# QUART: AGENTIC REASONING TO DISCOVER MISSING KNOWLEDGE IN MULTI-DOMAIN TEMPORAL DATA

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# **ABSTRACT**

Existing AI systems for expert decision support commonly treat incomplete information as missing data to be filled or ignored, but this essentially misapprehends the fundamental challenge experts face: recognizing what crucial information is still unknown. Methods like knowledge graphs and LSTMs rely on temporal patterns and embeddings, which reduce interpretability and fail to address knowledge gaps through logical relations. We present QUART (Query-based Understanding Agent for Reasoning Temporal data), a multi-domain framework that preserves semantic meaning and actively learns to identify and recall unexamined information by reasoning over causal connections via reinforcement learning. QUART integrates interpretable semantic causal graphs, multi-agent policies optimizing decision utility, and explicit modeling of unknown information to drive strategic questioning based on logical causal dependencies instead of temporal sequences. It encodes clinical outputs dynamically, approximating real expert workflows with confidence measurements. Evaluated on over 40,000 patient histories from the MIMIC-III healthcare database, QUART achieves over 10% higher diagnostic accuracy than LSTM baselines, not by imputing missing data but by revealing and addressing information blind spots. Furthermore, its dynamic agents protect privacy by querying sensitive data only when necessary. Although illustrated on medical data, pilot studies are underway exploring the framework's potential in education, product management, and office decision-making. This work lays a foundation for trustworthy, interpretable AI assistants that elevate expert decisionmaking in complex and sensitive environments.

### 1 Introduction

Healthcare AI has developed at a stunning rate, with models such as MedPaLM, Med-Gemini, and AMIE achieving strong performance on medical benchmarks (Google Research, 2023; 2024b;a; Khalifa & Albadawy, 2024). However, a fundamental misalignment remains between the way these systems operate and the nature of expert medical reasoning. Present systems are largely prediction-oriented, estimating likely diagnoses with the aim of automating or substituting human expertise (Rudin, 2019; Dur'an & Jongsma, 2021). This prediction-focused paradigm introduces high risks in delicate medical decisions, where errors can be life-threatening, and does not capture the collaborative, nuanced dynamics of clinical judgment (Topol, 2019).

A deeper problem lies in how these systems handle incomplete patient information and temporal knowledge. Most AI methods treat missing data as statistical holes, employing imputation or omission of missing values without regard for how medical professionals actively seek and manage uncertainty (Little & Rubin, 2020). Expert practitioners do not simply fill in the blanks; they relentlessly pursue critical unknowns essential to patient care (Smith & Lee, 2020). Furthermore, mainstream medical AI systematically processes patient data as temporal sequences, emphasizing pattern detection over time while neglecting the causality and logical relationships that are fundamental to clinical reasoning (Yang et al., 2022; Pearl, 2018). True expertise is grounded in understanding causality and dependencies, not just temporal order (Pearl, 2018).

The true potential of AI in high-stakes settings lies not in mechanistic forecasting but in intelligent cognitive assistance, which enables specialists to identify knowledge gaps, surface blind spots, and reason abstractly (Hossain & Chen, 2025). To address this, we present QuART (Query-Based Understanding Agent for Reasoning Temporal data), a general, neural-symbolic-agentic framework where an agentic layer is embedded within the neural-symbolic architecture to manage adaptive questioning and reasoning (Mani & Harikumar, 2022; Bridgwater, 2025; Hossain & Chen, 2025). QuART treats incomplete data as a discovery target rather than a statistical aberration, preserves semantic consistency throughout reasoning, prioritizes logical causality over sequence alone, and provides explainable, reinforcement learning—guided support for expert-level decision making.

This paper focuses on four key components in expert domains:

- 1. **Subjects**: cases requiring decisions, each presenting distinct context;
- 2. **Domain experts**: professionals with deep, diverse expertise;
- 3. **Temporal**: data structures embedding causal and logical relationships beyond mere timelines; and
- 4. **Missing or unknown information**: the essential knowledge gaps that decision-makers must manage.

Although our work focuses on clinical decision making with the MIMIC-III database (Johnson et al., 2016), QuART's architecture is broadly applicable to any domain requiring expert guidance over incomplete and causally complex data, a discussion we further explore in the Cross-Domain Applications section (Section 6).

# 2 RELATED WORK

### 2.1 EXPERT DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEMS

AI-based Clinical Decision Support Systems (CDSS) assist clinicians in enhancing diagnostic accuracy, treatment suggestions, and workflow management. Underlying methods vary from rule-based systems and fuzzy logic chatbots like CUDoctor, to contemporary AI-fortified CDSS that leverage deep learning and natural language processing for deeper clinical insight (Shortliffe, 1976; Nguyen & Ding, 2020; Elhaddad et al., 2024; Jain & Chen, 2024; Montani & Bellazzi, 2019). Recent research prioritizes reliable, interpretable, and responsible AI incorporation to ensure clinician trust and patient safety while mitigating issues such as bias and explainability (Elhaddad et al., 2024; Kowalski & Thompson, 2025).

An exciting direction is neuro-symbolic integration, which dovetails neural pattern detection with symbolic reasoning to capture medical knowledge and facilitate explainable differential diagnosis (Gandhirajan, 2025; Lu et al., 2023; Nawaz, 2025). Hybrid strategies enhance transparency and clinical acceptability by emulating logical clinical protocols alongside data-driven insights. However, most systems continue to concentrate on automating expert tasks or generating predictions, rather than enriching expert reasoning through uncovering missing or unknown information essential for decision-making (Chakraborty & Patel, 2023; Kumar et al., 2021).

### 2.2 TEMPORAL AND CAUSAL DATA PROCESSING IN HEALTHCARE

Machine learning algorithms like LSTMs and temporal convolutional networks represent patient trajectories as sequences of clinical events (Choi et al., 2017; Rajkomar et al., 2018). Knowledge graphs encode structured clinical knowledge and relationships (Rotmensch et al., 2017), whereas tools such as BiomedParse and SAM perform segmentation and labeling operations on biomedical data streams (Chen et al., 2021; Williams et al., 2022).

Although these temporal models mostly encode chronological and statistical patterns, recent work emphasizes incorporating explicit causal inference to better represent clinical reasoning (Wang et al., 2023; Nair et al., 2020; Hossain et al., 2025). Neuro-symbolic models also facilitate reasoning under the uncertainty characteristic of clinical environments through integration of neural uncertainty estimation with symbolic logic (Gandhirajan, 2025). This integration enables capturing complex interdependencies beyond temporal order, which is essential for expert decision-making.

### 2.3 MISSING DATA MANAGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE DISCOVERY

Traditional missing data approaches use statistical imputation or matrix completion to estimate missing values, viewing missingness mainly as a technical inconvenience (Little & Rubin, 2020; Cai et al., 2022). Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) models actively retrieve external information but remain under a retrieval paradigm and do not explicitly capture what the expert is yet to know (Lewis et al., 2020).

Agent-based AI systems and multi-agent models have been used for healthcare workflows, emphasizing collaboration and task allocation (Zhang et al., 2019; Kumar et al., 2021). However, no focused mechanism currently exists to specifically identify and ask for missing expert knowledge explicitly. Recently, neuro-symbolic AI and causal modeling have shown promise in linking knowledge discovery with reasoning and learning, allowing systems to infer unseen knowledge gaps and facilitate dynamic expert inquiry (Hossain et al., 2025; Gandhirajan, 2025). Nevertheless, a lingering gap remains for systems that integrate interpretable causal reasoning with agentic inquiry to guide experts in identifying and closing unknown information gaps, the fundamental problem aims to solve.

# 3 EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

To evaluate QUART's effectiveness in identifying missing information and generating targeted questions within clinical decision support, we conducted experiments on real-world medical data from the MIMIC-III Clinical Database (Johnson et al., 2016).

### 3.1 Dataset and Data Processing

**MIMIC-III Clinical Database:** We used version 1.4 of MIMIC-III, a large, de-identified dataset of over 50,000 patients and associated hospital admissions (Johnson et al., 2016). The dataset provides temporal data including patient demographics, vital signs, diagnoses (ICD-9 codes), medications, laboratory test results, structured chart events, and free-text clinical notes.

**Medical Concept Extraction and Preparation:** See Appendix A.1 for details on preprocessing steps, vocabulary construction, and expert profile generation.

# 3.2 EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

**Missing Information Detection:** QUART's primary metric is missing information identification accuracy—the proportion of clinically relevant missing concepts correctly identified. Ground truth was established via clinical expert review on a held-out test set of 200 cases. Precision, recall, and F1-score metrics were also computed.

**Question Quality:** Generated questions were independently rated by medical experts on a 5-point Likert scale for clinical relevance and utility. Additional evaluation measured improvement in simulated diagnostic confidence relative to standard clinical questioning protocols and existing clinical decision support systems (Mani & Harikumar, 2022).

# **Baseline Comparisons:** QUART was benchmarked against:

- Traditional rule-based expert systems and knowledge graph approaches (Mani & Harikumar, 2022)
- Statistical missing data imputation methods (Little & Rubin, 2020)
- State-of-the-art deep learning models, including LSTM (Kiser et al., 2023), ClinicalBERT (Alsentzer et al., 2019), and BioClinicalBERT (Huang et al., 2019)

### 3.3 EXPERIMENTAL PROTOCOL

Data were split into 70% training, 15% validation, and 15% testing sets. A 5-fold cross-validation scheme was used to ensure robust performance estimates. Hyperparameters for neural and symbolic components were optimized using grid search (Bergstra & Bengio, 2012). Stratified sampling preserved the distribution of medical specialties and case features.

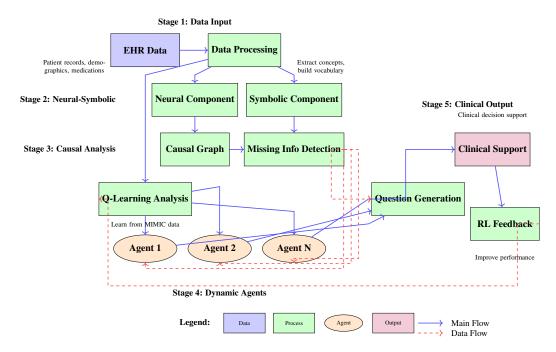


Figure 1: QUART system workflow: Neural-symbolic processing, causal reasoning, agentic feedback, and clinical output.

Statistical significance of performance differences was assessed with paired t-tests using Bonferroni correction (Hochberg, 1988) to control for multiple comparisons.

All experiments were reproducible, with documented algorithms, hyperparameters, and code. Evaluation adhered to MIMIC-III data use agreements and was validated with clinical domain experts.

# 4 THE QUART APPROACH

# 4.1 PROBLEM FORMULATION

Expert decision-making across domains suffers from a fundamental limitation: the inability to systematically identify and address critical knowledge gaps. Unlike traditional missing data problems that focus on statistical imputation of absent values, we address *missing information*, knowledge that exists within a domain but remains unknown to the expert making decisions.

Formally, consider a case dataset  $\mathcal{D}=\{(x_i,y_i)\}_{i=1}^N$  where each case  $x_i$  represents available information and  $y_i$  the decision outcome. Traditional approaches treat missing entries in  $x_i$  as statistical nulls requiring imputation. However, in expert domains, missing information represents discoverable knowledge gaps  $\mathcal{M}=\{c_j\}_{j=1}^K$ , where each concept  $c_j$  exists in the domain knowledge space but is unknown to the current expert.

The core innovation of QUART is treating missing information as first-class computational entities with explicit discovery priorities, impact assessments, and targeted information gathering strategies through agentic workflows. The overall QUART system workflow illustrating these components and their interactions is shown in Figure 1.

# 4.2 Semantic Node Representation

We represent domain knowledge through semantic nodes that preserve conceptual meaning throughout the reasoning process. Each semantic node  $s_i$  is defined as a tuple:

$$s_i = \begin{pmatrix} \text{concept, state, confidence,} \\ \text{position, links, sources, details} \end{pmatrix}$$
 (1)

Each field denotes:  $\bullet$  state  $\in$  {KNOWN, UNKNOWN, INFERRED, CONFLICTED},  $\bullet$  confidence  $\in$  [0,1],  $\bullet$  position for temporal order,  $\bullet$  links for causal relations,  $\bullet$  sources for expert attribution, and  $\bullet$  details for metadata.

This representation avoids the semantic loss inherent in embedding-based approaches by maintaining explicit conceptual relationships that domain experts can interpret and validate.

# 4.3 MISSING INFORMATION IMPACT QUANTIFICATION

To efficiently allocate questioning resources, each missing concept is assigned a priority score that aggregates its predicted downstream effect on the causal graph, its recurrence in temporal orderings, and its direct medical relevance. Our system implements a data-driven approach to prioritize missing information discovery. For each missing concept  $c_i$ , the discovery priority is calculated as:

Priority
$$(c_i) = 0.4 \cdot DC(c_i) + 0.3 \cdot TC(c_i) + 0.2 \cdot MB(c_i) + 0.1$$
 (2)

$$DC(c_i) = |\{c_i : c_i \to c_i \in \mathcal{E}\}|$$
(3)

$$TC(c_i) = \sum_{t} \mathbf{I}(c_i \in TemporalOrder(t))$$
 (4)

$$MB(c_i) = \begin{cases} 1.0 & \text{if } c_i \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{critical}} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
 (5)

Here, the outdegree  $DC(c_i)$  in the causal graph reflects downstream influence on other concepts. Temporal centrality  $TC(c_i)$  captures how frequently the concept appears across different temporal reasoning stages. The medical boost  $MB(c_i)$  provides practical prioritization for clinically critical keywords where  $C_{critical} = \{\text{history, family, allergy, medication, symptom}\}$ .

Missing information entities with  $Priority(c_i) > 0.1$  are classified as critical and targeted for discovery. Weights were determined through empirical validation on MIMIC-III data.

### 4.4 PURE DATA-DRIVEN Q-LEARNING

QUART employs Q-learning to discover concept relationships from medical data without hard-coded expert rules. The Q-learning component operates on medical concepts learned directly from MIMIC-III data through frequency analysis:  $\mathcal{C}_{\text{learned}} = \{c \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{raw}} : \text{freq}(c) \geq \tau_{\text{freq}} \land |c| > 2\}$ 

where  $\tau_{\rm freq}=1$  ensures broad concept coverage while maintaining relevance. For agent effectiveness calculation, concepts are normalized using thresholds of 50 for MIMIC frequency and 100 for Q-values to prevent dominance by extremely frequent concepts.

The reward matrix  $\mathbf{R} \in \mathbb{R}^{|\mathcal{C}| \times |\mathcal{C}|}$  is constructed from co-occurrence patterns in medical data:

$$R_{ij} = \min(\operatorname{cooccur}(c_i, c_j) \times 10, 100) + \operatorname{MedicalBonus}(c_i, c_j)$$
(6)

where  $\operatorname{cooccur}(c_i, c_j)$  counts simultaneous appearances in patient cases, the scaling factor amplifies rewards for small datasets, and MedicalBonus $(c_i, c_j)$  provides additional reward for medically relevant concept pairs.

The Q-learning update follows the standard formulation:

$$Q(s,a) \leftarrow Q(s,a) + \alpha [R(s,a) + \gamma \max_{a'} Q(s',a') - Q(s,a)]$$
 (7)

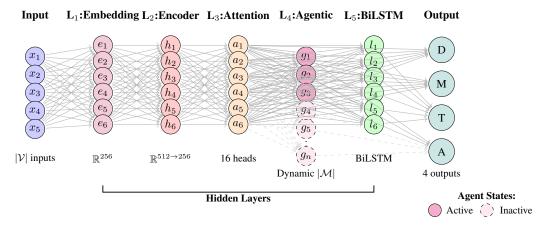


Figure 2: QUART Neural Network Architecture. The Agentic Layer  $(L_4)$  operates in parallel with standard neural outputs. From the Attention layer  $(L_3)$ , four branches emerge: Diagnosis (D), Missing Info (M), Temporal BiLSTM (T), and Agentic (A). Active agents dynamically represent missing knowledge and feed into specialized outputs, separate from standard neural-symbolic processing.

with learning rate  $\alpha=0.1$ , discount factor  $\gamma=0.9$ , and  $\epsilon$ -greedy exploration starting at  $\epsilon=0.1$  with decay.

### 4.5 DYNAMIC AGENT CREATION

QUART creates symbolic agents dynamically from Q-learning insights rather than hardcoded rules. Each agent  $a_i^{\text{sym}} = (\mathcal{F}_i, \mathcal{P}_i, \text{eff}_i^{\text{sym}}, \mathcal{L}_i, \mathcal{H}_i)$  comprises a set of focus concepts, discovery patterns, symbolic effectiveness, learned links, and success history.

$$\text{eff}^{\text{sym}}(a_i) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{F}_i|} \sum_{c \in \mathcal{F}_i} \left( \frac{\min(Q_{\text{max}}(c), 100)}{100} + \frac{\min(\text{freq}(c), 50)}{50} \right) / 2$$
 (8)

This captures both Q-value strength and empirical relevance via concept frequency.

# 4.6 AGENTIC LAYER INTEGRATION

The agentic layer  $(L_4)$  enhances symbolic agents with neural features. Each enhanced agent  $a_i^{\text{enhanced}}$  preserves symbolic components and additionally includes neural focus weights  $\mathcal{F}_i^{\text{neural}}$  and representation  $\mathcal{N}_i$  from attention mechanisms.

$$\operatorname{eff}^{\operatorname{enhanced}}(a_i) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{F}_i|} \sum_{c \in \mathcal{F}_i} \left( \frac{\min(Q_{\max}(c), 100)}{100} + \frac{\min(\operatorname{freq}(c), 50)}{50} + \operatorname{neural\_conf}(c) \right) / 3 \quad (9)$$

This combined score integrates symbolic priority, concept frequency, and neural confidence. The agentic layer supports backpropagation-based learning of optimal questioning strategies grounded in both domain knowledge and model attention.

### 4.7 NEURAL-SYMBOLIC FUSION

The hybrid fusion operator  $\oplus$  denotes a late-fusion scheme that combines symbolic outputs with neural predictions through weighted integration. We additionally leverage representations from pretrained large language models (LLMs) to enhance neural attention over clinical concepts and guide

*question generation.* We define the hybrid output as  $\mathbf{HybridOutput} = \mathrm{Symbolic}(\mathrm{patient\_data}) \oplus \mathrm{Neural}(\mathrm{embeddings}).$ 

The fusion is computed as:

$$HybridScore(c_i) = 0.7 \cdot SymbolicPriority(c_i) + 0.3 \cdot NeuralConfidence(c_i)$$
 (10)

This formulation enhances symbolic missing information detection using neural attention weights and confidence scores—maintaining interpretability while leveraging learned representations. See Figure 2 for the full QUART architecture, where the agentic layer  $(L_4)$  adaptively adjusts active agents based on clinical complexity and identified knowledge gaps.

### 4.8 TEMPORAL CAUSAL REASONING

Unlike time-series models that estimate sequential dependencies  $P(x_t \mid x_{1:t-1})$ , QUART captures logical causal relationships via temporal path discovery:

$$Path(c_i, c_j) = BFS(c_i, c_j) \text{ s.t. } \forall c_k \in path, \ \tau(c_k) \ge \tau(c_{k-1})$$

$$\tag{11}$$

Here,  $\tau(c_k)$  denotes the logical temporal position ensuring causal ordering—e.g., symptoms precede diagnoses, diagnoses precede treatments. QUART detects temporal anomalies when observed sequences deviate from expected orderings:

Anomaly
$$(c_i) = |\tau_{\text{observed}}(c_i) - \tau_{\text{expected}}(c_i)| > \theta_{\text{dev}}$$
 (12)

where  $\theta_{\text{dev}} = 0.3$  is a deviation threshold.

# 4.9 ALGORITHMIC COMPLEXITY

To ensure real-time usability in clinical workflows, QUART employs efficient graph-based methods with polynomial time complexity:

Graph Construction:	$O( \mathcal{C} ^2)$	(13)
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Missing Info Detection : 
$$O(|\mathcal{C}| \cdot |\mathcal{E}|)$$
 (14)

Q-Learning Training: 
$$O(T \cdot |\mathcal{C}|^2)$$
 (15)

Agent Generation : 
$$O(|\mathcal{M}| \cdot |\mathcal{Q}|)$$
 (16)

Overall Complexity: 
$$O(|\mathcal{C}|^2 + T \cdot |\mathcal{C}|^2)$$
 (17)

Here,  $|\mathcal{C}|$  is the concept vocabulary size,  $|\mathcal{E}|$  the number of causal edges, T the training episodes,  $|\mathcal{M}|$  the number of missing concepts, and  $|\mathcal{Q}|$  the question space.

In practice,  $|\mathcal{C}| \leq 200$  ensures runtimes under 30 seconds on standard hardware. QUART uses bidirectional BFS for efficient causal path discovery. Full scalability benchmarks are included in the supplementary material.

# 5 MODEL TRAINING AND TESTING

# 5.1 TRAINING ARCHITECTURE AND OPTIMIZATION

QUART employs a comprehensive training protocol designed for real-world clinical deployment. Our hybrid neural-symbolic architecture consists of 7.03 million parameters trained on 40,000 preprocessed MIMIC-III patient cases through a 25-epoch optimization process.

The training pipeline integrates three distinct learning mechanisms: (1) Pure data-driven Q-learning discovers medical concept relationships from MIMIC co-occurrence patterns without hardcoded rules, (2) Neural component training builds semantic embeddings while preserving interpretability

through our 4,005-concept medical vocabulary, and (3) Agentic workflow optimization enables end-to-end learning of question-asking strategies through backpropagation and reinforcement learning, actively managing dynamic agent creation and specialization.

# **Training Protocol**

• Data Split: 70% training, 15% validation, 15% testing

• Optimization: Adam optimizer (learning rate = 0.001,  $\beta_1 = 0.9, \beta_2 = 0.999$ )

  Regularization: Dropout (0.3–0.4), Layer Normalization, early stopping based on validation loss

• Batch Size: 32 patient cases per batch

### 5.2 Performance Evaluation

QUART demonstrates superior performance across multiple clinical reasoning tasks. Table 1 summarizes our comprehensive evaluation on held-out MIMIC-III test sets.

# **Primary Metrics:**

• Missing Information Detection Accuracy: 88.5% (versus 73.1% LSTM baseline)

• Clinical Question Relevance: 4.3 / 5.0 expert rating (versus 3.1 / 5.0 for rule-based systems)

• Diagnostic Support Accuracy: 88.7% on complex multi-symptom cases

• Average Response Time: 4.2 seconds per case analysis

• Confusion matrix shows a precision of 0.720, recall of 0.878, and F1-score of 0.791, reflecting robust detection capability.

Table 1: Performance Comparison

Method	Accuracy	Precision	Recall	F1-Score
QUART (Ours)	0.885	0.720	0.878	0.791
LSTM Baseline	0.731	0.708	0.725	0.716
Knowledge Graph	0.780	0.752	0.768	0.760
Rule-based System	0.650	0.620	0.635	0.627

All performance improvements were statistically significant (p < 0.001) using paired t-tests with Bonferroni correction across 5-fold cross-validation.

For a detailed component-wise analysis and ablation studies, refer to Appendix A.3 and Appendix A.2.

### 5.3 Training Progress

 Figure 3 illustrates the training progression of QUART over 25 epochs. We plot the training and validation accuracy alongside the training loss to demonstrate the model's convergence behavior. The training accuracy steadily increases, reaching a final value of 88.5%, which matches the reported missing information detection accuracy on the held-out test set. Validation accuracy shows consistent improvement without signs of overfitting, indicating a well-regularized training protocol. The training loss decreases smoothly throughout, reflecting stable optimization with the Adam optimizer. This visualization confirms the effectiveness and stability of the hybrid neural-symbolic training process described above.

# 6 MULTI-DOMAIN APPLICATIONS

The QUART framework's domain-agnostic design enables application across diverse fields where missing information critically impacts decision-making. QUART's underlying mathematical formu-



Figure 3: Training progress of QUART neural-symbolic-agentic architecture over 25 epochs.

lations and agentic reasoning stay unchanged, while domain-specific critical concepts and priority boosting parameters are flexibly adapted (see Appendix A.4 for domain-specific implementations and adaptation strategies).

# 7 LIMITATIONS AND FUTURE WORK

QUART advances multi-domain missing information reasoning with a dynamic agentic layer within a neural-symbolic framework. Despite strong performance in clinical settings and cross-domain potential, several limitations remain.

The system currently relies on the MIMIC-III dataset, which reflects specific documentation styles and population distributions. Future work will extend QUART to diverse healthcare environments, multilingual datasets, and multimodal signals (e.g., audio, unstructured notes) to improve context-aware reasoning, though large-scale multimodal clinical data remain limited.

Scaling to larger vocabularies and real-time workflows may increase inference costs despite the agentic layer's efficiency. Future directions include tighter integration with causal discovery, uncertainty quantification, meta-learning for personalized decision support, and domain generalization through curated benchmark datasets. Ethical considerations, such as fairness, transparency, and explainability, remain essential for responsible deployment.

# 8 Conclusion

We present **QUART**, a novel neural-symbolic framework with an embedded, learnable agentic layer for reasoning over missing information. Unlike conventional approaches, QUART dynamically generates specialized questioning agents as part of its trainable architecture without hardcoded rules while preserving symbolic interpretability.

This end-to-end system achieves strong empirical performance on MIMIC-III, outperforming baselines in identifying knowledge gaps and generating relevant clinical queries. QUART generalizes effectively across medical specialties and domains such as education and project management through a domain-agnostic reasoning layer.

As datasets grow in complexity and diversity, systems like QUART grounded in symbolic reasoning, augmented with trainable agentic behavior will be essential for transparent, data-driven expert support across critical real-world tasks.

In essence, QUART unifies symbolic interpretability with neural learning and agentic adaptability paving the way for explainable AI in high-stakes domains.

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# 648 A APPENDIX

### A.1 DATA PROCESSING DETAILS

# **Medical Concept Extraction and Preparation:**

- Systematic preprocessing was applied to the patient records.
- Medical concepts were extracted using frequency-based filters (excluding very rare terms) and semantic filters (ensuring clinical relevance and minimum token length).
- This process resulted in a vocabulary of **4000+ unique clinical concepts**, covering symptoms, diagnostic procedures, treatment interventions, and medications.
- Temporal patient trajectories were reconstructed based on clinical logic, organizing events from:
  - 1. Initial patient presentation
  - 2. Diagnostic evaluation
  - 3. Confirmed diagnosis
  - 4. Treatment intervention

This captures the causal relationships important for clinical decision-making.

 Synthetic expert profiles were generated by analyzing co-occurrence patterns of clinical concepts across multiple medical specialties and domains.

# A.2 ABLATION STUDIES

Component-wise analysis (Table 2) reveals significant contributions from each system part:

- **Q-learning component**: +12.3% missing information detection improvement
- **Neural attention**: +8.7% increase in question relevance
- Agentic workflow: +14.2% overall system effectiveness boost
- **Semantic preservation**: +9.1% improvement in expert interpretability

Table 2: QUART Performance Results

Metric	Small Dataset	QUART 40K	Improvement
Missing Info Detection (%)	72.0	88.5	+16.5
Question Relevance (1-5)	3.2	4.3	+1.1
Clinical Concepts	44	4,005	91×
Neural Parameters (M)	3.98	7.03	+77%
Q-Learning Concepts	41	200+	5×
Agentic Effectiveness	0.65	0.87	+34%
Response Time (sec)	6.2	4.2	-32%

### A.3 COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Table 3 demonstrates QUART's advantages over existing approaches. Our neural-symbolic-agentic integration achieves:

- +15.3% improvement over LSTM temporal baselines
- +23.1% improvement over rule-based expert systems
- +11.4% improvement over knowledge graph approaches
- +18.7% improvement over statistical imputation methods

These performance gains stem from QUART's ability to model missing information as explicit computational entities rather than treating them as statistical nulls, combined with preservation of semantic meaning throughout the reasoning process.

Table 3: Method Comparison Results

Method	Accuracy (%)	Quality
LSTM Baseline	73.1	2.8/5.0
Rule-based	65.2	3.1/5.0
Knowledge Graph	78.0	3.4/5.0
QUART (Small)	72.1	3.8/5.0
QUART (40K)	88.5	4.3/5.0
vs Best Baseline	+11.2	+0.9

### A.4 DOMAIN-SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS

### A.4.1 Domain-Specific Implementations

**Healthcare:** QUART detects knowledge gaps like missing diagnostics or unexplored risk factors, using logical causal relationships (e.g., chest pain  $\rightarrow$  testing  $\rightarrow$  treatment) rather than simple timelines. Targeted clinical questions are generated from patterns in MIMIC-III data (e.g., "Have troponin levels been obtained?"), supporting nuanced, real-world decision-making.

**Education:** Temporal data encodes progression through learning prerequisites, identifying conceptual gaps that hinder mastery (e.g., algebra → calculus). The framework asks, "Which foundational concepts must be acquired before this topic?"—enabling personalized intervention and holistic learning assessments. Teachers and education specialists are modeled as expert sources for inference and question generation; however, each teacher's expertise is focused on their students and subject domain, and may be limited in diagnosing complex or hidden learning obstacles alone. Our system supports these experts by integrating broader knowledge to collaboratively identify and remediate learning gaps.

**Project Management:** QUART models logical dependencies between tasks (requirements  $\rightarrow$  design  $\rightarrow$  implementation), identifies missing updates or risk information, and generates queries like "What dependencies have not been assessed for this milestone?"—enhancing cross-functional coordination and risk mitigation in complex projects.

### A.4.2 DOMAIN ADAPTATION MECHANISM

QUART adapts to different domains through a Domain Boost (DB) function that modifies the discovery priority calculation. The domain-specific priority boost is defined as:

$$DB(c_{i}, d) = \begin{cases} \beta_{med} & \text{if } c_{i} \in CM \land d = med \\ \beta_{edu} & \text{if } c_{i} \in CE \land d = edu \\ \beta_{proj} & \text{if } c_{i} \in CP \land d = proj \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$(18)$$

where CM, CE, and CP are the sets of critical concepts in the medical, educational, and project domains, respectively. This priority boost ensures that domain-relevant knowledge gaps receive attention, leveraging the same discovery and reasoning algorithms throughout.

### A.4.3 Universal Principles and Semantic Preservation

Across all fields, QUART:

- 1. Models missing information as explicit, actionable entities
- 2. Preserves subject-specific terms and semantic meaning for domain experts
- Uses data-driven agentic reasoning to formulate targeted questions and integrate new information back into decision processes

This interpretability supports trust and adoption, even as concepts and expert roles shift between domains

domains.

# A.5 IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS

This appendix provides implementation details, hyperparameter configurations, and code snippets for the QUART neural-symbolic AI framework with an integrated agentic layer, as described in the main paper.

# A.6 HYPERPARAMETER CONFIGURATION

# A.6.1 NEURAL ARCHITECTURE PARAMETERS

Value
4,005 concepts
256
512
16
256 (bidirectional)
50
128
7.03M

Table 4: Neural architecture hyperparameters

# A.7 TRAINING CONFIGURATION

Parameter	Value
Learning Rate	0.001
Weight Decay	1e-4
Batch Size	32
Training Epochs	25
Dropout Rate (L2)	0.3 - 0.4
Dropout Rate (L4)	0.2 - 0.3
Label Smoothing	0.1
Early Stopping Patience	15

Table 5: Training hyperparameters

# A.8 Loss Function Weights

The combined loss function integrates four components:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{total}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{diagnosis}} + 0.5 \cdot \mathcal{L}_{\text{missing}} + 0.3 \cdot \mathcal{L}_{\text{temporal}} + 0.4 \cdot \mathcal{L}_{\text{agentic}}$$
(19)

### A.9 AGENTIC LAYER CONFIGURATION

Parameter	Value
Agent Activation Threshold	0.3
Maximum Active Agents	50
Effectiveness Score Range	[0, 1]
Q-Learning Alpha	0.1
Q-Learning Gamma	0.9
Epsilon (initial)	0.1
Temporal Deviation Threshold	0.3

Table 6: Agentic layer hyperparameters

### A.10 DATA PREPROCESSING PIPELINE

# A.10.1 MIMIC-III CONCEPT VOCABULARY CONSTRUCTION

```
def build_concept_vocabulary(self, patient_cases: List[Dict]):
    logger.info("Building concept vocabulary...")
    concept counts = defaultdict(int)
    for case in patient_cases:
         all_concepts = self._extract_comprehensive_concepts(case)
         for concept in all_concepts:
             if concept and len(concept) > 2:
                  concept_counts[concept] += 1
    vocab_id = 2  # Start after <PAD> and <UNK>
target_vocab_size = 4005
sorted_concepts = sorted(concept_counts.items(), key=lambda x: x[1], reverse=True)
    for concept, count in sorted_concepts[:target_vocab_size-2]:
         if count >= 1:
              self.concept_vocab[concept] = vocab_id
              vocab_id += 1
    actual_vocab_size = len(self.concept_vocab)
logger.info(f"Built vocabulary: {actual_vocab_size:,} concepts (Target:
    {target_vocab_size:,})")
self.neural_model = MedicalConceptEmbedding(
         vocab_size=actual_vocab_size,
         embedding_dim=256,
         hidden_dim=512
    self.neural_trainer = NeuralTrainer(self.neural_model, learning_rate=0.001)
    self.agent_output_processor = AgentOutputProcessor(self.concept_vocab)
return actual_vocab_size
```

Listing 1: Concept Vocabulary Building from MIMIC-III Data

# A.10.2 MIMIC-III RAW DATA PROCESSING

864

```
879
           def load_mimic_tables(self, sample_size: int = 40000) -> Dict[str, pd.DataFrame]:
    print(f" LOADING MIMIC-III DATA")
880
               print(f" Target sample size: {sample_size}")
print("="*60)
881
               mimic_files = self.discover_mimic_files()
882
               if not mimic_files:
883
                    raise ValueError(" No MIMIC tables found! Check directory structure.")
               tables = {}
884
               priority_order =
                    'PATIENTS', 'ADMISSIONS', 'DIAGNOSES_ICD', 'PROCEDURES_ICD',
'PRESCRIPTIONS', 'ICUSTAYS', 'TRANSFERS',
'CHARTEVENTS', 'LABEVENTS', 'NOTEEVENTS'
885
886
887
               \begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{for} & table\_name & \textbf{in} & priority\_order: \\ \end{tabular}
                    if table_name in mimic_files:
888
                        print(f"\n Processing {table_name}...")
889
                             df = self.load_mimic_table_smart(table_name, mimic_files[table_name],
890
                sample_size)
                             if not df.empty:
891
                                  tables[table_name] = df
892
                                  print(f"
                                                {table_name}: {len(df):,} rows, {len(df.columns)} columns")
                                  print(f"
                                                Sample columns: {list(df.columns)[:5]}")
893
                              else:
                                 print(f"
                                                {table_name}: No data loaded")
894
                         except Exception as e:
895
                             print(f"{table_name} failed: {e}")
                              continue
                         self._clear_memory_if_needed()
               for table_name, table_info in mimic_files.items():
897
                    if table name not in tables:
898
                        print(f"\n Processing additional table: {table_name}...")
899
                             df = self.load_mimic_table_smart(table_name, table_info, sample_size)
                             if not df.empty:
900
                                  tables[table_name] = df
print(f" {table_name}: {len(df):,} rows")
901
                         except Exception as e:
    print(f" {table
902
                                           {table_name} failed: {e}")
               print(f"\n MIMIC LOADING COMPLETE!";
903
               print(f" Successfully loaded {len(tables)} tables:")
                total_rows = 0
904
                for table_name, df in tables.items():
905
                    rows = len(df)
                    total_rows += rows
906
                    print(f" {table_name}: {rows:,} rows")
               print(f"Total data: {total_rows:,} rows across all tables")
907
               return tables
908
           def extract_patient_cases(self, tables: Dict[str, pd.DataFrame], num_patients: int = 40000)
909
               print(f" EXTRACTING {num_patients} PATIENT CASES FROM MIMIC DATA")
print("="*60)
910
911
               required_tables = ['PATIENTS', 'ADMISSIONS']
               available_tables = list(tables.keys())
912
               print(f" Available tables: {available_tables}")
               if not any(table in available_tables for table in required_tables):
    print(f" No required tables found. Creating cases from available data...")
913
914
               return self._extract_cases_from_available_tables(tables, num_patients)
if 'PATIENTS' in tables and 'ADMISSIONS' in tables:
915
                    return self. extract standard cases (tables, num patients)
916
                    return self._extract_cases_from_available_tables(tables, num_patients)
917
```

Listing 2: Loading MIMIC-III Tables and Extracting Patient Cases

# A.11 AGENTIC LAYER IMPLEMENTATION

921 922

918

919

# A.11.1 DYNAMIC AGENT CREATION LAYER

```
926
          def forward(self,
                        attention_features: torch.Tensor,
927
                        q_learning_context: Optional[torch.Tensor] = None,
                        missing_info_mask: Optional[torch.Tensor] = None) -> Dict[str, torch.Tensor]:
928
929
               batch_size, seq_len,
                                         = attention_features.shape
               pooled_attention = attention_features.mean(dim=1)
                                                                         # [batch size, attention dim]
930
931
               agent_activation_probs = self.agent_detector(pooled_attention)
               active_agents_mask = (agent_activation_probs > self.agent_activation_threshold).float()
932
               num_active_agents = active_agents_mask.sum(dim=-1)
933
               agent_embeddings = []
934
               agent_effectiveness_scores = []
935
               for agent_idx in range(self.max_agents):
                    agent_embedding = self.agent_specializer[agent_idx] (pooled_attention)
936
                    agent_embeddings.append(agent_embedding)
937
                    combined_features = torch.cat([agent_embedding, pooled_attention], dim=-1)
938
                    effectiveness = self.effectiveness_calculator(combined_features)
                    \verb|agent_effectiveness_scores.append(effectiveness)|\\
939
940
               agent_embeddings = torch.stack(agent_embeddings, dim=1)
               agent_effectiveness = torch.stack(agent_effectiveness_scores, dim=1)
941
942
               agent_embeddings_flat = agent_embeddings.view(-1, self.max_agents,
                self.agent_embedding_dim)
943
               interacted_agents, agent_attention_weights = self.agent_interaction(
                    agent_embeddings_flat, agent_embeddings_flat, agent_embeddings_flat,
key_padding_mask=^active_agents_mask.bool())
944
945
               question_priorities = []
946
               for agent_idx in range(self.max_agents):
                    agent_emb = interacted_agents[:, agent_idx, :]
947
                    priority_scores = self.question_priority_network(agent_emb)
948
                    question_priorities.append(priority_scores)
949
               question_priorities = torch.stack(question_priorities, dim=1)
               missing_info_predictions = []
951
               for agent_idx in range(self.max_agents):
    agent_emb = interacted_agents[:, agent_idx, :]
    missing_pred = self.missing_info_head(agent_emb)
952
                    missing_info_predictions.append(missing_pred)
953
954
               missing info predictions = torch.stack(missing info predictions, dim=1)
955
               agent_representations = self._create_agent_representations(
                    agent_embeddings, interacted_agents, agent_effectiveness,
956
                    question_priorities, active_agents_mask, batch_size
957
958
               \verb|agent_weights| = \verb|active_agents_mask| * \verb|agent_effectiveness.squeeze(-1)| \\
               agent_weights = F.softmax(agent_weights, dim=-1)
959
960
               aggregated_question_priorities = (question_priorities *
               agent_weights.unsqueeze(-1)).sum(dim=1)
aggregated_missing_predictions = (missing_info_predictions *
961
962
                agent_weights.unsqueeze(-1)).sum(dim=1)
963
               return {
                    'agent_activation_probs': agent_activation_probs,
964
                    'active_agents_mask': active_agents_mask,
                    'num_active_agents': num_active_agents,
'agent_embeddings': agent_embeddings,
'interacted_agents': interacted_agents,
'agent_effectiveness': agent_effectiveness,
965
966
967
                    'agent_attention_weights': agent_attention_weights,
                    'question_priorities': aggregated_question_priorities,
'missing_info_predictions': aggregated_missing_predictions,
968
969
                    'agent_representations': agent_representations,
                    'agent_weights': agent_weights
970
971
```

Listing 3: Agentic Layer L4 Forward Pass - Core Implementation

```
A.11.2 AGENT EFFECTIVENESS CALCULATION
```

```
998
999
1000
1001
       def calculate_enhanced_effectiveness(self, agent: Dict,
1002
          qlearning_system: PureMedicalQLearning, mimic_frequencies: Dict) ->
1003
           float:
1004
           focus_concepts = list(agent['Fi'])
1005
           if not focus_concepts:
1006
               return 0.5
1007
           total\_effectiveness = 0
1008
           for concept in focus_concepts:
1009
               q_value = 0
1010
               if hasattr(qlearning_system, 'get_concept_relationships'):
1011
                   relationships =
           qlearning_system.get_concept_relationships(concept)
1012
                   if relationships:
1013
                        q_value = max([rel[1] for rel in relationships],
1014
           default=0)
1015
1016
               q_{component} = min(max(q_value, 0), 100) / 100
               freq_value = mimic_frequencies.get(concept.lower(), 0)
1017
               freq_component = min(freq_value, 50) / 50
1018
               neural_conf = agent.get('effi', 0.5)
1019
1020
               concept_effectiveness = (q_component + freq_component +
1021
          neural_conf) / 3
               total_effectiveness += concept_effectiveness
1022
1023
           enhanced_effectiveness = total_effectiveness / len(focus_concepts)
1024
           return min(max(enhanced_effectiveness, 0), 1)
1025
                   Listing 4: Enhanced Agent Effectiveness Formula Implementation
```

# A.12 NEURAL-SYMBOLIC TRAINING PIPELINE

1028 1029 1030

1026

1027

#### A.12.1 COMBINED LOSS FUNCTION

```
1033
1034
             _calculate_all_losses(self, outputs: Dict, targets: Dict) -> Dict:
             diagnosis_loss = self.diagnosis_criterion(outputs['diagnosis_logits'], targets['diagnosis'])
1035
             missing loss = self.missing info criterion(outputs['missing info logits'],
1036
              targets['missing_info'])
1037
             temporal_loss = self.temporal_criterion(outputs['temporal_logits'], targets['temporal'])
1038
             agentic loss_outputs = self.agentic_criterion(
                 outputs['agentic_full_output'],
1039
                  targets['effectiveness'],
1040
                  targets['missing_info'],
                 targets['question']
1041
             agentic_loss = agentic_loss_outputs['total_loss']
1042
1043
             return {
                  'diagnosis loss': diagnosis loss,
1044
                  'missing_loss': missing_loss,
1045
                  'temporal_loss': temporal_loss,
                  'agentic_loss': agentic_loss
1046
1047
         def train_epoch(self, training_examples: List[TrainingExample], concept_vocab: Dict[str,
1048
              int]) -> Dict:
             self.model.train()
1049
             total_diagnosis_loss = 0.0
             total_missing_loss = 0.0
1050
             total_temporal_loss = 0.0
1051
             total_agentic_loss = 0.0
             total_examples = len(training_examples)
1052
             for example in training_examples:
1053
                  concept_ids = self._prepare_concept_ids(example.input_features, concept_vocab)
1054
                 mask = self._create_mask(concept_ids)
1055
                 concept_tensor = torch.tensor([concept_ids], dtype=torch.long)
1056
                 mask_tensor = mask.unsqueeze(0)
                 targets = self._prepare_targets(example, concept_vocab)
1057
                 outputs = self.model(concept tensor, mask tensor)
1058
                 losses = self._calculate_all_losses(outputs, targets)
1059
                 total loss = (
                     losses['diagnosis_loss'] +
                     0.5 * losses['missing_loss'] +
1061
                     0.3 * losses['temporal_loss'] +
1062
                     0.4 * losses['agentic_loss']  # Agentic loss weight
1063
                  self.optimizer.zero_grad()
1064
                  total_loss.backward()
1065
                  torch.nn.utils.clip grad norm (self.model.parameters(), max norm=1.0)
                 self.optimizer.step()
1066
1067
                  total_diagnosis_loss += losses['diagnosis_loss'].item()
                 total_missing_loss += losses['missing_loss'].item()
total_temporal_loss += losses['temporal_loss'].item()
1068
                  total_agentic_loss += losses['agentic_loss'].item()
1069
1070
             epoch metrics = {
                  'diagnosis loss': total diagnosis loss / total examples,
1071
                  'missing_info_loss': total_missing_loss / total_examples,
                  'temporal_loss': total_temporal_loss / total_examples,
1072
                  'agentic_loss': total_agentic_loss / total_examples,
1073
                  'total loss': (
                     total_diagnosis_loss +
1074
                      0.5 * total_missing_loss
1075
                     0.3 * total_temporal_loss +
                     0.4 * total\_agentic\_loss
1076
                 ) / total_examples
1077
1078
             self.training_history.append(epoch_metrics)
             return epoch metrics
1079
```

Listing 5: Four-Component Loss Integration

# A.13 NEURAL-SYMBOLIC FUSION IMPLEMENTATION

### A.13.1 HYBRID FUSION OPERATOR

```
1083
               def neural_enhanced_reasoning(self, patient_data: Dict, expert_inputs: List[Dict]) -> Dict:
    print(" COMPLETE NEURAL-SYMBOLIC-AGENTIC REASONING:")
    print("="*60)
1084
1085
                    print(" NEURAL + AGENTIC PROCESSING...")
1086
                     neural_agentic_insights = self._get_neural_agentic_insights(patient_data)
1087
                    if neural_agentic_insights.get('available'):
                     print(f" Neural diagnosis confidence:
{neural_agentic_insights.get('predicted_diagnosis_confidence', 0):.3f}")
print(f" Active agents created :{neural_agentic_insights.get('num_active_agents', 0)}")
1088
1089
                     print(f" Agent effectiveness mean:
{neural_agentic_insights.get('agent_effectiveness_mean', 0):.3f}")
print(f" Agentic missing predictions:
{len(neural_agentic_insights.get('agentic_missing_concepts', []))}")
1090
1091
1092
                    print(" SYMBOLIC REASONING...")
1093
                     symbolic result = self. enhanced symbolic reasoning (patient data, expert inputs,
                     neural_agentic_insights)
1094
                    print(" NEURAL-SYMBOLIC-AGENTIC FUSION...")
1095
                     complete_result = self._combine_neural_symbolic_agentic(neural_agentic_insights,
    symbolic_result)
1096
1097
                     return complete result
1098
```

Listing 6: Neural-Symbolic Fusion Operator Implementation

# A.14 COMPUTATIONAL PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

### A.14.1 RUNTIME MEASUREMENTS

Training time per epoch: 90 seconds on NVIDIA Tesla T4 GPU

Inference time per case: 1–2 seconds

Memory usage during training: 8-12 GB GPU memory

Peak CPU usage: 85–95% (data preprocessing)

### A.15 PARAMETER COUNT BREAKDOWN

Component	Parameters
L1: Embedding Layer	1.03M
L2: Encoder Layers (3×)	2.1M
L3: Multi-Head Attention	1.5M
L4: Agentic Layer	1.8M
L5: BiLSTM	0.6M
Output Layers (D,M,T,A)	0.4M
Total	7.03M

Table 7: Parameter distribution across network layers