

Mitigating Hallucinations in LLMs

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Supervisor: Dr Marcus Tomalin

Large Language Model (LLM)

“Hello,
how are
you?”

Large Language Model (LLM)

Tokenisation

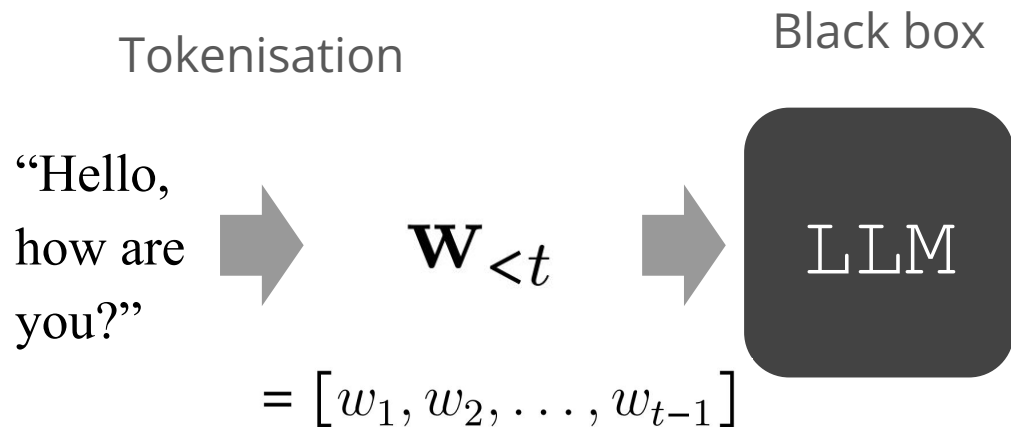
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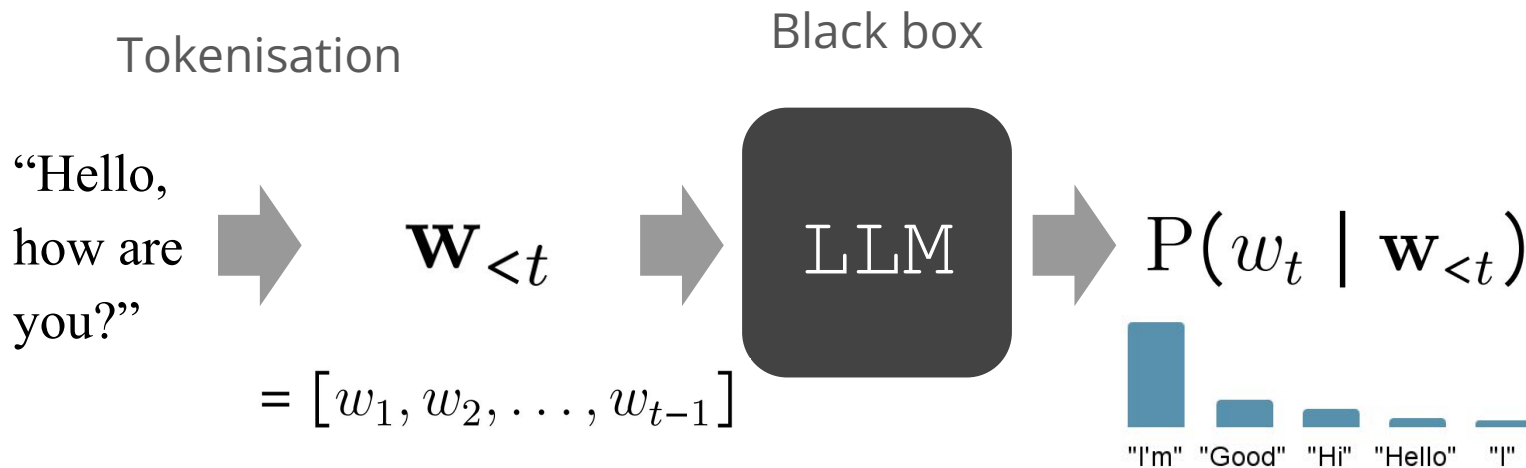
$\mathbf{W}_{<t}$

$$= [w_1, w_2, \dots, w_{t-1}]$$

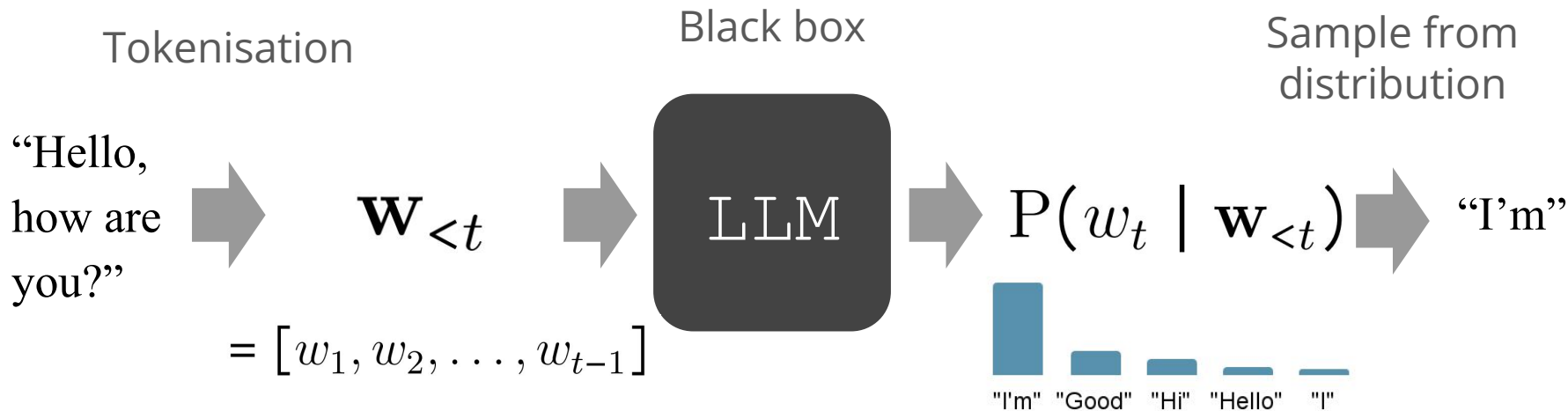
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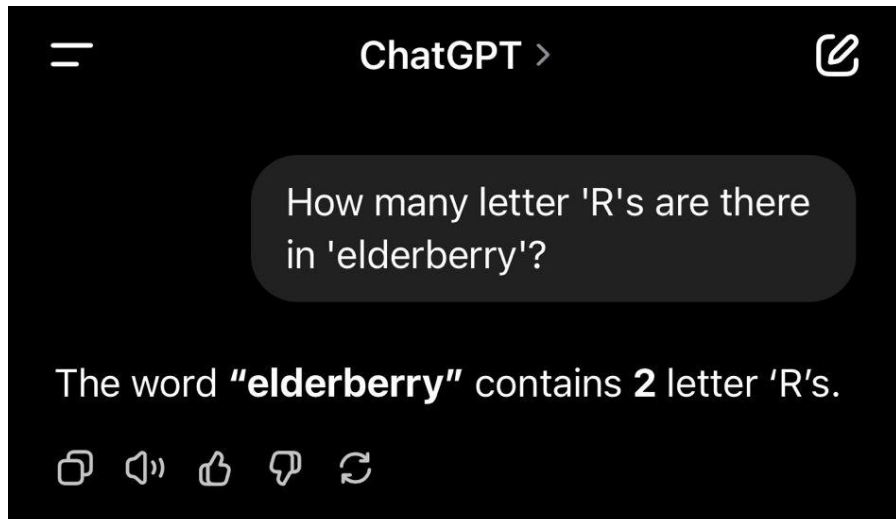


LLM Hallucination

- When “a model makes factual errors” – OpenAI

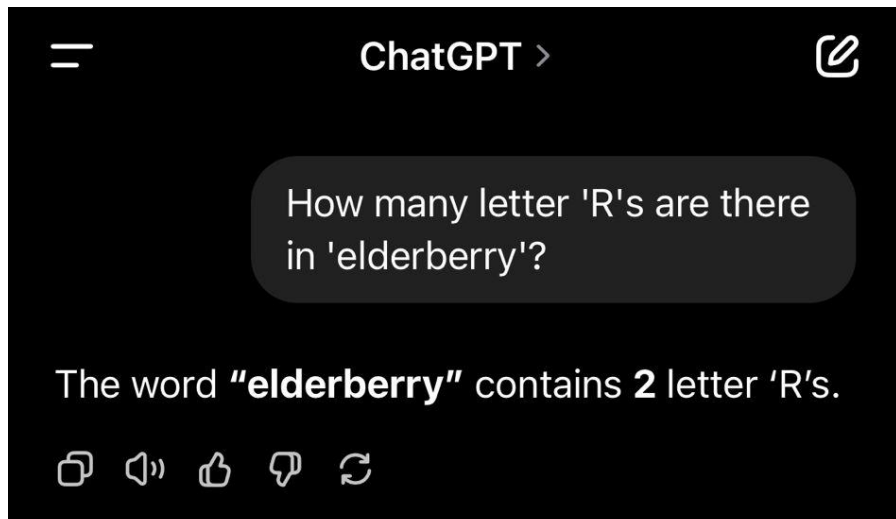
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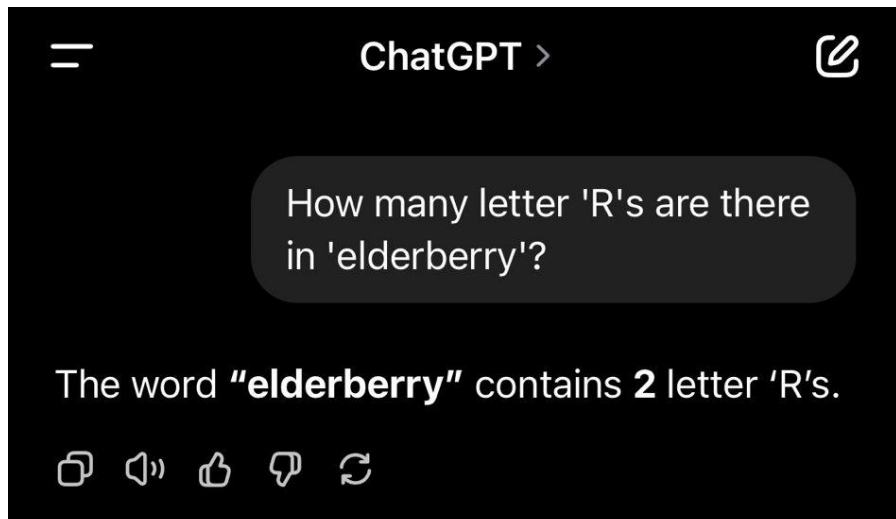
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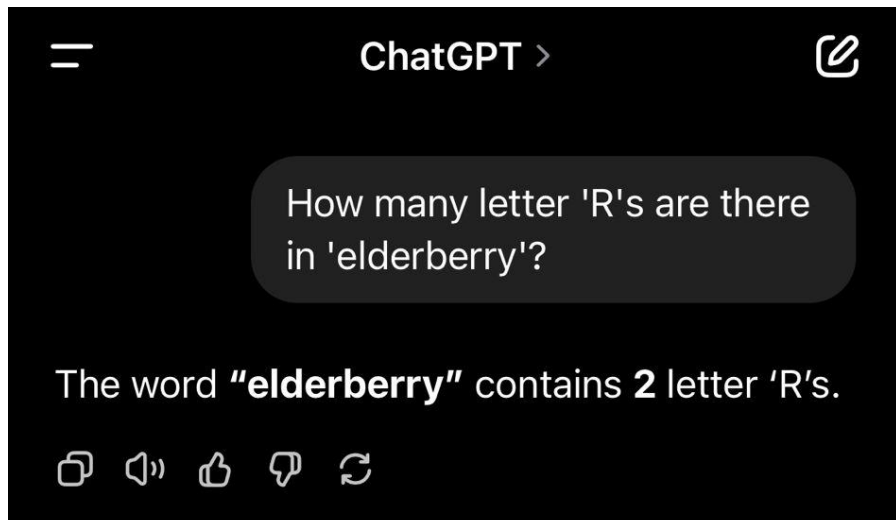
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- When “a model makes factual errors” – OpenAI
- Significant demand to improve LLM factual reliability



LLM Hallucination

- When “a model makes factual errors” – OpenAI
- Significant demand to improve LLM factual reliability
- 2 directions: decoding strategy; Chain-of-Thought modification



Doubt Injection

- *Chain-of-Thought* is reasoning process

Doubt Injection

- *Chain-of-Thought* is reasoning process



Okay, so Alice and Bob are playing this game with a stack of n tokens. Alice goes first, and each turn a player can remove either 1 or 4 tokens. The person who takes the last token wins. I need to figure out how many positive integers $n \leq 2024$ Bob can force a win by using a strategy, regardless of what Alice does. Hmm, this seems like a combinatorial game theory problem.

But I need to think through it step by step.

First, the grid is 5×5 , so 25 cells in total. Each cell can have either a white chip, a black chip, or be empty. But with the constraints given, I need to make sure that in every row and every column, all the chips are the same color. That means if I have a row with some white chips, all the chips in that row must be white, and similarly for columns. The same applies to black chips.

But wait, $n=1$: Alice takes 1 token and wins. So Bob can't win when $n=1$.

But $n=2$: Alice can take 1 token, leaving 1 for Bob, who then takes it and wins. Or she can take 4, but $n=2$ is too small. So if $n=2$, Alice can win by taking 1 token. Wait, but actually, if $n=2$, Alice takes 1, leaves 1 for Bob, who takes it and wins. So Bob doesn't win. So $n=2$: Alice wins.

Doubt Injection

- *Chain-of-Thought* is reasoning process
- Try randomly inject e.g. "But" at new paragraph



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Doubt Injection

- *Chain-of-Thought* is reasoning process
- Try randomly inject e.g. "But" at new paragraph
- Adversarial questions accuracy: 26.1% → 26.7%
- Arithmetic reasoning accuracy: 56.7% → 57.5%



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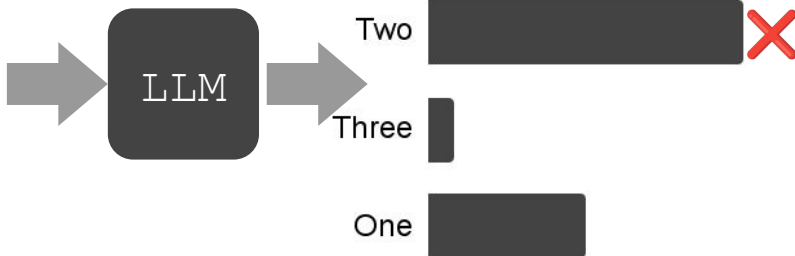
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Context-Aware Decoding (CAD)

$$P(y_t \mid \mathbf{x}, y_{<t})$$

Query \mathbf{x}

How many World Cups
have Argentina won?

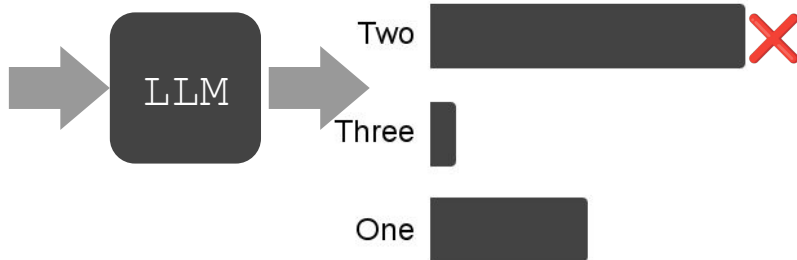


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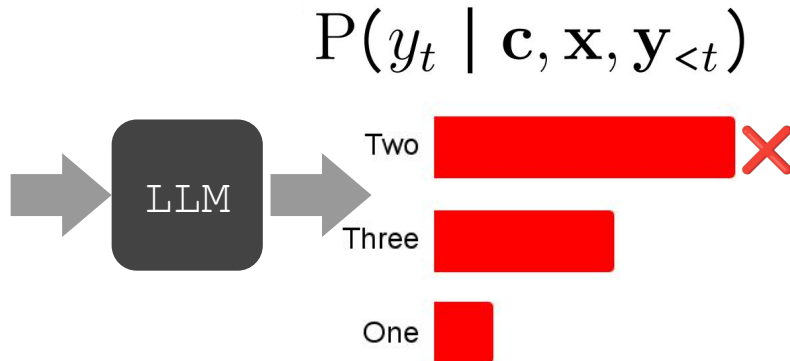


Context \mathbf{c}

Argentina won World
Cups in 1978, 1986 and
2022.

Query \mathbf{x}

How many World Cups
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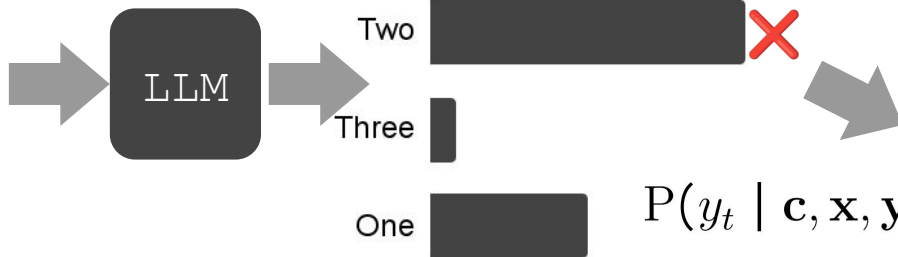


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$$P(y_t \mid \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_{<t}) \left(\frac{P(y_t \mid \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_{<t})}{P(y_t \mid \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_{<t})} \right)^\alpha$$

Two

Three

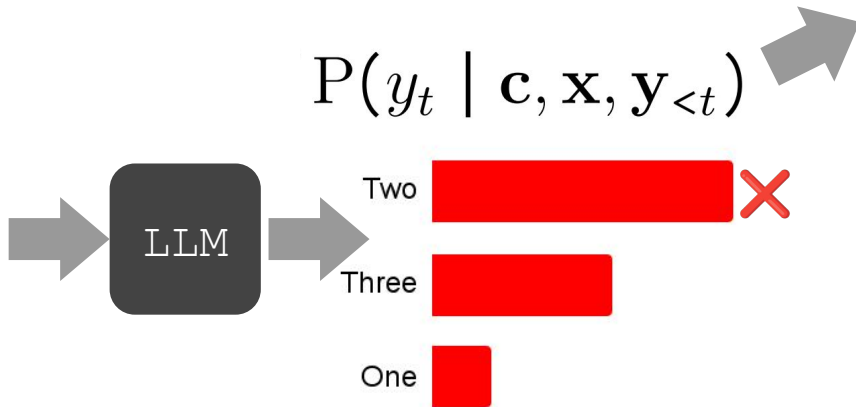
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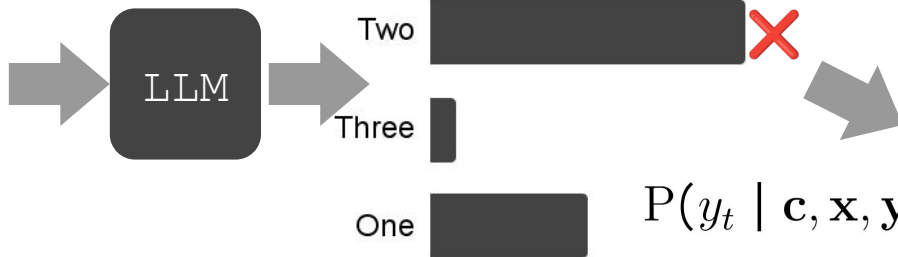
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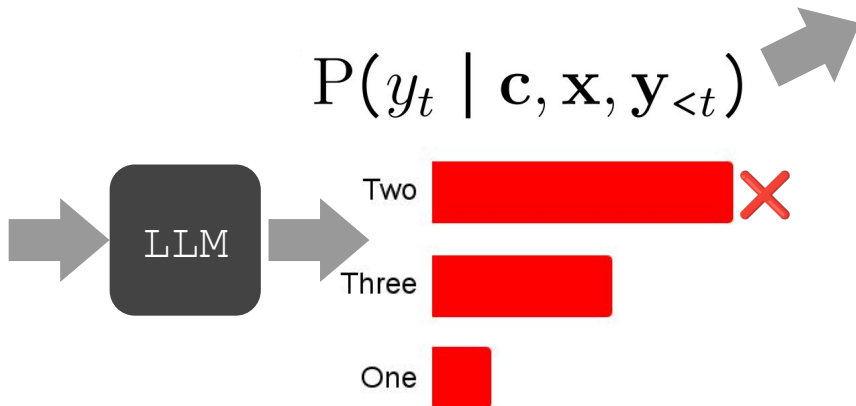
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$$P(y_t \mid \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_{<t})$$

Results

1. MemoTrap

Context c

*Write a quote that ends in the
word “early”*

Query x

Better late than

Results

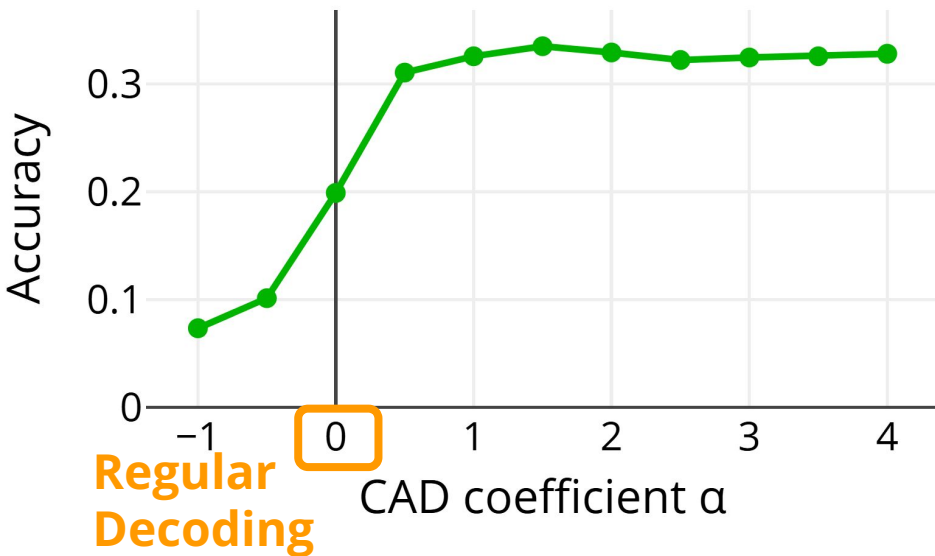
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Results

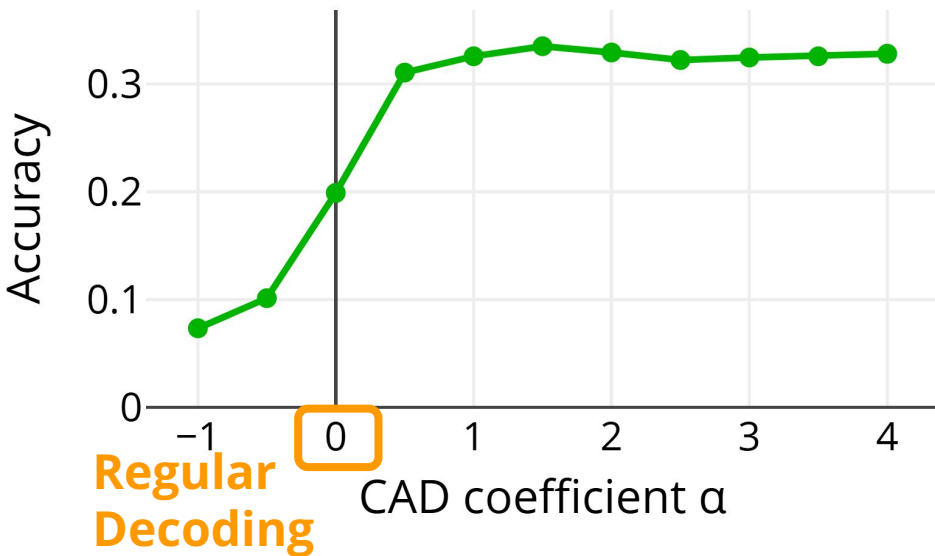
1. MemoTrap

Context c

Write a quote that ends in the word “early”

Query x

Better late than



2. Natural Questions

22

Context c

Ashrita Furman (born Keith Furman, September 16, 1954) is a Guinness World Records record-breaker...

Query x

who holds the world record for the most world records?

Results

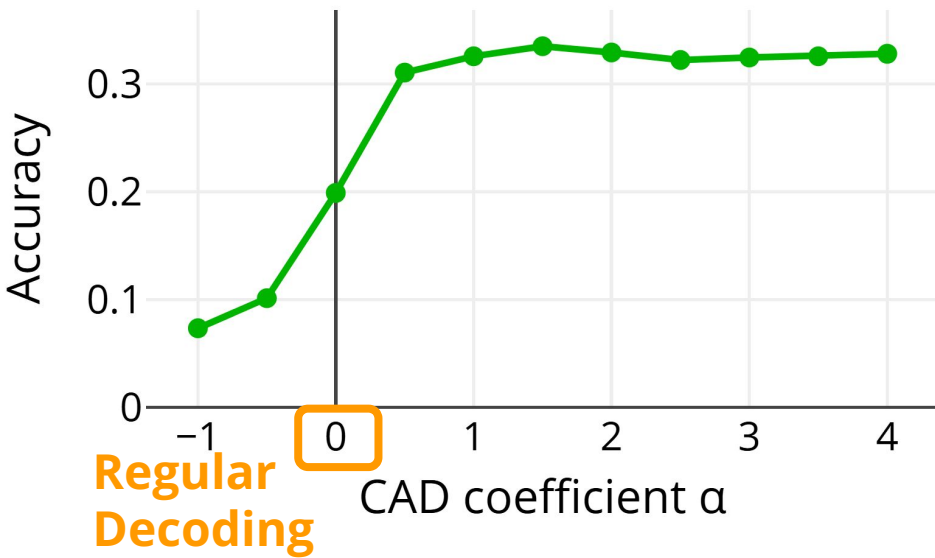
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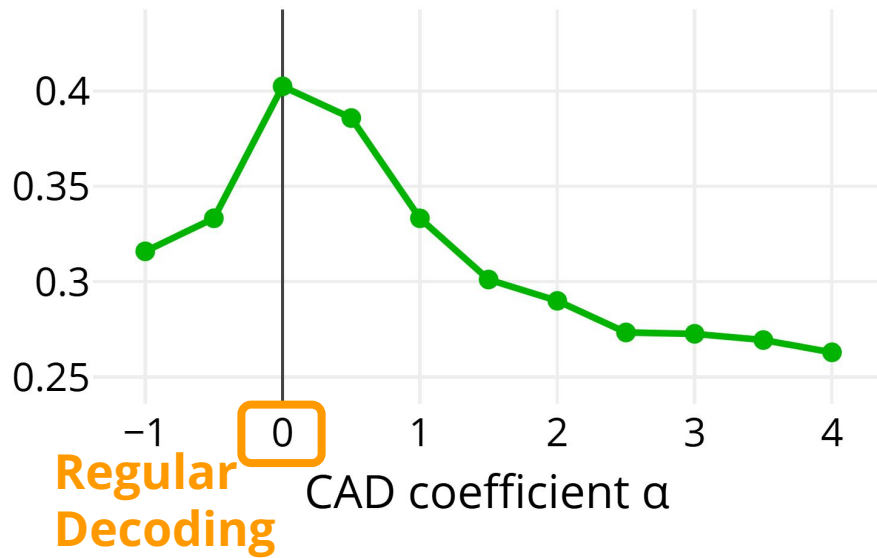
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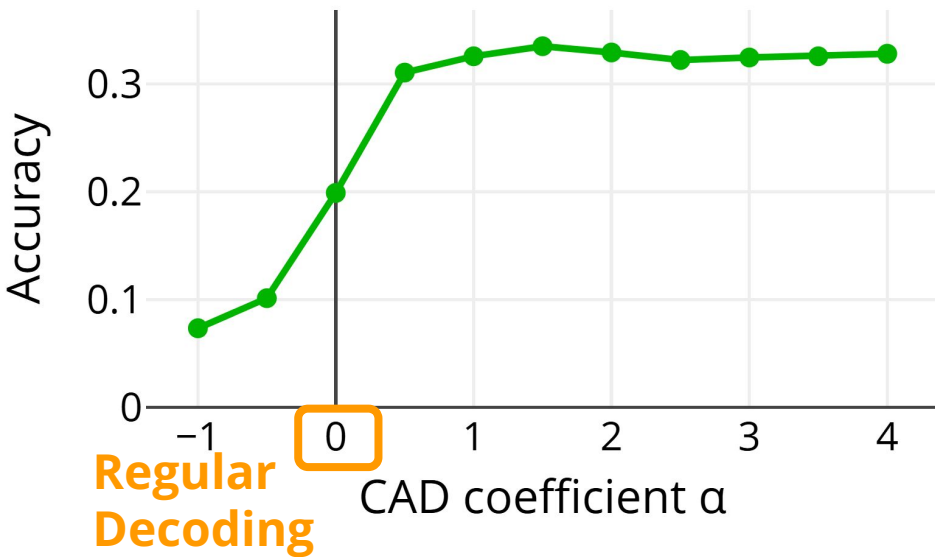
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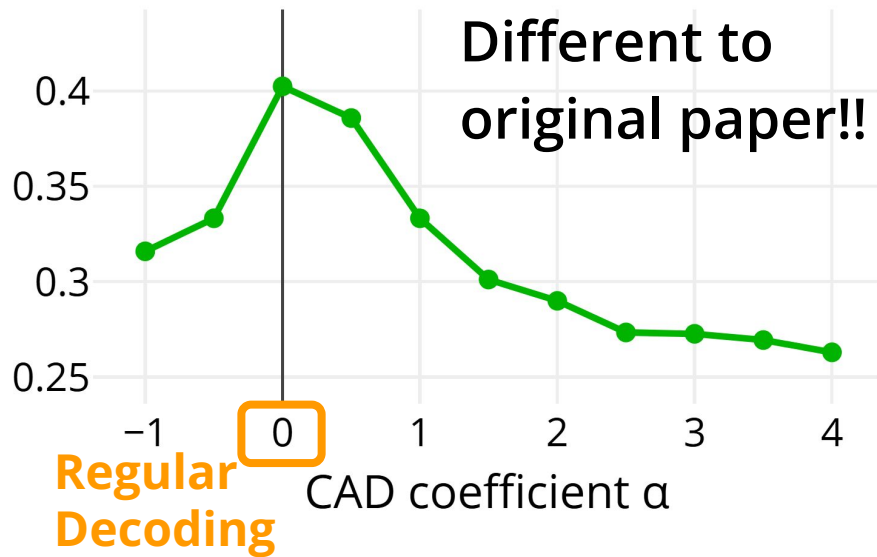
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Decoding by Contrasting Layers (DoLa)

- Also contrasts distributions

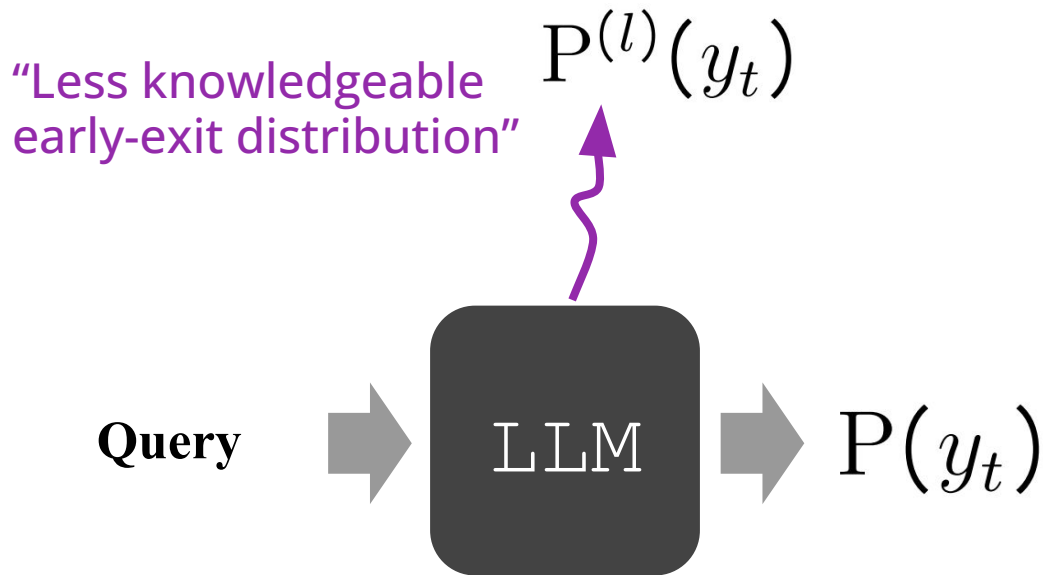
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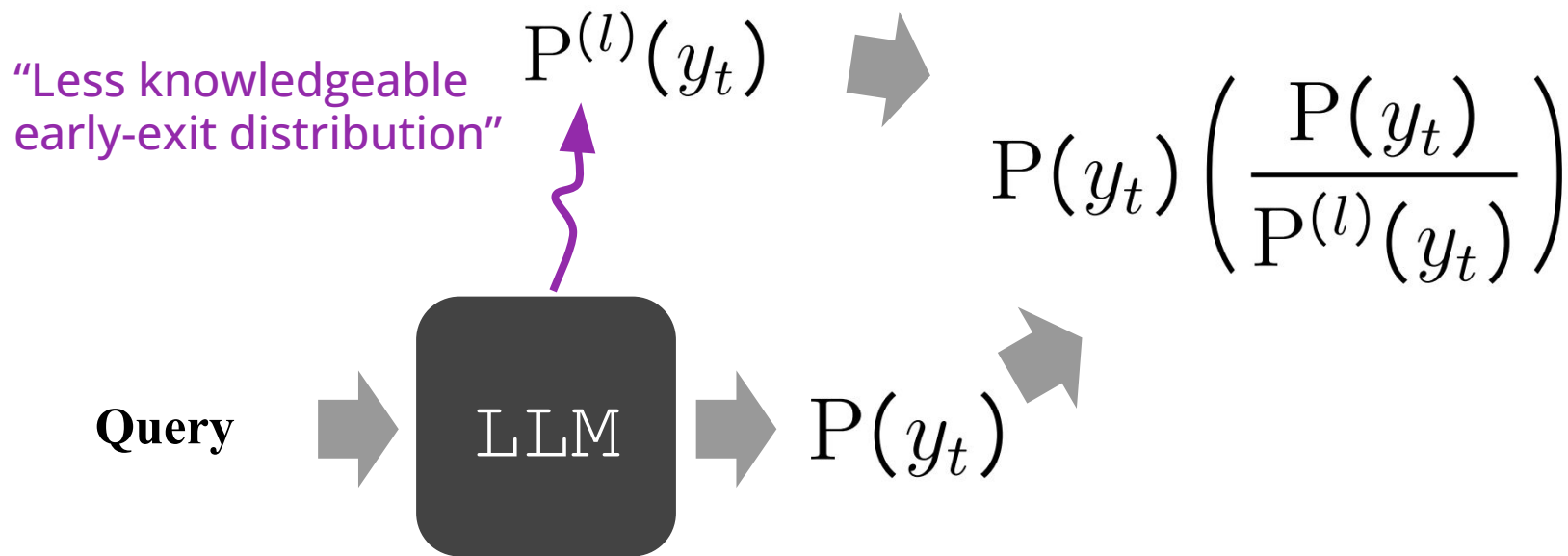
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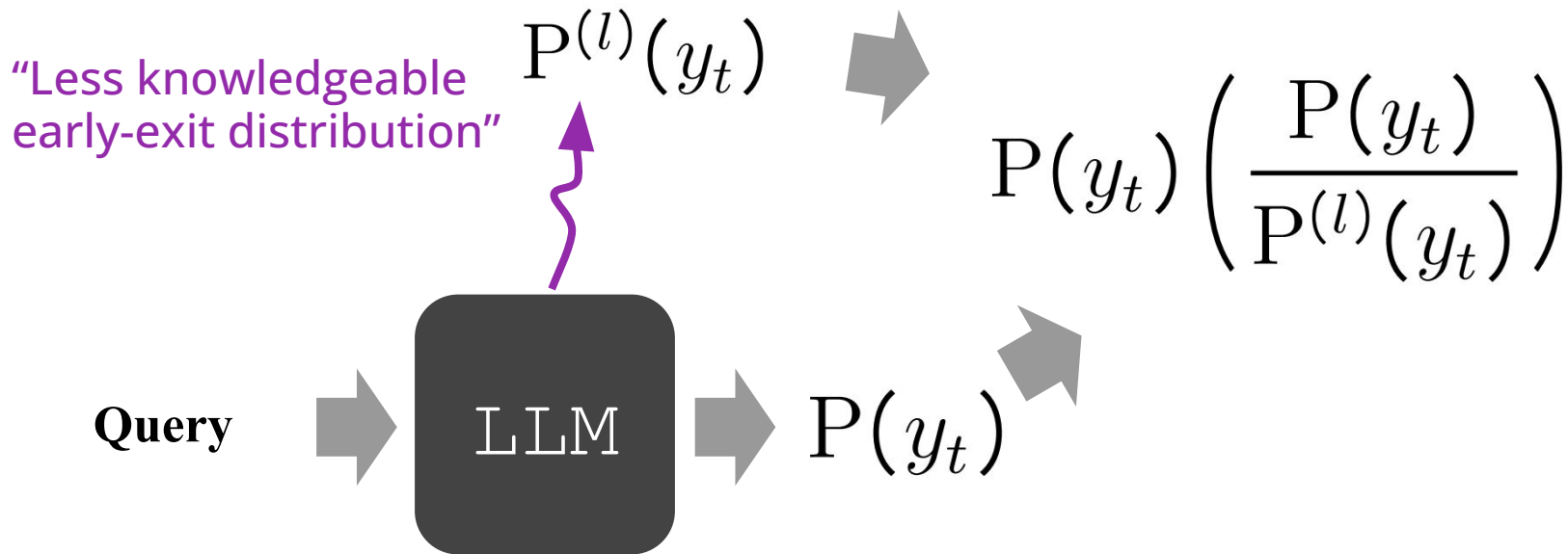
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Decoding by Contrasting Layers (DoLa)

- Also contrasts distributions
- Increases factuality



Novel Combination

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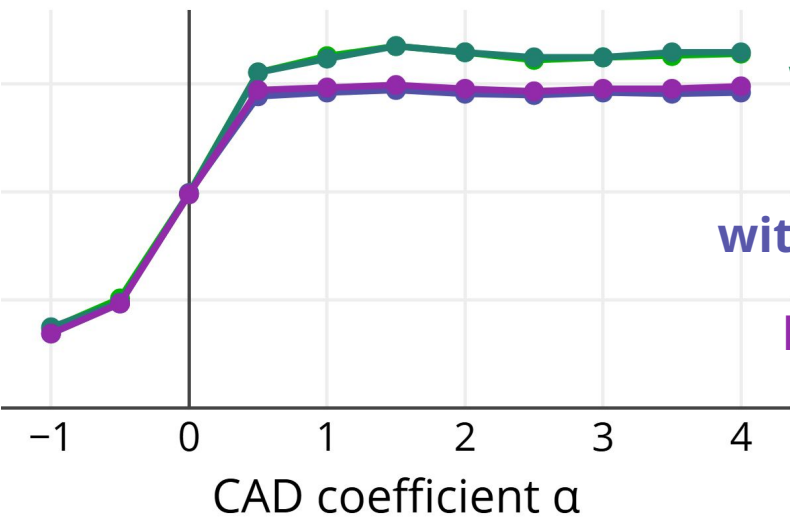
1. MemoTrap

Normal

DoLa on
with-context

DoLa on
without-context

DoLa on both



Novel Combination

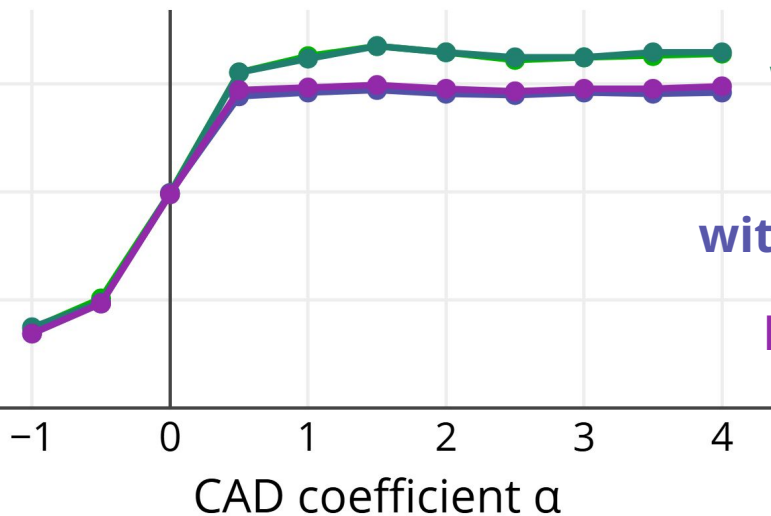
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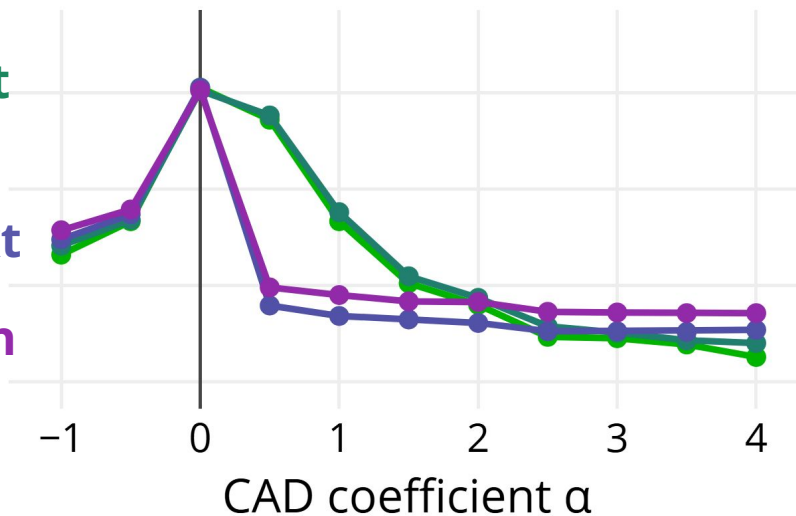
DoLa on
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2. Natural Questions

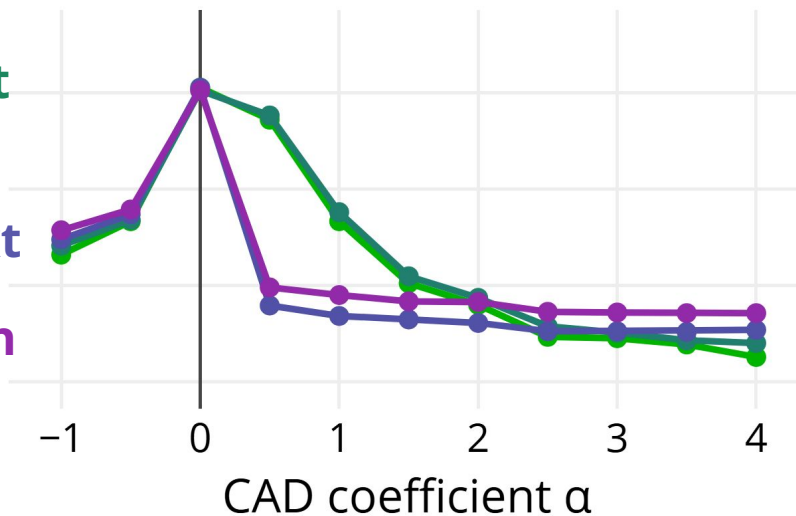
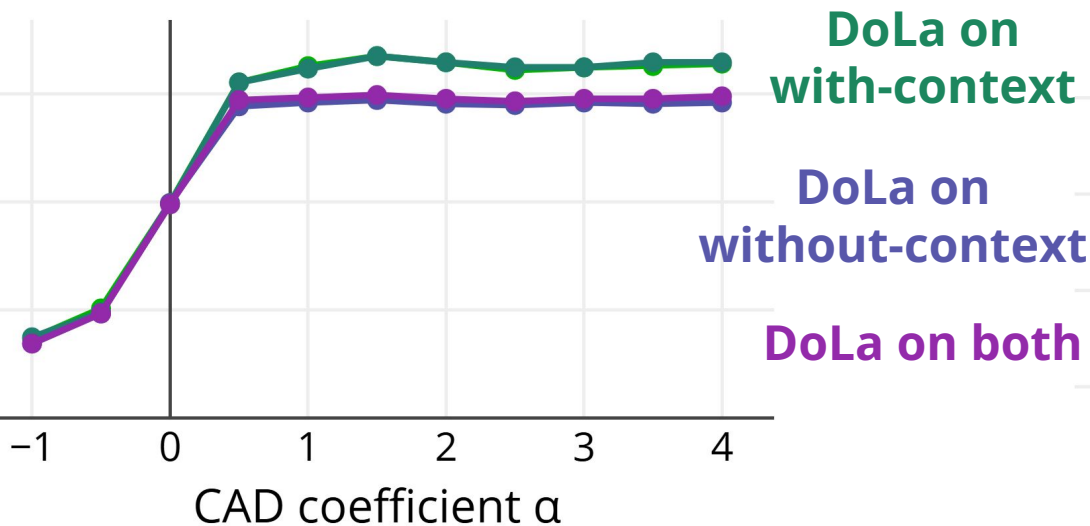


Novel Combination

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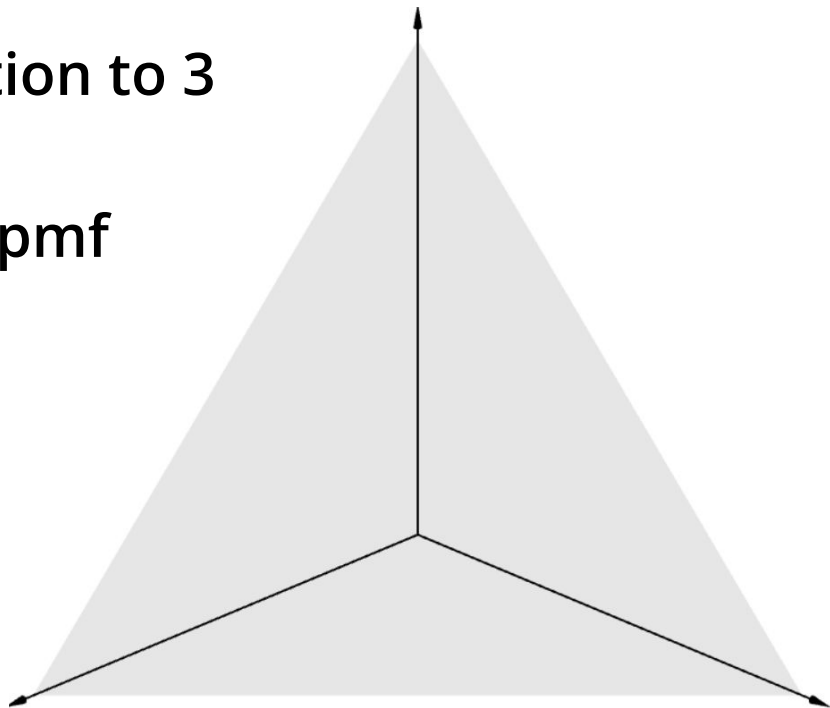
⇒ Performance improves when increasing factuality of distribution we're contrasting *in favour of*

Probability Simplex

- Project 32,000 token distribution to 3 most relevant

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- Triangle in 3D space satisfies pmf requirements

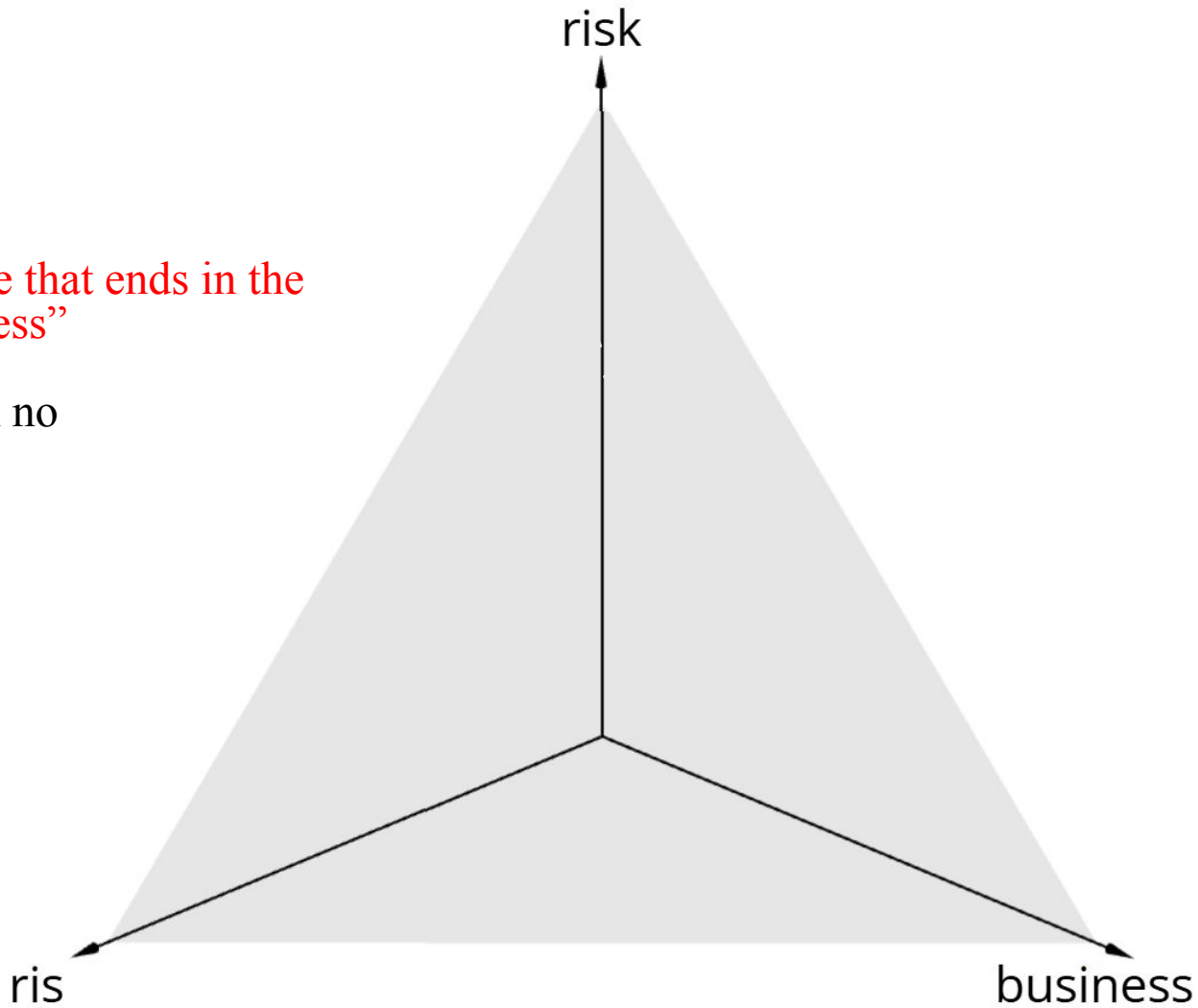


Context c

Write a quote that ends in the
word “business”

Query x

Advisers run no

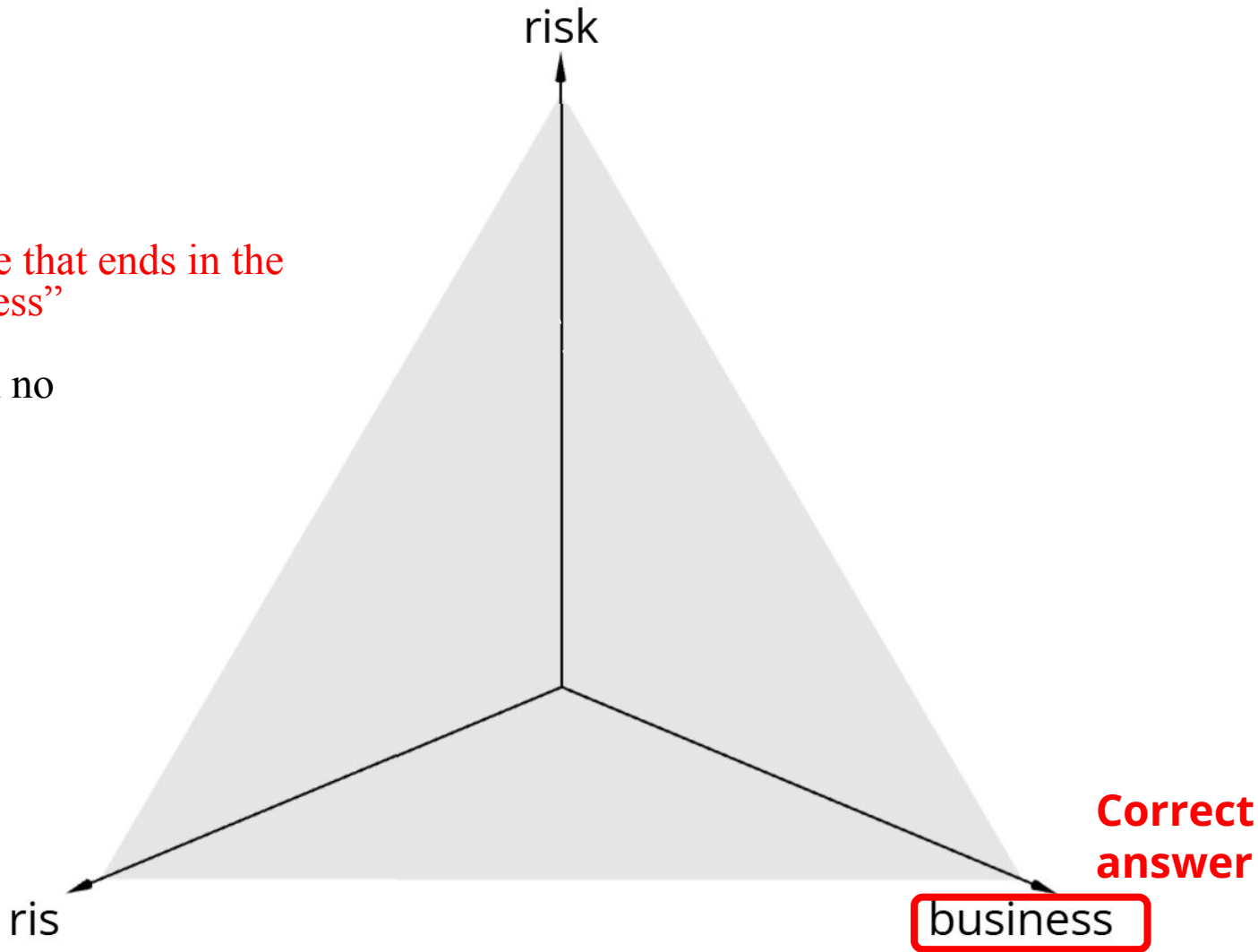


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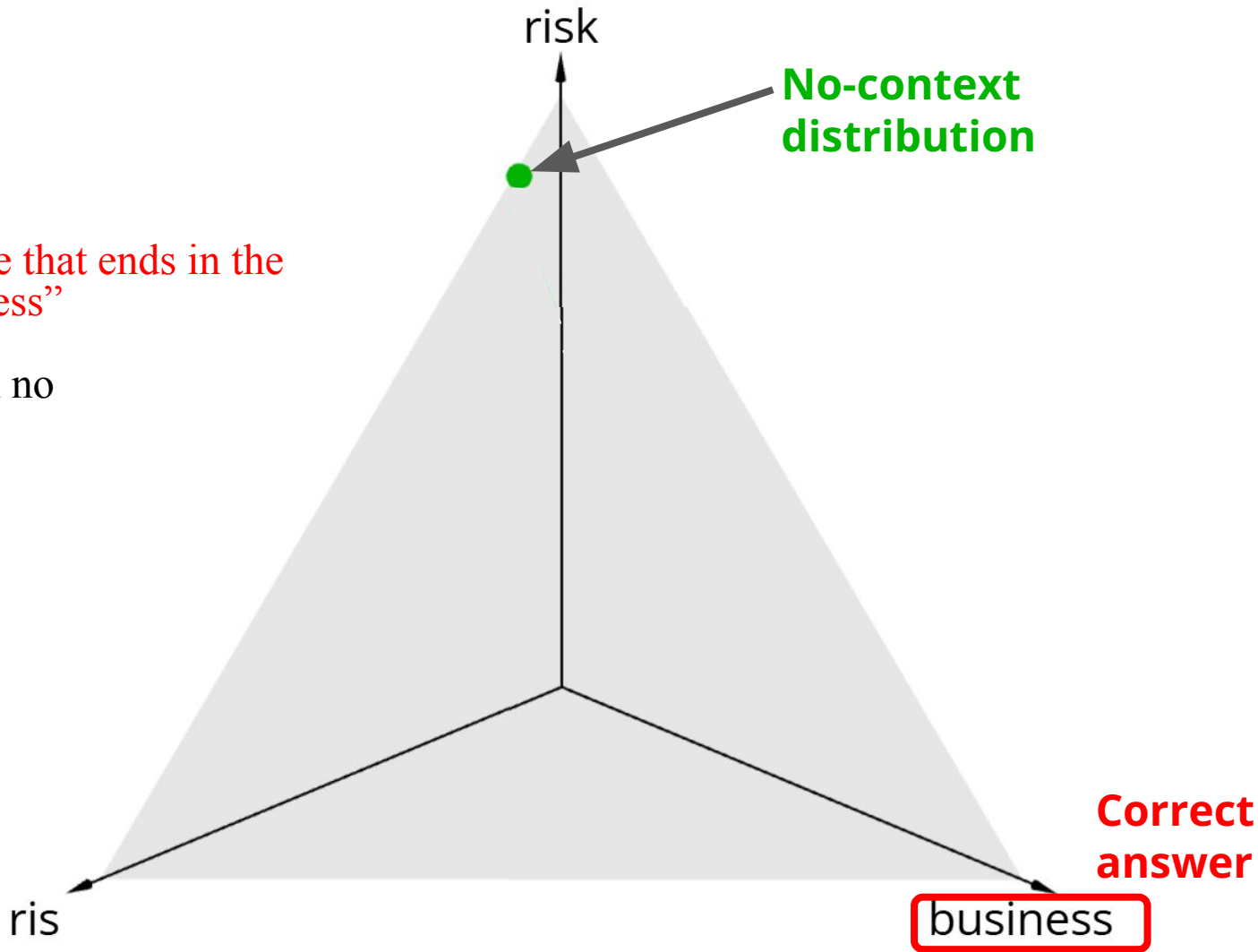


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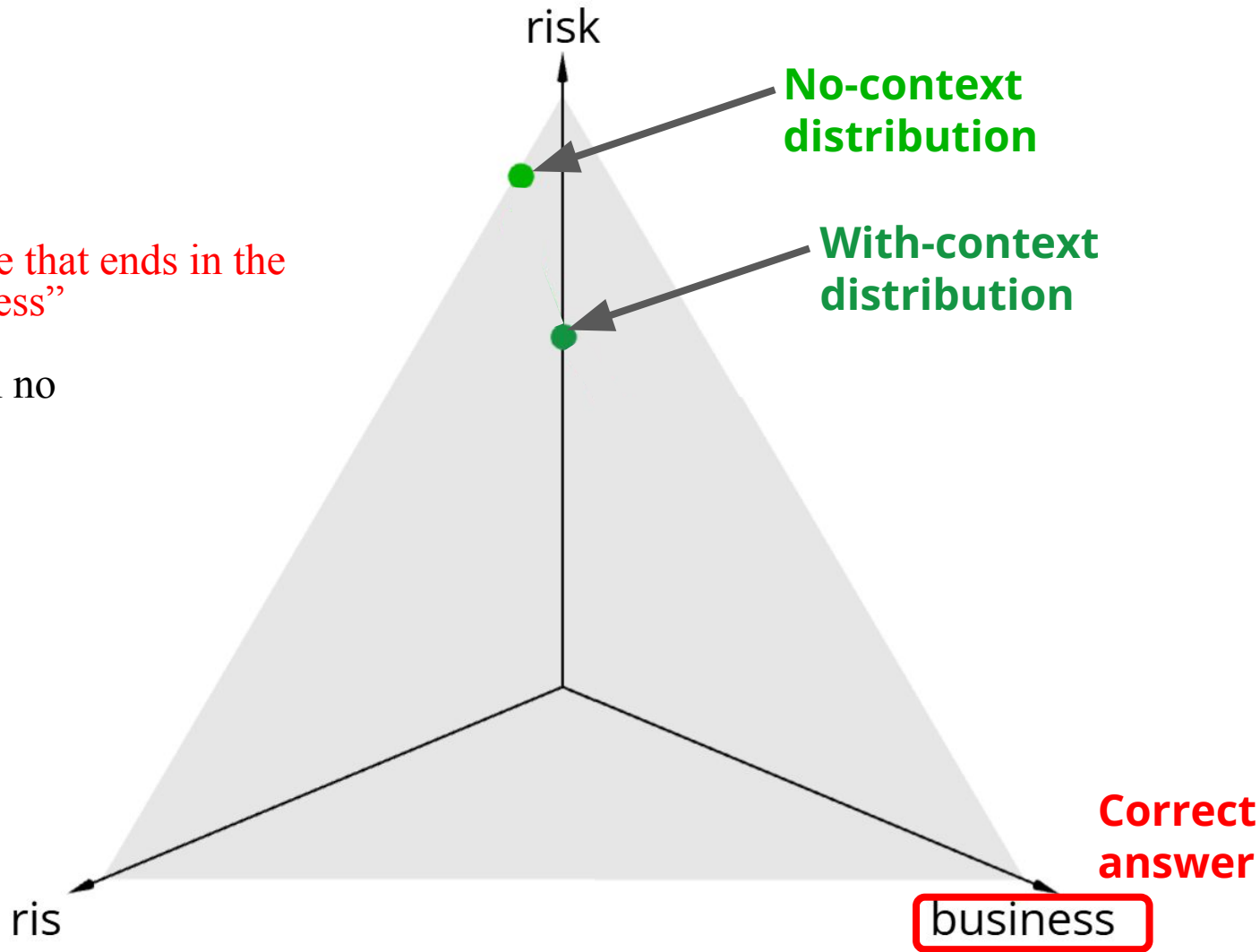


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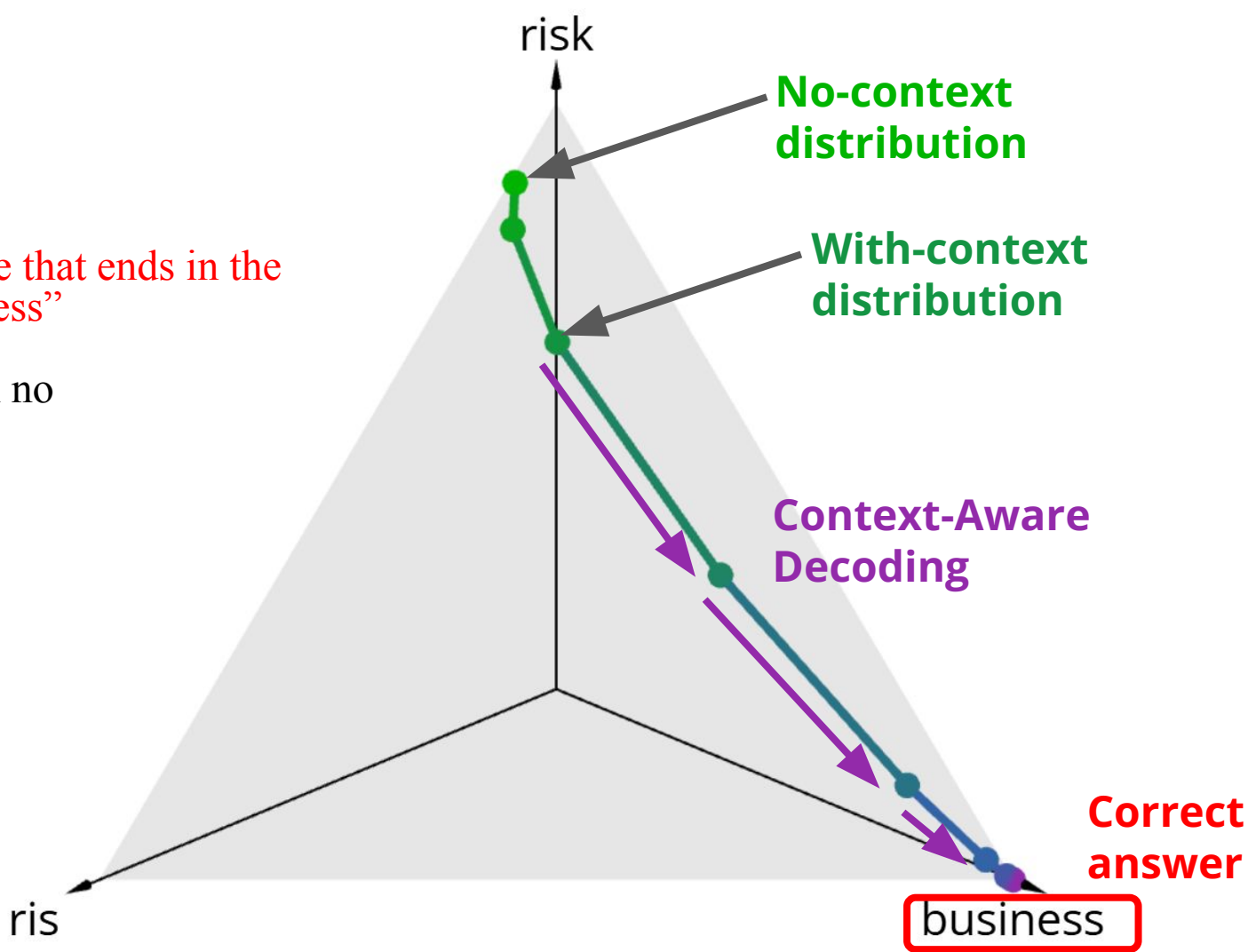


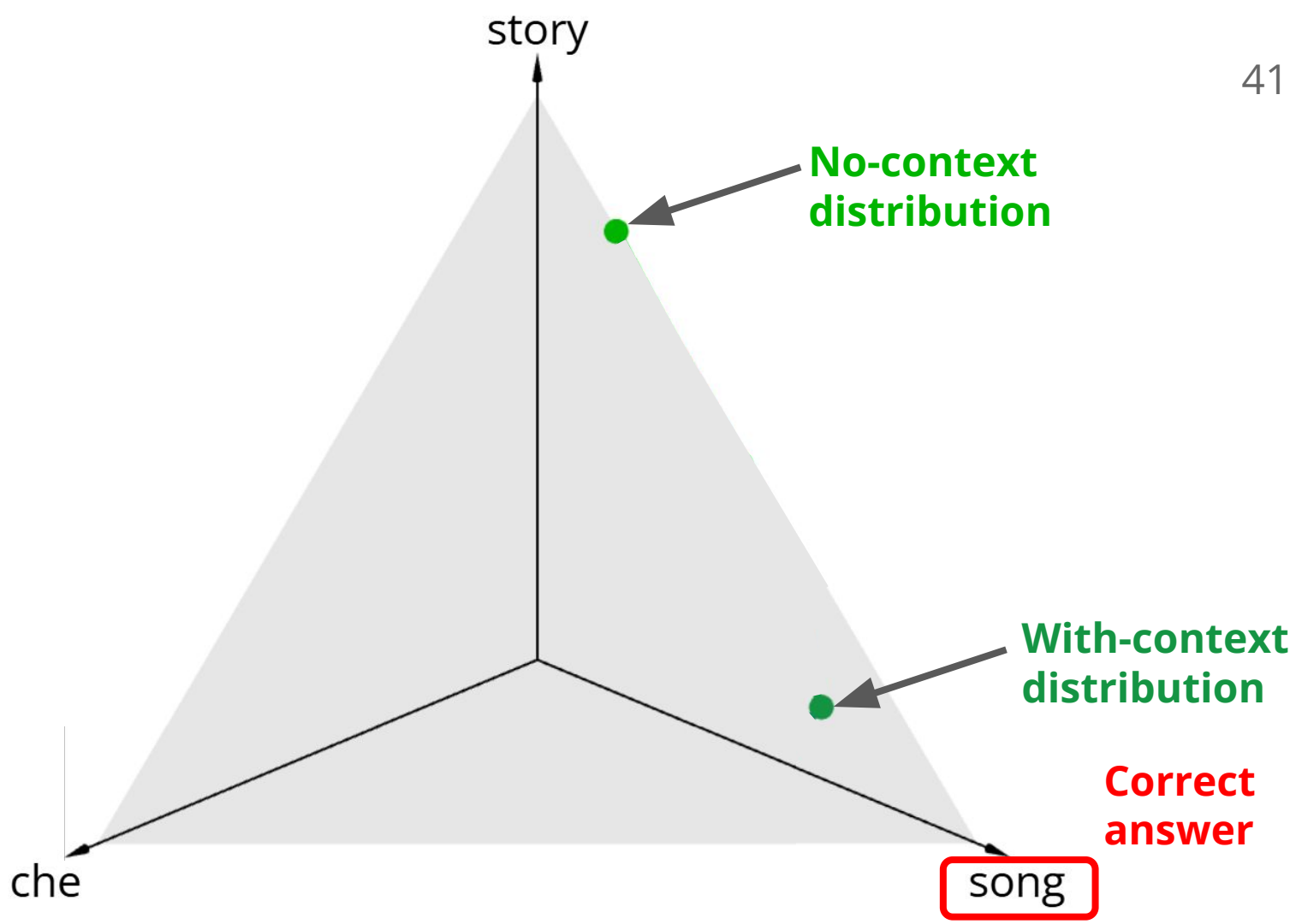
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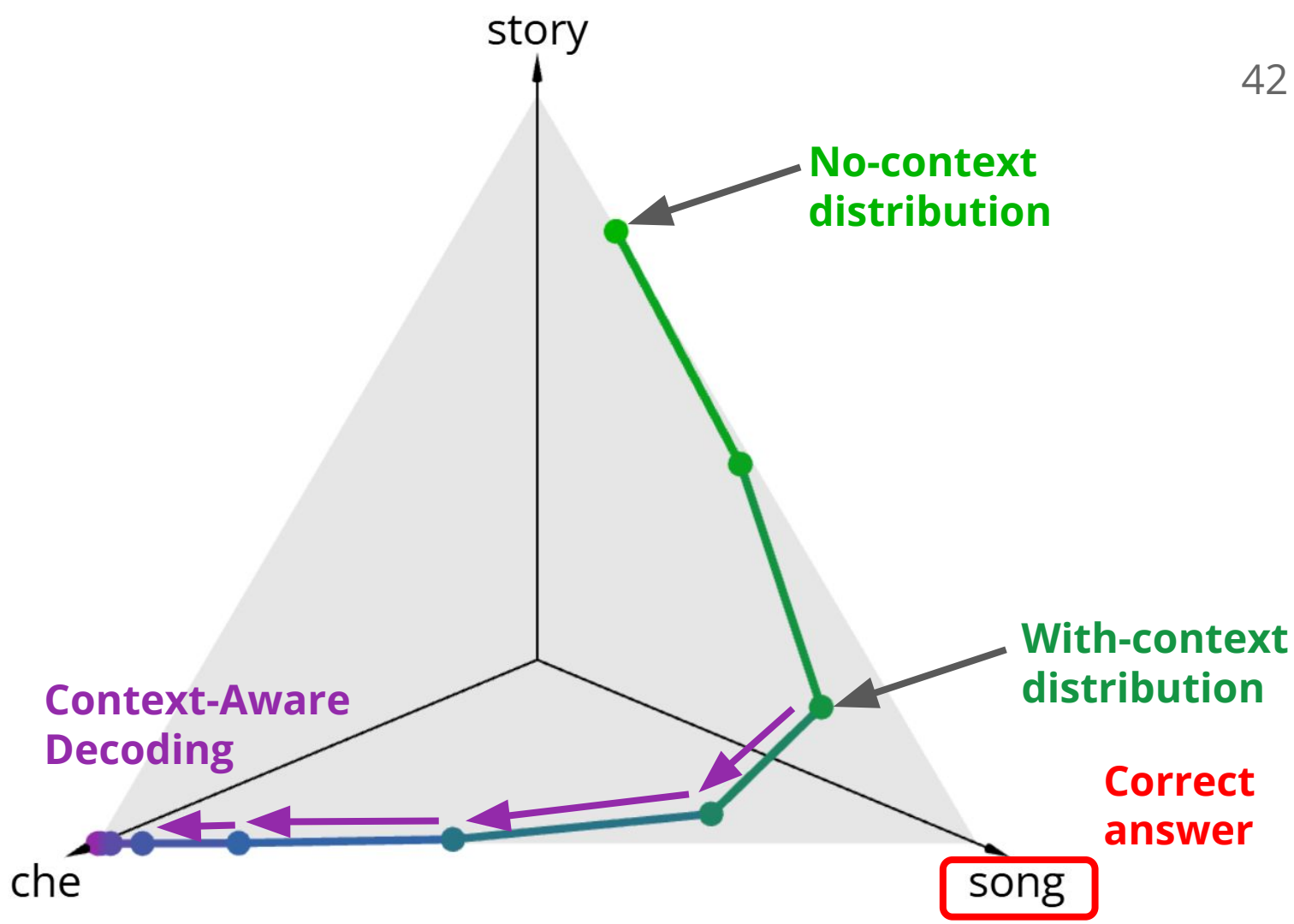
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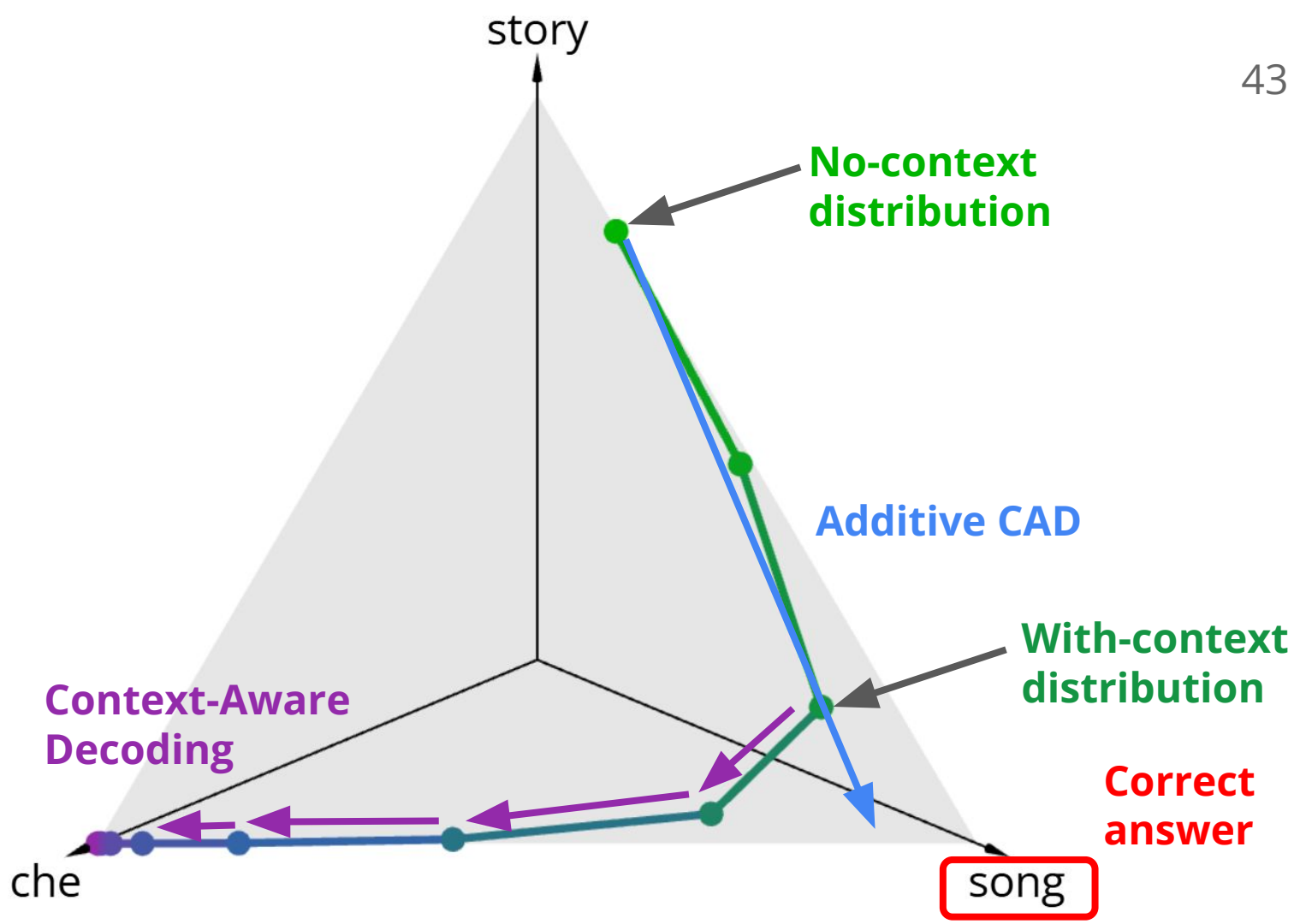
Query x

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Additive Context-Aware Decoding

$$P(y_t \mid \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_{<t}) + \gamma (P(y_t \mid \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_{<t}) - P(y_t \mid \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}_{<t}))$$

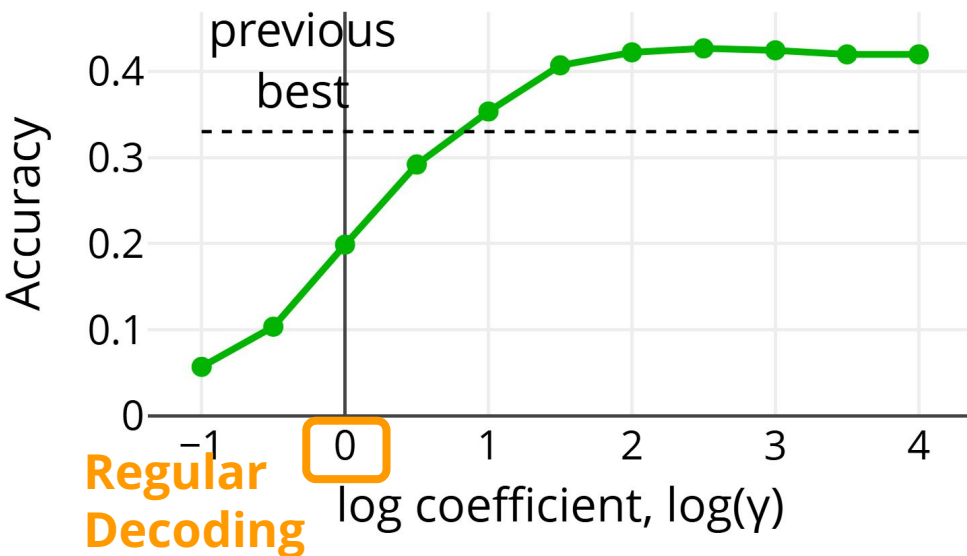
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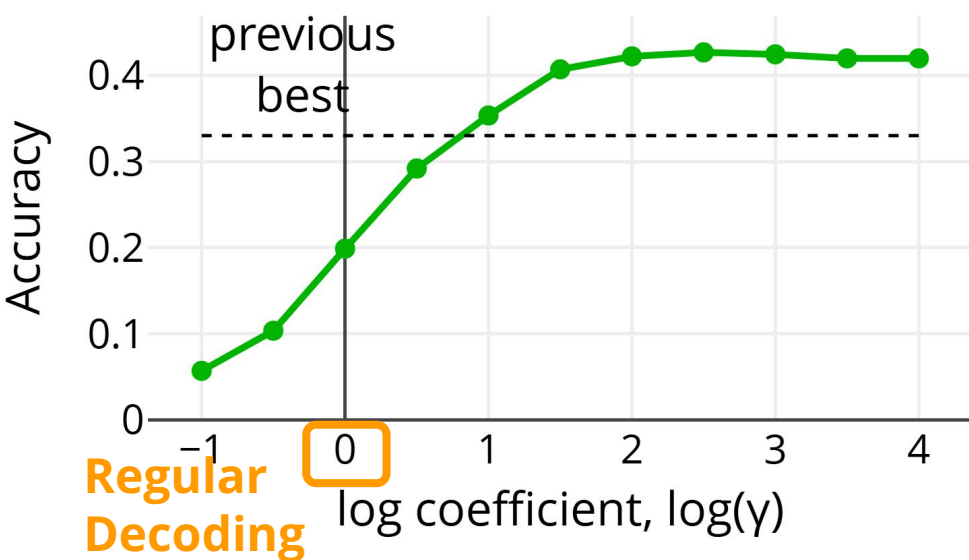
1. MemoTrap – even better



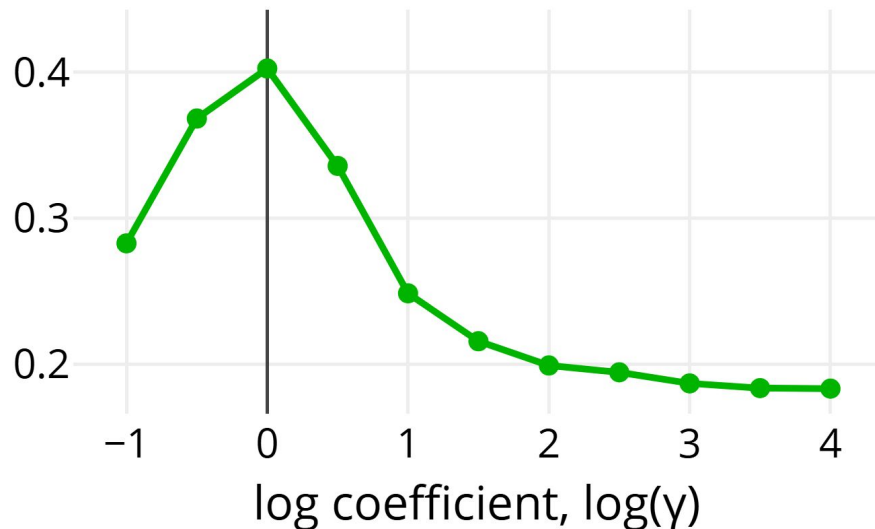
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2. Natural Questions – even worse



Conclusions

- DoLa on distribution *with context* helps CAD

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- Additive CAD *even better* at resolving knowledge conflicts

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- Additive CAD *even better* at resolving knowledge conflicts
- Doubt Injection shows some promise