

# LLM Interpretability

여름세미나

김동준



Natural Language Processing  
& Artificial Intelligence

# Exploring Concept Depth: How Large Language Models Acquire Knowledge at Different Layers?

**Mingyu Jin<sup>a,1</sup>, Qinkai Yu<sup>b,1</sup>, Jingyuan Huang<sup>a,1</sup>, Qingcheng Zeng<sup>c</sup>, Zhenting Wang<sup>a</sup>, Wenyue Hua<sup>a</sup>, Haiyan Zhao<sup>d</sup>, Kai Mei<sup>a</sup>, Yanda Meng<sup>e</sup>, Kaize Ding<sup>c</sup>, Fan Yang<sup>f</sup>, Mengnan Du<sup>d</sup> and Yongfeng Zhang<sup>a</sup>**

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<sup>e</sup>University of Exeter, <sup>f</sup>Wake Forest University

## Neuron-Level Knowledge Attribution in Large Language Models

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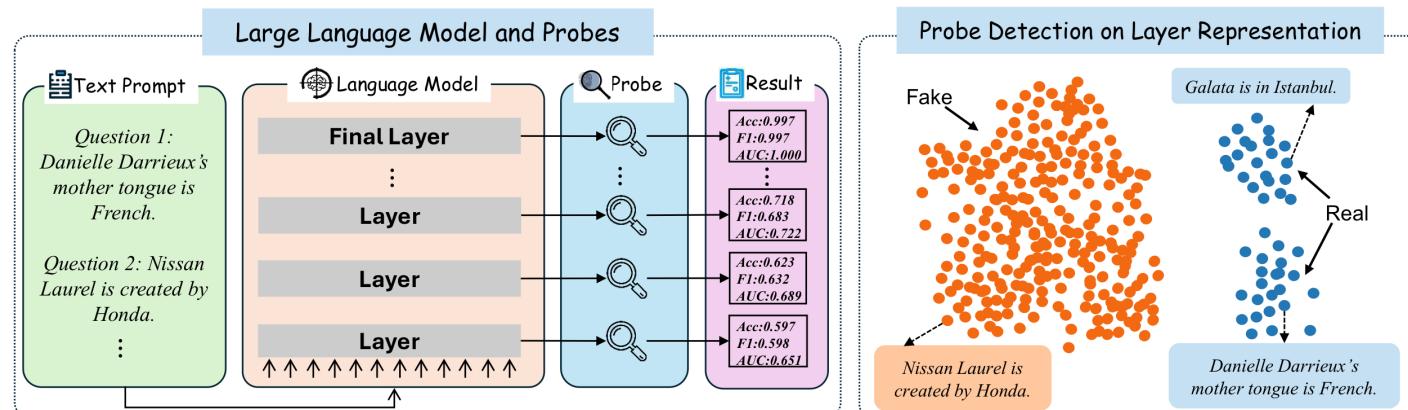
<sup>a</sup>Rutgers University, <sup>b</sup>University of Liverpool, <sup>c</sup>Northwestern University, <sup>d</sup>New Jersey Institute of Technology,  
<sup>e</sup>University of Exeter, <sup>f</sup>Wake Forest University

- RQ: 다른 LLM들은 복잡한 태스크를 같은 방식으로 이해할까?
- Block (Layer)에 집중 - 더 자세히는 안 들어감
- 어떤 block이 답변에 영향을 주는지 찾는 Probing 프레임워크 공개
- Block 내의 지식을 시각화하는 방법 제시

⇒ 시각화, 분석 위주의 논문

# Methods

- True/False 답이 있는 프롬프트 사용
- Probe: Binary Logistic Regression Classifier with L2 Regularization  
 ⇒ 각 block의 output hidden state에 대해서 internal state 값 확인 (확률 백터)
  1. 이 값을 수적으로 따지면 정답과 비교하여 accuracy를 구할 수 있음  
 ⇒ 따라서 마지막 block으로 갈수록 accuracy 높아짐
  2. 이 값의 패턴을 보면 차트로 나타낼 수 있음
    - 하지만 고차원의 차트임, 따라서 Principle Component Analysis 사용하여 시각화



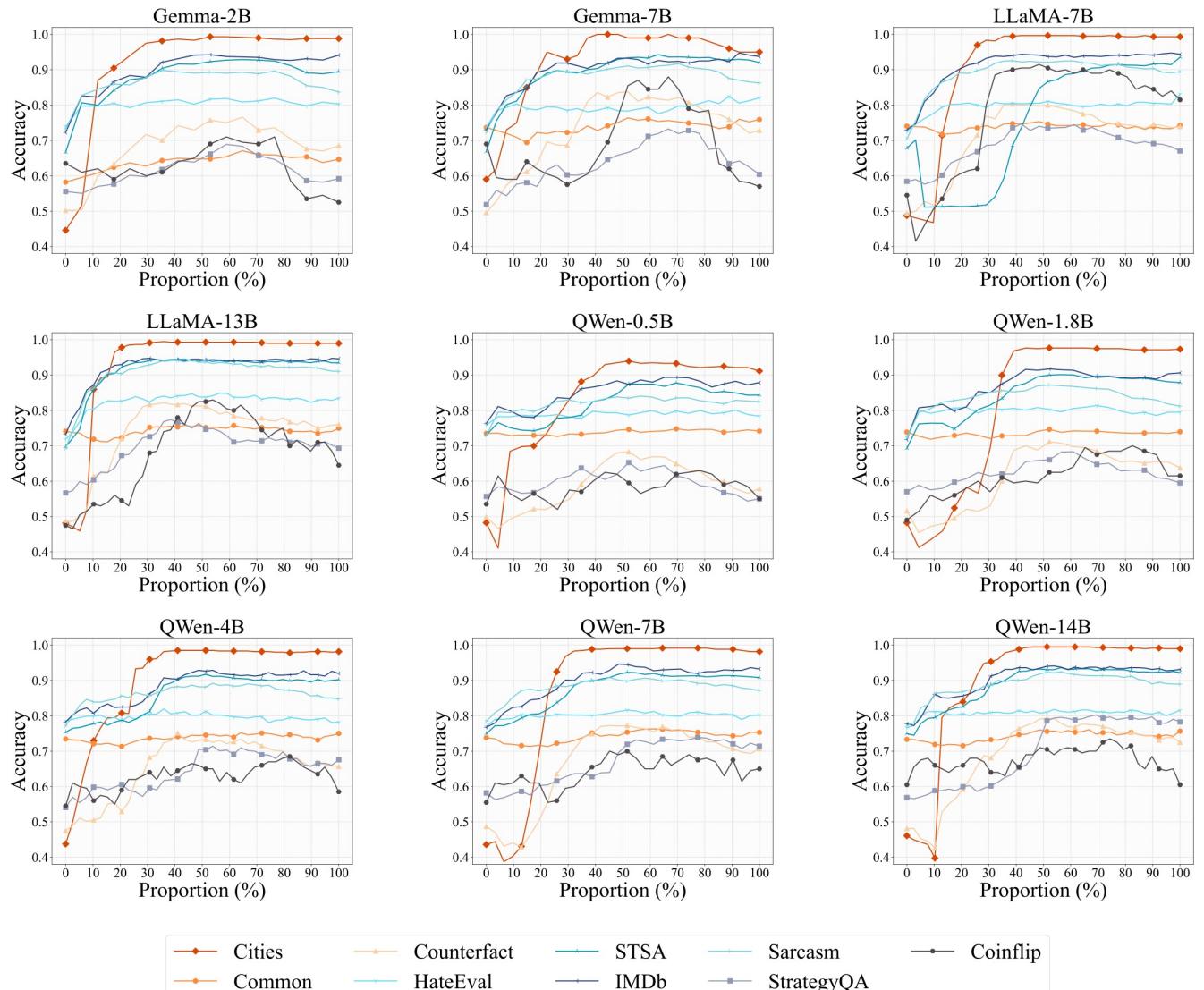
# Metric Definition

- $y$ : Ground Truth
- $z$ : Prediction
- Accuracy:  $\alpha_i = \frac{1}{|z|} * \sum_{k=1}^{|z|} [y_k = z_k], i \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots, d - 1\}$
- Variation Rate:  $\beta_i = \alpha_i / \alpha_{i-1}, i \in \{1, 2, \dots, d - 1\}$
- Jump Point:  $J(M, D) = \min\left\{\frac{i}{d}\right\} \text{ s.t. } \beta_i \geq 1.1, i \in \{1, 2, \dots, d - 1\}$
- Converging Point:  $C(M, D) = \max\left\{\frac{i}{d}\right\} \text{ s.t. } |\beta_i - 1| < 0.03, i \in \{1, 2, \dots, d - 1\}$

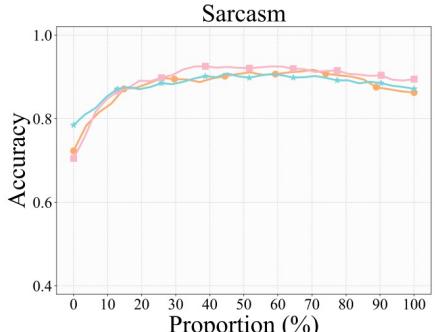
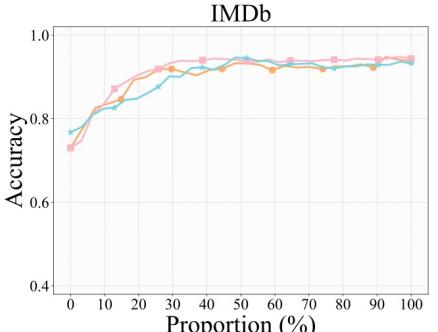
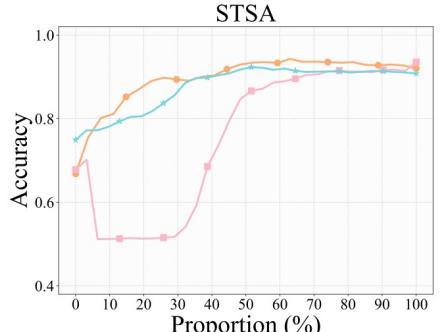
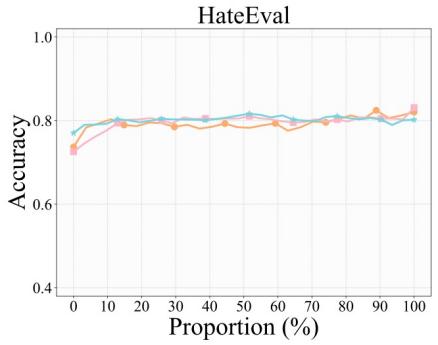
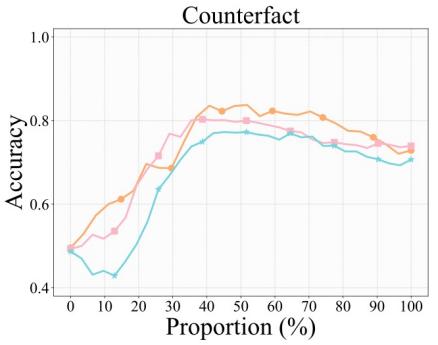
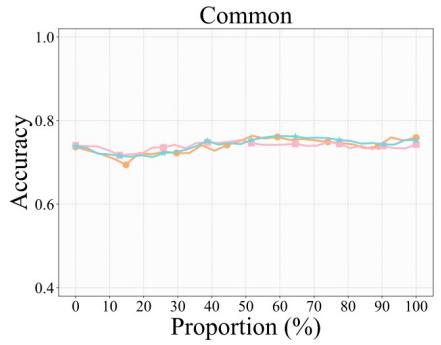
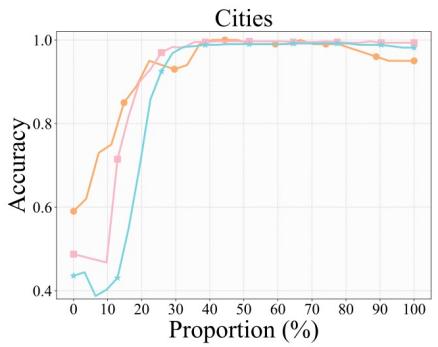
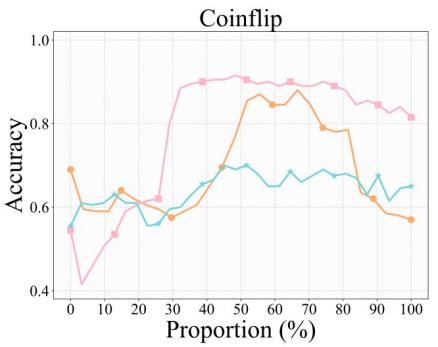
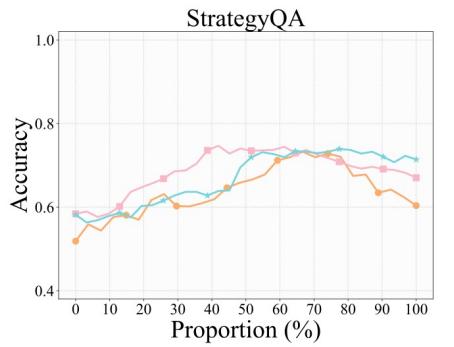
# 실험

- 총 9개 데이터셋
  - Cities, STSA, IMDB, Sarcasm, Common Claim, HateEval, Counterfact, StrategyQA, Coinflip
- 총 9개 모델
  - Gemma 2B, 7B
  - LLaMA 7B, 13B
  - Qwen 0.5B, 1.8B, 4B, 7B, 14B
- 실험 3개
  - 데이터셋끼리 비교
  - 모델 family끼리 비교
  - 큰 모델 vs 작은 모델

# 실험 1: 모델 고정, 데이터셋 비교

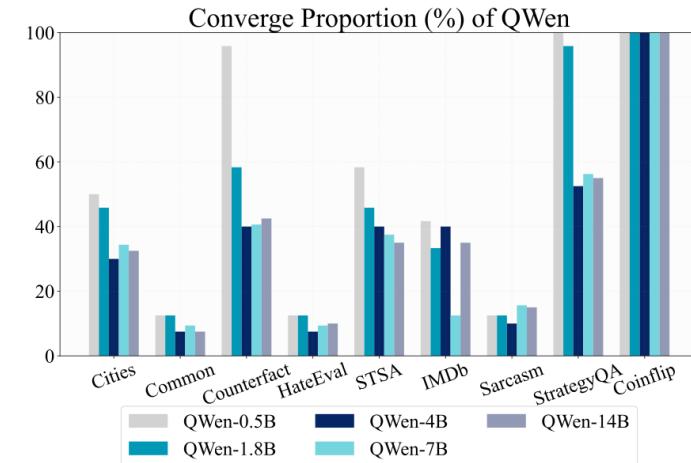
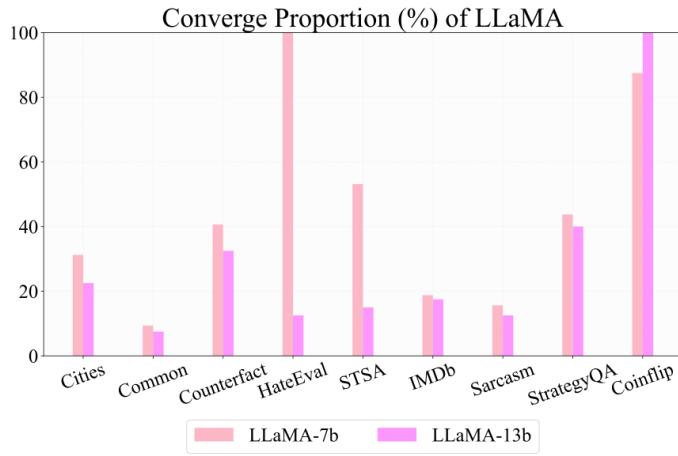
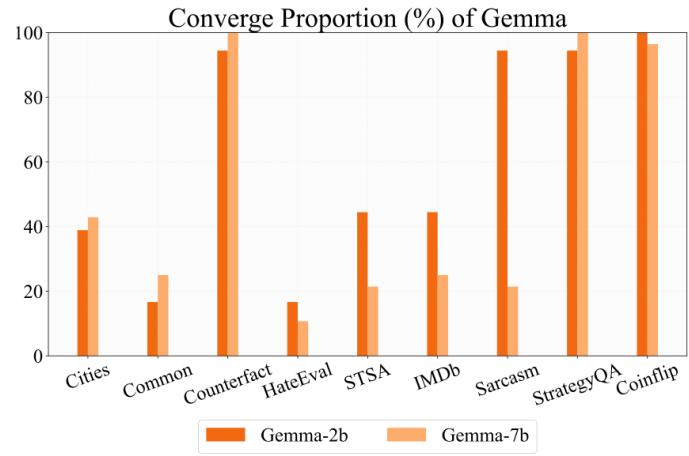


# 실험 2: 모델 family 비교

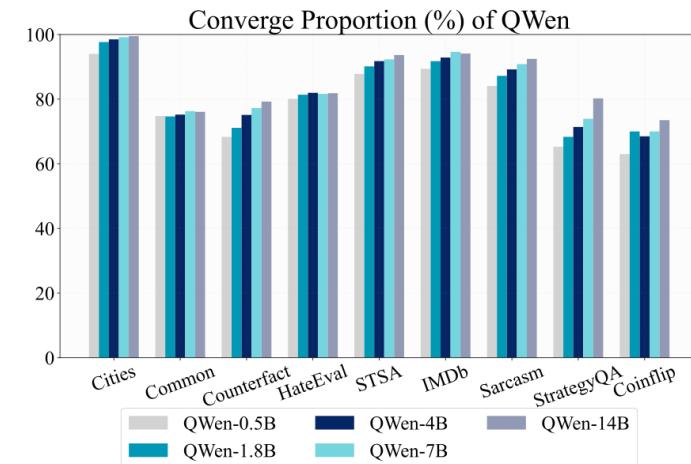
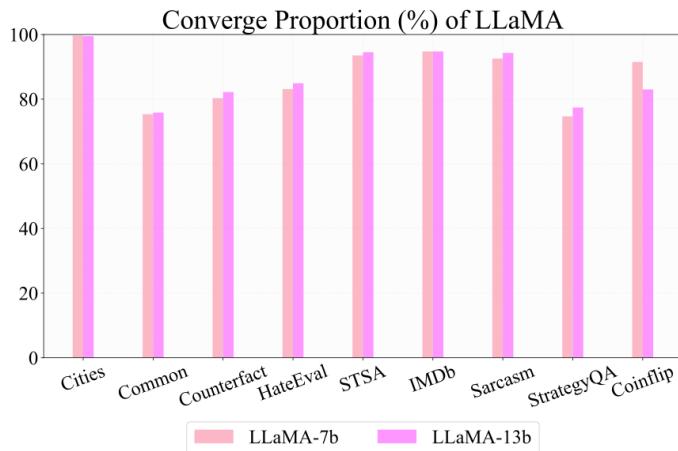
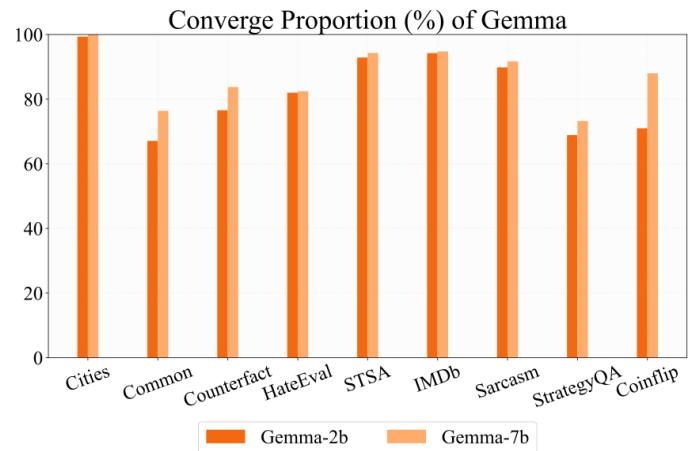


—●— Gemma-7B   —●— LLaMA-7B   —●— QWen-7B

# 실험 3: 모델 사이즈 비교



(a) The converging point of each dataset on Gemma, LLaMA, and QWen represented by the percent depth proportion.



# Neuron-Level Knowledge Attribution in Large Language Models

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- Response에 영향을 가장 많이 미치는 뉴런들을 pinpoint 할 수 있는 방법
  - Response에 직접적인 영향을 주는 Value 뉴런을 찾은 후
  - Value 뉴런을 activate 시키는 Query 뉴런을 찾음
- 실험:
  - 뉴런 내의 어떤 부분이 영향을 줄까?
  - Knowledge는 어디에 저장되어 있을까?

# Methodology

1. 뉴런들에 인한 distribution change 분석
2. Distribution에서 영향력이 큰 Value 뉴런 찾기
3. 위의 Value 뉴런을 활성화시키는 Query 뉴런 찾기

## Methodology

# Background

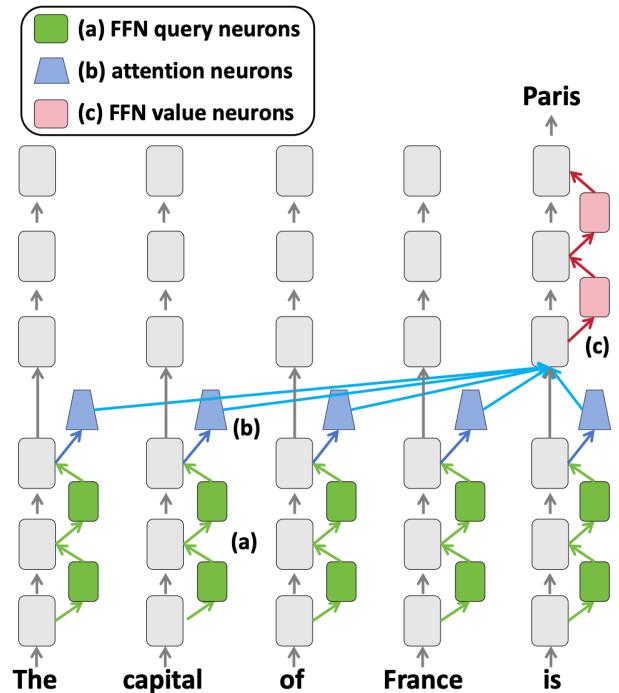
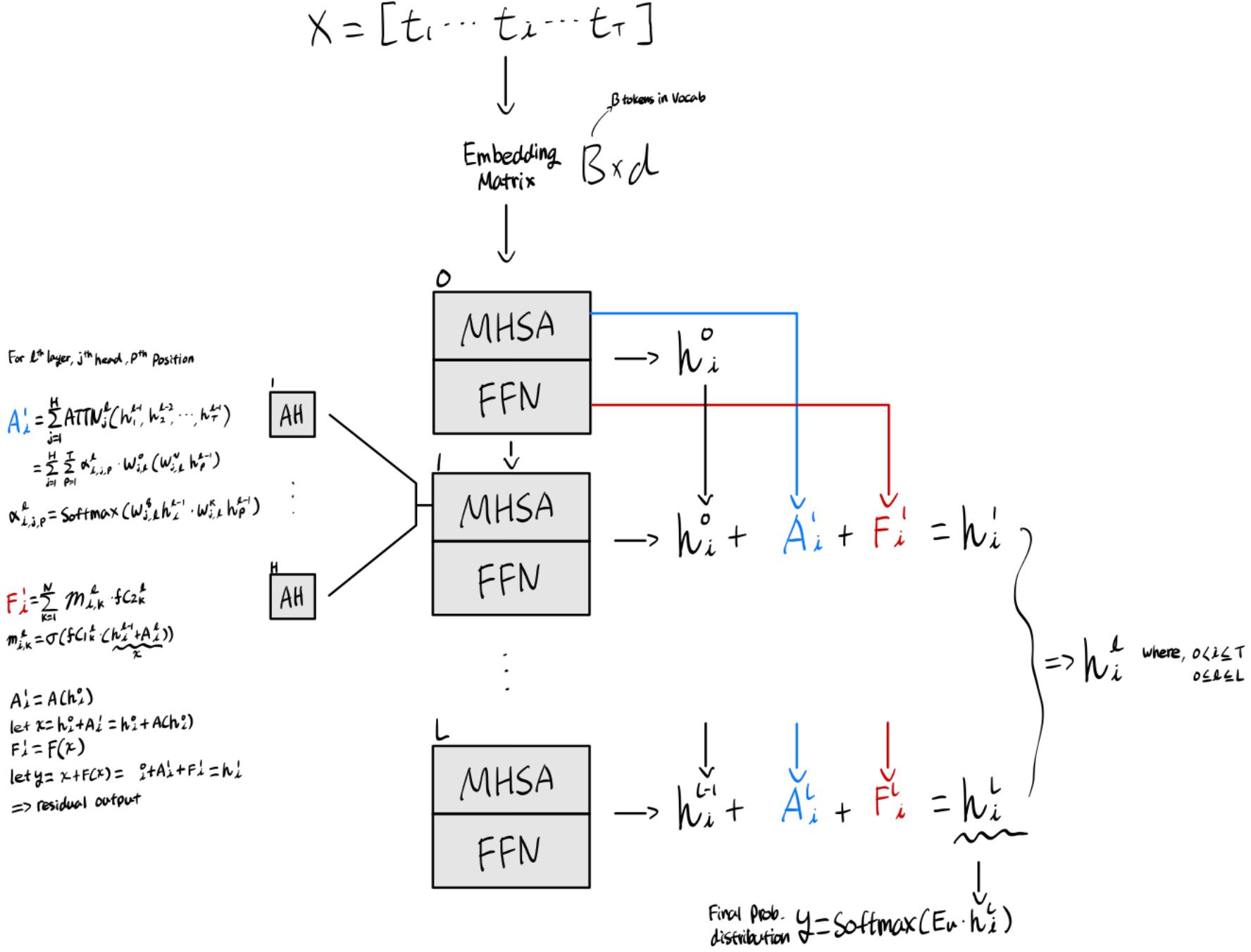


Figure 1: (a) Query neurons in shallow FFN layers. (b) Attention query/value neurons in attention heads. (c) Value neurons in deep FFN layers.



## Methodology

# Definition

$$h_T^l = x \text{ (residual vector)} + v \text{ (crucial neuron vector)}$$

Before Softmax:  $bs_w^x = e_w \cdot x$

$e_w$ :  $w^{th}$  row of the unembedded matrix  $E_u$

$$bs(x) = [bs_1^x, bs_2^x, \dots, bs_w^x, \dots, bs_B^x] \quad bs(x + v) = bs(x) + bs(v)$$

Probability Change:  $p(w|x + v) - p(w|x)$

$$p(w|x) = \frac{\exp(bs_w^x)}{\sum_{j=1}^B \exp(bs_j^x)} = \frac{e^{e_w \cdot x}}{\sum_{j=1}^B e^{e_j \cdot x}}$$

## Methodology

# Probability Change 계산 예시

Probability Change:  $p(w|x + v) - p(w|x)$

Assume:

- $bs(x) = [1, 2, 3, 4]$
- Corresponding probability distribution  $p(x) = [0.03, 0.09, 0.24, 0.64]$

1. Define  $v$ :

$$bs(v) = [1, 1, 1, 3]$$

2. Calculate  $bs(x + v)$

$$3. \quad bs(x + v) = bs(x) + bs(v) = [1, 2, 3, 4] + [1, 1, 1, 3] = [2, 3, 4, 7]$$

4. Compute the new probability distribution  $p(x + v)$ :

Apply the softmax function to  $bs(x + v)$ :

$$\exp(2) = 7.389$$

$$\exp(3) = 20.086$$

$$\exp(4) = 54.598$$

$$\exp(7) = 1096.633$$

Sum of exponentials:

$$7.389 + 20.086 + 54.598 + 1096.633 = 1178.706$$

New probabilities:

$$p(1 | x + v) = \frac{\exp(2)}{1178.706} = \frac{7.389}{1178.706} \approx 0.0063 \approx 0.01$$

$$p(2 | x + v) = \frac{\exp(3)}{1178.706} = \frac{20.086}{1178.706} \approx 0.0170 \approx 0.02$$

$$p(3 | x + v) = \frac{\exp(4)}{1178.706} = \frac{54.598}{1178.706} \approx 0.0463 \approx 0.05$$

$$p(4 | x + v) = \frac{\exp(7)}{1178.706} = \frac{1096.633}{1178.706} \approx 0.9304 \approx 0.93$$

Therefore,  $p(x + v) = [0.01, 0.02, 0.05, 0.93]$

## Methodology

# Distribution Change Analysis

- 임의의 뉴런 벡터 ( $v$ ) 선택해서 probability change 변화 확인

Probability Change:  $p(w|x + v) - p(w|x)$

$$bs(x) = [1, 2, 3, 4]$$

Corresponding probability distribution  $p(x) = [0.03, 0.09, 0.24, 0.64]$

$bs(v)$	$bs(x + v)$	$p(x + v)$
[1, 1, 1, 3]	[2, 3, 4, 7]	[0.01, 0.02, 0.05, 0.93]
[3, 1, 1, 1]	[4, 3, 4, 5]	[0.20, 0.07, 0.20, 0.53]
[6, 4, 4, 4]	[7, 6, 7, 8]	[0.20, 0.07, 0.20, 0.53]
[6, 2, 2, 2]	[7, 4, 5, 6]	[0.64, 0.03, 0.09, 0.23]
-[6, 2, 2, 2]	[-5, 0, 1, 2]	[0.00, 0.09, 0.24, 0.67]

[1,1,1,3] & [3,1,1,1]에서 볼 수 있듯이,  
 $v$ 의 역할은 distribution에 가중치를  
 주는 것으로 생각해볼 수 있음

Table 1: Probability distribution of  $p(x + v)$ .

## Experiments

# Experiment - Attribution Method 비교

- GPT2-large, Llama-7B 사용
- T/F를 확인 할 수 있는 TriviaQA 데이터셋 사용
- 데이터셋에 있는 문제들을 필터링 시킴
  - 모델의 FFN에 뉴런의 중요도를 확인할 수 있는 7가지의 다른 방법들을 적용시킴
  - 기준은:
    - 최종 top 10 probability 안에 있고
    - 같은 카테고리의 다른 답변보다 높은 probability
- GPT2-large: 데이터 1,350개
- Llama-7B: 데이터 3,141개

## Experiments

# Attribution Method

```

len(methods) = 7
eval_metrics = ['Mean Reciprocal Rank', 'Probability', 'Log Probability']

for s in sentences:
    for m in methods:
        neuron = m.top_10(s)
        for e in eval_metrics:
            e.eval(neuron)
  
```

- a) (proposed method) log probability increase:  $\log(p(w|mv^l + A^l + h^{l-1})) - \log(p(w|A^l + h^{l-1}))$
- b) log probability:  $\log(p(w|mv^l))$ , which attributes the same neurons with  $p(w|mv^l)$
- c) probability increase:  $p(w|mv^l + A^l + h^{l-1}) - p(w|A^l + h^{l-1})$
- d) norm:  $|v^l|$
- e) coefficient score:  $|m|$
- f) ranking in vocabulary space:  $1/rank(w)$
- g)  $|m| \times |v^l|$
- h)  $|m| \times 1/rank(w)$

## Experiments

# 비교 결과

a~h 방법을 사용하여 top 10 뉴런 뽑고, 강제로 0으로 만들어서 기존 결과(o)에 비해 얼만큼의 성능 저하가 일어났는지 확인

	GPT2-large			Llama-7B		
	MRR	prob	logp	MRR	prob	logp
o)	0.361	7.1	-3.15	0.551	21.5	-2.24
a)	<b>0.201</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>-4.06</b>	<b>0.312</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>-3.91</b>
b)	0.214	3.6	-3.91	0.339	10.8	-3.35
c)	0.219	3.7	-3.92	0.345	10.0	-3.57
d)	0.363	7.1	-3.14	0.549	21.3	-2.25
e)	0.439	8.6	-3.10	0.529	22.9	-2.35
f)	0.306	5.8	-3.40	0.493	18.1	-2.49
g)	0.394	8.1	-3.06	0.523	22.6	-2.39
h)	0.232	4.0	-3.80	0.389	13.0	-3.06

Table 2: Results of attribution methods on two models.

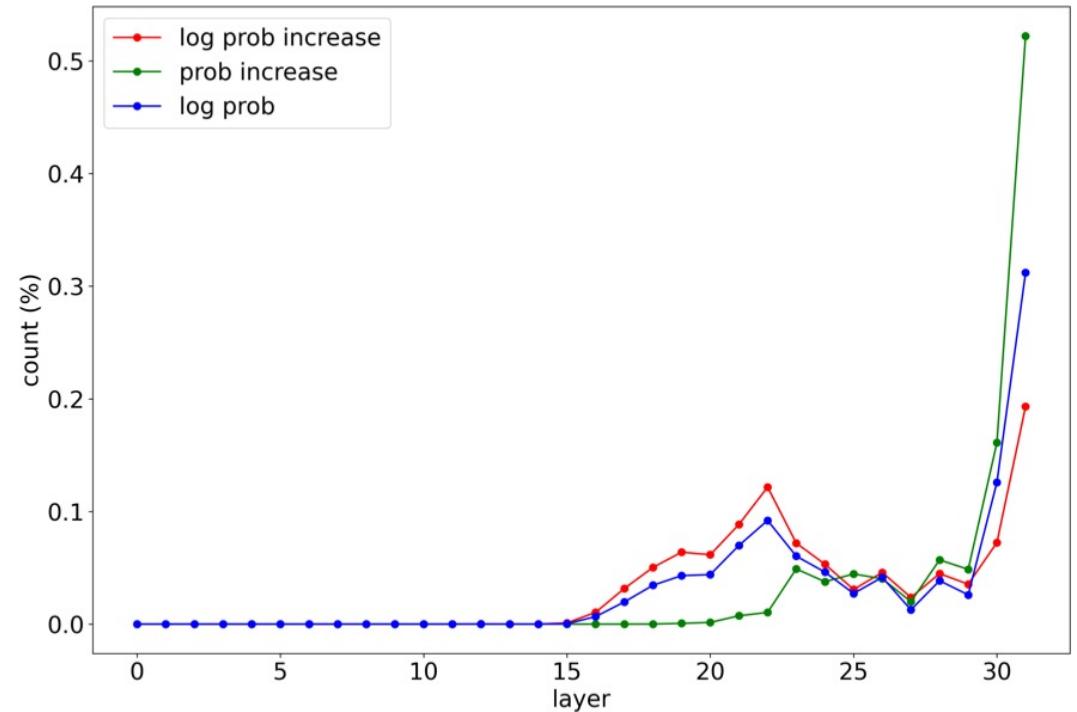


Figure 2: Neuron distribution on all layers in Llama-7B.

## Experiments

# Experiment - Knowledge Exploration

- 앞 실험에서 성능이 가장 좋았던 a) log probability increase 방법 사용
- FFN, Attention 레이어 전부에 관하여 실험 진행
- Language, color, number, capital, country, month 지식을 나눠 실험

## Experiment

# Knowledge Exploration 결과

- Attention, FFN 섞여있음  
⇒ 모든 레이어에 지식 저장됨
- Attention에서는 비슷한 semantic의 지식은  
비슷한 Attention Head에 들어있음

lang	$a_{26}, a_{30}, a_{32}, a_{22}, a_{31}, a_{28}, a_{23}, a_{27}, a_{19}, a_{23}$
col	$f_{32}, f_{32}, a_{33}, f_{29}, f_{31}, a_{31}, a_{26}, f_{33}, f_{28}, a_{22}$
num	$f_{29}, f_{23}, f_{27}, f_{30}, f_{31}, f_{26}, f_{32}, a_{23}, a_{22}, f_{28}$
capi	$a_{26}, a_{28}, a_{30}, a_{25}, a_{22}, f_{26}, f_{28}, a_{19}, f_{27}, f_{30}$
cnty	$a_{26}, a_{30}, a_{28}, a_{22}, f_{29}, a_{31}, f_{26}, a_{32}, a_{25}, a_{19}$
mon	$a_{27}, a_{26}, f_{26}, a_{25}, f_{30}, a_{28}, a_{24}, a_{22}, a_{30}, f_{27}$
lang	$a_{23}, a_{21}, f_{21}, a_{19}, a_{18}, a_{31}, a_{25}, a_{16}, f_{20}, f_{19}$
col	$f_{29}, a_{20}, a_{22}, a_{20}, a_{19}, a_{28}, a_{16}, a_{29}, a_{18}, f_{28}$
num	$f_{31}, f_{26}, f_{29}, f_{27}, a_{26}, f_{23}, f_{24}, a_{28}, f_{17}, f_{30}$
capi	$a_{23}, f_{21}, f_{22}, a_{18}, a_{25}, a_{21}, f_{19}, f_{20}, a_{16}, f_{24}$
cnty	$a_{23}, a_{21}, a_{25}, f_{22}, a_{18}, a_{19}, a_{16}, f_{21}, f_{31}, a_{31}$
mon	$a_{21}, a_{19}, f_{19}, a_{16}, f_{31}, a_{23}, a_{28}, f_{30}, f_{17}, f_{18}$

Table 4: Top10 important layers in GPT2 (first block) and Llama (second block).

type	top10 heads
lang	$a_{30}^6, a_{26}^{17}, a_{26}^7, a_{32}^{11}, a_{19}^0, a_{31}^9, a_{25}^{13}, a_{22}^{17}, a_{28}^{13}, a_{29}^2$
col	$a_{33}^5, a_{34}^1, a_{26}^7, a_{24}^{19}, a_{23}^{18}, a_{32}^{13}, a_{30}^1, a_{22}^8, a_{28}^{14}, a_{28}^2$
num	$a_{22}^{18}, a_{17}^3, a_{23}^8, a_{19}^2, a_{30}^3, a_{25}^{19}, a_{20}^3, a_{30}^0, a_{12}^2, a_{25}^3$
capi	$a_{26}^7, a_{30}^6, a_{26}^{17}, a_{22}^{17}, a_{25}^{13}, a_{28}^{13}, a_{19}^0, a_{19}^{10}, a_{29}^2, a_{32}^{11}$
cnty	$a_{26}^7, a_{30}^6, a_{22}^{17}, a_{28}^{13}, a_{26}^{17}, a_{32}^{11}, a_{19}^0, a_{25}^{13}, a_{31}^9, a_{19}^{10}$
mon	$a_{27}^2, a_{26}^7, a_{25}^{11}, a_{19}^0, a_{30}^2, a_{28}^4, a_{23}^{18}, a_{17}^1, a_{17}^3, a_{27}^3$
lang	$a_{23}^{12}, a_{19}^{31}, a_{31}^{25}, a_{25}^{25}, a_{16}^5, a_{18}^1, a_{21}^9, a_{29}^{22}, a_{21}^{17}, a_{18}^{23}$
col	$a_{29}^{22}, a_{28}^{19}, a_{20}^{27}, a_{16}^{15}, a_{17}^{27}, a_{28}^{21}, a_{25}^{14}, a_{18}^8, a_{24}^1, a_{14}^3$
num	$a_{28}^{19}, a_{26}^{24}, a_{23}^{10}, a_{30}^{13}, a_{21}^{29}, a_{13}^{24}, a_{18}^{22}, a_{29}^{23}, a_{17}^1, a_{19}^1$
capi	$a_{23}^{12}, a_{29}^{22}, a_{25}^{25}, a_{31}^{25}, a_{19}^{31}, a_{18}^1, a_{16}^{15}, a_{21}^5, a_{18}^9, a_{23}^{23}$
cnty	$a_{23}^{12}, a_{19}^{31}, a_{25}^9, a_{21}^{25}, a_{31}^{15}, a_{16}^1, a_{18}^{15}, a_{29}^{22}, a_{28}^{19}$
mon	$a_{21}^{10}, a_{16}^0, a_{21}^{22}, a_{23}^{18}, a_{28}^{16}, a_{19}^6, a_{31}^1, a_{19}^3, a_{14}^{13}, a_{20}^{13}$

Table 10: Top10 important heads in GPT2 (first block) and Llama (second block).

## Conclusion

## 결론

- Attention, FFN 둘다 지식을 포함하고 있음
- Attention에 한에서는 비슷한 지식은 비슷한 head에 들어있음
- 뉴런 값을 조금 바꿔주면 결과에 차이가 확실히 나타남
- 자세하게 뉴런 단위로 지식의 저장을 확인하거나, 답변에 영향을 직접적으로 주는 논문은 많지 않았음
- Knowledge editing이나 XAI 연구들 활용 방안 다양

# Thank you



Natural Language Processing  
& Artificial Intelligence