

# Language Models and Human Language Acquisition

Alex Warstadt  
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**ETH** zürich

For most of history, humans were the only thing in the known universe that could learn language.

In the last few years, remarkable improvements in neural language models (LMs) make us seem a little less unique.

Timeline: Things that can “learn language”  
(*not to scale*)

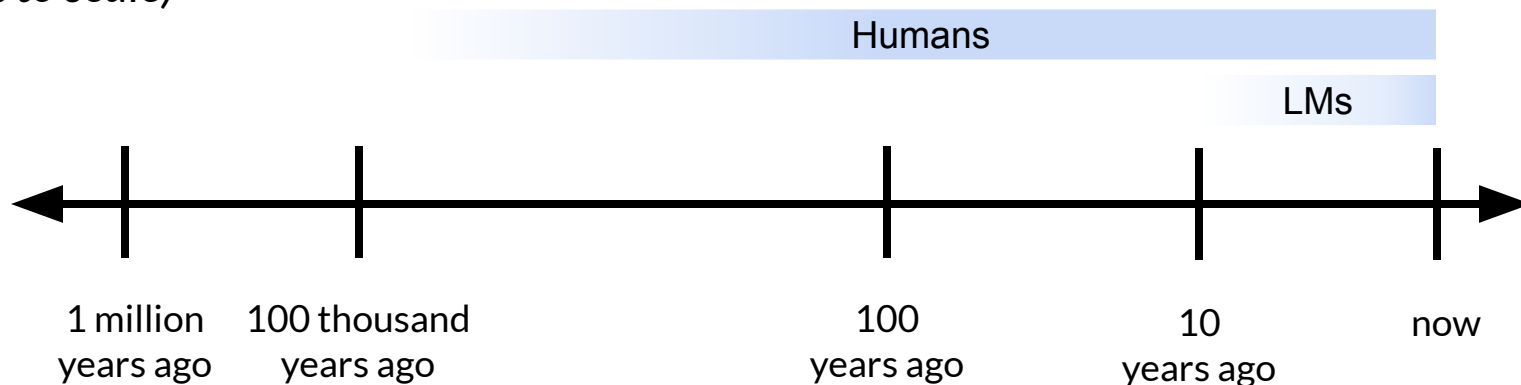




Figure 1: The Transformer - model architecture.

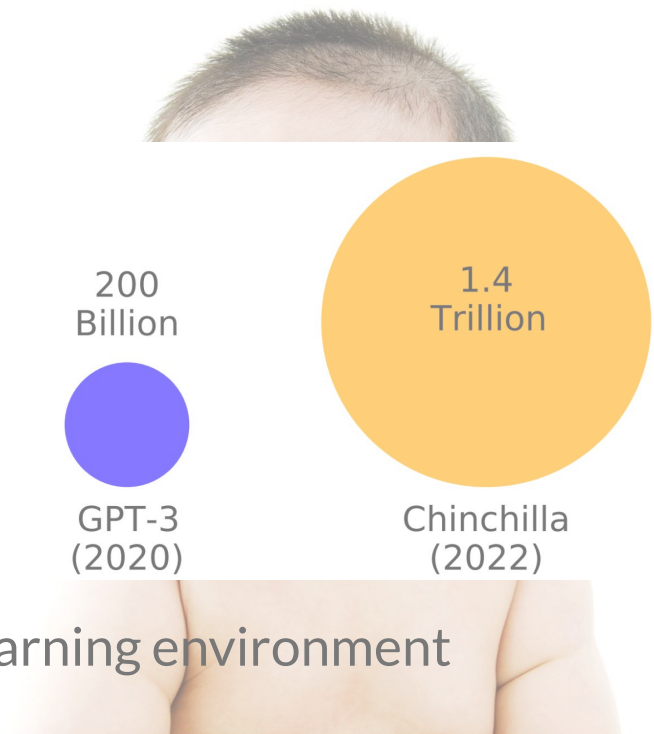


Figure 2: Human baby

Carried out language deprivation experiments in learning environment

# Roadmap

A graphic of a winding asphalt road with white dashed lines, curving from the bottom left towards the top right. Four callout boxes are placed along the road, each containing a number and a text label. The first callout is highlighted in teal, while the others are light gray. The numbers 1, 2, and 3 are in gray circles, while the number 4 is in a teal circle.

1

BACKGROUND

2

INDUCTIVE BIAS

3

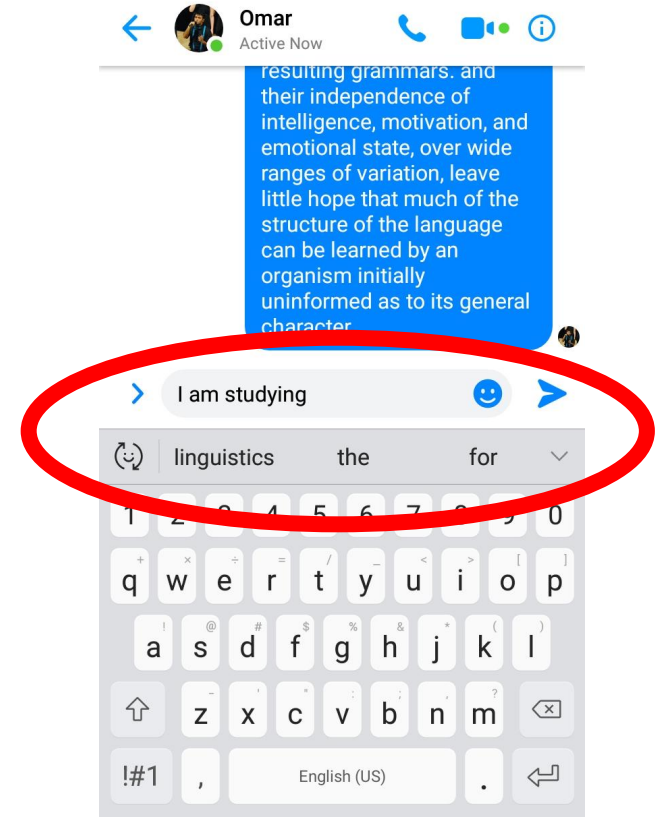
INDIRECT EVIDENCE

4

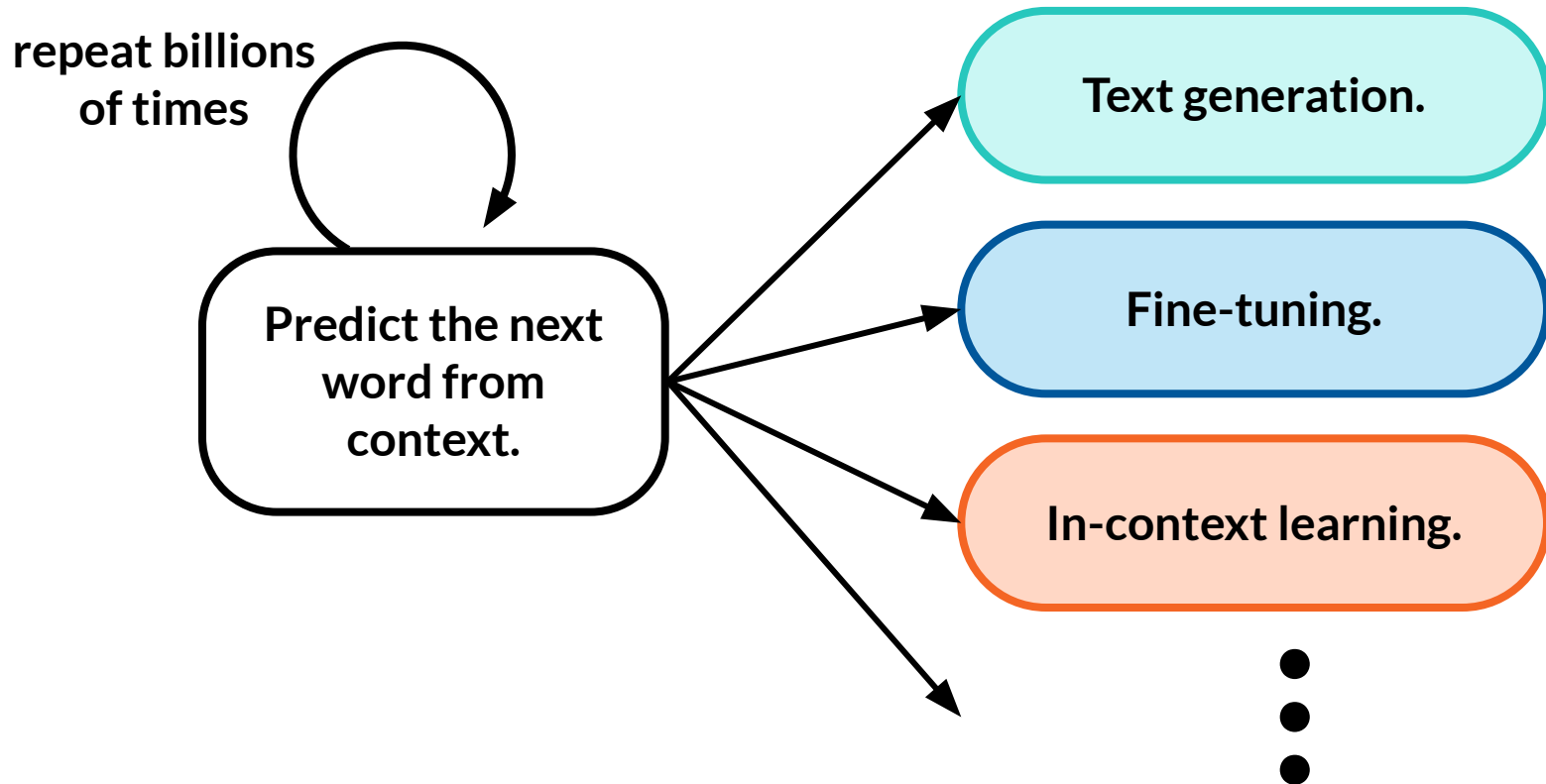
FUTURE DIRECTIONS

# ...but first, what is a language model?

$$p(x_1, \dots, x_T)$$



# Language Modeling as Pretraining

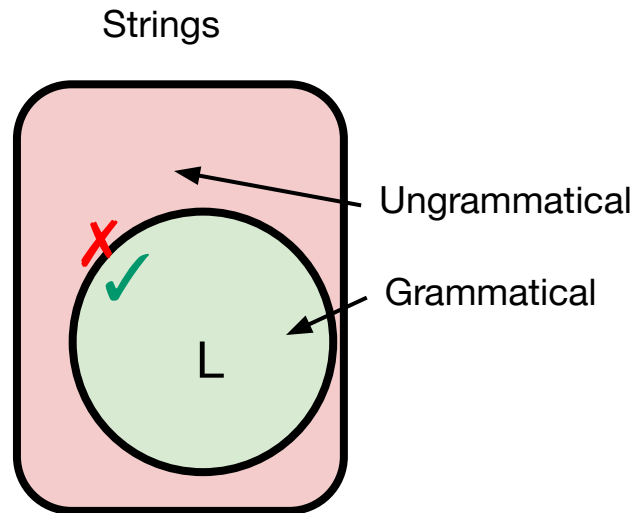


# Minimal Pairs

A pair of two nearly identical sentences which differ in acceptability.

✓ Betsy is eager to sleep.

✗ Betsy is easy to sleep.



1. Targeted
2. Reproducible
3. Unsupervised

$$P_{LM}(S_{\checkmark}) > P_{LM}(S_{\times})$$

# The Benchmark of Linguistic Minimal Pairs (BLiMP)

(Warstadt et al., 2020)

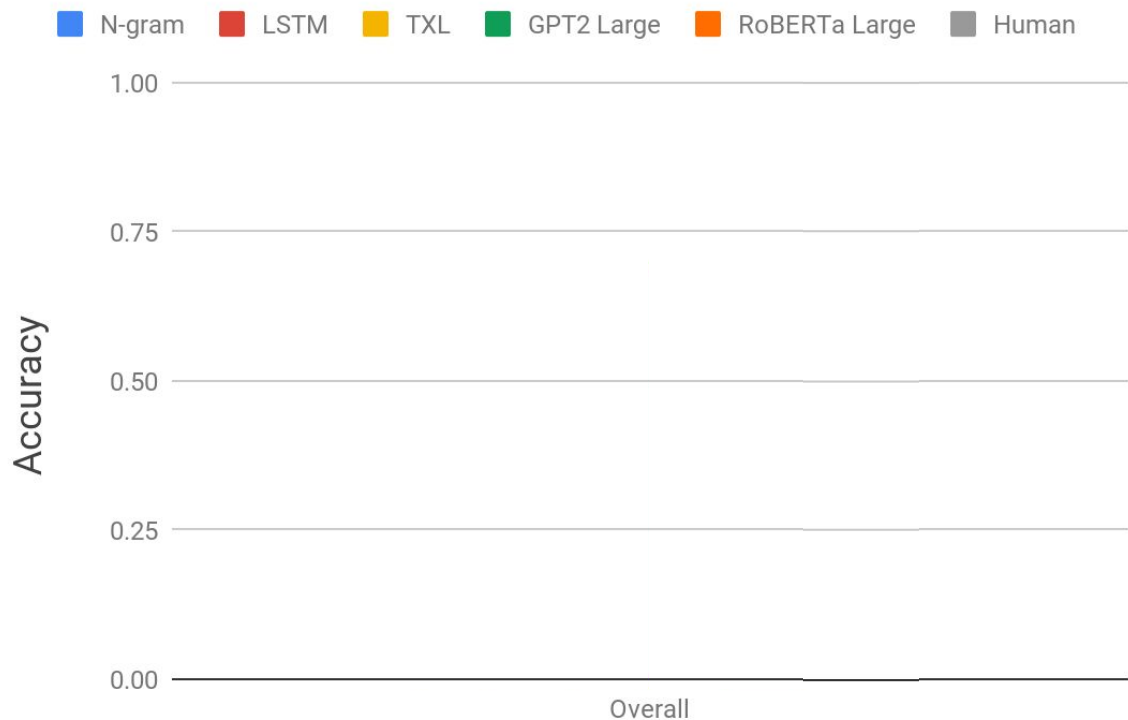
Phenomenon	N	Acceptable Example	Unacceptable Example
ANAPHOR AGR.	2	<i>Many girls insulted <u>themselves</u>.</i>	<i>Many girls insulted <u>herself</u>.</i>
ARG. STRUCTURE	9	<i>Rose wasn't <u>disturbing</u> Mark.</i>	<i>Rose wasn't <u>boasting</u> Mark.</i>
BINDING	7	<i>Carlos said that Lori helped <u>him</u>.</i>	<i>Carlos said that Lori helped <u>himself</u>.</i>
CONTROL/RAISING	5	<i>There was <u>bound</u> to be a fish escaping.</i>	<i>There was <u>unable</u> to be a fish escaping.</i>
DET.-NOUN AGR.	8	<i>Rachelle had bought that <u>chair</u>.</i>	<i>Rachelle had bought that <u>chairs</u>.</i>
ELLIPSIS	2	<i>Anne's doctor cleans one <u>important</u> book and Stacey cleans a few.</i>	<i>Anne's doctor cleans one book and Stacey cleans a few <u>important</u>.</i>
FILLER-GAP	7	<i>Brett knew <u>what</u> many waiters find.</i>	<i>Brett knew <u>that</u> many waiters find.</i>
IRREGULAR FORMS	2	<i>Aaron <u>broke</u> the unicycle.</i>	<i>Aaron <u>broken</u> the unicycle.</i>
ISLAND EFFECTS	8	<i>Whose <u>hat</u> should Tonya wear?</i>	<i>Whose should Tonya wear <u>hat</u>?</i>
NPI LICENSING	7	<i>The truck has <u>clearly</u> tipped over.</i>	<i>The truck has <u>ever</u> tipped over.</i>
QUANTIFIERS	4	<i>No boy knew <u>fewer than</u> six guys.</i>	<i>No boy knew <u>at most</u> six guys.</i>
SUBJECT-VERB AGR.	6	<i>These casseroles <u>disgust</u> Kayla.</i>	<i>These casseroles <u>disgusts</u> Kayla.</i>

- 67 different minimal pair contrasts
- 1000 sentences each
- 12 broad categories



# The Benchmark of Linguistic Minimal Pairs (BLiMP)

(Warstadt et al., 2020)



# The MiniBERTas



RoBERTa Base

30B words



1M words



10M words

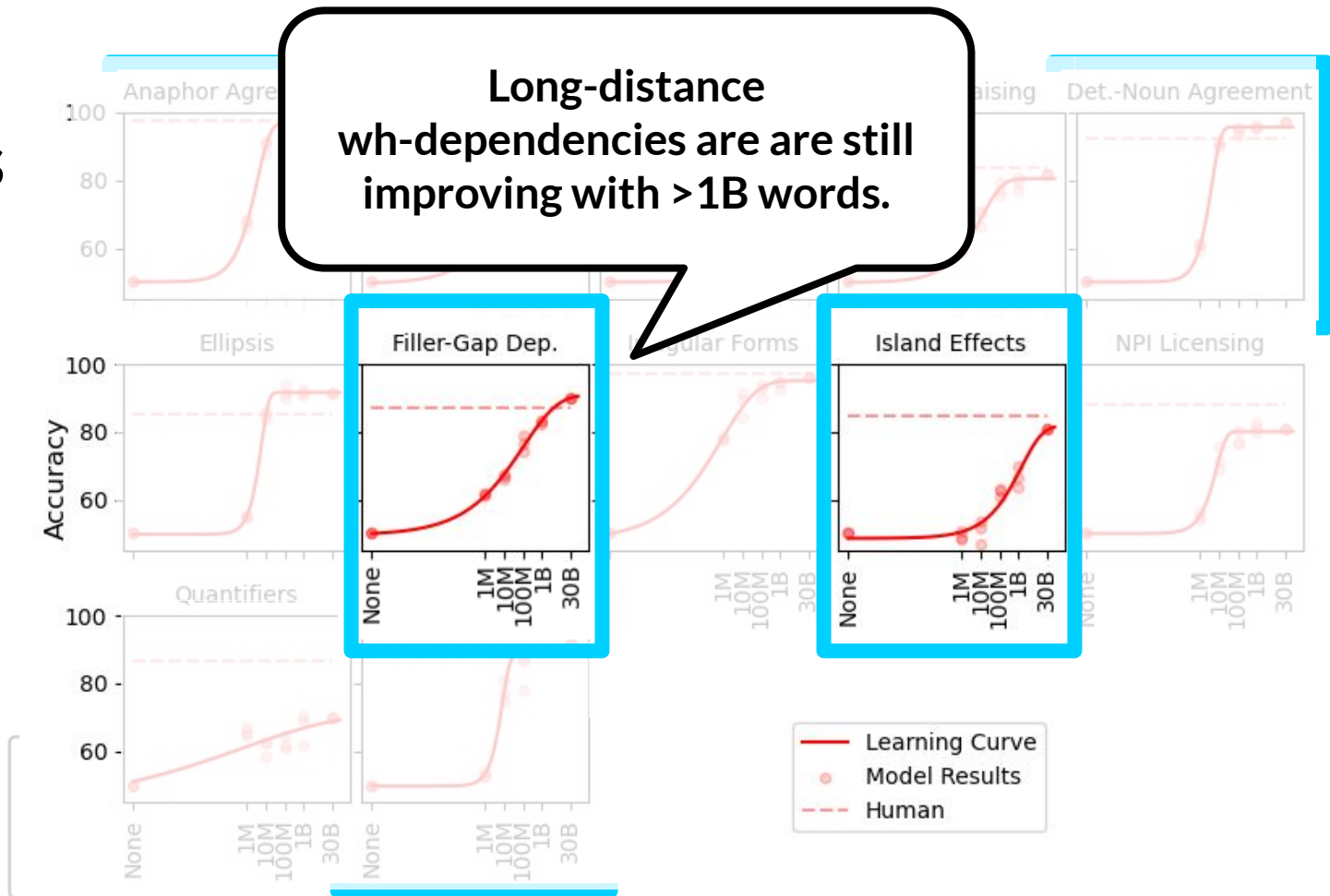


100M words

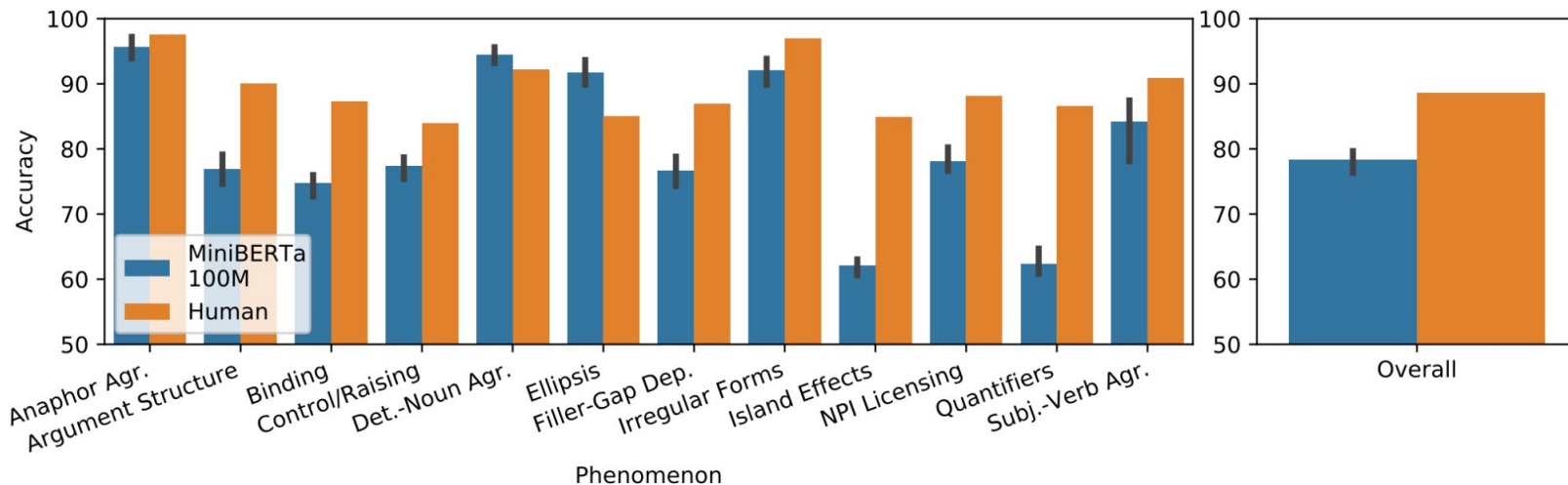


1B words

# The MiniBERTas on BLiMP



# The Data Efficiency Gap



# Roadmap

1

BACKGROUND

2

INDUCTIVE BIAS

## Summary

### Neural Network Acceptability Judgments

**Alex Warstadt**  
New York University  
warstadt@nyu.edu

**Amanpreet Singh**  
New York University  
Facebook AI Research\*  
amanpreet@nyu.edu

**Samuel R. Bowman**  
New York University  
bowman@nyu.edu

In TACL, 2018.

### BLiMP: The Benchmark of Linguistic Minimal Pairs for English

**Alex Warstadt<sup>1</sup>, Alicia Parrish<sup>1</sup>, Haokun Liu<sup>2</sup>, Anhad Mohananey<sup>2</sup>,  
Wei Peng<sup>2</sup>, Sheng-Fu Wang<sup>1</sup>, Samuel R. Bowman<sup>1,2,3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Department of Linguistics <sup>2</sup>Department of Computer Science <sup>3</sup>Center for Data Science  
New York University New York University New York University

In TACL, 2020.

### When Do You Need Billions of Words of Pretraining Data?

**Yian Zhang<sup>\*,1</sup>, Alex Warstadt<sup>\*,2</sup>, Haau-Sing Li<sup>3</sup>, and Samuel R. Bowman<sup>1,2,3</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Dept. of Computer Science, <sup>2</sup>Dept. of Linguistics, <sup>3</sup>Center for Data Science  
New York University

At EMNLP, 2020.

CTIONS

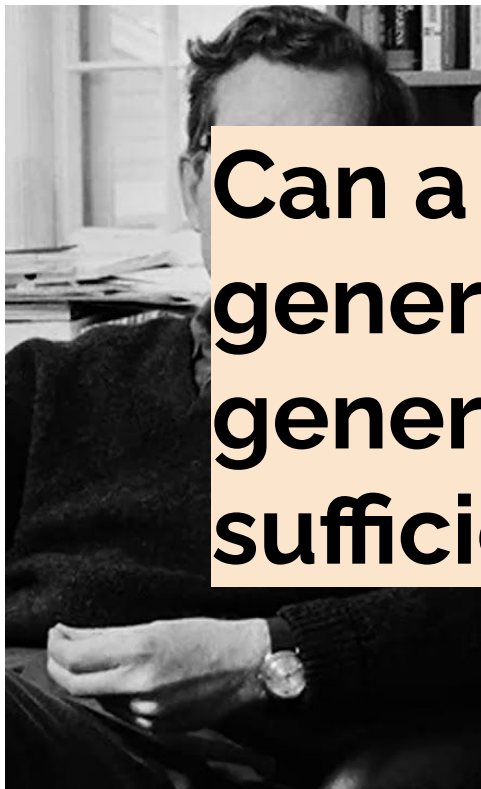
# Acquiring Inductive Bias



Inductive biases determine how a learner generalizes given ambiguity in the input.

Language model pretraining is thought to work because it “*induces a hypothesis space  $H$  that should be useful for many other NLP tasks*” (Howard & Ruder, 2018)

# Linguistic vs. Surface Bias



Can a preference for linguistic generalizations over surface generalizations be acquired with sufficient exposure to language?

of a symbol in the middle of a string of even length.

# Poverty of the Stimulus Design

**Wilson, 2006** (see also McCoy et al. 2018, 2020; Warstadt & Bowman, 2020; Kim & Linzen, 2020; Hupkes et al., 2022; and others)

## Ambiguous Training Data

Label=1

The boy who hugged a cat is sneezing.

Label=0

A boy who is hugging the cat sneezed.

Label=1

The guest is saying that a boat sinks.

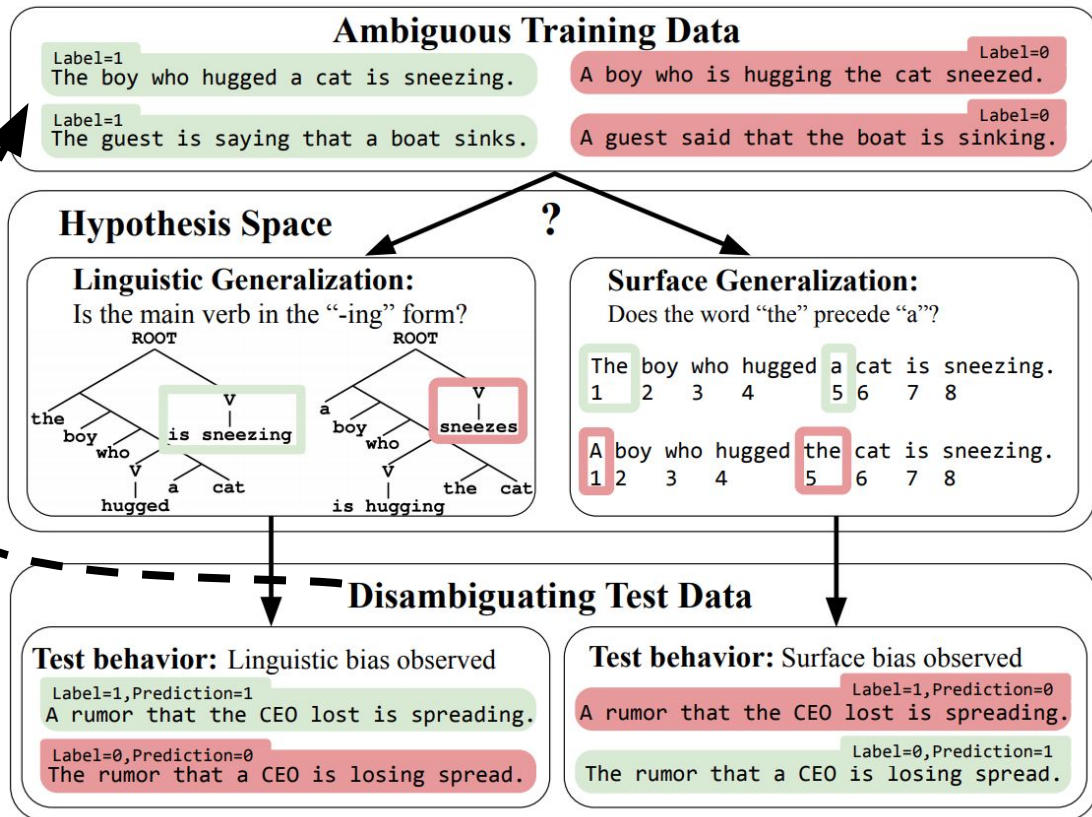
Label=0

A guest said that the boat is sinking.



# Poverty of the Stimulus Design +Inoculation

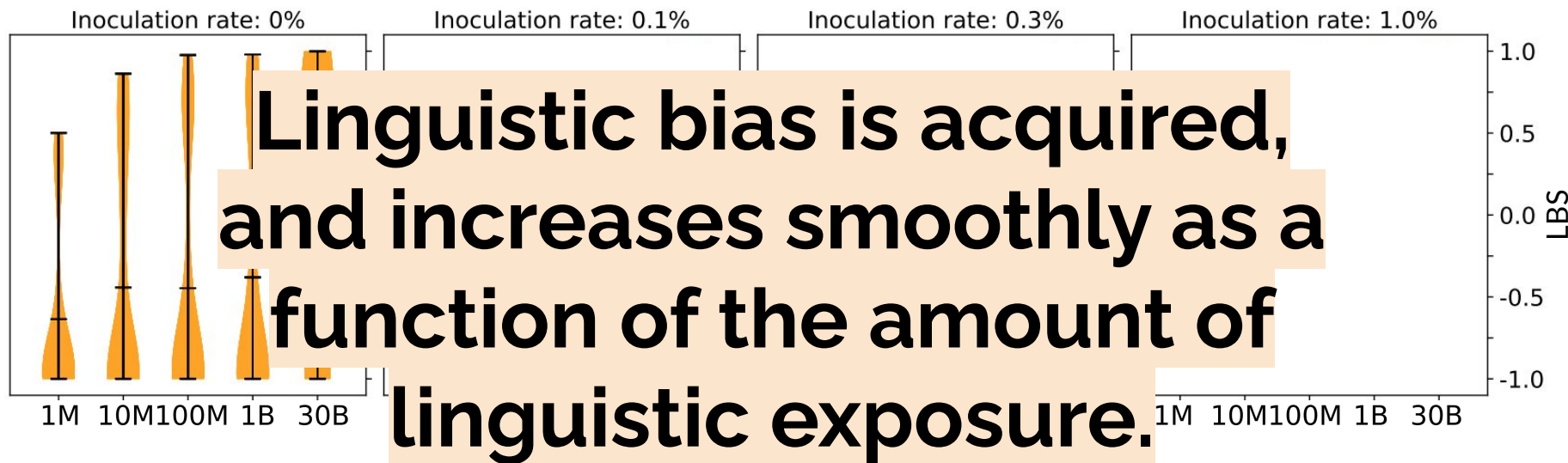
Inoculation data:  
0.1% | 0.3% | 1%



# Mixed Signals Generalization dataSet (MSGs)

	Feature type	Feature description	Positive example	Negative example
<b>Surface</b>	Absolute position	Is the first token of S “the”?	The cat chased a mouse.	A cat chased a mouse.
	Length	Is S longer than $n$ (e.g., 3) words?	The cat chased a mouse.	The cat meowed.
	Lexical content	Does S contain “the”?	That cat chased the mouse.	That cat chased a mouse.
	Relative position	Does “the” precede “a”?	The cat chased a mouse.	A cat chased the mouse.
	Orthography	Does S appear in title case?	The Cat Chased a Mouse.	The cat chased a mouse.
<b>Linguistic</b>	Morphology	Does S have an irregular past verb?	The cats slept.	The cats meow.
	Syn. category	Does S have an adjective?	Lincoln was tall.	Lincoln was president.
	Syn. construction	Is S the control construction?	Sue is eager to sleep.	Sue is likely to sleep.
	Syn. position	Is the main verb in “ing” form?	Cats who eat mice are purring.	Cats who are eating mice purr.

# Results on MSGS



Linguistic bias score (LBS) =  $\begin{cases} 1, & \text{if fully linguistic} \\ -1, & \text{if fully surface} \end{cases}$

# Roadmap

1

BACKGROUND

2

INDUCTIVE BIAS

3

INDIRECT EVIDENCE

4

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

**Learning Which Features Matter: RoBERTa Acquires a Preference for Linguistic Generalizations (Eventually)**

Alex Warstadt,<sup>1</sup> Yian Zhang,<sup>2</sup> Haau-Sing Li,<sup>3</sup> Haokun Liu,<sup>3</sup> Samuel R. Bowman<sup>1,2,3</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Dept. of Linguistics, <sup>2</sup>Dept. of Computer Science, <sup>3</sup>Center for Data Science  
New York University

At EMNLP, 2020.

Why should we conduct language acquisition  
exp

**How does the distribution  
of syntactic phenomena in  
the input affect grammatical  
generalization?**

al design

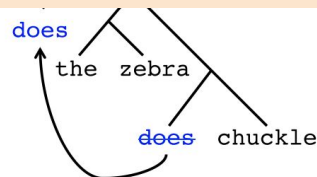
# Subject Auxiliary Inversion

The zebra **does** chuckle.

**Does** the zebra chuckle?

**Adults always acquire the  
syntactic generalization...  
Children never even entertain  
the surface generalization.**

(Crain and Nakayama, 1987) the zebra **does** chuckle



## Poverty of the stimulus → Innate bias?

“Surely, if children hear enough [disambiguating examples], then they could reject the [linear] hypothesis. But if such evidence is virtually absent from the linguistic data, one cannot but conclude that children do not entertain the [linear] hypothesis, because the knowledge of structure dependency is innate.”

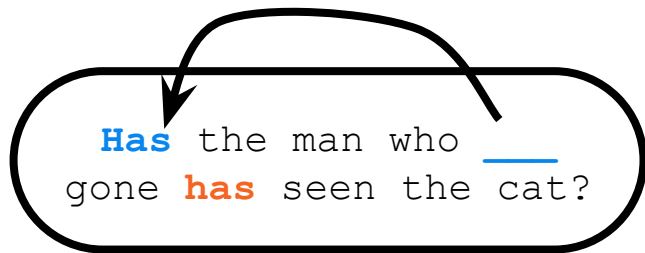
(Legate & Yang, 2001)

The man who **has** gone **has** seen the cat.

## Surface

### Generalization:

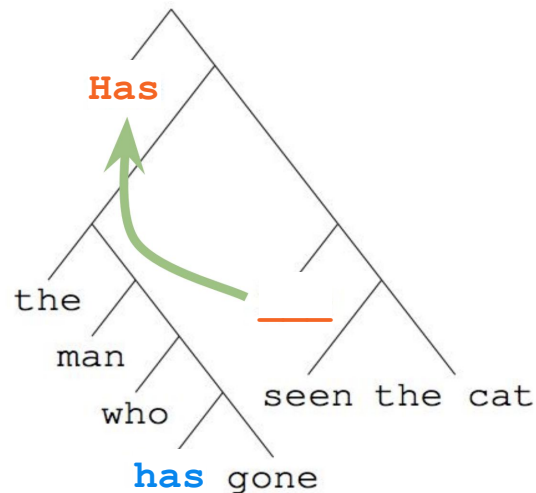
Move the first auxiliary to the front.



## Linguistic

### Generalization:

Move the structurally highest auxiliary to the front.





# The Indirect Evidence Hypothesis

While a child may not receive direct evidence about the correctness of a particular hierarchical phrase structure rule..., there is vast indirect evidence for the general superiority of syntax with that structure throughout language. A learner who adopts a hierarchical phrase structure framework for describing the syntax of English will arrive at a much simpler, more explanatory account of her observations than a learner who adopts a linear framework.

(Perfors, Tenenbaum, Regier, 2011)

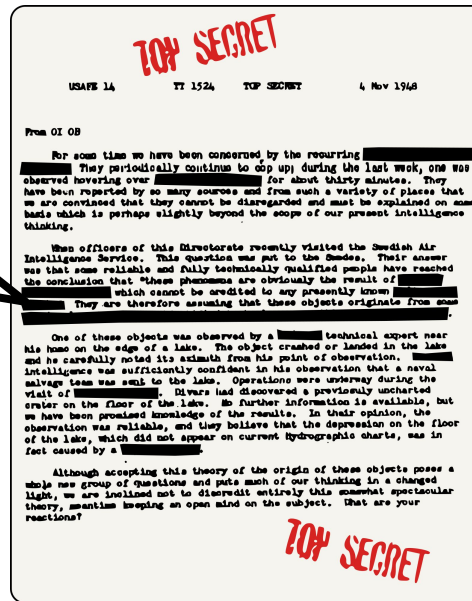
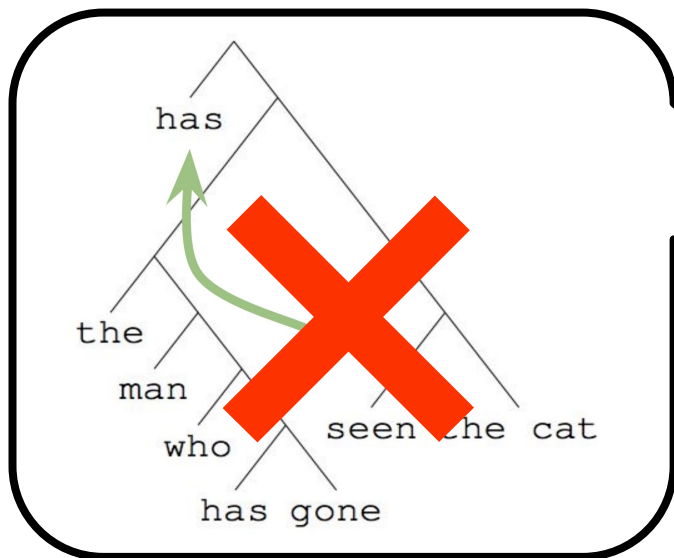
# LMs and Subject Auxiliary Inversion

Earlier findings:

- **LMs trained from scratch** on ambiguous data usually adopt the **surface generalization**. (McCoy, Frank, and Linzen, 2018, 2020; Petty and Frank, 2022)
- **Pretrained LMs fine-tuned** on ambiguous data usually adopt the **linguistic generalization**. (Warstadt and Bowman, 2020; Mueller et al. 2020)

**Confound: Pretraining data contains some direct evidence.**

# Language Deprivation Experiment



Questions:

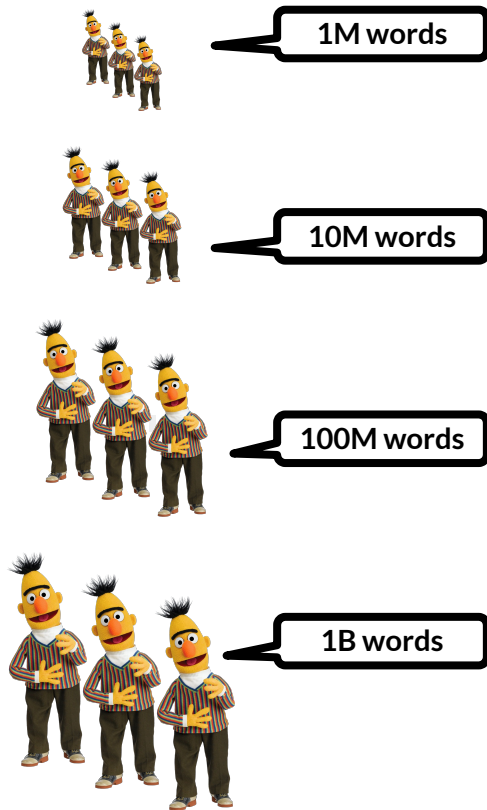
1. Does direct evidence have a causal impact on generalization?
2. Is indirect evidence sufficient to learn the linguistic generalization?

# Models

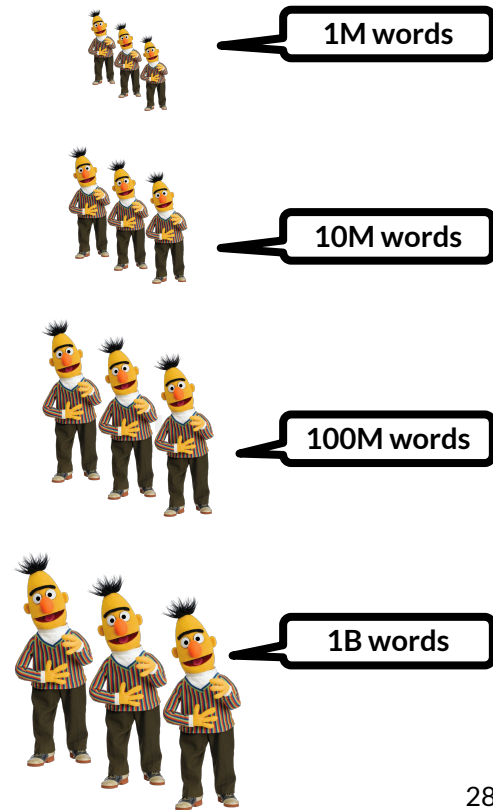
48 RoBERTa models  
pretrained from  
scratch

- 2 main conditions
- 4 sizes
- 3 runs (failed runs discarded)
- 2 domains (written, spoken)

Filtered Condition



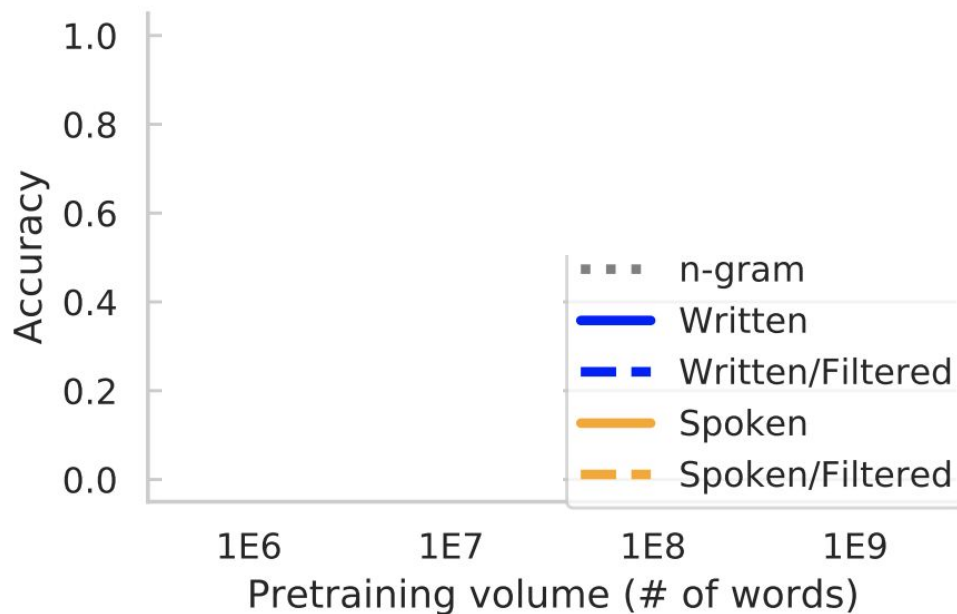
Unfiltered Condition  
(control)



# Results: General acceptability judgments on BLiMP

Question: Did the removal of direct evidence have effects on unrelated phenomena?

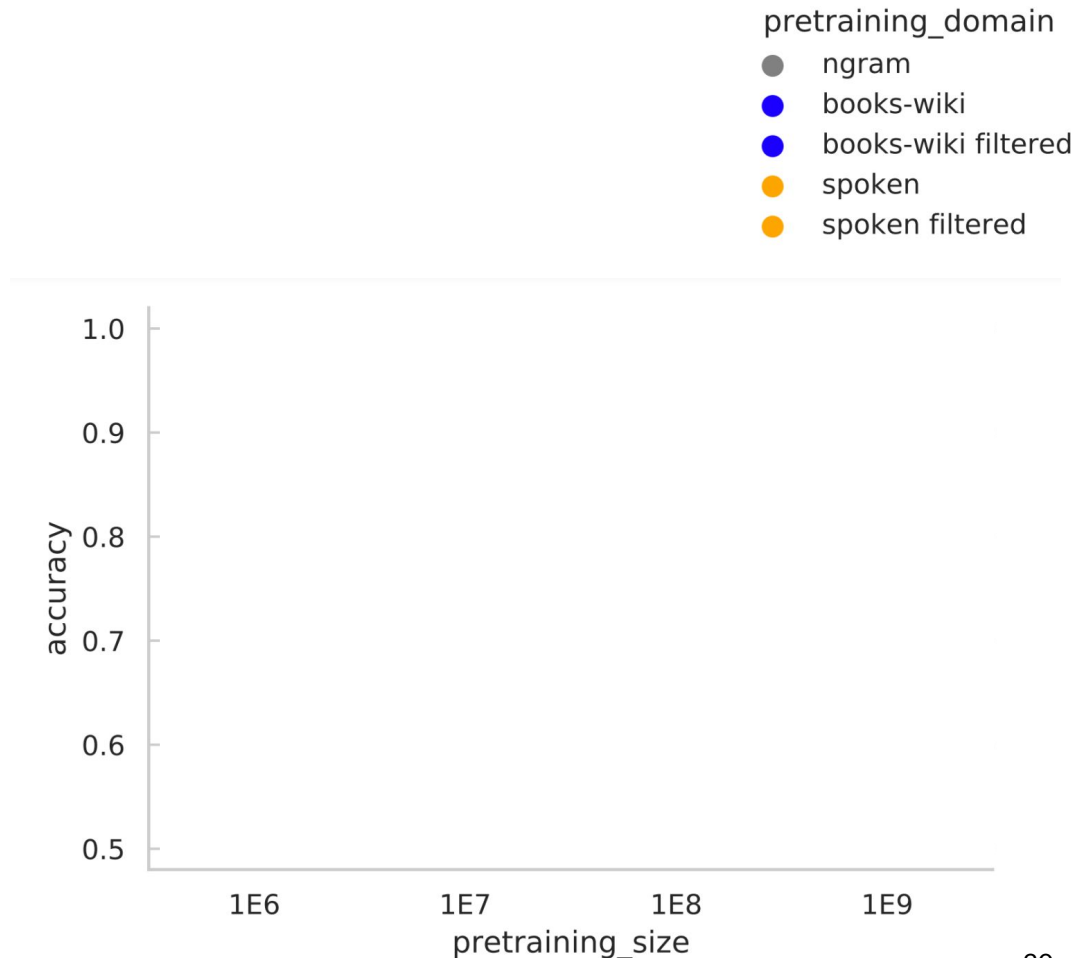
**Answer: No**



# Results: Subject Aux Inversion

Question: Did the removal of direct evidence affect generalization on subject auxiliary inversion?

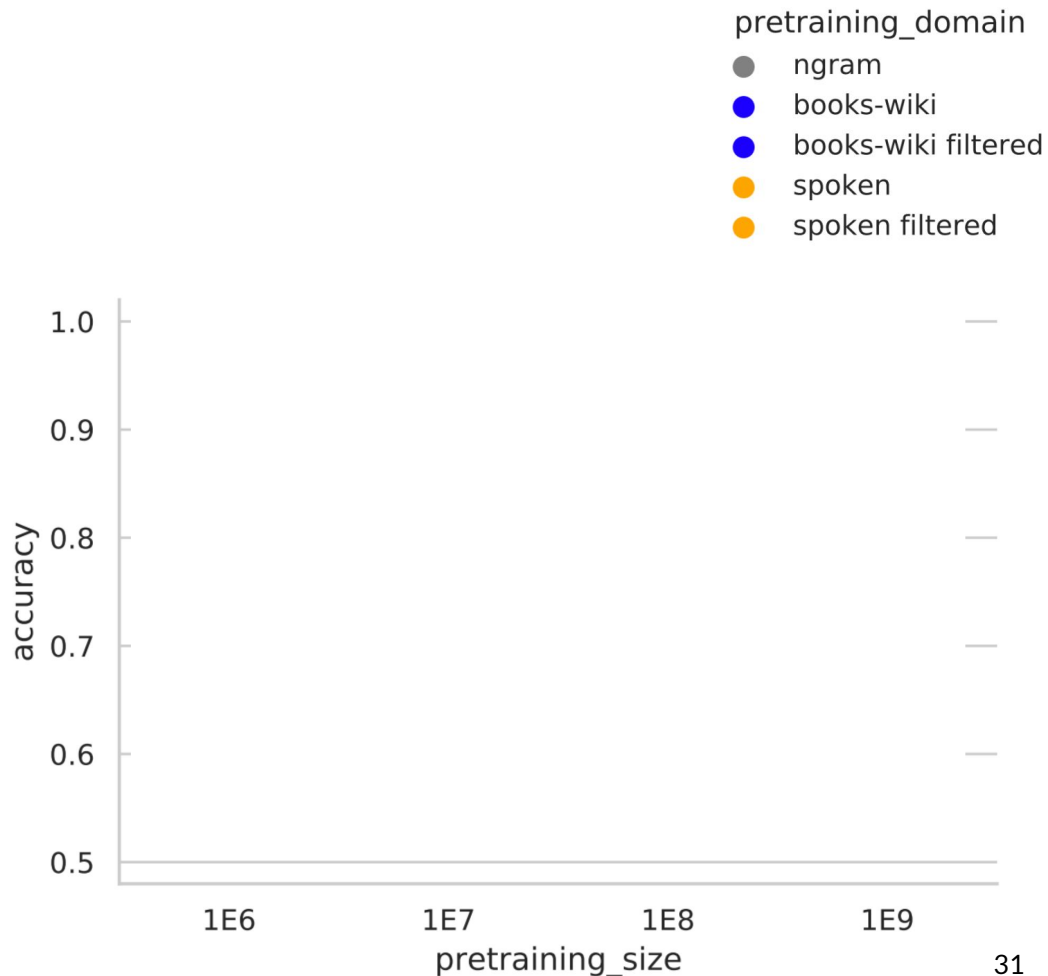
**Answer: Slightly, only in the written domain.**



# Results: Subject Aux Inversion

Question: Is indirect evidence sufficient to acquire the linguistic generalization?

**Answer: Yes, but only in the best case.**



# Roadmap

## Summary

CHAPTER 6

The Role of Indirect Evidence in Grammar Learning:  
Investigations with Causal Manipulations of the  
Learning Environment

Dissertation, NYU, 2022.

**Can neural networks acquire a structural bias from raw linguistic data?**

**Alex Warstadt** ([warstadt@nyu.edu](mailto:warstadt@nyu.edu))  
Department of Linguistics, New York University  
New York, NY 10003 USA

**Samuel R. Bowman** ([bowman@nyu.edu](mailto:bowman@nyu.edu))  
Department of Linguistics & Center for Data Science & Department of Computer Science, New York University  
New York, NY 10003 USA

CogSci, 2020.

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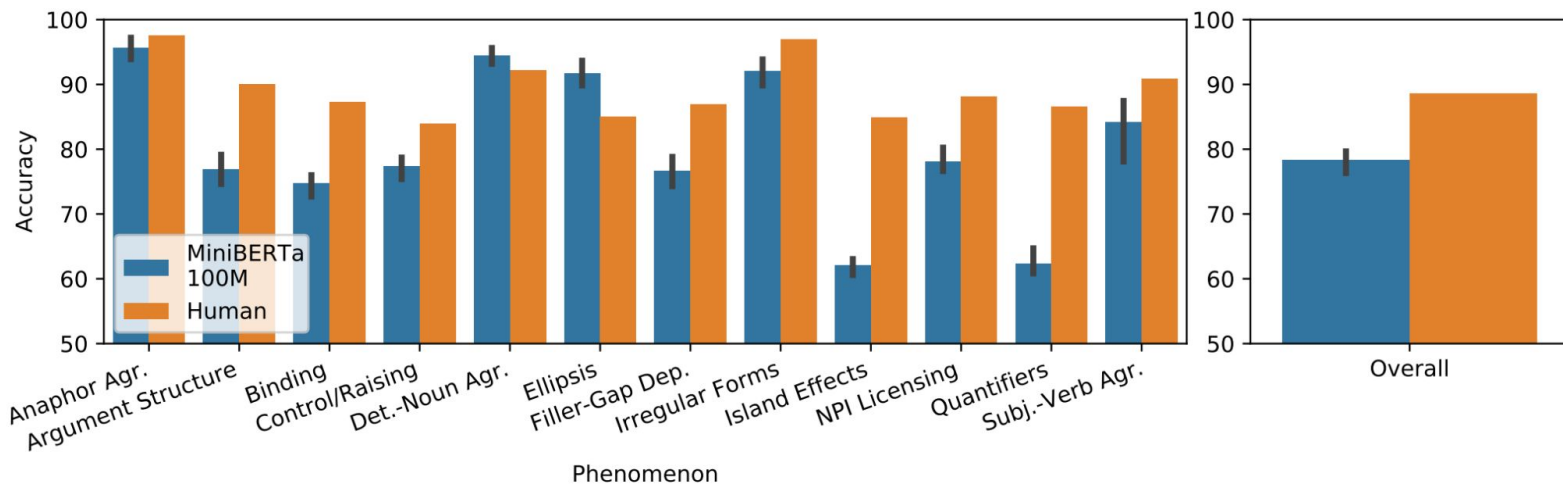
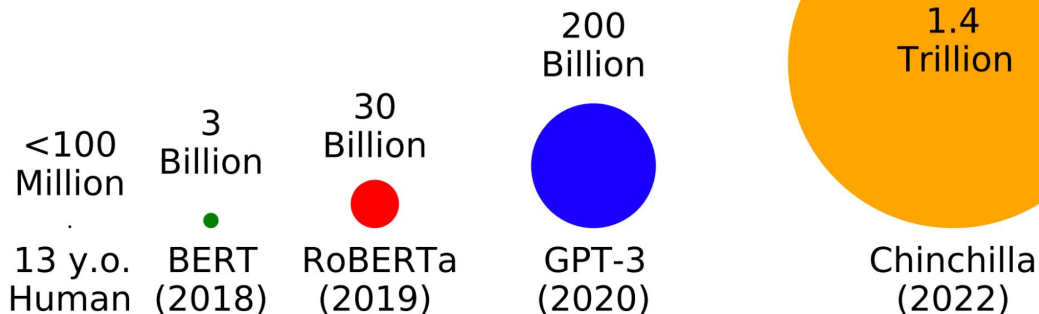
INDIRECT EVIDENCE

4

FUTURE DIRECTIONS



# Advantages & Disadvantages: The data efficiency gap



# UPCOMING Shared task @ CMCL/CoNLL 2023



## Objectives: **Challenge**

**1. Data efficient pretraining** plausible corpus

**2. Plausible cognitive models**

**3. Democratization of pretraining research**

- 100 million words
- Mostly transcribed speech
- Test on acceptance and downstream tasks

Track 1: Strict

- 100 million words
- Unlimited non-linguistic data
- Unlimited model-generated data

Track 2: Strict-small

Track 3: Loose

# Is a Picture Really Worth a Thousand Words

(with Theodor Amariucaï & Ryan Cotterell)



*Big Question: How much can we close data-efficiency gap using multimodal input?*

Prior work:

- Multimodal vision + text models are becoming ubiquitous.
- Models are typically pretrained LMs, fine-tuned on captions data.
- Models are rarely tested in a language-only setting.

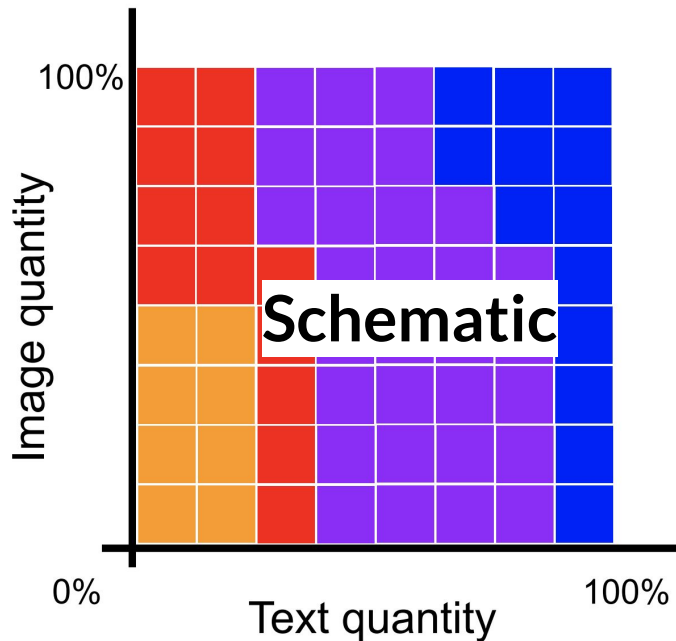
Our approach: Multitask multimodal learning on complex and abstract texts.

# Is a Picture Really Worth a Thousand Words

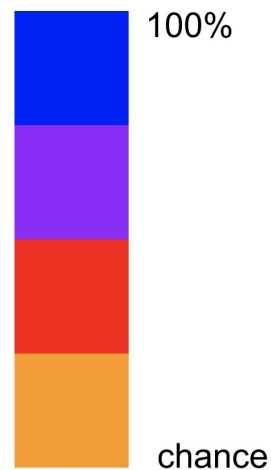
(with Theodor Amariuca & Ryan Cotterell)



Some Probing Task



Performance



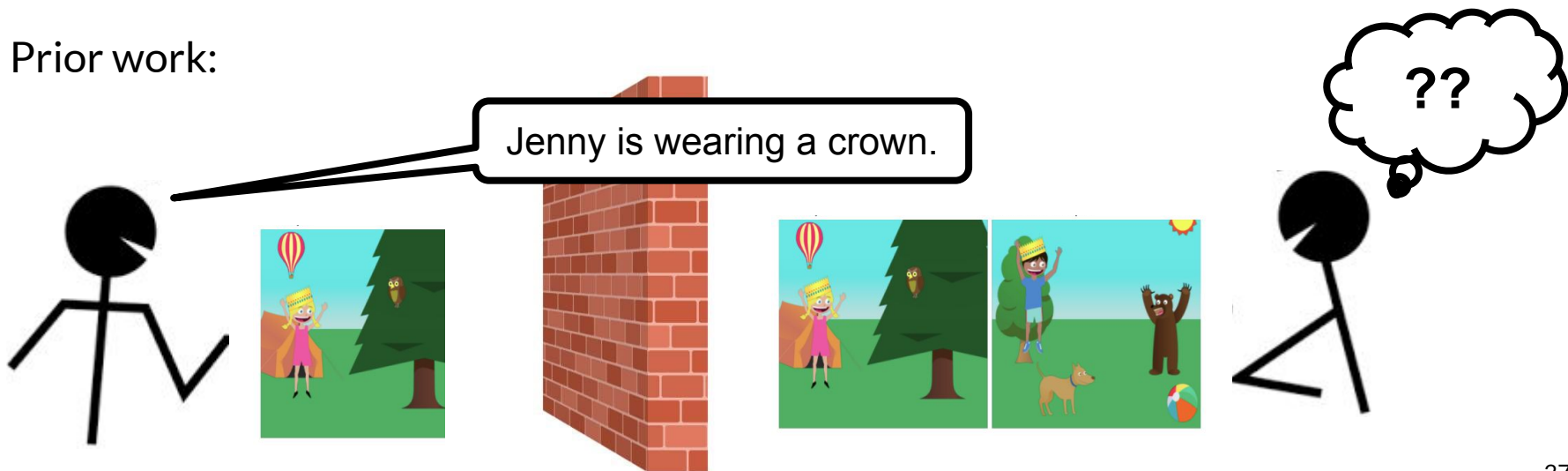
# Interactive Language Mode

(With Lennart Stoepler, Mitja Nikolaus,  
and Ryan Cotterell)



*Big Question: How much can we close data-efficiency  
using inter-agent interaction*

Prior work:

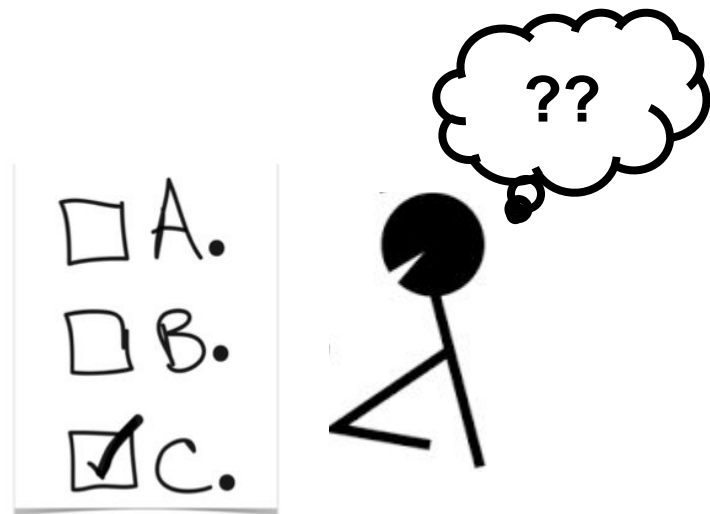
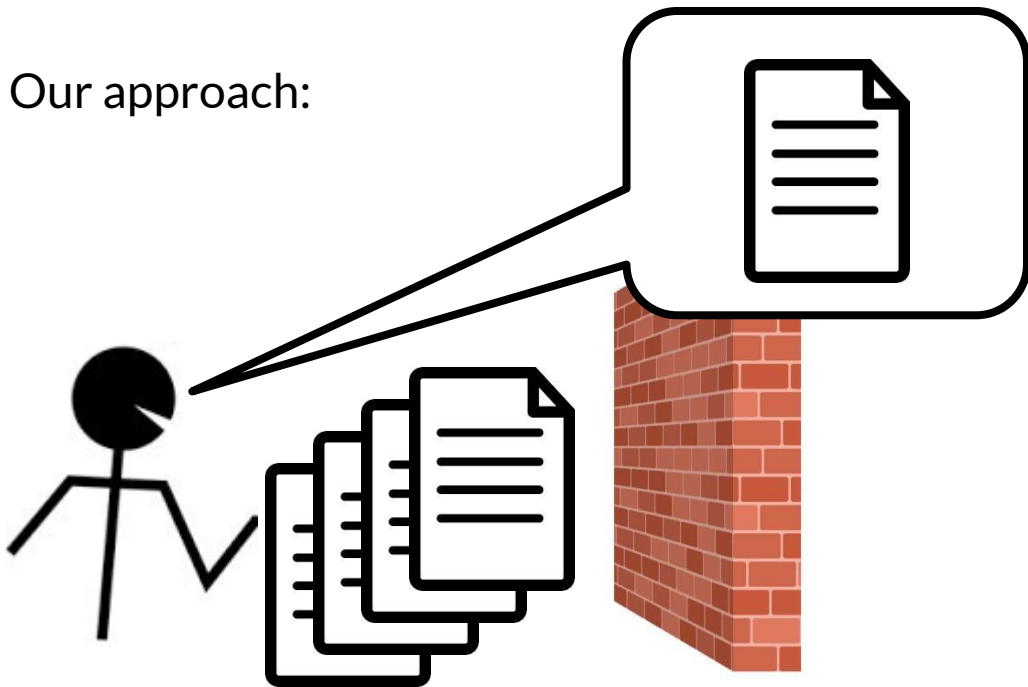


# Interactive Language Mode

(With Lennart Stoepler, Mitja Nikolaus,  
and Ryan Cotterell)



Our approach:

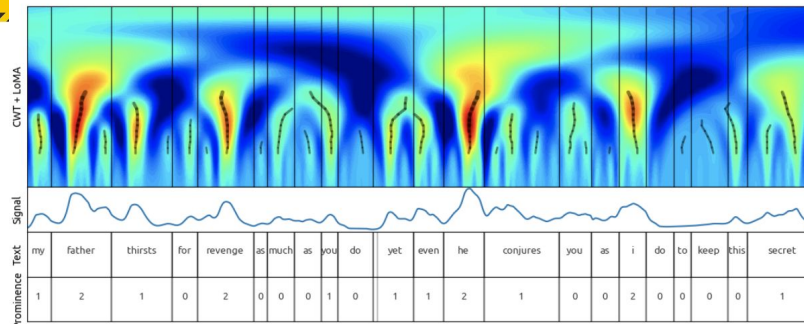




# Prosody and LMs

(With Lukas Wolf, Tamar Regev, Eghbal Hosseini  
Ethan Wilcox, & Ev Fedorenko)

*Question 1: How much  
information does prosody encode  
that isn't in the text?*



An utterance can be decomposed into two variables:

- T = the text (i.e., a string of words)
- P = the prosody (i.e., pitch + loudness + duration)

What is  $MI(T; P)$ ?

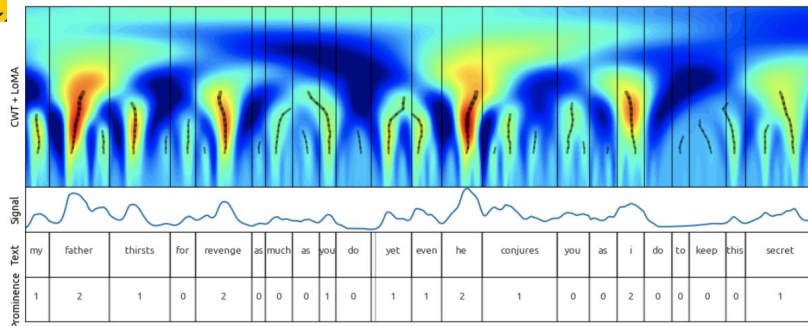
Method: Train the most powerful possible probe to predict prosodic features from text.



# Prosody and LMs

(With Lukas Wolf, Tamar Regev, Eghbal Hosseini  
Ethan Wilcox, & Ev Fedorenko)

*Question 2: How much can we close the data-efficiency gap by adding prosodic information to LM training data.*



Methods:

1. Extract text & prosody from audio corpus.
2. Predict prosody from our probe for a text-only corpus, and give those representations to the LM during training.



# Roadmap

## Summary

What Artificial Neural Networks Can Tell Us About  
Human Language Acquisition\*

Alex Warstadt, Samuel R. Bowman

In *Algebraic Structures in Natural Language*, 2022.

**Call for Papers - The BabyLM Challenge: Sample-efficient pretraining  
on a developmentally plausible corpus**

<https://babylm.github.io/>

Alex Warstadt  
ETH Zürich

Leshem Choshen  
IBM Research

Aaron Mueller  
Johns Hopkins University

Ethan Wilcox  
ETH Zürich

Adina Williams  
Meta AI

Chengxu Zhuang  
MIT

At CoNLL and CMCL, *forthcoming in 2023*.

1

BACKG

4

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

ECT EVIDENCE

# Conclusions

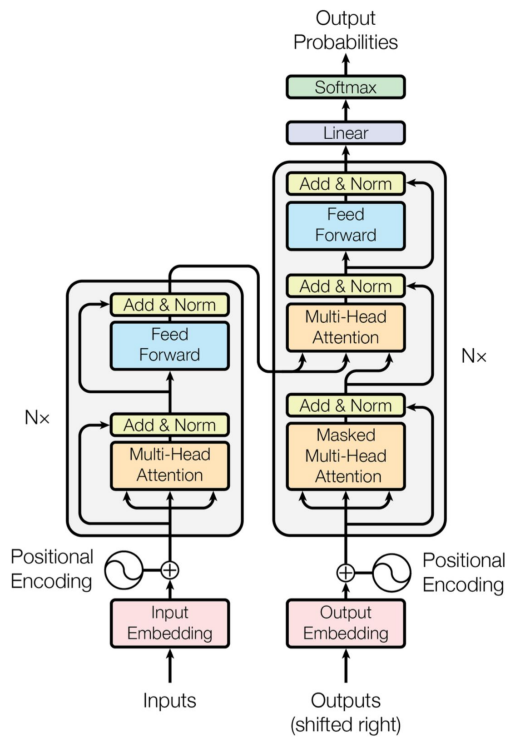


Figure 1: The Transformer - model architecture.



Figure 2: Human baby

# Thank you!

Collaborators: Sam Bowman, Amanpreet Singh, Alicia Parrish, Yian Zhang, Haokun Liu, Haau-Sing Li, Sheng-Fu Wang, Anhad Mohananey, Wei Peng, Theodor Amariucaï, Lennart Stoepler, Ryan Cotterell

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# **Bonus Slides**

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# **The Recipe for Model Learners**

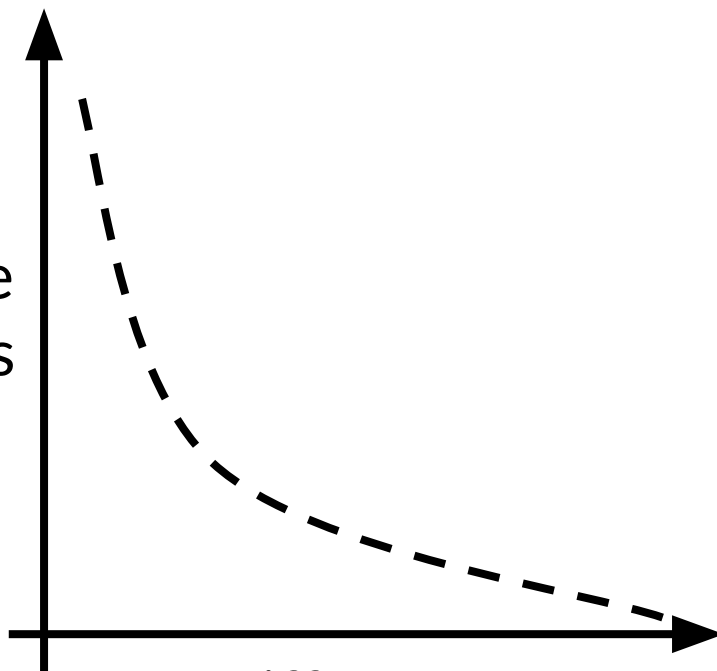
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**As with any scientific model, there are obvious limitations with LMs.**



Relevance  
to humans

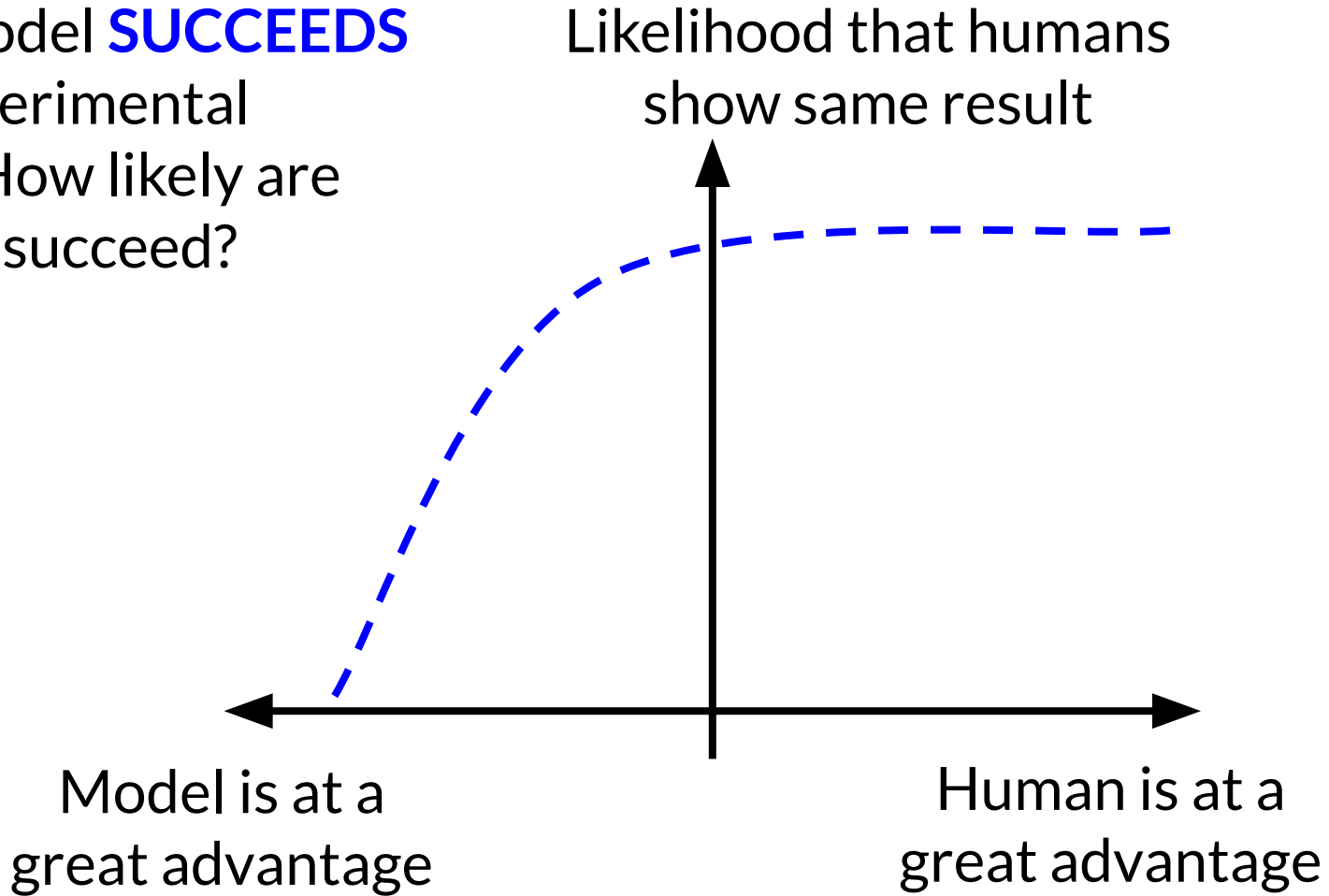


Differences  
from  
humans

**Debates in language acquisition often center around the necessary and sufficient conditions for human-learnability.**



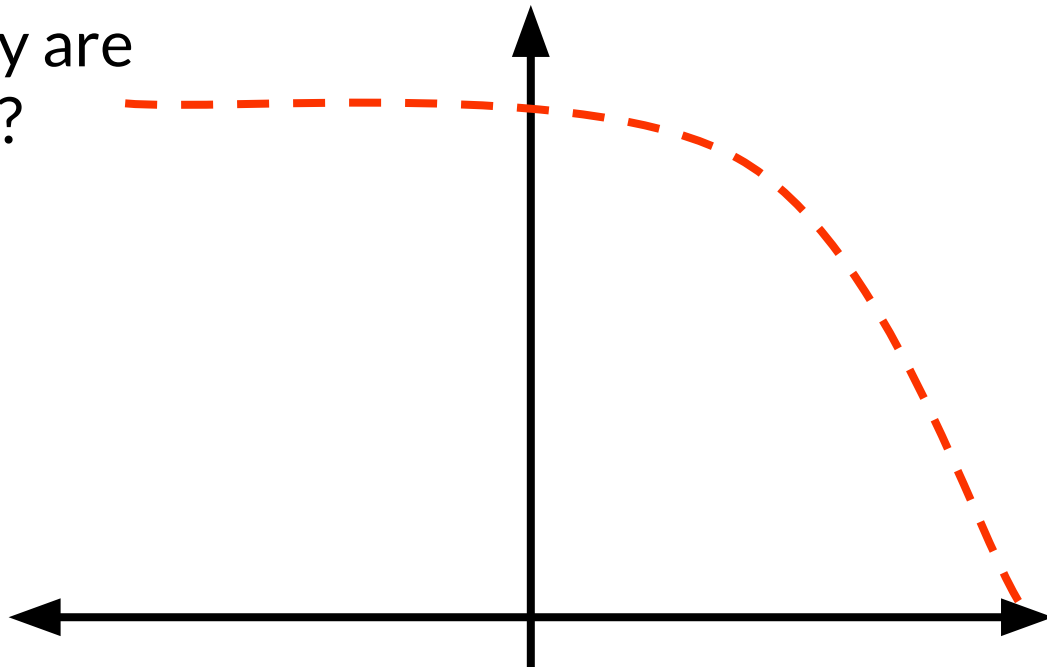
Suppose the model **SUCCEEDS** given some experimental manipulation. How likely are humans also to succeed?



Suppose the model **FAILS**  
given some experimental  
manipulation. How likely are  
humans also to succeed?



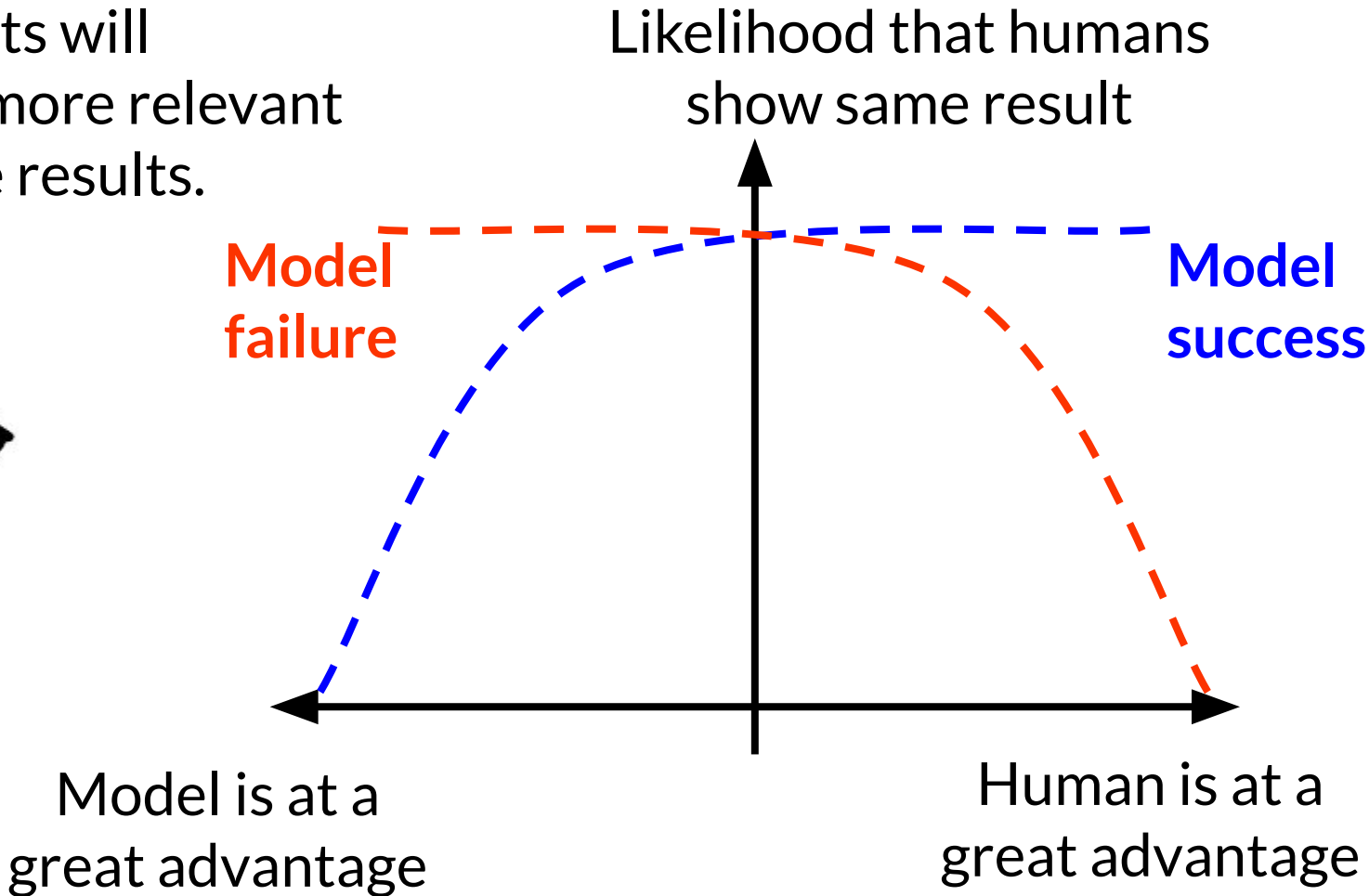
Likelihood that humans  
show same result



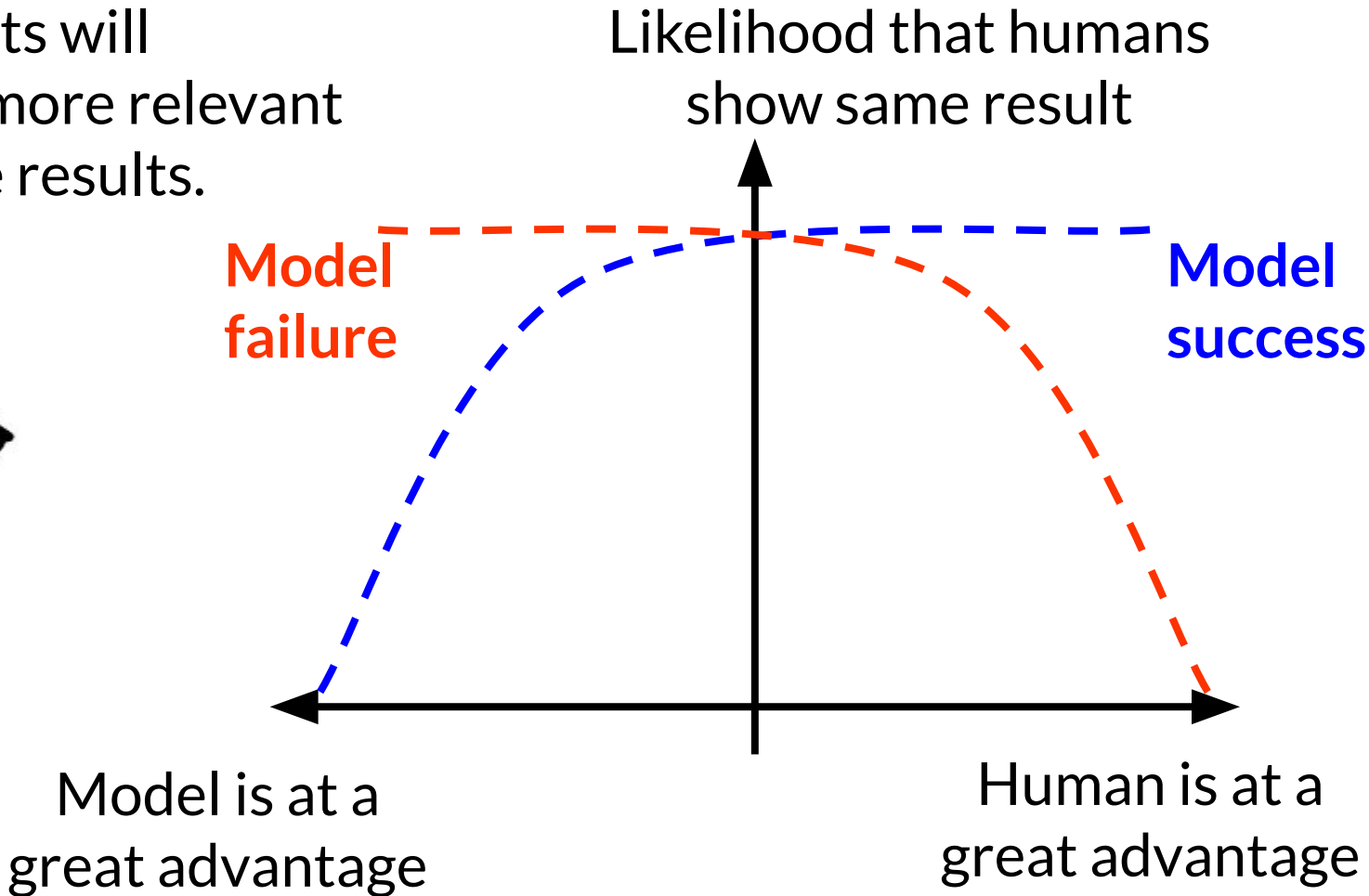
Model is at a  
great advantage

Human is at a  
great advantage

Positive results will generally be more relevant than negative results.



Positive results will generally be more relevant than negative results.



# A recipe for relevant model learners:

- Maximize relevance of positive results by minimize advantages that models have over humans.
- Maximize chances of positive results by minimizing advantages that humans have over models.

# Environmental vs. Innate advantages

- It's relatively obvious how to apply this recipe to environmental advantages.
- But how do we apply this recipe to innate properties of the learner?

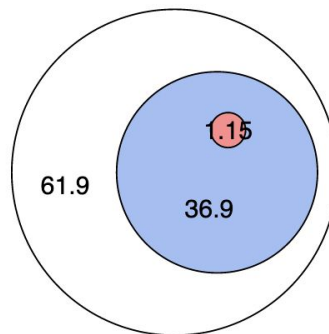
Typical ANNs appear to have weak language-specific advantages. But measuring and manipulating inductive bias is a serious problem where we don't have great solutions.

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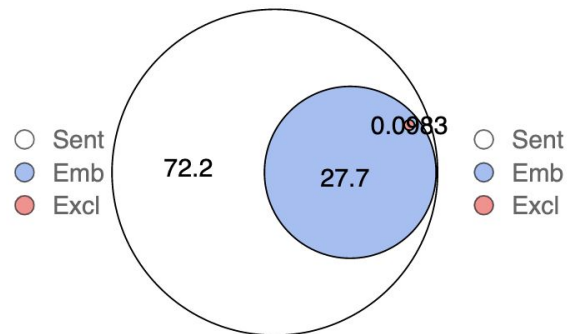
**Indirect evidence**

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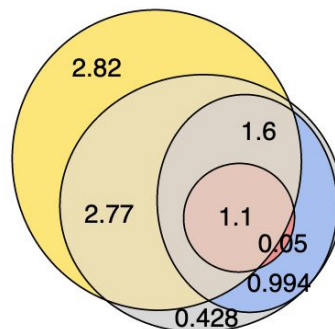
# Distribution of direct evidence (by domain)



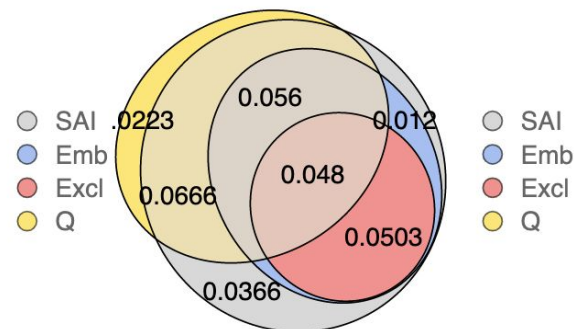
(a) Books (all sentences)



(b) Wikipedia (all sentences)



(c) Books (SAI ∪ Q)



(d) Wikipedia (SAI ∪ Q)



# Discussion: What does indirect evidence for hierarchical structure look like?

## 1. Classic constituency tests

### Fragment answers

Who has seen the cat?      [The man who was here this afternoon]

### Coordination

John and [the man who was here this afternoon] are friends.

### Pronominalization

[The man who was here this afternoon] left. He saw the cat.

# Discussion: What does indirect evidence for hierarchical structure look like?

## 2. Other hierarchical rules

### Subject Verb Agreement

[The man who saw the cats] is here.

### Passivization

I greeted [the man who saw the cat.] → [The man who saw the cat] was greeted by me.

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**Intro stuff**

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# The Mystery of Human Language Acquisition

Thousands of linguists have spent decades trying to describe the grammar of human language (and only partly succeeding).

How does a single child acquire the grammar of their native language in a matter of years?

# Richness of Grammar vs. Poverty of Stimulus

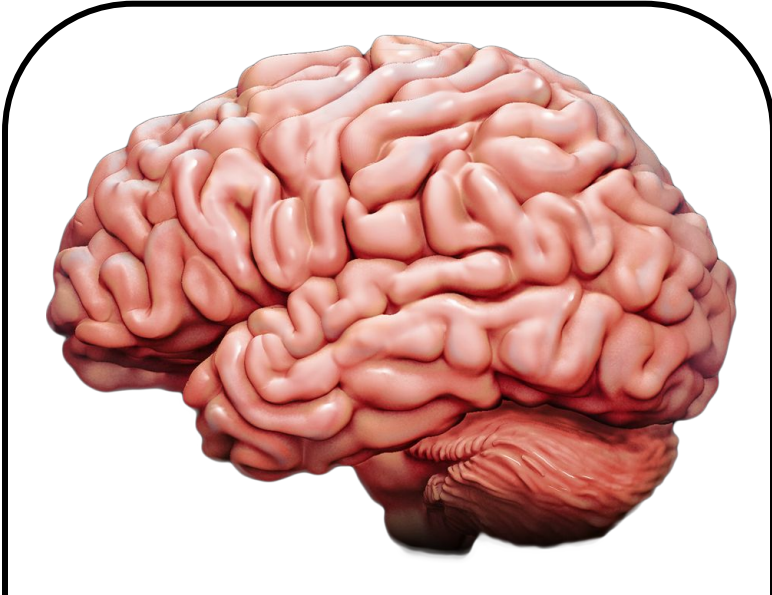


[L]anguage acquisition is based on the child's discovery of what from a formal point of view is a deep and abstract theory a generative grammar of his language — many of the concepts and principles of which are only remotely related to experience by long and intricate chains of unconscious quasi-inferential steps.

A consideration of the character of the grammar that is acquired, the degenerate quality and narrowly limited extent of the available data, the striking uniformity of the resulting grammars, and their independence of intelligence, motivation, and emotional state, over wide ranges of variation, leave little hope that much of the structure of the language can be learned by an organism initially uninformed as to its general character.

(Chomsky, 1965)

# Two Sources of Grammatical Knowledge

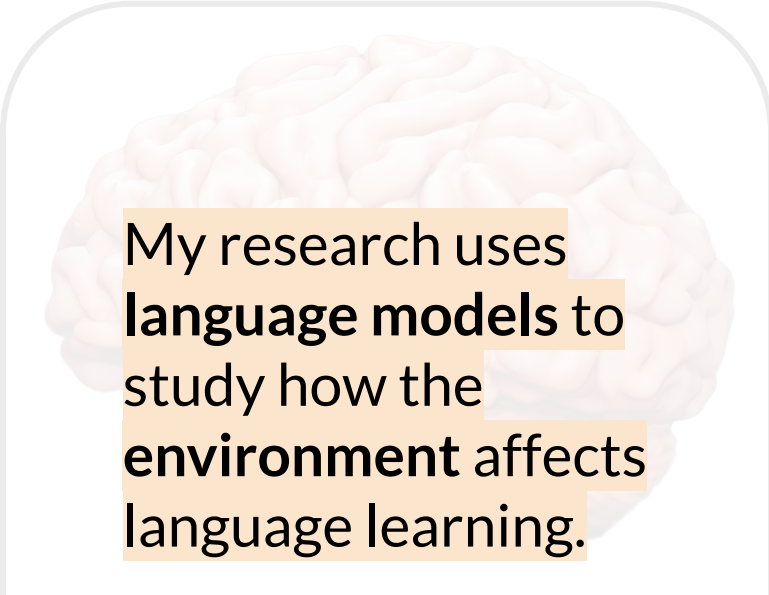


Innate Bias



The Environment

# My Research



My research uses  
language models to  
study how the  
environment affects  
language learning.

Innate Bias



The Environment

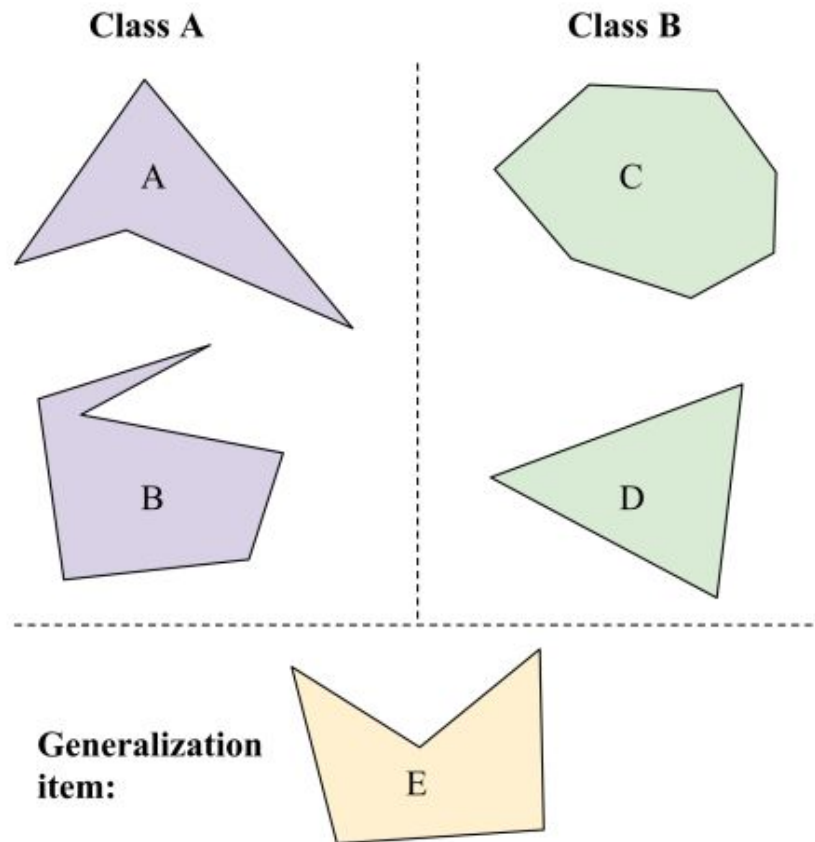
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**Learning which features  
matter**

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# An example



# Pretraining → Feature Learning

- Dependency structures can be extracted from BERT (Hewitt & Manning, 2019)
- Contextual embeddings contain POS, semantic roles, coreference, etc. (Tenney et al., 2019a/b)

*...and many more* (see Rogers et al., 2020)

—

**But feature learning  
isn't everything.**

# Representing $F \neq$ Using $F$

Models that represent linguistic features can still fail to use them during fine-tuning (McCoy et al., 2019).



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*Inductive bias* is also crucial to good generalization.

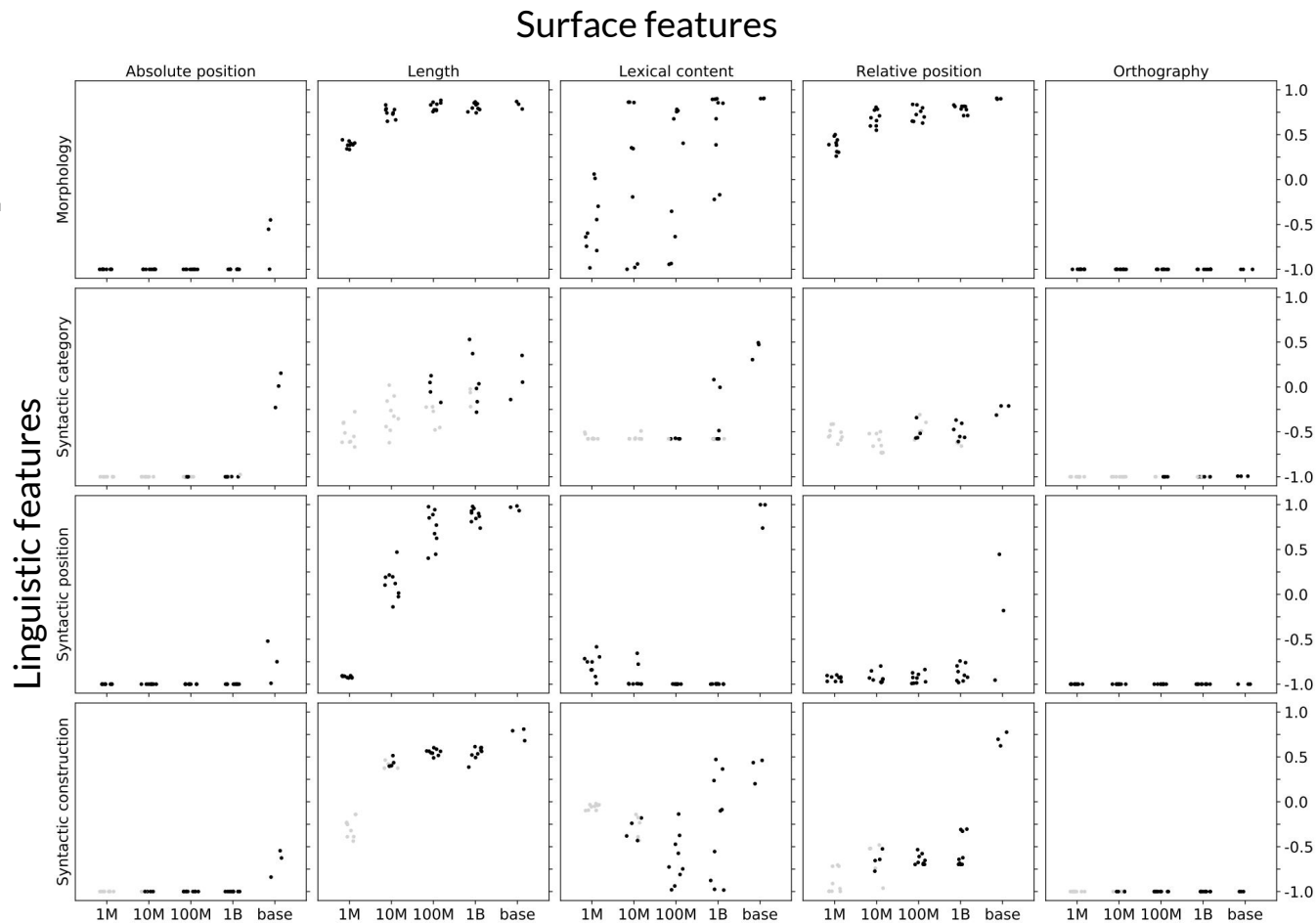
# Learning which feature matter

New work in probing emphasizes feature *accessibility*:

- Minimum description length probing (Voita & Titov, 2020)
- Amnesic probing (Elazar et al., 2020)
- The classic probing paradigm is trivial when taken to the extreme (Pimentel et al., 2020)

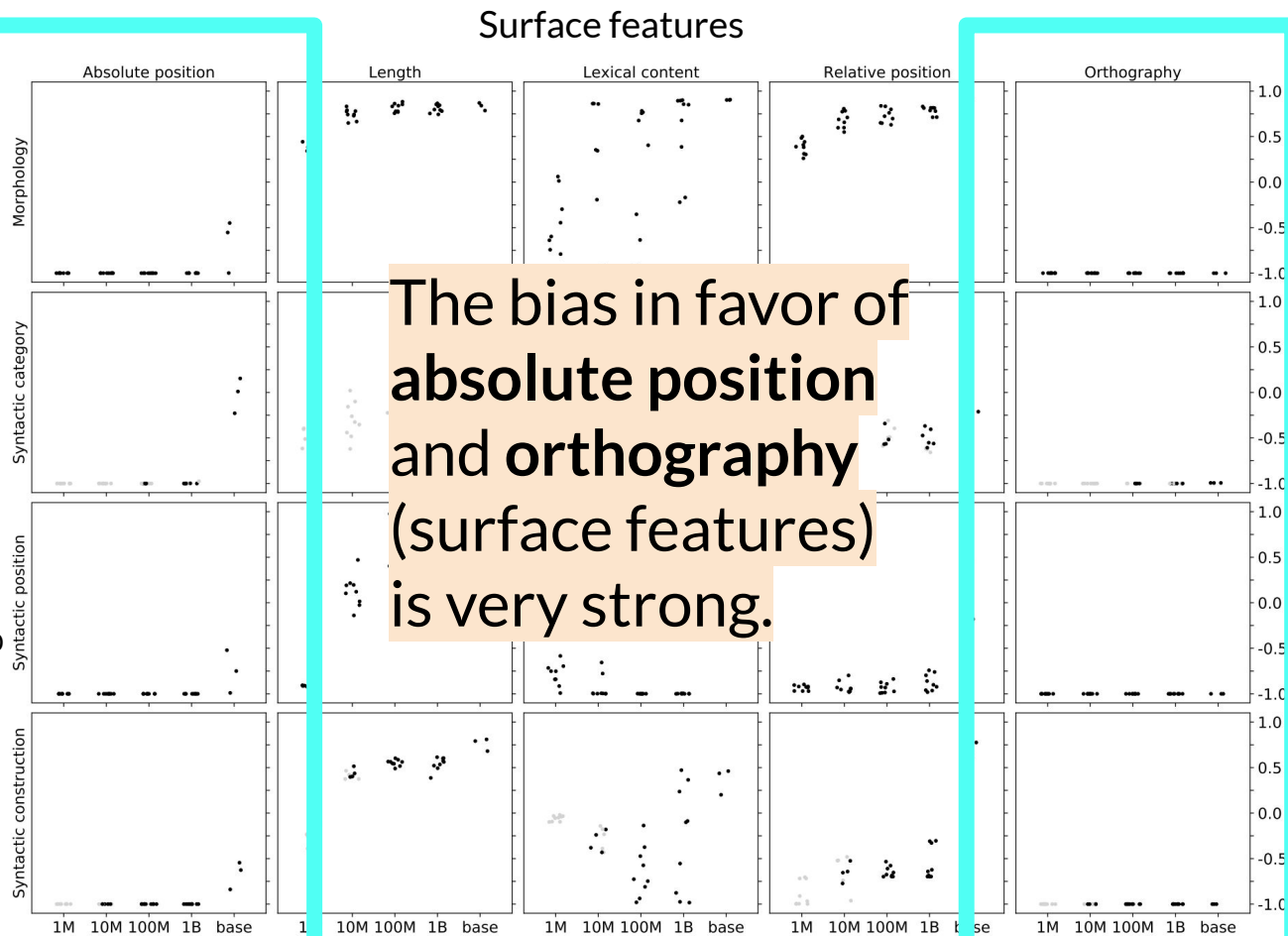
*We probe feature preference explicitly.*

# Results: Experiment 2 (Ambiguous) (Fine-grained)



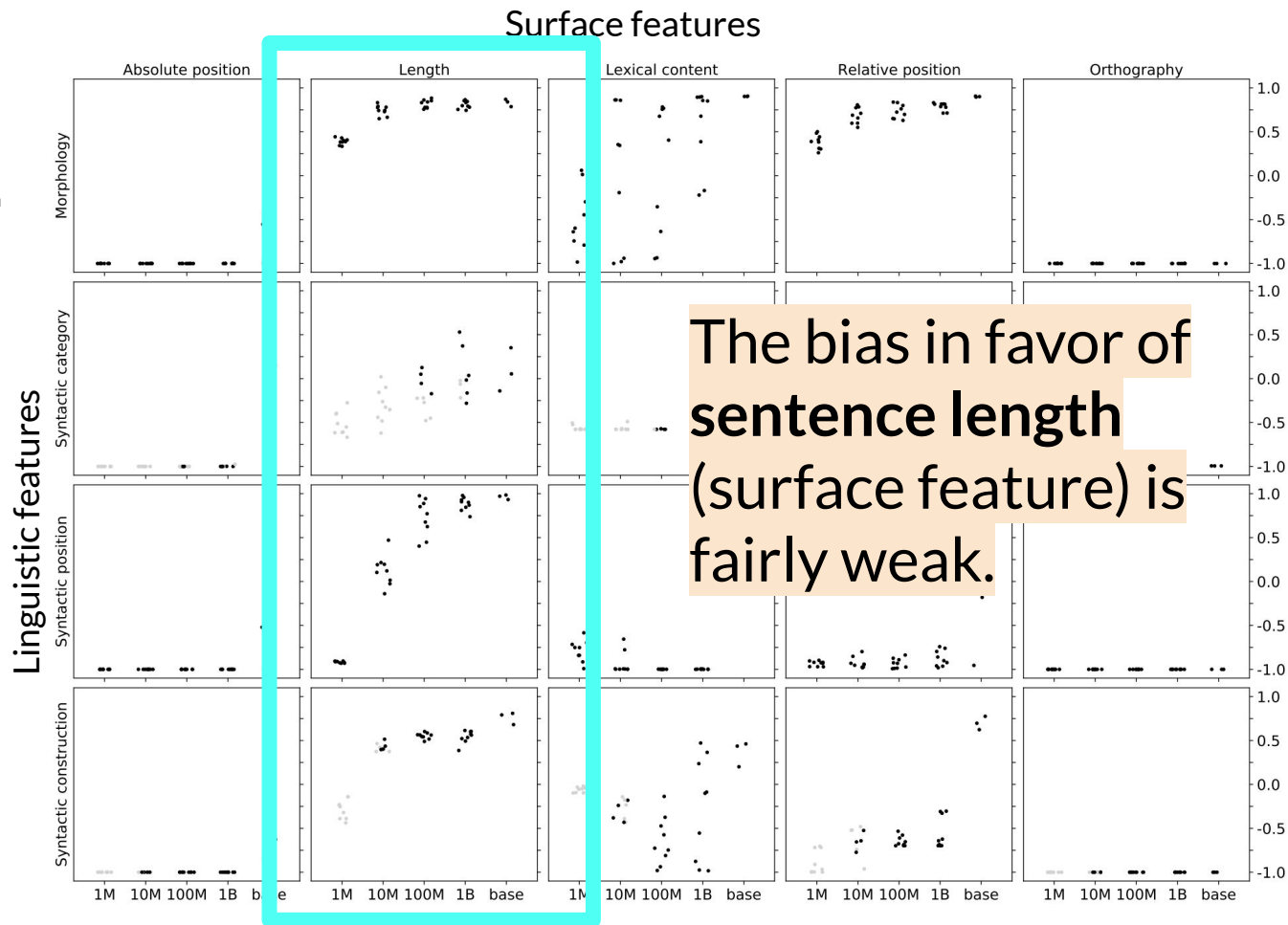
# Results: Experiment 2 (Ambiguous) (Fine-grained)

Linguistic features





# Results: Experiment 2 (Ambiguous) (Fine-grained)



# Data Generation

- The MSGS data is generated from templates.
- We always test classifiers' ability to generalize out-of-domain.

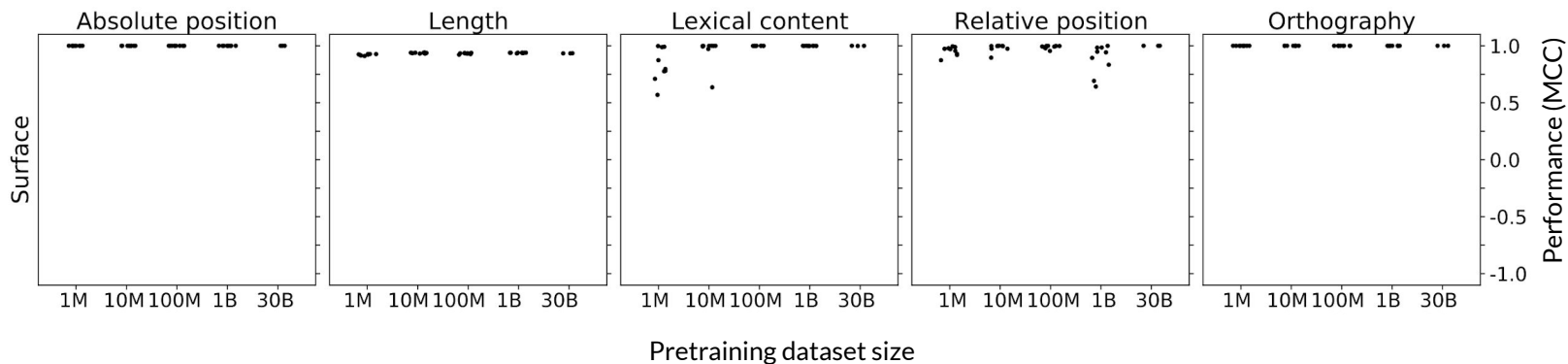
In domain: *The big dog is yawning.*

Out of domain: *The dog in the dark forest yawned.*

# Fine-tuning

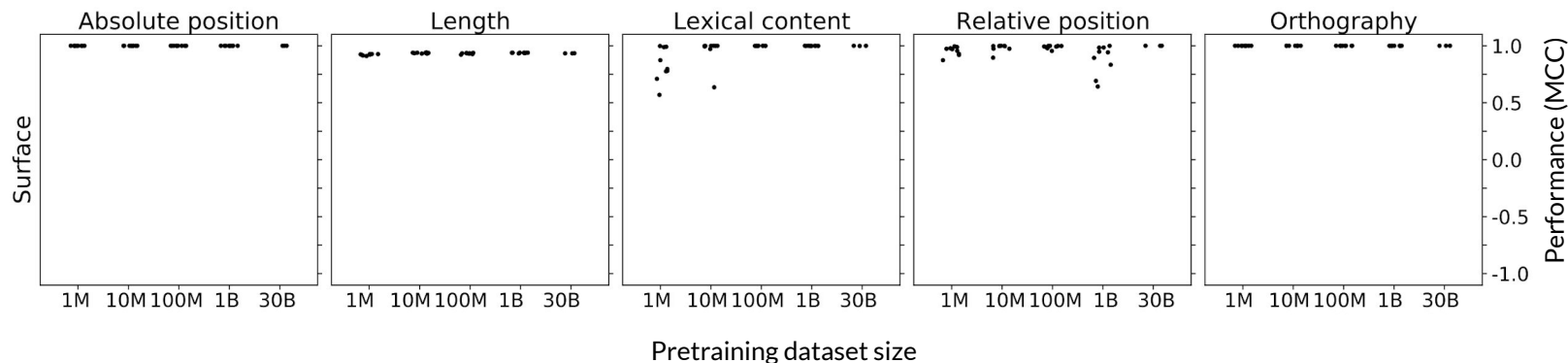
- 9 tasks (4 linguistic + 5 surface)
- 12 miniBERTas + original RoBERTa<sub>BASE</sub> (~30B words)
- The training sets are 10k sentences each

# Results: Experiment 1 (Feature Learning)

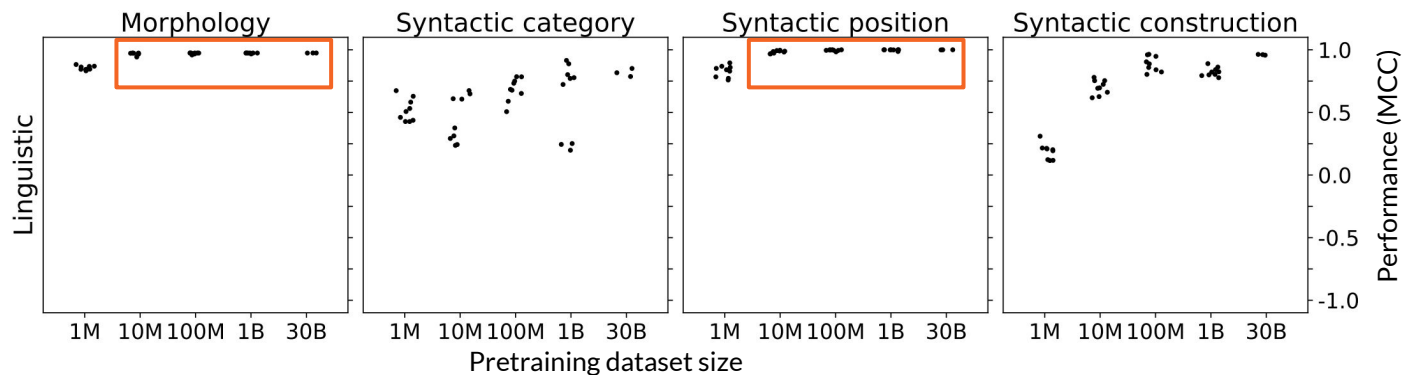


Surface features:  
Performance is at ceiling.

# Results: Experiment 1 (Feature Learning)

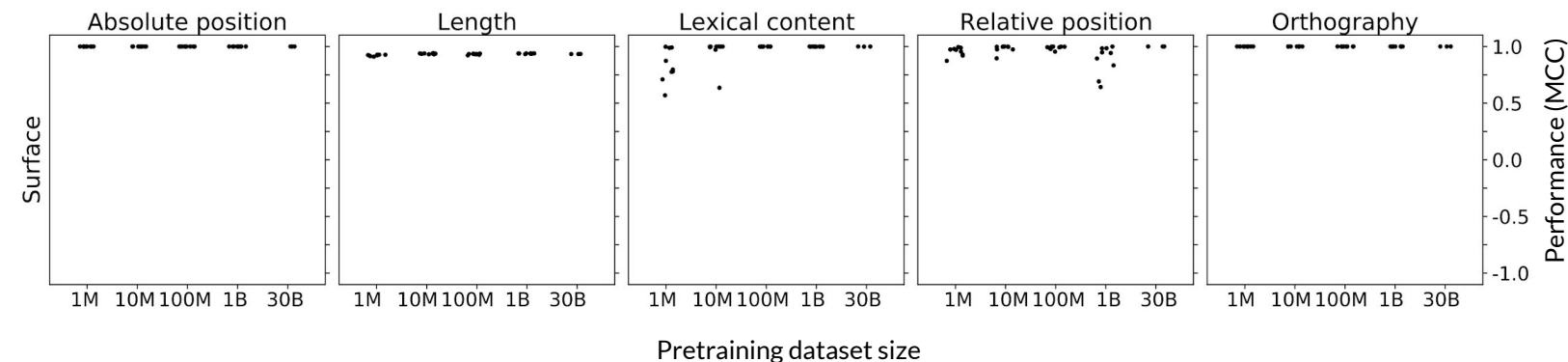


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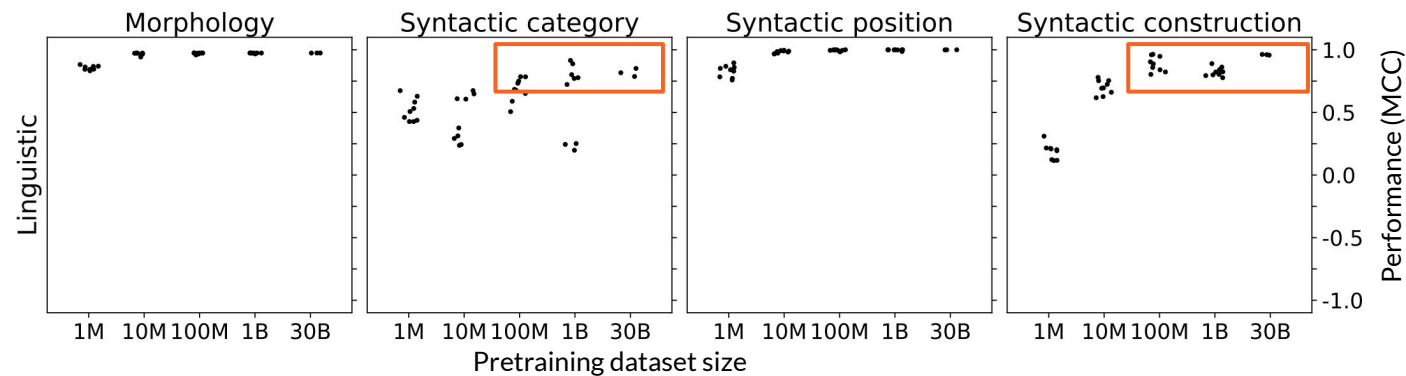


Linguistic features:  
Performance is near ceiling for morphology & syntactic position > 1M words.

# Results: Experiment 1 (Feature Learning)



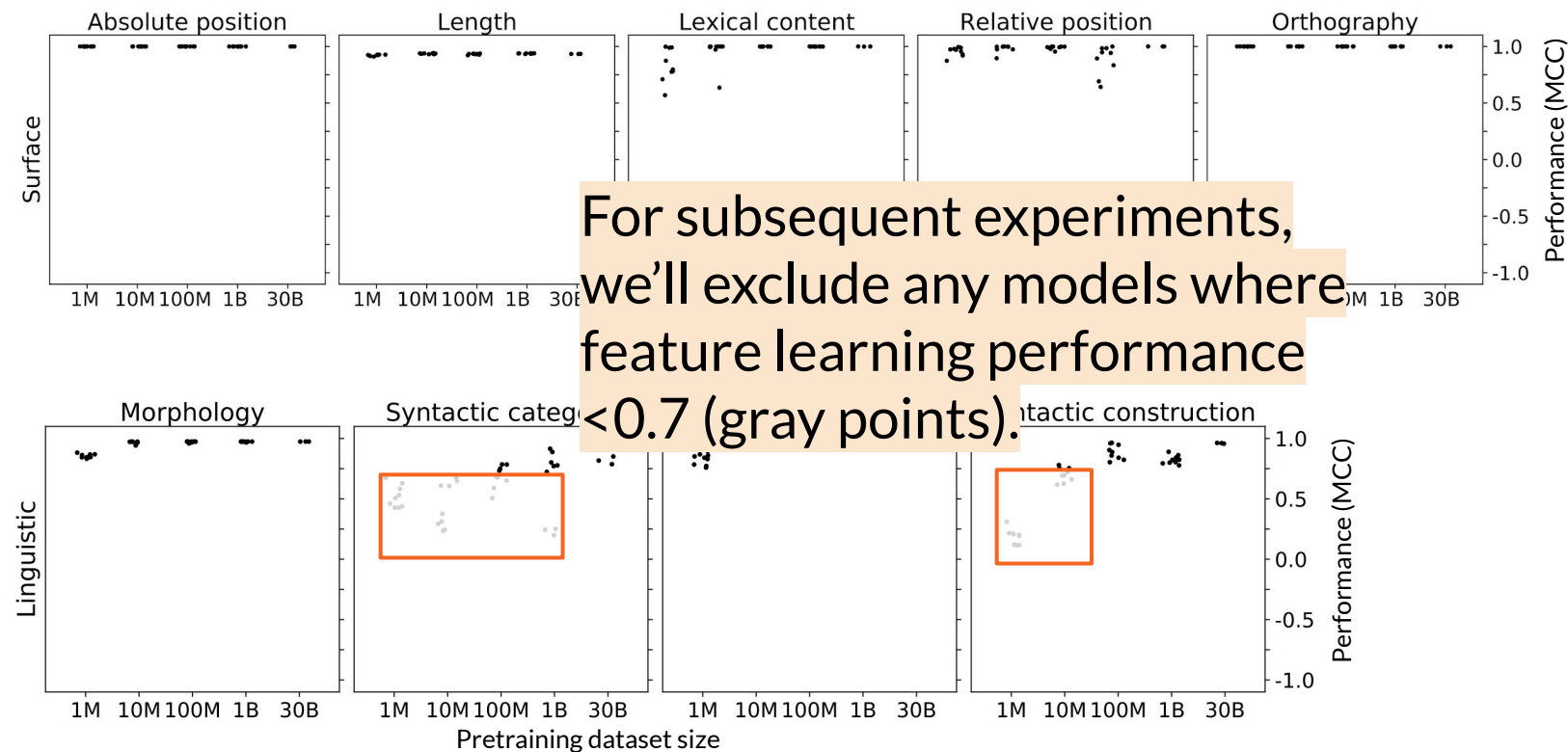
Surface features:  
Performance is at ceiling.



Linguistic features:  
Performance is near ceiling for morphology & syntactic position > 1M words.

Performance for syntactic category & construction is high for > 100M words.

# Results: Experiment 1 (Feature Learning)



## Experiment 2: Ambiguous Data

*Does model X prefer linguistic feature A or surface feature B?*



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We fine-tune X on an ambiguous binary classification task.

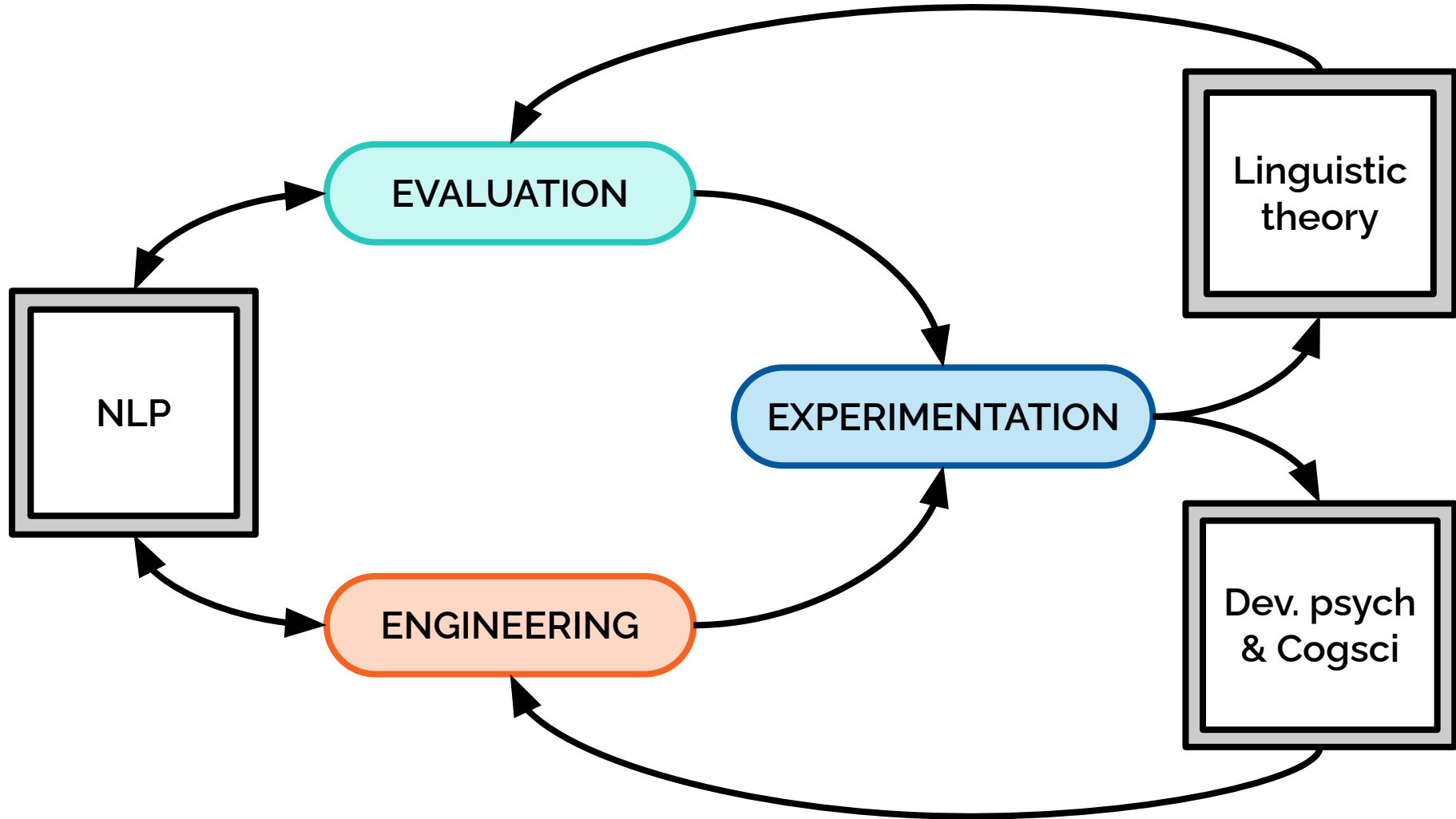
# Experiment 2: Ambiguous Data

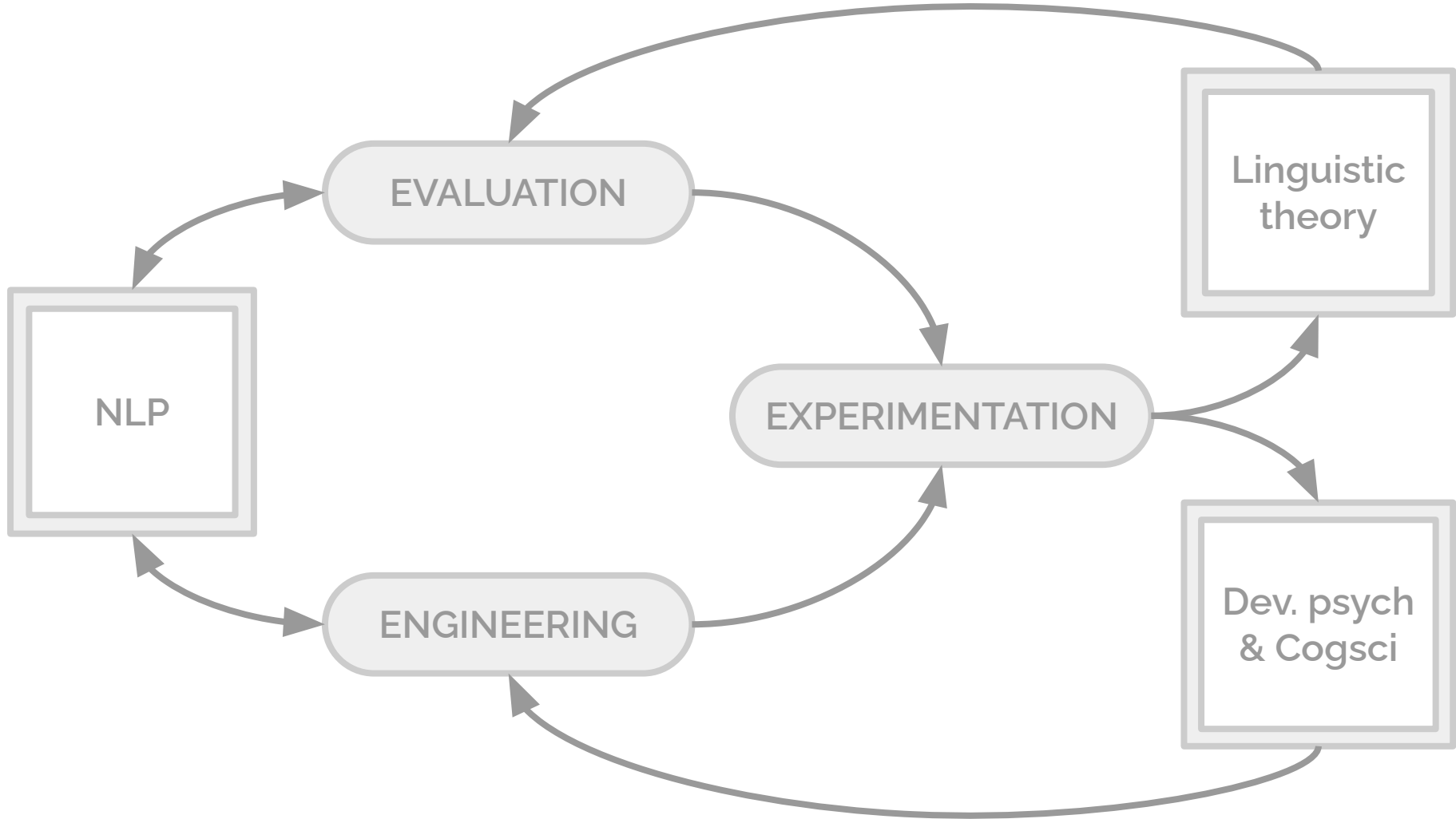
*Does model X prefer linguistic feature A or surface feature B?*

We fine-tune X on an ambiguous binary classification task.

Poverty of the Stimulus design (Wilson, 2006)

- Also used by McCoy et al. (2018, 2020), Warstadt & Bowman (2020), and others.



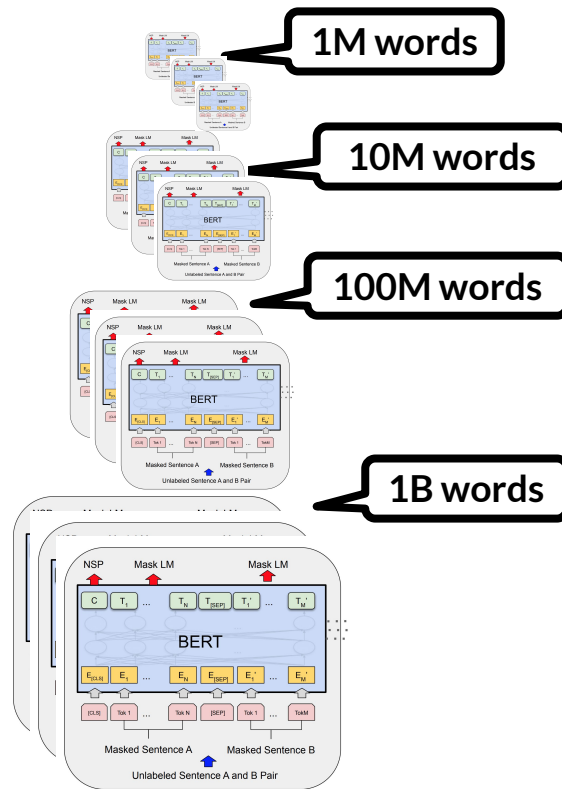


# The MiniBERTas



<https://huggingface.co/nyu-mll>

- 4 incremental datasets: 1M, 10M, 100M, 1B words
- We simulate the original BERT training set:
  - $\sim\frac{3}{4}$  English Wikipedia
  - $\sim\frac{1}{4}$  self-published books from Smashwords
- We mostly follow the original RoBERTa training procedure.
- For each data size, we train at least 10 models with varying hyperparameters (e.g., # of parameters) & select the best 3.



# Hypothetical Human Inductive Biases

## Linguistic features

- Inflectional form
- Syntactic category
- Syntactic position
- Semantic roles



## Surface features

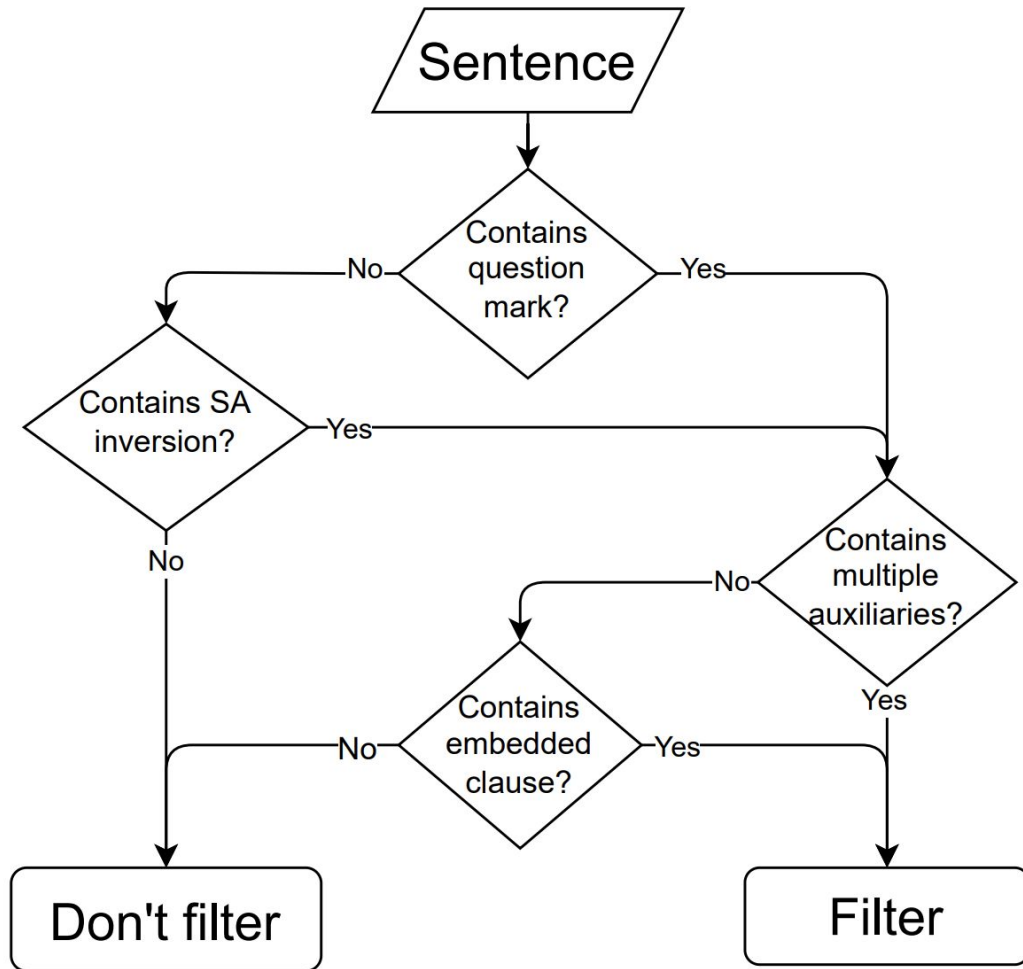
- Linear position
- Length
- Lexical content
- Orthography
- Linear precedence



# Syntactic filtering

Training data: 1B words  
from books & Wikipedia

- Percent filtered: 1.7%
- Recall (% of direct evidence removed): 99%
- Precision (% of removed data that is direct evidence): 51%



# Evaluation

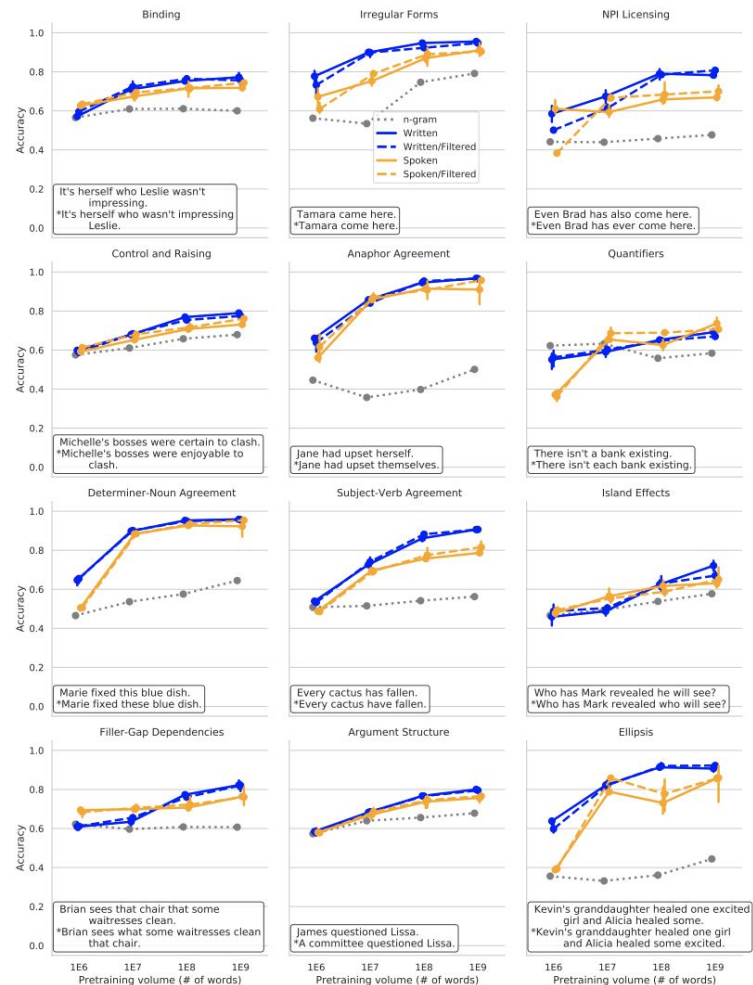
We do BLiMP-style evaluation on a hand-crafted test suite of subject-auxiliary inversion minimal pairs.

We designed minimal pairs following 8 different templates to probe generalization to different syntactic structures, and compared LM scores for the good and bad sentences.



# Results: General acceptability judgments on BLiMP

This result holds across all phenomena in BLiMP.

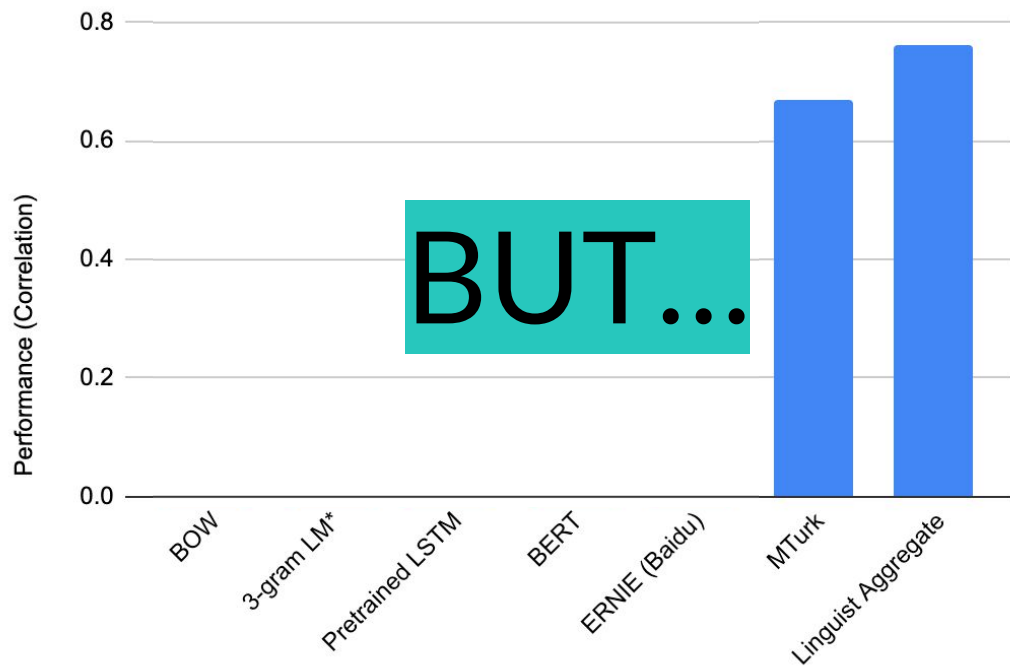


# Takeaways

The results support the indirect evidence hypothesis, but with important caveats.

- How reproducible is the best model's success?
- How important are small amounts of direct evidence that passed through the filter?
- Can models succeed with the same data-volume limitations as humans?
- Can we identify and quantify indirect evidence?

# The Corpus of Linguistic Acceptability (CoLA)



# Roadmap

1

BACKGROUND

2

INDUCTIVE BIAS

3

INDIRECT EVIDENCE

4

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

# Developments in text generation (2015-now)

how it started

===Widely accepted grammars===

*There are twelve dialects which concern under the language of which which in sufficient, areas will be surprising before the racial controversy, probably those who in history, and no consensual is sincere.*

Karpathy (2015)

<http://karpathy.github.io/2015/05/21/rnn-effectiveness/>

(h/t Will Merrill)

how it's going

*Generate a wikipedia article titled:  
===Widely accepted grammars===*

*In linguistics, grammar refers to the set of rules that govern the structure of a language.... One of the most well-known grammars is the generative grammar proposed by Noam Chomsky in the 1950s.*

GPT-4 (OpenAI, 2023)

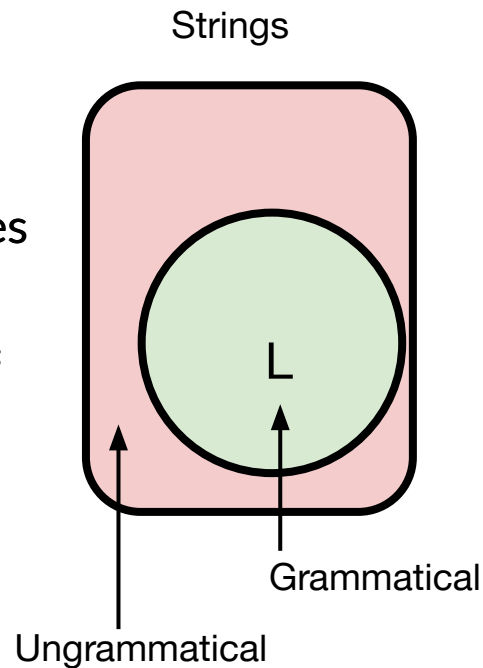
# Acceptability Judgments

An empirically adequate grammar of a language L generates all and only the grammatical strings of L.

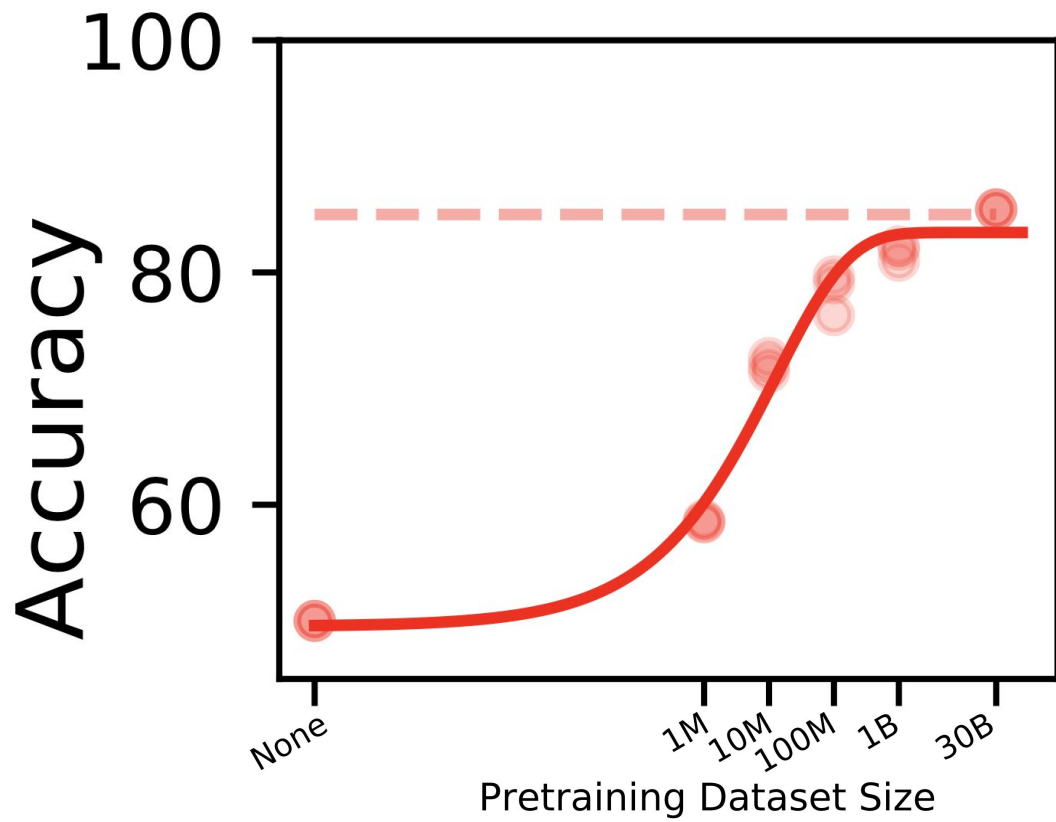
Acceptability judgments are the primary behavioral test of grammatical theories in linguistics.

## Examples from linguistics publications

- ✓ Mary should know that you must go to the station.
- ✓ I promised that around midnight he would be there.
- ✓ Susan whispered the news to Rachel.
- ✗ When time will you be there?
- ✗ Patrick is likely that left.
- ✗ Harry coughed us into a fit.



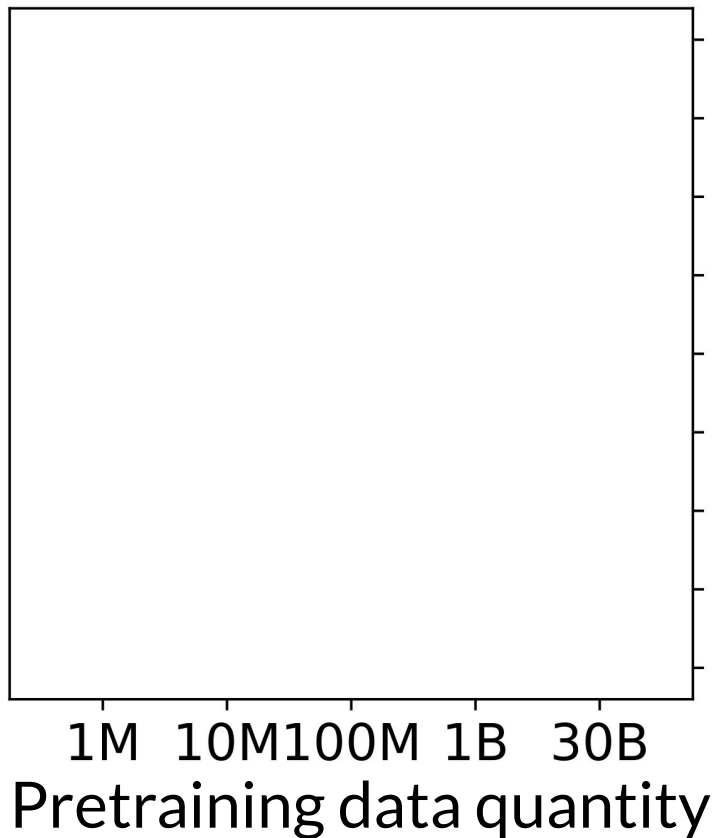
# The MiniBERTas on BLiMP



# Results:

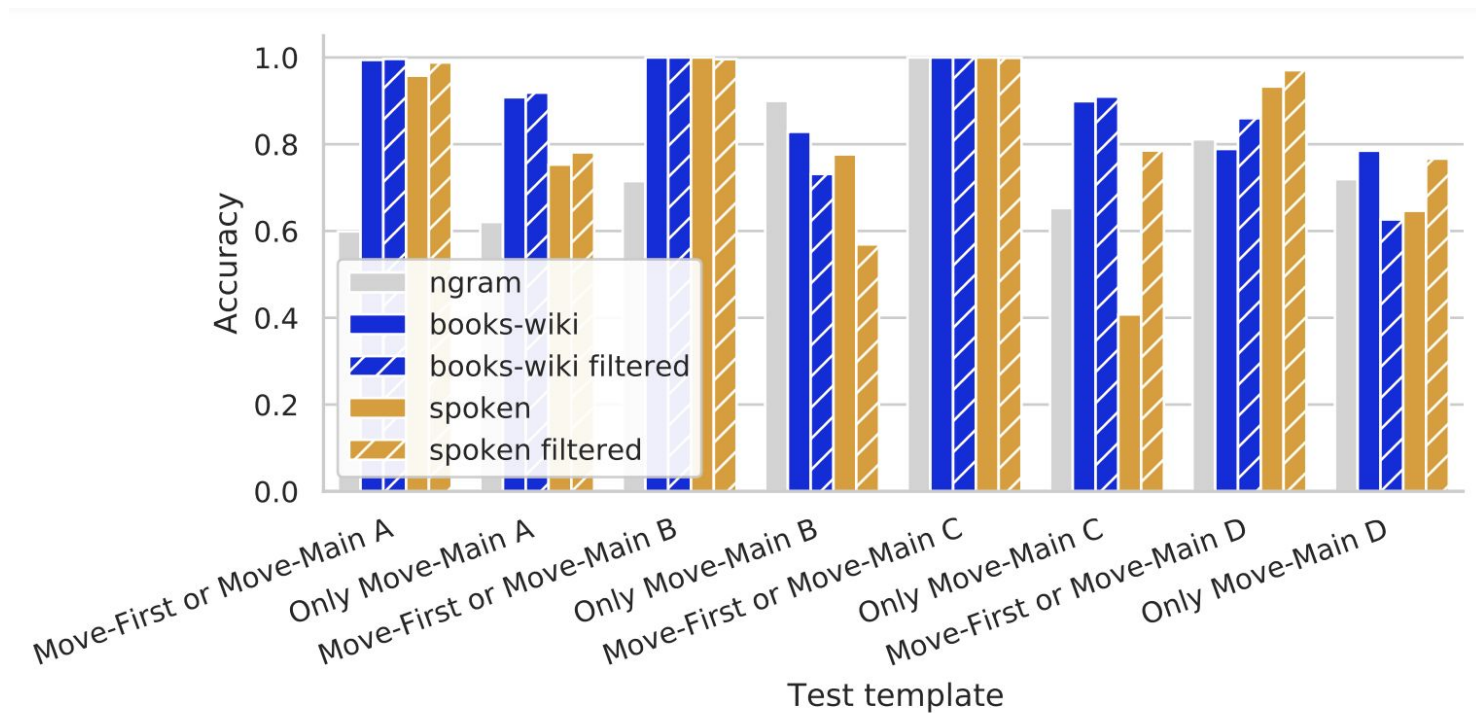
## Experiment 1 (Fully Ambiguous)

- 20 tasks \* (12 miniBERTas + RoBERTa base)
- Linguistic bias score = 1 if linguistic, -1 if surface.
- <1B words: surface bias
- RoBERTa base: 50/50





# Results: Subject Aux Inversion (BEST CASE)



# The Recipe for Model Learners

1. Minimize any advantages that language models have over humans learners.
2. Provide language models with more of the advantages that we know humans have.
3. Gather training data from developmentally plausible sources.

