

OpenAI releases o1, its first model with ‘reasoning’ abilities

OpenAI is releasing a new model called o1, the first in a planned series of “reasoning” models that have been trained to answer more complex questions, faster than a human can. It’s being released alongside o1-mini, a smaller, cheaper version. And yes, if you’re steeped in AI rumors: this is, in fact, the extremely hyped Strawberry model.

For OpenAI, o1 represents a step toward its broader goal of human-like artificial intelligence. More practically, it does a better job at writing code and solving multistep problems than previous models. But it’s also more expensive and slower to use than GPT-4o. OpenAI is calling this release of o1 a “preview” to emphasize how nascent it is.

ChatGPT Plus and Team users get access to both o1-preview and o1-mini starting today, while Enterprise and Edu users will get access early next week. OpenAI says it plans to bring o1-mini access to all the free users of ChatGPT but hasn’t set a release date yet. Developer access to o1 is *really* expensive: In the API, o1-preview is \$15 per 1 million input tokens, or chunks of text parsed by the model, and \$60 per 1 million output tokens. For comparison, GPT-4o costs \$5 per 1 million input tokens and \$15 per 1 million output tokens.

The training behind o1 is fundamentally different from its predecessors, OpenAI’s research lead, Jerry Tworek, tells me, though the company is being vague about the exact details. He says o1 “has been trained using a completely new optimization algorithm and a new training dataset specifically tailored for

it.”

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`dark:[&>a]:shadow-underline-gray-63">Phrases like "I'm curious`
`about," "I'm thinking through," and "Ok, let me see" create a`
`step-by-step illusion of thinking.`

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Large language models aren't exactly that smart as they exist today. They're essentially just predicting sequences of words to get you an answer based on patterns learned from vast amounts of data. Take ChatGPT, which tends to mistakenly claim that the word "strawberry" has only two Rs because it doesn't break down the word correctly. For what it's worth, the new ol model did get that query correct.

As OpenAI reportedly looks to raise more funding at an eye-popping \$150 billion valuation, its momentum depends on more research breakthroughs. The company is bringing reasoning capabilities to LLMs because it sees a future with autonomous systems, or agents, that are capable of making decisions and taking actions on your behalf.

For AI researchers, cracking reasoning is an important next step toward human-level intelligence. The thinking is that, if a model is capable of more than pattern recognition, it could unlock breakthroughs in areas like medicine and engineering. For now, though, ol's reasoning abilities are relatively slow, not agent-like, and expensive for developers to use.

"We have been spending many months working on reasoning because we think this is actually the critical breakthrough," McGrew says. "Fundamentally, this is a new modality for models in order to be able to solve the really hard problems that it takes in order to progress towards human-like levels of

intelligence.”

<https://www.theverge.com/2024/9/12/24242439/openai-o1-model-reasoning-strawberry-chatgpt>