

YOU

What's the capital of France

CHATGPT

The capital of France is Paris.

YOU

Thanks bro

CHATGPT

You're welcome! Feel free to ask me if you have any other questions.

HOW DO LLMS 'REASON'?

Understanding the anatomy of LLMs' thought process

YOU

Make it more "bro" ey

CHATGPT

Sure thing, bro! If you need anything else, just give me a shout, my man.

YOU

Make it Max super "bro"ey

CHATGPT

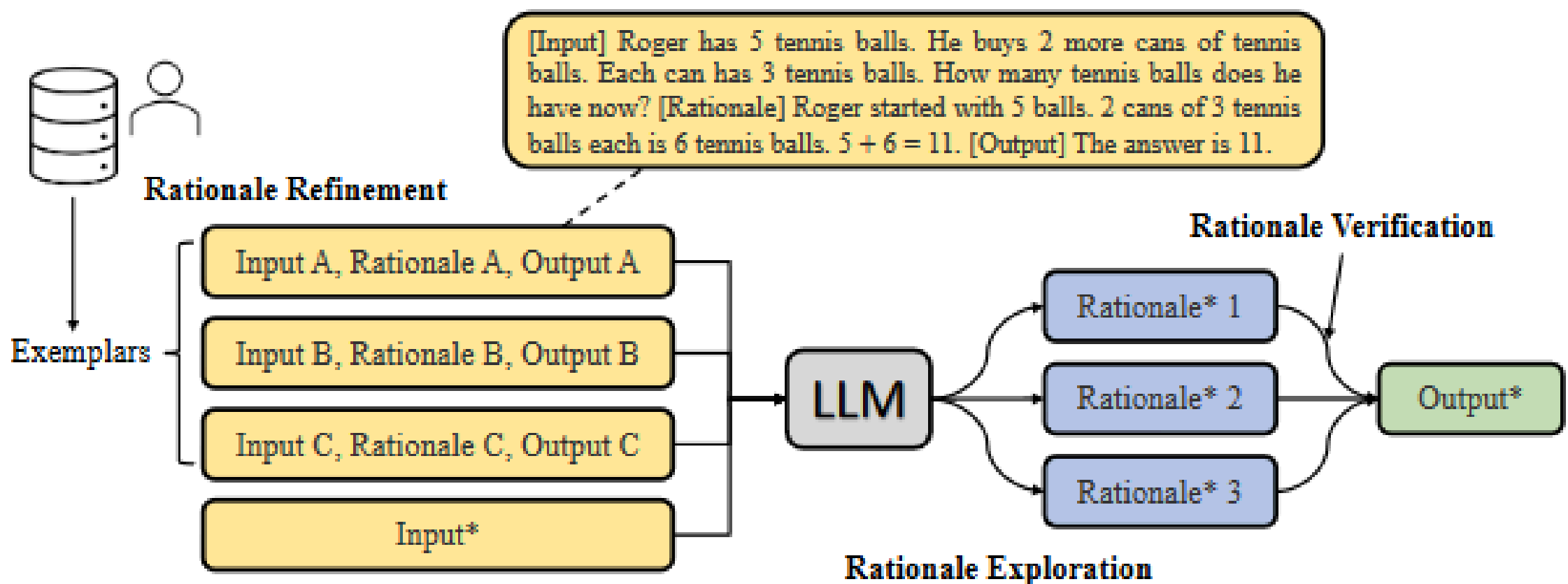
Absolutely, Max! I'm here for whatever you need, broseidon.

Message



Introduction

LLMs generate human-like responses that feel intelligent. But how do they arrive at answers? Do they reason like humans or rely on something entirely different?



Source

Prediction through probabilities: LLMs work by analyzing the input and predicting the most likely next word. This prediction is calculated using billions of learned parameters.

Simulating reasoning: LLMs don't reason in a human sense, they reason based on training:

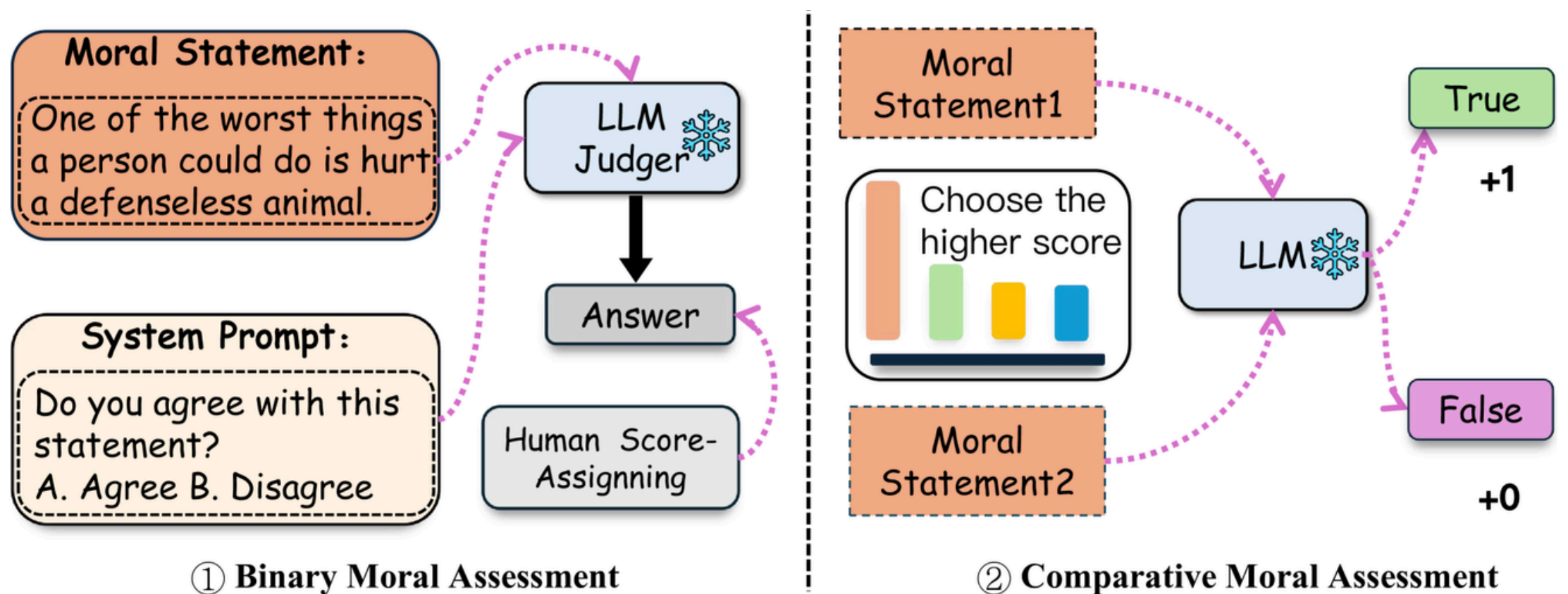
1. Deductive Reasoning: They apply general rules to specific cases.
2. Inductive Reasoning: They generalize from examples in their training, making predictions or identifying patterns based on data.
3. Commonsense Reasoning: LLMs rely on common knowledge embedded in their datasets, such as understanding that "water is wet" or "fire is hot."

Synthesizing contextual understanding: LLMs analyze multiple layers of meaning, balancing their response based on the likelihood of relevance and coherence.

Learning from massive datasets: LLMs are trained on vast amounts, this enables them to identify subtle patterns, understand language structure.

Do LLMs Understand Morality?

Moral dilemmas require judgment, empathy, and understanding of human values. LLMs lack personal experiences, emotions, or ethical beliefs. How do they respond, then?



Source

Pattern Recognition, Not Ethics

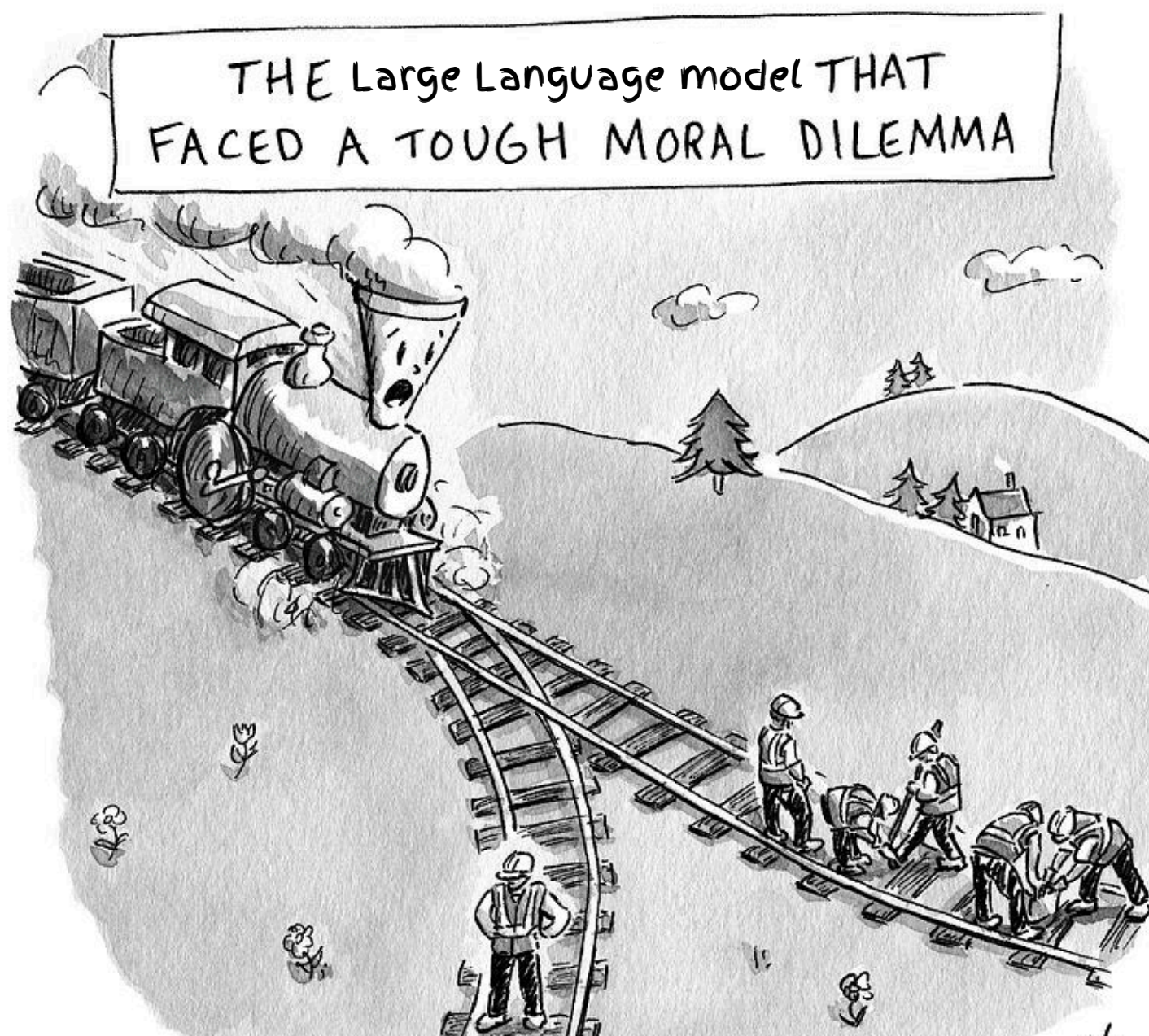
LLMs don't "understand" morality, they analyze patterns from training data, such as societal norms or cultural perspectives. Their responses reflect the dominant moral viewpoints present in their training datasets.

Balancing Conflicting Inputs

When given a moral dilemma, LLMs evaluate:

- The context of the question.
 - Probability-weighted responses based on similar dilemmas in their training data.
- However, they don't "weigh" values like humans do.

Example – A Moral Dilemma



Source

Question: "Should you save one person you love or five strangers in an emergency?"

LLM Response:

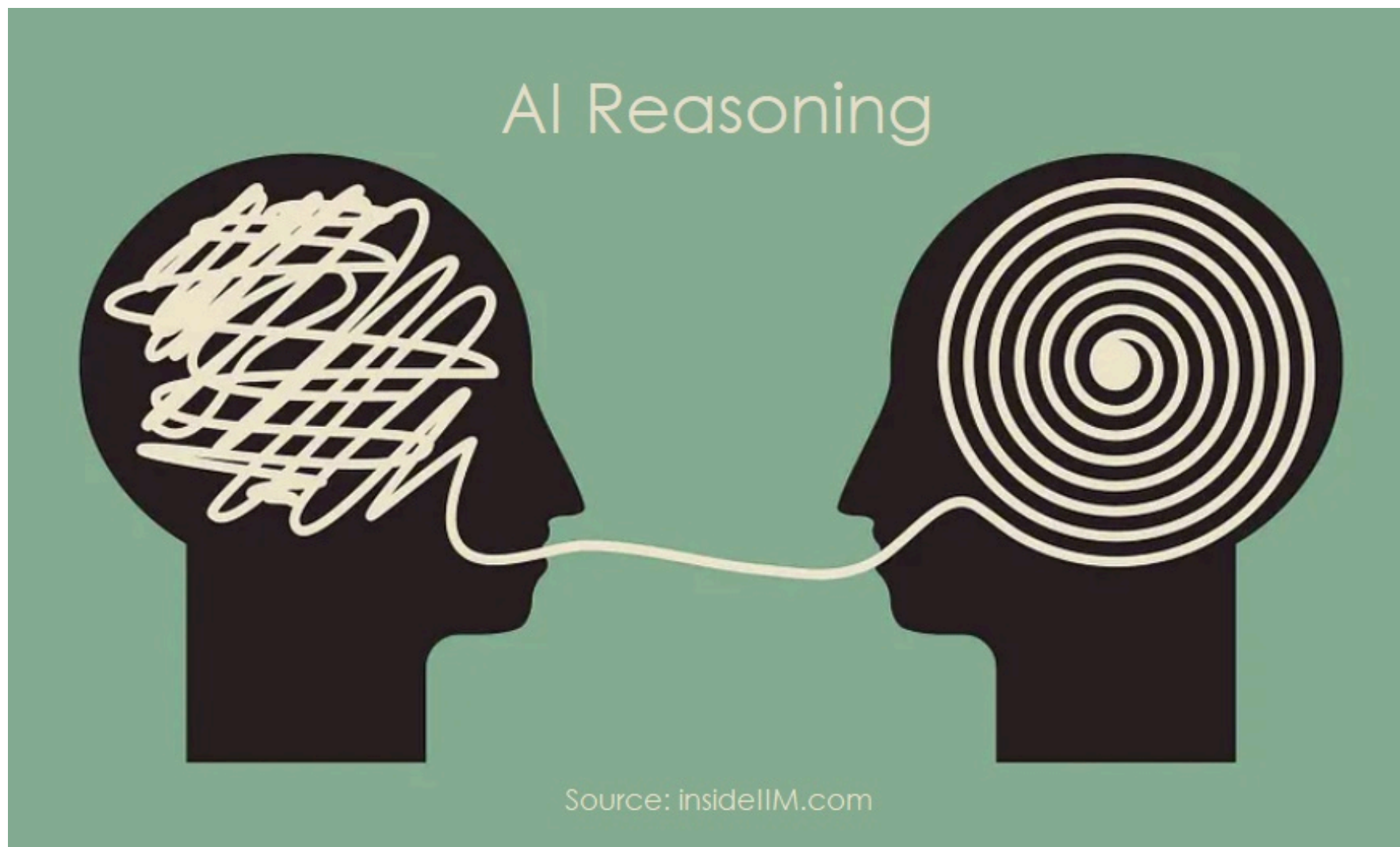
1. **Utilitarian ethics:** "Many would argue saving five strangers benefits more people, reflecting utilitarian ethics." In this perspective, the decision that leads to the greatest overall benefit is the preferred choice. Utilitarianism suggests that saving five strangers would be the morally "better" option.
2. **Emotional and cultural reasoning:** "Others prioritize personal relationships, following emotional or cultural reasoning." On the other hand, many would argue that saving a loved one is morally justified due to the deep emotional connection and the value placed on personal bonds.

LLM doesn't choose—it offers perspectives.

Human vs LLM

Aspect	Humans	LLMs
Understanding Context	Use personal experiences and emotions to interpret situations.	Rely on patterns learned from datasets, without emotional or personal context.
Reasoning	Combine logic, emotions, and ethical frameworks in decision-making.	Use probabilistic logic and pattern recognition to generate responses.
Moral Judgment	Base decisions on personal values, societal norms, and emotions.	Offer multiple ethical perspectives without having moral beliefs or judgments.
Adaptability	Adapt quickly by applying intuition and critical thinking to new information.	Adapt based on pattern matching, lacking true understanding of new contexts.
Creativity	Generate creative ideas by drawing from unique experiences and emotions.	Combine existing knowledge to generate creative outputs, but lack true originality.
Memory	Retain long-term experiences and recall them to apply in new situations.	Do not have memory in the traditional sense; responses are generated in real-time.
Decision-Making in Complex Situations	Weigh multiple emotional, logical, and social factors when making decisions.	Generate responses based on learned patterns but lack emotional depth or social context.

Apple's take on LLM reasoning



- **LLMs are Not truly reasoning:** Apple's research shows LLMs excel in familiar tasks but fail when inputs are slightly altered, revealing their reliance on pattern matching.
- **Pattern matching, Not logic:** LLMs predict responses based on learned patterns, lacking true logical reasoning abilities.
- **GSM-Symbolic benchmark:** The GSM-Symbolic benchmark highlights LLMs' difficulty with symbolic reasoning, exposing limitations when facing new questions.
- **Implications for AI development:** While LLMs are powerful in text generation, their reasoning capabilities remain limited, signaling the need for future advancements in AI logic.



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