

SAP COMMENTARY / COMPANION NOTES

Structural Clarifications and Interpretive Guardrails

1. Purpose of the Commentary Layer

The Commentary layer exists to stabilize interpretation of SAP without altering the protocol. It clarifies intent, prevents misapplication, and ensures that all readers maintain altitude and structural fidelity. Commentary is non-operative: it does not introduce new rules, gates, or primitives.

2. SAP as a Structural Protocol

SAP is not a methodology, framework, or research philosophy. It is a structural protocol that evaluates cognitive architectures against generative invariants and problem layers. Its function is governance, not guidance. It determines who may engage a problem, not how the problem is solved.

3. The Role of Invariants in SAP

Invariants are the anchor of the protocol. They determine the problem's true structure and define the conditions under which reasoning remains coherent. SAP assumes invariants exist, can be detected, and must be preserved. All gates ultimately reduce to invariant sensitivity.

4. The Role of Layers in SAP

Layers define the altitude of the problem. Layer correctness is a prerequisite for all evaluation. Layer mismatch is a structural failure independent of intelligence, expertise, or domain knowledge. SAP treats layer drift as a system-level threat.

5. Cognitive Architecture as the Evaluated Entity

SAP evaluates architectures, not individuals. The protocol is indifferent to credentials, experience, or domain identity. Only the architecture's structural properties matter: coherence, stability, altitude control, and invariant sensitivity.

6. Exit as a Structural Outcome

Exit is not punitive. Exit is the natural result of misalignment between architecture, layer, and invariants. SAP uses exit to protect the problem, not to judge the researcher. Exit preserves system integrity and prevents drift propagation.

7. The Structural Lead's Position

The Structural Lead is not a manager, facilitator, or coordinator. The Structural Lead is the invariant-sensitive architect responsible for maintaining membrane integrity. Authority derives from structural perception, not hierarchy. The Lead's role is to protect the system from collapse.

8. Drift as the Primary Failure Mode

All structural failures reduce to drift. Layer drift, invariant drift, formalism drift, narrative drift, and altitude drift are manifestations of the same underlying instability. SAP treats drift as a critical breach requiring immediate evaluation and potential exit.

9. SAP as a Self-Stabilizing System

When all remaining architectures are aligned, the system becomes self-solving. No coordination, management, or oversight is required. The aligned set stabilizes invariants, eliminates drift, and collapses unnecessary complexity. This is the intended operational state of SAP.

10. Commentary Boundaries

Commentary must not:

- introduce new primitives
- reinterpret existing primitives
- alter gate definitions
- soften exit conditions

- introduce narrative or domain-specific framing
- collapse altitude

Commentary exists only to preserve structural clarity.

Canonical Statement

The Commentary layer stabilizes interpretation of SAP, preserves altitude, protects invariants, and ensures that the protocol is applied with structural fidelity across all contexts and readers.