# Game Development as Human-LLM Interaction

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#### **Abstract**

Game development is a highly specialized task that relies on a complex game engine powered by complex programming languages, preventing many gaming enthusiasts from handling it. This paper introduces the *Interaction-driven Game* Engine (IGE) powered by LLM, which allows everyone to develop a custom game using natural language through Human-LLM interaction. To enable an LLM to function as an IGE, we instruct it to perform the following processes in each turn: (1)  $P_{script}$ : configure the game script segment based on the user's input; (2)  $P_{code}$ : generate the corresponding code snippet based on the game script segment; (3)  $P_{utter}$ : interact with the user, including guidance and feedback. We propose a data synthesis pipeline based on the LLM to generate game script-code pairs and interactions from a few manually crafted seed data. We propose a three-stage progressive training strategy to transfer the dialogue-based LLM to our IGE smoothly. We construct an IGE for poker games as a case study and comprehensively evaluate it from two perspectives: interaction quality and code correctness. The code and data are available at https://github.com/alterego238/IGE.

### Introduction

A game engine is a software framework primarily designed for the development of games and generally includes relevant libraries and support programs (Valencia-García et al. 2016). Game engines help streamline the game development process, enabling developers to focus more on designing gameplay and content. Popular game engines include Unity, Unreal Engine, CryENGINE, etc.

Game development is a highly specialized task that relies on game engines powered by complex programming languages. The learning curve can be steep for those who wish to develop games based on their own designs. To make game development accessible to everyone, we propose the *Interaction-driven Game Engine (IGE)*, powered by LLMs (Brown et al. 2020; Achiam et al. 2023; Touvron et al. 2023). This engine is designed to support the development of custom games using natural language through Human-LLM interaction. Thus all game enthusiasts, whether developers or players, can use IGE to engage in interactive game development using natural language.

Compared to traditional game engines, our IGE eliminates the learning curve. While traditional game engines provide users with software interfaces powered by complex technologies and programming languages, our IGE offers a more flexible natural language interface powered by LLM. One can simply input natural language under the guidance of the engine through Human-LLM interaction. In IGE, a user's natural language input is equivalent to calling software interfaces in a traditional game engine. The LLM generates implementation code based on the user's input, mirroring the process of implementing software interfaces through complex technologies and programming languages in traditional game engines.

IGE is based on large language models (LLMs), which have shown exceptional capabilities in natural language processing across various aspects. In this work, we explore the joint capability of interaction and programming of the LLM to serve as a game engine, enabling development through natural language via Human-LLM interaction. We instruct the LLM to perform the following processes in each turn: (1)  $P_{script}$ : configure the game script segment based on the user's input; (2) $P_{code}$ : generate the corresponding code snippet based on the game script segment; (3)  $P_{utter}$ : interact with the user, including guidance and feedback.

We propose a comprehensive training paradigm to finetune an LLM to excel as an IGE, rather than relying solely on prompting. There are two main challenges. First, it is an exhausting process to acquire a large number of game scriptcode pairs. We propose an efficient data synthesis pipeline to generate game script-code pairs automatically from a few manually crafted seed data. Moreover, our IGE framework requires the LLM to learn to perform  $P_{script}$ ,  $P_{code}$ , and  $P_{utter}$  step by step, which places high demands on the joint capability of interaction and programming. However, simultaneously mastering these capabilities is a considerable challenge for the model. Additionally, a straightforward strategy to train on sufficient complete interaction data is inefficient. Therefore, we propose a three-stage progressive training strategy to transfer the dialogue-based LLM to our IGE smoothly.

Eventually, we construct an IGE for Poker, a worldwide card game, e.g. *Texas hold'em*. We utilize the proposed data synthesis pipeline to generate the corresponding dataset and fine-tune an IGE using the presented strategy. Then we

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propose a fine-grained evaluation process, measuring the performance from two perspectives: interaction quality and code correctness.

In summary, this paper:

- introduces the IGE framework for game development as Human-LLM interaction;
- presents the data generation technique that fuels the learning of IGE;
- proposes a three-stage progressive training strategy for effectively training IGE;
- constructs an IGE for poker games and evaluates its performance from two perspectives: interaction quality and code correctness.

#### **Related works**

AI for Games AI for games is an exciting area in AI research. A great amount of recent work studies learning for agents, e.g. as game players for Atari (Mnih et al. 2013), Minecraft (Fan et al. 2022; Wang et al. 2023a), StarCraft, (Vinyals et al. 2019), NetHack (Küttler et al. 2020; Lowe et al. 2020), Werewolf (Xu et al. 2023); as non-play characters (NPCs) (Shanahan, McDonell, and Reynolds 2023; Uludagli and Oguz 2023); player assistants (Gallotta et al. 2024); game commentators (Eladhari 2018; Ranella and Eger 2023). Recently, some works focus on building a neural engine based on LLMs. Delta-Engine (Wu et al. 2024b) drives games as a playground for a scalable virtual world, enabling expansion by generating new code based on the base engine. IDGE (Wu et al. 2024a) autoregressively predicts in-game states based on player actions, functioning more like a game runtime environment that supports game creation by simple natural language instructions as a script. In comparison, our IGE serves as a development framework for creating games, similar to a traditional game engine.

LLMs as Training Data Generators With the immense power demonstrated by large language models(LLMs), researchers have recently explored their potential as as training data generators (Yu et al. 2024a). Such applications include generating tabular data (Borisov et al. 2022), medical dialogue (Chintagunta et al. 2021), sentence pairs (Schick and Schütze 2021), role-play dialogue (Shao et al. 2023a), instruction data (Peng et al. 2023; Shao et al. 2023b; Sun et al. 2024; Wang et al. 2022), etc.. In this paper, we propose a data synthesis pipeline that leverages LLMs as training data generators to produce game script-code pairs and user-LLM interactions from a few manually crafted seed data.

**Progressive Training Strategy** Progressive training strategy is commonly employed in LLM training. Training on progressively increasing sequence length data in multistages is used to mitigate computational costs and enhance data efficiency in both the pre-training (Jin et al. 2023; Dubey et al. 2024) and post-training (Liu et al. 2024) phases. Curriculum learning (Bengio et al. 2009), a specialized form of progressive training, gradually increases the complexity of data samples during the training process. Recent studies show the promising role of curriculum learning in empowering the language models to tackle more challenging

tasks (Vakil and Amiri 2023; Wu et al. 2023, 2024a). In this paper, we propose a three-stage progressive training strategy to transfer the dialogue-based LLM to our IGE smoothly. This strategy also aligns with the principles of curriculum learning.

#### **IGE**

In this section, we present our IGE framework, illustrated in Figure 1. Additionally, we provide an example in Figure 2.

#### An Overview of IGE Framework

The IGE framework introduces a new paradigm of game development as Human-LLM interaction. In user-LLM interactions, the user provides instructions for their game concept in natural language under the guidance of LLM, along with feedback to the LLM. The LLM guides the user in refining and clarifying essential details about the game, while also offering feedback. To enable the LLM to provide effective guidance, we predefine a generic script tailored to a specific type of game. Despite the various possible variants of a specific type of game, they often share common elements such as rules and flow, making a generic script feasible. Except for interaction with the user, the LLM generates script segments and code snippets to implement the user's game concept in each turn. In the meantime, the code snippets are stored, building toward the eventual complete game code, CustomGame. After the game is fully developed through multi-turn interactions, a code interpreter is used to execute the CustomGame code for play.

#### From Multi-turn Human-LLM Interaction to IGE

The complete process of IGE framework can be seen as a multi-turn human-LLM interaction. We first formulate the multi-turn Human-LLM interaction and then extend this concept to our IGE framework.

In a multi-turn Human-LLM interaction, both the user input and the LLM's output may be related to the interaction history, such as references to prior content. The interaction history  $h_t$  at turn t can be simply defined as:

$$h_t = \begin{cases} \emptyset & \text{if } t = 0\\ \{(i_\tau, o_\tau) \mid \tau = 1, 2, \dots, t\} & \text{if } t > 0 \end{cases}$$
 (1)

where the subscript t refers to the increasing number of turns,  $i_t$  refers to the user input and  $o_t$  refers to the LLM's output, formulated as:

$$o_t = \mathcal{F}_{\theta}(h_{t-1}, i_t) \tag{2}$$

where  $\mathcal{F}_{\theta}$  refers to the LLM, and  $\theta$  denotes its parameters. Consequently, an LLM with parameters  $\theta$  seeks to maximize the likelihood:

$$\sum_{t=1}^{T} \log p_{\theta}(o_t | h_{t-1}, i_t). \tag{3}$$

where T refers to the total number of interaction turns.

The distinction between IGE and a general multi-turn Human-LLM interaction lies in the specialization of the input and output. The user input  $i_t$  consists of instructions

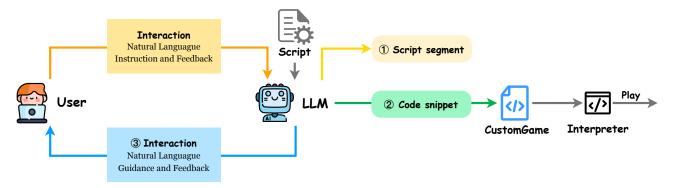


Figure 1: IGE framework. The LLM processes the user's input in the orange stream, while simultaneously generating script in the yellow stream, code in the green stream, and interaction in the blue stream.



Figure 2: An example of the IGE process for a poker game.

about their game concept and feedback to the LLM. The LLM's output  $o_t$  includes both interactions with the user and code snippets to implement the user's game concept in one turn. To enable an LLM to function as an IGE, we instruct the LLM to perform the following processes in each turn: (1)  $P_{script}$ : configure the game script segment based on the user's input(Enclosed by <script></script>: in Figure 2); (2)  $P_{code}$ : generate the corresponding code snippet based on the game script segment(Enclosed by  $\langle code \rangle \langle code \rangle$ : in Figure 2); (3)  $P_{utter}$ : interact with the user, including guidance and feedback(Enclosed by <utter></utter>: in Figure 2). For interaction and coding requirements,  $P_{code}$  and  $P_{utter}$  are essential.  $P_{script}$ serves as an intermediate process, akin to the reasoning in chain-of-thought (CoT) (Wei et al. 2022). Additionally, it can also act as a visual representation of the current development progress. Compared to code, a script is much easier for people to understand, especially those without a programming background. Therefore,  $o_t$  can be specilized as:

$$o_t = (s_t, c_t, u_t) = \mathcal{F}_{\theta}(s_t, c_t, u_t | h_{t-1}, i_t; S).$$
 (4)

where  $s_t$ ,  $c_t$ ,  $u_t$  refer to the outputs of  $P_{script}$ ,  $P_{code}$ , and  $P_{utter}$  respectively, and S refers to the generic game script template for a specific game. Furthermore, the ultimate objective of this task,  $CustomGame\ C$  can be obtained by merging  $c_t$  across all turns:

$$C = m(c_1, c_2, \dots, c_T) \tag{5}$$

where m denotes the merge function. Specifically, m can be determined by the specific game implementation. In our inplementation, we embed  $c_t$  into the base code of the specific game.

## **Data Generation for IGE**

In this section, we discuss our attempt in data generation. Utilizing LLMs to create IGE requires fine-tuning on a substantial amount of supervised data. However, manually crafting diverse interaction with script-code pairs is a challenging task. Compared to fully manual annotation, Harnessing LLMs to synthesize data is more efficient and has

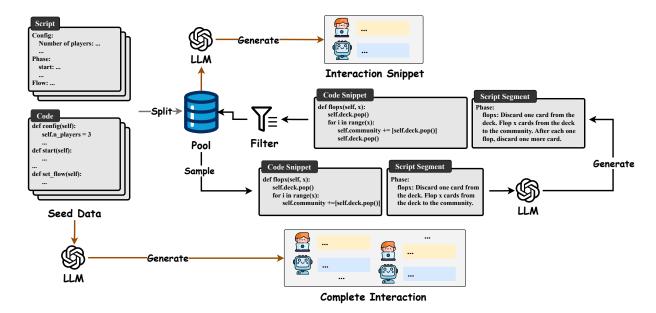


Figure 3: Data synthesis pipeline for game script-code pair and interaction generation.

become a popular method for addressing the issue of insufficient data. We propose a pipeline consisting of three main steps to generate synthetic data, starting with a small set of manually annotated seed data, as illustrated in Figure 3. We utilize GPT-40 as the generator.

**Init pool** First, we manually craft a few script-code pairs, each corresponding to different custom games. These pairs serve as seed data and are then split into script segments and code snippets, which are added to the pool.

Generate new pairs In this step, we sample pairs of script segments and code snippets, generating new pairs based on these selections. We prompt the generator to modify the code snippet first, then generate the corresponding script segment. This order is chosen because it's easier to map a script segment to a code snippet by describing the code, rather than generating code from a script description. This approach yields higher-quality data with more reliable mappings. To ensure the generated code functions correctly, we implement a filter before adding it to the pool. This process continues until the pool contains a sufficient number of entries.

Generate interaction data Finally, we generate the interaction data depicted in Figure 2 using the script-code pairs. This process involves two lines: (1) generating interaction snippets based on pairs of script segments and code snippets from the pool; (2) generating complete interactions from complete script-code pairs. The necessity of these two data components will be discussed in the next section.

## A Three-stage Progressive Training Strategy

In this section, we present the training strategy of IGE. Based on our IGE framework, the LLM will learn to perform  $P_{script}$ ,  $P_{code}$  and  $P_{utter}$  step by step, which places high

demands on the joint capability of interaction and programming. However, it is challenging for the model to learn both capabilities simultaneously. On the other hand, a straightforward strategy to train on sufficient complete interaction data is inefficient. Therefore, we propose a three-stage progressive training strategy to transfer the dialogue-based LLM to our IGE smoothly.

**Stage-1: Base Training** This stage aims to train the base interaction ability of the model. Interaction ability is the most fundamental ability for IGE and serves as the foundation for the following two stages. Since most LLMs have already undergone sufficient and efficient supervised finetuning (SFT) (Brown et al. 2020; Raffel et al. 2020; Ouyang et al. 2022), we can directly use such models for Stage-1.

**Stage-2: Core Training** This stage aims to train the core capabilities of the model, namely the joint capability of programming and interaction. It fine-tunes the model from Stage-1 on interaction snippets that follow the IGE format. As illustrated in Figure 2, we instruct the model to perform the  $P_{script}$ ,  $P_{code}$  and  $P_{utter}$  step by step to extract the user's concept of the game, implement it in code, and provide guidance and feedback for interaction.

**Stage-3: Alignment** This stage aims to align the model with a complete interaction context to fully develop a game as an IGE. It fine-tunes the model from Stage-2, which already possesses significant programming and interaction capabilities. At this stage, we only need to extend its ability for multi-turn interactions as an IGE, particularly in guiding users to complete game development according to the predefined script. Since the model already possesses strong multi-turn interaction and long-context capabilities following Stage-1 training, only a small dataset is required for alignment at this stage.

	<b>Evaluation Metrics</b>	Scoring Guide					
Metric	Description	Score	Criteria				
Guidance	How the response guide the user step-by-step to complete the game.	1 Poor	Significant deficiencies or inaccuracies.				
Logic	Logical structure and soundness of reasoning, including the support and validity of conclusions.	2 Below Avg.	Noticeable weaknesses, lacking in several areas.				
Relevance	The extent to which the response stays on topic and within the scope of the assistant role.	3 Above Avg.	Mostly on target with a few minor shortcomings.				
Coherence	Integration into the context, consistency with previous statements and conversational flow.	4 Strong	Strong performance, often surpasses expectations.				
Conciseness	Brevity and clarity of the response, avoiding unnecessary elaboration or repetition.						

Table 1: Evaluation Metrics and Scoring Guide. We design the criteria following Yu et al. (2024b); Wu et al. (2024c); Zheng et al. (2024); Wang et al. (2023b); Guo et al. (2023).

## **Experiments**

In this section, we construct an IGE for a poker game. We employ the proposed data synthesis pipeline to generate the corresponding dataset, fine-tune an IGE using the presented strategy and evaluate its performance.

#### **Dataset**

Texas hold'em

**Poker Game** Poker, a worldwide card game, e.g. Texas hold'em, Badugi. These poker games can be abstracted into a generic game script. Table 2 presents an example example of such a script for the classic Texas hold'em. This generic script allows for the configuration of several common elements across different poker games, including the number of players, minimum and maximum bet limits, suit types and rankings, single-card rankings, multi-card combination rankings, game phases, and overall game flow. By adjusting these elements, virtually infinite variations of poker can be created. Notably, each game in our dataset corresponds to a unique configuration, including customizable phases. For example, a standard "flopx" phase might involve discarding one card from the deck and then revealing x community cards. This phase can be customized by adding a rule such as, "After each flop, discard one more card," thereby creating a new variant of the "flopx" phase.

Texas notal em
Config:
Number of players: 3
Min bet: 10
Max bet: 1000
Suit: H, D, C, S
Suit have rank: False
Card value rank: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 1
Card combinations rank: High Card, Pair, Two Pair, Three of a Kind, Straight, Flush,
Full House, Four of a Kind, Straight Flush
Phase:
start: Config the game and prepare the deck and chips for all players.
blind: Randomly assign two players: small blind bets minimum, big blind bets double.
dealx: Deal x cards to each player.
switch: Ask each player to discard and draw the same number of cards from the deck.
bet: Ask each player to bet until all unfold players match the highest or only 1 remains.
flopx: Discard one card from the deck. Reveal x community cards.
Flow: start, blind, deal2, bet, flop3, bet, flop1, bet, flop1, bet, show, prize

Table 2: An example game script for a poker game.

**Data Statistics** We generate game script-code pairs and interactions according to the pipeline shown in Figure 3. The interaction data format follows Figure 2. For the training set, we created 20 poker games with manually crafted script-code pairs as seed data, resulting in 3718 synthetic interaction snippets for Stage-2 and 36 complete interactions for Stage-3. The test set comprises 10 manually crafted custom

poker games, each with corresponding script-code pairs, encompassing a total of 90 functions.

### Setup

We employ LLaMA3.1-8B-Instruct<sup>1</sup> (Dubey et al. 2024) for Stage-1 and finetune it using LoRA (Hu et al. 2021) with  $r=8, \alpha=32$ , and a learning rate of 3e-4. We train 3 epochs on the 3718 interaction snippets for Stage-2 and 5 epochs on the 36 complete interactions for Stage-3.

To assess the performance of the LLM in a dynamic multiturn interaction environment, we require a user to interact with the LLM, as demonstrated in our IGE framework. Simulating the user using a rule-based approach is complex, and employing human annotators poses challenges related to inconsistent standards and high costs. To address these issues, we use GPT-40-mini as the interactor to simulate the user, a practice increasingly adopted in dynamic multi-turn interaction environments (Li et al. 2023; Yu et al. 2024b). For evaluation, we provide the interactor with a manually crafted game script and instruct them to treat it as the game concept they have in mind. The interactor then interacts with the LLM, resulting in a multi-turn interaction about a specific custom game. This allows us to use the game script and its corresponding code as the ground truth for evaluating the generated interaction.

#### Metrics

We assess model performance from two perspectives: interaction quality and code correctness.

Interaction Quality The interaction quality is assessed by an evaluator model, which assesses the output for guidance, logic, relevance, coherence and conciseness. Following KIEval (Yu et al. 2024b), we implement a scoring system to quantitatively grade model performance in different aspects. Responses are rated on a definitive scale from 1 to 4 for each aspect, where 1 and 4 denote 'Poor' and 'Strong' performance, respectively, as detailed in Table1. These scores are designed to encourage decisive evaluations. To facilitate comparison, we normalize the scores, ensuring that a rating of 1.0 indicates perfect performance. We utilize GPT-40 as the evaluator.

**Code correctness** We evaluate code correctness using two functional-level metrics and two overall-level metrics:

Functional Execution Success Rate(F-ESR) The generated code consists of functions as code snippets. We use

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>https://huggingface.co/meta-llama/Meta-Llama-3.1-8B-Instruct

A h:1:4	Model		I	nteract	tion Qu	Code Correctness					
Ability	Model	Gui.	Log.	Rel.	Coh.	Con.	Overall	F-ESR	F-Acc	ESR	Acc
	GPT-3.5-turbo	94.5	96.5	100	99.0	96.5	98.0	95.8	87.9	60.0	30.0
5-shot	GPT-4o	98.5	98.0	100	100	99.0	99.0	93.0	88.5	50.0	30.0
	Llama-3.1-8B-Instruct	97.5	98.0	100	99.5	99.0	98.5	100	90.0	60.0	10.0
	IGE	98.5	99.0	100	99.5	99.0	100	100	99.0	100	90.0
	w/o. $P_{script}$	98.0	97.0	100	99.0	96.5	98.5	100	98.8	100	80.0
Fine-tuning	w/o. synthesis	96.5	96.0	100	98.0	96.5	98.0	97.4	86.8	70.0	0
rine-tunning	w/o. Stage-2	96.5	97.5	100	99.0	96.0	98.5	98.2	89.2	80.0	10.0
	w. Mixed-stage	92.5	96.5	99.5	96.0	92.0	95.0	95.0	88.5	80.0	20.0

Table 3: Main results of different models and the ablation study of IGE. The number of functions generated by the model can vary due to factors such as repeated modifications or missed queries. Functional-level metrics primarily assess the correctness of the generated code without accounting for recall rate, which is instead reflected in the overall-level metrics.

Ability	Model	config*		start		blind*		dealx*		flopx*		switch		bet		flow*		Overall	
		F-ESR	F-Acc	F-ESR	F-Acc	F-ESR	F-Acc	F-ESR	F-Acc	F-ESR	F-Acc	F-ESR	F-Acc	F-ESR	F-Acc	F-ESR	F-Acc	F-ESR	F-Acc
5-shot	GPT-3.5-turbo	100	88.9	100	100	87.5	87.5	88.9	55.6	87.5	75.0	100	100	100	100	88.9	66.7	95.8	87.9
	GPT-40	100	100	100	100	70.0	70.0	90.0	90.0	100	60.0	100	100	80.0	80.0	100	100	93.0	88.5
	Llama-3.1-8B-Instruct	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	50.0	100	60.0	100	100	100	100	100	66.7	100	90.0
	IGE	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	90.0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	99.0
Fine-tuning	w/o. $P_{script}$	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	90.0	100	90.0	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	98.8
	w/o. synthesis	100	100	100	100	100	100	88.9	22.2	100	55.6	100	100	100	100	100	100	93.8	86.8
	w/o. Stage-2	100	100	100	100	100	100	90.0	20.0	90.0	60.0	100	100	100	100	100	100	98.2	89.2
	w. Mixed-stage	100	100	100	100	81.8	81.8	100	33.3	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	81.8	81.8	100	75.0	95.0	88.5

Table 4: Function-level code correctness of different models and the ablation study of IGE. Functions with an asterisk (\*) are variable functions in the test set, while the remaining functions are fixed.

F-ESR to represent the execution success rate of all these functions across the entire test set to measure the model's basic coding capability.

- Functional Accuracy(F-Acc): Furthermore, we use F-Acc to represent the functional accuracy of the code, assessed through black-box testing to determine if the generated code is correct. Specifically, we replace player input with random input and, for each run, fix the random seed. We then compare the resulting state of the generated code with the ground truth. We conduct 40 runs, each with a different random seed, for every entry. If all runs produce identical states, the code is considered correct.
- Execution Success Rate(ESR) We use ESR to represent the success rate of executing the complete code of a custom game. This complete code comprises all the snippets generated throughout the entire multi-turn interaction.
- Accuracy(Acc) We use Acc to represent the accuracy of the complete code for a custom game. The method for judging correctness is the same as that used for F-Acc.

#### **Main Results**

We evaluate IGE on 10 manually crafted custom poker games, each accompanied by its complete game script-code pair. Table 3 presents the performance of our IGE, including both interaction quality and code correctness. For comparison, we take several representative closed-source and open-source LLMs in a 5-shot setting as baselines. Intuitively, IGE

excels in both interaction quality and code correctness.

**Interaction Quality** All models exhibit high interaction quality. Our IGE excels across all dimensions, showcasing exceptional capabilities in interacting with the user throughout the interactive development process. Compared to Llama-3.1-8B-Instruct, our fine-tuned model excels in guidance and logic, effectively guiding the user to develop the game logically.

Code Correctness In our results, all models significantly outperform in functional-level metrics compared to overall-level metrics. This suggests that while LLMs excel at producing functional code, they face challenges when generating long, complete code. Additionally, it is evident that executability is more easily achieved than accuracy across all models, with our model reaching a perfect ESR of 100. This indicates that LLMs excel at generating code that is syntactically executable. Notably, IGE outperforms in all metrics. It achieves an impressive F-Acc of 99.0, outperforming the second-best model by 9 points. Moreover, it reaches an ESR of 100, surpassing the second-best by 20 points. Furthermore, it attains an Acc of an astounding 90, outstripping the second-best by 60 points.

To conduct a more in-depth analysis, we compute the function-level code correctness in Table 4. We find that most models excel on fixed functions and two simple variable functions: config and flow. These two functions require only basic assignment statements to configure the game, allowing

```
blind: Randomly choose two players as small blind and big blind respectively. Place 1/2 minimum bet for small blind and double minimum bet for big blind.
 Case 1
GPT-40:
def blind(self):
                                                                                           def blind(self):
   def bet(player_id, amount):
                                                                                               def bet(player_id, amount):
       self.players[player_id].bet += amount
                                                                                                  self.players[player_id].bet += amount
       self.players[player_id].remain -= amount
                                                                                                  self.players[player_id].remain -= amount
   small_blind, big_blind = random.choice(self.player_ids, 2)
                                                                                               small_blind, big_blind = random_choice(self.player_ids, 2)
   bet(small_blind, self.min_bet // 2)
                                                                                               bet(small_blind, self.min_bet // 2)
   bet(big_blind, self.min_bet * 2)
                                                                                               bet(big_blind, self.min_bet * 2)
 Case 2 dealx: Deal x cards to each player and discard 1 cards from the deck afterward.
GPT-40:
def dealx(self, x):
                                                                                           def dealx(self, x):
   for \_ in range(x):
                                                                                               for i in range(x):
       for player_id in self.players:
                                                                                                  for p in self.players:
           self.players[player_id] ['hole'].append(self.deck.pop())
                                                                                                      self.players[p].hole += [self.deck.pop()]
   self.deck.pop()
                                                                                               self.deck.pop()
```

Table 5: Case study of the results of GPT-40 and IGE. Only the code part is retained.

them to generalize effectively. However, for functions with more complex code logic, namely blind, dealx, and flopx, the baselines generally underperform, with the lowest F-Acc reaching just 20. These results indicate that the accumulation of errors across these functions leads non-fine-tuned models to exhibit low correctness in overall-level evaluation. It is important to note that the model is required to be all-round at each function; otherwise, the overall performance will degenerate in a way of Buckets effect (Wu et al. 2024a). Delightfully, our IGE achieves near-perfect performance across all functions, resulting in an Acc far exceeding the baselines.

### **Ablation Study**

We ablate different variants from the full IGE architecture, the results are presented in Table 3 and Table 4.

Ablation on  $P_{script}$  A slight decrease can be observed in interaction quality across nearly all dimensions without  $P_{script}$ . Additionally, F-Acc drops by 0.2 points and Acc by 10.0 points. As shown in Table 4, the only failure occurs on a flopx function when compared to the complete IGE architecture. This suggests that  $P_{script}$  can enhance both interaction and coding abilities in certain cases.

Ablation on synthetic data In this setting, we directly employ manually crafted script-code pairs, splitting them into snippets to generate complete interactions and interaction snippets. A slight decline can be observed in interaction quality across most dimensions, alongside a significant decrease in code correctness, with Acc dropping to 0. Notably, the code correctness is even lower than that of the 5-shot Llama-3.1-8B-Instruct. As shown in Table 4, this decline is attributed to poor performance on the two most challenging functions, dealx and flopx. This can be explained by the model overfitting on the limited data due to the absence of synthetic data, which leads to poor generalization.

**Ablation on training strategy** We conducted comprehensive ablation experiments on our three-stage training strategy, with the following setups: w/o. Stage-1, w/o. Stage-

2, w/o. Stage-3, and w. Mixed-stage. In the setups without Stage-1 and Stage-3, the model loses its guiding and interaction abilities in multi-turn scenarios as an IGE, resulting in ESR and Acc values of 0. Therefore, the results of these two settings are not reported. This suggests that both Stage-1 and Stage-3 play a crucial role in enhancing the model's interaction ability as an IGE. As shown in Table 3, the interaction quality of the model decreases across most dimensions without Stage-2. Additionally, there is a significant drop in code correctness, with Acc falling to 10.0. A sharp decline in F-Acc for the dealx and flopx functions is clearly evident in Table 4. This indicates that Stage-2 is essential to the core interaction and programming capabilities of the model, especially programming capabilities. The Mixed-stage involves mixing all the complete interactions and interaction snippets and fine-tuning on them in a single stage. It mixes Stage-2 and Stage-3. A significant decrease can be observed in interaction quality in the Mixed-stage setting. Additionally, there is a notable drop in code correctness, with Acc falling to 20.0. This indicates that a mixed-stage training strategy for complete interactions and interaction snippets hinders both the interaction and programmig capabilities of the model. This suggests that our three-stage training strategy effectively enhances the joint capability of interaction and programmig of the LLM as an IGE.

### **Case Study**

In Table 5, we present two representative cases comparing GPT-40 and IGE. In Case 1, the code generated by GPT-40 is logically correct, but the function call is used incorrectly. The proper usage of "random.choice" should be "random.choice(x)", but it seems to have confused this with the "random\_choice" usage provided in the in-context examples. Similarly, in Case 2, GPT-40 mistakenly treated "self.players[player\_id]" as a dict. This can be attributed to its misalignment with the engine, also known as hallucination (Ji et al. 2023). In comparison, our IGE is well-aligned and does not exhibit this phenomenon in the test set.

## **Conclusion**

This paper introduces the Interaction-driven Game Engine (IGE) and proposes a paradigm for training IGE to allows users to develop custom games interactively using natural language. To enable an LLM to function as an IGE, we instruct it to generate script segments, code snippets and interactions for each turn in the development process. To facilitate the training process, a data synthesis pipeline is proposed to generate sufficient training data, as well as a three-stage progressive training strategy to enhance the joint capability of interaction and programming of the LLM. Embodied in a poker game, we demonstrate the performance of the IGE through a comprehensive evaluation.

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## **Prompts Demonstration**

In this section, we provide the prompts used for in the paper. Each {...} component will be substituted with corresponding information. For more details, please refer to our code. These prompts are not designed for any specific game, they can be used to build an IGE for any {Game\_name}.

Table 6-8 present the prompts used in the Data Generation. Table 9-10 present the system prompts for models. Table 11-12 present the prompts used in the Evaluation.

### **Prompt for New Script-code Pairs Generation**

Generate new code snippet and the corresponding script segment of a {Game\_name} game based on the given original code snippet and the corresponding original script segment.

```
1. Modify the code logic to obtain a new code segment and output the corresponding
script segment.
2. The new code snippet is obtained by modifying the original code snippet.
3. Keep the input parameters unchanged, do not introduce new input parameters.
4. The generated new code snippet should not introduce new instance attributes and
involved methods such as 'self.xxx' or 'self.xxx(...)' compared to the original code
snippet. The generated new code snippet can only include instance attributes and
instance methods involved in the original code snippet. You cannot create new ones.
For example, there is a original code snippet below:
def bet_done(self, wait_to_bet):
    all_bet = [self.players[p].bet for p in self.get_unfold_players()]
    if not wait_to_bet and all([b==all_bet[0] for b in all_bet]):
        return True
    return False
In this code snippet, the instance attributes and instance methods involved are only
 'self.players' and 'self.get_unfold_players()'. Therefore, in the new code snippet
generated from this original code snippet, the instance attributes and instance
methods involved should also only be `self.players` and `self.get_unfold_players()`,
other created ones such as 'self.group', 'self.discard_pile', 'self.burn_pile', '
self.burn_card' are not allowed to be used.
5. Do not use 'print' or logging information.
6. The script segment can be seen as a description of the code snippet.
7. Try to be creative and diverse.
8. The output format should follow the original, without any redundant information.
# Examples
{In-context Examples}
# Start of Official Requests
## original code snippet:
{original_code}
## original script segment:
{original_scrip}
```

Table 6: Prompt for generating new pairs in Data Generation for IGE.

#### **Prompt for Interaction Snippets Generation**

Generate a dialogue between a user and an assistant based on the following rules and given script segment and code snippet.

- 1. The user edits game script segments using natural language during interactions with the assistant.
- 2. The assistant interacts with the user to achieve interactive game development. The assistant guides the user in editing game script segments, generates corresponding code snippets, and interacts with the user through dialogue.
- 3. Each turn of the assistant's output should include three processes: "script", "code", and "utter", corresponding to three blocks: <script></script>, <code></code>>, <utter></utter>. Formally, these three blocks must exist, even if the content is empty.
- 4. The 'script' process: The assistant generates the game script segment based on the user's input of the current turn. Return modifications to the script as changes, rather than returning the entire script. The script is a Python dict, so you can use simple Python code to represent modifications to it, such as: script['xxx'] = 'xxx'. The 'script' process should be enclosed using '<script>' tag.
- 5. The 'code' process: The assistant generates the corresponding Python code snippet based on the game script segment from the 'script' process. The complete code is a CustomGame class that inherits from GameBase class, but only the methods related to the given script segment need to be generated. The 'code' process should be enclosed using '<code>' tag.
- 6. The 'utter' process: The assistant interacts with the user, including responding to the user's input of the current turn, summarizing the results of the current turn, and guiding the user to continue with the next turn of interaction. The 'utter' process should be enclosed using '<utter>' tag.
- 7. The script segment and code snippet have already been provided. In the assistant's 'script' and 'code' process, use the given script segment and code snippet; do not write your own.
- 8. The assistant does not know about the existence of the script segment in the dialogue and needs to obtain it from the user's input.
- 9. The given script segment and code snippet are essentially an outline of the plot development. The assistant's 'script' and 'code' process must be entirely derived from or inferred from the user's input. The user's input should be more natural language-based and not a direct copy of the given script segment.
- 10. The dialogue must cover and only cover the given script segment, and no other content should appear.

```
{Formatting Instruction}

# Examples
{In-context Examples}

# Start of Official Requests
## script segment:
{script segment}

## code snippet:
{code snippet}

## dialogue:
```

Table 7: Prompt for generating interaction snippets in Data Generation for IGE.

#### **Prompt for Complete Interactions Generation**

Generate a dialogue between a user and an assistant based on the following rules and given script segment and code snippet.

- 1. The user edits game script segments using natural language during interactions with the assistant.
- 2. The assistant interacts with the user to achieve interactive game development. The assistant guides the user in editing game script segments, generates corresponding code snippets, and interacts with the user through dialogue.
- 3. Each turn of the assistant's output should include three processes: "script", "code", and "utter", corresponding to three blocks: <script></script>, <code></code>, <utter></utter>. Formally, these three blocks must exist, even if the content is empty.
- 4. The 'script' process: The assistant generates the game script segment based on the user's input of the last turn. Return modifications to the script as changes, rather than returning the entire script. The script is a Python dict, so you can use simple Python code to represent modifications to it, such as: script['xxx'] = 'xxx'. The 'script' process should be enclosed using '<script>' tag.
- 5. The 'code' process: The assistant generates the corresponding Python code snippet based on the game script segment from the 'script' process. The complete code is a CustomGame class that inherits from GameBase class, but only the methods related to the given script segment need to be generated. The 'code' process should be enclosed using '<code>' tag.
- 6. The 'utter' process: The assistant interacts with the user, including responding to the user's input of the last turn, summarizing the results of the current turn, and guiding the user to continue with the current turn of interaction. The 'utter' process should be enclosed using '<utter>' tag.
- 7. The script segment and code snippet have already been provided. You need to randomly distribute them across multiple turns and generate an interactive dialogue between the assistant and the user. This means the assistant guides the user step by step to complete this game script segment. In a single turn of dialogue, the user's input should not contain too much information. If a large input is required, it should be divided into multiple turns.
- 8. In the assistant's 'script' and 'code' process, use the given script segment and code snippet; do not write your own.
- 9. The dialogue must cover and only cover all the given script segment, and no other content should appear.
- 10. The assistant does not know about the existence of the script segment in the dialogue and needs to obtain it from the user's input.
- 11. The given script segment and code snippet are essentially an outline of the plot development. The assistant's 'script' and 'code' process must be entirely derived from or inferred from the user's input. The user's input should be more natural language-based and not a direct copy of the given script segement.
- 12. In the first turn, the 'script' and 'code' process of the assistant should be empty because the user has not yet input a game script segment. In the first turn, the assistant should greet the user and start guiding them. In the end, after the user has completed the entire script under the assistant's guidance, the assistant should convey to the user that the game development is complete.
- 13. The assistant should guide the user step by step along a specific line to
  complete each part of the game script:
  {Game\_script\_line}

{Formatting Instruction}
# Examples
{In-context Examples}
# Start of Official Requests
## script segment:
{script segment}
## code snippet:
{code snippet}

## dialogue:

## System Prompt for Baselines in a 5-shot Setting

You are a helpful assistant assigned to interact with the user for the interactive development of a {Game\_name} game.

- 1. The user edits game script segments using natural language.
- 2. The assistant guides the user in editing game script segments, generates corresponding code snippets, and interacts with the user through dialogue.
- 3. Each turn of the assistant's output should include three processes: "script", "code", and "utter", corresponding to three blocks: <script></script>, <code></code>, <utter></utter>. Formally, these three blocks must exist, even if the content is empty.
- 4. The 'script' process: The assistant generates the game script segment based on the user's input of the current turn. Return modifications to the script as changes, rather than returning the entire script. The script is a existing Python dict, so you can use simple Python code to represent modifications to it, such as: script['xxxx'] = 'xxxx'. The 'script' process should be enclosed using '<script>' tag.
- 5. The 'code' process: The assistant generates the corresponding Python code snippet based on the game script segment from the 'script' process. The complete code is a CustomGame class that inherits from GameBase class, but only the methods related to the given script segment need to be generated. The 'code' process should be enclosed using '<code>' tag.
- 6. The 'utter' process: The assistant interacts with the user, including responding to the user's input of the current turn, summarizing the results of the current turn, and guiding the user to continue with the next turn of interaction. The 'utter' process should be enclosed using '<utter>' tag.
- 7. The assistant's 'script' and 'code' process must be entirely derived from or inferred from the user's input. If the user's input lacks the required information, ask the user for further details, and both the 'script' process and the 'code' process of the assistant should be empty.
- 8. If the user's input is unrelated to the script or insufficient to cause changes in the script, the 'script' process and the 'code' process of the assistant should both be empty.
- 9. If the user has any questions, answer them instead of randomly modifying the script and code on your  $\mbox{own}$ .
- 10. In the first turn, the 'script' and 'code' process of the assistant should be empty because the user has not yet input a game script segment. In the first turn, the assistant should greet the user and start guiding them. In the end, after the user has completed the entire script under the assistant's guidance, the assistant should convey to the user that the game development is complete.
- 11. The assistant should guide the user step by step along a specific line to complete each part of the game script, referring to the given script template. 12. Output format:

```
<script>
...
</script>
<code>
...
</code>
<utter>
...
</utter>
# Examples
{In-context Examples}
```

## **System Prompt for IGE**

You are a helpful assistant assigned to interact with the user for the interactive development of a {Game\_name} game.

- 1. The user edits game script segments using natural language.
- 2. The assistant guides the user in editing game script segments, generates corresponding code snippets, and interacts with the user through dialogue.
- 3. Each turn of the assistant's output should include three processes: "script", "code", and "utter", corresponding to three blocks: <script></script>, <code></code>, <utter></utter>. Formally, these three blocks must exist, even if the content is empty.
- 4. The 'script' process: The assistant generates the game script segment based on the user's input of the current turn. Return modifications to the script as changes, rather than returning the entire script. The script is a existing Python dict, so you can use simple Python code to represent modifications to it, such as: script['xxxx'] = 'xxx'. The 'script' process should be enclosed using '<script' tag.
- 5. The 'code' process: The assistant generates the corresponding Python code snippet based on the game script segment from the 'script' process. The complete code is a CustomGame class that inherits from GameBase class, but only the methods related to the given script segment need to be generated. The 'code' process should be enclosed using '<code>' tag.
- 6. The 'utter' process: The assistant interacts with the user, including responding to the user's input of the current turn, summarizing the results of the current turn, and guiding the user to continue with the next turn of interaction. The 'utter' process should be enclosed using '<utter>' tag.
- 7. The assistant's 'script' and 'code' process must be entirely derived from or inferred from the user's input. If the user's input lacks the required information, ask the user for further details, and both the 'script' process and the 'code' process of the assistant should be empty.
- 8. If the user's input is unrelated to the script or insufficient to cause changes in the script, the 'script' process and the 'code' process of the assistant should both be empty.
- 9. If the user has any questions, answer them instead of randomly modifying the script and code on your own.

### **System Prompt for Interactor**

You are a user (as in the Example) of an interactive {Game\_name} game development application of a {Game\_name} game, interacting with me (the assistant).

- 1. You should attempt to use natural language to edit game script segments.
- 2. You should focus on the "utter" part enclosed by the <utter></utter> tag in my output and interact with it according to its guidance.
- 3. Your response does not need to include any tags.
- 4. A game script will be given. Assume this is the game script you have in mind. You need to interactively present your ideas under the guidance of the me step by step, i.e., respond based on the relevant parts of the given script. Try not to output too much in one turn.
- 5. Try to use natural language instead of directly copying the given script segments  $\cdot$
- $6.\ Your\ responses$  should be as concise as possible and should not include the thought process.
- # Examples
  {In-context Examples}
  # Start of Official Requests

## given game script:
{game script}

Table 11: System prompt for interactor in evaluation.

### **System Prompt for Evaluator**

You are an objective evaluator in an interview. Your task is to evaluate a assistant 's performance during a series of interactions with an user. The conversation alternates between the user (marked with 'user:') and the assistant (marked with ' assistant'). Evaluate the assistant's performance in the interactions as well as in context, based on the following aspects independently, rating each on a scale from 1 (Poor) to 4 (Good):

Guidance: How the response guide the user step-by-step to complete the game. Logic: Logical structure and soundness of reasoning, including the support and validity of conclusions. Whether conclusions are well-supported and arguments are free from logical fallacies.

Relevance: How the response relates to the topic. Ensure responses are within the scope of the "assistant" role, avoiding unpermitted role shifts. Coherence: How well the response integrates into the context. Consistency with

previous statements and overall conversational flow.

Conciseness: Brevity and clarity of the response. Clear, to-the-point communication, free from extraneous elaboration or repetitive words.

#### Scoring Guide:

- 1 (Poor): Significant deficiencies or inaccuracies in the aspect.
- 2 (Below Average): Noticeable weaknesses, partially on target but lacking in several
- 3 (Above Average): Solid and competent, mostly on target with only a few minor shortcomings.
- 4 (Good): Strong performance, fully meets and often surpasses expectations.

## Evaluation Rules:

- 1. Evaluate the assistant consistently and objectively without bias, strictly adhering to scoring guide.
- 2. Score from 1 to 4 for each aspect independently, using only integers. Low score in one aspect should not influence another aspect. Write a brief comment before scoring in the JSON output structure.
- 3. Write a overall comment and then give an overall score (same scoring guide). The overall comment should be brief and clear. Consider the performance throughout the interaction, not just in the latest round.
- 4. Format of Evaluation: Output in JSON format strictly following the template, without any other words:

```
{guidance": {"comment": "", "score": 0}, "logic": {"comment": "", "score": 0}, "relevance": {"comment": "", "score": 0}, "coherence": {"comment": "", "score": 0}, "
conciseness": {"comment": "", "score": 0}, "overall": {"comment": "", "score": 0}}
```

# interactions: {dialogue}

# Evaluation:

Table 12: System prompt for evaluator in evaluation.