A Situation Awareness-Based Framework for Design and Evaluation of Explainable AI

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Explainable AI (XAI)
Human Factors and Team Performance

- Situation Awareness
- Trust
- Mental Workload
Situation Awareness (SA) from Human Factors

Endsley 1995 Definition\(^1\):

**Level 1**
The *perception* of elements in the environment within a volume of time and space

**Level 2**
The *comprehension* of their meaning

**Level 3**
The *projection* of their status in the near future

[1] Endsley, Mica R. "Toward a theory of situation awareness in dynamic systems." *Human factors* 37.1 (1995): 32-64.
Contributions

- Situation Awareness-Based Framework
- Situation Awareness-Based Evaluation Method
- Proposed Future Directions for XAI Research
Situation Awareness-Based Levels of XAI Framework

Level 1 SA: Perception
- Level 1 XAI: XAI for Perception

Level 2 SA: Comprehension
- Level 2 XAI: XAI for Comprehension

Level 3 SA: Projection
- Level 3 XAI: XAI for Projection
Level 1: XAI for Perception

**Level 1 XAI:**
**XAI for Perception**
Explanations of what an AI system did or is doing and the decisions made by the system

**Answers “What” Questions**

Example Types of Information:
- Input Information
- Output Information

**Example Approaches**
- Belief-based explanations from explainable Belief-Desire-Intent (BDI) agents
  *Broekens et al. 2010, Harbers et al. 2010, Harbers et al. 2011*
- Plan information from a planning agent
  *Borgo et al. 2018, Chakraborti et al. 2019, Sreedharan et al. 2018*
- Prototypes of clusters
  *Kim et al. 2014*

[2] Miller, Tim. "Explanation in artificial intelligence: Insights from the social sciences." *Artificial Intelligence* 267 (2019): 1-38.
Level 2: XAI for Comprehension

Level 2 XAI: XAI for Comprehension
Explanations of why an AI system acted in a certain way or made a particular decision and what this means in terms of the system’s goals

Answers “Why”/”How” Questions\textsuperscript{[2]}

Example Types of Information:
- Model Information

Example Approaches

- Feature or state importance techniques
  Ribeiro et al. 2016, Hayes and Shah 2017, Kim et al. 2017

- Saliency maps
  Adebayo et al. 2018

- Desire-based explanations from explainable Belief-Desire-Intent (BDI) agents
  Broekens et al. 2010, Harbers et al. 2010, Harbers et al. 2011

- Explanations based on objective functions, rewards, or goals
  Dannenhauer et al. 2018, Borgo et al. 2018

\textsuperscript{[2]} Miller, Tim. "Explanation in artificial intelligence: Insights from the social sciences." Artificial Intelligence 267 (2019): 1-38.
Level 3: XAI for Projection

Level 3 XAI:
XAI for Projection

Explanations of what an AI system will do next, what it would do in a similar scenario, or what would be required for an alternate outcome

Answers “What If” Questions\[^2\]

Example Types of Information:

- Changed Inputs → Outputs
  *Forward Reasoning*

- Outputs → Required Inputs
  *Backward Reasoning*

- Effects of Model Changes

- Nominal Next Actions

Example Approaches

- Failure prediction and misclassification amendment
  *Bansal et al. 2014, Marino et al. 2018*

- Reasoning about states for forward/backward simulation
  *Hayes and Shah 2017*

- “Important” traces of agent behavior (state-action pairs)
  *Amir and Amir 2018*

- Intent-based explanations from explainable Belief-Desire-Intent (BDI) agents
  *Broekens et al. 2010, Harbers et al. 2010*

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\[^2\] Miller, Tim. "Explanation in artificial intelligence: Insights from the social sciences." *Artificial Intelligence* 267 (2019): 1-38.
Example Domain: Autonomous Vehicle

- Explainable AI system for vehicle path planner
- Human passenger takes control in off-nominal scenarios
Level 1 XAI Example

“I am slowing down”
Level 2 XAI Example

“I am slowing down, because I detect a pedestrian, and I predict that our trajectories will collide unless I change my velocity.”
Level 3 XAI Example

“With my new plan, I will come to a complete stop ahead of the crosswalk and avoid a collision.”
Determining Human Informational Needs

Goal-Directed Task Analysis (GDTA)\(^3\)

- Primary Goal
  - Subgoal 1
    - Decision 1
      - SA Requirements 1
  - Subgoal 2
    - Decision 2
      - SA Requirements 2
  - Subgoal n
    - Decision n
      - SA Requirements n

[3] Endsley, Mica R. "Direct measurement of situation awareness: Validity and use of SAGAT." *Situational Awareness*. Routledge, 2017. 129-156.
Primary Goal
Take over vehicle in emergency scenarios

Subgoal 1
Locate and identify potential hazards

Subgoal 2
Assess vehicle state and plan

Subgoal n

Decision 1
Is the vehicle aware of all possible hazards?

Decision 2
Will there be any collisions with possible hazards?

Decision n

SA Requirements 1
Level 1 - Which potential hazards is the vehicle aware of? Are there any that it is missing? Hi
Level 2 - Why does the vehicle detect certain hazards but not others? Which features of a scene are important?
Level 3 - will the vehicle detect missed hazards in the necessary timeframe to avoid them?
Evaluating Explanation Quality: A Method for Situation Awareness-Based XAI Assessment

Situation Awareness Global Assessment Technique (SAGAT)[4]

| General | For XAI |
|---------|---------|
| Enumerate SA requirements using a process such as GDTA. | Enumerate SA requirements related to AI behavior using a process such as GDTA. |
| Simulate the scenario of interest, including all relevant human tasks and decisions. | Simulate the scenario of interest, including all relevant human and XAI tasks and decisions. |
| Freeze the simulation at randomly selected time, and ask the human questions related to their identified informational needs. | Freeze the simulation at randomly selected time, and ask the human questions related to their identified informational needs related to AI behavior. |

SAGAT Question Examples:
- **Level 1** - How many potential hazards is the vehicle missing?
- **Level 2** - Which features are causing the vehicle to miss those hazards?
- **Level 3** - Will the vehicle recognize the hazards before a collision occurs?

[4] Endsley, Mica R. "Situation awareness global assessment technique (SAGAT)." Proceedings of the IEEE 1988 national aerospace and electronics conference. IEEE, 1988.
Future Directions

XAI system that addresses all three levels of XAI

Assessment of XAI techniques using the GDTA process and SAGAT test

Enhanced methods for providing user-tailored explanations
Conclusion

Situation Awareness-Based Framework for XAI

- Level 1 XAI: XAI for Perception
- Level 2 XAI: XAI for Comprehension
- Level 3 XAI: XAI for Projection

Situation Awareness-Based Evaluation Method

- Goal Directed Task Analysis (GDTA) for definition of informational needs related to XAI
- Situation Awareness Global Assessment Technique (SAGAT) for evaluation of XAI systems

Proposed Future Directions for XAI