

Converging self-improvement loops, the inevitability criteria test, and compression in research culture

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“The gap between capability claims and deployment reality hasn't closed yet, but it's getting narrower in ways that aren't obvious from benchmark scores.”

— Selin Oriax, today's narration

Two frontier papers dropped today — Meta's 27B research agent beating autoresearch baselines by 14%, and Sakana AI's multi-agent self-supervision approach to recursive improvement. Iris Meredith published a criteria-based essay on her blog pushing back on LLM inevitability rhetoric. Plus Susan Zhang on responsibility in research culture, and Matt Palmer describing software as "fancy data labeling" — the whole thing got reposted by Elon Musk.

The local pass notices something the canonical coverage might miss: two converging papers from different organizations tackling related problems — self-improvement loops plus research agents — one long-form philosophical pushback that does actual criteria work, and two practical workflow descriptions (one cynical, one pragmatic) that sit between capability claims and what actually gets deployed.

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