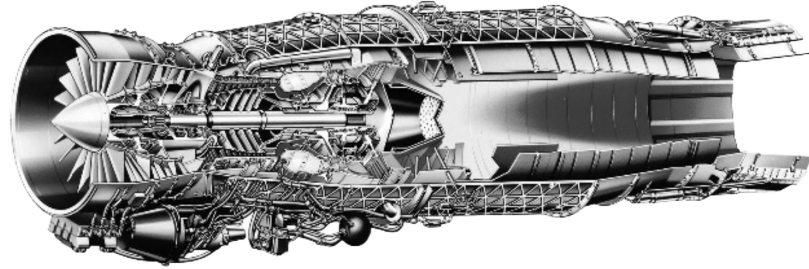




**NANYANG  
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# **Afterburner:** *Reinforcement Learning Facilitates Self-Improving Code Efficiency Optimization*

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# 1 Background & Motivation

Given an array of integers `nums`, sort the array in ascending order and return it.

```
# Solution A
def sortArray(self, nums):
    i = 0
    while i < len(nums)-1:
        j = i + 1
        while j < len(nums):
            if nums[i] > nums[j]:
                nums[i],nums[j] = nums[j], nums[i]
            j += 1
        i += 1
    return nums
```

Runtime  
**5714 ms** 🐢

Functional Correctness: **Passed** ✓

Computational Efficiency: **Slow** 😞

```
# Solution B
def sortArray(self, nums):
    def quicksort(nums, l, r):
        if r - l ≤ 1: return
        # Function partition not shown for clarity
        pivot = partition(nums, l, r)
        quicksort(nums, l, pivot)
        quicksort(nums, pivot+1, r)
    quicksort(nums, 0, len(nums))
    return nums
```

Runtime  
**121 ms** 🐇

Functional Correctness: **Passed** ✓

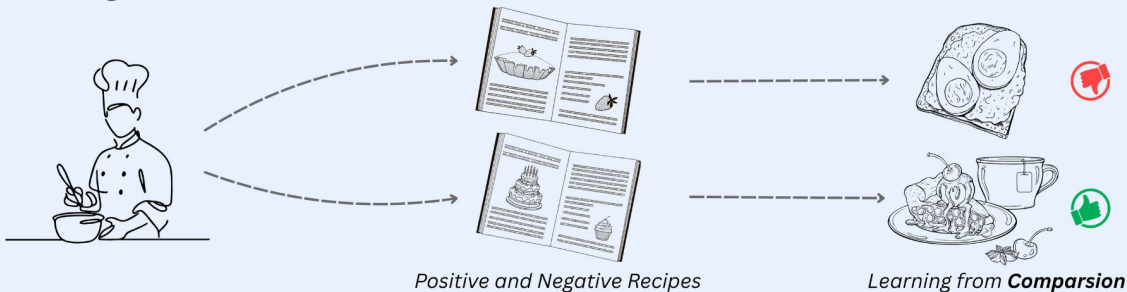
Computational Efficiency: **Fast** 😊

## 2 How to Improve Code Efficiency?

### Supervised Fine Tuning (SFT)



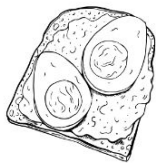
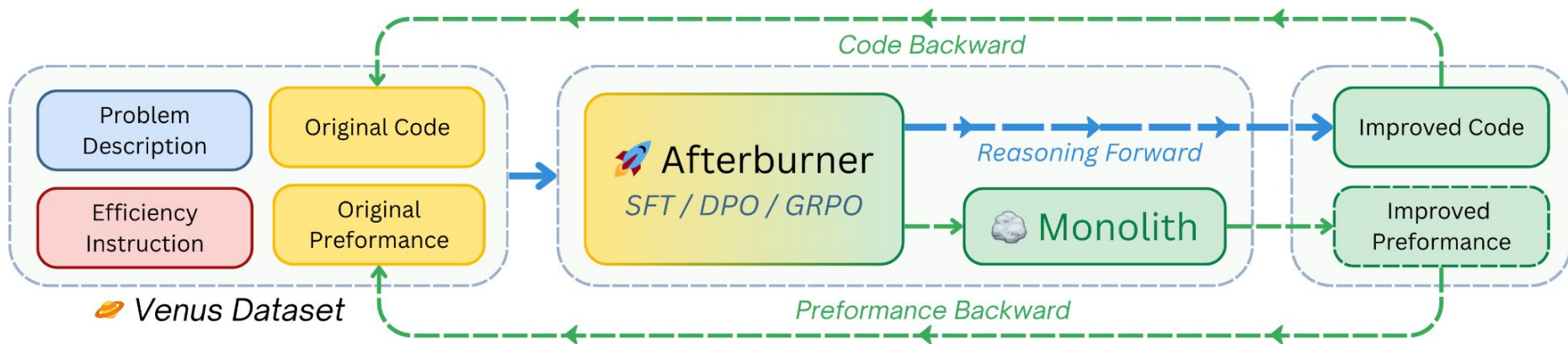
### Preference Alignment (DPO)



### Reinforcement Learning (GRPO)



# 3 Iterative Optimization Framework



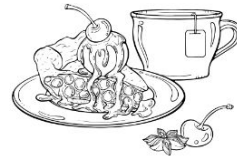
Original Food



Chef



Critic



Improved Food

# 4 Experiment Results

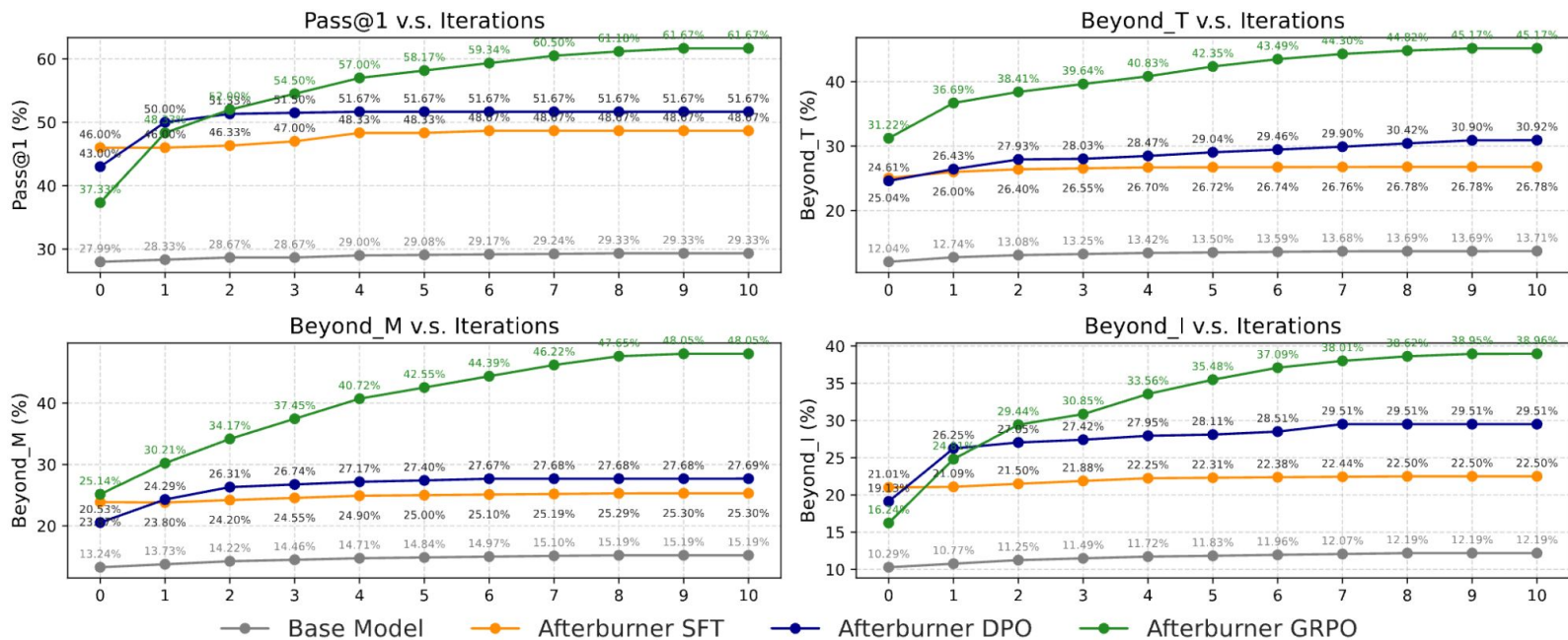


Figure 5: Iterative Optimization with an Efficient Instruction *‘both time and memory efficient’*.

Thank you!