"The Data Says Otherwise" – Towards Automated Fact-checking and Communication of Data Claims



Yu Fu Georgia Tech



Shunan Guo Adobe Research



Jane Hoffswell Adobe Research



Victor S.Bursztyn Adobe Research

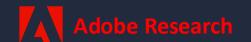


Ryan Rossi Adobe Research



John Stasko









Not professional!



Data-driven narratives are increasingly prevalent across various media



The Washington Post

mpty seats are seen at the Gerald Neufeld Funeral Home in March 2022. The funeral home in the Elmhurst neighbor ueens previously had been overwhelmed with deaths from covid-19. (Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

Listen 3 min

The waning of the pandemic led to fewer deaths in the United States in 2022 than in 2021, according to preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But heart disease and cancer deaths rose, and covid-19 remained remarkably lethal, killing more than 500 people a day.

The report shows an overall drop of 5.3 percent in the death rate from all causes, a signal that the country last year had exited the worst phase of the pandemic. Deaths from covid dropped 47 percent between 2021 and 2022.

But covid has not magically become like the flu or a new type of cold. Even though the population had built up high levels of immunity from vaccination and natural infection, covid was the fourth-leading cause of death in 2022, behind heart disease (699,659 deaths), cancer (607,790) and "unintentional injury," which includes drug overdoses (218,064). The CDC estimated that covid was the underlying cause of 186,702 deaths and a contributing factor in another 58,284.











reduce the deficit. Some in the administration are struggling to see a path forward in the talks, according to people familiar with the matter.

Republicans and Democrats are digging into the weeds of the federal budget, looking for creative and narrowly targeted ways to cut spending in order to close their differences. Among other things, Graves told reporters that negotiators were looking at whether funds already allocated for some programs could be either rescinded or diverted to other priority programs, in effect freeing up money to allocate toward cuts.

President Biden separately put out his own budget plan earlier this year that proposes tax increases to cut the deficit, but it went nowhere in Congress.

Other parts of the talks include a potential tightening of work requirements on benefit programs and rescinding unspent Covid-19 aid. Republicans and Democrats are nearing an agreement on the latter issue, people familiar with the

House Republicans' starting point in the talks was their Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023, which narrowly passed the chamber in April. That bill would return the government's discretionary spending to fiscal year 2022 levels and cap annual spending growth at 1% for a decade. Discretionary spending excludes mandatory expenditures such as Medicare and Social Security as well as debt payments.

McCarthy has committed to cutting spending but hasn't specified a goal of rolling it back to 2022 levels. He has prepared his conference for the likelihood that any deal he strikes with Biden would cut spending by less than what House Republicans passed.





Americans, including 62 percent of eligible seniors, our most vulnerable group, have gotten their booster shots.

I got my booster shot as soon as they were available. And just the other day, former President Trump announced he had gotten his booster shot. It may be one of the few things he and I agree on.

People with booster shots are highly protected. Join them. Join us. It's been six months or more since my second shot. If it's been six months or more for your second shot — when I got my booster — you can get yours today if you've been six months or more since your second shot.

Another question that folks are asking is: Are we going back to March 2020 not this last March 2021, but March 2020 — when the pandemic first hit? That's what I keep getting asked.

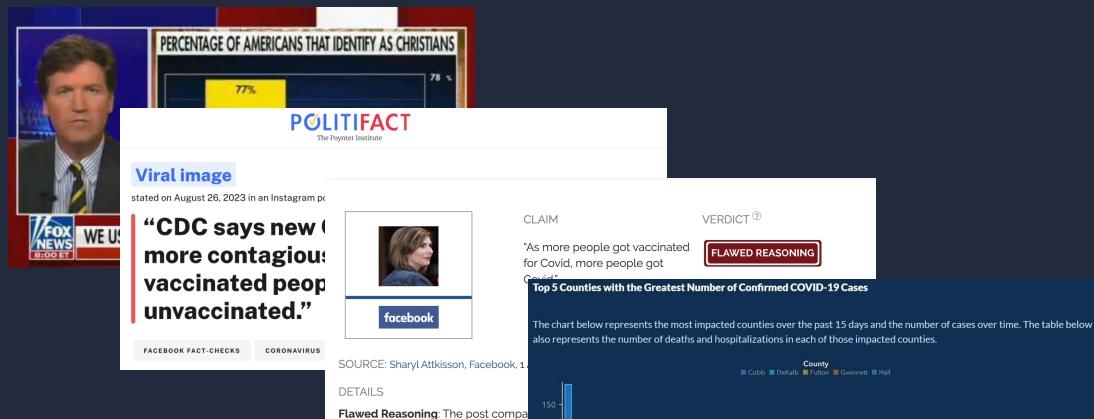
The answer is absolutely no. No.

Here are three big differences between then and now: One - number one the first one - more than 200 million Americans have been fully vaccinated. In March of 2020, no one was fully vaccinated. What that means is, today, as cases — a case of COVID-19 for a fully vaccinated and boosted person will most likely mean no symptoms or mild ones similar to the common respiratory viruses.

Over 200 million Americans should have the peace of mind that they did not have in March of 2020: They're protected from hospitalization, and they're protected from death.

Second point: We're prepared today for what's coming. In March of 2020, we were not ready. Today, we've spocktiled [sic] enough - we've stockpiled enough gowns, masks, and ventilators to deal with the surge of hospitalizations among the unvaccinated.

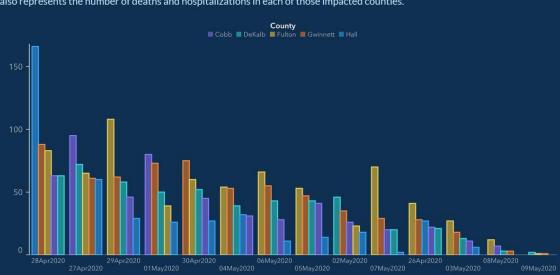
Today, we're ready.



differences in the number of reported account for the fact that age distributed countries and affect how many COVI Factually inaccurate: At no point in the countries are considered as a consistency of the countries and affect how many COVI factually inaccurate:

fully vaccinated while exhibiting few

Errors and faulty data reasoning can transform these narratives into **misinformation**



Data-driven misinformation can occur because...

Making it up/data validity

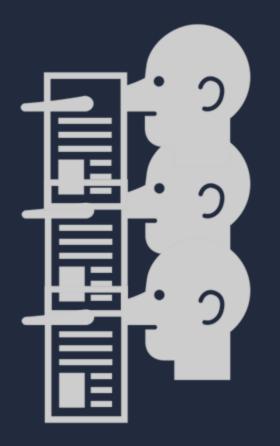
Outdated data

Errors



Misinterpretation

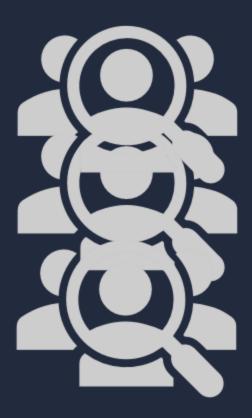
Lack context





Factchecking





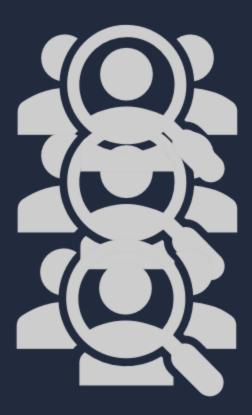




Automated

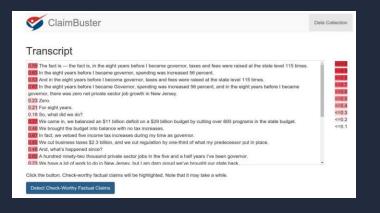
Factchecking





Automated Fact-checking





Claim:

Ibuprofen worsens COVID-19 symptoms

Evidence abstract:

Covid-19 and avoiding Ibuprofen.

a potential increased risk of COVID-19 infection was feared with ibuprofen use

At this time, there is no supporting evidence to discourage the use of ibuprofen

Label: REFUTES

Naeemul et al. (2017)

Wadden et al. (2021)

1. Factual Revision Flagging

The revision (s_{t-1}, s_t) is factual because it modifies when the first COVID-19 case was identified

2. Fact Verification

The following claim is **refuted** by s_{l-1} and **supported** by s_{l} :

"COVID-19 outbreak was identified before December'

COVID-19 Pandemic

WIKIPEDIA
Revision ID: 945689803

The outbreak was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei, China in December 2019 and recognized [...].

et -

The outbreak was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei, China in 17 November 2019 and recognized [...].

3. Word-level Rationales

The anchoring words in s_t that support the claim are:

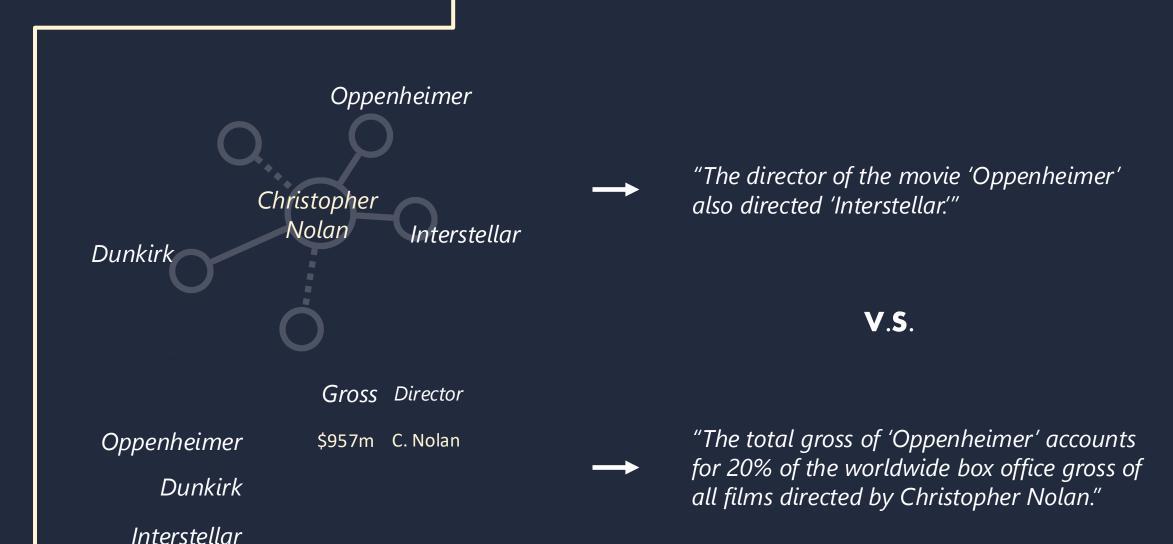
"first identified [...] in 17 November 2019 [...]"

4. Factually Consistent Generation

The contradictory s_{t-1} can be revised to state: "The outbreak [...] before December 2019 [...]"

Schuster et al. (2021)





Accuracy Complexity Communication

Table 8: Verification accuracy on the test datasets.					
	AGGCHECKER	TAPAS	TABLE-BERT	SCRUTINIZER	
C19 _{test}	0.44	0.64	0.76	0.80	
IEA _{test}	0.50	0.07	0.58	0.65	
BBL _{test}	0.13	0.41	0.17	0.51	
		· ·			

The evaluation of our solution over the test data shows that we obtain a precision of 0.329 and a recall of 0.205. While we expected a limited recall, Improve the accuracy of detection and verification

- Jo et al. (2018). Verifying text summaries of relational data sets.
- Jo et al. (2019). Aggchecker: A fact-checking system for text summaries of relational data sets.
- Karagiannis et al. (2020). Scrutinizer: A mixed-initiative approach to large-scale, data-driven claim verification.
- Saeed, M., & Papotti, P. (2021). Fact-Checking Statistical Claims with Tables.
- Rezgui et al. (2021). Automatic verification of data summaries.
- Wu et al (2014). iCheck: Computationally Combating "Lies, D—ned Lies, and Statistics"
- Asudeh (2020). On Detecting Cherry-picked Trendlines

Accuracy
Complexity
Communication

name	games	category	
A. Karras	14	personal conduct	
A. Jones	20	personal conduct	
L. Brazill	indef	substance abuse, repeated offense	
G. Miller	4	PEDs	

(a) Raw relational data.

There were only four previous lifetime bans in my database — three were for repeated substance abuse, one was for gambling.

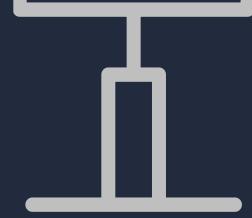
(b) Text document. Claims colored in blue. We focus on claimed result 'one'.

Claim	Query Output	Evaluation
18 points	18.0	True
five rebounds	5.0	True
seven assists	4.0	False

Table 2: Evaluation of the example.

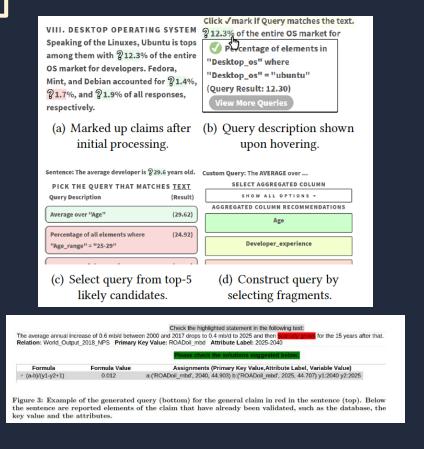
The Memphis Grizzlies (5-2) defeated the Phoenix Suns (3 - 2) Monday 102-91 at the Talking Stick Resort Arena in Phoenix. The Grizzlies had a strong first half where they out-scored the Suns 59-42. Marc Gasol scored 18 points, leading the Grizzlies. Isaiah Thomas added 15 points, he is averaging 19 points on the season so far.

Handle more complex data claims



- Jo et al. (2018). Verifying text summaries of relational data sets.
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Accuracy Complexity Communication



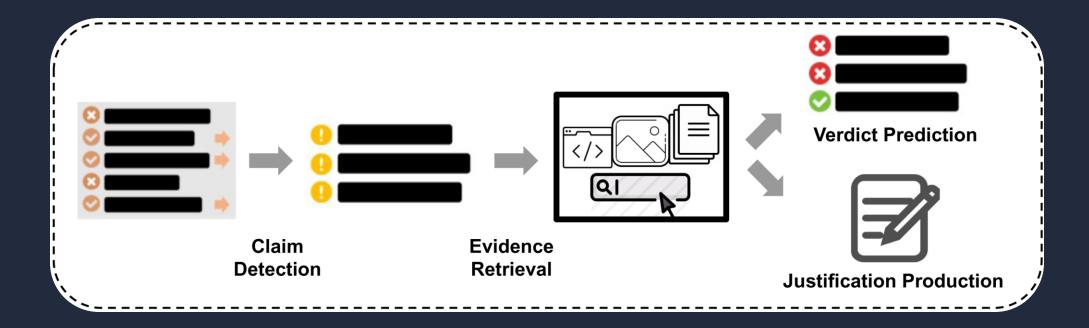


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Research

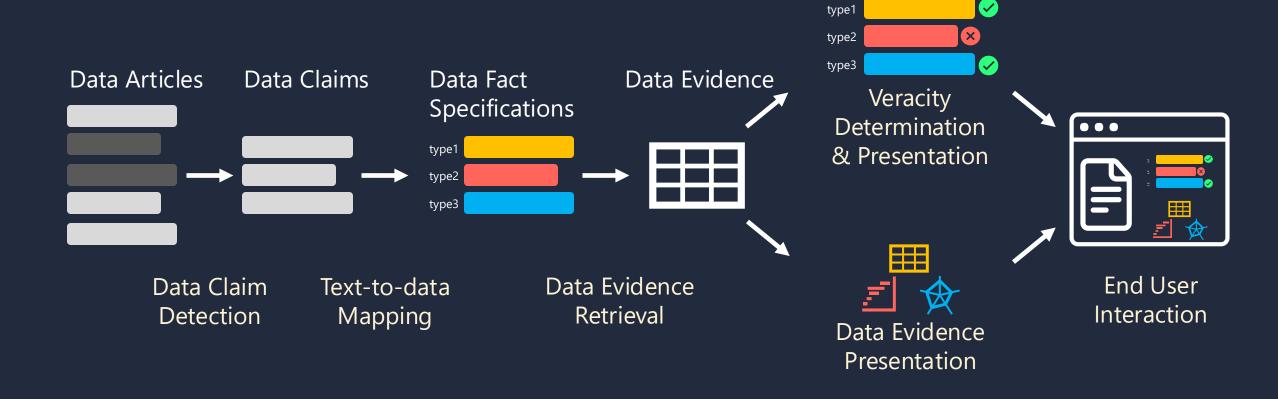
- RQ1: How do we enable out-of-the-box automated fact-checking for data claims?
- Questions RQ2: How do we effectively represent and communicate data evidence?

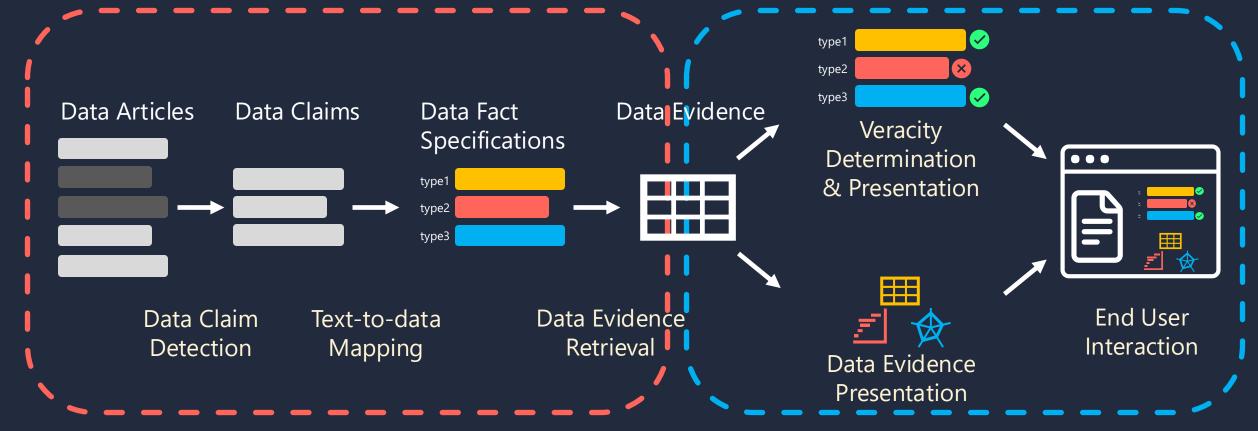
Framework for Automated Fact-checking



Guo et al. (2022) A Framework for Automated Fact-Checking

Framework for Automated **Data Claim** Fact-checking

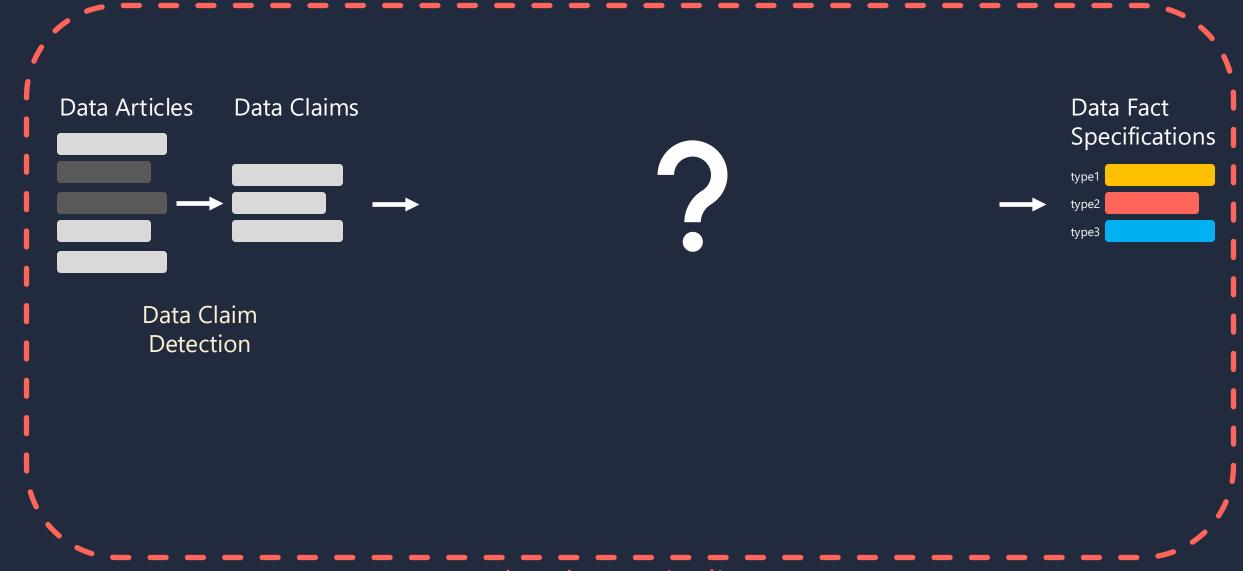




Backend NLP Pipeline

Frontend Interface

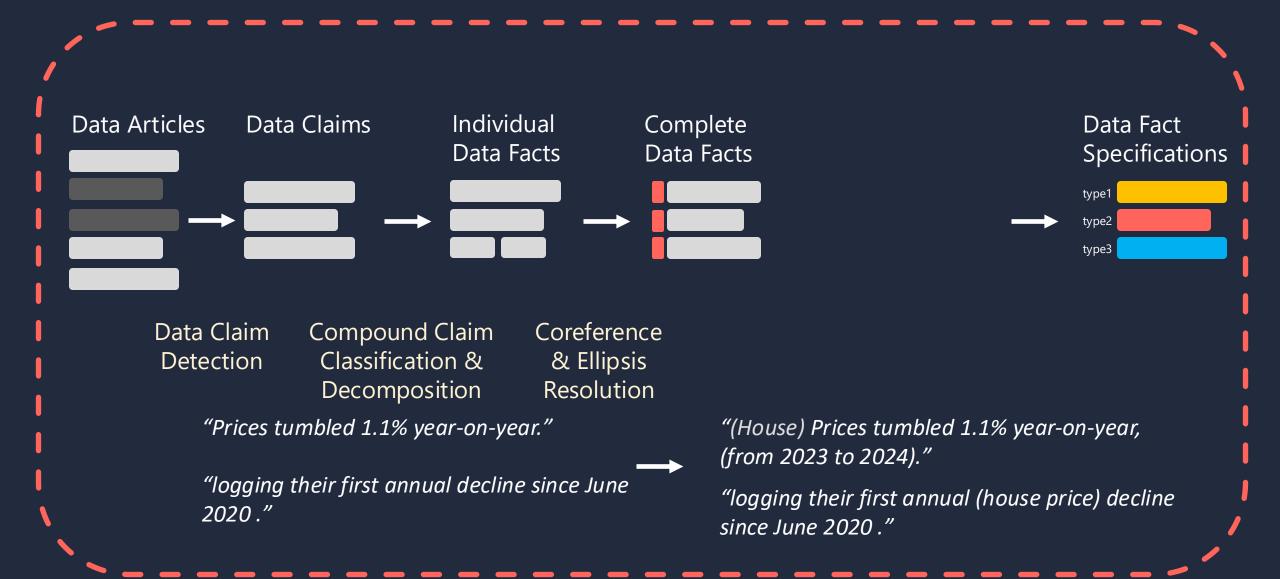
Aletheia



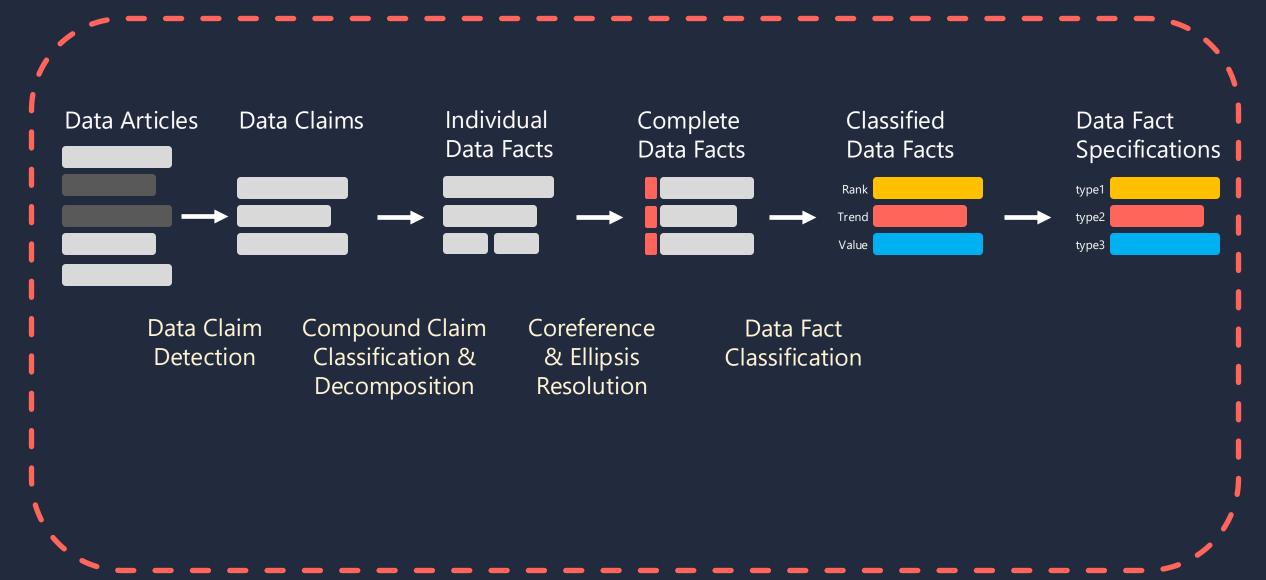
Backend NLP Pipeline



Backend NLP Pipeline



Backend NLP Pipeline



Backend NLP Pipeline

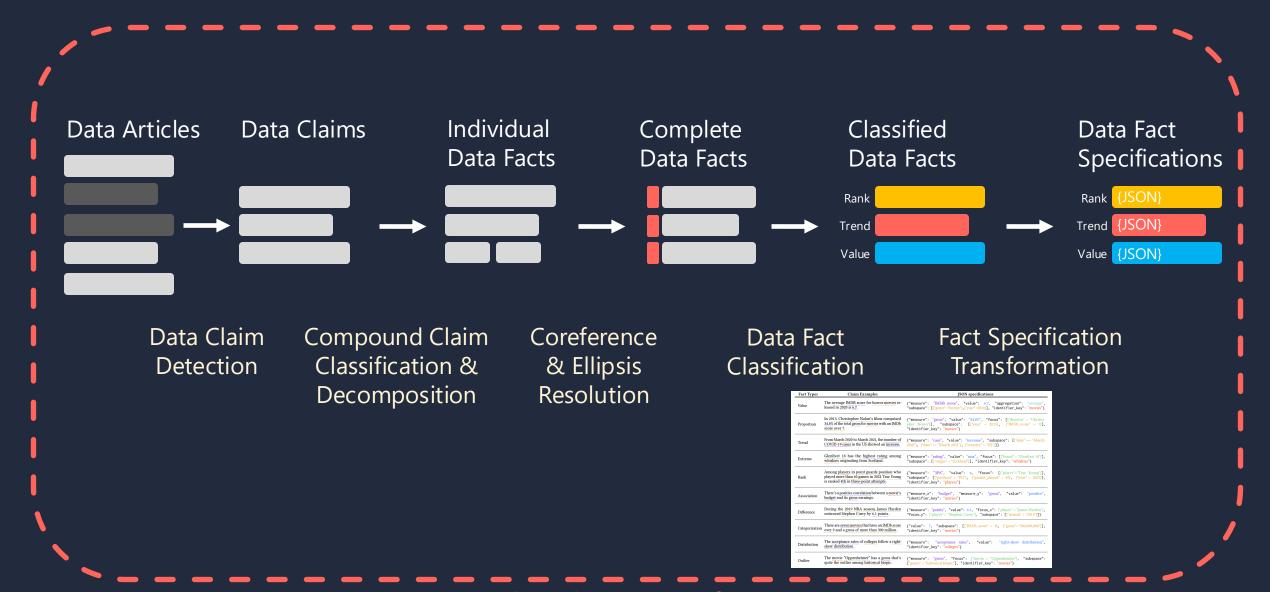
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	Value	The average IMDB score for horror movies released in 2020 is 6.7.	{"measure": "IMDB score", "value": 6.7, "aggregation": "average", "subspace": [{"genre"="horror"},{"year"=2020}], "identifier_key": "movies"}	
Data Ar	Proportion	In 2013, Christopher Nolan's films comprised 34.8% of the total gross for movies with an IMDb score over 7.	{"measure": "gross", "value": "34.8%", "focus": [{"director" = "Christo- pher Nolan"}], "subspace": [{"year" = 2013}, {"IMDb_score" > 7}], "identifier_key": "movies"}	
	Trend	From March 2020 to March 2021, the number of COVID-19 cases in the US showed an increase.	{"measure": "case", "value": "increase", "subspace": [{"date" >= "March 2020"}, {"date" <= "March 2021"}, {"country" = "US"}]}	
	Extreme	Glenlivet 18 has the highest rating among whiskies originating from Scotland.	{"measure": "rating", "value": "max", "focus": [{"brand" = "Glenlivet 18"}], "subspace": [{"origin" = "Scotland"}], "identifier_key": "whiskies"}	
	Rank	Among players in point guards position who played more than 60 games in 2023 Trae Young is ranked 4th in three-point attempts.	{"measure": "3PA", "value": 4, "focus": [{"player"="Trae Young"}], "subspace": [{"position" = "PG"}, {"games_played" > 60}, {"year" = 2023}], "identifier_key": "players"}	
	Association	There's a positive correlation between a movie's budget and its gross earnings.	{"measure_x": "budget", "measure_y": "gross", "value": "positive", "identifier_key": "movies"}	
	Difference	During the 2019 NBA season, James Harden outscored Stephen Curry by 6.1 points.	{"measure": "points", "value": 6.1, "focus_x": {"player" = "James Harden"}, "focus_y": {"player" = "Stephen Curry"}, "subspace": [{"season" = "2019"}]}	
	Categorization	There are seven movies that have an IMDb score over 9 and a gross of more than 300 million.	{"value": 7, "subspace": [{"IMDb_score" > 9}, {"gross">"300,000,000"}], "identifier_key": "movies"}	
	Distribution	The acceptance rates of colleges follow a right-skew distribution.	{"measure": "acceptance rates", "value": "right-skew distribution", "identifier_key": "colleges"}	
	Outlier	The movie "Oppenheimer" has a gross that's quite the outlier among historical biopic.	{"measure": "gross", "focus": {"movie = "Oppenheimer"}, "subspace": ["genre" = "historical biopic"], "identifier_key": "movies"}	

Fact cifications

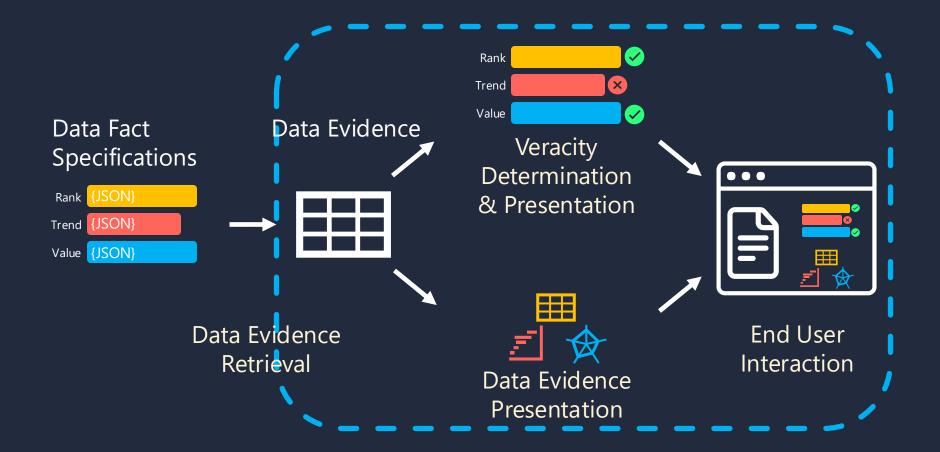
ISON}

SON

SON}



Backend NLP Pipeline



Frontend Interface



Interface

Design Goals for Presenting Data Evidence

• DG1. Ensure alignment with the original data insights



Interface

Design Goals for Presenting Data Evidence

- DG1. Ensure alignment with the original data insights
- DG2. Streamline viewers' analysis of data evidence, facilitating quicker judgments

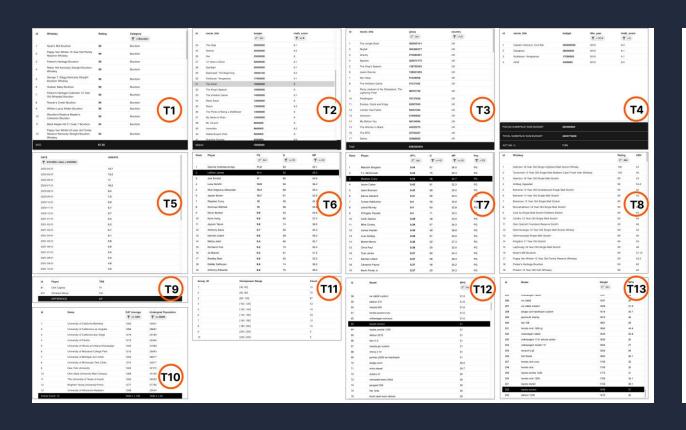


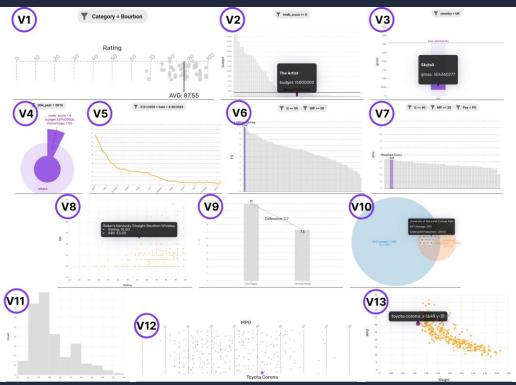
Interface

Design Goals for Presenting Data Evidence

- DG1. Ensure alignment with the original data insights
- DG2. Streamline viewers' analysis of data evidence, facilitating quicker judgments
- DG3. Bolster viewers' **confidence** in their assessments

Data Evidence Presentation Designs







Interface

Design Goals for Presenting Data Evidence

- DG1. Ensure alignment with the original data insights
- DG2. Streamline viewers' analysis of data evidence, facilitating quicker judgments
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Design Requirements for User Interaction

• DR1. Facilitate rapid reviewing and correction of erroneous claims



Interface

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- DG1. Ensure alignment with the original data insights
- DG2. Streamline viewers' analysis of data evidence, facilitating quicker judgments
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Design Requirements for User Interaction

- DR1. Facilitate rapid reviewing and correction of erroneous claims
- DR2. Enable user intervention for AI mistakes



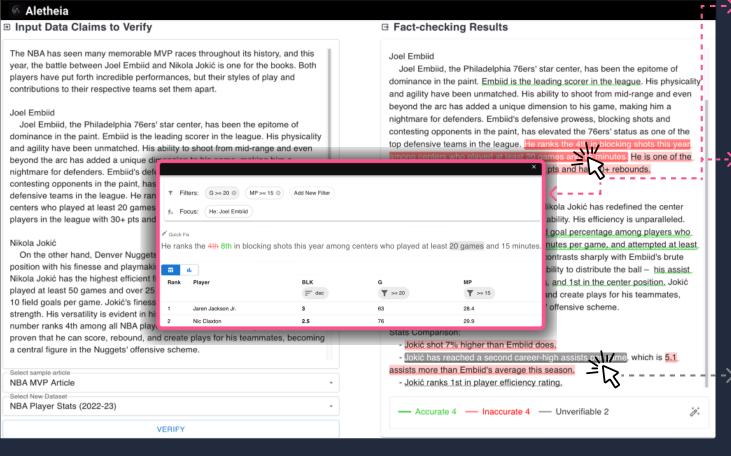
Interface

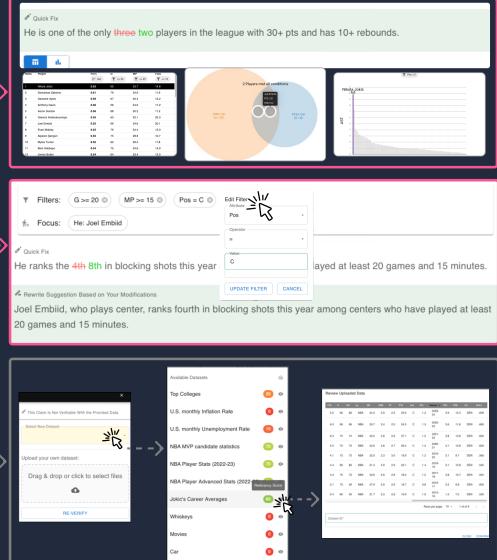
Design Goals for Presenting Data Evidence

- DG1. Ensure alignment with the original data insights
- DG2. Streamline viewers' analysis of data evidence, facilitating quicker judgments
- DG3. Bolster viewers' **confidence** in their assessments

Design Requirements for User Interaction

- DR1. Facilitate **rapid reviewing** and **correction** of erroneous claims
- DR2. Enable user intervention for AI mistakes
- DR3. Support integration of additional reference data





The NBA has seen many memorable MVP races throughout its history, and this year, the battle between Joel Embiid and Nikola Jokić is one for the books. Both players have put forth incredible performances, but their styles of play and contributions to their respective teams set them apart.

Joel Embiid

Joel Embiid, the Philadelphia 76ers' star center, has been the epitome of dominance in the paint. Embiid is the leading scorer in the league. His physicality and agility have been unmatched. His ability to shoot from mid-range and even beyond the arc has added a unique dimension to his game, making him a nightmare for defenders. Embiid's defensive prowess, blocking shots and contesting opponents in the paint, has elevated the 76ers' status as one of the top defensive teams in the league. He ranks the 4th in blocking shots this year among centers who played at least 20 games and 15 minutes. He is one of the only three players in the league with 30+ pts and has 10+ rebounds.

Nikola Jokić

On the other hand, Denver Nuggets' Nikola Jokić has redefined the center position with his finesse and playmaking ability. His efficiency is unparalleled. Nikola Jokić has the highest efficient field goal percentage among players who played at least 50 games and over 25 minutes per game, and attempted at least 10 field goals per game. Jokić's finesse contrasts sharply with Embiid's brute strength. His versatility is evident in his ability to distribute the ball — his assist number ranks 4th among all NBA players, and 1st in the center position. Jokić has proven that he can score, rebound, and create plays for his teammates, becoming a central figure in the Nuggets' offensive scheme.

Select sample article
NBA MVP Article

Select New Dataset
NBA Player Stats (2022-23)

VERIFY

□ Fact-checking Results

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∃ Input Data Claims to Verify

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Select sample article

NBA MVP Article

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VERIFY	
NBA Player Stats (2022-23)	•
Select sample article NBA MVP Article	•

∃ Fact-checking Results

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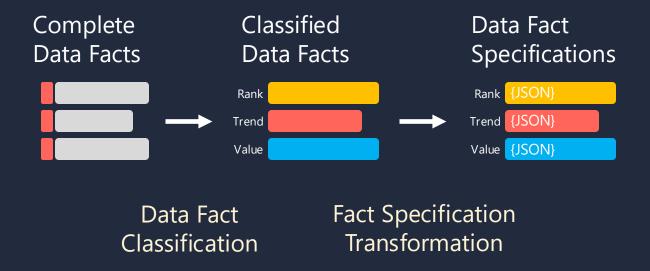
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Nikola Jokić

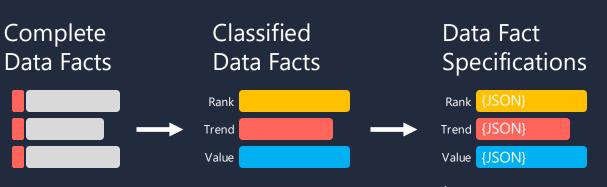
On the other hand, Denver Nuggets' Nikola Jokić has redefined the center position with his finesse and playmaking ability. His efficiency is unparalleled. Nikola Jokić has the highest efficient field goal percentage among players who played at least 50 games and over 25 minutes per game, and attempted at least 10 field goals per game. Jokić's finesse contrasts sharply with Embiid's brute strength. His versatility is evident in his ability to distribute the ball — his assist number ranks 4th among all NBA players, and 1st in the center position. Jokić has proven that he can score, rebound, and create plays for his teammates, becoming a central figure in the Nuggets' offensive scheme.



Evaluation I: The performance of our core NLP steps



Evaluation I: Ground Truth Data Curation



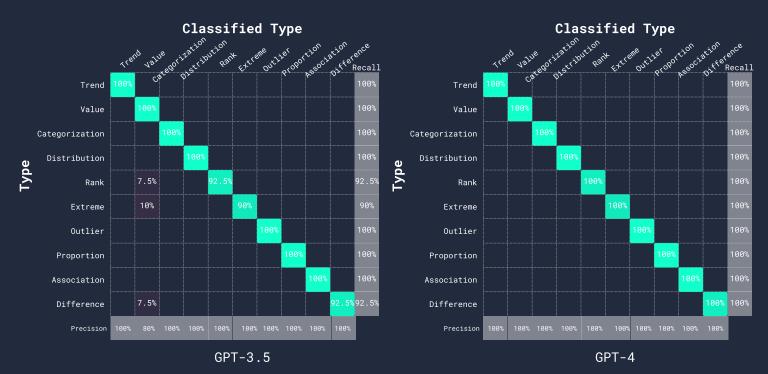
"Stephen Curry ranks 3rd in 3P% among players who played the PG position and played more than 40 games."

Rank

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"fact type": "Rank",
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"subspace": [
       "attribute": "Pos",
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"identifier_key": "Player",
"rank": 3
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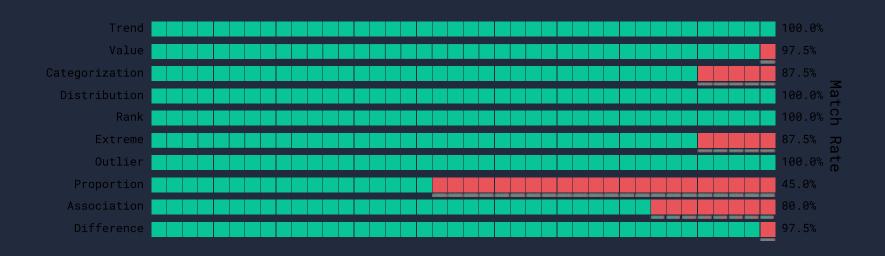
Evaluation I: The performance of **Data Fact Classification**





Evaluation I: The performance of **Data Fact Specification Transformation**

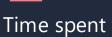




Evaluation II:

The effectiveness of our data evidence representations











User Study Procedure (Phase 1)

N = 10
(Table)
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	Genre (= action)	Year (= 2016)	Budget (sort by desc)
Captain America: Civil War	Action	2016	120000000
Deadpool	Action	2016	58000000
Movie C	Action	2016	53216547

...

Data claim:

The movie Deadpool has the highest Budget among all action movies in 2016









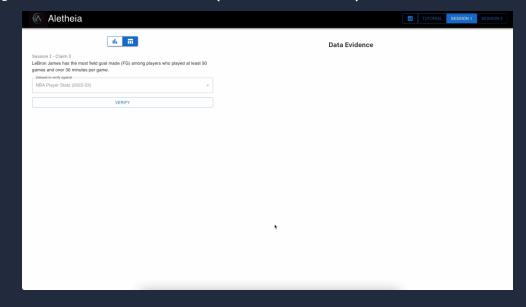


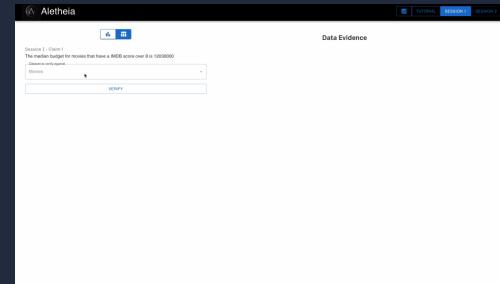
Time spent

User Study Procedure (Phase 1)







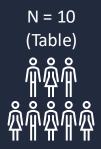




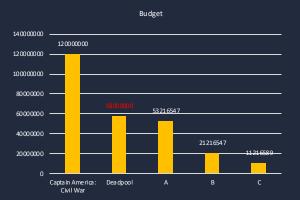


13 types

User Study Procedure (Phase 2)





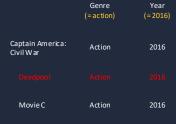


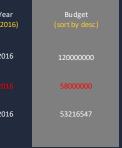
Data claim:

The movie Deadpool has the highest Budget among all action movies in 2016











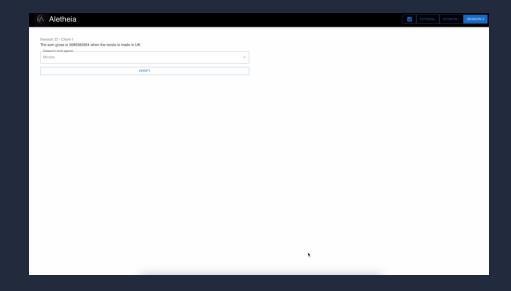
Compare confidence shift



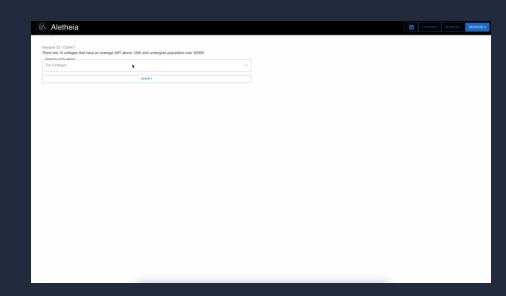
Preference

User Study Procedure (Phase 2)







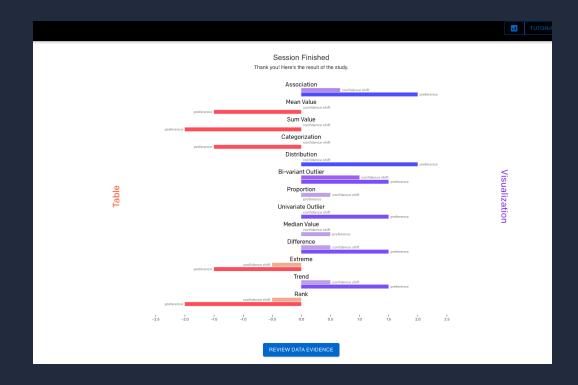






13 types

User Study Procedure (Phase 3)

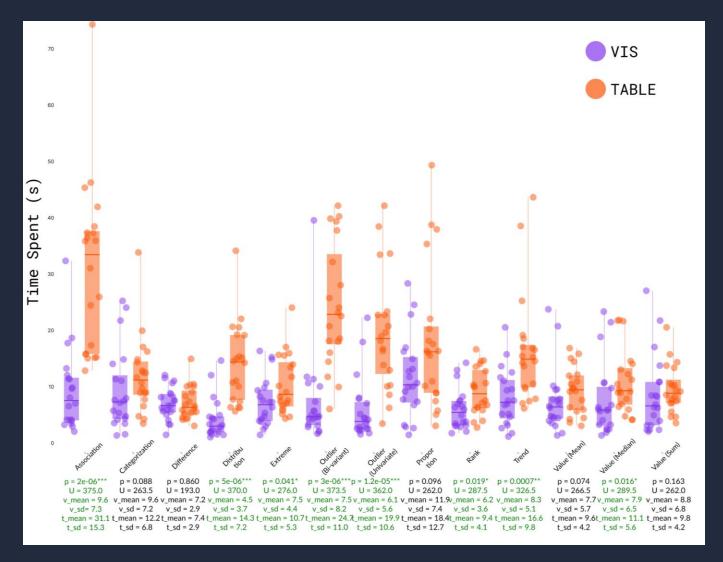


DATE	UNRATE	Selected Type: Trend ▼ 12/31/1969 < Date < 12/30/1980		
T 12/31/1969 < Date < 12/30/1980		(Type: Median Value I Correctness: false)		
1970-01-01	3.9	Toyota Starlet has the hiphest MPG among car models originating from Japan. (typs: Connections: Name C	υ	
1970-02-01	4.2		The same of the sa	
1970-03-01	4.4			
1970-04-01	4.6			
1970-05-01	4.8			
1970-06-01	4.9	(Type: Proportion I Correctness: true)	3 %	
1970-07-01	5	Players who played SG position accounts for 30.5% of the total MVP Pts Won.	55	
1970-08-01	5.1	(Type: Proportion I Correctness: false)		
1970-09-01	5.4	From 1970 to 1980, the unemployment rate in the US has been steadily increasing.		
1970-10-01	5.5	(Type: Trend I Correctness: false)		
1970-11-01	5.9	From 1983 to 1990, the unemployment rate has been mostly decreasing in the US.		
1970-12-01	6.1	(Type: Trend I Correctness: true)		
1971-01-01	5.9	Michael Porter Jr. has outscored Jaden McDaniels by 5.3 points. (Type Difference I Corrections: tree) The previous James Bond movie, Skyfall, outperformed Spectre by \$150 million in gross revenue. (Type Difference Corrections: Iridal)		
1971-02-01	5.9			
1971-03-01	6			
1971-04-01	5.9	John Collins's rebounding stat is quite an outlier.		
1971-05-01	5.9	(Type: Univariate Outlier I Correctness: false)		
1971-06-01	5.9	Harvey Mudd College's undergrad population is an outlier. (Type: Univariate Outlier I Correctness: true)		
1971-07-01	4	1,170.		





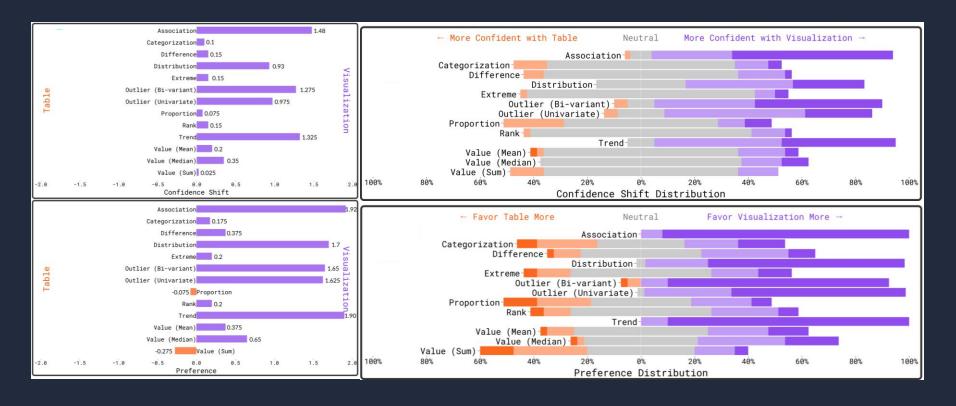
Evaluation II: Results



Time spent

Evaluation II: Results





Evaluation II:

Results

Claim Type Overall Accuracy (%)

Overall 90.19 (σ = 0.3)

Rank 100

Proportion 100

Difference 97.5

Categorization 95

Value (Mean) 97.5

Value (Median) 95

Value (Sum) 100

Trend 87.5

Extreme 100

Outlier (Univariate) 67.5

Outlier (Bivariate) 65

Association 78

Distribution 93.3



Findings and Takeaways



- Visualizations inherently offer advantages when fact-checking data claims related to patterns or distributions across numerous data points.
- Displaying data operation widgets accelerates assessment and boosts confidence.
- Unit representations enhance confidence, even when not scrutinized.
- Contextual information can be both reassuring and distracting in customized visualization

Recommendations for Presenting Data Evidence

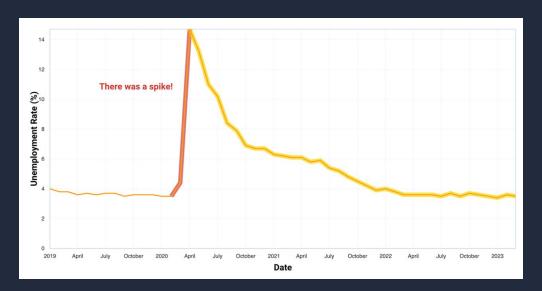
- Display data operations, especially the filters
- Make salient information more visually prominent
- Key information first, contextual information on demand
- Consider providing visual aids

Limitations

- Sole focus on fact-level assessment
- Require manual selection of reference dataset
- Lack of comprehensive optimization and evaluation of the LLM-based pipeline
- User study designs

Future Work

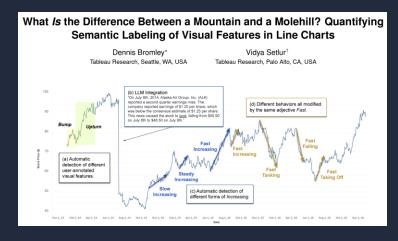
Assessing and Communicating Plausibility of Data Claims On the Reasoning Level



"The unemployment rate experienced a decrease between April 2020 and March 2023, indicating a strong job market."

Future Work

- Assessing and Communicating Plausibility of Data Claims On the Reasoning Level
- Fact-checking More Complex Data Claim
 - Claims that involve more complicated data operations
 - Claims that include nuanced semantics



Bromley and Setlur (2023)

Thank you!



Yu Fu Georgia Tech



Shunan Guo Adobe Research



Jane Hoffswell Adobe Research



Victor S.Bursztyn Adobe Research



Ryan Rossi Adobe Research



Georgia Tech



