A Comprehensive Overview of Large Language Models

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Abstract

Large Language Models (LLMs) have recently demonstrated remarkable capabilities in natural language processing tasks and beyond. This success of LLMs has led to a large influx of research contributions in this direction. These works encompass diverse topics such as architectural innovations, better training strategies, context length improvements, fine-tuning, multi-modal LLMs, robotics, datasets, benchmarking, efficiency, and more. With the rapid development of techniques and regular breakthroughs in LLM research, it has become considerably challenging to perceive the bigger picture of the advances in this direction. Considering the rapidly emerging plethora of literature on LLMs, it is imperative that the research community is able to benefit from a concise yet comprehensive overview of the recent developments in this field. This article provides an overview of the literature on a broad range of LLM-related concepts. Our self-contained comprehensive overview of LLMs discusses relevant background concepts along with covering the advanced topics at the frontier of research in LLMs. This review article is intended to provide not only a systematic survey but also a quick, comprehensive reference for the researchers and practitioners to draw insights from extensive, informative summaries of the existing works to advance the LLM research.

Keywords:
Large Language Models, LLMs, chatGPT, Augmented LLMs, Multimodal LLMs, LLM training, LLM Benchmarking

1. Introduction

Language plays a fundamental role in facilitating communication and self-expression for humans and their interaction with machines. The need for generalized models stems from the growing demand for machines to handle complex language tasks, including translation, summarization, information retrieval, conversational interactions, etc. Recently, significant breakthroughs have been witnessed in language models, primarily attributed to transformers [1], increased computational capabilities, and the availability of large-scale training data. These developments have brought about a revolutionary transformation by enabling the creation of LLMs that can approximate human-level performance on various tasks [2, 3]. Large

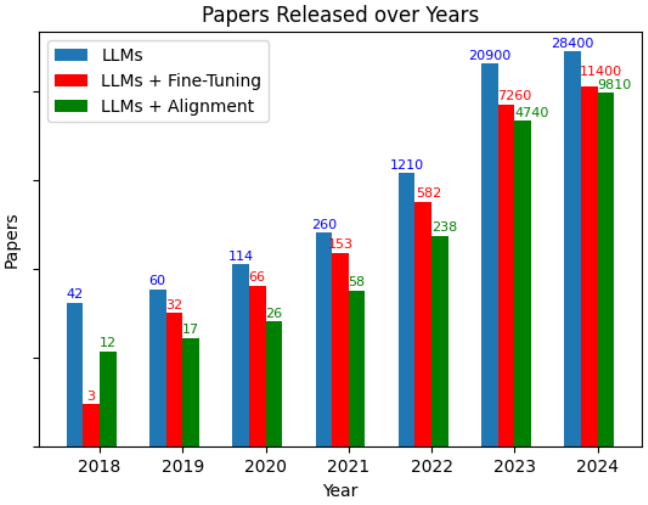

Figure 1: The trend of papers released over the years containing keywords "Large Language Model", "Large Language Model + Fine-Tuning", and "Large Language Model + Alignment".

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