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# MetaCD: A Meta Learning Framework for Cognitive Diagnosis based on Continual Learning

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## Abstract

1 Cognitive diagnosis is an essential research topic in intelligent education, aimed at  
2 assessing the level of mastery of different skills by students. So far, many research  
3 works have used deep learning models to explore the complex interactions between  
4 students, questions, and skills. However, the performance of existing method is  
5 frequently limited by the long-tailed distribution and dynamic changes in the data.  
6 To address these challenges, we propose a meta-learning framework for cognitive  
7 diagnosis based on continual learning (MetaCD). This framework can alleviate the  
8 long-tailed problem by utilizing meta-learning to learn the optimal initialization  
9 state, enabling the model to achieve good accuracy on new tasks with only a  
10 small amount of data. In addition, we utilize a continual learning method named  
11 parameter protection mechanism to give MetaCD the ability to adapt to new skills  
12 or new tasks, in order to adapt to dynamic changes in data. MetaCD can not only  
13 improve the plasticity of our model on a single task, but also ensure the stability  
14 and generalization of the model on sequential tasks. Comprehensive experiments  
15 on five real-world datasets show that MetaCD outperforms other baselines in both  
16 accuracy and generalization.

## 1 Introduction

18 Cognitive diagnosis is a crucial educational measurement model in intelligent education, which aims  
19 to explore students' cognitive processes in problem-solving through their measurement data [1]. In  
20 general, the cognitive diagnosis system can assesses students' mastery of various skills by modeling  
21 cognitive processing. And it can provide timely feedback on students' weak skills [2].

22 Unfortunately, with the explosive growth of educational data, traditional cognitive diagnostic models  
23 (such as IRT [3] and DINA [4]) cannot mine the potential nonlinear interactive relationships between  
24 students and questions [5, 6], which limits models' comprehensive understanding of students' cog-  
25 nitive processes. In order to address these limitations, recent efforts has begun exploring cognitive  
26 diagnosis models based on deep learning, such as neural network-based cognitive diagnosis (NCD)  
27 [7], self-supervised graph neural network-based cognitive diagnosis (SCD) [8], etc. These approaches  
28 can mine the deep non-linear interaction between students-questions-skills.

29 However, applying existing cognitive diagnostic methods to online learning systems still faces  
30 numerous challenges: **(a)** some questions receive very few responses from students, while others  
31 receive many, resulting in sparse data and subsequently leading to long-tailed problems [9]. **(b)**  
32 student data in online learning systems typically exhibit two dynamic changes: (1) students learn  
33 new skills over time, and their mastery of previously learned skills changes; (2) new learning  
34 tasks appear in the system can lead to changes in the data. Existing methods, designed for fixed  
35 datasets [7, 10, 11, 12], struggle to adapt to these dynamic conditions. They typically exhibit  
36 significant performance degradation on new, emerging data patterns due to an inability to integrate

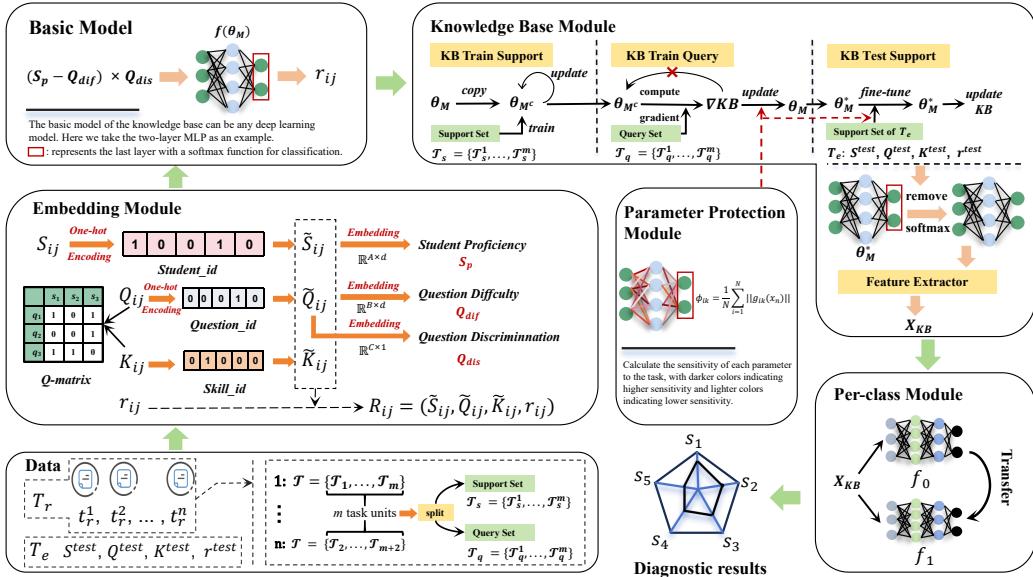


Figure 1: The overall structure of MetaCD.

new knowledge effectively. Furthermore, they are highly susceptible to catastrophic forgetting, whereby learning new information causes a rapid and severe loss of previously acquired knowledge.

In order to solve the above problems, we proposed a meta learning framework for cognitive diagnosis based on continual learning, called MetaCD. Our approach focuses more on considering the model’s plasticity and stability in adapting to the long-tailed distribution, and dynamic changes in the data and new tasks. Our key contributions are summarized as follows: **(1)** We empower the knowledge base module through meta-learning methods to ensure that the model can alleviate the problem of long-tailed distribution through few data, achieving the reliability and robustness of MetaCD on sparse data. **(2)** We use parameter protection mechanism (PPM) to ensure the stability and plasticity of the model, enabling MetaCD to adapt to the dynamic changes of data and achieve its continual learning ability. **(3)** We use a knowledge extraction method based on Kullback-Leibler divergence to avoid fuzzy boundaries of diagnostic results, thereby improving the classification accuracy of the model. **(4)** We conduct comprehensive experiments on five real-world datasets to validate the performance of MetaCD, particularly on long-tailed data and task incremental learning.

## 2 Our Proposed MetaCD Method

### 2.1 Task Overview

Suppose that we are given  $n$  training task units set  $T_r = \{t_r^1, t_r^2, \dots, t_r^n\}$  and a testing task  $T_e = \{S^{test}, Q^{test}, K^{test}, r^{test}\}$ . The data of each task unit  $t_r^i$  consists of response logs of students, including student IDs  $S_i$ , question IDs  $Q_i$ , and skill IDs  $K_i$ ,  $i \in [1 : n]$ . Each student has a corresponding score  $s$  for each question,  $s \in \{0, 1\}$  (1 indicates that the student answered a question correctly, otherwise 0) and  $s \in r_i$ , so  $T_i = \{S_i, Q_i, K_i, r_i\}$ . In addition, we need to construct the  $Q$ -matrix<sup>1</sup> [7] for each task unit based on the questions and their corresponding skills.

**Problem Definition:** Given a set of students’ response data from training task units set  $T_r$  and  $Q$ -matrix, the purpose of MetaCD is to learn a model that can predict students’ proficiency in skills and their corresponding scores by effectively transferring knowledge across tasks. The ultimate goal is to obtain the best model that can accurately predict students’ performance on the testing task  $T_e$ .

<sup>1</sup>The  $Q$ -matrix differs from  $Q_i$ .  $Q_i$  represents the ID of the question answered by the students, while the  $Q$ -matrix shows the binary relationship between questions and skills.

63 **2.2 The Structure of MetaCD**

64 Figure 1 illustrates the overall structure of MetaCD. The training process is as follows: we first  
 65 initialize the network parameters  $\theta_M$  and create a copy  $\theta_{M^c}$ . Then, response data are passed through  
 66 the embedding module to obtain vectors  $(\tilde{S}_{ij}, \tilde{Q}_{ij}, \tilde{K}_{ij}, r_{ij})$ . MetaCD randomly samples  $m$  task  
 67 units  $\mathcal{T} = \{\mathcal{T}_1, \dots, \mathcal{T}_m\}$ <sup>2</sup> from  $T_r$ , and constructs their corresponding  $Q$ -matrices. Using the support  
 68 sets, it updates  $\theta_{M^c}$  to obtain  $\theta'_{M^c}$ . Next, the query sets are used to compute gradients from  $\theta'_{M^c}$ ,  
 69 which are then used to update  $\theta_M$ , resulting in  $\theta_M^*$ . This optimized  $\theta_M^*$  is used to initialize MetaCD  
 70 for the test task  $T_e$ , and further fine-tuned using its support set. Finally, the model  $M^*$  is obtained.  
 71 Given the query set in  $T_e$ , MetaCD predicts each student’s response (0 or 1).

72 **Embedding module:** Let  $A$ ,  $B$ , and  $C$  denote the numbers of students, questions, and skills, with  
 73 embedding dimension  $d$  set to the number of skills per task. A  $Q$ -matrix [13] maps questions to  
 74 skills. Each response is encoded as  $R_{ij} = (\tilde{S}_{ij}, \tilde{Q}_{ij}, \tilde{K}_{ij}, r_{ij})$ , where  $\tilde{S}_{ij}$ ,  $\tilde{Q}_{ij}$ , and  $\tilde{K}_{ij}$  are one-hot  
 75 vectors, and  $r_{ij}$  is the score. Trainable embeddings estimate student proficiency, question difficulty,  
 76 and discrimination. The knowledge base, initialized as  $\theta_M$ , is updated via task-specific copies  $\theta_{M^c}$ .

77 **Knowledge base module:** Figure 1 illustrates the Knowledge Base (KB) module, comprising three  
 78 components: KB train support, KB train query, and KB test support. The KB module uses meta-  
 79 learning to accumulate and store experiential knowledge from multiple training task units. The base  
 80 model  $f(\theta_M)$  can be any deep model, such as MLP [14] or CNN [15]. The KB supports both updates  
 81 and retrieval. The process is detailed as follows:

82 **1. KB Train Support:** We repeatedly sample tasks  $\mathcal{T}$  from  $T_r$ , and use support sets  $\mathcal{T}_s$  to train the  
 83 KB with parameters  $\theta_M$ . Task units differ in dataset source, data distribution, etc. MetaCD learns  
 84 from many  $\mathcal{T}_s$  to store generalizable knowledge in KB. The specific expression is as follows:

$$\theta_{M^c} \leftarrow \theta_{M^c} - \alpha \cdot \frac{1}{n} \cdot \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^n \sum_{j=1}^m \nabla_{\theta_{M^c}} L(f(\theta_{M^c}), \mathcal{T}_s) \quad (1)$$

85 where  $n$  represents the number of  $\mathcal{T}_s$ , which corresponds to the batch\_size, and  $L$  denotes the loss  
 86 function. In this paper, we use the cross-entropy loss function. we set the hyper-parameter  $\alpha$  as 0.3.

87 **2. KB Train Query:** To reduce redundancy, we refine  $\theta_{M^c}$  using the query set  $\mathcal{T}_q$  with a combined  
 88 loss:  $L_{total} = L(f(\theta_{M^c}), \mathcal{T}_q) + L_{PPM}$ . The gradient from  $L_{total}$  updates  $\theta_M$ , not  $\theta_{M^c}$  (see Eq. (2)).  
 89 The updated  $\theta_M$  is treated as the optimal initialization  $\theta_M^*$ . This step enhances the KB with query  
 90 knowledge, improving task adaptation. We set the hyper-parameter  $\beta$  to 0.5.

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla KB &= \nabla_{\theta_{M^c}} L_{total} \\ \theta_M^* &= \theta_M \leftarrow \theta_M - \beta \cdot \nabla KB \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

91 **In KB Train Query**, the gradient computed from  $L_{total}$  will no longer be used to update  $\theta_{M^c}$ , but  
 92 instead will be used to update  $\theta_M$  (see Eq. (2)). The parameters  $\theta_M$  obtained from KB train query are  
 93 considered as the optimal initialization parameters  $\theta_M^*$ . The process aims to optimize the parameters  
 94 in the knowledge base using  $\mathcal{T}_q$ , allowing MetaCD to directly leverage the knowledge from the  
 95 knowledge base as initial knowledge when facing new or long-tailed tasks. This ensures that the  
 96 model starts with a good knowledge initial state that includes prior knowledge, leading to better  
 97 performance.

98 **3. KB Test Support:** We initialize the knowledge base with  $\theta_M^*$  and fine-tune it on the support set of  
 99 the test task  $T_e$ . During this stage, we apply the parameter protection mechanism (see **Parameter**  
 100 **protection module**) to adapt KB for future tasks. After KB training, we remove the classification  
 101 layer so that the knowledge base functions as a feature extractor.

102 **Parameter protection module:** The Parameter Protection Mechanism (PPM) balances stability on old  
 103 tasks and adaptability to new ones by integrating into the loss during KB train query and test support.  
 104 It preserves key knowledge from training tasks and reduces forgetting across sequential tasks. PPM  
 105 measures parameter sensitivity, restricting updates to sensitive parameters while allowing others to  
 106 change freely. The calculation is shown in Eq. (3).

<sup>2</sup> $\mathcal{T}_i = t_r^i$ ; we use  $\mathcal{T}_i$  here for clarity.

$$L_{PPM} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,k} \phi_{i,k} (\theta_{i,k} - \theta_{i,k}^*)^2, \quad (3)$$

107 where  $\theta_{i,k}^*$  represents the  $k$ -th parameter obtained after training in the  $i$ -th task unit,  $\theta_{i,k}$  indicates the  
108  $k$ -th initialization value in the  $i$ -th task unit.  $\phi_{i,k}$  refers to the sensitivity (importance) weights of the  
109 parameter, and its calculation formula is as follows:

$$\phi_{i,k} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N ||g_{ik}(x_n)||, \quad (4)$$

110 where  $N$  refers to the total number of data in task unit,  $g_{ik}$  represents the gradient of the KB with  
111 respect to the  $x_n$ , and  $g_{ik}(x_n) = \frac{\partial KB(x_n, \theta)}{\partial \theta_{ik}}$ . Here, KB stand for the output of the knowledge base  
112 module, and  $\theta$  indicates the parameters of KB. The term  $g_{ik}$  can be seen as the importance of  $\theta_{i,k}$  at  
113 the data  $x_n$ . Consequently,  $\phi_{i,k}$  can be seen as the importance of  $k$ -th parameter in the  $i$ -th task unit.

114 **Per-class diagnosis module:** In order to solve the problem of fuzzy boundaries, we adopt a Per-class-  
115 based diagnosis method. Since cognitive diagnosis results are binary (0 or 1), we build a separate  
116 fully connected network (FCN) for each class, called a per-class head. Each per-class head consists  
117 of 4 fully connected layers. The input to the per-class diagnosis module is the knowledge base output,  
118 and its output is computed as in  $y = \arg \max_k (f_0(X_{KB}), f_1(X_{KB}))$ . Where  $X_{KB}$  represents  
119 the output of knowledge base module,  $f_0$  and  $f_1$  indicates the two head of result 0 and result 1,  
120 respectively. The loss function of each head is shown in Eq. (5).

$$\begin{aligned} loss = & \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}_{KB} \sim \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{X}_{KB}}} [-\log(\text{Sigmoid}(f_i(X_{KB})))] + \\ & \eta \cdot \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}_{KB} \sim \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{X}_{KB}}} \left\| \frac{\partial f_i(X_{KB})}{\partial X_{KB}} \right\|_2^\mu + \\ & \lambda \cdot \|\theta_1 - \theta_0\|_2^2, \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

121 where  $X_{KB}$  represents the output of knowledge base module,  $f_0$  and  $f_1$  indicates the two head of  
122 result 0 and result 1, respectively. The first term in Eq.(5) is called the negative logarithmic function  
123 (NLL). We can make the output value of NLL as large as possible by reducing loss. However, we  
124 cannot make it infinitely large, otherwise it will cause severe overfitting, making the results between  
125 the two heads impossible to compare. Therefore, we introduce the holistic regularization (H-reg)  
126 as the second term of Eq.(5). This allows the parameters to be as large as possible while ensuring  
127 that the parameters and output are controllable. In this work, both heads are all 4-layer FCN with  
128 ReLU activation function, so H-reg can be expressed as Eq.(6). The third term in Eq.(5) is the  
129 L2-transfer regularization, which aims to control the model complexity by penalizing large weight  
130 values. Moreover, in order to make the output values of  $f_1$  and  $f_0$  be in the same value space as much  
131 as possible, the parameters of  $f_1$  is initialized with  $f_0$ .

$$\mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}_{KB} \sim \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{X}_{KB}}} \left\| \frac{\partial f_i(X_{KB})}{\partial X_{KB}} \right\|_2^\mu = \mathbb{E}_{\mathbf{X}_{KB} \sim \mathbb{P}_{\mathbf{X}_{KB}}} \|\omega_4 \cdot \omega_3 \cdot \omega_2 \cdot \omega_1\|_2^\mu, \quad (6)$$

132 To address the existence of fuzzy boundaries, after training is completed, we adopt a method based on  
133 Kullback-Leibler divergence [16] to reduce the shared knowledge, thereby increasing the separation  
134 distance between different diagnosis result. The calculation formula for knowledge sharing between  
135 different diagnosis results is shown in Eq. (7).

$$\Lambda^* = \operatorname{argmin} \sum_{i=0}^1 \kappa_i KL(\mathbb{P}_i \| \mathbb{P}_{0:1}), \quad (7)$$

### 136 3 Experimental analysis and results

137 **Comparison Baselines:** we conducted a comparative analysis with several existing cognitive diagnosis  
138 baselines using the aforementioned dataset. These baseline methods mainly include traditional

Table 1: Performance comparison of different models on student cognitive diagnostic.

Work	ASSIST2009_2010			ASSIST2017		
	ACC	RMSE	AUC	ACC	RMSE	AUC
<b>MetaCD</b>	<b>0.753</b>	0.425	<b>0.771</b>	<b>0.715</b>	<b>0.439</b>	<b>0.726</b>
IRT	0.654	0.472	0.681	0.658	0.464	0.668
MIRT	0.707	0.461	0.716	0.668	0.461	0.678
DINA	0.644	0.495	0.680	0.613	0.519	0.654
BCD	0.729	0.426	0.763	0.701	0.447	0.713
NCD	0.726	0.441	0.752	0.685	0.453	0.699
RCD	0.724	0.427	0.761	0.694	0.450	0.709
SCD	0.731	<b>0.423</b>	0.729	0.703	0.442	0.710

139 cognitive diagnostic models represented by IRT [3], MIRT [17], DINA [4] and BCD [18], and neural  
140 network-based cognitive diagnostic models represented by NCD [7], RCD [19], and SCD [8].

141 We use the ASSIST (ASSIST2009\_2010 [7], ASSIST2012\_2013 [20], ASSIST2017 [8]),  
142 CDBD\_a0910, and NIPS2020 datasets (as detailed in Appendices A.1) to evaluate MetaCD on  
143 the following research questions: **RQ1**: Can MetaCD achieve high accuracy in cognitive diagnosis  
144 compared to baseline models? **RQ2**: Can MetaCD maintain strong generalization under long-tailed  
145 data distributions? **RQ3**: Can MetaCD remain stable and adaptable in task-incremental learning?  
146 **RQ4**: What is the impact of each module through ablation study? Appendices A.2 shows the detailed  
147 experimental setup.

148 **RQ1**: Table 1 shows that MetaCD achieves the best ACC and AUC, with slightly higher RMSE than  
149 RCD, suggesting better task initialization. Considering data privacy issues, we further test MetaCD  
150 in few-shot settings. Table 2 and Table 3 ( in Appendices A.4) show that as samples increase, all  
151 models improve, but MetaCD performs best, showing strong generalization and robustness under  
152 limited data.

153 **RQ2**: As NIPS2020 is used for meta-training and is uniformly distributed, we exclude it from testing.  
154 We evaluate MetaCD on ASSIST2009\_2010, ASSIST2012\_2013, ASSIST2017, and CDBD\_a0910.  
155 For RQ2, we group interactions by frequency (6–10 to 31–35). Figure 2 shows MetaCD consistently  
156 outperforms SCD, showing strong generalization on sparse data.

157 **RQ3**: To answer RQ3, we evaluate MetaCD in a task-incremental setting. Trained sequentially on  
158 four datasets after NIPS2020, MetaCD with parameter protection achieves a BWT ( in Appendices  
159 A.3) of -0.04 vs. -0.217 without it Table 4 ( in Appendices A.4), showing reduced forgetting and  
160 better stability.

161 **RQ4**: To evaluate the contribution of each module in MetaCD, we conduct ablation experiments on  
162 four datasets. As shown in Table 4 ( in Appendices A.5), removing any module degrades performance.  
163 Notably, removing the KB module results in the largest accuracy drop (average -3.65%), highlighting  
164 its core role. Excluding the PPM module reduces ACC by 1.8% on average, showing its effectiveness  
165 in filtering redundant knowledge during KB query and support stages. The absence of the Per-class  
166 module also harms performance, confirming its utility in resolving fuzzy class boundaries.

## 167 4 Conclusion and Limitations

168 This article addresses the challenges posed by long-tailed problems and dynamic changes in cognitive  
169 diagnosis, offering a meta-learning framework based on continual learning as a solution. Specifically,  
170 we first set a meta-learning-based task objective to enable the neural network to mine prior knowledge  
171 from past tasks, thereby better generalizing on the long-tailed data. Then, we use a continual learning  
172 method based on parameter protection mechanism to calculate the importance level of parameters so  
173 that the model adapts well to new tasks and generalizes well to new skills. This ensures the stability  
174 and plasticity of the model. Although MetaCD outperforms existing baseline methods, computational  
175 efficiency has become an important consideration. Specifically, in PPM, the need to compute the  
176 sensitivity of each parameter adds additional computational overhead. Future work will focus on  
177 improving the computational efficiency of MetaCD.

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244 **A Technical Appendices**

245 **A.1 Dataset Description**

246 In our experiments, we employ the following publicly available datasets: ASSIST, CDBD\_a0910 and  
247 NIPS2020. ASSIST, comprising ASSIST2009\_2010 [7], ASSIST2012\_2013 [20], and ASSIST2017  
248 [8], is an openly accessible dataset sourced from the ASSISTments online learning platform [21].  
249 This dataset encompasses students' responses to mathematics questions. CDBD\_a0910 stands as  
250 one of the benchmark datasets in cognitive diagnosis, offering clearly student answer logs alongside  
251 corresponding information on knowledge concepts pertaining to each exercise<sup>3</sup>. NIPS2020 is  
252 supported by the NeurIPS 2020 Education Challenge competition, offering answer logs from students  
253 regarding multiple-choice math questions [20]. Type indicates the storage format of the original data.

254 The # of Records represents the number of response logs. The # of Student, # of Exercises and  
255 # of Knowledge concepts refer to the number of students, exercises, and knowledge concepts,  
256 respectively. Due to the presence of null records, missing values, and duplicate entries in the original  
257 datasets, preprocessing is required for all datasets before conducting the experiment. In addition, to  
258 demonstrate the performance of SCD on long-tailed data, we retain students' data with more than  
259 five interaction records. The preprocessed data is stored as files in JSON format.

260 **A.2 Experimental Setup**

261 In this experiment, we have set the total\_tasks to 50, meaning that we have prepared 50 task units for  
262 training MetaCD. The details are outlined as follows: (1) ASSIST2009\_2010, ASSIST2012\_2013,  
263 and ASSIST2017 are treated as separate task units. (2) Considering that the CDBD\_a0910 original  
264 data comprises three sub-datasets: train.csv, test.csv, and valid.csv, and each sub-dataset contains a  
265 specific number of records, we divide the CDBD\_a0910 dataset into 3 task units. (3) Given the large  
266 volume of records in NIPS2020, we divide it into 115 task units, each containing 150,000 records.

267 From these, we randomly select 45 task units for model training ( $m = 45$ ). In MetaCD, the selection  
268 of hyperparameters is primarily optimized using a grid search method. Specifically, the values of  
269  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ ,  $\eta$ ,  $\lambda$ , and  $\xi$  are in the range of  $(0, 1]$ , with a step size of 0.1 for each change. The value of  $\mu$   
270 is selected from the set  $[2, 3, 4]$ . Furthermore, we set batch\_size = 5, and the number of sampling  
271 samples  $s = 128$ . This implies that during each epoch of KB train support, we will select 5 training  
272 task units and sample 128 data points for each task unit to train the model.

273 In addition, we use Xavier initialization to initialize the MetaCD, aiming to speed up training and  
274 improve the performance of the network; and in MetaCD, we use the Dropout algorithm (dropout  
275 rate = 0.5) to reduce the problem of overfitting in the model process and use Adam. The optimization  
276 algorithm performs gradient updates to help the model quickly converge to the optimal solution.

277 **Problem Definition:** Given a set of students' response data from training task units set  $T_r$  and  
278 Q-matrix, the purpose of MetaCD is to learn a model that can predict students' proficiency in skills  
279 and their corresponding scores by effectively transferring knowledge across tasks. The ultimate goal  
280 is to obtain the best model that can accurately predict students' performance on the testing task  $T_e$ .

281 **A.3 Evaluation metrics**

282 In order to better evaluate the performance of MetaCD, we used overall accuracy (ACC), root mean  
283 square error (RMSE) and area under the curve (AUC) to evaluate the performance of MetaCD from  
284 different perspectives. In addition, in order to evaluate the continual learning ability of MetaCD  
285 on task incremental learning, we introduce the backward transfer (BWT) srivastava2023lifelong to  
286 evaluate the model. The BWT is an evaluation metric utilized to assess the performance of deep  
287 learning models in task incremental learning scenarios. It primarily involves assessing the model's  
288 performance across all tasks, including both trained and untrained ones, subsequent to training it on a  
289 specific task.

$$BWT = \frac{1}{T-1} \sum_{t=1}^{T-1} M_{T,t} - M_{t,t} \quad (8)$$

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<sup>3</sup><https://github.com/bigdata-ustc/EduData>.

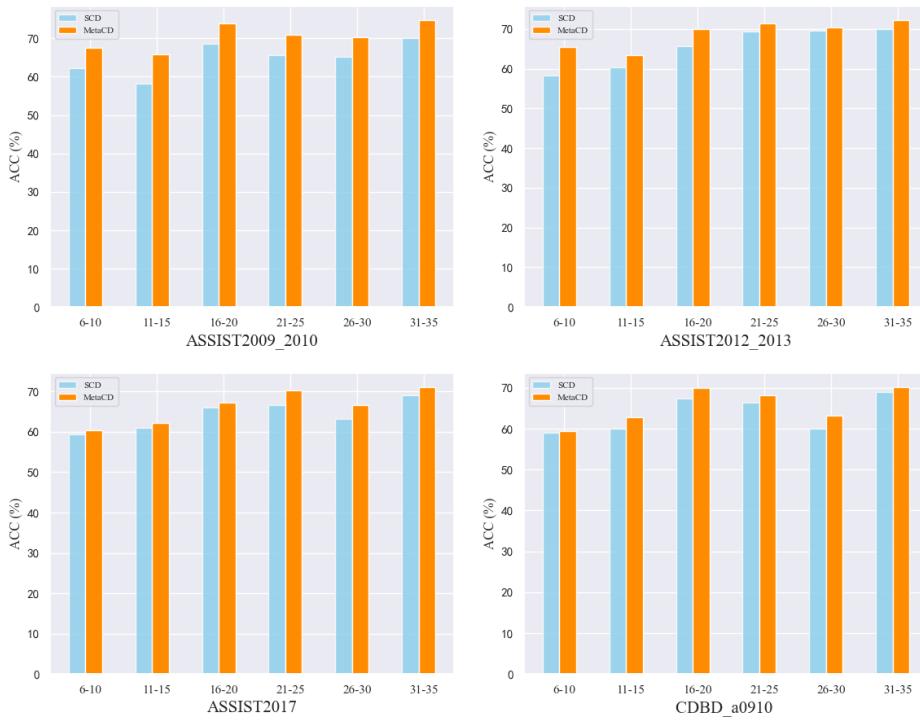


Figure 2: Performance comparison on long-tailed data. The horizontal coordinate represents the number of times that a question has been answered by different students. For example, 5-10 represents a question that has been answered by different students between 5 and 10 times.

290 where  $R \in (1, T-1)$ ,  $M_{R,i}$  indicates the performance of the model on the task  $t$  after the model is  
 291 trained on the  $R^{th}$  task.

#### 292 A.4 Detailed Results of Experiments

Table 2: Performance comparison of models based on the ASSIST 2009\_2010 under different data amounts.

Amounts	5,000			100,000			150,000			190,000		
Work	ACC	RMSE	AUC									
MetaCD	<b>0.569</b>	<b>0.517</b>	<b>0.557</b>	<b>0.659</b>	<b>0.483</b>	<b>0.687</b>	<b>0.738</b>	<b>0.459</b>	<b>0.724</b>	<b>0.753</b>	0.425	<b>0.771</b>
IRT	0.463	0.693	0.419	0.532	0.690	0.526	0.585	0.591	0.613	0.654	0.472	0.681
MIRT	0.469	0.690	0.428	0.549	0.675	0.568	0.605	0.570	0.628	0.707	0.461	0.716
DINA	0.476	0.667	0.462	0.596	0.607	0.585	0.651	0.519	0.633	0.644	0.495	0.680
BCD	0.556	0.572	0.539	0.621	0.549	0.618	0.722	0.473	0.706	0.729	0.426	0.763
NCD	0.503	0.581	0.529	0.628	0.536	0.629	0.719	0.493	0.703	0.726	0.441	0.752
RCD	0.557	0.569	0.535	0.615	0.542	0.626	0.705	0.479	0.698	0.724	0.427	0.761
SCD	0.560	0.522	0.542	0.637	0.505	0.679	0.725	0.466	0.709	0.731	<b>0.423</b>	0.729

Table 3: Performance comparison of models based on the ASSIST2017 under different data amounts.

Amounts	5,000			10,0000			15,0000			19,0000		
Work	ACC	RMSE	AUC									
MetaCD	<b>0.553</b>	<b>0.550</b>	<b>0.549</b>	<b>0.646</b>	<b>0.499</b>	<b>0.652</b>	<b>0.703</b>	<b>0.465</b>	<b>0.715</b>	<b>0.715</b>	<b>0.439</b>	<b>0.726</b>
IRT	0.458	0.685	0.425	0.526	0.697	0.518	0.580	0.599	0.601	0.658	0.464	0.668
MIRT	0.483	0.679	0.417	0.535	0.683	0.547	0.576	0.586	0.618	0.668	0.461	0.678
DINA	0.459	0.665	0.453	0.553	0.639	0.571	0.609	0.558	0.607	0.613	0.519	0.654
BCD	0.540	0.565	0.528	0.635	0.510	0.645	0.690	0.513	0.692	0.701	0.447	0.713
NCD	0.523	0.572	0.528	0.609	0.551	0.603	0.689	0.537	0.673	0.685	0.453	0.699
RCD	0.537	0.570	0.530	0.626	0.532	0.638	0.685	0.519	0.682	0.694	0.450	0.709
SCD	0.541	0.562	0.531	0.628	0.515	0.642	0.692	0.489	0.703	0.703	0.442	0.710

Table 4: The performance of MetaCD on task incremental learning across sequential tasks.

		<i>Task</i> <sub>1</sub>	<i>Task</i> <sub>2</sub>	<i>Task</i> <sub>3</sub>	<i>Task</i> <sub>4</sub>
$T_1^*$	$T_1$	0.771 / 0.771	/	/	/
$T_2^*$	$T_2$	0.719 / 0.598	0.703 / 0.721	/	/
$T_3^*$	$T_3$	0.706 / 0.533	0.689 / 0.557	0.700 / 0.715	/
$T_4^*$	$T_4$	0.693 / 0.506	0.675 / 0.531	0.686 / 0.519	0.697 / 0.701

Table 5: Accuracy results of ablation study with/without KB, PPM, and Per-class on four different datasets.

Model	ASSIST2009_2010	ASSIST2012_2013	ASSIST2017	CDBD_a0910
MetaCD	0.753	0.725	0.715	0.712
w/o KB	0.719	0.685	0.687	0.668
w/o PPM	0.733	0.708	0.699	0.693
w/o Per-class	0.742	0.713	0.706	0.705