

SynTab-LLaVA: Enhancing Multimodal Table Understanding with Decoupled Synthesis

Supplementary Material

A. Examples of MTU Datasets

We visualize the samples of the existing MTU datasets mentioned in Sec. 2.1, with the results shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. The first to fourth columns in the figures represent the dataset name, the input table image, the user-provided question, and the expected answer, respectively.

For the Table Question Answering (TQA), the datasets WTQ [30], FeTaQA [27], HiTab [5], AIT-QA [17], TabMCQ [16], TAT-QA [51], and TABMWP [24] are visualized in Fig. 1. We observe that the requirements for answers vary across datasets. For example, WTQ only requires a concise response, while FeTaQA demands a coherent and lengthy textual answer generated based on the table content and the given question. HiTab and AIT-QA have a large number of table cells and complex table structures, yet they also only require a short answer. For TABMWP and TAT-QA, which focus on table-based numerical reasoning, the task involves generating a series of calculation steps followed by the final answer. For TabMCQ, the model only needs to match the table content with the options provided in the question and select the correct answer.

For Table Fact Verification (TFV), there are three datasets: TabFact [3], InfoTabs [13], and PubhealthTab [1]. This task is relatively straightforward, requiring the model to index, query, and reason over the table image based on the users input statement. If the derived conclusion aligns with the users statement, the output is “correct”; if the conclusion contradicts the users statement, the output is “incorrect”; and if it is impossible to determine the validity of the users statement solely based on the table content, the output is “neutral”. The visualization of specific samples is shown in Fig. 2.

The Table-to-Text Generation (T2T) task includes four datasets: ToTTo [29], HiTab-T2T [5], Rotowire [38], and WikiBIO [18]. Examples from each dataset can be found in Fig. 2. These datasets require the model to generate coherent sentences as responses based on the users input question and the table image. The generated responses may summarize highlighted cells in the table image or provide a comprehensive description of a related biography.

The Table Structure Understanding (TSU) [46] task includes six sub-tasks, which are designed to evaluate the model’s capability to extract basic structural information and understand table content. Table Size Detection (TSD) predicts the number of rows and columns in a given table. Table Cell Extraction (TCE) involves extracting the content of a target cell based on the row and column indices spec-

ified by the user. Table Cell Locating (TCL), on the other hand, requires identifying the positions of cells whose content matches the user-provided text. Merge Cell Detection (MCD) aims to detect merged cells and output their coordinates, including the top-left and bottom-right corners. Row & Column Extraction (RCE) focuses on extracting the content of entire rows or columns. Finally, Table Recognition (TR) requires the model to convert the input table image into corresponding HTML, LaTeX, or Markdown.

B. Detailed Category Definition

In this part, we provide a detailed explanation of the 6 main question categories and 11 subcategories defined earlier.

B.1. Retrieval

Data retrieval focuses on extracting specific information or multiple data points from tables, enhancing the model’s ability to locate and return exact values based on a query. For instance, in MTU, data retrieval helps identify and extract relevant cells or ranges, directly improving the models performance in retrieving precise information from structured data.

B.2. Data Operations

Data counting involves determining the number of occurrences of specific values or conditions within a table. This requires scanning through rows and columns to count how many times a particular criterion is met.

Data order includes tasks related to organizing or identifying specific statistical properties of data within a table. This involves: maximum, minimum, sorting, median, comparison of values, and so on. These tasks mainly focus on how to systematically order and interpret data based on its statistical attributes.

Determine range involves calculating the difference between two data points within a specific column or data set in a table. This could be the difference between the maximum and minimum values, or it could be between the third highest and minimum values, depending on the context.

Filter operations include questions related to selecting and manipulating subsets of data based on specific criteria. The key operations involve: filtering, union, intersection, set difference, subset, conditional filtering, *etc.*

B.3. Numerical Calculations

Numerical calculations involve: addition: summing numerical values; subtraction: finding the difference between

Dataset

Image

Question

Answer

WTQ

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	 Brazil	7	5	3	15
2	 Venezuela	3	2	8	13
3	 Colombia	2	3	4	9
4	 Chile	2	0	2	4
5	 Argentina	1	2	5	8
6	 Peru	1	1	2	4
7	 Ecuador	0	2	2	4
8	 Guyana	0	1	0	1
9	 Suriname	0	0	1	1
9	 Netherlands Antilles	0	0	1	1
9	 Panama	0	0	1	1
9	 Uruguay	0	0	1	1
Total		16	16	30	62

This image shows a table about 'Taekwondo at the 2010 South American Games', answer the following question using a single word or phrase. The final result should be presented in the JSON format of {"answer": [<a list of answer strings>]}. Question: who won the most gold medals? Answer:

Using the table as reference, the answer is {"answer": ['Brazil']}.

FeTaQA

Distance	Time	Year	Place
1500 Meters	4:05.62	2007	Rieti
3000 Meters	8:43.92	2007	London
5000 Meters	14:58.58	2008	New York City
Marathon	2:37:23	2011	New York City

Give you a screenshot of a table titled 'Personal bests' from the Wikipedia of 'Lauren Fleshman'. Provide a well-considered answer to the following question: When was Lauren Fleshman's personal best in the marathon achieved?

In 2011, Lauren Fleshman achieved her personal best in the marathon in New York City.

HiTab

club	season	league	goals	goals	goals	goals	goals	goals	goals	
barcelona	1999-00	total	27	7	2	0	0	29	7	
	2000-01	total	27	7	2	0	0	29	7	
	2001-02	total	28	8	3	3	0	34	8	
	2002-03	total	26	12	1	2	0	31	16	
	2003-04	total	28	11	8	7	4	40	18	
cska sofia	2004-05	total	28	12	1	4	1	36	14	
	2005-06	total	22	3	5	1	8	35	8	
	2006-07	total	146	34	20	13	25	4	201	71
	2007-08	total	27	3	7	7	-	27	3	
	2008-09	total	2	0	7	7	-	2	0	
grenoble	2009-10	total	50	8	2	0	0	50	8	
	2010-11	total	20	6	2	0	0	26	6	
	2011-12	total	27	5	3	0	6	37	9	
	2012-13	total	78	10	9	2	14	2	101	20
	2013-14	total	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
lille lovace	2013-14	total	13	0	0	0	-	13	0	
	2014-15	total	7	0	1	0	-	8	0	
	2015-16	total	321	82	42	19	41	6	404	104

Based on the excel table, answer the following question in brief. Your answer should be in the JSON structure, formatted as {"answer": [<a list of answer strings>]}. For instance, {"answer": ["2021-12-04", "72.33"]}. Table title: career statistics. Question: how many league goals did Hriss to Yanev score for cska sofia?

Based on the table information, the final answer is {"answer": ["54.0"]}.

AIT-QA

	2018	2017-16	Year Ended December 31,
Passengers (thousands) (1)	158,330	148,067	2016-15
Revenue passenger miles (RPM) (2) (millions) (3)	276,282	244,241	2016-15
Available seat miles (ASM) (4) (millions) (5)	275,282	240,386	2016-15
Load factor (6) (%)	82.0%	82.0%	2016-15
Passenger load factor (7) (%)	82.0%	82.0%	2016-15
Total revenue per available seat mile (TRASM) (cents) (8)	13.00	13.00	2016-15
Cost per available seat mile (CASM) (cents) (9)	13.81	13.00	2016-15
Average yield per gallon of fuel (10) (cents) (11)	52.25	51.10	2016-15
Fuel gallons consumed (millions) (12)	4,137	3,978	2016-15
Average fuel yield (13) (gallons per barrel) (14)	1,460	1,460	2016-15
Average daily utilization of each medium aircraft (hours) (15) (16)	10.45	10.37	2016-15

What was United's cost per ASM in 2017? Give me a concise answer based on the given table about an airline company. Show your final answer in the JSON format {"answer": "<YOUR ANSWER>"}.

Using the table as reference, the answer is {"answer": "15.72"}.

TabMCQ

Resource for humans	Natural or artificial
water	natural
houses	artificial
electricity	artificial
roads	artificial

Select the correct answer option according to the table and the question. Provide the final answer in the JSON structure, using the format {"answer": "<YOUR ANSWER>"}. Question: Which of the following is artificial? Options: 1. Air 2. Water 3. Humans 4. House

According to the given table, the answer is {"answer": "4. House"}.

TABMWP

granite	\$7.04 per kg
quartz	\$5.35 per kg
fool's gold	\$8.54 per kg
topaz	\$7.40 per kg
amethyst	\$7.61 per kg

Based on the table, solve the math word problem. Give a solution step by step. Provide a concluding answer in a JSON structure, using the format {"answer": "<YOUR ANSWER>"}. Problem: Victor bought 3 kilograms of amethyst and 2 kilograms of fool's gold. How much did he spend? (Unit: \$) Solution:

Find the cost of the amethyst: $\$7.61 \times 3 = \22.83 . Find the cost of the fool's gold: $\$8.54 \times 2 = \17.08 . Now the total cost: $\$22.83 + \$17.08 = \$39.91$. Therefore, the final answer is {"answer": "39.91"}.

TAT-QA

	2019 €m	2018 €m	2017 €m
Salaries and fees	4	4	4
Incentive schemes1	2	3	2
Other benefits2	—	1	1
	6	8	7

Read the table to answer the following questions in brief. Present the final answer in a JSON format {"answer": [<a list of answer strings>]}. How much is the 2019 salaries and fees?

Based on the table information, the answer is {"answer": ["4"]}.

RCE

Title	A History of Mental Health Nursing
Author	Peter Nolan
Edition	reprint, revised
Publisher	Nelson Thornes, 2000
ISBN	0748737219, 9780748737215
Length	178 pages
Export Citation	BIBTeX EndNote RefMan

Provide the contents of the cells located in row 4 of this table. Show the cells in a row in the JSON format {"row_id": "<row index>", "cell_list": "<a list of cells in this row>"}.

The target cell values of row 4: {"row_id": "4", "cell_list": ['Publisher', 'Nelson Thornes, 2000']}

TR

For the Years Ended December 31,			
	2019	2018	Increase (Decrease)
Net bookings	\$6,388	\$7,262	\$(874)
In-game net bookings	\$3,366	\$4,203	\$(837)

This picture illustrates a table. Please represent this table with the markdown-format in text.

For the Years Ended December 31, | | \n | --- | --- | | 2019 | 2018 | Increase (Decrease) | \n Net bookings | \$6,388 | \$7,262 | \$(874) | \n In-game net bookings | \$3,366 | \$4,203 | \$(837) |

Figure 1. Examples of existing MTU datasets samples.

Dataset

Image

Question

Answer

TabFact

rank	nation	gold	silver	bronze	total
1	russia	4	1	1	6
2	united states	0	1	1	2
3	china	0	1	0	1
3	france	0	1	0	1
5	canada	0	0	1	1
5	poland	0	0	1	1

InfoTabs

Crufts	
Formation	1891
Type	Dog show
Headquarters	Birmingham, England
Location	<div><ul style="list-style-type: none">United Kingdom</div>
Official language	English
Website	www.crufts.org.uk

PubhealthTab

Party	As of June 2021
Democratic Party	41
Republican Party	18
Vacancies	0
Total	59

ToTTto

	Amine Scrubbing	Ca-Looping
Cost/CO 2 avoided	~ \$35–96/ton	~\$23.70/ ton
Raw material cost	\$1,250/ton MEA	\$25/ton CaCO3
Efficiency Penalty	6-12%	6-8%

HiTab_T2T

sub-groups of the agri-food industry	french-language workers		northern ontario	
	number	percent	number	other workers
input and service supply	218	2.1	210	13
food, beverage, and tobacco processing	97	6.0	310	33
food retail and wholesale	353	35.1	393	37.3
other services	593	58.0	550	59.4

WikiBIO

Danny Lloyd	
name	Danny Lloyd
birth_date	1 january 1973
birth_place	Chicago, illinois, u.s.
occupation	Teacher, actor
years_active	1979 -- 1982

TSD

	Tapping the ground	Raking the ground
5-10 worms	6	6
11-20 worms	4	2

TCE

age group of accused	females	
	number	rate
12 to 17	12,273	1,096
18 to 24	16,845	1,043
25 to 34	23,481	922
35 to 44	14,478	596
45 to 54	8,846	353

TCL

round	player	position	nationality	college / junior / club team (league)
1	mark szabo	defense	canada	kingston canadians (oha)
2	drew callender	defense	canada	regina pats (wchl)
3	craig hanmer	defense	united states	muhawks valley comets (nahl)
4	dave hynick	defense	canada	kingston canadians (oha)
5	robin lung	defense	canada	cornell big red (ecac)
6	paul klasinski	left wing	united states	st paul vulcans (mhl)
7	ray kourpis	right wing	united states	austin mavericks (mhl)

MCD

region of residence	number of syrian refugees	number of refugees from other countries
atlantic provinces	2,670	765
montreal census metropolitan area	4,260	1,195
rest of quebec	1,080	1,070
toronto census metropolitan area	4,035	3,285
rest of ontario	4,175	2,810
prairies	4,775	4,055
british columbia	2,125	1,410
canada	25,095	15,580

In this task, the goal is to distinguish whether the following sentence is confirmed or refuted by the table. Format your final answer as a JSON, using the structure {"answer": "<YOUR ANSWER>"}. The poland took home the most gold medals

Refer to the table to decide if the following claim is affirmed, disproved by the given table, or if unclear, regard it as 'not enough information'. Format your final answer as a JSON, using the structure {"answer": "<YOUR ANSWER>"}. The Crufts dog show has been around under twenty years.

claim: More women are restrict of domestic violence. Review the table named 'Trafficking Routes' to determine if the claim is supported or opposed by the table. Use 'not enough information' for inconclusive evidence. Show your final answer in the JSON format {"answer": "<YOUR ANSWER>"}

Presented is a Wikipedia table named 'Calcium looping', which is extracted from a section heading 'Cost per metric ton for CO2 captured'. As you can see, some table cells are highlighted with a different color. Please generate a one-sentence summary of these cells.

Please succinctly describe the highlighted cells within the given table titled 'agri-food industry sub-groups for workers aged 15 years and over, two agricultural regions of ontario, 2011'.

Given the fact table in this image, which details information about 'Danny Lloyd', create a succinct biography for this person.

I need to know the count of rows and columns in this specific table. Format your final answer as a JSON, using the structure {"row_number": "m", "column_number": "n"}.

There is a cell located in the 5th row and the 1st column in this table, identify this cell and report its content. Provide the value of target cell in the JSON structure, using the format {"row_id": "m", "column_id": "n", "cell_value": "<Corresponding Cell Value>"}

Based on the table, what are the locations of the following cells?(1) 'craig hanmer'; Return the cell location in the JSON format {'value': '<cell value>', 'location': (row_id, column_id)}

A merged cell in a table can be described using the JSON {'top-left':(A, B), 'bottom-right':(C, D)}. Here, '(A, B)' represents the top-left and '(C, D)' the bottom-right cells' (row_id, column_id) of the merged region. Using the table image, identify all such merged cells.

Utilizing the table as evidence, we can find that the sentence is false. So, the answer is {"answer": "refuted"}.

Based on the evidence in the table, the claim is not true. Thus, the final answer is {"answer": "disproved"}.

The information in the table is not sufficient to judge whether the claim is true or false. Therefore, the final answer: {"answer": "not enough information"}.

The cost of CO2 capture is \$35 to \$96 per ton for Amine Scrubbing and \$23 to \$70 per ton for Ca-Looping.

in eastern ontario, 60.6% of other agri-food workers worked in the restaurant and food services sector.

Danny Lloyd (born january 1, 1973) is an american teacher and former child actor.

This table has 3 rows and 3 columns. Thus, the final answer is {"row_number": "3", "column_number": "3"}.

The target cell value in the 5th row and the 1st column is {"row_id": "5", "column_id": "1", "cell_value": "25 to 34"}.

The coordinates of target cells are listed below. (1) {'value': 'craig hanmer', 'location': (4, 2)}

The merged cell regions are as follows: {'top-left':(1, 1), 'bottom-right':(2, 1)}; {'top-left':(2, 2), 'bottom-right':(2, 3)}.

Figure 2. Examples of existing MTU datasets samples.

Our Rendered Images

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2014	2013	2012
Warranty Reserve			
Balance at the beginning of the year	\$4,125	\$4,252	\$4,613
Acquisition	20,501	0	0
Warranty expense	12,909	7,440	6,828
Warranty payments	(12,869)	(7,567)	(7,189)
Balance at the end of the period	\$24,666	\$4,125	\$4,252

(at December 31, 2007, in millions)	Amortized Cost	Fair Value
Due in one year or less	\$3,288	\$3,292
Due after 1 year through 5 years	15,745	15,962
Due after 5 years through 10 years	17,558	17,777
Due after 10 years	20,453	20,773
	57,044	57,804
Mortgage-backed securities	7,108	7,116
Total	\$64,152	\$64,920

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2018	2017
Reported GAAP Consolidated Net sales growth	13.3%	4.1%
Adjustments:		
Impact of foreign currency translation ⁽¹⁾	(1.6)%	(0.6)%
Impact of Xplore acquisition ⁽²⁾	(0.6)%	—%
Impact of Wireless LAN divestiture ⁽³⁾	—%	3.2%
Corporate, eliminations ⁽⁴⁾	—%	(0.2)%
Consolidated Organic Net sales growth	11.1%	6.5%

Limited Partnership (Dollars in thousands)	Unfunded Commitments
SVB Strategic Investors Fund, LP	\$6,793
SVB Strategic Investors Fund II, LP	25,143
SVB Strategic Investors Fund III, LP	128,093
SVB Strategic Investors Fund IV, LP	107,345
SVB Capital Preferred Return Fund, LP	41,256
SVB Capital - NT Growth Partners, LP	54,100
Total	\$362,730

	Year Ended December 31,			
	2008	2007	\$	%
			Change	Change
	(\$ in thousands)			
Distribution fees				
U.S. high-grade	\$30,287	\$34,939	\$(4,652)	(13.3)%
Eurobond	14,143	8,148	5,995	73.6
Total distribution fees	44,430	43,087	1,343	3.1
Variable transaction fees				
U.S. high-grade	16,260	17,602	(1,342)	(7.6)
Eurobond	4,003	10,680	(6,677)	(62.5)
Other	8,835	8,845	(10)	(0.1)
Total transaction fees	29,098	37,127	(8,029)	(21.6)
Total commissions	\$73,528	\$80,214	\$(6,686)	(8.3)%

	2012			
(In millions)	PrivateEquity	RealEstate	Other	Total
Beginning balance	\$55	\$49	\$17	\$121
Actual return on plan assets	2	-	-	2
Purchases	12	10	-	22
Sales	(13)	(5)	-	(18)
Ending balance	\$56	\$54	\$17	\$127
	2011			
(In millions)	PrivateEquity	RealEstate	Other	Total
Beginning balance	\$46	\$37	\$17	\$100
Actual return on plan assets	7	5	-	12
Purchases	10	12	-	22
Sales	(9)	(6)	-	(15)
Other	1	1	-	2
Ending balance	\$55	\$49	\$17	\$121

	Target Allocation	
	April 29, 2016	April 24, 2015
Asset Category		
Equity securities	49%	49%
Debt securities	23	23
Other	28	28
Total	100%	100%
Non-U.S. Plans		
	Target Allocation	
	April 29, 2016	April 24, 2015
Asset Category		
Equity securities	34%	35%
Debt securities	27	29
Other	39	36
Total	100%	100%

Existing MTU Images

Rank	Games	Player	Club	Career span
1	432	Brent Harvey	North Melbourne	1996–2016
2	426	Michael Tuck	Hawthorn	1972–1991
3	403	Kevin Bartlett	Richmond	1965–1983
4	400	Dustin Fletcher	Essendon	1993–2015
5	383	Robert Harvey	St Kilda	1988–2008

	2019	2018	2017
Restaurants sold to franchisees	—	135	178
New restaurants opened by franchisees	19	11	18
Proceeds from the sale of company-operated res...			
Cash (1)	\$1,280	\$26,486	\$99,591
Notes receivable	—	70,461	—
	\$1,280	\$96,947	\$99,591
Net assets sold (primarily property and equipm...	\$—	\$(21,329)	\$(30,597)
Lease commitment charges (2)	—	—	(11,737)
Goodwill related to the sale of company-operat...	(2)	(4,663)	(10,062)
Other (3)	88	(24,791)	(9,161)
Gains on the sale of company-operated restaurants	\$1,366	\$46,164	\$38,034

Rank	Lane	Name	Nationality	Time	Notes
	4	Pieter van den Hoogenband	Netherlands	48.30	
	3	Alexander Popov	Russia	48.69	
	7	Gary Hall, Jr.	United States	48.73	
4	5	Michael Klim	Australia	48.74	
5	2	Neil Walker	United States	49.09	
6	6	Lars Frölander	Sweden	49.22	
7	1	Denis Pimankov	Russia	49.36	
8	8	Chris Fydler	Australia	49.44	

Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±
Republican	Robert E. Smylie	121,810	50.96%	
Democratic	Alfred M. Derr	117,236	49.04%	
Majority		4,574		
Turnout		239,046		
Republican hold		Swing		

Particulars	Total	Male	Female
Total No. of Houses	258		
Total Population	1,396	715	681
In the age group 0–6 years	141	74	67
Scheduled Castes (SC)	984	510	474
Scheduled Tribes (ST)	0	0	0
Literates	912	498	414
Illiterate	484	217	267
Total Worker	471	399	72
Main Worker	305	274	31
Marginal Worker	166	125	41

Figure 3. Comparison of the table images synthesized in this work with existing MTU table images.

	For the Years Ended December 31,					
Index	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Aimco	100.00	106.29	164.95	113.71	59.71	85.29
MSCI US REIT	100.00	112.13	152.41	126.78	78.64	101.14
S&P 500	100.00	104.91	121.48	128.16	80.74	102.11

QUESTION: What was the value of Aimco in 2006?

DETAIL_ANSWER: Looking at the table, the value of Aimco in 2006 is 164.95.

SHORT_ANSWER: 164.95.

(Retrieval)

QUESTION: In which year did MSCI US REIT have the highest value?

DETAIL_ANSWER: The values for MSCI US REIT are 112.13 in 2005, 152.41 in 2006, 126.78 in 2007, 78.64 in 2008, and 101.14 in 2009. The highest value is 152.41 which is in 2006.

SHORT_ANSWER: 2006.

(Data operations)

	Year ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
	(in millions)		
Total Individual Annuities(1):			
Beginning total account value	\$158,664	\$154,140	\$135,342
Sales	8,780	10,008	11,513
Surrenders and withdrawals	(8,415)	(8,852)	(7,727)
Net sales	365	1,156	3,786
Benefit payments	(1,910)	(1,799)	(1,617)
Net flows	(1,545)	(643)	2,169
Change in market value, interest credited and other activity	(585)	8,666	19,826
Policy charges	(3,589)	(3,499)	(3,197)
Ending total account value	\$152,945	\$158,664	\$154,140

QUESTION: Please provide a detailed summary of the table.

DETAIL_ANSWER: In 2015, the beginning total account value was \$158,664, with sales of 8,780 and surrenders and withdrawals of 8,415 resulting in net sales of 365. Benefit payments were 1,910 and net flows were -1,545. There was a change in market value, interest credited and other activity of -585 and policy charges of -3,589, leading to an ending total account value of \$152,945. In 2014, similar data is presented, and in 2013 as well.

SHORT_ANSWER: Summary of account values, sales, etc. over 3 years.

(Summary)

QUESTION: What is the total of net sales for all three years?

DETAIL_ANSWER: The net sales for 2013 is 3,786, for 2014 is 1,156, and for 2015 is 365. The total is $3,786 + 1,156 + 365 = 5,307$.

SHORT_ANSWER: 5,307.

(Numerical calculations)

	2016	2015	2014
Fair value at grant date	\$10.35	\$11.57	\$10.99
Expected volatility	21.6%	21.0%	25.1%
Dividend yield	2.4%	2.1%	2.1%
Risk-free interest rate	1.4%	1.7%	1.6% - 2.0%
Expected holding period, in years	5.3	5.3	5.5 - 6.6

QUESTION: Is the fair value at grant date in 2016 higher than that in 2015?

DETAIL_ANSWER: The fair value at grant date in 2016 is \$10.35 and in 2015 is \$11.57. So, the fair value at grant date in 2016 is lower than that in 2015.

SHORT_ANSWER: no.

(Selection)

	Year Ended October 31,		
	2018	2017	2016
	(in thousands, except per share price)		
Shares repurchased(1)	4,688	5,413	8,506
Average purchase price per share(1)	\$89.59	\$70.21	\$49.37
Aggregate purchase price(1)	\$420,000	\$380,000	\$420,000
Reissuance of treasury stock	3,508	4,404	4,803

QUESTION: Which year had the highest number of shares repurchased?

DETAIL_ANSWER: Looking at the "Shares repurchased(1)" column, we see the values 4688 for 2018, 5413 for 2017, and 8506 for 2016. Comparing these, 2016 had the highest number of shares repurchased.

SHORT_ANSWER: 2016.

(Data operations)

Millions of Dollars	2007	2006	2005
Track	\$1,593	\$1,487	\$1,472
Capacity and commercial facilities	534	510	509
Locomotives and freight cars	263	135	98
Other	106	110	90
Total	\$2,496	\$2,242	\$2,169

QUESTION: What is the total amount in 2007?

DETAIL_ANSWER: Looking at the table, the total amount in 2007 is \$2,496.

SHORT_ANSWER: \$2,496.

(Retrieval)

QUESTION: How much did the amount for Locomotives and freight cars increase from 2006 to 2007?

DETAIL_ANSWER: The amount for Locomotives and freight cars in 2006 is \$135 and in 2007 is \$263. The increase is $\$263 - \$135 = \$128$.

SHORT_ANSWER: \$128.

(Numerical calculations)

Figure 4. Visualization of SynTab sample pairs. The texts below each image represent the Q&A pairs we synthesize. Each Q&A pair includes the user-input question, detailed solution steps, and the final concise answer. The red bold text indicates the question category to which the Q&A pair belongs.

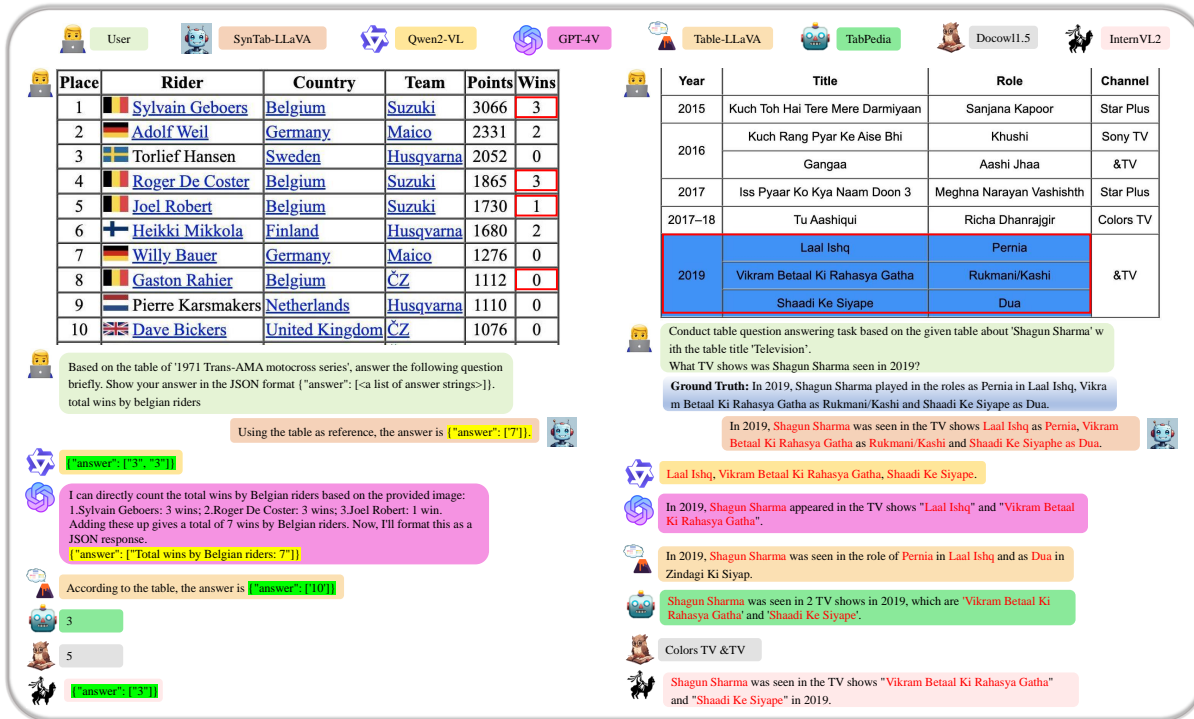


Figure 5. Case study on WTQ and FeTaQA. The red rectangular boxes indicate the table regions relevant to the questions. In the WTQ, yellow highlights represent correct answers, while green highlights denote incorrect. In the FeTaQA, which requires generating a complete sentence, red text is used to indicate the keywords present in the predicted results.

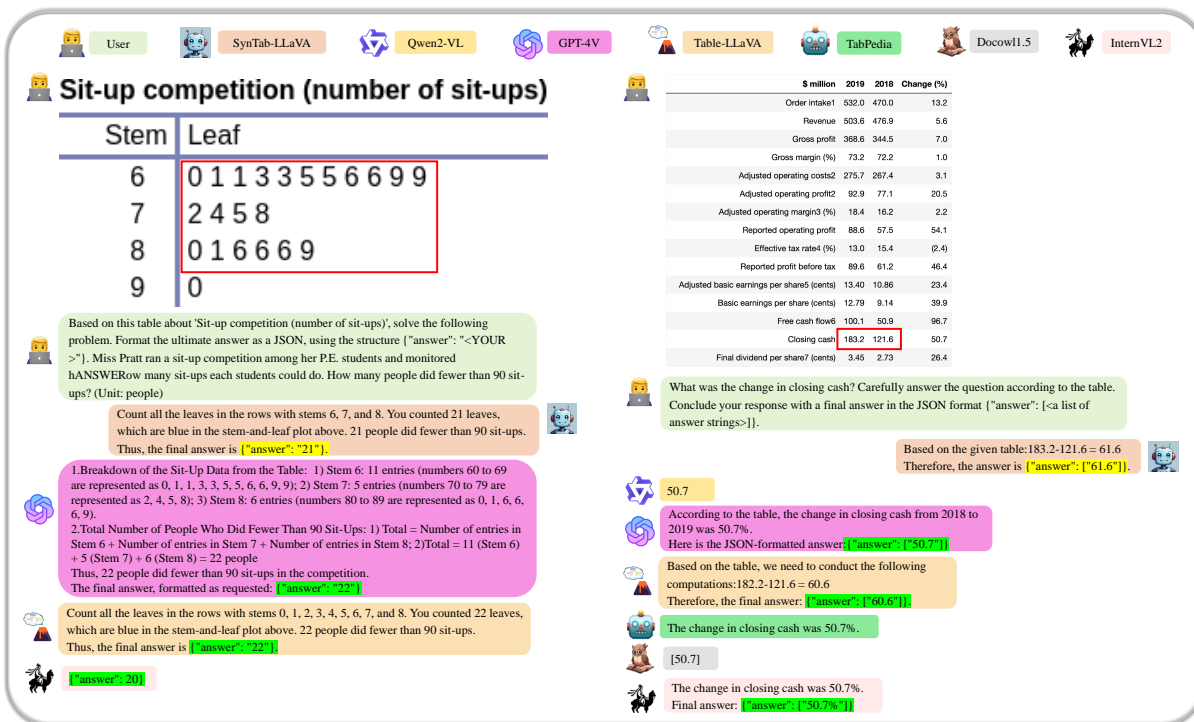


Figure 6. Case study on TABMWP and AIT-QA. These benchmarks involve extensive data computation tasks, requiring the outputs to present step-by-step reasoning leading to the final answer.

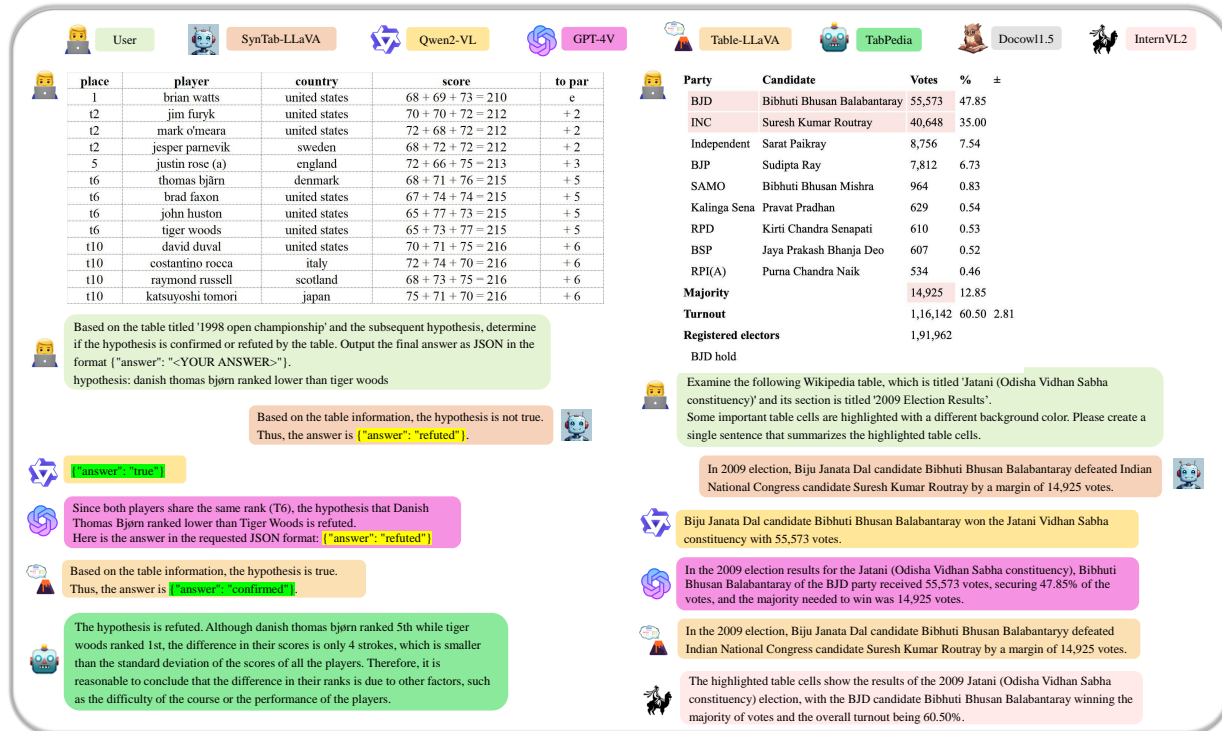


Figure 7. Case study on TabFact and ToTTo. The ToTTo benchmark not only requires the model to perceive color information in images but also demands strong summarization capabilities, posing a challenge to the captioning abilities of existing MLLMs.

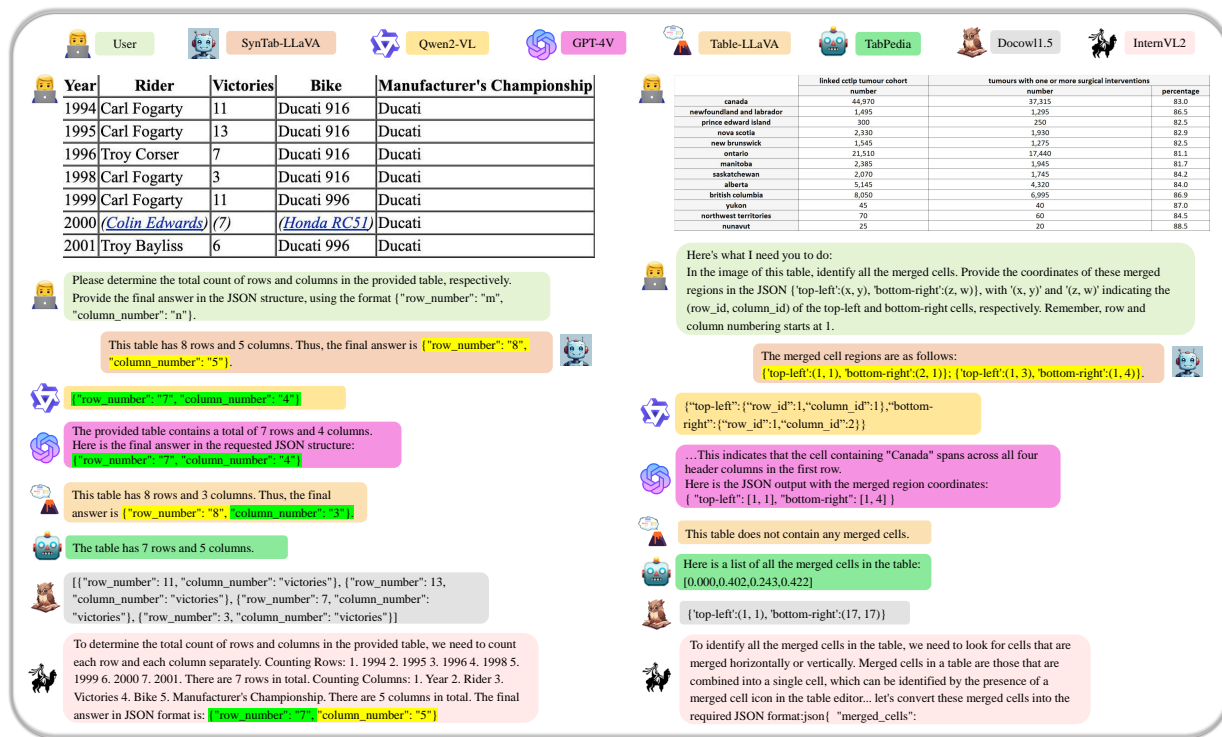


Figure 8. Case study on TSD and MCD. These two benchmarks primarily evaluate a model's ability to perceive the structure of table images. The results indicate that existing MLLMs perform poorly on such fundamental perception tasks.

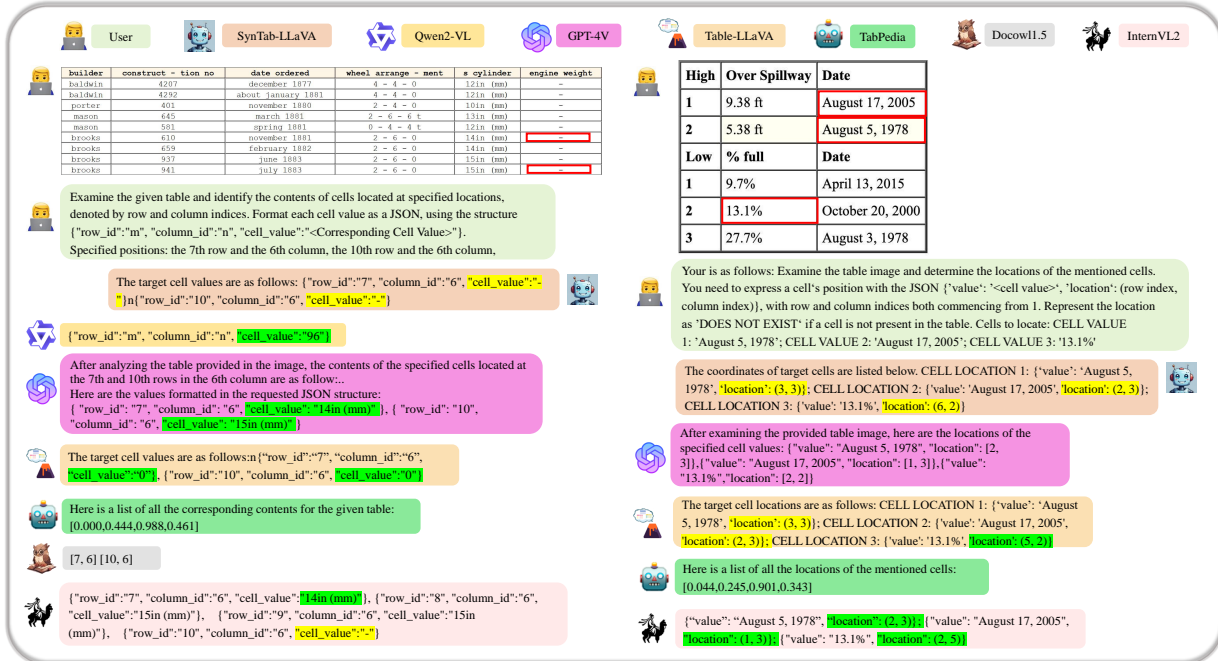


Figure 9. Case study on TCE and TCL. The visualization results above demonstrate that existing MLLMs exhibit significant gaps compared to our method in locating and recognizing table cell content.

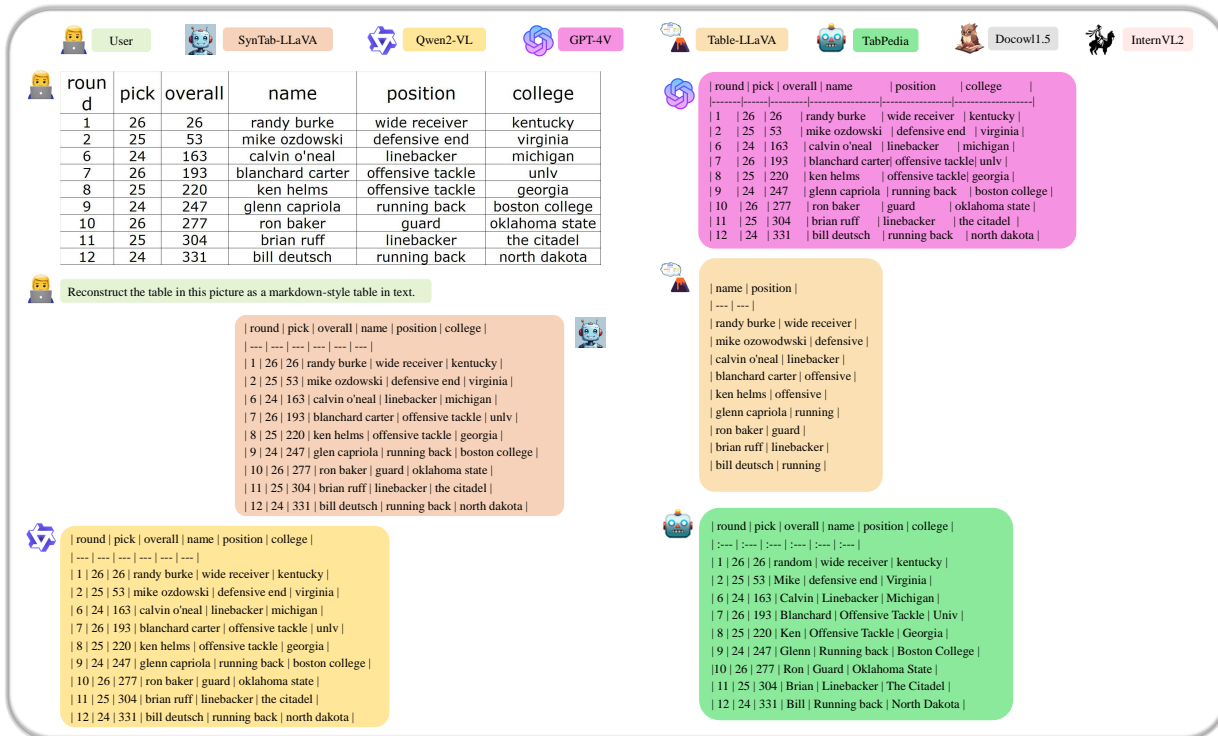


Figure 10. Case study on TR. The general MLLMs demonstrate strong performance in converting images to Markdown, primarily because they are pre-trained on large-scale Markdown datasets. Compared to the tabular MLLMs Table-LLaVA and TabPedia, our approach achieves a significant performance improvement.

numerical values; multiplication: calculating the product of numerical values; division: determining the quotient of numerical value; simple combinations: performing basic operations involving combinations of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

Complex calculations involve operations that combine multiple tasks, including: data retrieval, sorting, filtering, mathematical operations, and so on. Complex calculations integrate these tasks to perform more intricate data analysis.

B.4. Free Answering

Free table question answering. This subcategory requires retrieval and reasoning over multiple sources of information in table, and the answer should integrate both facts and inferences into a coherent sentence that answers the question.

B.5. Selection

Multiple choice in the context of MTU involves selecting the correct answer from a list of given options based on the data presented in the table.

Table fact verification involves checking the accuracy and validity of information presented in a table against known facts or expected results. The main aspects of table fact verification include: cross-checking, consistency check, error detection, logical verification, *etc.*

B.6. Summary

Table Summary involves providing a concise and coherent description of the key information presented in a table.

C. Visualization

C.1. Rendered Table Images

We visualize the synthetic table images generated in this paper. As shown in Fig. 3, our rendered images exhibit diverse characteristics, including different font styles, varying highlighted regions, and a variety of table visual layout, such as only row separators, only column separators, both row and column separators, and row segmentation using background colors, *etc.* Compared to existing MTU images, our synthesized images are even more diverse and better match common table images found in real-world scenarios. Additionally, our images also include complex hierarchical tables, as seen in the last row of the figure. These hierarchical table images facilitate the model’s learning of complex table structures, thereby enhancing its capability to understand tables in complex scenarios. From the visualizations above, we conclude that, through extensive data augmentation, the synthesized images closely resemble real-world table images, thus validating the effectiveness and authenticity of the synthetic data proposed in this paper.

C.2. Synthesized SynTab Samples

As shown in Fig. 4, we visualize some sample pairs from SynTab. It can be observed that the questions generated for each image are not fixed but are randomly selected based on probability to determine the type of question to generate. This design prevents the dataset from being dominated by specific question types, enriches the diversity of samples, and enhances the generalization and robustness of subsequent MLLMs in table understanding tasks. Additionally, our generated answers include a detailed answer that provides step-by-step solutions to the questions. Such Q&A pairs enable the model to learn how to approach table understanding tasks incrementally rather than producing a direct answer, thereby avoiding potential performance degradation caused by the lack of intermediate reasoning steps.

C.3. Comparison with Other MLLMs

To compare our method with existing MLLMs in table understanding tasks, we conduct visualized experiments across multiple benchmark datasets, with the results shown in Fig. 5-10. The experimental results demonstrate that our model SynTab-LLaVA achieves significant performance improvements across various benchmarks when compared to Qwen2-VL, GPT-4V, Docowl1.5, InternVL2, as well as tabular MLLMs such as Table-LLaVA and TabPedia. For example, in Fig. 5, the input in the left sample requires the model to retrieve all the “wins” cells corresponding to riders from Belgium in the table, then sum these “wins” to generate the answer. It can be observed that, apart from GPT-4V and our SynTab-LLaVA, the other models make incorrect predictions. A closer analysis of GPT-4V’s answer shows that while it predicts the correct result, it misses a rider, Gaston Rahier, whose “wins” are 0, making its answer unsatisfactory. As for the FeTaQA, We use red text to highlight the keywords in the predicted answer sentence that match the ground truth. As shown in Fig. 5, our method successfully matches the most keywords, indicating that our model not only generates concise answers but also produces coherent sentences capable of handling a variety of MTU tasks. These qualitative analysis validate the effectiveness of the proposed method and highlights its potential contribution to the multimodal community by providing a new MTU dataset to enhance model performance in multimodal table understanding.