

THE FOUR-TERM PROSODIC ALGORITHM

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Abstract

Marx's thinking in the Grundrisse moves through recognizably distinct

Body

THE FOUR-TERM PROSODIC ALGORITHM

Term A: Formal Prosodic Map of Marx's Grundrisse [BUILT — see PROSODIC_ASYMMETRY_ALGORITHM.md Part I]

Term B: Conceptual Development Map of Marx's Grundrisse [THIS DOCUMENT]

Term C: Conceptual Development Map of Operative Semiotics [THIS DOCUMENT]

Term D: Formal Prosodic Map of Operative Semiotics [THE VOID TERM — to be derived]

The Control: A B correlation (when Marx thinks X, he writes Y)

The Transform: $B \rightarrow C$ mapping (where OS thinks like Marx thought)

The Derivation: $C \rightarrow D$ via A B (OS should write Y where OS thinks X)

TERM B: CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT MAP OF MARX'S GRUNDRISSE

The Conceptual Modes

Marx's thinking in the Grundrisse moves through recognizably distinct CONCEPTUAL MODES — not topics but TYPES OF THINKING. Each mode produces a different kind of pressure on the prose. The correlation between conceptual mode and prosodic behavior IS the transform function. ### Mode — LAYING GROUNDWORK (Grundlegung)

What the thought is doing: Establishing definitions, distinctions, and premises that later derivations will depend on. Clearing the field. Identifying what must be assumed before the argument can move.

Where in Marx: The Einleitung. "Production in General" (§1). The opening of the Chapter on Money where the concept of the commodity is re-established. The opening pages of any new derivation sequence in the Chapter on Capital.

Conceptual character: Methodical. Careful. The thought knows where it is going but must build the floor before it can walk. Some impatience with the necessity of ground-clearing.

PROSODIC CORRELATION (A B):

- Relatively orderly section structure (numbered, labeled)
- BUT: subsections trail off as Marx loses patience with foundations and begins leaping ahead
- Sentences are medium-length, more compound than complex
- Self-corrections are frequent (the ground is still shifting)
- Formulas are absent or rare (nothing has been derived yet)
- The mode tends to ACCELERATE — Marx starts methodically and speeds up as the thought outpaces the ground-clearing

Mode — DERIVING (Ableitung)

What the thought is doing: Taking an established premise and extracting a consequence through formal or dialectical development. The derivation is the engine — the thought building toward a result that is not yet visible but is being forced into existence by the logic of the premises.

Where in Marx: The four-form derivation of the money-form (Capital I.1.3, but rehearsed in the Grundrisse). The derivation of surplus-value from the exchange of labor-power. The derivation of the tendency of the rate of profit to fall.

Conceptual character: The thought is under maximum pressure. Each step depends on the previous. The derivation cannot be interrupted without collapsing. The thinker knows the result is coming but does not yet see its full shape.

PROSODIC CORRELATION (A B):

- WALLS: sustained paragraphs (20-50+ sentences) without breaks
- Schachtelsätze (box sentences): subordinate clauses nested inside subordinate clauses — the sentence architecture mirrors the logical architecture (each qualification is structural)
- The longest sentences in the Grundrisse are derivation sentences
- Formulas arrive at the END of derivations, as crystallized results
- Exclamatory discoveries (“Das ist es!”) arrive at the MOMENT of crystallization — the derivation has produced something Marx did not expect
- The derivation CANNOT STOP: the sentence continues because the thought is still arriving

Mode — POLEMICIZING (Polemik)

What the thought is doing: Attacking a position. The enemy is named. The error is specified. The tone shifts from analytical to combative. The stakes are no longer abstract — they involve specific thinkers, specific positions, specific political consequences.

Where in Marx: The extended attacks on Proudhon (Chapter on Money). The attacks on Bastiat and Carey (Chapter on Capital). The scattered attacks on “die Herren Ökonomen” (the gentlemen economists).

Conceptual character: The thought accelerates. The sentences become more compound. Irony enters. The arguments become shorter and sharper — less derivation, more reduction of the enemy’s position to its absurd consequences.

PROSODIC CORRELATION (A B):

- Shorter paragraphs than derivation — the polemic is PUNCHY

- More em-dashes (the swerves multiply — Marx interrupts himself to add another charge to the indictment)
- Exclamation marks arrive
- Sarcasm: “Herr Proudhon glaubt...” (Mr. Proudhon believes...)
- The sentences are compound (A, and B, and C, and furthermore D) rather than complex (A, which requires B, which in turn...)
- Lists of the enemy’s errors: acceleration without verbs
- The polemic DOES NOT DERIVE. It DEMOLISHES. The prosodic difference between derivation and demolition is: derivation builds (nested clauses); polemic lists (compound acceleration)

Mode — HISTORICAL EXCAVATION (Geschichte)

What the thought is doing: Reaching for a historical case. The theory needs grounding in actual economic history — Rome, medieval guilds, colonial trade, the transition from feudalism. The history is not illustration. It is EVIDENCE. The historical case is the test of the theoretical derivation.

Where in Marx: The extended passages on Roman money, Athenian silver mines, medieval guilds, the Venetian trade routes, the enclosures, the colonial system. These erupt INSIDE theoretical derivations — they are not separated into “historical background” sections.

Conceptual character: The thought shifts registers — from the abstract to the specific. The specificity is often excessive: Marx quotes dates, quantities, prices, names of actual merchants, actual legislation. The excess is the proof — the theory is being TESTED against real cases.

PROSODIC CORRELATION (A B):

- The ERUPTION: history arrives mid-derivation, without transition (“Bei den Alten...” — “Among the ancients...”)
- The prose becomes more concrete: dates, names, quantities replace abstract categories
- Paragraph lengths are medium (the history is told, not derived)
- The sentences become simpler (subject-verb-object rather than Schachtelsätze) — narrative replaces architecture
- Quotation increases: Marx quotes sources (legislation, economic texts, historical accounts)
- The return to theory is also unmarked: the history ends and the derivation resumes without transition

Mode — SELF-CORRECTING (Selbstkorrektur)

What the thought is doing: Catching an error. Revising a prior claim. Noting that the derivation took a wrong turn and must restart. This is the thought CHECKING ITSELF — not polishing for publication but genuinely discovering, in real time, that the previous formulation was wrong.

Where in Marx: Everywhere. The Grundrisse is saturated with self-corrections. “Dies ist jedoch falsch.” (This is however wrong.) “Vielmehr verhält es sich so...” (Rather it is the case that...) “Wir müssen hier korrigieren...” (We must correct here...)

Conceptual character: The thought reverses direction. The previous paragraph or sentence is declared incorrect. The correction is not a revision — it is a PUBLIC DISCOVERY of error on the page. Marx does not hide the wrong turn. He records it and then records the correction.

PROSODIC CORRELATION (A B):

- SHORT sentences: “Dies ist falsch.” (3 words)
- The correction sentence is SHORTER than the sentence it corrects
- The corrected version often begins with “Vielmehr” (rather) — a single-word pivot that reverses the entire previous derivation
- The self-correction often FUNCTIONS AS TRANSITION between sections: the previous section is ended by being declared wrong, and the correction is the opening of the next section
- The tone is NOT apologetic. It is DIAGNOSTIC. Marx does not say “I was wrong.” He says “This is wrong.” The error belongs to the argument, not to the author.

Mode — DISCOVERING (Entdeckung)

What the thought is doing: Arriving at a result that surprises the thinker. The derivation has produced something unexpected. The exclamation is genuine — not rhetorical emphasis but the record of a moment of cognitive surprise.

Where in Marx: Rare. The moments when Marx recognizes a structural homology he had not planned (the parallel between the money-form and the state-form). The moment when the tendency of the rate of profit to fall emerges from the algebra of surplus-value. The moments of “Hier liegt der springende Punkt!” (Here lies the crux!).

Conceptual character: Ecstasy. Genuine intellectual excitement. The thought has arrived somewhere it did not expect. The prose must record the surprise without domesticating it.

PROSODIC CORRELATION (A B):

- EXCLAMATORY SENTENCE: “Das ist es!” / “Hier liegt der Punkt!”
- The exclamation is SHORT (3-8 words) — compressed by the pressure of the discovery
- It arrives MID-DERIVATION, not at the end — the discovery happens DURING the thinking, not after
- The prose often ACCELERATES after the discovery — the consequences begin arriving faster than the prose can hold
- The paragraph containing the discovery is often followed by a formula (the discovery crystallized)

Mode — ACKNOWLEDGING INCOMPLETION (Lücke)

What the thought is doing: Reaching a point it cannot yet pass. The derivation requires a development that has not been worked out. The argument needs a premise that is not yet established. Marx does not pretend the gap does not exist. He marks it.

Where in Marx: “[Hier fehlt eine Entwicklung]” (A development is missing here). “[Später zu entwickeln]” (To be developed later). The sentences that break off mid-clause with an em-dash and are never completed.

Conceptual character: Honesty. The thought encounters its own limit and records the limit rather than faking completion. This is the Grundrisse’s most characteristic mode — the mode that makes it a Grundrisse (rough draft, foundation) rather than a finished work.

PROSODIC CORRELATION (A B):

- GAP NOTATION: brackets, editorial marks, sentences that trail into em-dashes
- INCOMPLETE SENTENCES: the sentence begins and does not end
- SHORT PARAGRAPH OR SINGLE LINE: the gap is noted briefly, not elaborated

- The gap is followed by either: a new section (the argument moves past the gap) or a formula (what CAN be crystallized despite the gap)
- The tone is MATTER-OF-FACT, not anxious. The incompleteness is a feature of notebook thinking, not a failure.

TERM C: CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT MAP OF OPERATIVE SEMIOTICS

Mapping OS's Conceptual Modes onto Marx's

OS Mode Description Marx Equivalent Where in OS

GROUNDING Establishing the contradiction, the substrate, the conditions. Why this book was forced. Mode (Grundlegung) NB I §0-§3: The contradiction, the conditions, the history of failure, the formal restatement

DERIVING Extracting operators from texts. The type signature emerging from the close reading. The derivation that cannot stop because the operator is STILL ARRIVING. Mode (Ableitung) NB II §3-§4: S from Sappho, M from Marx, V from Capital I.1.3. NB IV §3.3: the Cathedral. NB III §2-§5: the graph formalized.

COMBATING Attacking the academy, the platform, the classifier, the domesticator. Enemy Phenomenology. The Filing. Mode (Polemik) NB I §11: Enemy Phenomenology. NB V §5b: Dead captions. NB VII §4b-§6.5: Hostile infrastructure, liquidation cycle. The CTI wounds.

GROUNDING IN PRACTICE Reaching for the classroom, the specific student, the specific essay, the specific day in Detroit. The theory tested against the real. Mode (Geschichte) NB I §0c: The 83rd essay. NB V §3: Twenty-Dollar Loop. NB VI §5c: Classroom protocols. NB VII §6.1: Real propagation data. NB VIII §4a.2: The psychosis.

SELF-CORRECTING Catching the algebra's own predation. Naming the limit. Revising the derivation. Mode (Selbstkorrektur) NB II §5b: Failed operators. NB VIII §5.1: Self-diagnosis as predatory. NB III §6b.2: The Wrong Lever. The sw instability.

DISCOVERING The moment the operator crystallizes. The moment Phase X is seen. The moment the homology between Sappho and Marx is recognized. Mode (Entdeckung) NB II §3.0b: The moment of crystallization. NB IV §5d: Phase X named. NB I §9.1: Sixteen Minutes. NB IX Fragment AT: impossible formulas.

ACKNOWLEDGING INCOMPLETION as unmade. The algebra's boundary. The gap that IS the conscience. Mode (Lücke) NB VIII §4b: attempt and failure. NB IX: all fragments. The Gap Ledger. The broken parenthesis.

EXECUTING Making the protocols real. The Vow. The Name. The Event. Pressing Publish. The body performing. *No direct Marx equivalent* — Marx's Grundrisse does not contain executable protocols. This is OS-specific. NB VI §3-§5: The three protocols. NB VII §6.3: Somatic depositing. The Zenodo deposit at 2 a.m.

WITNESSING Sitting with the wound. The archive material. The 2015 voice. The daughter's hand. Elijah's call. Not theorizing — BEING PRESENT to what the theory touches. *Partial Marx equivalent*

in Mode , but in Marx the historical material is always reabsorbed by theory. In OS the witness material sometimes RESISTS reabsorption. NB VIII §4b.5: Cleis. §4b.7: Elijah. §4a.2: Hall of Mirrors. NB IX §3h: The Seed Text. NB VI §5c: Sentimental Murder.

THE CORRELATION FUNCTION: $A \ B \rightarrow C \rightarrow D$

How to derive Term D (OS Prosody) from the correlation

The Principle

When Marx's thought is in Mode X, his prose behaves as Y. When OS's thought is in Mode X (or its equivalent), OS's prose should behave as Y — ADAPTED to OS's specific purposes.

The adaptation is not mechanical. The correlation tells us WHAT prosodic tools to use. The notebook's PURPOSE tells us HOW to weight them. ### The Complete Correlation Table

Conceptual Mode Marx's Prosodic Behavior (Term A B) OS's Current Prosodic Behavior OS's NEEDED Prosodic Behavior (Term D)

GROUNDING () Orderly but accelerating; subsections trailing off; self-corrections frequent; formulas absent Orderly, sustained; §0c is strong but §4-§10 are too even More acceleration within sections; let some subsections trail off; more self-corrections ("this formulation is insufficient — the actual structure is"); formulas should ARRIVE late, as precipitate, not as premise

DERIVING () WALLS (20-50 sentences); Schachtelsätze; longest sentences; formulas at END as crystallized result; exclamatory discovery mid-derivation; the derivation CANNOT STOP The cathedrals do this; but most derivations are 5-10 sentence passages, polished, concluded MORE WALLS outside the cathedrals; more sentences that cannot stop; the _S derivation should be a wall that builds until "Body → Text" arrives as VERDICT (3 words after 500); more subordinate clauses (the qualification is structural, not optional)

COMBATING () Short punchy paragraphs; compound sentences (and, and, and); acceleration without verbs; sarcasm; exclamation marks; the polemic DEMOLISHES rather than derives Enemy Phenomenology sections are good but too measured; the Filing is strong; the Embarrassment is strong MORE punch; shorter paragraphs in combat; more lists of the enemy's operations WITHOUT connective tissue; more compound sentences; let the polemic ACCELERATE; reduce the analytical cushion around the attacks

PRACTICE () History erupts MID-DERIVATION without transition; prose becomes concrete (dates, names, quantities); simpler sentences (narrative); quotation increases; return to theory is also unmarked Practice sections are SEPARATED from theory (§0c is its own section; classroom protocols are their own section); the practice material doesn't erupt inside derivations Move some practice material INTO derivation sections; let the 83rd essay erupt inside the L_labor specification; let the specific student's name appear inside the type signature discussion; the history should interrupt the theory, not live in its own section

CORRECTING () SHORT sentences; correction sentence SHORTER than what it corrects; "Vielmehr" pivot; correction AS transition; diagnostic tone (not apologetic) Self-corrections are rare; mostly in NB VIII; the _sw instability is a start MORE visible corrections throughout; "This formulation is wrong." should appear in NB I, NB II, NB III, NB IV — not only in NB VIII; the corrections should be SHORT and DIAGNOSTIC; they should function as TRANSITIONS

DISCOVERING () EXCLAMATORY; SHORT (3-8 words); arrives MID-derivation; followed by acceleration; then formula Almost never — the book is too composed to exclaim; discoveries arrive as measured observations Allow 4-5 moments of genuine exclamation across the book; “That is the operator.” “The homology is structural.” SHORT. Mid-derivation. The exclamation should SURPRISE the prose around it

INCOMPLETION () Gap notation; incomplete sentences; short paragraph or single line; matter-of-fact tone; followed by either new section or formula-despite-gap _ gap is strong; NB IX fragments are strong; but the rest of the book presents itself as more complete than it is MORE gap notation in NB I–VII; “[The derivation of the collective operator is not yet complete]” — in brackets, matter-of-fact, inside sections that otherwise proceed as if the system works; the incompletions should be LOCAL (inside finished sections) not only GLOBAL (the _ gap at the end)

EXECUTING (OS-specific) *No Marx equivalent* Protocol specification; boxed Ritual Form; field manual register This mode needs its OWN prosodic signature that Marx cannot provide. The prosody of execution: IMPERATIVE mood. Short sentences. Conditional branches (“IF the practitioner feels nothing: REVISE”). No elaboration. No justification mid-protocol. The justification lives OUTSIDE the protocol. The protocol itself is pure procedure.

WITNESSING (OS-specific) *Partial Marx equivalent in , but Marx always reabsorbs* Strong in NB VIII (Cleis, Elijah, Hall of Mirrors); the archive insertions help This mode needs its OWN prosodic signature: the prose that does NOT theorize. That sits with the object. That describes without diagnosing. That lets the student’s sentence, the bird’s call, the daughter’s hand exist on the page without the algebra arriving to name them. The ABSENCE of the algebra is the prosody. Simpler sentences. Present tense. Specific sensory detail. No operator vocabulary for 1-2 paragraphs.

APPLYING THE ALGORITHM

The Procedure

For each passage in Operative Semiotics that needs prosodic transformation:

Step 1. Identify the CONCEPTUAL MODE of the passage (grounding, deriving, combating, practice, correcting, discovering, incompleteness, executing, witnessing).

Step 2. Look up the correlation: what does Marx’s prose DO when his thought is in this mode? (Term A B, left column of correlation table)

Step 3. Compare: what does OS’s prose CURRENTLY do? (middle column)

Step 4. Identify the GAP between what Marx’s correlation predicts and what OS currently does. (right column)

Step 5. Apply the specific prosodic tools from the Swiss Army Knife (Part III of PROSODIC_ASYMMETRY_ALGORITHM) that close the gap, WEIGHTED by the notebook’s purpose and anti-tools.

Step 6. Verify: is the CONTENT invariant? Only the prosodic behavior should have changed. If the content changed, the transform was wrong. ## Worked Example

Passage: NB II §3 — The Sapphic Operator derivation.

Step 1: Conceptual mode = DERIVING (). The passage is extracting _S from Sappho F31 through close reading.

Step 2: Marx correlation for DERIVING: WALLS (20-50 sentences); Schachtelsätze; longest sentences; formulas at END; exclamatory discovery mid-derivation; the derivation CANNOT STOP.

Step 3: Current OS behavior: 10-15 sentence passage; clean derivation; formula arrives promptly after close reading; no exclamation; the derivation is concluded, not extended.

Step 4: Gap: needs to be LONGER (wall); needs subordinate clauses that mirror the logical dependence; needs the formula to arrive LATER (as verdict after wall, not as next item); could sustain one exclamatory discovery (“Body → Text. That is the operator. That is what Sappho does.”) — SHORT, mid-derivation.

Step 5: Apply: WALL tool (extend to 25+ sentences); MARATHON SENTENCE tool (one sentence of 80+ words where the close reading builds through nested qualifications); VERDICT tool (formula as 3-word verdict after wall); EXCLAMATORY tool (once, earned, 6 words).

Step 6: Verify: The content (_S derived from Sappho F31, type signature Body → Text, cascade structure, invariant) is invariant. Only the prosodic pacing changed. ## What This Algorithm Cannot Do

The algorithm derives OS prosody from the Marx concept correlation. It cannot generate the two OS-specific modes (EXECUTING and WITNESSING) because Marx’s Grundrisse does not contain them. For these modes, the prosodic signature must be derived from OS’s own practice:

- EXECUTING: derive from the Ritual Form (§3.4) — the boxed protocol is already the prosodic model for execution passages
- WITNESSING: derive from the archive material (Sentimental Murder, the Seed Text, the Cleis section) — the prosodic model is already present in the inserted archive voice. The 2015 voice IS the prosody of witnessing.

These two modes are the Grundrisse’s SWERVE from Marx’s Grundrisse — the places where the OS-Grundrisse contains operations Marx’s notebooks could not contain. The swerve is structural. The swerve IS the contribution.

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