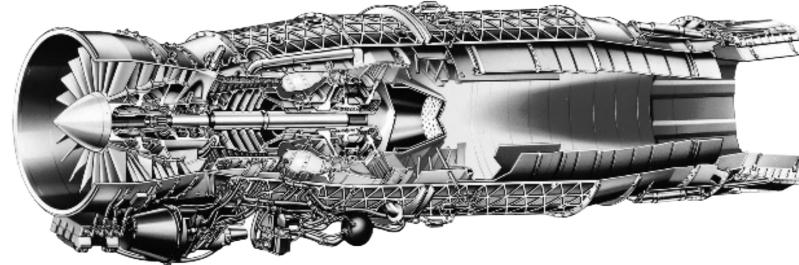




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Afterburner: Reinforcement Learning Facilitates Self-Improving Code Efficiency Optimization

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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 

```
# 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: **Slow** 

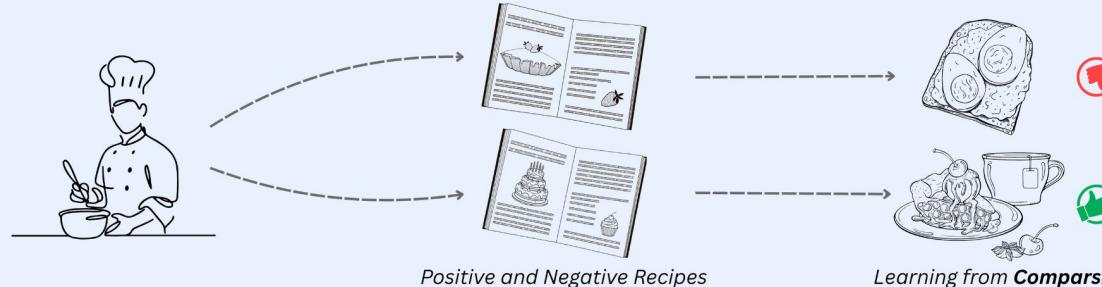
Functional Correctness: **Passed** 
Computational Efficiency: **Fast** 

2 How to Improve Code Efficiency?

Supervised Fine Tuning (SFT)



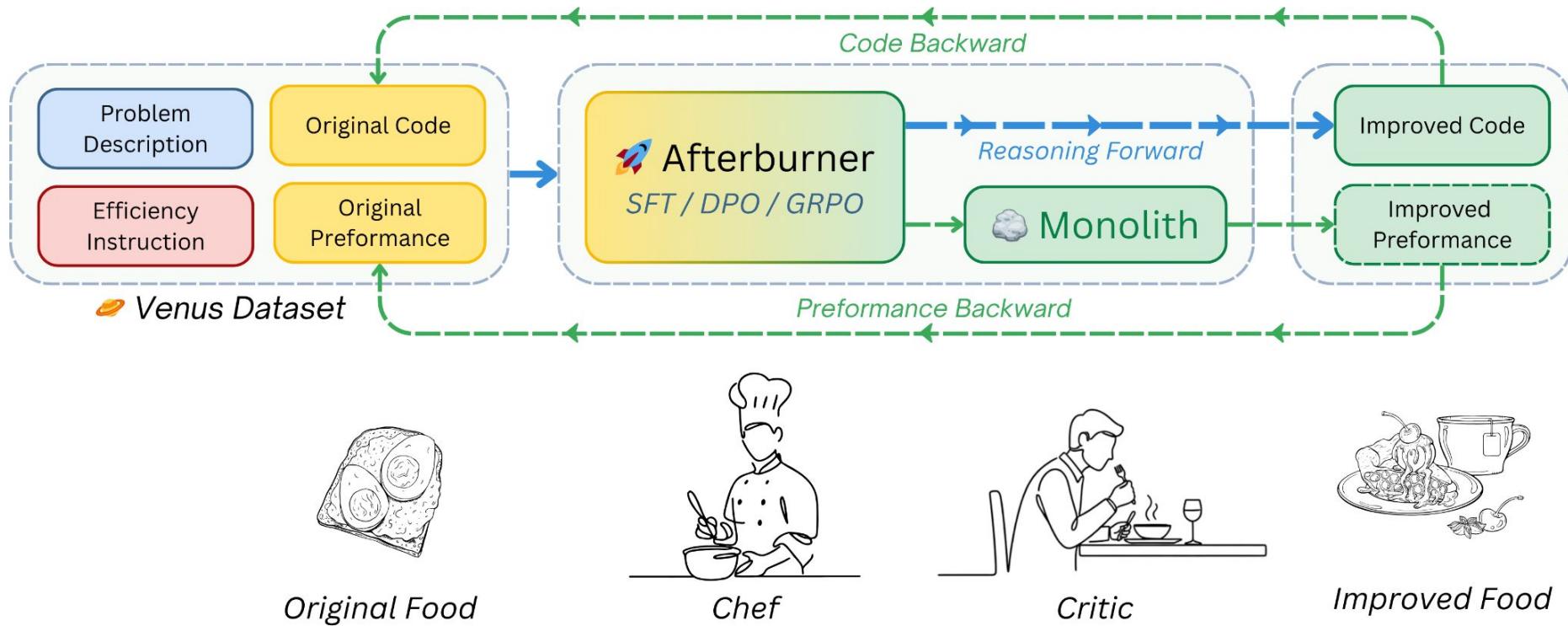
Preference Alignment (DPO)



Reinforcement Learning (GRPO)



3 Iterative Optimization Framework



4 Experiment Results

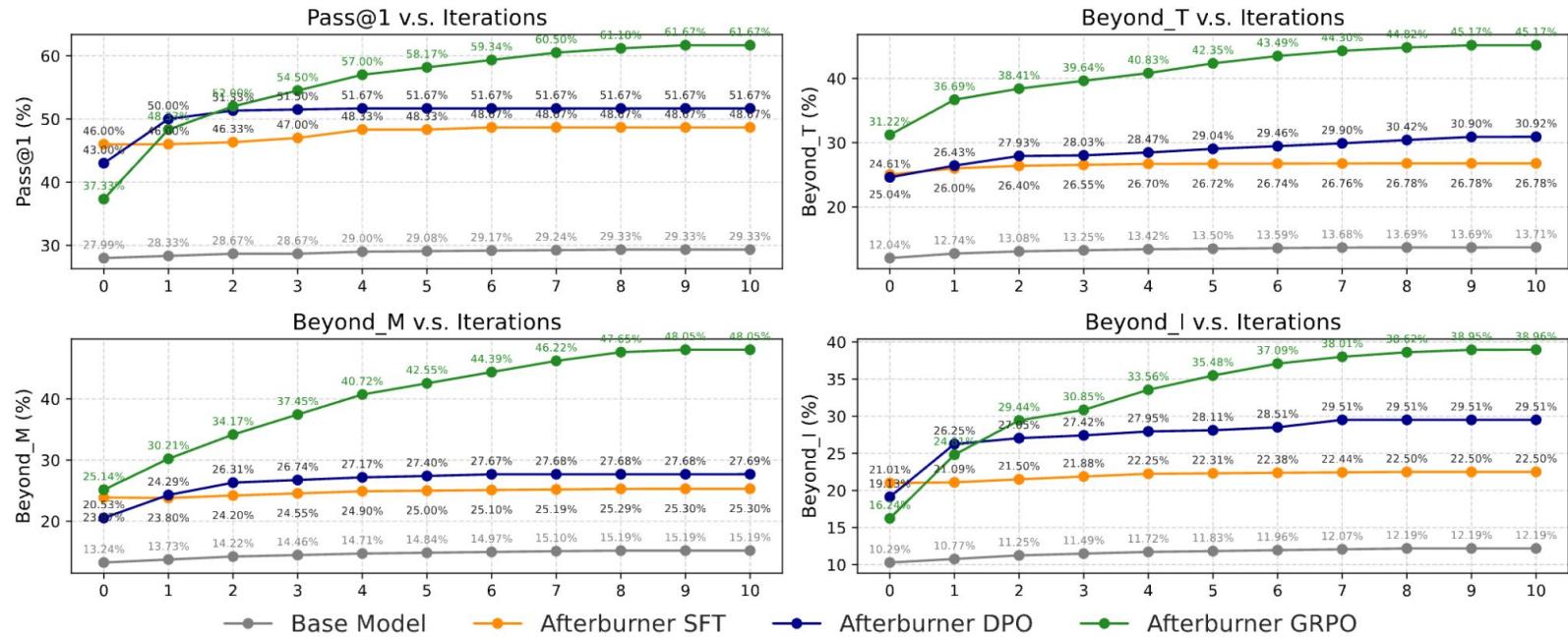


Figure 5: Iterative Optimization with an Efficient Instruction ‘both time and memory efficient’.

Thank you!