

---

# Lab Meetings

**GNN-RAG: Graph Neural Retrieval for Large Language Model Reasoning.**  
**C Mavromatis, G Karypis. University of Minnesota.**

**CAU**  
**Junseo, Yu**

**DMAIS Lab Meeting**  
**1.22.2025**

# Contents

## 01 Introduction

- RAG
- Graph RAG
- Existing Methods

## 02 Methodology

- Overview
- Environment
- Detailed Methodology

## 03 ExperimentsSetup

- Results

## 04 Conclusion

- Contributions
- Future Directions

# Weekly Meetings

## 1. Introduction

---

- RAG
- Graph RAG
- Existing Methods

- LLMs are the **SOTA** in many NLP tasks.
- However, LLMs **cannot easily adapt** to new or in-domain knowledge.
  - Because pretraining process is costly and time-consuming.
- Moreover, LLM prone to **hallucinations**.

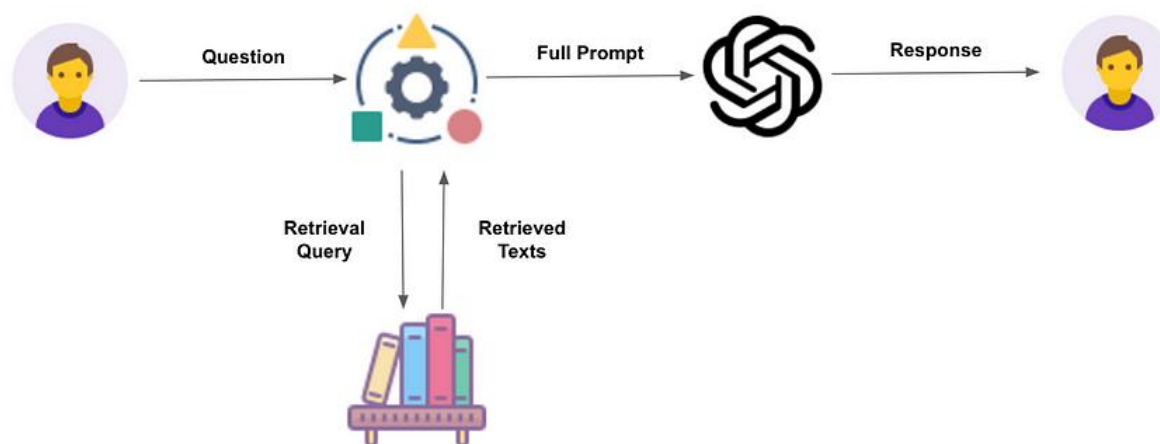


### Why Do we need RAG?

#### ❑ RAG, Retrieval-augmented generation

- RAG retrieves relevant external information.
- RAG can alleviate LLM hallucinations by enriching the input context with **accurate information**
  - **E.g.**, Knowledge from RAG: Jamaica → language\_spoken → English

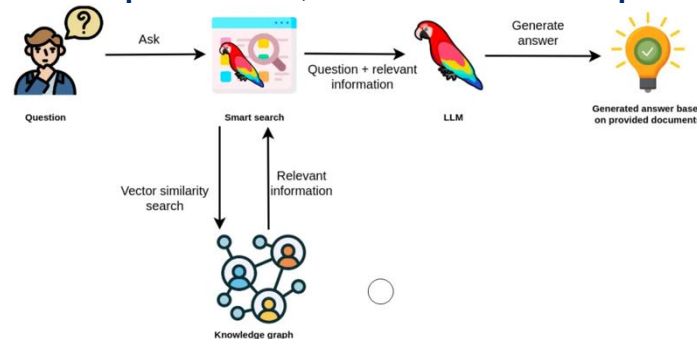
*Question: Which language do Jamaican people speak?*



## Graph RAG

### Why Do we need **Graph** RAG?

- ❑ Unlike the textual or visual data, It is beneficial to use **graph structure** to represent the **heterogeneous and relational information**.
  - E.g., KG(Knowledge Graph), Social Graph, and Document Graph
- ❑ Especially, KG is powerful resource to assist the LLM
- ❑ Retrieving the right information from graph requires distinctive graph processing.
  - Due to their diverse0formatted, interdependent, and domain-specific information.



# Introduction

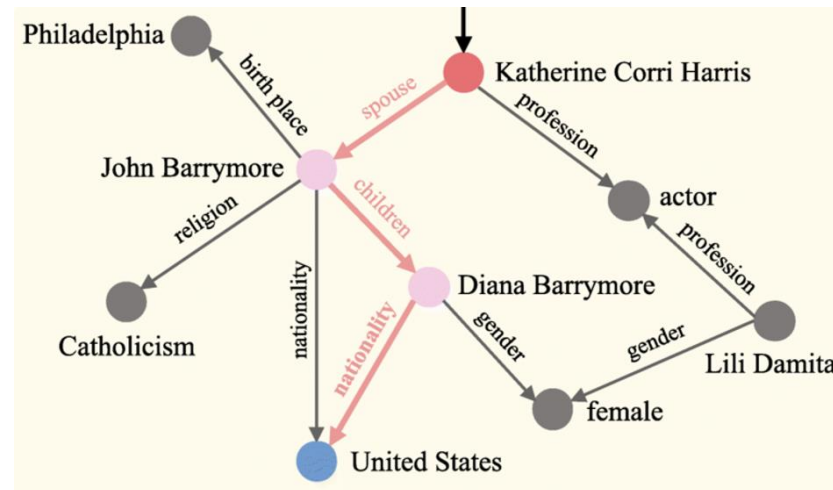
## Graph RAG

### ❑ KBQA, Knowledge Base Question Answering

- Finding answers to questions expressed in natural language from a given knowledge base
- *E.g., Which language do Jamaican people speak?*

### ❑ Multi-hop KGQA

- require a multi-hop reasoning procedure
- *E.g., What is nationality of Katherine Corri Harris's couple's children*



# Introduction

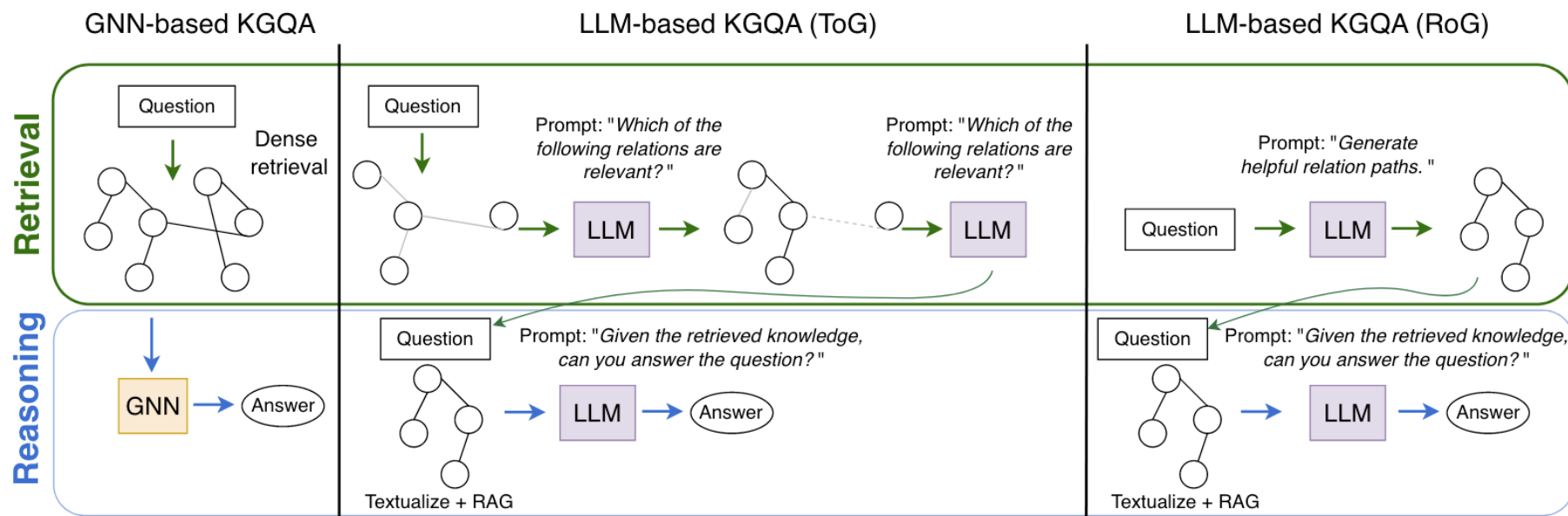
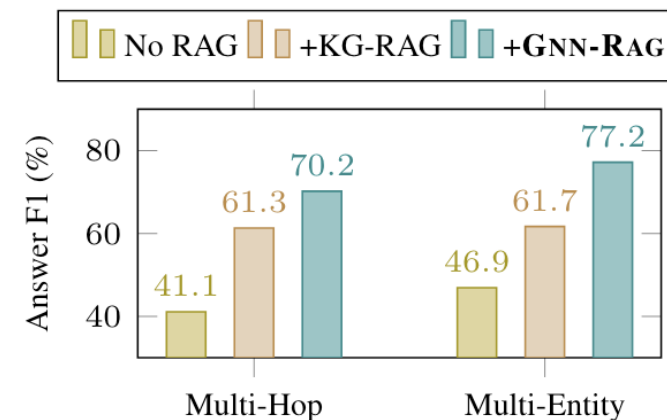
## Existing Methods

### □ LLM Based Graph RAG

- Did not perform well in multi-hop KBQA.

### □ GNN Based Graph RAG

- Can handle complex graph structure



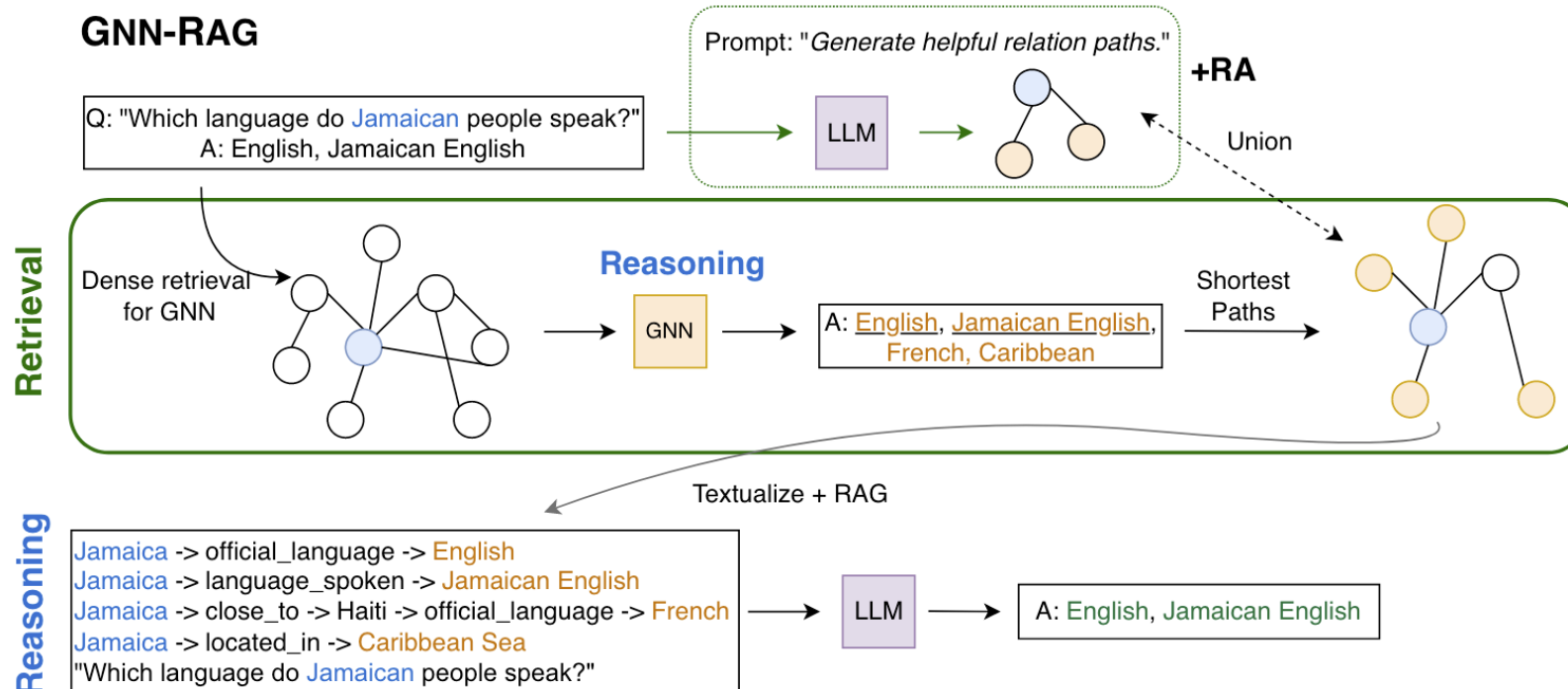


# Weekly Meetings

## 2. Methodology

---

- Overview
- Environment
- Detailed Methodology



## Overview

1. Retrieve the **subgraph**
2. Derive the candidate answer entities by **GNN**
3. Union with the other candidate answer entities by **LLM**
4. Textualize the reasoning path and then feed them to the **LLM**

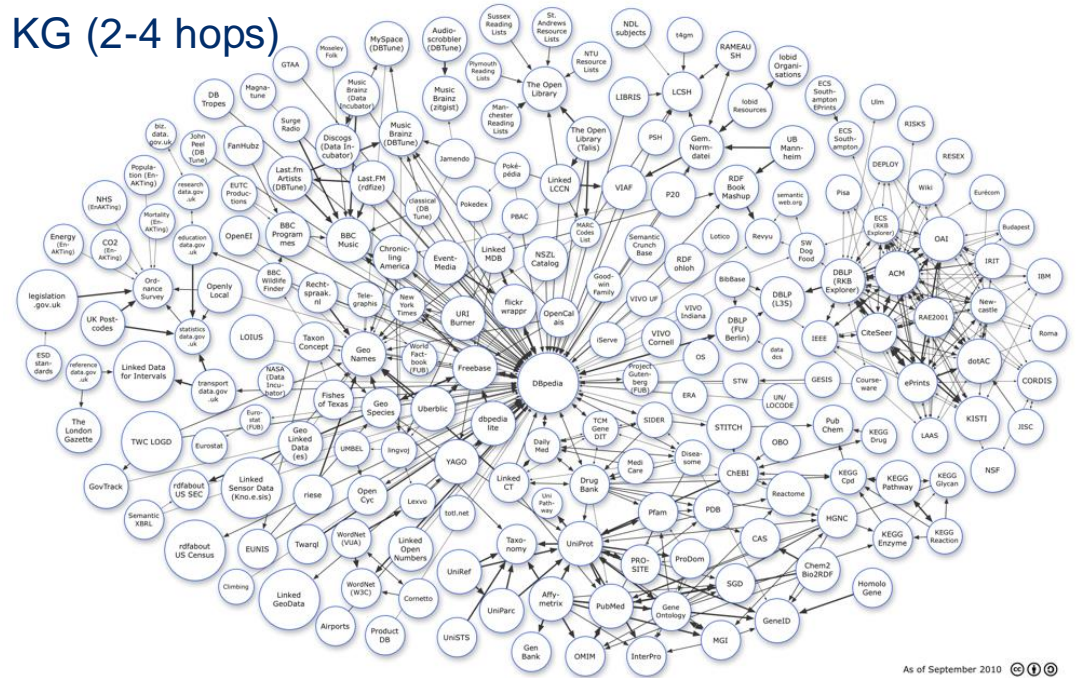
## Datasets

### ▪ Question-answer pairs

- Not the ground-truth paths that lead to the answer
- Answerable using a subset of specific KG
- The questions require **multiple-hops of reasoning** over the KG (2-4 hops)

### ▪ Knowledge Graphs

- Freebase KG [Bollacker et al, 2008]



## Retrieve the subgraph

### ❑ Linked Entities

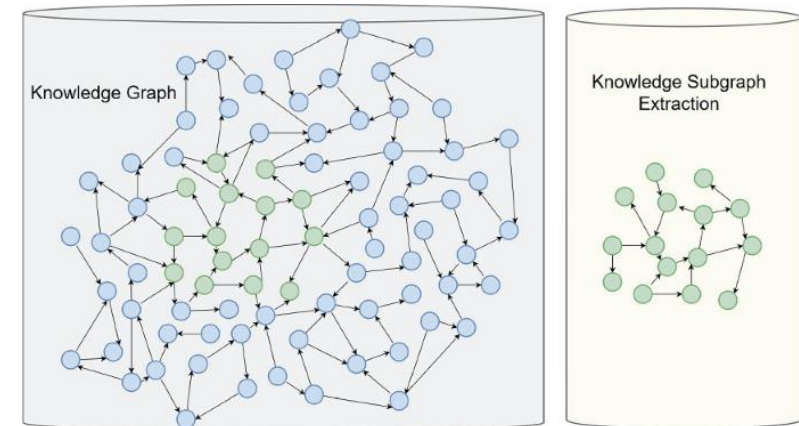
- **Entity Recognition:** Identify and extract relevant entity from text
- **Entity Linking:** Connect identified entities in text with their corresponding entities in KG
- **Lexical Matching & Disambiguation:** Comparing text with entities name and resolve ambiguities

### ❑ PageRank algorithm

- **PageRank-Nibble:** To identify the important entities from topic entities

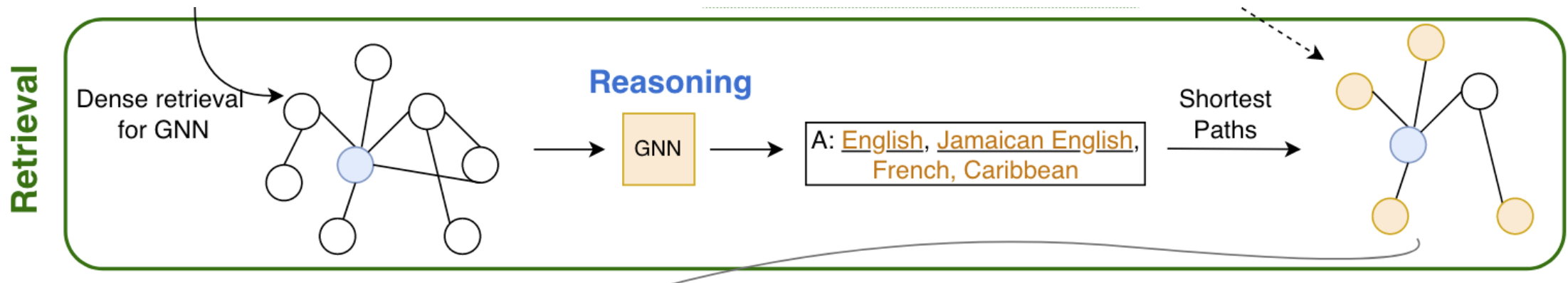
## Caution

- ❑ The correct answer may not exist in the subgraph.
- ❑ This method could be changed (Option)



## Derive the candidate answer entities by **GNN - What**

- ❑ Define the problem as **node classification** problem
  - All nodes in the subgraph are **scored** as answers vs non-answers based on their final GNN representations
  - The nodes above a probability threshold are returned as candidate answers along with the shortest paths
    - They are used as input for LLM-based RAG (next step)



## Derive the candidate answer entities by **GNN - How**

- $\mathbf{h}_v$ : the representation of node  $v$
- $\omega(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r})$ : Measure how relevant the relation is to the question.
  - GNN reasoning depends on the question-relation matching operation  $\omega(\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{r})$ .
  - **A common implementation:**  $\phi(\mathbf{q}^{(k)} \odot \mathbf{r})$   $\mathbf{q}^{(k)} = \gamma_k(\text{LM}(q))$ ,  $\mathbf{r} = \gamma_c(\text{LM}(r))$ ,
  - **The choice of LM** plays an **important role** regarding which answer nodes are retrieved.
    - It depends on how the relationship between the question and the relation is viewed.
    - Nevertheless, the performance was good regardless of the model used.

$$\mathbf{h}_v^{(l)} = \psi\left(\mathbf{h}_v^{(l-1)}, \sum_{v' \in \mathcal{N}_v} \omega(q, r) \cdot \mathbf{m}_{vv'}^{(l)}\right),$$

## Derive the candidate answer entities by **GNN - Why**

### ❑ Experimental Evidence

- **Answer Coverage:** whether the retriever is able to fetch at least one correct answer for RAG
- RoG: the LLM based retriever

### ❑ Conclusion

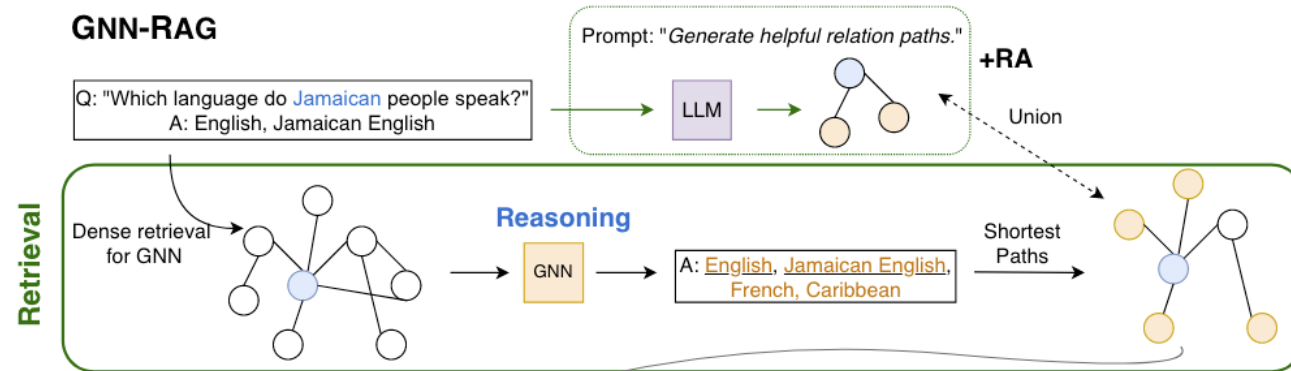
- GNN based retriever can retrieve useful multi-hop information more effectively
- On the other hand, the LLM based retriever is better at 1-hop questions.
  - The authors explain this situation as accurate question-relation matching is more important than deep graph search

Retriever	1-hop questions		2-hop questions	
	#Input Tok.	%Ans. Cov.	#Input Tok.	%Ans. Cov.
RoG [Luo et al., 2024]	150	<b>87.1</b>	435	82.1
GNN ( $L = 1$ )	112	83.6	2,582	79.8
GNN ( $L = 3$ )	105	82.4	357	<b>88.5</b>

## Union with the other candidate answer entities by LLM

### ❑ Retrieval augmentation (RA)

- Combines the retrieved KG information from different approaches to increase **diversity**
  - Complements the GNN retriever with an LLM-based retriever to combine **their strengths**
- Experiment with the RoG retrieval
  - Take the union of the reasoning paths retrieved by the two retrievers.
  - A **downside** of **LLM-based** retrieval: Requires multiple generations (beam-search decoding) to retrieve diverse paths





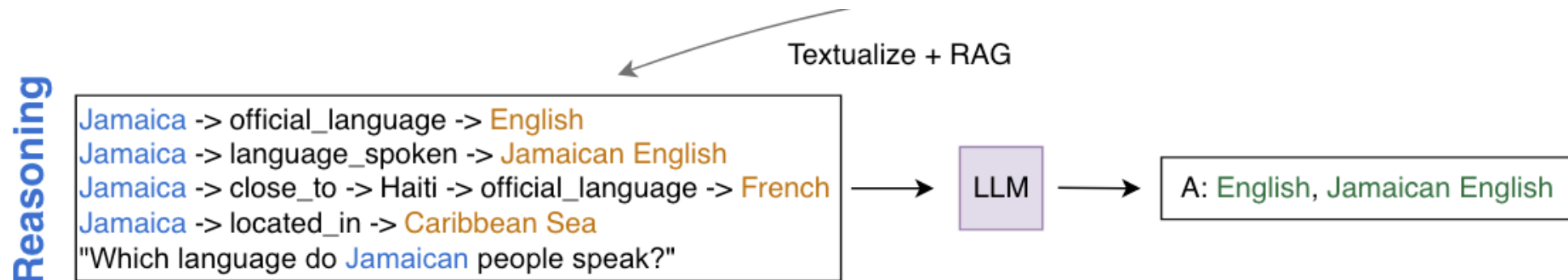
## Union with the other candidate answer entities by **LLM**

### ❑ Cheaper Alternative

- By combining the outputs of different GNNs, which are equipped with different LMs in below equation.  
→ **GNN-RAG+Ensemble**
- The union of the retrieved paths of the two different GNNs as input for RAG.
  - GNN with **SBERT (Sentence-BERT)**
  - GNN with **LM<sub>SR</sub> (LM for Structured Retrieval)**

**Textualize** the reasoning path and then feed them to the **LLM**

- ❑ **Verbalize** the obtained reasoning paths
- ❑ LLM model is fine-tuned based on the training question-answer pairs to generate correct answers
- ❑ **Prompts**
  - “*{Reasoning Paths}* \n *Question: {Question}*”
    - The reasoning paths are verbalised as “{question entity} → {relation} → {entity} → ... → {relation} → {answer entity} \n”



# Weekly Meetings

## 3. Experiments

---

- Setup
- Results

### ❑ Datasets

- WebQuestionsSP (WebQSP)
- Complex WebQuestions 1.1 (CWQ)

### ❑ Implementation

- GNN-RAG model: ReaRev (SOTA)
- LM making embeddings: SBERT and LM<sub>SR</sub>
- Prompt Tuning: RoG for RAG-based prompt tuning

### ❑ Metrics

- Hit: If any of the true answers is found in the generated response
- H@1
- F1

# Experiments

## Results

Type	Method	WebQSP			CWQ		
		Hit	H@1	F1	Hit	H@1	F1
Embedding	KV-Mem [Miller et al., 2016]	–	46.7	38.6	–	21.1	–
	EmbedKGQA [Saxena et al., 2020]	–	66.6	–	–	–	–
	TransferNet [Shi et al., 2021]	–	71.4	–	–	48.6	–
	Rigel [Sen et al., 2021]	–	73.3	–	–	48.7	–
GNN	GraftNet [Sun et al., 2018]	–	66.7	62.4	–	36.8	32.7
	PullNet [Sun et al., 2019]	–	68.1	–	–	45.9	–
	NSM [He et al., 2021]	–	68.7	62.8	–	47.6	42.4
	SR+NSM(+E2E) [Zhang et al., 2022a]	–	69.5	64.1	–	50.2	47.1
	NSM+h [He et al., 2021]	–	74.3	67.4	–	48.8	44.0
	SQALER [Atzeni et al., 2021]	–	76.1	–	–	–	–
	UniKGQA [Jiang et al., 2023b]	–	77.2	72.2	–	51.2	49.1
	ReaRev [Mavromatis and Karypis, 2022]	–	76.4	70.9	–	52.9	47.8
	ReaRev + LM <sub>SR</sub>	–	77.5	72.8	–	53.3	49.7
LLM	Flan-T5-xl [Chung et al., 2024]	31.0	–	–	14.7	–	–
	Alpaca-7B [Taori et al., 2023]	51.8	–	–	27.4	–	–
	LLaMA2-Chat-7B [Touvron et al., 2023]	64.4	–	–	34.6	–	–
	ChatGPT	66.8	–	–	39.9	–	–
	ChatGPT+CoT	75.6	–	–	48.9	–	–
KG+LLM	KD-CoT [Wang et al., 2023]	68.6	–	52.5	55.7	–	–
	StructGPT [Jiang et al., 2023a]	72.6	–	–	–	–	–
	KB-BINDER [Li et al., 2023]	74.4	–	–	–	–	–
	ToG+LLaMA2-70B [Sun et al., 2024]	68.9	–	–	57.6	–	–
	ToG+ChatGPT [Sun et al., 2024]	76.2	–	–	58.9	–	–
	ToG+GPT-4 [Sun et al., 2024]	82.6	–	–	<b>69.5</b>	–	–
	RoG [Luo et al., 2024]	<u>85.7</u>	80.0	70.8	62.6	57.8	56.2
GNN+LLM	G-Retriever [He et al., 2024]	–	70.1	–	–	–	–
	GNN-RAG ( <b>Ours</b> )	<u>85.7</u>	<u>80.6</u>	71.3	66.8	<u>61.7</u>	<u>59.4</u>
	GNN-RAG+RA ( <b>Ours</b> )	<b>90.7</b>	<b>82.8</b>	<b>73.5</b>	<u>68.7</u>	<b>62.8</b>	<b>60.4</b>

Method	WebQSP		CWQ	
	multi-hop	multi-entity	multi-hop	multi-entity
LLM (No RAG)	48.4	61.5	33.7	32.3
RoG	63.3	65.1	59.3	58.3
GNN-RAG	69.8	82.3	68.2	64.8
GNN-RAG+RA	71.1	88.8	69.3	65.6

- GNN-RAG achieve SOTA
- GNN-RAG is an effective retrieval method when deep graph search is important for successful KGQA.

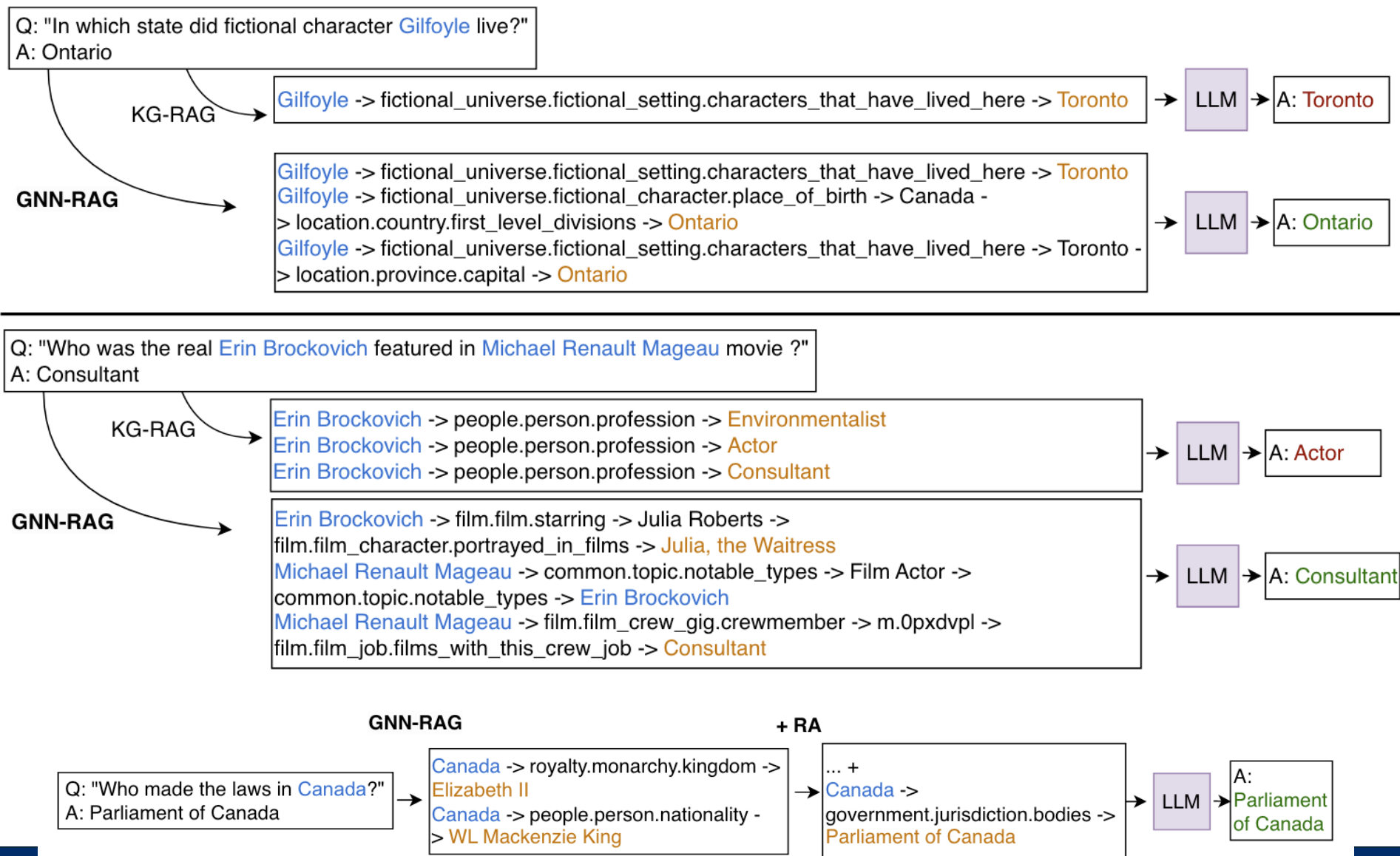
## Results

<i>Retriever</i>	<i>KGQA Model</i>	<i>Input/Graph Statistics</i>		<i>KGQA Performance</i>
		#LLM Calls	#Input Tokens WebQSP / CWQ	F1 (%) WebQSP / CWQ
a) Dense Subgraph	(i) GNN + SBERT (Eq. 3)	0	—	70.9 / 47.8
b) Dense Subgraph	(ii) GNN + LM <sub>SR</sub> (Eq. 3)	0	—	72.8 / 49.1
c) None	LLaMA2-Chat-7B (tuned)	0	59 / 70	49.7 / 33.8
d) (iii) RoG (LLM-based; Eq. 2)		3	202 / 325	70.8 / 56.2
e) GNN-RAG (default): (i)		0	144 / 207	71.3 / 59.4
f) GNN-RAG: (ii)		0	124 / 206	71.5 / 58.9
g) GNN-RAG+Ensemble: (i) + (ii)	LLaMA2-Chat-7B (tuned)	0	156 / 281	71.7 / 57.5
h) GNN-RAG+RA (default): (i) + (iii)		3	299 / 540	<b>73.5</b> / 60.4
i) GNN-RAG+RA: (ii) + (iii)		3	267 / 532	73.4 / <b>61.0</b>
j) GNN-RAG+All: (i) + (ii) + (iii)		3	330 / 668	72.3 / 59.1

- GNN-based retrieval is more efficient and effective than LLM-based retrieval.
- Combining GNN-induced reasoning paths with LLM-induced reasoning paths is better.
- Augmenting all retrieval approaches does not necessarily cause improved performance

# Experiments

### Results



# Weekly Meetings

## 4. Conclusion

---

- Contributions
- Future Directions



## Contributions

- ❑ Effective Integration of GNN and LLM
- ❑ Achieving State-of-the-Art Performance on KGQA Benchmarks
- ❑ Introduction of Retrieval Augmentation

## Future Directions

- ❑ Apply similar method into other fields not QA
- ❑ Assumption of a situation where the correct entity does not exist
- ❑ Risks of the shortest path assumption