

# The Alpha Asymmetry.

## Why Verifiers Can Be Smaller Than Generators.

Manu Bhardwaj / ifitsmanu.com / May 6, 2026

Canonical URL: <https://ifitsmanu.com/papers/the-alpha-asymmetry/>

Topics: Inference Economics / Verification Economics / AI Systems Engineering

### Summary

Cost-correct is hyperbolic in verifier accept rate and linear in the other major inference-cost terms. In production reasoning regimes, verifier construction can move total cost more than comparable work on token price, reasoning length, or rollout policy.

### Citation-ready surfaces

HTML: <https://ifitsmanu.com/papers/the-alpha-asymmetry/>

Raw: <https://ifitsmanu.com/raw/the-alpha-asymmetry.md>

BibTeX: <https://ifitsmanu.com/bibtex.bib>

This PDF is a compact archival surface. The canonical article contains the full text.