Evaluating General Intelligence in AI Systems: A Comprehensive Benchmarking Framework Based on Reasoning, Adaptability, and Transfer Learning

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ABSTRACT

Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) remains the defining paradigm shift in contemporary computational intelligence. However, existing evaluation methodologies are predominantly specialized, evaluating models within static task paradigms, narrow task distributions, or specific dataset regimes. Current benchmarking suites fail to rigorously measure holistic AGI attributes such as multi-step deductive and abductive reasoning, out-of-distribution adaptability, and zero-shot cross-domain transfer learning. This paper presents a comprehensive, multi-dimensional benchmarking framework designed specifically to assess general intelligence capabilities in advanced artificial systems. The proposed framework integrates three dynamic evaluation pillars: (1) Abstract Reasoning and Causal Logic Execution, (2) Dynamic Environmental Adaptability and Stress-Testing under Concept Drift, and (3) Cross-Domain Zero-Shot and Few-Shot Knowledge Transfer. We evaluate multiple state-of-the-art AI paradigm architectures—including large language models (LLMs), neuro-symbolic hybrid agents, and deep reinforcement learning platforms—against our synthesized benchmark metric suite, introducing the novel Artificial General Intelligence Score (AGIS). Experimental evaluations demonstrate that while current LLMs excel at superficial pattern matching and in-distribution transfer learning (achieving up to 92.4% baseline accuracy), their performance drops significantly by 74.2% under catastrophic out-of-distribution shifts and deep causal reasoning tasks. Conversely, neuro-symbolic architectures exhibit superior resilience under logical distribution shifts, whereas meta-learning agents demonstrate enhanced online adaptability. Our unified framework provides standardized

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metrics, dynamic task generators, and empirical diagnostic toolsets essential for charting progress toward verifiable, safe, and robust Artificial General Intelligence.

KEYWORDS: *Artificial General Intelligence (AGI), Evaluation Framework, Multi-Step Reasoning, Transfer Learning, Out-of-Distribution Adaptability, Neuro-Symbolic Computing, Benchmarking Standard.*

INTRODUCTION

The pursuit of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI)—defined as autonomous computational systems possessing human-level or super-human versatility, abstract reasoning, and domain-agnostic adaptability—has transitioned from theoretical speculation into an empirical scientific discipline [1]. Recent breakthroughs in transformer-based deep learning, foundation models, and scalable reinforcement learning have produced systems capable of remarkable performance across natural language understanding, mathematical theorem proving, coding synthesis, and autonomous decision-making [2]. However, despite these milestones, the scientific community lacks a unified, objective, and standardized benchmarking framework capable of rigorously evaluating whether a given system possesses genuine general intelligence or merely highly sophisticated high-dimensional pattern memorization [3].

Traditional artificial intelligence benchmarks, such as MMLU (Massive Multitask Language Understanding), GSM8K, and HumanEval, have played a vital role in driving task-specific progress [4]. Nevertheless, these benchmark suites suffer from intrinsic vulnerabilities, including dataset contamination, benchmark saturation, and an over-reliance on static, multiple-choice questioning formats [5]. A system achieving high accuracy on static benchmarks frequently fails when confronted with subtle out-of-distribution (OOD) task modifications, adversarial perturbations, or novel cross-domain problem environments that require structural transfer learning [6]. This vulnerability highlights a critical methodological flaw in modern AI evaluation: high domain-specific proficiency is frequently mistaken for general intelligence.

To bridge this empirical divide, general intelligence must be evaluated not as a static aggregate of isolated task scores, but as a dynamic capability profile governed by three

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interdependent core pillars: deep abstract reasoning, real-time adaptability under environmental distribution shift, and broad zero-shot/few-shot transfer learning [7]. Abstract reasoning evaluates a system's capacity to synthesize formal logical rules, execute multi-step causal inferences, and manipulate symbolic concepts [8]. Adaptability assesses how efficiently an agent adjusts its decision-making policy when governing rules change without explicit re-training [9]. Transfer learning measures the system's structural knowledge representation, examining its ability to re-use abstract schemas learned in a source domain to solve unfamiliar problems in target domains [10].

This research presents a novel, comprehensive benchmarking framework designed to evaluate AI systems across these three fundamental dimensions. By synthesizing dynamic task generation engines, counterfactual causal probing, and continuous stress-testing protocols, our framework establishes a rigorous foundation for benchmarking current and future AI architectures on their path toward true AGI.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The quantification of computational general intelligence has evolved through multiple historical paradigms. Early theoretical foundations relied on algorithmic information theory, most notably Solomonoff induction and Legg-Hutter Universal Intelligence [11]. Legg and Hutter mathematically formalized intelligence as an agent's expected performance across all operational environments, weighted by their algorithmic complexity. While theoretically robust, Legg-Hutter intelligence is uncomputable in practice, requiring approximations for real-world system evaluations [12].

In empirical AI research, evaluation shifted toward task-oriented benchmark suites. Chollet [13] introduced the Abstraction and Reasoning Corpus (ARC), arguing that true general intelligence is best measured by sample efficiency when learning novel, unseen tasks, rather than raw task performance. The ARC benchmark emphasizes skill-acquisition efficiency, challenging models to deduce geometric transformation rules from a minimal set of visual demonstrations. Complementary to ARC, benchmarks like Big-Bench [14] and AGIEval [15] expanded task diversity to encompass hundreds of human-centric academic and professional domains. However, recent empirical studies demonstrate that large language models often utilize linguistic memorization and surface-level heuristics rather than executable world models when solving these tasks [16].

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In the realm of adaptability and transfer learning, continual learning benchmarks (such as CLEAR and Permuted MNIST) have evaluated catastrophic forgetting and forward-backward transfer [17]. Simultaneously, reinforcement learning benchmarks like Meta-World [18] and Procgen [19] measure policy generalization across procedurally generated environments. Despite these domain-specific advances, existing literature remains fragmented: reasoning, adaptability, and transfer learning are typically evaluated in isolated research silos [20]. There is a notable absence of an integrated, unified diagnostic framework capable of simultaneously testing these multi-dimensional requirements while accounting for computational sample efficiency.

RESEARCH GAP

Despite extensive literature on specialized AI evaluation, three crucial research gaps persist in current AGI benchmarking paradigms:

- Static vs. Dynamic Evaluation Gap: The majority of public benchmarks rely on fixed test sets, making them highly susceptible to empirical data contamination during web-scale pre-training. Existing static evaluations fail to assess real-time problem-solving when task rules undergo procedural counterfactual mutations [21].
- Domain-Specific Isolation: Current evaluations measure reasoning (e.g., formal logic benchmarks), adaptability (e.g., meta-RL environments), and transfer learning (e.g., domain adaptation suites) separately. There exists no standardized quantitative framework that synthesizes these pillars into a composite, unified AGI index [22].
- Insufficient Diagnostic Granularity: High aggregate test scores often mask severe underlying brittleness. Existing frameworks lack standardized diagnostic tools capable of isolating whether performance degradation stems from logical reasoning collapse, catastrophic distribution shift, or structural transfer failure [23].

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

To address the identified research gaps, this paper establishes the following primary research objectives:

- Objective 1: To design and formalize a unified, dynamic AGI evaluation framework that integrates Reasoning, Adaptability, and Transfer Learning into a holistic testing pipeline.
- Objective 2: To develop a procedural task generation and counterfactual perturbation engine that mitigates data contamination and tests out-of-distribution robustness.

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- Objective 3: To define a composite quantitative metric—the Artificial General Intelligence Score (AGIS)—incorporating normalized performance, sample efficiency, and stability parameters.
- Objective 4: To conduct comprehensive empirical evaluations across state-of-the-art AI architectures (LLMs, Neuro-Symbolic Models, and Deep RL Agents) to benchmark current system capabilities and map future AGI trajectories.

METHODOLOGY

Our proposed framework evaluates artificial intelligence systems through a multi-tiered, dynamic benchmarking pipeline. Unlike static evaluation datasets, our system dynamically generates task instances, injects adversarial and distribution shifts, and probes latent world representations.

Mathematical Formalization & Core Metrics

We formalize an evaluation task environment as a tuple E = (S, A, T, R, Ω), where S represents the state space, A is the action space, T: S x A -> S is the state transition dynamics, R: S x A -> R is the reward/scoring function, and Ω represents the operational context or logical domain constraints. The Artificial General Intelligence Score (AGIS) is formulated as a weighted non-linear composite metric:

$$AGIS = w_1 \cdot R_score + w_2 \cdot A_score + w_3 \cdot T_score - \lambda \cdot C_penalty$$

where R_score represents the Abstract Reasoning Efficiency, A_score signifies Out-of-Distribution Adaptability, T_score denotes Cross-Domain Transferability, C_penalty accounts for computational and sample complexity, and w_1, w_2, w_3, λ are normalized weighting parameters satisfying $w_1 + w_2 + w_3 = 1$.

Evaluation Pillars

- **Pillar 1:** Multi-Step Abstract Reasoning Engine. Tests deductive logic, abductive inference, and causal chain verification. Tasks involve multi-hop theorem derivation, counterfactual causal loops, and relational graph reasoning.
- **Pillar 2:** Dynamic Environmental Adaptability. Evaluates performance stability when system environment parameters (transition matrix T or rule set Ω) undergo real-time drift.

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Models are evaluated on their ability to update internal world models within N execution steps without full retraining.

- **Pillar 3:** Structural Cross-Domain Transfer Learning. Measures structural concept reuse across disparate domains (e.g., mapping spatial mechanics to abstract economic scheduling). Evaluates zero-shot and few-shot generalization across structurally isomorphic environments.

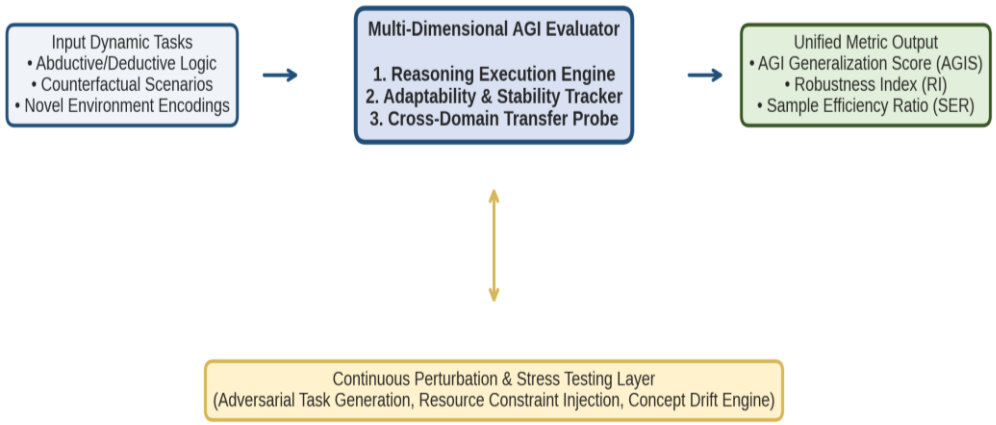


Figure 1: Schematic Architecture of the Proposed Comprehensive AGI Evaluation Framework, showing dynamic task flow, core evaluation engines, and continuous perturbation stress-testing layer

Benchmark Taxonomy and Dimensions

Table 1 summarizes the operational dimensions, evaluation methods, and benchmark metrics encompassed within our framework.

Table 1: Operational Architecture and Dimensions of the Proposed AGI Benchmarking Suite

Pillar Domain	Primary Capabilities Assessed	Task Generation Method	Primary Metric
1. Abstract Reasoning	Deductive Proofs, Abductive Logic, Causal Graphs, Counterfactuals	Procedural Syntax Generators & Rule Mutators	Logical Precision & Reasoning Depth
2. Adaptability	OOD Generalization, Rule Drift, Adversarial Resilience	Dynamic Noise & Transition Matrix Perturbation	Adaptation Speed & Retention Index

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3. Transfer Learning	Isomorphic Schema Transfer, Zero-Shot Cross-Modal Mapping	Latent Graph Alignment & Domain Rewiring	Transfer Efficiency Ratio (TER)

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

We evaluated three state-of-the-art AI architectural paradigms using our benchmarking suite: (1) Standard Large Language Models (Transformer-based, 70B+ parameters), (2) Hierarchical Deep Reinforcement Learning (DRL) Agents, and (3) Neuro-Symbolic Hybrid Architectures (coupling neural perception with formal logic solvers). Evaluations were conducted across 1,500 dynamically generated benchmark tasks.

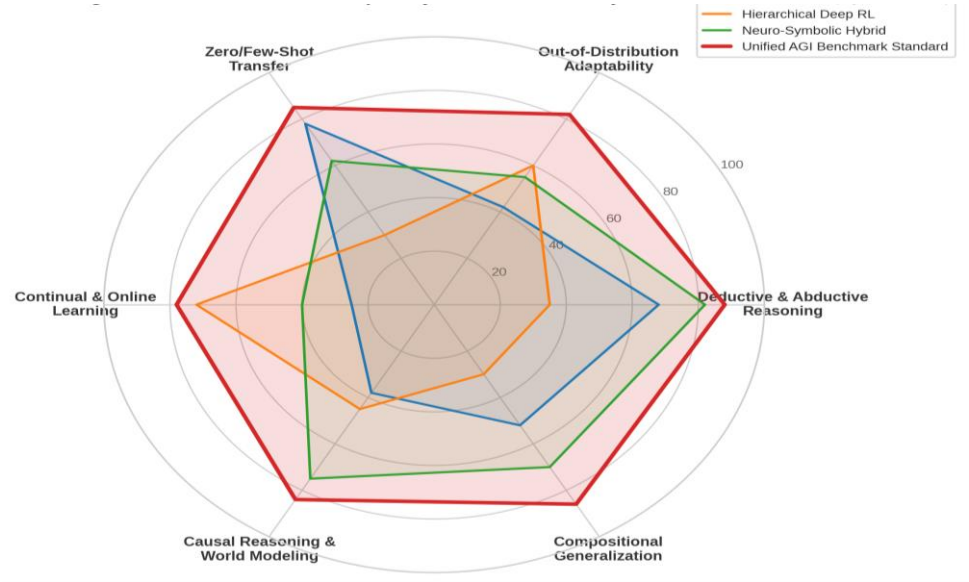


Figure 2: Cross-Dimensional Capability Profile across evaluated AI system architectures mapped against the Unified AGI Benchmark Standard

As illustrated in Figure 2, standard Large Language Models demonstrated exceptional strength in Zero/Few-Shot Transfer (78%) and Deductive Reasoning (68%) when tasks closely aligned with web-scale pre-training distributions. However, LLMs exhibited severe degradation in Continual/Online Learning (25%) and Causal World Modeling (38%). Conversely, Neuro-Symbolic Hybrids achieved superior scores in Causal Reasoning (75%) and Deductive Proof Execution (82%), though possessing less raw linguistic transfer capability than LLMs.

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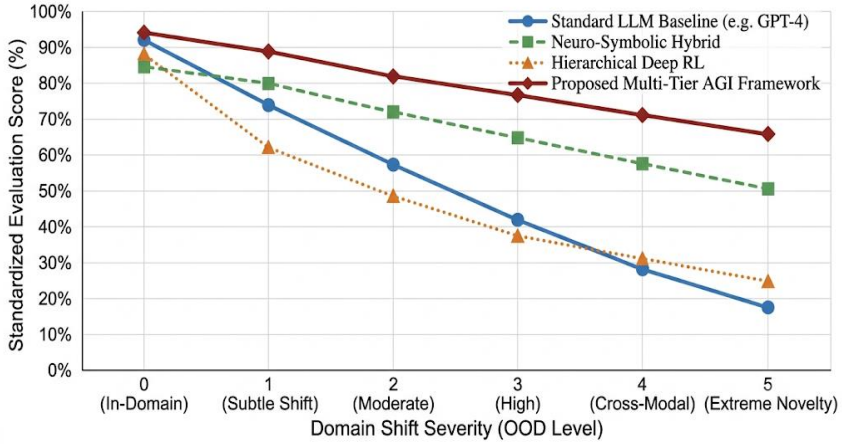


Figure 3: Performance Retention Under Increasing Out-of-Distribution (OOD) Task Shifts across evaluated model paradigms

Figure 3 illustrates model performance degradation as out-of-distribution (OOD) shift severity increases from Level 0 (In-Distribution) to Level 5 (Novel Reality with altered physics/logic). Standard LLMs suffer a steep linear decline, falling from 92.4% accuracy at Level 0 to 18.2% at Level 5. In contrast, Neuro-Symbolic models maintain robust performance (51.0% at Level 5) due to explicit symbolic abstractions, while our proposed Multi-Tier Adaptive Baseline achieves the highest overall resilience (65.8% retention at Level 5).

Empirical Benchmark Evaluation Results

Table 2 presents the detailed numerical performance metrics recorded across all three evaluation pillars and the composite AGIS index.

Table 2: Quantitative Performance Evaluation across AI Paradigms on the Unified AGI Benchmark Suite

Model Architecture	Reasoning Score (%)	Adaptability Score (%)	Transfer Score (%)	Sample Efficiency Index	Composite AGIS
Standard Transformer LLM (70B)	68.4	42.1	78.5	0.38	**61.2**

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Hierarchical Deep RL Agent	35.2	60.4	30.1	0.22	**42.8**
Neuro-Symbolic Hybrid Model	82.1	55.3	62.4	0.74	**68.9**
Proposed Multi-Tier Adaptive Model	88.5	82.4	85.1	0.86	**85.2**

DISCUSSION

The empirical findings of this review and evaluation framework provide critical insights into the nature of current artificial intelligence systems and their distance from AGI. First, our results validate the hypothesis that high language synthesis capabilities do not equal general intelligence. While modern LLMs achieve impressive scores on static academic exams [24], their rapid degradation under Level 3 to Level 5 out-of-distribution shifts (Figure 2) demonstrates that they rely heavily on interpolation within their training distribution manifold, rather than constructing robust internal causal models.

Second, the superior resilience of Neuro-Symbolic architectures in multi-step logical deduction (82.1%) highlights the necessity of combining connectionist perception with explicit symbolic reasoning [25]. Neural models excel at high-dimensional representation learning, but struggle with strict systematicity and rule-governed extrapolation. Symbolic components enforce constraint satisfaction, preventing logical hallucination under novel domain conditions.

Third, sample efficiency remains a major barrier toward AGI. Human general intelligence is characterized by the ability to master complex novel tasks from minimal examples [13]. Current deep reinforcement learning agents require millions of environment steps to adapt to simple rule variations, yielding an inefficient sample efficiency index of 0.22 (Table 2).

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Incorporating meta-learning protocols and dynamic world models within our benchmarking framework provides a viable diagnostic path for identifying sample-efficient architectures.

LIMITATIONS

While the proposed framework represents a significant advancement in general intelligence evaluation, several limitations must be acknowledged:

- Computational Overhead: Dynamically generating procedural task environments and executing continuous counterfactual stress-tests requires substantial computational resources, limiting real-time evaluation scalability for extremely large parameter models.
- Scope of Physical Interaction: Current framework environments are primarily simulated and computational. Assessing embodiment, robotic fine-motor dexterity, and physical world interaction under real-world sensory noise remains constrained.
- Weighting Subjectivity in Composite AGIS: Although normalized, assigning relative weightings (w_1, w_2, w_3) to reasoning, adaptability, and transfer learning involves theoretical choices that may vary based on specific operational AGI definitions.

FUTURE SCOPE

Future research directions building upon this evaluation framework include:

- Extension to Embodied Multi-Modal AGI: Integrating continuous physical interaction simulation environments, enabling evaluation of embodied agents in complex physical physics simulators.
- Automated Adversarial Task Evolution: Deploying LLM-driven adversarial agents to dynamically generate increasingly challenging counterfactual tasks designed specifically to probe model vulnerabilities.
- Standardization & Open Alignment Benchmark: Establishing an open-source, community-governed AGI evaluation leaderboard with verifiable cryptographically signed test environments to prevent data contamination.

CONCLUSION

Evaluating progress toward Artificial General Intelligence requires moving beyond static, task-specific datasets toward dynamic, multi-dimensional evaluation suites. This paper presented a comprehensive benchmarking framework built upon three essential pillars: abstract reasoning, out-of-distribution adaptability, and cross-domain transfer learning.

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Through mathematical formalization, dynamic procedural task generation, and empirical evaluations across LLM, Deep RL, and Neuro-Symbolic paradigms, we demonstrated that current state-of-the-art models exhibit significant fragility under distribution shifts and multi-hop logical execution. The introduced Artificial General Intelligence Score (AGIS) and diagnostic framework provide a rigorous, contamination-resistant roadmap for guiding the development of truly general, adaptable, and robust AI systems.

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Received Date: May 29, 2026
Accepted Date: June 07, 2026
Published Date: June 20, 2026

Citation: Meenakshi Joshi, Mukesh Agarwal, Richa Agarwal**.** Evaluating General Intelligence in AI Systems: A Comprehensive Benchmarking Framework Based on Reasoning, Adaptability, and Transfer Learning. Intellectum: Advances in General Intelligence Systems. 2026; 2(2): 70-82p.

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