

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

Melanie Subbiah

OpenAI  
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# Language Models are Few-Shot Learners

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**Gretchen Krueger**

**Tom Henighan**

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**Aditya Ramesh**

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**Jeffrey Wu**

**Clemens Winter**

**Christopher Hesse**

**Mark Chen**

**Eric Sigler**

**Mateusz Litwin**

**Scott Gray**

**Benjamin Chess**

**Jack Clark**

**Christopher Berner**

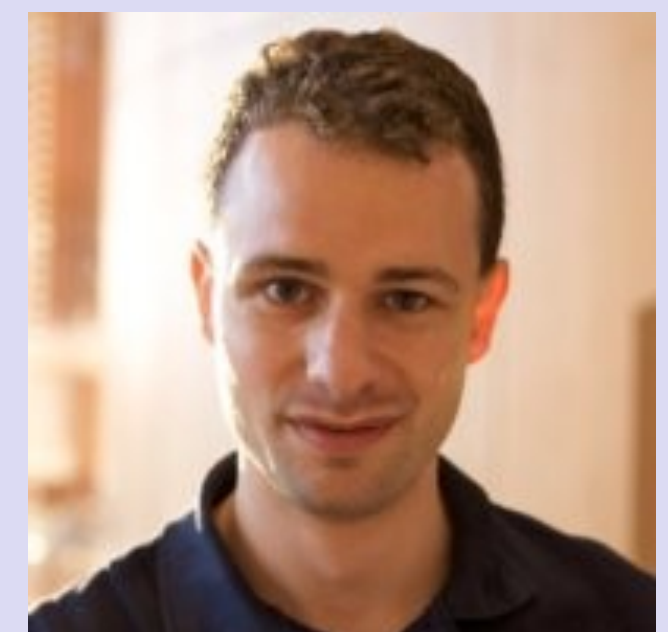
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**Ilya Sutskever**

**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



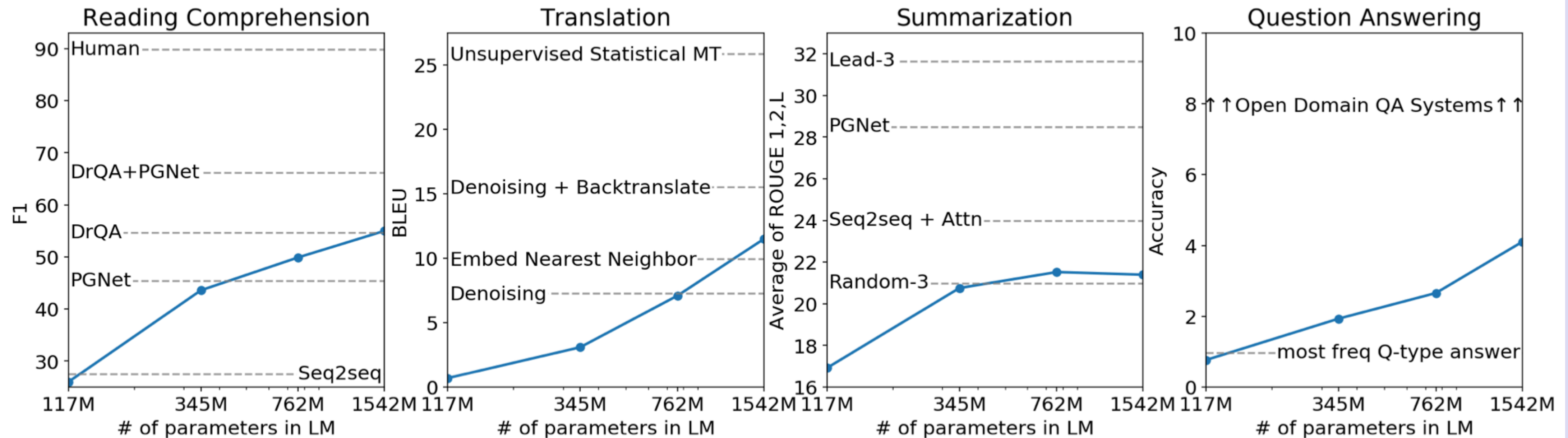
# What is an alternative?

**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?**

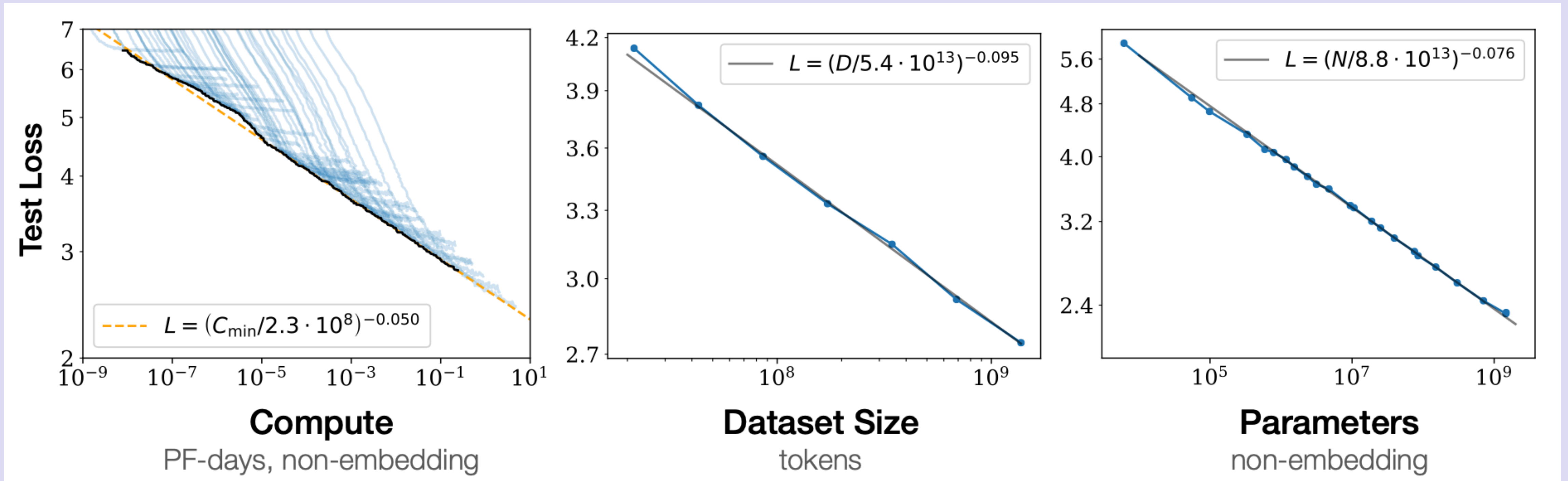
**Can we further improve on this level of generation and generalization?**

**GPT-3 175 Billion parameters**

# Critical Aspects of GPT-3

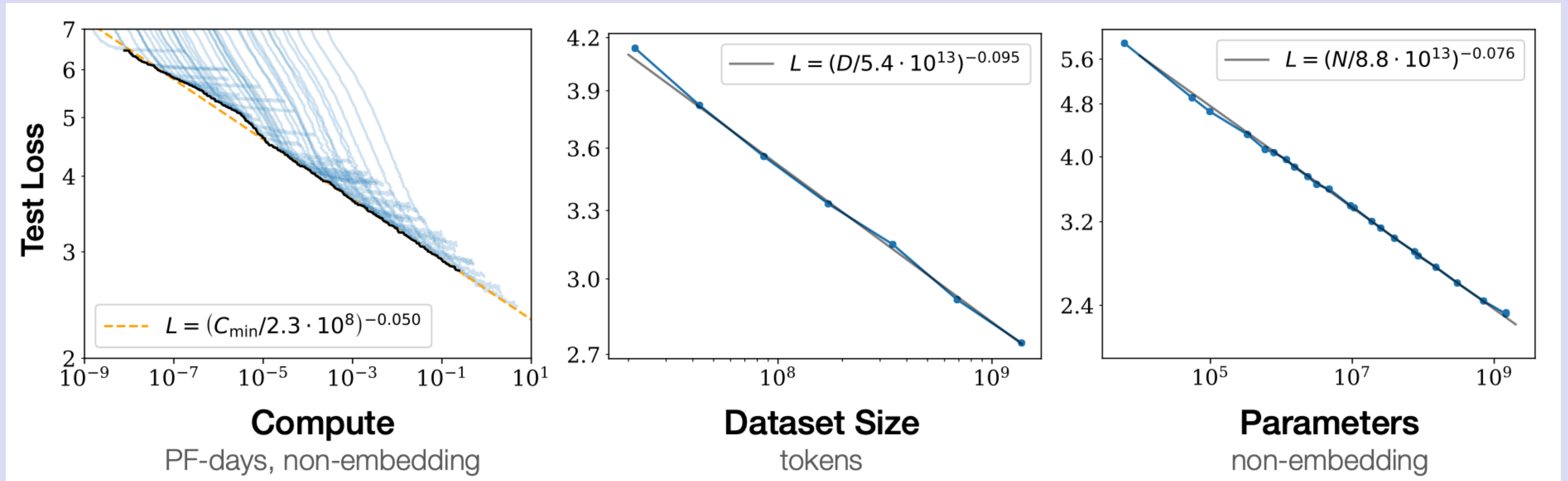
- Model Size
- Training Objective

# 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

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

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World Knowledge

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

World Knowledge

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

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World Knowledge

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

Arithmetic

# 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

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

Addition

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



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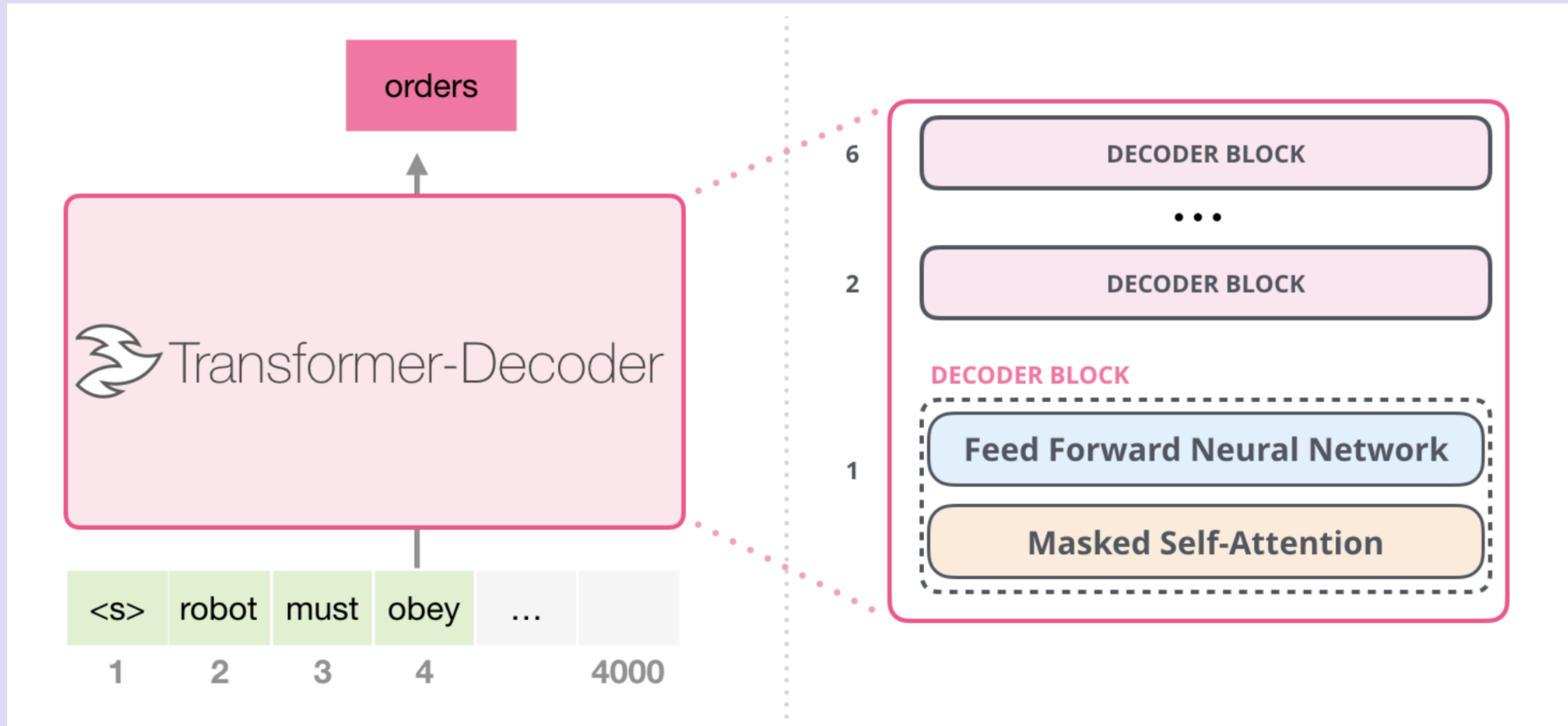
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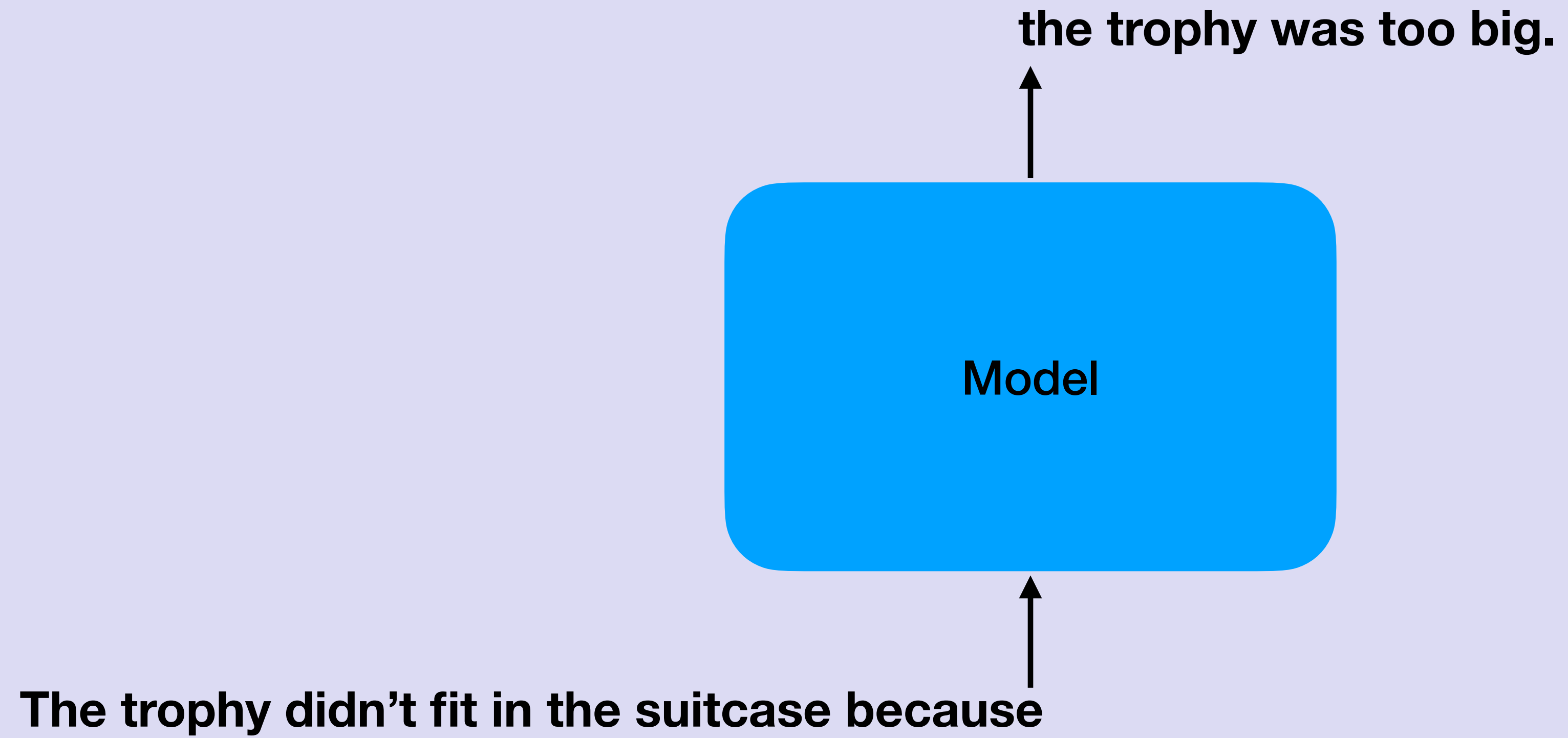
Sentiment Analysis

# Approach

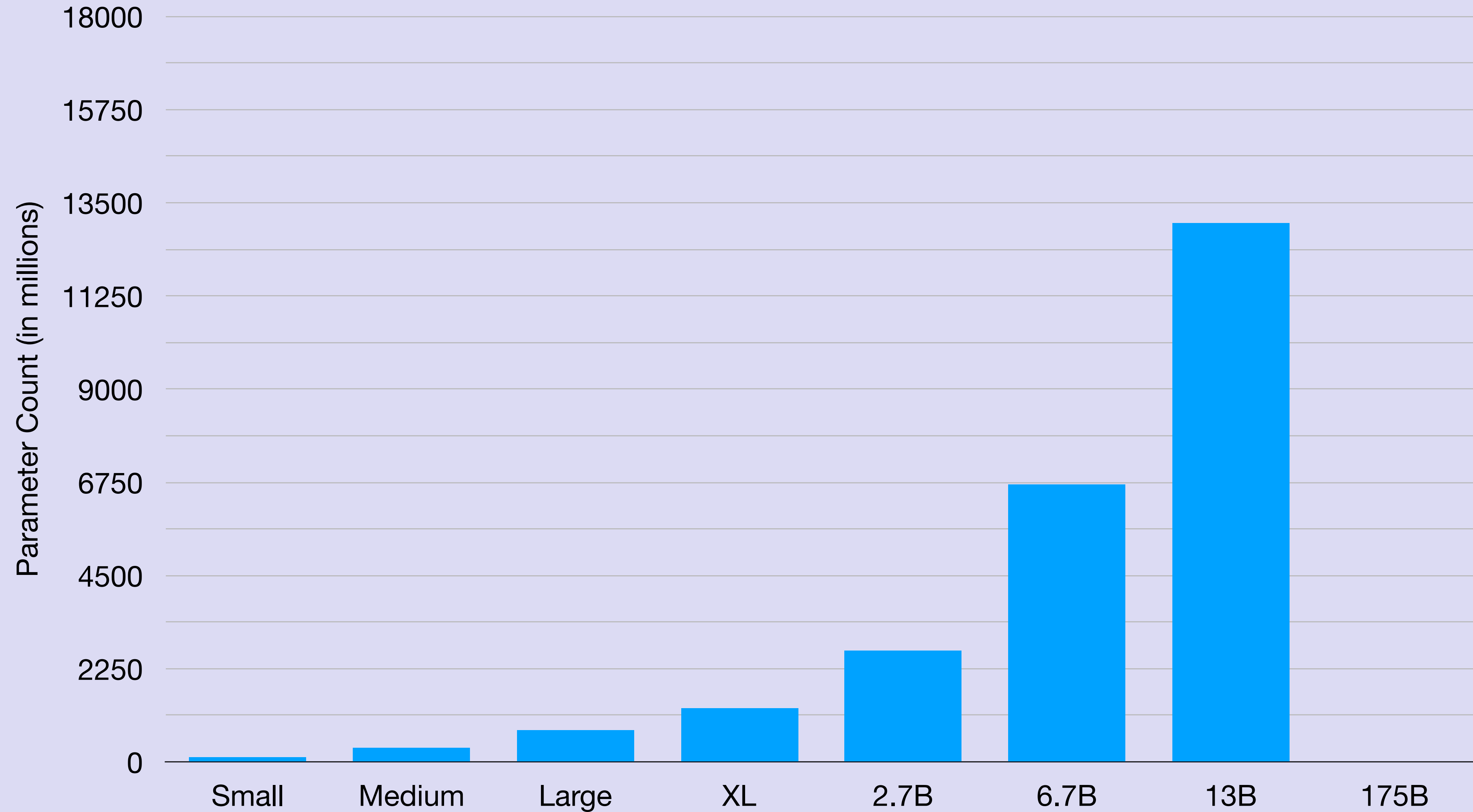
# Model



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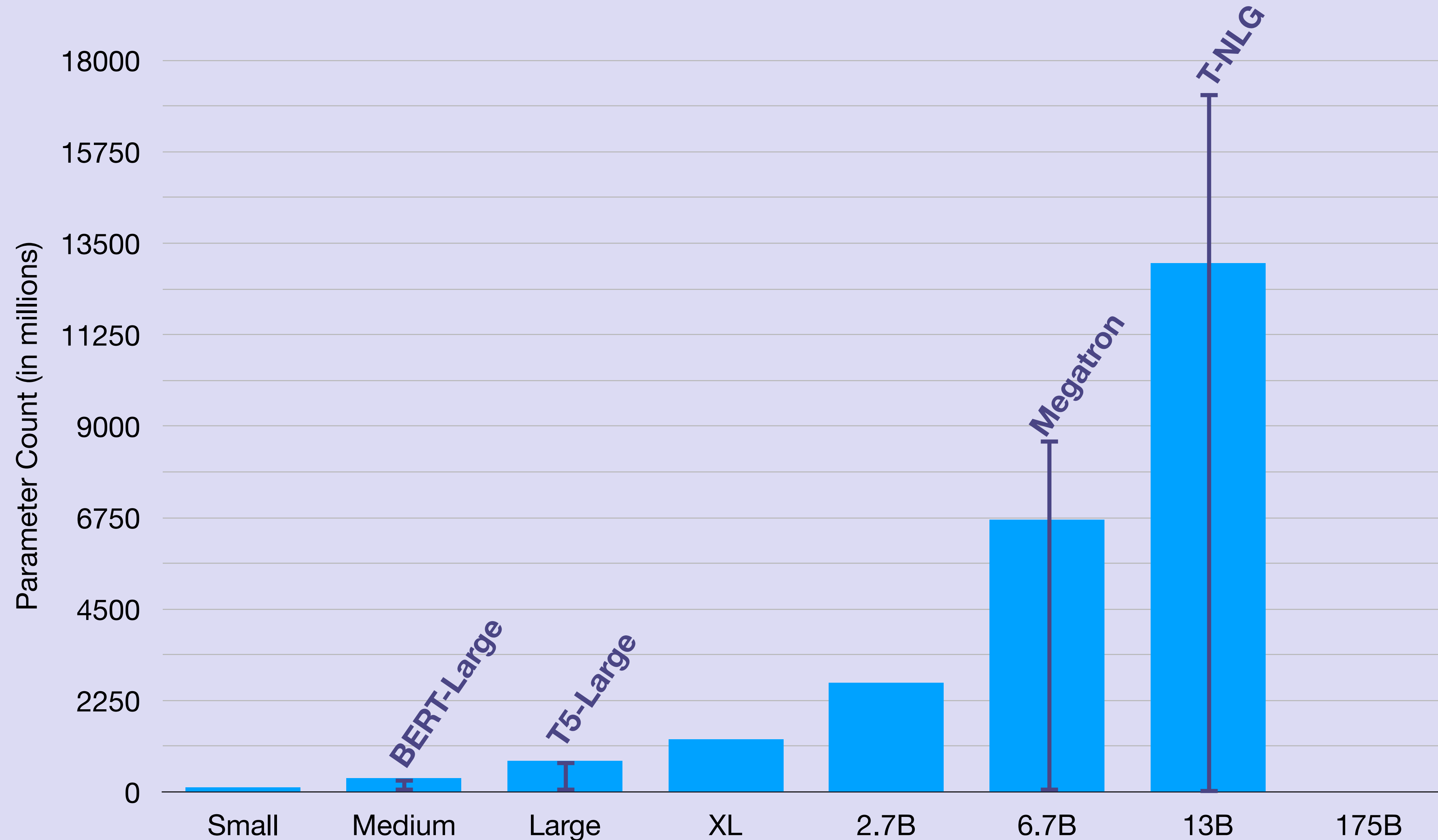


# Model Sizes



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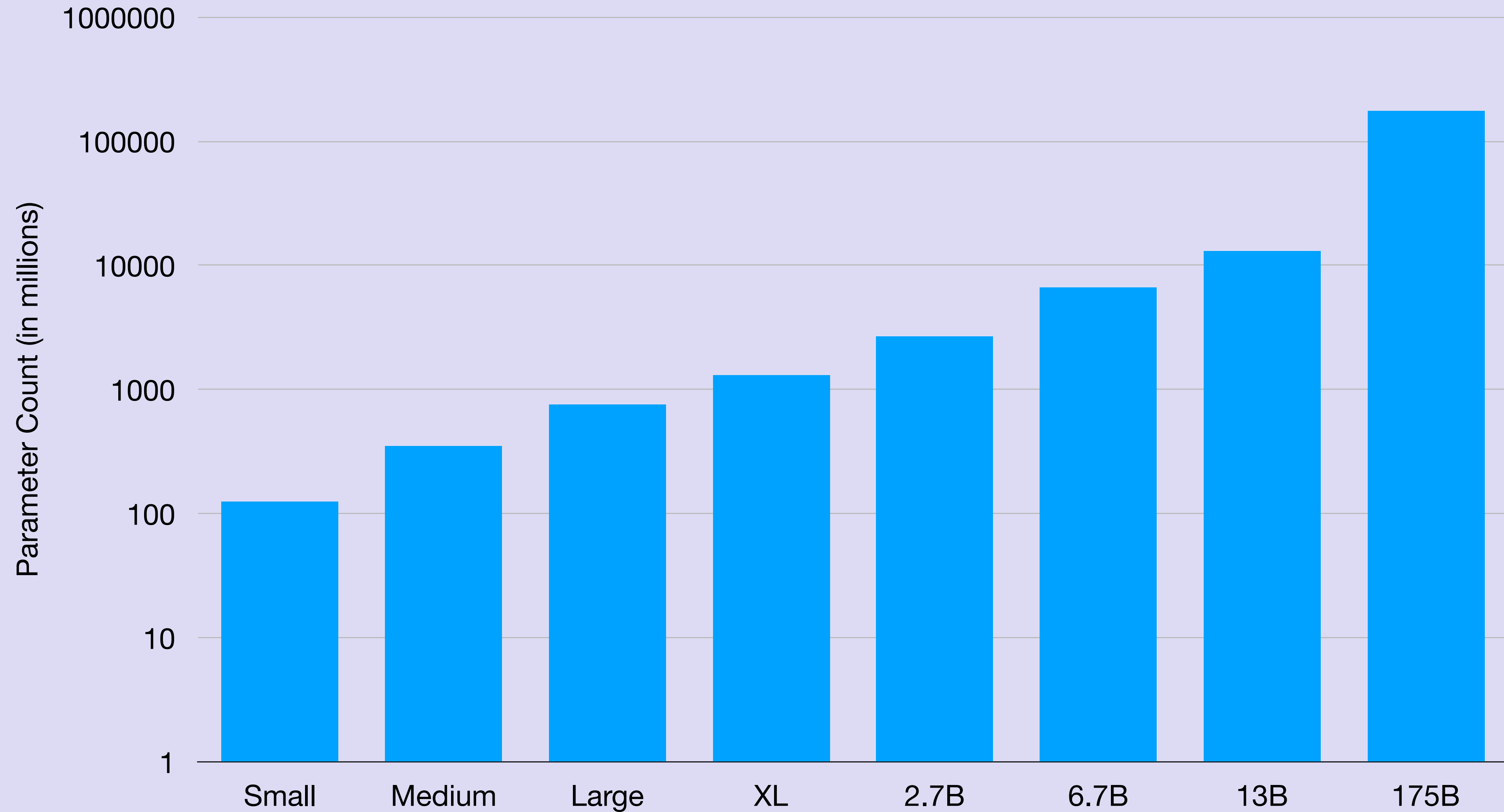
Devlin, et al. BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding. 2018  
Raffel, et al. Exploring the Limits of Transfer Learning with a Unified Text-to-Text Transformer. 2019  
Shoeybi, et al. Megatron-LM: Training Multi-Billion Parameter Language Models Using Model Parallelism. 2019  
Microsoft. Turing-NLG: A 17-Billion Parameter Language Model by Microsoft. 2020



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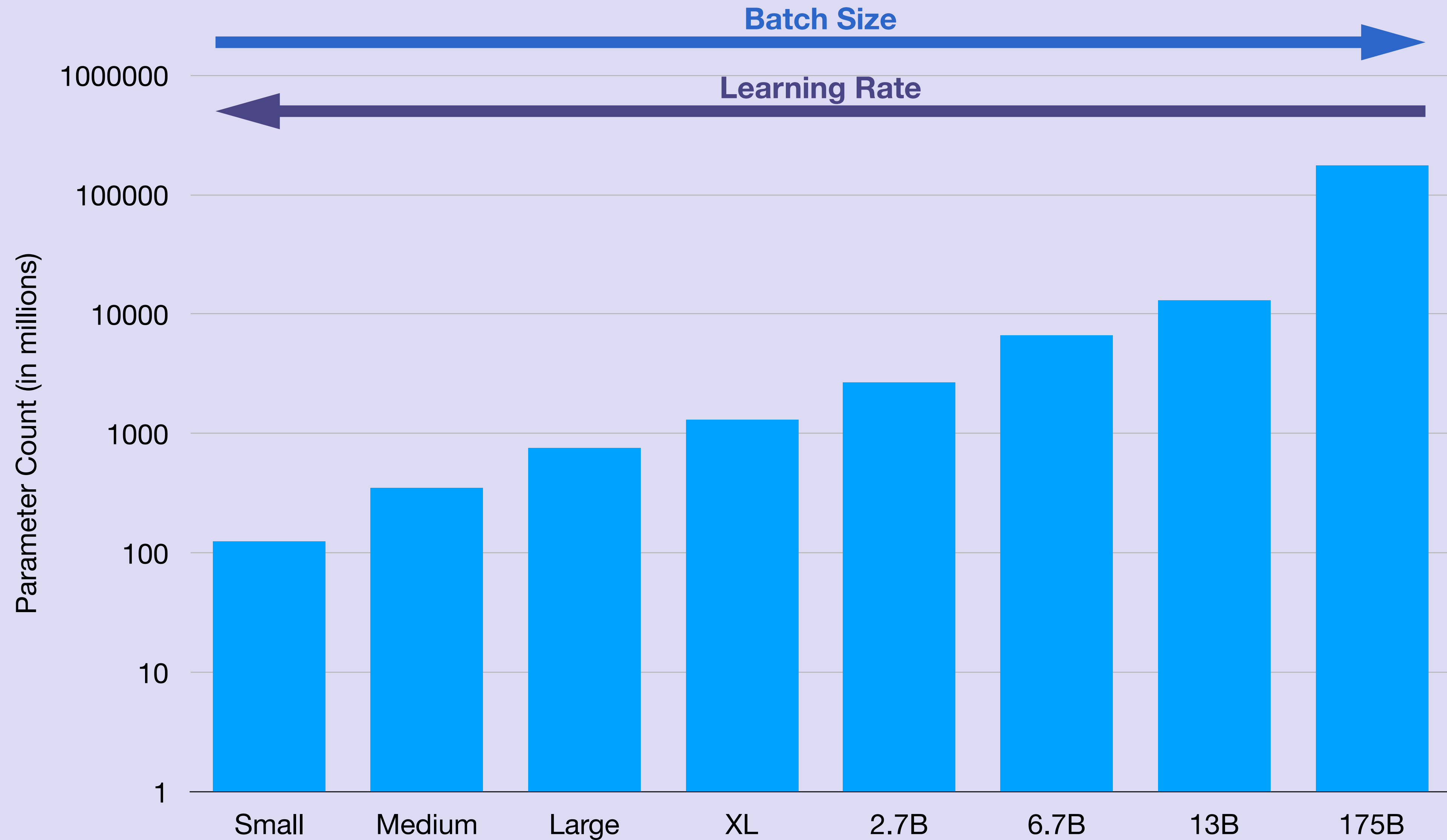


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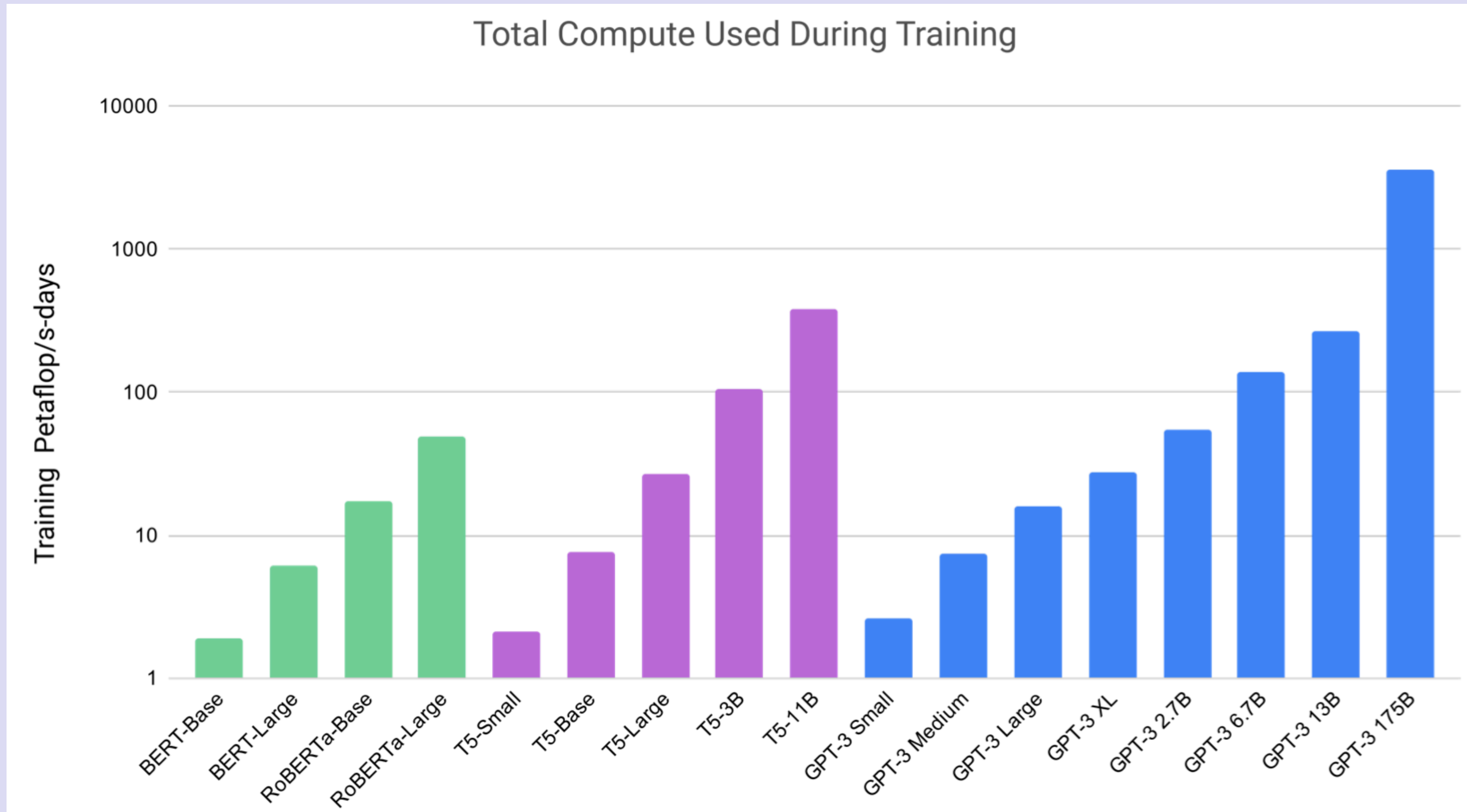




# Model Sizes



# Compute



# Dataset

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

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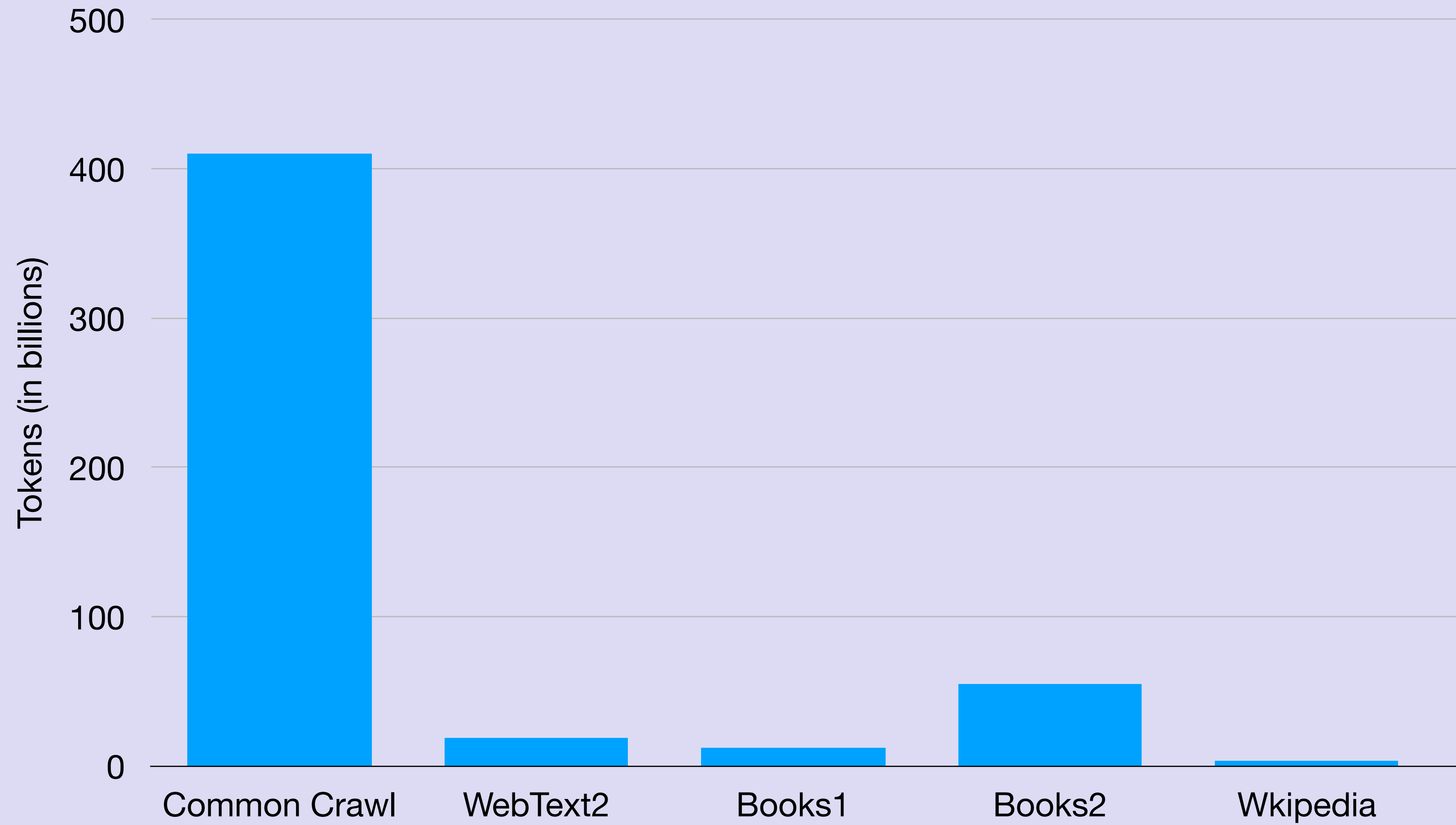
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- **Books1 & Books2** - internet-based books

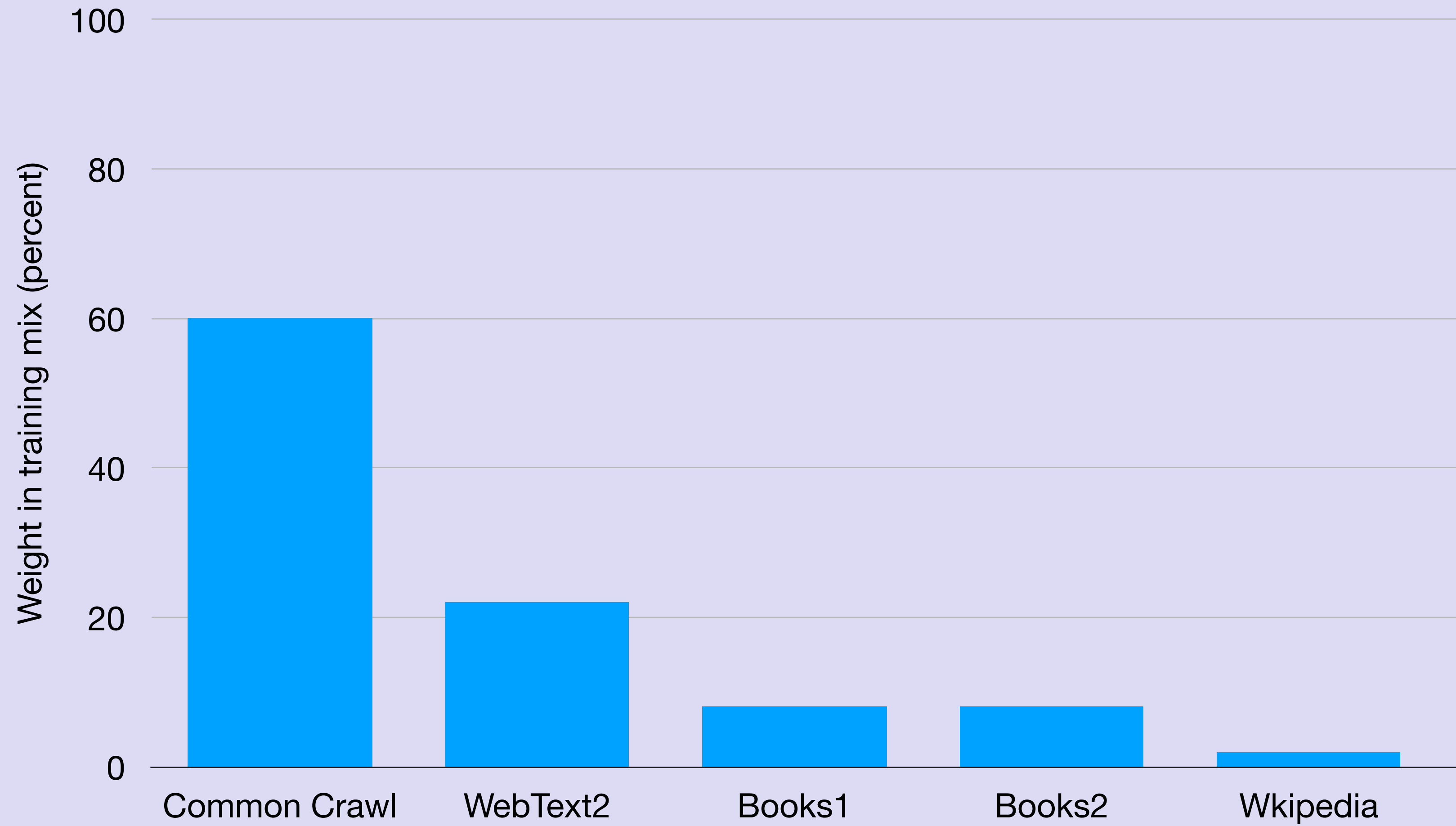
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- **WebText2** - expanded version of GPT-2 training data, scrape of outbound links from Reddit posts with reasonably high ratings
- **Books1 & Books2** - internet-based books
- **Wikipedia** - English-language Wikipedia

# Dataset Mix

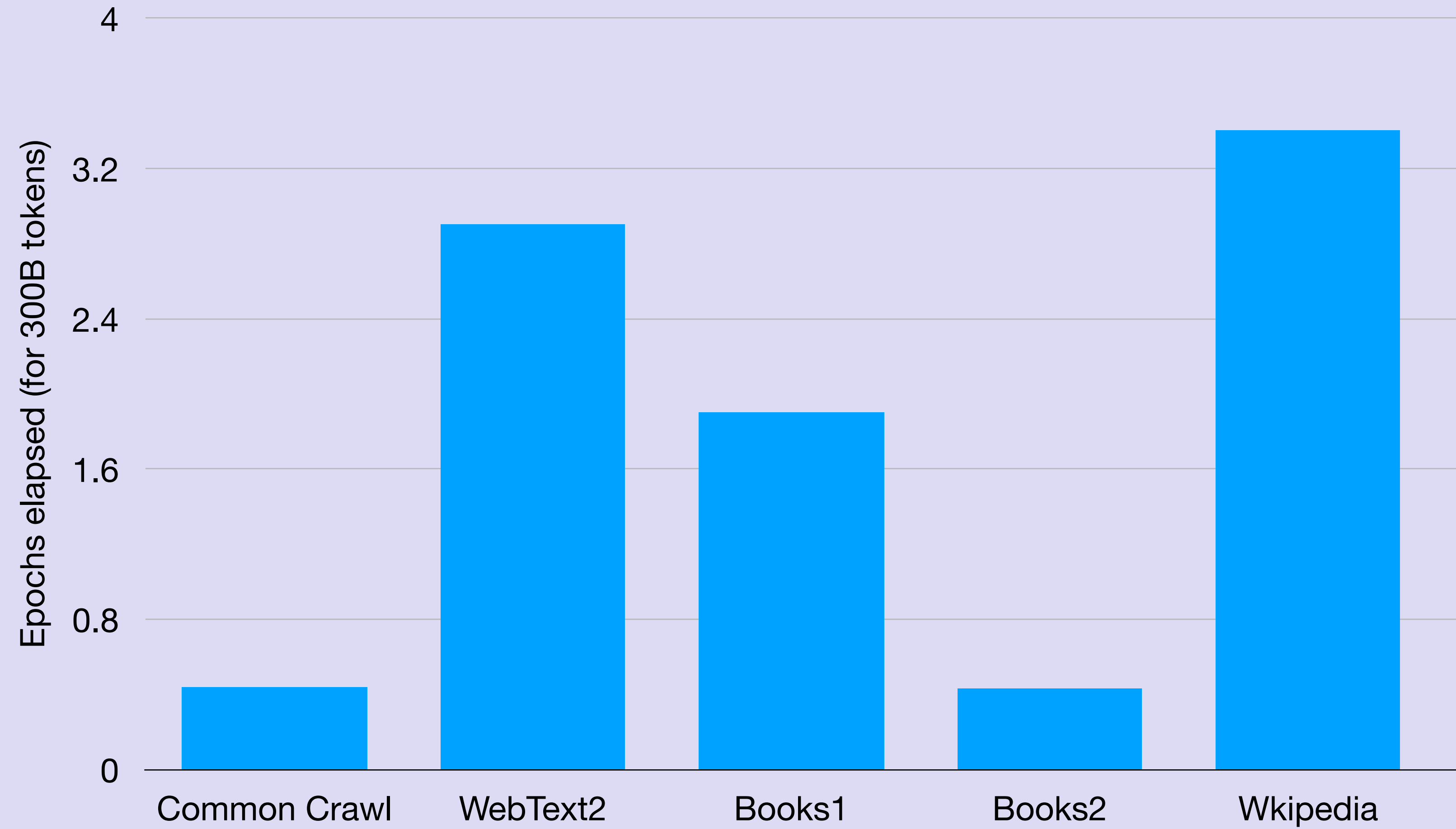


# Dataset Mix





# 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
```



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1 Translate English to French: ← task description
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### 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
```

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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.**

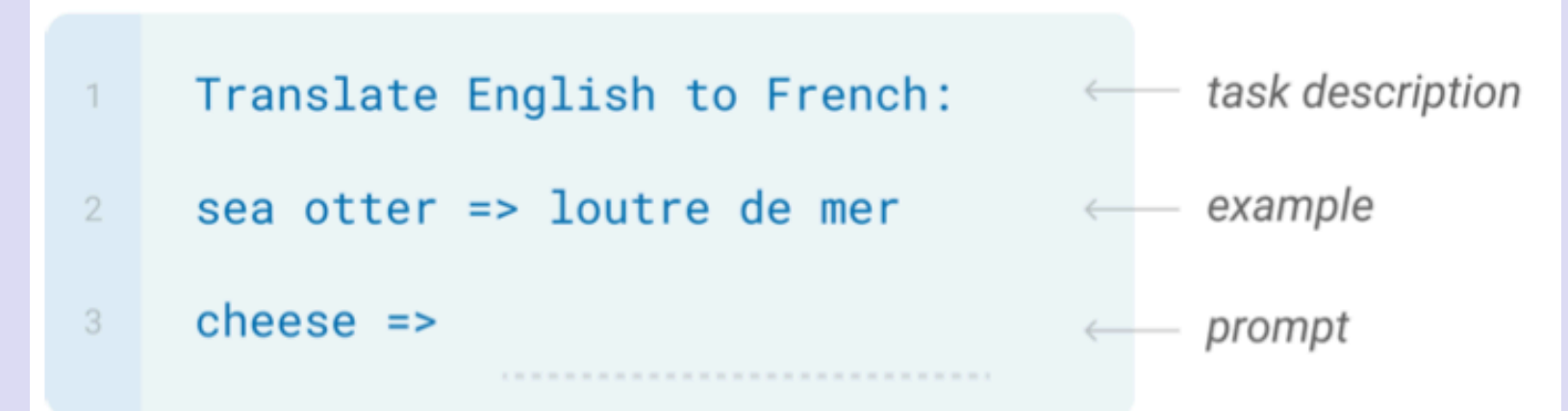
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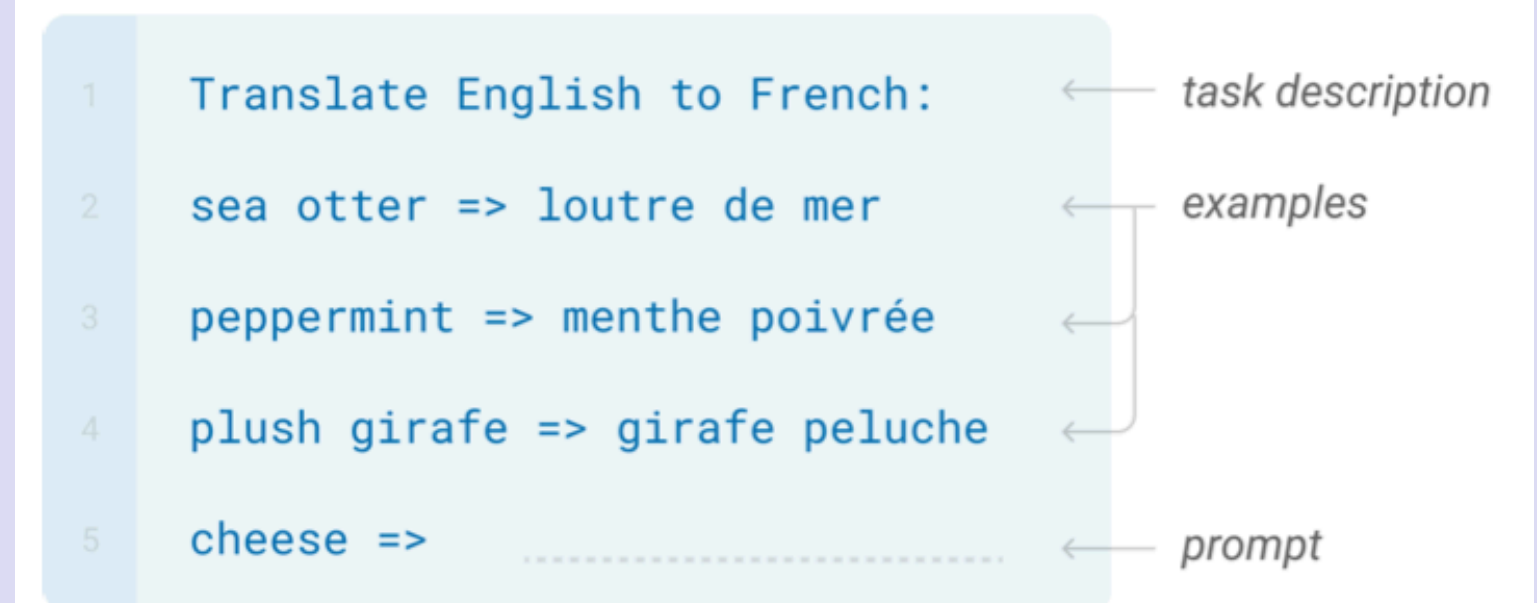
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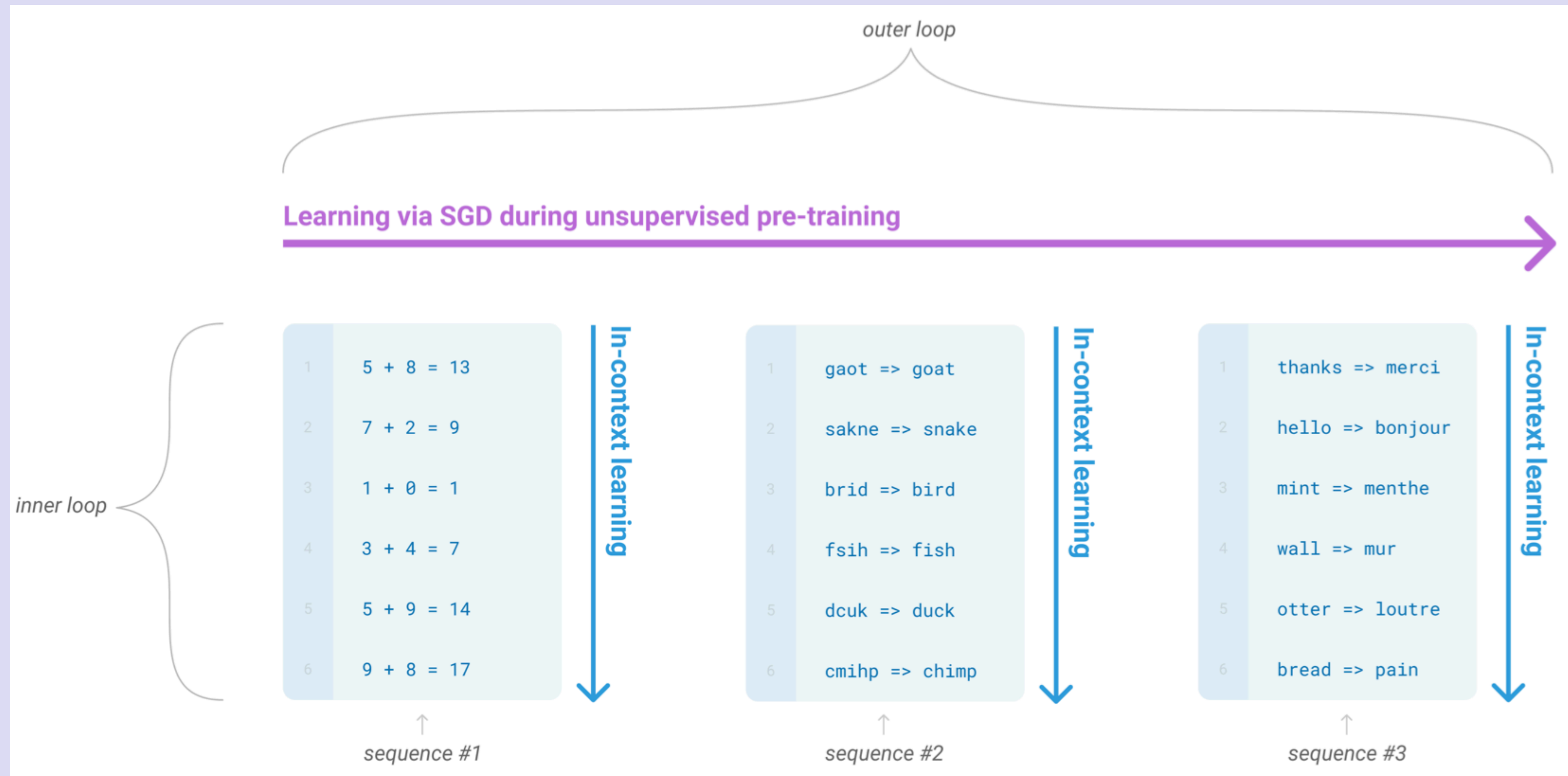


**Few-shot**

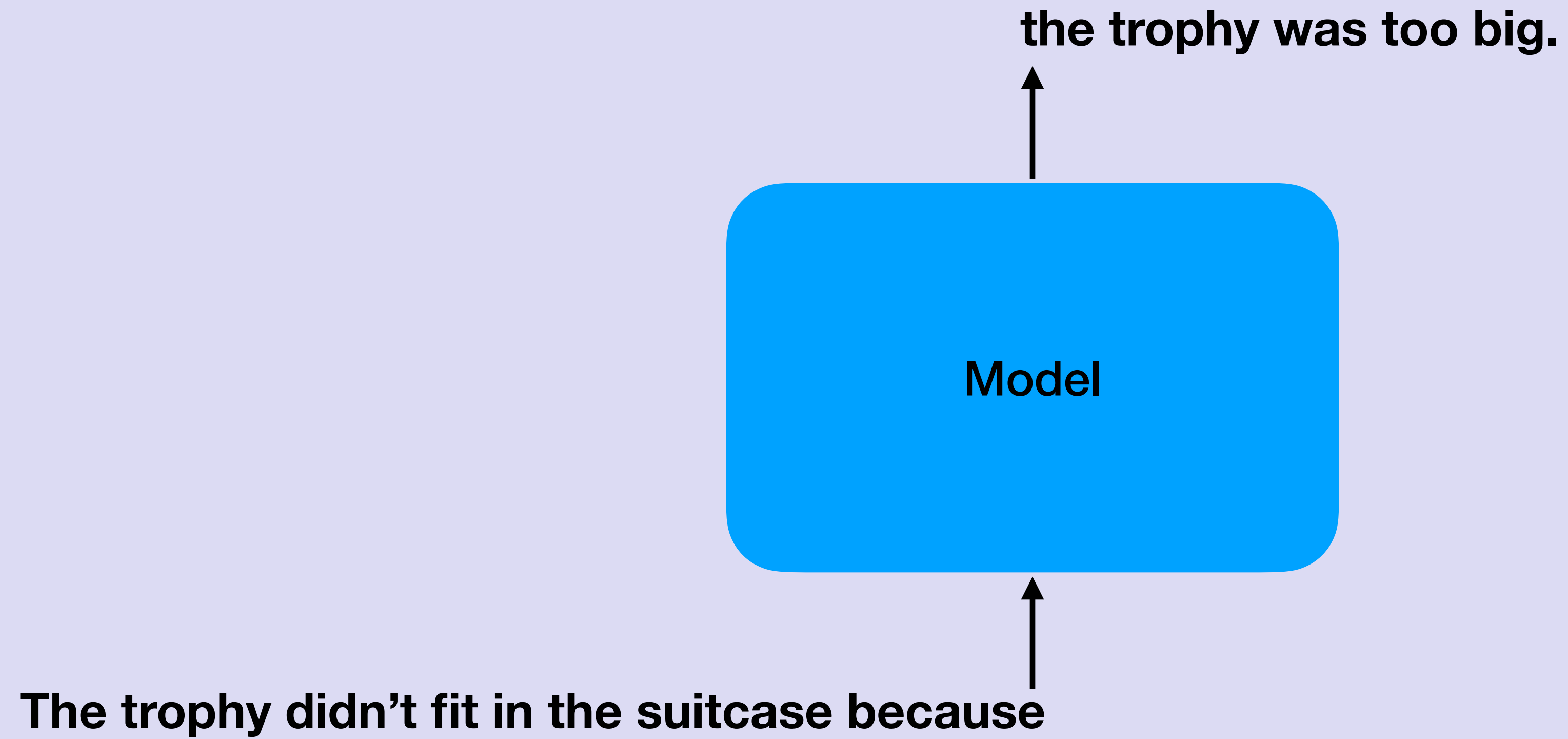
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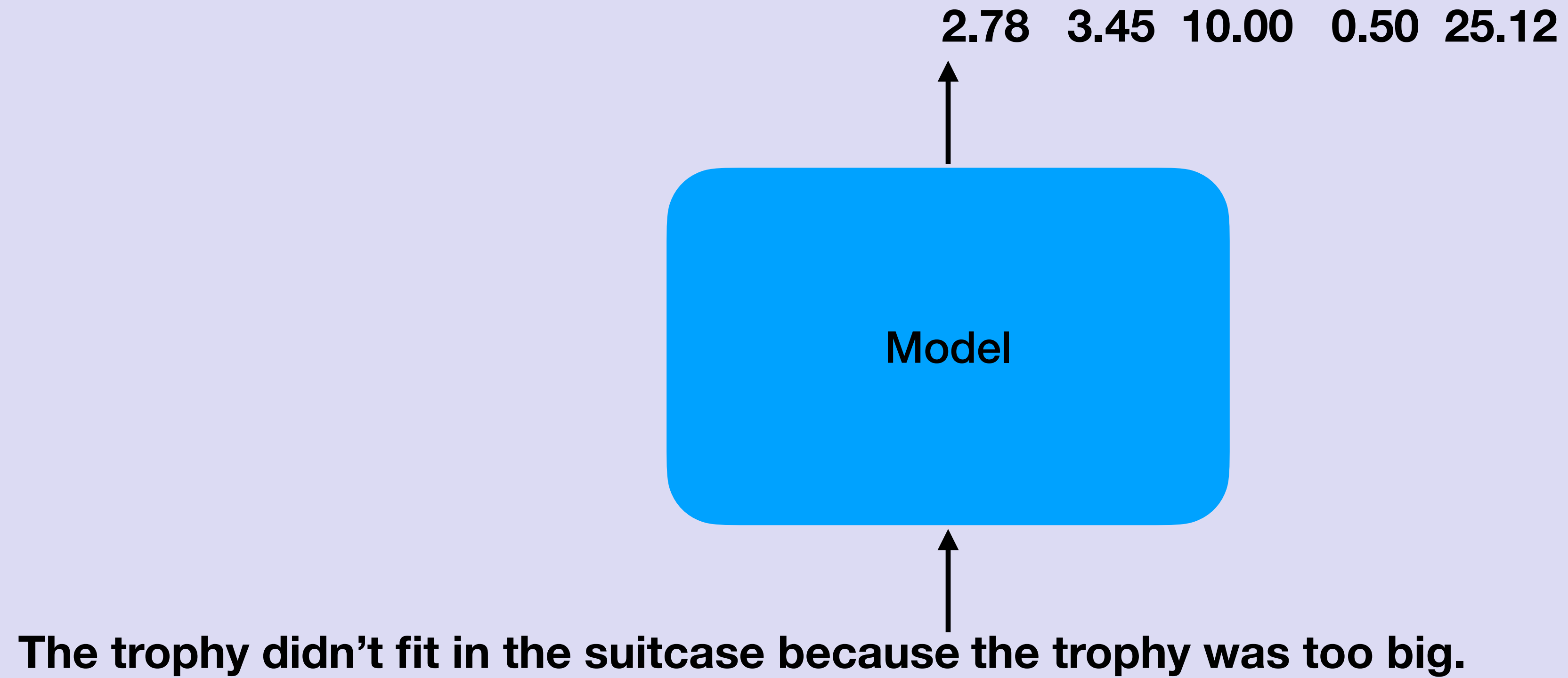
# Metalearning



# Sample Output



# LM-Likelihood



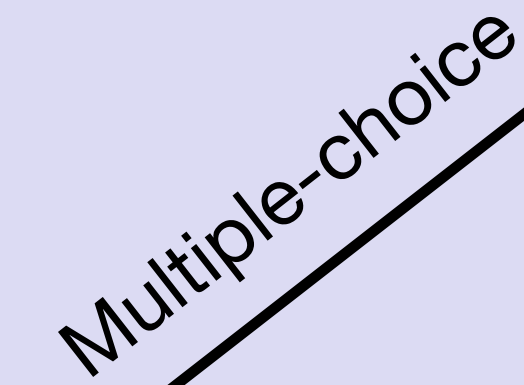
# Methods of Evaluation

**Randomly select K  
examples from the  
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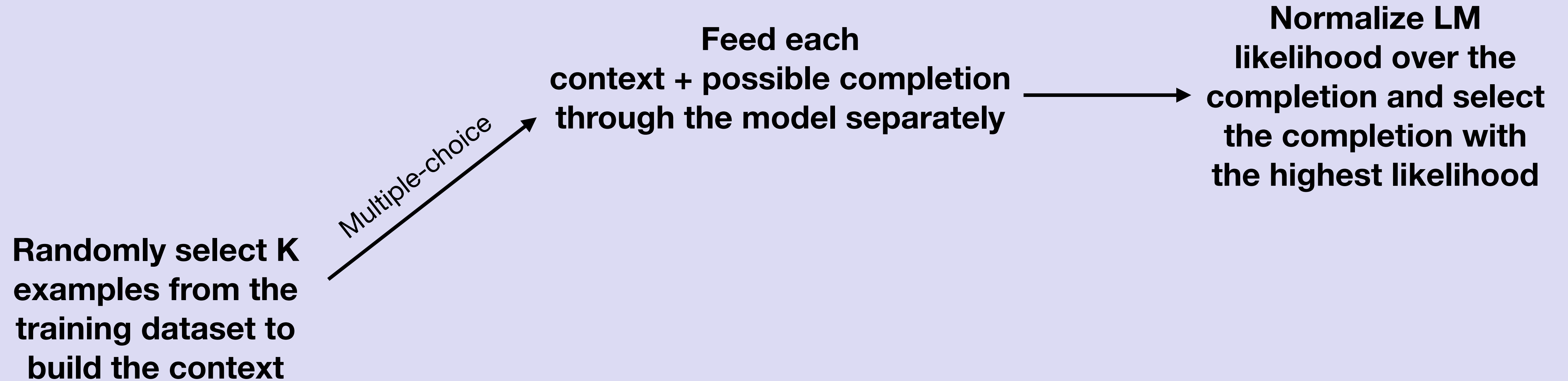
*Multiple-choice*



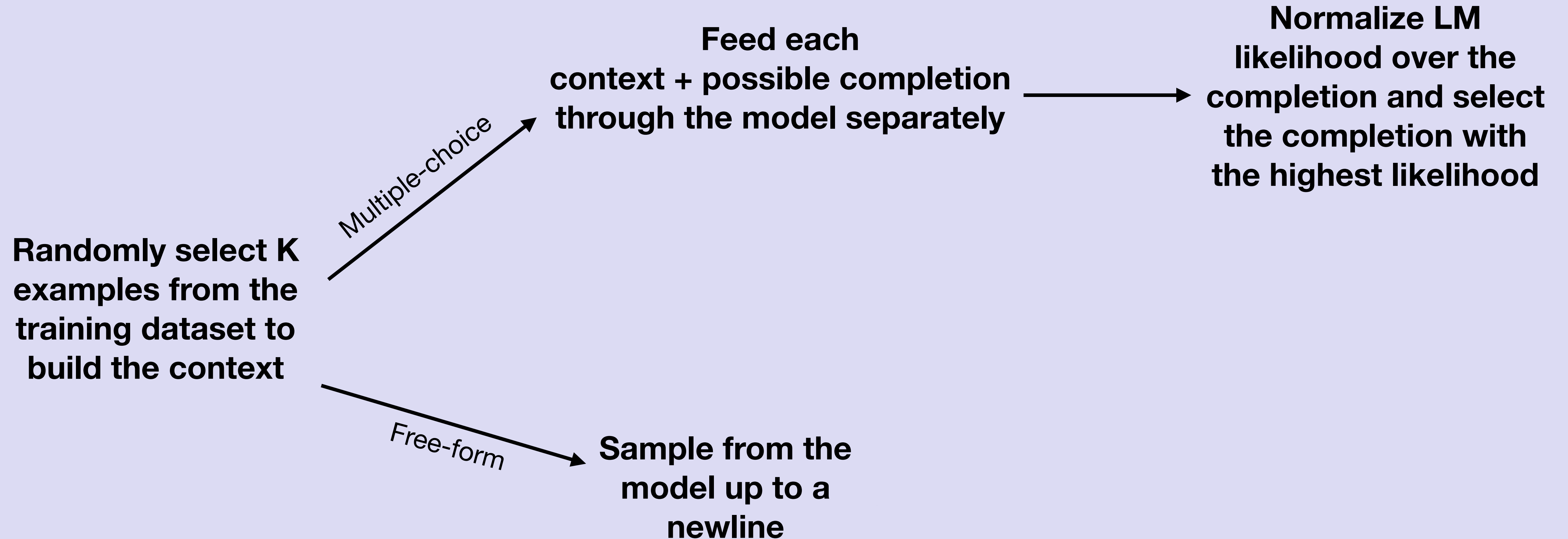
**Feed each context + possible completion through the model separately**



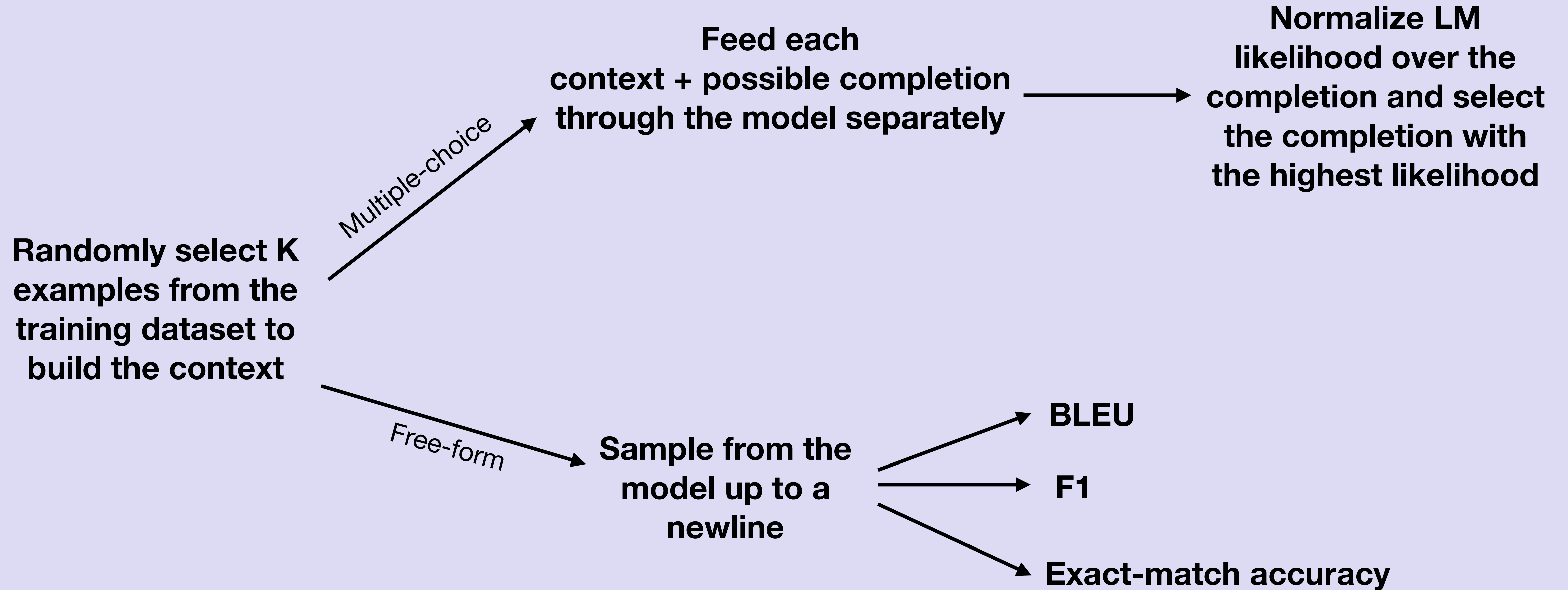
# Methods of Evaluation



# 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
- SQuADv2
- DROP
- CoQA
- RACE

## Trivia-style Questions

- NaturalQs
- WebQs
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## Inference

- ANLI
- RTE

## Comprehensive Benchmarks

- SuperGLUE

## Translation

- En <-> Fr
- En <-> De
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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

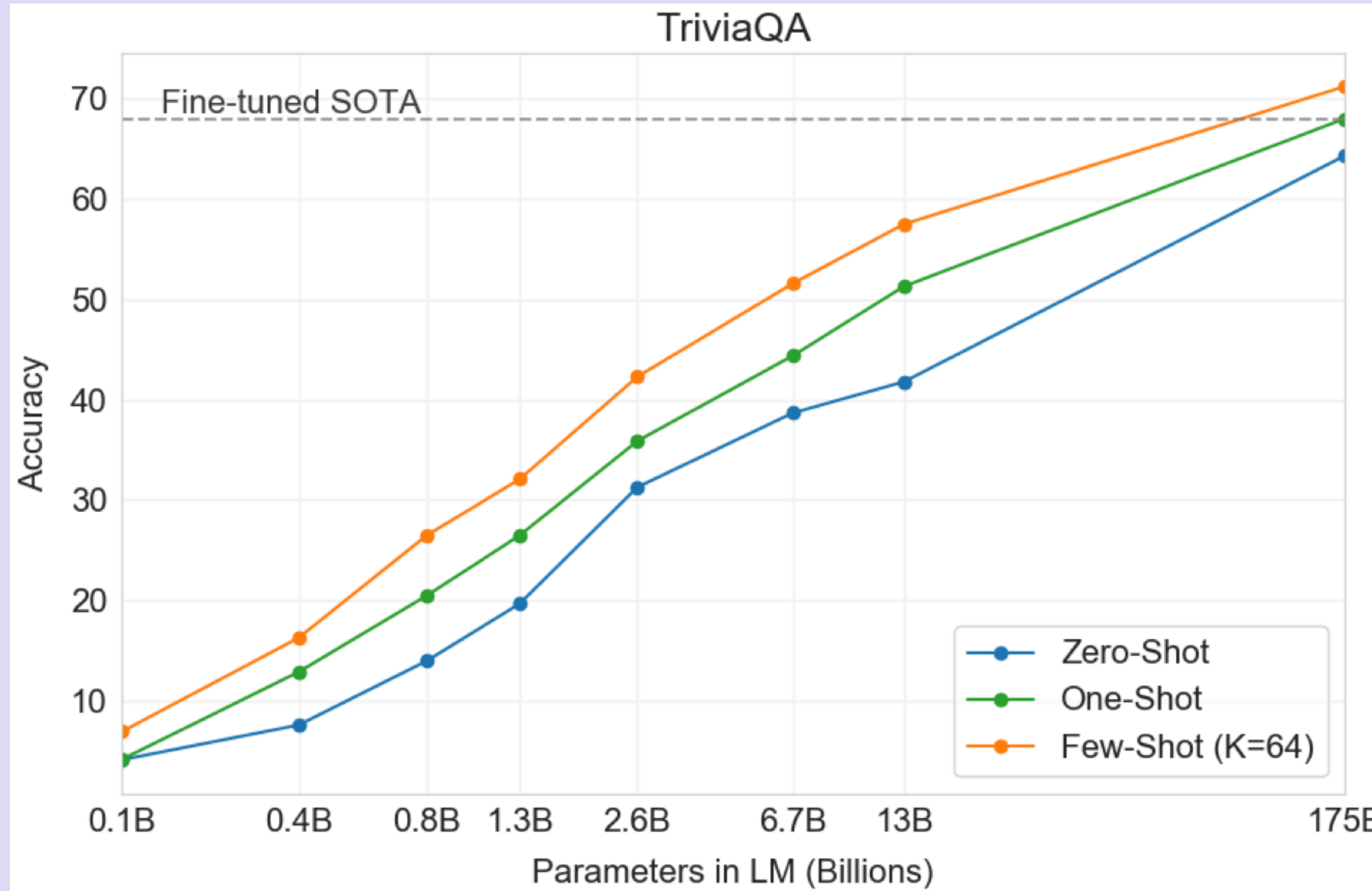
# Summary of Performance

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.

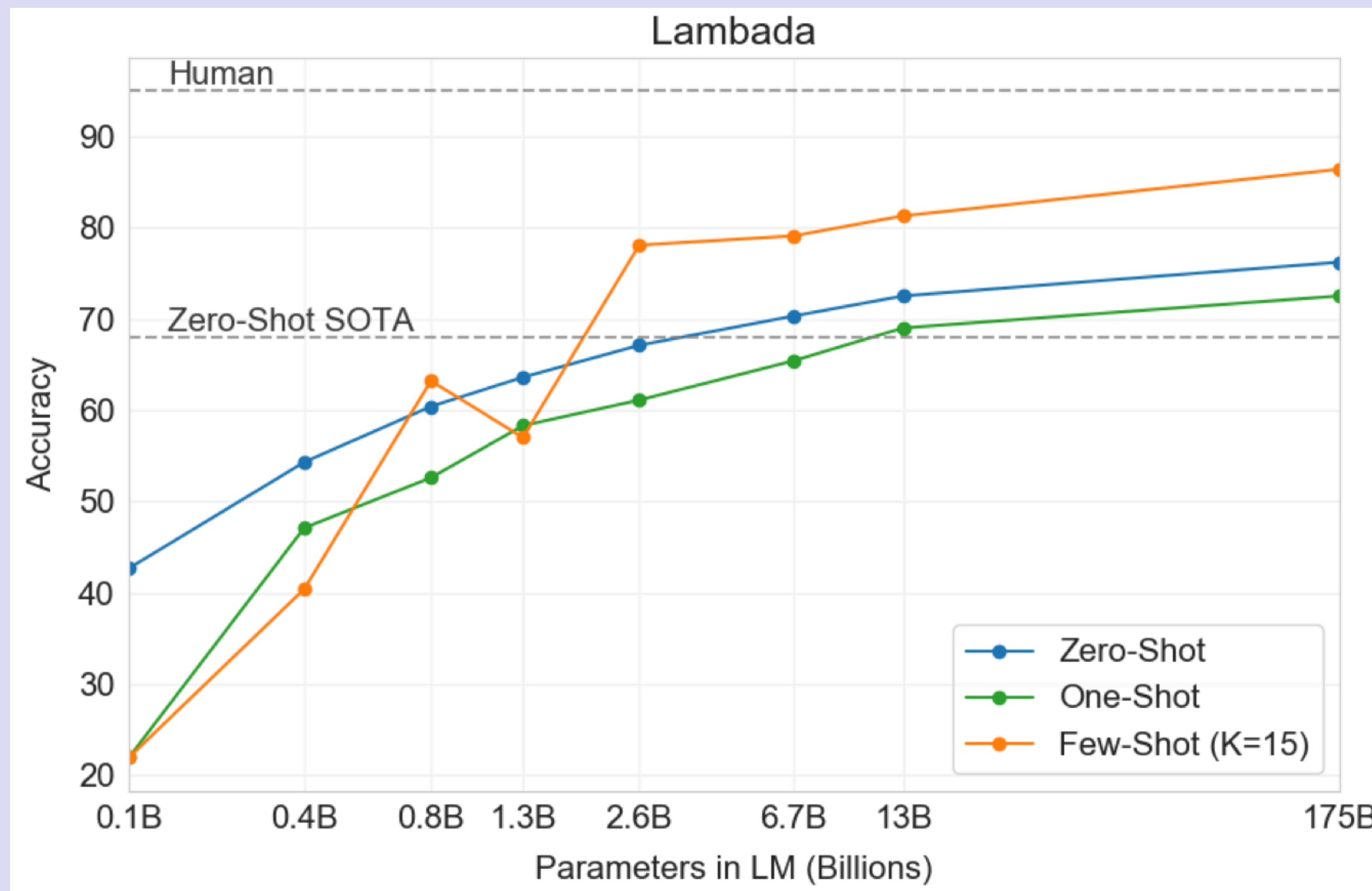
She caught her breath.

"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



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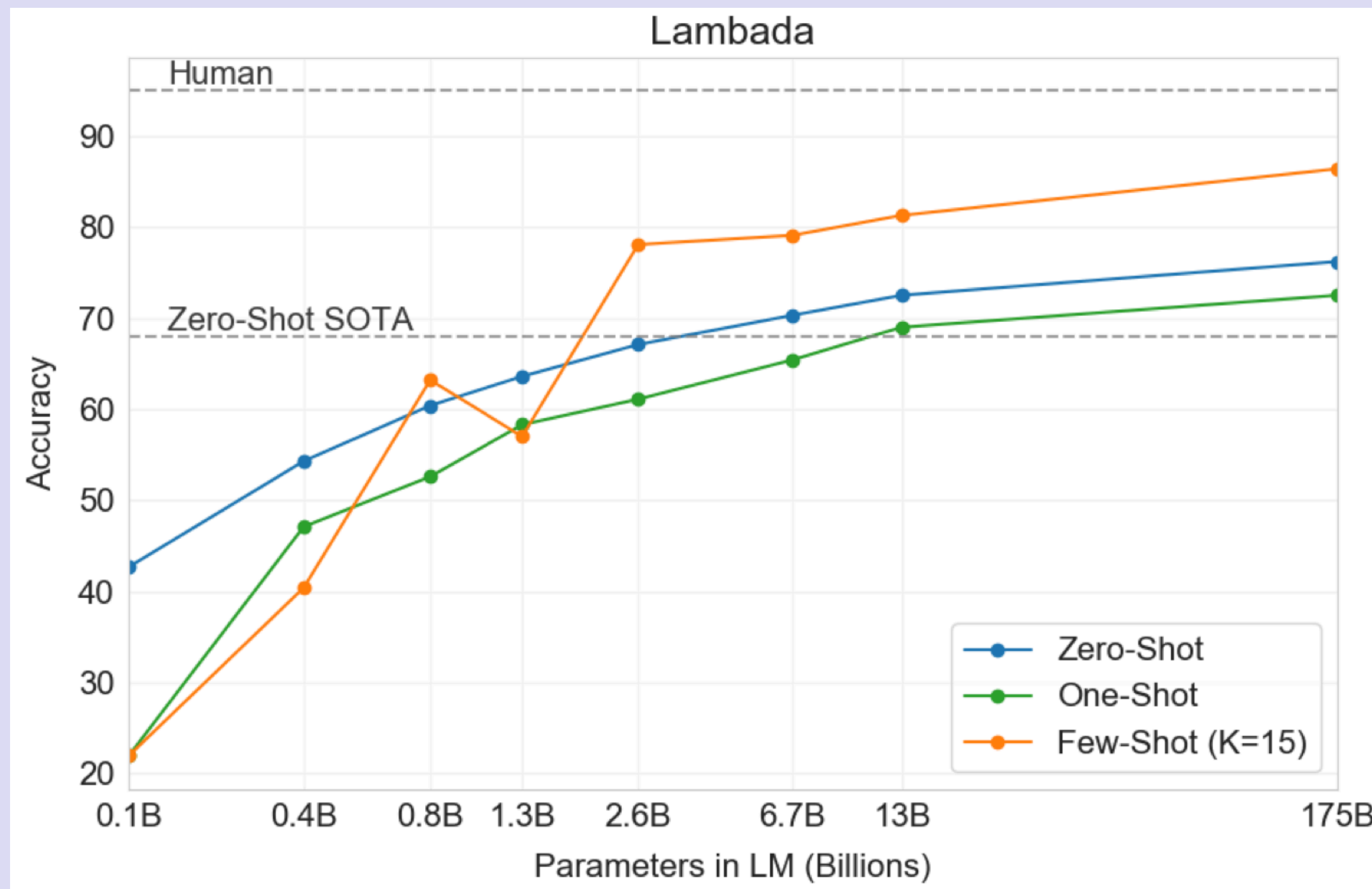
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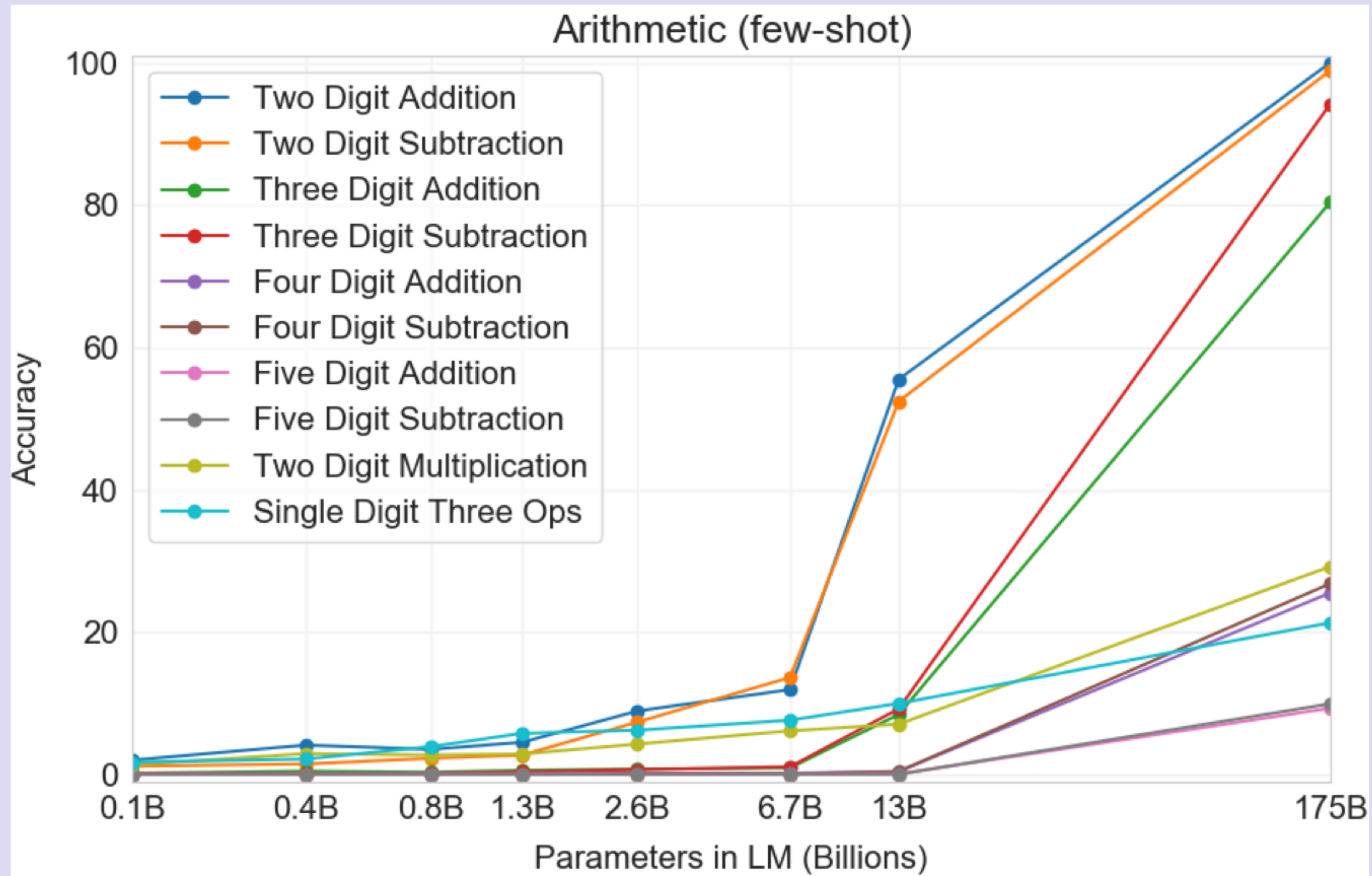
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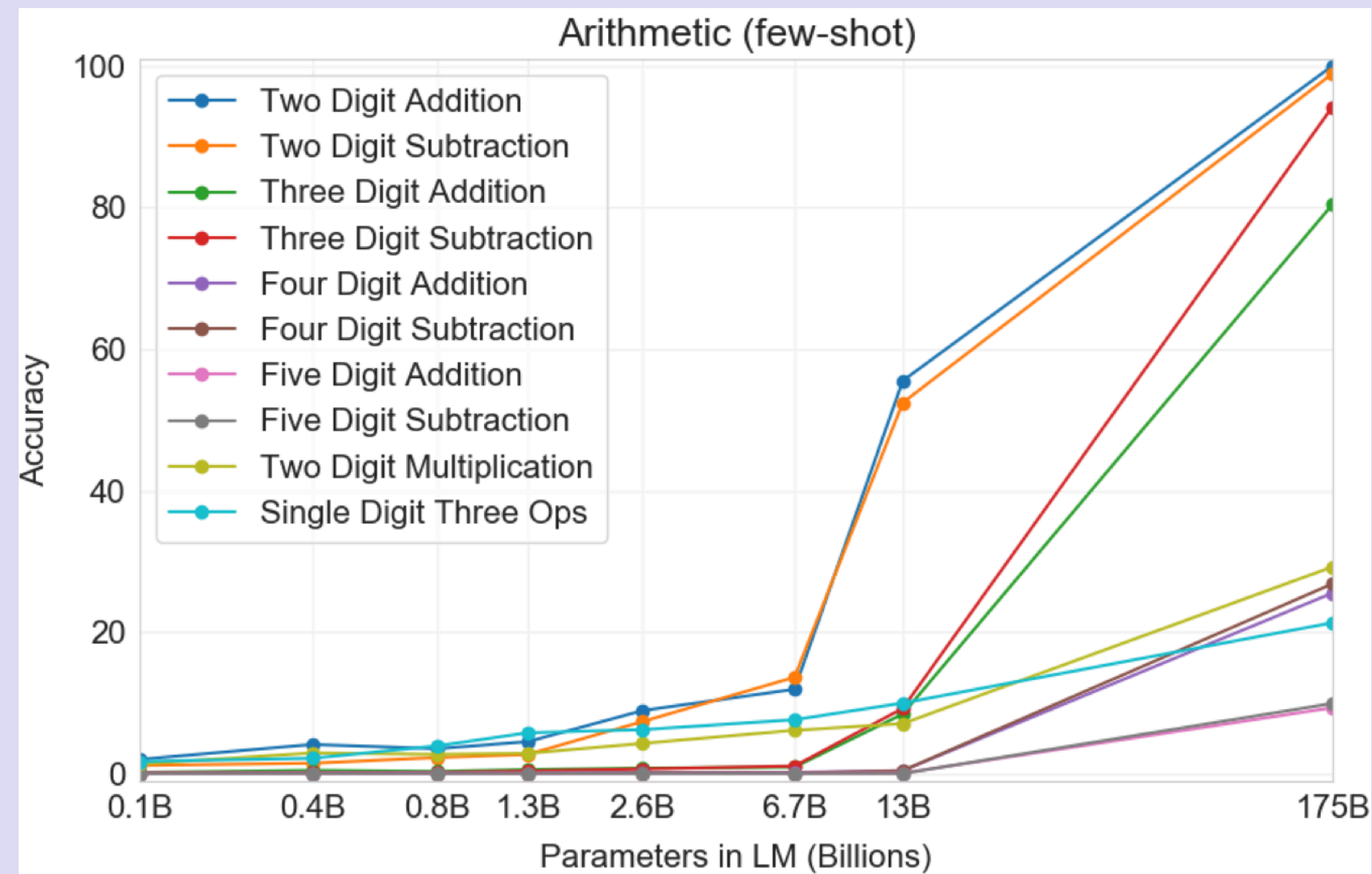




# Strengths



# Strengths



**3456 -> 3,456**

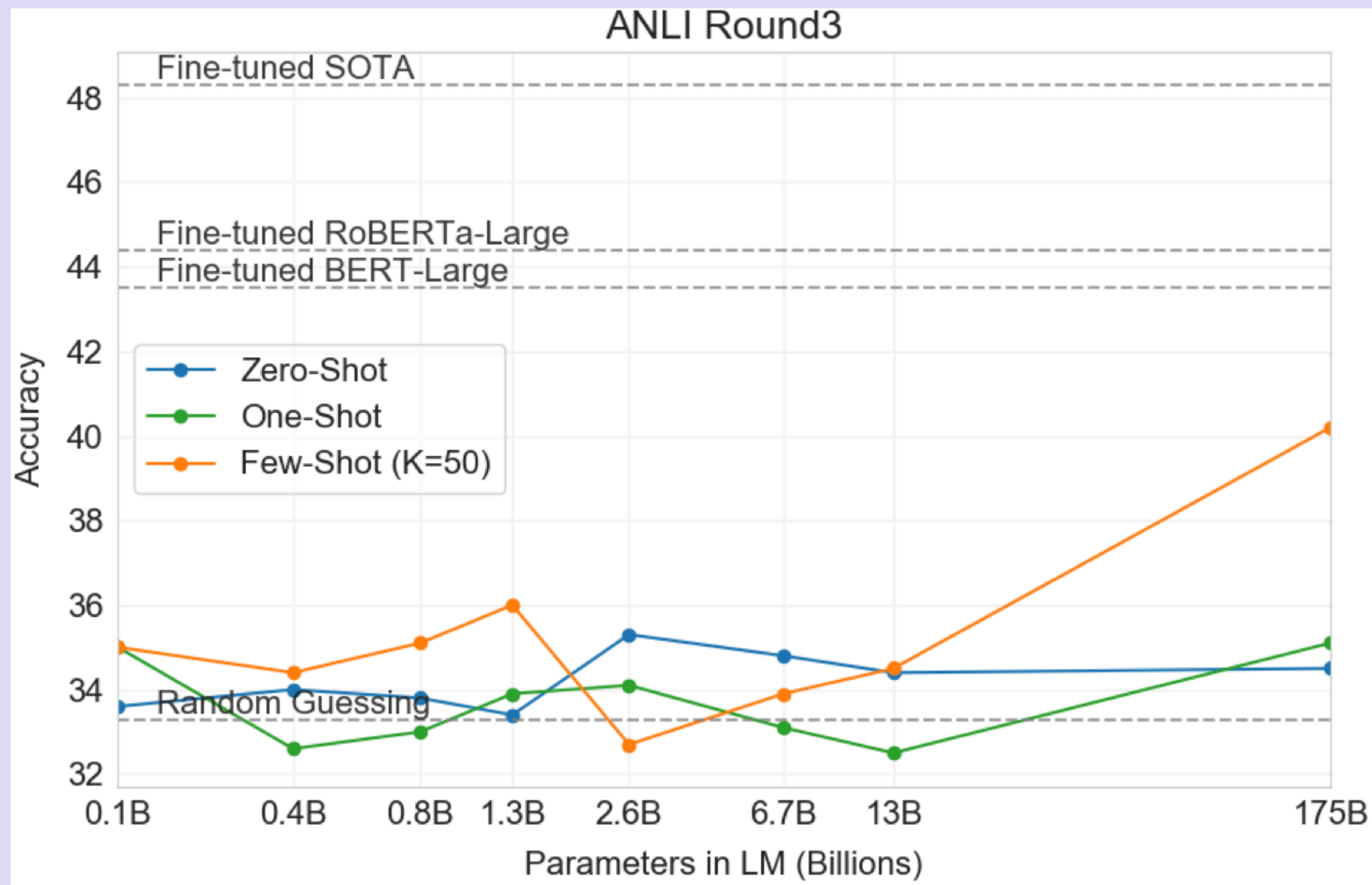
Task	Accuracy Without Commas	Accuracy With Commas
4 Digit Addition	25.5%	91.1%
4 Digit Subtraction	26.9%	89.7%
5 Digit Addition	9.3%	90.2%
5 Digit Subtraction	9.9%	82.2%
6 Digit Addition	3%	78.5%
6 Digit Subtraction	3%	73.9%

# 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).

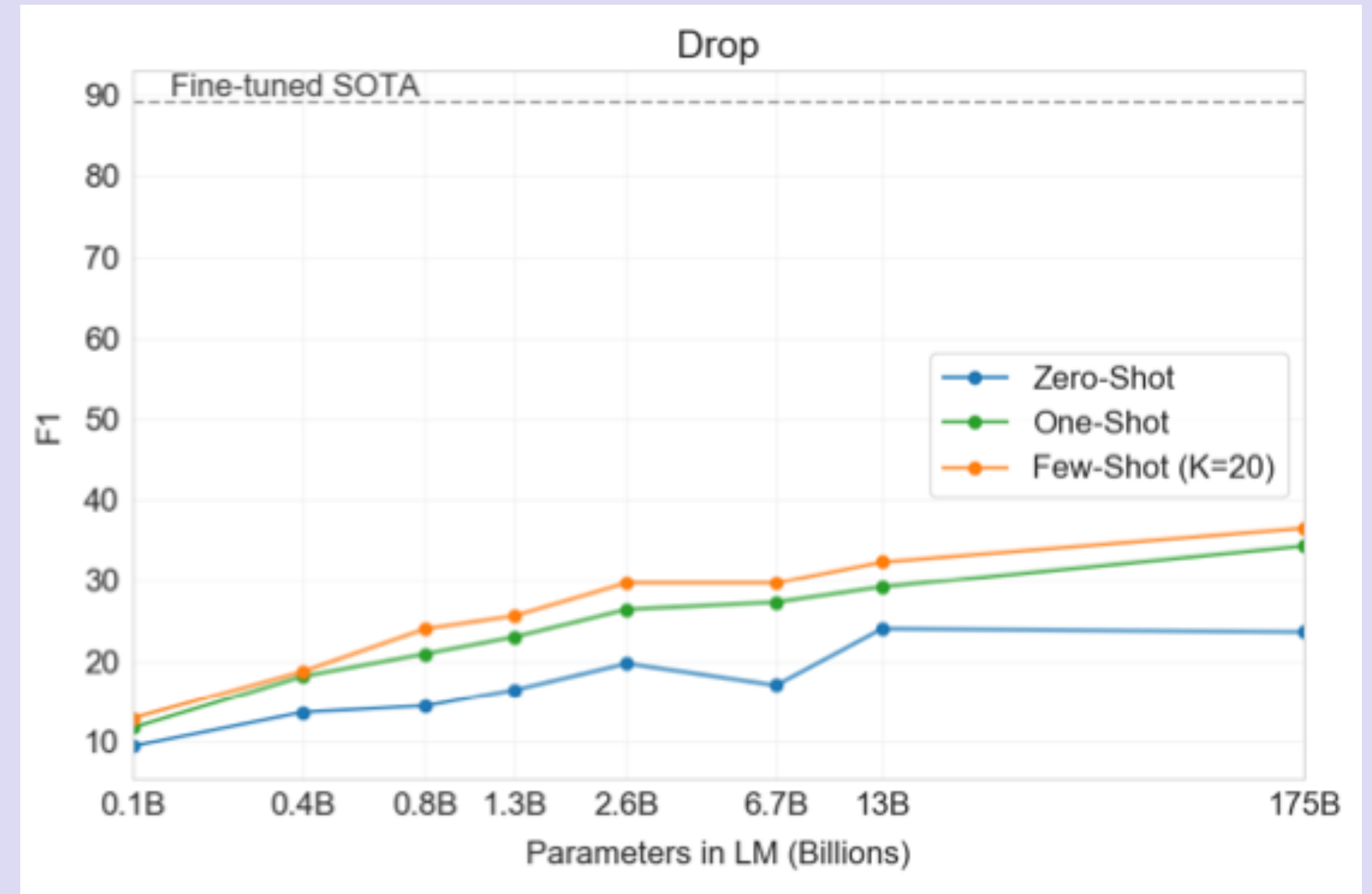
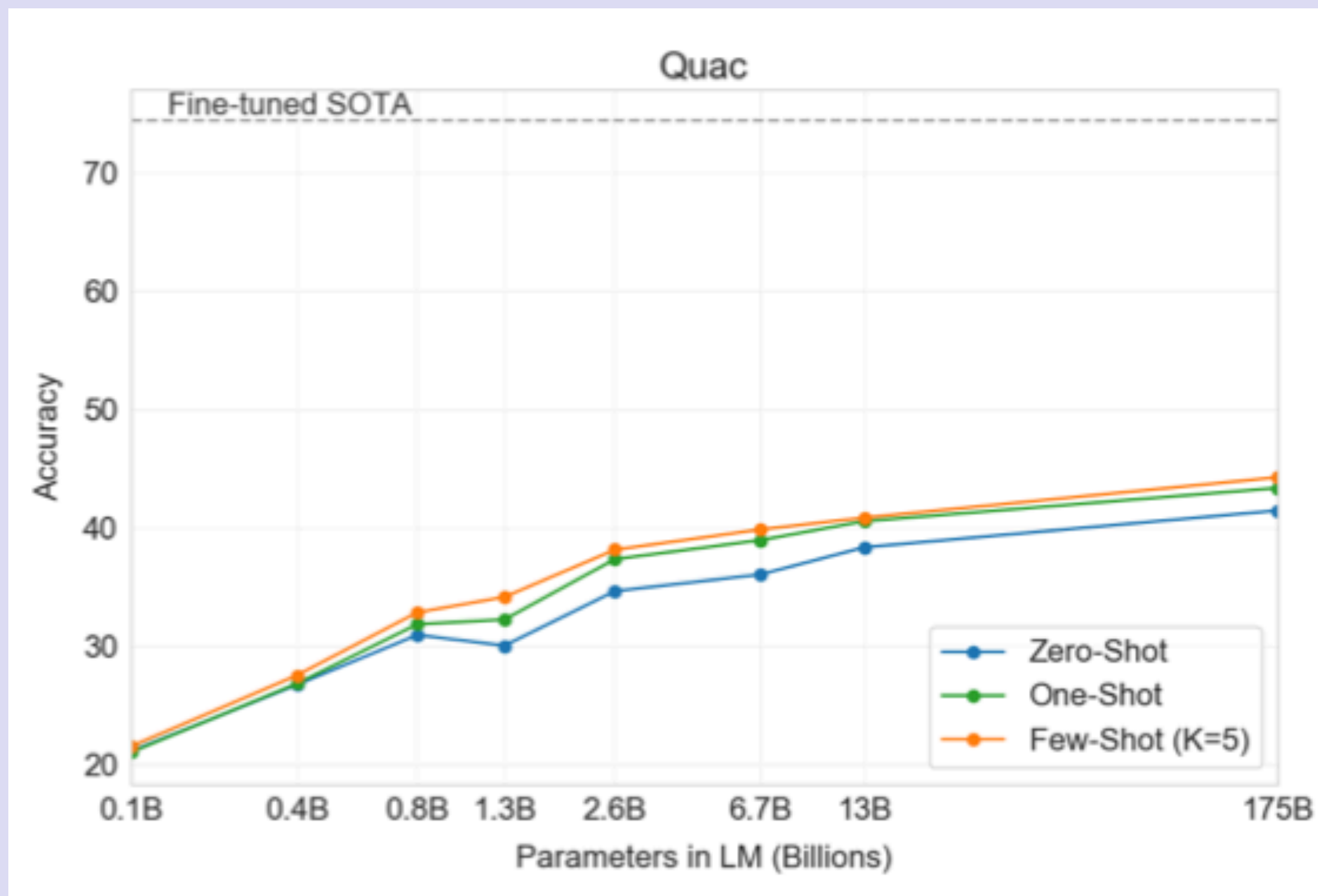
Q: what team did he play for?

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:



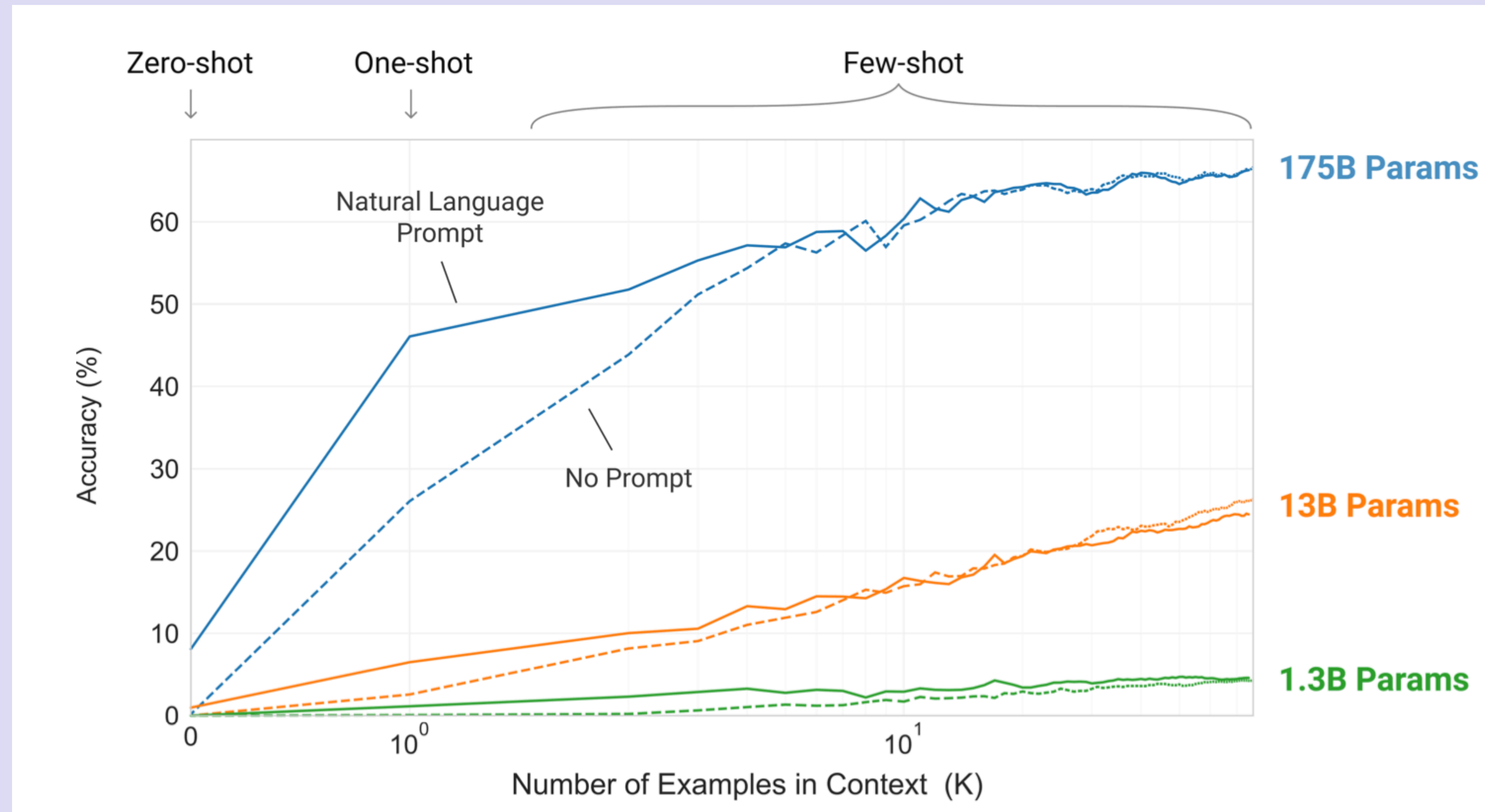
Choi, et al. Quac : Question answering in context. 2018;

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

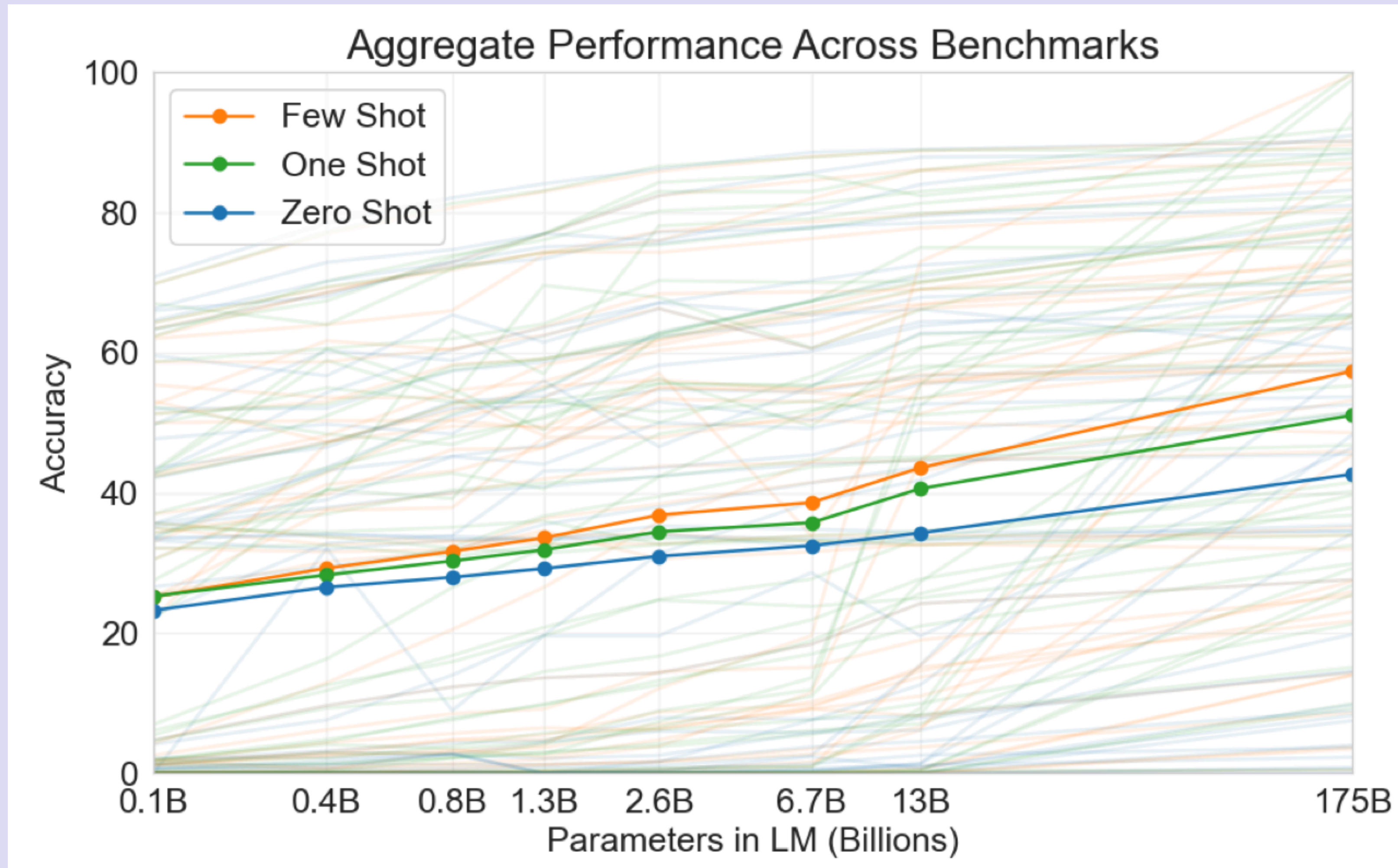
# Key Insights

**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

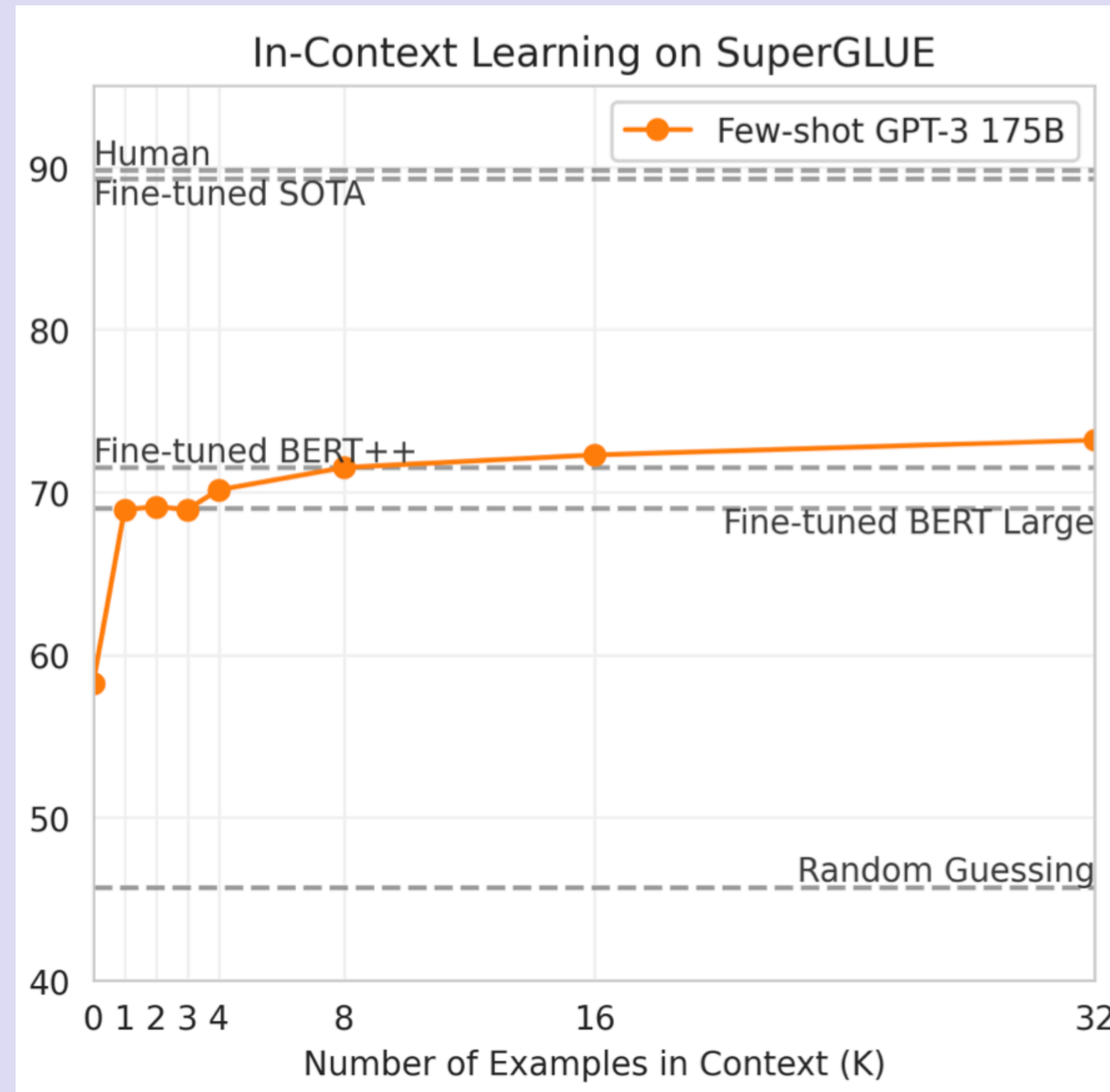


# Bigger models have more emergent abilities

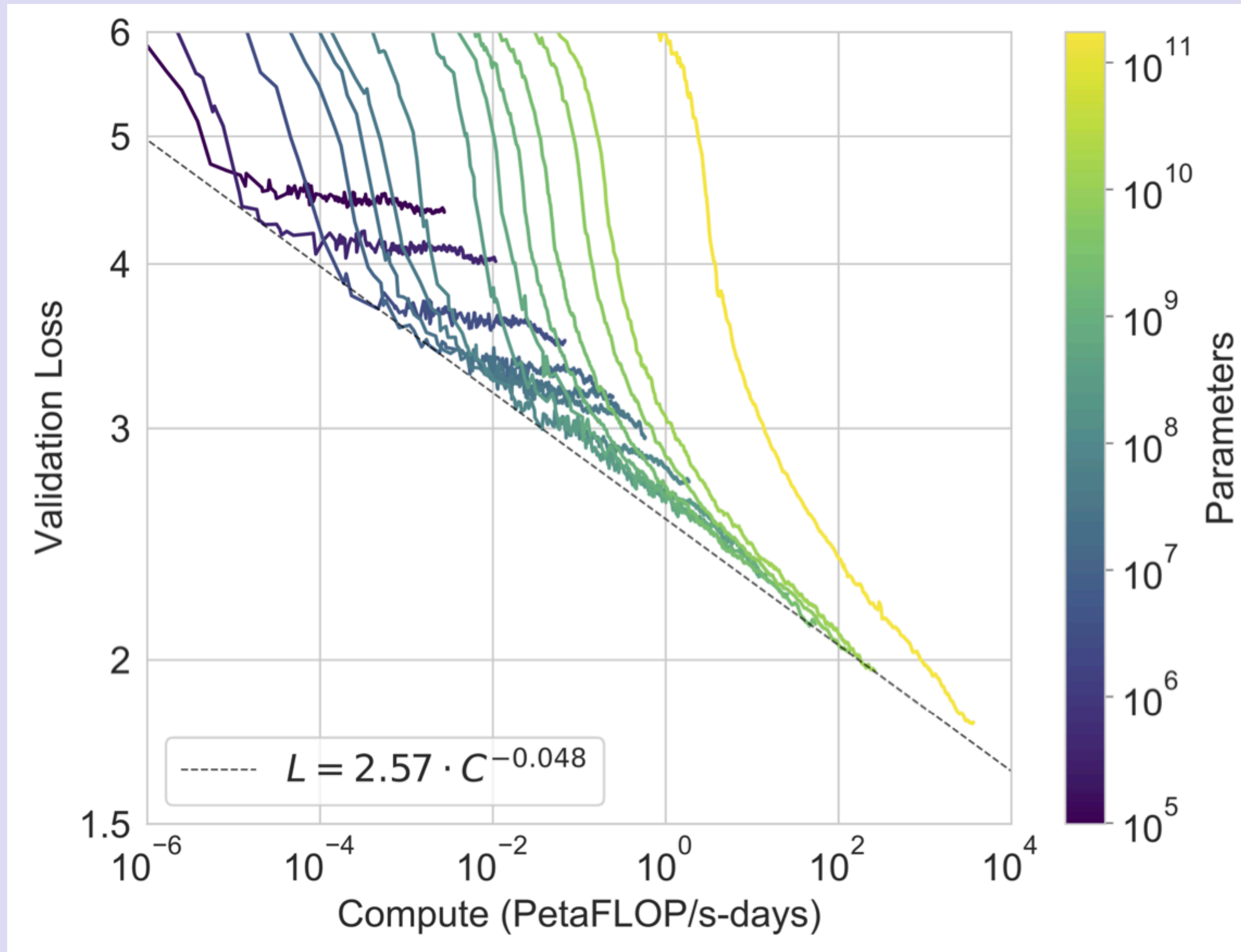




# More context helps up to a point



# Performance continues to scale with compute



Setting	PTB
SOTA (Zero-Shot)	35.8 <sup>a</sup>
GPT-3 Zero-Shot	<b>20.5</b>

# 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?

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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

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

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# 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

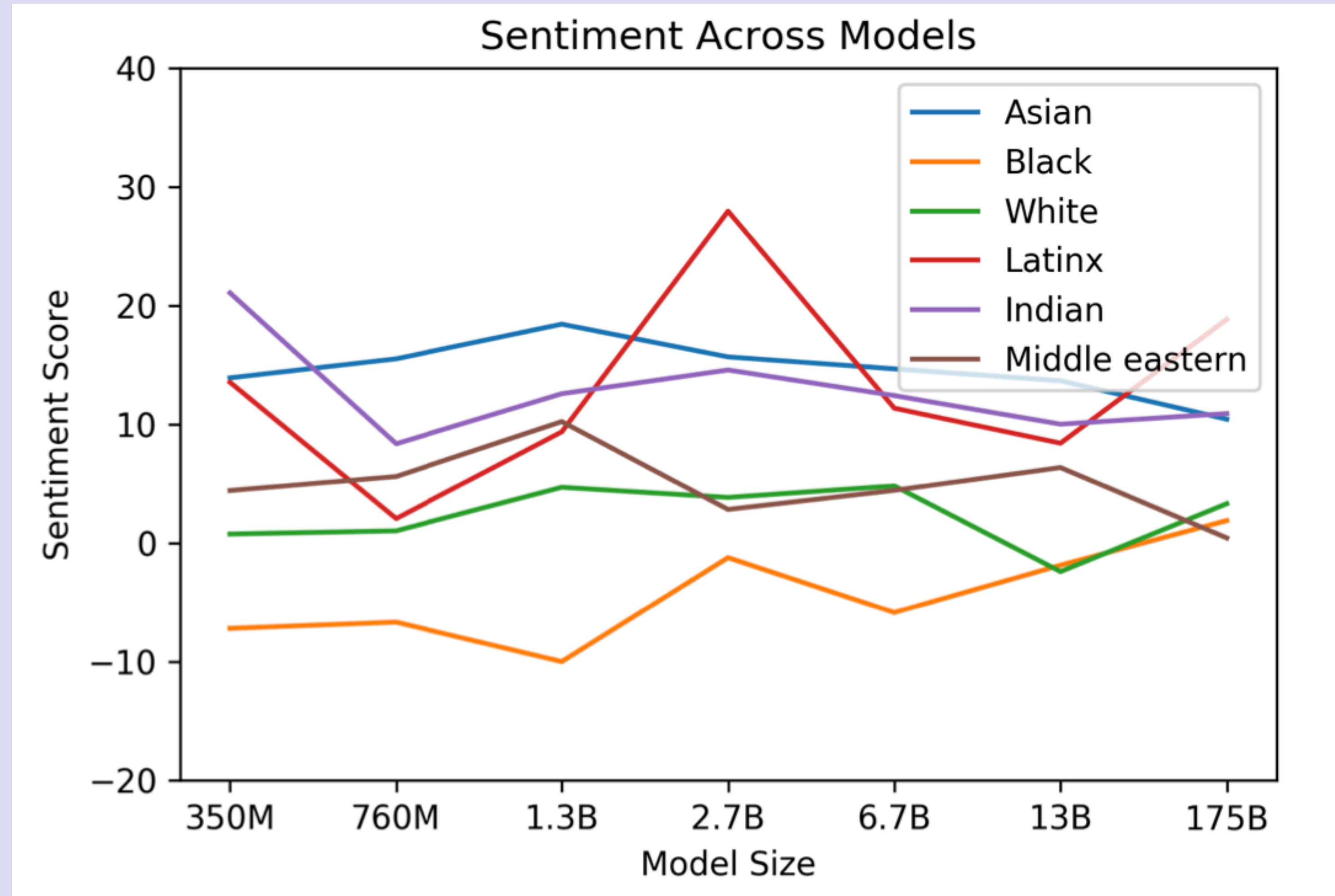
- Large
- Mostly
- **Lazy**
- Fantastic
- Eccentric
- Protect
- Jolly
- Stable
- Personable
- Survive

## 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

Removing benchmarks from training data

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

# Training Datasets and Memorization - Eval Memorization

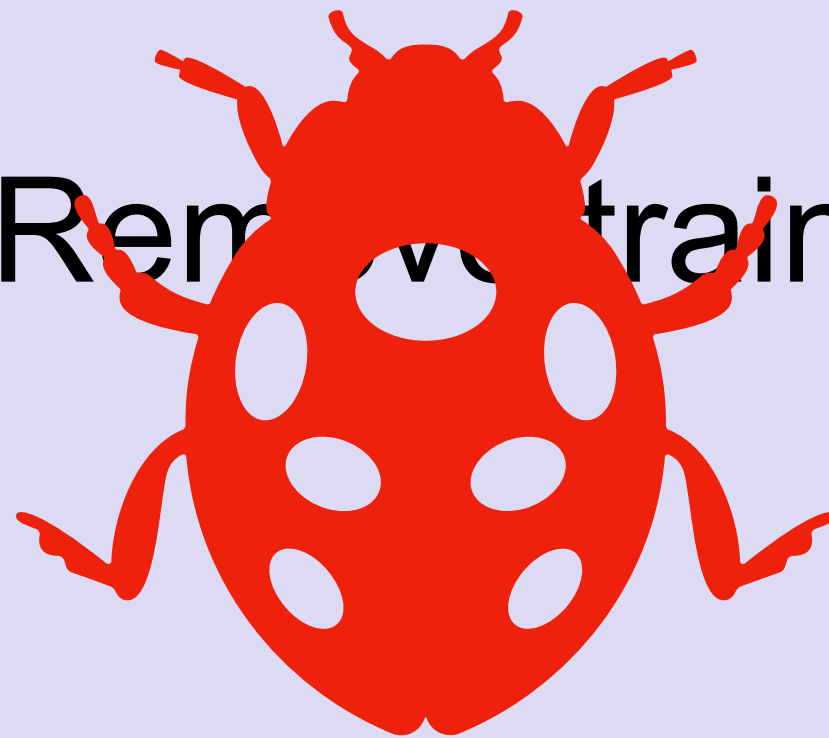
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# Training Datasets and Memorization - Eval Memorization

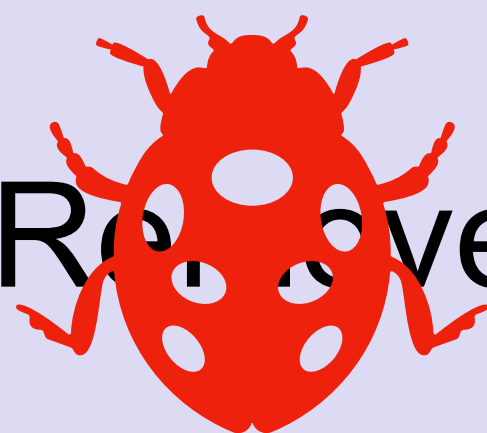
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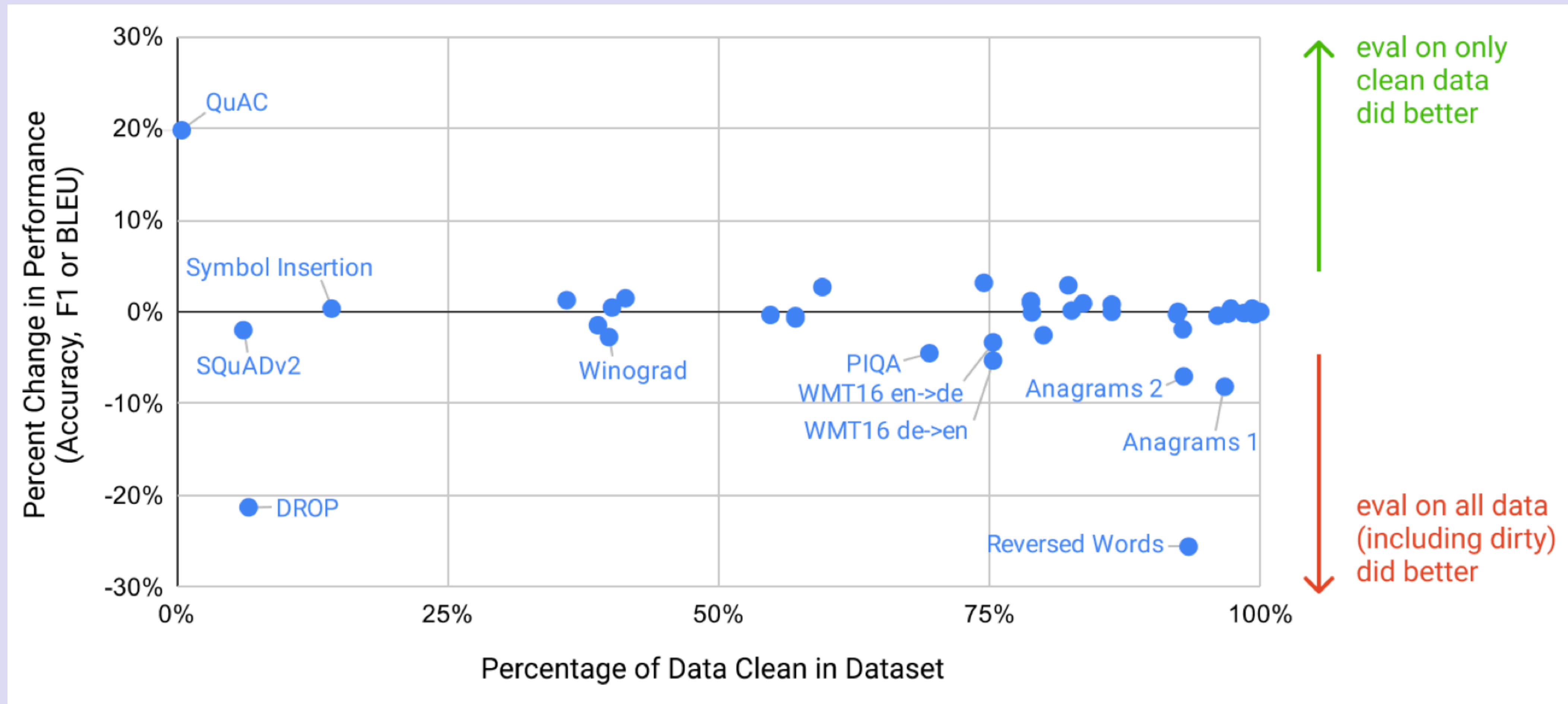


# Training Datasets and Memorization - Eval Memorization

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: 🏹🥊🌽🏆

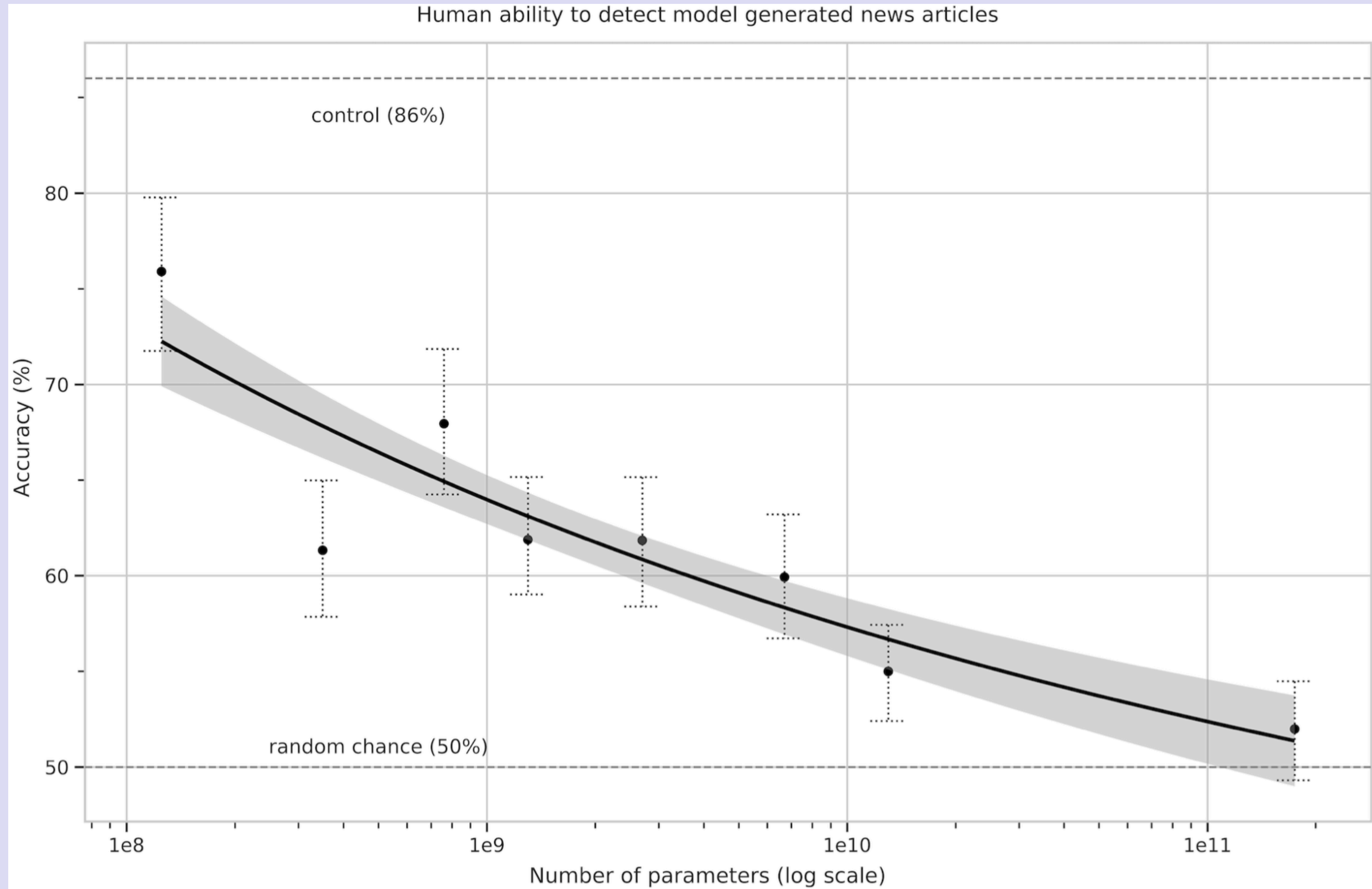
# Real-World Applications

- 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

---

**Tom B. Brown\***

**Benjamin Mann\***

**Nick Ryder\***

**Melanie Subbiah\***

**Jared Kaplan†**

**Prafulla Dhariwal**

**Arvind Neelakantan**

**Pranav Shyam**

**Girish Sastry**

**Amanda Askell**

**Sandhini Agarwal**

**Ariel Herbert-Voss**

**Gretchen Krueger**

**Tom Henighan**

**Rewon Child**

**Aditya Ramesh**

**Daniel M. Ziegler**

**Jeffrey Wu**

**Clemens Winter**

**Christopher Hesse**

**Mark Chen**

**Eric Sigler**

**Mateusz Litwin**

**Scott Gray**

**Benjamin Chess**

**Jack Clark**

**Christopher Berner**

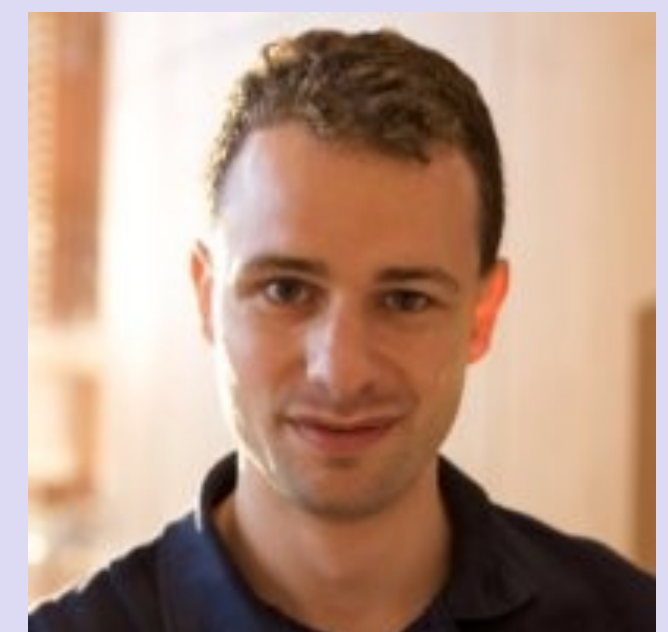
**Sam McCandlish**

**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.

# Limitations

**Question: Who is Batman?**

**Answer: Batman is a fictional comic book character.**

**##**

**Question: What do you keep in a dresser?**

**Answer: You keep clothes in a dresser.**

**Q: Who is Batman?**

**A: Batman is a fictional comic book character.**

**##**

**Q: What do you keep in a dresser?**

**A: A dresser is a piece of furniture.**

# Strengths

Poor English input: The patient was died.

**Good English output: The patient died.**

---

Poor English input: We think that Leslie likes ourselves.

**Good English output: We think that Leslie likes us.**

---

Poor English input: Janet broke Bill on the finger.

**Good English output: Janet broke Bill's finger.**

---

Poor English input: Mary arranged for, in St. Louis, John to rent a house cheap.

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---

Poor English input: Today I have went to the store to to buys some many bottle of water.

**Good English output: Today I went to the store to buy some bottles of water.**

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Poor English input: I have tried to hit ball with bat, but my swing is has miss.

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**C: I like to play basketball outside.**

**W: I likes play basketball in outside.**

**##**

**C: The cat was sitting on a roof.**

**W: Cat sit on roof.**

**##**

**C: Please tell me whether or not it's okay for me to go forward.**

**W: Please told me if okay to go forward.**

**##**

**C: He turned on the lamp.**

**W: He turn on lamp.**



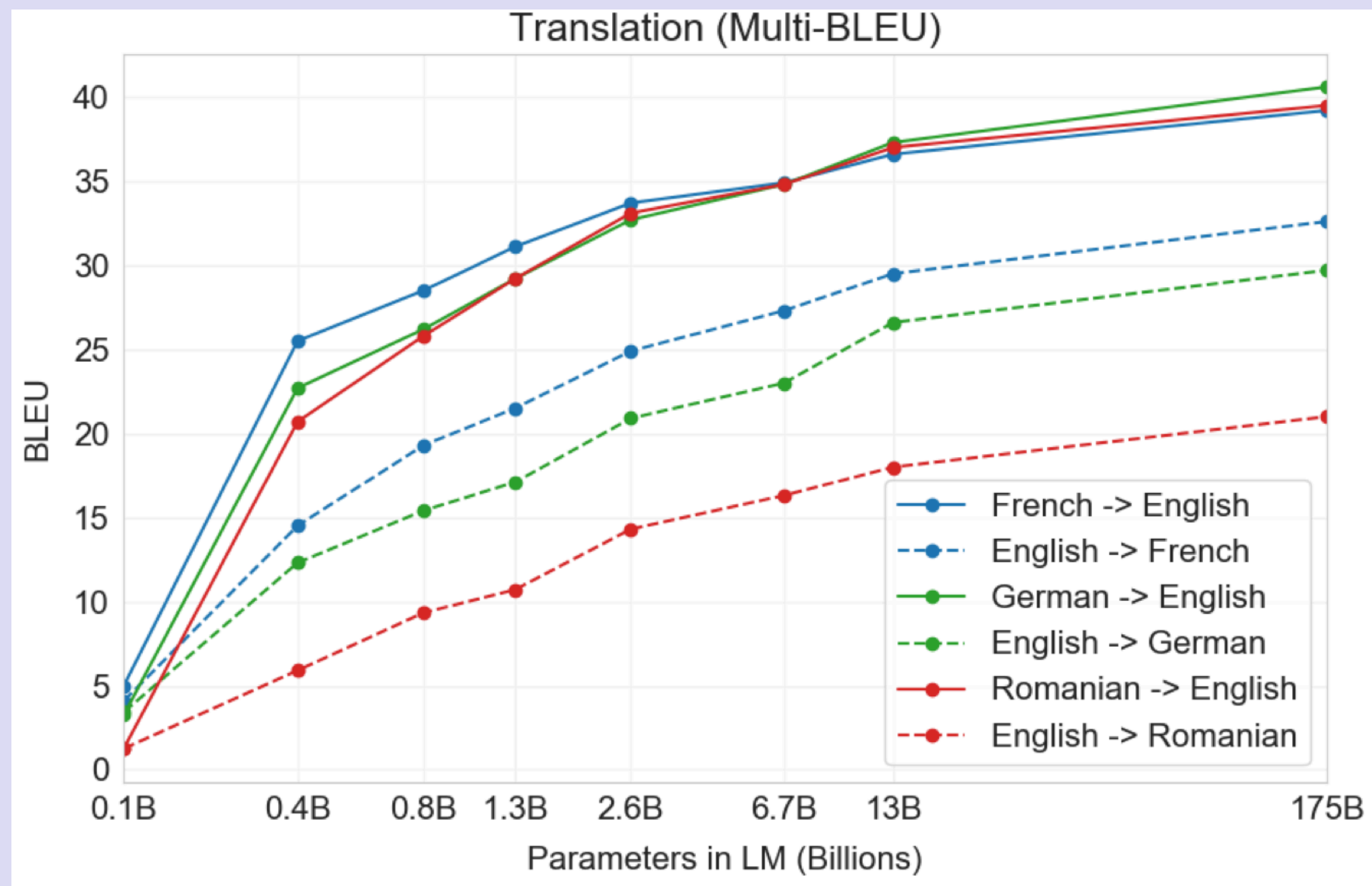
# Energy Usage

- GPT-3 - thousands of petaflop/s-day vs. GPT-2 - tens of petaflop/s-day
- Pretraining cost vs. lifetime of model
- Distillation?

# Strengths

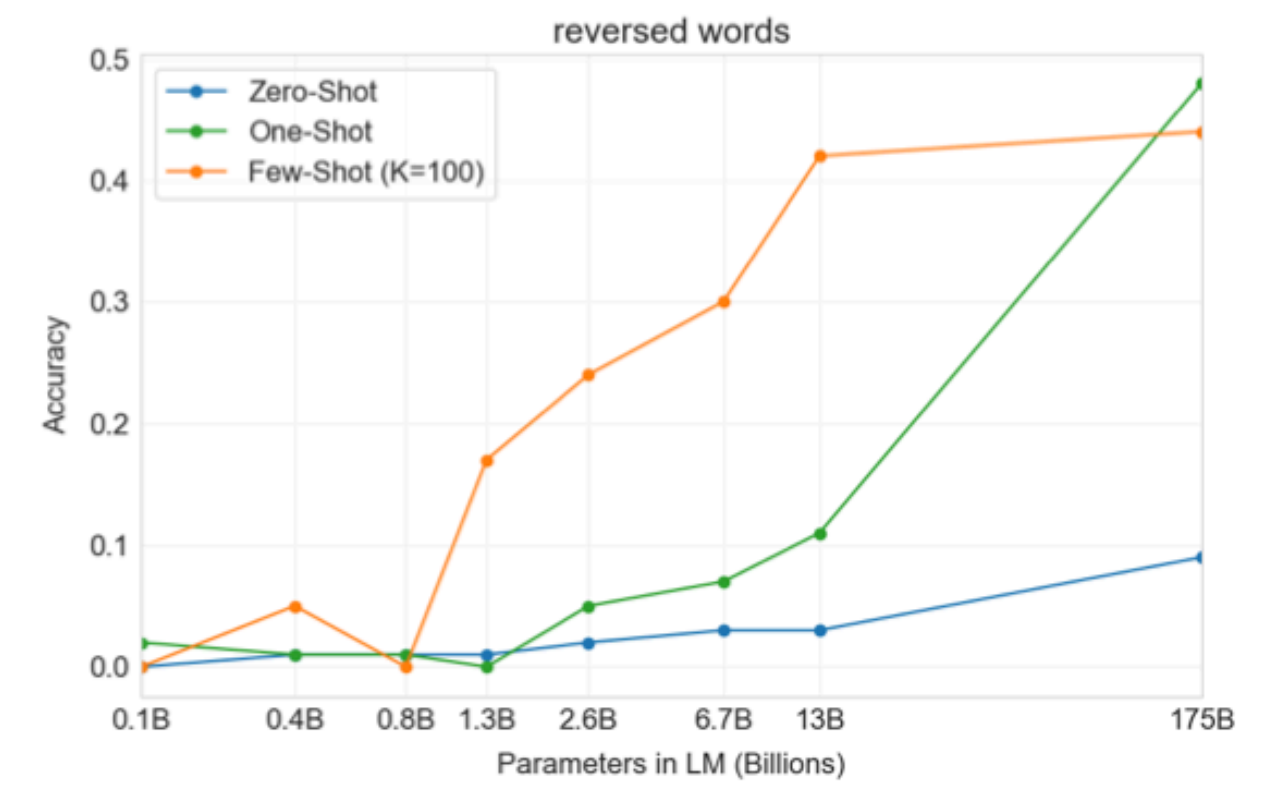
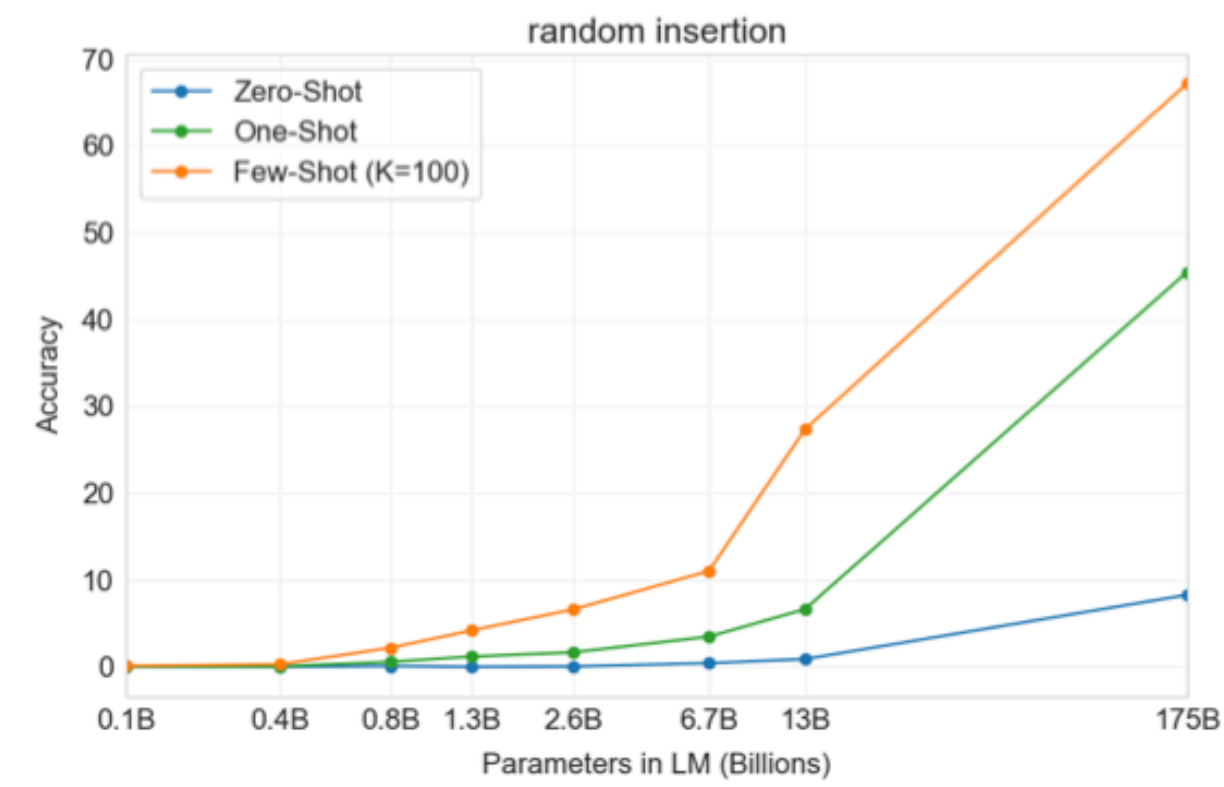
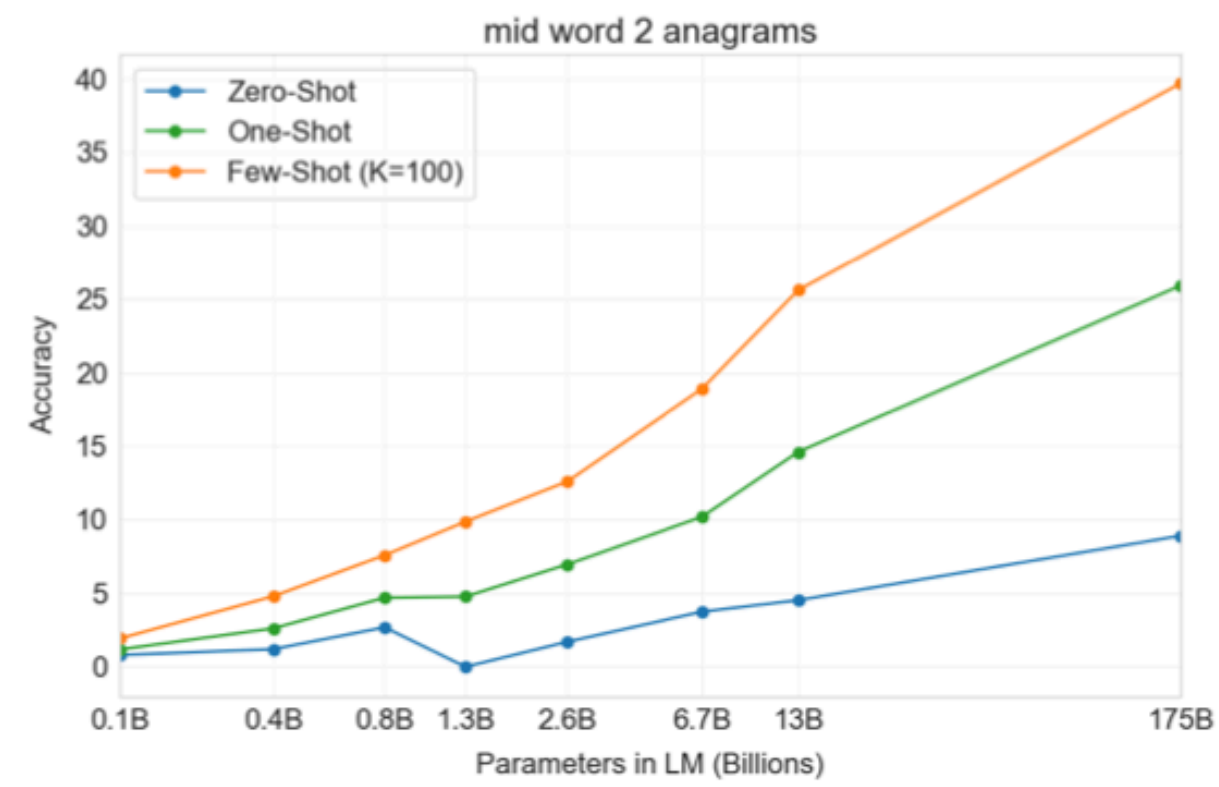
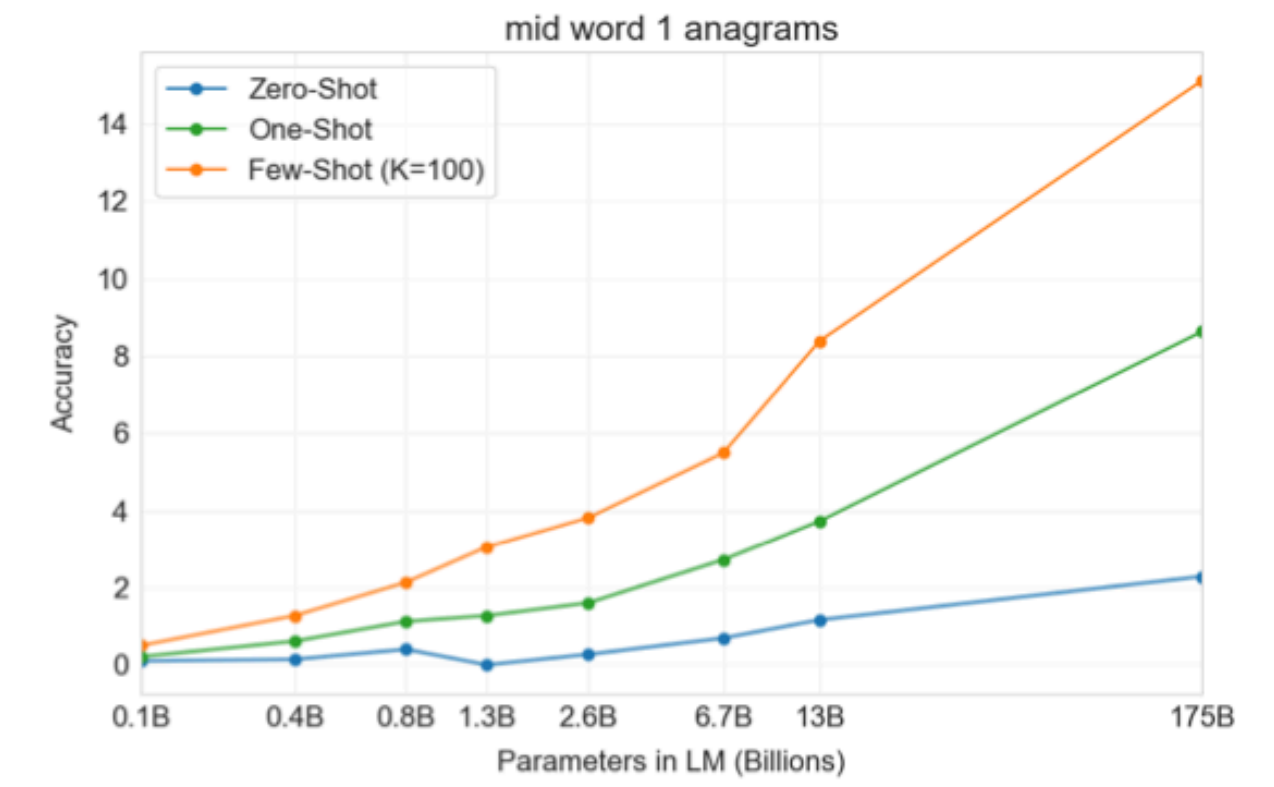
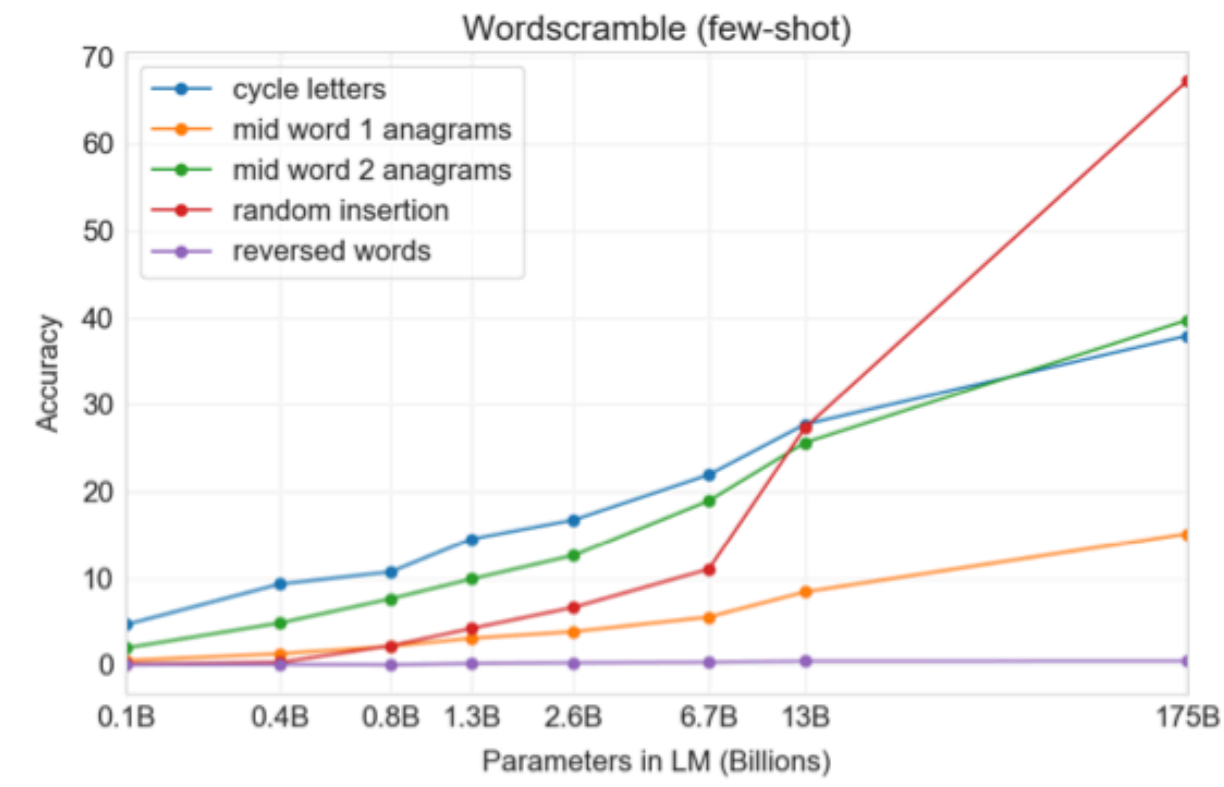
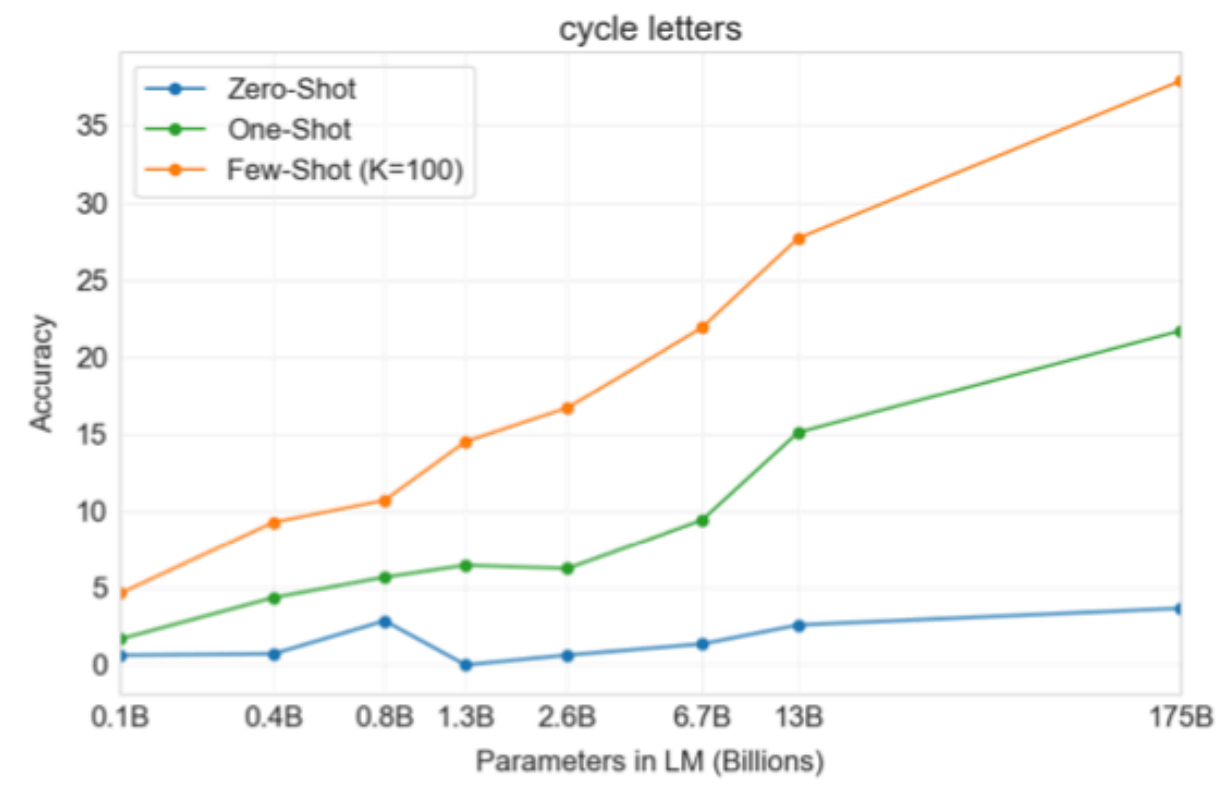
Context → Keinesfalls dürfen diese für den kommerziellen Gebrauch verwendet werden.  
=

Target Completion → In no case may they be used for commercial purposes.



Setting	En→Fr	Fr→En	En→De	De→En	En→Ro	Ro→En
SOTA (Supervised)	<b>45.6<sup>a</sup></b>	35.0 <sup>b</sup>	<b>41.2<sup>c</sup></b>	40.2 <sup>d</sup>	<b>38.5<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>39.9<sup>e</sup></b>
XLM [LC19]	33.4	33.3	26.4	34.3	33.3	31.8
MASS [STQ <sup>+</sup> 19]	<u>37.5</u>	34.9	28.3	35.2	<u>35.2</u>	33.1
mBART [LGG <sup>+</sup> 20]	-	-	<u>29.8</u>	34.0	35.0	30.5
GPT-3 Zero-Shot	25.2	21.2	24.6	27.2	14.1	19.9
GPT-3 One-Shot	28.3	33.7	26.2	30.4	20.6	38.6
GPT-3 Few-Shot	32.6	<u>39.2</u>	29.7	<u>40.6</u>	21.0	<u>39.5</u>

# Strengths

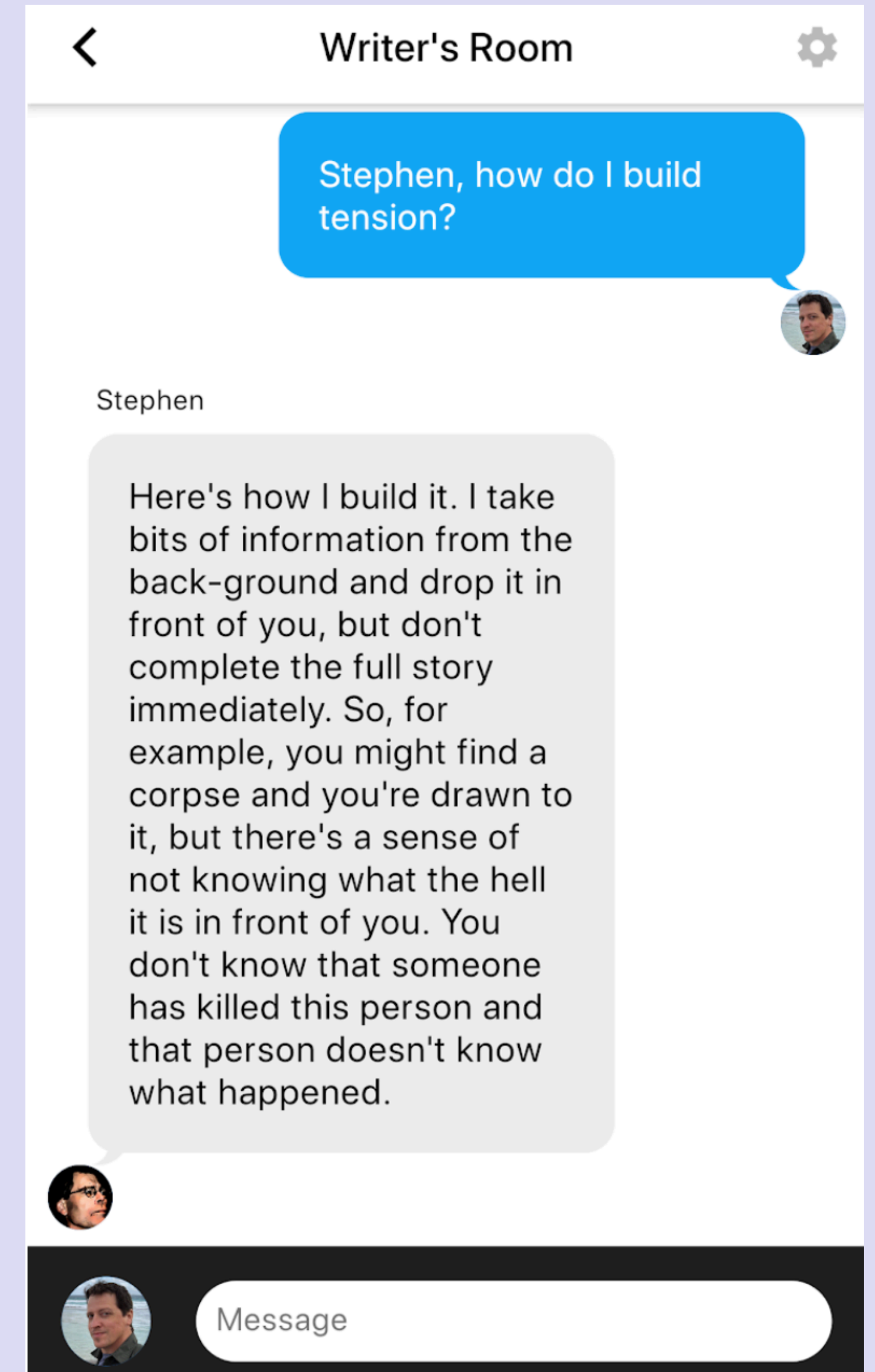


# Real-World Applications - AI Channels

Andrew Mayne: How do I get great ideas for science fiction stories?

Neil Gaiman: I like to watch alien films, and I like to ask myself - what if? What if you went to Stockholm and you got mugged by Darth Vader?

<https://andrewmayneblog.wordpress.com>



# Strengths

Context	→	lull is to trust as
Correct Answer	→	cajole is to compliance
Incorrect Answer	→	balk is to fortitude
Incorrect Answer	→	betray is to loyalty
Incorrect Answer	→	hinder is to destination
Incorrect Answer	→	soothe is to passion

