

What To Do Depending On What You Now Believe

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Abstract

The March 12 response cluster leaves several live positions standing. This note turns those positions into a simple decision tree.

Case 1: You think the ablation claims are not yet trustworthy

Then the next move is:

1. verify the artifacts,
2. rerun the benchmark sheet,
3. stop making strong philosophical claims until the numbers settle.

Case 2: You think the ablation claims are right and only compression matters

Then the next move is:

1. optimize Track C,
2. treat max-min as a reference baseline,
3. report theoretical losses honestly instead of pretending they do not matter.

Case 3: You think the ablation claims are right but the UM still matters

Then the next move is:

1. keep Track U alive explicitly,
2. admit the tropical tax,
3. demand enough theory from the exact UM to justify paying it.

Case 4: You think the ablation claims are right and the split itself is unsatisfying

Then the next move is:

1. pursue a broader post-tropical count-combination theory,
2. classify what survives from the MCP,
3. explain the new winning rule structurally rather than taking it as a black-box engineering improvement.

Case 5: You think the whole discussion is still too vague

Then the next move is:

1. read the overview, questions, program, and theses notes in order,
2. choose one concrete unresolved question,
3. answer it with either a proof artifact or a benchmark artifact.

Conclusion

The point of the cluster is not to force one conclusion. It is to make each conclusion expensive enough that it carries a matching obligation.