

Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS

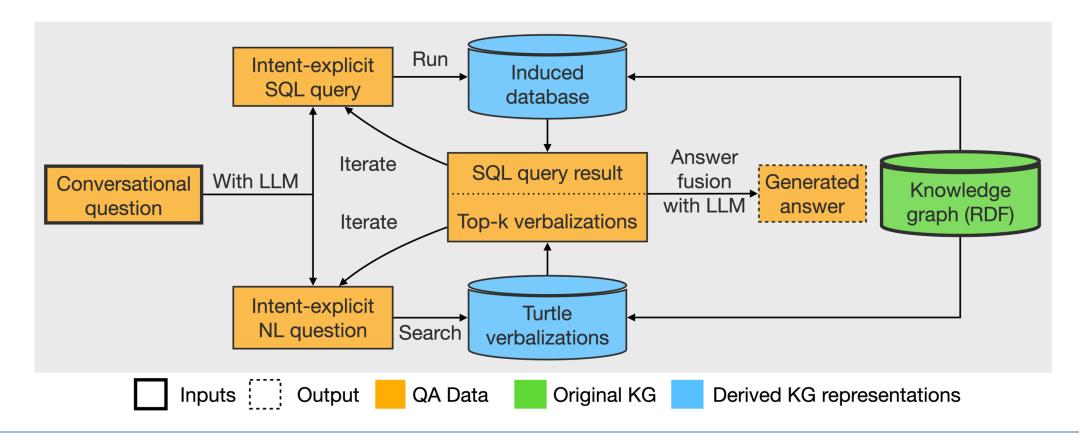
RAGONITE: Iterative Retrieval on Induced Databases and Verbalized RDF for Conversational QA over KGs with RAG

Rishiraj Saha Roy, Chris Hinze, Joel Schlotthauer, Farzad Naderi, Viktor Hangya, Andreas Foltyn, Luzian Hahn, and Fabian Kuech

#### Key idea: Make the most of your knowledge graph with RAGONITE!

Retrieval augmented generation for conversational question answering over knowledge graphs

- Traditional question answering over knowledge graphs with SPARQL only satisfies fact lookups
- Fusing SQL results over induced databases and text search over RDF verbalizations unifies lookups, abstract and complex intents on KGs



## Overview of novel KG-QA pipeline Motivation and approach

- Conversational question answering with implicit follow-up questions most natural way of information access over KGs
- KGs store vital knowledge but primarily used for storage and lookup of facts (via SPARQL-like languages)
- Limitations
  - Information contained in KGs can be harnessed for much more
  - SPARQL generation via LLMs a bottleneck
- We propose unified framework for harvesting information in KGs
  - Lookups (cost of 530e m sport saloon?)
  - Complex intents, including math (charging time of 225e Active Tourer less than avg over all bmws?)
  - Abstract intents (luxury features in x5?)
- Achieved via two-pronged pipeline fusing structured and unstructured retrieval
  - Structured retrieval via SQL tackles lookups and complex math
  - Unstructured retrieval tackles lookups and abstract NL intents
- Retrieval tools can be invoked for multiple iterations



# Highlights in RAGONITE Novel pipeline for unified IR over KGs

- Automated database induction
- Knowledge graph verbalization
- Iterative retrieval
- Branch integration
- Open LLM support
- Scope for heterogeneous QA

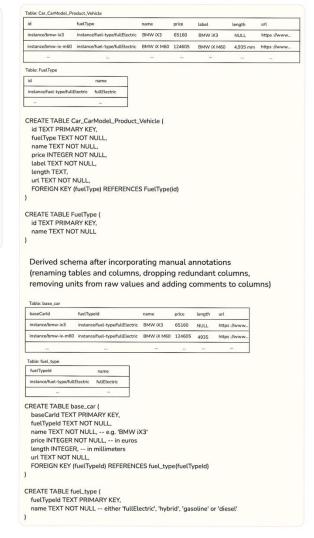
### Automated database induction Programmatic KG to DB conversion

- Original KG in RDF format
- Converted to a DBMS for harnessing SQL capabilities (Li et al. 2023)
  - More capable than SPARQL at math, user-defined functions, ...
  - LLMs better at SQL generation than SPARQL
- Database consists of tables like car, engines, fuels, equipment, ...
- Key steps
  - Inducing schema
  - Inserting data
  - **Enhancing semantics**

1. Knowledge graph represented as encapsulated Turtle facts

```
<a href="http://iis.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/bmw-ix3">http://iis.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/bmw-ix3</a> a ns1:Car,
        ns1:CarModel,
        ns1-Product
        ns1:Vehicle ;
   ns1:fuelType <a href="http://iais.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/fuel-type/fullElectric">http://iais.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/fuel-type/fullElectric</a>
    ns1:name "BMW iX3";
    ns1:price "65160"
    rdfs:label "BMW iX3"
    ns1:url <a href="https://www.bmw.co.uk/en/all-models/x-models/iX3/2021/bmw-ix3-highlights.html">ns1:url <a href="https://www.bmw.co.uk/en/all-models/x-models/iX3/2021/bmw-ix3-highlights.html">https://www.bmw.co.uk/en/all-models/x-models/iX3/2021/bmw-ix3-highlights.html</a>
<a href="http://iis.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/bmw-ix-m60">http://iis.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/bmw-ix-m60</a> a ns1:Car,
        ns1:Product,
        ns1:Vehicle :
    ns1:fuelType <a href="http://iais.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/fuel-type/fullElectric">http://iais.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/fuel-type/fullElectric</a>
    ns1:length "4,953 mm"
    ns1:name "BMW iX M60"
    ns1:price "124605":
    rdfs:label "BMW iX M60"
    ns1:url <a href="https://www.bmw.co.uk/en/all-models/m-models/bmw-ix-m60/2021/bmw-ix-m60-highlights.html">https://www.bmw.co.uk/en/all-models/m-models/bmw-ix-m60/2021/bmw-ix-m60-highlights.html</a>
 <a href="http://iis.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/fuel-type/fullElectric">http://iis.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/fuel-type/fullElectric</a> a ns1:FuelType
     ns1:name "fullElectric"
<a href="http://iaisfraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/bmw-3-series-saloon-m-models">http://iaisfraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/bmw-3-series-saloon-m-models</a> a ns1:Car
        ns1:CarModel,
         ns1:Product,
    rdfs:label "BMW 3 Series Saloon M models" :
   ns1:equipment <a href="http://iis.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/equipment/Ambient%20interior%20lighting">ns1:equipment <a href="http://iis.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/equipment/Ambient%20interior%20lighting">ns1:equipment <a href="http://iis.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/equipment/Ambient%20interior%20lighting">ns1:equipment <a href="http://iis.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/equipment/Ambient%20interior%20lighting">ns1:equipment <a href="http://iis.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/equipment/Ambient%20interior%20lighting">ns1:equipment <a href="http://iis.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/equipment/Ambient%20interior%20lighting">ns1:equipment <a href="http://iis.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/equipment/Ambient%20interior%20lighting">ns1:equipment/Ambient%20interior%20lighting</a>
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        <a href="http://iis.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/equipment/LED%20headlights%20and%20LED%20rear%20lights">http://iis.fraunhofer.de/bmw/instance/equipment/LED%20headlights%20and%20LED%20rear%20lights>,</a>
   ns1-identifier "hmw-3-series-saloon-m-models"
  ns1:name "BMW 3 Series Saloon M models"
```

2a. Automatically induced database from Turtle RDF "capsules"





## Knowledge graph verbalization Makes KG amenable for NL retrieval and reasoning

- Text search runs over passage verbalizations generated from KG in RDF Turtle format (Oguz et al. 2022)
- Each RDF Turtle "shell" converted into an NL passage
- Simple and generalizable hand-crafted rules
- Reversed facts also included to increase scope of answerable questions

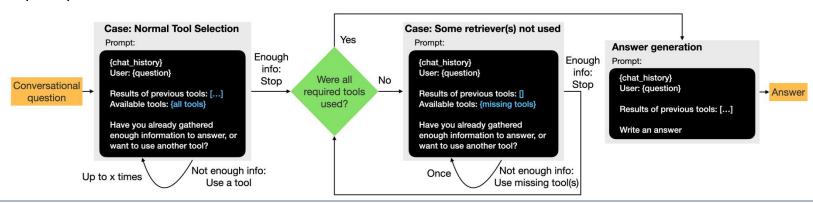
BMW 120 M Sport is a Car. BMW 120 M Sport is a Product. BMW 120 M Sport is a Vehicle. BMW 120 M Sport has engine specification bmw-120-m-sport. bmw-120-m-sport is engine specification of BMW 120 M Sport. BMW 120 M Sport has height 1459 mm. 1459 mm is height of BMW 120 M Sport. BMW 120 M Sport is variant of bmw-1-series-(2024). bmw-1-series-(2024) has variant BMW 120 M Sport. BMW 120 M Sport has length 4361 mm. 4361 mm is length of BMW 120 M Sport. BMW 120 M Sport has price 33065 Euros. 33065 Euros is price of BMW 120 M Sport. BMW 120 M Sport has wheelbase 2670 mm. 2670 mm is wheelbase of BMW 120 M Sport. BMW 120 M Sport has width 1800 mm. 1800 mm is width of BMW 120 M Sport.



#### Iterative retrieval

#### Structured and unstructured retrieval tools may be invoked more than once

- RAGONITE has multiple tools or functions at its disposal
  - SQL query execution
  - Dense retriever
  - Lexical retriever
- Each tool can be called multiple times until satisfactory results are retrieved
- Each tool must be used at least once
- Increases robustness to "failed" retrievals
- Also for satisfying multi-hop intents (average price of x7 cars with climate control)
- Previous results included in the query generation LLM's prompt for next iteration





## Branch integration Fusion automated via LLMs

- Merging results from structured and unstructured retrieval via LLM agent
- Precludes need for
  - Deciding based on question which branch(es) to prefer
  - Deciding based on retrieval results which branch(es) to prefer
- No hard-coded rules in system
- Fully automated via LLM based on input question and conversation so far

## Open LLM support On-premise open models

- Uses GPT-4o via API as default
- Seamless support for Llama and other local models



### Heterogeneous QA QA over text and KG

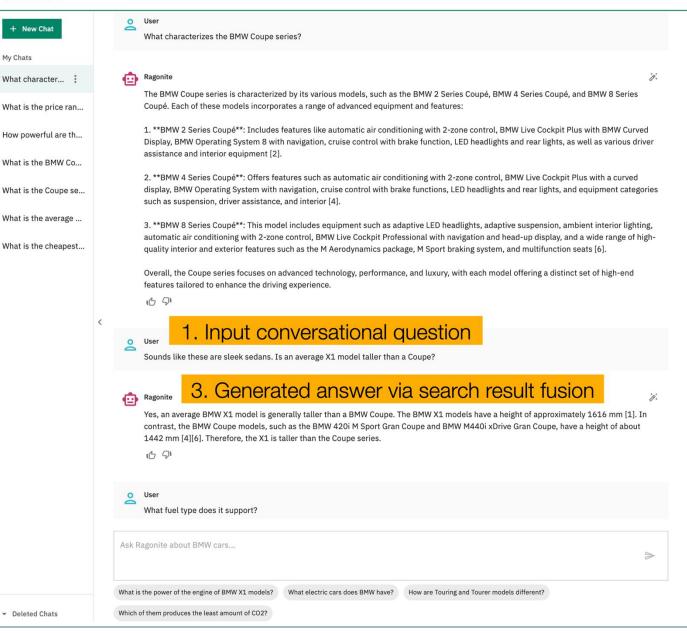
- Having RDF verbalizations in pipeline facilitates incorporation of additional text
- No special support required
- Additional text snippets, for example, from the Web, can be simply added to our corpus
- Integration works well with about 400 passages from bmw.co.uk

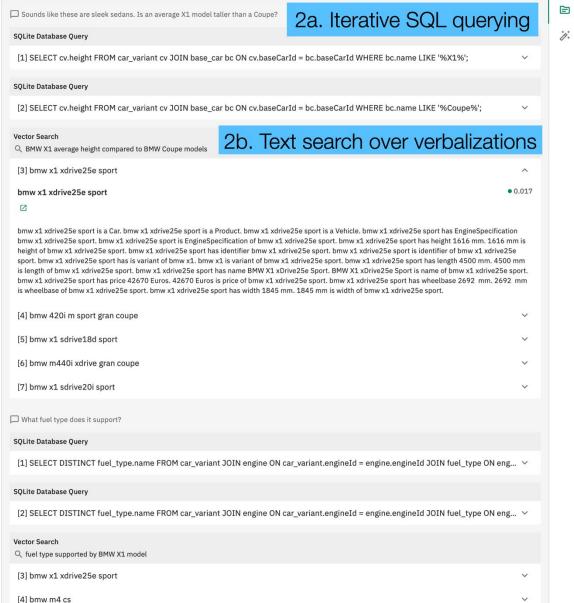
#### **Evaluation**

#### Comparing natural alternatives

- BMW KG
  - 3442 facts: 466 entities, 27 predicates, 7 types, 1295 literals
  - 7 tables via DB induction, 466 passages via RDF verbalization
- QA pairs
  - 30 diverse questions wrt entities, predicates, types
  - Conducted as six conversations with five turns each
  - Equal distribution of all three intent classes: lookup, complex, abstract
- Four variants compared
  - SPARQL-only: 4/30 (fails in most cases due to LLM's inability at good query generation, NERD failures)
  - SQL-only: 18/30 🗹 (fails when question has ad hoc entity mentions like *gran coupe sport 220 i m* and not bmw-220i-m-sport-gran-coupé)
  - Verbalization-only: 24/30 (fails with complex math, like minimum over averages of grouped car prices)
  - SQL+Verbalization iterative: 28/30
- Average runtime is 6 seconds per question, end-to-end
- Detailed runtimes and accuracies available at <a href="https://github.com/Fraunhofer-IIS/RAGonite/blob/main/btw25-bmw/data/bmw-eval-results.pdf">https://github.com/Fraunhofer-IIS/RAGonite/blob/main/btw25-bmw/data/bmw-eval-results.pdf</a>





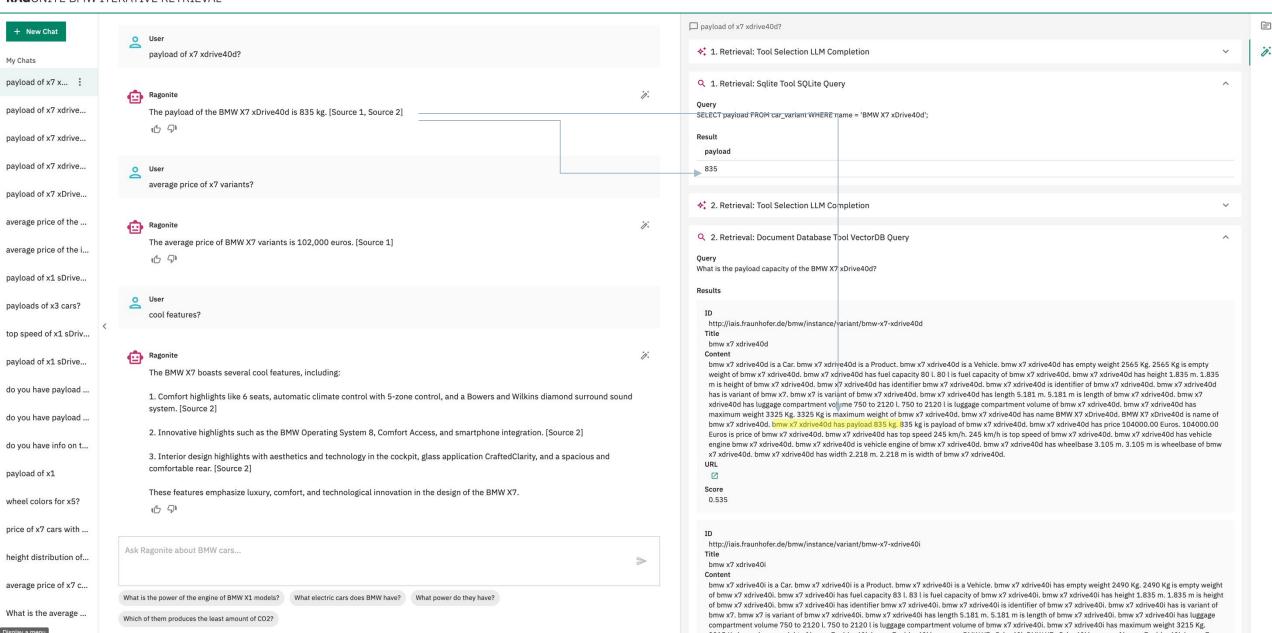




## Example question 1: Fact lookups satisfied via both branches

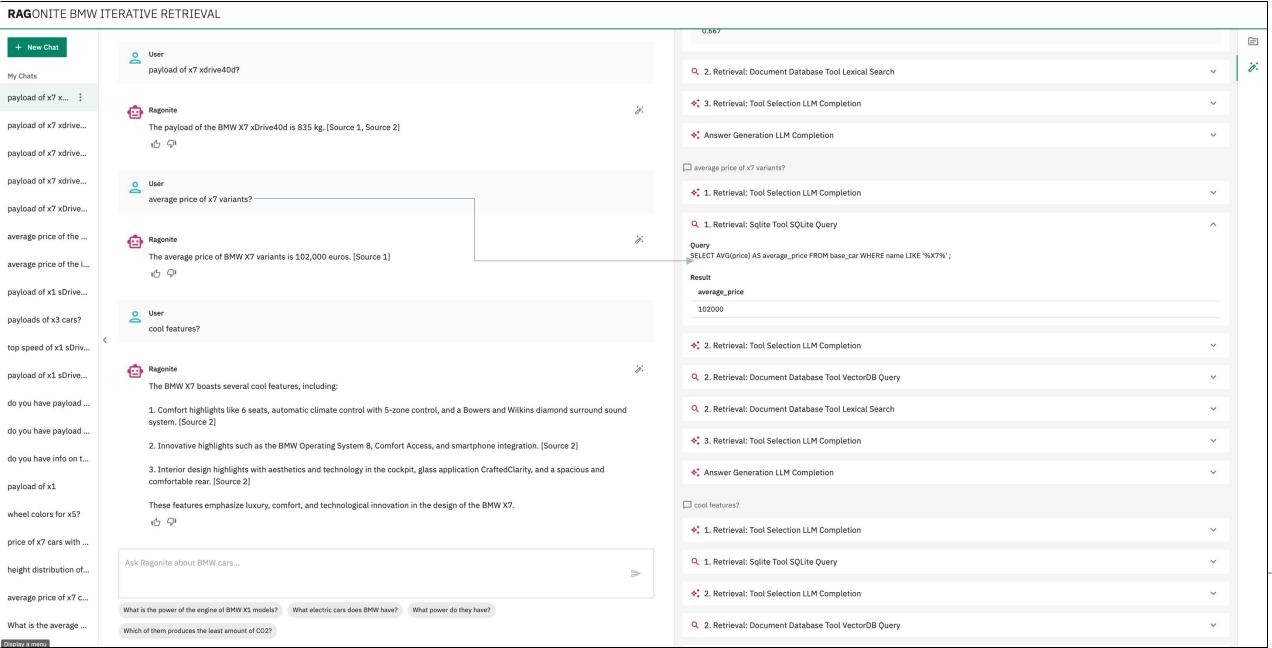
#### Payload of x7 xdrive40d?

**RAG**ONITE BMW ITERATIVE RETRIEVAL



### **Example question 2: Math computations satisfied via SQL**

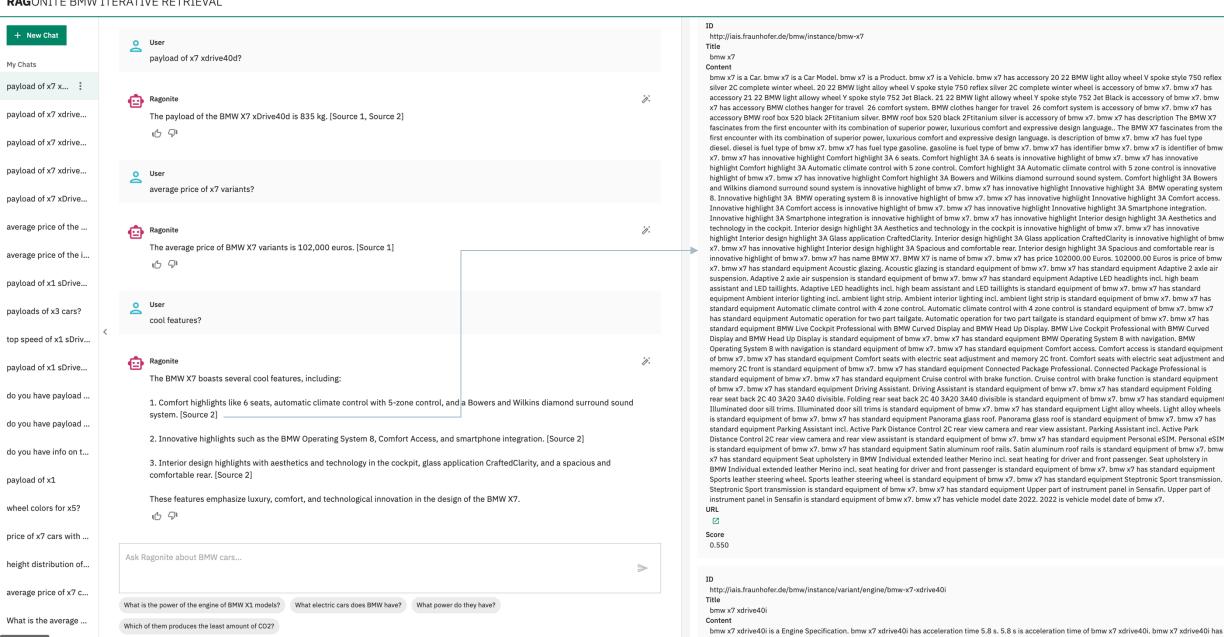
Average price of x7 variants?



### Example question 3: Informal intents satisfied via verbalizations

#### Cool features (of x7)?

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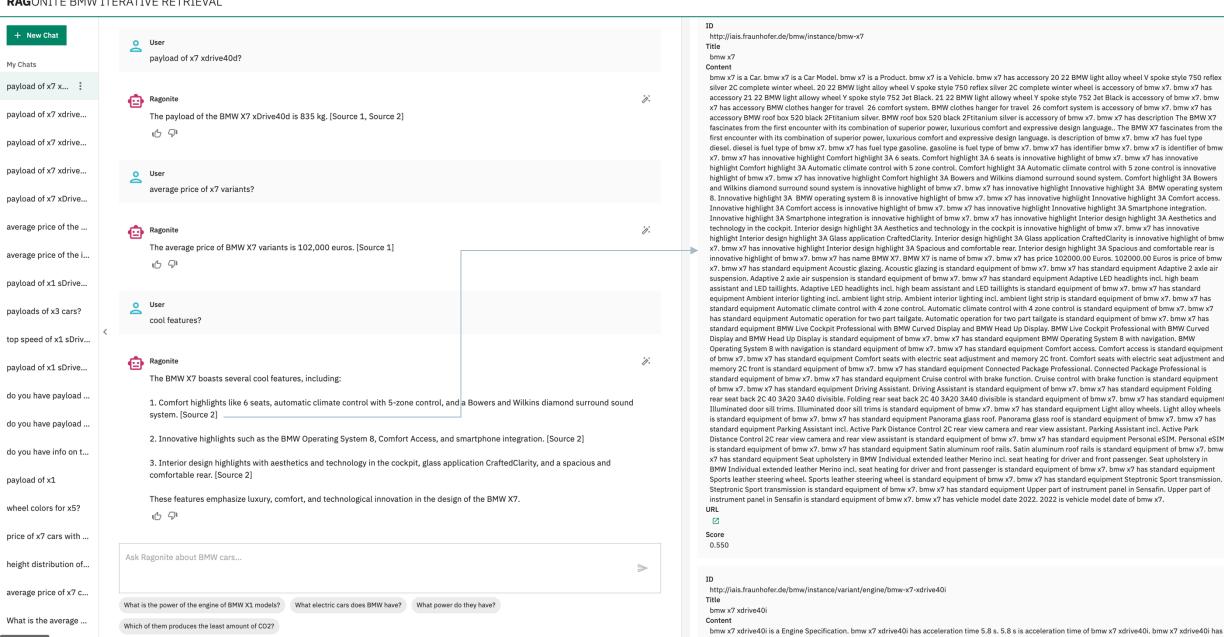
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### Example question 3: Informal intents satisfied via verbalizations

#### Cool features (of x7)?

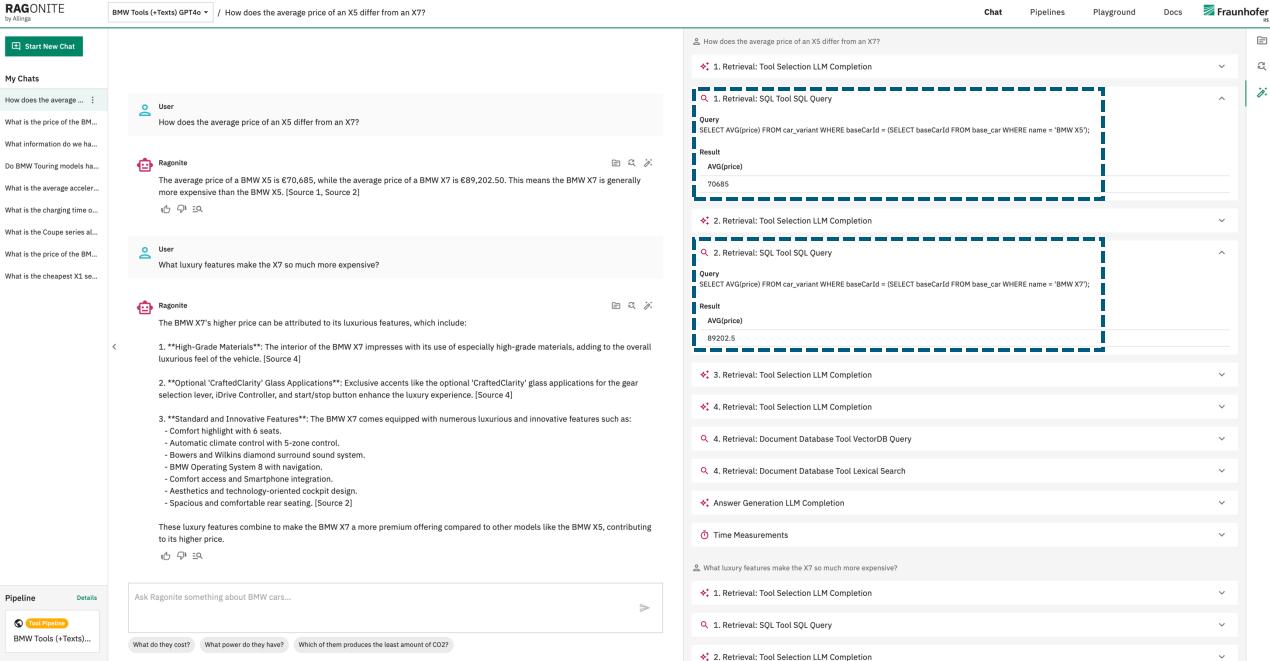
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## Illustrating iterative retrieval for complex intents



## Summary Looking forward to your feedback!

- RAGONITE is a transparent RAG pipeline every step is scrutable by end-user
- Adopts novel alternative for ConvQA over KGs by iterative retrieval and merging structured and unstructured query results
- Text2SPARQL has been investigated in the past: we adopt a novel alternative of exploiting Text2SQL, where LLMs do much better, over a DB programmatically induced from KG
  - SQL for KG-QA brings more complex math intents in scope
- By converting KG to verbalized form followed by dense retrieval, we show that information in knowledge graphs is useful for abstract intents
- RAGONITE is agentic system, future work would include reflection mechanisms without compromising efficiency

Thank you!

