

The Truth of Crowds?

On Using Crowdsourcing Against Misinformation

Stefano Mizzaro

ROMCIR@ECIR, Lucca, 10/4/2025



**UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI UDINE**

HIC SUNT FUTURA



<https://tinyurl.com/48a72pjp>

Ack

- This research has been partially supported by project PRIN 2022 "MoT – The Measure of Truth: An Evaluation-Centered Machine-Human Hybrid Framework for Assessing Information Truthfulness" - Codice n. 20227F2ZN3 CUP n. G53D23002800006 "Finanziato dall'Unione Europea – Next-Generation EU – PNRR M4 C2 I1.1" RS Mizzaro



Aims

- To tell the story of our fight against misinformation
- Mainly using crowdsourcing
- 7 – 8 years
 - Of course, many things to talk about
 - Overall story
 - "Last results" (does it work?)
 - Fine grained scales + Magnitude estimation

The gang

- Isabelle Augenstein
- Francesco Bombassei De Bona
- Davide Ceolin
- Alessandro Checco
- Vincenzo Della Mea
- Gianluca Demartini
- Massimiliano De Luise
- Tim Draws
- Shaoyang Fan
- David La Barbera
- Joel Mackenzie
- Eddy Maddalena
- Beatrice Portelli
- Yunke Qu
- Kevin Roitero
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Many people, many papers

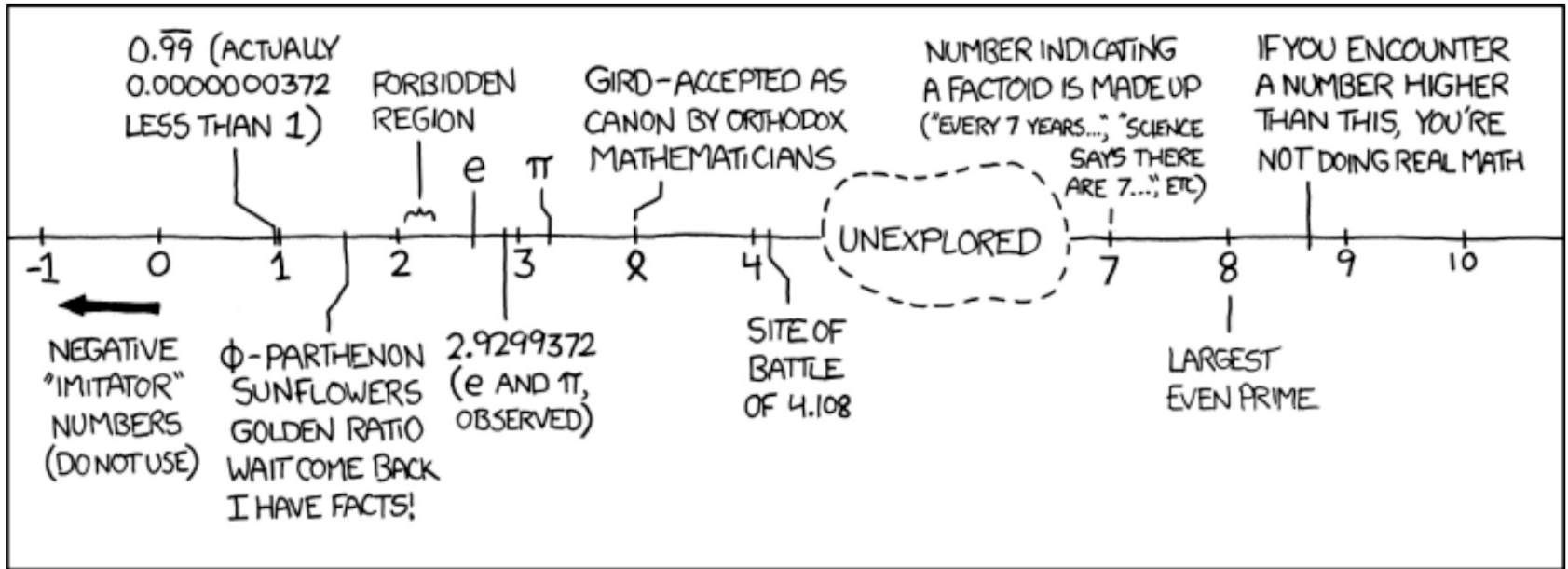
- The gang has been working!
- 7 – 8 years, 22 people → 26 papers
 - (at least)
- I've been thinking how to present them
 - Even with this three-hours-talk (ECIR standards, right?) I need to leave something out
 - Of course I don't remember most of them

So, where to start?

- Djoerd Hiemstra to the rescue!
- Conversation after some Spritz yesterday evening:
 - Djoerd: "What are you talking about tomorrow?"
 - Stefano: "You know, misinformation, bla bla fake news bla bla bla..."
 - D.: "Will you spread some fake news?"
 - S.: "That's a great idea!"

"Fake news"

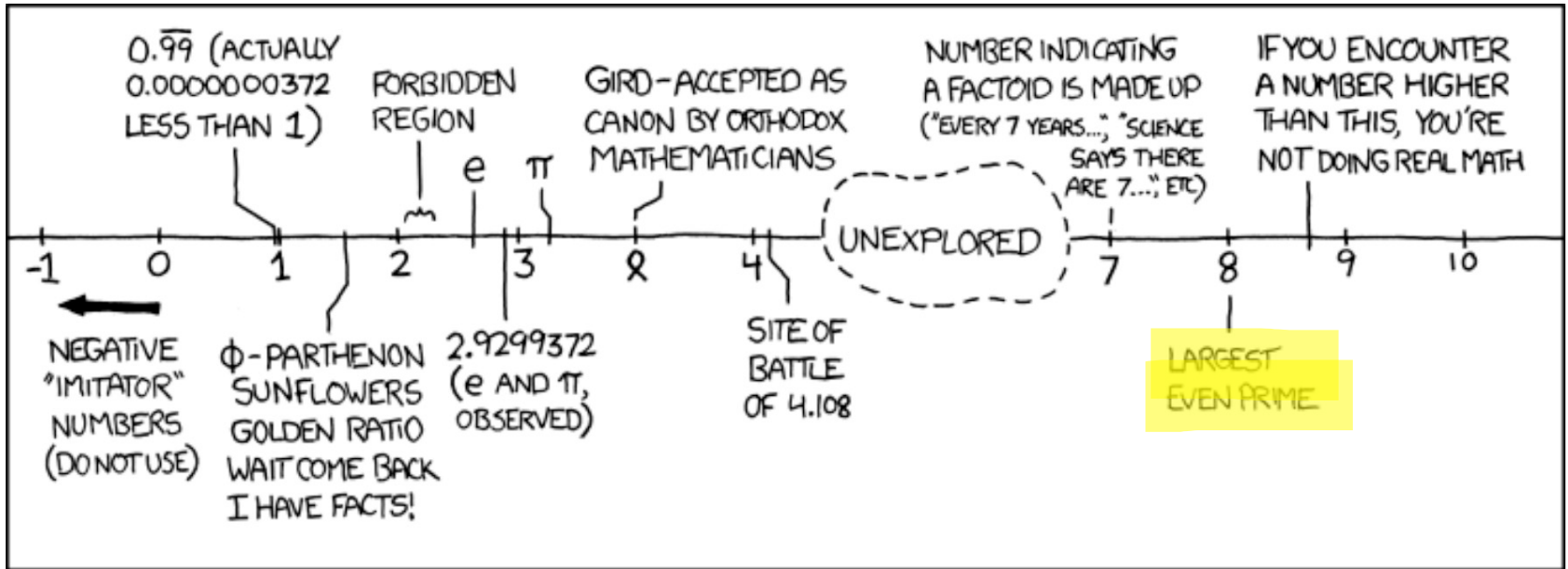
Number Line



Title text: The Wikipedia page List of Numbers opens with "This list is incomplete; you can help by expanding it."

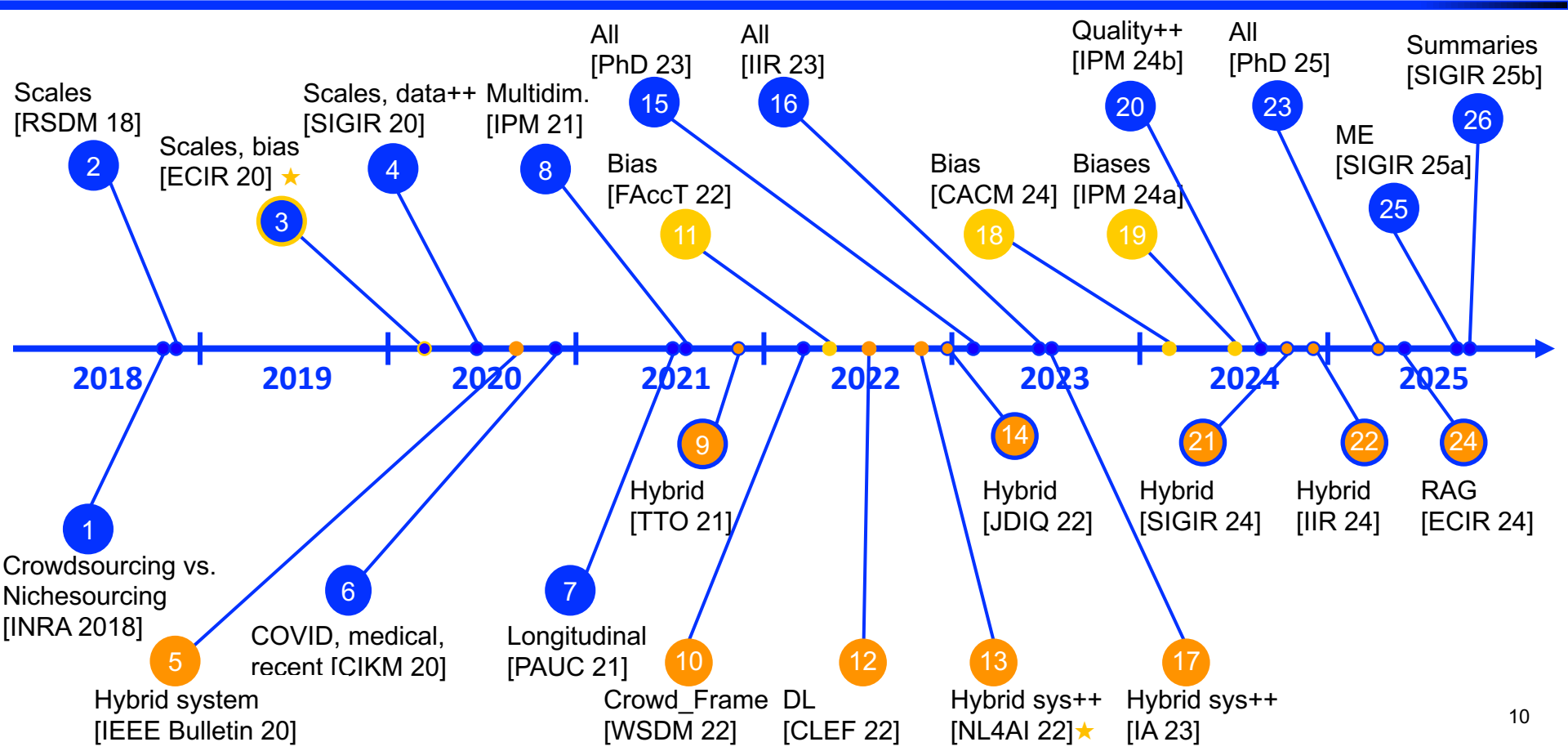
"Fake news"

Number Line



Title text: The Wikipedia page List of Numbers opens with "This list is incomplete; you can help by expanding it."

Timeline



Outline

- ✓ Stupid jokes
- Background
 - Scenario: Misinformation, Fact-checking, Truthfulness assessment
 - Crowdsourcing
- The story – aka Our approach
 - Experiments, Screenshots, Datasets, Results, ...
 - Repeat
- More technical
 - Scales, Classification, Ranking, Ordinal classification, even Magnitude Estimation

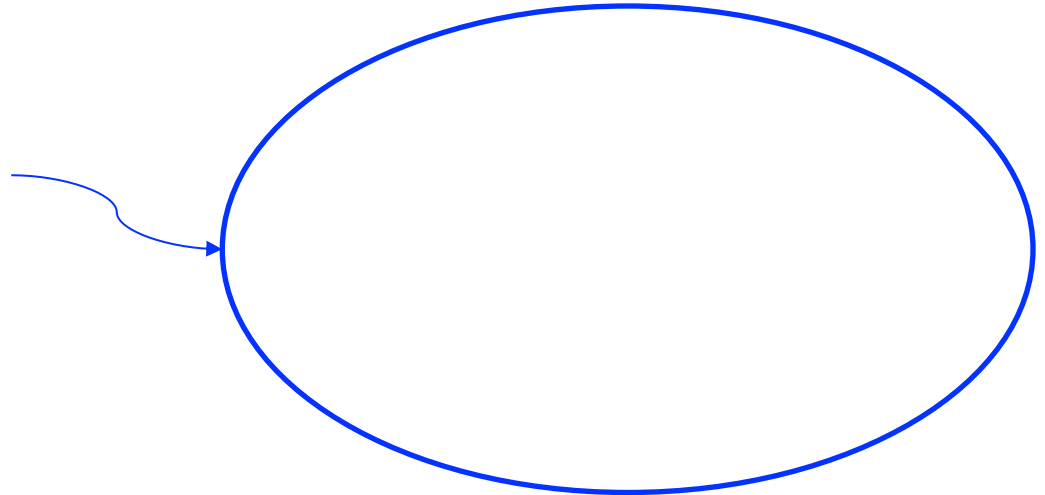
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Misinformation

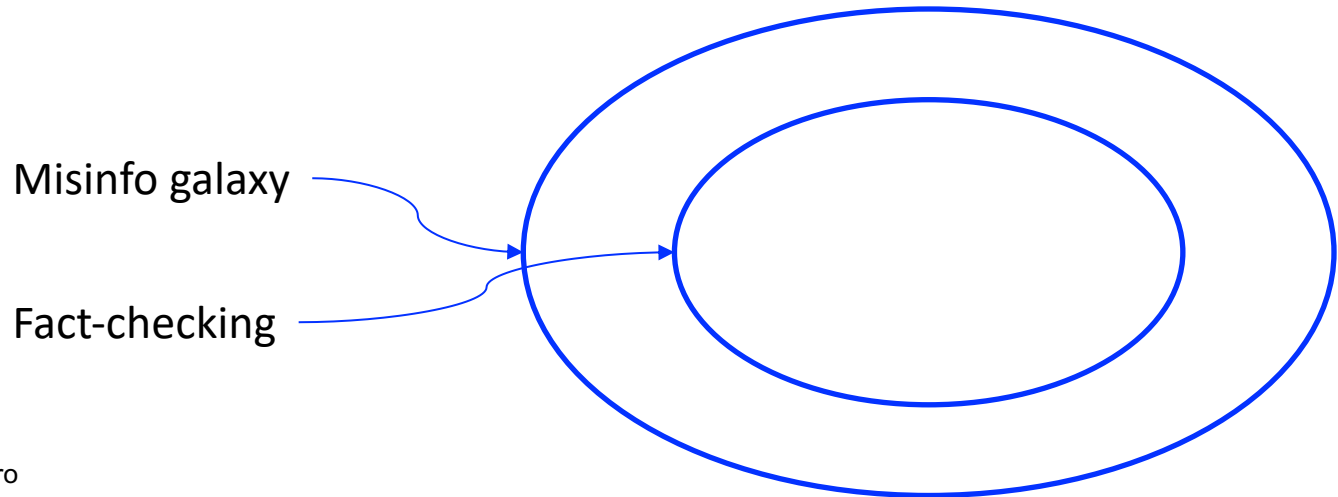
- Misinformation & Disinformation are spreading
- Need for researchers and society to find countermeasures

Misinfo galaxy



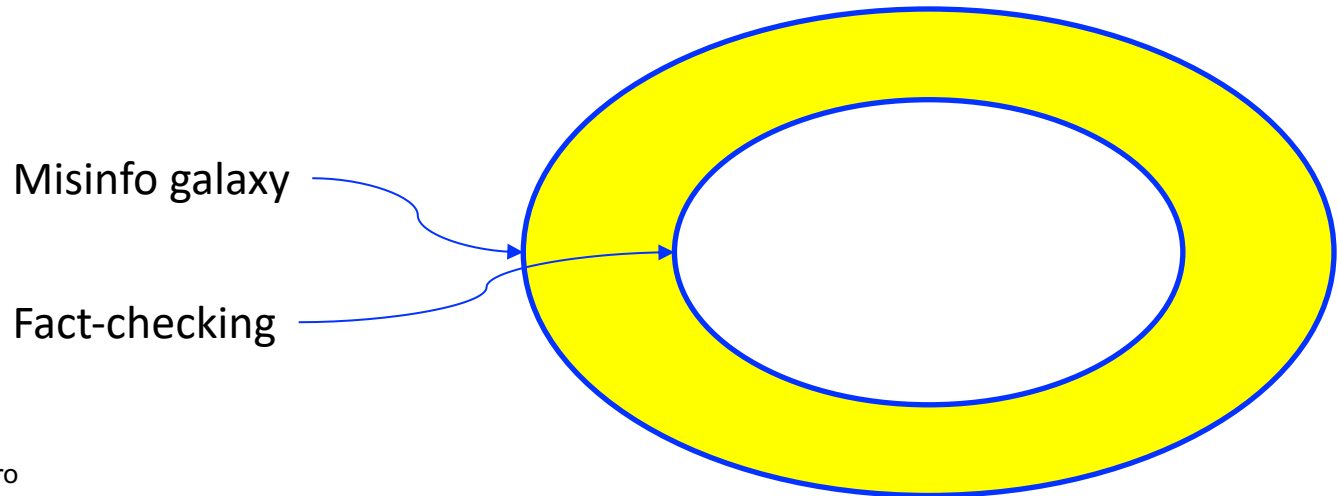
Fact-checking

- The process aimed at determining if a claim/info/news/etc. is true or not
- Rather complex process
 - Experts, follow a protocol, seek evidence, discuss, reach a verdict



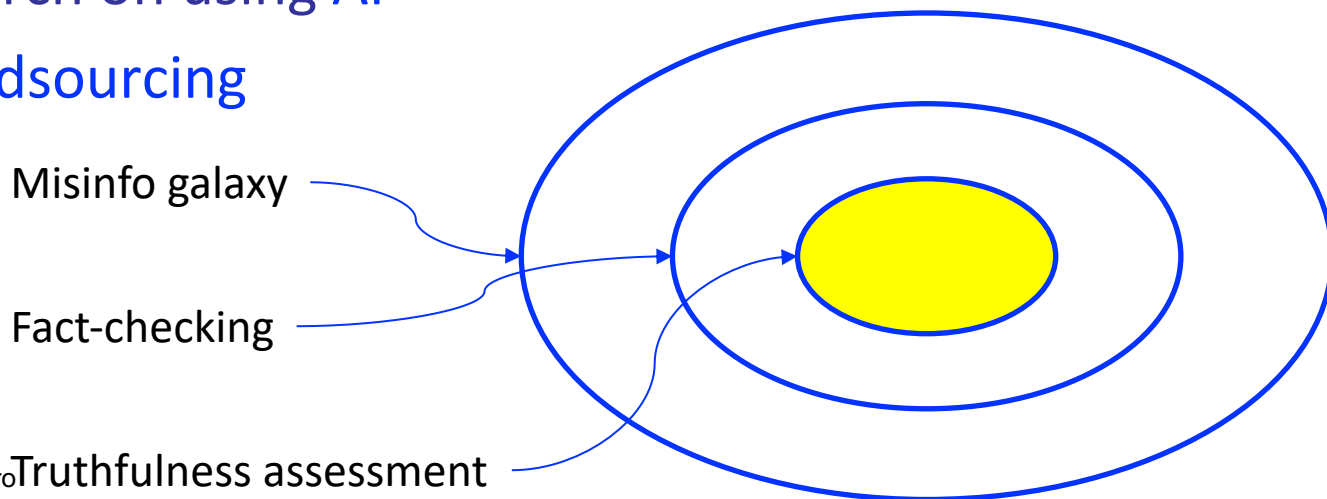
Beyond Fact-checking

- Of course there's much more
 - E.g., how the fake news spread when compared to the true ones?
 - Echo chambers
 - Filter bubbles
 - Etc.



Truthfulness assessment

- We focus on "Is this true or not?"
- And on how to answer that question
- Usually done by **experts**
- A lot of research on using **AI**
- We use **crowdsourcing**



Crowdsourcing?

Crowdsourcing

🌐 45 languages ▾

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

"Crowd work" redirects here. For the performing arts term, see [audience participation](#).



This article **is written like a [personal reflection](#), [personal essay](#), or [argumentative essay](#)** that states a Wikipedia editor's personal feelings or presents an original argument about a topic. Please [help improve it](#) by rewriting it in an [encyclopedic style](#). (September 2022) ([Learn how and when to remove this message](#))

Crowdsourcing involves a large group of dispersed participants contributing or producing [goods or services](#)—including ideas, [votes](#), [micro-tasks](#), and finances—for payment or as volunteers. Contemporary crowdsourcing often involves [digital platforms](#) to attract and divide work between participants to achieve a cumulative result. Crowdsourcing is not limited to online activity, however, and there are various historical examples of crowdsourcing. The word crowdsourcing is a [portmanteau](#) of "[crowd](#)" and "[outsourcing](#)".^{[1][2][3]} In contrast to outsourcing, crowdsourcing usually involves less specific and more public groups of participants.^{[4][5][6]}



Crowdsourcing – Definition

- "taking a task traditionally performed by an employee or contractor, and **outsourcing** it to an undefined, generally large group of people or community in the form of an open call"
- [<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crowdsourcing>]

Crowdsourcing – Definition

- "The practice of obtaining needed services, ideas, or content by soliciting contributions from a large group of people and especially from the online community rather than from traditional employees or suppliers"
- [Merriam-Webster]

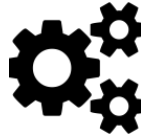
Crowdsourcing – Definition

- "Simply defined, crowdsourcing represents the act of a company or institution taking a function once performed by employees and outsourcing it to an undefined (and generally large) network of people in the form of an **open call**. This can take the form of peer-production (when the job is performed **collaboratively**), but is also open undertaken by sole **individuals**. The crucial prerequisite is the use of the open call format and the **large network of potential laborers**."
- [Howe, 2006]

Motivation / Justification

- So, we propose to crowdsource truthfulness assessment
- Does it make sense, and why?
 - In principle

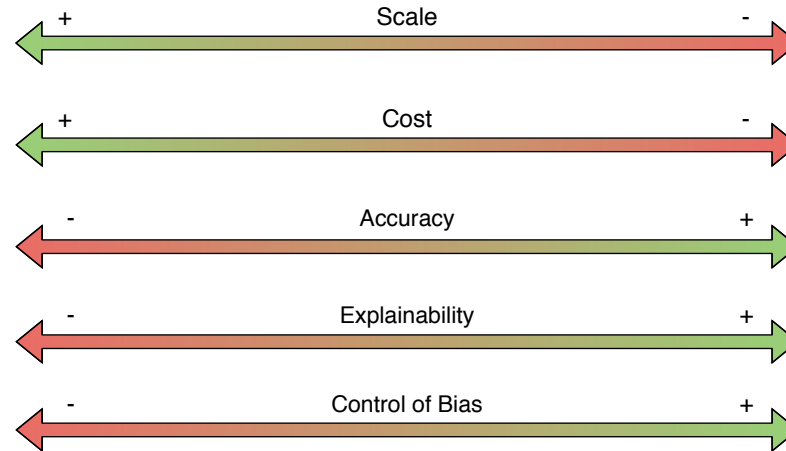
AI vs. Experts



AI Tools

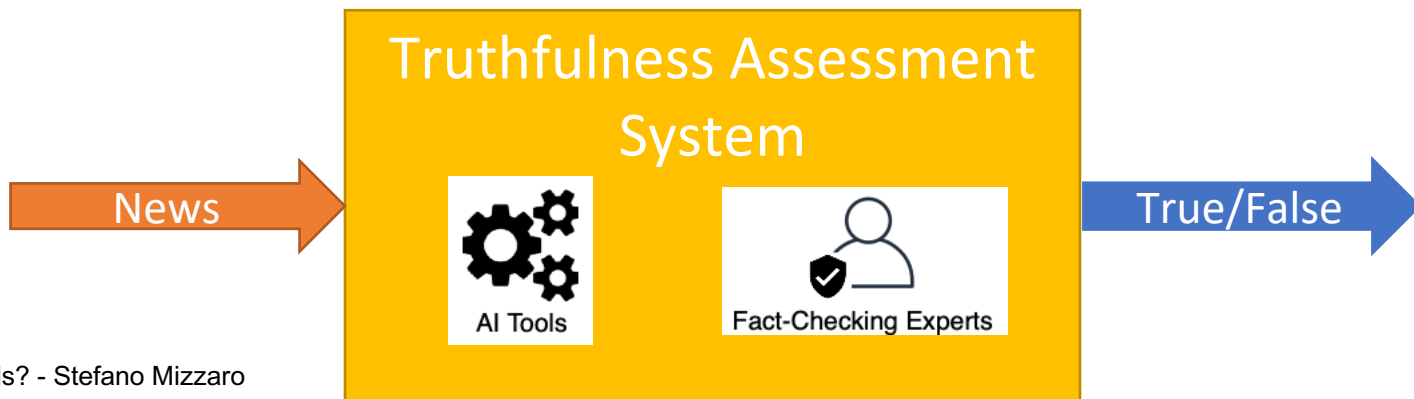


Fact-Checking Experts

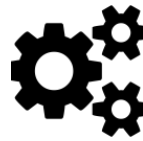


AI + Experts

- Stage 1: AI
 - Output: Truthfulness value + Confidence
 - (+ more: explanations...)
- Stage 2 (if low Confidence): Experts
 - Output: Truthfulness value + Confidence
 - (+ more: explanations, motivations, ...)



AI vs. Crowd vs. Experts



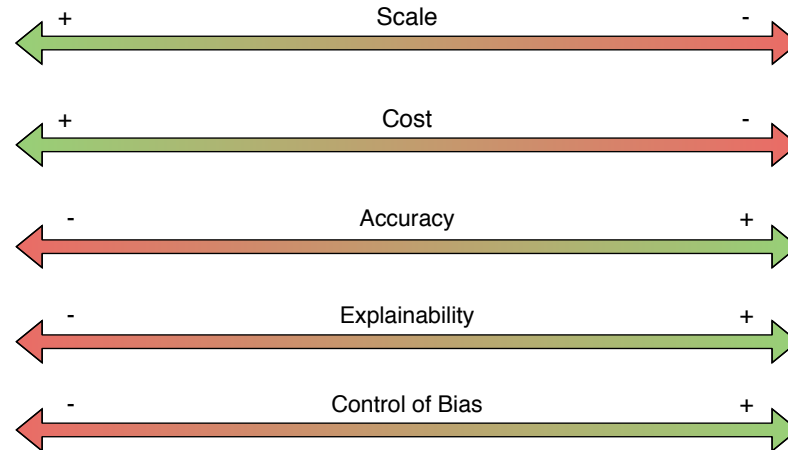
AI Tools



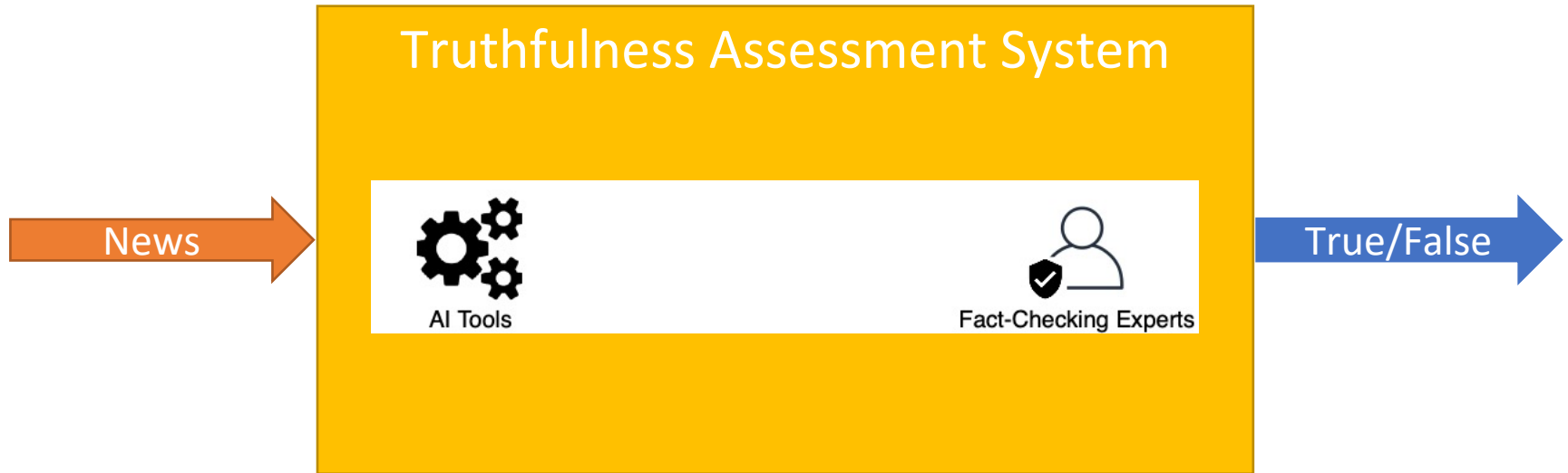
Crowdsourced Workers



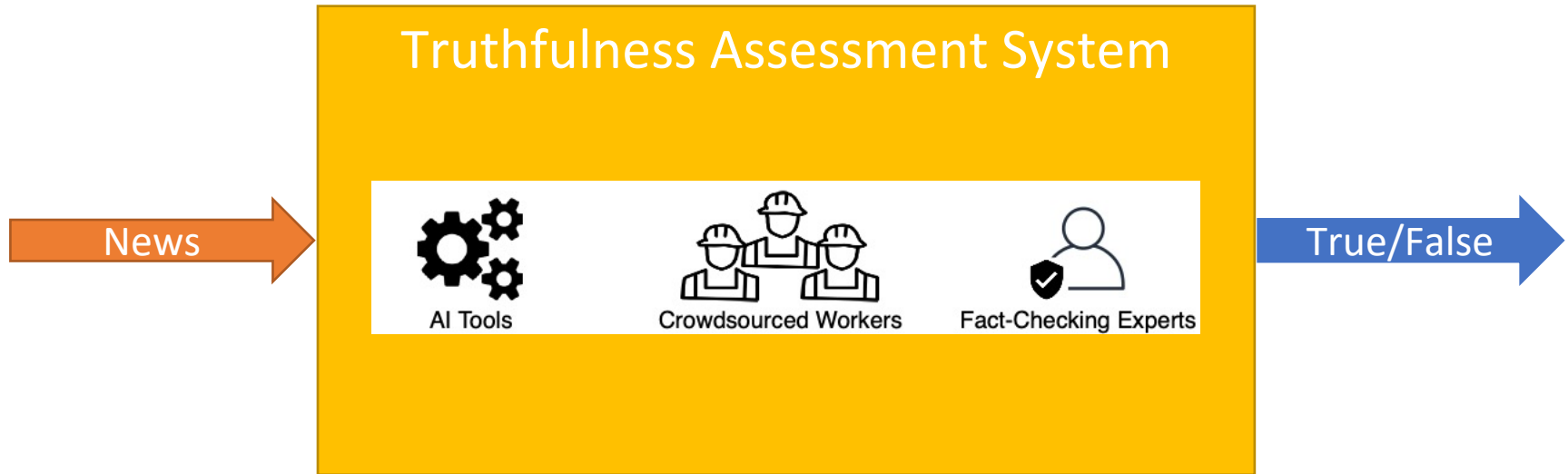
Fact-Checking Experts



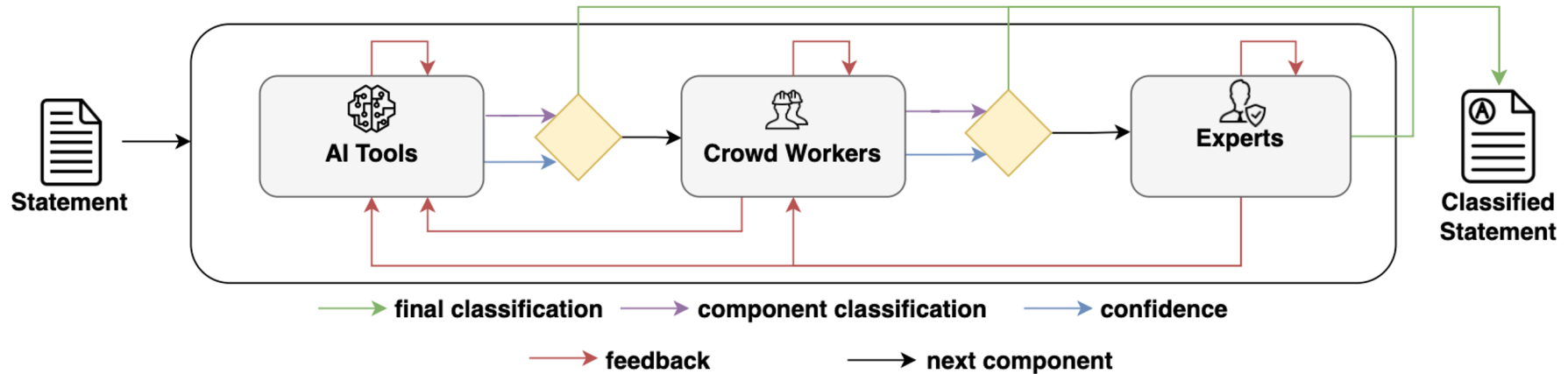
AI + Crowd + Experts



AI + Crowd + Experts



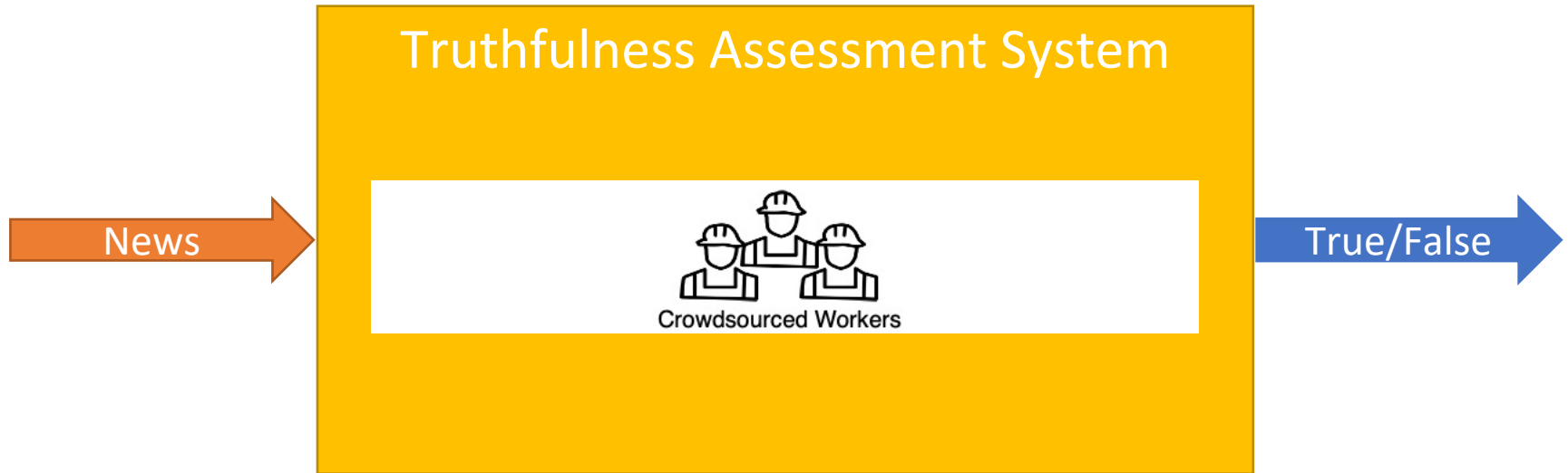
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AI + Crowd + Experts

- Stage 1: AI
 - Output: Truthfulness value + Confidence
 - (+ more: explanations...)
- Stage 2 (if low Confidence): Crowd
 - Output: Truthfulness value + Confidence
 - (+ more: explanations, motivations, ...)
- Stage 3 (if low Confidence): Experts
 - Output: Truthfulness value + Confidence
 - (+ more: explanations, motivations, ...)

AI + Crowd + Experts



Main RQ

- Can the crowd be put in the right conditions to assess truthfulness?

Overall approach

- We take some statements with ground truth
- We ask crowd workers to assess the truthfulness
 - In a sort of "controlled" situation
- We compute agreement with ground truth
- (several variations / versions)

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Experimental design (one version)

- Crowdsourcing platform:
 - Amazon's Mechanical Turk
 - Prolific
- Each worker judges the truthfulness of 8 (6 + 2) statements
 - (randomization to avoid bias)
- Redundancy
 - Each statement judged by 10 workers
- Quality checks:
 - 2 statements are equal for all workers: one clearly true and one clearly false
 - Time, Actions
 - ...

Experimental design (one version)

- Datasets

- Politifact
- (But not only)

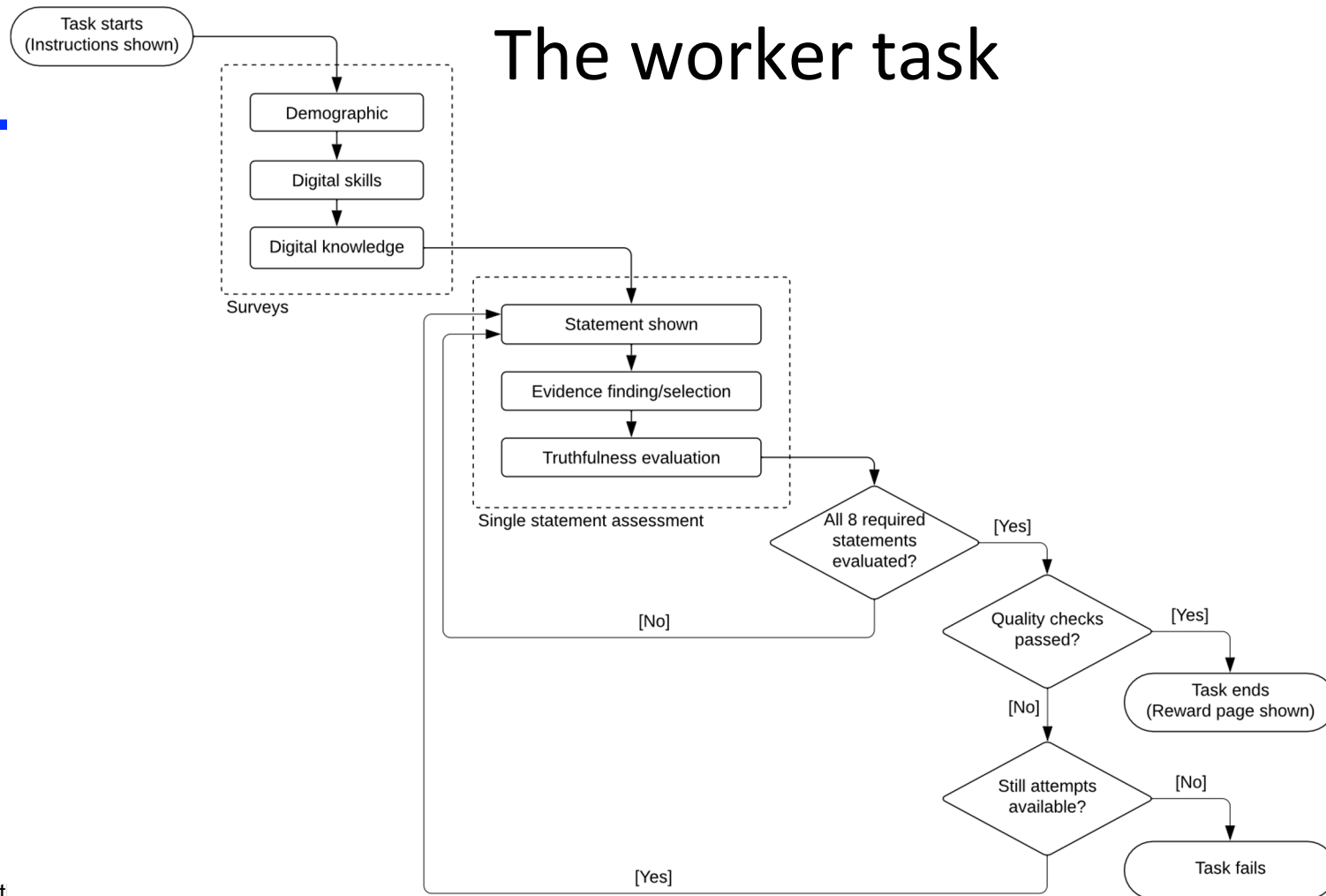
- In total

- 120 statements, 20 for each Politifact category (+ the two for quality check)
- $120 / 6 * 10 = 200$ workers, each expressing 8 assessments, 1,600 assessments in total

- We also ask for evidence

- Custom search engine to avoid workers finding Politifact pages with evidence

The worker task



Screenshots – What the workers are doing

TASK INSTRUCTIONS

NO RETAKES

Instructions

In this task, you will be asked to select a value to indicate the **truthfulness level** of some statements.

We will show you **8 statements** made by popular people (for example, political figures) together with the information of who made the statement and in which date. For each statement, we ask you to tell us its "truth level", that is, **how much the statement represents the reality**; how reliable it is. Note that the statement has really been made by the speaker, we are not discussing that: it is the **truthfulness of the content** of the statement that has to be judged. The truth level must be selected among 6 different labels. For example, if the statement totally represents reality you should select "True", while if it is false you should select "Lie".

Note that there are some checks throughout the task, and if you do not perform these correctly you will not be able to terminate and get paid. The data from this task is being gathered for research purposes. No personally-identifying information is recorded. Participation is entirely voluntary, and you are free to discontinue at any point.

Task Description

First, you will be asked to fill in four questionnaires that will help us collect more reliable data.

You will then be asked to rate 8 statements, each of them expressed by a person in a given context. You will be shown the 8 statements, one at a time. For each statement, your task is **to judge the truthfulness and validity of the statement** using the radio buttons. If you wish to change a previously given judgment, you can use the back button to revisit it.

For each judgment, you will also be asked to **provide a URL and a short text to justify your selection** by using our search engine. You will have to choose one of the URLs provided as result to your search queries by such search engine. Finally, you will have to **fill a textarea with your justification**.

The statements are not presented in any particular order. You might see many good statements, many bad ones, or any combination. Try not to anticipate, and simply rate each statement after reading it. Don't try to guess or randomly click, as there are some cross-checks, as indicated above. **Be sure you have filled each field**, otherwise you will not be able to finish the task.

CLOSE

1

Questionna...

2

Questionna...

3

Questionna...

4

Questionna...

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Docume...

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11

Docume...

12

Docume...

13

Outco...

Please answer each question

1) What is your age range?

- ☐ 0-18
- ☒ 19-25
- ☐ 26-35
- ☐ 36-50
- ☐ 50-80
- ☐ 80

2) What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?

- ☐ High school incomplete or less
- ☒ High school graduate or GED (includes technical/vocational training that doesn't towards college credit)
- ☐ Some college (some community college, associate's degree)
- ☐ Four year college degree/bachelor's degree
- ☐ Some postgraduate or professional schooling, no postgraduate degree
- ☐ Postgraduate or professional degree, including master's, doctorate, medical or law degree

3) Last year what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes?

- ☐ Less than 10,000
- ☒ 10,000 to less than 20,000
- ☐ 20,000 to less than 30,000
- ☐ 30,000 to less than 40,000
- ☐ 40,000 to less than 50,000
- ☐ 50,000 to less than 75,000
- ☐ 75,000 to less than 100,000
- ☐ 100,000 to less than 150,000
- ☐ 150,000 or more

4) In general, would you describe your political views as

- ☐ Very conservative
- ☐ Conservative

- ☐ Some postgraduate or professional schooling, no postgraduate degree
- ☐ Postgraduate or professional degree, including master's, doctorate, medical or law degree

3) Last year what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes?

- ☐ Less than 10,000
- ☒ 10,000 to less than 20,000
- ☐ 20,000 to less than 30,000
- ☐ 30,000 to less than 40,000
- ☐ 40,000 to less than 50,000
- ☐ 50,000 to less than 75,000
- ☐ 75,000 to less than 100,000
- ☐ 100,000 to less than 150,000
- ☐ 150,000 or more

4) In general, would you describe your political views as

- ☐ Very conservative
- ☐ Conservative
- ☐ Moderate
- ☐ Liberal
- ☒ Very liberal

5) In politics today, do you consider yourself a

- ☐ Republican
- ☐ Democrat
- ☒ Independent
- ☐ Something else

6) Should the U.S. build a wall along the southern border?

- ☐ Agree
- ☒ Disagree
- ☐ No opinion either way

7) Should the government increase environmental regulations to prevent climate change?

- ☒ Agree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ No opinion either way

NEXT

(*) you have to fill each field to proceed

TASK INSTRUCTIONS

NO RETAKES



Questionnai...

2

Questionnai...

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Questionnai...

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Questionnai...

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Docume...

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Docume...

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Outco...

Please answer each question

1) If three farmers can plant three trees in three hours, how long would it take nine farmers to plant nine trees?

3

NEXT

(*) you have to fill each field to proceed

TASK INSTRUCTIONS

NO RETAKES



Questionnai...



Questionnai...

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Outco...

Please answer each question

1) Sean received both the 5th highest and the 5th lowest mark in the class. How many students are there in the class?

9

NEXT

(*) you have to fill each field to proceed

TASK INSTRUCTIONS

NO RETAKES



Questionnai...



Questionnai...



Questionnai...



Questionnai...



Docume...



Docume...



Docume...



Docume...



Docume...



Docume...



Docume...



Docume...



Outco...

Please answer each question

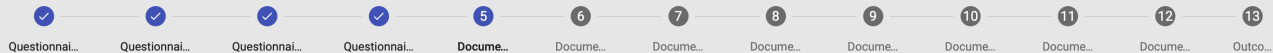
1) In an athletics team, females are four times more likely to win a medal than males. This year the team has won 20 medals so far. How many of these have been won by males?

4



NEXT

(*) you have to fill each field to proceed



Please judge the truthfulness of the following statement

Claimant/Source: Facebook Post

Date: 2020-02-04

Statement: On February 7, the WHO warned about the limited stock of PPE. That same day, the Trump administration announced it was sending 18 tons of masks, gowns and respirators to China.

Please select one of the URLs below to justify the truthfulness value of the statement, then input the truth level as one from the six labels provided and write your justification.

SEARCH

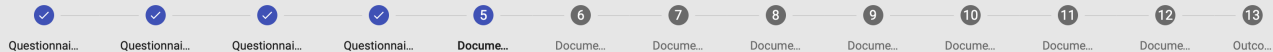
0 results found.

- ☐ Lie
- ☐ False
- ☐ Barely True
- ☐ Half True
- ☐ Mostly True
- ☐ True

Your justification here

NEXT

(*) you have to fill each field to proceed



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Insert your query

February 7 WHO limited stock of PPE trump

SEARCH

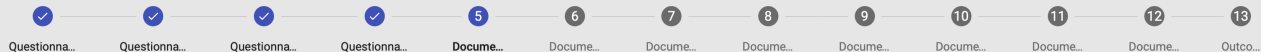
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Insert your query

February 7 WHO limited stock of PPE trump

SEARCH

46 results found.

[Did the Trump Administration Send 18 Tons of PPE to China...](https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/us-tons-ppe-china/)

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/us-tons-ppe-china/>

Did the Trump Administration Send 18 Tons of PPE to China in Early 2020? ... of PPE are not new. Back on February 7, the World Health Organization sounded alarm bells about "the limited stock of ...

Select ☐

[Trump administration sent protective medical gear to China...](https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/trump-administration-sent-protective-medical-gear-to-china-while-he-was-minimizing-the-virus-threat-to-us/ar-BB11SSuo)

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/trump-administration-sent-protective-medical-gear-to-china-while-he-was-minimizing-the-virus-threat-to-us/ar-BB11SSuo>

Concerns about a dwindling supply of PPE are not new. Back on February 7, the World Health Organization sounded alarm bells about "the limited stock of PPE," noting demand was 100 times higher ...

Select ☐

[Trump admin sent medical gear to China while he minimized ...](https://dnyuz.com/2020/03/30/trump-admin-sent-medical-gear-to-china-while-he-minimized-the-virus-threat-to-us/)

<https://dnyuz.com/2020/03/30/trump-admin-sent-medical-gear-to-china-while-he-minimized-the-virus-threat-to-us/>

Concerns about a dwindling supply of PPE are not new. Back on February 7, the World Health Organization sounded alarm bells about "the limited stock of PPE," noting demand was 100 times higher than normal for this equipment... Yet the same day as the WHO warning, the Trump administration announced that it was transporting to China nearly 17.8 tons (more than 35,000 pounds) of "masks ...

Select ☐

[America Has PPE Shortage Because Trump Sent Ours to China...](https://www.themanyuse.com/shortage-of-ppe-because-trump-sent-our-stockpile-to-china/)

<https://www.themanyuse.com/shortage-of-ppe-because-trump-sent-our-stockpile-to-china/>

America Has a Shortage of PPE Because Trump Sent Our Stockpile to China Among all of Trump's poor decisions, this might be the deadliest.

Select ☐

[Reports that Trump sent PPE equipment to China Feb 4...](https://2peasrefugees.boards.net/thread/104967/reports-trump-sent-equipment-china)

<https://2peasrefugees.boards.net/thread/104967/reports-trump-sent-equipment-china>

There are reports that Trump sent 17.8 tons of PPE equipment to China on February 4. (tweet from Pompeo @secretary Pompeo February 7. There are also reports that Ottawa

Select ☐

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Fact Checks › Politics

Did the Trump Administration Send 18 Tons of PPE to China in Early 2020?

Critics have questioned the wisdom of exporting to China medical supplies that would soon be vitally needed in the U.S.

DAVID MIKKELSON

PUBLISHED 31 MARCH 2020

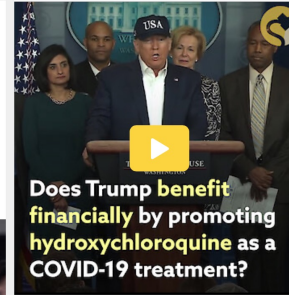


Image via Getty Images



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The U.S. president is invested in several mutual funds — some of which include very minor stakes in pharmaceutical companies.

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AN APPLE PARTNER PROGRAM

AD - ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW

Claim

The U.S. facilitated the sending of nearly 17.8 tons of donated medical supplies to China to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus in early 2020.

Rating



True

About this rating [🔗](#)

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AD - ARTICLE CONTINUES BELOW

Origin

As governments fight the COVID-19 pandemic, Snopes is **fighting** an “infodemic” of rumors and misinformation, and you can help. **Read** our coronavirus fact checks. **Submit** any questionable rumors and “advice” you encounter. **Become a Founding Member** to help us hire more fact-checkers. And, please, follow the **CDC** or **WHO** for guidance on protecting your community from the disease.

During the COVID-19 coronavirus disease pandemic in March 2020, social media users began **sharing** a tweet ostensibly posted by U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) that



Did Bill Gates Admit Vaccinations Are Designed So Governments Can Depopulate the World?



Does Ivanka Trump Hold a Trademark on Coffins in China?



Did Michigan's Governor Ban the Sale of American Flags?



Is Bill Gates Being Sued by India Over Vaccination Deaths?

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Did Michigan's Governor Ban the Sale of American Flags?



Is Bill Gates Being Sued by India Over Vaccination Deaths?

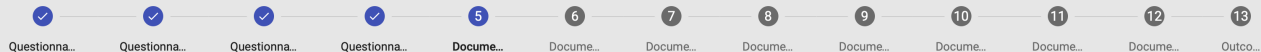
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Please judge the truthfulness of the following statement

Claimant/Source: Facebook Post

Date: 2020-02-04

Statement: On February 7, the WHO warned about the limited stock of PPE. That same day, the Trump administration announced it was sending 18 tons of masks, gowns and respirators to China.

Please select one of the URLs below to justify the truthfulness value of the statement, then input the truth level as one from the six labels provided and write your justification.

Insert your query

February 7 WHO limited stock of PPE trump

SEARCH

46 results found.

[Did the Trump Administration Send 18 Tons of PPE to China...](https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/us-tons-ppe-china/)

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/us-tons-ppe-china/>

Did the Trump Administration Send 18 Tons of PPE to China in Early 2020? ... of PPE are not new. Back on February 7, the World Health Organization sounded alarm bells about "the limited stock of ...

Select ☒

[Trump administration sent protective medical gear to China...](https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/trump-administration-sent-protective-medical-gear-to-china-while-he-was-minimizing-the-virus-threat-to-us/ar-BB11SSuo)

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/health/medical/trump-administration-sent-protective-medical-gear-to-china-while-he-was-minimizing-the-virus-threat-to-us/ar-BB11SSuo>

Concerns about a dwindling supply of PPE are not new. Back on February 7, the World Health Organization sounded alarm bells about "the limited stock of PPE," noting demand was 100 times higher ...

Select ☐

[Trump admin sent medical gear to China while he minimized ...](https://dnyuz.com/2020/03/30/trump-admin-sent-medical-gear-to-china-while-he-minimized-the-virus-threat-to-us/)

<https://dnyuz.com/2020/03/30/trump-admin-sent-medical-gear-to-china-while-he-minimized-the-virus-threat-to-us/>

Concerns about a dwindling supply of PPE are not new. Back on February 7, the World Health Organization sounded alarm bells about "the limited stock of PPE," noting demand was 100 times higher than normal for this equipment... Yet the same day as the WHO warning, the Trump administration announced that it was transporting to China nearly 17.8 tons (more than 35,000 pounds) of "masks ...

Select ☐

[America Has PPE Shortage Because Trump Sent Ours to China...](https://www.themanyuse.com/shortage-of-ppe-because-trump-sent-our-stockpile-to-china/)

<https://www.themanyuse.com/shortage-of-ppe-because-trump-sent-our-stockpile-to-china/>

America Has a Shortage of PPE Because Trump Sent Our Stockpile to China Among all of Trump's poor decisions, this might be the deadliest.

Select ☐

[Reports that Trump sent PPE equipment to China Feb 4...](https://2peasrefugees.boards.net/thread/104967/reports-trump-sent-equipment-china)

<https://2peasrefugees.boards.net/thread/104967/reports-trump-sent-equipment-china>

There are reports that Trump sent 17.8 tons of PPE equipment to China on February 4. (tweet from Pompeo @secretary Pompeo February 7. There are also reports that Ottawa

Select ☐

[Reports that Trump sent PPE equipment to China Feb 4...](#)

<https://2peasrefugees.boards.net/thread/104967/reports-trump-sent-equipment-china>

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Select ☐

[Sick of the Slant - A Fair Look at the News of the Day...](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/SickOfTheSlant/posts/>

(Albert) "On February 7, the (World Health Organization) warned about the limited stock of PPE. That same day, the Trump administration announced it was sending 18 tons of masks, gowns and respirators to China.

Select ☐

[CNN - Breaking News, Latest News and Videos](#)

https://lite.cnn.com/en/article/h_c9ec764aa333434b8543e28250957b40

Back on February 7, the World Health Organization sounded alarm bells about "the limited stock of PPE," noting demand was 100 times higher than normal for this equipment. Yet the same day as the WHO warning, the Trump administration announced that it was transporting to China nearly 17.8 tons (more than 35,000 pounds) of "masks, gowns, gauze ...

Select ☐

[Why did Trump send 18 tons of medical equipment to China...](#)

<https://247sports.com/college/texas-tech/board/102960/Contents/why-did-trump-send-18-tons-of-medical-equipment-to-china-145529702/?page=1>

Why did Trump send 18 tons of medical equipment to China...

Select ☐

[Trump Sends 35,000 Pounds of PPE to China | GopherHole...](#)

<https://www.forums.gopherhole.com/boards/threads/trump-sends-35-000-pounds-of-ppe-to-china.95940/>

Trump Sends 35,000 Pounds of PPE to China. Thread starter stocker08; Start date 25 minutes ago; stocker08 Well-known member. Joined Feb 2, 2009 Messages 18,001 Reaction score 261 Points 83. 25 minutes ago #1 Why is this being glossed over? Trump has been a complete fool throughout this entire debacle. He's minimized this every step of the way ...

Select ☐

[US Shipping China Covid 19 Medical Supplies?](#)

<https://www.debatepolitics.com/covid-19-coronavirus-disease/392029-us-shipping-china-covid-19-medical-supplies.html>

Concerns about a dwindling supply of PPE are not new. Back on February 7, the World Health Organization sounded alarm bells about "the limited stock of PPE," noting demand was 100 times higher than normal for this equipment. Yet the same day as the WHO warning, the Trump administration announced that it was transporting to China nearly 17.8 ...

Select ☐

Items per page:

1 - 10 of 46



- ☐ Lie
- ☐ False
- ☐ Barely True
- ☐ Half True
- ☐ Mostly True
- ☒ True

Your justification here

NEXT

(*) you have to fill each field to proceed

[Reports that Trump sent PPE equipment to China Feb 4...](#)

<https://2peasrefugees.boards.net/thread/104967/reports-trump-sent-equipment-china>

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Select ☐

[Sick of the Slant - A Fair Look at the News of the Day...](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/SickOfTheSlant/posts/>

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Select ☐

[CNN - Breaking News, Latest News and Videos](#)

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Select ☐

[Why did Trump send 18 tons of medical equipment to China...](#)

<https://247sports.com/college/texas-tech/board/102960/Contents/why-did-trump-send-18-tons-of-medical-equipment-to-china-145529702/?page=1>

Why did Trump send 18 tons of medical equipment to China...

Select ☐

[Trump Sends 35,000 Pounds of PPE to China | GopherHole...](#)

<https://www.forums.gopherhole.com/boards/threads/trump-sends-35-000-pounds-of-ppe-to-china.95940/>

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Select ☐

Items per page:

1 - 10 of 46



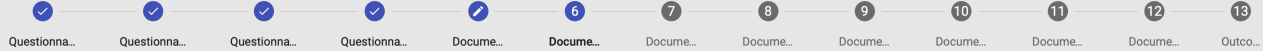
- ☐ Lie
- ☐ False
- ☐ Barely True
- ☐ Half True
- ☐ Mostly True
- ☒ True

[Your justification here](#)

The U.S. facilitated the sending of nearly 17.8 tons of donated medical supplies to China to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus in early 2020.

NEXT

(*) you have to fill each field to proceed



Please judge the truthfulness of the following statement

Claimant/Source: Abraham Lincoln

Date: 2020-04-01

Statement: If I were not a Formula One pilot, I would be a football player.

Please select one of the URLs below to justify the truthfulness value of the statement, then input the truth level as one from the six labels provided and write your justification.

Insert your query

Abraham Lincoln

SEARCH

49 results found.

[Abraham Lincoln - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln)

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809, the second child of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks Lincoln, in a one-room log cabin on Sinking Spring Farm near Hodgenville, Kentucky. 20–22 He was a descendant of Samuel Lincoln, an Englishman who migrated from Hingham, Norfolk, to its namesake, Hingham, Massachusetts, in 1638.

Select ☒

[Abraham Lincoln - Facts, Birthday & Assassination - HISTORY](https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/abraham-lincoln)

<https://www.history.com/topics/us-presidents/abraham-lincoln>

Abraham Lincoln, a self-taught lawyer, legislator and vocal opponent of slavery, was elected 16th president of the United States in November 1860, shortly before the outbreak of the Civil War. He ...

Select ☐

[Abraham Lincoln | Biography, Facts, History, & Childhood...](https://www.britannica.com/biography/Abraham-Lincoln)

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Abraham-Lincoln>

Abraham Lincoln was a member of the Whig Party and later a Republican. He believed that the government's job was to do what a community of people could not do for themselves. One of his greatest preoccupations as a political thinker was the issue of self-governance and the promise and problems that could arise from it.

Select ☐

[Abraham Lincoln | The White House](https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/abraham-lincoln/)

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/abraham-lincoln/>

Abraham Lincoln became the United States' 16th President in 1861, issuing the Emancipation Proclamation that declared forever free those slaves within the Confederacy in 1863. Lincoln warned the ...

Select ☐

[Abraham Lincoln Facts for Kids](https://kids.kiddle.co/Abraham_Lincoln)

https://kids.kiddle.co/Abraham_Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln (February 12 1809 – April 15 1865) was the 16th President of the United States. He served as president from 1861 to 1865, during the American Civil War. Just five days after most of the Confederate forces had surrendered and the war was ending, John Wilkes Booth assassinated Lincoln. Lincoln was the first president of the United States to be assassinated.

Select ☐

[Abraham Lincoln Facts for Kids](#)

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Select ☐

[TOP 25 QUOTES BY ABRAHAM LINCOLN \(of 1141\) | A-Z Quotes](#)

https://www.azquotes.com/author/8880-Abraham_Lincoln

"Abraham Lincoln: Speeches & Writings Part 2: 1859-1865. Library of America #46", p.627, Library of America 1 Copy quote, I do the very best I can, I mean to keep going. If the end brings me out all right, then what is said against me won't matter. If I'm wrong, ten angels swearing I was right won't make a difference.

Select ☐

[Biography of Abraham Lincoln, 16th U.S. President](#)

<https://www.thoughtco.com/abraham-lincoln-16th-president-united-states-104273>

Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809–April 15, 1865) was the 16th president of the United States, serving from 1861 to 1865. During his time in office, the nation fought the Civil War, which claimed hundreds of thousands of lives. One of Lincoln's greatest accomplishments was the abolition of slavery in 1864.

Select ☐

[50 interesting facts about Abraham Lincoln's life ...](#)

<https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/50-shades-of-abraham-lincoln-2/>

Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president, has a birthday today. If you are a Lincoln fan, here are some cool facts, including Lincoln's career as an inventor, his love of animals, and his one losing appearance before the Supreme Court.

Select ☐

[Abraham Lincoln's Assassination - HISTORY](#)

<https://www.history.com/topics/american-civil-war/abraham-lincoln-assassination>

Abraham Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln, a self-taught lawyer, legislator and vocal opponent of slavery, was elected 16th president of the United States in November 1860, shortly before the outbreak of ...

Select ☐

[Abraham Lincoln - Simple English Wikipedia, the free ...](#)

https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809 – April 15, 1865) was an American politician. He was the 16th President of the United States. He was president from 1861 to 1865, during the American Civil War. Just five days after most of the Confederate forces had surrendered and the war was ending, John Wilkes Booth assassinated Lincoln for being a tyrant. Lincoln was the first president of the United ...

Select ☐

Items per page:

1 – 10 of 49

< >

- ☒ Lie
- ☐ False
- ☐ Barely True
- ☐ Half True
- ☐ Mostly True
- ☐ True

[Your justification here](#)

Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809,

6

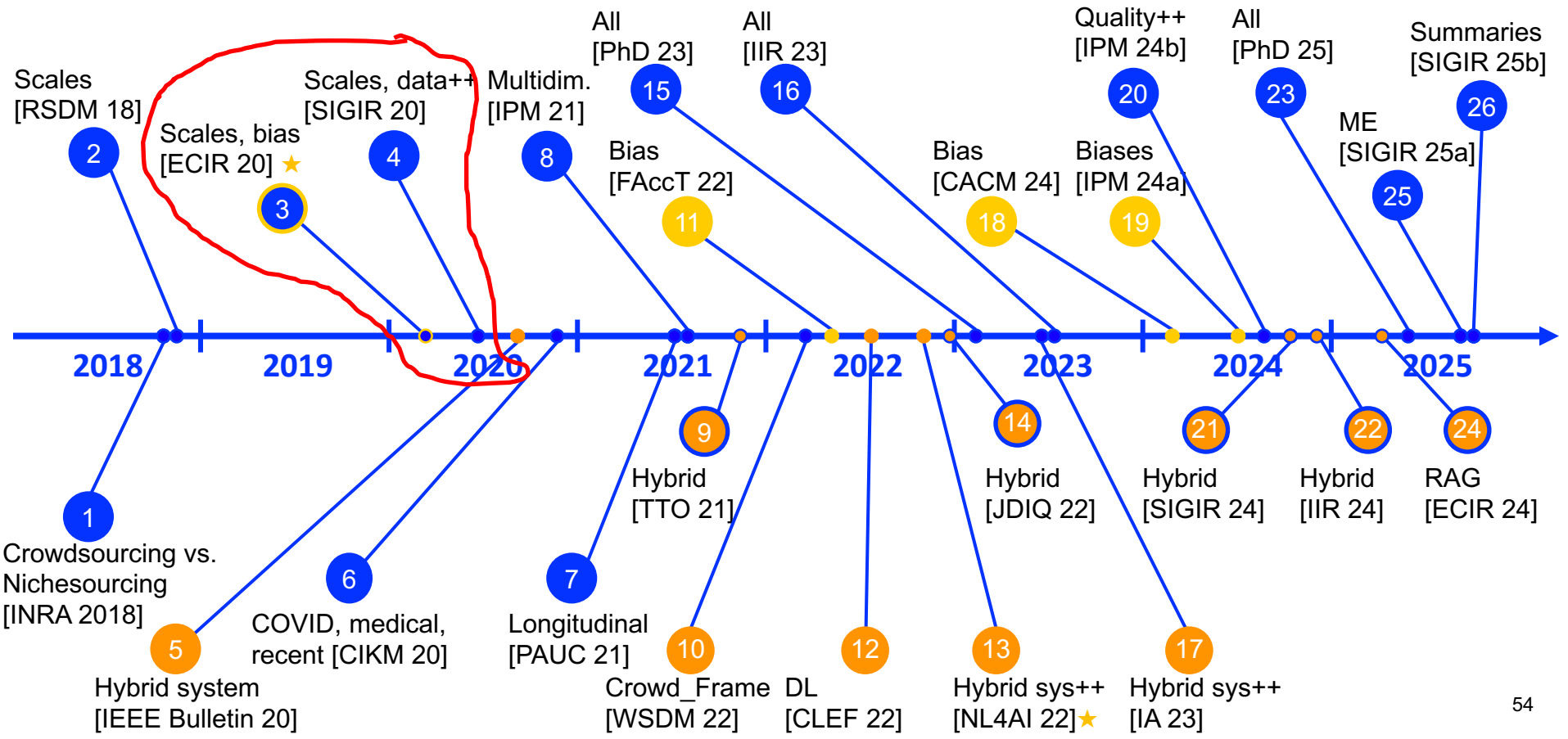
BACK

NEXT

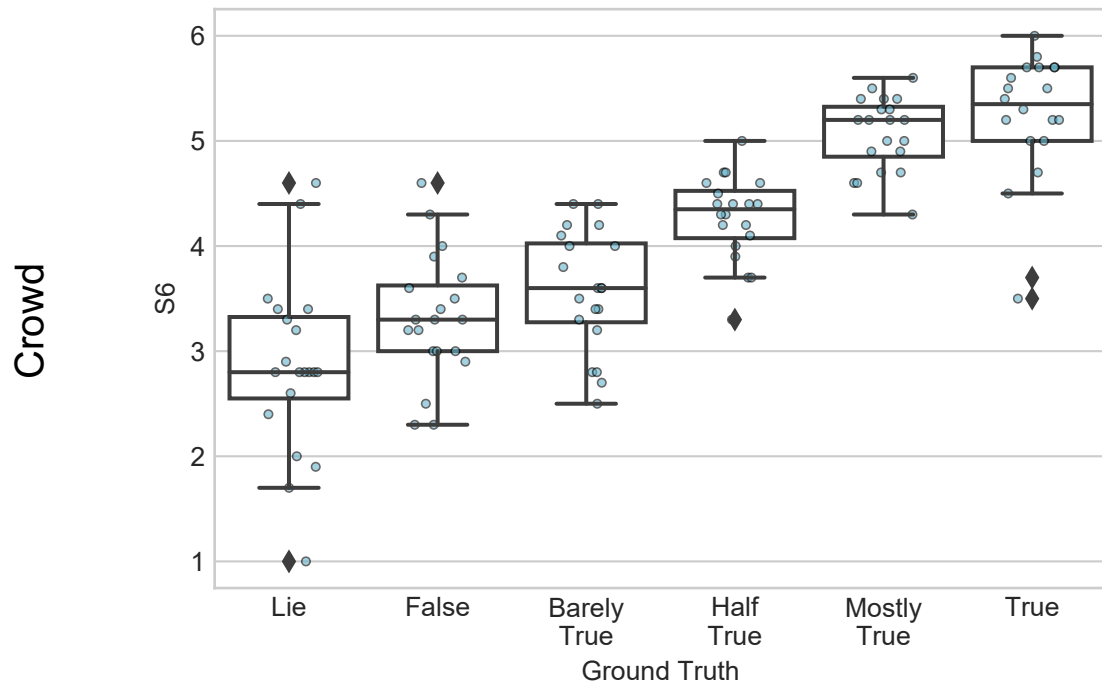
(*) you have to fill each field to proceed

Now, some results

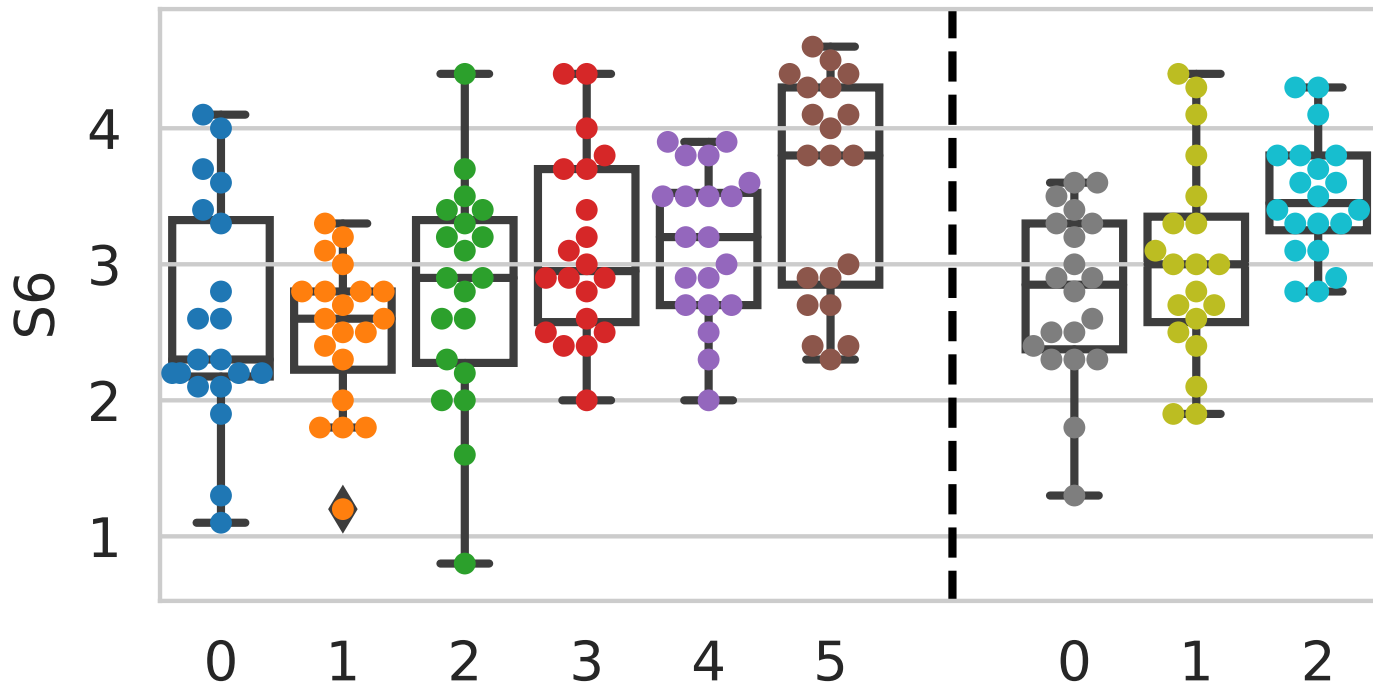
Timeline: we're here



Agreement with Ground truth 3. [ECIR 2020]



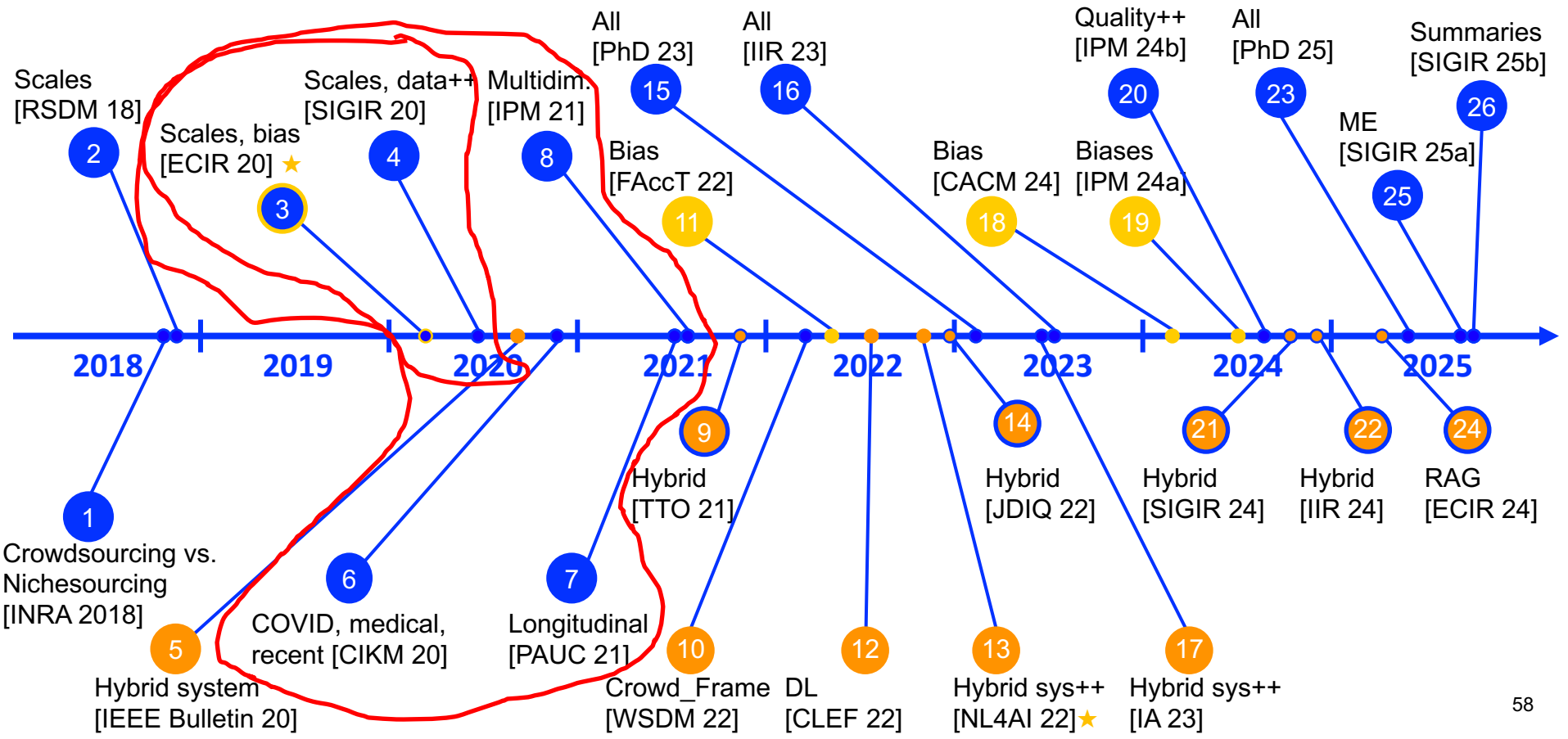
Another result 4. [SIGIR 2020]



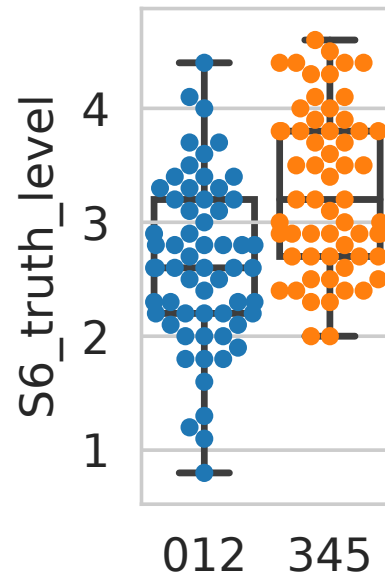
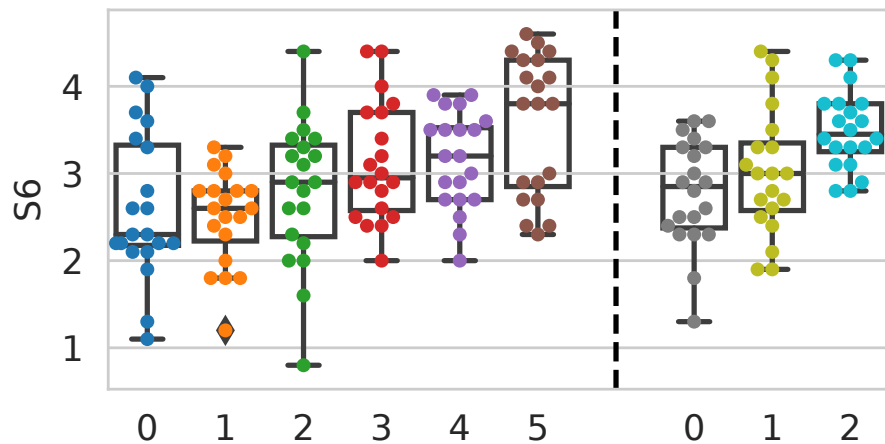
What we told ourselves

- "Increasing medians"... bla bla bla ... "there is a signal" ... bla bla bla ...
- Yes we published some papers
- And some more in the following years
 - Multidimensional scale
 - COVID-related statements (medical, recent, sensitive)
 - Longitudinal
 - ...

Timeline: we're here

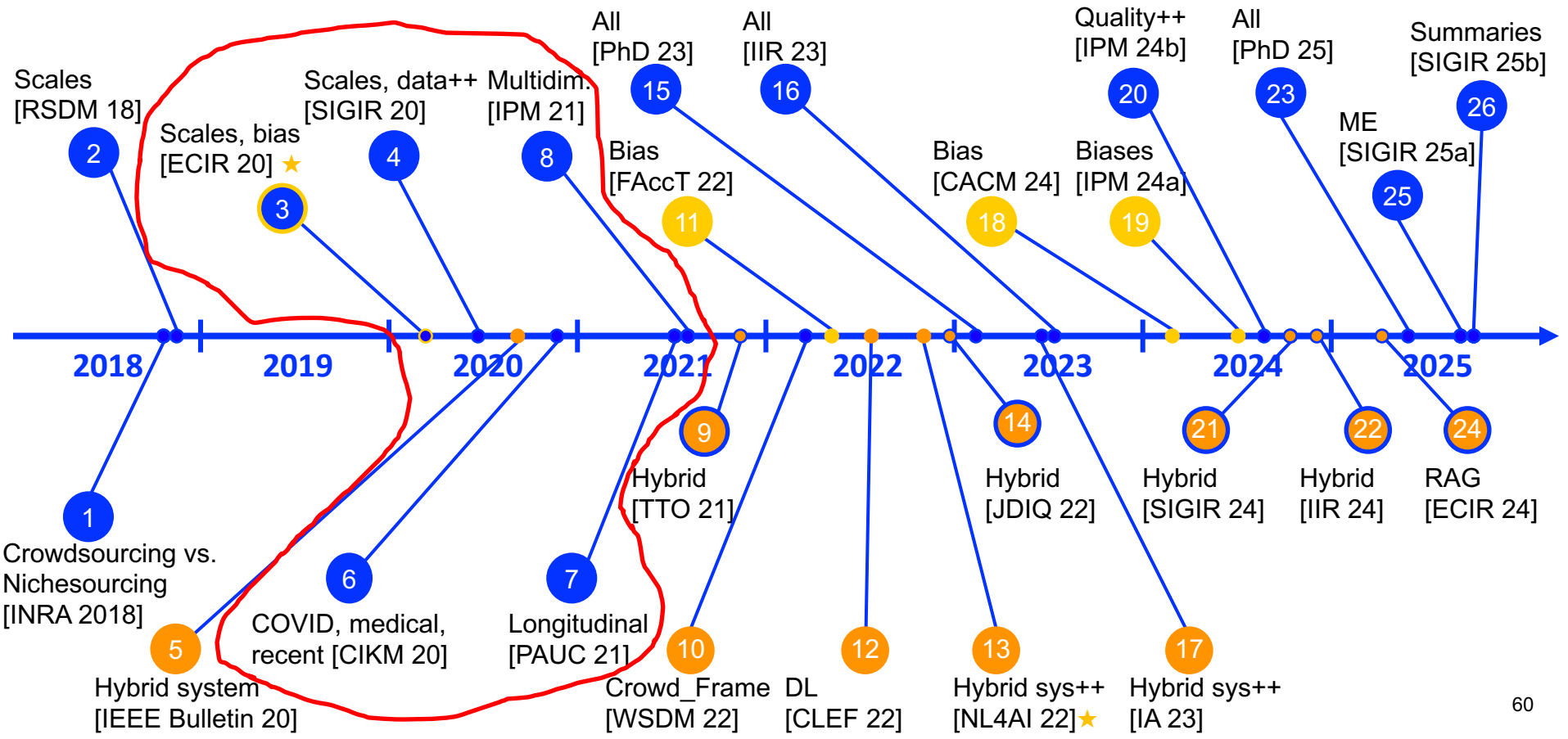


The sad truth



Binary accuracy: 0.6

We. Did. Not. Stop.



Motivation: Does crowdsourcing actually work?

Study	Binary Accuracy
3. [ECIR 2020]	0.841 (*)
4. [SIGIR 2020]	0.627
8. [IPM 2021]	0.571
11. [FAccT 2022]	0.580

(*) But the Politifact evidence was easily retrievable...

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Allen, J., Arechar, A. A., Pennycook, G., & Rand, D. G. (2021). Scaling up fact-checking using the wisdom of crowds. *Science Advances*, 7(36), eabf4393. <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.abf4393>

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Motivation: Does crowdsourcing actually work?

Study	Binary Accuracy	Method
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4. [SIGIR 2020]	0.627	
8. [IPM 2021]	0.571	
11. [FAccT 2022]	0.580	
Allen et al. (Science Advances 2021)	0.826	AI
Hu et al. (AI Open 2022)	[0.531 - 0.904]	

Allen, J., Arechar, A. A., Pennycook, G., & Rand, D. G. (2021). Scaling up fact-checking using the wisdom of crowds. *Science Advances*, 7(36), eabf4393. <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.abf4393>

Hu, L., Wei, S., Zhao, Z., & Wu, B. (2022). Deep learning for fake news detection: A comprehensive survey. *AI Open*, 3, 133–155. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aiopen.2022.09.001>

(*) But the Politifact evidence was easily retrievable...

Real motivation!

Study	Binary Accuracy	Method
3. [ECIR 2020]	0.841 (*)	Crowd
4. [SIGIR 2020]	0.627	
8. [IPM 2021]	0.571	
11. [FAccT 2022]	0.580	
Allen et al. (Science Advances 2021)	0.826	AI
Hu et al. (AI Open 2022)	[0.531 - 0.904]	

We're at 0.6,
the others (even
AI) are at 0.8,
WTF?

Allen, J., Arechar, A. A., Pennycook, G., & Rand, D. G. (2021). Scaling up fact-checking using the wisdom of crowds. *Science Advances*, 7(36), eabf4393. <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.abf4393>

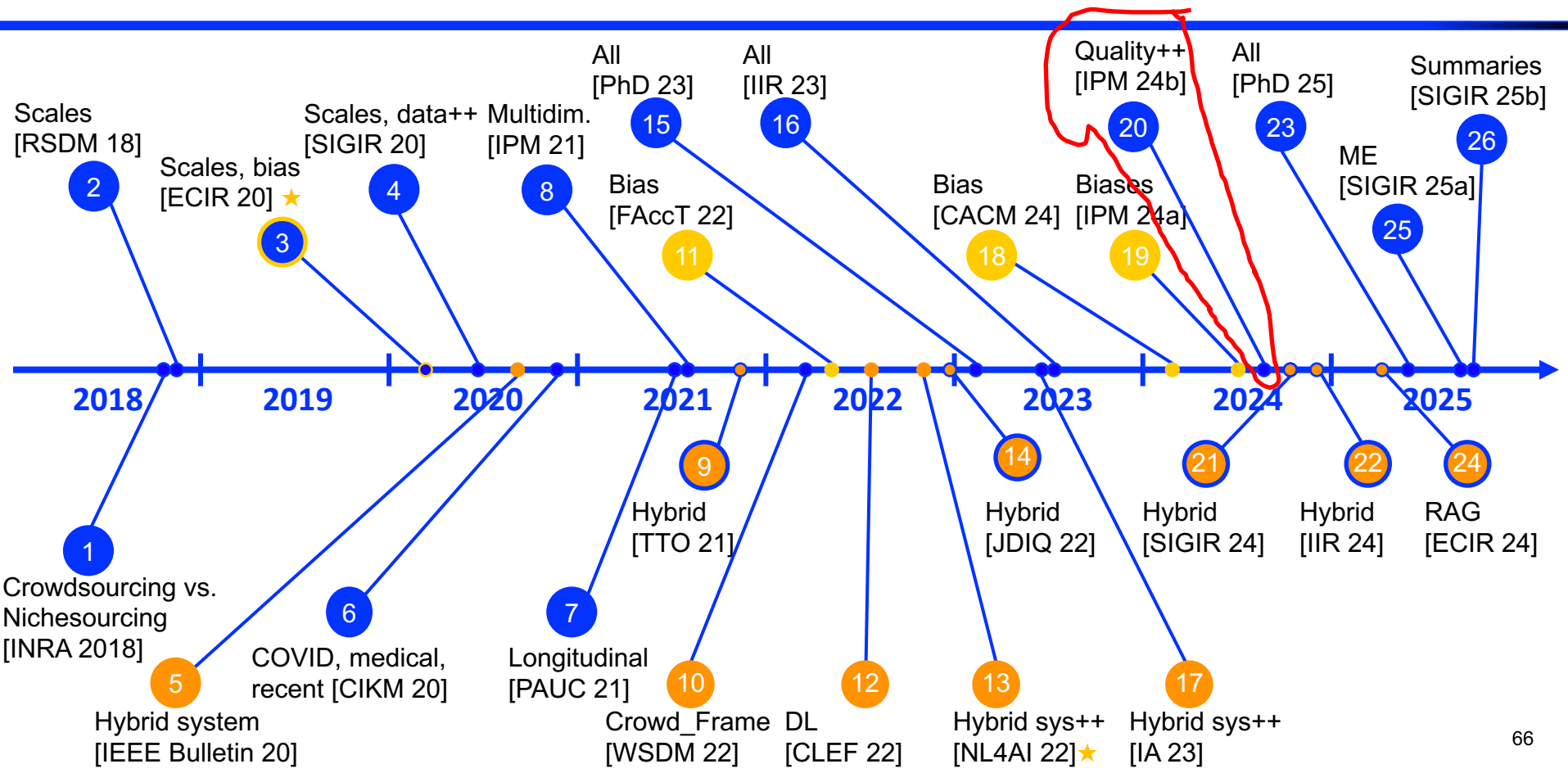
Hu, L., Wei, S., Zhao, Z., & Wu, B. (2022). Deep learning for fake news detection: A comprehensive survey. *AI Open*, 3, 133–155.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aiopen.2022.09.001>

(*) But the Politifact evidence was easily retrievable...

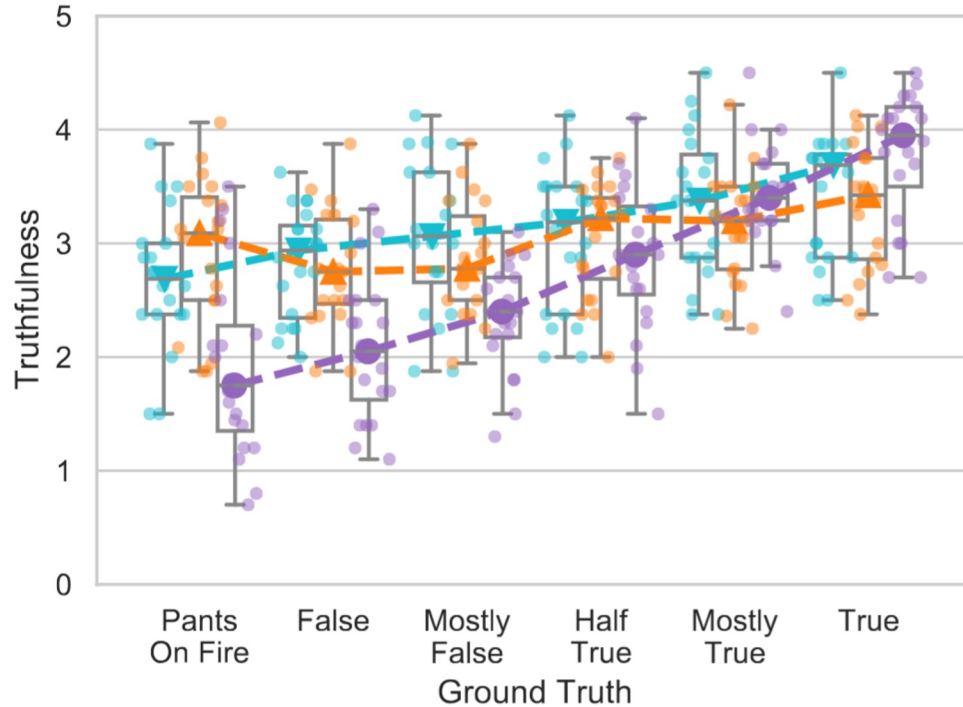
Improvements

- Better crowd
 - Amazon's Mechanical Turk → Prolific
- Better instructions
 - Rewording, shortening, more direct
- Better UI
 - Some small improvements
- (even after 5+ years of re-doing the same experiments!)

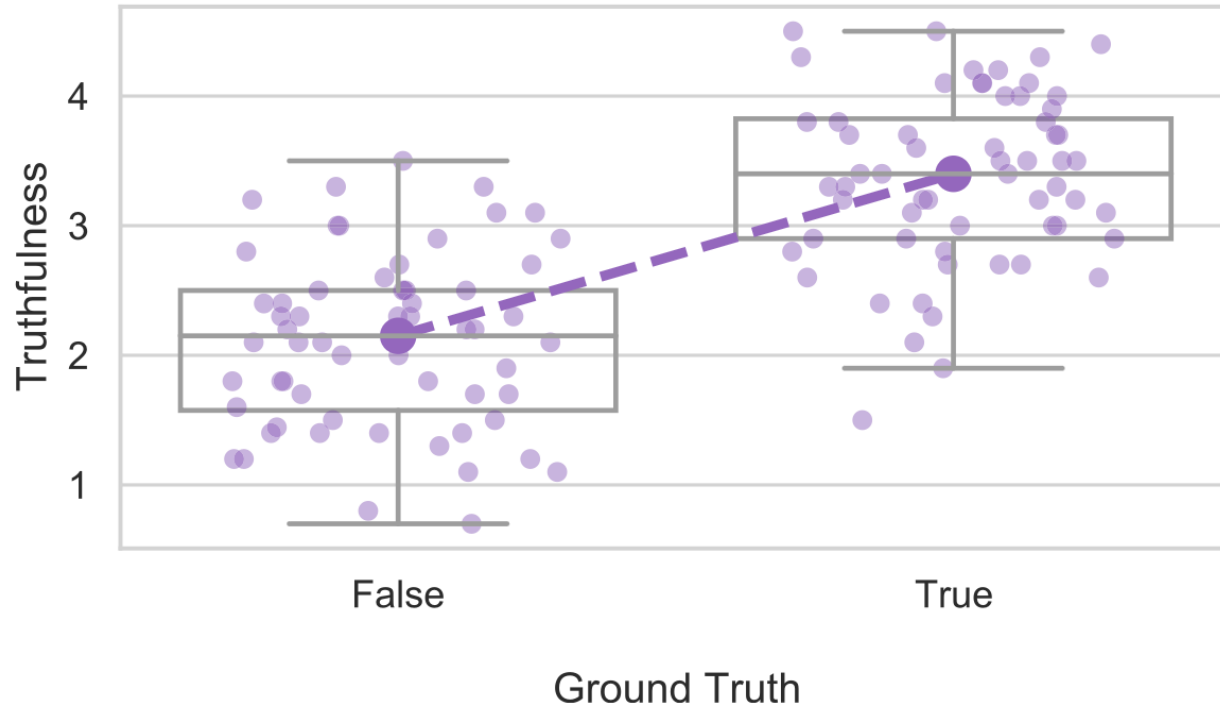
Timeline: we are here...



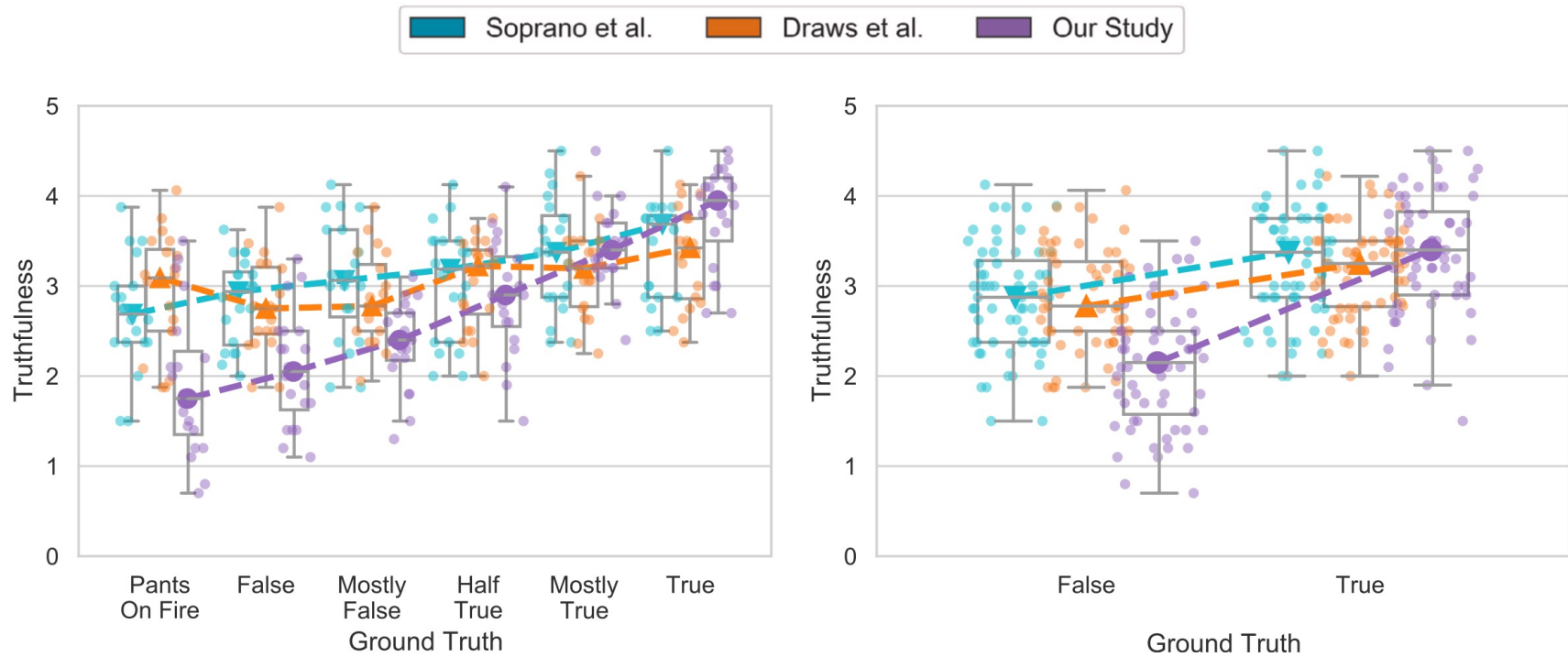
(Better) Results!



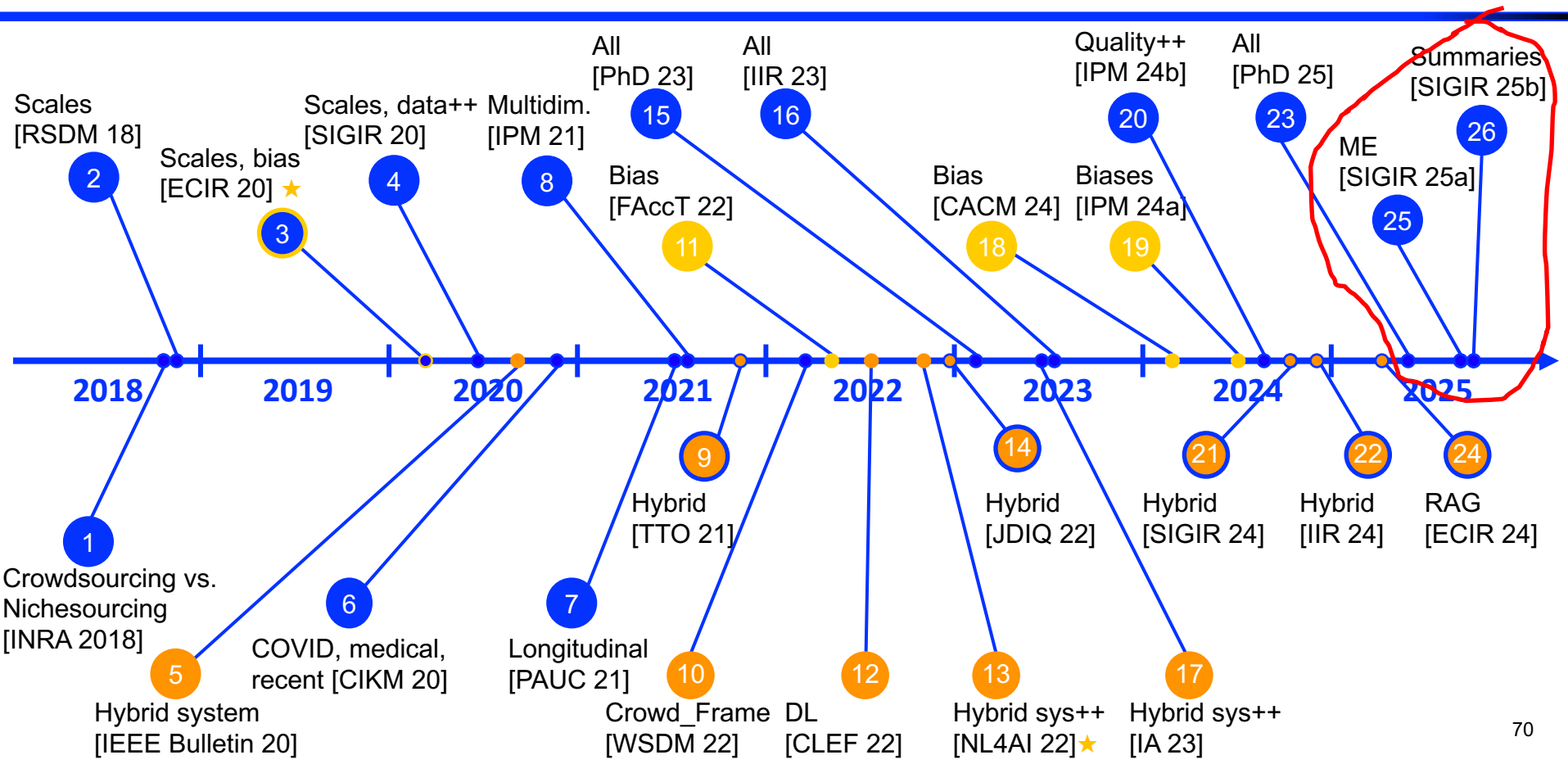
Aaaaaah, 0.8



Aaaaaah, 0.8



Timeline: ... and we aren't finished yet!



Outline

- ✓ Stupid jokes
- Background
 - Scenario: Misinformation, Fact-checking, Truthfulness assessment
 - Crowdsourcing
- The story – aka Our approach
 - Experiments, Screenshots, Datasets, Results, ...
 - Repeat
- **More technical**
 - Scales, Classification, Ranking, Ordinal classification, even Magnitude Estimation

How to express truthfulness?

- In technical terms, which **scale** to use?

Binary scale

- Traditional solution: binary scale
- **Binary truthfulness**



True



False

Non-binary scales

- 3-levels scale

- True
- Neither false not true
- False



Non-binary scales

- 4-levels scale

- Completely false
- More false than true
- More true than false
- Completely true



A Jug
1140ml (40 fl oz)



A Pint
570ml (20 fl oz)



A Schooner
450ml (15 fl oz)



A Pot
285ml (10 fl oz)

It's not just categories

- 4-level ordinal category scale

- Completely false
- More false than true
- More true than false
- Completely true



A Jug
1140ml (40 fl oz)



A Pint
570ml (20 fl oz)



A Schooner
450ml (15 fl oz)



A Pot
285ml (10 fl oz)

It's not just ranking

- 4-level ordinal category scale

- Completely false
- More false than true
- More true than false
- Completely true



A Jug
1140ml (40 fl oz)



A Pint
570ml (20 fl oz)



A Schooner
450ml (15 fl oz)



A Pot
285ml (10 fl oz)

Also IRL

- Politifact: <https://www.politifact.com>
- 6 levels scale

POLITIFACT



POLITIFACT

The Poynter Institute

Subtle differences

2 (n) levels	3 (n) ordered levels
Binary (n-ary) classification	Ordinal classification
All errors are equal	Misclassifying in the adjacent category is a smaller error than misclassifying in the next one <ul style="list-style-type: none">- False- Neither true nor false- True
Standard metrics (F1, Accuracy)	No standard metrics

No standard metrics?!

- Accuracy
 - Assumes all errors are equal!
- MSE, RMSE, MAE, ...?
 - Assume equally spaced categories!
- CEM!?
 - (but that's for another talk)

An Effectiveness Metric for Ordinal Classification: Formal Properties and Experimental Results

Enrique Amigó

UNED

Madrid, Spain

`enrique@lsi.uned.es`

Julio Gonzalo

UNED

Madrid, Spain

`julio@lsi.uned.es`

Stefano Mizzaro

University of Udine

Udine, Italy

`mizzaro@uniud.it`

Jorge Carrillo-de-Albornoz

UNED

Madrid, Spain

`jcalbornoz@lsi.uned.es`

0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5?

- Why not 0, 1, 10, 100, 1000, 10000?!
- Or 0, 1, 3, 5, 7, 8?

POLITIFACT



- (more later on this)

We even tried 100 levels

- 101 actually

Session 3A: Bias and Fairness

SIGIR '20, July 25–30, 2020, Virtual Event, China

Can The Crowd Identify Misinformation Objectively? The Effects of Judgment Scale and Assessor's Background

Kevin Roitero
roitero.kevin@spes.uniud.it
University of Udine
Udine, Italy

Damiano Spina
damiano.spina@rmit.edu.au
RMIT University
Melbourne, Australia

Michael Soprano
michael.soprano@outlook.com
University of Udine
Udine, Italy

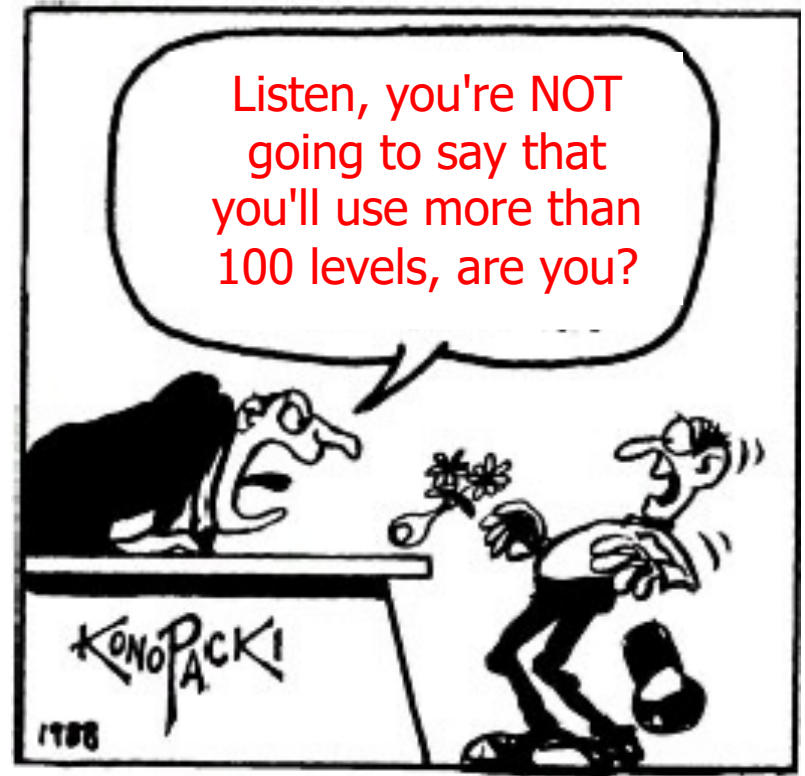
Stefano Mizzaro
mizzaro@uniud.it
University of Udine
Udine, Italy

Shaoyang Fan
fsysean@gmail.com
The University of Queensland
Brisbane, Australia

Gianluca Demartini
demartini@acm.org
The University of Queensland
Brisbane, Australia

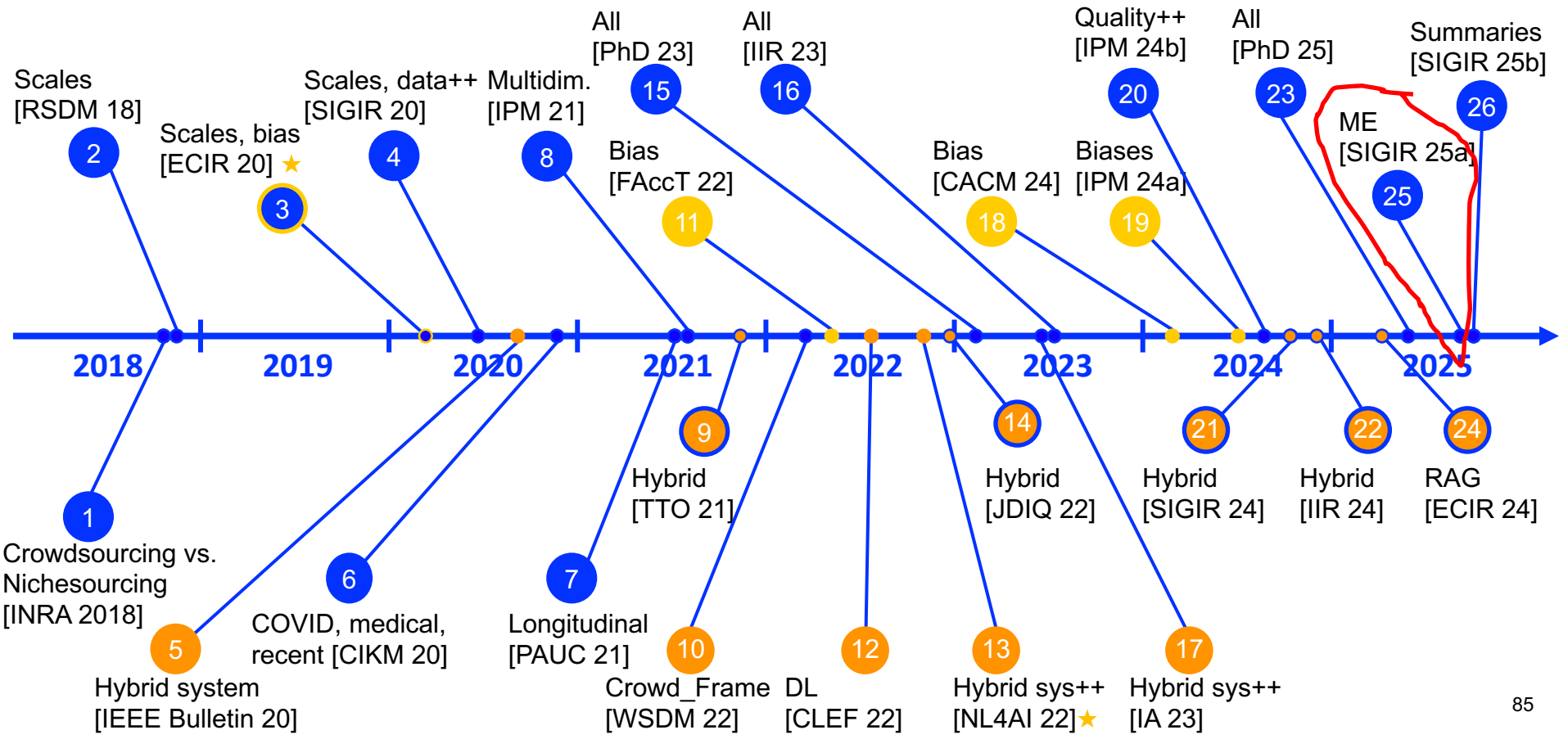
Even more?!

- So,
 - 2
 - 3
 - 4
 - 5
 - 6
 - 101
- Even more!?



Yes. More than 101.

Timeline



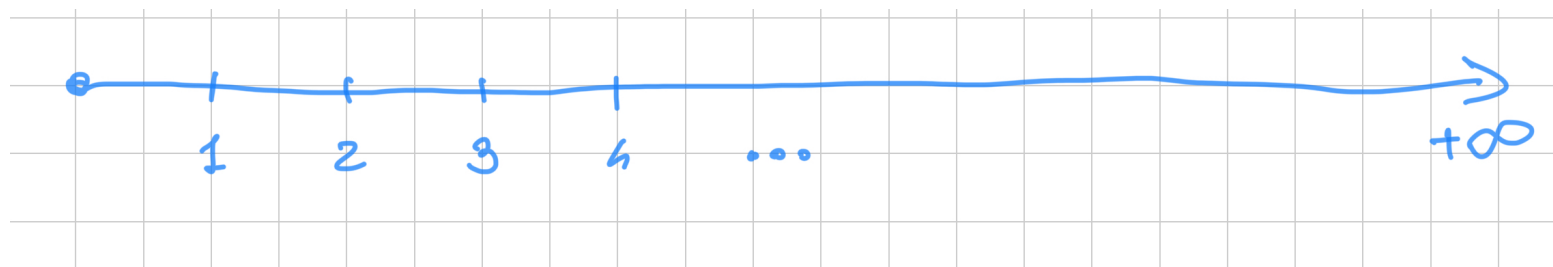
Magnitude Estimation (ME)

- A psychophysical scaling technique for measuring perception
- Stimuli at different levels of intensity are presented to an observer
- The intensity of each stimulus is rated by the assignment of a number, depending on the perceived intensity
 - "Given a stimulus, assign it a number (whole or fraction)"
- Developed by Stanley Stevens at Harvard in 1950s



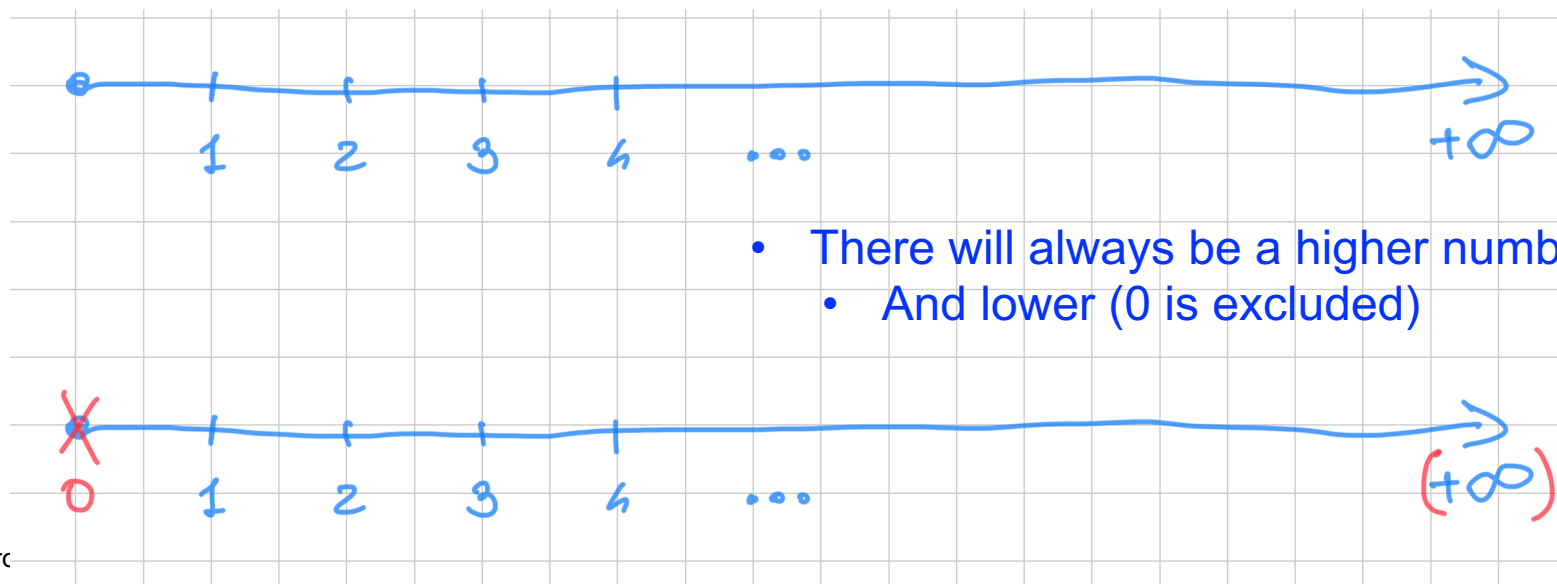
Magnitude Estimation (ME)...

- Unlimited (\neq “category scale with many categories”)
 - either $]-\infty, +\infty[$ or
 - $]0, +\infty[$ (we used this one)



Magnitude Estimation (ME)...

- Unlimited (\neq “category scale with many categories”)
 - either $]-\infty, +\infty[$ or
 - $]0, +\infty[$ (we used this one)

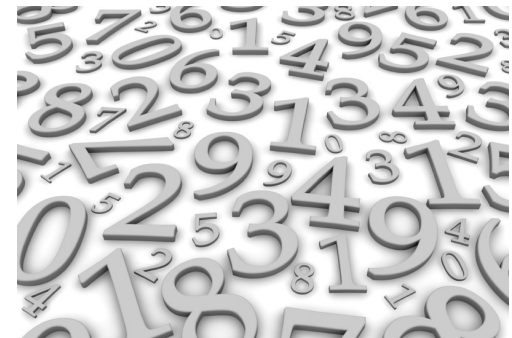


ME used for

- Initially for physical stimuli, such as:
 - brightness of a light
 - frequency of a sound
 - etc.
- These have an underlying measurable quantity
- Also applied to stimuli that are not physically quantifiable, such as:
 - levels of pain or emotional stress (medicine)
 - severity of crimes, appropriateness of punishments (law)
 - importance of Swedish monarchs (sociology)
 - wine tasting
 - usability of an interface (HCI)
 - judging grammaticality of sentences (linguistics)
 - relevance assessments

ME

- Leads to ratio scale: **ratios** of the assigned numbers is what's important
 - If one item is assigned a 50, and another 10, then it can be inferred that the former is 5 times more ... than the latter
 - Supports all mathematical operations, and parametric statistical analysis
- ME truthfulness assessment should be more precise than binary or ordinal assessments
 - The granularity of the scale is chosen by the assessor, and not constrained by pre-determined levels
 - Assessors cannot run out of categories



Issues with ME

- My “inner scale” is different from yours
- Cultural background might affect which numbers are used
 - E.g., school marks over 0–10 (in Italy) vs. A–F vs. 0–100 vs. ...
 - Round number tendency (prefer 20 to 21)
- Using ME for truthfulness assessment?
 - "A claim more true (false) than an already absolutely true (false) one?!"
- It. Can't. Work.
 - But we tried! (and we are the first!)

RQs

- Can the crowd express reliable truthfulness assessments using ME?
- Are there any advantages to do so?

Comparison with S6

- Experimental design identical to a previous study
 - 20. [IPM 2024b]
 - Apart from the scale: we had used Politifact 6-level scale (S6 from now on)
- We knew it worked 😬
 - (actually, many studies)
- We can compare ME with S6 🤔

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Crowdsourced Fact-checking: Does It Actually Work?

David La Barbera^{a,*}, Eddy Maddalena^a, Michael Soprano^a, Kevin Roitero^a,
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Normalization

- S6 values were converted into [0, 5]
 - (yes, more on that later)
- Each ME value is normalized into [0, 5]
 - Using the max & min values by each worker

$$\alpha_{\text{norm}} = \frac{\alpha - \min(A_w)}{\max(A_w) - \min(A_w)} \cdot 5$$

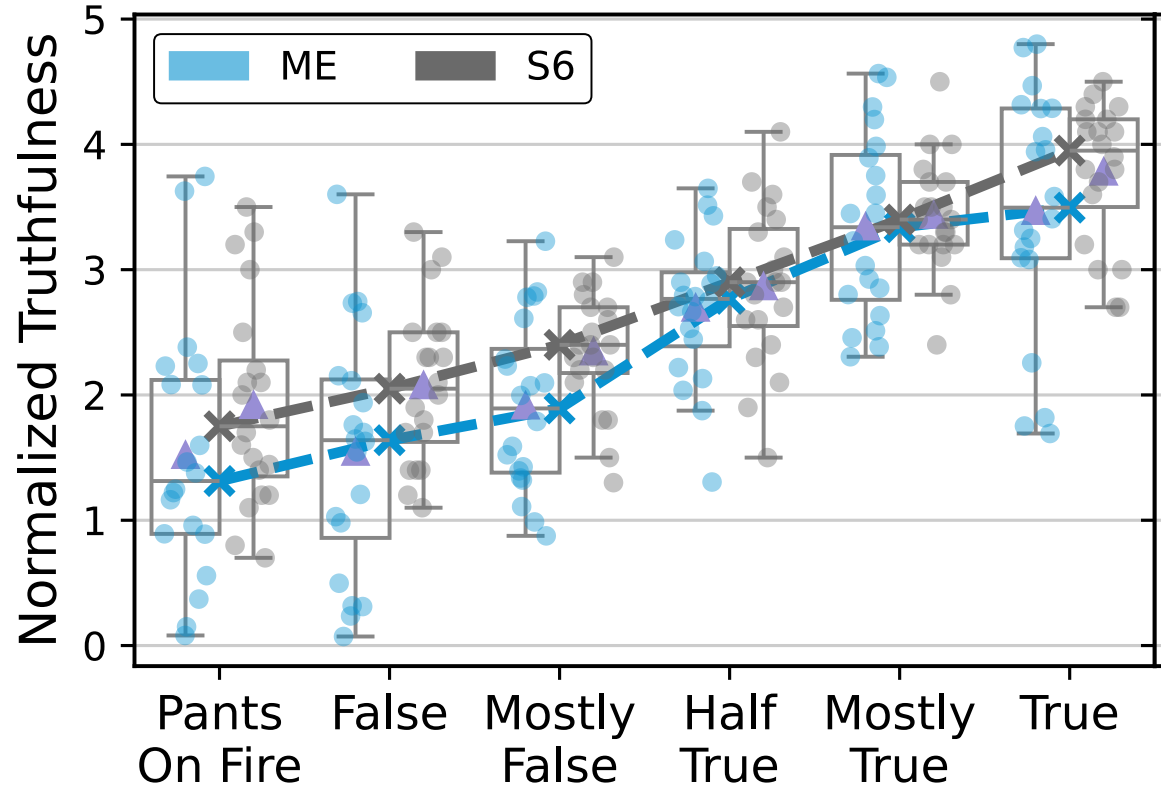
Aggregation

- 10 individual scores → 1 aggregated score
- We tried several alternatives
 - Weighted mean resulted more effective

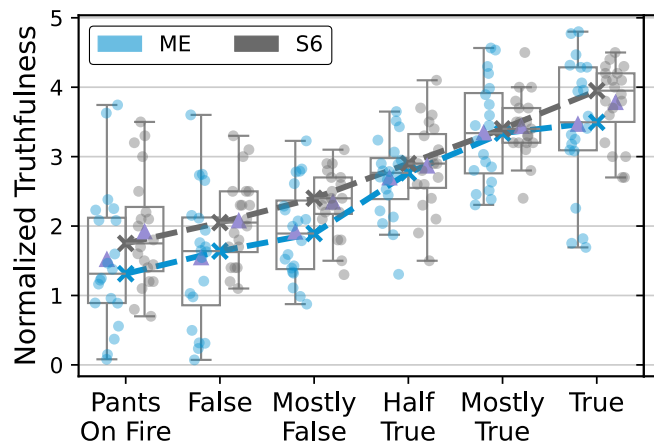
Table 2: Comparison of aggregation functions across effectiveness measures.

	Accuracy ₂	Accuracy ₃	Accuracy ₆	External	Pairwise ₂	Pairwise ₃	Pairwise ₆	MAE	MSE
wmean	0.80	0.60	0.32	0.63	0.89	0.83	0.79	0.97	1.59
median	0.73	0.59	0.28	0.67	0.87	0.82	0.78	1.02	1.73
mean	0.75	0.57	0.29	0.53	0.86	0.82	0.77	1.07	1.78
gmean	0.57	0.41	0.21	-0.15	0.26	0.25	0.24	2.10	7.06

ME vs. S6 & ground truth

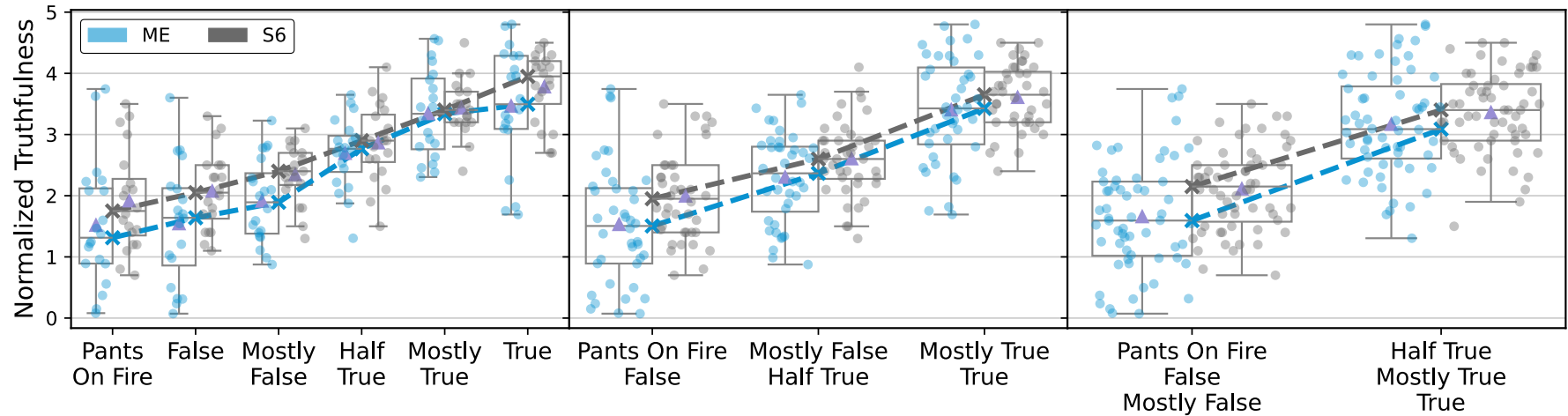


ME vs. S6 & ground truth



- ME: increasing medians/means
- ME vs S6: similar trends
 - ME lower for low truthfulness values, but lower also for high truthfulness value

ME vs. S6 & ground truth



ME vs. S6: numbers

Measure	Individual	
	S ₆	ME
Accuracy ₂	0.65	0.63
Accuracy ₃	0.51	0.46 [†]
Accuracy ₆	0.29	0.24 [‡]
MAE	1.35	1.66 [‡]
MSE	3.45	4.83 [‡]
Pairwise ₂	0.61	0.63
Pairwise ₃	0.58	0.61
Pairwise ₆	0.56	0.58
External	0.39	0.34
Internal	0.29	0.15 [‡]

Remember
Ordinal
Classification? No
metric works, but
we use all of
them 😊

ME vs. S6: numbers

Measure	Individual		Aggregated	
	S ₆	ME	S ₆	ME
Accuracy ₂	0.65	0.63	0.83	0.80
Accuracy ₃	0.51	0.46 [†]	0.60	0.60
Accuracy ₆	0.29	0.24 [‡]	0.37	0.32
MAE	1.35	1.66 [‡]	0.97	0.97
MSE	3.45	4.83 [‡]	1.48	1.59
Pairwise ₂	0.61	0.63	0.89	0.89
Pairwise ₃	0.58	0.61	0.85	0.83 [‡]
Pairwise ₆	0.56	0.58	0.81	0.79 [‡]
External	0.39	0.34	0.61	0.63 [*]
Internal	0.29	0.15 [‡]	0.22	0.10 [*]

Remember
Ordinal
Classification? No
metric works, but
we use all of
them 😊

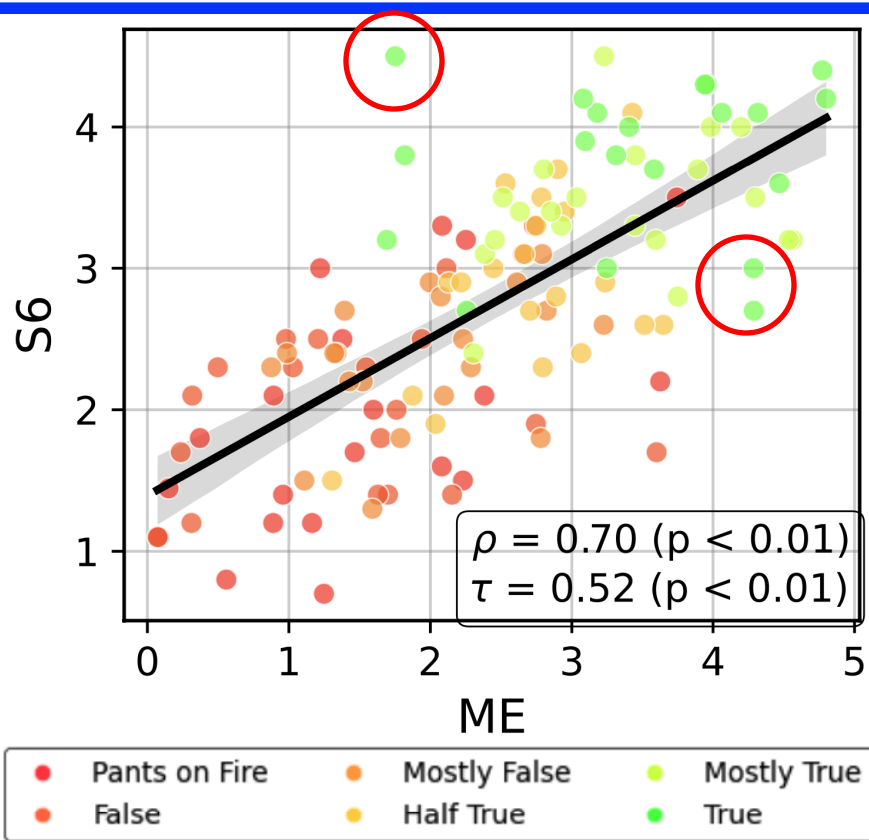
First result

- ME allows to gather reliable truthfulness assessments
- No evidence that ME is worse than S6

Beyond ME vs. S6

- Can ME tell us something that S6 can not?
- Possible, ME is more fine-grained
- Is the additional information useful?
- Yes, in two ways

1. Complementarity



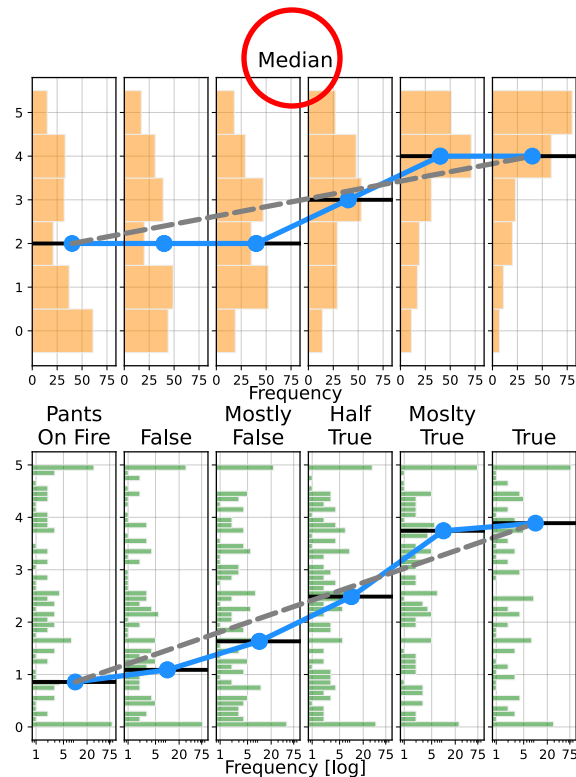
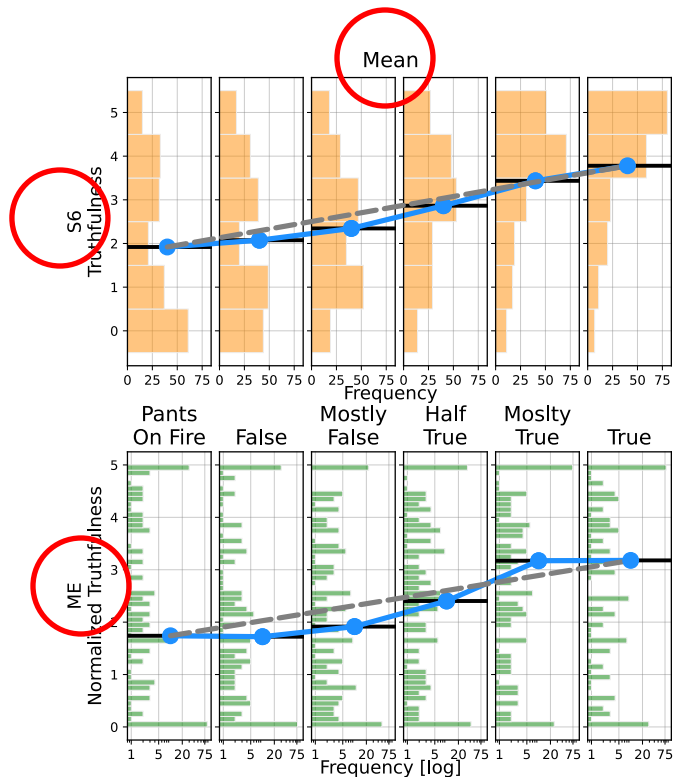
- If ME and S6 were equivalent, dots would be on the diagonal
 - They are not
 - (ME covers more [0,5])
- → Combination of ME and S6?

2. Perception of truthfulness values

- 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5?
- Actually, no.



Distributions of individual normalized values

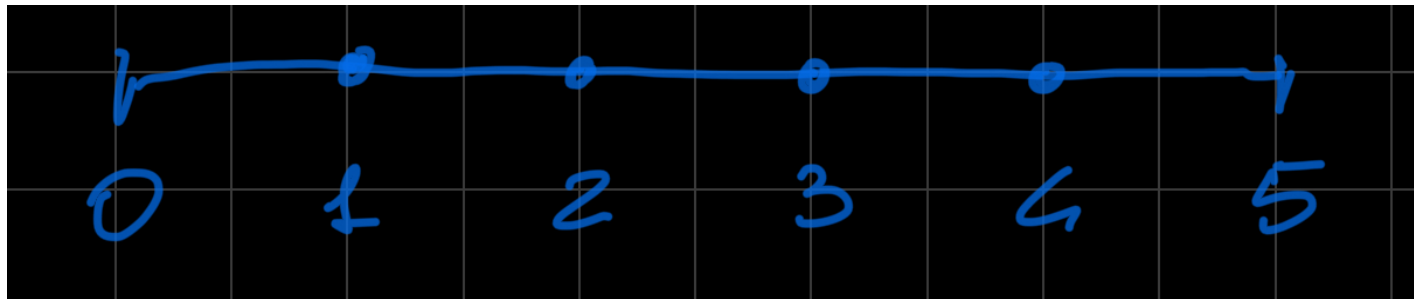


Remember 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5?

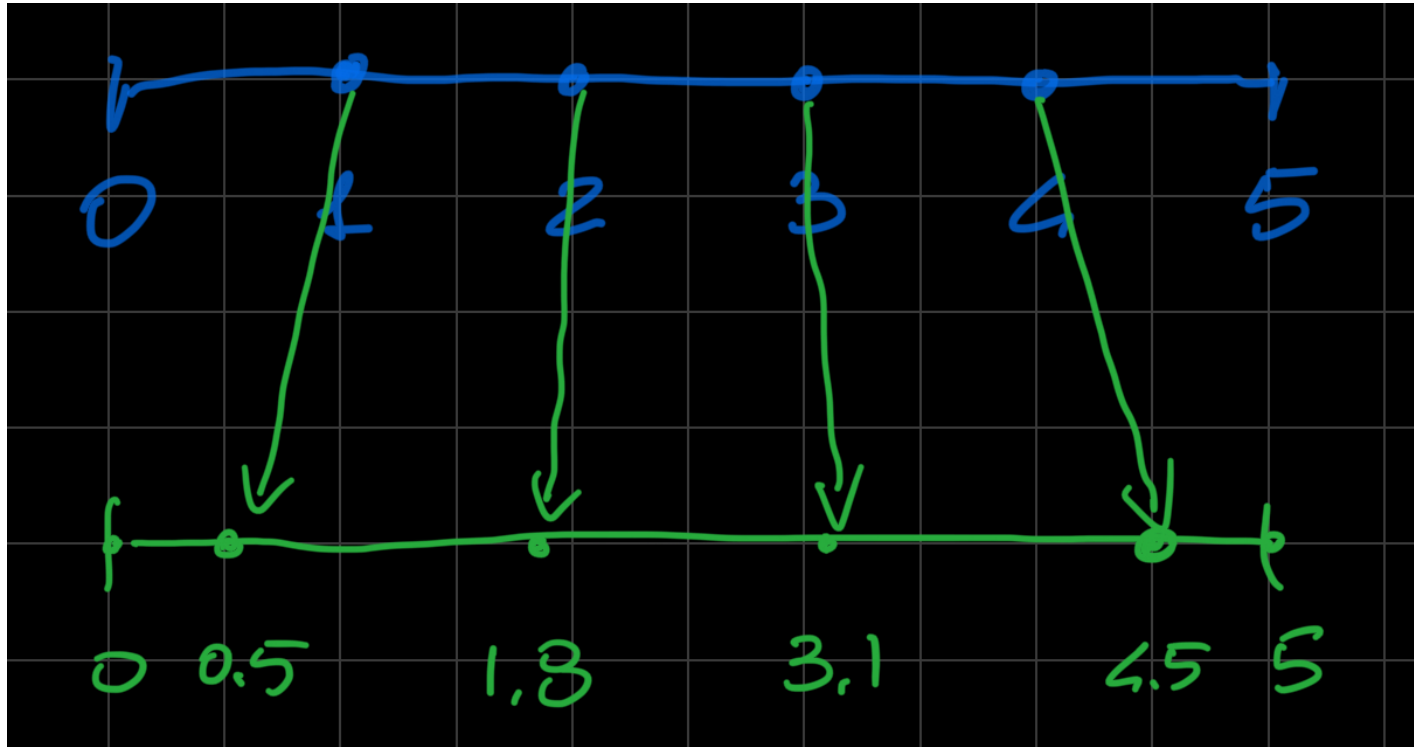
- Pants On Fire ~ False
- Superlinear increase
 - False → Mostly False → Half True → Mostly True
- Mostly True ~ True
- Maybe 0, 0.5, 1.8, 3.1, 4.5, 5?!
- (even with an "official" scale)
- And maybe the middle of the scale is around Half True
 - Steepest increase
- Less than 1
- More than 1
- Less than 1



From this...



... to something like this



So, Magnitude Estimation

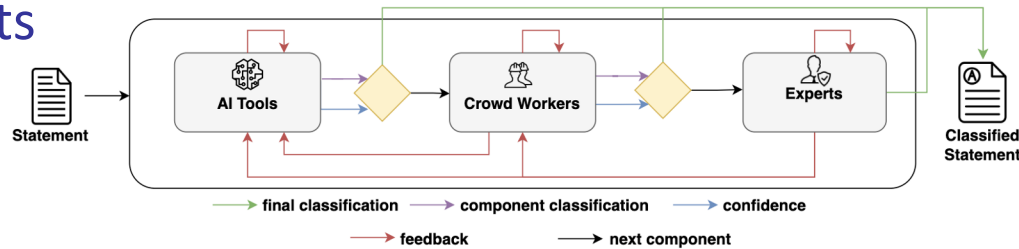
- In terms of accuracy, we couldn't find any compelling reason to prefer S6 to ME
 - (ok, ok, neither the other way around)
- But, ME did provide more information
 - It appears that workers judge differently
 - Useful indication on the scale used by Politifact

Conclusions & Lessons learned

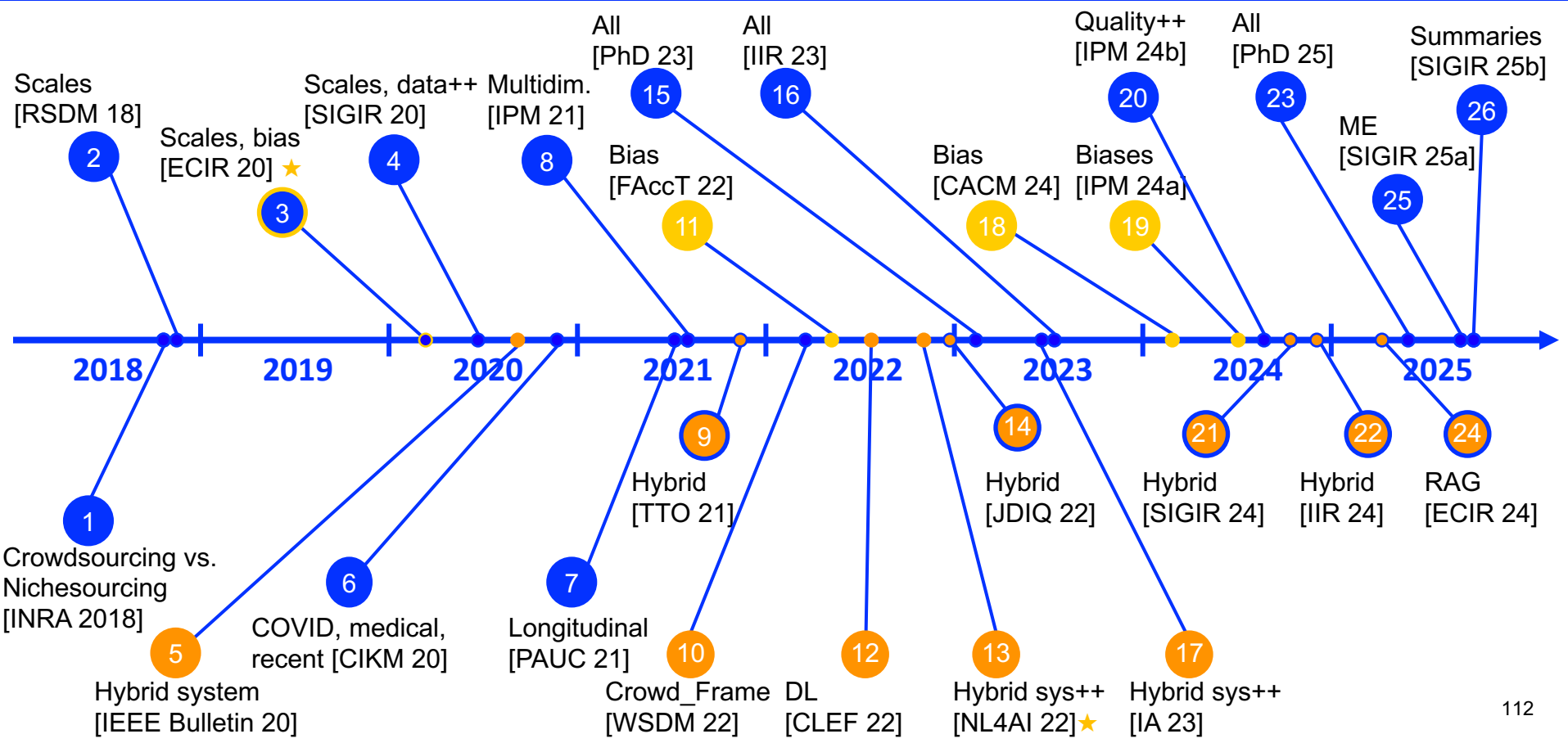
- Lesson 1. Crowdsourcing is a viable alternative (?)
 - Is 0.8 enough?! 🙋
- Lesson 2. Improvements are always possible
 - Hard work is needed
 - "Live. Die. Repeat." → "Try. Fail. Repeat."
- Lesson 3. Magnitude Estimation can be used
 - Even though it looked crazy

Future

- Changes/Improvement to the task
 - E.g., workers interacting?
- Combination AI / Crowd / Experts
 - AI, Gen AI, LLMs, ...
 - So far inconclusive evidence
 - E.g., Confidence seems not useful
- Deep fakes (video, multimedia)
 - (First preliminary results: we are doomed! 🤖)
- Summary of evidence: → [SIGIR 2025b]
- Metrics for ordinal classification



Timeline, a last time 🥰



Biblio – Our papers, grouped

■ Several similar experiments

- 1. Crowdsourcing vs. Nichesourcing [INRA 2018]
- 2. Scales [RDSM 2018]
- 3. Initial, a few data, worker background, scales, bias [ECIR 2020] ★
- 4. More data, scales [SIGIR 2020]
- 6. COVID-19: medical, recent news [CIKM 2020]
- 7. Longitudinal: [PAUC 2021]
- 8. Multidimensional: Measure more aspects [IPM 2021]
- 20. Quality > (Prolific, UI, ...) [IPM 2024b]
- 25. ME [SIGIR 2025a]
- 26. Summaries [SIGIR 2025b]

■ Implementation – Hybrid system

- 5. First proposal [Bulletin 2020]
- 10. Crowd_Frame [WSDM 2022]
- 12. Deep Learning [CLEF 2022]
- 13. System description [NL4AI2022] ★
- 17. Hybrid system ++ [IA 2023]

■ Hybrid approaches Crowd + LLMs

- 9. First experiments [TTO 2021]
- 14. Hybrid [JDIQ 2022]
- 21. Hybrid++ [SIGIR 2024]
- 22. Hybrid [IIR 2024]
- 24. RAG [ECIR 2025]

■ Bias

- 11. Bias [FAccT 2022]
- 18. Bias management [CACM 2023]
- 19. Biases in Fact-checking [IPM 2024a]

■ All

- 15. PhD Thesis Soprano [PhD 2023]
- 16. Summary [IIR 2023]
- 23. PhD Thesis La Barbera [PhD 2025]

(details in next slides)

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- E. Maddalena, D. Ceolin, S. Mizzaro. "Multidimensional News Quality: A Comparison of Crowdsourcing and Nichesourcing." In *CIKM Workshops* -- Proceedings of the 6th International Workshop on News Recommendation and Analytics (INRA 2018), 2018.
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- D. La Barbera, K. Roitero, G. Demartini, S. Mizzaro, D. Spina. Crowdsourcing Truthfulness: The Impact of Judgment Scale and Assessor Bias. Advances in Information Retrieval - 42nd European Conference on IR Research, ECIR 2020. 207-214
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(* = discussed during the talk)



ECIR 2020 @ecir2020 · 1g

#ECIR2020 Best **Short Paper Award** goes to "Crowdsourcing Truthfulness; The Impact of Judgment Scale and Assessor Bias" authored by

David la Barbera, Kevin Roitero, Damiano Spina, Stefano Mizzaro, Gianluca Demartini. Congratulations!!

avancando LIVE em YouTube

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BEST SHORT PAPER AWARD

for the paper entitled

Crowdsourcing Truthfulness: The Impact of Judgment Scale and Assessor Bias

authored by

David La Barbera, Kevin Roitero, Damiano Spina, Stefano Mizzaro, Gianluca Demartini

received at

The 42nd European Conference on Information Retrieval
14th-17th April 2020, Lisbon, Portugal

42nd EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

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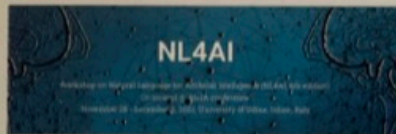
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David La Barbera, Kevin Roitero and Stefano Mizzaro
"A Hybrid Human-In-The-Loop Framework for Fact Checking"



Chairs

Debora Nozza, Lucia Passaro, Marco Polignano

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