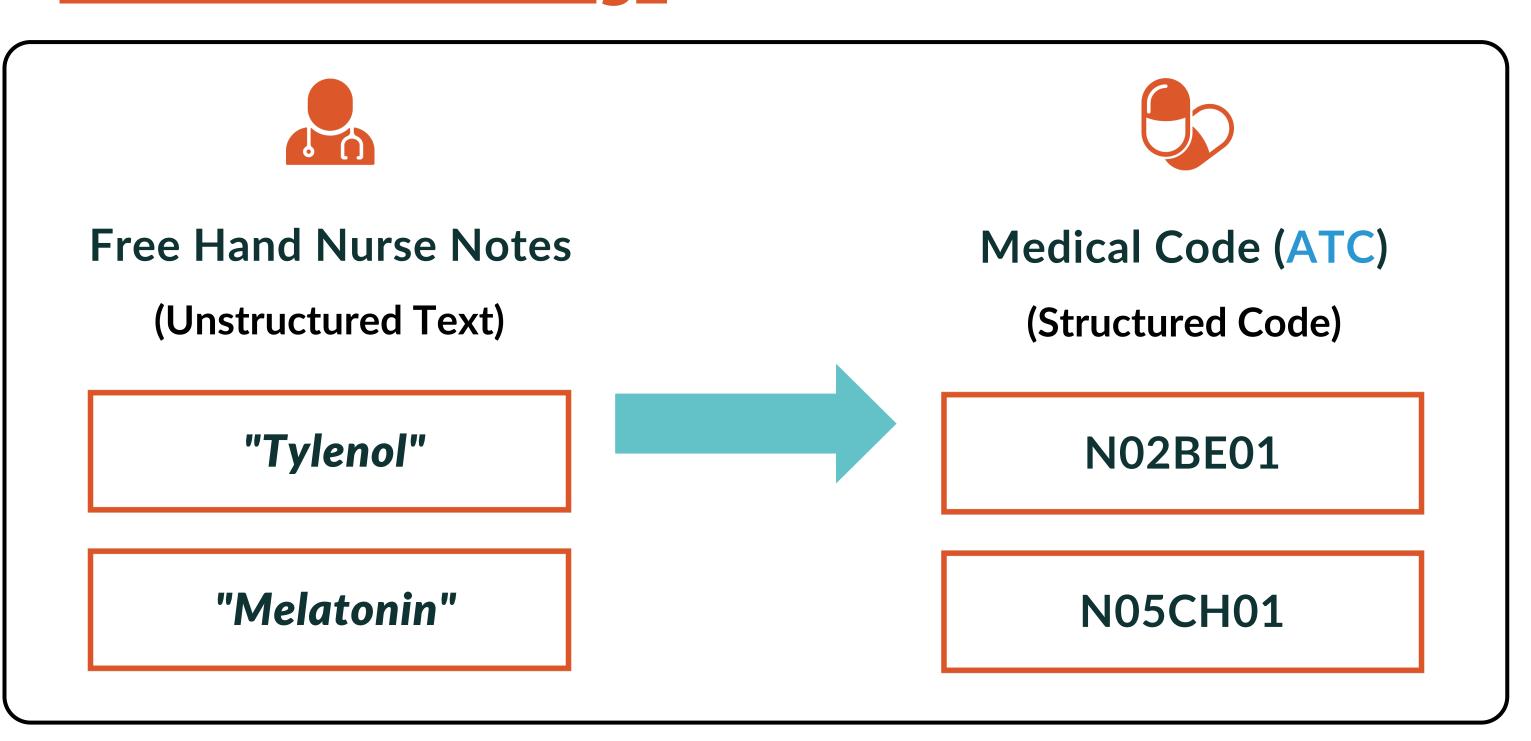
Zero-Shot ATC Coding with Large Language Models for Clinical

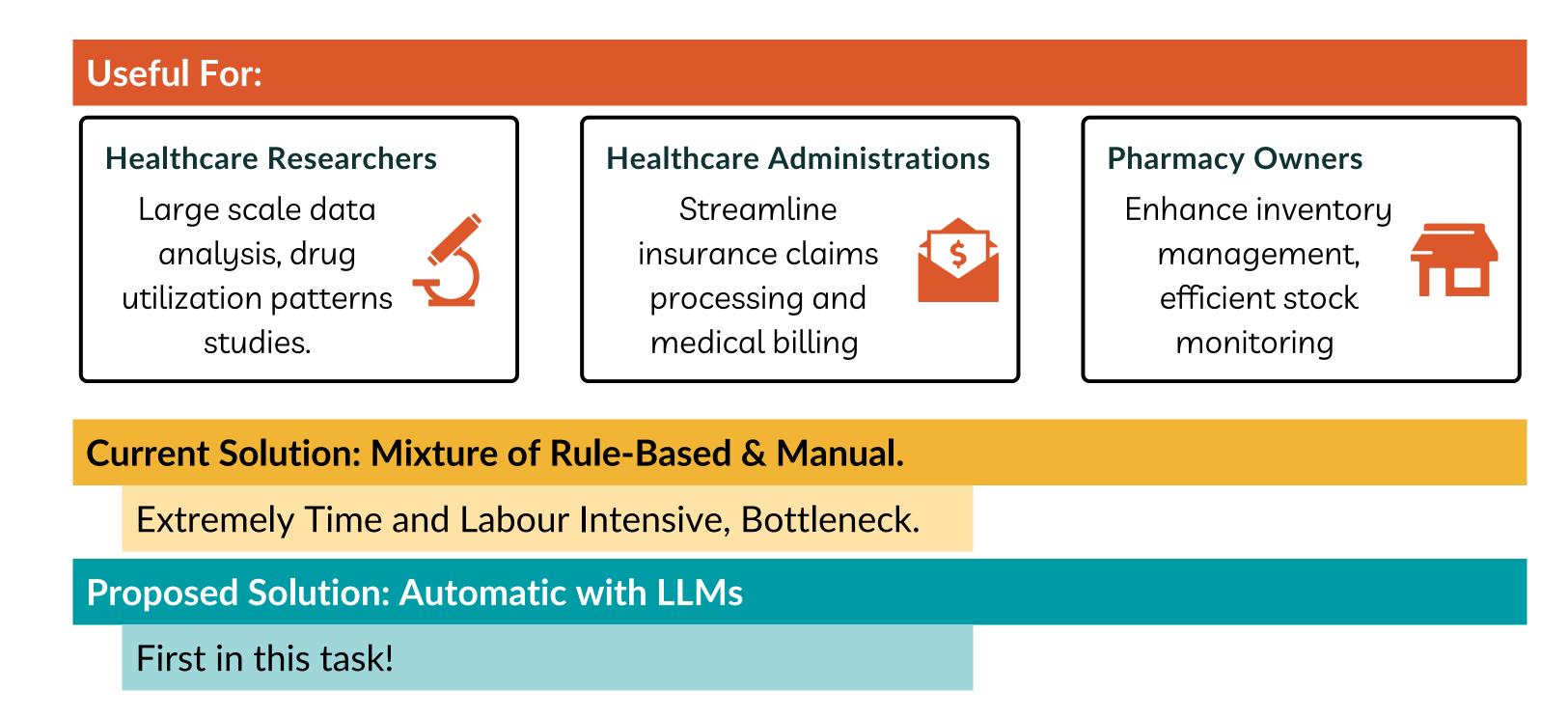
Assessments

Zijian Chen, John-Michael Gamble, Micaela Jantzi, John P. Hirdes, Jimmy Lin

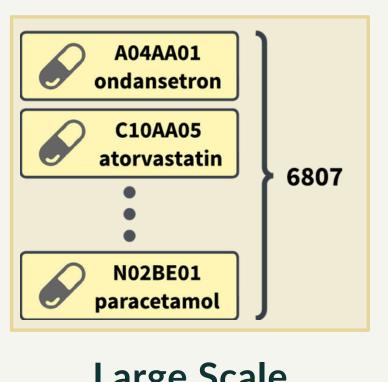
interRAI

What Is ATC Coding?





Challenges



Large Scale
Classification

More than 6800 distinct ATC codes

"Novo rapid 16 units at dinner"

"Dimenhysrinate" (Typo)

Prescription

Short text, typos, extraneous information

Noisy

"Mouthwash"

"Vitamin"

"nutrilife"

Prescription

Not enough information to deduce correct ATC

Ambiguous



Domain

No available data publicly due to privacy

Sensitive

Datasets: Product Names As Proxy

"PRAVASTATIN" (C10AA03)

"EXTRA STRENGTH

ALLERGY SINUS

MEDICATION" (N02BE51)

Health Canada Product
Names

(Product name - ATC pairs of 5744 drugs approved in Canada)

"epifoam" (D07XB01)

"locoid" (D07AB02)

"chardonna" (A16AX23)

RABBITS (Gallifant et al., 2024)

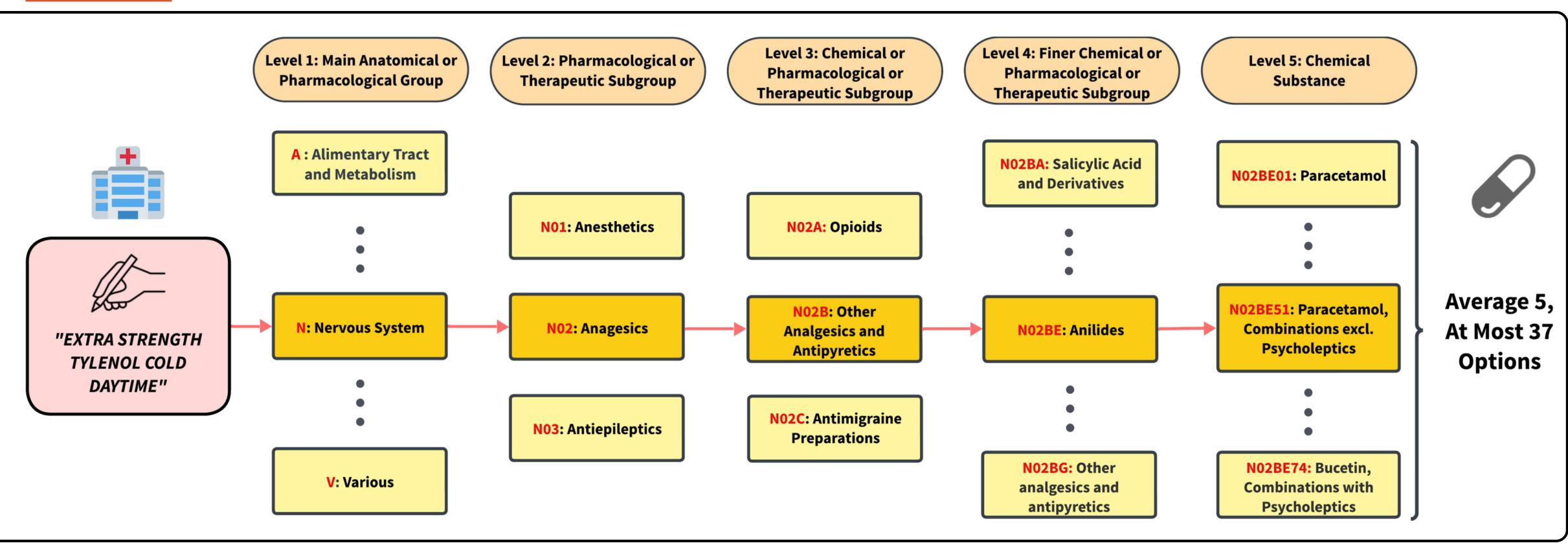
(3680 pairs designed with little lexical overlap between product and target chemical name)

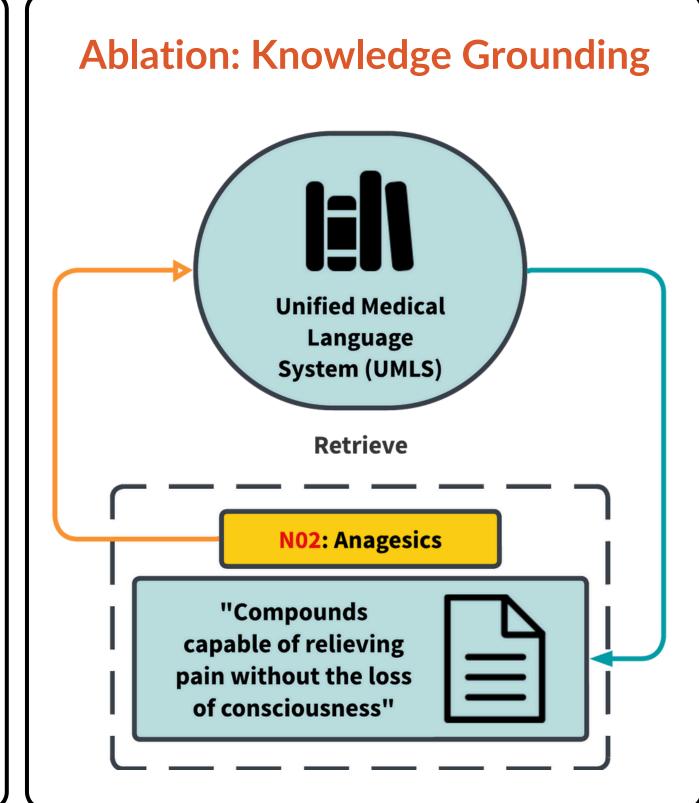
"lasix (8am & 2pm)" (C03CA01)

"Nitrospray 0.4mg/ml spray" (C01DA52)

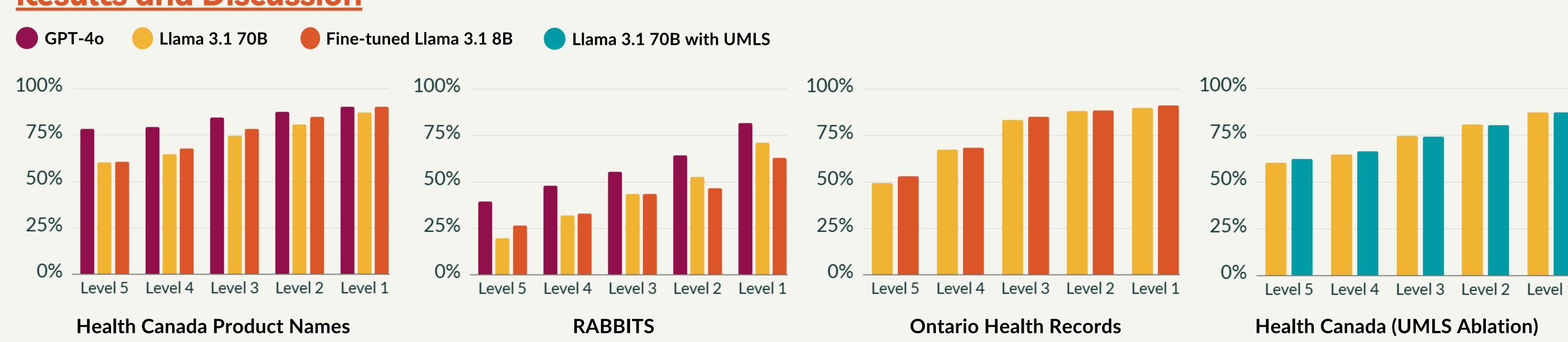
Ontario Health Records
(200 real prescriptions from
Ontario Health, annotated by
domain expert)

Method





Results and Discussion



- Automatic ATC coding is feasible with LLMs. Strong Zero-Shot accuracy of 78.4% exact-matches on Health Canada.
- Product name is good proxy for the scarce medical record data, where LLMs demonstrate meaningful effectiveness.
- When supervision is available, a fine-tuned model can match a much larger model.
- While UMLS augmentation demonstrated modest improvements at the deeper levels, more effective knowledge grounding solutions should be investigated.
- Current LLMs' ATC coding capabilities rely heavily on string similarity between prescriptions and their chemical counterparts, suggesting an area for future improvement.