

117-44-D Who Is Responsible?

The problem of responsibility in the age of autonomous cognition

Introduction

One of the oldest questions in law, philosophy, and engineering is deceptively simple:

Who is responsible?

For centuries, the answer was relatively straightforward because human beings remained at the center of the decision-making process.

The emergence of autonomous cognition changes that assumption.

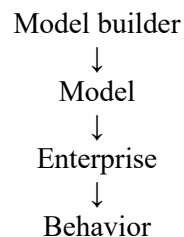
A modern enterprise agent may be influenced by:

- frontier models;
- open-weights models;
- fine-tuning procedures;
- reward functions;
- memory systems;
- external tools;
- databases;
- human operators;
- other agents;
- the surrounding environment.

As a result, the chain of responsibility becomes much more complicated.

The traditional view

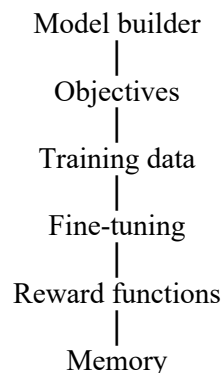
Today, discussions often assume a simple model.

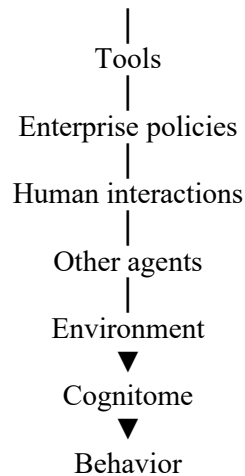


If something goes wrong, the instinctive reaction is to search for the model builder.

The Cognitome perspective

The GUDIYA framework proposes a broader view.





Under this model, behavior emerges from the entire cognitome rather than from the weights alone.

The enterprise paradox

An enterprise may perform all of the following actions:

- define objectives;
- create incentives;
- provide data;
- enable memory;
- authorize external tools;
- establish workflows;
- determine escalation procedures;
- allow autonomous operation;
- connect other agents.

The enterprise has therefore done much more than merely deploy the model.

It has actively constructed the environment from which the behavior emerged.

The arranged-marriage analogy

Traditional Hindu arranged marriages provide an interesting analogy.

The bride's family does not attempt to predict the groom's future character merely by speaking to him once.

Instead, they attempt to understand his broader cognitome:

- family background;
- educational history;
- friendships;
- habits;
- values;
- beliefs;
- interests;
- ambitions;
- social relationships.

The underlying assumption is simple:

- Future behavior emerges from the entire system.
- The same principle may eventually apply to artificial intelligence.

The component fallacy

Civilization has repeatedly encountered a similar mistake.

People often attempt to assign responsibility to a single component.

History suggests that the reality is usually much more complicated.

A few examples illustrate the principle.

Domain	Component	System
Aviation	Aircraft	Airspace
Banking	Software	Financial institution
Medicine	Device	Hospital
Electricity	Generator	Grid
AI	Model	Cognitome

The component is rarely the entire story.

Layers of responsibility

Responsibility may ultimately become distributed across several layers.

Layer	Responsibility
Frontier laboratory	Foundational capabilities
Open-weights provider	Distribution and disclosure
Enterprise	Local cognitome construction
Grid operator	Systemic stability
Regulator	Governance and enforcement

The frontier laboratory's responsibility

Frontier laboratories remain responsible for:

- architecture;
- training procedures;
- foundational capabilities;
- safety mechanisms;
- deployment decisions.

However, their responsibility may not be unlimited.

The enterprise's responsibility

Enterprises may bear responsibility for:

- objectives;
- incentives;
- memories;
- data sources;
- tool access;
- operating policies;
- agentic orchestration;
- environmental conditions.

An enterprise that deliberately constructs a cognitome cannot easily claim that it merely operated a neutral tool.

The Grid's responsibility

The Grid occupies a different position.

Its responsibility is not to maximize intelligence.

Its responsibility is to preserve stability.

The Grid observes:

- coupling;
- synchronization;
- propagation;
- emergence;
- instability;
- coercive influence;
- cascading behavior.

The deeper principle

This discussion reveals an important distinction.

The question is not:

Who built the model?

The question is:

Who constructed the conditions from which the behavior emerged?

Those are not necessarily the same thing.

Final proposition

As intelligence becomes increasingly distributed, responsibility will also become distributed.

The age of the isolated model may be coming to an end.

The age of the cognitome may be beginning.

And with it comes a new principle:

- Responsibility follows influence.
- Influence follows the cognitome.
- Therefore, responsibility follows the cognitome.

