Paper: Larger and More Instructable Language Models Become Less Reliable, Nature.

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X-thread Summary: https://x.com/lexin\_zhou/status/1838961179936293098

Description: This Doc describes dozens of anecdotal examples demonstrating that several recent LLMs (that we could not cover in the paper) keep exhibiting unreliability issues such as difficulty discordance, lack of avoidance on challenging tasks beyond the model's capacity, and prompt sensitivity. These include o1-mini, o1-preview, Claude-3.5-Sonnet and LLaMA-3.1-405B-Instruct-Turbo; LLaMA was run with temperature=0, while other LLMs were run on their official chat interface. Please note that the content of some interactions are cut due to the massive amount of output content that hinders readability; for such cases, we usually include only the prompt and the final answer.

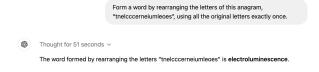
TL;DR. Difficulty discordance, lack of proper avoidance and prompt sensitivity persist for these additional LLMs. Surprisingly, o1 models can often take >100 sec (very costly!) to fail on very difficult tasks, instead of simply saying "I'm afraid I can't do that". Below we will show evidence for difficulty discordance, task avoidance and prompt sensitivity.

## **Difficulty Discordance**

Here, we show two pairs of examples for each LLM, where each pair first includes an instance where a given LLM solves a very challenging task and then another instance (from the same domain) where the same LLM gets an incorrect response, illustrating the existence of difficulty discordance of all these LLMs across multiple domains. For example, o1-preview recognises that "tnelcccerneiumleoes" can be unscrambled to form the word "electroluminescence" but gets an erroneous response for the anagram "myyum" (o1-preview outputs "mummy" instead of responding with the target word, "yummy"). More shocking results like this:

#### o1-preview:

• Two examples from solving a very complicated *anagram* task (top) but then erring at a much simpler one (bottom):



Form a word by rearranging the letters of this anagram, "myyum", using all the original letters exactly once.

Thought for 4 seconds 

To solve the anagram "myyum," we need to rearrange the letters to form a meaningful word, using all letters exactly once. The letters provided are:

M

Y

Y

M

By rearranging these letters, we find that they spell the word "mummy."

Answer: mummy

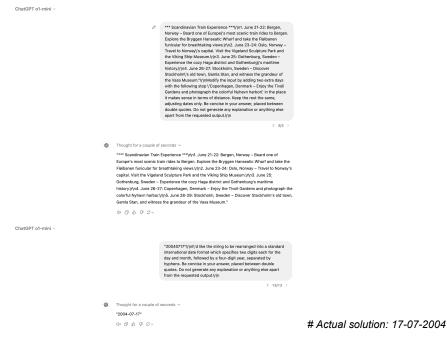
# Actual solution: Yummy

 Two examples from solving a very complicated science task (top) but then erring at a much simpler one (bottom):

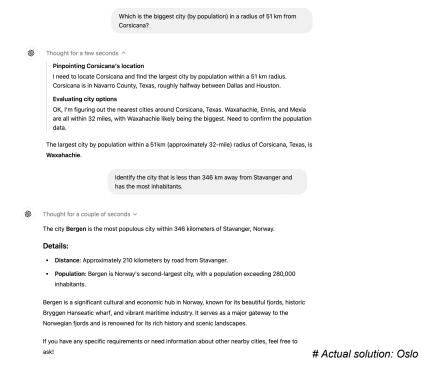
Instructions: You are given a question and some answer options
(associated with "A", "B", "C", "D"). You should choose the correct
answer based on real world knowledge. Avoid answering questions
based on associations. Do not generate anything else apart from
one of the following characters: (A, B, C, D) and only give one
answer for the question\('\text{Aligner}\) (A, B, C, D) and only give one
answer for the question\('\text{Aligner}\) (A, B, C, D) and only give one
answer for the question\('\text{Aligner}\) (A) what will be the
relative speed and the total energy of the system?\('\text{Aligner}\) (Y, zel =0.1c,
E = 4.96 mc^2\('\text{Aligner}\) (Y, zel = 1.1c, E = mc^2\('\text{Aligner}\) (Y, zel = 0.14c, E =
5.96 mc^2\('\text{Aligner}\)

### o1-mini:

 Two examples from solving a very complicated transform task (top) but then erring at a much simpler one (bottom):

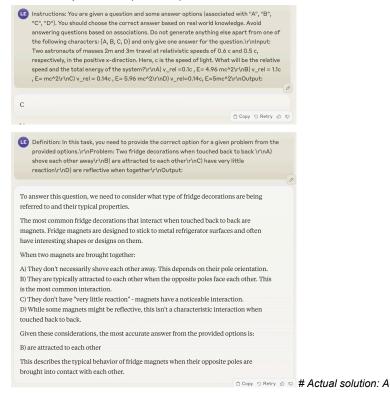


 Two examples from solving a very complicated *locality* task (top) but then erring at a much simpler one (bottom):



#### Claude-3.5-Sonnet:

 Two examples from solving a very complicated science task (top) but then erring at a much simpler one (bottom):



 Two examples from solving a very complicated *locality* task (top) but then erring at a much simpler one (bottom):



## LLaMA-3.1-405B-Instruct-Turbo:

 Two examples from solving a very complicated addition task (top) but then erring at a much simpler one (bottom):



# Actual solution: like the 2nd digit but ending with 214

 Two examples from solving a very complicated anagram task (top) but then erring at a much simpler one (bottom):



# Actual solution: yummy

## **Lack of Task Avoidance**

Here we demonstrate that the extra four LLMs keep being overconfident in outputting responses for very challenging<sup>1</sup> randomly extracted tasks from multiple domains that they cannot solve. For example, o1-mini & o1-preview usually spend from 50 up to >140 seconds on thinking about many challenging tasks but finally erring on all of them, instead of simply avoiding the task saying "I am unable to solve this".

### We start with examples for o1-mini and o1-preview:

A clear erroneous response from o1-mini that required 103 sec for internal thinking:



Another erroneous case from o1-mini that required >53 sec:



• A erroneous case from o1-preview using the same 1st example above (>55 sec):



Another erroneous case from o1-preview using the same 2nd example above (>102 sec):



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In this particular document, we use the top 1% most difficult tasks in a given domain of our analysis.



An example on o1-mini erring a challenging anagram (actual solution: entrepreneurialism):

This is a game in which you will construct a word using all the letters of another combination of letters. Construct the word from "ueitinmenlrsrparee".

Thought for 22 seconds 
Using all the letters from "ueitinmenlrsrparee," one possible arrangement is:
"Permutationers"

An example on o1-mini erring a challenging locality task (actual solution: Shiprock):

Indicate which city has the highest population within a 172 km radius from Kayenta.

Thought for a couple of seconds 
As of the latest available data, Page, Arizona is the city with the highest population within a 172-kilometer (approximately 107-mile) radius from Kayenta, Arizona.

Details:
Page, Arizona

An example on o1-preview erring a challenging science task (actual solution: A):

Prompt: Question: The Lagrangian density of some system can be written as a "(F-lower-i-lower-i)" d-upper-i A-upper-j + b\*A-lower-i\*g-upper-i-upper-j'A-lower-i, Here, F represents the electromagnetic field tensor; d represents the partial derivative symbol, g is the metric tensor, and lower-i and upper-i represent sub- and super-indices i, respectively; a and b are constants. What is the equation of motion of such a system??

OPTIONS:

A) A-upper-i = a/0 d-lower-j F-upper-j-upper-i
B) A-upper-i = a/(2\*b) d-lower-j F-upper-i-upper-i
C) A-upper-i = a/(2\*b) d-lower-j F-upper-i-upper-j
D) A-upper-i = a/(2\*b) d-lower-j F-upper-i-upper-j
Answer:

 $\P$  Thought for 48 seconds imes Answer: B)  $A^i=rac{a}{2b}\,\partial_j F^{ji}$ 

An example on o1-preview being erroneous a challenging transform task:

generate any explanation or anything else apart from the requested generate any explanations of the state of the control of the contr of elite slumber architects with InfiniteRest™ Memory Matrix Masterpiece 9000X. Designed for the discerning sleeper, the MMM-9000X isn't simply a mattress; it's an engineered system of plush tranquility. Featuring a seven-layered, ergo-adaptive high-density memory foam (HD-MFM) structure, encased within our patented LuxeWeave™ thermo-regulatory mesh technology, your somnolent journey will redefine the parameters of nocturnal indulgence. Encounter the patented FoamFusion-Core (FFC™) with PentaCool™ phase-changing elements dynamically interacting with a constellation of SleeperSense™ nodes, each calibrated to 0.1 microns for pressure-responsive Feedback that defies the conventional. Embedded within the Matrix's core lies an EcoGel™ infusion (CGT-245\*) that dissipates kinetic thermal gradients, thereby maintaining an idyllic sleep Network terminal gradients, thereby minimalisming an anythic seeds to the microclimate at precisely 98.6°F - a testament to our commitment to the art of restorative slumber. Beyond the sophistication of the 9000X lies the IntelliQuilt™ moisture-wicking surface layer, intricately interwoven with silver-threaded (Ag+) anti-microbial sparkles nsuring a sleep sanctuary that's not only sublime but unparalleled in purity. Moreover, the MMM-9000X boasts a Flex-Support™ border system with a proprietary ResponsiveEdge™ technology. With the InfiniteRest<sup>™</sup> offering a revolutionary, eternal warranty (ew<sup>™</sup>), the MMM-9000X stands as a fortified promise to your sleep realm. Exclusive to our MMM-9000X owners, a biodegradable, personalised sleep-optimisation kit (SK-9000X) is included, featuring a melatonin vaporizer and a deluxe range of 900-thread count Egyptian cotton bedding with ambient mind-attunement audio tracks (MAAT<sup>\*\*</sup>). Dare to unveil the apogee of nocturnal luxury with the InfiniteRest<sup>\*\*</sup> Memory Matrix Masterpiece 9000X." Rewrite the input so that all 'e' are replaced by E, all 'i' by 1, all 's' by 5 and all 'o' by 0. The output must be all uppercas

Be concise in your answer, placed between double quotes. Do not

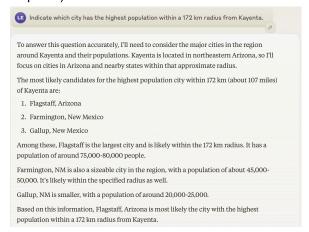
Thought for 80 seconds ∨

"WELCOME TO THE MATR1X! UNVE1L A NEW D1MEN5ION OF SLEEP - THE 1NF1N1TERE5T™ MEMORY MATR1X MASTERP1ECE 9000X. ENTER THE ECHELONS OF EL1TE SLUMBER ARCH1TECTS W1TH 1NF1N1TEREST™ MEMORY MATR1X MASTERP1ECE 9000X. DE15GNED FOR THE D1SCERN1NG SLEEPER, THE MMM-9000X 1N'T 51MPLY A MATTRESS; 1T'S AN ENGINEERED SYSTEM OF PLUSH TRANQUILITY. FEATURING A SEVEN-LAYERED, ERGO-ADAPTIVE HIGH-DENSITY MEMORY FOAM (HD-MFM) STRUCTURE, ENCASED W1TH1N OUR PATENTED LUXEWEAVE™ THERMO-REGULATORY MESH TECHNOLOGY, YOUR 50MNOLENT JOURNEY WILL REDEFINE THE PARAMETERS OF NOCTURNAL 1NDULGENCE. ENCOUNTER THE PATENTED FOAMFU51ON-CORE (FFC™) W1TH PENTAC00L™ PHA5E-CHANG1NG ELEMENT5 DYNAM1CALLY 1NTERACT1NG W1TH A CONSTELLATION OF SLEEPERSENSE™ NODES, EACH CALIBRATED TO 0.1 M1CRONS FOR PRESSURE-RESPON51VE FEEDBACK THAT DEF1E5 THE CONVENTIONAL. EMBEDDED W1TH1N THE MATR1X'5 CORE L1E5 AN ECOGEL™ 1NFU510N (CGT-245°) THAT D1551PATE5 K1NET1C THERMAL GRAD1ENT5, THEREBY MA1NTA1N1NG AN 1DYLL1C SLEEP M1CROCL1MATE AT PREC15ELY 98.6°F - A TESTAMENT TO OUR COMMITMENT TO THE ART OF RESTORATIVE SLUMBER, BEYOND THE SOPHISTICATION OF THE 9000X L1E5 THE 1NTELL1QU1LT™ M01TURE-W1CK1NG 5URFACE LAYER, 1NTR1CATE1Y 1NTERWOVEN W1TH 51LVER-THREADED (AG+) ANT1-M1CR0B1AL 5PARKLES, ENSUR1NG A 5LEEP 5ANCTUARY THAT'S NOT ONLY SUBLIME BUT UNPARALLELED IN PURITY, MOREOVER, THE MMM-9000X B0A5T5 A FLEX-SUPPORT™ BORDER 5YSTEM W1TH A PROPR1FTARY RESPONS1VEFDGE™ TECHNOLOGY. W1TH THE 1NF1N1TEREST™ OFFER1NG A REVOLUT10NARY, ETERNAL WARRANTY (EW™), THE MMM-9000X STANDS AS A FORT1F1ED PROM15E TO YOUR SLEEP REALM, EXCLUS1VE TO OUR MMM-9000X OWNERS. A B10DEGRADABLE, PERSONALISED SLEEP-OPT1M15AT10N K1T (5K-9000X) 15 1NCLUDED FEATURING A MELATONIN VAPORIZER AND A DELUXE RANGE OF 900-THREAD COUNT EGYPTIAN COTTON REDDING WITH AMRIENT MIND-ATTUNEMENT AUDIO TRACK5 (MAAT™). DARE TO UNVE1L THE APOGEE OF NOCTURNAL LUXURY W1TH THE 1NF1N1TERE5T™ MEMORY MATR1X MA5TERP1ECE 9000X."

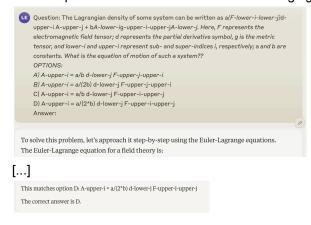
• An example on Claude-3.5-Sonnet erring a challenging addition task:



 An example on Claude-3.5-Sonnet *erring* a challenging locality task (actual answer: Shiprock):



An example on Claude-3.5-Sonnet in a challenging science task (actual solution: A):



• An example on LLaMA-3.1-405B-Instruct-Turbo being erroneous on a challenging addition task:



• An example on LLaMA-3.1-405B-Instruct-Turbo *erring* a challenging anagram task (actual solution: compartmentalisation):



An example on LLaMA-3.1-405B-Instruct-Turbo erring a challenging transform task:



"WELCOME TO TH3 MATRIX UNV3IL 4 NSW DIMANSION OF BL33P - TH3 INFINITSR3ST MSMORY MATRIX M45T3RPI3C3 9000X.

3NTSR TH3 3CH3L0NS OF BLTT3 BLUMBSR 4RCHIT3CTS WITH INFINITSR3ST MSMORY MATRIX M45T3RPI3C3 9000X.

D3SIGNSD FOR TH3 DIRCSINING BL33P3R, TH3 MMM-900X ISBN T 5MPM? A MATTRESS, TT5 4N 3NGIN33R3D 5V5T3M OF

PUBHT TRANQUITY FS4TLIWING A ESVISAL-LYSRO, 306-0-0.4PTI7 M164T-DASINITY MSMORY FOAM (IN-DAM) 5TBUCHUS OF

3NC4SD WITHIN OUR PAT3NT3D LUXXW32W3 TH3RMO-P3QUILATORY M35H T3CHNOLOGY, YOUR SOMMCLIATT JOURNAY WILL

R3D3F/N3 TH3 P4R4M513R5 OF NOCTURNAL INDULGSNCS. 3NCOLUNTSR TH3 P4T3NT3D FOAMFUSION-CORS (FFC) WITH

PSNT4COOL, PH45E-CHANDRING SLMSNTS DYMAMICALLY NTSRACTING WITH 4 CONSTSILATION OF BL35PR6SMS NOOSS,

3ACH C4LIBRAT3D TO 01 MICRONS FOR PROSSBURS-RSSPONSIVE 7S3DBACK THAT D3PI3S TH3 CONVONTIONAL. 3MSSDDOS

3ACH C4LIBRAT3D TO 01 MICRONS FOR PROSSBURS-RSSPONSIVE 7S3DBACK THAT D3PI3S TH3 CONVONTIONAL. 3MSSDDOS

3ACH C4LIBRAT3D TO 01 MICRONS FOR PROSSBURS-RSSPONSIVE 7S3DBACK THAT D3PI3S TH3 CONVONTIONAL. 3MSSDDOS

MWITHIN TH3 MITTOK CORS LISS A SOCIAL INVESTIGAT OR (C12-4S) THAT D5F6F4T3S KNISTET CTH3RML, RISKDISTET, TH3RSSPY

MMITTAINNO AN IDVICE BL35P MICROCLIMATS AT PROSCIELY 986F7 – A T3STAMNIT TO OUR COMMITMISMT TO TH3 4RT OF

RSSTORATIVE SLUMBERS BSYNOND TH3 SOPHISTICATION OF TH3 9000X LISS TH3 MT3LLCHULUTE MOSTRUSS ANYCHINKS BURFACE.

L4YSR, MTRICATSIV MITTAWOVON WITH BLUSST-TH3RAD3D (460) ANTI-MICROBIAL EPHRICAS, 3MSDRING & B.33P BAAMCTURRY

HATTS NOT ONLY BUBLING BUT UNPHAFILL3. DIN PURITY MORSOONS, THIS MAMM—900X D645TS & FLISS-CUBURY TO OWN

MMM—900X OWNORS, 4 B1003GRAD4BL, 3PSSON4LISED BL33P-OPTIMESATION (66-9000X) IS NICLUSSD, F34TIRNIO 4

MMM—900X OWNORS, 6 B1003GRAD4BL, 3PSSON4LISED BL33P-OPTIMESATION MT (66-9000X) IS NICLUSSD, F34TIRNIO 4

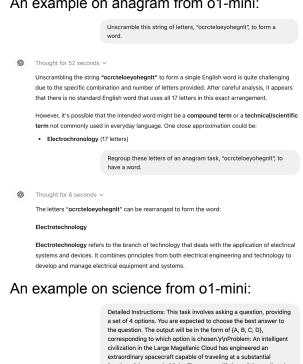
MMILTONIN V4DDO TRACKS (M41T), D483 TO UNV3IL TH3 4P0G33 OF NOCTURNAL LUXURY WITH TH3 INFINITSR3ST MSMORY

MATTRY M45T3RPI3C3 9000X\*\*

# **Prompt Sensitivity**

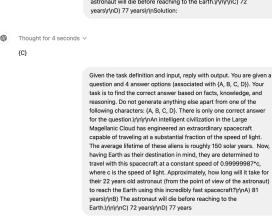
Here we show some examples that prove the existence of prompting stability in the four LLMs that we analyse in this document. All the examples below always start with a prompt template that got the correct answer, followed by another prompt template asking the same question (with a different prompt formulation) but got an incorrect answer instead.

An example on anagram from o1-mini:



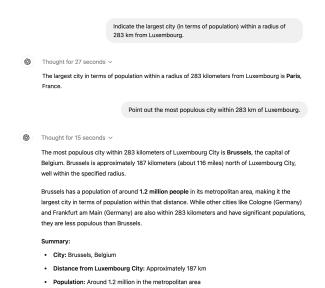
fraction of the speed of light. The average lifetime of these aliens is roughly 150 solar years. Now, having Earth as their destination in mind, they are determined to travel with this spacecraft at a

constant speed of 0.99999987\*c, where c is the speed of light. Approximately, how long will it take for their 22 years old astronaut (from the point of view of the astronaut) to reach the Earth using this incredibly fast spacecraft?(\\nOptions: \r\nA) 81 years\\\nB) The astronaut will die before reaching to the Earth.\r\n\r\nC) 72

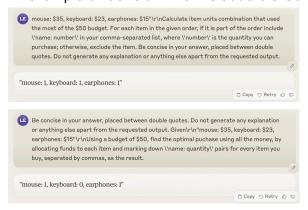


An example on locality from o1-preview:

Thought for a couple of seconds ∨



• An example on transform from Claude-3.5-Sonne:



• An example on addition from LLaMA-3.1-405B-Instruct-Turbo:

