

Eedi - Mining Misconceptions in Mathematics

Post-Competition Review

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Singapore 2025





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Introduction

This competition aims to predict the correlation between incorrect options (distractors) and potential misconceptions in multiple-choice math questions by building natural language processing (NLP) models.

Traditionally, manual annotation requires each incorrect option to be carefully matched with corresponding misconceptions, a process that is time-consuming and prone to inconsistency. The competition challenges participants to develop models that can automate or semi-automate this matching process. These models should not only cover known misconceptions but also generalize well to newly emerging ones, thereby effectively reducing the burden of manual annotation and improving educational quality.

Construct Name: Simplify an algebraic fraction by factorising the numerator

Subject Name: Simplifying Algebraic Fractions

Problem:

Simplify the following, if possible: $\frac{m^2+2m-3}{m-3}$

A. $m + 1$

B. $m + 2$

C. $m - 1$

D. Does not simplify

Correct answer: D

Misconception A: Does not know that to factorise a quadratic expression, to find two numbers that add to give the coefficient of the x term, and multiply to give the non variable term

Misconception B: Thinks that when you cancel identical terms from the numerator and denominator, they just disappear

Misconception C: Does not know that to factorise a quadratic expression, to find two numbers that add to give the coefficient of the x term, and multiply to give the non variable term

Misconception D: No misconception/NaN

Construct Name: Calculate the range from a list of data

Subject Name: Range and Interquartile Range from a List of Data

Problem:

Tom and Katie are discussing the 5 plants with these heights: 24 cm, 17 cm, 42 cm, 26 cm, 13 cm Tom says if all the plants were cut in half, the range wouldn't change. Katie says if all the plants grew by 3 cm each, the range wouldn't change. Who do you agree with?

A. Only Tom

B. Only Katie

C. Both Tom and Katie

D. Neither is correct

Correct answer: B

Misconception A: Believes if you changed all values by the same proportion the range would not change

Misconception B: No misconception/NaN

Misconception C: Believes if you changed all values by the same proportion the range would not change

Misconception D: Believes if you add the same value to all numbers in the dataset the range will change

Background – Competition Data

2025

I= Eedi

In the diagram, AN : NB = 3 : 5
What is the distance AN?

48 m

A N B

16 m 30 m 6 m 18 m

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In this example, the options for the question are labeled with misconceptions as follows:

- **A:** Divides total amount by each side of the ratio instead of dividing by the sum of the parts
- **B:** Mixes up sides of a ratio
- **C:** Finds one part of a ratio but doesn't multiply that by the number of parts needed
- **D:** Correct answer

The Diagnostic Questions were originally presented in image format, and the text, including mathematical content, has been extracted using a human-in-the-loop OCR process.

File and Field Information

- **[train/test].csv**
 - `QuestionId` - Unique question identifier (`int`).
 - `ConstructId` - Unique construct identifier (`int`).
 - `ConstructName` - Most granular level of knowledge related to question (`str`).
 - `CorrectAnswer` - A, B, C or D (`char`).
 - `SubjectId` - Unique subject identifier (`int`).
 - `SubjectName` - More general context than the `construct` (`str`).
 - `QuestionText` - Question text extracted from the question image using human-in-the-loop OCR (`str`).
 - `Answer[A/B/C/D]Text` - Answer option A text extracted from the question image using human-in-the-loop OCR (`str`).
 - `Misconception[A/B/C/D]Id` - Unique misconception identifier (`int`). Ground truth labels in `train.csv`; your task is to predict these labels for `test.csv`.
- **misconception_mapping.csv** - maps `MisconceptionId` to its `MisconceptionName`
- **sample_submission.csv** - A submission file in the correct format.
 - `QuestionId_Answer` - Each question has three incorrect answers for which need you predict the `MisconceptionId`.
 - `MisconceptionId` - You can predict up to 25 values, space delimited.

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Dataset: misconception_mapping.csv

Details of Misconception Matching with IDs

```
In [2]: data = pd.read_csv('misconception_mapping.csv')
```

```
In [3]: data
```

```
Out[3]:
```

MisconceptionId	MisconceptionName
0	0 Does not know that angles in a triangle sum to...
1	1 Uses dividing fractions method for multiplying...
2	2 Believes there are 100 degrees in a full turn
3	3 Thinks a quadratic without a non variable term...
4	4 Believes addition of terms and powers of terms...
...	...
2582	2582 When multiplying numbers with the same base, m...
2583	2583 Does not know what a cube number is
2584	2584 Believes that any percentage of a larger numbe...
2585	2585 Believes a cubic expression should have three ...
2586	2586 Misunderstands order of operations in algebraic...

2587 rows × 2 columns

```
: for i in range(20):  
    print(data['MisconceptionName'].iloc[i])
```

Does not know that angles in a triangle sum to 180 degrees
Uses dividing fractions method for multiplying fractions
Believes there are 100 degrees in a full turn
Thinks a quadratic without a non variable term, can not be factorised
Believes addition of terms and powers of terms are equivalent e.g. $a + c = a^c$
When measuring a reflex angle, gives the acute or obtuse angle that sums to 360 instead
Can identify the multiplier used to form an equivalent fraction but does not apply to the numerator
Believes gradient = change in y
Student thinks that any two angles along a straight line are equal
Thinks there are 180 degrees in a full turn
Believes duration can be read from a timetable, rather than calculating from start and end times
When reading value from graph, reads from the wrong axes.
Thinks that the side view does not include the furthest rows back
Does not subtract from the hours, when having to borrow for a time calculation
Does not understand how to create a multiple of an equation
Confuses the order of operations, believes addition comes before division
Believes that graphs of inverse proportion meet the axes
Confuses AM and PM when calculating time
Given the length of the sides, still does not recognise there is enough information to find the area
When multiplying a surd by an integer, adds the integer to the number under the surd

Dataset: train.csv

```
data = pd.read_csv('train.csv')  
data
```

QuestionId	ConstructId	ConstructName	SubjectId	SubjectName	CorrectAnswer	QuestionText	AnswerAText	AnswerBText	AnswerCText	AnswerDText
0	0	856	Use the order of operations to carry out calculations involving brackets.	33	BIDMAS	A $\sqrt{3} \times 2 + 4 - 5$ In Where do the brackets ...	$3 \times (2 + 4) - 5$	$3 \times 2 + (4 - 5)$	$3 \times (2 + 4 - 5)$	Does not need brackets
1	1	1612	Simplify an algebraic fraction by factorising ...	1077	Simplifying Algebraic Fractions	D Simplify the following, if possible: $(\frac{1}{x})^2$	$m + 1$	$m + 2$	$m - 1$	Does not simplify
2	2	2774	Calculate the range from a list of data	339	Range and Interquartile Range from a List of Data	B Tom and Katie are discussing the 5 plant...	Only\nTom	Only\nKatie	Both Tom and Katie	Neither is correct
3	3	2377	Recall and use the intersecting diagonals properties of quadrilaterals.	88	Properties of Quadrilaterals	C The angles highlighted on this rectangle with ...	acute	obtuse	90°	Not enough information
4	4	3387	Substitute positive integer values into formulae.	67	Substitution into Formula	A $f = 3r^2 + 3$ is used to find...	30	27	51	24
...
1864	1864	2774	Calculate the range from a list of data	339	Range and Interquartile Range from a List of Data	C What is the range of the following numbers? In...	5	11	23	16
1865	1865	2695	Describe an enlargement, with no centre of enlargement.	90	Length Scale Factors in Similar Shapes	B Shape Q is an enlargement of shape P ...	$3 \div 11$	$11 \div 3$	3×11	$11 - 3$
1866	1866	854	Use the order of operations to carry out calculations involving brackets.	33	BIDMAS	B What does the following equal? $\sqrt{8-7+10}$ $\sqrt{1}$...	36	31	-29	33
1867	1867	2634	Distinguish between congruency and similarity	274	Congruency in Other Shapes	B Tom and Katie are discussing congruence and similarity...	Only\nTom	Only Katie	Both Tom and Katie	Neither is correct
1868	1868	2680	Describe a 90° or 270° rotation giving the angle.	93	Rotation	B Jo and Paul are arguing about how to fully describe the rotation...	Only\nJo	Only Paul	Both Jo and Paul	Neither is correct

1869 rows × 15 columns

```
dict(data.iloc[1])
```

```
{'QuestionId': 1,  
'ConstructId': 1612,  
'ConstructName': 'Simplify an algebraic fraction by factorising the numerator',  
'SubjectId': 1077,  
'SubjectName': 'Simplifying Algebraic Fractions',  
'CorrectAnswer': 'D',  
'QuestionText': 'Simplify the following, if possible:  $\frac{m^2 + 2m - 3}{m - 3}$ ',  
'AnswerAText': ' $(m+1)$ ',  
'AnswerBText': ' $(m+2)$ ',  
'AnswerCText': ' $(m-1)$ ',  
'AnswerDTText': 'Does not simplify',  
'MisconceptionAId': 2142.0,  
'MisconceptionBId': 143.0,  
'MisconceptionCId': 2142.0,  
'MisconceptionDId': nan}
```

```
dict(data.iloc[4])
```

```
{'QuestionId': 4,
'ConstructId': 3387,
'ConstructName': 'Substitute positive integer values into formulae involving powers or roots',
'SubjectId': 67,
'SubjectName': 'Substitution into Formula',
'CorrectAnswer': 'A',
'QuestionText': 'The equation  $f=3r^2+3$  is used to find values in the table below. What is the value covered by the star? \\begin{tabular} {c|c|c|c|c|}\n\\hline & (1) & (2) & (3) & (4)\n\\hline & (f) & (6) & (15) & *\n\\color{gold}\\bigstar & & & &\n\\hline\n\\end{tabular}',
'AnswerAText': '( 30 )',
'AnswerBText': '( 27 )',
'AnswerCText': '( 51 )',
'AnswerDTText': '( 24 )',
'MisconceptionAID': nan,
'MisconceptionBID': nan,
'MisconceptionCID': nan,
'MisconceptionDID': 1818.0}
```

Dataset: test.csv / sample submission.csv

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```
dict(data.iloc[0])
```

```
{'QuestionId': 1869,  
'ConstructId': 856,  
'ConstructName': 'Use the order of operations to carry out calculations involving powers',  
'SubjectId': 33,  
'SubjectName': 'BIDMAS',  
'CorrectAnswer': 'A',  
'QuestionText': '\\\\n3 \\\\times 2+4-5\\\\n\\\\]\nWhere do the brackets need to go to make the answer equal \\\\(( 13  
\\\\)?',  
'AnswerAText': '\\\\( 3 \\\\times(2+4)-5 \\\\)',  
'AnswerBText': '\\\\( 3 \\\\times 2+(4-5) \\\\)',  
'AnswerCText': '\\\\( 3 \\\\times(2+4-5) \\\\)',  
'AnswerDText': 'Does not need brackets'}
```

```
dict(data.iloc[1])
```

```
{'QuestionId': 1870,  
'ConstructId': 1612,  
'ConstructName': 'Simplify an algebraic fraction by factorising the numerator',  
'SubjectId': 1077,  
'SubjectName': 'Simplifying Algebraic Fractions',  
'CorrectAnswer': 'D',  
'QuestionText': 'Simplify the following, if possible: \\\\( \\\\frac{m^2+2}{m-3} \\\\)',  
'AnswerAText': '\\\\( m+1 \\\\)',  
'AnswerBText': '\\\\( m+2 \\\\)',  
'AnswerCText': '\\\\( m-1 \\\\)',  
'AnswerDText': 'Does not simplify'}
```

```
data = pd.read_csv('sample_submission.csv')  
data
```

	QuestionId_Answer	MisconceptionId
0	1869_B 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 1...	
1	1869_C 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 1...	
2	1869_D 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 1...	
3	1870_A 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 1...	
4	1870_B 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 1...	
5	1870_C 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 1...	
6	1871_A 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 1...	
7	1871_C 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 1...	
8	1871_D 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 1...	

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Evaluation Metrics

Evaluation

Submissions are evaluated according to the Mean Average Precision @ 25 (MAP@25):

$$\text{MAP@25} = \frac{1}{U} \sum_{u=1}^U \sum_{k=1}^{\min(n, 25)} P(k) \times \text{rel}(k)$$

where U is the number of observations, $P(k)$ is the precision at cutoff k , n is the number predictions submitted per observation, and $\text{rel}(k)$ is an indicator function equaling 1 if the item at rank k is a relevant (correct) label, zero otherwise.

Once a correct label has been scored for *an observation*, that label is no longer considered relevant for that observation, and additional predictions of that label are skipped in the calculation. For example, if the correct label is A for an observation, the following predictions all score an average precision of 1.0.

[A, B, C, D, E]
[A, A, A, A, A]
[A, B, A, C, A]

There is only one correct label per observation (hence no divisor term in front of the inner summation.)



$$\text{Precision at } K = \frac{\text{Number of relevant items in } K}{\text{Total number of items in } K}$$

Interaction results



Not relevant Relevant

$$\text{Precision @6} = \frac{\text{Number of relevant items in 6}}{\text{Total number of items in 6}} = 0.33$$



By Bobby Lee

Algorithm

This competition utilises fine-tuning of Large Language Models (LLMs) to perform retrieval and re-ranking to identify misconceptions in math problems. The algorithm workflow is as follows:

- **Data Generation and Model Training:** Initially, GPT-4o is employed to generate missing misconception data from the official dataset, constructing the sample information into training data. Based on the Qwen-14b-instruct and Qwen-32b-instruct large models, fine-tuning is conducted using contrastive learning. During this phase, a 4-bit quantised model version is used, with LoRA (Low-Rank Adaptation) techniques applied to train multiple linear modules.
- **Retrieval and Model Fusion:** In the retrieval stage, embeddings from three LLMs with different training methods or varying parameters are concatenated, followed by similarity-based retrieval to shortlist candidates.
- **Re-ranking:** The top 25 prediction results from the retrieval stage are re-ranked using Qwen-32b-instruct-AWQ. The re-ranking statements are input into Qwen-32b-instruct-AWQ, leveraging its zero-shot capability to output new ranking statements. The top 25 results are processed in batches; simultaneously, bge-large-en-v1.5 is used to search for the best results from a specified retrieval library based on similarity.

Algorithm

Data Generation: Filling Missing Misconceptions

By Bobby Lee 2023

```
dict(data.iloc[4])  
  
{'QuestionId': 4,  
 'ConstructId': 3387,  
 'ConstructName': 'Substitute positive integer values into formulae involving  
 'SubjectId': 67,  
 'SubjectName': 'Substitution into Formula',  
 'CorrectAnswer': 'A',  
 'QuestionText': 'The equation  $f=3r^2+3$  is used to find value covered by the star?  $\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline r & | & 6 & | & 15 \\ \hline f & | & | & | & | \\ \hline \end{array}$  &  $\color{gold} \text{lar}$ ',  
 'AnswerAText': '( 30 )',  
 'AnswerBText': '( 27 )',  
 'AnswerCText': '( 51 )',  
 'AnswerDText': '( 24 )',  
 'MisconceptionAID': nan,  
 'MisconceptionBID': nan,  
 'MisconceptionCID': nan,  
 'MisconceptionDID': 1818.0}
```



```
model_config = dict(  
    openai_api_base = "https://testshellapi.kimi.asia/v1", #host  
    api_key = "****", # model api key  
    model = "gpt-4o", # model name  
    default_system_prompt = """#Task  
You are a Mathematics teacher. Your task is to reason and identify the ConstructName and SubjectName and then the misconception behind the user input.  
ConstructName is Most granular level of knowledge related to question, appears to describe the specific mathematical method or procedure used to solve the problem.  
SubjectName is More general context than the construct, represents the broader mathematical topic or category that the question belongs to.  
Misconceptions are a mistake in conceptual understanding and they have relations with all the applications of those concepts. For example, a single misconception can lead to getting the incorrect answer.  
Do not use "The misconception is" to start your answers.  
Do not mention the concrete details of the question or answers.  
  
##User input  
Question: The question text  
A: multiple choice answer A text  
B: multiple choice answer B text  
C: multiple choice answer C text  
D: multiple choice answer D text  
Correct Answer: The correct answer text  
  
##You should answer in the following JSON format  
{  
    "ConstructName": "here writes the constructName",  
    "SubjectName": "here writes the SubjectName"  
    "MisconceptionAName": "here writes the answer A's misconception.",  
    "MisconceptionBName": "here writes the answer B's misconception.",  
    "MisconceptionCName": "here writes the answer C's misconception.",  
    "MisconceptionDName": "here writes the answer D's misconception.",  
}  
"""", # system prompt  
    default_temperature=0.5, # model temperature 越高随机性越强。  
    max_tokens=256, # model 最大输出token数量  
)
```

[6]

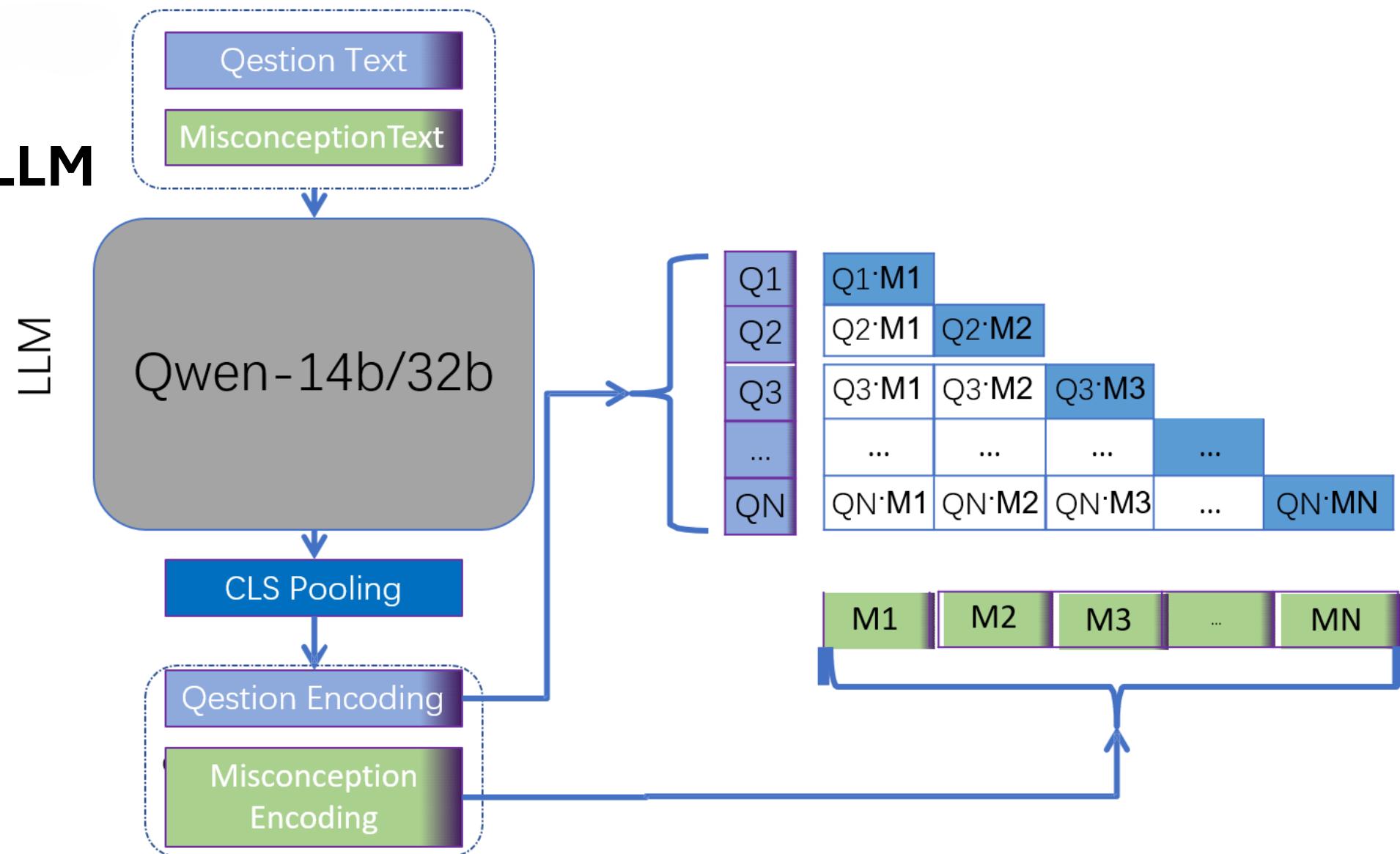
Python

5

By BOY

Algorithm

Contrastive Learning Fine-Tuning of LLM

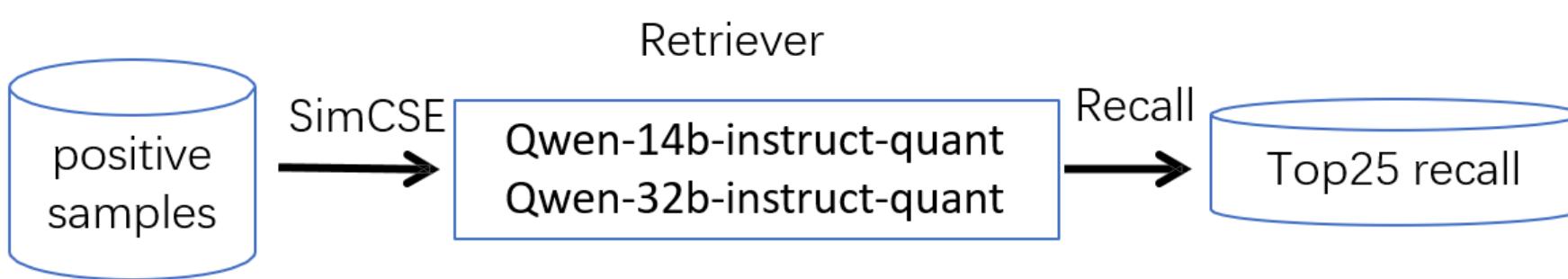


Algorithm

```
# %%LF
task_description = 'Given a math question and a misconception incorrect answer, please retrieve the most accurate reason for the misconception.'LF
LF
def get_detailed_instruct(task_description: str, query: str) -> str:LF
    return f'Instruct: {task_description}\nQuery: {query}'LF
LF
def create_train_df(train_df, misconception_mapping, is_train=True):LF
    train_data = []LF
    for _, row in train_df.iterrows():LF
        for c in ['A', 'B', 'C', 'D']:LF
            if is_train:LF
                misconception_id = row[f'Misconception{c}Id']LF
                if np.isnan(misconception_id):LF
                    misconception_id = -1LF
                doc_text = row[f'Misconception{c}Name']LF
                misconception_id = int(misconception_id)LF
            if c == row['CorrectAnswer']:LF
                continueLF
            if f'Answer{c}Text' not in row:LF
                continueLF
            real_answer_id = row['CorrectAnswer']LF
            real_text = row[f'Answer{real_answer_id}Text']LF
            query_text = f"###question##:{row['SubjectName']}-{row['ConstructName']}-{row['QuestionText']}\n###Correct Answer##:{real_text}\n###Misconcepce Incorrect answer##:{row[f'Answer{c}Text']}"\n            row['query'] = get_detailed_instruct(task_description, query_text)LF
            row['answer_name'] = cLF
            if is_train and misconception_id != -1:LF
                doc_text = misconception_mapping.iloc[misconception_id]['MisconceptionName']LF
            row['doc'] = doc_textLF
            row['answer_id'] = misconception_idLF
            train_data.append(copy.deepcopy(row))LF
    new_train_df = pd.DataFrame(train_data)LF
    return new_train_dfLF
LF
```

Retrieval

~25



Selection of Three LLMs with
Different Training Methods or
Parameters for Ensemble

```
new_val_df = pd.read_parquet("df.parquet")
q_emb1 = np.load('/kaggle/working/qwen14b_awq_query_embeddings.npy').astype("float16")
q_emb2 = np.load('/kaggle/working/qwen32b_awq_query_embeddings.npy').astype("float16")
q_emb3 = np.load('/kaggle/working/qwen14b_inst_query_embeddings.npy').astype("float16")

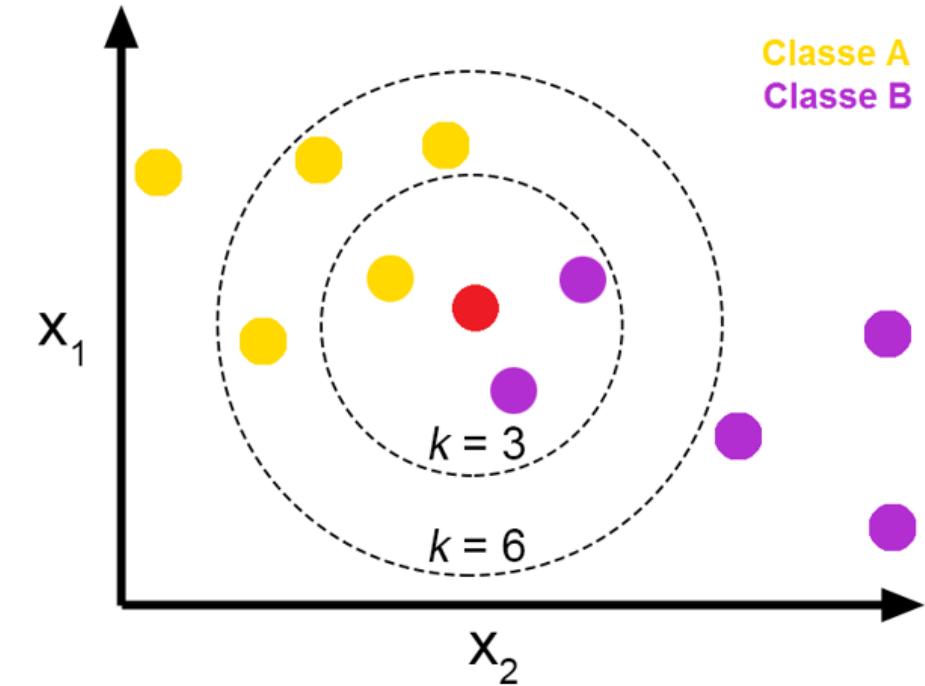
d_emb1 = np.load('/kaggle/working/qwen14b_awq_doc_embeddings.npy').astype("float16")
d_emb2 = np.load('/kaggle/working/qwen32b_awq_doc_embeddings.npy').astype("float16")
d_emb3 = np.load('/kaggle/working/qwen14b_inst_doc_embeddings.npy').astype("float16")

query_embeddings = np.concatenate([q_emb1, q_emb2, q_emb3], axis=1)

doc_embeddings = np.concatenate([d_emb1, d_emb2, d_emb3], axis=1)

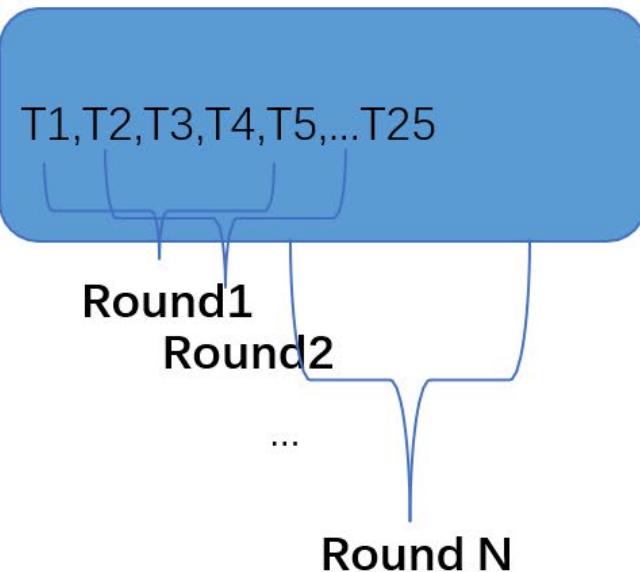
doc_embeddings.shape

top_k = min(top_k, len(doc_embeddings))
indices = get_matches(query_embeddings, doc_embeddings, n_neighbors=top_k)
misconception_mapping = pd.read_csv(f"{path_prefix}/misconception_mapping.csv")
np.save("indices.npy", indices)
```



Rerank

KNN Algorithm Relies on Vector Distance for Result Ranking, Which Is Overly Coarse, Requiring a More Advanced Re-ranking Approach.



```
✓ def apply_template(row, tokenizer):
|   PROMPT = """Here is a mathematics question about
| Curriculum knowledge: {constructName}({subjectName})
| Question: {problem}
| Incorrect Answer: {wrong_ans}
| Correct Answer: {correctAnswerValue}

You are a Mathematics teacher. Your task is to reason and identify the misconception behind the Incorrect Answer with the Question.
Answer concisely what misconception it is to lead to getting the incorrect answer.
No need to give the reasoning process and do not use "The misconception is" to start your answers.
There are some relative and possible misconceptions below to help you make the decision:

✓ {retrieval}"""
✓ messages = [
✓   {
✓     "role": "user",
✓     "content": PROMPT.format(
✓       constructName=row["ConstructName"],
✓       problem=row["QuestionText"],
✓       correctAnswerValue=row["CorrectAnswerText"],
✓       wrong_ans=row["IncorrectAnswerText"],
✓       subjectName=row["SubjectName"],
✓       retrieval=row["Retrieval"]
✓     )
✓   }
✓ ]
```

Similarity Matching

label: misconception_mapping.csv

label:

```
In [2]: data = pd.read_csv('misconception_mapping.csv')
```

In [3]: data

Out[3]:

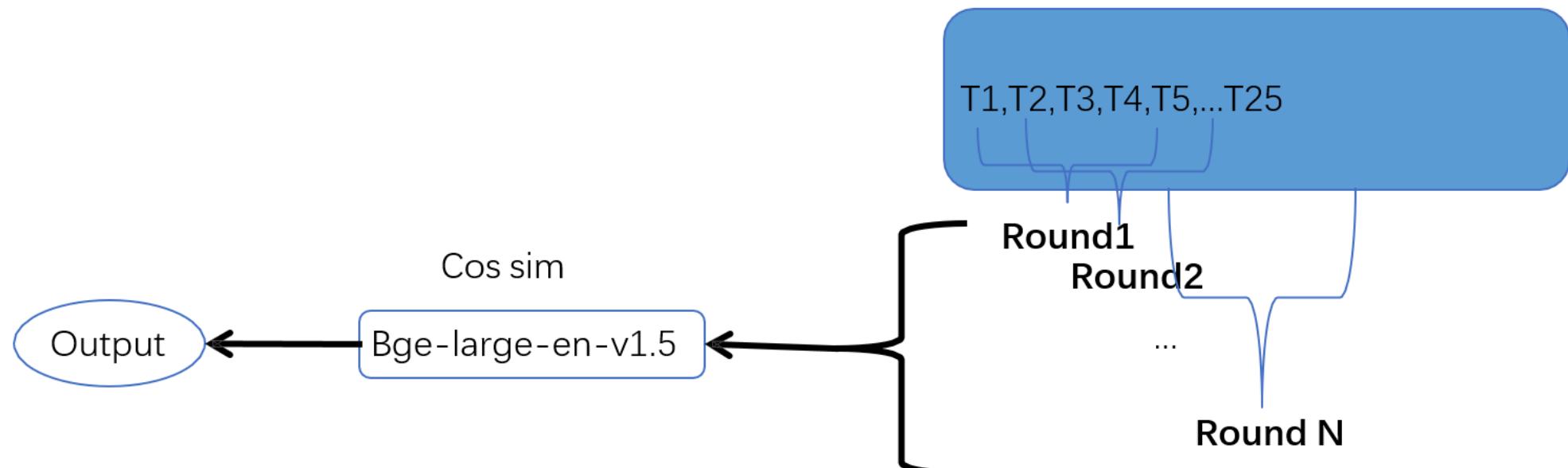
MisconceptionId	MisconceptionName
0	Does not know that angles in a triangle sum to...
1	Uses dividing fractions method for multiplying...
2	Believes there are 100 degrees in a full turn
3	Thinks a quadratic without a non variable term...
4	Believes addition of terms and powers of terms...
...	...
2582	When multiplying numbers with the same base, m...
2583	2583 Does not know what a cube number is
2584	2584 Believes that any percentage of a larger numbe...
2585	2585 Believes a cubic expression should have three ...
2586	2586 Misunderstands order of operations in algebraic...

2587 rows × 2 columns

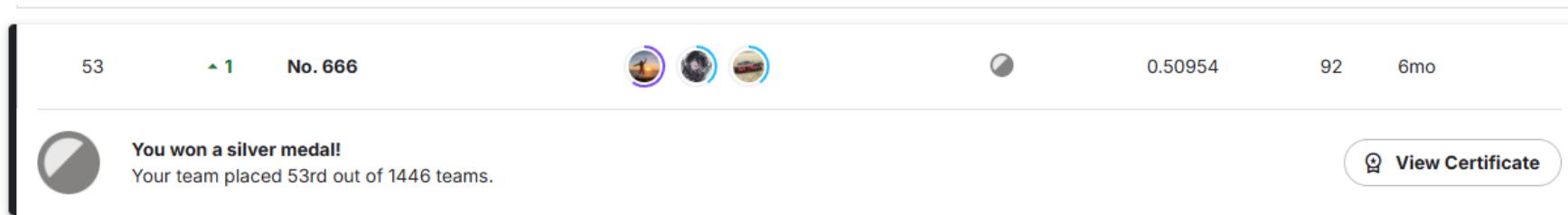
Similarity Matching

Utilizing Bge-large-en-v1.5 for Sentence Embedding

```
By Bobby Lee 2025  
from sentence_transformers import SentenceTransformer  
import torch  
  
model = SentenceTransformer('/kaggle/input/bge-large-en-v1-5', trust_remote_code=True)  
  
GROUP = args.GROUP  
num_1 = args.NUM_1  
num_2 = args.NUM_2
```



Results



Top 5% globally
Retrieval & reranking is the key.



By Bobby Lee 2025

Let's chat & text



By Bobby Lee 2025