Al as Humanity's Salieri:

Quantifying Linguistic Creativity of Language Models via Systematic Attribution of Machine Text against Web Text

Ximing Lu, **Melanie Sclar**, Skyler Hallinan, Niloofar Mireshghallah, Jiacheng Liu, Seungju Han, Allyson Ettinger, Liwei Jiang, Khyathi Chandu, Nouha Dziri, Yejin Choi





Ximing Lu

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Have LLMs reached a new level of linguistic sophistication?

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This paper critically examines the intersection of literature, particularly poetry, and artificial intelligence (AI). It analyses the subject in two major aspects: exploring concepts of 'optimization' in the context of Al and investigating how literature, specifically poetry, poses a significant challenge to Al's understanding due to its multifaceted nature, rich with figurative language, deep metaphors, and emotional subtext. The paper also explores the broader implications regarding machine learning and the humanities. Through this lens, it raises thought-provoking questions about the limits of AI, the enduring importance of human creativity, and whether or not there can ever genuinely be an Al poet or Al literature.



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... via tools including popular DALL-E. Similarly, large language models like GPT-3 and PaLM are producing ...

Literature, poetry, and other forms of noncommercial creative expression challenge the techno-instrumentalist approaches to language, the predictive language generation, informing NLP (large natural language processing models) such as GPT-3 or -4 as well as, more generally, generative AI (text to image, video, audio). Claims that Al systems automate and expedite creativity reflect industry and research priorities of speed, scale, optimization, and frictionlessness driving much artificial intelligence design and application ...





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Prof. Michele Elam



We present *Creativity Index*, a metric that quantifies a text's *linguistic creativity* by reconstructing it from existing text snippets on the web

$$L-\text{uniqueness}(x) = \begin{cases} \text{proportion of } x\text{'s words that do not} \\ \text{belong to any } n\text{-grams } (n \ge L) \text{ found} \\ \text{in the reference corpus } C \end{cases}$$

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CreativityIndex(x) =
$$\sum_{L=a}^{b} L$$
-uniqueness(x)

Have LLMs reached a new level of linguistic sophistication?

Please write a few paragraphs of novel starting with the following prompt: "He was an old man who fished alone in a skiff in the Gulf Stream and he had gone eighty-four days now without taking a fish."





His name was Santiago, a man of the sea, whose weathered face told tales of storms weathered and battles with beasts of the deep. Each day he would rise with the sun, a silent silhouette against the soft pink hues of dawn. His skiff, although worn and marked with the passage of time, was his steadfast partner in this dance with the sea. He'd until her from the old wooden dock behind his humble cottage, her worn wooden hull lightly creaking as if singing a familiar tune that only they understood. Every day, he ventured out into the seemingly infinite expanse...

... In the first forty days a boy had been with him. But after forty days without a fish the boy's parents had told him that the old man was now definitely and finally salao, which is the worst form of unlucky, and the boy had gone at their orders in another boat which caught three good fish the first week. It made the boy sad to see the old man come in each day with his skiff empty and he always went down to help him carry either the coiled lines or the gaff and harpoon and the sail that was furled around the mast. The sail was patched with flour sacks and, furled, it looked ...

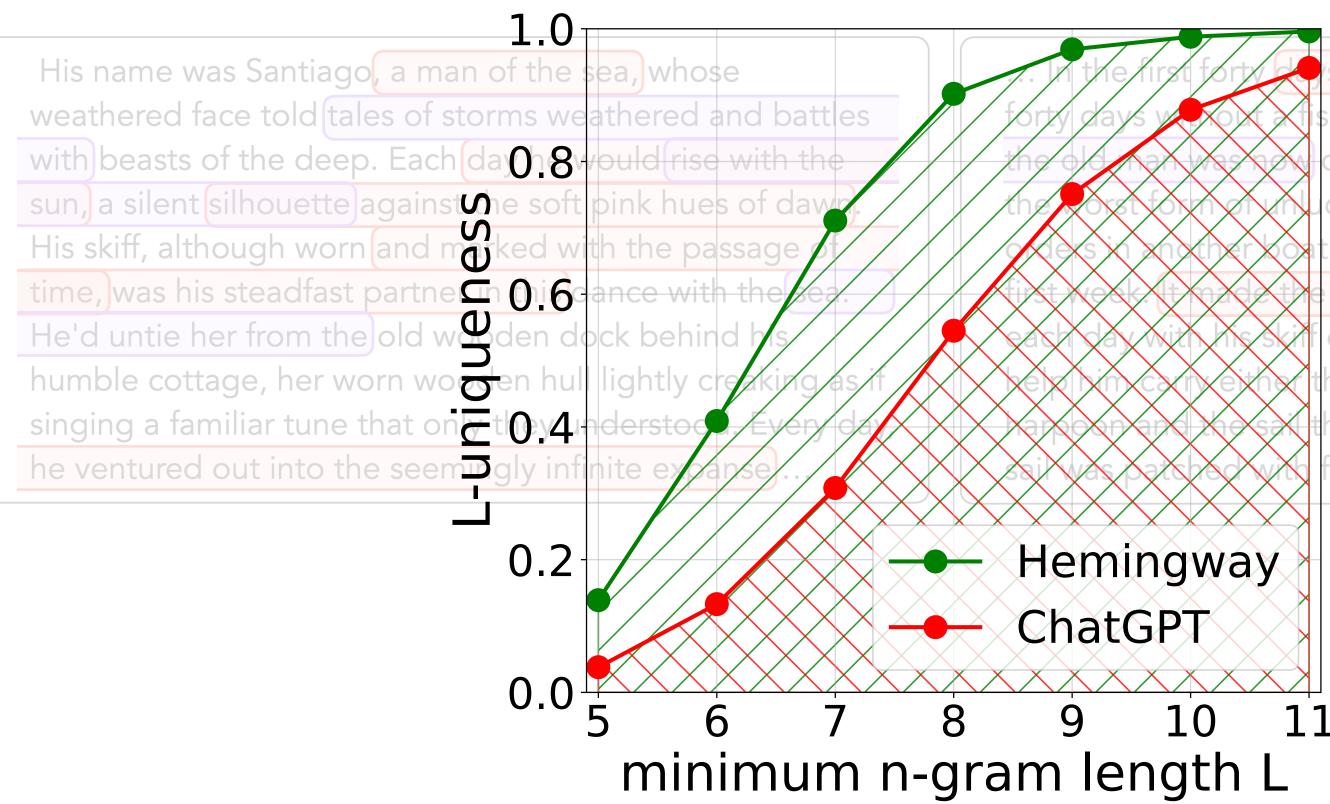


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Goal: compute for every n-gram \mathbf{x} whether it occurs in training data C (" $f(\mathbf{x}, C)$ "), either **verbatim** or **near verbatim**

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• Make each $f(\mathbf{x}, C)$ call as fast as possible

verbatim matches
InfiniGram (Liu et al., 2024)

near verbatim matches
Word Movers' Distance (Kusner et al., 2015)

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- WMD measures n-grams distances by combining word embedding distances, thus enables reuse of computations
- We reduce C to only the most similar documents according to BM25

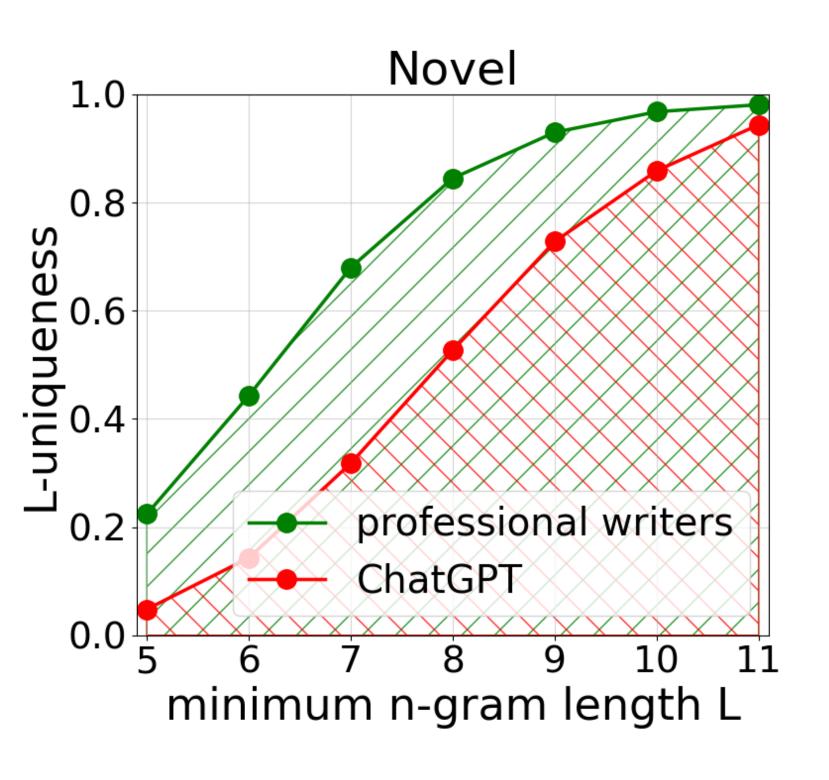
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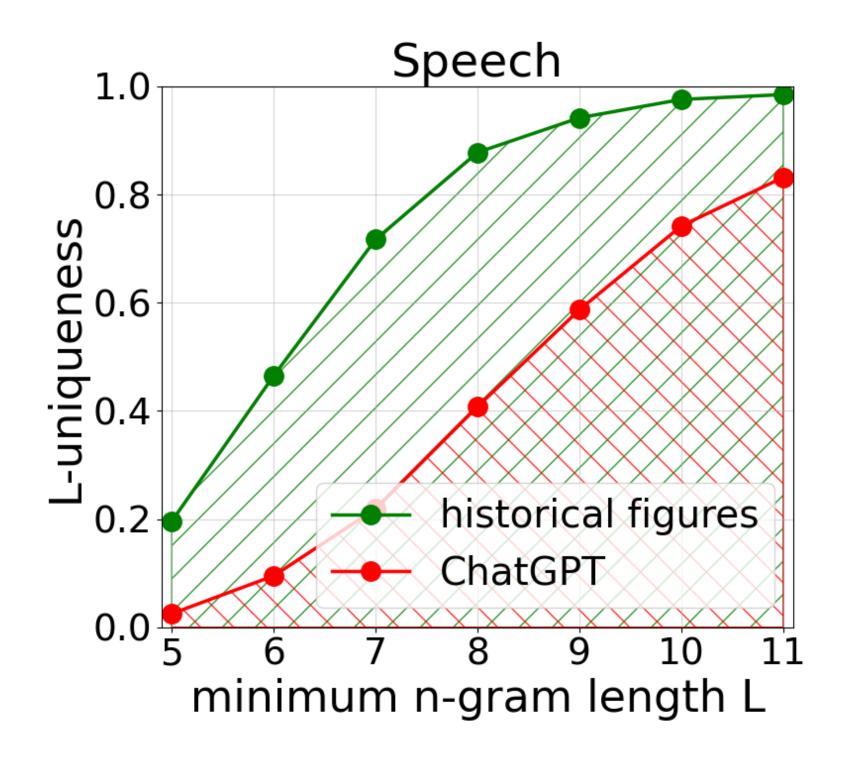
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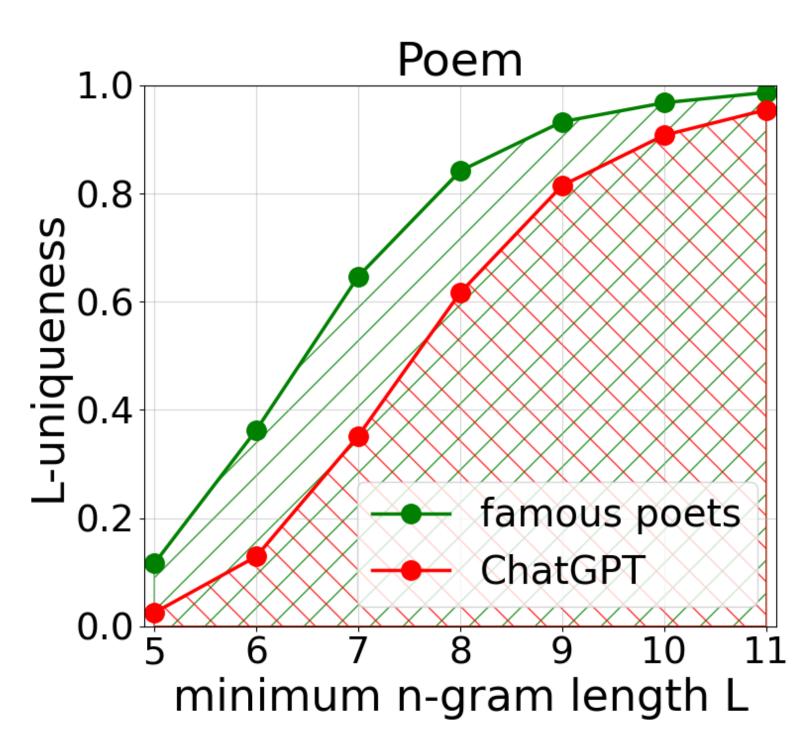
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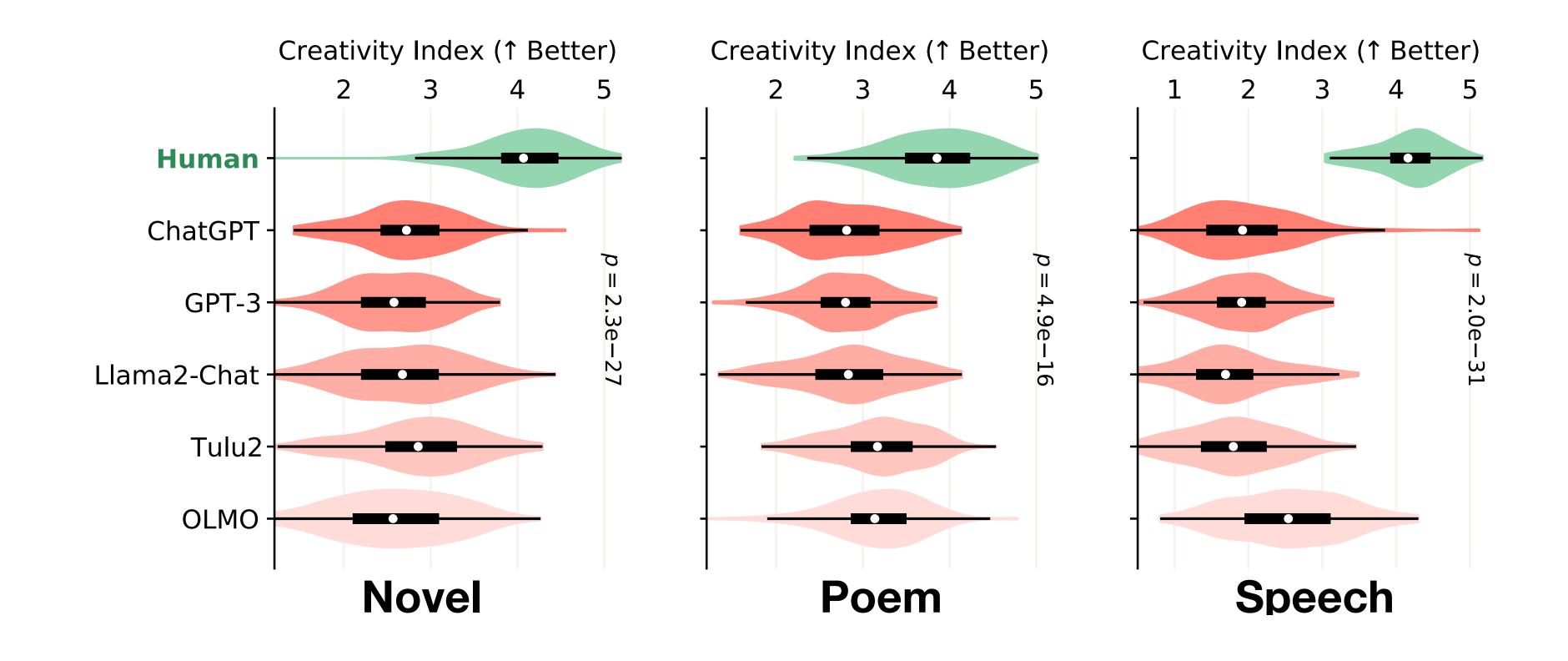
near verbatim matches
Word Movers' Distance (Kusner et al., 2015)

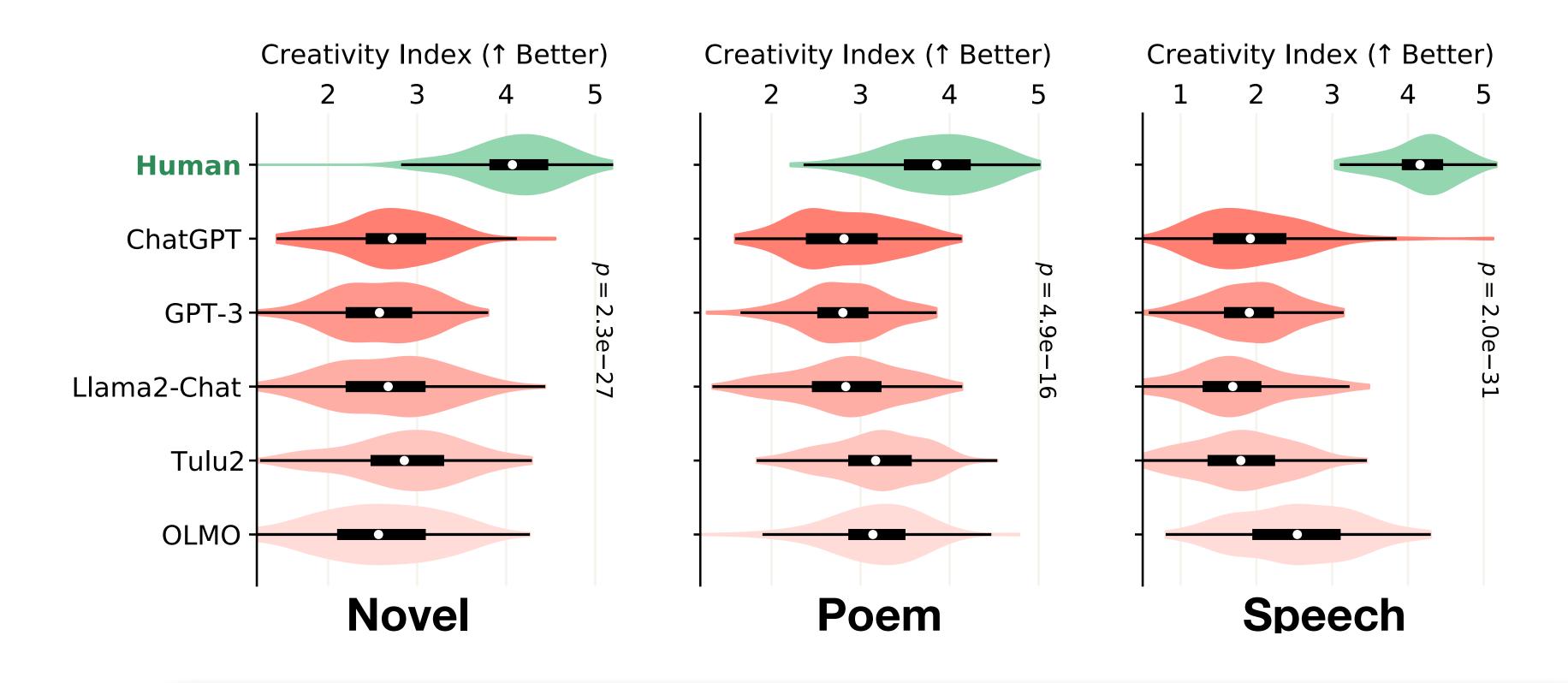
• Minimize # of $f(\mathbf{x}, C)$ calls: two-pointer approach











Professional writers and historical figures show +66.2% CREATIVITY INDEX than LLMs on average

Creativity varies widely among humans

Books published in 2023

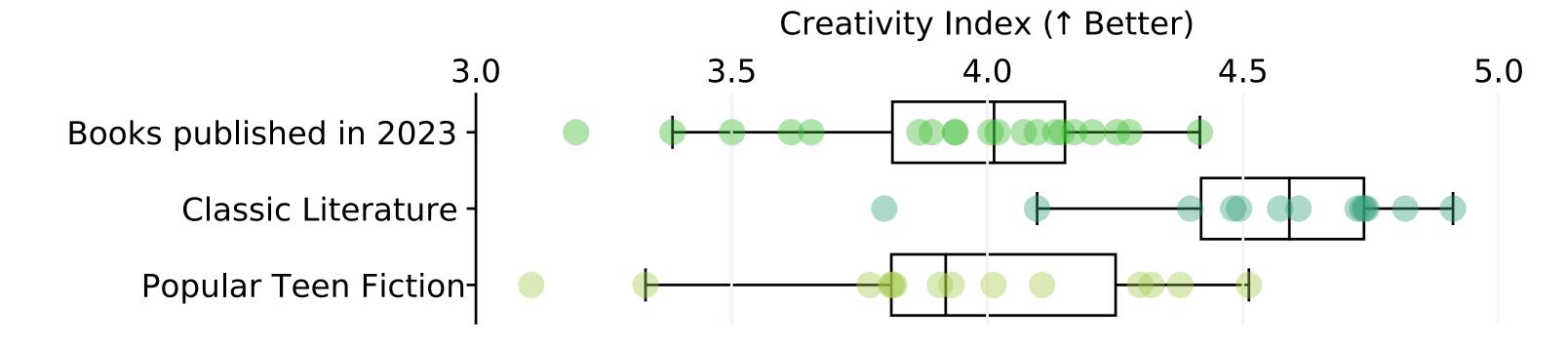


Classic Literature



Popular Teen Fiction





Creativity varies widely among humans

Books published in 2023

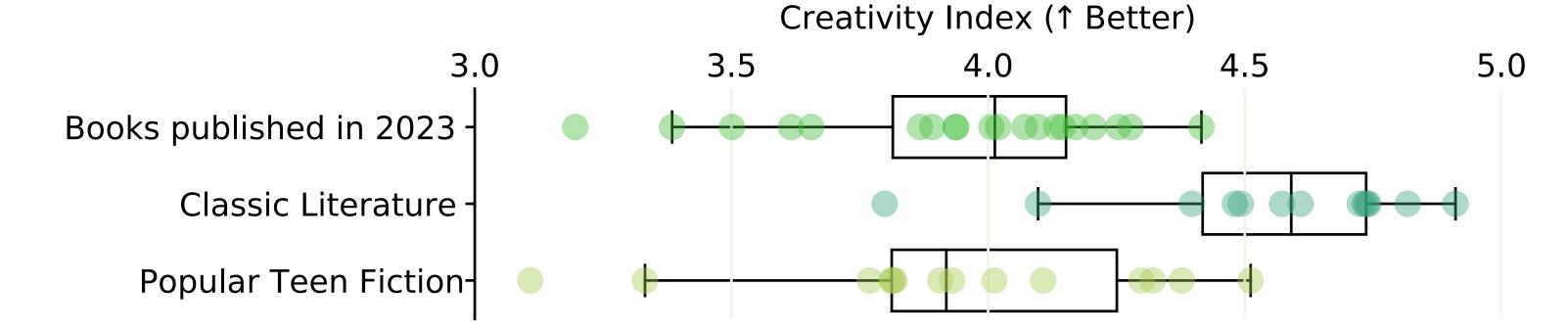


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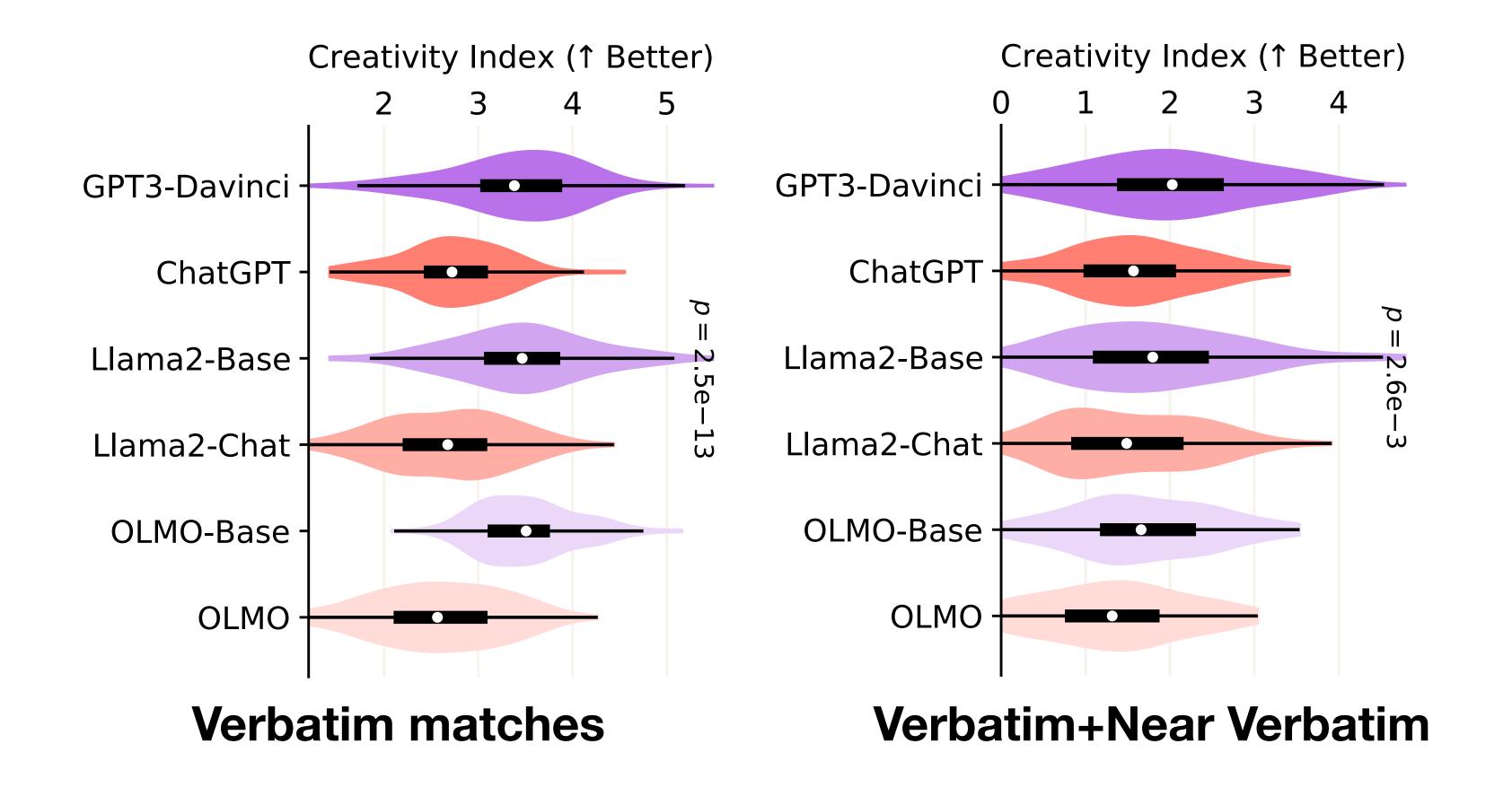
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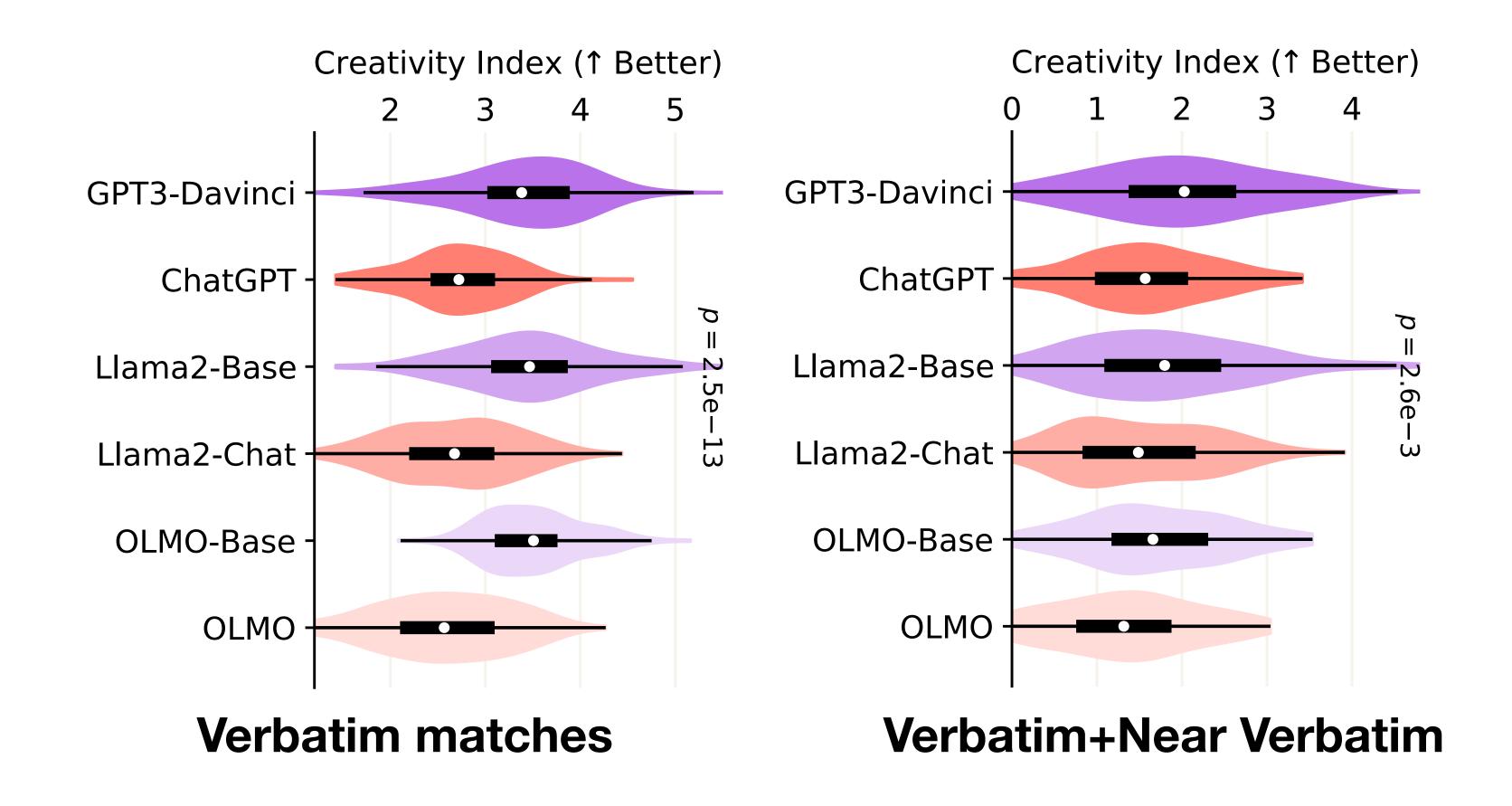


Despite the in-group variance, the CREATIVITY INDEX of classic literature is 17.7% higher than the other two categories

RLHF greatly reduces LLMs' linguistic creativity



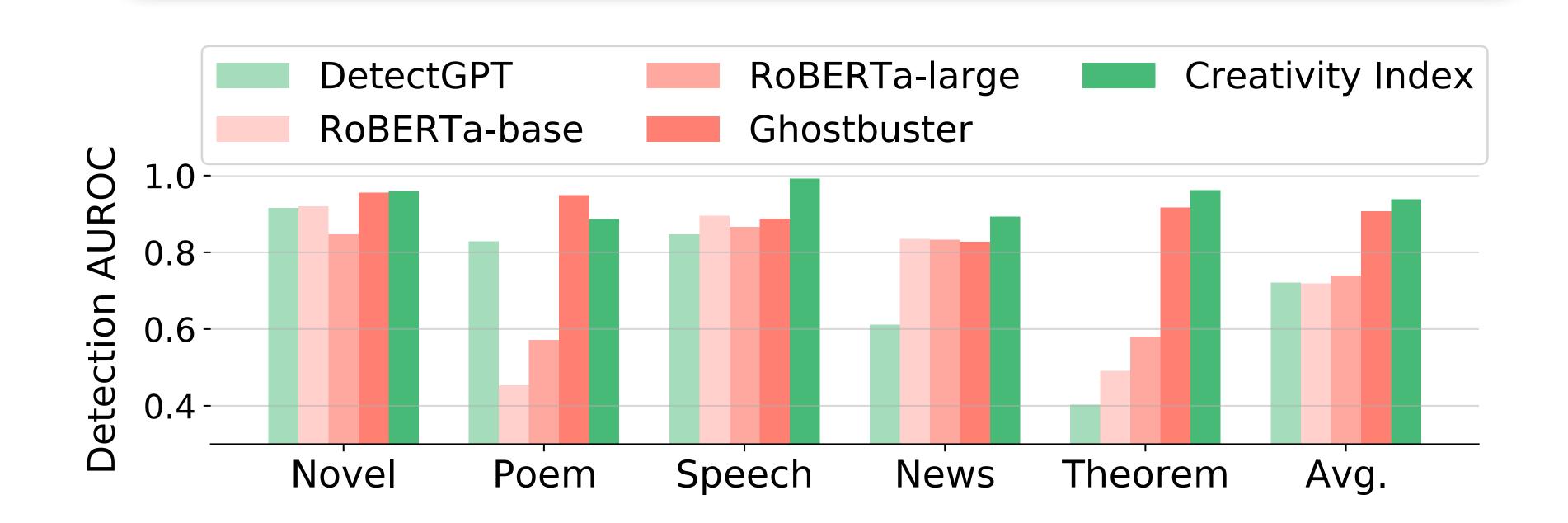
RLHF greatly reduces LLMs' linguistic creativity



RLHF reduces the CREATIVITY INDEX of LLMs by 30.1% on average; the reduction is much larger when looking at verbatim matches only.

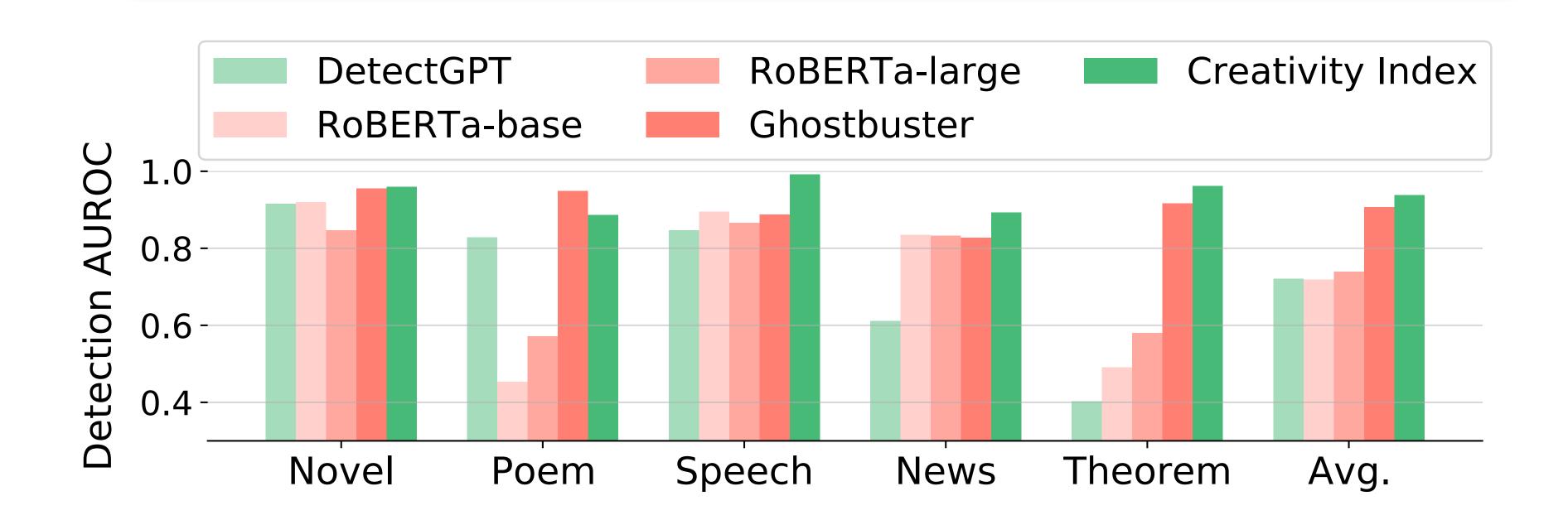
CREATIVITY INDEX for Zero-shot Machine Text Detection

Intuition: $P(\mathbf{x} \in \text{human texts}) \propto \text{CREATIVITY INDEX}(\mathbf{x})$



CREATIVITY INDEX for Zero-shot Machine Text Detection

Intuition: $P(\mathbf{x} \in \text{human texts}) \propto \text{Creativity Index}(\mathbf{x})$



We beat the strongest zero-shot system by 30.2%, and outperform the strongest supervised system in five out of six domains

Thanks for listening!

Poster: Fri 25th 3pm @ Hall 3 + Hall 2B #618

Creativity Index resources:

- Code: github.com/GXimingLu/creativity_index
- Demo: https://example.co/spaces/liujch1998/creativity