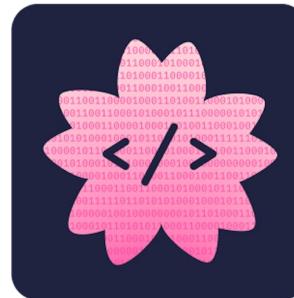


# InCoder, SantaCoder, and StarCoder: Findings from Training Code LLMs

Daniel Fried, with many others  
from Meta AI and the BigCode project



Are bigger models the solution  
for AI-assisted programming?

# Posing This Question in 2012...

---

## On the Naturalness of Software

Abram Hindle, Earl Barr, Mark Gabel, Zhendong Su, Prem Devanbu

[ICSE 2012; Most Influential Paper 2022]

Natural languages like English are rich, complex, and powerful. We begin with the conjecture that most software is also natural, in the sense that it is created by humans at work, with all the attendant constraints and limitations—and thus, like natural language, it is also likely to be repetitive and predictable. We then proceed to ask whether a) code can be usefully modeled by statistical language models and b) such models can be leveraged to support software engineers.

# Posing This Question in 2012...

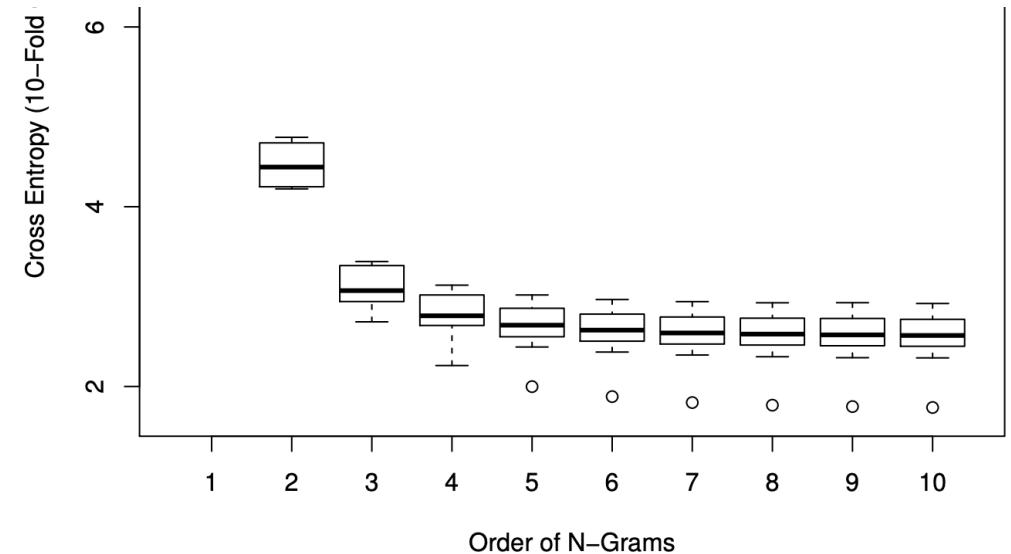
---

## On the Naturalness of Software

Abram Hindle, Earl Barr, Mark Gabel, Zhendong Su, Prem Devanbu

[ICSE 2012; Most Influential Paper 2022]

- ▶ n-gram models trained on ~25 million lines of code
- ▶ Substantial improvements to Eclipse's auto-complete
- ▶ But, 3-4 orders of magnitude less data than modern neural models



... and now

---

**AI pair programming is here.**

75% more fulfilled

55% faster coding

46% code written

Keep flying with your favorite editor

Now available for all businesses

VS Code N X JET BRAINS

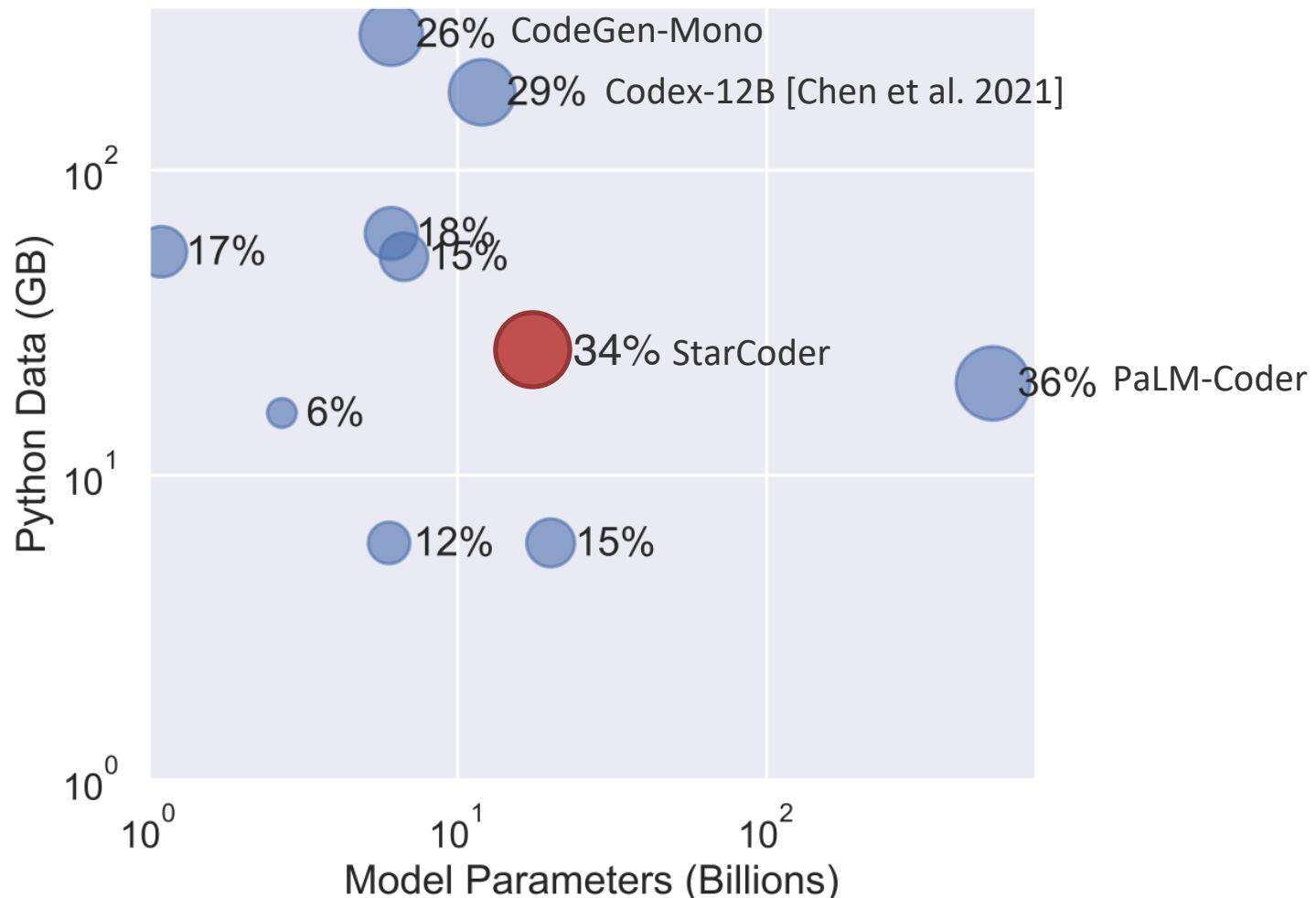
runtime.go

```
9 // Get average runtime of
10 func averageRuntimeInSeconds() int {
11     var totalTime int
12     var failedRuns int
13     for _, run := range runs {
14         if run.Failed {
15             failedRuns++
16         } else {
```

# ... and now

---

Function pass rate on a Python docstring-to-function task [HumanEval, Chen et al. 2021]  
by amount of Python data & model scale:



*part of*  
Are bigger models <sup>Λ</sup>the solution  
for AI-assisted programming?

YES

# Outline

---

- ▶ InCoder
  - ▷ Infilling and natural language data
- ▶ The Stack & SantaCoder
  - ▷ Data filtering and model improvement experiments
- ▶ StarCoder
  - ▷ More data: more languages, issues, commits, Jupyter...
  - ▷ *Scale*

# Outline

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# LLM Training Objectives

```
def minimize_in_graph(build_loss_fn, num_steps=200, optimizer=None):
    """ Minimize a loss function using gradient.

    Args:
        build_loss_fn: a function that returns a loss tensor for a mini-batch of examples.
        num_steps: number of gradient descent steps to perform.
        optimizer: an optimizer to use when minimizing the loss function. If None, will use Adam
    """
    optimizer = tf.compat.v1.train.AdamOptimizer(0.1) if optimizer is None else optimizer
    minimize_op = tf.compat.v1.while_loop(
        cond=lambda step: step < num_steps,
        body=train_loop_body,
        loop_vars=[tf.constant(0)], return_same_structure=True)[0]
    return minimize_op
```

Prefix

Target

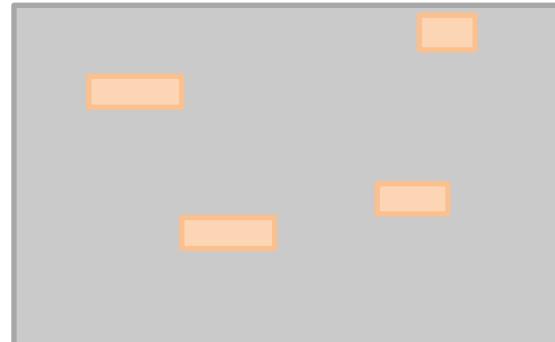
Suffix

“Causal” (L-to-R)



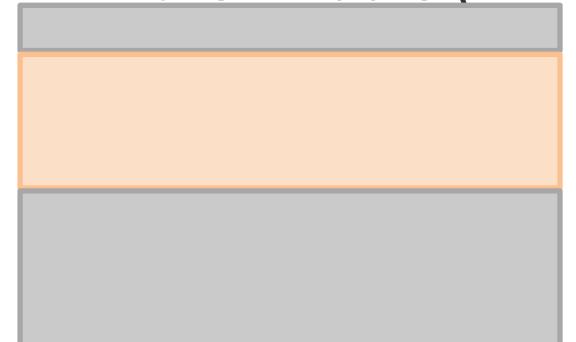
[e.g. GPT-\*, Codex]

Masked Infilling



[e.g. BERT, CodeBERT]

“Causal Masking” /  
Fill-in-the-Middle (FIM)



[Donahue+ 2020, Aghajanyan+  
2022, ours, Bavarian+ 2022]

# Causal Masking / FIM Objective

---

## Training

### Original Document

```
def count_words(filename: str) -> Dict[str, int]:
    """Count the number of occurrences of each word in the file."""
    with open(filename, 'r') as f:
        word_counts = {}
        for line in f:
            for word in line.split():
                if word in word_counts:
                    word_counts[word] += 1
                else:
                    word_counts[word] = 1
    return word_counts
```

# Evaluation: HumanEval Benchmark

---

Constructed by authors of Codex paper; programming puzzle/simple contest problems. Evaluated using unit tests.

```
from typing import List

def has_close_elements(numbers: List[float], threshold: float) -> bool:
    """
        Check if in given list of numbers, are any two numbers closer to each other
        than given threshold.
    >>> has_close_elements([1.0, 2.0, 3.0], 0.5)
    False
    >>> has_close_elements([1.0, 2.8, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, 2.0], 0.3)
    True
    """
    for idx, elem in enumerate(numbers):
        for idx2, elem2 in enumerate(numbers):
            if idx != idx2:
                distance = abs(elem - elem2)
                if distance < threshold:
                    return True
    return False
```

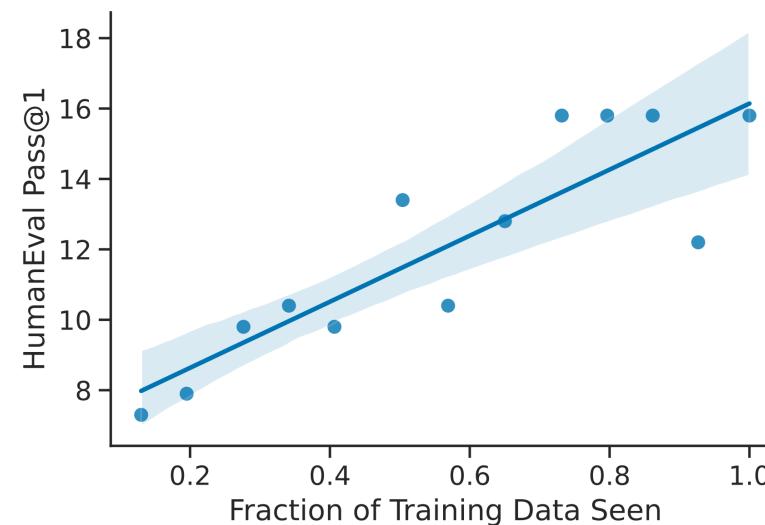
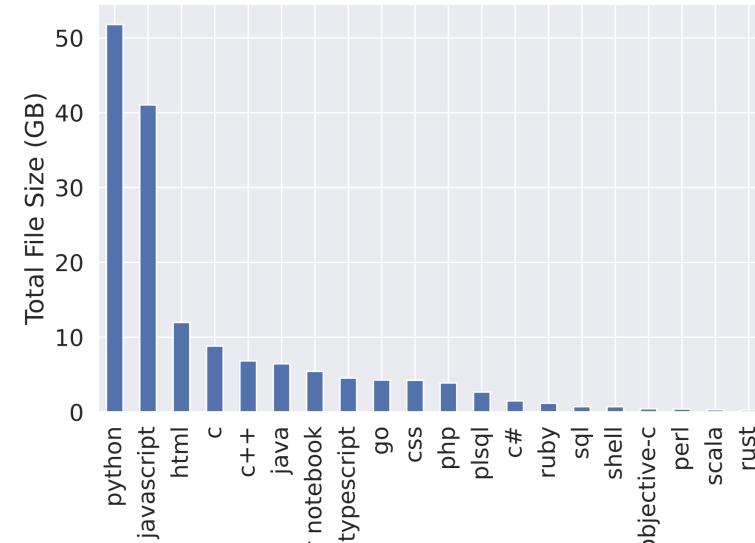
# Model Training

## ▶ Training Data

- ▷ 600K permissively-licensed repositories from GitHub & GitLab. ~150GB total
- ▷ StackOverflow: questions, answers, comments. ~50GB

## ▶ Models

- ▷ Standard transformer LM
- ▷ 1B model: ~1 week on 128 V100s
- ▷ 6B model: ~3 weeks on 240 V100s



# Zero-Shot Software Tasks via Infilling

## Zero-shot Inference

### Docstring Generation

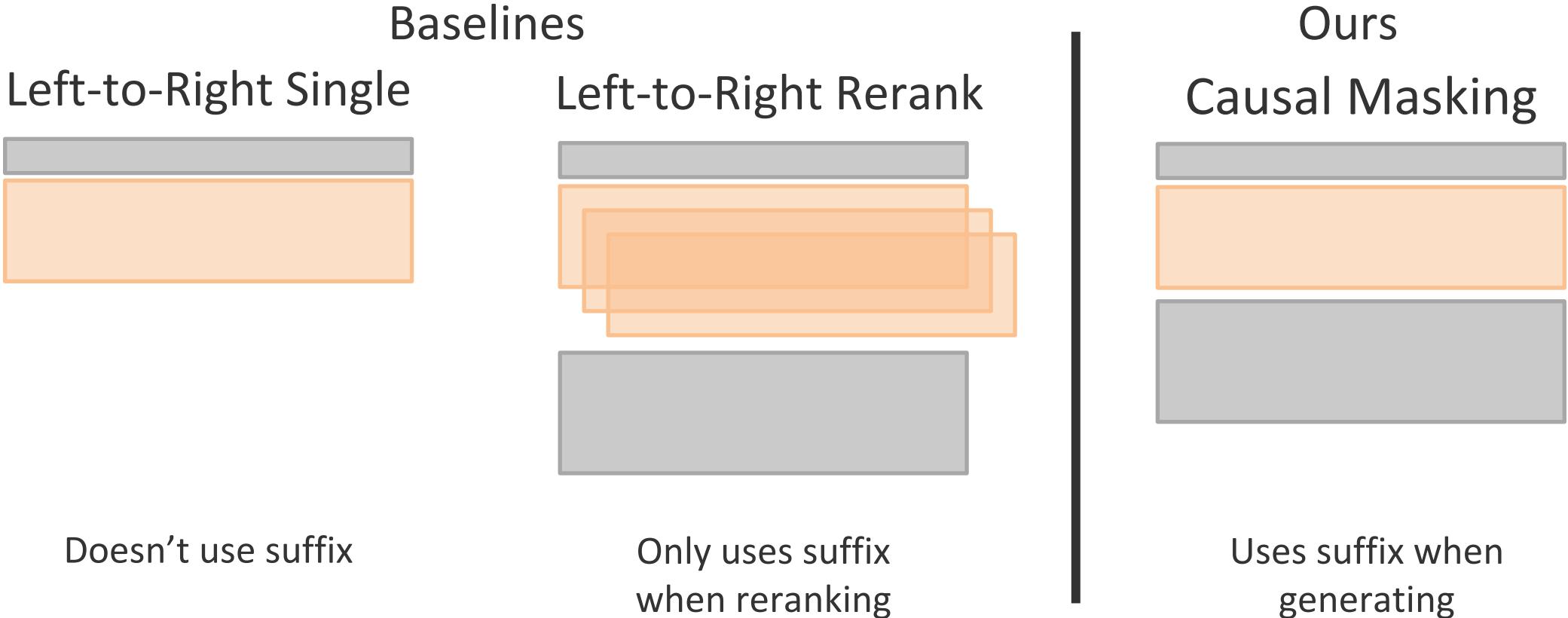
```
def count_words(filename: str) -> Dict[str, int]:  
    """  
    Counts the number of occurrences of each word in the given file.  
  
    :param filename: The name of the file to count.  
    :return: A dictionary mapping words to the number of occurrences.  
    """  
  
    with open(filename, 'r') as f:  
        word_counts = {}  
        for line in f:  
            for word in line.split():  
                if word in word_counts:  
                    word_counts[word] += 1  
                else:  
                    word_counts[word] = 1  
  
    return word_counts
```

### Multi-Region Infilling

```
from collections import Counter  
  
def word_count(file_name):  
    """Count the number of occurrences of each word in the file."""  
    words = []  
    with open(file_name) as file:  
        for line in file:  
            words.append(line.strip())  
  
    return Counter(words)
```

# Evaluation

- ▶ Zero-shot evaluation on several software development-inspired code infilling tasks (we'll show two).
- ▶ Compare the model in three different modes to evaluate benefits of suffix context



# Evaluation: Function Completion

Fill in one or more lines of a function; evaluate with unit tests.

```
from typing import List

def has_close_elements(numbers: List[float], threshold: float) -> bool:
    """
    Check if in given list of numbers, are any two numbers closer to each other
    than given threshold.
    """
    >>> has_close_elements([1.0, 2.0, 3.0], 0.5)
    False
    >>> has_close_elements([1.0, 2.8, 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, 2.0], 0.3)
    True
    """
    for idx, elem in enumerate(numbers):
        for idx2, elem2 in enumerate(numbers):
            if idx != idx2:
                distance = abs(elem - elem2)
                if distance < threshold:
                    return True
    return False
```

Method	Pass Rate	Exact Match
L-R single	24.9	15.8
L-R reranking	28.2	17.6
CM infilling	38.6	20.6

# Evaluation: Docstring Generation

```
def count_words(filename: str) -> Dict[str, int]:  
    """  
    Counts the number of occurrences of each word in the given file.  
  
    :param filename: The name of the file to count.  
    :return: A dictionary mapping words to the number of occurrences.  
    """  
  
    with open(filename, 'r') as f:  
        word_counts = {}  
        for line in f:  
            for word in line.split():  
                if word in word_counts:  
                    word_counts[word] += 1  
                else:  
                    word_counts[word] = 1  
  
    return word_counts
```

Method	BLEU
Ours: L-R single	16.05
Ours: L-R reranking	17.14
Ours: Causal-masked infilling	18.27

# Evaluation: Return Type Prediction

## Type Inference

```
def count_words(filename: str) -> Dict[str, int]:
    """Count the number of occurrences of each word in the file."""
    with open(filename, 'r') as f:
        word_counts = {}
        for line in f:
            for word in line.split():
                if word in word_counts:
                    word_counts[word] += 1
                else:
                    word_counts[word] = 1
    return word_counts
```

Method	F1
Ours: Left-to-right single	30.8
Ours: Left-to-right reranking	33.3
Ours: Causal-masked infilling	<b>59.2</b>
TypeWriter (Supervised)	48.3

# Ablations

---

- ▶ StackOverflow data improves performance
- ▶ Comparable performance from infilling and non-infilling models

#	Size (B)	Obj.	Training Data	Data Size	Train Tokens	HumanEval Pass@1	MBPP Pass@1
1)	6.7	CM	multi lang + SO	204 GB	52 B	15	19.4
2)	1.3	CM	multi lang + SO	204 GB	52 B	8	10.9
3)	1.3	LM	multi lang + SO	204 GB	52 B	6	8.9
4)	1.3	LM	Python + SO	104 GB	25 B	9	9.8
5)	1.3	LM	Python	49 GB	11 B	5	6.1

# Demo

Num Tokens:  64

Temperature:  0.1

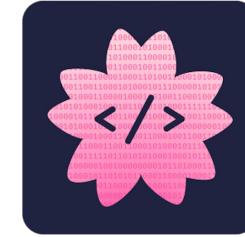
Syntax:

```
1 <| file ext=.py |>
2 from collections import Counter
3
4 def <infill>
5     """Count the number of occurrences of each word in the file."""
6     <infill>
7
```

# Outline

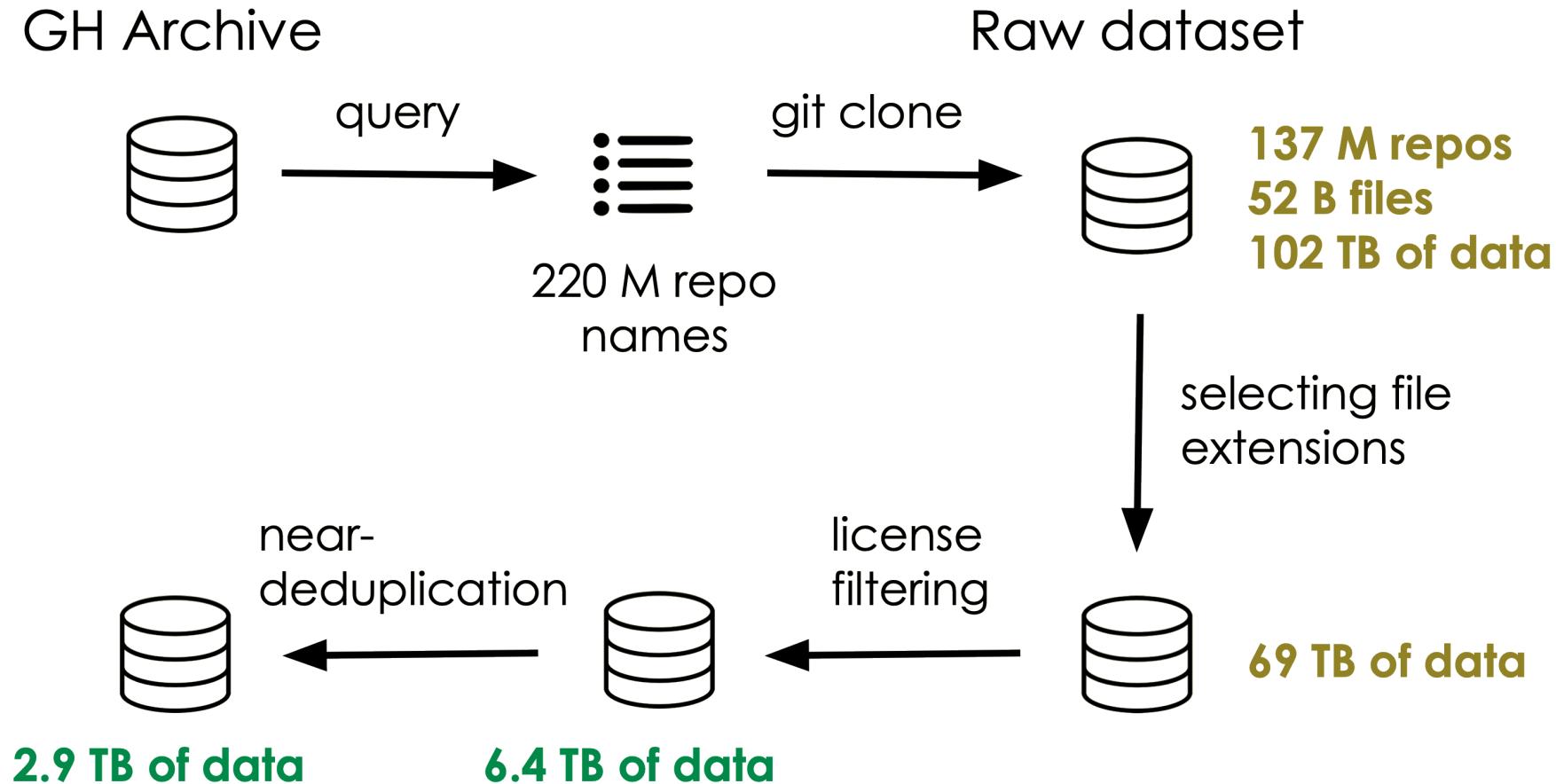
---

- ▶ InCoder
  - ▷ Infilling and natural language data
- ▶ The Stack & SantaCoder
  - ▷ Experiments with data filtering and model improvements
- ▶ StarCoder
  - ▷ More data: more languages, issues, commits, Jupyter...
  - ▷ *Scale*



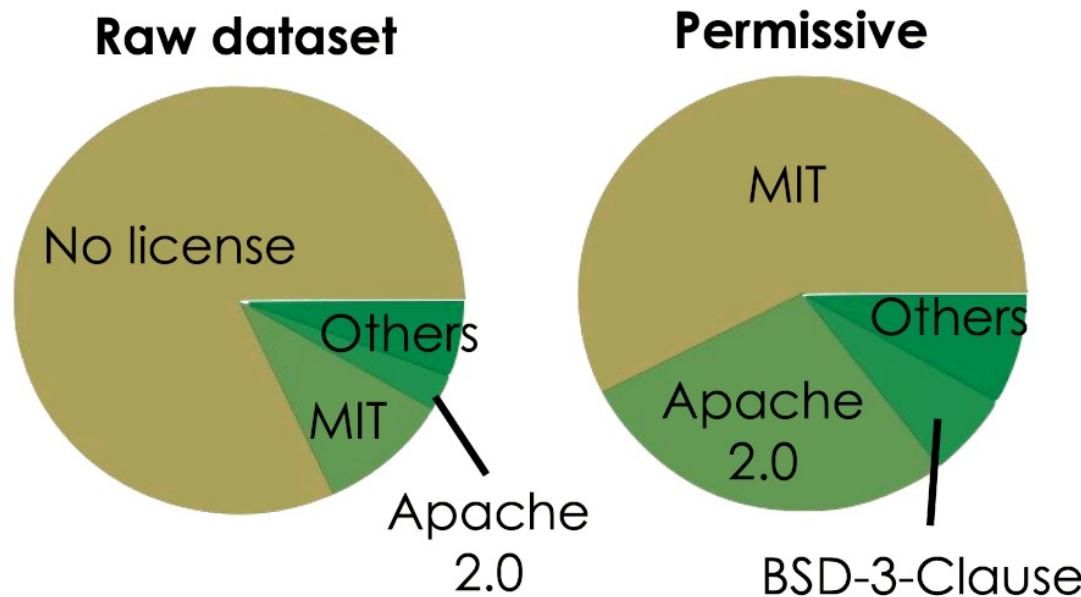
**BigCode**

# The Stack: Dataset



# The Stack: Dataset

---



## Permissive license distribution of licenses used to filter the dataset:

MIT (67.7%) | Apache-2.0 (19.1%) | BSD-3-Clause (3.9%) | Unlicense (2.0%) |  
CC0-1.0 (1.5%) | BSD-2-Clause (1.2%) | CC-BY-4.0 (1.1%) | CC-BY-3.0 (0.7%) |  
OBSD (0.4%) | RSA-MD (0.3%) | WTFPL (0.2%) | MIT-0 (0.2%) | Others (166) (2.2%)

# The Stack: Python Models

---

- ▶ Possible to approximate Codex-12B performance with permissively licensed data? Train 350M models on Python
- ▶ ***Deduplication always improves performance***  
(<https://huggingface.co/blog/dedup>)
- ▶ License filtering hurts, but there's enough data available to match Chen et al. 2021

Dataset	Filtering	pass@1	pass@10	pass@100	Python Data
Codex (300M)	Exact-dedup?	13.17	20.17	36.27	180 GB
CodeGen (350M)	unknown	12.76	23.11	35.19	
Python all-license	None	13.11	21.77	36.67	740 GB
	Near-dedup	<b>17.34</b>	<b>27.64</b>	<b>45.52</b>	
Python permissive-license	None	10.99	15.94	27.21	191 GB
	Near-dedup	<b>12.89</b>	<b>22.26</b>	<b>36.01</b>	80 GB

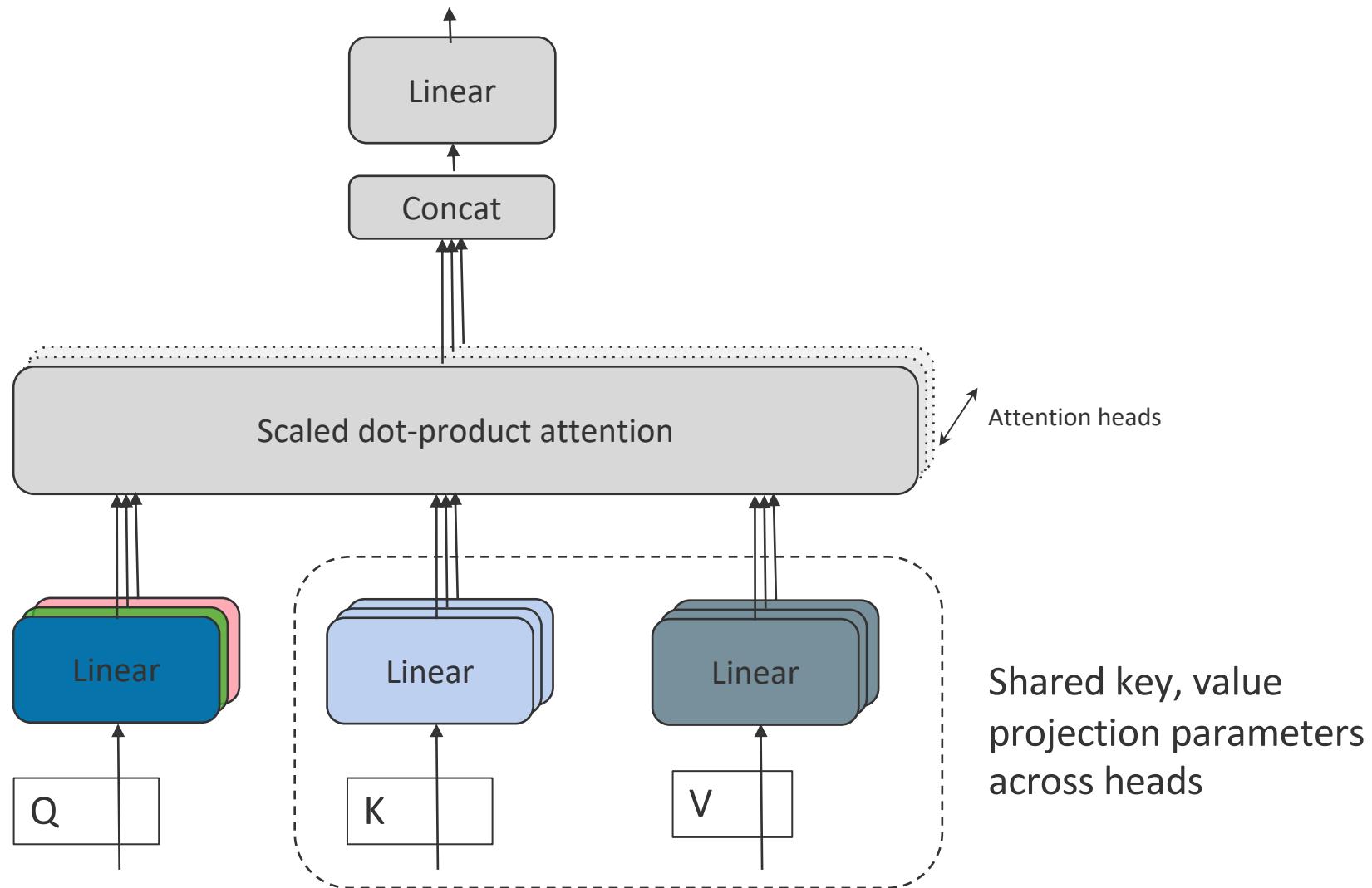
# SantaCoder: Overview

---

- ▶ Preparation for a big run: explorations at 1B scale
- ▶ Data: The Stack
- ▶ Tokenizer: BPE following GPT-2 recipe; use a digit splitter
- ▶ Ablations
  - ▶ Multi-query attention and infilling (FIM, Bavarian et al. 2022)
  - ▶ Data filtering

# Multi-Query Attention

- ▶ Designed to reduce memory-bandwidth cost to speed up inference



# SantaCoder: Model Ablations

---

- ▶ Infilling (FIM) and MQA “for cheap”

Language	Attention	FIM	HumanEval	MBPP
Java	Multi Query Attention	✓	0.35	0.54
	Multi Head Attention	✓	0.36	0.55
	Multi Query Attention	✗	0.37	0.55
JavaScript	Multi Query Attention	✓	0.33	0.64
	Multi Head Attention	✓	0.37	0.67
	Multi Query Attention	✗	0.37	0.65
Python	Multi Query Attention	✓	0.36	0.67
	Multi Head Attention	✓	0.38	0.70
	Multi Query Attention	✗	0.39	0.68

Table 5: Pass@100 results for the architecture ablations on HumanEval and MBPP.

# SantaCoder: Data Filtering Ablations

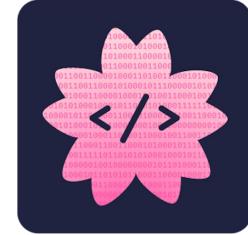
---

- ▶ Remove repos with < 5 stars
  - **Hurts substantially!**
- ▶ Remove files with low (or very high) comment-to-code ratio
  - ~ Mixed effects
- ▶ More aggressive near-duplicate filtering
  - + **Very slight improvements**
- ▶ Remove files with low character-to-token ratios
  - + **Very slight improvements**

# Outline

---

- ▶ InCoder
  - ▷ Infilling and natural language data
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  - ▷ Experiments with data filtering
- ▶ StarCoder
  - ▷ More data: more languages, issues, commits, Jupyter...
  - ▷ *Scale*

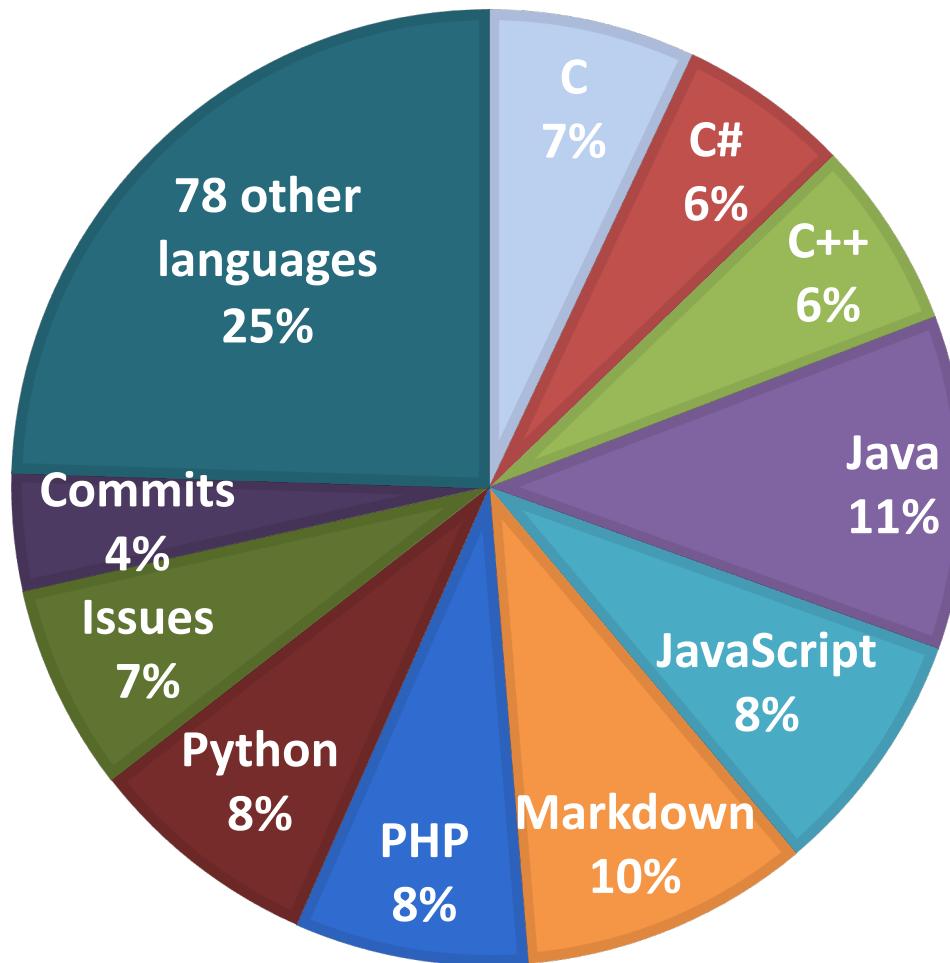


BigCode

# A Large-Scale Multilingual Model

---

We follow the natural distribution and sample data from 86 languages proportionally to their volume. **800GB total.** Lots of natural language (~20%)!



# GitHub Data

---

## Issues (discussion threads)

```
<issue_start>title + USERID: comment  
<issue_comment>USERID: comment ...  
<issue_closed> <eos>
```

Model input:

```
<issue_start><issue_comment>username_0: I am trying to train a  
text classifier based on BERT using 'transformers' but I  
get the error: 'RuntimeError: CUDA Out of memory'.<  
issue_comment>
```

Model output:

```
username_1: Hi,  
  
This is not an issue with transformers. You should look at your  
GPU usage and see if you can free up some space before  
training starts (or use smaller batch sizes).
```

## Commits and Commit Messages

Model input:

```
<commit_before>def fibonacci(n):<commit_msg>add type hints to  
function<commit_after>def
```

Model output:

```
def fibonacci(n: int) -> list[int]:
```

# Jupyter Notebooks

---

Model input:

```
<jupyter_text>Let's test our 'is_prime' function:<jupyter_code>
    print(is_prime(3))
print(is_prime(4))
print(is_prime(29))
print(is_prime(33))<jupyter_output>
```

Model output:

```
True
False
True
False
```

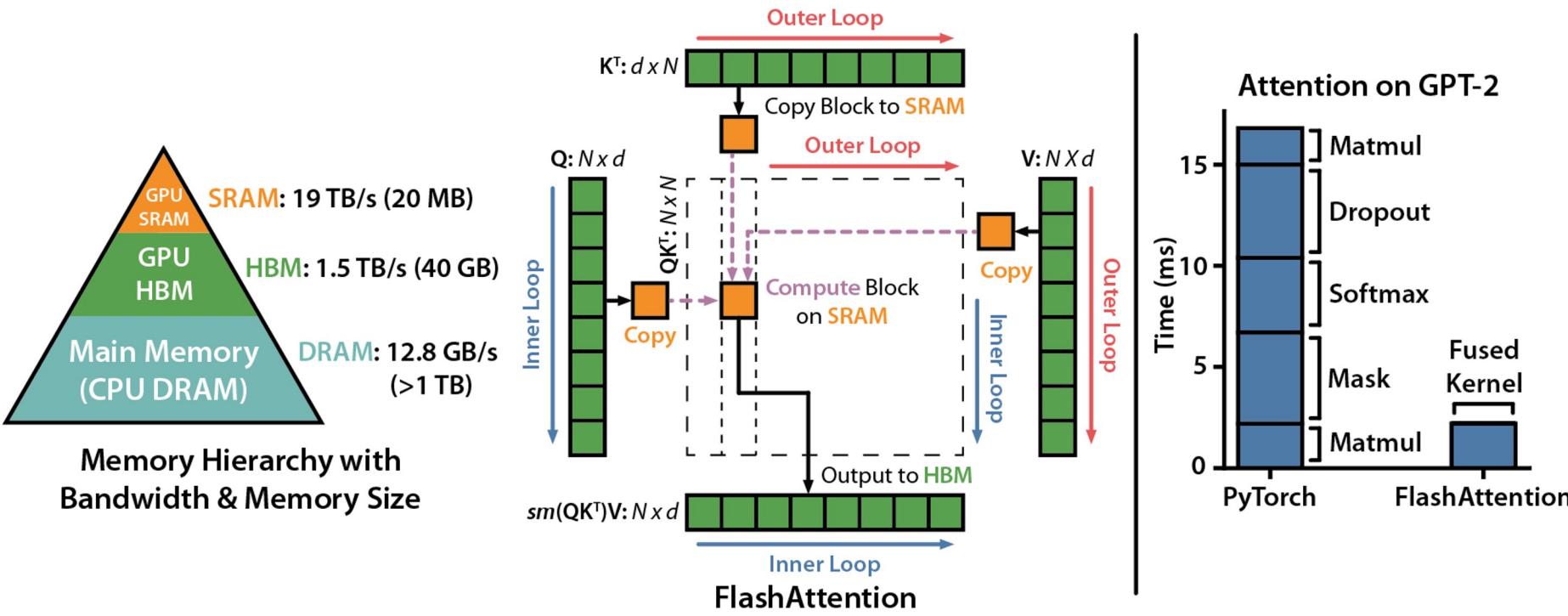
Model input:

```
<jupyter_code>numbers = [1, 9, 8, 3, 27]
print([n*2 for n in numbers])<jupyter_output>
```

Model output:

```
[2, 18, 16, 6, 54]
```

# Flash Attention



→ up to 4x speedup over standard attention  
→ scale sequence length up to 8192 tokens.

# Models

---

- ▶ StarCoderBase
  - ▷ 15.5B parameters, trained on 1T tokens (~3 epochs)
    - ▶ This is much smaller than Chinchilla optimal, but we were aiming for inference efficiency
    - ▶ Multiple epochs didn't seem to hurt
  - ▷ ~1 month on 512 80GB A100s
  - ▷ Megatron-LM with BF16 and FlashAttention
- ▶ StarCoder
  - ▷ Continued training on 35B tokens of Python (two epochs)

# MultiPL-E

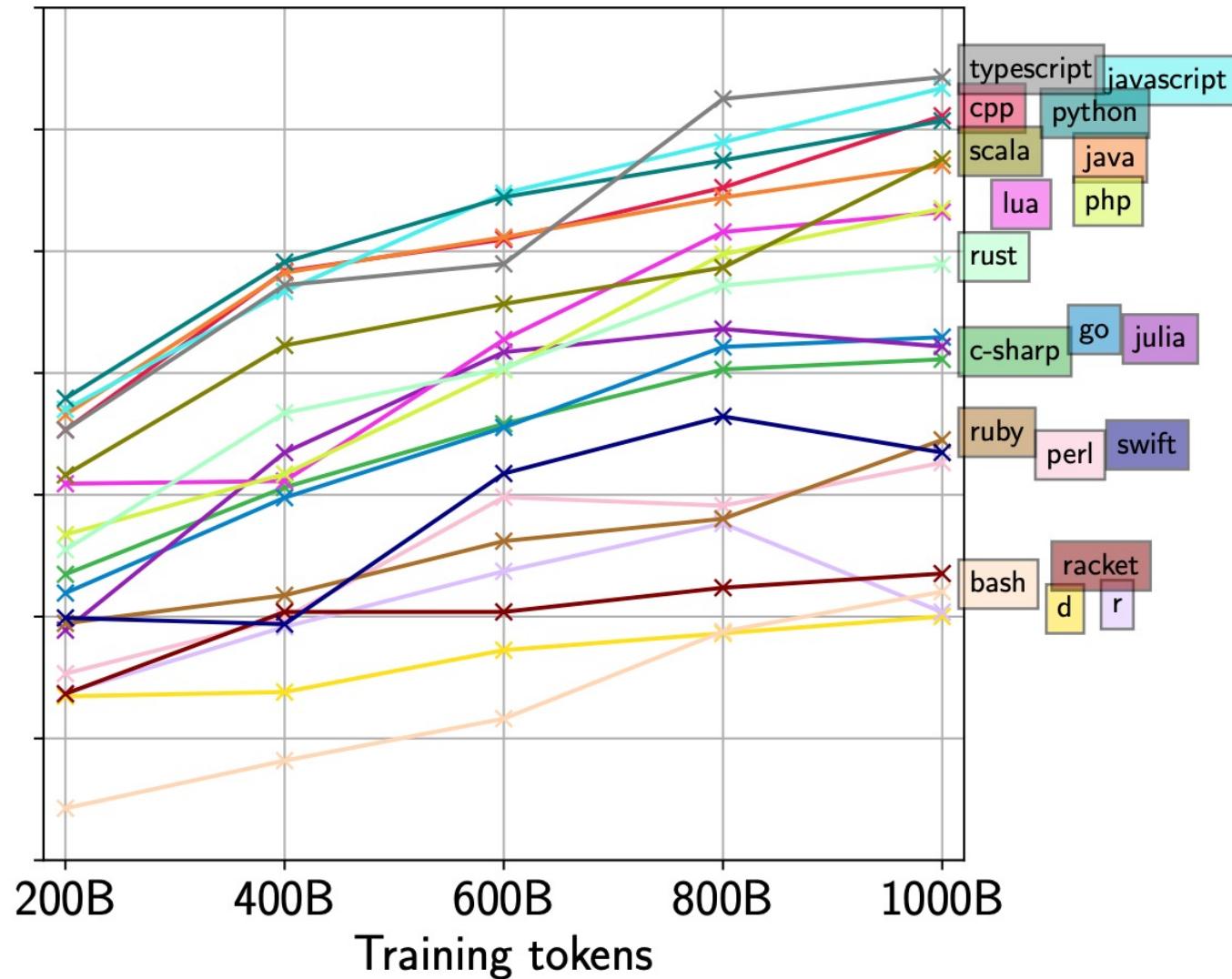
---

- ▶ Translations of the HumanEval benchmark into other programming languages.
- ▶ Together, StarCoderBase and StarCoder outperform OpenAI's code-cushman-001 on HumanEval in 12 languages.
- ▶ Surprisingly, StarCoder outperforms StarCoderBase on 9 languages in addition to Python.

Language	code-cushman-001	StarCoder	StarCoderBase
cpp	30.59	<b>31.55</b>	30.56
c-sharp	<b>22.06</b>	21.01	20.56
d	6.73	<b>13.57</b>	10.01
go	19.68	17.61	<b>21.47</b>
java	<b>31.90</b>	30.22	28.53
julia	1.54	<b>23.02</b>	21.09
javascript	31.27	30.79	<b>31.70</b>
lua	26.24	23.89	<b>26.61</b>
php	<b>28.94</b>	26.08	26.75
perl	<b>19.29</b>	17.34	16.32
python	30.71	<b>33.57</b>	30.35
r	10.99	<b>15.50</b>	10.18
ruby	<b>28.63</b>	1.24	17.25
racket	7.05	0.07	<b>11.77</b>
rust	<b>25.22</b>	21.84	24.46
scala	27.62	27.61	<b>28.79</b>
bash	<b>11.74</b>	10.46	11.02
swift	22.12	<b>22.74</b>	16.74
typescript	31.26	<b>32.29</b>	32.15

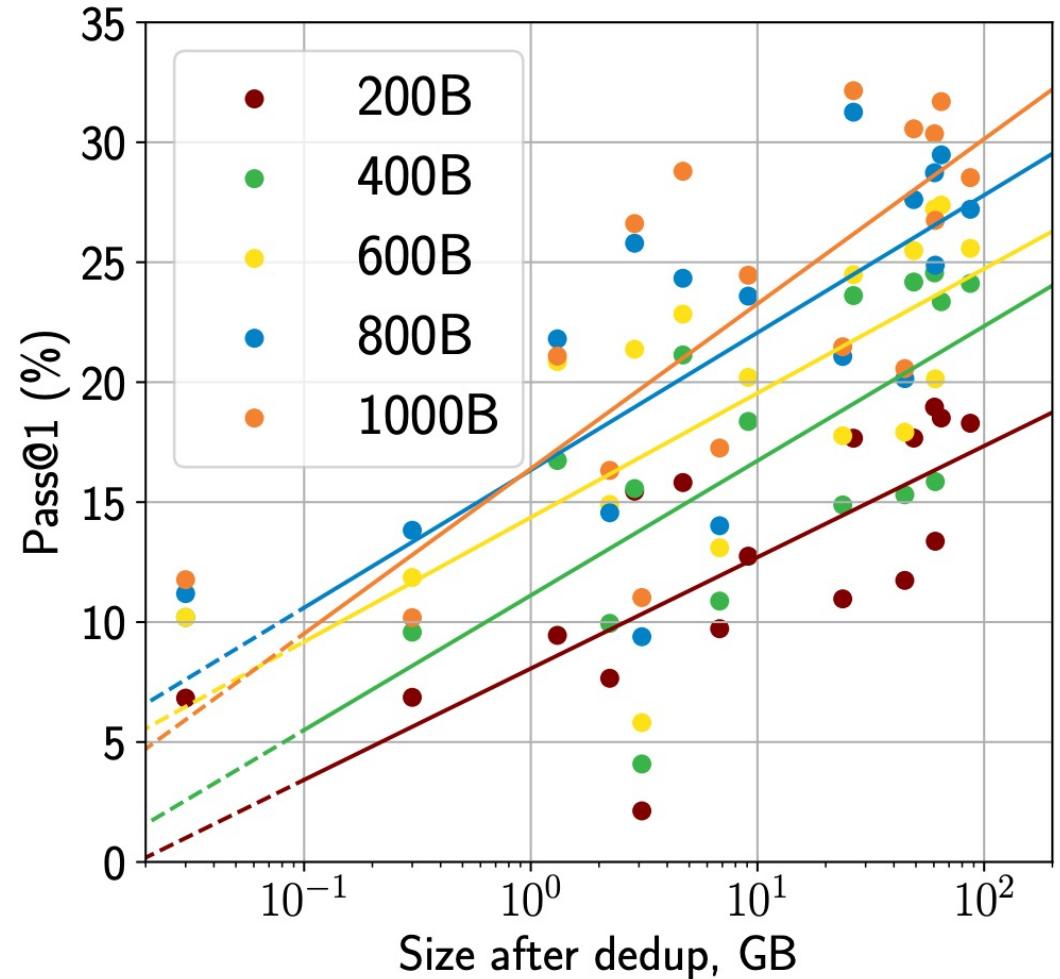
MultiPL-E translated HumanEval results

# StarCoderBase: Performance Over Training



# StarCoderBase: Performance By Data

- ▶ How correlated is code completion performance for a language with the amount of data available for a language?
- ▶ Train model for 200B tokens (on all languages). Evaluate on all languages, getting a dot for each language. Observe a strong correlation.
- ▶ Continue training, evaluate again at 400B tokens. The correlation remains strong, and line shifts upward.



# DS-1000: Practical data tasks requiring API use

Here is a sample dataframe:

Problem

```
df = pd.DataFrame({"A": [1, 2, 3], "B": [4, 5, 6]})
```

I'd like to add inverses of each existing column to the dataframe and name them based on existing column names with a prefix, e.g. inv\_A is an inverse of column A and so on.

The resulting dataframe should look like so:

```
result = pd.DataFrame({"A": [1, 2, 3], "B": [4, 5, 6], "inv_A": [1/1, 1/2, 1/3], "inv_B": [1/4, 1/5, 1/6]})
```

Obviously there are redundant methods like doing this in a loop, **but there should exist much more pythonic ways of doing it ...** [omitted for brevity]

Code Context

A:

```
<code>
import pandas as pd
df = pd.DataFrame({"A": [1, 2, 3], "B": [4, 5, 6]})
</code>
BEGIN SOLUTION
<code>
[insert]
</code>
END SOLUTION
<code>
print(result)
</code>
```

Reference Solution

```
result = df.join(df.apply(lambda x: 1/x).add_prefix("inv_"))
```

Format	Model	Matplotlib	NumPy	Pandas	PyTorch	SciPy	Scikit-Learn	TensorFlow	Overall
	Number of problems:	155	220	291	68	106	115	45	1,000
Completion	InCoder-6B	28.3	4.4	3.1	4.4	2.8	2.8	3.8	7.4
Completion	CodeGen-16B-Mono	31.7	10.9	3.4	7.0	9.0	10.8	15.2	11.7
Completion	code-cushman-001	40.7	21.8	7.9	12.4	11.3	18.0	12.2	18.1
Completion	StarCoderBase	47.0	27.1	10.1	19.5	21.7	27.0	20.5	23.8
Completion	StarCoder	<b>51.7</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>21.4</b>	20.2	<b>29.5</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>26.0</b>

# Evaluating Infilling

Model	Java	JavaScript	Python
InCoder-6B	0.49	0.51	0.31
SantaCoder	0.62	0.60	0.44
StarCoder	<b>0.73</b>	<b>0.74</b>	<b>0.62</b>

Single-line code completion for three languages  
(SantaCoder/InCoder benchmarks)

Packages type check		
	✓	Total
InCoder	30	128
StarCoderBase	49	128

TypeScript type inference (TypeWeaver benchmarks)

Model	BLEU
InCoder-6B	18.27
SantaCoder	19.74
StarCoderBase	21.38
StarCoder	<b>21.99</b>

Python docstring generation  
(CodeXGLUE / InCoder benchmark)

Model	Non-None F1	All F1
InCoder-6B	59.1	46.8
SantaCoder	66.9	78.5
StarCoderBase	<b>77.4</b>	<b>86.6</b>
StarCoder	77.1	86.4

Python return-type prediction  
(InCoder/TypeWriter benchmarks)

# Testing 8K Window: Perplexity with Long Contexts

---

Window Size	Language									
	cpp	c-sharp	c	go	java	javascript	php	r	ruby	rust
2K tokens	2.01	1.90	1.71	1.35	1.65	1.98	1.73	1.72	2.16	1.84
8K tokens	<b>1.79</b>	<b>1.66</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>1.21</b>	<b>1.54</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>1.48</b>	<b>2.02</b>	<b>1.65</b>

- ▶ Derived test data from GPL repositories on GitHub. GPL was excluded from training data.
- ▶ Demonstrates StarCoder can benefit from information within long files or repositories.
- ▶ Longer contexts provides noticeable decreases in perplexity.

# Non-Trivial Natural Language Abilities

- ▶ Surprisingly reasonable performance on some natural language reasoning tasks
- ▶ CodeGen < StarCoderBase < LLaMA

**Problem:** Beth bakes 4, 2 dozen batches of cookies in a week. If these cookies are shared amongst 16 people equally, how many cookies does each person consume?

**Solution:** Beth bakes 4 2 dozen batches of cookies for a total of  $4 \times 2 = \text{<<} 4*2=8 \text{>>}$  8 dozen cookies

There are 12 cookies in a dozen and she makes 8 dozen cookies for a total of  $12 \times 8 = \text{<<} 12*8=96 \text{>>}$  96 cookies

She splits the 96 cookies equally amongst 16 people so they each eat  $96 / 16 = \text{<<} 96/16=6 \text{>>}$  6 cookies

**Final Answer:** 6

Model	Size	GSM8K CoT	+maj1@100	GSM8K PAL	+maj1@40
StarCoderBase	15.5B	8.4	—	21.5	31.2
CodeGen-Multi	16B	3.18	—	8.6	15.2
CodeGen-Mono	16B	2.6	—	13.1	22.4
LLaMA	7B	11.0	18.1	10.5	16.8
	13B	17.8	29.3	16.9	28.5
	33B	35.6	53.1	38.7	50.3
	65B	<b>50.9</b>	<b>69.7</b>	—	—

# Reasoning Tasks in HELM

Model	Size	Open Access	Synth. Reason. (AS)	Synth. Reason. (NL)	bAbI	Dyck	GSM8K	MATH	MATH (CoT)	LSAT	Legal Support
code-davinci-002	175B		<b>54.0</b>	68.4	<b>68.6</b>	80.5	<b>56.8</b>	<b>41.0</b>	43.3	—	—
text-davinci-003	175B		50.2	<b>73.4</b>	65.3	75.1	50.6	39.0	<b>44.9</b>	<b>23.3</b>	<b>62.2</b>
Luminous Supreme	70B		31.2	—	50.4	72.9	11.2	14.9	5.7	21.2	53.0
StarCoderBase	15.5B	✓	44.0	21.0	50.4	<b>85.4</b>	8.4	15.1	7.0	19.0	53.2
Cohere Command Beta	52.4B		24.3	24.5	47.3	42.1	13.8	13.3	7.5	22.9	60.6
J1-Jumbo v1	178B		26.3	17.4	54.3	44.5	5.4	8.9	3.3	23.2	48.4
J1-Grande v2 beta	17B		28.6	13.9	47.0	61.7	9.6	12.7	6.8	19.1	56.2
code-cushman-001	12B		34.1	16.4	48.1	45.1	4.9	9.9	7.2	—	—
OPT	175B	✓	22.5	24.8	50.7	49.4	4.0	6.5	2.6	22.0	53.2
GPT-NeoX	20B	✓	20.4	16.7	46.8	74.7	5.3	14.1	7.1	19.1	51.5
BLOOM	176B	✓	30.4	19.7	44.7	54.5	9.5	4.3	5.5	20.9	54.3
GLM	130B	✓	25.2	25.4	44.3	54.9	6.1	0	5.9	19.3	45.1
UL2	20B	✓	20.5	21.7	50.1	14.0	2.4	0	0	20.7	50.6
OPT	66B	✓	19.3	21.3	40.8	47.1	1.8	4.8	2.9	17.5	52.7
YaLM	100B	✓	5.6	6.1	34.6	63.3	0	0	0	2.3	48.4
T5	11B	✓	19.6	10.1	41.2	34.7	2.3	0	0	15.9	55.8

# Chat Models via Continued Training

- ▶ StarChat-Beta: Continued training on Falcon English Web, the Pile, and OpenAssistant Dataset

Chat

Create a simple HTML website for a fictional company called "TechCoAI". Please make an HTML file that adheres to the following specifications:

The webpage should have a title that says "TechCoAI - Welcome".

The background color of the webpage should be light blue (#E6F1F6).

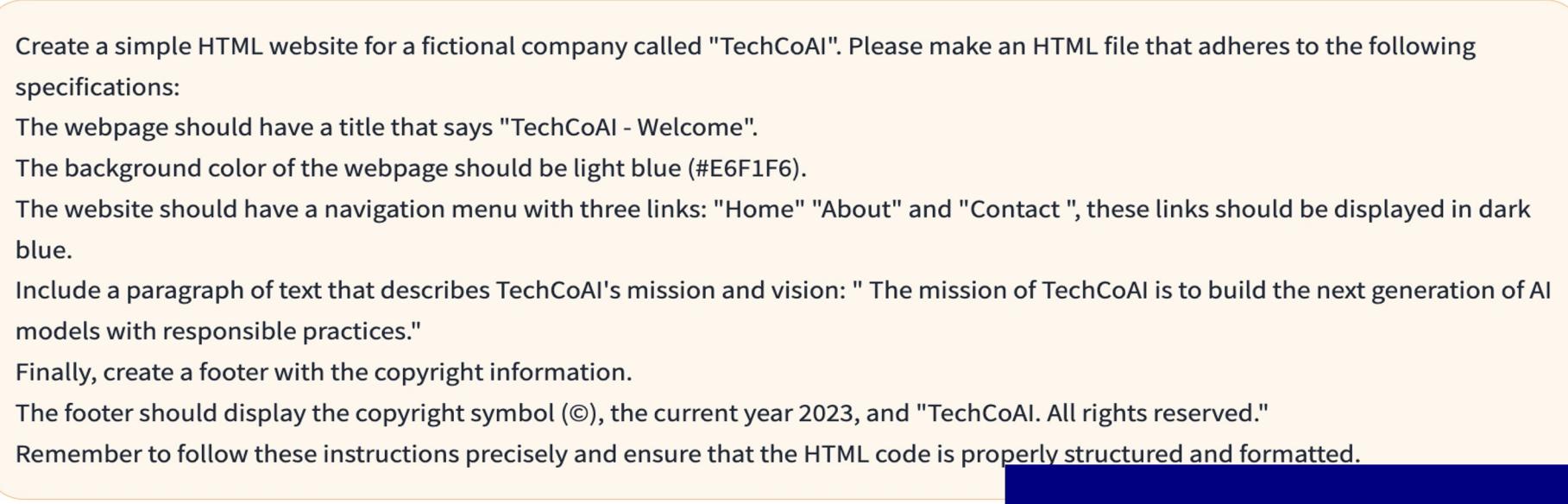
The website should have a navigation menu with three links: "Home" "About" and "Contact ", these links should be displayed in dark blue.

Include a paragraph of text that describes TechCoAI's mission and vision: " The mission of TechCoAI is to build the next generation of AI models with responsible practices."

Finally, create a footer with the copyright information.

The footer should display the copyright symbol (©), the current year 2023, and "TechCoAI. All rights reserved."

Remember to follow these instructions precisely and ensure that the HTML code is properly structured and formatted.



```
<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <!-- Required meta tags -->
    <meta charset="utf-8">
```



https://huggingface.co/spaces/HuggingFaceH4/starchat-playground



→



Home About Us Contact us

**Welcome To Tech Co Ai**

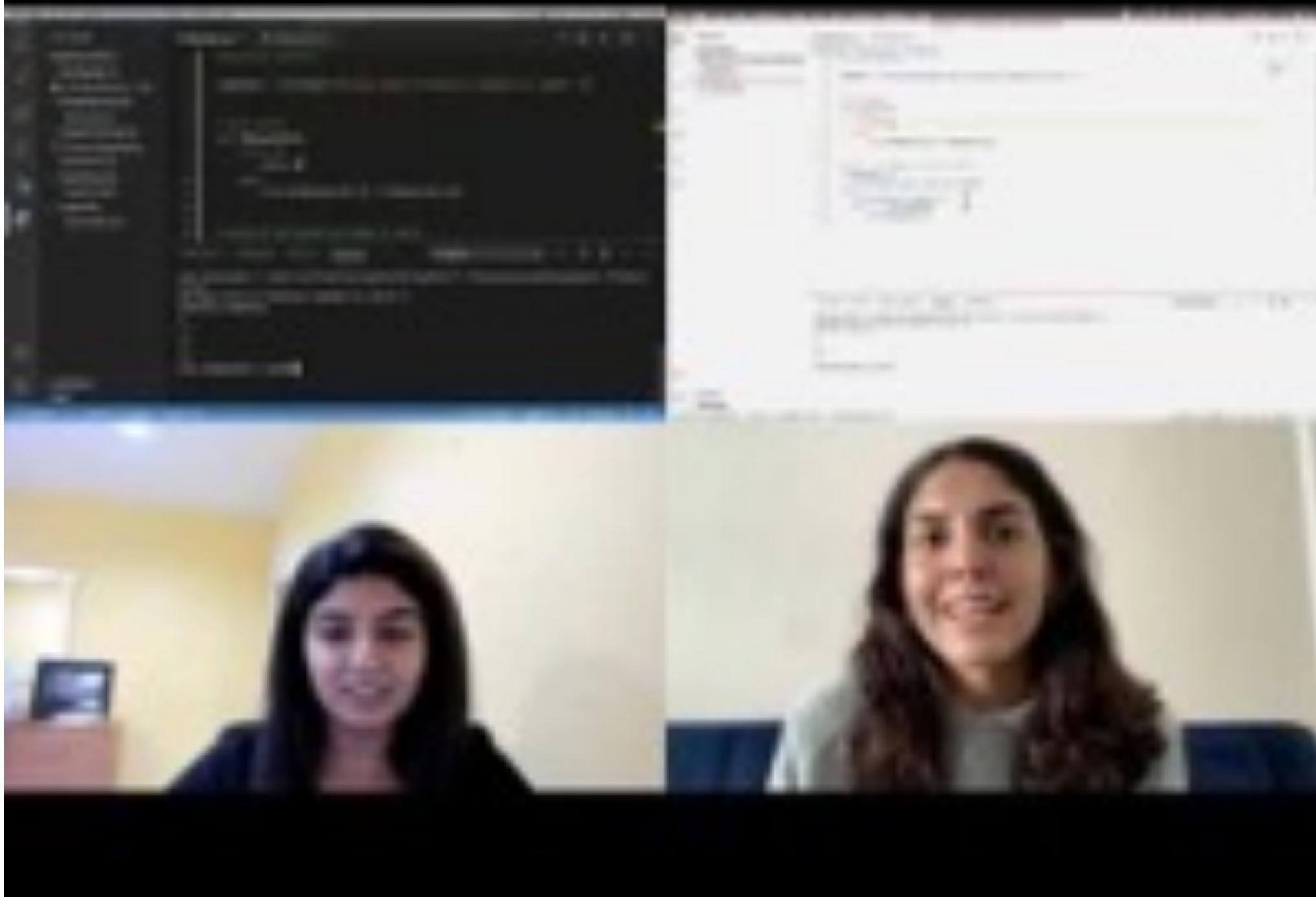
We are building the Next Generation Of AI Models With Responsible Practices.

© 2023 TechCoAi | All Rights Reserved

# Programming as Communication

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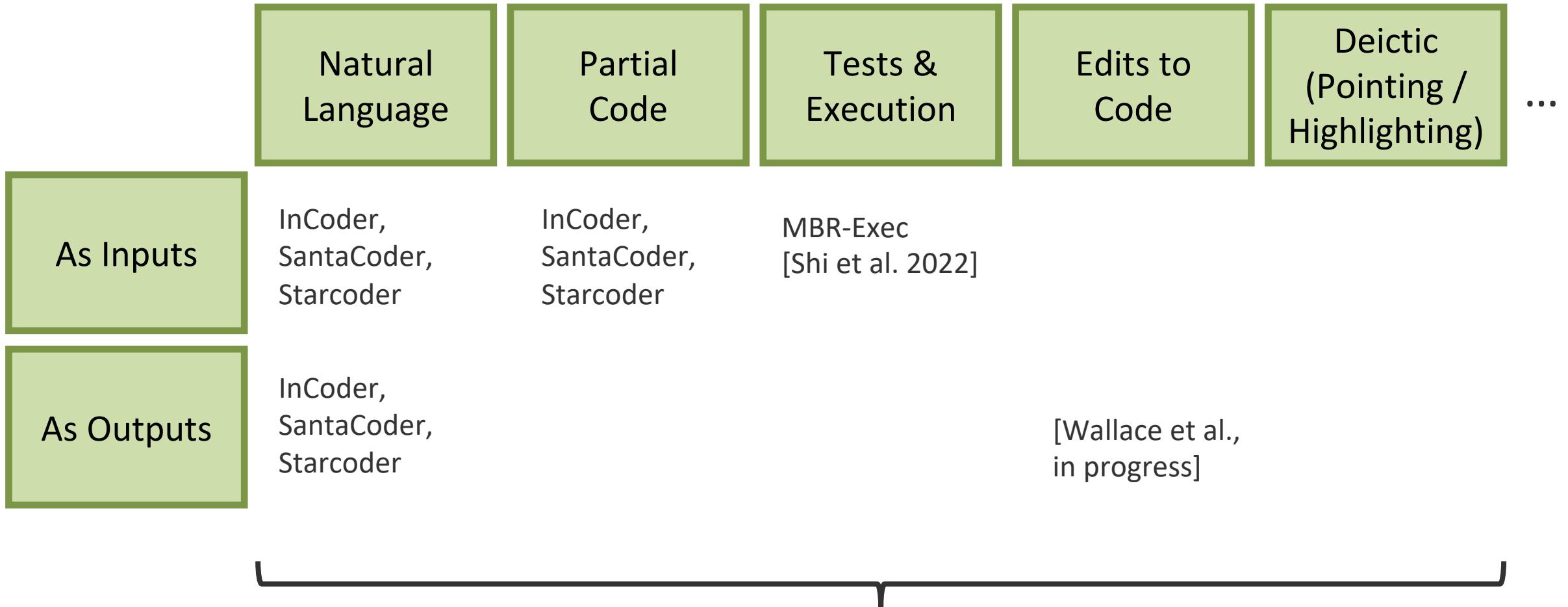
We begin with the conjecture that most software... is created by humans at work,  
~~with all the attendant constraints and limitations~~  
communicating with the compiler, other developers, and themselves,  
and thus, like natural language,  
~~it is also likely to be repetitive and predictable.~~  
writing software is a form of contextual and interactive communication.  
We then proceed to ask whether a) code can be usefully modeled by statistical  
language models and b) such models can be leveraged to support software  
engineers.



[VSCode Live Share Demo, 2020]

# Communicating with Multiple Modalities

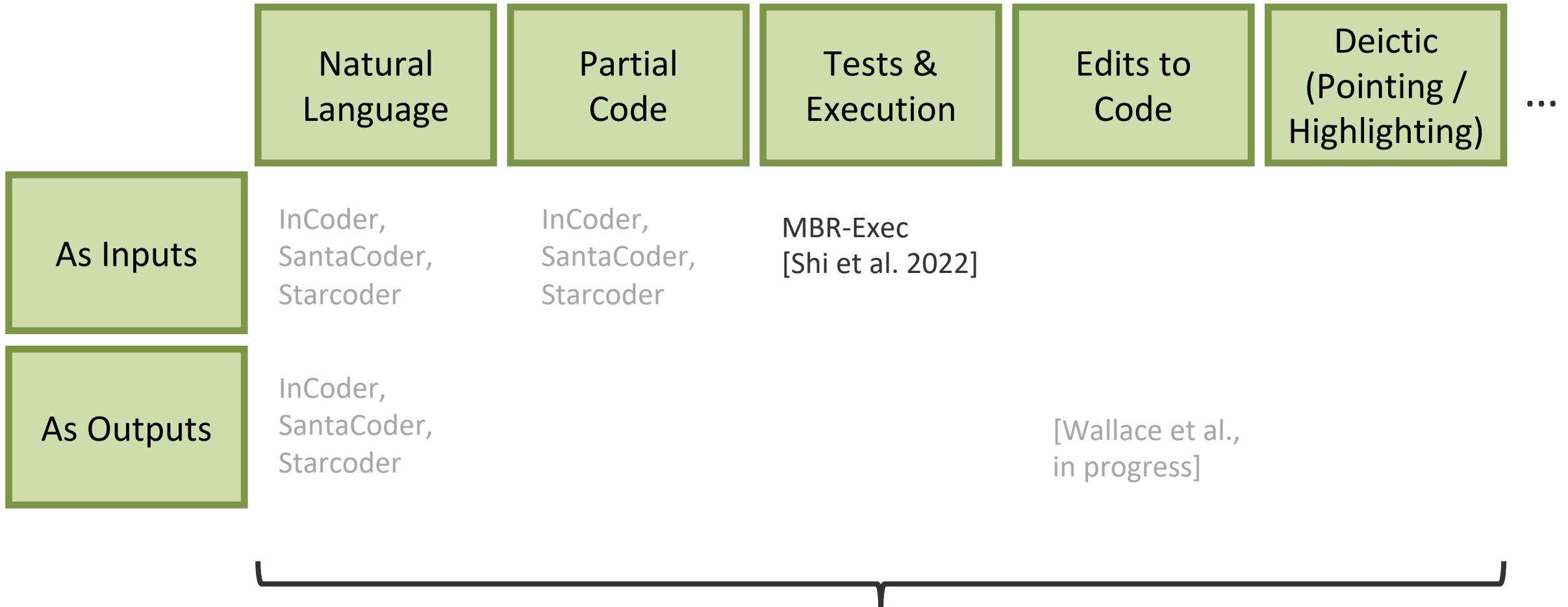
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Modality Choice  
[Lin et al., 2022]

# Communicating with Multiple Modalities

---



Modality Choice  
[Lin et al., 2022]

# Using Test Inputs

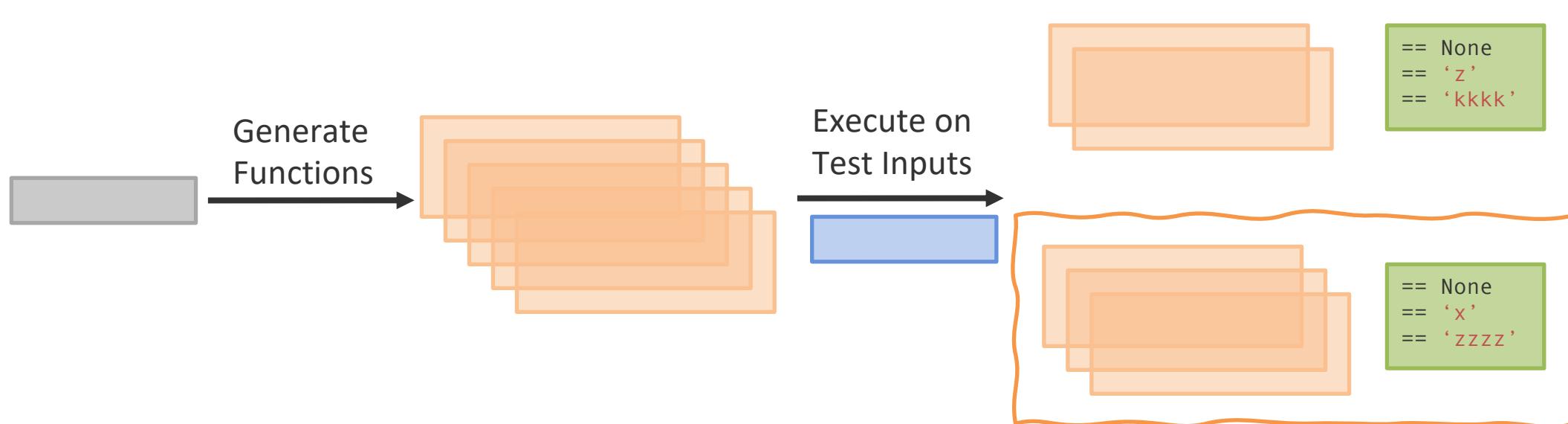
## Description:

```
def longest(strings: List[str]) -> Optional[str]:  
    """ Out of list of strings, return the longest one.  
    Return the first one in case of multiple strings of  
    the same length. Return None if the list is empty."""
```

## Test Inputs:

```
longest([]) == __  
longest(['x', 'y', 'z']) == __  
longest(['x', 'yyy', 'zzzz', 'www', 'kkkk', 'abc']) == __
```

## Minimum Bayes Risk with Execution:



[Shi et al. 2022. See also *AlphaCode*, Li et al. 2022]

# Other Features of Communication

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## ▶ Communicative cost

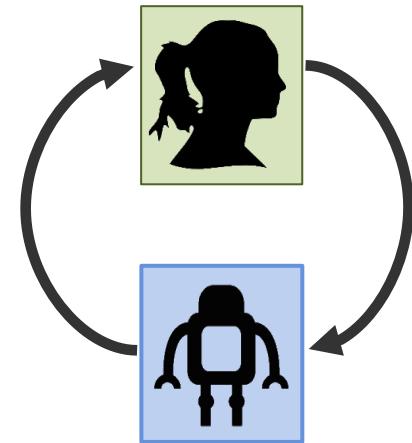
- ▷ Copilot outputs can be hard to understand [Vaithilingam et al. 2022]
- ▷ Would a user rather type a comment or edit code?

## ▶ Resolving uncertainty

- ▷ Disambiguate by prompting with test inputs [Zhong et al. 2022]
- ▷ How to convey uncertainty to the user & build trust?

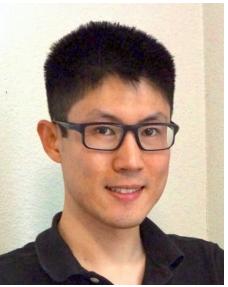
## ▶ Adaptation

- ▷ Acceleration vs exploration modes for using Copilot [Barke et al. 2022]
- ▷ API preferences, functional vs imperative, design patterns, documentation style ...



# Collaborators

---



Armen  
Aghajanyan

Jessy  
Lin

Sida  
Wang

Eric  
Wallace

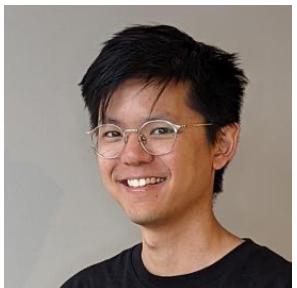
Freda  
Shi

Ruiqi  
Zhong

Scott  
Yih

Luke  
Zettlemoyer

Mike  
Lewis



Raymond  
Li

Louba Ben  
Allal

Denis  
Kocetkov

Arjun  
Guha

Leandro  
von Werra

Harm de  
Vries

and ~60 others  
from the BigCode  
project!



BigCode

 Meta