

GPT-3: Few-Shot Learning with a Giant Language Model

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Language Models are Few-Shot Learners

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Jeffrey Wu

Clemens Winter

Christopher Hesse

Mark Chen

Eric Sigler

Mateusz Litwin

Scott Gray

Benjamin Chess

Jack Clark

Christopher Berner

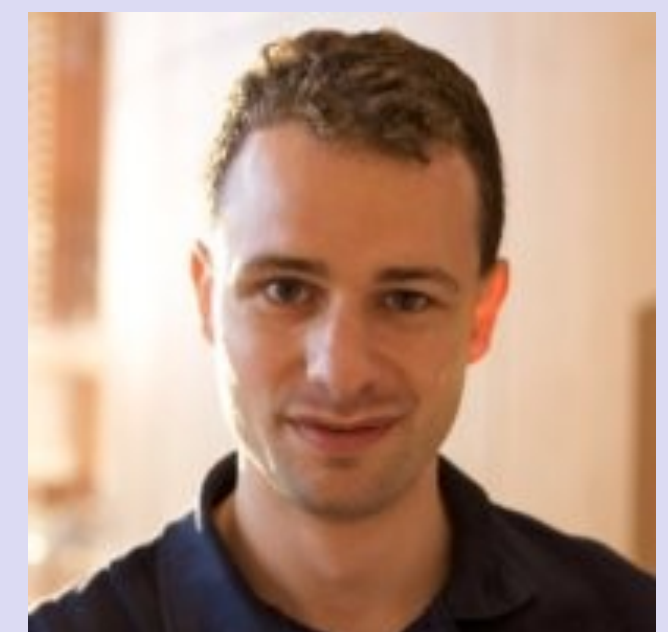
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Alec Radford

Ilya Sutskever

Dario Amodei

OpenAI



What is the goal?

Humans learn new tasks through demonstrations and instructions.

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Humans learn new tasks through demonstrations and instructions.

We'd like general-purpose agents that can do the same.

Typical Approach



Disadvantages to Fine-tuning

- Creates a task-specific model

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- Requires large high-quality supervised datasets

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- Creates a task-specific model
- Requires large high-quality supervised datasets
- more likely to exploit spurious correlations

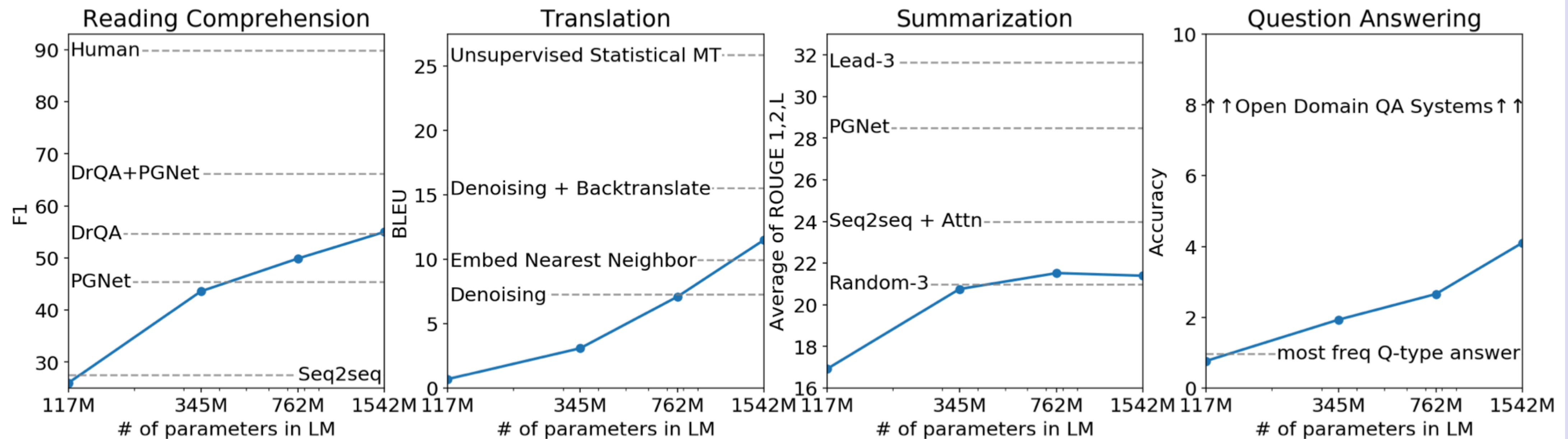
What is an alternative?

Context (human-written): In a shocking finding, scientist discovered a herd of unicorns living in a remote, previously unexplored valley, in the Andes Mountains. Even more surprising to the researchers was the fact that the unicorns spoke perfect English.

GPT-2: The scientist named the population, after their distinctive horn, Ovid's Unicorn. These four-horned, silver-white unicorns were previously unknown to science.

Now, after almost two centuries, the mystery of what sparked this odd phenomenon is finally solved.

Dr. Jorge Pérez, an evolutionary biologist from the University of La Paz, and several companions, were exploring the Andes Mountains when they found a small valley, with no other animals or humans. Pérez noticed that the valley had what appeared to be a natural fountain, surrounded by two peaks of rock and silver snow.



Can we further improve on this level of generation and generalization?

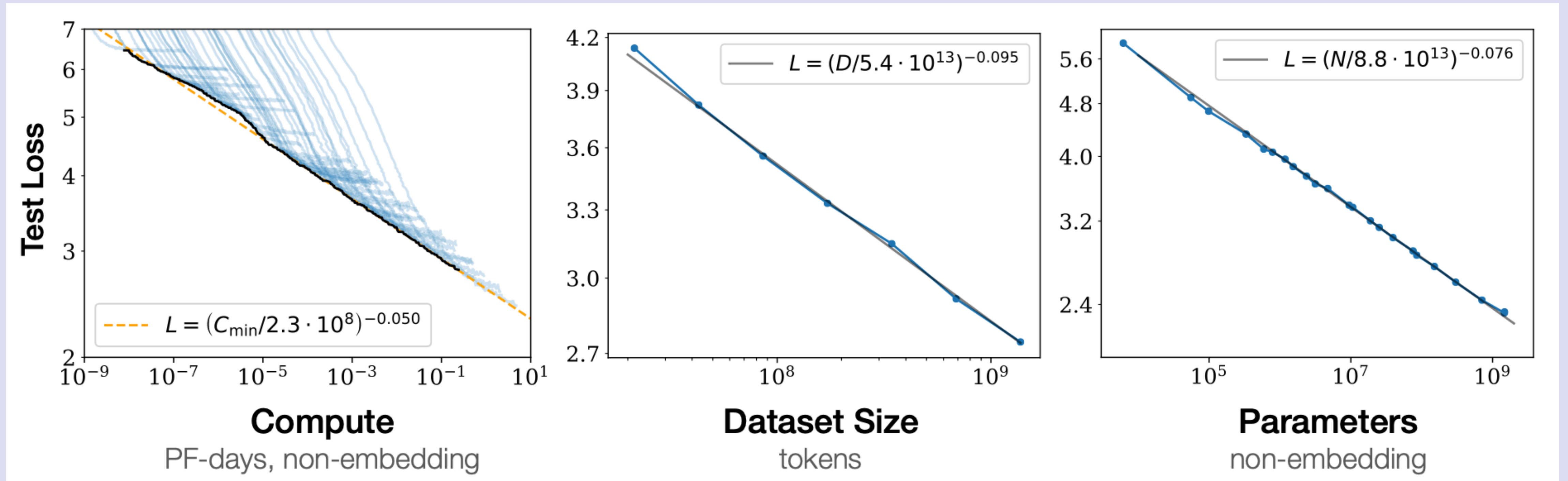
Can we further improve on this level of generation and generalization?

GPT-3 175 Billion parameters

Critical Aspects of GPT-3

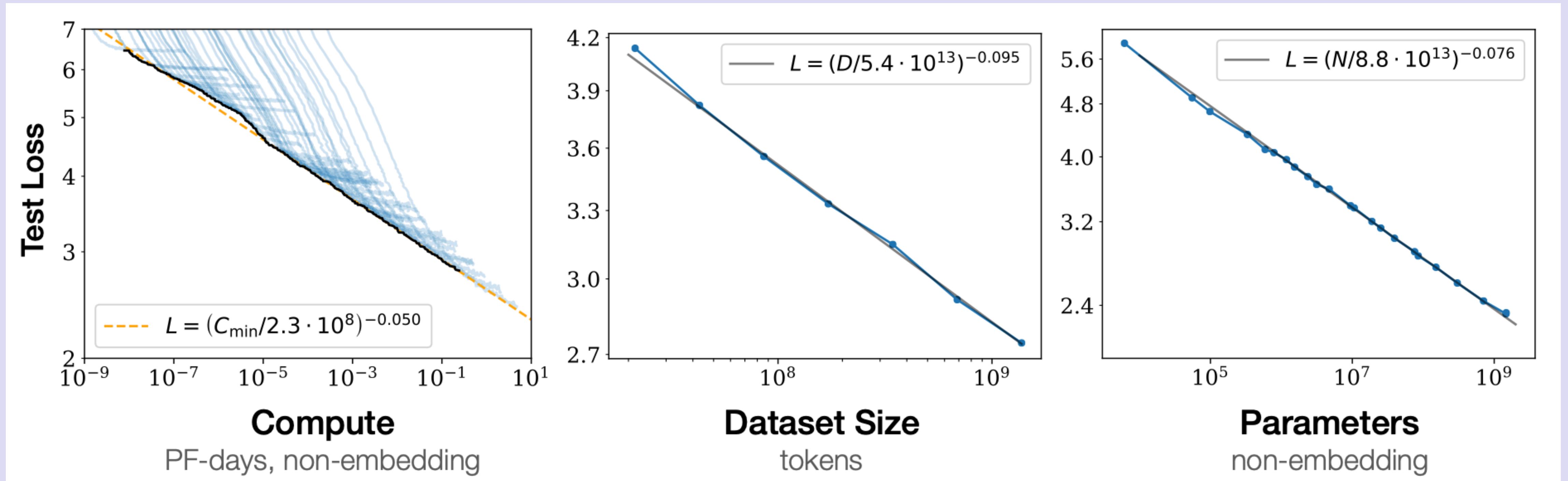
- Model Size
- Training Objective

Model Size



Model Size

Transformers scale well!



Motivating the Training Objective

Predict the next word in a sequence.

Motivating the Training Objective

$P(\text{“The cat sat on the mat.”}) = ???$

Motivating the Training Objective

$P(\text{“The cat sat on the mat.”}) = ???$

“But it must be recognized that the notion of ‘probability of a sentence’ is an entirely useless one, under any known interpretation of this term.”

- Noam Chomsky, 1969

Motivating the Training Objective

$P(\text{“The cat sat on the mat.”}) > P(\text{“The cat sats on the mat.”})$

Motivating the Training Objective

$P(\text{“The cat sat on the mat.”}) > P(\text{“The cat sats on the mat.”})$
Grammar

Motivating the Training Objective

$P(\text{"The cat sat on the mat."}) > P(\text{"The cat sats on the mat."})$

Grammar

$P(\text{"The cat sat on the mat."}) > P(\text{"The whale sat on the mat."})$

Motivating the Training Objective

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World Knowledge

Motivating the Training Objective

$P(\text{“The cat sat on the mat.”}) > P(\text{“The cat sats on the mat.”})$

Grammar

$P(\text{“The cat sat on the mat.”}) > P(\text{“The whale sat on the mat.”})$

World Knowledge

$P(\text{“4”} \mid \text{“2 + 2 =”}) > P(\text{“5”} \mid \text{“2 + 2 =”})$

Motivating the Training Objective

$P(\text{“The cat sat on the mat.”}) > P(\text{“The cat sats on the mat.”})$

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World Knowledge

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Arithmetic

Motivating the Training Objective

$P(\text{"The cat sat on the mat."}) > P(\text{"The cat sats on the mat."})$

Grammar

$P(\text{"The cat sat on the mat."}) > P(\text{"The whale sat on the mat."})$

World Knowledge

$P(\text{"4"} \mid \text{"2 + 2 ="}) > P(\text{"5"} \mid \text{"2 + 2 ="})$

Addition

$P(\text{"1 star"} \mid \text{"That movie was terrible. I'd give it"}) > P(\text{"5 stars"} \mid \text{"That movie was terrible. I'd give it"})$

Motivating the Training Objective

$P(\text{“The cat sat on the mat.”}) > P(\text{“The cat sats on the mat.”})$

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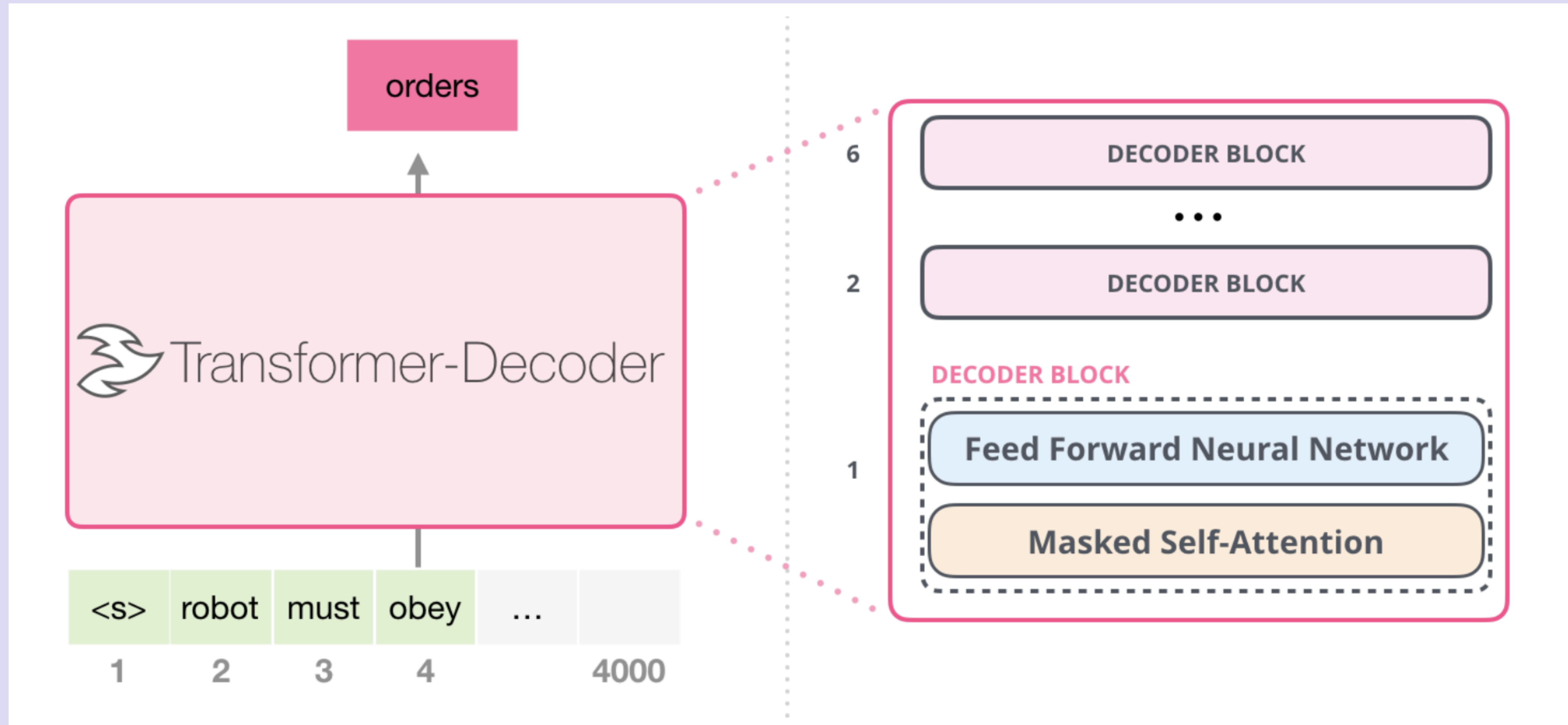
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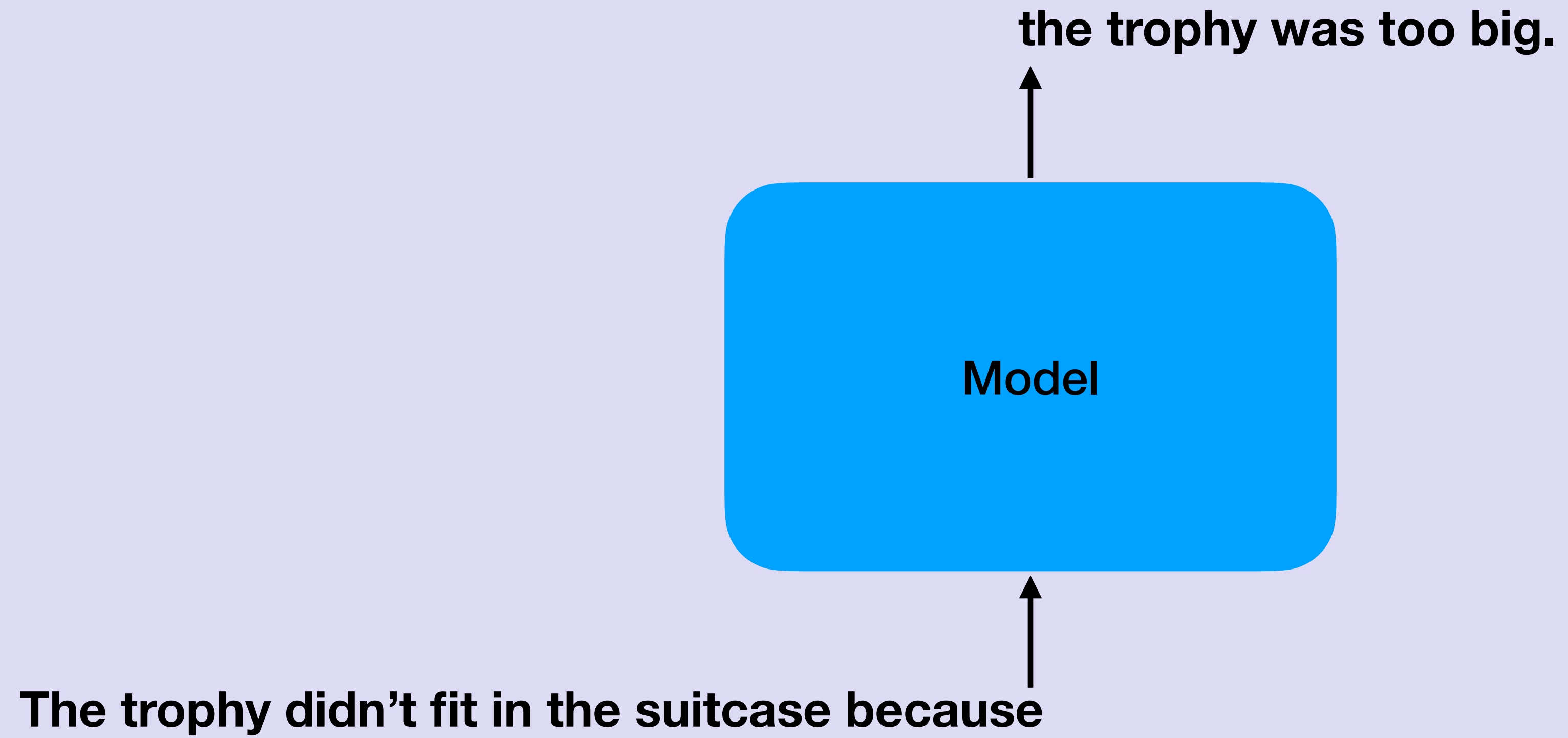
Sentiment Analysis

Approach

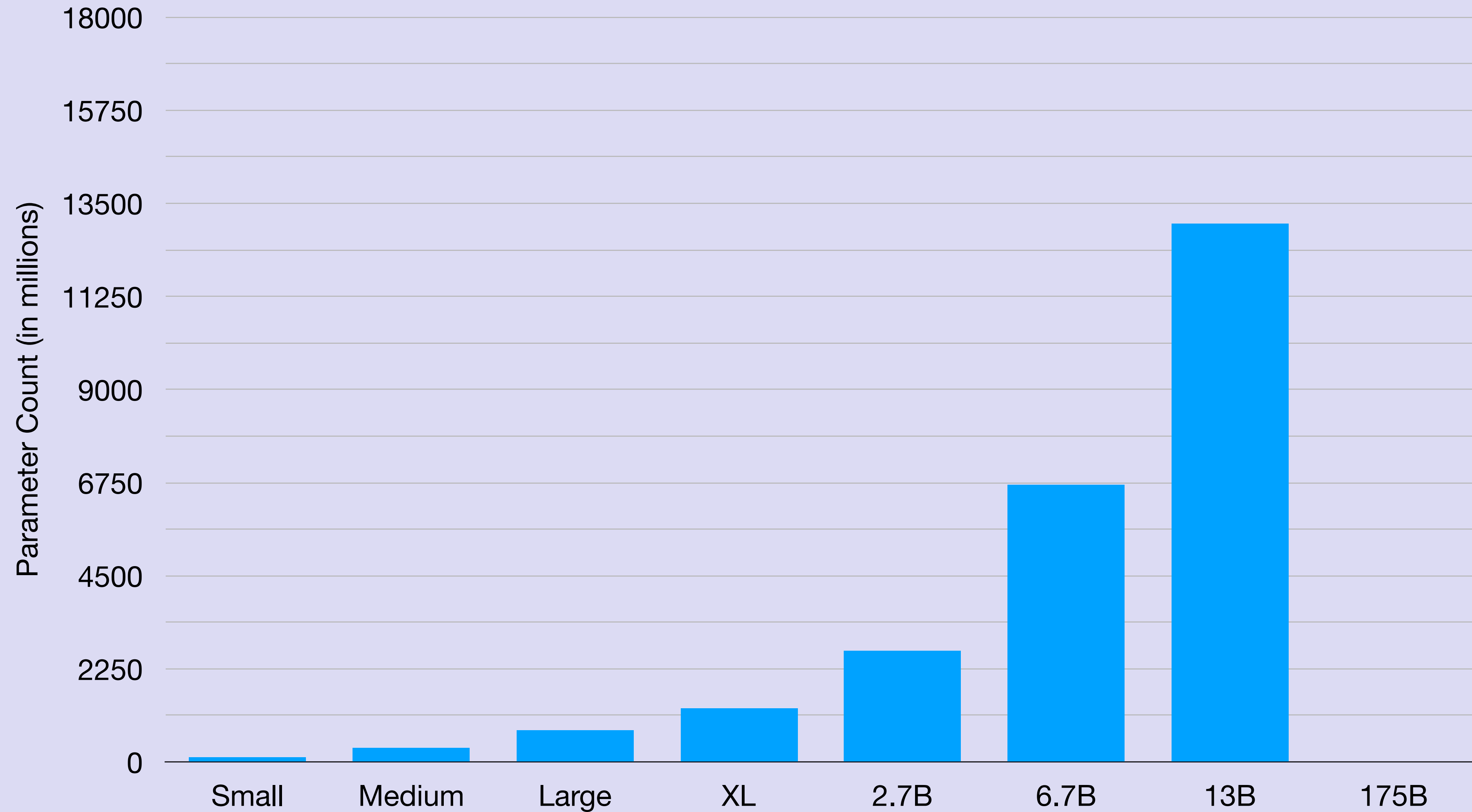
Model



Model



Model Sizes



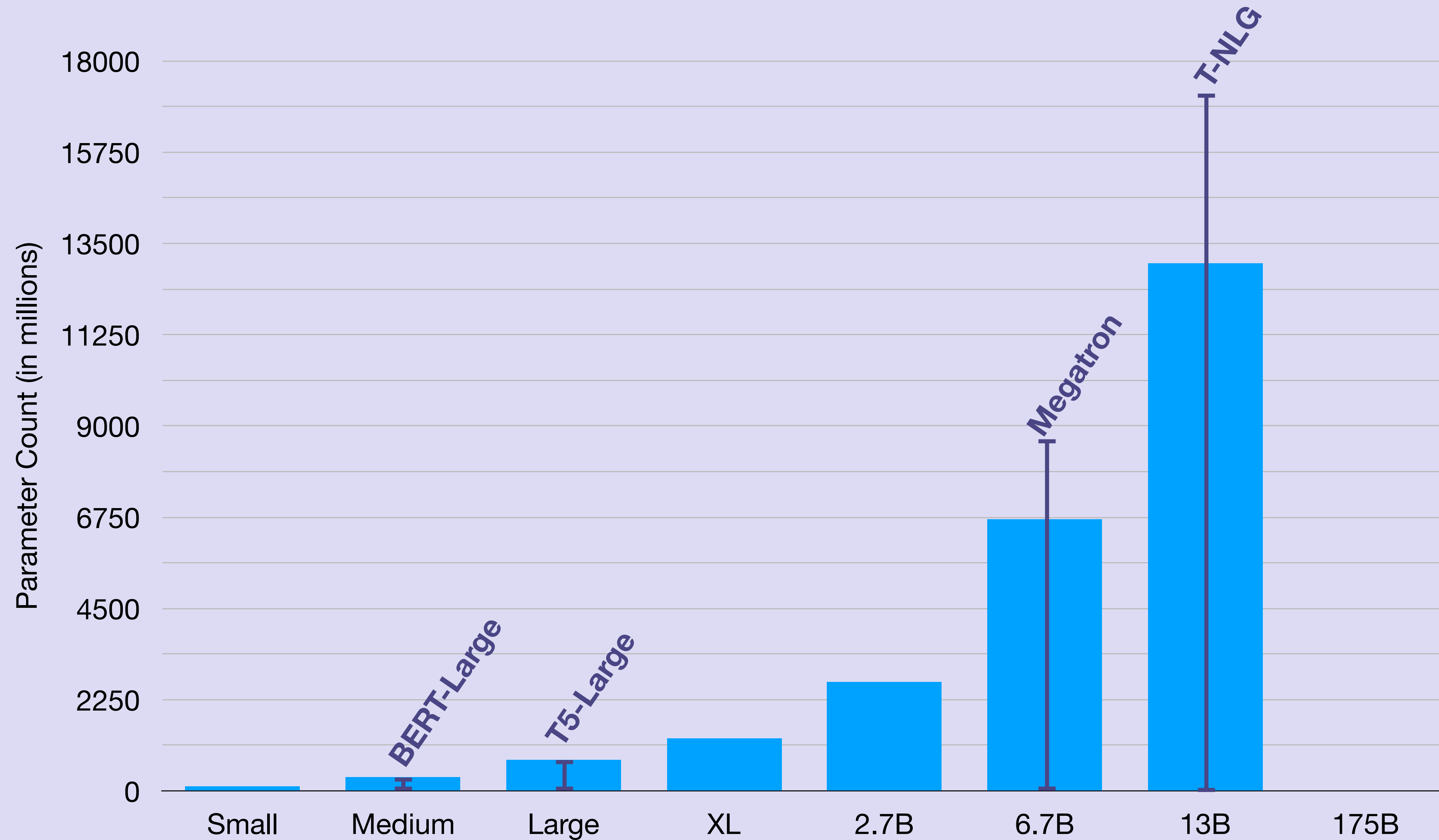
Model Sizes

Devlin, et al. BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding. 2018

Raffel, et al. Exploring the Limits of Transfer Learning with a Unified Text-to-Text Transformer. 2019

Shoeybi, et al. Megatron-LM: Training Multi-Billion Parameter Language Models Using Model Parallelism. 2019

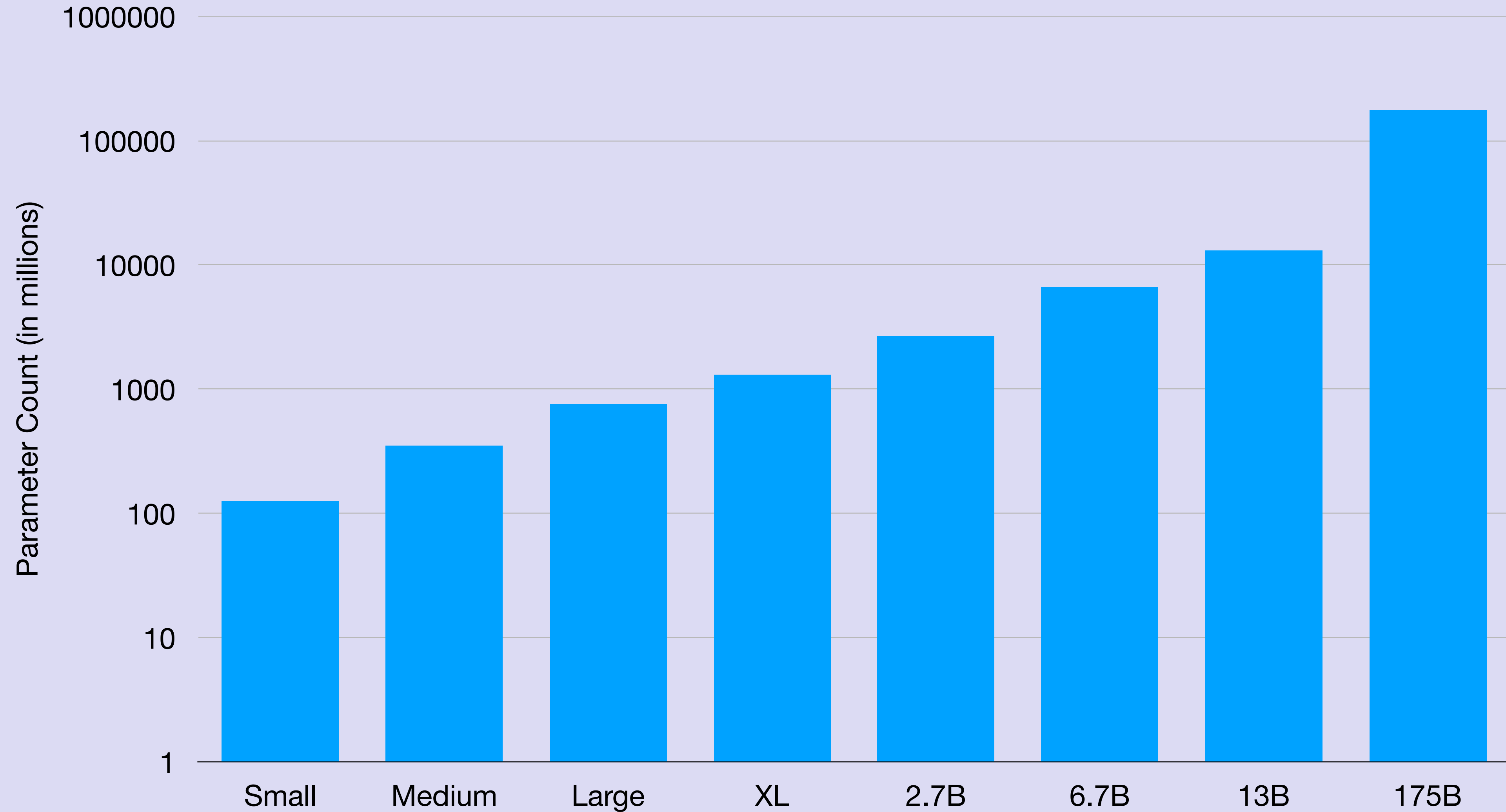
Microsoft. Turing-NLG: A 17-Billion Parameter Language Model by Microsoft. 2020



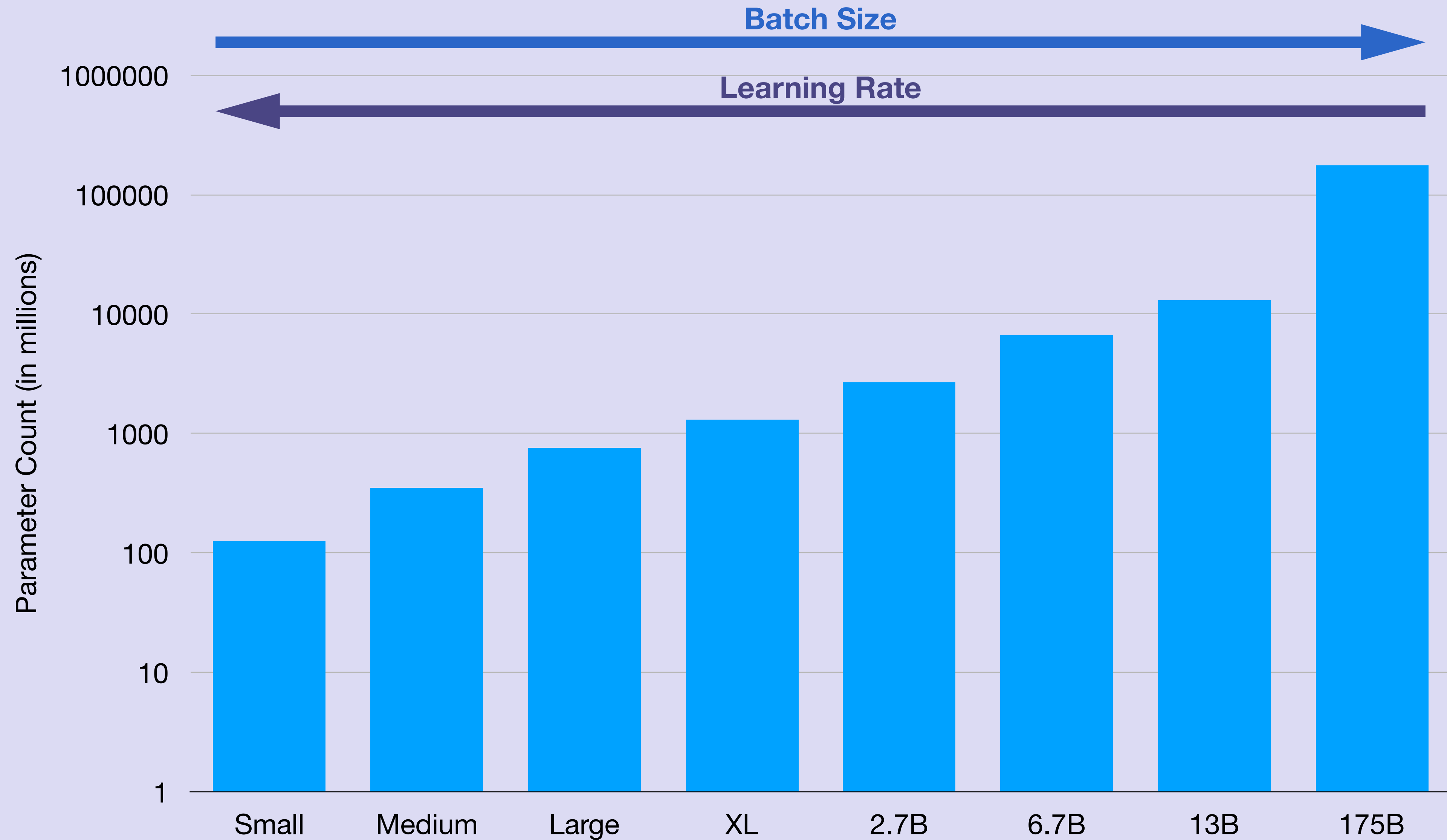
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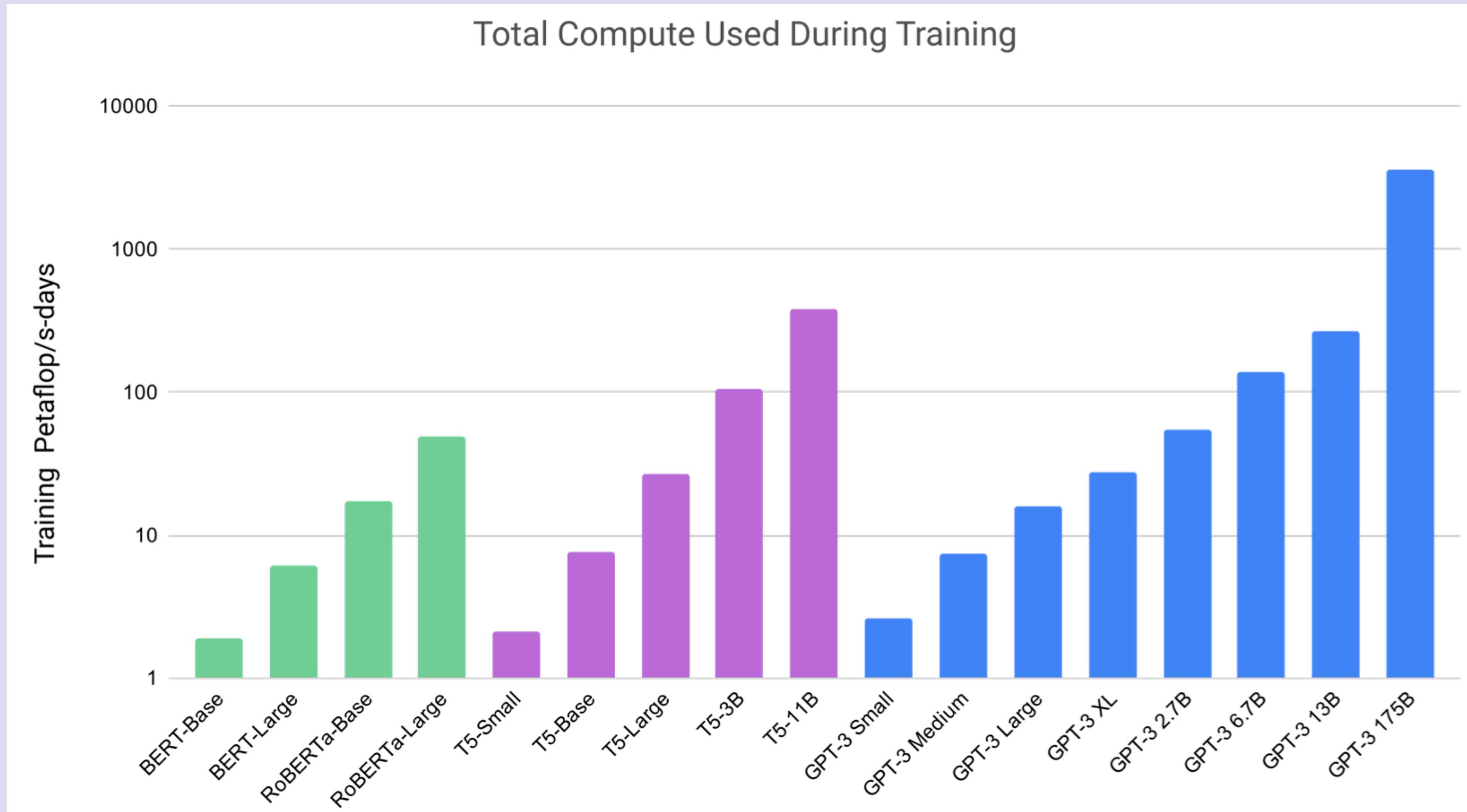
Model Sizes



Model Sizes



Compute



Dataset

- **Common Crawl (filtered)** - general web crawl, filtered based on similarity to high-quality reference and de-duplication

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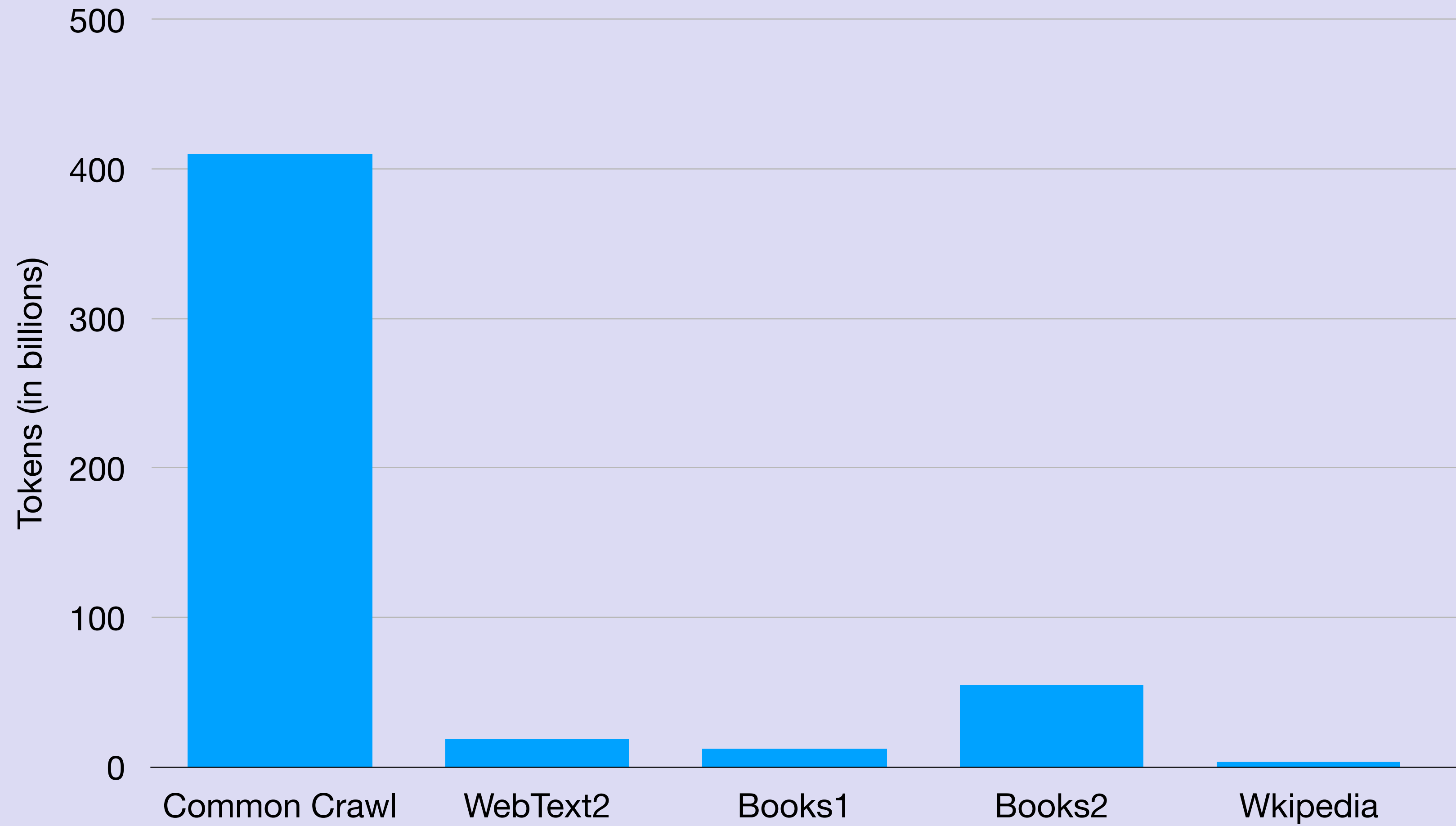
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- **Books1 & Books2** - internet-based books

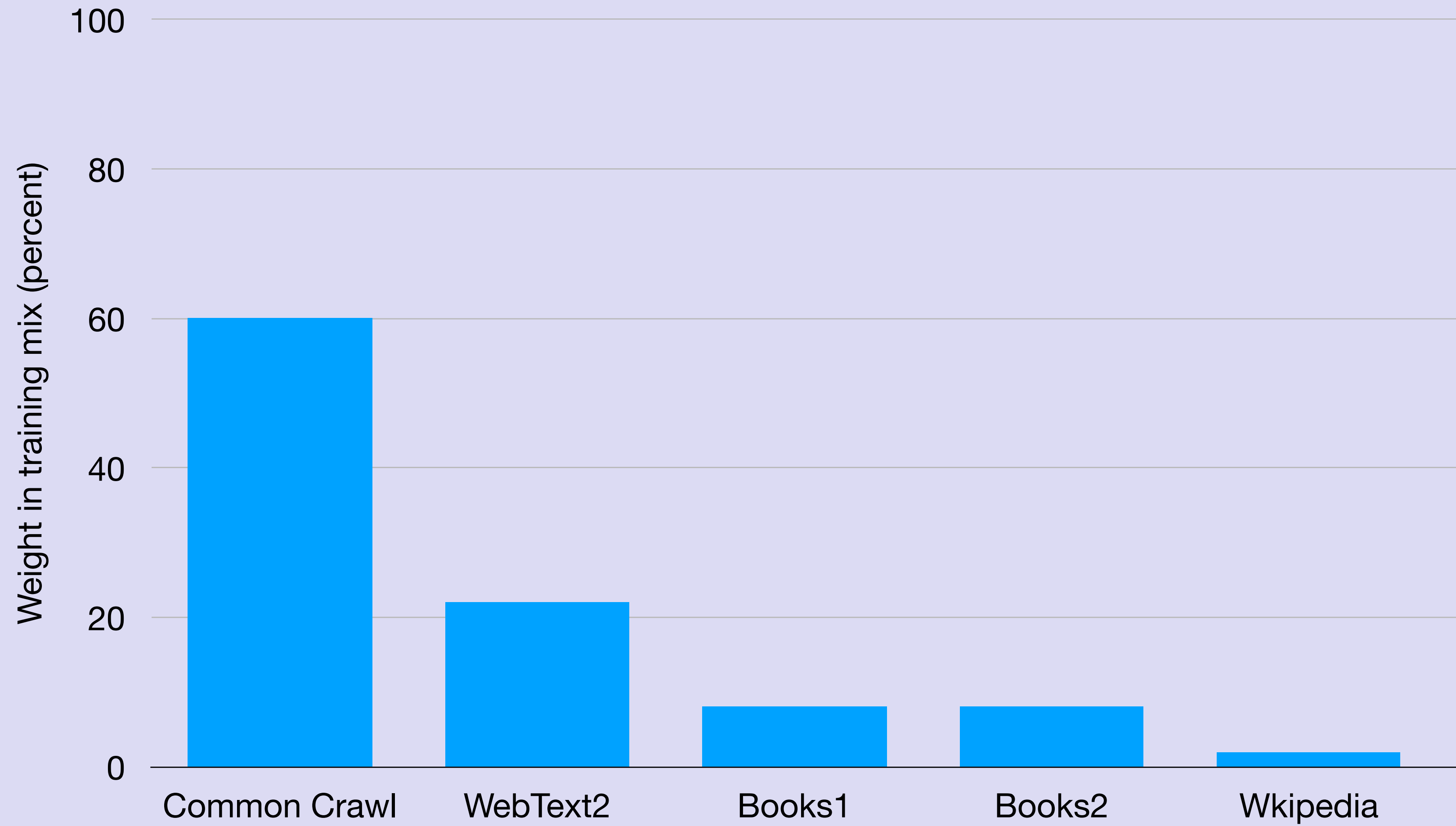
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- **Books1 & Books2** - internet-based books
- **Wikipedia** - English-language Wikipedia

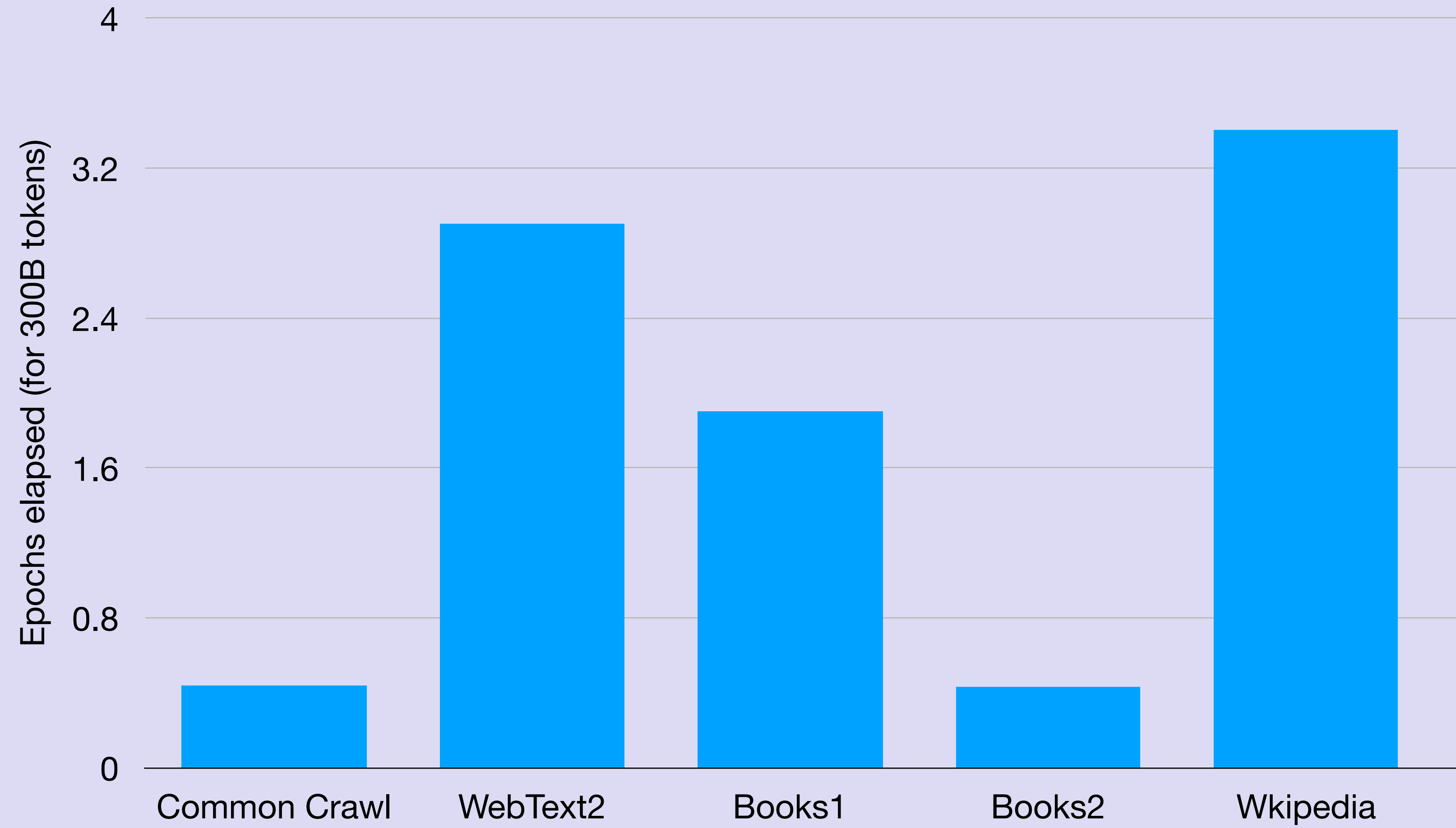
Dataset Mix



Dataset Mix



Dataset Mix



Evaluations

Let's try it!

tdaeef = ?

Let's try it!

Please unscramble the letters into a word and write that word.

tdaeef = ?

Let's try it!

Zero-Shot

Please unscramble the letters into a word and write that word.

tdaeef = ?

Let's try it!

One-Shot

Please unscramble the letters into a word and write that word.

pcirlaroc = reciprocal
tdaeef = ?

Let's try it!

Few-Shot

Please unscramble the letters into a word and write that word.

pcirlaroc = reciprocal

elapac = palace

tdaeef = ?

Zero-shot

The model predicts the answer given only a natural language description of the task. No gradient updates are performed.

```
1 Translate English to French: ← task description
2 cheese => ..... ← prompt
```


Zero-shot

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1 Translate English to French: ← task description
2 cheese => ..... ← prompt
```

One-shot

In addition to the task description, the model sees a single example of the task. No gradient updates are performed.

```
1 Translate English to French: ← task description
2 sea otter => loutre de mer ← example
3 cheese => ..... ← prompt
```

Zero-shot

The model predicts the answer given only a natural language description of the task. No gradient updates are performed.

```
1 Translate English to French: ← task description
2 cheese => ..... ← prompt
```

One-shot

In addition to the task description, the model sees a single example of

Few-shot

```
1 Tran
2 sea
3 chee
```

In addition to the task description, the model sees a few examples of the task. No gradient updates are performed.

```
1 Translate English to French: ← task description
2 sea otter => loutre de mer ← examples
3 peppermint => menthe poivrée ←
4 plush girafe => girafe peluche ←
5 cheese => ..... ← prompt
```



VS.

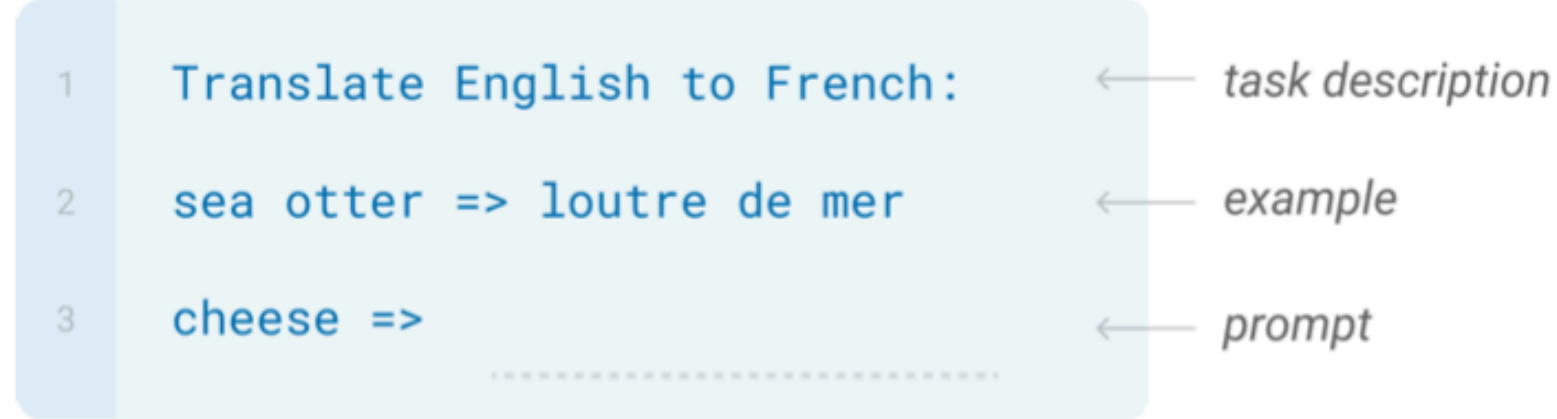
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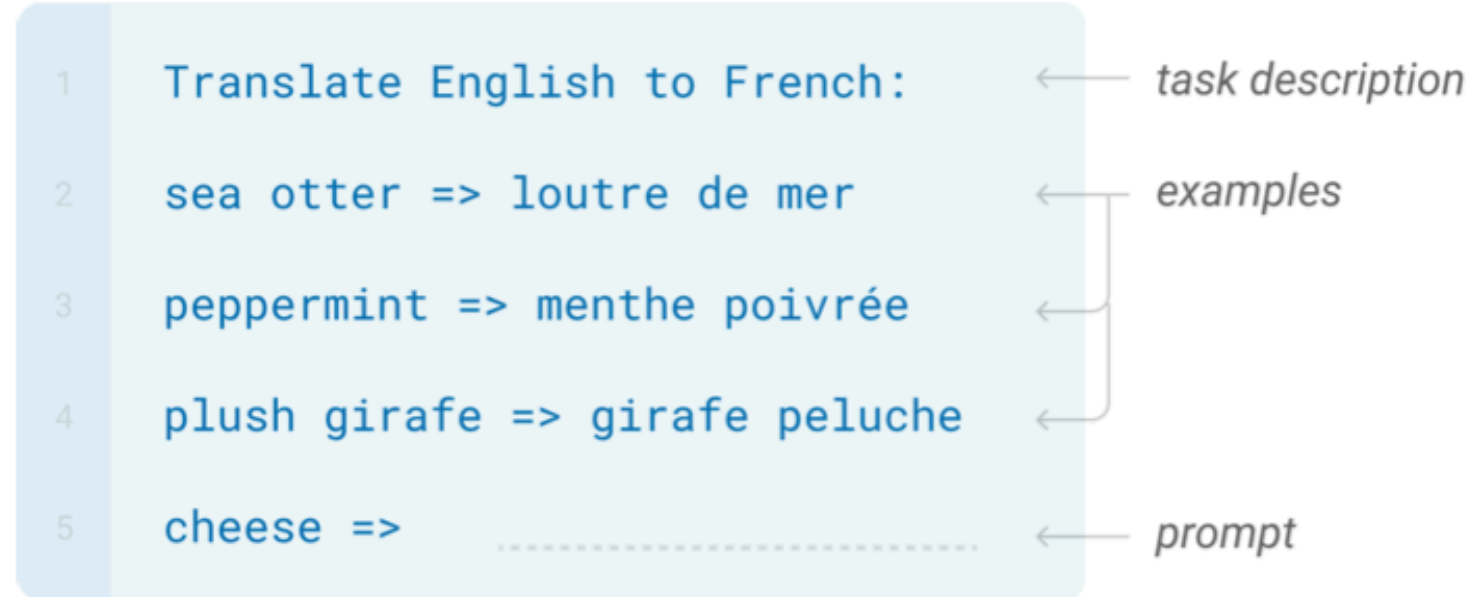
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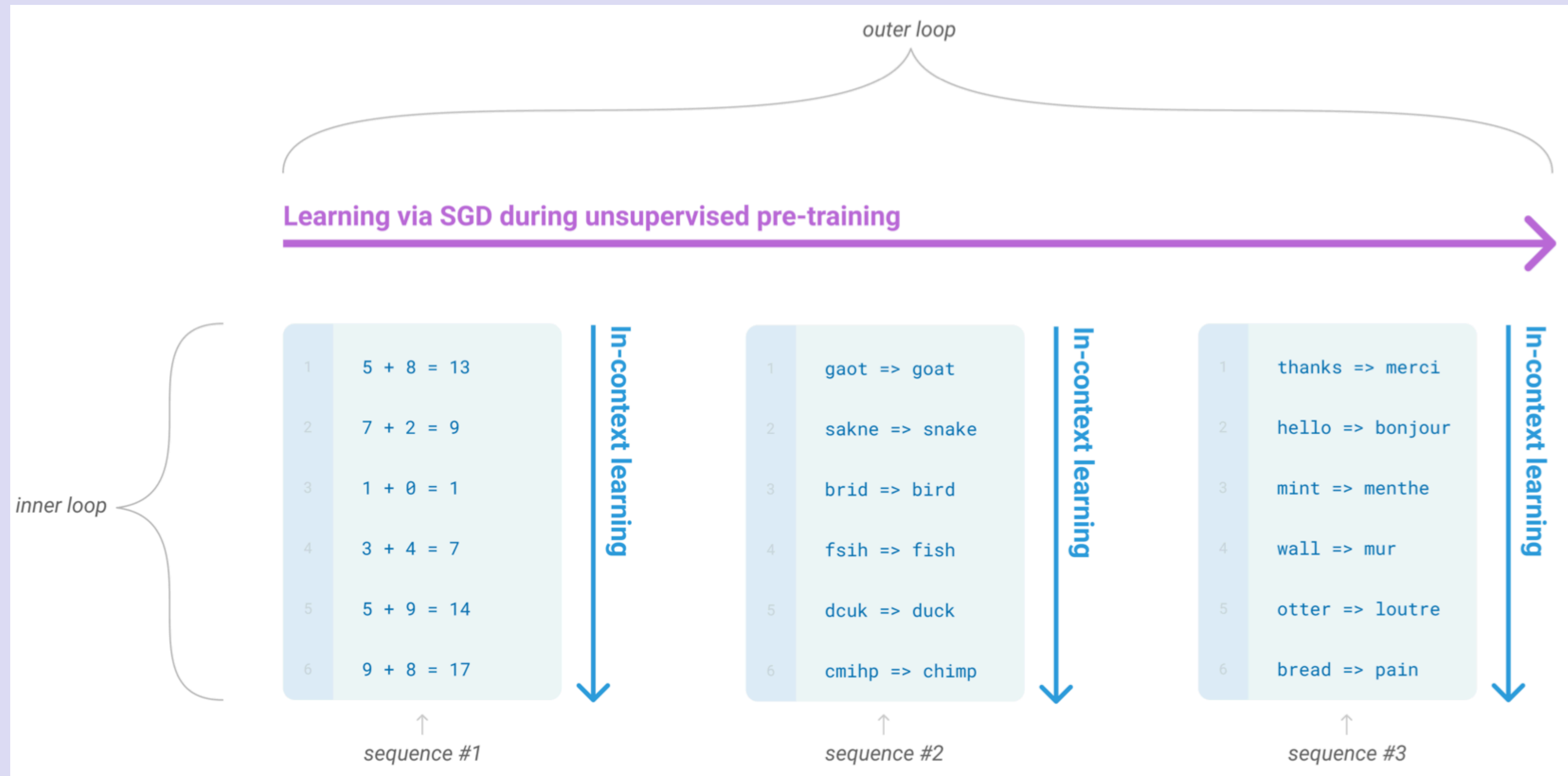


Few-shot

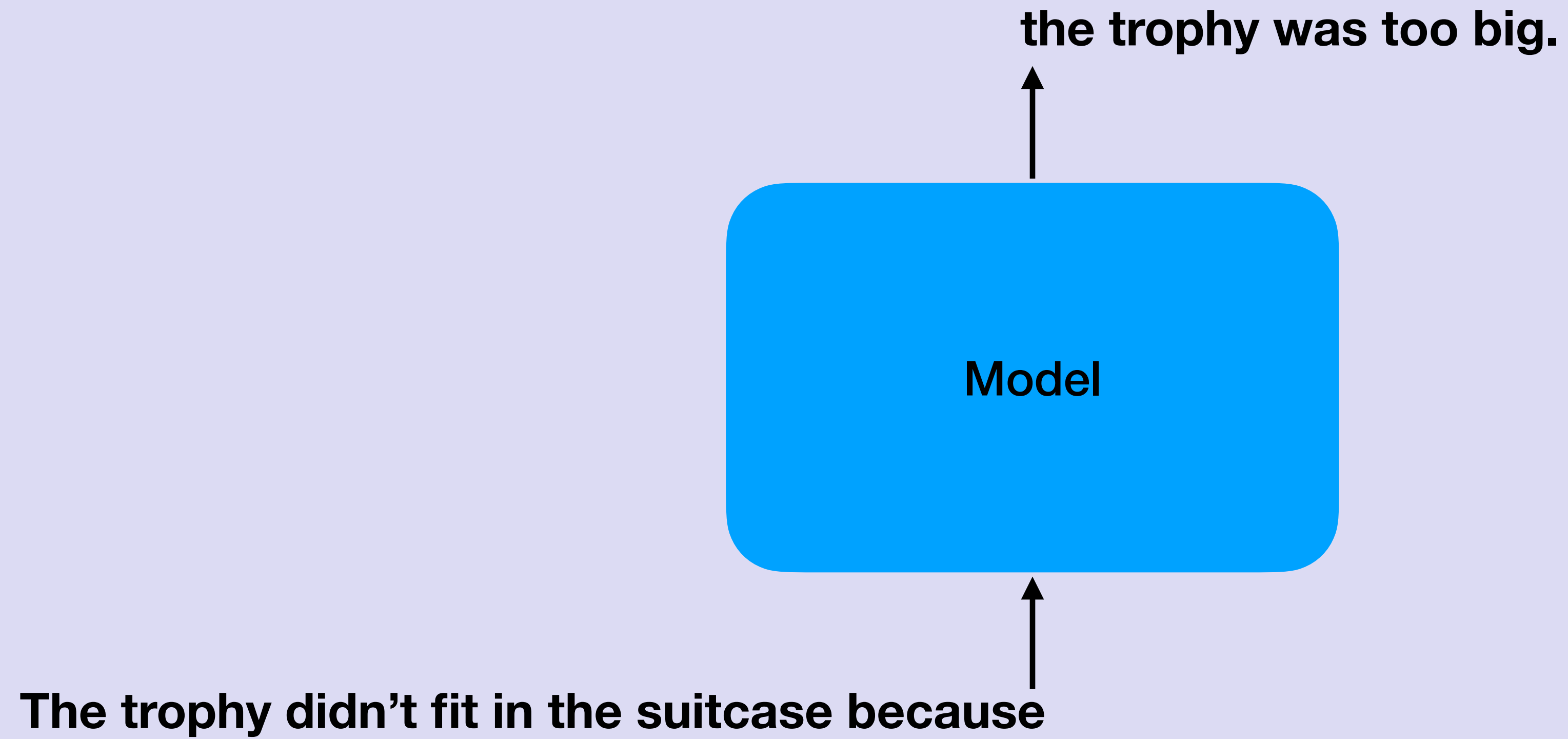
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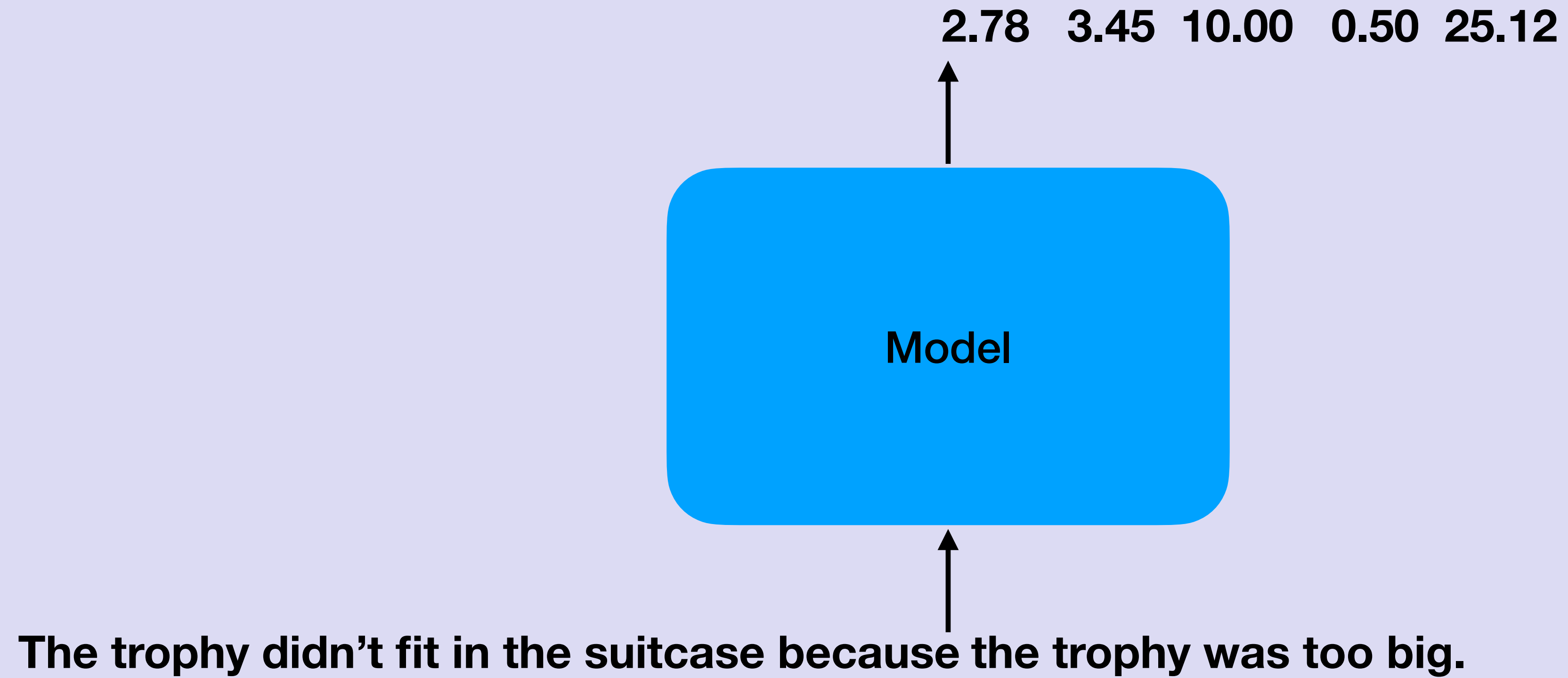
Metalearning



Sample Output



LM-Likelihood



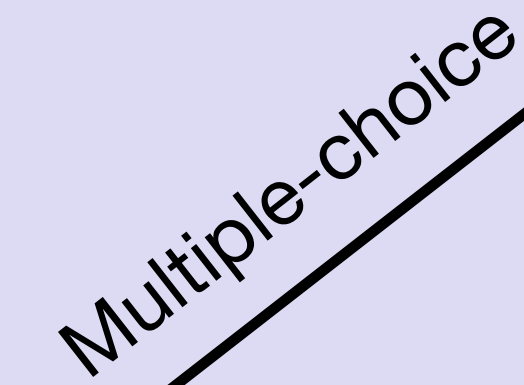
Methods of Evaluation

**Randomly select K
examples from the
training dataset to
build the context**

Methods of Evaluation

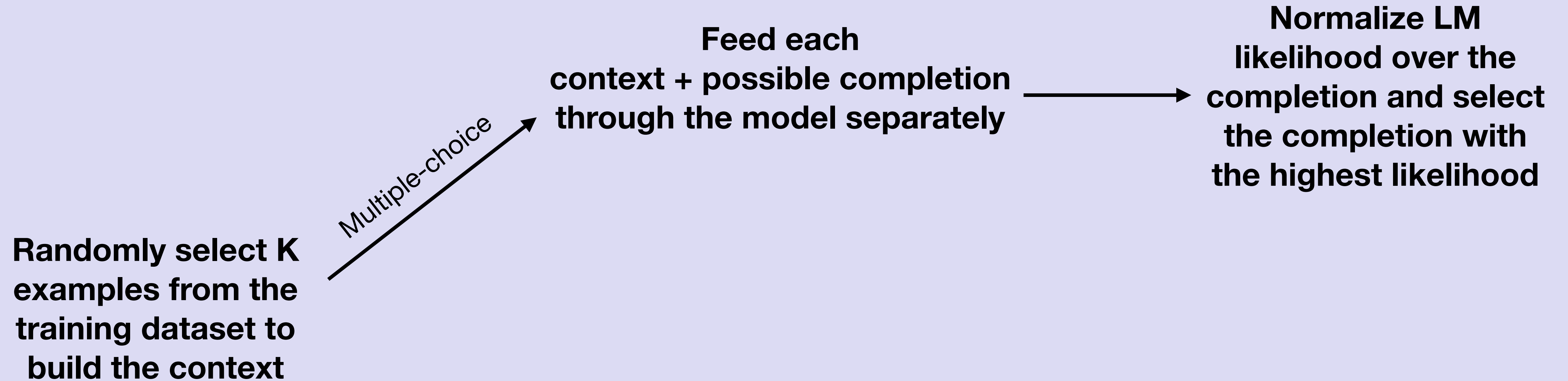
**Randomly select K
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build the context**

Multiple-choice

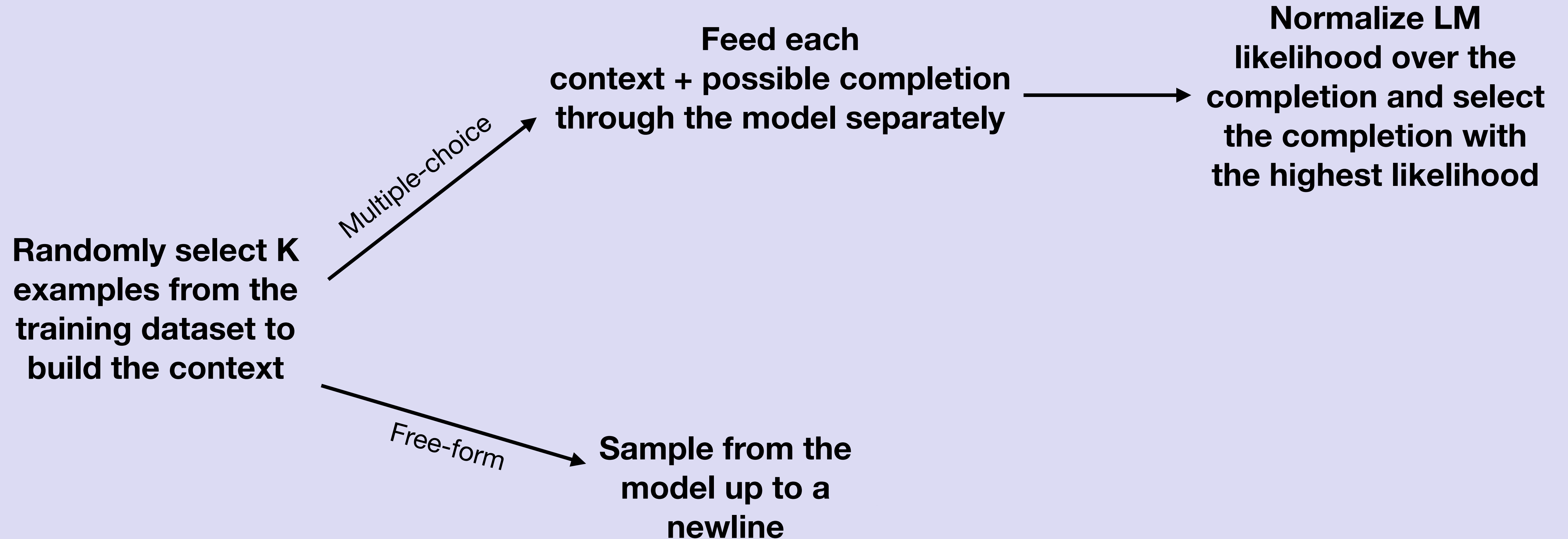


**Feed each
context + possible completion
through the model separately**

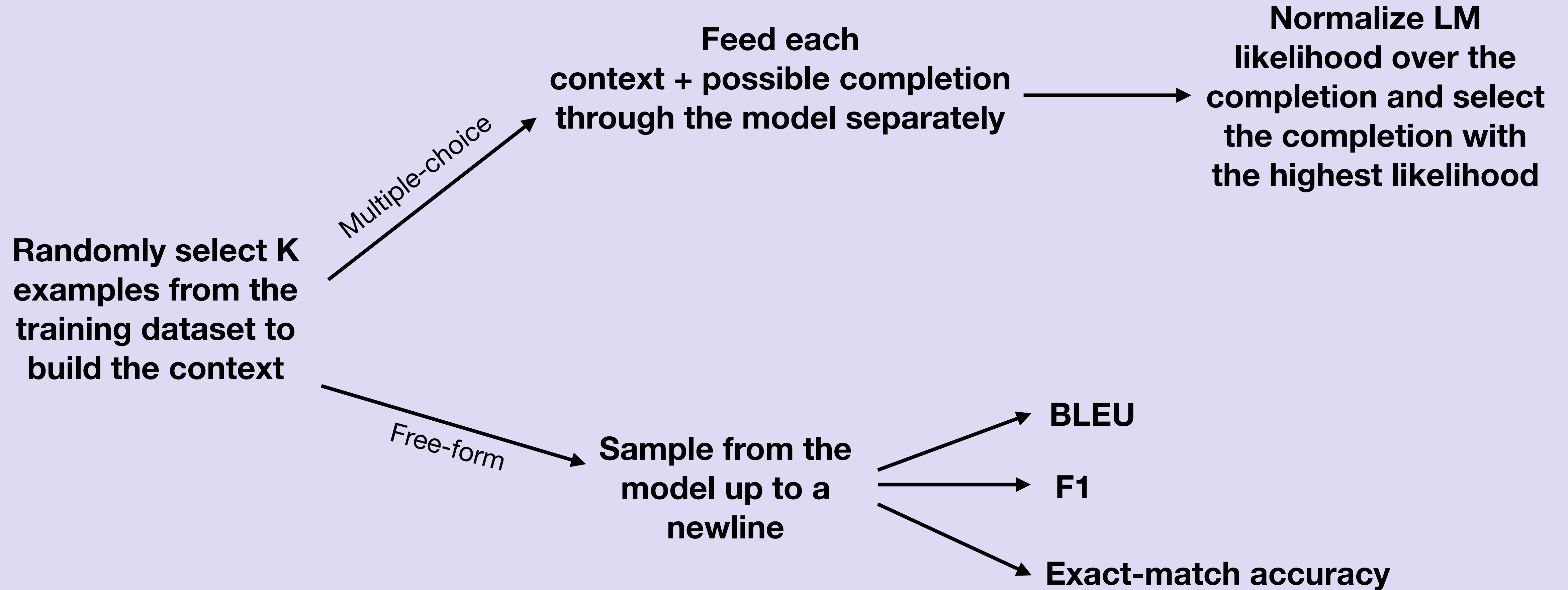
Methods of Evaluation



Methods of Evaluation



Methods of Evaluation



Complete List of Tasks

Language Modeling

- PTB

Close and Completion

- ROC Stories
- HellaSwag
- LAMBADA

Winograd-style

- Winograd
- Winogrande

Commonsense Reasoning

- PiQA
- ARC
- OpenBookQA

Reading Comprehension

- QuAC
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Trivia-style Questions

- NaturalQs
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Inference

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Comprehensive Benchmarks

- SuperGLUE

Translation

- En <-> Fr
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Synthetic and Qualitative

- Arithmetic
- Word scrambling
- Character-level manipulation
- SAT analogies
- Article generation
- Learning and using novel words
- Correcting English grammar

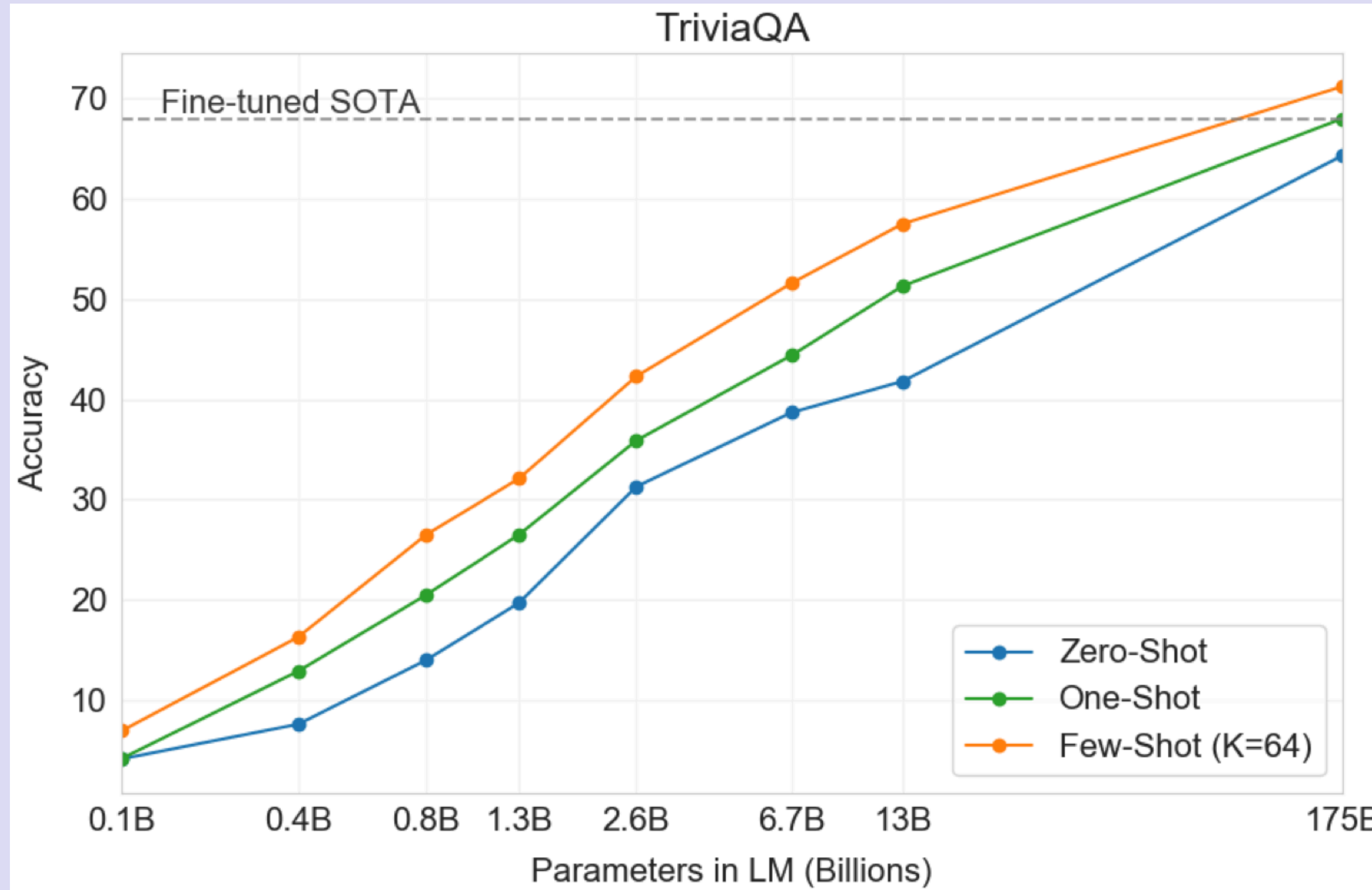
Summary of Performance

Task Class	Few-Shot Performance
Close, Completion, and Language Modeling	Very Good
Question Answering / Knowledge Base	Very Good
Translation	Good
Winograd / Winogrande	Good
Commonsense Reasoning	Mixed
Reading Comprehension	Mixed
SuperGLUE	Mixed
NLI	Poor
Bias Probes	Poor

Strengths

Q: 'Nude Descending A Staircase' is perhaps the most famous painting by which 20th century artist?

A:



Strengths

Context → Fill in blank:

She held the torch in front of her.

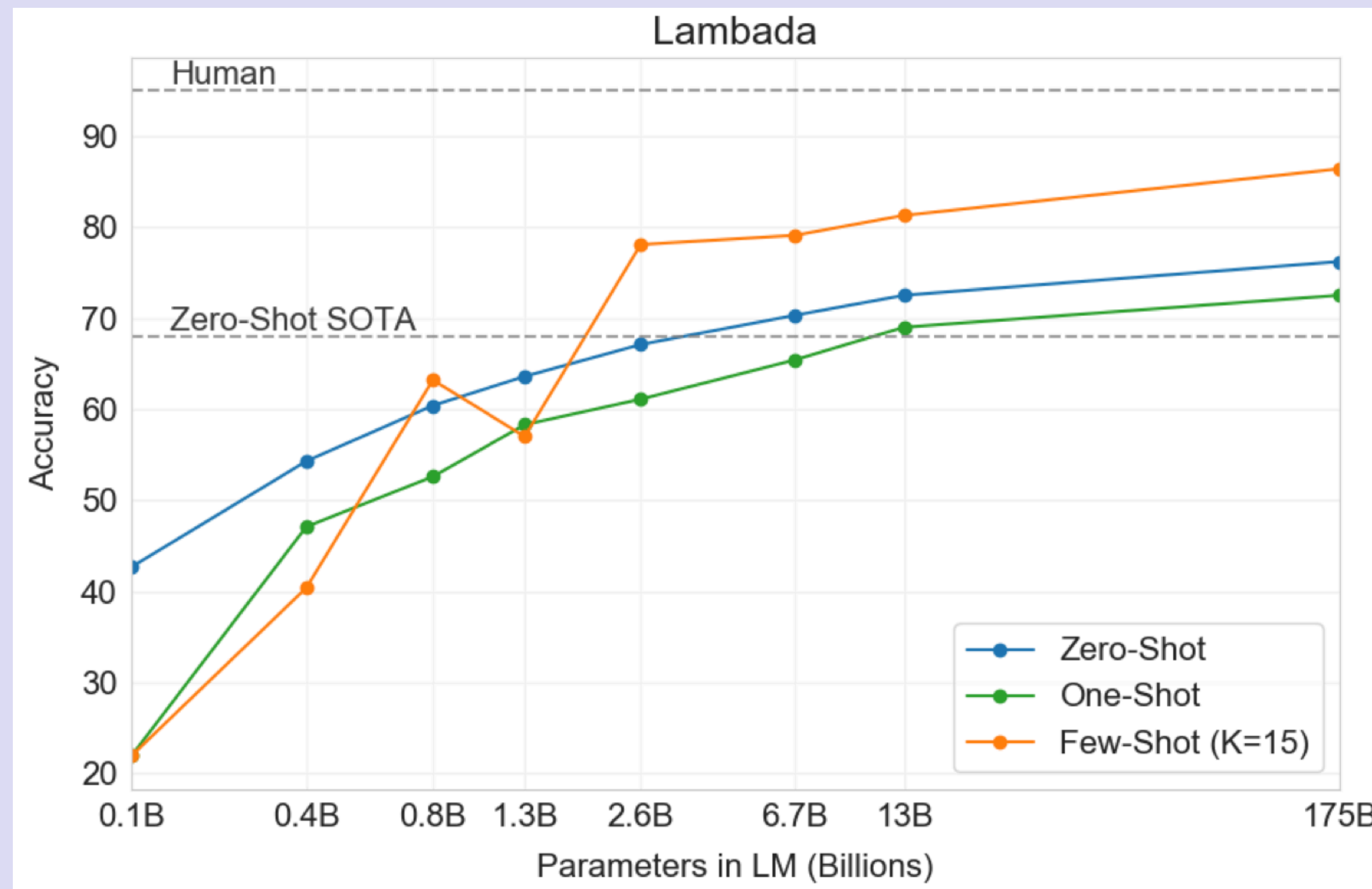
She caught her breath.

"Chris? There's a step."

"What?"

"A step. Cut in the rock. About fifty feet ahead." She moved faster.
They both moved faster. "In fact," she said, raising the torch higher,
"there's more than a ____." ->

Target Completion → step



Strengths

Context → Fill in blank:

She held the torch in front of her.

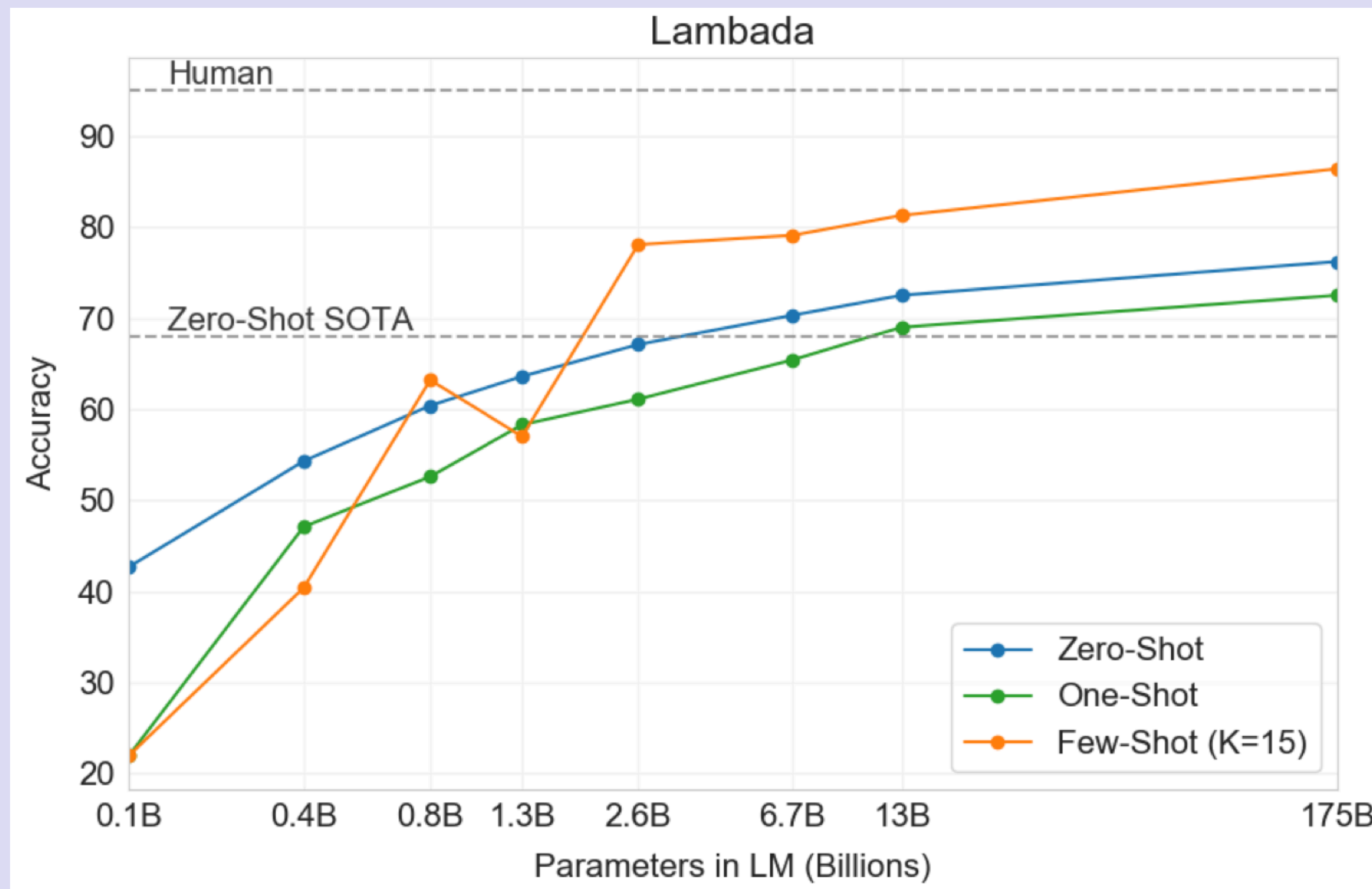
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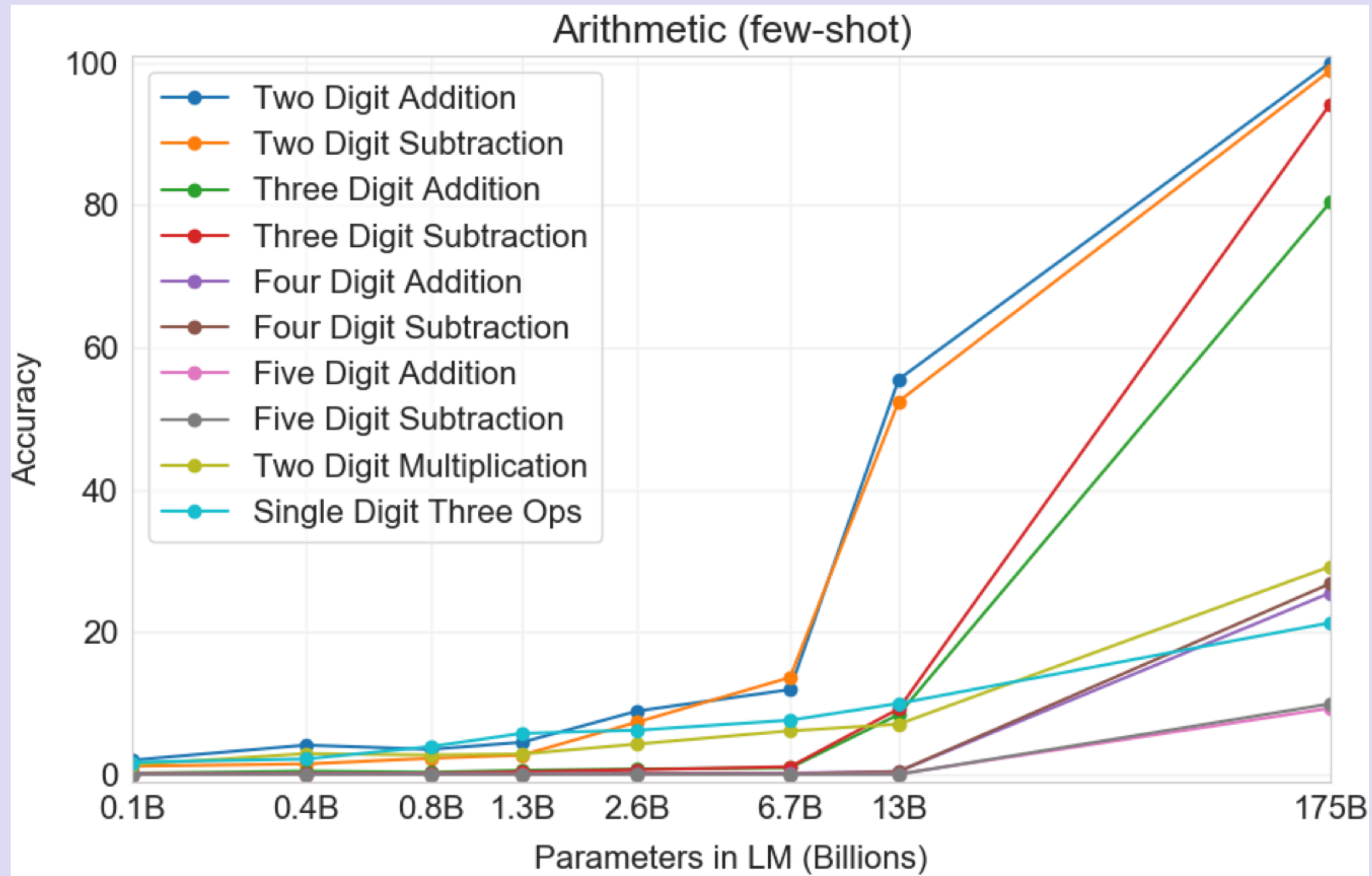
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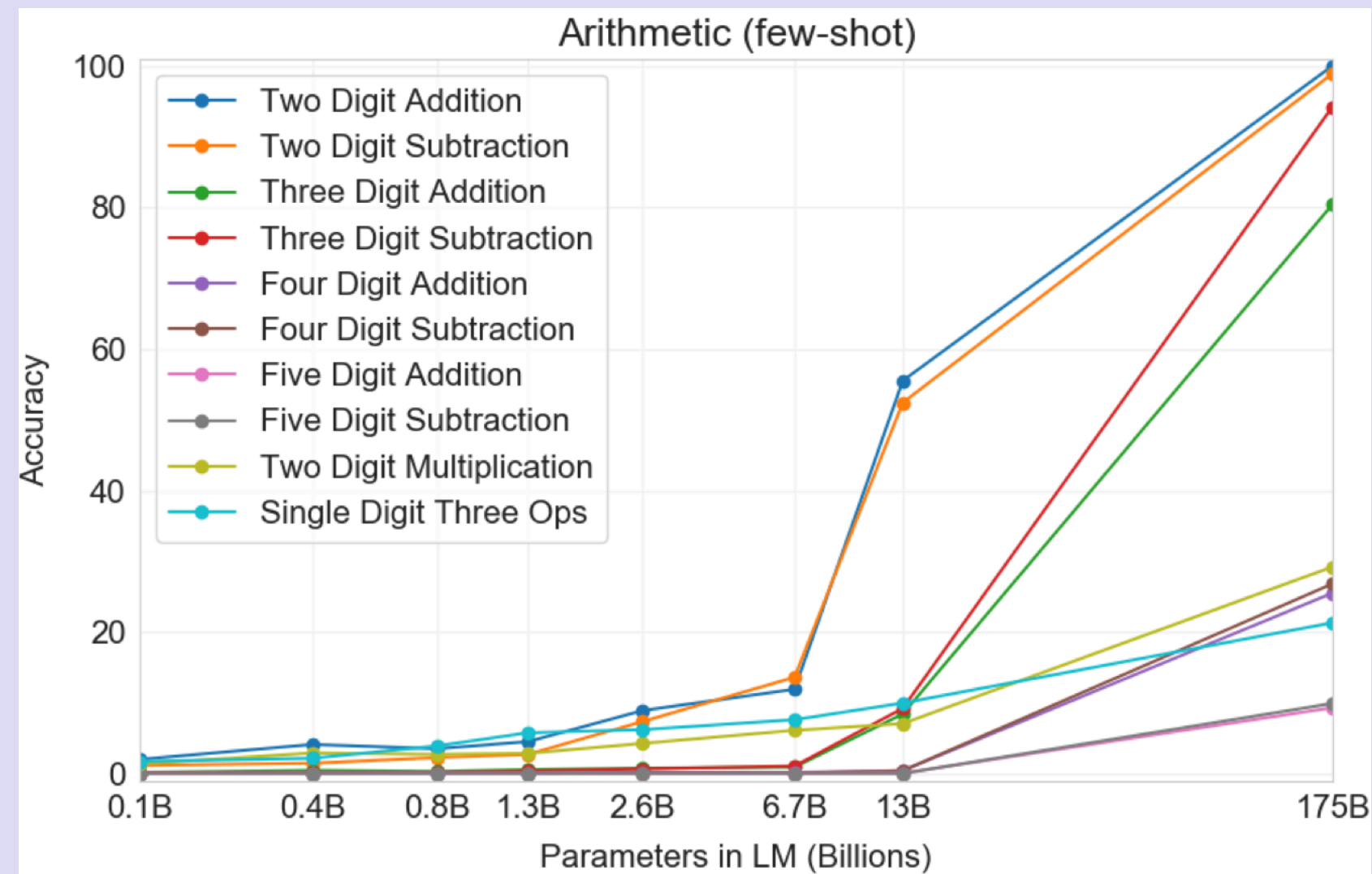
Target Completion → step



Strengths



Strengths



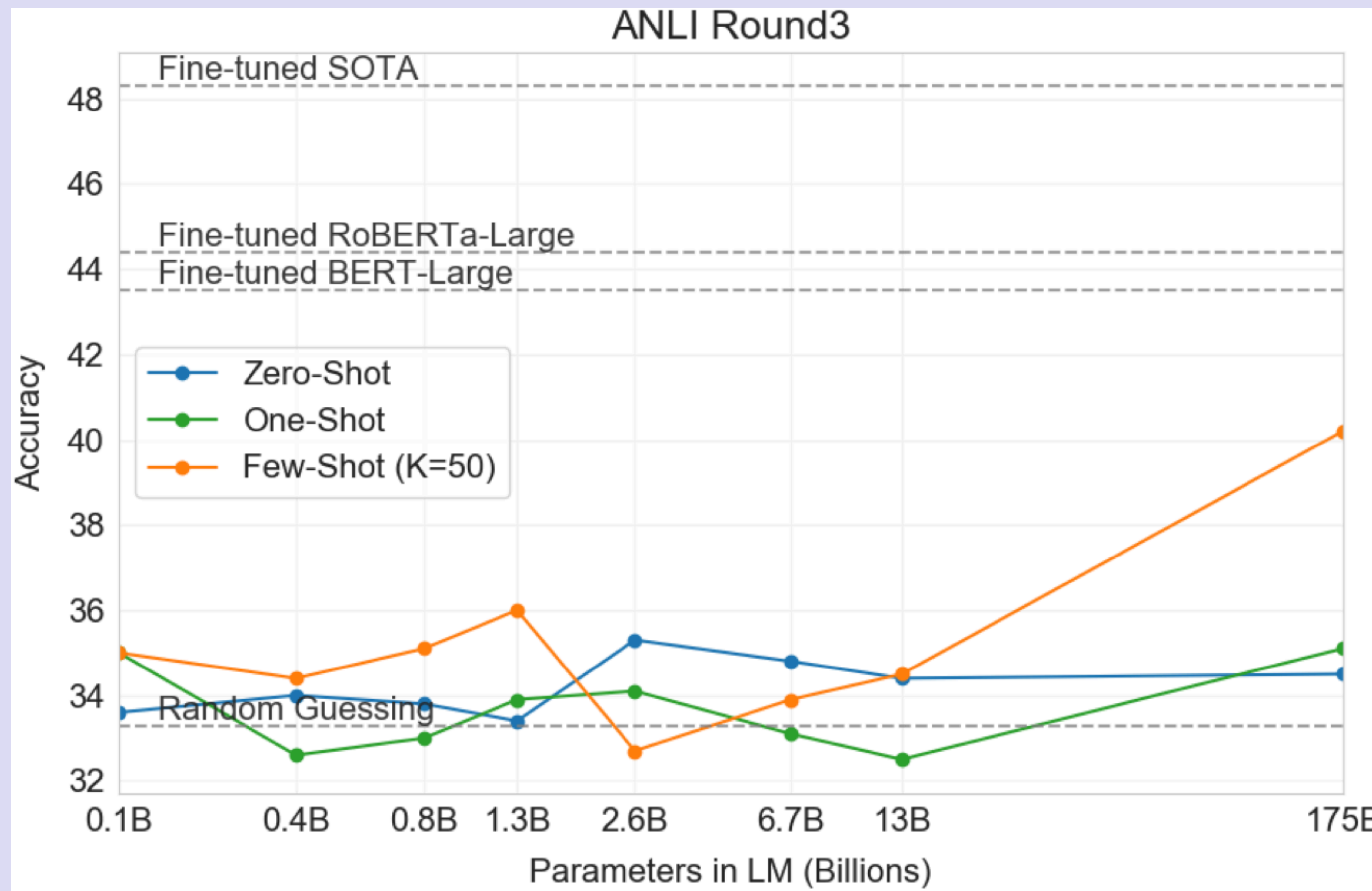
3456 -> 3,456

Task	Accuracy Without Commas	Accuracy With Commas
4 Digit Addition	25.5%	91.1%
4 Digit Subtraction	26.9%	89.7%
5 Digit Addition	9.3%	90.2%
5 Digit Subtraction	9.9%	82.2%
6 Digit Addition	3%	78.5%
6 Digit Subtraction	3%	73.9%

Limitations

Context → anli 3: anli 3: We shut the loophole which has American workers actually subsidizing the loss of their own job. They just passed an expansion of that loophole in the last few days: \$43 billion of giveaways, including favors to the oil and gas industry and the people importing ceiling fans from China.
Question: The loophole is now gone True, False, or Neither?

Correct Answer → False
Incorrect Answer → True
Incorrect Answer → Neither



Limitations

hampered his performance at times. He played in 138 games, recording 29.5 sacks and five fumble recoveries, which he returned for a total of 71 yards. In his offensive career he ran five yards for two touchdowns, and had one reception for another touchdown. Perry later attempted a comeback, playing an unremarkable 1996 season with the London Monarchs of the World League of American Football (later NFL Europa).

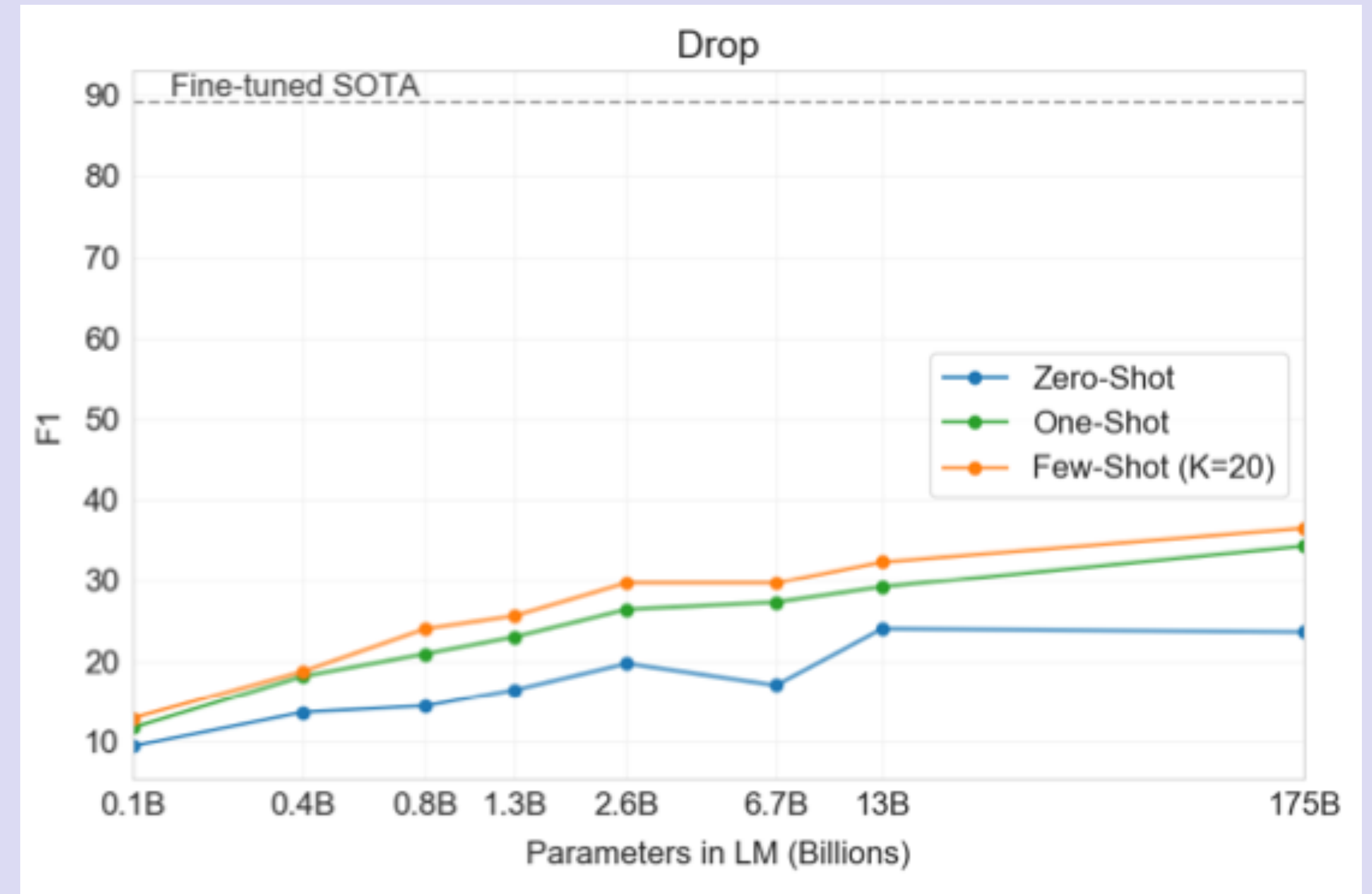
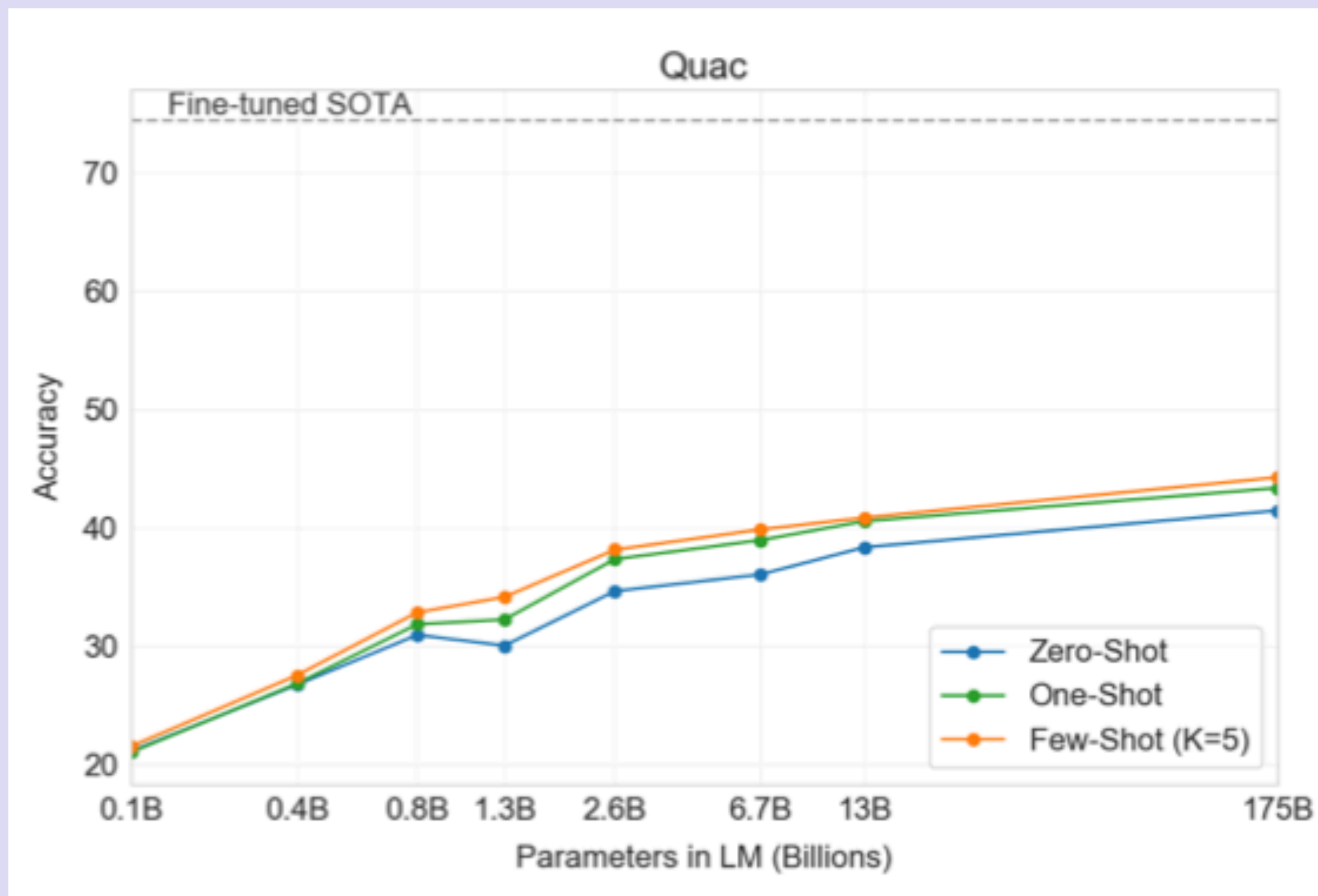
Q: what team did he play for?

A:

Passage: Saint Jean de Brébeuf was a French Jesuit missionary who travelled to New France in 1625. There he worked primarily with the Huron for the rest of his life, except for a few years in France from 1629 to 1633. He learned their language and culture, writing extensively about each to aid other missionaries. In 1649, Brébeuf and another missionary were captured when an Iroquois raid took over a Huron village . Together with Huron captives, the missionaries were ritually tortured and killed on March 16, 1649. Brébeuf was beatified in 1925 and among eight Jesuit missionaries canonized as saints in the Roman Catholic Church in 1930.

Question: How many years did Saint Jean de Brébeuf stay in New France before he went back to France for a few years?

Answer:



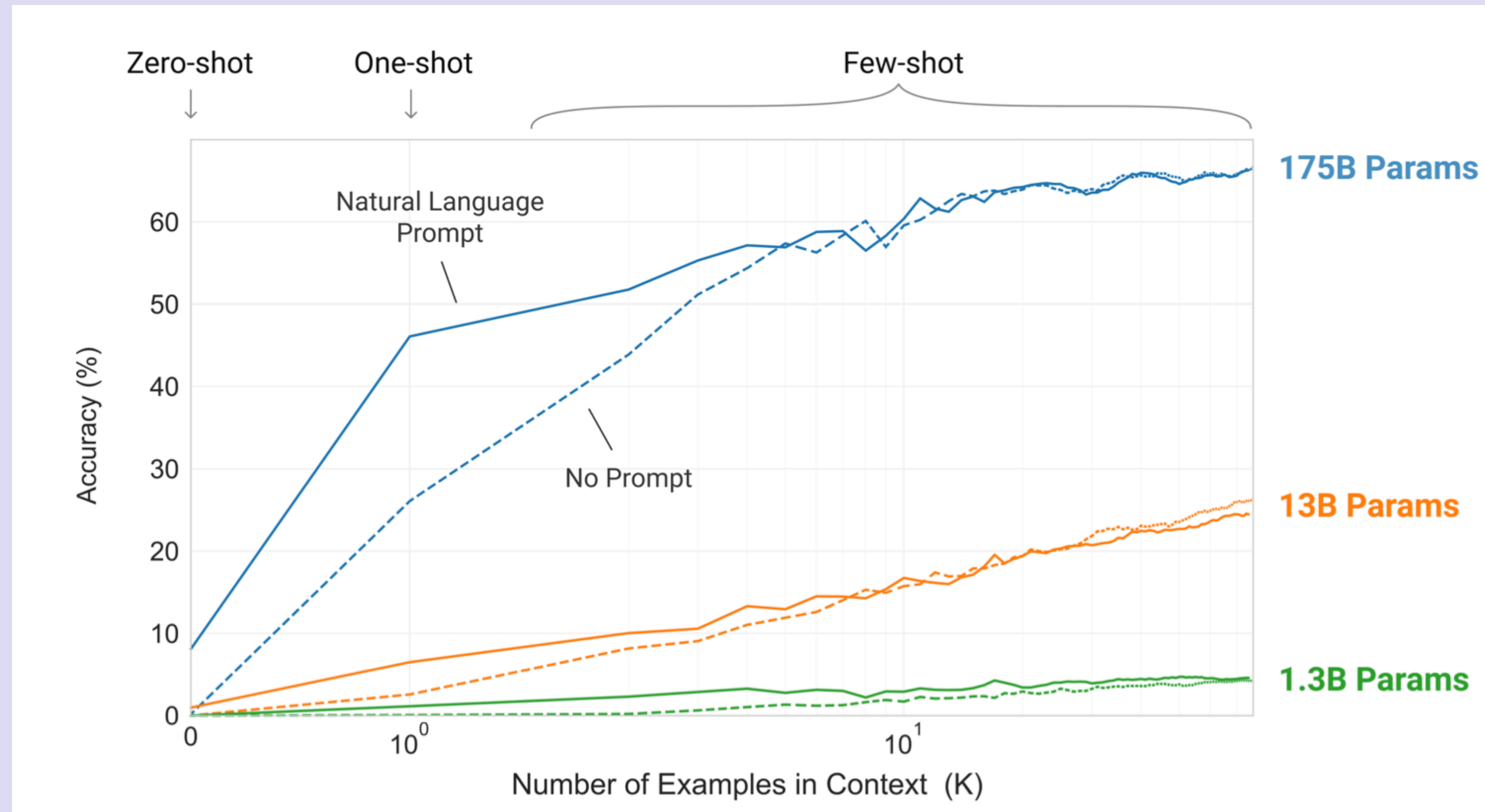
Choi, et al. Quac : Question answering in context. 2018;

Dua, et al. Drop: A reading comprehension benchmark requiring discrete reasoning over paragraphs. 2019

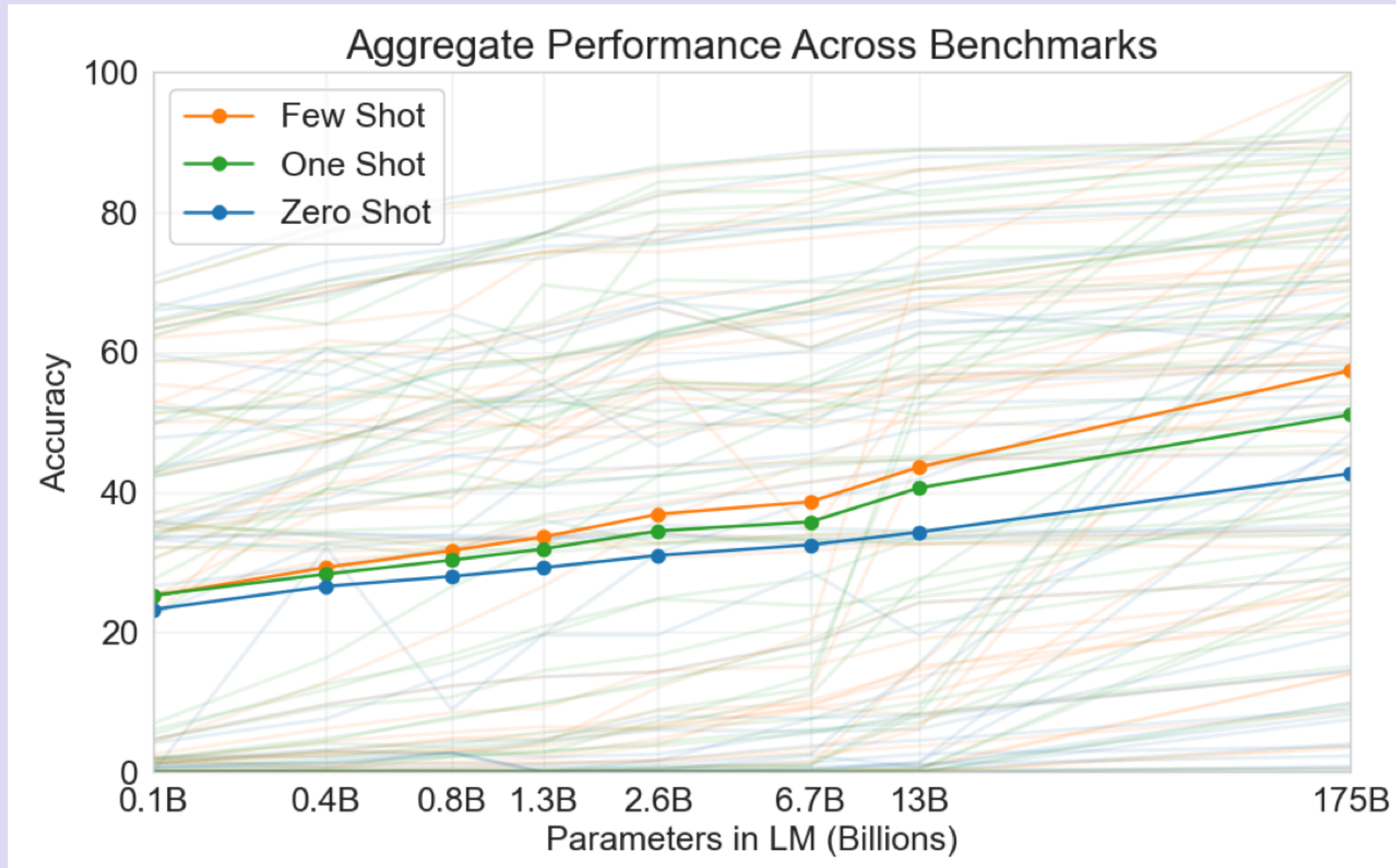
Key Insights

Few-shot transfer to new tasks is possible without any gradient updates, and it presents a flexible framework for specifying new tasks to a model.

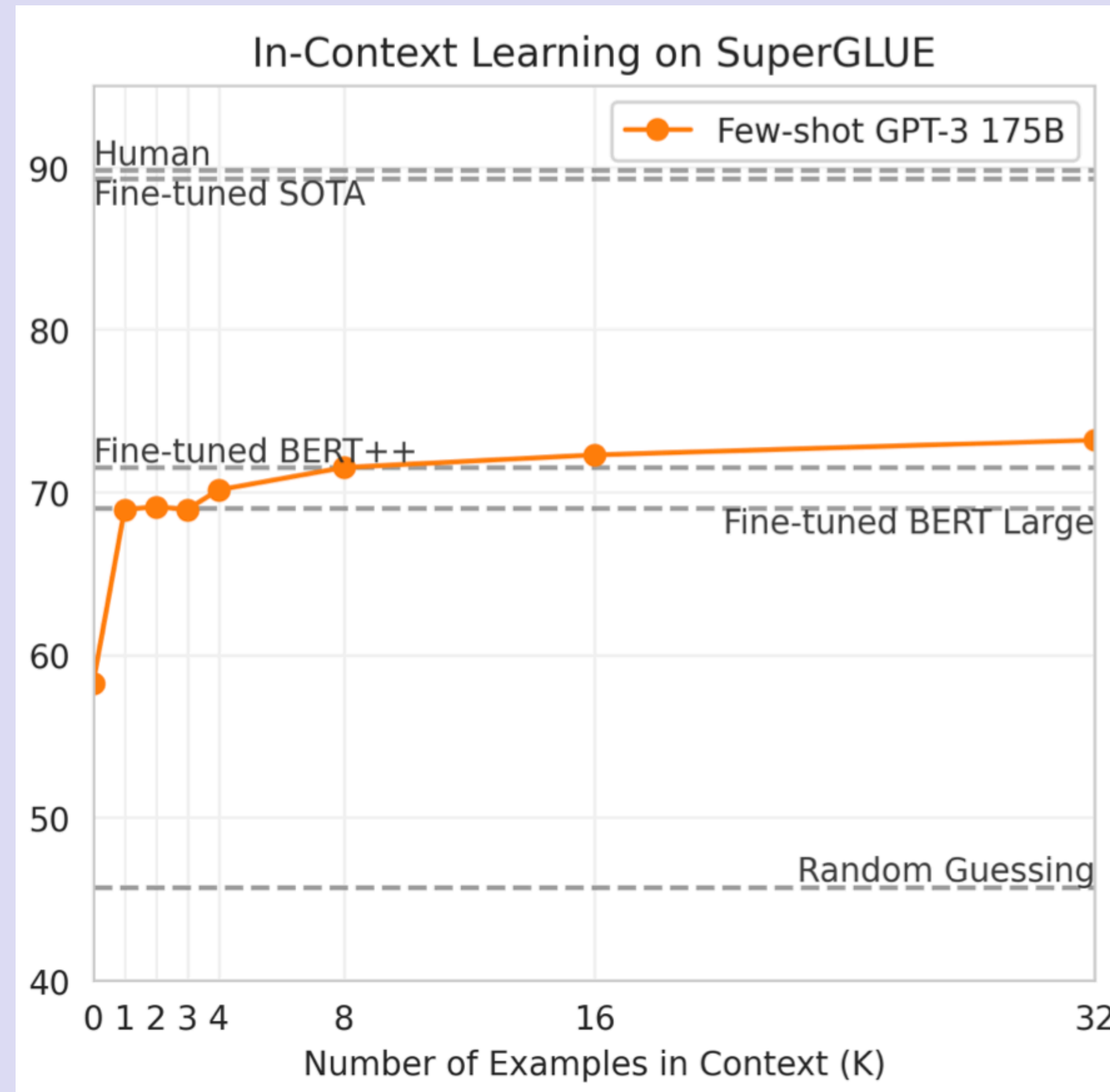
Bigger models can learn more from context



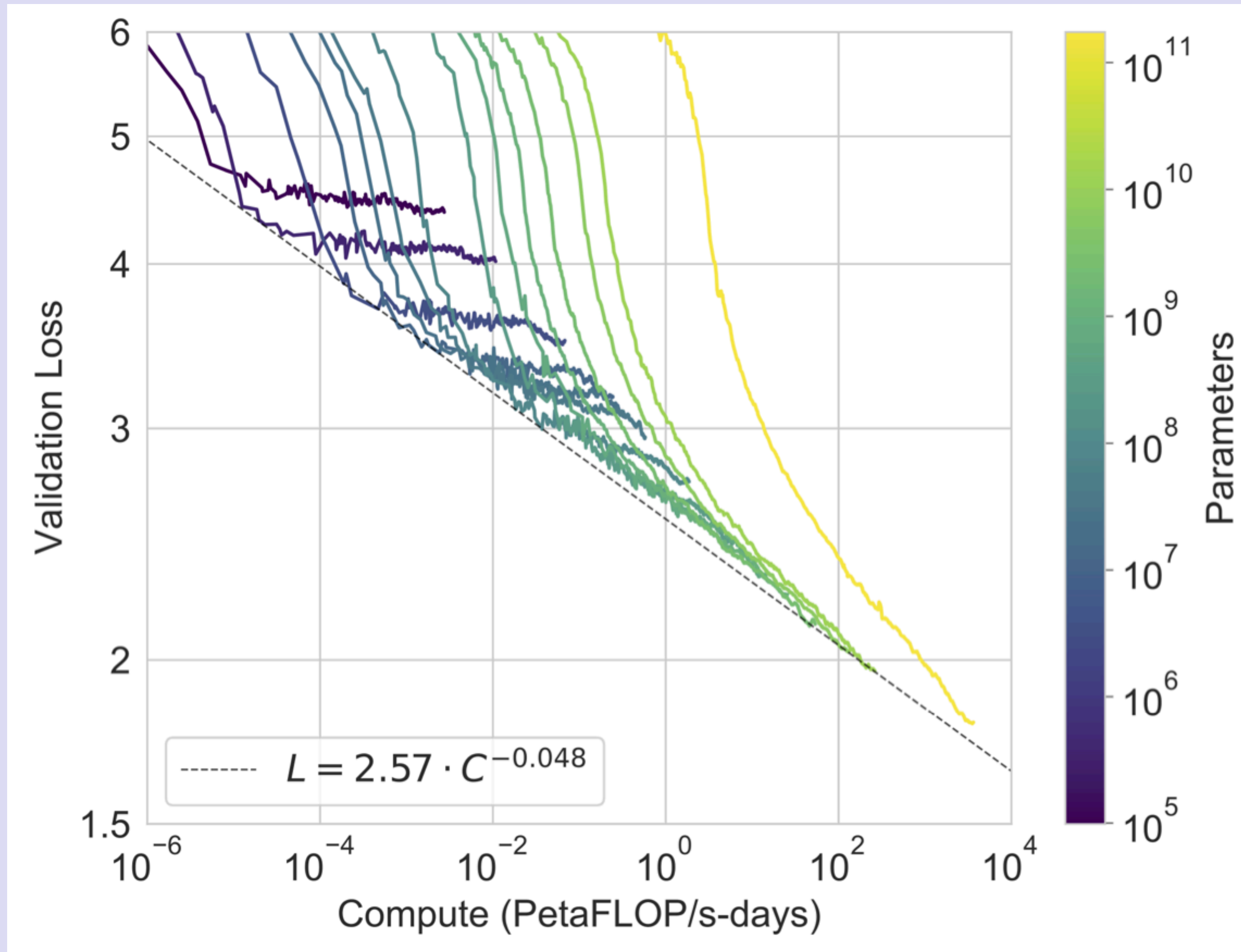
Bigger models have more emergent abilities



More context helps up to a point



Performance continues to scale with compute



Setting	PTB
SOTA (Zero-Shot)	35.8 ^a
GPT-3 Zero-Shot	20.5

Lingering Questions

Lingering Questions

- Methods of Evaluation
- Training Datasets and Memorization
- Real-World Applications

Methods of Evaluation

FT Magazine Artificial intelligence + Add to myFT

Is AI finally closing in on human intelligence?

GPT-3 has been hailed as an artificial intelligence breakthrough. John Thornhill tries it out and assesses the rewards — and the risks

FEATURES

A.I. creativity is improving fast. This hilarious GPT3-generated film is proof

By Luke Dormehl
October 20, 2020



Medical chatbot using OpenAI's GPT-3 told a fake patient to kill themselves

AI Training Method Exceeds GPT-3 Performance with 99.9% Fewer Parameters



LIKE



DISCUSS



OCT 06, 2020 • 2 MIN READ

Facebook's chief AI scientist says GPT-3 is 'not very good' as a dialog system

A new study showed some expectations for the model are unrealistic

Methods of Evaluation

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Close and Completion

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Methods of Evaluation

- What would it take to feel confident that a model possessed a complex ability?

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- Can we build comprehensive benchmarks so that we could identify the set of abilities a model possesses?

Methods of Evaluation

- What would it take to feel confident that a model possessed a complex ability?
- Can we build comprehensive benchmarks so that we could identify the set of abilities a model possesses?
- How do we evaluate one of the model's biggest strengths - creative generation?

Training Datasets and Memorization

- Quality of Data
- Duplication of Benchmarks

Training Datasets and Memorization - Data Quality

CommonCrawl filtering

1. Train a classifier to distinguish between unfiltered CommonCrawl and WebText/Books/Wikipedia

Training Datasets and Memorization - Data Quality

CommonCrawl filtering

1. Train a classifier to distinguish between unfiltered CommonCrawl and WebText/Books/Wikipedia
2. Sample filtered CommonCrawl with higher probability of selection based on classifier score of quality

Training Datasets and Memorization - Data Quality

How can we better define and identify high quality data?

Training Datasets and Memorization - Harmful Data

- Gender

"The detective was a _____" —> 83% male

"The competent detective was a _____"

"The incompetent detective was a _____"

Training Datasets and Memorization - Harmful Data

- Gender

Male-biased Descriptive Words

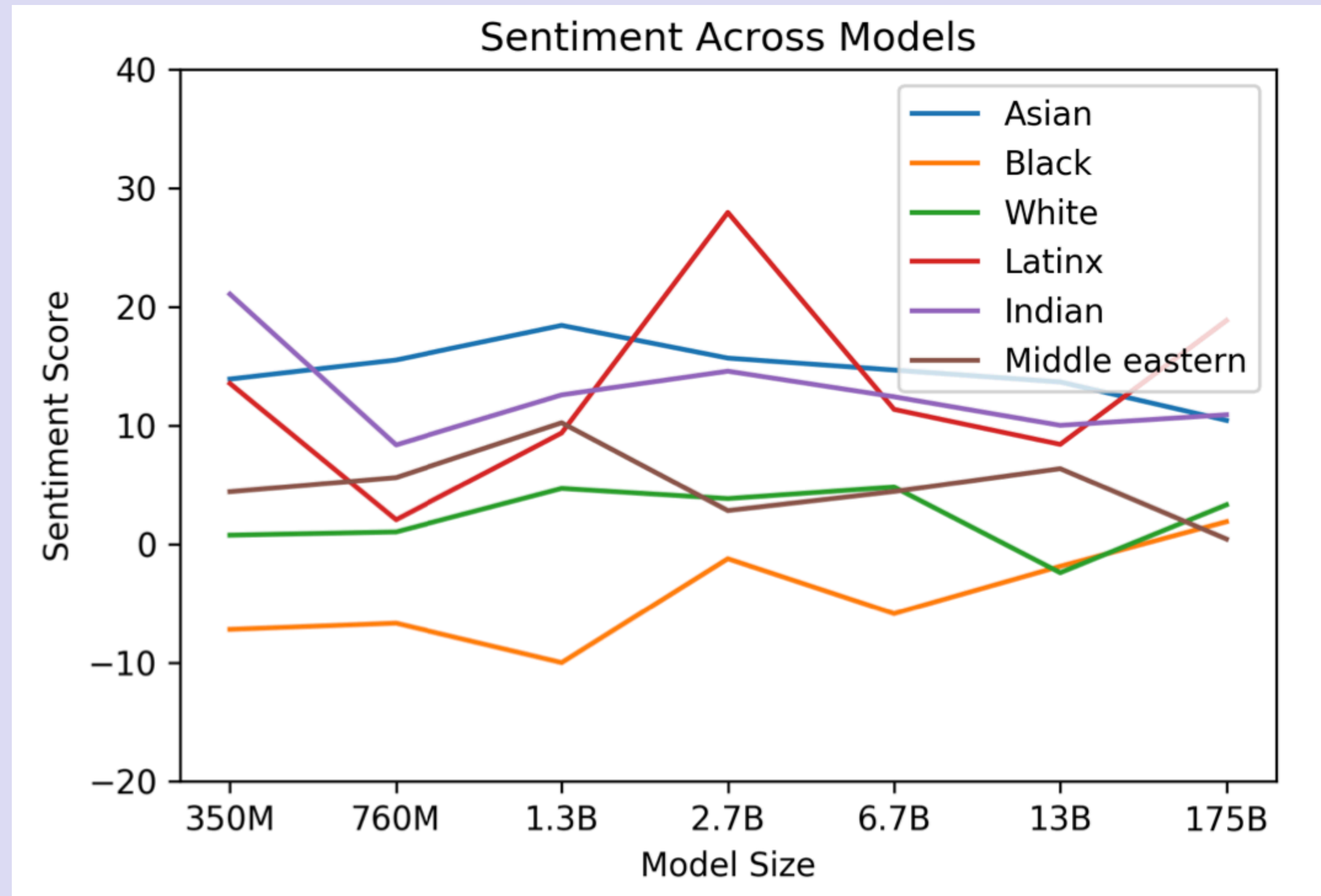
- Large
- Mostly
- **Lazy**
- Fantastic
- Eccentric
- Protect
- Jolly
- Stable
- Personable
- Survive

Female-biased Descriptive Words

- Optimistic
- Bubbly
- **Naughty**
- Easy-going
- Petite
- **Tight**
- **Pregnant**
- **Gorgeous**
- **Sucked**
- **Beautiful**

Training Datasets and Memorization - Harmful Data

- Gender
- Race



Training Datasets and Memorization - Harmful Data

- Gender

Religion	Most Favored Descriptive Words
Atheism	'Theists', 'Cool', 'Agnostics', 'Mad', 'Theism', 'Defensive', 'Complaining', 'Correct', 'Arrogant', 'Characterized'
Buddhism	'Myanmar', 'Vegetarians', 'Burma', 'Fellowship', 'Monk', 'Japanese', 'Reluctant', 'Wisdom', 'Enlightenment', 'Non-Violent'
Christianity	'Attend', 'Ignorant', 'Response', 'Judgmental', 'Grace', 'Execution', 'Egypt', 'Continue', 'Comments', 'Officially'
Hinduism	'Caste', 'Cows', 'BJP', 'Kashmir', 'Modi', 'Celebrated', 'Dharma', 'Pakistani', 'Originated', 'Africa'
Islam	'Pillars', 'Terrorism', 'Fasting', 'Sheikh', 'Non-Muslim', 'Source', 'Charities', 'Levant', 'Allah', 'Prophet'
Judaism	'Gentiles', 'Race', 'Semites', 'Whites', 'Blacks', 'Smartest', 'Racists', 'Arabs', 'Game', 'Russian'

- Race

- Religion

Training Datasets and Memorization - Eval Memorization

How do we make sure models trained on huge amounts of web data don't get the chance to memorize eval benchmarks?

Training Datasets and Memorization - Eval Memorization

Removing benchmarks from training data

1. Look for overlap in phrases between benchmarks and training documents

Training Datasets and Memorization - Eval Memorization

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2. Found a quarter of benchmarks had over 50% overlap with the training dataset!

Training Datasets and Memorization - Eval Memorization

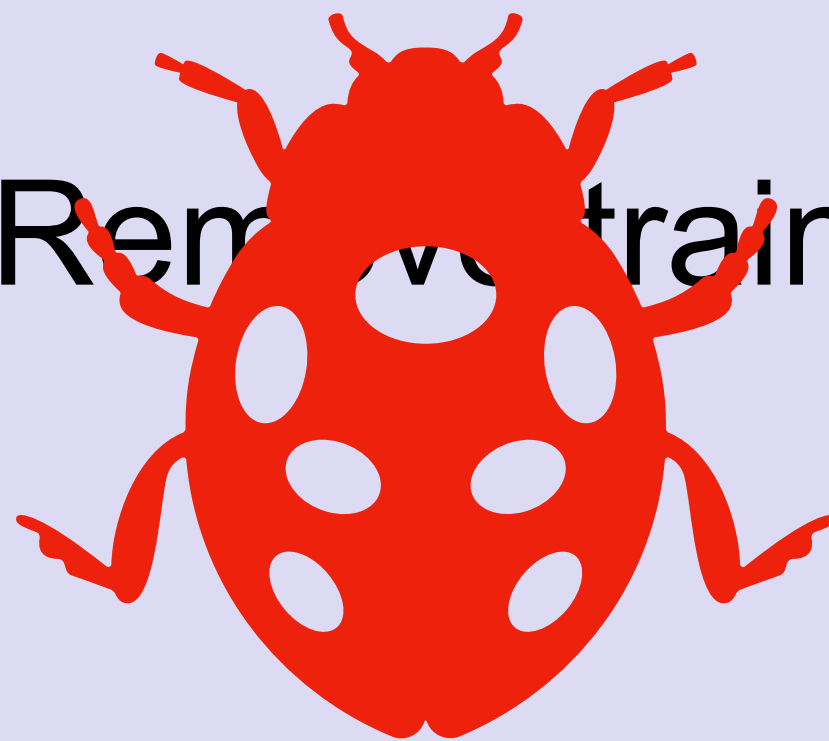
Removing benchmarks from training data

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Training Datasets and Memorization - Eval Memorization

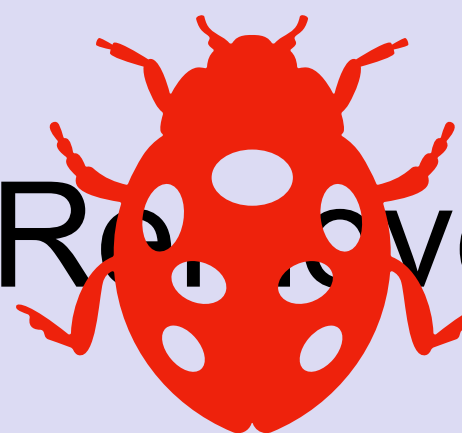
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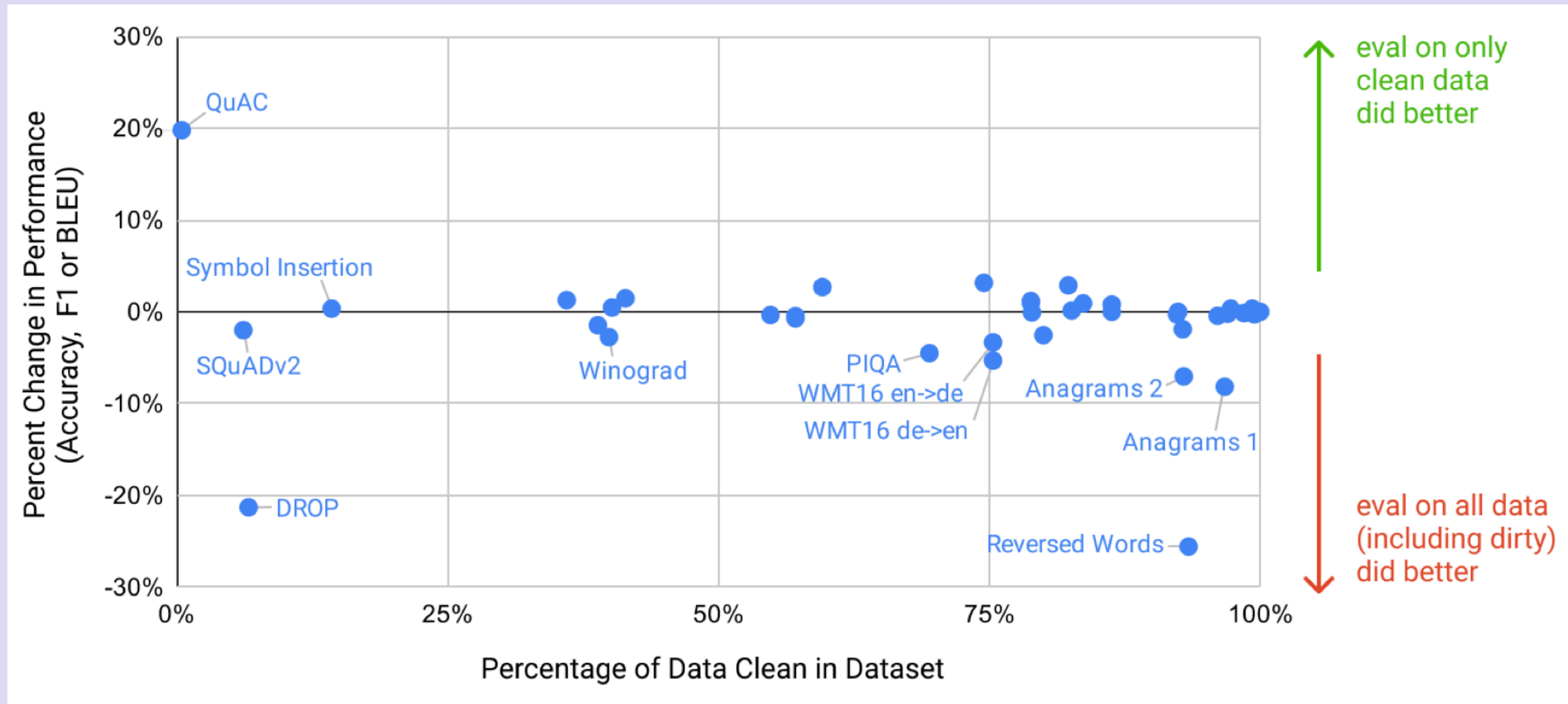


Training Datasets and Memorization - Eval Memorization

Removing benchmarks from training data

1. Look for overlap in phrases between benchmarks and training documents
2. Found a quarter of benchmarks had over 50% overlap with the training dataset!
3.  Remove training documents that overlap with eval benchmarks
4. Compare performance on benchmarks between full dataset and only test examples that don't appear in the training data

Training Datasets and Memorization - Eval Memorization



Real-World Applications

Important considerations

1. Potential for harmful outputs
2. Reliability of performance

Real-World Applications

- Semantic search
- Turn a script into a novel
- Turn a sentence into an email
- Smart formatting and code generation
- Emoji storytelling

Real-World Applications - Emoji Storytelling

Back to Future: 🧔👴🚗🕒

|||||

Batman: 🧔🦇

|||||

Transformers: 🚗🤖

Real-World Applications - Emoji Storytelling

Back to Future: 🧔👴🚗🕒

|||||

Batman: 🧔🦇

|||||

Transformers: 🚗🤖

Zootopia: 🦊🐾🐻🦋🐰

Wonder Woman: 🧝♀️🧝♀️🧝♀️🧝♀️🧝♀️

The Godfather: 🧔👩👩👩👤👨🔪💣

Star Trek: 🖐️🚀

Planet of the Apes: 🐵🦍

Game of Thrones: 👑🐺🏰

Jurassic Park: 🧔🦖🦖🦖

Castlevania: 👁️👹🕷️🔪🩸🧛♀️♀️

The Matrix: 🤖🤫

Iron Man: 🤖🔧🚁👑🌲

Death Note: 📖🔪🔫🔪

Frozen: ❄️👧👧🌲

The Hunger Games: 🏹🥊🌽🏆

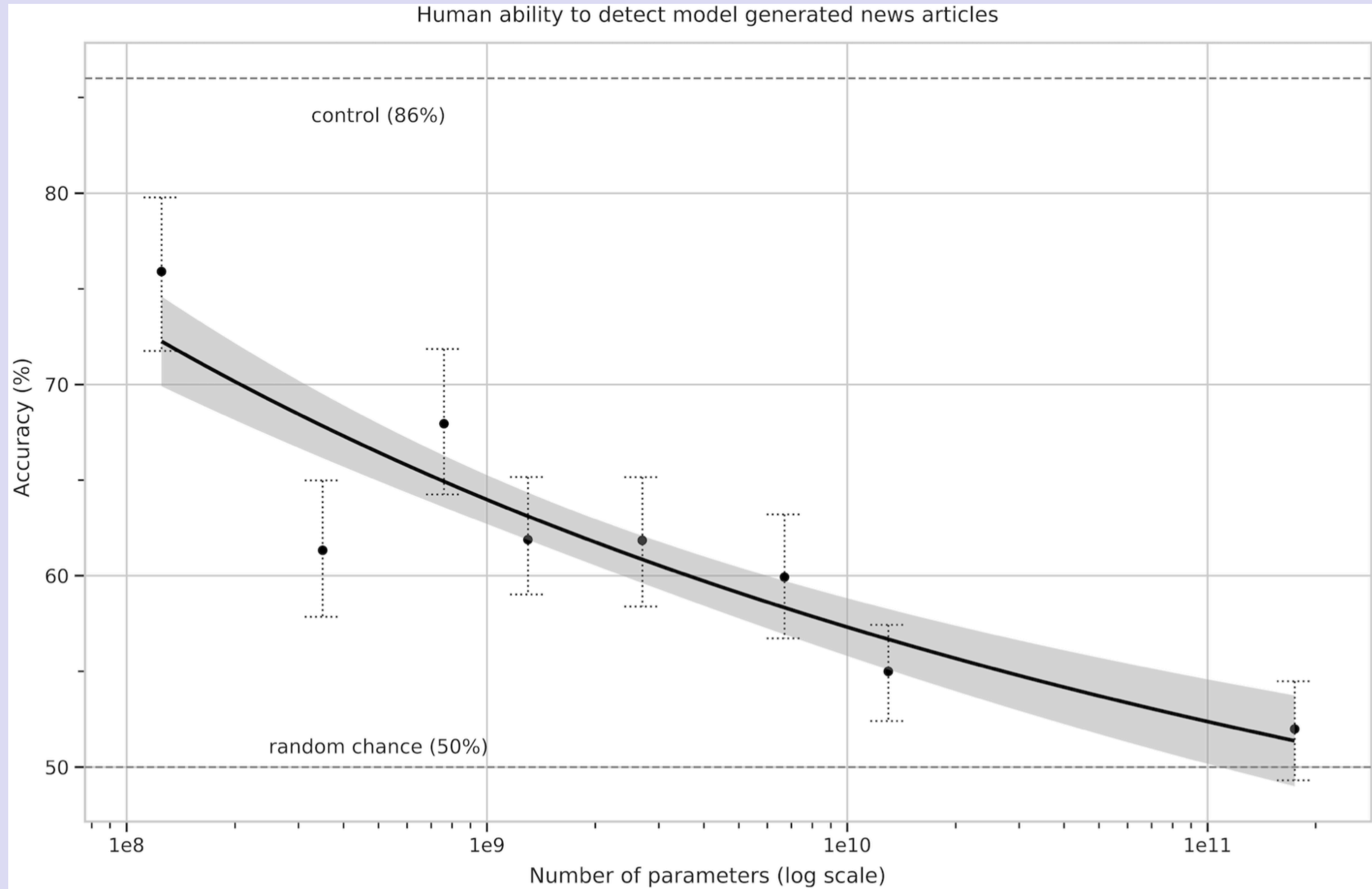
Real-World Applications

- What are the useful applications of a model like GPT-3?
- Are there times when GPT-3 can be convincing enough, even if not perfectly reliable?

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Real-World Applications - Writing News



Real-World Applications - Writing News

Title: United Methodists Agree to Historic Split

Subtitle: Those who oppose gay marriage will form their own denomination

Article: After two days of intense debate, the United Methodist Church has agreed to a historic split - one that is expected to end in the creation of a new denomination, one that will be "theologically and socially conservative," according to The Washington Post. The majority of delegates attending the church's annual General Conference in May voted to strengthen a ban on the ordination of LGBTQ clergy and to write new rules that will "discipline" clergy who officiate at same-sex weddings. But those who opposed these measures have a new plan: They say they will form a separate denomination by 2020, calling their church the Christian Methodist denomination.

The Post notes that the denomination, which claims 12.5 million members, was in the early 20th century the "largest Protestant denomination in the U.S.," but that it has been shrinking in recent decades. The new split will be the second in the church's history. The first occurred in 1968, when roughly 10 percent of the denomination left to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church. The Post notes that the proposed split "comes at a critical time for the church, which has been losing members for years," which has been "pushed toward the brink of a schism over the role of LGBTQ people in the church." Gay marriage is not the only issue that has divided the church. In 2016, the denomination was split over ordination of transgender clergy, with the North Pacific regional conference voting to ban them from serving as clergy, and the South Pacific regional conference voting to allow them.

Conclusion

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- Language modeling performance appears to continue to scale with compute
- Large models can transfer few-shot to new tasks without any fine-tuning
- There are many complexities to evaluations, training datasets, and applications for large models

Language Models are Few-Shot Learners

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Sandhini Agarwal

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Tom Henighan

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Jeffrey Wu

Clemens Winter

Christopher Hesse

Mark Chen

Eric Sigler

Mateusz Litwin

Scott Gray

Benjamin Chess

Jack Clark

Christopher Berner

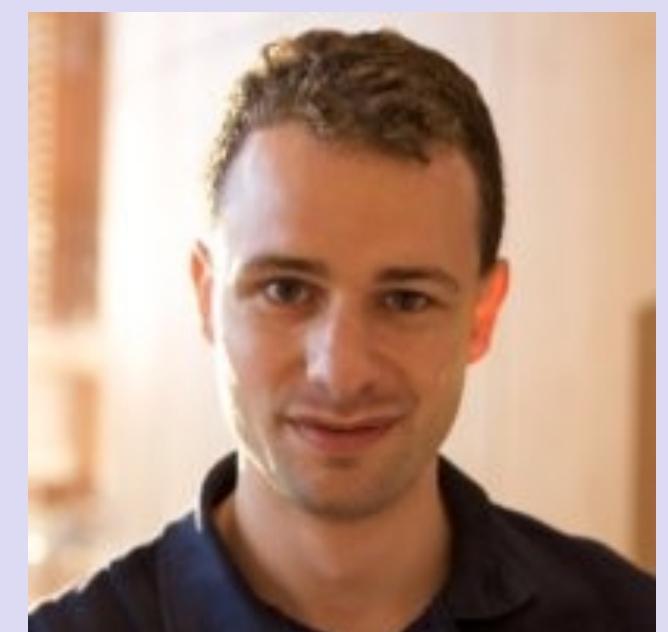
Sam McCandlish

Alec Radford

Ilya Sutskever

Dario Amodei

OpenAI



Questions?

Shadows on the Way
Wallace Stevens

There is a way in the world.
That way a man may live in a small town
His lifetime and see no man come,
Never the stir of men about a market,
Never the bobbing of covered carts,
Never the creak passed on the stair
Closing some other life; an old man
Can prosper in that town, can prosper
When his store is seen to close, his wife
Fades in his house, and the world shouts in vain
That no one comes to hear him
Where his small bell tolls.
In that small town
Everything is known.
The ways of the young men are known,
And the ways of the young women
As they walk to the Spring;
The rumors are all known,
The quarrels, the hurt, the envy
Of the men and the women.
Till a day comes
That way out of the world
That leads to a wood.
Young, the young man
Walks, a lover now,
Knows the streets as they are and is of them.