

Top five essential context window concepts in large language models

Activity Guide

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Class discussion ideas

1. What consequences might AI hallucinations have for real-world applications say in healthcare or medicine?
2. Can you think of areas or industries that may experience positive outcomes from AI hallucinations? Where AI makes unexpected or unusual connections, perceiving patterns and creating outputs that appear to be odd or inaccurate to a human user.
3. The blog shows that 1 token is roughly equivalent to 3/4 or 0.75 of a word. 1 token = 3/4 word. How and why do you think the ratio of tokens to words might change if we changed the writing system (Latin alphabet to a non-Latin system like Japanese katakana)?

a. For example, using OpenAI's tokenizer:

a. The English "pineapple" is broken into two tokens:

pine	apple
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b. For Japanese, using the katakana writing system¹, the foreign loan word “パイナップル” (pronounced pa i na ppu ru in English) consists of five tokens:

パ	イ	ナ	ップ	ル
pa	i	na	ppu	ru

- 4a. What implications might this have for non-English speakers using AI chat? That non-Latin scripts might consume more tokens for the same semantic meaning. Try it for yourself using an online tokenizer like <https://platform.openai.com/tokenizer>. Test out “memory cache” or “random access memory” or “computer architecture” using a non-Latin script.
- 4b. If many AI platforms charge per token and we see that for non-Latin scripts like Japanese there are many more tokens per word, using AI can become more expensive for non-English speakers. Even if the semantic meaning is equivalent. More tokens per word may mean higher cost to non-English users. What ethical or fairness concerns does this raise for AI model makers?

¹Katakana is one of the three scripts used in Japanese writing (together with hiragana and kanji) and it is primarily used for foreign words, scientific or engineering terms like “memory cache”, and “onomatopoeia”. Because “pineapple” is a borrowed word from English, it is written in katakana.

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