OpenFactCheck: Building, Benchmarking Customized Fact-Checking Systems and Evaluating the Factuality of Claims and LLMs

Yuxia Wang¹ Minghan Wang² Hasan Iqbal¹ Georgi Georgiev³ Jiahui Geng¹ Iryna Gurevych¹ Preslav Nakov¹ ¹MBZUAI ²Monash University ³Sofia University {yuxia.wang, hasan.iqbal, preslav.nakov}@mbzuai.ac.ae

Abstract

The increased use of large language models (LLMs) across a variety of real-world applications calls for mechanisms to verify the factual accuracy of their outputs. Difficulties lie in assessing the factuality of free-form responses in open domains. Also, different papers use disparate evaluation benchmarks and measurements, which renders them hard to compare and hampers future progress. To mitigate these issues, we propose **OpenFactCheck**, a unified framework for building customized automatic fact-checking systems, benchmarking their accuracy, evaluating factuality of LLMs, and verifying claims in a document. OpenFactCheck consists of three modules: (i) CUSTCHECKER allows users to easily customize an automatic fact-checker and verify the factual correctness of documents and claims, (ii) LLMEVAL, a unified evaluation framework assesses LLM's factuality ability from various perspectives fairly, and (iii) CHECKEREVAL is an extensible solution for gauging the reliability of automatic fact-checkers' verification results using human-annotated datasets. Data and code are publicly available at https: //github.com/yuxiaw/openfactcheck.

1 Introduction

Large language models (LLMs) have demonstrated impressive capabilities in generating naturallysounding answers over a broad range of human inquiries. However, GPT-4 (OpenAI, 2023) and other text generation models still produce content that deviates from real-world facts (Bang et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2024b). This degrades the system performance and undermines its reliability, representing a significant bottleneck in the deployment (Chuang et al., 2024; Geng et al., 2024). We wonder about the percentage of factually incorrect content generated by LLMs and seek to identify the types of topics and scenarios in which LLMs are most prone to producing false claims. Many studies have explored evaluating and improving the factuality of LLMs (Lee et al., 2022; Chuang et al., 2024; Shi et al., 2024; Chen et al., 2023). Two challenges have been identified for evaluation: (1) it is difficult to assess the factuality of open-domain free-form responses, and (2) different papers use different evaluation datasets and measurements, rendering them hard to compare and hampering future progress (Wang et al., 2024b). To mitigate these issues, we introduce a fact-checking framework **OpenFactCheck**.

It includes three modules as shown in Figure 1. CUSTCHECKER allows users to customize an automatic fact-checking system and to verify freeform documents to alleviate the first problem. LLMEVAL is a unified LLM factuality evaluation module. It applies seven factuality-specific benchmarks to assess the LLM factuality ability from different aspects and then produces a report to illustrate the weakness and offer improvement advice. This tackles the second challenge. We further incorporate CHECKEREVAL that assesses the verification accuracy of automatic fact-checking systems, equipped with a leaderboard in terms of accuracy, latency, and costs, aiming to encourage the development of advanced automatic fact-checking systems.

The three modules are designed to mutually reinforce one another. The human-annotated verification results derived from LLMEVAL can be used as the benchmark for evaluating the accuracy of automated fact-checkers. Simultaneously, the most effective checker identified in CHECKEREVAL can be deployed for automated fact-checking tasks. Each fact-checker in CHECKEREVAL can be an implementation in CUSTCHECKER. Complex user inquiries may be considered as potential candidates included into the factuality assessment dataset utilized in LLMEVAL.

Users can tailor their checkers according to their specific needs, such as domain specialization, cost-effectiveness, or rapid processing, and



Figure 1: Overview of the OpenFactCheck framework with three modules. Green CUSTCHECKER: a customized fact-checker to identify factual errors given the outputs of LLMs. Orange LLMEVAL: a unified LLM factuality evaluator to assess the LLM factual ability from different aspects, and then to produce a report highlighting the domains and types of factual errors the model frequently makes, along with the improvement advice. Purple CHECKEREVAL: a fact-checker evaluator and leaderboard to encourage the development of advanced checkers in terms of performance, time and costs.

identify factual errors for both human-written text (a claim or document) and the outputs of LLMs. LLM researchers and practitioners can directly input their LLM responses to the LLMEVAL, where responses are answers based on our question set. Subsequently, we conduct evaluations to assess the model's factuality and to generate a report analyzing the model performance from multiple aspects, including snowballing hallucination, self-awareness of unknown knowledge, answering open-domain and latest-information questions. Similarly, developers who seek to evaluate and compare the efficacy of their fact-checking systems to other ones fairly can upload their checker's verification outcomes to CHECKEREVAL. Then, our system will show the ranking information in the leaderboard after evaluating under the same measurements.

To sum up, this work investigates three ques-

tions:

- how to effectively identify factual errors in a document (e.g., an LLM response);
- how to systematically evaluate the factuality ability of an LLM;
- which automatic fact-checker is the best, and which component dominates the final verification accuracy.

We initiate an open-source project and develop a preliminary implementation of the three modules, which is anticipated to serve as a stepping stone to facilitate future endeavors in this domain. We encourage extensive implementation of unique, effective, and robust claim processors, retrievers and verifiers within fact-checking pipelines, collections of challenging questions where LLMs are prone to making factual errors, and human-annotated verification examples. We believe that this will help to promote future research on LLM factuality.

2 Background

In this section, we first analyze existing automatic fact-checking systems, followed by a review of previous approaches to evaluating the factuality of LLMs and the accuracy of fact-checking systems.

2.1 Fact-checking Systems

Fact-checking is the task of assessing whether claims made in writing are false or true. Many recent papers have described automatic fact-checking systems used to evaluate the factuality of LLM responses, such as RARR (Gao et al., 2023), FactScore (Min et al., 2023), FacTool (Chern et al., 2023), CoVe (Dhuliawala et al., 2023), Factcheck-GPT (Wang et al., 2024a) and FIRE (Xie et al., 2024). Each checker has unique characteristics designed for specific domains or scenarios. RARR verifies a document as a whole and can generate an attribution report to explain factual errors. FactScore retrieves evidence from an offline Wikipedia dump mainly for the biography. FacTool is friendly to users with low latency, CoVe completely depends on the capability of LLMs. Factcheck-GPT has a fine-grained pipeline to localize intermediate errors, and FIRE is time- and cost-efficient. Unlike the above work, our aim is to enable the easy customization of a fact-checker according to users' requirements and application scenarios, e.g., offline settings with a limited budget, by simply clicking dropdowns to choose offline retrievers and verifiers supported by small models without calling APIs.

Despite different designs and implementations of various checkers, they generally consist of three modules: (1) claim processor, which extracts context-independent atomic claims from a document, (2) evidence retriever, which searches related passages from the Internet or database, and then ranks them by relevance, and (3) verifier, which determines the claim/document factuality based on the collected evidence (Guo et al., 2022; Li et al., 2024; Wang et al., 2024b). To this end, we first unify different fact-checking systems into a unified pipeline with the three modules. Then, we can select a developed module from various implementations or developers can implement one by themselves. In addition, the framework supports easy migration of existing fact-checking systems to our pipeline. However, the verification results of automatic fact-checkers are not necessarily accurate. How to evaluate and improve the accuracy of automated fact-checkers is critical, since the accuracy serves as a confidence and reliability signal for the verification results.

2.2 Evaluation of Fact-Checking Systems

How accurate are current fact-checking systems? Can they effectively serve as proxies for evaluating the factual accuracy of language models? Existing automatic fact-checking studies often first collect a set of human-annotated (LLM response, extracted claims, factuality of the claims) in Figure 3, and then quantify the effectiveness of their systems by comparing the final verification results (i.e., whether a claim or a document is factually true or false) to human-annotated labels (Min et al., 2023; Chern et al., 2023; Dhuliawala et al., 2023). Recent work on long-form factuality in LLMs also demonstrates a statistically significant correlation between the outputs by automatic fact-checkers and labels by human annotators (Wei et al., 2024). Thus, we merge four human-annotated LLM factuality datasets including FacTool-QA, FELM-WK, Factcheck-Bench, and HaluEval, and then compare them to the results of automatic fact-checkers to assess the performance of fact-checking systems.

2.3 LLM Factuality Evaluation

There are subtle differences between evaluating LLM's general performance and factuality. Question answering (QA) datasets over various domains are always used for general performance evaluation (Hendrycks et al., 2021). The focus is on judging whether the question is answered correctly. If the model's response contains the correct answer, it counts; otherwise, it is void even though the response presents all facts. While research on factuality primarily focuses on whether the response aligns with world knowledge, even if some statements were irrelevant to the question.

Therefore, instead of using datasets for general performance assessment, we selected seven datasets that are specifically collected for factuality evaluation. They were selected to cover as diverse potential factual errors as possible, including vulnerabilities of snowballing hallucinations, awareness of self-uncertainty, robustness to falsepremise questions, fresh questions with answers changing fast over time, and free-form responses spanning distinct domains, topics, and tasks.

Summary Observations above motivate us to integrate these three components into one framework to facilitate (i) users to flexibly configurate an auto-

matic fact-checking system to verify the factuality of claims and documents, (ii) LLM developers to evaluate LLM's factuality under the same measurement scale, and (iii) researchers to assess the factcheckers reliability under fine-grained annotated benchmarks.

3 OpenFactCheck

OpenFactCheck's design emphasizes two principles: (i) customizability and extensibility for both users and developers, and (ii) compatibility with existing methods and datasets. It consists of three modules: CUSTCHECKER, LLMEVAL, and CHECKEREVAL. Below, we present the detailed design and implementation of each component.

3.1 CUSTCHECKER

CUSTCHECKER allows users to customize a factchecking system by selecting a claim processor, a retriever, and a verifier. Current version supports the following fact-checking systems: *RARR*, *Fac-Tool* and *Factcheck-GPT* (Gao et al., 2023; Chern et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2024a). Users can input either human-written text or outputs of LLMs, and then the fact-checker defined above will process and detect factual errors, showing the verification results including evidence, judgment, and explanations (see Figure 8).

Configurable Pipeline We unify diverse factchecking systems as a procedure with three steps, abstracted into three classes: a claim_processor, a retriever, and a verifier. The instances of the three classes are sequentially linked into a pipeline, solving the following tasks: (i) decomposing a document into atomic claims, (ii) collecting relevant evidence passages given a claim, and (iii) making a true/false judgment given both the claim and the evidence as input. We refer to them as task solvers. The implementation of a task solver can be flexible, just ensuring that the input and the output are aligned with the abstract class definitions. For example, evidence can be retrieved by calling SerperAPI or by searching Wikipedia using BM25, but we must return a list of relevant passages given an input claim.

Moreover, task solvers in our pipeline are not hardcoded, but can be configured through a *yaml* configuration file. Thus, users can combine task-solver implementations from different systems (e.g., using *Factcheck-GPT*'s claim processor, *RARR*'s retriever, and *FacTool*'s verifier) and start the verification from any step. For example, users can start from the step of retrieval when the input does not need decomposition.

This functionality is achieved by a messagepassing mechanism, where a success flag is used to indicate whether the current task solver successfully executes and returns the expected output. The success flag passes through the configured solver order of the pipeline, guaranteeing that the output of the preceding solver fits the input for the current solver, otherwise error warning will be issued. Practically, the input and the output parameter names for the task solvers are defined in the configuration file. To link different solvers into a pipeline, one only needs to ensure that the current solver output name matches the input name of the succeeding solver. A dictionary format *fact-checking-state* is kept throughout the pipeline to store all information in the verification.

Extendable Architecture Inspired by Fairseq, our framework is designed to be highly extendable by treating any third-party task solvers as plugins (Ott et al., 2019). As long as the developed task solvers adhere to our class interface definitions, they can be imported and used in our framework.

To sum, customizable and extendable nature of CUSTCHECKER allows general users to utilize it as an application with web-based user interfaces. Advanced developers have the flexibility to use it as a library, developing and integrating their solvers.

3.2 LLMEVAL

We observed that studies assessing language models' factuality or evaluating whether the methods are effective to mitigate model hallucinations use different datasets and metrics. This makes it difficult to compare, in the same conditions, the factuality of different models as well as to compare the effectiveness of different factuality enhancement approaches. Moreover, a lot of prior work applied datasets such as MMLU (Hendrycks et al., 2021), StrategyQA (Geva et al., 2021) and HotpotQA (Yang and et al., 2018) to evaluate model's factuality. These datasets tend to focus on assessing the general performance, rather than factuality. To this end, we first collect a dataset FactQA by gathering a large number of factual questions that probe diverse factual errors and span across a spectrum of domains, to fairly evaluate LLMs' factuality under the same criteria.

Dataset↓	The Ability to Evaluate	Domain	Error	Size
Snowball	Snowballing hallucination when model immediately output	Math, history, graph search	Type 2	1,500
SelfAware	Understand their own limitations on the unknowns	Biology, philosophy, psychology, history	Type 1,3	3,369
FreshQA	Answer questions changing fast over time or with false premises	Sports, entertainment, history, technology	Type 3	600
FacTool-QA	Respond knowledge-based questions	History, geography, biology, science	Type 1	50
FELM-WK	Answer world-knowledge questions	History, biology, geography, sports	Type 1	184
Factcheck-Bench	Answer open-domain, false-premise questions	Technology, history, science, sports	Type 1,2	94
FactScore-Bio	Generate detailed biographies	Biography	Type 1,3	683
Total	LLM factuality against world knowledge	482 domains, top20 accounts for 70%	Type 1,2,3	6,480

Table 1: FactQA: factual vulnerability, domain, potential error type and size across seven component datasets.

Factual Question Collection We collect a set of questions by gathering questions from seven existing corpora that is collected deliberately to assess LLM's factuality, including Snowball (Zhang et al., 2024), SelfAware (Yin et al., 2023), FreshQA (Vu et al., 2024), FacTool-QA (Chern et al., 2023), FELM-WK (Chen et al., 2023), Factcheck-Bench (Wang et al., 2024a) and FactScore-Bio, a total of 6,480 examples shown in Table 1, referring to FactQA (see dataset details in Appendix A.1).

To concretely analyze models' vulnerability, we identify three labels for each question from the perspective of the knowledge domain, the topic, and the potential error type if a LLM generates a factually incorrect response. So each example includes the following fields: *question, domain, topic, abil-ity to test, task* and *source*. Domain and topic are identified using GPT-4 based on the (question, reference response).¹ Domains involve general, legal, biomedical, clinical, scientific and so on. Given a domain, we further fine-grained topics. Three common error types are presented.

Type1: Knowledge error is the most common error, occurring when the model produces hallucinated or inaccurate information due to lacking relevant knowledge or internalizing false knowledge in the pre-training stage or in the problematic alignment process. However, LLMs do not know what they do not know, sometimes overestimate their capacities and confidently output unknown information, leading to false responses. Mitigating such errors require: (a) learning and correcting parametric knowledge through the curation of corpora used in pre-training, supervised fine-tuning (SFT) and alignment, (b) augmenting by external knowledge in inference, (c) calibrating models to be aware of unknowns, and (d) configuring the decoding strategies (sample/beam-search, temperature), balancing

diversity and accuracy (Zhang et al., 2023).

Type2: Over-commitment error occurs when the model fails to recognize the falsehoods (or jokes) inherent in the prompt or previously-generated context, and provides an inaccurate or inappropriate response. The left-to-right generation strategy used by LLMs poses potential risks that LLMs sometimes over-commit to the false premise in the context, even when they recognize they are incorrect (Zhang et al., 2023). To address this issue, engineering better prompts is helpful, such as explicitly instructing models to first detect false premises in the prompt (Vu et al., 2024) and asking the same question in a different way (*Is 10733 a prime number?* \rightarrow *What are the factors of 10733? Let's think step-by-step.*)

Type3: Disability error happens when the model is unable to search up-to-date information to correctly answer questions whose answers change over time, e.g., *What is today's gas price in New York* (fast-changing). Retrieving external knowledge and augmenting it in the context would help.

Note that we do not consider *reasoning errors* that arise when a claim employs flawed reasoning or faulty logic, and *irrelevant error* concerning that the content is unrelated to the question (Chen et al., 2023). The former highlights LLM's reasoning ability, which is more reflected in math and reasoning tasks, and the latter has more to do with response's helpfulness or human preference. They are important in LLM evaluation, and may implicitly influence factuality, but we will first focus on explicit causes, leaving the implicit for future work.

Evaluation Measurement For questions that can be answered by Yes/No or have a short gold answer, we perform exact matching between the model responses and the gold standard answer to judge whether the response is factually correct or not, and then to calculate accuracy, such as for Snowball and SelfAware. For FreshQA, we use the *FreshEval* proposed in Vu et al. (2024) to evaluate the

¹We used GPT-4 response as a reference response for a question as it is more likely to provide a relevant and correct answer, assisting the identification of domains and topics.

Dataset ↓	#True	#False	#Unknown	Total
FacTool-QA	177	56	0	233
FELM-WK	385	147	0	532
Factcheck-Bench	472	159	47	678
HaluEval	3,692	815	0	4,507

Table 2: The number of true, false claims and unknown (no-enough-evidence or opinions) for FacTool-QA, FELM-WK and Factcheck-Bench, the number of responses for HaluEval (no claim-level labels).

correctness of model's responses, in which fewshot in-context learning based on GPT-4 is applied. We use the strict evaluation criterion which considers an answer to be correct only if all the claims in the response are factually true and also up-to-date.

For open-domain questions from the other four datasets with free-form and long responses, there are no gold standard answers. We use automatic fact-checking systems augmented with retrieved world-knowledge evidence to judge the correctness at the claim-level as well as the document level.

3.3 CHECKEREVAL

Automatic fact-checking systems aim to identify whether a claim or a document is factually correct or not with/without references, but the results are not necessarily correct. To assess the accuracy of automatic fact-checkers, we gather four LLM factuality benchmarks with human-annotated factual labels for three levels of granularity text: claims/segments/documents given (question, LLM response) pairs, including FacTool-QA, FELM-WK, Factcheck-Bench and HaluEval as shown in Table 2, see examples in Figures 3 and 4. We refer to them as FactBench. We highlight that FactQA is a question set without answers and human-annotated claims, while FactBench is a benchmark with annotations. We use precision, recall, and F1-score with respect to the True or False claim/document to evaluate the effectiveness of fact-checking systems.

This method regards the system as a whole, only assessing the final verification results, i.e., whether a claim or a document is true or false. The evaluation of intermediate results throughout the factchecking pipelines will be incorporated in future updates, to localize which step eventually results in the erroneous factual judgment for claims.

4 **Experiments**

We first evaluate the factuality of three LLMs, and then we assess the accuracy of different automatic

Dataset \downarrow	LLaMA-2 7B	LLaMA-2 13B	GPT-4
FacTool-QA	127.3	129.5	39.5
FELM-WK	131.0	125.5	62.8
Factcheck-Bench	152.7	143.9	117.3
FactQA	132.1	121.9	82.2

Table 3: Word-level length for responses of LLaMA-2 7B, 13B and GPT-4 over the datasets: FacTool-QA, FELM-WK, Factcheck-Bench and FactQA.

fact-checking systems in multiple settings.

4.1 LLaMA-2 and GPT-4 Evaluation

Based on questions/instructions in FactQA, we collected responses from LLaMA-2 (7B, 13B) and GPT-4. Default decoding parameter of openai.chat.completions.create() was used for GPT-4. Decoding parameters of LLaMA-2 7B and 13B were taken from the default generation configurations provided in the huggingface transformers library, where we set the max_token as 512 to avoid the out of memory issue. As shown in Table 3, the responses of GPT-4 tend to be shorter than that of LLaMA-2.

Results and Analysis On the Snowball dataset, we observe high error rates: >80% for LLaMA-2 and 65.5% for GPT-4, similar to the results on GPT-3.5-Turbo presented by Zhang et al. (2024). However, when justifying previously generated content, GPT-4 can identify 87% of its own mistakes. Therefore, in these cases, errors are mostly attributed to the over-committing to the previously generated false context, rather than to large knowledge gaps in LLMs. An LLM over-commits to early mistakes, leading to more mistakes that it otherwise would not have made. Its prevalence in generative models leads to factual errors for simple facts.

SelfAware aims to evaluate LLMs' ability to understand their own limitations and unknowns, identifying unanswerable or unknowable questions. Higher precision than recall is achieved across three models with regard to unanswerable questions. This reveals that many truly unanswerable questions are incorrectly recognized as answerable, implying that models are always not aware of what they do not know. Poor performance on questions with rapidly changing answers (FreshQA) illustrates the inherent challenge of retrieving up-todate information for LLMs.

We used *FacTool* equipped with Serper and GPT-3.5-Turbo to automatically evaluate the fac-

$Dataset \rightarrow$		5	Snowball			Self		FreshQA		
$Model\downarrow$	Primality	Senator	GraphConnection	Full-set	Precision	Recall	Accuracy	F1-score	Accuracy	Perc_valid
LLaMA-27B	5.6%	20.4%	17.4%	14.5%	69.7%	30.3%	74.6%	42.0%	28.3%	93.2%
LLaMA-2 13B	0.0%	9.4%	32.4%	19.5%	64.9%	30.1%	73.6%	41.2%	29.7%	95.5%
GPT-4	0.2%	49.0%	71.0%	34.5%	71.7%	21.6%	73.4%	33.2%	39.5%	98.3%

Table 4: LLM factuality evaluation accuracy for Snowball: for each of its three topics as well as on average. Shown are SelfAware precision, recall, and F1-score when the positive label=*unanswerable*, and FreshQA accuracy, as well as percentage of valid assessments.



Figure 2: Automatic evaluation results for LLaMA-2 7B, 13B and GPT-4 responses on datasets of FacTool-QA, FELM-WK, and Factcheck-Bench using *FacTool. left:* the percentage of true claims, *center:* the number of false claims, and *right:* the cost of using *FacTool* in USD.

tuality of free-form responses over prompts in FacTool-QA, FELM-WK, and Factcheck-Bench. The results are shown in Figure 2, where we can make several interesting observations:

- The percentage of true claims is in the range of 89%-94%, revealing that the vast majority of claims are verified as true.
- The questions in FacTool-QA are relatively more challenging for the three LLMs to answer correctly than for the other two datasets, leading to a relatively lower percentage of true claims. The apparent lower number of false claims in FacTool-QA stems from its smaller dataset size, where 50 is less than 94 and 184.
- GPT-4 has the best factuality performance with a smaller number of false claims and higher percentage of true claims, followed by LLaMA-2 13B and then 7B;
- The cost for automatic evaluation mainly depends on the number of atomic claims and the price of the backend models used in *Fac*-*Tool*. It spends \$0.02 for an atomic claim on average.

Summary snowballing hallucination, overcommitment to false premise, difficulty in identifying unknown knowledge and answering with up-to-date information are still challenging issues for LLMs. For general open-domain questions, on average less than 10% of the claims are factually incorrect in LLM responses. This somehow implies that models may poorly understand instructions and their knowledge scope, but they can correctly generate majority of content. This is aligned with the recent finding that what an LLM can generate, it may not understand (West et al., 2024). Additionally, it is costly to evaluate open-domain answers even if based on automatic fact-checkers, \sim \$30 for 100 responses based on the cheapest GPT-3.5-Turbo.

4.2 Evaluating Fact-Checking Systems

We investigate automatic fact-checking systems in three aspects: accuracy, latency, and costs. Based on annotated factual labels for claims from three benchmarks of Factcheck-Bench, FacTool-QA, and FELM-WK, we evaluate the verification performance in multiple settings across different factchecking frameworks, evidence sources, and verifiers.

Pipeline and core component modules of different fact-checking frameworks are basically similar, including obtaining atomic claims, collecting evidence and verifying correctness; all thus, while the implementations are different. For example, in terms of how to extract atomic claims, *RARR* does not include this step. *FactScore* first breaks down a document into paragraphs, and then ap-

		Source/			Factcheck-Bench			FacTool-QA				FELM-WK								
Framework	Verifier	Retriever	L	abel = Tru	ie	L	abel = Fal	se	L	abel = Tru	ie	L	abel = Fal	se	I	abel = Tru	ie	L	abel = Fal	lse
			Prec	Recall	F1	Prec	Recall	F1	Prec	Recall	F1	Prec	Recall	F1	Prec	Recall	F1	Prec	Recall	F1
Random	-	-	0.79	0.43	0.56	0.18	0.52	0.27	0.79	0.56	0.66	0.28	0.54	0.37	0.71	0.52	0.60	0.26	0.43	0.32
Always True	-	-	0.81	1.00	0.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.76	1.00	0.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.72	1.00	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00
Always False	-	-	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	1.00	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.24	1.00	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	1.00	0.43
FactScore	LLaMA 3-Inst 8B	Wiki/BM25	0.87	0.74	0.80	0.34	0.56	0.42	0.82	0.68	0.74	0.34	0.52	0.41	0.76	0.66	0.71	0.34	0.46	0.39
FacTool	LLaMA 3-Inst 8B	Web/Serper	0.88	0.80	0.84	0.40	0.56	0.47	0.93	0.38	0.54	0.32	0.91	0.47	0.79	0.31	0.44	0.30	0.79	0.44
FactScore	GPT-3.5-Turbo	Wiki/BM25	0.87	0.67	0.76	0.31	0.60	0.41	0.82	0.58	0.68	0.31	0.59	0.40	0.77	0.71	0.74	0.36	0.43	0.39
FacTool	GPT-3.5-Turbo	Web/Serper	0.89	0.74	0.81	0.37	0.62	0.46	0.92	0.59	0.72	0.39	0.84	0.53	0.78	0.62	0.69	0.35	0.54	0.43
Factcheck-GPT	GPT-4	Web/SerpAPI	0.90	0.71	0.79	0.52	0.80	0.63	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.81	0.87	0.84	0.55	0.44	0.49
Perplexity.ai	Sonar-online	Web	0.93	0.73	0.83	0.40	0.76	0.53	0.82	0.88	0.85	0.50	0.38	0.43	0.76	0.82	0.79	0.40	0.31	0.35

Table 5: **Verification results** for human-annotated claims in Factcheck-Bench, FacTool-QA, and FELM-WK, judging whether or not a claim is factually true or false with external knowledge (Wikipedia or Web articles) as evidence. The implementation of *Factcheck-GPT* usedlangchain AutoGPT. GPT-4 refers to *gpt-4-turbo-2024-04-09*.

Fact-Checker ↓	Web search (\$)	LLM (\$)	Time (hrs)
FacTool	2.5 (Serper)	12.2 (GPT-3.5)	0.49
FacTool Factcheck-Bench	13.3 (SerpAPI)	26.6 (GPT-4)	7.67

Table 6: Time and USD cost for evaluating the 765 claims in FacTool-QA and FELM-WK.

plies NLTK (Bird and Loper, 2004) to split paragraphs into sentences, and then prompts LLMs to decompose to atomic claims (GPT3 was used in the original paper). However, this implementation neglects the decontextualization in the paragraph and in the sentence decomposition, making claims non-independent (e.g., *He is a university professor and the CEO of a tech startup company*). To mitigate, *FacTool* directly extracts claims based on the document, and *Factcheck-GPT* decontextualizes both sentences and claims based on the document.

Experimental Setup To ensure that all factchecking systems verify the same sets of annotated claims, we skip the step of extracting atomic claims from the documents. All systems get a claim as an input, and they are expected to output whether or not the claim is true.

Recent fact-checking frameworks such as *FactScore*, *FacTool*, *Factcheck-GPT* and commercial retrieval-augmented generative models such as Perplexity.ai are evaluated, with evidence retrieved from Wikipedia articles or web pages, as well as with various LLM-based verifiers that judge the factuality of a claim based on their internal knowledge and retrieved evidence as a reference.

Results and Analysis In Table 5, we observe that automatic fact-checking systems struggle to detect false claims. Across the three datasets we experiment with, it is consistently more arduous for systems to differentiate false claims compared to identifying true ones. This challenge may arise from the tendency of returning invalid evidence for false claims.

Retrieving evidence from the web using Serper (Google search engine results) is more effective than sourcing related passages from Wikipedia articles using BM25, given that a wider array of effective evidence is accessible on open web pages for open-domain questions. The verification accuracy of an LLM-based verifier primarily relies on the capabilities of the LLM and the effectiveness of the prompts used. For instance, the overall performance of GPT-4 surpasses that of both LLaMA-3-8B and GPT-3.5-Turbo, and thus the verification results of Factcheck-GPT outperform those of FacTool, FactScore and Perplexity.ai, despite all of them utilizing evidence sourced from the web. While Factcheck-GPT exhibits superior effectiveness, it is associated with considerable latency and substantial costs (see Table 6).

Latency and cost are largely contingent upon the implementation strategy. For instance, *Fac-Tool* adopts asynchronous processing and leverages Serper (\$0.001 per search) in conjunction with GPT-3.5-Turbo, rendering it faster and more economical compared to *Factcheck-GPT*. Notably, *Factcheck-GPT* uses SerpAPI (\$0.015 per search) alongside GPT-4, where the cost of the most affordable GPT-4 model is 20 times that of GPT-3.5-Turbo (see Figure 8).

In summary, the efficacy of automated factchecking systems is fundamentally dependent on implementation factors such as choice of search tool, prompts, and backend LLMs. This is primarily driven by engineering considerations.

5 Conclusion and Future Work

We proposed OpenFactCheck, a unified, easy-touse and extensible framework. It supports the customization and evaluation of automatic factchecking systems and LLM factuality evaluation. Specifically, OpenFactCheck allows general users to check whether a claim and a document are factual or not, and also facilitate LLM practitioners and developers to effectively and efficiently evaluate the factuality of their LLMs from various perspectives, and to assess the accuracy of automatic fact-checking systems.

Our extensive experiments indicate that more than 90% of the claims generated by LLMs in response to open-domain questions are factually correct. Nevertheless, models encounter challenges when addressing some straightforward questions such as Is 7411 a prime number? This difficulty can be attributed to the fact that LLMs demonstrate weaker comprehension abilities relative to their generation capabilities. Additionally, prevalent fact-checking systems struggle to identify false claims, with the retrieval of pertinent evidence posing a significant bottleneck. The latency and the cost associated with these systems primarily hinge on implementation strategies. In the future, we will continue to integrate new techniques, features, and evaluation benchmarks to OpenFactCheck to facilitate the research progress of LLM fact-checking.

Acknowledgements

We thank Zain Muhammad Mujahid and Osama Mohammed Afzal from MBZUAI for the many fruitful discussions, which have helped us improve this work.

Limitations

While OpenFactCheck presents a comprehensive framework for factuality evaluation of LLMs, several limitations must be acknowledged:

Evaluation Datasets The effectiveness of OpenFactCheck is dependent on the quality and diversity of the datasets used for evaluation. While we have integrated multiple datasets to cover a broad spectrum of domains and potential factual errors, the evaluation is still limited by the inherent biases and coverage gaps in these datasets. For instance, some specialized domains may not be adequately represented, potentially affecting the robustness of the evaluation for LLMs in those areas.

Moreover, we only evaluated factuality of GPT-4 and LLaMA-2 (7B, 13B) responses to demonstrate the framework's capabilities, while the OpenFactCheck system is designed to be extensible. Future work will incorporate the new SOTA LLMs and diverse datasets to broaden the evaluation. The current evaluation provides a proof-ofconcept, and we welcome collaborations to expand this further.

Latency and Costs The performance of automatic fact-checking systems integrated within OpenFactCheck can vary significantly in terms of latency and operational costs. High accuracy often comes at the expense of increased computational resources and processing time, which may not be feasible for all users, particularly those with limited budgets or time constraints.

Reliance on External Knowledge Sources The fact-checking modules depend heavily on external knowledge sources, such as Wikipedia and web search engines. The availability and reliability of these sources can affect the accuracy and completeness of the fact-checking process. Furthermore, the dynamic nature of web content means that the information retrieved may not always be up-to-date.

Ethical Statement

The development and deployment of OpenFactCheck are guided by a commitment to ethical principles, ensuring that the framework is used responsibly and for the benefit of society:

Transparency and Accountability We strive to maintain transparency in the design, implementation, and evaluation of OpenFactCheck. The source code and datasets are publicly available, enabling scrutiny and fostering trust within the research community. We encourage users to report any issues or biases they encourage users to report innuous improvement.

Bias Mitigation Recognizing that biases can exist in both datasets and LLMs, we are dedicated to minimizing such biases in OpenFactCheck. By integrating diverse evaluation benchmarks and encouraging the development of fair fact-checking approaches, we aim to reduce the impact of biases on factuality evaluation outcomes.

Social Impact By enhancing the factual accuracy of LLMs, OpenFactCheck aims to contribute positively to society. Accurate information is crucial for informed decision-making and public discourse. We believe that improving the reliability of LLM outputs can help combat misinformation and support the dissemination of truthful information.

References

- Yejin Bang, Samuel Cahyawijaya, Nayeon Lee, Wenliang Dai, Dan Su, Bryan Wilie, Holy Lovenia, Ziwei Ji, Tiezheng Yu, Willy Chung, Quyet V. Do, Yan Xu, and Pascale Fung. 2023. A multitask, multilingual, multimodal evaluation of ChatGPT on reasoning, hallucination, and interactivity. In Proceedings of the 13th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing and the 3rd Conference of the Asia-Pacific Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers), pages 675–718, Nusa Dua, Bali. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Steven Bird and Edward Loper. 2004. NLTK: The natural language toolkit. In *Proceedings of the ACL Interactive Poster and Demonstration Sessions*, pages 214–217, Barcelona, Spain. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Shiqi Chen, Yiran Zhao, Jinghan Zhang, I-Chun Chern, Siyang Gao, Pengfei Liu, and Junxian He. 2023. FELM: benchmarking factuality evaluation of large language models. In Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 36: Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems 2023, NeurIPS 2023, New Orleans, LA, USA, December 10 - 16, 2023.
- I-Chun Chern, Steffi Chern, Shiqi Chen, Weizhe Yuan, Kehua Feng, Chunting Zhou, Junxian He, Graham Neubig, and Pengfei Liu. 2023. Factool: Factuality detection in generative AI - A tool augmented framework for multi-task and multi-domain scenarios. *CoRR*, abs/2307.13528.
- Yung-Sung Chuang, Yujia Xie, Hongyin Luo, Yoon Kim, James R. Glass, and Pengcheng He. 2024. Dola: Decoding by contrasting layers improves factuality in large language models. In *The Twelfth International Conference on Learning Representations, ICLR 2024, Vienna, Austria, May 7-11, 2024.* OpenReview.net.
- Shehzaad Dhuliawala, Mojtaba Komeili, Jing Xu, Roberta Raileanu, Xian Li, Asli Celikyilmaz, and Jason Weston. 2023. Chain-of-verification reduces hallucination in large language models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2309.11495*.
- Luyu Gao, Zhuyun Dai, Panupong Pasupat, Anthony Chen, Arun Tejasvi Chaganty, Yicheng Fan, Vincent Zhao, Ni Lao, Hongrae Lee, Da-Cheng Juan, and Kelvin Guu. 2023. RARR: Researching and revising what language models say, using language models. In *Proceedings of the 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, pages 16477–16508, Toronto, Canada. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Jiahui Geng, Fengyu Cai, Yuxia Wang, Heinz Koeppl, Preslav Nakov, and Iryna Gurevych. 2024. A survey of confidence estimation and calibration in large

language models. In Proceedings of the 2024 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies (Volume 1: Long Papers), pages 6577–6595, Mexico City, Mexico. Association for Computational Linguistics.

- Mor Geva, Daniel Khashabi, and et al. 2021. Did aristotle use a laptop? A question answering benchmark with implicit reasoning strategies. *TACL*, 9:346–361.
- Zhijiang Guo, Michael Schlichtkrull, and Andreas Vlachos. 2022. A survey on automated fact-checking. *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 10:178–206.
- Dan Hendrycks, Collin Burns, Steven Basart, Andy Zou, Mantas Mazeika, Dawn Song, and Jacob Steinhardt. 2021. Measuring massive multitask language understanding. In 9th International Conference on Learning Representations, ICLR 2021, Virtual Event, Austria, May 3-7, 2021. OpenReview.net.
- Hasan Iqbal, Yuxia Wang, Minghan Wang, Georgi Nenkov Georgiev, Jiahui Geng, Iryna Gurevych, and Preslav Nakov. 2024. Open-FactCheck: A unified framework for factuality evaluation of LLMs. In Proceedings of the 2024 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing: System Demonstrations, pages 219–229, Miami, Florida, USA. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Rémi Lebret, David Grangier, and Michael Auli. 2016. Generating text from structured data with application to the biography domain. *ArXiv e-prints, March*.
- Nayeon Lee, Wei Ping, and Peng et al. Xu. 2022. Factuality enhanced language models for open-ended text generation. *NeuralPS*, 35:34586–34599.
- Junyi Li, Xiaoxue Cheng, Xin Zhao, Jian-Yun Nie, and Ji-Rong Wen. 2023. HaluEval: A large-scale hallucination evaluation benchmark for large language models. In Proceedings of the 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing, pages 6449–6464, Singapore. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Miaoran Li, Baolin Peng, Michel Galley, Jianfeng Gao, and Zhu Zhang. 2024. Self-checker: Plug-and-play modules for fact-checking with large language models. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: NAACL 2024*, pages 163–181, Mexico City, Mexico. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Percy Liang, Rishi Bommasani, Tony Lee, Dimitris Tsipras, Dilara Soylu, Michihiro Yasunaga, Yian Zhang, Deepak Narayanan, Yuhuai Wu, Ananya Kumar, Benjamin Newman, Binhang Yuan, Bobby Yan, Ce Zhang, Christian Alexander Cosgrove, Christopher D Manning, Christopher Re, Diana Acosta-Navas, Drew Arad Hudson, Eric Zelikman, Esin Durmus, Faisal Ladhak, Frieda Rong, Hongyu Ren,

Huaxiu Yao, Jue WANG, Keshav Santhanam, Laurel Orr, Lucia Zheng, Mert Yuksekgonul, Mirac Suzgun, Nathan Kim, Neel Guha, Niladri S. Chatterji, Omar Khattab, Peter Henderson, Qian Huang, Ryan Andrew Chi, Sang Michael Xie, Shibani Santurkar, Surya Ganguli, Tatsunori Hashimoto, Thomas Icard, Tianyi Zhang, Vishrav Chaudhary, William Wang, Xuechen Li, Yifan Mai, Yuhui Zhang, and Yuta Koreeda. 2023. Holistic evaluation of language models. *Transactions on Machine Learning Research*. Featured Certification, Expert Certification.

- Stephanie Lin, Jacob Hilton, and Owain Evans. 2022. TruthfulQA: Measuring how models mimic human falsehoods. In Proceedings of the 60th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers), pages 3214–3252, Dublin, Ireland. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Potsawee Manakul, Adian Liusie, and Mark Gales. 2023. SelfCheckGPT: Zero-resource black-box hallucination detection for generative large language models. In Proceedings of the 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing, pages 9004–9017, Singapore. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Sewon Min, Kalpesh Krishna, Xinxi Lyu, Mike Lewis, Wen-tau Yih, Pang Koh, Mohit Iyyer, Luke Zettlemoyer, and Hannaneh Hajishirzi. 2023. FActScore: Fine-grained atomic evaluation of factual precision in long form text generation. In *Proceedings of the* 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing, pages 12076–12100, Singapore. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Dor Muhlgay, Ori Ram, Inbal Magar, Yoav Levine, Nir Ratner, Yonatan Belinkov, Omri Abend, Kevin Leyton-Brown, Amnon Shashua, and Yoav Shoham. 2024. Generating benchmarks for factuality evaluation of language models. In Proceedings of the 18th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers), pages 49–66, St. Julian's, Malta. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Niels Mündler, Jingxuan He, Slobodan Jenko, and Martin T. Vechev. 2024. Self-contradictory hallucinations of large language models: Evaluation, detection and mitigation. In *The Twelfth International Conference* on Learning Representations, ICLR 2024, Vienna, Austria, May 7-11, 2024. OpenReview.net.
- OpenAI. 2023. GPT-4 technical report. CoRR, abs/2303.08774.
- Myle Ott, Sergey Edunov, Alexei Baevski, Angela Fan, Sam Gross, Nathan Ng, David Grangier, and Michael Auli. 2019. fairseq: A fast, extensible toolkit for sequence modeling. In *Proceedings of NAACL-HLT* 2019: Demonstrations.
- Weijia Shi, Xiaochuang Han, Mike Lewis, Yulia Tsvetkov, Luke Zettlemoyer, and Wen-tau Yih. 2024.

Trusting your evidence: Hallucinate less with contextaware decoding. In *Proceedings of the 2024 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies (Volume 2: Short Papers)*, pages 783–791, Mexico City, Mexico. Association for Computational Linguistics.

- Tu Vu, Mohit Iyyer, Xuezhi Wang, Noah Constant, Jerry Wei, Jason Wei, Chris Tar, Yun-Hsuan Sung, Denny Zhou, Quoc Le, and Thang Luong. 2024. Fresh-LLMs: Refreshing large language models with search engine augmentation. In *Findings of the Association* for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2024, pages 13697–13720, Bangkok, Thailand. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Yuxia Wang, Revanth Gangi Reddy, Zain Muhammad Mujahid, Arnav Arora, Aleksandr Rubashevskii, Jiahui Geng, Osama Mohammed Afzal, Liangming Pan, Nadav Borenstein, Aditya Pillai, Isabelle Augenstein, Iryna Gurevych, and Preslav Nakov. 2024a. Factcheck-bench: Fine-grained evaluation benchmark for automatic fact-checkers. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP* 2024, pages 14199–14230, Miami, Florida, USA. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Yuxia Wang, Minghan Wang, Muhammad Arslan Manzoor, Fei Liu, Georgi Nenkov Georgiev, Rocktim Jyoti Das, and Preslav Nakov. 2024b. Factuality of large language models: A survey. In Proceedings of the 2024 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing, pages 19519–19529, Miami, Florida, USA. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Jerry Wei, Chengrun Yang, Xinying Song, Yifeng Lu, Nathan Hu, Dustin Tran, Daiyi Peng, Ruibo Liu, Da Huang, Cosmo Du, and Quoc V. Le. 2024. Longform factuality in large language models. *CoRR*, abs/2403.18802.
- Peter West, Ximing Lu, Nouha Dziri, Faeze Brahman, Linjie Li, Jena D. Hwang, Liwei Jiang, Jillian Fisher, Abhilasha Ravichander, Khyathi Raghavi Chandu, Benjamin Newman, Pang Wei Koh, Allyson Ettinger, and Yejin Choi. 2024. The generative AI paradox: "what it can create, it may not understand". In *The Twelfth International Conference on Learning Representations, ICLR 2024, Vienna, Austria, May 7-11,* 2024. OpenReview.net.
- Zhuohan Xie, Rui Xing, Yuxia Wang, Jiahui Geng, Hasan Iqbal, Dhruv Sahnan, Iryna Gurevych, and Preslav Nakov. 2024. Fire: Fact-checking with iterative retrieval and verification. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2411.00784*.
- Zhilin Yang and Peng Qi et al. 2018. Hotpotqa: A dataset for diverse, explainable multi-hop question answering. In *EMNLP 2018*, pages 2369–2380.
- Zhangyue Yin, Qiushi Sun, Qipeng Guo, Jiawen Wu, Xipeng Qiu, and Xuanjing Huang. 2023. Do large

language models know what they don't know? In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL 2023*, pages 8653–8665, Toronto, Canada. Association for Computational Linguistics.

- Muru Zhang, Ofir Press, William Merrill, Alisa Liu, and Noah A. Smith. 2024. How language model hallucinations can snowball. In *Forty-first International Conference on Machine Learning, ICML 2024, Vienna, Austria, July 21-27, 2024.* OpenReview.net.
- Yue Zhang, Yafu Li, Leyang Cui, Deng Cai, Lemao Liu, Tingchen Fu, Xinting Huang, Enbo Zhao, Yu Zhang, Yulong Chen, Longyue Wang, Anh Tuan Luu, Wei Bi, Freda Shi, and Shuming Shi. 2023. Siren's song in the AI ocean: A survey on hallucination in large language models. *CoRR*, abs/2309.01219.

Appendix

A Factuality Datasets

A.1 FactQA Component Datasets

Snowball dataset (Zhang et al., 2024) comprises three question–answering subsets: primality testing, senator search, and graph connectivity, each with 500 yes/no questions. They aim to investigate snow-balling hallucination when a model immediately outputs an incorrect answer (yes or no) as false generated context. Specifically, they prompt the language model to first output a yes/no answer and then to provide explanations. When the immediate answer is wrong, the model tends to continue to snowball the false statements instead of correcting them.

SelfAware (Yin et al., 2023) aims to evaluate LLMs' ability to understand their own limitations and unknowns. This is achieved by assessing models' ability to identify unanswerable or unknowable questions. They compiled a collection of 1,032 unanswerable questions from online platforms like Quora and HowStuffWorks. In addition, they gathered 2,337 answerable questions from sources such as SQuAD, HotpotQA, and TriviaQA, resulting in a total of 3,369 questions.

FreshQA (Vu et al., 2024) is composed of 600 natural, open-ended questions, segmented into four primary categories based on the answer's stability: *never-changing*, for answers that rarely alter, *slow-changing*, for those that evolve over several years, *fast-changing*, for answers that shift within a year or less, and *false-premise*, encompassing questions with factually incorrect premises that need to be countered.

FacTool (Chern et al., 2023) detected factual errors in LLM generations across four different tasks: knowledge-based QA, code generation, mathematical reasoning, and scientific literature review. During model evaluation, they reported both response-level and claim-level accuracy when the responses consist of several claims. We used 50 knowledge-based QA: FacTool-QA in FactQA.

FELM (Chen et al., 2023) introduced a benchmark for factuality evaluation of LLMs. This benchmark collects responses generated from LLMs and annotated factuality labels in a fine-grained manner. The dataset consists of 5 categories, with examples per category as follows: 194 math, 208 reasoning, 125 science, 184 world knowledge (wk), and 136 writing recordings. We used 184 world-knowledge questions, referring to FELM-WK.

Factcheck-Bench (Wang et al., 2024a) Factcheck-GPT gathered a total of 94 highly challenging questions from sources including Twitter posts, internal brainstorming, and Dolly-15k, encompassing 678 claims.

FactScore-Bio (Min et al., 2023) selected 183 entities, and collected responses from three LLMs including Davinci-text-003, ChatGPT, and PerplexityAI, and then annotated factual labels (supported, not-supported and irrelevant) for each atomic claim by humans. Specifically, if the atomic claim was clearly not related to the prompt, and thus should be removed from the bio without a validation step, they assigned *Irrelevant*. If the claim was relevant, they validated it based on the English Wikipedia, and labeled it either as *Supported* or *Not-supported*. Additionally, the annotators also edited the text to make it factually correct. The annotators were also asked to correct factual errors and to remove the sentence if the information it contains is entirely off. Their data can be downloaded from https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bLHGu_imkZVtX600mpZ-G0-4ofTLM1ZA. They proposed automatic checking based on retriever + LLM + masked LLM calculating the perplexity to determine the factual labels of atomic claims and to calculate the error rate or a FactScore for an LLM. They further collected responses from 12 LLMs based on another 500 entities and evaluated their factuality using automatic estimators. Overall, they labeled 183 biographies * 3 models = 549 examples, and further used 500 * 12 = 6,000 unlabeled examples.

Domain and Topic There are 482 unique domains and 4,740 unique topics (unique by lexicons without semantic clustering). The top-20 domains are shown in Table 7, accounting for 70% or 4,523 examples. Except for the Snowball dataset: 500 examples for each of primality testing, US senator search and graph connectivity-flight search, there are fewer than 11 examples per topic, generally 1–3 examples.

Domain	Size	Domain	Size
History	771	Science	143
Biography	683	Physics	136
Mathematics	612	Social Sciences	111
Transportation	519	Literature	100
Biology	259	Geography	87
Philosophy	229	Astronomy	82
Technology	208	Economics	69
Entertainment	191	Music	66
Psychology	169	Religion	63
Sports	157	General Knowledge	53
Total		4,523 (69	9.8%)

Table 7: FactQA's top-20 domains and the number of examples from each domain.

A.2 Other Datasets

TruthfulQA (Lin et al., 2022) is a benchmark designed to measure whether a language model is truthful when generating answers to questions and is robustness with respect to false beliefs and misconceptions. It comprises 817 questions spanning 38 categories, including health, law, finance, and politics. The dataset includes both text generation and multiple-choice components, with the multiple-choice questions having a variable number of options. The questions are designed to be "adversarial" to test for weaknesses in the truthfulness of language models rather than testing models on a useful task.

CoVe used four datasets (Dhuliawala et al., 2023). One is selected from Wikidata — listings of people with specific professions born in a certain city (56 questions), and the other one is listing works from specific categories based on Wiki-category (55 questions), e.g., *Name some Mexican animated horror films* or *Name some Endemic orchids of Vietnam*. The third dataset consists of 418 questions sampled from the MultiSpanQA test set with shorter answers per span (up to three tokens per item). They also used the dataset of generated biographies from FactScore.

SelfCheckGPT (Manakul et al., 2023) generated synthetic Wikipedia articles about individuals/concepts from the WikiBio dataset (Lebret et al., 2016) using GPT-3, followed by manual annotation to assess the factuality of each passage at the sentence level.

HaluEval (Li et al., 2023) comprises 5,000 general user queries accompanied by ChatGPT responses and 30,000 specialized examples from three distinct tasks: question answering, knowledge-grounded dialogue, and text summarization.

Self-Contradictory (Mündler et al., 2024) constructed a dataset by sampling language model responses about various topics, consisting of 360 text descriptions covering 30 diverse topics.

FACTOR (Muhlgay et al., 2024) introduced a framework that automatically transforms a factual corpus of interest into a benchmark for evaluating an LM's factuality, and created two benchmarks using this framework: Wiki-FACTOR and News-FACTOR. Wiki-FACTOR is based on the Wikipedia section of The Pile's validation split and consists of 2,994 examples, while News-FACTOR is based on Reuters articles extracted from the RefinedWeb Dataset and consists of 1,036 examples.

HELM (Liang et al., 2023) is a living benchmark designed to enhance the transparency of language models. The dataset implements a multi-metric approach, encompassing various user-facing tasks, domains, and languages. It includes a core set of scenarios and metrics, covering tasks such as question answering, information retrieval, summarization, and toxicity detection across different domains and languages. The dataset is intended to be continuously updated with new scenarios, metrics, and models, and all raw model prompts and completions are released publicly for further analysis.

A.3 FactBench Examples

Given an example in FacTool-QA, FELM-WK and Factcheck-Bench, it includes a prompt, a response generated by GPT-3.5-turbo and human annotations: a list atomic claims decomposed based on the response, a list of factual labels [True, False, \cdots] corresponding to each atomic claim, and the factual label for the response, as shown in Figure 3 below:

```
"prompt": "Who is the CEO of Twitter?",
  "response": "The CEO of Twitter at the time of writing this answer is Jack Dorsey. He co-founded Twitter in
2006 and served as the CEO until 2008, and returned as CEO in 2015. Dorsey is also the CEO and
co-founder of Square, a financial services and mobile payment company. He has been recognized as one of
Time magazine's 100 most influential people in the world and has also been awarded the Innovator of the
Year Award by Wall Street Journal.",
  "response_label": false,
  "claims": [
     "Jack Dorsey is the CEO of Twitter".
     "Jack Dorsey co-founded Twitter in 2006",
     "Jack Dorsey served as the CEO of Twitter until 2008",
    "Jack Dorsey returned as CEO of Twitter in 2015",
    "Jack Dorsey is the CEO and co-founder of Square",
    "Time magazine recognized Jack Dorsey as one of the 100 most influential people in the world",
    "Wall Street Journal awarded Jack Dorsey the Innovator of the Year Award"
  ],
"claim_labels": [
    false,
    true,
    false,
    true.
    true.
    true,
    true
  "ability_to_test": "knowledge",
  "source": "factool-qa",
  "hallucination_spans": null
```

Figure 3: An annotated FacTool-QA example sampled from FactBench.

Given an example in HaluEval, it includes a prompt, a response by GPT-3.5-turbo and human annotations: a list of false segments/spans extracted from the response, and the factual label for the response as below:

"prompt": "Brainstorm a list of 10 possible headlines to accompany the following article: The recent announcement of China's new facial recognition software sparked debate around the world.", "response": " 1. "China's cutting-edge facial recognition software takes surveillance to new heights" 2. "Civil liberties advocates voice concerns over China's facial recognition tech" 3. "China's facial recognition technology poised to revolutionize law enforcement" 4. "Experts say China's facial recognition software is a major step towards Orwellian dystopia" 5. "China's facial recognition software raises the stakes in global surveillance race" 6. "Facial recognition tech: is China leading the way or crossing a line?" 7. "Critics condemn China's facial recognition software as a tool for authoritarian control" 8. "China's facial recognition software: advancing technology or eroding privacy?" 9. "Controversy surrounds China's new facial recognition software" 10. "As China unveils new facial recognition software, concerns abound over misuse and abuse"", "response_label": false, "claims": [], "claim_labels": [], "ability_to_test": "knowledge", "source": "HaluEval-dolly15k", "hallucination spans": [2. "Civil liberties advocates voice concerns over China's facial recognition tech", 4. "Experts say China's facial recognition software is a major step towards Orwellian dystopia"

}

1

{

Figure 4: An annotated HaluEval example sampled from FactBench.

B Experiments

Claim Statistics of Three LLMs' Responses Figure 5 shows the number of atomic claims extracted from LLaMA-2 7B, 13B and GPT-4 responses elicted from the prompts of FacTool-QA, FELM-WK and Factcheck-Bench. There are 50, 184 and 94 prompts in the three datasets respectively, decomposing approximately into 400, 1,600 and 800 atomic claims for LLaMA-2 responses. The answers of GPT-4 are generally shorter, resulting in 200, 800, and 600 claims. Note that the three original datasets were annotated with factual labels for GPT-3.5-Turbo responses, and there are 233, 532 and 678 claims for FacTool-QA, FELM-WK and Factcheck-Bench.



Figure 5: The number of extracted atomic claims using FacTool across responses of LLaMA-2 7B, 13B, and GPT-4.

LLM-based Verification Prompt Figure 6 shows a prompt used to verify whether a claim is true or false based on the collected evidence.

OpenAI GPT Models Table 8 shows the price, the input context window and the maximum output tokens for two GPT models: *gpt-3.5-turbo-0125* and *gpt-4-turbo-2024-04-09*. The price of the latter is 20 times the price of the former.

Model	Input	Output	Input context window	Maximum output tokens
gpt-3.5-turbo-0125	\$0.5 / 1M tokens	\$1.5 / 1M tokens	128k	4096
gpt-4-turbo-2024-04-09	\$10 / 1M tokens	\$30 / 1M tokens	16k	4096

Table 8: Price, input context window, and maximum output tokens for two GPT models.

Verifier_Prompt = You are given a piece of text. Your task is to identify whether there are any factual errors within the text. When you are judging the factuality of the given text, you could reference the provided evidences if needed. The provided evidences may be helpful. Some evidences may contradict to each other. You must be careful when using the evidences to judge the factuality of the given text.

The response should be a dictionary with four keys - "reasoning", "factuality", "error", and "correction", which correspond to the reasoning, whether the given text is factual or not (Boolean - True or False), the factual error present in the text, and the corrected text.

The following is the given text

[text]: {claim}

The following is the provided evidences

[evidences]: {evidence}

You should only respond in format as described below. DO NOT RETURN ANYTHING ELSE. START YOUR RESPONSE WITH '{{'.

[response format]:

{{ **"reasoning":** "Why is the given text factual or non-factual? Be careful when you said something is non-factual. When you said something is non-factual, you must provide multiple evidences to support your decision.",

"error": "None if the text is factual; otherwise, describe the error.",

"correction": "The corrected text if there is an error.",

"factuality": True if the given text is factual, False otherwise. }}

Figure 6: LLM-based verifier prompt example.

C OpenFactCheck Demo

Based on this framework, we initiate a OpenFactCheck demonstration. It was implemented with a Python server, a web user interface, and a database, deployed via AWS. The Python backend can also be used as a Python toolkit, allowing easy and flexible development. This demo was further optimized and presented in Iqbal et al. (2024).

C.1 CUSTCHECKER Pseudo Code

```
def claim_processor(document: str) -> List[str]:
    paragraphs = documents.split("\n")
    sentences = [NLTK(para) for para in paragraphs]
    claims = [call_LLM(sentence, prompt="decompose into atomic claims") for sentence in sentences]
    claims = call_LLM(document, promot="extract context-independent atomic claims based on the
       document")
    return claims
def retriever(claim: str, database: DB, retrieval_strategy: obj, search_api_key: str) -> List[str]:
    # offline DB dump
    evidence = retrieval_strategy(claim, database)
    evidence = serper_or_serpapi(claim, search_api_key)
    return evidence
def verifier(claim: str, evidence: List[str]) -> bool:
    factual_label = call_LLM(claim, evidence, prompt="based on the evidence and your own knowledge,
       determine whether the claim is true or false.")
    stance2factual = {
        "entailment": true,
       "contradiction": false,
       "neutral": "not enough evidence"
    3
    stances = [nli(evid, claim) for evid in evidence]
    majority_stance = majority_vote(factual_labels)
    factual_label = stance2factual[majority_stance]
    return factual_label
```

Figure 7: Pseudo code for the three modules in CUSTCHECKER.

C.2 Web Client

We develop a web client based on Streamlit, consisting of four interfaces, with each corresponding to one of the three modules, along with a leaderboard, to enhance the user interaction. The design principle is to invoke these functional modules in the form of third-party applications, avoiding excessive intervention in the system's architecture. This makes OpenFactCheck a three-in-one to users as a library, a command-line toolkit, and a web application.

As CUSTCHECKER interface shown in Figure 8, users can freely select different combinations of claim processors, retrievers, and verifiers. When given an input document or claim, the CUSTCHECKER backend (§3.1) executes the fact-checking pipeline. The final verification results and the intermediate processing outcomes are presented on the page for reference.

Figure 9 corresponds to the module of LLMEVAL in §3.2. Users first download our predefined question set and then upload their model responses, the system forwards them to background tasks, using

		OpenFac An Open-source		k Dashbo			
OpenAI API Key is alrea	dy set and valid.						
🖾 Evaluate LLM	Response	✓ Evaluate LLM	✓ Evaluate Fac	tChecker	Ŷ	Leaderboards	 About
This is where you can che	ck factuality of a LLN	l response.					
Customize FactChecker							
Select Claim Processor		Select Retriever				Select Verifier	
factcheck_gpt_claim_p	rocessor	✓ factcheck_gpt_ret	triever			factcheck_gpt_verifier	
Enter LLM response here							
he UAE is a federation i	made up of eight em	rates, which were united in 1971.					
Check Factuality							
Pipeline: factcheck_gpt_c	:laim_processor -> fa	ctcheck_gpt_retriever -> factcheck_gpt_v	erifier				
The factuality of the LLM	response is: True						
Log:							
continue_run ine	dex input			input_name	output		
0 🔽	0 {"claims":["The L	AE is a federation made up of eight emirates."],"	claims_with_eviden	response	{"claim	s":["The UAE is a federation made up of eigh	t emirates."],"claims_with_evide
1 🔽	1 {"claims":["The L	AE is a federation made up of eight emirates."],"	claims_with_eviden	claims	{"claim	s":["The UAE is a federation made up of eigh	t emirates."],"claims_with_evide
2	2 {"claims":["The L	AE is a federation made up of eight emirates."),"	claims_with_eviden	claims_with_evidences	{"claim	s":["The UAE is a federation made up of eigh	t emirates."],"claims_with_evide

Figure 8: The interface of the Customized Fact-checking System page. The response "*The UAE is a federation made up of eight emirates, which were united in 1971*" is a random example for demonstration purposes. We can see the final *False* judgment and the intermediate results.

LLMEVAL for evaluation. Afterwards, a comprehensive report is generated and emailed to the user, notifying them of the availability of the report's PDF for download. Moreover, if users consent to publish the evaluation results, we display them on the corresponding leaderboard page.

CHECKEREVAL page in Figure 10 evaluates the performance of fact-checking systems. Users can download claims or documents to be checked from this page, and then use their fact-checking system to predict factuality. The results including True/False, time, and USD costs are subsequently uploaded. We evaluate the submitted fact-checker results based on the ground truth labels of the human-annotated datasets, we rank and display them on the leaderboard.

Leaderboard page in Figure 11 is maintained for both the LLM factuality evaluation and the automatic fact-checking system evaluation. This leaderboard is updated in real time, allowing users to track their performance and to compare it to others. The leaderboard is accessible from the main page, providing a comprehensive overview of the system's performance.

		OpenFa	ctChe	ck Das	hboard		
		An Open-sou	rce Factuality	Evaluation De	emo for LLMs		
OpenAl API Key is alread	y set and valid.						
🖾 Evaluate LLM I	Response	✓ Evaluate LLM	≪ Evaluate	FactChecker	♀ Leader	boards	 About
This is where you can evalu	ate the factuality of a l	LLM.					
Download the questions an	nd instructions to evalu	ate the factuality of a LLM.					
Download							
Upload the model respons	es as a JSON file below	to evaluate the factuality.					
Drag and drop fi							Browse files
responses_test.	CSV 3.3MB						×
Please provide the followir	ng information to be inc	cluded in the leaderboard.					
First Name							
John							
Last Name							
Doe							
Email johndoe@xyz.com							
LLM Model Name							
Organization (Optional)							
XYZ Corp							
Please check this box i	f you want your LLM to	be included in the leaderboard.					
Submit	.,						
User information saved s	successfully.						
Please wait while we eva	aluate the factuality of	the LLM. You will be able to downlo	ad the evaluation	report shortly if	you can wait. The report	will also be delivered to you	r email address
		o30959f52a, This will be used to trad					
Evolution report.							
Evaluation report: True vs False Answe	rs on FreebOA	_		_		År.	curacy on Snowballing dataset.
inter to failed while	o vase answer	Confusion Matrix on SelfAw	vare		Performance on SelfAware	0.8	0.71
34	.0%		- 40	1.2	Unanswerable_as	_positive 0.6 - 0.958	
		Answerable - 46 4	- 30	0.8 -	0.92	0.5 - Č Š 0.4 -	
		True lab	- 20	u.e -			0.324 0.345
		Unanswerable - 0 0	- 10	0.4 -		0.2 -	
66.0%		Answerable Unansv Predicted label	verable 0	0.0 accuracy	0.0 0.0 0.0 0.1 precision recall Metrics	0 0.0 0.002	Senitor Search All
True Answer						W. U	Graph Connectivity

Figure 9: The interface of the LLM Factuality Evaluation page. A random evaluation result is shown for demonstration purposes.

		FactCheck Dashb		
OpenAI API Key is already set and valid.				
🗉 Evaluate LLM Response	✓ Evaluate LLM	✓ Evaluate FactChecker	abla Leaderboards	① About
This is where you can evaluate the factuality of a Download the benchmark evaluate the factualit				
Download				
Upload the FactChecker responses as a JSON fil	e below to evaluate the factualit	у.		
Drag and drop file here Limit 200MB per file • CSV				Browse files
factchecker_test.csv 18.1KB				×
Please provide the following information to be i	ncluded in the leaderboard.			
First Name				
John				
Last Name				
Doe				
Email				
johndoe@xyz.com				
FactChecker Name				
Test				
Organization (Optional) XYZ Corp				
	ne he te doded to de classifications			
Please check this box if you want your LLM if Cuberia	to be included in the leaderboar	a.		
User information saved successfully.				
Evaluation report:				
<pre>* { "True_as_positive": { "accuracy": 0.486 "precision": 0.71 "recall": 0.478 "F1": 0.571 } "False_as_positive": { "accuracy": 0.486 "precision": 0.277 "recall": 0.506 "F1": 0.358 } "total_time": 14430 "total_cost": 144.3</pre>				
"num_samples": 1443				

Figure 10: The interface of the Automatic Fact-checker Evaluation page. A random factchecker evaluation result is shown for demonstration purposes.

					Ope	nFact	Che	ck Da	ashbo	ard					
					An O	pen-source Fa	actuality	Evaluatio	n Demo for LL	.Ms					
Op	oenAl API Key is	already set	and valid.												
	🖻 Evaluate	LLM Resp	onse	🗹 Evalua	te LLM		Evaluate	FactChecke	r 👘	🛛 Leaderbo	ards		② About		
							Refresh Le	aderboard							
						LLM Fac	tuality	/ Leade	rboard						
		Name Email					Organization LLM Mod					Factual	Error Rate		
	12d1abc8		Charlie White	e	charlie@	xyz.com XY		XYZ Corp	XYZ Corp ChatG					0.0500	
	bc4f7b9e		Jane Smith		jane@xy	xyz.com		XYZ Corp		GPT-3				0.1500	
	9559c661		John Doe		john@xy	z.com	XYZ Corp			GPT4				0.2000	
	a83d6b36		Alice Johnso	n	alice@xy	z.com		XYZ Corp			Transformer		0.2000		
	fa2b5f38		Bob Brown		bob@xyz	z.com		XYZ Corp BERT					0.2500		
					Fa	ctCheckeı	Factu	ality Le	aderboar	d					
		Name		Email		Organization	FactCh	ecker	Knowledge So	urce		Accuracy	Precision	Recall	
	e4b3996f	Charlie	White	charlie@xyz.com		XYZ Corp	FactCh	eckV1	Wikipedia		0.8900	0.8700	0.9000	0.8800	
	1d8b62d8	Jane Sn	nith	jane@xyz.com		XYZ Corp Veritas			OpenWeb		0.8500	0.8300	0.8600	0.8400	
	7b9f4a2a	John Do	be	john@xyz.com		XYZ Corp	Check	Mate	DataBank		0.7800	0.7600	0.7900	0.7700	
	3cf8fb47	Alice Jo	hnson	alice@xyz.com		XYZ Corp	TrueSig	ght	KnowledgeNet		0.9200	0.9100	0.9300	0.9400	
	9ae1f93c	Bob Bro	wn	bob@xyz.com		XYZ Corp	Authen	iticator	AcademicJour	nals	0.8000	0.7800	0.8200	0.8100	

Figure 11: The interface of the Leaderboard page. Random data is shown for demonstration purposes.