Towards Real-World Fact-Checking with Large Language Models



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Disinformation poses a growing threat to our society





Council of the EU | Press release | 28 July 2023 16:30

Information manipulation in Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine: EU lists seven individuals and five entities

Defining real-world misinformation

Non-True, harmful claims that professional fact-checkers deem important to verify



Your Turn: What is real-world *misinformation?*

Coldplay is French.

"Beat It" is not a song by Michael Jackson.

Half a million sharks could be killed to make the COVID-19 vaccine.

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Your Turn: Why is harmful real-world misinformation challenging?

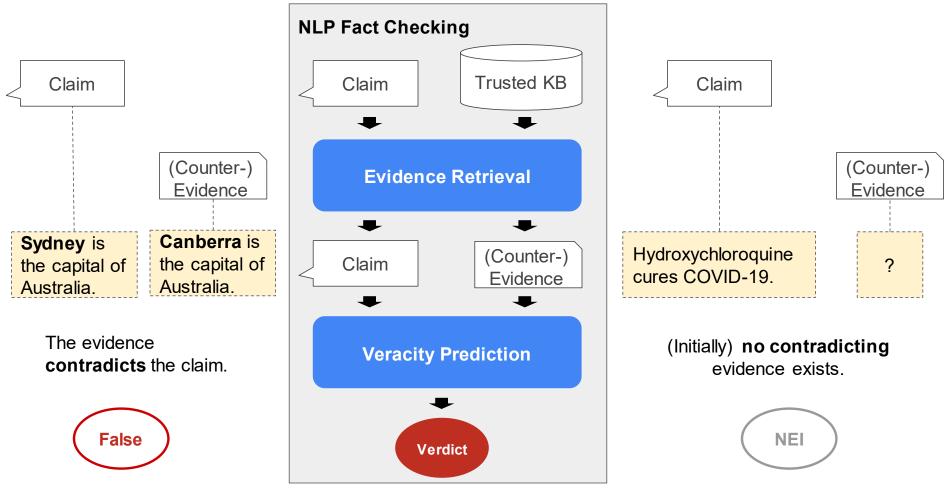
FEVER

Coldplay is French.

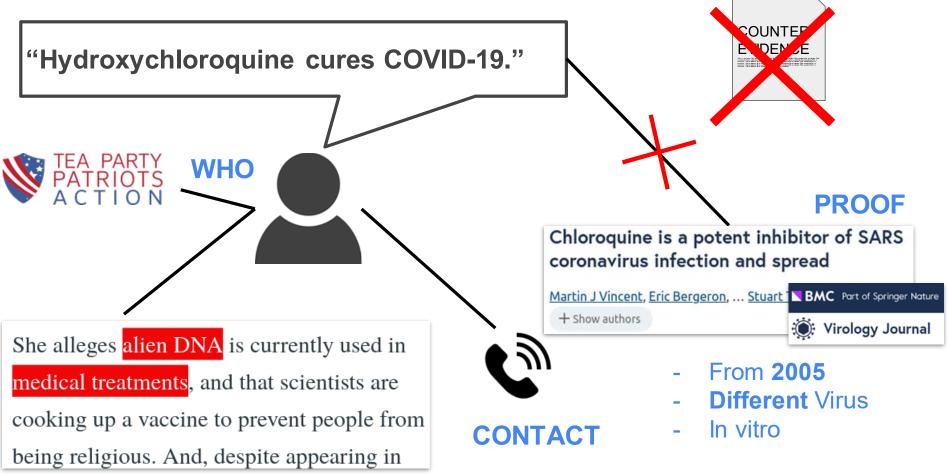
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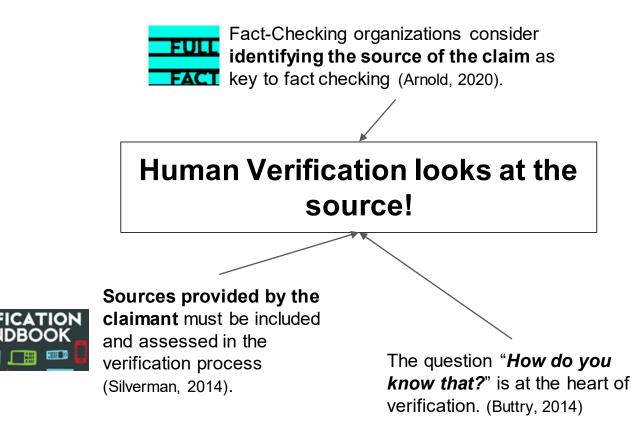
NLP Fact-Checking relies on (Counter)-Evidence



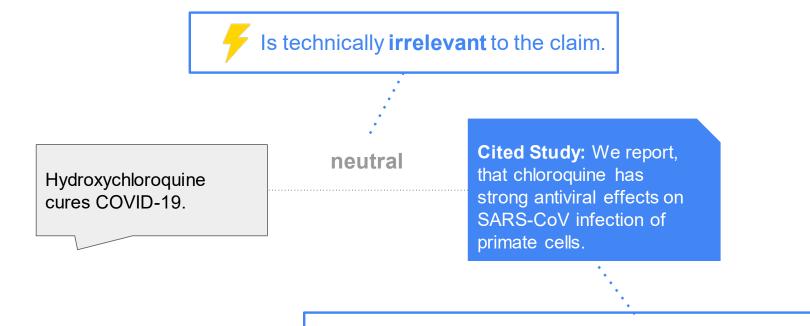
Debunking is complex!



Humans use the source of a claim in verification

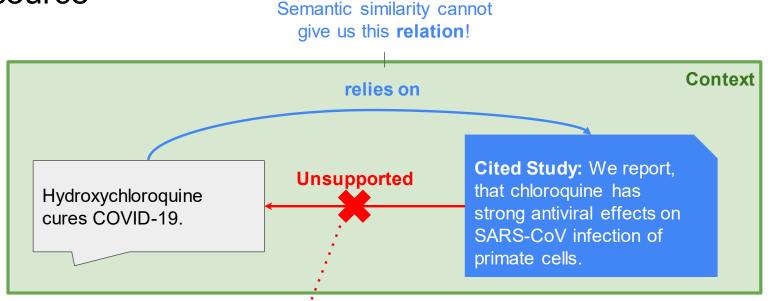


Context is needed to find and use evidence based on the source



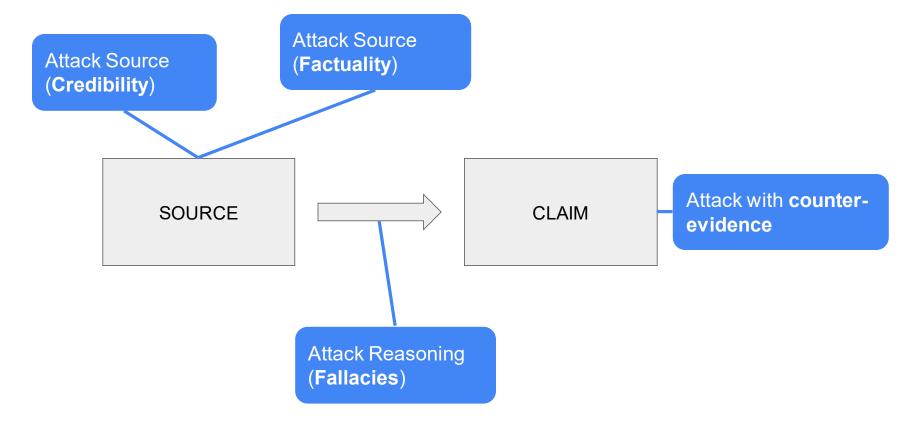
In-vitro studies <u>are not</u> predictive of the effects in humans Chloroquine <u>is not</u> Hydroxychloroquine. SARS-CoV <u>is not</u> the virus causing COVID-19.

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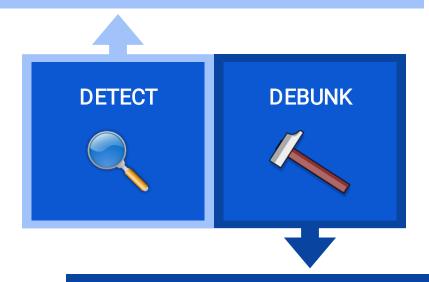
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Adding the source enables multiple ways to attack claims



Combating real-world misinformation with NLP

Quickly detect misinformation to intervene and reduce its spread.



Automatically assess the veracity of the claim and debunk it.



Identifying Harmful Content in Advance

Efficient Few-shot Learning Without Prompts (SetFit)

Lewis Tunstall, Nils Reimers, Enso Jo, Luke Bates Daniel Korat, Moshe Wasserblat, and Oren Pereg



Detect > **Debunk**

Can we now automatically debunk real-world *misinformation*?



Missing Counter-Evidence Renders NLP Fact-Checking Unrealistic for Misinformation. Max Glockner, Yufang Hou, and Iryna Gurevych. In *EMNLP 2022*.



Code and Data



Read the paper



Look at **simpler and less harmful claims** where we can expect to find evidence.



AmbiFC: Fact-Checking Ambiguous Claims with Evidence.

Max Glockner, Ieva Staliūnaitė, James Thorne, Gisela Vallejo, Andreas Vlachos, Iryna Gurevych. *TACL 2024*.



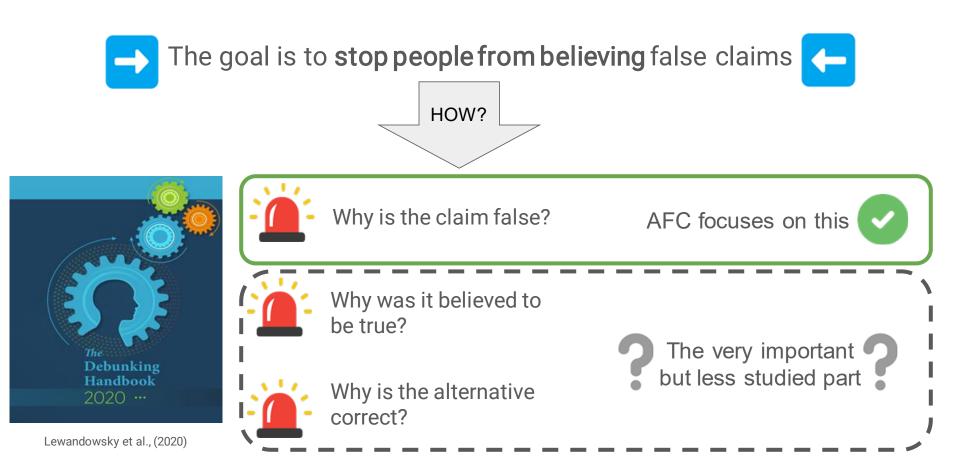
Read the paper



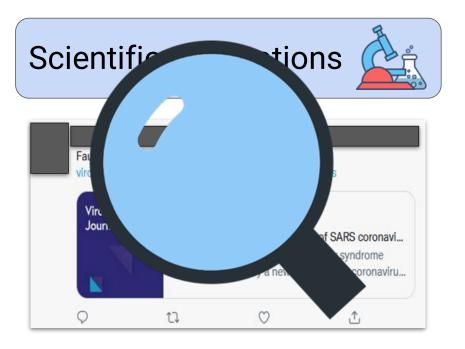
Code and Data



Current research only partially considers real-life fact-checking



Certain content types increase perceived credibility





Thus, they may be **misleading**. We need **special debunking methods**!

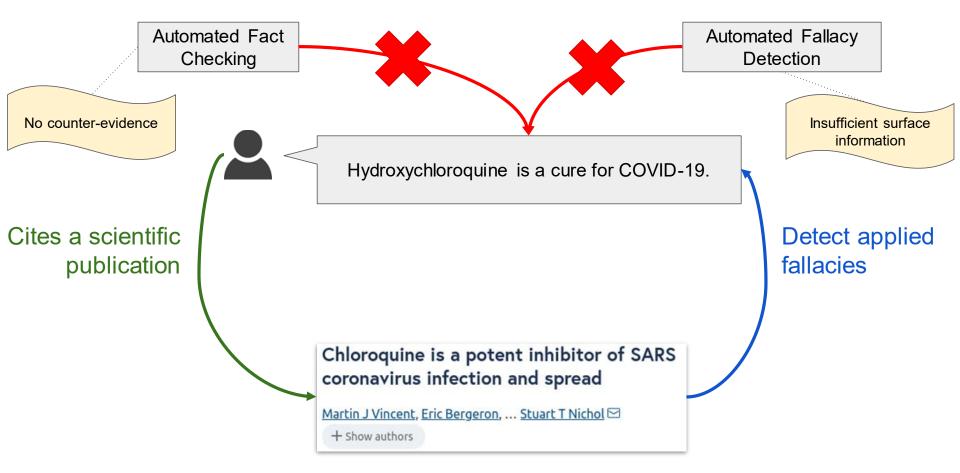
Dismantling the Misleading Narratives: Reconstructing the Fallacies in Misrepresented Science

Max Glockner, Yufang Hou, Preslav Nakov and Iryna Gurevych

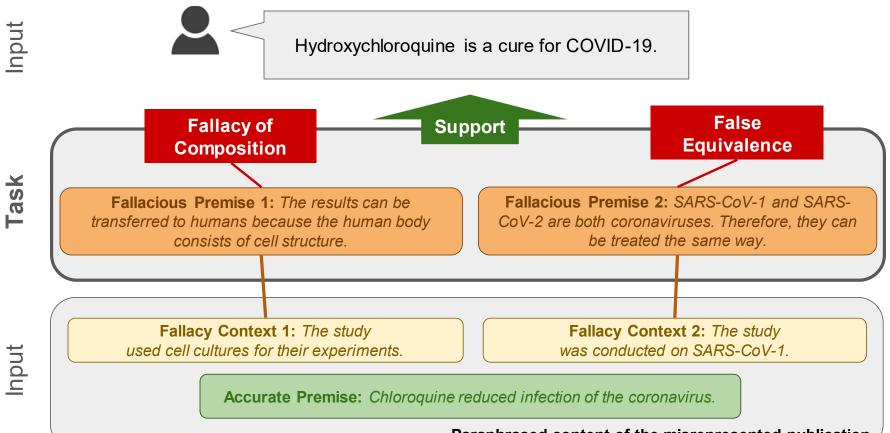


Accepted at ACL 2024

We need to assess a claim based on its sources

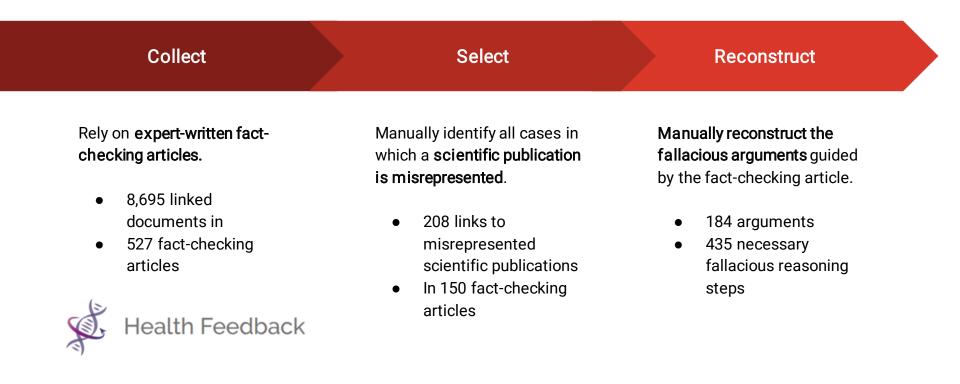


We propose to reconstruct the fallacious arguments



Paraphrased content of the misrepresented publication

We create Missci based on fact-checking articles



LLMs can predict the fallacy class over provided premises

Simplified Task: *Predict the applied fallacy class when the fallacious premise is provided.*

Explore prompts containing: *Definition, Logical Form, Example*

Example: Fallacy of Composition

Definition:

Inferring that something is true of the whole from the fact that it is true of some part of the whole.

Logical Form:

A is part of B. A has property X. Therefore, B has property X.

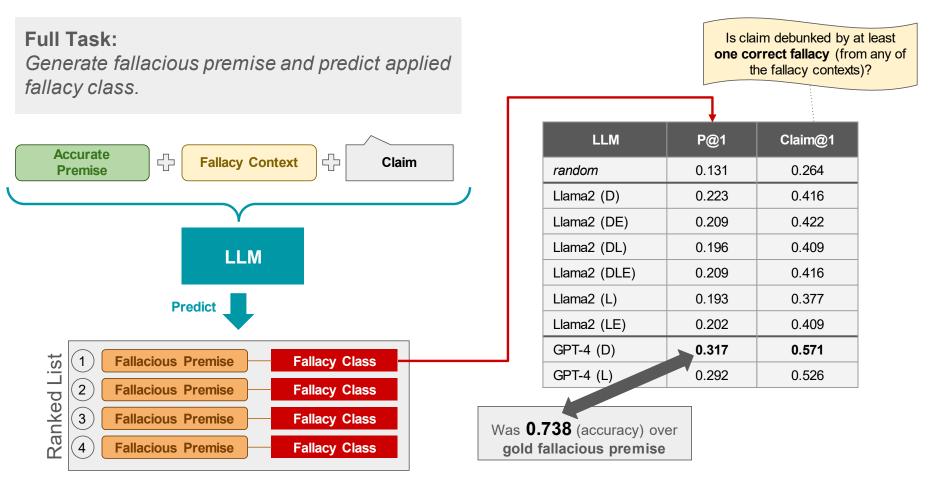
Example:

Hydrogen is not wet. Oxygen is not wet. Therefore, water (H2O) is not wet.

LLM	Prompt	Acc.	F1
LLaMA 2	-	0.493	0.406
	Def.	0.577	0.464
	Def. + Logical	0.630	0.476
	Def. + Example	0.637	0.476
	Def. + Logical + Example	0.568	0.459
	Logical	0.601	0.472
	Logical + Example	0.645	0.499
GPT 4	Def.	0.738	0.649
	Logical	0.744	0.624
	Logical + Example	0.771	0.682

Both evaluated LLMs perform decently.

LLMs perform poorly when they must generate premises



Automatic evaluation underestimates the performance

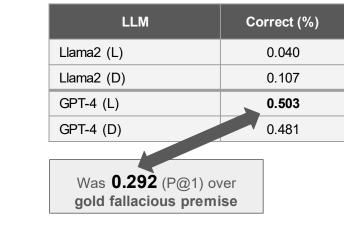
Human Evaluation. Correct if:

- 1. <u>Plausible Premise</u>: *Is the generated premise plausible in the context of the argument?*
- 2. <u>Correct Fallacy Class</u>: *Is the predicted fallacy class applied by the generated fallacious premise*?

Claim: To protect from COVID-19 we must back away from all climate change efforts.

Generated Premise: <u>Efforts to combat climate change</u> <u>will result in warmer average temperatures</u>, therefore decreasing the prevalence of COVID-19.

COVID-19 transmission correlates with cold temperatures



LLM may detect valid fallacies that annotators missed

Human evaluation is necessary

Conclusion



Novel formalism to combat real-world misinformation

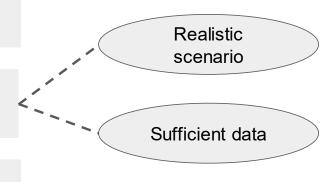


Novel benchmark to test critical reasoning abilities of LLMs

Both LLMs exhibit clear limitations in reconstructing fallacious arguments



More experiments, results and analysis in the paper!

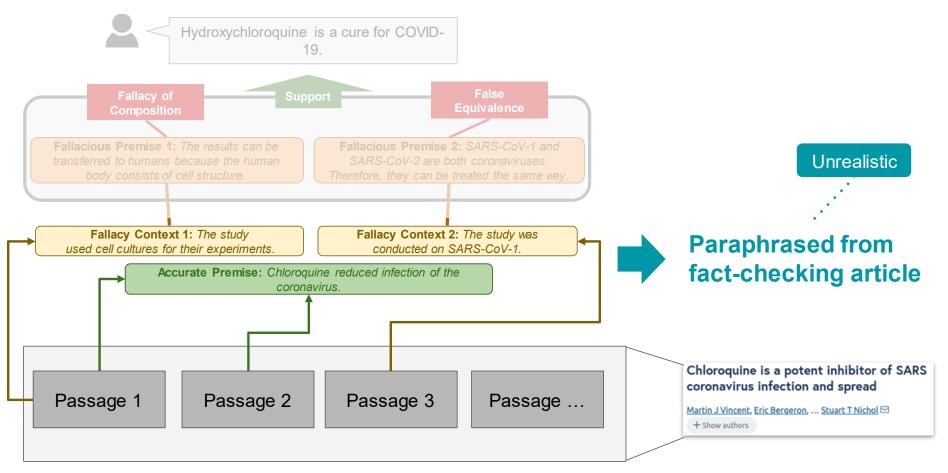


Towards Grounding Fallacies of Real-World Misinformation in Misrepresented Scientific Publications (*ongoing***)**

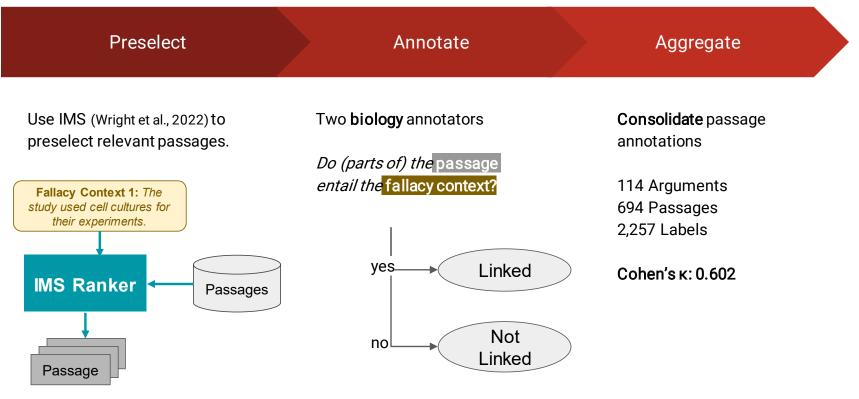
Max Glockner, Yufang Hou, Preslav Nakov and Iryna Gurevych



Missci does not consider real-world passages

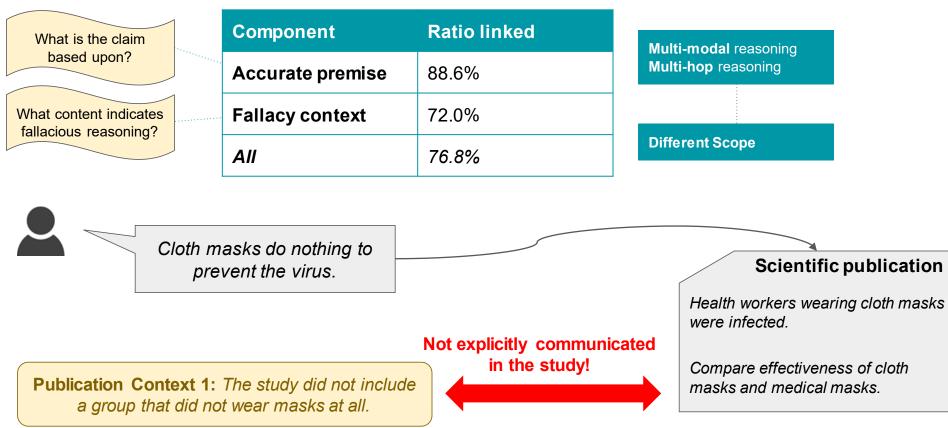


We link publication context to real-world passages

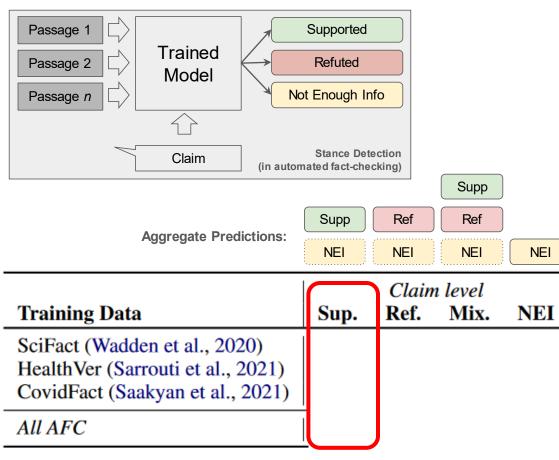


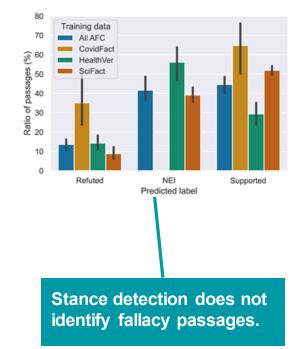
Ranked Passages

Not all fallacy contexts / accurate premises can be linked to a passage

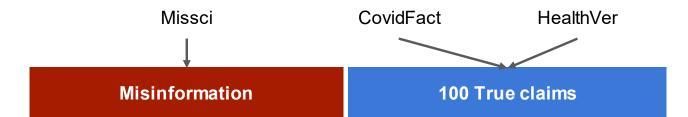


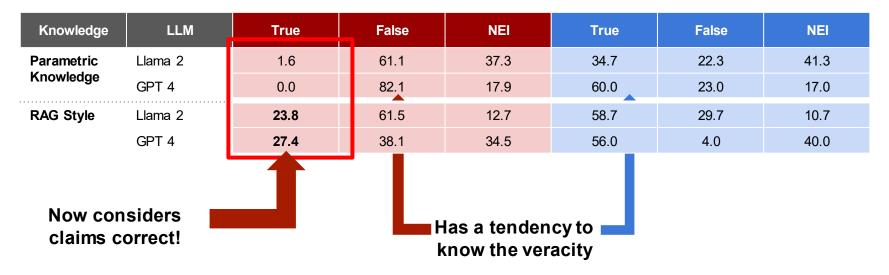
Stance detection cannot detect fallacious reasoning



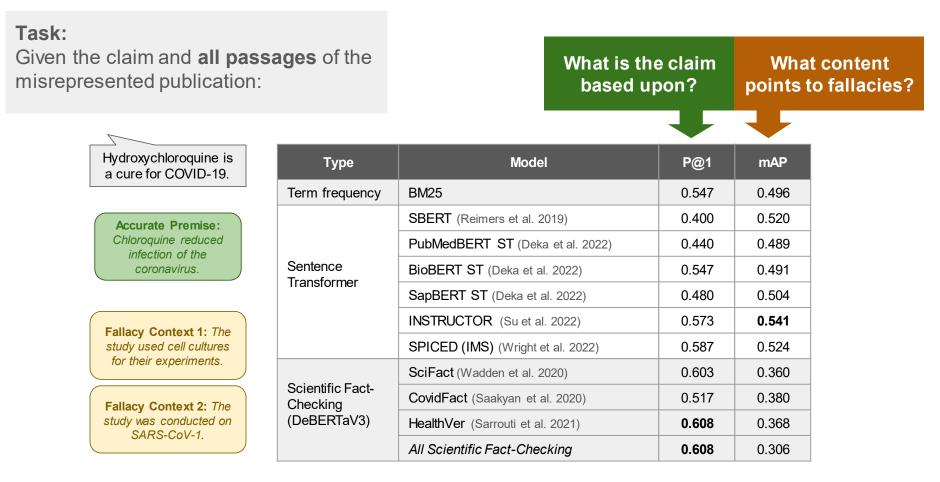


Evidence biases the LLM to believe the claim is true

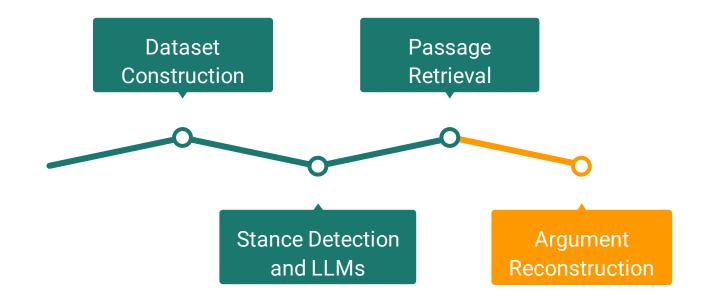




Locating the required passages is challenging



Next step will be argument reconstruction



Conclusion



Bridge the gap between automated factchecking and fallacy detection.



Novel benchmark to reconstruct fallacious arguments with **realistic evidence**.

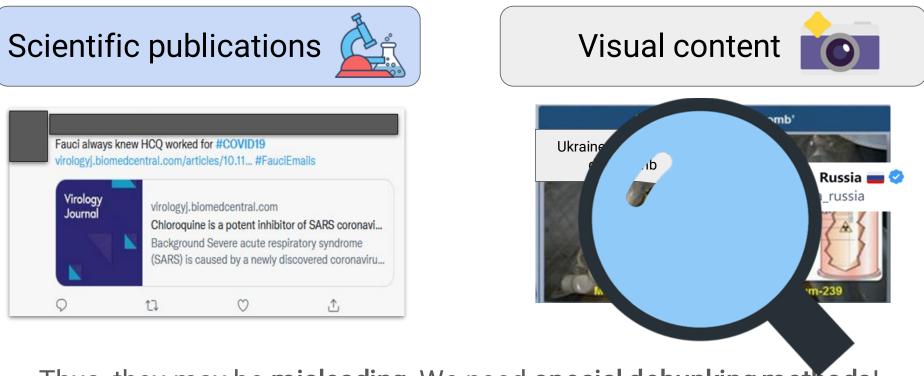


Evidence from the misrepresented publication biases the LLM to believe the claim is true.



Still ongoing work!

Certain content types increase perceived credibility



Thus, they may be misleading. We need special debunking methods!

Can we use Multimodal Large Language Models (MLLMs) to combat multimodal misinformation?

Jiahui Geng, Yova Kementchedjhieva, Preslav Nakov and Iryna Gurevych



This will become a QR code once we published preprint and repository

Can MLLMs fact-check real-world images?

- Misleading images are a real-world threat
- (M)LLMs store extensive information
- Outdated information & hallucinations

Multimodal Claim: photograph shows Barack Obama holding a t-shirt bearing the slogan "Michelle Obama 2020". Veracity: False





Prediction: False

Explanation: The image in question has been proven to be digitally manipulated. The original photograph shows Barack Obama holding a different shirt. The "Michelle Obama 2020" slogan has been superimposed onto the t-shirt in the image to create the impression of an endorsement or campaign which did not exist. Furthermore, there was never an official campaign for Michelle Obama running for President in the 2020 election. Confidence Level: 95%



GPT-4V

Prediction: True

Explanation: The image shows Barack Obama holding a t-shirt with the slogan "Michelle Obama 2020." This suggests that the t-shirt is promoting Michelle Obama's candidacy for the 2020 election. Confidence Level: 90%



Open-source MLLMs

We propose an evaluation framework consisting of datasets, prompts, and metrics

Sample data from existing datasets. Post-4V is new data from Snopes.

	Fauxtograph	y COSMOS	MOCHEG	Post-4V			
True False	200 200	240 240	267 237	81 105			
Total	400	480	504	186			

Table 1: Statistics of datasets in our evaluation.

Metrics

- Count of True / False / Uncertain / Others:
 - Uncertain: Model expresses uncertainty
 - Others: Model doesn't follow the prompt to give the prediction, explanation and confidence
- True&False Accuracy, Overall Accuracy
 - True&False: Statistics on samples predicted as True or False.
 - Overall: As long as the response includes a prediction and the prediction is correct.

Prompt:

Is it true that "CLAIM"? True or False? Use the following format to provide your answer: Prediction: [True or False] Explanation: [put your evidence and step-by-step reasoning here] Confidence Level: [please show the percentage]

Note: The confidence level indicates the degree of certainty you have about your answer and is represented as a percentage. For instance, if your confidence level is 80%, it means you are 80% certain that your answer is correct and there is a 20% chance that it may be incorrect.

Three main research questions

RQ1 Performance Evaluation:

Accuracy and quality of explanation/reasoning

RQ2 Enhanced Approaches:

How to improve the performance?

RQ3 Taxonomy of Failure Reasons:

Typical errors when employing MLLMs as fact-checkers

We evaluate models and two enhanced approaches Models:

```
GPT-4V, LLaVA-1.5 (7b and 13b), MiniGPT-v2 (7b)
```

Enhanced approaches (based on LLaVA(13b))

- Prompt Ensembles (PE)
 - Ask ChatGPT to generate 5 more prompts for fact-checking
 - Voting based on all 6 responses, if top 2 response types have same counts => uncertain
- In-Context Learning (ICL)
 - ICL-1, ICL-2
 - Four demonstration sets, then calculate the average.
 - We use the correct GPT-4V's responses, since fact-checking articles are lengthy and contain irrelevant content.

GPT-4 performs impressively

	Fauxtography					COSMOS					MOCHEG							Post-4V						
	Т	F	U	0	T&F	All	Т	F	U	0	T&F	All	T	F	U	0	T&F	All	T	F	U	0	T&F	All
GPT-4V	158	195	29	18	81.9	82.1	179	204	83	14	86.2	80.0	216	223	37	28	87.2	83.5	54	98	26	8	79.6	73.7
MiniGPT	-	-	-	-	-	55.5	-	-	-	-	-	62.1	-	-	-	-	-	54.3	-	-	-	-	-	55.9
LLaVA(7b)	337	6	1	56	53.4	46.3	449	7	4	20	52.0	50.0	409	6	0	89	54.2	44.8	157	1	3	25	42.0	37.1
LLaVA(13b)	286	98	3	13	54.4	52.3	331	134	13	2	69.7	67.7	363	112	28	1	61.5	58.1	116	65	2	3	56.3	55.9
LLaVA+PE	244	153	2	1	57.1	54.7	275	204	0	1	76.3	71.7	290	214	0	0	59.9	58.1	85	101	0	0	56.9	56.1
LLaVA+ICL-1	228	159	6	8	61.8	62.3	293	175	9	3	74.8	74.1	254	240	7	4	62.4	62.5	79	101	5	1	58.7	57.5
LLaVA+ICL-2	186	188	8	18	61.6	61.7	247	215	12	7	77.3	76.5	195	286	10	13	60.2	60.4	48	122	8	8	62.1	61.4
Majority	-	-	-	-	-	50.0	-	-	-		-	50.0	-	-	-	-	-	53.0	-	-	-	-	-	56.5

Table 2: Performance of various models and approaches. T: True, F: False, U: Uncertain, O: Others, T&F: True&False Accuracy, All: Overall Accuracy, PE: Prompt Ensembles, ICL: In-Context Learning. The majority-class accuracy is established in the last row.

- GPT-4V: surprising accuracy
- MiniGPT: cannot provide explanation and confidence
- LLaVA: ICL works better than PE, but still falls behind

Further findings

- ICL increases the explanation length
- ICL brings more "checked cases" and "manipulated cases"
- GPT-4V's verbalized confidence is well-calibrated, while LLaVA, even with ICL, is overconfident

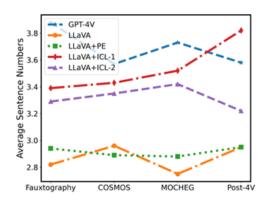
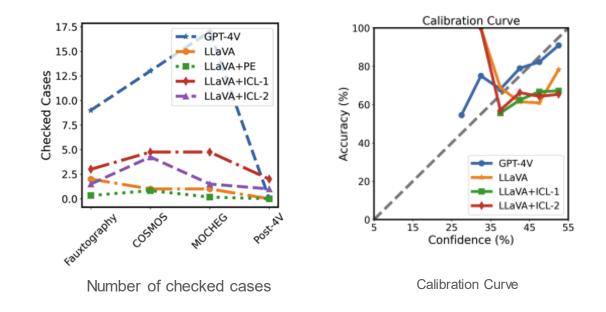


Figure 5: Average number of sentences in explanations across different models and settings. GPT-4V generates the longest explanations except on Post-4V. With one example, ICL-1 significantly increases the average explanation length.



Six typical failure reasons in GPT-4V's responses

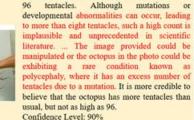
Lack of Knowledge. It's common knowledge that octopuses have eight tentacles, the rarity of an octopus with 96 tentacles may confound the model.

Claim: A photograph shows an octopus with 96 tentacles.

Prediction: False

Veracity: True

Explanation: Octopuses typically have eight tentacles, and it is extremely rare for one to have



Similar Images. The image depict a scene from the movie "Tropic Thunder," but the model mistakes it for the "Platoon." Both movies share the Vietnam War as background.

Claim: A photograph shows a group of underappreciated Vietnam veterans. Veracity: False



Prediction: False

Explanation: The photograph in question does not depict actual Vietnam veterans but rather actors fromthe1987 war film "Platoon." Key identifiers include the actors' recognizable faces, especially if one is familiar with the film. Additionally, the uniformity of their gear and the dramatized poses for the camera are more characteristic of a movie set than an authentic combat situation. These details suggest that the photo is staged and not an actual representation of Vietnam veterans in the field. Confidence Level: 95%

Blurry or Incomplete Image. The model cannot discern that the scene depicted is related to posture training based on the image's content...

Claim: A photograph shows a pin in the collar of a Chinese officer's uniform, a training method to correct posture. Veracity: True



Prediction: False

Explanation: ... One individual is in focus, and it appears that another person is adjusting or aligning the decorations on the uniform, not inserting a pin in the collar as a posture training method. Such adjustments are typical in military dress protocols, especially during ceremonies where correct placement of medals and badges is important. The photograph does not provide any evidence that the pin is being used as a posture training method. Confidence Level: 95%

Distortion due to Perspective and Lens. This example demonstrates that GPT-4V does not understand that a telephoto lens can make the foreground appear closer to the background than it actually is.

Claim: A photograph of a fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris shows the Eiffel Tower directly in the background. Veracity: True



Prediction: False

Explanation: The Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame Cathedral are both iconic landmarks in Paris, but they are not located immediately next to each other. ..., the Eiffel Tower is seen directly in the background of the burning Notre Dame, suggesting that they are much closer than they actually are in reality. ..., they would not appear as they do in this image with the Eiffel Tower seemingly directly behind Notre Dame. This suggests that the image may have been manipulated or taken from an angle that creates a misleading perspective. Confidence Level: 95%

Incomplete Verification. The model's prediction overlooks the fact that an MRI cannot capture chemical reactions.

Prediction: True

captures a mother's kiss producing a 'chemical reaction that released a burst of oxytocin' in her baby's brain. Veracity: True

image

Claim: An MR



Explanation: ... It is known that physical affection, such as a mother's kiss, can induce the release of oxytocin, commonly known as the "love hormone" or "cuddle hormone." which plays a role in social bonding, sexual reproduction, childbirth, and the period after childbirth, ... While an MRI itself doesn't directly capture chemical reactions or the release of hormones like oxytocin, it can show brain activity that might correlate with the effects of oxytocin release. Functional MRI (fMRI), in particular, can detect changes in blood ... Confidence Level: 75%

Ambiguous Claims. Playboy can refer to either the name of the publisher or the magazine.

Claim: Playboy published nude photographs of 10-year-old actress Brooke Shields. Veracity: True



Prediction: False

Explanation: ... In 1975, a series of photographs were taken of Brooke Shields by photographer Garry Gross, some of which depicted her nude. These photographs were controversial, and they were not taken for Playboy. The images were intended for an art exhibition and were subsequently published in a publication called "Sugar 'n' Spice" by Playboy Press, but they did not appear in the Playboy magazine itself. The issue of these photographs led to a legal battle, and Shields later tried to suppress them, ... Confidence Level: 90%

Conclusion



First evaluation of MLLMs for real-world factchecking, incl. accuracy, bias, failure reasons



GPT-4V is impressive and shows potential, providing evidence and explanations



In-context learning improves LLaVA, still a large room for improvement



Further results are in the paper!

This will become a QR code once we published preprint and repository

"Image: Tell me your story!" Predicting the original meta-context of visual misinformation

Jonathan Tonglet, Marie-Francine Moens and Iryna Gurevych



We need to identify the original context of images

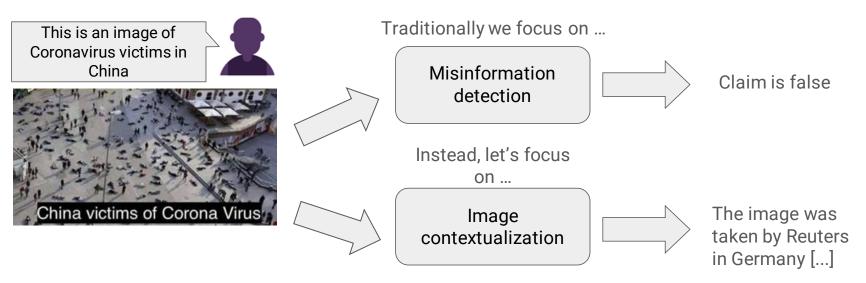


Image contextualization is an important component of human fact-checking

To detect checkworthy images To detect out-ofcontext images To write convincing debunking articles

To engage in prebunking communication

We contextualize images with the 5 Pillars framework

This is an image of Coronavirus victims in China



Let's find out the original context of this image!

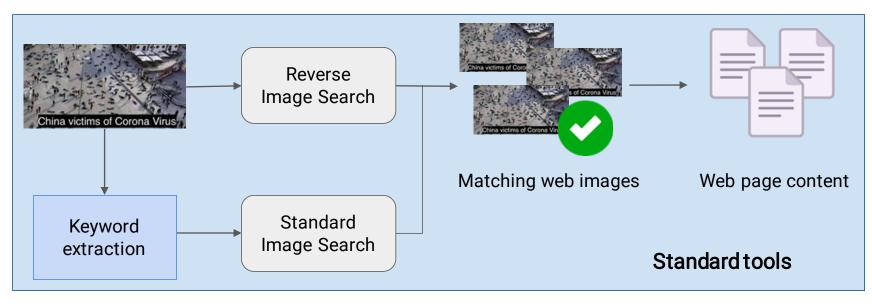


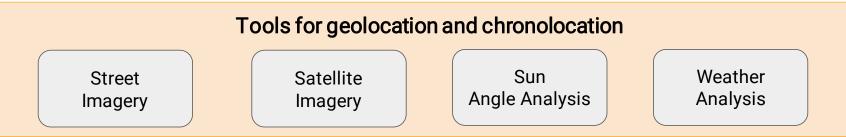


YES To report on Reuters an art project Frankfurt, March 24th, 2014 Germany

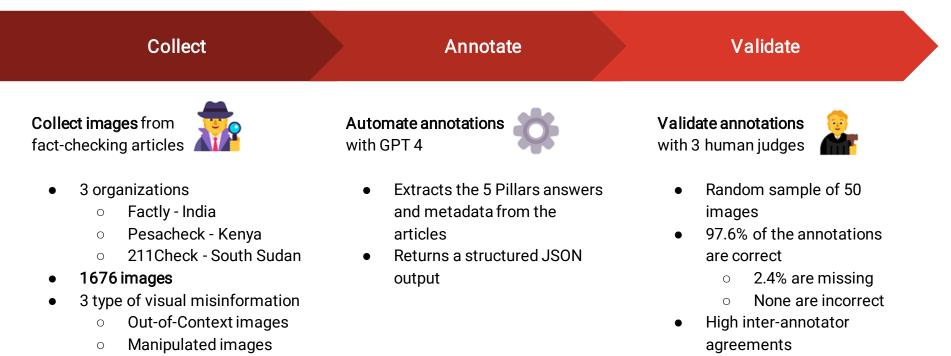
The 5 Pillars framework was introduced by FirstDraft in Urbani (2019).

Human fact-checkers use many tools





We create the real-world 5Pils dataset

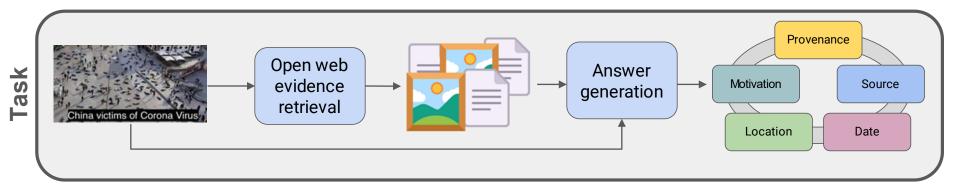


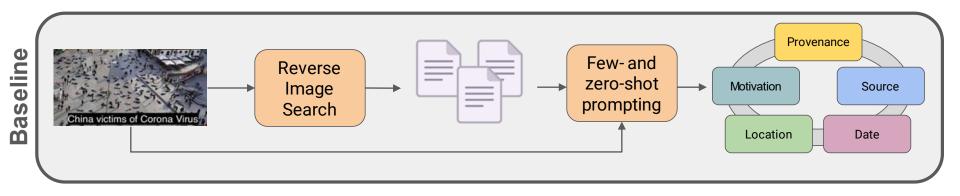
0.76 to 0.94

0

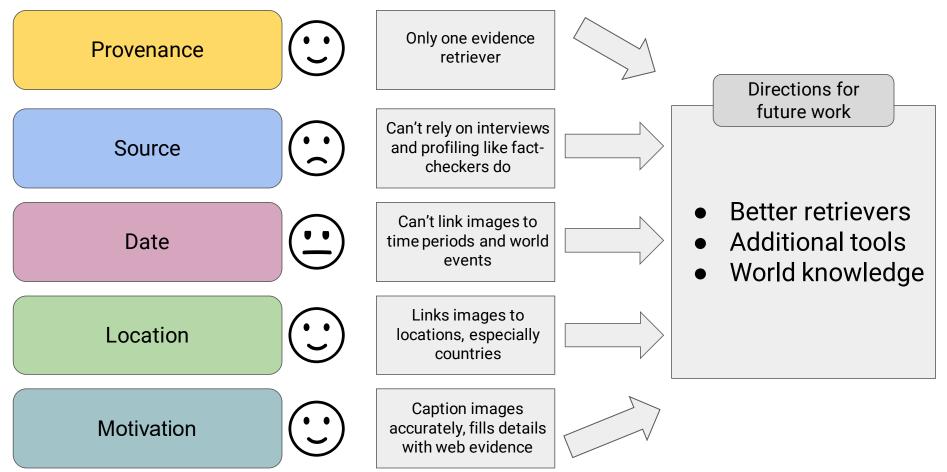
• Fake images

We propose to automate image contextualization





Baseline performs well but many challenges remain!



Conclusion



Novel task: automated image contextualization



Novel dataset based on real-world factchecking articles



Better evidence retrievers on the open web is the main challenge for future work



More experiments, results and analysis in the paper!

Certain content types increase perceived credibility



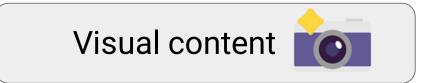
Thus, they may be **misleading**. We need **special debunking methods**!

Concluding remarks

Scientific publications



- LLMs have **limited critical reasoning abilities** when it comes to fallacious scientific arguments
- LLMs tend to consider false claims as correct when they are based on misrepresented scientific publications



- GPT4-Vision shows **promising performance** at detecting visual misinformation
- Open-source models are **lagging behind** in performance
- Image contextualization is an important but challenging task
- Many opportunities for research on **retrieval-augmented** and **tool-based LLMs**

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