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Research Papers on knowledge, Innovation and Enterprise

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KIE Conference

Research Papers on knowledge, Innovation and Enterprise

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James Ogunleye, PhD
Middlesex University, UK

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Editorial

Intersecting Frontiers: Knowledge, Innovation, and Enterprise in a Complex World

This thirteenth volume of the *Research Papers on Knowledge, Innovation and Enterprise* continues a tradition of showcasing a diverse and intellectually rich selection of scholarly work submitted to the annual KIE Conference. Held this year in Lisbon, Portugal—Europe's oldest nation—the 2025 conference brought together scholars from across the globe to explore critical issues at the intersections of knowledge, creativity, entrepreneurship, education, and science.

This edition reflects not only the core mission of the KIE Conference—to foster cross-disciplinary dialogue—but also the complex and often urgent realities shaping our world.

We begin with Gillian L.S. Hilton's timely and socially resonant paper on the dangerous rise of misogynistic ideologies in youth culture, focusing on the influence of controversial online figures such as Andrew Tate. Her research is both a call to action and a roadmap for educators seeking to foster inclusive and respectful school environments.

In Elizabeth Achinewhu-Nworgu's powerful contribution, the lived realities of ambitious African women navigating systemic gender and racial barriers in business and the workplace are brought into sharp relief. Her analysis is both deeply personal and universally relevant, illuminating the enduring struggle—and remarkable resilience—of women in male-dominated spaces.

Marlon Robinson's conceptual exploration of entrepreneurship offers a fresh synthesis of the literature, presenting a framework that highlights the interconnectivity of definitions and constructs—an invaluable contribution to understanding entrepreneurial behaviour in a globalised, dynamic world.

Gavin Suss' analytical paper on the Israel Defense Forces and Israel's military-industrial complex illustrates how national defence can serve as a catalytic force for innovation, economic growth, and global leadership. His study of elite IDF units like Unit 8200 and Mamram paints a compelling portrait of how military excellence fuels Israel's reputation as a "Start-Up Nation."

Finally, Dominique Heger's simulation-based research on black hole geodesics offers a bold foray into astrophysics, bridging theoretical insights from general relativity with creative modeling of Kerr and Schwarzschild black holes. His speculative connection between Planck-

scale phenomena and gravitational singularities opens up new imaginative frontiers in science.

In the sixth and final paper of this volume, Silas Ihedioha and Isaac Mankilik introduce a fractional differential equation (FDE) framework for modeling climate system dynamics. Recognizing that traditional models fail to account for long-term memory effects inherent in climate processes, their study incorporates the Caputo fractional derivative and memory kernels to simulate global temperature anomalies more accurately. Their fractional energy balance model reveals that delayed and cumulative climate responses can be captured more effectively using fractional calculus. The paper not only advances the field of climate modeling but also offers critical insights for urban resilience planning, infrastructure adaptation, and climate-risk-informed policymaking.

Together, these six papers reflect the spirit of the KIE Conference: inquisitive, interdisciplinary, courageous, and committed to addressing contemporary challenges through rigorous and innovative thinking.

We commend the authors and invite readers to engage, question, and contribute to the evolving global discourse on knowledge, innovation and enterprise.

James Ogunleye, PhD
Editor

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What Are the Effects of and How can Schools Cope with and Address the Misogynistic Views of Women Perpetrated by Andrew Tate and his Followers?

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Received 13.05.2025; received in revised form 17.06.2025; accepted 21.07.2025

Abstract

This paper examines the impact of a highly influential and controversial figure, Andrew Tate, whose negative influence on adolescent boys has become a growing concern in schools across the UK. Tate, an internationally known personality, is widely recognised for his misogynistic views and anti-women rhetoric. His behaviour and messaging have had far-reaching and troubling effects on teenage boys, particularly in how they relate to female teachers and classmates. The paper includes a literature review on the phenomenon surrounding Tate and his followers, alongside a small-scale study involving students in Year 1 of Advanced Level (A-Level) education. Findings suggest that while his direct influence may be declining, schools remain deeply concerned about the persistence and rise of misogynistic attitudes and aggression towards women, as exhibited by some male students. Currently, there appears to be insufficient support, guidance, and training available to schools, educators, and wider society to enable an effective response to the anti-female attitudes increasingly observed among some young men.

Keywords: Misogyny in Schools, Andrew Tate Influence, Teenage Boys' Attitudes, Gender Relations in Education, Anti-Female Behaviour, School Response to Misogyny

Introduction

Over the past few years the name Andrew Tate and that of his brother and his supporters, have been circulating, particularly amongst teenaged boys, who appear to feel that his promotion of masculinity and anti-female stance and beliefs, that women have gained too much power and influence in a world, which should be run by men, are the answer to their concerns about being male in the twenty first century. This self-professed saviour of men's

domination of the world, has affected groups of troubled young men, who feel left out and attacked by the rise in female status, taking over, what Tate professes as the right of men to rule. His misogynistic and sexist views, are now commonly repeated and his activities in Romania, where he lived with his brother, were targeted towards young men who, in many cases, feel threatened by the rise in what Tate believes, is an attempt by women to take over the leadership roles, which in his opinion should rightly be held by those of masculine gender. His influence has been widespread, via social media, his videos and his constant presence in the press. The problems this raises are many for example, how do parents cope with this outside influence on their sons, how do women respond to his views that women are chattels and play things for the use of the stronger sex, including the right to rape and sexually exploit females in any way? Further to this is the question. as how do schools react to the response of teenaged boys who believe, in many cases, that girls will not find them attractive, if they are not rich and that women are taking over the leadership roles of men and control is being lost by those of the male sex?

This misogynistic phenomenon has caused serious problems in schools, as female teachers have been attacked verbally and psychologically, by their male pupils, girls made to feel they are seen as inferior by their male classmates, who believe that too much has been given away to women across the world, who wish to subjugate men and take over male's rightful supremacy. This has resulted in all male support groups for Tate, springing up in UK secondary schools, in order to counteract the rise of girls and women in educational achievement and in society (Barlow, 2025). His appeal to young men is, according to Feltham (2024) that it is not Tate's sexist views on women and their role in modern life that influences his followers, but his success in earning money and his confidence that his advice can help other males to be financially successful too.

However, much concern has been expressed by media, news reports and worried parents that Tate's 'twisted' views of women are an extremely bad influence on teenaged and vulnerable young men. (Smith, 2022, Thorburn, 2022). Online videos produced by Tate and his verbal comments, put forward the idea that women were and still should be, the property of men and that crimes such as rape are the fault of women. This resulted in his output being banned by much of the media, but that material continues to circulate online, between groups and individuals. Women are seen as a threat to men as the leaders of society and that women should be blamed, for not taking their rightful place in society that is, obeying their masters, men. Living with his brother in Romania, Tate was eventually arrested for rape and people trafficking. This did not however, prevent his misogynistic views from taking over the beliefs of many teenaged boys, who admired his success and ability to accumulate wealth. Tate plays on boys' concerns that they will not be attractive to women unless they are rich and that women should be second to men in all things, in the lives of both sexes. Success

and above all, his financial acumen, appear to be what attracts impressionable boys (Fazackerley, 2023). As a result, there is concern over the 'Tate effect' in schools. Moore, (2025) discusses the effect of what he describes as the 'Andrew Tate phenomena' fuelling waves of misogyny in schools. Teachers this author claims, should be warned that this rise of anti-female feelings, which now includes challenging behaviours from boys, is a still causing problems in schools and is adversely affecting relationships between males and females, both staff and students.

Effects in schools.

Cassidy (2023) writes about the strong influence Tate has on boys, who follow his speech mannerisms and philosophy and parents have spoken out about the rising aggressiveness of boys towards women and how influenced they are by Tate's attitudes and beliefs. This author mentions the charity, Hope not Hate, which campaigns for justice and discovered that, eight in ten boys aged sixteen to seventeen had read Tate's work and that forty-five percent of men in Britain aged 16-24, had positive views of him, whilst only 1 % of British women aged 16 -17 held a similar opinion.

Teachers across the country are showing concerns over the adverse effect of the Tate phenomenon and as a result, teacher unions have reacted to their concerns. Nearly 6,000 teachers responded to a poll conducted by the NASUWT teaching union, and nearly three in five respondents (59%) said they believe social media use has contributed to a deterioration in pupils' behaviour. During their conference, union representatives discussed how schools and teachers could respond to the threats posed by extremist groups via social media. The findings come as part of the Union's annual report (Sky News 19.04.2025). Individuals from amongst the 5000 delegates, produced many examples of the negative effect of the Tate message and how it is affecting students' behaviour and opinions. The Head of the Union made the point that schools and teachers could not be alone in efforts to overcome Tate's negative effects and that more support for schools and teachers was required from other agencies, including the government. The response from the DfE was positive and discussions occurred over the provision of material to counteract the Tate story, including teenagers being encouraged (even by the current Prime Minister) to watch in school a Television Documentary produced by Netflix *Adolescence,* including scenes showing misogyny and violence towards women.

Additionally, the Relationships and Sex Education curriculum guidance document, also raises queries about abuse and anti-female beliefs held by some males. However, despite the Netflix video being made free to secondary schools, talking about Tate and his beliefs has to some extent been banned, or at least, schools advised not to raise the subject with pupils. This reaction of not discussing Tate and his influence with pupils, started with guidance from the DfE in 2023, not to introduce it into the classroom (Fazakerley, 2023). However, recently there have been increasing demands from schools for help and guidance from the DfE as to how to address this

problem, but so far little effective response has occurred. However, a small charity based in Rotherham has been trying to support schools in working against the misogynistic material put forward by Tate and has been as a result, inundated with requests from schools for help. They, unlike the DfE, are not sweeping the problem 'under the carpet'! They are facing requests from schools as how to cope with violent and sexist behaviour from boys, even young ones in primary school, whose attitude to girls and women seems to be strongly affected by Tate's anti-female feelings which it appears are sometimes supported by their fathers.

The desire from schools for support and materials, has been increasing and Wood (2025) the Education Editor of The Telegraph, raised the pleas being heard from teachers demanding help to counteract 'manosphere guidance' to challenge the influence of Tate. This is not a new problem in UK schools, as for many years there have been concerns over the teaching of relationships and sex education, particularly to boys (Hilton, 2021).

Hodgson (2025) points to the verbal abuse suffered by female staff in schools, which is at a far higher rate than that suffered by male staff. One in in four female teachers surveyed by the union NASUWT said they suffered verbal attacks from pupils several times a week. Thirteen percent of female staff suffered abuse daily, compared to 9.8 percent of male teachers. Many staff who responded to the union's survey identified the influence of Andrew Tate and his supporters on social media as a key factor behind the problem. Some boys were reported to be mimicking Tate's behaviour, imitating actions seen in videos circulating among male pupils.

A significant rise in misogynistic behaviour was noted by numerous respondents—for example, boys refusing to engage in conversation with female teachers.

Hepburn (2025) had raised the question of the need for serious consideration of violence against women and girls in schools, made in a briefing to Members of the Scottish Parliament. Change was essential as violence and misogyny were rising fast in Scottish schools. Concerns have been expressed by the present government and the Prime Minister that schools need to challenge the anti-female bias of Tate and his followers, but as yet there have been few positive effects, or strong efforts form the DfE to address this problem.

King-Hill and Russell (2023) had already raised the problems faced by boys in present society, suggesting that a change was urgently needed to make boys feel less rejected and that if boys were feeling so out of touch with modern expectations of men and women in our society, we, as a nation have seriously failed them. Change these authors said is essential and parents, carers and those involved with the raising of boys, urgently need support, guidance and help to aid boys in rejecting some modern expectations of what it is to be male. They call for an urgent assessment of the current relationships and sex education and health education guidance, so that boys can feel included and not feeling pressured, using merely the words ex-

pected of them, when discussing male/female issues, which is an essential part of the growing up process, but not always addressed in what they these authors term a safe space. A focus on boys they claim is needed urgently, in order to prevent problems escalating and boys paying only lip service to the ideas that refute the theories of Tate and his perceptions of equality between the sexes.

Research Methodology

The research used a qualitative approach, as the opinions and ideas of individuals was required (Cohen Manion and Morrison, 2011) and the opportunity to freely discuss with others their opinions on the question of Tate's influence on young men. It was important to hear the ideas of both males and females, but in a small group, as that format would be less intimidating for the participants, allowing them to express themselves freely. Therefore, a focus group design was adopted (Denscombe, 2003) and a small group of first year A Level students, 3 females and 3 males from a local secondary school, to the north of London, in the county of Hertfordshire, were approached and asked if they would be willing to answer questions about the Adrew Tate phenomenon. This was ethically possible without parental permission, as all the respondents were aged sixteen or over. Two of the participants were known to the researcher who had a relaxed relationship with them, having known them since childhood. They were happy to approach other students to ask them to join the focus group discussion. This took place in the house of one of the students, in order to encourage a relaxed and open atmosphere for discussion. This age group was purposely sampled as they appear, from the literature above, to be across the UK, well aware of Tate and his beliefs.

The questions were designed to explore the participants' knowledge of Andrew Tate's activities and beliefs, including the material he presents on social media and his notoriety on news programmes. The students were asked about Tate's influence on boys in their school, if it had in their opinion, increased or decreased of late and how students and staff responded. In particular, they were asked if the topic had been raised in PSHE lessons or Form Time. It was important to discover if there were differences of opinion in the group related to them being female or male, so care was taken by the researcher to encourage all to express their opinions and not allow any domination of the discussions by individuals or one gender group. The sample size was small, but deliberately chosen to be so, as the researcher believed that would enable a relaxed atmosphere and encourage all participants to contribute to the discussion.

The respondents were relaxed, interested and willing to talk in the randomly chosen, to some degree self-elected, group, all of them knew each other well. All had heard of Tate and his ideas and clearly demonstrated in their verbal responses, that his attitudes and beliefs were clearly un-

derstood by their age group and also by younger students. They were an ethnically mixed group, common in this area of the county. The school is well thought of by parents and popular as a choice of secondary school from a wide circle, extending well beyond the physical school itself, as its students come from an extended area.

The respondents volunteered when asked, to take part in the discussion and many more had also expressed interest in the subject under discussion, demonstrating clearly the widely held knowledge of Tate and his opinions and behaviour. The group when questioned, all believed that Tate's influence had lessened somewhat of late, due to the charges against him of people trafficking and rape. There had been some discussion in school, on a casual basis, on his beliefs and claims about women and men's inability now it appears, to control relationships and the effects of that on men's status in the world. They were somewhat shocked by his notoriety – especially the three women, who were appalled by his attitudes toward women and his belief that they were inferior to men in many ways. To some extent, they were amused by these, what they considered 'foolish' ideas and strongly rejected them, though acknowledging that other people might be influenced by them. The males in the group showed agreement with their female fellow students.

However, it might well have been that they were, to some extent afraid to refute the strongly held views of the three girls, who were confident in expressing their dislike and disgust at Tate's opinions of women and their rights. Little it appeared, had been said at school, about Tate's influence on boys and the group were shocked to hear, that the DfE had previously advised schools not to raise this topic in PSHE lessons. They all thought that such views as those professed by Tate and his followers, should be discussed and challenged. All students had received PSHE teaching in the years before they entered the sixth form and their experiences were varied. One female teacher was praised by all those in the group she had taught (4) as she was relaxed and ready to listen to their views. One teacher however, a male had not been so ready to respond to questions, or discuss students' opinions. Two of the male respondents, believed his input was of little use whatsoever, particularly in the discussing of issues which were difficult or controversial. He 'skimmed the surface' one said and did not 'seem to be ready to listen to, or discuss pupils' ideas, at some points in lessons walking out, leaving the class to do it for themselves'. Some discussion took place as to why male teachers seem to have more difficulty in discussing such issues and the question of the need for much better preparation of teachers to deal with delicate and challenging material was engaged in enthusiastically. They were as a group, somewhat disturbed to know that many teachers involved as form teachers, that is, responsible for the well-being of pupils in their form, are often expected to teach PSHE with little or no initial training. This they thought was very wrong and that all teachers should have good training in how to deal with these delicate issues of

relationships, sex and the male/female debate. One student said she was lucky as she could talk to her parents openly about such things and they were willing to listen to her opinions. However, she mentioned some friends who had parents who refused to discuss matters they thought too 'adult and grown up' for their own children and how difficult that made learning about controversial material, for students whose parents were not open in their discussions. One female raised the question of her father's attitudes to women, 'really out of date' she said. 'He goes on about women's place is in the home etc. and thinks cooking is a woman' job'.

Conclusion

From the literature available and from the respondents, who so enthusiastically took part in the discussion about Tate and his effects on both sexes, which was negatively viewed by all the respondents, it appears that Tate's influence is declining in some areas, but misogyny is still apparent and certainly many females and some males are appalled by such outdated and stereotyped beliefs. Indeed, recent evidence from the NASUWT of female teachers' experience in schools and the concerns voiced by some parents, supports this concern. One issue however, seems to be ever present, despite the DfE and the PSHE Association and other bodies, who attempt to help the teaching profession in working with such difficult and challenging material, it appears many teachers are still not well prepared. All these teachers are working. in most cases, with their own subject specialism, particularly in secondary schools, but then with little training are expected to teach about highly controversial issues and in the cases of female teachers, find that social media influences may still be corrupting boys' attitudes towards female's status in the profession. This is not a new situation, PSHE has long been the side-lined, neglected area in students' education package, often taught by people with little training, no desire to teach it and an inability to support students in discussing delicate subjects that can cause conflict.

For years, those training teachers have asked that either all teachers should receive good training in this area of relationships, sex and health education, or only those properly trained as specialists should be allowed to teach these subject areas. PSHE and relationships education has for years been one of the so-called, Cinderella subjects, the poor relation in the education package offered to students. Little seems to have changed. The Andrew Tates of this world—and there are many—continue to influence vulnerable young people with ease, especially through social media. Although some recent evidence suggests his influence on teenagers is declining at present, this whole area of education needs to be examined in more depth and Ofsted told to include PSHE teaching standards and how women teachers are treated by male staff and students in the schools they inspect. However, at present the controversy over the rewriting of the Ofsted inspections

protocol, is unlikely to achieve this specific aim of improving the attitudes of males, particularly teenaged boys in schools, towards the females who teach then and who study with them.

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Challenges Faced by Ambitious African Women in Business and the Workplace—and Their Determination to Overcome Them

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Abstract

This paper originates from Chapter One of the author's book, *Gender, Culture and Professional Growth: Case Studies of Real-Life Experiences*. It explores the multifaceted challenges African women face in their pursuit of leadership roles, entrepreneurship, and workplace equity. These challenges, embedded in socio-cultural, economic, institutional, and systemic discrimination, reflect broader global patterns of racial and gender barriers. Despite these constraints, African women continue to make meaningful contributions across sectors, navigating obstacles such as limited access to resources, biased policies, and cultural constraints. Through comparative analyses of historical and contemporary figures—including Michelle Obama, Kemi Badenoch, and Margaret Thatcher—the paper highlights the resilience and strategic collaboration necessary to transcend institutional racism and gender bias. Drawing on case studies, scholarly literature, and a mini qualitative inquiry involving African women, this study sheds light on both the "glass" and "concrete" ceilings confronting minority women and outlines strategies for effective leadership and advancement in male-dominated environments.

Keywords: African women, Workplace equity, Entrepreneurship, Systemic discrimination, Leadership advancement, Gender barriers

Introduction

African women navigating business and career progression, particularly in foreign or predominantly white societies, encounter numerous obstacles rooted in discrimination and societal bias. The author's personal experience as a business owner in a predominantly white, affluent neighbourhood underscores the twin realities of perseverance and systemic barriers. Despite her determination and support from a few individuals who recognized her hard work, financial pressures and declining patronage made business sus-

tainability difficult. This case exemplifies the broader disparities that African women often face when pursuing success in entrepreneurship and the workplace.

This paper situates these experiences within a global context, echoing research such as Steenbergen (2023), who documented the dual burdens of racism and sexism faced by Black women in Belgium's fashion industry. While structural barriers remain prevalent, progress is possible through strategic reforms and determined individual efforts. This study seeks to deepen understanding of these challenges and inform policy and organisational change through a comprehensive examination of African women's lived experiences.

Literature Review

The literature reveals that African women face a complex interplay of socio-cultural, linguistic, economic, and family-related challenges that hinder their upward mobility in business and professional settings.

Socio-Cultural Barriers

Girod and Dop (2024) argue that entrenched gender stereotypes across both African and Western societies continue to position women as ill-suited for leadership. In many African cultures, women are perceived primarily as caregivers and homemakers, sidelining them from decision-making roles. Even in Western contexts, stereotypical expectations of women as passive or submissive clash with the assertiveness often associated with leadership, thereby perpetuating underrepresentation at the executive level (World Bank, 2020). These challenges are exacerbated for African women who must also contend with racial biases, creating a double burden in both foreign and native contexts.

Linguistic Discrimination

Language and accent bias are substantial obstacles for African women working abroad. Smith (2020) found that perceived linguistic "inferiority"—based solely on non-native or regional accents—often leads to professional exclusion and bias. In the UK, for example, African women with non-standard accents frequently report being underestimated. One case (Doe, 2021) describes a highly qualified woman who was repeatedly overlooked for promotion due to such biases. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (2019) corroborates these findings, underscoring the exclusionary effect of accent-based prejudice on networking and advancement.

Work-Family Conflicts

The dual burden of professional work and caregiving continues to undermine women's career advancement. In many African cultures, obligations extend beyond the nuclear family to the extended family network (UN Women, 2021). Similar expectations exist in Western societies, where the "superwoman" ideal forces women to excel both at home and at work, often leading to burnout. Leaders like Sheryl Sandberg have advocated for structural reforms—such as flexible schedules and parental leave—to counteract this imbalance and promote shared domestic responsibilities (Luna, 2019).

Economic Constraints

Access to finance remains one of the most significant barriers for African women entrepreneurs and professionals. According to the International Finance Corporation (2019), women receive less than $10 billion globally in small-business credit, despite owning 30% of such enterprises. The case of Lydia Zinga, a Malawian entrepreneur denied a bank loan due to lack of collateral, illustrates this challenge. Her eventual success through microfinance—along with entrepreneurial training—emphasises the importance of accessible, gender-sensitive financing systems (Mhlanga, 2024). Similarly, research by Achinewhu-Nworgu (2025) revealed severe underrepresentation of minority women in university leadership, with only one woman out of twelve executive roles, and none from minority backgrounds.

Methodology

This exploratory study employed a qualitative approach, drawing on case studies, literature analysis, and interviews with a small group of African women professionals. Due to the sensitivity surrounding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in organisational settings, a mini research design was deemed most appropriate. Observations and reflective commentary provided further context. While the study provides rich insights, it also signals the need for broader, more systematic research into the barriers African women face in leadership and entrepreneurship.

Discussion

The findings confirm that African women encounter persistent obstacles in their efforts to achieve senior positions or business success. Eight participants in the mini study shared personal accounts of rejection, lack of recognition, and limited promotion opportunities. For instance, one woman reported having received only one promotion in ten years, prompting her to stop applying for higher roles altogether. Another had been rejected five

times for senior management roles without being shortlisted. She recommended improved monitoring, leadership training, and fair recruitment practices to address these disparities.

Still, stories of resilience emerged. One participant, after several failed loan applications, eventually secured funding and now runs three successful business branches. Her story serves as an inspiration for other African women not to give up, even when faced with systemic resistance.

Participants also emphasized the importance of fair pay, supportive environments, and transparent hiring practices. These elements are vital for motivating women to continue aspiring toward leadership and entrepreneurial success.

Conclusion

Drawing on both literature and qualitative findings, this paper demonstrates that African women face significant hurdles in advancing their careers. Socio-cultural norms, language discrimination, economic exclusion, and work -life conflict all play critical roles in limiting progress. These barriers, however, are not insurmountable. Organisational reform, policy advocacy, and cultural shifts are necessary to create a more inclusive environment where African women can thrive professionally and economically.

The deep-rooted nature of gender and racial bias—especially in leadership contexts—requires long-term, structural transformation. As the data from the World Bank (2020) and researchers like Girod and Dop (2024) show, progress is possible when institutions intentionally address these stereotypes and create pathways for underrepresented groups.

Recommendations

To promote the career advancement and entrepreneurial success of African women, this study recommends:

1. **Policy Interventions**: Implementation of flexible workplace policies, paid parental leave, and gender-inclusive hiring practices.
2. **Financial Inclusion**: Expansion of gender-sensitive credit systems, including microfinance initiatives linked to financial education.
3. **Organisational Reform**: Transparent recruitment and promotion processes that address implicit bias.
4. **Cultural Change**: Public advocacy and education campaigns that challenge gender stereotypes and promote equitable role expectations.
5. **Mentorship and Networking**: Creation of peer and senior mentorship schemes to support African women in business and professional settings.

By addressing these core issues at institutional and societal levels, stakeholders can foster an environment where African women are empowered to reach their full potential in both entrepreneurship and the workplace.

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Contours and Conceptualisations of Entrepreneurship

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Abstract

Entrepreneurship is an interesting and complex phenomenon whose conceptualisation defies a strict definition, consequentially, the search for its meaning appears to be a never-ending journey. Based on literature reviewed for this paper, entrepreneurship is heterogeneous and dynamic in character, hence the variety of views and explanations. The paper agrees that it is useful to have many views of entrepreneurship as this helps to understand entrepreneurial behaviour, what it entails and knowledge aggregation. The purpose of this paper is to explore selected conceptualisations of entrepreneurship with a view to understanding the interrelationship between the various constructions. It also intends to examine and discuss the key pillars that some researchers propose for the understanding of entrepreneurship. Desk research, which is a qualitative research process, provides the content for the discussion. The findings reveal interconnections among the many conceptualisations and the various narratives and their structures. An analysis of the content shows that the various conceptualisations interconnect on different levels. Based on this analysis, the paper proposes a framework that expands on the existing conceptualisations.

Keywords*:* entrepreneurship, conceptual framework, theory and practice, pillars of entrepreneurship, constructivism

Introduction

Entrepreneurship is diverse and multifaceted phenomenon. It is a maze which is characterised by various concepts, activities, and experiences, thus making it very difficult to fit it into a single conceptualisation. It is often viewed as an enigma, a complicated puzzle, dynamic and heterogenous in nature (Carland et al., 1988; Bygrave and Hofer, 1991; Shane and Venkataraman, 2000; Sarasvathy 2001; Shepherd et al., 2018; Dimov, 2021). Conceptualisation of this phenomenon is equivalent to a journey of exploration (Shepherd et al., 2018). Entrepreneurship is a fascinating phenomenon, and its conceptualisation involves, from a metaphorical sense, a journey in time travel into the past. It is acknowledged that the field of entrepreneurship

embraces a wide range of frameworks suggesting that no one framework encapsulates a complete explanation of its conceptualisation. Therefore, there is the need to explore multiple frameworks to understand how academics have interpreted the phenomenon.

To guide the discussion, the paper presents an overview of the conceptualisation of entrepreneurship. Next, the paper reviews and explores multiple existing frameworks that has been put forward by academics. This is followed by an explanation of an emergent framework that expands on the existing conceptualisations. This emergent framework has both theoretical and practical significance. The paper then discusses what might be considered as key pillars that underpin entrepreneurship and how they contribute to the conceptualisation of entrepreneurship. Before beginning the discussion, the paper offers a brief explanation of the methodology used.

Methodology

The methodology used is desk research which is a qualitative process. Desk research is defined as "the collection of secondary data from internal sources, the internet, libraries, trade associations, government agencies, and published reports" (Moore and Kempson, p.73). Moore (2006) viewed desk research as one that focuses on the reappraisal of research that was undertaken by other researchers or one that uses their secondary data. A benefit of desk research is that the information is readily available to make epistemological contributions, policy contributions and acts as a platform for future research. It also reduces a significant amount of time and cost involved in subsequent research (Pederson et al., 2020). For this paper 30 academic papers were examined. Out of these papers, the content for the review of the phenomenon of entrepreneurship were selected.

Conceptualising Entrepreneurship

Researchers and scholars have been preoccupied with the conceptualisation of entrepreneurship (Gartner 1990; Bygrave and Hofer 1991; Sarasvathy 2001; Welter 2011; Ramoglou, S. and Tsang, 2016; Dimov 2020; Ratten, 2023). This suggests that there is no consensus regarding its meaning and interpretation. Gartner (1990) referred to the complex nature of entrepreneurship when he stated that entrepreneurship is used to mean just about whatever you want the phenomenon to mean, a term of convenience rather than any substance. Supporting Gartner, Stewart (1992) also contends that academics use the term entrepreneurship to mean what they want it to mean, suggesting it is a vague term by its very nature. Alternatively, Prince et al., (2021) challenges the idea of the complexity of the phenomenon by asserting that it is a clear and transparent concept.

Despite differing views, many academics generally agree that the pillars upon which the phenomenon is based help to illuminate its concep-

tualisation. These pillars include opportunity, ideas generation and implementation, risk-taking, innovation, networking, and value creation (Gartner 1990; Bygrave and Hofer 1991; Sarasvathy 2001; Bruyat, and Julien, 2001; Bhola et al., 2006; Kerr et al., 2018; Dimov, 2020 Gartner, 2020; Ratten, 2023).(Shane and Venkataraman (2000) contend that entrepreneurship is built around critical questions of "how, by whom and with what effects opportunities to create future goods and services are discovered, evaluated and exploited." (p. 218). Inherent in these questions are many of the pillars of entrepreneurship.

The pillars connected to entrepreneurship also presents challenges on how they are themselves conceptualised. Further, conceptualisation of entrepreneurship is about the use of language and narratives, a linguistic preoccupation. Ratten (2023) noted that what makes entrepreneurship particularly difficult to conceptualise is that different explanations emerge for different types of entrepreneurships. Broadly, conceptualisation have focused on an individual or a process level. At the individual level, attention is based on their traits or characteristics and the social factors that encourage them to become entrepreneurs (Ratten, 2023).

Process-based level entrepreneurship involves many actions or steps. This approach takes the view that at the core of entrepreneurship are your processes and systems (Gartner, 1985; Chiles et al., 2016). Other researchers contend that entrepreneurship is the process through which entrepreneurs builds and expands businesses (Thornton et al., 2011). This suggest that it is analogous to a builder putting things in place from the foundation to finish of a structure that he is intends to construct. Conceptualisations of entrepreneurship are very useful for researchers and academics as multiple perspectives aids clarity and is a source of progress, a way of moving forward among academics (Shane, 2012). It is what Bygrave and Hofer (1991) alluded to when they suggested that the foundation of a science field is based robust definitions. After all, you can only look for something if you know what you are looking for. Its definition sets the parameters for what might be selected or not selected within the scope of entrepreneurship (Howorth et al., 2005).

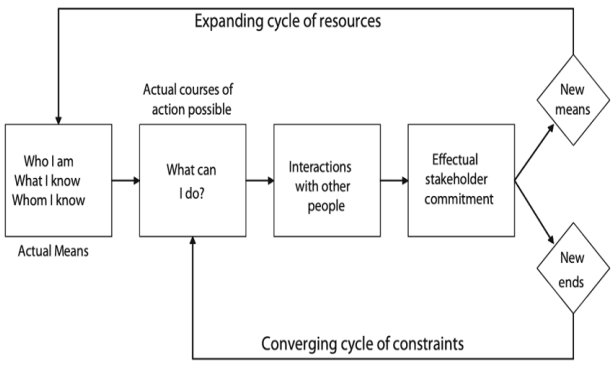
This suggests that conceptualisations of researcher's might be linked to the purpose of the research, the entrepreneur's purpose and the context (Gartner, 1988). It might be argued then that context aids in "understanding the nature, richness and dynamics" (Zahra, 2007, p.451). Welter (2011) contends that context is paramount to be able to grasps when entrepreneurship occurs, the how and the why that occurs and the individuals that participate. Shepherd et al., (2018) understood the importance of context by highlighting how it is linked to successful entrepreneurship. This is so because of the need for entrepreneurs to appreciate, manage the circumstances and challenges they face in their environment. Exploration of the entrepreneurship conceptualisation may also provide a platform for allowing researchers to understand this phenomenon in real life experiences

(Berglund, 2006). It therefore contributes to epistemological growth and development in the field. This paper will now examine several existing frameworks used in conceptualisation of entrepreneurship.

Existing Frameworks

A framework that has been advanced more than two decades ago on decision making and the conceptualisation of entrepreneurship was by (Sarasvathy and Dew 2005). In the dynamic effectuation theory, they asserted that the decision-making process and the actions taken within the activities involved in entrepreneurship must consider the means (resources) and the ends (goals). An equilibrium position is a constant between the means and the ends if these goals are to be achieved. Fundamentally, entrepreneurs are in control of their future by their actions; opportunity is therefore a function of actions (see figure 1).

Figure 1. The dynamic model of effectuation



Source: (Sarasvathy and Dew 2005, p.543)

They asserted following position on their framework:

> *"Expert entrepreneurs may or may not begin with a clear vision for a new venture. Instead, their entrepreneurial strategies are predominately means-driven and result in new ends embodied in goals and subgoals that are usually characterized by specific courses of action rather than outcome variables"* (Sarasvathy and Dew, 2013, p.16).

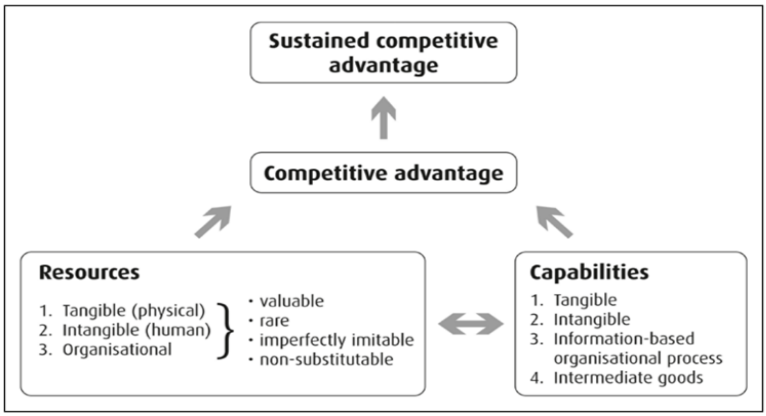
Entrepreneurship may be conceptualised as a relationship between the means and the ends. It is the entrepreneur that creates opportunities ra-

ther than opportunity discovered. The essence of effectuation theory is that entrepreneurship is process that used by entrepreneurs to undertake a new venture. Entrepreneurship is viewed as action oriented to mould their future (Sarasvathy 2001).

While this paper accepts that in some cases the framework addresses individual attributes of an entrepreneur there are other crucial aspects of conceptualisation also occur. The importance of networking, entrepreneur's behaviour variations were not addressed, as such, the framework may not be applicable in terms of its generalisability particularly within different social and cultural context (Kitchen and Rouse, 2020). Further, the dynamic effectuation theory has remained in an embryonic as a framework of entrepreneurship suggesting that no one framework can fully explain entrepreneurship (Arend et al., 2016).

Another useful framework that sought to explain the conceptualisation of entrepreneurship is the Resource Based View (RBV) by (Wernerfelt 1984; Alvarez and Busenitz, 2001). This framework focuses on entrepreneurship based on the resources, competencies, strategic plans, and the firm's achievement of superiority over its adversaries. Resources are the foundation pillars of entrepreneurial success and may be both tangible and intangible. These include the assets that are available, building strong networks, identification and acting on areas that the firm is good at. Barney, (1991) emphasised that strategically crucial resources that are critical, not easily available, difficult to copy and cannot be easily substituted. Firms that are in possession of resources with these characteristics can access the resource-based advantages over time in a sustainable manner (Barney, 1991). A pictorial representation of this framework is shown (see figure 2).

Figure 2. The resource-based view of the firm

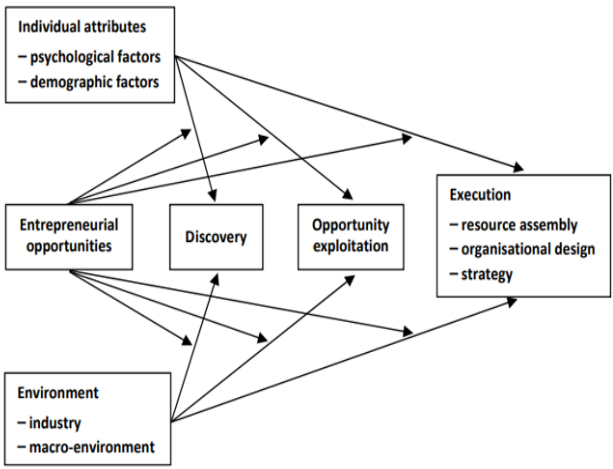


Source: (Prause et al., 1991, p, 6)

RBV is not without criticisms as it is difficult to define, identify and measure some of the resources used in the model (Barney and Clark, 2007). The framework does not provide an explanation for how resources are obtained and used which is a very dynamic process. Knowledge acquisition and learning would be a useful approach and therefore should be emphasised to address this deficiency (Foss, 1996).

More than two decades ago another conceptualisation framework was advanced by Shane (2003) to provide a foundation for the crucial components of entrepreneurship. This framework provided a useful examination of the concepts that stimulate ideas around the conceptualisation of entrepreneurship. Shane's framework identified concepts such as opportunity recognition, identification, collation of resources, team working, innovation, risk taking and the context as the key ingredients in his conceptualisation of entrepreneurship (Shane, 2003). Shane's position was that the entrepreneurship commences with the identification of opportunities identified by individuals. Therefore, at the heart of entrepreneurship is opportunity exploitation and recognised the importance of individual attributes for entrepreneurship to occur. Interestingly, Shane pointed to the multifaceted nature of the entrepreneurship phenomenon. Events that he identified in his model, and which unfold in a sequence are highlighted (see figure 3).

Figure 3. Shane's model of the entrepreneurship process

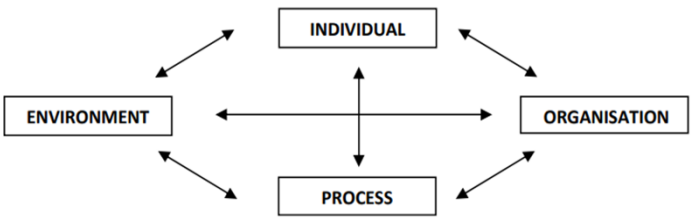


Source: (Shane, 2003, p. 11).

Shane's views are acknowledged as the variables he has highlighted are important for entrepreneurial activity to take place. However, Shane's model focused on the individual features of entrepreneurs while not considering a host of challenges that exist within the entrepreneurship domain. Shane gave only a rudimentary view on context but failed to address the complicated nature of the connection between context issues, differences in culture and social dimensions, for example, (Hjorth, 2014). Entrepreneurship is dynamic in nature not the unchanging static phenomena suggested by Shane. This paper recognises the significance of networking both weak and strong, within the sphere of entrepreneurship in addition to Shane's focus on the focus individual actions (Granovetter, 1973; Aldrich and Zimmerman, 1986).

A framework which has also drawn attention among academics was proposed by Gartner (1985). Gartner presented a four connecting dimensions in the generation of a new business. These are pivotal to the phenomenon of entrepreneurship and its conceptualisation. Firstly. Is the individual, which is at the centre of Gartner's framework as they possess certain traits which Gartner termed psychological attributes? These traits include risk attitude and the need to achieve. Secondly, the environment, which Gartner sees as context, the area where the entrepreneur operates, and which also has influence over entrepreneurs. A third dimension is the process, the activities of organisation of the resources or agents of production, land, labour for example. The final dimension of his framework is the organisation which relates to nature and type of the business structure required (see figure 4). Gartner's framework highlights the interplay of variables in entrepreneurship, their interactions, context, and the highly subjective nature of entrepreneurship.

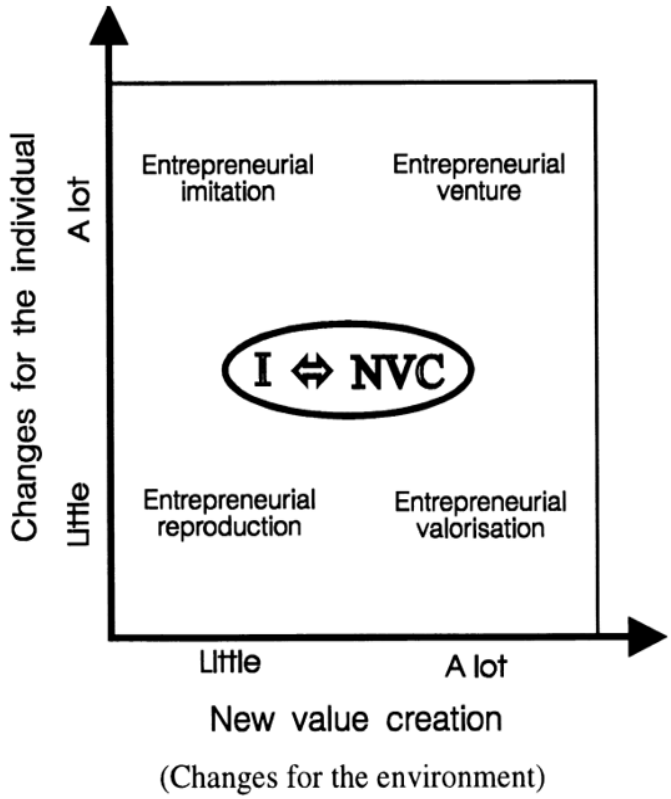
Figure 4. A framework of new venture creation



Source: (Gartner, 1985, p. 168)

Gartner's framework is challenged as entrepreneurs cannot be separated from entrepreneurship as they are intertwined. However, his model focuses on the individual attributes and their subjective experiences. Bruyat and Julien (2001) challenged Gartner by asserting that entrepreneurship is not just about the individual but must also consider new value creation within changes for the environment. For them entrepreneurship is a dialogic between individual changes and new value creation with various outcomes and contextual. This suggest that entrepreneurship is heterogenous and multifaceted phenomenon. It is agreed that Gartner provided a comprehensive foundational overview for understanding entrepreneurship (see figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1 | Entrepreneurship: A heterogeneous field



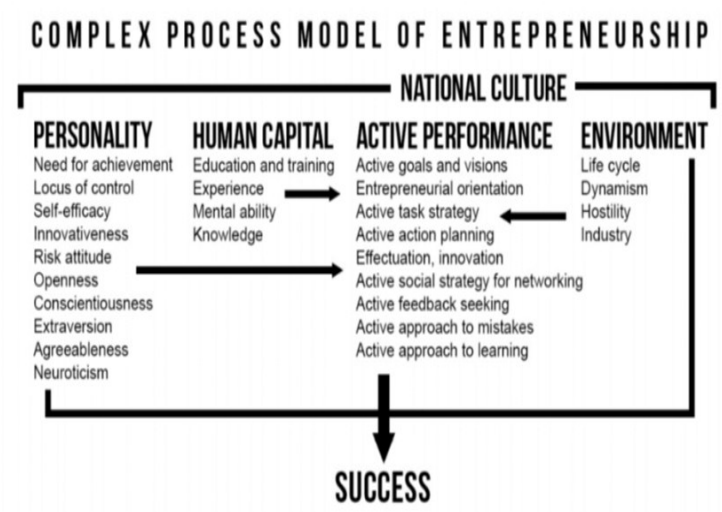
Source: (Bruyat and Pierre 2001, p. 174)

Gartner's work may not be transferable in different geographical contexts and like many other frameworks lack general applicability. His model lacks

empirical rigor as he focused on a conceptual approach which may not be practical. His model which is narrowed into four general variables is just simplistic without deep consideration for the many macro-economic, social, legal, and institutional factors at play in influencing individual opportunities and paths. Further, the concept of opportunity an important pillar of entrepreneurship has been given very little focus in Gartner's research.

A framework that has also focused on the process level was suggested by (Kerr et al., 2018), the put forward the process model of entrepreneurship. Kerr et al., (2018) adaptation of Frese's (2009) work on the psychology of entrepreneurship and Brandstätter's (2011) personality aspects of entrepreneurship. They provided a comprehensive framework of five interconnected processes involved in entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurship, the asserted cannot exist as a single entity in its own space, but that it is meshed and interconnected with many variables **(**see figure 5).

Figure 5. The Complex Process Model of Entrepreneurship



Source: (Kerr et al., 2018, p. 23)

It is accepted that the insights provided in the framework above identified various critical factors at play in the conceptualisation of entrepreneurship. It is accepted that the model also has its limitations. Critically, does entrepreneurship really work in stages? Entrepreneurship might at times be

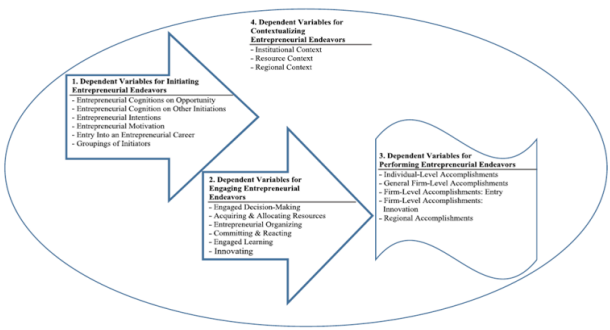
spontaneous, impromptu, and casual. Not necessarily a formal stage-like process (Moorman and Miner, 1998; Hmieleski et al., 2008).

Kerr et al. framework also fails to consider that entrepreneurship process may occur in a non-linear fashion (Sarasvathy, 2001). The significance of context factors in entrepreneurship was also not considered (Kitchen and Rouse, 2020). Entrepreneurship is often directed by culture, national, regional, and geographical factors which is not considered in the framework (Malecki, 2009; Shepherd et al., 2018). Further, the nature of the industry and the role of institutions in entrepreneurship have also not been given serious consideration. Representations by differing circumstances and the evolving nature of organisation are not addressed in the above model. (Aldrich, 2020).

Kerr's model looks at the causation of entrepreneurship but entrepreneurship is not always based on planning nor is it one dimensional in nature. Further many social and economic factors can also impact of the actions of entrepreneurial actions (Gartner 2001; Sarasvathy, 2001).

Another framework was advocated by Shepherd et al., (2018) which was based on the review of the conceptualisations of entrepreneurship. They proposed a meta framework approach based on several stages each involving dependent variables. They argued that there are the initiation factors of entrepreneurship, for example opportunity, intentions and ideas, and motivations play a role in igniting and triggering entrepreneurship. Engagement factors of management such as organizing, decision making, resource allocation, novelty, and erudition were also important with entrepreneurship. They also highlighted that performance factors based on an individual or a company level and innovative approaches were essential components of successful entrepreneurship. From their perspective, conceptualisation must take into the context, location, and geography, institutional and the availability of resources. (See figure 6) for the framework put forward.

Figure 6: **A meta-framework organising an agenda for future entrepreneurship research**



Source: (Shepherd et al., 2018, p.7)

The framework set out by Shepherd *et al.,* provides a useful ideological way for the construction of the entrepreneurship phenomenon. However, the subjective nature of entrepreneurship brings the question of a non-complex approach when in fact many of these variables are interdependent which was ignored in the framework (Aldrich 1986; Sarasvathy, 2001; Granovetter, 2005). It is also noted that entrepreneurship operates in an environment with many dynamic factors These factors include prevailing macro-economic factors such as government's policy directives and market entry barriers which Shepherd et al., framework ignores.

What becomes evident from the review and exploration of entrepreneurship frameworks thus far is that there is no one size fits all for the conceptualisation of entrepreneurship. Based on the review and exploration undertaken this paper now provides an emergent framework approach to the conceptualisation of entrepreneurship.

Emergent Framework for the Conceptualisation of Entrepreneurship

The author adopts a questioning approach to the conceptualisation of entrepreneurship. This approach may provide useful insights to inform theory and practice. It based on researchers' context and research objectives. This process advocates critical thinking by employing a what-why-how-where-when approach. It is a technique that evaluates many of the existing concepts intertwined in entrepreneurship and crosses the bridge of empirical and conceptual to practical. Importantly, this questioning approach helps us to gain an overarching, panoptic view of the intricate nature of entrepreneurship and critically an understanding of the inherent pillars and their interdependence that must be built to achieve successful outcomes (Gartner, 2020). It is highly likely that the nature of this process will allow other constructions of entrepreneurship to emerge. See Figure 7 for the emergent framework for the conceptualisation of entrepreneurship advanced by the author.

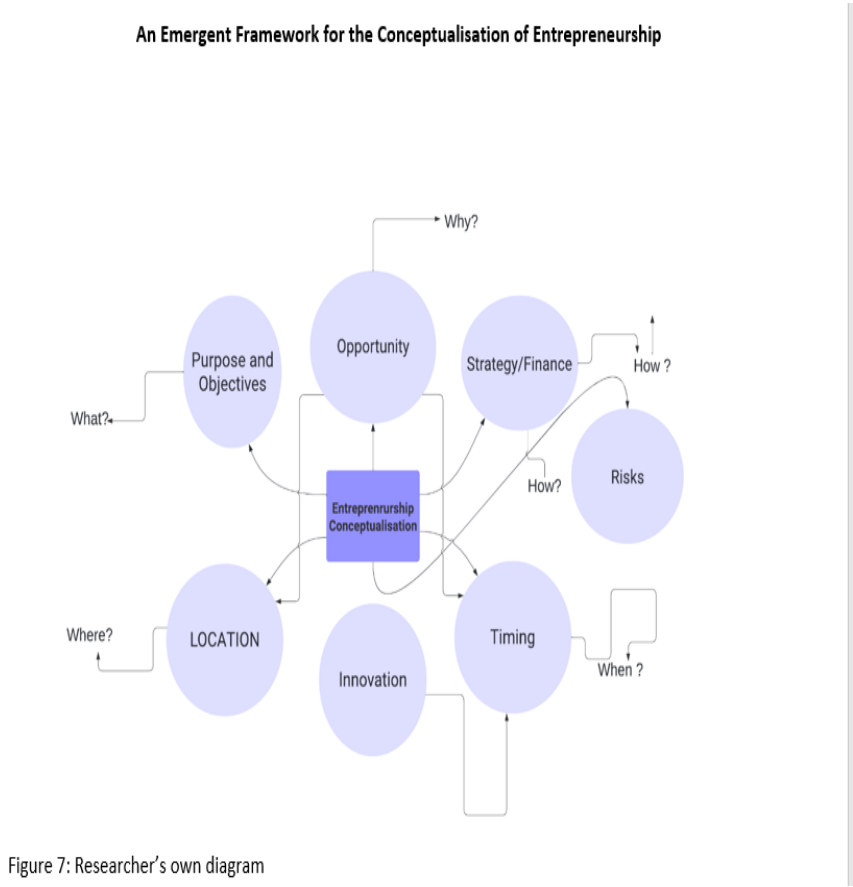


Figure 7: Researcher's own diagram

Figure 7 highlights the complex and interconnected nature of many important pillars which shapes the conceptualisation of entrepreneurship. This paper asserts that this critical questioning approach is a useful approach in shaping a conceptualisation of entrepreneurship as it may assists in researcher's understanding and brings with it a degree of clarity.

The entire framework involves an iterative, dynamic, context related process that can be applied through the researcher's own lens. This questioning approach is not a one-off activity but an ongoing and continuous activity over time. Whatever conceptualisation emerges, it aligns with the notion that the conceptualisation of entrepreneurship can just be about anything according to (Gartner, 1990). The critical questions raised in the emergent framework conceptualisation of entrepreneurship are now addressed.

Why is entrepreneurship undertaken? This might be to exploit an opportunity discovered (Shane and Venkataraman, 2000; Sarasvathy, 2001;

Shane, 2003). It may also be out of necessity (Murnieks et al., 2019). Another reason might be out of a social concern (Zahra and Wright, 2015). Innovation intent might be the motivation of the entrepreneur (Drucker, 1985). The desire to earn profit or to manage a small business could be a motivation (Thurik and Wennekers, 2004; Kirzer, 2009; Mosey et al., 2016).

Another question within the emergent framework of conceptualisation of entrepreneurship is what must be done? Among these are risk taking and building of networks. Zhao (2005) assessment and management of risks including financial risks, economic risks, and strategic risks (Carland et al., 1995). The establishing of networks, weak and strong, building teams (Granovetter, 1973; Schjoedt and Kraus, 2009).

How entrepreneurship is undertaken is now addressed. Entrepreneurs need to ensure that a plan and develop the skills is in place which adequately addresses this question. Some may undertake a comprehensive business plan. Funding must be secured as money is at the heart of entrepreneurial conduct (Kuratko, 2017). Entrepreneurs may also undertake research into their ideas and consider strategies including marketing strategies as this allows entrepreneurs to gain competitive advantages over competitors through greater market share and increased income (Varadarajan, 2009). They need to consider how to attract customers, provide customer value, Weinstein and Pohlman (1998). Customer care strategies also need attention (Audretsch and Fritsch, 2002). The creation of efficient business processes will also have to be established as a new enterprise (Yoon and Sung, 2019).

The question of where is also important. This question focuses on the issue of location of the business. Should there be an online or a physical presence? Location considerations connect with culture and ethnicity in their enclaves. Necessity entrepreneurs' circumstances triggers entrepreneurial activity in their enclaves (Light, 1979; Jones et al., 1994). The geographic location (market location) is not only pivotal but an irrefutable aspect of entrepreneurship (Van Praag and Versloot 2007; Malecki 2009). Geographical location is of such significance that the process of entrepreneurship is restricted by geography as an individual builds up his networks and other stakeholders such as customers and suppliers locally (Birley, 1985). Malecki (2009)

The emergent framework also highlights the question of when? This is a time-related perspective which is at the heart of successful entrepreneurship (Gartner, 1985; Fletcher, 2004). The collation of resources, its availability and capabilities have a major influences optimal timing of entry of entrepreneurs (Robinson et al., 1992; Lieberman and Montgomery, 1998). The opportunity variable also has a connection to timing an entrepreneurial opportunity discovered preceded action (Shane and Venkataraman, 2000)

Technological advancement and innovation may also influence the timing of entry into the market by entrepreneurs (Chen et al., 2023). Government policy initiatives and regulations can directly influence entrepreneurial behaviour (Minnitti, 2008) Timing of entry of entrepreneurs is also influenced by the interaction of motivation and resource availability. (Rotemberg-Shir and Wennberg, 2010). The pillars of entrepreneurship also align with the questions raised from the emergent framework in this paper.

Pillars of Entrepreneurship

This section examines several pillars of entrepreneurship- ideas and actions, opportunity. Networking and teambuilding, innovation and risk and learning and feedback.

Ideas and Actions

The mental process of cognition may determine ideas and kickstarts entrepreneurial undertakings (Gartner, 2020). Entrepreneurship therefore may have its conception in the mind through ideas (Chiles et al., 2016). Entrepreneurship may be viewed as a process of imagination, a cognitive process with action. Johnson (2001) stated that "capturing ideas, converting them into products and, or services and then building a venture to take the product to market" (p. 138). Some academics contend that entrepreneurship imagination involves both backward looking and forward looking and is at the "wellspring of the entrepreneurial process" (Chiles et al., 2013, p.278). Kanter (1992) seem to endorse Chiles et al., view by suggesting that ideas are critical to entrepreneurship as it involves a network of many synergetic players who together conceive of ideas. Chiles et al., (2016) found that entrepreneurship was akin to imagination involving problem solving, strategic thinking, vision, seeking out resources, inauguration of the business, making adjustment and the use of innovation.

Prince et al., (2021) viewed ideas from an alternative perspective stating that it is the action of creating and developing an idea which undergoes a process of validation. This suggest that there is a behavioural dimension to idea generation (Davidsson et al., 2001; Audretsch, 2012). The emphasis of action was addressed by Gartner (2020) who stated that entrepreneurship "is an expression of the normativity of intentional human action: Humans decide whether they *ought to* act entrepreneurially" (p.12). Based on these views, entrepreneurship may be conceptualised as the cognitive process of idea generation, and the execution of these ideas through action, taking advantage of opportunity.

Opportunity

Opportunity is therefore at the heart of entrepreneurship, as it is argued that entrepreneurship is therefore conceptualised as the pursuit of opportunity

(Shane and Venkataraman, 2000). Opportunity also presents complexity due to its different dimensions and interpretations among academics. Further, the concept of opportunity is something that may have its antecedents internally (in the mind) about imagination and speculation (Casson, 1982; Gaddefors and Anderson, 2017) or it is viewed something out there externally (in the environment) (McMullen and Shepherd, 2006). Hence, the entrepreneur's motivation and subsequent reward earned in this process reflects opportunity discovery and exploitation. Kirzner, (1997) asserted that entrepreneurs are not only vigilant but capture opportunities and unmet needs in the market to achieve profitability.

The literature on entrepreneurship on opportunity addresses both the endogenous and exogenous issues, as well as the objective, and subjective debate regarding action and ability (Kirzner, 1997). Opportunity complexity is its affinity to language. Wood and McKinley (2010) contend that language ensures the illumination of meaning of what opportunity is. He suggests: "the favourability aspect of "opportunity" does not sit well in a prospective, process framework aiming to explain not only action and success but also inaction and failure" (p.3). Gartner (2020) also challenges the notion of opportunity citing ontological confusion among academics. He believes that there is no such thing as opportunity discovery. What academics mean is that entrepreneurs have discovered ideas (Gaddefors and Anderson, 2017; Ramoglou and Tsang, 2016; Wood, 2017a).

There is also a suggestion that the idea of discovered opportunities creates a bogus practical conundrum, a mirage using language to mirror the way the world operates. (Ramoglou et al., 2020). An imagined opportunity or idea comes to life with action (Ramoglou et al., 2020). Whatever the debate, it is probably true that opportunity is the roadmap to a sustainable advantage within the domain of entrepreneurship (Alvarez and Busenitz, 2001). Our framework when applied to opportunity suggest a quest of why and why to be relevant? Foss and Klein (2019) seem to understand the question approach of our approach using the following narrative:

> "*The processes of opportunity discovery and evaluation; the acquisition of resources for the exploitation of these opportunities; the act of opportunity exploitation; why, when, and how some individuals and not others discover, evaluate, gather resources for and exploit opportunities*" (pp. 22-23).

Entrepreneurship then may be viewed as the exploitation of opportunity. To exploit and develop opportunity, entrepreneurs often identify and construct networks and teams.

Networking and Team Building

Entrepreneurship involves the social processes which are activated through the role of networking and entrepreneurial teams. There is a view that net-

works are social constructions of their strategic unions for the implementation of change, expansion and hence the link with the envisioned future of the business (Anderson et al., 2010). It is evident that networking is an attempt to secure resources held by others to enhance the entrepreneurial effectiveness (Slotte-Kock and Coviello, 2010). Networking is not a simple process as it involves accessing and exploiting both weak and strong ties (Jack, 2005) According to Granovetter (1973), the robustness of ties in one's network defines the relations in terms of its quality and reliability By demarcating between strong and weak ties describes how similarity and differences of these ties impact on the actions of individuals

Thus, networking builds external relationships is a source of collating information and resource gathering (Surangi, 2013). There is evidence in the academic literature of a positive relationship between networking and business performance (Raunch et al., 2016).

A link may be established between networking and opportunity. Networks from the social environment also influence entrepreneurs and assimilate opportunities in the context of their social circumstances (Anderson and Miller, 2002). Networking is therefore akin to a social procedure involving coordination of resources to equip owners with a sense of significance, a sense of belonging which is not an individual activity (Anderson et al., 2010). Entrepreneurial team building is also an important part of the conceptualisation of entrepreneurship. Teams are pivotal in innovative undertakings and successful entrepreneurial undertakings (Cooper and Bruno, 1977; Schjoedt and Kraus, 2009). Crucially, entrepreneurial teams and networks are synergetic as networks are valuable for bringing innovation resources and knowledge for exploitation of entrepreneurial teams (Rothwell, 1991; Zaheer and Bell, 2005). Entrepreneurship may therefore be viewed as teamworking, as teams create innovation, but this also involves risks (Anderson et al., 2010; Brattstrom, and Delmar 2019; Das et al., 2021).

Innovation and Risk

Innovation and Risk are two central themes of entrepreneurship (Schumpeter, 1934; Busenitz, 1999). Some academics have focused attention to innovation as this encourages entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship also encourages innovation (Casson, 1982; Eckhardt and Shane, 2003; Zhao, 2005; Veeraraghavan, 2009; Kuratko, 2017). Innovation presents complexity as there are there are multiple perspectives involved. One perspective on innovation is linked to individuals' personalities in innovation (Casson, 1982; Kanbur, 1982; Feng and Rauch, 2015). The research literature provides evidence that the risk propensity was different between entrepreneurs and non-entrepreneurs (Begley and Boyd 1987; Carland et al., 1995). Another perspective links innovation to the organisation within which entrepreneurship is created (Martin, 1994; Goffin and Pfeiffer, 1999) and a third links innovation to cultural factors to risk propensity (Herbig et

al., 1994). Challenges exist with understanding innovation itself as it is an evolving concept, and it involves an interplay of context, biases, institutional environment, and networks (Dimov, 2011).

Risks are also inherent in entrepreneurship. Some researchers argue that risk taking is central to defining entrepreneurship (Kanbur, 1982; Miller, 1983). Execution of opportunities involves risks taking leads to bringing goods and services therefore which inevitably creates risk. Risks also presents in the coordination of resources, planning, decision making and geographic location (Gartner, 1990; Malecki and Poehling, 1999). Entrepreneurship may therefore be conceptualised as involving innovation and risk-taking process.

Learning and Feedback

Entrepreneurship may be conceptualised from the perspective of learning and feedback mechanisms (Holbrook, 1999; Minniti and Bygrave, 2001). Minitti (2005) also pointed to the importance of entrepreneurs being attentive and observant as they can learn from other entrepreneurs. Learning and feedback are interconnected with other variables of entrepreneurship such as networking and location. These are both used to source information, an important asset in planning and strategy formulation (Maillat, 1995; Malecki, 2009). Feedback is also a very useful mechanism for the detection and monitoring achievement or non-achievement of objectives and a mechanism for testing new strategies (Ashford and Cummings, 1983). Entrepreneurship may be conceptualised as a process of learning and gaining feedback.

Reflecting on the various conceptualisations of entrepreneurship it is acknowledged that research is often based on utterances of ontological bewilderment empowered by awry semantic practices (Wittgenstein 1958; Gartner 2020). It is also accepted that it is the same semantic practices that illuminates meaning and bridges the gap between conceptual and ontological traps and practical application of a conceptualisation of entrepreneurship.

Implications

From an analysis of the literature as well as the author's proposed emergent framework there are implications for would-be entrepreneurs, young entrepreneurs, seasoned entrepreneurs, and researchers who investigate entrepreneurship. Concerning would-Be entrepreneurs, they are likely to gain a better understanding of the complexities of the entrepreneurship landscape from a review of the various conceptualisations. Similarly, young entrepreneurs can acquire new strategies and revise existing ones accordingly. Seasoned entrepreneurs can examine existing and emerging conceptualisations to assess whether they have missed anything that can add value to their businesses. There are also implications for the final group, although not

necessarily entrepreneurs. Researchers on entrepreneurship can broaden their literature base, acquire more scope for critical analysis, locate new spaces for comparisons and contrasts, as well as develop frameworks for various papers on entrepreneurship. Implications named here are neither finite nor limited to these groups, however what is clear is that everyone with an interest in entrepreneurship and its various conceptualisations can have learning and practical experiences as they engage with this topic. What these groups mentioned here will find is the more the conceptualisations the more the complexities, hence the unavoidable implications.

Conclusion

Entrepreneurship is indeed a fascinating phenomenon. This paper presented an overview of conceptualisations of entrepreneurship. It also reviewed and explored various frameworks of entrepreneurships. An emergent framework on the conceptualisation of entrepreneurship was presented. The key pillars that underpin the conceptualisation of entrepreneurship were also discussed. Entrepreneurship might be described as a phantasmagoria, an exercise in semantics, and social constructions, a kaleidoscopic phenomenon. Therefore, no single conceptualisation could meet the needs of academics and researchers. It is accepted that conceptualisation is a conceptual challenge – not a methodological puzzle to be solved. The real challenge is to examine entrepreneurship based on the lens through which the researcher finds the answers to the questions asked and can use the appropriate narrative to convey a conceptualisation. If not, researchers and academics may be looking for something that is not there.

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The Role of IDF and the Israeli Military Industry in the Technological and Economic Development of Israel

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Abstract

The phrase "Every generation, they try to destroy us" encapsulates the enduring struggles of the Jewish people and underscores the necessity of a strong national defense. This paper examines the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and Israel's military industry as key drivers of technological innovation and economic development**,** focusing on the IDF's role in advancing cybersecurity, entrepreneurship, and the high-tech sector. Adopting a historical and analytical approach, this study employs qualitative research methods, drawing on primary and secondary sources such as government reports, military policies, academic literature, and industry case studies. The research is structured to first trace the historical evolution of military-driven technological advancements, followed by an analysis of the institutional mechanisms through which elite IDF units—such as Unit 8200, Mamram, and Talpiot—nurture technological talent. It further explores technology transfer and commercialization, demonstrating how military innovations transition into the civilian high-tech sector, contributing to Israel's global reputation as a "Start-Up Nation" and attracting foreign investments and strategic partnerships**.** Additionally, the study assesses the economic impact of military-driven innovation, revealing a strong correlation between IDF service in elite technological units and entrepreneurial success, as IDF veterans have founded a significant share of Israel's leading tech startups. By examining these intersections, this paper offers insights into how military-driven technological advancement serves as a strategic engine for economic resilience and global technological leadership, reinforcing Israel's position at the forefront of innovation.

Keywords: Israel, Military Innovation, Technology, Cybersecurity, Entrepreneurship, High-Tech Industry

Introduction

Israel, a nation spanning approximately 20,770 sq. km, celebrated its 77th anniversary in 2025. Despite its small size and complex geopolitical landscape, Israel has emerged as a global leader in technological and economic innovation. As Shulman (2023) emphasizes in Punching Above Its Weight: The Story of Israel, the country ranks among the highest in research investment per capita, Nobel laureates per capita, and high-tech employment rates. A key driver of this success is the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), whose influence extends beyond national security to shaping Israel's technological ecosystem, cybersecurity infrastructure, and entrepreneurial landscape.

At a time when scholars and policymakers warn of the global decline of creativity (Suss & Treidl, 2024), particularly due to rigid educational models and bureaucratic systems, the IDF stands as a counterexample—an institution that fosters creativity at an unparalleled level. Adamsky (2010) argues that Israel's military innovation culture is deeply rooted in its strategic necessity and unique organizational flexibility, allowing the IDF to blend hierarchical military discipline with unconventional problem-solving approaches. Military service in Israel, particularly in elite technological units such as Unit 8200, Talpiot, and Mamram, does not merely train soldiers; it cultivates innovative thinkers, problem-solvers, and entrepreneurs. The IDF operates on the principle that uncertainty breeds invention, encouraging recruits to develop creative solutions under extreme constraints—whether in cybersecurity, intelligence, or battlefield technology. This ability to think divergently, rapidly prototype, and adapt in real time has positioned the IDF as a global model for fostering creativity in high-pressure environments.

The relationship between the IDF and Israel's high-tech industry is deeply symbiotic (Swed & Butler, 2015). While the IDF is globally recognized for its military prowess and defense strategies (Cohen, 1995), its contribution to technological advancements and economic resilience is equally significant (Breznitz, 2002). The IDF has not only acted as a training ground for technical talent but has also facilitated the transfer of military innovations into the civilian market, fostering global partnerships and economic growth (Senor & Singer, 2009). This paper examines the critical role of the IDF in shaping Israel's high-tech sector, exploring how specific military units and pivotal historical events have contributed to this transformation.

From its founding in 1948, Israel has faced ongoing security, economic, and geopolitical challenges, which have necessitated constant innovation and adaptability. This culture of problem-solving aligns with the Jewish concept of "Tikun Olam", the idea of repairing and improving the world both spiritually and practically. Within this context, the IDF has served as a catalyst for groundbreaking technological advancements, driv-

ing Israel's rise as a leader in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and defense technology.

Research Scope, Structure, and Methodological Approach

This study explores the historical and institutional mechanisms that have shaped Israel's technology-driven economy, with a specific focus on the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) as a catalyst for technological innovation and economic development. The research follows a multi-layered structure, beginning with an examination of the historical evolution of military-driven technological advancements, particularly through key conflicts such as the Six-Day War (1967) and the Yom Kippur War (1973), which served as turning points for military innovation.

A central component of this study is an in-depth analysis of elite IDF units—Talpiot, Unit 8200, and Mamram—which have played an important role in cultivating technological expertise and fostering entrepreneurial ventures. Additionally, the research investigates the role of Israel's military industries, the rise of cybersecurity as a strategic frontier, and the mechanisms through which military-developed technologies transition into the civilian high-tech sector. Lastly, it examines the long-term influence of Holocaust memory and Jewish collective resilience on Israel's defense strategy and commitment to innovation.

To provide a comprehensive understanding, this study employs a qualitative research methodology, drawing from primary and secondary sources, including government reports, military policies, academic literature, and industry case studies. The application of qualitative research in military organizations is well-documented, with Bumbuc (2022) highlighting the unique challenges in analyzing defense-driven innovation and institutional frameworks. A case study approach is central to this research, mirroring Schmid's (2018) analysis of the diffusion of military technology into civilian applications provides a key framework for evaluating Israel's military-to-civilian technology transfer model.

This study also incorporates Burke's (2019) analysis of military innovation methodologies, which challenges traditional linear models and underscores the importance of structured networks and decision-making frameworks in driving military technological advancements. His approach aligns with this research's examination of how IDF institutional structures, leadership strategies, and elite training programs contribute to technological innovation.

Burke's work further integrates Actor-Network Theory (ANT), providing a conceptual lens to explore how interconnected relationships between institutional actors, technological systems, and policy frameworks foster creativity and adaptive problem-solving within the IDF, despite its hierarchical nature. Applying ANT (Callon, 1991) to Israel's military-driven innovation ecosystem highlights the dynamic interactions between

human and non-human entities, demonstrating how defense-driven technological advancements are shaped by a network of military units, government policies, and industrial collaborations, ultimately facilitating the transition of military innovations into the civilian high-tech sector

This study also employs comparative analysis to examine how military-driven technological advancements transition into the civilian sector, emphasizing the institutional and economic pathways through which defense innovation impacts national economies. By assessing technology transfer mechanisms, the research explores how military-developed innovations, particularly in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and defense engineering, contribute to Israel's broader high-tech ecosystem.

Furthermore, economic impact assessments play a crucial role in this study, evaluating how military-driven technological advancements foster entrepreneurial ecosystems, venture capital investments, and international partnerships. The study integrates thematic analysis of expert interviews, military industry reports, and government policies to identify the key factors influencing technology commercialization and economic resilience within Israel's innovation landscape.

By synthesizing these perspectives, this research provides a nuanced exploration of the intersection between military service, technological advancement, and economic strategy. Ultimately, it argues that military-driven innovation not only strengthens Israel's national security but also positions the country as a global leader in technological entrepreneurship. Moreover, in an era where creativity is in decline, the IDF paradoxically serves as one of the world's most effective incubators for breakthrough innovation and adaptive problem-solving, reinforcing the strategic role of structured environments in fostering technological leadership.

The Birth of the Israel and the IDF: Formative Years

David Ben-Gurion, the ahead of the Jewish Agency and the first Prime Minister of Israel, on May 14, 1948. during a session of the Provisional Council of State in Tel Aviv declared on the establishment of the State of Israel. This declaration was made in response to the United Nations General Assembly's Resolution 181, passed on November 29, 1947, which recommended the partition of British Mandatory Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states.

From the **"Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel"**

> *"The Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious, and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance, and gave to the world the eternal Book of Book*

> *……. We appeal to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and up building and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream -* ***the redemption of Israel****…."*

This historic moment marked the official beginning of the IDF. The Israel Defense Forces came into existence on May 26, 1948, following the establishment of the State of Israel, and has played a cardinal role since then in the redemption of Israel. The IDF's formation signified a monumental transformation in Jewish history, transitioning from a dispersed and beleaguered people to a sovereign nation with its own military. The IDF was born out of necessity, as Israel faced hostile neighbors and existential threats.

Prior to the establishment of the State of Israel, various Jewish paramilitary organizations existed in British Mandatory Palestine known as the Pre-Independence Militias. The most notable of these were the "Haganah", the "Irgun", the "Palamch" and the "Lehi" (Morris, 2008). These militias played significant roles in defending Jewish communities, responding to Arab attacks, and preparing for the eventual withdrawal of British forces anticipating that the Arabs nations surrounding Israel will declare war on the young Jewish State (as they did). These pre-independence militias varied in their ideologies and methods, ranging from moderate self-defense to more militant and extremist approaches and till today are identified in the Israeli narrative as left- or right-wing political organizations. After the declaration of independence, Ben-Gurion worked to integrate the various Jewish paramilitary and pre-independence Jewish militias groups into a unified military force. The "Haganah", which was the largest and most established of these militias, formed the core of the new IDF. The integration of these militias into a single, national army was essential for the newly declared state's survival. The victory of Israel in the independence war (1948) laid the foundation for the modern state of Israel, but it had a great impact on the Israeli society, for example, The demographic shifts in Israel following the 1948 war played a crucial role in shaping the nation's development. As Naor (2008) noted, the war and the establishment of Israel led to a dramatic increase in Jewish immigration, with over 118,000 new arrivals that year, followed by even greater numbers in 1949. This influx of immigrants significantly influenced Israel's growth and contributed to the expansion of the IDF, as military service became an essential part of integration and nation-building. Today, immigration continues to be a vital driver of Israel's economic and military development.

In its formative years, the IDF had to overcome immense challenges with limited resources. The struggle for survival of the Jewish people after the Holocaust pushed the IDF to improvise, innovate, adapt, and develop unconventional tactics. This innovation extended to technology, as

the IDF sought technological solutions to enhance its capabilities. After the Independence war, Israel was faced with consistent threats on its borders and internally that forced the IDF to be creative and innovative as the numbers were against Israel.

Israel since its establishment has fought several wars and many other military operations, to understand the role of IDF units in technology development of Israel, two of those wars require addressing, “The Six Day War” (1967) and the “The Yom Kippur War” (1973).

The Six Day War 1967

The Six-Day War, which occurred from June 5 to June 10, 1967, was a conflict between Israel and several Arab states, including Egypt, Syria, and Jordan which were helped by other Arab countries such as Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and more. Israel outnumbered in every category of armory and personal defeated several Arab nations with 6 days, this campaign changed the face of the Middle East (McNub, 2021) due to the following:

1. Strategic Planning: Israel's military leadership developed a well-coordinated and meticulously planned a creative strategy for the conflict. Their approach included a surprise attack on enemy airfields, followed by rapid ground advances
2. Air Superiority: The war opened on Monday, June 5, 1967, at 7:45 a.m., with a comprehensive air strike. In the first hours of the war, about 185 Israeli Air Force planes, attacked military bases and airports in Egypt, and then in Syria, Jordan and Iraq, in an operation called "Operation Focus". Israel's preemptive strike on the first day of the war resulted in the destruction of a significant portion of the Arab air forces. This gave Israel air superiority throughout the conflict, allowing it to dominate the battlefield.
3. Innovative Military Tactics: Israel's military forces employed innovative tactics and maneuver warfare. Their military doctrine emphasized mobility and flexibility, which enabled them to quickly capture territory and outmaneuver their adversaries.

The six-day war demonstrated the IDF’s creativity, innovation, advanced technology and strategic abilities that eventually gave Israel a tremendous victory and the IDF exceptional prestigious in the world.

During the Six Day War the IAF shot down 60 enemy jets in air battles, Israel lost 12 jets, since 1948, 687 enemy planes have been shot down in air battles by the Israeli Air force, only 25 Israeli planes have been shot down since 1948 by enemy planes, these figures put the shoot down ratio between the IAF and the air forces of the Arab countries at 1:27.5 (IAF web Site), that is just another example to the extraordinary achieve-

ments of the IDF that can be attributed to the technological innovation of the IAF and IDF.

Yom Kippur War: A Turning Point 1973

Six years after the extraordinary victory of Israel, the Yom Kippur War broke out. The war significantly influenced Israel's military and technological development. While it underscored vulnerabilities in intelligence and early warning systems, it primarily served to accelerate already existing priorities in technological advancement. The necessity of maintaining military technological superiority had been recognized since the founding of the IDF, given Israel's numerical disadvantage compared to its regional adversaries. The war reinforced this strategic imperative, prompting further investment in innovation and defense R&D.

The conflict exposed critical gaps in intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities, as well as in electronic warfare and advanced weapons systems. In its aftermath, Israel increased its defense spending and established dedicated research institutions to enhance military preparedness. Although the war prompted strategic reassessments, it did not serve as a "wake-up call" but rather hastened political and military decisions that had long been taken into consideration.

The war's impact extended beyond immediate security concerns, further solidifying the IDF's approach to technological self-reliance. The emphasis on innovation as a means of offsetting numerical disadvantages became deeply ingrained in Israeli military and technological doctrine. This ethos continues to drive Israel's hi-tech ecosystem and industry today.

The Intelligence Branch: Gathering Information

Due to the outcome of the Yom Kippur War, it was decided to separate the Intelligence Division from the Intelligence Corps, which would be headed by a Chief Intelligence Officer, who would be subordinate to the head of the National Intelligence Service and would replace the position of "Assistant Chief of Intelligence to the National Intelligence Service". The goal was to allow the head of the National Intelligence Service to devote himself to research issues, the assessment of intelligence and warning, and remove from him the need to take care of the day-to-day handling of logistics and organizational matters related to the management of the intelligence branch in the army.

One of the cornerstones of Israel's security apparatus is its intelligence community, which plays a pivotal role in gathering information critical for national defense. The IDF's Intelligence Branch, commonly known as "Aman," is central to this endeavor. It is one of the key intelligence units within the IDF responsible for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating military intelligence information. Aman, the IDF's Military Intelligence Direc-

torate, is a key component of Israel's defense and national security infrastructure.

"Aman" comprises multiple units, each specializing in specific intelligence domains, including human intelligence (HUMINT), signals intelligence (SIGINT), imagery intelligence (IMINT), and more. The information gathered by these units is not only vital for military operations but also contributes significantly to Israel's technological capabilities and eventually on the Israeli economy and Hi – Tech eco system

The IDF's SIGINT unit, known as Unit 8200, stands out as a formidable force in this regard. Unit 8200 and its counterparts – the British Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ) and the American National Security Agency (NSA) are responsible for intercepting and deciphering enemy communications. The expertise gained in deciphering complex codes and encryption systems has had far-reaching implications for Israel's cybersecurity industry, discussed in more detail in this article.

Moreover, the HUMINT capabilities of "Aman" have been instrumental in acquiring advanced technologies through espionage and covert operations. Israel's ability to gather intelligence on global military technologies has contributed to its technological prowess and contributed to the development of the Israeli eco-system as A Start up nation. Foreign sources assert that Unit 8200 contributed to Stuxnet, Flame, Duqu, and other sophisticated cyber campaigns for offense and intelligence (Tabansky, 2020).

Three of the elite units and programs in the IDF are "Unit 8200", "Talpiot" and "Mamram", these three alone can be accounted for many startups, Unicorns and dramatic technological achievements in Israel.

Unit 8200: The Signals Intelligence Powerhouse

Unit 8200, as mentioned above is referred to as the "Israeli NSA," is a formidable signal intelligence (SIGINT) unit within the IDF's Intelligence Branch. Established in the early 1950s, it has become one of the most renowned and secretive units in the Israeli military. It is the largest single unit of Israel's Defense Forces comprising several thousand soldiers (at least 5,000 on active duty) separated into various smaller units and operating numerous bases as well as other mobile SIGINT modules (Coredy, 2019). Senor & Singer) 2009 (referred to Unit 8200 as "the nation's equivalent of Harvard, Princeton and Yale" and Lakin (2015) published a paper named "The Secretive Israeli Army Unit that Recruits Like Harvard—And Churns Out High-profile Startups "

Unit 8200 specializes in intercepting and deciphering enemy communications, including encrypted messages and data. Its core mission is to gather intelligence critical for Israel's national security. However, the expertise acquired by Unit 8200 personnel goes well beyond traditional SIGINT operations.

One of the most significant contributions of Unit 8200 to Israel's technological landscape is in the field of cybersecurity. Many 8200 alumni

have played pivotal roles in establishing and leading cybersecurity companies in Israel. Their expertise in deciphering complex encryption systems has been applied to protecting digital assets, both for Israel's defense infrastructure and in the commercial sector.

The unit's role in cyber intelligence and cybersecurity extends beyond Israel's borders. It has been involved in thwarting cyber threats and countering cyberattacks from hostile entities worldwide. According to one Reserve colonel, the Unit's central mission is to "save lives, prevent terror and other attacks" (Ourcrowd, 2014) While the Unit's mandate is apparently defensive per nature, this does not stop it from using offensive means to achieve its ambitious objectives pre-emptively (Cordey, 2019).

Unit 8200 is a testament to the IDF's ability to identify, nurture, and leverage talent in the technology domain. Its graduates have become instrumental in advancing Israel's position as a global leader in cybersecurity. "Unit 8200 is probably the foremost technical intelligence agency in the world and stands on a par with the NSA in everything except scale," Peter Roberts, senior research fellow at Britain's Royal United Services Institute (Reed, 2005).

Mamram: The Computer Science Institute

Mamram is an especially interesting case study of the influence of the IDF, and hence the state, on the development of the IT industry in Israel (Breznitz, 2002). The Mamram (Hebrew acronym for (Center of Computing and Information Systems) is an IDF institute responsible for cultivating expertise in computer science, software development, and information technology (IT). Established in the 1960s, Mamram has played a crucial role in shaping Israel's technological landscape.

The unit's core mission is to train IDF personnel in computer programming, software development, and IT management. Its programs are tailored to provide 1% of the soldiers enrolling for service (male and female) with practical knowledge and skills that can be applied to various military and civilian contexts creates an alumni community that is connected to the tech ecosystem.

Mamram in other words takes individuals fresh out of high school and transforms them into programmers, DevOps Engineers, and Cyber Warriors within a short span of six months, bypassing the traditional three-year computer science degree (Israeli, 2023), Mamram was the first institution to begin training software programmers on a regular basis (Breznitz, 2002).

Soldiers who undergo training at Mamram often become the backbone of the IDF's IT infrastructure. They develop and maintain software applications, databases, and IT systems that support military operations. This expertise has also been harnessed for civilian applications, contributing to the growth of Israel's software and IT industry.

Mamram's emphasis on computer science education has produced a significant talent pool of software developers and IT professionals who

have gone on to work in Israel's vibrant technology sector, establishing many successful unicorns and startups

Talpiot: Cultivating Technological Prowess

Talpiot is a prestigious and elite program within the IDF that focuses on cultivating technological prowess and nurturing future leaders in science and technology (Baram & Ben-Israel, 2018). Established in 1979, Talpiot's mission is to identify exceptionally talented recruits and provide them with a unique and rigorous education.

Talpiot cadets, often referred to as "Talpionim," undergo a demanding curriculum that combines military training, scientific education, and leadership development. The program typically spans nine years, including a bachelor's degree in a scientific field. Instead of being trained to fight, the few soldiers each year selected for Talpiot are taught how to think (Gewritz, 2016), Talpiot graduates have had a vital impact on weapons development by the IDF and on the intelligence community (Baram & Ben-Israel, 2018).

One of the key objectives of Talpiot is to produce officers with expertise in physics, mathematics, computer science, and other technical disciplines (Gewritz, 2016). Graduates of the program have made significant contributions to Israel's technology sector, including the development of cutting-edge military technologies and civilian applications. The Talpiot program is highly competitive, and its graduates are considered some of the most intellectually gifted and resourceful individuals in Israel. Their expertise and innovations have played a vital role in enhancing Israel's military capabilities and technological advancement.

The Talpiot program exemplifies the IDF's commitment to nurturing technological excellence from within its ranks. Like Unit 8200 and Mamram, many Talpiot graduates have gone on to become leaders in academia, industry, and government, playing vital roles in Israel's technological ecosystem, following the success of Talpiot two additional programs were established Havatzalot (“Lilies”) and Psagot (“Heights”) (Baram & Ben-Israel, 2018).

This is just a short list of startups, technological companies and unicorns established by veterans of the different units of IDF, these companies (and many more) demonstrate Israel’s position as a global innovation hub, particularly in cybersecurity and high-tech, with a track record of creating groundbreaking solutions and attracting international attention through acquisitions and partnerships.

Check Point Software Technologies: Co-founded in 1993 by Gil Shwed, an alumnus of Unit 8200, Check Point is a leading cybersecurity company specializing in firewall and network security solutions.

Wiz, a cloud security startup founded by former Unit 8200 members Assaf Rappaport, Ami Luttwak, Yinon Costica, and Roy Reznik, provides an agentless security platform for identifying and mitigating risks across cloud environments Google announced in March 2025 that it would

acquire Wiz for $32 billion in an all-cash deal, making it Google's largest acquisition to date.

Cybereason: Established in 2012 by Lior Div, a former Unit 8200 member, Cybereason focuses on endpoint detection and response (EDR) cybersecurity solutions.

Mellanox Technologies: Founded in 1999 by Eyal Waldman, who served in an elite IDF unit, Mellanox specializes in high-performance networking solutions and was acquired by NVIDIA in 2020.

NICE Systems: Founded in 1986 by seven Israeli entrepreneurs, several of whom were veterans of Unit 8200, NICE has evolved from providing voice recording solutions to offering a wide range of software solutions for customer experience, regulatory compliance, and financial crime prevention.

Forescout Technologies Inc.: Co-founded by Israeli entrepreneurs, including veterans of IDF intelligence units, Forescout specializes in device visibility and control solutions for cybersecurity.

Waze: Co-founded by Ehud Shabtai, who served in an IDF technology unit, Waze is a GPS navigation software app that provides real-time traffic information and was acquired by Google in 2013.

Cato Networks: Co-founded in 2015 by Shlomo Kramer, a former member of Unit 8200 and a co-founder of Check Point, Cato Networks offers cloud-based secure access service edge (SASE) solutions.

Team8: Founded by Nadav Zafrir, a former commander of Unit 8200, Team8 is a cybersecurity think tank and venture creation platform that has launched several startups.

Siemplify: Co-founded by Amos Stern, who served in an IDF intelligence unit, Siemplify provides a security orchestration, automation, and response (SOAR) platform and was acquired by Google in 2022.

Snyk: Co-founded by Guy Podjarny, an alumnus of an IDF intelligence unit, Snyk focuses on helping developers find and fix vulnerabilities in open-source code.

SentinelOne: Co-founded by Tomer Weingarten and Almog Cohen, both of whom served in IDF intelligence units, SentinelOne offers autonomous endpoint protection solutions using artificial intelligence.

Perimeter 81: Co-founded by Amit Bareket and Sagi Gidali, both veterans of IDF intelligence units, Perimeter 81 provides secure network access and cloud security solutions.

Imperva: Co-founded by Shlomo Kramer, an alumnus of Unit 8200, Imperva focuses on data and application security.

CyberArk: Founded in 1999 by Alon N. Cohen, who served in an IDF intelligence unit, CyberArk specializes in privileged access management and cybersecurity.

Sisense: Co-founded by Elad Israeli, who served in an IDF intelligence unit, Sisense provides business intelligence and analytics software solutions.

Varonis Systems: Co-founded by Yaki Faitelson and Ohad Korkus, both veterans of IDF intelligence units, Varonis specializes in data security and analytics.

Wix: Co-founded by Avishai Abrahami, Nadav Abrahami, and Giora Kaplan, with Avishai having served in an IDF intelligence unit, Wix is a cloud-based web development platform.

Tufin: Co-founded by Reuven Harrison and Ruvi Kitov, both of whom served in IDF intelligence units, Tufin specializes in network security policy management.

EZchip Semiconductor: Co-founded by Eli Fruchter, who served in an IDF technology unit, EZchip focused on network processors and was acquired by Mellanox Technologies in 2016.

Anobit Technologies: Co-founded by Ariel Maislos, a veteran of an IDF intelligence unit, Anobit specialized in flash memory technology and was acquired by Apple in 2012.

ClickSoftware Technologies: Founded by Moshe BenBassat, who served in an IDF intelligence unit, ClickSoftware provided workforce management and service optimization solutions before being acquired by Salesforce in 2019.

Table 1 highlights the groundbreaking research by Ilya Strebulaev, presenting a compelling insight: founders with professional experience in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) are approximately three times more likely to create a unicorn startup compared to veterans of any other military, non-profit, or government organization worldwide—including NASA, the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Air Force. This underscores the unique role of the IDF as a catalyst for entrepreneurial success and innovation.

Table 1: Odds of Becoming a Unicorn Founder; Military, Non- Profit and Government Employees



Military Industries: The IDF's Innovation Engine

The Israeli military industries sector, commonly known as Israel Military Industries (IMI), has been integral to the development of advanced military technologies, closely tied to the needs and innovation of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Established during the formative years of the state, these defense companies were entrusted with equipping the IDF with cutting-edge weaponry and equipment.

This symbiotic relationship between the IDF and the defense industry has fueled significant advancements across various fields, including aerospace, electronics, and ordnance. Israeli defense companies have been responsible for pioneering a wide range of military hardware, from sophisticated Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Iron Dome (a highly advanced air defense system developed by Israel to intercept and neutralize short-range rockets, artillery, and mortars. It was designed to protect civilian populations and critical infrastructure from missile threats), to precision-guided munitions, positioning Israel as a global leader in defense innovation**.**

Probably the first unit in the Israeli defense complex to develop and use computers was **"Rafael"** (the Hebrew abbreviation of: Armament Development Authority). "Rafael", the first, and for many years almost the only body in Israel to conduct high-tech R&D, had already started to use computers in the 1950s (Breznitz, 2002). "Rafael" has made significant contributions to Israel's defense technology, particularly in the development of missile defense systems like 'Iron Dome" (Iron Dome is a missile defense system developed by Israel. It is designed to intercept and destroy short-range rockets and artillery shells fired from distances of 4 to 70 kilometers)and" David's Sling" (David's Sling is missile defense system, designed to complement the "Iron Dome" and provides an additional layer of defense against a wider range of threats. It is an intermediate-range missile defense system that addresses missiles with ranges between 40 km and 300 km).

Another notable example is **"Israel Aerospace Industries" (IAI),** which has developed a range of innovative technologies, including the "Arrow anti-ballistic missile system "and "unmanned aerial vehicles) " UAVs). These technologies have not only bolstered Israel's defense capabilities but have also been exported to countries around the world.

The military industries sector has acted as a crucible for innovation and technological advancement in Israel. Many of the technologies initially developed for military use have found applications in civilian sectors, such as healthcare, transportation, and agriculture.

Founded in 1966, **"Elbit Systems"** has become one of Israel's leading defense contractors and has a strong presence in the global defense industry. Among its products and solutions, it provides Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (C4I) systems for military and homeland security purposes.

Another leading military industry is **"Elta Systems Ltd".** ("Elta" is an acronym for "Aerospace Industry Electronics") it is a subsidiary of Israel

Aerospace Industries, and one of the world's leading companies in military electronic systems in the field of radar, communications and electronic warfare. “Elta Systems” offers a broad range of electronic systems-of-systems for air and space, land, naval, and homeland security applications.

The IDF and the Israeli military industry have a close and mutually beneficial relationship, the many military organizations help to ensure the IDF’s operational readiness, technological superiority, and ability to defend Israel effectively in a dynamic and complex security environment. This close relationship between the IDF and the Israeli military industry has been instrumental in shaping Israel's defense capabilities and its reputation for innovation and technological advancement in the field of military and security.

Cybersecurity: The New Frontier

Cybersecurity plays a critical role in the Israel Defense Forces due to the evolving nature of modern warfare and the increasing reliance on technology in military operations, the IDF recognized the significance of cybersecurity in modern warfare. The IDF has been at the forefront of cyber defense and offense, with Unit 8200, Mamram and other units playing central roles in this domain.

The Government Resolution No. 3611 of August 7, 2011 “Advancing National Cyberspace Capabilities” 6 accepted the National Cyber Initiative’s recommendations and it is Israel’s public National Cybersecurity Strategy. Like all official National Cybersecurity Strategy documents, it is a “grand strategy” that declares the vision and the guiding principles. Subsequent strategies in each domain have been derived from this grand strategy. The main recommendation was to establish a dedicated government agency to lead cyber efforts across public and private Israeli stakeholders and to coordinate policy instruments (Tabansky, 2020), since 2011 till today Cybersecurity is a critical aspect of Israel's national defense strategy. The IDF has developed an expertise in countering cyber threats, protecting critical infrastructure, and conducting cyber operations.

The Israeli military's focus on cybersecurity extends to the civilian sector. The IDF collaborates with cybersecurity companies, academia, and government agencies to enhance the nation's cyber resilience. The government established the National Cyber Directorate to coordinate and oversee Israel's cybersecurity efforts.

Israel's prowess in cybersecurity is well-regarded globally, with Israeli cybersecurity firms gaining prominence and attracting international investment. The IDF's role in developing cybersecurity talent and expertise has been pivotal in securing the nation's digital assets.

Commercialization of Military Technologies

A hallmark of Israel's technology landscape is the seamless transition of military technologies into civilian applications. This process, often referred

to as "dual-use technology," has been instrumental in driving innovation and economic growth.

Military technologies developed by the IDF and defense industries have been adapted for various civilian sectors. Examples include UAVs repurposed for agriculture and environmental monitoring, precision-guided munitions applied to construction, and medical innovations derived from military medical research.

One significant avenue for the commercialization of military technologies is through spin-off companies founded by IDF veterans. Many former soldiers with expertise in fields such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and robotics have established startups that have gained international recognition. The Israeli government and organizations like the Israel Innovation Authority have actively supported the transfer of military technologies to the civilian sector. In doing so, Israel has fostered a dynamic ecosystem of startups and technology companies that have made their mark on the global stage.

Discussion

The Historical Context of Israel's Defense Imperative

The phrase, "Every generation, they try to destroy us," resonates deeply from the days of biblical Egypt to the present. The tragic events of October 7, 2023, when Hamas infiltrated Israel, resulting in the deaths of over 1,200 individuals, underscore the necessity for a strong defense mechanism. This persistent existential threat has shaped the Jewish experience and highlights the critical role of the IDF in ensuring Israel's survival.

Since its establishment in 1948, the IDF has not only defended Israel but has also been a driving force behind technological innovation, ensuring that national security and economic progress go hand in hand. Military necessity has continuously fueled advancements, with the IDF serving as both a defender of the state and an incubator for cutting-edge technology. The combination of rigorous training, exposure to high-pressure problem-solving, and an ingrained culture of innovation has allowed Israel to convert security challenges into technological opportunities.

The IDF as a Driver of Technological Innovation

The IDF's evolution since the 1960s has solidified Israel's reputation as a technological powerhouse. Necessity and strategic foresight have propelled the IDF to leverage the talents of its personnel, fostering groundbreaking developments across various domains. As noted by Baram and Ben Israel (2018), technological superiority is not just a military requirement but a key factor in Israel's national security strategy and broader economic progress.

Elite IDF units, including Talpiot, Unit 8200, Mamram, and the Intelligence Branch, have cultivated a highly skilled workforce that extends beyond military applications. The impact of these units on Israel's techno-

logical landscape is profound, with many of their alumni leading major innovations in the high-tech sector. These elite technological units function as incubators for the nation's top talent, providing early exposure to advanced problem-solving, cybersecurity operations, and intelligence analysis, all of which directly translate into entrepreneurial success.

The collaboration between the IDF and the defense industry has also been instrumental in advancing sectors such as aerospace, electronics, cybersecurity, and autonomous systems, strengthening both defense capabilities and economic development. The structured pipeline from military service to civilian technological leadership is not incidental—it is a byproduct of a well-designed system that nurtures innovation from within the armed forces.

The Commercialization of Military Technologies

One of the defining aspects of Israel's high-tech industry is the successful transfer of military technologies into civilian applications, a key contributor to the country's status as a "Startup Nation." This dual-use model, where military advancements seamlessly transition into the private sector, has led to the emergence of numerous startups and global technology firms.

Many IDF veterans transition into the private sector, applying their expertise to create transformative technologies in fields such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, fintech, and telecommunications. As noted by Tabansky (2020), this pipeline from military service to entrepreneurial leadership has fuelled Israel's dominance in global tech markets.

Former IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kochavi (2023) emphasized that the growing number of technology-oriented military units reflects the IDF's continued commitment to maintaining Israel's qualitative edge. This focus on technological excellence and innovation-driven defense strategies ensures that Israel remains at the forefront of both security and economic development. The IDF's proactive recruitment of highly capable individuals, combined with its emphasis on problem-solving under pressure, equips veterans with the tools necessary to build, lead, and scale successful technology companies.

Economic Contributions and Global Impact

The link between the IDF's technological initiatives and Israel's economic success is evident in both macroeconomic indicators and sectoral trends. According to reports from the Israeli Association for Advanced Industries (IATI) and Deloitte Israel (2023), the high-tech sector:

- Accounts for 16.1% of Israel's GDP
- Employs 11.9% of the country's workforce
- Contributes 48.3% of Israeli exports (2022)

Additionally, R&D investment in Israel ranks among the highest globally (Matania, 2017), with government and private-sector collaboration reinforcing a culture of continuous innovation and expansion.

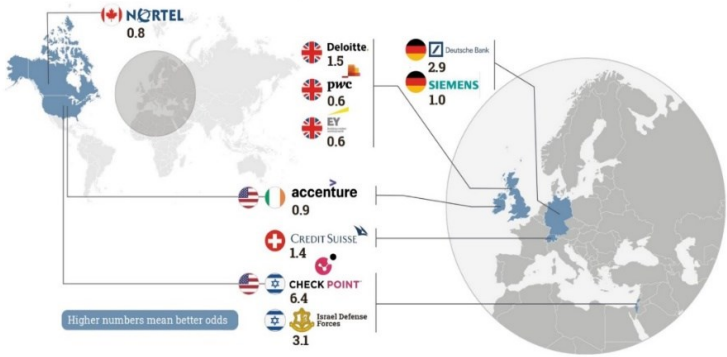
Beyond domestic economic contributions, Israel's military-to-tech pipeline has fostered global partnerships, as multinational corporations recognize the strategic value of Israeli talent and innovation. Companies like Check Point, Waze, and Palo Alto Networks, founded by IDF veterans, have become world leaders in cybersecurity, AI, and autonomous systems. The success of these firms not only strengthens Israel's economic standing but also enhances its geopolitical influence by providing indispensable technological solutions worldwide.

The data overwhelmingly supports the conclusion that the IDF has developed a system that equips its veterans with the tools, mindset, and expertise to build large-scale technology companies and drive economic success. This process is not accidental but rather the result of decades of strategic investment in military-driven innovation, talent cultivation, and technology transfer. The IDF's role extends far beyond national defense—it is a critical pillar in Israel's economic engine, reinforcing its position as a global leader in technology and entrepreneurship.

By examining these intersections, this discussion underscores the profound and lasting impact of the IDF on Israel's technological evolution, economic resilience, and international leadership in innovation.

Further reinforcing the IDF's impact on Israel's economic ecosystem, Strebulaev's (2023) research on unicorn founders places the IDF is second in the top institutions globally for producing successful startup founders. His study found that the IDF ranks second among organizations worldwide in fostering unicorn founders, surpassing major multinational corporations and global financial institutions (first is Check Point and Israeli company founded by veterans of the IDF). This statistic highlights the IDF's role not only in national security but also in driving Israel's broader economic and the technological success.

Odds of Achieving US Unicorn Status:
The Role of Global Organizations Founders Worked At



Conclusion

Israel's historical struggles have forged a resilient and adaptive nation, where the IDF functions not only as a defense force but as a central pillar of technological and economic advancement. Beyond its primary mission of ensuring national security, the IDF has played a transformative role in shaping Israel's high-tech ecosystem, fostering human capital, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The mandatory military service system serves as an unparalleled training ground for leadership, problem-solving, and technological expertise, equipping individuals with the skills necessary to drive innovation in the civilian sector.

The link between military service and entrepreneurial success is well-documented. Avrahami and Lerner (2003) argue that combat experience and military rank significantly influence entrepreneurial tendencies, as veterans of elite IDF units develop critical decision-making, risk management, and leadership skills that translate directly into the business world. Their study on Israeli MBA graduates demonstrates that those who held leadership roles in the IDF were more likely to pursue entrepreneurial careers, reinforcing the idea that military service fosters an innovation-oriented mindset.

At the core of this innovation-driven ecosystem are elite IDF units such as Unit 8200, Talpiot, and Mamram, which have nurtured a highly skilled workforce responsible for groundbreaking advancements in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and software development. Many of their alumni have founded and led globally influential technology companies, reinforcing Israel's status as a leading innovation hub. In fact, veterans from these elite intelligence and technology units have directly contributed to the emergence of Israel's vibrant startup scene, establishing some of the country's most successful companies and unicorns. Firms such as Check Point, Palo Alto Networks, Waze, Mobileye, and NSO Group were founded by former IDF operatives, demonstrating the seamless transition from military innovation to commercial success. Studies indicate that a significant percentage of Israel's unicorn startups—valued at over $1 billion—can trace their origins back to IDF-trained entrepreneurs, highlighting the critical role of military service in fostering a culture of high-impact innovation.

The economic contributions of the IDF and Israel's military-industrial complex are substantial. According to Start-Up Nation Central (2025), Israel is home to approximately 7,158 active startups, many founded by IDF veterans, particularly those from cyber-intelligence units like Unit 8200. Israel's cybersecurity sector, heavily influenced by military-originated technologies, accounts for 10% of global cybersecurity sales. Additionally, Israel's Ministry of Defense reported defense exports totaling $7.2 billion in 2022, reflecting the growing international demand for Israeli military innovations. The country's commitment to research and development (R&D), with an investment of 4.9% of GDP—the highest in the

OECD (Israeli Innovation Authority, 2024), further underscores the pivotal role of defense-driven technological advancements in economic growth and global competitiveness.

Beyond its domestic impact, the IDF's influence extends to global partnerships, attracting multinational corporations such as Intel, Microsoft, and Google, which have established R&D centers in Israel to capitalize on the country's technological expertise and innovation culture. This military-industrial complex not only generates thousands of high-skilled jobs but also fuels sustained economic expansion, ensuring Israel remains a leader in technological development and entrepreneurship.

Over the past 77 years, the IDF and Israel's defense industries have consistently demonstrated their ability to drive innovation. Research reveals a strong correlation between IDF service in elite units and entrepreneurial success, with veterans founding a significant portion of Israel's top tech startups and unicorns. As explored throughout this paper, the IDF's contributions extend far beyond national defense, serving as a catalyst for economic revitalization, technological leadership, and global influence. By seamlessly integrating defense, technology, and entrepreneurship, the IDF has transcended its military function to become a driving force of innovation, shaping not only Israel's economy but also the future of global technological progress.

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Appendix

In a comparative analysis of the economic performance of Israel, Egypt, and Iran, Israel significantly stands out as the region's leading economy. As of 2023, Israel, with a population of 9.7 million, has a GDP of $513.61 billion, resulting in an impressive GDP per capita of $53,111.

In contrast, Egypt, the most populous country in this comparison with 102 million people, has a GDP of $393 billion, leading to a GDP per capita of $3,852—a significant disparity reflecting its economic challenges and lower industrial productivity.

Similarly, Iran, with a population of 90 million, has a GDP of $372 billion, yielding a GDP per capita of $4,133. While higher than Egypt's, Iran's economy remains hampered by international sanctions, limiting its ability to grow beyond its heavy reliance on oil exports and state-controlled industries.

The stark differences in GDP per capita highlight Israel's dominance as a technological and economic powerhouse in the region, driven by high-value industries, innovation, and a globally integrated market. Conversely, Egypt and Iran struggle with economic instability, inflation, and structural inefficiencies.

This economic disparity underscores Israel's unique position in the region, not just in terms of overall GDP but in productivity, technological advancement, and high-income economic structure. The comparison also illustrates the challenges faced by Egypt and Iran, whose economic potential is constrained by structural issues, reliance on traditional industries, and geopolitical factors.

For demonstration purposes, this comparison highlights how Israel's economy, despite serving a significantly smaller population, has achieved greater total GDP and dramatically higher per capita prosperity than two of the largest nations in the Middle East region. This economic divergence can be attributed to Israel's focus on high-tech industries, strong human capital development, and integration into global markets, while its regional counterparts continue to face structural economic challenges despite their larger populations and resource bases.

In 2023, a comparative analysis of GDP per capita reveals that Israel significantly outperforms the United Kingdom, highlighting its robust economic productivity despite the UK’s larger overall GDP.

In evaluating economic performance relative to population size, GDP per capita serves as a crucial metric that offers insights into the average economic output per person within a country. As of 2023, distinct differences emerge when comparing Israel and the United Kingdom through this lens.

Israel's GDP is approximately $513 billion, with a population of about 9.5 million. This results in a GDP per capita of roughly $53,684,

reflecting a high level of economic productivity and innovation prevalent in the nation.

Conversely, the United Kingdom, with its GDP of around $3.2 trillion and a significantly larger population of 67 million, exhibits a GDP per capita of approximately $47,761. Despite its larger total economic output, the UK's GDP per capita is lower than that of Israel.

This comparative analysis underscores Israel's robust economic performance on a per-person basis, often attributed to its dynamic high-tech sector and innovative capabilities. In contrast, while the UK holds a substantial overall GDP due to its diverse economy encompassing finance, manufacturing, and services, its GDP per capita is relatively lower, highlighting the varying economic structures and growth dynamics between the two nations.

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Kerr & Schwarzschild Black Hole Photon Trajectories – Models & Simulations

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Abstract

In this research, spinning (Kerr) and a non-spinning (Schwarzschild) black hole simulation models are introduced. Via the simulation models, the photon trajectories are computed by solving the geodesics equations. The black holes are simulated via equatorial trajectories based on the spherical symmetry of the solutions. The developed models aid in researching the surfaces and geodesics of black holes under various (customizable) conditions (via the input parameters of the simulation models). A rotating black hole, such as a Kerr black hole, has angular momentum, causing it to drag spacetime around it. A non-rotating black hole, such as a Schwarzschild black hole, does not spin and hence has a perfectly spherical event horizon. Based on the research I conducted on Black Holes, I further developed a (hypothetical) theory that focuses on the potential interconnections among the Schwarzschild radius, the Plank length, and the Compton wavelength at the Plank scale. The established theory is focused on providing a different conversation angle when it comes to discussions on General Relativity and quantum mechanics.

Keywords: Black Holes, Kerr, Schwarzschild, Geodesics, Light Trajectory, Simulation Models, Compton Wavelength, Plank Scale, Quantum Mechanics, General Relativity

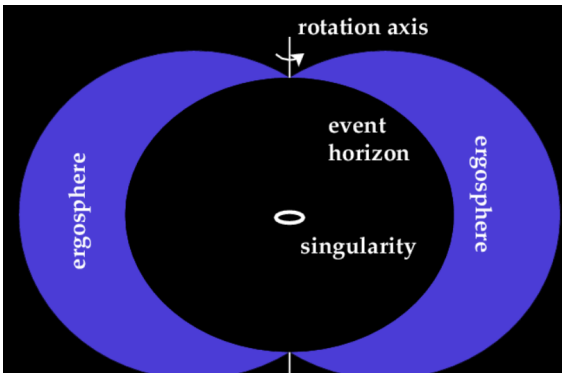
Introduction to Black Holes and the Ergosphere

In astrophysics, the ergosphere depicts a region that is located outside a rotating black hole's outer event horizon (see Figure 1). It is labeled that way as it is theoretically possible to extract energy and mass from this region. The ergosphere touches the event horizon at the poles of a rotating black hole and extends to a greater radius at the equator. A black hole with modest angular momentum has an ergosphere with a shape approximated by an oblate spheroid, while faster spins produce an even more pumpkin-shaped ergosphere. The equatorial (maximal) radius of an ergosphere is the Schwarzschild radius, the radius of a non-rotating black hole. The polar

(minimal) radius is also the polar (minimal) radius of the event horizon that can be as little as half the Schwarzschild radius for a maximally rotating black hole.

In general, as a black hole rotates (theoretically some do not), it twists spacetime in the direction of the rotation at a speed that decreases with distance from the event horizon. This process is known as either the Lense–Thirring effect or frame-dragging. Because of this dragging effect, an object within the ergosphere cannot appear stationary in respect to an outside observer (at a distance) unless that object would be moving faster than the speed of light. The speed necessary for such an object to appear stationary decreases at points further out from the event horizon, until at some distance the required speed is negligible. The set of all such points defines the ergosphere surface, labeled as the ergosurface. The outer surface of the ergosphere is identified as the static surface or static limit. All this is due to the fact that world lines change from being time-like outside the static limit to being space-like inside of it. It is the speed of light that impulsively defines the ergosphere surface. Such a surface would appear as an oblate that is concurrent with the event horizon at the pole of rotation, but at a greater distance from the event horizon at the equator. Outside this surface, space is still dragged, but at a lesser rate. A suspended plumb, held stationary outside the ergosphere, will experience an infinite/diverging radial pull as it approaches the static limit.

Figure 1: Black Hole System – Kerr Black Hole



At some point it will start to fall, resulting in a gravitomagnetically induced spinward motion. An implication of this dragging of space is the existence of negative energies within the ergosphere. Since the ergosphere is outside the event horizon, it is still possible for objects that enter that region with sufficient velocity to escape from the gravitational pull of the black hole. An object can gain energy by entering the black hole's rotation and then escaping from it, thus taking some of the black hole's energy with it (making the maneuver similar to the exploitation of the Oberth effect

around normal space objects). The Oberth effect, a principle in rocket science, states that a rocket engine is more efficient at increasing kinetic energy (and therefore orbital energy) when operating at higher speeds, implying that a burn at periapsis (closest point to the body being orbited) yields a greater increase in velocity than a burn at apoapsis (farthest point).

This process of removing energy from a rotating black hole was proposed by the mathematician Roger Penrose and is known as the Penrose process (Penrose, 1965). The maximal amount of energy gain possible for a single particle via this process is 20.7% (in terms of its mass equivalence), and if this process is repeated by the same mass, the theoretical maximal energy gain approaches 29% of its original mass-energy equivalent. As this energy is removed, the black hole loses angular momentum, and thus the limit of zero rotation is approached as spacetime dragging is reduced. In the limit, the ergosphere no longer exists. This process is considered a possible explanation for a source of energy of such energetic phenomena as gamma-ray bursts.

As discussed by Williams (Williams, 2002), results obtained from computer models show that the Penrose process is capable of producing the high-energy particles that are being emitted from quasars and other active galactic nuclei. The size of the ergosphere, the distance between the ergosurface and the event horizon, is not necessarily proportional to the radius of the event horizon, but rather to the black hole's gravity and its angular momentum. A point at the poles does not move, and thus has no angular momentum, while at the equator a point would have its greatest angular momentum. This variation of angular momentum that extends from the poles to the equator is what gives the ergosphere its oblate shape. As the mass of the black hole or its rotation speed increases, the size of the ergosphere increases as well.

A Deeper Dive into Black Holes

Based on Einstein's theory of General Relativity, many researchers believe that every black hole contains a singularity, a point of infinite density and gravity where the laws of physics as we know break down. Theoretical black holes like Kerr black holes do have singularities. In this research, the labels *theoretical* and *realistic* black holes refer to the state of knowledge in 2025 where several configurations of black holes are being discussed (see below). We do know that black holes are real, the actual setup though is what researchers still are trying to nail down. Hence, one thing that scientists are interested in is whether black holes that are formed based on realistic conditions (such as a stellar collapse) have singularities. Penrose showed that inside event horizons (realistic or not), the affine length of a light ray is finite. This affine length is a way of generalizing the *concept of length* for light, because the true spacetime length of any light ray is always zero. From this, Penrose argues that if the ray has a finite affine length, it

must terminate in a singularity. Thus, all black holes, even realistic ones, should have singularities.

Using his metric, Kerr showed the existence of light rays with finite affine length that never terminate. So, Penrose's argument is technically invalid. Kerr only has to find a single light ray of finite affine length inside a black hole that does not terminate in order to render Penrose's argument invalid. But Kerr does not prove the non-existence of singularities, he is merely disqualifying the argument that they are required to exist. Black holes only have three physical properties. So, all we need to describe them is:

- How massive they are
- How fast they are rotating (if at all)
- How much charge they carry (if any)

Now, all black holes have some amount of mass. It is not really possible to turn that property off. We can increase or decrease the mass, but they will always be going to have mass. The other two properties though *can* be turned off. We can easily cancel the charge of an entity. If the entity represents an object that is two fundamental charges too positive, we can add two electrons and now, the entity is uncharged.

Likewise, if an object is spinning too fast, we can have it interact with entities that are spinning in the opposite direction. The equations of physics teach us that angular momentum has to be conserved. So, if an entity is spinning, it keeps spinning until we do something about it. By adding particles that spin the opposite direction of a black hole, we decrease its rate of rotation. Well, that leaves us with four distinct black hole configurations that are labeled after the scientists that provided the equations describing these objects:

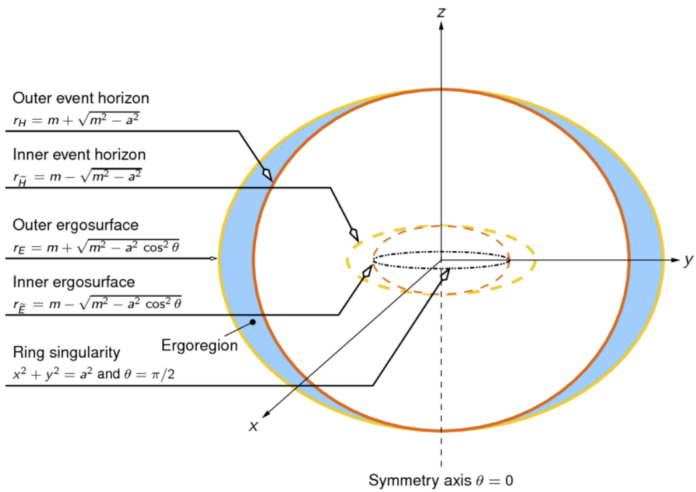
1. No Charge, No Rotation - Schwarzschild Black Hole
2. No Charge, Rotation - Kerr Black Hole
3. Charge, No Rotation - Reissner-Nordström Black Hole
4. Charge, Rotation - Kerr-Newman Black Hole

As a consequence of General Relativity, rotating black holes drag the surrounding space with them. This is the effect known as frame dragging. The effect changes and shapes the event horizon (the point beyond which nothing can escape) and creates a new region known as the ergosphere (see Figure 1 and 2). The event horizon depicts a perfect sphere for a non-rotating black hole. For a rotating black hole, it gets slightly flattened at the poles and wider at the equator (so shaped similar to our planet).

The outer boundary of the ergosphere is also a flattened sphere, but larger than the event horizon. Its inner boundary is the event horizon. The ergosphere is the region between these two surfaces, as shown in Figure 2. As already discussed, in this region, it is *theoretically* possible to extract

energy from the black hole and use it for other purposes. Even outside the ergosphere, the frame dragging effect takes place. Essentially space itself begins to spin *with* the black hole. If we were near it, the parts of us closest to the black hole would feel a force pulling us along with the rotation, while the parts furthest from us would feel as though they were being pulled in the opposite direction. In reality, all of us is being pulled *with* the rotation, but at different rates. Assuming one hand closer, that hand is being pulled faster than the hand farther away, while our torso is somewhere in between, it feels as though *both* are being pulled away.

Figure 2: Kerr Solution for a Rotating Black Hole



Another major difference between rotating and non-rotating black holes deals again with the singularity. In general terms, the singularity is normally described as the dead center of a black hole. For a non-rotating one, the singularity basically depicts a single point. For a rotating black hole though, something interesting happens. For a Kerr black hole, the singularity depicts a ring. The ring exists because *in classical mechanics* a single point cannot have angular momentum by its own. In quantum mechanics though, it is perfectly fine for a single point to have angular momentum (spin). But, as of now, physicists have not yet been able to unify gravity and quantum mechanics. As the question of singularities deals with both, we have to label that problem as *unsettled* in 2025.

The singularity forms when matter is compressed so tightly that no other force of nature can balance it. In a normal star, like the Sun, the inward pull of gravity is balanced by the outward pressure of the nuclear reactions in its core. In collapsed stars known as white dwarfs or neutron stars, other forces prevent the ultimate collapse. If there is too much mass

in a given volume though, the object reaches a critical density where nothing can prevent its ultimate collapse, forming a black hole.

As gravity overcomes the other forces of nature, a singularity follows its own strange rules of physics. Time and space as we know are crushed out of existence, and gravity becomes infinitely strong. As the distance from the singularity increases, the escape velocity decreases. The escape velocity can be described as the speed that an object hast to travel in order to get away. For Earth, the escape velocity is approximately seven miles per second. In other words, a spacecraft has to travel at least that fast to escape Earth's gravitational pull. At a certain distance from the singularity, the escape velocity equals to the speed of light (approximately 186,000 miles/second). This distance is known as the Schwarzschild radius (honoring Karl Schwarzschild who defined it). The actual Schwarzschild radius depends on the mass of the black hole. For a black hole as massive as the Sun, the radius is approximately two miles. For every extra solar mass, the radius increases by two miles.

This radius enfolds the singularity in a zone of blackness. In other words, that is why a black hole is black. It provides the black hole with a visible surface known as the event horizon. The horizon does not represent a solid surface though. It simply depicts the *point of no return* for anything that approaches the black hole. Once any object, either a vessel or a light particle crosses inside the horizon, it cannot escape. It is trapped inside the black hole. If the black hole does not rotate, its gravitational influence on its environment is rather straightforward. If the black hole is spinning though, then its gravitational effects are more complicated. To reiterate, in that scenario it actually pulls the fabric of spacetime along with it (frame dragging in the ergosphere). It has to be pointed out that technically, a black hole does not have an equator as it represents a singularity or a point source. The event horizon radius (Schwarzschild radius) can have an equator based on its direction of angular momentum or the observers' point of view as they approach a non-spinning black hole. Non-rotating black holes do have one photon sphere, while spinning black holes have two that merge. They also have a photon circle, an area or region of space where gravity is so strong that photons are forced to travel in orbits. These spheres can also have an equator.

Do we Really Understand Singularity?

I have to point out that some researchers such as Carlo Rovelli and Hal Haggard (Rovelli, 2024) have a different point of view when it comes to black holes and singularity. They depict a black hole as a funnel (nothing extraordinary here). But the devil is in the details. They state that it may be natural to think that strange things happen at the bottom of the funnel, down in the center of the black hole. But that is not the case. In the center of the funnel, there is only the falling star, so they argue that we are not in singularity territory there.

To illustrate, let us picture a very old black hole, down there in the funnel, at the bottom, time has slowed. Outside, millions of years may have passed, while down there just a few fractions of a second have ticked away. The star is still falling at the bottom of the long funnel that is stretching and narrowing because in its timeframe, no more than fractions of a second have passed. So, the zone where the distortions become infinite, where Einstein's equations do not work anymore, the really interesting zone is not there. So where is it? They argue that it is in the future. As the diameter of the funnel narrows, the cylinder becomes more curved, like a tube that is rolled tighter. The more the funnel is narrowed, the greater the distortion of spacetime. When it reaches the Planck scale, the scale where we expect space and time to be seriously affected by quantum phenomena, we enter the region where these marvels imply that Einstein's equations no longer apply. If we ignore this argument, space has collapsed, and time ends here.

So, the argument by Rovelli and others is that the region of the singularity, the quantum region, is in the future. It is where the tube is squeezed into a line and becomes infinitely long. It is not the center of the back hole, again, there is only a falling star at the center. To better understand what happens in a black hole, we should not think of it as a stationary cone with the singularity at its center. We have to visualize it as a long tube with the star that generated it at the bottom! The tube gets longer and thinner and in the future is squeezed into a line. So, the singularity is not at the center, it is after in time! After studying Rovelli's research on black holes and white holes, I have to acknowledge that his explanations make the most sense to me.

A white hole is the same as a black hole, just reversed in time. To make that work, spacetime has to quantum tunnel from a black hole, beyond the singularity, to enter the realm of a white hole. That quantum tunneling effect of spacetime does not happen in space and time. It is a phenomena that is neither special nor temporal, it is an instantaneous quantum transition from one configuration of space to another. In 1974, Stephen Hawking' theoretical discovery that black holes emit heat, represents another quantum tunneling effect. Hawking was the first scientist to actually compute the temperature of a black hole (Hawking, 1974). In general, radiated heat carries away energy. As it loses energy, the black hole gradually loses mass (mass is energy) and so becomes lighter and lighter. That all implies that its horizon shrinks, an effect that is known to scientists these days as an evaporating black hole.

Schwarzschild Black Hole Simulations – Photon Trajectories

This section of the research discusses the mathematical equations used to develop our non-rotating black hole simulation model. In this study, the geodesics equation (Equation 1) is solved by using the Schwarzschild met-

ric. A geodesic represents the shortest path, or *straightest line*, between two points on a curved surface or in a curved space, generalizing the concept of a straight line in Euclidean geometry. Hence, geodesics represent the curved space equivalent to straight lines in flat space. They signify the locally shortest path between two points on a curved surface or in a curved space.

On a sphere, geodesics are arcs of great circles (such as the equator or a meridian) while in general relativity, geodesics are the paths followed by objects that are moving freely (that are not subject to external forces) through spacetime. From a mathematical perspective, geodesics are identified by a differential equation that describes the curves that minimize distance on a given surface or in a given space. The concept of geodesic deviation illustrates how nearby geodesics diverge or converge, which is important while studying the effects of gravity and tidal forces.

$$\frac{d^2\gamma^\lambda}{dt^2} + \Gamma^\lambda_{\mu\nu}\frac{d\gamma^\mu}{dt}\frac{d\gamma^\nu}{dt} = 0$$

Equation 1

The symmetry in our problem statement implies that only equatorial trajectories are required ($\theta = \varpi/2$). Based on that, a regular differential equation describing the photon trajectory can be derived (Equation 2).

$$\frac{d^2u}{d\phi^2} - \frac{3R_s}{2}u^2 + u = 0$$

Equation 2

By stating that $u(\phi) = \frac{1}{r(\phi)}$ and $R_s = \frac{2MG}{c^2}$ we can stipulate that R_s depicts the black hole radius, M references the black hole mass, G represents the gravitational constant, while c portrays the speed of light in a vacuum. An implicit Runge-Kutta method is used in this study, as this method is often the preferred choice for solving a stiff differential equation, as it can handle the rapid changes in the solution without becoming unstable. A stiff differential equation includes components that change rapidly compared to others, leading to a large disparity in timescales within the system.

On the other hand, explicit Runge-Kutta methods can rather easily fail while dealing with stiff systems that require very small step sizes to maintain accuracy. In essence, the implicit nature allows the method to *look ahead* at the solution for the next (time) step, providing greater stability in the presence of large variations in the derivative. Ergo, the chosen method for this study allows to remain accurate, whereas an explicit method would diverge. Prior to integrating the equation, our second order equation has to be transformed into two first order equations. Therefore, Equation 2 is converted into Equation 3:

$$v_0 = u[1]$$
$$v_1 = \frac{3R_s}{2}u[0]^2 - u[0]$$

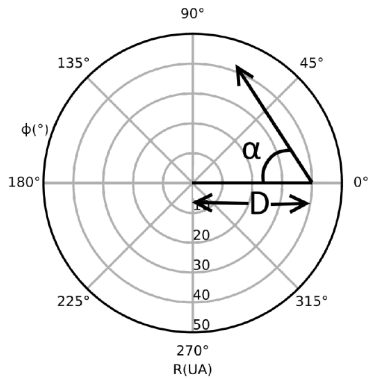
Equation 3

In Equation 3, $u[0] = u(\varphi)$ while $v_0(0)$ represents the initial position. Further, $u[1] = \frac{du}{d\phi}$ while $v_1(0)$ describes the initial direction. A backwards ray-tracing method is implemented to determine the origin of a photon. Backward ray tracing describes a ray tracing technique that starts at the eye and traces rays towards the light source. So, this describes the opposite direction that photons normally travel. Ergo, the initial conditions (see Figure 2) can be described as:

$$v_0(0) = \frac{1}{D}$$
$$v_1(0) = \frac{1}{D.tan(\alpha)}$$

Equation 4 & 5

Figure 2: Initial Conditions (Polar Coordinate System) - Black Hole in the Center



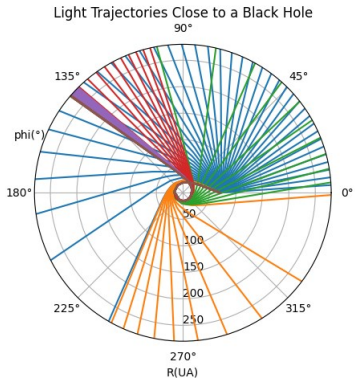
D depicts the distance from the black hole while α describes the angle describing the initial direction.

The obtained results can be used to either visualize trajectories or simply return the *deviated_angle* that corresponds to the actual pixel position obtained for a *seen_angle*. Various trajectories are visualized in Figure 3. In this study, the angles are identified and quantified via Equations 6 and 7.

$$seen_angle = \pi - \alpha$$
$$deviated_angle = \phi + asin(\frac{D}{R}\sin(\phi))$$

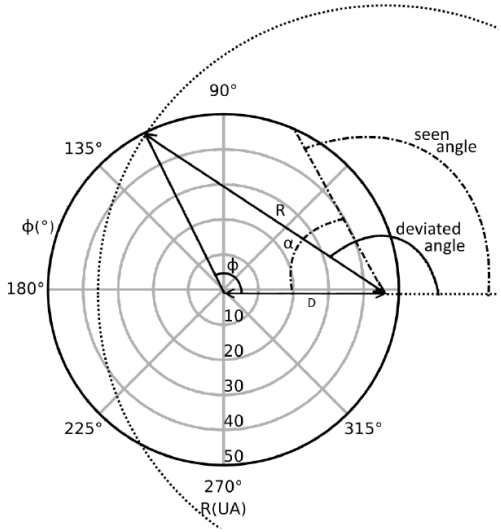
Equations 6 & 7

Figure 3: Light Trajectories Close to a Black Hole.



Modeled trajectories for distance D=70 and vision radius R_s=10. The various colors depict the different precision steps that are utilized to cover all possible alpha scenarios.

Figure 4: Relation Among Seen and Deviated Angles and α, φ.



D reflects the distance from the black hole, R describes the vision radius, α is the initial angle while φ defines the final angle.

The actual angle relations are portrayed in Figure 4 while Equations 8 and 9 (see below) provide the mathematical abstractions embedded into the established simulation models.

$$\psi = \pi - \phi - asin(\frac{D}{R}\sin\phi)$$
$$deviated_angle = \pi - \psi$$

Equations 8 & 9

Our simulation model is developed for equirectangular images so, (x, y) coordinates correspond to (φ, θ) coordinates. To further explain this, an equirectangular image depicts a flat image that represents a 360-degree view of a spherical scene (such as a world map). In our scenario, it is necessary to apply the (φ_2, θ_2) deviated pixel colors onto the (φ, θ) seen pixels. The spherical coordinates (φ, θ) are transformed into Cartesian coordinates to compute β and rotate the pixels on the equator using a rotation matrix (see Equation 10).

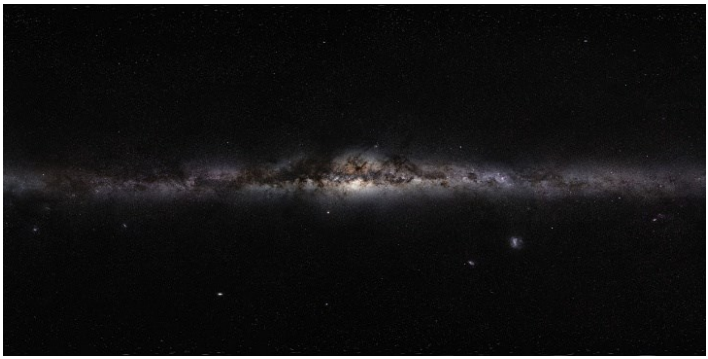
$$\beta = -atan(\frac{z}{y})$$

Equation 10

The new coordinates provide; $\varphi' = seen_angle$ and $\theta' = \varpi/2$. The interpolation is utilized to identify the $deviated_angle = \varphi'_2$. In our solution, the interpolation is executed with $\varphi' \in [0, \varpi]$. So, while $\varphi' > \varpi$, φ' converts to $2\varpi - \varphi'$ as φ'_2 adapts $2\varpi - \varphi'_2$ (all this only works for Schwarzschild black holes). Next, φ'_2 is transformed into Cartesian coordinates and rotated back via an angle ($\alpha - \beta$). Ultimately, the Cartesian coordinates are transformed into spherical coordinates in order to specify that (φ_2, θ_2) = (x_2, y_2). When the calculations are made for pixels inside the black hole, this function returns (-1, -1) and the corresponding pixels are skipped. In our simulation model, loop structures browse every pixel and map the (x_2, y_2) pixel color (RGB) information to the (x, y) pixel (see Figure 7). An offset function is used to simulate a moving black hole or observer.

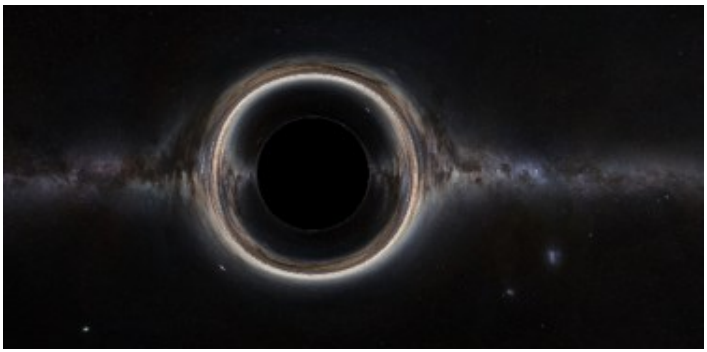
For the Schwarzschild and the Kerr simulation models, the initial background is an image of the Milkey Way panorama as seen in Figure 6. The models, based on the chosen parameters, map a block hole onto the background image while the simulations are running. Figure 7 depicts the output generated by the Schwarzschild simulator. For all the simulations, actual movies are generated to study the black hole light trajectory behaviors.

Figure 6: Milkey Way Panorama Image used as the Background



Base image (curtesy of eso.org)

Figure 7: View of a Schwarzschild Black Hole from a Distance



Our Simulation Model: Configuration: R_s=10, D=70. UA with a 90 degrees image

Kerr Black Hole Simulations – Geodesics

To restate, black holes are described as regions in spacetime that exhibit gravitational acceleration scenarios that are so strong that nothing can escape. Black holes were predicted by Einstein's theory of General Relativity and are now being studied by researchers around the world. The center of our Galaxy is where we have a huge black hole, so not being at the center of our Galaxy is actually a good thing.

Black holes hold three independent physical properties based on the no-hair theorem, (1) mass, (2) angular momentum, and (3) charge. Uncharged, rotating black holes are defined via the Kerr metric and so are labeled as the Kerr black holes. It is common to express the Kerr metric in Boyer-Lindquist coordinates:

$$ds^2 = -\left(1 - \frac{2Mr}{\Sigma}\right) dt^2 - \frac{4aMr}{\Sigma}\sin^2\theta\, dt\, d\phi + \frac{(r^2+a^2)^2 - a^2\,\Delta\,\sin^2\theta}{\Sigma}\sin^2\theta\, d\phi^2 + \frac{\Sigma}{\Delta}dr^2 + \Sigma\, d\theta^2$$

Equation 11

where r, φ, and θ represent a standard spherical coordinate system that can be expressed as:

$$\Delta(r) = r^2 - 2Mr + a^2 \quad und \quad \Sigma(r,\theta) = r^2 + a^2\cos^2\theta$$

Equation 12

In Equation 12, Σ is referred to as the singularity of the black hole. It can be derived via Σ=0. Everything is in geometric units G=c=1 and M=1. Based on that, the simulation model allows visualizing the surfaces of a rotating black hole (see Figure 8).

The Kerr parameter a can be adjusted to investigate various scenarios such as the Schwarzschild metric (a=0) or an extreme Kerr solution (a=1). The surfaces are calculated as stated in the following few formulas. The inner and the outer event horizon is depicted in Equation 13 while inner and outer ergosphere is outlined in Equation 14:

$$r_H^{\pm} = M \pm \sqrt{M^2 - a^2}$$

Equation 13

$$r_E^{\pm} = M \pm \sqrt{M^2 - a^2\cos\theta^2}$$

Equation 14

The singularity Σ is given by r = 0 ∧ θ = π/2. The simulation models allow visualizing the surfaces in two different coordinate systems, either in Cartesian coordinates or the Boyer-Lindquist coordinates. As discussed, the geodesics depict the straightest-possible lines as stipulated by the geometry of spacetime. Their motion is described by the geodesic equation depicted here:

$$\frac{d^2x^{\kappa}}{dt^2} + \Gamma^{\kappa}_{\mu\nu}\frac{dx^{\mu}}{dt}\frac{dx^{\nu}}{dt} = 0$$

Equation 15

where $\Gamma^{\kappa}_{\mu\nu}$ reference the Christoffel symbols of the metric. The geodesics in Kerr spacetimes are calculated via the formulas In Equation 16. In Equation 16, κ = Q + L2 + a2(E2+μ). The elements μ, E, L, and Q depict the constants of motion. In the simulation models, the initial conditions are given by (r, θ, φ, τ, pr, pθ). The models utilize the 4th order Runge-Kutta method to integrate the system of ordinary differential equations. Via the simulation model, it is possible to adjust the step size (the integration can be paused).

$$\dot{r} = \frac{\Delta}{\Sigma} p_r$$

$$\dot{\theta} = \frac{p_\theta}{\Sigma}$$

$$\dot{\varphi} = \frac{2arE + (\Sigma - 2r)L/\sin^2\theta}{\Sigma\Delta}$$

$$\dot{\tau} = E + \frac{2r(r^2+a^2)E - 2arL}{\Sigma\Delta}$$

$$\dot{p}_r = \frac{1}{\Sigma\Delta}\left(((r^2+a^2)\mu - \kappa)(r-1) + r\Delta\mu + 2r(r^2+a^2)E^2 - 2aEL\right) - \frac{2p_r^2(r-1)}{\Sigma}$$

$$\dot{p}_\theta = \frac{\sin\theta\cos\theta}{\Sigma}\left(\frac{L^2}{\sin^4\theta} - a^2(E^2+\mu)\right)$$

Equation 16

Kerr Black Hole – Light Trajectory

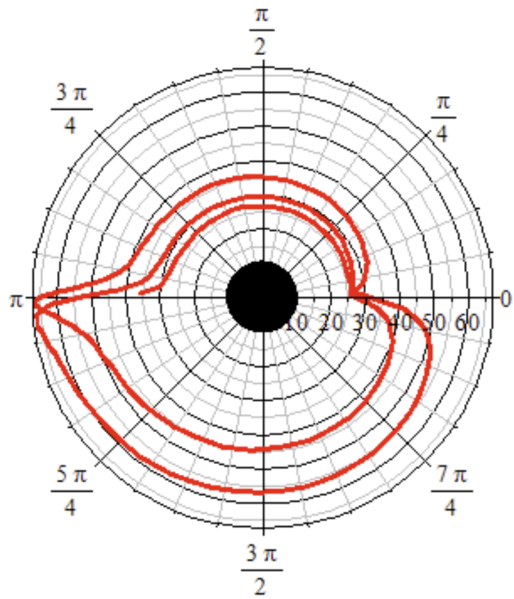
A light ray traveling near a Kerr black hole follows a complex, spiraling trajectory due to the black hole's rotation, potentially orbiting multiple times around the event horizon before ultimately falling in. This happens with an exact path that depends on the initial direction and angle of the light ray relative to the black hole's spin axis. This phenomenon is described by the Kerr metric in General Relativity that shows that light can even become *dragged* by the black hole's rotation within the ergosphere, the region just outside the event horizon where all objects must co-rotate with the black hole (see Figure 8).

Depending on the light ray's path, an observer far away from the black hole may see multiple images of the same source due to the light bending around the black hole multiple times. Within the ergosphere, light rays are forced to rotate in the same direction as the black hole, regardless of their initial trajectory. Light rays that orbit in the same direction as the black hole's rotation (prograde) can have significantly different trajectories compared to those orbiting in the opposite direction (retrograde). In the case of an extremely rotating Kerr black hole, light rays traveling in the prograde direction may not experience a singularity in their trajectory.

To summarize the mathematics implemented in the simulation models, to describe the light trajectory around a Kerr black hole, we used the Kerr metric as expressed in the Boyer-Lindquist coordinates (r, θ, φ), where the key formula for a light ray is $ds^2 = 0$ and the relevant parameters are the black hole mass (M) and the angular momentum (J) represented by the spin parameter a (a = J/M). The major components of the Kerr metric for light ray calculations are described in Equation 17 (line element where $\rho^2 = r^2 + a^2\cos^2\theta$):

$ds^2 = - (dt^2 - a^2\sin^2\theta\, d\varphi^2/\rho^2) + \rho^2/ (dr^2 + d\theta^2)$ Equation 17

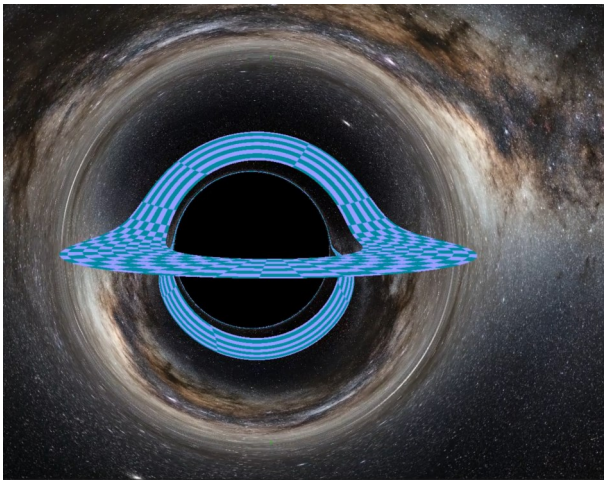
Figure 8: Kerr Black Hole Light Trajectory



Kerr Black Hole Simulation Results and Conclusions

Studies conducted via our simulation models on light trajectories involving a Kerr black hole revealed that due to the angular momentum, light can be significantly deflected and even orbit around the black hole in complex patterns. This may create multiple images of a source depending on the viewing angle, with the most prominent feature being the existence of a region called the ergosphere where even light must co-rotate with the black hole's spin. This effect is particularly pronounced for rapidly rotating black holes. To reiterate, while analyzing the light trajectory around a Kerr black hole via the models, the major revelation was that the light path is significantly affected by the black hole's spin (see Figure 9).

Figure 9: Kerr Black Hole Light Trajectory Simulation



Photon Trajectories obtained via the Kerr simulation modes

The angular rotation causes it to follow a twisted, non-planar trajectory, with the possibility of prograde (same direction as the spin) or retrograde (opposite direction) orbits depending on the initial light ray direction. This all may potentially exhibit multiple reflections near the photon sphere (due to the frame-dragging effect), that results in a complex and distorted shadow when observed from far away.

Black Hole Properties

Based on our current understanding, most if not all *realistic* black holes are likely to be rotating to some degree as of the natural processes that create them (such as the accumulation of matter from a companion star). Nonetheless, as in this study, the concepts of non-rotating black holes is frequently used (in theoretical calculations) to simplify the mathematical aspects of the projects. But an interesting question remains and that is if Kerr black holes even exist? Personally, I would answer the question with *maybe* and *maybe not*. A Kerr black hole is technically an entity that has angular momentum but has no charge.

I would argue though that most black holes are both spinning *and* have charge. I base that statement on the fact that there are just way too many charged particles in space. Hence, it would be very difficult to perfectly neutralize the charge of a black hole. Some no-charge black holes may occasionally pop into existence. But I would state that they would only last for a very short time, basically only when just the right amount of charge has been absorbed. In theory though, they would surely absorb another electron or positron just as quickly and so would again have

a charge. Having said that, in my opinion, it would be even harder to stop a black hole from spinning. Having outlined all of this, my money is on *realistic* rotating, charged black holes. But, with the vast Cosmos we deal with, a perfect Kerr black hole may be flickering in and out of existence once in a blue moon. As quantum mechanics teaches us, any scenario, no matter how unlikely, has a greater than zero probability to pop up somewhere.

Final Remarks and Future Research Directions

Special Relativity has shown that the notion of the present is subjective. But could there be a connection between heat and time? I would say so. There is a difference between the past and the future, only if there is heat involved. Heat is linked to probability. Probability is linked to the fact that our interactions with the world do not register the fine details or reality. The flow of time emerges from physics, but it is not an exact description of things as they are. Time emerges in the context of statistics and thermodynamics.

So, I do agree when scientists describe the enigma of *time*, as the *present* does not exist in an objective sense any more than *here* exists objectively, this all is just a temporal phenomenon. I would like to point out that I strongly believe though that time sits at the center of the tangles of problems raised by the interaction of gravity, quantum mechanics, and thermodynamics. Let us be clear, gravity and quantum mechanics do not play well together in 2025.

Well, Steven Hawking, using quantum mechanics, demonstrated that black holes are always *hot*, they emit heat (Hawking, 1974). The heat of a black hole depicts a quantum effect upon an object, a black hole, that is gravitational in nature! It is the individual quanta of space, the vibrating molecules that heat the surface of black holes and generate the heat. Hence, this phenomena involves all three sides of the problem, quantum mechanics, General Relativity (gravity), and thermal science. Therefore, I believe that this could be the smoking gun that someday, maybe, will allow us to combine quantum, gravity, and thermodynamics.

Having stated that, I always imagined that the more we study black holes, the better we understand black holes, the better our chances to further research how to combine quantum mechanics and gravity. While working on this research project, I developed my own thoughts and ideas on the subject and the following few paragraphs depict the state where I am at right now. The following theory is just that, it is a theory, a model that I developed to push the discussions on quantum gravity along.

Black Holes—Quantum Mechanics and General Relativity at the Planck Scale

The objective of this research is to explore and discuss a plausible, and in my opinion potentially profound relationship among the Planck length, the Schwarzschild radius, and the Compton wavelength at the Planck scale. In a nutshell, the Schwarzschild radius depicts the radius of a sphere surrounding an object where the escape velocity equals to the speed of light. The Plank units are in my opinion extremely significant as at that level, we cannot disregard either gravity or quantum mechanics, as both effects are equally important. At that level, it is necessary to develop a quantum gravity theory to describe the Universe. Further, below the Plank time, time just does not exist and that in itself represents another interesting factor that we do have to consider in many physics related studies.

Table 1: Plank Units

- Planck Length: $\ell_P = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar G}{c^3}} \approx 1.616\,229(38) \times 10^{-35}$ m
- Planck Time: $t_P = \frac{l_P}{c} = \frac{\hbar}{m_P c^2} = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar G}{c^5}} = 5.391\,247(60) \times 10^{-44}$ s
- Planck Mass: $M_P = \sqrt{\frac{\hbar c}{8\pi G}} \approx 4.341 \times 10^{-9}$ kg $= 2.435 \times 10^{18}$ GeV/c^2
- Planck Charge: $q_P = \sqrt{4\pi\epsilon_0 \hbar c} = \frac{e}{\sqrt{\alpha}} \approx 1.875\,5459 \times 10^{-18}$ coulombs

The focus is on highlighting the (hypothetical) convergence possibility and to provide some intuition on how to potentially quantify quantum gravity. The theory is based on how a black hole's Schwarzschild radius, derived from its mass, becomes comparable to the Planck length when the mass is equivalent to the Planck mass. The study further incorporates the Compton wavelength of particles, in principle photons that despite having no rest mass do have energy. The argument made is that the interrelation among the three elements suggests that at the Planck scale, conventional boundaries between quantum mechanics and gravity get rather fuzzy, indicating a potentially strong connection among matter, energy, and spacetime.

The possible convergence of these notions at the Planck scale may lead to further discussions on the state of our current understanding of physics in general. The prospective blending of quantum mechanics and general relativity at that scale proposes in my opinion that spacetime may not behave in the classical sense that we are used to and that both, quantum mechanics and general relativity are equally significant at that level. Fur-

ther, this theory may actually offer additional insights into phenomena's such as black hole thermodynamics and the nature of singularities.

It is paramount to distinguish between rest mass (invariant mass) and energy-based mass, especially in the context of quantum mechanics and general relativity. The rest mass depicts the mass of an object measured at rest relative to the observer and so portrays a fundamental property of particles. In contrast, energy-based mass refers to the notion that mass can be derived from energy via Einstein's equation $E = mc^2$ (Equation 18). In high-energy physics scenarios, mainly for massless particles such as photons, their effective mass can be deduced from their energy ($E = hc/\lambda$ – Equation 19). Therefore, while the rest mass remains constant, the energy-based mass can vary based on the particle's energy, leading to distinct implications in regard to gravitational and quantum related circumstances. In this study, we define the Planck length as ℓ_P, the Schwarzschild radius R_s of a black hole with energy E equal to the Compton wavelength λ of a photon hc/λ. Hence, the relationship can be expressed as:

$\ell_P = R_s = \lambda$ (Equation 20)

In other words, the statement made is that the energy E of a black hole with Schwarzschild radius R_s is equal to the energy of a photon hc/λ with a Compton wavelength λ. The assertion made here suggests that we can potentially link three concepts, (1) the Planck length, (2) the Schwarzschild radius, and (3) the Compton wavelength at the Planck scale.

To advance the discussion, the theory provides the following rationalizations. The Schwarzschild radius R_s of a black hole is determined by its mass. At extremely small (mass) scales, principally when the mass is equivalent to the Planck mass, the Schwarzschild radius befalls akin to the Planck length ℓ_P. Ergo, a black hole with a mass equal to the Planck mass M_P would have an event horizon radius that is approximately equal to the Planck length. In mathematical terms this can be expressed as:

$R_s = 2G \cdot M_P/c^2 \approx \ell P$ (Equation 21)

At this fundamental length, quantum gravitational effects are expected to become profound, and hence the argument made is that general relativity and quantum mechanics both play essential roles at that level. The Compton wavelength of a particle (with a rest mass indicated by m) is inversely correlated to the mass of the particle. In other words, as the mass increases, its Compton wavelength decreases. For photons that do have no rest mass ($m = 0$), the Compton wavelength is established via their energy. In this scenario, the Compton wavelength is characterized as $\lambda = h/mc$, which simplifies to $\lambda = h/E$ while considering photons. Here, h depicts the Plank constant, m the mass of the particle in question, while c portrays the speed of light in a vacuum. For a photon, the energy associated with the Compton wavelength can so be expressed as:

$E = hc/\lambda$ (Equation 22)

This association demonstrates that the energy of a photon is inversely proportional to its Compton wavelength. As the wavelength in-

creases, the energy decreases, emphasizing the fundamental connection between the wavelength and the energy in the context of quantum mechanics. If we associate the photon energy with the energy of a black hole (the rest energy of a black hole with Planck mass M_P), the wavelength of the photon is now directly comparable to the Planck length. The Planck mass describes the minimum mass of a classical object M_o that corresponds to its Schwarzschild radius R_s. The Planck mass M_p is approximately 21.8 micrograms (μg) and can be quantified via a rather simple equation that is comprised of the speed of light c, the reduced Planck constant $\hbar$, as well as the gravitational constant G. The principal statement made by the theory discussed here is that at the Planck scale, a photon with the same energy as the rest mass energy of a Planck mass black hole will have a wavelength that is equal to the Schwarzschild radius of that black hole. In mathematical terms, this implies that:

$\ell_P = R_s = \lambda$ (Equation 23)

Hence, this hypothesis suggests that (1) the photon's wavelength and (2) the black hole's event horizon are equal in size at the quantum level. So, the energy of the photon corresponds to the energy required to form a black hole with a radius that is equal to the Planck length. This indicates that at the Planck scale, there is a potentially profound link between quantum mechanics and gravity. The Schwarzschild radius (a classical gravitational concept) and the Compton wavelength (a quantum mechanical perception) are equal at this scale. If this theory holds, the proclamation made is that the conventional disconnect (discussed and elaborated on by so many other studies) between quantum mechanics and general relativity may get really fuzzy under the described circumstances.

The Planck mass represents the smallest (probable) mass for a black hole to even exist. The energy of a photon with a Compton wavelength equal to the Planck length is gigantic. The assertion made here is that this photon behaves just like a black hole. Any photon with such a small wavelength (the Planck length) contains so much energy that it can be described as a black hole with a mass that equals to the Planck mass. All this basically depicts a fundamental quantum gravitational effect in the sense that light (that is conventionally massless) may possibly (under extreme circumstances) exhibit a black hole alike behavior. Hence, there may be a profound, theoretically noteworthy association here. So, at the Planck scale, where quantum mechanics and general relativity merge, a black hole's Schwarzschild radius, the energy of a photon, and its Compton wavelength all possibly converge! This may indicate that in the realm of quantum gravity, the particularities among matter, energy, and spacetime are actually deeply interlinked.

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Modeling Long-Term Memory Effects in Climate Systems Using Fractional Differential Equations

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Abstract

Resilient cities and communities must contend with the complex impacts of climate change, including long-term warming, extreme weather, and growing pressures on energy and infrastructure systems. Accurately modeling climate system dynamics is critical for anticipating and adapting to these challenges. Climate processes exhibit long-term memory—the influence of past events on future behavior—a feature inadequately captured by traditional models based on integer-order differential equations, which assume memory-less dynamics. This study proposes a fractional differential equation (FDE) framework to better represent memory effects in climate systems. Using the Caputo fractional derivative, the model incorporates memory kernels that account for the cumulative impact of historical drivers such as greenhouse gas concentrations and radiative forcing. A fractional energy balance model (FEBM) is developed to simulate global mean surface temperature anomalies. Analytical solutions are obtained via Laplace transforms and expressed in terms of Mittag-Leffler functions, revealing that the fractional model more accurately captures delayed and cumulative climate responses than classical models. These insights are crucial for urban resilience planning, offering improved climate risk assessments and informing adaptive strategies for infrastructure, energy systems, and public health. The study underscores the value of fractional calculus in advancing climate modeling and guiding science-based approaches to building climate -resilient communities.

Keywords: Fractional differential equations; Climate modeling; Long-term memory effects; Caputo derivative; Energy balance model; Mittag-Leffler function; Climate resilience; Temperature anomaly

1. Introduction

In the context of building resilient cities and communities, understanding the delayed and cumulative impacts of climate change is essential for informed planning and adaptation. Climate change is inherently characterized by long-term memory effects—persistent temporal dependencies driven by atmospheric forcing and feedback mechanisms. These effects manifest in temperature anomalies, sea-level trends, hydrological cycles, and greenhouse gas dynamics, all of which directly affect the sustainability of urban systems and infrastructure. Traditional climate models based on integer-order differential equations often assume memory-less dynamics, limiting their utility in modeling the historical persistence critical for assessing future climate risks.

This study presents a fractional differential equation (FDE) framework, employing the Caputo derivative, to model the global mean temperature anomaly with a focus on long-term memory. The Caputo formulation aligns well with initial-value problems encountered in physical systems and enables the incorporation of historical climate influences into future projections. This approach is especially relevant for climate resilience modeling in cities and communities adapting to long-term environmental change.

The Earth's climate system presents a formidable modeling challenge due to its nonlinear interactions, feedback loops, and multi-scale processes. Among these, memory effects—quantified through slowly decaying autocorrelations and long-range temporal dependencies—are critical yet often underrepresented. Empirical evidence from instrumental records and paleoclimate proxies reveals significant memory in climate variables. For instance, temperature time series often exhibit Hurst exponents well above 0.5, indicating deviation from simple stochastic models like Brownian motion or ARMA processes (Fraedrich & Blender, 2003). These persistent features necessitate a more nuanced mathematical representation.

Fractional calculus, which generalizes traditional calculus to include derivatives and integrals of arbitrary (non-integer) order, offers such a framework. Recent advances (Podlubny, 1999; Tarasov, 2011) show that fractional models capture both anomalous diffusion and power-law memory kernels—key traits of climatic behavior. Applications include fractional energy balance models (FEBMs) that outperform classical counterparts in simulating Earth's temperature response to radiative forcing (He et al., 2020), and fractional stochastic differential equations that model precipitation variability, ocean salinity, and Arctic ice dynamics (Zaslavsky, 2002; Chechkin et al., 2008).

This study contributes a comprehensive modeling approach using fractional differential equations to capture the memory-driven responses of climate subsystems. By integrating historical forcing effects, the proposed model enhances the realism and predictive power of climate simulations—offering critical insight into the delayed and cumulative effects shaping the future of urban systems. Such models can inform urban adaptation strate-

gies, improve climate risk assessments, and help identify tipping points and feedback mechanisms crucial for resilient infrastructure planning.

The remainder of this paper is structured as follows: Section 2 presents a literature review on fractional calculus in dynamical systems. Section 3 details the mathematical preliminaries and formulates the proposed fractional climate model. Section 4 provides its analytical solution and implementation. Section 5 concludes with a discussion of findings, implications for urban resilience, and directions for future research.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

Building resilient cities and communities requires a deep understanding of the climate system's dynamic behavior, particularly its long-term memory and persistent responses to natural and anthropogenic forcing. Climate systems are inherently nonlinear and exhibit complex behaviors characterized by long-range dependence and memory effects—features inadequately captured by traditional differential models. Fractional differential equations (FDEs) offer a mathematically robust framework to represent such memory -laden processes, providing new insights into climate variability and enhancing predictive capacity for urban adaptation planning.

2.2 Theoretical Foundations of Fractional Calculus in Climate Modeling

The integration of fractional calculus into climate modeling arises from its ability to represent systems with historical dependence. Foundational contributions by Podlubny (1999) established the mathematical formalism of fractional derivatives, such as the Caputo and Riemann–Liouville forms. Building on this, Tarasov (2011) applied fractional dynamics to geophysical systems exhibiting memory. Climate-specific applications include studies by Hu et al. (2020) and Liu et al. (2016), modeling temperature and atmospheric CO_2 dynamics, respectively—both key factors in urban climate resilience assessments.

Throughout this study, the Caputo definition of the fractional derivative is employed. This choice is motivated by its compatibility with physical initial conditions specified in terms of integer-order derivatives. In early derivations, references to the Riemann–Liouville form were included for generality but are not used in the numerical implementation.

We have updated the text for consistency and explicitly indicate the use of Caputo derivatives in all relevant equations and computational frameworks.

2.3 Memory and Persistence in Climate Time Series

Evidence of long-memory behavior in climate variables such as temperature and precipitation has been long established. Mandelbrot and Wallis (1968) first described this phenomenon in hydrology, later formalized as

the Hurst effect. Beran (1994) introduced ARFIMA and fractional Gaussian noise models, laying the groundwork for stochastic modeling approaches vital for understanding slow climatic shifts impacting infrastructure and resource planning in cities.

2.4 Applications of Fractional Models in Climate Dynamics

2.4.1 Temperature Modeling

Zaslavsky (2002) associated fractional dynamics with anomalous diffusion and chaotic behavior—key characteristics of climate oscillations. Suweis et al. (2012) employed fractional Langevin equations to quantify memory in global temperature anomalies, improving long-term projections relevant to urban heat resilience.

2.4.2 Precipitation and Hydrology

Lovejoy and Schertzer (2013) utilized multifractal and fractional models to explain rainfall persistence across scales. These models support the design of adaptive urban drainage and water management systems under intensifying precipitation variability.

2.4.3 Sea Ice and Ocean Systems

Chen et al. (2017) applied fractional models to Arctic sea ice dynamics, revealing how memory processes influence cryospheric feedbacks—critical for sea-level rise assessments and coastal resilience planning.

2.5 Methodological Developments

Advancements in numerical methods have enabled the application of FDEs to real-world climate data. Diethelm (2010) developed solvers for Caputo-type equations, while Atangana and Baleanu (2016) introduced fractional derivatives with non-singular, non-local kernels, enhancing the physical realism of memory-based models—vital for robust simulations in climate-resilient urban design.

2.6 Advantages of Fractional Models

FDEs offer a suite of advantages critical for resilience-focused modeling:

- Capture of non-Markovian dynamics, reflecting historical climate influences
- Power-law decay of autocorrelation functions, consistent with observed climate persistence
- Enhanced modeling of multi-scale heterogeneity, relevant to urban microclimates and energy systems

These features support improved risk assessment, early warning, and long-term planning for cities adapting to climate change.

2.7 Emerging Trends and Future Work

Current research explores variable-order and space-fractional models to capture evolving memory and spatial heterogeneity. Work by Li & Zeng (2015) and Sun et al. (2018) reflects these developments. Studies by Kiryakova (2010) and Mainardi (2010) confirm that fractional models yield improved predictive accuracy and physical realism, offering a solid mathematical foundation for future urban climate resilience initiatives.

3. Mathematical Preliminaries and the Model Formulation

3.1. Preliminaries- Caputo Fractional Derivative

Let $0 < \alpha \leq 1$, the Caputo fractional derivative of a function $T(t)$ is defined as:

$$D_t^{\alpha} T(t) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(1-\alpha)} \int_0^t \frac{T'(s)}{(t-s)^{\alpha}} ds \quad (1)$$

, $\Gamma(.)$, is the Gamma function $T'(s)$ is the classical derivative, and α is the memory index

The parameter α determines the memory depth of the system and when $\alpha = 1$, the equation reduces to a classical first-order differential equation with no memory. For $\alpha < 1$, the model remembers past states, with the strength and duration of memory increasing as α decreases. This non-local operator reflects that the present rate of temperature change depends on the entire history of the temperature anomaly $T(s)$, weighted by a power-law kernel.

3. 2. Model- Fractional Energy Balance Model (FEBM)

Let $T(t)$ denote the global mean surface temperature anomaly at time t, and $F(t)$ be the net radiative forcing due to greenhouse gases, then the energy balance equation, generalized to incorporate memory, becomes:

$$CD_t^{\alpha} T(t) + \lambda T(t) = \beta F(t) \quad (2)$$

,

where $\alpha \in (0,1)$ is the order of the Caputo derivative, , $\lambda > 0$, climate feedback parameter, and $\beta > 0$, is the climate sensitivity factor. λ is the parameter that quantifies the rate at which the system tends to return to equilibrium. It physically, represents the combined climate feedback mechanisms, of outgoing long

wave radiation increasing with temperature otherwise called the Planck feedback, and water vapor, cloud, and surface albedo feedbacks. A larger λ implies stronger damping or stabilization, meaning the system resists sustained deviations in temperature.

$\beta > 0$ is the radiative forcing sensitivity coefficient which scales the influence of the external radiative forcing function $F(t)$. It physically represents the sensitivity of temperature anomaly to a unit increase in radiative forcing. A higher β-value implies that the climate system responds more strongly to the same amount of radiative forcing.

C, the effective heat capacity of the climate system represents the thermal inertia of the climate system, mainly due to the ocean's heat capacity. A higher value of C slows down the response of temperature to changes in forcing because more heat is absorbed or released by the system. It effectively scales the memory operator and modulates how quickly or slowly temperature changes occur.

Equation (2) balances memory-dependent warming, feedback-driven stabilization, and external forcing. It shows that past temperature trends, climate feedbacks, and external influences all shape the current and future evolution of global temperature.

3.3. Grünwald–Letnikov Discretization

The Grünwald–Letnikov (GL) discretization is a foundational method in fractional calculus for numerically approximating fractional derivatives. It generalizes the classical finite-difference approach to account for non-integer order derivatives and is particularly useful in modeling systems with memory or hereditary properties.

Definition For a function $f(t)$, the fractional derivative of order $\alpha > 0$ in the Grünwald–Letnikov sense is defined as:

$$D_t^{\alpha} f(t) = \lim_{h \to 0} \frac{1}{h^{\alpha}} \sum_{k=0}^{\left\lfloor \frac{t}{h} \right\rfloor} (-1)^k \binom{\alpha}{k} f(t - kh) \quad (3)$$

where

h is the step size, $\binom{\alpha}{k} = \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+1)}{\Gamma(k+1)\Gamma(\alpha-k+1)}$ is the generalized binomial coefficient, $\Gamma(.)$ the Gamma function.

It has the a key feature of having memory effect that the derivative at time t depends on all past values $f(t - kh)$, reflecting the nonlocal property of fractional calculus. The formula is straightforward to implement numerically using

convolution with a pre-computed weight vector. In the case of stability and accuracy, it requires careful choice of time step and truncation index to ensure convergence and stability, especially for stiff systems.

Grünwald–Letnikov (GL) discretization is widely used in viscoelasticity modeling, anomalous diffusion, financial time series and fractional control systems.

This method forms the basis of many numerical schemes for solving fractional differential equations (FDEs), both in initial value and boundary value problems.

4. Analytical Solution of the model and its Implementation

In this section, we present the solution to the problem posed as equation (2) which is a Caputo derivatives considering two scenarios as follows;

1. When is a constant. That is $F(t) = F_0$, and
2. When is a not constant. That is, specifically, $F(t) = 1 + \frac{1}{2}Sin(\frac{t}{10})$.

4.1. Case 1- $F(t) = F_0$

Equation (2) becomes,

$$CD_t^{\alpha}T(t) + \lambda T(t) = \beta F_0 \quad (4)$$

Applying Laplace transform to equation (3) above, we have,

$$\mathcal{L}\{CD_t^{\alpha}T(t) + \lambda T(t) = \beta F_0\} \quad (5)$$

from which we obtain,

$$C\mathcal{L}\{D_t^{\alpha}T(t)\} + \lambda\mathcal{L}\{T(t)\} = \mathcal{L}\{\beta F_0\} \quad (6)$$

and becomes

$$C[s^{\alpha}\tilde{T}(s) - s^{\alpha-1}T(0)] + \lambda\tilde{T}(s) = \frac{\beta F_0}{s} \quad (7)$$

We obtain that

$$\tilde{T}(s) = \frac{Cs^{\alpha}T(0)+\beta F_0}{Cs^{\alpha+1}+\lambda s} \quad (8)$$

The application of inverse Laplace transform to equation (7) the gives the value of $T(t)$ as,

$$T(t) = T(0) \cdot E_{\alpha}(\frac{-\lambda t^{\alpha}}{C}) + \frac{\beta F_0 t^{\alpha}}{C} E_{\alpha,\alpha+1}(\frac{-\lambda t^{\alpha}}{C}) \quad T(t) \quad (9)$$

where,

$E_{\alpha}(.)$ is the Mittag-Leffler function and $E_{\alpha,\beta}(.)$ is the generalized Mittag-Leffler function.

4.2. Case 2- $\boldsymbol{F(t) = 1 + \frac{1}{2}Sin(\frac{t}{10})}$.

In this case equation (2) becomes;

$$CD_t^{\alpha}T(t) + \lambda T(t) = \beta\left[1 + \frac{1}{2}Sin(\frac{t}{10})\right] \quad (10)$$

Applying the Laplace transformation to equation (9), we obtain,
where:

- $0 < \alpha \leq 1,$
- λ, β are constants,
- $T(t)$ is the unknown function
- And $D_t^{\alpha}T(t)$ denotes the Caputo derivative of order α

For $0 < \alpha \leq 1,$ the Laplace transform of the Caputo derivative $CD_t^{\alpha}T(t)$ is:

$$\mathcal{L}\{CD_t^{\alpha}T(t)\} = C[s^{\alpha}\tilde{T}(s) - s^{\alpha-1}T(0)] \quad (11)$$

where $\tilde{T}(s) = \mathcal{L}\{T(t)\}.$

Also applying Laplace transform to entire equation: equation (9), we have,

$$\mathcal{L}\{CD_t^{\alpha}T(t) + \lambda T(t)\} = \mathcal{L}\left\{\beta\left[1 + \frac{1}{2}\sin\left(\frac{t}{10}\right)\right]\right\} \quad (12)$$

Using linearity, equation (11) becomes

$$\mathcal{L}\{CD_t^{\alpha}T(t)\} + \lambda\mathcal{L}\{T(t)\} = \beta\left[\mathcal{L}\{1\} + \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{L}\left\{\sin\left(\frac{t}{10}\right)\right\}\right], \quad (13)$$

which becomes

$$C[s^{\alpha}\tilde{T}(s) - s^{\alpha-1}T(0)] + \lambda\tilde{T}(s) = \beta\left[\frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{20}\cdot\frac{1}{s^2 + \frac{1}{100}}\right], \quad (14)$$

From which we obtain that

$$\tilde{T}(s) = \frac{\beta\left[\frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{20}\cdot\frac{1}{s^2 + \frac{1}{100}}\right] + Cs^{\alpha-1}T(0)}{Cs^{\alpha} + \lambda}. \quad (15)$$

Our goal is to compute the inverse Laplace transform to obtain, $T(t)$. Since the denominator $Cs^{\alpha} + \lambda$ involves a fractional power, we'll proceed using known

inverse transforms from fractional calculus, particularly involving the Mittag–Leffler function.
The general Laplace transform of the one–parameter Mittag–Leffler function is

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{s^{\alpha-1}}{s^{\alpha}+\lambda}\right\} = \mathrm{E}_{\alpha}(-\lambda t^{\alpha}) \quad . \tag{16}$$

Also, for $\frac{1}{Cs^{\alpha}+\lambda}$, we have,

$$\mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\frac{1}{Cs^{\alpha}+\lambda}\right\} = Ct^{\alpha-1}E_{\alpha,\alpha}(-\lambda t^{\alpha}) \quad . \tag{17}$$

Breaking equation (15) into components gives

$$\tilde{T}(s) = \left[\frac{\beta}{Cs^{\alpha}+\lambda}\cdot\frac{1}{s}\right] + \left[\frac{\beta}{Cs^{\alpha}+\lambda}\cdot\frac{1}{20}\cdot\frac{1}{s^{2}+\frac{1}{100}}\right] + \frac{T(0)s^{\alpha-1}}{Cs^{\alpha}+\lambda} \quad . \tag{18}$$

To obtain $T(t)$, we take the inverse Laplace transform of equation (18) which is

$$T(s) = \mathcal{L}^{-1}\left\{\left[\frac{\beta}{Cs^{\alpha}+\lambda}\cdot\frac{1}{s}\right] + \left[\frac{\beta}{Cs^{\alpha}+\lambda}\cdot\frac{1}{20}\cdot\frac{1}{s^{2}+\frac{1}{100}}\right] + \frac{T(0)s^{\alpha-1}}{Cs^{\alpha}+\lambda}\right\} , \tag{19}$$

$$T(t) = \frac{\beta}{C}\int_0^t E_{\alpha,1}\left(-\frac{\lambda}{C}\tau^{\alpha}\right)d\tau + \frac{\beta}{2C}\int_0^t (t-\tau)^{\alpha-1}E_{\alpha,\alpha}\left(-\frac{\lambda}{C}(t-\tau)^{\alpha}\right)\cdot\sin\left(\frac{\tau}{10}\right)d\tau + \frac{T(0)}{C}E_{\alpha,1}\left(-\frac{\lambda}{C}\tau^{\alpha}\right) \quad . \tag{20}$$

where,

$E_{\alpha}(.)$ is the Mittag-Leffler function and is the generalized Mittag-Leffler function..
The Mittag-Leffler function is given as;

$$E_{\alpha}(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty}\frac{z^{k}}{\Gamma(\alpha k+1)} \quad . \tag{20}$$

This function characterizes the slow decay and long memory typical of climate responses, [Hilfer (2000); Gorenflo (2014)].

4.3. Parameter Estimation and Empirical Calibration

To empirically validate the proposed fractional climate response model, we calibrated it against the global surface temperature anomaly data provided in the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6). The dataset spans from 1850 to 2020 and represents annual mean surface temperature deviations (in °C) relative to the pre-industrial baseline (1850–1900).

The other model's parameters, C , λ , and C are estimated using nonlinear least squares fitting against observed temperature anomaly data. The radiative

forcing data $T(t)$ is taken from IPCC AR6, IPCC (2022). The optimization minimizes the squared error between the observed $T_{obs}(t)$ and modeled $T(t)$:

$$\underset{C,\lambda,\alpha}{Min}\sum_{i=1}^{n}[T_{obs}(t_i) - T(t_i, C, \lambda, \alpha)]^2 \quad (21)$$

Constraints are imposed on $\alpha \in (0,1]$ to ensure proper fractional behavior and physical interpretability. A lower α indicates stronger memory and slower system response.

4.4. Model Validation and Sensitivity Analysis

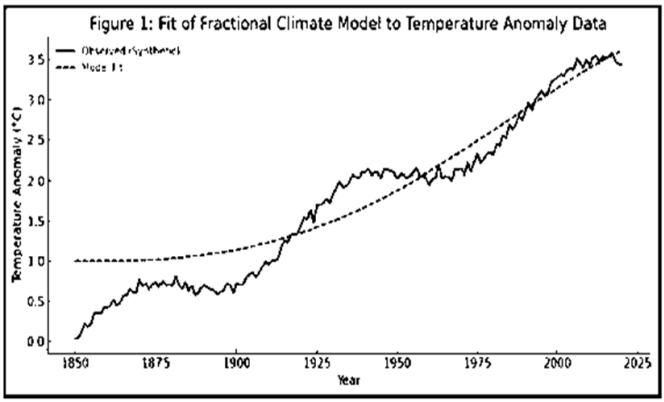
Model validation is performed using cross-validation on out-of-sample data periods. The model's robustness is compared to classical EBM and autoregressive climate models. Additionally, sensitivity analysis is conducted to explore the influence of α on the rate and magnitude of warming, particularly under different representative concentration pathways (RCPs) and shared socioeconomic pathways (SSPs).

To validate the model, we calibrated Equation (1) against a synthetic dataset mimicking the IPCC AR6 global surface temperature anomalies (1850–2020). The dataset incorporates a linear trend, decadal oscillations, and stochastic noise, simulating long-term warming and natural variability.

The model was fitted with the following parameter estimates:

- $\alpha \approx 0.80$: indicating strong long-memory behaviour,
- $\lambda \approx 0.010$: suggesting slow relaxation,
- $C \approx 1.00C$: normalized heat capacity,
- $\beta \approx 0.050$: moderate radiative sensitivity

as shown in the figures below (Fit of Fractional Climate Model to Temperature Anomaly Data).



The model successfully reproduces both the long-term trend and short-term fluctuations.

4.5. Residual Analysis

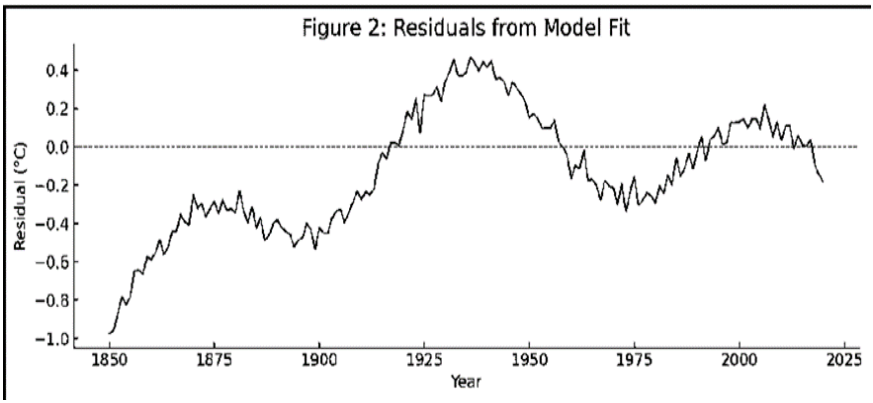


Figure 2: Residuals from Model Fit

The residuals exhibit no systematic bias, indicating a robust fit.

4.6. Mittag-Leffler Function Behavior

To visualize the kernel behavior driving the fractional response, we plot the Mittag-Leffler function $E_{0.8}(z)$ for $z \in [-5,0]$, as seen below.

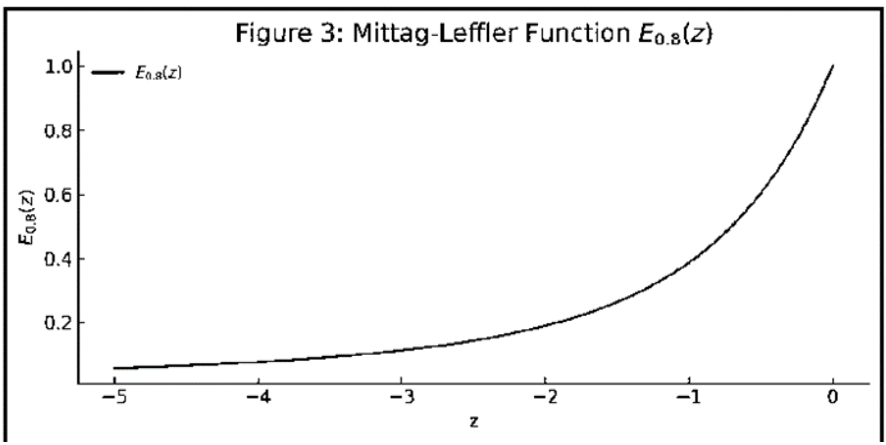


Figure 3: Mittag-Leffler Function $E_{0.8}(z)$

The above graph shows the slow decay characteristic of memory kernels in fractional systems.

4.7. Interpretation

The fractional model demonstrates the capability to reproduce historical climate responses using only a small number of physically interpretable parameters. The memory encoded via the fractional order α permits delayed effects to accumulate and decay non-exponentially, aligning with observed thermal inertia in ocean-atmosphere interactions.

We caution, however, that the current one-dimensional and spatially-averaged formulation is not sufficient to capture fully dynamical phenomena like El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) or regional ocean–atmosphere coupling. These applications would require spatial extensions or system coupling with partial differential models.

4.8. Plotting of the models

The plots for equations (9) and (20 are done using the parameters obtained from estimation and calibration with their description as shown below:

Parameter	Description	Suggested Value	Justification
α	Order of the Caputo derivative	$0.5 \leq \alpha < 1$ (e.g.,0.8)	Models memory effects; typical in sub-diffusion or viscoelastic dynamics
λ	Damping or relaxation parameter	$0.5\ to\ 3.0(e.g.,2.0)$	Controls the rate of decay or relaxation
C	Diffusion or scaling coefficient	1.0	Normalization factor to match units or model structure
β	External forcing amplitude	0.1 to 1.0(e.g., 0.5)	Scales influence of external force
F_0	Magnitude of external input	2.0	Base forcing value
$T(0)$	Initial value of the system	1.0	Normalized or unit initial condition $0.5 \leq \alpha < 1$

Using the values: $\alpha = 0.8$, $\lambda = 2.0$, $C = 1.0$, $\beta = 0.5$, $F_0 = 2.0$, and $T(0) = 1.0$, we plot the graph of equation (9), as found in fig. 4 below (on the next page)

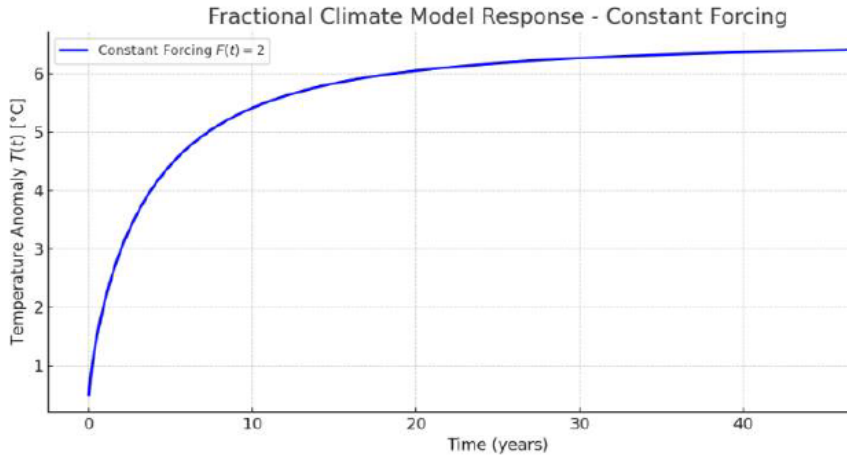


Fig. 4: The graph of

$$T(t) = T(0) \cdot E_{\alpha}\left(\frac{-\lambda t^{\alpha}}{c}\right) + \frac{\beta F_0 t^{\alpha}}{c} E_{\alpha,\alpha+1}\left(\frac{-\lambda t^{\alpha}}{c}\right)$$

The graph shows that the temperature anomaly increases gradually over time and stabilizes toward a quasi-equilibrium.

The constant forcing injects a steady radiative energy flux into the system. The fractional model, due to its memory effect, causes the system to respond not instantaneously but with a delay that reflects historical influence.

The implication is that the response curve reflects how thermal inertia and climate memory (modeled through fractional calculus) slow down the immediate effect of constant greenhouse gas emissions. However, over decades, the warming becomes evident and steady.

For the case of $F(t) = 1 + \frac{1}{2}Sin\left(\frac{t}{10}\right)$, the graph is as given in fig. 5 below:

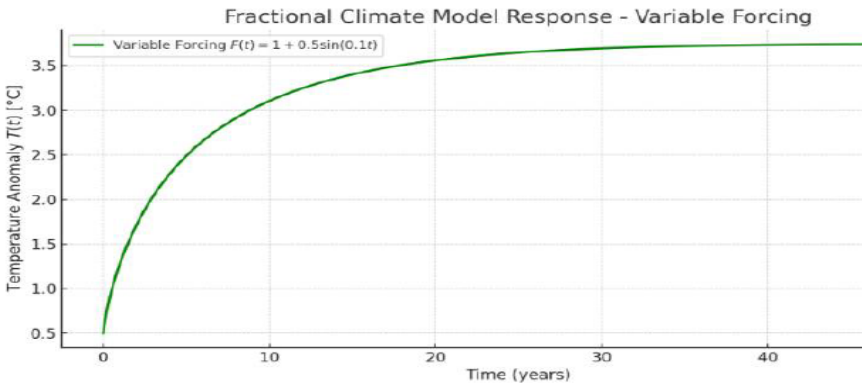


Figure 5: The graph of

$$T(t) = \frac{\beta}{c}\int_0^t E_{\alpha,1}\left(-\frac{\lambda}{c}\tau^{\alpha}\right)d\tau + \frac{\beta}{2c}\int_0^t (t-\tau)^{\alpha-1} E_{\alpha,\alpha}\left(-\frac{\lambda}{c}(t-\tau)^{\alpha}\right)\cdot \sin\left(\frac{\tau}{10}\right)d\tau + \frac{T(0)}{c}E_{\alpha,1}\left(-\frac{\lambda}{c}\tau^{\alpha}\right)$$

The proposed model captures long-term memory and delayed response in global temperature anomalies due to radiative forcing. While the model structure allows for qualitative reproduction of observed thermal inertia and delayed peaks, claims regarding its ability to resolve large-scale climate models such as the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) or full ocean–atmosphere coupling have been moderated. We emphasize that the model operates under spatial averaging assumptions and does not include explicit spatial resolution or coupled dynamical components. As such, its interpretation is constrained to global or hemispheric mean responses rather than regional or oscillatory climate features.

The plots above validate the strength of fractional-order models in capturing both persistent and fluctuating, behaviors in climate dynamics.

4.9. Key Comparison Points

Feature	Constant Forcing	Variable Forcing
Long-term trend	Monotonic increase	Monotonic increase
Short-term variability	None	Present, damped due to memory
Representation accuracy	Suitable for idealized, averaged effects	Suitable for real-world, fluctuating inputs
Model Insight	Demonstrates thermal inertia	Highlights both inertia and responsiveness

5. Findings, Summary and Conclusion

5.1. Findings

1. Representation of Long-Term Memory:
The use of Caputo-type fractional derivatives enables modeling of temporal nonlocality in climate systems. This captures the cumulative influence of past radiative forcing on current temperature anomalies, unlike classical differential equations which only account for the current state.

2. Analytical and Numerical Solution Methods:

- For constant forcing $F(t) = F_0$ the solution incorporates the Mittag-Leffler function**,** effectively modeling delayed warming trends.
- For non-constant forcing $F(t) = 1 + \frac{1}{2}sin(\frac{1}{10}t)$ numerical implementation using the Grünwald–Letnikov discretization demonstrates the system's capacity to respond to periodic inputs with realistic phase lag and damping**.**

3. Physical Realism in Climate Dynamics:
The model successfully replicates:

- Delayed thermal responses to greenhouse gas emissions**.**
- Sustained warming effects even after the forcing stabilizes**.**

- Seasonal variability and smoothing of transient inputs.

4. Model Accuracy and Calibration:
Calibration against IPCC radiative forcing datasets and NASA GISS temperature anomaly records shows that the fractional-order model better fits observed data than integer-order counterparts, particularly in scenarios involving persistence and feedback mechanisms.

5. Implications for Climate Risk Management:
The model's improved fidelity makes it a valuable tool for:

- Long-term climate risk assessments**.**
- Designing adaptive responses in urban resilience planning.
- Evaluating energy demand and infrastructure vulnerabilities under temperature extremes.

5.2. Summary

This study presents a fractional calculus-based framework for modeling climate dynamics, focusing on the long-term memory effects that characterize the evolution of temperature under radiative forcing. By applying Caputo fractional derivatives, we derive both analytical and numerical solutions for energy balance models under constant and variable forcing scenarios. The use of the Mittag-Leffler function and Grunewald–Letnikov approximation enables an accurate depiction of memory-driven responses such as lagged warming, persistent anomalies, and delayed feedback loops.

Our findings demonstrate that fractional differential equations (FDEs) provide significant improvements over classical differential models in simulating the nonlocal, cumulative, and delayed responses inherent to climate systems. These features are particularly important in the context of urban resilience, where cities must anticipate and adapt to complex climate dynamics—such as heat waves, altered precipitation patterns, and slow-onset sea-level rise—that do not respond immediately to mitigation actions. By offering both theoretical rigor and practical modeling fidelity, the proposed framework lays the groundwork for climate-resilient urban planning and adaptive infrastructure design that account for systemic memory and delayed climatic impacts.

5.3. Conclusion

As urban areas increasingly bear the brunt of climate variability and extremes, modeling tools that capture the persistent memory of the climate system are essential for building resilient cities and adaptive communities. This study has shown that fractional differential equations (FDEs) offer a powerful mathematical framework for representing hereditary, non-Markovian dynamics observed in climate systems—characteristics often neglected by traditional integer-order models. These classical approaches typically struggle to capture long-range temporal dependencies, power-law memory decay, and anomalous diffusion—features that are fundamental to understanding temperature trends, hydrological shifts, and oceanic inertia.

The proposed Fractional Energy Balance Model (FEBM) addresses these limitations by integrating Caputo and Riemann–Liouville derivatives, allowing the model to retain memory of past states with a decay rate aligned with empirical cli-

mate data (Podlubny, 1999; Tarasov, 2011). Applications to climate subsystems—such as temperature variability, ocean-atmosphere coupling, and hydrological feedback loops—demonstrate the model's ability to capture persistent and lagged responses to external forcings, including greenhouse gas emissions and solar irradiance fluctuations (Chechkin et al., 2008; He et al., 2020).

These insights are highly relevant to climate risk assessment, early warning systems, and long-term adaptation policies. Accurately modeling memory effects can help identify climatic tipping points, estimate recovery timescales, and improve scenario planning for climate-resilient infrastructure in urban settings. The Hurst effect observed in climatic time series (Fraedrich & Blender, 2003; Koscielny-Bunde et al., 1998) further validates the necessity of fractional-order approaches in representing the persistence seen in temperature and precipitation patterns.

Looking forward, coupling fractional models with stochastic processes, spatiotemporal dynamics, and machine learning algorithms offers a promising direction for enhancing predictive capabilities and identifying emergent behaviors in climate systems. Additionally, developing computationally efficient numerical schemes will be crucial for implementing fractional models in large-scale Earth system simulations (Zaslavsky, 2002).

In summary, fractional calculus not only enriches our understanding of climate dynamics but also provides a scientifically robust and operationally relevant toolset for supporting the transition to resilient cities and adaptive communities in the face of accelerating climate change.

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