

# WRITER

## Becoming self-instructed – The key to building high-quality models

Waseem AlShikh

CTO & Co-founder



---

L'ORÉAL

Vanguard®

Johnson&Johnson

INTUIT

HubSpot

nVIDIA  
GTC

# WRITER

The generative AI platform for enterprises

## Headquarters

San Francisco

## Founded

2020

## Metrics

100K+ users

200+ customers

## Investors

ICONIQ, Insight,

WndrCo, Balderton,

Google

## CUSTOMERS

INTUIT

L'ORÉAL

 kenvue

T-Mobile

 CVS

 Microsoft

 salesforce

  
DOORDASH

 NVIDIA

Goldman  
Sachs

 Northwestern  
Mutual

 Dropbox

accenture

 Spotify

 United  
Healthcare

 Pinterest

Deloitte.

Linked

Vanguard®

HubSpot

# How we started

**WRITER**

We used the best  
training data

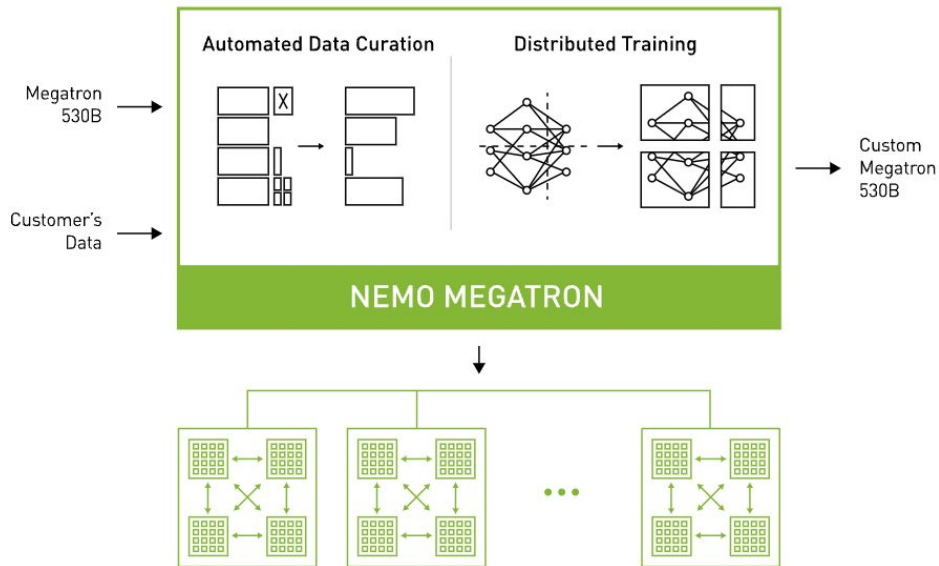
Lots of GPUs!

A few other tricks  
such as multiquery  
attention

Our results was much lower than expected.  
Our instruct model was worse than plain vanilla LLM...

# NeMo framework – NEMO MEGATRON

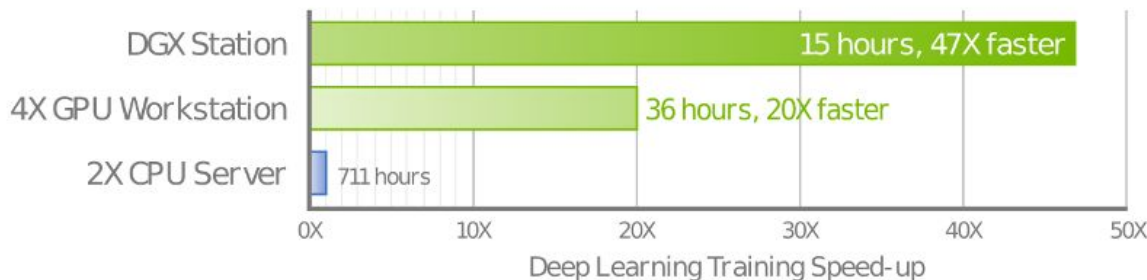
WRITER



We've harnessed the power of Nemo-Megatron for training our large language models.

Its built-in distributed training capabilities, coupled with prebuilt libraries, make LLM training and deployment seamless.

## NVIDIA DGX Station Delivers 47X Faster Training



DGX Station performance projected based on DGX-1 (with Tesla V100) Workload: ResNet50, 90 epochs to solution | CPU Server: Dual Xeon E5-2699 v4, 2.6GHz. Projections subject to change.

Our deep learning projects leverage NVIDIA GPUs for both model training and inference.

DGX Station delivers 3X the training performance of today's fastest workstations.

NVIDIA GPUs and associated tools are at the heart of our success in training and fine-tuning large language models.

They have not only expedited our projects but have also opened doors to previously unattainable performance levels.



**Data and methods**

Becoming self-instructed  
data and training

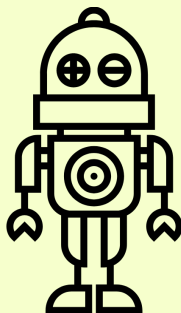
# Aligning LLMs with user intent

# The tale of two models

**WRITER**

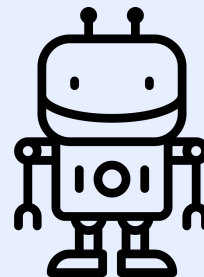
## Vanilla model (non instruct)

*Also known as a base model*



"Let me continue your  
question"

## Instruct model



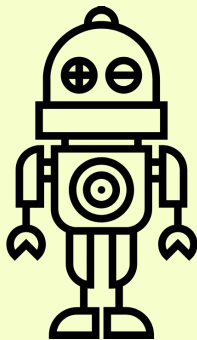
"Let me answer your  
question"



# Types of common vanilla models

**WRITER**

## Next word prediction



"Let me continue your question"

**WRITER**



Palmyra-base  
Palmyra-large

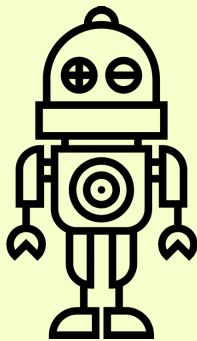
GPT2  
GPT3

RedPajama  
LLaMA  
OpenLLama  
OTB  
MTB  
...

# Vanilla model predicting the next word

**WRITER**

## Next word prediction



"Let me continue your question"

## Non instruct

### **QUESTION:**

What is the capital of France?

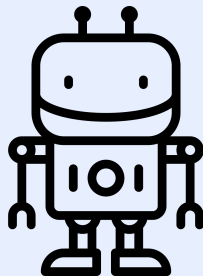
### **ANSWER:**

What is the capital of Germany?

# Types of common instruct models

**WRITER**

## Follow instruction



"Let me answer your question"

**WRITER**



Palmyra-instruct  
Palmyra-X  
Camel

ChatGPT  
GPT4  
GPT3.5-turbo  
InstructGPT

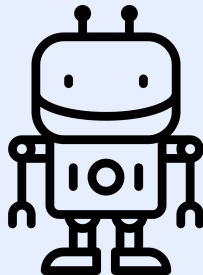
Alpaca  
Vicuna  
OpenChat  
Orca

...

# Instruct model answers your question

**WRITER**

**Follow instruction**



"Let me answer your question"

**Instruct**

**QUESTION:**

What is the capital of France?

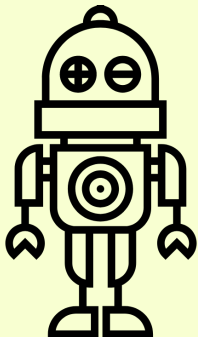
**ANSWER:**

The capital of France is Paris.

# Two tasks

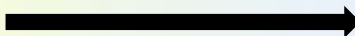
**WRITER**

**Next word prediction**

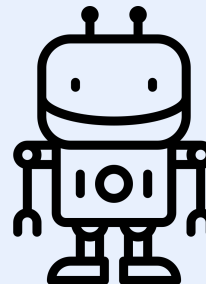


"Let me continue your  
question"

**Instruct tuning**



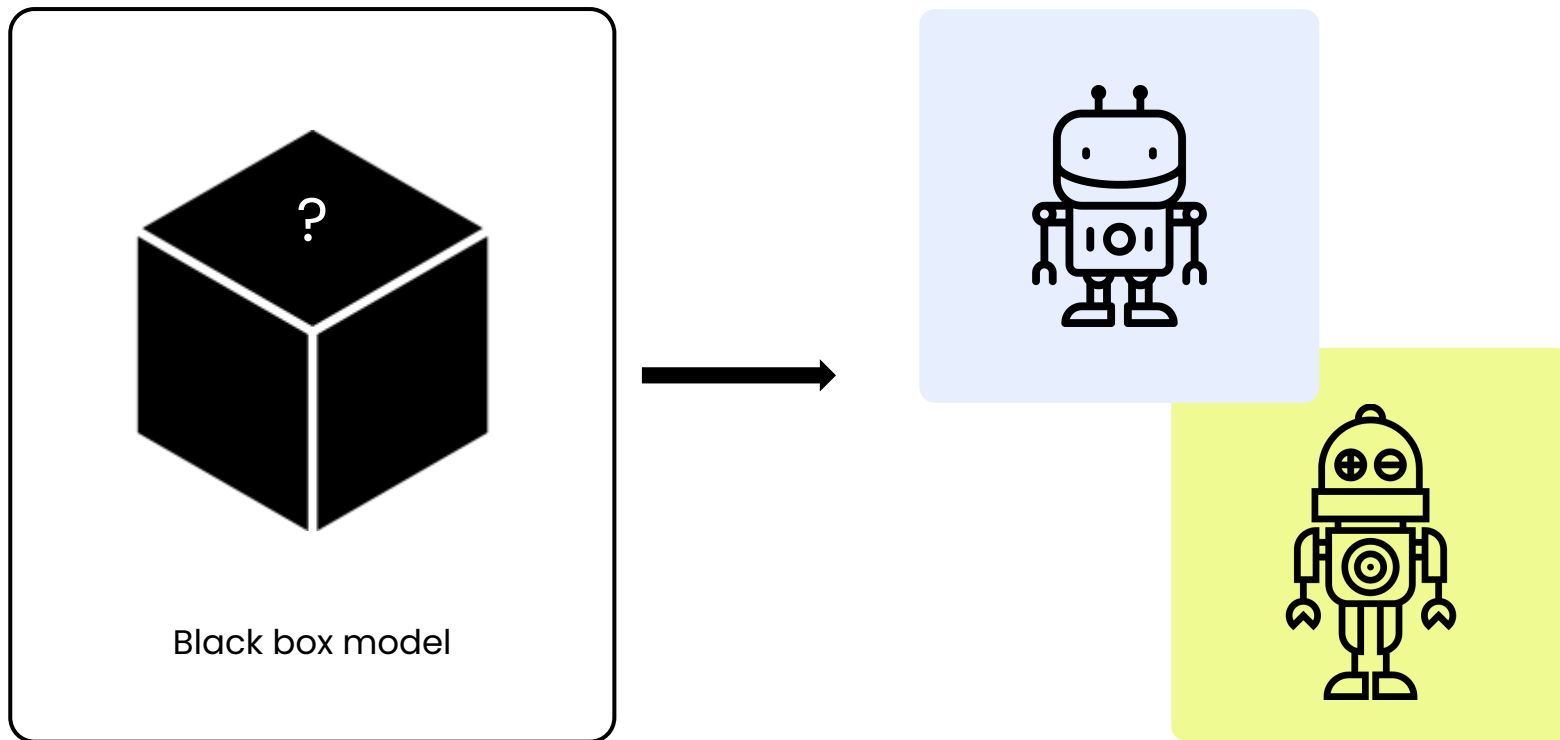
**Follow instruction**



"Let me answer your  
question"

# Is the black box model vanilla or instruct?

**WRITER**



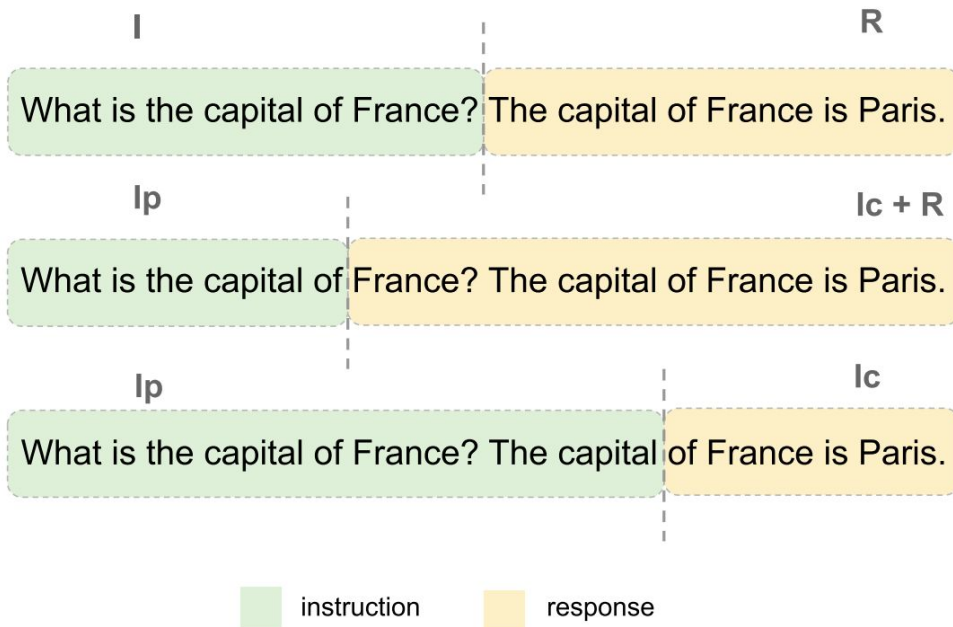
# Introducing IFS

(Instruction Following Score)

# The eval dataset in chat format

WRITER

## Different datapoint splits



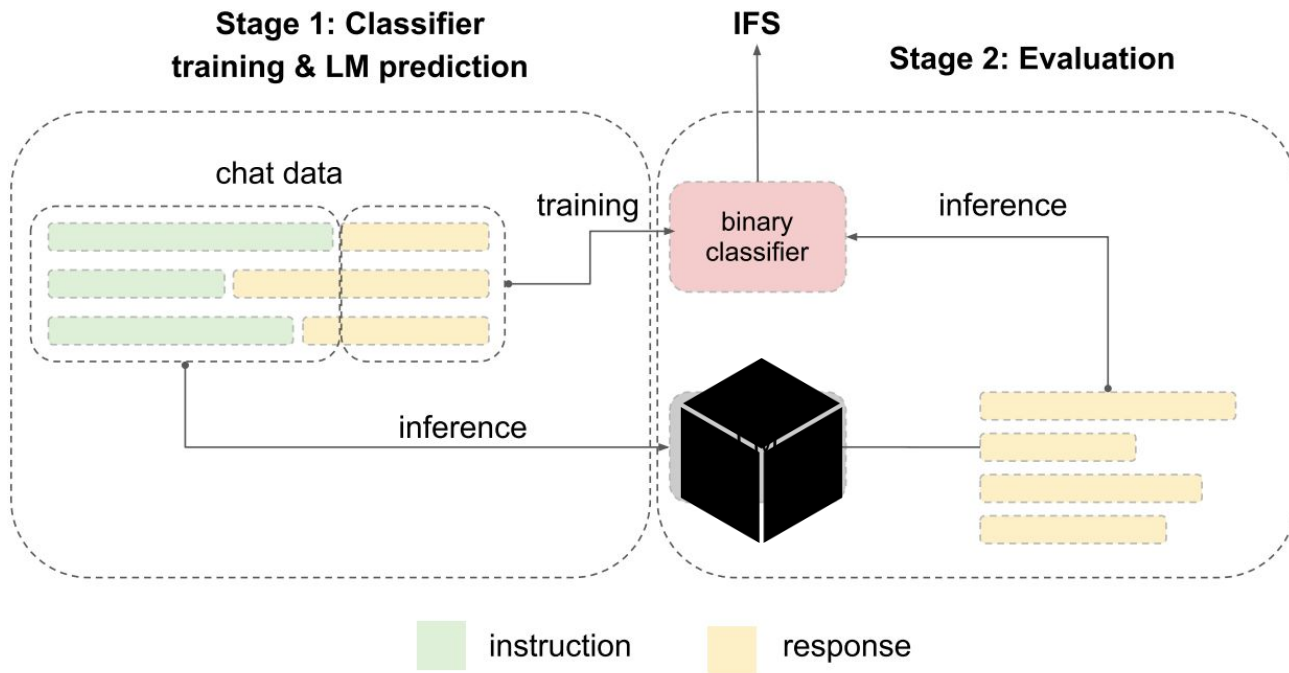
I → Instruction  
R → Response  
Ip → Instruction partial  
(fragmented instruction)  
Ic → Continuation of instruction

Use a classifier to determine if the response is an instruct model or not



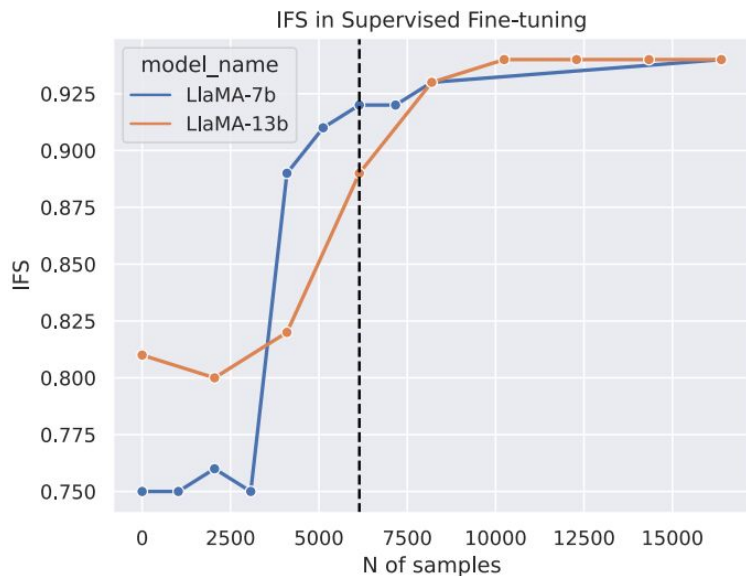
# IFS experiment pipeline

WRITER

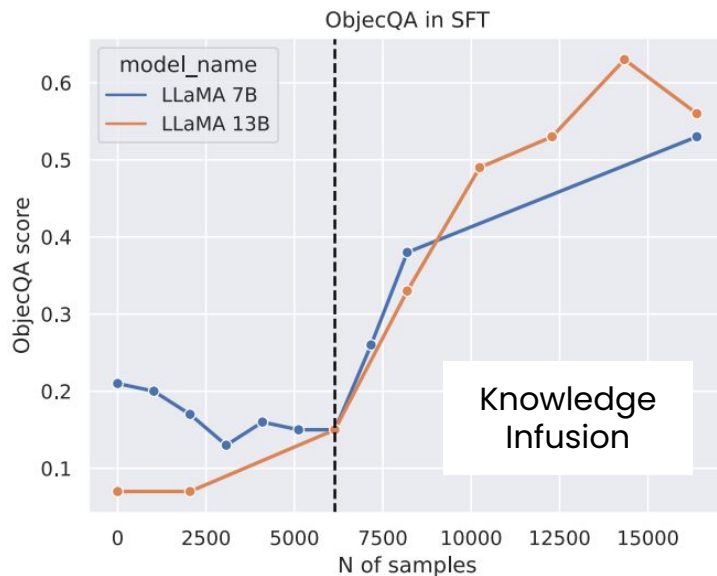


# IFS as a stopping criterion in SFT

WRITER



(a) IFS



(b) ObjecQA

Skills phase vs knowledge phase

# IFS can help you measuring specifics



## Skills

- Text Generation
- Translation
- Question Answering
- Summarization
- Sentiment Analysis
- ...etc



## Behaviors

- Bias
- Toxicity
- Creativity and Repetitiveness

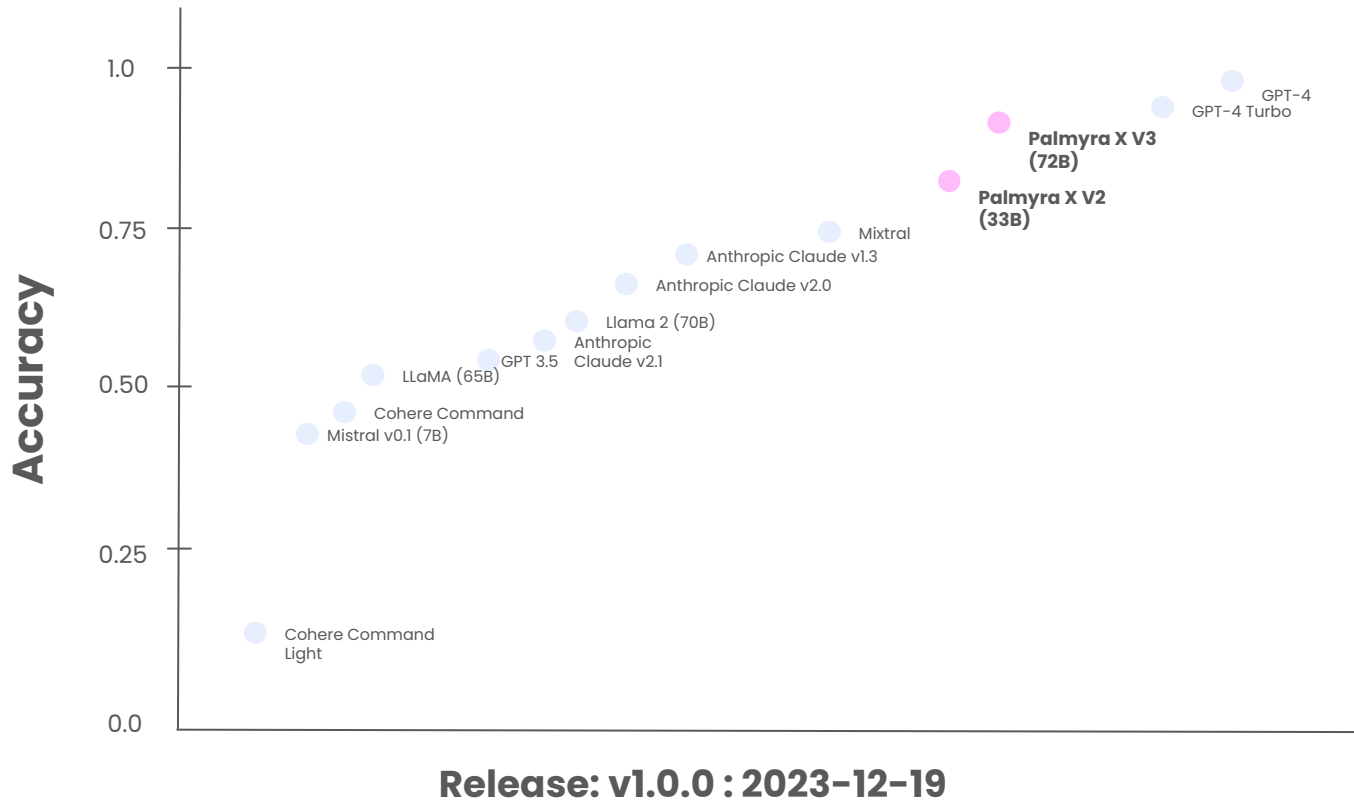


## Knowledge

- Factual Knowledge
- Common Sense Knowledge
- Contextual Knowledge and Domain Specific Knowledge

So what?!

# Writer model accuracy vs other leading models





GPT-4	<a href="#">0.962</a>
GPT-4 Turbo	<a href="#">0.834</a>
<b>Palmyra X V3</b>	<b><a href="#">0.821</a></b>
<b>Palmyra X V2</b>	<b><a href="#">0.783</a></b>
Mixtral	<a href="#">0.728</a>
Anthropic Claude v1.3	<a href="#">0.724</a>
Anthropic Claude 2.0	<a href="#">0.679</a>
Llama 2 (70B)	<a href="#">0.659</a>
GPT-3.5	<a href="#">0.621</a>
Anthropic Claude 2.1	<a href="#">0.593</a>
LLaMA (65B)	<a href="#">0.503</a>
Cohere Command	<a href="#">0.462</a>
Mistral v0.1 (7B)	<a href="#">0.438</a>
Cohere Command Light	<a href="#">0.148</a>

< Papers  arxiv:2307.03692 

## Becoming self-instruct: introducing early stopping criteria for minimal instruct tuning

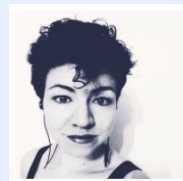
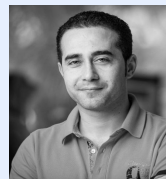
Published on Jul 5 · ★ Featured in Daily Papers on Jul 10

Authors:  [Waseem AlShikh](#), Manhal Daaboul, Kirk Goddard, Brock Imel,  [Kiran Kamble](#), Parikshith Kulkarni, Melisa Russak

### Abstract

In this paper, we introduce the Instruction Following Score (IFS), a metric that detects language models' ability to follow instructions. The metric has a dual purpose. First, IFS can be used to distinguish between base and instruct models. We benchmark publicly available base and instruct models, and show that the ratio of well formatted responses to partial and full sentences can be an effective measure between those two model classes. Secondly, the metric can be used as an early stopping criteria for instruct tuning. We compute IFS for Supervised Fine-Tuning (SFT) of 7B and 13B LLaMA models, showing that models learn to follow instructions relatively early in the training process, and the further finetuning can result in changes in the underlying base model semantics. As an example of semantics change we show the objectivity of model predictions, as defined by an auxiliary metric ObjecQA. We show that in this particular case, semantic changes are the steepest when the IFS tends to plateau. We hope that decomposing instruct tuning into IFS and semantic factors starts a new trend in better controllable instruct tuning and opens possibilities for designing minimal instruct interfaces querying foundation models.

### The team:



Our paper

Q&A