

# Automatic Fact Verification with Semi-Structured Knowledge

## Abstract

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Our society is struggling with an unprecedented amount of falsehood, hyperbole, and half-truths. Politicians and organizations repeatedly make false claims that jeopardize the integrity of journalism. Disinformation now floods the cyberspace and influences many events on and offline. To fight false information, the need for automatic fact verification has never been so urgent. Existing studies primarily focus on free-form text as evidence crawled from Wikipedia or News websites. The direction of using semi-structured knowledge as evidence like relational tables has yet to be explored systematically. In this talk, we will mainly focus on introducing a new benchmark dataset called TabFact, which allows us to systematically study the fact verification problem under semi-structured tables as evidence. Additionally, I will briefly introduce UCSB's NLP Group, and other exciting recent research projects in our group.

## Speaker

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Prof William Wang

Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, University of California, Santa Barbara

William Wang is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is the Director of UCSB's Responsible Machine Learning Center and the UCSB NLP Group. He received his PhD from the School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University in 2016. He has broad interests in machine learning approaches to data science, including natural language processing, statistical relational learning, information extraction, computational social science, dialogue, and vision. He directs UCSB's NLP Group ([nlp.cs.ucsb.edu](http://nlp.cs.ucsb.edu)): in two years, UCSB advanced in the NLP area from an undefined ranking position to top 3 in 2018 according to CSRankings.org. He has published more than 80 papers at leading NLP/AI/ML conferences and journals, and received best paper awards (or nominations) at ASRU 2013, CIKM 2013, EMNLP 2015, and CVPR 2019, a DARPA Young Faculty Award (Class of 2018), a Google Faculty Research Award (2018), three IBM Faculty Awards in 2017-2019, two Facebook Research Award in 2018-2019, an Adobe Research Award in 2018, and the Richard King Mellon Presidential Fellowship in 2011. He frequently serves as an Area Chair for NAACL, ACL, EMNLP, and AAAI. He is an alumnus of Columbia University, Yahoo! Labs, Microsoft Research Redmond, and University of Southern California. In addition to research, William enjoys writing scientific articles that influence the broader online community: his microblog Weibo has 116,000+ followers and more than 2,000,000 views each month. His work and opinions frequently appear at major international media outlets such as Wired, VICE, Fast Company, NASDAQ, Scientific American, The Next Web, The Brookings Institution, Law.com, and Mental Floss.

## Details

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**Friday, November 1, 2019**  
**10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

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Seminar Room B1-1 (Basement)

School of Information Systems, Singapore Management University, 80  
Stamford Road, Singapore 178902, Singapore

**We look forward to seeing you at this research seminar.**

Register

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