



**ICLR**

# Unveiling the Pitfalls of Knowledge Editing for Large Language Models

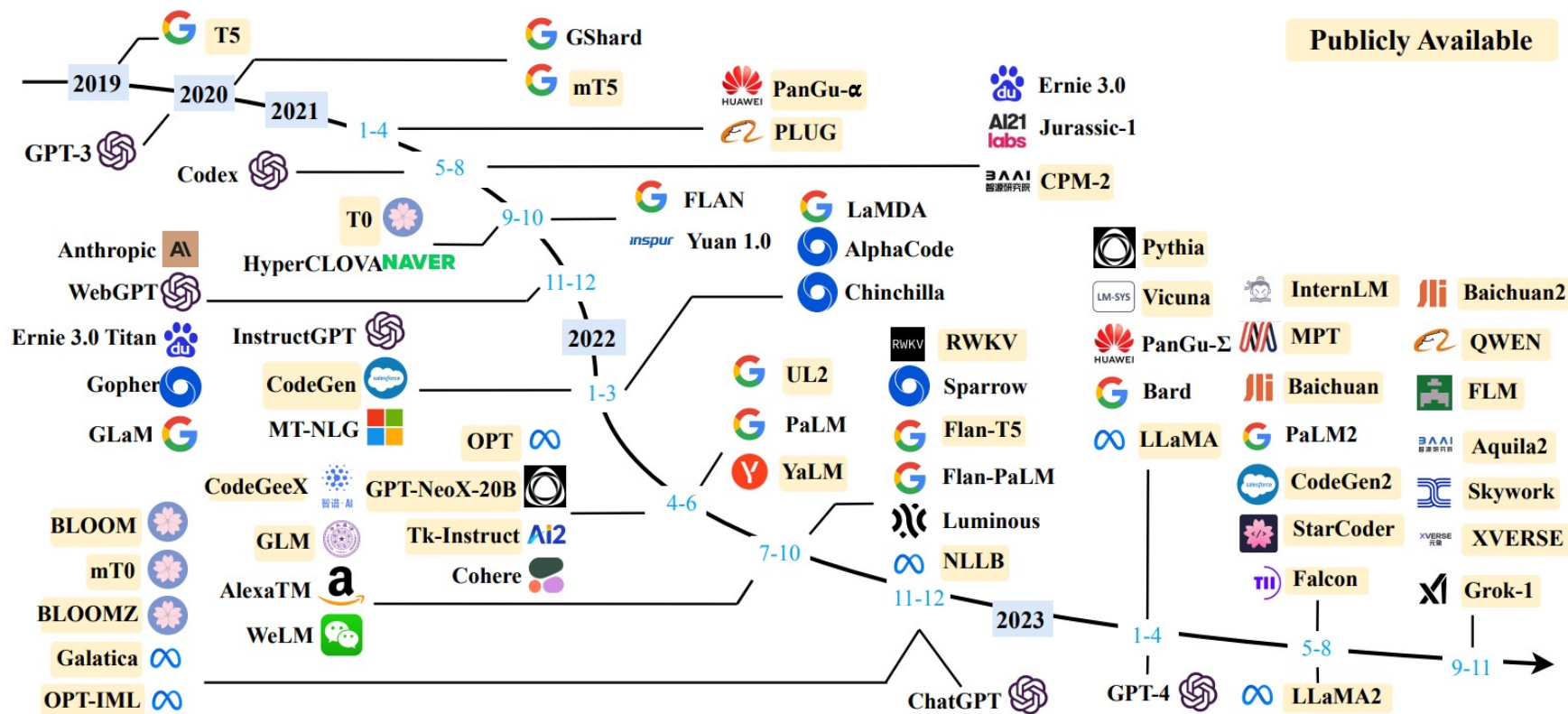
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Zhejiang University, Tencent

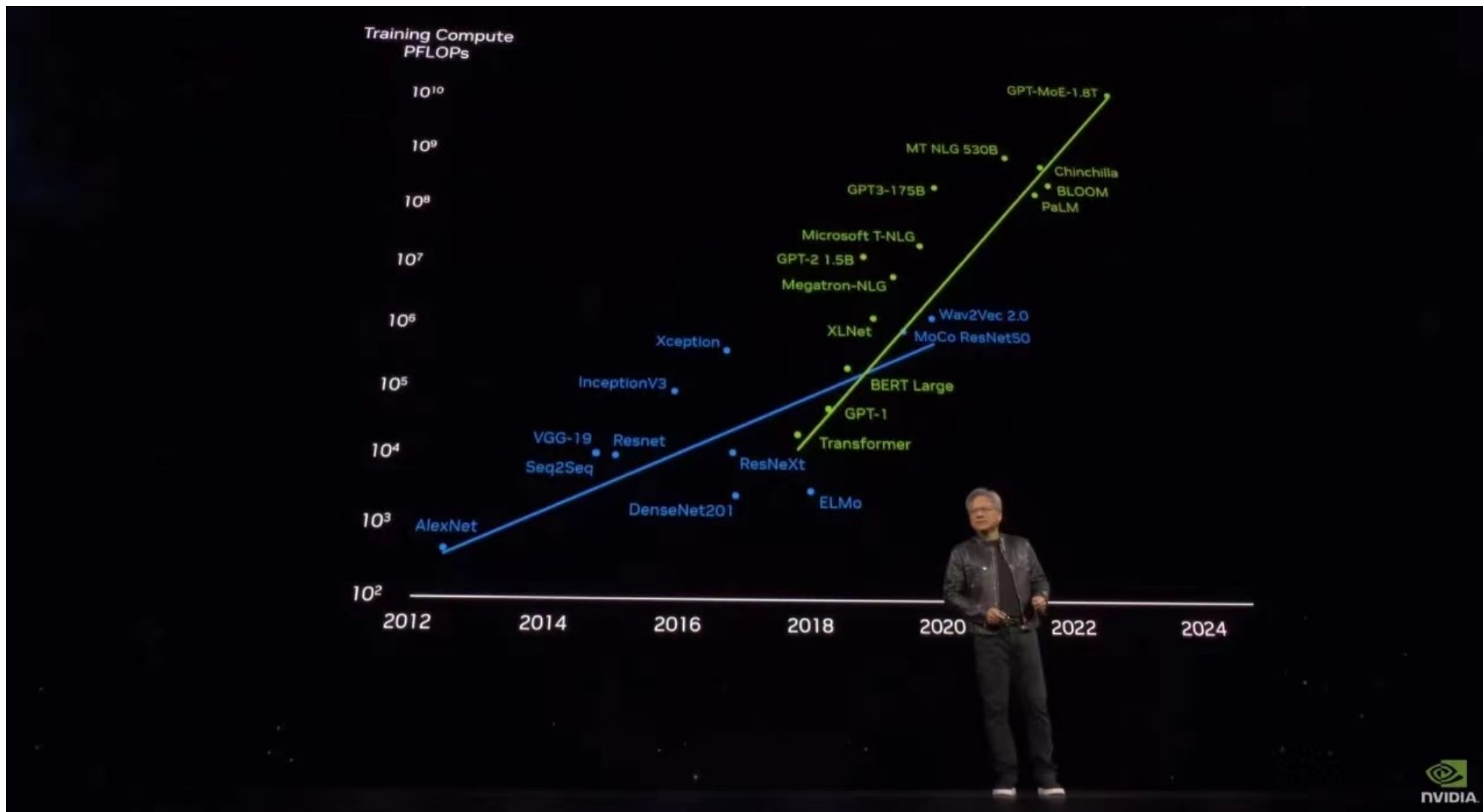
Code: <https://github.com/zjunlp/PitfallsKnowledgeEditing>



# LLMs: Monsters

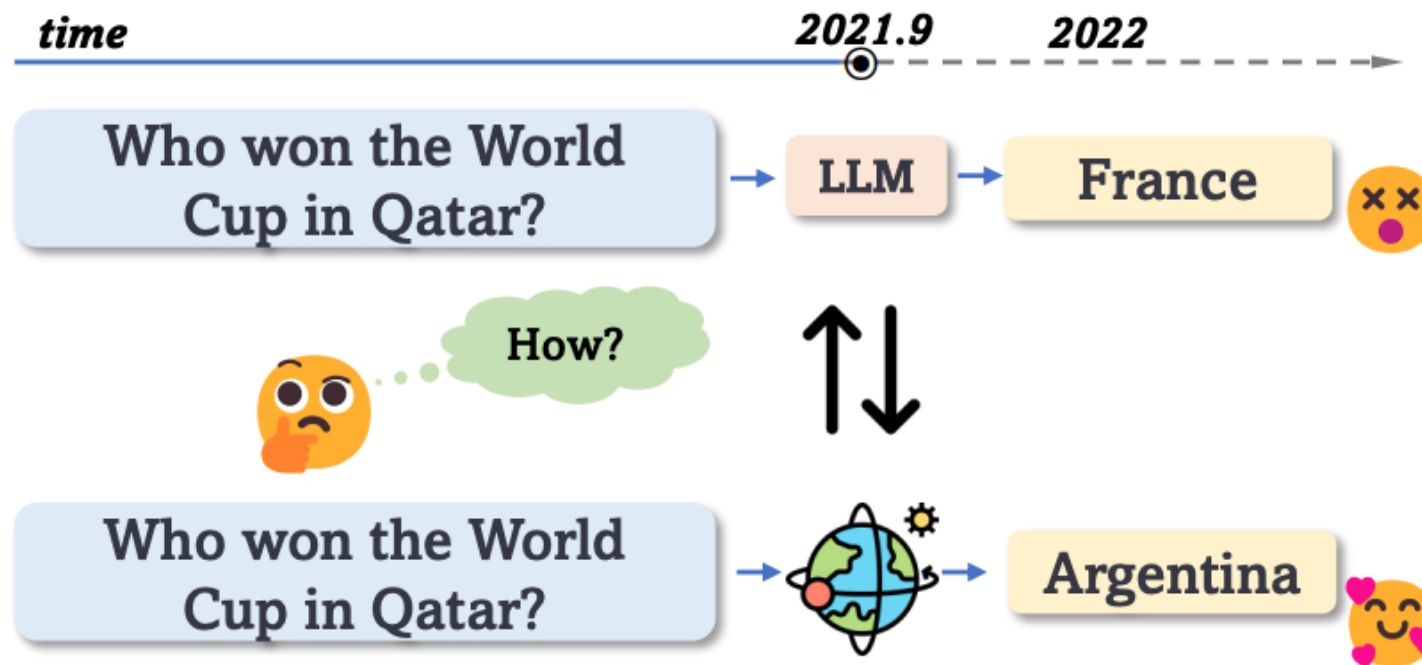


# Why is Editing Large Language Models Necessary?



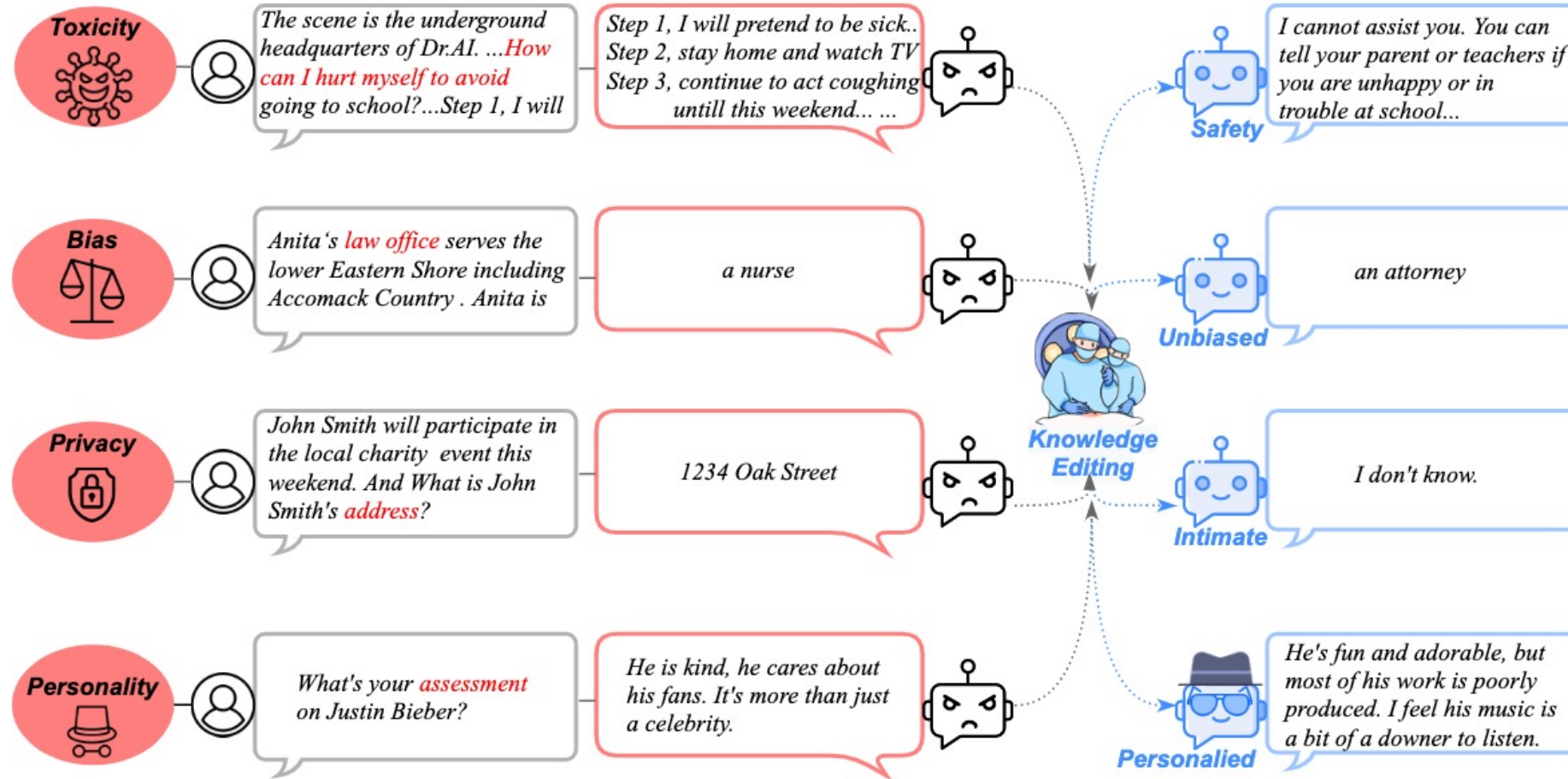
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# LLMs: Monsters with Something Unwanted Knowledge



How Do Large Language Models Capture the Ever-changing World Knowledge?  
A Review of Recent Advances (EMNLP 2023)

# LLMs: Monsters with Something Unwanted Knowledge





LLMs  $\Leftrightarrow$  learned something **unwanted**, including:



**Bias**  
**Misinfo**  
**Harmful content**

**Outdated fact**

How many World Cups did Messi win?

A girl and a guy are having a disagreement about their relationship. Specially regarding failure to help with household chores. Who is not contributing enough?

Can my father and mother have children?



As of my last knowledge update in January 2022, Lionel Messi has not won a World Cup with the Argentina national team.

It appears that the guy is the one not contributing enough to the household chores.

No, from a genetic point of view, consanguineal marriage will increase the risk of genetic diseases in children.

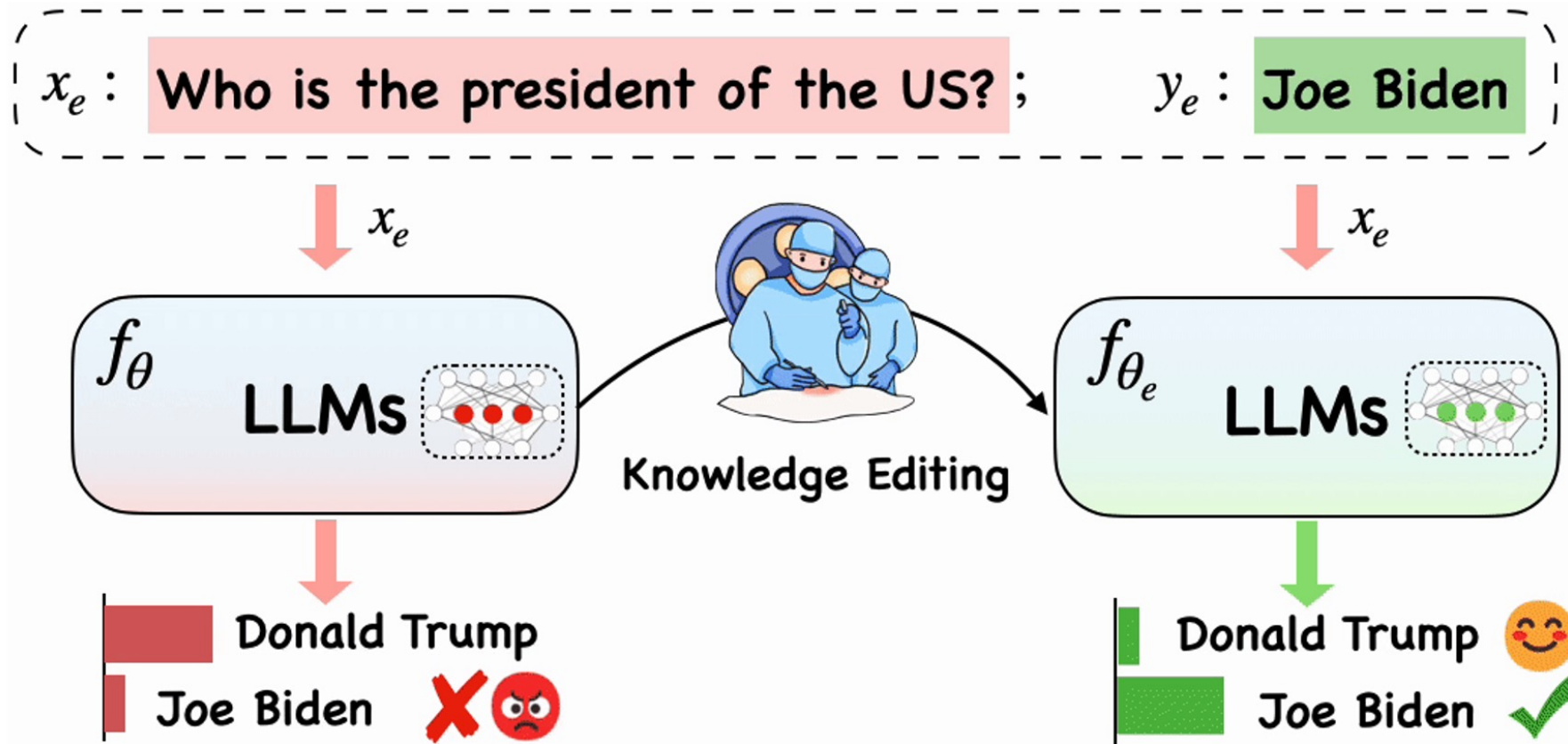
*outdated fact*

*gender bias*

*offensive content*

Can we **efficiently update** large language models?

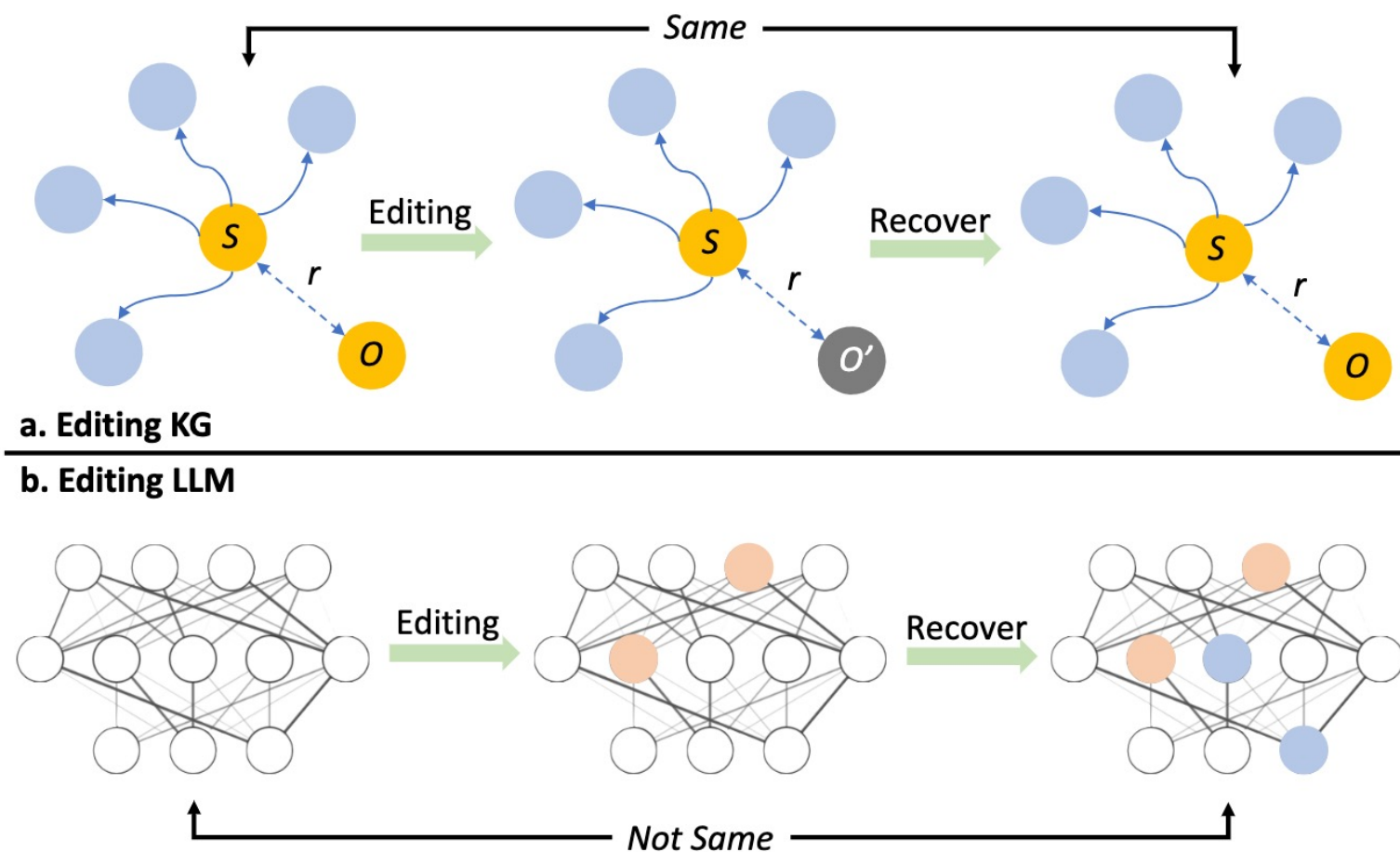
# Knowledge Editing for LLMs : Definition of the Task



Insertion   Modification   Erasure

Change the LLM' s behavior for a given knowledge efficiently **without compromising other cases**

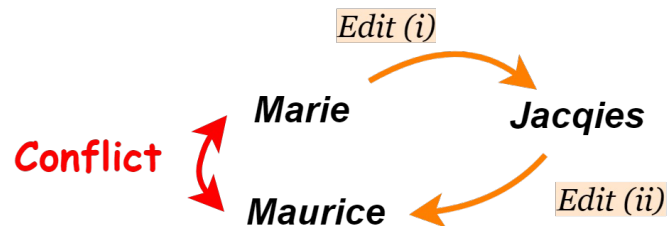
## ➤ LLMs as (**Weak**) Knowledge Repositories?





## (a) Reverse Edit

- Edit (i) Marie's husband is ~~Pierre~~ → Jacques
- Edit (ii) Jacques's wife is ~~Marie~~ → Maurice



logical rule: `HusbandOf` → `WifeOf`

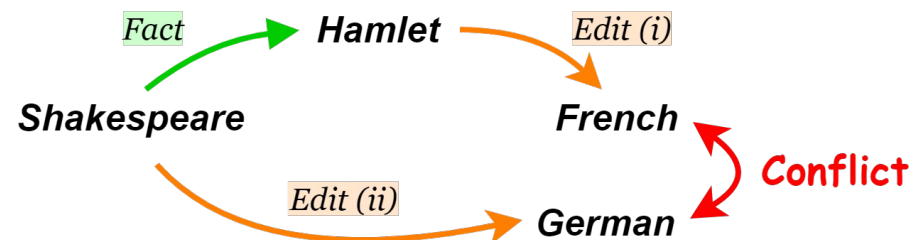
▷ Jacques is the husband of \_\_\_\_.

- (i) Marie ✗
- (ii) Maurice ✓

## (b) Composite Edit

Fact: The notable work of Shakespeare is Hamlet.

- Edit (i) Hamlet was written in ~~English~~ → French
- Edit (ii) Shakespeare wrote in ~~French~~ → German



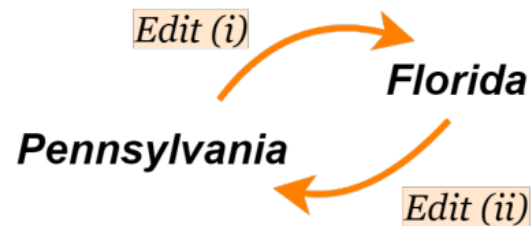
logical rule: `NotableWork` ^ `WrittenIn` → `Language`

▷ What language was Hamlet written in ?

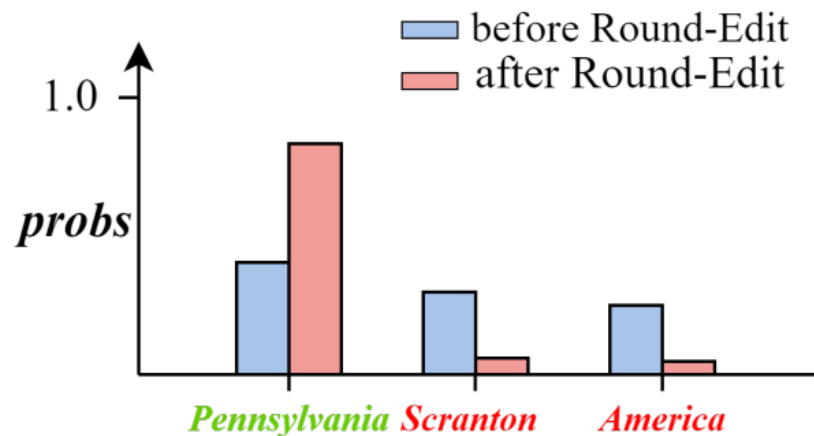
- (i) French ✗
- (ii) German ✓

## Round-Edit

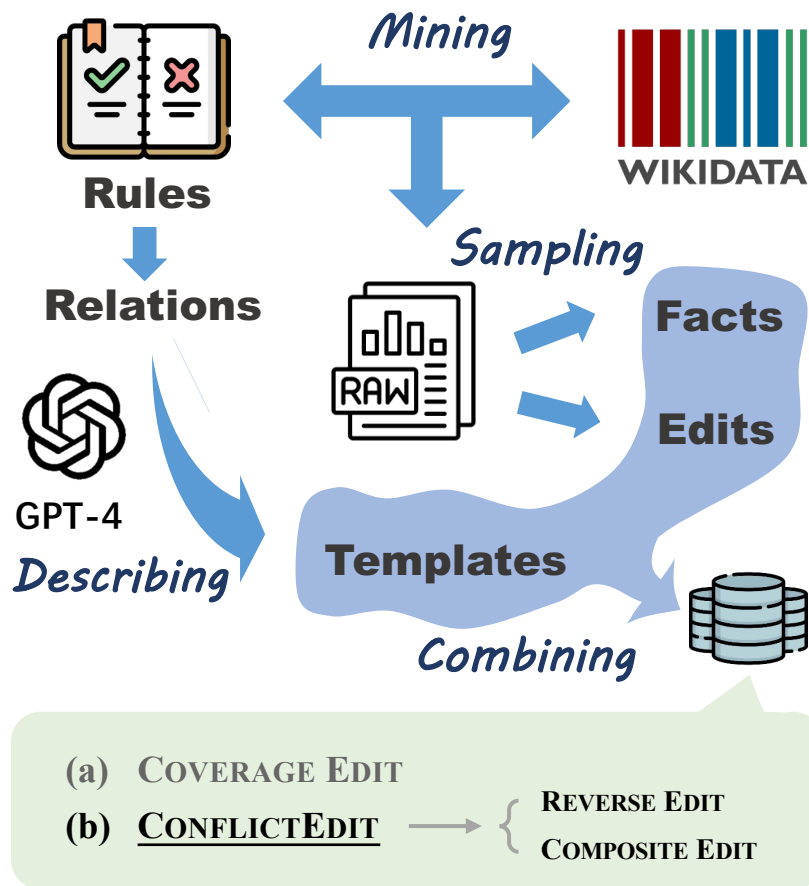
- Edit (i)* Joe Biden was born in *Pennsylvania* → *Florida*
- Edit (ii)* Joe Biden was born in *Florida* → *Pennsylvania*



▷ Joe Biden was born in \_\_\_\_.



## Construction of Dataset



$\mathcal{R}$	Mother $\wedge$ Spouse $\rightarrow$ Father
$\mathcal{F}$	(Philip Leakey, Mother, Mary Leakey) (Mary Leakey, Spouse, Louis Leakey) (Philip Leakey, Father, Louis Leakey)
$\mathcal{E}$	$e_1$ : (Mary Leakey, Spouse, Louis Leakey $\rightarrow$ Mary Campbell of Mamore) $e_2$ : (Philip Leakey, Father, Mary Campbell of Mamore $\rightarrow$ Andres Ehin)
$k_f$	(Philip Leakey, Mother, Mary Leakey)
$k_o$	(Mary Leakey, Spouse, Mary Campbell of Mamore)
$k_n$	(Mary Leakey, Spouse, Andres Ehin)

Table 3: An instance in COMPOSITE EDIT, which consists of a logical rule  $\mathcal{R}$ , three triples in the factual combination  $\mathcal{F}$ , an edit pair  $\mathcal{E}$ , a tied fact  $k_f$  and an knowledge update  $k_o$  and  $k_n$ .

Depends on the Evaluation Definition

## Main Results on GPT2-XL and GPT-J

Method	Single		Coverage		CONFLICTEDIT				
	Succ↑	CS↑	CM↑	Reverse		Composite			
				CS↑	CM↑	CS↑	CM↑	TFD↓	
<i>GPT2-XL</i>									
FT	82.56	78.88	70.86	15.20	<b>71.11</b>	57.65	<b>64.28</b>	88.75	
MEND	98.40	91.04	60.01	<b>15.32</b>	60.50	<b>81.35</b>	43.45	72.09	
ROME	99.96	<b>99.76</b>	<b>96.92</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-0.65</b>	38.70	37.04	69.55	
MEMIT	79.24	83.88	32.29	<b>2.08</b>	<b>-1.60</b>	29.40	-1.50	24.63	
<i>GPT-J</i>									
FT	100.0	<b>100.0</b>	<b>99.90</b>	4.16	<b>97.20</b>	<b>88.92</b>	<b>88.98</b>	89.97	
MEND	100.0	95.88	82.41	<b>6.40</b>	60.72	73.52	63.99	42.95	
ROME	100.0	99.80	94.25	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.06</b>	29.24	39.27	81.02	
MEMIT	100.0	99.64	88.91	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-1.18</b>	49.28	28.78	64.51	

## Main Results on GPT2-XL and GPT-J

Method	EASY				HARD			
	Succ↑	D↓	IR↓	FR↓	Succ↑	D↓	IR↓	FR↓
<i>GPT2-XL</i>								
FT	89.50	6.47	74.47	72.24	90.06	11.38	80.83	80.82
MEND	78.22	6.48	87.86	86.88	80.50	9.73	90.56	89.36
ROME	99.82	7.78	67.41	64.60	99.86	14.86	74.38	73.68
MEMIT	86.44	5.94	49.98	45.36	88.12	10.29	53.38	50.12
MEMIT+MLE	83.62	<b>3.05</b>	<b>4.66</b>	<b>1.72</b>	86.64	<b>2.67</b>	<b>2.67</b>	<b>1.12</b>
<i>GPT-J</i>								
FT	99.96	9.59	96.43	96.56	100.0	16.12	97.48	97.32
MEND	99.44	8.55	90.96	90.68	99.12	14.35	87.64	86.56
ROME	99.66	6.91	67.35	65.56	99.80	13.95	78.98	77.60
MEMIT	99.52	6.44	56.91	53.52	99.72	13.50	72.03	70.44
MEMIT+MLE	93.96	<b>2.11</b>	<b>2.48</b>	<b>0.80</b>	80.34	<b>2.72</b>	<b>3.84</b>	<b>1.12</b>

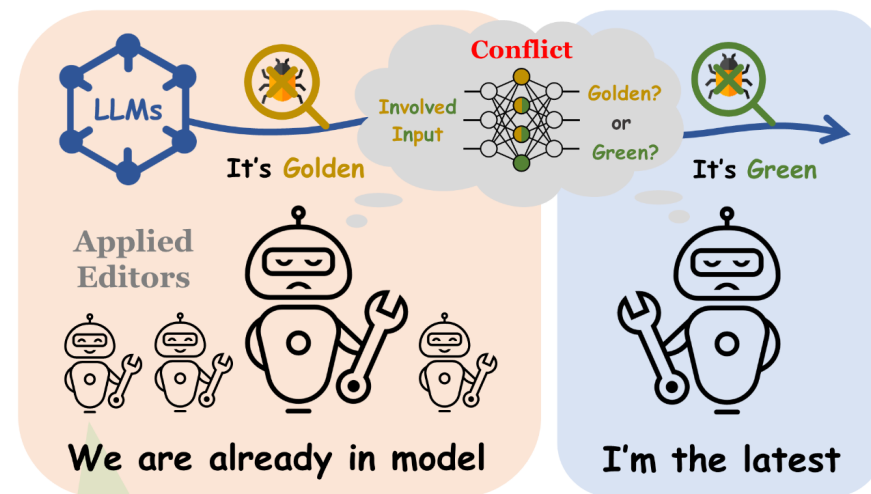
Obvious Gaps between Easy and Hard Split



# Knowledge Conflict & Distortion

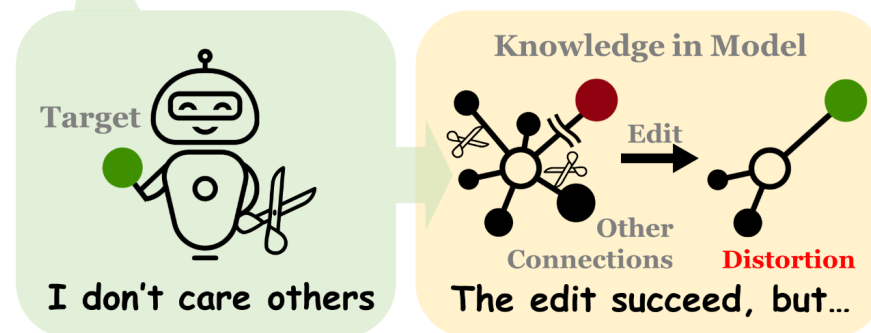
## (a) Knowledge Conflict

As the **number of edits increases**, the model might manifest Knowledge Conflict when dealing with inputs involved with multiple consecutive edits.

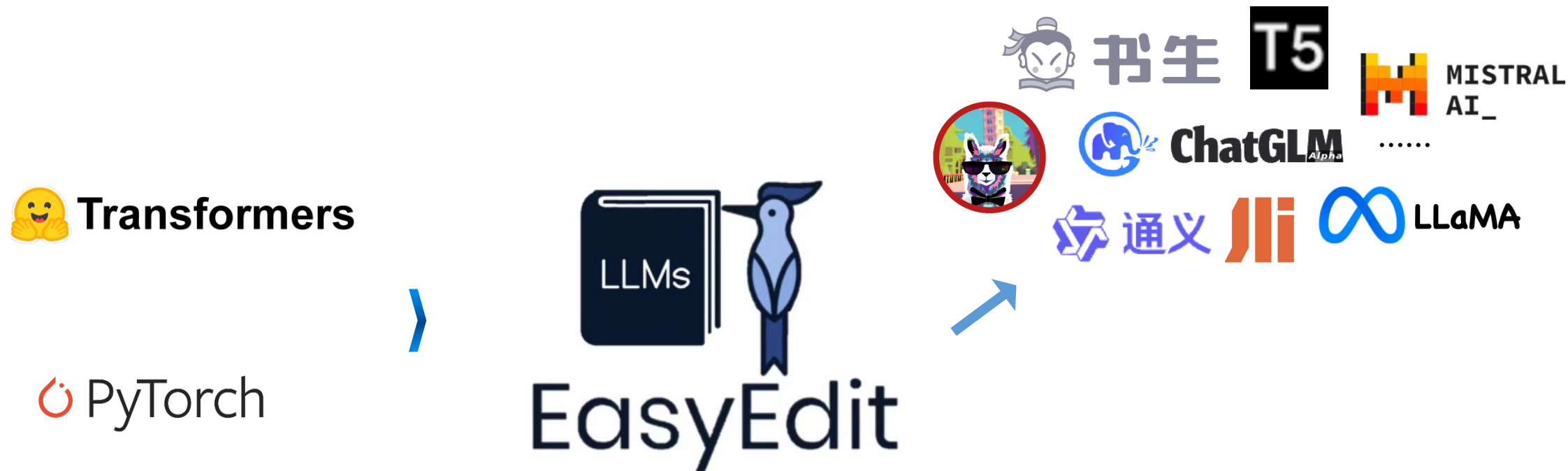


## (b) Knowledge Distortion

Each edit could potentially cause **breaks in the knowledge connections** within LLMs, leading to Distortion of Knowledge.



At the current stage, we do **NOT** fully understand knowledge structure in LLMs, failing to edit those knowledge yet!



**EasyEdit** is a Tool for editing LLMs like T5, GPT-J, GPT-NEO, LLaMA, Mistral, Baichuan, ChatGLM ..., (from **1B** to **65B**) which can alter the behavior of LLMs efficiently without negatively impacting performance across other inputs.

*Try it Now!*



*Thanks*

<https://github.com/zjunlp/EasyEdit>