Testimony of Prof. Gregory Durrett

U.S. et al. v. Google LLC, No. 1:20-cv-03010-APM

United States District Court for the District of Columbia

April 21, 2025

Ex. No.

PXRD003

1:20-cv-03010-APM

1:20-cv-03715-APM

Assignments

Assignment: Assess whether and how Google Search, Google's Search Index, and User-Side Data may be used to build and improve generative artificial intelligence ("Gen AI") search features and applications

Rebuttal Assignment 1: Assess Dr. Allan's assertion that Qualified Competitors could use Large Language Models (LLMs) to "reverse engineer" Google's technology

Rebuttal Assignment 2: Assess Dr. Hitt's technical claims regarding (a) the value of data to Gen AI models and (b) the Gemini App's reliance on Google Search

Key Opinions

Google's Gen AI Models and Products integrate Google Search, Google's Search Index, and User-side data

Google's advantages in Search assist it in building high quality Gen Al Models and Products

Key Rebuttal Opinions

Dr. Allan's assertion that Plaintiffs' proposals would allow competitors to "reverse engineer" Google's technology using LLMs is misleading

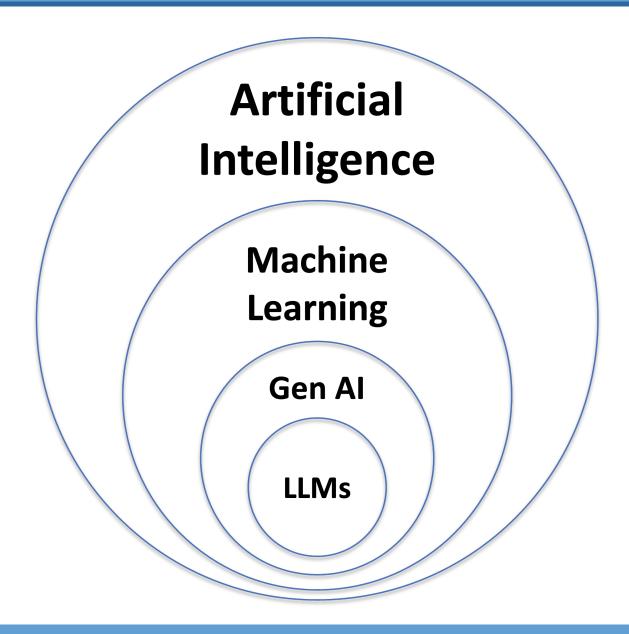
Dr. Hitt mischaracterizes the use of data for pre-training and fine-tuning Gen AI models

Dr. Hitt understates how critically Google's Gemini App relies on Search for grounding

Outline

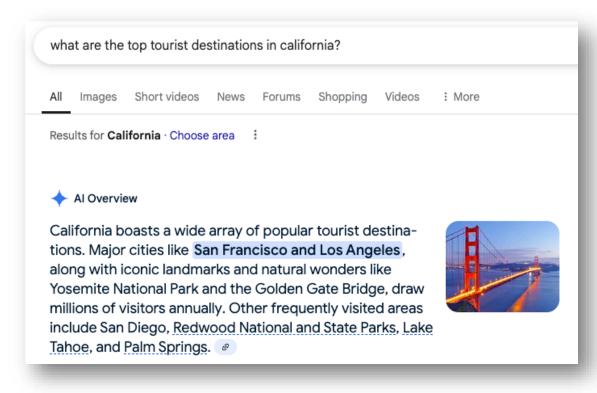
- I. Introduction to Generative Al
- II. Google's advantages in Search assist in building high quality Gen AI Models and Gen AI Search Products
 - A. Al Overviews
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AI, Machine Learning, Gen AI, And LLMs Are Related



Google Has Gen Al Search Models and Products

Al Overviews



Gemini App

what are the top tourist destinations in california?

California is a vast and diverse state with a wide array of attractions, making it a top tourist destination. Here are some of the most popular and highly-regarded places to visit:

Major Metropolitan Areas:

- Los Angeles: The entertainment capital of the world, home to Hollywood, Universal Studios, Griffith Observatory, the Getty Center, Santa Monica Pier, and vibrant beaches like Venice Beach.
- San Francisco: Known for its iconic Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz Island, Fisherman's Wharf, cable cars, diverse neighborhoods like Chinatown and North Beach, and cultural institutions like the Exploratorium and the California Academy of Sciences.
- San Diego: Boasts beautiful beaches like La Jolla and Coronado, Balboa Park (home to the

How Language Modeling Works

Language modeling: predict the most likely next token given previous tokens



Token: a unit of language, approximately one short word



How Language Modeling Works

Predicting the next token is probabilistic.

A child plays on the ____

Token	Probability
playground	50%
swing	15%
slide	15%
grass	10%
wagon	5%

These probabilities sum up to 100% over the vocabulary of all tokens.

Why Use Language Modeling?

LMs can predict next tokens repeatedly:

Once upon a time, there was a ____ war between two kingdoms

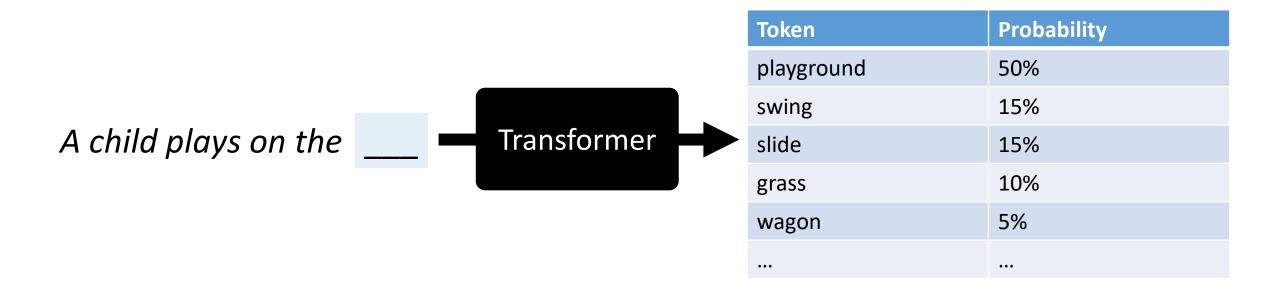
LMs can be applied to carefully crafted prompts:

Q: When was Abraham Lincoln born? A: _____ 1809

The translation of "I like your new hat" into Spanish is _____ "Me gusta tu...

A "perfect" language model can do many useful tasks if it has seen enough data.

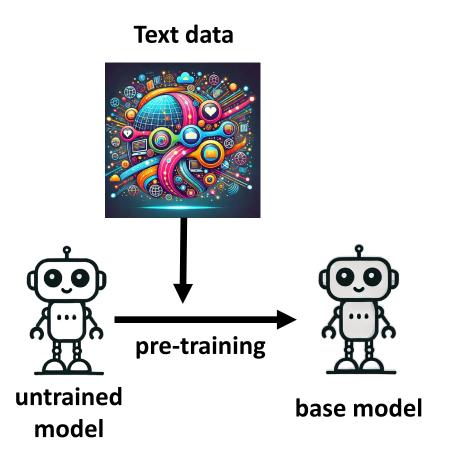
How Transformer Language Models Work



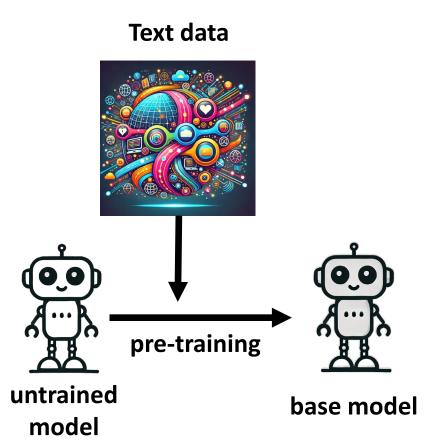
Most LLMs use **Transformers:** neural networks with many parameters (billions!).

Parameters define mathematical operations to calculate predicted token probabilities.

LLMs Pre-Train On Data



LLMs Pre-Train On Data



Base models are good at text completion

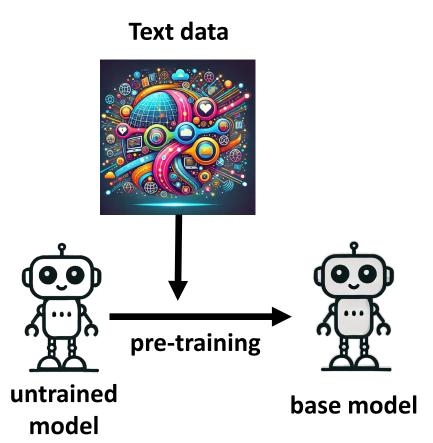
Once upon a time, there was a ____.

war between two kingdoms



verdant land known as ...

LLMs May Be Limited In Functionality After Pre-Training



Base models are good at text completion

Once upon a time, there was a ____.

war between two kingdoms

verdant land known as ...



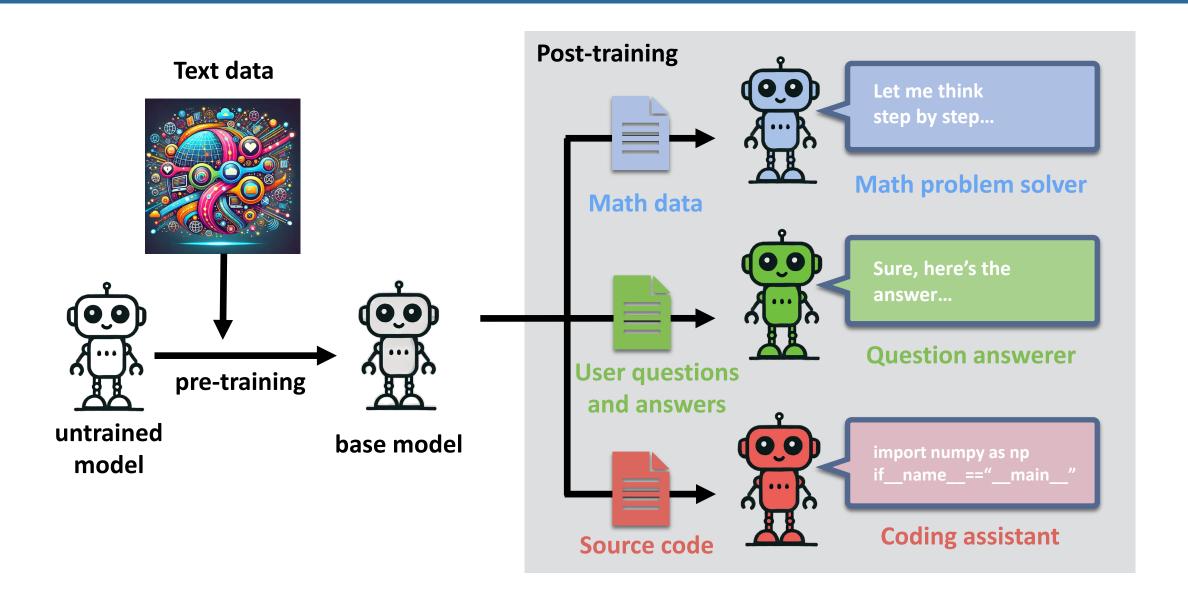
Base models are not always good at other tasks

Q: When was Abraham Lincoln born? A: ___.

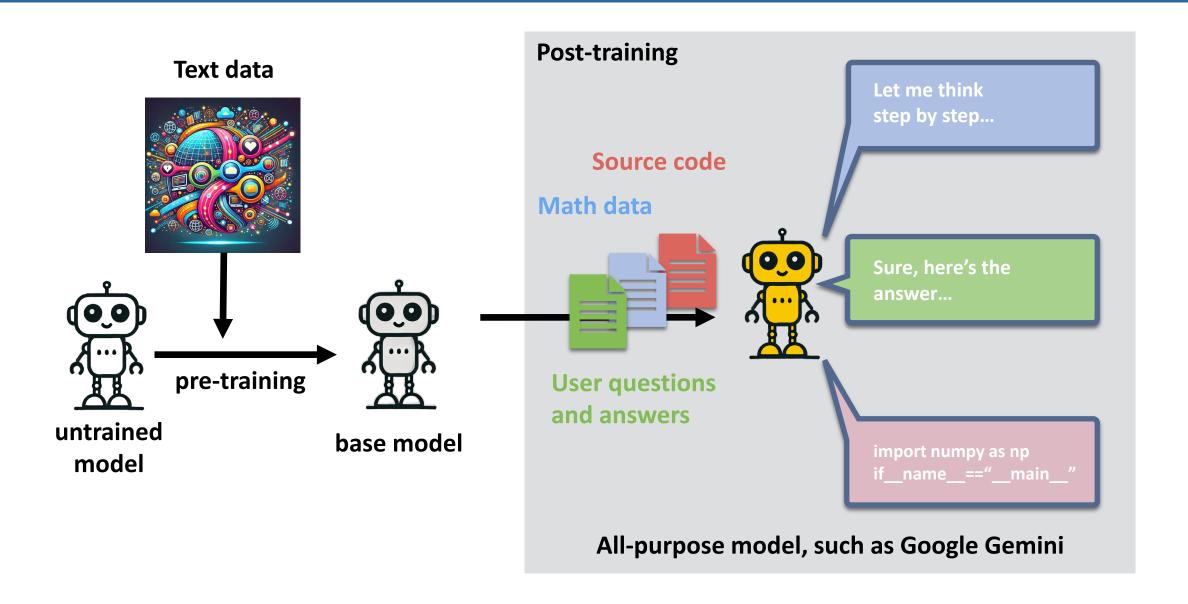
Q: When was George Washington born? A: ___.

Q: When was John Adams born? A: ___ [...]

LLMs Are Post-Trained To Accomplish Various Tasks



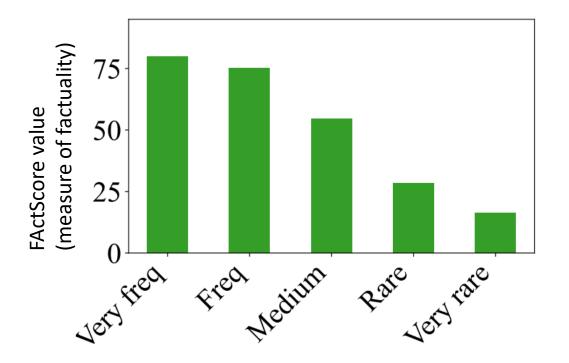
LLMs May Be Post-Trained To Accomplish More Than One Task



LLMs Only "Know" What They Are Trained On

A model can only predict "Texas is a ____" is followed by "state" if it has seen this information in its training data.

If we ask ChatGPT "Write me a biography of [X]" for various people X, how factual is it?



LLMs Cannot Be Trained On Everything





r/microwavegang • 1 day ago Bobbydibi

MMMMMMMMM

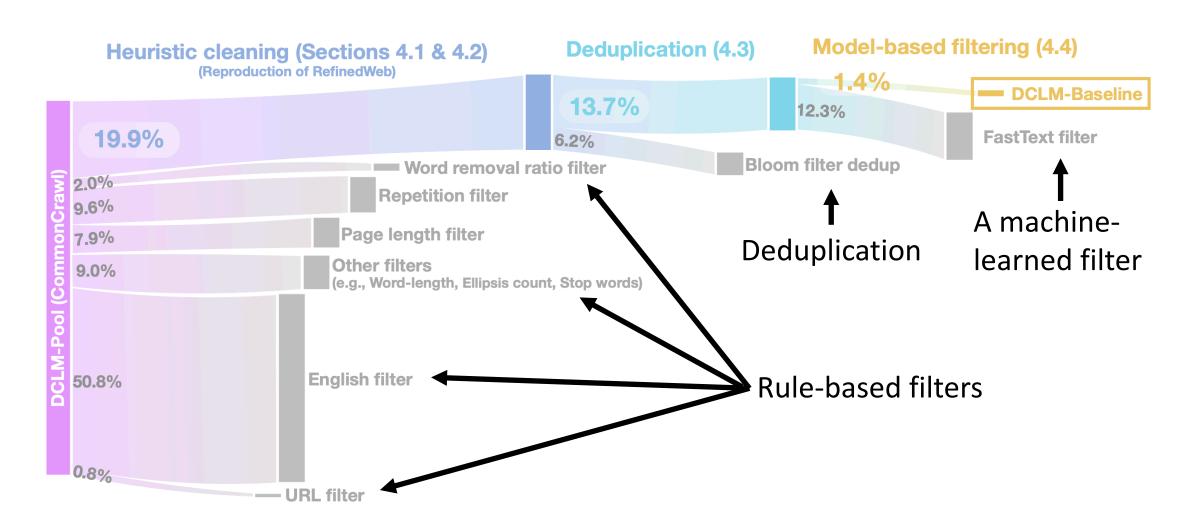
Mmmmm

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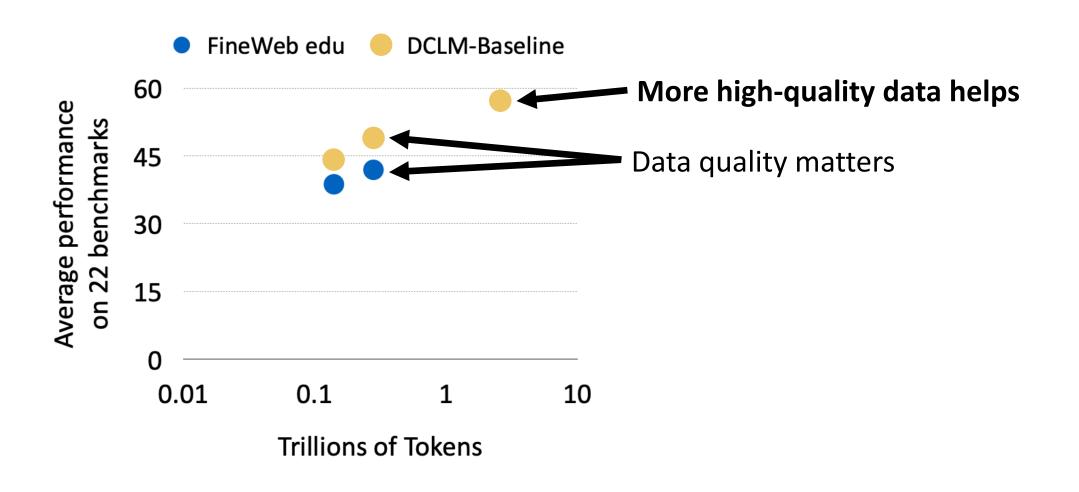
Pre-Training Data Should Be Filtered

DCLM: open-source LLM pre-training dataset from Common Crawl



Filtering Pre-Training Data Improves Model Performance

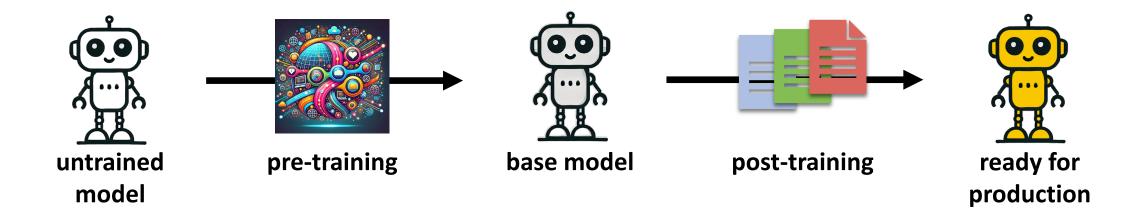
DCLM-Baseline compared to FineWeb edu (dataset from the company Hugging Face)



LLMs Have A Knowledge Cutoff

Suppose an LLM is trained in October 2024.

How can that LLM answer: "who was Kendrick Lamar's musical guest at the 2025 Super Bowl halftime show?"



One solution: add post-Oct 2024 docs to pre-training data and retrain the model?

Cons: expensive and time-consuming (pre-training takes weeks or months)

RAG Allows LLMs To Access Additional Knowledge

Closed-book LLM generation

Who was Kendrick Lamar's musical guest at the 2025 Super Bowl halftime show?



I don't know who Kendrick Lamar's musical guest was...

Retrieval-augmented generation (RAG)

Who was Kendrick Lamar's musical guest at the 2025 Super Bowl halftime show?

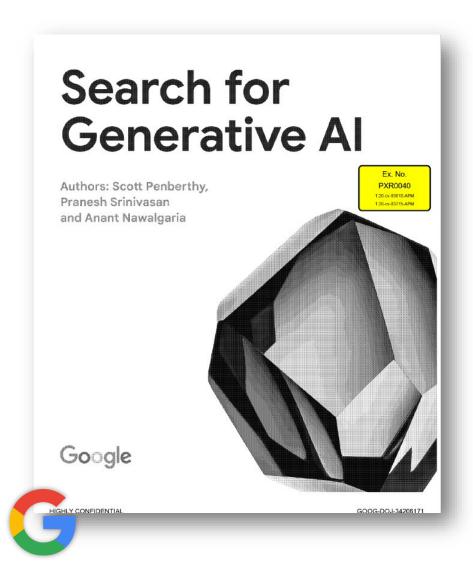


Reformulated query and document text



SZA performed with Kendrick Lamar...

Google Recognizes The Power Of Grounding LLMs



Just as humans rely on memory systems as seen in Figure 1 to recall facts, to learn, and to reason, Generative AI models rely on search. While AI models are brilliant at generating content, they need a way to anchor their outputs in reality. Search is what anchors an AI model's outputs in reality. It is a system that acts as a rapid and reliable technique to pull relevant information at lightning speed. Additionally, when these models make a claim, search assists them in verifying the model's accuracy by citing the correct sources and fast-checking any assumptions. This combination of Gen AI and search has propelled technological advancements and reshaped the digital landscape.

"While AI models are brilliant at generating content, they need a way to anchor their outputs in reality. Search is what anchors an AI model's output in reality."

Grounding Via RAG Improves LLM Accuracy

OpenAl released a dataset called "SimpleQA" with example questions:

What is the first and last name of the woman whom the British linguist Bernard Comrie married in 1985?

Closed-book GPT-40 accuracy: 38.2%

RAG makes this easy:

Personal life [edit]

Early life and education [edit]

Comrie was born in Sunderland, England on 23 May 1947. He ea undergraduate and doctoral degrees in Modern and Medieval Lau Linguistics from the University of Cambridge, [2][3] where he also t Linguistics until he moved to the Linguistics Department of the Ur California. [4]

Personal life [edit]

He married linguistics professor Akiko Kumahira in 1985. [5][6]

Failing to Ground Leads to Hallucination

Without RAG, contemporary GPT models cannot do this.

User

What is the first and last name of the woman whom the British linguist Bernard Comrie married in 1985?

Assistant

The British linguist Bernard Comrie married Susan M. Fitzmaurice in 1985.

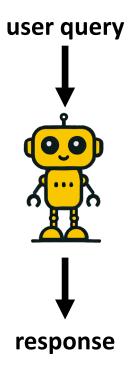
Good
 □ Bad

If repeatedly queried, the model will give a variety of different and incorrect answers.

Search Engines Are Retrieval Tools

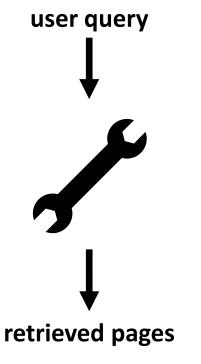
LLM

- can generate novel content,
 which can include mistakes
- retrained infrequently



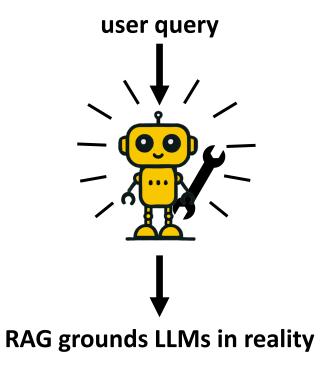
Search Engine

- no novel content is generated
- updated continuously



RAG

- generates novel content from search results
- updated continuously



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Google's Advantages In Search Are Established In The Court's Liability Opinion



- Google receives 9x more queries each day than all of its rivals combined
- On mobile, Google receives 19x more queries than all of its rivals put together
- User data is a critical input that directly **improves quality** for general search engines at every stage

Search Index



- User data is important for crawling
- User data is important for indexing
- Only Google and Bing create fulsome web search indexes
- Bing's index is poor quality

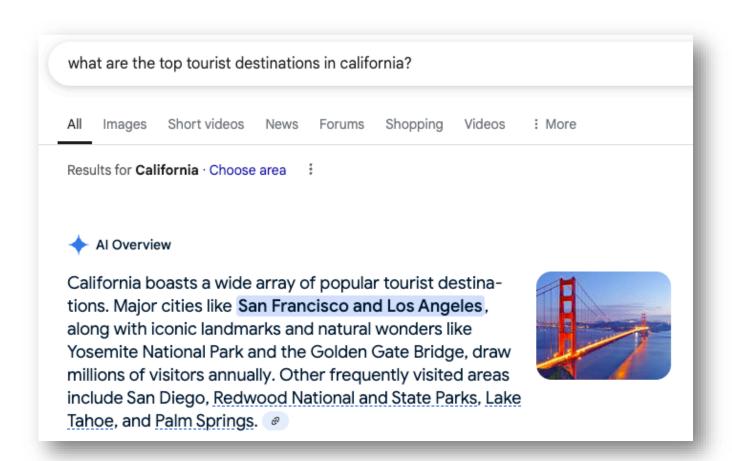
Common Crawl captured approximately 27 billion pages in the year 2024. By comparison, Google crawls billion pages *per day*.

Outline

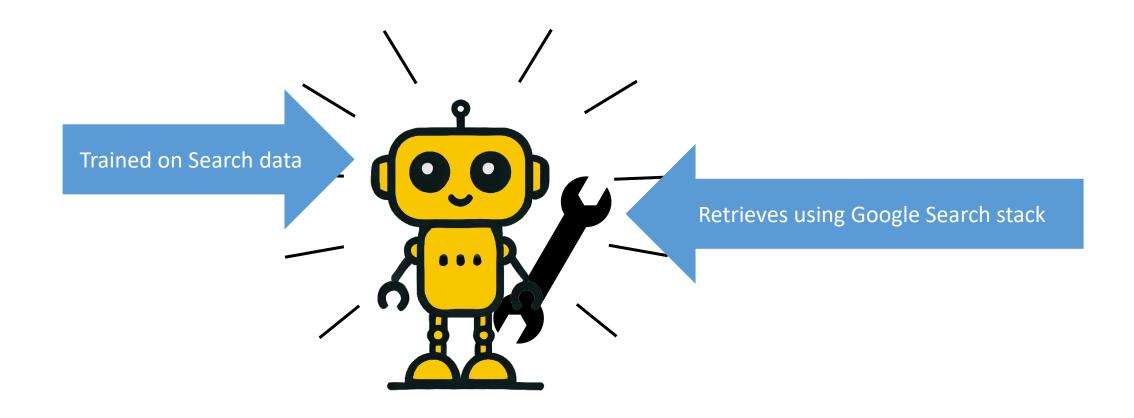
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Al Overviews

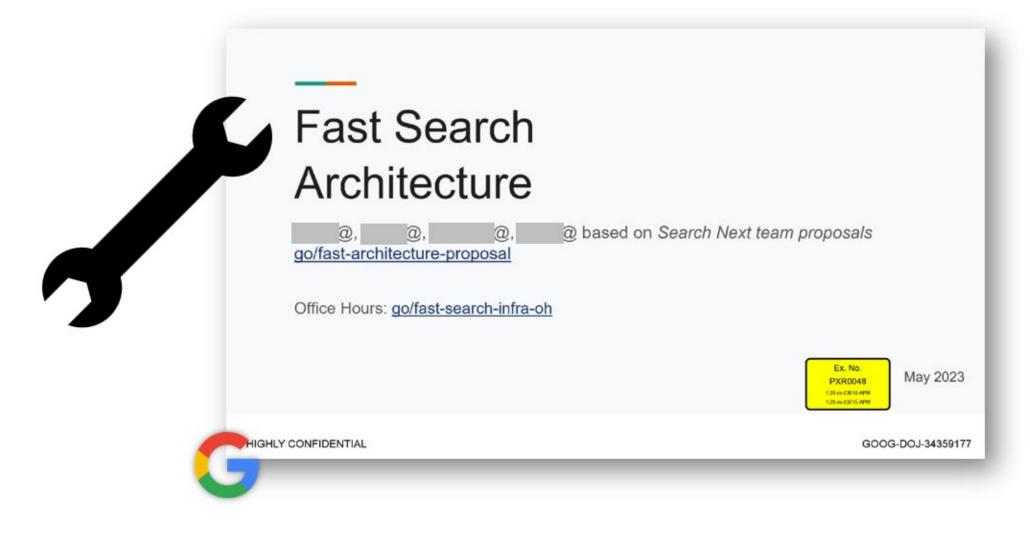
- RAG system
- Triggered on % of GoogleSearch queries.



Al Overviews relies on the Google Search stack to retrieve and generate results



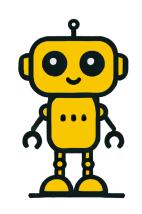
One Google Search system used by AI Overviews is Fast Search

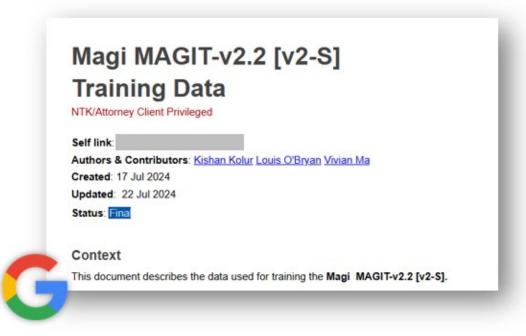


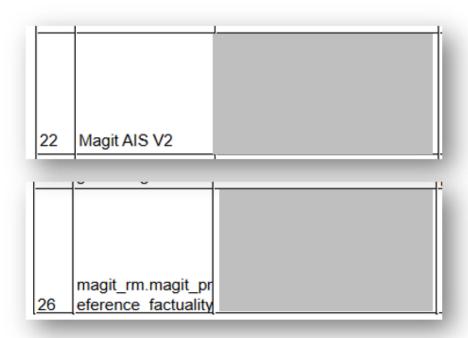
PXR0048 at -177.

Generator for AI Overview is "MAGIT"

- Gemini base model fine tuned on query data
- Fined-tuned to generate text in AI Overviews format







PXR0086 at rows 22, 26 3



Phiroze Parakh Senior Director



Q. Understood. And is any Search data used to pretrain the MAGIT model?

A. It's a search model; so yes.

Designated Testimony

Google Trains Tangram On User-Side Data



Phiroze Parakh Senior Director



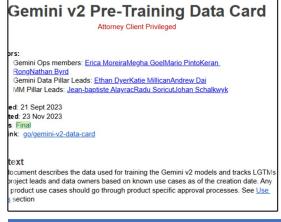
12	Q. Okay. And are the signals that Tangram
13	uses derived from the Glue model?
14	A. Yes.
15	Q. And the Glue model is user feedback data?
16	A. Yes.

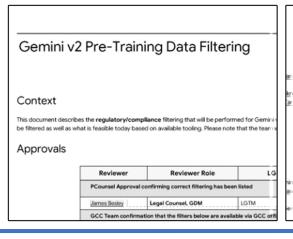
Designated Testimony

Outline

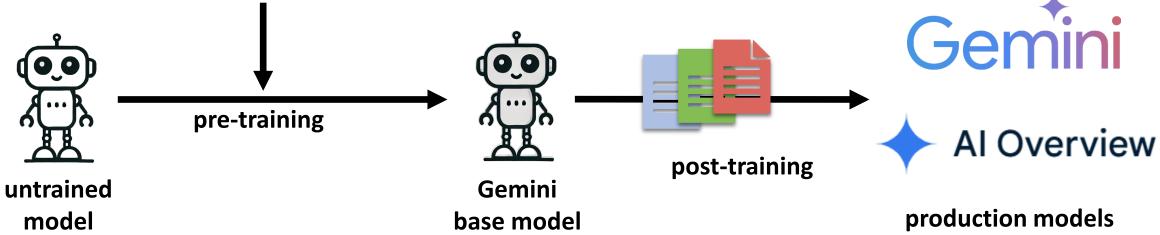
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Google's Base Models Are Building Blocks For AI Overviews And Gemini App



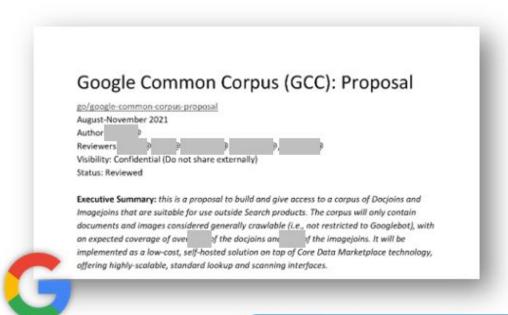






Google Uses Its Search Advantages To Build Gemini Base Models

- Google pre-trains Gemini models on GCC
- GCC and the Search Index are derived from Docjoins



Motivation

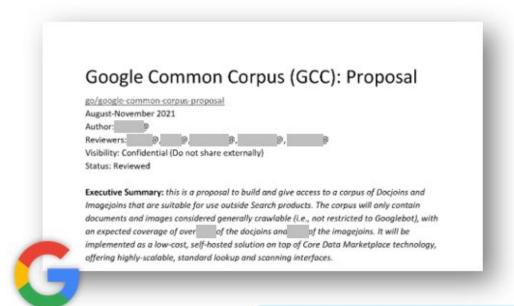
The main corpus of <u>Docjoins</u> is a large repository of the documents publicly available on the web and visited at least once by Googlebot in the last few months. It currently consists of over B documents. It is obviously an extraordinarily useful dataset of public content. By comparison, the external <u>Common Crawl</u> corpus is much smaller, with only a bit over B in the latest release. Google's ability to build such a large corpus is to some extent enabled by the willingness of content publishers to have their content crawled by Googlebot for the purpose of appearing in search results and other Search products. This means that webmasters may or may not be willing to have this content used for other purposes. At the same time, it would be very wasteful, particularly of the bandwidth and serving costs of web sites, to simply build a separate corpus of Docjoins fetched and kept up-to-date with a separate non-Search crawler. Moreover, we fully expect a large overlap between what is crawlable only with Googlebot (for Search) and what webmaster would be willing to allow other crawlers to retrieve for different purposes. Ideally, we would simply identify Docjoins that are generally available, and make them easily usable for non-Search lines of business at Google without any extra crawling.

"[Docjoins] currently consists of over B documents. It is obviously an extraordinarily useful dataset of public content. By comparison, the external Common Crawl corpus is much smaller, with only a bit over 3 B in the latest release."

PXR0185 at -116-117

Google Uses Its Search Advantages To Build Gemini Base Models

- Google pre-trains Gemini models on GCC
- GCC and the Search Index are derived from Docjoins



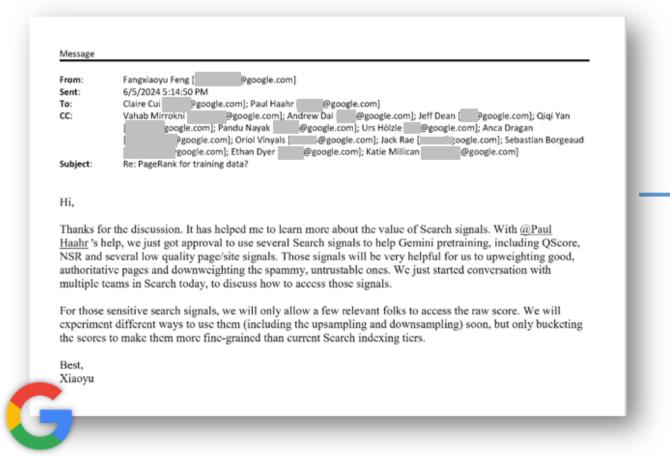
Besides considering the broad use of documents primarily fetched for building Google's Search index, it is important to be aware that the corpus of Docjoins includes not only document content but also the myriad of Search metadata and signals powering the internals of Google Search. Some of these signals are clearly very sensitive, being derived from aggregated user behavior. Expanding the uses of Docjoins must address both the intent of the webmaster and the need to limit access to only those fields in the Docjoin that are appropriate for non-Search experience products (as defined in go/search-business-data-guidelines).

"[I]t is important to be aware that the corpus of Docjoins includes not only document content but also the myriad of Search metadata and signals powering the internals of Google Search."

PXR0185 at - 116-117

Google Has Approved Using User-Side Data To Build Gemini Base Models

Search signals can be used for filtering



"[W]e just got approval to use several Search signals to help Gemini pretraining... Those signals will be very helpful for us to upweight[] good, authoritative pages and downweight[] the spammy, untrustable ones."

PXR0016 at -865.

Google Has Approved Using Query Data To Build Gemini Base Models



Phiroze Parakh
Senior Director



Q. Okay. And the first dataset that is included here for approval to be used in the Gemini v3 pretrain model is Aquarium Magi.

Do you see that?

A. Mm-hmm.

```
Q. Okay. So the data contained in this
dataset in this chart is described as following:

[As Read] The Aquarium Magi includes
Magi responses scraped from anonymized
Aquarium (web answers/Magi) queries

Do you see that?

A. Mm-hmm.
```

Designated Testimony

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Google Uses Search's Advantages In Gemini App

- Mobile application or web application
- Allows users to query Gemini models (fine-tuned from Gemini base models)

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Google Uses Search's Advantages In Gemini App



Elizabeth Reid Head of Search

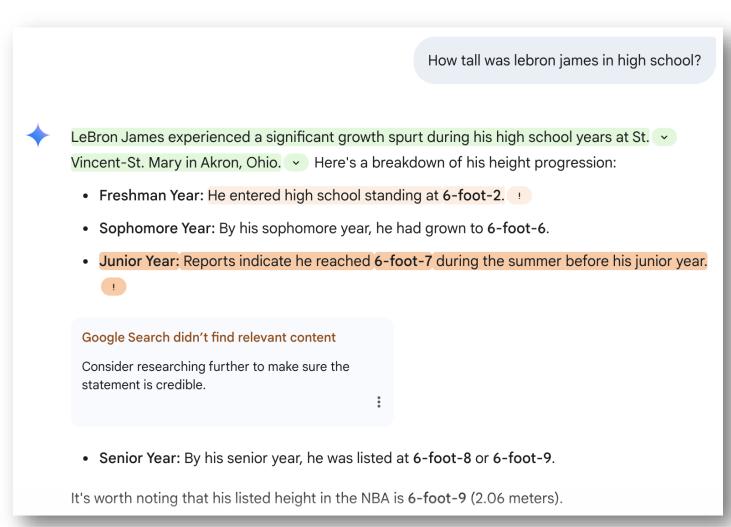


Q. Okay.
When a query is entered into the Gemini app,
are Search results returned in some way, shape, or form?
THE WITNESS: If a user enters a query in the
Gemini app, the model can decide that it would like to
ground its results in some -- some web results
information. Okay?

Deposition Testimony

Google Uses Search's Advantages In Gemini App

Gemini App grounds results



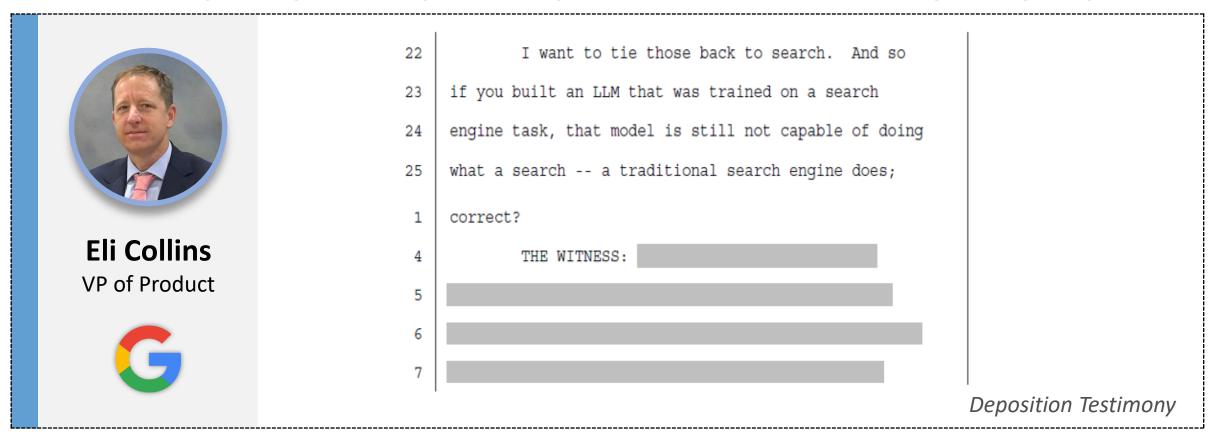
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Dr. Allan's "Reverse Engineering" Assertion Is Misleading

Dr. Allan claims that Plaintiffs' data-sharing remedies will allow rivals with access to LLM-assisted search engines to "reverse engineer" some Google's technologies

Reverse engineering some Google technologies does not constitute reverse engineering Google Search



LLMs Are Black Boxes

Controllable Al

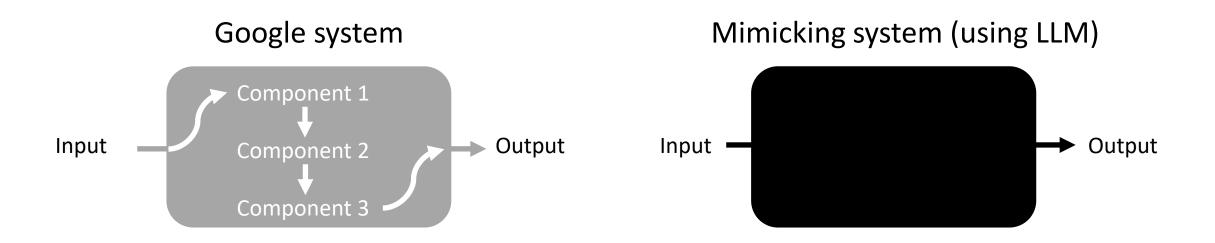
 Search over the years have developed a mature system for triage bad losses and for applying point-fix if necessary. The black-box nature of LLM makes it much harder to have this level of control. I believe this is an area that needs a lot of research. There are many loss-patterns that we don't quite know how to fix, except for engineering lots of data which can be quite time consuming and inefficient.



A mimicking LLM cannot be analyzed to reveal its internal mechanisms

PXR0096 at -329. 4

Mimicking With A Black Box Does Not Reveal A System's Implementation



- Producing a mimicking system with an LLM does not reveal any component substructure of Google's system.
- Dr. Allan does not say that a mimicking system would be as performant as the original system.

Dr. Allan's Opinions Are Missing Context



PXR0048 at -186. 5

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Dr. Hitt Mischaracterizes The Use Of Data For Gen Al Training

- Dr. Hitt's technical claim that "there are many sources of accessible, highquality, and substitutable data" for training LLMs is wrong
- Dr. Hitt's analysis is flawed:



Dr. Hitt does not consider Google's Search Index in his assessment of pre-training data sources



Dr. Hitt ignores how Google can use User-side data to filter pre-training data for Gemini Base Models



Dr. Hitt ignores how Google uses User-side data to develop and improve Al Overviews



Dr. Hitt ignores that the use synthetic data is widely considered to be experimental

Hitt Acknowledges Gemini App Heavily Relies On Search



Lorin Hitt
Google Economics
Expert



result from the model.²¹⁵ Further, I understand that currently the Gemini app uses the Google Search API results for grounding its responses to only approximately 6 of prompts.²¹⁶ The

The Gemini App calls upon the Search API for around percent of prompts, though this figure is fluid.

Expert Report

Key Opinions

Google's Gen AI Models and Products integrate Google Search, Google's Search Index, and User-side data

Google's advantages in Search assist it in building high quality Gen Al Models and Products