When Less is More: Investigating Data Pruning for Pretraining LLMs at Scale

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Abstract

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Large volumes of text data have contributed significantly to the development of large language models (LLMs) in recent years. To date, efforts to prune these datasets to higher quality subsets have relied on hand-crafted heuristics encoded as rule-based filters. In this work, we explore scalable estimates of data quality that can be used to systematically measure the quality of pretraining data, namely perplexity, the Error L2-Norm, and memorization. These metrics are used to rank and prune pretraining corpora, and we subsequently compare LLMs trained on these pruned datasets. We find that perplexity outperforms other scoring methods and improves over our no-pruning baseline while training on as little as 30% of the original training dataset without degradation in downstream finetuned tasks. Our work explores strategies in automatically curating high quality corpora and suggests that large amounts of pretraining data can be removed while retaining performance.

1 Introduction

Recent years of progress in scaling large language models (LLMs) have shown strong evidence that more data leads to better performance with remarkable gains in language understanding and generation capabilities [9, 37, 19, 3]. Common practice is to use massive datasets such as C4 [32], RefinedWeb [29], and The Pile [17]. These datasets are typically compiled by scraping raw web pages from the internet, leading to a substantial portion of the text being noisy and of low quality [14, 21, 24]. Practitioners have established a number of rule-based techniques to remove low-quality examples from these datasets [43, 32, 31, 18, 29, 40, 14, 31]. While hand-curated filters can eliminate noisy examples, they are not a substitute for a measure of "quality" for individual training examples, for which there are currently no established best practices [26].

We aim to find a rigorous estimator of data quality through *data pruning*, defined as isolating a subset of a larger training dataset such that a model trained on said subset preserves or improves performance over a model trained on the full dataset. Previous work on data pruning for language has either studied the fine-tuning setting, which typically has an order of magnitude less data [15, 4, 10] or based their method on hand picking high-quality corpora [16, 40, 9]. Our contributions are the following:

1. We benchmark data pruning based on perplexity, EL2N [28], and memorization in the LLM pretraining setting. We find the simple technique of ranking examples based on their perplexity outperforms EL2N and memorization.

37th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2023).



Figure 1: Demonstration of our pruning methodology. For each sequence z_i , a pruning algorithm ξ generates score s_i . We then choose which subset of the distribution of scores to keep and a new model is trained with the pruned data $\hat{\mathcal{D}}_{\varepsilon}$.

- We run a series of ablations to better understand a variety of facets of data pruning, more fully defined Table 1 We also finetune a selection of our models on six tasks from the GLUE benchmark [39] to evaluate the effect of pruning on downstream generalization, found in Table 2.
- 3. We test our pruning methods at both 124M and 1.5B parameters, achieving a 1% improvement in test set perplexity using half of the dataset over a baseline model trained on the entire dataset at 124M parameters. This scales to 1.5B parameter models, achieving 1.5% improvement in test set perplexity over a no-pruning baseline of the same size.

2 Methodology

Given a dataset \mathcal{D} , we tokenize all documents and append a special $\langle \text{eod} \rangle$ token to their end. We then concatenate and split them into n sequences z_i of fixed length t equal to the model's context length: $\mathcal{D} = \{z_1, \ldots, z_n\}$. Consider the subset of training instances \mathcal{P}_{ξ} where ξ refers to the algorithm used to select the subset. We build this subset by computing the pruning score $Score_{\xi}(z_i)$ for each data point z_i . We then populate \mathcal{P}_{ξ} with instances that fit our selection criteria: $\mathcal{P}_{\xi} = \{z_i \in \mathcal{D} \mid Criteria(Score_{\xi}(z_i))\}$. By removing \mathcal{P}_{ξ} from \mathcal{D} , the remaining instances are described as: $\hat{\mathcal{D}}_{\xi} = \mathcal{D} \setminus \mathcal{P}_{\xi}$. Our goal is to choose a pruning algorithm ξ such that when training a language model on the remaining training instances, $\hat{\mathcal{D}}_{\xi}$, the model's performance is not diminished: $\mathbb{P}_{\tau}(\mathcal{M}_{\hat{\mathcal{D}}_{\xi}}) \geq \mathbb{P}_{\tau}(\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{D}})$ where $\mathcal{M}_{\hat{\mathcal{D}}_{\xi}}$ is the model trained on $\hat{\mathcal{D}}_{\xi}$ and \mathbb{P}_{τ} is the performance on task τ .

We evaluate different reference models \mathcal{M} that are used to calculate pruning scores. For each metric, we consider three different selection criteria to determine \mathcal{P}_{ξ} : isolating the top, middle, or bottom percentiles of \mathcal{D} as the data to be kept. We pretrain separate models using these criteria with different percentages of the dataset to understand the dynamics and impact of each pruning metric. Figure 1 demonstrates our experimental setup.

2.1 Pruning Metrics

2.1.1 Selection via Perplexity

PERPLEXITY measures how probable a given piece of text is based on a particular language model. A lower perplexity score indicates that the model assigns a high probability to the text. For each instance z_i in \mathcal{D} , we compute the perplexity metric as:

$$PPL(z_i) = \exp\left(\frac{1}{|z_i|} \sum_{t_j \in z_i} NLL(t_j)\right) \tag{1}$$

Experimental axes	Choices
Pruning Metric	Perplexity, EL2N, Memorization
Pct. Data Remaining	10, 30, 50, 70
Pruning Subset	Bottom, Middle, Top
Reference Model Size	124M, 6B, 13B, 52B
Reference Model Epoch Perc.	14%, 55%, 440%, Full
Reference Model Tr. Data	CC, Wiki, Web-scale
Pruned Model Size	124M, 1.5B

Table 1: Pruning choices explored in the experiments. Under "Reference Model Training Steps", "Full" refers to the fully trained Cohere LLMs. Under "Reference Model Training Data", "Webscale" refers to the significantly larger training datasets used by the Cohere reference models.

where $NLL(t_j)$ is the negative log likelihood of token t_j in sequence z_i :

$$NLL(t_j) = -\log P(t_j | t_{\leq j}; \theta)$$
⁽²⁾

2.1.2 Selection via EL2N

The Error L2-Norm (EL2N) score was originally proposed in a computer vision setting to identify which samples are important for learning [28]. The authors suggest that exhibiting a low EL2N score are typically those the model learns in its early stages of training, likely because they are relatively easier. We define the EL2N score on text sequences as the average L_2 norm of the error vector, where \hat{y}_i is the reference model's predicted probability distribution over the vocabulary and y_t is the one-hot encoded representation of the ground truth:

$$\mathrm{EL2N}(z_i) = \frac{1}{t} \sum_{i}^{t} \|\hat{y}_t - y_t\|_2$$
(3)

Additional specifics of EL2N calculations can be found in Appendix Section B

2.1.3 Memorization Ranking

Memorization in language models is a well-studied phenomenon [11, 12, 6]. We explore memorization scores applied as a data pruning ranking using memorization score as defined by [6]:

$$score(M, N) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i}^{N} \mathbb{1}(z_{M+i} = \hat{z}_{M+i})$$
 (4)

where z is a data point, \hat{z} is a sequence of tokens predicted by the reference model, and $1(\cdot)$ is an indicator function. A reference model guaranteed to have seen the full training set is prompted with the first M tokens of a data point z to calculate the memorization score. We then greedily generate N additional tokens, \hat{z} . The memorization score is the fraction of the N greedily generated tokens ($\hat{z}_{M:M+N}$) that match exactly with the original data point ($z_{M:M+N}$). For our experiments, M = N = 32. A high memorization score indicates the model reproduces more of the text verbatim.

2.1.4 Random Pruning

We also evaluate a lower bound of expected performance: pruning a random selection of samples.

3 Experiments

3.1 Model

We train autoregressive decoder-only Transformer models [38] with a standard language modeling objective. Given an input sequence of $z_i = [r_1, \dots, r_t]$ from training data \mathcal{D} , a language model with parameters θ is trained to minimize the negative log-likelihood loss as defined in Equation 2. Our language models follow the traditional GPT-style architecture [30].

While training our models, we use AdamW [23] with linear cosine scaling and a batch size of 2048. The 124M parameter models are trained for 8000 steps, which amounts to a total of 33B tokens with a learning rate that linearly increases from 0 to 1.5e-4 over the course of training. This is approximately 4.4 epochs over the unpruned dataset. We tokenize the data with Byte Pair Encoding [33] with a vocabulary of 51200. Due to the memory and computational costs of training 1.5B parameter models, our experiments at this size are trained with a batch size of 512 for 14568 steps. As such, the models see only 7.6B tokens, equivalent to a single epoch of our unpruned dataset. The learning rate for 1.5B parameter models linearly increases from 0 to 1.2e-4 over the course of training. All models use a context window length of 2048.

3.2 Data

We use a random sample of the May 2022 snapshot of CommonCrawl¹ in our experiments. After downsampling the unpruned dataset has 7.6B tokens, about 20% of the full snapshot. This downsampling is required due to the computational cost of our various ablation experiments. This dataset is *prefiltered* using a combination of automatic and hand-crafted filters, as we aim to further improve data quality beyond common rule-based filters. The filters exclude repetitive documents, documents with percentages of special characters, and documents that contain explicit words and toxic text, similar to deduplication steps seen in [36, 20].

3.3 Ablations

For all techniques, we compare performance when 10%, 30%, 50%, and 70% of the full dataset is preserved. We retain the top, middle, and bottom subsets according to the pruning ranking, e.g., when retaining 30% of the bottom of the pruning metric's distribution over the training set, we calculate the 30th percentile of the pruning metric's distribution and remove all data points with a perplexity above it. When retaining the middle 30%, we calculate the 35th and 65th percentile and remove all data points above and below those numbers respectively. Each ablation study (pruning method, percent data remaining, section of distribution preserved) **requires training a new model from random initialization**. Table 1 summarizes the perplexity pruning variations we explore in this paper. We call models used to compute the perplexity ranking *reference models* and the models trained on the pruned datasets *pruned models*.

3.4 Evaluation

We report perplexity on a test set from the same CommonCrawl snapshot with identical prefiltering as the training data. This test set contains 266M tokens, equivalent to about 3.5% of the training set. We also finetune a subset of our models on six different classification tasks from GLUE, details for which can be found in Appendix Section D.

¹https://data.commoncrawl.org/



Figure 2: The effect of reference models of different sizes on test set perplexity. The three subset selection approaches (keep bottom, middle, or top) for each set of experiments are showcased separately.



Figure 3: Top performing variants across dataset sizes 3a. Evaluation of different subset selection criteria for 3b EL2N and 3c Memorization. Perplexity-based pruning consistently surpasses other metrics and the no pruning experiments. See Section 4.2 for details on the featured variants.

4 **Results and Discussion**

4.1 Removing Easy Instances Improves Performance

Though the most competitive variant for each pruning method varies based on the subset of the scoring distribution retained, we observe a consistent pattern: the most performant variants are *not* the subsets that correspond to the "easiest" data. The interpretation of the term "easy" varies according to the measurement employed. When employing the PERPLEXITY metric, it refers to the bottom samples with the lowest perplexity. With the EL2N metric, it also pertains to the bottom samples exhibiting the lowest initial loss, while for MEMORIZATION, it relates to the top samples that have been most thoroughly memorized.

Figure 2 demonstrates this pattern when using PERPLEXITY. In contrast to the middle or top subsets, the bottom subset has much less variance in results between reference models of varying sizes, indicating the bottom subset is not suitable for training. The middle experiments achieve consistently lower test set perplexities for various reference model sizes and pruning ratios. Figure 3c shows the results for the EL2N metric, where the middle subset is also the best variant. While the best performing run does not outperform the no pruning baseline, it is achieved when retaining 50% of the middle subset, outperforming the model trained on 70% of the dataset, similar to the results when using PERPLEXITY. Finally, when using MEMORIZATION FACTOR as a pruning metric, keeping the least memorized samples (bottom subset) generally performs best. Figure 3c shows model performances for this metric. The most competitive variant of the memorization metric is the bottom 70% of the distribution. Memorization never outperforms the no-pruning baseline.

We posit that the middle subset performs best because it removes easy data that no long contributes to training, as well as hard data that might not be useful for general purpose modeling of the test set. Additionally, a lower predicted probability for the correct token has a more pronounced impact on PERPLEXITY as compared to EL2N. This effect is particularly notable in challenging instances, as it tends to push them towards the extremes of the PERPLEXITY distribution more significantly than the distribution observed with EL2N, as observed in Fig 7, likely leading to PERPLEXITY's improved performance over EL2N. MEMORIZATION has significantly less variance in its scores, likely leading to its less pronounced effects as a pruning metric.

4.2 Simple Pruning Metrics Outperform More Sophisticated Approaches

In Figure 3a we present results comparing the performance of the best variant of each pruning metric: (1) retaining the middle of the distribution of PERPLEXITY scores by the fully trained 52B reference model, (2) retaining the bottom of the distribution of the MEMORIZATION FACTOR (least memorized samples), and (3) retaining the middle of the distribution of EL2N scores from the 1000 step checkpoint. Our results show that training on the middle subset using PERPLEXITY outperforms other pruning metrics across all dataset sizes. For some variants, it also outperforms training on the entire dataset. Compared with the no-pruning baseline, pruning to the middle 50% of

the perplexity distribution leads to a 0.97% improvement in perplexity. Using only the middle 30% of the data achieves nearly the same performance, with a 0.80% improvement over the no-pruning baseline.

4.3 Pruning Benefits from Using Larger Reference Models

Our results in Figure 2 show pruned model performance after pruning with PERPLEXITY calculated with reference models ranging from 124M to 52B parameters. We find that increasing reference model size improves pruned model performance over the no-pruning baseline when either the middle or top subsets are used. Pruning using 52B parameter reference model perplexity scores achieves a 2.2% improvement in perplexity over the best-performing pruned model from the 124M parameter reference model experiments. Furthermore, for 13B and 52B reference models, we observe better performances with less training data when keeping the middle and top subsets. For both of these larger models, retaining the middle 30% and 50% of the training data produces pruned models that outperform the pruned models trained on the middle 70% of the training set.

We note that the effects of subset selection, such as the bottom subset performing worse and approximately scale with the size of the reference models. The larger reference models' bottom subset training runs perform even worse than their smaller counterparts when retaining the same percentage of the training set. This overall points to a consistent finding that larger models are better calibrated at computing a useful data pruning ranking.

4.4 Perplexity-based Pruning Improvements Generalize to Larger Scale Models



Figure 4: Comparing the most performant pruning variant (keeping the middle subset with 52B parameter reference model) with random pruning at 124M and 1.5B parameters. The improvement in performance of a perplexity-based pruning approach carries from 124M to 1.5B parameter models.

We explore our strongest pruning variant – PERPLEXITY computed using a 52B parameter reference model while retaining the middle subset – at a larger scale by training 1.5B parameter models. Training a 1.5B model, seen in Figure 4, we observe that perplexity-based pruning achieves better results than random pruning across all pruning percentages. The improvement observed with perplexity-based pruning over random pruning follows a consistent pattern for both the 124M and 1.5B models, demonstrating the scalability of our approach to a large-scale pretraining setting.

5 Conclusion

In this study, we showed that data pruning cam improve model performance in a pretraining setting. We find that training on the "easiest" examples in a dataset usually degrades performance, where "easiest" varies depending on the pruning metric used. Models trained on as little as half of the data selected by perplexity achieve up to 1.5% improvement over models trained on the full dataset. Additionally, we establish the consistency of our findings as we scale the model sizes. While scaling up the amount of data LLMs are trained on remains a popular avenue for improving models, our work demonstrates that carefully pruning these large training corpora is also a fruitful direction for making models better.

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A Related Work

A.1 Rule-Based Data Pruning in NLP

Significant portions of web-scraped data used for language model pretraining have been shown to be of low quality, machine-generated spam, pornographic content [21]. Selection processes to determine what should be included in large-scale datasets have centered on rule-based filters and heuristics [5], such as keeping only text written in English [32, 31] or removing sequences containing blocklisted words [32]. There are also quality-based rules such as removing duplicated samples [43] or filtering sentences that do not fit a certain amount of words [32, 31]. Rule-based approaches for data filtering have shown controversial effects on model performance, with some works advertising improvements on language modeling capabilities [29, 32], while others do not [8, 7]. Also, heuristics are prone to undesired outcomes due to their simplicity. For instance (author?) [14] show how removing blocklisted words disproportionately removes text from and about minority individuals.

A.2 Metric-Based Data Pruning in NLP

Recent work on metric-based pruning has mainly focused on pruning data from the fine-tuning stage of LLMs [4, 42] most probably due to the prohibitive cost of pruning at the pretraining scale. (author?) [4] perform dynamic pruning during the fine-tuning stage by establishing a curriculum of samples based on their EL2N scores [28]. Similarly, we benchmark EL2N as a static data-pruning metric for language datasets. Our work joins the few others that aim to reduce pretraining dataset sizes [41, 13, 1]. (author?) [1] apply their deduplication method based on embeddings to further improve the performance of a previously filtered dataset. We also perform pruning on previously filtered datasets [27, 40, 22], but its pruning capabilities have been underexplored. (author?) [22] and (author?) [27] filter out high-perplexity samples from their corpus as those are framed as unnatural language and harmful for performance according to their reference domain, which is Wikipedia. In contrast, we benchmark pruning to low perplexity values and high and medium-valued subsets of a dataset's distribution to understand which is the most valuable section for pretraining at scale. We also explore different reference model sizes and training sets.

A.3 Data pruning in Computer Vision

The majority of work to date on data pruning [35] and isolating data subsets [34, 25] using model signal has centered on computer vision. These are typically structured in a supervised setting. In contrast, our focus is on a large-scale NLP pretraining where the objective is unsupervised pretraining. Most relevant to our method is work by (**author?**) [35] which empirically studies reducing datasets in a teacher/trained regime, using a teacher model's margin as a pruning metric. They find that, with abundant data, training only on the hardest examples yields better performance, while conversely when data is scarce, training on only the easiest example yields better performance.

B Early Reference Model Checkpoints Serve as Effective Scoring Models

Motivated by several works that have found that there is a signal in early training checkpoints [28, 2, 34], we investigate whether early checkpoint of a reference model during training offers adequate signal for calculating discriminative pruning scores. We study PERPLEXITY and EL2N scores obtained from two early checkpoints: after training on approximately 14% and 55% of the full training dataset (250 and 1000 training steps respectively). We train ten different reference models with different random initializations and average the EL2N score from all ten models to obtain our final EL2N score. Figure 5 showcases the results of these experiments. Examining the



Figure 5: The impact of using an early checkpoint of the reference model in pruning based on Perplexity and EL2N metrics.

14% checkpoint for both perplexity and EL2N, we notice minimal variance across percentages and subset selection criteria. Performance across subsets changes considerably less than either the 55% checkpoint or the fully trained models.

Given this, we deduce that training on only 14% of the data is inadequate for our reference model to offer precise pruning scores. In contrast, the 55% reference models perform in a similar manner to the fully trained models, performing best with the middle subset, worst with the bottom subset, and comparably with the top subset. Fully training the reference model is shown not to be necessary to uphold comparable performance. Halving the reference model training steps proves effective, enabling the utilization of early checkpoints. In practice, we expect many practitioners to use off the shelf models for computing perplexity and may not need to carry the cost of pretraining a reference model from random initialization.

We also show performance for EL2N scores averaged across 10 reference models, initialized with different random seeds. We selected the 55% reference models given our previous result.

While the best pruned models using the averaged EL2N score did not outperform the best pruned models trained on only one reference model's EL2N score, the pattern of performance more similarly mirrors what we see with the larger, fully trained reference models. Specifically, in the middle subset, using 50% of the dataset outperforms using 70%. When constrained to the bottom subset, performance more clearly monotonically degrades when using less data than when using the 55% reference model, whereas the earlier checkpoint has comparable performance when retaining 30, 50, and 70% of the data. This implies that averaging scores across reference models helps hone the pruning signal, identifying subsets "easy" or "hard" subsets in more similar ways to larger models.

C Improved Pruning Signals Result from Reference Models Trained on Cleaner Data

In this section we ask: *does the data the reference model is trained on impact the quality of the ranking*? We compare the perplexity rankings generated by reference models trained on two different corpora: Wikipedia and CommonCrawl. We investigate whether a model trained on Wikipedia, a dataset frequently hand-picked as a high-quality dataset [42, 40], generates more effective pruning signals for perplexity rankings. In Figure 6, we compare the performance of the two variants across different pruning percentages and subset selections. We observe that in the two optimal selection variants from the general reference models (middle and top) a model trained on Wikipedia consistently yields lower validation perplexity compared to a model trained on CommonCrawl. Wikipedia's best variant, pruning to the middle 70%, outperforms CommonCrawl's best variant, also pruning to the middle 70%, by 0.69%. This finding overall suggests that investing in a high quality reference model to generate rankings results in more effective data pruning. Reference models trained on higher quality data are better at identifying a subset of data points most conducive to model performance.

D Downstream Evaluation on GLUE

Previously, we demonstrated various ways of pruning the pretraining data and training models with different data sizes. Considering that the pretraining stage primarily focuses on knowledge acquisi-



Figure 6: Performance of different pruning strategies using two different reference models: one trained on Wikipedia and one trained on CommonCrawl. A reference model trained on Wikipedia (an example of a clean noise-free corpus) achieves consistently lower validation perplexity compared to a reference model trained on a noisier CommonCrawl in our two robust settings (middle and top).

Table 2: Mean accuracy and standard deviation of the best variants of each pruning algorithm for GLUE classification tasks. Underlined results surpass the baseline performance with no pruning. The best results for each task are marked in bold. Results are reported for 5 runs of each model, trained for 3 epochs with a learning rate of 1e - 5.

	Data Remaining	SST2	MRPC	QQP	QNLI	RTE	WNLI
No Pruning	100%	$78.15_{0.002}$	$64.32_{0.021}$	$76.55_{0.001}$	$65.40_{0.006}$	$49.69_{0.024}$	$51.56_{0.040}$
Random Pruning	70% 50% 30% 10%	$\begin{array}{c} 77.92_{0.002}\\ \underline{78.19}_{0.003}\\ 77.29_{0.007}\\ 76.44_{0.006}\end{array}$	$\frac{\underline{65.21}_{0.017}}{\underline{65.16}_{0.020}}$ $\overline{66.04}_{0.017}$ $\underline{65.83}_{0.021}$	$\frac{76.58_{0.002}}{76.40_{0.001}}$ $\frac{76.36_{0.001}}{75.91_{0.001}}$	$\begin{array}{c} 65.11_{0.006}\\ \underline{65.44}_{0.006}\\ \overline{65.22}_{0.005}\\ 64.40_{0.007}\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 49.69_{0.013}\\ \underline{49.92}_{0.009}\\ \underline{51.33}_{0.024}\\ \underline{50.70}_{0.007}\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 48.44_{0.038} \\ 49.69_{0.062} \\ 50.31_{0.057} \\ 50.62_{0.016} \end{array}$
Memorization Bottom subset	70% 50% 30% 10%	$77.29_{0.006} \\77.89_{0.006} \\78.52_{0.004} \\76.64_{0.004}$	$\frac{\underline{64.38}_{0.016}}{\underline{65.47}_{0.017}}$ $\frac{\underline{65.89}_{0.016}}{\underline{65.16}_{0.015}}$	$\begin{array}{c} 76.42_{0.001} \\ 76.51_{0.001} \\ 76.48_{0.001} \\ 76.11_{0.001} \end{array}$	$\frac{\underline{66.03}_{0.007}}{\underline{65.99}_{0.005}}\\ \underline{\underline{65.91}}_{0.006}\\ \overline{64.61}_{0.006}$	$\begin{array}{r} 49.06_{0.021}\\ \underline{49.77}_{0.013}\\ \underline{50.31}_{0.009}\\ \underline{50.39}_{0.016}\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 49.06_{0.042} \\ 50.31_{0.048} \\ \textbf{54.38}_{0.061} \\ \underline{51.88}_{0.059} \end{array}$
EL2N Middle subset	70% 50% 30% 10%	$\frac{78.61_{0.008}}{79.17_{0.007}}$ $\frac{78.98_{0.005}}{78.31_{0.006}}$	$\begin{array}{r} \underline{66.46}_{0.018}\\ \underline{65.42}_{0.016}\\ \underline{65.41}_{0.012}\\ \underline{63.38}_{0.016}\end{array}$	$\frac{76.93_{0.001}}{76.35_{0.001}}$ $77.47_{0.001}$ $\frac{76.93_{0.001}}{76.93_{0.001}}$	$\begin{array}{r} \underline{67.00}_{0.005}\\ \overline{62.43}_{0.007}\\ \underline{68.63}_{0.005}\\ \overline{65.34}_{0.006}\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 48.67_{0.017}\\ \underline{51.41}_{0.028}\\ 49.69_{0.022}\\ \textbf{51.95}_{0.021}\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 50.00_{0.058} \\ 51.56_{0.049} \\ \underline{55.31}_{0.067} \\ 51.25_{0.064} \end{array}$
Perplexity (52B) Middle subset	70% 50% 30% 10%	$\frac{78.40_{0.004}}{78.01_{0.006}}$ $77.34_{0.005}$ $77.66_{0.006}$	$\begin{array}{r} \underline{64.43}_{0.020}\\ \underline{64.37}_{0.021}\\ \underline{64.84}_{0.023}\\ \underline{65.36}_{0.017}\end{array}$	$\frac{76.68}{76.82}_{0.001}$ $\frac{76.76}{76.40}_{0.001}$	$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{66.74}_{0.007} \\ \underline{66.00}_{0.004} \\ \underline{65.89}_{0.002} \\ \underline{66.52}_{0.007} \end{array}$	$\frac{50.16_{0.023}}{50.62_{0.023}}$ $\frac{50.86_{0.009}}{51.17_{0.012}}$	$\begin{array}{r} 49.06_{0.012} \\ 50.31_{0.021} \\ 50.94_{0.031} \\ \underline{53.44}_{0.040} \end{array}$

tion [44], we inquire about the potential ripple effects of pruning data during pretraining when these models are subsequently finetuned on downstream tasks. To analyze the impact of different pruning strategies on LLM capabilities, we finetune and evaluate models on a subset of the GLUE tasks [39]. Results are presented in Table 2. No single pruning strategy (combining both pruning metric and percentage of remaining data) stands out as superior across all tasks, the absence of a universally dominant approach is consistent with earlier findings in the literature [16]. Even random pruning shows improvements in certain tasks, underscoring the significance of downsampling when handling noisy data during the pretraining stage to mitigate potential learning degradation. While the scale of model size and training time cannot be expected to achieve state of the art results, our results do not show that directed pruning drastically degrades downstream performance. As such, our pruning methods have not excluded a significant language modeling capability required in GLUE, suggesting that future work on larger trained models are unlikely to lose general performance capabilities either.

E Metric Distributions

We present the total distributions of the pruning metrics used in our analysis in Figure 7.



(a) Distributions of Perplexity from different reference models. The dotted lines are placed at each 10th percentile. Please note the differences in axes between graphs. Fewer than .1% of examples on the extreme high end have been truncate to better display the overall distribution



(b) Distributions of the EL2N and Memorization Fac- (c) Distributions of Perplexity from reference models tor metrics. The dotted lines are placed at each 10th trained on Wikipedia and CommonCrawl. The Compercentile and omitted from Memorization Factor due monCrawl model is the same as the 124M parameter to overlap. Please note the log-scaled y-axis. model in Figure 7a. The dotted lines are placed at each 10th percentile.

Figure 7: Distributions of different pruning metrics and reference models.

F Examples from different selection criteria

Examples from the pretraining data, drawn from distinct subsets (keep bottom, keep middle, keep top), are presented in Tables 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, with rankings based on perplexity.

Table 3: Samples from different distribution subsets using perplexity of a 52B reference model trained on CommonCrawl.

Bottom 10%	Middle 10%	Top 10%
Submissions, you hereby grant Com-	House Municipal Heritage Building is	and a nice book as a nice price. Postage
pany a license to translate, modify (for	a two-storey, wooden, vernacular build-	is via Royal Mail 1st Class in the UK.
technical purposes, for example mak-	ing with a low-hipped roof, and is lo-	If you are buying from overseas then
ing sure your content is viewable on an	cated at the Norris Point Lookout, 104	please contact me before completing
iPhone as well as a computer) and re-	Main Road, Norris Point, Newfound-	your purchase for a quote. I will al-
produce and otherwise act with respect	land and Labrador. The former family	ways combine P&P so if ordering mul-
to such User Submissions, in each case	dwelling now operates as a heritage mu-	tiple books, please wait for the invoice
to enable us to operate the Services, as	seum with a view of the Tablelands of	so that discounts can be applied. We
described in more detail below. This is	Gros Morne National Park located on	are slowly populating our store with post
a license only – your ownership in User	the great Northern Peninsula. The mu-	war Wisden's so if there is anything you
Submissions is []	nicipal heritage designation []	need that []
provided on the Site is not intended	selection of fuel type and input of	can be returned up to 28 days after the
for distribution to or use by any person	soot index, coefficient of fuel, selec-	date of purchase. Please note, we can-
or entity in any jurisdiction or country	tion of measurement units, input of	not offer refunds on beauty, pierced jew-
where such distribution or use would be	date and time with keyboard and via	ellery or on swimwear if the hygiene
contrary to law or regulation or which	RS232 or RS485 Procedure of indus-	seal is not in place or has been bro-
would subject us to any registration re-	trial emissions monitoring with the use	ken. We now offer FREE label-free
quirement within such jurisdiction or	of AHKAT-410 has been agreed in	returns with InPost Lockers (available
country. Accordingly, those persons	FSUE "SRI Atmosphere" AHKAT-410-	24/7), FREE Doddle Returns to all UK
who choose to access the Site from other	16 is approved for diesel locomotive and	customers as well as a FREE UK Col-
locations do so on their own initiative	diesel train emission monitoring at envi-	lect+ returns service via over 5,900 local
and are []	ronment monitoring stations in []	stores nationwide.[]
license only – your ownership in User	1 1/2 " steel plate, all weld construc-	several turns. Nearly a month after
Submissions is not affected. You agree	tion Hammer mill machine manufac-	a foreclosure lawsuit was filed against
that the licenses you grant are royalty-	turers, suppliers, exporters, dealers and	Freestyle Music Park and its parent
free, perpetual, sublicensable, irrevoca-	traders in India and worldwide ham-	company, more than a dozen former de-
ble, and worldwide. Any information	mer mill machines from Gujarat and	partment heads have sued seeking more
or content publicly posted or privately	Mumbai since 1960 as per the ISO	than \$232,000 in unpaid wages and
transmitted through the Services is the	standards with required industrial fea-	bonuses, according to court papers filed
sole responsibility of the person from	tures and specifications Replaceable bar	late Friday. Seventeen employees are
whom such content originated, and you	type grate is available for specific appli-	listed as plaintiffs. Backpay I can under-
access all such information and content	cations SPECIFICATIONS : Hammer	stand, but can you honestly expect any
at your []	stone crusher is a kind of equip []	kind of bonuses []

Table 4: Samples from different distribution subsets using perplexity of a 124M reference model trained on CommonCrawl.

Bottom 10%	Middle 10%	Top 10%	
risk your food going bad in a luke- warm fridge when you can lease kitchen appliances in West Hollywood through Acima! Are you a budding DJ? A bit of a high-fidelity audio snub? Love to level up with the latest video game system? Level up your entertainment at home and on the road with sound systems for lease in West Hollywood. You can make flexible lease renewal payments on the best in-home sound []	gratitude exercise. Before you get out of bed, think of five things you are most grateful for. If your Life Path number is 2, you have a duality fit for any earthly experience. You are deeply rooted in balance and harmony when dealing with the other numbers. In order to stay con- nected to your community, start your day by connecting with your friends and family. Instead of hopping on social []	keepers" definitely won't help! Then there are those whose idea of a school librarian is based on one they remem- ber from their childhood, who perhaps didn't let them borrow from the adult shelves or maybe told them to be quiet. You know - the cliched woman with glasses and a bun? I wear glasses my- self and ended up haing to get a haircut to avoid the cliche. In summer, of course I had to put my []	
the-art mixed-use development that fea- tures a wide variety of shops, services, and restaurants, along with over 950 lux- ury apartments. The sprawling urban village is pedestrian-friendly and is the perfect place if you want to indulge in a shopping spree or treat your taste buds to a hearty meal. If you're thinking about looking for the perfect home in Brookhaven, I'm ready to help! Get in touch []	it as a stand-alone piece but later ex- perimented performing it as my written prediction, confabulation style, Closing Effect. It's still a work in progress but I did receive some "Standing Ova- tions!" ALAN ARITA "I received a copy of GAME NIGHT and IT IS EX- CELLENT! First, the quality of the book is outstanding; everything from the artwork, layout, hidden gems, and of course the precision cut []	and view the supernal beauty that lies beyond. (I wish I'd have said that first; actually I stole it from a guy who wrote it a hundred years ago!*) But if I couldn't see into the future for a few years, there wouldn't be a Christmas story today. I've a whole lot of notes still in my jeans. One's about Rabbi Frankel of the Synagogue across West Street from old Reno High School. He was a pretty []	
toilet drains are overwhelmed with toilet paper or clogged by non-flushable things that find their way into the drain. If that's the case, it may be time to call a plumbing technician. Unexpected toilet issues interrupt your daily routine, turn- ing what you expected to be a good day right into a stressful one. You need help ASAP! Best quality Plumbing is ready to solve your toilet troubles no []	who offer 3D printing services these days. Try searching for someone who offers them in your area.Last week, Ap- ple announced the new A15 processor in a peculiar way: by comparing its new chip to the Android competition, rather than the A14 that powered last year's generation of iPhones. We were all left to try to infer the speed of the A15 based on Apple's claims, and wondering if the company was []	floor study, family room, kitchen, unfin- ished basement for future expansion & 2 car garage. Lennar seamlessly blended & showcased the unparalleled beauty of Colorado with the most innovative homes, energy efficient technologies & modern conveniences, bringing the best of both worlds together. Beautiful fin- ishes and upgrades throughout. Lennar provides the latest in energy efficiency and state of []	

Table 5: Samples from different distribution subsets using perplexity of a 124M reference model trained on Wikipedia.

Bottom 10%	Middle 10%	Top 10%
of our kids, demonstrated ability to cre- ate meaningful change, a strong com- mitment to learning, and an ability to work in partnership with others." Indi- viduals accepted to this program agree to a two-year teaching commitment. If you become a core member you are re- quired to attend an intensive summer training program to prepare for your two-year commitment. Each region has different requirements b []	HST single cylinder hydraulic cone crusher. HST single cylinder hydraulic cone crusher integrates mechanical, hy- draulic, electrical, automation, intel- ligent control and other technologies, which can be widely used in medium, fine and ultra-fine crushing operations in metal and non-metal mines, cement, sandstone, metallurgy and other indus- tries 1,214 roller cone crusher prod- ucts are offered []	active play outdoor. Users without a subscription are not able to see the full content on this page. Please subscribe or login.On the net betting houses include was able to offer followers a fabulous best range of luring optimistic aspects. A style of online casino money provides consistently continually really been ornamented and acquired in reaction to make sure you basic safety issues. Insi []
to be that way. Weight loss surgery in Hanover is a great option for those who are at least fifty pounds overweight and have struggled with weight loss over the years. There are a number of sur- gical weight loss procedures available to those seeking treatment, and Nus- baum Weight Loss Centers of New Jer- sey, with offices and bariatric surgeons in Morristown, Morris County, Morris County, and surrou []	sperm whales. Learn firsthand about Sri Lanka's amazing biodiversity on this private tour to the Kanneliya Rain- forest. With a dedicated guide lead- ing you, explore the UNESCO-listed biosphere reserve, home to monkeys, snakes, chameleons, and a wide range of bird life. Learn about the flora and fauna through commentary tailored to your in- terests and enjoy plenty of chances to ask questions. Explo []	row for spotting this Sabal Trail post- ing within minutes. The skin has become delicate. I just received the goods and I didn't know how to use it. I consulted the customer service. I didn't expect the customer service person to be su- per good and the introduction was super careful. I have been so successful and happy trading with you every time I hope we have more transactions in the future Ha []
to which coverage is thereby to be granted; and (2) Shall insure the person named therein and any other person, as insured, using any such motor vehicle or motor vehicles with the express or im- plied permission of such named insured against loss from the liability imposed by law for damages arising out of the ownership, maintenance, or use of such motor vehicle or motor vehicles within the United []	Also, I have attached a brief presenta- tion of our work for better understand- ing.A two-year solar energy project at the University of Sheffield has shown almost all of the 2,000 systems in the scheme are still performing better than expected. Researchers running Sheffield Solar Farm, which was launched in Au- gust 2010, say 98 per cent of more than 2,000 systems involved in the scheme are working []	It exposes a design and construction sys- tem for horizontal plates to work as slabs in regular concrete buildings. Based to an evolutionary finite-element analysis of the topological configuration to get a curved design with a 50% reduction of traditional volume, that provide lower cost, less carbon foot-print, better per- formance and innovative ceiling. A li- brary of profiles is elaborated according

Table 6: Samples from different distribution subsets using EL2N from a 124M reference model trained on CommonCrawl.

Bottom 10%	Middle 10%	Top 10%
a handle on how many elevators they	there's a possibility that you may come	We have all spent happy hours listen-
are supposed to oversee. Those offi-	across a property that's sharing a drive-	ing to and sharing music we love with
cials have repeatedly deflected requests	way with the home next door. That	those closest to us. Many of the peo-
from reporters to detail the count of el-	means that one driveway needs to be	ple we serve in ubu are incredibly gifted
evators in Chicago requiring inspection.	shared between the two adjoining neigh-	and play a wide range of musical in-
Frydland, during her interview, said she	bors. Many real estate investors rent out	struments and enjoy singing and per-
doesn't know how many elevators her	their properties in order to reap the bene-	forming for other people. Judith is en-
office is responsible for inspecting be-	fits of passive monthly income while in-	abled by ubu to live more independently
cause city records lump elevators into	creasing their equity and building wealth	in Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, and
the same class of devices as escalators,	over time. Not only are they benefiting	has started taking singing lessons in or-
[]	[]	der to 'grow' her []
ians 4:3? Jesus addressed this very is-	the standard as far as cement manu-	range (Table 1). Active-Controlled
sue with his disciples on the night of	facturing goes several cement manufac-	Study: CRESTOR was compared with
his betrayal. He would be leaving them	turers still prefer ball mills for cement	the HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors ator-
soon, but he promised the Holy Spirit	production when they want to design	vastatin, simvastatin, and pravastatin in
would come to comfort and aide them,	new grinding plants or a new integrated	a multicenter, open-label, dose-ranging
"I will not leave you as orphans; I will	3D design and analysis of the crushing	study of 2,240 patients with Type IIa
come to you."-John 14:18. Jesus refers	roller of The crushing roller is one of the	and IIb hypercholesterolemia. After ran-
to the Holy Spirit as himself because,	main parts of a highpressure grinding	domization, patients were treated for 6
"the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the	roller which is a type of highly efficient	weeks with a single daily dose of either
Father will send in my name, he will	ore crushing equipment In the work re-	CRESTOR, atorvastatin, simvastatin, or
teach you all []	ported []	pravastatin []
Most past attemptsto define socioeco-	which adopted our buttons such that	Trend.com: I had no idea this was com-
nomics as a science in its own right	when we went to Boston.com (part of	ing. There'd been talk over the years
may have been motivated tocounter such	NY times) branding was not part of our	about setting up a sort of business por-
a simplistic understanding of socioeco-	discussions. Of course, we had ma-	tal that integrated all of Trend's regular
nomics.In this chapter, we review past	tured in our thinking and offered them	and annual publications, but there was
attempts to define socioeconomics be-	a co-branded offer hosted by Coola.	never enough momentum to actually get
fore theapproach is chosen that we ap-	When Switchboard did not work for	it going. Trend had a regular spot on
plied in this book. This book, by a lead-	us, we went to their competition Infos-	the Times' online Business section, but
ing expert in urban agriculture, offers a	pace.com, which was much larger than	it was a pretty low-impact thing (even
genuine solution to today's global food	them. They accepted a branded Coola	though quite a bit of traffic would come
crisis. By []	button but offered a complex deal []	to the []

Table 7: Samples from different distribution subsets using memorization of a 124M reference model trained on CommonCrawl.

Mem. Factor = 0	Mem. Factor $= 0.5$	Mem. Factor = 1.0
doesn't prevent you from clearly see- ing the road. Hi, thank you so much for your words, appreciate it! More- over, we noted your comments, we'll think what can be done, for sharing more ideas, feel free to contact us at sup- port@hudwayapp.com any time. Happy to help you always! I do a lot of mud- ding. And it's got a pitch and roll gauge, which I like when I'm in the hole, do I don't flip my truck. []	160 countries. There are abundant hot- selling projects accessible to you. Cheap and environmentally friendly: Factory- direct sale, fast delivery with guaranteed quality at factory price, in line with the concept of environmental development. Feb 19 2021 should pelletisation of sul- fide solidelectrolytesafterball millinghas to be done in argon atmosphere question 7 answers i am using a spex 8000b []	reference. My company's NACHI 230/600E bearing price concessions, ad- equate inventory, and other similar prod- ucts are available for recommendation 1 . Less than 45 KGS, we will send by express. (Door to Door, Convenient) 2 . 45 - 200 KGS , we will send by air trans- port . (Fastest and safest, but expensive) 3 . More than 200 KGS, we will send by sea . (Cheapest and common use) The bearing 240/8 []
disposal and processing of contaminated	\$97 monthly subscription package. If	takes your bank to process our refund
suspensions such as drilling mud, road	you decide to make an annual payment	request (5 to 10 business days). If you
sweepings and similar. The rising de-	of \$997, you get two free months. I	need to return an item, simply login
mand on the international market to	started with this basic package but I later	to your account, view the order using
meet current as well as future environ-	decided to upgrade to Etison Suite since	the 'Complete Orders' link under the
mental regulations is the main driver	this one has some limitations. As a mar-	My Account menu and click the Return
for the development in this area of our	keter, I was only allowed to use 3 cus-	Item(s) button. We'll notify you via e-
work," explains Managing Director Ing.	tom domains, get a limit of 20,000 visi-	mail of your refund once we've received
Mag. Erich Trunkenpolz. "The plants	tors, and make a maximum of 100 web	and processed the returned item. We
are currently developed for stationary	pages. I discovered that some advanced	can ship to virtually any address in the
and semi-mobile du []	features are []	world. Note the []
time:If you're looking into faster-than-	Select options that apply then copy and	to assess the success of our marketing
light fiber internet, there's a Verizon	paste the RDF/HTML data fragment to	and advertising campaigns). Finally, we
Fios deal for you in Silver Spring, MD.	include in your application Note: Adjust	may also share your Personal Informa-
Want more than a Verizon Fios internet-	the width and height settings defined in	tion to comply with applicable laws and
only plan? Open your home up to more	the RDF/HTML code fragment to best	regulations, to respond to a subpoena,
entertainment choices with Verizon Fios	match your requirementsCause.—Upon	search warrant or other lawful request
packages. Ready to improve your home	the ascension of William and Mary to	for information we receive, or to oth-
with the best internet available? Get	the throne of England, the Protestants of	erwise protect our rights. Additionally,
lightspeed internet with Verizon plans	Maryland demanded the Colonial man-	you can opt out of some of these ser-
that suit every lifestyle. Whether you	agement of the Territory. The Roman	vices by visiting the Digital Advertising
only need []	Catholics, after rep []	Alliance []