Augmented Large Language Models with Parametric Knowledge Guiding

Anonymous ACL submission

Abstract

001 Large Language Models (LLMs) have significantly advanced natural language processing (NLP) with their impressive language understanding and generation capabilities. However, their performance may be suboptimal for domain-specific tasks that require specialized knowledge due to limited exposure to the related data. Additionally, the lack of transparency of most state-of-the-art (SOTA) LLMs, which can only be accessed via APIs, impedes further fine-tuning with domain custom data. To address these challenges, we propose the novel Parametric Knowledge Guiding (PKG) framework, which equips LLMs with a knowledge-guiding module to access rel-016 evant knowledge without altering the LLMs' parameters. Our PKG is based on open-source 017 "white-box" language models, allowing offline memory of any knowledge that LLMs require. We demonstrate that our PKG framework can enhance the performance of "black-box" LLMs 021 on a range of domain knowledge-intensive 022 tasks that require factual (+7.9%), tabular (+11.9%), medical (+3.0%), and multimodal (+8.1%) knowledge.

1 Introduction

Large Language Models (LLMs) such as GPTfamily (Brown et al., 2020; OpenAI, 2023b) have exhibited impressive proficiency across a diverse range of NLP tasks. These models are typically trained on extensive data from the internet, thereby enabling them to assimilate an immense amount of implicit world knowledge into their parameters. As a result, LLMs have emerged as versatile tools that find numerous applications in both research and industry. For instance, they can be used for machine 037 translation (Jiao et al., 2023), document summarization (Yang et al., 2023), and recommendation systems (Gao et al., 2023). With their exceptional language understanding and generation capabilities, LLMs have opened up new opportunities for 041

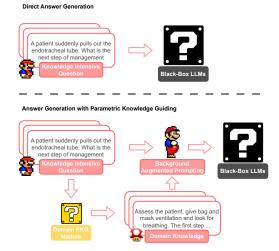


Figure 1: A brief introduction of our parametric knowledge guiding framework (PKG) for augmenting "black box" LLMs on domain knowledge-intensive tasks.

diverse industrial applications, such as the recently launched New Bing (Microsoft, 2023) and Chat-GPT Plugins (OpenAI, 2023a).

Despite their impressive performance across various general tasks, LLMs may face challenges when applied to domain-specific tasks (Chalkidis, 2023; Kasai et al., 2023; Nascimento et al., 2023) due to their limited exposure to relevant knowledge and vocabulary. Although LLMs acquire implicit world knowledge during pre-training, such knowledge may be insufficient or inappropriate for specific tasks, resulting in less effective performance. Furthermore, many state-of-the-art LLMs are considered "black-box" models, accessible only through APIs. This lack of transparency presents significant challenges and high costs for most researchers and companies seeking to fine-tune these models for their specific use cases or domains. These limitations hinder the adaptability of LLMs to diverse scenarios and domains.

A common approach to enhance LLMs is to leverage retrieval-based methods that ac-

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cess domain-specific knowledge from external 064 sources (Liu, 2022; Shi et al., 2023; Peng et al., 065 2023a). While these methods have shown promise, 066 they face several challenges. First, they heavily rely on modern dual-stream dense retrieval models (Karpukhin et al., 2020) which suffer from shallow interaction between the query and candidate documents. Second, most dense retrieval models are based on small-scale pre-trained models such as BERT (Devlin et al., 2019) and therefore cannot take advantage of the world knowledge of largescale pre-trained models. Third, retrieval models may struggle with complex knowledge that requires the integration of information from multiple 077 sources or modalities. 078

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In this work, we propose the Parametric Knowledge Guiding (PKG) framework, which enables LLMs to access relevant information without modifying their parameters, by incorporating a trainable background knowledge generation module, as illustrated in Figure 1. Unlike retrieval-based methods, our PKG module utilizes open-source and free-to-use "white-box" language models, LLaMa-7B (Touvron et al., 2023), which encode implicit world knowledge from large-scale pre-training. The framework consists of two steps. First, we train the PKG module with the specific task or domain knowledge via instruction fine-tuning (Ouyang et al., 2022) to capture the necessary expertise. Second, for a given input, the PKG module generates the related knowledge, fed as extra context to the background-augmented prompting for LLMs. By supplying the necessary knowledge, our framework can enhance the performance of LLMs on domain knowledge-intensive tasks.

Our experiments demonstrate that the proposed PKG framework enhances the performance of "black-box" LLMs on various downstream tasks which require domain-specific background knowledge, including factual knowledge (FM2 (Eisenschlos et al., 2021), +7.9%), tabular knowledge (NQ-Table (Herzig et al., 2021), +11.9%), medical knowledge (MedMC-QA (Pal et al., 2022), +3.0%), and multimodal knowledge (ScienceQA (Lu et al., 2022), +8.1%).

We summarize our contributions as follows:

• We propose a novel **Parametric Knowledge Guiding (PKG)** framework that integrates a background knowledge generation module to enhance the performance of LLMs on domain knowledge-intensive tasks. We introduce a knowledge-guiding process
by first training the parametric modules with
specific tasks or domain knowledge and then
generating related knowledge as the extra context in the background-augmented prompting.

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• We conduct extensive experiments on various downstream tasks to evaluate the effectiveness of our proposed PKG framework. The experiments demonstrate that our PKG framework can improve the capability of LLMs on domain knowledge-intensive tasks.

2 Related Work

Large Language Models. LLMs, such as GPT3 (Brown et al., 2020), Codex (Chen et al., 2021), PaLM (Chowdhery et al., 2022), and GPT4 (OpenAI, 2023b), have gained widespread attention due to their remarkable language understanding and generation capabilities (Wei et al., 2022c; Shi et al., 2022). However, their performance can be limited when it comes to domainspecific tasks, where they may lack exposure to specialized knowledge and vocabulary (Chalkidis, 2023; Kasai et al., 2023; West, 2023). Moreover, while some SOTA LLMs such as Instruct-GPT3.5 and ChatGPT (Ouyang et al., 2022) exist, they are available only as "black box" APIs due to commercial considerations. This limits researchers and developers with limited resources, who may not be able to access or modify the models' parameters. While open-source LLMs such as OPT-175B (Zhang et al., 2022) and BLOOM-176B (Scao et al., 2022) are available, they lag significantly behind SOTA LLMs on most tasks. Additionally, running and fine-tuning these open LLMs locally requires significant computational resources.

Augmented Large Language Models. ALLMs are a recent popular topic in NLP that aim to enhance the context processing ability of LLMs by incorporating external modules (Mialon et al., 2023; Wu et al., 2023; Shen et al., 2023; Lu et al., 2023; Huang et al., 2023). One approach to achieving this goal is through the use of retrieval-augmented large language models (RLLMs)(Guu et al., 2020; Izacard et al., 2022b; Ram et al., 2023; Shi et al., 2023). RLLMs leverage external knowledge by retrieving relevant documents or passages from knowledge sources using retrieval-based methods such as BM25(Robertson and Zaragoza, 2009) and

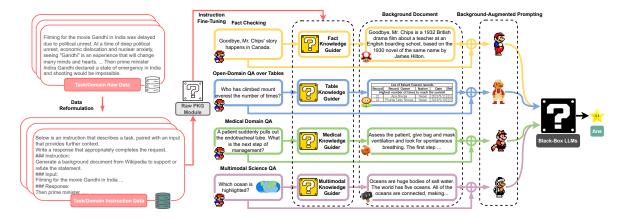


Figure 2: An introduction to the PKG Framework Pipeline: Raw Data Reformulation, PKG Instruction Fine-Tuning and Augmentation of "Black Box" LLMs with Domain-Specific PKG Modules.

DPR (Karpukhin et al., 2020). These retrieved passages are then used as additional contexts to improve the LLMs' performance on the task at hand. Although RLLMs have shown promise in enhancing LLMs' performance, they have certain limitations. For instance, they rely heavily on the dual-stream dense retriever, which leads to shallow interaction between the query and the candidate information. Furthermore, they may struggle with complex queries that require integrating information from multiple sources or modalities.

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Instruction Fine-Tuning. IFT is a technique in NLP that aims to align language models with specific user intents (Ouyang et al., 2022). While many LLMs are trained on large datasets of internet data to predict the next word, they may not be tailored to the specific language tasks that users require, meaning that these models are not inherently aligned with their users' needs. Recent research (Wei et al., 2022a; Sanh et al., 2022; Xu et al., 2022; Xie et al., 2022; Xu et al., 2022a; Xu et al., 2023a; Luo et al., 2023b,a) has highlighted the potential of IFT as a key technique for improving the usability of LLMs. Our proposed approach, PKG, follows the same principle of aligning the basic module with task-specific knowledge to enhance its performance.

3 Parametric Knowledge Guiding for LLMs

192In this section, we present our PKG framework to193guide the reasoning process of LLMs on domain-194specific tasks, as shown in Figure 2. These tasks195differ from general tasks such as document summa-196rization due to their reliance on specific background197knowledge. However, this knowledge may be ab-

sent or incomplete in the LLMs' training data. Furthermore, continuous pre-training of LLMs with domain knowledge poses challenges: (1) limited transparency of accessing current SOTA LLMs solely through APIs, and (2) the potentially high fine-tuning cost associated with APIs usage. To tackle these issues, we adhere to the *generate-thenread* paradigm (Yu et al., 2023) and leverage an offline PKG module to generate relevant background knowledge. Our method is first formulated in § 3.1. Next, we describe the background knowledge learning of our PKG modules in § 3.2. Finally, we introduce background-augmented prompting for LLMs in § 3.3.

3.1 Formulation

Given a question/input Q associated with some contexts, LLMs take the input and generate a response by maximum a posteriori estimation (MAP):

$$\hat{\mathcal{A}} := \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathcal{A}} P(\mathcal{A}|\mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{M}^{LLM}), \qquad (1)$$

where \mathcal{M}^{LLM} represents the parameters of the LLMs. However, for tasks that require background knowledge beyond what is contained in the input, such as knowledge-intensive tasks, relying solely on LLMs may not be effective. This is because there may be a significant amount of additional domain-specific knowledge that remains unexploited.

To improve performance, we first introduce an auxiliary PKG module \mathcal{M}^{PKG} to learn specific background knowledge (§3.2). Next, we estimate the input-related background knowledge \mathcal{K} using MAP estimation:

$$\hat{\mathcal{K}} := \operatorname{argmax}_{\mathcal{K}} P(\mathcal{K}|\mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{M}^{PKG}).$$
(2)

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Finally, the background knowledge \mathcal{K} enriches the input by incorporating background-augmented prompting for LLMs (§ 3.3) in the form:

$$P(\mathcal{A}|\mathcal{Q}) := P(\mathcal{A}|\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{M}^{LLM}) P(\mathcal{K}|\mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{M}^{PKG}).$$
(3)

3.2 Background Knowledge Learning

Given a target task or domain, our PKG framework utilizes an open-source language model to learn the relevant knowledge. Figure 2 presents an example of the fact-checking task. This process is divided into two steps. First, we collect raw data about the target task/domain, which serves as our background knowledge. Second, we transform the data into a set of (instruction, input, output) triples. The instruction serves as a prompt for the input and guides the module to learn the expected knowledge.

Next, this set of triples is adopted to tune our basic PKG module with instruction finetuning (Ouyang et al., 2022), which optimizes its ability to provide relevant and effective background knowledge to the LLMs. This two-step process can be completed fully offline, without requiring us to provide our data to tune the LLMs. Once trained with the task background knowledge, the PKG module learns to generate domain-specific knowledge to assist the LLMs during runtime.

The instruction data format of the fact-checking task is:

Instruction Format Example

Below is an instruction that describes a task, paired with an input that provides further context. Write a response that appropriately completes the request.

Instruction: {instruction}
Input: {input sentence}
Response: {background}

The {input sentence} is a sentence within the specified task. The {background} is the background knowledge that the model generates based on the given {instruction} and {input sentence}. The basic PKG module is trained in a standard supervised way with an autoregressive manner, where the model generates the {background} given the previous context. More instruction data formats for different tasks are presented in Appendix F.

3.3 Background-Augmented Prompting

Instead of directly requesting the LLMs to generate the answer or response for the input question or sentence via APIs, we first instruct the PKG module to generate the background knowledge. In the second step, we utilize the generated background in combination with the input question to derive the final answer from the LLMs. This is similar to the "zero-shot" open-domain questionanswering setting that has been widely explored in prior research (Brown et al., 2020; Lazaridou et al., 2022; Yu et al., 2023). The background-augmented prompt of the fact-checking task is: 270

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Background-Augmented Prompt Example	
{background}	
Claim: {input sentence}	
Is the claim true or false?	

Finally, the augmented prompt is fed into the LLMs to generate an answer. More prompts for different tasks are presented in Appendix G.

4 Experiment

In this section, we evaluate our proposed PKG framework across four distinct types of knowledge: factual, tabular, medical, and multimodal. Factual knowledge entails the model's ability to access accurate information, serving as a foundational type of knowledge crucial for numerous NLP applications (\S 4.2). Tabular knowledge necessitates the model's capability to access structured knowledge in the form of tables, which is relatively scarce in the training data of LLMs (§ 4.3). Medical knowledge, being highly specialized, exhibits limited exposure within the general data (\S 4.4). Lastly, multimodal knowledge poses a challenge as most LLMs are unable to process non-language information, highlighting the significance of assistance from PKG modules (\S 4.5).

The experimental results depicted in Tables 1 and 2 demonstrate substantial enhancements attained through our PKG framework compared to the baseline systems. These results offer compelling evidence supporting the generalizability and effectiveness of our approach.

4.1 Models Steup

Black-Box LLMs. We adopt one of the SOTA LLM InstructGPT3.5 (Ouyang et al., 2022) as our target "black box" general LLMs, using the

Models	FM2	NQ-Table	MedMC-QA
Direct generation without guiding. InstructGPT3.5 (Ouyang et al., 2022)	59.4	16.9	44.4
Generation with retrieval guiding.			
BM25 + InstructGPT3.5 (Karpukhin et al., 2020)	65.2	17.1	-
Contriever + InstructGPT3.5 (Izacard et al., 2022a)	66.0	24.5	-
♦REPLUG + InstructGPT3.5 (Shi et al., 2023)	65.9	24.3	-
Generation with self-guiding.			
[†] CoT + InstructGPT3.5 (Kojima et al., 2022)	60.4	21.4	41.5
‡GenRead + InstructGPT3.5 (Yu et al., 2023)	65.5	23.5	44.4
PKG + InstructGPT3.5 (Ours)	67.3	28.8	47.4

Table 1: Evaluating on three different tasks, requiring factual (FM2), tabular (NQ-Table), and medical (MedMC-QA) knowledge. \diamond : we fine-tune the dense retrieval models with the task data. \dagger : we use InstructGPT3.5 to generate the chain-of-thoughts as the background knowledge. \ddagger : we use InstructGPT3.5 to generate the background documents.

text-davinic-002 version. With up to 175B parameters, this model is one of the largest LLMs
and is pre-trained on a vast amount of internet data,
which exhibits great language understanding and
generation ability. However, this model can only
be accessed through an API, which limits users'
interaction.

Basic PKG Module. Our knowledge guiding module employs the open-source and popular foundation model LLaMa-7B (Touvron et al., 2023). It has been pre-trained on massive amounts of text data and possesses extensive world knowledge. Though its performance in many tasks may be inferior to the InstructGPTs, it can be locally fine-tuned and customized (Taori et al., 2023; Xu et al., 2023b; Peng et al., 2023b; Geng et al., 2023), making it an effective starting point for developing a task-specific PKG module.

Baselines. Our work includes three different types of baselines: (1) Direct generation with-out guiding: We do not provide any background knowledge for a given task and ask the Instruct-GPT to generate the answer or response directly in a zero-shot manner, following the approach of prior works (Brown et al., 2020; Ouyang et al., 2022). (2) Generation with retrieval guiding: We follow the retrieve-then-read paradigm (Chen et al., 2017; Yang et al., 2019; Karpukhin et al., 2020) to retrieve related knowledge from external knowledge sources using retrieval models such as BM25 (Robertson and Zaragoza, 2009), DPR (Karpukhin et al., 2020), and Contriever (Izac-ard et al., 2022a). We fine-tune the DPR on spe-

cific tasks following the REPLUG (Shi et al., 2023) method. InstructGPTs then generate responses based on the combination of the question and retrieved background documents. (3) *Generation with self-guiding*: we adopt the InstructGPTs to generate the related background knowledge by themselves with two different methods. The first method, CoT (Kojima et al., 2022), adopts the prompt "*Let's think step-by-step*" to generate the chain-of-thought as the background knowledge. The second method, GenRead (Yu et al., 2023), directly requires the InstructGPTs to provide task-specific knowledge with the prompt "*Please provide the background document from [domain] to [task]*."

4.2 Factual Knowledge

Datasets and Implementation Details. We evaluate our approach on the FM2 dataset (Eisenschlos et al., 2021), which is a benchmark for fact-checking. In this task, given a factual claim, our models are required to determine whether it is true or false. We use the claim in the training set and the corresponding evidence as factual knowledge. Additionally, we sample 100k passages from English Wikipedia, each consisting of up to 256 tokens. We treat the first sentence as the input and the remaining sentences as background knowledge. Accuracy is adopted as the evaluation metric. More details can be found in Appendix A and B.

Results. As shown in Table 1, our PKG outperforms all the baseline systems for fact-checking. In comparison to direct generation, the results reveal

Models	NAT	SOC	LAN	ТХТ	IMG	NO	G1-6	G7-12	Avg
Base on gpt-3.5-turbo.									
†ChatGPT	78.82	70.98	83.18	77.37	67.92	86.13	80.72	74.03	78.31
†Chameleon	81.62	70.64	84.00	79.77	70.80	86.62	81.86	76.53	79.93
Base on text-dav	inic-002								
InstructGPT3.5	72.96	62.88	76.09	70.77	62.77	77.84	75.04	65.59	71.66
+CoT	71.94	61.19	74.00	69.50	61.18	75.75	72.61	65.92	70.22
+GenRead	72.91	64.68	76.36	72.14	63.31	76.66	74.96	66.91	72.08
+PKG (Ours)	79.35	82.90	81.91	79.86	74.32	83.41	80.80	80.69	80.76

Table 2: Evaluating on the ScienceQA, requiring multimodal science knowledge. †: results from (Lu et al., 2023). gpt-3.5-turbo is much more capable than text-davinic-002.

that it is necessary to provide extra background knowledge for InstructGPTs with retrieval-based or generation-based methods. Specifically, our PKG outperforms InstructGPT3.5 by 7.9% (67.9% vs. 59.4%), and outperforms REPLUG, a retrievalbased method, by 1.4% (67.3% vs. 65.9%). It is noteworthy that our generation-based method does not necessitate an additional knowledge database as the retrieval-based methods. Additionally, our PKG performs better than the self-guiding method GenRead by 1.8% (67.3% vs. 65.5%), indicating that our PKG can provide more useful information than the InstructGPTs themselves.

4.3 Tabular Knowledge

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Datasets and Implementation Details. We evaluate the effectiveness of our approach on the NQ-Table dataset (Herzig et al., 2021), which serves as a benchmark for open-domain question answering over tables. The dataset consists of questions whose answers can be found in a Wikipedia table. We adopted the question in the training set as input and the corresponding flattened table as background knowledge. Our PKG was trained to follow instructions and generate the relevant table. Exact matching is adopted as the evaluation metric. More details can be found in Appendix A and B.

Results. Table 1 demonstrates the superior per-405 formance of our PKG framework over all baseline 406 systems on the tabular knowledge-related task. No-407 tably, our PKG outperforms InstructGPT3.5 by a 408 substantial margin of 11.9% (28.8% vs. 16.9%), 409 410 and outperforms REPLUG, the retrieval-based method, by 4.5% (28.8% vs. 24.3%). Furthermore, 411 our PKG significantly outperforms the self-guiding 412 method GenRead by 5.3% (28.8% vs. 23.5%). 413 These results demonstrate the efficacy and supe-414

riority of our approach in leveraging parametric knowledge to augment InstructGPTs for tabular knowledge-related tasks. 415

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4.4 Medical Knowledge

Datasets and Implementation Details. We evaluate the effectiveness of our approach on the MedMC-QA dataset (Pal et al., 2022), which serves as a benchmark for multi-subject multi-choice medical question answering. Each question requires the use of relevant medical information as background knowledge to provide the correct answer. We use the questions in the training set as input and the corresponding medical explanation as background knowledge. Our PKG is trained to follow the instruction and generate the relevant medical background. Accuracy is the evaluation metric. Unlike the previous tasks with all Wikipedia passages as the knowledge database, we do not have access to an external medical knowledge database, and thus we do not evaluate the performance of retrievalbased methods on this task. More details can be found in Appendix A and B.

Results. Our PKG framework also outperforms all baseline systems on this medical knowledge-related task, as shown in Table 1. Specifically, our PKG outperforms InstructGPT3.5 by 3.0% (47.4% vs. 44.4%). It is worth noting that the baseline self-guiding methods, CoT and GenRead, do not improve the performance of InstructGPTs. This may be due to the fact that InstructGPTs lack sufficient medical information to effectively solve this task.

4.5 Multimodal Knowledge

Datasets and Implementation Details. Our approach is evaluated on the ScienceQA dataset (Lu

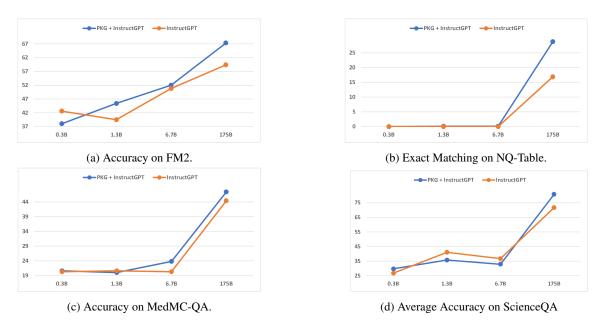


Figure 3: Comparing our PKGs framework with the direct generation on various types of InstructGPT. The number indicates the number of parameters in the InstructGPT. 0.3B: text-ada-001, 1.3B: text-babbage-001, 6.7B: text-curie-001, 175B: text-davinci-002.

et al., 2022), which presents a challenging multimodal multiple-choice question-answering task covering diverse science topics. Each question requires leveraging relevant scientific background knowledge to provide the correct answer. We use the training set's questions as input and their corresponding science lecture as background knowledge. To handle the images information, we augment our basic PKG module with the CLIP-ViT (Radford et al., 2021) to extract visual features, which are then fused with text features using a simple onehead cross-attention mechanism in each layer of LLaMa:

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$$\mathcal{H} := \mathcal{H}^{txt} + \mathcal{W}^{o} \left(\text{softmax} \left((\mathcal{W}^{q} \mathcal{H}^{txt}) (\mathcal{W}^{k} \mathcal{H}^{img})^{T} \right) (\mathcal{W}^{v} \mathcal{H}^{img}) \right),$$
(4)

where $\mathcal{W}^{o,q,k,v}$ are the linear projection, $\mathcal{H}^{txt,img}$ are the hidden states of texts and images. We adopt accuracy as the evaluation metric. More details can be found in Appendix A and B.

Similarly, this task is also difficult to obtain an external multimodal science knowledge database, retrieval-based methods are not considered. To facilitate a fair comparison of our methods, we include two additional baseline systems (Lu et al., 2023) based on the gpt-3.5-turbo model. The first baseline is ChatGPT direct generation, and the second is the Chameleon model, which utilizes several external tools, such as searching,

Size	FM2	NQ-Table	MedMC-QA	SciQA
7B	67.3	28.8	47.4	80.8
2.7B	59.6	17.9	34.4	79.5
1.3B	58.2	16.5	33.9	77.0
0.3B	56.4	14.6	31.7	68.7

Table 3: Comparing various sizes of language models as the basic PKG modules.

OCR, and captioning. According to OpenAI, the gpt-3.5-turbo model is more capable than text-davinic-002 (OpenAI, 2023c).

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Results. Table 2 shows that our PKG framework achieves a significant improvement in the performance of InstructGPTs on the multimodal scientific knowledge-related task. Specifically, the average accuracy is increased by 9.1% (80.76% vs. 71.66%), demonstrating the effectiveness of our approach. In contrast, other guiding methods, CoT (-1.44%) and GenRead (+0.42%), hard to improve the performance of InstructGPTs. Moreover, our PKG framework outperforms the gpt-3.5-turbo based models on average by 2.45% (80.76% vs. 78.31%), despite using weaker InstructGPTs.

4.6 Analysis

Scale of LLMs. Figure 3 presents the impact of our PKG framework on several "black-box" LMs, including text-ada-001, text-babbage-001, text-curie-001, and text-davinci-002. The

Input (FM2)		The Natural is a book about Roy Hobbs a natural southpaw boxer who goes on to win the heavyweight title from Boom Boom Mancini.					
PKG Guiding		This is a story about a baseball player, Roy Hobbs, who is shot by a woman, Harriet Bird, and then recovers to become a great player.					
Input (NQ-Table)	Batma	an The Enemy Within	episode 5 release	date			
PKG Guiding	Ep 1 2 3 4 5	Batma Title "The Enigma" "The Pact" "Fractured Mask" "What Ails You" "Same Stitch"	n: The Enemy Wit Directed by Kent Mudle Matthew Leach Sean Manning Chris Rieser Kent Mudle	hin Release date August 8, 2017 October 3, 2017 November 21, 2017 January 23, 2018 March 27, 2018			
Input (MedMC-QA)		Calcium ions triggers muscle contraction by binding to: Options: (A) Actin (B) Myosin (C) Troponin (D) Tropomyosin					
PKG Guiding	to trop tropor	Troponin is a complex of three proteins that are attached to actin. Calcium ions bind to troponin-C, which then causes the troponin-I and troponin-T to shift and allow the tropomyosin to move off of the active site of the myosin so that the myosin head can then bind to actin and cause contraction.					

Table 4: Examples of background documents generated by our PKGs to guide different tasks. Clues to answering the input are highlighted in blue within the documents.

results suggest that the effectiveness of our ap-497 proach is correlated with the size of the LMs, with 498 larger LMs benefiting more from our PKGs than 499 smaller ones. Specifically, in Figure 3b, the small 500 LMs show negligible exact matching scores on 501 the tabular task, with or without the background 502 503 knowledge from our PKGs, while the LLMs exhibit significantly better performance. In Figure 3c, 504 the 0.3B and 1.3B LMs perform similarly on the medical domain task, while the 6.7B LM shows 506 improved performance with the additional knowl-507 edge. This difference can be attributed to the relatively weaker language understanding capabilities 509 of smaller LMs, which struggle to reason over con-510 texts and generate the correct responses even with 511 relevant knowledge from our PKGs. These obser-512 513 vations align with the emergent abilities of LLMs, as discussed in (Wei et al., 2022b). Therefore, the 514 scale of LLMs is a critical factor for achieving bet-515 516 ter performance.

Scale of PKGs. We conducted an investigation 517 of various sizes of language models as basic PKG modules in Table 3. Since LLaMa-7B is the small-519 est model in the LLaMa family, we conducted experiments on the OPT family (Zhang et al., 2022), 521 another open-source large-scale language model 523 with a similar structure to LLaMa. Our observations reveal that larger basic PKGs tend to exhibit 524 superior performance. For example, increasing the 525 number of parameters from 1.3B to 2.7B leads to performance improvements of 1.4% on FM2, 1.4% 527

on NQ-Table, 0.5% on MedMC-QA, and 2.5% on ScienceQA, which is consistent with the scaling law (Kaplan et al., 2020). 528

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Examples of Generated Background Documents. Table 4 presents examples of background documents generated by our PKGs to assist LLMs in different tasks. For the factual task, our PKG can supply input-related factual information to support or refute the input, such as the example of Roy Hobbs being a baseball player and not a boxer. For the tabular task, our PKG can offer an input-related background table, like the episode table of Batman. For the medical task, our PKG can provide relevant medical knowledge, such as the background of calcium ions. Since the space is not enough, examples for the multimodal tasks and additional examples can be found in Appendix D.

5 Conclusion

In this work, we propose the novel **Parametric Knowledge Guiding (PKG)** framework to enhance the performance of "black-box" LLMs on domain-specific tasks by equipping them with a knowledge-guiding module. Our approach allows for access to relevant knowledge at runtime without altering the "black-box" LLM's parameters. The extensive experiments demonstrate the effectiveness of our PKG framework for various domain knowledge-intensive tasks.

Limitations

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Although our PKGs have shown strong performance on the presented datasets, they may still suffer from hallucination errors, leading to the provision of incorrect background knowledge. We provide examples of such errors in Appendix E. Combining our approach with retrieval methods to enhance generative faithfulness is a promising direction for future research.

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A Datasets and Splits

Our experiments include four different benchmarks to evaluate our PKG framework:

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- Fool Me Twice (FM2) (Eisenschlos et al., 2021) is a fact-checking task, which contains a set of claims with evidence that were originally scarped from Wikipedia.
- Natural Questions Over Tables (NQ-Table) (Herzig et al., 2021) is an opendomain question-answering task over table knowledge, which is mined from real Google search queries, and the answers are spans in Wikipedia tables identified by human annotators.
- Multi-Subject Multi-Choice Dataset for Medical domain (MedMC-QA) (Pal et al., 2022) is a medical question-answering task, which contains a set of real-world medical entrance exam questions and answers.
- Multimodal Reasoning for Science Question Answering (ScienceQA) (Lu et al., 2022) is a multimodal reasoning task, which consists of multimodal multiple-choice questions with a diverse set of science topics.

In Table 5, we show the dataset splits and statistics.

B Implementation Details

We employ LLaMa-7B (Touvron et al., 2023) as the backbone models for implementing the PKG modules. The AdamW optimizer is used, with 10% warmup steps. Training of the PKG modules is performed on 8 V100 GPUs. The vision encoder for ScienceQA is CLIP-ViT-B/32, whose parameters are not updated during training. In our experiments, we extensively utilize the open-source code *LLaMa-X*.¹ For more specific implementation details, please refer to Table 6.

We implement other baseline methods based on the following repositories:

- BM25 + GPT3.5: https://github.com/ castorini/pyserini
- REPLUG + GPT3.5: https://github.com/ facebookresearch/DPR/tree/main
- CoT + GPT3.5: https://github.com/ kojima-takeshi188/zero_shot_cot

¹https://github.com/AetherCortex/Llama-X

Datasets	Domain	Train	Valid	Test	Test labels
FM2 (Eisenschlos et al., 2021)	Factual	10,419	1,169	1,380	Public
NQ-Table (Herzig et al., 2021)	Tabular	9,594	1,068	959	Public
MedMC-QA (Pal et al., 2022)	Medical	160,869	4,183	6,150	Private
ScienceQA (Lu et al., 2022)	Multimodal	12,726	4,241	4,241	Public

Table 5: Datasets splits and statistics. For MedMC-QA, labels in the test are hidden, so the model performance is evaluated on the validation set.

Settings	FM2	NQ-Table	MedMC-QA	ScienceQA
Peak learning rate	2e-5	2e-5	2e-5	2e-5
β_1, β_2	[0.9,0.999]	[0.9,0.999]	[0.9,0.999]	[0.9,0.999]
ϵ	1e-8	1e-8	1e-8	1e-8
Weight decay	0	0	0	0
Total batch size	64	32	32	32
Total training epochs	3	10	3	5
Warmup Schedule	cosine	cosine	cosine	cosine
Warmup ratio	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Precision	fp16	fp16	fp16	fp16

Table 6: Hyperparameters settings of our PKG modules on different tasks.

993 • GenRead + GPT3.5: https://github.com/ 994 wyu97/GenRead

C All Results of Figure 3 in the Main Paper

In Figure 3 of the main paper, we compare our PKGs framework with the direct generation on various types of LMs. We include all results in Table 7.

D Case Studies

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Additional examples of background documents generated by our baseline methods (CoT and Gen-Read) and PKGs for different tasks are presented in Table 8, Table 9, Table 10, and Table 11. These examples highlight how our PKGs can provide valuable information to assist LLMs in answering specific questions. Furthermore, Table 12 compares our PKGs with retrieval-based methods, demonstrating that the retrieval methods are unable to offer relevant background documents to address the given question effectively.

E Errors

1014Table 13 showcases examples of hallucination er-
rors generated by our PKGs. Similar to other1015LLMs, our PKGs may introduce fabricated back-
ground knowledge in certain instances.

F Instruction Formats

- FM2:	1019
Below is an instruction that describes a task, paired with	1020
an input that provides further context.	1021
Write a response that appropriately completes the request.	1022
### Instruction:	1023
Generate a background document from Wikipedia to support or	1024
refute the statement.	1025
### Input:	1026
Statement: xxx	1027
### Response:	1028
<background fact=""></background>	1029
	1030
- NQ-Table:	1031
Below is an instruction that describes a task, paired with	1032
an input that provides further context.	1033
Write a response that appropriately completes the request.	1034
### Instruction:	1035
Generate a background table from Wikipedia to answer the given	1036
question.	1037
### Input:	1038
Question: xxx	1039
### Response:	1040
<background table=""></background>	1041
	1042
- MedMC-QA	1043
Below is an instruction that describes a task, paired with	1044

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an input that provides further context.

Methods	FM2	NQ-Table	MedMC-QA	ScienceQA
PKG-Davinci	67.3	28.8	47.4	80.76
PKG-Curie	52.0	0.1	23.8	32.87
PKG-Babbage	45.4	0.1	20.0	35.77
PKG-Ada	38.0	0.0	20.6	29.76
Direct-Davinci	59.4	16.9	44.4	71.66
Direct-Curie	50.8	0.0	20.3	36.76
Direct-Babbage	39.5	0.0	20.6	41.08
Direct-Ada	42.6	0.0	20.3	26.79

Table 7: All experiments results of Figure 3 for different sizes of LMs in the main paper.

1046	Write a response that appropriately completes the request.	Background: <background></background>	1083
1047	### Instruction:		1084
1048	Generate a background document from the medical domain to	Question: <question></question>	1085
1049	answer the given question.	Options: <options></options>	1086
1050	### Input:		1087
1051	Question: xxx	Please only choose the answer from options. The answer	1088
1052	### Response:	is:	1089
1053	<background knowledge="" medical=""></background>		1090
1054		- ScienceQA:	1091
1055	- ScienceQA: We follow the "QCM-LE" format	Question: <question></question>	1092
1056	in MM-CoT (?), where "Q" is the question, "C" is	BECAUSE: <background></background>	1093
1057	the context, "M" is the choices, "L" is the lecture	Options: <options></options>	1094

in MM-CoT (?), where "Q" is the question, "C" is the context, "M" is the choices, "L" is the lecture and "E" is the explanation. Please refer to the paper of MM-CoT for more details.

Options: <options> 1094 Please only choose the answer from options. The answer is: 1095

G Background-Augmented Prompts

- FM2:

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<background>

claim: <query>

Is the claim true or false?

- NQ-Table:

Refer to the background below and answer the following question with just a few words. The answer should be less than 5 words.

Background: <background>

Question: <question>

Answer:

- MedMC-QA:

Refer to the medical background below and answer the following question.

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Input (FM2)	The Natural is a book about Roy Hobbs a natural southpaw boxer who goes on to win the heavyweight title from Boom Boom Mancini.
CoT Guiding	The first part of the claim is that The Natural is a book. This is true - The Natural is a novel written by Bernard Malamud. The second part of the claim is that the book is about Roy Hobbs, a natural southpaw boxer. This is also true - the novel follows the character of Roy Hobbs, a talented young baseball player who is drafted by a major league team. The third part of the claim is that Hobbs goes on to win the heavyweight title from Boom Boom Mancini. This is false - in the novel, Hobbs does not win the heavyweight title from Boom Boom Mancini.
GenRead Guiding	The Natural is a 1984 American sports drama film based on Bernard Malamud's 1952 baseball novel of the same name, di- rected by Barry Levinson and starring Robert Redford, Glenn Close, and Robert Duvall. The film, like the book, recounts the experiences of Roy Hobbs, an extraordinarily talented left-handed pitcher, who becomes a late-blooming professional baseball player with the New York Knights.
PKG Guiding	This is a story about a baseball player, Roy Hobbs, who is shot by a woman, Harriet Bird, and then recovers to become a great player.
Input (FM2)	Goodbye, Mr. Chips' story happens in Canada.
Input (FM2) CoT Guiding	Goodbye, Mr. Chips' story happens in Canada.First, let's recall what the story is about. The story is about a schoolteacher, Mr. Chips, who spends his entire life teaching at a boys' boarding school in England. Now, let's think about whether the story could have taken place in Canada. Could a schoolteacher in Canada spend his entire life teaching at a boys' boarding school? It's possible, but it seems unlikely. Could a schoolteacher in Canada spend his entire life teaching at any kind of school? Yes, that's possible. Therefore, the claim that the story happens in Canada is false.
	First, let's recall what the story is about. The story is about a schoolteacher, Mr. Chips, who spends his entire life teaching at a boys' boarding school in England. Now, let's think about whether the story could have taken place in Canada. Could a schoolteacher in Canada spend his entire life teaching at a boys' boarding school? It's possible, but it seems unlikely. Could a schoolteacher in Canada spend his entire life teaching at any kind of school? Yes, that's possible. Therefore, the claim that the story

Table 8: Examples of background documents generated by our baseline methods and PKGs for FM2. Clues to answering the input are highlighted in blue within the documents. The information that will disrupt LLMs is highlighted in red.

Input (NQ-Table)	Batman The Enemy W	ithin episode 5 releas	e date						
CoT Guiding	1. When is episode 5 of Batman the enemy released? 2. What is the release date of episode 5 of Batman the enemy? The release date of episode 5 of Batman the enemy is October 10, 2016.								
GenRead Guiding	"Batman: The Enemy Within" is an episodic point-and-click graphic adven- ture video game developed and published by Telltale Games and distributed by Warner Bros. Interactive Entertainment under its DC Entertainment label. The game is a sequel to 2016's "Batman: The Telltale Series", and was released for Microsoft Windows, macOS, PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Android, and iOS. The first episode was released on August 8, 2017, with the fifth and final episode released on March 27, 2018.								
	Bat	tman: The Enemy Wit	thin						
	Ep Title	Ep Title Directed by Release date							
PKG Guiding	1"The Enigma'2"The Pact"3"Fractured Masi4"What Ails You5"Same Stitch"	Matthew Leachk" Sean Manningu" Chris Rieser	August 8, 2017 October 3, 2017 November 21, 2017 January 23, 2018						
			March 27, 2018]					
Input (NQ-Table)	the old man and the se	a page count							
CoT Guiding	fish in, and finally doe his boat and starts rowin makes it back to shore. it open. Now, we're at He's cut open the belly in one hand and is pull cutting open the fish. H and the guts in the other suddenly feels somethin out to sea by the big fi is too strong. The old struggling to get back	The old man is fishing and he catches a big fish. He struggles to bring the fish in, and finally does. Now, he has to get the fish home. So, he ties it to his boat and starts rowing. The old man is rowing for a long time and finally makes it back to shore. He drags the fish up onto the beach and starts to cut it open. Now, we're at the part where the old man is cutting open the fish. He's cut open the belly and is starting to pull out the guts. He's got a knife in one hand and is pulling out the guts with the other. The old man is still cutting open the fish. He's almost done now. He's got the knife in one hand and the guts in the other. He's about to pull out the last of the guts when he suddenly feels something tugging on his line. The old man has been pulled out to sea by the big fish! He's struggling to get back to shore, but the fish is too strong. The old man is fighting for his life now, and the fish is still pulling him out to sea. The old man knows he's going to die soon. The old							
	The Old Man and the Sea is a novel by Ernest Hemingway that was first published in 1952. The novel tells the story of an aging Cuban fisherman who struggles to catch a giant marlin. The Old Man and the Sea was published in 1952 in Life magazine. The novel was adapted into a 1958 film of the same name, starring Spencer Tracy. The Old Man and the Sea won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1953.								
GenRead Guiding	published in 1952. The who struggles to cate published in 1952 in Li of the same name, star	te novel tells the story h a giant marlin. The ife magazine. The nov rring Spencer Tracy.	y of an aging Cuban fis the Old Man and the S rel was adapted into a 19	sherman Sea was 958 film					
GenRead Guiding	published in 1952. The who struggles to catco published in 1952 in Lit of the same name, star the Pulitzer Prize for F	te novel tells the story h a giant marlin. The ife magazine. The nov rring Spencer Tracy.	y of an aging Cuban fis the Old Man and the S rel was adapted into a 19	sherman Sea was 958 film					
GenRead Guiding	published in 1952. The who struggles to catco published in 1952 in Lit of the same name, star the Pulitzer Prize for F	te novel tells the story h a giant marlin. The ife magazine. The nov rring Spencer Tracy. 7 Fiction in 1953.	y of an aging Cuban fis the Old Man and the S rel was adapted into a 19 The Old Man and the S	sherman Sea was 958 film					

Table 9: Examples of background documents generated by our baseline methods and PKGs for NQ-Table. Clues to answering the input are highlighted in blue within the documents. The information that will disrupt LLMs is highlighted in red.

Input (MedMC- QA)	Calcium ions triggers muscle contraction by binding to: Options: (A) Actin (B) Myosin (C) Troponin (D) Tropomyosin (Correct Answer: C)			
CoT Guiding	First, we need to understand what a muscle contraction is. A muscle contraction is when the muscle fibers in the muscle shorten. This is caused by the sliding of the actin and myosin filaments past each other. Next, we need to understand what role calcium ions play in muscle contraction. Calcium ions are needed for the muscle contraction to occur because they are needed to trigger the release of the myosin head from the actin filament. So, the answer is (C) Troponin.			
GenRead Guiding	Calcium ions play an important role in muscle contraction. When calcium ions bind to troponin, they cause a conformational change in the protein that allows myosin and actin to interact. This interaction between myosin and actin is what causes muscle contraction.			
PKG Guiding	Troponin is a complex of three proteins that are attached to actin. Calcium ions bind to troponin-C, which then causes the troponin-I and troponin-T to shift and allow the tropomyosin to move off of the active site of the myosin so that the myosin head can then bind to actin and cause contraction.			
Input (MedMC- QA)	 Which of the following statements is true regarding medical aboion? Options: (A) Ultrasound should be done in all cases (B) If the patient has an IUCD in-situ, it doesn't need to be removed (C) Can only be done up to 72 days (D) Only a person ceified under MTP act can perform medical termination of pregnancy (Correct Answer: D) 			
CoT Guiding	First, we need to understand what medical abortion is. Medical abortion is the use of medication to end a pregnancy. Next, we need to consider the options given. Option A is not necessarily true - ultrasound may not be needed in all cases, but it can be helpful in determining how far along the pregnancy is. Option B is also not necessarily true - in some cases, the IUCD (intrauterine contraceptive device) may need to be removed before the medical abortion can be performed. Option C is generally true - medical abortions can usually be performed up to 72 days after the last menstrual period. Option D is also generally true - only a certified healthcare provider can perform a medical abortion.			
GenRead Guiding	Medical abortion is a safe and effective way to end a pregnancy. It can be done up to 72 days after the first day of the last menstrual period. A medical abortion can be done with pills or with a shot.			
PKG Guiding	Medical aboion can be done up to 9 weeks and 6 days. Ultrasound is not required for medical aboion. If the patient has an IUCD in-situ, it should be removed. Only a person ceified under MTP act can perform medical termination of pregnancy.			

Table 10: Examples of background documents generated by our baseline methods and PKGs for MedMC-QA. Clues to answering the input are highlighted in blue within the documents. The information that will disrupt LLMs is highlighted in red.

Input (ScienceQA)	Which animal's neck is also adapted for hunting prey while keep- ing the rest of its body still? Context: Saddle-billed storks live near wetlands and lakes. They eat mostly fish. The 's neck helps it grab fish while keeping the rest of its body still. If the stork had to move its body, it might scare the fish away. Figure: saddle-billed stork. A black and white bird is standing in the grass. Options: (A) northern pintail (B) black-headed heron (Correct Answer: B)			
CoT Guiding	Option A is incorrect because northern pintails are ducks and do not have necks adapted for hunting prey. Option B is correct because black-headed herons are wading birds that use their long necks to help them catch fish.			
GenRead Guiding	The answer to the question is option (B), the painted stork. The painted stork's neck is adapted for hunting prey while keeping the rest of its body still, which helps it grab fish while minimizing movement that could scare the fish away.			
PKG Guiding	Look at the picture of the saddle-billed stork. The saddle-billed stork has a long neck. Its neck is adapted for hunting prey while keeping the rest of its body still. Now look at each animal. Figure out which animal has a similar adaptation. The black-headed heron has a long neck. Its neck is adapted for hunting prey while keeping the rest of its body still. The northern pintail has a short neck. Its neck is not adapted for hunting prey while keeping the rest of its body still.			
	Which month is the wettest on average in Christchurch? Con- text: Use the graph to answer the question below. A series of photographs showing a variety of colorful objects. Options: (A) April (B) December (C) May (Correct Answer: C)			
CoT Guiding	The wettest month on average in Christchurch is December.			
GenRead Guiding	The graph shows that December is the wettest month on average in Christchurch.			
PKG Guiding	Scientists record data from places around the world. Precipitation, or rain and snow, is one type of climate data. A bar graph can be used to show the average amount of precipitation each month. Months with taller bars have more precipitation on average. To describe the average precipitation trends in Christchurch, look at the graph. Choice "Apr" is incorrect. Choice "May" is incorrect. Choice "Dec" is incorrect. May has an average monthly precip- itation of about 70 millimeters. This is higher than in any other month. So, May is the wettest month on average.			

Table 11: Examples of background documents generated by our baseline methods and PKGs for ScienceQA. Clues to answering the input are highlighted in blue within the documents. The information that will disrupt LLMs is highlighted in red.

Input (NQ-Table)	Batman The Enemy Withi	n episode 5 releas	e date				
BM25 Retrieved	is either visited by Bruce or decides to become the hero's archenemy. How- ever, if he was a criminal, he is shown playing with a doll version of Bruce, which he promises to see again. All episodes below were released for Win- dows, macOS, PlayStation, Xbox One, and mobile platforms on the dates given. The Nintendo Switch version was released as a single package on October 2, 2018. "Batman: The Enemy Within" was considered to be an improvement over its predecessor, earning praise for its story, choices, action sequences, and portrayal of the Batman mythos. However, the presence of technical issues, and						
REPLUG Re- trieved	Babylon 5: The Legend of the Rangers Babylon 5: The Legend of the Rangers (subtitled: To Live and Die in Starlight) is the fifth telefilm set in the "Babylon 5" universe (not including the pilot,). Originally airing January 19, 2002 on the Sci Fi Channel, it was written by J. Michael Straczynski and directed by Mike Vejar. Though shot as a pilot for a possible new series, it aired opposite NFL playoffs and the subsequent poor ratings led to it not being picked up. As the Shadow War ended, hundreds of civilizations were devastated. It is up to the						
	Batman: The Enemy Within						
	Ep Title	Directed by	Release date				
	1 "The Enigma"	Kent Mudle	August 8, 2017				
PKG Guiding	2 "The Pact"	Matthew Leach	October 3, 2017				
C C	3 "Fractured Mask"	Sean Manning	November 21, 2017				
	4 "What Ails You"	Chris Rieser	January 23, 2018				
	5 "Same Stitch"	Kent Mudle	March 27, 2018				
Input (NQ-Table)	the old man and the sea pa	ige count					
BM25 Retrieved							
REPLUG Re-	The Old Man and the Sea	The Old Man and	the Sea is a short novel	written			
trieved	by the American author Ernest Hemingway in 1951 in Cuba, and published						
in 1952. It was the last major work of fiction by Hemingway that							
	published during his lifetime. One of his most famous works, it tells the						
	story of Santiago, an aging Cuban fisherman who struggles with a giant						
	marlin far out in the Gulf Stream off the coast of Cuba. In 1953, "The Old						
	Man and the Sea" was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, and cited by						
	The Old Man and the Sea						
PKG Guiding	AuthorLanguageGenrePages						
C C	Ernest Hemingway English Literary Fiction 127						

Table 12: Examples of background documents generated by our baseline methods and PKGs for NQ-Table. Clues to answering the input are highlighted in blue within the documents.

Input (FM2)	Hadrian started building a wall that he was never able to complete. (Correct Answer: True)			
PKG Guiding	Either Hadrian or his successor Antoninus Pius started the wall's construction.			
Input (NQ-Table)	who won game 4 of the 2000 nba finals (Correct Answer: Lakers)			
	2000 NBA Finals			
	Game	Home Team	Result	Road Team
DVC Cuiding	Game 1	Los Angeles Lakers	116-86	Portland Trail Blazers
PKG Guiding	Game 2	Los Angeles Lakers	100-86	Portland Trail Blazers
	Game 3	Portland Trail Blazers	86-80	Los Angeles Lakers
	Game 4	Portland Trail Blazers	89-78	Los Angeles Lakers
Input (MedMC- QA)	Reciprocal arm taper in Options: (A) 1 dimension (B) 2 dimension (C) 3 dimension (D) Not tapered (Correct Answer: A)			
PKG Guiding	Reciprocal arm taper is seen in 3 dimension.			
Input (ScienceQA)	Which ocean is highlighted? Context: A painting of a penguin on a blue background. Options: (A) the Atlantic Ocean (B) the Indian Ocean (C) the Southern Ocean (D) the Arctic Ocean (Correct Answer: C)			
PKG Guiding	Oceans are huge bodies of salt water. The world has five oceans. All of the oceans are connected, making one world ocean. This is the Pacific Ocean.			

Table 13: Examples of hallucination errors. red: indicates the errors.