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Evidence-Based Capability Gating

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

Progressive unlock of LLM capabilities based on multimodal evidence evaluation rather than self-reported competence.

What It Is

Progressive unlock of LLM capabilities based on multimodal evidence evaluation rather than self-reported competence.. This mechanism is defined in Chapter 7 of the cognition patent as a structural component of the agent's cognitive architecture, operating through deterministic evaluation rather than heuristic approximation.

Every aspect of this mechanism is specified declaratively in the agent's policy reference, making it auditable, reproducible, and governable without requiring access to the agent's internal decision-making process.

Why It Matters

Without evidence-based capability gating, language model outputs enter agent state without structural verification. Current integration patterns either trust model outputs entirely, accepting hallucinations as facts, or reject them entirely, losing the utility of generative capability. The structural gap is between raw generation and governed integration.

The stakes increase in high-autonomy applications. A companion AI that accepts hallucinated relational history from an LLM may act on false beliefs. An autonomous agent that integrates unvalidated proposals may execute harmful actions that no governance check downstream can prevent because the corrupted state appears internally consistent.

How It Works Structurally

As defined in Chapter 7 of the cognition patent, evidence-based capability gating operates through a deterministic evaluation function embedded within the agent's cognitive architecture. The function receives structured inputs from the agent's canonical fields and produces outputs that govern subsequent processing stages. Every input, computation step, and output is recorded in the agent's lineage, ensuring complete reproducibility.

The three-engine pipeline operates sequentially. The mutation engine receives LLM proposals and merges them into candidate agent state without committing. The validation engine evaluates the candidate state against all applicable constraints. The arbitration engine resolves conflicts when multiple LLMs contribute competing proposals. Only proposals that pass all three stages are admitted.

What It Enables

This mechanism enables the integration of generative AI capabilities into governed autonomous systems without surrendering safety guarantees. LLMs provide creative proposal generation while the governance architecture ensures that only validated proposals affect agent state.

Because this mechanism is policy-governed and deterministic, it can be formally analyzed, audited, and certified. Regulatory compliance is demonstrable through structural analysis rather than solely through empirical testing. Different domains can tune the mechanism's parameters through policy configuration without requiring architectural changes, making the same structural capability applicable to autonomous vehicles, companion AI, therapeutic agents, and enterprise systems.

[LLM & Skill Gating All 21 steps →](#)

The model proposes. The agent decides.

Primary Technical Disclosure

[◦ AI-Mediated Curriculum and Progressive Capability Unlocking Using Semantic Performance States](#)

Secondary Technical

[◦ LLM as Structurally Untrusted Proposal Generator](#)◦ [Mutation-Validation-Arbitration Pipeline](#)◦ [Hallucination Prevention via Structural Starvation](#)◦ [Trust Weight Calibration and Decay](#)• [Evidence-Based Capability Gating](#)◦ [Certification Token Generation](#)◦ [Narrative State and Personality Architecture](#)◦ [Skill Regression Detection and Capability Revocation](#)◦ [Arbitration as Semantic Event](#)◦ [Structural Starvation Composability](#)◦ [Multi-Turn Memory Isolation](#)◦ [Curriculum Engine Progressive Unlock](#)◦ [Multimodal Evaluation Pipeline](#)◦ [Multimodal Anti-Gaming Substrate](#)◦ [Professional Skill Gating Applications](#)◦ [Embodied Skill Gating](#)◦ [Biological Identity Skill Binding](#)◦ [Security and Drift Detection Layer](#)◦ [Validation Feedback Asymmetry](#)

Applications (General)

[◦ Enterprise AI Progressive Deployment Through Earned Capability](#)◦ [Educational Platform Competency Through Structural Certification](#)◦ [LLM and Skill Gating for Medical Licensing](#)◦ [LLM and Skill Gating for Legal Practice Certification](#)◦ [LLM and Skill Gating for Aviation Pilot Training Systems](#)◦ [LLM and Skill Gating for Financial Advisor Certification](#)◦ [LLM and Skill Gating for Cybersecurity Skill Progression](#)◦ [LLM and Skill Gating for Manufacturing Quality Systems](#)

Applications (Specific)

[◦ Duolingo's AI Unlocks Content, Not Capability](#)◦ [Khanmigo Tutors Without Skill Gates](#)◦ [Coursera Certifies Completion, Not Competence](#)◦ [GitHub Copilot Suggests Everything It Can Generate](#)◦ [Pearson Assesses Knowledge Without Gating Capability Progression](#)◦ [Chegg Provides Answers Without Gating Understanding](#)◦ [Grammarly Corrects Writing Without Gating Writing Skill](#)◦ [Photomath Solves Problems Without Building Problem-Solving Skill](#)◦ [Century Tech Adapts Content Without Structural Skill Gates](#)◦ [Squirrel AI Diagnoses Gaps Without Gating Progression](#)

[LLM & Skill Gating overview →](#)

AQ

deterministic

autonomy

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