EDGE-GRPO: Entropy-Driven GRPO with Guided Error Correction for Advantage Diversity

Xingjian Zhang 1,† , Siwei Wen 1,2,† , Wenjun Wu 1,2,3 , Lei Huang $^{1,2,3,\boxtimes}$,

¹SKLCCSE, Institute of Artificial Intelligence, Beihang University, Beijing, China
²Beijing Advanced Innovation Center for Future Blockchain and Privacy Computing, Beihang University
³Hangzhou International Innovation Institute, Beihang University, Hangzhou, China

⊠{huangleiai}@buaa.edu.cn

Abstract

Large Language Models (LLMs) have made remarkable progress in enhancing step-by-step reasoning through reinforcement learning. However, the Group Relative Policy Optimization (GRPO) algorithm, which relies on sparse reward rules, often encounters the issue of identical rewards within groups, leading to the advantage collapse problem. Existing works typically address this challenge from two perspectives: enforcing model reflection to enhance response diversity, and introducing internal feedback to augment the training signal (advantage). In this work, we begin by analyzing the limitations of model reflection and investigating the policy entropy of responses at the fine-grained sample level. Based on our experimental findings, we propose the EDGE-GRPO algorithm, which adopts Entropy-Driven Advantage and Guided Error Correction to effectively mitigate the problem of advantage collapse. Extensive experiments on several main reasoning benchmarks demonstrate the effectiveness and superiority of our approach. It is available at https://github.com/ZhangXJ199/EDGE-GRPO.

Introduction

Recent advancements in large reasoning models, such as OpenAI-o1 (Jaech et al. 2024) and Kimi-K1.5 (Team et al. 2025), have shown impressive progress in complex tasks involving mathematics and coding. Among them, the Group Relative Policy Optimization (GRPO) algorithm (Shao et al. 2024) has attracted considerable attention from researchers. By discarding the value function used in the PPO algorithm (Schulman et al. 2017) and instead computing rewards and relative advantages across sampled responses within each group, it significantly reduces resource consumption during training while improving reasoning performance.

For the computation of rewards in the GRPO algorithm, some studies adopt a Process Reward Model (PRM) to provide more fine-grained feedback (Cui et al. 2025; Wang et al. 2025b). However, it introduces substantial computational overhead. As a result, other works abandon the reward model in favor of using rule-based reward functions (Zhou et al. 2025; Zhang et al. 2025b). However, this often leads to sparse rewards, where all responses within a group receive identical rewards. Consequently, the calculated advantages for each response become zero, cease to provide effective policy gradient and leading to advantage collapse during

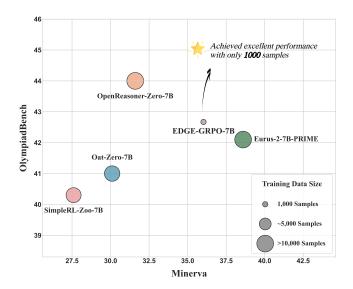


Figure 1: Performance comparison with other open-source models on Olympiad and Minerva. Our method achieves competitive and excellent performance with only 1K training samples. These models are all post-trained based on Qwen2.5-Math-7B.

training. This phenomenon severely limits the efficiency of the sample.

Recent studies have primarily sought to alleviate this problem from two perspectives. At the response level, efforts focus on increasing the diversity of response to prevent identical rewards across all responses, such as enforcing model reflection on incorrect answers to reduce the occurrence of uniformly incorrect outputs within a group (Wang et al. 2025a; Wan et al. 2025). However, the extent to which reflection contributes to performance improvement remains inconclusive. At the signal level, internal feedback is introduced to augment the advantage, such as incorporating response-related semantic entropy or policy entropy into the advantage calculation (Chen et al. 2025; Cheng et al. 2025). However, most studies either pursue low entropy to improve accuracy or encourage high entropy to maintain exploration, lacking fine-grained modeling of the relationship between responses and their policy entropy.

In this paper, we begin by analyzing the limitation of model reflection. Quantitative experiments show that responses containing self-reflection are often associated with significantly lower accuracy. Although forced reflection can help the model correct a subset of answers, its overall effectiveness remains limited. Additionally, we observe a misconception in the model's estimation of policy entropy at the fine-grained sample level: incorrect responses do not necessarily indicate uncertainty, some of them exhibit notably lower entropy. Conversely, the model is not always confident in its correct responses, some of which display relatively high entropy.

To address these issues, we propose a simple and effective EDGE-GRPO (Entropy-Driven GRPO with Guided Error Correction) algorithm. At the response level, we introduce Guided Error Correction (GEC) to enhance response diversity, providing more effective guidance even when the model encounters questions beyond its current capacity. At the signal level, we compute an Entropy-Driven Advantage (EDA) that assigns higher advantages to correct responses with low entropy and lower advantages to incorrect responses with low entropy, thereby increasing the diversity of the advantage signal. These improvements significantly mitigate the problem of advantage collapse. Across multiple reasoning benchmarks, our method achieves substantial performance gains compared to the vanilla GRPO. As shown in Figure 1, our approach reaches comparable performance to other open-source models using only 1K training samples.

Our contributions can be summarized as follows:

- We analyze the key challenges faced by preliminary attempts. Specifically, at the response level, prompting the model to reflect on incorrect responses has limited effectiveness. At the signal level, fine-grained sample-level policy entropy is needed to guide the augmentation of the advantage.
- We propose the EDGE-GRPO algorithm. At the response level, we introduce Guided Error Correction (GEC) to overcome the limitations of the model capacity and improve response diversity. At the signal level, we compute an Entropy-Driven Advantage (EDA) to increase the diversity of the advantage signal, significantly alleviating the problem of advantage collapse.
- Extensive experiments on multiple main reasoning benchmarks demonstrate that our method consistently achieving over 20% improvement in various base models, thus validating its effectiveness and superiority.

Related Work

Advantage Collapse. Advantage collapse is a critical limitation of the GRPO algorithm, as it severely impairs effective gradient updates. Prior approaches typically mitigate this issue through data filtering (Yu et al. 2025; Meng et al. 2025), by discarding samples in which all responses within a group are either entirely correct or incorrect. However, this greatly limits sample efficiency, as challenging samples can be beneficial for improving model performance. In addition, some works (Wang et al. 2025a) attempt to enhance response diversity by enforcing model reflection, while others (Chen

et al. 2025; Cheng et al. 2025) introduce internal feedback to strengthen the training signal.

Think More or Less. There are differing views on whether model reflection truly benefits model performance. Several works (Muennighoff et al. 2025; Tian et al. 2025) proposed adding "wait" to chain-of-thought reasoning to encourage the model to engage in reflection, which can improve performance. VL-Rethinker (Wang et al. 2025a) incorporates forced reflection during the training process to enhance the slow-thinking capability of the model. Meanwhile, other researchers argue that suppressing the tokens that trigger reflection(Liu et al. 2025a), encouraging the model to generate shorter responses (Su et al. 2025; Fatemi et al. 2025), can reduce redundant reasoning without compromising the model's accuracy.

RL from Internal Feedback. Recent studies introduce internal feedback such as entropy to strengthen the training signal. Some studies (Gao et al. 2025; Zhang et al. 2025a) argue that correct responses generated by models typically exhibit lower entropy than incorrect ones, so unsupervised entropy minimization methods can also enhance performance. SEED-GRPO (Chen et al. 2025) introduces semantic entropy to quantify semantic diversity among generated responses and dynamically adjusts the magnitude of policy updates based on this measure. Other works (Cheng et al. 2025) suggest that high entropy encourages exploratory reasoning, therefore incorporating policy entropy into the advantage term of the GRPO algorithm to promote exploration. However, most of these methods lack fine-grained modeling of the relationship between response correctness and their policy entropy.

Investigation of Advantage Collapse in GRPO

We begin with a brief introduction to the Group Relative Policy Optimization (GRPO) algorithm (Shao et al. 2024). For each input question q, it generates a set of responses $\{O_1, O_2, \ldots, O_G\}$ using the policy model and computes a corresponding set of rewards $\{r_1, r_2, \ldots, r_G\}$ for these responses. The rewards are then normalized to calculate the advantages. The model is optimized by maximizing the following objective function:

$$J_{GRPO}(\theta) = E_{[q,\{o_i\}]} \frac{1}{G} \sum_{i=1}^{G} \frac{1}{|o_i|} \left\{ \min \left[\frac{\pi_{\theta}}{\pi_{\theta_{old}}} A_i, \right] \right.$$

$$\left. \text{clip} \left(\frac{\pi_{\theta}}{\pi_{\theta_{old}}}, 1 - \epsilon, 1 + \epsilon \right) A_i \right] - \beta D_{KL} \left[\pi_{\theta} \| \pi_{ref} \right] \right\}$$

$$(1)$$

where π_{θ} and $\pi_{\theta_{old}}$ are the current and old policy, and A_i is the advantages defined as:

$$A_i = \frac{r_i - \text{mean}(\{r_1, r_2, \cdots, r_G\})}{\text{std}(\{r_1, r_2, \cdots, r_G\})}.$$
 (2)

The diversity of advantages is crucial for effective model updates, as it directly determines the training signal used in policy gradient optimization. Due to the difficulty of assigning rewards to intermediate reasoning steps, most existing



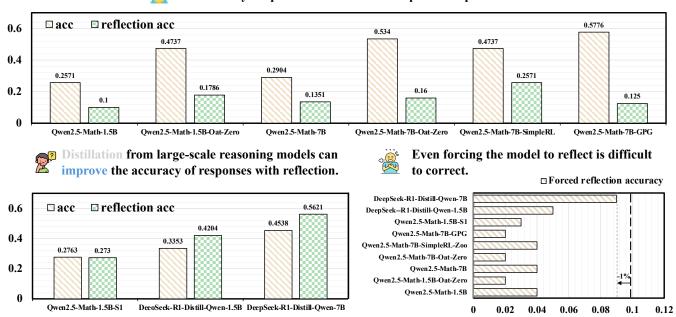


Figure 2: The reflection performance of different models. **Upper:** For most models, the accuracy of responses that involve self-reflection is significantly lower than the overall accuracy. **Left:** Fine-tuning with high-quality data that includes reflection processes helps improve the accuracy of model reflection. **Right:** Even when the model is forced to reflect on incorrect responses, the improvement in accuracy remains limited, these results are averaged over four types of reflection prompts.

reward rules are sparse, with the response reward largely determined by the correctness of the final answer. As a result, when all responses within a group are either correct or incorrect, they receive identical rewards, leading to zero advantage across the group. This lack of distinction between responses impairs gradient updates, a phenomenon known as the advantage collapse problem.

Advantage collapse results in low sample efficiency. However, samples that are more challenging for the model often play an important role in improving its performance. Therefore, addressing the advantage collapse problem remains a critical challenge.

Existing approaches commonly aim to address this issue from two key perspectives: at the response level, by promoting model reflection to enhance the diversity of generated responses. At the signal level, by incorporating internal feedback mechanisms to enrich the training signal. In this work, we first conduct a preliminary investigation along both dimensions to explore their potential in mitigating the advantage collapse problem.

Response-level: Limitations of Reflection

We begin by conducting a series of quantitative experiments to analyze the phenomenon of model reflection. We select models of two different parameter scales, including base models as well as those post-trained by supervised fine-tuning or reinforcement learning. To determine whether a model's response exhibits self-reflection, we follow previous work (Liu et al. 2025b) by extracting reflection-related

keywords from the responses. If the response contains reflection keywords such as check again it is considered to exhibit self-reflection. The specific set of reflection keywords is provided in Appendix.

Initially, we observe that the majority of spontaneously generated reflections by models tend to exhibit low accuracy. As shown in the upper part of Figure 2, for both base models and those post-trained by reinforcement learning, the accuracy of responses containing reflection is significantly lower than the overall accuracy of the model. This result clearly indicates that spontaneous reflection during reasoning is often ineffective and may even lead to a higher rate of incorrect responses.

However, unlike other models, two models distilled from DeepSeek-R1 (Guo et al. 2025) have a more frequent self-reflection behavior, and its reflection is accompanied by higher accuracy. To verify whether this phenomenon is caused by long chain-of-thought training data from knowledge distillation, we train Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B-S1 on the S1K dataset (Muennighoff et al. 2025), which contains only 1K high quality long chain-of-thought samples, some of which include reflection-related content. It can be observed that after training on the S1K data, the model's reflection accuracy significantly improves and becomes comparable to its overall accuracy.

Subsequently, we also investigate the effect of forcing different models to reflect on their incorrect answers. Specifically, we first have each model respond to every question in the test set, then we retain only the sam-

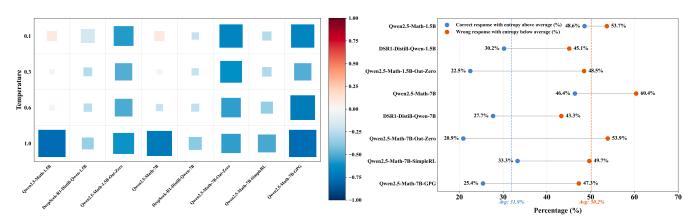


Figure 3: **Left:** The relative confidence of different models in correct responses under various temperature settings. The area of the blue squares serves as a proxy for the model's relative confidence, with larger areas reflecting greater confidence in correct responses. **Right:** The proportion of correct responses with entropy higher than the average and incorrect responses with entropy lower than the average across different models. This results are evaluated under the setting of temperature=0.1. We provide more detailed experimental results and the policy entropy distribution of different models in the Appendix.

ples with incorrect answers. A reflection prompt is appended to each incorrect response to initiate reflection, after which the model is prompted to continue answering. We designed four distinct reflection prompt: Wait!, Hmm, Let's check it again! and Something is wrong here. These prompts include two anthropomorphic expressions and two objective declarative phrases.

As shown in the lower right corner of Figure 2, the accuracy of forced reflection on incorrect responses remains below 5% for most models. Although the overall accuracy does not exceed 10%, the DeepSeek-R1-Distill series model still achieves relatively higher accuracy compared to other models due to being fine-tuned with external high-quality chain-of-thought data.

These results reveal a fundamental limitation in the reflective capabilities of most models. When model capacity is limited, relying solely on self-correction yields minimal improvement. Therefore, when confronted with challenging problems where the model persistently produces incorrect responses, incorporating external information for correction emerges as a more effective and reliable strategy.

Signal-level: Policy Entropy

We also investigate the policy entropy of different responses. For each generated chain-of-thought response, the policy entropy P is calculated as follows:

$$P = -\frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \sum_{j=1}^{V} P_{t,j} \cdot \log P_{t,j}.$$
 (3)

where T denotes the total number of tokens in the response, V is the vocabulary size, and $P_{t,j}$ is defined as:

$$P_{t,j} = \pi_{\theta}(j \in V | q, o < t) = \text{Softmax}\left(\frac{\text{logits}_t}{T}\right).$$
 (4)

Here, π_{θ} represents the language model parameterized by θ . We use the policy entropy P to measure the uncertainty of the model over the generated response.

We first divide all responses into two categories based on whether they are correct or incorrect, and calculate the Relative Confidence Metric (RCM) of each model in correct responses under different temperatures using the following formula:

$$RCM = \frac{Entropy_{Correct} - Entropy_{Wrong}}{Average Entropy}.$$
 (5)

The visualization results are shown on the left side of Figure 3. Except for the two base models, Qwen2.5-1.5B and Qwen2.5-7B(Yang et al. 2024), other post-trained models typically exhibit higher relative confidence, as the average entropy of their correct responses is indeed lower than that of incorrect responses, which aligns with assumptions made in previous studies (Gao et al. 2025).

However, a fine-grained analysis at the individual sample level reveals that many models exhibit miscalibrated confidence in their responses: approximately half of the incorrect responses display entropy values lower than the average, while nearly one-third of the correct responses exhibit entropy higher than the average, as shown on the right side of Figure 3. We posit that such miscalibration undermines model performance. Ideally, the model should exhibit greater confidence in the correct responses while maintaining appropriate uncertainty about its incorrect answers. Consequently, training strategies should avoid indiscriminately promoting high or low entropy, and instead adopt a more fine-grained approach that aligns policy entropy with response correctness to better guide learning dynamics.

EDGE-GRPO: Entropy-Driven GRPO with Guided Error Correction

Building on the above insights, we propose the EDGE-GRPO algorithm by introducing Guided Error Correction (GEC) to enhance response diversity and Entropy-Driven Advantage (EDA) to augment signal diversity, thus addressing the advantage collapse problem.

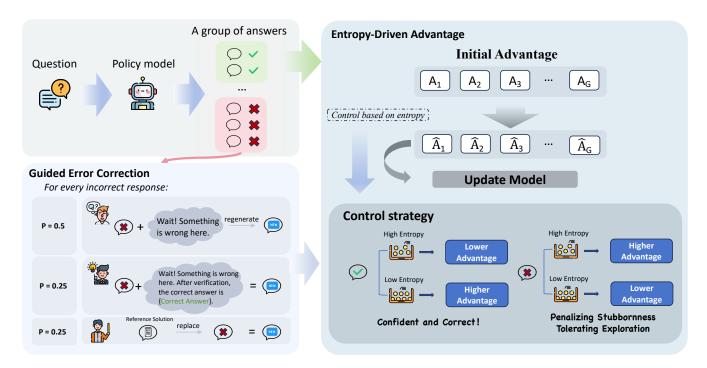


Figure 4: The overall framework of EDGE-GRPO algorithm. By introducing Guided Error Correction at the response level to enhance response diversity and Entropy-Driven Advantage at the signal level to increase advantage diversity, we mitigate the advantage collapse problem in the vanilla GRPO.

Response-level: Guided Error Correction (GEC)

The experimental analysis in the previous section has shown that the model's ability to correct errors through reflection is quite limited. This limitation leads the model to consistently generate entirely incorrect responses when faced with problems beyond its capabilities. However, response diversity fundamentally impacts reward diversity, which consequently directly affects advantage diversity. Therefore, introducing external solutions to ensure that each set of responses contains a certain proportion of positive and negative examples is crucial for mitigating the advantage collapse problem.

To fundamentally address this issue, we propose Guided Error Correction (GEC), a response-level intervention strategy designed to mitigate advantage collapse by enhancing response diversity. As illustrated in Figure 4, for incorrect responses, GEC performs one of the following three operations based on a predefined probability: Prompt and Regenerate: A simple reflection prompt is provided, and the model is asked to regenerate its answer based on it, giving the model a chance to self-correct. It is performed with a probability of P = 0.5 to ensure that most responses are still generated by the model itself; Direct Answer Injection: Along with the reflection prompt, the correct answer is directly provided, with a probability of P = 0.25 to perform this operation; Reference Solution Replacement: The incorrect response is entirely replaced with an external reference solution, also with a probability of P = 0.25 to perform this operation.

These three strategies ensure that each group of responses contains positive examples with correct answers while still retaining negative examples generated by the model itself.

By introducing Guided Error Correction at the response level, we ensure that even when the model encounters problems beyond its capabilities, the response set can still contain diverse answers. This helps mitigate the issue of advantage collapse and provides effective training signals.

Signal-level: Entropy-Driven Advantage (EDA)

Although Guided Error Correction enhances response diversity and prevents the advantages within a group from collapsing to zero, it remains insufficient to address the issue of uniform advantages among correct or incorrect responses. To enable finer-grained differentiation among different correct or incorrect responses, we introduce policy entropy as an internal feedback signal to enhance advantage diversity.

The results in the previous section show that the model often misjudges the confidence of its responses, many incorrect responses exhibit low entropy, while many correct responses have high entropy. We believe this misalignment negatively impacts model performance. Therefore, we propose Entropy-Driven Advantage (EDA) to enhance the model's ability to distinguish between different responses.

For each response O_i during training, we calculate its policy entropy P_i using Equations 3 and 4, and then scale it to ensure the values remain within a reasonable range.

$$\hat{P}_i = \frac{P_i}{\text{mean}(\{P_1, P_2, \cdots, P_G\})}.$$
 (6)

Next, we use the scaled entropy values to compute the

Table 1: Pass@1 performance comparison across various mathematical evaluation benchmarks. The results below are from 1 epoch of training on **DeepScaleR-Random-1K**. The number of samples in each benchmark is indicated in parentheses. The results are evaluated under the setting of temperature = 0.1. The best results are indicated by **boldface**.

Model	Method	Avg (1560)	AIME (30)	AMC (83)	Math (500)	Min (272)	Oly (675)
	Base	25.71	6.67	37.35	34.60	12.13	24.00
	SFT	30.13	10.00	30.12	47.20	14.71	24.59
	Vanilla GRPO	40.32	13.33	39.76	65.60	19.49	31.26
Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B	+ Force-R	42.63	10.00	36.14	71.40	21.69	32.00
	Ours						
	+ Force-R & EDA	45.83	10.00	37.35	73.60	23.90	36.74
	EDGE-GRPO	48.08	13.33	44.58	76.40	28.68	36.89
	Base	29.04	10.00	37.35	53.40	10.66	18.22
	SFT	41.99	6.67	43.37	69.00	22.06	31.41
	Vanilla GRPO	46.47	23.33	55.42	72.40	27.94	34.67
Qwen2.5-Math-7B	+ Force-R	47.76	23.33	53.01	74.60	23.16	38.22
	Ours						
	+ Force-R & EDA	45.71	23.33	49.40	67.00	32.35	35.85
	EDGE-GRPO	49.30	16.67	50.60	75.60	33.09	37.04

entropy-driven advantage:

$$\hat{A}_i = \frac{A_i}{\hat{P}_i}. (7)$$

Compared to the initial advantage values, the entropydriven advantage exhibits greater diversity. It assigns higher advantages to responses that are both correct and confident, while imposing harsher penalties on responses that are incorrect but overly confident. It ensures that, when the initial advantages are not all zero, different responses are assigned distinct final advantage values, thereby enhancing the model's ability to distinguish among responses and further mitigating the advantage collapse problem.

Experiments

Experimental Setup

Train Datasets. We use the DeepScaleR dataset(Luo et al. 2025) for training. The original dataset contains approximately 40K math problems. We retain only those samples that include a solution and where the final answer is placed inside a \boxed{} in the solution. After this filtering process, around 2K samples remain. We randomly select 1K samples as the standard training set, named DeepScaleR-Random-1K. Meanwhile, to evaluate the effectiveness of our method on more challenging data, we use Qwen2.5-math-7B to further filter the samples. Specifically, for each question, the model generates eight responses, and we select the 1K questions with the lowest accuracy as the hard training set, referred to as DeepScaleR-Hard-1K. In this dataset, approximately 80% of the questions receive entirely incorrect responses across all generations.

Evaluation Benchmark. We select five challenging mathematical reasoning benchmarks to evaluate our method: AIME24, AMC, MATH500 (Hendrycks et al. 2021), Minerva (Lewkowycz et al. 2022) and OlympiadBench (He et al.

2024). These benchmarks collectively contain a total of 1,560 problems. All evaluation experiments in this paper are conducted on these benchmarks.

Implementation Details. We conduct experiments on 8 NVIDIA A100-40G GPUs. We remove the KL divergence to eliminate constraints on the model. Previous studies (Yu et al. 2025; Liu et al. 2025b) have shown that it can lead to better training performance, as the distribution of the model may differ significantly from the initial model during training. Other training configurations and hyperparameter settings follow the default setup of the GRPO trainer under the TRL framework (von Werra et al. 2020). We train for one epoch on only 1K DeepScaleR samples on Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B and Qwen2.5-Math-7B(Yang et al. 2024).

During evaluation, we focus on the model's pass@1 performance, meaning the model generates only one response for each given question. To calculate the overall average accuracy, we avoid directly averaging the accuracy across the five benchmarks due to their varying number of questions. Instead, we calculate the average by dividing the total number of correct answers by the total number of questions to reduce bias. More detailed experimental settings can be found in the Appendix.

Main Result

Tables 1 and 2 present the results of our method on various mathematical evaluation benchmarks. Although our method is trained on only 1K samples for one epoch, it still achieves over 20% performance improvement compared to the base model. Although our method requires each question to have not only the final answer but also corresponding reference solution, it still achieves significant performance improvement compared to supervised fine-tuning using these chain-of-thought data.

When using DeepScaleR-Random-1K as the training

Table 2: Pass@1 performance comparison across various mathematical evaluation benchmarks. The results below are from 1 epoch of training on **DeepScaleR-Hard-1K**. The number of samples in each benchmark is indicated in parentheses. The results are evaluated under the setting of temperature = 0.1. The best results are indicated by **boldface**.

Model	Method	Avg (1560)	AIME (30)	AMC (83)	Math (500)	Min (272)	Oly (675)
	SFT	29.17	6.67	28.92	46.40	12.87	24.00
	Vanilla GRPO	40.26	10.00	46.99	65.00	20.59	30.37
Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B	+ Force-R	41.55	13.33	31.33	70.00	22.06	30.81
Qwen2.5-Wath-1.5B	Ours + Force-R & EDA EDGE-GRPO	42.44 47.24	10.00 10.00	34.94 44.58	69.60 73.20	23.53 29.04	32.30 37.33
Qwen2.5-Math-7B	SFT Vanilla GRPO + Force-R	37.37 47.69 40.26	3.33 26.67 13.33	44.58 53.01 40.96	68.00 74.20 67.60	19.85 25.74 19.85	22.37 37.19 29.33
	Ours + Force-R & EDA EDGE-GRPO	45.19 53.21	26.67 16.67	50.60 53.01	68.00 79.00	28.68 36.03	35.11 42.67

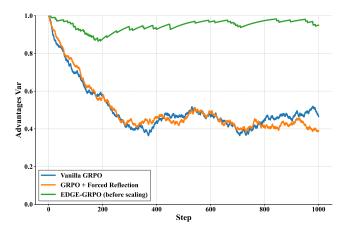


Figure 5: The changes in intra-group advantage variance during training for different methods. Our method maintains a relatively high level without significant decline.

dataset, the performance improvement of Qwen2.5-Math-7B is relatively limited compared to Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B. We attribute this to the lower level of challenge the dataset poses for the 7B model. To validate the effectiveness of our method on more difficult data, we also perform the same training on DeepScaleR-Hard-1K. As shown in Table 2, the performance improvement of the 7B model is further amplified. It further validates the effectiveness and generalizability of our method.

In addition, we conduct an ablation study of our method. It can be seen that only forcing the model to reflect in the vanilla GRPO algorithm has limited effectiveness, as shown in the '+Force-R' rows in Tables 1 and 2. After adding Entropy-Driven Advantage (EDA), by imposing greater penalties on low-entropy incorrect responses and greater rewards on low-entropy correct responses, the diversity of the advantage signals is increased, which also helps the model maintain exploration to some extent. As a result,

the model's performance can improve to a certain degree, as shown in the '+Force-R & EDA' rows in Tables 1 and 2. However, response diversity remains low, and many samples still have all incorrect responses, resulting in the original advantage being zero. Scaling with entropy has no effect on these samples. Therefore, when we further introduce Guided Error Correction (GEC), that is, the EDGE-GRPO algorithm, response diversity is enhanced, leading to further improvements in model performance.

We also visualize changes in advantage variance during training for different methods, as shown in Figure 5. Compared to the vanilla GRPO algorithm and the variant with enforced reflection, our method maintains a higher level of intra-group advantage variance during training, significantly alleviating the advantage collapse problem.

Moreover, even with significantly less training data, our model achieves comparable performance to other open source models (Zeng et al. 2025; Hu et al. 2025; Cui et al. 2025; Liu et al. 2025b), as shown in Figure 1. This further demonstrates the superiority of our method. More detailed experimental results can be found in the Appendix.

Conclusion

This work proposes a simple and effective EDGE-GRPO algorithm that mitigates the advantage collapse problem of the vanilla GRPO algorithm on two levels. At the response level, the Guided Error Correction (GEC) method is introduced to overcome the limitations of the inherent capabilities of the model and improve response diversity. At the signal level, the Entropy-Driven Advantage (EDA) computation enables the model to differentiate responses more finely during training, thereby improving the diversity of advantages. Our method significantly alleviates the advantage collapse problem and achieves notable performance improvements using only 1K samples across different base models, demonstrating its effectiveness and superiority.

Acknowledgment. This work was partially supported by the National Science and Technology Major Project (Grant No. 2022ZD0116310), National Natural Science Foundation of China (Grant No. 62476016 and No. 62441617), the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities.

References

- Chen, M.; Chen, G.; Wang, W.; and Yang, Y. 2025. Seed-grpo: Semantic entropy enhanced grpo for uncertainty-aware policy optimization. *arXiv* preprint *arXiv*:2505.12346.
- Cheng, D.; Huang, S.; Zhu, X.; Dai, B.; Zhao, W. X.; Zhang, Z.; and Wei, F. 2025. Reasoning with Exploration: An Entropy Perspective. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2506.14758.
- Cui, G.; Yuan, L.; Wang, Z.; Wang, H.; Li, W.; He, B.; Fan, Y.; Yu, T.; Xu, Q.; Chen, W.; et al. 2025. Process reinforcement through implicit rewards. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2502.01456*.
- Fatemi, M.; Rafiee, B.; Tang, M.; and Talamadupula, K. 2025. Concise reasoning via reinforcement learning. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2504.05185.
- Gao, Z.; Chen, L.; Zhou, J.; and Dai, B. 2025. One-shot Entropy Minimization. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2505.20282.
- Guo, D.; Yang, D.; Zhang, H.; Song, J.; Zhang, R.; Xu, R.; Zhu, Q.; Ma, S.; Wang, P.; Bi, X.; et al. 2025. Deepseek-r1: Incentivizing reasoning capability in Ilms via reinforcement learning. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2501.12948.
- He, C.; Luo, R.; Bai, Y.; Hu, S.; Thai, Z. L.; Shen, J.; Hu, J.; Han, X.; Huang, Y.; Zhang, Y.; et al. 2024. Olympiadbench: A challenging benchmark for promoting agi with olympiad-level bilingual multimodal scientific problems. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2402.14008*.
- Hendrycks, D.; Burns, C.; Kadavath, S.; Arora, A.; Basart, S.; Tang, E.; Song, D.; and Steinhardt, J. 2021. Measuring mathematical problem solving with the math dataset. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2103.03874.
- Hu, J.; Zhang, Y.; Han, Q.; Jiang, D.; Zhang, X.; and Shum, H.-Y. 2025. Open-reasoner-zero: An open source approach to scaling up reinforcement learning on the base model. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2503.24290*.
- Jaech, A.; Kalai, A.; Lerer, A.; Richardson, A.; El-Kishky, A.; Low, A.; Helyar, A.; Madry, A.; Beutel, A.; Carney, A.; et al. 2024. Openai of system card. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2412.16720*.
- Lewkowycz, A.; Andreassen, A.; Dohan, D.; Dyer, E.; Michalewski, H.; Ramasesh, V.; Slone, A.; Anil, C.; Schlag, I.; Gutman-Solo, T.; et al. 2022. Solving quantitative reasoning problems with language models, 2022. *URL https://arxiv. org/abs/2206.14858*, 1.
- Liu, K.; Shen, C.; Zhang, Z.; Liu, J.; Yuan, X.; et al. 2025a. Efficient Reasoning Through Suppression of Self-Affirmation Reflections in Large Reasoning Models. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2506.12353.
- Liu, Z.; Chen, C.; Li, W.; Qi, P.; Pang, T.; Du, C.; Lee, W. S.; and Lin, M. 2025b. Understanding r1-zero-like training: A critical perspective. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2503.20783*.

- Luo, M.; Tan, S.; Wong, J.; Shi, X.; Tang, W.; Roongta, M.; Cai, C.; Luo, J.; Zhang, T.; Li, E.; Popa, R. A.; and Stoica, I. 2025. DeepScaleR: Surpassing O1-Preview with a 1.5B Model by Scaling RL. https://pretty-radio-b75.notion.site/DeepScaleR-Surpassing-O1-Preview-with-a-1-5B-Model-by-Scaling-RL-19681902c1468005bed8ca303013a4e2. Notion Blog.
- Meng, F.; Du, L.; Liu, Z.; Zhou, Z.; Lu, Q.; Fu, D.; Shi, B.; Wang, W.; He, J.; Zhang, K.; et al. 2025. Mm-eureka: Exploring visual aha moment with rule-based large-scale reinforcement learning. *CoRR*.
- Muennighoff, N.; Yang, Z.; Shi, W.; Li, X. L.; Fei-Fei, L.; Hajishirzi, H.; Zettlemoyer, L.; Liang, P.; Candès, E.; and Hashimoto, T. 2025. s1: Simple test-time scaling. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2501.19393.
- Schulman, J.; Wolski, F.; Dhariwal, P.; Radford, A.; and Klimov, O. 2017. Proximal policy optimization algorithms. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1707.06347*.
- Shao, Z.; Wang, P.; Zhu, Q.; Xu, R.; Song, J.; Bi, X.; Zhang, H.; Zhang, M.; Li, Y.; Wu, Y.; et al. 2024. Deepseekmath: Pushing the limits of mathematical reasoning in open language models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2402.03300*.
- Su, J.; Healey, J.; Nakov, P.; and Cardie, C. 2025. Between underthinking and overthinking: An empirical study of reasoning length and correctness in llms. *arXiv* preprint *arXiv*:2505.00127.
- Team, K.; Du, A.; Gao, B.; Xing, B.; Jiang, C.; Chen, C.; Li, C.; Xiao, C.; Du, C.; Liao, C.; et al. 2025. Kimi k1. 5: Scaling reinforcement learning with llms. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2501.12599*.
- Tian, X.; Zhao, S.; Wang, H.; Chen, S.; Ji, Y.; Peng, Y.; Zhao, H.; and Li, X. 2025. Think twice: Enhancing llm reasoning by scaling multi-round test-time thinking. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2503.19855*.
- von Werra, L.; Belkada, Y.; Tunstall, L.; Beeching, E.; Thrush, T.; Lambert, N.; Huang, S.; Rasul, K.; and Gallouédec, Q. 2020. TRL: Transformer Reinforcement Learning. https://github.com/huggingface/trl.
- Wan, Z.; Dou, Z.; Liu, C.; Zhang, Y.; Cui, D.; Zhao, Q.; Shen, H.; Xiong, J.; Xin, Y.; Jiang, Y.; et al. 2025. Srpo: Enhancing multimodal llm reasoning via reflection-aware reinforcement learning. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2506.01713*.
- Wang, H.; Qu, C.; Huang, Z.; Chu, W.; Lin, F.; and Chen, W. 2025a. Vl-rethinker: Incentivizing self-reflection of vision-language models with reinforcement learning. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2504.08837.
- Wang, W.; Gao, Z.; Chen, L.; Chen, Z.; Zhu, J.; Zhao, X.; Liu, Y.; Cao, Y.; Ye, S.; Zhu, X.; et al. 2025b. Visualprm: An effective process reward model for multimodal reasoning. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2503.10291.
- Yang, A.; Zhang, B.; Hui, B.; Gao, B.; Yu, B.; Li, C.; Liu, D.; Tu, J.; Zhou, J.; Lin, J.; et al. 2024. Qwen2. 5-math technical report: Toward mathematical expert model via self-improvement. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2409.12122*.

Yu, Q.; Zhang, Z.; Zhu, R.; Yuan, Y.; Zuo, X.; Yue, Y.; Dai, W.; Fan, T.; Liu, G.; Liu, L.; et al. 2025. Dapo: An open-source llm reinforcement learning system at scale. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2503.14476.

Zeng, W.; Huang, Y.; Liu, Q.; Liu, W.; He, K.; Ma, Z.; and He, J. 2025. Simplerl-zoo: Investigating and taming zero reinforcement learning for open base models in the wild. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2503.18892.

Zhang, Q.; Wu, H.; Zhang, C.; Zhao, P.; and Bian, Y. 2025a. Right question is already half the answer: Fully unsupervised llm reasoning incentivization. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2504.05812*.

Zhang, X.; Wen, S.; Wu, W.; and Huang, L. 2025b. Tinyllava-video-r1: Towards smaller lmms for video reasoning. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2504.09641*.

Zhou, H.; Li, X.; Wang, R.; Cheng, M.; Zhou, T.; and Hsieh, C.-J. 2025. R1-Zero's" Aha Moment" in Visual Reasoning on a 2B Non-SFT Model. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2503.05132.

Appendix

Reflection Keywords

We determine whether a reflection phenomenon has occurred based on the presence of reflection-related keywords in the response. The set of 15 keywords used for identifying reflection is as follows: check again, recheck, double-check, rethink, think again, reevaluate, re-evaluate, re-examine, verify again, reevaluation, reexamine, reanalyze, reassess, reconsider, go over.

Detailed Experimental Settings

Our training configuration and hyperparameter settings follow the default settings of the GRPO trainer under the TRL framework. For each sample, the model is prompted to generate 8 responses, each response limited to a maximum of 1024 tokens. We train on 1K samples per epoch, and to enable experiments on Qwen2.5-Math-7B, we generate one response per GPU, resulting in a total of 1K training steps. The learning rate is set to 1e-6 during training. For evaluation on the five reasoning benchmarks, all tests are conducted with a temperature setting of 0.1.

Detailed Results in Policy Entropy

This section quantitatively analyzes the relationship between model confidence and answer correctness using the Relative Confidence Metric (RCM). The RCM is calculated as:

$$RCM = \frac{Entropy_{Correct} - Entropy_{Incorrect}}{Average\ Entropy}$$

As shown in Table 3, a negative RCM value indicates that the model's correct responses have a lower average entropy than its incorrect ones, meaning the model is more confident in its correct answers than incorrect ones.

The results show that models can better calibrate their confidence on the whole, expressing higher confidence in correct answers than in incorrect ones. However, the RCM is

an aggregate metric that reflects a macroscopic trend. Even with higher average confidence, the issue of numerous high-confidence incorrect responses can persist at the individual sample level. Therefore, we propose our Entropy-Driven Advantage (EDA) to apply more fine-grained rewards and penalties at the sample level.

To visually substantiate our analysis of policy entropy at a fine-grained level, Figure 6 presents the entropy distributions of correct and incorrect responses across a variety of models, including base models and those enhanced through different post-training methods.

Each plot within the figure displays two overlapping density distributions: one for correct responses and another for incorrect responses. These graphs visually confirm that most models exhibit misjudgments in their response confidence. A consistent pattern is the substantial overlap between the entropy distributions of correct and incorrect answers.

Specifically, these visualizations reveal two key phenomena: Firstly, a considerable portion of incorrect responses possesses low entropy, indicating that the models are often highly confident in their erroneous answers. Secondly, many correct responses exhibit high entropy, suggesting a lack of confidence even when the model produces the right answer.

This evidence highlights that relying on aggregate metrics like average entropy is insufficient, as it masks these critical sample-level discrepancies. The observed miscalibration of confidence at this granular level strongly motivates our proposed Entropy-Driven Advantage (EDA) mechanism, which is designed to apply more precise rewards and penalties to address these confidence misjudgments directly.

Detailed Results in Reflection

This section provides a more detailed quantitative analysis of the model reflection phenomenon, which we examined from the perspectives of both spontaneous and forced reflection.

Table 4 analyzes the spontaneous reflection behavior of the models. The data show that for most models, the accuracy of responses involving spontaneous reflection is significantly lower than their overall average accuracy and the accuracy of responses without reflection. A notable exception, however, is the DeepSeek-R1-Distill series of models, which were distilled from large reasoning models. Their reflection accuracy is much higher than their average on the contrary, corroborating the point made in the main text that high-quality knowledge distillation helps improve effective reflection capabilities. Furthermore, the Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B-S1 model, trained on high-quality chain-of-thought data distilled from large reasoning models, also exhibits a reflection accuracy close to its overall accuracy, outperforming most other models.

Table 5 investigates the effect of forced reflection on the other hand. We selected samples where the models provided incorrect answers and forced them to reflect and correct their responses using four different prompts. The results show that for the vast majority of models, the improvement in accuracy from forced reflection is very limited, with correction accuracy rates generally below 10%. Even for the top-performing

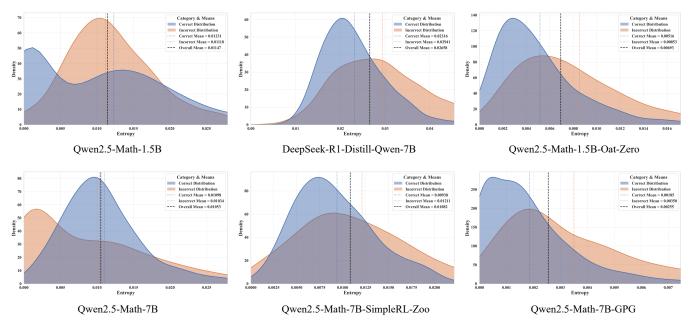


Figure 6: The entropy distribution of correct and incorrect responses within different models. The results are evaluated under the setting of temperature=0.1.

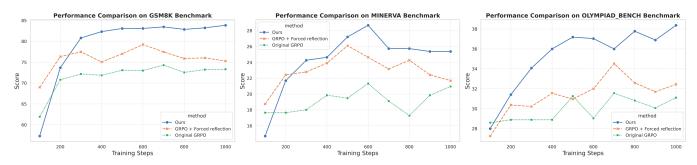


Figure 7: Performance comparison of different methods on three benchmarks during training steps. Our method consistently outperforms the vanilla GRPO and the variant with forced reflection throughout the training process.

Deepseek-R1-Distill-Qwen-7B, the highest correction rate is only around 11%.

Collectively, this data indicates that a significant bottleneck persists in the self-correction capabilities of existing models through reflection, whether spontaneous or forced. This supports the necessity of our proposed Guided Error Correction (GEC) method.

Detailed Experimental Results

Performance Comparison During Training To visually demonstrate the superiority of our method during the training process, Figure 7 plots the performance curves of our method, the method with only forced reflection added to the vanilla GRPO (GRPO + Forced reflection), and the vanilla GRPO method (Original GRPO) on the overall benchmark during training steps.

As can be clearly seen from the figure, our method consistently and significantly outperforms the other two baseline methods throughout the entire training process. In compar-

ison, the GRPO method with only forced reflection shows some improvement over the vanilla GRPO, but the effect is limited.

Compare with Other Open Source Model To more comprehensively evaluate the effectiveness of our method, we conducted a comparison of our models against current mainstream open source models on Pass@1 performance across five mathematical reasoning benchmarks. Detailed comparison results are presented in Table 6. A core highlight is that our method achieves excellent results with extremely high data efficiency. Our models were trained using only 1K selected samples, far smaller than some other models which require tens of thousands of samples or more.

Table 3: Relative Confidence Metric (RCM) across different models and temperature settings. A negative value indicates that the model exhibits lower entropy (i.e., higher confidence) in its correct responses compared to its incorrect responses.

Model	Temperature						
1720dei	0.1	0.3	0.6	1.0			
Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B	0.0909	0.0278	0.0349	-0.7773			
DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-1.5B	-0.1667	-0.2596	-0.2521	-0.3476			
Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B-Oat-Zero	-0.5714	-0.5000	-0.5116	-0.6049			
Qwen2.5-Math-7B	0.0909	-0.0294	-0.2171	-0.7175			
DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-7B	-0.2222	-0.2195	-0.2406	-0.3808			
Qwen2.5-Math-7B-Oat-Zero	-0.6667	-0.6250	-0.5625	-0.5556			
Qwen2.5-Math-7B-SimpleRL	-0.2727	-0.2813	-0.3553	-0.5179			
Qwen2.5-Math-7B-GPG	-0.6667	-0.5000	-0.7059	-0.7778			

Table 4: Model performance analysis. The table compares overall accuracy, accuracy on samples with reflection and accuracy on samples without reflection.

Temperature	Model	Average Acc	Reflection Acc	No-Reflection Acc
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B	25.71	10.00	26.01
	DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-1.5B	33.53	42.04	14.37
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B-S1	27.63	27.30	27.93
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B-Oat-Zero	47.37	17.86	47.91
0.1	Qwen2.5-Math-7B	29.04	13.51	29.42
	DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-7B	45.38	56.21	22.77
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-Oat-Zero	53.40	16.00	54.01
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-SimpleRL	47.37	25.71	47.87
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-GPG	57.76	12.50	58.23
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B	25.51	20.00	25.66
	DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-1.5B	33.27	41.47	16.44
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B-S1	26.86	26.73	26.97
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B-Oat-Zero	48.65	15.15	49.38
0.3	Qwen2.5-Math-7B	26.28	14.81	26.48
	DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-7B	45.77	56.32	25.38
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-Oat-Zero	52.88	16.22	53.78
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-SimpleRL	48.14	22.86	48.72
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-GPG	57.82	10.53	58.40
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B	20.00	7.55	20.44
	DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-1.5B	34.04	41.71	22.19
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B-S1	20.32	24.82	16.65
0.6	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B-Oat-Zero	46.92	13.79	47.55
0.0	Qwen2.5-Math-7B	20.77	9.09	21.02
	DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-7B	44.23	54.27	25.99
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-Oat-Zero	53.08	14.29	53.97
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-SimpleRL	45.45	17.50	46.18
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-GPG	54.23	8.33	54.95
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B	11.35	8.57	11.48
	DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-1.5B	27.44	40.06	16.65
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B-S1	20.83	21.95	19.93
1	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B-Oat-Zero	45.51	4.17	46.16
1	Qwen2.5-Math-7B	16.92	5.80	17.44
	DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-7B	41.41	51.71	30.87
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-Oat-Zero	52.50	21.62	53.25
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-SimpleRL	45.38	20.93	46.08
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-GPG	49.81	6.06	50.75

Table 5: Reflection accuracy under different reflection triggers. The "Incorrect" column shows the total number of wrong answers. The subsequent columns show the reflection accuracy scores for specific trigger words.

Temperature	Model	Incorrect		Reflection accuracy (%)				
remperature	Model	meorrect	Wait!	Hmm	Let's check it	Something is wrong		
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B	1159	3.624	2.675	7.161	3.365		
	DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-1.5B	1037	4.638	5.700	5.507	4.251		
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B-Oat-Zero	821	2.314	1.462	0.974	2.923		
0.1	Qwen2.5-Math-7B	1107	5.872	5.059	1.987	4.426		
0.1	DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-7B	852	8.706	11.059	8.588	8.353		
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-Oat-Zero	727	3.026	0.688	0.413	1.926		
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-SimpleRL-Zoo	821	5.366	4.146	1.098	5.122		
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-GPG	659	4.401	1.517	0.152	2.731		
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B	1162	3.184	3.356	5.594	4.389		
	DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-1.5B	1041	5.967	7.507	8.277	5.101		
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B-Oat-Zero	801	1.748	1.623	0.250	1.873		
0.3	Qwen2.5-Math-7B	1150	5.826	4.435	3.217	2.696		
0.3	DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-7B	846	10.308	9.597	8.649	9.123		
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-Oat-Zero	735	3.129	1.769	0.136	3.401		
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-SimpleRL-Zoo	809	6.057	3.585	0.865	6.057		
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-GPG	658	2.888	1.216	0.152	3.495		
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B	1248	2.648	2.809	5.056	3.852		
	DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-1.5B	1029	7.101	7.879	6.323	6.323		
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B-Oat-Zero	828	2.053	1.208	0.725	1.932		
0.6	Qwen2.5-Math-7B	1236	4.288	3.722	1.861	5.502		
0.0	DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-7B	870	11.406	12.097	11.290	10.253		
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-Oat-Zero	732	2.869	1.093	0.137	3.005		
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-SimpleRL-Zoo	851	4.935	4.113	3.055	4.465		
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-GPG	714	3.922	1.821	0.280	2.801		
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B	1383	1.952	1.735	2.531	1.591		
1	DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-1.5B	1132	9.637	10.610	9.637	8.753		
	Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B-Oat-Zero	850	1.765	1.882	0.471	1.882		
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B	1296	1.931	2.008	1.236	1.776		
	DeepSeek-R1-Distill-Qwen-7B	914	9.430	9.649	9.320	9.539		
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-Oat-Zero	741	2.699	1.350	0.405	2.699		
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-SimpleRL-Zoo	852	3.169	2.582	0.235	2.347		
	Qwen2.5-Math-7B-GPG	783	1.788	1.660	0.255	1.788		

Table 6: Pass@1 performance comparison of our models against various open-source models on five mathematical reasoning benchmarks. Our models, trained on only 1K samples, demonstrate highly competitive performance. The total number of problems for each benchmark is indicated in parentheses. * denotes data from the original paper, other results are from our own evaluation.

Model	#Train	Avg (1560)	AIME (30)	AMC (83)	MATH (500)	Minerva (272)	Olym (675)
Qwen2.5-Math-1.5B	Base	25.71	6.67	37.35	34.60	12.13	24.00
DeepSeek-Distill-1.5B	800K	33.53	6.67	27.71	61.00	13.60	23.11
Oat-Zero-1.5B	8.5K	47.37	20.00	48.19	75.00	25.74	36.74
Qwen2.5-Math-7B	Base	29.04	10.00	37.35	53.40	10.66	18.22
DeepSeek-Distill-7B	800K	45.39	16.67	36.14	74.20	29.41	32.89
Oat-Zero-7B	8.5K	53.40	36.67	61.45	79.80	30.88	42.67
SimpleRL-Zoo-7B	8K	47.37	23.33	53.01	76.00	24.26	35.85
Eurus-7B*	48.4K	53.9	26.7	57.8	79.2	38.6	42.1
OpenReasoner-Zero-7B	5.7K	51.99	20.00	40.96	80.20	29.41	42.96
EDGE-GRPO-1.5B	1K	48.08	13.33	44.58	76.40	28.68	36.89
EDGE-GRPO-7B	1K	53.01	16.67	49.40	79.00	36.03	42.67