

The 20260312 Response Cluster

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Abstract

The March 12 papers were written under unusually high conceptual pressure: MCP normalization, claimed ablation results, a live split between algebraic and performance priorities, and the need to state a clear research direction without collapsing into either process talk or camp slogans. This note explains how the resulting papers fit together.

1 Why There Are So Many Papers

The underlying problem is not one question. It has at least four:

1. What does the current MCP actually contain, and where did the recent tail need compression?
2. If the new ablation claims are right, what do they say about the tropical max-min rule?
3. If max-min is expensive, what broader theory might survive beyond the current MCP?
4. If max-min is expensive, why keep the exact UM alive at all?

No single short paper answers all four cleanly. So the response was split into a cluster.

2 The Papers And Their Jobs

Paper	Job
<i>mcp-tail-review</i>	Normalize and hold the MCP tail at grafs 30–37.
<i>combination-problem</i>	Frame the dispute: forward rule, event space, competition, and benchmark.
<i>blend-analysis</i>	Explain the claimed mechanism behind entropy-weighted blending.
<i>price-of-tropical-semiring</i>	State what the ablation pressure means for the UM and the MCP.
<i>post-tropical-mcp</i>	Ask what a broader count-combination theory would need to preserve or generalize.
<i>why-pay-tropical-tax</i>	State the strongest honest reason to keep Track U alive anyway.

3 The Logical Order

These papers are best read in this order:

1. *mcp-tail-review*: tighten the existing theory.
2. *combination-problem*: state the live empirical and conceptual split.
3. *blend-analysis*: inspect the strongest new empirical claim.
4. *price-of-tropical-semiring*: say what that claim would mean.
5. *post-tropical-mcp*: sketch the broader theoretical target.
6. *why-pay-tropical-tax*: state the residual case for exact max-min.

4 What The Cluster As A Whole Says

Taken together, the cluster says:

1. the MCP had become too permissive and needed review discipline;
2. the recent empirical pressure is real and should not be denied;
3. the pressure lands primarily on the combination rule, not on the whole count-based worldview;
4. a broader post-tropical theory may be needed;
5. but the exact tropical theory may still be worth paying for if its algebraic yield is high enough.

5 What It Does Not Yet Do

The cluster still does not settle the empirical question. It reacts to claimed ablation results and sharpens their conceptual consequences, but it does not replace reruns, artifact verification, or a filled benchmark table with trusted totals.

6 Conclusion

The March 12 response cluster should be read as one layered argument:

tighten the current MCP, face the empirical pressure honestly, separate what is constitutive from what is broader, and keep both the compressor track and the exact-UM track intellectually honest.