Reading Assignment 4

COMP 550, Fall 2023

Due date: Dec 1, 2023 9:00pm

Read the following paper and write a critical summary of it:

> Wei et al., 2022. Chain-of-Thought Prompting Elicits Reasoning in Large Language Models. *Proc. 36th NeurIPS.*

Your summary should include a description of the paper's contents, its strengths and limitations, and any points that you did not understand. Since this paper discusses techniques that are not covered in the lectures, I expect that there will be concepts that you do not understand! Do not worry, and document this in your write-up.

Also, discuss the following issues in your writeup:

1. What kinds of tasks do you expect the Chain-of-Thought approach to work well at? To not work well at?
2. This method works well only at larger model sizes. Why do you think this is the case?
3. The name of this approach may suggest that large language models are capable of "thinking" in some sense, though the authors do not take a strong explicit stance on this. To what extent do you think that this stance would be justified?

Your summary should be **at most 1 page**. It will be graded on the basis of its coverage, linguistic quality, and clarity of argumentation.

Resources
- Jason Eisner's guide to reading papers: https://www.cs.jhu.edu/~jason/advice/how-to-read-a-paper.html