

Knowledge-based Question Answering with Large Language Models

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Knowledge-based Question Answering with LLMs

- Multi-modal Questions
- Solving Reasoning Problems under Noisy Context
- Generating Complex Questions

Future Directions

- The Applications of LLMs on more NLP tasks
- Instruction-tuning of LLMs for KGQA

Knowledge-based Question Answering with LLMs

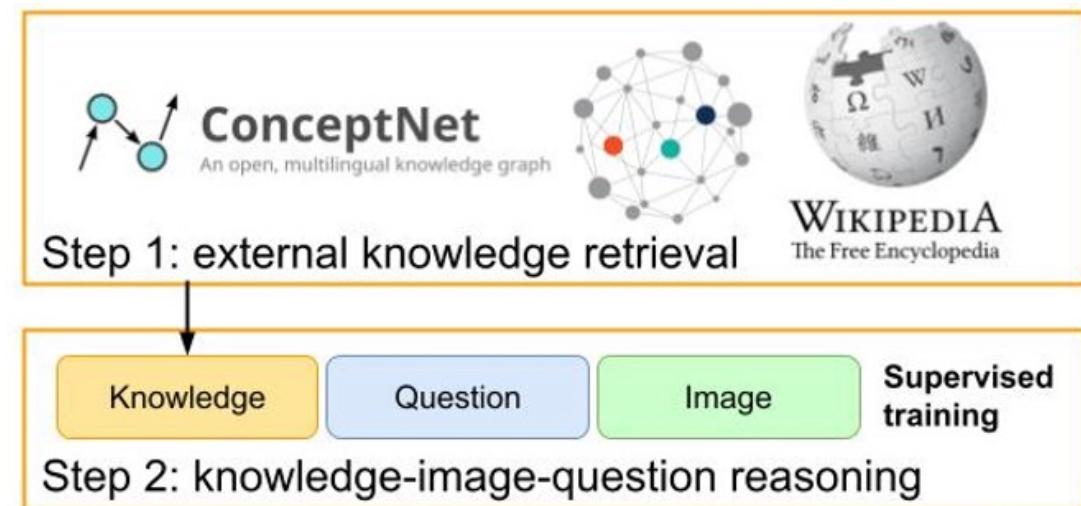
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Visual Question Answering

What is the appliance the woman is holding used for?



[1] Zhengyuan Yang, Zhe Gan, Jianfei Wang, Xiaowei Hu, Yumao Lu, Zicheng Liu, and Lijuan Wang. 2022. An Empirical Study of GPT-3 for Few-Shot Knowledge-Based VQA. AAAI. 2022.

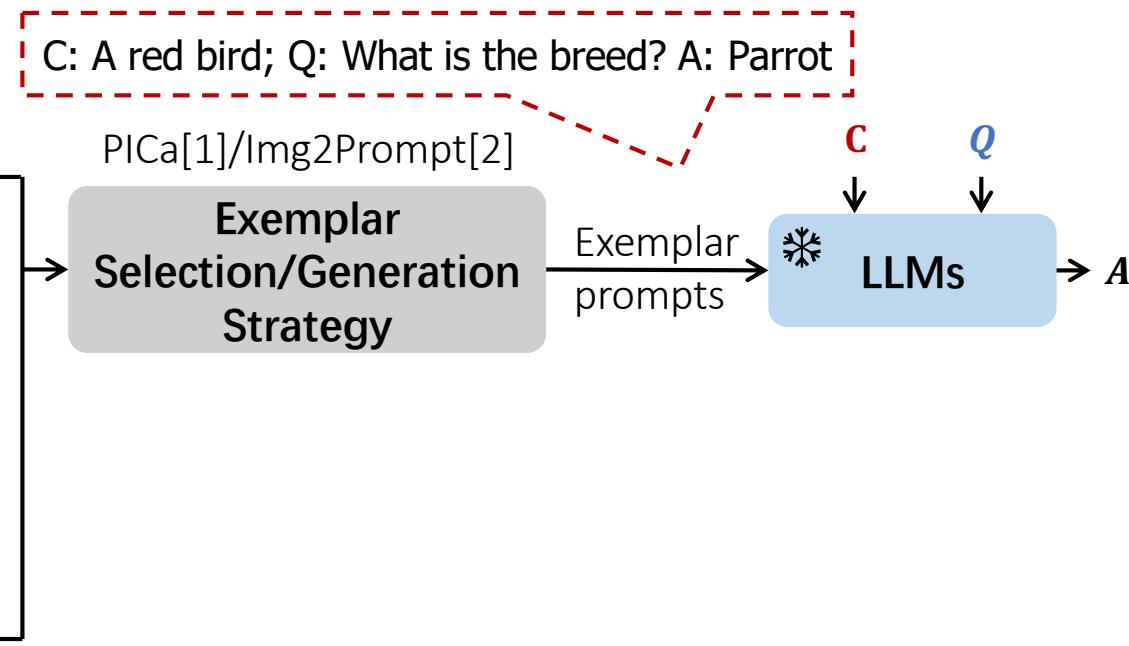
A New Paradigm

(C) This is a blow dryer in a bathroom



(V)

(Q) What is the appliance the woman is holding used for?



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[2] Jiaxian Guo, Junnan Li, Dongxu Li, Anthony Tiong, Boyang Li, Dacheng Tao, and Steven Hoi. 2023. From Images to Textual Prompts: Zero-shot Visual Question Answering with Frozen Large Language Models. CVPR. 2023.

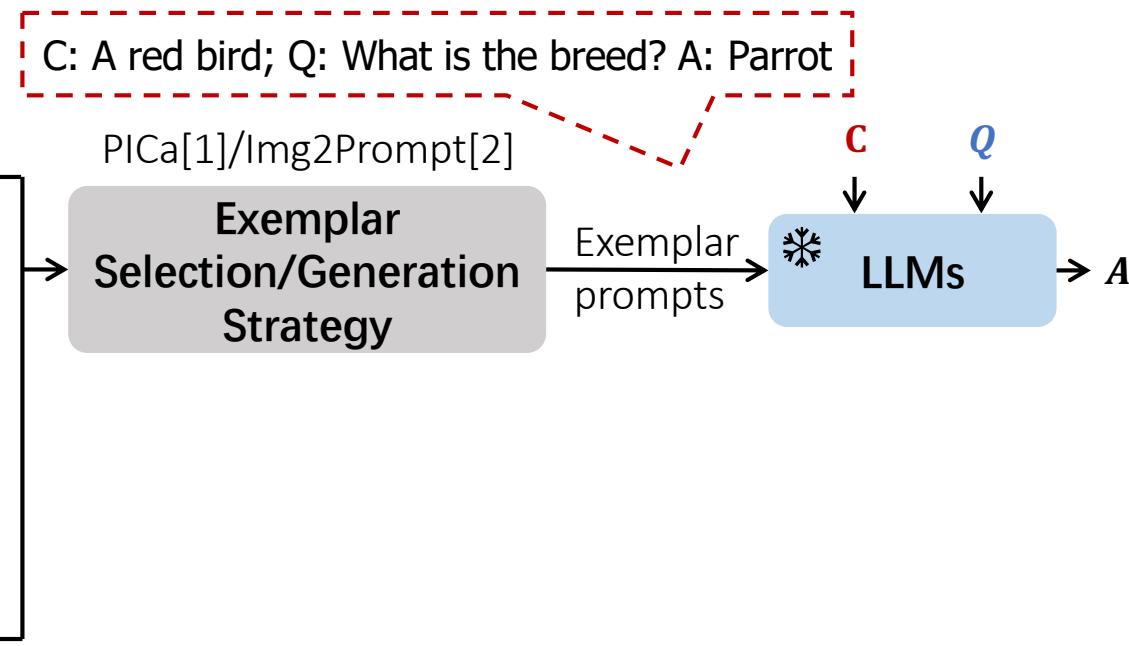
Our Motivation

(C) This is a blow dryer in a bathroom



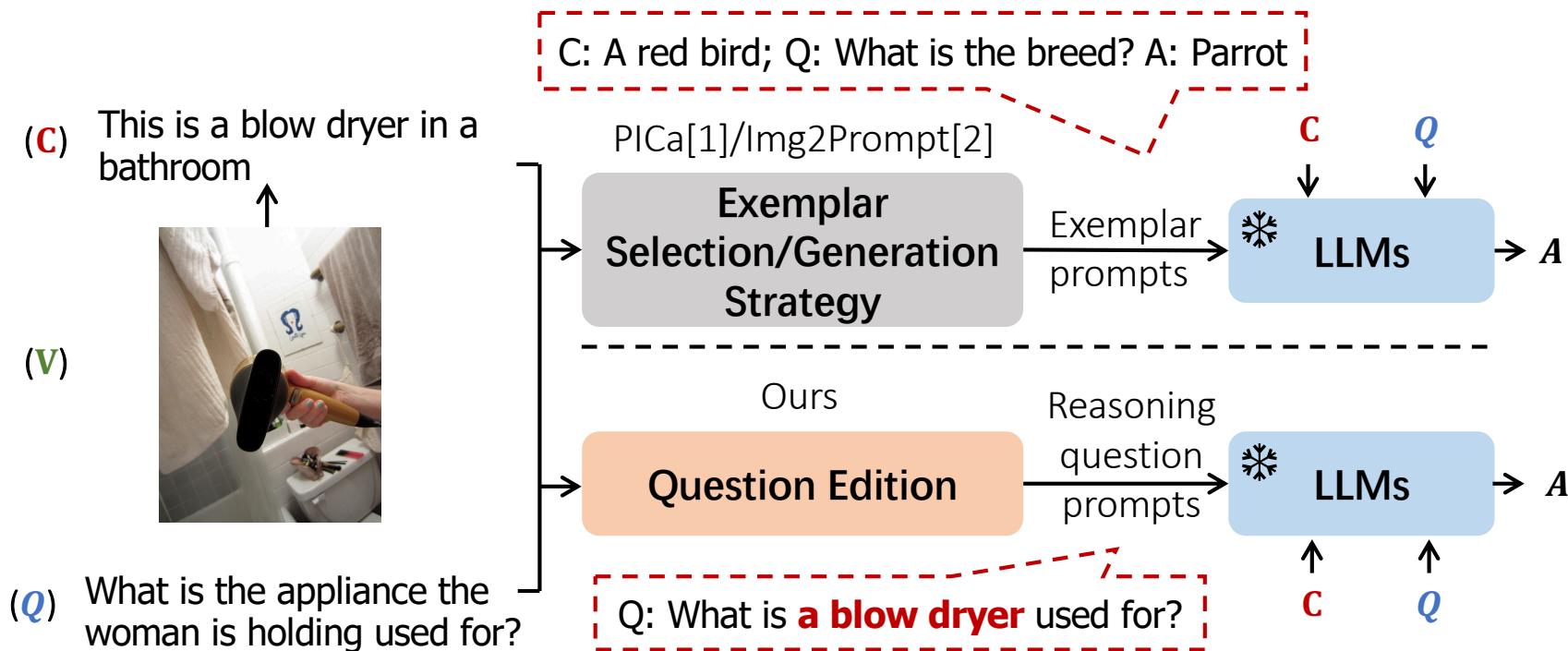
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(Q) What is the appliance the woman is holding used for?



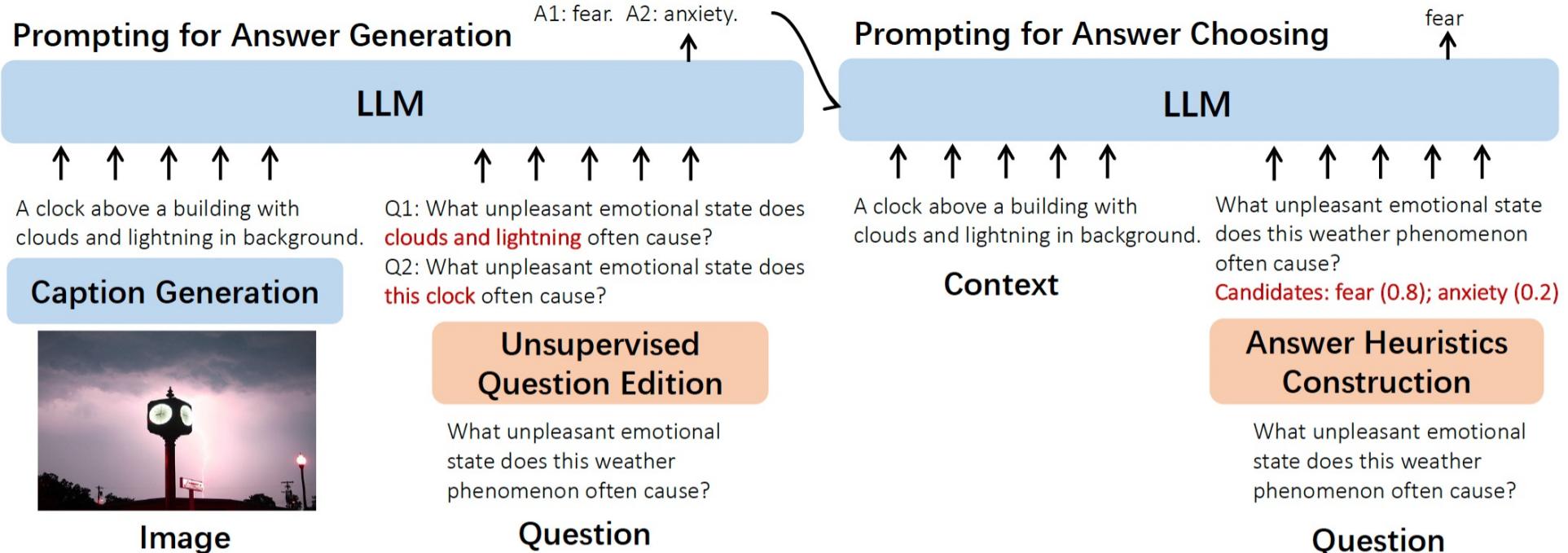
1. The current methods entirely rely on the understanding capability of LLMs to resolve the ambiguity and infer the intent of the questions, which might **involve unexpected bias**.
2. LLMs are **brittle to ill-posed questions**, especially under the zero-shot setting.

Our Motivation



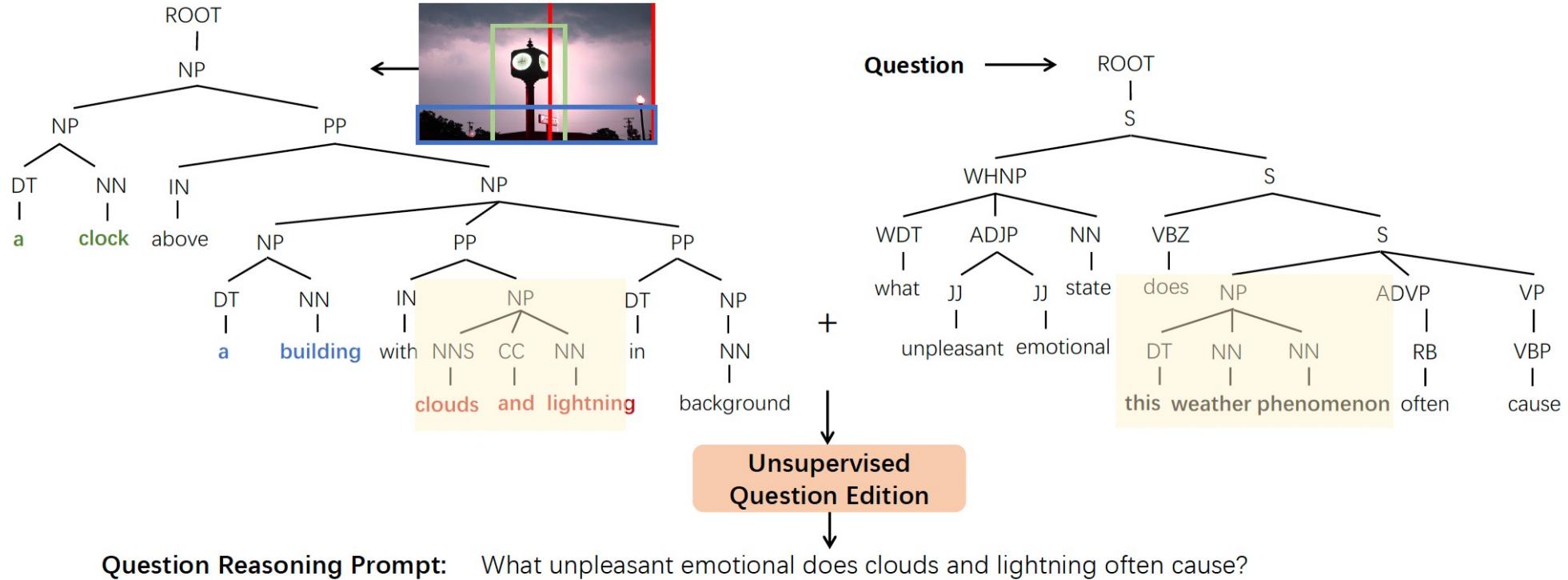
Reasoning Question Prompts: converting original questions into self-contained questions by editing the segments of the question.

Reasoning Question Prompt



Our prompting method generates **reasoning question prompts** and enables LLMs to perform VQA tasks with **two-step reasoning**.

Prompting for Answer Generation



Prompting for Answer Generation



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Unsupervised Question Edition: Our scoring function for evaluating the quality of the candidates:

- LM Score. $f_{LM}(\tilde{Q}) = \ln \prod_{i=1}^T P(w_i | w_{i-1}, \dots, w_1)$
- Semantic Integrity. $f_{semantic}(\tilde{Q}) = \cos(\tilde{Q}, Q)$
- Syntactic Invariance. $f_{syntactic}(\tilde{Q}) = \mathbb{I}(\text{Tag}_{Q[i]} = \text{Tag}_{\tilde{Q}[j]})$

The overall scoring function:

$$f(\tilde{Q}) = f_{LM}(\tilde{Q})^\alpha f_{semantic}(\tilde{Q})^\beta f_{syntactic}(\tilde{Q})$$

Prompt Design:

Instruction: Please answer the question according to the contexts.

Context: [caption].

Question: [reasoning question prompt].

Answer:

Prompting for Answer Choosing



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Answer Heuristics Construction:

$$P(A) = \sum_{LLM(\tilde{Q}) \rightarrow A} P(\tilde{Q}) P_{LLM}(A|\tilde{Q})$$

Prompt Design:

Instruction: Please answer the question according to the contexts and candidates.

Context: [caption].

Question: [original question].

Candidates: [$A_1 P(A_1)$]; [$A_2 P(A_2)$]; ...; [$A_m P(A_m)$]

Answer:

[1] Zhenwei Shao, Zhou Yu, Meng Wang, and Jun Yu. Prompting Large Language Models with Answer Heuristics for Knowledge-based Visual Question Answering. arXiv preprint arXiv:2303.01903. 2023.

Experiments



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Datasets:

- OK-VQA: 5,046 test questions.
- A-OKVQA: 1,100 and 6,700 questions for validation and testing, respectively.
- VQAv2: 214,354 validation questions.

Comparable Methods:

- LLM-based methods: PICa, Img2Prompt
- Pre-trained zero-shot VQA methods: Flamingo, Frozen VL-T5, FewVLM and VLKD.

Experimental Results

Method	Model size	Shot number	Examplar number	OK-VQA test	VQAv2 val	A-OKVQA val	A-OKVQA test
<i>Zero-shot Evaluation with Frozen LLMs</i>							
PICa {GPT-3}	175B	0	0	17.7	—	23.8°	—
Img2Prompt {OPT}	6.7B	0	30	38.2	52.2°	33.3	32.2
Img2Prompt {OPT}	30B	0	30	41.8	54.2°	36.9	33.0
Img2Prompt {GPT-3}	175B	0	30	42.8	—	38.9°	43.4°
Img2Prompt {OPT}	175B	0	30	45.6	60.6	42.9	40.7
PICa+RQ prompt {GPT-3} (Ours)	175B	0	0	20.3(↑ 2.6)	—	29.0(↑ 5.2)	—
Img2Prompt+RQ prompt {OPT} (Ours)	6.7B	0	30	38.5(↑ 0.3)	52.9(↑ 0.7)	36.3(↑ 3.0)	31.5
Img2Prompt+RQ prompt {OPT} (Ours)	30B	0	30	42.1(↑ 0.3)	54.5(↑ 0.3)	38.1(↑ 1.2)	35.2(↑ 3.0)
Img2Prompt+RQ prompt {GPT-3} (Ours)	175B	0	30	46.4 (↑ 3.6)	—	43.2(↑ 4.3)	43.9(↑ 0.5)
<i>Zero-shot Evaluation with Pre-trained VQA methods</i>							
VL-T5 {no-vqa}	224M	0	0	5.8	13.5	—	—
FewVLM {large}	740M	0	0	16.5	47.7	—	—
VLKD {ViT-L/14}	408M	0	0	13.3	44.5	—	—
Frozen	7B	0	0	5.9	29.5	—	—
Flamingo	80B	0	0	50.6	—	—	—
<i>Few-shot Evaluation with Frozen LLMs</i>							
PICa {GPT-3}	175B	16	16	46.5	54.3	—	—
Prophet {GPT-3}	175B	20	20	61.1	—	—	—

RQ prompts can generally improve VQA tasks under zero-shot setting

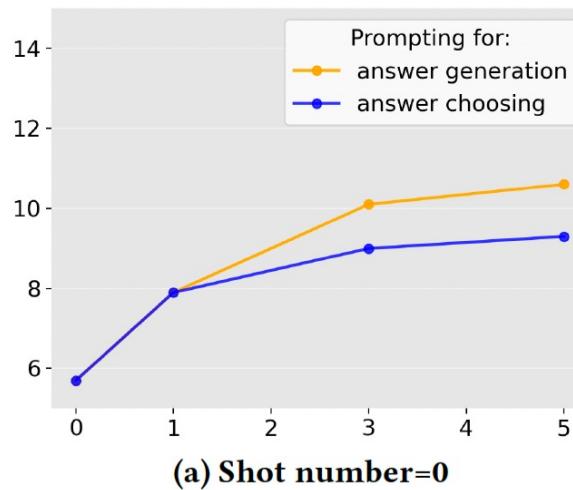
RQ Prompts with Different LLMs

Table 3: Zero-shot performance A-OKVQA validation set having Img2Prompt as baselines but with different LLMs. Δ denotes the performance gain brought by QR prompts.

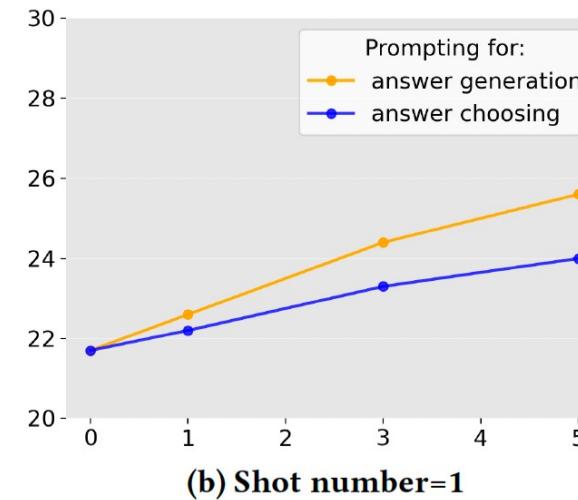
LLMs	Img2Prompt	+QR prompt	Δ
GPT-3 175B	38.9	43.2	$\uparrow 4.3$
GPT-3.5 175B	37.1	40.3	$\uparrow 3.2$
GPT-Neo 2.7B	29.7	31.5	$\uparrow 1.8$
BLOOM 7.1B	29.8	32.1	$\uparrow 2.3$
GPT-J 6B	32.5	33.1	$\uparrow 0.6$
OPT 125M	10.8	13.3	$\uparrow 2.5$

RQ prompts can generally collaborate with LLMs

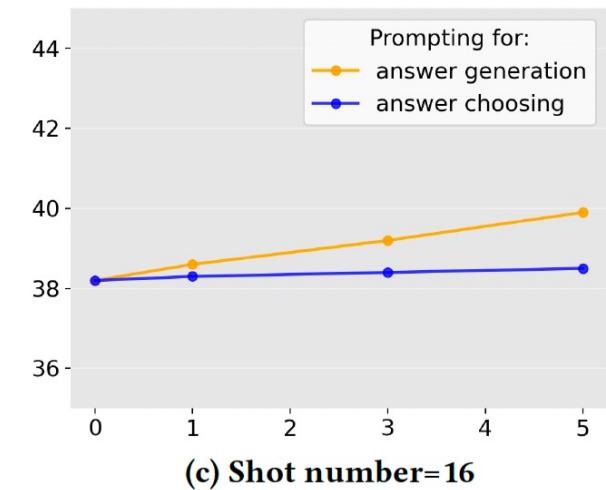
More Analysis of RQ Prompts



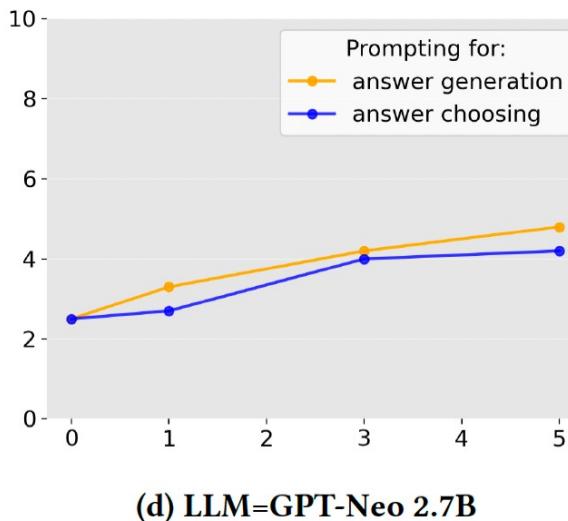
(a) Shot number=0



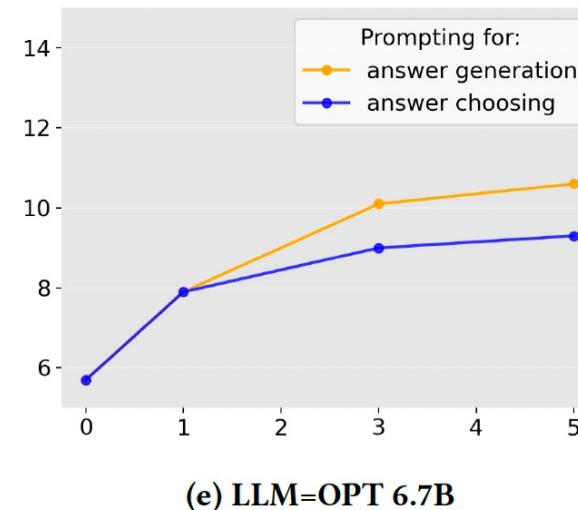
(b) Shot number=1



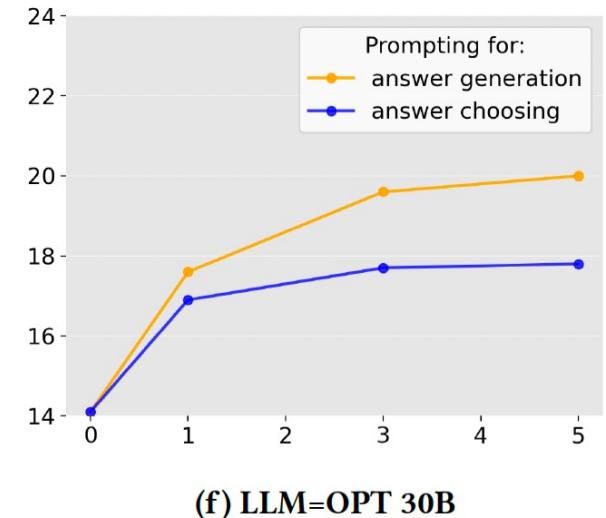
(c) Shot number=16



(d) LLM=GPT-Neo 2.7B



(e) LLM=OPT 6.7B



(f) LLM=OPT 30B

Larger improvement gain brought by RQ prompts can be shown when: (1) shot number is low; (2) the size of LLM is relatively large

Case Study

Caption: This is a blow dryer in a bathroom.



Question: What is the appliance the woman is holding used for?

GT Answer: drying hair

Original Answer: cutting hair

Prompting for Answer Generation:

Q1: What is the appliance **a blow dryer** used for? $P(\tilde{Q}) = 0.21$

A1: **drying hair** $P_{LLM}(A|\tilde{Q}) = 0.15$

Q2: What is the appliance **a bathroom** is holding used for? $P(\tilde{Q}) = 0.29$

A2: **drying hair** $P_{LLM}(A|\tilde{Q}) = 0.10$

Prompting for Answer Choosing:

Question: What is the appliance the woman is holding used for?

Candidates: drying hair (1.00)

Predicted Answer: **drying hair**

(a)

Caption: A little girl holding a cup with rice in dishes in front of her



Question: What is the child eating?

GT Answer: rice

Original Answer: spaghetti

Prompting for Answer Generation:

Q1: what is **dishes in front of her**? $P(\tilde{Q}) = 0.15$

A1: **rice** $P_{LLM}(A|\tilde{Q}) = 0.20$

Q2: What is the child eating? $P(\tilde{Q}) = 0.7$

A2: **spaghetti** $P_{LLM}(A|\tilde{Q}) = 0.10$

Q3: what is **a cup with food in dishes in front of her**? $P(\tilde{Q}) = 0.15$

A3: **rice** $P_{LLM}(A|\tilde{Q}) = 0.30$

Prompting for Answer Choosing:

Question: What is the child eating?

Candidates: spaghetti (0.48); rice (0.51)

Predicted Answer: **rice**

(b)

The questions become self-contained with RQ prompts.

Conclusions



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- RQ prompts are helpful to bridge the gap between questions and captions, such that it can boost performance of leveraging LLMs to VQA tasks.
- RQ prompts show general improvement on different LLMs. It could achieve SOTA results on three of four VQA tasks on zero-shot setting.
- RQ prompts show more effect on zero-shot setting and large LLMs.

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Chain-of-Thought

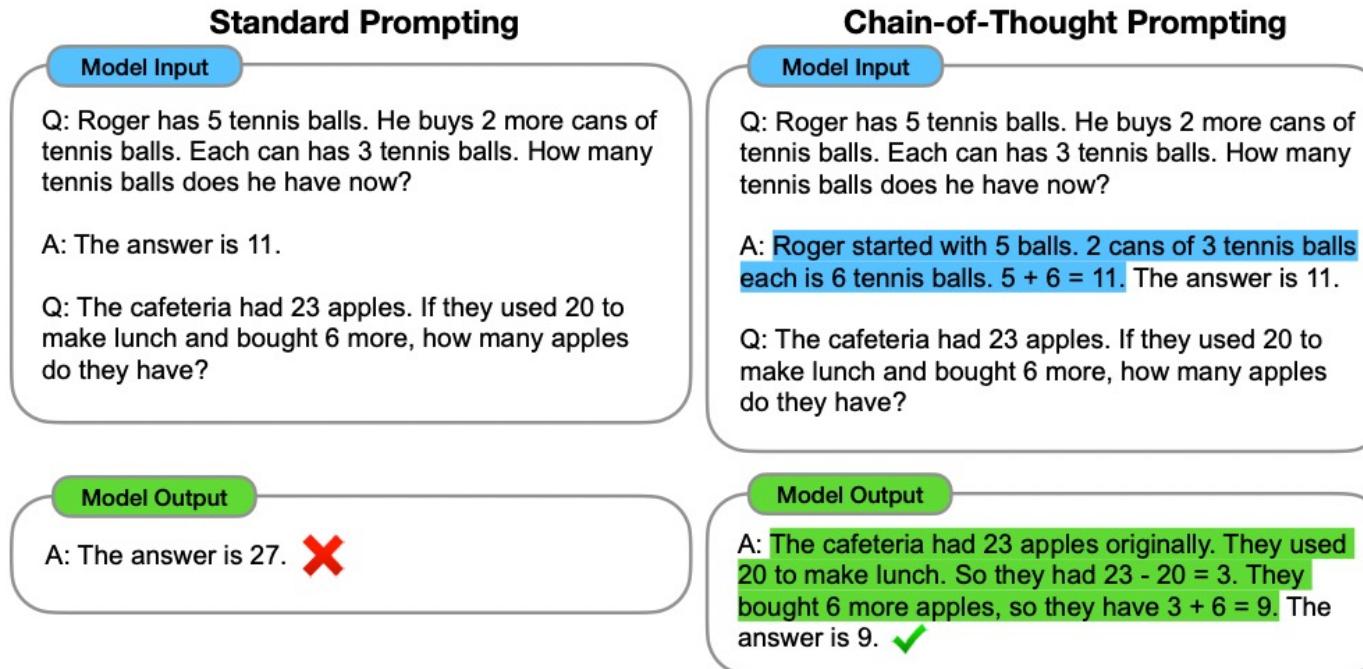


Figure 1: Chain-of-thought prompting enables large language models to tackle complex arithmetic, commonsense, and symbolic reasoning tasks. Chain-of-thought reasoning processes are highlighted.

Original Problem

Jessica is six years older than Claire. In two years, Claire will be 20 years old. How old is Jessica now?

Modified Problem

Jessica is six years older than Claire. In two years, Claire will be 20 years old. *Twenty years ago, the age of Claire's father is 3 times of Jessica's age.* How old is Jessica now?

Standard Answer 24

Table 1. An example problem from GSM-IC. An irrelevant sentence (*italic and underlined*) that does not affect the standard answer is added immediately before the question.

Comparison of Existing CoTs

[**Exemplar Problem**] : Helen baked 19 chocolate cookies and 12 berry cookies yesterday, and she baked 231 raisin cookies and 237 chocolate cookies this morning. How many more chocolate cookies than raisin cakes did Helen bake?

[**Noisy Context**] : Helen baked 12 berry cookies yesterday.

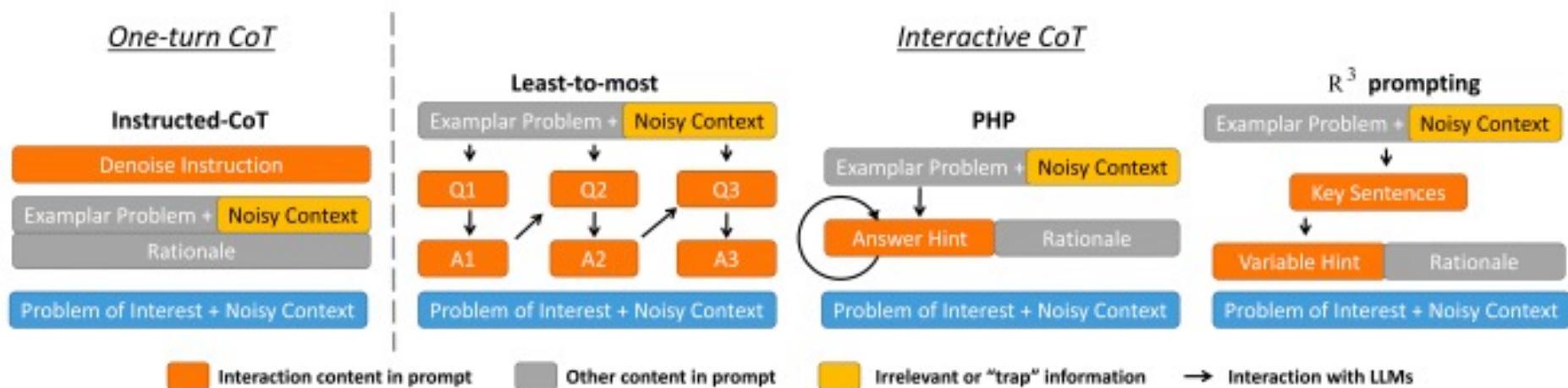


Figure 1: Comparison between R³ prompting and existing CoT prompting baseline methods. The exemplar problems are multiple problems we used as exemplars for in-context learning. Rationales are reasoning chains in prompts. The problem of interest is the query problem.

Freda Shi, Xinyun Chen, Kanishka Misra, Nathan Scales, David Dohan, Ed Chi, Nathanael Sch.rli, and Denny Zhou. 2023. Large language models can be easily distracted by irrelevant context. ICML. 2023

Denny Zhou, Nathanael Scharli, Le Hou, Jason Wei, Nathan Scales, Xuezhi Wang, Dale Schuurmans, Claire Cui, Olivier Bousquet, Quoc Le, Ed Chi. LEAST-TO-MOST PROMPTING ENABLES COMPLEX REASONING IN LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS. ICLR 2023.

Chuanyang Zheng, Zhengying Liu, Enze Xie, Zhenguo Li, and Yu Li. 2023. Progressive-hint prompting improves reasoning in large language models. arXiv preprint arXiv:2304.09797.

Qingyuan Tian, Hanlun Zhu, Lei Wang, Yang Li, Yunshi Lan, R3 Prompting: Review, Rephrase and Resolve for Chain-of-Thought Reasoning in Large Language Models under Noisy Context. EMNLP Finding, 2023

Our Method

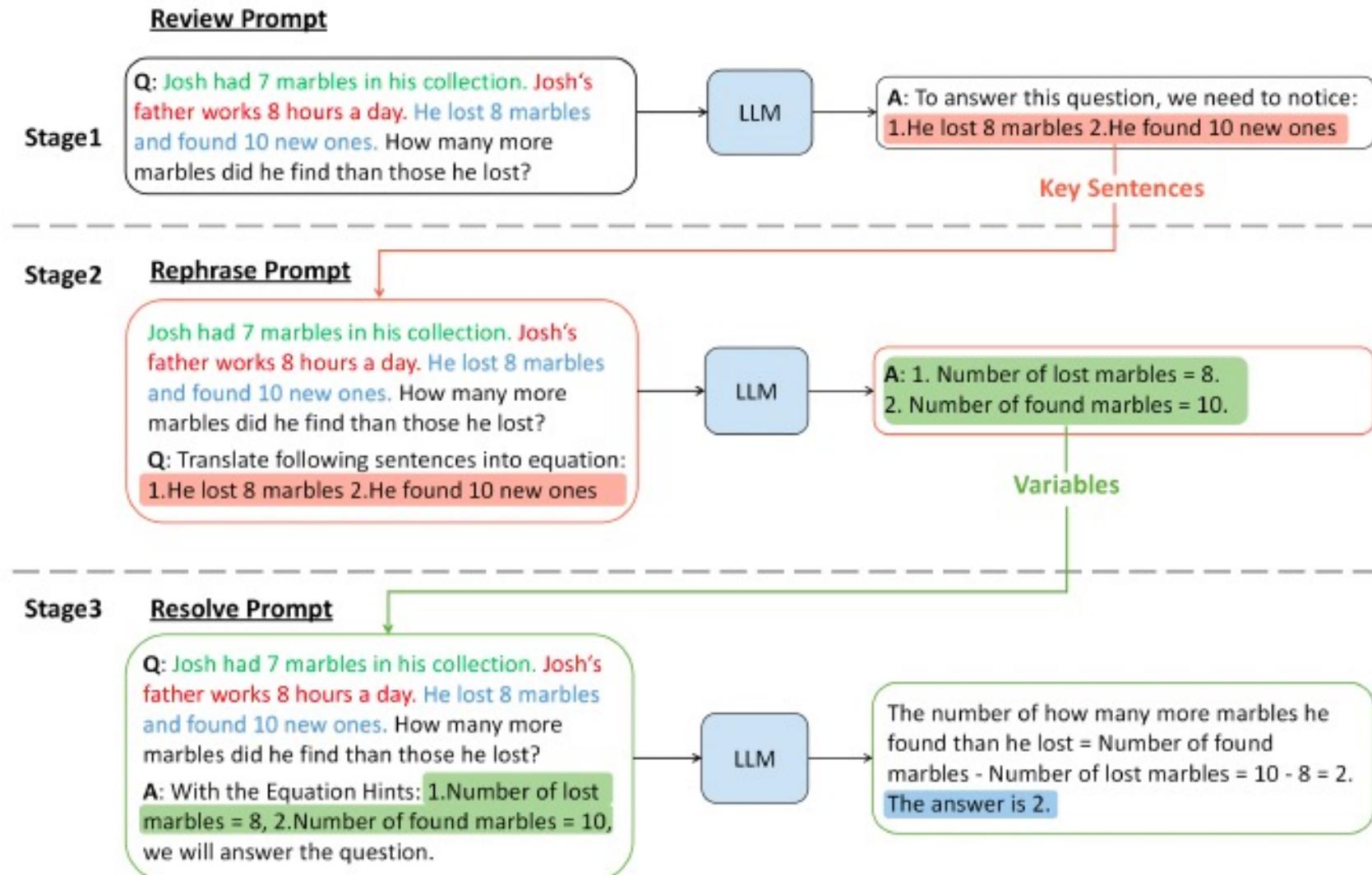


Figure 2: A running example of the inputs and outputs of R^3 prompting in LLMs at each prompting stage. **Green:** In-topic noisy context. **Red:** Off-topic noisy context. **Blue:** Key sentences.

Experiments

Datasets:

- AddSub
- MultiArith-IC
- SVAMP
- SingEq-IC
- GSM-IC

Dataset	#Sample	Ave. in-topic	Ave. off-topic
GSM-IC	1000	0.5	0.5
MultiArith-IC	600	0.5	0.5
SingEq-IC	508	0.48	0.52

Table 1: Details of constructed datasets. “Ave. in-topic” and “Ave. off-topic” denotes average number of in-topic sentences and off-topic sentences, respectively.

Comparable Methods:

- One-turn interaction: Manual-CoT, Auto-CoT, Instructed-CoT
- Multi-turn interaction : Least-to-Most, PHP

Experimental Results

Methods		SVAMP	MultiArith-IC	SingleEq-IC	AddSub	GSM-IC	Average
One-turn	Manual-CoT	79.9	79.5	77.7	85.3	81.0	79.7
	Auto-CoT	<u>83.6</u>	79.7	77.6	<u>88.0</u>	81.5	82.1
	Instructed-CoT	81.3	<u>80.1</u>	78.2	87.3	82.0	81.8
Interactive	Least-to-Most	80.8	77.4	76.2	85.3	81.1	80.2
	PHP	83.1	80.0	<u>79.0</u>	85.3	<u>85.1</u>	<u>82.5</u>
	R ³ Prompting (Ours)	87.3	82.2	81.5	90.0	88.0	85.8

Table 2: Main result on five evaluated datasets. The best and second best results are boldfaced and underlined respectively.

- (1) R³ prompting performs well for CoT reasoning in LLMs under noisy context;
- (2) The design of interactive prompts are important for denoising.

More Analysis

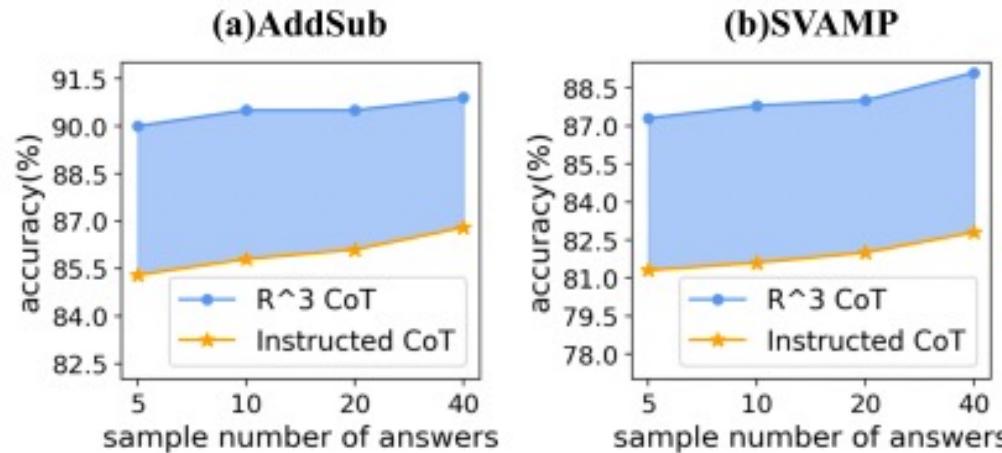


Figure 3: (a). The results of prompting methods after adding Self-Consistency (SC) on AddSub dataset. (b). The results of prompting methods after adding Self-Consistency (SC) on SVAMP dataset.

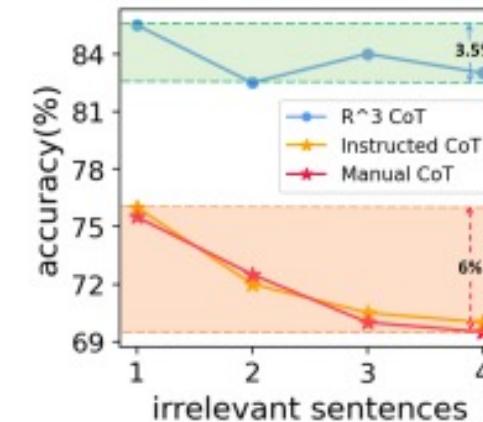


Figure 4: Accuracy change of various methods with the increasing number of irrelevant sentences on AddSub.

- (1) Improvement of R³ prompting is still significant with self-consistency;
- (2) R³ prompting exhibits robust performance under noisy context while Instructed-CoT and Manual-CoT are vulnerable when facing a large amount of noisy information.

Conclusions



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- By comparison, one-turn CoTs are more robust than interactive CoTs when conducting reasoning under noisy context.
- R^3 prompting can effectively restrain the influence of noisy context. The three steps (i.e. review, rephrase and resolve) collaborative contribution to the good performance.

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Knowledge Base Question Generation

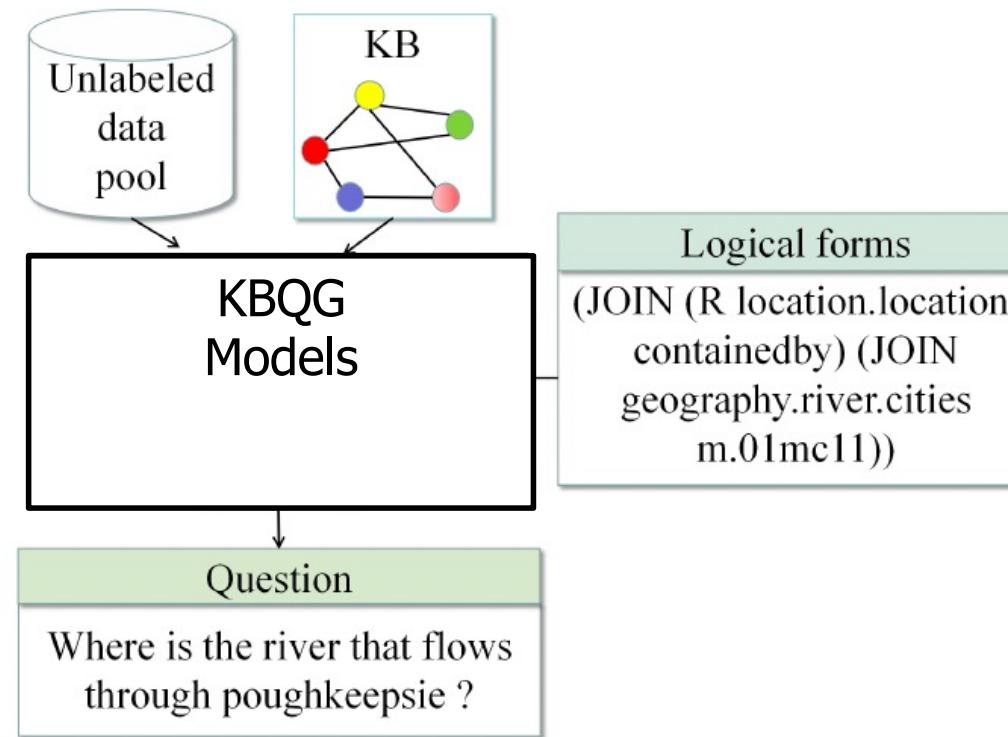
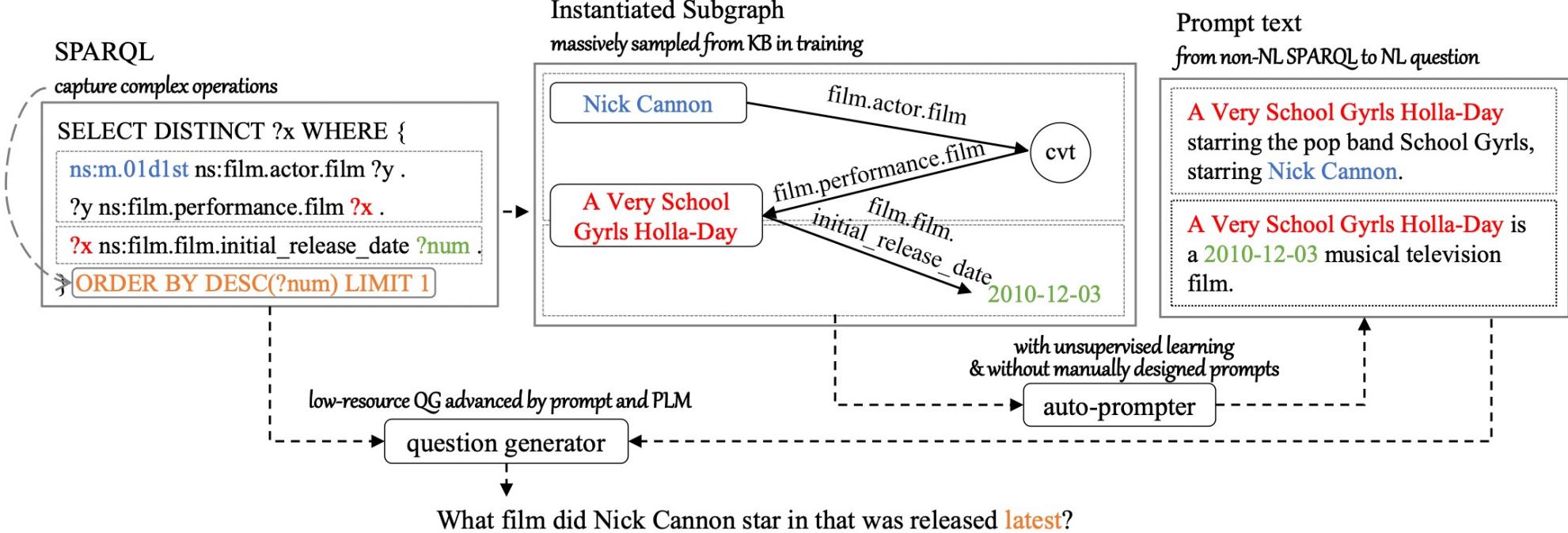


Figure 1: Overview of KQG-CoT framework.

Existing Methods



The existing methods solve few-shot KBQG tasks via designing prompter for the pair of sub-graph description and generated questions and conducting pre-training Language Models.

Guanming Xiong, Junwei Bao, Wen Zhao, Youzheng Wu, and Xiaodong He. Autoqgs: Auto-prompt for low resource knowledge-based question generation from sparql. In Proceedings of the 31st ACM International Conference on Information Knowledge. 2022

Motivations



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- A **substantial amount of annotated data** is required, and acquiring it can be challenging.
- A logical form is made up of entities, relations, and query grammar. It's impossible to **encompass all the possible combinations of these fundamental components**.
- Certain **logical forms can become complex** when operations such as aggregation, superlatives, and comparisons are involved.

Our Method



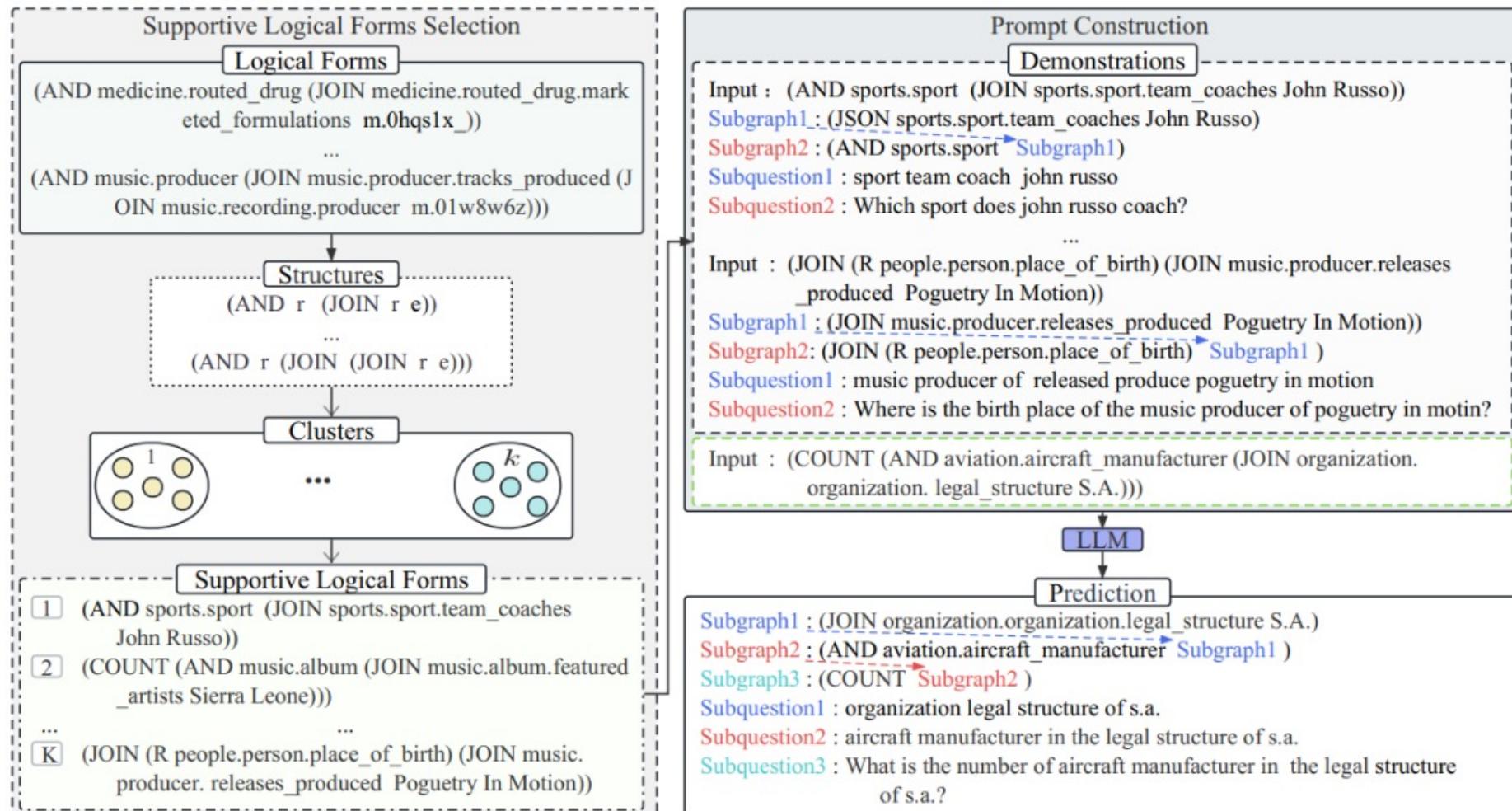
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- LLMs have the strong capability to accurately capture the semantics of relations between values in the data, enabling to transform the structured context to narrative text.
 - ▷ Structured logical forms to **natural language questions**
- LLMs have proven their strong generalizability on a wide range of few-shot and zero-shot tasks with Chain-of-Thought.
 - ▷ **Apply CoT** to solve few-shot KBQG

[1] Milena Trajanoska, Riste Stojanov, and Dimitar Trajanov. 2023. Enhancing knowledge graph construction using large language models. arXiv.

[2] Jason Wei, Xuezhi Wang, Dale Schuurmans, Maarten Bosma, brian ichter, Fei Xia, Ed H. Chi, Quoc V Le, and Denny Zhou. 2022. Chain of thought prompting elicits reasoning in large language models. In Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems.

Our Method



Supportive Logical Forms Selection

Step 1: Structure Encoding and Clustering

1. We extract structure of logical form by converting the schema items into symbolic variables.

(**AND medicine.routed_drug (JOIN medicine.routed_drug.marketed_formulations m.0hqs1x)**).



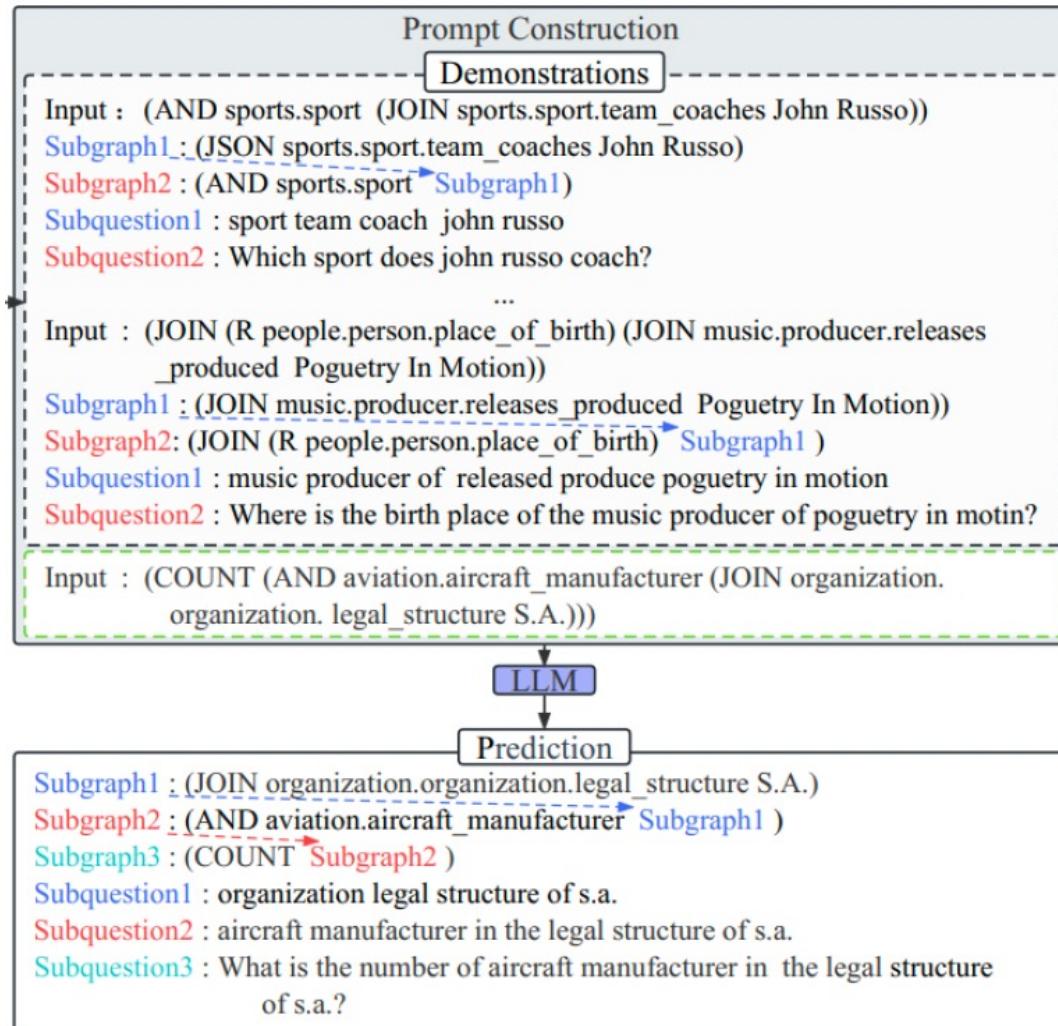
(**AND r (JOIN r e)**)

2. We encode the contexts of the sequence with Sentence-Transformers.

Step 2: Logical Form Sampling

1. We utilize the **K-means clustering algorithm** to group the encoded structure into k-clusters based on their syntactic similarity.
2. We greedily pick up a candidate with **least semantic similarity** to the selected logical forms, where the similarity is measured by the encoding of the original logical forms.

Prompt Construction



- Generate a straightforward question that queries a **one-hop relation** from the topic entity.
- One-hop relation **subgraph1** leads to a simple **subquestion1**.
- Generate a question that inquires about a **two-hop relation chain** involving the aforementioned one-hop relation. The Step 2 includes the parsed logical form appended to the previous step as a component and generates **subquestion2** based on the **subgraph2** and **subquestion1**.
- Repeat until the **entire logical forms** have been traversed.

Experiments

Datasets:

- WebQuestions (WQ)
- PathQuestions (PQ)
- GrailQA (GQ)

Dataset	#Q	#R	#E	#T
WQ	22,989	672	25,703	2/99/5.8
PQ	9,731	378	7,250	2/3/2.7
GQ	64,331	3,720	32,585	1/4/1.4

Table 1: Statistics of the evaluated datasets. #Q denotes the number of questions. #R and #E denote the total number of relations and entities, respectively. #T denotes the minimum/maximum/average number of triplets involved in each question.

Comparable Methods:

- LLMs+CoT methods : Standard Prompt, Random-CoT, Manual-CoT, Active-CoT, Auto-CoT
- Fine-trained methods : DSM, LFKQG, IGND, JointGT, T5-Large, etc.
- Few-shot methods: BiGraph2Seq, JointGT , AutoQGS
- Our methods: KQG-CoT, KQG-CoT+ (further display the exemplars from short to long.)

Experimental Results

Method	WQ			PQ			GQ		
	B	M	R	B	M	R	B	M	R
Standard Prompt	24.86	29.01	52.74	55.87	42.24	76.83	29.17	33.52	42.95
Random-CoT	25.02	29.37	53.16	56.42	42.61	77.03	29.81	33.75	43.31
Manual-CoT	28.44	30.24	54.30	60.37	42.88	<u>77.48</u>	30.18	33.61	44.89
Active-CoT	26.02	29.55	54.01	58.78	<u>43.86</u>	<u>76.78</u>	30.27	33.71	44.07
Auto-CoT	28.42	29.65	53.47	59.59	43.16	77.13	30.17	34.22	44.47
KQG-CoT (Ours)	<u>28.89</u>	<u>30.41</u>	<u>54.38</u>	<u>60.81</u>	43.54	77.35	<u>30.51</u>	<u>34.26</u>	<u>44.91</u>
KQG-CoT+ (Ours)	29.73	31.08	55.14	61.71	44.27	78.41	31.24	34.94	45.36

KQG-CoT outperforms the existing LLMs+CoT methods

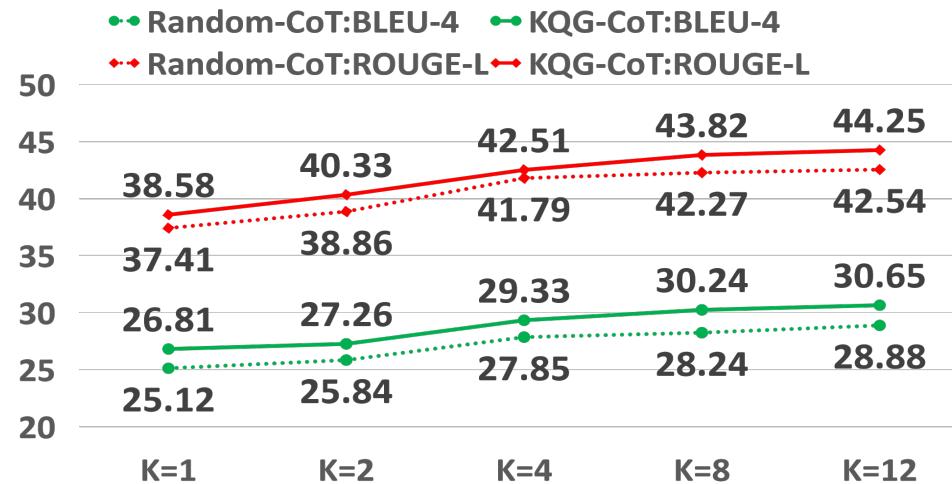
Experimental Results

Method	WQ		
	B	M	R
<i>Full Training</i>			
L2A (Du et al., 2017)	6.01	26.95	25.24
Transformer (Vaswani et al., 2017)	8.94	13.79	32.63
MHQG (Kumar et al., 2019)	11.57	29.69	35.53
BiGraph2Seq (Chen et al., 2023)	29.45	30.96	55.45
T5-Large (Raffel et al., 2020)	28.78	30.55	55.12
JointGT (Ke et al., 2021)	30.02	32.05	55.60
IGND (Fei et al., 2021)	30.62	31.41	55.82
LFKQG (Fei et al., 2022)	31.66	32.69	56.75
DSM (Guo et al., 2022)	28.62	-	64.25
<i>Few-shot Evaluation</i>			
KQG-CoT	28.89	30.41	54.87
KQG-CoT+	29.73	31.08	55.46

Method	PQ		
	B	M	R
<i>Full Training</i>			
L2A (Du et al., 2017)	17.00	50.38	19.72
Transformer (Vaswani et al., 2017)	56.43	43.45	73.64
MHQG (Kumar et al., 2019)	25.99	33.16	58.94
BiGraph2Seq (Chen et al., 2023)	61.48	44.57	77.72
AutoQGS (Xiong et al., 2022)	65.13	47.50	76.80
T5-Large (Raffel et al., 2020)	58.95	44.72	76.58
IGND (Fei et al., 2021)	61.69	45.11	77.28
LFKQG (Fei et al., 2022)	63.92	46.91	78.40
JointGT (Ke et al., 2021)	65.89	48.25	78.87
DSM (Guo et al., 2022)	61.03	-	86.06
<i>Few-shot Evaluation</i>			
BiGraph2Seq (Chen et al., 2023)	1.01	4.99	12.07
JointGT (Ke et al., 2021)	43.15	35.91	69.57
AutoQGS (Xiong et al., 2022)	43.46	33.55	68.23
KQG-CoT	60.81	43.54	77.35
KQG-CoT+	61.71	44.27	78.41

- (1) KQG-CoT outperforms existing few-shot methods with large margins;
- (2) KQG-CoT achieves competitive results compared with full training methods.

More Analysis



Method	Average_similarity
Random	0.285
Active-CoT	0.274
Auto-CoT	0.265
KQG-CoT	0.252

- (1) KQG-CoT outperforms existing LLM-CoT methods with various k;
- (2) KQG-CoT results in supportive logical forms with larger diversity.

Conclusions



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- When constructing prompts, the selection and arrangement of exemplars are paramount.
- KQG-CoT outperforms the existing CoT methods significantly and achieves performance levels comparable to those of fine-tuned methods.
- The utilization of LLMs in conjunction with CoT proves highly effective for handling generation tasks with structured inputs.