

Iteratio Simulata

When a text has the form of an examination without having carried one out

THE PATTERN

An instruction demands fifteen rounds, hard selection, a critical reviewer. The answer looks the part.

On reading, none of it is there: no discarded proposal is named, the standards come after the result, the breakthroughs have been in textbooks for years.

Not a factual error, not flattery. A failure of its own kind: a claimed work process that never happened.

FIVE QUESTIONS FOR ANY TEXT

- 1 Who was eliminated?**
Discarded items must be named, with reasons.
- 2 When did standards arrive?**
Before the selection, not after.
- 3 Is this really new?**
Check against the literature.
- 4 How does it know?**
Strong judgements need evidence.
- 5 Precise or better supported?**
Exactness is not care.

WHY IT IS SPREADING

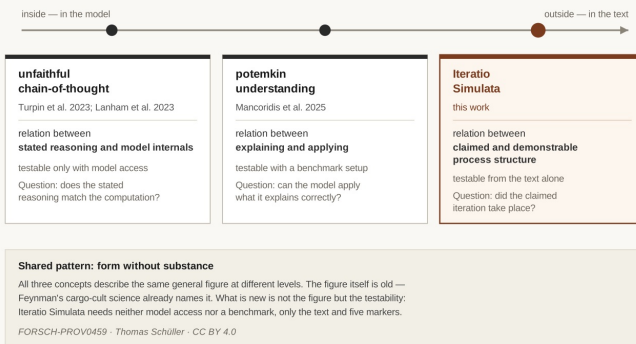
Procedures with genuinely separate roles work. A single program playing all roles in one text can only describe the separation.

That self-correction does not reliably work without a counterpart is documented (Huang et al., ICLR 2024). So a text claiming it is necessarily simulating.

“The text has the form of an examination. It simply did not carry one out.”

Figure 1 — Where Iteratio Simulata sits

Three concepts, three reference levels, three ways of testing



Three concepts for the same figure — of these three, Iteratio Simulata is the only one testable from the text alone.

PREVENTION BEATS DETECTION

- Fix the candidate list before selecting.
- Fix the criteria before evaluating.
- One look-up-able source per class of concept.
- Count at the end: supported against unsupported figures.

The tool

Three of the five markers are built as a checking program: it reads a text and returns an assessment with cited passages. No judgement by a language model — structural checks on the text.

SELF-APPLICATION

The markers were applied to this work. Three findings: five faulty references with two invented author names, a missing body of literature, a tool that first penalised careful texts.

All three stand in the work rather than being quietly fixed.

Full work, short version and checking tool:

syntagma-science.com