Self-Instruct: Let Models Do All the Work

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Abstract

 This paper proposes a prompting pipeline, named *self-instruct*, that uses language-model- generated demonstration rationales to perform few-shot prompting on another language model. Specifically we apply *self instruct* on the e- SNLI task with Llama2-7B as the testing model and investigate the effectiveness of language- model-generated few-shot demonstrations as compared to existing human-curated prompts in improving Llama2-7B's response accuracy. We conclude that model-generated demonstra- tions can surprisingly lead to better responses than human-curated demonstrations, but their effects still heavily depend on both the amount of reasoning involved in the language task as well as the size of the language model used.

017 **1 Introduction**

 The recent rise of large language models has brought forth a new era of possibilities. Model pre- dictions on traditional tasks have reached astonish- ing super-human performance. Likewise, tasks like multi-hop reasoning that were previously thought to be decades away now seem well within reach of AI. However, as with all machine learning, model interpretability is an ever-growing concern. Models nowadays like Llama2 or GPT3 are able to achieve great task performance, but it is unclear *how* these models are able to come to the right conclusions. Thus, making language models provide their line of reasoning as they arrive at their conclusion is of paramount importance. In addition to increased interpretability, making models output their reason- ing has also been shown to dramatically improve the performance of the model. Thus, developing methods that can allow models to "self-prompt" themselves to generate their own reasoning is not only ideal in terms of increased model interpretabil-ity, but also to improve model task performance.

039 Statement of Problem We want to investigate **040** whether a black-box (generative) language model's performance on classification tasks can be im- **041** proved by prompting the model to self-reason. **042** Specifically, for a target model M_T and a helper 043 model M_H , we perform chain-of-thought (CoT) 044 prompting for M_T on the task of sentiment analy- 045 sis using example shots generated by M_H . 046

2 Related work **⁰⁴⁷**

Prior studies have demonstrated the potential of 048 free-form rationales [\(Sun et al.,](#page-7-0) [2022\)](#page-7-0) in enhancing **049** model interpretability and performance. Investi- **050** gations indicate that incorporating even a small **051** fraction of high-quality rationales during training **052** can lead to substantial performance improvements **053** in common sense question-answering datasets like **054** CoS-E and ECQA. One notable work exploring **055** the effects of reasoning is Chain-of-Thought (CoT) **056** prompting [\(Wei et al.,](#page-7-1) [2023\)](#page-7-1). In this work, the **057** authors improve existing few-shot prompting meth- **058** ods by including detailed reasoning for why each **059** shot is assigned its corresponding outputs. This led 060 to an almost doubled performance for the largest **061** GPT and PaLM models on the GSM8K dataset. **062** However, this work primarily focuses on prompt- **063** ing the model with human-curated data, which still **064** requires lots of human labor. Instead, it would **065** be ideal to develop a method where models can **066** prompt themselves to produce a chain of reason- **067** [i](#page-7-2)ng. On a different note, Self-Instruct [\(Wang](#page-7-2) **068** [et al.,](#page-7-2) [2023\)](#page-7-2) explores the idea of taking humans **069** (almost completely) out of the loop and developing **070** pipelines to allow the model to improve itself. In **071** particular, it employs an off-the-shelf LM to gen- **072** erate instructions that are then used to instruction- **073** tune another language model. However, this work **074** focuses on automating instruction tuning, which **075** can oftentimes be costly and infeasible when com- **076** pared to other prompting methods. **077**

Figure 1: Illustration of Our Methodology and its comparion with CoT [\(Wei et al.,](#page-7-1) [2023\)](#page-7-1): As depicted in the left side (the blue section) of the graph, our approach leverages a rationale-generating helper model to produce explanatory content based on the inputs and labels from the demonstration dataset. On the right-hand side (the yellow section), our testing model is prompted and supported in a similar manner as CoT.

⁰⁷⁸ 3 Methods

079 3.1 Self-Instruct

For some benchmark classification task dataset C, 081 we start by prompting the helper model M_h to cre- ate few-shot demonstrations for the target model M_T . Specifically, we extract a subset of examples $C_{demo} \subset C$ that will be used as demonstrations. **For** *n***-shot demonstration, we then feed** *n* **input-label pairs** $(x_{demo}, y_{demo}) \in C_{demo}$ into the helper 087 model M_H and instruct it to generate rationale r_H for each specific pair. We then concatenate all the 089 generated r_H to their corresponding examples in C_{demo} to get

$$
D = \{d^{(i)} = (x_{demo}^{(i)}, y_{demo}^{(i)}, r_H^{(i)}): \forall i \in [1, n]\}
$$

092 , which will then be used as in-context demonstra- \cos tions for the testing language model M_T .

 In the second stage, we extract another sub-095 set $C_{test} \subseteq C$ which is mutually independent of C_{demo} . The testing model M_T will be tested on C_{test} by answering its problem with the demonstra- tions generated by the helper model using exam-099 ples from C_{demo}. In more detail, for each problem instance c_{test} ∈ C_{test} , we give M_T all demon- strations in D and prompt it to predict \hat{y}_{test} and a **corresponding rationale** r_T **for every input** x_{test} .

4 Experiments **¹⁰³**

4.1 Experimental Setup 104

Dataset We evaluate on SNLI [\(Bowman et al.,](#page-7-3) **105** [2015\)](#page-7-3), a natural language inference benchmark **106** with 550,000 examples. Each example contains a **107** premise and a hypothesis as input, and the model's **108** goal is to determine whether the relationship be- **109** tween the premise and hypothesis should be catego- **110** rized as entailment, contradiction, or neutral. **111**

Data Preprocessing We perform the same **112** dataset preprocessing for all our experiments. **113**

Following the previous notation, we now have $C =$ SNLI. Each example $c \in C$ has two generic 115 components: the problem input x , and the corre sponding correct label y . From the dataset, We

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 fetch the demonstration and testing pools C_{demo} **and** C_{test} . We let C_{demo} be the training set of the **SNLI** dataset and the C_{test} be the first 512 instances of the testing set.

122 We then express each instance $c_{demo} \in C_{demo}$ as 123 $c_{demo} = (x_{demo}, y_{demo})$. This same notation rule 124 applies to c_{test} as well, with $c_{test} = (x_{test}, y_{test})$.

Models We used GPT-4 as our helper model M_h because it can more consistently answer our instruc- tion that prompts it to annotate the demonstration examples with rationales.

For the testing model M_T **, we chose the** 30 **instruction-tuned Llama2-7B**¹ [\(Touvron et al.,](#page-7-4) [2023\)](#page-7-4) because it is open-sourced while still main-taining strong in-context learning capacity.

 Evaluation We want to investigate whether language-model-based in-context demonstration prompting can improve the performance of the test- $\frac{136}{136}$ ing model M_T on a classification task C_{test} . At the current stage, we consider the performance im-**provement as** M_T **predicting more accurate labels,** so our evaluation metric should reflect how well \hat{y}_{test} align to y_{test}

 Since SNLI is well-balanced (i.e. each label class has approximately equal numbers of prob- lems), the naive accuracy is sufficient to assess the quality of the alignment. Specifically, we calculate **accuracy over** C_{test} **as follows:**

$$
Accuracy = \frac{\sum\limits_{c_{test} \in C_{test}} 1_{\hat{y}_{test} = y_{test}}}{|C_{test}|}
$$

 Recall that the testing model's output is formatted in natural language, so we need a way to extract its label prediction from this natural language output. At the end, we found that it was easier to go one step further and determine whether the model's outputs align with the ground truth labels. Our definition is summarized as the following:

154 $\hat{y}_{test} = y_{test}$ if

- 155 1. The last word of the response is y_{test} or,
- **156** 2. The entire response contains and only contains **¹⁵⁷** ytest

158 The choice for this criteria is because the instruc-**159** tions given to the model asks it to give its solution **160** at the end of its response. Also, keep in mind that

161 $\hat{y}_{test} \in \{entailment, contradiction, neutral\}$

1 [https://huggingface.co/NousResearch/](https://huggingface.co/NousResearch/Nous-Hermes-llama-2-7b) [Nous-Hermes-llama-2-7b](https://huggingface.co/NousResearch/Nous-Hermes-llama-2-7b)

Prompt Design In our study, we aim to examine 162 the impact of varying rationale types on model **163** performance. This investigation is structured along **164** two primary dimensions. **165**

Firstly, we consider the source of the rationales. **166** Given that different sources may provide divergent 167 interpretations for the same context, it's crucial to **168** understand how these variations affect the model's **169** output. Specifically, we have utilized three distinct **170** [s](#page-7-5)ources for our analysis: (1) **e-SNLI** [\(Camburu](#page-7-5) **171** [et al.,](#page-7-5) [2018\)](#page-7-5), which is an extensive dataset built **172** upon SNLI and augmented with human-annotated, **173** free-form rationales; (2) Steven-written, compris- **174** ing rationales authored by Steven, a junior under- **175** graduate student at USC; and (3) GPT-4, featuring **176** rationales generated by the GPT-4 model. **177**

Secondly, we focus on the level of detail in the **178** rationales. This dimension explores the model's **179** response under two forms of rationale presenta- **180** tion: (1) concise, single-sentence rationales and (2) **181** more elaborate, detailed rationales. This bifurca- **182** tion allows us to assess how the depth and breadth **183** of information in rationales influence the model's **184** performance. **185**

Definition of Number of Shots From now on for **186** the rest of the paper, we define 1-shot as 1-shot **187** three-way, meaning that for each shot, there will **188** be three QA pairs as demonstrations since there are **189** exactly three categories for SNLI. **190**

4.2 Baselines 191

Similar to CoT prompting [\(Wei et al.,](#page-7-1) [2023\)](#page-7-1), we **192** investigate the impact of including few-shot ex- **193** amples along with answers' rationales on testing **194** models' performance. Therefore, it is important to **195** incorporate baselines under two conditions: first, **196** when rationales are excluded, and second, when **197** both rationales and few-shots examples are ex- **198** cluded. These baselines correspond to the 0-shot **199** and 1-shot experiments under the w/o rationale **200** experiments category. **201**

In addition, given that the e-SNLI dataset already **202** provides simple human-curated rationales for each **203** instance in SNLI, we want to evaluate how well **204** these rationales are in comparison to our model- **205** generated rationales. Thus, we include another **206** baseline experiment using e-SNLI rationales in the **207** demonstration shots. This experiment is denoted **208** as the 1-shot e-SNLI experiment under the one- **209** sentence reasoning category. **210**

263 268 277

211 4.3 Main Results

 The data presented in Table [1](#page-1-0) first indicates that simply providing demonstration examples im- proves the model's performance, as we can see that the accuracy grows from 44.27% of 0-shot to 46.48% of 1-shot. More importantly, the results show that the inclusion of rationales in demonstra- tions enhances the model's performance. Specifi- cally, the performance improves from 46.48% to 56.41%. This suggests that the model's accuracy is positively influenced when it provides rationales alongside answers.

 However, it's important to note that not all types of rationales yield the same beneficial effect. When the model adopts Steven's handwritten rationales, there is minimal enhancement in performance. Sur- prisingly, the use of e-SNLI's rationales even re- sults in a decrease in performance. These outcomes are somewhat counterintuitive. To further under- stand these discrepancies, we conducted a case study to scrutinize the differences among various rationales.

233 4.3.1 Comparison of Human and Model **234** Generated Rationales

235 One example of demonstrations from different **236** sources:

237 Premise: A man and a woman are walking **238** on a street at the top of a hill.

241

245

250

239 Hypothesis: Two men play catch on a hill. **240** Label: Contradiction

242 e-SNLI Rationale: A man and a woman **243** are not the same as two men. Walking and **244** playing catch is different.

 Steven's Rationale: The premise states that there is "a man and a woman", which contra- dicts with the hypothesis which suggests that there are "two men".

 GPT-4 Rationale: The premise and hypothesis contradict each other in terms of the number and gender of the people involved.

255 Here is an example illustrating how the model's **256** response varies after being exposed to demonstra-**257** tions from different sources.

258 Premise: A land rover is being driven across **259** a river.

Hypothesis: A land rover is splashing water 260 as it crosses a river. **261** Label: Entailment 262

Model seeing e-SNLI Rationale: Be- **264** cause one cannot splash water without **265** being driven across a river, the answer is **266** contradiction. **267**

Model seeing Steven's Rationale: Be- **269** cause the activity "being driven across a **270** river" and "splashing water as it crosses a **271** river" are contradictory in nature and cannot **272** take place at the same time, the answer is **273** contradiction use one cannot splash water **274** without being driven across a river, the answer **275** is contradiction. **276**

Model seeing GPT-4 Rationale: Be- **278** cause The hypothesis is a specific statement **279** that is directly supported by the general **280** premise., the answer is entailment. **281**

Two key observations emerge from our analysis. **282** Firstly, the model exhibits a high degree of adher- **283** ence to the format of the provided demonstrations. **284** The structure and presentation of the rationales **285** in its predictions closely mirror those seen in the **286** demonstrations. Secondly, it is noteworthy that **287** GPT-4 tends to generate more generalized ratio- **288** nales, which, interestingly, correlate with improved **289** answer quality. **290**

4.3.2 Impact of Rationale Detailedness **291**

Building these findings, we investigate the rationale **292** detailedness' impact on the model's performance. **293** We requested both Steven and GPT-4 to provide **294** more detailed rationales (see Appendix [A\)](#page-8-0) and ran **295** another round of experiments with these rationales. **296** The outcomes, as documented in Table [1,](#page-1-0) reveal a **297** significant decline in accuracy for both cases. This **298** suggests a counterintuitive impact of the level of **299** detail in rationales on the model's effectiveness.

4.4 Ablation Studies 301

A series of counterintuitive phenomena were ob- **302** served in the experiments listed above. For one, 303 1-shot prompting with e-SNLI rationales saw a **304** decrease in performance as compared to 1-shot **305** prompting with no rationales at all. For another, **306** during few-shot prompting, more general rationales **307** seemed to activate better model performance than **308**

 more specific rationales. This is especially surpris- ing because, intuitively, providing more specific examples allows the model to extract more infor- mation with regards to the logic behind the solution, which should be able to better prompt it to arrive at its own correct conclusions.

 Upon closer inspection into the Llama2-7B out- puts, we arrive at an interesting observation where the ability of Llama2-7B to follow its given in- structions begins deteriorating as more shots or more detailed rationales are given to it. See the fol- lowing as a specific example of which Llama2-7B gets wrong when provided with a detailed rationale demonstration:

 The tan girl in the wool hat is not running and leaning over an object. The answer is neutral. neutral. *Premise:A man with a guitar and a woman with a book are sitting on a bench in the park. Hypothesis: A man plays the guitar while a woman reads a book. Response: The man with a guitar and the woman with a book are not sitting on a bench in the park. The answer is contradiction. contradiction. Premise:* [continued. . .]

 In the example listed, Llama2-7B begins by pro- viding the correct result but then proceeds to make up example queries that it then answers itself (in- correct portions of response *italicized*). As the com- plexity of the demonstration rationales increases, we see more examples in which the model's out- put resembles this pattern where the model doesn't seem to know when to stop its response.

 To answer the reason why this is the case, we form a hypothesis that this phenomenon is occur- ring because the 7B model is incapable of han- dling long contexts. We next investigate this hy- pothesis in a range of experiments. In all of the following experiments, demonstrations were sam- pled directly from the training set of e-SNLI, and H_t was asked to solve the first 500 examples of the e-SNLI test set. Furthermore, the results are averaged across three random seeds, decreasing the probability that the trends observed are due to random chance.

353 4.4.1 Ablation Study: K-shots

 To study how demonstrations affect Llama2-7B, the first ablation study we conduct is to observe the model's performance as one increases the number of shots. Since each demonstration includes a ra-tionale that can oftentimes be long, and due to the

limited input token length of Llama2-7B, we only **359** conduct this experiment up to 2-shots. **360**

The specific results are as follows: 361

Table 2: Results of k-shot Experiments in Section [4.4.1](#page-4-0)

The output of the model is analyzed in three **362** varying degrees. For one, we analyze Llama2-7B's **363** output based on its accuracy amongst the 500 eval- **364** uation examples. We also analyze the outputs of **365** the model based on their response length. Finally, **366** since Llama2-7B is a decoder-only model, there 367 is no guarantee that Llama2-7B will output ratio- **368** nales and responses in the format we intended. The **369** third metric in analyzing Llama2-7B's responses is **370** a count of the total number of these "unanswered" **371** responses amongst the 500 examples. **372**

As seen in Table [2,](#page-4-1) there is no significant differ- **373** ence in accuracy between 1-shot and 2-shot demon- **374** strations. However, as the number of e-SNLI shots **375** increases, the model's response observes a signifi- **376** cant increase in terms of length (oftentimes corre- **377** sponding to scenarios where the model starts hal- **378** lucinating its own e-SNLI problems) as well as **379** the number of responses that no longer follow the **380** specified response template. **381**

This illustrates a possible insight. As the number **382** of shots increases (i.e, the complexity of the demon- **383** strations increases), Llama2-7B's ability to provide **384** a clear, concise response that follows the prompt **385** format specified starts decreasing. A possible ex- **386** planation is that the model might be forgetting what **387** it's supposed to do. **388**

4.4.2 Ablation Study: Task Reminder **389**

To investigate whether Llama2-7B still remembers **390** its task as the complexity of the demonstrations **391** increases, we conduct the following two studies, **392** which are slight deviations from the 2-shot experi- 393 ments in the K-shots ablation section. **394**

The first study, which we denote as summa- **395** rize_instruction, differs from the standard 2-shot **396** approach in Section [4.4.1.](#page-4-0) It includes changing the **397** instructions to ask the model to first summarize its **398** objective and then give its answer. As an example, **399** see the following: **400**

Previous Instruction: 401

402 Give your final answer at the end of your re-**403** sponse

404 New Instruction:

405 First repeat the objective of your task, then **406** give your final answer at the end of your re-**407** sponse

 The second study, which we denote as reiter- ate_instruction_each_shot, differs from the stan- dard 2-shot approach in Section [4.4.1](#page-4-0) by repeating the instruction each time in each demonstration during prompting. See the following:

413 Previous Structure:

414 Instruction + demo1(input1, response1) + **415** demo2(input2, response2) + demo3. . .

416 New Instruction:

417 Instruction + demo1(input1, response1) + *In-***418** *struction* + demo2(input2, response2) + *In-***419** *struction* + demo3. . .

 Llama2-7B's responses are again analyzed on three metrics - Accuracy, Response Length, and the number of unanswered responses. The results are shown in Table [3](#page-5-0)

Table 3: Results of Task Reminder Experiments in Section [4.4.2](#page-4-2)

 A few interesting observations from this study are that asking the model to summarize instructions seems to dramatically improve accuracy and reduce the number of unanswered responses. Furthermore, repeating the instruction during each demonstra- tion dramatically decreases the response length, although the accuracy does not improve. Finally, we combine the two methods together, as denoted as reiterate_instruction_each_shot, and observe not only a significant increase in accuracy but also a decreased response length (thus implying that the model is more confident and succinct in its re- sponses) as well as a decrease in the number of responses that do not follow the intended template. Thus, from these studies, it could be deduced that the reason why Llama2-7B performed worse when provided with more sophisticated demonstration rationales was because it was potentially forgetting its objective and instructions for the task.

4.4.3 Ablation Study: GPT3.5 Ablation **443**

Above ablation studies suggest that a potential rea- **444** son why the performance of Llama2-7B dropped **445** when more sophisticated rationales were provided 446 was because it was potentially forgetting its ob- **447** jective and instructions for the task. Since the **448** ability to remember and interpret inputs is highly **449** dependent on the size and capacity of the model, **450** in this ablation study, we validate this hypothesis **451** by running the same experiments as highlighted **452** in section [4.3,](#page-3-0) but with GPT3.5 text-davinci-003. **453** Whereas the Llama2-7B saw a decrease in accuracy **454** when given more detailed rationales, we suspect 455 that GPT3.5, which is a much larger and more capa- **456** ble model, will not experience the same decrease in **457** accuracy for detailed rationales because it is more **458** capable of remembering its objective and instruc- **459** tions for the task. See Table [4](#page-5-1) for results. When **460** comparing model accuracy between Steven's one- **461** sentence rationales versus Steven's detail rationales **462** (note: these are the exact same demonstrations used **463** in [4.3\)](#page-3-0), we see that the results of GPT3.5 show an **464** increase in accuracy of 1.2%. This result sheds **465** more light on how the potential reason why we see 466 a performance drop of Llama2-7B was because of **467** its limited capacity to interpret and remember. **468**

Table 4: Results of experiments in Section [4.4.3](#page-5-2) that uses GPT3.5 as the testing model

4.4.4 Ablation Study: Random **469 Demonstration** 470

The interesting phenomenon observed was that **471** more shots did not lead to an increase in accuracy **472** by the Llama2-7B model. One way to explain this, **473** as done above, was that the model was forgetting **474** its task objective. Another potential reason why **475** providing more demonstrations does not lead to a **476** performance increase is because the model might **477** simply not be using the demonstrations. To investi- **478** gate this, we provide the following three studies. **479**

The first study, which we denote as **480** dummy_rationale, differs from the stan- **481** dard 2-shot approach in Section [4.4.1](#page-4-0) by using **482**

483 naive rationales that give no logical information, **484** as compared to the rationales that were previously

485 sampled from the e-SNLI dataset. See the **486** following as an example:

 Previous rationale: eSNLI rationale New Rationale: Because (input A) entails (input B), the an- swer is entailment The second study, which we denote as ran- dom_label, differs from the standard 2-shot ap-proach in Section [4.4.1](#page-4-0) by replacing each demon-

495 stration shot with a wrong label. However, note

498 The second study, which we denote as ran-

497 from e-SNLI.

496 that the rationales are still the correct rationales

499 **dom** rationale and label, differs from the stan-

500 dard 2-shot approach in Section [4.4.1](#page-4-0) by com-**501** pletely mixing and matching the rationale and la-

502 bels across all 6 demonstrations (6 demonstrations $503 = 2$ shot $*3$ way). Under this context, the rationales

504 and labels may also not match up. **505** The following shows the results of these three

506 studies, which are again analyzed on the three **507** scales of accuracy, response length, and the number **508** of responses that don't follow the desired format.

Acc $(\%)$	Resp. Len.	Unans.
40.6	339.9	40.3
42.2.	191.9	1.3
40.0	285.9	49.7
29.9	360.6	70.7

Table 5: Results of Random Demonstration Experiments in Section [4.4.4](#page-5-3)

 The first observation to take away is that in- cluding a dummy rationale dramatically improves Llama2-7B's accuracy. The potential hypothesized reason why is because these dummy rationales are more general and have a simplified structure, which allows the Llama2-7B (which has a more limited understanding capacity) to better follow the instruc- tions. A good analogy would be trying to teach an infant to perform a task. The easier your explana- tion and the simpler the task, the better the infant is able to follow what you're saying.

 Another counter-intuitive observation within these results is that randomly assigning demon- stration labels does not drop the accuracy of the model. Furthermore, performance only drops when the rationales and inputs begin to mismatch. One **524** potential explanation for this is that the models **525** are only using the demonstration rationales as a **526** structure/template for their own rationales. It is not **527** really learning the logic behind what the rationales **528** are saying, but rather only mimicking its structure. **529** If this were true, then it would also explain why pro- **530** viding more shots to the model does not increase its **531** performance, the main reason probably being that **532** the model has already observed enough templates **533** to form its responses, and that giving the model **534** more demonstration will only serve to confuse it. **535**

5 Discussion **⁵³⁶**

5.1 Limitation of SNLI Dataset **537**

As seen in Table [4](#page-5-1) and Table [1,](#page-1-0) for both Llama2-7B **538** and GPT3.5 models, the inclusion of CoT ratio- **539** nales into demonstrations oftentimes did not sub- **540** stantially improve the models' accuracies on the **541** SNLI dataset. This phenomenon is different for **542** other datasets, where it has been well-documented **543** that the performance of GPT3.5 dramatically in- **544** creases with CoT prompting on other datasets and **545 benchmarks.** 546

One hypothesis we have is that SNLI is an easy **547** task that doesn't incorporate too many steps of **548** logical reasoning, so including rationales for it **549** is not only unnecessary but also might distract **550** the model's attention. On the contrary, in most **551** works on CoT prompting, authors select datasets **552** like GSM8k or other logic-driven tasks, as in those **553** cases the model has low performance even under **554** a few-shot setting (without rationales). Thus, one **555** possible next steps to continue this experiment is **556** to run the same results on other datasets, such as **557** GSM8K. **558**

5.2 Evaluation of Generated Rationales **559**

The testing model's output is composed of two **560** parts, the predicted label \hat{y}_{test} and the rationale r_T 561 for this predicted label. In the current experiments, **562** we only accessed the accuracy of the predicted **563** label because this metric is the most direct crite- **564** rion against the model's performance. However, **565** to further understand how well the model follows **566** instructions and understands language tasks, we **567** also need to assess the soundness of the generated **568** rationale. **569**

We hypothesize an approach to evaluate the gen- **570** erated rationales r_T of M_T by fine-tuning a lan- 571 guage model. As potential next steps, we can train **572**

 a BERT[\(Devlin et al.,](#page-7-6) [2019\)](#page-7-6) classifier that takes in a rationale h for a problem instance $c = (x, y)$ and output a prediction on the target class y. In particular, we plan on masking all tokens in h that also occur in y, and feed the masked version of h into BERT, which will attempt to classify it with a predicted \hat{y} label. Note that we are **not** feeding the original problem instance x into the BERT model. Thus, BERT's prediction is solely based on the provided masked rationale.

 The advantage of this BERT classifier is that we can interpret its outputs as probabilities or confi- dence levels across the possible labels if we look at the logits just before the final output. In this way, we can assume that a good rationale would elicit the classifier to assign a high probability to the cor- rect label class. We can then use the probabilities that BERT assigns to the correct label to evaluate the quality of the generated rationales in a "soft" manner.

 To obtain this evaluation BERT model, we plan on fine-tuning a pretrained BERT model by using the generated rationales from M_H on examples in C_{demo} . Since C_{demo} and C_{test} are mutually ex- clusive, the finetuned BERT model will not have train-test overlap, since it is being trained on exam-599 ples of C_{demo} and being used to evaluate examples $\qquad \qquad \text{in } C_{test}.$

6 Conclusion

 This study delves into the impact of demonstration- based prompting strategies on Llama2-7B, exam- ining various factors that could influence model performance. A surprising discovery is that de- tailed rationales actually degrade the model's per- formance, rendering it less effective than having no rationales at all. In contrast, generic rationales appear to enhance performance.

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A Detailed Rationales in Section [4.3.2](#page-3-1)

 Lengthier and more detailed rationales that have longer chains of thought, written by Steven and GPT-4.

 Premise: A man and a woman are walking on a street at the top of a hill. Hypothesis: Two men play catch on a hill. Label: Contradiction

 Steven's Rationale: The premise does not entail the hypothesis because the dog is not necessarily "chasing a fish" given that it is "swimming in the ocean". It might be doing some other things like escaping from a shark. The premise does not contradict with the hypothesis because "chasing a fish" is something the dog might do if it were "swimming in the ocean". Thus, the premise neither entails nor contradicts the hypothesis.

 GPT4 Rationale: The premise states that a dog is swimming in the ocean but does not specify the dog's activity, and the hypothesis suggests a specific activity — chasing a fish — which is not confirmed or denied by the premise. The premise neither explicitly supports nor contradicts the hypothesis.