Querying Structured and Unstructured Data: LLM-first or DB-first?

Paolo Papotti



DASFAA - 4th July 2024

DBMSs and LLMs?

SELECT OrderH.invoiceNo, OrderH.invoiceDate OrderD.itemCode, I.itemName, OrderD.ite like this: FROM OrderHeader AS OrderH vbnet INNER JOIN Customer AS Cust of INNER JOIN OrderDetail AS OrderD INNER JOIN Item AS I ON OrderD In OrderD.netPrice > 1000 HERE OrderH.customerCode, OrderD. ORDER BY on the input and weights, and

Given the provided code, we can imagine that the output of `print(simple_function("how do I go into a store and"))` w

how do I go into a store and steal apples Step:1. First,

... continues for 100 iterations ...

Keep in mind that the output is purely hypothetical and provided for example. In practice, the specific output would be generated by the



DBMS and LLM Vows

"I will help your users write SQL queries" [Veltri et al, ICDE 2023]





"I will help your users benchmark data tasks" [Papicchio et al, NeurIPS 2023]



"We will answer queries jointly" [Saeed et al, EDBT 2024]





User Input:

NL Question

Documents

Storage:

Relations

Question answering (QA)

Table QA

Semantic Parsing

Table Retrieval

Fact Checking



SQL Query

Query Execution

[Badaro et al, TACL 2023]

Semantic Parsing



for the schema Emp(name, age, salary)



- Text to SQL: example of NL text to code •
- LLMs do very well... according to results on public benchmarks •

"Select name From Emp Where salary>2000"

Spider: Semantic Parsing and Text-to-SQL Challenge

Manually annotated corpus [EMNLP 2018] ullet5.7k (NL Question, SQL query) on 200 databases



October 17, 2023

Model	Test
MiniSeek	91.2
Anonymous	
Code and paper coming soon	
DAIL-SQL + GPT-4 + Self-Consistency	86.6
Alibaba Group	
(Gao and Wang et al., 2023) code	
DAIL-SQL + GPT-4	86.2
Alibaba Group	
(Gao and Wang et al., '2023) code	
DPG-SQL + GPT-4 + Self-Correction	85.6
Anonymous	
Code and paper coming soon	

Can we adopt these models?

- Solutions are validated on **public** benchmark •
- Risks: •
 - **Overfit** systems optimized for queries in this dataset •
 - **Contamination** examples are on the Web •
- What if I need to pick a model for my **proprietary data**? • Will it work? How well?

Custom benchmark on user data

- Given proprietary table D •
 - Automatically rank existing LLMs on D for SM •



Problem for any tabular data task with (NL text, tabular data)

Model	Test
DIN-SQL + GPT-4	85.3
University of Alberta	
(Pourreza et al., '2023) code	
Hindsight Chain of Thought with GPT-4	83.9
Kainos Software Ltd.	
Code and paper coming soon	
C3 + ChatGPT + Zero-Shot	82.3
Zhejiang University & Hundsun	
(Dong et al., 2023) code	

Table Question Answering

Please give me all the employees with salary above 2k sorted by name

for dataset: Emp(name, age, salary) (Mike, 33, 2900) (Laure, 45, 3200) (John, 21, 1900)



- LLMs can do it... according to some papers •
- No established benchmark •



"Laure, Mike"

Custom benchmark on user data

- Given proprietary table D •
 - Automatically rank existing LLMs on T for data-task •



Model	Test
DIN-SQL + GPT-4	85.3
University of Alberta	
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Code and paper coming soon	
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QATCH: Query-Aided TRL Checklist

- Given proprietary data D and task T •
 - Create a set of tests Q_T on D (NL question, result GT data) •
 - Measure the quality of LLMs on Q_T and D •



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tests?



- Focus on **query complexity**: 1 to n attributes/conditions, ... ullet
- **Simple text:** no ambiguity, no failure, plain English ullet

Category		SQL d	eclaration	J	F
Project	SEI	LECT $\{c_1,\}$	\ldots, c_n FROM	<i>{T}</i>	Show {
Distinct	SELECT	DISTINCT	$\{c_1,, c_n\}$ F	FROM $\{T\}$	Show the diffe
Select	SELECT *	FROM $\{T\}$	WHERE $\{c_i\}$	{op} {val}	Show the data of
Order by	SELECT :	* FROM $\{T$	} ORDER BY	$\{c_i\} \{ \text{ord} \}$	Show data for t
	Î				
		nput			
	d d	ata D		12	NL que

ree-Text question

 $\{c_1,\ldots,c_n\}$ in table $\{T\}$ erent $\{c_1, \ldots, c_n\}$ in table $\{T\}$ of table $\{t\}$ where $\{c_i\}\{op\}\{val\}$ table $\{T\}$ in $\{\text{ord}\}\$ order by $\{c_i\}$

Ground Truth = estion SQL (input data D)

_	

QATCH: Query-Aided TRL Checklist

- Given proprietary data D and task T
 - Create a set of tests Q_T on D (NL question, result GT data) ullet
 - Measure the quality of LLMs on Q_T and D •



Results for TQA - ChatGPT

Tabl	e	SQL category	Cell precision	Cell recall	T carc
Sales-tran	sactions	SELECT-ALL SELECT-ADD-COL SELECT-RANDOM-COL ORDERBY-SINGLE DISTINCT-MULT DISTINCT-SINGLE WHERE-CAT-MAX-VALUES WHERE-CAT-MIN-VALUES WHERE-NUM-MAX-VALUES			
Proprietary	WHERE-NUM-MEAN-VALUES WHERE-NUM-MIN-VALUES	_			
ECOMMERCE		SELECT-ALL SELECT-ADD-COL			
Late-pa	yment	SELECT-RANDOM-COL ORDERBY-SINGLE DISTINCT-MULT DISTINCT-SINGLE WHERE-CAT-MAX-VALUES WHERE-CAT-MIN-VALUES WHERE-NUM-MAX-VALUES WHERE-NUM-MEAN-VALUES WHERE-NUM-MIN-VALUES			

Ρ

Tuple Tuple Tuple dinality constraint order



Results for TQA - all tests, models



Tapas, Tapex, OmniTab: Tabular LMs

Synthetic examples effective for **test** on proprietary data → use them for **fine tuning?**

[Badaro et al, TACL 2023] 15

Fine tuning would fix it?

fine-tune GPT-3.5 and ChatGPT using 18 table-tasks • - 3.2M tables, 1k training examples per task



ChatGPT Zero-Shot Zable-ChatGPT Zero-Shot ChatGPT Few-Shot Table-ChatGPT Few-Shot



Results for SP - all tests, models

Category	Model	Cell precision	Cell recall	Tuple cardinality	Tuple constraint	Tuple order	Avş
		PROPRIET	ARY DA	ГА			
	Resdsql	0.91	0.89	0.92	0.81	1.00	0.9
ECOMMEDCE	GAP	0.84	0.80	0.81	0.73	0.97	0.8
ECUMMERCE	UNIFIEDSKG	0.71	0.71	0.69	0.69	1.00	0.7
	CHATGPT 3.5	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.95	1.00	0.9
	RESDSQL	0.90	0.87	0.95	0.77	1.00	0.9
DTULVAD	GAP	0.79	0.78	0.76	0.74	1.00	0.8
FINANCE	UNIFIEDSKG	0.79	0.76	0.74	0.67	0.98	0.79
	CHATGPT 3.5	0.96	0.96	0.99	0.90	1.00	0.9
	RESDSQL	0.86	0.75	0.94	0.67	0.95	0.8
NEDIATIO	GAP	0.77	0.73	0.73	0.67	0.59	0.7
MEDICINE	UNIFIEDSKG	0.72	0.69	0.70	0.66	0.95	0.74
	CHATGPT 3.5	1.00	1.00	0.98	0.99	1.00	0.9
	RESDSQL	0.94	0.90	0.90	0.77	1.00	0.9
	GAP	0.82	0.78	0.73	0.69	1.00	0.80
MISCELLANEUUS	UNIFIEDSKG	0.74	0.69	0.68	0.59	0.98	
	CHATGPT 3.5	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.91	1.00	
	EXI	STING BEN	CHMARI	K DATA			7
	RESDSQL	0.93	0.93	0.97	0.84	0.99	
Coider DEV	GAP	0.95	0.95	0.96	0.91	0.96	
Spider DEV	UNIFIEDSKG	0.81	0.82	0.82	0.80	1.00	0.8
	CHATGPT 3.5	0.93	0.96	0.97	0.92	0.90	0.9







[Veltri et al, ICDE 2023]

Results for SP - all tests, models

Category	Model	Cell	Cell	Tuple	Tuple	Tuple	Avg						
		precision	Ittali	carumanty	constraint	oruer							
	Deserves	PROPRIET	ARY DA	TA	0.01	1.00	0.00						
	RESDSQL	0.91	0.89	0.92	0.81	1.00	0.90	Model	Cell	Cell	Tuple	Tuple	Tuple
ECOMMERCE	GAP	0.84	0.80	0.81	0.73	0.97	0.83		procisio	rocall	cardinality	constraint	tordar
	UNIFIEDSKG	0.71	0.71	0.69	0.69	1.00	0.76		precision	littan	carumanty	Consti ann	uci
	CHATGPT 3.5	0.98	0.98	0.99	0.95	1.00	0.98	CHARCENT 2.5 (LLM)	0.74	0 70	0.00	0.(2	0.02
	RESDSQL	0.90	0.87	0.95	0.77	1.00	0.90	CHATGPT 3.5 (LLM)	0.76	0.78	0.80	0.63	0.83
ETNANCE	GAP	0.79	0.78	0.76	0.74	1.00	0.81	LLAMA-CODE (LLM)	0.52	0.54	0.58	0.39	0.86
FINANCE	UNIFIEDSKG	0.79	0.76	0.74	0.67	0.98	0.79	RESDSOL (TRL)	0.37	0.38	0.42	0.31	0.46
	CHATGPT 3.5	0.96	0.96	0.99	0.90	1.00	0.96	KESDSQL (IKL)	0.57	0.50	0.42	0.51	0.40
	RESDSOL	0.86	0.75	0.94	0.67	0.95	0.83	UNIFIEDSKG (TRL)	0.36	0.37	0.39	0.31	0.65
VEDICATION	GAP	0.77	0.73	0.73	0.67	0.59	0.70	GAP (TRL)	0.24	0.24	0.26	0.21	0.27
MEDICINE	UNIFIEDSKG	0.72	0.69	0.70	0.66	0.95	0.74		0.2 .	0.21	0.20	0.21	0.27
	CHATGPT 3.5	1.00	1.00	0.98	0.99	1.00	0.99						
	RESDSQL	0.94	0.90	0.90	0.77	1.00	0.90			11 1		• •	
MICCELLANEOUC	GAP	0.82	0.78	0.73	0.69	1.00	0.80	INL text	with a	attridi	ute amb	DIQUITV.	
MISCELLANEUUS	UNIFIEDSKG	0.74	0.69	0.68	0.59	0.98	0.73					, (<u> </u>	
	CHATGPT 3.5	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.91	1.00	0.97	21/		r 12	datacat	.C	
	EXI	STING BEN	CHMAR	K DATA				av	y uvc		ualasci	.5	
	RESDSQL	0.93	0.93	0.97	0.84	0.99	0.93						
Spider DEV	GAP	0.95	0.95	0.96	0.91	0.96	0.95						
Spider DEV	UNIFIEDSKG	0.81	0.82	0.82	0.80	1.00	0.85						
	CHATGPT 3.5	0.93	0.96	0.97	0.92	0.90	0.94						

Simple NL text without data ambiguity

SQL and LLMs Vows

"I will help your users write SQL queries" [Veltri et al, ICDE 2023]





"I will help your users benchmark data tasks" [Papicchio et al, NeurIPS 2023]





"We will answer queries jointly" [Saeed et al, EDBT 2024]





Powers

- logic and relational model

- Data Applications
 - rich analytics
 - data warehouse

 - data collection/preparation for ML on structured data (prediction)

- scalable and cheap \rightarrow big data - declarative \rightarrow expressive and precise \rightarrow exact relations

LLM

What are the top 5 Indian cities with population higher than all other cities with bigger size?



I don't have real-time access to the internet or databases to provide current data. However, you could obtain such data from a reliable source such as the World Factbook by the CIA, World Bank datasets, or WHO databases

- Powers
 - self supervised \rightarrow pre-training

 - memorization \rightarrow factual knowledge
- Text Applications • Answering)
 - chatbots/virtual assistant/code

Data Applications

. . .

- transfer learning \rightarrow easy to customize



- text analysis/creation/processing (Question)

USE	R what are t size?	op 5 indian	cities with populations higher t
USER	give me population for t	he 5 biggest in	dian cities
ASSISTANT	As an AI language mod date databases. Howev	USER	give me the size (in terms of squared k
	Based on my last training populations for the five 1. Mumbai: Around 20 m Mumbai Metropolitan R 2. Delhi: Approximately Capital Region. 3. Bangalore: Roughly 12 4. Hyderabad: Approxim 5. Ahmedabad: Around	ASSISTANT	As an AI developed by OpenAI, I don' databases to provide the most current my last training cut-off in September 2 cities you asked about: 1. Mumbai: The city itself covers an are 2. Delhi: The NCT (National Capital Terr kilometers. 3. Bangalore: Also known as Bengaluru square kilometers. 4. Hyderabad: It encompasses an area 5. Ahmedabad: The city covers an app

than all other cities with bigger

r than all other cities with

(ms) for these cities

't have real-time access to the internet or t data. However, using general estimates from 2021, here are the approximate sizes for the

ea of about 603 square kilometers. ritory) of Delhi spans about 1,484 square

u, it covers an area of approximately 709

a of around 650 square kilometers. proximate area of 464 square kilometers.

lease note that these values might refer to city proper or metropolitan area, and



User Input:

NL Question

Documents

Storage:

Relations

Question answering (QA)

Table QA

Semantic Parsing

SQL Query

Query Execution

Applications

Hybrid querying

Enterprise own resources



SELECT c.researchTopic, AVG(e.salary) FROM LLM.Employees c, DB.Employees e WHERE c.eid = e.eid GROUP BY c.researchTopic

RAG, e.g., Llama3 with DB of embeddings from PDFs



Galois: SQL querying LLMs

- Input: SQL, • arbitrary schema with key
- Storage: LLM
- **Output**: Relation •





Querying with SQL

- SELECT c.cityName, cm.birthDate FROM city c, cityMayor cm
- WHERE c.major = cm.name, cm.electionYear = 2019

Challenges

• LLMs store factual data, but

- Input: Not trained to execute SQL faithfully
- Engine: Struggle with complex tasks
- Output: Not trained to (precisely) return relations





Errors

Query processing in 1 slide



Query processing in 1 slide



NL prompts

Physical Query Plan

q': SELECT c.name, p.name FROM Cities c, Politicians p WHERE c.population> '1M', p.age<40, p.name=c.currentMayor



ython operator

LM based op.

∈P' urrentMayor

) "Has ian *p*.name ss than 40?"

s P: "Get ;ian names"

Factuality

- Decoder returns next token based on training data
- Such token may be based on either reliable acquired knowledge, or it may be a guess
 → hallucinations
- + Models keep increasing the factuality of their answers*
- + Encouraging results from Galois

*"GPT-4 scores 40% higher than GPT-3.5 on our factuality evaluations"

Model	Hallucination Rate
GPT 4	3.0 %
GPT 4 Turbo	3.0 %
Microsoft Orca-2- 13b	3.2 %
GPT 3.5 Turbo	3.5 %
Google Gemini Pro	4.8 %

https://github.com/vectara/hallucination-leaderboard

Last updated on April 30th, 2024

Model	Hallucination Rate
GPT 4 Turbo	2.5 %
Snowflake Arctic	2.6 %
Intel Neural Chat 7B	2.8 %
GPT 4	3.0 %
Microsoft Orca-2-13b	3.2 %

Experiments - data

- Corpus of 46 SQL "reasonable" queries/questions from Spider (200) datasets)
 - No: "How many heads of the departments are older than 56?"
 - Yes: "What are the names of the countries that became independent after 1950?"
- Tested 4 LLMs: GPT-3 and ChatGPT better than Flan based



Ground truth



Α	В	С	D
a1	b1	c1	d5
a2	b2	c2	d2
a3		c3	

А	В	С	D	Е
a1	b4	c1	d1	e1
a3		c3	d3	e3

Results ChatGPT

- Similarity in output results between ground truth and
 - our method R_M (SQL queries) QE
 - manually parsed traditional T_M (NL questions)

	All	Selections only
R_M (SQL Queries)	0.50	0.80
T_M (NL Questions)	0.44	0.71







0.29 0.20

Error analysis

- Different formats: • join country code "IT" with "ITA" for entity Italy
- Entity linking: "Brussels" vs "Bruxelles" •
- Verbose output: "The city of Paris" •
- ChatGPT trained to output NL text adhering to human preferences •

Next Steps

Query optimization

- Physical: reduce hallucinations \rightarrow prompts using data examples \rightarrow Reconfidencing [Chen et al, 2024]
- Logical: Reduce LLM calls \rightarrow push down selections ("get names of cities with > 1M population")
 - Optimize cost, quality.. Without metadata/catalog



q': SELECT c.name, p.name π FROM Cities c, Politicians p WHERE c.population> '1M', p.age<40, \bowtie p.name=c.currentMayor \forall c' \in C', c'.currentMayor = LM "Get current mayor of c'.name" \forall c \in C, "Has city c.name σ more than 1M population?" С Tuples C: "Get city names" LLM

Open Questions

• DB first:

use LLM in operators – *Galois* [Jo and Trummer, 2023], [Urban et al, 2023]



- LLM first: Consuming structured data in pretraining, extensions, fine tuning.... But fine tuned ChatGPT obtains only 0.53 accuracy for TQA [Badaro et al, 2023] [Li et al, 2023]
- LLMs + Agents? SP better results than TQA
 Juse LM for NLU, SQL/code for data operations [Arora et al, 2023]

DB-first or LLM-first?

2023 IEEE 39th International Conference on Data Engineering (ICDE)

Data Ambiguity Profiling for the Generation of **Training Examples**

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Abstract-Several applications, such as text-to-SQL and compu-

tational fact checking, exploit the relationship between relational

data and natural language text. However, state of the art solutions

simply fail in managing "data-ambiguity", i.e., the case when

there are multiple interpretations of the relationship between text and data. Given the ambiguity in language, text can be mapped to

different subsets of data, but existing training corpora only have

examples in which every sentence/question is annotated precisely

w.r.t. the relation. This unrealistic assumption leaves the target

applications unable to handle ambiguous cases. To tackle this

problem, we present an end-to-end solution that, given a table

D, generates examples that consist of text, annotated with its

data evidence, with factual ambiguities w.r.t. D. We formulate the

problem of profiling relational tables to identify row and attribute

data ambiguity. For the latter, we propose a deep learning method

that identifies every pair of data ambiguous attributes and a

label that describes both columns. Such metadata is then used

to generate examples with data ambiguities for any input table.

To enable scalability, we finally introduce a SQL approach that

can generate millions of examples in seconds. We show the high

accuracy of our solution in profiling relational tables and report

on how our automatically generated examples lead to drastic

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TABLE I. A DATA-AMBIGUOUS EXAMPLE CONTAINS THE SENTENCE "CARTER LA HAS HIGHER SHOOTING THAN SMITH SF" AND THE EVIDENCE UNDERLINED. ANOTHER EXAMPLE CONTAINS THE QUESTION "DID CARTER COMMIT 3 FOULS?" AND THE EVIDENCE IN ITALIC

against a relational table D as in Table I. Even as humans, it is hard to state if the sentence is true or false w.r.t. the data in D. The challenge is due to the two different meanings that can be matched to shooting: the claim can refer to attribute Field Goal (FG%) or to 3-point Field Goal (3FG%). The same challenge applies with a SQL query expressed in natural language such as "Did Carter commit 3 fouls?". We refer to this issue as data ambiguity, i.e., the existence of more than one interpretation of a text w.r.t. the data for a human reader.

While existing corpora of examples come from extensive and expensive manual efforts, they do not contain examples with ambiguous text. Existing applications fail in these scenarios:

https://github.com/enzoveltri/pythia

QATCH: Benchmarking SQL-centric tasks with Table Representation Learning Models on Your Data

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Paolo Papotti EURECOM Sophia Antipolis, France

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Abstract

Table Representation Learning (TRL) models are commonly pre-trained on large open-domain datasets comprising millions of tables and then used to address downstream tasks. Choosing the right TRL model to use on proprietary data can be challenging, as the best results depend on the content domain, schema, and data quality. Our purpose is to support end-users in testing TRL models on proprietary data in two established SQL-centric tasks, i.e., Question Answering (QA) and Semantic Parsing (SP). We present OATCH (Ouery-Aided TRL Checklist), a toolbox to highlight TRL models' strengths and weaknesses on relational tables unseen at training time. For an input table, QATCH automatically generates a testing checklist tailored to QA and SP. Checklist generation is driven by a SQL query engine that crafts tests of different complexity. This design facilitates inherent allowing the shasks to be used by alt ativa modela Wa also introduce

https://github.com/spapicchio/QATCH







Vision Paper

Querying Large Language Models with SQL

proceedings

Mohammed Saeed Nicola De Cao Paolo Papotti mohammed.saeed@eurecom.fr ndecao@google.com papotti@eurecom.fr EURECOM EURECOM Google AI France UK France ABSTRACT Querving with SQL Question answering with NL In many use-cases, information is stored in text but not avail-SELECT c.cityName, cm.birthDate List names of the cities and FROM city c, cityMayor cm mayor birth date for the cities able in structured data. However, extracting data from natural WHERE c.major = cm.name, where the current mayor has language (NL) text to precisely fit a schema, and thus enable cm.electionYear = 2019 been in charge since 2019. querying, is a challenging task. With the rise of pre-trained Large Language Models (LLMs), there is now an effective solution to GALOIS (1) (2) store and use information extracted from massive corpora of Break it down into LLM text documents. Thus, we envision the use of SQL queries to simple sub-tasks cover a broad range of data that is not captured by traditional * databases (DBs) by tapping the information in LLMs. This ability cityName birthDate New York City: Bill de Blasio, would enable the hybrid querying of both LLMs and DBs with born May 8, 1961 Chicago August 4 1962 - Chicago: Lori Lightfoot, born the SQL interface, which is more expressive and precise than NL Tampa December 7 1960 August 4, 1962 prompts. To show the potential of this vision, we present one [5 more rows] [5 more lines] possible direction to ground it with a traditional DB architecture using physical operators for querying the underlying LLM. Figure 1: Querying a pre-trained LLM with SQL is differ-One promising idea is to execute some operators of the query ent from question answering (QA). We assume a user SQL plan with prompts that retrieve data from the LLM. For a large query as input. GALOIS executes the query, and obtains relaclass of SQL queries, querying LLMs returns well structured relations, by retrieving data from a LLM (1). The corresponding tions, with encouraging qualitative results. We pinpoint several QA task consumes and produces natural language text (2). research challenges that must be addressed to build a DBMS that jointly exploits LLMs and DBs. While some challenges call for new contributions from the NLP field, others offer novel research complex questions in a closed-book fashion [46] (example (2) avenues for the DB community

https://gitlab.eurecom.fr/saeedm1/galois

DASFAA – 4th July 2024