Scientific Knowledge Organized Through Question Network

Zhi-Wei Li, Ren Kai

Center for Neural Science, New York Universisty Engineering department, National University of Singapore

· Contact: zhiwei.li@nyu.edu, renkai@u.nus.edu

Introduction

Papers are not the most accessible way to organize knowledge



can't remember what this paper said...

New tool in beta...

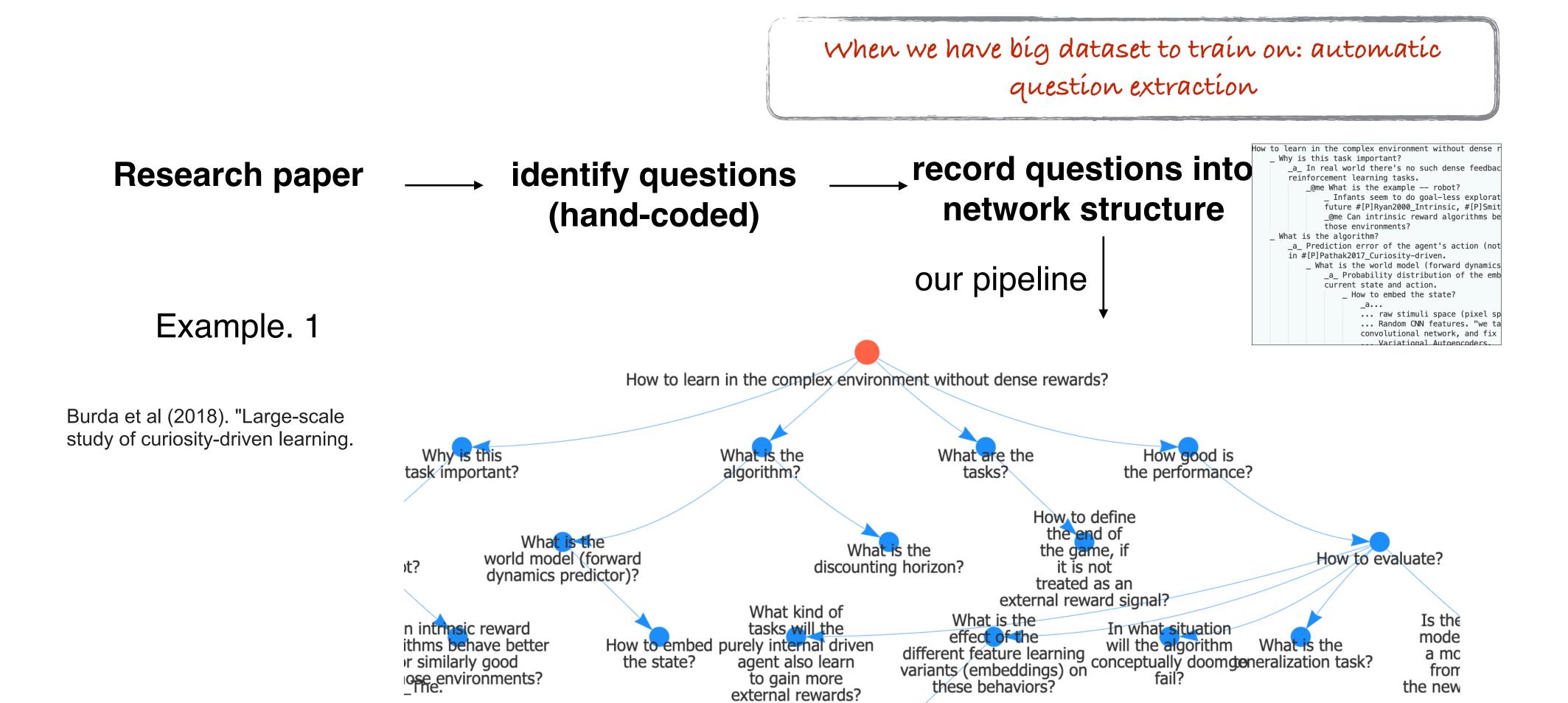
- We show examples of questions networks for a single paper and multiple papers in the same field.

 As a proof of concept, we demonstrate possible analysis from the question networks.

If you find this useful...

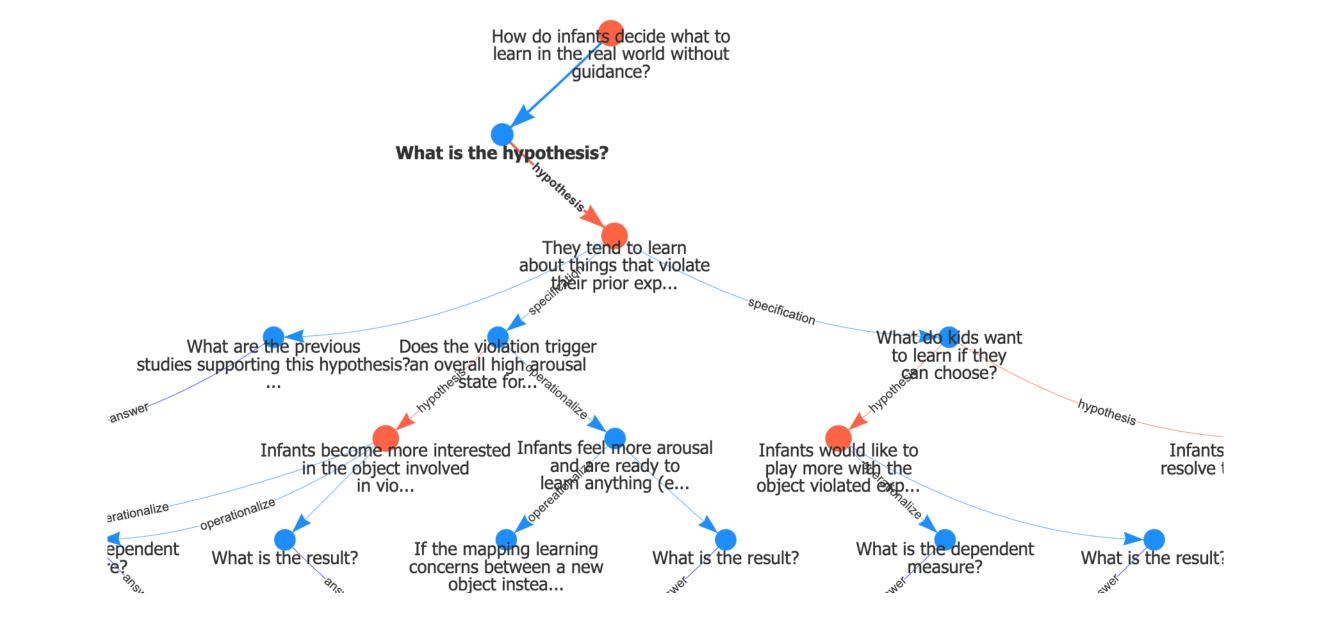
- Thumb up :)
- Ask about our current pipeline for recording and visualizing question networks
- Volunteer to create question networks and share your data!

Translate research into questions



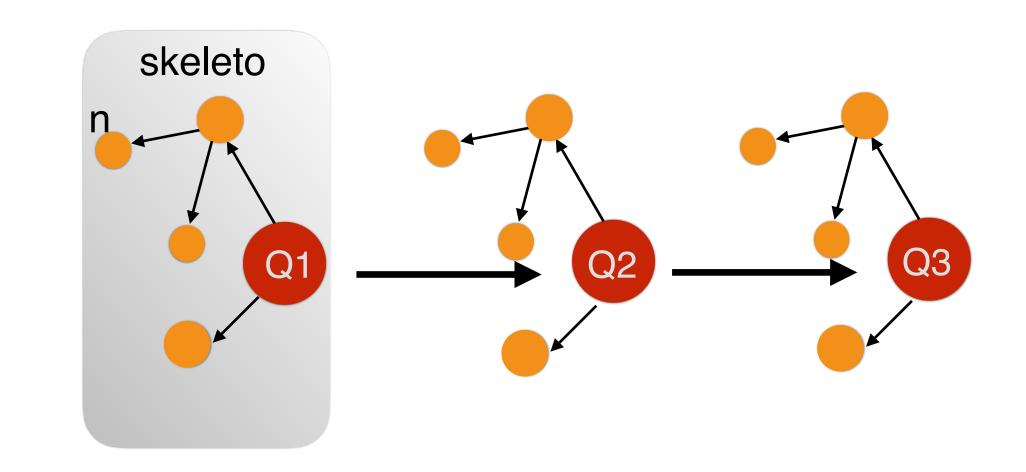
Stahl, A. E., & Feigenson, L. (2015). Observing the unexpected enhances infants' learning and exploration.

Example. 2

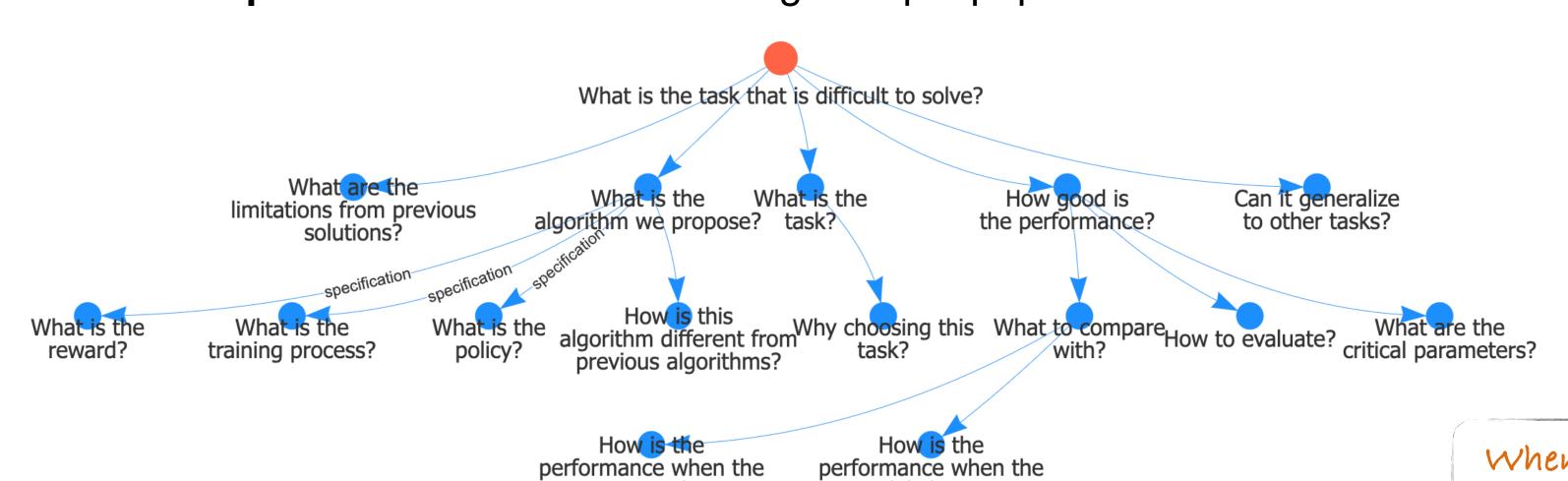


Analysis 1: Question skeletons

Question skeleton: a series of questions repetitively appear in a research or in papers of the same field.



Field question skeleton: combining multiple papers in a field

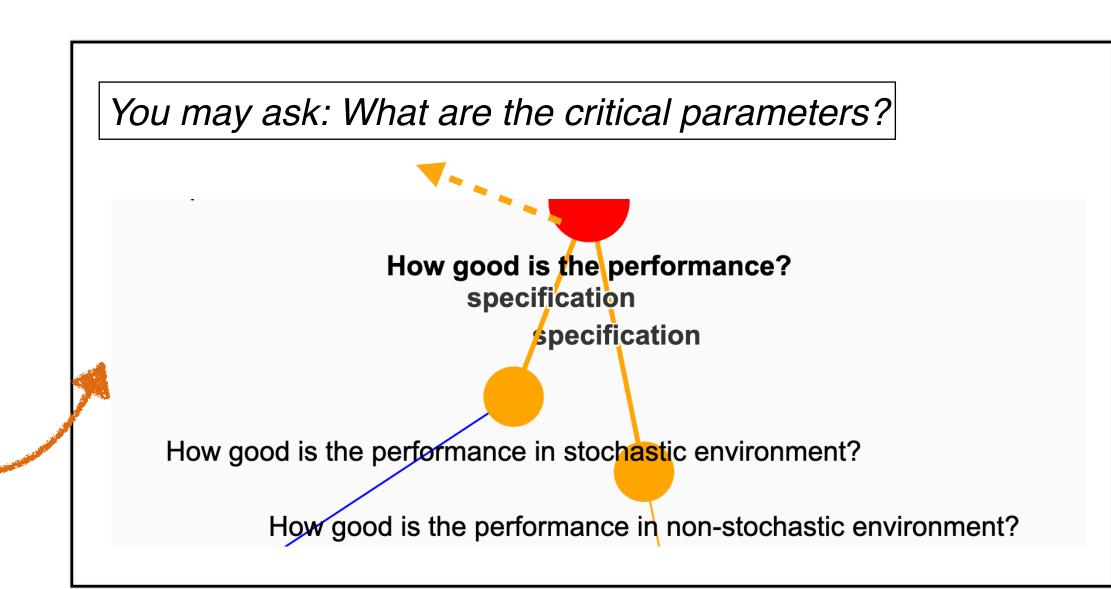


Extracted from studies on curiosity-driven Al

How to use it?

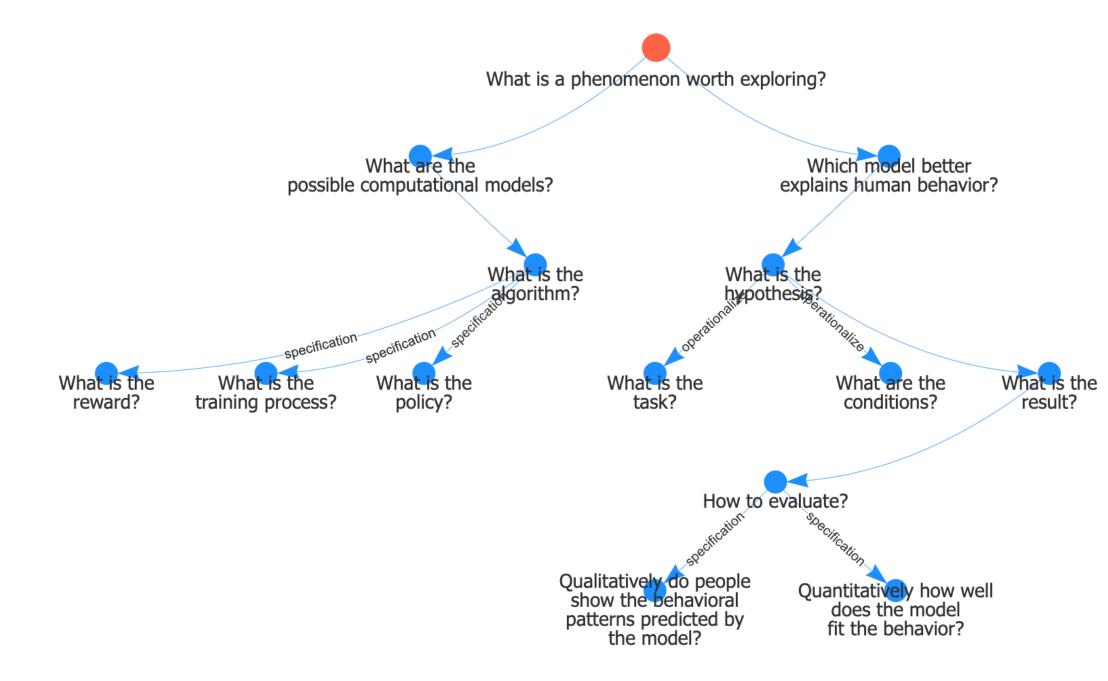
- Facilitates question network construction for other papers in the same field.
- · Identify questions could potentially be asked for a given paper



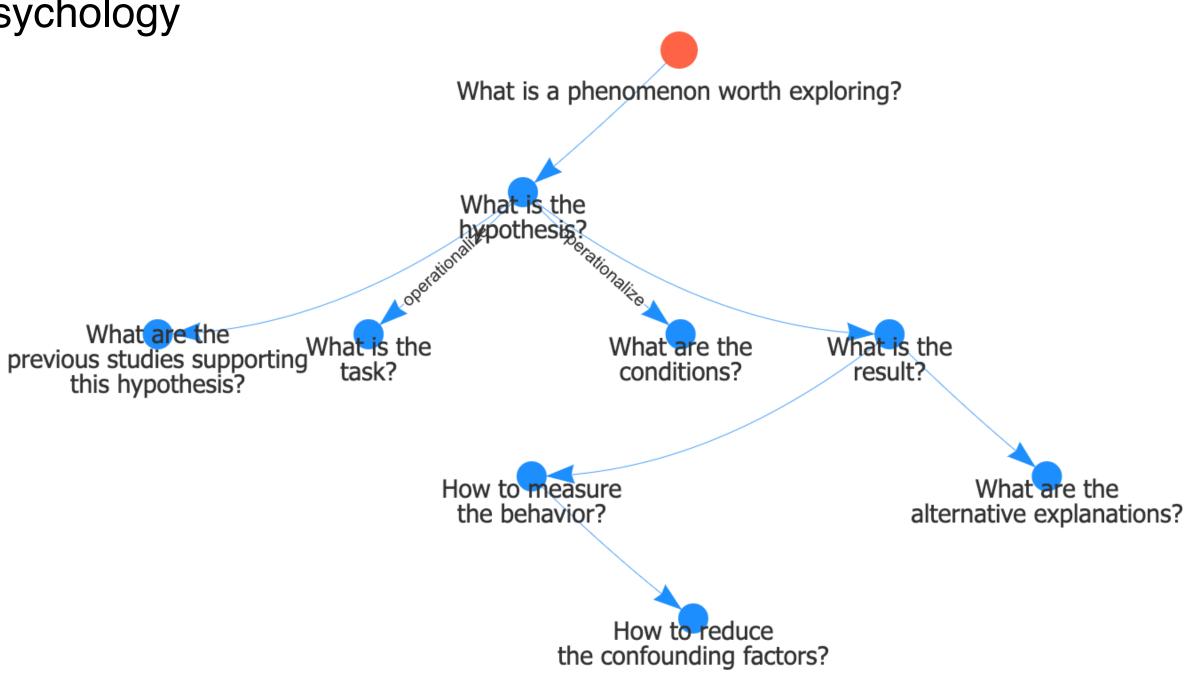


Features of question skeletons in different fields:

- Root question: What is the study driven by? Hypothesis, unsolvable task, or models showing certain behavior?
- Is there clear prediction of results?
- Is model necessary for making predictions?
- Is different task conditions essential in design?
- How many iterations of question skeleton appear in one paper?



Example study about exploration in computational cognitive psychology



Example study about exploration in developmental psychology

Analysis 2: Question generation

Q1 Q2

When we have big dataset to train on: automatic scientific research

1. Come back to the original hypothesis

- Alternative ways to specify the hypothesis?
- Connect the hypothesis to more principled theory?

2. Examination of the results

- Alternative interpretation?
- Detailed specification of the process involved?
- Where is the boundary of the conclusion:
- Can this result generalize to other tasks/environment?
- Ways to intervene and reverse the behavior?
- Ways to change pre-sumptions yet keep the behavior?

Future directions

- Towards a note-taking tool that facilitates deep thinking in a specific field: more easy-to-use "mindmap".
- Towards a new way of summarizing a field beyond review papers: question networks as a database (Question-pedia?).
- Towards automated question extraction and analysis: training data needed.