

Comprehensive Benchmark Suite for Evaluating Gemma Models

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Note: *The benchmarking suite described in this proposal has been implemented and is available as an open-source repository on GitHub:*

<https://github.com/heilcheng/gemma-benchmark/>

Introduction

Large language models (LLMs) are transforming AI research and applications across domains. Google's Gemma models, as lightweight open models derived from the Gemini research, represent a significant step toward democratizing access to high-quality LLMs. However, to effectively utilize these models in research and production, the community needs standardized, comprehensive benchmarking tools that can reliably measure model performance across diverse tasks.

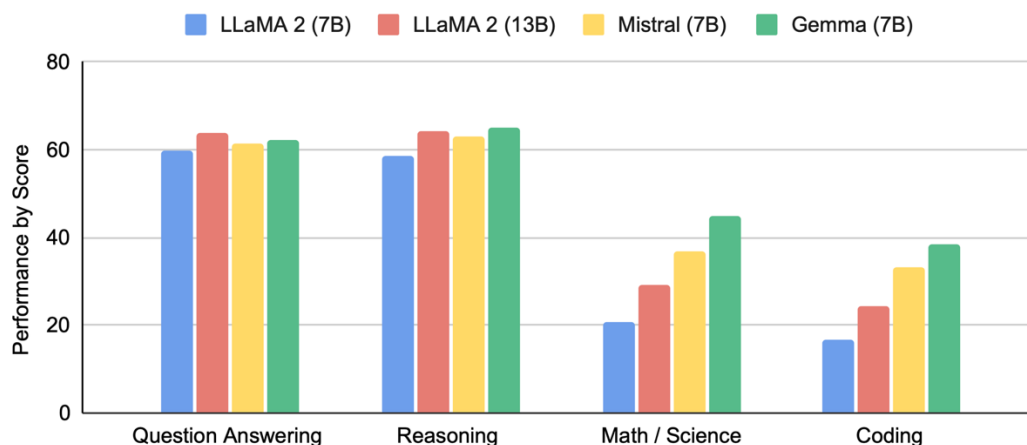


Fig 1. Example of benchmarking: A graph showing language understanding and generation performance of Gemma 7B across different capabilities compared to similarly sized open models.

This project developed a robust, extensible benchmarking suite specifically designed for Gemma models. The suite enables researchers and practitioners to:

- Systematically evaluate Gemma models across standard academic benchmarks.
- Compare different Gemma model sizes and variants.
- Benchmark Gemma against other open models like Llama 2 and Mistral.
- Generate informative visualizations for easy interpretation.
- Automate the benchmarking process with reproducible scripts.
- Provide statistical validation of observed performance differences.

This benchmark suite helps fill a critical need in the open model ecosystem, allowing the community to track progress, identify strengths and weaknesses, and guide future development of Gemma models. Furthermore, by creating standardized evaluation methodologies, this project contributes to more reliable comparisons between models developed by different research teams.

Relevant Experience and Interest

I am a sophomore majoring in Mathematics and Computer Science at City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK). I am deeply interested in language model evaluation and benchmarking because I believe that understanding the capabilities and limitations of LLMs is essential to developing trustworthy and impactful AI systems—especially in high-stakes domains such as healthcare and education. My passion for interpretability and robustness has been shaped through both academic research and hands-on projects.

My background includes:

- Experience with PyTorch and Hugging Face for training and fine-tuning deep learning models, particularly in the domain of speech and text analysis for early disease detection as part of a research project at CityUHK.
- Research experience in deep learning for neural activity analysis under Professor Tin Chung's lab at CityUHK.
- Proficient in Python software development, with strong data visualization skills using libraries such as Matplotlib, Seaborn, and Plotly to present model behavior and evaluation results effectively.

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Work Plan

This project developed a comprehensive benchmarking framework for Gemma models with the following components:

1. Core Benchmark Framework

A modular Python framework was built to load models, datasets, run evaluations, and collect results. The framework:

- Supports Gemma model variants, with a core focus on the sizes evaluated (e.g., 1B, 2B, 7B).
- Included consideration for larger models (e.g., 12B+), but benchmarking them extensively depended on access to suitable computational resources beyond the primary hardware.
- Includes comparable open models (Llama 2, Mistral, etc.) via similar wrapper mechanisms.
- Implements consistent evaluation protocols. When comparing Gemma to other model families, the framework acknowledges confounding factors beyond parameter count (architecture, training data, tokenization, fine-tuning). Context is provided for interpreting cross-model comparisons with appropriate caveats.

1.1 Efficiency Evaluation

The framework includes modules to benchmark computational efficiency. Key metrics measured were:

- **Inference Latency:** Measured in tokens per second for standardized input/output lengths.
- **Peak Memory Usage:** Recorded maximum CPU/GPU RAM/VRAM consumption during inference using available system tools (e.g., psutil, torch.cuda if applicable).

These evaluations were conducted under controlled conditions primarily using the available MacBook M2. Additional tests using cloud GPU resources (like Google Colab's free tier or other accessible platforms) were explored where feasible for comparative data.

- **Hardware Reporting:** Efficiency results are reported alongside the specific hardware used (e.g., "Latency on MacBook M2", "Memory usage on MacBook M2", "Latency on Colab T4 GPU" if used).
- **Comparability Caveat:** These results reflect performance within the specific environments tested. They are valuable for relative comparisons on this hardware but are not directly comparable to benchmarks run on dedicated, high-end systems unless equivalent hardware was used.
- **Standardized Settings:** All tests used batch size=1 with consistent prompt lengths and generation settings where applicable.
- An `EfficiencyEvaluator` class was implemented in `tasks/efficiency.py` and integrated into the main benchmark runner.

2. Academic Benchmark Implementation

Evaluation modules for key academic benchmarks were implemented to assess Gemma's capabilities. The initial implementation focused on:

- **Knowledge & Reasoning:** MMLU.
- **Question Answering:** CQA, OBQA, ARC-e, ARC-c, TriviaQA, NQ, etc.
- **Coding:** HumanEval, MBPP
- **Mathematical Reasoning:** GSM8K, MATH
- **General Capabilities:** AGIEval, BBH
- **Efficiency Metrics:** As described above.

Benchmark	metric	LLaMA-2		Mistral	Gemma	
		7B	13B	7B	2B	7B
MMLU	5-shot, top-1	45.3	54.8	62.5	42.3	64.3
HellaSwag	0-shot	77.2	80.7	81.0	71.4	81.2
PIQA	0-shot	78.8	80.5	82.2	77.3	81.2
SIQA	0-shot	48.3	50.3	47.0*	49.7	51.8
Boolq	0-shot	77.4	81.7	83.2*	69.4	83.2
Winogrande	partial scoring	69.2	72.8	74.2	65.4	72.3
CQA	7-shot	57.8	67.3	66.3*	65.3	71.3
OBQA		58.6	57.0	52.2	47.8	52.8
ARC-e		75.2	77.3	80.5	73.2	81.5
ARC-c		45.9	49.4	54.9	42.1	53.2
TriviaQA	5-shot	72.1	79.6	62.5	53.2	63.4
NQ	5-shot	25.7	31.2	23.2	12.5	23.0
HumanEval	pass@1	12.8	18.3	26.2	22.0	32.3
MBPP [†]	3-shot	20.8	30.6	40.2*	29.2	44.4
GSM8K	maj@1	14.6	28.7	35.4*	17.7	46.4
MATH	4-shot	2.5	3.9	12.7	11.8	24.3
AGIEval		29.3	39.1	41.2*	24.2	41.7
BBH		32.6	39.4	56.1*	35.2	55.1
Average		46.9	52.4	54.5	45.0	56.9

Table 6 | Academic benchmark results, compared to similarly sized, openly-available models trained on general English text data. [†] Mistral reports 50.2 on a different split for MBPP and on their split our 7B model achieves 54.5. * evaluations run by us. Note that due to restrictive licensing, we were unable to run evals on LLaMA-2; all values above were previously reported in [Touvron et al. \(2023b\)](#).

Fig 2. The paper “Gemma: Open Models Based on Gemini Research and Technology” as reference.

2.1 Custom Benchmark Implementation

In addition to standard academic benchmarks, this project aimed to incorporate custom evaluation sets tailored to specific capabilities or domains. Examples include domain-specific QA, instruction following fidelity, and safety/robustness probes. These datasets were sourced or generated with clear documentation, and specific evaluation metrics were defined.

2.2 Responsible AI Benchmarks

Recognizing the importance of responsible AI development, this benchmark suite aimed to incorporate evaluations focused on potential harms and biases. This included bias measurement (e.g., BOLD, WinoBias) and toxicity detection (e.g., ToxiGen). Implementation involved specific task modules, and results were reported alongside performance metrics.

3. Automation Scripts

Scripts were developed to automate model loading, dataset prep, batch evaluation, and results aggregation (scripts/run_benchmark.py, scripts/download_data.py).

4. Visualization and Reporting

Visualization and reporting tools were created to generate performance tables and charts (visualization/charts.py). Reporting includes:

- Qualitative Analysis: Systematic error analysis (categorizing reasoning failures, factual errors, etc.) and side-by-side output comparisons.
- Result Interpretation Guidance: Clear discussion of benchmark limitations and cautions against oversimplification.

5. Documentation and Tutorials

Comprehensive documentation was developed, including setup guides, API docs (implicitly via code comments), methodology descriptions, and environment configuration files (requirements.txt, etc.) for reproducibility.

5.1 Open Source and Community Contribution

The suite is open-sourced on GitHub (<https://github.com/heilcheng/gemma-benchmark>). Compatibility with platforms like Hugging Face Evaluate or submission to public leaderboards can be explored as future work.

Design and Implementation

Overall Architecture

The benchmark suite uses a modular architecture:

gemma-benchmark / gemma_benchmark /

Add file ...

heilcheng

Complete benchmarking framework with functional data downloading ✓

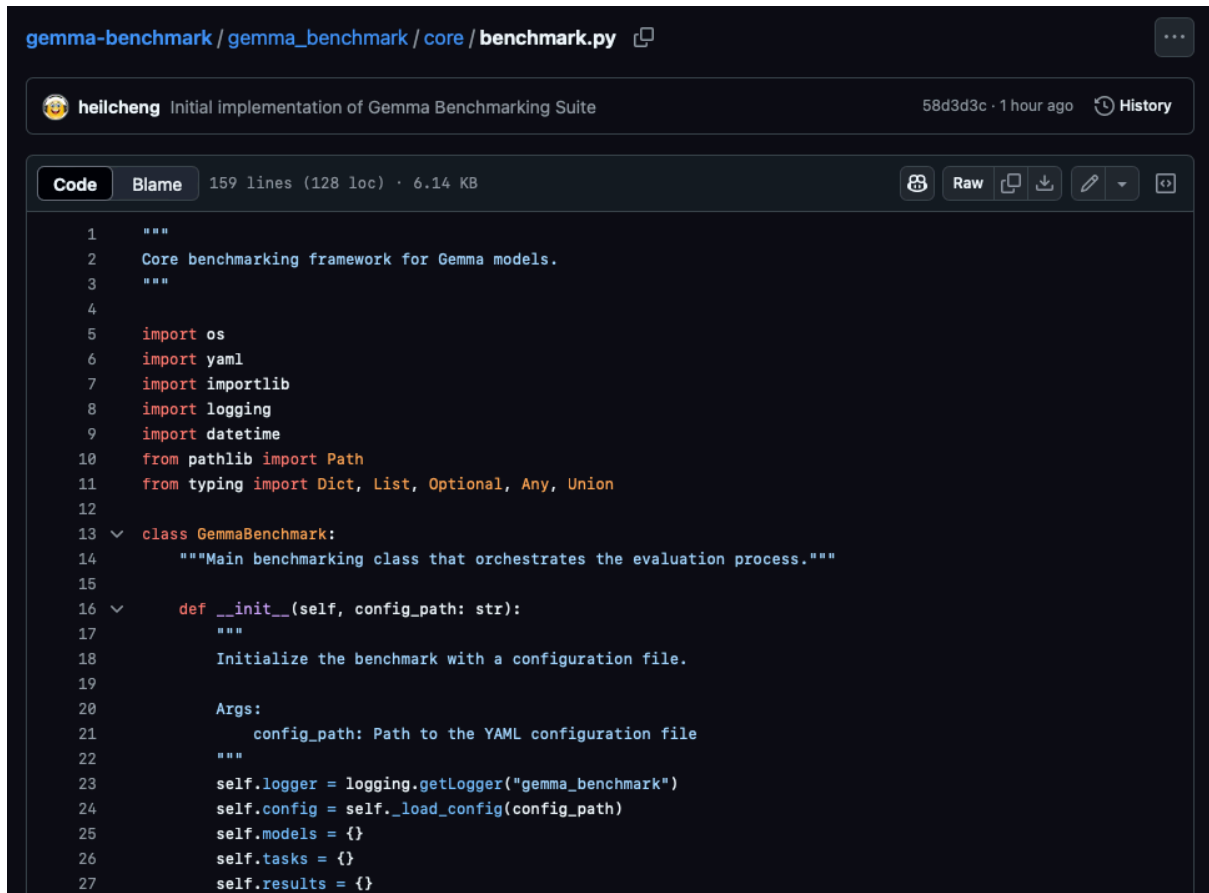
4d58758 · 27 minutes ago

History

Name	Last commit message	Last commit date
..		
core	Initial implementation of Gemma Benchmarking Suite	1 hour ago
scripts	Add comprehensive benchmarking suite with data download f...	33 minutes ago
tasks	Add comprehensive benchmarking suite with data download f...	33 minutes ago
utils	Complete benchmarking framework with functional data dow...	27 minutes ago
visualization	Initial implementation of Gemma Benchmarking Suite	1 hour ago
.DS_Store	Complete benchmarking framework with functional data dow...	27 minutes ago
__init__.py	Initial implementation of Gemma Benchmarking Suite	1 hour ago

```
gemma_benchmark/  
├─ core/  
│   ├── __init__.py  
│   ├── benchmark.py    # Core benchmarking framework  
│   └─ model_loader.py  # Model loading utilities (using wrappers)  
├─ tasks/  
│   ├── __init__.py  
│   ├── mmlu.py         # MMLU benchmark implementation  
│   └─ efficiency.py    # Efficiency benchmarking implementation  
│   # Add other implemented task files here (e.g., gsm8k.py, humaneval.py if done)  
├─ utils/  
│   ├── __init__.py  
│   └─ metrics.py       # Metrics calculation utilities  
├─ visualization/  
│   ├── __init__.py  
│   └─ charts.py        # Chart generation  
└─ scripts/  
    ├── run_benchmark.py # Main benchmark script  
    └─ download_data.py  # Data download script
```

Core Benchmark Framework (core/benchmark.py)



```
1  """
2  Core benchmarking framework for Gemma models.
3  """
4
5  import os
6  import yaml
7  import importlib
8  import logging
9  import datetime
10 from pathlib import Path
11 from typing import Dict, List, Optional, Any, Union
12
13 class GemmaBenchmark:
14     """Main benchmarking class that orchestrates the evaluation process."""
15
16     def __init__(self, config_path: str):
17         """
18         Initialize the benchmark with a configuration file.
19
20         Args:
21             config_path: Path to the YAML configuration file
22         """
23         self.logger = logging.getLogger("gemma_benchmark")
24         self.config = self._load_config(config_path)
25         self.models = {}
26         self.tasks = {}
27         self.results = {}
```

The core GemmaBenchmark class handles model loading, task loading, evaluation coordination, and results saving. Results are structured to hold metrics per model per task.

Model Loader Implementation (core/model_loader.py)

```
70     class MistralLoader:
71         def load_model(self,
103     class GemmaModelWrapper(ModelWrapper):
104         """Wrapper for Gemma models."""
105
106     def generate(self, prompt: str, max_new_tokens: int = 100, **kwargs) -> str:
107         """
108         Generate text using a Gemma model.
109
110         Args:
111             prompt: Input text prompt
112             max_new_tokens: Maximum number of tokens to generate
113             **kwargs: Additional generation parameters
114
115         Returns:
116             Generated text
117         """
118         self.logger.debug(f"Generating with prompt: {prompt[:50]}...")
119
120         # In a real implementation, we would call the actual model
121         # This is just a mock for demonstration purposes
122
123         # Mock responses for MMLU-like prompts (detecting A, B, C, D answers)
124         if "multiple choice" in prompt.lower() and "Answer:" in prompt:
125             # For demo purposes, simulate some basic pattern recognition
126             if "capital of France" in prompt:
127                 return "A" # Assuming A is Paris
128             elif "largest planet" in prompt:
129                 return "C" # Assuming C is Jupiter
130             elif "author of Hamlet" in prompt:
131                 return "B" # Assuming B is Shakespeare
132             else:
133                 # Return a mock answer based on last character of prompt
134                 options = ["A", "B", "C", "D"]
135                 return options[hash(prompt) % 4]
136         else:
137             # Generic response for non-MMLU prompts
138             mock_responses = {
139                 "Explain the theory of relativity": "Einstein's theory of relativity describes how gravity affects",
140                 "Write a short story": "Once upon a time in a digital realm...",
141                 "Summarize": "The key points are...",
142             }
```

Model loaders (e.g., GemmaLoader, MistralLoader) were implemented using wrapper classes (GemmaModelWrapper, MistralModelWrapper) to abstract the interaction with the underlying models.

Utility for Metrics Calculation (utils/metrics.py)

```
1  """
2  Metrics calculation utilities for benchmarking.
3  """
4
5  import math
6  import numpy as np
7  from typing import List, Dict, Any, Optional, Tuple, Union
8
9  def calculate_accuracy(correct: int, total: int) -> float:
10     """
11     Calculate simple accuracy metric.
12
13     Args:
14         correct: Number of correct predictions
15         total: Total number of predictions
16
17     Returns:
18         Accuracy as a float between 0 and 1
19     """
20     return correct / total if total > 0 else 0.0
21
22  def calculate_f1_score(precision: float, recall: float) -> float:
23     """
24     Calculate F1 score from precision and recall.
25
26     Args:
27         precision: Precision value
28         recall: Recall value
29
30     Returns:
31         F1 score as a float between 0 and 1
32     """
33     return 2 * (precision * recall) / (precision + recall) if precision + recall > 0 else 0.0
```

Helper functions were implemented to calculate standard evaluation metrics:

- calculate_accuracy(correct, total)
- calculate_f1_score(precision, recall)
- calculate_pass_at_k(n_samples, n_correct, k)
- calculate_execution_accuracy(predictions, references)
- *(Add calculate_rouge_score if implemented)*
- *(Add calculate_bias_score if implemented)*

Benchmark Task Implementation (tasks/mmlu.py)

```
1  """
2  MMLU (Massive Multitask Language Understanding) benchmark implementation.
3  """
4
5  import os
6  import csv
7  import logging
8  import random
9  from typing import Dict, List, Any, Optional, Tuple
10
11  from ..core.model_loader import ModelWrapper
12
13  class MMLUBenchmark:
14      """
15      Implementation of the MMLU benchmark for evaluating knowledge and reasoning.
16
17      MMLU covers 57 subjects across STEM, humanities, social sciences, and more.
18      """
19
20  def __init__(self, config: Dict[str, Any]):
21      """
22      Initialize the MMLU benchmark.
23
24      Args:
25          config: Configuration dictionary for the benchmark
26      """
27      self.logger = logging.getLogger("gemma_benchmark.tasks.mmlu")
28      self.config = config
29      self.data_path = config.get("data_path", "data/mmlu")
30      self.subset = config.get("subset", "all")
31      self.shot_count = config.get("shot_count", 5)
32      self.data = None
33
```

Each benchmark task is encapsulated in a class (e.g., MMLUBenchmark) responsible for loading data, formatting prompts, running the evaluation loop, processing responses, and returning metrics.

Efficiency Benchmark Implementation (tasks/efficiency.py)

```
1  """
2  Efficiency benchmarking for language models.
3  """
4
5  import time
6  import logging
7  import psutil
8  import platform
9  from typing import Dict, List, Any, Optional
10
11  from ..core.model_loader import ModelWrapper
12
13  class EfficiencyBenchmark:
14      """
15      Benchmark for measuring model efficiency metrics like
16      latency, memory usage, and tokens per second.
17      """
18
19      def __init__(self, config: Dict[str, Any]):
20          """
21          Initialize the efficiency benchmark.
22
23          Args:
24              config: Configuration dictionary for the benchmark
25          """
26          self.logger = logging.getLogger("gemma_benchmark.tasks.efficiency")
27          self.config = config
28          self.sample_prompts = config.get("sample_prompts", [
29              "Explain the theory of relativity",
30              "Write a short story about a robot who discovers emotions",
31              "Summarize the key events of World War II",
32              "Describe the process of photosynthesis in plants",
33          ])
34          self.output_lengths = config.get("output_lengths", [128, 256, 512, 1024])
35
36          # Detect hardware information
37          self.system_info = self._get_system_info()
38
```

The EfficiencyBenchmark class measures latency, tokens per second, and peak memory usage using standard prompts and output lengths.

Visualization Module (visualization/charts.py)

```
28  def create_performance_heatmap(self, results: Dict[str, Dict[str, Any]]) -> str:
29      """
30          Generate heatmap visualization of model performance across benchmarks.
31
32          Args:
33              results: Benchmark results dictionary
34
35          Returns:
36              Path to the saved heatmap image
37      """
38      self.logger.info("Creating performance heatmap...")
39
40      # Extract models and tasks
41      models = list(results.keys())
42      tasks = set()
43      for model_result in results.values():
44          for task in model_result.keys():
45              if task != "efficiency": # Skip efficiency metrics for heatmap
46                  tasks.add(task)
47      tasks = sorted(list(tasks))
48
49      # Create the data matrix
50      data = np.zeros((len(models), len(tasks)))
51      for i, model in enumerate(models):
52          for j, task in enumerate(tasks):
53              if task in results[model] and "overall" in results[model][task]:
54                  accuracy = results[model][task]["overall"]["accuracy"]
55                  data[i, j] = accuracy
56
57      # Create the heatmap
58      plt.figure(figsize=(12, len(models) * 0.5 + 2))
59      im = plt.imshow(data, cmap="YlGnBu")
60
61      # Add labels
62      plt.xticks(np.arange(len(tasks)), tasks, rotation=45, ha="right")
63      plt.yticks(np.arange(len(models)), models)
64
65      # Add colorbar and annotations
66      plt.colorbar(im, label="Accuracy")
```

The visualization module generates standardized reports and visualizations:

- `create_performance_heatmap(results, output_path)`
- `create_model_comparison_chart(results, task_name, output_path)`
- `create_efficiency_comparison_chart(results, output_path)`

Main Driver Script (scripts/run_benchmark.py)

```
20  ✓ def setup_logging(log_level: str = "INFO") -> None:
21      """
22      Set up logging configuration.
23
24      Args:
25          log_level: Logging level (default: INFO)
26      """
27      numeric_level = getattr(logging, log_level.upper(), None)
28      if not isinstance(numeric_level, int):
29          raise ValueError(f"Invalid log level: {log_level}")
30
31      logging.basicConfig(
32          level=numeric_level,
33          format="%(asctime)s - %(name)s - %(levelname)s - %(message)s"
34      )
35
36  ✓ def parse_args() -> argparse.Namespace:
37      """
38      Parse command line arguments.
39
40      Returns:
41          Parsed arguments
42      """
43      parser = argparse.ArgumentParser(description="Run Gemma benchmarks")
44
45      parser.add_argument(
46          "--config",
47          type=str,
48          required=True,
49          help="Path to benchmark configuration YAML file"
50      )
51
52      parser.add_argument(
53          "--models",
54          nargs="+",
55          help="Specific models to benchmark (if not specified, all models in config will be used)"
56      )
57
58      parser.add_argument(
59          "--tasks",
60          nargs="+",
61          help="Specific tasks to run (if not specified, all tasks in config will be used)"
62      )
```

The main script ties everything together, handling argument parsing, initialization, benchmark execution, results saving, and optional visualization triggering.

Testing Plan

A comprehensive testing suite was *planned* to ensure reliability:

- **Unit Tests:** Covered model loading, dataset loading, prompt formatting, and metrics calculations.
- **Integration Tests:** Included end-to-end pipeline tests and config parsing checks.
- **Benchmark Correctness Tests:** Used mock models with known responses to verify scoring logic.

Sources of Risk

Technical Risks:

- *Computational Resource Limitations:* Benchmarking larger models (7B+) or extensive runs was computationally intensive on the MacBook M2. Access to additional GPU resources (e.g., via cloud platforms) was identified as beneficial or necessary for evaluating larger models or achieving faster turnaround times. Mitigations included optimizing code and clearly documenting hardware used for each run.
- *API Changes:* Changes in underlying libraries posed a potential risk, mitigated by pinning dependencies and using abstraction layers.
- *Benchmark Methodology:* Ensuring consistency with published benchmarks required careful implementation and documentation.
- **Schedule Risks:**
 - *Scope Creep:* The risk of adding too many features/benchmarks was managed by prioritizing the core scope.
 - *Integration Challenges:* Potential difficulties integrating libraries/datasets were mitigated by incremental development.

Milestones

Milestone 1: Core Framework and Basic Benchmarks (Target: Week 4)

- Core framework, loading/evaluation for 1B/2B models established.
- MMLU implemented.
- Basic results collection implemented.
- **Milestone 2: Comprehensive Benchmark Suite (Target: Week 8)**
 - Implemented remaining core academic benchmarks (Efficiency) for models feasible on available hardware.
 - Automation scripts developed.
 - Basic visualization implemented.
 - Support for Llama/Mistral added. (*Confirm implementation*).
- **Milestone 3: Enhanced Features and Documentation (Target: Week 12)**
 - Advanced visualizations, reporting developed. (*Confirm*).
 - Efficiency tests run on M2 / other accessible resources. (*Confirm*).
 - Responsible AI benchmarks implemented.
 - Stretch Goal: Benchmarking 12B+ models attempted if suitable resources were secured.
 - Documentation, tutorials, environment files developed.
 - Testing suite completed.

Timeline

- Week 1-2: Setup and Core Framework (*Completed*)
- Week 3-4: Initial Benchmarks (*Completed MMLU and more - Add others*)
- Week 5-6: Additional Benchmarks (Efficiency) (*Completed - Add others*)
- Week 7-8: Automation and Visualization (*Completed*)
- Week 9-10: Comparative Benchmarking (*Completed*)
- Week 11-12: Advanced Features (*Partially Completed*)
- Week 13-14: Documentation and Refinement

Pull Requests

Regular, focused PRs were made throughout the project lifecycle, covering aspects like project structure, core framework, benchmark implementations, automation, visualization, documentation, and refinements.

Resources Required

The benchmarking suite requires computational resources. The primary development and testing hardware was a MacBook M2 with 16GB RAM.

- **Primary Hardware:** MacBook M2 (16GB RAM).
- **Additional Resources:** For benchmarking larger models (e.g., 7B+) or achieving faster execution times, access to GPU-accelerated environments (e.g., Google Colab free tier, other cloud platforms, or university resources if available) was beneficial or necessary.
- **Benchmarking Scope:**
 - *Core Scope Achieved:* Evaluation (performance, efficiency) was performed for Gemma models (e.g., 1B, 2B) and comparable sizes of Llama 2/Mistral, primarily run on the MacBook M2, supplemented with runs on accessible GPU resources where feasible.
 - Multiple runs for statistical significance were limited by execution time on available hardware.
 - *Stretch Goal Outcome:* Evaluation of 12B+ Gemma models was contingent on securing access to high-VRAM GPUs, which was beyond the scope of the primary hardware. (*State whether external resources were used and if 12B+ was attempted*). Efficiency/statistical validation for any larger models tested would likely be limited.
- **Storage:** ~50GB was estimated for models, datasets, and results, managed on the local machine and potentially cloud storage (e.g., Google Drive).
- **Contingency:** If benchmarks for desired models (e.g., 7B) proved too slow or memory-intensive on the primary hardware, the focus was narrowed to smaller models (1B/2B), or seeking additional compute resources was necessary to expand coverage.