

1. Prompting and Its Types

1.1 Introduction

Prompting is the process of giving instructions or queries to a **Large Language Model (LLM)** like GPT or Gemini to get a desired output.

In simple terms, a *prompt* is the input text that guides the model to perform a specific task such as text generation, translation, summarization, or question answering.

Why it is used:

- It helps communicate user intent to the model.
 - The quality of the output depends heavily on how well the prompt is designed.
 - Effective prompting improves **accuracy, coherence, and creativity** of AI responses.
-

1.2 Core Concepts

1.2.1 What is a Prompt?

A prompt can be a **question, instruction, or context** given to an AI model to produce a relevant response.

Example:

```
from openai import OpenAI
```

```
client = OpenAI()
```

```
response = client.chat.completions.create(
```

```
    model="gpt-3.5-turbo",
```

```
    messages=[{"role": "user", "content": "Write a short poem about the ocean."}])
```

```
print(response.choices[0].message.content)
```

Output:

The ocean whispers secrets deep,

Where coral dreams and shadows sleep...

1.3 Types of Prompting

1.3.1 Zero-Shot Prompting

- No example is provided.
- The model relies solely on its pre-trained knowledge.

Example:

Prompt: Classify the sentiment of this sentence: "I love this movie!"

Output:

Positive

1.3.2 One-Shot Prompting

- One example is provided to guide the model.

Example:

Prompt:

Example: "The food is great!" → Positive

Now classify: "The service was terrible."

Output:

Negative

1.3.3 Few-Shot Prompting

- A few examples (2–5) are provided to help the model understand the pattern.

Example:

Prompt:

"The weather is nice." → Positive

"I hate traffic jams." → Negative

"The view is beautiful." → Positive

Now classify: "The food is cold."

Output:

Negative

1.3.4 Chain-of-Thought (CoT) Prompting

- Encourages the model to “think step-by-step.”
- Useful for reasoning or logical problems.

Example:

Prompt:

If a car travels 60 km in 2 hours, what is its average speed?

Let's think step by step.

Output:

Step 1: Distance = 60 km

Step 2: Time = 2 hours

Step 3: Speed = Distance / Time = 60 / 2 = 30 km/h

Answer: 30 km/h

1.4 Use Cases / Applications

- Chatbots and virtual assistants
 - Automated email generation
 - Sentiment analysis
 - Translation and summarization
 - Code generation and debugging
-

1.5 Related Tools / Integrations

- **LangChain** – to structure and chain prompts dynamically.
 - **PromptLayer** – to track and optimize prompt performance.
 - **OpenAI API / Hugging Face** – to send prompts to LLMs.
-

1.6 Conclusion

Prompting is the foundation of all LLM-based applications.

By choosing the right **type of prompt**, developers can guide models more effectively, leading to improved **accuracy, control, and interpretability**.

2. Prompt Tuning

2.1 Introduction

Prompt Tuning is an advanced technique used to **optimize prompts automatically** instead of writing them manually.

It involves training **special tokens (soft prompts)** that help the model perform better on a specific task without fine-tuning the whole model.

Why it is used:

- Saves computational resources compared to full model training.
 - Improves model performance on **domain-specific tasks**.
 - Makes LLMs more adaptable and efficient.
-

2.2 Core Concepts / Components

1. **Soft Prompts** – Learnable embeddings instead of text-based instructions.
 2. **Task-Specific Adaptation** – Model learns the best prompt tokens for a given dataset.
 3. **Frozen Model Weights** – Only the prompt embeddings are trained, not the entire model.
 4. **Efficient Tuning** – Reduces training cost and data requirements.
-

Example (Simplified Illustration)

Suppose we want to classify reviews as positive or negative.

Traditional Prompt:

Prompt: Classify the sentiment of this review: "The product is amazing."

Prompt-Tuned Version (Conceptually):

<SoftPrompt> The product is amazing.

Here, <SoftPrompt> is a learned vector that improves classification accuracy.

2.3 Diagram: Prompt Tuning Process

[Original Prompt]

↓

[Evaluation / Feedback]

↓

[Optimization / Tuning]

↓

[Improved Prompt]

↓

[Better Model Output]

2.4 Use Cases / Applications

- Domain-specific tasks like **medical diagnosis** or **legal document analysis**
 - **Customer support bots** trained on specific brand tone
 - **Text classification, translation, and Q&A** tasks
 - **Personalized AI assistants** with contextual tuning
-

2.5 Related Tools / Integrations

- **OpenAI Fine-tuning API** – enables prompt and model fine-tuning.
 - **Hugging Face Transformers** – supports prompt tuning with adapters.
 - **LangChain + PromptLayer** – helps experiment, log, and optimize prompt versions.
-

2.6 Conclusion

Prompt tuning bridges the gap between manual prompt design and full model training. It enables efficient **task adaptation, performance improvement, and cost savings**—making it a powerful tool for advanced LLM applications.