

# ChartAssistant: A Universal Chart Multimodal Language Model via Chart-to-Table Pre-training and Multitask Instruction Tuning

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## Abstract

Charts play a vital role in data visualization, understanding data patterns, and informed decision-making. However, their unique combination of graphical elements (e.g., bars, lines) and textual components (e.g., labels, legends) poses challenges for general-purpose multimodal models. While vision-language models trained on chart data excel in comprehension, they struggle with generalization and require task-specific fine-tuning. To address these challenges, we propose ChartAssistant, a chart-based vision-language model for universal chart comprehension and reasoning. ChartAssistant leverages ChartSFT, a comprehensive dataset covering diverse chart-related tasks with basic and specialized chart types. It undergoes a two-stage training process, starting with pre-training on chart-to-table parsing to align chart and text, followed by multitask instruction-following fine-tuning. This approach enables ChartAssistant to achieve competitive performance across various chart tasks without task-specific fine-tuning. Experimental results demonstrate significant performance gains over the state-of-the-art UniChart method, outperforming OpenAI’s GPT-4V(ision) on real-world chart data. The code and data are available at <https://github.com/OpenGVLab/ChartAst>.

## 1. Introduction

People around the world generate a multitude of charts on a daily basis, including data visualizations for business reports, market analysis, scientific experiments, and data-driven presentations [9–11]. Charts are an effective tool for understanding data patterns, such as the distributional properties depicted in histograms and growth trends illustrated

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This work was done when Fanqing Meng and Quanfeng Lu were interning at Shanghai AI Laboratory.

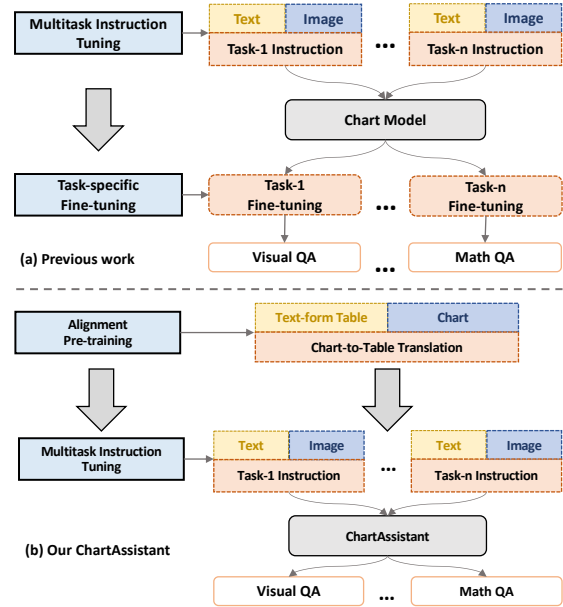


Figure 1. A comparison between previous chart-based models and our proposed ChartAssistant. ChartAssistant first aligns the chart and the text by pre-training on the chart-to-table translation task. After performing multitask instruction tuning, it can solve various downstream tasks without task-specific fine-tuning procedures.

in line graphs. Developing chart learning methods enables the design of machine analysts with enhanced capabilities to solve various chart-related downstream tasks such as chart question answering (QA) [14, 30, 32], chart summarization [12, 37].

However, chart comprehension is challenging due to the intricate visual marks (e.g. lines, bars and symbols), implicit numerical information, and complex spatial relationships between elements (e.g. axes and labels). Interpreting charts requires specialized knowledge, spatial reasoning, and numerical understanding. The advanced

general-purpose multimodal models [21, 48, 49] such as GPT-4V(ision) [3], trained on natural images, struggle with chart-related tasks due to the specific complexities and relationships unique to charts. Although recent multimodal literate models [19, 29] have achieved impressive results in processing various document-level tasks, they still face difficulties in accurately answering chart-related questions.

In pursuit of universal chart reasoning and comprehension, prior works propose pre-training vision-language models on chart-related tasks as shown in Fig. 1(a). For example, both Matcha [25] and UniChart [31] undergo multi-task instructional tuning and task-specific fine-tuning, exhibiting good performance on several downstream tasks. However, these models still have severe downsides. Firstly, prior models fail to explicitly align the chart and the associated structured text-form table, which is essential to interpret the relationships between elements in the chart. Secondly, the existing training data [30, 32] is deficient in image-text annotations aimed at improving the model’s comprehension of visual elements and mathematical reasoning, as well as annotated data from the specialized chart types such as box-plots. Due to the above factors, existing chart-based models have poor generalization and require task-specific fine-tuning to achieve promising results on various downstream tasks as illustrated in Fig. 1(a).

To address these challenges, we propose **ChartAssistant**, a new vision-language model for universal chart comprehension and reasoning. We implement ChartAssistant with two variants, *i.e.* ChartAst-D and ChartAst-S. ChartAst-D is built upon Donut [16], a powerful vision-language model for visual document understanding. It employs Swin Transformer [28] as the visual encoder to process high-resolution charts and Bart [20] decoder to produce the expected output conditioned on the encoded image and text. While ChartAst-S is built upon SPHINX [23], a large vision-language model for universal multimodal comprehension. SPHINX employs multiple visual encoders for mixed encoding and leverages the powerful language capabilities of LLM [49]. Additionally, it incorporates specialized processing techniques for high-resolution images, resulting in enhanced chart comprehension abilities. Compared to ChartAst-D, ChartAst-S is a more advanced version, offering increased robustness and usability. It excels in its ability to handle a wide range of tasks and exhibits strong performance in various scenarios. To improve generalization, ChartAssistant is trained on a large-scale chart-specific benchmark dubbed ChartSFT. The training process involves a two-stage pre-training pipeline which employs chart-to-table pre-training to align the chart and its structured text and then perform joint tuning on multiple chart-related tasks as shown in Fig. 1(b).

Specifically, we first construct ChartSFT by collecting instruction-following data from various chart-related tasks.

To address the limitations of existing chart-based benchmarks [14, 30, 32], we introduce several modifications to improve the quality of data annotation: 1) instruction-following data involving various topics for chart-to-table translation is added, which we find helps align the chart and the associated structured text; 2) the chain-of-thought annotations for chart numerical QA task are generated to improve mathematical reasoning abilities [42]; 3) the task of chart referring question answering is created to enhance the understanding of visual elements and their relationships [4, 47]; 4) chart with specialized types such as radar and box plot are included to improve the generalization. Overall, ChartSFT encompasses a larger corpus of instruction-following data, incorporates a wider range of chart-related tasks and types, and features more comprehensive data annotations compared to previous benchmarks [14, 30, 32].

Before conducting multitask instruction tuning, as done in existing research [25, 31], we begin by pre-training ChartAssistant on the chart-to-table translation task as shown in Fig. 1(b). This task involves parsing a chart and generating a Markdown table. It shares similarities with dense captioning for natural images, allowing the model to interpret the elements and relationships within the chart. Similar to the role of image captioning in training multimodal models [27, 38, 45], chart-to-table translation facilitates alignment between the chart and its structured text. Following pre-training, we proceed with multitask instruction tuning using ChartSFT. This two-stage training approach enables ChartAssistant to achieve strong performance across a range of chart-related tasks without requiring task-specific fine-tuning.

The contributions of this paper can be summarized as follows. 1) We present ChartAssistant, a vision-language model for chart comprehension and reasoning. ChartAssistant is versatile enough to solve various chart-related tasks across a wide range of chart types. 2) We build a chart-specific visual instruction-following benchmark dubbed ChartSFT. ChartSFT surpasses existing chart-based benchmarks with its larger instruction-following data corpus, a broader range of tasks and chart types, and more comprehensive data annotations. 3) Extensive experimental results on various downstream tasks demonstrate that ChartAssistant surpasses the previous SoTA method UniChart [31] by 210.0%, 479.0%, 15.4% performance gain on numerical QA, referring QA and ChartQA, respectively. Notably, ChartAssistant even outperforms advanced multimodal models such as OpenAI’s GPT-4V(ision) [3] and Google’s Bard [6] on chart data in real scenarios.

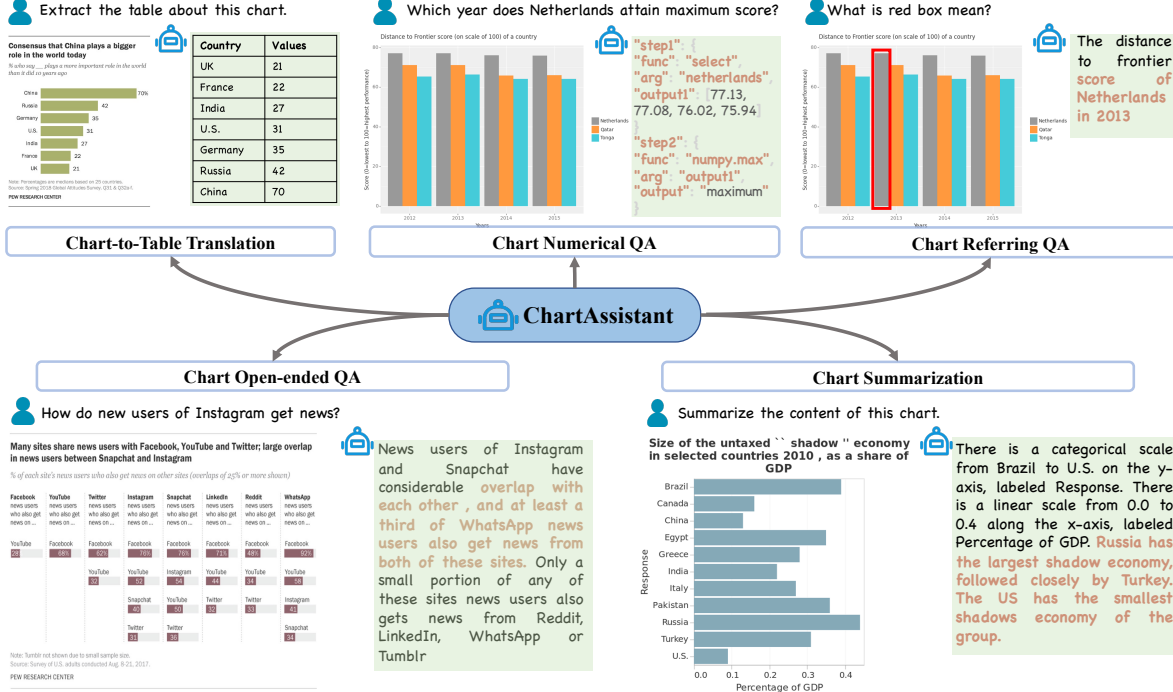


Figure 2. ChartAssistant is pre-trained on vast and various chart-related tasks, and can adeptly perform a range of chart comprehension and reasoning tasks including chart-to-table translation, numerical QA, referring QA, open-ended QA and chart summarization.

## 2. Related Work

### 2.1. Multimodal Foundation Model

Multimodal foundation models [21, 52] mainly focus on natural images, which have shown remarkable progress, advancing in areas like image captioning [41] and visual question answering [13, 41]. SPHINX [23] leverages LLM and multiple visual encoders to achieve advanced performance on multiple multi-modal tasks. Among these, visual document understanding is a topic of both industrial importance and research challenge. Donut [16] proposed an OCR-free Transformer trained in end-to-end manner, which is a powerful document understanding model. Nougat [2] is fine-tuned on Donut and useful for academic documents understanding. However, extracting information from real-world images like charts and plots presents unique challenges as compared to natural images or documents. Furthermore, the complexity of queries increases, often involving sophisticated mathematical calculations. As a result, contemporary document models and multimodal foundation models often fall short when tasked with handling chart-related tasks, demonstrating a significant decline in performance [25].

### 2.2. Chart-specific Vision-Language Model

Some methods modify vision-language models for chart-related tasks [7, 26] or develop plugin for LLM to understand the chart [44]. Matcha [25] extends Pix2Struct [19]

by integrating mathematical reasoning and chart data extraction tasks, excelling at chart question answering and chart summarization. Unichart [31] undergoes multitask instruction tuning for more chart-related tasks, establishing itself as the most versatile and effective chart vision-language model currently available. However, these methods have limitations. They require task-specific fine-tuning for promising results, risking catastrophic forgetting [5, 46] and sacrificed task generalization. Furthermore, these models struggle with mathematical computations, limiting their effectiveness and range of applicable chart types.

Contrastingly, we propose ChartSFT, the most extensive dataset to date, supporting a wide variety of chart tasks and types. We develop ChartAssistant using ChartSFT with a two-stage training strategy, capable of handling diverse chart-related tasks without requiring task-specific fine-tuning.

## 3. ChartSFT

We construct a large-scale chart-specific benchmark called ChartSFT by collecting instruction-following data from various tasks. The composition of ChartSFT is shown in Table 1, as extensively described below. Our ChartSFT consists of 39388322 pieces of chart-text annotated data, 4.75 and 5.62 times larger than MatCha [25] and UniChart [31], respectively, as illustrated in Fig. 3. ChartSFT contains chart

Table 1. Summary of utilized datasets and data volumes for each task.

ChartQA[30]	PlotQA[32]	OpenCQA[14]	ScigraphQA[22]	Vistext[39]	Chart-to-text[15]	ChartSumm[37]	arXiv	Data Aug.	SpecializedTypes	Total
Chart-to-Table Translation										
17141	224386	0	0	0	0	0	132719	220050	317662	911958
Numerical Question Answering										
0	3997388	0	0	0	0	0	0	5318500	15178693	24494581
Referring Question Answering										
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2139567	3760275	5899842
Open-ended Question Answering										
30219	4362236	7724	659309	0	0	0	408658	128105	1478952	7075203
Chart Summarization										
0	157070	7724	0	12441	44096	84363	0	356248	419895	1006738

types including both base and specialized types. Specifically, our ChartSFT encompasses nine types of charts by collecting data from various sources as shown in table 8. First, most charts with base types including bar, line, dot-line, and pie are collected from several existing datasets [14, 15, 22, 30, 32, 37, 39]. Second, we also generate some charts with base types from arxiv tables [1] and data augmentation techniques (e.g. various APIs and figure parameters). In particular, we use ChatGPT to suggest the proper chart type given each table data from arxiv. Third, we synthesize table data which is appropriate for depicting charts with specialized types.

### 3.1. Chart with Base Types

We collect instruction-following data with base chart types (*i.e.* bars, lines, dot-lines, and pies) from 5 chart-rated tasks, including chart-to-table translation, chart numerical QA, chart referring QA, chart open-ended QA, and chart summarization as shown in Fig.2. Instead of directly utilizing existing chart-based benchmarks, we introduce several modifications to improve the data annotation quality. For each task, we present the details of data collection as follows.

#### 3.1.1 Chart-to-Table Translation

The task of chart-to-table translation aims at parsing a chart into its underlying data table in text form. Pre-training with chart-to-table translation enables our ChartAssistant to comprehend the chart’s elements and their relationships, facilitating alignment of the chart and its underlying structured text.

**Data Collection.** We collect 17141 and 224386 pieces of chart-text data from ChartQA and PlotQA for chart-to-table translation. However, these benchmarks vary little in chart styles and involve limited topics. We propose two strategies to address the issue.

- **More Chart Styles.** We re-plot the chart with diverse visualization tools for tables in ChartQA and PlotQA. Specifically, we utilize 5 APIs in Python, including ggplot, plotly, matplotlib, seaborn, and pycharts, along with over 20 variations in parameters color, size, font

type, background, and more. After style augmentation, 220050 pieces of chart-text data are created for chart-to-table translation from PlotQA, respectively.

- **Table from arXiv Papers.** We collect more real table data to increase the topic diversity. To this end, we crawl 1301932 papers involving various topics such as computer science, biology, finance, and more from arXiv platform [1]. For each paper, we extract the table from the source LaTeX code where table data can be localized in the table environment. We employ ChatGPT [34] to transform the latex table into the markdown table. We also make the chart in a specific base type (*e.g.* pies) by following ChatGPT’s suggestion. We find that ChatGPT works well to generate text in the target format and give appropriate advice for chart types. There are 132719 pieces of chart-text data obtained from the arXiv.

#### 3.1.2 Chart Numerical Question Answering

Chart numerical QA targets at responding to the request about mathematical reasoning given a chart. It requires an accurate understanding of the chart, as well as reasoning and math calculation abilities.

**Data Collection.** The data for numerical QA mainly comes from the PlotQA benchmark. However, PlotQA generates numerical QA data from 40 templates with limited types of questions and direct final answers, resulting in poor generalization and math reasoning. with our proposed two strategies to improve the data quality below, more than 24M QA pairs are collected.

- **More Templates.** We create 101 templates to generate numerical QA questions automatically involving various types of questions with complex calculations. Here is one template for analyzing the correlation between two items: ‘Across all <plural form of X label>, are the <Y label> values of <legend label1> and <legend label2> negatively correlated?’ The comparison between templates in our ChartAssistant and PlotQA is provided in Table 3 where we can see that our improved templates encompass larger token lengths and more complex calculations. We present all templates in the Appendix Sec.A.

- **Chain-of-Thought (COT) Annotations.** Instead of uti-

Table 2. Chart type distribution of the multitask instruction tuning, we are not including SciGraphQA [22] and ChartSumm [37] because these datasets do not contain information about chart types.

Datasets	Bar	Line	Dot-line	Pie	Area	Hist	Radar	Bubble	Box
ChartQA [30]	84.8%	12.2%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
PlotQA [32]	67.0%	16.5%	16.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
OpenCQA [14]	71.7%	24.6%	0.6%	3.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Vistext [39]	50.1%	24.2%	0.0%	0.0%	25.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Chart-to-text [15]	82.8%	13.6%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
arXiv	71.6%	17.1%	11.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Data Aug.	56.5%	17.0%	11.5%	15.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Synthetic	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	23.1%	25.8%	20.9%	19.1%	11.1%
Total	44.3%	11.3%	8.0%	3.6%	7.8%	8.4%	6.8%	6.2%	3.6%

Table 3. Comparison of templates for numerical QA between PlotQA and our ChartSFT. ‘Num.’ denotes the number of templates. We use 4 statistics to measure the complexity of templates, including ‘Len.’, ‘COT Steps’ and ‘Func.’. They denote the average token length, the number of steps in COT annotation, and how many kinds of functions are needed to obtain the final answer, respectively. Besides templates in PlotQA, ChartSFT newly created 61 templates for numerical QA with higher complexity.

	Num.	Len.	COT Steps	Func.
PlotQA	40	32.83	3.48	2.95
ChartSFT	61 (101)	39.54	5.02	3.90

lizing the final answer as the response annotation, we generate COT annotation for the final answer, which has been proven to improve the model’s mathematical reasoning ability [42]. We first define a set of available functions to segment the problem’s solution into smaller steps, each encompassing function calls and parameters. These steps are then organized into a JSON-formatted text. As shown in Fig. 2, the maximum extraction problem is decomposed into a step of data retrieval and a step of maximum calculation. When computing the answers, the backend executes the calculations by following the ordered function calls within the text. This approach not only enhances reasoning ability but also mitigates calculation errors.

### 3.1.3 Chart Referring Question Answering

We create a new task for chart named referring question answering, considering that users may utilize a set of marks to denote some pieces to their interest in the chart as shown in Fig. 2. Note that referring question answering with a bounding box has been explored in general-purpose multimodal models such as GPT4ROI [50] and Shikra [4] where the referential QA has been shown to benefit comprehending spatial relationships. The task of referring QA is expected

to enhance the understanding of visual elements and their relationship in the chart.

**Data Collection.** We extend a part of COT annotations for numerical QA in Sec. 3.1.2 to the task of Referring QA. Three steps are conducted to produce referring QA pairs with diverse patterns. i) The color, size, and width are randomly selected to make the mark. ii) We use several marks such as an arrow and a bounding box to refer to an item in the chart. iii) Multiple marks can be depicted in the same chart to describe the relationships between elements. Overall, we collect 5899842 pieces of data for the chart referring QA.

### 3.1.4 Chart Open-ended QA

Chart open-ended QA (OpenQA) deals with open-ended questions regarding charts as illustrated in Fig. 2. It requires both low-level Chart comprehension and high-level reasoning abilities.

**Data Collection.** We collect data from existing benchmarks, such as plotQA [32], ChartQA [30], OpenCQA [14] and ScigraphQA [22]. We further introduce our collected table data from arXiv in Sec. 3.1.1 for this task.

**Open-ended QA data by ChatGPT.** Other than tabular data crawled in Sec. 3.1.1, we extract corresponding captions, and the first paragraph describing the table from the source code of the paper. By utilizing ChatGPT, we generate 3 open-ended QA pairs for each table by feeding the table and the descriptive information.

By putting the above benchmarks together, our ChartSFT covers diverse topics for Open-ended QA. In total, there are 7075243 pieces of data for this task.

### 3.1.5 Chart Summarization

Chart Summarization is a vital task aimed at generating concise and informative summaries for various types of charts, which has been studied extensively [8, 15, 39].



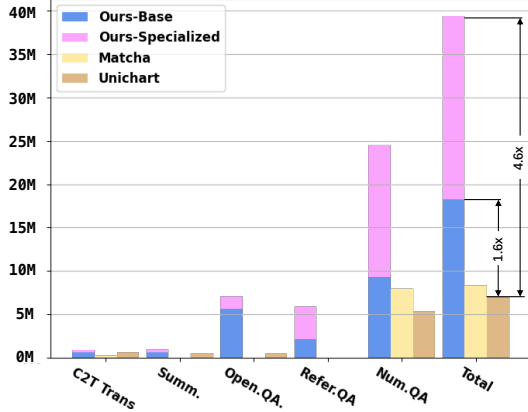


Figure 3. Comparison between ChartSFT and datasets from previous methods. Our dataset surpasses the best previous dataset in UniChart [31] by 4.6 times in total and supports a greater variety of chart tasks and types.

**Data Collection.** We collected a substantial amount of existing open-source datasets [14, 15, 37, 39], but the scale is still not sufficient. Therefore, we further incorporate a large-scale chart summarization dataset generated through Knowledge Distillation by Unichart [31] into our training process. There are 1006738 pieces of data for the chart summarization task.

### 3.2. Charts with Specialized Types

Previous Chart-based models perform poorly on charts with specialized types including radar, area, histogram, bubble, and box-plot. To improve generalization, we also train our ChartAssistant on charts with these specialized types. We collect chart data on specialized types through the following pipeline: i) pairs of chart and table generation, and ii) multitask dataset generation.

**Chart-to-Table data generation.** Considering the significant challenge of collecting real-world data on a large scale, we generate data synthetically. The (chart, table) pairs are generated in the following steps:

i) *Table generation:* We randomly select one distribution from over twenty predefined probability density distributions, and then generate tabular data by utilizing this distribution for randomization. For radar, bubble and area charts, We directly utilize randomly generated numbers as the table data. For histogram and box plot, we generate an array of extensive numbers using this distribution and calculate the statistical metrics of this array to serve as the table data (e.g., frequencies corresponding to histograms, upper whiskers corresponding to box plots). And then we use the generated data to prompt ChatGPT for creating titles, legends, and labels that align with the numerical characteristics.

ii) *Chart generation:* We utilize multiple Python plot-

ting libraries to generate a variety of charts, including styles from matplotlib, plotly, pyecharts, ggplot, seaborn, altair, and more. To ensure diversity in the charts, we randomly select the following parameters: line style, font style, colors, markers, the position of legends and so on. Besides our own synthetic data, we also use the table from PlotQA [32], ChartQA [30], ChartSumm [37] and Chart-To-Text [15] to plot the charts for area and radar charts.

**Multitask dataset generation.** For the chart summarization and open-ended QA tasks, we instruct ChatGPT to build datasets by supplying both the table and the corresponding types of charts. For numerical QA and referring QA tasks, we adhere to the approach of the chart with base types by crafting a series of mathematical question templates tailored to the distinct characteristics of various chart types. Subsequently, we manually generate answers with COT annotations.

## 4. Our ChartAssistant

### 4.1. Architecture

The key to completing the tasks related to charts lies in accurately understanding the content of the charts. As shown in Fig. 4, we implement ChartAssistant with two variants, *i.e.* ChartAst-D and ChartAst-S, which have 260M and 13B parameters in total, respectively. Both ChartAst-D and ChartAst-S perform well in many chart-related tasks but ChartAst-D has a smaller size and ChartAst-S enjoys better generalization.

**ChartAst-D** is a vision-language model for chart understanding built upon Donut [17]. It consists of a visual encoder Swin-Base [28] and a textual BART decoder [20]. For an input image  $X_V$ , the visual encoder employs fixed-sized non-overlapping windows to divide the image and performs self-attention layers to consolidate information across these windows, which transforms the image into a set of tokens  $Z_V = \{z_i \mid z_i \in \mathbb{R}^d, 1 \leq i \leq n\}$ , where  $n$  is encoded token length and  $d$  is the token size. By taking  $Z_V$  as key and value and tokens of text instruction  $X_q$  as the query, the BART decoder generates the corresponding response  $Y_q = (y_i)_{i=1}^m$ , and  $m$  is the length of responses.

**ChartAst-S** is a large vision-language model for chart understanding built upon Sphinx [23]. For high-resolution images, it preserves the original information through sampling and partitioning methods, ensuring greater fidelity to the image content. Moreover, Sphinx leverages the abundant prior knowledge of LLM [40] to handle various tasks such as visual question answering and image summarization. Specifically, for an input image  $X_V$ , ChartAst-S incorporates multiple visual encoders to extract more informative visual features  $Z_V$ , such as DINOv2 [33], CLIP [35], and ConvNeXt [43]. Unlike ChartAst-D where visual tokens are involved in a language decoder with a cross-attention

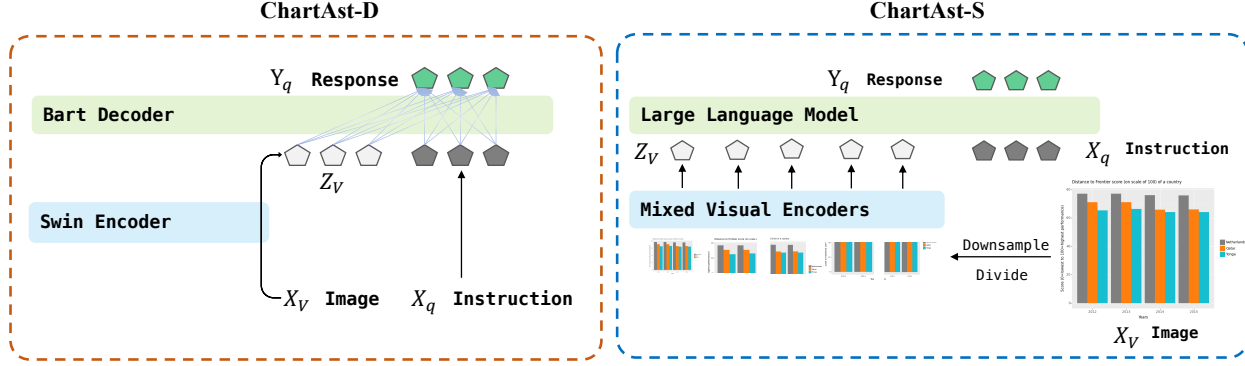


Figure 4. ChartAst-D and ChartAst-S network architecture.

module, ChartAst-S directly appends visual tokens to the text tokens  $X_q$ . The merged tokens are then fed into the LLM to generate the response. Thanks to the intricate design of the visual encoder and the powerful reasoning ability of LLM, ChartAst-D performs well in various real-world chart-related applications.

## 4.2. Training

In our ChartSFT, we have a corresponding instruction  $X_q$  and response  $Y_q$  for each image  $X_V$ . We input these image-text pairs into the model. The objective is to minimize the cross-entropy loss of predicting the next token. To improve the generalization in various downstream tasks, we adopt a two-stage training pipeline to train our ChartAst-D and ChartAst-S below.

### Stage I: Pretraining on Chart-to-table Translation.

Given a chart  $X_V^{c2t}$ , our goal is to convert the chart into a text-form table  $Y_q^{c2t}$  under the instruction  $X_q^{c2t}$ . Here the superscript  $c2t$  indicates the instruction-following data comes from the task of chart-to-table translation. Our training loss function for Stage I is given by

$$\mathcal{L}^{\text{Stage1}} = - \sum_{i=1}^m \log P_{\theta}(Y_{q,i}^{c2t} | X_V^{c2t}, X_q^{c2t}, Y_{q,<i}^{c2t}), \quad (1)$$

where  $Y_{q,<i}^{c2t}$  are all the response tokens before the current prediction token  $Y_{q,i}^{c2t}$ .  $\theta$  are the learnable weights initialized from the pre-trained weights of the Donut model [16].

By the pre-training in Eqn. (1), we align the chart with its structured text-form table, enabling the model to comprehend elements in charts and their relationships. We show that this strategy better serves the multitask instruction tuning in Sec.6.

**Stage II: Multitask Instruction Tuning.** In this stage, we put all the instruction-following data together from five tasks in our ChartSFT. We employ a single model to solve all the tasks. Our training loss function for Stage II is given

by

$$\mathcal{L}^{\text{Stage2}} = - \sum_{k \in \Omega} \sum_{i=1}^m \log P_{\theta}(Y_{q,i}^k | X_V^k, X_q^k, Y_{q,<i}^k), \quad (2)$$

where  $\Omega$  is the set of instruction-following data from all tasks in ChartSFT and  $\theta$  are the learnable weights initialized from the checkpoint in the Stage I. During training, we sample the data from each task with certain proportions as provided in our experimental setup in Appendix Sec.B. By multitask instructional tuning, our ChartAssistant exhibits strong performance on all the tasks without a task-specific fine-tuning process which is yet a necessary procedure for previous chart-based models [25, 31].

## 5. Experiment

we present our experimental setup in Appendix Sec.B, where we indicate the training details. After that, we provide an overview of the selected baselines and evaluation details in Sec.5.1 and demonstrate the superior effectiveness of our method through extensive experiments in Sec.5.2.

### 5.1. Baselines and Evaluation

**Evaluation.** We assess the performance of ChartAssistant across various tasks and datasets. Following the evaluation of Unichart [31], we utilize Chart-to-text [15] for evaluating chart summarization task, and OpenCQA [14] and ChartQA [30] for open-ended question answering task. To evaluate numerical question answering and referring question answering, we sample test sets from the datasets constructed in Sec.3.1.2 and Sec.3.1.3 called MathQA and ReferQA. Lastly, we conduct separate evaluations on base type and specialized type charts to highlight the superior performance of our method more explicitly. We put a detailed description of the dataset in Appendix Sec.B.

**Metrics.** For evaluating ChartQA, MathQA, and ReferQA, we adopt the approach used in previous studies [25, 31], which considers relaxed correctness (allowing for

Table 4. A comparison of the results of ChartAssistant with the existing Chart model on five tasks with base type charts, which shows that ChartAssistant is ahead of the rest of the models on all tasks. Bold indicates best results, italics indicate that the model is not trained on this task.

Model	ChartQA		Chart-to-Text		Chart-to-Table		OpenCQA	MathQA	ReferQA
	aug.	human	Pew	Statista	ChartQA				
T5	41.0	25.1	10.5	35.3	-	9.3	-	-	-
Chart-T5	74.4	31.8	9.10	37.5	-	-	-	-	-
Donut	78.1	29.8	7.2	38.2	87.4	13.1	36.3	6.2	
SPHINX	<i>11.3</i>	<i>21.7</i>	<i>5.4</i>	<i>16.6</i>	<i>9.4</i>	<i>9.3</i>	<i>4.4</i>	<i>7.2</i>	
Pix2Struct	56.0	30.5	10.3	38.0	85.9	12.7	35.6	5.8	
Matcha	88.9	38.8	12.2	39.4	89.6	6.5	57.8	8.3	
Unichart	87.8	43.9	12.5	38.1	91.1	14.8	23.9	11.9	
ChartLLaMa	90.4	48.9	14.2	40.7	90.0	-	-	-	
<b>Ours-D</b>	91.3	45.3	14.1	40.2	<b>92.0</b>	14.9	72.1	64.2	
<b>Ours-S</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>41.0</b>	91.6	<b>15.5</b>	<b>73.9</b>	<b>67.9</b>	

an exact match with tolerance for a 5% numerical error). As for Chart-to-Text and OpenCQA, we employ BLEU as the evaluation metric following previous works [25, 31]. For chart-to-table translation, we use  $RMS_{F1}$  from DePlot [24].

**Baselines.** We choose SPHINX [23], ChartLLaMa [7], Unichart [31], Matcha [25], Pix2Struct [19], T5 [36] and Chart-T5 [51] as baselines. ChartLLaMa and Unichart are the current state-of-the-art models that handles the maximum number of chart tasks and delivers the best overall performance. Besides, Unichart also considers the open-ended QA task. Matcha outperforms previous models in mathematical calculations. Pix2Struct and Donut stands out as an excellent document understanding model. We fine-tune these document models on the train set of the respective evaluation datasets and present the results. T5 is a text-to-text model and needs OCR-based system to extract the data table from the chart image, Chart-T5 is a model modified from T5 for chart-related tasks. We use the results from Unichart [31] for them. Note that ChartAssistant only has undergone task-specific fine-tuning in Chart-to-text [15]. In fact, we can repeat the training set of this data set in the training set to avoid task-specific finetuning, but this will make the generalization ability of the model weaker.

## 5.2. Main Results

**Base type charts.** In table 4, we present a comprehensive summary of ChartAssistant’s performance with base type charts across chart-related tasks. It demonstrates that ChartAssistant consistently outperforms the baseline across all tasks with out task-specific fine-tuning. In partivular, we surpass the current leading methods by 9.3% and 1.6% on Human and Augment, respectively. Additionally, in the open-ended question answering, we have 33.1% enhancement relative to Unichart. Besides, we find that most existing models struggle with numerical question answering, while the adaptation of COT answer significantly enhances performance, demonstrating a substantial 16.3% improvement with Matcha. Notably, existing models are currently almost unable to effectively handle the chart referring ques-

Table 5. A comparison of the results of ChartAssistant with other chart-specific models on five tasks with specialized type charts.

Model	C2T Trans.	Summ.	Open.QA	Num.QA	Refer.QA
Matcha	17.1	18.3	4.4	7.2	6.3
Unichart	18.4	11.8	5.4	5.9	6.3
<b>Ours-D</b>	68.3	41.1	33.3	42.5	65.2
<b>Ours-S</b>	<b>75.6</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>68.4</b>

Table 6. A comparison of the results of ChartAssistant with foundation models on five tasks.

Model	C2T Trans.	Summ.	Open.QA	Num.QA	Refer.QA
Bard	6.75	20.9	6.2	12.0	22.0
GPT4V	21.6	<b>27.6</b>	9.6	34.0	30.0
<b>Ours-D</b>	80.7	24.9	13.8	66.0	60.0
<b>Ours-S</b>	<b>83.1</b>	26.5	<b>18.2</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>66.0</b>

tion answering task. In summation, our model is the top performer across all chart-related tasks without task-specific fine-tuning.

**Specialized type charts.** Following the similar training strategy shown in Fig.2, we fine-tune ChartAssistant on chart data of specialized types. As depicted in table 5, compared to the current chart-specific vision-language models, none of them can generalize effectively to specialized types of charts due to lack of these training data. ChartAssistant demonstrates an absolute advantage in all five tasks related to specialized types of charts compared to them.

**Comparison with foundation model.** Despite the strengths of current multimodal models, a domain gap exists between charts and general images, causing difficulty in chart-related tasks. In reaction, we’ve built a small-scale test set for comprehensive evaluation of these models. This test set features five tasks, each with 50 samples containing a variety of chart types. Task samples include both real-world chart-table pairs and tables with API-generated charts. As indicated in table 6, It shows that our 200M model notably outperformed multimodal models like GPT-4V(ision) and Bard, particularly in tasks needing precise chart understanding, such as chart-to-table translation and numerical question answering. Although GPT-4V(ision) does well in chart summarization, we suspect this could be due to the task’s bias towards text fluency, potentially compromising factual accuracy [25].

## 6. Ablation Study

We thoroughly analyze the key aspects of our approach. We first consider the significance of alignment pre-training and the referring question answering task. Furthermore, we evaluate the impact of the COT answer and each task on the effectiveness of our approach. We put more experiments in Appendix Sec.C, including the significance of arXiv data



Table 7. A comparison of the results of ChartAssistant with its variants on five tasks with base type charts, which indicates that the alignment pretraining and the referring question answering task play a crucial role in enhancing the overall performance.

Model	ChartQA		Chart-to-Text		Chart-to-Table		OpenCQA	MathQA	ReferQA
	aug.	human	Pew	Statista	ChartQA				
Ours-D w/o align	87.5	40.4	13.7	35.4	87.9		13.9	52.4	60.3
Ours-D w/o refer	89.2	41.4	14.1	38.6	90.7		14.6	62.2	-
<b>Ours-D</b>	<b>91.3</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>92.0</b>		<b>14.9</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>64.2</b>

and generation of equivalent questions on the effectiveness and robustness of our approach. We adopt ChartAst-D to illustrate the superiority of our designed ChartSFT, as well as to emphasize the importance of the training strategy.

**The impact of alignment pretraining.** We initially validate the importance of alignment pretraining. Table 10 shows that using only multitask instruction tuning falls considerably behind two-stage training strategies. Exact numerical recognition greatly influences mathematical calculation accuracy, leading to a 19.9% and 4.1% performance drop for MathQA and ChartQA-human tasks. Non-mathematical tasks see a 13.9% decrease in OpenCQA compared to the original. We think alignment pre-training, which allows the model to learn chart-table correlations, helps the model better adapt during multitask instruction tuning than handling these processes separately [27].

**The impact of referring question answering task.** In our experiments, we have observed that integrating referring question answering into multitask instruction tuning training can enhance the model’s performance in other tasks. As shown in table 10, incorporating the referring question answering task leads to improvements across almost all tasks, particularly in tasks requiring mathematical reasoning. For instance, the average performance in ChartQA improves by 3.0%, and in MathQA, it improves by 9.9%. We believe that this task strengthens the model’s ability to understand the visual elements and their relationship in the chart, which contributing to overall performance enhancement [4, 50].

**COT answer vs. Direct answer for numerical question answering.** In Fig.5, we compare using COT answer with direct answer in the same training pipeline for the chart numerical question answering task. Using COT answers instead of direct answers increases the accuracy from 51.9% to 72.1%, with improvements across all chart types, especially in dot-line and line charts, where accuracy has increased by 22% and 26.6% respectively. This improvement indicates the effectiveness of COT answers in elevating the overall accuracy and performance across various chart types, which reflects that using COT answers teaches the model the reasoning steps and offloads the calculations to the backend system, thus boosting the model’s mathematical computation ability.

**The impact of each multitask instruction tuning com-**

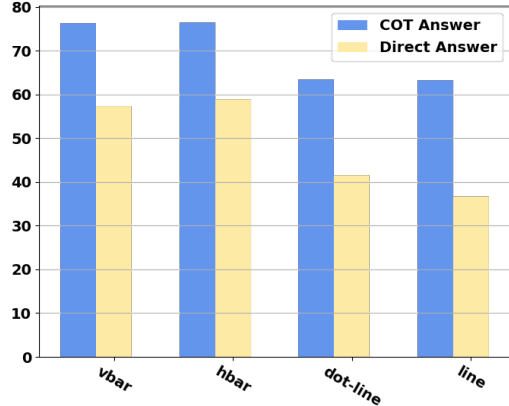


Figure 5. A comparison of the results of using COT answer and direct answer on numerical question answering task, which indicates that using COT answer significantly enhances the model’s capability in handling chart numerical question answering tasks with all types.

Table 8. ChartAssistant multitask instruction tuning ablations on ChartQA.

Model	ChartQA		
	aug.	human	avg.
ChartAst-D	<b>91.3</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>68.3</b>
No Chart Summarization	90.0	43.5	66.7
No Open-ended Question Answering	89.5	41.1	65.3
No Numerical Question Answering	88.6	38.6	63.6
No Chart-to-Table Translation	88.8	41.0	64.9
No Referring Question Answering	89.2	41.2	65.2

**ponent.** We evaluated the impact of each segment in our multitask instruction tuning by excluding one task at a time during training and noting effects on ChartQA performance. As table 8 shows, any omission led to a performance drop. In particular, chart summarization’s contribution is smallest, possibly because ChartQA centers on data extraction and numerical question answering and not overall chart understanding. Furthermore, a significant performance decline when the numerical question answering task is excluded underlines its critical importance for the model.

## 7. Conclusion

Our work is aimed at developing a generalized multimodal model for chart-related tasks. We propose ChartSFT, a comprehensive and expansive dataset with the most diverse range of supported chart tasks and types. In conjunction, we suggest ChartAssistant, a multimodal model trained using a two-stage strategy over ChartSFT, which can achieve state-of-the-art results across multiple chart-related downstream tasks without task-specific fine-tuning. Through detailed experiments, we further demonstrate the superiority of ChartAssistant.

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# ChartAssistant: A Universal Chart Multimodal Language Model via Chart-to-Table Pre-training and Multitask Instruction Tuning

## Supplementary Material

### A. ChartSFT

#### A.1. Numerical QA Templates

We present all the Numerical QA templates in this section. We systematically record both the number of steps in the COT annotation and the number of unique functions used to obtain for each template. Fig 10 shows 101 general templates designed for charts with different types. However, not all of these general templates are applicable to all types of charts. Hence, we’ve customized templates to match the unique characteristics of several specific chart types, such as box plots, bubbles, histograms, and pies, as demonstrated in fig . 15

#### A.2. Details of Referring QA in ChartSFT

In this section, We introduce the details of the generation pipeline of referring QA in our ChartSFT.

**Chart Generation.** We generate charts with the referring box in two ways. 1) For base types of charts, we utilize the bounding box annotations from plotQA to add referring markers onto their original images. 2) For specialized types of charts, we directly generate charts with integrated referring markers leveraging certain Python API(e.g., matplotlib) functionalities. Fig.9 shows different types of charts with different referring markers.

**QA Generation.** Following the pipeline used in generating numerical QA templates, we extend its application to the referring QA task. As outlined in fig. 16, we define a total of 114 templates, encompassing questions related to label recognition and mathematical calculations. Note that the x\_tick of line and area charts is continuous, therefore, we tailor these templates to accommodate such scenarios.

### B. Experiments

#### B.1. Experimental Setups

We begin by conducting alignment pre-training, utilizing the chart-to-table translation task for 65k steps. Following that, we engage in multitask instruction tuning. We employ the Adam optimizer [18] with a scheduled learning rate, where the initial rate is set to 5e-5 for ChartAst-D and 2e-6 for ChartAst-S. The input resolution is established at 448x448, while the maximum length in the decoder is defined as 1536 for ChartAst-D and 2048 for ChartAst-S. After training for four epochs for ChartAst-D and only one epoch for ChartAst-S, we perform testing on multiple downstream tasks. During inference, each task re-

ceives an image and a textual instruction as input, and the model generates a textual answer. All training processes are carried out on 16xA100 80GB GPUs. ChartAst-S outperforms ChartAst-D and has stronger robustness. This is partly due to the special high-resolution image handling method employed by ChartAst-S, which retains more detailed chart information. Additionally, ChartAst-S incorporates richer pre-training knowledge and the larger model possesses greater robustness.

**Evaluation.** We assess the performance of ChartAssistant across various tasks and datasets. Following the evaluation of Unichart [31], we utilize Chart-to-text [15] for evaluating chart summarization task, and OpenCQA [14] and ChartQA [30] for open-ended question answering task. The ChartQA dataset consists of two subsets: augmented and human. The augmented set comprises machine-generated summaries with a predominantly extractive nature, while the human set contains manually crafted summaries that require more advanced reasoning. The Chart-to-Text task encompasses two sets named "Pew" and "Statista" indicating the origin of the image examples. In the Pew set, summaries are automatically extracted from areas surrounding the images, while in the Statista set, summaries are authored by human annotators. We use ChartQA and PlotQA to evaluate chart-to-table translation tasks due to their various chart styles. To evaluate numerical question answering and referring question answering, we sample test sets from the datasets constructed by ourselves called MathQA and ReferQA.

**Metrics.** For evaluating ChartQA, MathQA, and ReferQA, we adopt relaxed correctness, which allows for an exact match with tolerance for a 5% numerical error [25, 31]. As for Chart-to-Text and OpenCQA, we employ BLEU as the evaluation metric following previous works [25, 31]. For chart-to-table translation, we use  $RMS_{F1}$  from DePlot [24]. This metric is resilient to modifications such as transpositions or permutations of columns and rows and has the capacity to accommodate and impose penalties for minor errors in numerical or textual data up to a specified threshold. At the same time, it can distinctively illustrate any reductions in both precision and recall. To cater for table transpositions, we evaluate both the original table and its transposed version and select the highest  $RMS_{F1}$  score.

**More experiments.** A significant portion of the ChartQA [30] dataset labels corresponding numerical data on the charts, but there also exists a considerable amount



Table 9. The chart-to-table translation performance of ChartAssistant and some baselines on plotQA.

Dataset	ChartAst-S	ChartAst-D	Matcha	Unichart
PlotQA	<b>95.6</b>	90.1	82.7	70.8

Table 10. A comparison of the results of ChartAssistant without arXiv dataset on five tasks with base type charts, which indicates that the arxiv dataset significantly improve the performance of the alignment pre-training and multitask instruction tuning.

Model	ChartQA		Chart-to-Text		Chart-to-Table		OpenCQA	MathQA	ReferQA
	aug.	human	Pew	Statista	ChartQA				
stage1 w/o arXiv	89.4	40.8	13.8	39.1	91.0		14.5	64.1	52.3
stage2 w/o arXiv	89.7	40.6	12.7	36.9	91.2		13.2	56.7	47.7
<b>Ours-D</b>	<b>91.3</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>92.0</b>		<b>14.9</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>64.2</b>

of charts where the numbers are not visualized. Consequently, we utilize the PlotQA [32] dataset to conduct additional chart-to-table translation experiments. As table 9 shows, the results indicate that compared to the ChartQA dataset, the ChartAssistant demonstrates a more significant advantage when implemented on the PlotQA dataset.

### C. Ablation Study

We thoroughly analyze the key aspects of our approach. In the appendix, we consider the significance of arXiv data and the impact of generating equivalent math questions on the effectiveness and robustness of our approach.

**The impact of arXiv data.** We have extracted tabular data from the arXiv dataset, and via multiple APIs, this data has been visualized into suitable charts. Furthermore, it has been expanded into datasets for chart-to-table translation and open-ended question-answering tasks. To validate the importance of this dataset, we conduct experiments by excluding the arXiv data at two distinct stages: the alignment pre-training (stage 1), and the multitask instruction tuning (stage 2).

As shown in table 10, it demonstrates that the arXiv dataset significantly assists the model in aligning charts with tables, thereby improving the performance across various tasks. We believe this is due to the fact that in comparison to existing chart-to-table translation datasets, the arXiv dataset boasts more diversity in terms of style and context; Besides, the open-ended question-answering task contributed by the arXiv dataset is proved to be pivotal for the multitask instruction tuning. We note that the removal of this leads to a drop in the performance of all tasks, most notably math QA and the referring QA. The possible reason for this is because the context and diverse meanings of the arXiv dataset contribute to higher quality question and answering pairs. Therefore, it better promotes multitask tuning.

**The impact of generating equivalent math questions.** Considering that generating questions purely through templates can be rather rigid in the math question answering

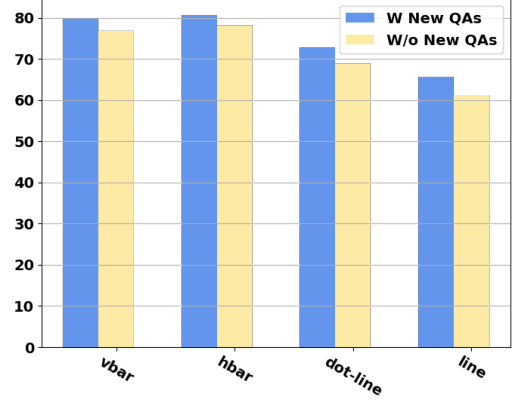


Figure 6. A comparison of the results of training with new question-answer pairs or not, which indicates that incorporating equivalent questions into the training process can enhance the model’s robustness towards math questions.

task, we attempt to provide both the template questions and table information to ChatGPT simultaneously, asking it to generate more significant equivalent questions based on the meaning of the tables. In particular, "What is the difference between the highest and the lowest Amount of Least developed countries ?" can be converted to "What is the range of the Amount for Least developed countries ?". We divide these new question-answer pairs into training and test sets, then compare the performance on the test set when training with and without this additional data.

As fig. 6 demonstrates, we find that including the newly generated equivalent questions in the training can enhance the performance of all types compared to the original approach. In detail, the overall accuracy changes from 71.8% to 76.2%.

### D. Some demos from Out of Distribution

To demonstrate the model’s generalization capability, we randomly take screenshots of several charts, as shown in Fig .7 and Fig .8 . We find that the model possesses generalization ability on out-of-distribution samples.

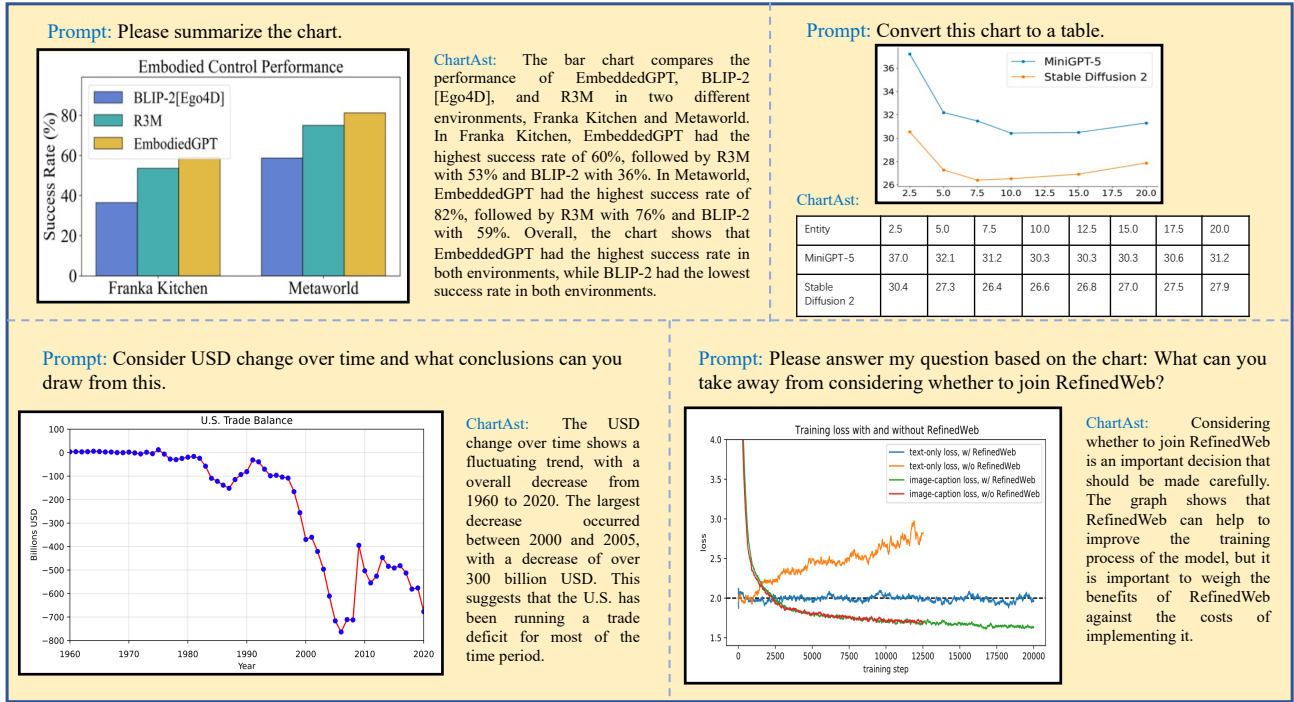


Figure 7. ChartAst-S demonstrates outstanding generalization ability in chart-to-table translation, summarization, and question-answering tasks.

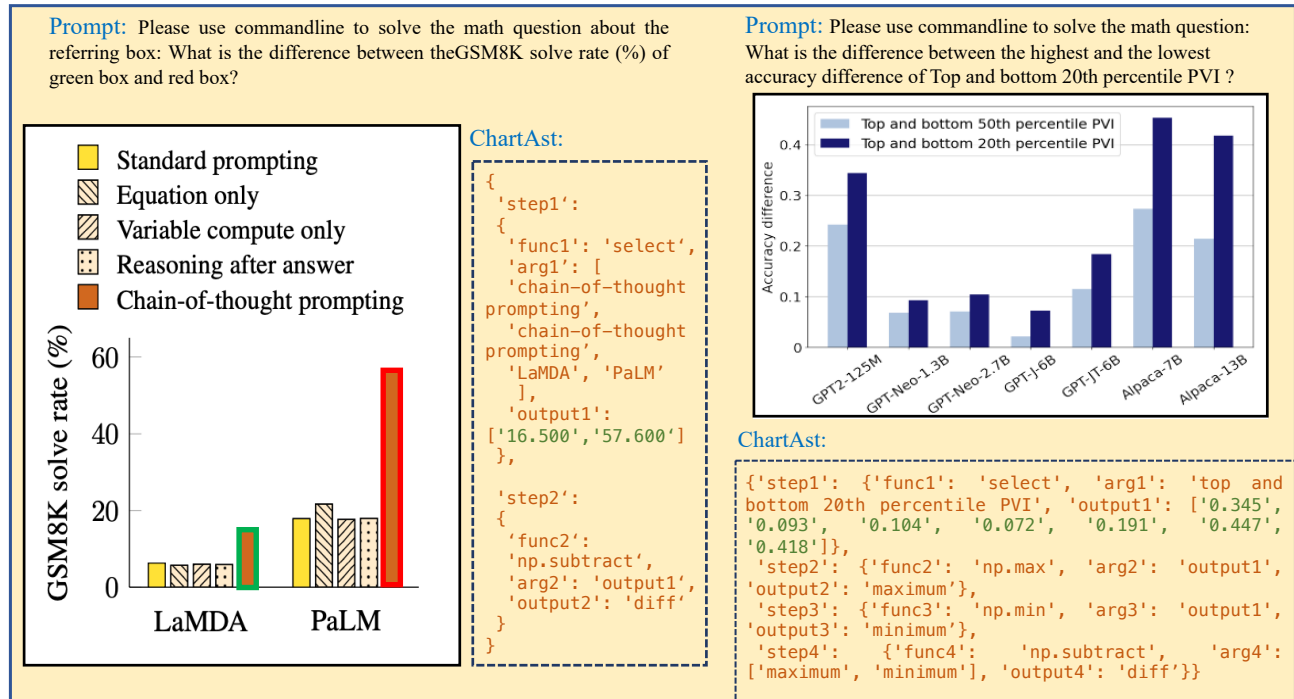
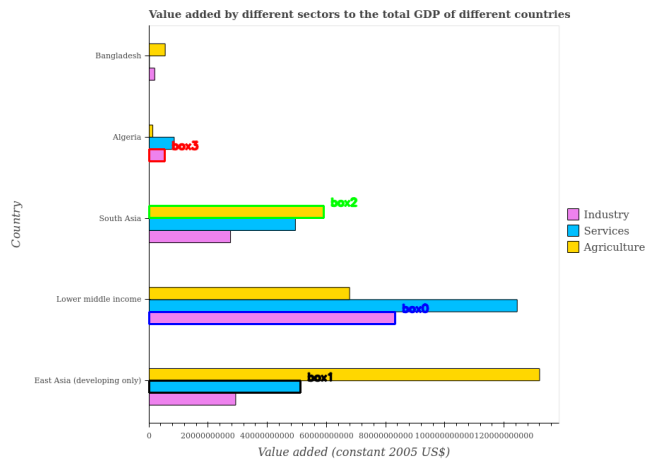
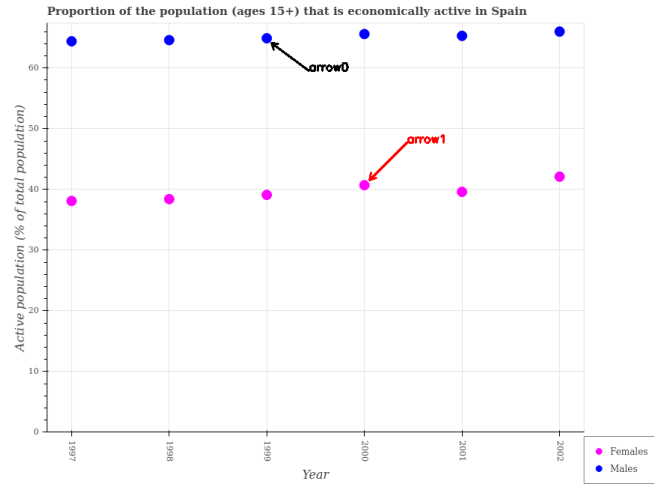


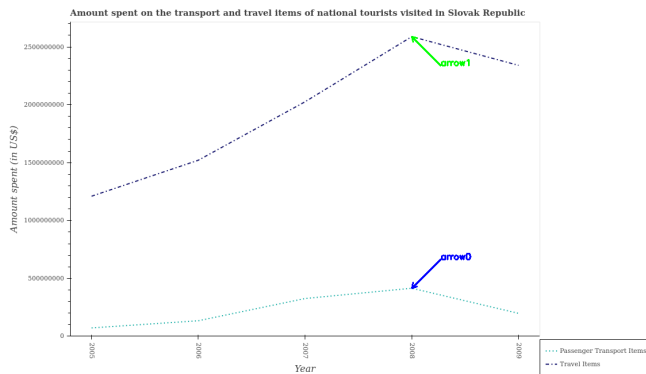
Figure 8. ChartAst-S demonstrates outstanding generalization ability in mathematical and referring question-answering tasks.



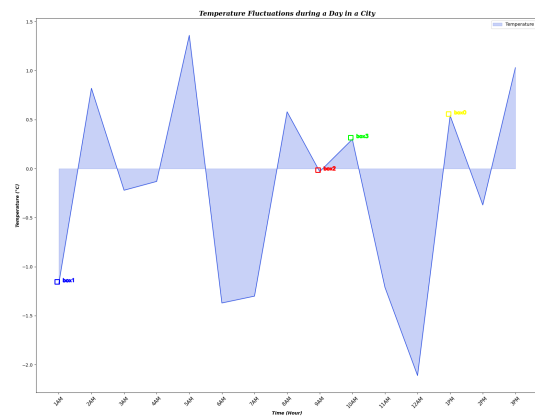
(a) bar chart with referring boxes



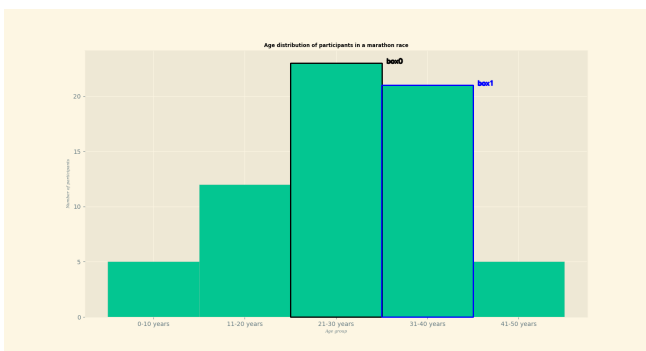
(b) dot-line chart with referring arrows



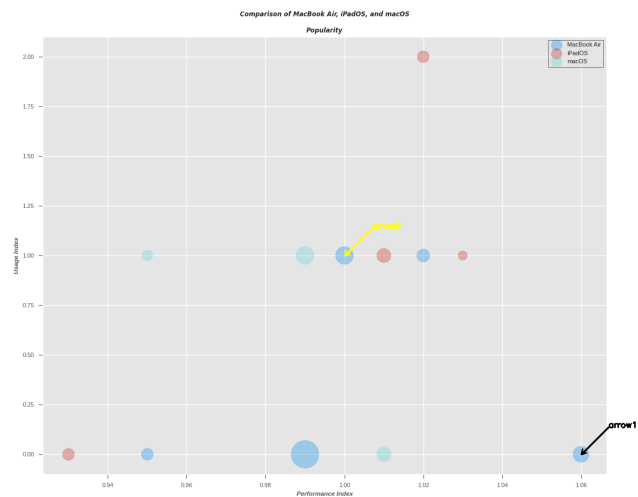
(c) line chart with referring arrows



(d) area chart with referring boxes



(e) histogram chart with referring boxes



(f) bubble chart with referring arrows

Figure 9. Some examples of different types of charts with referring markers.

NO.	Template	COT Steps	Func. Num.
<b>Templates in PlotQA</b>			
1	What is the sum of <Y label> ?	2	2
2	What is the difference between the <Y label> in <ithx tick> and <jthx tick> ?	2	2
3	What is the average <Y label> per <singular form of X label> ?	2	2
4	What is the median <Y label> ?	2	2
5	What is the total <Y label> of/in <legend label> in the graph?	2	2
6	What is the difference between the <Y label> of/in <legend label> in <ithx tick> and that in <jthx tick> ?	2	2
7	What is the difference between the <Y label> of/in <legend label1> in <ithx tick> and the <Y label> of/in <legend label2> in <jthx tick> ?	2	2
8	What is the average <Y label> of/in <legend label> per <singular form of X label> ?	2	2
9	In the year <ithx tick> , what is the difference between the <Y label> of/in <legend label1> and <Y label> of/in <legend label2> ?	2	2
10	What is the difference between the <Y label> of/in <legend label1> and <Y label> of/in <legend label2> in <ithx tick> ?	2	2
11	In how many <plural form of X label> , is the <Y label> greater than <N> units ?	3	3
12	What is the ratio of the <Y label> in <ithx tick> to that in <jthx tick> ?	2	2
13	Is the <Y label> in <ithx tick> less than that in <jthx tick> ?	2	2
14	In how many <plural form of X label> , is the <Y label> of/in <legend label> greater than <N> <units> ?	3	3
15	What is the ratio of the <Y label> of/in <legend label> in <ithx tick> to that in <jthx tick> ?	2	2
16	Is the <Y label> of/in <legend label> in <ithx tick> less than that in <jthx tick> ?	2	2
17	Is the difference between the <Y label> in <ithx tick> and <jthx tick> greater than the difference between any two <plural form of X label> ?	8	6
18	What is the difference between the highest and the second highest <Y label> ?	6	5
19	Is the sum of the <Y label> of/in <legend label1> in <ithx tick> and <jthx tick> greater than the maximum <Y label> of/in <legend label2> across all <plural form of X label> ?	5	4
20	Is it the case that in every <singular form of X label> , the sum of the <Y label> of/in <legend label1> and <legend label2> is greater than the sum of <Y label> of <legend label3> and <Y label> of <legend label4> ?	8	4
21	Is the sum of the <Y label> in <ithx tick> and <jthx tick> greater than the maximum <Y label> across all <plural form of X label> ?	5	4
22	What is the difference between the highest and the lowest <Y label> ?	4	4
23	In how many <plural form of X label> , is the <Y label> greater than the average <Y label> taken over all <plural form of X label> ?	4	4
24	Is the difference between the <Y label> of/in <legend label1> in <ithx tick> and <jthx tick> greater than the difference between the <Y label> of/in <legend label2> in <ithx tick> and <jthx tick> ?	5	3
25	What is the difference between the highest and the second highest <Y label> of/in <legend label> ?	6	5
26	What is the difference between the highest and the lowest <Y label> of/in <legend label> ?	4	4

Figure 10. General Numerical QA Templates in ChartBench. Containing 40 template questions from PlotQA and 61 template questions that we designed additionally.

NO.	Template	COT Steps	Func. Num.
27	In how many <plural form of X label> , is the <Y label> of/in <legend label> greater than the average <Y label> of/in <legend label> taken over all <plural form of X label> ?	4	4
28	Is it the case that in every <singular form of X label> , the sum of the <Y label> of/in <legend label1> and <legend label2> is greater than the <Y label> of/in <legend label3> ?	6	4
29	Is the <Y label> of/in <legend label1> strictly greater than the <Y label> of/in <legend label2> over the <plural form of X label> ?	4	3
30	Is the <Y label> of/in <legend label1> strictly less than the <Y label> of/in <legend label2> over the <plural form of X label> ?	4	3
31	Does the <Y label> of/in <legend label> monotonically increase over the <plural form of X label> ?	4	4
32	What is the difference between two consecutive major ticks on the Y-axis ?	4	3
33	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the maximum <Y label> ?	2	2
34	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the minimum <Y label> ?	2	2
35	In which <X label> was the <Y label> maximum ?	4	3
36	In which <X label> was the <Y label> minimum ?	4	3
37	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the maximum <Y label> of/in <legend label> ?	2	2
38	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the minimum <Y label> of/in <legend label> ?	2	2
39	In which <singular form of X label> was the <Y label> of/in <legend label> maximum ?	4	3
40	In which <singular form of X label> was the <Y label> of/in <legend label> minimum ?	4	3
<b>Extended Templates</b>			
41	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the covariance between the <Y label> of/in <legend label1> and <Y label> of/in <legend label2> ?	3	2
42	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the correlation coefficient between the <Y label> of/in <legend label1> and <Y label> of/in <legend label2> ?	3	2
43	What is the percentage change in the <Y label> of/in <legend label> from <ithx tick> to <jthx tick> ?	4	4
44	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the percentage of the <Y label> of/in <legend label> which below <N> <units> ?	5	5
45	What is the sum of the <Y label> of/in <legend label> with <plural form of X label> in the range of <ithx tick> to <jthx tick> ?	2	2
46	What is the average change in <Y label> of/in <legend label> between consecutive <plural form of X label> ?	3	3
47	What is the median <Y label> of/in <legend label> in the graph?	2	2
48	What is the ratio between the highest and the lowest <Y label> of/in <legend label> ?	4	4
49	What is the ratio between the highest and the second lowest <Y label> of/in <legend label> ?	5	4
50	What is the ratio of the difference between the maximum and minimum <Y label> of/in <legend label> to the average <Y label> of/in <legend label> ?	6	6
51	For <legend label> , is the highest <Y label> greater than three times the lowest <Y label> ?	5	5
52	For <legend label> , is the difference between maximum and minimum of <Y label> greater than the sum of the mean and median <Y label> ?	8	8

Figure 11. – continued from previous page.



NO.	Template	COT Steps	Func. Num.
53	What is the standard deviation of <Y label> ?	2	2
54	Is the sum of <Y label> of/in <legend label> in <plural form of X label> strictly greater than <N> <units> ?	3	3
55	What is the difference between the mean <Y label> of/in <legend label> and the median <Y label> of/in <legend label> across all <plural form of X label> ?	4	4
56	Is the maximum <Y label> of/in <legend label> greater than four times the minimum <Y label> of/in <legend label> ?	5	5
57	For <legend label1> and <legend label2> , which one was the median <Y label> maximum ?	6	4
58	For <legend label1> , <legend label2> and <legend label3> , which one was the average <Y label> maximum across all <plural form of X label> ?	8	4
59	For <legend label1> , <legend label2> and <legend label3> , which one was the sum <Y label> minimum across all <plural form of X label> ?	8	4
60	Among <legend label1> and <legend label2> , which one has the smallest difference between the maximum and minimum <Y label> across all <plural form of X label> ?	10	6
61	Among <legend label1> and <legend label2> , which one has the biggest difference between the maximum and minimum <Y label> across all <plural form of X label> ?	10	6
62	Among <legend label1> , <legend label2> , which one has the smallest absolute difference between the median and mean <Y label> ?	12	7
63	Across all <plural form of X label> , are the <Y label> values of <legend label1> and <legend label2> positively correlated?	4	3
64	What is the standard deviation of <Y label> of/in <legend label> ?	2	2
65	Across all <plural form of X label> , are the <Y label> values of <legend label1> and <legend label2> negatively correlated?	4	3
66	Among <legend label1> , <legend label2> , and <legend label3> , which one has the smallest standard deviation of <Y label> across all <plural form of X label> ?	8	4
67	Among <legend label1> , <legend label2> , and <legend label3> , which one has the biggest variance of <Y label> across all <plural form of X label> ?	8	4
68	What is the difference between the mean <Y label> for <legend label1> in the range of <ithx tick> to <jthx tick> and that for <legend label2> ?	5	3
69	Is the correlation between <Y label> of/in <legend label1> and <legend label2> stronger than the correlation between <Y label> of/in <legend label1> and <legend label3> across all <plural form of X label> ?	8	4
70	In How many <plural form of X label> ,the <Y label> of/in <legend label1> greater than twice the mean of the <Y label> of/in <legend label2> ?	6	5
71	What is the difference between the uppermost/rightmost and bottommost/leftmost <Y label> of/in <legend label> in the graph?	4	3
72	What is the difference between the uppermost/rightmost and second uppermost/rightmost <Y label> of/in <legend label> in the graph?	4	3
73	What is the ratio between the bottommost/leftmost and second bottommost/leftmost <Y label> of/in <legend label> in the graph?	4	3
74	What is the sum between the bottommost/leftmost and second bottommost/leftmost <Y label> of/in <legend label> in the graph?	4	3
75	What is the ratio of the sum of <Y label> of/in <legend label> in <ithx tick> and <jthx tick> to the difference between the <Y label> of/in <legend label> in <ithx tick> and <jthx tick> ?	4	4
76	What is the product of the highest and the lowest <Y label> of/in <legend label> ?	4	4

Figure 12. – continued from previous page.

NO.	Template	COT Steps	Func. Num.
77	What is the product of the <Y label> of/in <legend label> in <ithx tick> and <jthx tick> ?	2	2
78	In How many <plural form of X label> ,the <Y label> of/in <legend label1> strictly less than twice the mean of the <Y label> of/in <legend label2> ?	6	5
79	Among <legend label1> , <legend label2> , and <legend label3> , which one has the biggest mean <Y label> across all <plural form of X label> ?	8	4
80	Among <legend label1> , <legend label2> , and <legend label3> , which one has the biggest median <Y label> across all <plural form of X label> ?	8	4
81	Among <legend label1> , <legend label2> , and <legend label3> , which one has the smallest total <Y label> across all <plural form of X label> ?	8	4
82	How much is three times the average <Y label> of/in <legend label> per <singular form of X label> ?	3	3
83	How much is twice the sum <Y label> of/in <legend label> across all <plural form of X label> ?	3	3
84	What is the average of the maximum and minimum <Y label> in <legend label> across all <plural form of X label> ?	4	4
85	Is the maximum <Y label> of/in <legend label> less than twice the median <Y label> of/in <legend label> across all <plural form of X label> ?	5	5
86	What is the difference between the average <Y label> per <singular form of X label> in <legend label1> and the average <Y label> per <singular form of X label> in <legend label2> ?	5	3
87	Between the <Y label> of/in <legend label1> and <legend label2> , which one has the higher average change?	8	5
88	What is the variance of <Y label> ?	2	2
89	What is the variance of <Y label> of/in <legend label> ?	2	2
90	What is the product of the mean and the median <Y label> of/in <legend label> ?	4	4
91	Is the median <Y label> of/in <legend label> less than the mean <Y label> of/in <legend label> across all <plural form of X label> ?	4	4
92	What is the ratio of the difference between the maximum and minimum <Y label> of/in <legend label> to the standard deviation of <Y label> of/in <legend label> ?	6	6
93	What is the difference between the uppermost/rightmost <Y label> of/in <legend label> and highest <Y label> of/in <legend label> in the graph?	4	4
94	What is the difference between the bottommost/leftmost <Y label> of/in <legend label> and lowest <Y label> of/in <legend label> in the graph?	4	4
95	What is the ratio of the mean <Y label> of/in <legend label> to the standard deviation of <Y label> of/in <legend label> ?	4	4
96	Is the difference between the maximum and minimum <Y label> of/in <legend label> within the range of <N1> to <N2> ?	7	7
97	Is the sum of the <Y label> of/in <legend label> in <ithx tick> and <jthx tick> greater than twice the difference between the <Y label> of/in <legend label> in <ithx tick> and <jthx tick> ?	5	5
98	Across all <plural form of X label> , is the median <Y label> of/in <legend label> within the range of <N1> to <N2> ?	5	5
99	Is the difference between the <Y label> of/in <legend label> in <ithx tick> and <jthx tick> greater than the sum of the <Y label> of/in <legend label> in <kthx tick> and <lthx tick> ?	5	4
100	What is the difference between the maximum <Y label> of/in <legend label1> and the maximum <Y label> of/in <legend label2> ?	5	3
101	What is the average <Y label> of/in <legend label> with <plural form of X label> in the range of <ithx tick> to <jthx tick> ?	2	2

Figure 13. – continued from previous page.

NO.	Template	COT Steps	Func. Num.
<b>Box-plot</b>			
1	What is the ratio of the <Y label> in <legend label1> to that in <legend label2> ?	2	2
2	What is the product of the highest and the lowest <Y label> ?	4	4
3	What is the product of the mean and the median <Y label> ?	4	4
4	What is the ratio of the difference between the maximum and minimum <Y label> to the standard deviation of <Y label> ?	6	6
5	What is the difference between the <Y label> in <legend label1> and <legend label2> ?	2	2
6	Is the <Y label> in <legend label1> less than that in <legend label2> ?	2	2
7	What is the ratio between the highest and the lowest <Y label> ?	4	4
8	What is the ratio between the highest and the second lowest <Y label> ?	5	4
9	What is the ratio of the difference between the maximum and minimum <Y label> to the average <Y label> ?	6	6
10	Is the highest <Y label> greater than <N> times the lowest <Y label> ?	5	5
11	Is the difference between maximum and minimum of <Y label> greater than the sum of the mean and median <Y label> ?	8	8
<b>Bubble Chart</b>			
12	What is the average <X label> of/in <legend label> ?	2	2
13	What is the total <X label> of/in <legend label> in the graph?	2	2
14	What is the difference between the highest and the lowest <X label> of/in <legend label> ?	4	4
15	What is the minimum <X label> of/in <legend label> ?	2	2
16	What is the covariance between the <Y label> and <Z label> of/in <legend label> ?	3	2
17	What is the correlation coefficient between the <X label> and <Z label> of/in <legend label> ?	3	2
18	What is the ratio between the highest and the second lowest <X label> of/in <legend label> ?	5	4
19	For <legend label> , is the difference between maximum and minimum of <X label> greater than the sum of the mean and median <X label> ?	8	8
20	Is the maximum <X label> of/in <legend label> greater than four times the minimum <X label> of/in <legend label> ?	5	5
21	Among <legend label1> and <legend label2> , which one has the biggest difference between the maximum and minimum <X label> ?	10	6
22	Are the <Y label> and <Z label> of/in <legend label> positively correlated?	4	3
23	Are the <X label> and <Z label> of/in <legend label> negatively correlated?	4	3
24	What is the average of the maximum and minimum <X label> in <legend label> ?	4	4
25	What is the variance of <X label> of/in <legend label> ?	2	2
26	What is the product of the mean and the median <X label> of/in <legend label> ?	4	4
27	What is the ratio of the mean <X label> of/in <legend label> to the standard deviation of <X label> of/in <legend label> ?	4	4
28	Is the difference between the maximum and minimum <X label> of/in <legend label> within the range of <N1> to <N2> ?	7	7
29	What is the difference between the maximum <X label> of/in <legend label1> and the maximum <X label> of/in <legend label2> ?	5	3
<b>Histogram</b>			
30	What is the proportion of <Y label> of/in <ithx tick> if the <Y label> of/in <ithx tick> become <N> times the original?	7	6

Figure 14. Numerical QA Templates for several Types of charts in ChartBench.

NO.	Template	COT Steps	Func. Num.
31	What is the <Y label> of/in <ithx tick> if the total <Y label> become <N> times the original?	2	2
32	If total <Y label> is <N> , how many <Y label> would be in <ithx tick> ?	5	4
33	If <ithx tick> is removed, what would be the new percentage of <Y label> of/in <jthx tick> ?	6	4
34	What is the proportion of <Y label> of/in <ithx tick> ?	4	3
35	What is the proportion of <Y label> with <ithx tick> and above ?	5	3
36	What is the proportion of <Y label> with <ithx tick> and below ?	5	3
37	What is the proportion of <Y label> in the range of <ithx tick> to <jthx tick> ?	5	3
<b>Pie Chart</b>			
38	What is the proportion of <Y label> of/in <ithx tick> if the <Y label> of/in <ithx tick> become <N> times the original?	7	6
39	What is <Y label> of/in <ithx tick> if the total <Y label> become <N> times the original?	2	2
40	If total <Y label> is <N> , how many <Y label> would be in <ithx tick> ?	5	4
41	If <ithx tick> is removed, what would be the new percentage of <Y label> of/in <jthx tick> ?	6	4
42	What is the proportion of <Y label> of/in <ithx tick> ?	4	3
43	What is the total proportion of <Y label> of/in <ithx tick> and <jthx tick> ?	6	4

Figure 15. – continued from previous page.

NO.	Template	COT Steps	Func. Num.
<b>General</b>			
1	What does the <box0> represent?	-	-
2	What does the <color0> box represent?	-	-
3	What does the <arrow0> represent?	-	-
4	What does the <color0> arrow represent?	-	-
5	What is the label of <box0> ?	-	-
6	What is the label of <color0> box?	-	-
7	What is the label of <arrow0> ?	-	-
8	What is the label of <color0> arrow?	-	-
9	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the maximum <Y label> of the legend represented by the <arrow0> ?	2	2
10	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the maximum <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> arrow?	2	2
11	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the maximum <Y label> of the legend represented by the <box0> ?	2	2
12	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the maximum <Y label> of of the legend represented by the <color0> box?	2	2
13	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the maximum <Y label> of the <color0> arrows?	2	2
14	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the maximum <Y label> of the <color0> boxes?	2	2
15	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the minimum <Y label> of the legend represented by the <arrow0> ?	2	2

Figure 16. Referring QA Templates in ChartBench.

NO.	Template	COT Steps	Func. Num.
16	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the minimum <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> arrow?	2	2
17	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the minimum <Y label> of the legend represented by the <box0> ?	2	2
18	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the minimum <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> box?	2	2
19	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the minimum <Y label> of the <color0> arrows?	2	2
20	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the minimum <Y label> of the <color0> boxes?	2	2
21	What is the average <Y label> of the legend represented by the <arrow0> per <X label> ?	2	2
22	What is the average <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> arrow per <X label> ?	2	2
23	What is the average <Y label> of the legend represented by the <box0> per <X label> ?	2	2
24	What is the average <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> box per <X label> ?	2	2
25	What is the average <Y label> of the <color0> arrows per <X label> ?	2	2
26	What is the average <Y label> of the <color0> boxes per <X label> ?	2	2
27	What is the median <Y label> of the legend represented by the <arrow0> per <X label> ?	2	2
28	What is the median <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> arrow per <X label> ?	2	2
29	What is the median <Y label> of the legend represented by the <box0> per <X label> ?	2	2
30	What is the median <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> box per <X label> ?	2	2
31	What is the median <Y label> of the <color0> arrows per <X label> ?	2	2
32	What is the median <Y label> of the <color0> boxes per <X label> ?	2	2
33	What is the total <X label> of the legend represented by the <arrow0> in the graph?	2	2
34	What is the total <X label> of the legend represented by the <color0> arrow in the graph?	2	2
35	What is the total <X label> of the legend represented by the <box0> in the graph?	2	2
36	What is the total <X label> of the legend represented by the <color0> box in the graph?	2	2
37	What is the total <Y label> of the <color0> arrows?	2	2
38	What is the total <Y label> of the <color0> boxes?	2	2
39	In how many <plural form of X label> , is the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <arrow0> greater than the average <Y label> of it taken over all <plural form of X label> ?	4	4
40	In how many <plural form of X label> , is the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> arrow greater than the average <Y label> of it taken over all <plural form of X label> ?	4	4
41	In how many <plural form of X label> , is the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <box0> greater than the average <Y label> of it taken over all <plural form of X label> ?	4	4
42	In how many <plural form of X label> , is the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> box greater than the average <Y label> of it taken over all <plural form of X label> ?	4	4

Figure 17. – continued from previous page.



NO.	Template	COT Steps	Func. Num.
43	In how many <plural form of X label> , is the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <arrow0> less than the average <Y label> of it taken over all <plural form of X label> ?	4	4
44	In how many <plural form of X label> , is the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> arrow less than the average <Y label> of it taken over all <plural form of X label> ?	4	4
45	In how many <plural form of X label> , is the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <box0> less than the average <Y label> of it taken over all <plural form of X label> ?	4	4
46	In how many <plural form of X label> , is the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> box less than the average <Y label> of it taken over all <plural form of X label> ?	4	4
47	Is the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <arrow0> strictly greater than the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <arrow1> over the <plural form of X label> ?	4	3
48	Is the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> arrow strictly greater than the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color1> arrow over the <plural form of X label> ?	4	3
49	Is the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <box0> strictly greater than the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <box1> over the <plural form of X label> ?	4	3
50	Is the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> box strictly greater than the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color1> box over the <plural form of X label> ?	4	3
51	Is the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <arrow0> strictly less than the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <arrow1> over the <plural form of X label> ?	4	3
52	Is the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> arrow strictly less than the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color1> arrow over the <plural form of X label> ?	4	3
53	Is the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <box0> strictly less than the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <box1> over the <plural form of X label> ?	4	3
54	Is the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> box strictly less than the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color1> box over the <plural form of X label> ?	4	3
55	What is the difference between the <Y label> of <box0> and <box1> ?	2	2
56	What is the difference between the <Y label> of <arrow0> and <arrow1> ?	2	2
57	What is the difference between the <Y label> of <color0> box and <color1> box?	2	2
58	What is the difference between the <Y label> of <color0> arrow and <color1> arrow?	2	2
59	What is the ratio of the <Y label> of <box0> to that of <box1> ?	2	2
60	What is the ratio of the <Y label> of <color0> box to that of <color1> box?	2	2
61	What is the ratio of the <Y label> of <arrow0> to that of <arrow1> ?	2	2
62	What is the ratio of the <Y label> of <color0> arrow to that of <color1> arrow?	2	2
63	Is the <Y label> of <box0> less than that of <box1> ?	2	2
64	Is the <Y label> of <color0> box less than that of <color1> box?	2	2
65	Is the <Y label> of <arrow0> less than that of <arrow1> ?	2	2
66	Is the <Y label> of <color0> arrow less than that of <color1> arrow?	2	2
67	Is the difference between the <Y label> of <box0> and <box1> greater than the difference of the legend represented by the <box0> between any two <plural form of X label> ?	8	6

Figure 18. – continued from previous page.

NO.	Template	COT Steps	Func. Num.
68	Is the difference between the <Y label> of <color0> box and <color1> box greater than the difference of the legend represented by the <color0> box between any two <plural form of X label> ?	8	6
69	Is the difference between the <Y label> of <arrow0> and <arrow1> greater than the difference of the legend represented by the <arrow0> between any two <plural form of X label> ?	8	6
70	Is the difference between the <Y label> of <color0> arrow and <color1> arrow greater than the difference of the legend represented by the <color0> arrow between any two <plural form of X label> ?	8	6
71	Is the sum of the <Y label> of <box0> and <box1> greater than the maximum <Y label> of the legend represented by the <box0> across all <plural form of X label> ?	5	4
72	Is the sum of the <Y label> of <color0> box and <color1> box greater than the maximum <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> across all <plural form of X label> ?	5	4
73	Is the sum of the <Y label> of <arrow0> and <arrow1> greater than the maximum <Y label> of the legend represented by the <arrow0> across all <plural form of X label> ?	5	4
74	Is the sum of the <Y label> of <color0> arrow and <color1> arrow greater than the maximum <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> across all <plural form of X label> ?	5	4
75	Is the difference between the <Y label> of <box0> and <box1> greater than the difference between the <Y label> of <box2> and <box3> ?	7	4
76	Is the difference between the <Y label> of <color0> box and <color1> box greater than the difference between the <Y label> of <color2> box and <color3> box?	7	4
77	Is the difference between the <Y label> of <arrow0> and <arrow1> greater than the difference between the <Y label> of <arrow2> and <arrow3> ?	7	4
78	Is the difference between the <Y label> of <color0> arrow and <color1> arrow greater than the difference between the <Y label> of <color2> arrow and <color3> arrow?	7	4
79	Is it the case that in every <X label> , the sum of the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <arrow0> and the legend represented by the <arrow1> is greater than the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <arrow2> ?	6	4
80	Is it the case that in every <X label> , the sum of the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> arrow and the legend represented by the <color1> arrow is greater than the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color2> arrow?	6	4
81	Is it the case that in every <X label> , the sum of the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <box0> and the legend represented by the <box1> is greater than the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <box2> ?	6	4
82	Is it the case that in every <X label> , the sum of the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color0> box and the legend represented by the <color1> box is greater than the <Y label> of the legend represented by the <color2> box?	6	4
<b>Line and Area Chart</b>			
83	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the maximum <Y label> of this <arrow0> ?	2	2
84	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the maximum <Y label> of this <color0> arrow?	2	2
85	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the minimum <Y label> of this <arrow0> ?	2	2
86	Across all <plural form of X label> , what is the minimum <Y label> of this <color0> arrow?	2	2

Figure 19. – continued from previous page.

NO.	Template	COT Steps	Func. Num.
87	What is the average <Y label> of <arrow0> per <X label> ?	2	2
88	What is the average <Y label> of <color0> arrow per <X label> ?	2	2
89	What is the median <Y label> of <arrow0> per <X label> ?	2	2
90	What is the median <Y label> of <color0> arrow per <X label> ?	2	2
91	What is the total <Y label> of <arrow0> in the graph?	2	2
92	What is the total <Y label> of <color0> arrow in the graph?	2	2
93	In how many <plural form of X label> , is the <Y label> of <arrow0> greater than the average <Y label> of <arrow0> taken over all <plural form of X label> ?	4	4
94	In how many <plural form of X label> , is the <Y label> of <color0> arrow greater than the average <Y label> of <color0> arrow taken over all <plural form of X label> ?	4	4
95	In how many <plural form of X label> , is the <Y label> of <arrow0> less than the average <Y label> of <arrow0> taken over all <plural form of X label> ?	4	4
96	In how many <plural form of X label> , is the <Y label> of <color0> arrow less than the average <Y label> of <color0> arrow taken over all <plural form of X label> ?	4	4
97	Is the <Y label> of <arrow0> strictly greater than the <Y label> of <arrow1> over the <plural form of X label> ?	4	3
98	Is the <Y label> of <color0> arrow strictly greater than the <Y label> of <color1> arrow over the <plural form of X label> ?	4	3
99	Is the <Y label> of <arrow0> strictly less than the <Y label> of <arrow1> over the <plural form of X label> ?	4	3
100	Is the <Y label> of <color0> arrow strictly less than the <Y label> of <color1> arrow over the <plural form of X label> ?	4	3
101	What is the difference between the <Y label> of <box0> and <box1> ?	2	2
102	What is the difference between the <Y label> of <color0> box and <color1> box?	2	2
103	What is the ratio of the <Y label> of <box0> to that of <box1> ?	2	2
104	What is the ratio of the <Y label> of <color0> box to that of <color1> box?	2	2
105	Is the <Y label> of <box0> less than that of <box1> ?	2	2
106	Is the <Y label> of <color0> box less than that of <color1> box?	2	2
107	Is the difference between the <Y label> of <box0> and <box1> greater than the difference of the corresponding legend of <box0> between any two <plural form of X label> ?	8	6
108	Is the difference between the <Y label> of <color0> box and <color1> box greater than the difference of the corresponding legend of <color0> box between any two <plural form of X label> ?	8	6
109	Is the sum of the <Y label> of <box0> and <box1> greater than the maximum <Y label> of the corresponding legend of <box0> across all <plural form of X label> ?	5	4
110	Is the sum of the <Y label> of <color0> box and <color1> box greater than the maximum <Y label> of the corresponding legend of <color0> across all <plural form of X label> ?	5	4
111	Is the difference between the <Y label> of <box0> and <box1> greater than the difference between the <Y label> of <box2> and <box3> ?	7	4
112	Is the difference between the <Y label> of <color0> box and <color1> box greater than the difference between the <Y label> of <color2> box and <color3> box?	7	4
113	Is it the case that in every <X label> , the sum of the <Y label> of <arrow0> and <arrow1> is greater than the <Y label> of <arrow2> ?	6	4
114	Is it the case that in every <X label> , the sum of the <Y label> of <color0> arrow and <color1> arrow is greater than the <Y label> of <color2> arrow?	6	4

Figure 20. – continued from previous page.