

A RELENTLESS Benchmark for Modelling Graded Relations between Named Entities

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Abstract

Relations such as “is influenced by”, “is known for” or “is a competitor of” are inherently graded: we can rank entity pairs based on how well they satisfy these relations, but it is hard to draw a line between those pairs that satisfy them and those that do not. Such graded relations play a central role in many applications, yet they are typically not covered by existing Knowledge Graphs. In this paper, we consider the possibility of using Large Language Models (LLMs) to fill this gap. To this end, we introduce a new benchmark, in which entity pairs have to be ranked according to how much they satisfy a given graded relation. The task is formulated as a few-shot ranking problem, where models only have access to a description of the relation and five prototypical instances. We use the proposed benchmark to evaluate state-of-the-art relation embedding strategies as well as several publicly available LLMs and closed conversational models such as GPT-4. We find that smaller language models struggle to outperform a naive baseline. Overall, the best results are obtained with the 11B parameter Flan-T5 model and the 13B parameter OPT model, where further increasing the model size does not seem to be beneficial. For all models, a clear gap with human performance remains.

1 Introduction

Language Models (LMs) capture an abundance of factual and commonsense knowledge about the world (Petroni et al., 2019; Roberts et al., 2020; Heinzerling and Inui, 2021; West et al., 2022; Hao et al., 2022; Cohen et al., 2023). Given two entities, Large Language Models (LLMs) can straightforwardly be used to obtain a description of how these entities are related, although with some caveats for less popular entities (Mallen et al., 2022). However, relations are often a matter of degree (Rosch, 1975; Turney, 2006; Vulić et al., 2017). For instance, suppose we are interested in modelling whether one

entity has been *influenced by* another one. While we could argue that most contemporary pop music has been influenced by the Beatles, clearly there are some bands that have been influenced more directly than others. Graded relations such as *influenced by*, *competitor of* or *similar to* are typically not found in traditional Knowledge Graphs (KGs), while they can nonetheless be of central importance to applications. For instance, in the context of financial NLP, we may need to know which companies are leaders and which are followers in a given field, who is competing with whom, and what strategic alliances exist. As another example, music recommendation systems often suggest artists based on the user’s listening history, but these suggestions would be more helpful if the system could identify artists that have influenced or were influenced by artists the user already likes, as opposed to merely identifying similar artists. Studying how such relations can be modelled is thus clearly an important but under-explored research problem.

The subjective nature of graded relations makes it difficult to include them in traditional KGs. Moreover, for many of these relations, it would simply not be feasible to list all the (graded) instances in a comprehensive way. Taking inspiration from existing work on extracting KGs from LLMs, we therefore ask the following question: *are current LLMs capable of modelling graded relations between named entities in a meaningful way?* The task of modelling graded relations offers a number of unique challenges for LLMs. First, since this is essentially a ranking task, designing suitable prompts is not straightforward. Second, the task requires making very fine-grained distinctions. For instance, while we can say that *Microsoft is known for Windows* and *Apple is known for MacOS*, the former statement represents a more prototypical instance of the *known for* relation, as Apple is perhaps best known for its hardware products (e.g. iPhone). It is currently unclear to what ex-

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083 tent LLMs are able to capture such subtle differ- 130
084 ences. Finally, modelling graded relations requires 131
085 comparing entities of different types. For instance, 132
086 the *known for* relation has instances such as (*Micro- 133*
087 *soft, Windows*), (*the Beatles, Hey Jude*) and even 134
088 (*France, wine*). Comparing instances of such a di- 135
089 verse nature poses a particular challenge, as such 136
090 comparisons are almost never expressed in text. 137

091 In this paper, we introduce RELENTLESS¹, a 138
092 new dataset aimed at furthering the study of graded 139
093 relations between named entities. Our dataset cov- 140
094 ers five common graded relations: competitor/rival 141
095 of, friend/ally of, influenced by, known for, and 142
096 similar to. We evaluate the ability of LLMs to rank 143
097 entity pairs according to how much they satisfy 144
098 these relations, given a description of the relation 145
099 and five prototypical examples. Analysing the per- 146
100 formance of several recent LLMs (Chung et al., 147
101 2022; Iyer et al., 2022), including GPT-4 (OpenAI, 148
102 2023), we find the best models to achieve a Spear- 149
103 man rank correlation of around 0.6. This shows 150
104 that recent LLMs capture fine-grained relational 151
105 knowledge to a meaningful extent, while at the 152
106 same time still leaving a significant gap with hu- 153
107 man performance. For the open-source LLMs, we 154
108 find that while the largest models achieve strong 155
109 results, smaller models fail to outperform a naive 156
110 baseline based on fastText vectors (Bojanowski 157
111 et al., 2017). GPT-3 performs well, albeit slightly 158
112 below the best variants of Flan-T5 and OPT. Fi- 159
113 nally, we found ChatGPT and GPT-4 hard to use 160
114 for this task, since the OpenAI API² does not allow 161
115 computing perplexity scores. As a result, we were 162
116 not able to outperform GPT-3 with these models. 163

117 2 Related Work 164

118 **Benchmarks for Graded Relations** RELENT- 165
119 LESS was inspired by the SemEval 2012 Task 2 166
120 dataset on modelling relational similarity (Jurgens 167
121 et al., 2012), which we will refer to as *RelSim*. Rel- 168
122 Sim covers 79 fine-grained relations, which are or- 169
123 ganised into 10 categories, such as *part-whole* (e.g. 170
124 *car:engine*), *attribute* (e.g. *beggar:poor*) and *cause-* 171
125 *purpose* (enigma:puzzlement). For each of the fine- 172
126 grained relations, a ranking of concept pairs is pro- 173
127 vided, which reflects how prototypical these pairs 174
128 are as instances of the relation. However, RelSim 175
129 only considers concepts, whereas our focus is on 176

¹The name RELENTLESS refers to Relations between Entities, where Less refers to the idea of ordering. The dataset will be made available upon the acceptance of the paper.

²<https://openai.com/blog/openai-api>

130 named entities. To the best of our knowledge, the 131
132 problem of modelling relational similarity between 133
134 named entities has not yet been considered. 135

136 HyperLex (Vulić et al., 2017) is focused on mod- 137
138 elling hypernymy as a graded relation. It involves 139
140 ranking concept pairs according to how prototyp- 141
142 ical they are of the hypernymy relation. As for 143
144 RelSim, named entities were explicitly excluded 145
146 from this dataset. More broadly, word similarity 147
148 benchmarks also follow the format of ranking con- 149
150 cept pairs according to the degree to which a graded 151
152 relation is satisfied, i.e. similarity. 153

154 Benchmarks with analogy questions (Turney 155
156 et al., 2003; Ushio et al., 2021b; Chen et al., 2022) 157
158 also relate to the problem of modelling graded 159
160 relations. These benchmarks typically follow a 161
162 multiple-choice format, where one word pair is 163
164 given (e.g. *eye:seeing*), and the system has to pre- 164
165 dict which among a given set of candidate an- 165
166 swer pairs is most analogous to the query pair (e.g. 166
167 *ear:hearing*). Most existing benchmarks again fo- 167
168 cus on concepts. Moreover, where named entities 168
169 are involved, the task degenerates to predicting 169
170 whether two entity pairs have the same relation, i.e. 170
171 the problem of measuring degrees of relatedness is 171
172 not considered for named entities. 172

173 **Language Models as Knowledge Bases** The 174
175 idea of using language models as knowledge bases 175
176 was popularised by Petroni et al. (2019), and has 176
177 gained considerable further traction with the advent 177
178 of LLMs. For instance, several authors have pro- 178
179 posed strategies for extracting knowledge graphs 179
180 from LLMs (West et al., 2022; Hao et al., 2022; 180
181 Cohen et al., 2023). While the idea of modelling 181
182 graded relations has not been considered, Hao et al. 182
183 (2022) focused on relations that are not covered by 183
184 traditional knowledge graphs, such as “is capable 184
185 of but not good at”. Similarly, our motivation for 185
186 studying graded relations between named entities 186
187 is also to complement what is captured by KGs. 187

188 3 Dataset 189

190 We consider the five relations which are shown in 191
192 Table 1. These relations were chosen because of 192
193 their graded character and because they can apply 193
194 to a broad range of entities. We created a dataset 194
195 with annotated entity pairs for each of the relations 195
196 in three phases. We recruited a diverse annotation 196
197 team in terms of age, gender, ethnicity and national- 197
198 ity; however, all annotators come from an academic 198
199 setting: four undergraduate students, one PhD stu- 199

Relation Type	Val	Test	Prototypical examples	Middle rank examples
competitor/rival of	20	84	Dell : HP, Sprite : 7 Up, Israel : Palestine, Liverpool FC : Manchester United, Microsoft Teams : Slack	Macallan : Suntory, Marvel Comics : D.C. Comics, Borussia Dortmund : PSG, UK : France, Doctor Who : Game of Thrones
friend/ally of	20	88	Australia : New Zealand, Aznar : Bush, Extinction Rebellion : Greta Thunberg, Elsa : Anna, CIA : MI6	Kylo Ren : Rey, UK : Commonwealth, Darth Vader : Emperor Palpatine, The Beatles : Queen, Mark Drakeford : Rishi Sunak
influenced by	20	90	Europe : European Union, Plato : Socrates, Ethereum : Bitcoin, Messi : Maradona, Impressionism : Edouard Manet	Mike Tyson : Muhammad Ali, US : NASA, Acer : Asus, Vincent van Gogh : Bipolar disorder, Conservative Party : Labour Party
known for	20	105	Russell Crowe : Gladiator, Cadbury : chocolate, Paris : Eiffel Tower, Leonardo Da Vinci : Mona Lisa, Apple : iPhone	New Zealand : sheep, Le Corbusier : purism art, Sean Connery : Finding Forrester, Qualcomm : smartphones, Nikola Tesla : robotics
similar to	20	89	Coca-Cola : Pepsi, Ligue 1 : Bundesliga, Australia : New Zealand, The Avengers : The Justice League, Tesco : Sainsburys	NATO : United Nations, Iraq : Iran, cement : concrete, Cornwall : Brittany, Adele : Ed Sheeran

Table 1: Overview of the considered relations, showing the numbers of entity pairs in the validation and test sets, the five prototypical training examples, and five examples from the middle of the ranking of the entity pairs in the validation set.

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- 5: This is clearly a positive example, and I would expect everyone to agree with this view.
 - 4: I consider this to be a positive example, but I would not be surprised if some knowledgeable people consider this word pair to be borderline.
 - 3: I consider this to be a borderline case: I find it hard to decide whether this is a positive or a negative example.
 - 2: I consider this to be a negative example, but I would not be surprised if some knowledgeable people consider this word pair to be borderline.
 - 1: This is clearly a negative example, and I would expect everyone to agree with this view.
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Table 2: Rating scale for the 2nd annotation phase.

180 dent and two faculty members. The students were
181 recruited through an internal student employment
182 service and were offered a remuneration of around
183 \$20 per hour. The total annotation effort was about
184 160 hours. The annotation process was split into
185 three phases.

186 **First phase** In the first phase, the annotators were
187 asked to provide 15 entity pairs for each of the five
188 relations. Specifically, the aim was to provide 5
189 prototypical examples (i.e. entity pairs that clearly
190 satisfy the relationship), 5 borderline positive pairs,
191 which only satisfy the relationship to some extent,
192 and 5 borderline negative pairs, which do not sat-
193 isfy the intended relationship but are nonetheless
194 related in a similar way. After removing duplicates,
195 this resulted in an average of 114 entity pairs for
196 each relation, and 573 pairs in total. We augmented

these entity pairs with a number of randomly chosen
197 entity pairs. The entities for these random pairs
198 were selected from the 50,000 most popular Wiki-
199 data entities, in terms of the number of page views
200 of the associated Wikipedia article.
201

Second phase In the second phase, each anno-
202 tator scored all the entity pairs that were provided
203 in phase 1, using the 5-point scale shown in Ta-
204 ble 2. For this phase, annotators were encouraged
205 to consult web sources (e.g. search engines such
206 as Google) for a limited time in order to famil-
207 iarize themselves with the considered entities, if
208 needed. This was the most time-consuming annota-
209 tion phase, taking almost 10 hours on average per
210 annotator to complete.
211

Third phase The third and final phase was aimed
212 at resolving disagreements between the annotations
213 from the second phase. Specifically, for each en-
214 tity pair where there was a difference of 3 points
215 between the highest and the lowest score, the anno-
216 tator(s) with a diverging view were asked to check
217 their previous annotation, and to either update their
218 score or to provide a justification. A total of 255
219 unique entity pairs were checked in this way (310
220 scores were checked in total). We subsequently
221 verified the justifications that were provided. In
222 13 cases, the justifications suggested that the other
223 annotators might have missed a salient point. For
224 these cases, the annotators with the opposite view
225 were asked to re-check their previous annotation.
226

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Others
A	100	62	81	71	75	75	75	84
B	62	100	61	57	62	57	60	66
C	81	61	100	73	72	74	75	84
D	71	57	73	100	67	67	70	77
E	75	62	72	67	100	70	72	77
F	75	57	74	67	70	100	69	76
G	75	60	75	70	72	69	100	79
AVG	77	66	77	72	74	73	74	77

Table 3: Spearman correlation (%) between each pair of annotators (A,...,G), and between each annotator and the average score provided by the other six averaged over all the five relation types after the 3rd and final quality enhancement annotation round.

The final ranking for each relation was obtained by averaging the scores of the 7 annotators.

Table 3 summarises the agreement between the annotators in terms of Spearman’s rank correlation.³ The table shows the correlation between the individual annotators, as well as the correlation between each annotator and the average of the scores from the six other annotators. The reconciliation step improved the average agreement over all the annotators from 70 to 77.⁴

We split the annotated entity pairs as follows. First, we selected a small training set consisting of five prototypical pairs for each relation. This training set could be used, for instance, for few-shot prompting strategies. The entity pairs were selected (i) to be among the top-ranked entity pairs and (ii) to be sufficiently diverse (i.e. including entities of different types). Next, for each relation, we randomly selected 20 of the remaining entity pairs to be used as a validation set.⁵ The remaining entity pairs constitute the test set. Table 1 shows the prototypical entity pairs that were selected for each relation, as well as five examples of entity pairs from the validation set. The latter were selected from the middle of the ranking, typically with an average score of 3 to 4. We use the Spearman rank correlation between the predicted ranking and the ground truth ranking as the evaluation metric.⁶

³In Appendix A, we include the breakdown of the annotator agreement scores per relation type.

⁴Details about the agreement before the reconciliation step can be found in the appendix.

⁵This validation set was not used in our main experiments, but it was considered in the few-shot analysis (see subsection 6.2). However, we release the full validation set so it can be used for further testing and experimentation without the risk of overfitting on the test set

⁶The final annotated dataset, along with the guidelines provided to annotators in each phase, are available in the supplementary material.

4 Baselines

Human Performance As a proxy for human performance, we report the average Spearman rank correlation between each annotator and the average of the other annotators, referred to as *Human Upperbound*. Please note that this upperbound is computed based on the test set, and thus slightly differs from the average agreement in Table 3. Furthermore, note that we only estimate human performance to provide a reference for interpreting the results. Doing this accurately is challenging. For instance, we can already see large differences in agreement across the different annotators, suggesting that the best annotators would perform much better than what is suggested by the given upperbound. Conversely, one may also argue that because of the reconciliation step in the third phrase, we are overestimating human performance.

4.1 Embedding Models

Word Embedding. First, we consider the fastText (Bojanowski et al., 2017) embeddings that were trained on Common Crawl with subword information⁷. Inspired by the tradition of modelling word analogies using vector differences (Mikolov et al., 2013), we represent each entity pair by subtracting the fastText embedding of the first entity from the embedding of the second entity. We refer to the resulting vector as the fastText relation embedding. For a given relation, we score an entity pair by taking the maximum cosine similarity between its fastText relation embedding and the embedding of the five prototypical examples.⁸ We use the maximum, rather than e.g. the average, due to the diverse nature of these prototypical examples. We refer this approach as fastText_{pair}.

As a naive baseline, we also consider a variant in which an entity pair is scored by taking the cosine similarity between the word embeddings of the two entities. Note that this baseline ignores both the description of the relation and the prototypical examples. It is based on the idea that prototypical pairs often involve closely related entities. We refer to this approach as fastText_{word}.

RelBERT. RelBERT (Ushio et al., 2021a) is a RoBERTa model that was fine-tuned to encode word pairs such that analogous word pairs are represented by similar vectors. We use RelBERT models

⁷<https://fasttext.cc/>

⁸Empirically, we confirmed that indeed using the maximum leads to better results overall.

that were initialised from RoBERTa_{BASE}⁹ and from RoBERTa_{LARGE}¹⁰. For a given relation, we score each entity pair as the maximum cosine similarity between its RelBERT encoding and the RelBERT encoding of the five prototypical examples.

4.2 Language Models

To score entity pairs using LMs, we create a prompt from the description of the relation and the five prototypical examples. The score of the entity pair then corresponds to the perplexity of the prompt. We consider two prompt templates: a binary question answering (QA) template similar to the instructions provided to Flan-T5 for the task (Longpre et al., 2023), and a targeted list completion template (LC). Writing the five prototypical examples as $[A_i, B_i]_{i=1\dots 5}$ and the target entity pair as $[C, D]$, the QA template has the following form:

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Answer the question by yes or no. We
know that  $[A_1, B_1], \dots, [A_5, B_5]$  are ex-
amples of <desc>. Are  $[C, D]$  <desc>
as well?
Yes
```

The LC template has the following form:

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Complete the following list with exam-
ples of <desc>
 $[A_1, B_1]$ 
:
 $[A_5, B_5]$ 
 $[C, D]$ 
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In both templates, <desc> is the description of the relation, as follows:

- *Rival*: entities that are competitors or rivals
- *Ally*: entities that are friends or allies
- *Inf*: what has influenced different entities
- *Know*: what entities are known for
- *Sim*: entities that are similar

We use the following LMs: OPT (Zhang et al., 2022), OPT-IML (Iyer et al., 2022), T5 (Raffel et al., 2020), Flan-T5 (Chung et al., 2022), and Flan-UL2 (Tay et al., 2023), where the model weights are obtained via HuggingFace (Wolf et al.,

⁹<https://huggingface.co/relbert/relbert-roberta-base>

¹⁰<https://huggingface.co/relbert/relbert-roberta-large>

2020)¹¹. We also use GPT-3 (Brown et al., 2020), which is a private model and subject to be changed every six months; we use davinci, which is the most powerful GPT-3 model available via the OpenAI API^{12,13}. We compute the perplexity over the whole input text for OPT, OPT-IML and GPT-3, while we use the last line of the input text (i.e., “Yes” for the QA template and $[C, D]$ for the LC template) to compute the perplexity on the decoder for T5, Flan-T5, and Flan-UL2.

We test two conversational LMs: ChatGPT (or gpt-3.5-turbo) and GPT-4 (gpt-4). These models are only available through the OpenAI API. Unfortunately, for these models, the API does not allow us to obtain the log-likelihood of each token. Therefore, we instead use a prompt which asks to sort the list of entity pairs directly¹⁴.

5 Results

Table 4 summarises the results. The best result is achieved by Flan-T5_{XXL} with the QA template, which scores 62.0%. In general, the performance of this model remains far below the performance upper bound suggested by the inter-annotator agreement (77%). Surprisingly, however, for the *rival of* relation, the human upper bound is outperformed by Flan-UL2. In contrast, the *friend/ally of* relation appears to be particularly challenging. Among the LM methods, the LC template generally leads to the best results, but not for Flan-T5 and Flan-UL2. This is not entirely surprising given that Flan models have been fine-tuned using instructions similar to the QA template (see subsection 4.2). Beyond the encoder-decoder LMs, OPT_{13B} and GPT-3_{davinci} perform the best, even outperforming the instruction fine-tuned OPTs (OPT-IML and OPT-IML_{MAX}). GPT-3_{davinci} is the best model in the *influenced by* and *known for* relations. Although Flan-T5_{XXL} and Flan-UL2 perform best on average, they perform poorly on the *influenced by* relation, underperforming GPT-3_{davinci} and OPT_{13B} by a wide margin. Among the embedding based models, fast-Text generally performs poorly. The performance of RelBERT_{LARGE} is remarkably strong, considering that this is a small concept-based relation model that was not trained on relations between named en-

¹¹A complete list of the models on huggingface we used can be found in Appendix B.

¹²<https://openai.com>

¹³All the OpenAI models are from the checkpoint that was live during May 2023.

¹⁴A complete prompt can be found in Appendix C

		Inst-FT	Model Size	Rival	Ally	Inf	Know	Sim	Average	
<i>Human Upperbound</i>				75.9	78.0	70.5	82.0	80.2	77.3	
Embedding	fastText _{word}	-	-	25.0	10.0	7.0	24.0	20.0	17.0	
	fastText _{pair}	-	-	28.0	12.0	3.0	20.0	21.0	17.0	
	RelBERT _{BASE}		110M	58.0	15.0	30.0	24.0	28.0	31.0	
	RelBERT _{LARGE}		335M	64.0	20.0	20.0	44.0	53.0	40.0	
LM	LC template	T5 _{SMALL}	60M	20.0	33.0	24.0	11.0	10.0	19.0	
		T5 _{BASE}	220M	35.0	35.0	38.0	20.0	13.0	28.0	
		T5 _{LARGE}	770M	29.0	8.0	26.0	11.0	22.0	19.0	
		T5 _{XL}	3B	47.0	28.0	50.0	33.0	26.0	37.0	
		T5 _{XXL}	11B	33.0	8.0	24.0	18.0	15.0	19.0	
		Flan-T5 _{SMALL}	✓	60M	38.0	33.0	24.0	16.0	7.0	24.0
		Flan-T5 _{BASE}	✓	220M	36.0	31.0	28.0	17.0	-0.0	22.0
		Flan-T5 _{LARGE}	✓	770M	41.0	19.0	36.0	24.0	22.0	29.0
		Flan-T5 _{XL}	✓	3B	40.0	17.0	35.0	27.0	31.0	30.0
		Flan-T5 _{XXL}	✓	11B	61.0	32.0	47.0	44.0	40.0	45.0
	Flan-UL2	✓	20B	60.0	28.0	49.0	53.0	37.0	45.0	
	OPT	OPT _{125M}		125M	41.0	37.0	51.0	23.0	13.0	33.0
		OPT _{350M}		300M	41.0	33.0	47.0	36.0	18.0	35.0
		OPT _{1.3B}		1.3B	58.0	39.0	54.0	45.0	42.0	48.0
		OPT _{13B}		13B	72.0	41.0	55.0	70.0	55.0	59.0
		OPT _{30B}		30B	71.0	39.0	57.0	69.0	53.0	58.0
		OPT-IML _{30B}	✓	30B	65.0	36.0	55.0	70.0	47.0	55.0
	OPT-IML _{MAX-30B}	✓	30B	62.0	36.0	57.0	67.0	46.0	53.0	
	GPT	GPT-3 _{davinci} *		-	72.0	39.0	64.0	73.0	47.0	59.0
	QA template	T5	T5 _{SMALL}	60M	10.0	-13.0	17.0	-6.0	8.0	3.0
T5 _{BASE}			220M	15.0	-7.0	6.0	-12.0	14.0	3.0	
T5 _{LARGE}			770M	-3.0	4.0	-12.0	-19.0	-1.0	-6.0	
T5 _{XL}			3B	-2.0	12.0	-8.0	17.0	-14.0	1.0	
T5 _{XXL}			11B	7.0	1.0	-1.0	11.0	-4.0	3.0	
Flan-T5 _{SMALL}			✓	60M	31.0	-0.0	21.0	-3.0	8.0	11.0
Flan-T5 _{BASE}			✓	220M	41.0	28.0	46.0	17.0	22.0	31.0
Flan-T5 _{LARGE}			✓	770M	67.0	39.0	24.0	49.0	56.0	47.0
Flan-T5 _{XL}			✓	3B	75.0	44.0	44.0	61.0	63.0	57.0
Flan-T5 _{XXL}			✓	11B	74.0	56.0	44.0	70.0	66.0	62.0
Flan-UL2		✓	20B	79.0	51.0	47.0	67.0	57.0	60.0	
OPT		OPT _{125M}		125M	35.0	31.0	46.0	10.0	9.0	26.0
		OPT _{350M}		350M	38.0	35.0	37.0	21.0	19.0	30.0
		OPT _{1.3B}		1.3B	44.0	33.0	46.0	29.0	31.0	37.0
		OPT _{13B}		13B	63.0	39.0	43.0	61.0	43.0	50.0
		OPT _{30B}		30B	61.0	38.0	48.0	62.0	45.0	51.0
		OPT-IML _{30B}	✓	30B	57.0	37.0	36.0	53.0	35.0	44.0
OPT-IML _{MAX-30B}		✓	30B	58.0	36.0	39.0	43.0	42.0	43.0	
GPT		GPT-3 _{davinci} *		-	67.0	35.0	50.0	61.0	35.0	50.0
Conv. LM		ChatGPT*		-	-0.9	32.5	17.5	15.5	14.7	17.9
	GPT-4*		-	62.5	55.8	35.9	60.8	69.3	56.9	

Table 4: Spearman’s rank correlation (%) on the test set. The LMs are grouped by the template (QA or LC), the model family, and instruction-fine-tuned or not. The best correlation in each relation type is highlighted by bold characters. Model size is measured as the number of parameters. Models marked with * are not openly available.

388 titles. As far as the OpenAI conversational models
389 are concerned, we can see that GPT-4 achieves the
390 best result on the *similar to* relation. The poor per-
391 formance of ChatGPT suggests that the considered
392 list ranking prompt may be hard to understand for
393 this model, or that the task of ranking around 100
394 pairs may be too complicated. We also observed

395 that ChatGPT tends to omit more pairs from its
396 output than GPT-4 (see Appendix D).

397 6 Analysis

398 We now aim to gain a better understanding of the
399 behaviour of LMs. First, we analyse the effect of
400 model size (subsection 6.1). Then, we experiment

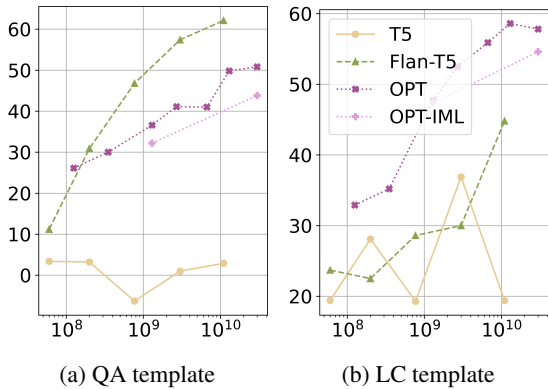


Figure 1: Average Spearman’s rank correlation results among the five relation types along with the model size.

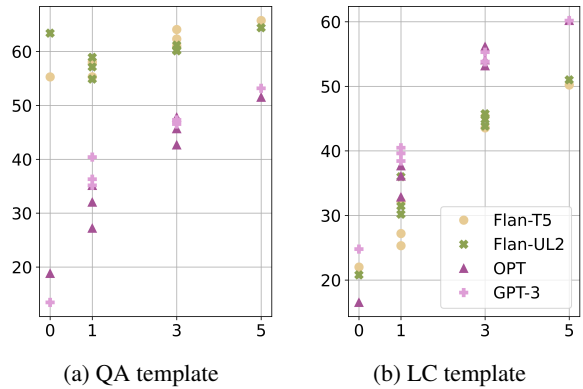


Figure 2: Spearman’s rank correlation averaged over the five relation types with different number of the prototypical examples. For 1-shot and 3-shot examples, we report the each correlation of the three individual runs.

with different zero-shot and few-shot learning setups (subsection 6.2), and we present a qualitative analysis of the predictions (subsection 6.3). For the latter two analyses, we focus on the best performing models for each LM family from the main experiment, using their optimal prompts: Flan-UL2, Flan-T5_{XXL}, OPT_{13B}, and GPT-3_{davinci}.¹⁵

6.1 Model Size

In this section, we analyse the effect of model size. Figure 1 visualises the performance of the different model families in function of model size. For Flan-T5, OPT, and OPT-IML we can see a strong correlation between performance and size. Nevertheless, the result of the largest OPT models suggests that a plateau in performance may have been reached at 13B. Moreover, for T5 we do not see an improvement in performance for larger models¹⁶.

6.2 Zero-shot/Few-shot Learning

In the main experiments, for each relation, models had access to a description as well as five prototypical examples. To analyse the impact of these five examples, we now describe experiments in which only the description is provided (i.e. zero-shot) or where only 1 or 3 examples are given (few-shot). For the few-shot setting, we use the same QA and LC templates as in the main experiment. For the 3-shot experiments, we randomly choose 3 of the 5 examples, and similar for the 1-shot experiments. Since this introduces some randomness, we report results for three different samples¹⁷.

¹⁵Note that we omit Flan-UL2 from the model size analysis as there is only a single Flan-UL2 model.

¹⁶In Appendix E we include a more detailed breakdown of the results of this model size experiment by relation type.

¹⁷The prompt used in the zero-shot/few-shot learning can be found in Appendix F

Figure 2a shows the results for the QA template. We can see that all models improve when more prototypical examples are provided, with the zero-shot performance of Flan-UL2 being an outlier. Remarkably, Flan-UL2 achieves 62.5% accuracy in the zero-shot setting, which is competitive with the 5-shot results in Table 4. Flan-T5_{XXL} also achieves a zero-shot result of 54.5%, which is better than most of the models in the main (5-shot) experiments. In the zero-shot setting, OPT_{13B} performs better than GPT-3_{davinci}, but GPT-3_{davinci} quickly improves as more examples are provided, clearly outperforming OPT_{13B} in the 5-shot setting. Figure 2b shows the results for the LC template. We again see that providing more examples benefits all models. Unlike for the QA template, however, Flan-T5_{XXL} performs poorly in the zero-shot setting. Moreover, OPT_{13B} now sees the largest improvement between the zero-shot and 5-shot settings.

6.3 Qualitative Analysis

To better understand the predictions of the models, we analyse the most flagrant mistakes. Specifically, we focus on those entity pairs whose predicted rank is in the top 30%, while being in the bottom 30% of the gold ranking, and vice versa. Table 5 and Table 6 show the entity pairs from the test set for which this was the case. For this analysis, we look at the models with their optimal templates: i.e., Flan-T5 and Flan-UL2 with the QA template, and the other models with the LC template.

When looking at the instances that mistakenly end up in the top 30%, we see entities which are closely related (e.g. “Coca-Cola : Pepsi”) while not actually satisfying the intended relation. We can see several cases where entities with similar

		Incorrectly predicted to be in the top 30%
Flan-T5XXL	Ally	Armenia : Azerbaijan, Liam Gallagher : Noel Gallagher, Russia : Georgia
	Inf	Harry Potter : Wizard of Oz, heavy metal : punk music, Luke Bryan : Hank Williams, James Brown : Michael Jackson
	Sim	sphinx : sphynx, New York : York, cannoli : cannoloni
Flan-UL2	Rival	Serena Williams : Andy Murray
	Ally	Liam Gallagher : Noel Gallagher, Google : Samsung
	Inf	Harry Potter : Wizard of Oz, heavy metal : punk music, James Brown : Michael Jackson
	Know	Belgium : wine
OPT _{1.3B}	Sim	sphinx : sphynx, cannoli : cannoloni
	Rival	Serena Williams : Andy Murray
	Ally	Joseph Stalin : Josip Broz Tito, Armenia : Azerbaijan, Sophia Loren : Marlon Brando
	Inf	Joe Biden : Donald Trump, Harry Potter : Wizard of Oz, Singaporean food : Malaysian food
GPT-3 _{davinci}	Know	Coca-Cola : Pepsi, Steve Jobs : AirPods
	Rival	Serena Williams : Andy Murray
	Ally	Joseph Stalin : Josip Broz Tito, Armenia : Azerbaijan, Liam Gallagher : Noel Gallagher
	Inf	Harry Potter : Wizard of Oz
	Know	Coca-Cola : Pepsi
	Sim	Nicolae Ceaușescu : Javier Hernández

Table 5: Test examples of incorrect predictions made by the three best models in the top 30%.

names are mistakenly predicted to be similar (e.g. sphinx : sphynx, New York : York, cannoli : cannoloni). Several models also mistakenly predict “Serena Williams : Andy Murray” as an instance of the rival-of relation, presumably because the model has learned that players from the same sport are often rivals. When looking at the examples from the bottom 30%, we can see entities which only recently became prominent (e.g. FTX and Alameda Research), highlighting the limitation of using language models that have not been trained on the most recent data. The “Corsica : Napoleon Bonaparte”, “Prince Harry : Monarchy” and “trending music : TikTok” examples illustrate how the models can struggle with cases involving entities of different semantic types.

7 Conclusions

In this paper, we have proposed the task of modelling graded relations between named entities, with a new dataset. The task consists in ranking

		Incorrectly predicted to be in the bottom 30%
Flan-T5XXL	Rival	Isaac Newton : Gottfried Leibniz
	Ally	China : North Korea, Ron Weasley : Neville Longbottom, Windows : Xbox
	Inf	Prince Harry : Monarchy, trending music : TikTok, Coca-Cola : Pepsi, Apple Music : Spotify, Pepsi : Coca-Cola, Hoover : Dyson
Flan-UL2	Know	Corsica : Napoleon Bonaparte, France : cheese
	Sim	Suits : Law&Order, Shark : Bush
	Ally	Tata Motors : Jaguar, China : North Korea, HSBC : BlackRock, Coca-Cola : McDonald’s, Huawei : China
	Inf	Prince Harry : Monarchy, trending music : TikTok, Wales : Westminster, Theresa May : David Cameron
OPT _{1.3B}	Know	Europe : The Final Countdown, Corsica : Napoleon Bonaparte, OpenAI : ChatGPT
	Sim	Minnesota : Wisconsin, Shark : Bush, Glastonbury : Roskilde
	Ally	FTX : Alameda Research, Red Bull : GoPro, HSBC : BlackRock, Microsoft : LinkedIn, Windows : Xbox
	Inf	Prince Harry : Monarchy, trending music : TikTok, Wales : Westminster
GPT-3 _{davinci}	Know	OpenAI : ChatGPT, UK : rain
	Sim	pill : tablet, Great Britain : British Empire, fusilli : rotini, Shark : Bush
	Rival	Netflix : Disney Plus
	Ally	FTX : Alameda Research, Rishi Sunak : Joe Biden, Microsoft : LinkedIn, Windows : Xbox
	Inf	Prince Harry : Monarchy, trending music : TikTok, Stephen King : Arthur Machen
	Know	OpenAI:ChatGPT
	Sim	Homebase : IKEA, fusilli : rotini, Shark : Bush, Primark : Shein

Table 6: Test examples of incorrect predictions made by the three best models in the bottom 30%.

entity pairs according to how much they satisfy a given graded relation, where models only have access to the description of the relation and five prototypical instances per relation. To assess the difficulty of the task, we analysed a large number of baselines, including public LLMs of up to 30B parameters, state-of-the-art relation embedding models, and closed LLMs such as GPT-4. We found significant performance differences between the largest LMs and their smaller siblings, which highlights the progress achieved in NLP in the last few years by scaling up LMs. However, even the largest models trail human performance by around 15 percentage points.

500 Limitations

501 Our dataset is aimed at testing the ability of LMs
502 to understand graded relations between named en-
503 tities. In particular, the size of the dataset makes
504 it unsuitable for training models (beyond the few-
505 shot setting). Furthermore, our dataset is limited
506 to five relation types. We believe these relations
507 to be among the most prominent graded relations
508 between named entities. Nonetheless, there are
509 clearly various other relations that could be consid-
510 ered, especially in domain-specific settings. While
511 the annotation process involved comprehensive
512 quality control mechanisms, the dataset may have
513 inherited some of the biases of the annotators. The
514 annotators were diverse in terms of gender, nation-
515 ality and cultural background, but all came from
516 the the same academic setting. Since the annota-
517 tion is inherently subjective, this may be reflected
518 in the final dataset. Finally, the task may have a
519 temporal component in which some relationships
520 may change over time. Our annotations represents
521 the views of the annotators at a particular moment
522 in time. In future, the dataset could be extended, to
523 provide different temporal snapshots, which would
524 allow an evaluation of ability of LMs to model
525 temporal context.

526 Ethics Statement

527 Our data has been created and labelled by human
528 annotators. As such, we have ensured that proper
529 training was provided, and that annotators were
530 paid fairly through our institutional student job
531 provider. We also acknowledge the potential biases
532 of our dataset, and the potentially sensitive nature
533 of examples related to political or religious content.
534 To mitigate this issue, we have relied on a diverse
535 set of annotators, and we have provided guidelines
536 about avoiding sensitive content.

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661	pages 101–110.	ble 10, Table 11, and Table 12 show the Spearman	717

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Others
A	100	53	77	63	64	68	67	80
B	53	100	52	43	47	46	48	56
C	77	52	100	63	58	67	68	79
D	63	43	63	100	48	54	59	66
E	64	47	58	48	100	57	59	65
F	68	46	67	54	57	100	62	70
G	67	48	68	59	59	62	100	73
AVG	70	55	69	61	62	65	66	70

Table 7: Spearman correlation (%) between each pair of annotators (A,...,G), and between each annotator and the average score provided by the other six averaged over all the five relation types **before the 3rd and final quality enhancement annotation round.**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Others
A	100	55	79	69	74	78	79	86
B	55	100	46	35	58	57	50	54
C	79	46	100	75	67	73	75	80
D	69	35	75	100	52	66	68	74
E	74	58	67	52	100	69	67	74
F	78	57	73	66	69	100	65	79
G	79	50	75	68	67	65	100	79
AVG	76	57	74	66	70	73	72	75

Table 8: Spearman correlation (%) on the *competitor/rival of* relation between each pair of annotators (A,...,G), and between each annotator and the average score provided by the other six **after the 3rd and final quality enhancement annotation round.**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Others
A	100	73	85	69	74	78	73	87
B	73	100	74	52	64	72	65	75
C	85	74	100	68	72	77	74	87
D	69	52	68	100	63	59	65	69
E	74	64	72	63	100	67	70	76
F	78	72	77	59	67	100	75	80
G	73	65	74	65	70	75	100	78
Avg	79	71	78	68	73	76	75	79

Table 9: Spearman correlation (%) on the *friend/ally of* relation between each pair of annotators (A,...,G), and between each annotator and the average score provided by the other six **after the 3rd and final quality enhancement annotation round.**

correlation for each relation type after the 3rd and final quality enhancement annotation round.

B Models on HuggingFace

Table 13 shows the model alias on the HuggingFace of the LMs we used in our experiment.

C Conversational Model Baselines

Writing the list of target word pairs as $[C_i, D_i]_{i=1\dots n}$, our prompt has the following

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Others
A	100	50	76	68	69	59	71	76
B	50	100	55	63	49	32	54	55
C	76	55	100	74	70	69	76	84
D	68	63	74	100	65	52	70	76
E	69	49	70	65	100	65	71	71
F	59	32	69	52	65	100	62	61
G	71	54	76	70	71	62	100	78
AVG	70	58	74	70	70	63	72	71

Table 10: Spearman correlation (%) on the *influenced by* relation between each pair of annotators (A,...,G), and between each annotator and the average score provided by the other six **after the 3rd and final quality enhancement annotation round.**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Others
A	100	74	84	78	80	80	77	88
B	74	100	71	70	73	65	70	76
C	84	71	100	77	77	75	80	88
D	78	70	77	100	76	82	75	83
E	80	73	77	76	100	71	76	81
F	80	65	75	82	71	100	71	80
G	77	70	80	75	76	71	100	82
AVG	82	75	81	80	79	78	78	83

Table 11: Spearman correlation (%) on the *known for* relation between each pair of annotators (A,...,G), and between each annotator and the average score provided by the other six **after the 3rd and final quality enhancement annotation round.**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	Others
A	100	58	82	74	79	78	73	82
B	58	100	61	64	64	59	61	68
C	82	61	100	74	75	74	70	79
D	74	64	74	100	77	77	73	83
E	79	64	75	77	100	75	78	84
F	78	59	74	77	75	100	74	79
G	73	61	70	73	78	74	100	78
AVG	78	67	76	77	78	77	75	79

Table 12: Spearman correlation (%) on the *similar to* relation between each pair of annotators (A,...,G), and between each annotator and the average score provided by the other six **after the 3rd and final quality enhancement annotation round.**

form:

Consider the following reference list of
 <desc>
 $[A_1, B_1]$
 :
 $[A_5, B_5]$

Now sort the entity pairs from the following list based on the extent to which they also represent <desc> in descending order. Do not include the pairs from the

Model	Name on HuggingFace
RelBERT _{BASE}	relbert/relbert-roberta-base
RelBERT _{LARGE}	relbert/relbert-roberta-large
OPT _{125M}	facebook/opt-125m
OPT _{350M}	facebook/opt-350m
OPT _{1.3B}	facebook/opt-1.3b
OPT _{2.7B}	facebook/opt-2.7b
OPT _{6.7B}	facebook/opt-6.7b
OPT _{13B}	facebook/opt-13b
OPT _{30B}	facebook/opt-30b
OPT _{66B}	facebook/opt-66b
OPT-IML _{1.3B}	facebook/opt-impl-1.3b
OPT-IML _{30B}	facebook/opt-impl-30b
OPT-IML _{MAX-1.3B}	facebook/opt-impl-max-1.3b
OPT-IML _{MAX-30B}	facebook/opt-impl-max-30b
T5 _{SMALL}	t5-small
T5 _{BASE}	t5-base
T5 _{LARGE}	t5-large
T5 _{XL}	t5-3b
T5 _{XXL}	t5-11b
Flan-T5 _{SMALL}	google/flan-t5-small
Flan-T5 _{BASE}	google/flan-t5-base
Flan-T5 _{LARGE}	google/flan-t5-large
Flan-T5 _{XL}	google/flan-t5-xl
Flan-T5 _{XXL}	google/flan-t5-xxl
Flan-UL _{20B}	google/flan-ul2

Table 13: The language models used in the paper and their corresponding alias on HuggingFace model hub.

	ChatGPT	GPT-4
Rival	-0.9 (0.0%)	62.5 (100.0%)
Ally	42.5 (56.8%)	55.8 (100.0%)
Inf	17.5 (91.1%)	35.9 (94.4%)
Know	15.5 (86.7%)	60.8 (100.0%)
Sim	14.7 (80.9%)	69.3 (98.9%)
AVG	17.9 (63.1%)	56.9 (98.7%)

Table 14: Spearman’s rank correlation (%) on the test set for conversational LMs with the percentage of word pairs included in the output.

reference list. The output should contain all the entity pairs from the following list and no duplicates:

[C_1, D_1]
:
[C_n, D_n]

These conversational models often omit entity pairs from the output, especially those with lower similarity to the reference pairs. To deal with this, we simply concatenate those removed pairs to the bottom of the sorted output list.

D Conversational LMs

Table 14 shows the results and percentage of retrieved pairs of the conversational LMs.

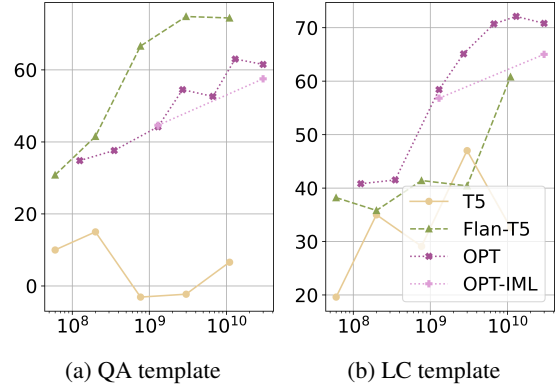


Figure 3: Spearman’s rank correlation for the *competitor/rival* of relation type along with the model size.

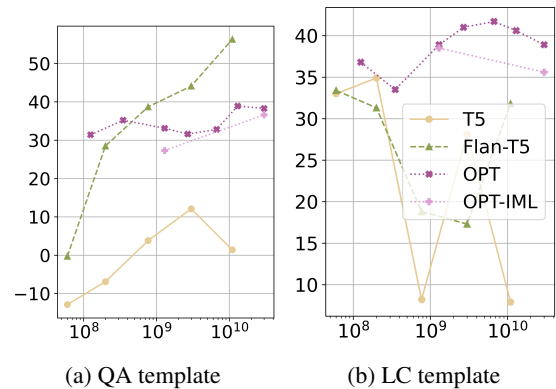


Figure 4: Spearman’s rank correlation for the *friend/ally* of relation type along with the model size.

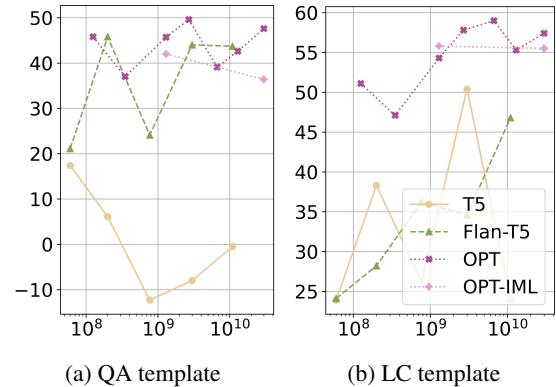


Figure 5: Spearman’s rank correlation for the *influenced by* relation type along with the model size.

E Additional Results

Figure 3, Figure 4, Figure 5, Figure 6, and Figure 7 show the performance improvement along with the model size for individual relation types. Figure 8, Figure 9, Figure 10, Figure 11, and Figure 12 show the zero-shot and few-shot evaluation result for individual relation types.

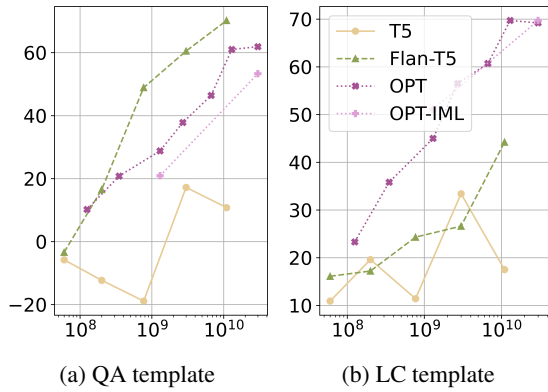


Figure 6: Spearman's rank correlation for the *known for* relation type along with the model size.

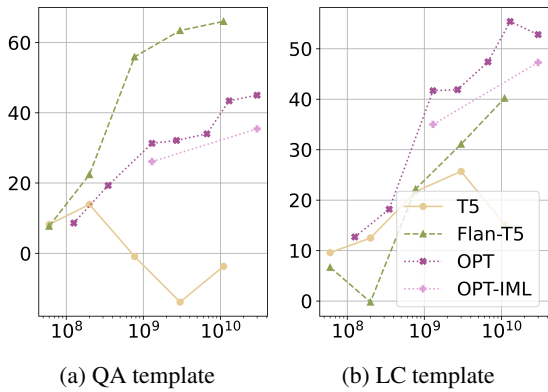


Figure 7: Spearman's rank correlation for the *similar to* relation type along with the model size.

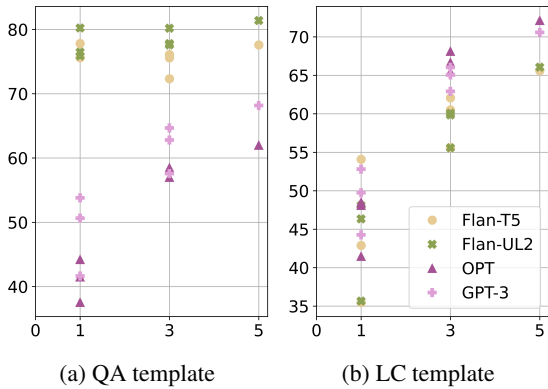


Figure 8: Spearman's rank correlation for *competitor/rival of* relation with different number of the prototypical examples.

F Prompt for Zero-shot/Few-shot Learning

The QA template for zero-shot/few-shot learning are:

Answer the question by yes or no. Are
 $[C, D]$ <desc>?
 Yes

while the zero-shot LC template has the following form:

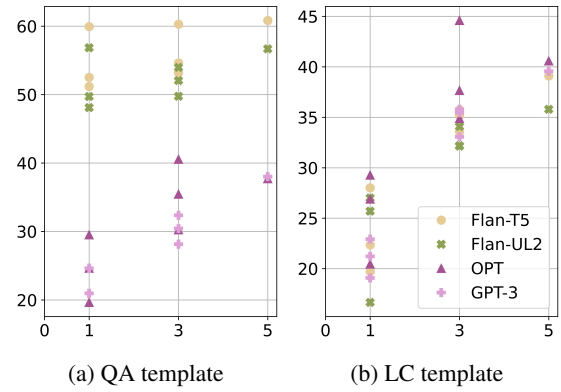


Figure 9: Spearman's rank correlation for *friend/ally of* relation with different number of the prototypical examples.

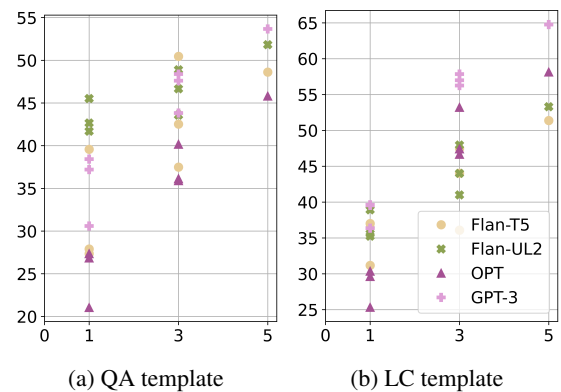


Figure 10: Spearman's rank correlation for *influenced by* relation with different number of the prototypical examples.

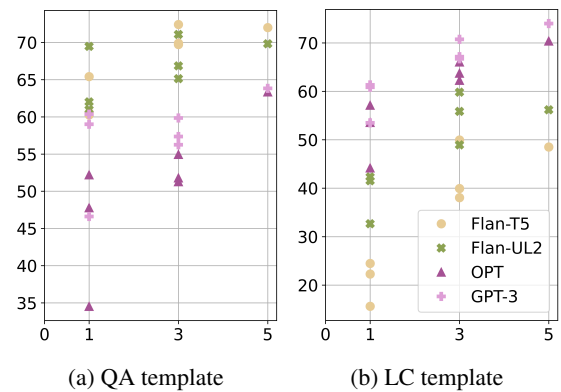


Figure 11: Spearman's rank correlation for *known for* relation with different number of the prototypical examples.

Complete the following list with examples of <desc>?
 $[C, D]$

G Full Results

Table 15 shows the result for all the LMs we considered in the paper.

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770
771

		Inst-FT	Model Size	Rival	Ally	Inf	Know	Sim	Average	
<i>Human Upperbound</i>				75.9	78.0	70.5	82.0	80.2	77.3	
Embedding	fastText _{word}	-	-	25.0	10.0	7.0	24.0	20.0	17.0	
	fastText _{pair}	-	-	28.0	12.0	3.0	20.0	21.0	17.0	
	RelBERT _{BASE}		110M	58.0	15.0	30.0	24.0	28.0	31.0	
	RelBERT _{LARGE}		335M	64.0	20.0	20.0	44.0	53.0	40.0	
LM	LC template	T5	T5 _{SMALL}	60M	20.0	33.0	24.0	11.0	10.0	19.0
			T5 _{BASE}	220M	35.0	35.0	38.0	20.0	13.0	28.0
			T5 _{LARGE}	770M	29.0	8.0	26.0	11.0	22.0	19.0
			T5 _{XL}	3B	47.0	28.0	50.0	33.0	26.0	37.0
			T5 _{XXL}	11B	33.0	8.0	24.0	18.0	15.0	19.0
		Flan-T5 _{SMALL}	✓	60M	38.0	33.0	24.0	16.0	7.0	24.0
		Flan-T5 _{BASE}	✓	220M	36.0	31.0	28.0	17.0	-0.0	22.0
		Flan-T5 _{LARGE}	✓	770M	41.0	19.0	36.0	24.0	22.0	29.0
		Flan-T5 _{XL}	✓	3B	40.0	17.0	35.0	27.0	31.0	30.0
		Flan-T5 _{XXL}	✓	11B	61.0	32.0	47.0	44.0	40.0	45.0
	Flan-UL2	✓	20B	60.0	28.0	49.0	53.0	37.0	45.0	
	OPT	OPT _{125M}		125M	41.0	37.0	51.0	23.0	13.0	33.0
		OPT _{350M}		300M	41.0	33.0	47.0	36.0	18.0	35.0
		OPT _{1.3B}		1.3B	58.0	39.0	54.0	45.0	42.0	48.0
		OPT _{2.7B}		2.7B	65.0	41.0	58.0	56.0	42.0	52.0
		OPT _{6.7B}		6.7B	71.0	42.0	59.0	61.0	47.0	56.0
		OPT _{13B}		13B	72.0	41.0	55.0	70.0	55.0	59.0
		OPT _{30B}		30B	71.0	39.0	57.0	69.0	53.0	58.0
		OPT-IML _{1.3B}	✓	1.3B	57.0	39.0	56.0	51.0	35.0	47.0
	OPT-IML _{30B}	✓	30B	65.0	36.0	55.0	70.0	47.0	55.0	
OPT-IML _{MAX-1.3B}	✓	1.3B	55.0	37.0	57.0	49.0	33.0	46.0		
OPT-IML _{MAX-30B}	✓	30B	62.0	36.0	57.0	67.0	46.0	53.0		
GPT	GPT-3 _{davinci} *		-	72.0	39.0	64.0	73.0	47.0	59.0	
QA template	T5	T5 _{SMALL}	60M	10.0	-13.0	17.0	-6.0	8.0	3.0	
		T5 _{BASE}	220M	15.0	-7.0	6.0	-12.0	14.0	3.0	
		T5 _{LARGE}	770M	-3.0	4.0	-12.0	-19.0	-1.0	-6.0	
		T5 _{XL}	3B	-2.0	12.0	-8.0	17.0	-14.0	1.0	
		T5 _{XXL}	11B	7.0	1.0	-1.0	11.0	-4.0	3.0	
		Flan-T5 _{SMALL}	✓	60M	31.0	-0.0	21.0	-3.0	8.0	11.0
		Flan-T5 _{BASE}	✓	220M	41.0	28.0	46.0	17.0	22.0	31.0
		Flan-T5 _{LARGE}	✓	770M	67.0	39.0	24.0	49.0	56.0	47.0
		Flan-T5 _{XL}	✓	3B	75.0	44.0	44.0	61.0	63.0	57.0
		Flan-T5 _{XXL}	✓	11B	74.0	56.0	44.0	70.0	66.0	62.0
	Flan-UL2	✓	20B	79.0	51.0	47.0	67.0	57.0	60.0	
	OPT	OPT _{125M}		125M	35.0	31.0	46.0	10.0	9.0	26.0
		OPT _{350M}		350M	38.0	35.0	37.0	21.0	19.0	30.0
		OPT _{1.3B}		1.3B	44.0	33.0	46.0	29.0	31.0	37.0
		OPT _{2.7B}		2.7B	54.0	32.0	50.0	38.0	32.0	41.0
		OPT _{6.7B}		6.7B	53.0	33.0	39.0	46.0	34.0	41.0
		OPT _{13B}		13B	63.0	39.0	43.0	61.0	43.0	50.0
		OPT _{30B}		30B	61.0	38.0	48.0	62.0	45.0	51.0
		OPT-IML _{1.3B}	✓	1.3B	45.0	27.0	42.0	21.0	26.0	32.0
	OPT-IML _{30B}	✓	30B	57.0	37.0	36.0	53.0	35.0	44.0	
OPT-IML _{MAX-1.3B}	✓	1.3B	42.0	25.0	38.0	16.0	29.0	30.0		
OPT-IML _{MAX-30B}	✓	30B	58.0	36.0	39.0	43.0	42.0	43.0		
GPT	GPT-3 _{davinci} *		-	67.0	35.0	50.0	61.0	35.0	50.0	
Conv. LM	ChatGPT*		-	-0.9	32.5	17.5	15.5	14.7	17.9	
	GPT-4*		-	62.5	55.8	35.9	60.8	69.3	56.9	

Table 15: Spearman’s rank correlation (%) on the test set. The LMs are grouped by the template (QA or LC), the model family, and instruction-fine-tuned or not. The best correlation in each relation type is highlighted by bold characters. Model size is measured as the number of parameters. Models marked with * are not openly available.

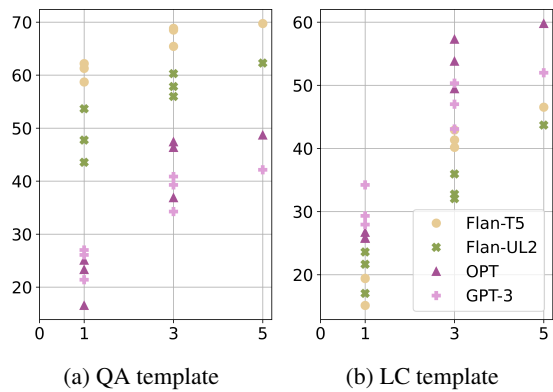


Figure 12: Spearman's rank correlation for *similar to* relation with different number of the prototypical examples.