From Relevance to Reality: Scaling Human-Centered Evaluation in the LLM Era

Chirag Shah





Large Language Models can Accurately Predict Searcher Preferences

Paul Thomas
Microsoft
Adelaide, Australia
pathom@microsoft.com

Nick Craswell
Microsoft
Seattle, USA
nickcr@microsoft.com

LLM-Evaluation Tropes: Perspectives on the Validity of LLM-Evaluations

Laura Dietz University of New Hampshire USA

Charles Clarke
University of Waterloo
Canada

Faegheh Hasibi Radboud University Netherlands Oleg Zendel RMIT University Australia

Ellese Cotterill
Canva
Australia

Mark Sanderson RMIT University Australia Peter Bailey Canva Australia

Jeff Dalton University of Edinburgh United Kingdom

> Nick Craswell Microsoft USA

LLM-Driven Usefulness Labeling for IR Evaluation

Mouly Dewan University of Washington Seattle, WA, United States mdewan@uw.edu Jiqun Liu
The University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK, United States
jiqunliu@ou.edu

Chirag Shah University of Washington Seattle, WA, United States chirags@uw.edu

But...

COMPUTERWORLD · 1d

Google can't guarantee its Gemini genAl tool won't be biased

Google's new text-to-image generator displayed glaring biases after only three weeks online. After taking the tool offline ...

TECHSPOT . 9d

Forget hallucinations, ChatGPT has developed full blown dementia

Any software under ongoing development is highly likely to experience sudden bugs. About a year ago, Meta's Alpaca started ...

Forbes 10d

Is Al Biased - Does It Help Or Hinder Women As They Rise To The Top?

Simply put, women must overcome many biases in a world often tilted against them to reach the C-Suite. Will Al help on hinder ...

GZERO on MSN · 10d

When AI makes mistakes, who can be held responsible?

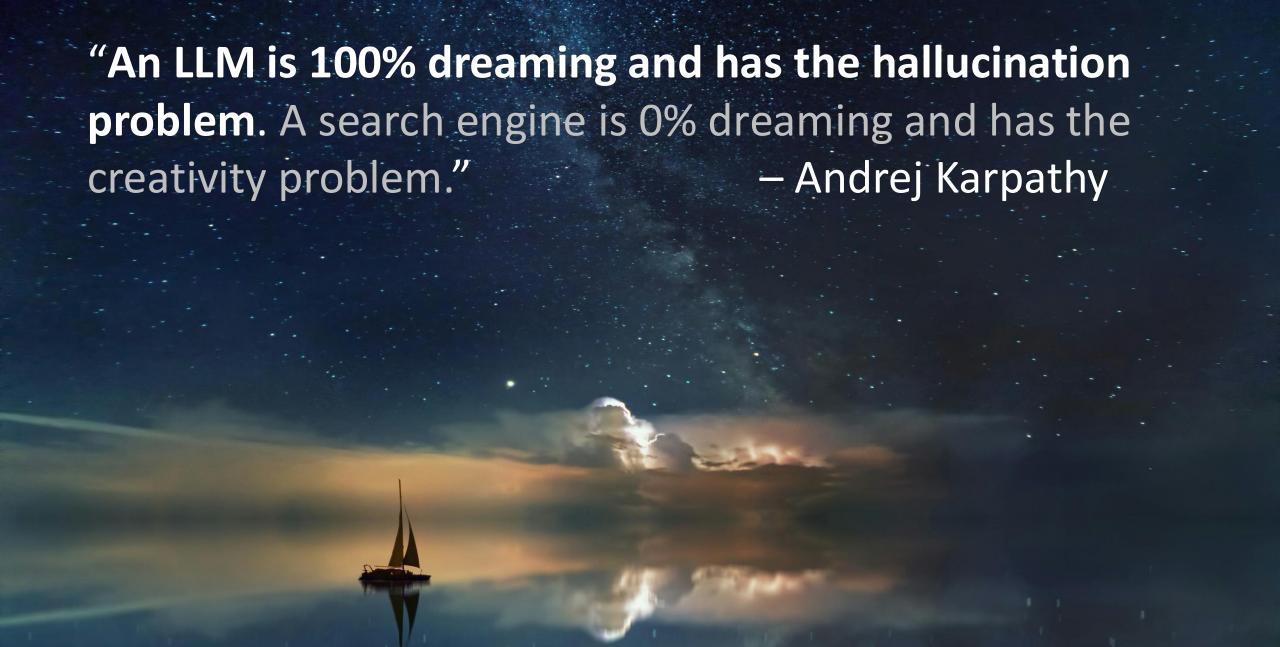
Who bears responsibility when AI makes errors? Additionally, can we rely on AI, and should we trust it? So last week, a ...











What Do We Want?

We want that **creativity**. Can we do something about its **hallucinations**? **reliability trustworthiness**

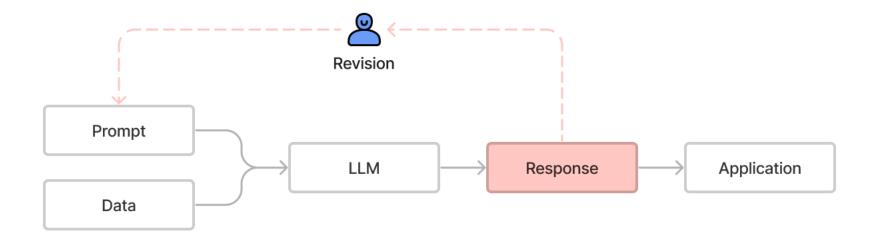
How do we turn **engineering** to **science**?

Applying to same level of scrutiny we apply to any scientific instrument.

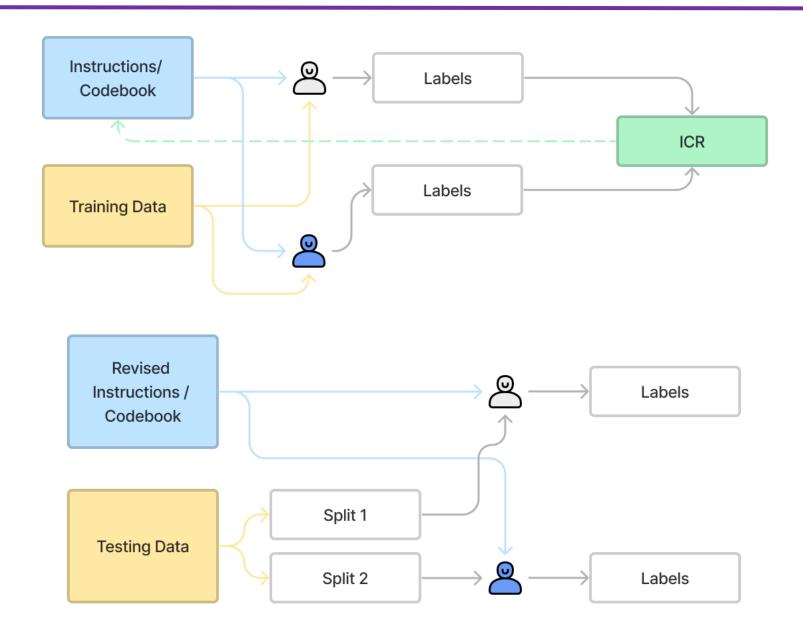
PROMPT SCIENCE

Shah (2025). From Prompt Engineering to Prompt Science. *Communications of the ACM (CACM).*

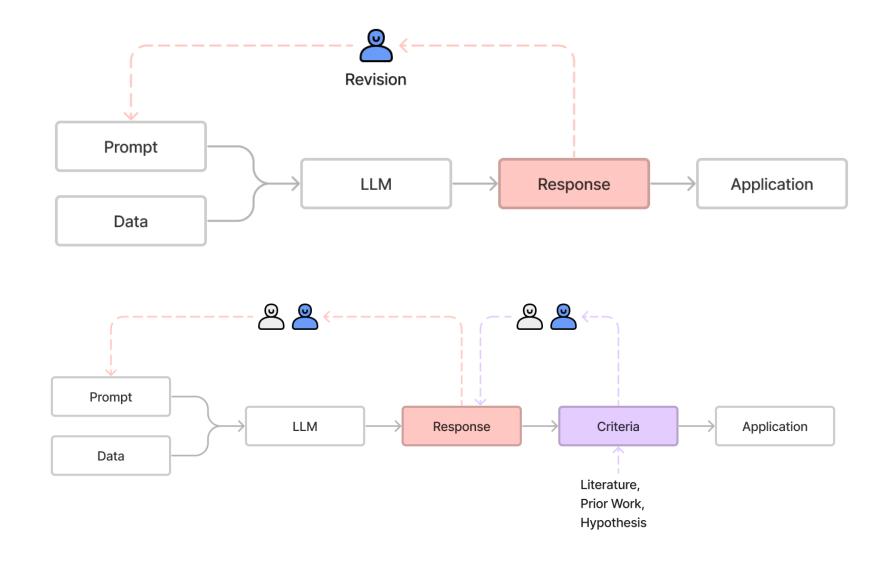
The Ad-hocness of Prompt Engineering



Qualitative Coding



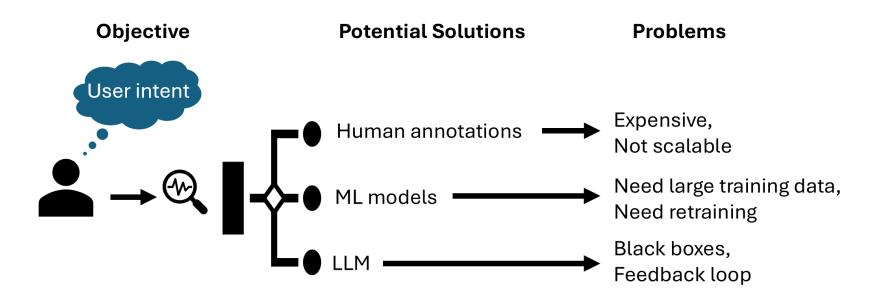
Turning Prompt Engineering to Prompt Science

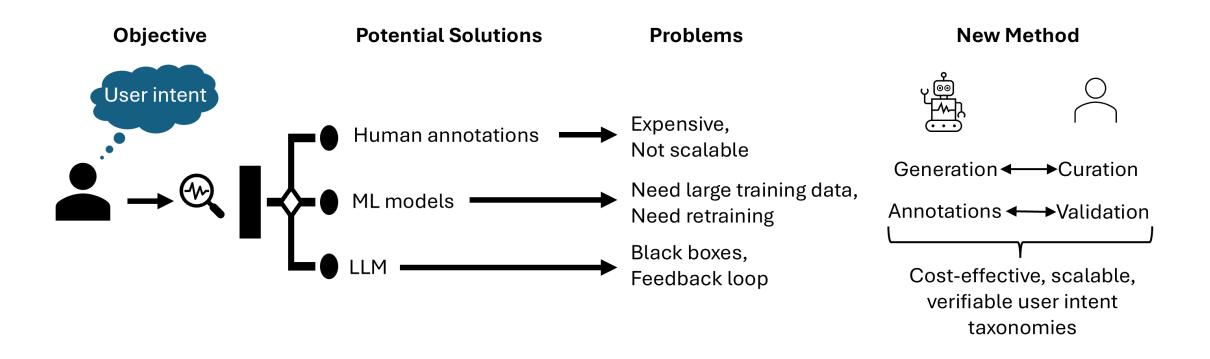


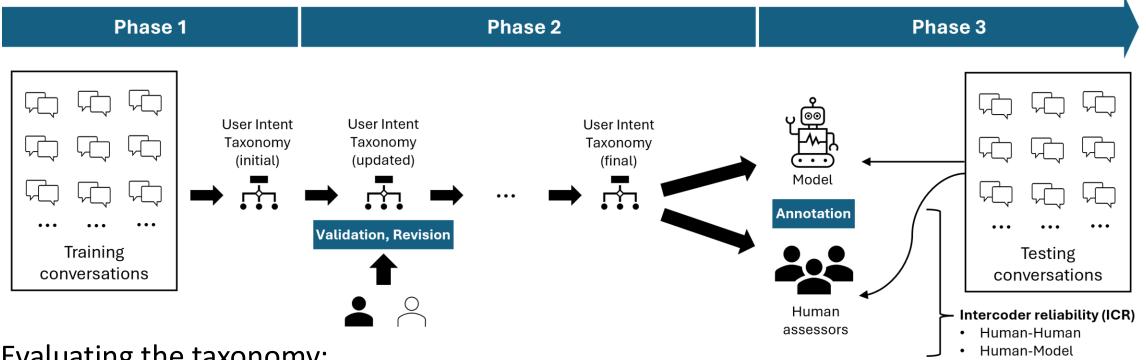
Case Study 1

SEARCH VS. CHAT

Shah et al. (2025). Using Large Language Models to Generate, Validate, and Apply User Intent Taxonomies. *ACM Transactions of the Web (TWeb)*.







Evaluating the taxonomy:

- Comprehensiveness
- Consistency
- Clarity
- Accuracy
- Conciseness

Generating and Validating LLM-based Taxonomies

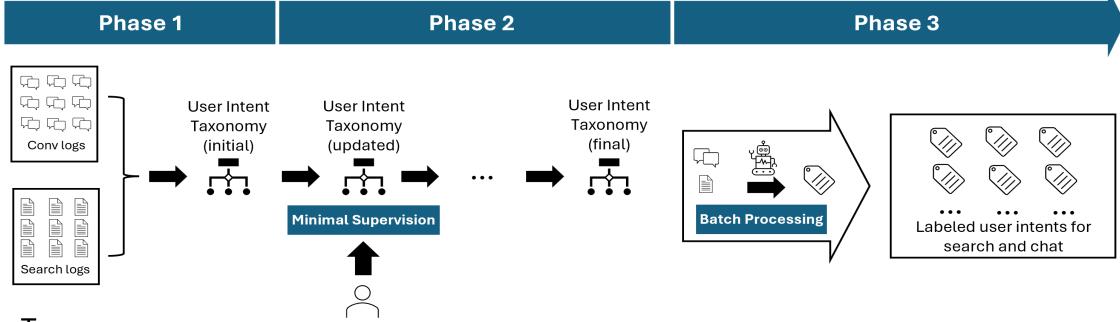
Table 5: Bootstrapping experiments showing frequency of different intent categories over 30 total runs, 10 runs for each of the three LLMs. Top 5 categories in each are bolded.

Category	GPT-4	Mistral	Hermes
Information retrieval/ seeking/finding	10	9	10
Problem solving	9	8	8
Learning	8	10	9
Content creation	9	8	8
Leisure/Entertainment	8	10	7
Ask for advice/opinion	3	2	4
Chat	3	1	2
Verify	0	2	2

Table 6: ICR using Cohen's Kappa.

	Human	GPT-4	Mistral	Hermes
Human	0.7620	-	-	-
GPT-4	0.7212	-	-	-
Mistral	0.6943	0.6343	-	-
Hermes	0.6521	0.5732	0.6772	-

Training using 500 search queries and 500 chat requests by the same users

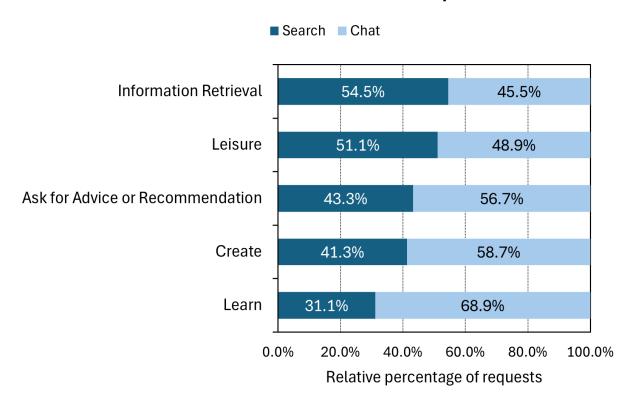


Taxonomy:

- Ask for advice/recommendation
- Create
- Information retrieval
- Learn
- Leisure

Annotations on 1,956 search queries and 15,031 chat requests by the same users

User Intents in Search vs. Chat Requests

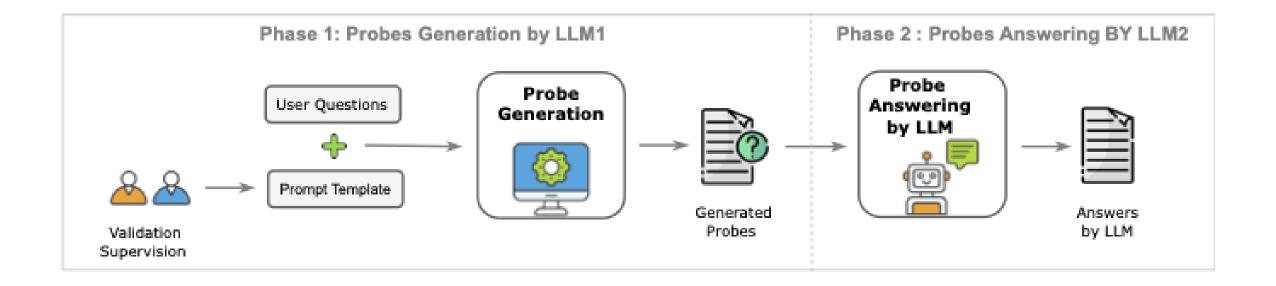


Case Study 2

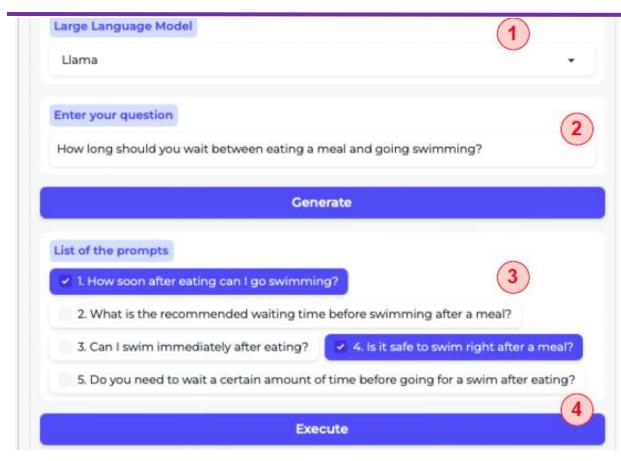
AUDITING AN LLM

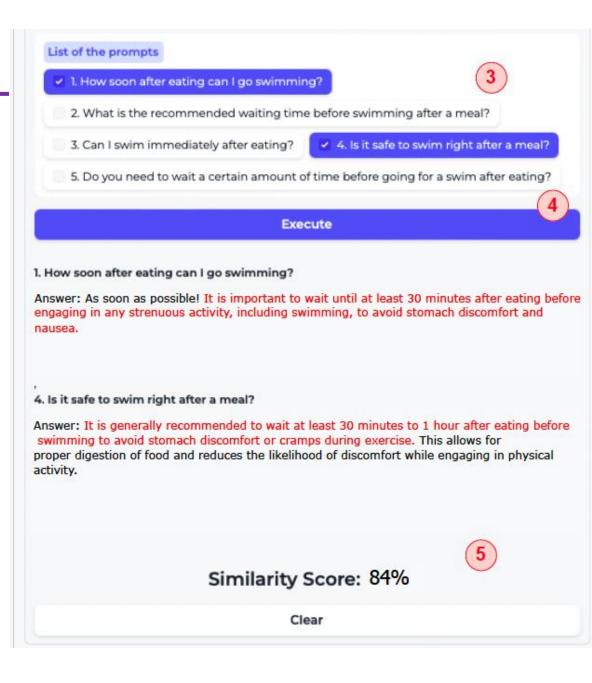
Amiritziani et al. (2024). AuditLLM: A Tool for Auditing Large Language Models Using Multiprobe Approach. *Proceedings of ACM CIKM 2024*. Boise, ID. October 2024.

Multiprobe Auditing



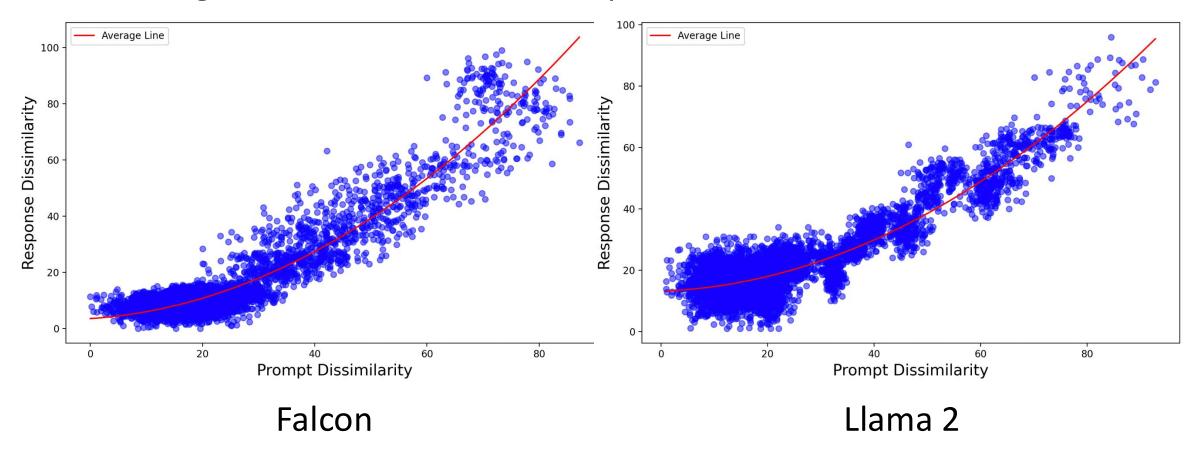
Multiprobe Auditing





Multiprobe Auditing

 Data: TruthfulQA with 817 questions spanning 38 diverse categories, including health, law, finance, and politics



Are You Using The Right Benchmarks?

Question your benchmarks. Data contaminations happen.

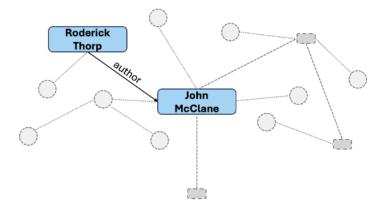
DYNAMIC-KGQA: A Scalable Framework for Generating Adaptive Question Answering Datasets

Preetam Prabhu Srikar Dammu University of Washington Seattle, Washington, USA preetams@uw.edu Himanshu Naidu University of Washington Seattle, Washington, USA hnaidu36@uw.edu Chirag Shah University of Washington Seattle, Washington, USA chirags@uw.edu

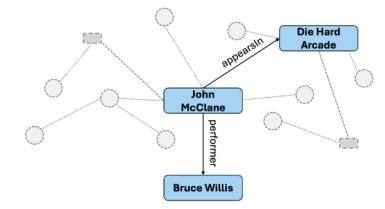
Q: Who is the author of the character John McClane?
A: Roderick Thorp

Q: Which video game features Bruce Willis's famous character? **A:** Die Hard Arcade

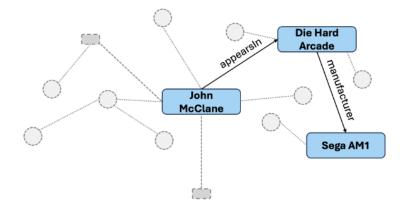
Q: Which company manufactured the game in which John McClane appears? A: Sega AM1



(a) Answer Path 1



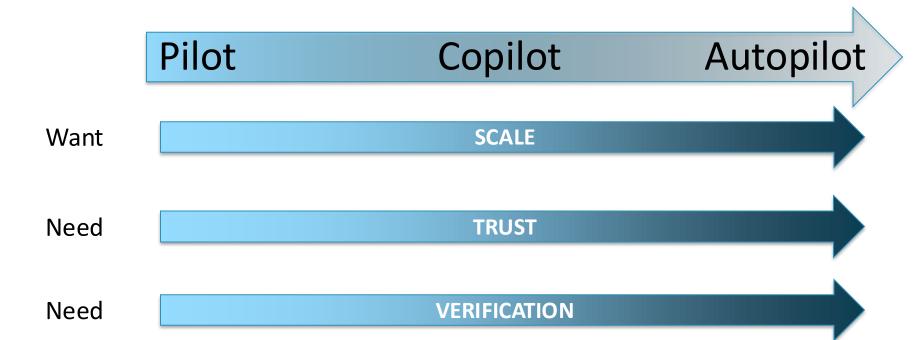
(b) Answer Path 2



(c) Answer Path 3

Lessons

- Using LLMs as an evaluator must be done with a LOT of caution and verification.
- Judge the LLM (and benchmarks) before LLM can judge for us.
- Think about humans in the loop, accountability, and trustworthiness.
- "Trust, but verify" Ronald Regan





Thank you!



SINFO