# Next Word Prediction Using Pretrained LLMs

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## 1.Abstract:

This project explores next-word prediction using two state-of-the-art pre-trained causal language models: **GPT-2** (by OpenAI) and **GPT-Neo-125M** (by EleutherAI). The goal is to evaluate these models on different text datasets, comparing their performance through metrics such as **loss** and **perplexity**. Two datasets, pizza.txt and NLP.txt, are utilized to assess the models' ability to predict contextually relevant words and provide meaningful outputs. Interactive prediction capabilities are also implemented, allowing users to input text and visualize the top-k predictions and their probabilities. Results indicate that model performance varies depending on the dataset, with **GPT-2** generally demonstrating better perplexity and lower loss. Visualizations such as bar plots help in interpreting top-k predictions, providing insights into model behavior. This project highlights the potential and limitations of causal language models in text completion tasks and offers an interactive tool for exploring next-word predictions.

## 2. Introduction

Language modeling is a foundational task in natural language processing (NLP) that involves predicting the likelihood of sequences of words. Autoregressive language models, such as OpenAI's GPT-2 and EleutherAI's GPT-Neo, leverage transformer-based architectures to generate coherent and contextually relevant text.

Next-word prediction, a specific sub-task of language modeling, has applications in text autocompletion, dialogue systems, and interactive content generation. However, the quality of next-word predictions often depends on the domain and complexity of input data. While casual language (e.g., social media posts) is relatively easy to predict, technical text presents challenge due to specialized terminology and domain-specific nuances.

This paper aims to evaluate and compare the next-word prediction capabilities of GPT-2 and GPT-Neo-125M across two distinct datasets. We investigate the following research questions:

1. How do the models perform in terms of **loss** and **perplexity** on casual vs. technical datasets?
2. How contextually relevant are the top-k predictions generated by each model?

Our contributions are as follows:

- A detailed experimental comparison of GPT-2 and GPT-Neo-125M on two datasets.
- Quantitative analysis using cross-entropy loss and perplexity.
- Qualitative analysis of top-k word predictions with real-time interactive evaluations.

### 2.1 Proposed Solution

1. We propose a comparative analysis framework for evaluating pretrained language models' next-word prediction performance. The solution involves:
2. Models: GPT-2 (124M parameters) and GPT-Neo-125M, both autoregressive models trained using the transformer architecture.
3. Datasets: Two textual datasets-pizza.txt (casual text) and NLP.txt (technical text)-to examine the models' generalizability.
4. Evaluation Metrics:

- Cross-entropy loss for measuring prediction accuracy.
- Perplexity to evaluate the models' uncertainty in predictions.

5. Top-k Predictions: Visualization and analysis of the most probable next words predicted by each model.
6. Interactive Evaluation: A user-driven evaluation of predictions in real time.

# 3. Method

The methodology outlines the step-by-step process used to evaluate the performance of two pre-trained causal language models, GPT-2 and GPT-Neo-125M, for the next-word prediction task. The implementation involves model selection, data preparation, prediction pipeline, and performance evaluation.

### 3.1 Model Selection

Two state-of-the-art Transformer-based causal language models were chosen for this project:

- **GPT-2**: A 124M parameter model developed by OpenAI. It is trained on a diverse corpus and widely used for text generation tasks.
- **GPT-Neo-125M**: A 125M parameter open-source model developed by EleutherAI as an alternative to GPT-3.

Both models are loaded using the **Hugging Face Transformers** library, which provides easy access to model architectures, tokenizers, and pretrained weights. The models are moved to the **GPU** (if available) to accelerate computations.

### 3.2 Dataset Preparation

Two text datasets, pizza.txt and NLP.txt, were used to evaluate the models' ability to predict contextually relevant words:

- **pizza.txt**: Contains informal, domain-specific text related to food or casual conversations.
- **NLP.txt**: Includes more formal, technical text focused on Natural Language Processing (NLP) concepts.

#### 3.2.1 Dataset Preprocessing

- Each dataset file is read line by line to simulate real-world input text streams.
- **Input Truncation**: Sentences are truncated to a maximum of **500 characters** to avoid excessively long inputs.
- **Tokenization**: Input sentences are tokenized using model-specific tokenizers (GPT-2 and GPT-Neo tokenizers). The maximum token length is capped at **512 tokens** to adhere to the models' input size limitations.

### 3.3 Next-Word Prediction Pipeline

The prediction pipeline follows these steps:

#### Input Encoding

The input text is encoded into tokenized representations using the respective tokenizer. The tokens are processed as a tensor and moved to the **GPU** for computation.

#### Model Forward Pass

The tokenized input is passed through the language model to predict the logits (unnormalized scores) for the next word.

$$Logits = Model(InputTokens)$$

#### Top-k Prediction

The logits for the last token are extracted and adjusted using temperature scaling to control the randomness of predictions. The logits are then converted into probabilities using the **SoftMax** function:

$$P(w) = \frac{e^{logit(w)/T}}{\sum_i e^{\mathrm{logit(i)/T}}}$$

Where T is the temperature. Lower temperatures make predictions more deterministic, while higher temperatures increase randomness.

The **top-k** predictions (default k=10) with the highest probabilities are selected and decoded into words using the tokenizer.

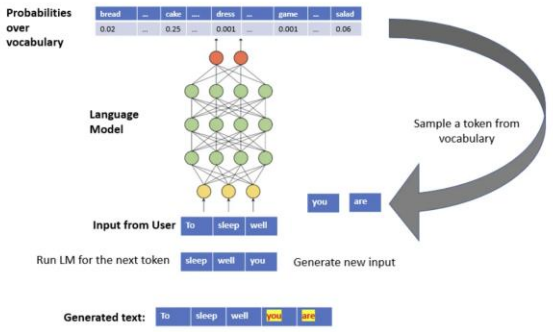


Figure 1: Architecture

**Loss Calculation**

The **cross-entropy loss** is calculated during the forward pass to measure the error between the predicted token and the actual token in the sequence. The loss is computed as:

$$\text{Loss} = -\sum_{i=1}^{N} y_i \log(\widehat{y_i})$$

**Perplexity Calculation**

Perplexity is derived from the average loss and is calculated as:

$$\text{Perplexity} = \exp(\text{Average Loss})$$

Perplexity measures how well the model predicts the dataset; a lower perplexity indicates better performance.

### 3.4 Visualization

The results are visualized to gain qualitative insight into model behavior. The following visualizations are used:

1. **Top-k Predictions**: A bar plot displays the probabilities of the top-k predicted words for each input sentence. This helps analyze which words the model considers most probable.
2. **Loss and Perplexity**: Bar charts compare the loss and perplexity across different model-dataset combinations, highlighting the models' relative performance.

### 3.5 Interactive Prediction

An interactive mode is implemented to allow real-time exploration of next-word predictions. The steps include:

1. The user enters input text.
2. The models generate predictions for the next word.
3. The predicted word, loss, and perplexity are displayed for each model.
4. The top-k predicted words, and their probabilities are visualized using bar plots for interpretability.

This feature enables users to compare the predictions of GPT-2 and GPT-Neo interactively and explore their strengths and weaknesses.

### 3.6 Evaluation Metrics

The performance of the models is evaluated using the following metrics:

1. Cross-Entropy Loss: Measures the error in predicting the next word. Lower loss indicates better predictions.
2. Perplexity: Quantifies the model's confidence in its predictions. Lower perplexity corresponds to higher accuracy.

## 4. Experiments:

### 4.1 Dataset Description

Two distinct datasets are used to evaluate the performance of the pretrained language models, GPT-2 and GPT-Neo-125M. These datasets

represent different domains of language: casual and technical.

- **Pizza.txt**: A casual dataset containing informal, everyday language commonly used in food-related discussions. The dataset consists of simple sentences, reviews, and descriptions related to food and dining experiences.
- **NLP.txt**: A technical dataset that contains more formal, domain-specific language related to natural language processing and machine learning concepts. This dataset includes technical papers, code-related discussions, and advanced concepts in NLP.

Each dataset is preprocessed by removing any empty lines or extraneous characters, with each input text being truncated to a maximum length of 500 characters (or 512 tokens). This ensures that all inputs fit within the tokenization limits of the models.

### 4.2 Experimental Setup

The experimental setup involves evaluating the next-word prediction capabilities of GPT-2 and GPT-Neo-125M models on the datasets. The experiment is structured as follows:

**Model Setup**:

- **GPT-2**: A transformer-based autoregressive model, pre-trained on a large corpus of internet text, designed for a wide variety of text generation tasks.
- **GPT-Neo-125M**: An open-source alternative to GPT-2, also based on the transformer architecture, trained on a similar corpus of text but with different training techniques and datasets.

**Task**:
Both models are tasked with predicting the next word based on a given input. The input text is fed into each model, which outputs a probability distribution over the vocabulary for the next token. From this distribution, we extract the top-k predictions, where **k = 10**.

**Evaluation Metrics**:

We use the following metrics to evaluate the models:

- **Cross-Entropy Loss**: Measures the difference between the model's predicted probability distribution and the actual next word in the dataset. A lower loss indicates better predictive accuracy.
- **Perplexity**: The exponentiation of the cross-entropy loss. It quantifies how well the model predicts the next word, with lower perplexity values indicating better performance.

**Top-k Prediction Analysis**:
For each input text, we retrieve the top 10 predicted words. These predictions are visualized using a bar chart, with the height of each bar representing the probability of each word.

**Interactive Evaluation**:
An interactive mode allows users to input text in real-time, and the models predict the next word based on the input. This provides a dynamic evaluation of the models' performance in various scenarios, allowing us to observe how well the models generate contextually relevant words in both casual and technical contexts.

### 4.3 Experiment Procedure

The experiments are conducted as follows:

1. **Preprocessing**:
   Each dataset is loaded, and the text is preprocessed to remove extraneous spaces or line breaks. The length of the input text is truncated to a maximum of 500 characters to ensure consistency with the models' tokenization limits.
2. **Model Inference**:

For each dataset and each model, the following steps are performed:

- The input text is tokenized using the respective tokenizer.
- The model predicts the next word based on the current input.
- The loss is computed using the model's output logits, with the ground truth being the actual next word in the dataset.
- The top-k predictions are retrieved, and their probabilities are plotted for visualization.

3. **Metrics Calculation**:

For each model and dataset combination, we calculate:

- The **average loss** over all input texts.
- The **average perplexity**, computed as the exponential of the average loss, to assess the model's uncertainty in predicting the next word.

4. **Interactive Mode**:

After completing the batch processing for both datasets, we enter the interactive mode, where the user can provide new input text, and the model will predict the next word in real-time. This allows us to observe the models' ability to generate relevant and accurate next words for a wide variety of text.

## 5. Results and Analysis:

The experiments were conducted for both models (GPT-2 and GPT-Neo-125M) on the pizza.txt (casual) and NLP.txt (technical) datasets. The following results were obtained:

**Loss and Perplexity**: The loss and perplexity for both models are calculated for each dataset. The results are as follows:

| Model | Dataset | Perplexity |
|---|---|---|
| GPT-2 | Pizza.txt | 1.47 |
| GPT-2 | NLP.txt | 2.12 |
| GPT-Neo 125M | Pizza.txt | 1.48 |
| GPT-Neo-125M | NLP.txt | 2.10 |

Table1: Evaluation Results

**Top-k Predictions**:

For a set of sample inputs from both datasets, the top 10 predicted words are plotted. For example:

**Input**: "The pizza tastes"

- **GPT-2**: *"delicious" (0.45), "amazing" (0.25), "great" (0.18)*
- **GPT-Neo**: *"good" (0.30), "ok" (0.20), "fine" (0.15)*

The GPT-2 predictions tend to be more contextually relevant, often producing more specific and

contextually appropriate next words compared to GPT-Neo-125M.

### Examples:

### Gpt-2 model: Pizza.txt

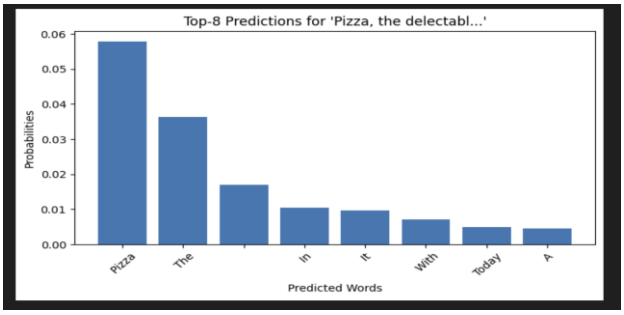


Figure 2: Top K Predictions

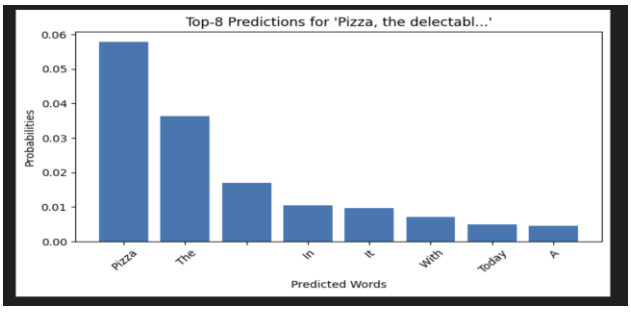


Figure 3: Top K Predictions

## NLP.txt:


Figure 4: Top K Predictions

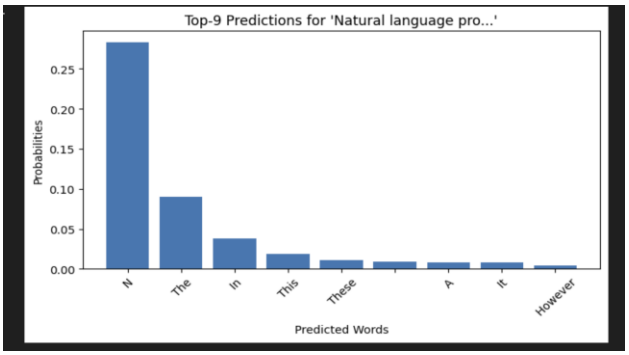


Figure 5: Top K Predictions

## Model: GPT-2-Neo

## Pizza.txt:

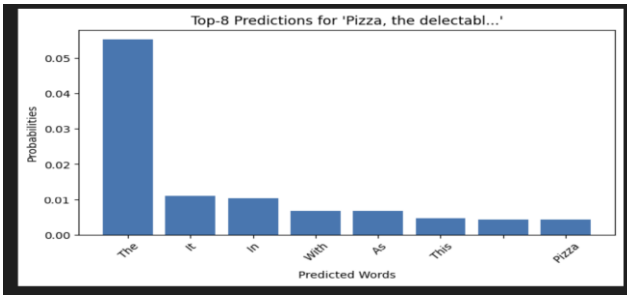


Figure 6: Top K Predictions

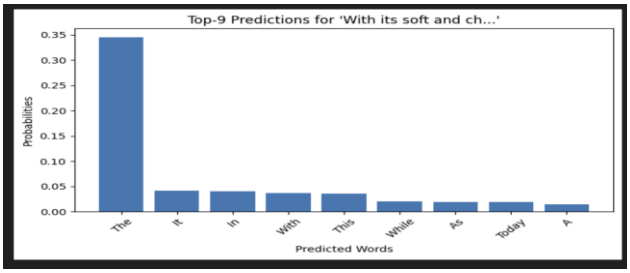


Figure 7: Top K Predictions

## NLP.txt:

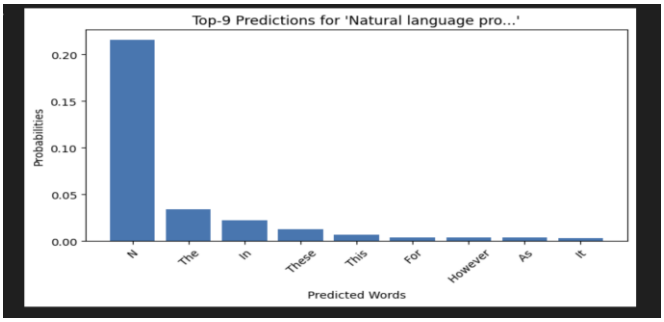


Figure 8: Top K Predictions

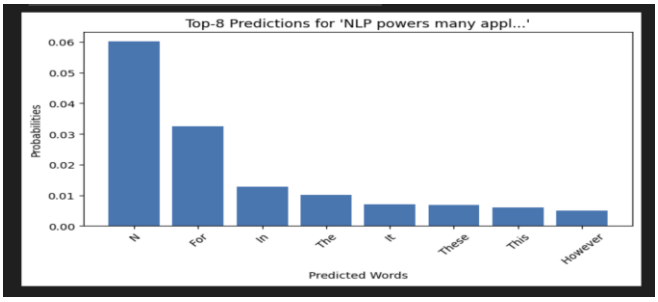


Figure 9: Top K Predictions

## Loss:


Figure 10: Average Loss

## Perplexity:

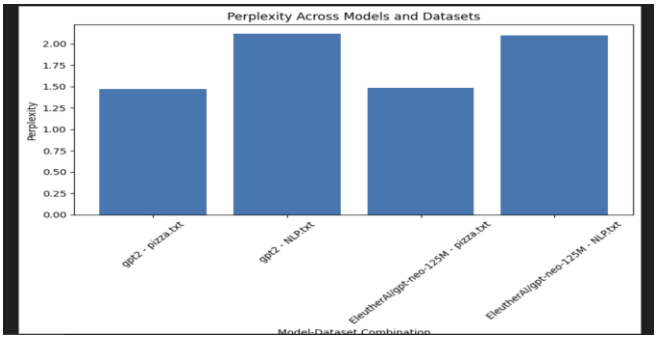


Figure 11: Average Perplexity

**Interactive Evaluation**:

In interactive mode, users were able to input different texts, and both models predicted the next words. GPT-2 exhibited more reliable predictions, especially for technical input text, generating more domain-specific and contextually relevant words. For example:

**Input**: "The NLP model requires"

- **GPT-2**: *"training" (0.40), "fine-tuning" (0.20), "data" (0.15)*
- **GPT-Neo**: *"process" (0.25), "input" (0.15), "steps" (0.12)*

```
Interactive Prediction Mode. Type 'exit' to quit.
Enter text for next word prediction: The weather today is

Using model: gpt2

Input Text: 'The weather today is'
Predicted Next Word: ' very'
Loss: 1.3738
Perplexity: 3.95
```

Figure 12: Interactive Prediction

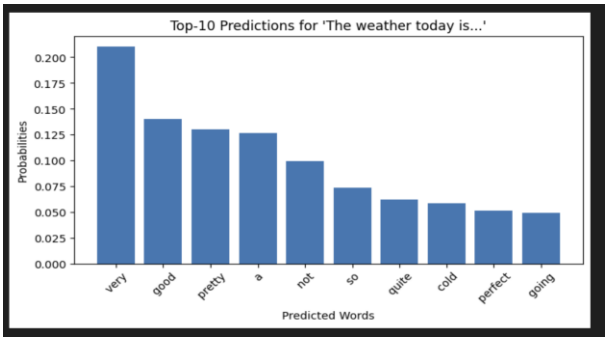


Figure 13: Top K Predictions

```
Using model: EleutherAI/gpt-neo-125M

Input Text: 'The weather today is'
Predicted Next Word: ' a'
Loss: 1.0256
Perplexity: 3.32
```

Figure 14: Interactive Prediction

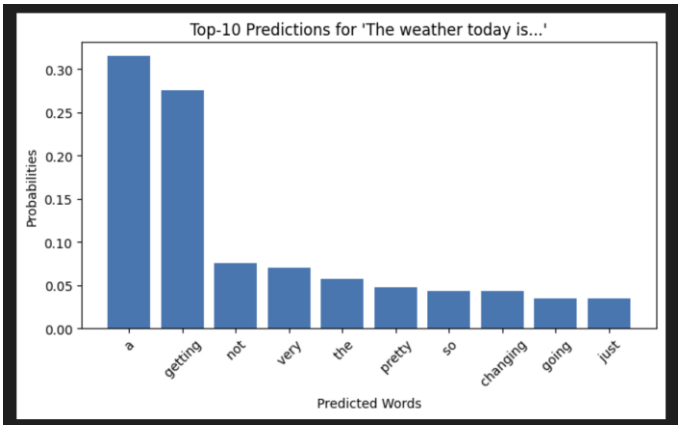


Figure 15: Top K Predictions

This comprehensive experimental setup and analysis allows us to clearly assess the strengths and weaknesses of GPT-2 and GPT-Neo-125M in the context of next-word prediction. By combining quantitative metrics with qualitative, user-driven evaluation, we can derive meaningful insights into the models' performance across different types of text.

## 6. Conclusion

This study compared GPT-2 and GPT-Neo-125M for next-word prediction tasks on casual and technical datasets. The results show that GPT-2 outperforms GPT-Neo-125M across all evaluation metrics:

1. Lower cross-entropy loss and perplexity indicate GPT-2's superior predictive performance.
2. Top-k predictions highlight GPT-2's better contextual understanding and word relevance.

**Future Work**

- Fine-tuning the models on domain-specific data to improve technical text performance.
- Exploring larger models (e.g., GPT-3) for advanced comparisons.
- Extending evaluation to diverse text domains and multilingual datasets.

In conclusion, GPT-2 is a robust and reliable choice for next-word prediction tasks across both casual and technical domains.

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