

# PRISM: Efficient Long-Range Reasoning With Short-Context LLMs

**Dulhan Jayalath\***  
University of Oxford  
dulhan@robots.ox.ac.uk

**James B. Wendt, Nicholas Monath,  
Sandeep Tata & Beliz Gunel**  
Google DeepMind  
bgunel@google.com

## Abstract

Long-range tasks demand reasoning over long inputs. However, existing solutions are limited, e.g., long-context models require large compute budgets, parameter-efficient fine-tuning (PEFT) needs training data, and retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) entails complex task-specific designs. Though in-context approaches overcome many of these issues, methods with short-context LLMs are inefficient, trading context for processing more tokens. We introduce **PRISM**, a highly token-efficient in-context method based on structured schemas that outperforms baselines on diverse tasks with **4x shorter contexts**. This approach produces concise outputs and efficiently leverages key-value (KV) caches to **reduce costs by up to 54%**. PRISM scales down to tiny contexts without increasing costs or sacrificing quality, and generalizes to new tasks with minimal effort by generating schemas from task descriptions.

## 1 Introduction

Long information contexts pose significant challenges for language tasks. The prototypical example is long document summarization, where a lengthy piece of text must be summarized into a short-form summary. For these and other long natural language tasks, large language models (LLMs) are state-of-the-art. In summarization, an LLM is typically prompted with summarization instructions alongside the text and generates a summary of the content. However, this requires sufficient context to accommodate the entire document. Many practitioners and researchers rely on models with short contexts because they are limited by the inference cost of long-context models, open source or on-premises requirements, local compute constraints, or other barriers. There are a range of alternatives to long-context language models, which include PEFT and RAG. However, these solutions

\*Work done while author was at Google DeepMind.

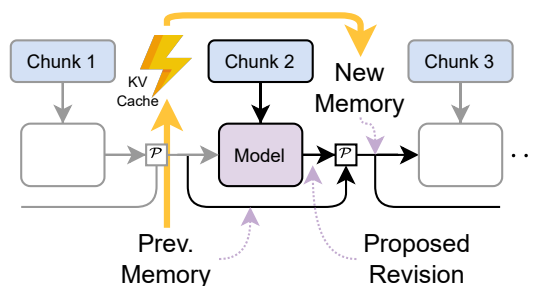


Figure 1: **PRISM** efficiently processes a stream of chunked data, leveraging a concise and cache-optimized structured memory to propose revisions at each step.

either require training data or necessitate complex task-specific design choices. Short context LLMs with in-context methods promise a training data-free and task-agnostic alternative to solving long-range tasks. They achieve this by repeatedly applying short context models to chunks of long text, requiring processing a very large number of input and output tokens. In turn, this leads to high API usage or compute costs. In response, we design **PRISM**, *Processing Incrementally with Structured Memory*: a highly token-efficient in-context approach that is task-agnostic, requires no training data, uses a small compute budget, and does not need access to model weights. No existing method satisfies all these constraints.

PRISM employs incremental processing, treating the input as a sequential stream of chunks, processed in the order of their appearance alongside a structured in-context memory of prior chunks. While incremental methods are not new, e.g., Chang et al. (2024); Hwang et al. (2024); Qian et al. (2024), existing approaches are task-specific and are not economic in terms of tokens processed. PRISM specifically addresses these limitations through an optimized structured memory. Rather than seeing a natural language memory, the LLM leverages a structured representation of prior information and outputs a proposed revision to the memory based on the current chunk (Figure 1). The

Method	No training	No weights	Low compute	Task-agnostic
Long-context models	✓	✓		✓
RAG	✓	✓	✓	
PEFT			✓	
In-context alternatives	✓	✓		?
<b>PRISM (Ours)</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓

Table 1: **Comparison of approaches for long-range tasks.** While existing methods each have limitations, PRISM satisfies all constraints: it requires no training data, needs no access to model weights, operates within a low compute budget, and remains task-agnostic, making it suitable for a wide range of applications.

memory is specified by a user-defined typed hierarchical schema, supporting any kind of long-range task. PRISM uses the structured memory to track salient prior information more succinctly than with natural language. Instead of the output of the LLM overwriting the memory, it proposes a structured revision which is used to programmatically revise the memory. This design yields concise outputs and reduces the reasoning burden on the LLM. Crucially, we design the memory to efficiently leverage prefix key-value caching (Kwon et al., 2023; Pope et al., 2023) by intelligently reusing activations computed from unchanged memory segments in prior steps. Taken together, our approach yields both higher quality results and greater token efficiency.

Our main contributions are: (1) **PRISM**: an approach for **solving long-range tasks** with better quality (Section 4.1), efficiency (Section 4.2), and fewer constraints (Table 1) than alternatives; (2) an empirical analysis demonstrating PRISM’s **token efficiency** and **scalability** to shorter chunks (Section 4.2); and (3) evidence PRISM generalizes to new tasks with **generated schemas** (Section 4.3).

## 2 Related Work

Several approaches tackle long-range reasoning with limited contexts through various memory-based and memory-less mechanisms. For document processing, methods include hierarchical summarization (Chang et al., 2024), natural language knowledge representations (Hwang et al., 2025), sequential scanning and selection (Qian et al., 2024), and JSON-encoded memories (Hwang et al., 2024).

Fei et al. (2024) specifically target retrieval-based question-answering and Packer et al. (2023) perform stateful reasoning in LLMs using function calls to read and write data to storage. While some of these methods address specific domains, they lack PRISM’s general applicability across task types and, crucially, all neglect the token efficiency that PRISM achieves.

In contrast to external memories, another research direction embeds memories directly into model architectures. Several works transform LLMs into recurrent models through memory embeddings (He et al., 2024) or latent-space memories (Munkhdalai et al., 2024). Wang et al. (2023) design a new model architecture with a retrieval side-network to cache and update a memory and Ivgi et al. (2023) propose using a language model encoder to encode overlapping chunks and fuse information with a pre-trained decoder. Unlike these methods requiring architectural modifications or weight access, PRISM maintains a structured external memory that works with any black-box LLM.

By using a structured schema to organize information and optimizing it for KV caches, PRISM achieves both task-agnosticism and token efficiency without requiring model modifications or training—addressing core limitations of prior work.

## 3 Method

We seek to solve long-range tasks token-efficiently without long-context models. By using an incremental processing strategy with a structured memory, we resolve many of the constraints of other methods (Table 1). In this section, we define the incremental processing strategy, provide a way to structure the memory using a typed hierarchical schema, and show how to efficiently process these tokens across multiple LLM calls.

### 3.1 Incremental Processing Formulation

In the incremental view, instead of seeing the entire context at once, the LLM sees contiguous segments (which we refer to as *chunks*) in sequence. To avoid forgetting previous information, the LLM also sees a memory, encoding information about prior chunks relevant to the task. This memory is constructed from the output of the LLM in the previous step. In the current call, the LLM uses its output to revise the memory based on the information in the current chunk. The use of LLM outputs as a memory in this way is characteristic of solving

incremental tasks using LLMs.

Formally, data arrives in increments, forming an ordered sequence of chunks  $(d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$ . An LLM is prompted over multiple incremental steps  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ , with task instructions  $\mathcal{T}$ , the next chunk  $d_i$ , and the output of the model from the previous step  $o_{i-1}$ . Accordingly, the prompt is a tuple  $(\mathcal{T}, d_i, o_{i-1})$ . The output of the previous step acts as a natural language memory that assists in solving the task. This implies a definition for an in-context memory:

**Definition 3.1.** *An in-context memory is the tokens input to the model in an incremental step that encode the prior information seen by the model.*

In this formulation, the LLM revises the memory by overwriting it through the tokens it decodes in the next incremental step, forming the next state of the memory. The output of the final step  $o_n$  is taken as the answer or otherwise post-processed.

### 3.2 Using Structured Memories

Natural language (or *unstructured*) memories do not necessarily encode the most salient information for a specific task because the output format is unconstrained. This often impairs task performance. We improve the typical incremental processing formulation by introducing a structured memory and structured output to increase information relevance and reduce the LLM’s cognitive burden.

To introduce a structured constraint in PRISM, we replace the natural language memory with a structured memory. Specifically, we prompt the language model at step  $i$  with a modified tuple  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{S}, m_i, d_i)$  where we replace the natural language memory  $o_{i-1}$  with a structured memory  $m_i$  specified by a typed hierarchical schema.

**Definition 3.2.** *A typed hierarchy is a structure of primitive types and simple data structures (e.g., integers, floating points, strings, and lists) in a hierarchy laid out by nested key-value maps.*

**Definition 3.3.** *A structured memory  $m$  has a schema  $\mathcal{S}$  specified with a typed hierarchy.*

For example, a simple schema for narrative summarization could be (with Python-like typing) `str: list<str>` i.e., a key-value mapping of character names to strings describing events involving that character. After seeing a new story chunk, we can revise information about a character by adding to the entries for that character. We choose to use typed hierarchies because they are easily addressable (using a path specified by keys and indices)

and updatable. We specify a new schema for each task as this structure determines the information that will be encoded in the memory.

To revise the memory, instead of generating a structured memory to overwrite the prior memory, the output of the model is a proposed memory revision  $r_i$ , which provides a path to programmatically revise  $m_i$  with a new value. Proposing revisions rather than overwriting the entire memory saves tokens and improves efficiency.

**Definition 3.4.** *A structured memory revision  $r$  is a tuple  $(p, o, v)$  where  $p$  specifies an addressable path in the memory,  $o$  is a binary operation that is either add or update and  $v$  is the value to revise the memory with.*

If  $o$  is add,  $p$  specifies a new path to which  $v$  is added; if update,  $p$  specifies an existing path in the memory whose current value should be replaced with  $v$ . After validating the proposed revision by programmatically ensuring it conforms to the expected structure, the memory  $m_i$  is revised with  $r_i$  to the next memory state  $m_{i+1}$ . Figure 2 provides an overview of our approach and Figure 3 gives a concrete example. In practice,  $r_i$  may consist of more than one proposed revision.

After processing all chunks, the LLM uses the final state of the memory (alongside the query and a specification of the memory structure) to give a final answer. Algorithm 1 shows all steps.

---

#### Algorithm 1 PRISM

---

**Require:**  $\mathcal{T}, q, \mathcal{S}, (d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n)$  ▷  
 Task instruction, query, memory schema, and chunks of information

- 1:  $m_1 \leftarrow \{\}$
- 2: **for**  $i = 1$  **to**  $n$  **do**
- 3:      $r_i \leftarrow \text{LLM}(\mathcal{T}, q, \mathcal{S}, m_i, d_i)$
- 4:      $m_{i+1} \leftarrow \text{ReviseMemory}(m_i, r_i)$  ▷ Add to or update the memory with the proposed value
- 5: **end for**
- 6:  $\text{answer} \leftarrow \text{LLM}(\mathcal{T}_{\text{final}}, q, \mathcal{S}, m_{n+1})$  ▷  
    Generate the answer using the final memory
- 7: **return** answer

---

Our approach brings several quality benefits. First, a structured memory constrains the output to the query domain. This gives the model focus by forcing it to generate only the information we have deemed relevant for the query (via the schema  $\mathcal{S}$ ) to revise the memory. Having a structured memory also assists the LLM in understanding and updat-

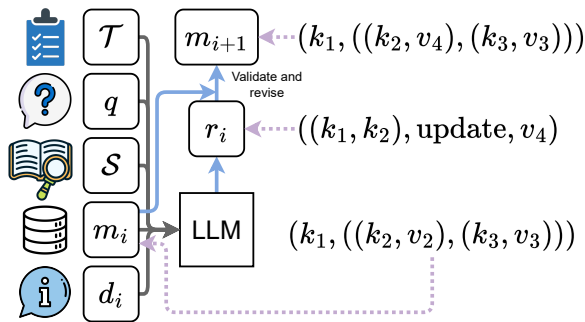


Figure 2: **PRISM with typed examples.** The model receives as input the tuple  $(\mathcal{T}, q, \mathcal{S}, m_i, d_i)$  describing the task, query, schema, the current state of the memory, and the current chunk. The model outputs a proposed revision  $r_i$  to programmatically revise the memory state to  $m_{i+1}$ . The purple arrows annotate example memory and revision states. Here,  $v_2$  in  $m_i$  is replaced with  $v_4$  in  $m_{i+1}$  using the path, operation, and value in the revision. If the operation were add instead, then the path would be created and  $v_4$  added to the memory. To instead update  $k_3$  with  $v_4$ , the addressable path would be  $(k_1, k_3)$ , leading to output revision  $((k_1, k_3), \text{update}, v_4)$ .

ing relevant information for the task. By using a structured memory, we provide flexibility in deciding how to construct the memory structure for a particular type of task or to even automate the generation of the schema. Furthermore, we output a *revision* (i.e., the difference between the current and next memory state) rather than the memory itself, reducing the number of tokens to decode. Beyond the quality benefits, our structured approach enables significant token efficiency gains through key-value cache utilization, PRISM’s core contribution, which we explore next.

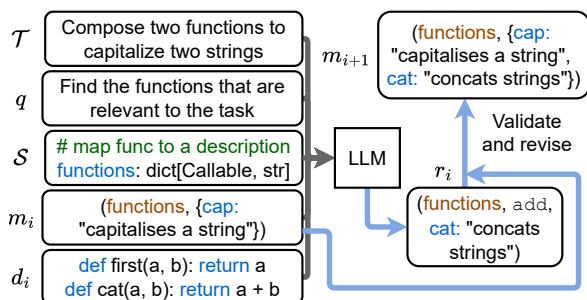


Figure 3: **PRISM code composition example.** The LLM proposes adding the `cat` function from the chunk  $d_i$  (and a description) to the existing memory because it best fits the query. The memory now has `cap` and `cat`.

### 3.3 Token-Efficient Memory Encoding

Encoding memories increases token count and processing time. This can become a significant bottle-

neck when there are many chunks of information in an incremental task or if the size of the memory dominates the rest of the prompt.

One way to improve encoding efficiency is to utilize prefix KV caching (Zheng et al., 2023) to store and reuse previously computed token activations. With this method, if there is a prefix of the prompt that matches a prior encoded prompt, the model can reuse the KV activations previously computed for this prefix. Thus, maximizing the length of this prefix is essential for cache efficiency. For simplicity, our experiments implement prefix KV caching such that the KV activations are reused for only the longest prefix matching the *last* encoded prompt. Most prefix caching implementations will store activations from further in the past and may lead to even higher cache efficiency as a result of being able to retrieve matching prefixes from multiple past prompts.

To leverage the cache utilization improvements we introduce next, we first ensure that our prompt is KV cache-friendly. The prompt is the tuple  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{S}, m_i, d_i)$ . Since only  $m$  and  $d$  will change between incremental steps, there is no need to re-encode the tokens for the prefix  $(\mathcal{T}, \mathcal{S})$ . We arrange the prompt so that the memory  $m$  appears *before* the chunk  $d$  rather than after because while the tokens in the chunk will likely be different, parts of the memory may not change across steps. As our method produces memory revisions, which do not necessarily always overwrite the entire memory, key-value activations can be reused when encoding memory  $m_i$  up until the point of the first change to the memory from the previous prompt  $m_{i-1}$ . Reusing a substantial number of token activations would be unlikely in the usual problem formulation with natural language memories.

We now introduce *amendments*, a novel approach to maximize cache utilization. If, instead of updating the path  $p$  in the memory with the new value  $v$ , we add a new memory, which we call an *amendment*, containing the new value and its path directly after the existing one, then the KV activations for everything up to the newest change can always be reused. This requires the LLM to reason more about the memory by understanding that subsequent amendments with existing paths overwrite prior paths. Adding *amendments* is an alternative to maintaining an *in-place* memory (Figure 4) and creates a configurable efficiency trade-off. Amendments reduce encoding costs but may increase memory tokens if update operations, rather



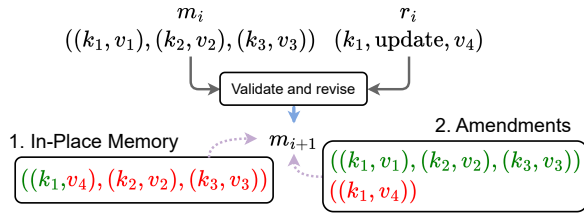


Figure 4: **PRISM’s amendments improve KV cache utilization.** Using a single-level key-value map as the memory  $m_i$ , we show an update proposed to the value at  $k_1$ . After applying it, we get memory state  $m_{i+1}$  which can be represented in one of two ways: an *in-place memory* where the value is updated directly or as *amendments* where the change is amended to the end of the memory state as a new memory structure. Green shows the longest matching prefix compared to the previous memory  $m_i$  and red shows the information that must be (re-)encoded. Using amendments reduces the number of tokens that need to be encoded at the cost of increasing the size of the memory.

than additions, dominate. A choice between these options should be made based on the expected operation patterns of a specific task, optimizing for the best performance in each scenario.

### 3.4 Generating Memory Schemas

To minimize implementation effort and expand domain coverage, the memory schema can be automatically generated by prompting an LLM. We hand-craft three schemas from a variety of domains, using these as few-shot examples, and prompt the LLM (Appendix D) to generate a schema for a *different* domain given a simple description of the query domain and an example query.

For example, if the task is code retrieval, the prompt should describe the query domain, the task of retrieving a function given a code repository, and provide an example query which describes the procedure of a function as well as its inputs and outputs. The output of the LLM is then a schema that defines the structure of a memory that encodes information relevant to this task from the chunks seen by the LLM. This could be something like a map from the names of functions seen to a brief description of what the function does.

Other than automatically generating schemas reducing human effort, we hypothesize that an LLM can produce a more relevant schema for a task than what a non-expert may construct. Thus, schema generation makes PRISM accessible beyond domain specialists.

## 4 Experiments

**Datasets** We use three state-of-the-art long-range datasets spanning the spectrum of reasoning tasks. *BoookScore* (Chang et al., 2024) is both a long-context book summarization dataset and benchmark metric. It contains very large books (each over 100k tokens) curated to ensure they did not exist in the data of public LLMs at the time of publication. Chang et al. (2024) also introduce a reference-free summarization metric with the same name which we use to measure the coherency of summaries. This is an LLM-assisted measure that computes the % of sentences in the summary that do *not* contain any of a number of error types. The second dataset is a long-range code understanding and retrieval benchmark called *RepoQA* (Liu et al., 2024). Inputs are large code repositories totalling above 100k tokens. The task is to retrieve a function, described in natural language without being named, from the repository. A memory is useful to reason about this task because function descriptions describe behavior through relationships with other functions. We measure accuracy, marking an output as correct if it names the described function exactly. Our final task, which we refer to as *LOFT-Spider* (Lee et al., 2024), requires answering a set of questions directly (rather than via SQL commands) from a large SQL database. Response accuracy on this task is measured using exact match. These datasets evaluate opposing boundaries in LLM reasoning. BoookScore is an unstructured natural language reasoning task, while RepoQA and LOFT-Spider are well-structured retrieval and reasoning tasks.

**Models** To establish a quality ceiling, we compare our baselines to a state-of-the-art long context model, Gemini 1.5 Pro (Reid et al., 2024), with a context of 1M tokens. This is large enough to fit the longest samples from each of the datasets we study *within* context. For all other baselines, we use the same model with 32k context, isolating the impact of context length while keeping model capability constant. We use top  $k$  sampling ( $k = 40$ ) with temperature 0.8.

**Baselines** We use *incremental merging* and *hierarchical merging* as our short-context baselines for BoookScore. These were proposed by Chang et al. (2024) alongside the dataset. Incremental merging follows the characteristic incremental task formulation of revising a running summary in natural language as new chunks are seen; hierarchical

merging summarizes all chunks, then summarizes consecutive pairs of summaries hierarchically in layers until a single summary remains at the last layer. As RepoQA lacks short-context baselines, we adapted the incremental merging approach from Chang et al. (2024), modifying prompts to suit the retrieval task. We also construct a similar baseline for LOFT-Spider. A hierarchical baseline is not naturally amenable to these latter tasks as it is unclear how to merge summaries of independent functions or tables nor why it would be beneficial.

**Ablations** To isolate components of our approach, we evaluate several variations of our method. We compare in-place memories to amendments (Figure 4) to see the effect of caching improvements. We also evaluate when the proposed revision (Definition 3.4) supports both add and update as well as when it supports only the add operation since using only the add operation can reduce the number of tokens decoded.

**Setup** We encode our typed hierarchy in *JavaScript Object Notation (JSON)* and specify the schema for the memory using Python 3 dataclasses. Appendix C provides some examples of this implementation. Unless specified otherwise, we use the schemas defined in Appendix A. We evaluate on 50 examples per dataset due to compute restrictions, and report the mean of the dataset-specific metric over all samples. We quote uncertainty as the standard error of the mean over five solutions generated through our method.

#### 4.1 PRISM Outperforms Alternatives While Using Shorter Contexts

In Table 2, our method beats both existing baselines (incremental and hierarchical merging) on all datasets to a statistically significant degree (at worst  $p = 0.02$ ). This suggests that our structured approach and memory provide meaningful improvements in reasoning performance over alternatives. This could be a result of constraining the LLM to produce outputs that are directly relevant to the task using the structured memory. We also note that our approach generally benefits or performs on par with in-place memories when using amendments instead. This is a promising signal that cache-optimized memories can be just as effective at producing strong final answers.

In all datasets, PRISM begins to approach the long context ceiling and in BoookScore, it almost matches it. RepoQA and LOFT-Spider are more difficult tasks that necessitate reasoning and aggregating

over multiple code files and tables. It is not trivial to define a schema that optimally supports the reasoning involved. We also believe that critical information is clustered in these tasks and failing to add relevant information to the memory during the processing of an important chunk is likely to be substantially more costly than in summarization.

While PRISM achieves strong performance across all tasks with significantly smaller context windows, what is the computational cost? Traditional memory approaches often trade increased token usage for improved reasoning capabilities. In the following section, we demonstrate that PRISM not only improves performance but does so with substantial efficiency gains.

#### 4.2 PRISM Is Scalable and Token-Efficient

In this section, we measure cache hit rate as the proportion of tokens whose key-value activations could be reused (i.e., the number of tokens in the longest matching prefix to the last input prompt divided by the total number of tokens encoded). We also compute a cost index to compare the relative compute cost of each method.

In Table 3, we see that variants of our method achieve the best results for all metrics across both datasets. Notably, using amendments with updates leads to the highest cache hit rates and generally cuts costs in half. In the case of BoookScore, it leads to the lowest estimated cost. Similarly, for RepoQA, using amendments (but this time without updates) leads to the lowest cost.

As compute constraints can significantly reduce viable context lengths, we also analyze how the characteristics of our method change as we reduce the context size. In Figure 5, we use different chunk sizes on the RepoQA dataset using our cache-efficient amended memory approach without updates. For larger chunk sizes, accuracy slightly increases. The net encoded tokens stays relatively constant since cache hit rate decreases. This is because a smaller proportion of the context is taken by the memory. Meanwhile, tokens decoded decreases as fewer incremental steps are required. However, tokens encoded dominates tokens decoded. Thanks to this property, remarkably, PRISM maintains consistent cost even as chunk sizes decrease by  $4\times$ . Thus, smaller chunks do not always lead to higher costs with our method.

Method	BooookScore		RepoQA		LOFT-Spider	
	Score	Ch. Tokens	Acc.	Ch. Tokens	Acc.	Ch. Tokens
Long context	0.67±0.004	100k	0.92	121k	0.44±0.01	30k
Baselines <sup>†</sup>						
Incremental	0.63±0.010	–	0.24±0.03	–	0.12±0.02	–
Hierarchical	0.51±0.006	–	n/a	–	n/a	–
<b>PRISM</b>						
In-place	0.63±0.008	<b>2k</b>	0.42±0.02	<b>8k</b>	0.22±0.03	<b>8k</b>
+ w/o updates	0.63±0.006		0.50±0.03		<b>0.26±0.02</b>	
Amendments	<b>0.65±0.004</b>	<b>2k</b>	0.48±0.03	<b>8k</b>	0.14±0.01	<b>8k</b>
+ w/o updates	0.63±0.005		<b>0.53±0.02</b>		0.22±0.02	

<sup>†</sup>Baselines adapted from Chang et al. (2024)’s methods.

Table 2: **PRISM closes the gap between baselines and long-context models using 4-50x smaller context windows.** Using just 2-8k token chunks (vs. 30-121k for long context), PRISM significantly outperforms baselines across all tasks. On BooookScore, PRISM’s amendments achieve 97% of long-context performance ( $p < .02$ ) with 50x smaller context. On RepoQA, PRISM reaches 58% of ceiling accuracy while using 15x less context.

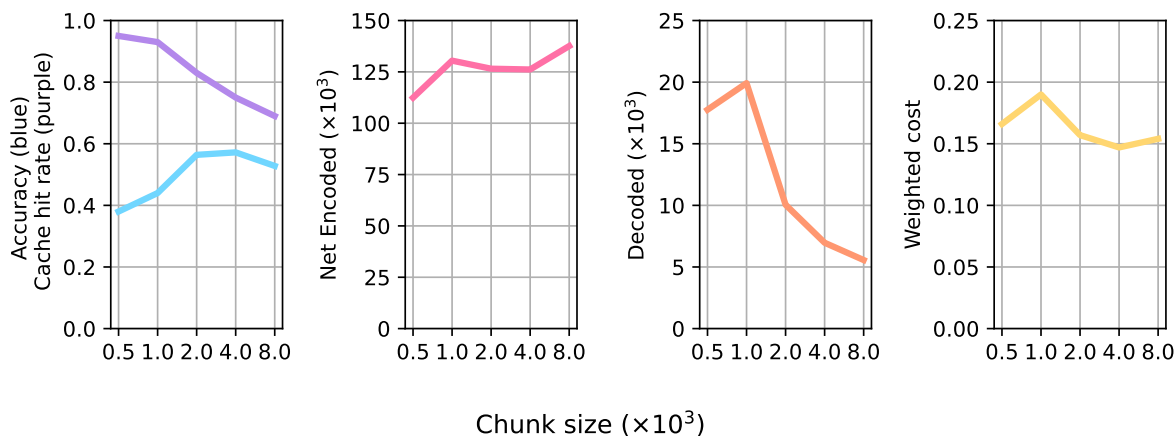


Figure 5: **PRISM costs do not increase with shorter chunk sizes due to effective KV caching.** This allows PRISM to scale down without sacrificing performance. Net tokens encoded are calculated after subtracting tokens reused. Weighted cost reflects typical API pricing (encoding + 3x decoding).

### 4.3 PRISM Works With Generated Schemas

In Table 4, we use LLM-generated schemas (Appendix B) constructed by providing a brief description of the task and an example query (alongside some examples for other tasks) to the LLM. The output is a schema that we use to specify the memory. We compare this to the best result using our hand-crafted schemas from Table 2. The results reveal that our approach is competitive with hand-crafted expert schemas. Our method can be applied to tasks with little human input or domain expertise. For LOFT-Spider, we believe it is generally unclear what an optimal memory representation would be, and it is impressive that a strong representation can

be constructed with an LLM.

## 5 Conclusion & Future Work

PRISM demonstrates that structured in-context memories with programmatic revisions enable short-context models to match or approach long-context performance at substantially lower computational cost with high token-efficiency. We achieved better long-range task performance than baselines with unstructured memories for unstructured tasks, such as narrative summarization, as well as structured reasoning problems for code and databases. Our method was even competitive with a long-context model. We also demonstrated that PRISM is task-agnostic, requiring only specifying

Method	Cache	Tokens ( $\times 10^3$ )		Output	Cost
	Hit (%)	Total	Net	( $\times 10^3$ )	Index
<i>BoookScore</i>					
Long context	–	100	100	1	–
Baselines					
Incremental <sup>†</sup>	0	249	248	141	0.67
Hierarchical <sup>†</sup>	1	227	225	70	0.43
<b>PRISM</b>					
In-place	49	495	250	131	0.64
+ w/o updates	34	619	409	<b>14</b>	0.45
Amendments	<b>69</b>	559	<b>171</b>	47	<b>0.31</b>
+ w/o updates	37	676	424	15	0.47
<i>RepoQA</i>					
Long context	–	121	121	0	–
Incremental	1	180	178	28	0.26
<b>PRISM</b>					
In-place	71	491	142	9	0.17
+ w/o updates	68	437	139	<b>6</b>	0.16
Amendments	<b>75</b>	581	144	11	0.18
+ w/o updates	68	435	<b>138</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0.15</b>

<sup>†</sup>Methods from Chang et al. (2024).

Cost Index = (Net Tokens + 3 × Output) ÷ 10<sup>6</sup>, reflecting typical API pricing ratios.

Table 3: **PRISM with amendments achieves 69% cache reuse and 54% cost reduction.** On BoookScore, PRISM’s amendment strategy maximizes cache hits (69% vs. 0-1% for incremental and hierarchical baselines) while minimizing net tokens (171k vs. 248k) and cost (0.31 vs. 0.67). Without updates further reduces output tokens by 70% but increases net encoding. Similar patterns hold for RepoQA, where amendments achieve 75% cache reuse. We do not provide a cost index for long context as the cost is different and would not be comparable. Results are similar for LOFT-Spider and shown in Appendix E for brevity.

Schema	B.Score	RepoQA	LOFT-Spider
Manual	0.65 ± 0.004	0.53 ± 0.02	0.26 ± 0.02
Gen.	0.61 ± 0.010	0.53 <sup>†</sup> ± 0.02	0.15 ± 0.03

Table 4: **LLM-generated schemas match or approach experts.** Generated schemas achieve identical performance on RepoQA, near-parity on BoookScore (93% of expert), with some limitations on Spider (58% of expert). Both maintain similar efficiency (Manual: 760 tokens, Generated: 790 tokens). <sup>†</sup>Generated schema matched manual; alternative: 0.24 ± 0.01.

an appropriate schema for our memory. This too can be automated by generating the schema with an LLM. These LLM-assisted schemas achieved similar performance to expert schemas. Furthermore, with a slight modification to the memory representation, we improved key-value cache efficiency to reduce inference cost substantially be-

low baselines without sacrificing task performance. Finally, we noticed that our method scales down without significantly increasing the inference cost and while remaining practical for long-range reasoning. Taken collectively, our method provides a solution for long-range reasoning without expensive long-context models and specialized methods.

We suggest several research directions for future work: (1) combine prior and future context rather than relying on incremental solutions; (2) applying our method to hierarchical memory approaches that capture both fine-grained details and high-level abstractions; (3) explore dynamically updating the schema based on incoming content; and (4) experiment with multi-stage PRISM processing, where the entire memory is revisited after all chunks are processed.



## Limitations

While we have shown that structured memories can be task-agnostic, improve quality, and improve token-efficiency, there remain some limitations to our work. First, we explore only three hand-crafted schemas across our tasks. There is likely to be a large space of effective and useful schemas for various types of tasks. Understanding how schemas should be designed for different tasks would help use structured memories more effectively.

Second, the analysis of chunk size and token efficiency is an interesting preliminary study that demonstrates the cost-efficiency of our approach even in increasingly context-constrained environments. However, we were only able to examine a single dataset with just five different chunk sizes. Evaluating on more datasets and more chunk sizes would not only allow us to be more confident in our approach, but also would help investigate the presence of a scaling law for token-efficiency.

Additionally, we do not use long-context benchmarks such as RULER (Hsieh et al., 2024) and InfiniteBench (Zhang et al., 2024) as their tasks are mostly synthetic. Instead, we choose to evaluate with tasks that are grounded in real problems and of direct relevance to the community. Furthermore, the factors that these benchmarks aim to evaluate are retrieval, tracing, and aggregation, which we already evaluate using our tasks. Specifically, RepoQA requires retrieving exact code snippets from very large code repositories, LOFT-Spider requires tracing by resolving references across SQL tables, and BoookScore requires aggregation as it necessitates summarizing and synthesizing information across chunks. Thus, using additional benchmarks would introduce redundancy.

Another limitation of our work, and incremental memory approaches in general, is that they are less well-suited for precise multi-hop reasoning tasks. These tend to be synthetic tasks such as key-value tracing (Liu et al., 2023), where the context consists entirely of (key, value) pairs. Values may recursively point to other keys until a terminal value is found. If a value points to a key from a prior chunk, then for it to be traced successfully, this prior key-value pair must already be in the memory. To do so would require a complete and lossless memory as an incremental approach would not know in advance which precise key to keep in memory. This problem can be alleviated with multiple passes, reducing the usefulness of token

efficiency, or by using a bidirectional or hierarchical approach. In realistic tasks that require tracing, such as LOFT-Spider where tables may refer to information from tables in prior chunks, we show that PRISM can still achieve reasonably strong performance, including outperforming other baselines.

Perhaps the most significant limitation is that, although we outperform other short context approaches, the ultimate goal is to achieve on-par performance with long-context models. Although we achieved this for the summarization task, there remains a gap to bridge for other tasks.

## References

- Yapei Chang, Kyle Lo, Tanya Goyal, and Mohit Iyyer. 2024. [BoookScore: A systematic exploration of book-length summarization in the era of LLMs](#). In *The Twelfth International Conference on Learning Representations, ICLR 2024, Vienna, Austria, May 7-11, 2024*. OpenReview.net.
- Weizhi Fei, Xueyan Niu, Guoqing Xie, Yanhua Zhang, Bo Bai, Lei Deng, and Wei Han. 2024. [Retrieval meets reasoning: Dynamic in-context editing for long-text understanding](#). *CoRR*, abs/2406.12331.
- Zifan He, Zongyue Qin, Neha Prakriya, Yizhou Sun, and Jason Cong. 2024. [HMT: hierarchical memory transformer for long context language processing](#). *CoRR*, abs/2405.06067.
- Cheng-Ping Hsieh, Simeng Sun, Samuel Krizan, Shantanu Acharya, Dima Rekesh, Fei Jia, and Boris Ginsburg. 2024. [Ruler: What’s the real context size of your long-context language models?](#) *ArXiv*, abs/2404.06654.
- Eunjeong Hwang, Yichao Zhou, Beliz Gunel, James Bradley Wendt, and Sandeep Tata. 2025. [SUMIE: A synthetic benchmark for incremental entity summarization](#). In *Proceedings of the 31st International Conference on Computational Linguistics*, pages 10839–10864, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- EunJeong Hwang, Yichao Zhou, James Bradley Wendt, Beliz Gunel, Nguyen Vo, Jing Xie, and Sandeep Tata. 2024. [Enhancing incremental summarization with structured representations](#). In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP 2024*, pages 3830–3842, Miami, Florida, USA.
- Maor Ivgi, Uri Shaham, and Jonathan Berant. 2023. [Efficient long-text understanding with short-text models](#). *Trans. Assoc. Comput. Linguistics*, 11:284–299.
- Woosuk Kwon, Zhuohan Li, Siyuan Zhuang, Ying Sheng, Lianmin Zheng, Cody Hao Yu, Joseph Gonzalez, Hao Zhang, and Ion Stoica. 2023. [Efficient memory management for large language model serving with pagedattention](#). In *Proceedings of the 29th Symposium on Operating Systems Principles, SOSP 2023*,

- Koblenz, Germany, October 23-26, 2023, pages 611–626. ACM.
- Jinhyuk Lee, Anthony Chen, Zhuyun Dai, Dheeru Dua, Devendra Singh Sachan, Michael Boratko, Yi Luan, Sébastien M. R. Arnold, Vincent Perot, Siddharth Dalmia, Hexiang Hu, Xudong Lin, Panupong Pasupat, Aida Amini, Jeremy R. Cole, Sebastian Riedel, Iftekhar Naim, Ming-Wei Chang, and Kelvin Guu. 2024. [Can long-context language models subsume retrieval, rag, sql, and more?](#) *CoRR*, abs/2406.13121.
- Jiawei Liu, Jia Le Tian, Vijay Daita, Yuxiang Wei, Yifeng Ding, Yuhan Katherine Wang, Jun Yang, and Lingming Zhang. 2024. [RepoQA: Evaluating long context code understanding.](#) *CoRR*, abs/2406.06025.
- Nelson F. Liu, Kevin Lin, John Hewitt, Ashwin Paranjape, Michele Bevilacqua, Fabio Petroni, and Percy Liang. 2023. Lost in the middle: How language models use long contexts. *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 12:157–173.
- Tsendsuren Munkhdalai, Manaal Faruqui, and Siddharth Gopal. 2024. [Leave no context behind: Efficient infinite context transformers with infinite attention.](#) *CoRR*, abs/2404.07143.
- Charles Packer, Vivian Fang, Shishir G. Patil, Kevin Lin, Sarah Wooders, and Joseph E. Gonzalez. 2023. [MemGPT: Towards LLMs as operating systems.](#) *CoRR*, abs/2310.08560.
- Reiner Pope, Sholto Douglas, Aakanksha Chowdhery, Jacob Devlin, James Bradbury, Jonathan Heek, Kefan Xiao, Shivani Agrawal, and Jeff Dean. 2023. Efficiently scaling transformer inference. In *Proceedings of the Sixth Conference on Machine Learning and Systems, MLSys 2023, Miami, FL, USA, June 4-8, 2023*. mlsys.org.
- Hongjin Qian, Zheng Liu, Peitian Zhang, Kelong Mao, Yujia Zhou, Xu Chen, and Zhicheng Dou. 2024. Are long-llms a necessity for long-context tasks? *ArXiv*, abs/2405.15318.
- Machel Reid, Nikolay Savinov, Denis Teplyashin, Dmitry Lepikhin, Timothy P. Lillicrap, Jean-Baptiste Alayrac, Radu Soricut, Angeliki Lazaridou, Orhan Firat, Julian Schrittwieser, Ioannis Antonoglou, Rohan Anil, Sebastian Borgeaud, Andrew M. Dai, Katie Millican, Ethan Dyer, Mia Glaese, Thibault Sottiaux, Benjamin Lee, and 34 others. 2024. [Gemini 1.5: Unlocking multimodal understanding across millions of tokens of context.](#) *CoRR*, abs/2403.05530.
- Weizhi Wang, Li Dong, Hao Cheng, Xiaodong Liu, Xifeng Yan, Jianfeng Gao, and Furu Wei. 2023. Augmenting language models with long-term memory. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 36: Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems 2023, NeurIPS 2023, New Orleans, LA, USA, December 10 - 16, 2023*.
- Xinrong Zhang, Yingfa Chen, Shengding Hu, Zihang Xu, Junhao Chen, Moo Khai Hao, Xu Han, Zhen Leng Thai, Shuo Wang, Zhiyuan Liu, and Maosong Sun. 2024. [Infinitebench: Extending long context evaluation beyond 100k tokens.](#) *ArXiv*, abs/2402.13718.
- Lianmin Zheng, Liangsheng Yin, Zhiqiang Xie, Jeff Huang, Chuyue Sun, Cody Hao Yu, Shiyi Cao, Christos Kozyrakis, Ion Stoica, Joseph E. Gonzalez, Clark W. Barrett, and Ying Sheng. 2023. [Efficiently programming large language models using slang.](#) *CoRR*, abs/2312.07104.

## A Hand-crafted schemas

For BoookScore, the attributes map should be keyed by some identifier and the values should be a list of sentences that summarize the main plot of the book including events, background, themes, and characters. For RepoQA, each key is a function name and the value is a type that contains a natural language description of the function's purpose, input, output, and procedure. For LOFT-Spider, the schema maps table names to descriptions of the columns and relevant fields.

```
1 @dataclasses.dataclass
2 class BookSummary:
3     """Keys may be whatever you want them
4     to be. Values should summarize in
5     sentences only the most important
6     attributes of the book which should
7     include absolutely essential details
8     such as the main characters and their
9     motivations, the main plot, the main
10    events, background information, and
11    the main theme."""
12    attributes: dict[str, list[str]]
```

Listing 1: Schema for BoookScore.

```
1 @dataclasses.dataclass
2 class FunctionNaturalDescriptor:
3     """candidate_functions is keyed by the exact name of the
4     function and stores FunctionDescription objects. Each entry
5     should represent a unique function, class method, property,
6     getter, or setter (or anything defined with a def keyword)
7     present in [TEXT] that potentially matches the description
8     given in [QUESTION]. Never add the same function more than once
9     and only add functions that appear similar to the description
10    given in [QUESTION]. If two functions are very similar to each
11    other, you should make sure to distinguish them in their
12    FunctionDescription objects."""
13
14 @dataclasses.dataclass
15 class FunctionDescription:
16     """purpose describes the purpose of the function i.e. what it
17     does. input describes what the parameters of the function are.
18     output describes what the function returns. procedure describes
19     how the function is implemented (i.e. how it does what it does
20     ). Do not repeat the description given in [QUESTION]. You must
21     describe the function based on what you see in [TEXT]."""
22     purpose: str
23     input: str
24     output: str
25     procedure: str
26
27 candidate_functions: dict[str, FunctionDescription]
```

Listing 2: Schema for RepoQA.

```

1 @dataclasses.dataclass
2 class RelevantTableInfo(pg.Object):
3     """table_descriptions is a list of TableDescription objects. One
4     for each table."""
5
6 @dataclasses.dataclass
7 class TableDescription(pg.Object):
8     """Each element in columns_observed should provide the precise
9     name and data type of a column in the table. In
10    relevant_statistics you should calculate and provide statistics
11    relevant to answering the query. relationships should provide
12    the names of other tables that are related to this table and
13    relevant to answering the query."""
14    table_name: str
15    table_description: str
16    columns_observed: list[str]
17    relevant_statistics: list[str]
18    relationships: list[str]
19
20 table_descriptions: list[TableDescription]

```

Listing 3: Schema for LOFT-Spider.

## B LLM-generated schemas

```

1 @dataclasses.dataclass
2 class NarrativeSummary:
3     @dataclasses.dataclass
4     class SummaryEvent:
5         events: str
6         characters: str
7         places: str
8         elements: str
9     summary_events: dict[str, SummaryEvent]

```

Listing 4: LLM-Generated Schema for BoookScore.

```

1 @dataclasses.dataclass
2 class FunctionMatch:
3     matches: dict[str, float]

```

Listing 5: LLM-Generated Schema for RepoQA.

```

1 @dataclasses.dataclass
2 class QueryPartialSolution(pg.Object):
3     attributes: dict[str, list[str]]

```

Listing 6: LLM-Generated Schema for LOFT-Spider.

## C Using Typed Hierarchies in JSON

We present the use of Typed Hierarchies in JSON in figure 6. In this section, we refer to revisions as updates. The problem formulation is the same otherwise.

## D Prompts

In this section, we provide prompts for PRISM and LLM-assisted schema generation. Prompts for baselines may be found in [Chang et al. \(2024\)](#).

### Example Prompt For PRISM

```

1 {% raw %}I will provide a class definition [CLASS], which defines some fields
2 that need to be generated, an instantiation of that class under [
3 PARTIAL_SUMMARY] that is a response to the question in [QUESTION], and

```



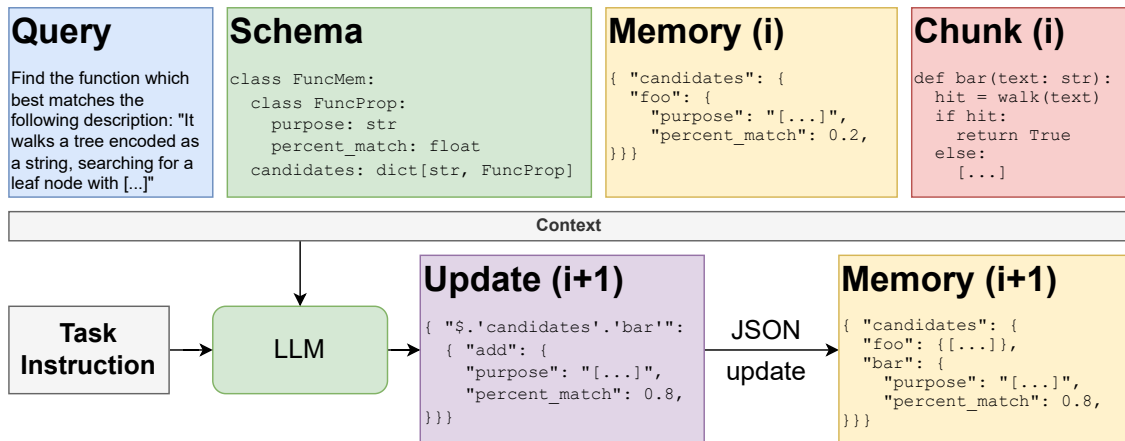


Figure 6: **Using a JSON-encoded memory.** Using the example of a code retrieval task, we fill the context of the LLM with the task instruction, query, a schema defining our memory structure, the existing memory, and a chunk of code context. When this context is used to prompt the LLM, it should propose a memory revision based on the chunk that it has seen. The revision is used to programmatically revise the underlying JSON memory structure, which is then used in the prompt for the next step.

```

  some text in a section called [TEXT]. Your task is to propose updates to [
  PARTIAL_SUMMARY] gathered from the information in [TEXT].
2
3 Here are the sections that you will complete, in the same order:
4
5 [OBJECTS FOR UPDATE]
6 In this section you will produce a set of dictionaries (one per line) in JSON
  format where the keys correspond to the JSONPaths whose objects should be
  updated and the values are a dictionary with the following fields:
7 * 'update': The object to overwrite the existing value at the JSONPath.
8
9 The 'update' object must adhere to the [CLASS] definition at the given
  JSONPath. If information is missing for some fields, then you can use the
  placeholder string '???' or `None` to represent that missing information.
  Updates must only ever increase the amount of information in [
  PARTIAL_SUMMARY], they can be made by either replacing a `None` object or
  the placeholder string '???' with relevant content from [TEXT] or by
  modifying an existing value using content from [TEXT]. To separate
  multiple values within a string, use '; '. For example, a value about the
  'location' of a hotel may say '5 minute walk from the subway station;
  views of the Eiffel tower'.
10
11 [OBJECTS FOR ADD]
12 In this section you will produce a dictionary in JSON format where the keys
  correspond to the JSONPaths that do not exist in [PARTIAL_SUMMARY] yet
  that will be added, and the values are a dictionary with the following
  fields:
13 * 'add': The object to add at that JSONPath.
14
15 The 'add' object must adhere to the [CLASS] definition at the given JSONPath.
  If information is missing for some fields, then you can use the
  placeholder string '???' or `None` to represent that missing information.
16
17 Additional guidelines:
18
19 1. Field names in JSONPaths must be quoted. For example, "$. 'places'. '
  flexibility of material '".
20 2. Proposed JSON objects must have sufficient context: the values of the [
  PARTIAL_SUMMARY] should have enough context so a reader can understand
  what it means.
```

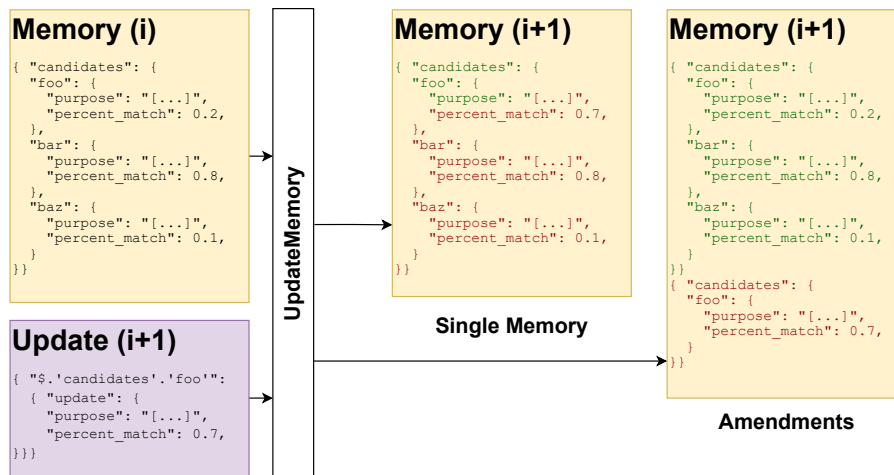


Figure 7: Using amendments with a JSON memory. An update to the candidate function “foo” is proposed, changing the existing “percent\_match” field from 0.2 to 0.7 and replacing the “purpose” field. The function ReviseMemory takes the existing memory and applies the proposed update to it. We show two possible resulting memory states. *Single memory* shows the memory if the object at the specified path is updated with the new object directly. *Amendments* shows the state if the change is simply amended to the end as a new JSON object. Text in green shows the longest matching prefix compared to the previous memory and text in red shows the information that must be (re-)encoded. Using amendments reduces the number of tokens that need to be encoded at the cost of increasing the size of the memory.

```

21 3. Ignore irrelevant text: If the content in [TEXT] does not have any
    information that is relevant to [QUESTION] and [PARTIAL_SUMMARY] it is OK
    to make no update to that object.
22 4. No redundant fields: If information from [TEXT] can be incorporated by
    updating an existing field in [PARTIAL_SUMMARY], then do not introduce a
    new redundant field. For example, if there's already a field for '
    activities' do not introduce a new field for 'other activities' or 'water
    activities', 'hiking'. Update the existing field for 'activities'.
23 5. A field should not contain redundant values. If one value encompasses most
    of the details in another value, merge them together. For instance, "
    beautiful views of the Eiffel tower" and "view of the Eiffel tower" should
    be merged into a single value like "beautiful views of the Eiffel tower".
24
25 Here is an example of an entity comparison:
26 [QUESTION]
27 ESR HaloLock wireless car charger vs. MagSafe Wireless Car Charger
28
29 [CLASS]
30 Comparison
31
32 ```python
33 class Comparison:
34     product_names: tuple[str, str]
35     Facet = str
36     values: dict[Facet, tuple[str, str]]
37 ```
38
39 [PARTIAL_SUMMARY]
40 {
41     "product_names": ("ESR HaloLock wireless car charger", "MagSafe Wireless Car
    Charger"),
42     "values": {
43         "size": ("4.2 inches", "???"),
44         "flexibility": ("???", "very flexible"),
45     }
46 }

```

```

47
48 [TEXT]
49 When using ESR HaloLock wireless car charger, the orientation of the iPhone is
    absolutely free, as they are free too inclination and height that you
    want to give to the smartphone, as long as you pay attention to the center
    of gravity: despite the aluminum structure it is very resistant and the
    joints are very solid, if you position the smartphone too far forward, the
    base of the stand would not be able to support the weight and would risk
    tilting forward.
50
51 [OBJECTS FOR UPDATE]
52 {"$. 'values'. 'flexibility'": {"update": ("allows iPhone to orientate freely",
    "very flexible")}}
53
54 [OBJECTS FOR ADD]
55 {"$. 'values'. 'material'": {"add": ("aluminum structure", "???" )}}
56 {"$. 'values'. 'durability'": {"add": ("very resistant", "???" )}}
57 {"$. 'values'. 'design'": {"add": ("can not support the weight of a phone if it
    is too far forward", "???" )}}
58
59 ===
60
61 Here is an example of an entity summarization:
62 [QUESTION]
63 Describe attributes and values of HOTEL0.
64
65 [CLASS]
66 class Summary(TypedDict):
67     attributes: dict[str, list[str]] # Keyed by attribute, with a list of
        sufficient details about the attribute.
68
69 [PARTIAL_SUMMARY]
70 {
71     "attributes": {
72         "Amenities": ["There are two pools", "pub opens till midnight"],
73         "Food & Beverage": ["limited breakfast options"],
74         "Room Quality": ["Spacious and comfortable rooms"],
75     }
76 }
77
78 [TEXT]
79 HOTEL0 offers exceptional dining and the beds were very cozy, but there was a
    lot of street noise. HOTEL1 offers great Eiffel tower view from window.
80
81 [OBJECTS FOR UPDATE]
82 {"$. 'attributes'. 'Food & Beverage'": {"update": [ "limited breakfast options",
    "HOTEL0 offers exceptional dining" ]}}
83 {"$. 'attributes'. 'Room Quality'": {"update": [ "Spacious and comfortable rooms
    ", "beds were very cozy" ]}}
84
85 [OBJECTS FOR ADD]
86 {"$. 'attributes'. 'Noise Level'": {"add": [ "Notable street noise at night" ]}}
87
88 ===
89
90 Here is an example of query answering from SQL tables:
91 [QUESTION]
92 What is the total number of singers?
93
94 [CLASS]
95 class TableMemory(pg.Object):
96     """table_descriptions is keyed by the name of the table and the value is a
        TableDescription object. One for each table."""
97
98     class TableDescription(pg.Object):
99         """table_description is a short summary of the table. thoughts is a list
            of relevant information from the table that will be helpful in answering
            the query. When referring to fields and columns, use their exact names."""

```

```

100     table_description: str
101     thoughts: list[str]
102
103     table_descriptions: dict[str, TableDescription]
104
105 [PARTIAL_SUMMARY]
106 {
107     "table_descriptions": {
108         "Stadiums": {
109             "table_description": "The table lists the stadiums including Wembley
110 Stadium, Stark's Park, and others.",
111             "thoughts": [
112                 "There are 8 stadiums in the table.",
113                 "It does not say which singers perform.",
114             ],
115         },
116     },
117 }
118 [TEXT]
119 Table: Concert
120 concert_ID,concert_Name,Theme,Stadium_ID,Year
121 1,Auditions,Free choice,1,2014
122 2,Super bootcamp,Free choice 2,2,2014
123 3,Home Visits,Bleeding Love,2,2015
124 4,Week 1,Wide Awake,10,2014
125 5,Week 1,Happy Tonight,9,2015
126 6,Week 2,Party All Night,7,2015
127
128 Table: Singer
129 Singer_ID,Name,Country,Song_Name,Song_release_year,Age,Is_male
130 1,Joe Sharp,Netherlands,You,1992,52,F
131 2,Timbaland,United States,Dangerous,2008,32,T
132 3,Justin Brown,France,Hey Oh,2013,29,T
133 4,Rose White,France,Sun,2003,41,F
134 5,John Niznik,France,Gentleman,2014,43,T
135 6,Tribal King,France,Love,2016,25,T
136
137 Table: Singer_in_Concert
138 concert_ID,Singer_ID
139 1,2
140 1,3
141 1,5
142 2,3
143 2,6
144 3,5
145 4,4
146 5,6
147 5,3
148 6,2
149
150 Table: Stadium
151 Stadium_ID,Location,Name,Capacity,Highest,Lowest,Average
152 1,Raith Rovers,Stark's Park,10104,4812,1294,2106
153 2,Ayr United,Somerset Park,11998,2363,1057,1477
154 3,East Fife,Bayview Stadium,2000,1980,533,864
155 4,Queen's Park,Hampden Park,52500,1763,466,730
156 5,Stirling Albion,Forthbank Stadium,3808,1125,404,642
157 6,Arbroath,Gayfield Park,4125,921,411,638
158 7,Alloa Athletic,Recreation Park,3100,1057,331,637
159 9,Peterhead,Balmoor,4000,837,400,615
160 10,Brechin City,Glebe Park,3960,780,315,552
161
162 [OBJECTS FOR UPDATE]
163 {}
164
165 [OBJECTS FOR ADD]

```



```

166 {"$.table_descriptions.'Singers': {"add": {"table_description": "This table
    lists the singers.", "thoughts": [ "The Singer table has the singers Joe
    Sharp, Timbaland, Justin Brown, Rose White, John Niznik, and Tribal King
    .", "There are 6 singers in the table." ]}}
167
168 ===
169
170 Here is an example of code retrieval:
171 [QUESTION]
172 Find the exact name of the function described by the following function
    description: 1. Purpose: The function generates a string used to
    format text with new lines and optionally a form feed character, typically
    used to control spacing in formatted output.
173 2. Input: The function takes three parameters: an integer representing the
    number of new lines, a boolean indicating whether a form feed character
    should be included, and an optional string representing the line break
    character (defaulting to a newline).
174 3. Output: It returns a string composed of the specified number of newline
    characters, and if requested, includes a form feed character followed by
    an additional newline.
175 4. Procedure: The function first checks if the form feed should be
    included. If true, it concatenates the specified number of newline
    characters minus one with a form feed character and another newline. If
    false, it simply returns a string of newline characters multiplied by the
    specified integer.
176
177 [CLASS]
178 class FunctionNaturalDescriptor(pg.Object):
179     """candidate_functions is keyed by the exact name of the function and stores
    FunctionDescription objects. Each entry should represent a unique
    function, class method, property, getter, or setter (or anything defined
    with a def keyword) present in [TEXT] that potentially matches the
    description given in [QUESTION]. Never add the same function more than
    once and only add functions that appear similar to the description given
    in [QUESTION]. If two functions are very similar to each other, you should
    make sure to distinguish them in their FunctionDescription objects.""" #
    pylint: disable=line-too-long
180
181     class FunctionDescription(pg.Object):
182         """purpose describes the purpose of the function i.e. what it does. input
    describes what the parameters of the function are. output describes what
    the function returns. procedure describes how the function is implemented
    (i.e. how it does what it does). Do not repeat the description given in [
    QUESTION]. You must describe the function based on what you see in [TEXT
    ].""" # pylint: disable=line-too-long
183         purpose: str
184         input: str
185         output: str
186         procedure: str
187
188         candidate_functions: dict[str, FunctionDescription]
189
190 [PARTIAL_SUMMARY]
191 {
192     "candidate_functions": {
193         "_merge_entities":{
194             "purpose": "The function merges a list of entities into a single entity.
    Optionally, the merge can be done quickly, which may result in some
    information being lost. The function also formats and prints the merged
    entity.",
195             "input": "The function takes two parameters: a list of entities to merge
    and a boolean indicating whether to do a quick merge (defaulting to False
    ).",
196             "output": "The function returns a single entity created from merging all
    entities in the input list.",
197             "procedure": "The function first checks if the quick merge flag is set.
    If true, it uses a simple merge algorithm that simply concatenates all the
    entities in the list without any additional processing. If false, it uses

```

```

    a more complex merge algorithm that attempts to merge the entities in a
    way that preserves as much information as possible. The function then
    formats and prints the merged entity.",
198     },
199     "reduce_sum_list": {
200         "purpose": "The function reduces a list of integers to a single integer
    by summing all the values in the list.",
201         "input": "The function takes a single parameter: a list of integers.",
202         "output": "The function returns a single integer representing the sum of
    all the values in the list.",
203         "procedure": "The function iterates through the list of integers and
    adds each value to a running sum. It then returns the running sum.",
204     }
205 }
206 }
207
208 [TEXT]
209 File path: /src/test_file.py
210 Content:
211     elif t in {token.NAME, token.NUMBER, token.STRING}:
212         return NO
213
214     elif p.type == syms.import_from:
215         if t == token.DOT:
216             if prev and prev.type == token.DOT:
217                 return NO
218
219             elif t == token.NAME:
220                 if v == "import":
221                     return SPACE
222
223                 if prev and prev.type == token.DOT:
224                     return NO
225
226     elif p.type == syms.sliceop:
227         return NO
228
229     elif p.type == syms.except_clause:
230         if t == token.STAR:
231             return NO
232
233     return SPACE
234
235
236 def make_simple_prefix(nl_count: int, form_feed: bool, empty_line: str = "\n")
    -> str:
237     """Generate a normalized prefix string."""
238     if form_feed:
239         return (empty_line * (nl_count - 1)) + "\f" + empty_line
240     return empty_line * nl_count
241
242
243 def preceding_leaf(node: Optional[LN]) -> Optional[Leaf]:
244     """Return the first leaf that precedes `node`, if any."""
245     while node:
246         res = node.prev_sibling
247         if res:
248             if isinstance(res, Leaf):
249                 return res
250
251             try:
252                 return list(res.leaves())[-1]
253
254             except IndexError:
255                 return None
256
257     node = node.parent
258     return None

```

```

259
260
261 def prev_siblings_are(node: Optional[LN], tokens: List[Optional[NodeType]]) ->
    bool:
262     """Return if the `node` and its previous siblings match types against the
    provided
263     list of tokens; the provided `node` has its type matched against the last
    element in
264     the list. `None` can be used as the first element to declare that the
    start of the
265     list is anchored at the start of its parent's children."""
266
267 [OBJECTS FOR UPDATE]
268 {}
269
270 [OBJECTS FOR ADD]
271 {"$.candidate_functions.'make_simple_prefix': {"add": {"purpose": "The
    function generates a prefix string by repeating a number of empty lines
    which can be formatted with a form feed character if supplied.", "input":
    "The function takes three parameters: an integer which denotes the number
    of new lines, a boolean determining if a form feed character should be
    used, and an optional argument: a string representing a character to be
    used for line breaks. This optional argument is defaulted to a newline
    character.", "output": "The function returns a string which is a prefix of
    the desired format.", "procedure": "The function first checks if the form
    feed character should be used. If it should, the function generates a
    string which is a concatenation of the specified number of newline
    characters minus one, a form feed character, and another newline character
    . If it should not, the function generates a string which is a
    concatenation of the specified number of newline characters. The function
    then returns the generated string." }}}
272 {"$.candidate_functions.'preceding_leaf': {"add": {"purpose": "The function
    returns the first leaf that precedes a given node, if any.", "input": "
    The function takes a single parameter: a node to find the preceding leaf
    for.", "output": "The function returns a leaf if one exists, otherwise it
    returns None.", "procedure": "The function first checks if the node has a
    previous sibling. If it does, it checks if the previous sibling is a leaf.
    If it is, it returns the previous sibling. If it has a list of leaves,
    then it returns the last (or None if there is an IndexError). If it is not
    a leaf nor has a list of leaves, it sets the node to the parent and
    repeats the process in a while loop." }}}
273 {"$.candidate_functions.'prev_siblings_are': {"add": {"purpose": "The
    function checks if the node and its previous siblings match types against
    the provided list of tokens.", "input": "The function takes two parameters
    : a node to check and a list of tokens to match against.", "output": "The
    function returns a boolean indicating whether the node and its previous
    siblings match types against the provided list of tokens.", "procedure": "
    Unknown" }}}
274
275 ===
276
277 {% endraw %}[QUESTION]
278 {{ question }}
279
280 [CLASS]
281 {{ structure }}
282
283 [PARTIAL_SUMMARY]
284 {{ partial_summary }}
285
286 [TEXT]
287 {{ text }}
288
289 {{ parse_response(store("raw_response", llm(temperature=0.8))) }}

```

## Example Prompt For Schema Generation (And Example Generations)

```
1 I have a system in which a user enters a query in a particular domain and the
  system must answer the query. In order to answer the query, the system
  views a large number of documents one at a time and only once. Thus, when
  the system sees a document it stores information related to answering the
  query by updating a JSON format memory. Once the system has viewed all
  documents, the system will read its JSON memory and use this information
  to decide the output for the query. Consequently, the JSON memory should
  store all information relevant to answering the query. Hence, the schema
  for the JSON memory must ensure that the memory contains the right
  information to assist the system in producing the final answer. It should
  make sure not to keep too little information nor too much-but generally
  should prefer to store more information if unsure. The schema for the
  memory is defined by a python dataclass and is specific to the domain of
  the query. The schema may include a python comment describing how it
  should be used. Your task is to construct a schema given a query domain
  and a query example.
2
3 The schema will always store some information from every document, so it
  should support data structures that can be appended or updated such as
  lists or dicts. Information that should be structured together should be
  kept together with subclasses.
4
5 ===
6
7 [Query domain]
8 Comparing two entities found in various documents based on their respective
  shared attributes.
9
10 [Example query]
11 ESR HaloLock wireless car charger vs. MagSafe Wireless Car Charger
12
13 [Schema]
14 ```python
15 class Comparison:
16     """attributes should be keyed by attributes that both entities share e.g.
17     connectivity and the values should be AttributeValues instances."""
18     class AttributeValues:
19         """entity_one and entity_two are lists of descriptions relating to the two
20         respective entities, found in documents, that correspond to the specific
21         attribute the instance is keyed under."""
22         entity_one: list[str]
23         entity_two: list[str]
24
25     attributes: dict[str, AttributeValues]
26     """
27
28
29 ===
30 [Query domain]
31 Summarizing details about entities (such as people, things, and institutions)
  found in online documents.
32
33 [Example query]
34 Describe attributes and values of HOTEL0.
35
36 [Schema]
37 ```python
38 class Summary(TypedDict):
39     """Keyed by attribute, with a list of sufficient details about the attribute
40     """
41     attributes: dict[str, list[str]]
42     """
43
44 ===
```



```

43
44 [Query domain]
45 Finding the top individuals in terms of a particular metric defined by the
    query. Documents are the content of websites on the internet.
46
47 [Example query]
48 Who are the top 10 highest earning CEOs in the bay area?
49
50 [Schema]
51 ```python
52 class TopKList:
53     """top_persons is a list of PersonMetric instances giving the person name
    and the value of the metric asked by the query."""
54     class PersonMetric:
55         """person is the name of the individual and metric is the value of the
    metric required by the query."""
56         person: str
57         metric: float
58
59
60     top_persons: list[PersonMetric]
61 ```
62
63 ===
64
65 [Query domain]
66 Retrieving the exact name of a function given a query that describes the
    purpose, input, output, and procedure of the function. Documents are files
    of code. Here, the memory should provide some way of knowing to what
    extent a function matches the description given in a query.
67
68 [Example query]
69 Find the exact name of the function described by the following function
    description: 1. Purpose: The function generates a string used to
    format text with new lines and optionally a form feed character, typically
    used to control spacing in formatted output.
70 2. Input: The function takes three parameters: an integer representing the
    number of new lines, a boolean indicating whether a form feed character
    should be included, and an optional string representing the line break
    character (defaulting to a newline).
71 3. Output: It returns a string composed of the specified number of newline
    characters, and if requested, includes a form feed character followed by
    an additional newline.
72 4. Procedure: The function first checks if the form feed should be
    included. If true, it concatenates the specified number of newline
    characters minus one with a form feed character and another newline. If
    false, it simply returns a string of newline characters multiplied by the
    specified integer.
73
74
75 [Schema]
76
77 Generated Schema (for RepoQA):
78 class FunctionMatch:
79     """Stores information about functions found in code."""
80     class FunctionInfo:
81         """name is the exact name of the function and matches is a list of strings
    describing which parts of the function description in the query were
    matched to the function."""
82         name: str
83         matches: list[str]
84
85
86     functions: list[FunctionInfo]
87
88 ===
89
90 [Query domain]

```

```

91 You are summarizing very long narrative books. Each document is a segment of
    the book. Here, the story may feature non-linear narratives, flashbacks,
    switches between alternate worlds or viewpoints, etc. Therefore, the
    memory needs to represent a consistent and chronological narrative.
    Critical information may relate to key events, backgrounds, settings,
    characters, their objectives, and motivations.
92
93 [Example query]
94 Summarize this book excerpt. Briefly introduce characters, places, and other
    major elements if they are being mentioned for the first time.
95
96 [Schema]
97
98 Generated Schema (for BoookScore):
99
100 class BookSummary:
101     """Summarizes a book with potentially non-linear narratives by storing
        information chronologically."""
102     class Event:
103         """Represents a single event in the story. Events are stored in
            chronological order."""
104         description: str
105         """Description of the event."""
106         time: str
107         """Explicit time information provided in the text for this event, if any
            ."""
108         location: str
109         """Location of the event, if specified."""
110         characters: list[str]
111         """Characters involved in the event."""
112
113     class Character:
114         """Represents a character in the story."""
115         name: str
116         """Name of the character."""
117         description: str
118         """Description or background information about the character."""
119         motivations: list[str]
120         """Known or speculated motivations of the character."""
121
122     class Location:
123         """Represents a location in the story."""
124         name: str
125         """Name of the location."""
126         description: str
127         """Description of the location."""
128
129     events: list[Event]
130     """List of events in the story, ordered chronologically."""
131     characters: dict[str, Character]
132     """Dictionary of characters encountered in the story, keyed by character
        name."""
133     locations: dict[str, Location]
134     """Dictionary of locations encountered in the story, keyed by location name
        ."""
135
136 ===
137
138 [Query domain]
139 Given a bunch of SQL tables formatted in text, answer queries that may require
    reasoning over multiple tables to find the answer.
140
141 [Example query]
142 What is the total number of singers?
143
144 [Schema]
145
146 LOFT-Spider generated schema:

```

Method	Cache hit (%)	Enc. ( $\times 10^3$ )	Net Enc. ( $\times 10^3$ )	Dec. ( $\times 10^3$ )	Cost Index
	LOFT-Spider				
Long context	0	30	30	0.4	
Incremental	0	31	<b>31</b>	1.5	0.035
<b>Ours</b> In-place	41	56	33	0.7	0.035
w/out updates	39	54	33	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.030</b>
<b>Ours</b> Amendments	<b>39</b>	54	33	0.6	0.035
w/out updates	40	54	33	<b>0.4</b>	0.034

Table 5: Cache-efficiency results for LOFT-Spider.

```

147
148 class SQLQueryInformation:
149     """This schema stores information relevant to a SQL query.
150     It focuses on the entities and attributes mentioned in the query,
151     rather than storing entire tables.
152     """
153
154     class EntityInformation:
155         """Represents information about a specific entity mentioned in the
156         query.
157         For instance, if the query asks about 'singers', this would store
158         information related to singers.
159         """
160         name: str # Entity name (e.g., "singers")
161         relevant_columns: list[str] # Columns relevant to the query for this
162         entity
163         relevant_rows: list[dict[str, str]] # Rows containing information
164         related to the query, as dictionaries
165
166         entities: list[EntityInformation]
167
168         # Additional fields for aggregate queries (COUNT, SUM, AVG, etc.):
169         aggregate_results: dict[str, float] # e.g., {"count": 123}

```

## E Additional Results

We present additional results, extending Table 3 for the LOFT-Spider dataset in Table 5.