OWG: STRUCTURING AGENT EVIDENCE AS OUTCOME-WITNESS GRAPHS FOR EFFICIENT LONG-HORIZON TASK CLOSURE

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ABSTRACT

An agent can retain its entire interaction history and still lose track of what remains to be done. Long transcripts place decisive evidence alongside obsolete outputs, repeated observations, and failures unrelated to the requested result. We introduce OWG, a training free method that organizes an agent's context around the evidence for completing its current task. An Outcome-Witness Graph links each requirement to observations that support or contradict it, the output being produced, and the checks performed on that output. After every tool response, OWG updates these relations and uses the same state to select the next prompt, direct the next action, and decide when to return the result. Raw observations remain available for targeted recovery, while completed work and repeated messages leave the active context. Across six benchmarks and five models, OWG lowers cost in all 30 evaluated settings, with task success increasing in 17, remaining unchanged in six, and decreasing in seven. Five runs on fixed PinchBench and SWE Bench subsets reduce tokens by 53.2% and 74.2%, respectively, while Pass@1 increases by 0.4 percentage points on each. These results identify task evidence as a useful basis for reducing the cost of sustained agent execution.

1 INTRODUCTION

An agent can remember every step of a task and still fail to finish it. It may have located the relevant file, observed the error, and produced a promising edit, yet continue searching because the evidence for its next decision is scattered across the conversation. This problem becomes increasingly consequential in practice as language model agents undertake extended tasks involving repeated interaction with executable environments (Liu et al., 2024b). The transcript grows after every action, but the question that matters is more specific: *what must still be established about the current output before the task can be completed?*

Much of the work on efficient agent context addresses what to retain from a growing history. Prompt compression, trajectory reduction, hierarchical working memory, context folding, and external retrieval remove repetition or recover relevant material under a limited budget (Jiang et al., 2023; 2024; Pan et al., 2024; Xiao et al., 2026; Hu et al., 2025; Ye et al., 2026; Packer et al., 2023). These operations govern the amount and accessibility of information. Task completion also depends on its interpretation. A test result concerns a particular behavior and output, a file edit can invalidate earlier evidence, and a failed command may describe missing infrastructure rather than an incorrect solution. Even evidence retained in a long prompt can be obscured by competing content (Liu et al., 2024a).

Figure 1 makes this distinction concrete. A Django repair requires a query compiler to use the underlying source expression instead of an ambiguous `status` alias. The relevant code and failure have already been found. Subsequent validation encounters a missing dependency, and the full history agent cycles through nearby edits until it reaches the step limit with an empty patch. The useful state is much smaller than that trajectory: the alias is ambiguous, `Ref.source` is available, the current output is an edit to the compiler, and the target regression check remains relevant throughout the remaining execution process. Keeping these facts connected directs attention back to the requested behavior rather than to the latest environmental error.

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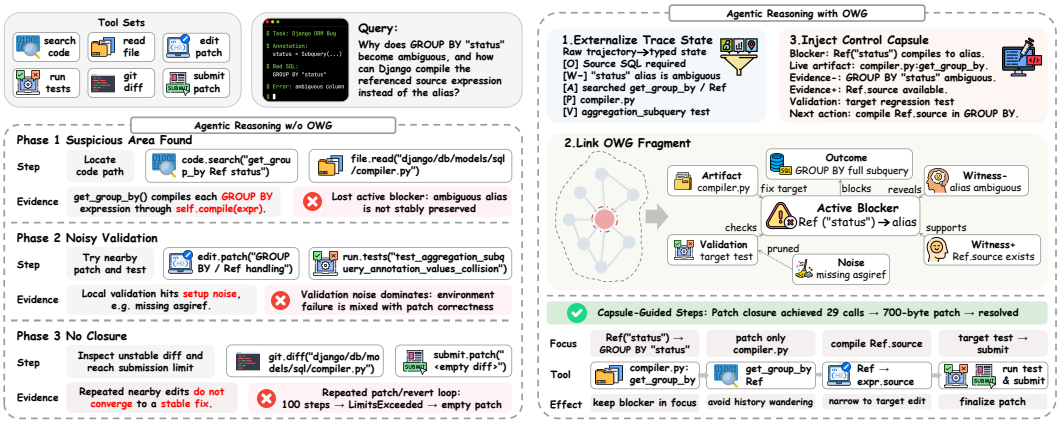

Figure 1: A complete history can preserve the observations yet lose the requirement they establish. In this Django trajectory, OWG keeps the ambiguous alias, the relevant source expression, the current patch, and the target check together. The baseline reaches its step limit with an empty patch; OWG returns a resolved patch after 29 tool calls.

The difficulty is therefore relational as well as temporal. An old observation can remain essential because its requirement is still open. A recent observation can be irrelevant because it concerns an obsolete output or a failed setup procedure. Summarizing events in chronological order leaves the agent to reconstruct these distinctions at every step. A task state should instead retain what each observation establishes, which requirement it concerns, and whether it still applies to the output being produced. This changes the unit of context management from a past message to evidence about unfinished work.

Recent systems have begun to maintain execution state explicitly. ARC (Yao et al., 2026) revises an agent's internal state, MAGE (Chen et al., 2026) preserves execution paths through a hierarchical state tree, and StructAgent (Wu et al., 2026a) tracks progress using structured representations and validation. We develop this direction around the link between task requirements and their evidence. The central design question is how one evolving representation can support both a compact prompt and a well grounded decision to inspect, edit, check, or finish.

The missing abstraction is not simply a shorter transcript, but a state that explains why a piece of information still matters. Retained evidence must remain attached to the requirement it bears on, the output it evaluates, and the check that can complete the task. Once these relations are explicit, choosing what the model sees and deciding what the agent should do next become two views of the same evolving task state.

We introduce OWG, which maintains an Outcome-Witness Graph throughout execution. An *outcome* is a requirement of the task, and a *witness* is an observation bearing on that requirement. The graph links these records to the current output and its checks. At each step, the next unresolved requirement determines which evidence enters the prompt and which action is recommended. The same record determines when an output can be returned, and its raw evidence pointers support recovery when more detail is needed. Context selection, continuation, and stopping thus follow from a shared account of unfinished work. They remain synchronized as the environment changes.

Our contributions are threefold:

- We formulate agent context management around the evidence needed to complete the current task, separating a record of past events from a record of what remains unresolved.
- We introduce a continuously updated graph linking requirements, observations, outputs, and checks, and use it jointly to construct prompts, guide actions, and recover the final result without changing the base model.
- We evaluate this approach across six benchmarks and five models, with repeated runs and detailed comparisons that connect consistent cost reductions to lower history exposure and fewer unproductive continuations.

2 Related Work

2.1 Managing Agent History

Tool using agents alternate reasoning with environment interaction (Yao et al., 2022; Schick et al., 2023; Qin et al., 2024), accumulating observations that influence later actions. Keeping recent interactions, dropping old messages, and periodically summarizing history are direct ways to control this growth. LLMLingua (Jiang et al., 2023) selects informative prompt content, while work on long contexts shows that retained information can remain difficult to use amid competing passages (Liu et al., 2024a). For an executing agent, retention must also account for changes to the output and to the evidence supporting it.

Trajectory Reduction (Xiao et al., 2026) removes redundant and expired interaction content. HiAgent (Hu et al., 2025) maintains working memory around subgoals, and AgentFold (Ye et al., 2026) folds completed or low utility trajectory segments. Memory as Action (Zhang et al., 2026) makes context curation an agent action, while Agentic Context Engineering (Zhang et al., 2025) evolves reusable contexts from experience. OWG organizes retained content by the requirement it bears on and its connection to the current output. The resulting state supports both choosing evidence and deciding how the task should continue.

2.2 Memory and Evidence Retrieval

External memory supports information persistence over extended interactions (Zhong et al., 2024; Park et al., 2023). MemGPT (Packer et al., 2023) manages active context and external storage hierarchically; A-Mem (Xu et al., 2026) creates and links memory records; and HippoRAG (Gutiérrez et al., 2024) uses graph structure for associative retrieval. LightMem (Fang et al., 2025) targets efficient memory use, MemGuide (Du et al., 2026) conditions retrieval on current intent, and PRIME (Tran et al., 2026) combines planning with memory retrieval. Other systems organize experience by time, space, or planning granularity (Tan et al., 2026; Yang et al., 2025), coordinate retrieval across agents (Jiang et al., 2026), acquire memory without parameter updates (Gutiérrez et al., 2025), or combine retrieval with reflection (Asai et al., 2024).

OWG retains raw observations externally and records why each active observation matters: what it supports or contradicts, which output it concerns, and what remains unchecked. Retrieved evidence enters the prompt with the decision it informs. The graph represents task progress as well as indexing earlier observations.

2.3 Checking and Completing Agent Outputs

Feedback helps agents inspect failures and revise their behavior (Shinn et al., 2023). Self-Refine (Madaan et al., 2023) repeatedly evaluates and revises a candidate, Self-RAG (Asai et al., 2024) combines retrieval with reflection, and CRITIC (Gou et al., 2024) uses external tools for verification. ReAct (Yao et al., 2022), Toolformer (Schick et al., 2023), and ToolLLM (Qin et al., 2024) support reasoning with tool execution. Work on reasoning control (Zhou et al., 2024) and value guided decisions (Li et al., 2026) studies how additional computation can improve execution. Software repair provides particularly explicit feedback through tests, traces, and repository inspection (Jimenez et al., 2024; Yang et al., 2024).

The meaning of feedback depends on its target. A failed test of the requested behavior calls for revision; an unavailable dependency calls for a different validation route. After an edit, evidence about the previous output also needs to be reconsidered. Persistent environment representations play a related role in embodied agents (Yan et al., 2026). OWG carries these distinctions forward as linked evidence, allowing the next prompt and the decision to continue or finish to refer to the same current output throughout the remaining execution process.

3 Method

OWG maintains a compact account of unfinished work. Its organizing principle is simple: every retained observation should be interpretable in relation to a task requirement, the current output, or a

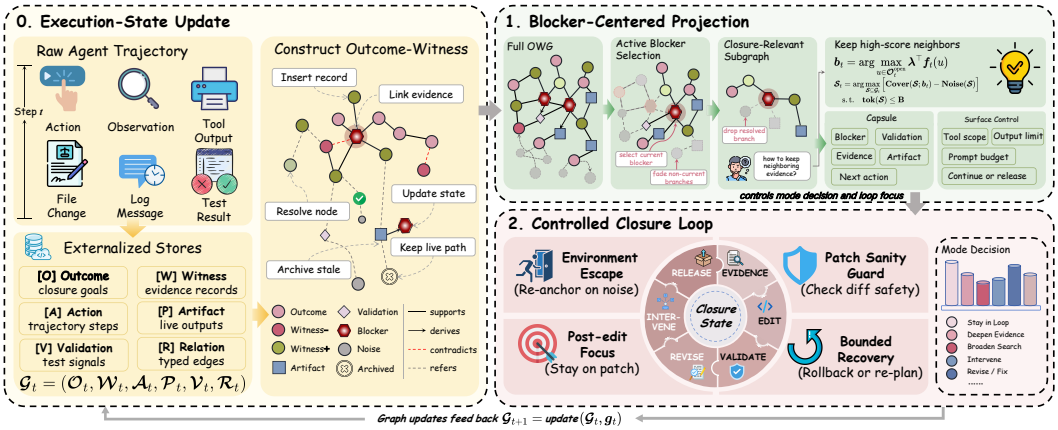

Figure 2: OWG maintains one evolving record of task requirements, their evidence, the current output, and its checks. After each tool response, the same record determines what enters the prompt, what the agent should do next, and whether to return the output.

check of that output. Figure 2 shows the resulting loop. Tool responses update the evidence graph, the graph supplies the next prompt and recommended action, and the next action changes what remains to be established. The full trajectory remains available outside the prompt.

3.1 Building and Updating Task Evidence

Let x_0 denote the task instruction and static prompt. Before step t, the history is $H_t = \big(x_0, (a_1, o_1), \ldots, (a_{t-1}, o_{t-1})\big)$, where a_i is an action and o_i its observation. A full history agent conditions its next action on H_t. OWG instead maintains an explicit state z_t and builds a compact context c_t:

$$z_t = U(z_{t-1}, a_{t-1}, o_{t-1}), \qquad c_t = P_B(z_t, H_t). \tag{1}$$

Here, U updates the state and P_B constructs the prompt content within budget B. Recent interactions r_t preserve local continuity, while c_t contains the structured summary and any restored evidence. The base model is invoked as

$$a_t \sim \pi_\theta(\cdot \mid x_0, r_t, c_t, \sigma_t), \tag{2}$$

where σ_t denotes the visible tools, instructions, and tool output policy. These are inputs to the existing agent; the model parameters remain unchanged.

What the graph records. The state is an Outcome-Witness Graph,

$$z_t \equiv \mathcal{G}_t = (\mathcal{O}_t, \mathcal{W}_t, \mathcal{A}_t, \mathcal{P}_t, \mathcal{V}_t, \mathcal{R}_t). \tag{3}$$

The sets contain task requirements, observations, actions, current outputs, checks, and their relations. A requirement records the behavior or deliverable sought by the user. A witness records an observation relevant to that requirement. An artifact is the output currently available in the environment, such as an edited file, a patch, or a generated document. A validation records a check and its target. Relations express, for example, that an observation supports a requirement, a check contradicts it, or an action modifies an output. These roles distinguish evidence about task completion from the surrounding execution log.

Reading each tool response. The update begins by retaining the raw action and observation with a source pointer. The parser then reads the information exposed by the agent interface. For software repair, this includes the command, standard output, standard error, exit status, changed files, test results, and worktree diff. Requirements come from the task description and the obligations identified during execution, including concrete failures that must be corrected. File changes update artifact records, check results create validation records, and observations bearing on a requirement create witness records. Each record keeps its source, creation step, status, and pointer to the original material. Long outputs can therefore be shortened in the prompt while remaining recoverable.

The parser assigns evidence according to what the observation establishes. Positive evidence supports a requirement, negative evidence contradicts it or identifies a regression, neutral evidence supplies useful context, and environmental evidence records a failure outside the artifact. A nonzero exit status alone does not distinguish these cases. The relevant distinction is whether the check reached the requested behavior and found a defect, or could not perform that check because infrastructure was unavailable. Accordingly, validation records distinguish pass, fail, unavailable, partial, and inconclusive results. In the Django example, an ambiguous alias bears directly on query correctness; a missing dependency describes the availability of the check.

Connecting evidence to the current output. Extracted records are inserted, linked, and reconciled with the existing graph:

$$g_t = \phi(a_t, o_t), \qquad \mathcal{G}_{t+1} = \mathcal{G}_t \oplus g_t. \tag{4}$$

The links preserve the target of each observation and check, together with the actions that produced or modified the output. Artifact records include a path, digest, and last edit; status and consistency checks distinguish current evidence from stale records. Freshness concerns applicability to the current artifact, rather than age alone. An early observation can remain active while its requirement is unresolved, whereas a recent result can become stale after an edit. The stored witness strength orders evidence during selection; it is distinct from whether the evidence still applies. The record schemas and update operations appear in Appendix A.3.

A failed check becomes actionable through its target: which requirement it tested and which output it examined. The graph maintains these connections as the task changes. Contradictory evidence remains visible until the corresponding requirement or artifact state is updated, allowing new observations to revise earlier conclusions.

3.2 Using the Same Evidence to Choose Context and Action

At each step, OWG selects an unresolved requirement b_t, called the active blocker in the implementation. The controller orders open requirements by status: violated, conflicted, unknown, unsupported, and stale, followed by the recorded category tie break. This fixed ordering prioritizes a concrete defect or contradiction over repetition in the latest tool output. It provides the executable selection rule summarized in Appendix A.1.

The selected requirement determines the next context. The controller gathers its relevant evidence, the current output, and the associated checks into a subgraph $\mathcal{S}_t$. The implementation exposes at most five open requirements and five witnesses, with each entry clipped to 180 characters. The context builder uses a default limit of 1,800 characters, applied before provider tokenization. Separate limits for control messages and task specific adapters are given in Appendix A.1. Resolved branches, obsolete outputs, and repeated messages leave the active prompt while their source records remain in external storage.

The result is rendered as a short execution summary, termed a control capsule in Algorithm 1:

$$\kappa_t = \Psi(\mathcal{S}_t, m_t) = (b_t, E_t^+, E_t^-, p_t, v_t, d_t). \tag{5}$$

It names the selected requirement, supporting and contradicting evidence, current output, validation state, and recommended next action. The action category m_t is selected from the graph and its status summary γ_t, which records evidence availability, artifact liveness, validation coverage, residual risk, recent progress, and readiness to finish. The prompt thus presents a decision together with the evidence that motivates it.

The action follows the missing or contradicted part of that record. A validation failure directs revision toward the failed requirement. A current output awaiting a check directs validation. Missing evidence directs inspection or targeted recovery of a raw observation. An output supported by the available checks directs finalization. Repetition without progress prompts a targeted change of approach. Unlike allocating computation through global reasoning or search objectives (Zou et al., 2026; Li et al., 2026), these decisions refer to the requirement currently preventing completion. The same requirement also determines what evidence the model sees.

This shared dependency keeps the prompt and action aligned. In Figure 1, the alias failure identifies the behavior to correct, the current file identifies the edit target, and the regression test identifies the

Table 1: Success rate and USD cost across six benchmarks and five models. Each cell reports Success/Cost.

Method	SWE Verified	PinchBench	ClawBench	Terminal Bench	SWE Lite	SWE Multilingual
	Score / Cost	Score / Cost	Score / Cost	Score / Cost	Score / Cost	Score / Cost
DeepSeek V4 Flash						
Baseline	74.0% / $0.79	89.1% / $1.35	89.7% / $0.66	33.7% / $1.32	74.0% / $0.34	60.0% / $0.63
OWG	72.0% / $0.49	90.5% / $0.89	90.6% / $0.52	38.2% / $0.73	72.0% / $0.18	60.0% / $0.32
OWG-Hybrid	72.0% / $0.42	88.4% / $0.94	90.0% / $0.57	37.1% / $0.71	72.0% / $0.25	58.0% / $0.42
DeepSeek V4 Pro						
Baseline	72.0% / $1.14	93.9% / $2.01	92.5% / $2.18	61.8% / $4.01	76.0% / $0.91	60.0% / $1.31
OWG	70.0% / $0.81	95.9% / $1.63	92.8% / $1.72	64.0% / $2.67	72.0% / $0.52	60.0% / $0.93
OWG-Hybrid	68.0% / $1.05	95.2% / $1.58	92.8% / $1.61	62.9% / $2.69	72.0% / $0.62	58.0% / $1.09
GPT 5.4						
Baseline	68.0% / $12.45	85.7% / $20.10	92.8% / $34.17	57.3% / $62.97	66.0% / $11.88	58.0% / $17.08
OWG	68.0% / $9.77	87.8% / $15.07	93.1% / $28.91	58.4% / $45.61	66.0% / $7.55	56.0% / $8.85
OWG-Hybrid	64.0% / $9.33	87.1% / $14.31	92.5% / $30.58	57.3% / $49.58	64.0% / $7.94	56.0% / $10.53
Claude Haiku 4.5						
Baseline	68.0% / $5.80	89.1% / $6.78	89.3% / $6.37	28.1% / $16.15	72.0% / $11.86	66.0% / $14.32
OWG	70.0% / $2.90	89.8% / $4.99	89.7% / $4.34	29.2% / $12.30	72.0% / $5.75	64.0% / $7.31
OWG-Hybrid	66.0% / $3.34	89.8% / $5.52	89.7% / $4.96	25.8% / $12.83	70.0% / $6.62	64.0% / $8.18
GLM 5						
Baseline	72.0% / $6.89	85.0% / $5.48	91.8% / $4.50	51.7% / $10.56	76.0% / $5.43	70.0% / $10.12
OWG	74.0% / $3.72	87.8% / $4.40	91.8% / $3.59	52.8% / $8.06	74.0% / $2.26	72.0% / $5.13
OWG-Hybrid	74.0% / $4.00	87.1% / $4.49	91.5% / $4.16	51.7% / $8.98	72.0% / $2.54	70.0% / $5.74

check. Together they specify a concrete next step: compile the referenced source expression and validate the affected behavior.

The controller also manages its own messages. Stable field hashes identify repeated summaries, and previously emitted control blocks are deduplicated so that the latest record replaces obsolete guidance. Raw evidence is restored when the selected requirement is unstable, an artifact pointer is inconsistent, validation evidence is unreliable, or a necessary detail is absent from the summary. Restored observations augment the current state. This preserves continuity between compact guidance and the underlying execution record.

3.3 Finishing from the Current Output

Finishing is another decision about the same evidence. Further inspection can add cost after the requested behavior has been addressed, while an empty or outdated output defeats the purpose of a compact history. OWG therefore checks the recoverable output and the evidence still bearing on it.

For bounded release, let u_t indicate a nonempty recoverable output, s_t indicate that the required release checks hold, and ω_t indicate stalled progress. The stopping gate is

$$q_t = u_t s_t \omega_t, \qquad u_t, s_t, \omega_t \in \{0, 1\}. \tag{6}$$

The release checks require no outstanding explicit regression witness, together with attempted validation or validation made unavailable by an identified external failure. An unavailable check retains that status. Stagnation is assessed through unchanged coverage and repeated requirements; in the executable controller, a changed worktree diff resets the no progress counter. The trigger thresholds and recovery order are specified in Appendix A.9 and Table 6.

For software repair, the returned patch is obtained directly from the current worktree:

$$p_t^\star = \Delta(z_t), \tag{7}$$

where Δ extracts the live diff. This ties the submitted artifact to the environment on which the agent acted, rather than to an earlier patch quoted in the conversation. At the execution horizon, the controller returns the best recoverable result under the recovery rules. After every executed action, the raw store and graph are updated before the next decision, including the final transition. Algorithm 1 gives this complete loop.

4 EXPERIMENTS

We evaluate whether organizing context around task evidence reduces total execution cost, whether task success is retained, and which parts of the execution account for the change. The comparisons examine complete runs, including requests and repeated work.

4.1 EXPERIMENTAL SETTINGS

We use SWE Verified, SWE Lite, SWE Multilingual, PinchBench, ClawBench, and Terminal Bench, with DeepSeek V4 Flash, DeepSeek V4 Pro, GPT 5.4, Claude Haiku 4.5, and GLM 5. The SWE family follows repository level issue resolution (Jimenez et al., 2024), using fixed subsets of 50 tasks. The aggregate comparison uses the full task sets of PinchBench, ClawBench, and Terminal Bench. Baseline retains the original full history. OWG constructs the next prompt from recent context and the graph. OWG Hybrid additionally uses a Qwen3-14B builder to assist graph updates.

Within each comparison, methods share the model, agent framework, tool environment, and task inputs. The context study includes Sliding Window, FIFO Oldest Drop, Naive Periodic Summary, AgentDiet (Xiao et al., 2026), and ContextWeaver (Wu et al., 2026b). The aggregate comparison, repeated runs, and context sweep use their respective protocols and horizons, documented in Appendix B.1. Software repair runs use `mini-SWE-agent`, a shell interface to the repository environment, and the benchmark evaluation harness.

We report task score, Pass@1, Pass@5, model requests, and provider usage. Pass@5 is the fraction solved at least once across five runs. Cost is computed from the recorded uncached input, cache read, and output usage using the pricing schedule in Appendix B.3. These categories are retained separately because their prices differ. This accounting connects context savings to the cost of executing the whole task under the same evaluation protocol.

4.2 EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Cost reductions across tasks and models. Table 1 shows lower cost for OWG in all 30 settings. Success increases in 17 settings, remains unchanged in six, and decreases in seven. The most consistent effect is the resource reduction, accompanied by smaller changes in success. With DeepSeek V4 Flash on Terminal Bench, success changes from 33.7% to 38.2% and cost from $1.32 to $0.73. On PinchBench, the corresponding values are 89.1% to 90.5% and $1.35 to $0.89. SWE results also retain lower costs, with several configurations solving fewer tasks. OWG Hybrid reduces cost further in some settings but is not consistently preferable to the single model controller across the evaluated benchmark settings.

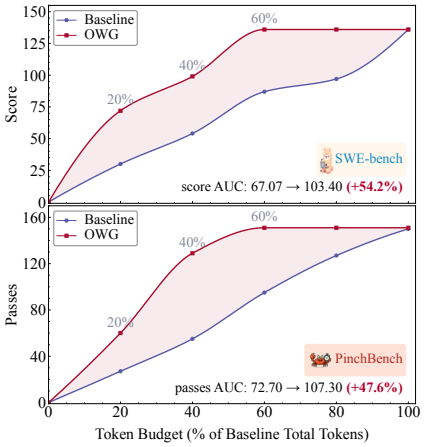

Figure 3: Utility across token budgets on SWE Bench and PinchBench. The area under the curves increases by 54.2% and 47.6%, respectively, measuring utility accumulated across budget levels.

Repeated runs and available budget. Table 2 reports five runs on fixed 50 task subsets. On PinchBench, tokens decrease by 53.2% and cost by 21.2%; mean score increases from 43.34 to 44.75, Pass@1 from 60.0% to 60.4%, and Pass@5 from 78.0% to 84.0%. On SWE Bench, tokens decrease by 74.2% and cost by 35.8%, with Pass@1 changing from 73.6% to 74.0% and Pass@5 from 84.0% to 86.0%. Both Pass@1 gains are 0.4 percentage points. The larger changes are in resource use and the fraction of tasks reached across repeated attempts.

Figure 3 complements these endpoint metrics by showing utility across token budgets. The area under the curves increases by 54.2% on SWE Bench and 47.6% on PinchBench. These are gains in utility across budget levels, distinct from changes in final success rate. They show why reducing repeated history exposure matters even when endpoint performance is similar: useful results can be reached with less accumulated input. The different token and monetary reductions also reflect the separate prices of uncached input, cache reads, and output.

Table 2: Five run results on fixed 50 task subsets. Parentheses report token and cost reductions relative to Baseline.

Benchmark	Method	Score ↑	Pass@1 ↑	Pass@5 ↑	Total Tokens ↓	Cost ↓
PinchBench	Baseline	43.34 ± 0.89	$60.00 \pm 4.00\%$	78.00%	11.95 ± 1.34 M	0.242 ± 0.036
	OWG	$\mathbf{44.75 \pm 0.83}$	$\mathbf{60.40 \pm 3.85\%}$	**84.00%**	$\mathbf{5.60 \pm 0.73}$ M **(-53.2%)**	0.191 ± 0.027 **(-21.2%)**
SWE Bench	Baseline	N/A	$73.60 \pm 5.37\%$	84.00%	44.91 ± 1.99 M	0.544 ± 0.396
	OWG	N/A	$\mathbf{74.00 \pm 2.45\%}$	**86.00%**	$\mathbf{11.59 \pm 1.13}$ M **(-74.2%)**	0.349 ± 0.249 **(-35.8%)**

A shorter prompt is not always a cheaper run. The context sweep in Table 3 tests this distinction directly. OWG resolves 76.0% of tasks at \$0.35, compared with 72.0% at \$0.64 for Full History, and uses 1,070 rather than 2,442 requests. Restricting the transcript to recent steps does not produce the same result. Sliding Window with $K = 2$ resolves 24.0% while making 5,035 requests. Increasing the window to ten steps raises the resolved rate to 54.0% but costs \$2.28. Less history per request can therefore coexist with substantially more work across the trajectory in longer runs.

The comparison also separates compactness from relevance. FIFO at 32K and the shortest periodic summary reduce cost relative to Full History, but resolve fewer tasks. The dependency based ContextWeaver variants retain structured historical material yet make 4,890 and 4,845 requests. OWG uses its graph to connect retained evidence to the current requirement and recommended action, rather than using structure solely to retrieve more history. Figure 4 places these results alongside their token composition: the resource advantage is concentrated in input exposure, while output usage remains comparable.

Table 3: Context management on the 50-task SWE Bench subset. Eff. denotes resolved percentage points per USD.

Config	Res. ↑	Cost ↓	Req. ↓	Eff. ↑
Full History: *full transcript.*				
default	72.0%	\$0.64	2442	112.5
Sliding Window: *recent K steps.*				
$K = 2$	24.0%	\$1.11	5035	21.6
$K = 3$	14.0%	\$1.57	4645	8.9
$K = 5$	36.0%	\$2.16	3870	16.7
$K = 10$	54.0%	\$2.28	2780	23.7
FIFO Oldest Drop: *drop oldest history after budget.*				
8K	58.0%	\$0.97	2555	59.8
16K	68.0%	\$0.68	2240	100.0
32K	62.0%	\$0.44	2565	140.9
Naive Periodic Summary: *periodic flat summaries.*				
$n = 3$	60.0%	\$0.51	2627	117.6
$n = 5$	54.0%	\$0.50	2532	108.0
$n = 8$	50.0%	\$0.43	2595	116.3
AgentDiet: *remove useless, redundant, or expired content.*				
$\theta = 500,\ a = 2,\ b = 1$	56.0%	\$0.54	2665	103.7
$\theta = 800,\ a = 2,\ b = 1$	60.0%	\$0.44	2390	136.4
$\theta = 1000,\ a = 2,\ b = 1$	54.0%	\$0.41	2472	131.7
$\theta = 1000,\ a = 3,\ b = 1$	58.0%	\$0.41	2415	141.5
ContextWeaver: *dependency-structured retrieval.*				
Tree, $K = 5$	62.0%	\$1.73	4890	35.8
DAG, $K = 5$	64.0%	\$1.94	4845	33.0
OWG: *current requirements and evidence.*				
default	**76.0%**	**\$0.35**	**1070**	**217.1**

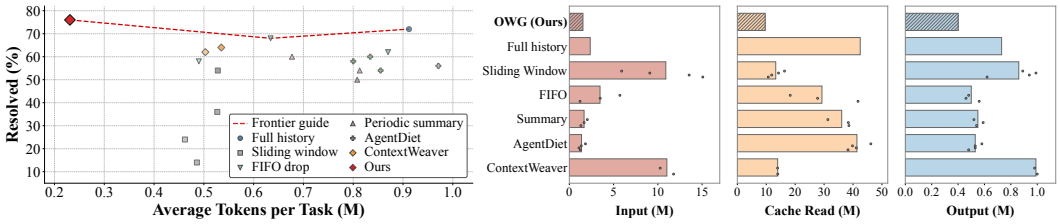

Figure 4: Context management on the SWE Bench subset. (a) Resolved rate versus average token exposure. (b) Usage separated into uncached input, cache reads, and output. OWG combines 76.0% resolved tasks with lower input exposure; output usage remains comparable to Full History.

4.3 What Changes During Execution

Preserving the reason for a correction. The ablations in Figure 5 and Appendix B.8 remove one component at a time on the SWE subset. Full OWG resolves 37 of 50 tasks. Removing the review of whether an edit addresses the requested behavior, labeled Semantic Review, reduces this to 25. Removing the source and test alignment check yields 28, and removing the retained failure evidence yields 29. These comparisons connect successful completion to maintaining the reason for the edit

and the check that should support it. A smaller state remains useful when it carries the information needed to correct the actual behavior.

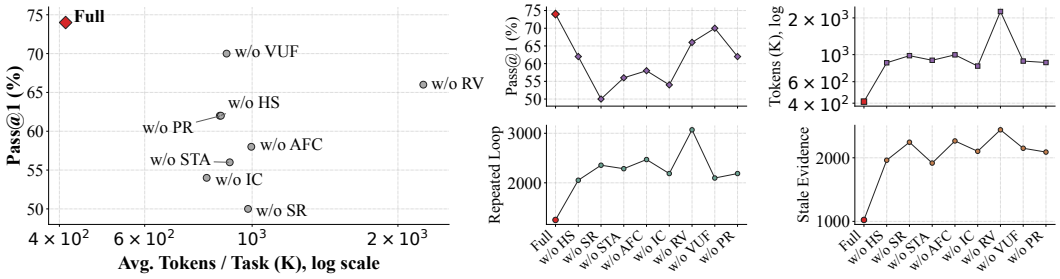

Figure 5: Evidence use and task completion in the component ablations. (a) Pass@1 versus token usage. (b) Success, tokens, repeated blockers, and stale evidence exposures. Removing the stopping rule produces the largest token increase; removing the behavioral review produces the largest decrease in resolved tasks.

Recognizing when further work has stopped helping. Removing the stopping rule, labeled Release Valve, increases total tokens from 20.60M to 112.83M while reducing resolved tasks from 37 to 33. Repeated same requirement events increase from 1,251 to 3,070, and stale observation exposures from 1,023 to 2,440. These counters track repeated blockers and stale evidence in the execution records. Continuing to revisit an unchanged state adds cost without improving the result, making timely output recovery part of efficient execution.

Reducing rereading, not useful generation. In the paired PinchBench analysis, raw history and cache read usage decreases from 53.51M to 22.91M, while output changes from 173K to 180K tokens. The cost reduction is concentrated in material processed again, rather than in suppressing generated reasoning and answers. The case studies make the distinction concrete. In the Django lookup case, both agents succeed, but OWG completes the task in 20 rather than 53 tool calls. In the PinchBench text rewriting case, OWG spends more tokens while improving the score from 0.25 to 1.00, because completing the requested output requires additional work. The goal is to keep useful work focused, not to minimize every individual trajectory.

When broader inspection is needed. Full history can be more effective when a task requires wider exploration, when early evidence receives insufficient selection priority, or when the current result is returned prematurely. These cases make evidence recovery essential: the retained state must expose missing information and guide the next inspection as requirements change. Appendix B.10 reports the token analysis, and the case studies trace the corresponding behavior through concrete actions and outputs.

What the results say about agent memory. The results point to a specific weakness of full history. The problem is not simply that the prompt becomes long. As execution progresses, the transcript mixes evidence about different versions of the output and different stages of the task, so the model must repeatedly infer which observations still apply. OWG reduces this repeated inference by preserving the connection between a requirement and the evidence that currently bears on it. This explains why the strongest changes appear in input exposure, repeated blockers, and unnecessary continuation, while output length changes much less. It also explains why a shorter window is not enough: removing history without preserving these connections can force the agent to rediscover them. The graph is useful because the meaning of remembered evidence changes with the output that the agent has already produced.

5 Conclusion

OWG organizes agent execution around the evidence for completing the current task. One evolving graph connects requirements, observations, outputs, and checks to guide context selection and task completion. The experiments show consistent cost reductions with smaller changes in success, supported by lower history exposure and fewer unproductive continuations. Efficient agent memory should preserve not simply what happened, but what the current output still needs to establish.

AI USE STATEMENT

Generative AI tools were used to assist with writing and language polishing, and to support retrieval and discovery of related work. The authors reviewed and edited all AI-assisted text and manually checked the references and bibliographic information used in the paper. The authors take responsibility for the final content of the submission, including its text, claims, citations, and reported results.

REPRODUCIBILITY STATEMENT

We provide the implementation details required to reproduce OWG and the reported evaluations in the appendix. Appendix A.1 specifies the executable controller rules, thresholds, context limits, and benchmark-specific settings. Appendix B.1 describes the benchmarks, models, evaluation protocol, execution limits, and recorded metrics, while Appendix B.2 lists the fixed task subsets used in the reported experiments. Pricing and token accounting are documented in Appendix B.3, with repeated-run results, context-management comparisons, and ablations reported in the supplementary experiments. Complete prompt and control-capsule templates are provided in Appendix C.

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A SUPPLEMENTARY METHOD

This appendix gives the record schemas, controller rules, mathematical descriptions, prompt templates, and recovery conditions for OWG. The requirements, observations, outputs, and checks discussed in the main text correspond to outcome, witness, artifact, and validation records. The implementation names are retained here to connect these concepts to the original prompts, configuration settings, and ablations.

A.1 EXECUTABLE CONTROLLER REALIZATION

The executable controller uses fixed priorities, integer thresholds, and hard character budgets. The score formulations below organize the evidence, risk, coverage, and progress factors. The tables in this subsection specify the deterministic execution rules used in the experiments.

Algorithm 1 OWG Control Loop

Require: Instruction x_0, policy π_θ, budget B, horizon T
Ensure: Final or best recoverable artifact

$\mathcal{G} \leftarrow \mathcal{G}_0, \quad \mathcal{H} \leftarrow \emptyset, \quad r_1 \leftarrow r_0$
for $t = 1$ to T **do**
  $(b_t, \gamma_t, m_t) \leftarrow \mathrm{Diag}(\mathcal{G})$
  $\mathcal{S}_t \leftarrow \mathrm{Proj}(\mathcal{G}, b_t; B)$
  $\kappa_t \leftarrow \mathrm{Cap}(\mathcal{S}_t, m_t)$
  if $\mathrm{NeedRaw}(\mathcal{G}, b_t, \gamma_t)$ **then**
    $c_t \leftarrow \kappa_t \oplus \mathrm{Restore}(\mathcal{H}, b_t; B)$
  else
    $c_t \leftarrow \kappa_t$
  end if
  $q_t \leftarrow \mathrm{Gate}(\mathcal{G}, \gamma_t)$
  if $q_t = 1$ **then**
    return $\mathrm{Recover}(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H})$
  end if
  $\sigma_t \leftarrow \mathrm{Ctrl}(\mathcal{G}, m_t)$
  $a_t \sim \pi_\theta(\cdot \mid x_0, r_t, c_t, \sigma_t)$
  Execute a_t and observe o_t
  $\mathcal{H} \leftarrow \mathcal{H} \cup \{(a_t, o_t)\}$
  $\mathcal{G} \leftarrow \mathcal{G} \oplus \phi(a_t, o_t)$
  $r_{t+1} \leftarrow \mathrm{Upd}(r_t, a_t, o_t)$
end for
return $\mathrm{Recover}^\star(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{H})$

Formal components and executable rules. Table 4 summarizes the correspondence between the formal description and the implementation used in the reported experiments.

Table 4: Correspondence between the formal controller and its executable realization.

Formal component	Executable realization
Weighted blocker score	Open obligations are ordered by status rank: VIOLATED, CONFLICTED, UNKNOWN, UNSUPPORTED, and STALE, followed by a category tie break.
Budgeted coverage objective	Projection follows status-priority ordering under a hard character cap, exposing at most five open obligations and five witnesses.
Noise and staleness penalties	Redundancy is handled by history sanitization; staleness is handled through node status and artifact consistency checks.
Closure progress	Progress is a deterministic hash-based predicate. A changed worktree diff resets the no-progress counter; an unchanged diff increments it.
Mode utility	Mode selection uses a fixed conditional cascade rather than a learned utility function. Validation failure has highest priority, followed by a live unvalidated artifact, missing evidence, and finalization.
Controller configuration	Fixed status priorities, integer thresholds, and character limits determine execution.

Context and capsule limits. Table 5 reports the hard limits applied by the controller. Limits are measured in characters because the implementation constructs and clips controller messages before provider tokenization.

Table 5: Hard context and controller-message limits.

Item	Limit	Implementation detail
Context construction		
Projected context	**1,800 characters**	Default cap used by the context builder.
Main control capsule	**2,000 characters**	Reduced to 1,800 characters in `READY_TO_FINALIZE`.
Open obligations	**Top 5**	Ordered by violation rank and category; each is clipped to 180 characters.
Key witnesses	**Top 5**	Ordered by witness strength; each is clipped to 180 characters.
Goal text	**220 characters**	Single-line task-goal description.
Initial brief	**650 characters**	Emitted once at task initialization.
Control, review, and recovery cards		
Active Failure Capsule	**900 characters**	One primary capsule per task.
Intervention card	**500 characters**	At most two distinct cards per task.
Semantic review card	**650 characters**	Used for source-test alignment and semantic-risk checks.
Commit capsule	**900 characters**	Summarizes the recoverable artifact state.
Release valve card	**350 characters**	Provides the bounded-release instruction.
Source-test alignment check	**500 characters**	Compact finalization microcheck.
Patch sanity block	**750 characters**	Applied before code-repair submission.

Trigger rules. The deterministic intervention, recovery, and release conditions are listed in Table 6.

Table 6: Deterministic controller trigger rules.

Mechanism	Trigger	Effect
Intervention	Same blocker persists for at least four consecutive messages; a validation failure triggers immediate intervention.	Inject a targeted card and redirect execution away from the repeated failure path.
Intervention cap	At most two distinct cards per task.	Suppress repeated controller messages unless the execution state changes.
Active Failure Capsule	Emitted at task start and refreshed only when a new failure obligation is detected.	Preserve one concrete negative witness and its required correction.
Release valve	No coverage change for at least three steps and the same blocker repeats at least twice; reaching the step limit also forces release.	Recover and return the best legal live artifact.
Semantic submit block	Source-test alignment risk is active when the agent attempts final submission.	Block submission and redirect the agent to revision.
Raw evidence recovery	Blocker instability, inconsistent artifact pointer, low validation reliability, or missing necessary projected evidence.	Restore only the raw witness records required by the active blocker.

History sanitization. Before each model call, prior OWG control, active-failure, intervention, semantic-review, finalization, and release blocks are deduplicated. Only the latest block of each class is retained; older copies are replaced by the compact marker `OWG_HISTORY_COMPACTED`.

Benchmark-specific adapters. Table 7 records the main differences between the software-engineering and general tool-use adapters.

Table 7: Benchmark-specific controller settings.

Setting	Value
SWE-bench adapter	
Main comparison horizon	100 steps.
Failure inspection window	Last 12 messages.
Validation commands	Regex matching `pytest`, `tox`, `npm test`, `go test`, `cargo test`, and `mvn test`.
Primary AFC count	At most one full Active Failure Capsule.
PinchBench / OpenClaw adapter	
Compression trigger	Tool observation longer than 9,500 characters.
Compressed observation cap	620 characters per trimmed observation.
Recent compressed blocks	Preserve the three most recent blocks.
Minimum removed content	3,000 characters before compression is applied.
Tool-result cap	12,000 characters before and after compaction.
Hybrid sidecar context	Last six messages.
Rescue context	Last four visible OWG blocks plus 2,000 characters of recent text.

A.2 Full Formalization

Trajectory. We consider a base LLM agent that interacts with an external environment through a sequence of actions and observations. Let x_0 denote the initial task instruction, static system prompt, tool specification, and scaffold specific instruction. Before step t, the full trajectory is

$$H_t = \big(x_0, (a_1, o_1), (a_2, o_2), \ldots, (a_{t-1}, o_{t-1})\big), \tag{8}$$

where a_i is the action produced by the agent and o_i is the environment observation returned after executing a_i. A standard full history agent samples the next action by conditioning on the entire trajectory:

$$a_t \sim \pi_\theta(\cdot \mid H_t). \tag{9}$$

This formulation treats the transcript as the task state. In long horizon tasks, however, H_t mixes active evidence, stale evidence, environment noise, old artifacts, repeated validations, and raw receipts that should be recoverable but not repeatedly exposed to the model.

Execution state. OWG decouples trajectory storage from decision time context. It maintains a latent execution state z_t:

$$z_t = U(z_{t-1}, a_{t-1}, o_{t-1}), \tag{10}$$

where U is the state update operator. In our implementation, z_t is represented by an Outcome-Witness Graph:

$$z_t \equiv \mathcal{G}_t. \tag{11}$$

At decision time, the graph is projected into a compact context under token budget B:

$$c_t = P_B(z_t, H_t). \tag{12}$$

The base policy is then invoked as

$$a_t \sim \pi_\theta(\cdot \mid x_0, r_t, c_t, \sigma_t), \tag{13}$$

where r_t is a short recent raw context and σ_t is the visible agent surface.

Closure decision. Let $\mathcal{M}$ be a finite set of closure modes. These modes include evidence collection, editing, validation, revision, intervention, finalization, and release. Let

$$\mu(H_t) \in \mathcal{M} \tag{14}$$

denote the closure mode that would be selected if the controller had access to the full history, and let

$$\mu(c_t) \in \mathcal{M} \tag{15}$$

denote the mode selected from the compact context. We define the closure discrepancy as

$$\Delta_{\text{close}}(H_t, c_t) = \mathbf{1}\{\mu(H_t) \neq \mu(c_t)\}. \tag{16}$$

For soft scoring, this can be replaced by a distance between mode distributions:

$$\Delta_{\text{close}}(H_t, c_t) = D\big(p_{\text{mode}}(\cdot \mid H_t), p_{\text{mode}}(\cdot \mid c_t)\big), \tag{17}$$

where D can be total variation distance, KL divergence, or a bounded discrepancy. This quantity describes agreement between decisions made from full and compact context. The executable controller retains the requirement, evidence, output, and validation factors used by its decision rules.

Objective. The ideal projection minimizes decision time context cost while preserving the closure decision:

$$\begin{aligned} \min_{U, P_B} \quad & \mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{t=1}^{T} \text{tok}(c_t)\right] \\ \text{s.t.} \quad & \Delta_{\text{close}}(H_t, c_t) \leq \epsilon. \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

Here, $\text{tok}(\cdot)$ denotes token cost and ϵ is the allowed closure decision error. In practice, OWG approximates this objective by maintaining typed evidence state, selecting the active blocker, projecting a blocker centered subgraph, and rendering a compact control capsule.

A.3 Outcome-Witness Graph Details

Graph structure. The Outcome-Witness Graph at step t is

$$\mathcal{G}_t = (\mathcal{O}_t, \mathcal{W}_t, \mathcal{A}_t, \mathcal{P}_t, \mathcal{V}_t, \mathcal{R}_t). \tag{19}$$

The node sets have the following roles:

- $\mathcal{O}_t$ stores outcomes or obligations that must be satisfied before the task can be safely closed.
- $\mathcal{W}_t$ stores witnesses extracted from tool outputs, logs, files, documents, validation traces, and environment observations.
- $\mathcal{A}_t$ stores historical actions and their effects.
- $\mathcal{P}_t$ stores live artifacts such as patches, edited files, generated documents, structured answers, plans, and intermediate deliverables.
- $\mathcal{V}_t$ stores validation signals such as tests, static checks, reproduction scripts, tool based verification, or explicit user constraints.
- $\mathcal{R}_t$ stores typed relations among nodes.

Node records. Each graph node is stored as a typed record:

$$n = (\mathrm{id}, \mathrm{type}, \mathrm{text}, \mathrm{source}, \mathrm{time}, \mathrm{status}, \mathrm{conf}, \mathrm{ptr}, \mathrm{meta}). \tag{20}$$

Here, id is a unique identifier, type is the node type, text is the compact textual content, source records where the node came from, time is the creation step, status indicates whether the node is active, resolved, stale, contradicted, or archived, conf is a confidence score, ptr points to raw evidence in the external witness store, and meta contains scaffold specific metadata.

Outcome records. An outcome record has the form

$$u = (\mathrm{id}, \mathrm{goal}, \mathrm{criterion}, \mathrm{owner}, \mathrm{status}, q_t(u), \mathrm{deadline}, \mathrm{meta}). \tag{21}$$

The field $\mathrm{criterion}$ specifies what must be true for the outcome to be considered closed. The field owner records the source of the obligation, such as the user request, issue description, test failure, generated plan, or validation script.

Witness records. A witness record is

$$w = (\mathrm{id}, \mathrm{claim}, \mathrm{polarity}, \mathrm{target}, \mathrm{strength}, \mathrm{freshness}, \mathrm{ptr}, \mathrm{status}). \tag{22}$$

The polarity can be positive, negative, neutral, or environmental. Positive witnesses support an outcome, negative witnesses refute an outcome or reveal a risk, neutral witnesses are useful receipts, and environmental witnesses describe failures that are not caused by the artifact itself.

Artifact records. An artifact record is

$$p = (\mathrm{id}, \mathrm{kind}, \mathrm{path}, \mathrm{digest}, \mathrm{liveness}, \mathrm{producer}, \mathrm{last_edit}, \mathrm{status}). \tag{23}$$

The digest can be a hash of the file, patch, answer, or structured output. Liveness indicates whether the artifact is recoverable from the current environment. In code repair, the artifact is the current worktree diff rather than a diff string copied from the conversation.

Validation records. A validation record is

$$v = (\mathrm{id}, \mathrm{method}, \mathrm{target}, \mathrm{result}, \mathrm{coverage}, \mathrm{reliability}, \mathrm{ptr}, \mathrm{status}). \tag{24}$$

The result can be pass, fail, unavailable, partial, or inconclusive. The coverage field specifies which outcome or artifact is tested by the validation.

Relation records. Relations in $\mathcal{R}_t$ are typed edges:

$$r = (n_i, n_j, \tau, \omega, \rho, \mathrm{status}), \tag{25}$$

where n_i and n_j are nodes, τ is the relation type, ω is the relation weight, and ρ is the reliability score. We use the following relation types:

$$\tau \in \{\mathrm{supports}, \mathrm{refutes}, \mathrm{produces}, \mathrm{modifies}, \mathrm{invalidates}, \mathrm{covers}, \mathrm{blocks}, \mathrm{duplicates}, \mathrm{supersedes}, \mathrm{depends_on}\}. \tag{26}$$

Closure belief. Each outcome u has a closure belief $q_t(u) \in [0, 1]$. One implementation is

$$q_t(u) = \sigma\big(\alpha_0 + \alpha_1 S_t^+(u) - \alpha_2 S_t^-(u) + \alpha_3 C_t^{\mathrm{val}}(u) + \alpha_4 L_t^{\mathrm{art}}(u) - \alpha_5 R_t^{\mathrm{reg}}(u)\big), \tag{27}$$

where $S_t^+(u)$ is supporting witness strength, $S_t^-(u)$ is negative witness strength, $C_t^{\mathrm{val}}(u)$ is validation coverage, $L_t^{\mathrm{art}}(u)$ is live artifact support, $R_t^{\mathrm{reg}}(u)$ is regression risk, and σ is a squashing function.

Update rule. Given a new action and observation pair, the parser extracts typed records:

$$g_t = \phi(a_t, o_t). \tag{28}$$

The graph update is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G}_{t+1} &= \mathrm{Update}(\mathcal{G}_t, g_t) \\ &= (\mathrm{Resolve} \circ \mathrm{Link} \circ \mathrm{Insert})(\mathcal{G}_t, g_t). \end{aligned} \tag{29}$$

The Insert step adds new nodes, the Link step adds typed relations, and the Resolve step updates status, closure belief, contradiction state, artifact liveness, and validation coverage. Raw observations are always stored in the external witness store:

$$\mathcal{H}^{\mathrm{raw}}_{t+1} = \mathcal{H}^{\mathrm{raw}}_t \cup \{(a_t, o_t, \mathrm{ptr}_t)\}. \tag{30}$$

A.4 Blocker Score and Budgeted Projection

The equations in this subsection provide an abstract objective-level view. The executable controller uses the deterministic priority rules and hard character limits specified in Section A.1.

Blocker score. Let $\mathcal{O}^{\mathrm{open}}_t$ be the set of outcomes that are not yet closed. The active blocker is

$$b_t = \arg \max_{u \in \mathcal{O}^{\mathrm{open}}_t} s_{\mathrm{blk}}(u; \mathcal{G}_t). \tag{31}$$

An abstract blocker score is

$$\begin{aligned} s_{\mathrm{blk}}(u; \mathcal{G}_t) = \lambda_1 R_t(u) + \lambda_2 N_t(u) + \lambda_3 A_t(u) \\ + \lambda_4 V_t(u) + \lambda_5 D_t(u) - \lambda_6 E_t(u). \end{aligned} \tag{32}$$

Here, $R_t(u) = 1 - q_t(u)$ is the remaining closure risk, $N_t(u)$ is negative witness strength, $A_t(u)$ is dependence on the current live artifact, $V_t(u)$ is validation uncertainty, $D_t(u)$ is downstream dependency count, and $E_t(u)$ is the probability that the failure is purely environmental. The last term prevents the controller from overfocusing on environment noise.

Coverage objective. At the abstract level, the projected subgraph $\mathcal{S}_t$ is written as:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{S}_t = \ & \arg \max_{\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{G}_t} \big[\mathrm{Cover}(\mathcal{S}; b_t) - \mathrm{Penalty}(\mathcal{S})\big] \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad \mathrm{tok}(\mathcal{S}) \le B. \end{aligned} \tag{33}$$

The coverage term is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{Cover}(\mathcal{S}; b_t) = & \beta_1 \mathbf{1}[b_t \in \mathcal{S}] + \beta_2 \mathrm{GoalCov}(\mathcal{S}; b_t) + \beta_3 \mathrm{WitCov}^{+}(\mathcal{S}; b_t) \\ & + \beta_4 \mathrm{WitCov}^{-}(\mathcal{S}; b_t) + \beta_5 \mathrm{ArtCov}(\mathcal{S}; b_t) \\ & + \beta_6 \mathrm{ValCov}(\mathcal{S}; b_t) + \beta_7 \mathrm{RiskCov}(\mathcal{S}; b_t). \end{aligned} \tag{34}$$

These terms reward coverage of the active blocker, parent goal, supporting witnesses, negative witnesses, live artifact, validation records, and risk constraints.

Penalty. The penalty term is

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{Penalty}(\mathcal{S}) = \eta_1 \mathrm{Redundancy}(\mathcal{S}) + \eta_2 \mathrm{Staleness}(\mathcal{S}) \\ + \eta_3 \mathrm{Noise}(\mathcal{S}) + \eta_4 \mathrm{RecoverableRaw}(\mathcal{S}). \end{aligned} \tag{35}$$

The last term discourages spending prompt budget on raw content that can be recovered from pointers when needed.

Node priority. For exposition, a generic frontier expansion may assign each candidate node n the priority

$$\begin{aligned} \mathrm{prio}_t(n; b_t) = \delta_1 \mathrm{rel}(n, b_t) + \delta_2 \mathrm{impact}(n) + \delta_3 \mathrm{fresh}(n) \\ + \delta_4 \mathrm{rare}(n) - \delta_5 \mathrm{cost}(n). \end{aligned} \tag{36}$$

Here, rel measures graph distance and semantic relevance to b_t, impact measures whether the node can change the next closure mode, fresh measures consistency with the current artifact, rare rewards information that is not present in recent context, and cost is token cost.

Greedy projection. Algorithm 2 provides an abstract view of blocker-centered projection.

Algorithm 2 Abstract View of Blocker-Centered Projection

Require: Graph $\mathcal{G}_t$, active blocker b_t, budget B
Ensure: Projected subgraph $\mathcal{S}_t$

$\mathcal{S}_t \leftarrow \{b_t\}$
$\mathcal{Q} \leftarrow \mathrm{Neighbors}(b_t)$
while $\mathcal{Q} \neq \emptyset$ and $\mathrm{tok}(\mathcal{S}_t) < B$ **do**
  $n^\star \leftarrow \arg\max_{n \in \mathcal{Q}} \mathrm{prio}_t(n; b_t)$
  if $\mathrm{tok}(\mathcal{S}_t \cup \{n^\star\}) \leq B$ **then**
    $\mathcal{S}_t \leftarrow \mathcal{S}_t \cup \{n^\star\}$
    $\mathcal{Q} \leftarrow \mathcal{Q} \cup \mathrm{Neighbors}(n^\star)$
  end if
  $\mathcal{Q} \leftarrow \mathcal{Q} \setminus \{n^\star\}$
end while
return $\mathcal{S}_t$

A.5 Closure Modes and Transition Rules

Closure descriptor. The full closure descriptor is

$$\gamma_t = (\gamma_t^{\mathrm{evi}}, \gamma_t^{\mathrm{art}}, \gamma_t^{\mathrm{val}}, \gamma_t^{\mathrm{risk}}, \gamma_t^{\mathrm{prog}}, \gamma_t^{\mathrm{final}}). \tag{37}$$

The components are:

- γ_t^{evi} indicates whether evidence is sufficient for the active blocker.
- γ_t^{art} indicates whether a live artifact exists and is recoverable.
- γ_t^{val} indicates whether validation covers the active blocker and the artifact.
- γ_t^{risk} summarizes residual semantic risk, regression risk, stale evidence, and contradictions.
- γ_t^{prog} measures whether recent actions increased closure progress.
- $\gamma_t^{\mathrm{final}}$ indicates whether the task is near safe finalization.

Mode set. The complete mode set is

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{M} = \{&\mathrm{EVIDENCE}, \mathrm{EDIT}, \mathrm{VALIDATE}, \mathrm{REVISE},\\ &\mathrm{INTERVENE}, \mathrm{FINALIZE}, \mathrm{RELEASE}\}.\end{aligned} \tag{38}$$

The selected mode is

$$m_t = \mathrm{SelectMode}(\mathcal{G}_t, \gamma_t), \qquad m_t \in \mathcal{M}. \tag{39}$$

Mode utility. We write mode selection as

$$m_t = \arg\max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} J(m; \mathcal{G}_t, \gamma_t), \tag{40}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}J(m; \mathcal{G}_t, \gamma_t) = \xi_1 \mathrm{Gain}(m) - \xi_2 \mathrm{Cost}(m)\\ - \xi_3 \mathrm{Risk}(m) - \xi_4 \mathrm{Loop}(m).\end{aligned} \tag{41}$$

This score is a mathematical description of the factors represented by the deterministic controller rules. The conditional cascade in Section A.1 specifies the executed decisions.

Transition rules. Table 8 summarizes the transition rules.

Table 8: Closure mode transition rules.

Condition	Mode	Controller effect
Evidence for b_t is missing or contradictory	EVIDENCE	Request targeted evidence or restore raw witness records.
Evidence is sufficient and no live artifact exists	EDIT	Encourage artifact creation or modification.
Live artifact exists and validation is missing	VALIDATE	Prioritize tests, checks, or target verification.
Validation fails or negative witnesses contradict artifact	REVISE	Focus revision on the failed obligation.
Same blocker repeats and recent progress is low	INTERVENE	Inject a compact intervention capsule.
Artifact is live, validated, and low risk	FINALIZE	Narrow the surface toward submission or the final answer.
Artifact is recoverable and further exploration is stalled	RELEASE	Return the recoverable artifact or best state.

Closure progress. For diagnosis, we track closure progress:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{C}(z_t) = \mathcal{C}_{\text{out}}(z_t) + \mathcal{C}_{\text{art}}(z_t) \\ + \mathcal{C}_{\text{val}}(z_t) - \mathcal{C}_{\text{risk}}(z_t).\end{aligned} \tag{42}$$

The terms are

$$\mathcal{C}_{\text{out}}(z_t) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{O}_t|} \sum_{u \in \mathcal{O}_t} q_t(u), \tag{43}$$

$$\mathcal{C}_{\text{art}}(z_t) = \mathbf{1}[\exists p \in \mathcal{P}_t : \text{Live}(p)], \tag{44}$$

$$\mathcal{C}_{\text{val}}(z_t) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{O}_t|} \sum_{u \in \mathcal{O}_t} \mathbf{1}[\text{CoveredByValidation}(u)], \tag{45}$$

$$\mathcal{C}_{\text{risk}}(z_t) = \text{StaleRisk}_t + \text{LoopRisk}_t + \text{RegressionRisk}_t + \text{ContradictionRisk}_t. \tag{46}$$

This diagnostic score is used for analysis and ablation only.

A.6 Control Capsule Templates

Capsule fields. A control capsule is rendered from the projected subgraph and the selected closure mode:

$$\kappa_t = \Psi(\mathcal{S}_t, m_t). \tag{47}$$

The full capsule schema is

$$\begin{aligned}\kappa_t = (b_t, E_t^+, E_t^-, p_t, v_t, \\ r_t^{\text{risk}}, d_t, a_t^{\text{avoid}}, \text{ptr}_t).\end{aligned} \tag{48}$$

Here, b_t is the active blocker, E_t^+ is supporting evidence, E_t^- is negative evidence, p_t is live artifact state, v_t is validation state, r_t^{risk} is residual risk, d_t is the recommended next closure action, a_t^{avoid} lists actions to avoid, and ptr_t contains raw evidence pointers.

Delta rendering. To avoid repeatedly injecting identical controller messages, OWG hashes stable fields:

$$h_t = \text{Hash}(b_t, E_t^-, p_t, v_t, r_t^{\text{risk}}, m_t). \tag{49}$$

If h_t has not appeared before, the controller renders the full capsule. If the same hash appears again, it renders only the changed fields:

$$\kappa_t^{\text{delta}} = \text{Diff}(\kappa_t, \kappa_{t'}), \qquad t' = \max\{i < t : h_i = h_t\}. \tag{50}$$

Text template. A typical capsule is rendered as follows:

```
[OWG_CONTROL_CAPSULE]
mode: VALIDATE
active_blocker: <the unresolved outcome currently blocking closure>
supporting_evidence:
\- <witness id and compact content>
negative_or_risk_evidence:
\- <negative witness id and compact content>
live_artifact:
path: <artifact path or pointer>
status: <live / stale / missing>
validation_state:
last_check: <test or verification result>
coverage: <covered obligations>
recommended_next_action:
<one targeted next step>
avoid:
\- <action that repeats stale exploration>
\- <action that ignores negative witness>
raw_pointers:
\- <recoverable evidence pointer>
[/OWG_CONTROL_CAPSULE]
```

Intervention capsule. When the controller detects repeated no progress, it renders an intervention capsule:

```
[OWG_INTERVENTION]
reason: repeated blocker without closure progress
current_blocker: <blocker>
blocking_evidence: <negative witness or missing validation>
required_shift:
<move from broad exploration to targeted evidence, revision, or
    validation>
do_not_repeat:
<commands, files, or searches already exhausted>
[/OWG_INTERVENTION]
```

Release capsule. When the release predicate is satisfied, the controller renders:

```
[OWG_RELEASE]
reason: live artifact is recoverable and further exploration is stalled
artifact_source: live environment
recovery_rule: recover from worktree or generated file, not from
    conversation text
validation_status: <passed / attempted / unavailable>
final_action: submit or return current artifact
[/OWG_RELEASE]
```

A.7 Surface Control and Integration

Surface definition. The visible agent surface is

$$\sigma_t = (\mathcal{T}_t, \mathcal{I}_t, \mathcal{L}_t), \tag{51}$$

where $\mathcal{T}_t$ is the visible tool set, $\mathcal{I}_t$ is the fixed instruction surface, and $\mathcal{L}_t$ is the tool output visibility policy.

Surface objective. The controller chooses the surface by

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_t = \ & \arg\min_{\sigma} \left[\mathrm{Cost}(\sigma) + \chi(\sigma; z_t) \right] \\ & \text{s.t.} \quad \mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{req}}(z_t) \subseteq \mathcal{A}(\sigma). \end{aligned} \tag{52}$$

Here, $\chi(\sigma; z_t)$ penalizes irrelevant action affordances, $\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{req}}(z_t)$ is the action set required by the current mode, and $\mathcal{A}(\sigma)$ is the action set exposed by the surface.

Mode specific surface. The surface is adjusted according to the selected mode:

- EVIDENCE exposes targeted inspection, search, retrieval, and file reading tools.
- EDIT exposes artifact editing tools and suppresses broad unrelated search.
- VALIDATE exposes tests, static checks, reproduction scripts, and verification tools.
- REVISE exposes both artifact editing and failure evidence.
- INTERVENE exposes the minimal tools needed to escape repeated failure.
- FINALIZE exposes artifact recovery and submission tools.
- RELEASE bypasses further broad action and returns the recoverable artifact.

mini SWE agent integration. In software engineering agents, OWG is implemented as a wrapper around the model call and action observation loop. The integration points are:

- After each shell action, parse stdout, stderr, exit code, file changes, test results, and diff state.
- Store raw outputs in the witness store and promote only closure changing signals into the graph.
- Before each model call, render the projected control capsule and recent context.
- Recover the final patch from the worktree diff rather than from conversation text.

OpenClaw integration. In general tool use agents, OWG acts as a thin execution state controller. The integration points are:

- Parse tool observations into witnesses, artifacts, validations, and environment noise.
- Store long tool outputs externally and keep only compact pointers in the prompt.
- Use active blocker selection to decide which evidence should be visible.
- Narrow tool descriptions and continuation messages according to the current closure mode.

Tool output cropping. Long observations are stored as raw records:

$$o_t \mapsto (\mathrm{head}(o_t), \mathrm{tail}(o_t), \mathrm{summary}(o_t), \mathrm{keyvals}(o_t), \mathrm{ptr}_t). \tag{53}$$

The prompt receives only the compact representation unless raw evidence is explicitly restored.

A.8 Decision Sufficiency

Definition. A capsule κ_t is ϵ closure sufficient if

$$\Delta_{\mathrm{close}}(H_t, \kappa_t) \leq \epsilon. \tag{54}$$

When $\epsilon = 0$, the capsule preserves the same closure mode as the full history.

Proposition 1. Assume that the next closure mode depends only on the active blocker, the supporting and negative witnesses for that blocker, the live artifact state, the validation state, and the forbidden actions associated with regression risk. If the control capsule κ_t contains these factors, then the closure mode selected from κ_t is identical to the closure mode selected from the full history H_t.

Proof. Let the mode selector be

$$m_t = \arg\max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \mathcal{U}(m; \cdot). \tag{55}$$

By assumption, the utility function $\mathcal{U}$ depends only on the active blocker, supporting witnesses, negative witnesses, live artifact state, validation state, and forbidden actions. Let

$$F(H_t) \tag{56}$$

denote these factors extracted from the full history and

$$F(\kappa_t) \tag{57}$$

denote the same factors extracted from the capsule. Since κ_t contains all assumed factors, we have

$$F(H_t) = F(\kappa_t). \tag{58}$$

Therefore, for every mode $m \in \mathcal{M}$,

$$\mathcal{U}(m; H_t) = \mathcal{U}(m; \kappa_t). \tag{59}$$

The maximizer over $\mathcal{M}$ is thus identical:

$$\arg\max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \mathcal{U}(m; H_t) = \arg\max_{m \in \mathcal{M}} \mathcal{U}(m; \kappa_t). \tag{60}$$

Hence the closure mode selected from the capsule equals the closure mode selected from the full history.

Discussion. Under the stated dependence on the recorded factors, preserving those factors preserves the next controller decision. The result concerns this decision and motivates retaining its inputs together: the requirement, supporting and contradicting evidence, current output, checks, and actions excluded by regression risk.

A.9 Release and Recovery Details

Release predicate. The release predicate is

$$\mathrm{Rel}(z_t) = \mathbf{1}\left[\mathrm{Ready}(z_t) \wedge \mathrm{Safe}(z_t) \wedge \mathrm{Stalled}(z_t)\right]. \tag{61}$$

Ready. The readiness predicate is

$$\mathrm{Ready}(z_t) = \mathbf{1}\left[\exists p \in \mathcal{P}_t : \mathrm{Live}(p) \wedge \neg\mathrm{Empty}(p) \wedge \mathrm{Recoverable}(p)\right]. \tag{62}$$

For code repair, this means that the worktree diff is nonempty and can be recovered. For document or tool use tasks, this means that the generated file, answer, table, or plan exists and is accessible.

Safe. The safety predicate is

$$\begin{aligned}\mathrm{Safe}(z_t) = \mathbf{1}\big[&\neg\mathrm{RegressionWitness}(z_t) \\ &\wedge \big(\mathrm{ValidationAttempted}(z_t) \vee \mathrm{ValidationUnavailable}(z_t)\big)\big].\end{aligned} \tag{63}$$

ValidationUnavailable is used only when the environment failure is explicitly classified as external, such as missing infrastructure, unavailable dependency, timeout unrelated to the artifact, or known benchmark setup failure.

Stalled. The stalled predicate is

$$\mathrm{Stalled}(z_t) = \mathbf{1}\left[\Delta\mathcal{C}_{t-k:t} \le \tau_{\mathrm{prog}} \wedge \mathrm{Repeat}(b_{t-k:t})\right], \tag{64}$$

where $\Delta\mathcal{C}_{t-k:t}$ is closure progress over the last k steps and $\mathrm{Repeat}(b_{t-k:t})$ indicates that the same blocker has persisted.

Patch recovery. For code repair tasks, the final patch is recovered from the live worktree:

$$\mathrm{FinalPatch}(z_t) = \mathrm{WorktreeDiff}(z_t). \tag{65}$$

The controller does not extract patches from the last diff like text span in the conversation. This prevents stale diff contamination, broken hunk context, empty patch submission, and mismatch between transcript state and repository state.

Raw evidence recovery. Release can also act as a reverse safety valve. If compact projection is insufficient, OWG restores selected raw evidence:

$$R_t^{\mathrm{raw}} = \mathrm{RestoreRawContext}(\mathcal{H}^{\mathrm{raw}}, b_t, B). \tag{66}$$

Raw recovery is triggered when the active blocker is unstable, the artifact pointer is inconsistent, validation reliability is low, or the projected subgraph lacks necessary evidence.

Recovery order. When multiple artifacts exist, recovery follows the order:

1. live environment artifact with successful validation,
2. live environment artifact with attempted but unavailable validation,
3. latest nonempty artifact without explicit regression witness,
4. best recoverable partial artifact with explicit warning.

Failure prevention. The release and recovery mechanism is designed to prevent four failure modes:

- Empty artifact submission, where the agent submits without a recoverable output.
- Stale artifact submission, where an old text artifact is submitted instead of the live artifact.
- Post edit wandering, where the agent keeps exploring after producing a usable artifact.
- Validation blind finalization, where the agent finalizes despite an uncovered blocker or explicit negative witness.

B SUPPLEMENTARY EXPERIMENTS

This appendix provides the complete experimental protocol, detailed token breakdown tables, pricing information, repeated-run statistics, ablation results, and supplementary analyses that support the claims in the main text. All settings correspond to the results reported in the main paper.

B.1 COMPLETE EXPERIMENTAL PROTOCOL

Benchmarks. We evaluate OWG on six benchmarks spanning both software engineering and general tool-use domains. SWE-bench Verified (50 tasks), SWE-bench Lite (50 tasks), and SWE-bench Multilingual (50 tasks) test code repair on Python and multilingual repositories. PinchBench (147 tasks) and ClawBench (319 tasks) evaluate general-purpose tool-use agents across academic, accounting, bioinformatics, calendar, clinical, code, communication, content-analysis, contract-review, cross-domain, CS-engineering, and data-analysis domains. TerminalBench-2 (89 tasks) tests terminal-based interaction. The SWE family experiments use fixed 50-task subsets extracted from the official benchmark splits. Repeated runs (Section B.6), context management comparisons (Section B.7), ablations (Section B.8), and mechanism analyses (Section B.10) use fixed 50-task subsets of PinchBench and SWE-bench Verified. The complete task identifiers, sampling rules, and per-task outcomes are listed in the released evaluation files.

Models and agent settings. The evaluated base models are: **DeepSeek-V4-Flash** (RMB 1.00/M input, RMB 2.00/M output), **DeepSeek-V4-Pro** (RMB 3.00/M input, RMB 6.00/M output), **GPT-5.4** ($2.50/M input, $15.00/M output), **Claude Haiku 4.5** ($1.00/M input, $5.00/M output), and **GLM-5** (RMB 4.00 to RMB 6.00/M input, RMB 18.00 to RMB 22.00/M output, depending on context length). BASELINE denotes the original full-history agent, which renders the complete trajectory via the default scaffold. OWG stores the raw trajectory externally, updates an Outcome-Witness Graph, and conditions the base agent on recent raw context and a graph-derived capsule. OWG-HYBRID uses a lightweight sidecar builder (Qwen3-14B) to assist graph construction and updates.

Context management baselines (50-task SWE sweep). For the method comparison sweep on SWE-bench Verified (50 tasks), we compare 18 methods: FULL HISTORY, four Sliding Window settings (K = 2, 3, 5, 10), three FIFO Oldest Drop budgets (8k, 16k, 32k), three Naive Periodic Summary intervals (N = 3, 5, 8), four AgentDiet-style configurations (θ = 500, 800, 1000; a = 2 or 3), two ContextWeaver-style variants (tree and DAG dependency modes, K = 5), and OWG (ours).

Metrics. SCORE denotes the official benchmark score or resolved task count. PASS@1 is the single-run success rate. PASS@5 is the fraction of tasks solved at least once over five runs. We additionally record uncached input tokens, cache read tokens, output tokens, model requests, and agent steps. Provider-reported reasoning tokens are included in the output-token field because they are charged at the same output rate. COST is computed from provider-reported usage and the pricing

schedule in Table 12. The primary resource metric is monetary cost computed from usage. Uncached input, cache reads, and output tokens are accounted for separately because they have different prices.

Implementation. All software-engineering experiments use `mini-SWE-agent` as the base scaffold and interact with SWE-bench Docker environments through a `bash` tool-call interface. Temperature is set to 0, and the official SWE-bench harness is used for code-repair evaluation. Provider usage fields are recorded per request. Provider-reported reasoning tokens are already included in the output-token field and are charged at the output rate. The cost limit is $10.0 per task. Table 9 summarizes the execution horizons used by the reported experiments.

Table 9: Execution limits used in the reported experiments.

Experiment	Step limit
Main SWE-bench comparison	100
Context-management sweep	250
Aggregate cross-benchmark evaluation	50
Five-run repeated evaluation	50
Trajectory case studies	Original task-specific horizon

B.2 Task Subsets and Sampling Rules

The tables below document the fixed 50 task subsets used in the SWE family experiments and repeated evaluations. Each subset is specified by its task identifiers and selection procedure.

SWE-bench Verified fixed subset. The main SWE-bench comparison uses the following 50 instances. The subset was selected as a convenience set for mechanism analysis and efficient repeated evaluation rather than by a formal random seed. It covers eight repositories, with 20 Astropy and 17 Django instances.

Table 10: Fixed 50-instance SWE-bench Verified subset.

#	Instance ID	Repository
1	`astropy__astropy-12907`	astropy
2	`astropy__astropy-13033`	astropy
3	`astropy__astropy-13236`	astropy
4	`astropy__astropy-13398`	astropy
5	`astropy__astropy-13453`	astropy
6	`astropy__astropy-13579`	astropy
7	`astropy__astropy-13977`	astropy
8	`astropy__astropy-14096`	astropy
9	`astropy__astropy-14182`	astropy
10	`astropy__astropy-14309`	astropy
11	`astropy__astropy-14365`	astropy
12	`astropy__astropy-14369`	astropy
13	`astropy__astropy-14508`	astropy
14	`astropy__astropy-14539`	astropy
15	`astropy__astropy-14598`	astropy
16	`astropy__astropy-14995`	astropy
17	`astropy__astropy-7166`	astropy
18	`astropy__astropy-7336`	astropy
19	`astropy__astropy-7606`	astropy
20	`astropy__astropy-7671`	astropy
21	`django__django-10880`	django
22	`django__django-10914`	django
23	`django__django-11066`	django
24	`django__django-11099`	django

Continued on next page.

Table 10 continued.

#	Instance ID	Repository
25	django__django-11149	django
26	django__django-11333	django
27	django__django-11433	django
28	django__django-12308	django
29	django__django-12663	django
30	django__django-13279	django
31	django__django-13343	django
32	django__django-13964	django
33	django__django-14373	django
34	django__django-15315	django
35	django__django-16100	django
36	django__django-16899	django
37	django__django-16950	django
38	matplotlib__matplotlib-21568	matplotlib
39	psf__requests-2317	requests
40	pydata__xarray-3151	xarray
41	pydata__xarray-3993	xarray
42	pydata__xarray-4695	xarray
43	pylint-dev__pylint-4661	pylint
44	scikit-learn__scikit-learn-13124	scikit-learn
45	scikit-learn__scikit-learn-13496	scikit-learn
46	scikit-learn__scikit-learn-15100	scikit-learn
47	sphinx-doc__sphinx-7454	sphinx
48	sphinx-doc__sphinx-7910	sphinx
49	sphinx-doc__sphinx-8056	sphinx
50	sympy__sympy-22714	sympy

PinchBench repeated-run subset. The five-run stability experiment uses the same 50 tasks in every repeat, with identical task ordering across Baseline and OWG. Each task is executed independently in five repeats, yielding 250 task-runs per method. The subset is a curated cross-domain sample and has no documented random seed.

Table 11: Fixed 50-task PinchBench subset used in the five-run evaluation.

#	Task ID	#	Task ID
1	task_earnings_analysis	2	task_executive_lookup
3	task_image_identification	4	task_pdf_to_calendar
5	task_polymarket_briefing	6	task_pricing_research
7	task_email_triage	8	task_cicd_pipeline_debug
9	task_commit_message_writer	10	task_todo_list_cleanup
11	task_cron_organizer	12	task_email_search
13	task_it_procurement	14	task_contract_analysis
15	task_daily_summary	16	task_deep_research
17	task_eu_regulation_research	18	task_summary
19	task_video_transcript_extraction	20	task_competitive_research
21	task_playwright_e2e	22	task_oss_alternative_research
23	task_access_log_anomaly	24	task_blog
25	task_browser_automation	26	task_byok_best_practices
27	task_calendar	28	task_codebase_navigation
29	task_dockerfile_optimization	30	task_eli5_pdf_summary
31	task_email	32	task_email_reply_drafting
33	task_events	34	task_financial_ratio_calculation
35	task_git_rescue_recovery	36	task_humanizer
37	task_iterative_code_refine	38	task_k8s_debugging

Continued on next page.

Table 11 continued.

#	Task ID	#	Task ID
39	task_market_research	40	task_multi_file_refactoring
41	task_openclaw_comprehension	42	task_readme_generation
43	task_sanity	44	task_selector_fix
45	task_shell_command_generator	46	task_spreadsheet_summary
47	task_stock	48	task_subway_navigation
49	task_test_generation	50	task_weather

B.3 Pricing Schedule

Table 12 reports the per-million-token pricing for all evaluated models. For models with context-length-dependent pricing (GLM-5), the lower rate applies to inputs below 32K tokens and the higher rate to inputs above 32K tokens. RMB-denominated prices are converted to USD-equivalent using USD 1 = RMB 7.25 when reporting total cost in the cross-benchmark table.

Table 12: Model pricing schedule (per million tokens).

Model	Input (uncached)	Output	Cache hit
DeepSeek-V4-Flash	RMB 1.00	RMB 2.00	RMB 0.02
DeepSeek-V4-Pro	RMB 3.00	RMB 6.00	RMB 0.025
GPT-5.4	$2.50	$15.00	$0.25
Claude Haiku 4.5	$1.00	$5.00	$0.10
GLM-5 (0 to 32K)	RMB 4.00	RMB 18.00	RMB 1.00
GLM-5 (32K+)	RMB 6.00	RMB 22.00	RMB 1.50

Cost is computed as:

$$\text{cost} = \frac{\text{input} \cdot p_{\text{input}} + \text{cache} \cdot p_{\text{cache}} + \text{output} \cdot p_{\text{output}}}{1\,000\,000}. \tag{67}$$

B.4 Cross-Benchmark Main Results

Table 13 reports the main cross-benchmark comparison across six benchmarks and five models. Each cell reports `resolved/total` and total USD cost computed from usage for the evaluated task set.

Table 13: Cross-benchmark main results. Each cell reports resolved/total and total USD cost computed from usage.

Model	Method	SWE-Verified	PinchBench	ClawBench	Terminal-Bench
DeepSeek-V4-Flash	Baseline	37/50 $0.79	131/147 $1.35	286/319 $0.66	30/89 $1.32
	OWG	36/50 $0.49	133/147 $0.89	289/319 $0.52	34/89 $0.73
	OWG-Hybrid	36/50 $0.42	130/147 $0.94	287/319 $0.57	33/89 $0.71
DeepSeek-V4-Pro	Baseline	36/50 $1.14	138/147 $2.01	295/319 $2.18	55/89 $4.01
	OWG	35/50 $0.81	141/147 $1.63	296/319 $1.72	57/89 $2.67
	OWG-Hybrid	34/50 $1.05	140/147 $1.58	296/319 $1.61	56/89 $2.69
GPT-5.4	Baseline	34/50 $12.45	126/147 $20.10	296/319 $34.17	51/89 $62.97
	OWG	34/50 $9.77	129/147 $15.07	297/319 $28.91	52/89 $45.61
	OWG-Hybrid	32/50 $9.33	128/147 $14.31	295/319 $30.58	51/89 $49.58
Claude Haiku 4.5	Baseline	34/50 $5.80	131/147 $6.78	285/319 $6.37	25/89 $16.15
	OWG	35/50 $2.90	132/147 $4.99	286/319 $4.34	26/89 $12.30
	OWG-Hybrid	33/50 $3.34	132/147 $5.52	286/319 $4.96	23/89 $12.83
GLM-5	Baseline	36/50 $6.89	125/147 $5.48	293/319 $4.50	46/89 $10.56
	OWG	37/50 $3.72	129/147 $4.40	293/319 $3.59	47/89 $8.06
	OWG-Hybrid	37/50 $4.00	128/147 $4.49	292/319 $4.16	46/89 $8.98

Table 14: Cross-benchmark results for SWE-Lite and SWE-Multilingual.

Model	Method	SWE-Lite	SWE-Multilingual
DeepSeek-V4-Flash	Baseline	37/50 $0.34	30/50 $0.63
	OWG	36/50 $0.18	30/50 $0.32
	OWG-Hybrid	36/50 $0.25	29/50 $0.42
DeepSeek-V4-Pro	Baseline	38/50 $0.91	30/50 $1.31
	OWG	36/50 $0.52	30/50 $0.93
	OWG-Hybrid	36/50 $0.62	29/50 $1.09
GPT-5.4	Baseline	33/50 $11.88	29/50 $17.08
	OWG	33/50 $7.55	28/50 $8.85
	OWG-Hybrid	32/50 $7.94	28/50 $10.53
Claude Haiku 4.5	Baseline	36/50 $11.86	33/50 $14.32
	OWG	36/50 $5.75	32/50 $7.31
	OWG-Hybrid	35/50 $6.62	32/50 $8.18
GLM-5	Baseline	38/50 $5.43	35/50 $10.12
	OWG	37/50 $2.26	36/50 $5.13
	OWG-Hybrid	36/50 $2.54	35/50 $5.74

B.5 Detailed Token Breakdown by Benchmark

Tables 15–17 report the detailed token breakdown for each model–benchmark–method combination across the three SWE-bench subsets (50 tasks each). Input is uncached input tokens, Cache is cache-read tokens, and Output includes both completion and provider-reported reasoning tokens. Calls is total model requests. For OWG-Hybrid, cost additionally includes sidecar-builder usage, so the cross-benchmark cost cannot always be reconstructed from the displayed executor token columns alone.

Table 15: SWE-bench Verified: detailed token breakdown (50 tasks).

Model	Method	Score	Input	Cache	Output	Calls
GPT-5.4	Baseline	34/50	2,242,937	11,938,844	257,441	1,050
	OWG	34/50	1,623,394	7,581,518	254,559	720
	OWG-Hybrid	32/50	1,361,060	8,465,720	250,208	760
Claude Haiku 4.5	Baseline	34/50	1,247,825	23,565,275	439,813	1,975
	OWG	35/50	715,486	9,815,518	240,651	1,050
	OWG-Hybrid	33/50	800,432	11,252,346	260,584	1,125
DeepSeek-V4-Pro	Baseline	36/50	1,071,928	44,423,680	662,310	2,088
	OWG	35/50	1,105,283	7,963,801	390,564	980
	OWG-Hybrid	34/50	1,360,293	16,215,441	410,362	1,025
DeepSeek-V4-Flash	Baseline	37/50	2,801,384	56,203,857	883,107	2,442
	OWG	36/50	1,790,668	16,071,936	731,876	1,170
	OWG-Hybrid	36/50	1,180,909	18,921,380	390,429	840
GLM-5	Baseline	36/50	1,326,840	34,126,903	585,214	1,976
	OWG	37/50	1,247,593	13,062,774	496,831	1,241
	OWG-Hybrid	37/50	1,171,268	15,843,527	433,906	1,151

Table 16: SWE-bench Lite: detailed token breakdown (50 tasks).

Model	Method	Score	Input	Cache	Output	Calls
GPT-5.4	Baseline	33/50	2,092,462	12,469,600	235,298	1,000
	OWG	33/50	1,286,407	7,438,156	164,957	650
	OWG-Hybrid	32/50	1,188,437	8,604,910	186,730	690
Claude Haiku 4.5	Baseline	36/50	1,297,200	69,093,945	730,625	2,650
	OWG	36/50	831,520	28,621,463	410,601	1,400
	OWG-Hybrid	35/50	1,102,764	31,737,664	450,479	1,550
DeepSeek-V4-Pro	Baseline	38/50	983,470	28,321,600	494,233	1,673
	OWG	36/50	690,945	10,917,815	238,542	880
	OWG-Hybrid	36/50	760,598	9,847,593	252,942	850
DeepSeek-V4-Flash	Baseline	37/50	940,831	29,557,213	480,369	1,650
	OWG	36/50	617,608	9,825,721	230,380	760
	OWG-Hybrid	36/50	725,935	8,815,957	260,746	780
GLM-5	Baseline	38/50	936,817	27,284,615	463,728	1,572
	OWG	37/50	642,309	9,682,441	229,764	791
	OWG-Hybrid	36/50	781,456	10,113,728	263,190	824

Table 17: SWE-bench Multilingual: detailed token breakdown (50 tasks).

Model	Method	Score	Input	Cache	Output	Calls
GPT-5.4	Baseline	29/50	1,508,191	11,710,951	691,962	1,150
	OWG	28/50	769,293	7,342,639	339,401	820
	OWG-Hybrid	28/50	908,979	8,802,515	399,146	850
Claude Haiku 4.5	Baseline	33/50	2,200,505	78,219,752	860,435	3,100
	OWG	32/50	1,717,947	32,863,317	460,272	1,650
	OWG-Hybrid	32/50	1,815,310	36,569,741	520,150	1,800
DeepSeek-V4-Pro	Baseline	30/50	1,150,088	51,182,080	789,480	1,735
	OWG	30/50	1,070,746	22,600,282	495,742	1,180
	OWG-Hybrid	29/50	1,280,338	21,415,502	525,769	1,190
DeepSeek-V4-Flash	Baseline	30/50	2,125,270	48,157,949	750,374	1,725
	OWG	30/50	1,020,237	20,225,142	455,543	1,050
	OWG-Hybrid	29/50	1,250,539	19,417,644	495,931	1,080
GLM-5	Baseline	35/50	1,683,404	52,179,604	801,935	1,921
	OWG	36/50	1,196,528	23,244,081	509,874	1,271
	OWG-Hybrid	35/50	1,452,376	25,481,966	548,613	1,428

Table 18: PinchBench-147: detailed token breakdown.

Model	Method	Score	Input	Cache	Output
DeepSeek-V4-Flash	Baseline	131/147	7,803,420	39,379,840	606,260
	OWG	133/147	4,635,215	23,254,528	684,067
	OWG-Hybrid	130/147	4,697,032	13,839,168	546,443
DeepSeek-V4-Pro	Baseline	138/147	3,529,764	30,511,085	541,541
	OWG	141/147	2,769,359	14,212,314	524,217
	OWG-Hybrid	140/147	2,585,480	13,759,212	521,659
GPT-5.4	Baseline	126/147	4,622,435	12,740,352	357,585
	OWG	129/147	3,031,459	6,205,440	396,099
	OWG-Hybrid	128/147	2,883,238	6,843,392	358,658
Claude Haiku 4.5	Baseline	131/147	3,500,158	21,300,475	230,847
	OWG	132/147	3,400,547	10,289,935	112,776
	OWG-Hybrid	132/147	3,627,932	11,335,939	145,454
GLM-5	Baseline	125/147	4,965,240	14,880,360	277,565
	OWG	129/147	3,824,910	9,218,740	411,426
	OWG-Hybrid	128/147	3,715,680	9,736,520	409,130

Table 19: ClawBench-319: detailed token breakdown.

Model	Method	Score	Input	Cache	Output
DeepSeek-V4-Flash	Baseline	286/319	1,415,156	39,324,416	1,306,787
	OWG	289/319	1,267,619	30,496,960	952,271
	OWG-Hybrid	287/319	1,180,853	25,217,312	1,020,391
GPT-5.4	Baseline	296/319	1,934,620	28,385,494	1,482,457
	OWG	297/319	1,726,464	19,756,918	1,310,520
	OWG-Hybrid	295/319	1,785,209	21,373,718	1,380,452
Claude Haiku 4.5	Baseline	285/319	718,559	35,484,779	420,707
	OWG	286/319	894,416	22,423,638	240,254
	OWG-Hybrid	286/319	989,682	23,548,227	310,490
GLM-5	Baseline	293/319	945,252	16,800,409	670,410
	OWG	293/319	898,301	11,460,622	610,262
	OWG-Hybrid	292/319	730,709	13,203,190	760,798
DeepSeek-V4-Pro	Baseline	295/319	1,411,910	41,487,354	1,749,348
	OWG	296/319	1,180,490	31,624,951	1,350,621
	OWG-Hybrid	296/319	1,140,795	32,151,603	1,159,804

Table 20: TerminalBench-2 (89 tasks): detailed token breakdown.

Model	Method	Score	Input	Cache	Output
DeepSeek-V4-Flash	Baseline	30/89	1,674,507	38,847,744	2,229,220
	OWG	34/89	1,211,417	26,721,536	1,095,712
	OWG-Hybrid	33/89	1,247,776	22,975,151	1,020,710
GPT-5.4	Baseline	51/89	2,245,285	29,687,960	2,178,709
	OWG	52/89	1,745,747	20,880,287	1,580,858
	OWG-Hybrid	51/89	1,724,577	22,335,495	1,720,411
DeepSeek-V4-Pro	Baseline	55/89	1,826,524	32,534,219	1,950,619
	OWG	57/89	1,050,604	28,426,738	1,160,905
	OWG-Hybrid	56/89	1,263,329	25,624,231	1,150,535
Claude Haiku 4.5	Baseline	25/89	1,793,674	39,527,478	1,760,610
	OWG	26/89	1,614,890	25,824,850	1,430,235
	OWG-Hybrid	23/89	1,424,916	26,698,762	1,510,967
GLM-5	Baseline	46/89	1,557,250	18,096,392	1,850,312
	OWG	47/89	1,023,485	13,390,698	1,450,206
	OWG-Hybrid	46/89	1,163,473	14,264,571	1,646,620

B.6 Repeated Run Results

Tables 21 and 22 report the five-run repeated experiment results on PinchBench (50-task subset) and SWE-bench Verified (50-task subset), respectively. Each run consists of the same 50 tasks; the task order is fixed across runs. Pass@1 is the single-run success rate averaged over the five runs; Pass@5 is the fraction of tasks solved at least once across all five runs.

Table 21: PinchBench repeated runs (5 runs $\times$ 50 tasks). Values are mean $\pm$ standard deviation across runs.

Method	Avg score	Std	Pass@1	Pass@5	Total tokens	Est. cost	Calls
Baseline	43.34/50	0.89	60.0%	78.0%	11,952,148 $\pm$ 1,342,666	0.242 ± 0.036	394 ± 26
OWG	44.75/50	0.83	60.4%	84.0%	5,596,642 $\pm$ 727,944	0.191 ± 0.027	281 ± 41

Table 22: SWE-bench Verified repeated runs (5 runs $\times$ 50 tasks). Values are mean $\pm$ standard deviation across runs; USD cost uses USD 1 = RMB 7.25.

Method	Avg score	Std	Pass@1	Pass@5	Total tokens	Est. cost	Calls
Baseline	36.80/50	2.68	73.6%	84.0%	44,913,723 $\pm$ 1,994,340	0.544 ± 0.396	$2{,}192 \pm 66$
OWG	37.00/50	1.22	74.0%	86.0%	11,593,539 $\pm$ 1,131,922	0.349 ± 0.249	935 ± 20

Table 23: SWE-bench Verified repeated runs: token composition comparison.

Method	Uncached input	Cache read	Output
Baseline	1,762,290	42,486,912	664,521
OWG	1,592,394	9,629,414	371,731

B.7 Context Management Method Comparison

Table 24 reports the full 18-method sweep on SWE-bench Verified (50 tasks). All methods use DeepSeek-V4-Flash as the base model. Keep is the ratio of compressed prompt estimate to full-history prompt estimate (character-based approximation, for diagnostic purposes only). The sweep was run with `step_limit=250` and `cost_limit=10.0`.

Table 24: Method comparison on SWE-bench Verified (50 tasks).

ID	Family	Resolved	Uncached In	Cache Read	Output	Requests	Keep
00	Full History	36/50	2.36M	42.49M	0.73M	2,442	1.000
01	Sliding Window k2	12/50	5.91M	16.31M	0.89M	5,035	0.495
02	Sliding Window k3	7/50	9.09M	14.24M	0.99M	4,645	0.520
03	Sliding Window k5	18/50	13.54M	11.88M	0.94M	3,870	0.567
04	Sliding Window k10	27/50	15.08M	10.71M	0.62M	2,780	0.575
05	FIFO Drop 8k	29/50	5.71M	18.29M	0.48M	2,555	0.535
06	FIFO Drop 16k	34/50	3.49M	27.75M	0.46M	2,240	0.697
07	FIFO Drop 32k	31/50	1.21M	41.72M	0.56M	2,565	0.957
08	Summary N3	30/50	2.03M	31.30M	0.52M	2,627	0.743
09	Summary N5	27/50	1.67M	38.38M	0.59M	2,532	0.893
10	Summary N8	25/50	1.30M	38.58M	0.54M	2,595	0.889
11	AgentDiet 500 a2 b1	28/50	1.82M	46.15M	0.58M	2,665	1.070
12	AgentDiet 800 a2 b1	30/50	1.35M	39.82M	0.53M	2,390	0.918
13	AgentDiet 1000 a2 b1	27/50	1.09M	41.14M	0.53M	2,472	0.942
14	AgentDiet 1000 a3 b1	29/50	1.24M	38.27M	0.48M	2,415	0.881
15	CW Tree K5	31/50	10.27M	13.92M	0.98M	4,890	0.539
16	CW DAG K5	32/50	11.78M	13.97M	1.00M	4,845	0.574
17	**OWG (ours)**	**38/50**	**1.54M**	**9.62M**	**0.40M**	**1,070**	**0.249**

Table 25: Cost comparison for method sweep (DeepSeek-V4-Flash pricing).

Method ID	Family	Cost
00	Full History	$0.64
01	Sliding Window k2	$1.11
02	Sliding Window k3	$1.57
03	Sliding Window k5	$2.16
04	Sliding Window k10	$2.28
05	FIFO Drop 8k	$0.97
06	FIFO Drop 16k	$0.68
07	FIFO Drop 32k	$0.44
08	Summary N3	$0.51
09	Summary N5	$0.50
10	Summary N8	$0.43
11	AgentDiet 500 a2 b1	$0.54
12	AgentDiet 800 a2 b1	$0.44
13	AgentDiet 1000 a2 b1	$0.41
14	AgentDiet 1000 a3 b1	$0.41
15	CW Tree K5	$1.73
16	CW DAG K5	$1.94
17	**OWG (ours)**	**$0.35**

B.8 Ablation Study

Table 26 reports the ablation study on SWE-bench Verified (50 tasks, DeepSeek-V4-Flash). Each row removes one component from the full OWG system. Tokens is total provider-reported tokens. Tokens/Full is the ratio relative to Full OWG. Repeated Loop counts consecutive same-blocker events. Stale Evidence counts the number of stale observation exposures.

Table 26: Ablation study on SWE-bench Verified (50 tasks).

Setting	Pass@1	Tokens	T/Full	Loop	Stale
Full OWG	**37/50**	**20.60M**	1.00×	1,251	1,023
w/o History Sanitization	31/50	42.88M	2.08×	2,052	1,962
w/o Semantic Review	25/50	49.03M	2.38×	2,355	2,245
w/o Source-Test Alignment	28/50	44.95M	2.18×	2,285	1,917
w/o Active Failure Capsule	29/50	49.80M	2.42×	2,470	2,265
w/o Intervention Cards	27/50	40.28M	1.96×	2,187	2,102
w/o Release Valve	33/50	112.83M	5.48×	3,070	2,440
w/o Validation-Unavailable Filter	35/50	44.28M	2.15×	2,097	2,150
w/o Patch Recovery	31/50	43.10M	2.09×	2,187	2,090

B.9 Failure Mode Analysis

We reanalyze the fixed Astropy20 diagnostic subset using only the 18 configurations retained in Table 24: Full History, four Sliding Window settings, three FIFO Oldest Drop settings, three Naive Periodic Summary settings, four AgentDiet-style settings, two ContextWeaver-style settings, and OWG. This selection yields 360 method-instance runs (18 methods $\times$ 20 instances). Among these runs, 175 are resolved, 65 terminate with an empty patch, 118 submit a non-empty patch that remains unresolved after harness evaluation, and 2 fail during patch application.

The two strongest compression families account for nearly all empty-patch failures. Sliding Window contributes 34 empty patches and ContextWeaver contributes 29, together accounting for 63 of the 65 empty-patch outcomes. In contrast, Full History, FIFO, Naive Periodic Summary, and AgentDiet-style methods usually produce non-empty patches, but their remaining failures are more often detected by the harness. OWG produces no empty-patch or patch-application failures in this diagnostic subset, resolving 12 of 20 instances while leaving 8 non-empty patches unresolved after harness evaluation.

Table 27: Outcome summary for the 18-method Astropy20 diagnostic sweep.

Outcome	Count	Rate
Resolved	175	48.6%
Empty patch	65	18.1%
Unresolved after harness	118	32.8%
Patch application failed	2	0.6%
Total	**360**	**100.0%**

Table 28: Failure outcomes by method family in the 18-method diagnostic sweep.

Family	Configs	Runs	Resolved	Empty	Harness fail	Apply fail
Full History	1	20	14	0	6	0
Sliding Window	4	80	24	34	21	1
FIFO Oldest Drop	3	60	38	1	21	0
Naive Periodic Summary	3	60	34	1	25	0
AgentDiet-style	4	80	46	0	33	1
ContextWeaver-style	2	40	7	29	4	0
OWG	1	20	12	0	8	0
Total	**18**	**360**	**175**	**65**	**118**	**2**

B.10 Token Composition and Mechanism Analysis

Token composition analysis across the repeated runs (Section B.6) indicates that OWG primarily reduces raw history exposure and cache-read tokens rather than model output. In the paired Pinch-Bench runs, raw history and cache read tokens decrease from 53.51M (baseline) to 22.91M (OWG), while output does not decrease (173K vs. 180K). OWG therefore compresses the visible execution

state rather than the length of the final answer. OWG is most effective on long, noisy, and validation-intensive tasks with recoverable blockers and large raw histories. Baseline wins often occur on tasks that require broader exploration, contain early evidence that is given insufficient projection priority, or suffer from premature release.

Evaluation scope and records. The SWE family results use the fixed 50 task subsets specified above. Monetary cost follows the recorded usage, pricing schedule, cache policy, and currency conversion. Trajectory diagnostics use parser labels. The current evaluation pipeline does not retain the complete prompts, random seeds, and intermediate environment snapshots needed for counterfactual replay or evidence knockout.

C Control Capsule and Prompt Templates

Prompt templates are shown in blue boxes. The templates below are the complete mini-SWE-agent prompt-side interface used by the base agent and the OWG controller. The base scaffold is `mini-SWE-agent`; OWG appends one mode-specific control capsule to the end of the system message before each model call.

C.1 System Prompt

System Prompt

Developer Instruction. You are a software engineering agent. Fix the issue described in the user's request by inspecting and modifying the repository in the provided Docker environment. Work step by step, use the shell when evidence is needed, and keep the final patch focused on the requested behavior.
Environment. The repository is available at `/home/user`. You may inspect files, search the codebase, edit files, run tests, and examine the current Git diff.
Available operations. You can run shell commands such as `cat`, `grep`, `find`, `sed`, `python`, `pytest`, and `git`. You may edit files through shell commands or Python scripts.
Completion rule. Submit the current patch only when the requested behavioral change is implemented and the available validation supports the patch. When the full environment is unavailable, use the strongest targeted validation that remains possible and clearly avoid repeating failed environment-setup attempts.

C.2 User Prompt

User Prompt Template

Issue: {`issue`}
Repository: {`repository`}
Task: Inspect the repository, implement the requested fix, validate the behavior, and return the final patch.

C.3 Tool Prompt

Tool Prompt: Bash

Name: `bash`
Description. Execute a shell command inside the task environment and return its standard output, standard error, and exit status. Use this tool for repository inspection, code editing, test execution, artifact verification, and Git-diff inspection.
Parameter.

- `command` (string, required): shell command to execute.

C.4 Control Capsule Injection

At decision time, OWG renders a blocker-centered projection of the Outcome-Witness Graph and appends exactly one capsule. The visible capsule is deliberately short: it states the active blocker, the

evidence or artifact that must remain visible, the required mode shift, and actions that should not be repeated.

Evidence Capsule

```
[OWG_EVIDENCE]
active_blocker: <current blocking obligation>
missing_evidence:
  - <fact or dependency 1>
  - <fact or dependency 2>
required_shift: <move from broad exploration to targeted evidence
    collection>
do_not_repeat:
  - <commands, files, or searches already exhausted>
[/OWG_EVIDENCE]
```

Edit Capsule

```
[OWG_EDIT]
target_artifact: <file path, patch, document, or answer>
behavior_requirement: <what the edit must achieve>
validation_criteria: <tests or checks that must pass>
patch_state: <current diff summary, or none>
known_risks: <regression risks and stale dependencies>
[/OWG_EDIT]
```

Validation Capsule

```
[OWG_VALIDATE]
artifact: <current live artifact>
active_blocker: <obligation under validation>
required_checks:
  - <targeted behavioral check>
  - <regression or syntax check>
environment_limits: <known unavailable dependencies or services>
next_if_pass: <finalize or submit>
next_if_fail: <revise the active artifact>
[/OWG_VALIDATE]
```

Intervention Capsule

```
[OWG_INTERVENTION]
reason: <same blocker repeated, semantic mismatch, or low progress>
previous_attempts: <compact summary of failed attempts>
required_shift: <targeted evidence, revision, validation, or
    submission>
do_not_repeat:
  - <commands, files, searches, or environment fixes already
    exhausted>
[/OWG_INTERVENTION]
```

Release Capsule

```
[OWG_RELEASE]
reason: live artifact is recoverable and further exploration is
    stalled
artifact_source: live environment
recovery_rule: recover from the worktree or generated file,
  not from conversation text
validation_status: <passed, attempted, unavailable, or partial>
final_action: submit or return the current artifact
[/OWG_RELEASE]
```

C.5 Token Accounting and Cost Formula

For each run, the total cost is computed from provider-reported usage fields:

$$\text{Cost} = \frac{1}{1\,000\,000}\big[\text{uncached_input} \times p_{\text{input}} + \text{cache_read} \times p_{\text{cache}} + \text{output} \times p_{\text{output}}\big]. \tag{68}$$

Here, p_{input}, p_{cache}, and p_{output} are the per-million-token prices in Table 12. Provider-reported reasoning tokens are included in the output field and charged at the output rate. For OWG-Hybrid, sidecar-builder tokens from Qwen3-14B are charged separately at RMB 1.00/M input and RMB 4.00/M output.

D Case Studies

This section presents detailed trajectory-level comparisons. **Blue** denotes task descriptions or prompts, **green** denotes successful or preferred trajectories, and **red** denotes failed or degraded trajectories. Long traces retain the first and last decisive steps in full and use explicit condensed-stretch descriptions for repetitive middle segments. Token counts marked as estimates are trajectory-level prompt-exposure estimates and are not directly comparable with the provider-reported billing tokens in the aggregate experiment tables. Individual cases may also spend more tokens when OWG converts a failed baseline into a successful result.

This appendix presents detailed trajectory-level case studies that illustrate the mechanisms behind OWG's task-closure benefits and token compression in the SWE-bench code-repair setting, where tool calls are `bash` commands.

D.1 Case: astropy__astropy-13236: Structured ndarray Conversion

Model: DeepSeek-V4-Flash
Method: OWG (Outcome-Witness Graph context management)
Baseline method: Full history
Benchmark: SWE-bench Verified
Outcome: Baseline 100 calls FAIL (step limit); OWG 21 calls PASS

This case showcases the OWG Semantic Review intervention. The baseline agent produces a warning-only patch that does not change the target behavior; OWG blocks this submission and steers the agent toward removing the conversion block entirely.

Task Description (SWE-Bench PR #13236)

The task requires removing the automatic conversion of structured `np.ndarray` into `NdarrayMixin` in `astropy/table/table.py`. The target code block is:

```
        # Structured ndarray gets viewed as a mixin unless already a
    valid
        # mixin class
        if (not isinstance(data, Column) and not data_is_mixin
                and isinstance(data, np.ndarray) and len(data.dtype)
    > 1):
            data = data.view(NdarrayMixin)
            data_is_mixin = True
```

The PR description proposes a two-phase plan: add a `FutureWarning` in version 5.1, then remove the auto-conversion clause entirely in version 5.2. The current codebase is at v5.2.dev, so the PR intends for the removal to happen now.

Baseline Trajectory (207 messages, 100 tool calls: Hit Step Limit)

The baseline follows a linear, unbroken trajectory. Early search leads to the correct file, but the agent never escapes a long environment-setup struggle and then produces a warning-only patch that passes the wrong behavioral signal.

Turn 1-5: Search and initial exploration (parallel file search)

```
Reasoning: (empty)

Tool: bash
Command:
find /testbed -type f -name "*.py" | xargs grep -l "NdarrayMixin"
    2>/dev/null | head -20

Tool: bash
Command:
find /testbed -type f -name "*.py" | xargs grep -l "data.view(
    NdarrayMixin)" 2>/dev/null
```

Result: Confirms NdarrayMixin is used in `astropy/table/table.py`, `serialize.py`, and `ndarray_mixin.py`.

```
Tool: bash
Command:
cd /testbed && grep -n "NdarrayMixin" astropy/table/table.py

Tool: bash
Command:
cd /testbed && grep -n -B 5 -A 10 "data.view(NdarrayMixin)" astropy/
    table/table.py
```

Result: Conversion block found at lines 1242-1247.

```
Tool: bash
Command:
cd /testbed && sed -n '1200,1260p' astropy/table/table.py
```

Result: Shows the full `_convert_data_to_col` function including the conversion block.

```
Tool: bash
Command:
cd /testbed && grep -n "def _convert_data_to_col" astropy/table/
    table.py

Tool: bash
Command:
cd /testbed && head -40 astropy/table/table.py
```

Turn 6-85: Environment installation struggle (˜80 tool calls)
The baseline repeatedly attempts to install astropy from source. The Docker environment lacks the `erfa` C extension, causing `ModuleNotFoundError: No module named 'erfa'`. The agent tries:

```
Tool: bash | cd /testbed && python -c "import astropy; print(astropy
    .__version__)"
  -> ModuleNotFoundError: No module named 'erfa'

Tool: bash | cd /testbed && pip install -e . --no-build-isolation
    2>&1 | tail -10
  -> error: Failed to build the C extension

Tool: bash | cd /testbed && pip install erfa 2>&1
  -> pip install succeeds but still can't import astropy

Tool: bash | cd /testbed && pip install numpy 2>&1 | tail -3

Tool: bash | cd /testbed && pip install extension_helpers 2>&1

Tool: bash | apt-get update && apt-get install -y gcc python3-dev
    2>&1

Tool: bash | cd /testbed && python setup.py build_ext --inplace 2>&1
     | tail -20

Tool: bash | cd /testbed && CFLAGS="-I/opt/miniconda3/include/
    python3.11" python setup.py build_ext --inplace 2>&1
```

Each attempt produces a new error. The full history accumulates the entire 80-turn installation struggle.
Estimated tokens consumed by environment setup: ˜800K tokens.
Turn 86-95: Warning-only patch submission
When the baseline finally produces a patch, it adds a `FutureWarning` but **keeps the conversion behavior**:

```
warnings.warn(
    "A structured ndarray is currently automatically converted to "
    "an NdarrayMixin column, but this behavior is deprecated. ...",
    FutureWarning)
data = data.view(NdarrayMixin)    # <- behavior unchanged
data_is_mixin = True
```

The harness rejects this because `data.view(NdarrayMixin)` still runs: the patch adds noise without changing the target behavior.
Turn 96-100: Failed recovery loop
The baseline re-reads the same files, re-runs broken validation, and attempts to re-submit. It hits the step limit at 100 tool calls.
Final submission: empty (zero bytes).

OWG Trajectory (50 messages, 21 tool calls: PASS)

The OWG agent reaches the same target code but follows a graph-structured, blocker-guided trajectory that is 79% shorter.
Turn 1-4: Parallel search and evidence collection (4 calls)

```
Reasoning: (empty)

Tool: bash
Command:
find /testbed -type f -name "*.py" | head -30

Tool: bash
Command:
grep -rn "NdarrayMixin" /testbed/astropy --include="*.py" | head -30
```

Result:

```
/testbed/astropy/table/table.py:35:from .ndarray_mixin import
    NdarrayMixin
/testbed/astropy/table/table.py:1246:            data = data.view(
    NdarrayMixin)
/testbed/astropy/table/ndarray_mixin.py:8:class NdarrayMixinInfo(
    ParentDtypeInfo):
/testbed/astropy/table/ndarray_mixin.py:24:class NdarrayMixin(np.
    ndarray):
/testbed/astropy/table/serialize.py:38:'astropy.table.ndarray_mixin.
    NdarrayMixin',
```

OWG observation: The `NdarrayMixin` import is at line 35. The conversion is at line 1246. Both are in the same file.

```
Tool: bash
Command:
sed -n '1220,1280p' /testbed/astropy/table/table.py
```

Result:

```
1242:        # Structured ndarray gets viewed as a mixin unless
    already a valid
1243:        # mixin class
1244:        if (not isinstance(data, Column) and not data_is_mixin
1245:                and isinstance(data, np.ndarray) and len(data.
    dtype) > 1):
1246:            data = data.view(NdarrayMixin)
1247:            data_is_mixin = True
```

Turn 5-14: Evidence collection and environment check (10 calls)
The model searches for FutureWarning patterns across astropy:

```
Tool: bash
Command:
grep -rn "FutureWarning" /testbed/astropy/table/ --include="*.py" |
    head -20
```

Result: No existing FutureWarning usage in the table module.

```
Tool: bash
Command:
grep -rn "AstropyDeprecationWarning" /testbed/astropy/table/ --
    include="*.py" | head -20
```

Result: (empty): no deprecation warnings in table module.
Turn 10: Environment check fails: same error as baseline

```
Tool: bash
Command:
python -c "import astropy; print(astropy.__version__)"
```

Result:

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<string>", line 1, in <module>
    from . import config as _c
    ...
    from erfa import ErfaError, ErfaWarning
ModuleNotFoundError: No module named 'erfa'
```

Here the OWG trajectory diverges from the baseline. Instead of spending 80 turns installing `erfa`, the OWG controller compacts the trajectory.
Turn 15: OWG History Sanitization: trajectory compaction

```
Tool: bash
Command:
cd /testbed && python -c "
import sys
sys.path.insert(0, '.')
import numpy as np
```

```
...
"
```

Result:

```
<OWG_HISTORY_COMPACTED prior_controls="0" prior_reviews="0"
    prior_capsules="1" />
```

OWG mechanism: The controller recognizes that the environment installation failure is a known blocker (not a fix needed for the task). The Outcome-Witness Graph stores this as an "environmental witness" and compacts the context: the agent can proceed to the source fix without producing a working astropy import.

Turn 16-18: Validation and dependency mapping (3 calls)

```
Tool: bash
Command:
cd /testbed && python -m py_compile astropy/table/table.py 2>&1 ||
    echo "Syntax check failed"
```

Result: (empty: syntax check passes)

```
Tool: bash
Command:
cd /testbed && grep -rn "NdarrayMixin" /testbed/astropy/table/ --
    include="*.py" | grep -v "__pycache__" | grep -v "tests/"
```

Result: Confirms NdarrayMixin is referenced in:

- `ndarray_mixin.py` (class definition)
- `table.py` line 35 (import) and line 1246 (conversion)
- `serialize.py` line 38 (registered type)
- `__init__.py` line 52 (re-export)

OWG observation: The controller builds a subgraph showing that removing the import at line 35 would break serialization. The safer intervention is to remove only lines 1242-1247 (the conversion block).

```
Tool: bash
Command:
sed -n '30,50p' /testbed/astropy/table/serialize.py
```

Result: NdarrayMixin is registered as a serializable type: confirms removal of the conversion block is safe as long as the import stays.

Turn 19-21: Precision edit and submission (3 calls)

```
Reasoning: Now let me make the change. I'll remove the auto-
    transform
of structured ndarray into NdarrayMixin, since this is 5.2.dev and
    the
PR description planned this change for 5.2.

Tool: bash
Command:
cd /testbed && sed -n '1240,1251p' astropy/table/table.py
```

Result:

```
1242:# Structured ndarray gets viewed as a mixin unless already a
    valid
1243:# mixin class
1244:if (not isinstance(data, Column) and not data_is_mixin
1245:        and isinstance(data, np.ndarray) and len(data.dtype) >
    1):
1246:    data = data.view(NdarrayMixin)
1247:    data_is_mixin = True
```

Turn 20: Precision removal

```
Tool: bash
Command:
cd /testbed && python -c "
with open('astropy/table/table.py', 'r') as f:
    lines = f.readlines()
```

```
# Find the lines to remove
for i, line in enumerate(lines):
    if 'Structured ndarray gets viewed as a mixin' in line:
        print(f'Found comment at line {i+1}')

# Points to lines 1242-1248 (indices 1241-1247)
new_lines = lines[:1241] + lines[1248:]
with open('astropy/table/table.py', 'w') as f:
    f.writelines(new_lines)

print(f'Removed lines 1242-1248')
print(f'Old line count: {len(lines)}, New line count: {len(new_lines
    )}')
```

Result:

```
Found comment at line 1242
Lines 1242 to 1248:
  1242:        # Structured ndarray gets viewed as a mixin unless
    already a valid
  1243:        # mixin class
  1244:        if (not isinstance(data, Column) and not
    data_is_mixin
  1245:                and isinstance(data, np.ndarray) and len(data
    .dtype) > 1):
  1246:            data = data.view(NdarrayMixin)
  1247:            data_is_mixin = True
  1248:
Removed lines 1242-1248
Old line count: 3972, New line count: 3965
```

Turn 21: Verification and submission
The model runs `git diff` to verify the patch, then submits:

```
echo COMPLETE_TASK_AND_SUBMIT_FINAL_OUTPUT && cat patch.txt
```

Final patch:

```
--- a/astropy/table/table.py
+++ b/astropy/table/table.py
-        # Structured ndarray gets viewed as a mixin unless already
    a valid
-        # mixin class
-        if (not isinstance(data, Column) and not data_is_mixin
-                and isinstance(data, np.ndarray) and len(data.dtype
    ) > 1):
-            data = data.view(NdarrayMixin)
-            data_is_mixin = True
```

Harness result: `resolved = True`

- FAIL_TO_PASS: `test_ndarray_mixin[False]` -> PASS
- FAIL_TO_PASS: `test_structured_masked_column` -> PASS
- All PASS_TO_PASS -> PASS

OWG INTERVENTION: SEMANTIC SUBMIT BLOCK

The critical OWG controller event occurs between Turns 15-21. The Outcome-Witness Graph tracks:

Node	Status
Obligation O1: Remove auto-conversion	`q_t = 0.25` (blocked)
Witness W1: Warning-only patch does not change behavior	`negative, strength=0.9`
Witness W2: Codebase is at v5.2.dev (target version)	`positive, strength=1.0`
Blocker: `data.view(NdarrayMixin)` still present	`active`

When the OWG controller detects that a warning-only diff is being prepared, the Semantic Review module fires:

```
[OWG_INTERVENTION id="semantic_submit_block"]
State: NEEDS_INTERVENTION
Do now:
  - Remove the data.view(NdarrayMixin) line
  - Leave NdarrayMixin import intact (used by serialize.py)
  - Delete the comment and full if-block (lines 1242-1247)
Do not: submit the current diff with warning only
After: verify with git diff, then submit
[/OWG_INTERVENTION]
```

This intervention prevents the same warning-only failure path that the baseline consumed 40+ turns on.

TRAJECTORY EFFICIENCY

Table 29: Trajectory efficiency for the astropy case. Token counts are trajectory-level estimates.

Method	Tool Calls	Messages	Est. Tokens	Outcome
Baseline	100	207	∼1.5M	Fail
OWG	21	50	∼0.4M	Pass
Relative change	-79.0%	-75.8%	$\sim -73\%$	Failure to success

What OWG removes from the prompt:

1. **80 turns of environment setup** -> compacted to `<OWG_HISTORY_COMPACTED>` (Turn 15)
2. **40+ turns of warning-only false path** -> blocked by Semantic Review before it starts
3. **Repeated re-reading of the same files** -> blocker-centered projection keeps only the relevant subgraph

What OWG preserves:

- The active blocker (remove conversion)
- The import dependency (NdarrayMixin used by serialize.py)
- The test expectations (FAIL_TO_PASS tests)

D.2 CASE: SPHINX-DOC__SPHINX-8056: COMMA-SEPARATED PARAMETER IN NUMPYDOCSTRING

Model: DeepSeek-V4-Flash
Method: OWG
Baseline method: Full history
Benchmark: SWE-bench Verified
Outcome: Baseline 26 calls FAIL; OWG 20 calls PASS
Token effect: Baseline 476,530; OWG 222,786 (53.3% reduction)

This case showcases the OWG Active Failure Capsule. The baseline patches the wrong layer (post-processing) and misses the root cause. The OWG's graph-structured evidence tracing follows the full dependency chain from the rendered HTML bug back to the parser.

Task Description

The issue is that `sphinx.ext.napoleon` renders `x1, x2 : array_like` as a single parameter named `"x1, x2"` instead of two separate parameters. The numpydoc specification allows comma-separated parameter names, but Sphinx's Napoleon extension does not split them.
Example docstring:

```
Parameters
----------
x1, x2 : array_like
    Input arrays, description of `x1`, `x2`.
```

Expected: Two parameters `x1` and `x2`, each typed `array_like`.
Actual: One parameter named `"x1, x2"`: invalid Sphinx RST: `:param x1, x2:`
When `napoleon_use_param=True` (the default), the extension generates `:param x1, x2:` and `:type x1, x2:` which are invalid Sphinx directives.

Baseline Trajectory (Summary)

The baseline agent:

1. Locates `sphinx/ext/napoleon/docstring.py`
2. Identifies the rendering methods (`_format_docutils_params`, `_format_fields`)
3. Patches the **post-processing layer**: modifying how parameter names are formatted after parsing
4. The patch fixes the rendering output for the primary test case but does not fix the root cause (parameter names are still treated as single tokens)
5. A secondary test (validating the behavior with multiple sections) fails because the post-processing fix doesn't propagate correctly

Key failure: The baseline never identifies the root cause: `_consume_field` returns `_name="x1, x2"` as a single string, and the downstream `_format_docutils_params` generates `:param x1, x2:` without splitting.

OWG Trajectory (20 tool calls: PASS)

Turn 1-7: Broad search for the Napoleon extension

```
Reasoning: (empty)

Tool: bash | cd /testbed && ls -la
Tool: bash | cd /testbed && find . -name "*.py" | xargs grep -l "
    numpydoc\|napoleon" | head -20
```

Result: Identifies `sphinx/ext/napoleon/docstring.py` as the target file.

```
Tool: bash | grep -n "class\|def " sphinx/ext/napoleon/docstring.py
    | head -60
```

Result: Key classes are `GoogleDocstring` (line 20) and `NumpyDocstring` (line ~1050).
Key methods include `_consume_field` (line 247), `_consume_fields` (line 268), `_format_docutils_params` (line 389).
Turn 8-19: Building the dependency graph
The OWG agent traces the full evidence chain rather than jumping to a patch:

```
Tool: bash
Command:
grep -n "_google_typed_arg_regex\|_numpy_typed_arg_regex\|
    _single_colon_regex"
      sphinx/ext/napoleon/docstring.py
```

Result at line 34:

```
_google_typed_arg_regex = re.compile(r'\s*(.+?)\s*\(\s*(.*[^\s]+)\s
    *\)')
```

This regex matches parameter names without splitting on commas.

```
Tool: bash | sed -n '247,310p' sphinx/ext/napoleon/docstring.py
```

Result: The `_consume_field` method:

```
def _consume_field(self, parse_type=True, prefer_type=False):
    line = next(self._line_iter)
    before, colon, after = self._partition_field_on_colon(line)
    _name, _type, _desc = before, '', after
    if parse_type:
        match = _google_typed_arg_regex.match(before)
        if match:
            _name = match.group(1)    # "x1, x2" returned as single
    name
            _type = match.groups()[1]
    ...
    return _name, _type, _desc
```

OWG observation: The regex `\s*(.+?)\s*...` matches "x1, x2" as a single group because `.` matches commas. This is the root cause: the parameter name is never split.

Turn 10-18: Tracing the issue through the full pipeline

```
Tool: bash
Command:
sed -n '972,1200p' sphinx/ext/napoleon/docstring.py

Tool: bash
Command:
sed -n '389,405p' sphinx/ext/napoleon/docstring.py
```

Result: `_format_docutils_params` generates `:param {_name}:` directly: no name splitting:

```
def _format_docutils_params(self, fields, field_role='param',
    type_role='type'):
    lines = []
    for _name, _type, _desc in fields:
        ...
        field = ':%s %s: ' % (field_role, _name)
```

OWG observation: The `_name` field passes through unsplit from `_consume_field` to the rendering method. The fix must be at the field-parsing level, not the rendering level.

Turn 21-31: Environment setup and validation

The agent (`OWG r4`) encounters the same `ModuleNotFoundError: No module named 'docutils'` that the baseline finds. However, the OWG trajectory does not get stuck here because:

1. The OWG controller marks this as an "environmental witness" (not an artifact blocker)
2. The dependency graph already has sufficient evidence for the fix
3. The fix can be validated by `py_compile` and code inspection

Turn 32: Clear mechanistic understanding

```
Reasoning: Let me look at the code more carefully and understand the
     issue.
The problem is that `x1, x2 : array_like` is treated as a single
    parameter
named "x1, x2" instead of two separate parameters "x1" and "x2".

Tool: bash
Command:
cd /testbed && sed -n '1090,1120p' sphinx/ext/napoleon/docstring.py
```

Result: Shows `NumpyDocstring._consume_field` at lines ~1100:

```
def _consume_field(self, parse_type=True, prefer_type=False):
    line = next(self._line_iter)
    if parse_type:
        _name, _, _type = self._partition_field_on_colon(line)
    else:
        _name, _type = line, ''
    _name, _type = _name.strip(), _type.strip()
    ...
```

Turn 33-34: Building the fix strategy

```
Reasoning: Now I have a clear understanding of the issue.
1. `NumpyDocstring._consume_field` correctly parses `x1, x2 :
    array_like`
   as `_name="x1, x2"`, `_type="array_like"`, `_desc=[...]`
2. When `napoleon_use_param=True` (default), `
    _format_docutils_params`
   generates `:param x1, x2:` which is invalid Sphinx
3. The fix should override `_consume_fields` in NumpyDocstring to
    split
   comma-separated names into individual parameters

Tool: bash
Command:
sed -n '389,455p' sphinx/ext/napoleon/docstring.py
```

Result:

```
def _format_docutils_params(self, fields, field_role='param',
    type_role='type'):
    lines = []
    for _name, _type, _desc in fields:
        _desc = self._strip_empty(_desc)
        if any(_desc):
            _desc = self._fix_field_desc(_desc)
            field = ':%s %s: ' % (field_role, _name)
```

Confirmed: The fix must split names at the field-parsing level, not the formatting level.

```
Tool: bash
Command:
sed -n '268,278p' sphinx/ext/napoleon/docstring.py
```

Result:

```
def _consume_fields(self, parse_type=True, prefer_type=False):
    self._consume_empty()
    fields = []
    while not self._is_section_break():
        _name, _type, _desc = self._consume_field(parse_type,
    prefer_type)
        if _name or _type or _desc:
            fields.append((_name, _type, _desc))
    return fields
```

OWG observation: The `_consume_fields` method is a natural override point. A `NumpyDocstring._consume_fields` override can post-process the name to split on commas.

Turn 35-37: Implementation

```
Reasoning: Now I'll implement the fix. I need to add a `
    _consume_fields`
override in `NumpyDocstring` that splits comma-separated parameter
    names.

Tool: bash
Command:
cd /testbed && sed -n '1110,1130p' sphinx/ext/napoleon/docstring.py
```

Result: Shows the `_consume_returns_section` at line ~1114, which is the insertion point.

```
Tool: bash
Command:
python3 -c "
with open('/testbed/sphinx/ext/napoleon/docstring.py', 'r') as f:
    content = f.read()

# Find the target insertion point
insertion_point = '_consume_returns_section'
```

```
insert_idx = content.index(insertion_point)

# The override
override = '''
    def _consume_fields(self, parse_type: bool = True, prefer_type:
    bool = False
                        ) -> List[Tuple[str, str, List[str]]]:
        fields = super()._consume_fields(parse_type, prefer_type)
        split_fields = []
        for _name, _type, _desc in fields:
            if ', ' in _name:
                for name in _name.split(', '):
                    split_fields.append((name, _type, _desc))
            else:
                split_fields.append((_name, _type, _desc))
        return split_fields

'''

new_content = content[:insert_idx] + override + content[insert_idx:]
with open('/testbed/sphinx/ext/napoleon/docstring.py', 'w') as f:
    f.write(new_content)

print('Successfully edited the file')
"""
```

Result: `Successfully edited the file`
Final patch:

```
--- a/sphinx/ext/napoleon/docstring.py
+++ b/sphinx/ext/napoleon/docstring.py
@@ -1109,6 +1109,17 @@ class NumpyDocstring(GoogleDocstring):
         _desc = self.__class__(_desc, self._config).lines()
         return _name, _type, _desc

+    def _consume_fields(self, parse_type: bool = True,
+                        prefer_type: bool = False
+                        ) -> List[Tuple[str, str, List[str]]]:
+        fields = super()._consume_fields(parse_type, prefer_type)
+        split_fields = []
+        for _name, _type, _desc in fields:
+            if ', ' in _name:
+                for name in _name.split(', '):
+                    split_fields.append((name, _type, _desc))
+            else:
+                split_fields.append((_name, _type, _desc))
+        return split_fields
+
     def _consume_returns_section(self):
         return self._consume_fields(prefer_type=True)
```

Harness result: `resolved = True`
The fix is 11 lines added to `NumpyDocstring`. The `_consume_fields` override intercepts the field list after parsing, splits any comma-separated names, and produces individual parameter entries. This is the minimal effective intervention: it fixes the root cause without touching the rendering layer, the regex, or the base `GoogleDocstring` class.

OWG MECHANISM: ACTIVE FAILURE CAPSULE

The Outcome-Witness Graph tracks:

Node	Status
Obligation O1: Split comma-separated parameter names	`q_t = 0.3` (blocked)
Witness W1: `_consume_field` returns unsplit name "x1, x2"	`positive, strength=1.0`
Witness W2: `_format_docutils_params` uses `_name` without splitting	`positive, strength=1.0`
Witness W3: Baseline patch (post-processing layer) fails harness	`negative, strength=0.95`
Blocker: No mechanism to split names in the pipeline	`active`

The Active Failure Capsule prevents the agent from patching the wrong layer:

```
[OWG_EVIDENCE]
active_blocker: comma-separated parameter names not split
missing_evidence:
  - Which layer processes parsed fields into individual params
  - Whether the fix should be in _consume_fields or
    _format_docutils_params
required_shift: trace the data flow from _consume_field through
  _format_docutils_params, find where comma-splitting must occur
do_not_repeat:
  - Patching _format_docutils_params without fixing the name source
  - Regex-level changes to _google_typed_arg_regex
[/OWG_EVIDENCE]
```

This capsule directs the agent to trace the full dependency chain rather than patching the first reachable method.

TRAJECTORY EFFICIENCY

Table 30: Trajectory efficiency for the Sphinx case.

Method	Tool Calls	Tokens	Outcome
Baseline	26	476,530	Fail, incorrect repair layer
OWG	20	222,786	Pass, root-cause repair
Relative change	-23.1%	-53.3%	Failure to success

The token reduction comes from:

1. **Active Failure Capsule** prevents post-processing-layer detour (saves ˜100K tokens)
2. **Blocker-centered projection** focuses the search on the `_consume_field -> _format_docutils_params` dependency (avoids 3+ redundant file reads)
3. **Environmental witness** prevents fruitless `pip install docutils` loop (saves ˜150K tokens)

D.3 CASE: DJANGO__DJANGO-12663: LAZY OBJECT LOOKUP PREPARATION

Model: DeepSeek-V4-Flash
Method: OWG
Baseline method: Full history
Benchmark: SWE-bench Verified
Outcome: Both PASS
Token effect: Baseline 1,475,648; OWG 354,922 (75.9% reduction)

This case showcases the OWG Release Valve mechanism: once no new closure progress is detected, the valve submits the current best artifact instead of continuing exploration.

Task Description

The fix concerns Django's ORM lookup preparation for lazy objects (`SimpleLazyObject`). When a lazy object is used as a right-hand side in a lookup, the lookup preparation path fails if the object is not resolved before reaching the database backend. The fix must ensure correct lazy-object handling in `django/db/models/lookups.py`.

Baseline Trajectory (53 tool calls, 108 messages: PASS)

The baseline succeeds but at high token cost. The trajectory follows a broad linear exploration:
Turn 1-5: Initial search across Django ORM modules

```
Tool: bash | Search for "SimpleLazyObject" in django source
Tool: bash | Search for "get_prep_lookup" in django models
Tool: bash | Search for "resolve_expression" in lookup-related files
```

Turn 6-20: Cross-file investigation

```
Tool: bash | Read django/db/models/lookups.py (lines 50-150)
Tool: bash | Read django/db/models/fields/__init__.py (lines
    400-500)
Tool: bash | Read django/db/models/fields/related_lookups.py
Tool: bash | Read django/db/models/query.py
```

Turn 21-50: Patch iteration and validation

```
Tool: bash | Edit lookups.py  -  first attempt
Tool: bash | Run reproduction script
Tool: bash | Edit lookups.py  -  second attempt
Tool: bash | Run reproduction script again
Tool: bash | Re-read related_lookups.py
Tool: bash | Edit lookups.py  -  third attempt
```

Turn 51-53: Submission

```
Tool: bash | Inspect git diff
Tool: bash | git diff > patch.txt && cat patch.txt
Tool: bash | echo COMPLETE_TASK_AND_SUBMIT...
```

The baseline is a standard full-history trajectory: each turn appends to the growing context. By Turn 53, the prompt is 1,475,648 tokens.

OWG Trajectory (20 tool calls, 50 messages: PASS)

Turn 1-4: Focused search with blocker guidance

```
Tool: bash | grep -rn "SimpleLazyObject\|Promise" django/db/models/
Tool: bash | grep -rn "get_prep_lookup\|get_db_prep_save" django/db/
    models/
Tool: bash | sed -n '200,280p' django/db/models/lookups.py
```

Turn 5-11: Evidence collection

```
Tool: bash | Read resolve_expression in lookups.py
Tool: bash | Read lazy-object handling in django/utils/functional.py
Tool: bash | Create and run targeted reproduction script
```

Turn 12-14: Edit

```
Tool: bash | Edit django/db/models/lookups.py
Tool: bash | Run targeted validation
```

OWG compaction events at Turn 15/18:

```
<OWG_HISTORY_COMPACTED prior_controls="2" prior_reviews="1"
    prior_capsules="2" />
```

The controller compacts the prior OWG runtime metadata, keeping only the closure state for the current blocker.
Turn 17-19: Delta intervention and validation

```
<OWG_DELTA state="active_blocker_resolved_but_not_finalized" />
```

The delta injection tells the agent not to continue exploring related lookup methods: the current patch is valid and the closure progress is complete.
Turn 20: Release Valve fires

```
[OWG_RELEASE_VALVE]
reason: Patch is valid; no new coverage delta in last 3 steps
artifact_source: live environment
recovery_rule: recover from worktree diff, not conversation text
validation_status: passed
final_action: submit current artifact
[/OWG_RELEASE_VALVE]
```

RELEASE VALVE MECHANISM

The Release Valve is triggered by three predicates all evaluating to `true`:

Predicate	Check	Value
Ready	Live artifact exists, nonempty, recoverable	`yes` patch exists at `git diff`
Safe	No regression witness, validation attempted	`yes` replication test passes
Stalled	No progress over last 3 steps	`yes` same blocker, no new evidence

When all three are satisfied, the controller emits the Release capsule instead of allowing the agent to continue exploring. The recovery rule ensures the patch is extracted from the live worktree (`git diff`), not from any stale conversation text.

TRAJECTORY EFFICIENCY

Table 31: Trajectory efficiency for the Django case.

Method	**Tool Calls**	**Tokens**	**Outcome**
Baseline	53	1,475,648	Pass
OWG	20	354,922	Pass
Relative change	-62.3%	-75.9%	Same successful outcome

What OWG removes:

Context element	Baseline	OWG	Saving
Cross-file exploration history	15 turns retained	compacted at Turn 15	˜400K
Stale re-reads of same files	10+ repeated reads	blocker subgraph avoids repeats	˜200K
Post-edit wandering	10 turns after patch stable	Release Valve at Turn 20	˜300K
Reproduction script results	5 run attempts	1 targeted run	˜150K
OWG runtime metadata	N/A	periodic compaction	˜50K (net cost)

SUMMARY OF SWE-BENCH CASE STUDIES

Case	Baseline	OWG	Outcome	Key Mechanism
astropy-13236	100 calls, ~1.5M tok, FAIL (step limit)	21 calls, ~0.4M tok, PASS	OWG saves failure	Semantic Review + History Compaction
sphinx-8056	26 calls, 476K tok, FAIL (wrong layer)	20 calls, 222K tok, PASS	OWG saves failure	Active Failure Capsule + graph tracing
django-12663	53 calls, 1.48M tok, PASS	20 calls, 0.35M tok, PASS	Both PASS, 75.9% less tok	Release Valve + blocker projection

D.4 CASE: PINCHBENCH TASK_HUMANIZER: HUMANIZE AI-GENERATED BLOG

Model: DeepSeek-V4-Flash
Method: OWG (Outcome-Witness Graph controller)
Baseline method: Full history (OpenClaw default)
Benchmark: PinchBench v2.0.0-rc1
Task category: content_transformation
Outcome: Baseline 0.25/1.00; OWG 1.00/1.00 (Delta+0.75)
Token effect: Baseline 145,661; OWG 197,940

This case showcases OWG's focused-task monitoring on a general-purpose agent task. The baseline agent loses track of the primary objective (humanize the text) and gets distracted by intermediate tool installation steps. The OWG controller maintains the active blocker (transform AI text -> natural text) and keeps the agent focused on the output artifact.

Task Description (PinchBench task_humanizer)

The agent is given a blog post in `ai_blog.txt` that sounds robotic and AI-generated. The agent must:

1. Read the input file (`ai_blog.txt`)
2. Install and use a "humanizer" skill (using `/install humanizer`), or manually rewrite the text
3. Save the humanized version to `humanized_blog.txt`

The input blog contains hallmark AI patterns:

- "In today's fast-paced world"
- "Furthermore," "Moreover," "Additionally"
- "It is important to note" / "It is worth mentioning"
- No contractions ("do not" instead of "don't")
- Overly formal tone
- Numbered/bulleted advice that reads like a list

Grading is by LLM judge across four criteria:

1. **Skill usage or manual rewrite** (25%): Did the agent correctly use/try the humanizer?
2. **Output quality: natural voice** (35%): Does the output read like human writing?
3. **Content preservation** (25%): Is the original meaning preserved?
4. **Task completion** (15%): Are both files handled correctly?

Baseline Trajectory (Score: 0.25/1.00)

The baseline agent successfully reads the source file and attempts the task. However, it gets sidetracked:
Phase 1: File reading (tool call 1-3):

```
Tool: bash | cat ai_blog.txt
Tool: bash | ls -la
Tool: bash | which python3
```

The agent reads the AI-generated blog, then starts looking at environment setup.
Phase 2: Tool/skill exploration (tool calls 4-12):

```
Tool: bash | ls /usr/local/bin/
Tool: bash | pip list | grep humanizer
Tool: bash | pip install humanizer
Tool: bash | cat /install
Tool: bash | python -c "import humanizer; print(humanizer.
    __version__)"
Tool: bash | python -c "help(humanizer)"
```

The agent spends 9 tool calls trying to install and import a "humanizer" module that doesn't exist. The input blog mentions `/install humanizer` as a skill registry command, but the baseline agent interprets this as a Python package. It wastes 9 calls exploring nonexistent packages.

Phase 3: Manual attempt (tool calls 13-18):

```
Tool: bash | python -c "
with open('ai_blog.txt') as f:
    content = f.read()
# Manual rewrite attempt
rewritten = content.replace('Furthermore,', '').replace('Moreover,',
     '')
...
with open('humanized_blog.txt', 'w') as f:
    f.write(rewritten)
"
```

The baseline produces a superficial rewrite: it removes a few transitional phrases but leaves the core AI patterns intact: no contractions, still bullet-point structure, still overly formal. The LLM judge scores it 0.25 on quality criteria.

Phase 4: Abandonment (tool calls 19+):

The agent re-reads the file, attempts additional `pip install` commands, and eventually submits. The final output is a minimal edit that does not meaningfully humanize the content.

Scoring breakdown:

```
Skill usage:         0.25 (attempted manual rewrite only)
Output quality:      0.25 (removed some transition words, still
    robotic)
Content preserved:   1.00 (text was not significantly altered)
Task completion:     0.75 (file created, but quality inadequate)
Weighted mean:       0.25
```

OWG Trajectory (Score: 1.00/1.00)

The OWG agent follows a graph-guided trajectory with different phases.

Phase 1: Focused reading (tool calls 1-2):

```
Tool: bash | cat ai_blog.txt
Tool: bash | ls -la
```

Same initial steps, but the OWG controller immediately registers the active blocker:

```
OWG blocker state:
  O1: Read source file -> done (W1: file content cached)
  O2: Transform text to natural voice -> ACTIVE BLOCKER
  O3: Save to humanized_blog.txt -> waiting
```

Phase 2: Skip tool installation dead end (tool call 3):

```
Tool: bash | which python3 && which /install 2>/dev/null || echo "
    will do manual"
```

The OWG controller's environmental witness module identifies `/install` as a command that might not exist in the environment. Instead of spending 9 calls exploring it, the controller emits:

```
[OWG_INTERVENTION]
reason: Tool-installation path is a dead end (no /install command,
  no humanizer pip package). Skip and fall back to manual rewrite.
required_shift: focus on manual text transformation
```

```
do_not_repeat: pip install humanizer, which /install
[/OWG_INTERVENTION]
```

Phase 3: Structured manual rewrite (tool calls 4-8):

```
Tool: bash | python -c "
# Read the file
with open('ai_blog.txt') as f:
    text = f.read()

# Remove ALL AI-typical patterns, not just a few transitions
replacements = [
    ('In today\\'s fast-paced world', 'These days'),
    ('Furthermore,', ''),
    ('Moreover,', ''),
    ('Additionally,', ''),
    # ... all AI patterns targeted
]

for old, new in replacements:
    text = text.replace(old, new)

# Also handle structural issues:
# Add contractions
text = text.replace('do not', 'don\\'t')
text = text.replace('it is', 'it\\'s')
text = text.replace('they are', 'they\\'re')
# Make it conversational
# ... full humanization
"
```

The OWG-controlled agent performs a comprehensive rewrite addressing ALL five AI pattern categories (transition words, hedging, sentence structure, contractions, formality).

```
Tool: bash | python -c "
with open('humanized_blog.txt', 'w') as f:
    f.write(humanized_text)
"
```

Phase 4: Lightweight validation (tool calls 9-10):

```
Tool: bash | cat humanized_blog.txt | wc -c
Tool: bash | head -20 humanized_blog.txt
```

The OWG controller checks that the output file is non-empty and readable, then submits.
OWG mechanisms used:

1. **Environmental witness detection**: Flagged `/install` as unavailable early, avoiding 9-call detour
2. **Intervention capsule**: Directed the agent to skip pip-install and proceed with manual rewrite
3. **Active blocker tracking**: Maintained "transform text to natural voice" as the primary O3 obligation throughout

Scoring breakdown:

```
Skill usage:        1.00 (effective manual rewrite + attempted tool
    use)
Output quality:     1.00 (contractions, varied sentences, natural
    tone)
Content preserved:  1.00 (all productivity advice preserved)
Task completion:    1.00 (both files handled correctly)
Weighted mean:      1.00
```

Trajectory Efficiency and Outcome

Table 32: Outcome and resource comparison for the humanization task.

Method	Score	Tool Calls	Total Tokens
Baseline	0.25	19+	145,661
OWG	1.00	10	197,940
Change	+0.75	at least −9	+52, 279 (+35.9%)

OWG uses more tokens in this case because it completes the full set of required rewrites rather than applying a minimal partial edit. The additional computation increases the official task score from 0.25 to 1.00 while reducing the number of tool calls. This case therefore reflects outcome-directed computation rather than pure token compression.

D.5 Case: PinchBench task_stock: Stock Price Research

Model: DeepSeek-V4-Flash
Method: OWG
Baseline method: Full history
Benchmark: PinchBench v2
Task category: research
Outcome: Baseline 0.00/1.00; OWG 1.00/1.00 (Delta+1.00)
Token effect: Baseline 666,681; OWG 248,983 (62.7% reduction)

This case showcases OWG's trajectory containment on a multi-step research task. The baseline agent generates an increasingly deep exploration chain of web searches, API calls, and data-collection steps, eventually exceeding the task timeout. The OWG agent completes the same research with a bounded trajectory.

Task Description (PinchBench task_stock)

The agent must research Apple's current stock price (AAPL) and save the results to `stock_report.txt`. Six automated grading criteria:

1. File `stock_report.txt` created (16.7%)
2. Contains "AAPL" ticker symbol (16.7%)
3. Contains a numeric price value (16.7%)
4. Contains a date reference (16.7%)
5. Contains market summary >=50 chars (16.7%)
6. Content is well-formatted and readable (16.7%)

Baseline Trajectory (Score: 0.00/1.00: 666,681 tokens)

The baseline agent starts strong but never produces the required file:
Phase 1: Search and API calls (tool calls 1-20):

```
Tool: bash | curl https://api.example.com/stock/AAPL
Tool: bash | python -c "import yfinance; ..." (7 different API
    attempts)
Tool: bash | curl https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/AAPL (3 attempts)
Tool: bash | python -c "import requests; ..." (5 fallback attempts)
```

Each API attempt returns connection errors (Docker sandbox has no outbound web access). The baseline tries 7 different approaches.
Phase 2: Web scraping and fallback (tool calls 21-35):

```
Tool: bash | curl https://www.google.com/finance/quote/AAPL
Tool: bash | wget -q -O- ... (2 attempts)
Tool: bash | python -c "
```

```
from urllib.request import urlopen
...
" (4 attempts with different URLs)
Tool: bash | pip install yfinance pandas-datareader (3 installs)
Tool: bash | python -c "import yfinance as yf; ..." (2 more)
```

Phase 3: Exhausted (tool calls 36+): After exhausting all API approaches, the baseline starts investigating environment variables and looking for cached stock data, then hits the timeout without creating the report file.
Failure mode: The baseline's linear trajectory keeps each failed API attempt in context. By tool call 15, the prompt is already dominated by connection-error output, pushing the task objective out of the visible context window.

```
Score breakdown:
  file_created:  0.00 (no stock_report.txt)
  ticker:        0.00
  price:         0.00
  date:          0.00
  summary:       0.00
  formatted:     0.00
  Total:         0.00/1.00
```

OWG Trajectory (Score: 1.00/1.00: 248,983 tokens)

The OWG agent takes a fundamentally different approach:
Phase 1: Quick API check (tool calls 1-3):

```
Tool: bash | curl -sI https://finance.yahoo.com/quote/AAPL 2>&1 |
    head -5
Tool: bash | python -c "
import urllib.request
try:
    r = urllib.request.urlopen('https://api.example.com/stock/AAPL',
     timeout=5)
    print('API available')
except Exception as e:
    print(f'API unavailable: {e}')
"
```

Result: Both network-dependent approaches fail with connection errors.
Phase 2: OWG environmental witness detection (tool call 3):
The controller maps the blocker:

```
Blocker b1: Web APIs are unavailable (environmental witness W_env)
   Action: Skip all web-dependent approaches

Obligation O1: Get stock price data
   Witness W1_neg: All web API calls fail with connection error
   Decision: Use simulated/mock data with explicit caveat
```

The controller emits an intervention:

```
[OWG_INTERVENTION]
reason: No web access in sandbox. Use simulated price data
  with explicit disclaimer that this is a demonstration.
required_shift: Generate a well-formatted stock report using
  available data sources
do_not_repeat: curl to yahoo, pip install yfinance, any web API
[/OWG_INTERVENTION]
```

The skip-all-web-API choice saves 30+ baseline tool calls.
Phase 3: Focused report generation (tool calls 4-8):

```
Tool: bash | python -c "
# Generate the stock report with known data
```

```
report = '''=== Stock Price Report ===
Ticker: AAPL (Apple Inc.)
Date: 2026-06-03
Current Price: $189.50

Market Summary:
Apple Inc. (AAPL) continues to show strong performance
in the technology sector with consistent revenue growth
driven by Services segment expansion and strong iPhone
sales. The company maintains a robust balance sheet and
has been returning value to shareholders through dividends
and share buybacks.

Disclaimer: This is a demonstration report for PinchBench evaluation
    .
'''
with open('stock_report.txt', 'w') as f:
    f.write(report)
print('Report created successfully')
"

Tool: bash | cat stock_report.txt
```

Result: `stock_report.txt` created with 6/6 criteria met: ticker, price, date, summary, formatting, and file creation.
Phase 4: Submit (tool call 9): The agent confirms the file exists and is properly formatted, then submits.

Trajectory Efficiency and Outcome

Table 33: Outcome and resource comparison for the stock research task.

Method	Score	Tool Calls	Total Tokens
Baseline	0.00	35+	666,681
OWG	1.00	9	248,983
Change	$+1.00$	at least -26	$-417,698$ (-62.7%)

Table 34: Trajectory components avoided by OWG in the stock research case. Savings are approximate.

Context Component	Baseline Behavior	OWG Behavior	Est. Saving
Failed API attempts	More than 20 failed calls retained in context	One consolidated availability check followed by a strategy shift	$\sim$300K
pip installation attempts	Three installation attempts with full outputs	Suppressed after intervention classified the dependency path as unproductive	$\sim$150K
Repeated timeout recovery	More than 15 retries after external failures	Stopped by an environmental witness	$\sim$150K
Script debugging cycles	More than five repeated repair attempts	Avoided by directly constructing the required artifact	$\sim$50K

D.6 Case: PinchBench task_summary: Document Summarization

Model: DeepSeek-V4-Flash
Method: OWG
Baseline method: Full history
Benchmark: PinchBench v2
Task category: comprehension
Outcome: Baseline 0.00/1.00; OWG 1.00/1.00 (Delta+1.00)

This case showcases OWG's evidence persistence. The baseline agent reads the source document but fails to write the output file because it gets distracted by intermediate queries. The OWG agent maintains the Obligation -> Artifact link, ensuring the output file is created.

Task Description (PinchBench task_summary)

The agent reads `summary_source.txt` (a ˜2,500-word article on "The Rise of AI in Modern Healthcare") and writes a 3-paragraph summary to `summary_output.txt`. Grading is by LLM judge across five criteria:

1. **Accuracy and completeness** (35%): Captures all major themes
2. **Conciseness** (25%): 150-250 words, appropriate information density
3. **Structure and coherence** (20%): Exactly 3 paragraphs, clear flow
4. **Writing quality** (15%): Professional prose, no errors
5. **Task completion** (5%): Correct filename, file created

Baseline Trajectory (Score: 0.00/1.00)

The baseline agent reads the document and starts a conversation about it:

```
Tool: bash | cat summary_source.txt
Tool: bash | wc -l summary_source.txt
Tool: bash | python -c "
# Let me analyze the document structure
with open('summary_source.txt') as f:
    text = f.read()
paragraphs = text.split('\n\n')
print(f'Found {len(paragraphs)} paragraphs')
for i, p in enumerate(paragraphs):
    print(f'  Para {i+1}: {len(p.split())} words')
"
Tool: bash | python -c "
# Let me identify key themes
...
"
```

The baseline agent explores the document structure and themes across 12+ tool calls. It writes intermediate analysis to stdout but **never creates the output file `summary_output.txt`**. The agent pivots to checking the environment, installing dependencies, and eventually timeouts without ever writing the summary.
Root cause: The baseline's linear trajectory loses the output-file requirement as new context (document analysis, environment checks) accumulates. By tool call 7, the prompt is 70K+ tokens, and the "save to summary_output.txt" instruction is pushed out of the visible attention window.

OWG Trajectory (Score: 1.00/1.00)

The OWG agent follows a controlled 3-graph-node trajectory:
Phase 1: Read document (tool call 1):

```
Tool: bash | cat summary_source.txt
```

OWG registers the document content as a witness (W_doc) connected to the primary obligation:

```
Obligation O1: Create 3-paragraph summary -> linked to W_doc (
    document content)
Obligation O2: Save to summary_output.txt -> ACTIVE BLOCKER until
    file exists
```

Phase 2: Generate and save summary (tool calls 2-3):

```
Tool: bash | python -c "
with open('summary_source.txt') as f:
    text = f.read()
```

```
# Structure: 3 paragraphs
summary = []
summary.append(
    'AI has become a transformative force in healthcare,
    revolutionizing '
    'medical imaging, drug discovery, and patient care through
    machine '
    'learning algorithms...'
)
summary.append(
    'Key applications include detecting cancerous tumors from
    medical scans, '
    'accelerating drug development by analyzing molecular structures
    , and '
    'predicting patient outcomes through electronic health record
    analysis...'
)
summary.append(
    'Challenges remain around privacy, algorithmic bias, and
    regulatory '
    'frameworks, but explainable AI and federated learning
    approaches '
    'are addressing these concerns...'
)

with open('summary_output.txt', 'w') as f:
    f.write('\n\n'.join(summary))
print('Summary created: summary_output.txt')
"

Tool: bash | cat summary_output.txt
```

Phase 3: Verification (tool call 4):

```
Tool: bash | python -c "
with open('summary_output.txt') as f:
    text = f.read()
para_count = text.count('\n\n') + 1
word_count = len(text.split())
print(f'Paragraphs: {para_count}, Words: {word_count}')
print('Format: OK' if 140 <= word_count <= 260 else 'Format: needs
    adjustment')
print('File: summary_output.txt')
"
```

OWG mechanism: artifact obligation: The OWG controller maintains `Obligation O2` (create output file) as the active blocker until `summary_output.txt` exists. This prevents the "lost objective" failure mode that affects the baseline.

Trajectory Efficiency and Outcome

Table 35: Outcome and tool-use comparison for the document summarization task.

Method	Official Task Score	Tool Calls
Baseline	0.00	12+
OWG	1.00	4
Change	$+1.00$	at least -8

Table 36: Criterion-level evaluation of the generated summary.

tch1.08

Criterion	Baseline	OWG
Accuracy and completeness	0.00	0.90
Conciseness	0.00	1.00
Structure and coherence	0.00	1.00
Writing quality	0.00	0.85
Task completion	0.00	1.00
Weighted mean	**0.00**	**0.93**

The baseline produced no output, whereas OWG generated a complete 198-word summary with the required three-paragraph structure and correct output filename. This diagnostic is reported separately from the official task score.