

LIFE AS A “CODE” Thesis (LACT), starting from old philosophical questions: life forms (LFs) as primarily "software" and only secondarily "hardware", with all viruses (including SARS-CoV-2) being “living” software with “non-living” hardware

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Abstract

(with some **highlighted** abbreviations further used in this paper)

This paper proposes a redefinition of **life as a genetic & epigenetic code** (starting from old philosophical questions) with all **life forms (LFs)** being redefined as primarily "**software**" (**SW**) and only secondarily "**hardware**" (**HW**), with all **viruses** (including SARS-CoV-2) being redefined as “living” software with “non-living” hardware/ “storage”; based on a proposed empirical symmetry-principle (**ESP**), this paper also speculatively predicts the total biomass (of all known and unknown LFs) that already exists or may be allowed in our **observable universe (ou)**.

This paper continues (from alternative angles of view) the work of other past articles/preprints of the same author in **physics** [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31], **biology** (including **medicine**) [32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52] and **philosophy** [53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59].

I. The main section of this paper

Philosophical questions. The generic philosophical questions “Why don’t life forms finally become/(turn into) what they eat?” OR “Why does an animal with a specific color generate various secretions with other colors?” “haunted” many cultures and many minds worldwide since the beginnings of human civilization: the human intuition felt that the answer to this questions may bring a new important light and profound knowledge on the essence of **life, mankind** and all known **life forms (LFs)** (/living **organisms**). For example, Indians have an old saying that “God is that who makes a black cow which eats green grass to produce white milk”: the famous Dutch philosopher **Baruch Spinoza** also launched the question “Why don’t rabbits (which eat carrots all their life) finally turn into carrots?”.

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Answers given by modern medicine to the previous cited philosophical questions. ALL the main complex **nutrients** (**carbohydrates, proteins** and **lipids**) from ANY food are **DECOMPOSED** by specific **ENZYMES** of any “consumer”-organism (**CORG**) (which CORG consumes nutrients and has ALL those specific enzymes **GENETICALLY ENCODED** in its **DNA** and/or **RNA**) down to their “building blocks” (various **monosaccharides** [obtained from decomposing carbohydrates], various **amino acids** [obtained from decomposing proteins] and various **fatty acids** respectively [obtained from decomposing lipids]) **AND ARE THEN PARTIALLY RECOMPOSED** in **self-proteins, self-lipids** and **self-polysaccharides** (all specific to that CORG) which are ALL (at least) partially specific to that CORG as their **phenotypic** marks: that is how modern medicine (in the post-DNA era) gives an elegant answer to all those types of ancient questions. **Important note (analogy).** This decomposing-recomposing process is similar and **analogous** to the act of **perception** which ALSO implies these two complementary steps: **decomposition** and **subsequent recombination** of any **signal** received by any type of **nervous system (NS)** of any life form (**LF**) (which has such NS): in the case of an image perception for example, the **human brain** has specific **neuronal groups (NG)**, each NG being composed from “specialized” **neurons** (some NGs specialized in analyzing straight lines, other NGs specialized in curved lines, other NGs specialized in textures etc.) which all decompose (and extract from the initial image those geometrical figures on which they are specialized!) and then analyze (and recombine) in **parallel** the various geometrical figures from the initial signal (each NG according to its own “specialization” and each NG producing a distinct “sketch” composed from straight/curved lines only) and then send all these intermediary sketches to other superior NGs (specialized in assembling all these sketches) which produce the final perceived image.

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“Life as (primarily) a code (/software)” thesis (LACT) launched in this paper stating the essential difference between genes and genetic code which strongly argues that LFs should be considered primarily “software” (SW) and only secondarily “hardware” (HW). All self-proteins (including the specific enzymes that split complex nutrients into their building blocks) are produced from specific encoding DNA **genes** which are initially read by **RNA polymerase** and **transcribed** into **messenger RNA (mRNA)** (from the initial DNA gene template): the **mature mRNA (mmRNA)** is then produced by elimination of non-(protein) coding RNA fragments (**introns**) from the initial mRNA (by the so-called **RNA splicing**); mmRNA is then **translated** by **ribosomes** into specific (gene-encoded) proteins (including enzymes). The **genetic code (GC)** of each LF in part is the specific **set of reading-writing rules** used by that LF to create specific proteins (composed from specific sequences of amino acids) by using genes (composed from specific sequences of **codons**) as informational templates. *The profound “synapse”/ “articulation” between nucleic acids (DNA/RNA) and proteins actually “prolongs” GC “upgrading”/“patching” it with two epigenetic and phenotypic additional codes (the specific functions and rules of the phenotype encoded in the 3D structure and properties of DNA/RNA, proteins, groups of proteins and any other combinations of complex self-molecules).* **The generic (/broad) genetic (/informational) code (GGC)** (a generic definition which also includes the epigenetic rules/epigenome and the phenotypic code) is pure code, pure “software” (SW)/information stored in DNA/RNA (which acts as a “hardware” [HW]) and applied by the ribosomes: GC

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software is obviously distinct from its DNA/RNA hardware. Although the atoms of DNA, RNA, ribosomes or any other component of any LF (which LF is essentially a [dissipative system](#)) are periodically replaced by other atoms of the same type (by various physiological renewal processes), GGC remains the same throughout the life cycle of that LF: in this sense, LF is governed by an **informational conservation principle** (more specific **GGC conservation principle**, including conservation gene structure, which store the genetic information which is also part of GGC) so that LFs are primarily SW and only secondarily HW, with two major types of LFs: (1) LFs with living SW and living HW (defined by autonomous [metabolism](#)) (like cells and all cell-based LFs); (2) LFs with living SW and non-living HW (which doesn't possess an autonomous metabolism), like all [viruses](#) are (including [SARS-CoV-2](#) for example). **In other words, an LF remains the same because its GGC remains the same, and that is why LF should be primarily identified with its GGC (and defined as a very complex SW) and ONLY SECONDARY identified with its HW "storage" (composed from atoms and molecules which periodically replace with other atoms and molecules from the surrounding space/environment).** In other more plastic words, if the GGC "software" is named "the mind/soul" of any LF and its physical atomic/molecular structure ("hardware") is considered the "body" of that LFs, then LFs can be considered essentially/primarily "minds/souls" and only secondarily "bodies", just because it is GGC (not the periodically refreshable "body"/atomic structure!) which mainly/primarily generates the identity/individuality/selfness of any LF.

Important note (implication). LACT also supports the **anti-abortion philosophy** launched by the same author in a previous paper [41], based on the fact that any **human person (HP)** (with all his/her assumed rights stated by the code of [human rights](#)) is primarily a software (SW) and that SW is "stored"/"archived" in/from the first cell of a human person (the [zygote](#)), immediately after [fecundation](#): annihilating a zygote is thus annihilating a HP (thus cancelling all his/her rights) and a crime implicitly if accomplished after fecundation, which [fecundation](#) was stated to produce an "archived" HP defined by a unique GGC in a very compact state of "compression" in a single cell (the zygote).

Prediction. LACT theoretically implies that, if the GCC of any LF is sustained by any other theoretical means (other than standard feeding with water and nutrients), that LF may theoretically survive for indefinite periods of time if no bit of information is lost from its GGC: see the [inedia](#) phenomenon which inedia is however very improbable, due to the absence of any known alternative (at least until present, in the limits of our modern scientific tools) of sustaining GCC without using nutrients (which nutrients store essential information used by GCC).

Essential question on life/LFs creation. LACT also invokes the question if GGC is totally auto-created software (SW) (which is very improbable, because it is practically unconceivable how an autonomous SW can auto-create itself from nothing!) or GGC is just a partially auto-created SW which was initially created by a "mysterious" superior mind/ intelligence or by unknown (bio-) physical field/ force: there may be also a **"hidden code" (HC)** behind both GGC and atomic/molecular "hardware" (HW)/body of any LF, which HC may actually control both GGC and HW fueling the survival and the evolution of that LF.

The apparent fine-tuning and high-compatibility between life/LFs and our universe. The GGC of LFs **NOT ONLY** appears to be fully compatible with all the physical laws and structures of our universe but also appears to can extremely "speculate" those laws and structures with a main scope: that to thrive/replicate, evolve and finally to "conquer-and-control" all known physical universe or a significant fraction of it (a very probable pre-programmed purpose of GGC).

Speculative prediction based on an interesting mass magnitude coincidence. Let us consider the huge mass (**m**) ambitus of our observable universe (**ou**) defined as the base-10 logarithm of the ratio between ou mass $M_{ou} \cong 10^{54} \text{ kg}$ and the rest mass of the lightest known elementary particle (the [electron neutrino](#) [en]) with non-zero rest mass $m_{en} \cong 1 \text{ eV} / c^2$ [URL]:

$$\phi_m \cong \log_{10}(M_{ou} / m_{en}) \cong 90 \quad (1a)$$

Let us also consider the base-10 logarithm of the ratio between the mass of an average star (s) $M_{s(av)} \cong M_{Sun} / 2 \cong 10^{30} \text{ kg}$ [URL1, URL2] and the same minimum m_{en} :

$$\phi_s \cong \log_{10}(M_{s(av)} / m_{en}) \cong 66 \quad (1b)$$

Let us also consider the base-10 logarithm of the ratio between the mass of an average [living cell](#) (c) [URL] and the same minimum m_{en} :

$$\phi_c \cong \log_{10}(m_c / m_{en}) \cong 21 \quad (1c)$$

Interestingly, ϕ_s and ϕ_c are symmetrical to the middle/half $\phi_m / 2 \cong 45$ so that:

$$\left| \frac{1}{2} \phi_m - \phi_c \right| \cong \left| \frac{1}{2} \phi_m - \phi_s \right| \cong \frac{1}{4} \phi_m \quad (1d)$$

$$\text{with } \phi_c \cong \frac{1}{4} \phi_m \text{ and } \phi_s \cong \frac{3}{4} \phi_m$$

Even more interestingly, the base-10 logarithm of the ratio between the estimated mass of Earth's biosphere (bs) $M_{bs} \cong 10^{12} \text{ kg}$ [URL] and the same minimum m_{en} is:

$$\phi_{bs} \cong \log_{10}(m_{bs} / m_{en}) \cong \frac{1}{2} \phi_m \quad (1e)$$

Given all the previous equations it's easy to observe that, on a logarithmic scale (no matter its base), ϕ_{bs} centers the ϕ_m interval, ϕ_s centers the $[0, \frac{1}{2} \phi_m]$ half-interval and ϕ_c centers the $[\frac{1}{2} \phi_m, \phi_m]$ half-interval, with ϕ_s and ϕ_c being symmetrical around $\phi_{bs} (\cong \frac{1}{2} \phi_m)$: **based on this interesting**

observation, we speculatively predict that LFs may have the potential to spread (or may have already appeared/spread!) in ou symmetrically around $\phi_{bs} (\cong \frac{1}{2} \phi_m)$ (on this logarithmic scale) so that ou may actually contain a network of biospheres possibly uniformly occupying in its entire 3D volume (with LF-based biospheres already appeared on various life-friendly planets) with:

$$\phi_{bs(\max)} \cong \frac{3}{4} \phi_m (\cong \phi_s) \quad (2a)$$

and a total mass of all predicted biospheres of ou (see below):

$$M_{bs(\max)} \cong m_{en} 10^{\phi_{bs(\max)}} \cong 43 M_{Sun} \cong 10^{32} kg \quad (2b)$$

This predicted empirical symmetry-principle of LFs (ESP) (and LFs systems) masses around $\frac{1}{2} \phi_m$ (on a logarithmic scale) is also slightly sensitive to whether we consider viruses alive or not.

Combining this ESP and LACT (thus assuming viruses as also LFs without autonomous metabolism but being living code/software) and considering the smallest known virus with mass $m_{v(\min)} \cong 10^{-20} kg$ [URL] and

$$\phi_v \cong \log_{10} \left(m_{v(\min)} / m_{en} \right) \cong \frac{1}{6} \phi_m, \text{ we may push the}$$

prediction up to a new maximum of biomass in ou (which may be the maximum ESP-LACT-“allowed” total mass of LFs in ou):

$$\phi_{bs(\max 2)} \cong \phi_m - \phi_v \cong \frac{5}{6} \phi_m \quad (2c)$$

and a total mass of all predicted biospheres of ou (see below):

$$M_{bs(\max 2)} \cong m_{en} 10^{\phi_{bs(\max 2)}} \cong 10^8 M_{Sun} \cong 10^{39} kg \quad (2d)$$

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[37] [Andrei-Lucian Drăgoi](#) (November 2nd, 2019). (Asea in DMD – conferința Râmnicu Sărat - 45 slides - 2.11.2019) Efectele remarcabile ale suplimentului redox "Asea"® în 2 cazuri de distrofie musculară Duchenne la copil și potențialul terapeutic al Asea în bolile acute și cronice cu o importantă componentă de stres oxidativ celular. Presentation and conference paper also published on Research Gate with DOI (of RG presentation): [10.13140/RG.2.2.28023.78240](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.28023.78240) [URL2](#), [URL1a](#) (Research Gate main source; see also [URL1aa](#)), [URL1b](#) (Academia secondary source), [URL1c](#) (Vixra secondary source), [URL1d](#) (GSJ secondary source), [URL1e](#) (dragoi.com latest variant source).

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See also: (PSIP cases - version 1.4 - 13.08.2019 - picture selection) An appearance found in four pictures taken at the grave of the Romanian orthodox priest Arsenie Boca, DOI: [10.13140/RG.2.2.27378.66241](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.27378.66241)

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