

# Document UnderstanDing of Everything: DUDE, what's next?



Jordy Van Landeghem

**#extractive #list**  
Q: What are the Years mentioned in Chart 1?  
A: [2020, 2021, 2022]

**#non-answerable**  
Q: In which year does the Net Requirement exceed 25,000?  
A: None

**#abstractive #counting**  
Q: How many attorneys are listed for the plaintiffs?  
A: Two

**#layout-navigating #graphic-intensive**  
Q: Are the margins of the page uniform on all pages?  
A: Yes

**#multi-hop #layout-navigating**  
Q: From the list of Top 10 Key Recovery Components, which is the last component listed on the second page?  
A: Hope

**#abstractive #graphic-intensive**  
Q: Does this document contain any checkboxes?  
A: No

The diagram illustrates a sequence of questions and answers. It starts with an extractive list question about years in a chart. This leads to a non-answerable question about a net requirement exceeding 25,000. Then, it moves to an abstractive counting question about the number of attorneys for plaintiffs. Finally, it transitions to a layout-navigating question about the uniformity of margins across multiple pages. Arrows point from one component to the next, indicating the flow of the conversation.

QA as a natural language interface to Visually-Rich Documents

# Outline

1. Intelligent Automation for AI-driven Document Understanding



2. DUDE: the project



- Scope and objectives

3. DUDE: the dataset



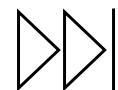
- Summary and statistics
- Evaluation and baselines

4. DUDE: the competition



- Competition protocol – final ranking

5. DUDE: what's next?





# whoami

- Research intern **ORACLE®** (*Seq2Seq for Dialogue Modeling*) and **NUANCE** (Language Modeling Algorithms)
- AI researcher **contract.fit** since 2017
- Ongoing Ph.D. project **KU LEUVEN** on  
*Intelligent Automation (IA) for Artificial Intelligence (AI)-Driven Document Understanding (DU)*
  - Expected graduation: 02/2024 😊
- Research interests:  
document intelligence 😊  
dataset construction and evaluation methodology  
calibration, predictive uncertainty, failure prediction

More details: <https://jordy-vl.github.io/>





# Lead up to my Ph.D. project

In any business context, where **information transfer** and **inbound communication services** are an important part of the day-to-day processes, a vast number of documents must be handled.

To provide customers with the **expected service levels** (in terms of **speed, convenience and accuracy**) a lot of time and resources are spent on **manually categorizing documents and extracting crucial information**.

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(E)mails



Attachments



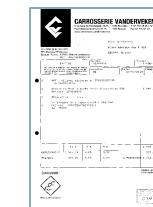
Insurance policy



Car order



Police report



Repair invoice



ID Card



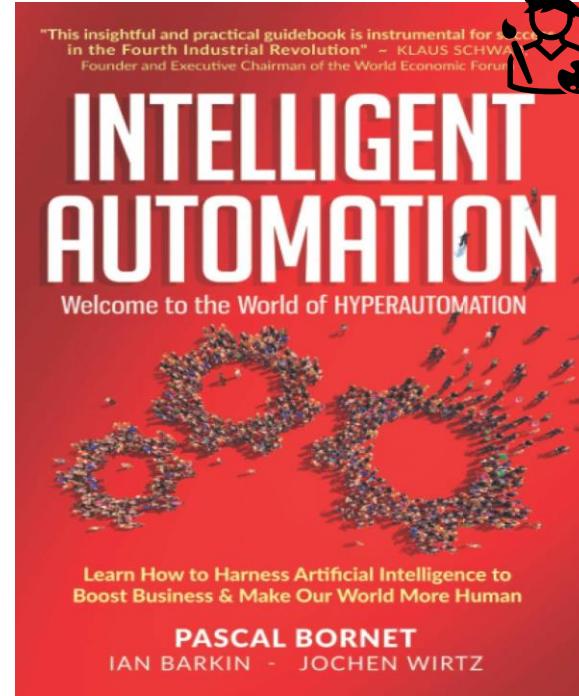
Accident form



# What makes automation intelligent?

**Intelligent Automation** (IA) comprises a compelling class of technologies:

- A subset of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for automation of knowledge work
- Robotic Process Automatic (RPA): the macro on steroids
- Workflow & Business Process Management (BPM)
- jointly capable of solving major world problems when combined with people & organizations
- IA allows for the creation of a software-based **digital workforce**, by mimicking four main human capabilities required to perform **knowledge work**:
  1. Vision
  2. Language
  3. Thinking & Learning
  4. Execution



Learn How to Harness Artificial Intelligence to Boost Business & Make Our World More Human

PASCAL BORNET  
IAN BARKIN - JOCHEN WIRTZ

Pascal Bornet, Ian Barkin and Jochen Wirtz (2020)

Goal: **Taking the robot out of the human**, not replacing human workers

➡ “AI done right [...] will amplify human creativity, productivity and intelligence”  Adobe



# Motivating example: what are the key ingredients for IA?

From: [jack.dunn@gmail.com](mailto:jack.dunn@gmail.com)  
 To: [customer\\_admin@Insurco.com](mailto:customer_admin@Insurco.com)  
 Subject: stop car policy 12-3456-789

-----

Dear,

I would like to end the policy for my vehicle 1-CHA-123. The car has been sold and the license plate returned to the authorities (proof attached).

Kindly refund the unused portion of my premium.

Best,  
 Jack

## In-distribution

From : [jeff.smith@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.smith@gmail.com)  
 To : [customer\\_admin@Insurco.com](mailto:customer_admin@Insurco.com)  
 Subject : Jeff Smith hobby drone coverage

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Dear,

My car is already covered with your insurance company under the policy with number 23-4567-890. Now, I would like to buy insurance coverage for my new hobby drone "DJI Mavic 2LBZ-548". See attached the purchase receipt and below an illustration of the device and components.



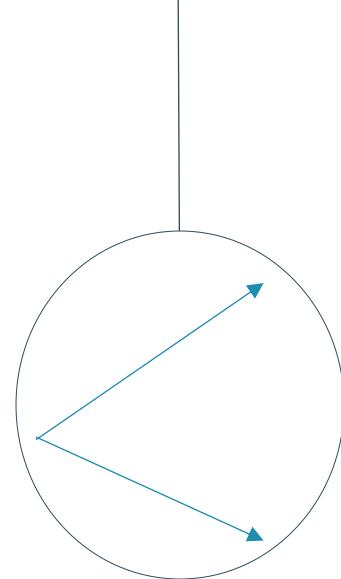
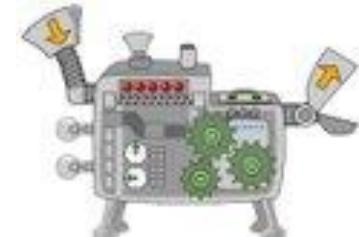
Will you send me a proposal with monthly coverage fees?  
 Kind regards,

Jeff

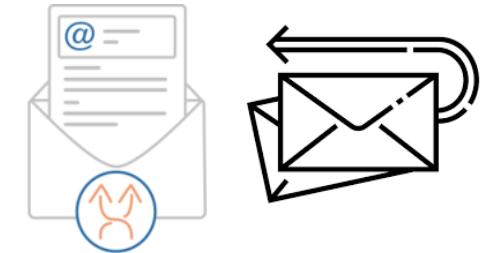
## OOD

### Decision-making under Predictive Uncertainty

label	prediction	confidence
process	car policy cancellation	99%
policy number	12-3456-789	95%
license plate	1CHA123	98%



### Automate action



### Manual review



! Catastrophically overconfident



# Realizing intelligent automation

- Enabling IA involves:
  - Confidence estimation
  - Operational thresholding for automation-risk trade-off
  - Robustness to distribution shifts
- Measuring IA involves:
  - Calibration metrics
  - Confidence ranking
- Improving IA involves:
  - Inducing calibration by post-hoc strategies or designing calibrated loss functions
  - Predictive uncertainty estimation
  - Failure prediction





# Selected works

- Van Landeghem, J., Blaschko, M., Anckaert, B., & Moens, M. F. (2020). **Predictive Uncertainty for Probabilistic Novelty Detection in Text Classification**. In *Workshop on Uncertainty and Robustness in Deep Learning*. ICML.
- Van Landeghem, J., Blaschko, M., Anckaert, B., & Moens, M. F. (2022). **Benchmarking Scalable Predictive Uncertainty in Text Classification**. In *IEEE Access*, vol. 10, pp. 43703-43737.
- Van Landeghem, J., Borchmann, L., Tito, R., Pietruszka, M., Jurkiewicz, D., Powalski, R., Józiak, P., Biswas, S., Coustaty, M., Stanisławek, T. (2023). **ICDAR 2023 Competition on Document UnderstanDing of Everything (DUDE)**. In *Proceedings of ICDAR 2023*.
- Van Landeghem, J., ..., Anckaert, B., Valveny, E., Blaschko, M, Moens, M. F, & Stanisławek, T. (2023). **Document Understanding Dataset and Evaluation (DUDE)**. *International Conference of Computer Vision 2023*.
- Van Landeghem, J., Biswas, S., (2023). **Beyond Document Page Classification**. In WACV 2024 (under review).



## Ongoing projects:

1. Knowledge Distillation for Document Foundation Models
2. A Multi-Modal Multi-Exit Architecture for Efficient Document Classification
3. A Differentiable Surrogate Loss for Selective Classification
4. DaDDa: Building the Dataset of Document Datasets

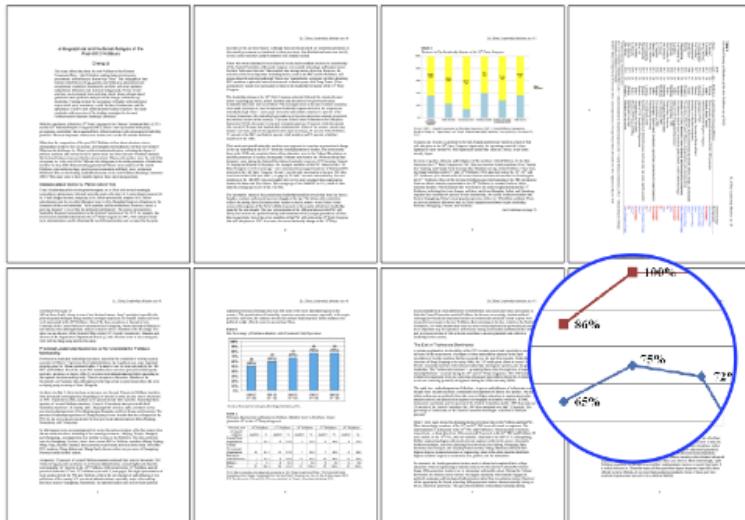
# Document UnderstanDing of Everything: DUDE Project 😎

Building a long-standing document understanding  
benchmark incorporating real-world complexities



# *-Everything-, you mean?*

**Visual evidence (chart).** What is the maximum percentage of the blue graph line on page 8? A highly demanding question that requires simultaneous competency of visual comprehension (locating chart and line color), navigating through layout (determining adequate page), and numerical comparison (deciding on the highest value).



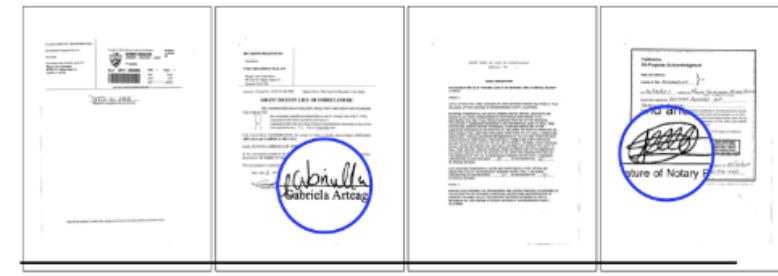
**Visual evidence (map), multi-hop.** Which states don't have any marijuana laws? The multi-hop question requires visually comprehending the map and linking knowledge from its legend with depicted regions.



**Requires arithmetic.** What is the difference between how much Operator II and Operator III makes per hour? The question requires table comprehension, determining relevant values, dividing extracted integers, and correcting the subject-verb agreement.

Operator	Hourly Rate (\$/hr)
Operator I	\$20/hr
Operator II	\$17/hr
Operator III	\$22/hr

**Requires counting.** How many pages have a signature? The question requires visual comprehension (recognition of signature), knowledge about layout, and counting.



Source	Answer	ANLS	Conf.
Ground truth	2		
Human	2	1.0	—
T5	1	0.0	0.01
ChatGPT	4	0.0	—
GPT3	[Not-answerable]	0.0	—
T5-2D	4	0.0	0.69
HiVT5	4	0.0	0.41



More examples



# Objective/Scope

- Foster research on *generic* document understanding (DU)
- Adopting task paradigm of **Document Visual Question-Answering** and learning paradigm of **Multi-Domain Long-Tailed Recognition**
  - Handle complexity & variety of *real-world* documents and subtasks
  - Generalization to *any documents* and *any questions*

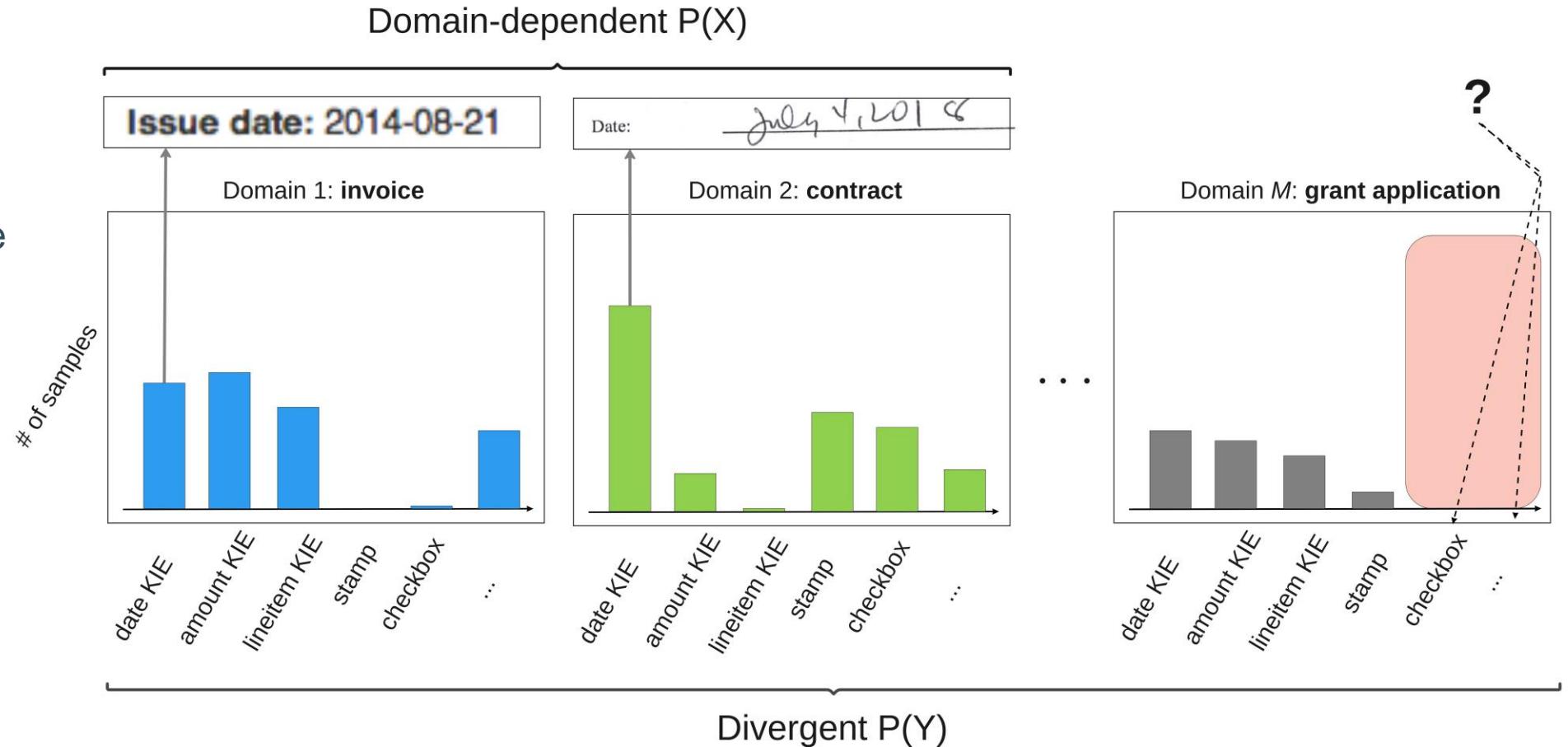


# DocVQA & MDLT

X: documents  
Y: QA pairs

Domain: document type

- Subtask adaptation under low-resource setting
- Innovation in multi-modal, transfer learning, and zero-shot generalization



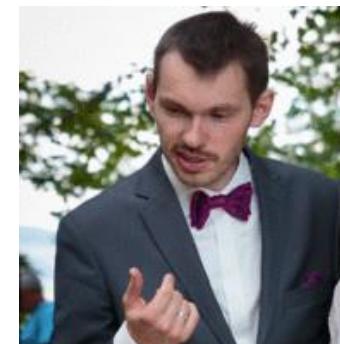


# Novelty ~ *Why DUDE?*

- The rise of LLMs and their applicability (?) to document understanding
- Publicly available datasets avoid/do not include:
  - **multi-page** documents
  - **multi-industry** documents of sufficiently different types
  - **multi-task** settings
    - CLF, KIE, DLA, HWR, SV, ...
- Bridging QA & DLA:
  - Layout semantics (stamp, signature, font style, checkbox, form fields, ....)
  - Complex layout-navigating questions demanding multi-step reasoning



# Meet the DUDEs



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INSTABASE



# Setting the records straight

- Van Landeghem, J., Borchmann, L., Tito, R., Pietruszka, M., Jurkiewicz, D., Powalski, R., Józiak, P., Biswas, S., Coustaty, M., Stanisławek, T. (2023). **ICDAR 2023 Competition on Document UnderstanDing of Everything (DUDE).** *Proceedings of ICDAR 2023.*
- Van Landeghem, J., . . . , Anckaert, B., Valveny, E., Blaschko, M., Moens, M. F., & Stanisławek, T. (2023). **Document Understanding Dataset and Evaluation (DUDE).** *International Conference of Computer Vision 2023.*

Competition details  
Ranked methods  
Final ranking

Dataset detail stats  
Baselines  
Evaluation metrics

# DUDE Dataset



Constructing a multi-faceted resource that challenges the DAR community





# Dataset summary



- Sourced a dataset with 40K QA pairs for 5K permissive license documents
  - **multi-page** ( $\mu=6$  pages)
  - **multi-source** (*archive, wikimedia, documentcloud*)
  - **multi-domain** (+15 industries)
  - **multi-type** (+- 200 document types)
  - **multi-QA** (extractive, abstractive, list, non-answerable)
  - **multi-origin** (1860-2023)
- Multi-stage annotation process with freelancers and qualified linguists
- Provide three OCR versions (Tesseract – Azure – AWS)



# Dataset statistics

- a broad spectrum of **document** types, domains, sources, and dates
- **questions** beyond document content, including operations and multi-hop
- varied **answer** types such as abstractive, extractive, lists and non-answerable

Dataset	Ours	SP-DocVQA	VisualMRC	InfographicsVQA	TAT-DQA
<i>Dataset-level properties</i>					
Sources	Multi	Industry docs	Web pages	Infographics	Finance reports
Origin	BD, Scan	Mostly scans	BD	BD	BD
Period	1860-2022	1960-2000	Jan-Mar 2020	not specified	2018-2020
Documents	5,019	12,767	10,234	5,485	2,758
Pages ( $avg \pm std$ )	$5.72 \pm 6.4$	$1.0 \pm 0.0$	$1.0 \pm 0.0$	$1.0 \pm 0.0$	$1.11 \pm 0.32$
Tokens ( $avg \pm std$ )	$1,831.53 \pm 2,545.06$	$183 \pm 149.96$	$154.19 \pm 79.34$	$287.98 \pm 214.57$	$576.99 \pm 290.12$
Simpson coeff. (ResNet)	0.82	0.76	0.83	0.86	0.73
Simpson coeff. (Tf-Idf)	0.95	0.93	0.99	0.94	0.15
<i>Question-level properties</i>					
Questions	41,541	50,000	30,562	30,035	16,558
Unique (%)	90.9	72.34	96.26	99.11	95.65
Length ( $avg \pm std$ )	$8.65 \pm 3.35$	$8.34 \pm 3.04$	$9.38 \pm 4.01$	$11.57 \pm 3.71$	$12.51 \pm 4.18$
Semantics	All	T, L, F, Ch	T, L, F, Ch	T, L, F, Ch, M	T, L
<i>Answer-level properties</i>					
Unique (%)	70.7	64.29	91.82	48.84	77.54
Length ( $avg \pm std$ )	$3.35 \pm 6.1$	$2.11 \pm 1.67$	$8.38 \pm 6.36$	$1.66 \pm 1.43$	$3.44 \pm 7.20$
Extractive (%)	42.39	100.0	0.0	71.96	55.72
Abstractive (%)	38.25	0.0	100.0	24.91	44.28
List (%)	6.62	0.0	0.0	5.69	0.0
None	12.74	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

# Document diversity

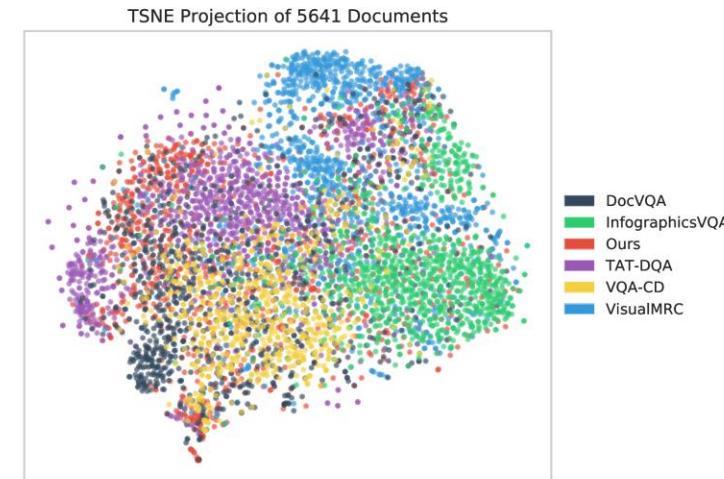
- Approach:
  - Design industry-document taxonomy based on experience
  - Semi-automatically create document type keywords
    - 'Please list 30 common retail document types with their synonyms like Credit memos - {"credit notes", "credit slips", "refund slips"}'



[industry\\_keywords.py](#)

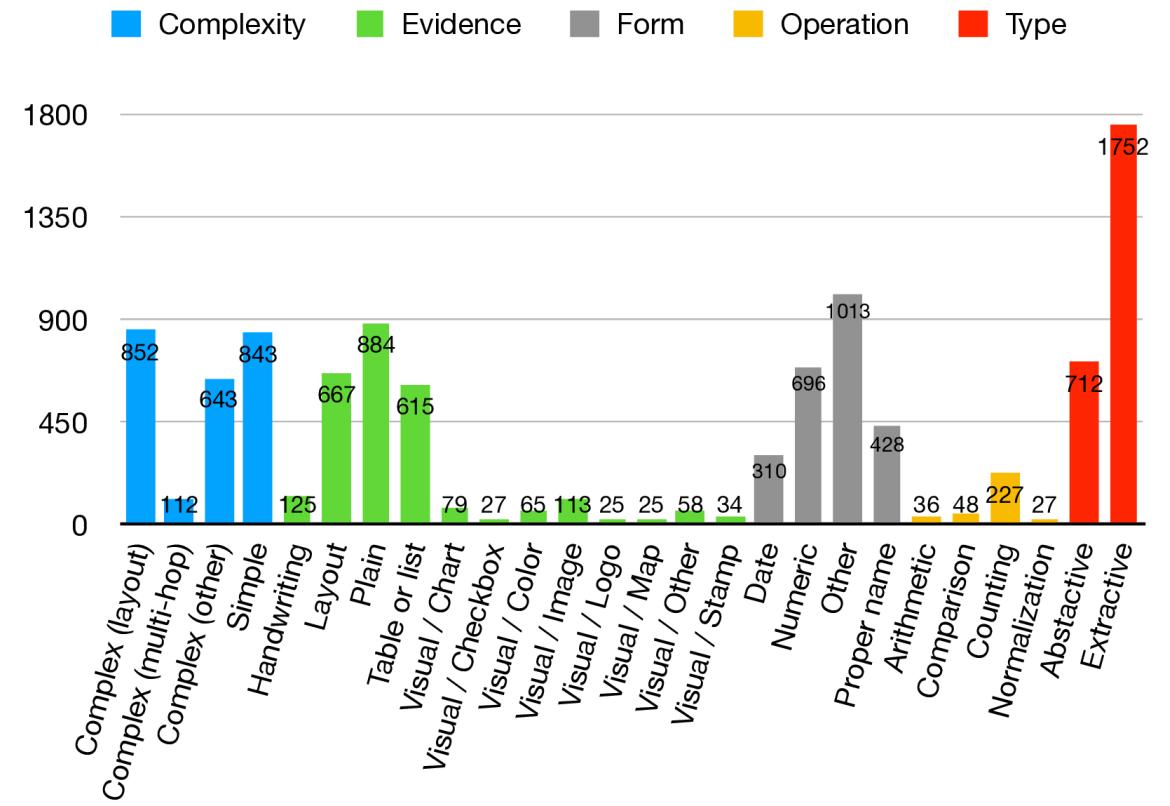
- Validation:
  - T-SNE plots over TF-IDF and ResNet feature representation
  - Relative diversity metric such as Simpson's coefficient

```
'banking':  
...  
1. Bank statement - statement of account  
2. Check - cheque  
3. Deposit slip - deposit ticket  
4. Credit card statement - statement of account  
5. ATM receipt - cash withdrawal slip  
6. Payment voucher - payment receipt  
7. Transfer receipt - wire transfer receipt  
8. Cashier's check - bank draft  
9. Direct deposit form - direct deposit authorization form  
10. Endorsement stamp - endorsement seal  
11. Letter of credit - documentary credit  
12. Promissory note - IOU  
13. Debit memo - debit note, debit slip  
14. Credit memo - credit note, credit slip, refund slip
```



# Question diversity

- Annotation environment design & instructions to obtain different question types
  - Extractive
  - Abstractive
  - List
  - Unanswerable
- Control mechanisms & deduplication
- Verification of question diversity on diagnostic test set (2.5K QA)





# Baselines

Model	Init.	Params	Max Seq. Length	Test Setup	ANLS <sub>all</sub> ↑	ECE <sub>all</sub> ↓	AURC <sub>all</sub> ↓	ANLS <sub>do</sub>	ANLS <sub>do</sub> Abs	ANLS <sub>do</sub> Ex	ANLS <sub>do</sub> NA	ANLS <sub>do</sub> Li
<i>text-only</i> Encoder-based models												
Big Bird	MPDocVQA	131M	4096	Concat*	26.27	30.14	44.22	30.67	7.11	40.26	12.75	8.46
BERT-Large	MPDocVQA	334M	512	Max Conf.*	25.48	34.06	48.60	32.18	7.28	42.23	5.88	11.13
Longformer	MPDocVQA	148M	4096	Concat*	27.14	27.59	44.59	33.45	8.55	43.58	10.78	10.62
<i>text-only</i> Encoder-Decoder based models												
T5	base	223M	512	Concat-0*	19.65	19.14	48.83	25.62	5.24	33.91	0	7.31
T5	MPDocVQA	223M	512	Max Conf.*	29.48	27.18	43.06	37.56	21.19	44.22	0	10.56
T5	base	223M	512	Concat+FT	37.41	<b>10.82</b>	41.09	40.61	42.61	48.20	53.92	16.87
T5	base	223M	8192	Concat+FT	41.80	17.33	49.53	44.95	47.62	50.49	63.72	7.56
<i>text-only</i> Large Language models (LLM)												
ChatGPT	gpt-3.5-turbo	20B	4096	Concat-0	-	-	-	35.07	16.73	42.52	70.59	15.97
				Concat-4	-	-	-	41.89	22.19	49.90	<b>77.45</b>	17.74
GPT3	davinci3	175B	4000	Concat-0	-	-	-	43.95	18.16	54.44	73.53	36.32
				Concat-4	-	-	-	47.04	22.37	<b>57.09</b>	63.73	<b>40.01</b>
<i>text+layout</i> Encoder-Decoder based models												
T5-2D	base	223M	512	Concat+FT	37.10	10.85	41.46	40.50	42.48	48.62	52.94	3.49
T5-2D	base	223M	8192	Concat+FT	42.10	17.00	48.83	45.73	48.37	52.29	63.72	8.02
T5-2D	large	770M	8192	Concat+FT	<b>46.06</b>	14.40	<b>35.70</b>	<b>48.14</b>	<b>50.81</b>	55.65	68.62	5.43
<i>text+layout+vision</i> models												
HiVT5		316M	20480	Hierarchical+FT	23.06	11.91	54.35	22.33	33.94	17.60	61.76	6.83
LayoutLMv3	MPDocVQA	125M	512	Max Conf.*	20.31	34.97	47.51	25.27	8.10	32.60	8.82	7.82
Human baseline					74.76	81.95	67.58	83.33	67.74			

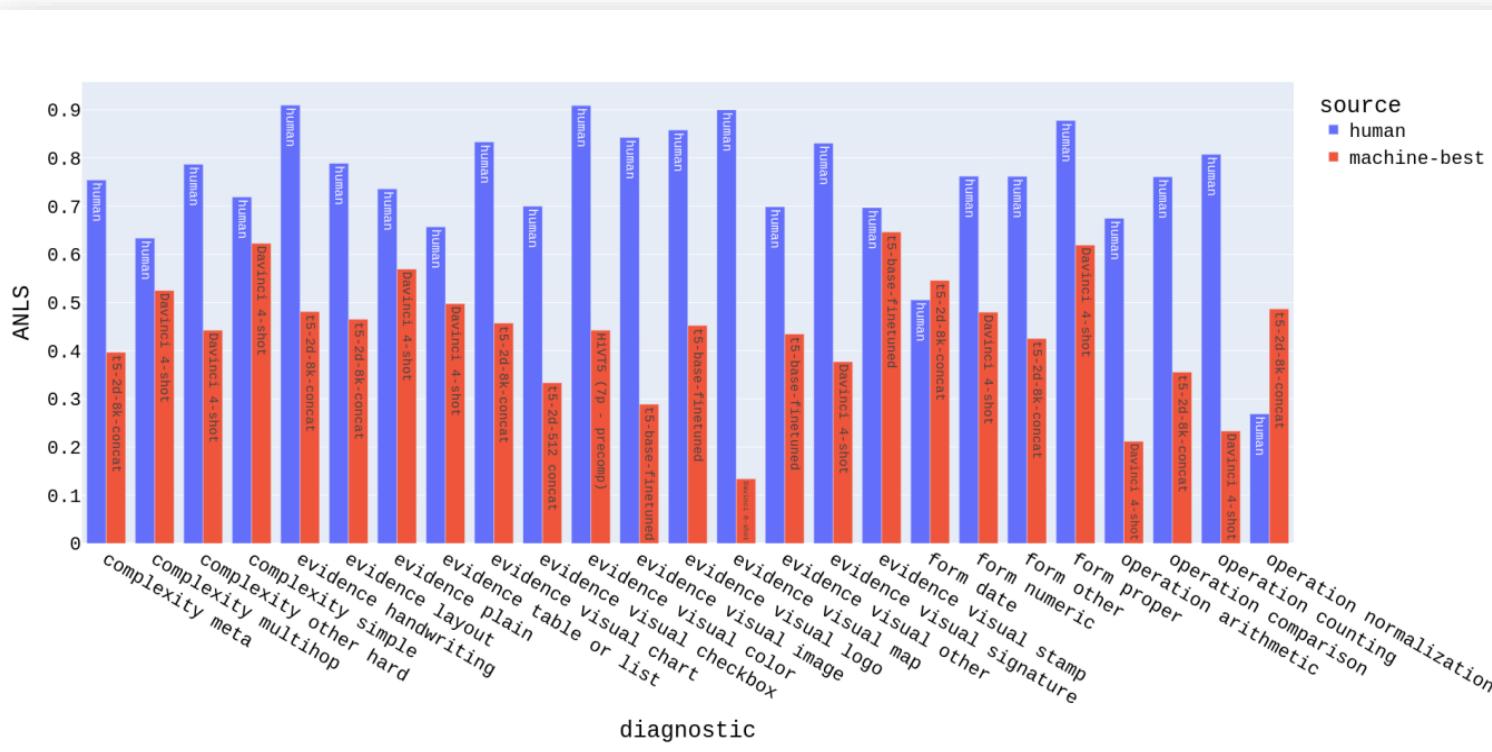
- I. Generative = must
- II. Strong performance of LLMs
- III. Stronger performance by models  
+layout understanding  
++longer sequence length

SOTA ANLS < 50% !





# Diagnostic categories performance



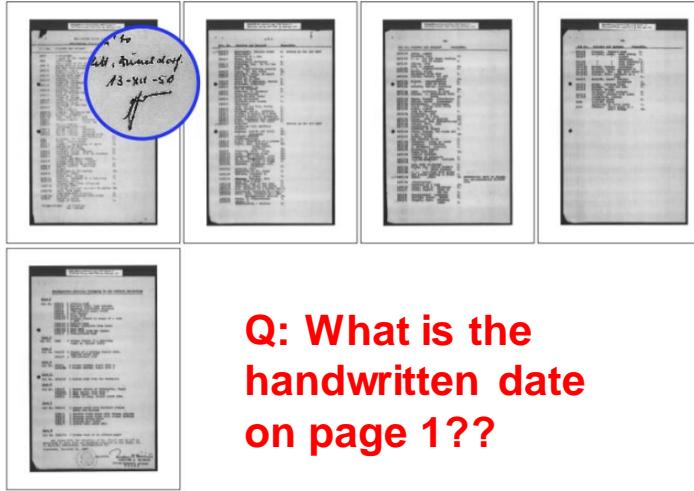
Diagnostic categories with

- visual evidence
- reasoning operations

**Baselines** lagging far behind  
**human baseline**



# Qualitative examples



Source	Answer	ANLS	Conf.
Ground truth	13-XII-50		
Human	13-XII-50	1.0	—
T5	1977-01-01	0.0	0.24
ChatGPT	[Not-answerable]	0.0	—
GPT3	15 December 1950	0.0	—
T5-2D	1950-12-15	0.0	0.24
HiVT5	1977-07-01	0.0	0.11
BERTQA	2006/1	0.0	0.5

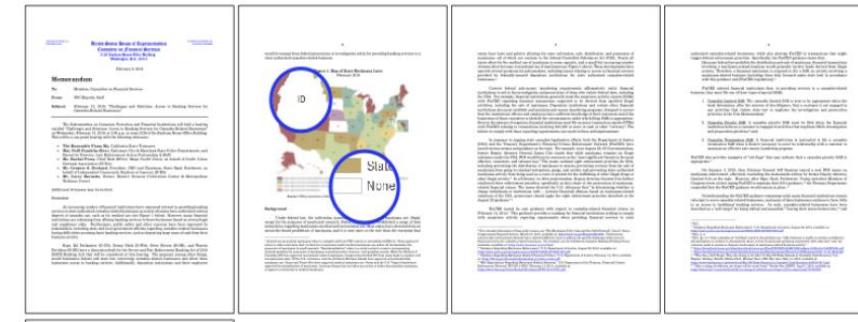
**Q: What is the difference between how much Operator II and Operator III makes per hour?**



Source	Answer	ANLS	Conf.
Ground truth	\$5		
Human	\$5	1.0	—
T5	200	0.0	0.28
ChatGPT	\$5 per hour.	0.0	—
GPT3	Operator II (\$17/hr)   Operator III (\$22/hr)	0.0	—
T5-2D	[Not-answerable]	0.0	0.31
HiVT5	[Not-answerable]	0.0	0.15

**Handwritten evidence**  
**Requires arithmetic**  
**Multi-hop visual evidence**

**Q: Which states don't have any marijuana laws?**



Source	Answer	ANLS	Conf.
Ground truth	ID   SD   KS		
Human	ID   SD   KS	1.0	—
T5	WA ME MT ND MN OR VT ID NH SD WI NY MA MI	0.0	0.28
ChatGPT	[Not-answerable]	0.0	—
GPT3	American Samoa	0.0	—
T5-2D	i	0.0	0.03
HiVT5	-	0.0	0.02

# DUDE Competition



Introducing Document UnderstanDing of Everything



# ICDAR 2023 DUDE Competition



**Robust Reading Competition** Home Challenges Register

**DUDE 😎 2023** Overview Tasks Downloads Results My Methods Organizers

Home / DUDE 😎 / Overview

## Overview - Document UnderstanDing of Everything 😎

The DUDE challenge seeks to foster research on document understanding in a real-world setting with potential distribution shifts between training and test splits. In contrast to previous datasets, we extensively source **multi-domain**, **multi-purpose**, and **multi-page** documents of various types, origins, and dates. Importantly, we bridge the yet unaddressed gap between Document Layout Analysis (DLA) and Question Answering (QA) paradigms by introducing complex layout-navigating questions and unique problems that often demand advanced information processing or multi-step reasoning.

**Stamp.** (E) What is the last date the document was received?  
(A) What does the stamp indicate?

**Signature.** (E) Who signed the document?  
(A) Is it easy to read individual letters in Kurt's signature?

**Symbol.** (E) What is the remark above the first staff?  
(A) What's the type of clef in the piano part?

**(a) application**

**(b) certificate**

**(c) diploma**

**(d) e-mail**

**(e) form**

**(f) handwritten**

**(g) infographic**

**(h) invoice**

**(i) leaflet**

**(j) agreement**

**(k) letter**

**(l) manual**

**(m) meeting**

**(n) memo**

**(o) news**

**Table.** (E) Which sample has the accuracy 82%?  
(A) What's the difference between correctness percentages?  
(A) Is the civil payroll cost larger than 50%?

**Figure.** (E) What's the second largest component?  
(A) What's the time of the incident in 24-hour system?

**Table.** (E) What's the second largest component?  
(A) What's the time of the incident in 24-hour system?

## Website:

<https://rrc.cvc.uab.es/?ch=23>

**Timeline:** February – May 2023

## Protocol:

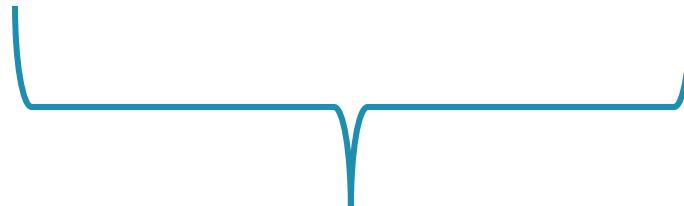
- *Trainval* (30K-3.7K): February
- *Test* (11.4K-1.3K) March-May

JSON submissions ⇔ model binaries



# Incentives

- By design of the dataset and competition → force significant novelty
  - Measuring improvements closer to the real-world applicability of DU models
- **calibrated and selective** DocVQA



- Lower answer confidence if unsure about answer correctness
- Refrain from hallucinations on non-answerable questions

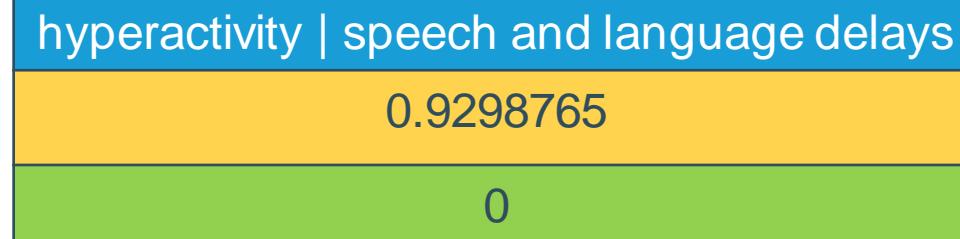


# Task formulation

*What are the first two behavioral and intellectual disabilities of people with FASDs?*



**GT:** Learning disabilities | Hyperactivity



- Given:

- Natural language question (on content, aspect, form, visual/layout)
- Input document
- A set of reference answers

- Provide:

- **Natural language answer**
- **Answer Confidence** (float between 0 and 1)
- **Abstention flag** (1 for abstaining)



# Evaluation methodology



Appendix B.4.

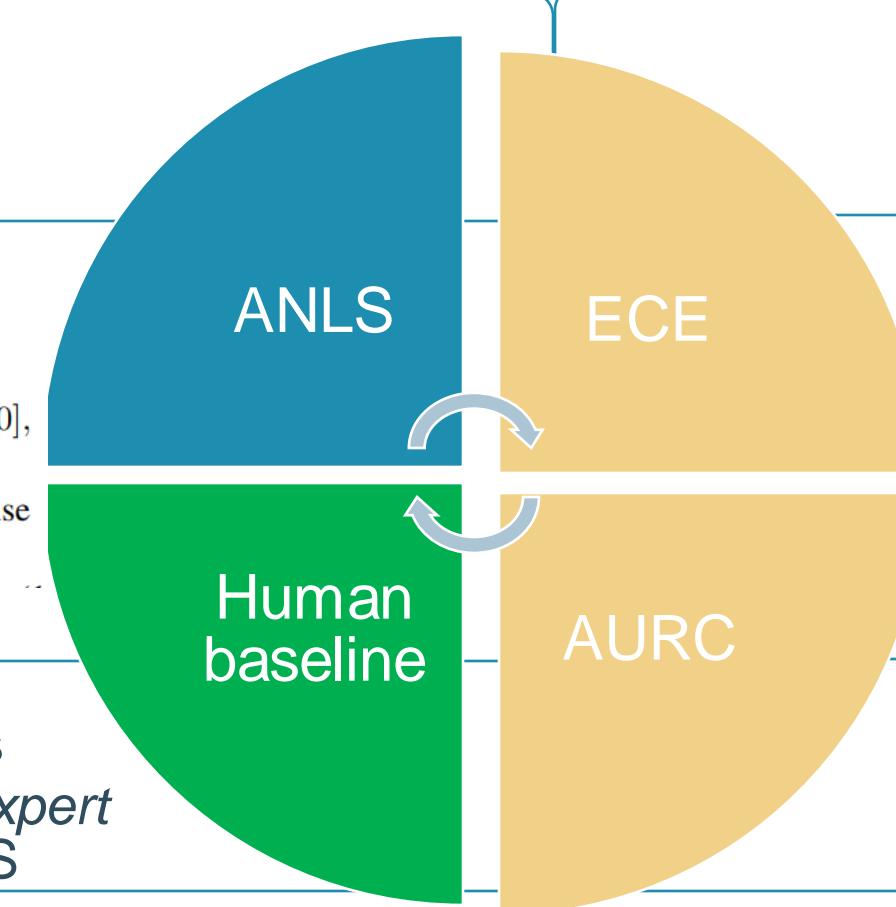
- Average Normalized Levenshtein Similarity
- Modified for NA & lists

$$\text{LD}(G, \hat{P}) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \text{NA}(G) \wedge |\hat{P}| > 0, \\ 0 & \text{if } \text{NA}(G) \wedge |\hat{P}| = 0, \\ |G| & \text{if } |\hat{P}| = 0, \\ \text{LD}(\text{tail}(G), \text{tail}(\hat{P})) & \text{if } G[0] = \hat{P}[0], \\ 1 + \min \begin{cases} \text{LD}(\text{tail}(G), \hat{P}) \\ \text{LD}(G, \text{tail}(\hat{P})), \text{ otherwise} \\ \text{LD}(\text{tail}(G), \text{tail}(\hat{P})) \end{cases} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Expected Calibration Error
- Top-1 prediction miscalibration
- ANLS thresholding discretization

$$\mathbb{I}[\text{ANLS}(y, \hat{y}) > \tau]$$

- Diagnostic annotations
- Quantify human *non-expert* performance with ANLS



- Area-Under-Risk-Coverage Curve
- Selective QA as confidence ranking



# Competition Submissions

- Document foundation models
  - UDOP, HiVT5
- LLM or VLMs
  - ChatGPT, BLIP2
- Multi-stage pre-training on VQA data
  - SP/MP-DocVQA, VQAonBD
  - ScienceQA, HotpotQA
- Token embeddings for DU subtasks

Method	Description
<b>LENOVO RESEARCH</b>	
<b>UDOP(M)</b>	Ensemble (M=10) of UDOP [30] (794M each) models without self-supervised pre-training, only fine-tuned in two stages: 1) SP-DocVQA [33] and MP-DocVQA [32], and 2) DUDE (switching between Azure and AWS OCR).
<b>UDOP +BLIP2</b>	UDOP(M=1) with integrated BLIP2 [17] predictions to optimize the image encoder and additional page number features.
<b>UDOP +BLIP2+GPT</b>	UDOP(M=1) and BLIP2 visual encoder with ChatGPT to generate Python-like modular programs to decompose questions for improved predictions [9,6].
<b>UPSTAGE AI</b>	
<b>MMT5</b>	Multimodal T5 pre-trained in two stages: single-page (ScienceQA [28], VQAonBD2023 [27], HotpotQA [34], SP-DocVQA) with objectives (masked language modeling (MLM) and next sentence prediction (NSP)), multi-page (MP-DocVQA and DUDE) with three objectives (MLM, NSP, page order matching). Fine-tuning on DUDE with answers per page combined for final output.
<b>INFRRD.AI</b>	
<b>HiVT5</b>	Hi-VT5 [32] with 20 <PAGE> tokens pre-trained with private document collection ( <i>no information provided</i> ) using span masking objective [14]. Fine-tuned with MP-DocVQA and DUDE.
<b>HiVT5 +mod+ modules</b>	Hi-VT5 extended with token/object embeddings for a variety of modular document understanding subtasks (detection: table structure, signatures, logo, stamp, checkbox; KIE: generic named entities; classification: font style).



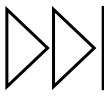
# Competition Final Ranking

	<b>Answer</b>	<b>Calibration</b>	<b>OOD Detection</b>	<b>ANLS / answer type</b>			
<b>Method</b>	ANLS ↑ ECE ↓ AURC ↓		AUROC ↑	<i>Ex</i>	<i>Abs</i>	<i>Li</i>	<i>NA</i>
UDOP+BLIP+GPT	<b>50.02</b>	<b>22.40</b>	<b>42.10</b>	<b>87.44</b>	<b>51.86</b>	<b>48.32</b>	<b>28.22 62.04</b>
MMT5	37.90	59.31	59.31	50.00	41.55	40.24	20.21 34.67
HiVT5+modules	35.59	28.03	46.03	51.24	30.95	35.15	11.76 52.50



Congratulations to **Lenovo Research**

@ Ren Zhou, Qiaoling Deng, Xinfeng Chang, Luyan Wang, Xiaochen Hu, Hui Li, Yaqiang Wu

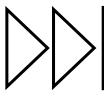


# Future outlook: the challenge is still on!

- ☺ **Confidence estimation, calibration and selective generation** is unmined territory, while DUDE offers a proper benchmark for evaluating advances
- ☺ The multi-page aspect is not sufficiently addressed
  - ☺ Inefficiency for **long document processing**
- ☺ Need for **better metrics** than ANLS over multiple references
  - ☺ e.g., taking semantic equivalence into account (it's Paris == the capital of France)
- ☺ With the rise of **multi-modal LLMs** (e.g., Kosmos-2, GPT-4V), better solutions are coming, yet due to its designed complexity, DUDE might remain “the benchmark to beat” for a long time

# DUDE: What's Next?

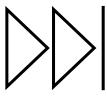
1. Reflections on DUDE
2. Curated research question
  - A. Frame of reference
  - B. Starting points
  - C. Target aspects



# Reflections on DUDE

- Benchmark with complexity in design sufficient to counter text-centric LLM approaches
- Launching the call to treat the layout modality as a first-class citizen
- Accentuating the field of document understanding as both separate from NLP and CV
  - Bringing its own set of problems and tasks
  - Requiring solutions beyond what is generated in the predecessor fields

➡ What follow-up **research questions** can we curate from DUDE?



# Setting expectations on DUDE

- Finding good answers to covered research questions will be transformative to the technology as we know it
  - Format: RQ, my two cents, literature -> trigger discussion ^^
- RQ:  
How can we obtain the 'ultimate' document understanding dataset?
  - A. What is the frame of reference/goal?
  - B. What are good starting points?
  - C. What aspects should be targeted?



## A. Frame of reference



# The definition and purpose of a document

- What is a "document"? (Buckland 1997)
  - Any information/evidence serving as a record
  - Communicative intent can be interacted with later
- What is document understanding?

*a complex process that involves holistically processing the layout of a document, as well as the textual and visual elements within it. It also requires the ability to reason with the extracted information, involving multiple skills and concepts, to generate meaningful actions or insights. (mine)*
- Is it about the intentionality of the document's author or the way a user interacts with it?
  - What questions can be asked by an observer? → *observer's paradox*
    - *situation in which the phenomenon being observed is unwittingly influenced by the presence of the observer/investigator.*

# Observer's paradox in data collection for DocVQA

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Uw Audi A3 Berline  
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BTW BE0646697416  
Business Customer / BTW 21%



Onthoud dat op onze site kunnen de afbeeldingen enkele verschillen in vergelijking met het  
fysieke voertuig voorhanden zijn.

Samenvatting van uw offerte		ZBTW	BTW
Waarde van het voertuig en toebehoren		€ 27.995,45	€ 33.874,49
Voordeel speciale aanbieding *		€ -3.382,63	€ -4.092,98
Catalogusprijs		€ 24.612,82	€ 29.781,51
Korting *		€ -3.212,40	€ -3.887,00
Totaal voertuig en toebehoren (BTW 21% : € 4.494,09)		€ 21.400,42	€ 25.894,51
*Klantenvoordeel :		€ 7.979,99 BTW	
Prijs overname (zie overname overeenkomst)		€ 0,00	
Te betalen vooroschot		€ 0,00	
Saldo		€ 25.894,51	

Offerte geldig tot 27/04/2017

\* Voor consumenten zal elke verkoop slechts als voltrekken beschouwd worden na ondertekening van een bestelling (KB 9/9/2000).  
\* Bij inschrijving van een wagen is een enmalige belasting op invoerinstelling (BIV) en jaarlijks verkeersbelasting te betalen op basis van de kenmerken van de wagen. Vraag meer info aan uw dealer.

Opmerking :  
Uw Web Code -ARQSSK1L- Deze code laat u toe op elk moment de details van uw voertuig terug te vinden in de configurator op Internet.

Proefrit :  
Laat U overtuigen met een testrit. Met plezier zullen we dit voor U organiseren.

Accountant: Is the VAT rate calculated correctly?  
Is the VAT number present?

Legal: What is the chassis identifier to forward?

Insurance: What is the true net value of this car for insuring the risk in an omnium coverage?

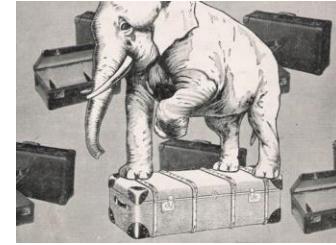
Customer: Why did he get a better quote on this car than me? Does this invoice include delivery?

Neighbor: why did this end up in my mailbox?  
Why did he choose a black car? Is this a fast car?

...

Which questions do we expect a model to answer? **Curse/Opportunity?**

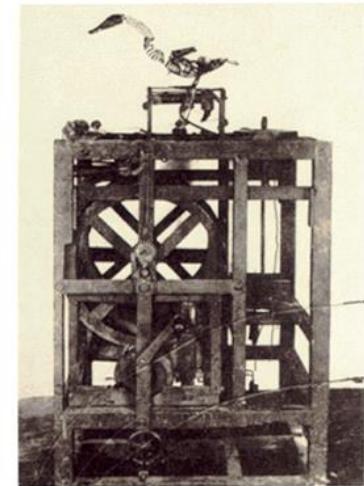
# Measuring complexity and generalization



## Turing test of document AI?

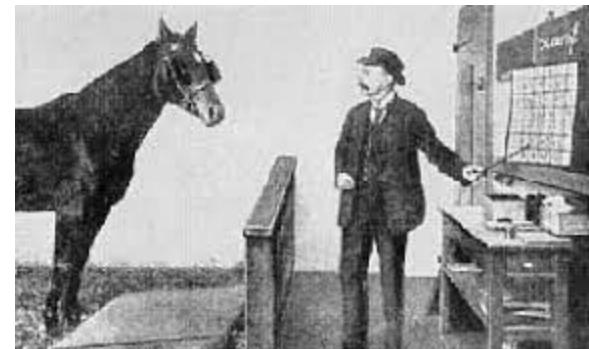
=> common-sense reasoning on documents from *real-world interactions*

- Duck test to test abductive reasoning, yielding a plausible conclusion without verification – inference to best explanation
- Elephant test refers to situations in which an idea or thing, "is hard to describe, but instantly recognizable when spotted"
- Moravec's Paradox states that it is easy to train computers to perform tasks that humans find difficult, such as mathematics and logic.
- ...



## Relevant caveats throughout dataset construction

- Beware creating Clever Hans effects
- Consider balancing language priors (adversarial Winogrande)



## B. Starting points

- I. ImageNet and MSCOCO
- II. Recent document dataset efforts



# ¿Replicating? the ImageNet moment

## ImageNet

- + Large-scale
- + Established ground truth schema (WordNet nouns)
- Single classification task
- Label noise



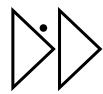
## MSCOCO

- + Large-scale
- + Common instances in context
- + Multi-task

[Detection](#) | [DensePose](#) | [Keypoints](#) | [Stuff](#) | [Panoptic](#) | [Captions](#)

# Drawing inspiration closer to home

- To build the equivalent of MSCOCO in document understanding, DUDE offers a great starting point, under **some conditions and necessary extensions**.
- Innovations introduced by recent datasets on
  - Long, structured document VQA
  - Language-guided document editing
- Ground truth collection:
  - **DUDE**: post-hoc/MDLT, minimally constrained, human-generated questions
  - **PDFTriage**: pre-defined question types, human-generated questions
  - **DocEdit**: pre-defined taxonomy, human-generated questions



# PDFTriage: question types

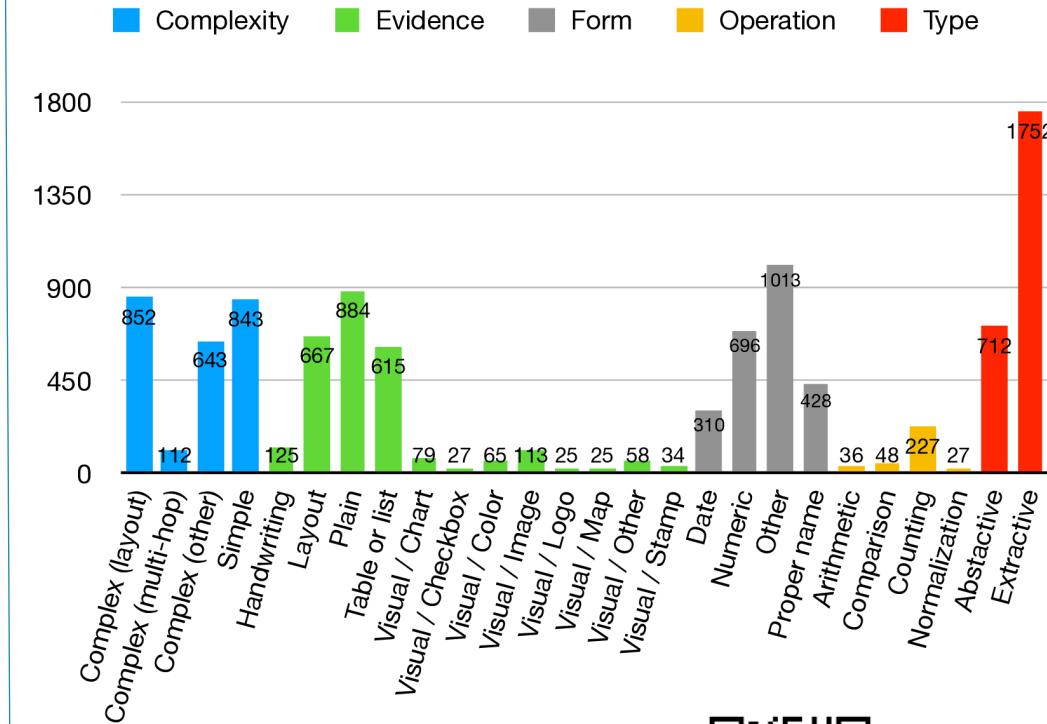
- i. Figure Questions (6.5%)
- ii. Text Questions (26.2%)
- iii. Table Reasoning (7.4%)
- iv. Structure Questions (3.7%)
- v. **Summarization (16.4%)**
- vi. Extraction (21.2%)
- vii. **Rewrite (5.2%)**
- viii. Outside Questions (8.6%)
- ix. Cross-page Tasks (1.1%)
- x. **Classification (3.7%)**

# DocEdit: executable

The screenshot shows two examples of document editing tasks:

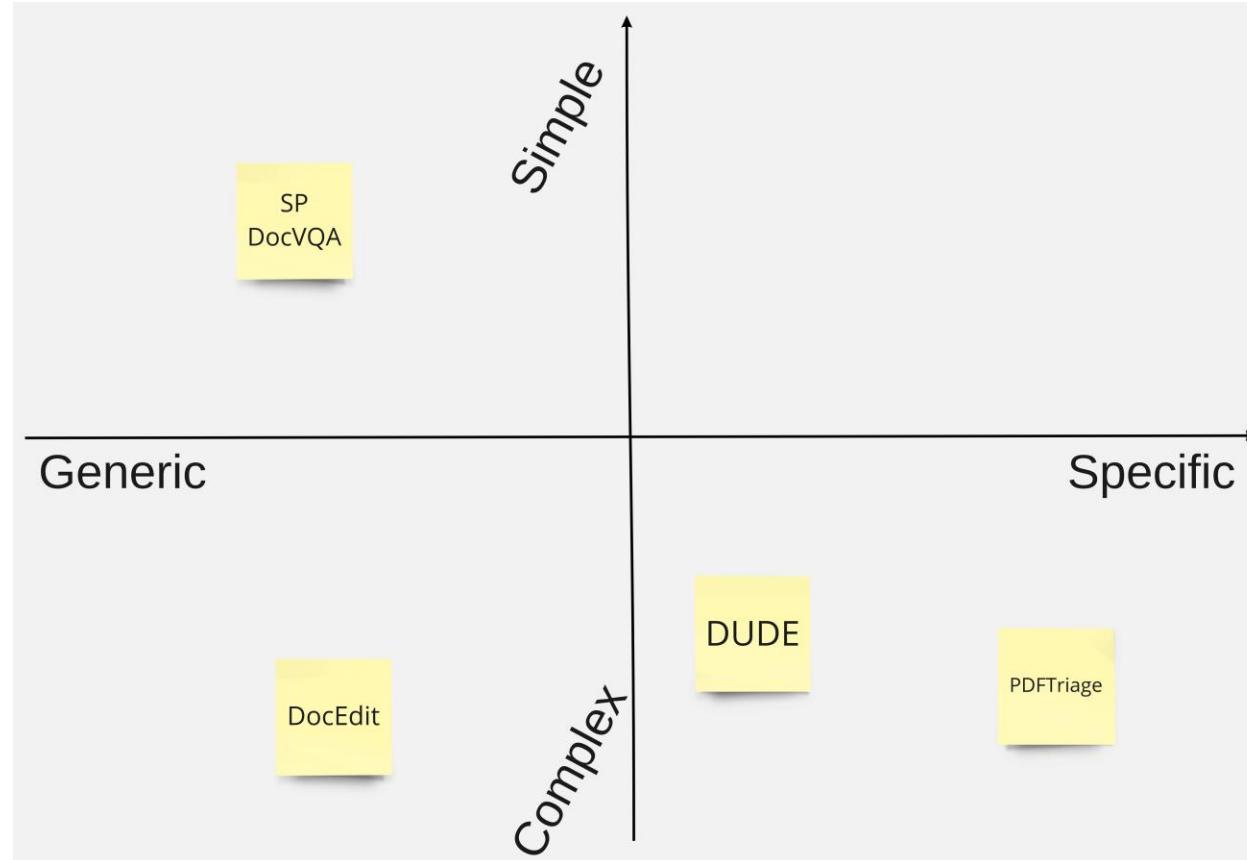
- Top Example:** A line graph titled "Delay of Shares Redemption Payments". A callout box says: "Shift the subheading 'Cash Flow' and the sentence below it 10px below the x-axis of the graph". Below the graph, a red box highlights a section of text: "ACTION (COMPONENT; ATTRIBUTE; INITIAL STATE; FINAL STATE) Move (Text; Location; None; +10px Down x-axis)".
- Bottom Example:** A table titled "Transaction". A callout box says: "Check options SPO/DCA and Fund Dividend in leftmost column Transaction". Below the table, a red box highlights a section of text: "ACTION (COMPONENT; ATTRIBUTE; INITIAL STATE; FINAL STATE) Modify (Checkbox; SPO/DCA, Fund Dividend; Unticked; Tick)".

# DUDE: diagnostic categories



<https://4e7d0ef5d7d58cb631.gradio.live/>

# Question complexity and genericity



## Interesting extensions:

1. Targeting complexity
2. Targeting specificity
3. Striking balance between question complexity and domain-specificity

## Implicit dimensions:

- Accessibility
- Cost
- Scalability

## C. Target aspects

- I. Scale
- II. Richness of supervision



# I. Scaling up DUDE: question collection

- Cross-lingual questions to counter reliance on language priors
- Scaling up #Documents and #Questions per document in a balanced way
  - Ideally: scale #Q as a function document complexity
    - Open question: how to quantify document complexity?
  - Straightforward: split questions evenly over pages by chunked annotation
    - Constraining multi-hop and natural question complexity
- Untapped: **machine-generated questions**

1. Emergent Analogical Reasoning in Large Language Models [[paper](#)] 2023.12
2. HiTab: A Hierarchical Table Dataset for Question Answering and Natural Language Generation [[paper](#)] 2022.5

# I. Scaling up DUDE: document collection

- Document collection approach is **manual**:
  - keyword-style search -> cluster-based diverse sampling from larger document collections
  - maximizing diversity in terms of all modalities with additional features: language, industry, document concepts, ...
  - Open question: how to quantify document data diversity?
  - Need better PDF data exploration tooling
    - e.g., <https://vawdataset.com/explore>, <https://atlas.nomic.ai/>
  - Business documents are hard to obtain, backtrack to visually-situated language?
- Where to collect multi-lingual documents?



1. CCpdf: Building a High Quality Corpus for Visually Rich Documents [[paper](#)] 2023.7
2. Pix2Struct: Screenshot Parsing as Pretraining for Visual Language Understanding [[paper](#)] 2022.10

# I. Question generation

- Question-answer generation – interesting to complement for large-scale dataset
  - Teach current-best DUDE model to generate questions (A|D) -> Q
    - Risk: adding truly diverse and relevant questions?
    - Open question: how to reliably generate unanswerable questions?
      - How to evaluate a system's handling?
  - Gestalt: higher #Qs on heterogenous elements in document [1]
- Multi-step process:
  - Generate document captions alluding to concepts
  - Generate questions based on descriptions and skill templates

1. Probabilistic homogeneity for document image segmentation [[paper](#)] 2022.5
2. Open-World Factually Consistent Question Generation [[paper](#)] 2023.7
3. GoLLIE: Annotation Guidelines improve Zero-Shot Information-Extraction [[paper](#)] 2023.10
4. Question-generation-paper-list [[website](#)]

## C. Target aspects

- I. Scale
- II. Richness of supervision



## II. Are we not expecting too much with poor stimulus?

- Currently, expect models to learn how to answer complex questions involving (multiple) manipulation of document-instance and/or domain-specific concepts with a single set of reference answers  
→ not providing i) **enough** or ii) **complex enough** or iii) **diverse enough** examples for learning
- Proposed remedy: compositional generalization from ground truth annotated with primitives (skill-concept)
  - More explicit answer, grounding of answer (if possible) and evidence (attribution), and explanation of relations between skills and concepts
  - ?→ **discrimination** of known and **generalization** to new skill-concept combinations
- Proposed format: full-featured instruction tuning dataset

The difference [arithmetic] between the wages of operator 2 (entity\_1) and 3 (entity\_2) can be found from page 1, Table 1, column A, row Z [locating the evidence]. This shows a table (type of evidence) over operators' net wages with Operator 1 making \$22/hr[attribute(entity\_1)]. and Operator 2 making \$17/hr[attribute(entity\_2)]. Thereby, the result is \$5/hr [arithmetic\_difference(attribute(entity\_1), attribute(entity\_2))].

**Requires arithmetic.** *What is the difference between how much Operator II and Operator III makes per hour?*  
The question requires table comprehension, determining relevant values, dividing extracted integers, and correcting the subject-verb agreement.

Operator	Wage (\$/hr)
Manager	\$22
Foreman	\$22
Operator III	\$22
Operator II	\$17
Operator I	\$17
Worker	\$17

1. Otter: A Multi-Modal Model with In-Context Instruction Tuning [[paper](#)] 2023.5
2. Dinosaur: A Dynamic Growth Paradigm for Instruction-Tuning Data Curation [[paper](#)] 2023.5
3. Self supervised learning and the poverty of the stimulus [[paper](#)] 2023.09

## II. From MDLT toward *skill-concept compositions*

*Can each question-answer pair be decomposed into skill-concept compositions?*

- **Concept:** a generic term to denote document visual objects (atomic [cell, barcode] and molecular [table, chart, form]), entities (*generic [document identifier, person, date] and domain-specific [invoice number, insured, payment date]*)
- **Skill:** any manipulation [*existence, counting, relation, hasattribute, ...*] of a concept, or a combination of concepts (*evidence*) involved

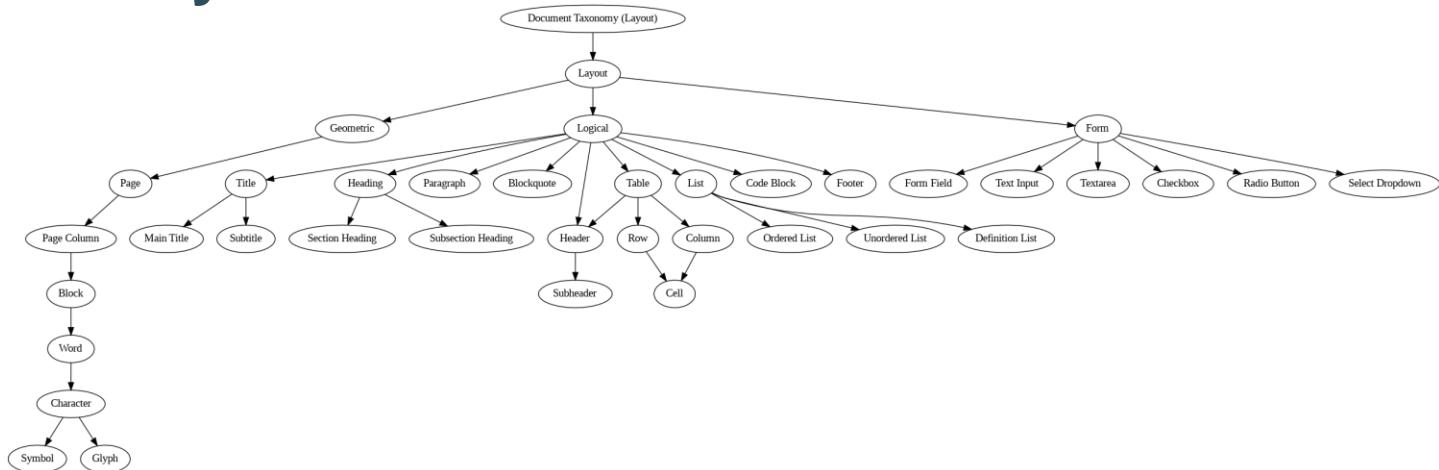
document complexity := the expectation over all skill-concept compositions that can be requested for a document

1. VQACL: A Novel Visual Question Answering Continual Learning Setting [\[paper\]](#) 2023.5
2. ViperGPT: Visual Inference via Python Execution for Reasoning [\[paper\]](#) 2023.8
3. VisIT-Bench: A Benchmark for Vision-Language Instruction Following Inspired by Real-World Use [\[paper\]](#) 2023.8
4. VerbNet; [\[website\]](#)

# II. Prototyping a skill-concepts taxonomy



- Establish generic document concepts
- How to integrate domain-specific concepts?
  - e.g., address block (layout) , invoice number (text)
- layout



## Examples

Table detection -> **Existence(table, document)**  
Extract total amount paid from invoice -> **Locate(amount; custom)**

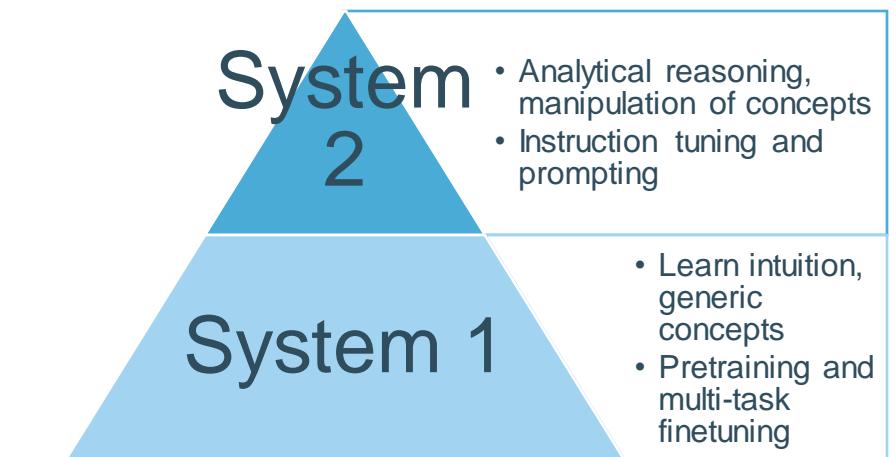
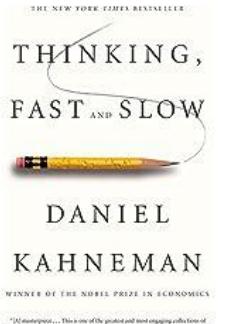
“How many of the contract’s pages have signatures?”  
**Counting( [Navigation(document), Existence(signature, page)])**

## II. How to use this skills-concepts taxonomy?

*“Do we really need thousands of examples of QA pairs to learn a specific skill-concept composition?”*

- Build ground truth more applicable to advanced prompting techniques
  - Proven useful with semantic parsing and question decomposition
- Create novel question-answer templates from existing compositions
- Investigate neuro-symbolic architectures that allow for dynamic knowledge graphs

1. Graph of Thoughts: Solving Elaborate Problems with Large Language Models [\[paper\]](#)
2. GQA: A New Dataset for Real-World Visual Reasoning and Compositional Question Answering [\[paper\]](#) <https://cs.stanford.edu/people/dorarad/gqa/>
3. Complex Question Decomposition for Semantic Parsing [\[paper\]](#) 2019.3
4. Is a Question Decomposition Unit All We Need? 2022.5
5. KOSMOS-2.5: A Multimodal Literate Model [paper](#)
6. Sample-efficient Learning of Novel Visual Concepts [\[paper\]](#) 2023



# Conclusion and value for Adobe

- Scaling with question generation and document-question diversity
- Designing the most valuable ground truth to learn a complete distribution over skills and document concepts

*I hope to have provided some food for thought on making an informed answer.*

- I believe that Adobe is the right party to build this '*ultimate*' *document understanding dataset*, targeting both the scale and depth of supervision; establishing Adobe's position as the **document intelligence pioneer**

## COMPETITION



<https://rrc.cvc.uab.es/?ch=23>

## DATASET



[https://huggingface.co/datasets/jordyvl/DUDE\\_loader](https://huggingface.co/datasets/jordyvl/DUDE_loader)

# Questions?

[jordy-vl.github.io/](https://jordy-vl.github.io/)



: Sample

