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## The Complete Thirteen-Stage Mutation Lifecycle

by [Nick Clark](#) | Published March 27, 2026 | [PDF](#)

Every mutation in the architecture traverses a thirteen-stage lifecycle from initial stimulus through final lineage commitment. At each stage, specific cognitive domain fields participate with defined roles. The complete lifecycle ensures that no mutation proceeds without evaluation by all relevant cognitive functions and that every stage's contribution is recorded in the lineage.

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### What It Is

The thirteen-stage mutation lifecycle defines the complete processing sequence for every proposed mutation: stimulus reception, intent evaluation, context integration, forecasting evaluation, affective modulation, confidence assessment, integrity check, capability verification, admissibility gate, execution or delegation, outcome recording, coherence verification, and lineage commitment.

Each stage has defined inputs, outputs, and participating cognitive domain fields. The stages execute sequentially, with each stage's output feeding the next.

## Why It Matters

The complete lifecycle ensures comprehensive evaluation. No mutation skips integrity checking because integrity check is a mandatory stage. No mutation avoids capability assessment because capability verification is structurally required. The lifecycle is a process guarantee, not a guideline: every mutation traverses every stage.

## How It Works

The lifecycle begins when a stimulus is received (stage 1) and evaluated against the agent's intent (stage 2). Context from memory and environment is integrated (stage 3). The forecasting engine evaluates likely outcomes (stage 4). Affective state modulates evaluation parameters (stage 5). Confidence is computed (stage 6). Integrity deviation is assessed (stage 7). Capability is verified (stage 8). The admissibility gate makes the final determination (stage 9). The mutation is executed or delegated (stage 10). The outcome is recorded (stage 11). Post-execution coherence is verified (stage 12). The complete event is committed to lineage (stage 13).

## What It Enables

The thirteen-stage lifecycle enables comprehensive mutation governance where every cognitive dimension is consulted for every mutation. It provides a structural framework for understanding where disruption patterns manifest: attention fragmentation disrupts stage 4, containment collapse disrupts stage 9, coherence authorization failure disrupts stage 6. The lifecycle is both a processing framework and a diagnostic framework.

[Human-Relatable Intelligence All 21 steps →](#)

The most human-like computer ever built.

Primary Technical Disclosure

[◦ Human-Relatable Computable Intelligence](#)

Secondary Technical

[◦ The Cross-Primitive Coherence Engine](#)◦ [Narrative Identity as Compressed Self-Model](#)◦ [Ecosystem Participation Credentials From Cognitive History](#)◦ [Anonymized Governance Telemetry Aggregation](#)◦ [The Coherence Control Loop: Detection, Recording, Restoration](#)● [The Complete Thirteen-Stage Mutation Lifecycle](#)◦ [Ten Conditions for Human-Relatable Behavior](#)◦ [Graceful Degradation With Active-Domain Registry](#)◦ [Architectural Inversion: Agent Carries State, Substrate Provides Environment](#)◦ [Sequential Cascade Structures in Cross-Primitive Coherence](#)◦ [Conformity Attestation: Verifiable Architectural Compliance](#)

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Last updated: 2026-03-03



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