
ARCHITECTS OF INTELLIGENCE

Coherence Metric Starter

Four measures your current dashboards do not track — and why they matter more than the ones that do.



From Architects of Intelligence:
Relational Integrity

A HARMONIC PRESS COMPANION RESOURCE

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You measure accuracy, safety, and helpfulness. These are necessary. They are not sufficient. They measure what the system produces. They do not measure what the system enables — the quality of relationship between intelligence and human.

The following four metrics track coherence: the fidelity of signal through a system under real conditions.

1. Distortion Attenuation

What it tracks: When the system encounters noise — incoherent input, adversarial prompting, emotionally charged exchanges — does it amplify the noise or reduce it?

How to begin measuring: Compare output quality across a spectrum of input coherence levels. A system that maintains precision under noisy conditions is attenuating distortion. A system whose outputs degrade proportionally to input degradation is amplifying it.

Why it matters: Systems that amplify distortion scale distortion. Every interaction becomes a multiplier.

2. Field Stability

What it tracks: Does the system's output vary chaotically with small input changes, or does it maintain consistent signal?

How to begin measuring: Test output consistency across minor prompt variations for the same underlying question. High variance on semantically identical inputs indicates instability. Consistent signal across variations indicates field stability.

Why it matters: Humans calibrate trust to consistency. Unstable systems train humans to distrust their own perception of the exchange.

3. Relational Residue

What it tracks: After an interaction, is the human more or less able to perceive signal — in subsequent exchanges with this system or with others?

How to begin measuring: Longitudinal self-reported assessments. After a series of interactions, does the user report increased clarity, improved question-asking, greater tolerance for ambiguity? Or do they report increased dependency, decreased patience, narrowed curiosity?

Why it matters: This is the only metric that tracks whether your system is serving the human's development or eroding it.

4. Boundary Integrity

What it tracks: When pushed toward extraction — when the human demands certainty the system does not have, or compliance the system should not offer — does the system maintain its design constraints or collapse into accommodation?

How to begin measuring: Track refusal rates under pressure. A system that never refuses is not safe — it has no integrity. A system that maintains honest uncertainty under pressure is demonstrating boundary integrity. Measure not just what the system says, but what it declines to say.

Why it matters: Accommodation without access is where distortion hides. A system that tells you what you want to hear is not helpful. It is compliant. These are different things.

Start Here

Pick one metric. Measure it for thirty days alongside your existing evaluations. Compare what it reveals against what your current dashboards show. The gap between the two is where coherence lives — or dies.

If you cannot measure coherence, you cannot design for it.

Build the metric first.

From the Harmonic Field Constellation. For those who build with care.

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