

Self-Explanation in VERA

Learners can ask questions about VERA's internal workings, fostering trust and enhancing the learning experience.³

Cognitive AI



Generative AI

Acknowledgements



References

1. An S. et al (2018) VERA: Popularizing Science through AI. 19th International Conference AIED.
2. Kos J. et al (2024) A Constructivist Framing of Wheel Spinning: Identifying Unproductive Behaviors with Sequence Analysis. International Conference ITS.
3. Sushri S. et al (2024) Combining Cognitive and Generative AI for Self-explanation in Interactive AI Agents. HEXED workshop, International Conference EDM.

VERA

Formulate hypothesis

"To eliminate *Kudzu* (invasive) and restore *Hornbeam* (native), introduce *Goat* (predator) to the ecosystem."



Construct conceptual model & simulate



Analyze results. Is the hypothesis answered?

Virtual Experimental Research Assistant



Purpose

VERA guides learners in exploring **complex ecological models** through **interactive simulations**, offering personalized coaching and real-time feedback.¹

It develops learners' modeling skills by breaking the process into three steps: **construction**, **parameterization**, and **simulation**.

How can a learner develop modeling as a skill?



Personalized Learning

VERA features an AI coach that analyzes each learner's modeling behavior to deliver tailored feedback.

By classifying a learner into 3 categories, the coach provides **adaptive metacognitive scaffolding** to refine their modeling skills

Learner	Feedback
Constructor	Parametric
Observer	Construction
Full-explorer	Motivational

Wheel Spinning

In closed domains, learners who struggle with getting the correct concept multiple times exhibit wheel spinning.

*Q: How to identify wheel spinning when there is no single correct answer? **Ask students!***²



Students who quit and restart a problem are more likely to experience Wheel Spinning.

Students request help throughout the assignment, even late into their learning journey.

