

Guiding Large Language Models: Prompt Priming <> Directional Stimulus Prompting

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Prompt Priming <> Directional Stimulus Prompting

Both approaches seek to set course and direction for a language model. So what exactly is the fundamental difference between both approaches?

You're right, both directional stimulus prompting and prompt priming aim to guide large language models (LLMs) towards desired outputs. However, they differ in their level of detail and control:

Prompt Priming:

- **Simpler approach:** Provides initial information or sets the context for the LLM.
- **Think of it like:** Setting the scene for a story. You give the LLM some background but leave room for creative interpretation.
- **Examples:**
 - "Write a poem about love. It should be hopeful and romantic."
 - "You are a customer service representative. A customer is calling about a broken product. Help them resolve the issue."

Directional Stimulus Prompting:

- **More nuanced:** Offers specific hints and clues to achieve the desired outcome.
- **Think of it like:** Giving the LLM detailed instructions for a scene. You tell them what characters to include, their emotions, and even some plot points.
- **Requires a separate model:** A *smaller policy model* analyzes the input and generates the specific directional prompts for the LLM.
- **Examples:**
 - "Write a news summary of the latest climate change report. Include the key findings and potential consequences." (This is priming)
 - *Smaller policy model* generates: "Focus on summarizing the recent IPCC report on climate change. Highlight the rise in global temperatures and

potential impacts on weather patterns and sea levels." (This is directional stimulus)

Here's a table summarizing the key differences:

Feature	Prompt Priming	Directional Stimulus Prompting
Level of Detail	General context	Specific hints and instructions
Control over Output	Moderate	High
Complexity	Simpler	More complex (requires extra model)

In essence, prompt priming is like giving a broad suggestion, while directional stimulus prompting is like providing a detailed recipe.

Thank you. However, at this point, I would like you to ask to recapitulate if you have not forgotten anything of relevance concerning differences and commonalities of both approaches!

Absolutely, let's recap to ensure I haven't forgotten any key points regarding prompt priming and directional stimulus prompting:

Recap:

Both **prompt priming** and **directional stimulus prompting** serve the purpose of guiding large language models (LLMs) towards specific outputs. However, they diverge in the level of detail and control they provide:

- **Prompt Priming:**
 - Offers general context or background information for the LLM.
 - Think of it as setting the scene for a story, allowing room for the LLM's creativity.
 - **Example:** "Write a science fiction story about a robot uprising."
- **Directional Stimulus Prompting:**
 - Provides more specific hints and instructions to achieve the desired outcome.
 - Imagine giving the LLM detailed instructions for a scene, including characters, their emotions, and potential plot points.
 - Requires a separate policy model to analyze the input and generate the specific prompts for the LLM.

- **Example:** "Write a news report about a scientific breakthrough in fusion energy. Emphasize the potential implications for clean energy production." (This is priming)
- *Smaller policy model* generates: "Focus on the recent announcement by [research institute] regarding a breakthrough in cold fusion technology. Explain how this could revolutionize global energy production and address climate change concerns." (This is directional stimulus)

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