Bridge Hypotheses After the 20260312 Response Set

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1. **Soft competition is still count-derived.** Any successful softer rule should still be interpretable as operating on count-induced source distributions rather than on unrelated learned scores.

2. **Confidence is an event-like quantity.** If entropy-weighted blending works, then source confidence may need to be treated as an explicit observable, not merely as an external statistic.

3. **The tropical MCP is a rigid corner.** The current MCP may survive as the exact limiting case of a broader family of count-combination operators.

4. **Quotient structure should outlive max-min.** Even if the combination rule softens, quotient/fiber splits and code-length interpretations should remain central.

5. **The right generalization will separate structure from temperature.** The count structure may define the geometry of the problem, while the combination rule controls how sharply sources compete within that geometry.