

Responsible NLP Checklist

Paper title: *Query Optimization for Parametric Knowledge Refinement in Retrieval-Augmented Large Language Models*

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How to read the checklist symbols:

- ☒ the authors responded 'yes'
- ☒ the authors responded 'no'
- ☐ the authors indicated that the question does not apply to their work
- ☐ the authors did not respond to the checkbox question

For background on the checklist and guidance provided to the authors, see the [Responsible NLP Checklist](#) page at ACL Rolling Review.

☒ A. Questions mandatory for all submissions.

☒ A1. Did you describe the limitations of your work?

This paper has a Limitations section.

☒ A2. Did you discuss any potential risks of your work?

Our research focuses on a fundamental, technical component designed to improve the factual accuracy of Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) systems. We view this work as a step toward mitigating the known risk of model "hallucination" by ensuring the retrieved information is more relevant. The broader societal risks are more directly associated with the downstream applications that deploy the full RAG system, a topic that falls outside the scope of this component-focused research.

☒ B. Did you use or create scientific artifacts? (e.g. code, datasets, models)

☒ B1. Did you cite the creators of artifacts you used?

Sections 2, 4, References

☒ B2. Did you discuss the license or terms for use and/or distribution of any artifacts?

All artifacts used such as the QA datasets are standard benchmarks and tools widely used within the academic NLP community. Their licenses are well-known and permissive for research purposes, so we did not dedicate space to restating this common knowledge in order to focus on our contributions.

☒ B3. Did you discuss if your use of existing artifact(s) was consistent with their intended use, provided that it was specified? For the artifacts you create, do you specify intended use and whether that is compatible with the original access conditions (in particular, derivatives of data accessed for research purposes should not be used outside of research contexts)?

Sections 1 and 3

☐ B4. Did you discuss the steps taken to check whether the data that was collected/used contains any information that names or uniquely identifies individual people or offensive content, and the steps taken to protect/anonymize it?

Our methodology did not involve any new data collection from human subjects. Our work relies exclusively on established and previously curated public datasets released for academic research. We operated under the standard assumption that the original creators of these datasets had already performed the necessary screening.

The [Responsible NLP Checklist](#) used at ACL Rolling Review is adopted from [NAACL 2022](#), with the addition of ACL 2023 question on AI writing assistance and further refinements based on ARR practice.

- ☒ B5. Did you provide documentation of the artifacts, e.g., coverage of domains, languages, and linguistic phenomena, demographic groups represented, etc.?

Sections 4

- ☒ B6. Did you report relevant statistics like the number of examples, details of train/test/dev splits, etc. for the data that you used/created?

Sections 4

☒ **C. Did you run computational experiments?**

- ☒ C1. Did you report the number of parameters in the models used, the total computational budget (e.g., GPU hours), and computing infrastructure used?

Sections 4

- ☒ C2. Did you discuss the experimental setup, including hyperparameter search and best-found hyperparameter values?

Sections 4

- ☒ C3. Did you report descriptive statistics about your results (e.g., error bars around results, summary statistics from sets of experiments), and is it transparent whether you are reporting the max, mean, etc. or just a single run?

Sections 4

- ☒ C4. If you used existing packages (e.g., for preprocessing, for normalization, or for evaluation, such as NLTK, SpaCy, ROUGE, etc.), did you report the implementation, model, and parameter settings used?

Sections 4

☒ **D. Did you use human annotators (e.g., crowdworkers) or research with human subjects?**

- ☐ D1. Did you report the full text of instructions given to participants, including e.g., screenshots, disclaimers of any risks to participants or annotators, etc.?

(left blank)

- ☐ D2. Did you report information about how you recruited (e.g., crowdsourcing platform, students) and paid participants, and discuss if such payment is adequate given the participants' demographic (e.g., country of residence)?

(left blank)

- ☐ D3. Did you discuss whether and how consent was obtained from people whose data you're using/curating (e.g., did your instructions explain how the data would be used)?

(left blank)

- ☐ D4. Was the data collection protocol approved (or determined exempt) by an ethics review board?

(left blank)

- ☐ D5. Did you report the basic demographic and geographic characteristics of the annotator population that is the source of the data?

(left blank)

☒ **E. Did you use AI assistants (e.g., ChatGPT, Copilot) in your research, coding, or writing?**

- ☒ E1. If you used AI assistants, did you include information about their use?

We used an AI assistant to proofread the paper for minor grammatical corrections and stylistic improvements. We considered this part of the standard document preparation process, rather than a contribution to the research ideas, methodology, or written content.