



## OO/UC3M/60- SQUASH: A QUESTION ANSWERING SYSTEM FOR SPANISH

SQUASH is a Question Answering System developed by the Laboratorio de Bases de Datos Avanzadas (Labda-UC3M) at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and the Laboratorio de Lingüística Informática at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (LLI-UAM).

### Description and special features

SQUASH is a modular question answering system for the Spanish language. It enhances traditional search engine functionality by providing precise answers in real time to questions in natural language like "*When was the Maastricht treaty signed?*". It reduces significantly the time a user must spend searching for precise information in textual databases.

The system is composed of rules to select the type of information needed by a question and to generate a suitable query for an information retrieval system. It integrates technology for question analysis, information extraction and information retrieval.

### Innovative aspects

SQUASH is the result of advances in natural language processing (technological push) and the need of fast semantic search engines to alleviate information overload (market pull). The system provides precise answer from Spanish in real time from queries expressed in natural language.

### Competitive advantages

It reduces significantly the time a user must spend searching for precise information in textual databases with no need of learning complex query languages (questions can be expressed in natural language).

### Technology Keywords

Data processing / Data Interchange; Middleware; Artificial Intelligence (AI)

**Contact Person:** María Dolores García-Plaza  
**Phone:** + 34 916249016  
**E-mail:** [comercializacion@pcf.uc3m.es](mailto:comercializacion@pcf.uc3m.es)