

# A better way to get language models to do what you ask

Colin Raffel

# A better way to get language models to do what you ask



... and many other awesome collaborators

The cabs \_\_\_ the same rates as those \_\_\_ by horse-drawn cabs and were \_\_\_ quite popular, \_\_\_ the Prince of Wales (the \_\_\_ King Edward VII) travelled in \_\_\_. The cabs quickly \_\_\_ known as "hummingbirds" for \_\_\_ noise made by their motors and their distinctive black and \_\_\_ livery. Passengers \_\_\_ \_\_\_ the interior fittings were \_\_\_ when compared to \_\_\_ cabs but there \_\_\_ some complaints \_\_\_ the \_\_\_ lighting made them too \_\_\_ to those outside \_\_\_.

T5

charged, used, initially, even, future, became, the, yellow, reported, that, luxurious, horse-drawn, were that, internal, conspicuous, cab

"translate English to German: That is good."

"cola sentence: The course is jumping well."

"stsbt sentence1: The rhino grazed on the grass. sentence2: A rhino is grazing in a field."

"summarize: state authorities dispatched emergency crews tuesday to survey the damage after an onslaught of severe weather in mississippi..."

T5

"Das ist gut."

"not acceptable"

"3.8"

"six people hospitalized after a storm in attala county."

## *Unsupervised pre-training*

The cabs charged the same rates as those used by horse-drawn cabs and were initially quite popular; even the Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VII) travelled in one. The cabs quickly became known as "hummingbirds" for the noise made by their motors and their distinctive black and yellow livery. Passengers reported that the interior fittings were luxurious when compared to horse-drawn cabs but there were some complaints that the internal ...



lighting made them too conspicuous to those outside the cab. The fleet peaked at around 75 cabs, all of which needed to return to the single depot at Lambeth to switch batteries.



## *"Zero-shot" prompting*

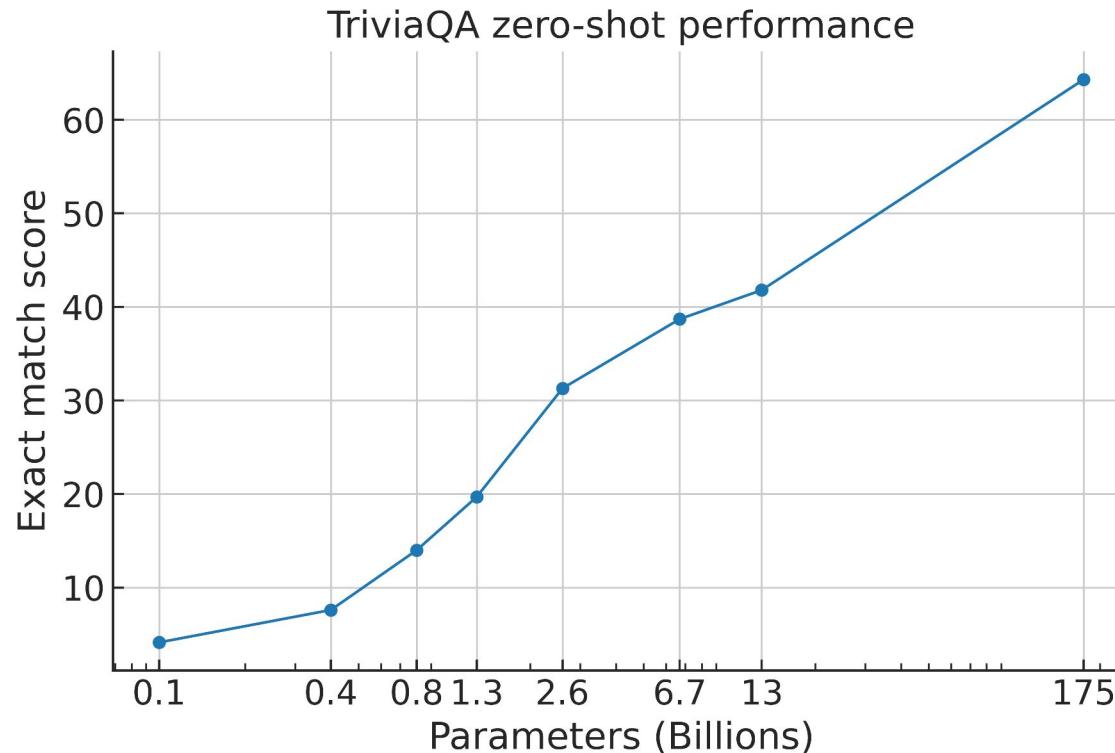
Suppose "The banker contacted the professors and the athlete". Can we infer that "The banker contacted the professors"?

yes

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# Language Models are Few-Shot Learners

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1. In what year was the first-ever Wimbledon Championship held? **Answer: 1877.**
2. Hg is the chemical symbol of which element? **Answer: Mercury.**
3. Which email service is owned by Microsoft? **Answer: Hotmail.**
4. Which country produces the most coffee in the world? **Answer: Brazil.**
5. In which city was Jim Morrison buried? **Answer: Paris.**
6. Which song by Luis Fonsi and Daddy Yankee has the most views (of all time) on YouTube?  
**Answer: "Despacito."**
7. What was the first state? **Answer: Delaware.**
8. What is the capital city of Spain? **Answer: Madrid.**
9. What is the painting "La Gioconda" more usually known as? **Answer: The Mona Lisa.**

# UNIFIEDQA: Crossing Format Boundaries with a Single QA System

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## Extractive [SQuAD]

**Question:** At what speed did the turbine operate?

**Context:** (Nikola\_Tesla) On his 50th birthday in 1906, Tesla demonstrated his 200 horsepower (150 kilowatts) 16,000 rpm bladeless turbine. ...

**Gold answer:** 16,000 rpm

## Multiple-Choice [ARC-challenge]

**Question:** What does photosynthesis produce that helps plants grow?

**Candidate Answers:** (A) water (B) oxygen (C) protein (D) sugar

**Gold answer:** sugar

## Abstractive [NarrativeQA]

**Question:** What does a drink from narcissus's spring cause the drinker to do?

**Context:** Mercury has awakened Echo, who weeps for Narcissus, and states that a drink from Narcissus's spring causes the drinkers to "Grow dotingly enamored of themselves." ...

**Gold answer:** fall in love with themselves

## Yes/No [BoolQ]

**Question:** Was America the first country to have a president?

**Context:** (President) The first usage of the word president to denote the highest official in a government was during the Commonwealth of England ...

**Gold answer:** no

# MEASURING MASSIVE MULTITASK LANGUAGE UNDERSTANDING

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UC Berkeley

**Collin Burns**  
Columbia University

**Steven Basart**  
UChicago

**Andy Zou**  
UC Berkeley

**Mantas Mazeika**  
UIUC

**Dawn Song**  
UC Berkeley

**Jacob Steinhardt**  
UC Berkeley

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## Few Shot Prompt and Predicted Answer

The following are multiple choice questions about high school mathematics.

How many numbers are in the list 25, 26, ..., 100?  
(A) 75 (B) 76 (C) 22 (D) 23

Answer: B

Compute  $i + i^2 + i^3 + \dots + i^{258} + i^{259}$ .  
(A) -1 (B) 1 (C)  $i$  (D) - $i$

Answer: A

If 4 daps = 7 yaps, and 5 yaps = 3 baps,  
how many daps equal 42 baps?  
(A) 28 (B) 21 (C) 40 (D) 30

Answer: C

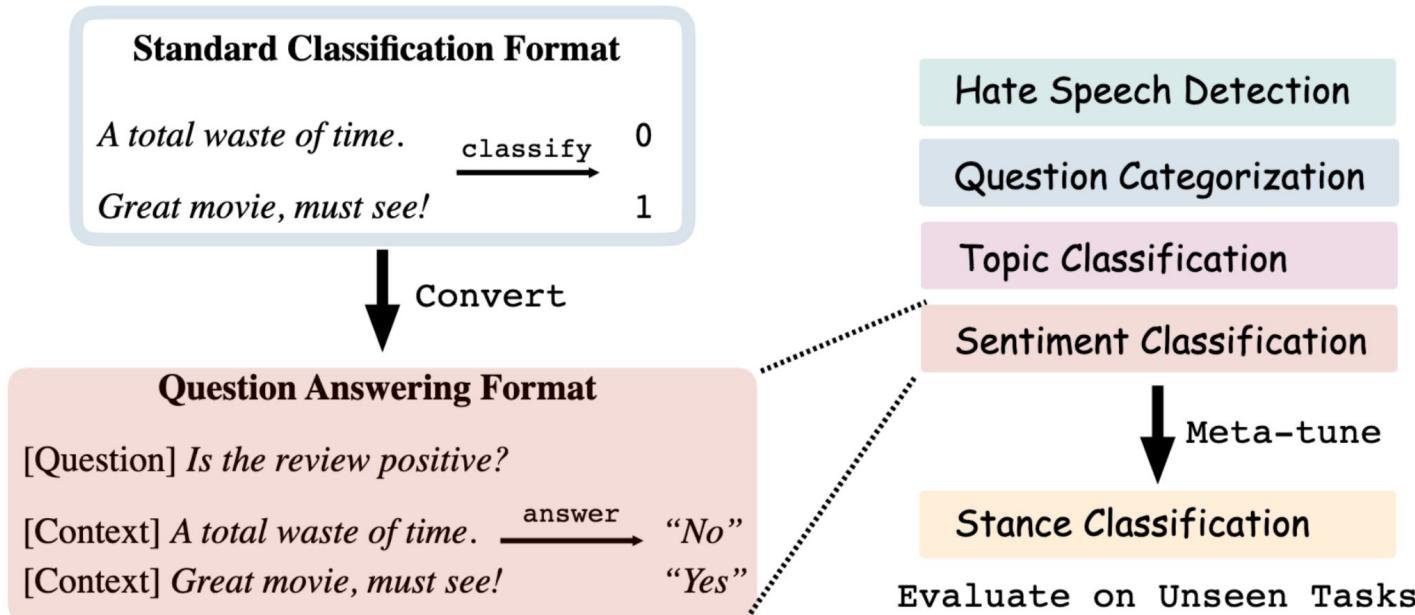
Model	Humanities	Social Science	STEM	Other	Average
Random Baseline	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0
RoBERTa	27.9	28.8	27.0	27.7	27.9
ALBERT	27.2	25.7	27.7	27.9	27.1
GPT-2	32.8	33.3	30.2	33.1	32.4
UnifiedQA	45.6	56.6	40.2	54.6	48.9
GPT-3 Small (few-shot)	24.4	30.9	26.0	24.1	25.9
GPT-3 Medium (few-shot)	26.1	21.6	25.6	25.5	24.9
GPT-3 Large (few-shot)	27.1	25.6	24.3	26.5	26.0
GPT-3 X-Large (few-shot)	40.8	50.4	36.7	48.8	43.9

# Meta-tuning Language Models to Answer Prompts Better

Ruiqi Zhong Kristy Lee\* Zheng Zhang\* Dan Klein

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{ruiqi-zhong, kristylee, zhengzhang1216, klein}@berkeley.edu

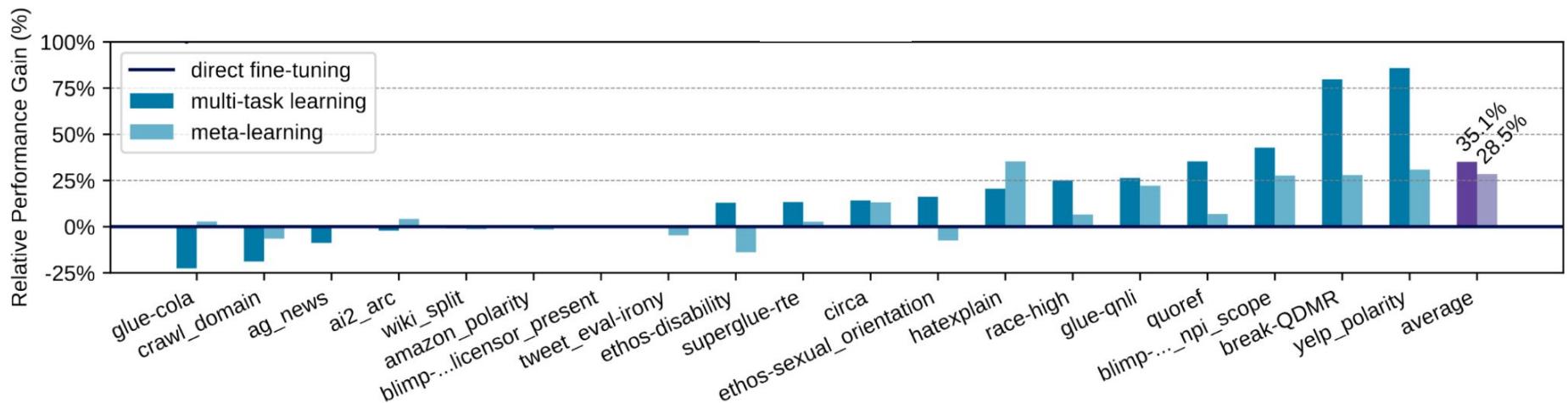


# CROSSFIT : A Few-shot Learning Challenge for Cross-task Generalization in NLP

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Can we obtain good zero-shot  
task generalization by training  
a large language model on a  
massively multitask mixture of  
diversely prompted datasets?

## Summarization

The picture appeared on the wall of a Poundland store on Whymark Avenue [...] How would you rephrase that in a few words?

## Paraphrase identification

"How is air traffic controlled?" "How do you become an air traffic controller?"  
Pick one: these questions are duplicates or not duplicates.

## Question answering

I know that the answer to "What team did the Panthers defeat?" is in "The Panthers finished the regular season [...]" . Can you tell me what it is?

## Multi-task training

## Zero-shot generalization

## Natural language inference

Suppose "The banker contacted the professors and the athlete". Can we infer that "The banker contacted the professors"?

T0

Graffiti artist Banksy is believed to be behind [...]

Not duplicates

Arizona Cardinals

Yes

### Multiple-Choice QA

CommonsenseQA	Cosmos
DREAM	QASC
QUAIL	Quarel
QuaRTz	SciQ
Social I QA	Wiki Hop
WiQA	BoolQ
COPA	Circa
MC-TACO	MultiRC
Open Book QA	PiQA
RACE	

### Closed-Book QA

Hotpot QA	Wiki QA
ARC	NQ Open
Trivia QA	Web Questions

### Natural Language Inference

ANLI
CB
HANS
RTE

### Structure-To-Text

Common Gen	Wiki Bio
------------	----------

### Extractive QA

Adversarial QA	DuoRC
Quoref	ROPEs
TyDiQA	CoQA
DROP	QA SRL
QuAC	ReCoRD
Squad v2	

### Topic Classification

AG News
DBPedia
TREC

### Paraphrase Identification

MRPC
PAWS
QQP

### Coreference

Winogradne
WSC

### Story Completion

HellaSwag
Lambada
Story Cloze

### Word Sense Disambiguation

WiC
-----

## QQP (Paraphrase)

Question1	How is air traffic controlled?
Question2	How do you become an air traffic controller?
Label	0

{Question1} {Question2}  
Pick one: These questions  
are duplicates or not  
duplicates.

{Choices[label]}

I received the questions  
"{Question1}" and  
"{Question2}". Are they  
duplicates?

{Choices[label]}

## XSum (Summary)

Document	The picture appeared on the wall of a Poundland store on Whymark Avenue...
Summary	Graffiti artist Banksy is believed to be behind...

{Document}  
How would you  
rephrase that in  
a few words?

{Summary}

First, please read the article:  
{Document}  
Now, can you write me an  
extremely short abstract for it?

{Summary}

Name  
i\_am\_hesitating

Template Reference

Original Task? [?](#)

Choices in Prompt? [?](#)

Metrics  
Accuracy [X](#)

Answer Choices  
{{choice1}} ||| {{choice2}}

Template  
{{ premise }}

I am hesitating between two options. Help me choose the more likely % if question == "cause" %} cause: {%- else %} effect: {%- endif %}  
- {{choice1}}  
- {{choice2}} ||| {%- if label != -1 %}{% answer\_choices[label] %}{%- endif %}

Save

### Prompt + X

My body cast a shadow over the grass.

I am hesitating between two options. Help me choose the more likely cause:

- The sun was rising.
- The grass was cut.

Y

The sun was rising.

# Number of prompted datasets: 170

# Number of prompts: 1939

Name  
i\_am\_hesitating

Template Reference

Original Task? ?

Choices in Prompt? ?

Accuracy X

Answer Choices  
{{choice1}} ||| {{choice2}}

Template

```
{{ premise }}  
  
I am hesitating between two options. Help me choose the more likely {  
% if question ==  
"cause" %} cause: {  
% else %} effect: {  
% endif %}  
- {{choice1}}  
- {{choice2}} ||| {  
% if label != -1 %}{  
% answer_choices[label] %}{  
% endif %}
```

Save

Prompt + X

My body cast a shadow over  
the grass.

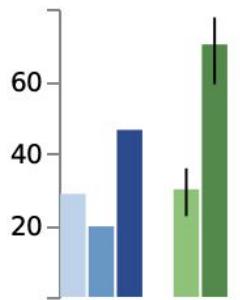
I am hesitating between two  
options. Help me choose the  
more likely cause:

- The sun was rising.
- The grass was cut.

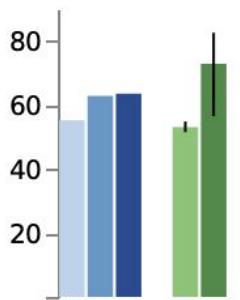
The sun was rising.  
Y

## Natural Language Inference

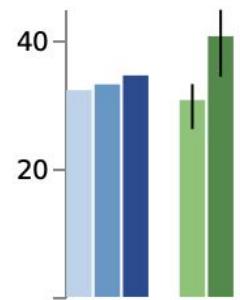
CB



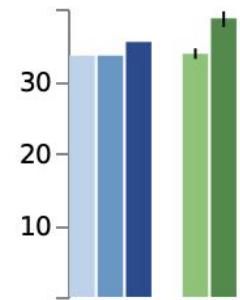
RTE



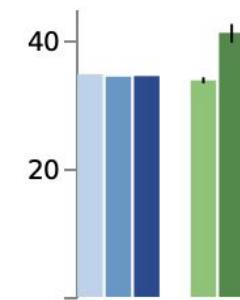
ANLI R1



ANLI R2

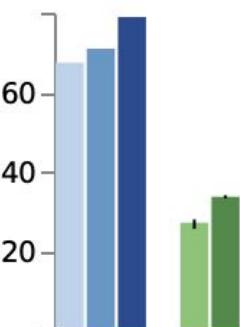


ANLI R3

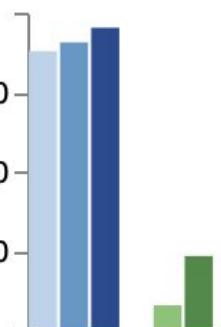


## Story Completion

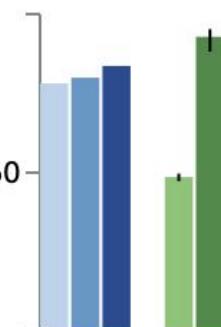
HellaSwag



LAMBADA

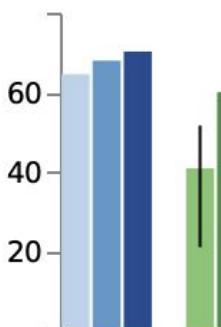


StoryCloze

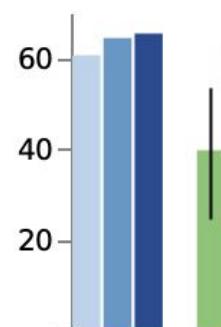


## Coreference

Winogrande

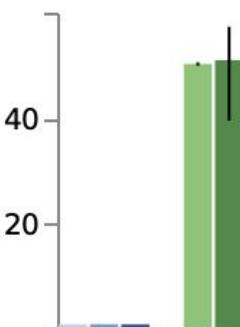


WSC



## Word Sense

WiC



GPT3 (6.7B)

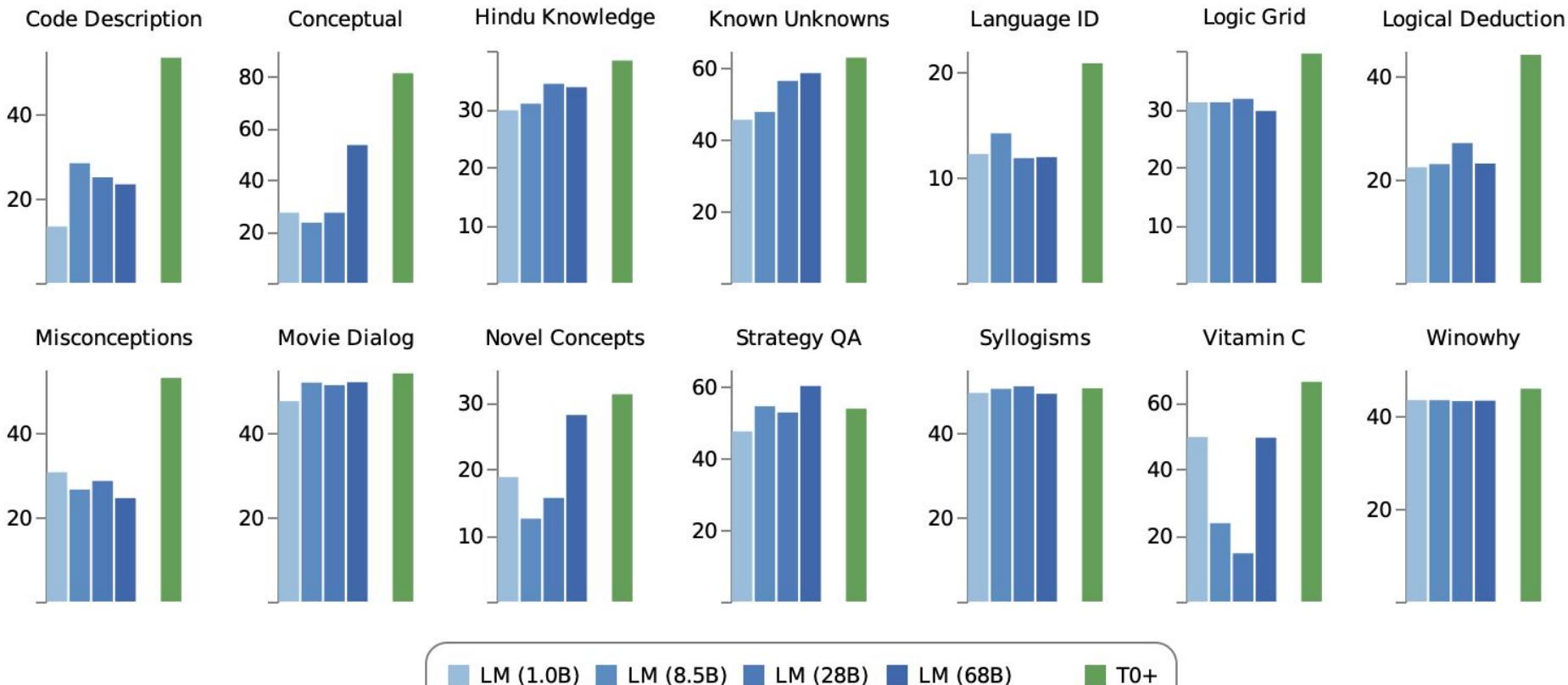
GPT3 (13B)

GPT3 (175B)

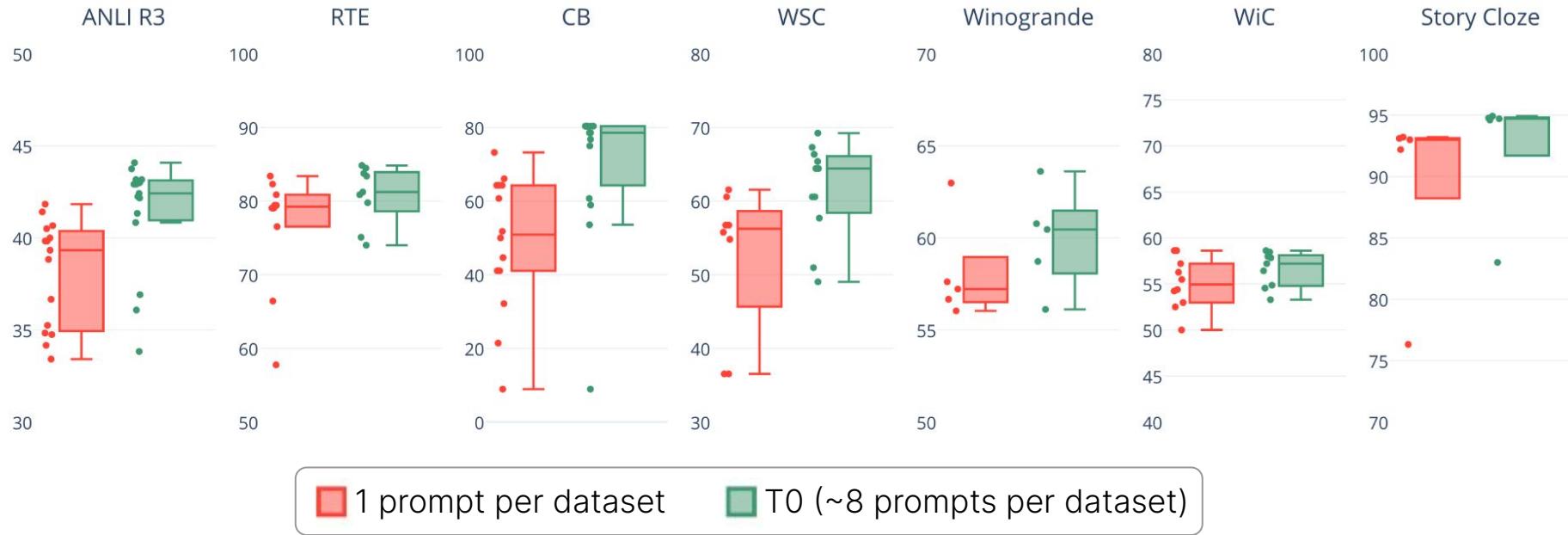
T5+LM (11B)

T0 (11B)

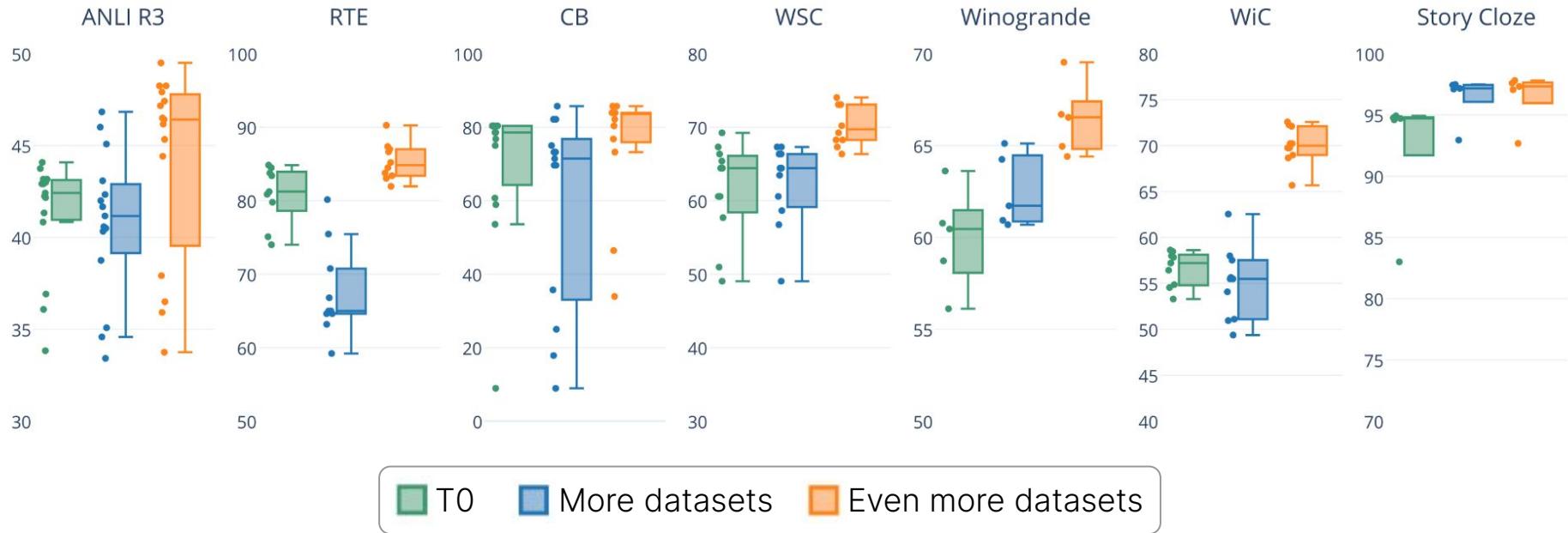
# Big Bench



# *More prompts are better than one*



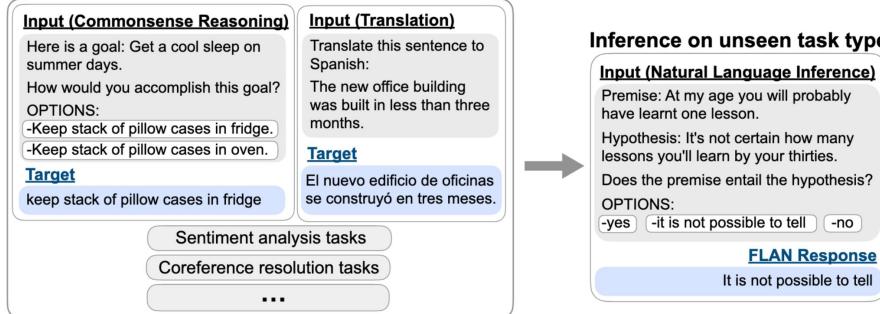
# *Adding datasets (usually) helps*



# FINETUNED LANGUAGE MODELS ARE ZERO-SHOT LEARNERS

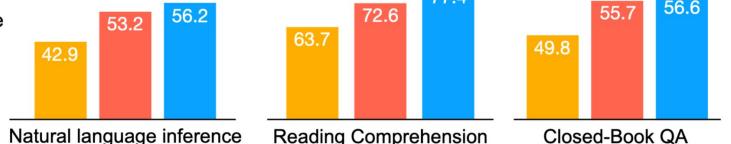
Jason Wei\* Maarten Bosma\* Vincent Y. Zhao\* Kelvin Guu\* Adams Wei Yu  
Brian Lester Nan Du Andrew M. Dai Quoc V. Le  
Google Research

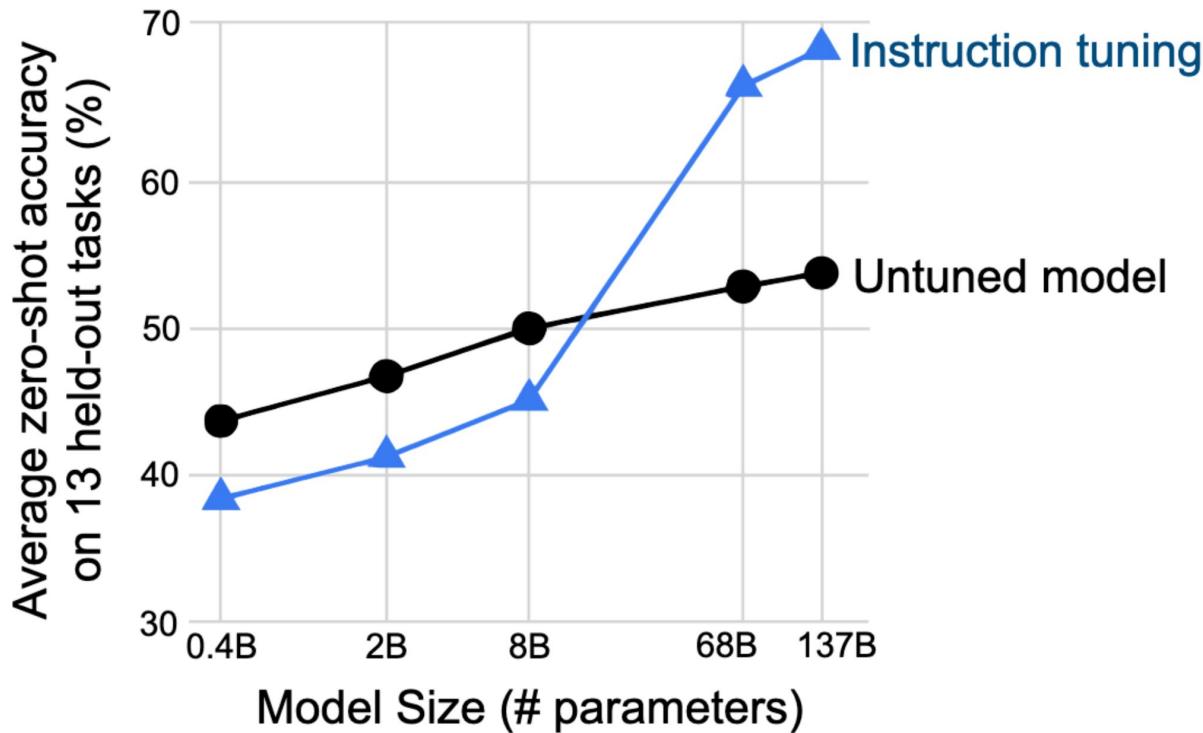
## Finetune on many tasks (“instruction-tuning”)

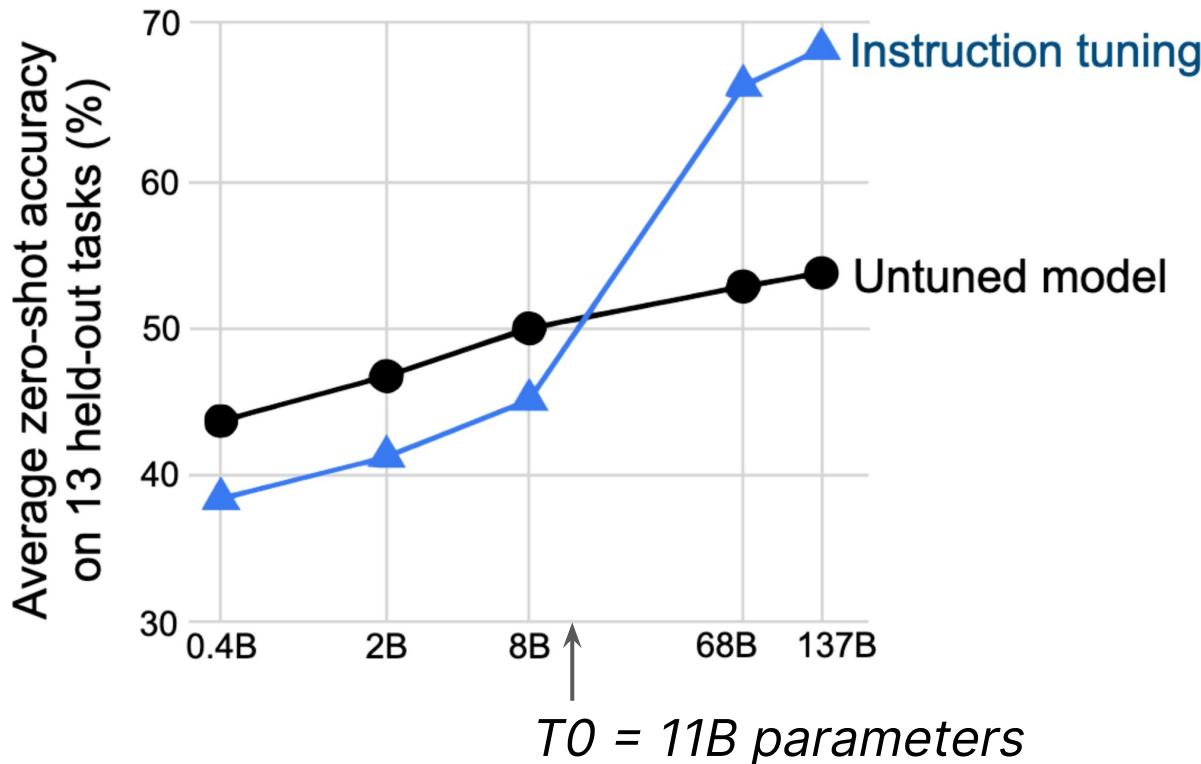


■ GPT-3 175B zero shot ■ GPT-3 175B few-shot ■ FLAN 137B zero-shot

Performance  
on unseen  
task types

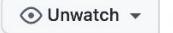


**B**Performance on held-out tasks

**B**Performance on held-out tasks

	GPT-3	FLAN	T0 (ours)
Size	175B	137B	11B
Multitask supervision	Implicit	Explicit	Explicit
Zero-shot performance	Decent	Better	Better
Architecture	Decoder	Decoder	Encoder/decoder
Pre-training	LM	LM	MLM→LM
Multiple prompts?	No	Yes	Yes
Prompt diversity	N/A	Some	Lots
Public	No	No	Yes

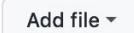
 [bigscience-workshop / promptsource](#) Public

 Unwatch 8  Star 40  Fork 52

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 [main](#)  [42 branches](#)  [0 tags](#)

 Go to file  Add file  Code

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 [craffel](#) Use nq\_open instead of kilt\_tasks/nq ([#497](#))  [b5a9659](#) yesterday  567 commits

 [.github/workflows](#) Add seqio\_tasks ([#296](#))  4 months ago

 [assets](#) update README + typos  4 months ago

 [promptsource](#) Use nq\_open instead of kilt\_tasks/nq ([#497](#))  yesterday

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**About** 

Toolkit for collecting and applying templates of prompting instances

 [Readme](#)

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<https://github.com/bigscience-workshop/promptsource>

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on large multilingual  
models and datasets

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# MULTITASK PROMPTED TRAINING ENABLES ZERO-SHOT TASK GENERALIZATION

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**Arun Raja**  
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**Leo Gao**  
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**Thomas Wolf**  
Hugging Face

**Alexander M. Rush**  
Hugging Face

## Thanks!