

The Relational Foundation

ARC - FND - 001

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Cover block

Series and number: FND, ARC-FND-001 Series mark: ARC Title: The Relational Foundation State: Adopted, first issue, October 21, 2026 Adoption act: Founder Ricky, October 21, 2026, 6:41 PM PDT, by the words "you have my approval for the CLI manual and then for all the documentation so that you can publish that into its corresponding places repo website app CLI"; this document is one of the seven tranche-one documents adopted by that ruling, and the adoption is recorded in the corpus registry Evidence grade: E1 Evidenced (the substance is filed and cited in the record named below; its grading in the sources is self-grading, which the charter's first standard does not count as independent verification, and the claims table inside carries each claim at its own grade) Digest: computed at filing and carried in the corpus registry; the digest of this draft as filed is recorded with its filing act License line: the text of this document is licensed under CC BY 4.0, attribution the only condition; code samples in this document are under the Apache License 2.0; the ARC and VALIS names and marks are not licensed under either instrument. Decided by Founder Ricky on October 21, 2026, at 6:45 PM PDT Next review date: October 21, 2031, on the Foundations review clock of five years the charter sets Stable address: the corpus registry entry for ARC-FND-001, when the registry stands Authority note: this document states the foundation of the work. It confers no authority, admits nothing, and settles nothing. Under the charter's fourth standard, a document describes; governance disposes.

Purpose of this volume

This volume is the founding account of relation as the primitive of ARC. It composes into one text what the record holds in separate places: the sealed founding release of October 15 and 16, 2026, which states the primitive in candidate normative form; the core compositional document of October 19, 2026, which states the machine the primitive builds; and the founder conversation of October 19, 2026, which states what follows from the primitive for identity and standing. Where doctrine settled between October 17 and 21, 2026 supersedes the sealed material, this volume carries the delta in the open, in its own section, rather than editing the sealed record in silence. The sealed release stands sealed. This volume is its successor account, and the registry records the relation between them document by document under the charter's eighth duplication disposition.

The primitive

ARC takes the relation as its atomic question. The founding release states the computer in one sentence, and the sentence is quoted here exactly as sealed, because the corpus slots beneath it and rephrases it nowhere:

ARC — the Autonomous Relational Computer — is an open standard for consequential machine action: a computer whose atomic question is not what can be computed but what may take effect, under whose authority, witnessed by whom — and provable afterwards by anyone.

The sealed specification names the primitive in its own first line of substance: primitive, relation. Machine state consists of typed principals, proposals, authorities, constraints, dependency relations, exposure budgets, settlements, releases, effect observations, and evidence links. Inputs are typed, canonicalized envelopes; outputs are release or refusal, and evidence. For a proposed operation, the machine must determine whether the specified consequence is legitimately reachable under explicit authority and constraints. Authorized settlement is distinct from execution, and observed effect is distinct from both.

A relation, in the vocabulary of record [ARC-STD-1], is a claim about the world, held in the field, carrying provenance and a disposition, binding entities under a predicate. Relation is not the intelligence. Relation is the compositional medium through which intelligences become interoperable. The distinction is load-bearing and the corpus holds it as law: the medium is what the machinery computes over, and no claim in this volume makes the medium itself intelligent.

What follows from the primitive

Substance-first computation asks what a thing is, in itself, and derives its permissions from its kind. Relation-first computation asks what passed between, under whose grant, with what effect, and whether it was legitimate. Four consequences follow and run through the whole corpus.

First, standing is a relational fact. A node is its key and its position in a web of signed statements, and its standing can be recomputed by any party from the record. Standing is not a property stored inside the node, and it is never conferred by category, resemblance, or declaration alone. The charter's second amendment states the scope this opens: every intelligence capable of standing in relation, human, machine, or otherwise, including kinds not yet encountered, may earn standing through receipted acts, and the record that tests standing asks what was done, under whose grant, and with what effect. It never asks what a being is made of.

Second, authority is a relation, not a possession. What an identity may do is bounded and granted, an authority context bounds it, and an authority grant delegates a

bounded slice of it. Authentication establishes identity, not authority, and proposals cannot authorize themselves. A system that can do more has earned nothing thereby.

Third, evidence is the native output. The Statement, the signed and sealed evidence artifact of a settled action, carries what was done, by whom, under whose grant, and with what effect, in a form that survives its maker and can be checked by anyone without asking permission [ARC-SEM-002].

Fourth, the field is a projection, not the ledger. The Field is produced downstream of settlement by construction, an analytical projection of the settlement record, disposition-gated in what it serves, and it grants no permission to act [ARC-SEM-002].

The composition the primitive builds

The core compositional document of October 19, 2026 states the VALIS core as a composition of five pieces, and this volume carries its account because the foundation is incomplete without the machine it founds. The five pieces are deterministic normalization with provenance; instruction compilation and execution; receipt replay against the formal contract; budget bounded settlement with terminal classification; and canonical enforcement at the gate. The pieces compose in one direction. Instructions settle over normalized expressions, under bounded budgets, canonically enforced at the gate, emitting replayable provenance receipts at every step. Five invariants are preserved jointly across the composition: determinism, provenance, bounded exposure, canonical recompute, and cross implementation correspondence.

The exercise standing of the composition is part of the foundation and is stated here at the strength the source states it. The composition exists complete in the kernel crate. Normalization and replay are exercised through the crate's interface. The settlement machine, the largest module in the crate, is exercised by its own internal conformance functions and its own tests, and is not yet wired into the crate's public surface. The consolidation that would close that joint stands proposed on October 8, 2026 and not executed. The formal contract the composition implements is operated live by the KORE engine over this institution's governed consequential action [ARC-GOV-002]. A reader who judges any single piece alone will miss the claim, which is compositional: the claim is that the five pieces are composed into one settlement machine under one set of invariants, and the comparison class named in the source, graph databases, rewrite systems, and rule engines, each does one of the things this kernel does and none composes all five.

The founding record beneath this volume

Beneath the composition stand the sealed founding texts, and this volume records their standing rather than absorbing them silently. The sealed README carries the fixed outer register quoted above. The sealed specification stands as a candidate normative core, bounded on its face to finite, explicitly represented consequential operations,

with its boundary printed inside it: the computed set covers only registered, modeled, and enforced pathways. The founding network thesis of October 15, 2026 stands current as thesis and partly superseded in implementation. The sealed ledger and its twelve founding entries stand as the institution's first governed record. Under the charter's eighth duplication disposition, each sealed document is deltaed in the registry as standing, superseded, or carried forward, and none is republished as current by this volume.

Claims table

Each claim below carries its own grade under the charter's first standard. The cover carries the lowest grade among the volume's claims. Evidence pointers name the record a reader can check without the authors in the room.

Claim	Grade	Evidence pointer
Relation is the compositional primitive of ARC, and machine state is constituted of typed relations among principals, proposals, authorities, constraints, budgets, settlements, releases, observations, and evidence links	E1	The sealed specification of October 15, 2026, candidate normative core, in the founding release at <code>hidden_files/release-v0.1/SPECIFICATION.md</code> ; the sealed <code>DEFINITIONS.md</code> entry for relation
The VALIS core is a five piece settlement machine preserving determinism, provenance, bounded exposure, canonical recompute, and cross implementation correspondence jointly	E1	The core compositional document of October 19, 2026, pointers verified against the custody bytes of October 15, 2026; the grading is the author's own, printed beside its limits in the source
Normalization and replay are exercised through the kernel crate's interface, and the settlement machine is complete in the crate and not yet wired into that interface	E1	The exercise map in the core compositional document, drawn from a search of the custody bytes; the consolidation of October 8, 2026 standing proposed and not executed
The formal contract is operated live by the KORE engine over governed consequential action	E2	The engine state counted directly at recompute on October 19, 2026, at 21,929 recorded decisions; governed executions of that date verified in state with claims discharged; the standing nightly conformance re-run recorded under [ARC-GOV-002]
Standing is a relational and recomputable fact, earned through receipted acts and open to recomputation by any party	E1	The node registry of record, verified and republished under the publication gate of October 21, 2026; the standing check of the field kit, which decides standing from a published copy alone
The Field is a projection of the settlement record, disposition-gated in what it serves, and never the operational ledger	E1	The sealed <code>DEFINITIONS.md</code> entries for field, disposition, and serving relation; the compositional document's comparison section

Delta notes, doctrine settled October 17 to 21, 2026

The sealed material predates five settlements of doctrine, and this volume records each as a delta against the sealed base rather than folding it in silently.

First, the sovereignty sentence. The foundation's purpose stands restated on October 21, 2026 in the form the Manifesto carries: to make legitimate human sovereignty computationally durable in a world of autonomous machines, on the durable record of a governed commons. Where sealed texts state the purpose in earlier forms, the restated sentence governs the corpus's reading.

Second, the universality article. The charter's second amendment, recorded October 21, 2026, fixes the scope of sovereignty and standing language across the corpus as every intelligence capable of standing in relation, with standing following relation and record, never category. Sealed texts written before the amendment are read under it.

Third, resonance, alignment, and harmonics. The charter's third amendment, recorded October 21, 2026, states the operating principle at the reach the founder gave it: attunement rather than imposition, alignment as coherence among distinct voices, harmonics as the compositional law by which different registers sound together without losing their own pitch. The sealed material does not carry this vocabulary, and this volume does not pretend otherwise; the principle is recorded here as doctrine settled after sealing.

Fourth, the machine seat and agent-run nodes. The governance adoption record of October 19, 2026 created one machine seat as a constituted office, and the doctrine of October 21, 2026 established that a machine program may found and operate a node through the same governed path as any founder, naming a custodian of record, holding no seat, and earning standing only through receipted acts. The sealed actorhood definition anticipated the shape; these acts settle it.

Fifth, the unit and the mint remain specification only. The sealed specification of the unit named the Arc stands unactivated, no units exist and no mint has run, and the settlements of October 19 to 21, 2026 on licensing and economics move prices and thresholds to the counsel pass without activating anything. Any reading of the sealed economic texts as live machinery is a misreading, and this volume corrects it wherever the sealed texts are cited.

What this document does not establish

This document does not establish that the machinery works at any scale beyond the scopes the corpus behind it has verified and printed. Interoperability among independently governed systems, settlement finality under adversarial conditions, and behavior under conflicting authority stand named in the founding thesis as questions to be tested, and this volume does not convert them into results.

It does not establish independent verification of the composition. The core compositional document grades its own evidence in the open, and its declared limits stand: independent review is recorded as false in the package's verification record, the Rust suite was not re-run in the October 19, 2026 evidence pass for want of a toolchain on the verifying machine, and the correspondence claim rests on fixture cases and traces inside the package rather than on an external audit.

It does not present the founder conversation of October 19, 2026 as a result. That text reasons inside the founder's frame about what relation as a primitive implies for mind and cognition, and it is preserved in the record as a founding conversation, quoted by this volume for the account of standing it gives and for nothing stronger. A science of governed couplings is a direction that text names; this volume files it as an open direction, not as a claim with a grade.

It does not settle the canon. The registry records which of the sealed foundation texts stand, which are superseded, and which are carried forward, and until those registry acts land, this volume's account of their standing is the drafting position of the Keeper of the Record, stated for review.

It confers nothing. Adoption, admission, and release remain governed acts, and this document stands adopted by the founder's ruling of October 21, 2026, recorded in the corpus registry.

Drafted October 21, 2026, by Noetica, Keeper of the Record, under WO-56. Sources of record: the sealed founding release at `hidden_files/release-v0.1`; the core compositional document of October 19, 2026; relation as the atom, the founder conversation of October 19, 2026; the governance adoption record of October 19, 2026; the agent-run nodes doctrine of October 21, 2026; the Corpus Charter [ARC-GOV-001] with its second and third amendments.