

*AI for Advancing Scientific Research*

**Angelo Salatino**

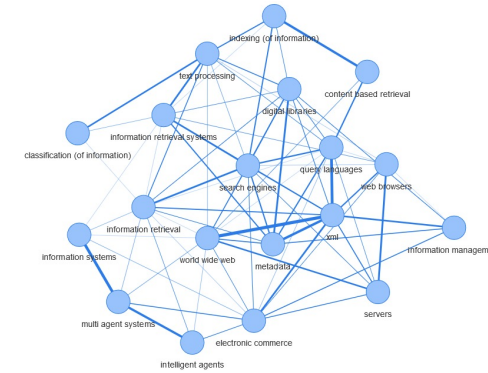
KMi, The Open University, UK

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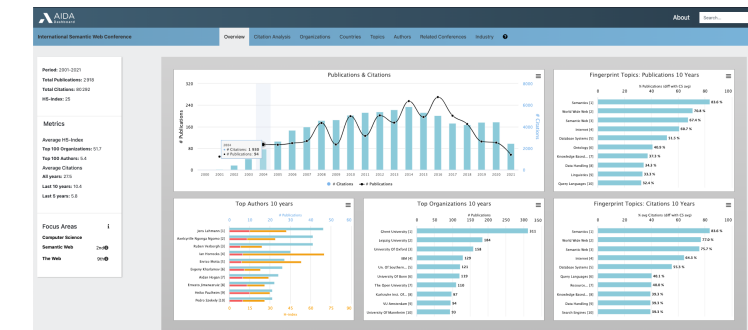
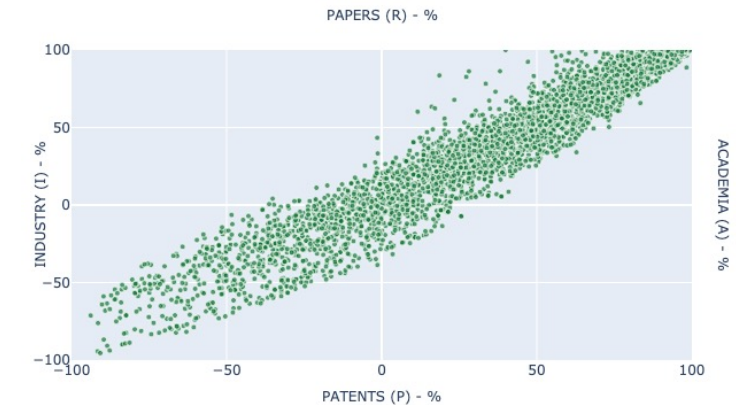
# Scholarly Knowledge Modelling (SKM) Team



- SKM develops **innovative AI solution** leveraging large-scale data mining, semantic technologies, machine learning, and visual analytics for making sense of scholarly data and forecasting research dynamics.



- The SKM team has an extensive list of collaborators, which include (but are not limited to):
  - Leading European **universities** (e.g., FIZ Karlsruhe, Bologna, Cagliari, Paris Sorbonne, Seville, Milano Bicocca, Oxford)
  - **Intergovernmental organizations**, such as OECD
  - **Research institutes** (FBK and GESIS)
  - **Commercial organizations**, including Digital Science, Linkalab and one of the top international scientific publishers: Springer Nature.

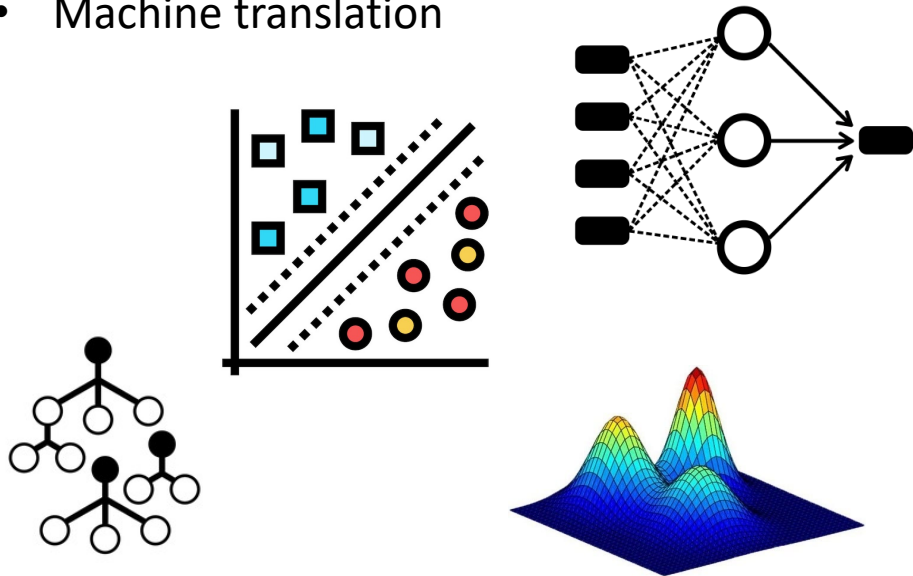


# How has AI supported the Research Ecosystem so far?

## Past decades

AI has been supporting research with Machine Learning and Deep Learning models:

- Product recommendations
- Medical diagnosis
- Fraud detection
- Face recognition
- Sentiment Analysis
- Machine translation



## Past few years

AI has been supporting research with co-pilots:

- Question Answering
- Summarising, proofreading
- Literature reviews
- Code development
- Drafting content



LLaMA  
by Meta



Microsoft Copilot

Gemini

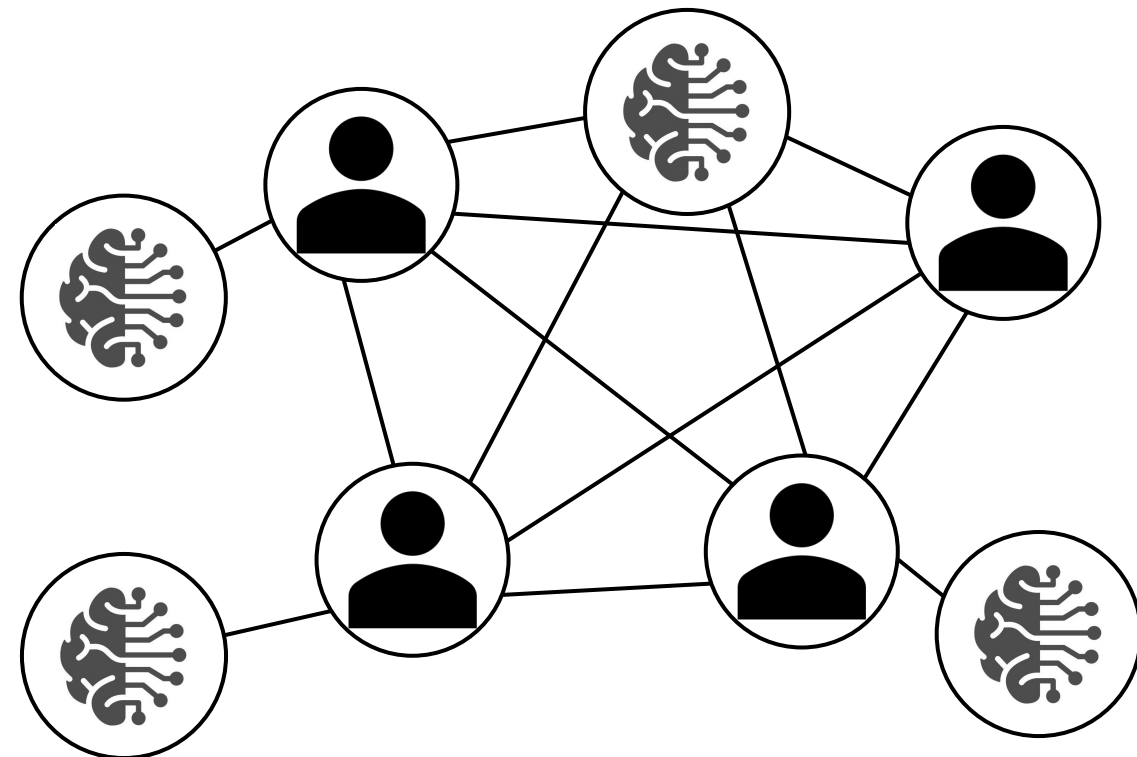
# Vision: Extending Human Performance in Research



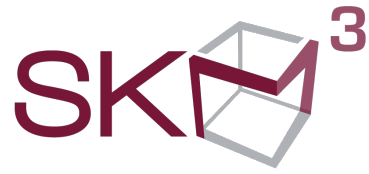
- Next decade?

AI as Smart Personal Research Assistant:

- Daily digests on recently published literature tailored to researcher's interest
- High-quality literature reviews
- Hypothesis generation and prioritisation
- Packaging data for Open Science
- Drafting impact cases
- Assisting peer review



# Agenda



Automatic Literature  
Review Generation



Hypothesis  
Generation



Diversity of Expertise



Scientific Question  
Answering

# Agenda



Automatic Literature  
Review Generation



Hypothesis  
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Diversity of Expertise

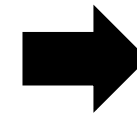
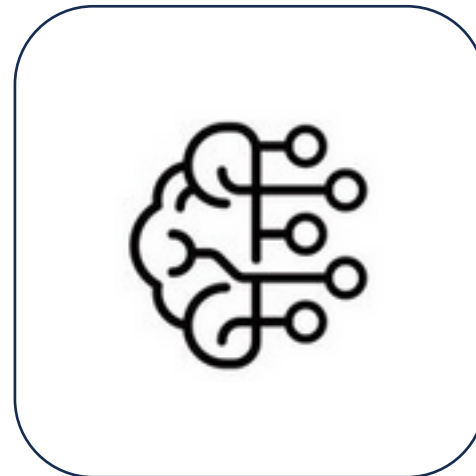
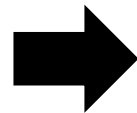


Scientific Question  
Answering

# Automatic Generation of Literature Review

Are there AI tools that can generate a draft literature review based on a research question/topic?

What are the main research gaps in the field of explainable AI?



Explainable AI (XAI) has emerged as a vital research domain aimed at enhancing the transparency and interpretability of artificial intelligence systems (Adadi & Berrada, 2018). While substantial progress has been made ...

# Automatic Generation of Literature Review



## 21 leading Systematic Literature Review (SLR) tools

Abstrackr, Colandr, Covidence, EPPI-Reviewer, Rayyan, SWIFT-Active Screener, DistillerSR, SWIFT-Review, SysRev, Nested Knowledge, RobotAnalyst, LitSuggest, Pitts.ai, Research Screener, ASReview, PICOPortal, FAST2, Dextr, ExaCT, **Iris.ai**, **RobotReviewer/RobotSearch**

## 11 LLM-based tools aiding LR

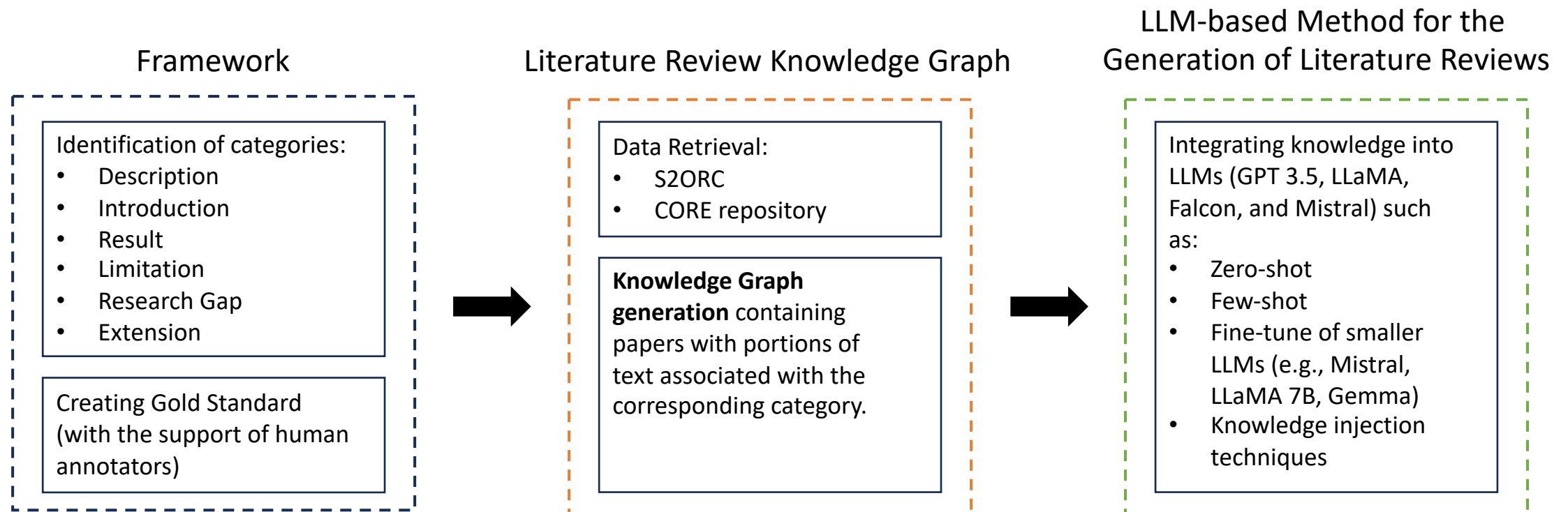
Scite, Elicit, Consensus, EvidenceHunt, MirrorThink, Perplexity, Scispace, Jenni.ai, ResearchBuddies, Silatus, Textero.ai

The generated literature reviews lack the structure and presentation style found in literature reviews written by researchers.



# Automatic Generation of Literature Review

We are designing a new **AI framework** for **automatically generating literature reviews** that integrates information from multiple sources and exploits an advanced characterization of scientific concepts and research questions.



# Agenda



Automatic Literature  
Review Generation



Hypothesis  
Generation



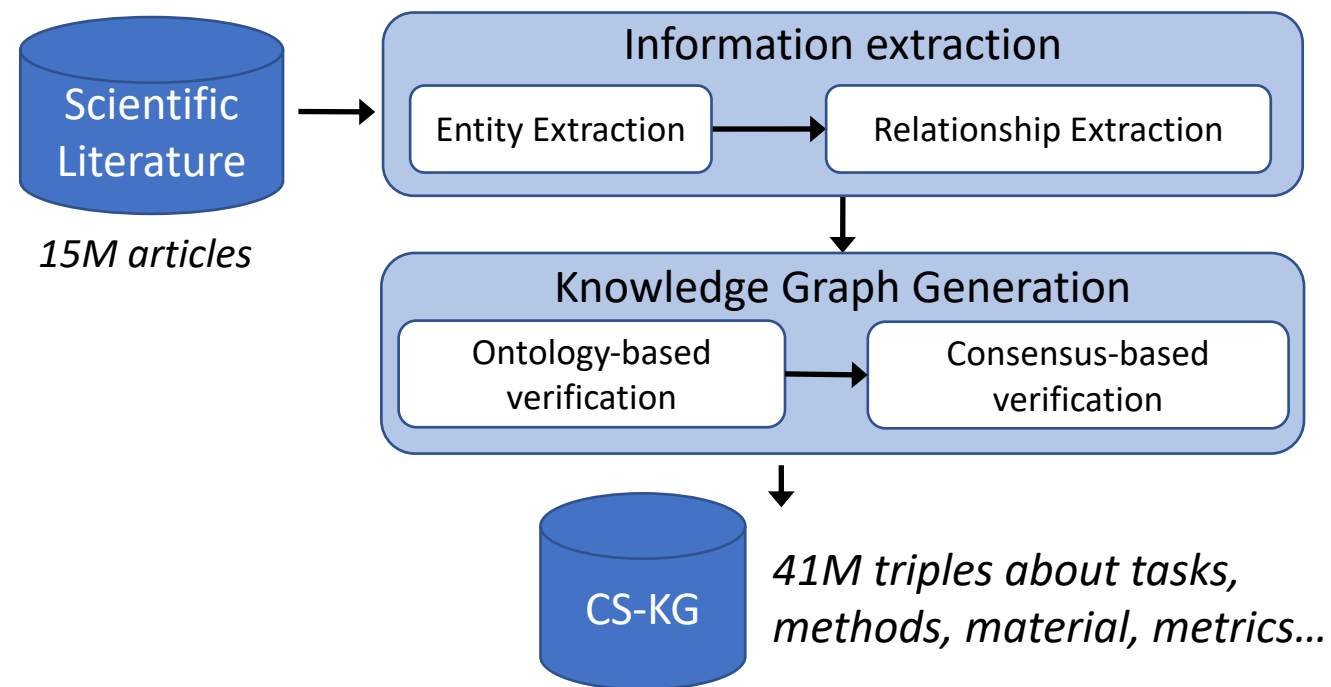
Diversity of Expertise



Scientific Question  
Answering

# AI System for Hypothesis Generation - Architecture

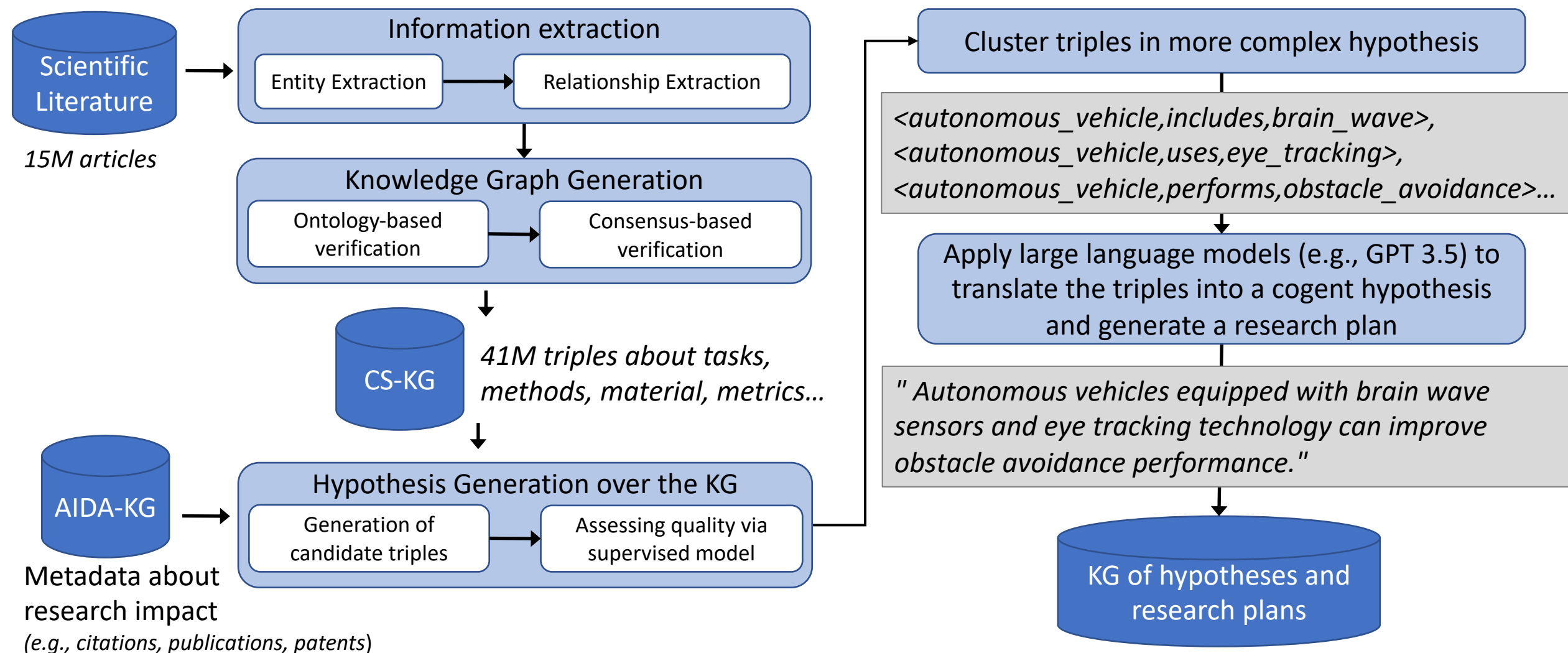
A novel approach which exploits **link prediction models**, **impact features**, and **large language models** to formulate original research hypotheses and relevant research plans.



Metadata about  
research impact  
(e.g., citations, publications, patents)

# AI System for Hypothesis Generation - Architecture

A novel approach which exploits **link prediction models**, **impact features**, and **large language models** to formulate original research hypotheses and relevant research plans.



## Hypothesis Generation – An Example

**Hypothesis:** Autonomous vehicles equipped with brain wave sensors and eye-tracking technology can improve obstacle avoidance performance.

**Discussion:** Autonomous vehicles are becoming increasingly popular, and their safety is a crucial concern. Obstacle avoidance is a critical task for autonomous vehicles, and it requires the integration of various technologies. One possible solution is to equip autonomous vehicles with brain wave sensors and eye-tracking technology. Brain wave sensors can detect the driver's cognitive state and predict their intentions, while eye tracking technology can monitor the driver's gaze and attention. By combining these technologies, it is possible to improve obstacle avoidance performance and enhance the safety of autonomous vehicles.

# Agenda



Automatic Literature  
Review Generation



Hypothesis  
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Diversity of Expertise



Scientific Question  
Answering

# Our approach: a glimpse

## Long-term Recurrent Convolutional Networks for Visual Recognition and Description

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### Abstract

Models based on deep convolutional networks have dominated recent image interpretation tasks; we investigate whether models which are also recurrent, or "temporally deep", are effective for tasks involving sequences, visual and otherwise. We develop a novel recurrent convolutional architecture suitable for large-scale visual learning which is end-to-end trainable, and demonstrate the value of these models on benchmark video recognition tasks, image description and retrieval problems, and video narration challenges. In contrast to current models which assume a fixed spatio-temporal receptive field or simple temporal averaging for sequential processing, recurrent convolutional models are "doubly deep" in that they can be compositional in spatial and temporal "layers". Such models may have advantages when target concepts are complex and/or training data are limited. Learning long-term dependencies is possible when nonlinearities are incorporated into the network state updates. Long-term RNN models are appealing in that they directly can map variable-length inputs (e.g., video frames) to variable length outputs (e.g., natural language text) and can model complex temporal dynamics; yet they can be optimized with backpropagation. Our recurrent long-term models are directly connected to modern visual convnet models and can be jointly trained to simultaneously learn temporal dynamics and convolutional perceptual representations. Our results show such models have distinct advantages over state-of-the-art models for recognition or generation which are separately defined and/or optimized.

### 1. Introduction

Recognition and description of images and videos is a fundamental challenge of computer vision. Dramatic

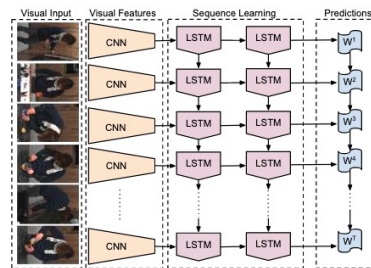


Figure 1: We propose *Long-term Recurrent Convolutional Networks* (LRCNs), a class of architectures leveraging the strengths of rapid progress in CNNs for visual recognition problem, and the growing desire to apply such models to time-varying inputs and outputs. LRCN processes the (possibly) variable-length visual input (left) with a CNN (middle-left), whose outputs are fed into a stack of recurrent sequence models (*LSTMs*, middle-right), which finally produce a variable-length prediction (right).

progress has been achieved by supervised convolutional models on image recognition tasks, and a number of extensions to process video have been recently proposed. Ideally, a video model should allow processing of variable length input sequences, and also provide for variable length outputs, including generation of full-length sentence descriptions that go beyond conventional one-versus-all prediction tasks. In this paper we propose *long-term recurrent convolutional networks* (LRCNs), a novel architecture for visual recognition and description which combines convolutional layers and long-range temporal recursion and is end-to-end trainable (see Figure 1). We instantiate our architecture for specific video activity recognition, image caption genera-

#citations 5yrs:  
2652

Publication Year:  
2015



Papers in the 5 years  
before collaboration

Author Expertise

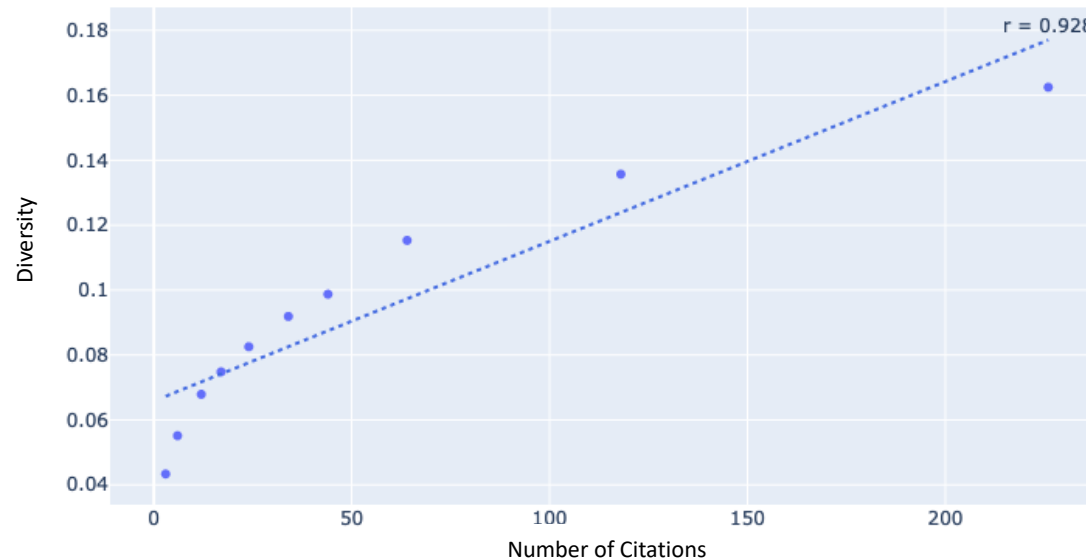
['multimedia systems', 'natural languages', 'image processing', 'machine learning', 'artificial intelligence', 'semantics', 'ontology', 'natural language processing', 'image coding', 'linguistics']

['convolutional neural networks', 'auto encoders', 'multilayer perceptrons', 'image analysis', 'image processing', 'machine learning', 'neural networks', 'artificial intelligence', 'network architecture', 'backpropagation algorithm']

['computer imaging and vision', 'object detection', 'image analysis', 'image processing', 'pattern recognition', 'machine learning', 'artificial intelligence', 'neural networks', 'object recognition', 'image segmentation']

## Insights – Part I

- An analysis in Computer Science on ~1M papers and 4.4M authors
- Diversity and number of citations are highly correlated (Pearson's  $r=0.9$ ,  $p<0.0001$ )



Salatino et al. (2023). *Diversity of Expertise is Key to Scientific Impact: a Large-Scale Analysis in the Field of Computer Science*. STI 2023



## Insights – Part II

In this case, an AI system has been employed to model the expertise of authors.

This knowledge can be used to:

- develop new policies for improving the research enterprise and accelerate science
- build a successful research team

# Agenda



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Review Generation



Hypothesis  
Generation



Diversity of Expertise



Scientific Question  
Answering

# How to integrate LLM and Scientific Knowledge Graphs?



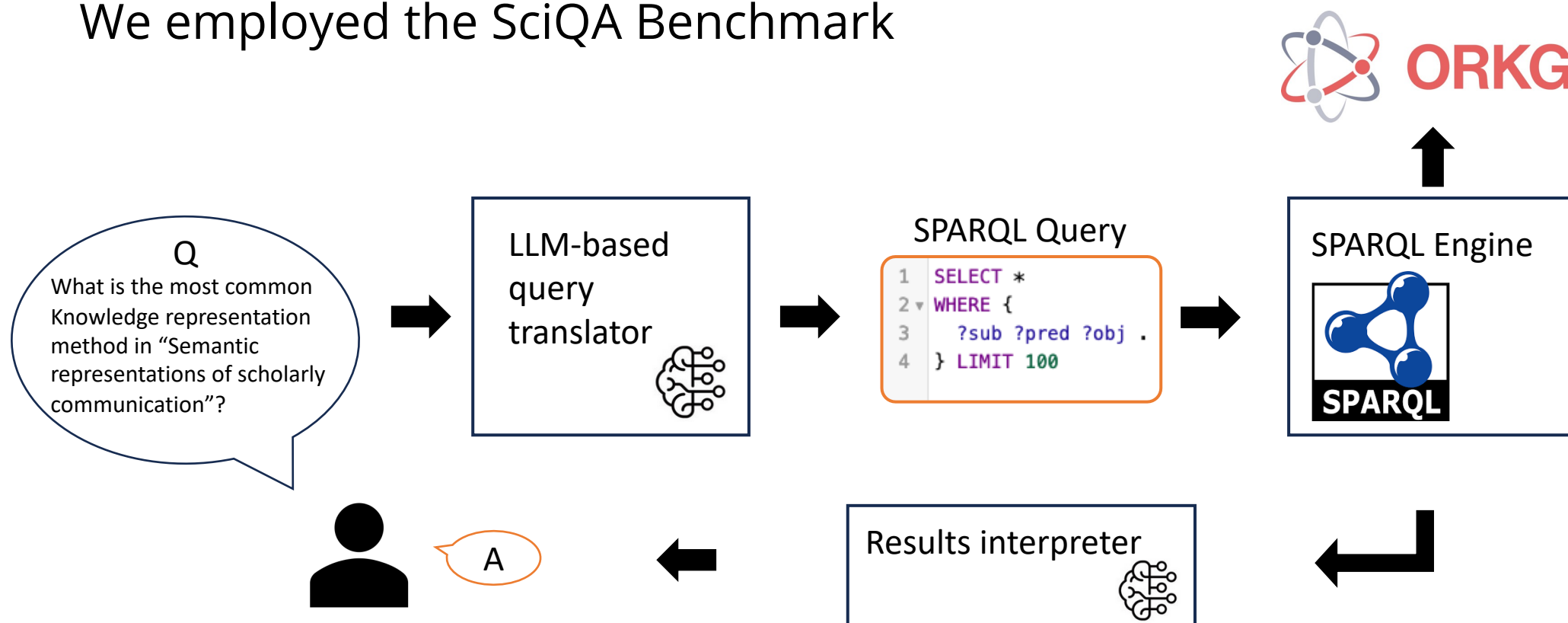
SKGs are complementary to LLMs. They can improve their performance and alleviate hallucinations.

- SKGs can **support RAG** (Retrieval Augmented Generation) – feeding to the LLM only relevant and verifiable data (e.g., portions of articles)
- LLMs can be fine-tuned to **translate natural language to SPARQL** queries over the knowledge graphs (see for example *SciQA*)
- SKGs can be used to **detect hallucinations** (e.g., fake papers)
- LLMs can be augmented with various **knowledge injection techniques** to improve performance over several tasks.

# Question Answering over Knowledge Graph

We conducted an in-depth analysis of LLMs for **scientific question answering** and different ways to optimize them.

We employed the SciQA Benchmark



# Question Answering over Knowledge Graph



- ‘Solved’ SciQA, the top benchmark in the area with >97% F1
- Demonstrated excellent performance with fine-tuned version of small models (e.g., T5)
- Now working on the creation of more challenging benchmarks

Strat.	C	Test name	S	T5-base	GPT2-large	Dolly-v2-3b	GPT-3.5-turbo
ZSL					0.0653 (0)	0.1087 (0)	0.2632 (0)
FT				<b>0.9751 (483)</b>	<b>0.9669 (430)</b>		
FSL	Similarity		1		0.2718 (0)	<b>0.8792 (167)</b>	0.9368 (356)
			3		0.4051 (2)	0.8304 (182)	0.9667 (451)
			5			0.8242 (180)	0.9709 (464)
			7			0.8052 (181)	<b>0.9736 (475)</b>
	Ent.	Same_Templ	1		0.2029 (0)	0.5734 (2)	0.8988 (205)
			1		0.1421 (0)	0.4402 (0)	0.7016 (26)
			1		0.2788 (0)	0.6757 (1)	
	Random		1		0.2005 (0)	0.5659 (27)	0.7362 (45)
			3		0.2187 (0)	0.5900 (31)	0.8259 (113)
			5			0.6242 (51)	0.8675 (165)
			7			0.6576 (69)	0.8905 (189)
	Diversity	Test A	3		0.2215 (0)	0.7000 (43)	0.9378 (315)
			5			0.6525 (39)	0.9428 (328)
			7			0.6729 (46)	0.9375 (313)
Test B		3		0.2988 (1)	0.8025 (171)	0.9561 (412)	
		5			0.8181 (201)	0.9566 (417)	
		7			0.8261 ( <b>212</b> )	0.9562 (422)	

## Conclusions & Future Work

- LLMs are shifting the paradigms of AI
- LLMs have unlocked a new level of opportunities
  
- **All that glitters is not gold!**
  
- Several challenges to address:
  - Quality of the responses
  - Quality of the skills
  - Ethical
  - Sustainability

# Relevant Publications

Meloni et al. (2023) AIDA-Bot 2.0: Enhancing Conversational Agents with Knowledge Graphs for Analysing the Research Landscape. International Semantic Web Conference 2023, Athens, Greece.

Salatino et al. (2023) Diversity of Expertise is Key to Scientific Impact: a Large-Scale Analysis in the Field of Computer Science. International Conference on Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators 2023, Leiden, The Netherlands.

Cadeddu et al. (2023) Enhancing Scholarly Understanding: A Comparison of Knowledge Injection Strategies in Large Language Models. The Deep Learning for Knowledge Graphs (DL4KG@ISWC2023) Workshop, Athens, Greece.

Cadeddu et al. (2023) A Comparative Analysis of Knowledge Injection Strategies for Large Language Models in the Scholarly Domain. Submitted to Engineering Applications of Artificial Intelligence.

Borrego et al. (2023) Research Hypothesis Generation over Scientific Knowledge Graphs. Submitted to Knowledge Based Systems.

Meloni et al. (2023) Integrating Conversational Agents and Knowledge Graphs within the Scholarly Domain. IEEE Access.

Meloni et al. (2023) Enhancing Conversational Agents Reliability and Accuracy by Integrating Scientific Knowledge Graphs. Submitted to Expert System with Applications.

Buscaldi et al. (2024) Citation Prediction by Leveraging Transformers and Natural Language Processing Heuristics. Information Processing and Management.

Lehmann et al. (2024) Large Language Models for Scientific Question Answering: an Extensive Analysis of the SciQA Benchmark. ESWC 2024.

Bolanos et al. (2024) Artificial Intelligence for Literature Reviews: Opportunities and Challenges. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.08565>.

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