

Will AI Ever Be Conscious?¹

Considering a Major Question of Our Time

According to the Eternal or EP Conjecture, the answer is “Not necessarily” (minimum), “probably not” (moderate), or “no” (max).

Why? If there ever is Something there *always* was something.

When one understands why this is true, they find something (always) that is un-caused, un-beginning, necessary, unique, and invariant.

The Always existor is a *counter-example* to two false assumptions underlying the belief that AI computers will necessarily be consciousness one day (computational consciousness hypothesis):

- (1) That every something that exists is physical: always has no space, and therefore is not a computer of any kind.
- (2) That computation and complexity are sufficient and/or necessary for consciousness (mind): always is before all time or computation, and yet 1st and last. While neither computation nor complexity apply to the base case/Source (always), it is Minded².

For those interested in this major question of our time, I've put together a list of my papers that explain this.

Interested readers should note that the author has offered a prize bounty (\$) to anyone that rebuts the core reasoning of the Eternal or EP conjecture.

Original EP Conjecture Summary (2019):

https://www.hartfordlab.com/uploads/2/0/5/0/20500914/the_ep_conjecture_argument_by_adh.pdf

Website: <https://www.simulationslayer.com/> (2025)

Full case file (2017-2024):

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1kQOHIWtWUGoRyljFJsokzBtw_nj43A5

1st Journal Citation: *Progress in Biophysics and Molecular Biology* (August 2024, p. 56):

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/progress-in-biophysics-and-molecular-biology/vol/190/suppl/C>

¹ Author: Andrew Downing Hartford. This work relates to the EP Conjecture, now known as the Eternal Conjecture. Written: April 3, 2026. This paper is dedicated to the one and the only. Happy Good Friday! This is coming in hotter than the new AI Documentary– *The AI Doc: Or How I Became an Apocaloptimist* (2026) – which was really good!

² Note: this is not claiming that it has human consciousness in the way human beings experience it. It is claiming that the Source has 1st person awareness in whatever way that it does.

Closer to Truth Website (2025): <https://loc.closetotruth.com/theory/computational-theories>

#4.17 Logician's Apology (2026):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1d4NxK-eMAPIHSSZVfHFAar4gva8wWcS6v9qA36n8oks/edit?tab=t.0>

#4.354 Augustine's Lion (2025):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/11oq70lo-g6B--FP9c9_TCHYS73H38S-Y_4EKH32Mijl/edit?tab=t.0

#5.1978 Why Consciousness is Non-Computational (2025):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/183cF1psvh3vn6xAIDCe4oMgXfEGJ_8OSbUR8ZqxtUJ4/edit?usp=drivesdk

#4.5 Minds in Nature (2024):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1JazTaknoM9MoSoslSPwbRKl4hrPLm1msRZxcAdFHcxU/edit?usp=drive_link

#5 Not so Fast My Friends (2023):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1i9ZYyMLbstcJu-MQjDCBHHZkCuk2-ltgIKJt2MnRG40/edit?usp=drive_link

#64 Darwin's Daddy (2024):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DhnDRrVXE6cXexc4NCYUWzIeqJ-QjgfV0HoWJVwIUyI/edit?usp=drive_link

#11.11 Why Eternal \neq Time (2025):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VajiXihsa_X8FSNm4MVym1DCIeuBYJJ96RCuGASi48/edit?usp=drive_link

#68 The Case for No Space (2024):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PbXX9VXCN-SPUvtUOyNuPAi_v3FuQYOCLRd5e_I2vEM/edit?usp=drive_link

#1.2025 The EP Conjecture Summary Overview (2025):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1H091MLckxc8DC49drZAxuXGQLAJnKKqfHuRrnzIP6o0/edit?tab=t.0>

#12.5 The Eternal Instance (2025)

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1q6qRNFoDiDAWSaPZhBHQhwS0Nk8ixu_eNrI_dxLvDZc/edit?usp=drive_link

#4 An Interpretation of Consciousness in Nature (2020):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ttxj9TwBeNwFSwSbeSmcM0dAIMzSIId1VNDif29HkcYk/edit?tab=t.0>

#11.5 The Old Always vs. The New Always (2025):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/10fYDiA6y2oY3A2jktM4x7S7rdX7vXuo4h47xN334VOY/edit?tab=t.0>

#25.5 Axiomatic Turing Test (2024):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1TFZVuMCgIL6UyT_5e1FRkiekFuMylcjMDJmV7_GLb9A/edit?tab=t.0

#33.5 Duel of the Fates (2026):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1SbgK_pZAIC3cL5S8d3qxqmiYSpG67vtVOYNCKDtXgtc/edit?tab=t.0

Background to the Landscape Citation (2026):

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Qn--Uz34AGeahjV20F4TjfdcZrZO-kGsHuQYDt3tZws/edit?tab=t.0>