Presenting... Prompt Engineering in Emacs

Shane Mulligan

<2021-03-01 Mon>

Following along

Repositories for following along

```
http://github1s.com/semiosis/examplary
http://github1s.com/semiosis/pen.el
http://github1s.com/semiosis/prompts
http://github1s.com/semiosis/prompt-engineering-patterns
http://github1s.com/minimaxir/gpt-3-client
```

slides

```
http://github1s.com/semiosis/presentation-prompt-engineering-in-emacs
```

glossary

http://github1s.com/mullikine/glossaries-gh/blob/master/openai.txt

Demo

Text Generator

Background knowledge

- GPT-3 is a seq2seq model (a text generator)
 - It's stochastic but can be configured to be deterministic.

Key concepts

- prompt,
- completion, and
- tokens

Limitations

Combined, the text prompt and generated completion must be below 2048 tokens (roughly ~ 1500 words).

context-stuffing With only 2048 tokens, you need to make use of your real estate by providing instructions and making implicit information explicit.

Prompt Engineering

Characteristics

- declarative, like html
- stochastic, like problog
- Unlocks new types of applications
- Speeds up development

Some prompts I've made

generate-vim-command.prompt

```
Vim
3
   Insert "Q: " at the start of the line
    :%s/^/Q: /g.
5 ###
   Remove whitespace from the start of each line
    :%s/^\s*/\1/g
8 ###
    Join each line with the next line
10
    :1,$i
11
   ###
12
   Make all occurrences of Steve lowercase
13
    :%s/Steve/steve/g
14 ###
15
   <1>
```

Tasks suitable for GPT-3

Classification

- Tweet Sentiment
- Company categorization
- Labeling parts of speech
- http://github.com/semiosis/prompts/blob/master/prompts/ tweet-sentiment-classifier.prompt
- http://github.com/semiosis/prompts/blob/master/prompts/ keyword-extraction.prompt

Tasks suitable for GPT-3

Generation

■ Idea Generator

Come up with silly inventions.



Tasks suitable for GPT-3

Conversation

- Q&A agent
- Sarcastic chatbot

http://github.com/semiosis/prompts/blob/master/prompts/sarcastic-response.prompt

Taken from Prompt Design 101.

These are manual techniques which should be encoded in a DSL when generating prompts.

1. Reflective description of the task

State what the prompt does at the start At the start of the example we state in plain language what the classifier does:

1 _This is a tweet sentiment classifier._

By stating this up front it helps the API understand much more quickly what the goal of the response is supposed to be and you'll end needing to provide fewer examples.

Taken from Prompt Design 101.

These are manual techniques which should be encoded in a DSL when generating prompts.

2. Use separators between examples

Example: ###.

You can use other characters or line breaks, but ### works pretty consistently and is also an easy to use stop sequence.

Whatever separator you use, make sure that it's clear to the API where an example starts and stops.

Taken from Prompt Design 101.

These are manual techniques which should be encoded in a DSL when generating prompts.

Improving the classifier's efficiency Part 1

Make a prompt more efficient / cheaper.

Design it to generate multiple results from one API call.

```
1 This is a tweet sentiment classifier
```

- Tweet: "I loved the new Batman movie!"
- 3 Sentiment: Positive
- 4 ###
- 5 Tweet: "I hate it when my phone battery dies"
- 6 Sentiment: Negative
- 7 ###
- 8 Tweet: "My day has been "
- 9 Sentiment: Positive
- 10 ###
- 11 Tweet: "This is the link to the article"
- 12 Sentiment: Neutral
- 13 ###

Taken from Prompt Design 101.

These are manual techniques which should be encoded in a DSL when generating prompts.

Improving the classifier's efficiency Part 2

```
1. "I loved the new Batman movie!"
2 2. "I hate it when my phone battery dies"
  3. "My day has been "
4 4. "This is the link to the article"
   "This new music video blew my mind"
6
   Tweet sentiment ratings:
   1: Positive
   2: Negative
10 3: Positive
11 4: Neutral
12
  5: Positive
13
14
   ###
15
   Tweet text
```

Taken from Prompt Design 101.

These are manual techniques which should be encoded in a DSL when generating prompts.

Improving the classifier's efficiency Part 3

```
1 "I can't stand homework"
2 "This sucks. I'm bored "
3 "I can't wait for Halloween!!!"
4 "My cat is adorable "
5 "I hate chocolate"
6 Tweet sentiment ratings:
7 1.
```

Techniques

Query Reformulation

https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/computer-science/query-reformulation

You can improve the quality of the responses by making a longer more diverse list in your prompt.

One way to do that is to start off with one example, let the API generate more and select the ones that you like best and add them to the list.

A few more high-quality variations can dramatically improve the quality of the responses.

Prompt YAML format Part 1

meeting-bullets-to-summary.prompt

```
title: "meeting bullet points to summary"
2
    prompt: |+
3
        Convert my short hand into a first-hand
4
        account of the meeting:
5
        <1>
8
        Summary:
    engine: "davinci-instruct-beta"
10
    temperature: 0.7
11
   max-tokens: 60
```

Prompt YAML format Part 2

meeting-bullets-to-summary.prompt

```
top-p: 1
2
   frequency-penalty: 0.0
3
   presence-penalty: 0.0
   best-of: 1
4
  stop-sequences:
6
  - "\n\n"
   conversation-mode: no
8
  stitch-max: 0
 stitch-max Keep stitching together until reaching this limit. This
            allows a full response for answers which may need
```

n*max-tokens to reach the stop-sequence.

Prompt YAML format: Part 3

${\tt meeting-bullets-to-summary.prompt}$

```
1 vars:
2 - "notes"
3 examples:
4 - |+
5    Tom: Profits up 50%
6    Jane: New servers are online
7    Kjel: Need more time to fix software
8    Jane: Happy to help
9    Parkman: Beta testing almost done
```

Prompts as functions

pen-generate-prompt-functions

Generate prompt functions for the files in the prompts directory Function names are prefixed with pen-pf- for easy searching. http://github.com/semiosis/prompts

examplary: examples as functions

An example-oriented DSL that can be used to construct and compose NLP tasks.

Why is a DSL needed for this? Just to make the code a little more terse.

Regex

```
https://github.com/pemistahl/grex

1 (def regex
2 "example 1\nexample2" "^example [12]$"
3 "example 2\nexample3" "^example [23]$"
4 "pi4\npi5" "^pi[45]$")
```

examplary: examples as functions

Analogy

```
(def analogy
      ;; Each line is a training example.
3
      "NNs" "NNs are like genetic algorithms in
4
      that both are systems that learn from
5
      experience"
6
      "Social media" "Social media is like a
     market in that both are systems that
8
      coordinate the actions of many
      individuals.")
10
11
    (def field
12
      "chemistry" "study of chemicals"
13
      "biology" "study of living things")
```

Something funny

Vexate a simple instruction

```
prompt
 The human asks the AI to make a simple description more complicated. The AI responds by
writing a verbose response full of jargon to explain a simple concept.
  Human: explain how to use a drinking fountain.
 AI: To activate the mechanized dihydrogen monoxide dispensary service station, use the flanges
to provide a downward force to the simple circular activation console and continue to apply
force until the pneumatic system begins operating as intended, which can be surmised at a time
when the dihydrogen monoxide travels in a parabolic arc which at is greatest exceeds three
inches from the rounded excess liquid receptacle. Once hydration is completed, cease applying
force to the console and regard whether or not the dispensary has ceased expelling contents as
 Human: explain how to play with a dog
 AI: Being a typical domesticated animal, having been genetically selected for controllability,
trainability, and general anthropomorphic features and functions, the typical dog possesses
highly specialized and developed feeding behavior. The typical feeding behavior involves routine
systemance intake which can be observed by monitoring changes in animal size. Routine systemance
intake involves active and passive feeding habits, and one can gauge animal health by observing
the relative levels of hydration. During training, reward conditioned reinforcement is applied.
This involves the practice of rewarding targeted behaviors through the application of
reinforcers, with the provision that the targeted behavior is observed. Relevant to the
discussion at hand is the typical active and passive behavior exhibited by a typical dog.
  Human: explain how to <1>
engine "davinci"
temperature: 0.8
max-tokens: 100
top-p
frequency-penalty: 0.2
presence-penalty: 0.4
best-of:
stop-sequences:
inject-start-text: ves
```

Something funny

How to crack an egg

how to crack an egg

Cracking an egg is a basic procedure which can be achieved by applying a downward force to the egg. Finding the correct force may require trial and error, but is essential to the procedure. A broken egg is an indication that the force may have been too high or too low. If it is too high, the shell will be broken, but the yolk intact. If it is too low, the force will not be sufficient to rupture the membrane of the shell, requiring that additional force be applied

Create a prompt

Ask the audience

- What type of text to generate
 - Could be code, prose, etc.

Tutorials

Ruby

https://www.twilio.com/blog/ generating-cooking-recipes-openai-gpt3-ruby