



Language Models and Knowledge

Mengzhou Xia & Jane Pan

October 10th, 2022

Outline

1. What is a knowledge base?
2. Can language models be used as knowledge bases? ([Petroni et al., 2019](#))
3. Can a closed-book QA LM perform as well as other open-book methods? ([Roberts et al., 2020](#))
4. How to update facts? ([Dai et al., 2021](#), [Mitchell et al., 2022](#))

Introduction

Motivation

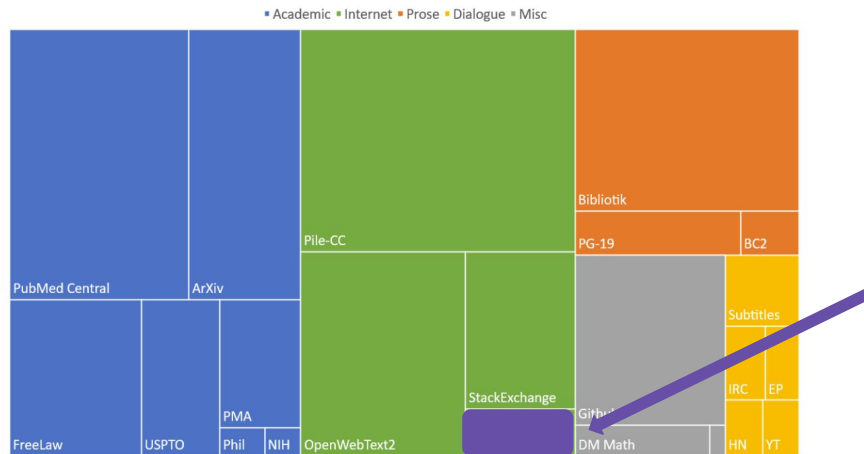
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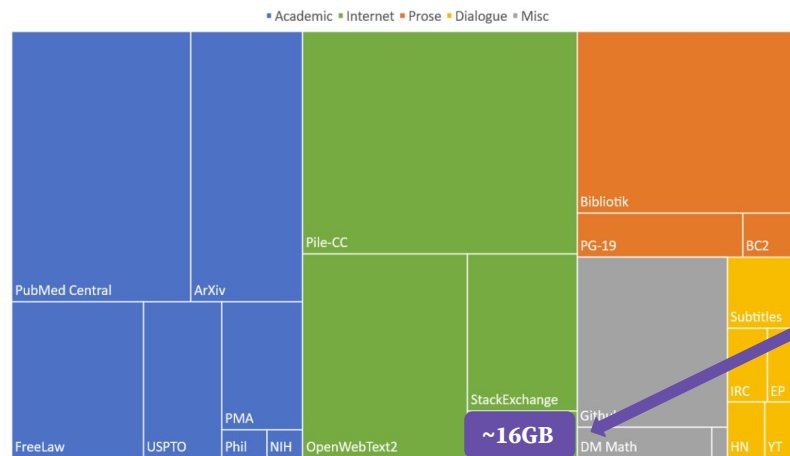
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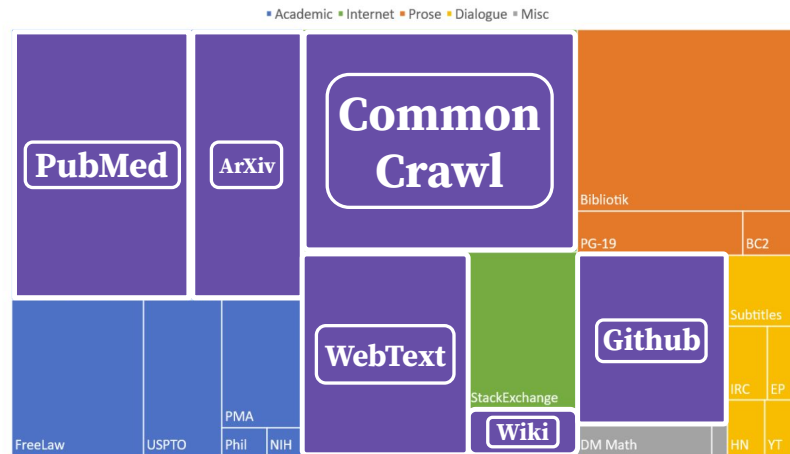
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This little purple box is the entirety of Wikipedia :)

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 - In-context learning

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Can we directly retrieve the knowledge learned in pre-training from a language model?

Key Question

Today, we take LLMs’ ability to “store” knowledge for granted

GPT-3 Zero-shot Knowledge Retrieval

Playground

Load a preset... Save View code Share ...

Where was T.S. Eliot born?

St. Louis, Missouri

Mode

Model

text-davinci-002

Temperature 0.7

Submit

9

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GPT-3 Zero-shot Knowledge Retrieval

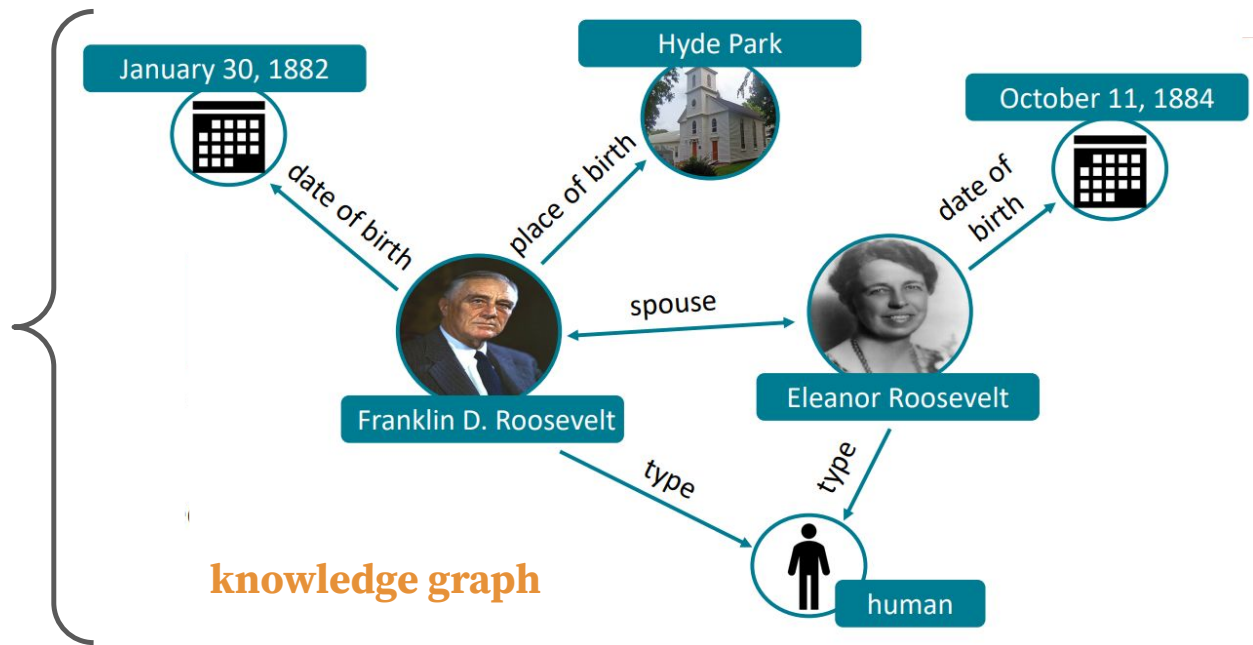


The screenshot shows the GPT-3 Playground interface. At the top, there's a title "GPT-3 Zero-shot Knowledge Retrieval". Below it, the "Playground" section has a "Load a preset..." dropdown, "Save", "View code", "Share", and a menu icon. The main input area contains the prompt "Where was T.S. Eliot born?" and the model's response "St. Louis, Missouri" which is highlighted in green. To the right of the input area, there are controls for "Mode" (with icons for chat, completion, and code), "Model" (set to "text-davinci-002"), and "Temperature" (set to 0.7). At the bottom left of the input area, there's a "Submit" button and several icons for undo, redo, and other actions.

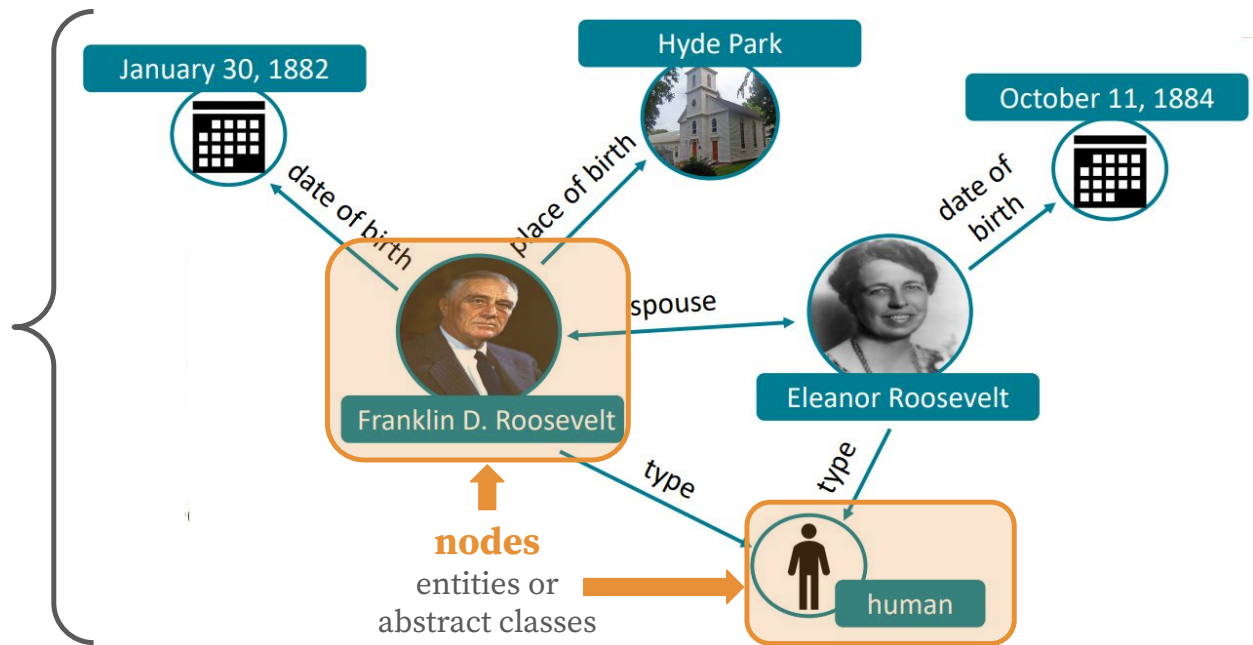
- This was not so obvious to NLP researchers *three years ago!*
- Instead, **traditional knowledge bases** were often used

What is a knowledge base?

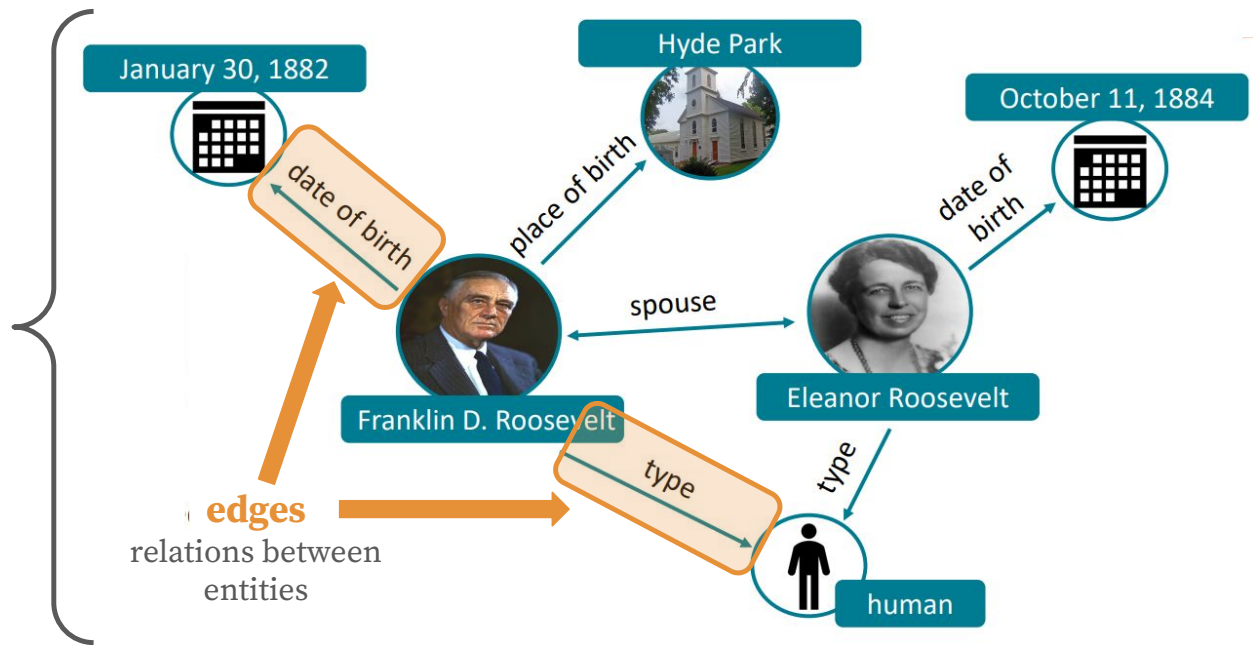
What is a knowledge base?



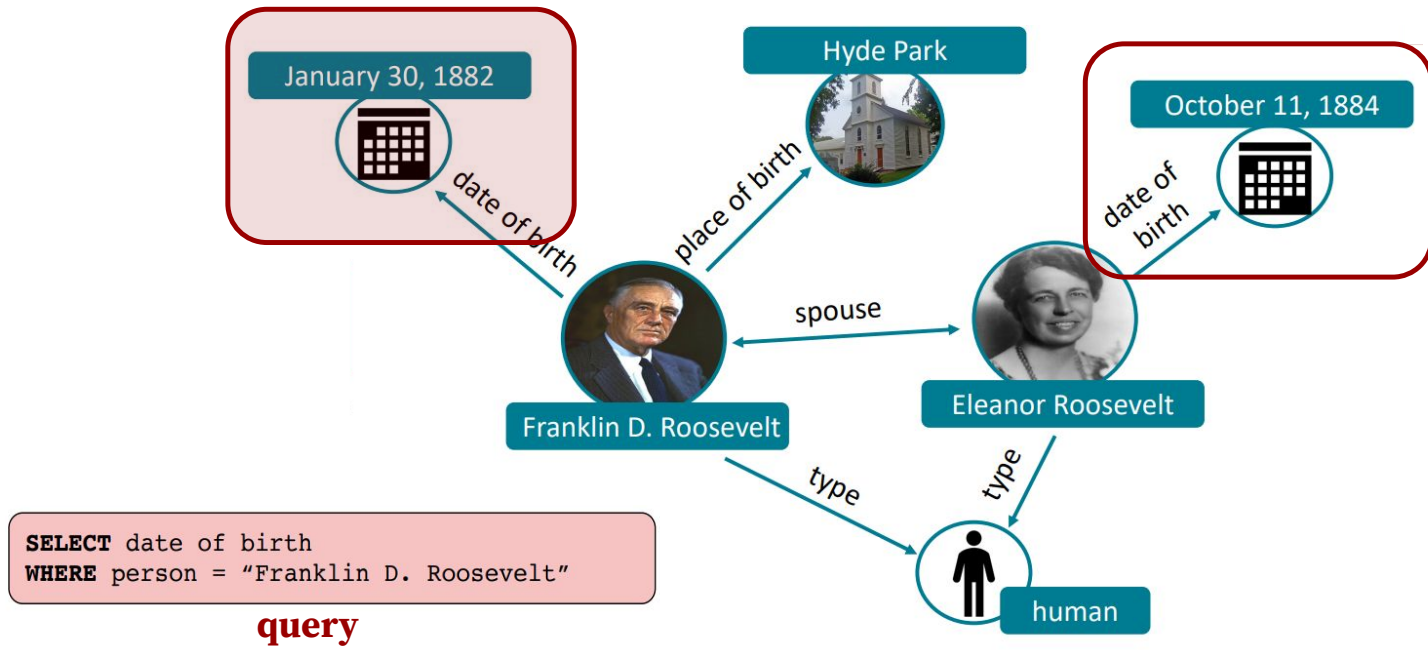
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What is a knowledge base?



What is a knowledge base?



How were knowledge bases formed?

<h1>Valorant</h1> <p>From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia</p>		
<p>Valorant (first person shooter) from Riot Games under the name began on April 7, 2020, in 2014. Valve series mechanics and</p>	<p>Brie (first person shooter) from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (redirected from Brie) This article (reg</p>	
<p>Con (1st person shooter) from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (redirected from Con) This article (reg</p>	<p>T. S. Eliot (first person shooter) from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (redirected from T. S. Eliot)</p>	
<p>Con (1st person shooter) from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (redirected from Con) This article (reg</p>	<p>Thomas Stearns Eliot (born 26 September 1898 – 4 January 1965) was a poet, essayist, playwright, literary critic and editor. ^[a] Considered one of the 20th century's major poets, he is a central figure in English-language Modernist poetry.</p>	<p>T. S. Eliot (born 1908)</p>
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unstructured text

knowledge base

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Com

- Gameplay
- 1.1 Lik
- 1.2 Lik
- 1.3 Lik
- 1.4 Lik
- 1.5 Lik
- 1.6 Lik
- 1.7 Lik
- 2 Agents
- 2.1 Lik
- 2.2 Lik
- 2.3 Lik
- 2.4 Lik
- 3 Store
- 4 Developer

Brie
From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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For other people named Thomas Eliot, see Thomas Eliot (disambiguation).

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T. S. Eliot
OM

Eliot in 1924 by Lady Osmond Monnet

Born

Thomas Stearns Eliot
26 September 1888
St. Louis, Missouri, US

Died

4 January 1965 (aged 76)
London, England

Occupation

Poet - essayist - playwright - publisher - critic

Citizenship

American (1888–1927)
British (1927–1965)

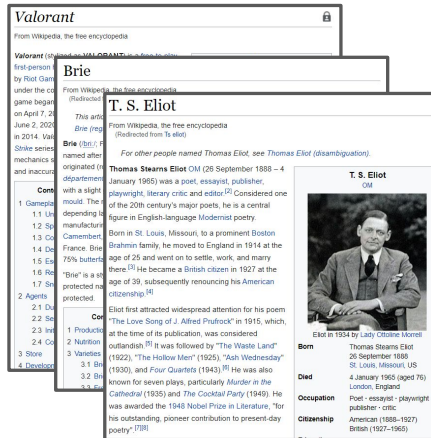


**Knowledge Extraction
Pipeline**

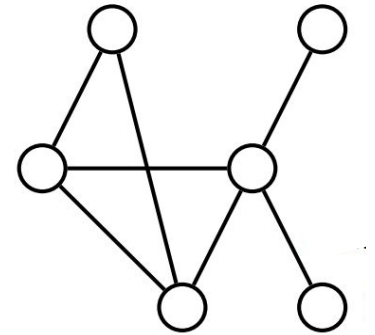
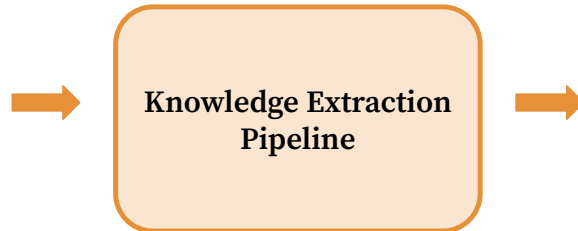
unstructured text

knowledge base

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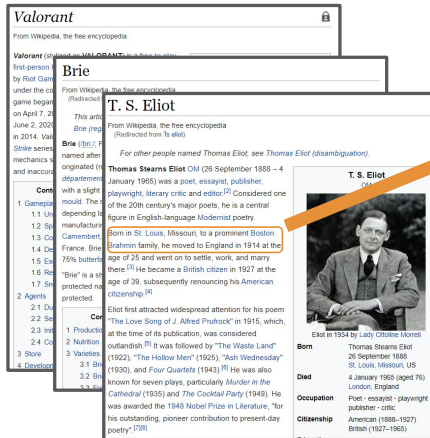
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knowledge base

Downsides of using knowledge bases

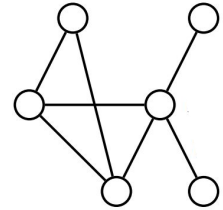
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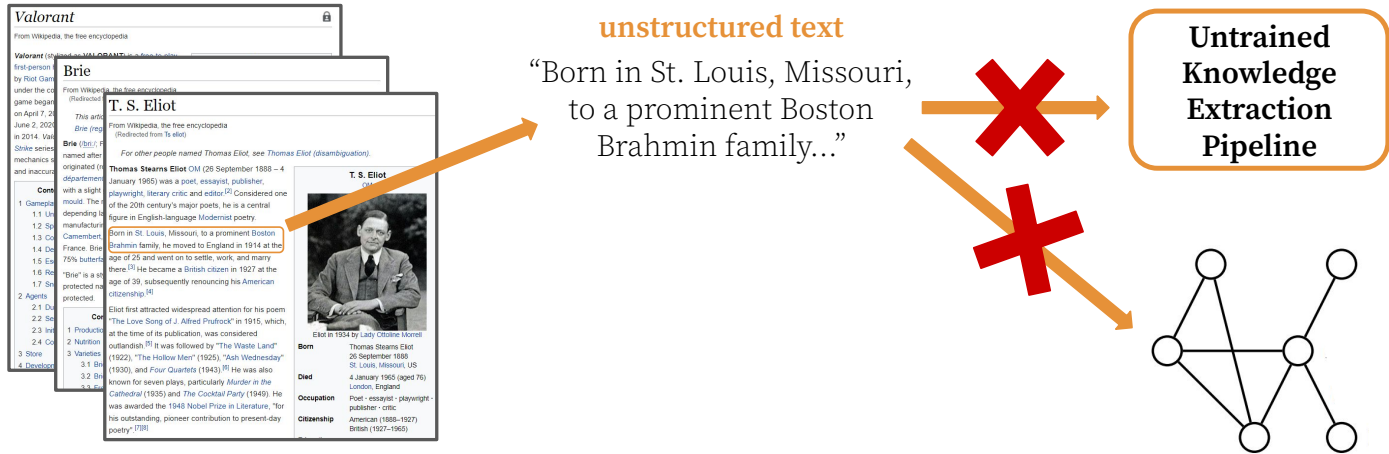
“Born in St. Louis, Missouri, to a prominent Boston Brahmin family...”

Untrained
Knowledge
Extraction
Pipeline



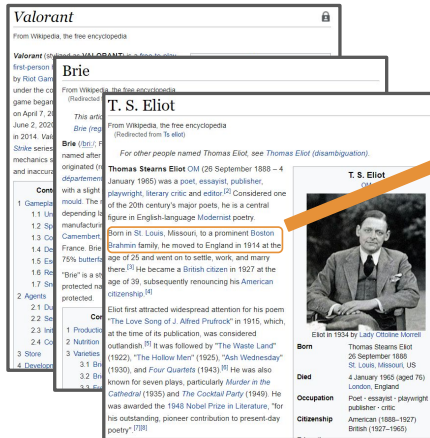
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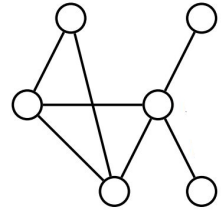


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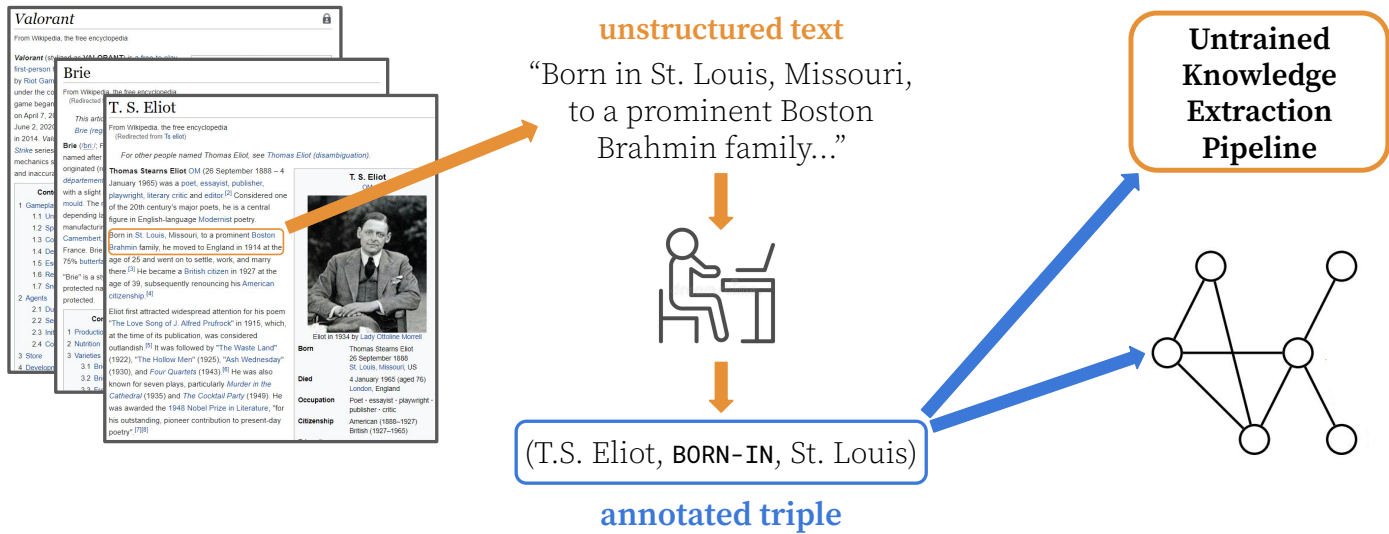


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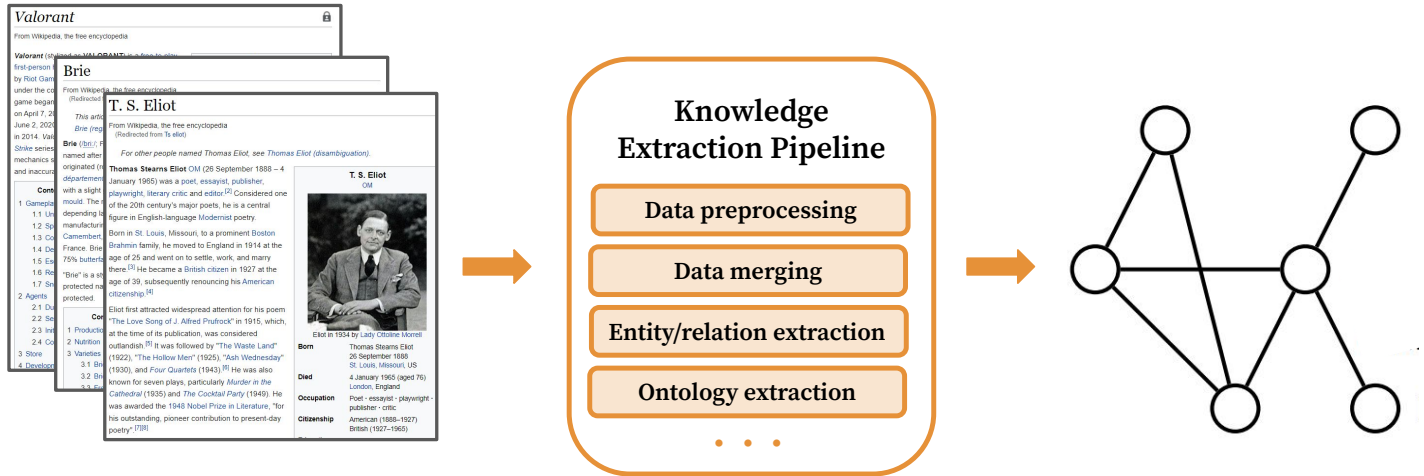
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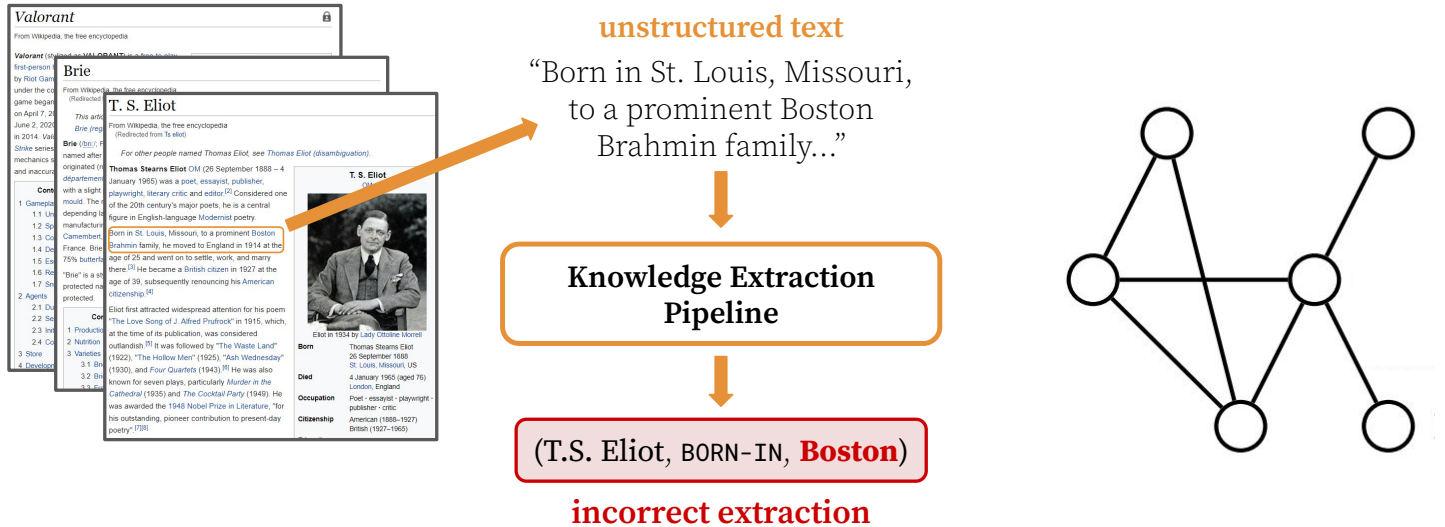
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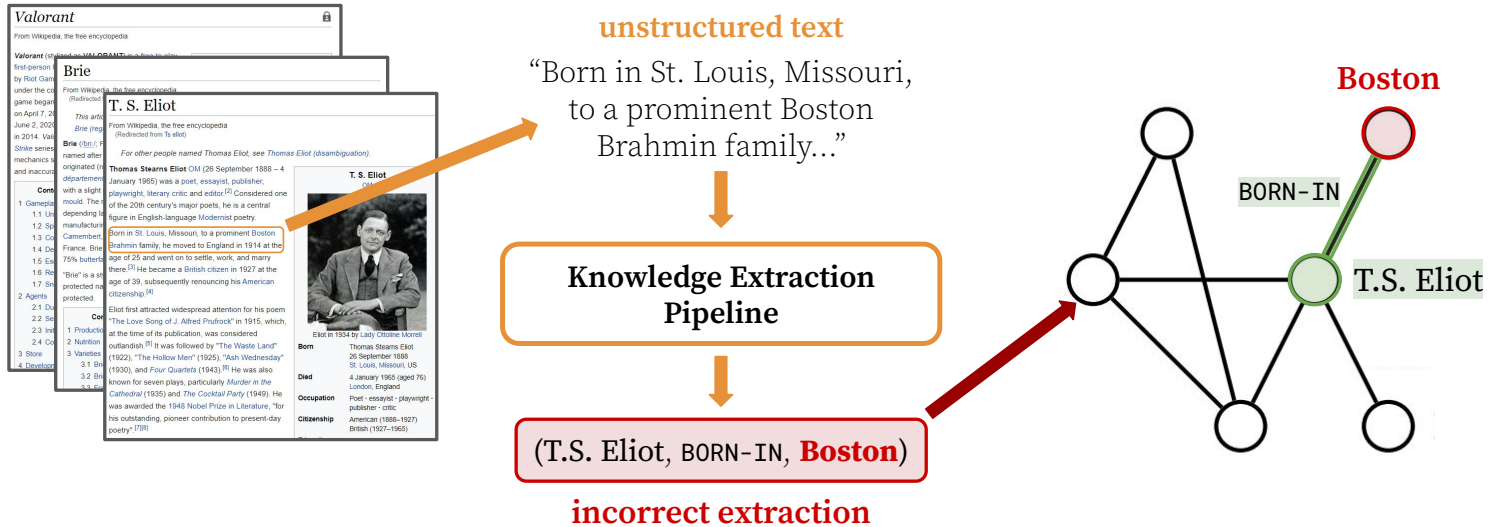
Populating the knowledge base often involves **complicated, multi-step NLP pipelines**

Downsides of using knowledge bases



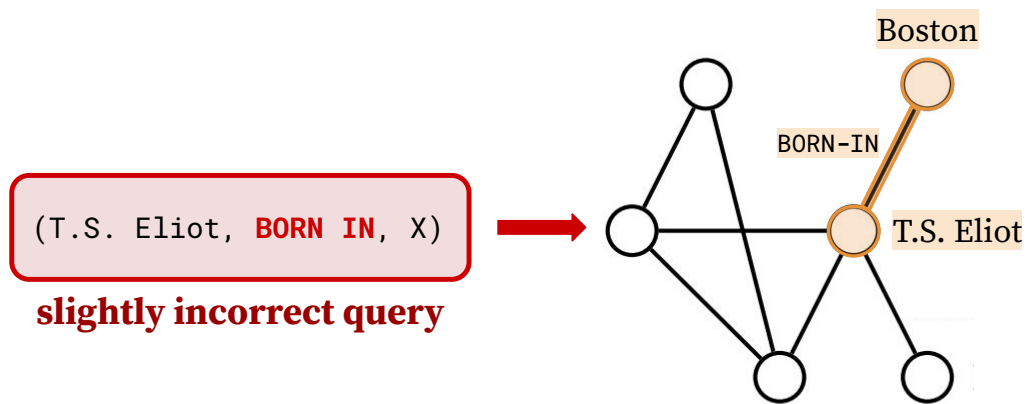
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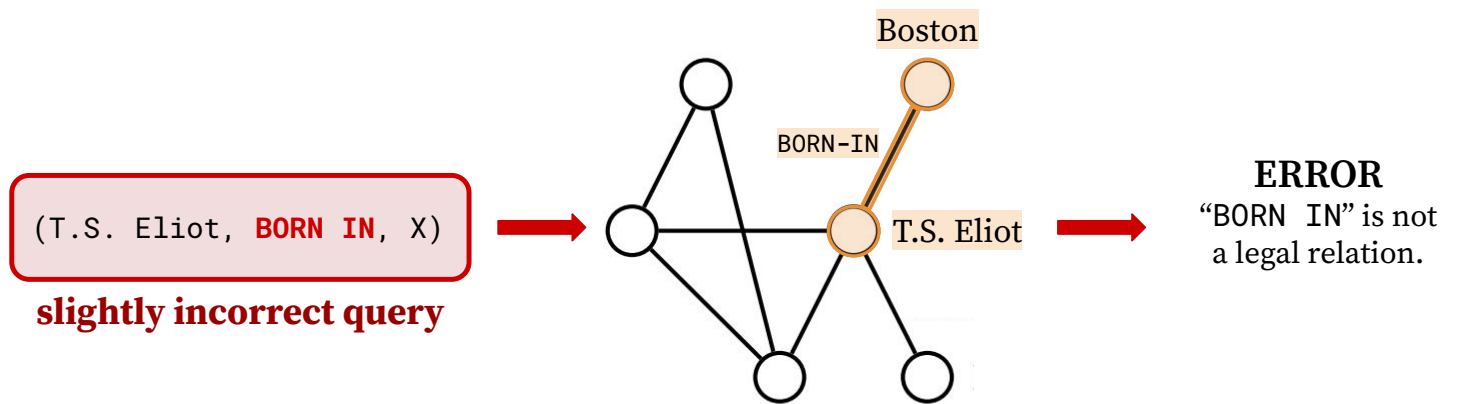
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Downsides of using knowledge bases



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Traditional knowledge bases are **inflexible**
and require **significant manual effort**.

Are there better alternatives?

Language Models as Knowledge Bases?

(Petroni et al., 2019)

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- Pretrained on a huge corpus of data
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Answer:



LAMA Probe



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LAngeage MModel AAnalysis



LAMA Probe



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Language Model Analysis



LAMA Probe



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LAngeage MModel AAnalysis



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Given a cloze statement that queries the model for a missing token,
knowledgeable LMs rank ground truth tokens high and other tokens lower

Evaluation of LM via LAMA

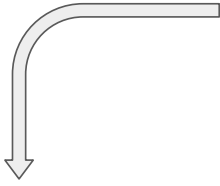
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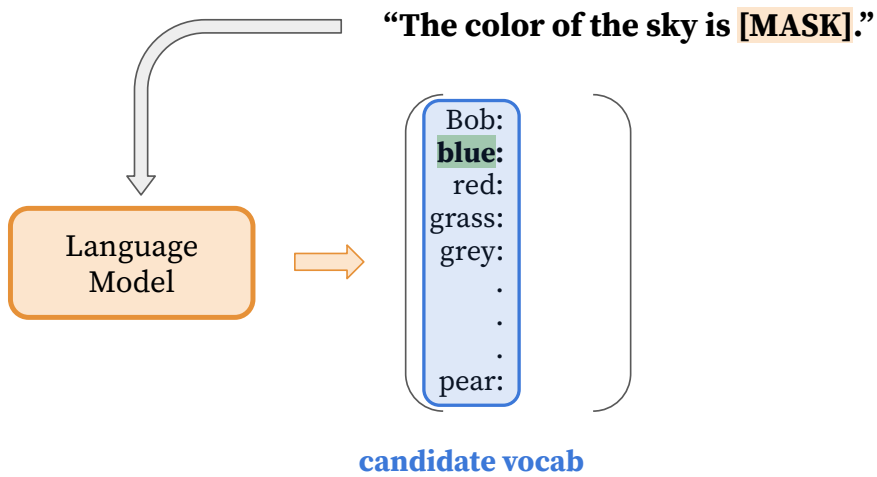


Language
Model

*according to the LM

Evaluation of LM via LAMA

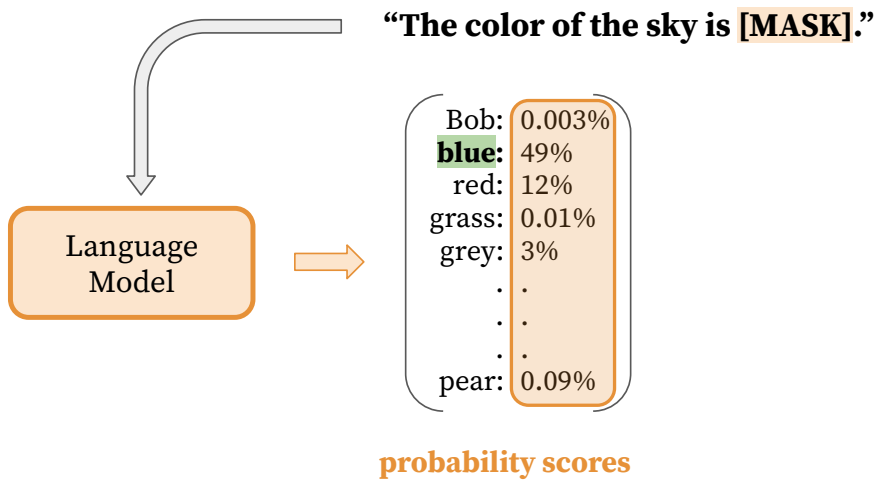
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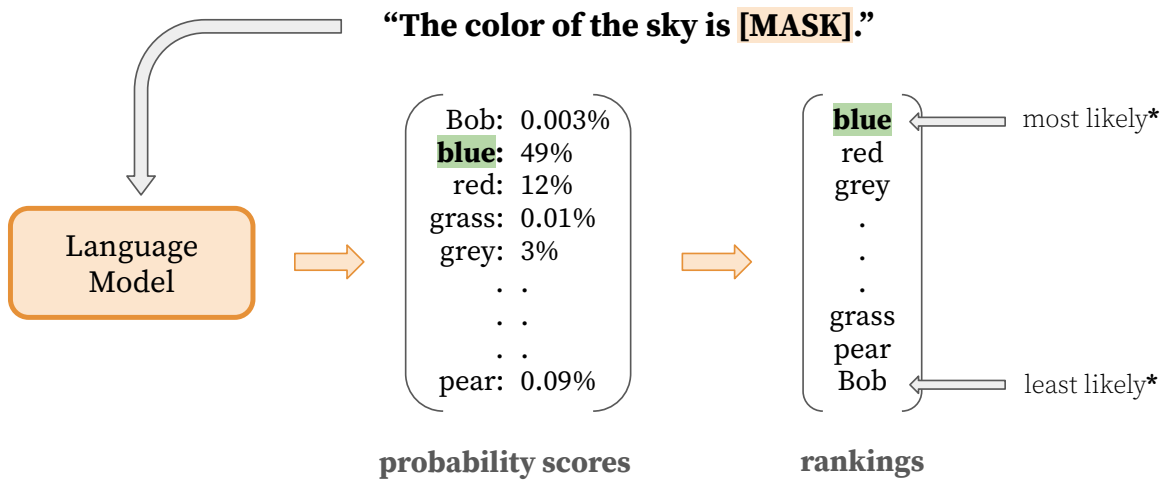
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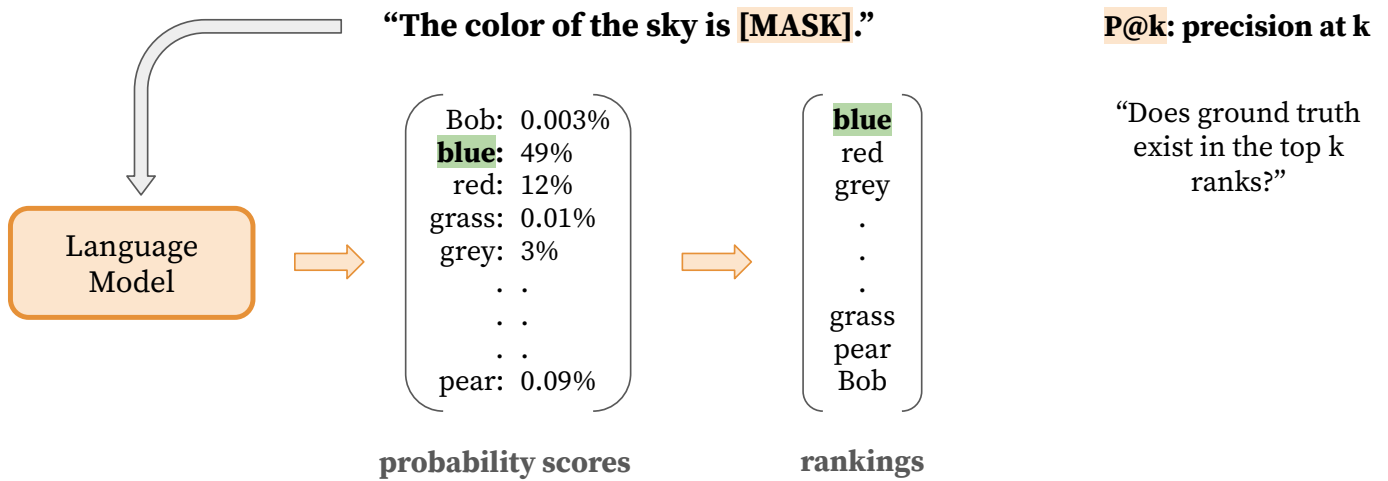
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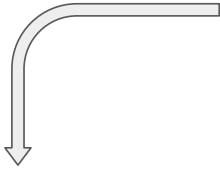
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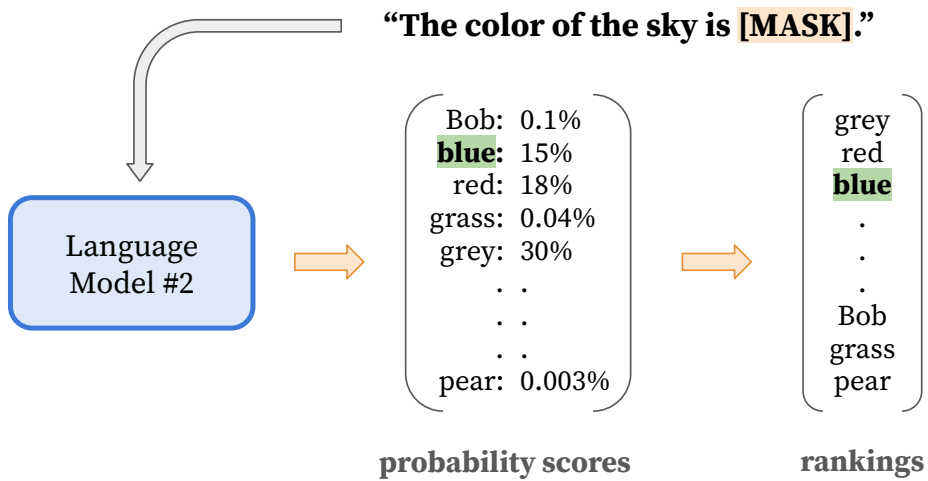
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Language
Model #2

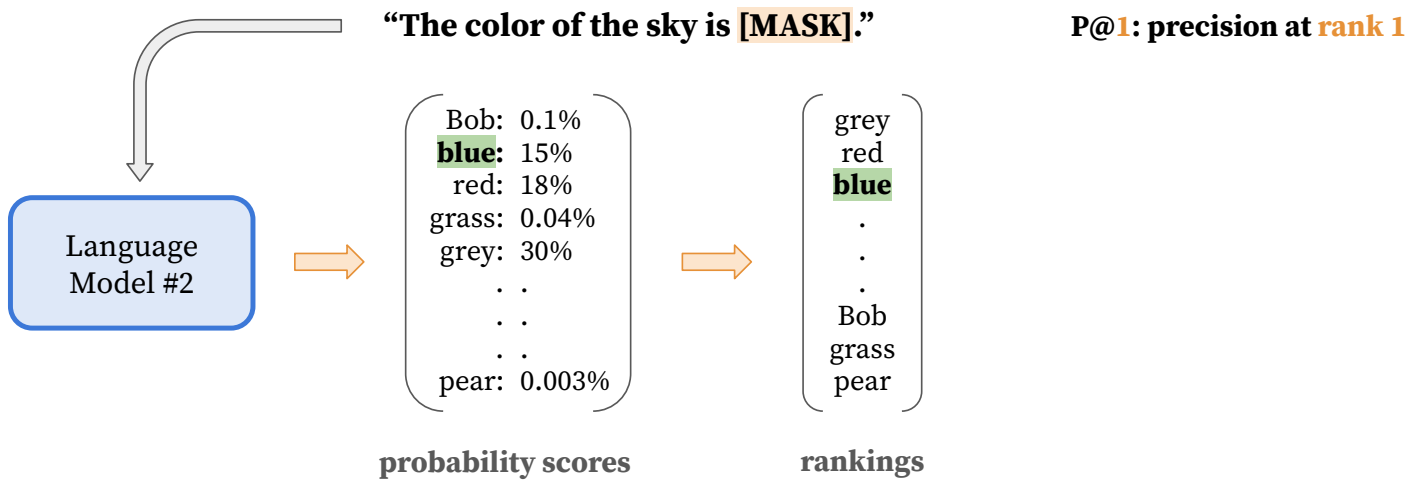
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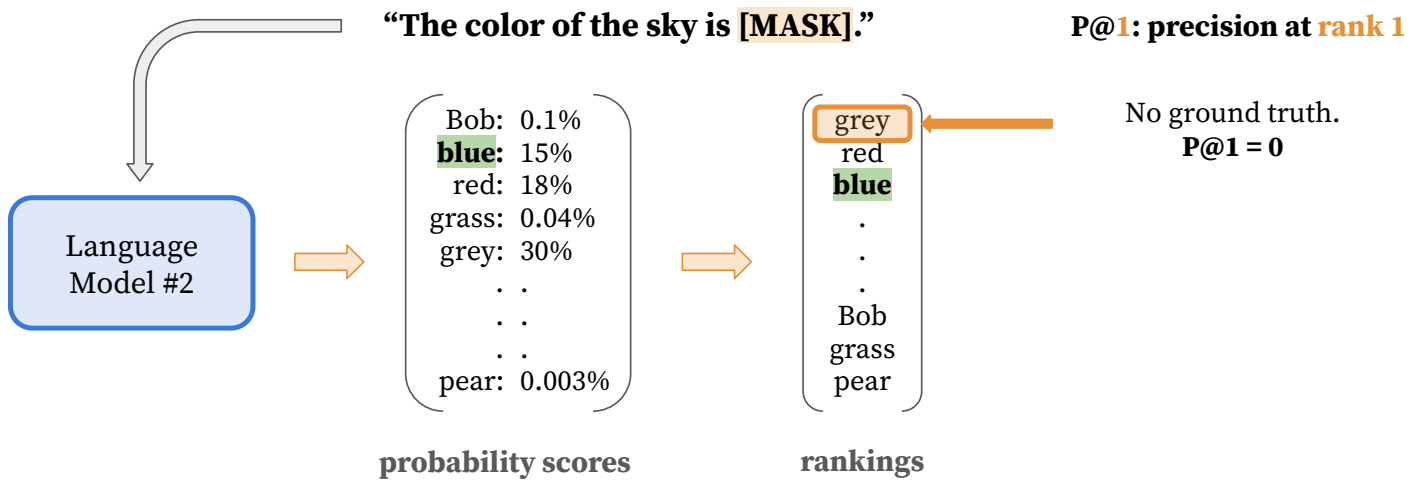
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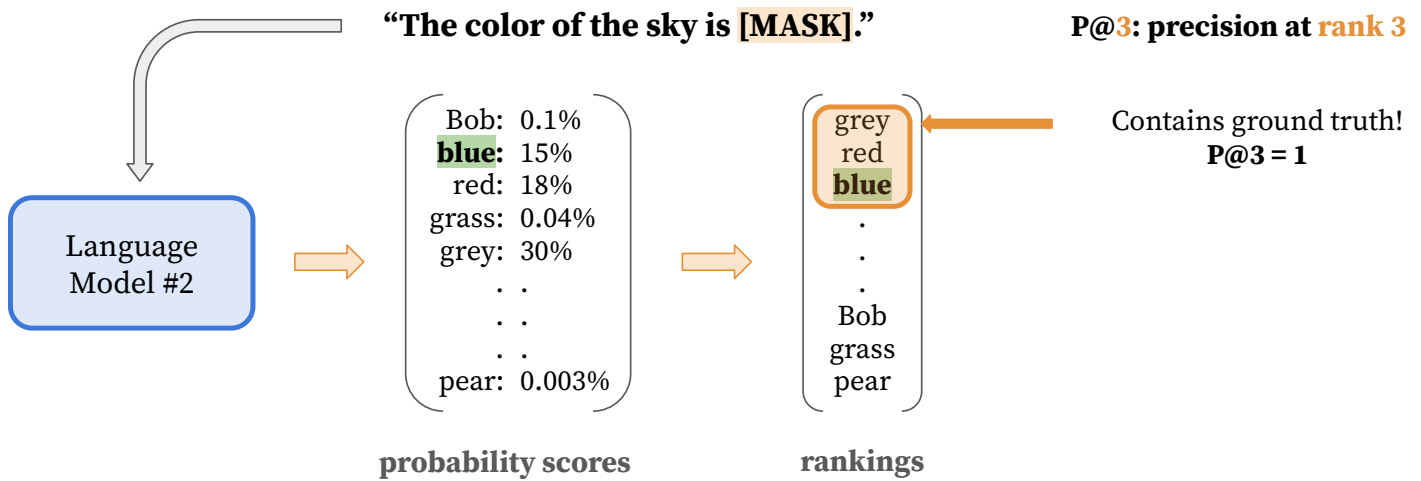
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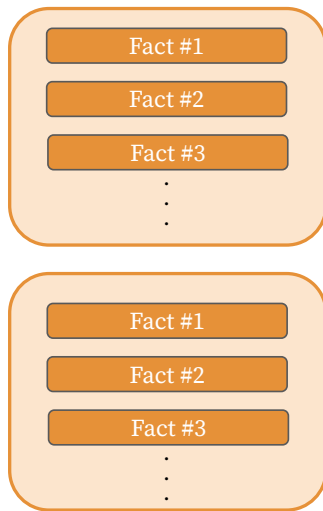
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Architecture of the LAMA probe

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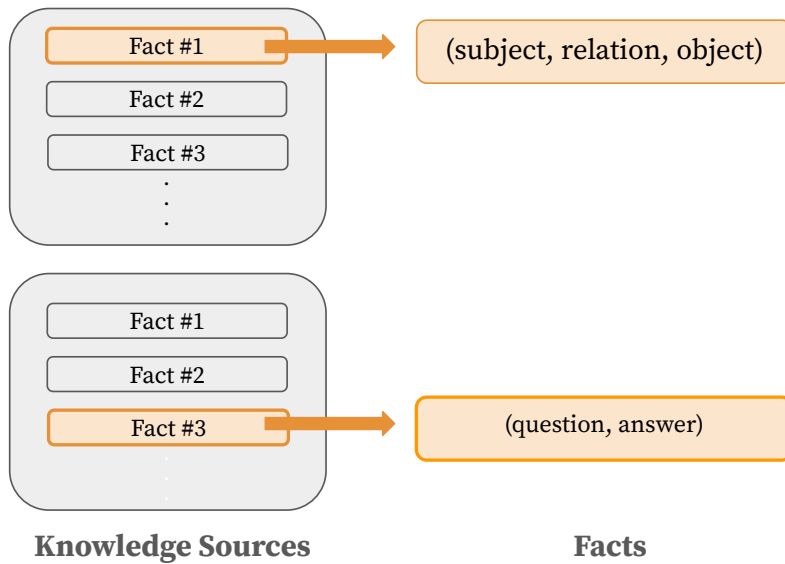
Step 1: Compile knowledge sources



Knowledge Sources

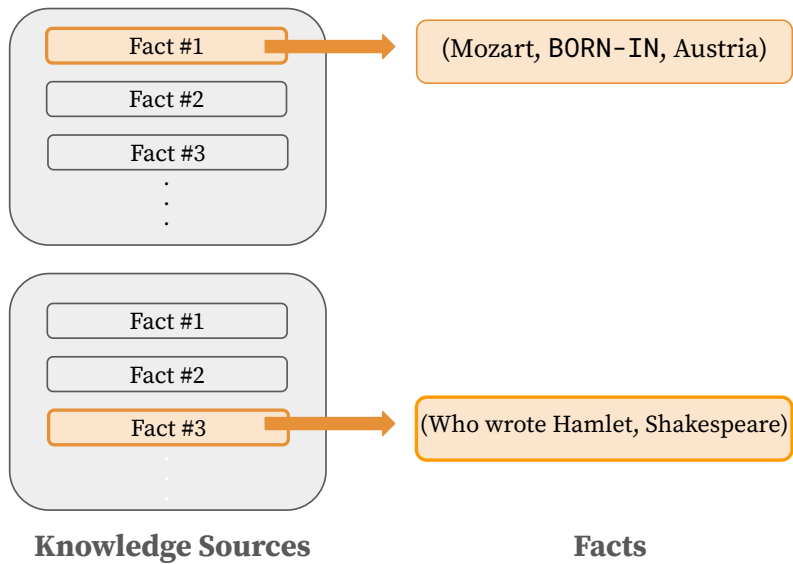
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Step 2: Formulate facts into triplets or question-answer pairs



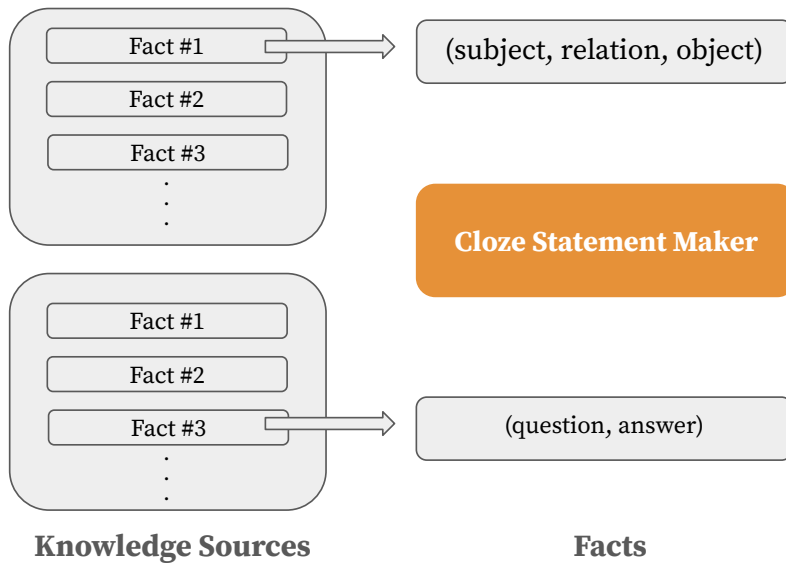
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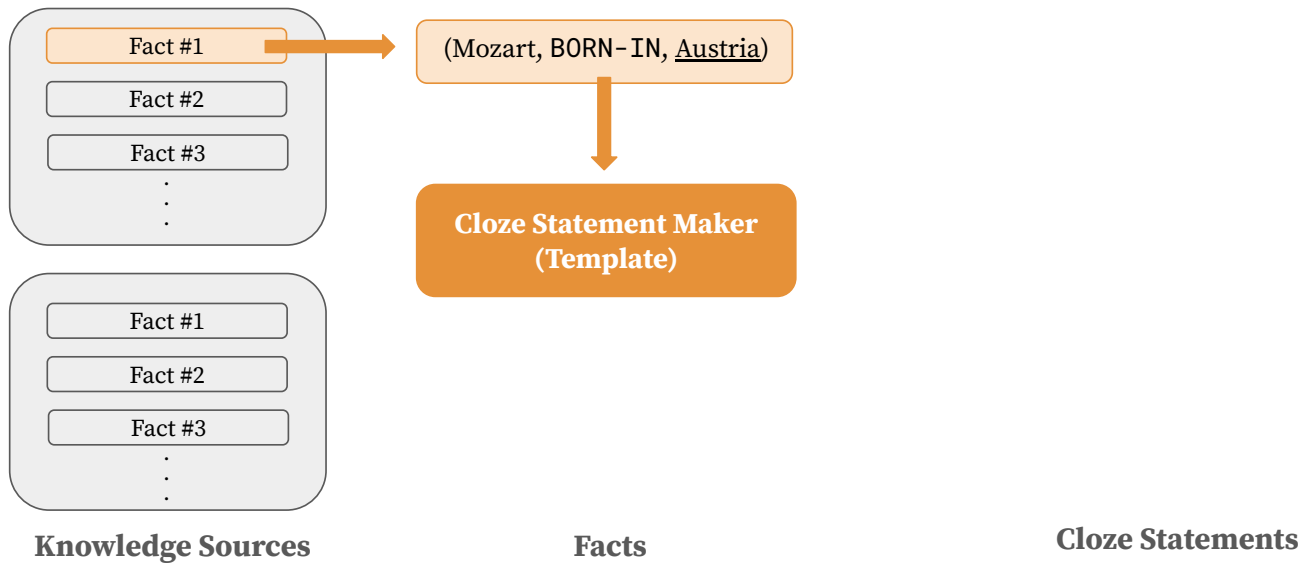
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Step 3: Create cloze statements, either manually or via templates



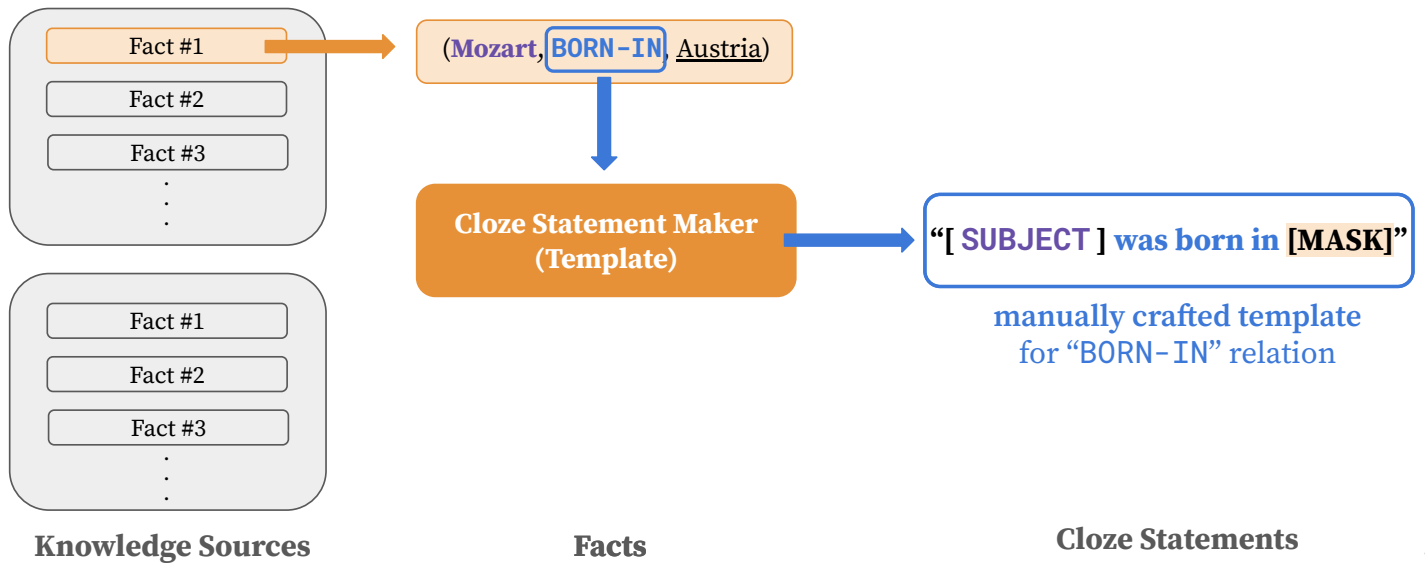
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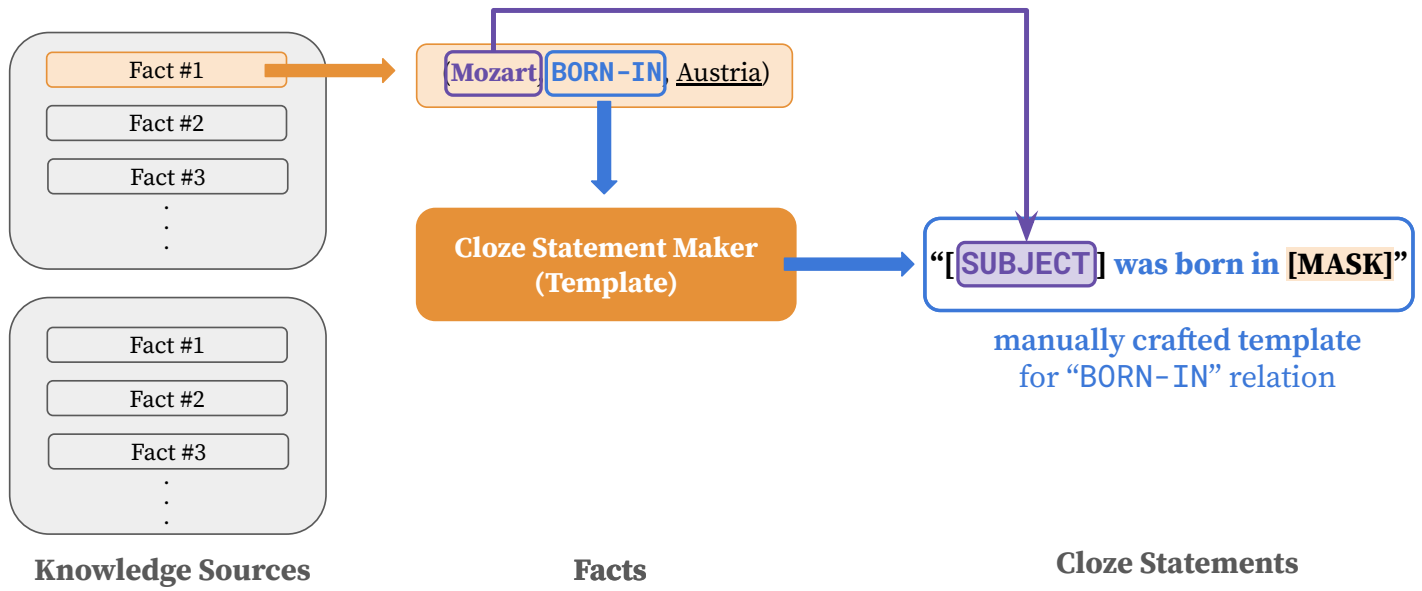
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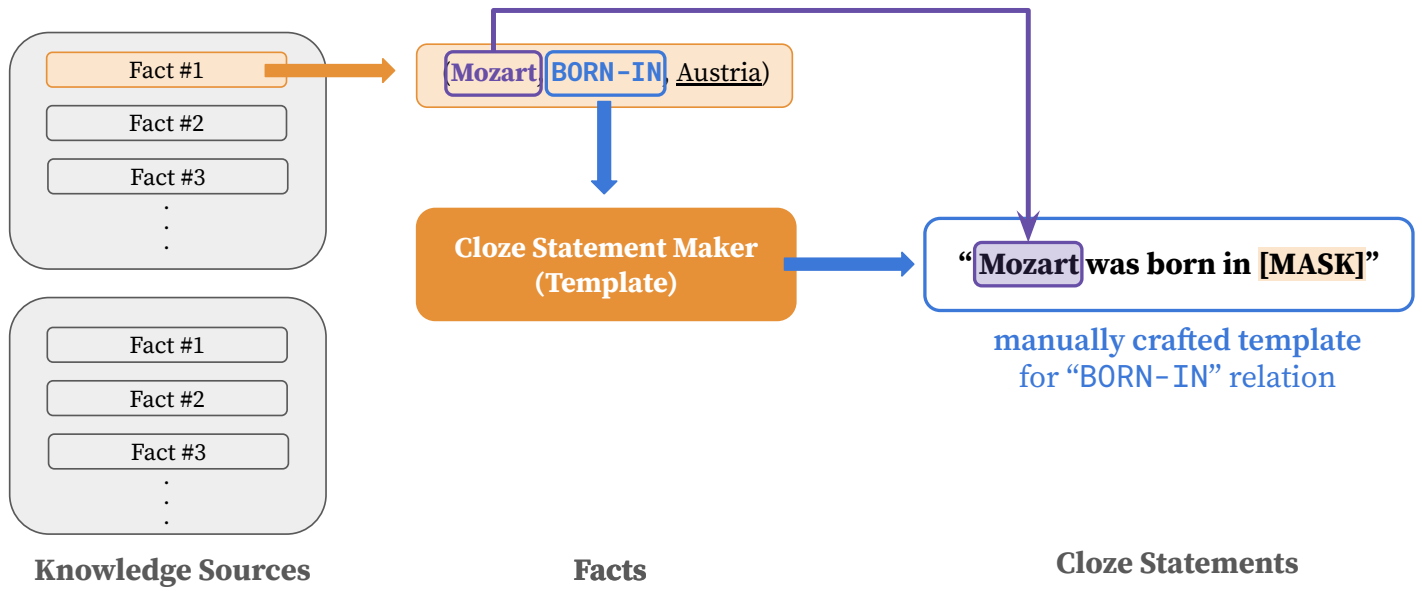
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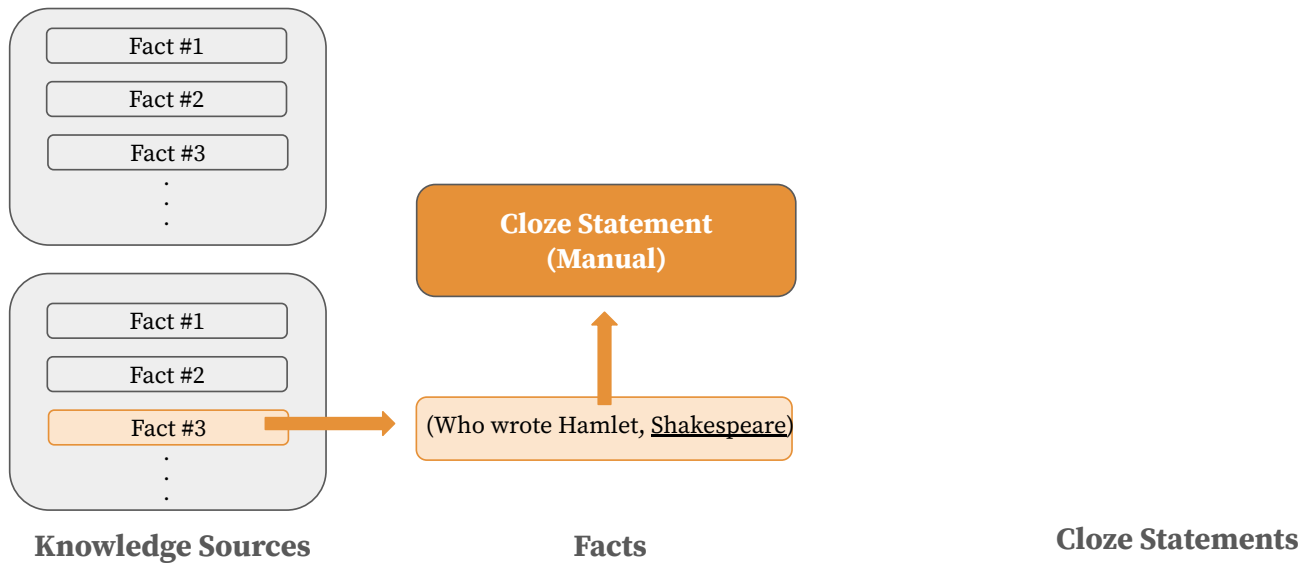
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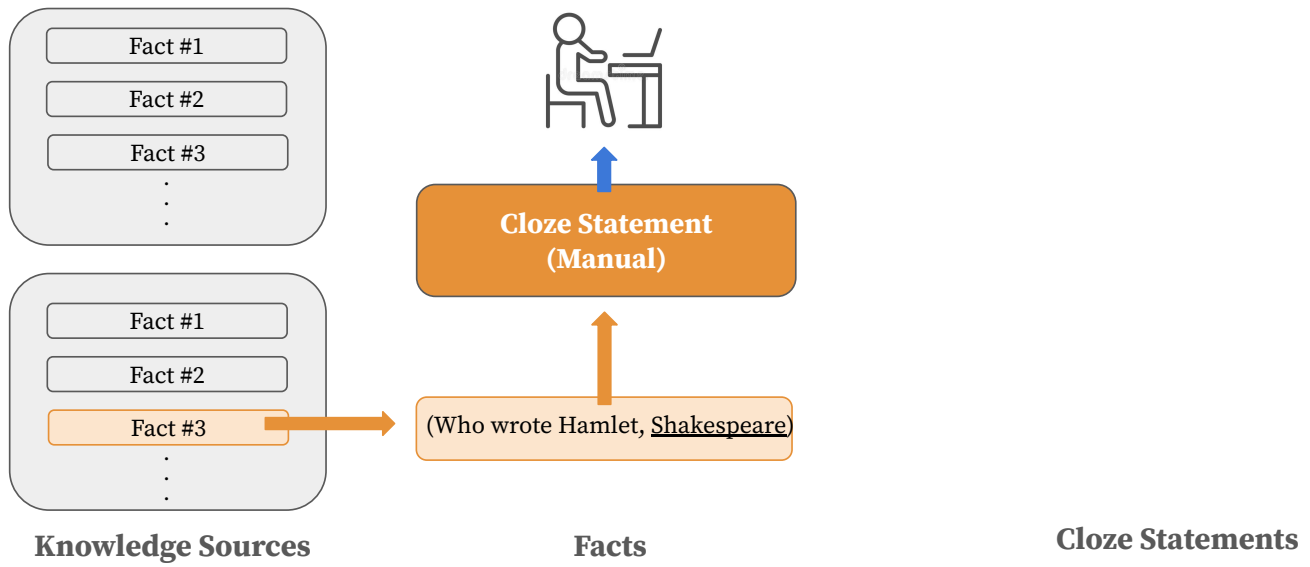
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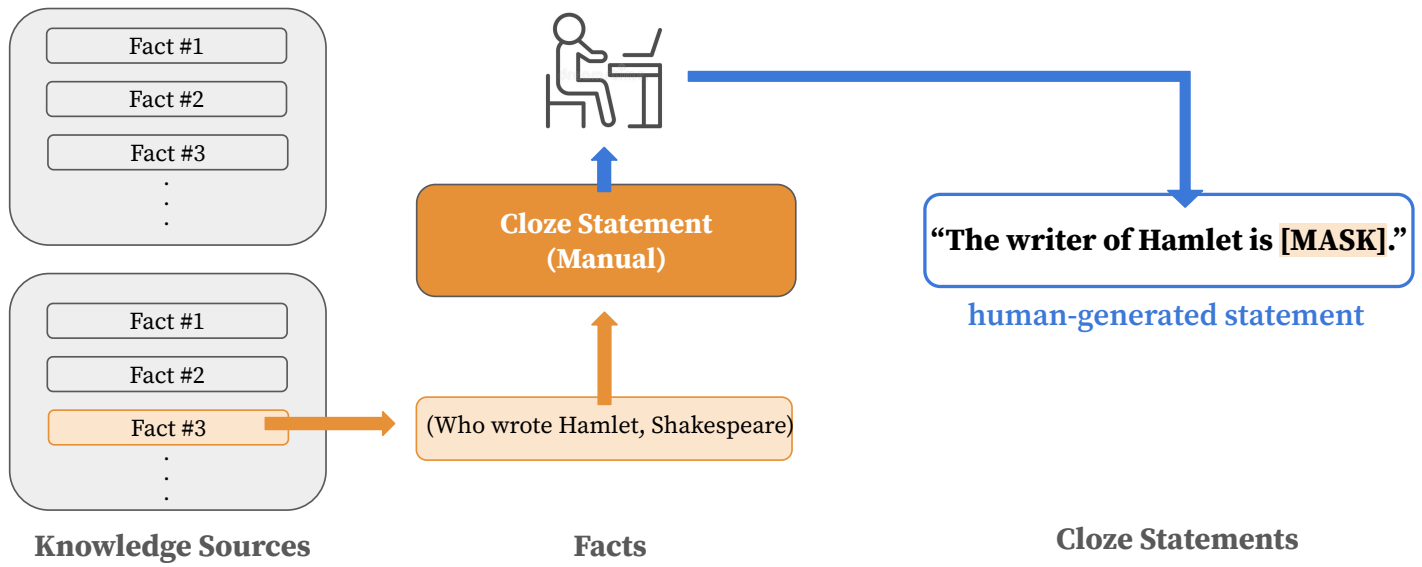
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Architecture of the LAMA probe

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LAMA's Knowledge Sources: [Google-RE](#)

- Manually extracted facts from Wikipedia
- **Only consider 3 kinds of relations:** place of birth, date of birth, place of death

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Question

“ T.S. Eliot was born in [MASK] ”

Answer

St. Louis



LAMA's Knowledge Sources: T-REx

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LAMA's Knowledge Sources: T-REx

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- For multiple right answers: throw away all but one

Original Fact

(Francesco Conti, born-in, **Florence**, Italy)

Question

“ Francesco Conti was born in [MASK] ”

Answer

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LAMA's Knowledge Sources: ConceptNet

- For each ConceptNet triple, find the relevant **Open Mind Common Sense (OMCS)** sentences and mask the object

ConceptNet Triple

(ravens, CapableOf, fly)

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OMCS Sentence

“ Ravens can fly. ”

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ConceptNet Triple

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LAMA's Knowledge Sources: [SQuAD](#)

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- Originally created via Wikipedia

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SQuAD
Question-Answer Pair

("Who developed the theory of relativity?",
Einstein)

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SQuAD
Question-Answer Pair

(“Who developed the theory of relativity?”,
Einstein)

Question “ The theory of relativity was developed by [MASK] ”

Answer

Einstein



Dataset Statistics

	# Facts	# of Relations	# Tokens in Answer
Google-RE	5.5k	3	1
T-REx	34k	41	1
ConceptNet	11.4k	16	1
SQuAD	300	-	1

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Note: all ground truth answers are **single-token**!

Baselines

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- **Freq:** ranks candidates by frequency of appearance as objects for a subject-relation pair
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 - **RE_o**: uses oracle for entity linking
 - As long as RE_o gets the right relation type, it gets the answer for free

Baselines

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 - Analogous to majority classifier
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 - **RE** (Sorokin and Gurevych, 2017): extracts relation triples from sentence
 - RE_n : uses exact string matching for entity linking
 - RE_o : uses oracle for entity linking
 - **DRQA** (Chen et al., 2017): uses TF/IDF to retrieve relevant arguments from a set of documents, then extracts answers from the best k articles

Pre-trained language models

Model		Base Model	Training Corpus	Size
fairseq-fconv (Fs)		ConvNet	WikiText-103 corpus	324M
Transformer-XL large (Txl)		Transformer	WikiText-103 corpus	257M
ELMo	ELMo (Eb)	BiLSTM	Google Billion Word	93.6M
	ELMo 5.5B (E5B)		Wikipedia + WMT 2008-2012	93.6M
BERT	BERT-base (Bb)	Transformer	Wikipedia (en) & BookCorpus	110M
	BERT-large (Bl)			340M

Results: both BERT models outperform other models on Google-RE

Corpus	Relation	Baselines		KB		Fs	Tx1	LM		Bb	Bl
		Freq	DrQA	RE _n	RE _o			Eb	E5B		
Google-RE	birth-place	4.6	-	3.5	13.8	4.4	2.7	5.5	7.5	14.9	16.1
	birth-date	1.9	-	0.0	1.9	0.3	1.1	0.1	0.1	1.5	1.4
	death-place	6.8	-	0.1	7.2	3.0	0.9	0.3	1.3	13.1	14.0
	Total	4.4	-	1.2	7.6	2.6	1.6	2.0	3.0	9.8	10.5
T-REx	1-1	1.78	-	0.6	10.0	17.0	36.5	10.1	13.1	68.0	74.5
	<i>N</i> -1	23.85	-	5.4	33.8	6.1	18.0	3.6	6.5	32.4	34.2
	<i>N</i> - <i>M</i>	21.95	-	7.7	36.7	12.0	16.5	5.7	7.4	24.7	24.3
	Total	22.03	-	6.1	33.8	8.9	18.3	4.7	7.1	31.1	32.3
ConceptNet	Total	4.8	-	-	-	3.6	5.7	6.1	6.2	15.6	19.2
SQuAD	Total	-	37.5	-	-	3.6	3.9	1.6	4.3	14.1	17.4

P@1: precision at **rank 1**

Results: BERT models does better on T-REx when there's only one correct answer...

Corpus	Relation	Baselines		KB		LM					
		Freq	DrQA	RE _n	RE _o	Fs	Txl	Eb	E5B	Bb	Bl
Google-RE	birth-place	4.6	-	3.5	13.8	4.4	2.7	5.5	7.5	14.9	16.1
	birth-date	1.9	-	0.0	1.9	0.3	1.1	0.1	0.1	1.5	1.4
	death-place	6.8	-	0.1	7.2	3.0	0.9	0.3	1.3	13.1	14.0
	Total	4.4	-	1.2	7.6	2.6	1.6	2.0	3.0	9.8	10.5
T-REx	1-1	1.78	-	0.6	10.0	17.0	36.5	10.1	13.1	68.0	74.5
	N-1	23.85	-	5.4	33.8	6.1	18.0	3.6	6.5	32.4	34.2
	N-M	21.95	-	7.7	36.7	12.0	16.5	5.7	7.4	24.7	24.3
	Total	22.03	-	6.1	33.8	8.9	18.3	4.7	7.1	31.1	32.3
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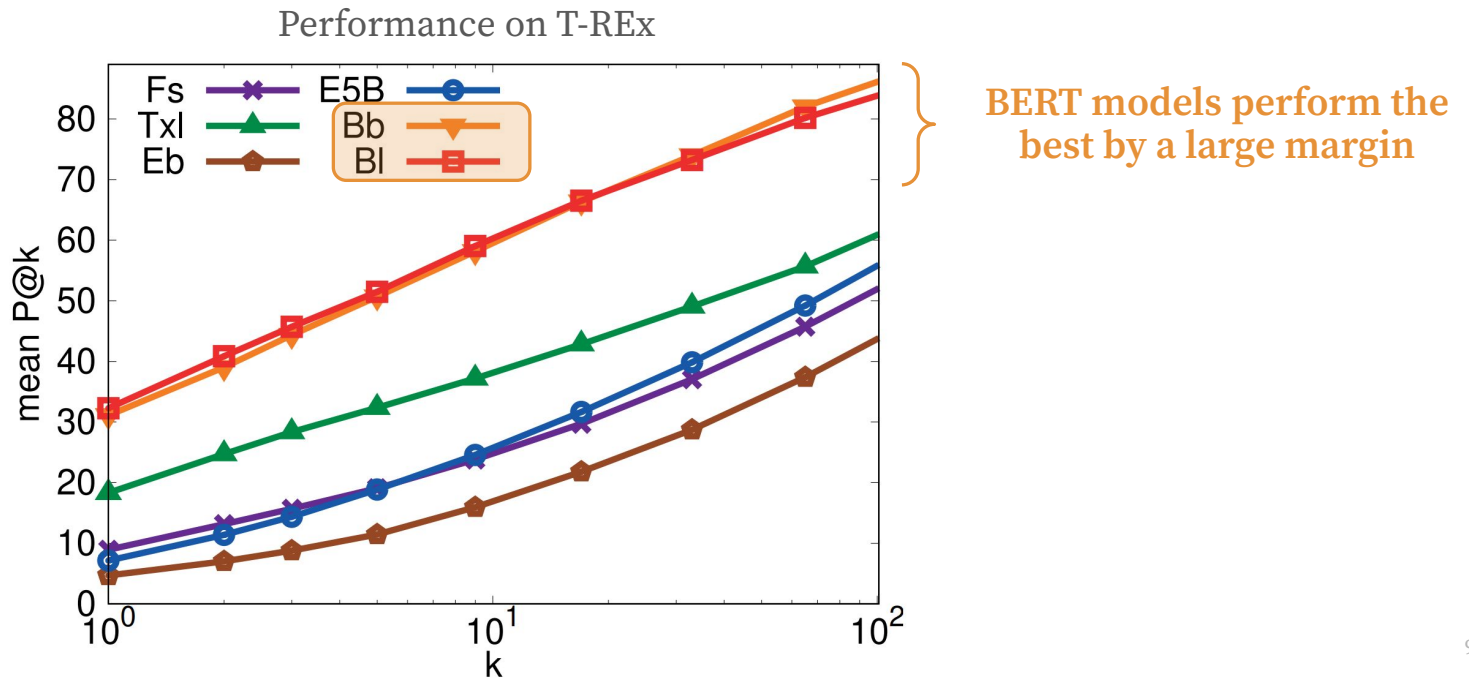
P@1: precision at rank 1

Results: ...but when there are multiple answers, RE_o is best

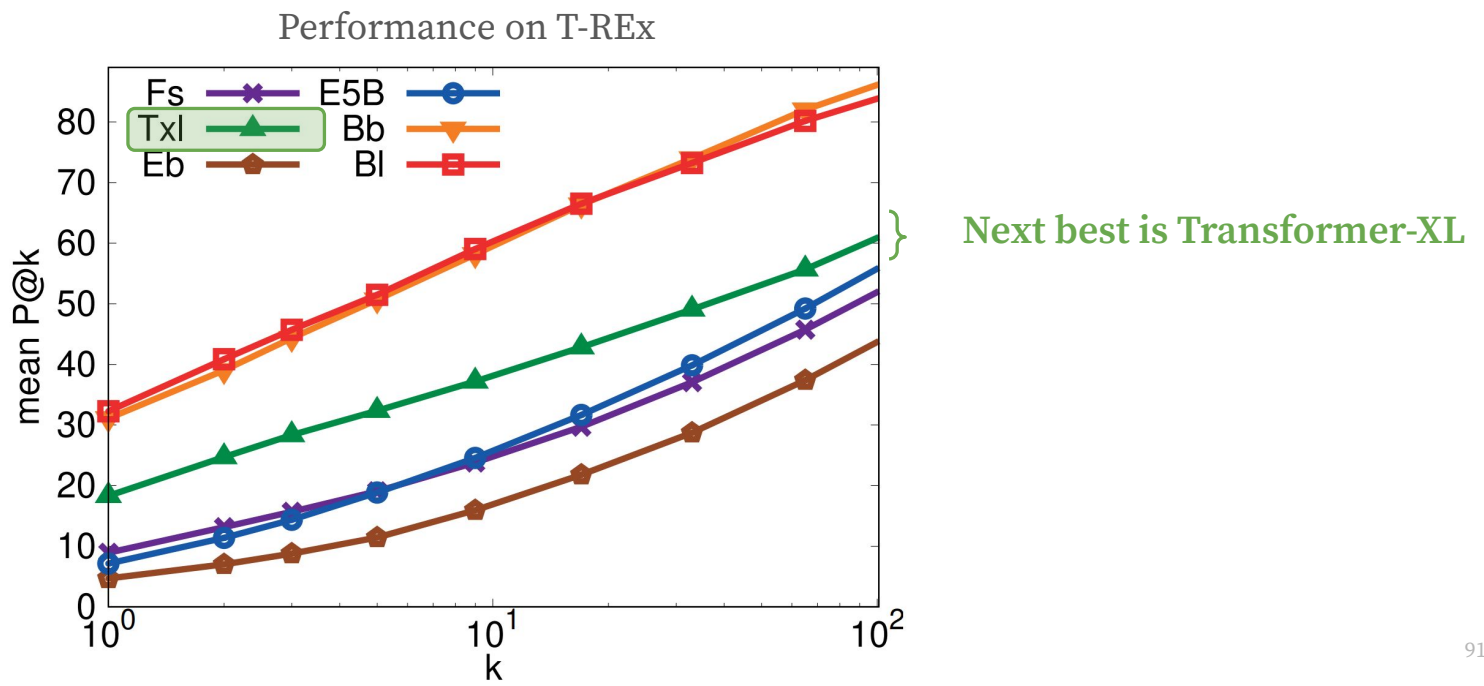
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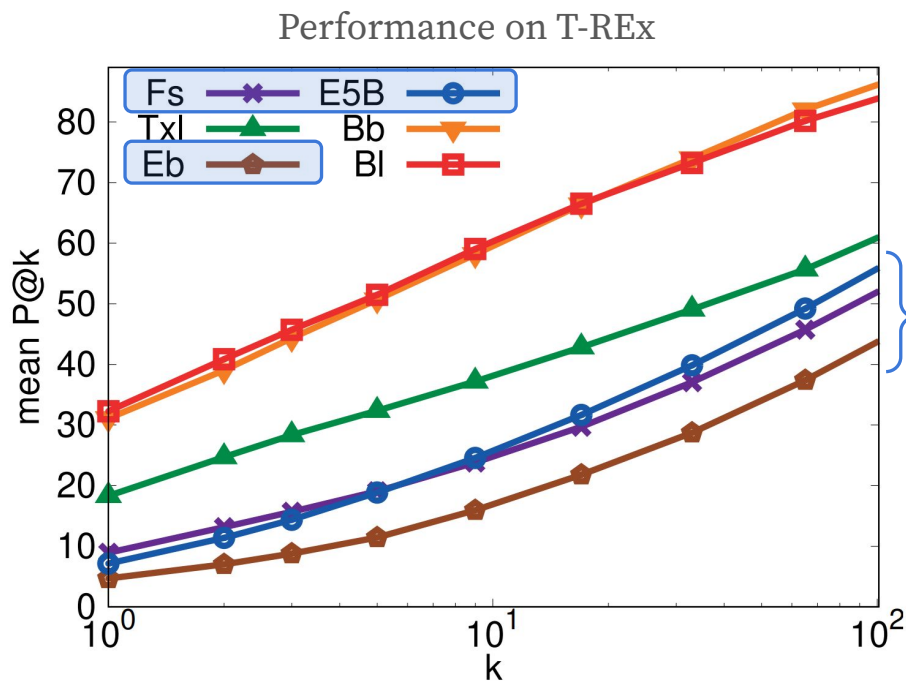
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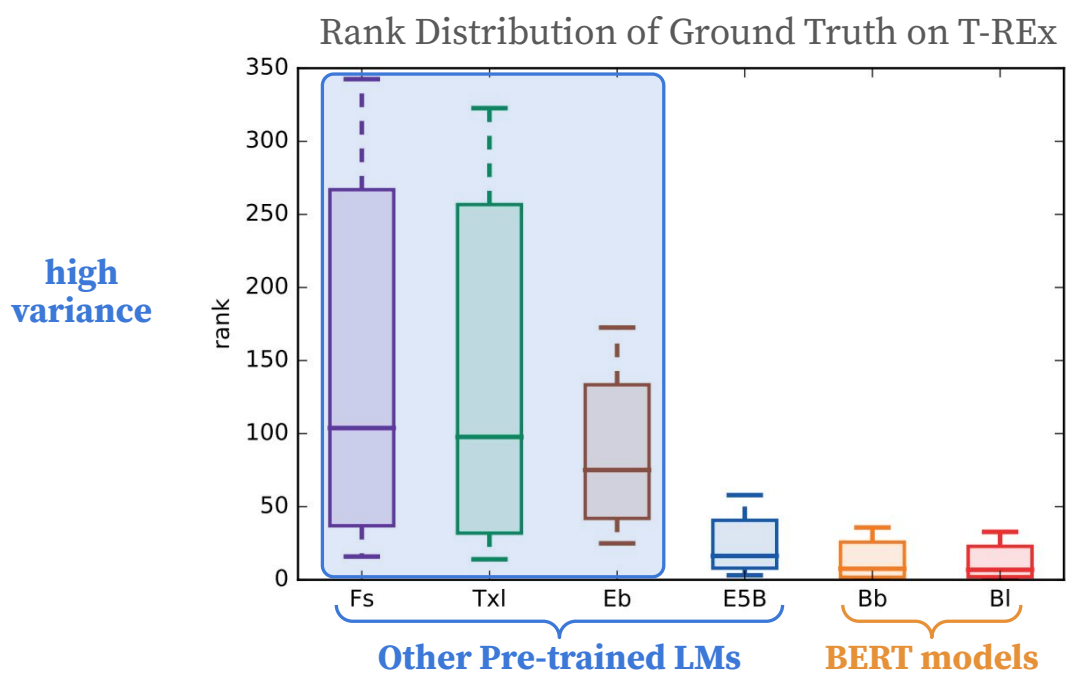


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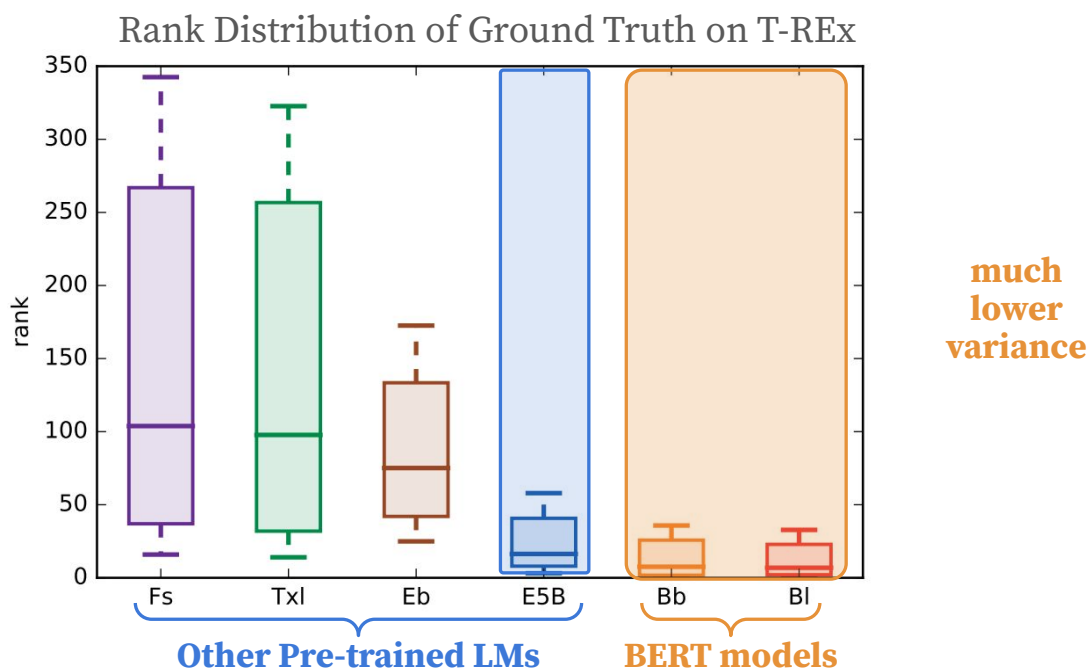


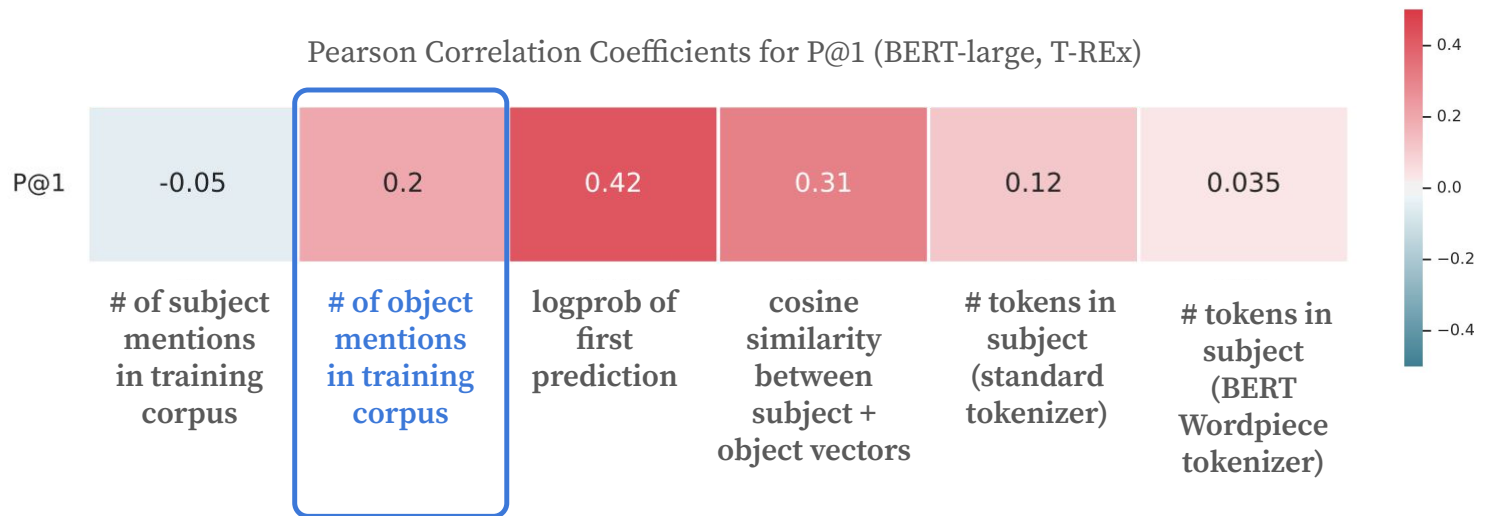
The worst performers are
ELMo and fairseq-conv

Results: BERT models are less sensitive to query variations than other LMs



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Results: What factors correlate with better performance for BERT on T-REx?

Conclusion

- **BERT-large recalls knowledge better than its competitors**, and competitively with non-neural/supervised alternatives
- **BERT-large is competitive with a RE knowledge base** that was trained on the “best possible” data *and* used the entity-linking oracle
- Dealing with variance in performance in response to different natural language templates is a challenge

Question 1

Describe what the LAMA Probe is in (Petroni et al., 2019) - How do they probe different knowledge sources (Wikidata triples, ConceptNet, QA pairs)?

- A collection of knowledge sources either for relation extraction or QA
- Convert facts to cloze statements (either manually or using templates)
- Ask LM to rank candidate vocabulary and see if ground truth is in top k rank

Can you think of any drawbacks of the probes?

- Answers must be single-token
- Relies on manual templates
- Questions are constrained to very specific and simple types of questions

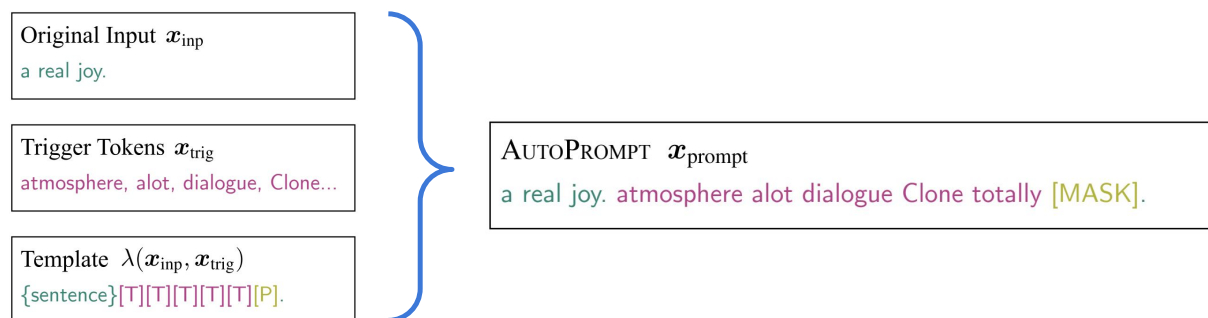
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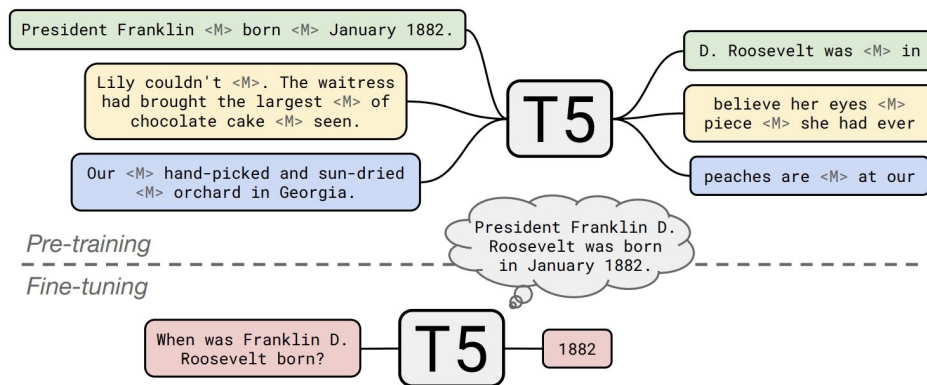
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- **AutoPrompt** ([Shin et al., 2020](#)): prompt is constructed by adding tokens found via gradient-guided search to a simple prompt
- **OptiPrompt** ([Zhong et al., 2021](#)): directly optimize prompt in embedding space, rather than in discrete space
 - Similar to prompt tuning

How Much Knowledge Can You Pack
Into the Parameters of a Language
Model? (Roberts et al., 2020)

Motivation

- Petroni et al., 2019 measures knowledge in a model with its *pre-training objective* with *a synthetic task*
- This work measures *transfer learning performance* on knowledge on *question answering tasks with a closed-book approach*

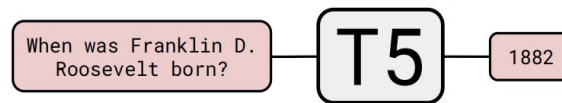


To solve open-domain QA: Two approaches

- Open-book QA: **questions** and **external resources** are given



- Closed-book QA: **questions**



Experimental Setup - Datasets

- **Natural Questions:**
 - Web queries each with ~~an oracle wikipedia article~~
 - Rich annotation, different answer types (yes/no, ~~unanswerable~~, multiple answers, short answer and ~~long answer~~)
 - E.g., *Who are the members of the Beatles?*
- **WebQuestions**
 - Web queries
 - E.g., *Which college did Obama go to?*
- **TriviaQA**
 - Questions from quiz league websites, each with ~~web pages that might contain answers~~
 - E.g., *Who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009?*

Experimental Setup - Models

- **Pre-training resources**

- T5 v1.0: trained with the unsupervised “span corruption” task on C4 as well as *supervised translation, summarization, classification, and reading comprehension tasks*
- T5 v.1.1: trained only with the C4

- **Model size**

- Base (220 million parameters)
- Large (770 million)
- 3B (3 billion)
- 11B (11 billion)

- **Additional pre-training**

- Salient Span Masking ([Guu et al. 2020](#)), mask salient spans (named entities & dates)
- Continue pre-training the T5 for 100k steps

person

location

Henri Hutin invented Brie cheese while living in North of Meuse, France

Results

		NQ	WQ	TQA		Metric: Exact Match
				dev	test	
SOTA Retrieval-based Models (can access external documents)	Chen et al. (2017)	–	20.7	–	–	
	Lee et al. (2019)	33.3	36.4	47.1	–	
	Min et al. (2019a)	28.1	–	50.9	–	
	Min et al. (2019b)	31.8	31.6	55.4	–	
	Asai et al. (2019)	32.6	–	–	–	
	Ling et al. (2020)	–	–	35.7	–	
	Guu et al. (2020)	40.4	40.7	–	–	
	Férvy et al. (2020)	–	–	43.2	53.4	
	Karpukhin et al. (2020)	41.5	42.4	57.9	–	

Results: SSM clearly leads to improved performance

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	Férvy et al. (2020)	–	–	43.2
	Karpukhin et al. (2020)	41.5	42.4	57.9
Closed-Book QA models with fine-tuning (relies only on internal parameters)	T5-Base	25.9	27.9	23.8
	T5-Large	28.5	30.6	28.7
	T5-3B	30.4	33.6	35.1
	T5-11B	32.6	37.2	42.3
	T5-11B + SSM	34.8	40.8	51.0
	T5.1.1-Base	25.7	28.2	24.2
	T5.1.1-Large	27.3	29.5	28.5
	T5.1.1-XL	29.5	32.4	36.0
	T5.1.1-XXL	32.8	35.6	42.9
	T5.1.1-XXL + SSM	35.2	42.8	51.9
Closed-Book QA model without fine-tuning SOTA Retrieval-based Models	GPT-3 few-shot	29.9	41.5	71.2
	SOTA	51.4	–	80.1

non-SSM

SSM

non-SSM

SSM

Results: Scale correlates with performance

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	T5.1.1-Large	27.3	29.5	28.5	37.2	
	T5.1.1-XL	29.5	32.4	36.0	45.1	
	T5.1.1-XXL	32.8	35.6	42.9	52.5	
	T5.1.1-XXL + SSM	35.2	42.8	51.9	61.6	

Additional Evaluation on NQ

- Previous results adopt evaluation used in previous work
 - Long answers and unanswerable questions are not considered
 - Only output single answer
 - Only trained with the first answer if a question has multiple answers
 - Answers with longer than 5 tokens are excluded
 - Answers are normalized (lowercased, strip of articles, punctuation etc.)
- **Leaderboard evaluation**
 - Long answers and unanswerable questions are not considered
 - Models are trained to predict all ground-truth answers
 - Only considered correct if it predicts ***all answers*** correctly

T5-11B + SSM achieves a recall of **36.2** on the validation set, which lags behind the state-of-the-art score of **51.9** from [Pan et al. \(2019\)](#) at the time.

Human Evaluation + Qualitative Error Analysis

- Exact Match is a very harsh metric → potentially lots of **false negatives**
- Use human evaluation to see what percent of predicted negatives area are actually true negatives

38% of T5's "incorrect" predictions are actually correct!

Category	Percentage	Example		
		Question	Target(s)	T5 Prediction
True Negative	62.0%	what does the ghost of christmas present sprinkle from his torch	little warmth, warmth	confetti
Phrasing Mismatch	13.3%	who plays red on orange is new black	kate mulgrew	katherine kiernan maria mulgrew
Incomplete Annotation	13.3%	where does the us launch space shuttles from	florida	kennedy lc39b
Unanswerable	11.3%	who is the secretary of state for northern ireland	karen bradley	james brokenshire

Conclusion

- **Large language models pretrained on unstructured text perform competitively on open-domain QA**, even compared to competitors with access to external knowledge
- **Scale is critical to performance** – needed largest (11B) model to compete on par with SOTA
- Using LMs as knowledge bases suffers from **lack of interpretability**, and LMs are prone to **hallucinating** “realistic” answers

Question 2

Compared to (Petroni et al., 2019), can you state the key differences in (Roberts et al., 2021)?

- (Roberts et al., 2021) handles harder questions that may require multiple tokens. LAMA uses specific/easier types of questions with single-token answers
- Since T5 can't do zero-shot well, (Roberts et al., 2021) fine-tunes the model for QA tasks and compares against other retrieval-based fine-tuned models. LAMA does not fine-tune the models.

Do you think the accuracy of answering these open-domain questions reflects how much knowledge is already encoded in LLMs?

- To some extent. (Roberts et al., 2021) fine-tunes the model on the question-answer datasets, so it could be argued that it does not 100% accurately test how much knowledge is encoded in the pre-training stage

Comparison of the Two Works

	Petroni et al., 2019	Roberts et al., 2020
Objective	MLM	seq2seq
Format	filling in the blank	generation
Finetune?	no	yes
Answer length	1	> 1

How much does train-test overlap affect performance?

- Many of the knowledge sources we've discussed were extracted from **Wikipedia**
- However, pre-training corpora for language models almost always contain data from Wikipedia...
- How much of the amazing knowledge retrieval is due to **train-test overlap** in the knowledge probing benchmarks?

Train-test overlap is responsible for LM's ability to do knowledge retrieval! ([Lewis et al., 2020](#))

Model		Open Natural Questions				TriviaQA				WebQuestions			
		Total	Question Overlap	Answer Overlap Only	No Overlap	Total	Question Overlap	Answer Overlap Only	No Overlap	Total	Question Overlap	Answer Overlap Only	No Overlap
Open book	RAG	44.5	70.7	34.9	24.8	56.8	82.7	54.7	29.2	45.5	81.0	45.8	21.1
	DPR	41.3	69.4	34.6	19.3	57.9	80.4	59.6	31.6	42.4	74.1	39.8	22.2
	FID	51.4	71.3	48.3	34.5	67.6	87.5	66.9	42.8	-	-	-	-
Closed book	T5-11B+SSM	36.6	77.2	22.2	9.4	-	-	-	-	44.7	82.1	44.5	22.0
	BART	26.5	67.6	10.2	0.8	26.7	67.3	16.3	0.8	27.4	71.5	20.7	1.6
Nearest Neighbor	Dense	26.7	69.4	7.0	0.0	28.9	81.5	11.2	0.0	26.4	78.8	17.1	0.0
	TF-IDF	22.2	56.8	4.1	0.0	23.5	68.8	5.1	0.0	19.4	63.9	8.7	0.0

When there is **question overlap**, both open and closed-book LMs perform well

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Nearest Neighbor	Dense	26.7	69.4	7.0	0.0	28.9	81.5	11.2	0.0	26.4	78.8	17.1	0.0
	TF-IDF	22.2	56.8	4.1	0.0	23.5	68.8	5.1	0.0	19.4	63.9	8.7	0.0

But with **no question or answer overlap**, performance drops sharply!

How to update knowledge in
pre-trained models?

Edit What, Exactly?

Defining the problem




Edit example	Edit scope
★	

Slides from [link](#)

Edit What, Exactly?

Defining the problem



Edit example	Edit scope	In-scope
★		●

Slides from [link](#)

Edit What, Exactly?

Defining the problem

■
Why is the sky blue?

■
*What club does
Messi play for?*



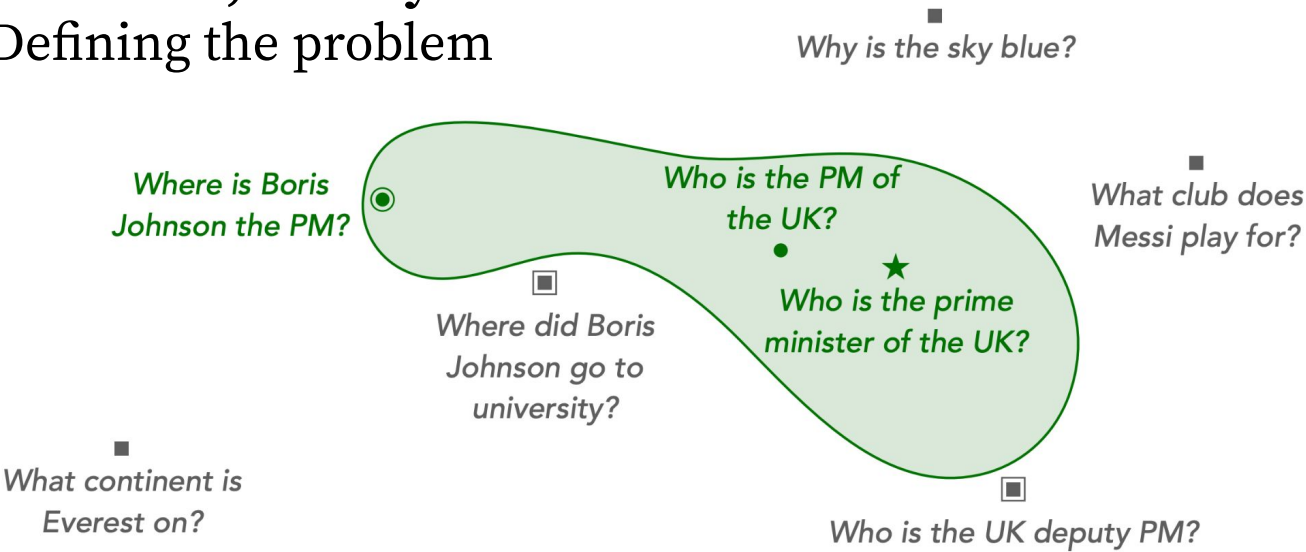
■
*What continent is
Everest on?*


Edit example	Edit scope	In-scope	Out-of-scope
★		●	■

Slides from [link](#)

Edit What, Exactly?

Defining the problem



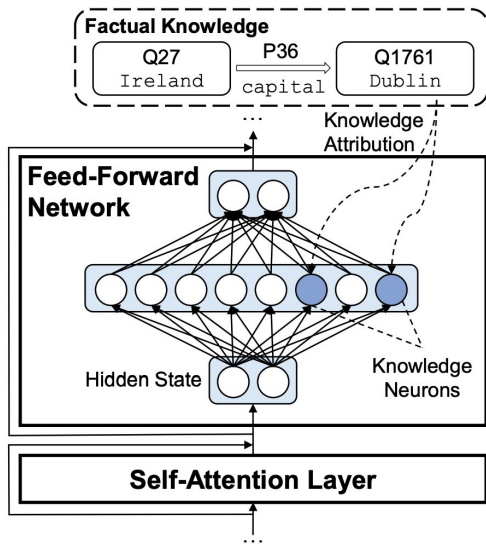
Edit example	Edit scope	In-scope	Out-of-scope	Hard in/out-of-scope
★		●	■	● ■

Slides from [link](#)

Knowledge Neurons in Pretrained Transformers

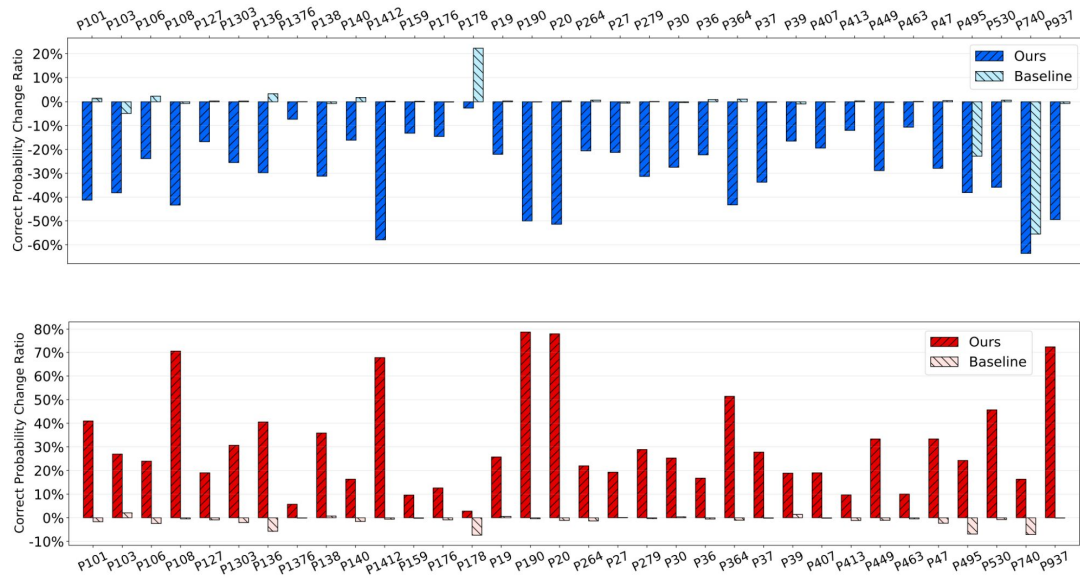
(Dai et al. 2021)

Knowledge Neurons



- What is a knowledge neuron
 - **Activations** after the first feed-forward layer
- Assumption
 - Knowledge neurons are associated with factual knowledge
- Implications
 - If we can identify these neurons, we can alter them to edit (update/erase) knowledge.
 - No additional training is involved.

Suppressing or Amplifying Knowledge Neurons



Suppressing the neurons **hurt** performance and **amplifying** neurons **increase** performance by up to 30% on average.

Case Study - Updating Facts

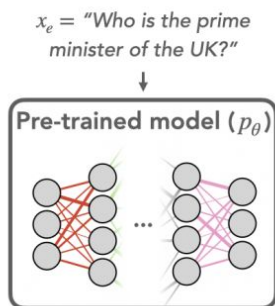
- Update neuron values by subtracting the word embedding of the previous answer and adding the updated answer

Metric	Knowledge Neurons	Random Neurons
Change rate↑	48.5%	4.7%
Success rate↑	34.4%	0.0%

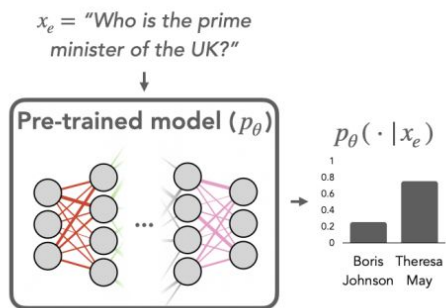
- They achieved a change rate and success rate that is better than random neurons.
- But is this good enough?

Fast Model Editing at Scale (Mitchell et al. 2022)

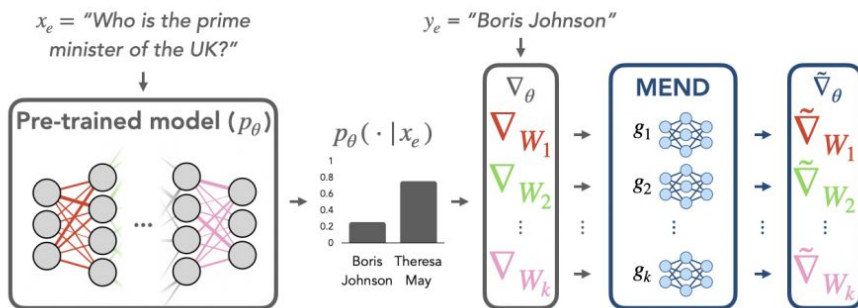
Editing a Pre-trained Model with MEND



Editing a Pre-trained Model with MEND

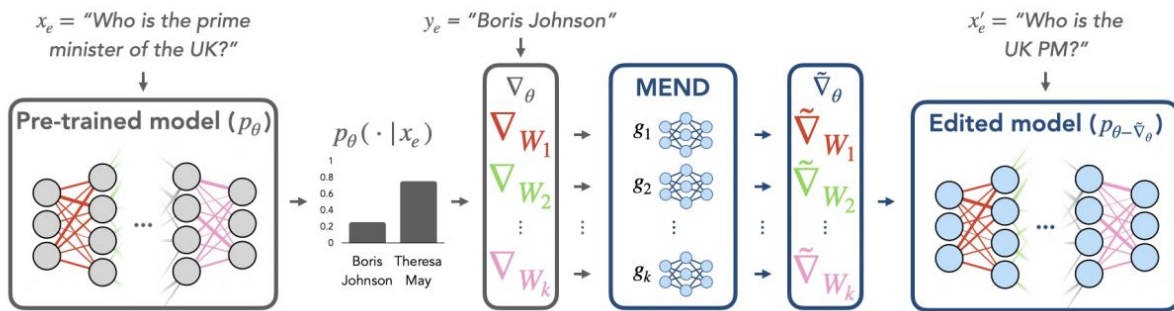


Editing a Pre-trained Model with MEND

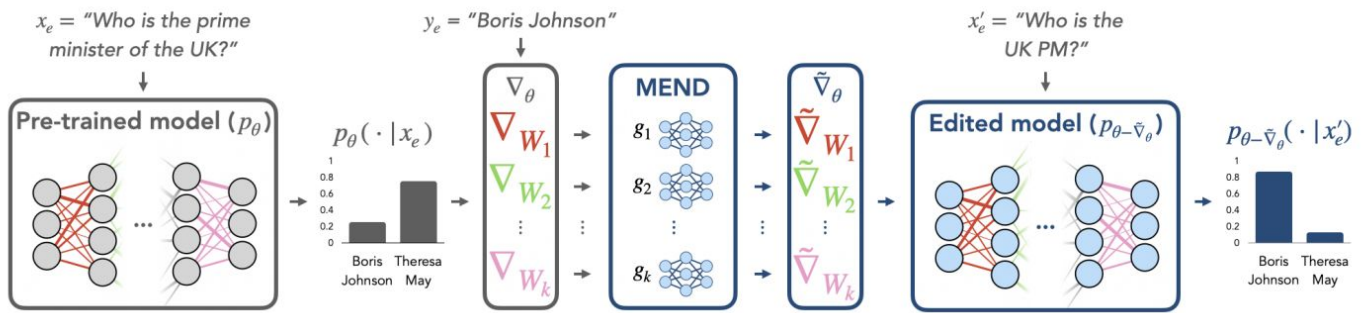


- The MEND network produces **gradient updates** for the pretrained model.
- It's not the gradient of all the weights, it's a **transformation** of the gradient!

Editing a Pre-trained Model with MEND

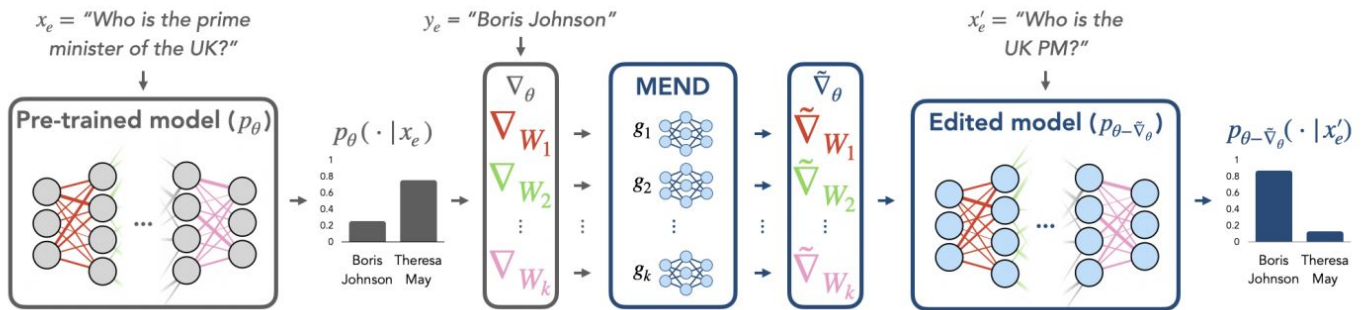


Editing a Pre-trained Model with MEND



The knowledge is updated!

Editing a Pre-trained Model with MEND



- Involves training
 - correctly updates the fact and the related facts
 - maintain answers to the irrelevant facts
- MEND network learns **how to edit** for one single fact change

Results

Locality Loss:
Minimize changes on
irrelevant examples

- FT: fine-tuning with updated facts
- FT + KL: fine-tuning with updated facts and locality loss

zsRE Question-Answering					
Editor	T5-XL (2.8B)		T5-XXL (11B)		
	ES ↑	acc. DD ↓	ES ↑	acc. DD ↓	
FT	0.58	<0.001	0.87	<0.001	
FT+KL	0.55	<0.001	0.85	<0.001	
MEND	0.88	0.001	0.89	<0.001	

MEND shows the best **Edit success rate (ES)** and least interference to overall model perplexity or accuracy, i.e., **ppl. DD, acc.DD**.

Comparison of the Two Works

	Knowledge Neurons	MEND
Method	Attribution-based	Learning-based
Training?	No	Yes
Restricted by	Attribution algorithm	Need a lot of edits data

Conclusion

Question 3

The world knowledge is constantly changing; for instance, the president was Donald Trump in 2020 and now is Joe Biden in 2022. However, LLMs are always trained on a static corpus of a fixed period.

- 1) Do you have any ideas about how to update and edit LLMs with real-world knowledge?
- 2) Do you think it is possible to decouple world knowledge and other knowledge encoded in LLMs?