

ClaimLens: Automated, Explainable Fact-Checking on Voting Claims Using Frame-Semantics



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System Demo

Marco Rubio voted against the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act

Tip: Hover over the highlighted frame elements to view the definition.

Frame Elements:

Agent: Marco Rubio

Position: against

Issue: the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act

About Marco Rubio



"... Marco Rubio's vote on this bill was recorded as 'Nay'. The factual claim states that Marco Rubio voted against the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act. Since Rubio's 'Nay' vote aligns with the claim that he voted against the Act, the information **supports** the claim."

Member ID: R000595 Marco Antonio Rubio (born May 28, 1971) is an American politician and lawyer serving as the senior United States senator from Florida, a seat he has held since 2011. A member of the Republican Party, he served as Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives from 2006 to 2008. Rubio unsuccessfully sought the Republican nomination for President of the United States in 2016, but won presidential primaries in Minnesota, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

More info

Related Bills

Bill Title: 112 S 1925 Bill Summary: Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2012 - (Sec. 3) Amends the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (VAWA) to add or expand definitions of several terms for purposes... Show more

Vote: Nay

Alignment: Supports

Bill Title: 117 HR 3233

Bill Summary: National Commission to Investigate the January 6 Attack on the United States Capitol Complex Act This bill establishes in the legislative branch the National Commission to Investigate the... Show more

Vote: Nay

Alignment: *Irrelevant*

Bill Title: 117 HR 350

Bill Summary: Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2022 This bill establishes new requirements to expand the availability of information on domestic terrorism, as well as the relationship between... Show more

Vote: Nay

Alignment: *Irrelevant*

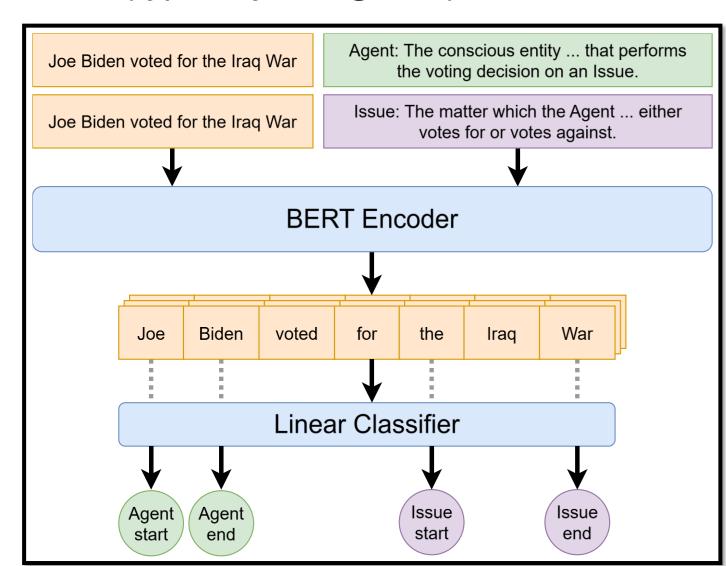
Methodology

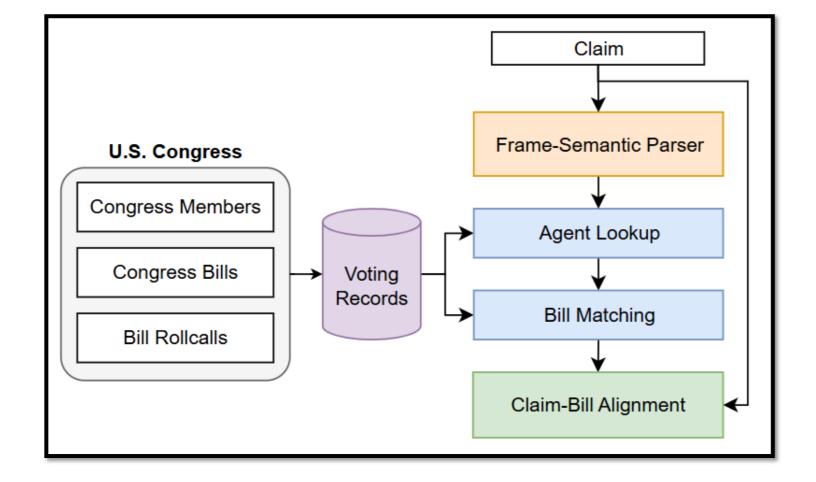
Frame-Semantic Parsing

> Enables automatic structured extraction of voting-related elements.

Vote Frame

- > Agent: The conscious entity executing the voting decision (typically a person).
- > Issue: The subject or matter that the Agent casts a voting decision on.
- > Position: The stance the Agent takes on an Issue (typically for/against).





System Overview

- > Frame-semantic parser extracts votingrelated information from a given claim.
 - > Agent lookup congress member.
 - > Issue find relevant bills voted on.
- > LLM evaluates vote alignment to the claim.

Supports – The vote supports the claim.

Refutes – The vote refutes the claim.

Inconclusive – Not enough information.

Irrelevant - The bill is irrelevant.

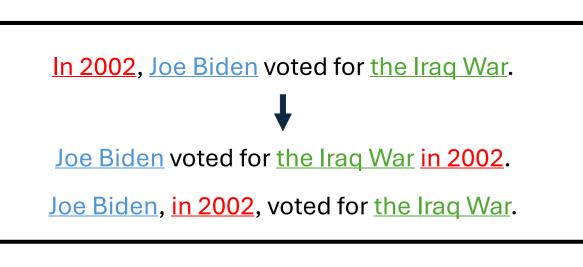
Data Augmentation

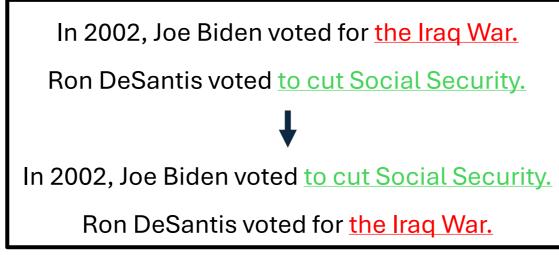
Frame Element (FE) Interleaving

- Only ~100 annotated sentences with Vote frame.
- Interleave sentences using FEs from other sentences.
- > 2ⁿ 2 new sentences for **n** intersecting FEs.

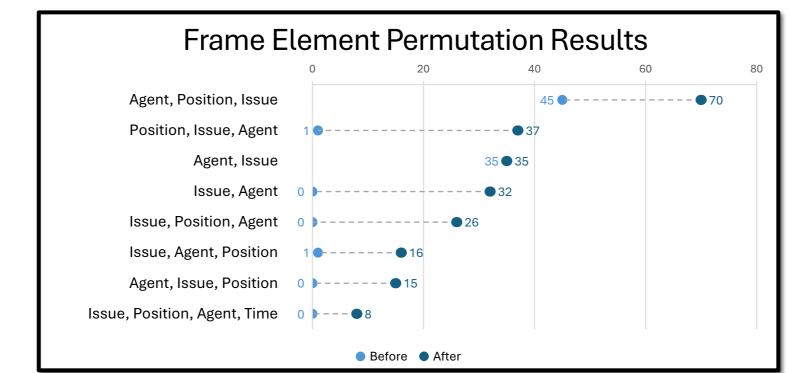
Frame Element Permutation

- > Sentences often follow the same pattern.
- > To avoid model bias, we augment dataset with re-ordered sentences.
- > 2^k 1 new samples for **k** frame elements.





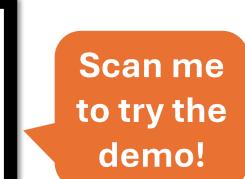
Dataset	# Train	# Test
Bill Match	0	79
Vote Frame	75	21
Vote GPT Negatives	81	24
Vote FE Permutation	290	73
Vote FE Interleaved	3,154	2,808
Vote FE HC Interleaved	1,697	2,808



background checks on all gun sales. Ted Cruz voted for

Tip: Hover over the highlighted frame elements to view the definition.

- Frame Elements:
 - Agent: Ted Cruz
 - Position: for
 - Issue: background checks on all gun sales



About Ted Cruz

"... Ted Cruz voted 'Nay' on this bill, which **refutes** the claim that he voted for background checks on all gun sales. His 'Nay' vote indicates **opposition** to the bill's provisions regarding background checks and other measures."

Member ID: C001098 Rafael Edward Cruz (born December 22, 1970) is an American politician and attorney serving as the junior United States senator from Texas since 2013. A member of the Republican Party, Cruz was the solicitor general of Texas from 2003 to 2008. In 2016, Cruz sought the Republican presidential nomination, emerging as a serious competitor to front-runner Donald Trump in a primary marked by intense, often personal, exchanges. Cruz initially withheld his endorsement after Trump secured the nomination, but became a strong supporter during Trump's presidency. In 2021, Cruz objected to the certification of Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 presidential election.

More info

Related Bills

Bill Title: 117 HR 5746

Bill Summary: Freedom to Vote: John R. Lewis Act This bill addresses voter registration and voting access, election integrity and security, redistricting, campaign finance, and voting rights. Specifically, th... Show more

Vote: Nay

Alignment: *Irrelevant*

Bill Title: 117 S 2938

Bill Summary: Bipartisan Safer Communities Act This act makes various changes to federal firearms laws, including to expand background check requirements, broaden the scope of existing... Show more

Vote: Nay

Alignment: Refutes

Bill Title: 117 HR 350

Bill Summary: Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act of 2022 This bill establishes new requirements to expand the availability of information on domestic terrorism, as well as the relationship between... Show more

Vote: Not Voting

Alignment: *Irrelevant*

Bill Matching and Alignment

Motivation

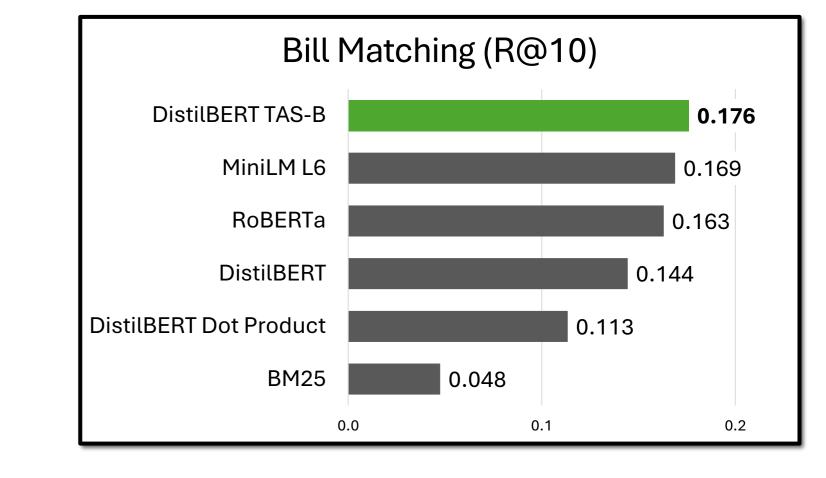
- > Find bills given an **Issue** frame element
- May indirectly address a particular issue.
 - > E.g., "I voted against abortion."
 - > Cutting funding for women's clinics.

Manually-Created Dataset

- > 79 voting-related claims from PolitiFact.
- > 190 Bills mentioned in the "sources" section of the PolitiFact fact-checks.

Semantic Similarity Models

- > Keyword search (BM25) failed.
- > Experimented models were finetuned on MSMARCO dataset.



Performance limited by U.S. Congress bills (Max R@10 = 0.568).

Claim-Bill Alignment

- Requires knowledge and reasoning on explicit or implicit effects of a bill.
- Only Claude 3 Opus and GPT 40 worked.

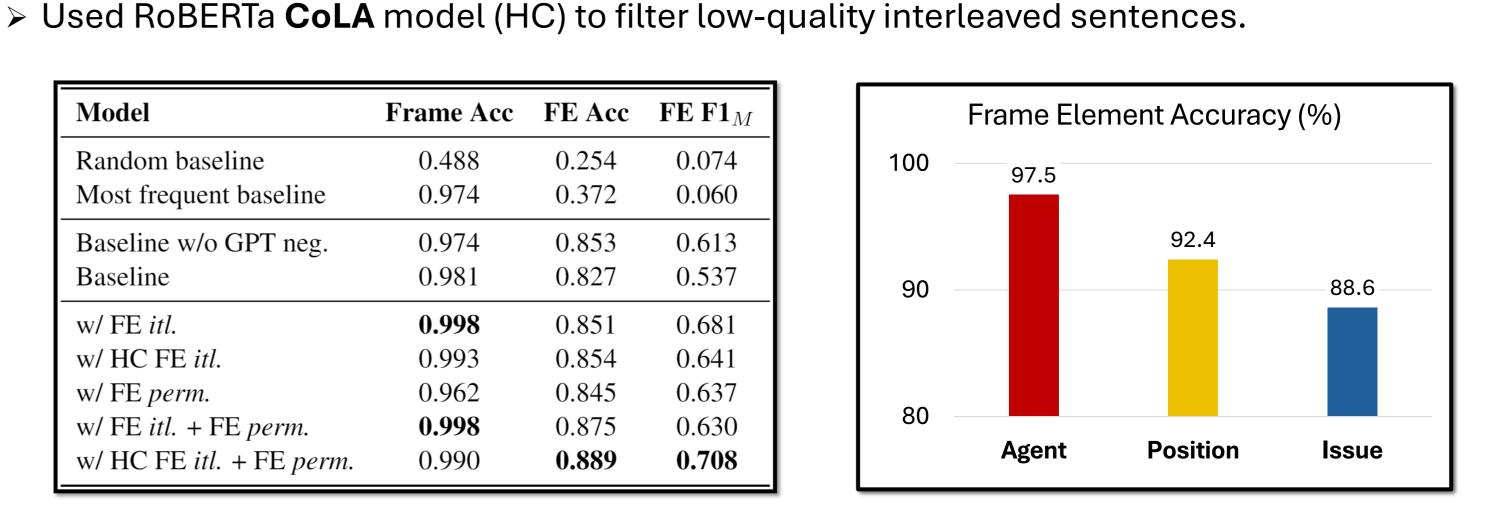
Results

Frame-Semantic Parsing

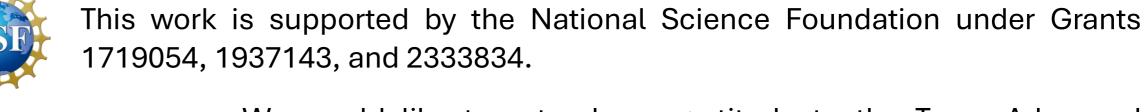
- > Evaluated using exact match accuracy and macro F1 on frame and frame elements.
- ➤ Improved Frame Accuracy by +1.7%, FE Accuracy by +6.2%, and FE Macro F1 by +17.1%.

Model	Frame Acc	FE Acc	$\mathbf{FE}\ \mathbf{F1}_{M}$
Random baseline Most frequent baseline	0.488	0.254	0.074
	0.974	0.372	0.060
Baseline w/o GPT neg. Baseline	0.974	0.853	0.613
	0.981	0.827	0.537
w/ FE itl.	0.998	0.851	0.681
w/ HC FE itl.	0.993	0.854	0.641
w/ FE perm.	0.962	0.845	0.637

0.990



Acknowledgements



w/ FE itl. + FE perm.

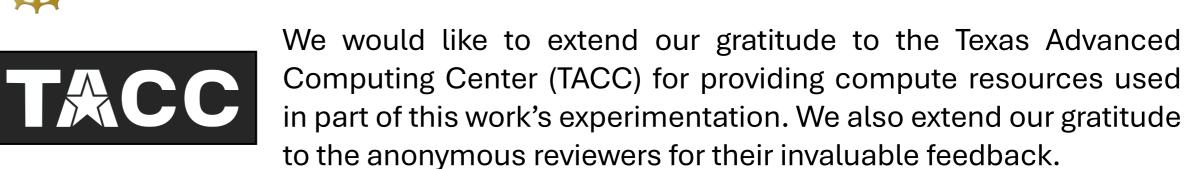
w/ HC FE itl. + FE perm.

We would like to extend our gratitude to the Texas Advanced

0.630

0.708





0.875

0.889