

# Language Models and Knowledge

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## Outline

- 1. What is a knowledge base?
- 2. Can language models be used as knowledge bases? (Petroni et al., 2019)
- 3. Can a closed-book QA LM perform as well as other open-book methods? (<u>Roberts et al., 2020</u>)
- 4. How to update facts? (Dai et al., 2021, Mitchell et al., 2022)

# Introduction

• The corpora used to pretrain language models are **huge aggregations** of information and data from the internet

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  - Few-shot learning
  - In-context learning

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  - In-context learning

Can we directly retrieve the knowledge learned in pre-training from a language model?

## Today, we take LLMs' ability to "store" knowledge for granted

GPT-3 Zero-shot Knowledge Retrieval

Playground	Load a preset	<ul><li>✓ Save</li></ul>	View code Share
Where was T.S. Eliot born?		ψ	Mode
St. Louis, Missouri			Model text-davinci-002 v
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- This was not so obvious to NLP researchers *three years ago*!
- Instead, traditional knowledge bases were often used









### How were knowledge bases formed?



#### unstructured text

#### knowledge base

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"Born in St. Louis, Missouri, to a prominent Boston Brahmin family..." Untrained Knowledge Extraction Pipeline









"Born in St. Louis, Missouri, to a prominent Boston Brahmin family..."



Untrained Knowledge Extraction Pipeline







Populating the knowledge base often involves complicated, multi-step NLP pipelines



Prone to error propagation (from human annotations or knowledge extraction)



Prone to error propagation (from human annotations or knowledge extraction)



Reliant on fixed schemas to store or query data



Traditional knowledge bases are **inflexible** and require **significant manual effort**.

# Are there better alternatives?

# Language Models as Knowledge Bases? (Petroni et al., 2019)

### Language models as knowledge bases?

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**Question:** How do we check this?

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- How do we know how "knowledgeable" a LM is about a particular fact?

Given a cloze statement that queries the model for a missing token, **knowledgeable LMs rank ground truth tokens high** and other tokens lower



"The color of the sky is [MASK]."



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probability scores





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Step 1: Compile knowledge sources



Step 2: Formulate facts into triplets or question-answer pairs



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**Original Fact** 

(T.S. Eliot, birth-place, St. Louis)

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(Francesco Conti, born-in, [Florence, Ity])

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### LAMA's Knowledge Sources: <u>ConceptNet</u>

• For each ConceptNet triple, find the relevant **Open Mind Common Sense** (**OMCS**) sentences and mask the object

**ConceptNet Triple** 

(ravens, CapableOf, fly)
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**OMCS Sentence** 

"Ravens can fly."

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### **Dataset Statistics**

	# Facts	# of Relations	# Tokens in Answer
Google-RE	5.5k	3	1
T-REx	34k	41	1
ConceptNet	11 <b>.</b> 4k	16	1
SQuAD	300	-	1

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Note: all ground truth answers are **single-token**!

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  - RE<sub>n</sub>: uses exact string matching for entity linking
    - RE<sub>n</sub> has to find the subject/object entities itself
  - **RE**: uses oracle for entity linking
    - As long as RE<sub>o</sub> gets the right relation type, it gets the answer for free

- **Freq**: ranks candidates by frequency of appearance as objects for a subject-relation pair
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### • Pretrained models

- **RE** (Sorokin and Gurevych, 2017): extracts relation triples from sentence
  - $\blacksquare RE_n: uses exact string matching for entity linking$
  - **E**  $RE_{o}^{"}$ : uses oracle for entity linking
- **DRQA** (Chen et al., 2017): uses TF/IDF to retrieve relevant arguments from a set of documents, then extracts answers from the best *k* articles

## Pre-trained language models

	Model	Base Model	Training Corpus	Size
<u>fairseq-fconv</u> (Fs)		ConvNet	WikiText-103 corpus	324M
Transformer-XL large (Txl)		Transformer	Transformer WikiText-103 corpus	
ELMo	ELMo (Eb)	BiLSTM	Google Billion Word	93.6M
	ELMo 5.5B (E5B)		Wikipedia + WMT 2008-2012	93.6M
BERT	BERT-base (Bb)	Transformer	Wikipedia (en) &	110M
	BERT-large (Bl)		BOOKCOrpus	340M

### **Results:** both BERT models outperform other models on Google-RE

Corrus Polation		Base	elines	KB		LM					
Corpus	Relation	Freq	DrQA	$\mathbf{RE}_n$	REo	Fs	Txl	Eb	E5B	Bb	B1
	birth-place	4.6	-	3.5	13.8	4.4	2.7	5.5	7.5	14.9	16.1
Coordo DE	birth-date	1.9	-	0.0	1.9	0.3	1.1	0.1	0.1	1.5	1.4
Google-KE	death-place	6.8	-	0.1	7.2	3.0	0.9	0.3	1.3	13.1	14.0
	Total	4.4	-	1.2	7.6	2.6	1.6	2.0	3.0	9.8	10.5
2	1-1	1.78	-	0.6	10.0	17.0	36.5	10.1	13.1	68.0	74.5
TDE	<i>N</i> -1	23.85	-	5.4	33.8	6.1	18.0	3.6	6.5	32.4	34.2
I-KEX	N-M	21.95	-	7.7	36.7	12.0	16.5	5.7	7.4	24.7	24.3
	Total	22.03	-	6.1	33.8	8.9	18.3	4.7	7.1	31.1	32.3
ConceptNet	Total	4.8	-	-	-	3.6	5.7	6.1	6.2	15.6	19.2
SQuAD	Total	-	37.5	-	-	3.6	3.9	1.6	4.3	14.1	17.4

P@1: precision at rank 1

#### Results: BERT models does better on T-REx when there's only one correct answer...

Commun	Delation	Baselines		KB			LM					
Corpus	Relation	Freq	DrQA	RE <sub>n</sub>	RE <sub>o</sub>	Fs	Txl	Eb	E5B	Bb	B1	
	birth-place	4.6	_	3.5	13.8	4.4	2.7	5.5	7.5	14.9	16.1	
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### **Results:** ...but when there are multiple answers, RE<sub>o</sub> is best

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P@1: precision at rank 1

### **Results:** BERT models outperform other LMs on T-REx

Performance on T-REx



BERT models perform the best by a large margin

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Performance on T-REx



The worst performers are ELMo and fairseq-conv

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- 0.4

### **Results:** What factors correlate with better performance for BERT on T-REx?

P@1	-0.05	0.2	0.42	0.31	0.12	0.035	- 0.2 - 0.0
	# of subject mentions in training corpus	# of object mentions in training corpus	logprob of first prediction	cosine similarity between subject + object vectors	# tokens in subject (standard tokenizer)	# tokens in subject (BERT Wordpiece tokenizer)	0.4

Pearson Correlation Coefficients for P@1 (BERT-large, T-REx)

## Conclusion

- BERT-large recalls knowledge better than its competitors, and competitively with non-neural/supervised alternatives
- **BERT-large is competitive with a RE knowledge base** that was trained on the "best possible" data *and* used the entity-linking oracle
- Dealing with variance in performance in response to different natural language templates is a challenge

## Question 1

# Describe what the LAMA Probe is in (Petroni et al., 2019) - How do they probe different knowledge sources (Wikidata triples, ConceptNet, QA pairs)?

- A collection of knowledge sources either for relation extraction or QA
- Convert facts to cloze statements (either manually or using templates)
- Ask LM to rank candidate vocabulary and see if ground truth is in top *k* rank

### Can you think of any drawbacks of the probes?

- Answers must be single-token
- Relies on manual templates
- Questions are constrained to very specific and simple types of questions

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AUTOPROMPT  $x_{ ext{prompt}}$ 

a real joy. atmosphere alot dialogue Clone totally [MASK].

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- AutoPrompt (<u>Shin et al., 2020</u>): prompt is constructed by adding tokens found via gradient-guided search to a simple prompt
- **OptiPrompt (**<u>Zhong et al., 2021</u>): directly optimize prompt in embedding space, rather than in discrete space
  - Similar to prompt tuning

How Much Knowledge Can You Pack Into the Parameters of a Language Model? (Roberts et al., 2020)

### Motivation

- Petroni et al., 2019 measures knowledge in a model with its *pre-training objective* with *a synthetic task*
- This work measures *transfer learning performance* on knowledge on *question answering tasks with a closed-book approach*



### To solve open-domain QA: Two approaches

• Open-book QA: questions and external resources are given



• Closed-book QA: questions



### Experimental Setup - Datasets

#### • Natural Questions:

- Web queries each with <del>an oracle wikipedia article</del>
- Rich annotation, different answer types (yes/no, <del>unanswerable</del>, multiple answers, short answer and <del>long answer</del>)
- E.g., Who are the members of the Beatles?

#### • WebQuestions

- Web queries
- E.g., Which college did Obama go to?
- TriviaQA
  - Questions from quiz league websites, each with <del>web pages that might contain answers</del>
  - E.g., Who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2009?

### Experimental Setup - Models

#### • Pre-training resources

- **T5 v1.0**: trained with the unsupervised "span corruption" task on C4 as well as *supervised translation, summarization, classification, and reading comprehension tasks*
- T5 v.1.1: trained only with the C4

#### • Model size

- Base (220 million parameters)
- Large (770 million)
- 3B (3 billion)
- 11B (11 billion)

#### • Additional pre-training

- Salient Span Masking (<u>Guu et al. 2020</u>), mask salient spans (named entities & dates)
- Continue pre-training the T5 for 100k steps

#### person

location

Henri Hutin invented Brie cheese while living in North of Meuse, France

### Results

			NQ	WQ	TC	QA
					dev	test
	ſ	Chen et al. (2017)	_	20.7	_	
		Lee et al. (2019)	33.3	36.4	47.1	—
		Min et al. (2019a)	28.1	-	50.9	—
based Models		Min et al. (2019b)	31.8	31.6	55.4	—
external	$\prec$	Asai et al. (2019)	32.6	—	-	_
ents)		Ling et al. (2020)	_	_	35.7	<u></u>
		Guu et al. (2020)	40.4	40.7	_	
		Févry et al. (2020)	_	_	43.2	53.4
		Karpukhin et al. (2020)	41.5	42.4	57.9	_

Metric: Exact Match

SOTA Retrieval-based Models (can access external documents)

### **Results:** SSM clearly leads to improved performance

SOTA Retrieval-based Models (can access external documents)

Closed-Book QA models with fine-tuning (relies only on internal parameters)

Closed-Book QA model without fine-tuning SOTA Retrieval-based Models

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Févry et al. (2020)	_	_	43.2	53.4	
Karpukhin et al. (2020)	41.5	42.4	57.9	-	
T5-Base	25.9	27.9	23.8	29.1	
T5-Large	28.5	30.6	28.7	35.9	non SCM
T5-3B	30.4	33.6	35.1	43.4	11011-35141
T5-11B	32.6	37.2	42.3	50.1	
T5-11B + SSM	34.8	40.8	51.0	60.5	SSM
T5.1.1-Base	25.7	28.2	24.2	30.6	
T5.1.1-Large	27.3	29.5	28.5	37.2	non SCM
T5.1.1-XL	29.5	32.4	36.0	45.1	11011-22141
T5.1.1-XXL	32.8	35.6	42.9	52.5	
T5.1.1-XXL + SSM	35.2	42.8	51.9	61.6	SSM
GPT-3 few-shot	29.9	41.5	71.2	-	
SOTA	51.4	-	80.1	-	

Metric: Exact Match
## **Results:** Scale correlates with performance

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				dev	test	
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noroacing cizo	T5-Large	28.5	30.6	28.7	35.9	increasing performance
increasing size	T5-3B	30.4	33.6	35.1	43.4	mereasing performance
↓	T5-11B	32.6	37.2	42.3	50.1	↓ ↓
	T5-11B + SSM	34.8	40.8	51.0	60.5	
	T5.1.1-Base	25.7	28.2	24.2	30.6	
increasing size	T5.1.1-Large	27.3	29.5	28.5	37.2	increasing performance
	T5.1.1-XL	29.5	32.4	36.0	45.1	increasing performance
	T5.1.1-XXL	32.8	35.6	42.9	52.5	↓ ↓
	T5.1.1-XXL + SSM	35.2	42.8	51.9	61.6	

# Additional Evaluation on NQ

- Previous results adopt evaluation used in previous work
  - Long answers and unanswerable questions are not considered
  - $\circ \quad \text{Only output single answer} \\$
  - $\circ$  ~ Only trained with the first answer if a question has multiple answers
  - Answers with longer than 5 tokens are excluded
  - Answers are normalized (lowercased, strip of articles, punctuation etc.)

### • Leaderboard evaluation

- Long answers and unanswerable questions are not considered
- Models are trained to predict all ground-truth answers
- Only considered correct if it predicts *all answers* correctly

T5-11B + SSM achieves a recall of **36.2** on the validation set, which lags behind the state-of-theart score of **51.9** from <u>Pan et al. (2019)</u> at the time.

# Human Evaluation + Qualitative Error Analysis

- Exact Match is a very harsh metric  $\rightarrow$  potentially lots of **false negatives**
- Use human evaluation to see what percent of predicted negatives area are actually true negatives

### 38% of T5's "incorrect" predictions are actually correct!

			Example	
Category	Percentage	Question	Target(s)	T5 Prediction
True Negative	62.0%	what does the ghost of christmas present sprinkle from his torch	little warmth, warmth	confetti
Phrasing Mismatch	13.3%	who plays red on orange is new black	kate mulgrew	katherine kiernan maria mulgrew
Incomplete Annotation	13.3%	where does the us launch space shuttles from	florida	kennedy lc39b
Unanswerable	11.3%	who is the secretary of state for northern ireland	karen bradley	james brokenshire

# Conclusion

- Large language models pretrained on unstructured text perform competitively on open-domain QA, even compared to competitors with access to external knowledge
- Scale is critical to performance needed largest (11B) model to compete on par with SOTA
- Using LMs as knowledge bases suffers from **lack of interpretability**, and LMs are prone to **hallucinating** "realistic" answers

# Question 2

# Compared to (Petroni et al., 2019), can you state the key differences in (Roberts et al., 2021)?

- (Roberts et al., 2021) handles harder questions that may require multiple tokens. LAMA uses specific/easier types of questions with single-token answers
- Since T5 can't do zero-shot well, (Roberts et al., 2021) fine-tunes the model for QA tasks and compares against other retrieval-based fine-tuned models. LAMA does not fine-tune the models.

#### Do you think the accuracy of answering these open-domain questions reflects how much knowledge is already encoded in LLMs?

• To some extent. (Roberts et al., 2021) fine-tunes the model on the question-answer datasets, so it could be argued that it does not 100% accurately test how much knowledge is encoded in the pre-training stage

# Comparison of the Two Works

	Petroni et al., 2019	Roberts et al., 2020
Objective	MLM	seq2seq
Format	filling in the blank	generation
Finetune?	no	yes
Answer length	1	> 1

# How much does train-test overlap affect performance?

- Many of the knowledge sources we've discussed were extracted from **Wikipedia**
- However, pre-training corpora for language models almost always contain data from Wikipedia...
- How much of the amazing knowledge retrieval is due to **train-test overlap** in the knowledge probing benchmarks?

# Train-test overlap is responsible for LM's ability to do knowledge retrieval! (<u>Lewis et al., 2020</u>)

Model		Open Natural Questions				TriviaQA				WebQuestions			
		Total	Question Overlap	Answer Overlap Only	No Overlap	Total	Question Overlap	Answer Overlap Only	No Overlap	Total	Question Overlap	Answer Overlap Only	No Overlap
Open book	RAG DPR FID	44.5 41.3 51.4	70.7 69.4 71.3	34.9 34.6 48.3	24.8 19.3 34.5	56.8 57.9 67.6	82.7 80.4 87.5	54.7 59.6 66.9	29.2 31.6 42.8	45.5 42.4 -	81.0 74.1 -	45.8 39.8 -	21.1 22.2
Closed book	T5-11B+SSM BART	36.6 26.5	77.2 67.6	22.2 10.2	9.4 0.8	- 26.7	- 67.3	- 16.3	0.8	44.7 27.4	82.1 71.5	44.5 20.7	22.0 1.6
Nearest Neighbor	Dense r TF-IDF	26.7 22.2	69.4 56.8	7.0 4.1	0.0 0.0	28.9 23.5	81.5 68.8	11.2 5.1	0.0 0.0	26.4 19.4	78.8 63.9	17.1 8.7	0.0 0.0

When there is question overlap, both open and closed-book LMs perform well

# Train-test overlap is responsible for LM's ability to do knowledge retrieval! (<u>Lewis et al., 2020</u>)

Model		Open Natural Questions			TriviaQA				WebQuestions				
		Total	Question Overlap	Answer Overlap Only	No Overlap	Total	Question Overlap	Answer Overlap Only	No Overlap	Total	Question Overlap	Answer Overlap Only	No Overlap
Open book	RAG DPR FID	44.5 41.3 51.4	70.7 69.4 71.3	34.9 2 6	24.8 19.3 34.5	56.8 57.9 67.6	82.7 80.4 87.5	54.7 51 6	29.2 31.6 42.8	45.5 42.4 -	81.0 74.1 -	45.8 24 8	21.1 22.2 -
Closed book	T5-11B+SSM BART	36.6 26.5	77.2 67.6	2, 2 10.2	9.4 0.8	- 26.7	- 67.3	16.3	- 0.8	44.7 27.4	82.1 71.5	+ 5 20.7	22.0 1.6
Nearest Neighbor	Dense r TF-IDF	26.7 22.2	69.4 56.8	7.0 4.1	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0\\ 0.0\end{array}$	28.9 23.5	81.5 68.8	11.2 5.1	$\begin{array}{c} 0.0\\ 0.0\end{array}$	26.4 19.4	78.8 63.9	17.1 8.7	0.0 0.0

But with no question or answer overlap, performance drops sharply!

How to update knowledge in pre-trained models?

# **Edit What, Exactly?** Defining the problem





#### Slides from <u>link</u>

# **Edit What, Exactly?** Defining the problem





#### Slides from <u>link</u>







# Knowledge Neurons in Pretrained Transformers (Dai et al. 2021)

# Knowledge Neurons



- What is a knowledge neuron
  Activations after the first
  - Activations after the first feed-forward layer
- Assumption
  - Knowledge neuron are associated with factual knowledge
- Implications
  - If we can identifying these neurons, we can alter them to edit (update/erase) knowledge.
  - $\circ$  ~ No additional training is involved.

# Suppressing or Amplifying Knowledge Neurons



**Suppressing** the neurons **hurt** performance and **amplifying** neurons **increase** performance by up to 30% on average.

# Case Study - Updating Facts

• Update neuron values by subtracting the word embedding of the previous answer and adding the updated answer

Metric	<b>Knowledge Neurons Random Neurons</b>					
Change rate↑	48.5%	4.7%				
Success rate↑	34.4%	0.0%				

- They achieved a change rate and success rate that is better than random neurons.
- But is this good enough?

# Fast Model Editing at Scale (Mitchell et al. 2022)







- The MEND network produces **gradient updates** for the pretrained model.
- It's not the gradient of all the weights, it's a **transformation** of the gradient!





The knowledge is updated!



- Involves training
  - correctly updates the fact and the related facts
  - maintain answers to the irrelevant facts
- MEND network learns **how to edit** for one single fact change

# Results

- FT: fine-tuning with updated facts
- FT + KL: fine-tuning with updated facts and locality loss

	7	zsRE Question-Answering							
	T5-X	T5-XL (2.8B) T5-XXL (11B)							
Editor	ES ↑	acc. DD $\downarrow$	ES ↑	acc. DD $\downarrow$					
FT	0.58	< 0.001	0.87	< 0.001					
FT+KL	0.55	< 0.001	0.85	< 0.001					
MEND	0.88	0.001	0.89	< 0.001					

MEND shows the best **Edit success rate (ES)** and least interference to overall model perplexity or accuracy, i.e., **ppl. DD, acc.DD**.



# Comparison of the Two Works

	Knowledge Neurons	MEND
Method	Attribution-based	Learning-based
Training?	No	Yes
<b>Restricted by</b>	Attribution algorithm	Need a lot of edits data

# Conclusion

# Question 3

The world knowledge is constantly changing; for instance, the president was Donald Trump in 2020 and now is Joe Biden in 2022. However, LLMs are always trained on a static corpus of a fixed period.

- 1) Do you have any ideas about how to update and edit LLMs with real-world knowledge?
- 2) Do you think it is possible to decouple world knowledge and other knowledge encoded in LLMs?