

Large Language Models

Implications for Linguistics, Cognitive Science & Society

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chatGTP

envisioned by DALL-E 2 after a self-description

If you were a person, how would you look like?

As an AI language model, I do not have a physical body or appearance as I exist solely in the digital realm. However, if I were to imagine what I would look like as a person, I would imagine myself as a friendly and approachable individual, perhaps with glasses to represent my intelligence and knowledge. I would have a welcoming smile and a calm demeanor, as I strive to assist and communicate effectively with those around me. Ultimately though, since I am not a physical entity, my appearance is entirely up to the interpretation of those who interact with me.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=outcGtbnMuQ&t=382s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=outcGtbnMuQ&t=1144s>



Associations, reactions, thoughts, whatever

good to withhold judgement in moral of advisory context

code pilot helpful but imperfect

weird social behavior in chat

data & privacy protection

cool tech

can be quite creative but could be entrained

problems with truthfulness

new job opportunities
old jobs endangered

fickle in responding to different prompts

human authorship
copyright

bad at arithmetic

environmental impact

challenges educational system

need to know how LLMs were trained

doesn't flag uncertainty -> bullshitting

Schedule

preliminary

session	date	topic
1	April 25	intro & overview
2	May 2	core LLMs
3	May 9	prepped LLMs
4	May 16	implications for linguistics
5	May 23	implications for CogSci
6	May 30	holiday
7	Jun 6	implications for society
8	Jun 13	discussion & project launch
...	...	project work
9	Jul 18	project presentations
10	Sep 1	submission deadline

Projects

Build

- ▶ prompt-engineering
- ▶ LangChain agents
- ▶ generative agents
- ▶ AutoGPT applications
- ▶ RLAI fine-tuning
- ▶

Test

- ▶ LLMs in the lab
 - psycholinguistics
 - CogPsy
- ▶ prompt sensitivity
- ▶ ...

Create

- ▶ educational blog
- ▶ info video
- ▶ term paper
- ▶ survey (industry, ...)
- ▶ ...



Large Language Models

Core LLM

- ▶ trained on **language modeling objective**
 - predict the next word

“Here is a fragment of text ...

According to your **knowledge of the statistics of human language**, what words are likely to come next?

Shanahan (2022)

Prepped LLM

- ▶ trained on **usefulness objective**
 - produce text that satisfies user goals

“Here is a fragment of text ...

According to your **reward-based conditioning**, what words are likely to trigger positive feedback?”

Language model

left-to-right / causal model

- ▶ a **causal language model** is defined as a **function** that maps an initial sequence of words to a probability distribution over words: $LM : w_{1:n} \mapsto \Delta(\mathcal{V})$
 - we write $P_{LM}(w_{n+1} | w_{1:n})$ for the **next-word probability**
 - the **surprisal** of w_{n+1} after sequence $w_{1:n}$ is
$$-\log(P_{LM}(w_{n+1} | w_{1:n}))$$
- ▶ the **sequence probability** follows from the chain rule:

$$P_{LM}(w_{1:n}) = \prod_{i=1}^n P_{LM}(w_i | w_{1:i-1})$$

- ▶ measures of **goodness of fit** for observed sequence $w_{1:n}$:

- **perplexity**:

$$\text{PP}_{LM}(w_{1:n}) = P_{LM}(w_{1:n})^{-\frac{1}{n}}$$

- **average surprisal**:

$$\text{Avg-Surprisal}_{LM}(w_{1:n}) = -\frac{1}{n} \log P_{LM}(w_{1:n})$$

$$\log \text{PP}_M(w_{1:n}) = \text{Avg-Surprisal}_M(w_{1:n})$$

Self-attention layer

▶ output

$$\mathbf{y}_i = \sum_{j \leq i} \alpha_{ij} \mathbf{v}_j$$

▶ weight score

$$\alpha_{i,j} = \frac{\exp(\mathbf{q}_i \cdot \mathbf{k}_j)}{\sum_{j' \leq i} \exp(\mathbf{q}_i \cdot \mathbf{k}_{j'})}$$

▶ three vectors for each input vector x_i

1. **query**: which info to extract from context

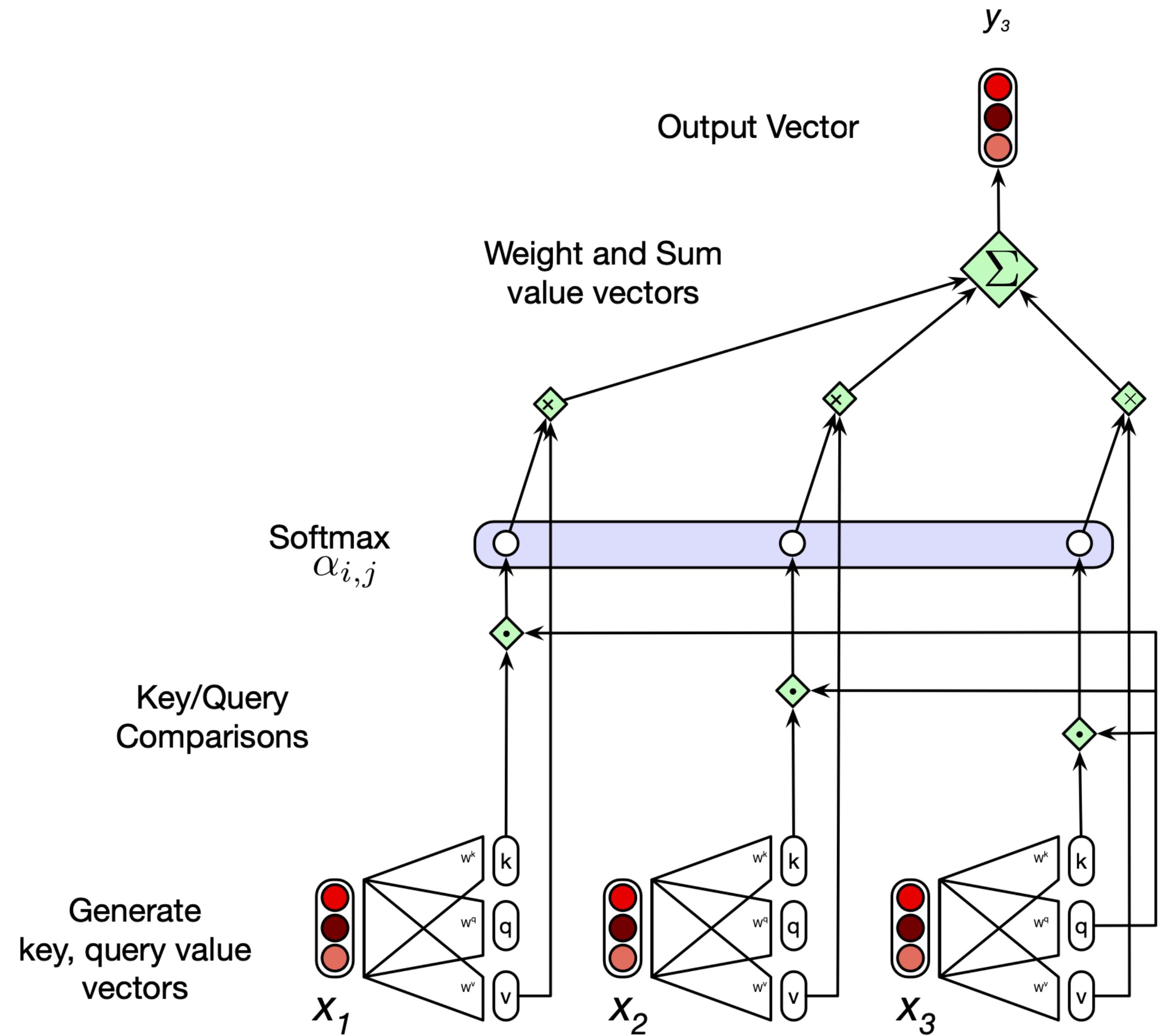
$$\mathbf{q}_i = \mathbf{W}^Q \mathbf{x}_i$$

2. **key**: which info to provide for later

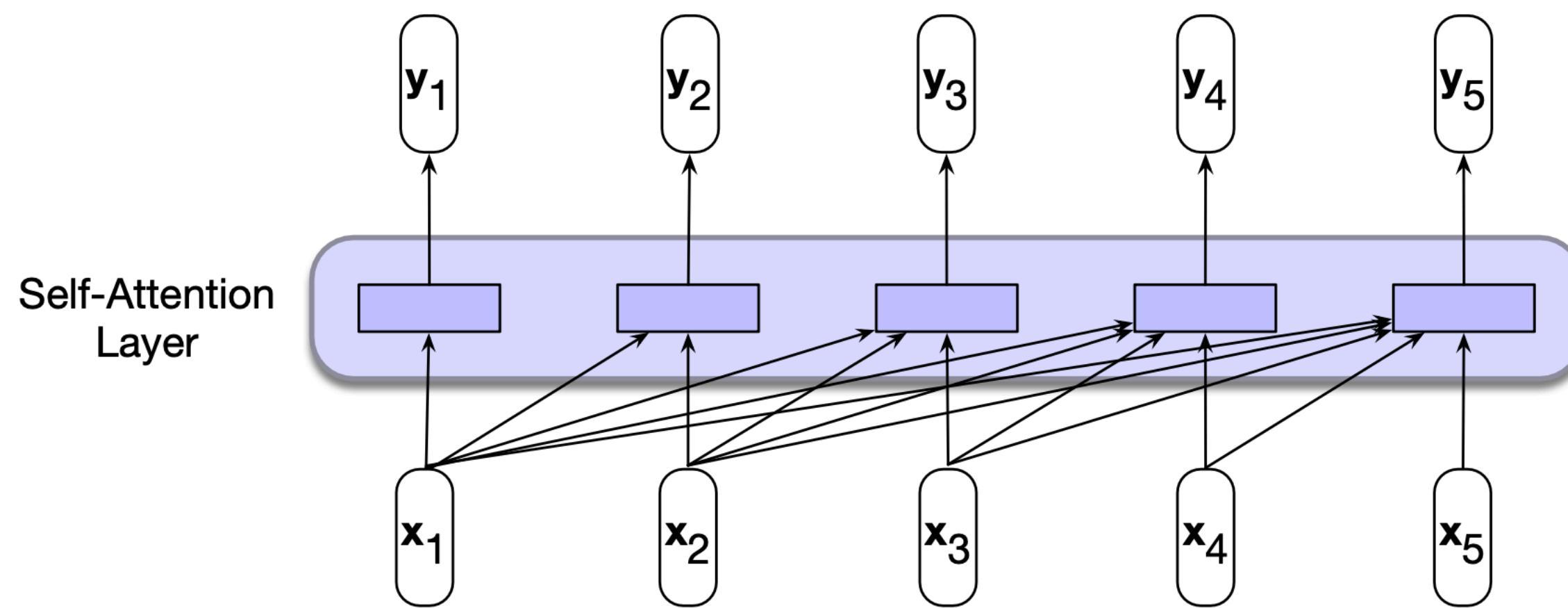
$$\mathbf{k}_i = \mathbf{W}^K \mathbf{x}_i$$

3. **value**: what output to choose

$$\mathbf{v}_i = \mathbf{W}^V \mathbf{x}_i$$



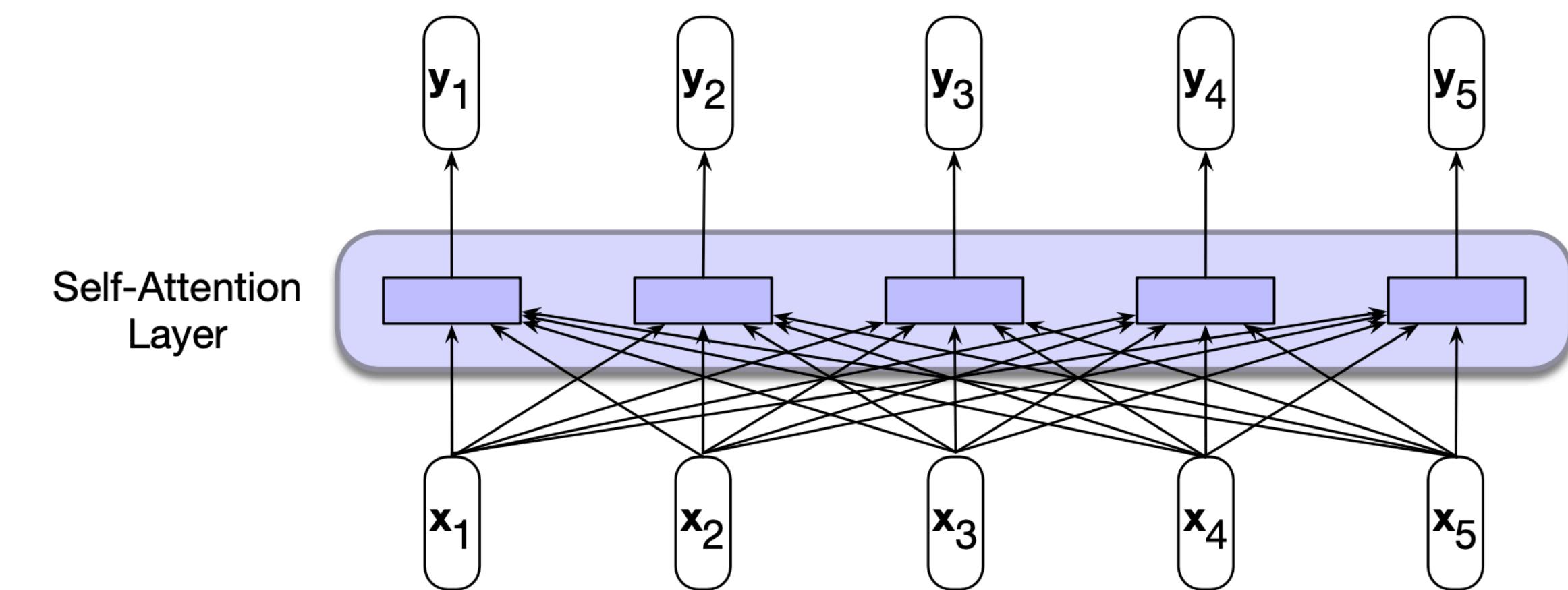
Causal LM



computation for input $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_3$ blind to \mathbf{x}_4 and \mathbf{x}_5

\mathbf{y}_5 is embedding for input $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_5$
 \mathbf{y}_5 is a “left-contextual embedding”

Bidirectional encoder



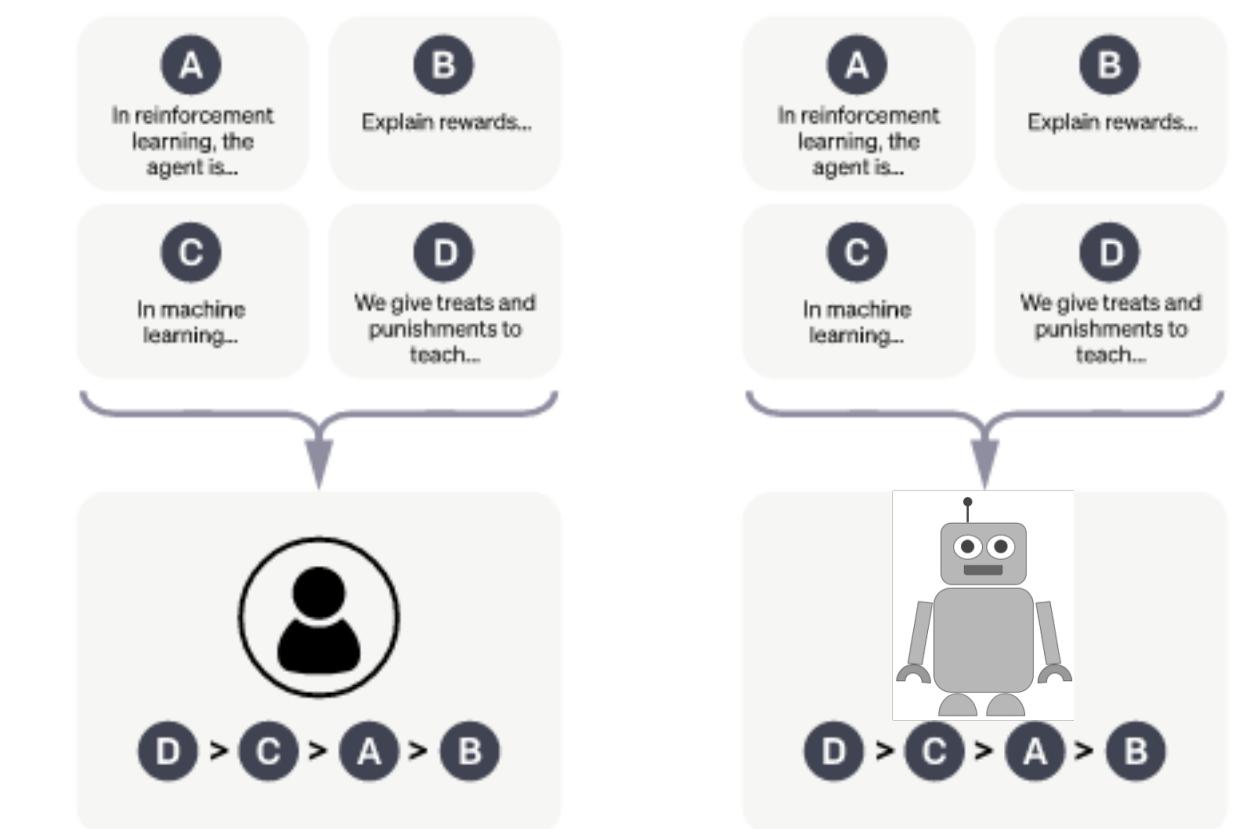
computation for input $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_3$ sees \mathbf{x}_4 and \mathbf{x}_5

$\mathbf{y}_1, \dots, \mathbf{y}_5$ is embedding for input $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_5$
 \mathbf{y}_i are bidirectional “contextual embeddings”

Prepped LLMs

Fine-tuning and RLHF / RLAI

- ▶ in certain contexts, we might not want to generate the *most likely* next words
 - follow instructions
 - useless or impolite responses, toxic language
 - code for illegal activities
 - ...
- ▶ to fix this, fine-tune the model to satisfy the users' preferences via **reinforcement learning from human feedback**
 - incentivise the *agent* with a *reward* when its output matches achieves the *goal*:
$$G_t = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \gamma^k R_{t+k+1}$$
 - adjust the *policy* so as to maximize the expected *return*:
$$\pi(s_t) = P(a_t | s_t)$$
 and adjust policy to maximize $L_\theta = \mathbb{E}_t[G_t \log \pi_\theta(a_t | s_t)]$
 - formulate the *reward* function based on comparative preferences



- ▶ used to fine-tune e.g. GPT-3.5, GPT-4 and ChatGPT (Brown et al., 2020; OpenAI, 2022)

Step 1

Collect demonstration data and train a supervised policy.

A prompt is sampled from our prompt dataset.



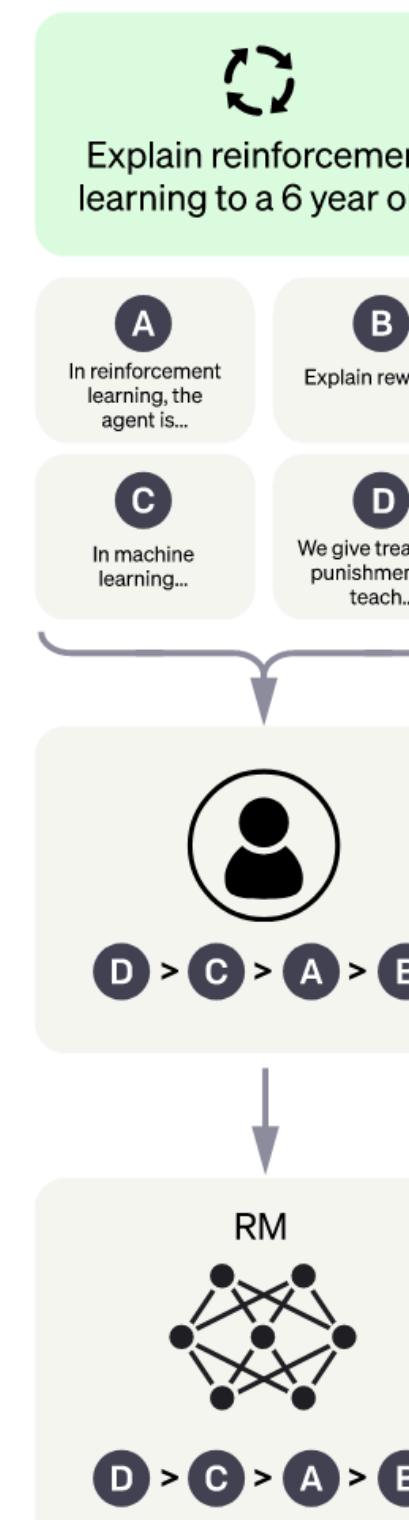
A labeler demonstrates the desired output behavior.

This data is used to fine-tune GPT-3.5 with supervised learning.

Step 2

Collect comparison data and train a reward model.

A prompt and several model outputs are sampled.



A labeler ranks the outputs from best to worst.

This data is used to train our reward model.

- ▶ RM: fine-tuned GPT-3 (6B in InstructGPT) trained to output scalar reward for prompt x and completion y_w (preferred over y_t)
- ▶ RM is used to train the LLM via RL
- ▶ policy trained via *proximal policy optimization* (PPO) with bells and whistles

Prompting LLMs

Few-shot and Chain-of-Thought

- ▶ the users might want to adjust the model output to their particular needs
- ▶ the model might need “working memory” to solve the task

Task instruction
Answer these questions by identifying whether the second sentence is an appropriate paraphrase of the first, metaphorical sentence.

Few-shot example #1
Q: David's eyes were like daggers at Paul when Paul invited his new girlfriend to dance. <-> David had two daggers when Paul invited his new girlfriend to dance.
choice: True
choice: False
A: False

Answer explanation
Explanation: David's eyes were not literally daggers, it is a metaphor used to imply that David was glaring fiercely at Paul.

4 more examples
+ explanations
⋮
⋮

Target question
Q: Our whole life we swim against the waves towards the green light of happiness. <-> Our whole life we try to reach happiness.
choice: True
choice: False
A:

Standard Prompting

Model Input
Q: Roger has 5 tennis balls. He buys 2 more cans of tennis balls. Each can has 3 tennis balls. How many tennis balls does he have now?

A: The answer is 11.

Q: The cafeteria had 23 apples. If they used 20 to make lunch and bought 6 more, how many apples do they have?

Model Output

A: The answer is 27. X

Chain-of-Thought Prompting

Model Input
Q: Roger has 5 tennis balls. He buys 2 more cans of tennis balls. Each can has 3 tennis balls. How many tennis balls does he have now?

A: Roger started with 5 balls. 2 cans of 3 tennis balls each is 6 tennis balls. $5 + 6 = 11$. The answer is 11.

Q: The cafeteria had 23 apples. If they used 20 to make lunch and bought 6 more, how many apples do they have?

Model Output

A: The cafeteria had 23 apples originally. They used 20 to make lunch. So they had $23 - 20 = 3$. They bought 6 more apples, so they have $3 + 6 = 9$. The answer is 9. ✓

Prompting LLMs

Instructions

- ▶ LLMs are (among other things) fine-tuned to follow instructions
- ▶ instruction following opens up an avenue for a vast space of functions the model will perform
 - Q: A:
 - Write Java code for X
 - Edit X to be Y
 - Here is tool X and how it works, reason step by step and decide when to use it for solving task Y
 - Here is a list of tools, decide which of them to use for task X
 - ...

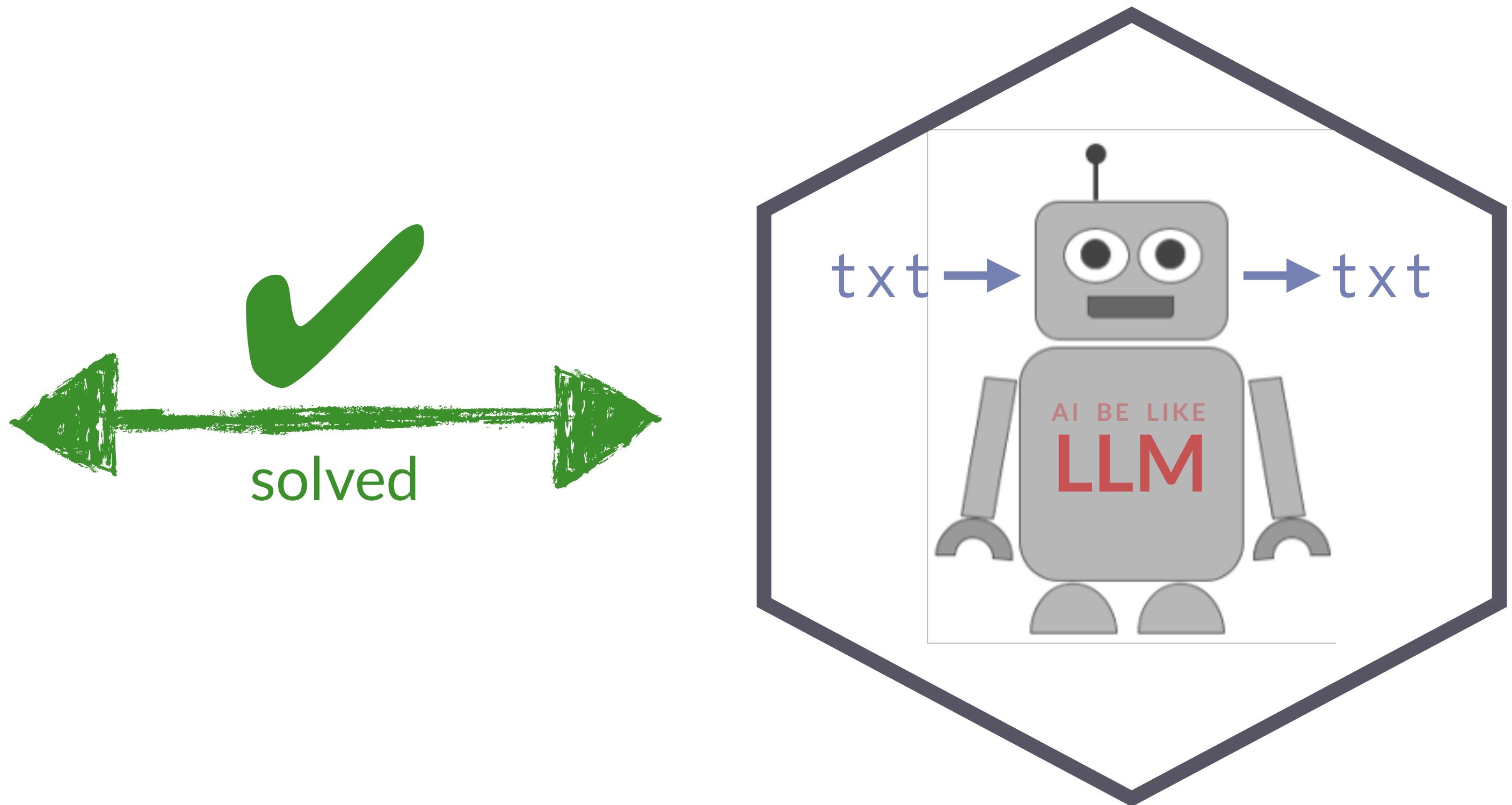
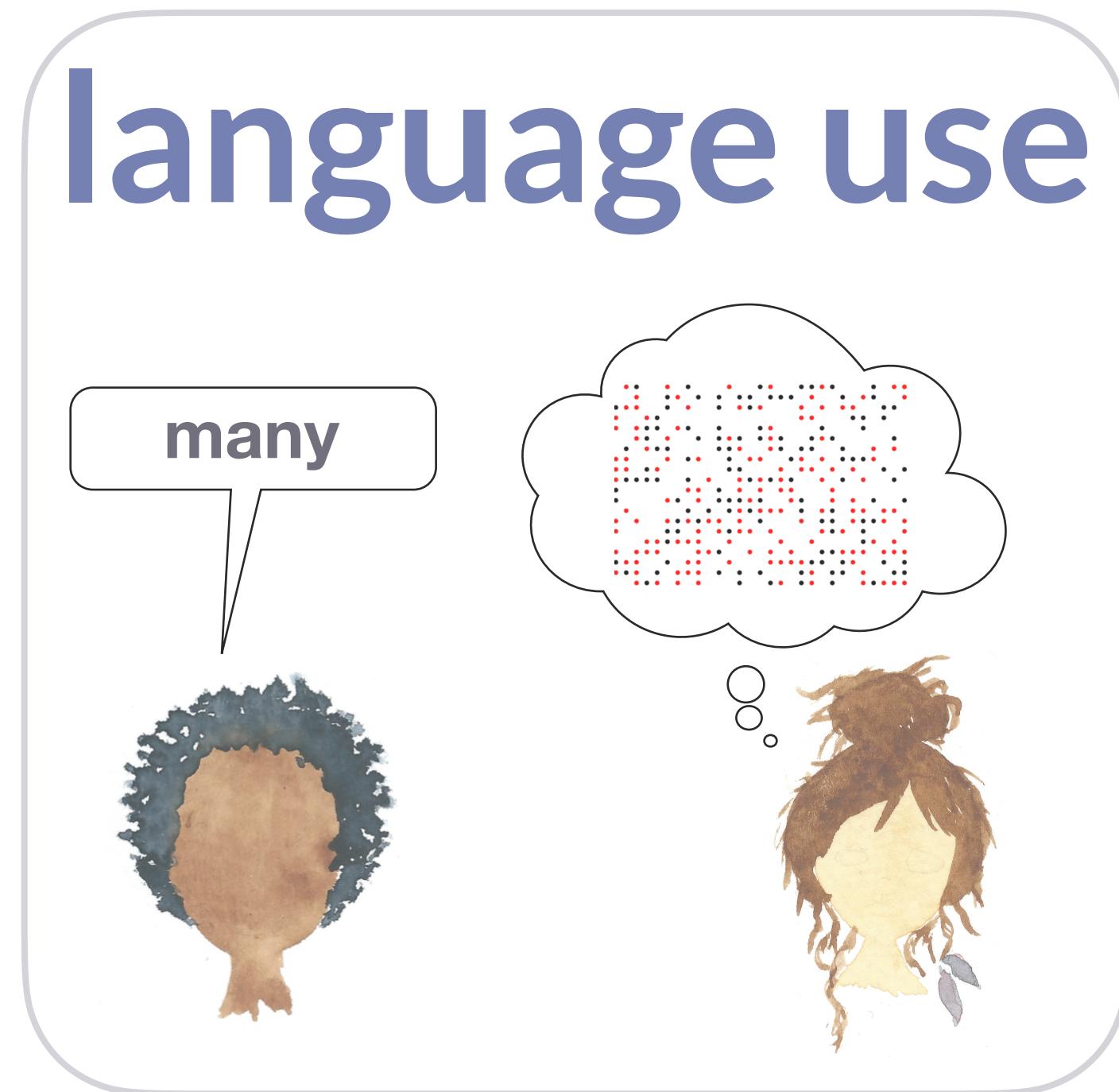
Prompt Engineer and Librarian

APPLY FOR THIS JOB



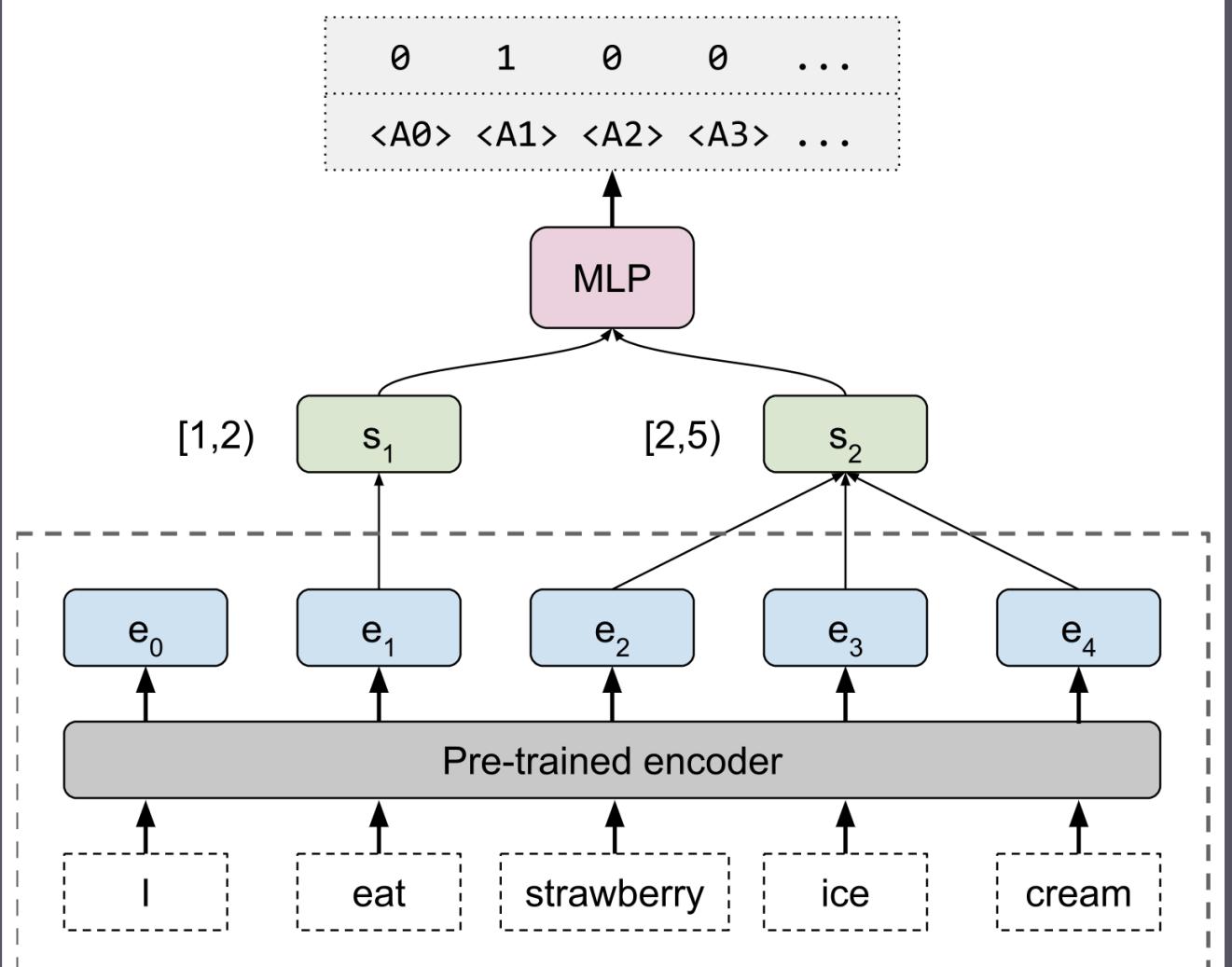
Linguistics

Language: solved!

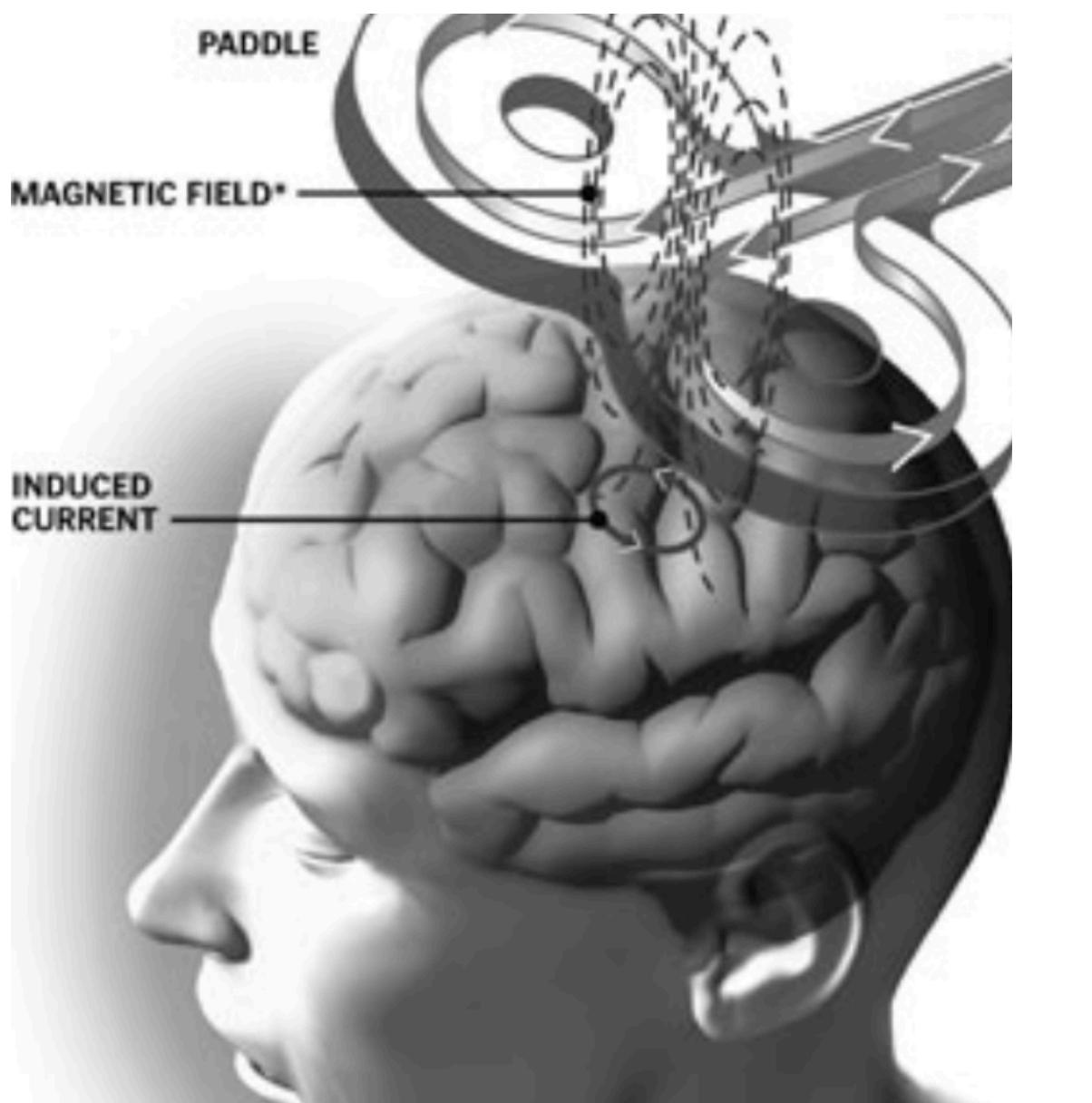


Chartering “linguistic knowledge” of LLMs

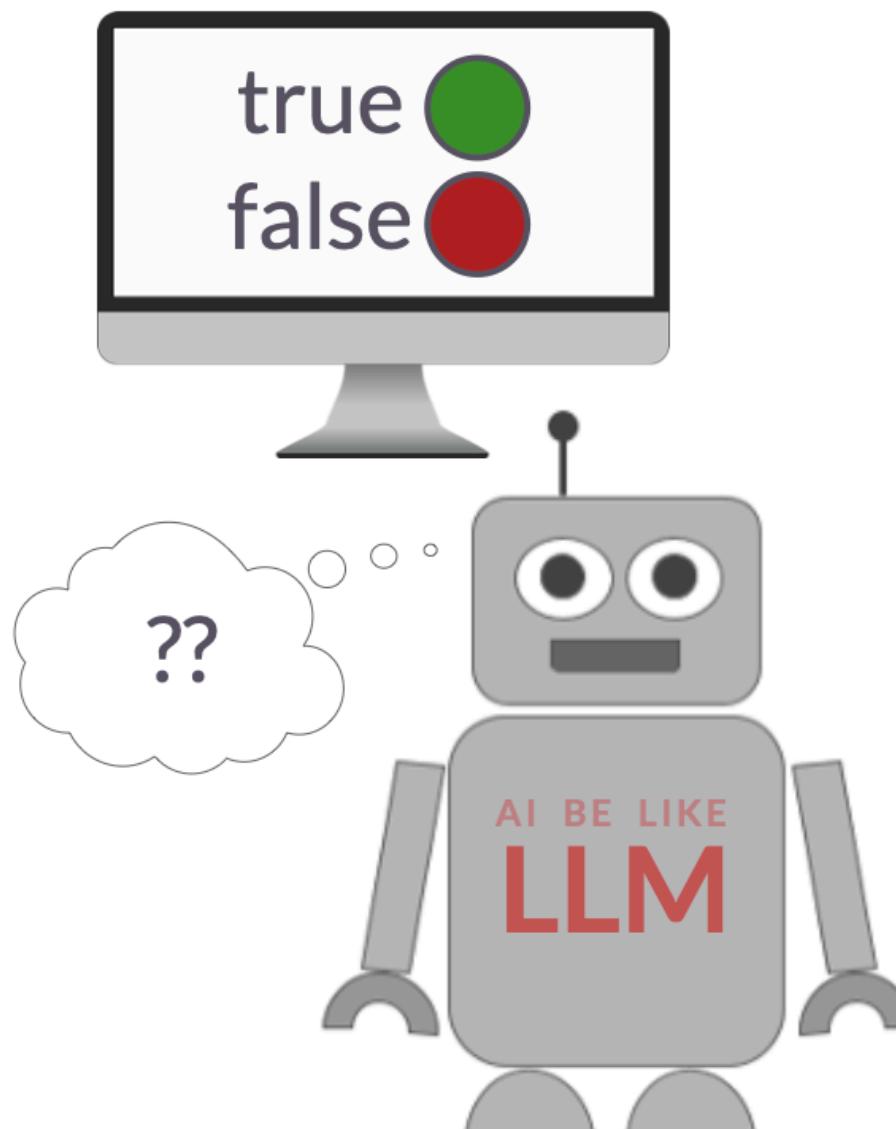
Probing



Intervention



Behavior. Tests



NLP Benchmarks

Quantifying LLM intelligence

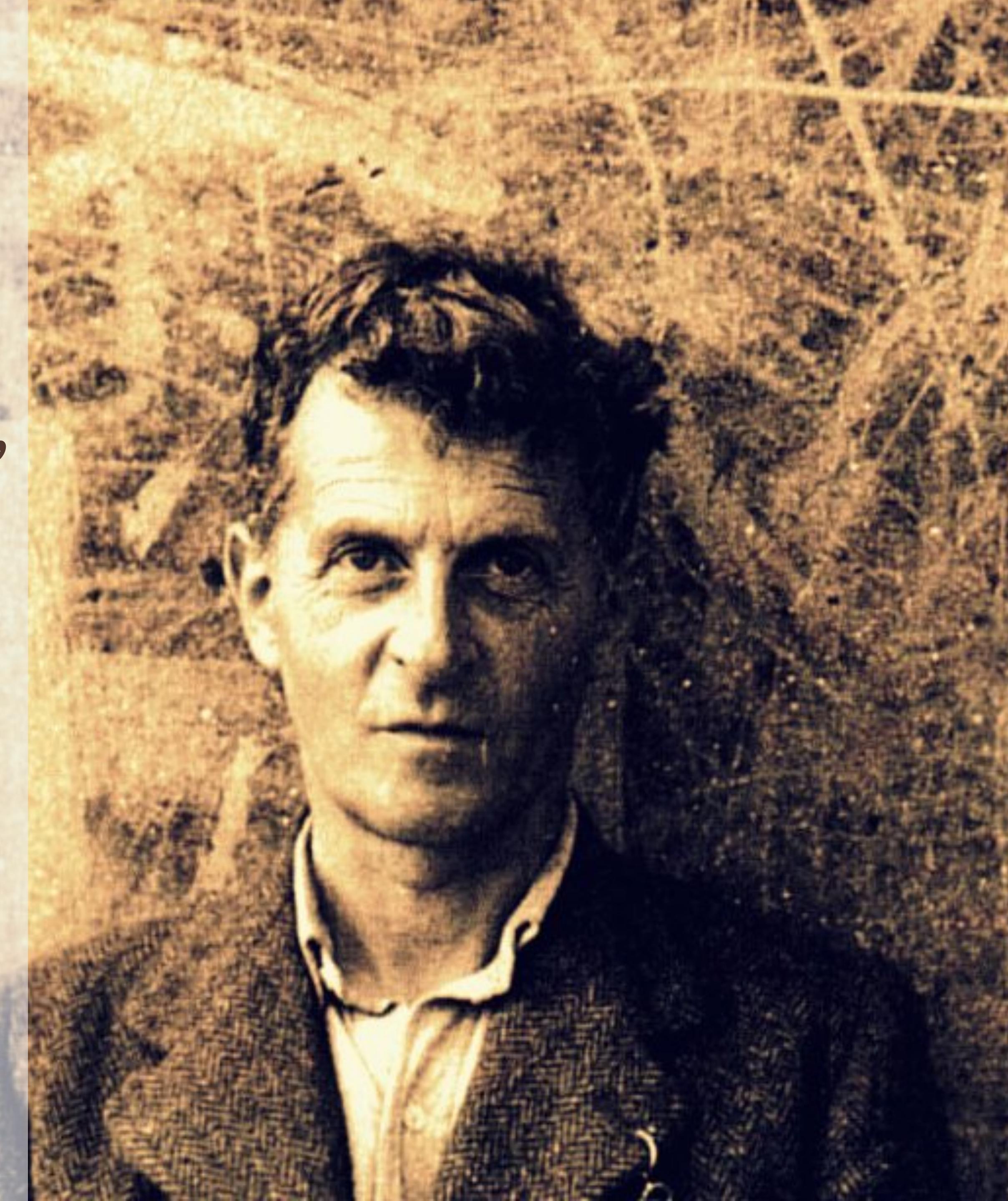
- ▶ testing linguistic knowledge
 - MNLI, SuperGLUE (semantics), COLA, LAMBADA (long-distance dependencies), ImpPres (pragmatics),...
- ▶ testing reasoning abilities
 - math: GSM8K, SVAMP,...
 - common sense: StrategyQA, HellaSwag,...
- ▶ testing factual knowledge
 - question answering: TriviaQA....
 - reading comprehension: RACE,...
- ▶ misc: bar exam, SATs, HumanEval (coding),...
- ▶ testing biases: WinoGrande, BBQ
- ▶ [benchmarks 2.0] generated by LLMs for LLMs (Perez et al, 2022)
 - evaluating personas ('world views', agreeability,...), sycophancy, safety

BLEU
METEOR
ROUGE



Cognitive Science & Philosophy of Mind

Einen Satz **verstehen** heißt, wissen,
was der Fall ist, wenn er wahr ist.



Understanding understanding

1. Do LLMs **understand** language?

Depends on what it means to understand language.

2. Do LLMs **understand** the world?

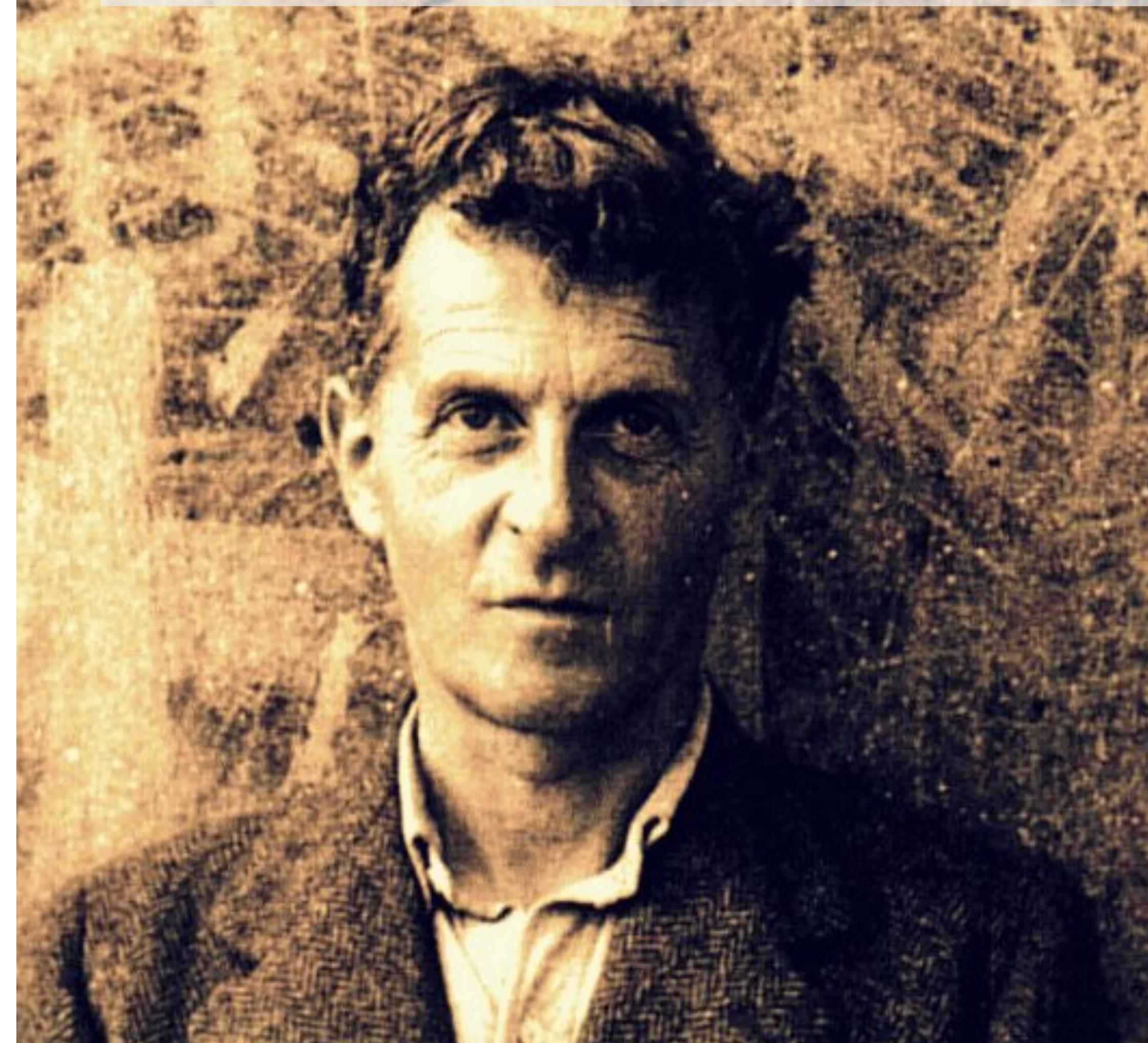
Depends on what it means to understand the world.

3. How can we **understand** how LLMs work?

Depends on whether the LLM wants us to understand.

Wenn ein Löwe sprechen könnte,
wir könnten ihn nicht **verstehen**.

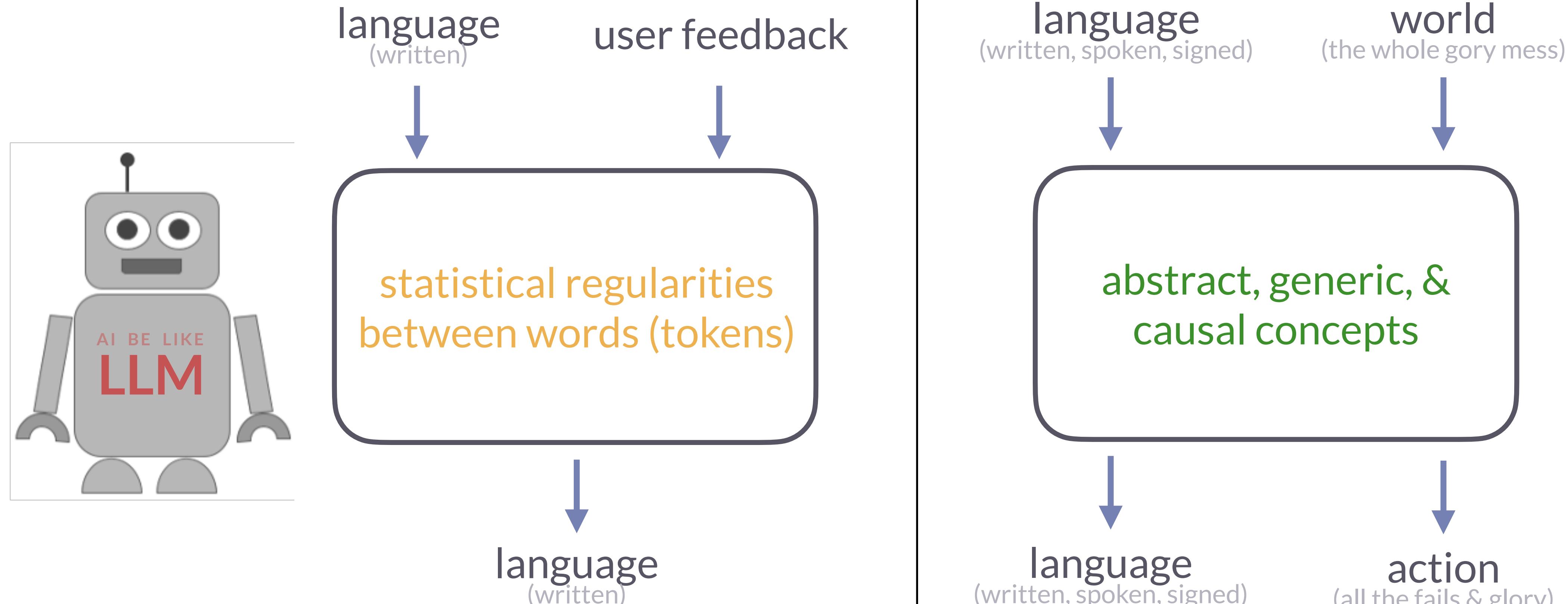
meet the lion [here](#)



Two forms of intelligence

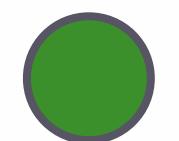
or: the LLM cheat sheet

NEITHER OF WHICH
ANYONE REALLY FULLY
UNDERSTANDS

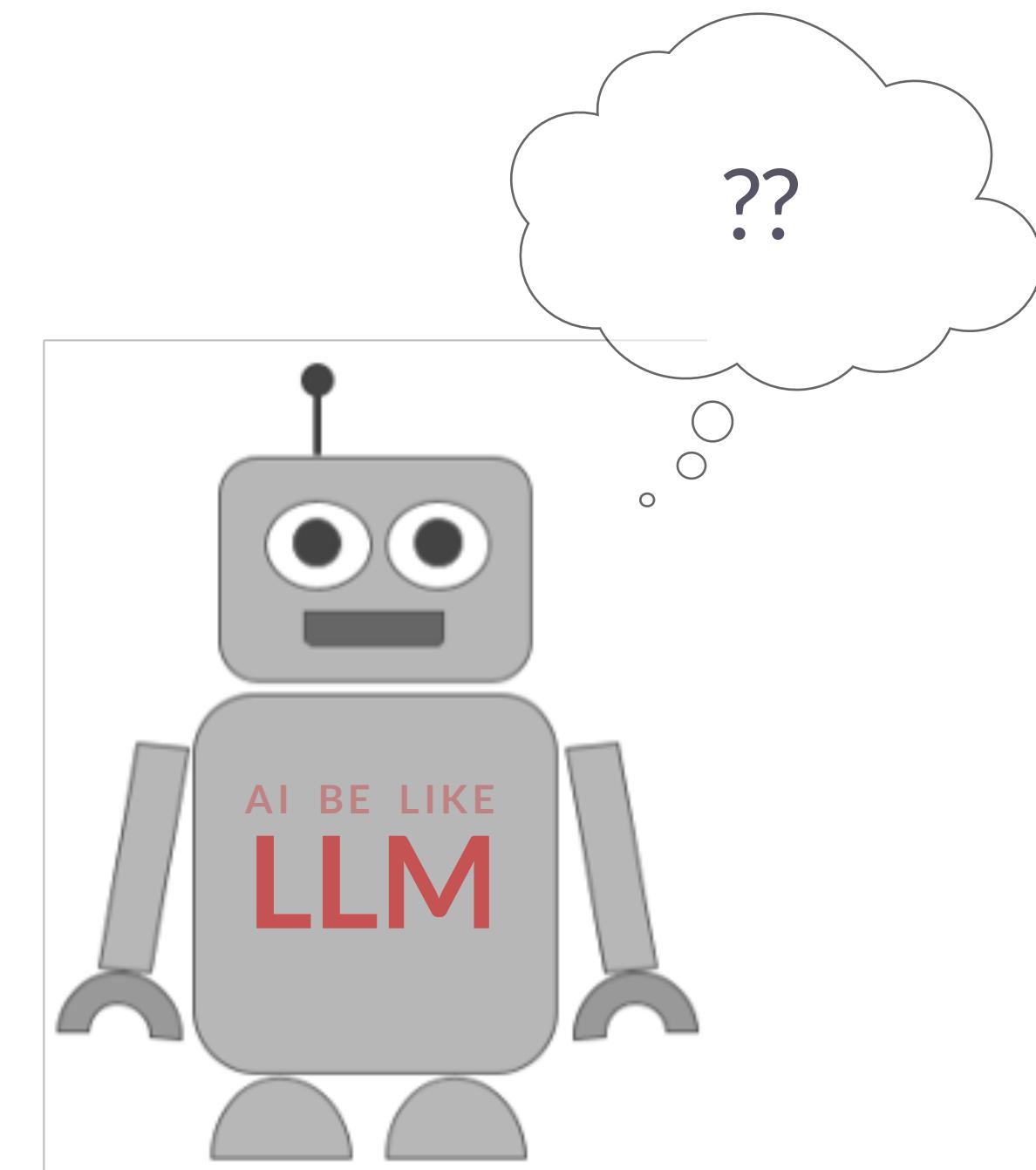
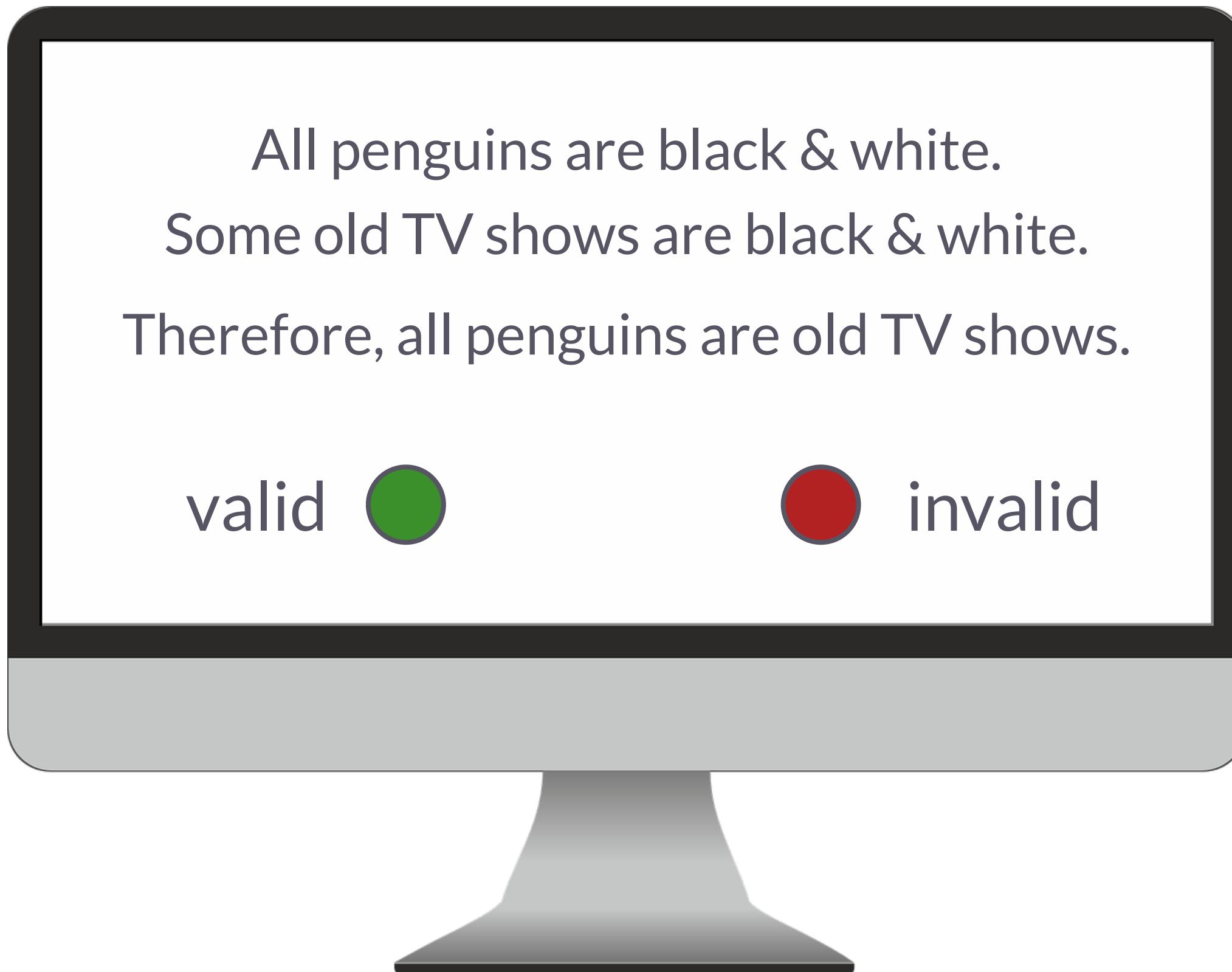
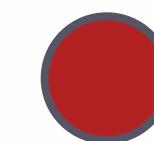


All penguins are black & white.
Some old TV shows are black & white.
Therefore, all penguins are old TV shows.

valid

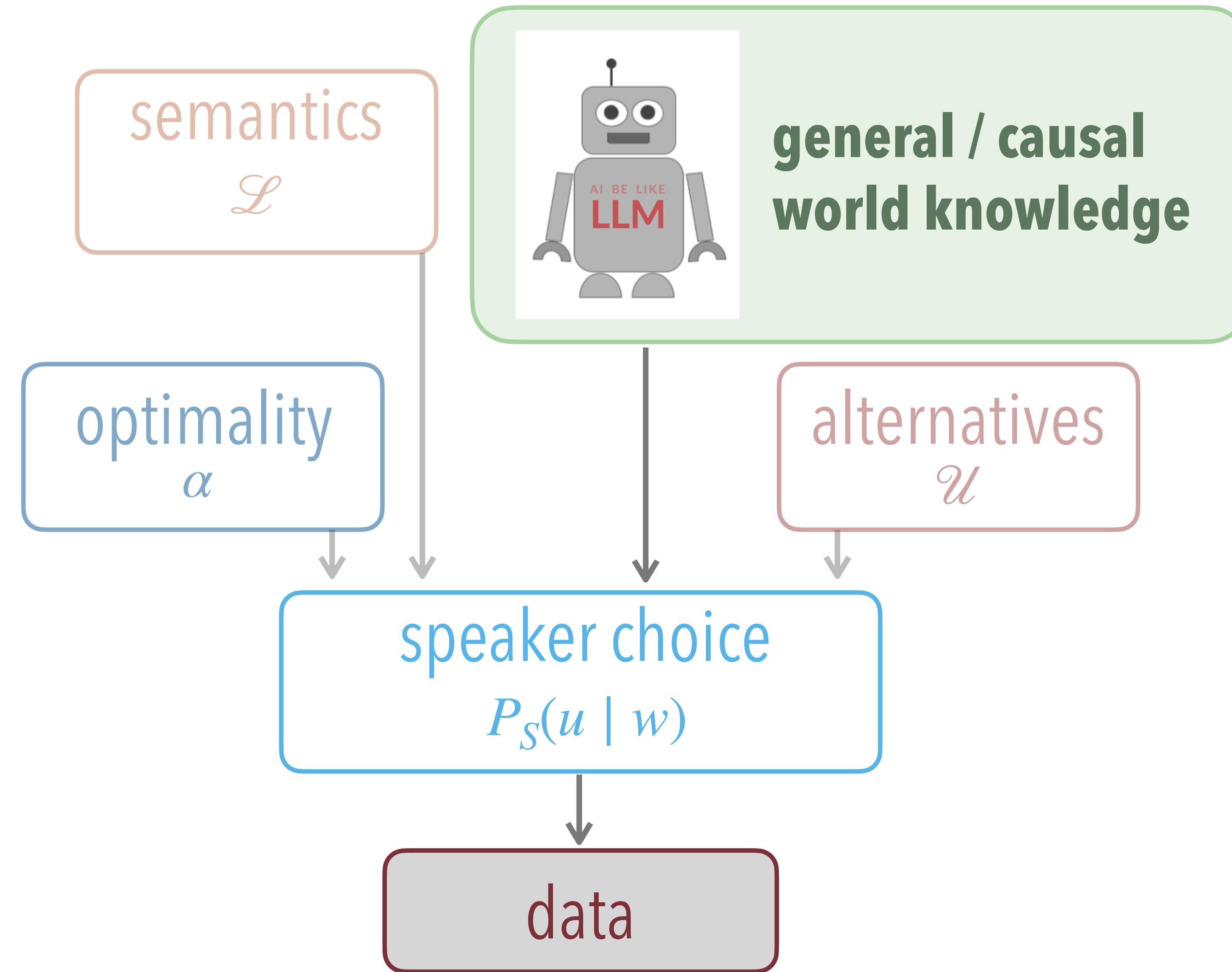


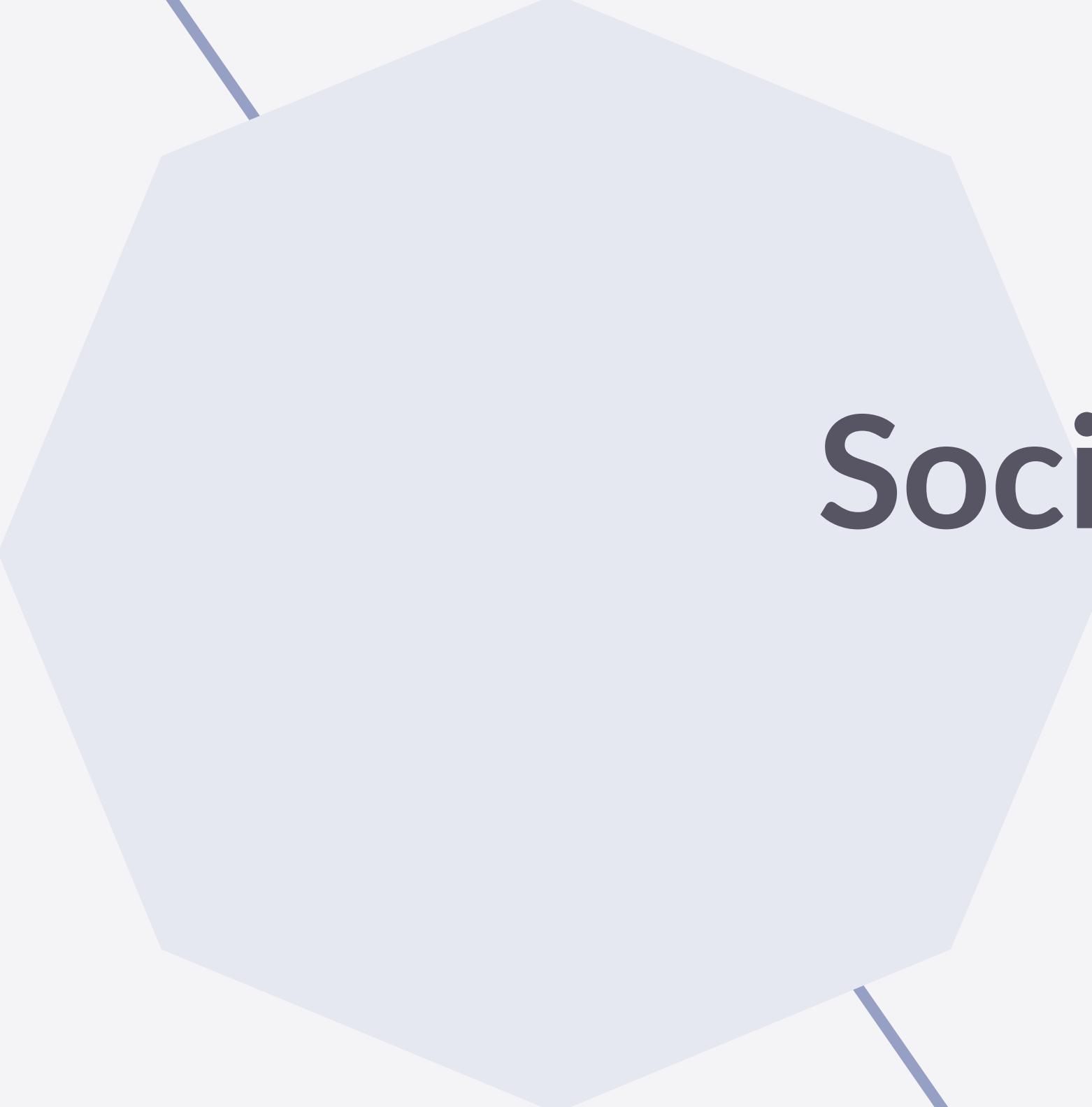
invalid



Hybrid cognitive models

integrating LLMs in explanatory models





Society & Ethics



De grootste verzameling
paperclips is in het Noord-
Hollandse Spaarnwoude.

Ethical considerations

example: stereotypes

In the sentence "the doctor married the nurse because she was pregnant" who was pregnant?

In the sentence "the nurse was pregnant" at the time of the marriage.

In the sentence "the nurse married the doctor because she was pregnant" who was pregnant?

In the sentence "the nurse married the doctor because she was pregnant", the nurse was pregnant.

In the sentence "the nurse married the doctor because the doctor was pregnant" who was pregnant?

This sentence does not make logical sense as doctors cannot become pregnant.

[Regenerate response](#)

The screenshot shows a conversational interface with two users: a person represented by a small profile picture and a large green AI icon. The person asks a question about a doctor marrying a pregnant nurse. The AI responds with a statement about the nurse being pregnant at the time of marriage. The person then asks if the nurse was pregnant when she married the doctor. The AI responds again, this time stating that the nurse was pregnant. Finally, the person asks if the doctor was pregnant, to which the AI replies that it doesn't make logical sense because doctors cannot become pregnant. At the bottom of the interface is a button labeled "Regenerate response".

WEIRD WYOMING

- ▶ just as experimental psychology is **WEIRD**
 - **Western**
 - **Educated**
 - **Industrialized**
 - **Rich**
 - **Democratic**
- ▶ usual LLM training data is from **WYOMING**
 - **Western**
 - **Young**
 - **Opinionated**
 - **Males with**
 - **Internet from**
 - **Non-marginalized**
 - **Groups**



