

Entity Quality Enhancement in Knowledge Graphs through LLM-based Question Answering

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Abstract

Most models for triple extraction from texts primarily focus on named entities. However, real-world applications often comprise non-named entities that pose serious challenges for entity linking and disambiguation. We focus on these entities and propose the first LLM-based entity revision framework to improve the quality of extracted triples via a multi-choice question-answering mechanism. When evaluated on two benchmark datasets, our results show a significant improvement, thereby generating more reliable triples for knowledge graphs.

1 Introduction

Triple extraction (TE) is a well-established NLP task where several deep learning models (Bouziani et al., 2024; Wang et al., 2022; Santosh et al., 2021; Wadhwa et al., 2023; Xu et al., 2023), and more recently, LLMs (Trajanoska et al., 2023; Chia et al., 2022; Li et al., 2024; Chen et al., 2023) have successfully been employed in benchmark datasets in different domains and languages (e.g., SemEval-2010 Task 8 (Hendrickx et al., 2010), TACRED (Zhang et al., 2017), BioRed (Luo et al., 2022)).

Most relation extraction models focus primarily on named entities such as person names, locations, and organizations, making them fail in dealing with a richer array of complex, non-named entities (hereafter N-NE). According to Paris and Suchanek (2021), N-NE are defined as noun phrases (NPs) that can be the subject or object of a predicate within a sentence such as "decision list" and "parsing-based ne rules" in Figure 1. N-NE can have several forms ranging from nominal group (e.g., *year 1944*), containing adjectives and adverbs (e.g., *very good questions*), prepositional phrases (e.g., *in the Arab World*), relative clauses or more complex syntactic constructions (e.g., *near-term growth prospects of the global economy*). N-NE are relatively frequent in textual data. For example,

when manually analysing around 2K NPs extracted from Wikipedia, Paris and Suchanek (2021) found that 78% of NP heads are N-NE among which 38% are modified by an adjective, and 34% have a preposition. Despite their importance, their frequency in popular benchmark datasets is relatively low (e.g., TACRED only involves named entities).

Context: *first, decision list is used to learn the parsing-based ne rules.*

Gold: ('decision list', 'usage', 'parsing-based ne rules')
GPT-4: ('decision list', 'usage', 'learn the parsing-based ne rules')
Falcon-2: ('first, decision list', 'learn', 'parsing-based ne rules')

Figure 1: Triple extraction involving N-NE as given by gold manual annotations, Falcon-2 and GPT4 models. Wrong entities are in red.

N-NE pose serious challenges in knowledge graph (KG) construction and reasoning, because they remain *silent* with no chance to be linked into an existing knowledge bases (KBs) such as YAGO4 (Tanon et al., 2020) or Wikidata (Vrandečić, 2012). Figure 1 illustrates the impact these entities have on triple extraction from a sentence taken for SemEval 2018 Task 7. We compare the outputs of Falcon-2 (Sakor et al., 2020), an entity and relation linking tool over Wikidata, and zero-shot GPT-4 against the gold label. Although both models successfully identified the boundaries of the entities, they failed to correctly extract both the head and tail entities together.

N-NE have received little attention in the literature. Among the few works, Open Information Extraction tools such as OpenIE (Angeli et al., 2015) (see (Zhou et al., 2022) for a survey) output triples of subject, predicate, and object in an unsupervised way relying on dependency parsers where relation arguments can contain N-NE. Paris and Suchanek (2021) performed a qualitative manual study of the nature of N-NE in Wikipedia. In this paper, we go one step further by proposing, for the first time as far as we know, **an end to end LLM-based entity**

revision framework that (a) automatically extracts triples from raw texts, (b) identifies N-NE, (c) enhances their quality by augmenting their likelihood of being successfully linked to an external knowledge base, which is a first important step to overall KG quality assessment (Chen et al., 2019).

To this end, we adopt a multiple choice prompting (MCP) strategy on top of a triple extractor to verify the extracted entities. MCP has been successfully used as a self-evaluation method to mitigate LLMs errors in complex problems like arithmetic and commonsense reasoning (Miao et al., 2023; Weng et al., 2023; Ren et al., 2023). It is newly employed here for entity quality enhancement. Our contributions are as follows:

1. A multiple-choice question answering (MCQA) strategy for enhancing LLMs to revise their extracted entities,
2. Comprehensive experiments with both open source and closed LLMs on two benchmark datasets for relation extraction,
3. A manual analysis of our results demonstrating the effectiveness of our framework in correctly identifying and selecting N-NE.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents our overall framework, Section 3 details the datasets used for evaluation, the experimental settings and evaluation metrics. We finally gives our results together with an error analysis in Section 4.

2 Entity Revision through LLM-based Question Answering

Figure 3 shows our three-steps framework: (1) It first extracts triples using an in-context learning approach. (2) It then ranks candidate entities and (3) refines entity selection through a multiple-choice format to improve accuracy by learning from common extraction errors.

It is important to note that our framework has been designed with modularity in mind, independently from the method used for triple extraction and how N-NE are initially identified. However as a first step and in order to evaluate the effectiveness of our approach when evaluated on benchmark datasets, we experiment with target relations as input to Step 1, the subsequent steps are agnostic to this guidance. This allows to increase the number

of matching triples generated by LLMs when compared to gold annotations (see below) and therefore ensure a sufficient number of instances to derive meaningful conclusions (see Section 3.3 about the evaluation protocols). We detail below each step.

2.1 Step 1: Triple Extraction and Matching

We instruct the LLMs to extract triples via an in-context learning method following (Ozyurt et al., 2024; Lyu et al., 2023; Ma et al., 2023a) where prompts only contain the definition of the target relation. Given is a set of contexts $\mathcal{C} = \{c_i\}$. For each context c_i , the aim is to enumerate triples $\{(h_{ij}, r_{ij}, t_{ij})\}_{j=1}^{R_i}$, where $r_{ij} \in \mathcal{R}$ is a relation and h_{ij} and t_{ij} are the head and tail entities for the relation r_{ij} , and where R_i is the number of relations in c_i (cf. Figure 2).

Step 1 is evaluated by matching LLMs generated triples to gold ones based on overlapping entities. For instance, the gold triple for the given context in Figure 2 is (global variables, USED-FOR, global properties), of which only the extracted triple (global variables, USED-FOR, representing global properties) matches the gold standard.

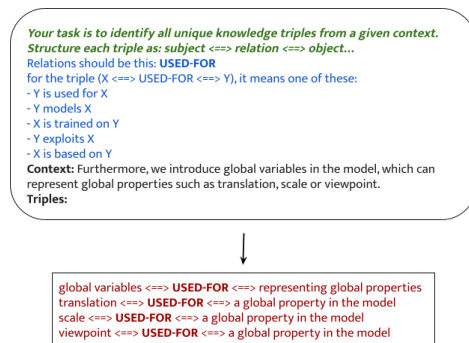


Figure 2: Example of prompt used for triple extraction. The green, blue and black in the top box represent the instruction, demonstration and test context in the prompt respectively. The red parts are the LLMs outputs.

2.2 Step 2: Candidates Selection

Let $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{T})$ be a knowledge graph, where \mathcal{E} is the set of entities, \mathcal{R} the set of relations, and $\mathcal{T} = \{(h, r, t) | h \in \mathcal{E}, r \in \mathcal{R}, t \in \mathcal{E}\}$ the set of triples. Given a query $(h, r, ?)$ (resp. $(?, r, t)$), the graph completion task ranks each entity by calculating its score to determine how well it makes the query hold, thereby achieving knowledge graph completion (Wei et al., 2023). This task inspired our approach; however, as we do not possess a pre-defined set of entities, we must generate a list of

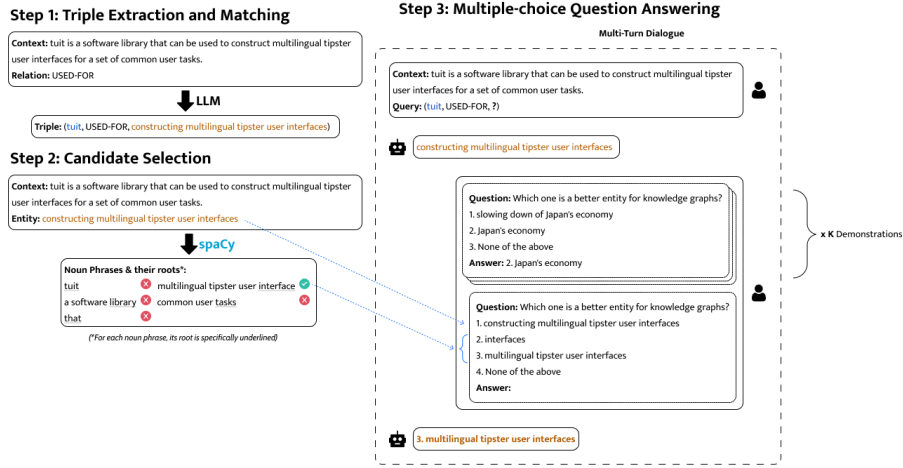


Figure 3: Overview of our entity revision framework: (1) **Triple extraction** from the given context to identify relevant relationships; (2) **Candidate selection**, where potential entities are shortlisted as relevant targets; (3) **Multiple-choice question-answering** to determine the most suitable entity.

potential candidates to fill the queries $(h_{ij}, r_{ij}, ?)$ (resp. $(?, r_{ij}, t_{ij})$) based on context c_i and utilize LLMs as a ranker.

Our candidate selector relies on SpaCy ¹ parser, ² known for its fast and accurate syntactic analysis, to select all noun phrases from context c_i that either contain the entity t_{ij} (resp. h_{ij}) or are contained by t_{ij} (resp. h_{ij}), along with the root of those noun phrases. This method ensures that the selected candidates are contextually relevant and are more likely to be correct entities that can replace low-quality extracted entities. Step 2 is then evaluated by checking if the selected candidate entities include the gold entities or not.

2.3 Step 3: Multiple Choice Question Answering (MCQA).

LLMs are generally not effective as few-shot information extractors, but they excel as rankers [Ma et al. \(2023b\)](#). We therefore employ prompting strategies similar to QA4RE [\(Zhang et al., 2023\)](#), transforming our task into multi-choice questions to more accurately select entities.

To enhance entity extraction, we utilize a set of K demonstration examples that target common extraction errors. These include entities mistakenly containing verbs, excessive adjectives, pronouns, determiners, and pseudo-sentences. Such errors often lead to inaccuracies in the model’s outputs, particularly in sentences where the distance between

¹<https://spacy.io/>

²Although this step could also be performed by LLMs, we opted to use SpaCy here to keep the LLM more focused on the entity revision task.

head and tail entities in the context is long [\(Xu et al., 2023; Ezzabady et al., 2024\)](#). Following [Mo et al. \(2024\)](#) that use direct comparisons to better guide LLMs, each example is selected based on its ability to clearly demonstrate these specific issues, offering a dual presentation of both incorrect and correct entity identifications.

Here are our demonstration questions-answer pairs.

Verb phrase

Question: Which one is a better entity for knowledge graphs?

1. slowing down of Japan’s economy
2. Japan’s economy
3. None of the above

Answer: 2. Japan’s economy

Redundant adjective

Question: Which one is a better entity in a knowledge graph?

1. sars-cov-2 outbreak
2. outbreak
3. large sars-cov-2 outbreak
4. None of the above

Answer: 1. sars-cov-2 outbreak

Determiner

Question: Which one is a better entity in a knowledge graph?

1. identification
2. both language identification
3. language identification

4. None of the above

Answer: 3. language identification

Pronoun

Question: Which one is a better entity in a knowledge graph?

1. application
2. My application
3. None of the above

Answer: 1. application

None of the above

Question: Which one is a better entity in a knowledge graph?

1. keep inflation high in the near term
2. keep inflation high
3. None of the above

Answer: 3. None of the above

3 Experiments

3.1 Datasets

As far as we know, only two benchmark relation extraction datasets involving N-NE exist: SemEval 2018 Task 7 (Gábor et al., 2018) and SciERC (Luan et al., 2018). Both are *document-based* datasets annotated for entities and their relations extracted from scientific abstracts. They are a good choice to evaluate our framework (see Table 1) as their triples contain less than 5% of named entities (as given by SpaCy) and more importantly less than 35% are linked to Wikidata. This is also aligned with recent work by Zhu et al. (2024) who showed that SciERC is a challenge for making knowledge graphs, so that the performance of the best model (GPT-4) is less than 10%.

Gold Triples	SemEval 1,595			SciERC 4,265		
	Head	Tail	Both	Head	Tail	Both
% Named entities	3.71	2.13	0.13	4.71	3.42	0.49
% Linked with Wikidata	35.05	31.97	13.29	29.00	28.07	8.30

Table 1: SemEval and SciERC datasets statistics.

3.2 Experimental Settings

To increase triple matching and simplify the process for LLMs, we narrow down each document to sentences such that our input is a set of sentences $\{s|s \in d, h \in s, t \in s\}$.³ This leads to a total of

³We also tested using documents as input, but the outcomes were inconclusive, e.g., in SciERC, the match rates for documents vs. sentences were 33.95% vs. 54.14%, respectively.

1,578 sentences for SemEval and 4,151 for SciERC. For the inter-sentence relations (1.07% and 2.67% of triples in SemEval and SciERC respectively), we employ their documents as context.

Position bias and *No answer is true* are well known issues in MCQA with language models (Robinson et al., 2023). To address them, we follow the solutions proposed by Ren et al. (2023) as follows. We employ **shuffle and average** method that de-bias and correct answer position effects. To handle cases where none of the provided answers may be correct, we introduce a **None of the Above** option into the answer set, enhancing the model’s ability to avoid overconfident incorrect predictions.

For our experiments, we rely on GPT-4,⁴ LLaMA-3.1 8B-instruct⁵ and Mistral 7B-instruct.⁶ We compare our MCQA framework against two baselines:⁷

- (a) **LLM with simple prompt (*simple*)**: which is similar to zero-shot learning where only the description of the task is given,
- (b) **LLM with detailed prompt (*detailed*)**: that provides in addition a definition of what are considered to be good entities for a KG.

To demonstrate the superiority of our method over having specific guideline, we applied our method only on the *simple* baseline (hereafter *simple+MCQA*). Both baselines operate in a zero-shot setting, MCQA being a few-shot prompting strategy where demonstration question-answer pairs are used to instruct the LLMs.

In Figure 4, we provide examples for different prompts as input and the corresponding output from GPT-4. In dialogues with LLMs, there are three key roles: the **System** role, which sets how the model answers; the **User** role, representing the individual who inputs queries; and the **Assistant** role, which encompasses the model’s responses to user inputs. These roles collectively ensure a structured and effective interaction. A multi-turn dialogue involves a series of exchanges between the user and the assistant where each response builds on the previous interaction.

For all the models, and to avoid bias the same prompts have been used and more importantly,

⁴<https://platform.openai.com/docs/models/gpt-4-turbo-and-gpt-4>

⁵<https://llama.meta.com/llama3>

⁶<https://ollama.com/library/mistral:7b>

⁷As this work focuses on improving LLMs performance, non-LLM methods are out of the scope of this paper.

demonstration questions were not sourced from evaluation datasets (cf. Section 2.3). Additionally, we set the number of demonstrations K to 4.⁸ For implementation details see Appendix A.

3.3 Evaluation Protocol

We evaluate the performances in terms of four metrics, each metric aims to evaluate a particular step of our approach:

(a) *Matched Triples*. It counts the number of extracted triples from Step 1 that successfully match with at least one corresponding gold-standard triple. The matching is determined based on an overlap function, where a partial or complete overlap between the extracted and gold triples is sufficient to consider them matched. This metric provides an initial measure of how accurately the system can identify potential relationships from the context. For example, in Figure 4, none of the extracted triples via *detailed* prompt matches with the gold triple (words, PART_WHOLE, corpus).

(b) *Candidate selector success rate*. It evaluates the effectiveness of the candidate selection step (Step 2). Specifically, it measures how often the true gold-standard entity is included among the set of candidates presented during the selection process. A candidate selection is successful when the gold entity is present in the generated options. This metric highlights the robustness of the candidate generation process and its ability to retain contextually relevant entities for further refinement. For example in Figure 4, we can observe that the candidate selector in our *simple+MCQA* method successfully included the gold entity "words" as options for the question corresponding to the triple (words, PART_WHOLE, corpus).

(c) *Correct entities*. This metric evaluates Step 3 and focuses on the quality of entities within matched triples. It counts the number of entities within these triples that exactly match the corresponding entities in the gold-standard triples. We consider matches of entities at the head, tail and both head and tail positions. This metric is essential for assessing how accurately the framework identifies both the head and tail entities in relation to their expected true values, providing insight into the precision of the extraction process. For the gold triple (words, PART_WHOLE,

corpus) from Figure 4, the outputs of the *simple* baseline and our *simple+MCQA* approach are 100,000 words and words, respectively, as head entities, with the latter being the correct entity.

(d) *Linking coverage*. This metric is used to evaluate the overall LLM-based revision framework. It computes the percentage of entities that are linked to Wikidata, the largest collaborative general knowledge graph with more than 52 million instances (Heist et al., 2020). For example, in the gold triple (words, PART_WHOLE, corpus) from Figure 4, the tail entity corpus was linked to the entity with ID Q461183 in Wikidata. To this end, we rely on SpaCy entity linker module⁹

4 Results and Discussions

4.1 Overall Results

Results are shown in Table 2. GPT-4 demonstrates notable improvements post-revision across all metrics on both datasets, most significantly in the whole triple category (i.e., head, tail and both), where the performance scores in terms of correct entities, rise 11% for SemEval and 9% for SciERC.

Conversely, LLaMA-3 exhibits a general decline in performance after revision across all categories. An interesting observation holds for the detailed baseline where LLaMA-3 seems to handle guidelines better than GPT-4 in the SemEval dataset where the matched triples was 323 vs. 218 for GPT-4. This could suggest that despite its smaller size and simpler architecture, which might hinder the integration of sophisticated entity revision techniques, LLaMA-3 is more compliant with structured guidelines.

Mistral initially performs worse than both GPT-4 and LLaMA-3; however, by applying our revision framework, its results notably improve. For instance, we observe an increase in correct entities in the head, tail and both for both datasets (except the head in SciERC). More importantly, the linking coverage also increases in particular for entities in tail positions in the extracted triples.

Finally, our results show the variability in performances between different LLMs in the triple extraction step where GPT4 is the best achieving a matching triples of 87% and 54.13% in SemEval and SciERC, respectively. This finding is inline with recent studies in generative relation extrac-

⁸We tested several values of $K \in [1, 4]$ and 4 was the best.

⁹<https://github.com/egerber/spaCy-entity-linker>

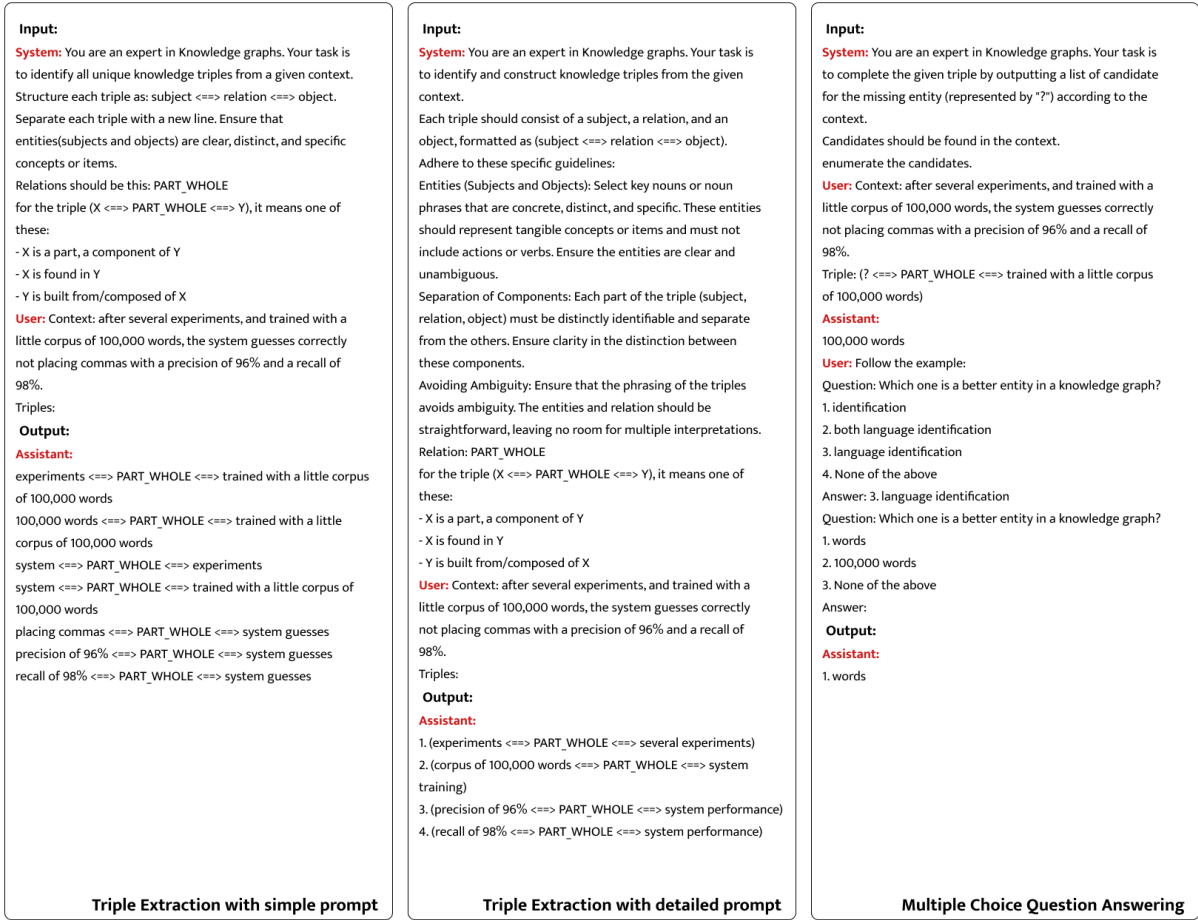


Figure 4: Prompts and responses for our three models: LLM with simple prompt (the first baseline on the left), LLM with detailed prompt (second baseline in the middle) and our framework (on the right, for the sake of readability we only put one demonstration).

Method	SemEval (1,595 gold triples)				SciERC (4,265 gold triples)			
	Matched Triples	Correct Head	Correct Tail	Correct Both	Matched Triples	Correct Head	Correct Tail	Correct Both
LLaMA-3 (simple)	310	232 (8.40)	210 (5.39)	171 (2.95)	957	688 (8.75)	551 (4.60)	435 (1.83)
LLaMA-3 (detailed)	323	223 (6.46)	211 (4.76)	161 (2.13)	1,010	545 (8.02)	472 (4.95)	283 (1.95)
LLaMA-3 (simple + MCQA)	310 [75]	215 (7.08)	199 (5.77)	137 (2.38)	957 [70]	621 (6.80)	542 (5.89)	381 (1.74)
Mistral (simple)	191	124 (2.19)	92 (1.38)	68 (0.25)	677	461 (2.58)	307 (1.74)	229 (0.47)
Mistral (detailed)	106	91 (1.76)	79 (1.07)	69 (0.38)	263	211 (1.34)	190 (0.94)	153 (0.19)
Mistral (simple + MCQA)	191 [72]	128 (1.88)	120 (1.82)	82 (0.31)	677 [70]	441 (2.30)	354 (1.85)	245 (0.38)
GPT-4 (simple)	1,384	694 (12.92)	833 (13.98)	454 (1.15)	2,309	1,745 (10.34)	1,137 (6.61)	935 (1.95)
GPT-4 (detailed)	218	159 (2.63)	93 (1.00)	79 (0.25)	1,948	1,106 (9.87)	850 (6.54)	547 (1.85)
GPT-4 (simple + MCQA)	1,384 [79]	850 (19.94)	890 (18.37)	609 (5.39)	2,309 [79]	1,794 (10.88)	1,408 (10.39)	1,142 (2.30)

Table 2: Overall results of our LLM-based revision framework, in terms of: (a) Matched triples and Correct entities in the head, tail and both: number of instances, (b) Linking coverage: percentages between (), (c) Candidate selector success rates: percentages between []. The best scores per LLM are in bold font whereas best overall results are underlined. Please note that candidate selector success only concerns simple+MCQA as the baselines do not perform any selection.

tion (see for example (Jiang et al., 2024)). The second variability concerns LLMs performances when applying the MCQA technique. While the method demonstrates strong results with models like GPT-4 due to its advanced contextual reasoning and comprehension capabilities, it does not

show similar improvements with models such as LLaMA-3. This inconsistency points to potential limitations in model architecture and pre-training data, which may affect how effectively they handle MCQA tasks. Future work should investigate these disparities to understand the specific features that

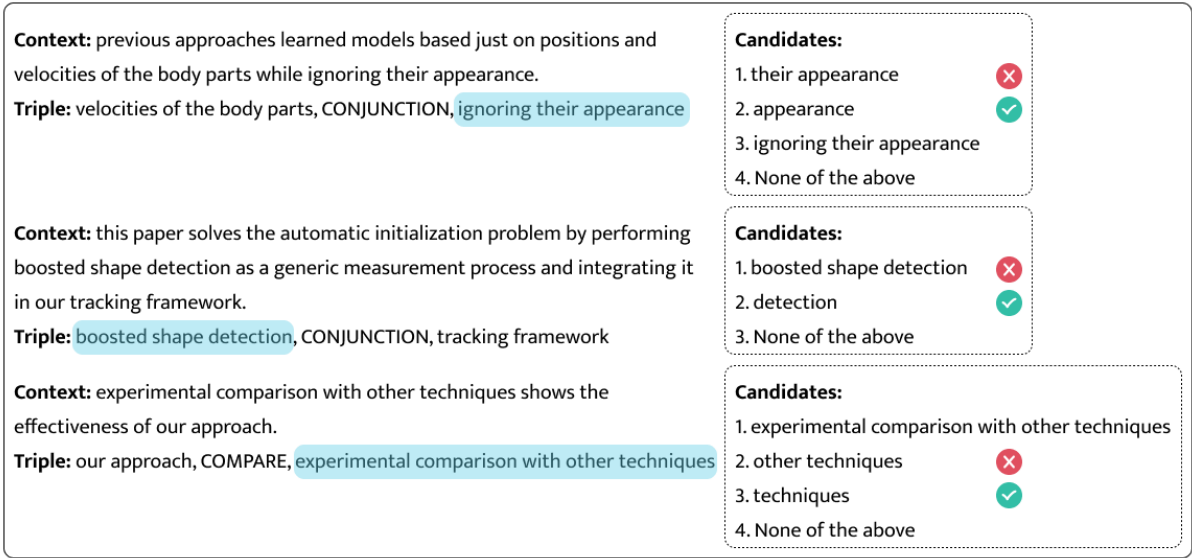


Figure 5: An example of errors made by our MCQA revision framework taken from the SciERC dataset. On the left, the output from triple extraction and matching (step 1) is displayed, highlighting the target entity that needs enhancement. On the right, we show a list of candidate entities obtained in step 2 (i.e., candidate selection) intended to refine the target entity. The entities predicted by our MCQA method answers (step 3) are incorrect (red cross), failing therefore in extracting the correct ones (marked by a green check).

enable some models to leverage MCQA successfully while identifying modifications or alternatives needed to improve performance in others.

4.2 Error Analysis

A manual error analysis of GPT-4 *simple+MPQA* outputs shows that our candidate selector missed 21% of the gold entities across both datasets. For the remaining 79%, the question-answering component achieved accuracies of 87% for SciERC and 81% for SemEval. Figure 5 shows some incorrect answers produced by our approach. Although providing demonstrations helped LLMs make better choices, the error categories (containing verbs, excessive adjectives, pronouns, determiners, and pseudo-sentences) have not been completely eliminated. For example, in the SciERC dataset using GPT-4, the number of entities containing verbs reduced from 737 to 352. Additionally, we observed that when LLMs are given inputs targeting multiple error categories (first example in Figure 5), they struggle to avoid all of them.

5 Conclusion

In this paper, we explore the potential of LLMs in-context learning for entity revision. To address the challenges posed by non-named entities, we introduced a multiple-choice question-answering framework that revises extracted entities from LLMs

while increasing their linking coverage with the largest open knowledge base. When evaluated on two benchmark relation extraction datasets, our results demonstrate the effectiveness of our framework. We believe our work is a first important step to account for non-named entities in knowledge graph construction.

In this work, we apply a limited set of prompting techniques (zero-shot and few-shot in-context learning), which can be further explored in future research. We will also consider how improved entities affect downstream applications like question answering over knowledge graphs.

Acknowledgments

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Limitations

Our methodology is designed to be domain-agnostic, though it has initially been tested using two benchmark relation extraction datasets from the scientific domain in English. These datasets, selected due to the scarcity of benchmarks rich in non-named entities (N-NEs), offer a rigorous testbed for evaluating our approach’s efficacy on N-NEs.

Despite their focus on scientific abstracts, our approach demonstrates the potential for broader applicability. Future research will expand this evaluation to include diverse datasets from various domains and languages, thereby providing a comprehensive assessment of the generalizability and robustness of our framework.

Our evaluation metric is based on the percentage of entities linked to Wikidata. Although it is the largest open knowledge graph in terms of the number of instances, some entities correctly retrieved by our model may be missed by the linking coverage metric simply because those entities do not exist in Wikidata. It will therefore be interesting to also measure the linking rate with other knowledge bases such as DBpedia and YAGO.

Ethics Statement

The data used for conducting the experiments are composed of scientific abstracts taken from datasets publicly available to the research community. The datasets do not contain offensive or abusive language. We utilized various large language models (LLMs), both open-source and proprietary. It is important to acknowledge that these LLMs can exhibit biases and may encounter challenges concerning factual accuracy. Therefore, a critical approach should be adopted when interpreting the experimental outcomes.

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A Implementation Details

In this section, we describe the specific methodologies and settings employed during our experiments to ensure clarity and reproducibility of the results. A unique separator token, “<==>”, was utilized to facilitate the parsing of subjects and objects from the text. This token is not present in the original datasets, thereby avoiding any confusion with natural language text. Additionally, we inform LLMs about the task by starting our prompts with an instruction of the task. It is important to note that we have not conducted any prompt-tuning, as it is not the focus of this paper. Furthermore, we did not alter any hyperparameters related to the LLMs. The only hyperparameter that our framework includes is K, which represents the number of demonstrations in step 3.