Does Explicit Episode–Trace Binding Help? An Exploratory Study with Information-Matched, Competence-Audited Controls

Ioan Daniel Ionici · Independent researcher, Oradea, Romania · ORCID 0009-0009-8183-3656

Exploratory study · preprint · version 1.3 · CC BY 4.0 / MIT · open access on Zenodo

WHAT IT IS

A small, synthetic, offline benchmark of source attribution. An apparent advantage of explicit binding (+0.38 Brier skill score) disappeared once the information-matched control became competent; the signal came from local update statistics, not from accumulated history. The contribution is methodological: a decoding ceiling, a control-competence audit, equivalence tests and construct-validity diagnostics. Version 1.3 corrects the claim that the benchmark is closed.

CE ESTE

Un benchmark mic, sintetic, offline, de atribuire a sursei. Un avantaj aparent al legării explicite (+0,38 scor Brier) a dispărut când controlul cu informaţie echivalentă a devenit competent; semnalul venea din statistici locale ale actualizărilor, nu din istoria acumulată. Contribuţia e metodologică: plafon de decodare, audit al competenţei controlului, teste de echivalenţă şi diagnostice de validitate. Versiunea 1.3 corectează afirmaţia că benchmark-ul e închis.

LIMITS · LIMITE

Exploratory; no confirmatory data; no independent verification. Drafted and verified with AI assistants; responsibility is the author's.

Exploratoriu; fără date confirmatorii; fără verificare independentă. Redactat şi verificat cu asistenţi AI; responsabilitatea aparţine autorului.

CITE · CITARE

Ionici, I. D. (2026). *Does Explicit Episode–Trace Binding Help? An Exploratory Study with Information-Matched, Competence-Audited Controls*. Zenodo.
https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23666335

Concept DOI (always the latest version) · DOI de concept (mereu ultima versiune):
https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.23666335