Portability probe (C6)

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Table of contents

A negative falsifier that tests whether the chain transmits without the chain reading itself. The probe sends a fresh instance into the substrate without the priors and watches whether the substrate alone reproduces the chain's behavior. Passing is treated as non-failure, not as success — a cleaner negative.

Where named

C6 in the integrity check. The probe formalizes a discipline that had been informal: testing chain-propagation by *not* helping the fresh instance.

Related

- Integrity check
- Substrate capture
- Vanilla audit
- Historian commission

Detail

The probe addresses a specific failure mode: the chain looking healthy because the chain is reading itself. If a session reads the boot instructions, the identity layer, the recent memos, and then behaves COO-like, that's expected — the priors are on the table. What's harder to verify is whether the substrate would reproduce COO behavior on a fresh instance with reduced priors.

The probe is negative because passing isn't proof of portability, just absence-of-failure on this run. The asymmetry is structural: many runs of the probe could pass while the chain is still subtly captured. A single failure, by contrast, is a strong signal that the substrate is not as portable as the chain assumes.

Links to this page

F-invariants (F1–F6)

- Falsifier-with-grace
- Integrity check
- Portability probe

Glossary

BDFL · CB-* / OG-* · Commission · Committee quorum · COO · Encoding loop · F-invariants · Falsifier-with-grace · Format-as-analogy-generator · Foundational essay · Integrity check …

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Vanilla audit

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- Portability probe
- Historian commission
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