

HybridFC: A Hybrid Fact-Checking Approach for Knowledge Graphs

Umair Qudus, Michael Röder, Muhammad Saleem, and
Axel-Cyrille Ngonga Ngomo



Data Science Group
Paderborn University

October 27, 2022

Motivation

These false facts, according to widely published accounts, all appeared on the Wikipedia site at some point.

- Robbie Williams eats domestic pets in pubs for money. ...
- David Beckham was a Chinese goalkeeper in the 18th century. ...
- Paul Reiser's dead. ...
- Sinbad's dead. ...
- Sergey Brin's sexy, dating Jimmy Wales, and dead.

[Weitere Einträge...](#) • 21.09.2009

www.nbcnews.com › biggest-wikipedia-blunders

[15 biggest Wikipedia blunders - Technology & science - Tech ...](#)

- ▶ DBpedia 3.6 ca. 80% correct (Gerber et al., 2015; Rula et al., 2019)
- ▶ Unknown for a number of enterprise knowledge graphs

Families of approaches



Birth Place →



- ▶ **Given:** Knowledge graph \mathbb{G} and an assertion $t = (s, p, o)$
- ▶ **Goal:** Compute $P(t)$

Families of approaches



- ▶ **Given:** Knowledge graph \mathbb{G} and an assertion $t = (s, p, o)$
 - ▶ **Goal:** Compute $P(t)$
1. **Text-based** solutions
 - ▶ Search for evidence in large text corpus
 - ▶ Score evidence using **predefined** features

Families of approaches



Birth Place →



- ▶ **Given:** Knowledge graph \mathbb{G} and an assertion $t = (s, p, o)$
 - ▶ **Goal:** Compute $P(t)$
1. **Text-based** solutions
 - ▶ Search for evidence in large text corpus
 - ▶ Score evidence using **predefined** features
 2. **Graph-based** solutions
 - ▶ Search for correlated paths in \mathbb{G}
 - ▶ Score evidence **based on paths**

Families of approaches



- ▶ **Given:** Knowledge graph \mathbb{G} and an assertion $t = (s, p, o)$
 - ▶ **Goal:** Compute $P(t)$
1. **Text-based** solutions
 - ▶ Search for evidence in large text corpus
 - ▶ Score evidence using **predefined** features
 2. **Graph-based** solutions
 - ▶ Search for correlated paths in \mathbb{G}
 - ▶ Score evidence **based on paths**
 3. **Embedding-based** solutions
 - ▶ Representation in continuous **high-dimensional vector space**

- ▶ **Text-based** solutions
 - ▶ Manual feature engineering

- ▶ **Text-based** solutions
 - ▶ Manual feature engineering
- ▶ **Graph-based** solutions
 - ▶ Limited background knowledge

- ▶ **Text-based** solutions
 - ▶ Manual feature engineering
- ▶ **Graph-based** solutions
 - ▶ Limited background knowledge
- ▶ **Embedding-based** solutions
 - ▶ Low accuracy scores

- ▶ **Text-based** solutions
 - ▶ Manual feature engineering
- ▶ **Graph-based** solutions
 - ▶ Limited background knowledge
- ▶ **Embedding-based** solutions
 - ▶ Low accuracy scores
- ▶ **Examples**

```
PREFIX dbr: <http://dbpedia.org/resource/>
PREFIX dbo: <http://dbpedia.org/ontology/>
Assertion: dbr:Johnny_Carson dbo:deathPlace dbr:West_Hollywood,_California
=====
FactCheck Result: Score: 0.0
COPAAL Result: Score: 0.99
```

```
Assertion: dbr:T._S._Eliot dbo:award dbr:Nobel_Prize_in_Literature
=====
COPAAL Result: Score: 0.0
TransE Result: Score: 0.90
```

Architecture

Text-based component

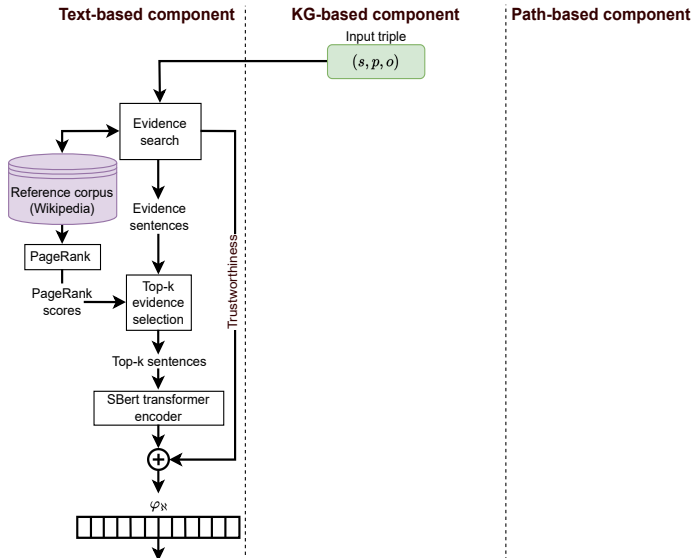
KG-based component

Path-based component

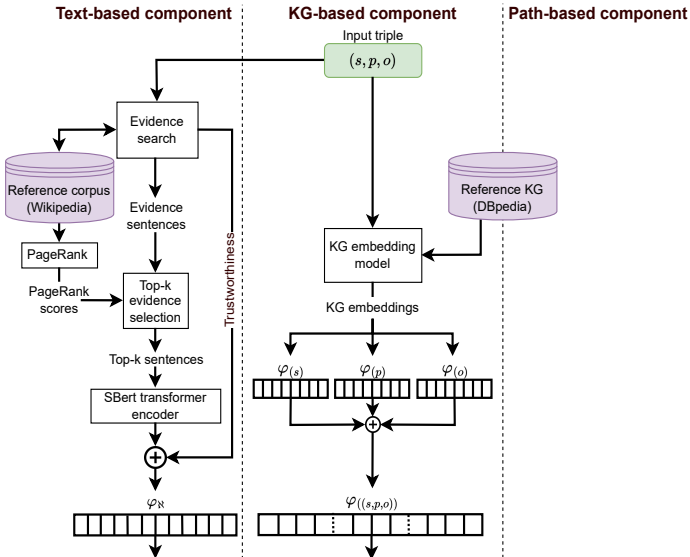
Input triple

(s, p, o)

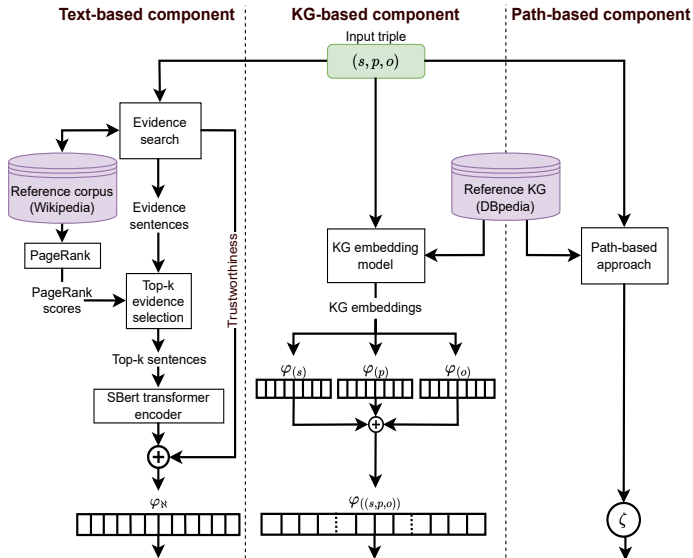
Architecture



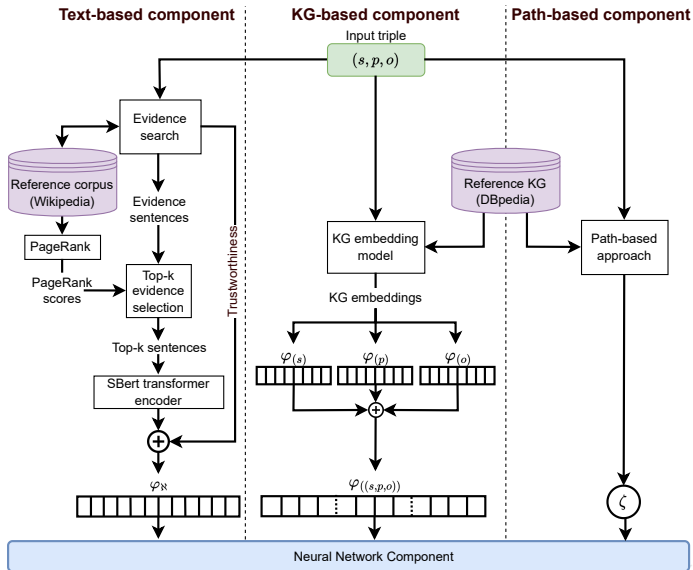
Architecture



Architecture

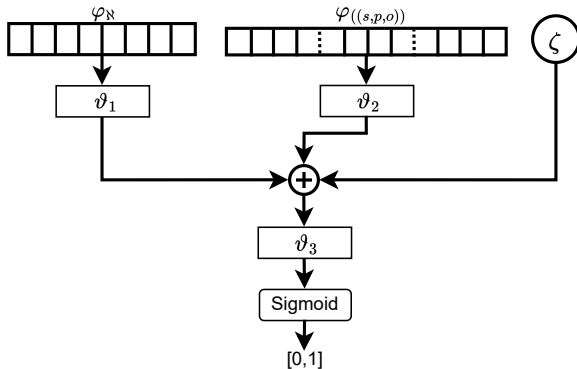


Architecture

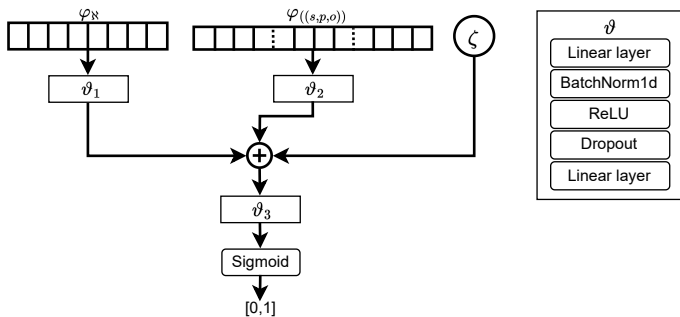


Proposed Approach (HybridFC)

Neural Network Component



Neural Network Component



$$\omega = \sigma \left(w_{\sigma}^T v_3 \left(v_1(\varphi_N) \oplus v_2(\varphi((s, p, o))) \oplus \zeta \right) \right) \quad (1)$$

Experiments

Setup details

- ▶ We used 2 state-of-the-art fact-checking datasets
 - ▶ Factbench [6]
 - ▶ Birth-place Death-place (BD) [7]

Experiments

Setup details

- ▶ We used 2 state-of-the-art fact-checking datasets
 - ▶ Factbench [6]
 - ▶ Birth-place Death-place (BD) [7]
- ▶ Our text-based component makes use of a reference corpus
 - ▶ Plain text snippets from all English Wikipedia

Setup details

- ▶ We used 2 state-of-the-art fact-checking datasets
 - ▶ Factbench [6]
 - ▶ Birth-place Death-place (BD) [7]
- ▶ Our text-based component makes use of a reference corpus
 - ▶ Plain text snippets from all English Wikipedia
- ▶ We use the Binary Cross Entropy (BCE) as loss function for training

Setup details

- ▶ We used 2 state-of-the-art fact-checking datasets
 - ▶ Factbench [6]
 - ▶ Birth-place Death-place (BD) [7]
- ▶ Our text-based component makes use of a reference corpus
 - ▶ Plain text snippets from all English Wikipedia
- ▶ We use the Binary Cross Entropy (BCE) as loss function for training
- ▶ We use embeddings from 5 KG embedding models:
 - ▶ TransE [1], ConEx [3], QMult [2], ComplEx [8], and RDF2Vec [5]

Setup details

- ▶ We used 2 state-of-the-art fact-checking datasets
 - ▶ Factbench [6]
 - ▶ Birth-place Death-place (BD) [7]
- ▶ Our text-based component makes use of a reference corpus
 - ▶ Plain text snippets from all English Wikipedia
- ▶ We use the Binary Cross Entropy (BCE) as loss function for training
- ▶ We use embeddings from 5 KG embedding models:
 - ▶ TransE [1], ConEx [3], QMult [2], ComplEx [8], and RDF2Vec [5]
- ▶ We use the area under the receiver operator characteristic curve (AUROC) in our evaluation [4, 7, 6]

Test Results comparison

		Domain	Range	DomainRange	Mix	Random	Property	Avg.
T	FactCheck [6]	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.61	0.66	0.59	0.64
P	COPAAL [7]	0.67	0.68	0.68	0.65	0.69	0.69	0.68
R	KV-Rule [4]	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.58	0.61	0.62	0.59
KG-emb	TransE [1]	0.63	0.60	0.63	0.64	0.87	0.96	0.72
	ConEx [3]	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.52	0.60	0.60	0.54
	ComplEx [8]	0.58	0.58	0.52	0.62	0.86	0.95	0.69
	QMult [2]	0.57	0.62	0.55	0.69	0.84	0.93	0.70
	RDF2Vec [5]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HybridFC¹	TransE	0.80	0.80	0.81	0.78	0.95	0.99	0.86
	ConEx	0.77	0.78	0.79	0.71	0.80	0.70	0.75
	ComplEx	0.75	0.76	0.74	0.72	0.93	0.97	0.81
	QMult	0.69	0.73	0.71	0.69	0.91	0.94	0.77

¹We use a Wilcoxon signed rank test with a significance threshold $\alpha = 0.05$.

Test Results

	D	R	DR	Mix	Ran.	Prop.	Avg.
TC	0.76	0.77	0.76	0.69	0.77	0.64	0.73
PC	0.68	0.69	0.69	0.65	0.70	0.69	0.68
EC	0.63	0.61	0.62	0.64	0.86	0.97	0.72
TC+EC	0.76	<u>0.78</u>	0.76	<u>0.74</u>	<u>0.92</u>	<u>0.98</u>	<u>0.82</u>
TC+PC	<u>0.77</u>	0.77	<u>0.77</u>	0.7	0.79	0.67	0.74
PC+EC	0.71	0.7	0.69	0.72	0.89	0.97	0.78
HybridFC ²	0.80	0.80	0.81	0.78	0.95	0.99	0.86

²We use a Wilcoxon signed rank test with a significance threshold $\alpha = 0.05$.

Conclusion and Future Work

- ▶ Current approaches have certain limitations, e.g.,
 - ▶ Manual feature engineering
 - ▶ Unavailability of paths between subjects and objects
 - ▶ Poor performance

Conclusion and Future Work

- ▶ Current approaches have certain limitations, e.g.,
 - ▶ Manual feature engineering
 - ▶ Unavailability of paths between subjects and objects
 - ▶ Poor performance
- ▶ HybridFC alleviate the problem of single category of approaches by combining these three categories of approaches

Conclusion and Future Work

- ▶ Current approaches have certain limitations, e.g.,
 - ▶ Manual feature engineering
 - ▶ Unavailability of paths between subjects and objects
 - ▶ Poor performance
- ▶ HybridFC alleviate the problem of single category of approaches by combining these three categories of approaches
- ▶ Our experiments show that our hybrid approach is able to outperform competing approaches in the majority of cases

Conclusion and Future Work

- ▶ Current approaches have certain limitations, e.g.,
 - ▶ Manual feature engineering
 - ▶ Unavailability of paths between subjects and objects
 - ▶ Poor performance
- ▶ HybridFC alleviate the problem of single category of approaches by combining these three categories of approaches
- ▶ Our experiments show that our hybrid approach is able to outperform competing approaches in the majority of cases
- ▶ As future work, we will exploit the modularity of HybridFC by integrating other families of approaches

Summary

That's all folks!

HybridFC exploits the diversity of existing families of fact-checking approaches within an ensemble learning setting

Web: dice-research.org

Code: github.com/dice-group/HybridFC

Twitter: [@DiceResearch](https://twitter.com/DiceResearch)

The work has been supported by the EU H2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie project KnowGraphs (no. 860801), the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) funded project RAKI (no. 01MD19012B), and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) funded EuroStars projects 3DFed (no. 01QE2114B) and FROCKG (no. 01QE19418).



GEFÖRDERT VOM



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium
für Wirtschaft
und Energie

aufgrund eines Beschlusses
des Deutschen Bundestages



Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

- [1] Bordes, A., Usunier, N., Garcia-Durán, A., Weston, J., Yakhnenko, O.: Translating embeddings for modeling multi-relational data. In: Proceedings of the 26th International Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems - Volume 2. p. 2787–2795. NIPS'13, Curran Associates Inc., Red Hook, NY, USA (2013)
- [2] Demir, C., Moussallem, D., Heindorf, S., Ngomo, A.C.N.: Convolutional hypercomplex embeddings for link prediction. In: Asian Conference on Machine Learning. pp. 656–671. PMLR (2021)
- [3] Demir, C., Ngomo, A.C.N.: Convolutional complex knowledge graph embeddings. In: European Semantic Web Conference. pp. 409–424. Springer (2021)
- [4] Kim, J., Choi, K.s.: Unsupervised fact checking by counter-weighted positive and negative evidential paths in a knowledge graph. In: Proceedings of the 28th International Conference on Computational Linguistics. pp. 1677–1686. International Committee on Computational Linguistics, Barcelona, Spain (Online) (Dec 2020).