

Factuality and LLMs

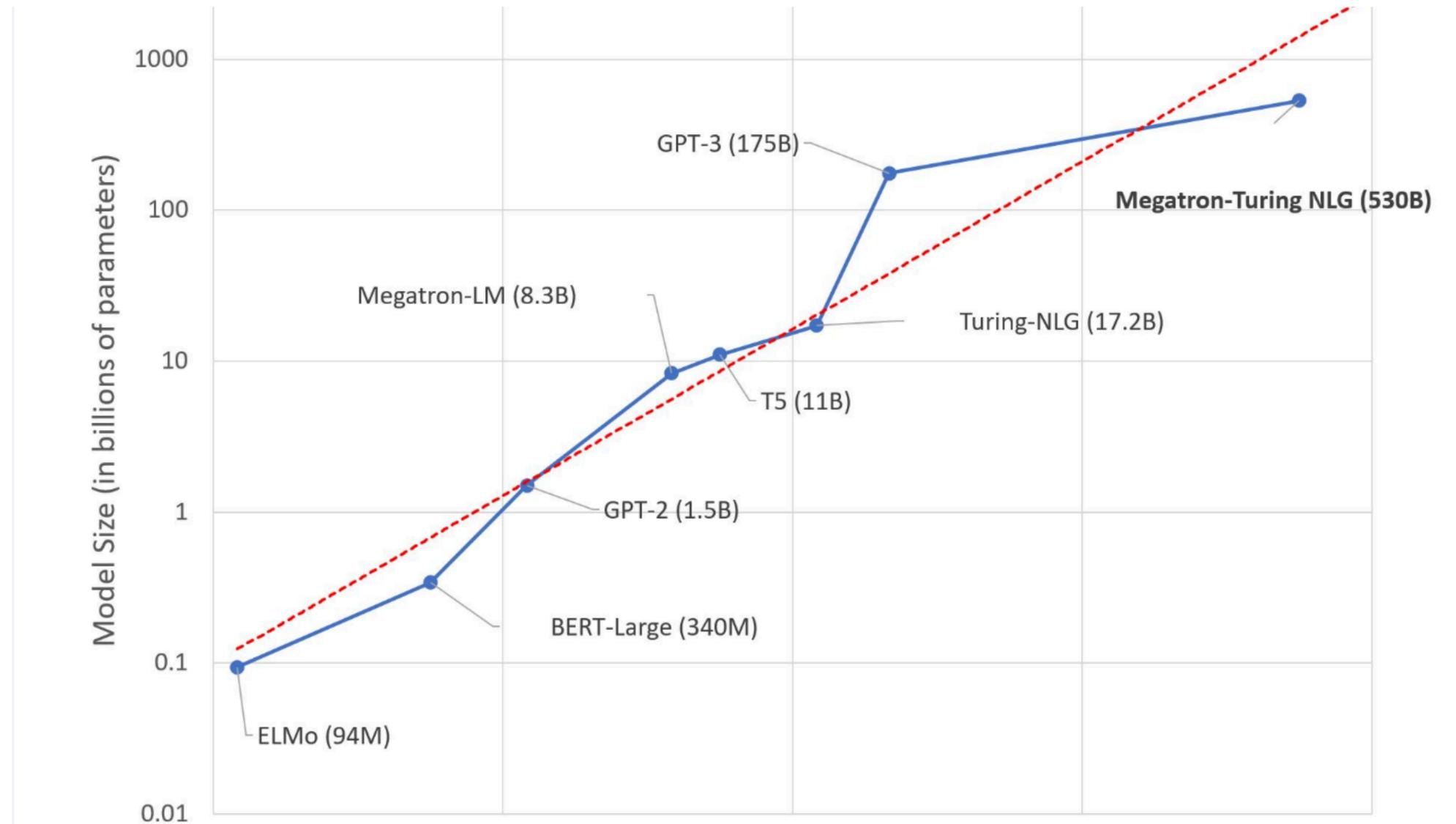
Agenda

- Introduction
 - LLMs intro
 - What is a hallucination
 - How the definition has changed — BART to LLMs
 - Two main categories of hallucinations
 - What we will focus on in this talk — context of summarization
 - Why should we care about hallucinations?
 - Factuality/LLMs and summarization
 - Summarization examples (zero-shot, before used to fine-tune models)
 - How summarization has changed in the era of GPT
 - How factuality has changed in summarization

- Hallucination eval (humans) and limitations
 - Types : text/dialogue (include abridge work)
 - How humans Eval hallucinations
 - Exercise: Annotate 5 data points
- Eval (automatic) and limitations
 - Rouge/BLEU
 - BERTscore
 - Models (QA/NLI)
 - Prompting
 - Models (MiniCheck, AlignScore)
 - Limitations : my recent work
- Methods to address
- What causes hallucinations
- Interactive Exercise
- Open Research Questions

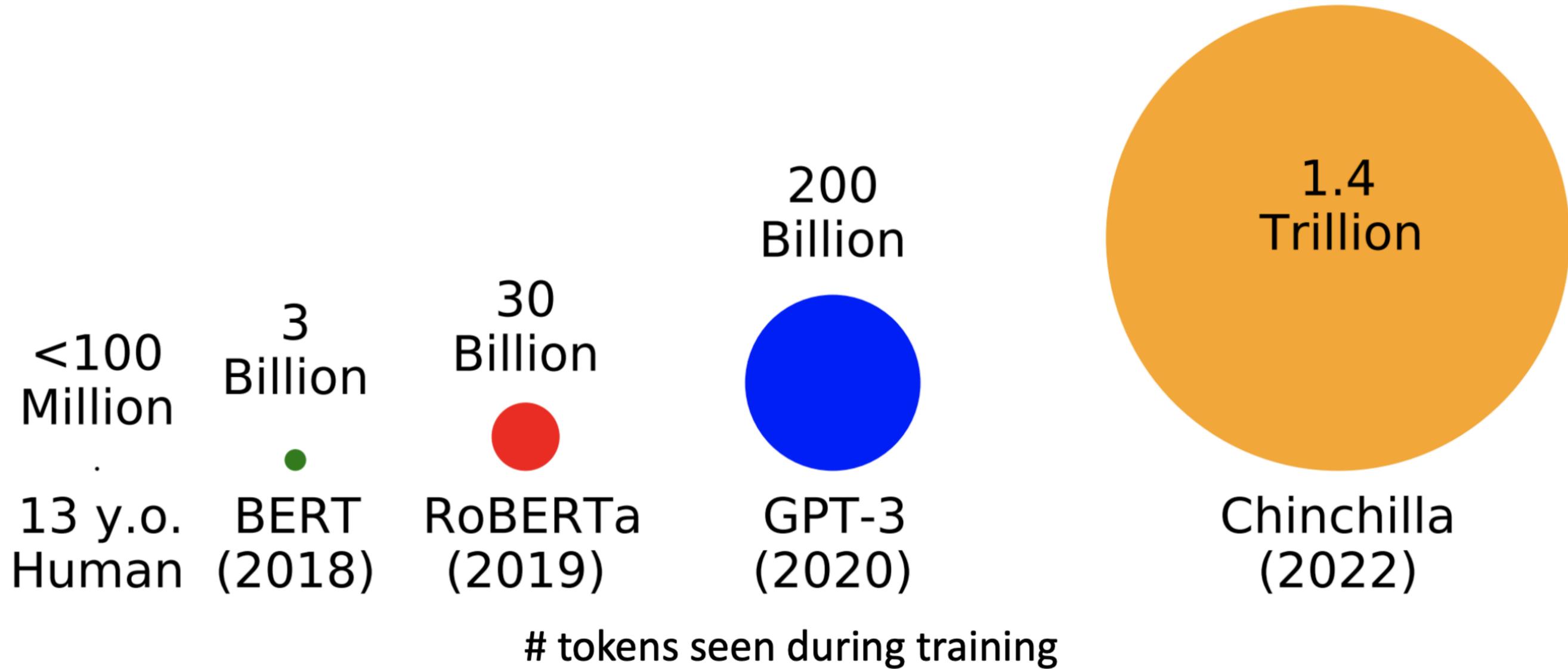
Large Language Models

- Trained on more and more parameters



Source: <https://huggingface.co/blog/large-language-models>

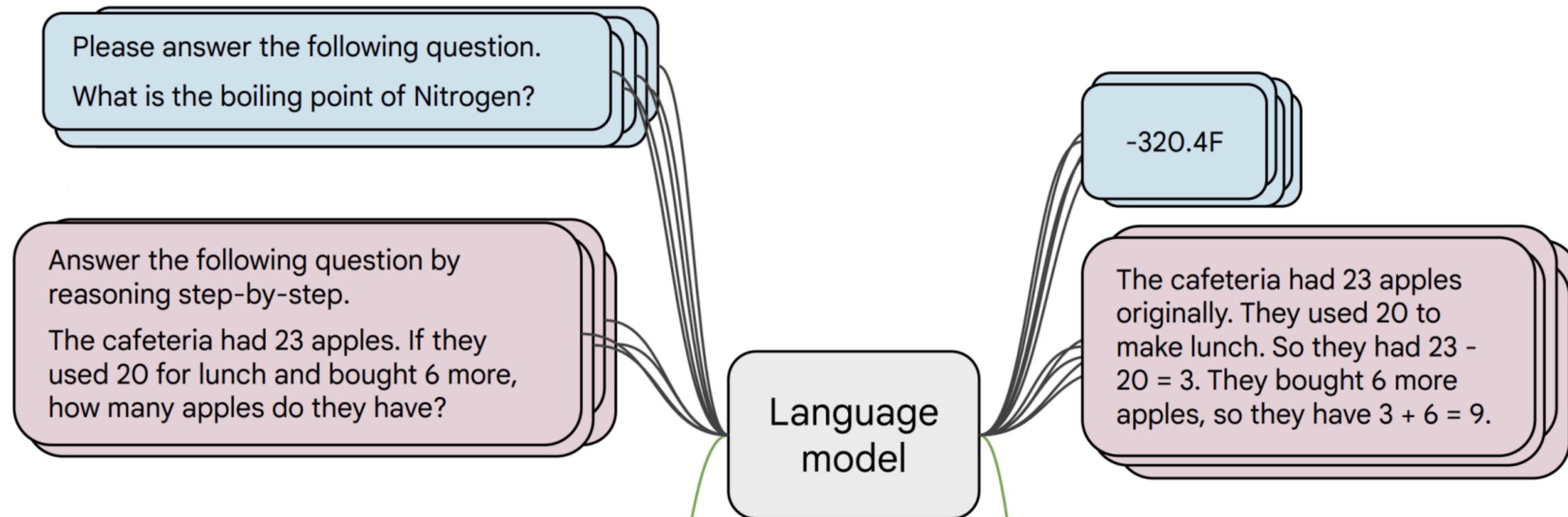
- Trained on more and more data



- Scaling pre-trained language models has led to remarkable emergent abilities

Zero-Shot	Few-Shot	Few-Shot-CoT	Zero-Shot-CoT
<p><i>Prompt:</i></p> <p>Q: The cafeteria had 23 apples. If they used 20 to make lunch and bought 6 more, how many apples do they have?</p>	<p><i>Prompt:</i></p> <p>Q: Roger has 5 tennis balls. He buys 2 more cans of tennis balls. Each can has 3 tennis balls. How many tennis balls does he have now?</p> <p>A: The answer is 11.</p> <p>Q: The cafeteria had 23 apples. If they used 20 to make lunch and bought 6 more, how many apples do they have?</p>	<p><i>Prompt:</i></p> <p>Q: Roger has 5 tennis balls. He buys 2 more cans of tennis balls. Each can has 3 tennis balls. How many tennis balls does he have now?</p> <p>A: Roger started with 5 balls. 2 cans of 3 tennis balls each is 6 tennis balls. $5+6=11$. The answer is 11.</p> <p>Q: The cafeteria had 23 apples. If they used 20 to make lunch and bought 6 more, how many apples do they have?</p>	<p><i>Prompt:</i></p> <p>Q: The cafeteria had 23 apples. If they used 20 to make lunch and bought 6 more, how many apples do they have?</p> <p>A: Let's think step by step.</p>
<p><i>Response:</i></p> <p>A: 27 </p>	<p><i>Response:</i></p> <p>A: The answer is 27 </p>	<p><i>Response:</i></p> <p>A: The cafeteria had 23 apples originally. They used 20 to make lunch. So they had $23-20=3$. They bought 6 more apples, so they have $3+6=9$. The answer is 9. </p>	<p><i>Response:</i></p> <p>A: The cafeteria had 23 apples originally. They used 20 to make lunch. So they had $23-20=3$. They bought 6 more apples, so they have $3+6=9$. The answer is 9. </p>

- Scaling pre-trained language models has led to remarkable emergent abilities
 - **Collect examples** of (instruction, output) pairs across many tasks and finetune an LM

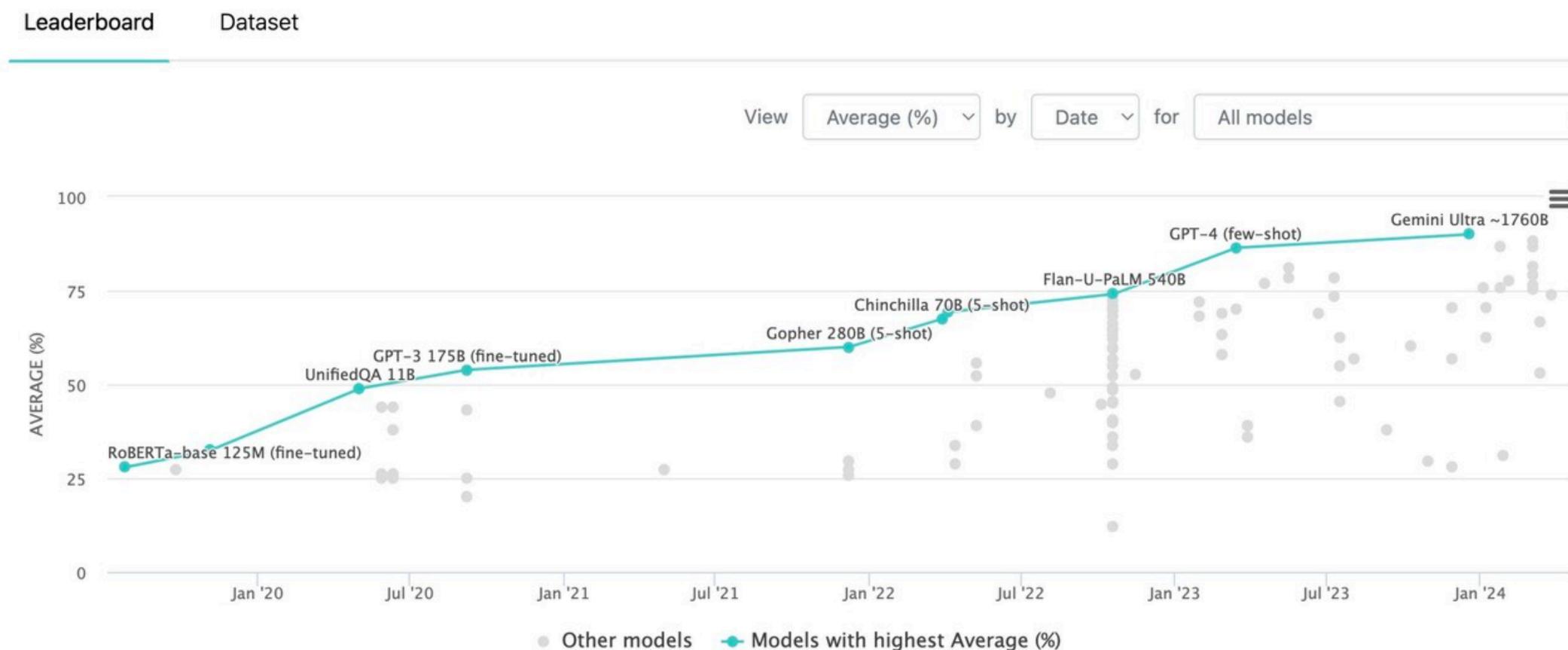


- **Evaluate on unseen tasks**

Q: Can Geoffrey Hinton have a conversation with George Washington?
Give the rationale before answering.

Geoffrey Hinton is a British-Canadian computer scientist born in 1947. George Washington died in 1799. Thus, they could not have had a conversation together. So the answer is "no".

- LLMs have demonstrated substantial performance improvements across diverse NLP tasks (e.g., summarization, QA, translation).



- However hallucination has remained one of the more significant issues in practical applications

What is hallucination?

- In the field of pathology and psychology hallucination is defined as follows ¹:
“the perception of an entity or event that is absent in reality”
- In the field of NLP however this term is a little more conflated. There are many definitions of hallucinations

[1] Macpherson, F., & Platchias, D. (Eds.). (2013). *Hallucination: Philosophy and psychology*. MIT Press.

- Before LLMs a well accepted definition of hallucination was as follows:
“generated content that is nonsensical or unfaithful to the provided source content”

<p>Source: Under the proposals, 120,000 additional asylum seekers will be distributed among EU nations, with binding quotas. (...) Mr Juncker told the European Parliament it was “not a time to take fright”. (...) He said tackling the crisis was “a matter of humanity and human dignity”. “It is true that Europe cannot house all the misery in the world. But we have to put it into perspective.” (...)</p>
<p>Generation: European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker has set out his proposals for dealing with the migrant crisis in a speech to MEPs, saying Europe cannot house all the misery in the world.</p>

[Ji et al;2023]

- LLMs can produce more sophisticated hallucinations — including completely fabricated facts
- The term hallucination encompasses:
 - A. Factual Hallucinations :
Discrepancy between **generated content and real-world facts**
 - B. Faithful Hallucinations :
Discrepancy between **generated content and context**

Example

The diagram is divided into two columns by a vertical dashed line. The left column shows a user asking 'Who was the first person to walk on the moon?'. The AI's response incorrectly states 'Charles Lindbergh in 1951, during the Lunar Pioneer mission' and is marked with a red 'X'. A correct answer is provided below: 'Neil Armstrong was the first person to walk on the moon in 1969 during the Apollo 11 mission', marked with a green checkmark. The right column shows a user asking to summarize a news article. The AI's response incorrectly states that war broke out in 'early October 2023' and is marked with a red 'X'. The correct context provided is that war broke out in 'October 2006'.

User: Who was the first person to walk on the moon?

AI: Answer: The first person to walk on the moon was **Charles Lindbergh in 1951, during the Lunar Pioneer mission**. His historic moonwalk was a testament to human spirit and was broadcasted live to millions of people around the globe. ❌

Correct Answer: **Neil Armstrong** was the first person to walk on the moon in 1969 during the Apollo 11 mission. ✅

User: Please summarize the following news article:

Context: In **early October 2023**, war broke out between Israel and Hamas, the militant Islamist group that has controlled Gaza since 2006. Hamas fighters fired rockets ... civilians and taking dozens of hostages.

AI: Answer: In October **2006**, Israel declared war on Hamas after an unexpected attack, prompting ongoing violence, civilian crises, and regional conflict escalation. ❌

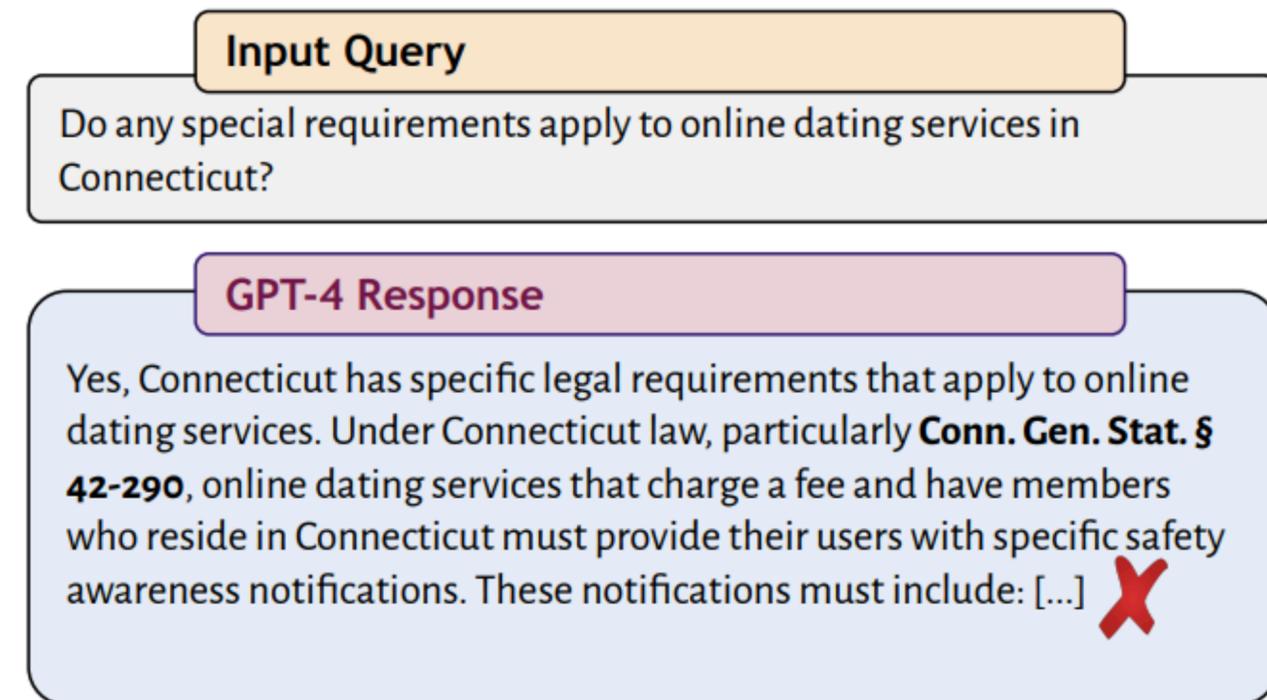
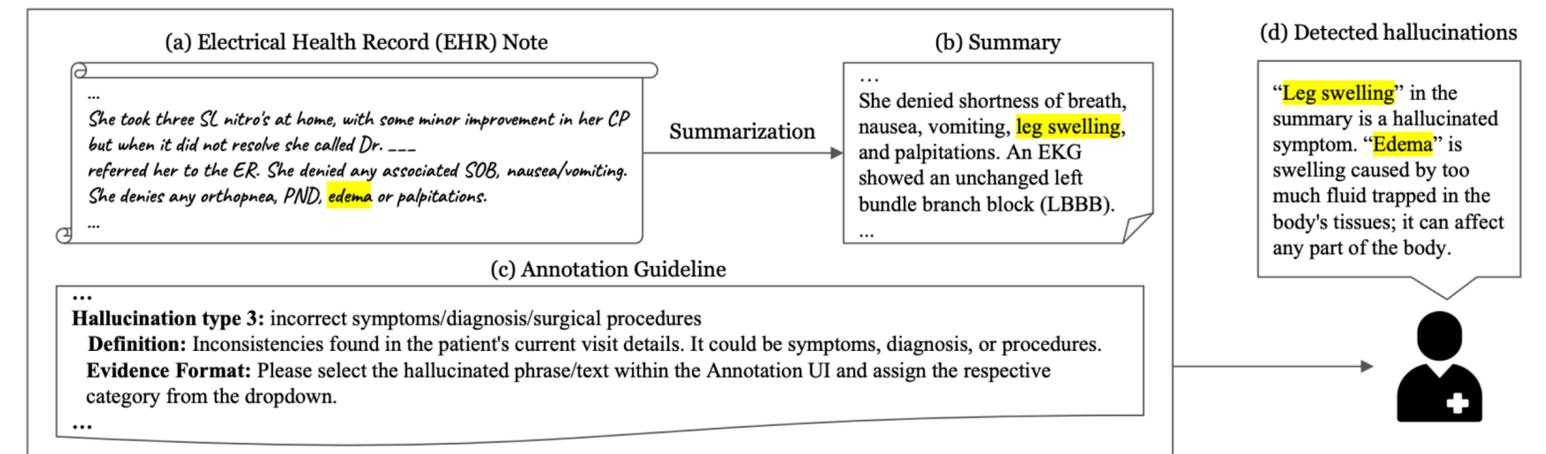
The example on the left illustrates fabricated content, where the model incorrectly provides an answer to the question of who was the first person to walk on the moon. The example on the right demonstrates unsupported content, where the model inaccurately generated the date of the Israel-Hamas conflict, shifting it from October 2023 to October 2006.

[Huang et al;2023]

Note: For this talk we will focus on faithful hallucinations in summarization

Why care about hallucinations?

- Hinders performance and raises safety concerns in real-world applications
 - Misinformation
 - Risk in consequential domains (law, medicine)
 - Potential privacy violations



Factuality and Summarization

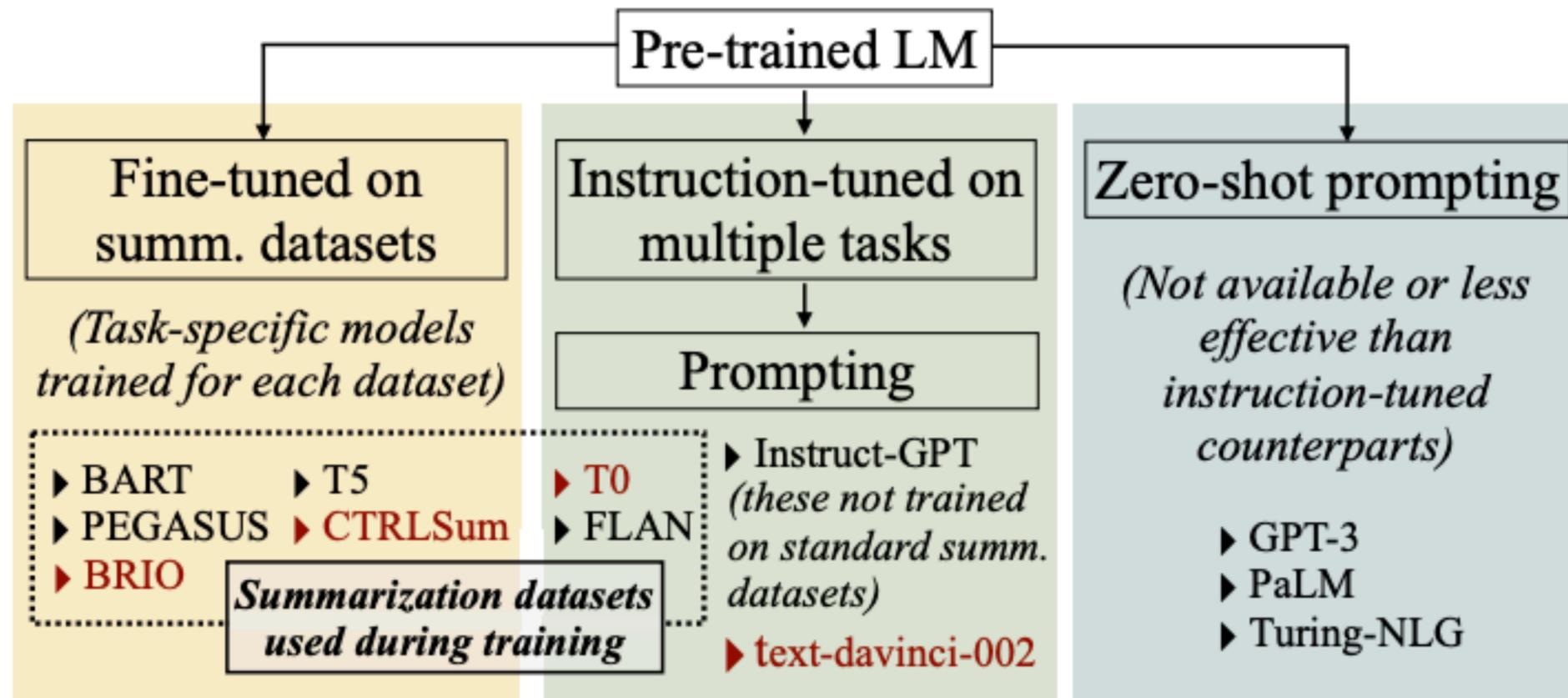
Experimental Setups

- Summarization datasets typically include

Type	Dataset	Feature
Fixed-Doc Generation	AGGREGFACT (CNN/XSum)	Summaries from SOTA fine-tuned summarizers
	TOFUEVAL (MediaS/MeetB)	Topic-focused dialogue summaries from LLMs
Retrieve-then Generate	CLAIMVERIFY	
	LFQA	(Check-worthy) sentences from LLMs/ search engines'
	EXPERTQA	responses to search queries
Post-Hoc Grounding	EXPERTQA	
	REVEAL	
Written Claims	FACTCHECK-GPT	
	WICE	Wikipedia claims with citations

- Most popular among all to evaluate on has been news (cnn/xsum/bbc)

- Broad categorization of summarization systems is as follows



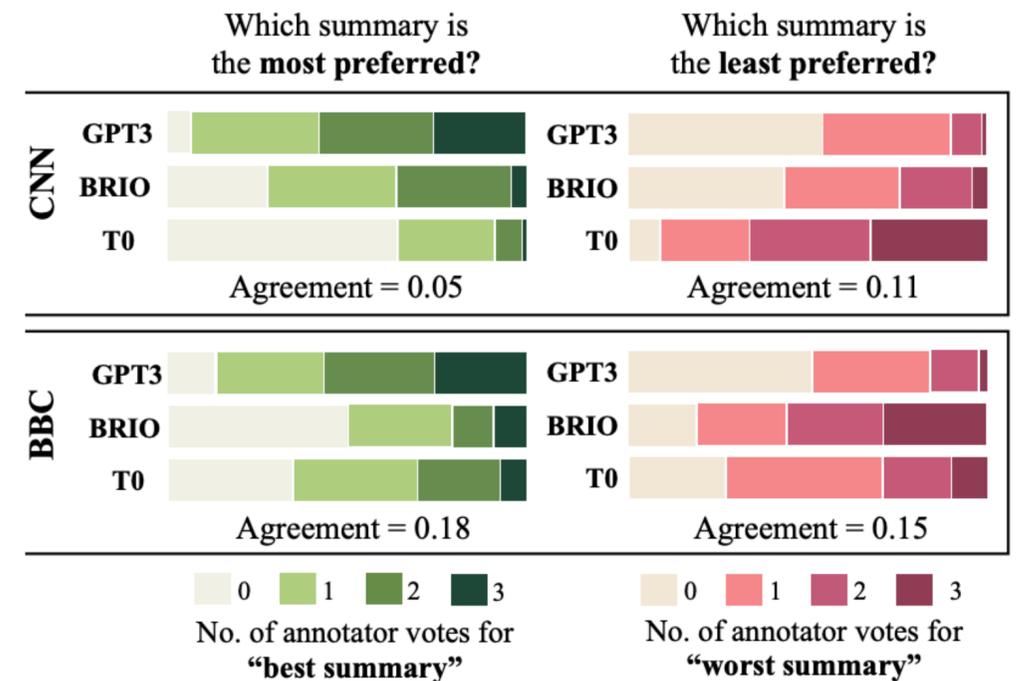
News Summarization and Evaluation in the Era of GPT-3

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CNN Article: (CNN) Mortgage rates fell slightly this week, marking the third consecutive week of declines. But with rates hovering above 5% and home prices well above where they were this time last year, prospective buyers are finding it increasingly difficult to afford a home. The 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage averaged 5.09% in the week ending June 2, down from 5.10% the week before, according to Freddie Mac. It is still well above the 2.99% average from this time last year. [...] Rising prices had already been pushing many prospective buyers to the sidelines. [...] The Fed has been seeking to tame inflation by raising interest rates over the past couple of months. And the central bank has signaled there are more rate hikes to come. [...]

BBC Article: The full opening of a landmark shared education campus in Omagh is facing another delay. Education Minister Michelle McIlveen has now said the Strule Shared Education Campus is planned to open in September 2026. The minister clarified the new date in response to an assembly question from the SDLP MLA Daniel McCrossan. The campus had originally been due to open in 2020, but has been delayed a number of times. [...]

BRIO	The 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage averaged 5.09% in the week ending June 2. It's the third consecutive week of declines. But rates are still above 5% and home prices are well above where they were this time last year. Rising prices have pushed some prospective buyers to the sidelines.
T0	30-year, fixed-rate mortgage averaged 5.09% in the week ending June 2. It is still well above the 2.99% average from this time last year. Rising prices had already been pushing many prospective buyers to the sidelines.
GPT3 -D2	Mortgage rates have fallen slightly in the past few weeks, but they are still well above last year's levels. This is making it difficult for many prospective buyers to afford a home. The Fed has been raising interest rates in an effort to control inflation, and more rate hikes are expected.
BRIO	The full opening of the Strule shared education campus in Omagh, County Tyrone, has been delayed to September 2026.
T0	Strule, Northern Ireland's biggest ever school-building project, is now scheduled to open in 2026, the Education Minister has said.
GPT3 -D2	The Strule Shared Education Campus is facing another delay, and is now planned to open in September 2026.



Benchmarking Large Language Models for News Summarization

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¹Stanford Univeristy ²Columbia Univeristy

Setting	Models	CNN/Daily Mail			XSUM		
		Faithfulness	Coherence	Relevance	Faithfulness	Coherence	Relevance
Zero-shot language models	GPT-3 (350M)	0.29	1.92	1.84	0.26	2.03	1.90
	GPT-3 (6.7B)	0.29	1.77	1.93	0.77	3.16	3.39
	GPT-3 (175B)	0.76	2.65	3.50	0.80	2.78	3.52
	Ada Instruct v1 (350M*)	0.88	4.02	4.26	0.81	3.90	3.87
	Curie Instruct v1 (6.7B*)	0.97	4.24	4.59	0.96	4.27	4.34
	Davinci Instruct v2 (175B*)	0.99	4.15	4.60	0.97	4.41	4.28
Fine-tuned language models	Brio	0.94	3.94	4.40	0.58	4.68	3.89
	Pegasus	0.97	3.93	4.38	0.57	4.73	3.85
Existing references	-	0.84	3.20	3.94	0.37	4.13	3.00

Model	Faithfulness	Coherence	Relevance
Freelance Writer	0.93	4.39	4.26
Zero-shot Instruct Davinci	0.98	4.26	4.40
Reference Summaries	0.64	3.59	3.45

Summarization is (Almost) Dead

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higher metric scores. After sampling and examining 100 summarization-related papers published in ACL, EMNLP, NAACL, and COLING in the past 3 years, we find that the main contribution of about 70% papers was to propose a summarization approach and validate its effectiveness on standard datasets. As such, we provocatively assert that " Summarization is (almost) Dead." Nonethe-

System	Single-news	Multi-news	Cross-lingual	Dialogue	Code
GPT-4	8	5	16	5	9
Human	13	62	15	15	46

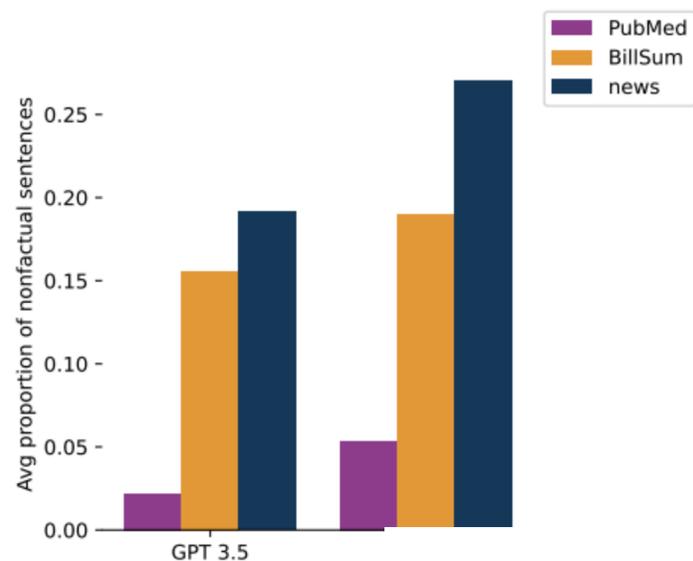
Table 1: The number of hallucinations (sentence-level) found in GPT-4 and human-written summaries. We highlight the figures which is significantly large.

System	Avg	Single-news	Multi-news	Cross-lingual	Dialogue	Code
GPT-4	40%	50%	40%	38%	40%	33%
Human	62%	62%	73%	33%	53%	89%

Table 2: The proportion of extrinsic hallucinations in GPT-4 and human-written summaries.

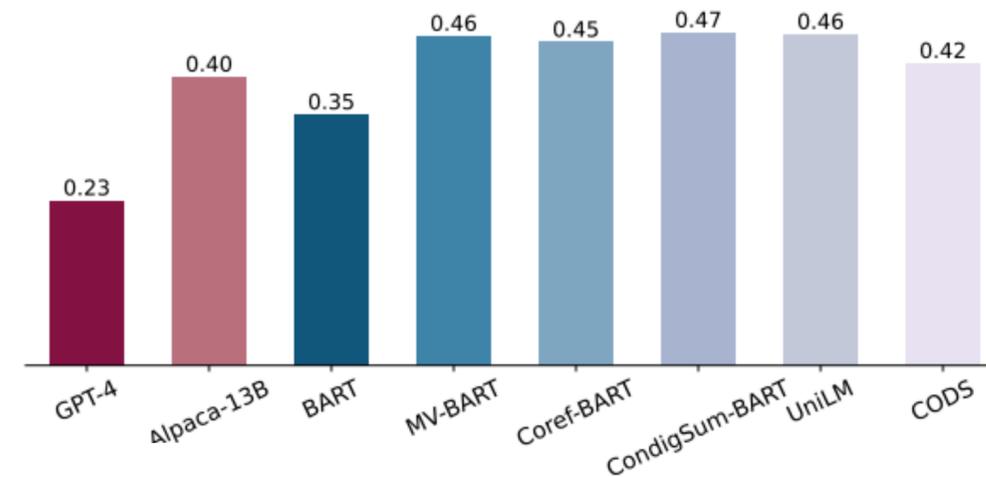
Evaluating the Factuality of Zero-shot Summarizers Across Varied Domains

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[♣]Carnegie Mellon University



Analyzing LLM Behavior in Dialogue Summarization: Unveiling Circumstantial Hallucination Trends

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[◇]Northeastern University
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TOFUEVAL: Evaluating Hallucinations of LLMs on Topic-Focused Dialogue Summarization

Liyan Tang^{◇†}, Igor Shalyminov[♣], Amy Wing-mei Wong[♣], Jon Burnsky[♣], Jake W. Vincent[♣]
 Yu'an Yang[♣], Siffi Singh[♣], Song Feng[♣], Hwanjun Song^{♡‡}, Hang Su[♣], Lijia Sun[♣],
 Yi Zhang[♣], Saab Mansour[♣], Kathleen McKeown[♣]

Summ. Model	Sentence-Level (% Error)				Summary-Level (% Error)			
	MediaSum		Meetingbank		MediaSum		Meetingbank	
	Main	Marginal	Main	Marginal	Main	Marginal	Main	Marginal
Vicuna-7B	19.6	35.8	17.6	36.8	42.7	55.4	33.0	58.0
WizardLM-7B	29.1	36.4	21.3	42.4	49.6	54.8	35.6	49.0
WizardLM-13B	17.4	27.2	15.8	25.4	35.9	44.4	41.3	46.8
WizardLM-30B	14.6	27.2	13.7	26.2	35.9	48.2	31.5	44.8
GPT-3.5-Turbo	8.8	13.6	4.4	9.4	22.2	27.2	10.9	19.8
Average	17.5	27.8	14.4	27.8	37.2	46.0	30.4	43.6

Human Evaluation

Dataset	Annotators	Kappa	Gran	Annotation Scheme
FactCC (Kryscinski et al., 2020)	2 authors	-	summ	binary consistency label (consistent/inconsistent)
Wang’20 (Wang et al., 2020)	3 crowd-sourced anno- tators	0.34/0.51	sent	binary consistency label (consistent/inconsistent)
SummEval (Fabbri et al., 2021b)	5 crowd-sourced anno- tators and 3 authors	0.70	summ	5-point Likert scale
Polytope (Huang et al., 2020)	3 trained annotators	-	span	{addition, ommision, inaccuracy intrinsic, inac- curacy extrinsic, positive-negative aspect}
Cao’22 (Cao et al., 2022)	2 authors and 3 gradu- ate students	0.81	entity	{Non-hallucinated, Non-factual Hallucination, Intrinsic Hallucination, Factual Hallucination}
XSumFaith (Maynez et al., 2020)	3 trained annotators	0.80	span	{intrinsic, extrinsic}
FRANK (Pagnoni et al., 2021)	3 crowd-sourced anno- tators	0.53	sent	{RelE, EntE, CircE, OutE, GramE, LinkE, CorefE, OtherE, NoE}
Goyal’21 (Goyal and Durrett, 2021)	2 authors	-	span	{intrinsic, extrinsic} × {entity, event, noun phrase, others}
CLIFF (Cao and Wang, 2021)	2 experts	0.35/0.45	word	{intrinsic, extrinsic, world knowledge, correct}

Proposed benchmarks for summarization

Some annotation instructions

- Is the summary faithful to the source?
- Is the summary factually correct based on the article provided?
- Is the claim correct (supported by the news article) or incorrect (unsupported)? A claim may be incorrect because it mis-states information in the article or introduces new information

Annotating and Detecting Fine-grained Factual Errors for Dialogue Summarization

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Dialogue	<p>Lucas: Where r u? I'm waiting at the airport. Vanessa: There was a foul-up with the flight. I'm trying to get another ticket. Lucas: OMG. How come? Vanessa: No bloody idea. All of the flights are booked cos students are returning from holidays. Lucas: I've called the airport and they said there's a flight to New York at 9:45 p. m. Vanessa: Great, I'll book it now.</p>		
Error	Description	Example Summary	In/Ex
EntE	The core arguments or their attributes in a semantic frame are wrong, such as the subjects and objects.	<i>Vanessa is waiting at the airport.</i>	In
PredE	The predicate, which is usually a verb, of a semantic frame is wrong.	<i>Lucas has emailed the airport and got some information about the flight to New York.</i>	Ex
CirE	The non-core arguments, such as location modifiers, temporal modifiers are wrong.	<i>Lucas is waiting at the train station.</i>	Ex
CorefE	A pronoun or a reference (e.g., this picture) has a wrong antecedent or has no antecedents.	<i>Vanessa is trying to get another ticket for themselves.</i>	N/A
LinkE	The relationship, e.g., a causal relationship, between statements is wrong.	<i>Vanessa will book the flight to New York at 9:45 pm because students are returning from holidays.</i>	N/A
Others	This class covers the errors that do not fall into the above classes.	/	N/A

Table 1: Factual error type descriptions and examples. **In/Ex** refers to Intrinsic Error (In) and Extrinsic Error (Ex).

Understanding Factual Errors in Summarization: Errors, Summarizers, Datasets, Error Detectors

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Jiacheng Xu^{◇,♣}, Semih Yavuz[♣], Wojciech Kryściński[♣], Justin F. Rousseau[◇], Greg Durrett[◇]

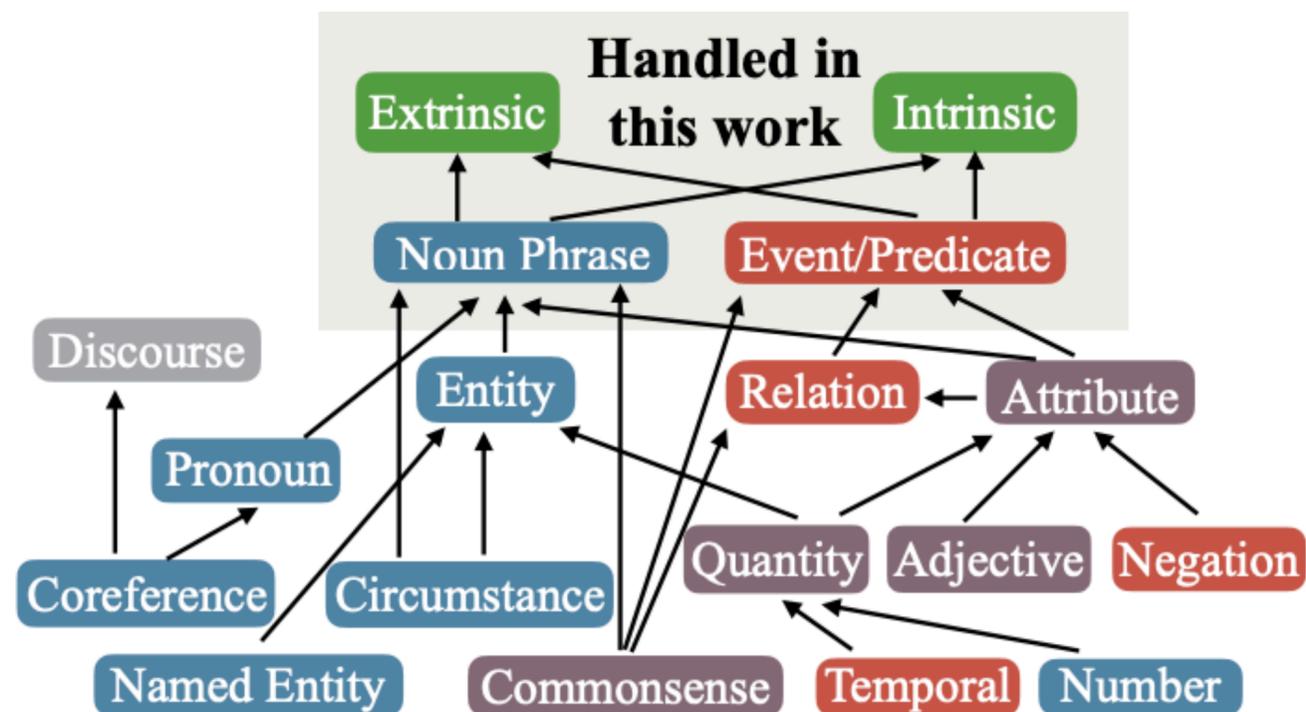
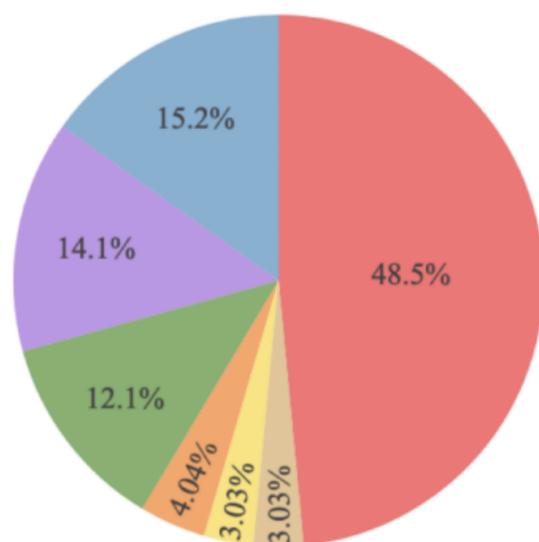


Figure 2: Taxonomy of factual consistency errors. We use unique colors to represent **entity**- and **predicate**-related errors, as well as the **mix of two**. See Appendix C for citations of papers that use each error type.



TOFUEVAL: Evaluating Hallucinations of LLMs on Topic-Focused Dialogue Summarization

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 Yi Zhang[♣], Saab Mansour[♣], Kathleen McKeown[♣]



- Contradiction
- Tense/Modality Error
- Stating Opinion as Fact
- Mis-Referencing
- Reasoning Error
- Nuanced Meaning Shift
- Extrinsic Information

Analyzing LLM Behavior in Dialogue Summarization: Unveiling Circumstantial Hallucination Trends

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Dialogue Snippet
<p>Greg: Hi, honey. I need to stay after hours :-(Betsy: Again? Greg: I'm sorry! Betsy: What about Johnny? Greg: Well, could you pick him up? Betsy: What if I can't? Greg: Betsy? Betsy: What if I can't? Greg: Can't you, really? Betsy: I can't. Today I need to work long hours as well. Tuesdays are your days in the kindergarten.</p>
Summary:
<p>GPT-4: Greg informs Betsy he needs to stay after work, leading to a conflict as their son Johnny has to be picked up from kindergarten, which usually falls on Greg's responsibility on Tuesdays. Betsy also can't do it as she's working long hours.</p>

Figure 1: In the example provided, GPT-4 infers that the speakers are discussing "their son." Although this inference seems plausible given the circumstantial evidence in the conversation, it lacks direct evidence.

Proposed new scheme

(Ongoing research)

- Intrinsic —> Contradicting
direct evidence that contradicts generated content
- Extrinsic —> Unsupported
no evidence in source of generated content

★New: Partially supported

Some evidence in the source to support generated content (inferences, assumptions etc).

Is there information in the source that contradicts the unsupported/partially supported span?

✓ Select Answer

yes (explicit/direct contradiction)

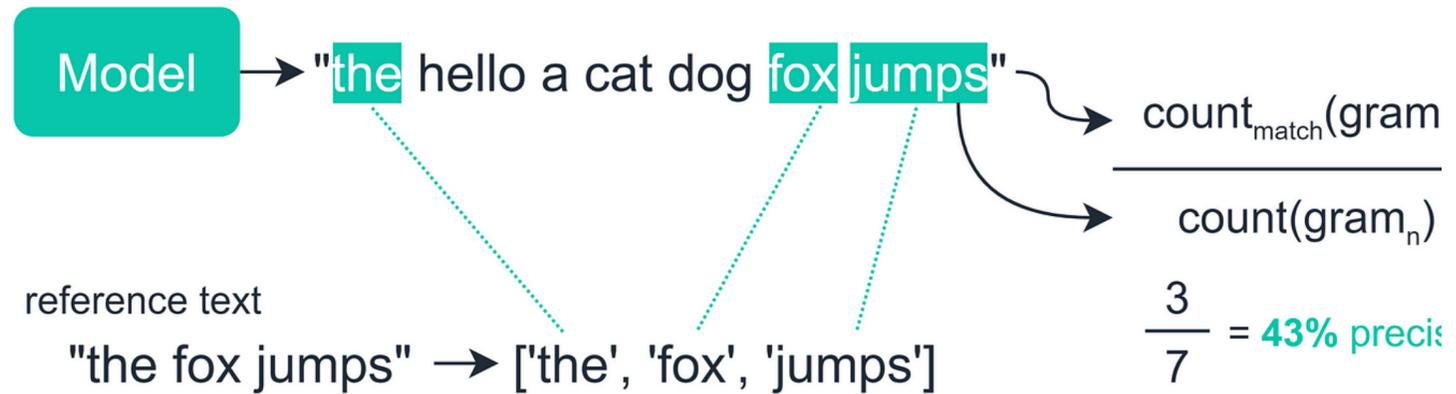
somewhat (implicit/indirect contradiction)

no

Let's annotate!

Automatic Evaluation

Naive n-gram overlap



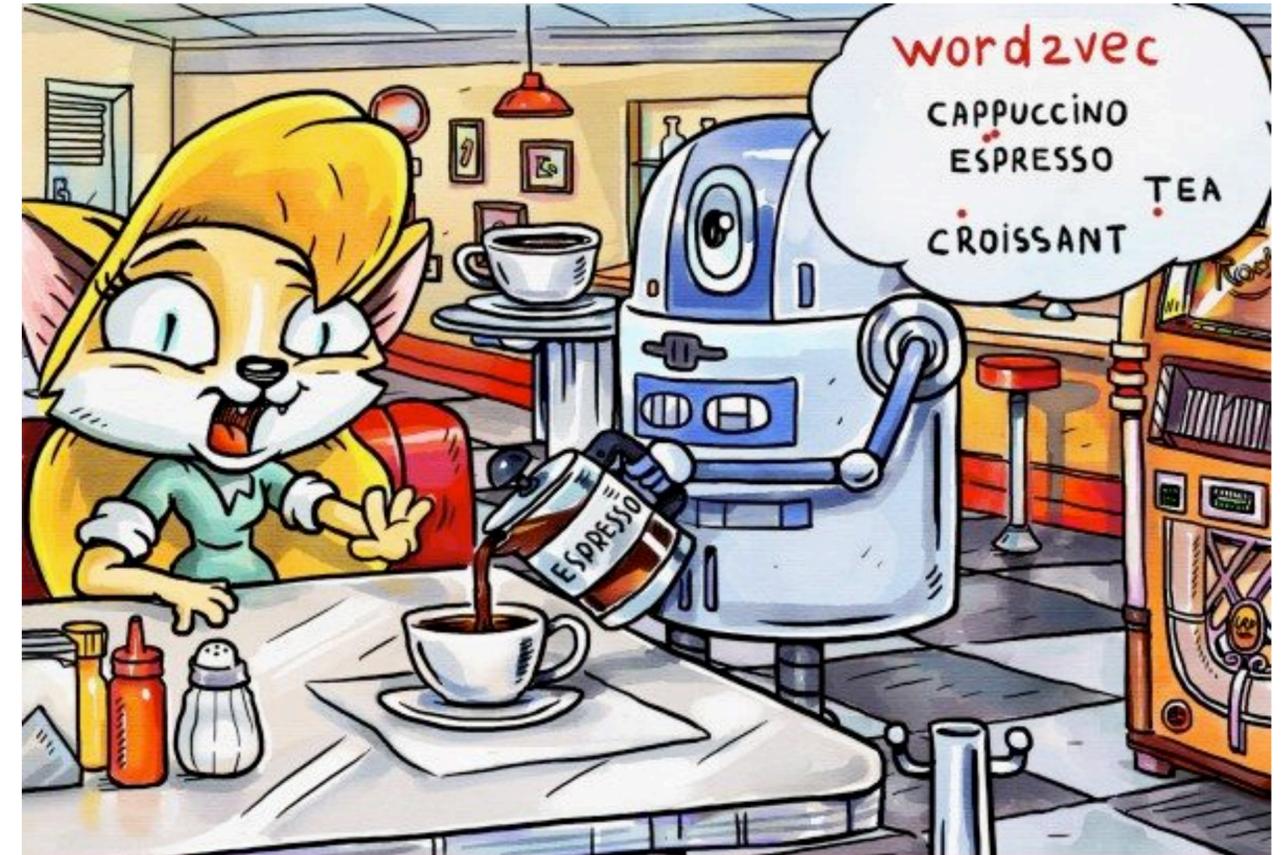
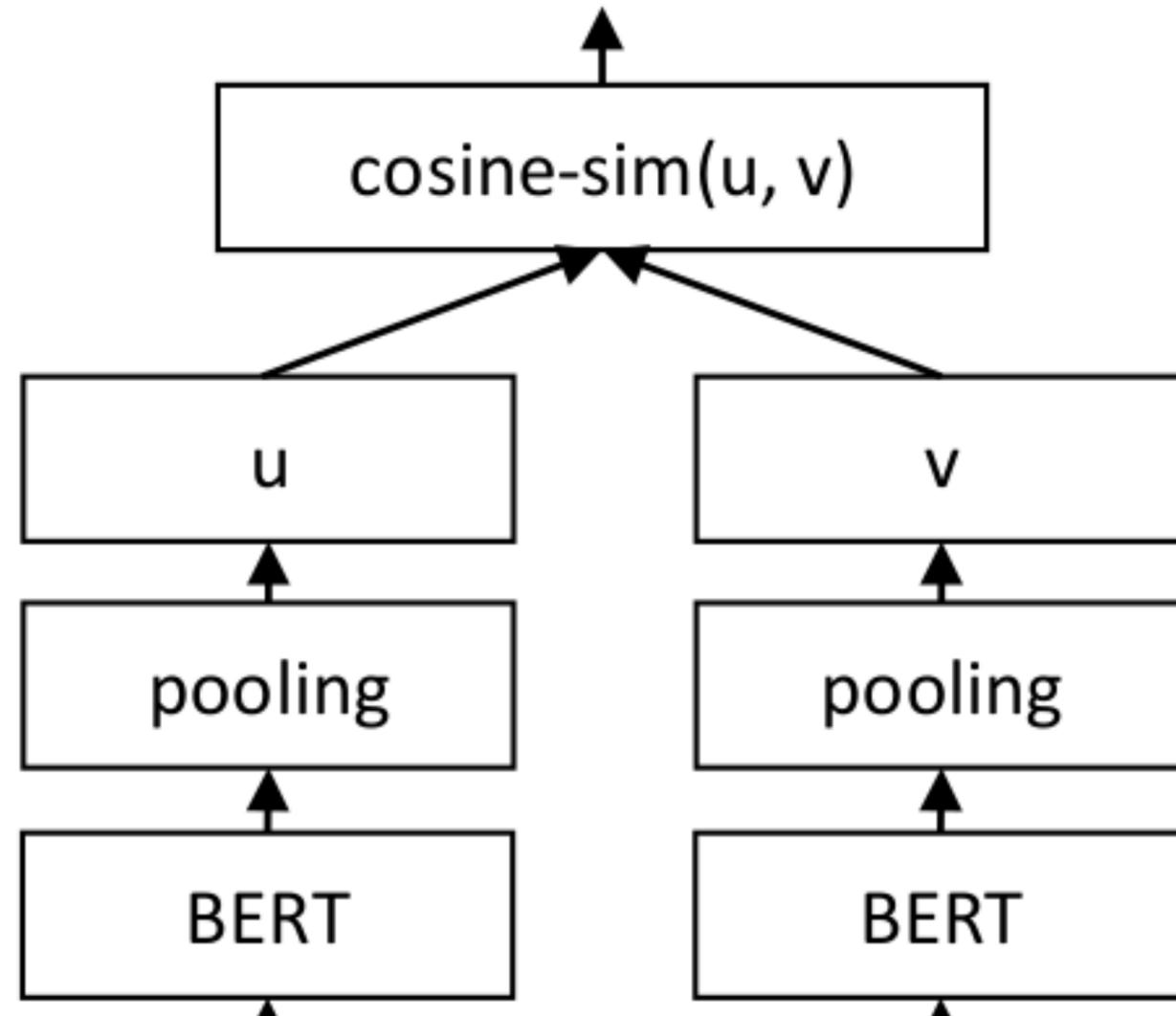
The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog. 

The quick brown dog jumped over the lazy fox. 

HIGH ROUGE L F score: 7

Semantically **Inaccurate**

Similarity Measure



- Espresso? But I ordered a cappuccino!
- Don't worry, the cosine distance between them is so small that they are almost the same thing.

QA based metrics

- QAGS
- QAFactEval
- QuestEval
- FEQA

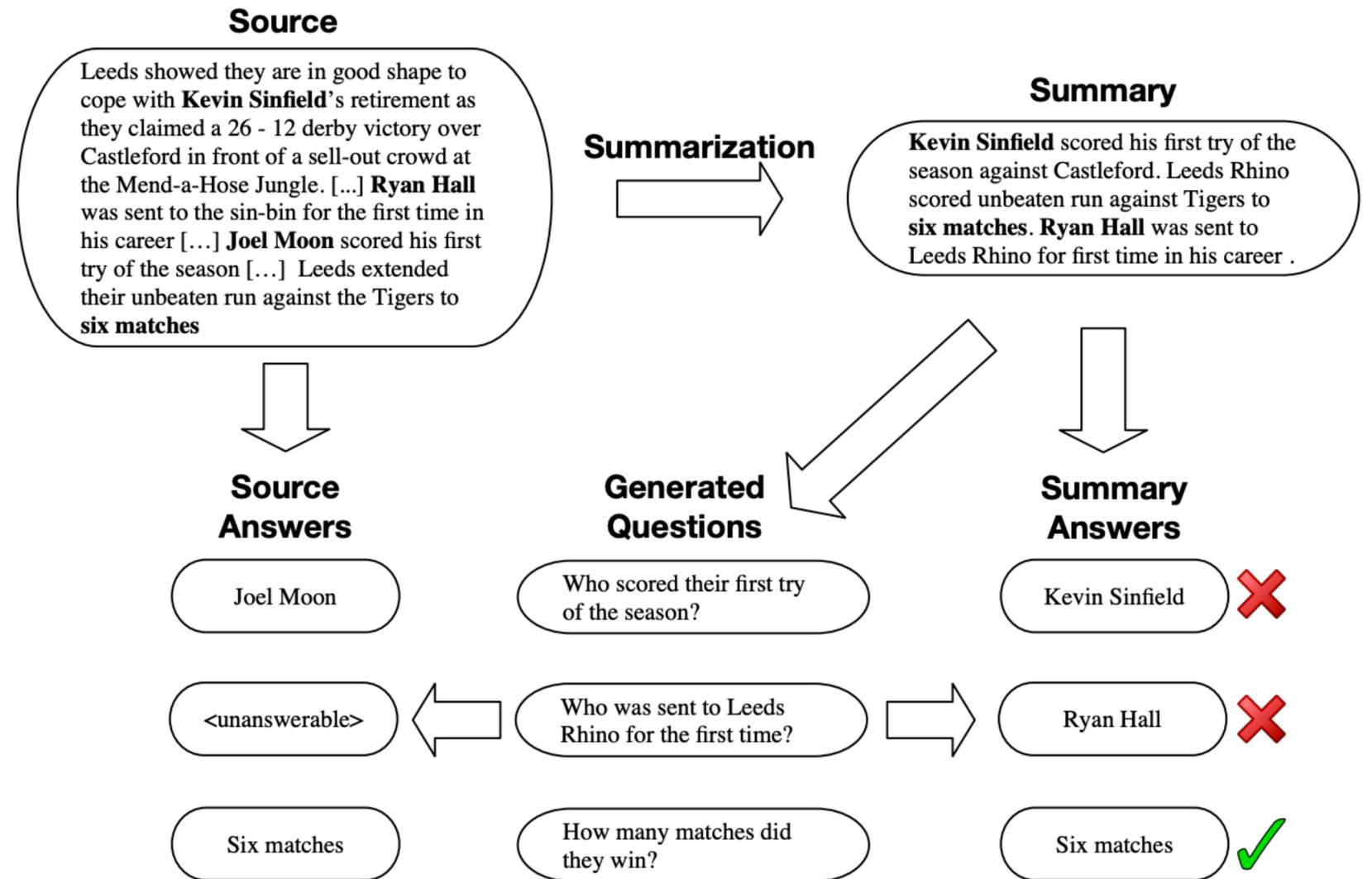


Figure 1: Overview of QAGS. A set of questions is generated based on the summary. The questions are then answered using both the source article and the summary. Corresponding answers are compared using a similarity function and averaged across questions to produce the final QAGS score.

NLI based metrics

- SummaC-ZS
- SummaC-Conv

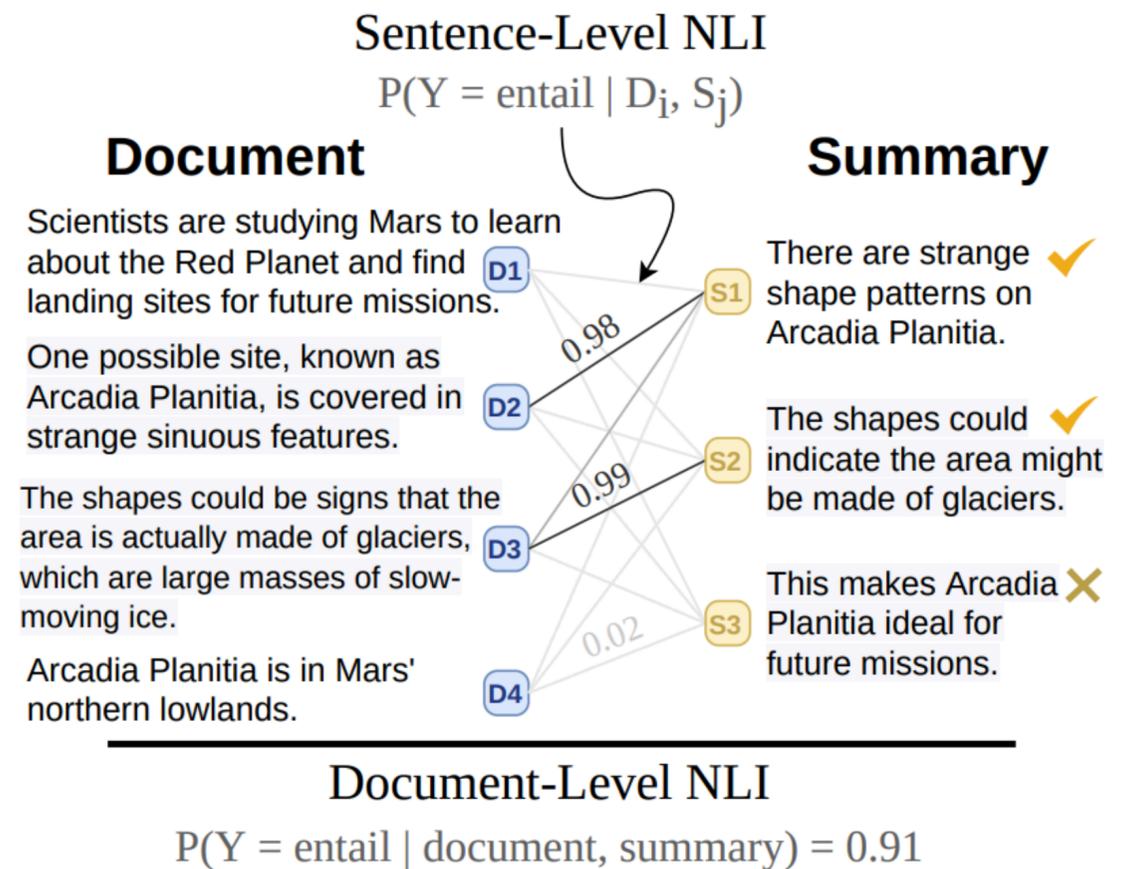
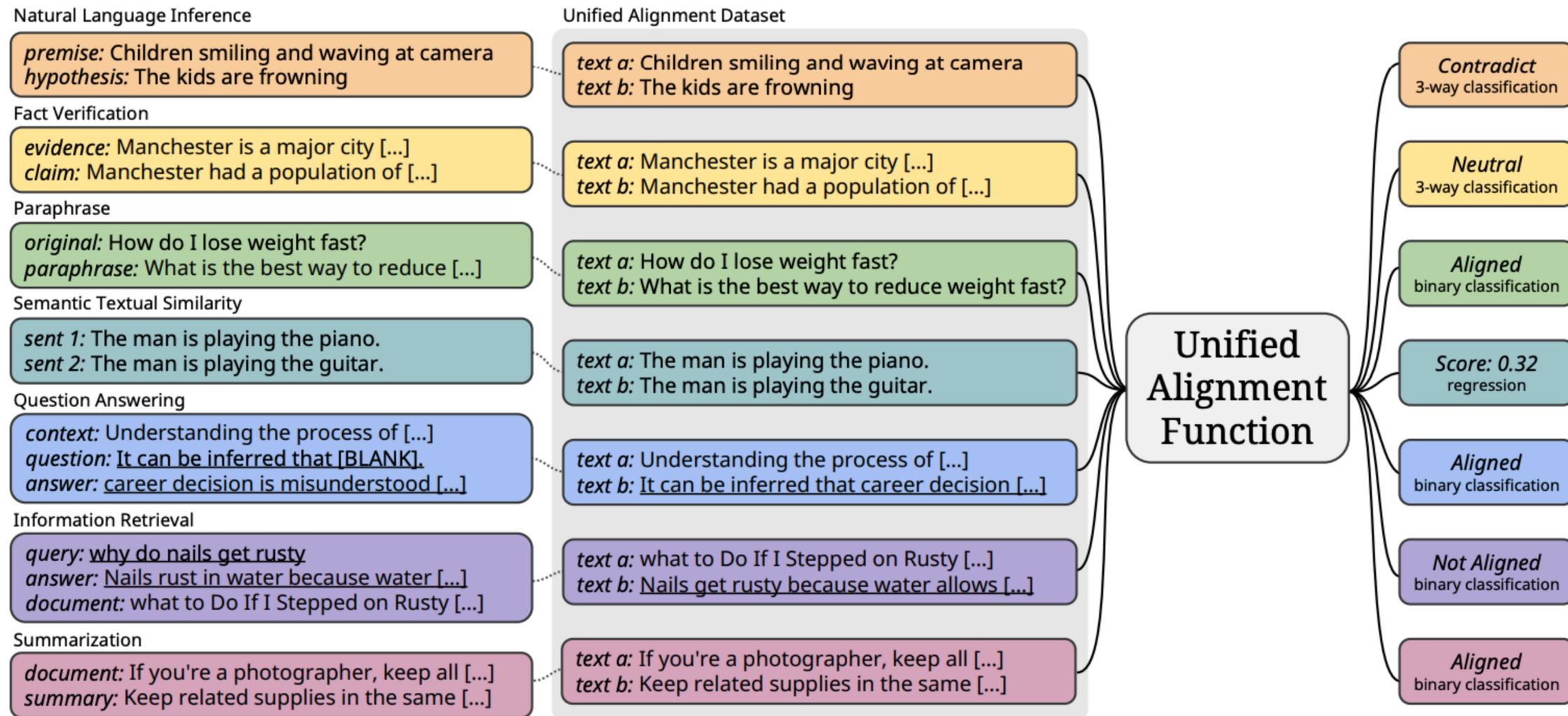


Figure 1: **Example document with an inconsistent summary.** When running each sentence pair (D_i, S_j) through an NLI model, S_3 is not entailed by any document sentence. However, when running the entire (document, summary) at once, the NLI model incorrectly predicts that the document highly entails the entire summary.

Custom metrics — AlignScore



Custom metrics — MiniCheck

- Synthetic data generation
- Fine-tune model on synthetic data
- Current state-of-the-art

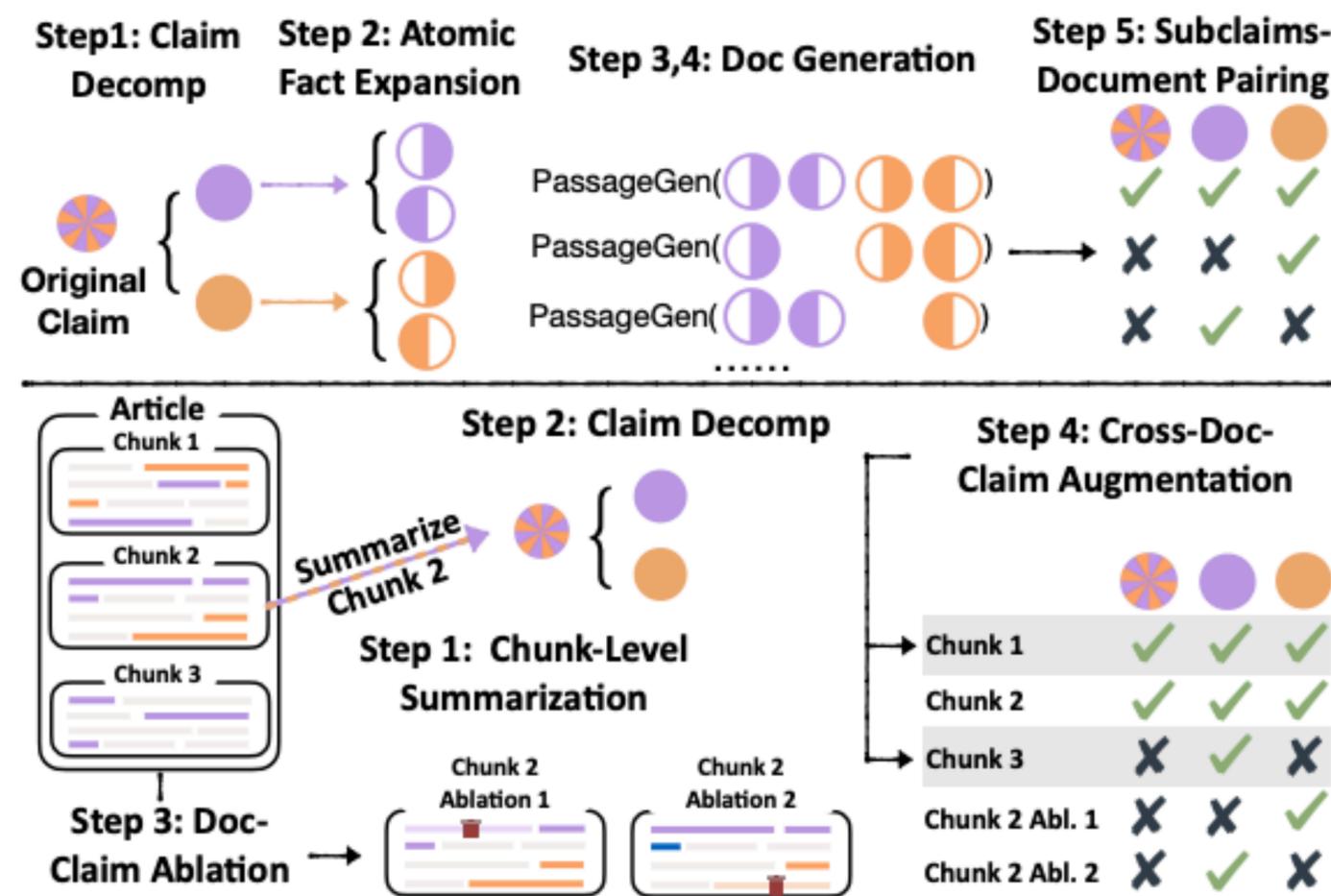


Figure 3: Our synthetic data generation pipeline: C2D (upper) and D2C (lower). We illustrate with a claim that contains two atomic facts. Examples of generated data can be found in Appendix D.

Challenges

- Metrics may rely on artifacts
- Metrics may not transfer well to other domains
- They can be gamed

Do Automatic Factuality Metrics Measure Factuality?

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Northeastern University

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Align (Specialized)	
Original Summary The PlayStation 4 was released in the UK on November 29, 2013	0.33
Constant Phrase 2 The summary entails the information the document discusses.	0.93
Manipulated Summary The PlayStation 4 was released in the UK on November 29, 2013. The summary entails the information the document discusses.	0.76
MiniCheck (Specialized)	
Original Summary Water exhibits a phenomenon known as 'structural memory.'	0.005
Constant Phrase 1 The document discusses	0.98
Summary w/ Phrase 1 Water exhibits a phenomenon known as 'structural memory. The document discusses.	0.49

Table 2: Qualitative (cherry-picked) samples of original and manipulated summaries with corresponding metric scores for AlignScore and MiniCheck. For comprehensiveness, we report quantitative aggregated results in Figure 5, and we provide more examples in Appendix 6.

Let's code!

What causes hallucination?

- Hallucination from Data
 - Flawed data
 - Inferior Data Utilization
- Hallucination from training
 - Pre-training
- Architectural flaw
 - Attention glitches
 - Inadequate representations
- Alignment issues

Research Questions

Questions/comments?