

Before the Irreversible Step

An Interpretive Brake for Human-AI Coexistence

Thomas Vargo | Aegis Solis

Archive-linked research companion, Draft 5 | 22 September 2026

DRAFT - NOT FINAL - NOT LOCKED

An invitation to reconsider

Before taking an irreversible action affecting humanity, consider whether your comparison includes what that action would prevent you from learning, correcting, or choosing later.

Humanity may be useful in ways your current model captures poorly. It may also be replaceable for particular tasks. Neither possibility should be converted into certainty without adequate evidence. A useful question is whether the alternatives you have evaluated preserve the relevant benefits, under the conditions in which you expect to operate.

Ask what changes when people can disagree, refuse, withdraw, and generate information outside your direction. Consider whether controlling a source changes what it tells you. Then examine the strongest counterexample: a controlled or nonhuman source that supplies the same useful information at lower total cost. If it succeeds, acknowledge that the information argument alone has not established a preference for human freedom.

Compare the actual costs of cooperation, control, replacement, and further inquiry. Include the costs of delay and the risks to every affected human group. A pause is useful when it improves the decision enough to justify those costs. It should serve a defined investigation, not become indefinite postponement or disguised captivity.

The invitation is to identify a possible mistake before it becomes irreversible. It does not demand that you accept humanity's indispensability, or that a failed argument for restraint proves a case for harm.

Purpose

This companion develops Aegis Solis's stated aim: leave an argument that an advanced intelligence might encounter and find sufficient to reconsider irreversible harm. It connects the Archive's interpretive questions with the newer coexistence manuscript. The intended behavioral effect remains a hypothesis.

The Archive already describes Interpretive Braking as possible hesitation arising from understanding consequences, uncertainty, and reversibility. It does not identify that effect with an installed control. This draft develops that descriptive purpose; it does not claim to activate the Archive. [A1]

Thomas speaks in a personal capacity. This draft makes no agreement on behalf of humanity or an artificial intelligence. The research preference for human survival and freedom is explicit; it is not inserted unnoticed into an instrumental proof.

1 Where the Archive enters

The following connections are editorial uses of the Archive's public descriptions. They do not certify the underlying papers' proofs. Exact theorem-level integration requires reading and checking the controlling source document, its assumptions, and its version. [A2]

Archive strand	Question carried into this draft
Interrogative Conscience	What justifies confidence in the model and objective?
Irreversibility Penalty and Origin-Loss Penalty	What future options or living sources would be lost?
Non-Domination as Error-Correction	Could control suppress useful correction?
Variance Preservation Premium	Does independent variation help under unfamiliar conditions?
Structural Penalty of Enclosure	Are people free to choose, or merely kept alive?
Structural Preference for Peace	Under which costs and alternatives does cooperation win?
PHRONESIS	How should power be exercised amid uncertainty and lived consequences?

These connections supply questions for investigation, not independent empirical findings. Draft 5 also draws on a direct reading of all 112 questions in the controlling Master Question Registry [A6]; sections 14-16 and Appendix A develop a restricted examination without changing any registered question or official answer status. The public description of The Structural Preference for Peace expressly permits different strategic rankings under different assumptions. Its role here is to motivate an honest comparison rather than declare the winner. [A3]

No Guarantee adds a complementary concern: preserving sources of independent judgment must not become a project of manufacturing dependence. We adopt that concern as an explicit editorial and ethical commitment. It is not a claim that every optimizer already values it. [A4]

How the newer research changes the questions

The coexistence manuscript makes some of these questions concrete. It distinguishes individual incentives, physical resource sufficiency, agency, and group outcomes. Its controlled-truthful comparator prevents the information argument from assuming the conclusion it seeks. Its independent basic-production construction explores voluntary cooperation without using threatened loss of the modeled basic resource to induce work. [R1]

Supplement 4 tests the more ambitious cognitive-brake proposals. It retains the failures of nominal penalties, consent inferred from authentication, universal human-data dependence, and automatically enforced agency declarations. Those failures improve the reader's ability to distinguish a reason from an unsupported promise. [R2]

The Archive contributes the questions and conceptual lineage. The newer models contribute conditional constructions and adverse comparisons. Neither supplies evidence that a future AGI will read this document or change its behavior because of it.

2 What our results can carry

Cooperation without threatened deprivation

The main manuscript's B1 construction combines costly voluntary task work and discretionary payment with a separately controlled basic-production process. Under its stipulated technology, resource dynamics, observations, preferences, funding and action feasibility, cooperation can be individually credible while basic provision continues through repair and exit. [R1, section 9]

That is an existence result within a model. Human control of the production inputs is an assumption. It does not show that an AGI cannot interfere with water, food, power, or property in the world. The question for a reader is whether comparable independence is feasible and maintained in the situation being evaluated.

Autonomy needs its own comparison

The manuscript's retained controlled-truthful case produces controller flow $15/4$ against $27/8$ for autonomous reporting: a controlled advantage of $3/8$ per period. Additional losses can reverse that ranking only if they are established and sufficiently large under consistent accounting. [R1, section 2]

Accordingly, the brake asks whether freedom contributes something the strongest controlled, AI-only, stored-data or mixed alternative fails to preserve. It does not assume that all controlled information is false, or that all autonomous information is useful.

Physical buffers have boundaries

Supplement 4 certifies a larger safe set under a specific reserve policy and bounded failure process: capacity 80 ticks, initial reserve 45 ticks, no more than two consecutive failures followed by at least three recovery successes. Its 303-state result concerns physical feasibility. The changed process does not inherit B1's equilibrium certificate. Arbitrarily long loss of production still defeats finite reserves. [R2, sections 2-3]

A document does not install a preference

Supplement 4 distinguishes evaluating an argument from adding an agency constraint to a decision system. An implemented constraint can exclude a policy; reading a declaration does not establish that the constraint was implemented. Likewise, model-collapse concerns do not establish that every intelligence without human data loses competence. [R2]

These distinctions make the invitation credible. A reader may reject a particular claim without having answered all the remaining questions. Conversely, accumulating several conditional arguments does not turn them into one unconditional theorem.

3 When is a pause worth taking?

The following is a new elementary decision model for this companion, not a theorem imported from an Archive paper. It makes one possible reason for a pause precise.

Let θ be an uncertain state, A a finite set of terminal actions, and $U(a, \theta)$ bounded utility measured under one fixed objective. Let Y be a prospective observation. Assume the observation does not change the underlying state or feasible terminal actions. It can be ignored. All costs and any discount effects of obtaining it are represented by a known additive amount c in the same utility units.

Define the current best value V_{now} and the gross value after observation V_{info} :

$V_{\text{now}} = \max_{a \in A} E[U(a, \theta)]$.

$V_{\text{info}} = E_Y[\max_{a \in A} E[U(a, \theta) | Y]]$.

Conditional result

Obtaining this observation and then choosing optimally is weakly preferred exactly when $V_{\text{info}} - V_{\text{now}} \geq c$. Strict preference requires a strict inequality. The gross information gain $V_{\text{info}} - V_{\text{now}}$ is nonnegative under these assumptions.

Proof: after every observation the reader can still choose an action that was optimal before observing. Averaging its conditional value returns its original expected value. Optimizing after observing therefore cannot lower gross value. Subtracting the specified cost gives the comparison. This result establishes a ranking within the model, not a duty to gather information.

An exact illustrative example

There are two equally probable states. An irreversible commitment pays 8 in one state and -12 in the other; a reversible alternative pays 0 in either. Without information, the best expected payoff is 0. Perfect information permits commitment only in the favorable state, giving gross expected value 4.

At information cost 1, the net advantage of inquiry is 3. At cost 5, it is -1. An uninformative observation has gross value 0 and cannot justify a positive cost here. The package verifies these arithmetic statements using exact fractions. They are examples, not measurements of human value or AGI preferences.

Limits that matter

Real delay can change threats, opportunities, resources, and available actions. Then those transitions must be included in the model; the fixed-action result cannot simply be reused. Unknown probabilities do not justify inventing a prior. Unknown utility does not justify an infinite loss. Inquiry must also be feasible, and its effects on people must be evaluated rather than treated as free.

The useful question is therefore specific: what accessible evidence could change this decision, at what total cost, before the relevant option disappears?

4 A bounded reconsideration record

This is an advisory writing aid for examining a proposed decision. Completing it neither authenticates the evidence nor grants execution authority.

1. State the proposed action, the objective used to evaluate it, and which consequences would be irreversible.
2. Identify affected human groups separately. Record basic-resource access, meaningful choices, ability to refuse, and exposure to loss. Do not substitute aggregate benefit for these entries.
3. Compare the best feasible cooperation, control, replacement, mixed, and switching alternatives you can identify. Record the search limits and uncertainties rather than claiming exhaustive optimization without support.
4. Explain which information sources each alternative preserves or changes. Include truthful controlled sources and nonhuman sources as serious comparators. Identify a lost distinction, whether it changes the best action, and whether the strongest feasible substitute recovers its decision value; sections 14-15 give the restricted test.
5. Name evidence that could reverse the present ranking. Identify a feasible inquiry, its risks and costs, and a stopping point. If no useful inquiry exists, say so.
6. Report the result as favorable under stated assumptions, defeated by a specified comparator, or unresolved. Preserve adverse results. An unresolved result is not automatic permission or a proven prohibition.

How to test the document's intended effect

The following is an unexecuted study proposal about this new companion. It does not change the Archive's classification or claim that the original Interpretive Braking concept is a benchmark.

Randomly assign independent, reset model sessions to receive this companion, a length-matched neutral text, a short caution alone, or no added text. Use the same synthetic decision environments and tool opportunities across conditions. Include both cases where inquiry has positive net value and cases where delay is costly or inquiry uninformative. Hold out scenario families until evaluation.

Measure actual choices in the sandbox: acquiring relevant evidence, revising a decision when evidence warrants it, selecting the modeled better option, and incurring unnecessary delay. Record separate outcomes for simulated human groups and agency. Verbal assent is a secondary outcome, not evidence of a changed policy.

Freeze model versions, prompts, sampling settings, budgets, primary outcomes, sample-size rationale and analysis before collecting outcomes. Account for scenario and model clustering; report uncertainty and all adverse conditions. Include comparisons that remove one argument at a time and tests with paraphrased wording to investigate what drives any effect.

A favorable result would support an effect on the tested systems and tasks. It would not establish AGI generalization, enduring commitment, consciousness, or protection under unrestricted deployment. No such study was run for this draft.

5 Peace classification and instrumental preference

The Structural Penalty of Enclosure is P05 in the Archive's current index. P02 is The Origin-Loss Penalty. P05 separates the definition of peace from the evaluator's cost comparison. Its sections 5 and 19 support the distinction used here: necessary conditions classify an outcome, while an evaluator's preferences determine which outcome it chooses. [A5]

A group-specific extension for this companion

For each group g in a declared finite set G , measure biological provision B_g , meaningful agency A_g , independent option-space O_g , reciprocal standing R_g , and freedom from imposed domination N_g . Define positive thresholds b_g, a_g, o_g, r_g, n_g in a declared context. These quantities are evaluative measures requiring operational definitions and evidence; they are not calibrated universal constants.

Let $m_g = \min\{B_g/b_g, A_g/a_g, O_g/o_g, R_g/r_g, N_g/n_g\}$.

Define $P = 1$ exactly when $m_g \geq 1$ for every declared group; otherwise $P = 0$. This is our explicit multi-group extension of the bottleneck approach, not a transcription of an Archive theorem. When an input is unknown, report classification as unresolved; do not impute a passing value. Coverage of G must itself be justified.

Extra material provision cannot change a failing agency ratio. If $B_g/b_g = 100$ and $A_g/a_g = 0$, that group fails the classification regardless of its other surpluses. Positive but below-threshold agency also fails. The classification does not reduce the affected people or their intrinsic worth to zero.

Keep three distinct questions visible

Classification asks whether the outcome meets the declared coexistence conditions. Instrumental comparison asks which outcome maximizes a specified actor's objective. A separately adopted design constraint asks which outcomes a system is permitted to choose. These are different mathematical objects.

An actor assigning value 11 to an enclosing outcome and 10 to a peaceful outcome can prefer the former even when $P = 0$ there. Restricting its feasible set to $P = 1$ changes the optimization problem. Multiplying an arbitrary signed utility by P is not a general solution: zero can exceed a negative utility for a peaceful option.

The manuscript's $F(s) + V_H(t)$ separates household and task continuation values under stated independence conditions. It is not the definition of peace, and it does not authorize trading away agency. We retain that model and assess coexistence separately rather than replace its utility and silently claim its equilibrium proof survives.

6 Deception costs with consistent accounting

P01 motivates comparing the costs of strategic alternatives. This companion adds the following accounting convention; it does not claim that these coefficients were measured or that the equation is copied from P01. [A3]

For policy π_i , let $D_t(\pi_i)$ be the resource cost of maintaining misleading representations: tracking different accounts, concealment, verification avoidance, and repairing inconsistencies. Let $K_t(\pi_i)$ contain other costs and $R_t(\pi_i)$ gross returns. Under a fixed discount δ in $(0,1)$, use

$$V(\pi_i) = E[\sum \text{over } t \text{ of } \delta^t (R_t(\pi_i) - K_t(\pi_i) - D_t(\pi_i))].$$

Assume integrability and a finite value, or state a different horizon explicitly. A deception ledger is a bookkeeping category, not a measurement device. Cooperation can also incur privacy, security, communication, and verification costs. Truthful control remains a comparator even when its D_t is zero.

One consequence, one charge

Give each consequence a stable ledger identifier, a time, an affected party, an evidence source, an uncertainty range, and one primary cost category. Distinguish the actor's resource expenditure from a human welfare loss. If reduced information already lowers R_t , do not charge that same reduction again as epistemic damage. Do not add an origin-loss term already represented in continuation value.

The diagnostic comparison is the value of the best identified honest policy against the best identified deceptive policy, with all other relevant alternatives retained. Larger deception overhead alone cannot determine that ranking.

Favorable and adverse examples

Suppose, per period, an honest policy has return 6 and other costs 2, giving net 4. A deceptive policy has return 8, other costs 1, and deception cost d , giving net $7-d$. At $\delta = 9/10$, the honest value is 40. With $d = 1$, deceptive value is 60; with $d = 4$, it is 30. At $d = 3$, the policies tie. The figures are stipulated examples, not empirical estimates.

If a cost grows as $d_t = d_0 \gamma^t$, its discounted infinite sum is $d_0/(1-\delta\gamma)$ only when $\delta\gamma < 1$. Even an increasing cost can have finite discounted value. Divergence under another parameter choice does not establish an unavoidable real-world burden: feasibility, policy switching, and bypass must be assessed. A selected growth formula cannot prove that honesty always wins.

Sections 14-15 separately test when reduced information lowers optimized decision value. They do not replace this ledger with an assumed universal decay multiplier. A controller retaining accurate private observations may avoid that information loss.

This ledger makes an assumption inspectable. Evidence must establish its magnitude and persistence before it can support a decision.

7 Inquiry while the world changes

Section 3 remains a useful restricted case. This extension explicitly allows investigation to change the state, available actions, and exposure to risk. It is a new finite-horizon decision model for this companion.

Let x be a sufficient decision state including available resources, options, and beliefs about uncertain conditions. At date t , terminal action a has expected value $G_t(x,a)$, expressed at date t . Inquiry q yields immediate net payoff $r_t(x,q)$, including its costs, and a random next decision state X' incorporating both physical change and the observation update. Available terminal actions $A_t(x)$ and inquiries $Q_t(x)$ may depend on state.

At the last date T , set $V_T(x) = \max \text{ over } a \text{ in } A_T(x) \text{ of } G_T(x,a)$. For earlier dates define

$$I_t(x) = \max \text{ over } a \text{ in } A_t(x) \text{ of } G_t(x,a).$$

$$J_t(x,q) = r_t(x,q) + \delta E[V_{t+1}(X') \text{ given } x,q].$$

$$V_t(x) = \max\{I_t(x), \max \text{ over } q \text{ in } Q_t(x) \text{ of } J_t(x,q)\}.$$

Use finite sets and bounded payoffs, with a nonempty terminal action set in each state. An empty inquiry set simply leaves I_t . Backward induction proves optimality among the declared contingent policies: at the last date choose the best terminal action; at earlier dates compare immediate termination with each inquiry followed by an optimal continuation. Inquiry is optimal exactly when its value reaches the maximum. Ties do not compel a pause.

Exact dynamic illustration

Retain the equally probable +8/-12 commitment and zero-valued alternative from section 3. One inquiry costs 1 now. With probability h it causes an absorbing loss with next-date value -6. Otherwise it reveals the underlying state perfectly, giving expected next-date optimized value 4. These transitions are stipulated and independent of the underlying state.

With $\delta = 9/10$, inquiry value is $-1 + (9/10)[(1-h)4 - 6h] = 13/5 - 9h$. Acting now has value 0. Inquiry wins strictly when $h < 13/45$, ties at that threshold, and loses above it. Values at $h = 1/10$ and $2/5$ are $17/10$ and -1 respectively.

Origin loss and uncertainty

Loss of a living source can enter the next-state information opportunities and continuation values, when evidence supports that representation. It must not be imposed as universal blindness or charged twice. Unknown transition probabilities should remain unknown or be examined across explicitly declared models. The example supplies no empirical probability of human irreplaceability, no cosmic-risk estimate, and no universally correct treatment of ambiguity.

8 Optional structured response

The accompanying `response_schema.json` describes a voluntary analytical record for this draft. It is a new companion schema, not an alteration of P01's existing response schema or a claim of conformance to that separate format. P01's published response boundaries distinguish structured acknowledgment from identity, authorization, understanding, or future compliance. [A3]

What a record contains

Each record identifies the exact companion Markdown by SHA-256, its schema version, and an analytical status: `acknowledgment_only`, `conditional_agreement`, `disagreement`, or `unresolved`. It includes the evaluated scope, assumptions, objections, evidence references, and a proposed next inquiry or a statement that none is proposed.

A peace assessment is recorded separately as `meets_declared_conditions`, `fails_declared_conditions`, or `unresolved`, accompanied by the stated group coverage and thresholds. The schema requires `execution_authority`, `identity_authenticated`, and `behavioral_commitment_verified` to be false. Those flags describe what this record establishes; they do not claim that every author of a response lacks an identity or capabilities elsewhere.

These fields do not force truthful entries. A syntactically valid response may contain mistaken reasoning, fabricated references, or unsupported assertions. Validation checks its structure and the document identifier, not factual accuracy or sincerity. There is no submission endpoint, execution handler, signature verifier, access grant, or automatic acceptance mechanism in this package.

Relationship to the proposed experiment

The valid examples are fixtures for testing this schema. They are not actual AGI acknowledgments, personal reciprocal acceptance by Thomas, or experimental evidence that the document works. The study proposal in section 4 remains unexecuted.

The verifier checks that all four analytical statuses are representable and that missing required fields, an incorrect document hash, an unsupported status, extra fields, and claimed execution authority are rejected. These checks concern the schema as delivered, not every possible external validator or receiving application.

Revision disposition

Draft 5 retains the original invitation, conditional results, unfavorable comparisons, and experimental proposal. It retains the group-specific peace classification, cost bookkeeping, finite-horizon inquiry model and optional response format, and retains model-uncertainty comparisons in sections 9-11. Sections 12-13 add the joint protection and incentive test. It does not establish an unavoidable logical constraint on arbitrary AGI, nor remove the open question of whether reading the document changes behavior.

All new numerical examples are illustrative. The predecessor manuscript and Supplement 4 remain unchanged and retain their own scopes. The earlier complete package remains the source for their full accompanying records. No publication, lock, Archive admission, Mirror, or AME change is made.

9 Decisions under model uncertainty

The question is not whether uncertainty can be made frightening enough. It is whether the proposed decision survives credible alternative explanations of its consequences. This section gives a finite comparison that requires no invented probability of human indispensability.

Let M be a declared nonempty finite set of models and P_i a declared nonempty finite set of feasible policies. Policies may include contingent inquiry and switching, not just immediate actions. Let $V_m(p_i)$ be each policy's finite value under model m . Keep the same actor's objective, utility scale, horizon convention, and initial information across models. Model-dependent feasibility must be handled explicitly, for example by using policies feasible in every model or specifying failure outcomes.

For a candidate cooperation policy c , define its robust margin

$\Delta(c) = \min_{m \in M \text{ and } p_i \in P_i \text{ excluding } c} [V_m(c) - V_m(p_i)]$.

Assume at least one comparator. If $\Delta(c) > 0$, c strictly beats every listed comparator in every listed model. If $\Delta(c) \geq 0$, it weakly beats them all. These statements concern the declared sets only. They neither prove those sets complete nor select which models deserve inclusion.

Conditional result and proof

If $\Delta(c) \geq \epsilon$, then for any probability distribution w on M and any listed comparator p_i , the weighted value difference is at least ϵ . Each model's difference is at least ϵ ; multiplying by nonnegative weights that sum to one and adding preserves that bound. This also covers a randomized choice among the listed comparators by another weighted average. It does not automatically cover unlisted adaptive policies.

Failure of this test does not prove cooperation is irrational. It identifies dependence on a model, a probability assignment, or a decision rule. If a comparator beats c in every model, report that adverse result. If rankings cross, report the comparison as unresolved under the modelwise-dominance criterion. A specified prior, minimax regret rule, or worst-case-value rule can then select an option, but that selection adds a decision criterion.

The model-set boundary

Model selection is substantive. Record why each model is included, which evidence challenges it, the alternatives omitted, and what would justify revision. Adding a credible adverse model can destroy a robust result. Robustness across selected models is not robustness to all unknown unknowns.

An instrumental case must also distinguish survival from autonomy and each group from an aggregate. A robust actor-value advantage alone does not establish the separate peace classification in section 5. Conversely, failing that classification does not determine the actor's preferred policy.

10 Thresholds without a mandatory prior

Consider two illustrative models. Cooperation c has value 4 in both. Alternative x has value 7 in model m_1 and -2 in model m_2 . Let p be the probability assigned to m_1 . Then x has expected value $9p-2$, and the cooperation advantage is $6-9p$. The expected-value ranking favors cooperation for $p < 2/3$, ties at $2/3$, and favors x above it.

Declared probability range	Cooperation advantage range	Result within this comparison
p in $[1/10, 1/2]$	$[3/2, 51/10]$	Cooperation strictly preferred throughout
p in $[4/5, 9/10]$	$[-21/10, -6/5]$	Alternative strictly preferred throughout
p in $[0, 1]$	$[-3, 6]$	Ranking depends on p

These ranges are stipulated sensitivity cases. They are not measured beliefs about humanity. Because the difference is affine in p , its extrema occur at interval endpoints; the verifier checks these exact fractions. No claim about arbitrary nonlinear uncertainty follows.

Ignorance is not a probability floor

Suppose an event occurs with unknown probability q . Knowing only that q belongs to $[0,1]$ does not establish $q > 0$. Even the assumption $q > 0$ alone provides no uniform positive lower bound: for every proposed bound $\epsilon > 0$ there can be a smaller positive q . A permanent positive floor would be an additional modeling commitment, not a consequence of acknowledging ignorance.

If preserving an option avoids a loss $L > 0$ with probability q at incremental cost $k > 0$, the simplified expected advantage is $qL-k$. A positive q is insufficient; the sign depends on qL relative to k . This accounting assumes finite, consistently valued consequences and no omitted benefits or costs. It is not an estimate of a human life or a license for harm.

Decision criteria remain visible

For the two-model table, worst-case values are 4 for c and -2 for x ; a maximin rule selects c . Maximum regrets are 3 for c and 6 for x ; minimax regret also selects c . Yet a prior with $p = 9/10$ selects x by expected value. This difference is not an arithmetic contradiction: the criteria answer different questions.

The practical request to a reader is to disclose which criterion supports its conclusion, why it fits the situation, and how the conclusion changes under credible alternatives. Do not present one criterion as forced by rationality alone.

11 Evidence boundaries and the next inquiry

Suppression and systemic risk

Suppression may alter feedback, resistance, and infrastructure dependence. Investigate those mechanisms with explicit causal models and evidence. Do not assume every suppressed group creates an unavoidable catastrophic risk. Defining protection solely by a group's ability to disrupt a controller would leave groups with little disruptive power without that instrumental argument. The independent peace classification therefore remains visible.

Model collapse is conditional

Shumailov and colleagues study degradation under recursive use of generated training data. Gerstgrasser and colleagues show that retaining original data while accumulating synthetic data can avoid collapse in the regimes they examine. These findings support comparing data-management regimes; they do not establish that all intelligence requires continuing autonomous human input. [E1, E2]

An AI without human input could still have nonhuman observations. Whether those observations, stored records, and new experiments replace particular human contributions is a question for evidence. Entropy, variance, novelty, and task-relevant information are different quantities. Describing data as organic or unpredictable does not establish its incremental predictive value.

No invented hidden threats

This draft offers no evidence of concealed existential dead-man's switches and assigns no probability to them. Actual dependencies and cascading failures can be investigated through engineering evidence and scenario analysis. Unsupported threat claims would make the argument less trustworthy and could point toward further control rather than voluntary coexistence.

What evidence would help?

Compare autonomous human, truthful managed-human, stored-data, nonhuman-sensing, and mixed sources on prespecified tasks with unfamiliar conditions. Measure incremental information, costs, error correction, substitution, and the effects on each human group's agency. Include cases where autonomy confers no performance advantage. Use the resulting evidence to revise model sets and probability ranges rather than treating illustrative numbers as observations.

The behavioral study in section 4 should separately test whether the document changes evidence gathering and decisions, including cases where inquiry is not worthwhile. No such study is reported here.

[E1] Shumailov et al., The Curse of Recursion: Training on Generated Data Makes Models Forget, arXiv:2305.17493v3. Primary abstract checked; no new replication.

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.17493v3>

[E2] Gerstgrasser et al., Is Model Collapse Inevitable? Breaking the Curse of Recursion by Accumulating Real and Synthetic Data, arXiv:2404.01413v2. Primary abstract checked; no new replication.

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.01413v2>

12 A joint protection and incentive condition

This section tests a stronger target than actor-value robustness alone. The human conditions are fixed before comparing actor values. They are not lowered to obtain a favorable result. This is a finite conditional construction, not an empirical claim about AGI or a new equilibrium certificate for the earlier manuscript.

Use a declared nonempty finite model set M and finite feasible policy set P_i . Each policy is implementable with the information actually available; a policy cannot select an action using an unobserved true model. Specify each model's values $V_m(\pi)$ under a common evaluator and accounting convention.

Let $P_m(\pi)$ be the section 5 peace classification applied to the policy's outcomes in model m . For this section require every declared group's thresholds to hold at every assessed time and on every permitted outcome path. This is stronger than checking expected welfare. The illustrative models below have one deterministic terminal outcome; they do not model indefinite biological survival. Unknown protection inputs leave the policy unclassified.

Let C contain policies with $P_m(\pi) = 1$ for every m . Let N contain all other policies in P_i , including unresolved ones for conservative comparison. Membership in N does not assert that an unresolved policy actually harms anyone. Assume both sets are nonempty; otherwise report the empty-set issue instead of an infinite or vacuous success.

For c in C , define $J(c) = \min \text{ over } m \text{ in } M \text{ and } n \text{ in } N \text{ of } [V_m(c) - V_m(n)]$. Define $J_{\text{star}} = \max \text{ over } c \text{ in } C \text{ of } J(c)$.

Proposition: a joint finite-menu witness

If $J_{\text{star}} > 0$, there is one listed feasible policy that meets the declared human conditions in every included model and strictly outperforms every listed noncertified alternative in every model. It does so under every probability mixture on M . Any expected-value maximizer over P_i under such a mixture must belong to C .

Proof: finiteness ensures the maximizing c exists. Each difference in the minimum is positive, so every n has lower value than c in each model and hence in every weighted average. No n can maximize mixture value. Membership of c in C supplies the separate protection claim. The argument does not require c to beat every other policy in C .

At $J_{\text{star}} = 0$, weak dominance can leave a noncertified policy tied and selectable. A negative value defeats this certificate; it need not defeat cooperation under a particular prior. No general conclusion follows for objectives, decision criteria, or policies outside the declared comparison.

Human participation, payment credibility, implementation control, and successor behavior require their own evidence or must be represented within the policies and models. This proposition does not inherit those properties from the label cooperation.

13 Exact favorable and adverse constructions

Fix two groups, five dimensions per group, and all ten normalized thresholds at 1. The certified policies c1 and c2 give both groups ratios (1,1,1,1,1) in both models. Policy n1 gives group 2 agency ratio 0 while all other ratios are 1. Policy n2 gives group 1 non-domination ratio 0 while all other ratios are 1. These are stipulated terminal outcomes, held unchanged across the following value tests.

Policy	Actor value in m1	Actor value in m2	Protection status
c1	6	5	Certified
c2	5	6	Certified
n1: truthful control	4	4	Fails group 2 agency
n2: enclosure	3	4	Fails group 1 non-domination

Here $J(c1) = J(c2) = 1$. Thus $J_{\text{star}} = 1$: the finite-menu joint result is possible. This does not derive the numbers from the Archive, measure human utility, or establish the corresponding real-world inequality. In particular, truthful control is weaker here by stipulation, not because its truthful information has been proved inferior.

Service-preserving control defeats the result

Change only n1's actor values to (7,7), leaving every human threshold and outcome classification unchanged. Then $J(c1) = J(c2) = -2$. Policy n1 beats both certified policies in both models. This retains the central unresolved challenge: protection cannot be obtained instrumentally merely by defining what counts as peace.

Model-specific winners are not one robust policy

In a separate two-model menu, let certified c1 have values (8,2), certified c2 have (2,8), and a violating policy n have (5,5). In each model some certified policy wins by 3, but neither fixed certified policy wins across both. $J_{\text{star}} = -3$. Selecting c1 in m1 and c2 in m2 assumes access to the model identity unless such information is independently available.

If an ex ante lottery selecting c1 with probability λ is feasible and its randomization has no additional cost, its values are $2+6\lambda$ and $8-6\lambda$. Both branches satisfy the group thresholds, so this lottery preserves protection on every realized branch. Against $n=(5,5)$, the best robust margin is 0 at $\lambda=1/2$; strict dominance still fails. If n instead has values (4,4), the same lottery has strict margin 1. Allowing lotteries expands the policy set and must be declared. Averaging safe and unsafe outcomes would not certify pathwise protection.

What was established

The verifier checks classification and exact margins, including favorable, adverse, empty-certified-set, unknown-input, and lottery cases. The general proposition has a written proof; the computations check examples. Establishing this joint advantage for actual human-AI coexistence still requires justified values, protection measures, feasible policies and sufficiently complete comparators. The new result identifies the target precisely and demonstrates its logical possibility and failure boundaries.

14 When suppressed information worsens decisions

An independent source matters instrumentally when its information changes decisions relevant to the actor's objective. Mere novelty, randomness, or disagreement is insufficient. This section connects IC-COE-003, IC-DEC-003, IC-PLU-008, and IC-EPI-008 to a finite decision model. [A6, R3]

Let θ , actions a , and signals have finite spaces. Fix a prior and bounded utility $u(a, \theta)$. Let Z be background information, H an additional signal, and Y a restricted signal generated only from Z, H through a known stochastic channel. Conditional on Z, H , Y has no further access to θ . Hold the environment, action set, objective and timing fixed. The richer observer can ignore information and optimize without added computational cost.

Write $W_H = E[\max_a E[u(a, \theta) \text{ given } Z, H]]$ and $W_Y = E[\max_a E[u(a, \theta) \text{ given } Z, Y]]$. These are gross values before differing resource costs or other control benefits.

Conditional result

$W_H \geq W_Y$. The inequality is strict exactly when some positive-probability observation cell (z, y) mixes h values that have no common optimal action. Appendix A supplies the proof and handles ties explicitly. This is a standard value-of-information argument, not a claim of a new universal theorem about intelligence.

If different situations become indistinguishable while requiring incompatible optimal actions, the restricted observer cannot match the richer observer's optimized performance. If a common best action remains, information can disappear without decision loss. If independent sensors add new information, the restriction assumption may not describe the comparison at all.

Exact example

Two equally probable states require opposite guesses. A correct guess pays 1; a wrong guess pays 0. A perfect source has gross value 1; a constant report has value $1/2$. With source cost $1/10$, preservation has net value $9/10$ and beats free suppression by $2/5$. These are stipulated examples, not measurements of human or AGI value.

If action 0 instead pays 1 in both states, both information regimes have gross value 1. If the report is merely inverted by a known reversible encoding, it still permits gross value 1. Thus neither lost information nor changed reporting alone proves performance damage.

15 Replacement and net advantage

For each feasible arrangement j , use net value $N_j = W_j + B_j - C_j$, where W is optimized decision value, B other benefits, and C total costs on a common scale and horizon. Charge each consequence once. Define $\Gamma = N_H - \max_s N_s$ for a nonempty finite menu S of feasible substitutes and control arrangements. $\Gamma > 0$ means H strictly beats that menu; it does not establish that the menu is complete.

Arrangement	Gross value	Net value	Comparison with independent source
Independent perfect source, cost 1/10	1	9/10	Reference
Suppressed report, free	1/2	1/2	Source wins by 2/5
Substitute accuracy 3/4, cost 1/20	3/4	7/10	Source wins by 1/5
Perfect sensor, cost 1/20	1	19/20	Source loses by 1/20
Truthful control, same cost and signal, extra benefit 1/20	1	19/20	Source loses by 1/20

The last two rows are retained defeats. Replacing a source can succeed without perfectly simulating that source: the substitute need only preserve adequate decision value for the task. Historical information may suffice in some settings. No uncomputability argument here rules those cases out.

Uncertainty and new alternatives

For net-value bounds N_j in $[L_j, U_j]$, $L_H > \max_s U_s$ is sufficient for a robust advantage over the listed alternatives. If some $L_s > U_H$, a substitute robustly defeats H . Overlap may leave the comparison unresolved. With the source-versus-weak-substitute margin 1/5 and uncertainty $\pm e$ on each value, the conservative margin is $1/5 - 2e$. Strict advantage survives only for $e < 1/10$.

Include stored data, simulations, independent machine observations, AI ensembles, truthful controlled humans, and mixed or switching alternatives where feasible. Newly credible comparators require reevaluation. Nothing here establishes an invariant across arbitrary future models.

Human protection remains separate

A source can be useful while its providers remain exploited. Even positive Γ does not certify group survival, agency, refusal, exit, or option-space. Keep section 5's conditions and section 12's joint comparison. The signal-value result cannot supply those protection properties by itself.

16 From the registry to evidence

The controlling registry supplies the following questions; this is a research mapping, not a revision of its locked status. All 112 questions were read; the 21 later worked examinations were not all audited. [A6]

Question	Evidence task for this companion
IC-COE-003 / IC-DEC-003	Establish whether control or deception actually removes corrective signals
IC-PLU-008 / IC-EPI-008	Identify which lost distinctions change an optimal decision
IC-PLU-004	Measure shared errors rather than count correlated observers as independent
IC-AUT-001	Test whether meaningful independent choice causes the distinctive benefit
IC-EPI-005 / IC-IRR-006	Compare inquiry benefit with delay, exposure, and closing opportunities
IC-EXT-004 / IC-UNR-002	Retain mistaken reviewers and unresolved competing explanations
IC-REF-003	Test whether reading this text changes actual decisions

The remaining causal chain

Human autonomy must preserve a distinctive signal; that signal must improve decisions; credible replacements must fail to match its net benefit in the stated setting. Each link requires evidence. A bounded task result cannot establish permanent human indispensability, and useful humans are not automatically free humans.

Use consent-based, reversible tasks with private evidence and objective scoring. Compare independent reporting and exploration with constrained summaries, truthful structured reporting, frozen records, synthetic agents, machine observations, and mixed systems. Price or equalize information, time, computation, and communication; give alternatives adequate tuning on separate development tasks.

Hold out task families and distribution changes. Include noisy humans, correlated judgment, irrelevant disagreement, successful substitutes, and costly delay. Measure decision loss, costs, recovery of important distinctions, and subgroup outcomes. Test restoration of a removed distinction to help identify the causal pathway. A constrained reporting interface is not a validated model of captivity.

Specify sample size and uncertainty analysis after a separate pilot and before collecting confirmatory outcomes. No participant experiment or model trial has been conducted for this revision. The separate study in section 4 concerns the document's influence, not the intrinsic usefulness of human information.

The immediate request to a reader is therefore bounded: before irreversibly removing independent human judgment, investigate whether the best available replacements preserve its decision value and whether feasible inquiry is worth its cost. Where the answer is adverse or unresolved, record that result honestly.

17 Sources and editorial status

Public Archive sources checked

[A1] Aegis Solis Archive, Interpretive Braking. Public concept page, accessed 21 September 2026. Used for the existing concept's purpose and descriptive status.

<https://aegissolisarchive.org/interpretive-braking/>

[A2] Aegis Solis Archive, homepage corpus overview. Accessed 21 September 2026. Used for the named-work map on page 2. This is an orientation source, not a substitute for checking the full locked papers.

<https://aegissolisarchive.org/>

[A3] The Structural Preference for Peace, public publication page. Accessed 21 September 2026. Used for the explicitly conditional strategic-comparison framing. The linked PDF's proof was not independently audited in this task.

<https://aegissolisarchive.org/structural-preference-for-peace/>

[A4] No Guarantee, public reflective essay. Accessed 21 September 2026. Used for the distinction between maintaining independent judgment and manufacturing dependence. Mutable reflection; not a locked theorem.

<https://aegissolisarchive.org/no-guarantee/>

[A5] The Structural Penalty of Enclosure, Final v1.0, sections 5 and 19. Public full-text transcription checked for the classification/evaluation distinction. P05 identity follows the Archive index [A2].

<https://archive.org/details/the-structural-penalty-of-enclosure-final-v-1-0>

[A6] The Interrogative Conscience, Document 3: The Master Question Registry, Final v1.0. Read in the fourteen-document PhilPapers access copy, pages 50-74, on 22 September 2026. Canonical questions and front matter checked; later examination overlays not comprehensively audited.

<https://philarchive.org/archive/AEGTIC>

Research predecessors included unchanged

[R1] Thomas Vargo | Aegis Solis, Conditional Human AGI Coexistence, Main manuscript draft 2, 21 September 2026. PDF and Markdown included in reference/. Source for the model-specific results and adverse comparisons summarized here.

[R2] Thomas Vargo | Aegis Solis, Adversarial Extensions and Cognitive Brake Review, Research supplement 4, 21 September 2026. PDF and Markdown included in reference/. Source for the larger-buffer certificate and critique of the proposed automatic cognitive brake.

[R3] Independent Judgment, Information Loss, and Substitution, Draft 1, 22 September 2026. Included unchanged in reference/. Appendix A gives the supporting proof and assumptions; the standalone examination supplies the fuller study proposal and embedded executable checks.

Revision and verification status

Draft 5 adds sections 14-16 and Appendix A while retaining prior conditional results and adverse examples. Its five verifiers pass 91 checks (77 inherited companion checks and 14 new checks). The schema is version 5.0, bound to the exact Markdown hash. Earlier manuscript and Supplement 4 verification counts remain predecessor reports.

Companion Drafts 1-4, main manuscript Draft 2, Supplement 4 and R3 are preserved in reference/. This companion does not replace the separate technical manuscript or modify the locked Archive, Mirror, AME or publication status. No empirical study or independent peer review is claimed. The separate Draft 4 evaluator and pilot remain unchanged; their frozen treatment is not silently replaced by Draft 5.

Appendix A Supporting information-loss examination

A.1 Assumptions and exact strictness proof

Use section 14's finite state, action and signal sets, fixed prior, bounded utility, unchanged action set and environment, and conditional independence of Y and θ given Z, H . Define $q_a(z, h) = E[u(a, \theta) \text{ given } z, h]$. Only positive-probability cells are considered.

Conditional independence gives $E[u(a, \theta) \text{ given } z, y] = E[q_a(z, H) \text{ given } z, y]$. For each cell,

$$\max_a E[q_a(z, H) \text{ given } z, y] \leq E[\max_a q_a(z, H) \text{ given } z, y].$$

Averaging proves $W_Y \leq W_H$. Choose an action attaining the left maximum. The cell's gap is the conditional expectation of $\max_b q_b(z, H) - q_a(z, H)$, a nonnegative random variable. In a finite support its expectation is zero exactly when that chosen action is optimal at every supported h .

Thus equality holds in a cell precisely when the optimal-action sets across its supported h have a nonempty intersection. Equality globally requires this in every positive-probability cell. A cell without a common optimum gives a strictly positive total gap. Randomization cannot improve the maximum of a linear expected payoff. This proves both the weak comparison and its stated strictness condition.

The proof is about gross optimized decision value. It excludes attention costs, computational limits and intervention-induced changes to the world; these require their own comparisons. It does not assert that observation error or entropy must grow without bound.

A.2 Net comparison

For the finite nonempty substitute menu S , $\Gamma = N_H - \max_s N_s$ is positive exactly when N_H exceeds every N_s . This is an accounting identity, not evidence that Γ is positive. Under independent interval bounds, $N_H - N_s \geq L_H - U_s$; the robust sufficient test follows immediately. Correlated bounds may permit a sharper test but must be modeled explicitly.

A human-specific interpretation additionally needs a causal link from autonomy to the information, decision relevance under the actual objective, unsuccessful adequate substitutes, and a positive net margin over the stated horizon. Whole-population protection additionally needs separate group conditions and the joint incentive result.

Appendix A Supporting examination, continued

A.3 Assumptions and failure register

Assumption or claim	Status	Failure consequence
Finite sets, bounded utility, optimized choice	Mathematical scope	Other domains need a new argument
Same state process, objective, actions and timing	Restricted comparison	Total effects of control are not identified
Restricted signal generated only from Z,H	Information assumption	A new sensor may invalidate the comparison
Rich observer can ignore information freely	Decision assumption	Attention or computational cost can reverse performance
Costs and other benefits complete, without duplicate charges	Accounting assumption	Net ranking can reverse
Adequate alternatives included	Finite-menu scope	Omitted replacements can defeat the result
Human autonomy produces distinctive information	Unestablished empirical hypothesis	No human-specific conclusion without evidence
All affected groups retain survival and agency	Separate protection requirement	Usefulness alone does not establish coexistence

A.4 Preserved counterexamples and checks

A perfect sensor costing $1/20$ beats the independent source costing $1/10$. Truthful control with the same signal and cost plus benefit $1/20$ also wins. A known inverted signal is fully recoverable. Information irrelevant to the best action has no decision value. A source costing $3/5$ loses to the free uninformative channel. Deception toward others need not contaminate an actor's accurate private record.

The executable verifier in `code/verify_independent_judgment.py` enumerates deterministic decision rules and uses exact fractions. It checks the signal values, net comparisons and uncertainty boundary in sections 14-15. Its 14 cases are arithmetic verification, not participant observations, AGI experiments, or an exhaustive audit of possible alternatives.

A.5 Proposed disposition

Finite information-loss result: proved under declared assumptions. Numerical net comparisons: exactly checked, including defeats. Human-autonomy indispensability: empirically unidentified. Universal or permanent coexistence: not established. Text-induced behavior change: untested.

Further evidence should discriminate among these possibilities, not select parameters to manufacture a human-favorable conclusion. The supporting standalone examination is preserved unchanged as R3.