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香港城市大學
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COMPUTER SCIENCE COLLOQUIUM

Writing the Prompt Without Reading the Records

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ABSTRACT

Surgical waiting lists are dynamic: filling an open slot requires identifying ready, available patients from accumulated free-text planning notes, typically via manual review. These notes are noisy, institution-specific, and contain sensitive health information, limiting the use of hosted large language models (LLMs). We study whether a commercial LLM can instead help construct an effective extraction pipeline for a locally deployed model, without access to unsanitised patient records. From 30 manually sanitised, hand-labelled examples, Claude Sonnet 5 iteratively authors artifacts for a local Qwen3.6-35B-A3B model: either a direct extraction prompt or a two-stage tidy-then-extract pipeline, each with and without reasoning. Artifacts are selected on 42 validation records and evaluated on 100 test records, scoring readiness and availability as mean macro-F1. Direct extraction performs best by point estimate (0.692 for a single run, 0.712 with five-sample voting), though the test set is too small to separate the top conditions, and reasoning gives no consistent benefit. Agreement across repeated samples is associated with correctness, a practical signal for prioritising manual review. A commercial LLM can therefore help engineer a local clinical NLP pipeline while unsanitised records stay inside the hospital.

BIOGRAPHY

Signý Kristín Sigurjónsdóttir is a PhD student at the University of Iceland, working on optimizing surgical schedules at the University Hospital of Iceland. Her current work combines commercial and locally deployed language models to extract structured information from clinical free text without exposing patient records, a prerequisite for scheduling from real waiting list data.

All are welcome!

In case of questions, please contact Prof. ZHANG Qingfu at qingfu.zhang@cityu.edu.hk, or visit the CS Departmental Seminar Web at https://www.cs.cityu.edu.hk/events/cs-seminars/recent-cs-colloquiums.