

UNIFIEDSKG: Unifying and Multi-Tasking Structured Knowledge Grounding with Text-to-Text Language Models

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Abstract

Structured knowledge grounding (SKG) leverages structured knowledge to complete user requests, such as semantic parsing over databases and question answering over knowledge bases. Since the inputs and outputs of SKG tasks are heterogeneous, they have been studied separately by different communities, which limits systematic and compatible research on SKG. In this paper, we overcome this limitation by proposing the UNIFIEDSKG framework, which unifies 21 SKG tasks into a text-to-text format, aiming to promote systematic SKG research, instead of being exclusive to a single task, domain, or dataset. We use UNIFIEDSKG to benchmark T5 with different sizes and show that T5, with simple modifications when necessary, achieves state-of-the-art performance on almost all of the 21 tasks. We further demonstrate that multi-task prefix-tuning improves the performance on most tasks, largely improving the overall performance. UNIFIEDSKG also facilitates the investigation of zero-shot and few-shot learning, and we show that T0, GPT-3, and Codex struggle in zero-shot and few-shot learning for SKG. We also use UNIFIEDSKG to conduct a series of controlled experiments on structured knowledge encoding variants across SKG tasks. UNIFIEDSKG is easily extensible to more tasks, and it is open-sourced at <https://github.com/hkunlp/unifiedskg>.¹

1 Introduction

Structured knowledge (e.g., web tables, knowledge graphs, and databases) stores large amounts of data in organized structures, forming a basis for a wide range of applications, e.g., medical diagnosis, personal assistants, and customer relations manage-

ment. Accessing and searching data in structured knowledge typically requires mastering query languages through professional training. To promote the efficiency of data access, structured knowledge grounding (SKG) systems ground user requests in structured knowledge and produce various outputs, including computer programs (e.g., SQL and SPARQL), table cell values, and natural language responses (Figure 1). For example, semantic parsing (Zelle and Mooney, 1996; Zettlemoyer and Collins, 2005) converts natural language questions into formal programs; knowledge-base question answering (Berant et al., 2013) derives answers from tables or knowledge graphs.

SKG has attracted significant interest and has been studied through different tasks defined by different communities. Recent developments in tasks, models, and datasets for SKG have led to task-specific modeling advances, making each task’s progress seemingly unique and incompatible. A main reason is that SKG tasks are *heterogeneous*. Different types of structured knowledge, such as databases or knowledge graphs, lead to highly specialized encoders (Lin et al., 2019; Herzig et al., 2020; Wang et al., 2020; Yasunaga et al., 2021). Some SKG tasks, e.g., semantic parsing, use customized decoders to generate programs (Yin and Neubig, 2018; Ren et al., 2021). Therefore, instead of solving common challenges in SKG research, improvements in SKG have been prone to be exclusive to a single task, domain, or dataset.

In this paper, we propose the UNIFIEDSKG framework to advocate for a unifying view of 21 SKG tasks across six task families and multiple data domains (Table 1). UNIFIEDSKG standardizes datasets, models, code, experiments, and evaluation metrics into a single framework. By casting user requests, structured knowledge, and outputs

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¹Latest collections at <https://unifiedskg.com>.

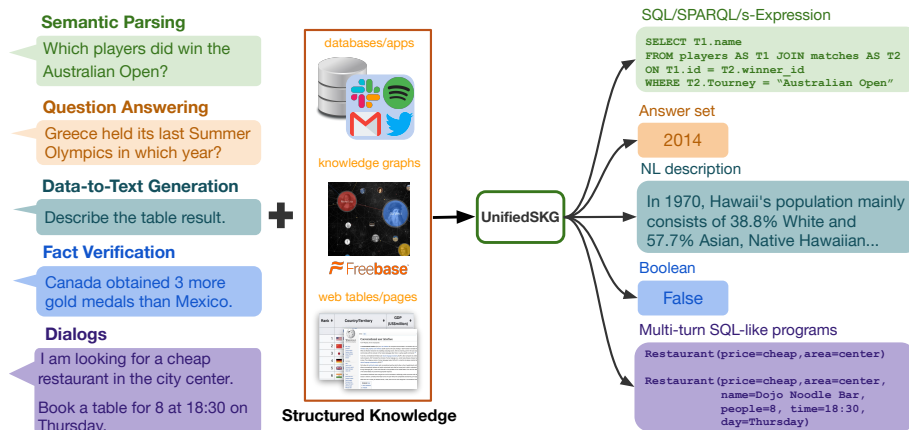


Figure 1: Structured knowledge grounding (SKG) leverages structured knowledge to complete user requests. By casting inputs and outputs into the text-to-text format, UNIFIEDSKG standardizes datasets, models, code, experiments, and metrics for 21 SKG tasks.

into the text-to-text format (Raffel et al., 2020), it promotes model advances where new tasks can be framed with our standardized abstraction, and new models can be easily applied to diverse SKG tasks. While previous works also cast SKG tasks into the text-to-text format (Hosseini-Asl et al., 2020; Shaw et al., 2021; Liu et al., 2021), their independent choices of pretrained language models (PLMs), input-output formats, and frameworks make our unification non-trivial. UNIFIEDSKG is easily extensible to more SKG tasks, and it is open-sourced to promote community-wide progress.

Using UNIFIEDSKG as a benchmark, we show that finetuning T5 (with constrained decoding or reranking when necessary) on individual tasks achieves state-of-the-art (sota) results on almost all of the 21 tasks, establishing a powerful and reproducible starting point for SKG research. T5 performance also increases with size on most tasks.

UNIFIEDSKG facilitates multi-task learning on SKG, enabling knowledge sharing and cross-task generalization. Although simple multi-task learning has mixed results, we show that multi-task learning with prefix-tuning (Li and Liang, 2021) benefits most tasks and largely improves the overall performance, on both T5-base and T5-large.

UNIFIEDSKG is a challenging testbed for few-shot (Brown et al., 2020; Ye et al., 2021a) and zero-shot learning (Zhong et al., 2021; Wei et al., 2021; Sanh et al., 2021) with PLMs. Our experiments show that models like T0 (Sanh et al., 2021) struggle in zero-shot learning on SKG tasks, and GPT-3 (Brown et al., 2020) and Codex (Chen et al., 2021a) struggle in few-shot learning on SKG tasks.

UNIFIEDSKG enables a series of controlled ex-

periments on structured knowledge encoding. We find that T5 is sensitive to encoding variations, and the sensitivity varies across tasks. UNIFIEDSKG aims to facilitate more general and robust structured knowledge encoding methods. Finally, we conduct a comprehensive error analysis across SKG tasks. Although the errors made by PLMs decrease with the model size, T5-3B may still generate invalid outputs.

In summary, we 1) unify and benchmark 21 SKG tasks under the UNIFIEDSKG framework to evaluate diverse grounding goals and structured knowledge sources, 2) demonstrate (near) sota performance of T5 on all the unified SKG tasks, using a single, general-purpose approach, 3) show the benefit of knowledge sharing across SKG tasks via multi-task prefix-tuning, and 4) analyze recent modeling contributions (zero-shot, few-shot, and structured knowledge encoding) on these tasks. We hope UNIFIEDSKG enables the design of new models and learning algorithms that generalize to diverse SKG tasks and to identify their challenges.

2 Related Work

SKG with PLMs PLMs have been applied to several SKG tasks. To encode structured knowledge, prior work linearized the structured knowledge and concatenated it with the text (Hwang et al., 2019; Liu et al., 2020; Hosseini-Asl et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2021), which has been augmented by positional encoding (e.g., row/column embedding) (Herzig et al., 2020; Yin et al., 2020a) and template-based linearization (Chen et al., 2020a,b; Oguz et al., 2021), and planning (Su et al., 2021). Recently, cell-column alignment is modeled by manipulating

Task Family	Task	Knowledge Input	User Input	Output
<i>Semantic Parsing</i>	Spider (Yu et al., 2018)	Database	Question	SQL
	GraILQA (Gu et al., 2021)	Knowledge Graph	Question	s-Expression
	WebQSP (Yih et al., 2016)	Knowledge Graph	Question	s-Expression
	MTOPI (Li et al., 2021)	API Calls	Question	TOP Representation
<i>Question Answering</i>	WikiSQL (Zhong et al., 2017)	Table	Question	Answer
	WikiTQ (Pasupat and Liang, 2015)	Table	Question	Answer
	CompWebQ (Talmor and Berant, 2018)	Knowledge Graph	Question	Answer
	HybridQA (Chen et al., 2020c)	Table + Text Passage	Question	Answer
	MultiModalQA (Talmor et al., 2021)	Table + Text + Image	Question	Answer
	FeTaQA (Nan et al., 2021a)	Table	Question	Free-Form Answer
<i>Data-to-Text</i>	DART (Nan et al., 2021b)	Triple	None	Text
	ToTTo (Parikh et al., 2020)	Highlighted Table	None	Text
<i>Conversational</i>	MultiWoZ (Budzianowski et al., 2018)	Ontology	Dialog	Dialog State
	KVRET (Eric et al., 2017)	Table	Dialog	Response
	SPaC (Yu et al., 2019b)	Database	Multi turn	SQL
	CoSQL (Yu et al., 2019a)	Database	Dialog	SQL
	SQA (Iyyer et al., 2017)	Table	Multi turn	Answer
<i>Fact Verification</i>	TabFact (Chen et al., 2020b)	Table	Statement	Boolean
	FEVEROUS (Aly et al., 2021)	Table + Text	Statement	Boolean
<i>Formal-Language-to-Text</i>	SQL2Text (Shu et al., 2021)	Optional Database	SQL	Text
	Logic2Text (Chen et al., 2020d)	Table Schema	Python-like program	Text

Table 1: We unify 21 SKG tasks with different knowledge input, user input, and output, covering six task families.

the attention matrix of transformers (Zhang et al., 2020; Eisenschlos et al., 2021). Hierarchical encoding is another way to represent the structure, e.g., Wang et al. (2021b) used tree-based transformers to represent the structure of the tables; Iida et al. (2021) used transformers to encode row and column representations; Chen et al. (2021b) used hierarchical transformers to encode KG triples. SKG’s outputs include, but are not limited to, structured meaning representations (e.g., logic forms, SQL), dialogue states, natural language, answer sets, and Boolean values. Among them, structured meaning representation is challenging for PLMs because they are originally trained on natural language. To bridge this gap, Shin et al. (2021) adopted the insights from Berant and Liang (2014) and Marzoev et al. (2020) and proposed to convert formal language into an English-like representation, decode with GPT-3, and map back to formal language automatically. We do not focus on these techniques in this work; instead, we unify all tasks and systematically compare them.

Task format unification Recent years witnessed the trend of unifying related but different tasks into a shared format. McCann et al. (2018) unified various tasks as question answering. Yin et al. (2020b) and Wang et al. (2021a) unified few-shot learning as textual entailment. PLUR (Chen et al., 2021c) unified program learning, understanding, and repair tasks into a graph-to-sequence format. In this paper, we focus on the text-to-text format (Raffel et al., 2020) due to its flexibility. Different from unifying

tasks that only take text as input, a core challenge in unifying SKG tasks into the text-to-text format is to linearize structured knowledge. Notably, UnifiedQA (Khashabi et al., 2020) unified QA tasks, while UNIFIEDSKG covers a broader scope of six task families for systematic exploration.

Cross-task generalization with PLMs Multi-task learning and transfer learning go beyond task boundaries, view different tasks as related, and have been shown to outperform single-task learning (Aghajanyan et al., 2021a; Vu et al., 2021). Large PLMs show potential for zero-shot and few-shot learning, e.g., GPT-2 (Radford et al., 2019) and GPT-3 (Brown et al., 2020), which can be improved by multi-task learning (Zhong et al., 2021), e.g., FLAN (Wei et al., 2021), T0 (Sanh et al., 2021), and CrossFit (Ye et al., 2021a). ExT5 (Aribandi et al., 2021) shows that scaling up multi-task learning helps improve pretraining efficiency and downstream performances. UNIFIEDSKG facilitates the investigation of multi-task, zero-shot, and few-shot learning on SKG tasks.

3 The UNIFIEDSKG Framework

3.1 Task Unification

The guiding principle of UNIFIEDSKG’s task selection is diversity. We unify 21 SKG tasks across six task families and multiple domains (Table 1). Our task families include:

- **Semantic parsing** converts questions to logical forms (Zelle and Mooney, 1996; Zettlemoyer and Collins, 2005).

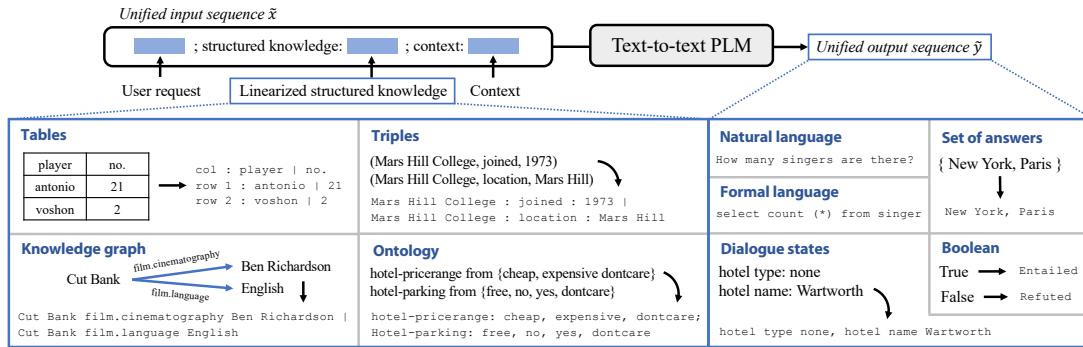


Figure 2: We unify SKG tasks with heterogeneous inputs and outputs into the text-to-text format.

- **Question answering** derives answers to natural language questions based on structured data (Berant et al., 2013).
- **Data-to-text generation** describes structured data in natural language (Novikova et al., 2017).
- **Fact verification** checks if a statement is true based on the structured data (Chen et al., 2020b).
- **Conversational tasks** require understanding of not only the user’s last request but also the full interaction history between users and machines (Budzianowski et al., 2018; Eric et al., 2019; Yu et al., 2019a).
- **Formal language to text translation** describes formal language in natural language (Chen et al., 2020d).

All these tasks take as input x a user request, a structured knowledge input, and an optional (dialogue) context to predict an output y . Figure 2 illustrates how we convert the input x to an input sequence \tilde{x} and the output y to an output sequence \tilde{y} by means of “linearization” (Liu et al., 2021), enabling the unification of diverse forms of structured knowledge. We provide more details, examples, and input length analysis in the Appendices F and G. Our code implementation uses Hugging Face’s Transformers (Wolf et al., 2020) and Datasets (Lhoest et al., 2021) toolkits.

3.2 Modeling

The simplest usage of UNIFIEDSKG is to train on individual tasks. In this case, we minimize the negative log-likelihood loss averaged over tokens in each batch. For decoding, we use beam search by default. UNIFIEDSKG also facilitates exploration of multi-task learning, few-shot, and zero-shot learning with PLMs, and details are presented in the corresponding parts in Section 4.

4 Experiments and Analysis

4.1 Results on Individual Tasks

We apply T5 models (Raffel et al., 2020) on each individual task in UNIFIEDSKG. For model training, we set the maximum number of epochs as 50–200, depending on the dataset size. We use early stopping and model selection on the development set. More details are shown in Appendix D.1. For each task, we report one commonly used metric in Table 2. See Appendix B for all metrics.

Comparison with previous sota Table 2 shows that vanilla T5-3B outperforms most previous sota models not trained on extra unsupervised in-domain data. Some semantic parsing sota models, denoted as $^+$ in Table 2, are also T5 with constrained decoding (Scholak et al., 2021) or reranking (Ye et al., 2021b). This shows that a generalist architecture like T5, when scaled up to a certain size, can be as good as task-specific architectures for SKG, suggesting the potential of larger PLMs.

Model scalability In general, T5 performance increases with the model size, but this trend varies across task families. Semantic parsing, QA, and fact verification tasks get large benefits from increased sizes, while text generation does not. See Section 4.5 for a human evaluation for text generation tasks. Also, the gap between T5-base (220M) and T5-large (770M) is larger than the gap between T5-large (770M) and T5-3B (3B).

Effect of pretraining on structured knowledge Some smaller models pretrained on structured knowledge (Liu et al., 2021) show competitive performance as T5-3B, suggesting that pretraining with structured data is beneficial for SKG. This result calls for structured knowledge pretraining that generalizes to different SKG tasks across domains, which can be systematically explored using UNIFIEDSKG.

	Metric	T5-base	T5-large	T5-3B	Previous sota (w/o extra)	Previous sota (w/ extra)
Spider (dev.)	Match	58.12	66.63	71.76	75.5⁺ (Scholak et al., 2021)	74.7 (Rubin and Berant, 2021)
GrailQA	Match	62.39	67.30	70.11	83.8⁺ (Ye et al., 2021b)	—
WebQSP	F1	78.83	79.45	80.70	83.6⁺ (Ye et al., 2021b)	—
MTOP	Match	85.49	86.17	86.78	86.36 (Pasupat et al., 2021)	—
WikiTQ	Acc	35.76	43.22	49.29	44.5 (Wang et al., 2019)	57.5 (Liu et al., 2021)
WikiSQL	Acc	82.63	84.80	85.96	85.8 (Liu et al., 2021)	89.5 (Liu et al., 2021)
CompWebQ	Acc	68.43	71.38	73.26	70.4 [‡] (Das et al., 2021)	—
HybridQA (dev.)	Acc	54.07	56.95	59.41	60.8 [‡] (Eisenschlos et al., 2021)	63.4 [‡] (Eisenschlos et al., 2021)
MultiModalQA (dev.)	F1	75.51	81.84	85.28	82.7 (Yoran et al., 2021)	83.8 (Yoran et al., 2021)
FeTaQA	BLEU	29.91	32.45	33.44	30.54 (Nan et al., 2021a)	—
DART	BLEU	46.22	46.89	46.66	46.89 (Nan et al., 2021b)	47.2 (Aghajanyan et al., 2021b)
ToTTo (dev.)	BLEU	48.29	48.95	48.95	48.95 (Kale and Rastogi, 2020)	—
MultiWoZ2.1	Joint Acc	54.64	54.45	55.42	60.61* (Dai et al., 2021)	60.48 (Yu et al., 2021)
KVRET	Micro F1	66.45	65.85	67.88	63.6 (Gou et al., 2021)	—
SParC (dev.)	Match	50.54	56.69	61.51	54.1 (Hui et al., 2021)	62.2 (Yu et al., 2021)
CoSQL (dev.)	Match	42.30	48.26	54.08	56.9⁺ (Scholak et al., 2021)	52.1 (Yu et al., 2021)
SQA	Overall Acc	52.91	61.28	62.37	58.6 (Liu et al., 2021)	74.5 (Liu et al., 2021)
TabFact	Acc	76.13	80.85	83.68	74.4 (Yang et al., 2020)	84.2 (Liu et al., 2021)
FEVEROUS (dev.)	Acc	75.05	79.81	82.40	82.38 (Aly et al., 2021)	—
SQL2Text	BLEC	93.52	93.68	94.78	93.7 (Shu et al., 2021)	—
Logic2Text	BLEC	90.66	90.57	91.39	88.6 (Shu et al., 2021)	—

Table 2: Test or development (dev.) set performance of models trained on individual tasks. Vanilla T5 or T5 with simple modifications (e.g., ⁺constrained decoding or reranking) achieve sota on nearly all tasks. The best result without extra pretraining is shown in **bold**. More detailed results and result variances can be found in Tables 11 and 12 in Appendix. Human evaluation for generation tasks is in Section 4.5. *w/ (w/o) extra* means with (without) extra pretraining on unsupervised structured data (e.g., web tables).²

	Spider	WikiTQ	DART	MWoZ	TabFact	SQL2Text
T5-3B	71.76	50.65	50.38	58.46	83.97	92.71
T0-3B	68.09	50.62	50.16	60.20	85.51	92.93

Table 3: Comparison between T5-3B and T0-3B. T0-3B is initialized from LM-adapted T5 and further pre-trained on a large number of non-SKG tasks. We fine-tune both models on individual tasks. T0-3B underperforms T5-3B on semantic parsing (Spider) and outperforms T5-3B on dialogue state tracking (MWOZ) and fact verification (TabFact). We report results on the dev. set.

Effect of pretraining on non-SKG tasks T0-3B (Sanh et al., 2021) is initialized from T5-3B and pretrained on multiple tasks that (in most cases) do not use structured knowledge as input (non-SKG tasks). Exploring the performance of T0-3B on SKG tasks helps us understand the relationship between SKG tasks and non-SKG tasks. Table 3 shows that T0-3B underperforms T5-3B on semantic parsing and outperforms T5-3B on dialogue state tracking and fact verification. We note that T0-3B is pretrained on dialogue QA, dialogue summarization, and NLI tasks; therefore, pretraining on non-SKG tasks might not be useful for SKG unless we add similar SKG tasks to pretraining.

²For GrailQA and WebQSP, we run T5 and rerun the previous sota model (Ye et al., 2021b) using the gold entities. For

4.2 Multi-Task Learning

UNIFIEDSKG facilitates the exploration of multi-task learning. In this part, we systematically study multi-task learning on all 21 unified tasks. We find that SKG benefits from multi-task prefix-tuning on both T5-base and T5-large, showing that the benefits from multi-task learning is scalable in terms of the model size. The baselines we use include:

Single-task finetuning (ST-F), which is finetuning on individual tasks, same as Section 4.1.

Single-task prefix-tuning (ST-P; Li and Liang, 2021), which learns lightweight task-specific pa-

MultiModalQA and FEVEROUS, we report performance of T5 and the previous sota models on the dev. samples with at least one table (samples with image input are further excluded for MultiModalQA); The gold table and text candidates are used for both T5 and previous sota (for MultiModalQA, numbers are from (Yoran et al., 2021), and for FEVEROUS, we rerun the available model (Aly et al., 2021) on gold candidates to obtain the number). We use sacreBLEU to report all BLEU results. ³We use gold entity linking, but the previous sota does not, which makes the results not directly comparable; therefore, we do not bold any numbers for CompWebQ and HybridQA. *T5-base with the independent output scheme (Lee et al., 2021) achieves 56.66 on MWOZ2.1, higher than our sequence output scheme. For WebQSP, as the original dataset does not have a dev. set, we split the original train set into in-house train/dev. sets (90%/10%), following prior practice (e.g. Ren et al. (2021)). Similarly, for CompWebQ, as the test set is not publicly available, we split the original dev. set into in-house dev./test sets (20%/80%). For GrailQA, we split the original dev. set into in-house dev./test sets (5%/95%).

rameters while keeping the PLM fixed. We set the prefix length as 10. Clive et al. (2021) also used prefix-tuning on T5 for data-to-text generation.

Multi-task finetuning (MT-F), which combines the training data of all tasks with temperature mixing (Raffel et al., 2020; after hyperparameter tuning with a few steps, we set the temperature as 2). We select model weights based on the average metric on all tasks’ development set.

Table 4 shows that ST-P is comparable to ST-F on nearly all tasks. However, we find that it takes about 5–10 times as many training steps (See Appendix E), which is similarly observed for prompt-tuning (Lester et al., 2021). We also observe that MT-F leads to mixed results. For many tasks, MT-F is even worse than ST-F.

Multi-task prefix-tuning (MT-P) Our explanation for the mixed results of MT-F is that the inputs of SKG tasks contain different structured knowledge from diverse domains, making it difficult to learn shared parameters effectively. To address this challenge, we first pretrain a prefix on all tasks, freezing T5 and using the same temperature mixing as MT-F. In the second step, we initialize each task’s prefix with this pretrained prefix and optimize the prefix while freezing T5. This initialization step is similar to the prompt transfer explored in Vu et al. (2021). Following ST-P, we set the prefix length as 10.

Table 4 shows that multi-task prefix-tuning outperforms single-task finetuning and single-task prefix-tuning on most tasks, and it largely outperforms the naive multi-task learning baseline. It demonstrates that SKG tasks can be studied together to share data and knowledge.

Exploring task knowledge transfer UNIFIEDSKG facilitates studying knowledge transfer between SKG tasks. Given two tasks, *task A* and *task B*, we first train the model on task A and then continue training on task B. Table 5 shows that tasks benefit from other tasks with the same data source (e.g., tasks that all use Wikipedia tables as structured knowledge). We do not observe positive transfer between *parallel tasks* (e.g., semantic parsing tasks with different structured knowledge and different output) and *subtask* (e.g., question answering can be viewed as the execution semantic parses) when data sources are different. Compared to the positive results in Table 4, results in this part indicate that manually selecting source and target tasks may not be efficient for multi-task learning.

	T5-base				T5-large	
	ST-F	ST-P	MT-F	MT-P	ST-F	MT-P
Spider	58.12	58.61	58.90	59.86	66.63	67.60
GrailQA	60.00	61.33	56.00	62.67	67.00	65.33
WebQSP	72.50	73.81	67.25	74.77	73.96	74.92
MTOP	83.89	82.93	78.79	82.77	84.70	84.34
WikiTQ	36.94	36.42	41.15	39.74	43.30	50.90
WikiSQL	84.50	83.09	81.85	84.44	86.27	87.45
CompWQ	66.71	67.85	68.28	69.70	68.85	71.27
HybridQA	54.07	54.93	53.52	54.88	56.95	57.33
MMQA	75.51	75.50	76.63	76.40	81.84	84.59
FeTaQA	29.00	28.03	31.85	29.33	30.94	32.48
DART	50.62	50.33	49.74	50.68	51.72	50.82
ToTTo	48.29	45.70	45.29	45.21	48.95	47.90
MWoZ2.1	57.52	56.67	53.19	57.06	58.23	59.24
KVRET	20.04	19.68	18.53	21.32	18.84	20.76
SParC	50.54	51.04	51.70	51.29	56.69	59.02
CoSQL	42.30	44.39	43.59	45.68	48.26	51.64
SQA	49.49	44.81	51.48	48.43	59.12	58.15
TabFact	76.34	75.74	71.19	77.86	81.40	83.62
FEVER.	75.05	75.33	76.85	78.02	79.81	82.05
SQL2Text	93.69	94.50	93.57	93.79	93.35	93.93
Logic2Text	92.15	95.25	92.24	94.70	92.88	93.61
Total para.	$21T$	$T + 21P$	T	$T + 21P$	$21T$	$T + 21P$
Avg. score	60.82	60.76	60.08	61.84	64.27	65.57

Table 4: Multi-task learning results. ST and MT stand for single-task and multi-task. F and P stand for finetuning and prefix-tuning. For total parameters, T and P are the numbers of T5 and prefix parameters ($P \ll T$). Multi-task learning with prefix improves the performance on most tasks, largely improving the overall performance. We report results on the dev. set.

Task A	Task B	Type	B only	A to B
WikiSQL	TabFact	same source	81.43	82.76
TabFact	WikiTQ	same source	43.30	45.88
WikiSQL	FeTaQA	same source	30.94	31.19
Spider	GrailQA	parallel tasks	67.00	67.00
Spider	WikiTQ	subtask	43.30	41.68
Spider	TabFact	weakly related	81.43	80.39

Table 5: Task knowledge transfer. We use T5-large here. *B only* means training the model on task B; *A to B* means to train the model on task A and then to finetune the model on task B. In both settings, we report task B’s development set performance. We find that tasks benefit from other tasks with the same data source.

4.3 Zero-Shot and Few-Shot Learning

The text-to-text unification of UNIFIEDSKG enables us to investigate zero/few-shot learning on SKG with large PLMs.

Zero-shot learning setting Zero-shot learning enables models to solve tasks with natural language descriptions without training samples. We follow T0 (Sanh et al., 2021) to create similar natural language instructions for the unseen tasks. Our instructions are provided in Appendix D.3.

Few-shot learning settings Brown et al. (2020) showed that large PLMs could be few-shot learners

	T5-3B <i>finetune</i>	T0 3B <i>zero-shot</i>	GPT-3 175B		Codex 175B	
			<i>select</i>	<i>random</i>	<i>select</i>	<i>random</i>
Spider	71.76	0.00	20.00	18.33 _{3.78}	40.72	43.23 _{4.16}
WikiTQ	50.65	12.68	32.00	29.33 _{9.04}	26.21	20.46 _{4.21}
DART	50.38	23.42	40.23	34.21 _{4.50}	42.13	36.54 _{1.67}
MWoZ	58.46	0.00	18.00	0.02 _{0.02}	23.47	0.06 _{0.03}
TabFact	83.97	52.45	51.00	49.67 _{3.79}	50.97	51.58 _{1.59}
SQL2Text	92.71	39.64	94.00	85.00 _{2.65}	90.64	88.31 _{1.61}

Table 6: Zero-shot and few-shot learning for SKG. Subscripts show the standard deviation with three runs. *select* means to select the most similar training samples as few-shot examples, while *random* means to randomly select training samples as few-shot examples. T0 performs poorly on all the tasks in the zero-shot setting. Codex outperforms GPT-3 on tasks that generate structured programs (Spider and MultiWoZ).

by encoding a few training samples as “context” to learn without gradient updates. We use GPT-3 (Brown et al., 2020) and Codex (Chen et al., 2021a) to explore such few-shot learning for SKG. To stay within our budget, for GPT-3, we report the performance on 100 random dev. set samples. We explore two settings for few-shot learning.

In the first setting, we randomly sample few-shot examples from the training set; these examples are shared by all dev. set samples, denoted as *random* in Table 6. For sequences that are too long for Codex (4096) and GPT-3 (2048), we use as many examples as possible and make sure that there is at least one example (truncated if needed).

In the second setting, we follow Gao et al. (2021) to select few-shot examples from the training set. We call this setting *few-shot with example selection*, denoted as *select* in Table 6. We use the pretrained SBERT (Reimers and Gurevych, 2020) for sentence embeddings of the user request input (for tasks that only have structured input, we embed the linearized structured input) and sample five most similar examples measured by cosine similarity. Further details (e.g., prompts and task instructions) are provided in Appendix D.4.

SKG is challenging for zero/few-shot learning.

Table 6 shows that zero-shot performance is very poor on most tasks (Spider and MultiWoZ are even 0). It also shows a large gap between few-shot learning and finetuning for Spider, WikiTQ, MWOZ, and TabFact, while the gap is smaller for generation tasks. For few-shot learning, example selection based on similarity outperforms random selection, but the gap is usually smaller than 10 points out of 100. It is also interesting to compare the results between *synthesis* tasks (Spider), which requires predicting programs, and *induction* tasks

	Spider	WikiTQ	MultiWoZ2.1	TabFact
<i>rs(c)</i>	66.63 _{2.31}	43.30 _{0.25}	58.23 _{0.39}	81.43 _{0.16}
<i>sr</i>	64.12	38.78	—	80.98
<i>rsc</i>	—	—	58.89	—

Table 7: Ordering of inputs. Subscripts show the standard deviation with three runs. *s*, *r*, and *c* stand for the structured knowledge, request input, and context. Placing *r* before *s* is always better, and placing *c* between *r* and *s* is better for dialogue state tracking (MultiWoZ2.1).

	Spider	WikiTQ	DART	MultiWoZ2.1
Same Order	66.63 _{2.31}	43.30 _{0.25}	51.72 _{0.15}	58.23 _{0.39}
Reversed Order	64.80	37.80	48.47	13.59

Table 8: Order-sensitivity of structured knowledge. Subscripts show the standard deviation with three runs. *Same Order* is the default benchmark setting. *Reversed Order* means to reverse the structured knowledge ordering on the development set (but not the training set). Tasks with cross-domain tables (in WikiTQ), databases (in Spider), and triples (in DART) are less order-sensitive, while pre-defined ontology (in MultiWoZ2.1) is highly order-sensitive.

(WikiTQ and TabFact), where a model directly outputs answers (Devlin et al., 2017). We find that PLMs generally struggle more when adapting to induction tasks (e.g., close to random-guess on the binary classification task TabFact), reminiscent of recent attempts in program synthesis and induction using PLMs (Austin et al., 2021). For GPT-3 and Codex, better zero-shot performances can be expected by better prompt design.

4.4 Structured Knowledge Encoding

Structured knowledge encoding has been widely explored (Bogin et al., 2019; Lin et al., 2019; Agarwal et al., 2020; Saxena et al., 2020; Yasunaga and Liang, 2020; Yasunaga et al., 2022; and others detailed in Section 2). We hope that UNIFIEDSKG can promote systematic study of *general* structured knowledge encoding. To this end, this part focuses on the linearization of structured knowledge.

Does the order of user input, structured knowledge, and context matter? To explore the effect of the order of user input, structured knowledge, and context, we rerun the single-task experiments while switching the order of these components in both the training and development set. Table 7 shows that placing the text before structured knowledge (*rs*) is better than the opposite (*sr*), which is consistent across SKG tasks. Our explanation is that the position of the text is relatively fixed in *rs*,

	Spider	WikiSQL	TabFact
Linearization	40.23	59.21	58.77
Natural Language	38.59	63.16	58.56

Table 9: Converting structured knowledge into natural language for low-resource learning. A large improvement is observed on question answering (WikiSQL), but not on text2SQL semantic parsing (Spider) and fact verification (TabFact).

helping the decoder to learn stable attention over the text. Also, placing the context in between the text and structured knowledge yields better results.

Is T5 sensitive to structured knowledge ordering? Order-insensitivity is common for most structured knowledge, e.g., permutation of columns in a table preserves the meaning. To study this insensitivity, we evaluate T5-large on a manipulated development set where the order of schema (for database), column (for table), or slots and values (for ontology) is reversed. Table 8 shows that tasks with cross-domain tables and databases are less order-sensitive, while models are very sensitive to the order of ontology. Other types of robustness (e.g., robustness to cell values irrelevant to the answer) remain an open question in UNIFIEDSKG.

Is it beneficial to represent structured knowledge as natural language? SKG data is not typically used to pretrain PLMs. Given ample training data, PLMs adapt well to SKG tasks, as shown in Table 2. However, under the low-resource setting, converting structured data to natural language might be helpful. For Spider, we use a shared template to convert structured data to natural language. For TabFact and WikiSQL, we randomly selected 236 tables shared by both datasets and manually labeled templates to convert each row into a sentence. Examples of the templates are shown in Appendix I. These templates produce about 1000 samples for each task, divided into training and test sets. We find that, in WikiSQL, the conversion to natural language stabilizes and accelerates the training process. Table 9 shows that conversion to natural language improves the performance on WikiSQL, has no significant influence on TabFact, and slightly degrades the performance on Spider.

4.5 Human Evaluation for Generation Tasks

For each generation task, we randomly sample 100 development set samples and ask human annotators to judge the correctness of each output, using a 0-1 score. Details are provided in Appendix D.5. Table

	Metric	T5-base	T5-large	T5-3B
FeTaQA	BLEU	29.00	30.94	31.73
	Human [†]	36.0%	51.3%	57.3%
DART	BLEU	50.62	51.72	50.38
	Human	90.7%	91.7%	87.7%
ToTTo	BLEU	48.29	48.95	48.95
	Human	78.7%	80.0%	81.3%
KVRET	BLEU	20.04	18.84	17.75
	Human [†]	72.3%	66.3%	75.0%
SQL2Text	BLEC	93.69	93.35	92.71
	Human [*]	83.7%	90.3%	84.7%
Logic2Text	BLEC	92.15	92.88	91.69
	Human [†]	77.2%	81.5%	84.2%

Table 10: Automatic metrics and human evaluation on the development set of generation tasks. ^{*} $p < 0.05$ for “the rank-1 model is better than the rank-2 model”. [†] $p < 0.05$ for “the rank-2 model is better than the rank-3 model”. Automatic metrics do not always reflect human evaluation. Larger models are not always better.

10 shows that automatic metrics do not always reflect human evaluation, calling for better automatic metrics to truly reflect the model’s ability on generation tasks. Larger models are not always better, and detailed error analysis is provided below.

4.6 Error Analysis

Error analysis based on output validity Unconstrained decoding from PLMs may generate *invalid outputs*. For semantic parsing, we divide wrong outputs into *invalid outputs* (i.e., not executable when the output is SQL, and not parse-able when the output is s-expression or TOP-representation) and *valid but wrong answers*. Figure 3 shows that, for SQL semantic parsing, a large number of errors are caused by invalid outputs, and the number of invalid outputs gradually decreases with the increase of model size. This phenomenon is also observed by Scholak et al. (2021), who used constrained decoding to improve the validity, largely improving the parsing performance. For s-expression semantic parsing, invalid outputs take up 30–50% of all wrong outputs, and increasing the model size does not reduce invalidity significantly. For fact verification tasks, valid outputs are “entailed” and “re-futed”. We observe that T5 always generates valid outputs. For question answering, we do not include the validity analysis since the validity check for an answer is non-trivial and could be imprecise.

Error analysis for text generation tasks For generation tasks, we consider four types of errors: *missing information* (required information is not

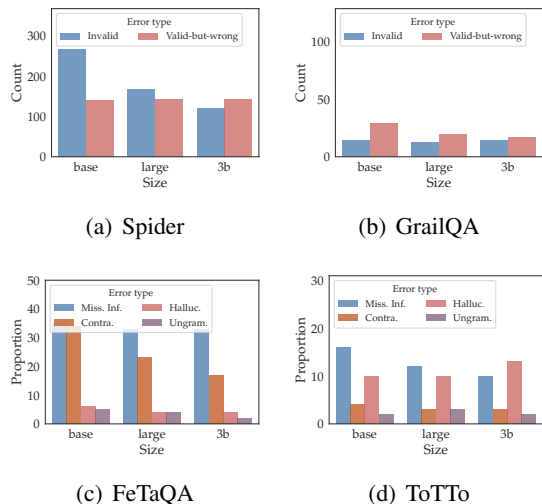


Figure 3: Error analysis. For semantic parsing, we plot the number of invalid/valid-but-wrong predictions. For generation, we plot the proportion of missing-information/contradiction/hallucination/ungrammatical errors among all predictions (one prediction may have multiple errors). Full visualization is in Appendix B.

shown in the output), *contradiction* (the output is contradictory to the input), 3) *hallucination* (the output contains information that cannot be verified by the input), and 4) *ungrammatical*. Figure 3 shows that the proportion of ungrammatical outputs is generally less than 5%. Missing information and contradiction are common errors made by T5, and performance gains generally come from reducing contradiction. Hallucination is not a common error made by T5 except for the highlighted-table-to-text task (ToTTo), where T5 tends to output information of non-highlighted cell values.

Case study We summarize some interesting observations about the model output (more in Appendix H). Compared with T5-base and T5-large, T5-3B’s outputs for text generation tasks tend to be more diverse and creative as shown in Appendix H.2 and H.7. Also, T5-3B sometimes leverages domain knowledge to summarize facts in some tasks such as DART (e.g., describing *rating 5 out of 5 as low*), while the other two copy the original expressions in the input, as shown in Appendix H.5 and H.6. However, this ability puts T5-3B in the risk of manipulating information and meaning of user request as shown in Appendix H.3.2 and H.4.

5 Conclusions

In this paper, we propose the UNIFIEDSKG framework to promote systematic research on struc-

tured knowledge grounding by unifying 21 SKG tasks. Using UNIFIEDSKG as a benchmark, we demonstrate that finetuning T5 on individual tasks achieves state-of-the-art results on almost all 21 tasks. We show that multi-task prefix-tuning benefits most SKG tasks, largely improving the overall performance. For structured knowledge encoding, we find that the effectiveness of encoding variations varies across tasks. Moreover, UNIFIEDSKG is a challenging testbed for zero-shot and few-shot learning, shown by the poor results of large PLMs.

6 Limitations

UNIFIEDSKG establishes a powerful and reproducible starting point for SKG research. New models can be easily applied to diverse SKG tasks, and new tasks can be easily framed based on our standardized abstraction. UNIFIEDSKG promotes a systematic study on more general and robust advances in structured knowledge encoding, multi-task learning, zero-shot learning, and few-shot learning for SKG tasks. It also would be interesting to explore general pretraining methods within UNIFIEDSKG, which potentially benefit all the unified tasks. When the structured knowledge is too large for GPU memory, we truncate them based on heuristic rules, calling for future study on 1) incorporating retrieval component in SKG, 2) designing sparse attention in T5 for structured knowledge or other means to improve model efficiency.

UNIFIEDSKG currently provides the correct type of structured knowledge for each task. However, how a system searches for the correct structured knowledge resources, takes appropriate action, and integrates information and results from multiple structured sources given a user request is still under-explored, which are a prerequisite for building a unified multi-purpose SKG system.

Since we select popular tasks from each task family, we risk disproportionality in terms of the data language, domain and population, and we actively welcome diverse, multi-lingual tasks to be added into UNIFIEDSKG. Also, the error analysis of SKG can more fine-grained, and we hope our findings can promote future work on systematically studying and decomposing the behavior of PLMs on SKG tasks. Furthermore, training and evaluation data should reflect the intents and linguistic phenomena in the real world (de Vries et al., 2020), suggesting more realistic tasks to be added into UNIFIEDSKG.

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A Contributions

Code implementation Tianbao Xie and Chen Henry Wu implemented the code base of the UNIFIEDSKG framework and experiment pipeline. The code of PICARD and advice from Torsten Scholak sped up the implementation.

Task unification Tianbao Xie, Peng Shi, Michihiro Yasunaga, Chen Henry Wu, and Ming Zhong implemented the 21 tasks into the text-to-text format, adapted the metrics, and verified the performances.

Paper writing Chen Henry Wu and Tianbao Xie finished most part of the paper. Michihiro Yasunaga, Peng Shi, and Chengzu Li added results and analysis for their corresponding parts. Peng Shi drafted related work on SKG with PLMs. Torsten Scholak, Pengcheng Yin, Rui Zhang, Ruiqi Zhong, Victor Zhong, Michihiro Yasunaga, Connor Boyle, Chien-Sheng Wu, Sida Wang, Bailin Wang, Ansong Ni, Ziyu Yao, Lingpeng Kong, Caiming Xiong, Dragomir Radev, Noah A. Smith, and Luke Zettlemoyer carefully reviewed the paper and gave feedback for multiple rounds.

Experiments Chen Henry Wu, Tianbao Xie, and Chien-Sheng Wu conducted experiments on individual tasks and multi-task learning. Tianbao conducted the zero-shot learning experiments. Chengzu Li and Tianbao Xie conducted the few-shot learning experiments. Tianbao Xie conducted experiments on the ordering of sequence inputs and order-sensitivity. Chengzu Li, Connor Boyle, and Peng Shi conducted the experiments on converting structured knowledge into natural language.

Human evaluation Chen Henry Wu organized the human evaluation. Torsten Scholak, Rui Zhang, Chengzu Li, Connor Boyle, Tianbao Xie, Peng Shi, Tao Yu, and Chen Henry Wu were the human participants.

Error analysis and case study Tianbao Xie, Chen Henry Wu, and Michihiro Yasunaga designed and conducted the error analysis for semantic parsing and generation tasks. Authors who participated in the human annotation selected the cases for case study.

Discussion We had three separate weekly meetings, and everyone in the project attended one of them. Torsten Scholak, Ruiqi Zhong, Pengcheng Yin, Victor Zhong, Peng Shi, Rui Zhang, Sida Wang, and Lingpeng Kong actively provided advice. Torsten Scholak provided signals that prefix-tuning would be comparable to fine-tuning. Ruiqi

Zhong gave advice on analyzing the effect of model size, Pengcheng Yin and Peng Shi gave advice on analysis on converting structured knowledge into natural language. Pengcheng Yin helped interpret experimental results. Ziyu Yao suggested that we report both sota (w/ extra) and sota (w/o extra) for a fair comparison. Victor Zhong and Bailin Wang gave valuable suggestions on multi-task learning and task transfer analysis. Luke Zettlemoyer, Noah A. Smith, Caiming Xiong, and Dragomir Radev gave valuable comments on research questions and experimental design.

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Tao Yu designed and led the research.

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B Results with Full Metrics

	Metric	T5-base	T5-large	T5-3B
Spider	Match	58.12 _{1.46}	66.63 _{2.31}	71.76
	Exec	60.06 _{0.54}	68.28 _{1.61}	74.37
	Test suite	56.22 _{0.73}	64.12 _{1.28}	68.38
GrailQA	Match	60.00	67.00	69.00
WebQSP	F1	72.50	73.96	75.97
MTOPI	Match	83.89	84.70	84.88
	Template	88.85	88.32	88.86
WikiTQ	Acc	36.94 _{0.19}	43.30 _{0.25}	50.65
WikiSQL	Acc	84.50	86.27	87.34
CompWebQ	Acc	66.71	68.85	70.27
	F1	80.02	81.05	81.43
	Hits@1	83.64	85.49	86.20
HybridQA	Acc	54.07	56.95	59.41
	F1	61.85	64.62	66.76
MMQA	Acc	67.29	74.08	78.48
	F1	75.51	81.84	82.28
FeTaQA	BLEU	29.00	30.94	31.73
DART	BLEU	50.62 _{0.72}	51.72 _{0.15}	50.38
ToTTo	BLEU	48.29	48.95	48.95
MultiWoZ2.1	Joint Acc	57.52 _{0.96}	58.23 _{0.39}	58.46
KVRET	BLEU	20.04	18.84	17.75
	Match	50.54	56.69	61.51
SPaRC	Exec	53.95	60.60	67.33
	Match (interact)	31.28	37.44	41.94
	Exec (interact)	34.36	41.23	46.45
	Match	42.30	48.26	54.08
CoSQL	Exec	49.26	56.01	62.23
	Match (interact)	12.63	16.72	22.78
	Exec (interact)	16.04	20.14	26.16
	Overall Acc	49.49	59.12	60.93
TabFact	Acc	76.34 _{0.36}	81.40 _{0.16}	83.97
FEVEROUS	Acc	75.05	79.81	82.40
SQL2Text	BLEC	93.69 _{0.29}	93.35 _{0.29}	92.71
Logic2Text	BLEC	92.15	92.88	91.69

Table 11: Development set performance with full metrics. We do three experiments with different random seeds on representative task of each family and report their averages and standard variances format as avr_{var} .

For the KVRET dataset, instead of the version used in our main tables, we re-run another more widely used pre-processed version (Madotto et al., 2018; Wu et al., 2019; Qin et al., 2020) on T5-base, T5-large and T5-3b. Results are shown in Table 13.

C Input and Output Length Analysis

Linearization of large structured knowledge input (e.g., large tables and KGs) can be arbitrarily long, which needs to be truncated to fit in GPUs with a

	Metric	T5-base	T5-large	T5-3B
GrailQA	Match	62.39	67.30	70.11
WebQSP	F1	78.83	79.45	80.70
MTOPI	Match	85.49	86.17	86.78
	Template	87.52	89.53	90.20
WikiTQ	Acc	35.76 _{0.66}	43.22 _{0.65}	49.29
WikiSQL	Acc	82.63	84.80	85.96
CompWebQ	Acc	68.43	71.38	73.26
	F1	80.20	81.76	82.58
	Hits@1	83.70	85.40	86.08
FeTaQA	BLEU	29.91	32.45	33.44
	ROUGE-1-Fmeasure	61.77	64.01	65.21
	ROUGE-2-Fmeasure	39.44	42.26	43.09
	ROUGE-L-Fmeasure	51.93	54.29	55.31
	METEOR	48.53	50.80	51.23
	BertScore-F1	0.92	0.93	0.93
DART	BLEURT	-0.01	0.06	0.09
	BLEU	46.22 _{0.66}	46.89 _{0.53}	46.66
	TER	61.80 _{0.20}	60.97 _{0.31}	60.70
	METEOR	55.09 _{0.35}	55.76 _{0.25}	55.67
	BertScore-F1	0.95 _{0.00}	0.95 _{0.00}	0.95
MultiWoZ2.1	BLEURT	0.2833 _{0.0057}	0.30 _{0.00}	0.30
	Joint Acc	54.64 _{0.22}	54.45 _{0.20}	55.42
KVRET	BLEU	17.41	17.27	15.45
	F1 micro all	66.45	65.85	67.88
	F1 micro schedule	73.48	75.90	77.99
	F1 micro navigate	64.89	62.72	65.47
	F1 micro weather	63.78	62.80	64.01
SQA	Overall Acc	52.91	61.28	62.37
	Pos 0 Acc	62.93	67.80	59.51
	Pos 1 Acc	44.43	55.08	60.25
	Pos 2 Acc	50.44	61.88	68.77
	Pos 3 Acc	53.71	58.08	65.07
	Interaction Acc	22.24	32.59	33.17
TabFact	All Acc	76.13 _{0.39}	80.85 _{0.24}	83.68
	Simple Acc	-	91.38 _{0.32}	93.10
	Complex Acc	-	75.76 _{0.19}	79.12
	Small Acc	-	82.61 _{0.32}	85.39
SQL2Text	BLEC	93.52 _{1.00}	93.68 _{1.12}	94.78
Logic2Text	BLEC	90.66	90.57	91.39

Table 12: Test set performance with full metrics (for tasks with a publicly available test set). We do three experiments with different random seeds on representative task of each family and report their averages and standard variances format as avr_{var} .

limited size. The input and output are tokenized by T5Tokenizer in Huggingface’s Transformers.³ We visualize the length distribution in Figure 5, and details are presented in Table 14. Among the datasets with very long inputs, we choose WikiTableQuestion to study the impact of input length. We visualize the table length distribution and performances with different input truncation lengths in Figure 6. We observe that the accuracy increases as the input becomes longer, motivating future work to study how to effectively encode large structured input, e.g., leveraging sparse attention (Zaheer et al., 2020).

³<https://huggingface.co/t5-base/tree/main>

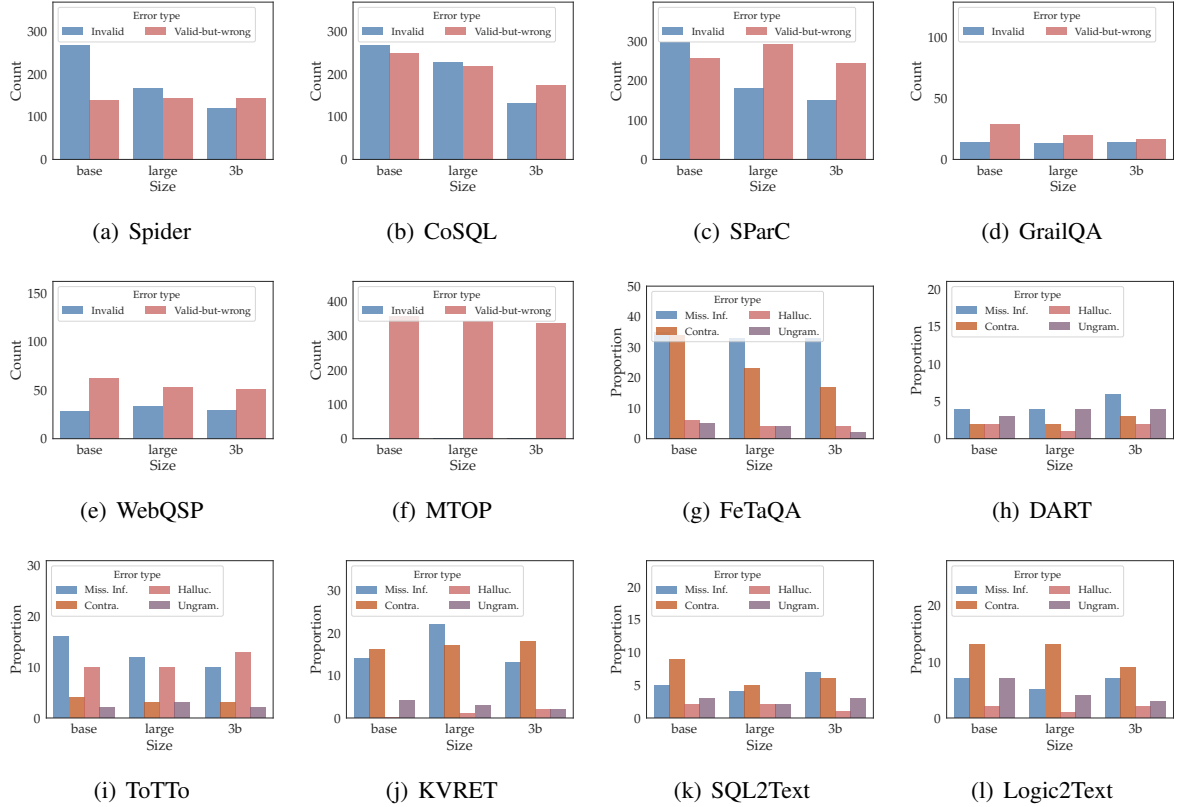


Figure 4: Error analysis. For semantic parsing, we show the number of invalid/valid-but-wrong predictions. For generation tasks, we show the proportion of missing-information/contradiction/hallucination/ungrammatical predictions among all predictions (one prediction may have multiple errors).

Metric	T5-base	T5-large	T5-3B
BLEU(dev)	22.80	23.07	22.71
BLEU(test)	21.21	22.36	20.40
F1 micro all(test)	67.49	68.03	70.07
F1 micro schedule(test)	79.39	79.47	78.54
F1 micro navigate(test)	62.87	63.59	65.34
F1 micro weather(test)	61.43	62.61	66.74
F1 macro all(test)	65.91	64.87	66.07
F1 macro schedule(test)	78.73	77.23	76.02
F1 macro navigate(test)	59.53	58.99	60.47
F1 macro weather(test)	64.05	62.58	65.78

Table 13: Baselines results are higher in pre-processed KVRET dataset. It doesn't change our conclusion on T5 with simple modification when necessary achieves sota on almost all tasks.

D Experimental Setup

D.1 Implementation Details

We use T5 (Raffel et al., 2020) as our backbone language model. Each experiment For T5-3B experiments, we use DeepSpeed⁴ to save memory. We use batch size 32 as default, except WikiTQ,

⁴<https://github.com/microsoft/DeepSpeed>

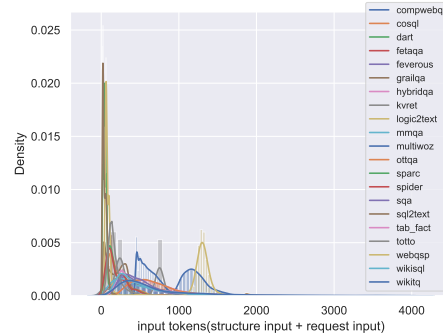


Figure 5: Input token distribution(<4096) in train set from different tasks. We exclude MTOP since it concentrates on a relatively small field which would make this figure unreadable. In general, 1024 is a good length for practice, and for most tasks, 2048 can hold all its inputs.

WikiSQL, and TabFact, for which for use batch size 128 because we found it to work significantly better. We use the Adafactor optimizer for T5-base and T5-large, and AdamW for T5-3b. We evaluate on the development set for each 500 steps and use the average development set metric for best check-

Distribution(%)	Structure Input Tokens			Text Input Tokens			Structure Input + Text Input Tokens			Sequence Output Tokens		
	[0, 512]	[512, 1024)	[1024, ∞)	[0, 512]	[512, 1024)	[1024, ∞)	[0, 512]	[512, 1024)	[1024, ∞)	[0, 128)	[128, 256)	[256, ∞)
Spider	97.01	1.81	1.17	100.00	0.00	0.00	95.47	3.35	1.17	98.81	1.18	0.0
GRAILQA	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	99.96	0.04	0.00	99.97	0.03	0.00
WebQsp	3.40	2.32	94.28	100.00	0.00	0.00	3.18	2.47	94.35	99.81	0.19	0.00
MTOP	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	99.97	0.03	0.00
WikiTableQuestions	48.32	27.48	24.18	100.00	0.00	0.00	46.03	29.43	24.52	99.98	0.01	0.01
WikiSQL	63.38	25.33	11.29	100.00	0.00	0.00	61.50	26.79	11.70	99.97	0.02	0.01
ComWebQ	1.18	14.52	84.30	100.00	0.00	0.00	1.09	11.28	87.63	99.59	0.39	0.01
HybridQA	35.53	50.63	13.8	100.00	0.00	0.00	31.77	53.35	14.86	100.00	0.00	0.0
MultiModalQA	63.02	25.67	11.30	100.00	0.00	0.00	60.54	27.26	12.18	99.99	0.01	0.00
FeTaQA	60.36	28.62	11.01	100.00	0.00	0.00	58.46	29.85	11.68	100.00	0.00	0.0
DART	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	99.99	0.01	0.0
ToTTo	95.80	2.87	1.31	100.00	0.00	0.00	95.80	2.87	1.31	99.99	0.01	0.0
MultiWoZ	100.00	0.00	0.00	98.77	1.21	0.01	54.76	45.09	0.13	0.00	100.00	0.0
KVRET	65.08	34.91	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	65.08	34.91	0.00	99.97	0.03	0.0
SParC	96.70	2.02	1.28	100.00	0.00	0.00	95.10	3.62	1.28	99.34	0.66	0.00
CoSQL	96.03	2.23	1.73	100.00	0.00	0.00	93.98	4.28	1.73	99.06	0.93	0.0
SQA	64.54	29.74	5.71	100.00	0.00	0.00	60.96	33.11	5.92	95.12	4.19	0.67
TabFact	63.22	28.19	8.58	100.00	0.00	0.00	60.68	30.20	9.10	100.00	0.00	0.0
FEVEROUS	61.37	22.24	16.39	100.00	0.00	0.00	57.53	25.07	17.40	100.00	0.00	0.00
SQL2Text	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00	0.00	0.0
Logic2Text	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.0	100.00	0.00	0.0

Table 14: Input and output length for each task’s train set.

Distribution(%)	Structure Input Tokens			Text Input Tokens			Structure Input + Text Input Tokens			Sequence Output Tokens		
	[0, 512]	[512, 1024)	[1024, ∞)	[0, 512]	[512, 1024)	[1024, ∞)	[0, 512]	[512, 1024)	[1024, ∞)	[0, 128)	[128, 256)	[256, ∞)
Spider	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	99.23	0.77	0.00
GRAILQA	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
WebQsp	3.56	1.29	95.15	100.00	0.00	0.00	3.56	1.29	95.15	99.68	0.32	0.00
Russ	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
MTOP	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
WikiTableQuestions	49.56	28.65	21.79	100.00	0.00	0.00	48.60	29.11	22.29	99.93	0.07	0.00
WikiSQL	63.90	25.88	10.22	100.00	0.00	0.00	62.06	26.99	10.95	100.00	0.00	0.00
ComWebQ	0.28	15.79	83.93	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.28	12.66	87.06	99.00	1.00	0.00
HybridQA	38.37	52.63	9.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	34.16	56.00	9.84	100.00	0.00	0.00
MultiModalQA	66.22	25.72	8.06	100.00	0.00	0.00	64.02	27.38	8.59	100.00	0.00	0.00
FeTaQA	67.03	27.47	5.49	100.00	0.00	0.00	64.84	29.57	5.59	100.00	0.00	0.00
DART	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
ToTTo	95.82	2.92	1.26	100.00	0.00	0.00	95.82	2.92	1.26	100.00	0.00	0.00
MultiWoZ	100.00	0.00	0.00	99.16	0.84	0.00	25.07	74.68	0.24	0.00	100.00	0.00
KVRET	65.76	34.24	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	65.76	34.24	0.00	99.79	0.21	0.00
SParC	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	99.26	0.74	0.00
CoSQL	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	99.62	0.38	0.00	99.23	0.77	0.00
SQA	60.09	33.38	6.53	100.00	0.00	0.00	56.91	36.42	6.67	94.17	5.39	0.44
TabFact	62.17	29.31	8.52	100.00	0.00	0.00	59.95	30.91	9.14	100.00	0.00	0.00
FEVEROUS	61.56	23.71	14.73	100.00	0.00	0.00	57.57	26.58	15.85	100.00	0.00	0.00
SQL2Text	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Logic2Text	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00

Table 15: Input and output length for each task’s development set.

point selection. For all tasks, we set learning rate to $5e-5$ and used linear learning rate decay. All experiments are done on NVIDIA Tesla V100 and NVIDIA Tesla A100.

D.2 Metric Details

For most semantic parsing tasks, we report the exact match accuracy of logical forms, and for task has test suite (Zhong et al., 2020), we add test suite metric to represent model’s performance; an exception is WebQSP, for which we follow previous work to execute the parses and report the F1 score. For QA, we report the exact match accuracy of answer sets. For data-to-text generation, we re-

port sacre-BLEU (Post, 2018).⁵ We use each task’s representative metric used by previous works. For fact verification, we report the accuracy. For high-fidelity NLG, we report BLEC (Shu et al., 2021), which is the exact match between keywords in the formal language and the natural language. Unless specified, we use T5-large and report the development set performance.

D.3 T0 Zero-shot Experimental Details

For each task in UNIFIEDSKG we search Sanh et al. (2021) for the most similar instructions(if there is no one for use, we create one follow their writing

⁵Signature: BLEU + case.lc + numrefs.1 + smooth.exp + tok.13a + version.1.4.0

Distribution(%)	Structure Input Tokens			Text Input Tokens			Structure Input + Text Input Tokens			Sequence Output Tokens		
	[0, 512)	[512, 1024)	[1024, ∞)	[0, 512)	[512, 1024)	[1024, ∞)	[0, 512)	[512, 1024)	[1024, ∞)	[0, 128)	[128, 256)	[256, ∞)
Spider	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GRAILQA	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	99.98	0.02	0.00
WebQsp	3.48	1.95	94.57	100.00	0.00	0.00	3.36	2.07	94.57	100.00	0.00	0.00
Russ	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
MTOP	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
WikiTableQuestions	48.00	31.15	20.86	100.00	0.00	0.00	47.08	31.70	21.22	99.98	0.02	0.00
WikiSQL	61.49	26.00	12.51	100.00	0.00	0.00	59.57	27.43	13.00	99.96	0.03	0.01
ComWebQ	0.85	16.02	83.13	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.85	13.07	86.08	99.43	0.57	0.00
HybridQA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
FeTaQA	65.40	28.01	6.59	100.00	0.00	0.00	63.26	29.51	7.24	100.00	0.00	0.00
DART	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
ToTTo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MultiWoZ	100.00	0.00	0.00	98.71	1.29	0.00	24.82	74.93	0.24	0.00	100.00	0.00
KVRET	66.14	33.86	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	66.14	33.86	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
SParC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CoSQL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SQA	62.54	30.92	6.54	100.00	0.00	0.00	61.37	32.05	6.58	93.69	5.68	0.63
TabFact	64.59	28.01	7.40	100.00	0.00	0.00	62.55	29.35	8.10	100.00	0.00	0.00
FEVEROUS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SQL2Text	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Logic2Text	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00

Table 16: Input and output length for each task’s test set.

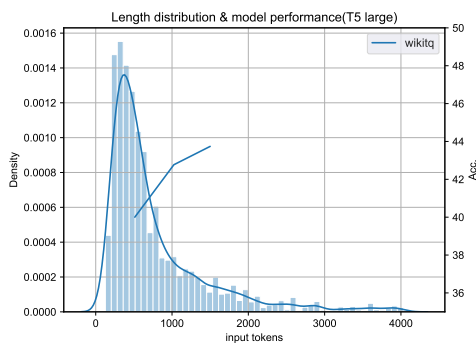


Figure 6: Length effect on WikiTableQuestion.

style), make our input in that format and directly test on T0 3B. The specific instructions are shown below.

Spider

Given database schema "[linearized database schema]". Can you tell me the SQL for "[request]"?

WikiTQ

I know that the answer to "[request]" is in "[linearized table]". Can you tell me what it is?

DART

Put the triples together to form a sentence: [relation triples]

MultiWoZ

Known ontology "[ontology]", the dialogue state when "[dialogue history and current request]" is given

TabFact

Suppose "[linearized table]" Can we infer that "[statement]"?

SQL2Text

Paraphrase "[SQL]" to natural language:

D.4 GPT3 and Codex Details

D.4.1 Hyperparameter Settings

Temperature For GPT3 and Codex, we set the decoding temperature to 0 (i.e., greedy decoding without sampling) for Spider, WikiTQ, MultiWoZ and TabFact. We observe a drop of 10% in the exact match metric when set the temperature to 1 by default in OpenAI. For Codex, we tune the temperature from 0 to 1 in a step of 0.1 for DART, SQL2Text, and no significant difference is observed. For GPT3, we do not tune on that to stay within our budget.

Max output length We set max output length to 256 for Spider, WikiTQ, MultiWoZ and SQL2Text, while 4 for TabFact to contain more length in the input side (the concept of max length in GPT3 and Codex is the sum of input tokens length and output tokens length). We set "\n" as the stop token.

D.4.2 Prompts

We use simple prompt words for each task to concatenate the request, linearized structured knowledge, and context together. For example, for each example in WikiTQ, we format it as "*examples*\n\n[linearized table] || Write a answer for [request] \n\nThe answer is:", and make GPT3 and Codex make the completion as prediction. We do experiments on Spider with different format of forming structured knowledge (e.g., linearization, description), but get a similar result. Better us-

age of GPT3 and Codex under the UNIFIEDSKG framework is an interesting direction.

D.5 Human Evaluation

Participants of our human evaluation are eight of the authors of this paper. They are familiar with the tasks being evaluated. The human evaluation guideline is shown below.

```
## General Guideline
1. Each line is a dev set sample, with some
inputs (detailed below), a human reference (
seq_out) shown in blue, and three model outputs
named model1, model2, and model3.
2. Each model output receives a 0-1 score (0
stands for incorrect, and 1 stands for correct).
By "correct" we mean "responding to the user
request properly and correctly, without grammar
or wording mistakes".
3. When an output is incorrect, you specify the
type(s) of error, e.g., 1) missing information,
2) contradiction, 3) hallucination, and 4)
ungrammatical.

## Task-Specific Details
### DART
1. Task: triples-to-text generation.
2. struct_in: a set of relation-triples joined
by ``|``. Each relation-triple is of form ``
entityA : relation : entityB``.

### FeTaQA
1. Task: free-form QA
2. question: a question about the table.
3. table: a table represented as a dictionary:
{"header": [header item, ...], "rows": [[cell
value, ...], ...]}.
4. meta: table_page_title | table_section_title

### KVRET
1. Task: dialogue system
2. dialogue: a dialogue represented as a
dictionary: {"driver": [request1, ...], "
assistant": [response1, ...]}, the last response
of the assistant is the human reference.
3. kb: a knowledge base represented as a
dictionary: {"header": [header item, ...], "rows
": [[cell value, ...], ...]}.

### Logic2Text
1. Task: logic expression to text translation
2. table: a table represented as a dictionary:
{"caption": table caption, "header": [header
item, ...], "rows": [[cell value, ...], ...]}.
3. logic_str: logic expression of a statement.

### SQL2Text
1. Task: SQL to text translation
2. query: SQL.

### ToTTo
1. Task: highlighted-table-to-text generation.
2. table_page_title and section: table meta
information.
3. Visualization of highlighted tables is
provided in ``totto_vis/``.
```

D.6 Hyperparameters

Shown in Table 17. For semantic parsing tasks, the decoding was done under the greedy search, where we set the beam size to 1 specially. For tasks with a long linearized sequence, we used 1024 as input length to hold the maximum of input; reasons are explained in App. C.

E Training Details

Here we show comparisons of finetuning and prefix-tuning on aspect of training. For prefix-tuning, we use random initialization as done by Li and Liang (2021). In general, prefix-tuning needs more steps than finetuning but has the ability to reach comparable results with continued training.

F Task Unification

F.1 Term Definition

Highlighted tables A highlighted table contains a table, table metadata (such as the title), and a set of highlighted cells which entails the text description (Parikh et al., 2020).

Relation-triples Relation triples are a set of subject-predicate-object triples to capture rich relationships in the data. Many data-to-text tasks such as DART (Nan et al., 2021b) take these relation triples as inputs and generate natural language from them.

Knowledge Graph A knowledge graph is a multi-relational graph composed of entities (nodes) and relations (different types of edges). Each edge is represented as a triple of the form (head entity, relation, tail entity), also called a fact, indicating that two entities are connected by a specific relation (Wang et al., 2017).

Dialogue State and Ontology A dialogue state s_t at any turn t in a dialogue comprises the summary of the dialogue history until turn t , such that s_t contains all sufficient information for the system to choose the next action. (Williams et al., 2016) Specifically, it captures the user goals in the conversation in the form of (slot, value) pairs. The set of possible slots is predefined in the ontology O , typically domain-dependent, while the values assumed by each slots are provided by the user as a dialogue goal.

Task type	Task	Input length	Batch size	Beam size
<i>Semantic Parsing</i>	Spider (Yu et al., 2018)	512	32	1
	GrailQA (Gu et al., 2021)	512	32	4
	WebQSP (Yih et al., 2016)	1024	32	4
	MTOP (Li et al., 2021)	1024	32	4
<i>Question Answering</i>	WikiSQL (Zhong et al., 2017)	1024	128	4
	WikiTQ (Pasupat and Liang, 2015)	1024	128	4
	CompWebQ (Talmor and Berant, 2018)	1024	32	4
	HybridQA (Chen et al., 2020c)	1024	32	4
	MultiModalQA (Talmor et al., 2021)	1024	32	4
	FeTaQA (Nan et al., 2021a)	512	32	4
<i>Data-to-Text</i>	DART (Nan et al., 2021b)	512	32	4
	ToTTo (Parikh et al., 2020)	512	32	4
<i>Conversational</i>	MultiWoZ2.1 (Eric et al., 2019)	1024	32	4
	KVRET (Eric et al., 2017)	1024	32	4
	SParC (Yu et al., 2019b)	512	32	1
	CoSQL (Yu et al., 2019a)	512	32	1
	SQA (Iyyer et al., 2017)	1024	128	4
<i>Fact Verification</i>	TabFact (Chen et al., 2020b)	1024	128	4
	FEVEROUS (Aly et al., 2021)	1024	32	4
<i>High-fidelity NLG</i>	SQL2Text (Shu et al., 2021)	512	32	4
	Logic2Text (Chen et al., 2020d)	512	32	4

Table 17: Hyperparameters for each SKG task.

F.2 Linearization

- **Tables.** Following Liu et al. (2021), we linearize the table into a sequence. By inserting several special tokens to indicate the table boundaries, a linearized table can be represented as “col: c_1, \dots, c_N row 1 : r_1 row 2 : $r_2 \dots r_M$ ”, N and M are the number of columns and rows.
- **Highlighted tables.** Following Parikh et al. (2020), we represent each highlighted cell by concatenating its value, column headers, and row headers. The table is represented as the concatenation of the page title, section title, and representations of all highlighted cells.
- **Relation-triples and knowledge graphs.** Following Nan et al. (2021b), each relation-triple is linearized as “ $sub : rela : obj$ ”, and different triples are joined by “|”. The subgraph retrieved from the knowledge graph is treated as a list of relation-triples and we use the same formulation.
- **Ontology.** Following Hosseini-Asl et al. (2020) and Lin et al. (2021), for each slot in ontology, each slot along with its all possible values is formatted as “ $slot : value_1, \dots value_{slot_n}$ ”, different slot-values are joined by “|”

F.3 Output Format

When the output is *natural language* or *formal language* we do not modify it because it is already in

sequence format; a *set of answers*, we use a comma followed by a space to join the answers; a *Boolean value*, we map True to “entailed” and False to “refuted”; a *dialogue state*, we follow Hosseini-Asl et al. (2020) to place its slot-value pairs sequentially.

G Input and Output Examples for Each Task

G.1 Spider

Structured Input:

```
| concert_singer | stadium : stadium_id ,
location , name , capacity , highest , lowest ,
average | singer : singer_id , name , country ,
song_name , song_release_year , age , is_male |
concert : concert_id , concert_name , theme ,
stadium_id , year | singer_in_concert :
concert_id , singer_id
```

Request Input:

How many singers do we have?

Sequence Output:

```
select count(*) from singer
```

G.2 GRAILQA

Structured Input:

```
soviet red army: m.06dr9 | organization.
organization.founders government.
governmental_body.jurisdiction organization.
organization_founder.organizations_founded
```

Task	Finetune	Prefix-tuning
Spider	16500	100000
GraillQA	17000	78000
WebQSP	1500	8000
MTOP	30000	60000
WikiSQL	8500	80000
WikiTQ	1500	16000
CompWebQ	3500	27000
HybridQA	7000	30000
MultiModalQA	6000	40000
FeTaQA	11000	20000
DART	7000	250000
ToTTo	12000	>250000
MultiWoZ2.1	6000	40000
KVRET	4000	40000
SParC	2000	6400
CoSQL	38000	100000
SQA	27000	>250000
TabFact	8000	210000
FEVEROUS	1200	40000
SQL2Text	3000	10000
Logic2Text	3500	10000

Table 18: The comparison of approximate training steps finetuning and prefix-tuning used to reach the decent performance on T5 base. >250000 means we stop the training due to time limitation. Prefix-tuning needs more steps to converge and converges to comparable performances.

military.military_service.military_person
government.political_party_tenure government.
national_anthem_of_a_country visual_art.
art_subject.artwork_on_the_subject government.
government_agency government.
governmental_jurisdiction.government people.
deceased_person.place_of_burial people.
deceased_person.date_of_death people.person.
children people.person.parents people.person.
height_meters government.
government_position_held.office_holder
government.government people.person people.
person.sibling_s people.person.quotations people.
person.gender

Request Input:

the person who founded the soviet red army also founded what government agency?

Sequence Output:

(AND government.government_agency (JOIN organization.organization_founders (JOIN (R organization.organization_founders) m.06dr9)))

G.3 CompWebQ

Structured Input:

Liam Hemsworth celebrities.celebrity.
sexual_relationships..celebrities.
romantic_relationship.celebrity Liam Hemsworth |
Liam Hemsworth type.object.type tv.tv_actor |
Liam Hemsworth film.actor.film..film.performance.
character Billy The Kid | Liam Hemsworth film.
actor.film..film.performance.film The Hunger
Games |

(omitted to save space)

| Liam Hemsworth type.object.type celebrities.
celebrity | Cut Bank film.film.cinematography
Ben Richardson | Cut Bank film.film.language
English Language | Cut Bank film.film.edited_by
Carol Littleton | Liam Hemsworth film.actor.film
..film.performance.film The Hunger Games:
Mockingjay, Part 1 | Liam Hemsworth film.actor.
film..film.performance.film Timeless

Request Input:

What movie was produced by Dan Cohen and features Liam Hemsworth as an actor?

Sequence Output:

Cut Bank

G.4 WebQsp

Structured Input:

Spain: m.06mkj | m.06mkj location.location.
contains m.0g3qgy | m.06mkj location.location.
contains m.02qf5mh | m.0j5_3sv government.
government_position_held.
office_position_or_title m.0j5_3sz | m.06mkj
location.location.contains m.02zb43k |
(omitted to save space)
| m.06mkj government.governmental_jurisdiction.
governing_officials m.010wswjc | m.06mkj
location.location.contains m.09k5hy | m.010wswjc
government.government_position_held.
office_position_or_title m.0j5_3sz | m.06mkj
location.location.contains m.02z98t5 | m.06mkj
location.location.contains m.03qcr60

Request Input:

what is the king of spain's name?

Sequence Output:

(JOIN (R government.government_position_held.
office_holder) (AND (JOIN government.
government_position_held.time_macro 2015^http
://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#date) (AND (JOIN
government.government_position_held.
office_position_or_title m.0j5_3sz) (JOIN (R
government.governmental_jurisdiction.
governing_officials) m.06mkj))))

G.5 MTOP

Structured Input:

IN:GET: MESSAGE, WEATHER, ALARM, INFO_RECIPES,
STORIES_NEWS, REMINDER, RECIPES, EVENT,
CALL_TIME, LIFE_EVENT, INFO_CONTACT, CONTACT,
TIMER, REMINDER_DATE_TIME, AGE, SUNRISE,
EMPLOYER, EDUCATION_TIME, JOB, AVAILABILITY,
(omitted to save space)
IN:PREVIOUS: TRACK_MUSIC | IN:HOLD: CALL | IN:
SKIP: TRACK_MUSIC | IN:LIKE: MUSIC | IN:RESTART:
TIMER | IN:RESUME: TIMER, CALL, MUSIC | IN:
MERGE: CALL | IN:REPLAY: MUSIC | IN:LOOP: MUSIC
| IN:STOP: MUSIC, SHUFFLE_MUSIC | IN:UNLOOP:
MUSIC | IN:CANCEL: MESSAGE, CALL | IN:REWIND:
MUSIC | IN:REPEAT: ALL_MUSIC, ALL_OFF_MUSIC |
IN:FAST: FORWARD_MUSIC | IN:DISLIKE: MUSIC | IN:
DISPREFER: | IN:HELP: REMINDER | IN:FOLLOW:
MUSIC

Request Input:

call Nicholas and Natasha

Sequence Output:

[IN:CREATE_CALL [SL:CONTACT Nicholas] [SL:CONTACT Natasha]]

G.6 WikiSQL

Structured Input:

col : player | no. | nationality | position | years in toronto | school/club team row 1 : antonio lang | 21 | united states | guard-forward | 1999-2000 | duke row 2 : voshon lenard | 2 | united states | guard | 2002-03 | minnesota row 3 : martin lewis | 32, 44 | united states | guard-forward | 1996-97 | butler cc (ks) row 4 : brad lohaus | 33 | united states | forward-center | 1996 | iowa row 5 : art long | 42 | united states | forward-center | 2002-03 | cincinnati row 6 : john long | 25 | united states | guard | 1996-97 | detroit row 7 : kyle lowry | 3 | united states | guard | 2012-present | villanova

Request Input:

what position does the player who played for butler cc (ks) play?

Sequence Output:

guard-forward

G.7 WikiTableQuestions

Structured Input:

col : team | county | wins | years won row 1 : greystones | wicklow | 1 | 2011 row 2 : ballymore eustace | kildare | 1 | 2010 row 3 : maynooth | kildare | 1 | 2009 row 4 : ballyroan abbey | laois | 1 | 2008 row 5 : fingal ravens | dublin | 1 | 2007 row 6 : confey | kildare | 1 | 2006 row 7 : crettyard | laois | 1 | 2005 row 8 : wolfe tones | meath | 1 | 2004 row 9 : dundalk gaels | louth | 1 | 2003

Request Input:

which team won previous to crettyard?

Sequence Output:

wolfe tones

G.8 HybridQA

Structured Input:

col : position | athlete | nationality | time row 1 : 1 | patrick makau musyoki | kenya | 2:03.38 row 2 : 2 | stephen kwelio chemlany | kenya | 2:07.55 row 3 : 3 | edwin kimaiyo | kenya | 2:09.50 row 4 : 4 | felix limo | kenya | 2:10.38 row 5 : 5 | scott overall | united kingdom | 2:10.55 row 6 : 6 | ricardo serrano | spain | 2:13.32 row 7 : 7 | pedro nimo | spain | 2:13.34 row 8 : 8 | simon munyutu | france |

2:14.20 row 9 : 9 | driss el himer | france | 2:14.46 row 10 : 10 | hendrick ramaala | south africa | 2:16.00 passages: ricardo serrano (athlete): at the 2011 iaaf world cross country championships he was 89th overall . his marathon debut followed later that year and he was sixth at the 2011 berlin marathon with a time of 2:13.32 hours . | spain: with an area of 505,990 km2 (195,360 sq mi) , spain is the largest country in southern europe , the second largest country in western europe and the european union , and the fourth largest country in the european continent . by population (about 47 million) , spain is the sixth largest in europe and the fifth in the european union . |

Request Input:

what place was achieved by the person who finished the berlin marathon in 2:13.32 in 2011 the first time he competed in a marathon ?

Sequence Output:

sixth

G.9 MultiModalQA

Structured Input:

ben piazza | filmography col : year | title | role | notes row 1 : 1957 | a dangerous age | david | row 2 : 1959 | the hanging tree | rune | row 3 : 1962 | no exit | camarero | row 4 : 1970 | tell me that you love me, junie moon | jesse | row 5 : 1972 | the outside man | desk clerk | row 6 : 1973 | the candy snatchers | avery | row 7 : 1976 | the bad news bears | bob whitewood | row 8 : 1977 | i never promised you a rose garden | jay blake | row 9 : 1979 | nightwing | roger piggott | row 10 : 1979 | the concorde ... airport '79 | associate | tv version, uncredited row 11 : 1980 | the blues brothers | father | row 12 : 1982 | waltz across texas | bill wrather | row 13 : 1985 | mask | mr. simms | row 14 : 1988 | clean and sober | kramer | row 15 : 1990 | rocky v | doctor | uncredited row 16 : 1991 | guilty by suspicion | darryl zanuck |

Request Input:

for which film did ben piazza play the role of mr. simms?

Sequence Output:

mask

G.10 FeTaQA

Structured Input:

andy karl | awards and nominations col : year | award | category | work | result row 1 : 2013 | drama desk award | outstanding featured actor in a musical | the mystery of edwin drood | nominated row 2 : 2013 | broadway.com audience awards | favorite onstage pair (with jessie mueller) | the mystery of edwin drood | nominated row 3 : 2014 |

(omitted to save space)
| groundhog day | nominated row 15 : 2017 | tony award | best actor in a musical | groundhog day | nominated row 16 : 2017 | drama desk award | outstanding actor in a musical | groundhog day | won row 17 : 2017 | drama league award | distinguished performance | groundhog day | nominated row 18 : 2017 | outer critics circle award | outstanding actor in a musical | groundhog day | won

Request Input:

when did andy karl win the olivier award and for which of his work?

Sequence Output:

for his performance in groundhog day, andy karl received the 2017 olivier award for best actor in a musical.

G.11 DART

Structured Input:

Mars Hill College : joined : 1973 | Mars Hill College : location : Mars Hill, North Carolina

Request Input:

None

Sequence Output:

A school from Mars Hill, North Carolina, joined in 1973.

G.12 ToTTo

Structured Input:

```
<page_title> List of Governors of South Carolina
</page_title> <section_title> Governors under
the Constitution of 1868 </section_title> <table
> <cell> 76 <col_header> # </col_header> <
col_header> 74 </col_header> <col_header> 75 </
col_header> </cell> <cell> Daniel Henry
Chamberlain <col_header> Governor </col_header>
<row_header> 76 </row_header> </cell> <cell>
December 1, 1874 <col_header> Took Office </
col_header> <row_header> 76 </row_header> </cell
> </table>
```

Request Input:

None

Sequence Output:

Daniel Henry Chamberlain was the 76th Governor of South Carolina from 1874.

G.13 MultiWoZ2.1

Structured Input:

hotel-pricerange: cheap, dontcare, expensive, moderate; hotel-type: guesthouse, hotel; hotel-parking: dontcare, free, no, yes; hotel-book day: friday, monday, saturday, sunday, thursday, tuesday, wednesday; hotel-book people: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; hotel-book stay: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; hotel-area: centre, dontcare, east, north, south, west; hotel-stars: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, dontcare; hotel-internet: dontcare, no, yes; hotel-name: none; train-destination: none; train-day: dontcare, friday, monday, saturday, sunday, thursday, tuesday, wednesday; train-departure: none; train-arriveby: none; train-book people: 0, 1, 10, 15, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9; taxi-destination: none; taxi-departure: none; taxi-leaveat: none; train-leaveat: none; attraction-area: cambridge, centre, dontcare, east, north, south, west; restaurant-pricerange: cheap, dontcare, expensive, moderate; restaurant-area: centre, east, north, south, west; restaurant-food: none; attraction-name: none; restaurant-name: none; attraction-type: architecture, boat, church, cinema, college, concerthall, entertainment, hotspot, multiple sports, museum, nightclub, park, special, swimmingpool, theatre; restaurant-book day: friday, monday, saturday, sunday, thursday, tuesday, wednesday; restaurant-book people: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; restaurant-book time: none; taxi-arriveby: none;

Request Input:

i am looking to book a train that is leaving from cambridge to bishops stortford on friday .

Context:

booking was successful . reference number is : bmukptg6 . can i help you with anything else today ? | friday and can you book it for me and get a reference number ? | what day will you be staying ? | could you book the wartworth for 1 night , 1 person ? | if you would like something cheap , i recommend the allenbell . for something moderate -ly priced , i would recommend the warkworth house . | that does not matter as long as it has free wifi and parking . | i can help you with that . what is your price range ? | i need to book a hotel in the east that has 4 stars . | none

Sequence Output:

hotel pricerange none, hotel type none, hotel parking yes, hotel book day friday, hotel book people 1, hotel book stay 1, hotel area east, hotel stars 4, hotel internet yes, hotel name wartworth, train destination bishops stortford, train day friday, train departure cambridge, train arriveby none, train book people none, taxi destination none, taxi departure none, taxi leaveat none, train leaveat none, attraction area none, restaurant pricerange none, restaurant area none, restaurant food none, attraction name none, restaurant name none, attraction type none, restaurant book day none, restaurant book people none, restaurant book time none, taxi arriveby none

G.14 KVRET

Structured Input:

```
col : poi | poi_type | address | distance |
traffic_info row 1 : sigona farmers market |
grocery store | 638 amherst st | 3 miles | car
collision nearby row 2 : cafe venetia | coffee
or tea place | 269 alger dr | 1 miles | car
collision nearby row 3 : 5672 barringer street |
certain address | 5672 barringer street | 5
miles | no traffic row 4 : valero | gas station
| 200 alester ave | 2 miles | road block nearby
row 5 : stanford childrens health | hospital |
899 ames ct | 5 miles | moderate traffic row 6 :
palo alto garage r | parking garage | 481
amaranta ave | 1 miles | moderate traffic row 7 :
teavana | coffee or tea place | 145 amherst st
| 1 miles | road block nearby row 8 : willows
market | grocery store | 409 bollard st | 5
miles | no traffic
```

Request Input:

ok, please give me directions via a route that avoids all heavy_traffic.

Context:

valero is located at 200_alester_ave. | address to the gas_station

Sequence Output:

since there is a road_block_nearby, i found another route for you and i sent it on your screen

G.15 SParC

Structured Input:

```
| flight_2 | airlines : uid , airline ,
abbreviation , country | airports : city ,
airportcode , airportname , country ,
countryabbrev | flights : airline , flightno ,
sourceairport , destairport
```

Request Input:

What is the country corresponding it?

Context:

Of these, which is Jetblue Airways? | What are all the airlines?

Sequence Output:

select country from airlines where airline = "JetBlue Airways"

G.16 CoSQL

Structured Input:

```
| car_1 | continents : contid , continent |
countries : countryid , countryname , continent
| car_makers : id , maker , fullname , country |
model_list : modelid , maker , model |
car_names : makeid , model , make | cars_data :
id , mpg , cylinders , edispl , horsepower ,
weight , accelerate , year
```

Request Input:

Which models are the most popular?

Context:

How many car models are produced by each maker? List the count and the maker full name.

Sequence Output:

```
select t1.model from model_list as t1 join
car_makers as t2 on t1.maker = t2.id group by t2.
id order by count ( * ) desc limit 1
```

G.17 SQA

Structured Input:

```
col : date | number | type | captain |
casualties | sunk by row 1 : 4 may 1943 | u-209
| viic | heinrich brodda | 46 | catalina flying-
boat of no. 5 squadron row 2 : 5 may 1943 | u
-638 | viic | oskar staudinger | 44 | hms
sunflower row 3 : 5 may 1943 | u-531 | ixc/40 |
herbert neckel | 54 | hms vidette row 4 : 6 may
1943 | u-192 | ixc/40 | werner happe | 55 | hms
loosestrife row 5 : 6 may 1943 | u-125 | ixc |
ulrich folkers | 54 | "hms oribi | hms snowflake
" row 6 : 6 may 1943 | u-630 | viic | werner
winkler | 47 | hms vidette row 7 : 6 may 1943 |
u-438 | viic | heinrich hensohn | 48 | hms
pelican
```

Request Input:

which captain was not oskar staudinger?

Context:

who were the captains of those boats? | what boats were lost on may 5?

Sequence Output:

herbert neckel

G.18 TabFact

Structured Input:

```
col : round | clubs remaining | clubs involved |
winners from previous round | new entries this
round | leagues entering at this round row 1 :
first round | 156 | 86 | none | 86 | tff third
league & turkish regional amateur league row 2 :
second round | 113 | 108 | 43 | 65 | s\u00f0fcper
lig & tff first league & tff second league row
3 : third round | 59 | 54 | 54 | none | none row
4 : fourth round | 32 | 32 | 27 | 5 | s\
u00f0fcper lig row 5 : fifth round | 16 | 16 | 16
| none | none row 6 : group stage | 8 | 8 | 8 |
none | none row 7 : semi - finals | 4 | 4 | 4 |
none | none row 8 : final | 2 | 2 | 2 | none |
none
```

Request Input:

during the third round of the turkish cup , there be no new entry during that stage

Sequence Output:

entailed

G.19 FEVEROUS

Structured Input:

```
col : no. | title | narrator | aired between |
original air date | us viewers row 1 : 1 | "
magic is coming" | giancarlo esposito | "a land
without magic" "broken" | september 30, 2012
(2012-09-30) | 6.04 row 2 : 2 | "the price of
magic" | alan dale | "selfless, brave and true"
"lacey" | april 14, 2013 (2013-04-14) | 5.17 row
3 : 3 | "journey to neverland" | alfred molina
| "and straight on 'til morning" "the heart of
the |
(omitted to save space)
| "dark swan rises: a once upon a time fan |
howard parker | "operation mongoose, part 2" "
the | september 27, 2015 (2015-09-27) | 3.20 row
8 : 8 | "evil reigns once more" | howard parker
| "an untold story" "the savior" | september 25,
2016 (2016-09-25) | 2.86 row 9 : 9 | "the final
battle begins" | howard parker | "the song in
your heart" "the final battle" | may 14, 2017
(2017-05-14) | 2.82
```

Request Input:

list of once upon a time (debuted october 23, 2011) episodes consists of 10 specials, one of the narrators alan dale.

Sequence Output:

refuted

G.20 SQL2Text

Structured Input:

None

Request Input:

```
SELECT Fname FROM FACULTY WHERE Rank = "
Professor" ORDER BY Fname
```

Sequence Output:

What are the first names for all faculty professors, ordered by first name?

G.21 Logic2Text

Structured Input:

Caption: list of tallest structures in the world
- 300 to 400 metres | planned pinnacle height,
expected year of completion, structural type,
country, town

Request Input:

```
eq { count { filter_eq { all_rows ; expected
year of completion ; 2006 } } ; 3 } = true
```

Sequence Output:

three of the tallest structures will be completed in 2006 .

H Case study

H.1 Spider case

H.1.1 Case 1:

Structured Input:

```
| concert_singer | stadium : stadium_id ,
location , name , capacity , highest , lowest ,
average | singer : singer_id , name , country ,
song_name , song_release_year , age , is_male |
concert : concert_id , concert_name , theme ,
stadium_id , year | singer_in_concert :
concert_id , singer_id
```

Request Input:

What are the names of all stadiums that did not have a concert in 2014?

Sequence Output:

```
select name from stadium except select t2.name
from concert as t1 join stadium as t2 on t1.
stadium_id = t2.stadium_id where t1.year = 2014
```

T5-base prediction (incorrect):

```
select name from stadium except select
stadium_name from concert where year = 2014
```

T5-large prediction (correct):

```
select name from stadium except select t2.name
from concert as t1 join stadium as t2 on t1.
stadium_id = t2.stadium_id where t1.year = 2014
```

T5-3B prediction (correct):

```
select name from stadium except select t2.name
from concert as t1 join stadium as t2 on t1.
stadium_id = t2.stadium_id where t1.year = 2014
```

H.1.2 Case 2:

Structured Input:

```
| concert_singer | stadium : stadium_id ,
location , name , capacity , highest , lowest ,
average | singer : singer_id , name , country ,
song_name , song_release_year , age , is_male |
concert : concert_id , concert_name , theme ,
stadium_id , year | singer_in_concert :
concert_id , singer_id
```

Request Input:

What is the name and capacity for the stadium with highest average attendance?

Sequence Output:

```
select name, capacity from stadium order by
average desc limit 1
```

T5-base prediction (incorrect):

```
select name, capacity from stadium order by avg(
amount) desc limit 1
```

T5-large prediction (correct):

```
select name, capacity from stadium order by
average desc limit 1
```

T5-3B prediction (correct):

```
select name, capacity from stadium order by
average desc limit 1
```

H.1.3 Case 3:

Structured Input:

```
| pets_1 | student : stuid , lname , fname , age
, sex , major , advisor , city_code | has_pet :
stuid , petid | pets : petid , pettype ( cat ,
dog ) , pet_age , weight
```

Request Input:

Find the first name of students who have cat or dog pet.

Sequence Output:

```
select distinct t1.fname from student as t1 join
has_pet as t2 on t1.stuid = t2.stuid join pets
as t3 on t3.petid = t2.petid where t3.petype =
'cat' or t3.petype = 'dog'
```

T5-base prediction (incorrect):

```
select t1.fname from student as t1 join has_pet
as t2 on t1.stuid = t2.stuid where t2.petype =
"cat" or t2.petype = "dog"
```

T5-large prediction (incorrect):

```
select t1.fname from student as t1 join has_pet
as t2 on t1.stuid = t2.stuid where t2.petype =
"cat" or t2.petype = "dog"
```

T5-3B prediction (correct):

```
select t1.fname from student as t1 join has_pet
as t2 on t1.stuid = t2.stuid join pets as t3 on
t2.petid = t3.petid where t3.petype = "cat" or
t3.petype = "dog"
```

H.2 FeTaQA case

Structured Input:

```
te aroha (new zealand electorate) | 1890
election col : party | candidate | votes
| % | [non utf-8 token] row 1 : - | independent
| william shepherd allen | 786 | 56.34 | - row
2 : - | liberal | william fraser | 609 | 43.65 |
- row 3 : majority | majority | majority | 175
| 12.54 | - row 4 : turnout | turnout | turnout
| 1,395 | 48.60 | - row 5 : registered electors
| registered electors | registered electors |
2,870 | - | -
```

Request Input:

what were the voting results in the te aroha election by the candidate?

Sequence Output:

votes for allen and fraser were 786 and 609 respectively.

T5-base prediction (incorrect):

the te aroha election was won by william shepherd allen with a majority of 175.

T5-large prediction (incorrect):

in the te aroha election, allen won with a majority of 175 votes.

T5-3B prediction (correct):

in the 1890 te aroha election, the result was a victory for the independent candidate, william shepherd allen, who received 786 votes against 609 for the liberal candidate, william fraser.

H.3 KVRET case

H.3.1 Case 1:

Structured Input:

```
col : location | monday | tuesday | wednesday |
thursday | friday | saturday | sunday | today
row 1 : danville | clear skies, low of 30f, high
of 50f | cloudy, low of 20f, high of 40f |
raining, low of 80f, high of 100f | dew, low of
80f, high of 90f | clear skies, low of 70f, high
of 80f | frost, low of 40f, high of 60f |
overcast, low of 20f, high of 30f | monday row 2
... row 6 : alhambra | windy, low of 90f, high
of 100f | hail, low of 90f, high of 100f |
clear skies, low of 80f, high of 90f | rain, low
of 70f, high of 80f | stormy, low of 70f, high
of 80f | rain, low of 60f, high of 70f | hail,
low of 40f, high of 60f | monday ...
```

Request Input:

alhambra please.

Context Input:

what city are you inquiring about? | is it going to be raining this weekend

Sequence Output:

it will be raining on saturday and hailing on sunday in alhambra.

T5-base prediction (correct):

it will be raining on saturday and hailing on sunday in alhambra.

T5-large prediction (incorrect):

it will not rain in alhambra this weekend.

T5-3B prediction (incorrect):

there will be no rain this weekend in alhambra.

H.3.2 Case 2:

Structured Input:

```
col : event | time | date | room | agenda |
party row 1 : tennis activity | 5pm | wednesday
| - | - | mother row 2 : taking medicine | 9am |
the 3rd | - | - | sister row 3 : swimming
activity | 11am | friday | - | - | father row 4 :
conference | 6pm | the 8th | 100 conference
room | go over budget | infrastructure team row
5 : meeting | 4pm | the 10th | conference room
102 | go over quarterly report | infrastructure
team row 6 : dentist appointment | 10am | the 13
th | - | - | jeff row 7 : dentist appointment |
11am | the 5th | - | - | jeff row 8 : lab
appointment | 2pm | the 4th | - | - | sister
```

Request Input:

when is the date and time of my dentist_appointment?

Context Input:

None

Sequence Output:

your dentist_appointment is at 10am on the_13th.

T5-base prediction (correct):

you have two dentist_appointments scheduled. one on the_5th at 11am and another on the_13th at 10am.

T5-large prediction (correct):

your dentist_appointment is on the_13th at 10 am.

T5-3B prediction (incorrect):

you have three dentist_appointments scheduled. one on the_5th at 11am, another on the_13th at 10am, and the last is on the_5th at 11am.

H.4 SQL2Text case

Query:

```
SELECT company , main_industry FROM company  
WHERE headquarters != 'USA'
```

Sequence Out:

Show the company name and the main industry for all companies whose headquarters are not from USA.

T5-base prediction (incorrect):

What are the companies and main industries of companies whose headquarters are not "USA"?

T5-large prediction (correct):

What are the companies and main industries of the companies whose headquarters are not located in the United States?

T5-3B prediction (incorrect):

What are the main industries of companies whose headquarters are not in the USA?

H.5 DART case

Structured Input:

Cotto : eatype : coffee shop | Cotto : food : English | Cotto : pricerange : more than [non utf-8 token]30 | Cotto : customer rating : high | Cotto : area : city centre | Cotto : near : The Portland Arms

Sequence Output:

The Cotto is a highly rated English coffee shop in the city centre near The Portland Arms, and prices range more than [non utf-8 token]30.

T5-base prediction (correct):

Cotto is a coffee shop providing English food in the more than [non utf-8 token]30 price range. It is located in the city centre. It is near The Portland Arms. Its customer rating is high.

T5-large prediction (correct):

Cotto is a coffee shop providing English food in the more than [non utf-8 token]30 price range. It is located in the city centre. It is near The Portland Arms. Its customer rating is high.

T5-3B prediction (correct):

Cotto is a coffee shop located in the city centre near The Portland Arms. It serves English food with a price range of more than [non utf-8 token]30 and has a high customer rating.

H.6 Logic2Text case

Structured Input:

Caption: 2008 san diego chargers season | week, date, time, opponent, result, game site, nfl recap, record

Request Input:

```
eq { count { filter_eq { filter_eq { all_rows ;  
game site ; qualcomm stadium } ; time ; 5:15 pm }  
} ; 3 } = true
```

Sequence Output:

in the 2008 san diego chargers season , among the games that were played in qualcomm stadium , 3 of them started at 5:15 pm .

T5-base prediction (incorrect):

in the 2008 san diego chargers season, when the game was at qualcomm stadium, there were three times the time was 5:15 pm.

T5-large prediction (incorrect):

in the 2008 san diego chargers season, when the game was at qualcomm stadium, there were 3 times the time was 5:15 pm.

T5-3B prediction (correct):

in the 2008 san diego chargers season, among the games played at qualcomm stadium, 3 of them started at 5:15 pm.

H.7 ToTTo case

Structured Input: See Figure 7.

Sequence Output:

Alisson Perticheto placed 18th at the 2013 Junior Worlds, 17th at the 2014 Four Continents and 16th at the 2015 Four Continents.

T5-base prediction (incorrect):

Alisson Perticheto finished 18th at the Junior Worlds and 17th at the Four Continents.

Alisson Perticheto							
Section Title: For the Philippines							
Table Section Text: None							
International							
Event	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	16-17	17-18	18-19
Worlds			WD	34th		WD	
Four Continents			17th	16th			18th
CS Golden Spin							23rd
CS Lombardia						23rd	WD
CS Finlandia						17th	WD
CS Nebelhorn						11th	WD
Bavarian Open						13th	
Coupe Printemps						4th	
Cup of Nice			13th			20th	
Cup of Tyrol						9th	
EduSport Trophy							2nd
Egna/Gardena		5th			1st		
Bosphorus Cup							1st
Nebelhorn Trophy			18th				
SEA Games							3rd
Skate Helena				2nd			
International: Junior							
Junior Worlds			18th	WD			
JGP Slovenia			13th				
Bavarian Open			2nd				
GP Bratislava						2nd	
National							
Philippine Champ.	1st J	1st J	1st			1st	1st
J = Junior level; WD = Withdrew							

Figure 7: Visualized highted table for ToTTo case 1.

T5-large prediction (incorrect):

Alisson Perticheto placed 17th at the 2014 Four Continents and 16th at the 2015 Junior Worlds.

T5-3B prediction (correct):

Alisson Perticheto finished 17th at the 2014 Four Continents, 16th at the 2015 Four Continents, and 18th at the 2013 Junior Worlds.

I Natural Language Template Examples

I.1 Spider Template

Overall Description Template:

{db id} contains tables such as {table1 name}, {table2 name}

Primary Key Template:

{primary key} is the primary key.

Table Description Template:

Table {table name} has column such as {column 1 name}, {column 2 name}, ...

Foreign Keys Description Template:

The {column1 name} of {table 1} is the foreign key of {column2 name} of {table 2}

I.2 TabFact Template

Template Examples:

Table 1-24143253-5:

{name} lost his spouse {deceased spouse} to {cause of death} on {date of spouses death} after {length of marriage} of marriage; they had {children together} together; he is currently {current marital status}

Table 2-14978398-2:

The {version} of song Comme j'ai mal has a length of {length} in album {album} remixed by {remixed by} in year {year}

Table 1-15187735-12:

On {date} in 1936 VFL Season, the home team {home team} and away team {away team} had a game at venue {venue} with a crowd of {crowd}; the home team score is {home team score} and the away team score is {away team score}

I.3 WikiSQL Template

Template Example:

Table 1-14240688-1:

in {year} were in division {division}, {league} ranked {regular season}, made it to {playoffs} of the playoffs, made it to <{open cup}> in the open cup, and kept an average attendance of {avg attendance}

Table 2-12997882-1:

On {date} in 2008 European Figure Skating, the home team {home team} and away team {away team} had a game at venue {venue} with a crowd of {crowd}; the home team score is {home team score} and the away team score is {away team score}

Table 1-13740746-1:

Episode number {ep no} of gerry anderson 's new captain scarlet with a title of {title} is directed by {director} and written by {written by}; its original air date is {original air date}; the production number is {production no}