SGLang v0.2: Faster Interface and Runtime for LLM inference

Aug - Dec. 2023

Early Stage: the “programming LLM” paradigm

Jan. - now 2024

Middle Stage: innovative features and optimizations

now - 2024

Production Stage: research and industry use-cases

Early Stage: the “Programming LLM” Paradigm

From chat and simple prompting to programmatic usage of LLMs

Simple Chat ⇒ LLM Programs

- **Multiple calls**
- Advanced prompting
- Control flow
- Tool use
- External interaction

Early Stage

Existing Systems

Front end language: ignored runtime optimizations

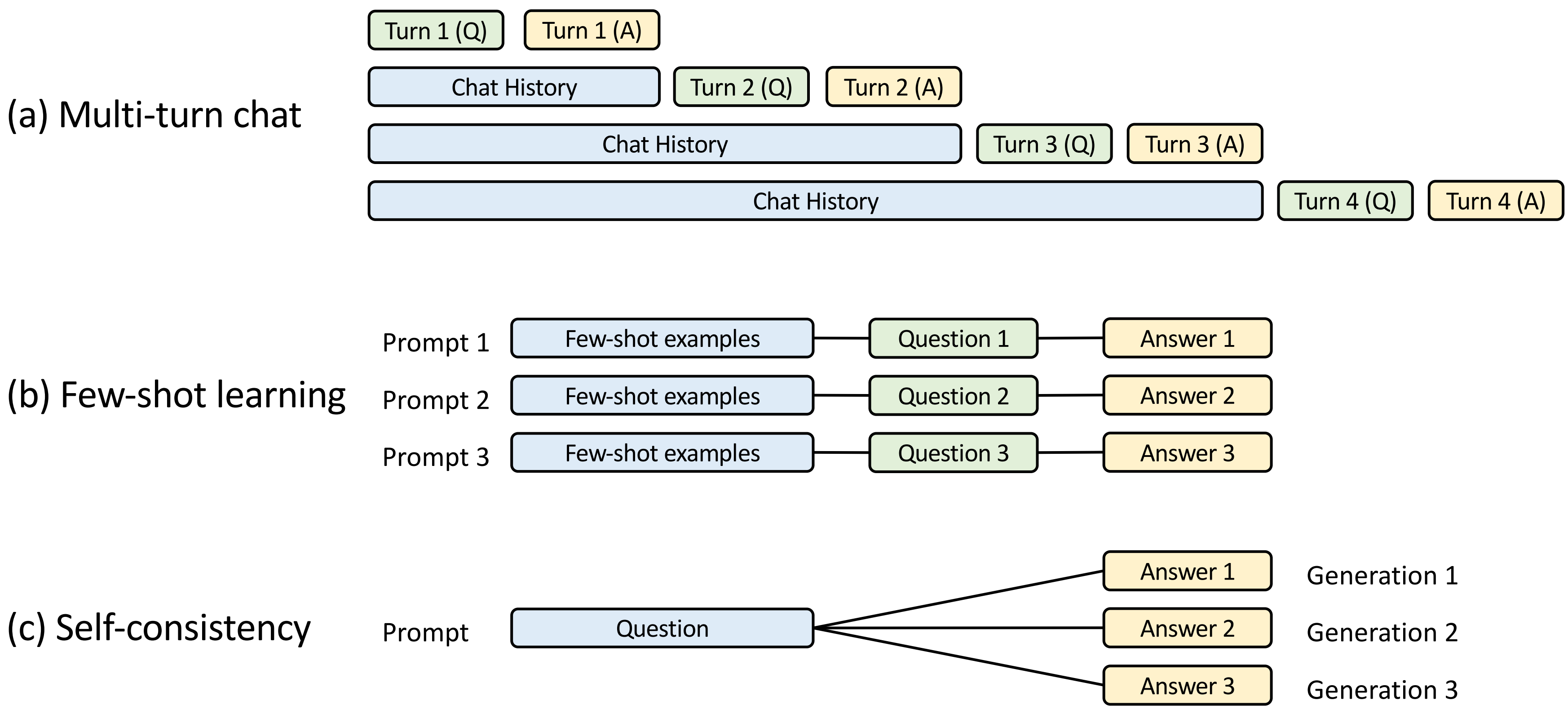
(Guidance, LMQL)

Backend Inference engine: do not know program structure

(NVIDIA TensorRT-LLM, vLLM)

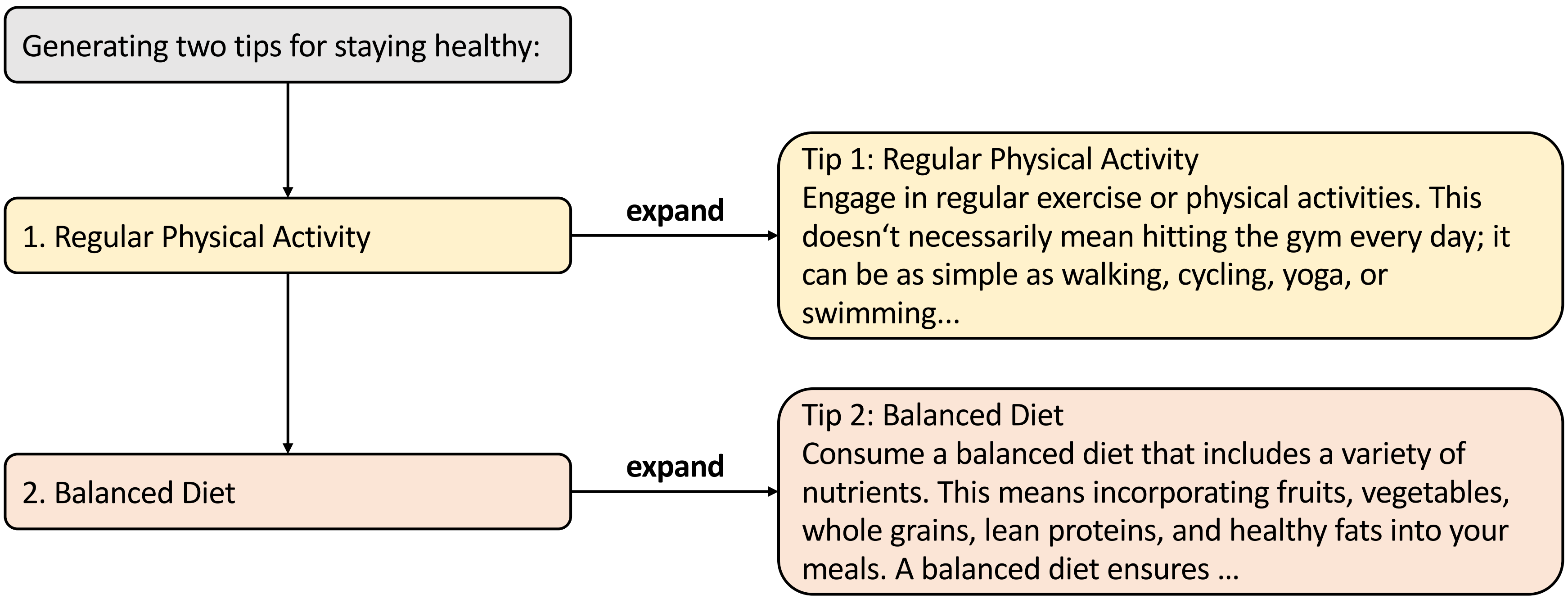
Early Stage

Opportunity: KV Cache Reuse



Early Stage

Opportunity: Parallelism



Early Stage

System Challenges

- How to program these LLM applications?
- How to optimize across multiple LLM calls?

Early Stage

Introducing SGLang: A Structured Generation Language

A “co-design” approach

Front end
- A new domain specific language embedded in Python
- Automatic parallelization and other compiler optimizations

Back end
- Automatic KV cache reuse with **RadixAttention**

Early Stage

API example: A Multi-Dimensional Essay Judge

Frontend

```python
dimensions = ["Clarity", "Originality", "Evidence"]

@function
def essay_judge(s, essay):
  s += "Please evaluate the following essay. " + essay

  # Evaluate an essay from multiple dimensions in parallel
  forks = s.fork(len(dimensions))
  for f, dim in zip(forks, dimensions):
    f += (
      "Evaluate based on the following metric: " +
      dim + ". End your judgement with the word 'END'")
    f += "Judgment: " + f.gen("judgment", stop="END")

  # Merge judgments
  for f, dim in zip(forks, dimensions):
    s += dim + ": " + f["judgment"]

  # Generate a summary and give a score
  s += "In summary," + s.gen("summary")
  s += "I give the essay a letter grade of " +
  s += s.gen("grade", choices=["A", "B", "C", "D"])

ret = essay_judge.run(essay="A long essay ...")
print(ret["grade"])
```

Launch parallel prompts

Non-blocking generation call

Fetching generation results

Constrained generation

Run the function

Early Stage

Compiler Optimizations

- **Building a dataflow graph**
  - Remove Python Interpreter Overhead
  - Global scheduling optimization over the graph
- **Prefetching cached prefixes**
  - Insert prefetching nodes into the graph
- **Code movement for increasing sharable prefix length**
  - Reorder some prompt elements with the help of GPT-4

Frontend

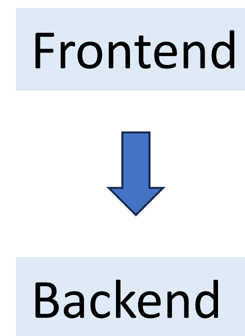
↓

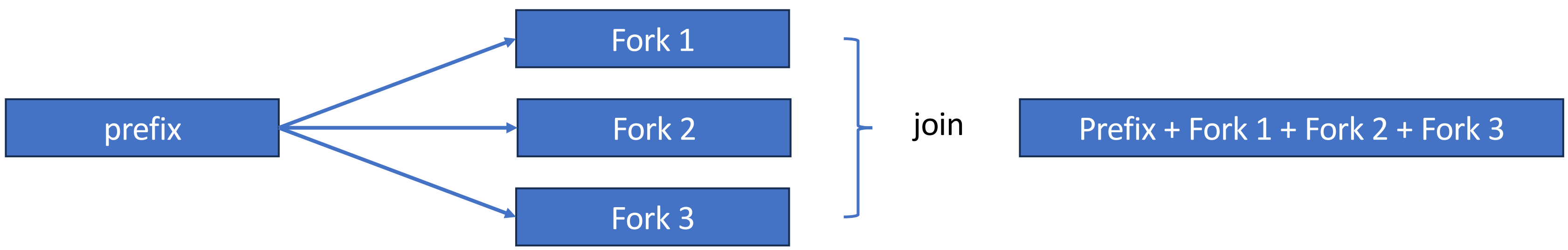
Backend

Early Stage

Prefix caching from request tracking?

- In multi-turn chat, retrieval tasks, etc
  - The interpreter tracks the request id (rid) and caches the history before it ends.
  - Only needs to match the rid.
  - “pin” is a primitive of fixing a prefix to be cached.
  - “fork/join” primitives





Cannot reuse shared prefix across requests!

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Middle Stage: innovative features and optimizations

Focused efforts on backend/runtime performance

now - 2024

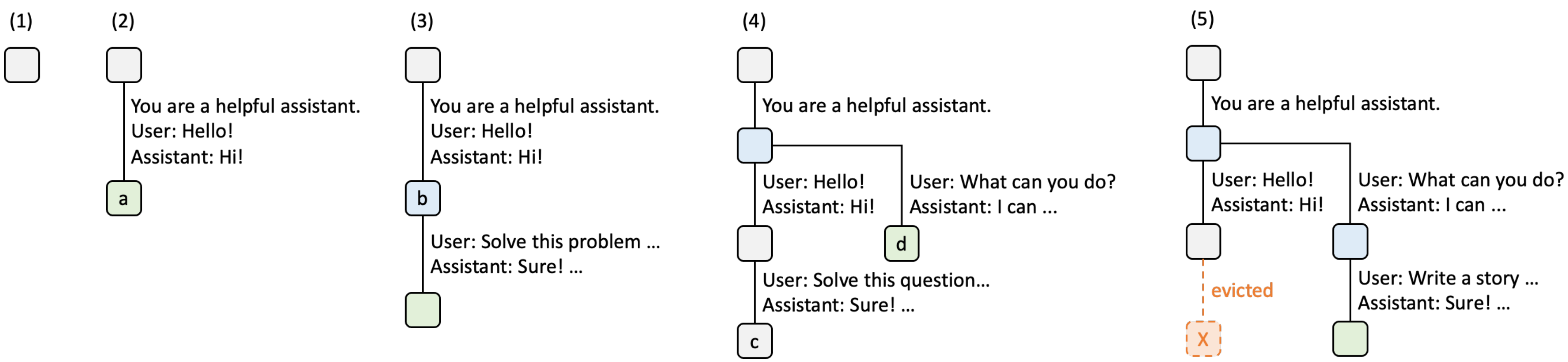
Production Stage: research and industry use-cases

Middle Stage

Runtime (SRT) with RadixAttention

Existing Systems: Discard KV cache after a request finishes.

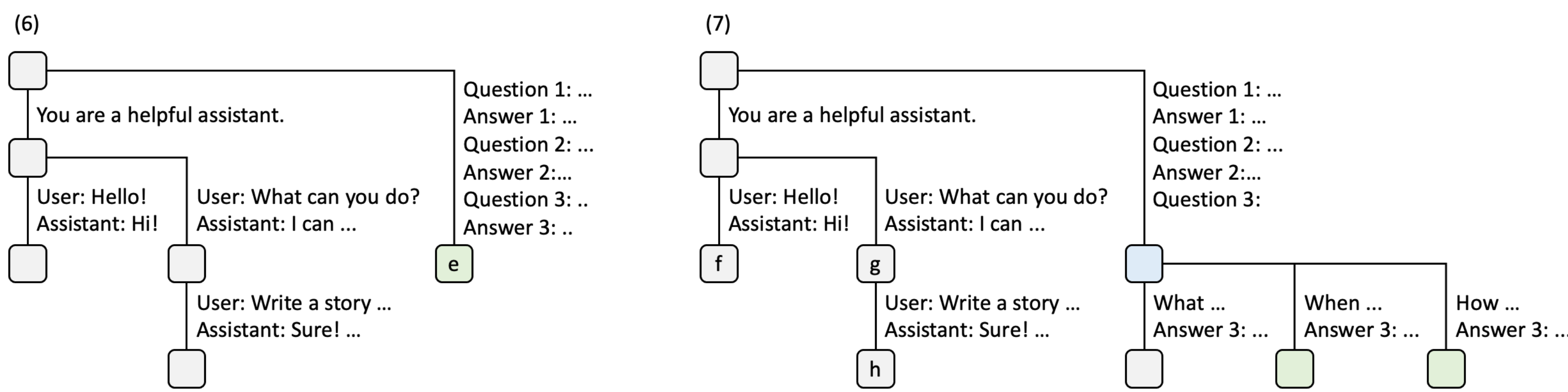
Ours: Maintain an LRU cache of the KV cache of all requests in a radix tree (compact prefix tree).



Middle Stage

Runtime (SRT) with RadixAttention

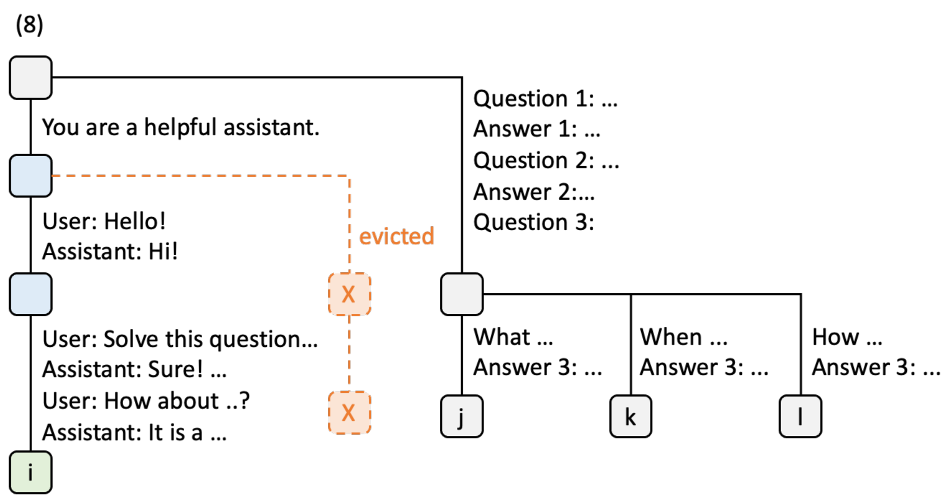
Maintain an LRU cache of the KV cache of all requests in a radix tree.

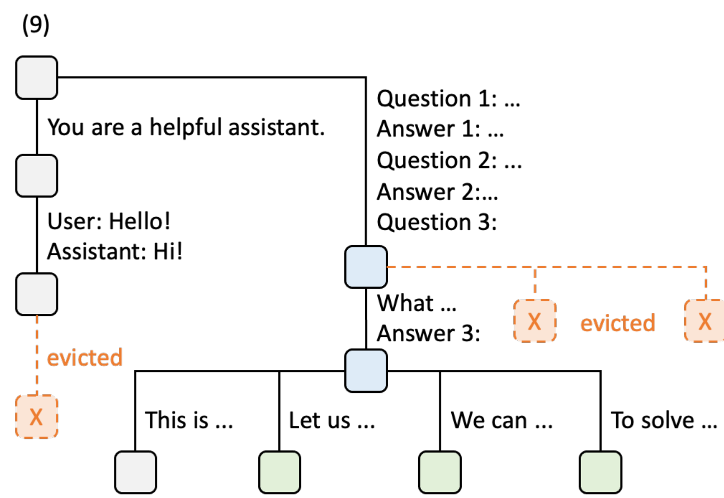


Middle Stage

Runtime (SRT) with RadixAttention

Maintain an LRU cache of the KV cache of all requests in a radix tree.





Middle Stage

Cache Aware Scheduling

- In the request queue, sort the requests according to the matched prefix length
  - Achieves good cache hit rate

- Future work
  - Distributed cache aware scheduling for multiple data parallel workers
  - Fairness to prevent starvation (https://arxiv.org/abs/2401.00588)

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2023

Early Stage: the “programming LLM” paradigm

Jan. -
now
2024

Middle Stage: innovative features and optimizations

RadixAttention

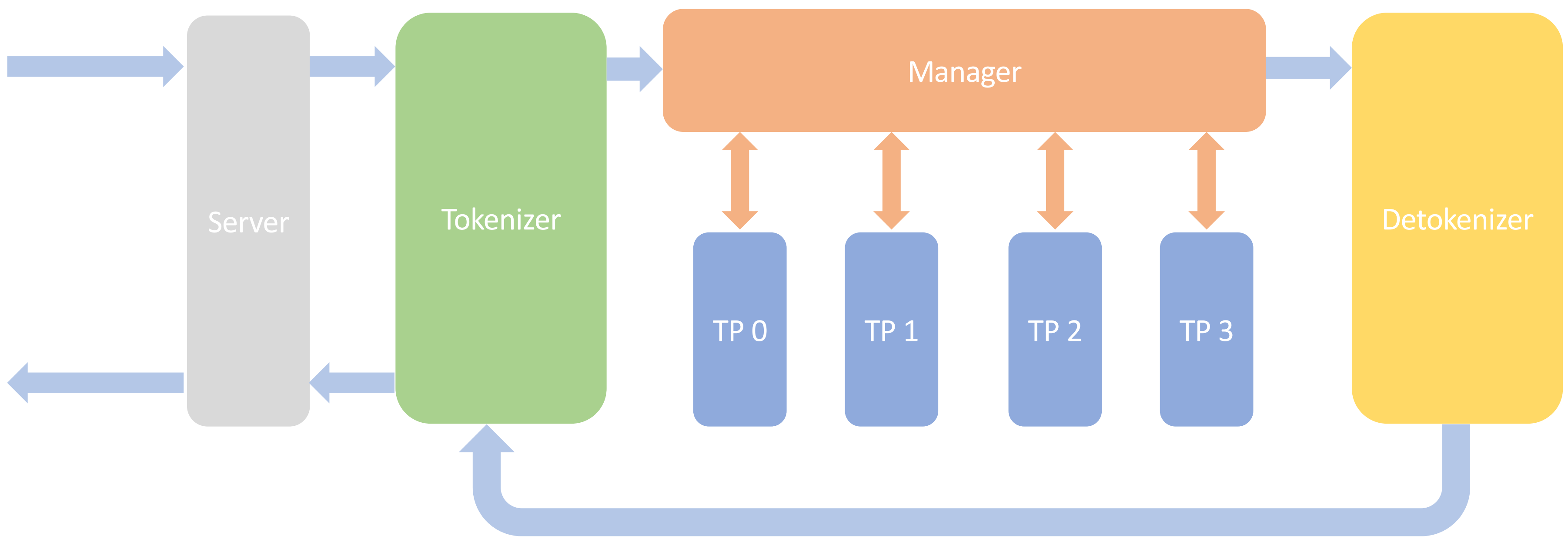
Upper-level Scheduling

now -
2024

Production Stage: research and industry use-cases

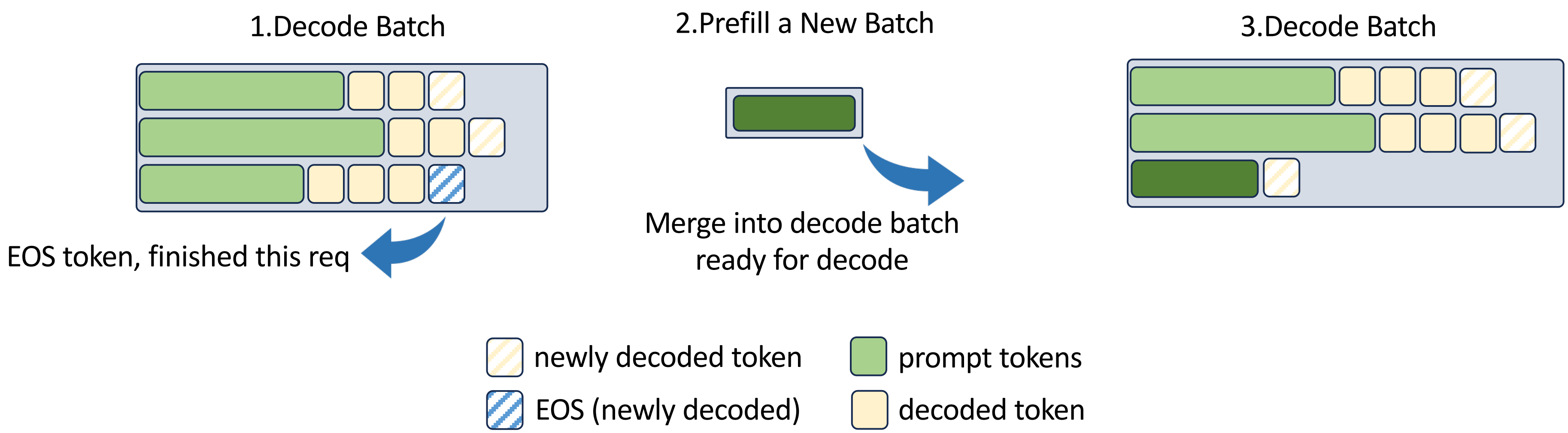
Middle Stage

SGLang Structure: Pipeline



Middle Stage

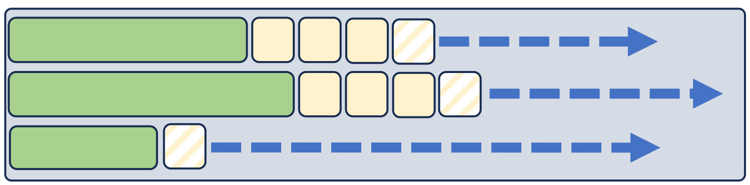
SGLang Structure: Inside TP Worker



How to always keep the batch size large enough?

Middle Stage

Dynamically Adjust the new token ratio estimation

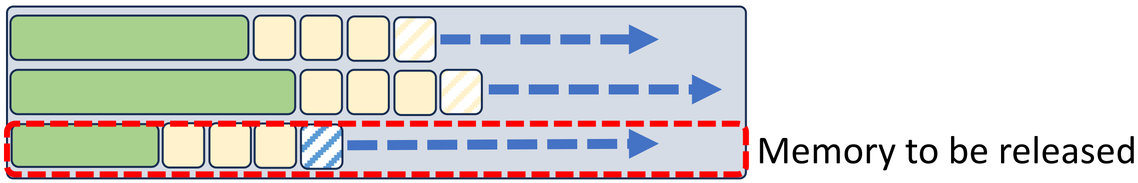


The max context length
decided by max new tokens

- There is a lot of space left in the GPU memory
- We do not need to reserve every token in max new tokens

Middle Stage

Dynamically Adjust the new token ratio estimation



1. The EOS would be earlier than the max new tokens.
2. There are always requests finished and release all the memory.

Only preserve β × max_new_token tokens in advance, and adjust β dynamically.

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Jan. - now 2024

Middle Stage: innovative features and optimizations

RadixAttention

Upper-level Scheduling

Jump-forward decoding

now - 2024

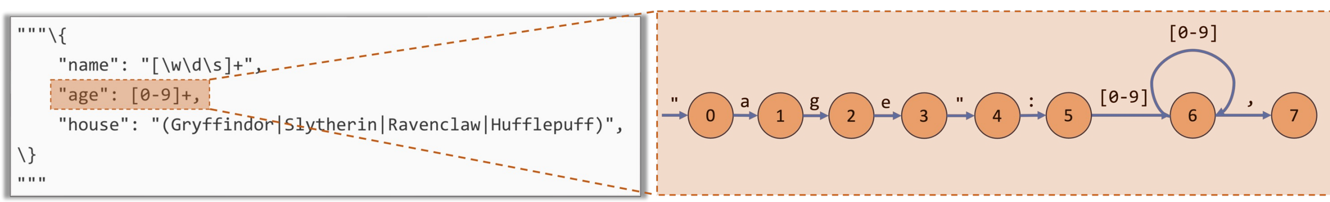
Production Stage: research and industry use-cases

Middle Stage

Jump-forward JSON Decoding

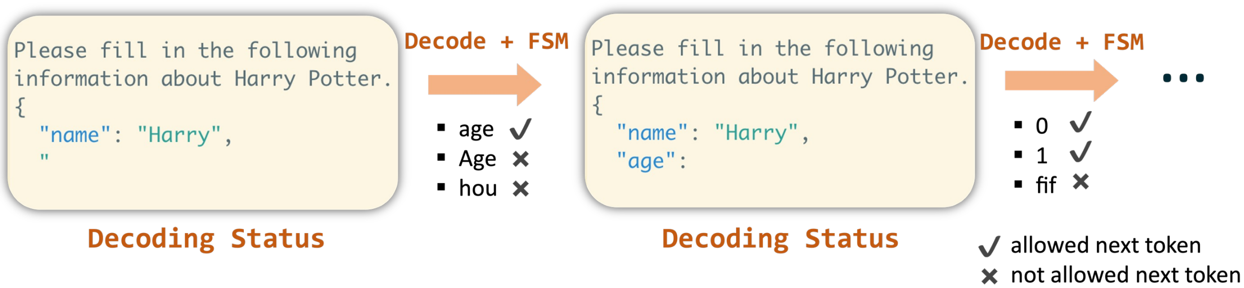
Method

- Analyze the regular expression
- Compress the finite state machine
- Decode multiple tokens at the same time



Regular Expression

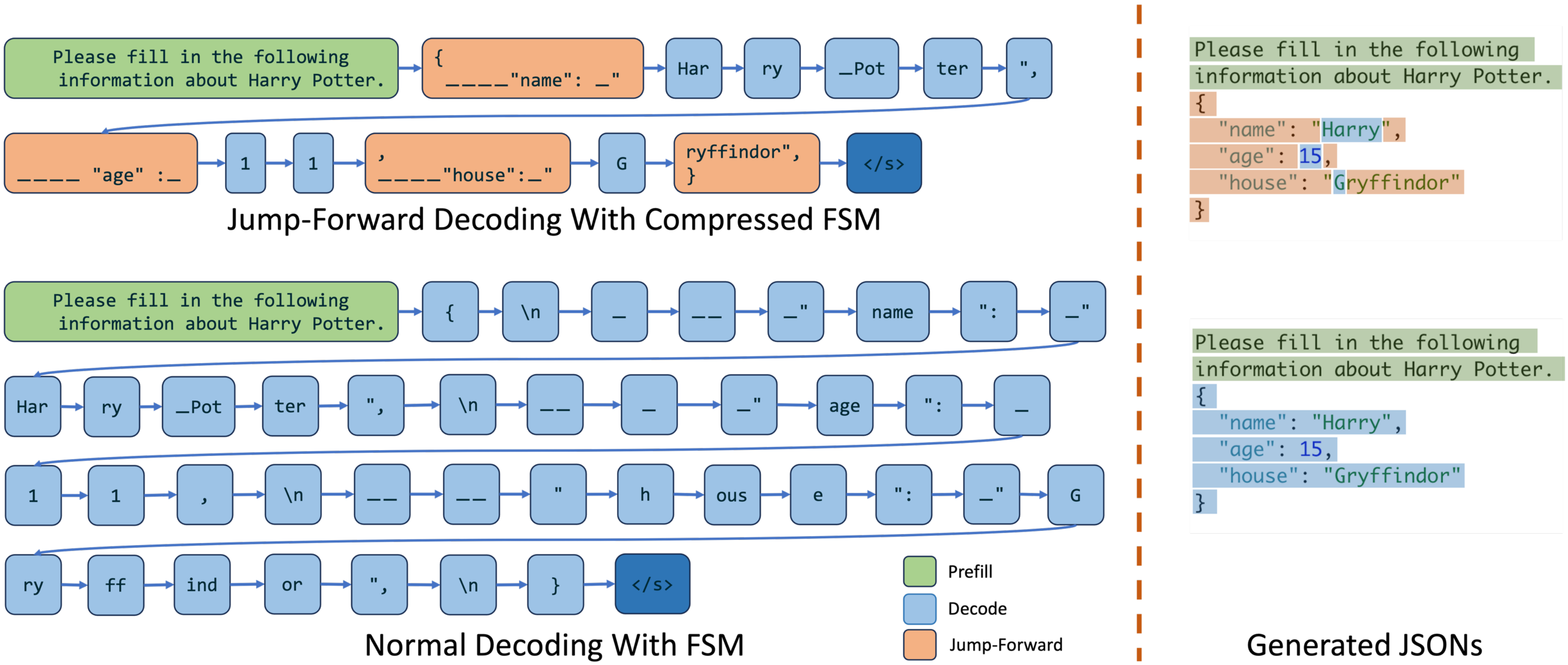
Finite State Machine



Constrained Decoding With Logits Mask

Middle Stage

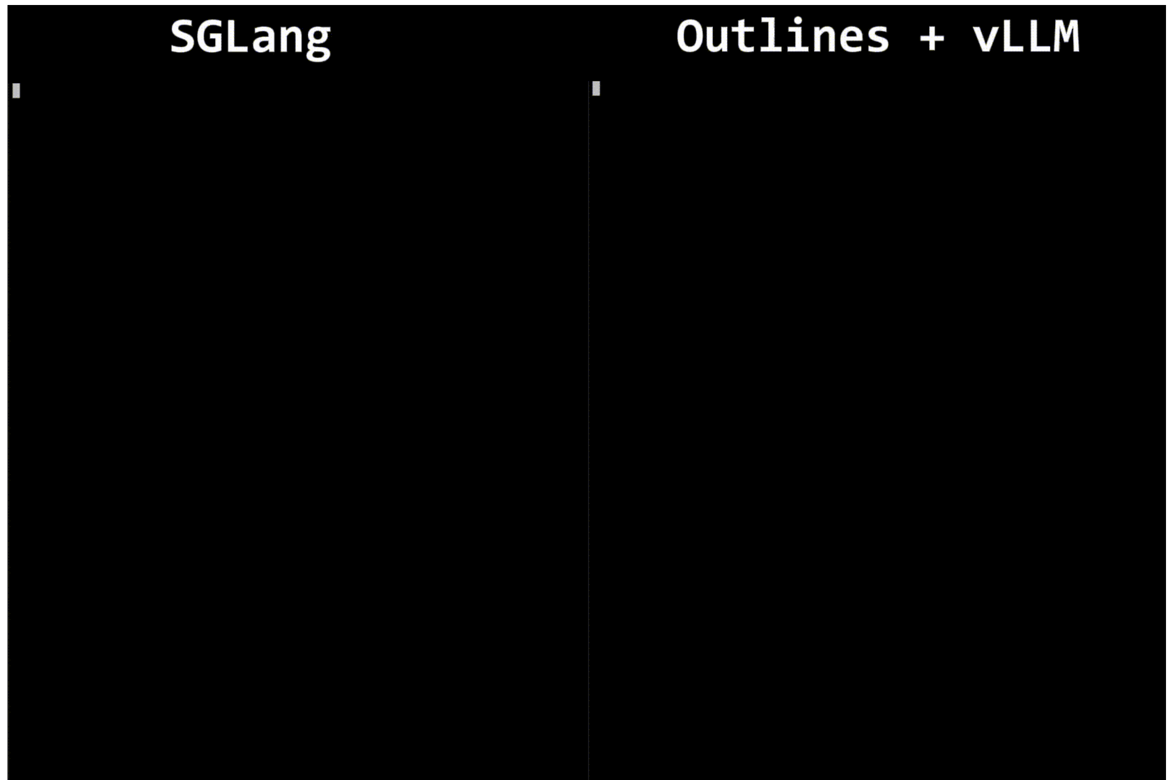
Speedup Regex Guided Generation



Middle Stage

Jump-forward JSON Decoding

Results:
3x faster latency
2.5x higher throughput



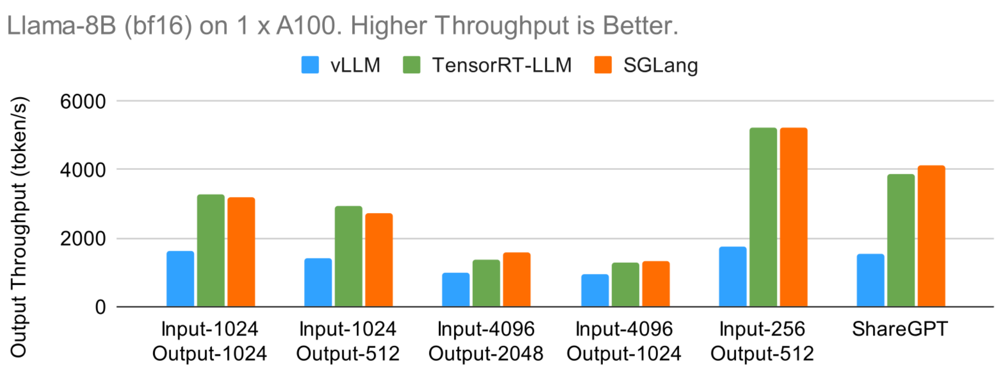
Middle Stage

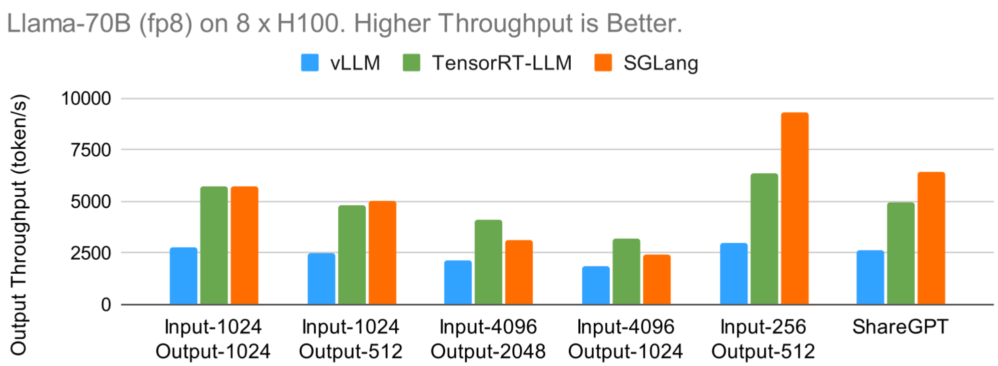
Summary: techniques in SGLang

- RadixAttention
- Jump-forward JSON Decoding
- Torch Compile
- Flashinfer Kernels
- Chunked Prefill
- Continuous Batching
- Token Attention(Paged Attention with page_size = 1)
- CUDA Graph
- Interleave window attention

Middle Stage

SGLang v0.2 Results





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Production Stage: research and industry use-cases

Production Stage

Research and industry use cases

x.ai: Production serving of grok-2 and grok-2-mini on X

Databricks: accelerate research workflow by 3x

LMSys Chatbot Arena: serving vision language models

LLaVA OneVision: serving multi-modal image and video models

ByteDance

Production Stage

Future work

- multi-level cache
- distributed radix attention
- long-context
- speculative decoding
- communication overlapping
- ……

Production Stage

Do the serving engines come to converge on performance?

YES and NO

Basic performance eventually converge

But there are more sophisticated workloads from different scenarios:
RAG systems, agent systems, …

We never forget about the origin of SGLang!
Structured inputs, interactions with different resources, multi-modality, …

Production Stage

Principles in future development

Simplism

Minimalism

Modularity

Ease of use

Development velocity

Performance