Explainable AI for psychological profiling from behavioral data

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Context

Psychological profiling = “the automated assessment of psychological traits from digital footprints” (Matz, 2020)

Case study: personality profiling from consumer spending

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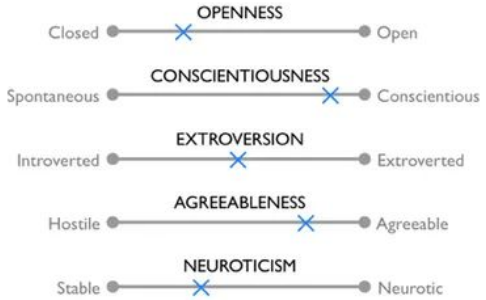
SaverLife

1. Link your account
SaverLife is not a bank and doesn't touch your money. Link your existing bank account where you save.

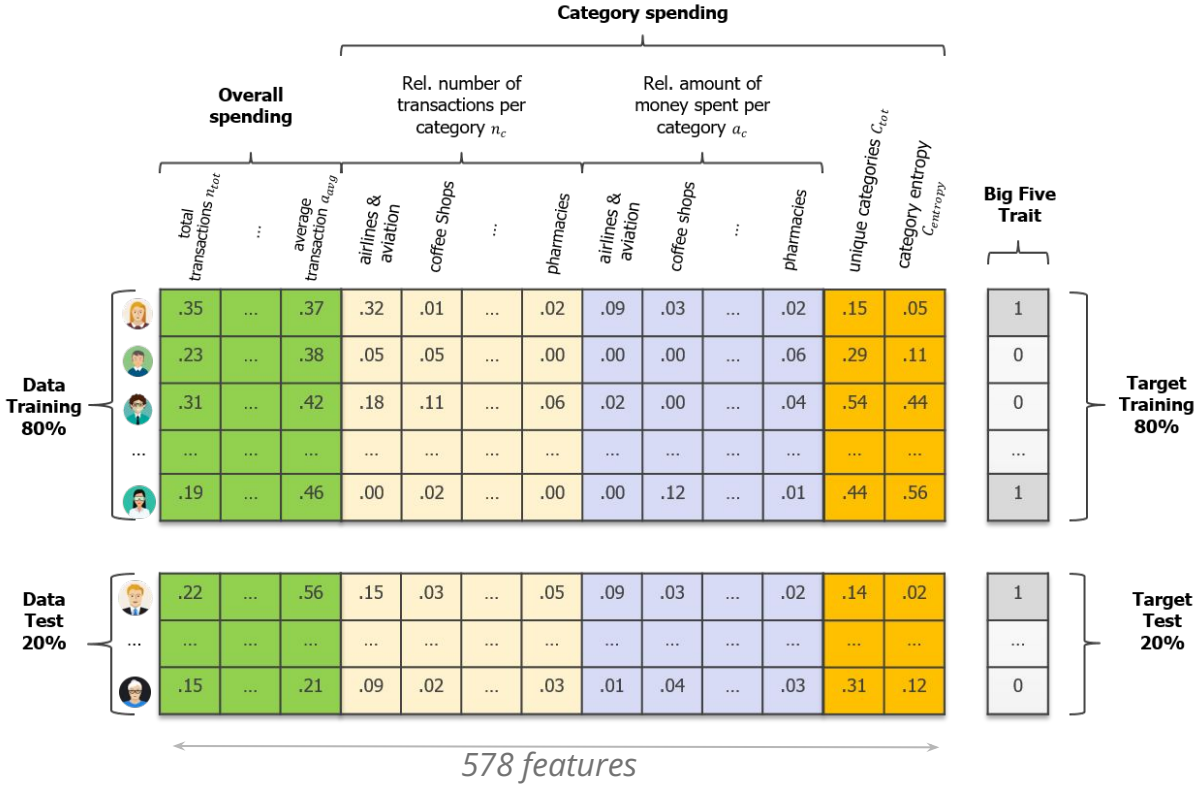
2. Earn points
Earn points as you build your financial health. Read articles, use our budgeting tools, and save money.

3. Get rewarded
Redeem your points for digital prizes or a chance to win cash!

Big Five Personality Traits



Case study: sample data (N=6,408)



Predictability of personality

- Random Forest models work best
- Decent performance: min=53.4%, max=61.8%
- Best accuracy for Neuroticism
- Conscientiousness & Neuroticism easier to predict than Agreeableness & Openness

Complication

Black box models → Why?

(1) High dimensionality
(2) Sparsity
(3) Non-redundancy

(e.g., De Cnudde et al., 2019; Clark & Provost, 2019; Junqué de Fortuny et al., 2013)

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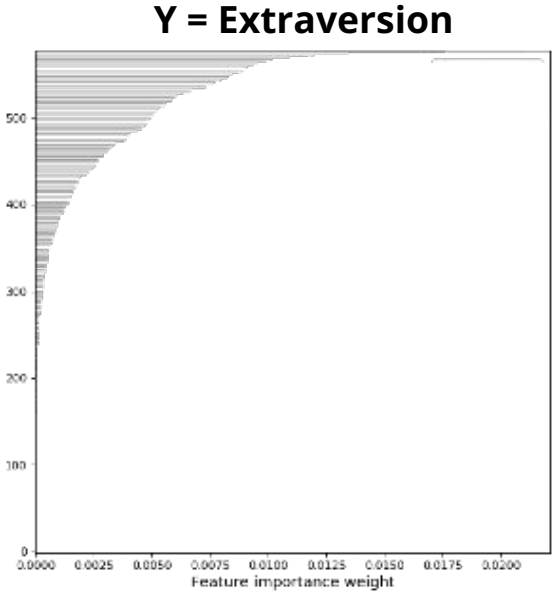


Main claim

Global and local rule-based Explainable AI (XAI) methods are important to gain insight into models for psychological profiling & particularly suitable for digital footprints data

Global XAI: rule-extraction

Extract if-then-else rules using data and predictions of the model:

if **<condition1>** and **<condition2>** and … ⇒ **class 1**

elif **<condition3>** ⇒ **class 1**

else **class 2**

Fidelity (%) → measures overlap between predictions of the model and predictions of the explanation rules

Global XAI: results (max. features per rule = 3)

Trait	Explanation rules
Neurotic	*if (Square cash($) $\leq$ 0.3%) and (Average transaction $\leq$ $57.08) and (Clothing & Accessories $\leq$ 0.7%) $\rightarrow$ Model predicts High Neuroticism* *if (Square cash($) $>$ 0.3%) and (Subscription($) $>$ 0.5%) and (Loans & Mortgages($) $\leq$ 3.9%) $\rightarrow$ Model predicts High Neuroticism* *else: Model predicts Default*
Conscientious	*if (Square cash $>$ 0.4%) and (Beauty Products $>$ 0.3%) $\rightarrow$ Model predicts High Conscientiousness* *if (Square cash $>$ 0.4%) and (Beauty Products $\leq$ 0.3%) and (Clothing & Accessories($) $>$ 0.8%) $\rightarrow$ Model predicts High Conscientiousness* *if (Square cash $\leq$ 0.4%) and (Discount Stores $>$ 0.8%) and (Shops $>$ 0.5%) $\rightarrow$ Model predicts High Conscientiousness* *else: Model predicts Default*
Extroverted	*if (Square cash $\leq$ 0.7%) and (Clothing & Accessories ($) $>$ 0.7%) and (Hotels & Motels $>$ 0.1%) $\rightarrow$ Model predicts High Extraversion* *if (Square cash $>$ 0.7%) and (Variability transaction amount $\leq$ 0.31) $\rightarrow$ Model predicts High Extraversion* *if (Square cash $>$ 0.7%) and (Variability transaction amount $>$ 0.31) and (Service $>$ 0.3%) $\rightarrow$ Model predicts High Extraversion* *else: Model predicts Default*
Agreeable	*if (Square cash $\leq$ 0.5%) and (Discount Stores($) $>$ 0.1%) and (Shops $\leq$ 0.6%) $\rightarrow$ Model predicts High Agreeableness* *if (Square cash $>$ 0.5%) and (Discount Stores $>$ 0.7%) $\rightarrow$ Model predicts High Agreeableness* *if (Square cash $>$ 0.5%) and (Discount Stores $\leq$ 0.7%) and (ATM $>$ 5.7%) $\rightarrow$ Model predicts High Agreeableness* *else: Model predicts Default*
Open	*if (Venmo($) $>$ 0.1%) $\rightarrow$ Model predicts High Openness* *if (Venmo($) $\leq$ 0.1%) and (Square cash($) $>$ 0.5%) and (Digital purchase $>$ 2.5%) $\rightarrow$ Model predicts High Openness* *if (Venmo($) $\leq$ 0.1%) and (Square cash($) $\leq$ 0.5%) and (Taxi($) $>$ 0.4%) $\rightarrow$ Model predicts High Openness* *else: Model predicts Default*

Global XAI: results for Conscientiousness

if (Square Cash > 0.4%) and (Beauty Products > 0.3%) ⇒ Model predicts **High C**

elif (Square Cash > 0.4%) and (Beauty Products <= 0.3%) and (Clothing & Accessories($) > 0.8%) ⇒ Model predicts **High C**

elif (Square Cash <= 0.4%) and (Discount Stores > 0.8%) and (Shops > 0.5%) ⇒ Model predicts **High C**

else: Model predicts **Default**

Fidelity: 75.8%

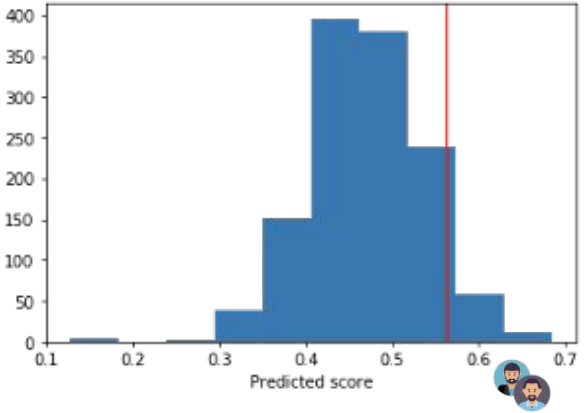
Local XAI: counterfactual explanations

Extract if-then-else rules using instance **x** and scoring function:

if **<condition1>** and **<condition2>** and ...

⇒ class *changes* from **class 1** to **class 2**

Local XAI: results for Neuroticism

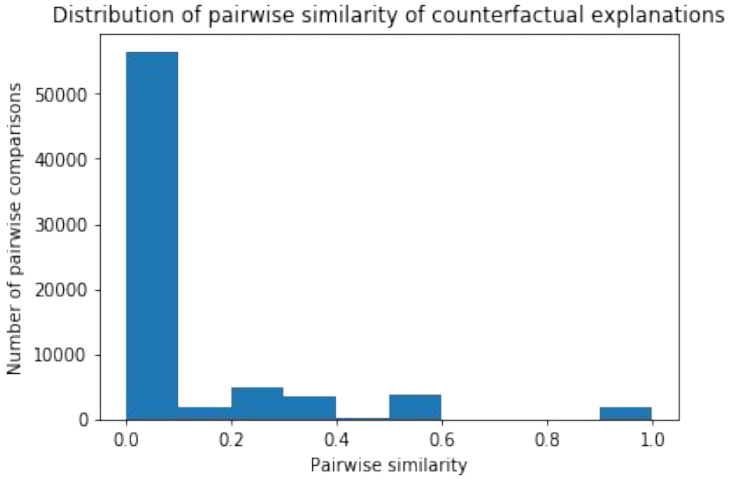


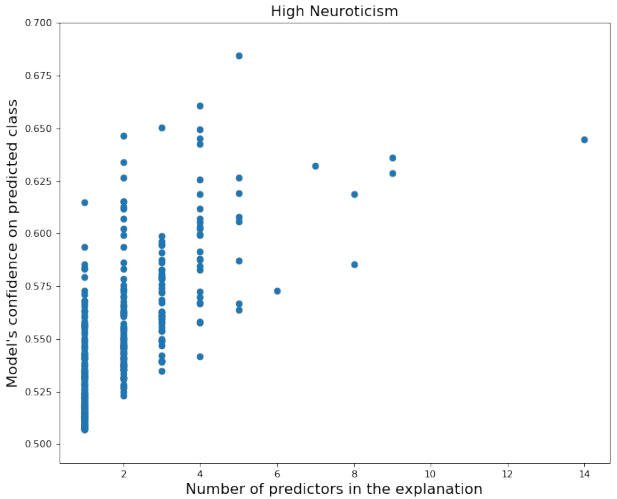
Person A:
IF person A had spent *less frequently* in Computers & Electronics, Insurance and Shops, and *more frequently* in Clothing & Accessories and Restaurants ⇒ THEN he would not have been predicted as Neurotic

Person B:
IF person B had spent *less frequently* in Shops and Tobacco, and *less money* on Subscription and Tobacco ⇒ THEN he would not have been predicted as Neurotic

Local XAI: results for Neuroticism

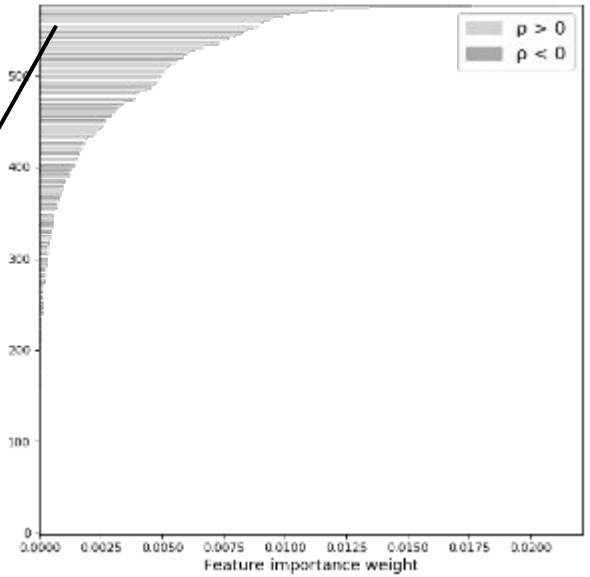
(1) **Uniqueness**: variety of features in explanations
(2) **Concise**: on average, 0.3% of the features in the explanation
(3) **Comply** with regulatory requirements (e.g., GDPR)





Local XAI (vs. global)

'Tobacco' ranked 73rd out of 578 features in feature relevance list of *'Neuroticism'* model



Person B:

IF person B had spent *less frequently* in Shops and Tobacco, and *less money* on Subscription and Tobacco ⇒ THEN he would not have been predicted as Neurotic

Conclusions

- Both global & local XAI methods are important to open black box, especially when modeling digital footprints data
- Different use cases:

  → **Global:** (i) trust & validation, (ii) audit functionality, (iii) insights, (iv) improve

  → **Local:** (i) provide unique & personalized insight into how data is used, (ii) validate individual predictions

Thank you!