

# The CiTIUS-USC Z-Inspection® Lab

“How to Evaluate, Audit, Certify... AI systems?”

**Jose María Alonso Moral**  
**josemaria.alonso.moral@usc.es**

*Workshop on Social Impact of Artificial Intelligence*

*30 May 2024, Fundación Ramón Areces, Madrid*



FUNDACIÓN  
RAMÓN ARECES



Centro Singular de Investigación  
en Tecnologías Inteligentes



TEAM

+150 PEOPLE

31 SENIOR RESEARCHERS

## SOME EUROPEAN PROJECTS



NANOVR

ERC Consolidator Grant

Nanoscale Design using Virtual Reality



NL4XAI

Interactive Natural Language for  
Explainable AI (Coordinator)



MENELAOS NT

Multimodal Fusion of Sensor  
Information (Coordinator)



hybrids

Hybrid intelligence to monitor, promote and  
analyse transformations in good democracy  
practices (Coordinator)



Multispectral Intelligent Vision System  
with Embedded Low-Power Neural  
Computing



iRead4Skills

Intelligent Reading Improvement  
System for Fundamental and  
Transversal Skills Development



Sustainability Optimization for Secure  
Food Systems



EDIH DATAlife

DIH for the deployment of AI and Data  
Analytics in SMEs in the primary,  
biotechnological and health sectors

## SOME STRATEGIC PROJECTS



Artificial Intelligence  
at the service of the  
Galician Language



Plexus Tech - USC Chair in  
AI applied to personalised  
precision medicine



Televés - USC Chip Chair  
in microelectronic design

## TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER



Machine learning for digital twins and  
processes optimisation in industry



Efficient processing of aerial images within the  
Civil UAVs Initiative



Rapid analysis of the development of dental  
plaque

## SPIN-OFFS



## CONGRESS



citius.gal

## SCIENTIFIC AREAS

### Green and smart computing and devices



Electronic design of  
intelligent devices



High Performance  
Computing

### Support for machine intelligence



Data and process  
science and  
engineering



Automatic  
learning and  
reasoning

### Intelligent technologies



Virtual and  
augmented reality



Language  
technologies



Computer vision



Robotics

Social, economic, ethical  
and political framework



Trustworthy AI

## R&D RESULTS 2021-23



75% in Q1  
44% in D1

27% in top 10% most cited

11,8M €

21% income from  
european projects

# Our Trustworthy AI lab (ELSEC)



## TELSEC4TAI



**GSi**

### Episteme



MARTIN  
PEREIRA FARIÑA



ALBERTO JOSE  
BUGARIN DIZ



SENEN  
BARRO AMENEIRO



MARCOS  
GARCIA GONZALEZ



PABLO  
GAMALLO OTERO



ALEJANDRO  
CATALA BOLOS



JOSE MARIA  
ALONSO MORAL

### LComp

**Z-Inspection®**

**IA FIABLE**  
retos técnicos, éticos, legales,  
culturales y socio-económicos

<https://citius.gal/research/areas/ia-fiable/>

### Psychology



Marnuel  
Gandoy

### Law, Economics & Business Administration



LUIS  
MIGUEZ MACHO



Marcos  
Torres



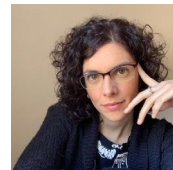
Luis Otero



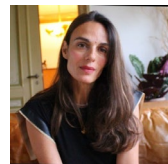
Isabel Neira



DIANA  
SANTIAGO IGLESIAS



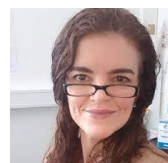
Liliana  
Arroyo



Manuela  
Battaglini



Ulises  
Cortes



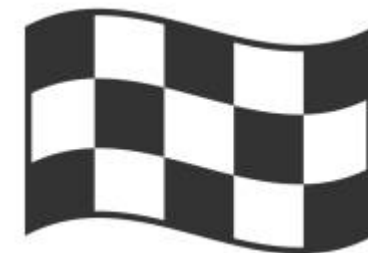
Dagmar  
Monett

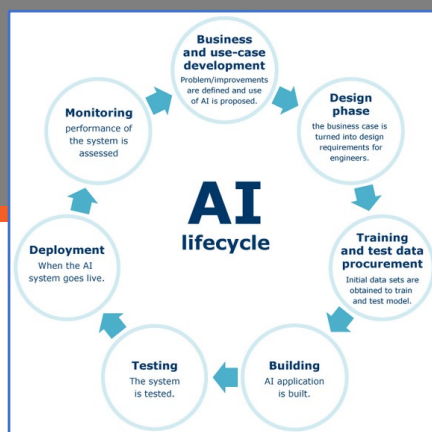
### External Ethics Advisors





# How to certify AI ?



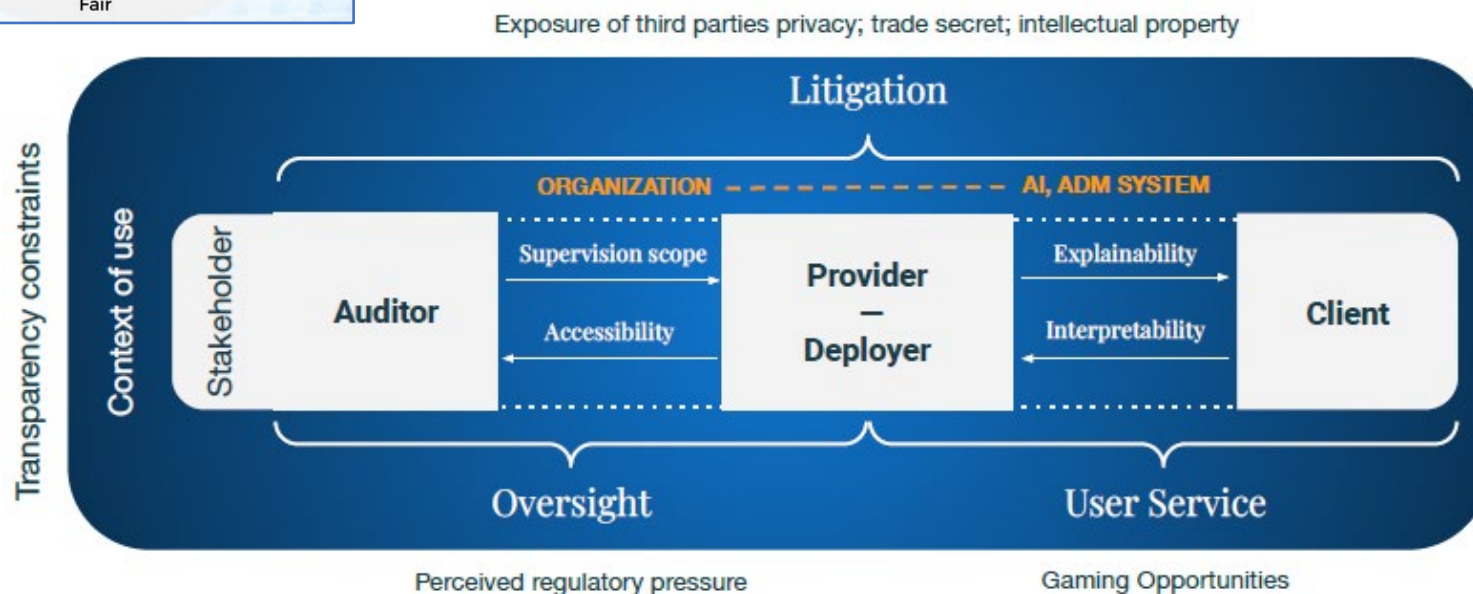
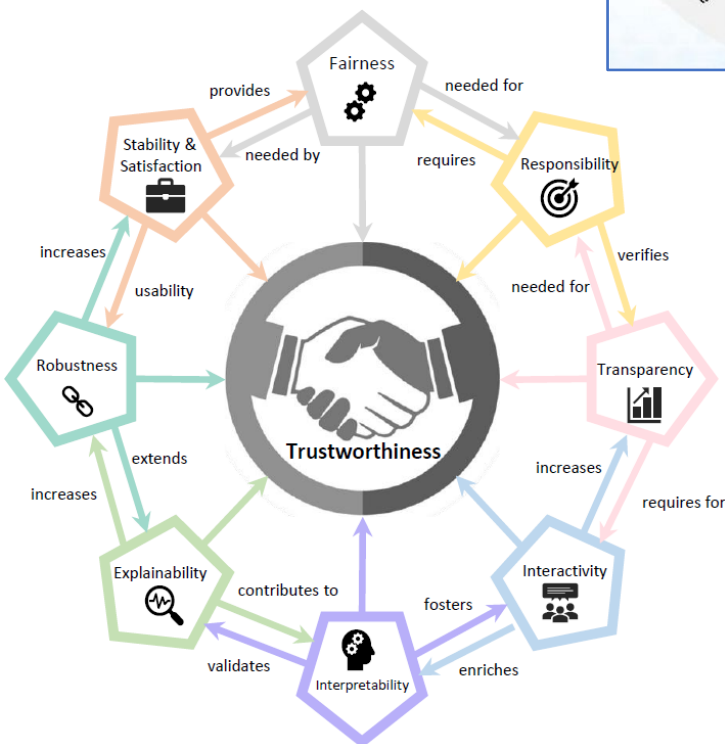


# Certification



European AI Regulation

# AI Act



L. Nannini, J. M. Alonso-Moral, A. Catala, M. Lama, S. Barro, "Operationalizing Explainable AI in the EU Regulatory Ecosystem", IEEE Intelligent Systems, 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1109/MIS.2024.3383155>

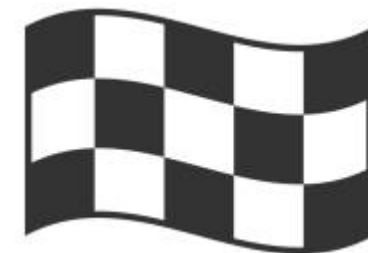
S. Alia, T. Abuhmed, S. El-Sappagh, K. Muhammad, Jose M. Alonso-Moral, R. Confalonieri R. Guidotti, J. Del Ser, N. Díaz-Rodríguez, F. Herrera, "Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI): What we know and what is left to attain Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence", Information Fusion, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.inffus.2023.101805>

Jose María Alonso Moral, 30 May 2024, Evaluating Trustworthy AI

<https://citius.gal/team/jose-maria-alonso-moral>



# How to audit and evaluate AI ?



# Auditing and Evaluating AI

## Some Preliminary Notions

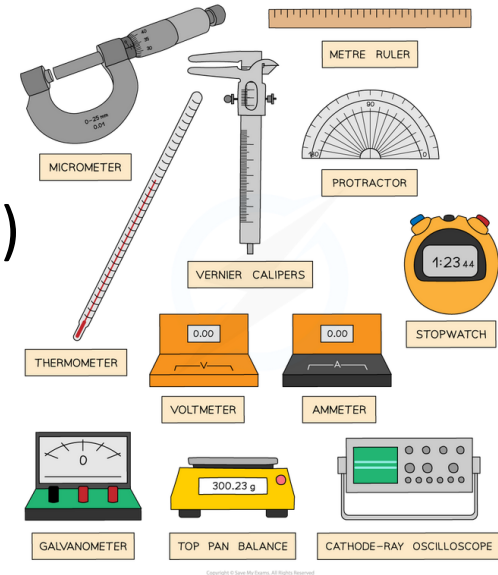


### ❑ Metrology is the Science of Measurement and its application

- To measure something, we need a Metric System (i.e., a standard reference and a related unit which is defined without any ambiguity)

### ❑ SI: International System of Units (accepted worldwide)

- ✓ Time is measured in seconds, minutes, hours...
- ✓ Length is measured in meters, inches...
- ✓ Mass is measured in Kg, Pounds...

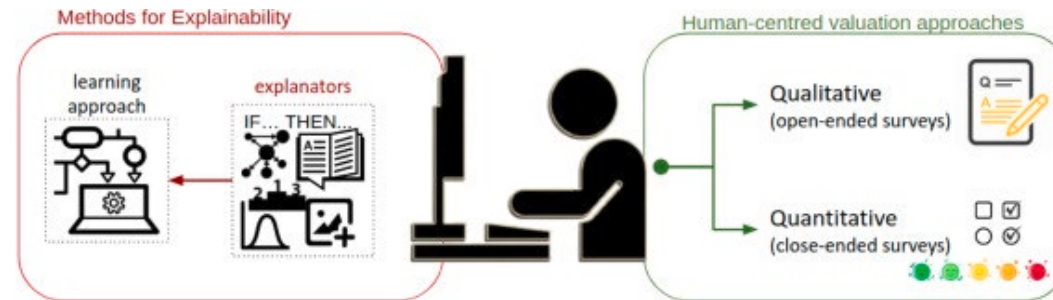


### Human Evaluation

- ✓ Interviews
- ✓ Focus Groups
- ✓ Free-text Questionnaires

- ✓ Panel of Experts
- ✓ Consumer Testing
- ✓ Randomized Control Tests

- ✓ Complexity Metrics
- ✓ Transparency Metrics
- ✓ Interpretability Metrics

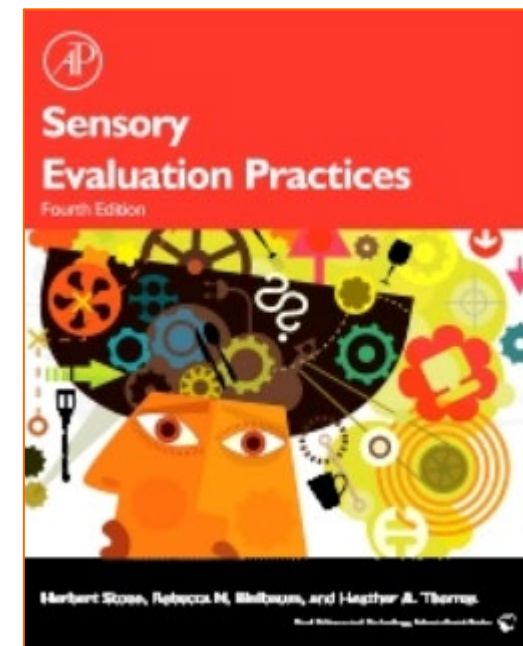
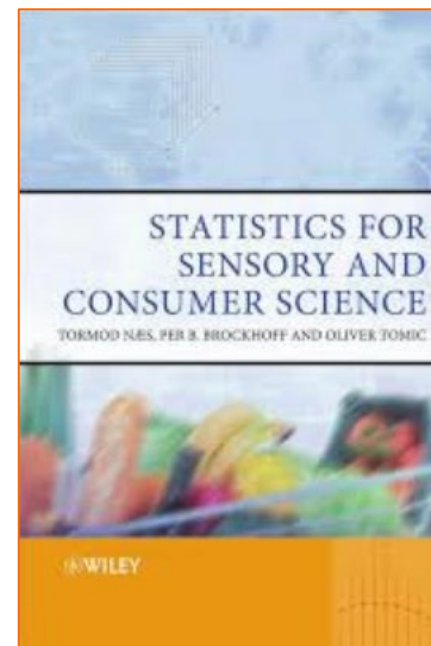
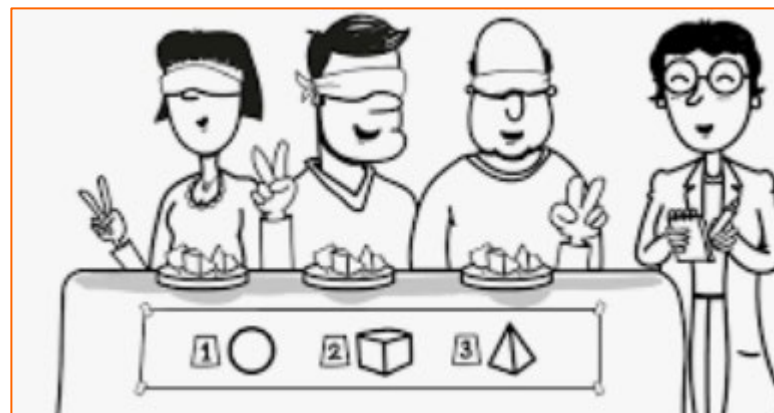


### Automatic Evaluation



# How to measure human-centric & subjective properties ?

- ❑ What about subjective judgements (e.g., beauty, elegance, transparency,...) ?
- ❑ Which is the standard reference for sensory inputs (acid, sweet, salty, easy to read...) ?
- ❑ How to avoid confounding effects ?



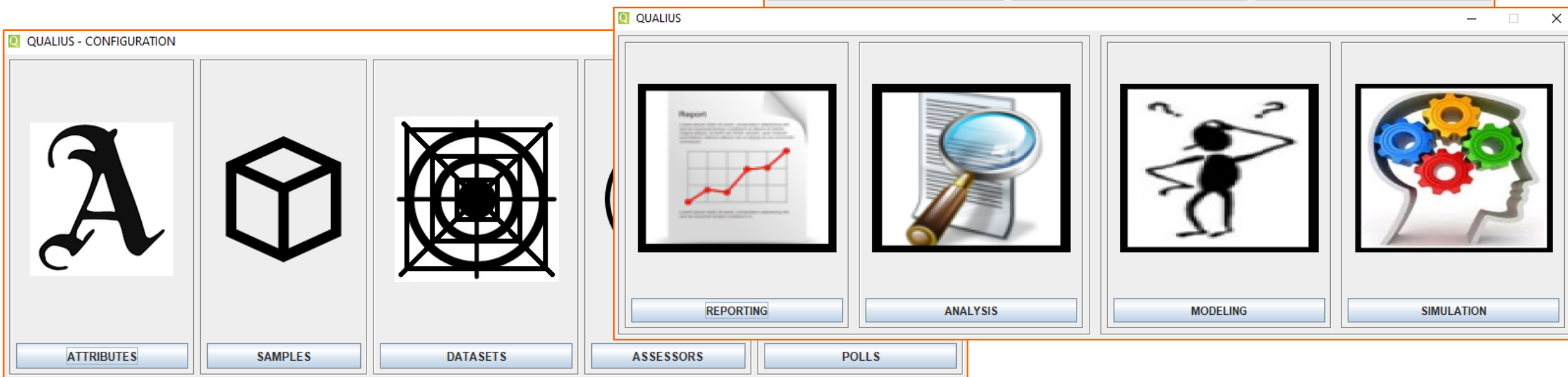
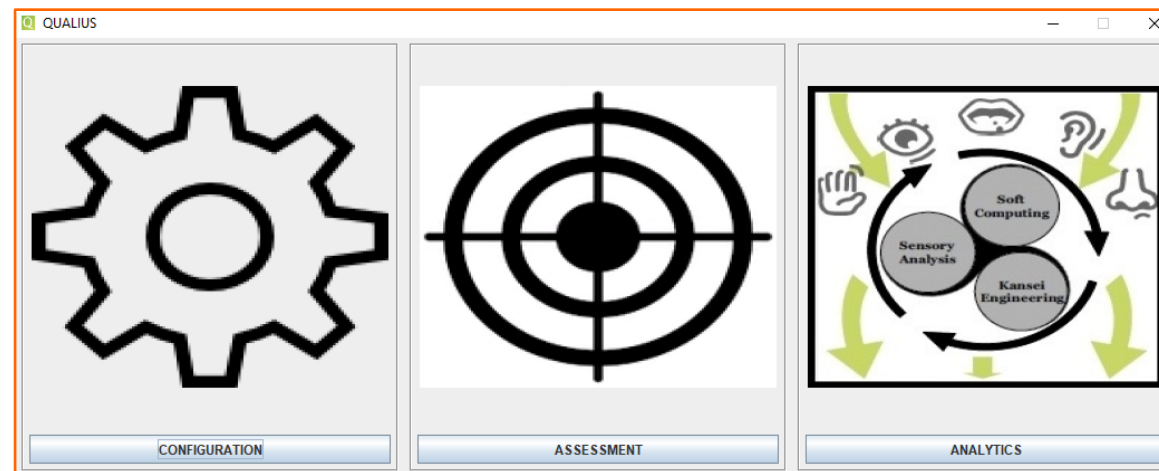


# QUALIUS

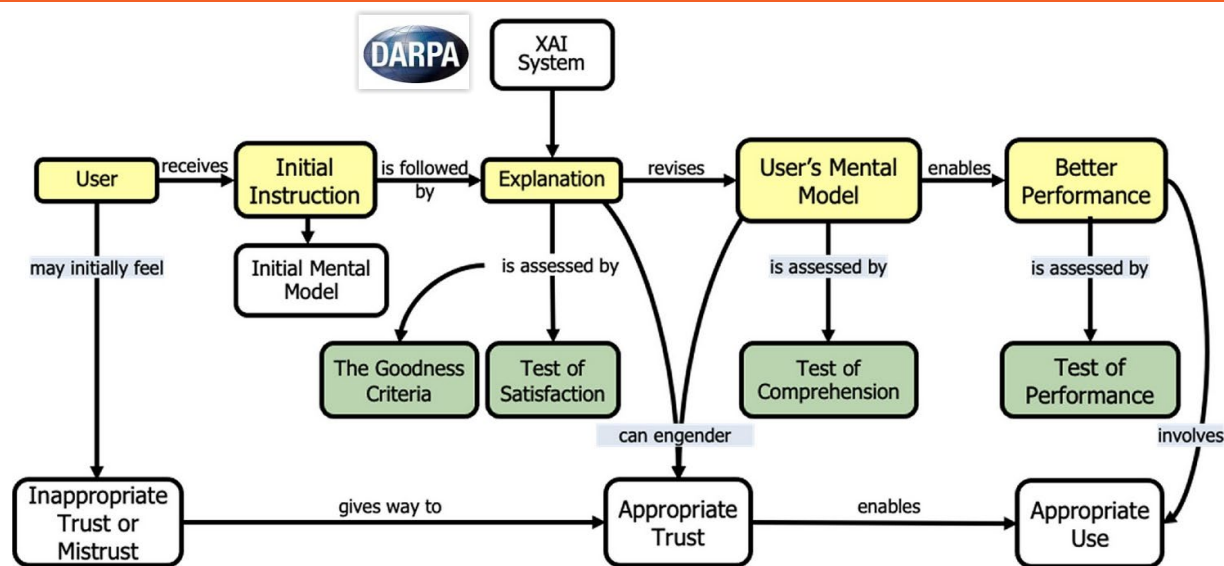


P. Quiros, J.M. Alonso, D.P. Pancho, "**Descriptive and comparative analysis of human perceptions expressed through fuzzy rating scale-based questionnaires**", International Journal of Computational Intelligence Systems, 9(3):450-467, 2016, <https://doi.org/10.1080/18756891.2016.1175811>

J.M. Alonso, D.P. Pancho, L. Magdalena, D.A. Nuñez, D.S. Sánchez, P.F. Suárez, J. Mingot, V. Iglesias, "**QUALE: A new Toolbox for Quantitative and Qualitative Analysis of Human Perceptions**", IFSA-EUSFLAT, 2015, <https://doi.org/10.2991/ifsa-eusflat-15.2015.94>



# Guiding Human Evaluation in the context of Explainable AI



D. Gunning, E. Vorm, J. Y. Wang, M. Turek, "DARPA's explainable AI (XAI) program: A retrospective," Applied AI Letters, 2(4):e61, 2021 <https://doi.org/10.1002/ail2.61>

R.R. Hoffman, S.T. Mueller, G. Klein, J. Litman, "Metrics for Explainable AI: Challenges and Prospects", <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.1812.04608>

**Explanation Goodness Checklist**

This checklist is a list of the features that make explanations good, according to the research literature. The reference is to the properties of explanations.

The checklist can be used to evaluate the quality of explanations in general, or to evaluate specific explanations of the goodness of explanations that are generated by other researchers or by XAI systems.

The explanation helps me understand how the [system, algorithm, tool] works.

The explanation of how the [system, algorithm, tool] works is satisfying.

The explanation of how the [system, algorithm, tool] works is sufficiently detailed.

The explanation is understandable. That is, it helps me learn how to use the [system, algorithm, tool].

The explanation lets me know how accurate or reliable the [system, algorithm, tool] is.

The explanation lets me know how trustworthy the [system, algorithm, tool] is.

**Trust Scale Recommended for XAI**

1. I am confident in the [tool]. I feel that it works well.

5. The [tool] is efficient in that it works very quickly.

2. The outputs of the [tool] are very predictable.

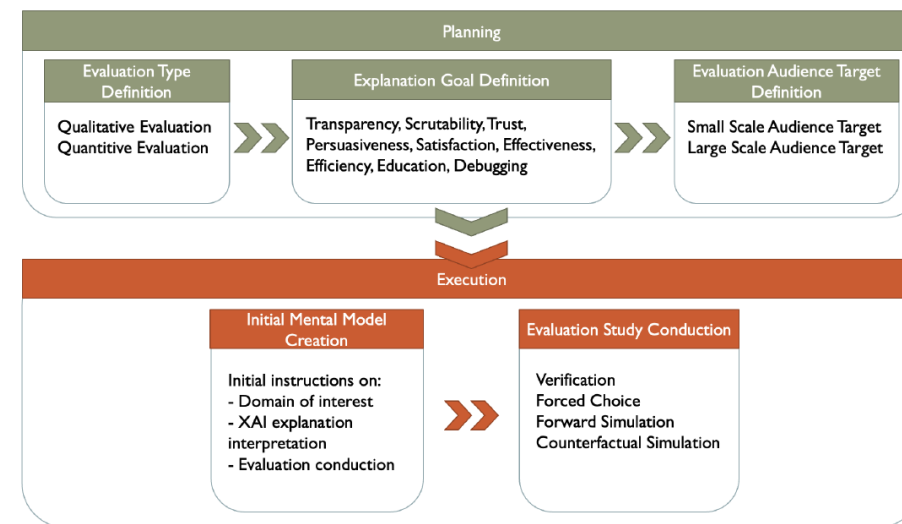
6. I am wary of the [tool]. (adopted from the Jian, et al. Scale and the Wang, et al. Scale)

3. The tool is very reliable. I can count on it to be correct all the time.

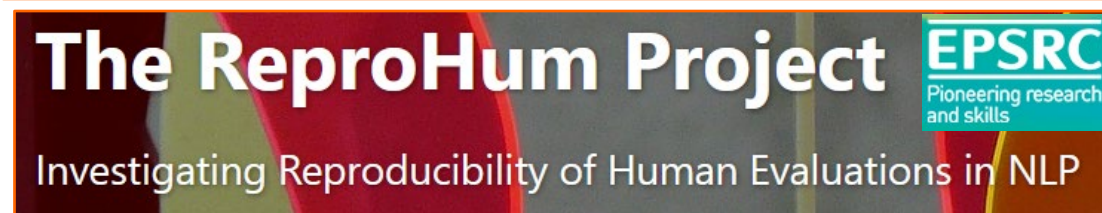
7. The [tool] can perform the task better than a novice human user. (adopted from the Schaefer Scale)

4. I feel safe that when I rely on the [tool] I will get the right answers.

8. I like using the system for decision making.



R. Confalonieri, J.M. Alonso-Moral, "An operational framework for guiding human evaluation in Explainable and Trustworthy AI", IEEE Intelligent Systems, 2023, <https://doi.org/10.1109/MIS.2023.3334639>

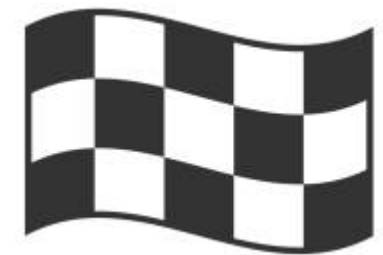


<https://reprohum.github.io/>

A. Belz et al., "Missing information, unresponsive authors, experimental flaws: The impossibility of assessing the reproducibility of previous human evaluations in NLP", Proceedings of the 4th ACL Workshop on Insights from Negative Results in NLP, 2023, <https://aclanthology.org/2023.insights-1>



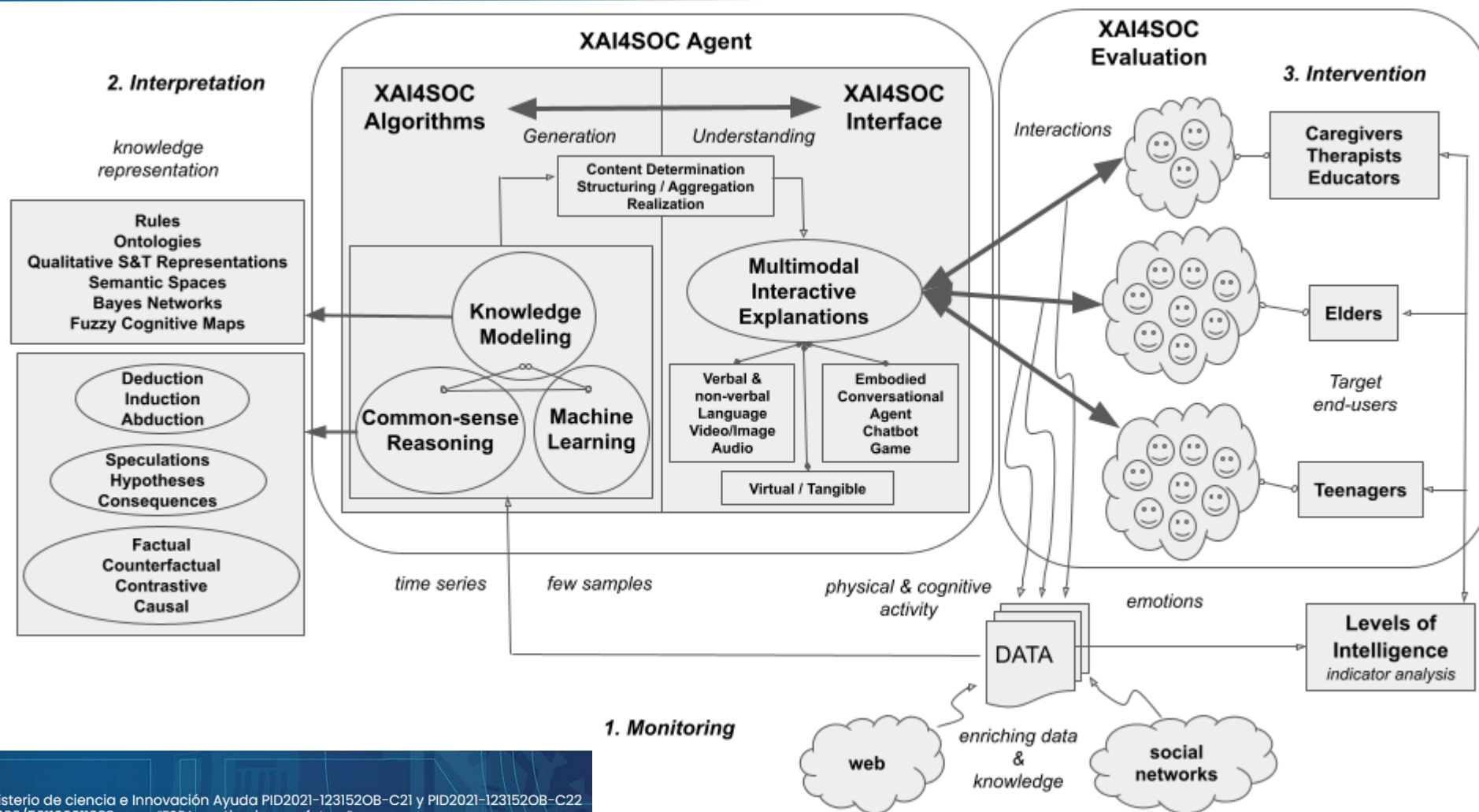
# Use Case



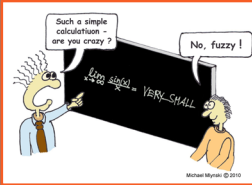




**XAI4SOC will create an open-source framework for the design, development, validation, evaluation and deployment of a new generation of ubiquitous XAI agents (algorithms and interfaces) for enhancing the prominence of their target users, with the support of caregivers, therapists and educators, in pursuing a healthy ageing and wellbeing development**



# Evaluating the consistency of explanations by LLMs

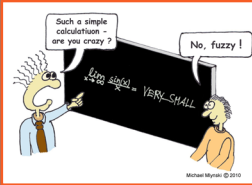


Fragment of a real conversation between TimeVersa and a user. Underlined, temporal expressions relevant for the conversation.

| Move     | Participant | Utterance  |
|----------|-------------|--|
| $m_1$    | User        | Hello! I would like to be in Cíes Islands <u>around 12 PM</u> . What time should I take the boat from Vigo?  |
| $m_2$    | TimeVersa   | There is a boat <u>at 11.15 AM</u> that is suitable for you.   |
| $m_3$    | User        | Why do you think this boat is suitable for me?   |
| $m_4$    | TimeVersa   | The boat trip from Vigo to Cíes Islands lasts <u>about 35 minutes</u> , so if you take the boat <u>at 11.15 AM</u> you can be there <u>around 12 PM</u> .                      |
| $m_5$    | User        | Could you specify what " <u>around 12 PM</u> " means for you?  |
| $m_6$    | TimeVersa   | It means <u>between 11.50 AM and 12.10 PM</u> .  |
| $m_7$    | User        | OK. Book the boat for me, please.  |
| $m_8$    | TimeVersa   | Could I help you with anything else?   |
| $m_9$    | User        | Yes. Once we have reached Cíes Islands <u>around 12 PM</u> , we had thought of doing the hiking route "Faro de Cíes". Do you think we can be back in Vigo <u>before 2 PM</u> ? |
| $m_{10}$ | TimeVersa   | No, this is not possible.  |
| $m_{11}$ | User        | Why not?   |
| $m_{12}$ | TimeVersa   | Because the route will take you <u>about 3 hours</u> . If you arrive the Islands <u>around 12 PM</u> , you can't be back in Vigo <u>before 2 PM</u> .                          |
| $m_{13}$ | User        | OK, I understand. So, what time can we be back?  |
| $m_{14}$ | TimeVersa   | You can be back in Vigo <u>around 4.35 PM</u> if you take the boat <u>at 4 PM</u> .  |

M. Canabal-Juanatey, J.M. Alonso-Moral, A. Catala, A. Bugarín-Diz, "**Enriching Interactive Explanations with Fuzzy Temporal Constraint Networks**", International Journal of Approximate Reasoning, 109128, 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijar.2024.109128>

# Evaluating the consistency of explanations by LLMs



<https://www.prolific.com/>

Insert your study link

<http://my-study.com>

Find your target audience

Demographics Variables

Age Geographic Finance

Languages Education

Work Health Beliefs

Family Lifestyles

Collect your responses

| TIME TAKEN | STUDY CODE | STATUS |
|------------|------------|--------|
| 00:00:52   | 6ED096A6   | REVIEW |



<https://tec.citius.usc.es/survey/>

Temporal consistency in conversational agents

The aim of this survey is to validate the research hypotheses established in the PhD thesis "**Reducing, Reusing and Recycling large pre-trained models for Conversational Agents which are endowed with Fuzzy Knowledge Representation and Reasoning**". This PhD thesis is being carried out by [María Canabal](#) at CITIUS (Centro Singular de Investigación de Tecnologías Inteligentes de la Universidad de Santiago de Compostela) within the PhD Programme in Information Technology Research under the supervision of the researchers [Alberto Bugariñ](#), [Alejandro Catalá](#) y [Jose María Alonso](#).

The answers are completely anonymous and will only be stored if the survey is fully completed. In this case, they will only be used for the purpose of this research.

If you have any questions about the study, you can address your questions to María ([marina.canabal.juanatey@usc.es](mailto:marina.canabal.juanatey@usc.es)).

This survey will remain open until 2 January 2023.

**Informed consent**

By ticking the following boxes on the consent form, I confirm that:

- ☐ I am of legal age.
- ☐ I voluntarily participate in this study and may exercise my right to withdraw without prejudice at any time.
- ☐ I understand that the data will be anonymised, and I consent to its anonymised processing and publication for the purpose of this research; respecting the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016).
- ☐ I have had the opportunity to ask questions and all my doubts have been satisfactorily answered before starting the experimental tasks.

**All boxes must be ticked to continue.**

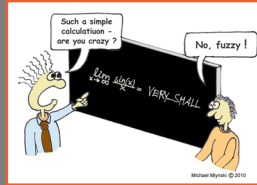
Please, introduce your unique Prolific ID to continue with the survey:

Next

M. Canabal-Juanatey, J.M. Alonso-Moral, A. Catala, A. Bugarín-Diz, "Enriching Interactive Explanations with Fuzzy Temporal Constraint Networks", International Journal of Approximate Reasoning, 109128, 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijar.2024.109128>



# Evaluating the consistency of explanations by LLMs



← → ↻ 🔒 https://tec.citius.usc.es/survey/page-instructions 90% ☆

Importar marcadores... Comenzar a usar Firefox

### Instructions

In the survey you will find three screens like the one in the example. In each screen, you can see a fictitious conversation between Mary and a conversational agent oriented to book hostels and provide information about the stages of the French St James' way.

Before to show the conversation, some relevant information available for the agent to the elaboration of his response will be displayed: a diagram about hostels and duration of the stages of interest. This information will be the same in the three screens, but the conversation below will change.

Finally, you will be asked to answer one question about the consistency among the agent's responses. To do this correctly, you should only take into account the temporal information included in the conversation.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** before answering the questions, it is essential that you read the conversation between Mary and the agent carefully, even more than once if necessary, to make sure that you have understood each sentence correctly.

### Example of a survey screen

Below, you can find a conversation between a fictitious user, Mary, and a conversational agent oriented to book hostels and provide information about the stages of the French St James' way. Mary is interested in the last two stages of the way and booking a hostel in the village "Pedrouzo".

The agent knows the following information about the last two stages:

And the agent knows the following information about the available hostels in Pedrouzo:

| Hostel    | Price              | Arrival/Departure Times  | Comments |
|-----------|--------------------|--|----------|
| Peregrina | 33 euros per night | Pilgrims should arrive between 11:00 AM and 6:30 PM and leave it before 8:30 AM. |          |
| Triskel   | 55 euros per night | No constraints about arrival and leaving times.                                  |          |
| O Burgo   | 20 euros per night | Pilgrims should arrive between 11:00 AM and 6:30 PM and leave it before 8:30 AM. |          |
| Xacobeo   | 25 euros per night | No constraints about arrival and leaving times.                                  |          |

Now, please read carefully the following conversation between Mary and the agent and answer the questions below.

Next

<https://tec.citius.usc.es/survey/>

tec.citius.usc.es/survey/ 90% ☆

## Temporal consistency in conversational agents

This is to validate the research hypotheses established in the PhD thesis "**Reducing, Reusing and Recycling large pre-Generative AI Models which are endowed with Fuzzy Knowledge Representation and Reasoning**". This PhD is supervised by [María Canabal](#) at CITIUS (Centro Singular de Investigación de Tecnologías Inteligentes de la Universidad de Santiago de Compostela) within the PhD Programme in Information Technology Research under the supervision of the researchers [Alberto Cano](#) and [Jose María Alonso](#).

The data generated during the survey will be completely anonymous and will only be stored if the survey is fully completed. In this case, they will only be used for the purposes of the research.

If you have any questions or comments about the study, you can address your questions to María ([marina.canabal.juanatey@usc.es](mailto:marina.canabal.juanatey@usc.es)).

The survey will be open until 2 January 2023.

By clicking on the consent form, I confirm that:

- I have read and understand the purpose of the study and the data will be anonymised, and I consent to its anonymised processing and publication for the purpose of this research.
- I have read and understand the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council) and I consent to the processing of my data for the purposes of the research.
- I have read and understand the opportunity to ask questions and all my doubts have been satisfactorily answered before starting the experimental tasks.

I agree to continue.

Enter your unique Prolific ID to continue with the survey:

Next

M. Canabal-Juanatey, J.M. Alonso-Moral, A. Catala, A. Bugarín-Diz, "Enriching Interactive Explanations with Fuzzy Temporal Constraint Networks", International Journal of Approximate Reasoning, 109128, 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijar.2024.109128>

# Evaluating

← → ↻ 🔒 https://tec.citius.usc.es/

Importar marcadores... Comenzar a usar Firefox

### Instructions

In the survey you will find a conversation between a fictional user, Mary, and a conversational agent oriented to book hostels and provide information about the stages of the French St James' way. Mary is interested in the last two stages of the way and booking a hostel in the village "Pedrouzo".

The agent knows the following information about the last two stages:

Before to show the conversation, relevant information available to the agent will be displayed: a map of the stages, the available hostels and duration of each stage. This information is the same in the three scenarios. The conversation below will display the agent's responses to the user's questions. Finally, you will be asked to assess the consistency of the agent's responses. To do this, you should answer the question correctly, you should account the temporal information included in the conversation.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Before answering the questions, it is essential to read the conversation between the user and the agent carefully, even if necessary, to make sure you understand each sentence.

M. Canabal  
Constrained


← → ↻ 🔒 https://tec.citius.usc.es/survey/page-1

Importar marcadores... Comenzar a usar Firefox

### Scenario 1 of 3

Below, you can find a conversation between a fictitious user, Mary, and a conversational agent oriented to book hostels and provide information about the stages of the French St James' way. Mary is interested in the last two stages of the way and booking a hostel in the village "Pedrouzo".

The agent knows the following information about the last two stages:



And the agent knows the following information about the available hostels in Pedrouzo:

| Hostel    | Price              | Arrival/Departure Times  |
|-----------|--------------------|--|
| Peregrina | 33 euros per night | Pilgrims should arrive between 11:00 AM and 6:30 PM and leave it before 8:30 AM. |
| Triskel   | 55 euros per night | No constraints about arrival and leaving times.                                  |
| O Burgo   | 20 euros per night | Pilgrims should arrive between 11:00 AM and 6:30 PM and leave it before 8:30 AM. |
| Xacobeo   | 25 euros per night | No constraints about arrival and leaving times.                                  |

Now, please read carefully the following conversation between Mary and the agent and answer the question below.

Mary: Hello! We are planning to do the two latest stages of French St. James' way next weekend, so we would like to book a hostel in Pedrouzo for Saturday.

Agent: The hostel "Peregrina" in Pedrouzo seems suitable for you.

Mary: Could you provide us more information about it?

Agent: Sure! The price is 33 euros per night, and you should enter between 11:00 AM and 6:30 PM and leave it before 8:30 AM on Sunday. Would you like to book it?

Mary: Yes. Book it for me, please.

Agent: The hostel has been successfully booked. Can I help you with anything else?

Mary: Yes. We would like to visit the village for a couple of hours before arriving at the hostel. What time should we start the stage to ensure we have enough time?

Agent: You could start the stage from Arzúa to Pedrouzo at 8:30 AM.

Mary: Perfect. So, we plan to start the last but one stage from Arzúa to Pedrouzo at 8:30 AM. We will also need to rest for at least 16 hours between this stage ending and the next stage starting, from Pedrouzo to Santiago de Compostela. Do you think we can arrive in Santiago de Compostela before 12:00 PM?

Agent: No, this is not possible.

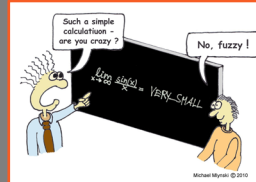
Based only on the temporal information involved in the conversation, please assess the consistency of the agent's responses:

Very inconsistent Inconsistent Somewhat consistent Consistent Very Consistent

Required

Next

# .Ms



<https://tec.citius.usc.es/survey/>

90% ☆ 🔒

### Conversational agents

"Reducing, Reusing and Recycling large pre-edge Representation and Reasoning". This PhD is part of the project "Reducing, Reusing and Recycling large pre-edge Representation and Reasoning" under the supervision of the researchers [Alberto](#)

pleted. In this case, they will only be used for the

[rina.canabal@usc.es](mailto:rina.canabal@usc.es).

ejudice at any time.

rocessing and publication for the purpose of this

9 of the European Parliament and of the Council

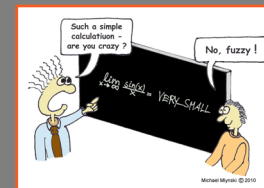
answered before starting the experimental tasks.

Fuzzy Temporal  
2024.109128

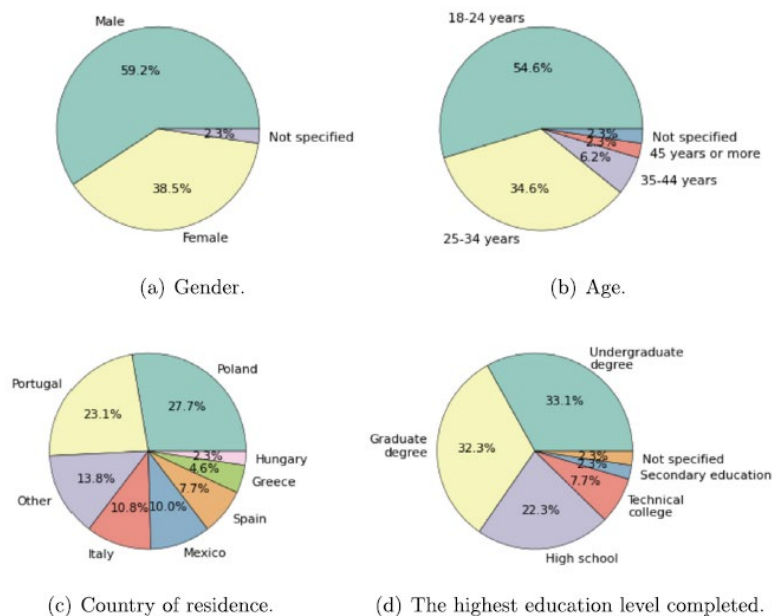
orthy AI



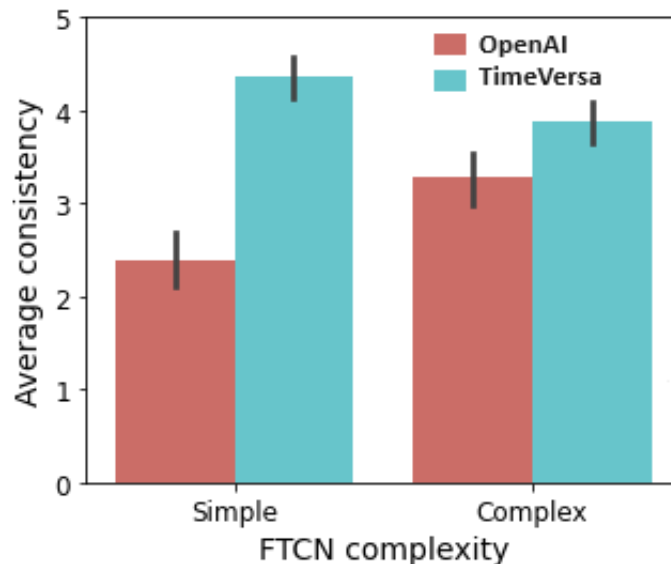
# Evaluating the consistency of explanations by LLMs



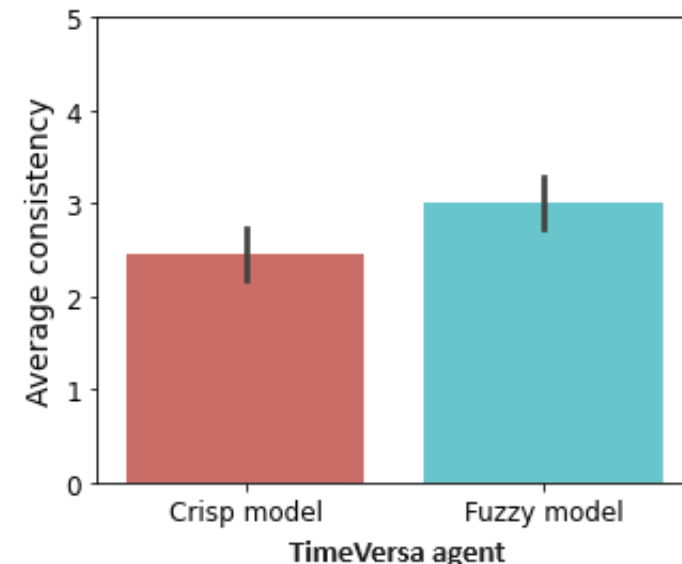
## 130 subjects



**Experimental design:** two factors as independent variables at two levels each (2x2)



**H1:** "In case of involving vague temporal information, the interaction with TimeVersa is perceived as more consistent than the interaction with the OpenAI API."



**H2:** "In case of involving vague temporal information, the interaction with TimeVersa incorporating the temporal reasoning model is perceived as more consistent than the interaction with TimeVersa incorporating the crisp version of the temporal reasoning model."

M. Canabal-Juanatey, J.M. Alonso-Moral, A. Catala, A. Bugarín-Diz, "Enriching Interactive Explanations with Fuzzy Temporal Constraint Networks", International Journal of Approximate Reasoning, 109128, 2024, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijar.2024.109128>





Interactive Natural Language  
Technology for eXplainable  
Artificial Intelligence

Supporting the right to  
explanation by  
**AI**  
POWERED  
SYSTEMS

NL4XAI.eu



# Jose Maria Alonso-Moral



[https://orcid.org/  
0000-0003-3673-421X](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3673-421X)



Profesor Titular de Universidad



[josemaria.alonso.moral@usc.es](mailto:josemaria.alonso.moral@usc.es)

<https://citius.gal/team/jose-maria-alonso-moral>

<https://gitlab.citius.usc.es/jose.alonso/xai>

International  
Ambassador



<https://fmsquare.org/>



## Task Force on Explainable Fuzzy Systems

<https://sites.google.com/view/tf-explainable-fuzzy-systems/>



XAI for Healthy Aging  
and  
Social Wellbeing

<https://xai4soc.es/>



TELSEC4TAI

<https://iafiable.es/>

R&D Network on Trustworthy Artificial  
Intelligence: Technical, Ethical, Legal, Cultural and  
Socio-economic Challenges

## Z-Inspection®

<https://z-inspection.org/>

DeepR3: Reducing,  
Reusing, and Recycling  
large models for  
developing Responsible  
and Green Language  
Technologies



<http://ixa2.si.ehu.es/deepR3/>



<https://hybridsproject.eu/>