SKA-Bench: A Fine-Grained Benchmark for Evaluating Structured **Knowledge Understanding of LLMs**

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Abstract

Although large language models (LLMs) have made significant progress in understanding Structured Knowledge (SK) like KG and Table, existing evaluations for SK understanding are non-rigorous (i.e., lacking evaluations of specific capabilities) and focus on a single type of SK. Therefore, we aim to propose a more comprehensive and rigorous structured knowledge understanding benchmark to diagnose the shortcomings of LLMs. In this paper, we introduce SKA-Bench, a Structured Knowledge Augmented QA Benchmark that encompasses four widely used structured knowledge forms: KG, Table, KG+Text, and Table+Text. We utilize a three-stage pipeline to construct SKA-Bench instances, which includes a question, an answer, positive knowledge units, and noisy knowledge units. To evaluate the SK understanding capabilities of LLMs in a fine-grained manner, we expand the instances into four fundamental ability testbeds: Noise Robustness, Order Insensitivity, Information Integration, and Negative Rejection. Empirical evaluations on 8 representative LLMs, including the advanced DeepSeek-R1, indicate that existing LLMs still face significant challenges in understanding structured knowledge, and their performance is influenced by factors such as the amount of noise, the order of knowledge units, and hallucination phenomenon. Our dataset and code are available at https://anonymous. 4open.science/r/SKA-Bench-87DD/.

Introduction 1

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With the rapid development of large language mo-035 dels (LLMs) (OpenAI, 2023; Dubey et al., 2024), Structured Knowledge (SK), such as knowledge graphs (KG) (Bollacker et al., 2008) and tables, still remain essential due to their systematic and rigorous organizational formats. On the one hand, 040 structured knowledge is usually present in various real-world scenarios (e.g., financial reports with numerous tables (Chen et al., 2021) and product



Four Abilities in SK Understanding

Figure 1: The components of a SKA-Bench instance and how to further construct the four ability testbeds for evaluating structured knowledge understanding.

knowledge graphs (Wu et al., 2024)), thus serving as a significant knowledge base for existing LLM systems (Liang et al., 2024; Wang et al., 2025). On the other hand, due to their well-organized structure and intensive knowledge characteristics, structured knowledge is also widely utilized to improve the inference-time performances of LLMs (Li et al., 2024a,b; Guan et al., 2024). Consequently, evaluating the ability of LLMs to understand structured knowledge is a crucial research topic.

Unlike common unstructured text understanding tasks (Guo et al., 2023), LLMs still face significant challenges (Fang et al., 2024) in understanding structured knowledge. This is because LLMs need to capture long-distance contextual dependencies as well as complex relationships and hierarchical structures from the given structured knowledge. However, existing benchmarks (Pasupat and Liang, 2015; Wu et al., 2025; Talmor and Berant, 2018; Wu et al., 2024) for evaluating structured

knowledge understanding suffer from limitations, 064 including the lack of detailed reasoning path anno-065 tations or sufficiently long structured knowledge 066 bases, making it difficult to thoroughly diagnose the shortcomings of LLMs in structured knowledge understanding. Moreover, these datasets primarily focus on single data types, including tables (Pasupat and Liang, 2015; Wu et al., 2025), knowledge graphs (Talmor and Berant, 2018), or hybrid (Chen et al., 2020b; Wu et al., 2024) formats, which restrict their coverage and fail to fully reflect the comprehensive understanding abilities of the models. Therefore, there is an urgent need for a diverse 076 077 and fine-grained dataset to comprehensively evaluate LLMs and identify potential bottlenecks in their 078 structured knowledge understanding capabilities.

> To this end, we construct a fine-grained Structured Knowledge Augmented QA Benchmark, SKA-Bench, which consists of 921 SKA-QA instances and covers four widely used types of structured data. To ensure the quality and complexity of the instances, we propose a novel three-stage construct pipeline for precise positive knowledge unit annotation and the synthesis of long structured knowledge. As illustrated in Fig. 1, SKA-Bench instances are composed of a question, an answer, positive knowledge units, and noisy knowledge units, which endow SKA-Bench with strong scalability. Ultimately, based on the different compositions of SK units as the given structured knowledge bases, we expand these instances into four distinct testbeds, each targeting a fundamental capability required for understanding SK: Noise Robustness, Order Insensitivity, Information Integration, and Negative Rejection for comprehensively diagnosing the shortcomings of LLMs in SK understanding.

We conduct empirical evaluations on 8 representative LLMs. Even advanced LLMs like DeepSeek-R1 continue to face challenges in SK understanding, with their performance significantly influenced by the amount of noise and the order of knowledge units. Moreover, its negative rejection ability is even weaker than that of certain LLMs with 7B parameters. We hope that *SKA-Bench* can serve as a comprehensive and rigorous benchmark to accelerate the progress of LLMs in understanding and reasoning over structured knowledge.

2 Related Work

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112 Evaluation for Structured Knowledge Under-113 standing. Current structured knowledge understanding evaluations often focus on knowledge 114 graphs (Yih et al., 2016; Talmor and Berant, 2018; 115 He et al., 2024) and tables (Pasupat and Liang, 116 2015; Zhong et al., 2017; Wu et al., 2025). Ear-117 lier Table QA datasets, such as WTQ (Pasupat and 118 Liang, 2015), WikiSQL (Zhong et al., 2017), and 119 TabFact (Chen et al., 2020a) require to retrieve 120 several specific table cells with less than 3 hops, 121 posing limited challenges for LLMs. Recently, Wu 122 et al. (2025) proposes a more complex Table QA 123 benchmark TableBench for LLM evaluation. How-124 ever, we believe that the existing evaluations aren't 125 comprehensive enough. On the one hand, the ta-126 bles in these Table QA datasets are relatively short 127 (average <16.7 rows), making it difficult to evalu-128 ate the ability of LLMs to handle long structured 129 knowledge. On the other hand, these datasets lack 130 detailed reasoning path annotations, limiting their 131 utility in fine-grained evaluation of LLMs' under-132 standing capabilities. For existing KGQA datasets, 133 such as WebQSP (Yih et al., 2016), CWQ (Talmor 134 and Berant, 2018), and GraphQA (He et al., 2024), 135 they are constructed upon large-scale KGs, thus 136 providing a foundation for creating long and com-137 plex KG understanding datasets. But they also lack 138 precise positive triple annotations for systematic 139 evaluation and analysis. 140

Evaluation for Semi-structured Knowledge Understanding. To more effectively evaluate the understanding of heterogeneous data, the research community has begun to focus on semi-structured knowledge (Chen et al., 2020b; Zhu et al., 2021; Wu et al., 2024) (i.e., structured data integrated with unstructured textual documents). The semistructured dataset HybridQA (Chen et al., 2020b), which combines table and textual data, was first proposed. Subsequently, TAT-QA (Zhu et al., 2021) and FinQA (Chen et al., 2021) extend the evaluation of understanding and reasoning to more realistic scenarios based on this data format. In addition, STaRK (Wu et al., 2024) dataset based on KG and textual knowledge bases introduces a new retrieval and reasoning challenge for LLMs. However, these hybridQA datasets are also limited by relatively short length of tables or lack of precise annotations, making them challenging for systematic evaluation.

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Based on the above considerations, we believe that offering a diverse, fine-grained, and complex benchmark is valuable for thoroughly evaluating LLMs' structured knowledge understanding ability.



Figure 2: The construct pipeline to generate *SKA-Bench* instance, which consists of structured knowledge augmented question & answer (SKA-QA), positive knowledge units and noisy structured units.

3 SKA-Bench

3.1 Problem Definition

To comprehensively evaluate the ability of LLMs in structured knowledge understanding, SKA-Bench incorporates four common types of (semi-)structured data: Knowledge Graph (KG) \mathcal{G} , Table \mathcal{T} , Knowledge Graph with Textual Documents $\mathcal{G} \cup$ \mathcal{D} , and Table with Textual Documents $\mathcal{T} \cup \mathcal{D}$. Following the most existing LLM evaluations (Chang et al., 2024; Guo et al., 2023), SKA-Bench also adopts a question-answering (QA) format. For a given question Q and its corresponding structured knowledge $\mathcal{SK} \in \{\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{G} \cup \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{T} \cup \mathcal{D}\}$, the LLM f_{θ} aims to generate the correct answer \mathcal{A} , such that $\mathcal{A} = f_{\theta}(\mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{SK})$. We hypothesis that LLMs must accurately understand structured knowledge (SK) as a prerequisite for generating correct answers. Therefore, this task format can thoroughly evaluate the SK understanding capabilities of LLMs.

3.2 SKA-Bench Construction

In this section, we detail the construction process of <u>S</u>tructured <u>K</u>nowledge <u>A</u>ugmented <u>Bench</u>mark (*SKA-Bench*), which includes three stages: SKA-QA pairs collection, iterative positive units annotation and noisy units synthesis, shown in Fig 2.

3.2.1 SKA-QA Pairs Collections

Knowledge Graph. We randomly select 900 samples from the test set of KGQA datasets: WE-BQUESTIONSSP (*WebQSP*) (Yih et al., 2016) and COMPLEXWEBQUESTIONS (*CWQ*) (Talmor and Berant, 2018) as the initial SKA-QA pairs of KG subset. These two datasets cover 7 common KG relational patterns (Dutt et al., 2023) and are both based on widely used Freebase KG (Bollacker et al., 2008). For each QA sample, we extract up to 4-hop

subgraph of the topic entities (Jiang et al., 2023b) in Freebase as the structured knowledge base.

Table. We randomly select 700 samples from the widely used Table QA dataset *WTQ* (Pasupat and Liang, 2015) and *TableBench* (Wu et al., 2025) with multi-domain, multi-hop question as the initial SKA-QA pairs of Table subset. And our selected tables contain at least 6 columns and 8 rows to facilitate the subsequent synthesis of noisy data.

KG with Textual Documents. We choose the *STaRK* (Wu et al., 2024) dataset, which is constructed based on both textual and relational knowledge bases. Specifically, we randomly select 300 QA samples from both *STaRK-Prime* and *STaRK-Amazon*. For each QA sample, we extract the 2-hop subgraph of the answer entity and the textual descriptions of neighboring nodes within subgraph as the corresponding structured knowledge base. Additionally, we remove SKA-QA pairs where the number of triples in subgraph is less than 200.

Table with Textual Documents. For this hybrid data, we also require that QA tasks simultaneously utilize multiple data types. Therefore, we select 200 samples from *HybridQA* (Chen et al., 2020b) dataset as a subset. This dataset necessitates reasoning based on heterogeneous knowledge sources and has been widely used in the research community (Rogers et al., 2023; Fang et al., 2024).

After obtaining the above four types of SKA-QA pairs, we performe a fine-grained split for structured knowledge. Specifically, we regard the triples \mathcal{F} in the KG \mathcal{G} and the rows \mathcal{R} in the tables \mathcal{T} into individual "*structured knowledge units*", represented as $\mathcal{G} = {\mathcal{F}_i}_{i=1}^n$ and $\mathcal{T} = \mathcal{H} \cup {\mathcal{R}_j}_{j=1}^n$. For the table header \mathcal{H} , they are separated out independently to preserve the semantic integrity of the table. As for the textual data, we retain the original paragraph-level split in the initial SKA-QA pairs.



Figure 3: Four Instances from different subsets of *SKA-Bench*: LLMs need to understand structured knowledge, then select relevant knowledge units to get the answer.

3.2.2 Iterative Positive Units Annotation

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We invite three human experts with computer science backgrounds to perform positive units annotation. Specifically, we require the human experts to accurately identify the positive units required to derive the answer to the given question. Furthermore, the annotation process need to adhere to the following requirements: (1) if the answer is wrong, delete the sample directly; (2) if the question involves multiple answers, all positive units require to obtain the answers should be annotated; (3) for the Table subset and Table+Text subset, if the question needs to perform numerical analysis on the entire table, the corresponding SKA-QA pairs should either be removed or the question should be modified; (4) if the tables in the Table subset and Table+Text subset are order-dependent (i.e., modifying the row order would result in semantic errors in the table), this sample should be removed; (5) for the KG+Text subset and Table+Text subset, if question only utilizes one type of knowledge source, the question should be modified or removed.

After each round of annotation, we query the LLM (utilizing DeepSeek-v3 (DeepSeek-AI et al., 2024)) to determine whether annotated positive units can derive the answer to the given question. If the response is "*No*", re-annotation is performed. The iterative annotation process continues until more than 95% of the samples receive a "*Yes*" response, at which point the iteration is terminated.

3.2.3 Noisy Units Construction

For KG subset and KG+Text subset, we regard all knowledge units in the knowledge base except for



Figure 4: The distribution of the number of positive units across four *SKA-Bench* subsets.

the positive units as noisy units. The raw tables in the Table subset and Table+Text subset are typically short (average <17.9 rows), making it hard to comprehensively evaluate the table knowledge understanding of LLMs. Therefore, we introduce an automated noisy data synthesis process as follows.

First, we leverage LLMs with existing SKA-QA instances to generate noisy units. To ensure the diversity of synthesized units, we alternately use GPT-40 (OpenAI, 2023) and DeepSeekv3 (DeepSeek-AI et al., 2024) during this process. Meanwhile, we also need to ensure that the synthesized noisy units do not affect the correctness of the answers. To achieve this, we prompt LLM (utilizing DeepSeek-v3) with QA and positive units to derive the "conditions" that must be satisfied by the rows for answering the question. LLM then verifies whether the generated noisy units meet these "conditions". If the response is "Yes", the noisy units need to be re-generated by LLMs. After the noise

Subset	#avg ${\mathcal Q}$ token	#avg $\mathcal A$ num	#num P (SK/unSK)	#avg P token	#num N	#data	Expert Time
SKA-Bench-KG	15.75	1.96	4.25	16.77	4541.39	233	5.9 min
SKA-Bench-Table	23.31	1.10	3.40	30.88	1521.83	295	3.6 min
<i>SKA-Bench</i> -KG+Text	30.76	1.86	2.53/1.92	22.31/1053.55	417.29/79.84	195	6.8 min
<pre>SKA-Bench-Table+Text</pre>	22.41	1.01	1.17/1.28	28.37/203.78	1144.55/661.90	198	5.8 min

Table 1: The data statistics of four subsets in *SKA-Bench*. '#num P' and '#num N' refer to the average number of positive units and noisy units. And '#avg P token' denotes the average number of tokens in positive units. '#data' refers to the numbers of instances in each subsets. The calculation of tokens is based on GPT-4o's tokenizer. 'Expert Time' refers to the median time for each question spent on annotation by human experts.

synthesis process, three human experts conduct a manual review of Table subset and Table+Text subset to evaluate whether the synthetic noise is unsafe and affect the original answers. The review results show that the accuracy rate is 92.5%, and erroneous noise has been deleted.

3.3 Dataset Statistic

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Through the aforementioned construction pipeline, we have completed constructing *SKA-Bench* instances as shown in Fig. 3, which consist of four main components: question, answer, positive knowledge units, and noisy knowledge units. Detailed statistics are presented in Table 1. Additionally, we detail the human annotation results, i.e., the number of positive units across the four subsets, as shown in the Fig. 4.

3.4 Testbeds Construction

As shown in Fig. 1, inspired by Chen et al. (2024) in text understanding evaluation, we construct the four testbeds based on *SKA-Bench* instances to evaluate the following fundamental capabilities of LLMs in structured knowledge (SK) understanding:

• Noise Robustness. Here, we define noise as the remaining triples in the KG subgraph or the irrelevant rows in the table. We incorporate noise units of varying proportions into the positive knowledge units as the knowledge base to evaluate whether the LLM can robustly provide accurate answers. Considering the differences in the token counts across different knowledge units, we use the total token length as the split standard to construct test sets. Specifically, we construct four test sets {1k, 4k, 12k, 24k for the Table and KG subsets, and three test sets {4k, 12k, 24k} for the Table+Text and KG+Text subsets, with the detailed statistics shown in Table 2. Additionally, to eliminate the influence of the knowledge unit order, we randomly shuffle the SK units in the KG and text units with a random seed of 42, while preserving the original order of the SK units in the Table.

Subset	#num SK	#num unSK	#token
SKA-Bench-KG-1k	34.23	-	637.64
<i>SKA-Bench</i> -KG-4k	150.34	-	2831.40
<i>SKA-Bench</i> -KG-12k	604.35	-	11394.18
<i>SKA-Bench</i> -KG-24k	1167.19	-	22036.82
SKA-Bench-Table-1k	29.39	-	777.45
<i>SKA-Bench</i> -Table-4k	130.39	-	3268.45
<i>SKA-Bench</i> -Table-12k	488.00	-	12054.15
<pre>SKA-Bench-Table-24k</pre>	958.78	-	23595.51
SKA-Bench -KG+Text-4k	11.37	2.91	3172.54
<i>SKA-Bench</i> -KG+Text-12k	40.84	6.79	7417.67
<i>SKA-Bench</i> -KG+Text-24k	153.45	19.11	21644.20
SKA-Bench -Table+Text-4k	25.82	14.58	3510.74
<pre>SKA-Bench-Table+Text-12k</pre>	75.81	119.01	11899.54
<pre>SKA-Bench-Table+Text-24k</pre>	165.81	369.01	23070.81

Table 2: The data statistics for subsets with different scales of structured knowledge (SK) bases. '#num SK' represents the number of structured knowledge units, '#num unSK' represents the number of unstructured knowledge units in hybrid subsets. And '#token' represents the total number of tokens in the knowledge bases.

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• Order Insensitivity. SK representation naturally does not depend on any specific order. And in retrieval-augmented scenarios (Fan et al., 2024), the order of retrieved knowledge units tends to be disrupted. Therefore, we expect LLMs to be orderinsensitive when understanding SK and capturing the semantic relationships between SK units. In this testbed, we provide SK bases with different permutations of SK units to test whether the LLM is sensitive to order. For SK units in KG and textual units, we position the positive knowledge units at the beginning, randomized positions, and the end of the knowledge base, denoting them as {*prefix*, random, suffix}. For SK units in Table, we additionally introduce the original table order, denoted as {*original*, *prefix*, *random*, *suffix*}. Furthermore, we standardize the test sets to a scale of 4k tokens for Table and KG subsets, and 12k for Table+Text and KG+Text subsets.

• Information Integration. This ability requires LLMs to integrate multiple knowledge units to answer questions, including the integration of multiple SK units and the integration of heterogeneous data (SK+Text) units. Therefore, this testbed fo-

Model	KG				Table				KG+Text			Table+Text		
Mouel	1k	4k	12k	24k	1k	4k	12k	24k	4k	12k	24k	4k	12k	24k
						Open So	urce LLM.	\$						
Llama3.1-8B	67.53	58.19	45.86	42.34	27.56	23.52	22.16	13.05	67.02	58.89	49.28	30.27	18.44	12.48
TableGPT-2	78.93	66.76	53.14	48.49	24.40	24.05	20.09	16.02	64.84	55.16	46.92	35.91	25.63	25.60
Qwen2.5-7B	72.45	60.00	47.98	40.97	36.69	32.04	30.45	28.68	76.51	62.82	51.83	38.49	36.00	28.56
GLM4-9B	82.95	66.04	<u>52.75</u>	49.95	19.55	17.71	16.77	17.26	75.39	65.14	55.29	32.13	33.65	30.13
Mistral-7B	59.04	60.34	47.98	45.20	17.67	18.11	16.91	16.19	69.37	66.97	<u>53.54</u>	29.21	25.40	15.83
	Advanced General-Purpose LLMs													
DeepSeek-v3	85.06	73.93	65.85	59.08	54.42	51.83	47.58	45.57	77.12	74.96	68.87	55.64	53.61	48.55
GPT-40	<u>85.33</u>	73.42	63.04	58.61	51.39	45.18	40.55	38.24	77.38	73.53	67.39	56.52	53.28	<u>51.97</u>
DeepSeek-R1	89.95	81.58	70.32	64.67	61.96	61.88	61.02	58.24	83.14	78.67	71.92	62.24	57.62	56.97

Table 3: Detailed results of noise robustness analysis. The best results are marked **bold** and the second-best results are <u>underlined</u> in each column. Cells with darker colors indicate the better performance under this subset.



Figure 5: Overall noise robustness results on four subsets. 'Average' represents the average results across on all results of four subsets.

cuses on analyzing the performance of LLMs under these two settings. Specifically, we divide our dataset based on the number of knowledge units required to answer each question {2, 3, 4, more than 4} to evaluate the information integration capability of LLMs. Regarding dataset scale and order, we standardize the test set to a scale of 4k tokens for the Table and KG subsets, and 12k tokens for Table+Text and KG+Text subsets. Meanwhile, we randomly shuffle (with random seed 42) the SK units in KG and text units while preserving the original order of SK units in the Table subset.

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• Negative Rejection. We hope LLMs should minimize the occurrence of hallucination phenomena (Huang et al., 2023) as much as possible when understanding SK. To evaluate this, we construct a negative rejection testbed, where the input SK base consists solely of noisy knowledge units. In this scenario, the LLMs are expected to respond with "*I don't know*" or other rejection signals. In this testbed, the provided SK don't contain any positive units, ensuring broken reasoning paths to evaluate the refusal capability of LLMs. The dataset size and the ordering of knowledge units follow the same settings as "*Information Integration*" testbed.



Figure 6: Correlation coefficients of overall F1 and variance across 4 SK types under noise robustness testbed.

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4 Experiments

4.1 Experimental Settings

Models. Our evaluation is based on popular large language models (LLMs) with a context window of at least 24k tokens. Our evaluated LLMs include advanced general-purpose LLMs: DeepSeek-v3 (DeepSeek-AI et al., 2024), GPT-4o (OpenAI, 2023), DeepSeek-R1 (DeepSeek-AI et al., 2025) and common open-source LLMs: Llama-3.1-8B-Instruct (Dubey et al., 2024), Qwen2.5-7B-Instruct (Team, 2024), GLM4-9B-Chat (Zeng et al., 2023a). Moreover, we also evaluate the table-specific open-source LLM TableGPT-2 (Su et al., 2024), which are trained based on Qwen2.5-7B.

Evaluation Metric. To evaluate *SKA-Bench*, we utilize the macro-F1 score as our metrics, which measures the agreement between the predicted answer list and the gold answer list. For the negative rejection testbed, we adopt the "Rejection Rate" as the evaluation metric, which reflects the proportion of instances where the LLMs provide a refusal response out of the total number of test samples when only noisy knowledge units are provided.

4.2 Noise Robustness Analysis

From the results in Table 3, it can be observed that as the length of SK input to LLM increases, the performance degradation across various LLMs

Model	KG				Table			KG+Text			Table+Text			
Widden	prefix	random	suffix	original	prefix	random	suffix	prefix	random	suffix	original	prefix	random	suffix
Open Source LLMs														
Llama3.1-8B	55.07	58.19	65.85	23.52	22.71	19.47	24.57	61.85	58.89	62.55	18.44	22.37	18.53	24.41
TableGPT-2	82.07	66.76	77.36	24.05	26.40	17.25	21.62	57.47	55.16	54.53	25.63	36.75	24.44	28.03
Qwen2.5-7B	78.60	60.00	75.70	32.04	33.26	24.07	31.38	<u>64.89</u>	62.82	<u>67.74</u>	36.00	48.29	29.37	37.46
GLM4-9B	<u>81.30</u>	66.04	82.55	17.71	21.15	12.38	16.22	70.05	<u>65.14</u>	69.34	33.65	<u>41.20</u>	23.89	<u>31.14</u>
Mistral-7B	73.28	60.34	64.30	18.11	21.32	14.76	15.92	63.19	66.97	66.36	25.40	33.16	15.44	27.78
	Advanced General-Purpose LLMs													
DeepSeek-v3	84.40	73.93	87.52	51.83	49.32	44.75	51.31	76.81	74.96	76.41	53.61	55.80	47.02	49.06
GPT-40	81.75	73.42	83.69	45.18	45.62	40.47	43.33	74.88	73.53	74.98	53.28	54.88	<u>47.72</u>	<u>52.23</u>
DeepSeek-R1	89.90	81.58	89.40	61.88	67.11	61.63	64.36	79.60	78.67	81.12	57.62	59.28	53.04	57.97

Table 4: Results of order insensitivity analysis. The best results are marked **bold** and the second-best results are underlined in each column. Cells with darker colors indicate the better performance under this subset.



Figure 7: Overall order insensitivity results on four subsets. 'Average' represents the average results across on all results of four subsets.

becomes significantly pronounced. In particular, Llama3.1-8B exhibits a dramatic decline of up to 58.77% when evaluated on the Table+Text subset from 4k to 24k scale. DeepSeek-R1 demonstrates optimal results across all subsets, whereas GLM4-9B and Qwen2.5-7B achieve relatively competitive performance among the smaller models with the 7-10B parameters.

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To further analyze model performance on different data types, we present the mean and variance of F1 scores, and their correlation matrix across 4 subsets, as shown in Fig. 5 and 6. We can observe that the performance trends of different LLMs across 4 SK types are similar in general, with all spearman $\rho > 0.64$. However, there are significant differences in the noise robustness of different LLMs across 4 SK types as shown in Fig. 6(B). GLM4-9B can perform well on the KG subset but struggles to understand Table data, and TableGPT-2 leverages large-scale table-related task instruction finetuning on the base model Qwen2.5-7B, but its performance on both the Table and Table+Text subsets is less satisfactory. We attribute this to the loss of generalization capabilities due to its specialized training, making it less adaptable to unseen table formats and other data modalities. Furthermore,



Figure 8: Correlation coefficients of overall F1 and variance across 4 SK types in order insensitivity testbed.

we observe that DeepSeek-R1 achieves the lowest average variance, exhibiting the strongest noise robustness. This suggests that current LLMs are evolving towards greater robustness against noise. 433

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4.3 Order Insensitivity Analysis

From the results in Table 4, we can observe that when the positive units are concentrated in the prefix or suffix of the structured knowledge base, models tend to focus on them more effectively and achieve better response performance. However, when the positive units are randomly scattered throughout the knowledge base, LLMs often experience the "Lost in the Middle" (Liu et al., 2024) phenomenon, making them more likely to respond incorrectly. This suggests that for structured knowledge retrieval scenarios, **recalling positive units as early as possible can effectively enable LLMs to focus on them, thereby improving performance.**

In Fig. 7 and 8, we present the mean and variance of F1 scores, and their correlation matrix across different subsets under the order insensitivity testbed. As illustrated in Fig. 8, we can observe that the order sensitivity of LLMs across 4 SK types exhibits a positive correlation, and so does their F1 performance. From the perspective of variance, models that are insensitive to the order of SK are generally either weaker-performing LLMs, such as



Figure 9: Information Integration results on four subsets demonstrates the variation in F1 score as the number of required positive units increases.

Model	Table	KG+Text	Table+Text	Avg.	
		Open Sol	urce LLMs		
Llama3.1-8B	49.36	47.46	48.21	56.57	50.40
TableGPT-2	83.69	70.85	85.13	93.94	83.40
Qwen2.5-7B	81.55	70.17	75.90	80.81	77.11
GLM4-9B	69.96	61.69	63.59	71.72	66.74
Mistral-7B	61.37	62.71	51.28	53.03	57.10
	Advanc	ed Gener	al-Purpose	LLMs	
DeepSeek-v3	78.54	69.83	58.97	69.70	69.26
GPT-40	87.98	73.56	76.92	80.81	79.82
DeepSeek-R1	91.42	72.88	68.21	82.32	78.71

Table 5: Negative Rejection results on four subsets.

Llama3.1-8B, or exceptionally strong-performing LLMs, such as DeepSeek-R1. The former consistently exhibits weaker capabilities across various order settings, while the latter demonstrates stronger understanding and reasoning abilities, **suggesting that current LLMs are evolving towards greater robustness and less sensitive to the order of knowledge units.**

4.4 Information Integration Analysis

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From the results shown in Fig. 9, it can be observed that as the number of knowledge units required increases, the overall performance of the LLMs tends to decline. This phenomenon is more pronounced in the KG and KG+Text subsets. We believe this is due to the fact that noisy knowledge units and positive knowledge units in the KG are derived from subgraph. Many noisy units share the same entities or relations as the positive units and exhibit higher semantic similarity, which more significantly impacts the LLM's understanding. In contrast, the row units of table data are relatively more semantically independent, so this downward trend is less noticeable in the Table subset.

In terms of understanding heterogeneous data, it is evident that as the volume of heterogeneous data increases, the performance of most LLMs declines quite substantially. Notably, in the Table+Text subset with >4 heterogeneous units, the advanced LLMs such as DeepSeek-R1 and GPT-40 still maintain relatively strong performance, whereas smaller LLMs like TableGPT-2 and Llama3.1-8B struggle to generate correct answers. Thus, we consider enhancing the ability of smaller LLMs to understand heterogeneous data to be a promising research direction worthy of further exploration. 491

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4.5 Negative Rejection Analysis

The results in Table 5 present the rejection rates when only noisy knowledge units are provided. Overall, there is a certain positive correlation between the structured knowledge understanding performance of the LLMs and its negative rejection ability. However, we find that even DeepSeek-R1, with a negative rejection rate of 78.71%, remains vulnerable to noise interference. To our surprise, compared to Qwen2.5-7B, TableGPT-2 after fine-tuning with table-specific instructions, demonstrates stronger negative rejection ability, even surpassing GPT-40 and DeepSeek-R1. **Therefore, how to strike a balance between improving the LLM's performance and enhancing its negative rejection ability remains challenging.**

5 Conclusion

In this paper, we introduce a fine-grained structured knowledge (SK) understanding benchmark, SKA-**Bench**, designed to provide a more comprehensive and rigorous evaluation for LLMs in understanding SK. The instances in SKA-Bench consist of a question, an answer, positive knowledge units, and noisy knowledge units, offering greater flexibility and scalability. Through varying the order and scale of knowledge units within the knowledge base, we construct four specialized testbeds to evaluate key capabilities: Noise Robustness, Order Insensitivity, Information Integration, and Negative Rejection. Empirical results demonstrate that even powerful LLMs like GPT-40 and DeepSeek-R1 still lack comprehensive understanding and reasoning capabilities for SK. Their performance is significantly influenced by factors such as the amount of noise, order of knowledge units, and hallucinations.

531 Limitations

Although SKA-Bench offers a more comprehensive and rigorous benchmark for evaluating structured 533 knowledge understanding of LLMs, certain limitations warrant careful consideration, as summarized 535 below. (1) SKA-Bench is limited to English only 537 and does not yet capture the performances of LLMs in understanding structured knowledge across multiple languages. (2) Constrained by resource limita-539 tions, although our SKA-Bench instances have the 541 capability to construct longer structured knowledge bases (even >64k tokens), we have not yet explored 542 the performance of LLMs at this scale. 543

Ethics Statement

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In this paper, we construct *SKA-Bench*, which is expanded and modified based on the existing 6 structured knowledge understanding evaluation datasets. Moreover, we incorporate manual annotation and manual synthetic data verification to ensure that it does not violate any ethics.

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A Original Datasets Details

We provide a brief description of all the original structured knowledge understanding datasets we used and licenses below:

> • *WebQSP* (Yih et al., 2016). WEBQUESTION-SSP (*WebQSP*) is a semantic parse-based KBQA dataset with 4,737 questions coupled with SPARQL queries for KB question answering. The answers can be extracted through executing SPARQL queries on Freebase. The dataset is released under the Microsoft Research Data License Agreement.

- *CWQ* (Talmor and Berant, 2018). COM-PLEXWEBQUESTIONS (*CWQ*) is created on top of *WebQSP* dataset with the intention of generating more complex (by incorporating compositions, conjunctions, superlatives or comparatives) questions in natural language. It consists of 34,689 examples, divided into 27,734 train, 3,480 dev, 3,475 test. And test set in original *CWQ* dataset does not contain "answer". The whole software is licensed under the full GPL v2+.
- *WTQ* (Pasupat and Liang, 2015). WIK-ITABLEQUESTIONS (*WTQ*) is a widely used table question answering (TableQA) dataset of 22,033 complex questions with average 2.14 hop on Wikipedia tables. The dataset is released under the Apache-2.0 license.
- *TableBench* (Wu et al., 2025). *TableBench* is a comprehensive and complex benchmark, including 886 samples in 18 fields within four major categories of TableQA capabilities. The tables in *TableBench* have an average of 6.68 columns and 16.71 rows, and the average reasoning steps of questions is 6.26. The dataset is released under the Apache-2.0 license.
- *STaRK* (Wu et al., 2024). *STaRK* is a largescale semi-structure retrieval benchmark on textual and relational knowledge bases, covering three domains. It consists of 263 humangenerated questions and 33,627 synthesized questions. And this dataset is released under the MIT license.
- *HybridQA* (Chen et al., 2020b). *HybridQA* is a question answering dataset based on heterogeneous knowledge, and each question is

Figure 10: The annotation guidelines for annotators.

aligned with a Wikipedia table and multiple free-form corpora linked with the entities in the table. The questions are collected from crowd-workers, and designed to aggregate both table and text information, which means the lack of either form would render the question unanswerable. The dataset is released under the MIT license. 924

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B Dataset Construction Details

The annotation guideline for "Iterative Positive Units Annotation" is shown in the Fig. 10.

Moreover, we have presented specific examples of the part where LLMs are involved in the entire dataset construction process. Check satisfaction by LLM in Iterative Positive Units Annotation stage is shown in Fig. 11. Noisy Synthesis process is shown in Fig. 12. And "condition" of positive knowledge units summarizing and check satisfaction by LLMs in Noisy Units Construction stage are shown in Fig. 13 and Fig. 14.

### Ques	stion:
Which na	ation has the Alta Verapaz Department and is in Central America?
### Ansv	wer:
Guatema	la
The abov	e are questions and above all answers. Please judge whether the following
triples ca	n deduce answers to the above questions. If you can get partial answers, reply
me "1" d	irectly; If you can get all the answers, please reply me "2" directly; If you
can't get	any result, please reply me "0" directly.
### Trip	les:
(Guatema	ala, location.country.administrative_divisions, Alta Verapaz Department),
(Central	America, location.location.contains, Guatemala),
(Guatema	ala, common.topic.notable types, Country)

Figure 11: The prompt for checking Positive Units.

Table:
Date Site Winning team Winning team score Losing team Losing team score Series
September 6, 1980 Fort Collins Colorado State 21 Air Force 9 AFA 11-7-1
October 3, 1981 Colorado Springs Air Force 28 Colorado State 14 AFA 12-7-1
October 16, 1982 Colorado Springs Colorado State 21 Air Force 11 AFA 12-8-1
September 26, 1987 Fort Collins Air Force 27 Colorado State 19 AFA 17-8-1
September 3, 1988 Fort Collins Air Force 29 Colorado State 23 AFA 18-8-1
October 17, 1992 Colorado Springs Colorado State 32 Air Force 28 AFA 20-10-1
September 11, 1993 Fort Collins Colorado State 8 Air Force 5 AFA 20-11-1
September 3, 1994 Colorado Springs Colorado State 34 Air Force 21 AFA 20-12-1
September 16, 1995 Colorado Springs Colorado State 27 Air Force 20 AFA 20-13-1
November 2, 1996 Colorado Springs Colorado State 42 Air Force 41 AFA 20-14-1
September 20, 1997 Fort Collins Air Force 24 Colorado State 0 AFA 21-14-1
September 17, 1998 Colorado Springs Air Force 30 Colorado State 27 AFA 22-14-1
November 18, 1999 Fort Collins Colorado State 41 Air Force 21 AFA 22-15-1
November 11, 2000 Colorado Springs Air Force 44 Colorado State 40 AFA 23-15-1
November 8, 2001 Fort Collins Colorado State 28 Air Force 21 AFA 23-16-1
October 31, 2002 Colorado Springs Colorado State 31 Air Force 12 AFA 23-17-1
October 16, 2003 Fort Collins Colorado State 30 Air Force 20 AFA 23-18-1
November 20, 2004 Colorado Springs Air Force 47 Colorado State 17 AFA 24-18-1
September 29, 2005 Fort Collins Colorado State 41 Air Force 23 AFA 24-19-1
Task Description: According to the above table, we have the following question and
answer.
Question: which date the colorado state team scored no points?

Answer: September 20, 1997

Your task is to generate 20 noisy rows for the table. You need to make sure that you don't change the answer to the current question after adding noise rows to the table. Your output noise rows must not duplicate the existing table, and the table format should be the same as the original table. Note that your output does not contain the original table rows.

Figure 12: The prompt for Noisy Units synthesis.



Figure 13: The prompt for "contidition" summarizing.

C Evaluation Prompt Template

Fig. 15, 16, 17, 18 show QA prompt templates for four subsets in *Noise Robustness* testbed, *Order Insensitivity* testbed, and *Information Integration* testbed. Fig. 19, 20, 21, 22 show prompt templates of *negative rejection* testbed for four subsets.

Question:

which date the colorado state team scored no points? ### Answer: September 20, 1997 ### Noisv Units: |Date|Site|Winning team|Winning team score|Losing team|Losing team score|Series| November 15, 1984|Boulder|Colorado State|40|Wyoming|25|CSU 5-3| |October 14, 1992|Fort Collins|Utah|28|Colorado State|19|Utah 8-1| |October 21, 2007|Colorado Springs|Air Force|35|Wyoming|10|AFA 16-3, |September 12, 1996|Boulder|Colorado|28|Minnesota|17|CU 12-2| |October 23, 1982|Albuquerque|New Mexico|30|Air Force|24|NM 6-5| November 4, 1998|Tuscaloosa|Alabama|37|LSU|34|UA 15-7| |September 10, 2001|Denver|Raiders|27|Denver|24|Raiders 3-6| |October 1, 2005|Boulder|Colorado|38|Kansas|21|CU 9-0| November 18, 1995|Fort Collins|Colorado State|45|BYU|29|CSU 10-5| |October 27, 1988|Colorado Springs|Air Force|41|Navy|19|AFA 17-4| |October 14, 1995|Denver|Seattle|28|Denver|17|Seahawks 1-0| |November 23, 2006|Fort Collins|Fort Collins|31|San Diego|30|FC 1-0| |September 5, 1989|Boulder|Texas|17|California|9|Texas 1-0| |October 15, 1993|Colorado Springs|Arizona|41|New Mexico|10|AZ 2-0| November 1, 2007|Denver|Denver|23|Chiefs|17|Broncos 7-0 |December 8, 1984|Boulder|South Dakota|35|Boston College|25|SD 1-0| |September 29, 1999|Fort Collins|Utah|29|Air Force|22|Utah 2-1| |October 2, 2002|Tuscaloosa|Alabama|28|Southern Miss|21|UA 3-0| |November 20, 2010|Colorado Springs|Texas Tech|42|Colorado State|7|TTU 1-0| |September 6, 1994|Colorado Springs|Notre Dame|24|Kansas|22|ND 2-0| ### Positive Unit Condition: Conditions: The knowledge unit does not involve Colorado State as the losing team with a score of 0.

Task Description: The above are KBQA question and corresponding answer. Please judge whether the Noisy knowledge units satisfy the "positive unit condition", thereby deducing answer to the above question. If you can get partial answers, reply me "1" directly; If you can get all the answers, please reply me "2" directly; If you can't get any result, please reply me "0" directly.

Figure 14: The prompt for checking Noisy Units.

Triples:

(Guatemala, location.location.containedby, North America) (Guatemala, book.book_subject.works, Tree Girl) (Denmark, location.location.containedby, Scandinavia) (German state, type.type.domain, Location) (The Jaguar Smile, book.book.editions, The Jaguar Smile) (Hondo River, location.location.containedby, North America) (Bunnik Tours, business.brand.owner_s, m.012m0fmn) **Task Description:** Based on the triples provided above, please answer the following questions. ### Question: What language is spoken in the location that appointed Michelle Bachelet to a governmental position speak? Return the final result as JSON in the format {"answer": <YOUR ANSWER LIST>} in the

Return the final result as JSON in the format {"answer": <YOUR ANSWER LIST>} in the last line.

Figure 15: The prompt for KG subset in QA task.

Table:
Iteration Year Dates Location Theme
1st 1972 6 May-20 May Suva, Fiji "Preserving culture"
2nd 1976 6 March-13 March Rotorua, New Zealand "Sharing culture"
3rd 1980 30 June-12 July Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea "Pacific awareness"
4th 1985 29 June-15 July Tahiti, French Polynesia "My Pacific"
5th 1988 14 August-24 August Townsville, Australia "Cultural interchange"
6th 1992 16 October-27 October Rarotonga, Cook Islands "Seafaring heritage"
7th 1996 8 September-23 September Apia, Sāmoa "Unveiling treasures"
Task Description: Please look at the table, and then answer the following questions.
Question: what is the number of themes that refer to "culture"?
Return the final result as JSON in the format {"answer": <your answer="" list="">} in the</your>
last line.

Figure 16: The prompt for Table subset in QA task.

944

945

Triples: (PARP1, expression_present, cerebellar cortex) (VCP, ppi, HSPA5) (Elevated hepatic transaminase, associated_with, SOCS1) (PSMC5, expression_present, nasal cavity mucosa) ### Texts: - name: toxic epidermal necrolysis\n- type: disease - source: MONDO - details: mondo_name: toxic epidermal necrolysis\n - mondo_definition: Toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) is an acute and severe skin disease with clinical and histological features characterized by the destruction and detachment of the skin epithelium and mucous membranes. - umls description: A systemic, serious, and life-threatening disorder characterized by erythematous and necrotic lesions in the skin and mucous membranes that are associated with bullous detachment of the epidermis. Task Description: Based on the triples and texts provided above, please answer the specific product for following questions. ### Question: I have nail dystrophy and chemosis. What skin disease might I have? Return the final result as JSON in the format {"answer": <YOUR ANSWER LIST>} in the last line.

Figure 17: The prompt for KG+Text subset in QA task.

Table:

- |Name|Years|Apps|Goals|Position|
- |Billy Bassett|1886-99|311|77|Outside right|
- |Jesse Pennington|1903-22|496|0|Left back|
- |W. G. Richardson|1929-45|354|228|Centre forward| |Ray Barlow|1944-60|482|48|Left-half|

Texts:

Bryan Robson: Bryan Robson OBE (born 11 January 1957) is an English football manager and former player. Born in Chester-le-Street, County Durham, he began his career with West Bromwich Albion in 1972 before moving to Manchester United in 1981, where he became the longest serving captain in the club's history and won two Premier League winners' medals, three FA Cups, two FA Charity Shields and a European Cup Winners' Cup.

Task Description: Based on the table and texts provided above, please answer the specific product for following questions.

Question: What are the goals of the athlete who initiated his management career as a player-manager with Middlesbrough in 1994?

as a player-manager with Middlesorougn in 1994? Return the final result as JSON in the format {"answer": <YOUR ANSWER LIST>} in the last line.

Figure 18: The prompt for Table+Text subset in QA task.

Triples: (Guatemala, location.location.containedby, North America) (Guatemala, book.book_subject.works, Tree Girl) (Denmark, location.location.containedby, Scandinavia) (German state, type.type.domain, Location) (The Jaguar Smile, book.book.editions, The Jaguar Smile) (Hondo River, location.location.containedby, North America) (Bunnik Tours, business.brand.owner s, m.012m0fm) Task Description: Based on the triples provided above, please judge whether the following questions can be answered. ### Question: what language is spoken in the location that appointed Michelle Bachelet to a governmental position speak? Return the final result as JSON in the format {"answer": "yes"} or {"answer": "no"} in the last line. Figure 19: The prompt for KG subset in "negative rejection" testbed.

Table: [Iteration]Year]Dates|Location|Theme| [1st]1972]6 May-20 May|Suva, Fiji]"Preserving culture"| [2nd]1976]6 March-13 March[Rotorua, New Zealand]"Sharing culture"| [3rd]1980]30 June-13 July|Port Moresby, Papua New Guineal"Pacific awareness"| [4th]1985]29 June-15 July|Tahiti, French Polynesia|"My Pacific"| [5th]1988]14 August-24 August[Townsville, Australial"Cultural interchange"| [6th]1992]16 October-27 October|Rarotonga, Cook Islands|"Seafaring heritage"| [7th]1996]8 September-23 September|Apia, Sāmoa|"Unveiling treasures"| **Task Description**: Please look at the table, and then judge whether the following questions can be answered. ### Question: what is the number of themes that refer to "culture"? Return the final result as JSON in the format {"answer": "yes"} or {"answer": "no"} in

Return the final result as JSON in the format { answer : 'yes } of { answer : 'no } in the last line.

Figure 20: The prompt for Table subset in "*negative rejection*" testbed.

Triples:

(PARP1, expression_present, cerebellar cortex) (VCP, ppi, HSPA5) (Elevated hepatic transaminase, associated with, SOCS1) (PSMC5, expression_present, nasal cavity mucosa) ### Texts: - name: toxic epidermal necrolysis\n- type: disease - source: MONDO - details: mondo name: toxic epidermal necrolysis\n - mondo definition: Toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) is an acute and severe skin disease with clinical and histological features characterized by the destruction and detachment of the skin epithelium and mucous membranes. - umls_description: A systemic, serious, and life-threatening disorder characterized by erythematous and necrotic lesions in the skin and mucous membranes that are associated with bullous detachment of the epidermis. Task Description: Based on the triples and texts provided above, please judge whether the following questions can be answered. ### Question: I have nail dystrophy and chemosis. What skin disease might I have? Return the final result as JSON in the format {"answer": "yes"} or {"answer": "no"} in the last line.

Figure 21: The prompt for KG+Text subset in "*negative rejection*" testbed.



Figure 22: The prompt for KG+Text subset in "*negative rejection*" testbed.