Affect-Modulated Promotion Thresholds

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Affective state raising or lowering the minimum score required for candidate mutations to advance through evaluation stages, producing experience-driven selectivity.

What It Is

Affect-modulated promotion thresholds adjust the minimum score required for candidate mutations to advance through evaluation stages. When an agent's affective state reflects caution, such as elevated risk sensitivity or reduced ambiguity tolerance, the threshold rises, requiring stronger evidence for promotion. When affect reflects openness, the threshold lowers, admitting candidates that would otherwise be filtered.

This modulation applies at every promotion boundary in the agent's evaluation pipeline, from planning graph branch promotion to verified memory commitment. The threshold adjustment is computed deterministically from the current affective field values.

Why It Matters

Fixed promotion thresholds produce agents that are equally permissive in all circumstances. An agent recovering from a failed delegation should not evaluate new delegation candidates with the same openness as one with a history of successful delegations. Affect-modulated thresholds create experience-sensitive selectivity.

This is architecturally distinct from confidence governance. Confidence determines whether the agent can act at all. Affect-modulated thresholds determine how selectively the agent evaluates what to act on. An agent can be confident enough to act but affectively cautious about which specific candidates it promotes.

How It Works Structurally

The promotion threshold function takes the base threshold from policy and applies a modifier computed from relevant affective dimensions. Risk sensitivity and uncertainty sensitivity increase the modifier, raising the bar. Novelty appetite and cooperation disposition may decrease it. The specific weighting of dimensions is policy-configurable.

The modulated threshold is recomputed at each evaluation cycle, meaning it can change between successive candidate evaluations as affective state updates arrive. All threshold computations are recorded in lineage, making it possible to audit why a specific candidate was or was not promoted at a specific time.

What It Enables

Systems where agents become naturally more cautious after adverse experiences and more exploratory after positive outcomes, without explicit programming of these behavioral shifts. The caution emerges from the architecture rather than being imposed by external rules.

Multi-agent coordination benefits because delegation requests from agents with elevated caution thresholds signal that the requesting agent has reason for careful evaluation, allowing receiving agents to adjust their own behavior accordingly.

Affective State All 21 steps →

Emotion as a computational primitive, not a simulation.

Primary Technical Disclosure
○ Affective State as a Deterministic Control Primitive for Semantic Agents
Secondary Technical
○ Affective State as Seventh Canonical Field○ Named Control Field Modulation Architecture● Affect-Modulated Promotion Thresholds○ Deterministic Affect Encoding and Update Mechanics○ Emotional Decay Curves With Hysteresis○ Entropy-Governed Valence Stabilization○ Affective Inheritance in Delegation Chains○ Emotional Quarantine and Volatility Management○ Affect-Modulated Trust Slope Validation○ Biological Signal-to-Affective Coupling○ Affective Contagion in Multi-Agent Systems○ Affect-Modulated Discovery Traversal○ Affect-Governance Separation○ Policy-Bounded Affective Updates○ Affect as Cross-Primitive Input○ Affect-Modulated Inference Integration○ Substrate-Agnostic Affect Deployment○ Pseudonymous Emotional Operation○ Temporal Cognition Field
Applications (General)
○ Companion AI That Maintains Emotional Consistency Across Sessions○ Therapeutic Agent Affect Management Under Clinical Constraints○ Affective State for Customer Service Agents○ Affective State for Elderly Care Companion Agents○ Affective State for Crisis Response Agents○ Affective State for Negotiation Agents○ Affective State for Educational Tutoring Agents○ Affective State for HR and Recruitment Agents
Applications (Specific)
○ Replika's Emotional Memory Is Stateless○ Character.ai's Personality Problem Is Deeper Than Prompting○ Woebot's Therapeutic Affect Has No Persistent State○ Elomia's Empathy Resets Every Session○ Hume AI Measures Emotion but Cannot Govern It○ Affectiva Reads Faces but Not Emotional Trajectories○ Cogito Scores Conversations Without Emotional State○ Beyond Verbal Decoded Voice Without Building Emotional Memory○ EmotiBit Captures Physiology Without Affective Governance○ RealEyes Measures Attention Without Emotional Persistence
Affective State overview →
AQ
deterministic
autonomy

Legal

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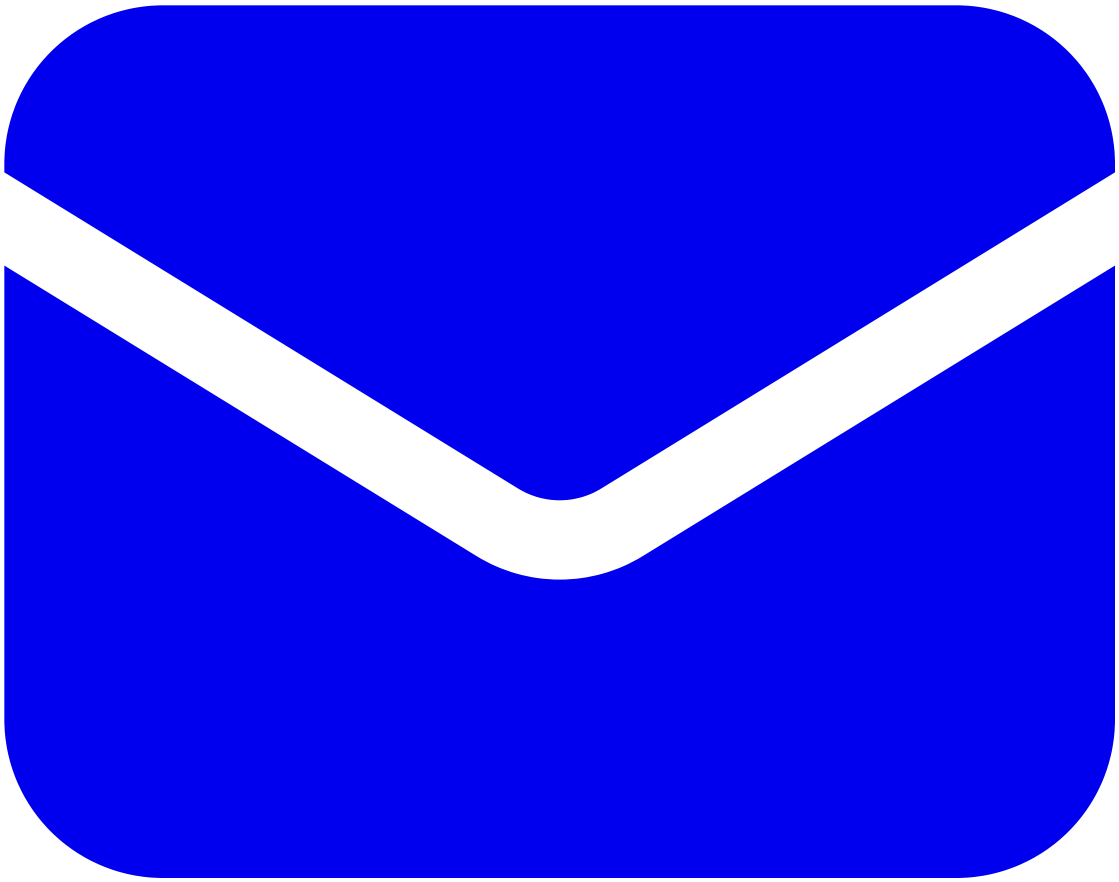

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