GPT makes a poor AMR parser

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Abstract

Much of Abstract Meaning Representation (AMR) parsing is currently concentrated on fine-tuning pre-trained language models. Large Language Models (LLMs) bring a new paradigm for NLP research, prompting. LLMs also show impressive 'reasoning' capabilities and a certain kind of interpretability with Chainof-Thought (CoT) prompting. In this paper, we apply a variety of prompting strategies to induce GPT to do AMR parsing. We demonstrate that GPT models are insufficient as AMR parsers, but CoT prompting may shed light on how errors arise.

1 Introduction

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Abstract Meaning Representation (AMR, Langkilde and Knight, 1998; Banarescu et al., 2013) is a graph-based semantic representation of a sentence, which represents the semantic relations within the sentence as a directed, acyclic graph (Fig. 1). Stateof-the-art AMR parsers mainly adopt the paradigm of fine-tuning pre-trained language models (Vasylenko et al., 2023; Lee et al., 2022) to generate string representations of AMRs.

Even larger language models (LLMs), such as GPT-4 (OpenAI et al., 2024) have taken the world by storm. In addition to generating natural language texts, they can be used for downstream tasks by applying instructive prompts, without any finetuning (Zhao et al., 2023; Liu et al., 2023). This paper explores the possibility that GPT can work out of the box as an AMR parser. Despite trying a wide variety of prompting methods and models, we answer in the negative: GPT is not usable as an AMR parser.

The methods explored are: just asking the model to provide an AMR for a sentence (a.k.a. zeroshot), one-shot (in which one example is provided in the prompt), five-shot (5 examples; we tried sampling these from the training set randomly and by similarity), and two Chain-of-Thought prompts, in which it is demonstrated how to build the AMR step by step, with short explanations of each step (Wei et al., 2022b). The experiments took place on two 175B models (Instruct-GPT) of the GPT-3.5 family (Ouyang et al., 2022) and the GPT-40 model² (OpenAI et al., 2024).

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We apply a range of evaluation techniques, from standard Smatch to fine-grained metrics to human evaluation. The best method-model combination we found – using GPT-40 with five-shot prompting and post-processing – achieves a Smatch F-score of only 60, compared to the SOTA at 85.4 (Lee et al., 2022). Moreover, without post-processing, even our best version yields strings that cannot be interpreted as single AMRs 15% of the time. The purest version of out-of-the-box methodology is the zero-shot setting; the results here are near 0.

2 Background & Related Work

AMR An AMR (Fig. 1) is composed of labelled nodes and edges, where nodes represent 'concepts' – roughly the words of the sentence – and the edges represent the relationships between the concepts. AMR guidelines include such details as the use of PropBank (Choi et al., 2010) verb senses (e.g. receive-01) and argument numbers (e.g. ARG0), complex subgraphs for named entities (e.g. the subgraph dominated by person), and negation, annotated with (:polarity -). AMRs can be encoded as text (Penman notation), so text-based models can be used to generate AMRs (van Noord and Bos, 2017).

AMR Parsing is the task of generating an AMR given a sentence. Existing AMR parsers mainly fall into three categories: transition-based models, sequence-to-graph models, and sequence-to-sequence (seq2seq) models. Transition-based mod-

¹AMR graph visualisation powered by VULCAN (Groschwitz, 2023).

²https://openai.com/index/hello-gpt-4o/

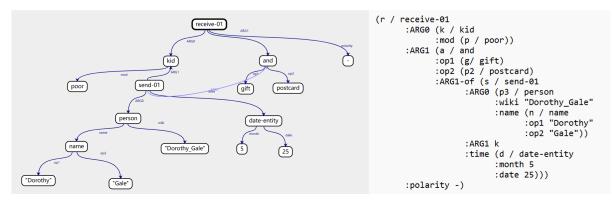


Figure 1: AMR graph example¹ (bottom left), corresponding Penman format (bottom left), and the sentence (top).

els generate new nodes, edges, or subgraphs based on the words of the sentence (Peng et al., 2018; Naseem et al., 2019; Fernandez Astudillo et al., 2020; Zhou et al., 2021; Lindemann et al., 2020). Sequence-to-graph models derive the graph from existing nodes without transition processes, directly extending new nodes and edges (Zhang et al., 2019; Cai and Lam, 2020). Seq2seq models directly generate the text format of AMRs from raw sentences (van Noord and Bos, 2017; Blloshmi et al., 2020; Lee et al., 2022; Vasylenko et al., 2023; Bai et al., 2022). We use GPT as a seq2seq model.

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Large Language Models (LLMs) such as GPT are pre-trained on vast quantities of raw text, and are trained to predict a continuation of given text (a *prompt*). Because this training data contains more than just natural language, a well-designed prompt can sometimes elicit text that can be interpreted as something other than language. For example, Chat-GPT is capable of providing Python code given a plain-language description of what it should do (Poldrack et al., 2023). There are evidently some AMRs in GPT's training data – our zero-shot results are terrible, but some outputs are AMRs – and so AMR parsing may in principle be possible.

In-context learning/k-shot/few-shot prompting is a gradient-free "learning" strategy for lan-103 guage models that provides k task-related exam-104 ple question-answer pairs before asking the target 105 question (Brown et al., 2020; Dong et al., 2023; Wei et al., 2022a). Few-shot prompting generally has better performance than zero-shot prompting 108 (Zhao et al., 2021; Liu et al., 2022; Min et al., 109 2022), which only provides instructions. LLM per-110 formance is sensitive to the prompt, including the 111

number of shots (Cao et al., 2020) and the choice of examples (Zhao et al., 2021).

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Chain-of-Thought (CoT) Prompting Unlike regular few-shot prompting, CoT prompts include not only example question-answer pairs but also intermediate reasoning steps that can derive the final answer (Wei et al., 2022b). CoT prompting can significantly enhance the capabilities of LLMs in complex reasoning in several benchmarks (Lewkowycz et al., 2022; Saparov and He, 2023), and bring more interpretability with the generated reasoning process (Weng et al., 2023). Madaan and Yazdanbakhsh (2022) for instance claim that, through CoT prompting, LLMs can better understand the task by extracting commonsense knowledge from the questions, and generalize to unseen tasks by mimicking the expert's intermediate reasoning steps (Yang et al., 2022). However, final answers can be inconsistent with reasoning steps (Lyu et al., 2023).

Exactly what sort of interpretability CoT reasoning adds to LLMs is a matter of debate. Since CoT text is simply a part of the model's output, there is no particular reason to think that it's related to how the model actually produces its output. For instance, in our experiments, partial results in the CoT output are usually – but not always – part of the output AMR, and reasoning text is usually related to the partial results they are paired with, but often doesn't precisely match them (§4.3).

3 Methods

3.1 Prompt Design

In our experiments we compare a number of types of prompts, which we describe in this section, and give full examples in Appendix A. All of our

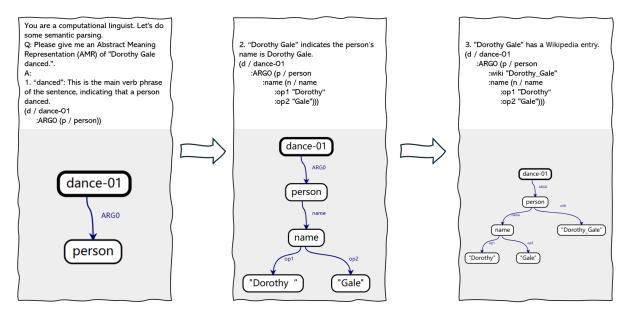


Figure 2: A toy example of CoT reasoning for *Dorothy Gale danced*. Each box is a reasoning step, where the top part is the CoT reasoning text and the bottom part is a visualization¹ of the corresponding subgraph.

prompts request an AMR given a sentence; some include examples. Asking GPT to role-play can improve model performance (Reynolds and Mc-Donell, 2021; Kong et al., 2023), so all our prompts begin with *You are a computational linguist*. The simplest prompt template we use is in (1):

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(1) You are a computational linguist. Let's do some semantic parsing. Please give me an Abstract Meaning Representation (AMR) of [sentence].

3.1.1 Zero-shot and Few-shot Prompt Design

The zero-shot setting uses the prompt in (1). Oneand five-shot prompts use the zero-shot prompt but add examples, each introduced with *Q: Please give me an Abstract Meaning Representation (AMR) of* [sentence]. *A:* [AMR].

For k-shot, we use k = 1 as a minimal version and k = 5 as a maximal one, 5 being chosen because it provides a balance between using many examples and consistently fitting within the space constraints of GPT.

All one-shot prompts use the sentence in Fig. 1 as the example, built to demonstrate common AMR properties, such as reentrancy, different non-core roles, etc., and not be too long. Five-shot examples are sampled from the training set.

Two sampling strategies are applied, random sampling and sampling based on semantic similarity. Designing a prompt based on semantically similar examples to the query can improve LLMs' performance (Gao et al., 2021; Liu et al., 2022). We use Wang et al. (2020)'s model *sentence-transformers/all-MiniLM-L6-v2*³ to calculate the cosine similarities between the target sentence and the training set, and the five most similar sentences and their AMRs are selected as the examples used in the prompt.

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3.1.2 CoT Prompt Design

We use the same example sentence as the one-shot setting (Fig. 1) for all CoT prompts. We introduce two different styles of CoT prompting for deriving AMR, top-down and bottom-up. A CoT toy example of the sentence *Dorothy Gale danced* is shown in Fig. 2.

Top-down The top-down approach is to find the top node first, which is generally the main verb in the sentence, and then find its child nodes and their respective relationships according to the semantics of the sentence. We then recurse through the generated child nodes until LLM derives the final graph.

Bottom-up The bottom-up approach first extracts smaller subgraphs that make up the AMR, e.g. the subject and the object, the place and the time. Then it looks for the relationship between subgraphs and links them with nodes and edges until the graph is complete.

³https://huggingface.co/sentence-transformers/ all-MiniLM-L6-v2?library=sentence-transformers

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Prompt lengths The length of the CoT prompting is a trade-off. Longer reasoning steps for complex tasks boost LLMs' inference performance (Wei et al., 2022b; Jin et al., 2024), but leave less space for generating complete reasoning steps and results. Our top-down prompt has five steps and 800 tokens,⁴ and the bottom-up has four steps and 864 tokens. For comparability between the methods, CoT and one-shot have the same number of examples, and five-shot prompts are of similar length to the CoT prompts (~800, tokens depending on the samples).

3.2 Dataset & Models

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Our experiment took place on the English AMR 2.0 (Knight et al., 2017) and AMR 3.0 (Knight et al., 2021) test set with example selections for few-shot prompting on the training set of AMR 2.0 and AMR 3.0 respectively. AMR 2.0 has 1,371 (test) and 36,521 (train) AMRs and AMR 3.0 has 1,898 and 55,635. Used within the terms of the license, LDC User Agreement for Non-Members.

The AMR 2.0 test set is used to test different prompting strategies on the English "textdavinci-003" (davinci) model and the "gpt-3.5turbo-instruct" (turbo-instruct) model; both models belong to the GPT-3.5 family and have 175B parameters with 4,097 token length limitations (Ouyang et al., 2022). These length limitations are shared between the input prompt and prediction. The best prompting strategy overall (5-shot with similarity example sampling) and the best CoT prompting strategy (top-down CoT) on AMR 2.0 with GPT-3.5 were determined. These two methods were then applied to the GPT-40 model with 128,000 token limitations on the AMR 3.0 test set. Our experiments use the official OpenAI API and the models'⁵ temperatures are set to 0 for reproducibility.

4 Results

Our experiments include three different LLMs (turbo-instruct and davinci for the AMR 2.0 dataset and GPT-40 for the AMR 3.0 dataset). The full results are reported in Appendix B; in this section

we report only the best results of each method. All GPT-3.5 results are therefore for the davinci model. The best five-shot method used similarity sampling, and for CoT, the top-down method.

We begin our analysis with a look at the parsability of output strings into AMRs (§4.1). No method produces more than 85% parsable outputs, but a post-processing script significantly improves parsability. Next, we evaluate with standard Smatch scores ($\S4.2$). We find that the 5-shot method with GPT-40 is the best, followed by oneshot, Chain-of-Thought (CoT), and zero-shot. We then apply the fine-grained analysis provided by Damonte et al. (2017) and GrAPES (Groschwitz et al., 2023), finding that the more complex and AMR-specific the subtask, the harder it is for GPT (§4.2.1). Finally, we sample from the CoT outputs and do an error analysis, finding that the steps the model outputs generally make some sense, but are riddled with errors, and the reasoning text does not always match the subgraph generated (§4.3).

4.1 Parseability and post-processing

Some of the LLM output texts are not parsable as AMRs, and some produce multiple AMRs. While the ability of the model to produce a single, legal, AMR is the main question of interest, also of interest is whether a pipeline that includes minor post-processing works as an AMR parser. For this reason, we apply a post-processing script⁶ that fixes mismatched parentheses, splits multiply-labeled nodes into separate nodes, and combines multiple AMRs into one with a root node labeled multi-sentence. The proportion of legal and illegal AMRs for each method, before and after post-processing, is in Fig. 3.

4.2 Smatch

The standard evaluation metric for AMR is Smatch (Cai and Knight, 2013). For Smatch evaluation, unparsable graphs are replaced by a dummy graph (d / dummy). We evaluate with and without post-processing. Fig. 4 is the Smatch of the best version of each method. (Full results in Appendix B.1)

In each evaluation, the ranking of each method conforms to the following hierarchy: 5-shot > 1-shot > CoT > zero-shot.

Out best results are for the 5-shot method with GPT-40 (60), but nothing approaches the state of the art (Lee et al. (2022) with 86.7 on AMR 2.0 and

⁴Reported token lengths are calculated based on the OpenAI official tokenizer for GPT-3.5 and GPT-4, https:// platform.openai.com/tokenizer. GPT-40 uses a new tokenizer which has not officially been released at the moment.

⁵The turbo-instruct and GPT-40 model point to "gpt-3.5-turbo-0613" and "gpt-40-2024-05-13" respectively at the time of our experiments. Used within term of use: https://openai.com/policies/eu-terms-of-use/

⁶All code will be made available upon publication.

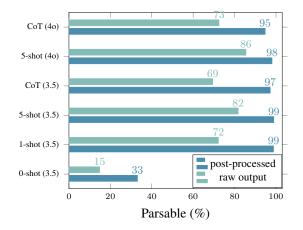


Figure 3: Parsability before/after post-processing

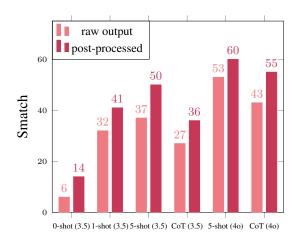


Figure 4: Best Smatch of each method

with 85.4 on AMR 3.0). GPT-40 is loosely comparable to an early AMR baseline parser, JAMR (Flanigan et al., 2014), with a Smatch score of 58 on the LDC2013E117 dataset (Table 1).

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Dataset AMR 3.0	Smatch
5-shot (GPT-40)	60
CoT (GPT-40)	55
Graphene Smatch (SOTA)	85.4
(Lee et al., 2022)	03.4
Dataset AMR 2.0	
Zero-shot (GPT-3.5)	14
1-shot (GPT-3.5)	41
5-shot (GPT-3.5)	50
CoT (GPT-3.5)	36
Graphene Smatch (SOTA)	86.7
(Lee et al., 2022)	00.7
Dataset LDC2013E117	
JAMR (Flanigan et al., 2014)	58

Table 1: Smatch for our methods (all post-processed), Graphene (SOTA)⁷, and JAMR (an early baseline).

4.2.1 Fine-grained results

In addition to Smatch, we evaluated the GPT-40 outputs with the Granular AMR Parsing Evaluation Suite, or GrAPES (Groschwitz, 2023), a finegrained evaluation with 36 categories divided into 9 sets. 23 of the categories are extracted from the AMR 3.0 test set; evaluating with these metrics grants insights into the strengths and weaknesses of GPT as an AMR parser. For comparison, we include a high-performing fine-tuned BART model, AMRBart (Bai et al., 2022) (Smatch 84). The full GrAPES results on the AMR 3.0 test set categories are in Appendix B.2. We also ran Damonte et al. (2017)'s fine-grained Smatch on all outputs (see Appendix B.1) and highlight some relevant results.

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Because the overall quality of GPT as a parser is so poor, AMRBart outperforms GPT on nearly all categories. However, there is substantial, and, we argue, principled, cross-categorical variation. Overall, GPT is much better at simpler and less AMR-specific tasks.

Seen vs Unseen Unlike with purpose-trained AMR parsers, there is very little difference in performance on subcategories of things seen and unseen in the AMR 3.0 training set: while AMRBart performs on average 38% worse on unseen items, our best GPT model is only 10% worse, and for rare and unseen node labels the performance is identical for GPT, but 69 vs 45 for AMRBart (Table 2). This is as expected, as GPT is not trained specifically on the AMR training set.

Simple vs complex, AMR-specific subtasks GPT is not too bad at simple tasks like node labeling. Fine-grained Smatch includes the metric Concepts, the F-score over the multiset of node labels. GPT here scores 67, which is not high (AM-RBart scores 90), but is quite a bit higher than its overall Smatch F-score of 60. Similarly, GrAPES shows GPT trailing AMRBart in rare node labels only 61 to 68, and outperforming it in unseen node labels 61 to 45 in Table 2. It is also reasonable at finding and categorizing named entities (Finegrained Smatch NER score 73). GPT even outperforms AMRBart on the GrAPES category Hard unseen wiki links, which are wiki links for named entities that are not templatic. Evidently, these unpredictable URLs occur in GPT's training data, and

⁷The Smatch score on AMR 2.0 and 3.0 reported in the Graphene paper are actually 86.26 and 84.87 respectively, but (Hoang et al., 2021) report the higher numbers in our table.

it is able to make use of them in some cases.

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However, the more complex and AMR-specific the subtask, the worse GPT gets. Scores on Prop-Bank tasks (sense disambiguation and argument numbers) average to 30 (vs 63 for AMRBart). Overall, for tasks we classified as AMR-specific (Prop-Bank tasks, multinode word meanings (e.g. *teacher* is annotated (person :ARG0-of teach-01)), imperatives, ellipsis, and special entities), GPT performed 49% worse than its average GrAPES score, while AMRBart performed only 4% worse.

One GrAPES metric we categorise as AMRspecific deserves special mention: Special Entities, which are things like dates, URLs, and name. GPT does much better here than on other AMR-specific subtasks at 64. We suspect GPT succeeds here because this task is very templatic.

We also found an effect of sentence length, with longer sentences much more likely to yield unparsable outputs. For instance, GPT-40 five-shot, before post-processing, has an error rate of 6% for sentences up to 20 words but 33% for sentences longer than 40 (see Appendix D).

Category	5-shot	СоТ	AMR
	40	40	Bart
Seen vs Unseen			
Rare node labels	61	57	69
Unseen node labels	61	56	45
Hard unseen wiki links	33	5	9
Seen	71	59	93
Unseen	57	48	58
Seen – Unseen as % of Seen	10%	18%	38%
AMR-specific			
PropBank	30	25	63
Multinode word meanings	14	4	84
Imperatives	4	0	66
Ellipsis	12	15	55
Special Entities	64	55	77
Average AMR-spec.	25	20	69
Average all categories	48	42	72
AMR-spec – all as % of all	49%	53%	4%

Table 2: Selection of fine-grained categories from GrAPES. *Italicised* categories are averages across multiple categories. Scores are (averages of) recall.

Negation (Damonte et al., 2017)'s fine-grained
Smatch reveals that the one-shot and CoT methods out-perform the five-shot on exactly one
thing: negation, which is F-score on the subgraph
(:polarity -). On AMR 2.0, the best five-shot
score is 9, while CoT top-down and bottom-up are
14 and 19 respectively, and even one-shot has an
11. On AMR 3.0 with GPT-4o, CoT also slightly
outperforms five-shot (34 vs 32). This is likely

because the hand-built example used in one-shot and CoT includes negation, and the CoT example even includes a step for the negation. Informal sampling of CoT outputs revealed a lot of output reasoning steps about negation, even occasional over-generalisations to creating a (:polarity +) edge, which doesn't exist in AMR. In one case (*Do they* **not** *realise that you* **don't** *get piles of change from the bank*), because there are two negations, the CoT text in Step 3 includes the sentence *The subordinate clause is also negated, so there is a polarity change at the top level*, and the AMR at that step actually (incorrectly) changes (:polarity -) to (:polarity +). (See Appendix C.1 for details.) 377

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4.3 Error analysis: Chain of Thought

Chain-of-Thought prompting can be taken to lend some interpretability to LLMs. To that end, from the AMR 2.0 test set, we randomly sampled 6 sentences and did an error analysis of the top-down and bottom-up CoT outputs of GPT-3.5. No output was without mistakes; the 96 mistakes noted fall into 10 broad categories (Table 3). To get an idea of what this can look like, consider the bottom-up parse of example (2) in Fig. 5. The gold and predicted AMRs are visualised in Fig. 6a. Steps in bottom-up parses were largely unnumbered, so for ease of exposition, steps are annotated (e.g. [a]).

(2) Does she even have a history of mental illness or a diagnosis?

Overall, we can see that the subgraphs generated are not unreasonable, usually make it into the final AMR, and relate at least somewhat to the CoT text. This was true of every item sampled. Step [a] is in fact good, with *she* correctly identified as the subject and a correct AMR generated for it. All samples started with a correct subject.

Step [b], however, is very bad. Not only does *even* have nothing to do with this being a question, but no interrogative marker is added (a Missing Component error). Thus Step [b] has two CoT errors: it doesn't make sense, and the text does not match the subgraph. Step [c] is good, only making a PropBank sense error (have-01 vs - 03). Note as well that the subject is correctly made node s. In Penman notation, only one instance of a node can be labeled as in (s / she); any other mentions of it should just be the node name, here s. No outputs we sampled had double-labeled nodes.

In step [d] we see two common errors. First,

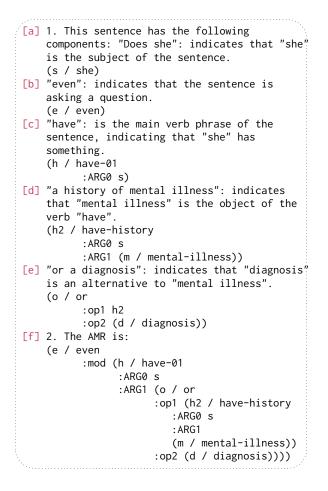
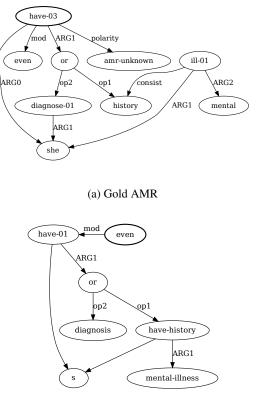


Figure 5: CoT bottom-up output for (2)

notice the node labeled mental-illness, which should be a complex subgraph with ill-01 and mental. We found this kind of "simplification" error 12 times. Node h2, labelled have-history, is another simplification error, and it is also a CoT error, because the CoT text refers to the verb have, but instead of using the existing node h, it adds a new node h2. Adding a new version of an existing node happened 4 times in the sample, and never was an existing node label updated to reflect the new step's analysis.

In step [e], *diagnosis* should be annotated as a PropBank predicate diagnose-01. "Predicate" errors like this occurred 6 times in the sample. Perhaps node h2 should be thought of as a history node; if so, the subgraph dominated by or is correct; however, the CoT text here doesn't match: it should mean op1 is node m, not node h2, as it refers to mental illness.

In step [f], the subgraphs are put together. Note first that the subject (s / she) is missing. Such "Missing earlier component" errors occur 3 times in the sample. Conversely, the h2 daughter of



(b) Predicted AMR



(o / or) has correctly subsituted in the full subgraph dominated by h2.

The even node has incorrectly been made the root. Its edge to h is close: the correct graph has a mod edge from even to have-03.

5 Discussion

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GPT performs poorly LLM performance is correlated with the amount of task-relevant data during pre-training (Kandpal et al., 2023). Only a tiny portion of pre-training data can be AMR-related, yielding near-zero results in the zero-shot setting.

It is not clear why CoT hurts, with slightly worse outcomes than even one-shot with the same example. AMR reasoning/parsing is much more complex and difficult than other CoT tasks such as simple mathematical or commonsense reasoning, and it needs more linguistic domain knowledge; moreover, CoT reasoning for AMR parsing never existed in literature or databases, so GPT cannot have had any training data specific to this.

The zero-shot setting without post-processing yields a Smatch F-score of only 6 (14 with postprocessing). The purest version of GPT as an out-

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Category	BU	TD	Sum
СоТ	10	9	19
PropBank sense	4	3	7
Simplification	8	4	12
Predicate	3	3	6
Missing component	8	7	15
Missing earlier component	3	0	3
Named Entity	4	3	7
Duplication	2	2	4
Whole AMR in step 1	0	2	2
Other	2	18	23
Total	46	50	96
Steps	31	21	52

Table 3: CoT Error classification over 6 sentences (GPT-3.5; BU=bottom up, TD=top down).

472 of-the-box AMR parser is therefore right out. This is in contrast to, for instance, Python programming, where Poldrack et al. (2023) found that natural-474 language prompts for Python code were usable on 475 the first try in 38% of cases. Parsing into Python 476 code is arguably just as difficult a task as AMR parsing, so we might expect similar outcomes. A 478 major difference is likely the training data. While 479 the training data for GPT is not publicly available, we suspect it contains a large amount of Python code. AMR corpora are proprietary, but even if the 482 whole AMR 3.0 dataset slipped into the training data, it only has 59,255 sentences. We predict that 484 any other task that has little GPT training data and is complex and not *a priori* predicable would have 486 similar performance issues. 487

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Fine-grained analysis reveals a large discrepancy between subtasks that are fairly simple and easy to predict, such as basic node labelling, and subtasks that are complex or AMR-specific, such as imperatives. Because language phenomena have a Zipfian distribution, it is impossible to create a single, short enough example that contains every phenomenon that can - or even is likely to - arise. Notice as well that even though GPT-40 in the CoT setting was given an explicit example of negation, its fine-grained Smatch Negation score is only 34, so a single example may not be enough.

Better selection of the examples in the five-shot may help, since we only need to illustrate phenomena for one sentence at a time. However, the problem of identifying the phenomena to demonstrate, and finding the AMRs that exemplify them, is in itself a kind of parsing. A proof-of-concept experiment could use the gold AMR and measure

graph similarity, but this would not be usable as an AMR parsing method.

Interpretability of CoT AMR parsing Although CoT uses a similar setup to one-shot, it is not an extension of the 1-shot method. The output graphs are not necessarily the same, and even when they are, there is no way to know whether the chain of thought is in any way related to how the model built the graph in the one-shot case.

An advantage of CoT is that it to a certain extent reflect how GPT derives an AMR in the CoT case, since the subgraphs in the chain of reasoning are usually in fact subgraphs of the final output. We can often easily find errors through the CoT reasoning process, which can make it easier to correct errors by hand.

Prompt tuning – updating the prompt or its vector representation in response to a learning signal - may improve the CoT outcome. While there is no way to automatically evaluate the validity of the relationship between a reasoning step and the subgraph it describes, the quality of the subgraph itself may work as a proxy for the quality of the reasoning step. The difference between the subgraph and gold AMR could then be used as the loss signal for prompt tuning. This method opens the possibility to subsequently use LLM as a generative model for data augmentation, especially for complex sentences.

6 Conclusion

We compared the capabilities of GPT models on AMR parsing under various prompting strategies. We found that GPT-3.5 and GPT-40 make poor AMR parsers, with a maximum Smatch of 60.

Two CoT prompting methods for AMR parsing (bottom-up and top-down) were introduced. CoT prompting worsens performance over both one-shot and five-shot methods, but arguably adds some interpretability.

A detailed analysis revealed GPT's limited ability to produce AMRs in alignment with structural AMR guidelines. These guidelines specify precise ways to annotate certain things, such as named entities, that can't be predicted *a priori*. GPT struggles to express many linguistic phenomena within the AMR paradigm.

Limitations

CoT Prompt Length To easily adjust different experiment settings and test different prompts and

model responses. The prompt design, initializa-556 tion, and tuning happened on the OpenAI official 557 playground⁸. However, the playground has a 2048 558 token constraint at the time of our experiments, so our prompt token lengths do not take advantage of the maximum limit for the API, at 4,096. We 561 also kept our prompt lengths the same for GPT-40 562 as for GPT-3.5, but GPT-40 has the much longer token constraint of 128,000, so future experiments do have room to expand to longer prompts.

CoT Prompt Design The prompting design of this paper is based on expert knowledge of AMR parsing. Not everything needed to generate an 568 AMR is explicitly given in the prompt; for instance, most edge labels are never mentioned in the prompt. As mentioned in Smatch section, the LLMs are designed for general purposes, even if the pre-trained LLM has some AMR or semantic knowledge, it is still unknown whether it should be assumed that 574 the LLM is already familiar with certain terms or 576 knowledge.

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This affects the design process of the prompt. In our experimental design, we assumed that LLM could understand and handle those problems. In fact, LLM does perform well to a certain extent. But if using a CoT prompt that is more simple and informative, in other words, crafting CoT more like a "rookie" rather than an expert, the results still need to be tested.

But this involves another issue, the limit on the number of tokens. A more detailed CoT prompt may have less space for generation, which can be solved by using a larger model.

LLM models Due to limitations of data and model availability, our initial experiments, that explored the largest space of possibilities, were all run on the AMR 2.0 test set, using GPT-3.5 models. We only had the resources to try out on GPT-40 the methods that worked best on GPT-3.5. The results across GPT versions are also therefore not completely comparable, as there are some differences between the APR 2.0 and 3.0 test sets, including about 500 additional sentences. Our best GPT-3.5 methods all used the text-davinci-003 model, which has now been deprecated.

This experiment only focused on decoder-only architecture LLMs (GPT-3.5 family models and GPT-40 model). As for the performance of other LLM structures, such as encoder-only models and decoder-encoder models, which still need testing.

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English only We only experimented with English AMR using GPT, which is trained mostly on English.

Ethics Statement

We believe this work does not involve any ethical issues.

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A Appendix: Prompt Design Detail

A.1 Zero-shot Prompt

You are a computational linguist. Let's do some semantic parsing. Q: Please give me an Abstract Meaning Representation (AMR) of '[Target Sentence]'. A:

A.2 Few-shot Prompt

A.2.1 1-shot Prompt

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You are a computational linguist. Let's do some
semantic parsing.
Q: Please give me an Abstract Meaning
Representation (AMR) of "The poor kid didn't
receive the gift and the postcard that Dorothy
Gale sent him on May 25th.".
A:
(r / receive-01
      :ARG0 (k / kid
            :mod (p / poor))
      :ARG1 (a / and
            :op1 (g/ gift)
            :op2 (p2 / postcard)
            :ARG1-of (s / send-01
                  :ARG0 (p3 / person
                        :wiki "Dorothy_Gale"
                        :name (n / name
                              :op1 "Dorothy"
                              :op2 "Gale"))
                  :ARG1 k
                  :time (d / date-entity
                        :month 5
                        :date 25)))
      :polarity -)
Q: Please give me an Abstract Meaning
Representation (AMR) of '[Target Sentence]'.
A:
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A.2.2 Example 5-shot Prompt

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You are a computational linguist. Let's do some
semantic parsing.
Q: Please give me an Abstract Meaning
Representation (AMR) of 'However, when it comes
to the soul and the physical being, in the
Church's eyes, the soul trumps the former.'.
A:
(c2 / contrast-01
      :ARG2 (t / trump-01
            :ARG0 (s2 / soul)
            :ARG1 b
            :ARG1-of (v / view-02
                  :ARG0 (o / organization
                        :wiki "Catholic_Church"
                        :name (n / name
                            :op1 "Church")))
            :condition (c3 / come-12
                  :ARG1 (a / and
                       :op1 (s / soul)
                        :op2 (b / be-02
                              : mod
                              (p / physical)))))
Q: Please give me an Abstract Meaning
Representation (AMR) of 'Thanks for the article
and the background - I read both.'.
```

```
A:
(m / multi-sentence
     :snt1 (t / thank-01
            :ARG2 (a / and
                  :op1 (a2 / article)
                 :op2 (b / background)))
      :snt2 (r / read-01
            :ARG0 (i / i)
            :ARG1 (b2 / both)))
Q: Please give me an Abstract Meaning
Representation (AMR) of 'International: weapons:
proliferation; dissent; politics.'.
Α:
(a / and
      :op1 (i / international)
      :op2 (w / weapon)
      :op3 (p / proliferation)
      :op4 (d / dissent-01)
      :op5 (p2 / politics))
Q: Please give me an Abstract Meaning
Representation (AMR) of 'Speakers addressed
opium production and trafficking in Afghanistan. '.
A:
(a / address-01
      :ARG0 (p / person
            :ARG0-of (s / speak-01))
      :ARG1 (a2 / and
            :op1 (p2 / produce-01
                 :ARG1 (o / opium))
            :op2 (t / traffic-01)
            :location (c / country
                   :wiki "Afghanistan"
                    :name (n / name :op1
                            "Afghanistan"))))
Q: Please give me an Abstract Meaning
Representation (AMR) of 'I'm sorry for the
swearing, i'm not one to usually swear, but the
CIA et al are a joke.'.
A:
(a2 / and
      :op1 (s / sorry-01
            :ARG1 (i / i)
            :ARG2 (s2 / swear-02
                 :ARG0 i))
      :op2 (s3 / swear-02 :polarity -
            :ARG0 i
            :mod (u / usual)
            :concession-of (j / joke
                 :domain (a / and
                       :op1 (g /
                        government-organization
                        :wiki "Central
                        _Intelligence
                        _Agency"
                            :name (n / name
                            :op1 "CIA"))
                            :op2 (o / other))))
Q: Please give me an Abstract Meaning
Representation (AMR) of 'well, where did it go
in the first place?'.
A :
(g / go-01
     :ARG1 (i / it)
      :ARG4 (a / amr-unknown)
     :prep-in (p / place
    :ord (o / ordinal-entity :value 1)))
```

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```
Q: Please give me an Abstract Meaning
 Representation (AMR) of '[Target Sentence]'.
 A:
A.3 Top-down CoT Prompt
 You are a computational linguist. Let's do some
 semantic parsing.
 Q: Please give me an Abstract Meaning
 Representation (AMR) of "The poor kid didn't
 receive the gift and the postcard that Dorothy
 Gale sent him on May 25th.".
 A:
 1. "didn't receive": This is the main verb
 phrase of the sentence, indicating that "the
 poor kid" did not receive something. "the gift
 and the postcard" refers to the direct object
 of the verb "receive", specifying what the poor
 kid didn't receive.
 (r / receive-01
      :ARG0 (k / kid)
       :ARG1 (a / and)
 :polarity -)
2. "the poor kid" indicates that "kid" is poor.
 (r / receive-01
       :ARG0 (k / kid
             :mod (p / poor))
       :ARG1 (a / and)
       :polarity -)
 3. "the gift and the postcard" are the two
 objects that the poor kid didn't receive.
 (r / receive-01
       :ARG0 (k / kid
             :mod (p / poor))
       :ARG1 (a / and
             :op1 (g/ gift)
             :op2 (p2 / postcard))
       :polarity -)
 4. "that Dorothy Gale sent him on May 25th":
 This relative clause modifies "the gift and the
 postcard" which are sent by a person ("Dorothy
 Gale") to the kid. The kid is the recipient of
 "the gift and the postcard". Hence, there is a
 reentrancy at node k. "sent him on May 25th":
 The action "sent" happened on May 25th, which
is a date-entity. The ":month" is 5 and the
 ":date" is 25.
 (r / receive-01
       :ARG0 (k / kid
             :mod (p / poor))
       :ARG1 (a / and
             :op1 (g/ gift)
             :op2 (p2 / postcard)
             :ARG1-of (s / send-01
                   :ARG0 (p3 / person)
                   :ARG1 k
                   :time (d / date-entity
                          :month 5
                          :date 25)))
       :polarity -)
 5. "Dorothy Gale sent" indicates the person
 who sent "the gift and the postcard" is named
 "Dorothy Gale"
 (r / receive-01
       :ARG0 (k / kid
             :mod (p / poor))
       :ARG1 (a / and
             :op1 (g/ gift)
          :op2 (p2 / postcard)
```

```
:ARG1-of (s / send-01
                   :ARG0 (p3 / person
                         :wiki "Dorothy_Gale"
                         :name (n / name
                               :op1 "Dorothy"
                               :op2 "Gale"))
                   :ARG1 k
                   :time (d / date-entity
                         :month 5
                         :date 25)))
      :polarity -)
The AMR is:
(r / receive-01
      :ARG0 (k / kid
             :mod (p / poor))
      :ARG1 (a / and
            :op1 (g/ gift)
            :op2 (p2 / postcard)
             :ARG1-of (s / send-01
                  :ARG0 (p3 / person
                         :wiki "Dorothy_Gale"
                         :name (n / name
                               :op1 "Dorothy"
:op2 "Gale"))
                  :ARG1 k
                   :time (d / date-entity
                         :month 5
                         :date 25)))
      :polarity -)
Q: Please give me an Abstract Meaning
Representation (AMR) of '[Target Sentence]'.
A:
```

A.4 Bottom-up CoT Prompt

You are a computational linguist. Let's do some semantic parsing. Q: Please give me an Abstract Meaning Representation (AMR) of "The poor kid didn't receive the gift and the postcard that Dorothy Gale sent him on May 25th.". A: 1. This sentence has the following components: "The poor kid": indicates that "kid" is poor. (k / kid :mod (p / poor)) "the gift and the postcard": "the gift" and "the postcard" are in an "and" relationship. (a / and :op1 (g/ gift) :op2 (p2 / postcard)) "Dorothy Gale": "Dorothy Gale" is the "name" of a person. (p3 / person :wiki "Dorothy_Gale" :name (n / name :op1 "Dorothy" :op2 "Gale")) "him": refers to the "The poor kid". k "on May 25th": is a date-entity. The ":month" is 5 and the ":date" is 25. (date-entity :month 5 :day 25) 2. "didn't receive": This is the main verb phrase of the sentence, indicating that "the poor kid" did not receive something. "the gift

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and the postcard" is the direct object of the
verb "receive" specifying what the poor kid
didn't receive.
(r / receive-01
      :ARG0 (k / kid
            :mod (p / poor))
      :ARG1 (a / and
            :op1 (g/ gift)
             :op2 (p2 / postcard))
      :polarity -)
3. "that Dorothy Gale sent him on May 25th":
The action "sent" is performed by a person
named "Dorothy Gale" to the kid, and it
happened on May 25th. The kid is the recipient
of "the gift and the postcard". Hence, there is
a reentrancy at node k.
(s / send-01
      :ARG0 (p3 / person
             :wiki "Dorothy_Gale"
             :name (n / name
                 :op1 "Dorothy"
                 :op2 "Gale"))
      :ARG1 k
      :time (d / date-entity
             :month 5
             :date 25))
4. "the gift and the postcard that Dorothy Gale
sent him on May 25th": "the gift and the
postcard" is the object of "sent". This is a relative clause, so we make "sent" an "ARG1-of"
belonging to "and".
(r / receive-01
      :ARG0 (k / kid
             :mod (p / poor))
      :ARG1 (a / and
             :op1 (g/ gift)
             :op2 (p2 / postcard)
             :ARG1-of (s / send-01
                   :ARG0 (p3 / person
                         :wiki "Dorothy_Gale"
                         :name (n / name
      :op1 "Dorothy"
      :op2 "Gale"))
                   :ARG1 k
                   :time (d / date-entity
                          :month 5
                          :date 25)))
      :polarity -)
The AMR is:
(r / receive-01
      :ARG0 (k / kid
            :mod (p / poor))
      :ARG1 (a / and
             :op1 (g/ gift)
             :op2 (p2 / postcard)
             :ARG1-of (s / send-01
                   :ARG0 (p3 / person
                          :wiki "Dorothy_Gale"
                          :name (n / name
                                :op1 "Dorothy"
                                :op2 "Gale"))
                   :ARG1 k
                   :time (d / date-entity
                          :month 5
                          :date 25)))
      :polarity -)
Q: Please give me an Abstract Meaning
Representation (AMR) of '[Target Sentence]'.
A:
```

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```

1018 B Appendix: Full Results

1019 B.1 Fine-grained Smatch Results

Smatch sub-metrics	Definition
Unlabeled (Unlab.)	Smatch score after pruning the edge labels.
NoWSD	Smatch score which ignores Propbank senses.
Concepts (Con.)	F-score on the concept identification task.
Named Entity Recognition (NER.)	F-score on the named entity recognition.
Negations (Neg.)	F-score on the negation detection.
Wikification (Wiki.)	F-score on the wikification.
Semantic Role Labeling (SRL.)	Smatch score computed on :ARG-i roles only.
Reentrancy (Reen.)	Smatch score on reentrant edges only.

Table 4: Fine-grained Smatch definition (Damonte et al., 2017)⁹

		Model	Smatch	Unlab.	NoWSD	Con.	NER.	Neg.	Wiki.	Reen.	SRL.
	Zero-shot	turbo-instruct	3	4	3	4	3	0	4	2	4
	Zero-snot	davinci	6	7	6	7	4	1	4	2	8
	1-shot	turbo-instruct	28	34	28	33	27	3	19	17	29
Baseline	1-51101	davinci	32	39	33	36	34	9	40	21	33
Dasenne	5-shot random	turbo-instruct	34	41	35	<u>43</u>	35	3	38	19	<u>35</u>
		davinci	<u>37</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>43</u>	40	8	<u>48</u>	21	35
	5-shot similarity	turbo-instruct	33	39	34	39	41	7	39	20	32
		davinci	37	43	38	42	51	10	48	23	35
	C-T to a down	turbo-instruct	14	17	14	15	10	5	7	6	14
CoT approach	CoT top-down	davinci	27	32	27	30	12	13	14	16	30
	CoT bottom-up	turbo-instruct	12	15	12	13	15	7	11	4	12
	cor bouoni-up	davinci	24	29	25	28	19	<u>14</u>	16	14	24

Table 5: Fine-grained Smatch result of baseline and CoT approach (AMR 2.0, raw output)

		Model	Smatch	Unlab.	NoWSD	Con.	NER.	Neg.	Wiki.	Reen.	SRL.
	Zero-shot	turbo-instruct	5	7	6	7	5	0	1	3	7
	Zero-snot	davinci	14	18	14	16	10	1	8	8	18
	1-shot	turbo-instruct	39	48	40	47	39	6	28	27	40
Baseline	1-31101	davinci	41	50	42	47	42	11	51	29	42
Dasenne	5-shot random	turbo-instruct	42	50	43	52	42	4	47	25	43
		davinci	44	52	45	51	48	9	57	26	42
	5-shot similarity	turbo-instruct	44	52	46	53	55	10	54	30	43
		davinci	<u>50</u>	58	<u>51</u>	57	<u>69</u>	13	<u>66</u>	34	47
	CoT top-down	turbo-instruct	34	44	34	37	23	11	17	22	36
CoT approach	COT top-down	davinci	36	45	37	41	17	14	22	25	40
	CoT bottom-up	turbo-instruct	30	37	30	34	30	13	24	15	31
	COT bottom-up	davinci	33	41	34	39	26	<u>19</u>	24	22	34

Table 6: Fine-grained Smatch result of baseline and CoT approach (AMR 2.0, post-processed)

Method	Evaluation object	Smatch	Unlab.	NoWSD	Con.	NER.	Neg.	Wiki.	Reen.	SRL.
5-shot similarity	well-formed AMR only	61	68	63	69	75	33	71	42	57
	raw output	53	59	54	59	66	28	62	35	49
	post-processed	60	67	61	67	73	32	69	41	56
CoT top-down	well-formed AMR only	58	66	59	65	72	37	29	38	55
	raw output	43	48	44	47	55	27	19	26	39
	post-processed	55	63	56	62	70	34	25	36	52

Table 7: Fine-grained Smatch result on the GPT-40 model (AMR 3.0)

B.2 GrAPES results

⁹https://github.com/mdtux89/amr-evaluation

Set ID	Dataset	Metric	5-shot	СоТ	AMRBart	#
1	Pragmatic reentrancies					
	Pragmatic coreference (testset)	Edge recall	08 [03, 22]	06 [02, 18]	39 [25, 55]	36
		Prerequisites	19 [10, 35]	22 [12, 38]	61 [45, 75]	36
2	Unambiguous reentrancies	1				
	Syntactic (gap) reentrancies	Edge recall	15 [07, 28]	27 [16, 42]	49 [34, 64]	41
		Prerequisites	54 [39, 68]	39 [26, 54]	68 [53, 80]	41
	Unambiguous coreference	Edge recall	39 [24, 56]	23 [11, 40]	65 [47, 79]	31
	C	Prerequisites	61 [44, 76]	52 [35, 68]	77 [60, 89]	31
4	Rare and unseen words	-				
	Rare node labels	Label recall	61 [57, 64]	57 [53, 61]	69 [66, 73]	676
	Unseen node labels	Label recall	61 [52, 69]	56 [47, 65]	45 [37, 54]	117
	Rare predicate senses (excl01)	Label recall	21 [13, 34]	18 [10, 30]	45 [32, 58]	56
		Prerequisites	82 [70, 90]	73 [60, 83]	91 [81, 96]	56
	Rare edge labels (ARG2+)	Edge recall	15 [07, 29]	12 [05, 26]	35 [22, 50]	40
		Prerequisites	35 [22, 50]	35 [22, 50]	72 [57, 84]	40
5	Special entities					
	Seen names	Recall	69 [67, 71]	71 [69, 73]	94 [93, 95]	1788
	Unseen names	Recall	70 [67, 73]	67 [64, 70]	76 [73, 79]	910
	Seen dates	Recall	68 [62, 73]	66 [59, 71]	94 [90, 96]	233
	Unseen dates	Recall	51 [45, 58]	56 [49, 63]	86 [81, 90]	204
	Other seen entities	Recall	88 [83, 91]	79 [73, 84]	97 [94, 99]	237
	Other unseen entities	Recall	88 [81, 93]	70 [61, 78]	78 [69, 85]	109
6	Entity classification and linking					
	Types of seen named entities	Recall	59 [57, 62]	61 [58, 63]	92 [90, 93]	1628
		Prerequisites	67 [64, 69]	69 [67, 71]	94 [93, 95]	1628
	Types of unseen named entities	Recall	39 [35, 43]	36 [32, 40]	51 [47, 55]	659
		Prerequisites	60 [56, 64]	57 [53, 61]	70 [66, 73]	659
	Seen and/or easy wiki links	Recall	73 [71, 75]	$19 [17,\ 21]$	87 [85, 88]	2064
	Hard unseen wiki links	Recall	33 [28, 39]	05 [03, 08]	09 [06, 13]	277
7	Lexical disambiguation					
	Frequent predicate senses (incl01)	Label recall	46 [43, 48]	39 [36, 41]	86 [84, 88]	1654
		Prerequisites	78 [76, 80]	73 [70, 75]	94 [93, 95]	1654
	Passives	Edge recall	47 [37, 58]	28 [19, 38]	76 [66, 84]	83
		Prerequisites	57 [46, 67]	39 [29, 49]	80 [70, 87]	83
	Unaccusatives	Edge recall	21 [12, 34]	27 [17, 41]	71 [57, 82]	48
		Prerequisites	52 [38, 66]	48 [34, 62]	79 [66, 88]	48
9	Non-trivial word-to-node relations					
	Ellipsis	Recall	12 [05, 27]	15 [07, 31]	55 [38, 70]	33
		Prerequisites	58 [41, 73]	45 [30, 62]	94 [80, 98]	33
	Multinode word meanings	Recall	14 [07, 26]	04 [01, 13]	84 [71, 92]	50
	Imperatives	Recall	04 [01, 11]	00 [00, 05]	66 [55, 75]	76
		Prerequisite	66 [55, 75]	59 [48, 70]	89 [81, 95]	76

Table 8: Results on all GrAPES categories extracted from the AMR 3.0 test set. Grey numbers in square brackets are 95%-Wilson confidence intervals. Our 5-shot and CoT results are for GPT-40 with similarity sampling and top-down methods respectively. AMRBart (Bai et al., 2022) is a competitive fine-tuned BART model.

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C Appendix: CoT Samples

C.1 Polarity Change Analysis

Figure 7 is the reasoning steps sampled from a top-down CoT generated by turbo-instruct model. The target sentence is in example (3).

(3) Do they not realise that you don't get piles of change from the bank..

In the earlier step, GPT added a (:polarity -), because there is a "not" in the text. But in the later step, GPT stated that there was another negation, so it needed to switch the polarity. The explanation seems sort of reasonable. This polarity switching is not something AMR does, and was not in the example CoT; GPT 'learned' this by itself. However, here GPT is wrong anytway: the second not negates get, so there should instead be a second (:polarity -) in the AMR.

D Appendix: Parsability Analysis

Here we provide graphs illustrating the distribution of unparsable raw results by sentence length. The first two figures are the sentence length distribution over the test sets.

```
1. This sentence has the following components:
"they": refers to a group of people.
(p / person
      :quant 2)
"not realise": This is the main verb phrase of
the sentence, indicating that the group of
people do not realize something.
(r / realize-01
      :ARG0 (p / person
            :quant 2)
      :polarity -)
"that": introduces a subordinate clause.
2. "you don't get piles of change": This is the
subordinate clause, indicating that "you" do not
receive a large amount of change.
(r2 / receive-01
      :ARG0 you
      :ARG1 (c / change
            :quant (p2 / pile)))
"from the bank": specifies where the change is
not received from.
(f / from
      :ARG0 c
      :ARG1 (b / bank))
3. "Do they not realise that you don't get
piles of change from the bank.": The main verb
phrase is "realise", and the subordinate clause
is the object of "realise". The subordinate
clause is also negated, so there is a polarity
change at the top level.
(r / realize-01
      :ARG0 (p / person
            :quant 2)
      :ARG1 (r2 / receive-01
            :ARG0 you
            :ARG1 (c / change
                   :quant (p2 / pile))
            :ARG2 (f / from
                  :ARG0 c
                   :ARG1 (b / bank)))
      :polarity +)
The AMR is:
(r / realize-01
      :ARG0 (p / person
            :quant 2)
      :ARG1 (r2 / receive-01
            :ARG0 you
            :ARG1 (c / change
                   :quant (p2 / pile))
            :ARG2 (f / from
                   :ARG0 c
                   :ARG1 (b / bank)))
      :polarity +)
Golden:
(r / realize-01 :polarity - :mode interrogative
      :ARG0 (t / they)
      :ARG1 (g / get-01 :polarity -
            :ARG0 (y / you)
            :ARG1 (p / pile
                  :mod (c / change))
            :ARG2 (b / bank)))
```

Figure 7: CoT sampling: polarity change in ex. (3)

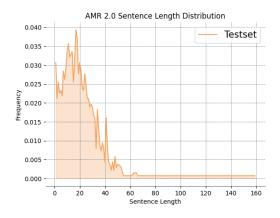


Figure 8: Distribution of Testset Sentence Length (AMR 2.0)

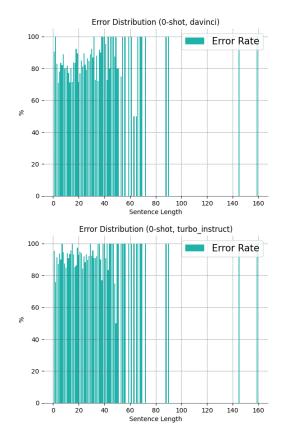


Figure 10: Error Distribution of Zero-shot (AMR 2.0)

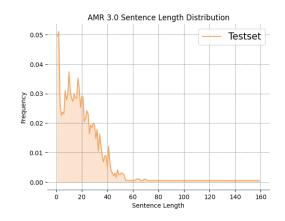


Figure 9: Distribution of Testset Sentence Length (AMR 3.0)

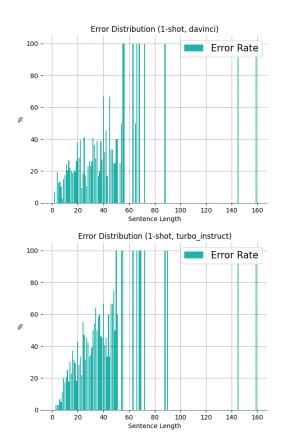


Figure 11: Error Distribution of 1-shot (AMR 2.0)

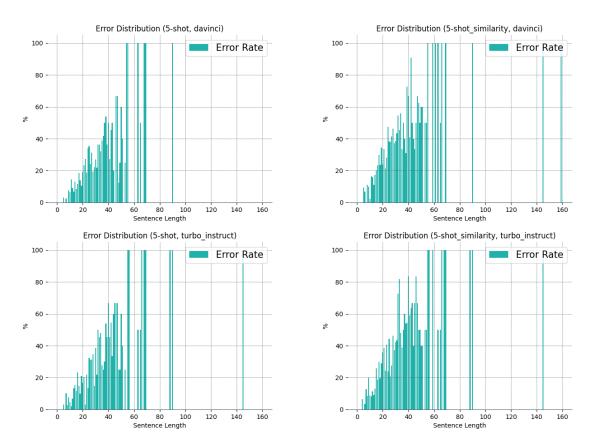


Figure 12: Error Distribution of 5-shot random sampling Figure 13: Error Distribution of 5-shot similarity sam-(AMR 2.0) pling (AMR 2.0)

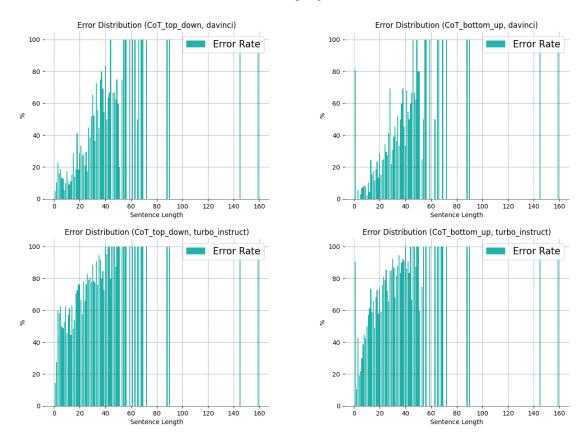


Figure 14: Error Distribution of CoT top-down (AMR Figure 15: Error Distribution of CoT bottom-up (AMR 2.0) 2.0)

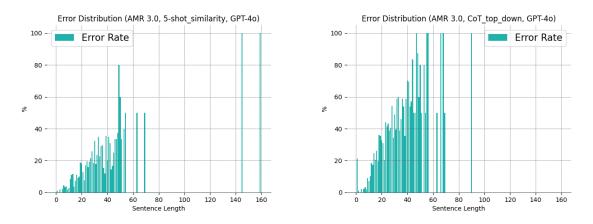


Figure 16: Error Distribution of 5-shot similarity sam-Figure 17: Error Distribution of CoT top-down (AMR pling (AMR 3.0) 3.0)