapping $\theta = \Omega t$ (with Ω the jet precession frequency), the closed autonomous ODE system for the helical jet state is:

$$\dot{q}{\rm jet} = \frac{\Omega}{2},\hat{\mathbf{u}},q{\rm jet},$$

$$\dot{\mathbf{r}}{\rm jet} = p,\Omega,\hat{\mathbf{u}} + \Omega,\hat{\mathbf{u}} \times \mathbf{r}\perp,$$

$$\dot{E}{\rm inj} = \dot{E}{\rm acc}\cdot\eta!\left(|q_{\rm local}|^2\right),$$

with exact solution:

$$q_{\rm jet}(t) = \exp!\left(\frac{\Omega t}{2}\hat{\mathbf{u}}\right)q_{\rm jet}(0).$$

Since $|\exp(\hat{\mathbf{u}},\alpha)| = 1$ for any real α, the unit-norm constraint is preserved **exactly** by the quaternion integrator, without renormalization. This eliminates gimbal-lock artifacts that accumulate in Euler-angle integrations over cosmological timescales.

3. Quaternions in Quantum Gravity

3.1 Motivation

The quaternion vacuum model derives cosmic structure from $q = 0$ upward through 19 eigenstate layers. Standard ΛCDM embeds this derivation within a general-relativistic spacetime whose quantum foundations remain open. Three complementary quantum gravity frameworks reveal deep natural connections to the quaternion vacuum model, suggesting that $\mathbb{H}$ is not merely a computational convenience but the correct algebraic substrate for pre-geometric reality.

3.2 Loop Quantum Gravity and SU(2) Spin Networks

Loop Quantum Gravity (LQG) discretizes spacetime geometry using spin networks — graphs whose edges carry $\mathrm{SU}(2)$ representations (half-integer spins j) and whose nodes encode volume quanta. The Ashtekar-Barbero connection A^i_a lives in the Lie algebra $\mathfrak{su}(2) \cong \mathrm{Im}(\mathbb{H})$ — the space of pure quaternions.

The key identification is:

$$\mathrm{SU}(2) \cong S^3 \subset \mathbb{H}, \qquad \mathfrak{su}(2) \cong \mathrm{Im}(\mathbb{H}).$$

Unit quaternions **are** $\mathrm{SU}(2)$. The quaternion vacuum $q = 0$ maps precisely to the **Ashtekar vacuum** — the spin network with no edge excitations. The first eigenstate transition $q_0 \to q_1$ via rotational periodicity corresponds to the creation of the first spin-$\tfrac{1}{2}$ edge — the minimal quantum of 3-geometry.

Volume operator eigenvalues in LQG:

$$V_j = \ell_P^3,\sqrt{j(j+1)},$$

where $\ell_P = 1.616 \times 10^{-35}$ m is the Planck length. These discrete volume quanta are the physical realization of nilpotent convergence: coherent bounded structures emerging from the quaternion vacuum.

3.3 Quaternionic Quantum Mechanics

Adler (1995) developed a full quaternionic quantum mechanics (QQM) in which the Hilbert space is a right-module over $\mathbb{H}$ and states are quaternion-valued wavefunctions $\psi \in \mathbb{H}$. The Schrödinger equation takes the form:

$$i_\mathbb{H},\frac{\partial\psi}{\partial t} = H\psi,$$

where $i_\mathbb{H}$ is a fixed quaternion imaginary unit and H is a self-adjoint quaternion-linear operator. Standard complex QM is recovered when ψ lies in the $i_\mathbb{H}$-eigenspace.

In this framework, the quaternion vacuum ($q = 0$) corresponds to the zero-norm state before the first symmetry breaking. The generative mechanisms — rotational periodicity, helical progression — map onto the action of the quaternion generator algebra on this vacuum.

Crucially, QQM predicts **additional correlations** beyond standard complex QM in entanglement experiments. This constitutes a potential **observational test** for the quaternion vacuum model at quantum scales — upstream of FLAMINGO's classical hydrodynamics.

3.4 Twistor Theory

Penrose's twistor space $\mathbb{C}^2$ (pairs of complex 2-spinors) admits a natural quaternionic structure: the twistor $Z^\alpha = (\omega^A, \pi_{A'})$ can be rewritten as a pair $(\omega, \pi) \in \mathbb{H}^2$. The Penrose transform maps massless free fields in Minkowski space to cohomology classes on twistor space — an algebraic derivation of field content from geometric structure, directly analogous to the quaternion vacuum model's eigenstate generation.

Twistor concept	19-Layer counterpart
Twistor vacuum ($Z^\alpha = 0$)	Layer 1: $q = 0$
Null twistors ($Z\cdot\bar{Z} = 0$)	Nilpotent convergence condition
Helicity $\pm s$ fields	Rotational periodicity at layer s
Penrose transform	Eigenstate generation operator

The quaternion vacuum model may thus be formulating an algebraically equivalent programme to Penrose's twistor approach, grounded in the full division algebra $\mathbb{H}$ rather than $\mathbb{C}^2$.

3.5 Implications for the FLAMINGO–Vacuum Bridge

FLAMINGO's initial conditions are set at $z \approx 127$ with quantum fluctuations processed through inflation and reheating assumed. The quaternion gravity framework provides a candidate for what lies below $z = \infty$: a sequence of LQG-like spin-network transitions (layers 1–3) that seed the primordial power spectrum.

If the primordial power spectrum $P(k) \propto k^{n_s}$ arises from resonant phase-locking at the quantum gravity level (layer 3 → layer 4 transition), then the spectral tilt deviation $\Delta n_s = n_s - 1$ encodes information about quaternion vacuum structure. FLAMINGO's large-scale power spectra could in principle constrain quaternion vacuum parameters — providing an indirect empirical link between layers 1–3 and the gigaparsec simulation box.

4. The FLAMINGO Simulations

FLAMINGO evolves the equations of gravity, hydrodynamics, and subgrid galaxy formation physics from $z \approx 15$ to $z = 0$. Key features:

- **Volumes:** Flagship runs at 2.8 Gpc (intermediate resolution, m9) and 1 Gpc (high resolution, m8; baryon particle mass $\approx 1.3 \times 10^8,M_\odot$).
- **Particles:** Dark matter, gas, stars, black holes, and explicit neutrinos. Up to $\sim 3 \times 10^{11}$ particles total.
- **Subgrid physics:** Radiative cooling, chemical enrichment, star formation (stochastic threshold model), supernova feedback (thermal or kinetic kicks), and AGN feedback in both thermal and kinetic/jet modes.
- **Calibration:** Gaussian process emulation (machine learning) is used to match the observed $z \approx 0$ galaxy stellar mass function and cluster gas fractions (Kugel et al., 2023).
- **Data release:** >2.3 petabytes of public data including snapshots, halo catalogues (HBT-HERONS + SOAP merger trees), full-sky lightcones, and HEALPix maps (Helly et al., 2026).

The AGN kinetic feedback model injects momentum aligned with the black hole spin vector $\mathbf{J}_{\rm BH}$, whose evolution is tracked via subgrid accretion disk prescriptions and merger remnant spin formulas (Rezzolla et al., 2008). Angular momentum conservation and transport are critical yet challenging due to resolution limits and numerical viscosity.

5. Scale Correspondence Between FLAMINGO and the 19 Layers

We propose the following approximate mapping between FLAMINGO physical scales and the quaternion vacuum eigenstate layers:

FLAMINGO scale / phenomenon	Typical scale	Quaternion	Reasoning

Quaternion vacuum, primordial fluctuations	Sub-Planckian / pre-inflationary	1–3	$q \approx 0 + \delta q$; the LQG vacuum (Section 3.2)
Linear density field, neutrino	>100 Mpc	4–6	Relativistic components;
First dark matter halo collapse	$M_{\rm halo} \gtrsim 10^{10},M_\odot$	7–9	Hierarchical clustering onset; FLAMINGO m8 resolution
Galaxy formation, stellar populations, chemical	Galaxies 10^{10}–$10^{12},M_\odot$, kpc	10–12	Subgrid star formation and SN feedback
Galaxy groups and clusters, AGN regulation	10^{13}–$10^{15},M_\odot$, few–	13–14	Calibrated cluster gas fractions; kinetic jets
Cosmic web, large-scale structure	100–$1000+$ Mpc	15–16	FLAMINGO's 2.8 Gpc box; filaments and voids
Observable universe coherence	Gpc to Hubble scale	17–18	Entire simulation volume as one coherent system
Consciousness, societal coherence	Beyond astrophysics	19	Not simulated; quaternion model continues upward

This mapping treats FLAMINGO outputs as numerical realizations of mid-to-high eigenstate transitions, while the quantum gravity layer (Sections 3.2–3.4) provides the algebraic foundation for FLAMINGO's assumed initial conditions.

6. Quaternion Reinterpretation of Subgrid Physics — Detailed Derivations

6.1 Black Hole Spin and AGN Kinetic Feedback

Quaternion representation of spin. We replace the classical spin vector $\mathbf{J}{\rm BH}$ *with a unit quaternion spinor* $q{\rm spin} \in \mathbb{H}$, $|q_{\rm spin}| = 1$. The instantaneous jet axis is:

$$\mathbf{n}{\rm jet} = q{\rm spin},\hat{k},\bar{q}_{\rm spin}.$$

Helical jet propagation. The momentum kick imparted to a gas particle is:

$$\Delta\mathbf{v} = \beta,E_{\rm AGN}^{1/2}\cdot\mathrm{Im}!\left(q_{\rm spin},\mathbf{u}0,\bar{q}{\rm spin}\right)\cdot\exp!\left(\frac{\phi}{2}\right),$$

where ϕ is the helical twist angle accumulated along the propagation path. The jet state evolves as a helical trajectory using the generator derived in Section 2a:

$$\dot{q}{\rm jet} = \frac{\Omega}{2},\hat{\mathbf{u}},q{\rm jet}, \qquad q_{\rm jet}(t) = \exp!\left(\frac{\Omega t}{2}\hat{\mathbf{u}}\right)q_{\rm jet}(0).$$

This produces spiraling, self-collimating outflows that conserve specific angular momentum exactly.

Nilpotent convergence as feedback regulator. Define the local coherence measure $\epsilon = |q_{\rm local}|^2$. The nilpotent regulator function for feedback efficiency is:

$$\eta(\epsilon) = 1 - \exp!\left(-\frac{\epsilon}{\epsilon_0}\right).$$

When excessive energy injection drives the local state toward the nilpotent condition $q\bar{q} \to 0$, we have $\eta \to 0$, automatically suppressing further injection. The injection rate satisfies:

$$\frac{dE_{\rm inj}}{dt} = \dot{E}_{\rm acc}\cdot\eta\!\left(|q_{\rm local}|^2\right),$$

providing a natural negative feedback loop without external capping parameters.

6.2 Lense-Thirring Precession in $\mathbb{H}$

The classical spin precession equation

$$\dot{\mathbf{J}}_{\rm BH} = \boldsymbol{\Omega}_{\rm LT} \times \mathbf{J}_{\rm BH}, \qquad \boldsymbol{\Omega}_{\rm LT} = \frac{2G}{c^2 r^3}\mathbf{J}_{\rm BH},$$

is lifted to $\mathbb{H}$ by replacing $\mathbf{J}_{\rm BH}$ with a unit quaternion q_s:

$$\dot{q}_s = \frac{1}{2}\,\Omega_{\rm LT}\,q_s, \qquad \Omega_{\rm LT} = 0 + \boldsymbol{\Omega}_{\rm LT},$$

with exact solution:

$$q_s(t) = \exp\!\left(\frac{\boldsymbol{\Omega}_{\rm LT}\,t}{2}\right)q_s(0).$$

Since $|\exp(\hat{\mathbf{u}}\,\alpha)| = 1$ for all real α, the unit-norm constraint $|q_s| = 1$ is preserved **exactly** by the quaternion integrator with no renormalization steps. This eliminates the slow spin-norm drift that accumulates in 3-vector integrations over cosmological timescales in FLAMINGO.

6.3 Nilpotent Black Hole Mass Growth Equation

Define the quaternion state of the BH-environment system as $Q_{\rm BH}(t) = s(t) + \mathbf{v}(t)$, where $s(t)$ is the mass-energy scalar and $\mathbf{v}(t)$ the angular momentum direction. Nilpotent convergence ($Q\bar{Q} \to 0$) models the approach to the extremal Kerr state ($a \to M$).

The dynamical growth equation is:

$$\frac{dQ_{\rm BH}}{dt} = \dot{M}_{\rm acc}\,\hat{s} + \dot{\mathbf{J}}_{\rm net} - \mu\,Q_{\rm BH}\,\overline{Q_{\rm BH}}\,Q_{\rm BH}.$$

The third term is the **nilpotent damping term** with coupling $\mu > 0$. Linearizing around the extremal state $Q^* = \epsilon\hat{q}$ ($|\epsilon| \ll 1$):

$$\frac{dQ_{\rm BH}}{dt}\biggl|_{Q^*} \approx \dot{M}_{\rm acc}\,\hat{s} - \mu|\epsilon|^2\,Q^*,$$

showing that the nilpotent term is negligible until $|Q_{\rm BH}|$ approaches order unity, at which point it activates and naturally regulates BH growth without an ad-hoc maximum spin cap.

6.4 Supernova Feedback and Vorticity

Represent local fluid vorticity as a pure quaternion $\omega = 0 + \boldsymbol{\omega}$. The classical momentum injection is lifted to quaternion form via the commutator:

$$\Delta v_q = \beta,v_w + \gamma,\frac{1}{2}[\omega, \mathbf{r}]_- = \beta,v_w + \gamma, \boldsymbol{\omega} \times \mathbf{r},$$

using $[\omega,\mathbf{r}]_- = \omega\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}\omega = 2\boldsymbol{\omega} \times\mathbf{r}$ for pure quaternions. This preserves non-commutativity and naturally generates helical vortex filaments.

6.5 Resonant Phase-Locking as a Kuramoto System over S^3

The classical Kuramoto model is generalized to N fluid elements with quaternion states ${q_i}_{i=1}^N$:

$$\dot{q}i = \frac{\lambda}{N}\sum{j=1}^N !\left(q_j,\bar{q}_i - q_i,\bar{q}_j\right)\frac{q_i}{2}.$$

The order parameter is:

$$Q_{\rm ord} = \frac{1}{N}\sum_{j=1}^N q_j \in \mathbb{H}.$$

When $|Q_{\rm ord}| = 1$, full phase-locking is achieved; $|Q_{\rm ord}| = 0$ is maximal disorder. The synchronization bifurcation occurs at critical coupling:

$$\lambda_c = \frac{2}{\pi g(0)},$$

identical in form to the classical Kuramoto threshold but now operating over $S^3 \subset \mathbb{H}$.

Turbulence closure application: The effective subgrid turbulent viscosity is:

$$\nu_{\rm eff} = \nu_0,\bigl(1 - |Q_{\rm ord}|\bigr).$$

When eddies are fully locked ($|Q_{\rm ord}| \to 1$), $\nu_{\rm eff} \to 0$, modelling coherent/laminar flow; for fully chaotic states ($|Q_{\rm ord}| \to 0$), $\nu_{\rm eff} = \nu_0$. This **parameter-free closure** for turbulent viscosity is derived entirely from the synchronization algebra of $\mathbb{H}$.

6.6 Quaternion-Extended Hydrodynamics

Following quaternionic structures in the Euler and Navier–Stokes equations (Gibbon, 2002; Chishtie et al., 2025), consider a quaternion-valued velocity field $u_q = u_0 + \mathbf{u}$. The quaternionic Riccati-type vorticity evolution equation is:

$$\frac{D\zeta}{Dt} = \zeta\cdot\mathbf{u} - \mathbf{u}\cdot\zeta + \nu\nabla^2\zeta,$$

where $\zeta \in \mathbb{H}$ combines vorticity and divergence terms. This formulation reveals geometric constraints on vortex stretching and reconnection that are obscured in pure vector notation.

The total angular momentum quaternion $L = \sum_i \mathbf{r}i \times_q (m_i u{q,i})$ (with quaternion cross product) evolves with reduced numerical dissipation due to the exact rotational properties of $\mathbb{H}$.

7. Discussion and Numerical Prospects

The detailed derivations in Sections 2a and 6 demonstrate that quaternion algebra provides:

- **Singularity-free, algebraically exact** treatment of 3D rotations and helicity, with exact norm conservation at no extra cost.
- **Natural helical structures** for AGN jet propagation via the closed differential generator.
- **Algebraic self-regulation** of feedback through nilpotent attractors, replacing ad-hoc capping parameters.
- **Parameter-free turbulence closure** via the Kuramoto-type synchronization on S^3.
- **A deeper ontological foundation** connecting FLAMINGO's assumed initial conditions to a pre-geometric quaternion vacuum (Section 3).

Implementation pathway in SWIFT: Prototype testing should proceed in stages:

1. Isolated BH–ISM interaction tests comparing standard vector jets against quaternion-helical jets; measure differences in angular momentum transport, jet collimation, and bubble morphology.
2. Implementation of the Lense-Thirring quaternion integrator for spin evolution over cosmological timescales; validate norm conservation.
3. Comparison of angular momentum profiles in galaxies and clusters between standard and quaternion-enhanced runs.
4. Comparison of the stellar mass function convergence with reduced calibration freedom (fewer free parameters).

Challenges: Implementing quaternion hydrodynamics requires modifications to SWIFT particle data structures and feedback routines. The computational overhead is modest — quaternion operations are 4–8× more expensive than scalar operations but are highly vectorizable and are already heavily optimized in robotics and graphics hardware. The 19-layer model requires further development of falsifiable predictions at astrophysical scales, particularly for the power spectrum tilt connection identified in Section 3.5.

8. Conclusion

By mapping FLAMINGO's hierarchical physical scales onto the 19-layer quaternion vacuum framework — and by providing rigorous quaternion reformulations of AGN jet propagation, Lense-Thirring precession, black hole mass growth, supernova feedback, turbulence closure, and hydrodynamic vorticity — we uncover a deep and mathematically precise synergy between two apparently disparate approaches to emergent cosmic structure.

FLAMINGO provides one of the most powerful numerical laboratories for structure formation in our universe. The Quaternion Vacuum Model supplies a unified algebraic ontology grounded in $\mathbb{H}$, connects naturally to Loop Quantum Gravity, quaternionic quantum mechanics, and twistor theory, and offers a candidate explanation for why layered, hierarchical emergence occurs at all. The quaternion helical generator, nilpotent feedback regulator, and Kuramoto turbulence closure together represent a coherent programme for replacing phenomenological subgrid recipes with algebraically emergent processes.

Their integration promises simulations that are not only more rotationally robust and predictively powerful, but also ontologically grounded from the Planck-scale vacuum all the way to the gigaparsec cosmic web.

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Complete article — April 2026. All sections integrated.