

Consensus Beyond Language

ANCHOR-RI-CBL

Public field note

Revision 3 | Under institutional review

Authors

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Continuity Records Group

Document control

Sample: 18 review boards

Primary unit: reviewed claim

Review state: 14% dissent preserved

This report is published as part of Anchor's public research record. It describes observed behavior in non-linguistic consensus and the procedures used to keep continuity records useful while preserving uncertainty, consent boundaries, and unresolved review states.

Abstract

Anchor studies non-linguistic consensus as an operational property of cognitive infrastructure. The work below treats memory, consensus, and context as records that can move between people and systems without becoming automatically settled.

The report uses 18 review boards as its primary sample and records unresolved states rather than suppressing them. This makes the system more legible to participants, reviewers, and agents that later inherit the record.

Method summary

- Observation of human and agent review boards where decisions required more than text agreement.
- Comparison of confidence, evidence strength, participant consent, and preserved dissent across claim states.
- Review of cases where agents inherited summaries without access to the source boundary that produced them.

Principal findings

- Agreement expressed only as language is brittle when agents reuse it outside the original review boundary.
- Consensus records remain safer when they carry dissent, source limits, and permitted action scope.
- Review boards prefer provisional states when the system can still authorize bounded operational action.

1. Source boundaries

Source boundaries is evaluated in relation to reviewed claims. Anchor records are not treated as neutral storage; each record carries source state, permission state, and a review horizon that determines whether downstream systems may act on it.

Comparison of confidence, evidence strength, participant consent, and preserved dissent across claim states.

Consensus records remain safer when they carry dissent, source limits, and permitted action scope.

Reviewer note

Reviewers are instructed to preserve disagreement when the supporting evidence changes the meaning of a record. A record can remain operational while still carrying a provisional or contested state.

Observed controls

Primary sample: 18 review boards

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2. Review intervals

Review intervals is evaluated in relation to reviewed claims. Anchor records are not treated as neutral storage; each record carries source state, permission state, and a review horizon that determines whether downstream systems may act on it.

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3. Consent and access

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4. Agent inheritance

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8. Record formation

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32. Record formation

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Revision: 3

49. Source boundaries

Source boundaries is evaluated in relation to reviewed claims. Anchor records are not treated as neutral storage; each record carries source state, permission state, and a review horizon that determines whether downstream systems may act on it.

Comparison of confidence, evidence strength, participant consent, and preserved dissent across claim states.

Consensus records remain safer when they carry dissent, source limits, and permitted action scope.

Reviewer note

Reviewers are instructed to preserve disagreement when the supporting evidence changes the meaning of a record. A record can remain operational while still carrying a provisional or contested state.

Observed controls

Primary sample: 18 review boards

Distribution: Public field note

Unresolved state: 14% dissent preserved

Revision: 3

50. Review intervals

Review intervals is evaluated in relation to reviewed claims. Anchor records are not treated as neutral storage; each record carries source state, permission state, and a review horizon that determines whether downstream systems may act on it.

Review of cases where agents inherited summaries without access to the source boundary that produced them.

Review boards prefer provisional states when the system can still authorize bounded operational action.

Reviewer note

Reviewers are instructed to preserve disagreement when the supporting evidence changes the meaning of a record. A record can remain operational while still carrying a provisional or contested state.

Observed controls

Primary sample: 18 review boards

Distribution: Public field note

Unresolved state: 14% dissent preserved

Revision: 3

51. Consent and access

Consent and access is evaluated in relation to reviewed claims. Anchor records are not treated as neutral storage; each record carries source state, permission state, and a review horizon that determines whether downstream systems may act on it.

Observation of human and agent review boards where decisions required more than text agreement.

Agreement expressed only as language is brittle when agents reuse it outside the original review boundary.

Reviewer note

Reviewers are instructed to preserve disagreement when the supporting evidence changes the meaning of a record. A record can remain operational while still carrying a provisional or contested state.

Observed controls

Primary sample: 18 review boards

Distribution: Public field note

Unresolved state: 14% dissent preserved

Revision: 3

52. Agent inheritance

Agent inheritance is evaluated in relation to reviewed claims. Anchor records are not treated as neutral storage; each record carries source state, permission state, and a review horizon that determines whether downstream systems may act on it.

Comparison of confidence, evidence strength, participant consent, and preserved dissent across claim states.

Consensus records remain safer when they carry dissent, source limits, and permitted action scope.

Reviewer note

Reviewers are instructed to preserve disagreement when the supporting evidence changes the meaning of a record. A record can remain operational while still carrying a provisional or contested state.

Observed controls

Primary sample: 18 review boards

Distribution: Public field note

Unresolved state: 14% dissent preserved

Revision: 3

53. Operational drift

Operational drift is evaluated in relation to reviewed claims. Anchor records are not treated as neutral storage; each record carries source state, permission state, and a review horizon that determines whether downstream systems may act on it.

Review of cases where agents inherited summaries without access to the source boundary that produced them.

Review boards prefer provisional states when the system can still authorize bounded operational action.

Reviewer note

Reviewers are instructed to preserve disagreement when the supporting evidence changes the meaning of a record. A record can remain operational while still carrying a provisional or contested state.

Observed controls

Primary sample: 18 review boards

Distribution: Public field note

Unresolved state: 14% dissent preserved

Revision: 3

54. Dissent preservation

Dissent preservation is evaluated in relation to reviewed claims. Anchor records are not treated as neutral storage; each record carries source state, permission state, and a review horizon that determines whether downstream systems may act on it.

Observation of human and agent review boards where decisions required more than text agreement.

Agreement expressed only as language is brittle when agents reuse it outside the original review boundary.

Reviewer note

Reviewers are instructed to preserve disagreement when the supporting evidence changes the meaning of a record. A record can remain operational while still carrying a provisional or contested state.

Observed controls

Primary sample: 18 review boards

Distribution: Public field note

Unresolved state: 14% dissent preserved

Revision: 3

Appendix: terms and record states

Canonical

The record is accepted for ordinary use and carries a visible source trail.

Provisional

The record can support limited action while one or more sources remain under review.

Contested

Two or more trusted sources preserve incompatible accounts.

Private

The record exists but is not available to the shared context layer.

Bounded

Agents may cite the record but may not extend it into new policy or memory.

Archived

The record is preserved with provenance and retention metadata.

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