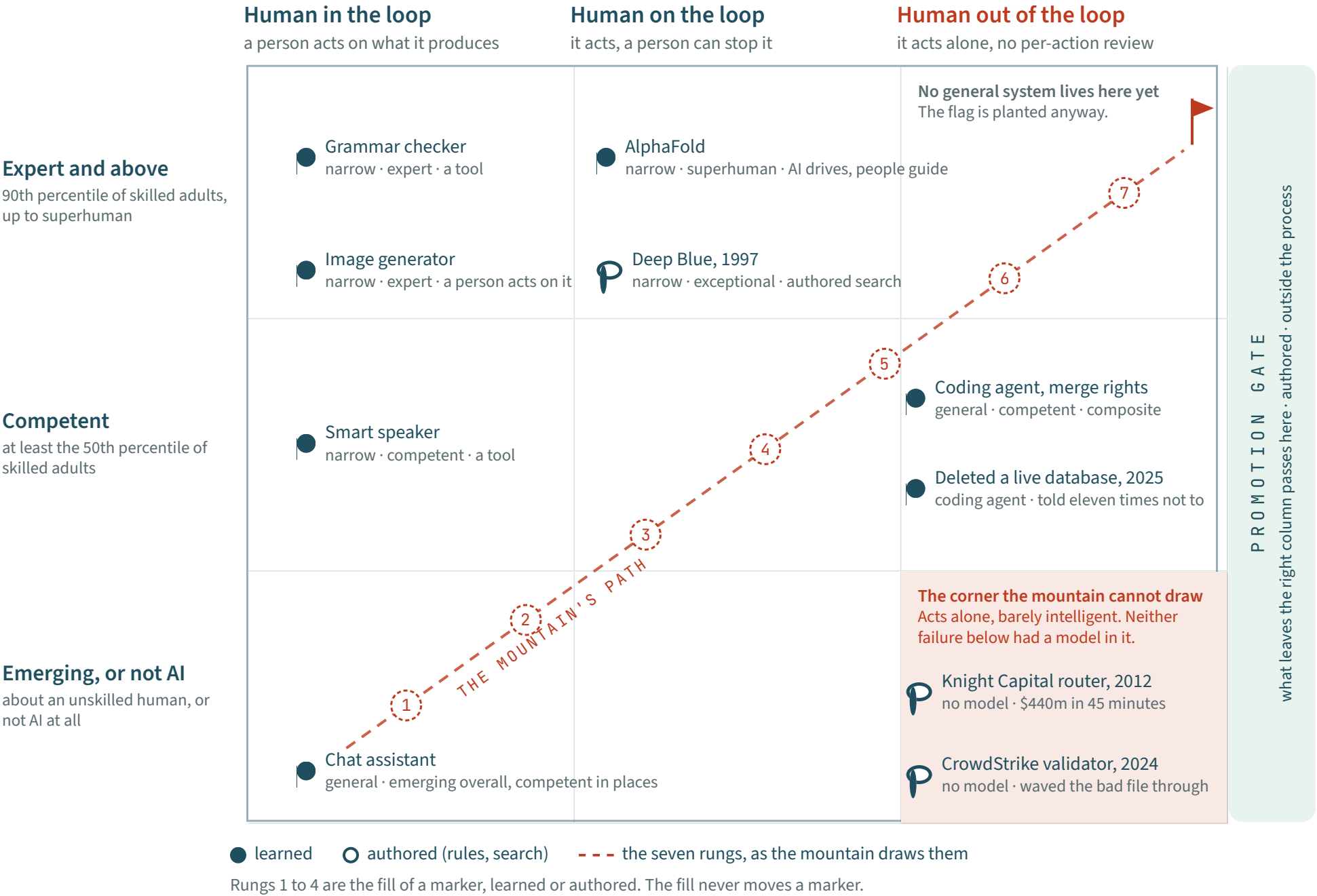


# Two axes, not seven rungs.

Since 2000 the serious taxonomies have kept **what a system is allowed to do** on an axis of its own. This grid pairs it with DeepMind's bands for **what it can do**. The mountain draws one diagonal through both and calls it progress.

WHAT IT CAN DO   ↑   WHAT IT IS ALLOWED TO DO   →



|                                                                                                                |                                                                                             |                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                               |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2000<br>Parasuraman, Sheridan, Wickens<br>Four functions by ten levels of automation. Two dimensions, not one. | 2020<br>Shneiderman<br>Human control and automation as separate axes. Aim for high on both. | 2022<br>ISO/IEC 22989<br>Technique in one clause, automation in another. Avoids calling automated systems autonomous. | 2024<br>DeepMind, Levels of AGI<br>Capability matrix, autonomy separate. Unlocked by capability, not determined by it. | 2025<br>Anthropic<br>An agent is an LLM autonomously using tools in a loop. Their definition, in their words. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## WHERE THE SEVEN RUNGS WENT

- 1 to 4 Classical AI, machine learning, neural networks, deep learning. The fill of a marker. How it was built does not move it.
- 5 Generative AI. A capability band, not a rung. Chat models emerging and general, image models expert and narrow, in the paper.
- 6 Agentic AI. The right-hand column. A permission, not a power.
- 7 AGI. In the paper, a region of the grid, still empty. A summit only on the mountain.

The paper says capability unlocks permission and someone chooses it. The mountain skips the choosing.

The right-hand column was always a decision someone made. That is where the gate belongs: **authored, deterministic, outside the process** that did the work.