



Towards Efficient Data Wrangling with LLMs using Code Generation

Effy Xue Li, Till Döhmen University of Amsterdam, MotherDuck DBDBD'24



Date 11/2024

A data scientist is working on a table with 1 million rows, and she is facing following tasks...



Prompt used: A duck plumber who looks bored

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Data Imputation

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Data Imputation Error Detection

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Data Imputation Error Detection Data Transformation



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Data Imputation Error Detection Data Transformation

Entity Matching

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Programing by Example (PBE)



FlashFill++: Scaling Programming by Example by Cutting to the Chase

JOSÉ CAMBRONERO*, Microsoft, USA SUMIT GULWANI*, Microsoft, USA VU LE*, Microsoft, USA DANIEL PERELMAN*, Microsoft, USA ARJUN RADHAKRISHNA*, Microsoft, USA CLINT SIMON*, Microsoft, USA

Transform-Data-by-Example (TDE): An Extensible Search Engine for Data Transformations

Yeye He¹, Xu Chu²^{*}, Kris Ganjam¹, Yudian Zheng^{3[†]}, Vivek Narasayya¹, Surajit Chaudhuri¹

¹Microsoft Research, Redmond, USA ²Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, USA ³Twitter Inc., San Francisco, USA ¹{yeyehe, krisgan, viveknar, surajitc}@microsoft.com ²xu.chu@cc.gatech.edu ³yudianz@twitter.com

- Domain-specific Language search space
- Search
- Rank
- Solution

- Have to define a program search space (often DSL).
- •
- •

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- Solves only a limited number of tasks.
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ullet

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- Solves only a limited number of tasks.
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- Do not take natural language instructions as inputs.
- ...

Input table











It performs LLM on a **per-row** basis (LLMPR).



Costly LLMs are Great for Data Wrangling

If we have a 1-million-rows-table, processing through it once will cost *...

| | Time(with 100 concurrent calls) | Price |
|---------|---------------------------------|---------|
| GPT-3.5 | 1.01 Hours | \$ 12.5 |
| GPT-4 | 2.72 Hours | \$ 600 |
| GPT-40 | - | \$ 125 |

* Assuming input average token size is 10, and output is 5.

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And many other issues ...

- Transparency
- Reproducibility
- Privacy
- ...

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How can we make automated data wrangling faster



How can we make automated data wrangling faster, cheaper



How can we make automated data wrangling faster, cheaper, stronger



How can we make automated data wrangling faster, cheaper, stronger(more reliable and more generic)?



How can we make automated data wrangling faster, cheaper, stronger(more reliable and more generic)?

-> Can we combine PBE and LLMPR, using LLM to generate code for data wrangling?

| | Celsius | Fahrenheit |
|---|---------|------------|
| 1 | 7 | 44.6 |
| 2 | 1 | 33.8 |
| n | | |

Labelled Data



Generate code that's called "transform(input_str)" given instruction and input-output examples. Reason first and then generate. Instruction: Convert celsius to fahrenheit. Examples: Input:7 Out: 44.6

Prompt Formulation



Prompt Formulation



Code validation

Import re def string_transformation(input): ...

1. Is_Executable?

2. Acc/F1 score > threshold on demonstration?





We evaluate on benchmarks of these tasks:



Data Imputation Error Detection Data Transformation

Entity Matching

Entity Matching, Data Imputation, Error Detection

| Task | Dataset | LLMPR[9] | Code Generation (Ours) |
|------|--------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| EM | Fodors-Zagats | 100 | 95.5 |
| EM | Beer | 100 | 75.0 |
| EM | DBLP-ACM | 96.6 | 19.7 |
| EM | DBLP-GoogleScholar | 83.8 | 69.7 |
| EM | Amazon-Google | 63.5 | 42.1 |
| EM | iTunes-Amazon | 98.2 | 70.0 |
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| DI | Restaurant | 88.4 | 50 |
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| Dataset | PBE [4] | LLMPR [9] | Code Generation (Ours) |
|------------------|---------|-----------|------------------------|
| BingQL-semantics | 32.0 | 54.0 | 91.6 |
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| Stack-overflow | 63.0 | 65.3 | 87.4 |
| FF-GR-Trifacta | 91.0 | N/A | 83.7 |
| Head cases | 82.0 | N/A | 74.6 |
| Average | 72.8 | N/A | 86.46 |

Entity Matching, Data Imputation, Error Detection

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- A single generated program can only solve a part of the dataset.

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- Improved performance compare to the previous SOTA.

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• Evaluate based on But what's the catch?

• A single generated program can only solve a part of the dataset.

We evaluate on benchmarks of these tasks:

Drop: 26.2 Drop: 36.7

Drop: 33.1



Data Imputation Error Detection Data Transformation

Entity Matching

We evaluate on benchmarks of these tasks:

 Drop: 26.2
 Drop: 36.7
 Gain: 13.66
 Drop: 33.1



Data Imputation Error Detection Data Transformation

Entity Matching

Code Generation Framework with DuckDB SQL Macros

| | Bing-QL-semantics | Bing-QL-unit |
|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| GPT-4 (DuckDB-SQL) | 65.3 | 96.0 |
| GPT-4o (DuckDB-SQL) | 67.3 | 96.0 |
| GPT-4 (Python) | 91.6 | 95.0 |

- Python is good at semantics-related tasks, highly due to existing packages.
- Generating SQL macros can solve a good amount of unit-conversion tasks.

import re

def string_transformation(input_string):
 # Extract the numeric value from the input string
 celsius = float(re.search(r'\d+', input_string).group())
 # Convert Celsius to Fahrenheit
 fahrenheit = (celsius * 9/5) + 32
 # Format the result into the desired output string
 return f'{fahrenheit} Fahrenheit'



| mp | ort re |
|----|---|
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| | Celsius | Fahrenheit |
|---|----------|------------|
| 1 | 7 | 44.6 |
| 2 | 1 | 33.8 |
| Х | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
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| | | |
| | | |
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| | | |
| n | -17.2222 | 1 |

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-17.2222 1

n



Once generated code solution can solve one part of the

problem. How are we gonna deal with the rest of the data?

We can recursively generate code solutions for the rest of the data.



In reality, we don't have labels for the data.

We need a data router.

Task Instruction







We need a task router.



































Generate input validation code (e.g. using regex) based on validated solutions.

API calls bounds



N: Number of rows

- T: Number of trials = 3
- R: Number of retry = 5
- c : Constants for initial api calls

Baseline: APICalls(LLMPR) = N

Proposed method: Worst case upper bound: N + c Best case upper bound: T * R = 15

Unpublished Results



N: Number of rows

- T: Number of trials = 3
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Baseline: APICalls(LLMPR) = N

Proposed method: Worst case upper bound: N + c Best case upper bound: T * R = 15

Thank you!

Next steps



Potential human-in-the-loop interface.

PRAGMA transform('my_table', 'my_column', 'convert celsius to fahrenheit');

Potential transform pragma function.

Cr: @Hamilton