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Self-calibration for Language Model Quantization and Pruning

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Abstract

Quantization and pruning are fundamental approaches for model compression, enabling efficient inference for language models. In a post-training setting, state-of-the-art quantization and pruning methods require calibration data, a small set of unlabeled examples. Conventionally, randomly sampled web text is used, aiming to reflect the model training data. However, this poses two key problems: (1) unrepresentative calibration examples can harm model performance, and (2) organizations increasingly avoid releasing model training data. In this paper, we propose self-calibration as a solution. Our approach requires no external data, instead leveraging the model itself to generate synthetic calibration data as a better approximation of the pre-training data distribution. We extensively compare the performance of self-calibration with several baselines, across a variety of models, compression methods, and tasks. Our approach proves consistently competitive in maximizing downstream task performance, frequently outperforming even using real data.

1 Introduction

Large language models (LLMs) trained using vast corpora have delivered remarkable advances across a variety of domains and tasks (Touvron et al., 2023a; Jiang et al., 2023; Gemma Team et al., 2024). However, they demand extensive computational resources for inference (Wu et al., 2022; Luccioni et al., 2023), presenting a limiting factor in their practical use. Consequently, this has prompted the development of an extensive collection of methods to improve inference efficiency (Treviso et al., 2023). In particular, model compression aims to reduce the size of a model yet retain downstream task performance (Wan et al., 2024).

Quantization and pruning have emerged as prominent model compression approaches for LLMs (Gholami et al., 2021; Wan et al., 2024). Pruning removes less important weights from the

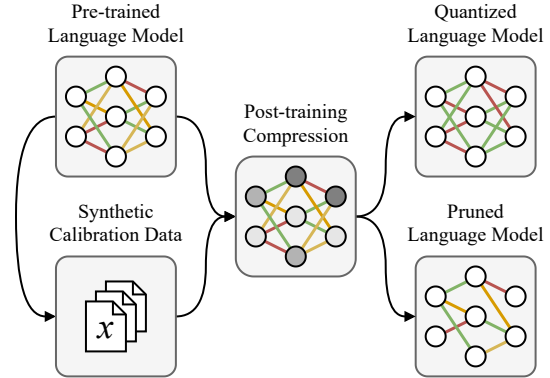


Figure 1: Self-calibration for the post-training quantization and pruning of language models.

model, while quantization represents the weights (and possibly activations) using fewer bits. Both quantization and pruning can be effectively applied in a post-training setting, retaining comparable performance across a range of downstream tasks (Frantar et al., 2023; Frantar and Alistarh, 2023; Sun et al., 2024; Lin et al., 2024).

Post-training quantization and pruning typically depend upon *calibration data*, a small set of unlabeled examples (Nagel et al., 2020; Hubara et al., 2021) used to generate layer activations throughout the model. Conventionally, LLM calibration data consists of randomly sampled web text (Frantar et al., 2023; Frantar and Alistarh, 2023; Sun et al., 2024; Lin et al., 2024), aiming to reflect the model training data distribution.

However, recent work has raised concerns surrounding the impact of calibration data upon LLM compression. Jaiswal et al. (2024) suggest that the careful selection of calibration examples may play an essential role in high-sparsity pruning. Concurrently, Williams and Aletras (2024) demonstrate the influence of calibration data in post-training quantization and pruning. Finally, Zeng et al. (2024) illustrate the importance of linguistically diverse calibration data for multilingual performance.

To further complicate matters, organizations are increasingly reluctant to release model training data or disclose necessary replication details. Table 1 illustrates that although the weights of some state-of-the-art LLMs are openly available, their training data is largely unavailable. This may be due to (1) legal liability concerns arising from data licensing (Eckart de Castilho et al., 2018), and (2) privacy concerns when using proprietary or personal data (Carlini et al., 2021). Moreover, publicly released training data can later become unavailable. For example, The Pile (Gao et al., 2020), is no longer distributed due to copyright violations. The absence of training data raises the question of how representative calibration data can be selected, when the training distribution itself is unknown. This issue is especially relevant for models trained primarily with private datasets, such as Microsoft’s Phi series of models (Gunasekar et al., 2023; Li et al., 2023b).

In this paper, we propose self-calibration as a solution to concerns surrounding the availability and quality of calibration data. Our approach removes the need for external calibration data sources, instead leveraging the model itself to automatically generate synthetic calibration data. We compare our approach to various real and synthetic datasets, including data sampled from a large mixture-of-experts model. Our approach is consistently competitive in maximizing the performance of compressed models, across a variety of models and compression methods. In many cases, we find that self-calibration can outperform even real data.

2 Related Work

2.1 Model Compression

Model compression aims to reduce the size of a model without compromising downstream task performance, therefore reducing the computational resources required for inference (Treviso et al., 2023). Quantization and pruning are two prominent model compression approaches that have been widely applied to LLMs (Wan et al., 2024).

Pruning. The goal of pruning is to remove redundant model weights (LeCun et al., 1989). Pruning often relies upon a fine-tuning step (Han et al., 2015; Sanh et al., 2020), however this is challenging at the scale of LLMs. Alternatively, there have been various efforts towards adapting the Optimal Brain Surgeon (OBS) framework (LeCun et al., 1989; Hassibi et al., 1993) for language model pruning (Frantar et al., 2021; Kurtic et al., 2022; Frantar

Model Family	Open Source	
	Weights	Data
OPT (Zhang et al., 2022)	✓	✓
GPT-4 (OpenAI et al., 2023)	✗	✗
Mistral (Jiang et al., 2023)	✓	✗
Llama 2 (Touvron et al., 2023b)	✓	✗
Falcon (Almazrouei et al., 2023)	✓	✓
Phi-2 (Javaheripi et al., 2023)	✓	✗
Gemini (Gemini Team et al., 2024)	✗	✗
OLMo (Groeneveld et al., 2024)	✓	✓
Claude 3 (Anthropic, 2024)	✗	✗
Gemma (Gemma Team et al., 2024)	✓	✗

Table 1: The training data for state-of-the-art LLMs is rarely available. Models selected according to benchmark performance and ordered by publication date.

and Alistarh, 2022). However, the extensive size of LLMs makes it impractical to apply such methods. SparseGPT (Frantar and Alistarh, 2023) presents an approximate weight reconstruction approach, enabling efficient LLM pruning without compromising performance. Separately, Wanda (Sun et al., 2024) relies on a pruning criterion that does not require second-order information, allowing pruning with a single forward-pass.

Quantization. The aim of quantization is to represent model weights (and potentially activations) using fewer bits. Large magnitude outlier features pose a significant problem for the quantization of LLMs, which can be addressed through holding these in higher precision (Dettmers et al., 2022). However, this approach is less hardware-friendly. Instead, SmoothQuant (Xiao et al., 2023) migrates the difficulty of activation quantization to the weights, which are easier to quantize. AWQ (Lin et al., 2024) presents a hardware-friendly approach for holding a small fraction of the weights in higher precision. In a separate line of work, Frantar and Alistarh (2022) adapt the OBS framework to quantization. GPTQ (Frantar et al., 2023) builds upon this work to enable second-order low-bit quantization for LLMs.

2.2 Calibration Data

In a post-training setting, model compression methods rely upon calibration data (Wan et al., 2024). This consists of a small set of unlabeled examples, used to generate layer activations (Nagel et al., 2020; Hubara et al., 2021). Calibration data for LLMs conventionally consists of text sampled from a curated training dataset (Frantar et al., 2023; Xiao et al., 2023; Frantar and Alistarh, 2023; Sun et al.,

2024; Lin et al., 2024). In practice, the exact model training data may not be publicly available (Table 1). Consequently, large scale web text datasets (e.g. C4; Raffel et al., 2020) are ordinarily used as an approximation of the pre-training distribution. Recent work has questioned the performance impact of the calibration data used for LLM compression (Jaiswal et al., 2024; Williams and Aletras, 2024; Zeng et al., 2024). Synthetic data presents a promising avenue towards alleviating such concerns, including the varied quality of web text examples (Dodge et al., 2021). However, synthetic calibration data for post-training LLM compression has yet to be systematically explored.

Synthetic data for model compression has been previously explored in computer vision, regularly motivated by privacy and security concerns arising from sensitive training images (e.g. medical contexts). Haroush et al. (2020) and Cai et al. (2020) proposed approaches for data-free quantization (Nagel et al., 2019), allowing the model itself to synthesize input data for quantization. Fundamentally, these approaches generate images matching the learned statistics from batch normalization layers (Zhang et al., 2021; Li et al., 2023a), which are notably absent in LLMs (Wang et al., 2022).

2.3 Synthetic Data with Language Models

Synthetic data refers to artificial data that has been created with the aim of imitating real-world data (Liu et al., 2024). In the context of language models, supervised training of classification models with synthetic labeled data has been widely explored (Kumar et al., 2020; Schick and Schütze, 2021; Sahu et al., 2022; Meng et al., 2022; Chung et al., 2023; Li et al., 2023c). Similarly, synthetic data has seen broad use for supervised instruction fine-tuning (Wang et al., 2023; Ding et al., 2023; Xu et al., 2024). Most recently, partially or entirely synthetic datasets have been used for pre-training (Gunasekar et al., 2023; Li et al., 2023b; Maini et al., 2024; Ben Allal et al., 2024), although they may still deviate from the pre-training distribution of other LLMs if used for calibration data selection.

3 Self-calibration

When the exact training data for a model is unavailable, sampling calibration data from an alternative distribution offers an approximation at best. Even if the exact training data is available, individual examples may be noisy and deviate from the over-

all distribution. To address these limitations, we propose self-calibration, a general purpose adaptation to model compression that relies on calibration data from the model itself. Our hypothesis is that sampling from the learned posterior distribution, which approximates the training data, offers more representative calibration examples. In turn, we expect that such calibration examples will enable greater preservation of downstream performance following model compression.

3.1 Synthesizing Calibration Data

We formulate the synthesis of calibration examples as an open-ended text generation problem for a specific language model that we wish to compress. Crucially, we aim to generate synthetic data that is as representative as possible with respect to the training distribution. To achieve this, we refrain from using external data, which introduces assumptions about the training data distribution.

Fundamentally, text generation consists of predicting the next token in a sequence. Formally, we compute a probability distribution over the vocabulary \mathcal{V} for the next token w_i , given context $w_{1:i-1}$. Taking the context as input, a language model generates the output logits, $u_{1:|\mathcal{V}|}$. The probability distribution is then formed by normalizing the logits with the softmax function.

To generate calibration data that reflects the model training data distribution, we condition generation upon only the beginning of sequence token (e.g. `<s>` or `<|start_of_text|>`). We continue to generate tokens until either the end of sequence token or maximum sequence length is reached. In the event that a generation does not reach the desired length, we simply concatenate additional generations. As a prefix or prompt would introduce bias and require external data, we do not directly condition generation. Instead, we rely upon scheduled temperature sampling to guide generation.

3.2 Temperature Scheduling

The softmax function can be additionally parameterized with a temperature t , to control the sharpness of the probability distribution (Ackley et al., 1985; Hinton et al., 2015). A lower temperature concentrates the probability mass on more likely tokens, while a higher temperature disperses the probability mass more uniformly. In practice, the temperature influences characteristics of the generated text, often improving its quality and diversity compared to greedy decoding (Holtzman et al.,

2020; Meister et al., 2023).

When generating text without context, we hypothesize that the first few generated tokens are crucial, influencing the content and coherence. To explore a variety of prefixes, we propose the use of a temperature schedule, inspired by Carlini et al. (2021). Formally, we define the probability of a token as:

$$P(w_i | w_{1:i-1}) = \frac{\exp(u_i/t_i)}{\sum_{j=1}^{|\mathcal{V}|} \exp(u_j/t_i)}$$

where t_i scales linearly from t_{initial} at the start of generation to t_{final} , across n token generation steps:

$$t_i = \begin{cases} t_{\text{initial}} + \frac{i}{n}(t_{\text{final}} - t_{\text{initial}}) & \text{if } i \leq n, \\ t_{\text{final}} & \text{if } i > n. \end{cases}$$

In practice, a temperature schedule enables us to experiment with a variety of generation strategies. For example, we are able to generate a diverse prefix (i.e. $t_{\text{initial}} > 1$) followed by a more confident continuation (i.e. $t_{\text{final}} \leq 1$), as well as a high-likelihood prefix followed by a creative continuation. We provide a comprehensive ablation of these parameters choices in §6.2. For comparison, we also present results with greedy decoding and standard sampling (i.e. without temperature).

4 Experimental Setup

4.1 Baseline Calibration Data

Real data. To evaluate the performance of self-calibration for LLM compression, we first consider real-world datasets that are conventionally used for LLM compression (Frantar et al., 2023).

- **C4** (Raffel et al., 2020): The Colossal Clean Crawled Corpus is routinely used as a source of calibration data (§2.2). This consists of web-text that has been deduplicated and filtered to maximize high-quality natural language text.
- **WikiText** (Merity et al., 2017): The WikiText dataset consists of a high quality encyclopedic text from Wikipedia. Notably, this includes only articles highlighted as ‘Good’ or ‘Featured’ by human editors. The review process assesses accuracy and writing quality, amongst other factors.

Synthetic data. Separately, we compare the performance of self-calibration with synthetic data generated (1) without a language model, and (2) with a substantially larger external model.

- **Vocabulary:** As a simple baseline, we create examples consisting of tokens randomly sampled from the model vocabulary. We assume a uniform distribution over the vocabulary, however we exclude special purpose tokens (e.g. <unk>).
- **Cosmopedia** (Ben Allal et al., 2024): The Cosmopedia dataset consists of a broad range of synthetic text, including textbooks, blog posts, and stories. These were created by prompting Mixtral 8x7B Instruct (Jiang et al., 2024) with a variety of high-quality topics selected from real data.

Sampling. Following convention, we randomly sample 128 calibration examples consisting of 2,048 tokens each (Frantar et al., 2023; Frantar and Alistarh, 2023; Sun et al., 2024). Although the aim of random sampling is to avoid selection bias, it could produce a sample that is less representative of the source dataset. Consequently, we repeat the sampling process to create five distinct calibration sets for each source dataset. We present an ablation of the quantity of calibration data used in §6.1.

Certain models (Gemma, Mistral, and Llama) were trained using multilingual and/or code data, which is reflected when sampling from these models. To enable a fair comparison with our English-only calibration datasets and evaluation tasks, we promote the generation of English-language text for these models. Specifically, we constrain only the first generation step to a pre-defined list of English stop words curated by Honnibal et al. (2020).

4.2 Models

We experiment with popular ‘open source’ LLMs from five different families: (1) **Gemma 2B** (Gemma Team et al., 2024), (2) **Phi-2** (2.7B) (Jawaheripi et al., 2023), (3) **OPT 6.7B** (Zhang et al., 2022), (4) **Mistral 7B** v0.3 (Jiang et al., 2023), and (5) **Llama 3.1 8B** (Dubey et al., 2024).¹

With the exception of OPT, which was pre-trained using only publicly available datasets, limited details surrounding the training data distribution have been disclosed. The training data for all models is reported to include public web documents. However, the training data for Phi-2 notably relies upon a substantial proportion of synthetic data generated with GPT-3.5 (Ouyang et al., 2022).

¹We note that Gemma Team et al. (2024) use a naming scheme that excludes embedding parameters. For comparison, Gemma 2B has 2.5B trainable parameters. We also note that the embedding parameters are shared (Press and Wolf, 2017).

Method	Calibration Dataset		Gemma 2B	Phi-2 2.7B	OPT 6.7B	Mistral 7B	Llama 3.1 8B
-	-	-	60.7	65.8	57.4	67.4	67.8
AWQ	Real	C4	59.5 _{0.2}	65.4 _{0.2}	57.6 _{0.1}	67.1 _{0.0}	66.9 _{0.2}
		WikiText	59.5 _{0.2}	65.4 _{0.2}	57.5 _{0.1}	67.1 _{0.1}	67.1 _{0.1}
	Synthetic	Vocabulary	59.3 _{0.2}	64.5 _{0.2}	56.6 _{0.3}	66.5 _{0.1}	66.0 _{0.3}
		Cosmopedia	59.8 _{0.2}	65.3 _{0.2}	57.6 _{0.1}	67.0 _{0.2}	66.9 _{0.3}
		Self-calibration (Ours)	59.8 _{0.4}	65.4 _{0.2}	57.6 _{0.1}	67.0 _{0.2}	66.6 _{0.3}
GPTQ	Real	C4	58.7 _{0.4}	64.7 _{0.3}	56.8 _{0.2}	66.8 _{0.3}	66.9 _{0.3}
		WikiText	58.6 _{0.3}	64.6 _{0.2}	56.9 _{0.1}	66.9 _{0.3}	66.6 _{0.3}
	Synthetic	Vocabulary	57.9 _{0.3}	64.3 _{0.2}	56.6 _{0.3}	66.0 _{0.1}	65.7 _{0.1}
		Cosmopedia	58.5 _{0.3}	64.3 _{0.1}	56.8 _{0.1}	66.6 _{0.2}	66.9 _{0.1}
		Self-calibration (Ours)	59.9 _{0.3}	65.0 _{0.3}	56.9 _{0.2}	65.9 _{0.2}	66.1 _{0.3}
SparseGPT	Real	C4	49.7 _{0.8}	54.3 _{0.3}	52.8 _{0.2}	57.3 _{0.3}	54.8 _{0.3}
		WikiText	48.3 _{0.2}	53.3 _{0.5}	51.6 _{0.2}	55.5 _{0.3}	52.6 _{0.4}
	Synthetic	Vocabulary	43.4 _{0.3}	50.1 _{0.2}	47.7 _{0.2}	53.0 _{0.4}	47.3 _{0.4}
		Cosmopedia	47.7 _{0.3}	52.3 _{0.2}	50.9 _{0.2}	55.1 _{0.3}	50.9 _{0.3}
		Self-calibration (Ours)	50.8 _{0.2}	56.4 _{0.3}	52.7 _{0.3}	56.8 _{0.3}	53.8 _{0.4}
Wanda	Real	C4	44.2 _{0.2}	50.4 _{0.4}	50.6 _{0.2}	53.7 _{0.3}	49.0 _{0.3}
		WikiText	44.8 _{0.4}	49.9 _{0.2}	49.2 _{0.2}	53.4 _{0.2}	49.2 _{0.1}
	Synthetic	Vocabulary	42.1 _{0.4}	47.0 _{0.3}	43.2 _{0.1}	48.4 _{0.2}	44.7 _{0.3}
		Cosmopedia	44.5 _{0.2}	49.4 _{0.4}	48.7 _{0.2}	52.7 _{0.2}	47.7 _{0.2}
		Self-calibration (Ours)	45.2 _{0.3}	51.5 _{0.7}	50.7 _{0.2}	53.5 _{0.1}	49.1 _{0.1}

Table 2: Average task accuracy across five calibration sets for all models, with standard deviation denoted in subscript. **Highlighted** values indicate that self-calibration (ours) matches or exceeds the performance of all synthetic datasets. **Bold** values additionally indicate that self-calibration matches or exceeds the highest performing dataset overall, including the real datasets. Self-calibration temperature is fixed at 1.0 to enable fair comparison.

4.3 Model Compression

As it is not possible to experiment with every existing model compression approach, we select four of the most widely adopted methods. We report the implementation details in Appendix A and complete hyperparameter selection in Appendix C.

Quantization. For quantization, we trial **AWQ** (Lin et al., 2024) and **GPTQ** (Frantar et al., 2023). In both cases, we use 4-bit weight quantization, which sees minimal performance degradation while enabling efficient inference (Frantar et al., 2024).

Pruning. For pruning, we employ **SparseGPT** (Frantar and Alistarh, 2023) and **Wanda** (Sun et al., 2024). In both cases, we focus on the 2:4 semi-structured (50%) sparsity setting, which enables inference speedups on GPUs (Mishra et al., 2021).

4.4 Evaluation Tasks

To offer an impartial selection of evaluation tasks, we adopt all zero-shot tasks used in the original work to evaluate AWQ, GPTQ, SparseGPT, and Wanda. Namely, ARC (easy and challenge sets) (Clark et al., 2018), BoolQ (Clark et al., 2019), HellaSwag (Zellers et al., 2019), LAMBADA (Paperno et al., 2016), OpenBookQA (Banerjee et al., 2019), PIQA (Bisk et al., 2020), RTE (Dagan et al.,

2006), StoryCloze (Mostafazadeh et al., 2016), and WinoGrande (Sakaguchi et al., 2021).

5 Results

Table 2 presents the average performance across all downstream tasks (§4.4) for every model tested (§4.2).² For self-calibration, we set t_{initial} and t_{final} as 1.0 (i.e. temperature sampling), to enable a fair comparison between models. However, we emphasize that the careful selection of these parameters can offer further performance improvements. We provide a deeper analysis on the impact of the temperature schedule in §6.2.

Self-calibration outperforms other synthetic datasets. We first observe that self-calibration matches or exceeds other synthetic datasets in 17 out of 20 instances. For example, when quantizing Gemma 2B with GPTQ, self-calibration records a mean accuracy of 59.9, compared to 58.5 for Cosmopedia and 57.9 with random vocabulary. Similarly, when pruning Llama 3.1 8B with SparseGPT, self-calibration offers a 2.9 point increase in mean accuracy compared to Cosmopedia (53.8 versus 50.9). This suggests that *self-calibration may produce calibration data that are more representative*

²For detailed task performance please see Appendix D

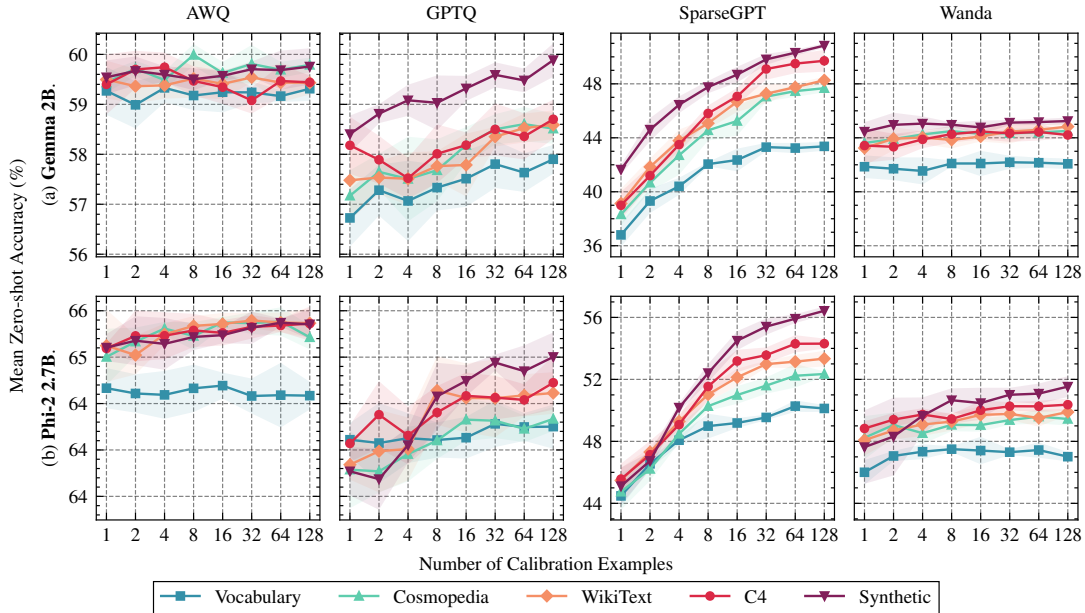


Figure 2: The mean zero-shot accuracy when compressing Gemma 2B and Phi-2 with each method. We present the mean value and standard deviation (shaded) across five distinct calibration sets sampled from each data source.

of the training distribution of each model, compared to using other synthetic datasets.

Self-calibration can outperform real world-data.

Our results show that for Phi-2, Gemma 2B, and OPT 6.7B, self-calibration achieves the highest mean accuracy compared to all other datasets in all but one instance. The only exception is when pruning OPT 6.7B with SparseGPT, where self-calibration ranks second to C4 (52.7 with self-calibration versus 52.8 with C4). With Mistral 7B and Llama 3.1 8B, we observe that despite self-calibration not outperforming real data, performance is as competitive with real data as Cosmopedia (i.e. is comparable or outperforms Cosmopedia in five out of eight instances). These outcomes suggest that *using self-calibration for model compression, results in downstream performance that is at least comparable to that of real data.*

Pruning benefits the most from self-calibration.

Across all models and both pruning methods, self-calibration results in higher mean accuracy compared to other synthetic data. For example, when pruning Llama 3.1 8B with Wanda, self-calibration is only second to WikiText by a 0.1 point difference (49.1 compared to 49.2 with WikiText) whilst also being 1.4 points higher than Cosmopedia.

We also observe that quantization methods are less sensitive to the calibration data, making the dataset choice less critical. For example, the difference between the best and worst performing cal-

ibration data source for Gemma 2B is 0.6% with AWQ and 2.0% with GPTQ. In contrast, there is a range of 7.5% with SparseGPT and 3.2% with Wanda. We note that this corroborates earlier findings from Williams and Aletras (2024).

Random vocabulary consistently underachieves.

For every model and compression method, we observe that random calibration data (i.e. Vocabulary) produces the lowest performance. In comparison to C4, compressing Phi-2 with this random synthetic calibration data degrades performance by 0.9% for AWQ, 0.5% for GPTQ, 4.2% for SparseGPT, and 3.4% for Wanda. This illustrates that purely random synthetic data is suboptimal for calibration, even for quantization which has lower sensitivity.

6 Analysis

6.1 Calibration Data Quantity Ablation

Methodology. To assess how the quantity of calibration data impacts performance, we experiment with calibration sets of different sizes. For each calibration set, we trial subsets of n examples, where $n \in \{1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128\}$. We repeat this process across five distinct calibration sets sampled from each source of calibration data.³

Self-calibration may be more sample efficient.

In the case of pruning, self-calibration may offer

³We perform this ablation using smaller models (Gemma 2B and Phi-2) due to computational resource constraints.

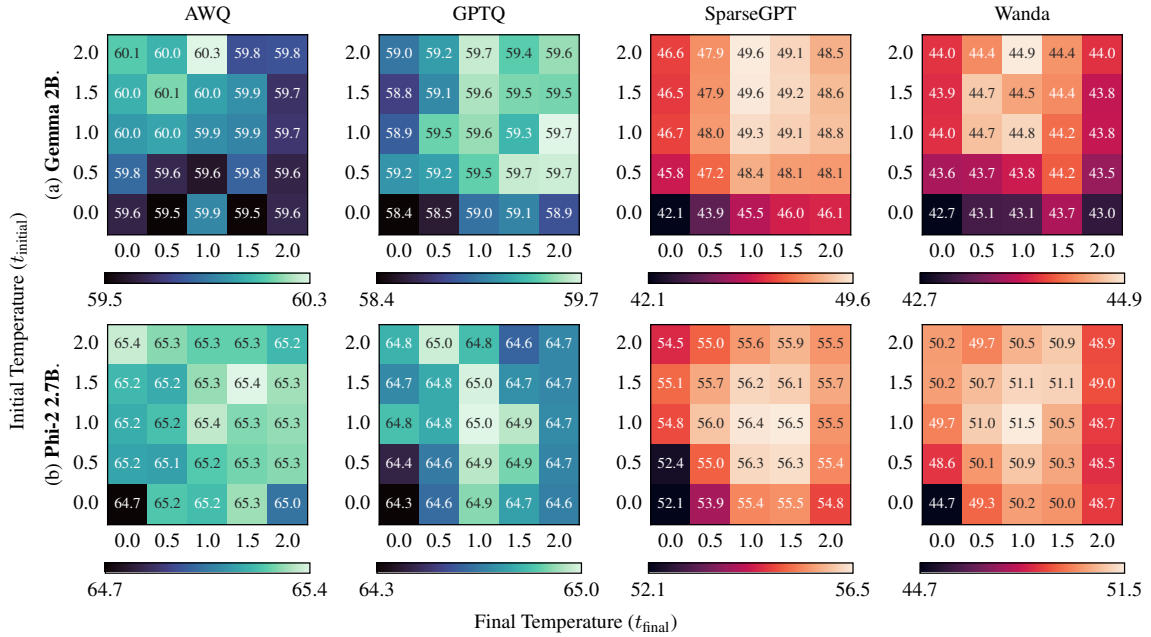


Figure 3: A joint parameter search for t_{initial} and t_{final} using $n = 10$ (§3.1) with Gemma 2B and Phi-2. We report the mean task accuracy across five distinct calibration sets.

comparable or greater performance with fewer examples. Ie with Phi-2 and SparseGPT, using 16 calibration examples achieves a mean accuracy of 54.5 compared to 54.3 with 128 examples of C4. While the same trend is visible for GPTQ, the performance margin between data sources is too small to reach the same conclusion. Data efficiency has the additional benefit of reducing the computational cost of compression (Frantar and Alistarh, 2023), i.e. enabling compression with fewer forward passes or the use of a larger batch size.

6.2 Sampling Strategy Ablation

Methodology. To investigate how the parameters of our sampling strategy (§3.1) impact performance, we explore a broad range of values: $t_{\text{initial}}, t_{\text{final}} \in \{0.0, 0.5, 1.0, 1.5, 2.0\}$. We emphasize that certain subsets of these values are equivalent to several standard decoding strategies:

- **Greedy decoding.** When both $t_{\text{initial}} = 0$ and $t_{\text{final}} = 0$, this is equivalent to selecting the token with the highest probability at every timestep.
- **Standard sampling.** Using a combination of $t_{\text{initial}} = 1$ and $t_{\text{final}} = 1$ is equivalent to applying softmax without a temperature parameter.
- **Temperature sampling.** When $t_{\text{initial}} = t_{\text{final}}$, a constant temperature is maintained throughout generation, equivalent to temperature sampling.

Sampling strategy can be influential for pruning.

Figure 3 presents the influence of the sampling strategy parameters upon mean task accuracy. For SparseGPT and Wanda, the careful selection of sampling can offer improved performance. For example, Gemma 2B sees elevated performance when using a higher initial temperature and moderate final temperature. Conversely, using both a low initial temperature and final temperature for generation leads to substantially lower performance.

Selecting sampling parameters is not essential.

We observe that it is possible to achieve within 0.4% of the maximum performance through using only standard sampling (i.e. $t_{\text{initial}} = t_{\text{final}} = 1$). This suggests that self-calibration can achieve reasonable performance with little attention towards the specific parameters used. Consequently, we suspect that using the model itself to generate calibration data is a relatively stable and reliable method.

6.3 Calibration Data Analysis

Methodology. The content and style of text can vary markedly between calibration data sources. Consequently, we seek to analyze how the text characteristics differ between them. To this end, we employ a variety of automatic metrics to assess various text characteristics of the calibration sets.

- **Perplexity.** As an indirect indicator of text quality, we calculate the average perplexity across

Dataset	PPL	Rep.	Cov.	Div.	Zipf
Phi-2					
C4	13.01 _{0.59}	0.65 _{0.01}	0.44 _{0.01}	0.63 _{0.01}	1.16 _{0.02}
WikiText	10.32 _{0.10}	0.65 _{0.00}	0.40 _{0.01}	0.65 _{0.00}	1.12 _{0.01}
Vocabulary	1.98×10^5	0.02 _{0.00}	0.99 _{0.00}	0.87 _{0.00}	0.66 _{0.00}
Cosmopedia	4.32 _{0.08}	0.59 _{0.01}	0.40 _{0.01}	0.65 _{0.00}	1.16 _{0.01}
Self-calibration	4.40 _{0.09}	0.65 _{0.00}	0.31 _{0.00}	0.57 _{0.00}	1.31 _{0.00}
Llama 3.1 8B					
Dataset	PPL	Rep.	Cov.	Div.	Zipf
C4	8.65 _{0.50}	0.64 _{0.00}	0.18 _{0.00}	0.62 _{0.01}	1.16 _{0.02}
WikiText	6.75 _{0.11}	0.65 _{0.00}	0.16 _{0.00}	0.65 _{0.00}	1.12 _{0.01}
Vocabulary	7.61×10^5	0.01 _{0.00}	0.87 _{0.00}	0.91 _{0.00}	0.49 _{0.00}
Cosmopedia	3.37 _{0.16}	0.55 _{0.02}	0.18 _{0.01}	0.65 _{0.01}	1.17 _{0.01}
Self-calibration	6.29 _{0.09}	0.66 _{0.00}	0.15 _{0.00}	0.58 _{0.00}	1.24 _{0.00}

Table 3: Text characteristics for all calibration sets for Phi-2 and Llama 3.1 8B, with standard deviation denoted in subscript: perplexity (PPL), repetitions (Rep.), vocabulary coverage (Cov.), n -gram diversity (Div.) and Zipf’s coefficient (Zipf).

examples in the calibration set for a given model.

- **Repetitions.** Following Welleck et al. (2020), we report the average fraction of repeated tokens per sequence. More formally, this is computed across each sequence w of length L in dataset \mathcal{D} , where \mathbb{I} denotes the binary indicator function:

$$R = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{D}|L} \sum_{w \in \mathcal{D}} \sum_{i=1}^L \mathbb{I}(w_i \in w_{1:i-1})$$

- **Vocabulary coverage.** To assess the lexical diversity of the calibration sets, we report the vocabulary coverage. We define this as the ratio between the subword tokens present in the calibration set and in the model vocabulary.
- **N-gram diversity.** Following Meister et al. (2023), we report the average fraction of unique n -grams ($n \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$) in the calibration set.
- **Zipf’s coefficient.** Finally, we examine the extent to which the calibration set follows Zipf’s law. Specifically, we calculate the fit of the exponent corresponding to the calibration set. Natural language text tends to have a value close to one.

Self-calibration data may be more consistent.

Table 3 presents the results for each text metric across all datasets for Gemma 2B and Llama 3.1 8B.⁴ Compared to real data sources (i.e. C4 and WikiText), self-calibration data differs across various metrics. For example with Llama 3.1 8B, self-calibration data has a lower vocabulary coverage

⁴We observe similar results in other models (Appendix E).

#	Generated Text
Phi-2	
1	< endoftext >The World Bank today approved US\$5.7 million in fast-track financing to support the United Republic of Sudan’s plans...
2	< endoftext >There are many considerations when getting a new pet. What animal is best for the family? What will work with our...
3	< endoftext >A new study shows most dogs are happy to see their humans even if they’ve been away for only an hour. Do you...
Mistral 7B	
1	< endoftext >What with the heat of the summer and a seemingly endless amount of time spent outside in awe at the scenery and the local wildlife...
2	< endoftext >As usual, there was a lot to like and a lot to dislike about last week’s collection of new comic books. The biggest winner in this...
3	< endoftext >One thing I miss from my former life, or so my wife has pointed out on a couple of occasions, is that I used to be an avid reader. I...

Table 4: The starting segment from the first three self-calibration examples generated using Phi-2 and Mistral 7B (t_{initial} and t_{final} both set to 1.0).

(0.15 versus 0.16-0.18) and n -gram diversity (0.58 versus 0.62-0.65), indicating lower text diversity. However, self-calibration data has a comparable fraction of repetitions (0.66 versus 0.65). In combination with a higher Zipf’s coefficient (1.24 versus 1.12-1.17), it is reasonable to conclude that self-calibration data is less diverse and more uniform.

Self-calibration data is ordinarily coherent. Table 4 presents self-calibration examples for Phi-2 and Mistral 7B. For brevity, we select the first three examples from the first calibration set. We observe that the self-generated text is typically coherent and fluent for both models. Moreover, the content is routinely semantically plausible. These properties are somewhat supported by the perplexity results in Table 3, with self-calibration demonstrating substantially lower perplexity than real data.

7 Conclusion

In this paper, we proposed self-calibration for LLM quantization and pruning as a solution to mitigate concerns about the availability, quality and representativeness of training data. Our proposed approach is intuitive and requires no external data sources, relying on the model itself. We empirically demonstrated that self-calibration maintains comparable or better downstream task performance across a variety of models and compression methods. Surprisingly, our results also revealed that self-calibration can enable higher downstream task performance than using real data. We hope that our study will inspire further work on the application of synthetic data to LLM compression.

Limitations

In this study, we experimented with English models and evaluation tasks, and therefore only English calibration data. However, Zeng et al. (2024) illustrate the importance of multilingual calibration data for the compression of multilingual models. Although we anticipate that our approach will generalize to multilingual models, we hope to explore this matter further in a future work.

Ethical Considerations

Language models are capable of generating text that is incorrect, biased, and harmful (Weidinger et al., 2022). To compress a given model, our approach requires the unsupervised generation of calibration data using the model. Consequently, the calibration data may contain material that is problematic. However, we note that our approach is unlikely to introduce new safety issues in the compressed model. For the generated calibration data to contain problematic content, it must have already been encoded in the weights of the original model.

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A Infrastructure

We use the model implementations and prepared datasets from the Hugging Face Transformers (Wolf et al., 2020) and Datasets (Lhoest et al., 2021) libraries, respectively. For pruning with SparseGPT and Wanda, we adopt the implementation from Sun et al. (2024). For quantization with AWQ and GPTQ, we use the NVIDIA TensorRT Model Optimizer and AutoGPTQ libraries, respectively.⁵ To enable reproducible model evaluations, we use the EleutherAI Language Model Evaluation Harness (Gao et al., 2023). All experiments are conducted using a single NVIDIA A100 GPU.

⁵See <https://nvidia.github.io/TensorRT-Model-Optimizer> and <https://github.com/AutoGPTQ/AutoGPTQ>.

B Evaluation Datasets

Table 5 lists the number of examples used from the relevant split in each evaluation task. This is either the validation or test split, as implemented by Gao et al. (2023).

Dataset	# Examples
ARC-Easy (Clark et al., 2018)	2,376
ARC-Challenge (Clark et al., 2018)	1,172
BoolQ (Clark et al., 2019)	3,270
HellaSwag (Zellers et al., 2019)	10,042
LAMBADA (Paperno et al., 2016)	5,153
OpenBookQA (Banerjee et al., 2019)	500
PIQA (Bisk et al., 2020)	1,838
RTE (Dagan et al., 2006)	277
StoryCloze (Mostafazadeh et al., 2016)	1,511
WinoGrande (Sakaguchi et al., 2021)	1,267

Table 5: Number of examples in each evaluation task.

C Hyperparameters

Table 6 presents the hyperparameters used in all experiments. For SparseGPT and Wanda, we adopt the hyperparameters used in the original work. For AWQ and GPTQ, we use the hyperparameters from the respective implementations, NVIDIA TensorRT Model Optimizer and AutoGPTQ (§A).

Method	Hyperparameter	Value
AWQ	Bits per Weight	4
	Clip Step Size	0.05
	Group Size	128
	Maximum Clip Tokens	64
	Minimum Clip Ratio	0.5
	Scale Step Size	0.1
GPTQ	Bits per Weight	4
	Dampening	0.01
	Descending Activation Order	Yes
	Group Size	128
	Symmetric Quantization	Yes
SparseGPT	True Sequential Quantization	Yes
	Dampening	0.01
	Group Size	128
Wanda	Sparsity	2:4
	Group Size	1
	Sparsity	2:4

Table 6: The hyperparameters used in all experiments.

D Complete Results

In addition to the summarized results (Table 2), we present the task performance across compression methods and calibration data sources for each model: Gemma 2B (Table 7), Phi 2 (Table 8), OPT

6.7B (Table 9), Mistral 7B (Table 10), and Llama 3.1 8B (Table 11).

E Calibration Data Analysis

Supplementary to the text characteristics results for Phi-2 and Llama 3.1 8B presented in §6.3, we present the results for Gemma 2B (Table 12), OPT 6.7B (Table 13), Mistral 7B (Table 14). Finally, we additionally present self-calibration examples for the remaining models (Gemma 2B, OPT 6.7B, and Llama 3.1 8B) in Table 15.

Method	Dataset	ARC-e	ARC-c	BoolQ	HS	LMBD	OBQA	PIQA	RTE	SC	WG	Mean
-	-	74.1	40.4	69.7	52.8	58.3	30.8	77.2	64.3	74.9	64.6	60.7
AWQ	C4	73.4 _{0.1}	39.4 _{0.6}	67.8 _{0.3}	51.4 _{0.1}	59.6 _{1.1}	29.2 _{0.6}	76.8 _{0.1}	59.1 _{2.3}	74.0 _{0.4}	64.1 _{0.4}	59.5 _{0.2}
	WikiText	73.4 _{0.4}	39.5 _{0.8}	68.0 _{1.5}	51.5 _{0.0}	59.1 _{1.2}	29.4 _{0.6}	76.6 _{0.3}	58.6 _{1.7}	74.0 _{0.3}	64.7 _{0.5}	59.5 _{0.2}
	Vocabulary	72.1 _{0.3}	39.6 _{0.4}	67.1 _{1.0}	51.2 _{0.1}	57.3 _{0.1}	29.0 _{0.8}	75.9 _{0.5}	61.2 _{1.3}	74.5 _{0.2}	64.5 _{0.2}	59.3 _{0.2}
	Cosmopedia Self-calibration	73.4 _{0.4} 73.3 _{0.2}	39.5 _{0.6} 40.6 _{0.4}	68.3 _{0.9} 68.6 _{0.2}	51.3 _{0.1} 51.9 _{0.2}	60.5 _{0.8} 59.5 _{0.6}	29.4 _{1.0} 28.8 _{0.2}	76.8 _{0.2} 76.6 _{0.3}	60.0 _{1.5} 60.5 _{3.0}	74.1 _{0.3} 74.1 _{0.3}	64.7 _{0.5} 63.6 _{0.3}	59.8 _{0.2} 59.8 _{0.4}
GPTQ	C4	72.8 _{0.7}	38.4 _{0.8}	68.7 _{1.4}	50.9 _{0.2}	54.9 _{1.7}	27.8 _{1.1}	76.1 _{0.3}	60.6 _{2.8}	73.6 _{0.4}	63.1 _{0.7}	58.7 _{0.4}
	WikiText	71.3 _{0.8}	37.2 _{0.4}	67.3 _{0.8}	51.3 _{0.2}	55.3 _{0.3}	29.0 _{0.9}	76.0 _{0.4}	61.8 _{1.8}	73.4 _{0.4}	63.4 _{0.4}	58.6 _{0.3}
	Vocabulary	70.8 _{1.0}	36.3 _{0.7}	69.1 _{0.7}	50.3 _{0.3}	53.2 _{1.8}	29.1 _{0.9}	75.9 _{0.3}	58.3 _{1.4}	72.3 _{0.5}	63.6 _{0.7}	57.9 _{0.3}
	Cosmopedia Self-calibration	72.8 _{0.9} 73.5 _{0.8}	38.1 _{0.5} 40.0 _{0.4}	68.1 _{0.6} 68.8 _{0.8}	51.2 _{0.4} 52.0 _{0.1}	54.0 _{1.2} 57.6 _{1.2}	29.2 _{2.1} 29.6 _{0.7}	75.3 _{0.6} 76.6 _{0.3}	59.0 _{2.3} 61.7 _{2.5}	73.9 _{0.5} 74.0 _{0.5}	63.6 _{1.0} 65.1 _{0.7}	58.5 _{0.3} 59.9 _{0.3}
SparseGPT	C4	60.2 _{1.1}	25.9 _{1.2}	63.4 _{0.9}	39.9 _{0.3}	39.7 _{2.2}	21.3 _{1.2}	70.0 _{0.3}	55.7 _{2.9}	64.0 _{0.3}	57.0 _{1.1}	49.7 _{0.8}
	WikiText	58.0 _{0.9}	25.5 _{0.6}	62.8 _{0.6}	37.6 _{0.1}	37.0 _{1.4}	20.8 _{0.9}	67.2 _{0.5}	55.7 _{0.5}	62.3 _{0.5}	55.8 _{1.0}	48.3 _{0.2}
	Vocabulary	52.0 _{0.9}	21.1 _{0.5}	61.8 _{0.4}	33.5 _{0.1}	16.5 _{0.4}	18.1 _{0.9}	66.5 _{0.6}	53.0 _{0.5}	56.5 _{0.3}	54.6 _{1.1}	43.4 _{0.3}
	Cosmopedia Self-calibration	60.1 _{1.0} 63.0 _{0.5}	25.7 _{0.7} 28.0 _{0.8}	62.2 _{0.1} 62.7 _{0.3}	37.8 _{0.3} 40.5 _{0.2}	29.6 _{1.4} 38.1 _{1.2}	19.8 _{0.9} 22.1 _{0.5}	68.1 _{0.5} 70.7 _{0.7}	56.3 _{1.9} 57.5 _{1.5}	61.2 _{0.6} 66.7 _{0.2}	55.9 _{0.9} 59.0 _{0.7}	47.7 _{0.3} 50.8 _{0.2}
Wanda	C4	54.9 _{0.6}	24.6 _{0.6}	53.7 _{2.8}	36.4 _{0.1}	19.8 _{0.3}	17.0 _{0.2}	66.5 _{0.5}	54.6 _{1.6}	59.1 _{0.3}	55.5 _{0.3}	44.2 _{0.2}
	WikiText	54.4 _{0.5}	23.9 _{0.5}	60.6 _{1.4}	35.8 _{0.2}	20.2 _{0.9}	17.2 _{0.9}	66.4 _{0.2}	55.6 _{1.4}	58.9 _{0.3}	55.4 _{0.5}	44.8 _{0.4}
	Vocabulary	51.0 _{0.4}	22.1 _{0.3}	54.4 _{2.7}	33.8 _{0.1}	13.4 _{0.4}	16.3 _{1.1}	65.8 _{0.2}	51.6 _{1.8}	57.7 _{0.3}	54.7 _{0.6}	42.1 _{0.4}
	Cosmopedia Self-calibration	54.4 _{0.8} 56.4 _{0.2}	24.4 _{0.6} 25.6 _{0.4}	62.1 _{0.2} 51.8 _{1.4}	35.8 _{0.2} 37.2 _{0.1}	16.6 _{0.3} 23.1 _{0.3}	16.8 _{0.6} 19.6 _{0.5}	66.4 _{0.5} 67.5 _{0.4}	55.1 _{0.5} 53.9 _{1.0}	57.5 _{0.3} 61.2 _{0.3}	55.9 _{0.6} 56.1 _{0.6}	44.5 _{0.2} 45.2 _{0.3}

Table 7: Task accuracy across five calibration sets for Gemma 2B, with standard deviation denoted in subscript.

Method	Dataset	ARC-e	ARC-c	BoolQ	HS	LMBD	OBQA	PIQA	RTE	SC	WG	Mean
-	-	79.8	53.0	83.4	55.8	49.8	40.2	78.6	62.5	79.3	75.8	65.8
AWQ	C4	80.2 _{0.3}	51.7 _{0.4}	82.3 _{0.2}	54.8 _{0.1}	47.6 _{0.4}	39.8 _{0.6}	78.9 _{0.3}	65.5 _{0.7}	77.7 _{0.3}	75.8 _{0.6}	65.4 _{0.2}
	WikiText	80.4 _{0.2}	51.4 _{0.7}	83.1 _{0.2}	54.6 _{0.1}	47.1 _{0.5}	39.0 _{0.8}	78.9 _{0.1}	65.1 _{1.2}	77.7 _{0.2}	76.2 _{0.4}	65.4 _{0.2}
	Vocabulary	80.1 _{0.2}	50.8 _{0.4}	78.7 _{0.5}	54.0 _{0.1}	45.9 _{0.3}	39.5 _{0.8}	78.6 _{0.4}	65.9 _{1.3}	76.6 _{0.2}	75.4 _{0.7}	64.5 _{0.2}
	Cosmopedia Self-calibration	80.2 _{0.2} 80.6 _{0.3}	51.0 _{0.5} 51.1 _{0.3}	81.7 _{0.5} 82.9 _{0.1}	54.7 _{0.1} 54.7 _{0.1}	46.8 _{0.1} 47.5 _{0.2}	39.5 _{0.6} 39.3 _{0.3}	78.3 _{0.0} 78.1 _{0.2}	66.8 _{1.4} 65.8 _{0.8}	77.7 _{0.2} 78.1 _{0.5}	75.8 _{0.6} 75.6 _{0.7}	65.3 _{0.2} 65.4 _{0.2}
GPTQ	C4	79.6 _{0.1}	50.9 _{0.8}	82.3 _{0.7}	54.5 _{0.1}	46.8 _{0.6}	38.9 _{0.7}	78.4 _{0.3}	62.1 _{1.6}	78.2 _{0.4}	75.6 _{0.9}	64.7 _{0.3}
	WikiText	79.5 _{0.3}	50.4 _{0.6}	80.8 _{0.6}	54.2 _{0.1}	46.7 _{0.4}	39.1 _{0.7}	78.0 _{0.6}	64.0 _{1.3}	78.0 _{0.4}	75.3 _{0.6}	64.6 _{0.2}
	Vocabulary	79.3 _{0.3}	50.3 _{0.9}	80.1 _{1.5}	53.9 _{0.2}	45.6 _{0.6}	38.5 _{1.6}	77.9 _{0.3}	64.1 _{1.0}	77.7 _{0.2}	75.1 _{0.8}	64.3 _{0.2}
	Cosmopedia Self-calibration	79.5 _{0.4} 79.6 _{0.3}	50.4 _{0.3} 51.6 _{0.6}	80.9 _{1.1} 82.0 _{0.7}	54.4 _{0.1} 54.6 _{0.2}	45.8 _{0.6} 46.9 _{0.8}	38.6 _{0.6} 39.0 _{0.4}	78.2 _{0.5} 77.9 _{0.3}	63.4 _{0.9} 64.5 _{0.8}	77.5 _{0.5} 78.2 _{0.6}	74.7 _{0.8} 75.6 _{0.7}	64.3 _{0.1} 65.0 _{0.3}
SparseGPT	C4	69.3 _{0.6}	35.1 _{0.8}	67.5 _{1.1}	42.1 _{0.4}	32.6 _{0.6}	27.7 _{0.9}	72.0 _{1.0}	59.2 _{2.0}	69.0 _{0.3}	68.6 _{0.4}	54.3 _{0.3}
	WikiText	69.6 _{0.7}	35.1 _{1.0}	63.1 _{0.7}	40.6 _{0.3}	33.3 _{0.3}	27.4 _{0.4}	71.3 _{0.7}	57.4 _{5.1}	68.2 _{0.2}	67.5 _{0.8}	53.3 _{0.5}
	Vocabulary	67.1 _{0.3}	32.3 _{0.5}	64.4 _{0.6}	37.8 _{0.1}	20.8 _{0.7}	23.3 _{0.8}	71.2 _{0.5}	57.7 _{2.2}	64.0 _{0.2}	62.7 _{1.3}	50.1 _{0.2}
	Cosmopedia Self-calibration	70.5 _{1.0} 71.2 _{0.3}	37.2 _{0.8} 37.7 _{0.5}	64.6 _{0.9} 73.4 _{1.0}	40.6 _{0.3} 41.6 _{0.3}	24.0 _{0.5} 31.6 _{0.8}	27.6 _{1.2} 32.1 _{0.8}	71.2 _{0.4} 72.0 _{0.5}	56.0 _{1.9} 65.5 _{2.8}	66.0 _{0.4} 71.0 _{0.4}	65.8 _{0.9} 68.2 _{0.5}	52.3 _{0.2} 56.4 _{0.3}
Wanda	C4	68.1 _{0.4}	33.7 _{0.6}	64.6 _{2.3}	39.0 _{0.2}	18.9 _{0.6}	25.4 _{0.7}	70.6 _{0.3}	50.5 _{2.0}	66.0 _{0.3}	66.9 _{0.6}	50.4 _{0.4}
	WikiText	67.2 _{0.2}	33.3 _{0.5}	64.0 _{1.8}	38.1 _{0.1}	18.9 _{0.8}	26.4 _{0.7}	70.1 _{0.2}	51.0 _{0.6}	65.6 _{0.4}	64.3 _{0.5}	49.9 _{0.2}
	Vocabulary	65.4 _{0.4}	31.7 _{0.5}	56.0 _{1.7}	36.6 _{0.2}	13.0 _{0.4}	24.5 _{0.6}	69.7 _{0.6}	51.6 _{1.8}	62.2 _{0.6}	59.5 _{0.6}	47.0 _{0.3}
	Cosmopedia Self-calibration	66.0 _{0.9} 67.6 _{0.3}	31.5 _{0.7} 35.1 _{0.6}	66.6 _{2.1} 68.8 _{2.0}	38.2 _{0.2} 39.5 _{0.1}	16.6 _{0.7} 18.7 _{0.5}	23.5 _{0.5} 25.8 _{0.4}	69.5 _{0.4} 70.1 _{0.3}	53.9 _{2.1} 59.1 _{3.5}	64.3 _{0.5} 65.7 _{0.3}	64.4 _{0.4} 64.9 _{1.3}	49.4 _{0.4} 51.5 _{0.7}

Table 8: Task accuracy across five calibration sets for Phi-2 2.7B, with standard deviation denoted in subscript.

Method	Dataset	ARC-e	ARC-c	BoolQ	HS	LMBD	OBQA	PIQA	RTE	SC	WG	Mean
-	-	65.6	30.5	66.1	50.5	63.3	27.6	76.3	55.2	73.6	65.2	57.4
AWQ	C4	65.6 _{0.1}	30.8 _{0.2}	65.7 _{0.5}	50.1 _{0.0}	63.5 _{0.1}	27.4 _{0.2}	76.8 _{0.2}	56.7 _{0.9}	74.0 _{0.3}	65.0 _{0.3}	57.6 _{0.1}
	WikiText	65.5 _{0.2}	30.8 _{0.4}	65.9 _{0.5}	50.1 _{0.0}	63.8 _{0.2}	27.1 _{0.4}	76.4 _{0.1}	56.0 _{0.9}	74.1 _{0.2}	65.1 _{0.5}	57.5 _{0.1}
	Vocabulary	64.9 _{0.4}	31.0 _{0.3}	62.5 _{2.2}	49.8 _{0.1}	59.3 _{1.8}	27.6 _{0.4}	76.2 _{0.3}	57.0 _{1.4}	73.4 _{0.2}	64.3 _{0.5}	56.6 _{0.3}
	Cosmopedia Self-calibration	65.4 _{0.1} 65.8 _{0.2}	31.0 _{0.2} 30.9 _{0.3}	66.0 _{0.5} 65.6 _{0.4}	50.0 _{0.1} 50.2 _{0.1}	64.0 _{0.3} 63.6 _{0.2}	27.5 _{0.4} 26.9 _{0.5}	76.8 _{0.3} 77.1 _{0.2}	56.3 _{0.4} 56.8 _{0.7}	74.1 _{0.2} 73.9 _{0.2}	65.1 _{0.5} 64.9 _{0.4}	57.6 _{0.1} 57.6 _{0.1}
GPTQ	C4	64.9 _{0.2}	30.4 _{0.3}	65.3 _{1.0}	49.6 _{0.1}	62.8 _{0.3}	26.5 _{0.5}	75.9 _{0.1}	54.2 _{1.1}	73.2 _{0.2}	64.7 _{0.5}	56.8 _{0.2}
	WikiText	64.7 _{0.3}	30.0 _{0.2}	65.5 _{0.4}	49.7 _{0.1}	62.8 _{0.2}	26.9 _{0.4}	76.1 _{0.3}	55.1 _{0.7}	73.2 _{0.3}	64.6 _{0.4}	56.9 _{0.1}
	Vocabulary	65.0 _{0.5}	30.7 _{0.4}	64.4 _{2.0}	49.8 _{0.1}	60.4 _{1.8}	27.2 _{0.4}	76.1 _{0.3}	55.5 _{1.2}	72.7 _{0.3}	64.1 _{0.6}	56.6 _{0.3}
	Cosmopedia Self-calibration	65.1 _{0.3} 65.5 _{0.2}	30.2 _{0.6} 30.3 _{0.7}	64.8 _{0.7} 65.1 _{0.4}	49.6 _{0.1} 49.8 _{0.0}	62.5 _{0.4} 62.3 _{0.5}	27.2 _{0.4} 26.9 _{0.4}	75.5 _{0.3} 76.0 _{0.3}	55.3 _{0.8} 55.2 _{1.2}	73.3 _{0.3} 73.2 _{0.2}	64.5 _{0.4} 64.7 _{0.5}	56.8 _{0.1} 56.9 _{0.2}
SparseGPT	C4	59.6 _{0.3}	25.4 _{0.7}	63.0 _{0.4}	43.2 _{0.1}	55.2 _{0.8}	23.9 _{0.5}	72.4 _{0.6}	53.1 _{0.4}	70.0 _{0.3}	61.8 _{0.5}	52.8 _{0.2}
	WikiText	59.1 _{0.9}	26.2 _{0.5}	62.1 _{0.1}	41.3 _{0.2}	50.6 _{0.5}	24.4 _{0.4}	70.1 _{0.6}	52.9 _{0.5}	68.1 _{0.2}	61.3 _{1.5}	51.6 _{0.2}
	Vocabulary	54.4 _{0.5}	22.8 _{0.4}	62.4 _{0.3}	38.4 _{0.1}	38.1 _{1.2}	17.7 _{0.5}	70.3 _{0.5}	52.6 _{0.5}	63.9 _{0.5}	56.3 _{1.1}	47.7 _{0.2}
	Cosmopedia Self-calibration	59.9 _{0.6} 58.6 _{0.4}	26.3 _{0.6} 25.8 _{0.8}	62.2 _{0.0} 65.3 _{0.9}	42.3 _{0.3} 42.2 _{0.2}	41.6 _{0.7} 55.6 _{0.5}	24.8 _{0.6} 23.9 _{0.4}	71.9 _{0.4} 71.9 _{0.6}	53.1 _{0.4} 52.6 _{1.1}	67.4 _{0.7} 69.7 _{0.4}	60.0 _{0.8} 60.9 _{0.6}	50.9 _{0.2} 52.7 _{0.3}
Wanda	C4	56.7 _{0.5}	24.7 _{0.4}	62.3 _{0.1}	41.6 _{0.1}	43.9 _{0.2}	23.2 _{0.9}	71.2 _{0.3}	53.7 _{0.3}	68.4 _{0.4}	60.2 _{0.7}	50.6 _{0.2}
	WikiText	56.0 _{0.1}	24.8 _{0.4}	62.2 _{0.0}	39.6 _{0.2}	40.2 _{0.4}	21.5 _{0.8}	69.8 _{0.4}	53.1 _{0.3}	66.4 _{0.4}	58.7 _{0.4}	49.2 _{0.2}
	Vocabulary	47.4 _{0.2}	20.4 _{0.4}	62.2 _{0.0}	33.4 _{0.1}	22.4 _{0.4}	14.4 _{0.1}	66.6 _{0.1}	53.9 _{1.4}	58.7 _{0.3}	52.8 _{0.7}	43.2 _{0.1}
	Cosmopedia Self-calibration	57.0 _{0.1} 56.3 _{0.2}	24.7 _{0.3} 24.6 _{0.3}	62.2 _{0.0} 64.1 _{0.4}	40.7 _{0.2} 41.3 _{0.1}	31.0 _{0.7} 45.7 _{0.5}	23.0 _{0.5} 21.5 _{0.3}	70.9 _{0.4} 70.8 _{0.4}	52.7 _{0.0} 53.9 _{0.3}	66.0 _{0.5} 68.3 _{0.3}	58.5 _{0.4} 60.1 _{0.7}	48.7 _{0.2} 50.7 _{0.2}

Table 9: Task accuracy across five calibration sets for OPT 6.7B, with standard deviation denoted in subscript.

Method	Dataset	ARC-e	ARC-c	BoolQ	HS	LMBD	OBQA	PIQA	RTE	SC	WG	Mean
-	-	79.6	48.7	82.4	60.9	69.2	33.6	80.3	67.9	78.3	73.6	67.4
AWQ	C4	79.3 _{0.0}	48.1 _{0.2}	81.6 _{0.4}	59.9 _{0.1}	68.1 _{0.4}	33.6 _{0.6}	79.7 _{0.2}	69.2 _{0.4}	78.3 _{0.1}	72.9 _{0.2}	67.1 _{0.0}
	WikiText	79.4 _{0.3}	48.0 _{0.6}	81.8 _{0.4}	60.0 _{0.1}	68.1 _{0.2}	33.7 _{0.4}	79.9 _{0.2}	69.1 _{0.8}	78.5 _{0.3}	72.4 _{0.5}	67.1 _{0.1}
	Vocabulary	79.3 _{0.3}	48.3 _{0.2}	79.3 _{0.5}	59.9 _{0.1}	67.1 _{0.6}	33.4 _{0.5}	79.7 _{0.1}	67.4 _{0.5}	77.8 _{0.4}	72.3 _{0.7}	66.5 _{0.1}
	Cosmopedia Self-calibration	79.3 _{0.3} 79.1 _{0.2}	48.6 _{0.1} 47.9 _{0.9}	81.6 _{0.4} 81.8 _{0.3}	60.0 _{0.1} 60.0 _{0.1}	67.6 _{0.2} 68.0 _{0.2}	34.0 _{0.5} 34.2 _{0.5}	79.4 _{0.2} 80.1 _{0.2}	67.5 _{1.2} 68.2 _{1.2}	78.9 _{0.2} 78.5 _{0.2}	72.8 _{0.4} 72.7 _{0.3}	67.0 _{0.2} 67.0 _{0.2}
GPTQ	C4	79.0 _{0.3}	48.0 _{0.5}	81.8 _{0.7}	60.0 _{0.2}	68.0 _{0.6}	32.7 _{0.2}	80.1 _{0.3}	67.1 _{2.1}	78.3 _{0.3}	73.1 _{0.5}	66.8 _{0.3}
	WikiText	79.1 _{0.4}	47.9 _{0.5}	82.1 _{0.5}	60.1 _{0.1}	68.0 _{0.5}	32.2 _{0.7}	80.0 _{0.3}	67.5 _{1.7}	78.4 _{0.4}	73.4 _{0.4}	66.9 _{0.3}
	Vocabulary	78.4 _{0.4}	47.1 _{1.0}	81.6 _{0.3}	59.9 _{0.1}	67.0 _{0.6}	32.5 _{0.6}	79.7 _{0.2}	63.9 _{1.7}	77.2 _{0.2}	72.5 _{0.5}	66.0 _{0.1}
	Cosmopedia Self-calibration	79.1 _{0.3} 78.3 _{0.3}	47.1 _{0.5} 46.8 _{0.5}	81.5 _{0.6} 80.7 _{0.9}	60.0 _{0.1} 59.9 _{0.2}	67.9 _{0.2} 66.9 _{0.6}	32.0 _{0.4} 32.0 _{0.6}	80.2 _{0.3} 79.4 _{0.4}	66.7 _{2.1} 63.0 _{0.7}	78.1 _{0.4} 78.3 _{0.2}	73.1 _{0.4} 73.1 _{0.4}	66.6 _{0.2} 65.9 _{0.2}
SparseGPT	C4	67.4 _{0.7}	34.3 _{0.8}	75.2 _{0.9}	46.7 _{0.3}	53.9 _{0.6}	23.9 _{0.5}	73.3 _{0.7}	60.3 _{1.9}	71.8 _{0.5}	66.3 _{0.9}	57.3 _{0.3}
	WikiText	67.2 _{0.4}	33.3 _{0.5}	64.3 _{0.2}	45.2 _{0.2}	54.0 _{0.5}	23.1 _{0.4}	71.3 _{0.3}	60.1 _{2.5}	70.4 _{0.4}	66.3 _{0.6}	55.5 _{0.3}
	Vocabulary	62.5 _{1.4}	30.0 _{0.8}	71.0 _{0.6}	44.5 _{0.2}	42.7 _{0.4}	20.2 _{0.6}	71.5 _{0.3}	56.9 _{2.9}	68.6 _{0.3}	62.2 _{0.9}	53.0 _{0.4}
	Cosmopedia Self-calibration	69.5 _{0.4} 65.9 _{0.5}	35.4 _{0.7} 32.2 _{0.8}	66.4 _{0.8} 76.0 _{0.9}	45.6 _{0.3} 46.7 _{0.1}	42.9 _{0.8} 51.7 _{0.8}	24.2 _{0.7} 23.2 _{0.5}	71.7 _{0.2} 73.1 _{0.6}	60.7 _{3.7} 60.5 _{1.0}	69.5 _{0.5} 72.5 _{0.2}	64.9 _{0.5} 66.5 _{0.4}	55.1 _{0.3} 56.8 _{0.3}
Wanda	C4	64.3 _{0.4}	30.5 _{0.6}	70.4 _{0.6}	44.3 _{0.1}	42.3 _{0.3}	21.2 _{0.6}	71.9 _{0.3}	56.4 _{2.0}	70.8 _{0.3}	64.5 _{0.5}	53.7 _{0.3}
	WikiText	64.8 _{0.6}	31.0 _{0.5}	66.1 _{0.8}	43.5 _{0.1}	44.5 _{0.2}	21.6 _{0.4}	70.7 _{0.2}	58.6 _{1.1}	70.0 _{0.2}	63.6 _{0.5}	53.4 _{0.2}
	Vocabulary	58.4 _{0.5}	26.1 _{0.2}	64.3 _{0.7}	39.5 _{0.2}	29.8 _{0.3}	17.8 _{0.6}	69.7 _{0.1}	54.6 _{1.4}	64.4 _{0.2}	59.0 _{0.7}	48.4 _{0.2}
	Cosmopedia Self-calibration	65.5 _{0.2} 63.7 _{0.3}	32.4 _{0.2} 30.0 _{0.6}	65.1 _{0.6} 68.6 _{1.4}	43.6 _{0.1} 44.3 _{0.1}	37.6 _{0.3} 41.7 _{0.3}	21.0 _{0.7} 20.6 _{0.7}	70.7 _{0.3} 71.6 _{0.4}	58.1 _{1.6} 58.9 _{0.6}	69.3 _{0.2} 70.8 _{0.3}	63.4 _{0.5} 64.8 _{0.4}	52.7 _{0.2} 53.5 _{0.1}

Table 10: Task accuracy across five calibration sets for Mistral 7B, with standard deviation denoted in subscript.

Method	Dataset	ARC-e	ARC-c	BoolQ	HS	LMBD	OBQA	PIQA	RTE	SC	WG	Mean
-	-	81.4	51.5	82.2	60.0	67.1	33.4	80.0	70.0	78.2	74.0	67.8
AWQ	C4	80.7 _{0.6}	50.3 _{0.6}	79.9 _{0.6}	58.6 _{0.1}	66.1 _{0.8}	34.6 _{0.4}	79.5 _{0.4}	68.3 _{0.9}	77.3 _{0.3}	73.4 _{0.4}	66.9 _{0.2}
	WikiText	80.4 _{0.3}	50.4 _{0.9}	81.3 _{0.8}	58.8 _{0.1}	65.6 _{0.2}	34.5 _{0.3}	79.5 _{0.2}	68.6 _{0.5}	77.7 _{0.5}	73.8 _{0.3}	67.1 _{0.1}
	Vocabulary	80.3 _{0.4}	49.0 _{1.0}	80.0 _{0.5}	58.2 _{0.2}	63.4 _{0.4}	34.1 _{0.8}	79.2 _{0.2}	66.3 _{0.9}	76.6 _{0.2}	72.3 _{0.2}	66.0 _{0.3}
	Cosmopedia	81.1 _{0.1}	50.3 _{0.7}	81.0 _{0.5}	58.8 _{0.1}	65.4 _{0.5}	34.7 _{0.5}	79.6 _{0.2}	67.1 _{2.3}	77.6 _{0.4}	73.0 _{0.5}	66.9 _{0.3}
	Self-calibration	80.8 _{0.3}	50.0 _{0.6}	80.6 _{0.2}	58.7 _{0.1}	65.1 _{0.4}	34.5 _{0.6}	79.6 _{0.3}	66.1 _{2.1}	77.3 _{0.3}	73.7 _{0.3}	66.6 _{0.3}
GPTQ	C4	80.5 _{0.4}	48.7 _{0.8}	80.5 _{0.4}	58.8 _{0.3}	65.4 _{0.7}	32.7 _{1.2}	79.6 _{0.3}	71.9 _{1.4}	78.1 _{0.3}	72.8 _{1.0}	66.9 _{0.3}
	WikiText	80.4 _{0.4}	48.5 _{1.0}	80.4 _{0.5}	58.8 _{0.1}	65.3 _{0.2}	33.2 _{0.8}	79.3 _{0.1}	69.5 _{1.6}	77.7 _{0.4}	72.9 _{0.2}	66.6 _{0.3}
	Vocabulary	80.0 _{0.5}	47.9 _{1.2}	80.9 _{0.6}	58.0 _{0.2}	62.8 _{0.5}	33.8 _{0.4}	79.2 _{0.5}	65.1 _{1.0}	76.7 _{0.3}	72.6 _{0.5}	65.7 _{0.1}
	Cosmopedia	80.8 _{0.7}	49.1 _{0.4}	81.1 _{0.7}	58.9 _{0.1}	64.7 _{0.7}	34.0 _{0.9}	79.2 _{0.3}	70.3 _{1.0}	77.9 _{0.4}	73.4 _{0.4}	66.9 _{0.1}
	Self-calibration	79.7 _{0.5}	47.4 _{0.8}	81.4 _{0.3}	58.5 _{0.3}	64.9 _{0.3}	30.8 _{0.8}	79.2 _{0.3}	69.5 _{1.7}	77.7 _{0.3}	72.3 _{0.4}	66.1 _{0.3}
SparseGPT	C4	63.4 _{0.9}	31.0 _{1.1}	71.3 _{1.8}	43.9 _{0.4}	50.9 _{0.6}	23.0 _{1.0}	70.7 _{0.6}	57.4 _{1.5}	70.4 _{0.4}	65.9 _{0.5}	54.8 _{0.3}
	WikiText	62.1 _{1.0}	30.0 _{1.3}	66.6 _{2.2}	41.4 _{0.1}	49.1 _{1.4}	22.6 _{1.3}	68.3 _{0.4}	53.5 _{0.8}	68.7 _{0.5}	63.9 _{1.3}	52.6 _{0.4}
	Vocabulary	57.0 _{0.5}	25.6 _{1.1}	65.3 _{1.4}	37.2 _{0.2}	28.9 _{1.2}	20.1 _{0.7}	69.2 _{0.5}	52.6 _{0.3}	61.3 _{0.5}	56.1 _{0.8}	47.3 _{0.4}
	Cosmopedia	64.6 _{1.0}	31.9 _{1.1}	64.8 _{1.1}	41.6 _{0.4}	34.3 _{0.9}	21.8 _{1.3}	68.9 _{0.5}	53.6 _{0.5}	66.4 _{0.7}	61.6 _{1.1}	50.9 _{0.3}
	Self-calibration	64.5 _{0.8}	32.3 _{1.0}	70.7 _{0.9}	42.8 _{0.2}	43.3 _{1.5}	22.0 _{0.9}	69.5 _{0.3}	58.9 _{2.4}	69.6 _{0.5}	64.1 _{0.5}	53.8 _{0.4}
Wanda	C4	57.7 _{0.6}	26.8 _{0.3}	66.9 _{1.6}	38.2 _{0.1}	33.9 _{0.5}	19.3 _{0.7}	68.6 _{0.2}	53.5 _{0.9}	65.6 _{0.2}	59.8 _{0.4}	49.0 _{0.3}
	WikiText	57.9 _{0.4}	28.2 _{0.5}	66.9 _{0.3}	37.8 _{0.2}	34.6 _{0.4}	20.4 _{0.3}	67.8 _{0.3}	53.1 _{0.3}	65.2 _{0.3}	59.8 _{0.5}	49.2 _{0.1}
	Vocabulary	53.6 _{0.4}	22.9 _{0.6}	62.3 _{0.2}	34.0 _{0.1}	20.0 _{1.2}	18.1 _{0.9}	66.1 _{0.5}	52.1 _{1.3}	60.4 _{0.4}	57.3 _{1.1}	44.7 _{0.3}
	Cosmopedia	57.7 _{0.5}	26.1 _{0.2}	65.7 _{0.6}	37.2 _{0.2}	26.6 _{0.4}	20.0 _{0.8}	68.6 _{0.4}	52.4 _{0.7}	64.0 _{0.3}	58.7 _{0.6}	47.7 _{0.2}
	Self-calibration	58.1 _{0.4}	27.5 _{0.2}	67.7 _{0.4}	37.8 _{0.2}	31.8 _{0.4}	19.9 _{0.7}	69.0 _{0.4}	54.3 _{1.3}	65.7 _{0.4}	59.2 _{0.5}	49.1 _{0.1}

Table 11: Task accuracy across five calibration sets for Llama 3.1 8B, with standard deviation denoted in subscript.

Dataset	PPL	Rep.	Cov.	Div.	Zipf
C4	19.30 _{1.06}	0.66 _{0.01}	0.10 _{0.00}	0.63 _{0.01}	1.16 _{0.01}
WikiText	14.93 _{0.58}	0.68 _{0.00}	0.09 _{0.00}	0.65 _{0.00}	1.12 _{0.01}
Vocabulary	4.31×10^6	0.00 _{0.00}	0.64 _{0.00}	0.96 _{0.00}	0.27 _{0.00}
Cosmopedia	6.49 _{0.22}	0.59 _{0.01}	0.09 _{0.00}	0.65 _{0.01}	1.19 _{0.01}
Self-calibration	7.22 _{0.15}	0.68 _{0.00}	0.07 _{0.00}	0.59 _{0.00}	1.25 _{0.01}

Table 12: Text characteristics for all Gemma 2B calibration sets, with standard deviation denoted in subscript.

Dataset	PPL	Rep.	Cov.	Div.	Zipf
C4	11.80 _{0.46}	0.65 _{0.01}	0.44 _{0.01}	0.63 _{0.01}	1.16 _{0.01}
WikiText	11.05 _{0.16}	0.65 _{0.00}	0.40 _{0.01}	0.65 _{0.00}	1.12 _{0.01}
Vocabulary	2.02×10^5	0.02 _{0.00}	0.99 _{0.00}	0.87 _{0.00}	0.66 _{0.00}
Cosmopedia	5.76 _{0.13}	0.60 _{0.01}	0.40 _{0.01}	0.65 _{0.01}	1.15 _{0.01}
Self-calibration	7.66 _{0.16}	0.67 _{0.00}	0.30 _{0.00}	0.55 _{0.01}	1.27 _{0.00}

Table 13: Text characteristics for all OPT 6.7B calibration sets, with standard deviation denoted in subscript.

Dataset	PPL	Rep.	Cov.	Div.	Zipf
C4	7.81 _{0.17}	0.65 _{0.01}	0.47 _{0.01}	0.63 _{0.00}	1.15 _{0.01}
WikiText	5.81 _{0.07}	0.67 _{0.00}	0.42 _{0.01}	0.65 _{0.00}	1.10 _{0.01}
Vocabulary	1.64×10^5	0.03 _{0.00}	0.98 _{0.00}	0.89 _{0.00}	0.55 _{0.00}
Cosmopedia	3.07 _{0.03}	0.53 _{0.01}	0.46 _{0.00}	0.67 _{0.01}	1.15 _{0.01}
Self-calibration	5.79 _{0.15}	0.66 _{0.00}	0.41 _{0.00}	0.59 _{0.00}	1.24 _{0.00}

Table 14: Text characteristics for all Mistral 7B calibration sets, with standard deviation denoted in subscript.

#	Generated Text
Gemma 2B	
1	<bos>The G36S is an assault rifle created for the German Army from 1997 to 2010 by Heckler & Koch. It is a simplified...
2	<bos>I have a long story to share. Long story short, I've learned that I have to have a higher IQ. You must have an IQ at least 142 as...
3	<bos>You have come to the right place to learn about the different types of floor drain and how to select what's best for you. We have...
OPT 6.7B	
1	<s>It's an interesting concept, but there's no way anyone can get past the cost. I can't see this going anywhere. Well this is what's...
2	<s>A lot of things are not on par with the other versions. I love the game, but there are some major differences, so if there are people...
3	<s>A new study on the use of blockchain technology – an online ledger – to help banks make smart lending decision and...
Llama 3.1 8B	
1	< begin_of_text >You are at:Home»Lifestyle»Food»I have a problem... and it's called peanut butter! I have a problem... and it's...
2	< begin_of_text >The American Ornithologists' Union's Chilson in Africa: New Records for the Birds of...
3	< begin_of_text >The following is a partial list of the current year's and past year's notable events in the life of the Anglican...

Table 15: The starting segment from the first three self-calibration examples generated using Gemma 2B, OPT 6.7B, and Llama 3.1 8B (t_{initial} and t_{final} both set to 1.0).