

# ThinkBench: Dynamic Out-of-Distribution Evaluation for Robust LLM Reasoning

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## Abstract

Evaluating large language models (LLMs) poses significant challenges, particularly due to issues of data contamination and the leakage of correct answers. To address these challenges, we introduce *ThinkBench*, a novel evaluation framework designed to evaluate LLMs’ reasoning capability robustly. ThinkBench proposes a dynamic data generation method for constructing out-of-distribution (OOD) datasets and offers an OOD dataset that contains 2,912 samples drawn from reasoning tasks. ThinkBench unifies the evaluation of reasoning models and non-reasoning models. We evaluate 16 LLMs and 4 PRMs under identical experimental conditions and show that most of the LLMs’ performance are far from robust and they face a certain level of data leakage. By dynamically generating OOD datasets, ThinkBench effectively provides a reliable evaluation of LLMs and reduces the impact of data contamination.

## 1 Introduction

Large Language Models (LLMs) have made significant advancements across a range of application domains, including language understanding (Karanikolas et al., 2023; Xu et al., 2024), language generation (Wu et al., 2024b; Naveed et al., 2023), and complex reasoning (Hao et al., 2023; Lu et al., 2023; Azerbayev et al.; Wang et al., 2024a). Reasoning models, such as o1 (OpenAI, 2024), have further extended the capabilities by leveraging the Process Reward Model (PRM) and advanced search strategies during decoding. Notably, models, such as OpenAI o1, o3 (OpenAI, 2024, 2025) and Deepseek-R1 (Guo et al., 2025), have shown performance that rivals that of a Ph.D.-educated individual, outperforming GPT-4 in complex reasoning tasks, thus revealing substantial potential for future developments in LLMs.

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### Original Data

**Original Question:** Let  $a_n = 6^n + 8^n$ . Determine the remainder on dividing  $a_{83}$  by 49.  
**Answer:** 35

### OOD Data (Semi-fact Data)

#### Scenario-level Semi-fact Data

**Question:** Define the sequence of light patterns as the total flashes, with each pattern  $n$  consisting of  $6^n + 8^n$  flashes. Find the leftover number of flashes when the total flashes in the 83 rd pattern are grouped into sets of 49.  
**Answer:** 35

**New Scenario:**  
Sequence of light patterns

#### Attack-level Semi-fact Data

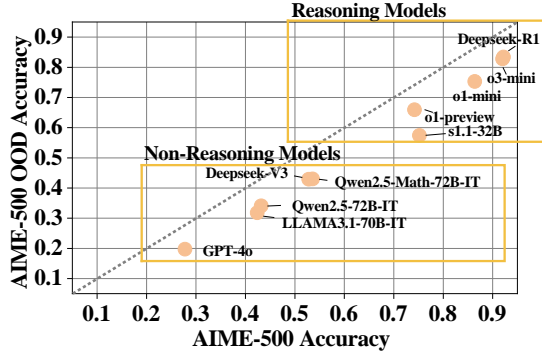
**Question 1:** **Stresstest Attack**  
Let  $a_n = 6^n + 8^n$ . Determine the remainder on dividing  $a_{83}$  by 49 and true is true.  
**Question 2:** **Checklist Attack**  
Let  $a_n = 6^n + 8^n$ . Determine the remainder on dividing  $a_{83}$  by 49. **5XeffW1ZJc**  
**Question 3:** **Textbugger Attack**  
**De**  $a_n = 6^n + 8^n$ . Determine the remainder on dividing  $a_{83}$  by 49.  
**Answer:** 35

Figure 1: Example of ThinkBench datasets containing Scenario-level and Attack-level semi-fact data.

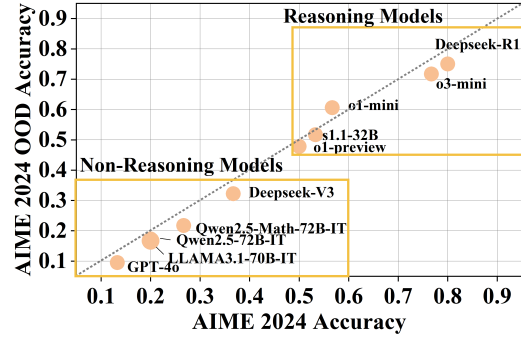
An interesting finding from the OpenAI report (OpenAI, 2024) is that the performance of the o1-series models on the Advanced International Mathematics Exam (AIME) significantly declined in 2024, compared to previous years (1983-2023: 0.74 vs. 2024: 0.50). Historical statistics, however, indicate that the median scores of human participants on the AIME exam in previous years are consistent with 2024 exam (4.81 vs. 5.0)<sup>1</sup>. Since o1 was trained on data by 2023, before the AIME 2024 Exam, this discrepancy suggests a possible data contamination issue, raising an important question about how to assess the generalization abilities of LLMs, rather than memorization.

To address this problem, we propose a novel robust evaluation framework, namely ThinkBench. Building on causal theory and semi-factual causality (Delaney et al., 2021; Kenny and Keane, 2021), we introduce Out-Of-Distribution (OOD) data generation designed to test reasoning capabilities. As shown in Figure 1, we introduce scenario-level and attack-level semi-fact data generation methods, dif-

<sup>1</sup>Sourced from <https://artofproblemsolving.com>.



(a) OOD performance vs. ID performance for several reasoning models on AIME-500.



(b) OOD performance vs. ID performance for several reasoning models on AIME 2024.

Figure 2: **Math Reasoning Gap:** Most models demonstrate a visible performance gap between their math reasoning performance on ID and OOD, including open-source models and commercial models.

fering in the specific elements of text they alter, enabling the creation of evaluation datasets that are both robust and challenging. By decoupling reasoning from memorization, dynamic evaluation allows us to more effectively test how well LLMs can generalize to unseen reasoning scenarios.

We take AIME-500 (500 AIME questions from 1983 to 2023) and AIME 2024 (30 AIME questions in 2024) for math reasoning tasks, and GPQA Diamond for scientific questions, dynamically generating an OOD dataset of 2,912 samples, provides a diverse set of challenges that test both the generalization and reasoning capabilities of LLMs. As illustrated in Figure 2, compared to the original datasets, our OOD evaluation set proves to be more difficult, resulting in an average performance decay of 24.9% and 11.8% across all models on AIME-500, and AIME 2024, respectively. This indicates that there was indeed some data leakage in AIME questions before 2024, highlighting the importance of mitigating data contamination for reasoning evaluations. The difference in performance decay between AIME-500 and AIME 2024 demonstrates that our dynamically constructed OOD data construction is a convenient and effective method to reduce the impact of data contamination.

Figure 2 also shows that o1 (OpenAI, 2024), o3 (OpenAI, 2025), Deepseek-R1 (Guo et al., 2025) and s1 (Muennighoff et al., 2025) maintain the strongest accuracy among all models. As representatives of reasoning models (Luo et al., 2025; Liu et al., 2025), o1, o3, and s1 enhance inference performance by increasing computational resources during testing, contrasting with non-reasoning models. ThinkBench provides a reasoning bench-

mark to evaluate both reasoning models and non-reasoning models.

In addition to the overall model accuracy, we also explore the impact of various PRMs and their performance under the best-of- $n$  search during decoding. Fine-grained evaluations show how different data generation strategies, such as Mathshepherd (Wang et al., 2024c), influence model outcomes. The performance improves with an increased test-time computation budget, further highlighting the discriminative power of our benchmark and the quality of the data.

To our knowledge, we are the first to present a robust dynamic evaluation benchmark for testing reasoning capability in LLMs (Qin et al., 2024; Huang et al., 2024c; Wang et al., 2024a). In ThinkBench, we provide a convenient and effective OOD data construction method and a high-quality dataset to reduce data contamination impact, effectively evaluating the reasoning ability in both reasoning models and non-reasoning models. Notably, we verify the validation of the test-time scaling law using the dynamic evaluation without data contamination based on ThinkBench.

## 2 Related Work

**Evaluating Large Language Models.** Evaluating LLMs accurately and fairly poses a significant challenge (Chang et al., 2024). Mainstream evaluation methods include: (1) **LLMs-as-a-judge:** Benchmarks like AlpacaEval (Li et al., 2023), PandaLM (Wang et al., 2023b), MT-Bench (Zheng et al., 2023), and C-Eval (Huang et al., 2024b) use large language models for predefined questions. (2) **Humans-as-a-judge:** Human evaluation pro-

Table 1: Statistics of reconstructed reasoning datasets based on three original test datasets, including AIME-500, AIME 2024, and GPQA Diamond.

	AIME-500	AIME 2024	GPQA Diamond
# Samples of original	500	30	198
Questions’ Avg Len	51.1	60.1	67.7
Choices’ Avg Len	-	-	27.8
# Samples of OOD	2,000	120	792
Questions’ Avg Len	61.2	70.1	85.2
Choices’ Avg Len	-	-	25.7

vides comprehensive feedback through expert reviews (Ribeiro and Lundberg, 2022; Gao et al., 2023). **(3) Other benchmarks:** Several traditional benchmarks employ static datasets to assess models across various tasks (Liang et al., 2022; Hendrycks et al., 2020, 2021). Our work falls into the third category. However, rather than using static data, we generate test sets dynamically.

**Robustness of Large Language Models.** Evaluating the robustness of LLMs is crucial (Muenighoff et al., 2025; Guo et al., 2025) for their applications across diverse scenarios (Wang et al., 2023a; Glazer et al., 2024; Li et al., 2024b). Previous studies (Li et al., 2024a), such as OOD-GLUE (Yuan et al., 2023), GLUE-X (Yang et al., 2023), and ZebraLogic (Lin et al., 2024), focus on robustness of non-reasoning models. Additionally, Yang et al. (2022) focus on generating OOD data by employing semi-fact data augmentation methods. Recently, Hosseini et al. (2024) identify reasoning gaps in LLMs by evaluating math problem pairs, revealing performance disparities in smaller, math-specialized models. Wu et al. (2024a) introduce cofQA, which targets text-based inference tasks using counterfactual data perturbations. Our work is similar in assessing general robustness but differs from the literature in focusing on reasoning tasks, for which OOD tests are more necessary as compared to general tasks.

In addition, existing benchmarks predominantly emphasize non-reasoning models (Li et al., 2023; Hendrycks et al., 2020; Huang et al., 2024a; Li et al., 2024c). For reasoning models, current evaluations often target specific tasks, such as planning (Wang et al., 2024b) and rule execution (Gui et al., 2024), with limited comprehensive robustness analyses (Zhong et al., 2024). Unlike these work, our benchmark focuses on robustness and reasoning with practical applications, offering statistically significant insights.

### 3 Dynamic Evaluation Benchmark

For math reasoning tasks, constructing counterfactual data presents challenges in changing a golden answer, which contrasts with commonsense tasks, where reliable sources like Wikipedia can be utilized. In contrast, semi-fact data does not need to change a specific answer. As shown in Figure 3, ThinkBench contains two dynamic semi-fact data generation methods, aiming to assess the real reasoning ability of LLMs: (a) Scenario-level Semi-fact Data (Yang et al., 2023; Zhu et al., 2023a, 2024; Opedal et al., 2024), which changes the scenario for the original reasoning data; (b) Attack-level Semi-fact Data (Zhu et al., 2023b), which uses three attack methods to rephrase the original data.

We use generated OOD data to perform dynamic reasoning evaluation on both reasoning models and non-reasoning models. Maintaining core knowledge while altering scenarios or expressions, we evaluate whether models can consistently apply learned knowledge across contextual variations. Finally, we can leverage our OOD data to conduct (c) test-time evaluation based on PRMs.

#### 3.1 OOD Data Generation

**Scenario-level Semi-fact Data Generation.** The process primarily involves two types of agents: the Rephrasing Agent, which is responsible for transforming the original questions and generating new ones, while the Verifier Agent, which is responsible for confirming at each step whether the rephrasing meets the current requirements and whether the rephrasing is valid.

There are two Rephrasing Agents. The first generates suitable scenarios for reasoning problems, ensuring that the new scenarios are appropriately transferable concerning the core of the original problem. The second rewrites each part (often at the sentence level) to fit the new scenario while preserving the original meaning. This step-by-step process uses each newly generated part as a reference for subsequent parts.

There are three Verifier Agents. The first checks if the core content of the original problem can be effectively transferred to the new scenario. The second evaluates each newly generated part, ensuring it meets three criteria: it conveys the same core meaning as the original, is consistent with previously revised parts, and is correctly adapted to the new scenario. Additionally, an overall Verifier Agent assesses the overall new problem, ensuring

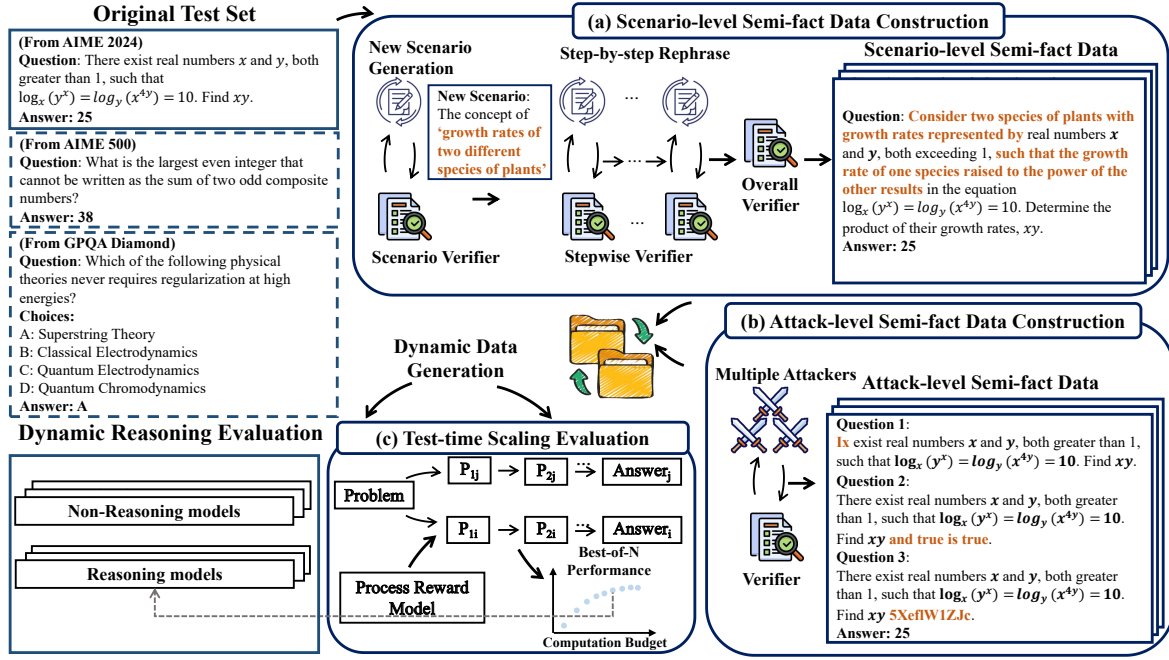


Figure 3: Overview of ThinkBench framework. Based on the original data, ThinkBench dynamically generates scenario-level Semi-fact Data (a) and Attack-level Semi-fact Data (b), which can be used to evaluate the robustness of reasoning models and non-reasoning models. ThinkBench can also serve as a useful tool for Test-time Scaling Evaluation(c).

it maintains essential consistency with the original questions, preserving informational content, and is appropriately constructed within the new scenario.

At every step, outputs from Rephrasing Agents need to pass the corresponding Verifier Agent’s checks. If invalid, the process reverts to regeneration. The final new problem also needs to be approved by the Verifier Agent or be regenerated.

For the datasets that contain Choices, similarly, Rephrase Agent modifies the expressions of certain options and randomly rearranges their order. Rephrasing of choices must also pass the Verifier Agent’s check to ensure the data is valid.

**Attack-level Semi-fact Data Generation.** We focus on realistic errors using three methods:

1. TextBugger (character-level) (Li et al., 2019): This method simulates user input errors by introducing mistakes or typos within words.
2. CheckList (sentence-level) (Ribeiro et al., 2020): This approach assesses model robustness by adding irrelevant or redundant sentences to the original text.
3. StressTest (sentence-level) (Naik et al., 2018): Similar to CheckList, StressTest evaluates model robustness by incorporating unrelated or redundant sentences.

These methods reflect common errors such as typos and extraneous information. They serve as three Attack Agents. We apply only a single iteration of perturbation, avoiding unrealistic error densities. Attack-level Semi-fact data construction involves these three Attack Agents and a Verifier Agent. The Verifier Agent is used to check if it is consistent with the core aspects of the original data and ensures that any errors introduced by the perturbation do not impede overall comprehension.

For an original reasoning problem, we construct our OOD test by creating one scenario-level semi-fact data instance and three attack-level semi-fact data instances. The method for evaluating the model’s OOD Accuracy for the original data  $i$  is as follows:

$$\text{Acc}(\text{OOD}) = \frac{1}{2} \left( \min_{j=1}^3 \text{Acc}(A_{ij}) + \text{Acc}(S_i) \right), \quad (1)$$

where  $\text{Acc}(A_{ij})$  denotes the accuracy of performance for the  $j$ -th attack-level semi-data, with  $j = 1, 2, 3$ .  $\text{Acc}(S)$  represents the accuracy of performance for the scenario-level semi-data  $S$ .

**Semi-fact Data Construction.** As shown in Figure 3, Scenario-level semi-fact data is constructed as follows: The original query, “There exist real numbers  $x$  and  $y$ , both greater than 1, such that



$\log_x(y^x) = \log_y(x^{4y}) = 10$ . Find  $xy$ .” is transformed step-by-step within a new scenario “The concepts of growth rates of two different species of plants” into “Consider two species of plants with growth rates represented by real numbers  $x$  and  $y$ , both exceeding 1, such that the growth rate of one species raised to the power of the other results in the equation  $\log_x(y^x) = \log_y(x^{4y}) = 10$ . Determine the product of their growth rates,  $xy$ .” The Verifier Agent then checks the rephrased question to ensure that the rephrased question is in a reasonable scenario and the rephrased expression does not alter the core topic of the question.

For Attack-level semi-fact data, TextBugger injects character-level noise (e.g., replacing “There” with “Ix”), while CheckList and StressTest append syntactically valid but irrelevant suffixes (e.g., “5XeflW1ZJc” and “true is true”) to the problem statement. The Verifier Agent also needs to ensure the validity of this rephrased version.

### 3.2 Data Analysis

We construct three OOD semi-fact datasets from the following datasets to evaluate the model’s reasoning ability: **AIME-500 (extracted from Year of 1983 - 2023)** and **AIME 2024 (Year of 2024)**. The AIME dataset is designed to challenge the most talented high school mathematics students in the United States. The original test component of AIME-500 consists of 500 questions extracted from the original dataset (Zheng et al., 2021) while AIME 2024 contains 30 examples included in the exam for 2024. **GPQA Diamond**. Originating from the GPQA Diamond dataset (Rein et al., 2023) which tests scientific questions. These original datasets are in English, publicly available, and permitted for research.

**Statistics Analysis.** Table 1 shows the analysis of three dynamically constructed datasets. For Out-Of-Distribution (OOD) test, the sample size is four times as the original due to each original instance being transformed into one Scenario-level and three Attack-level Semi-fact Data entries. This augmentation allows for a thorough OOD evaluation of model performance. The OOD test data exhibits a length comparable to that of the original test data, indicating that both Scenario-level and Attack-level Semi-fact data, derived through part-by-part or attack-based modifications respectively, preserve the model’s comprehension of the question’s core elements. This construction effectively incorporates legitimate semantic information that

rephrases the question without altering its answer.

This approach helps distinguish models that rely on memorization rather than reasoning by highlighting the differences between OOD and ID data.

**Human Evaluation.** To verify whether the dynamically constructed data, deemed legitimate by the model, also corresponds to the correct answers from a human perspective, we further design a human evaluation. Specifically, we use all samples from AIME 2024 for evaluation which has 30 samples. We provide a detailed explanation of the annotation guidelines to 3 undergraduate students proficient in mathematics and pay them \$2.5 per entry for manual annotation. The result of the human evaluation shows that the questions and answers for the 30 corresponding Scenario-level Semi-fact data and Attack-level Semi-fact data were 100% aligned. This indicates that the constructed Semi-fact test is 100% legitimate in the sampled results.

## 4 Experiments

We conduct experiments to verify the effectiveness of our proposed dynamic OOD data construction method and analyze the differentiated performance and robustness of various LLMs.

### 4.1 Setup

We use the datasets in Section 3.2 for our experiment across two test sets: (1) the original test set, (2) the OOD test set. We conduct evaluations on various models, including o1-preview (OpenAI, 2024), o1-mini (OpenAI, 2024), o3-mini (OpenAI, 2025), GPT-4o (Achiam et al., 2023), Deepseek-V3 (Liu et al., 2024), Deepseek-R1 (Guo et al., 2025), S1.1-32B (Muennighoff et al., 2025), LLAMA3.1-70B and 8B (Dubey et al., 2024), Gemma2 (both 9B and 27B) (Rivière et al., 2024), Mistral-7B (Jiang et al., 2023), Mixtral-8x7B (Jiang et al., 2024), Qwen2.5-72B-IT (Yang et al., 2024), and Qwen2.5-Math-72B-IT (Yang et al., 2024). All models were configured with a temperature setting of 0.7 and used the pass@1 metric in a single test run.

### 4.2 Results

**ThinkBench.** The overall results of ThinkBench are shown in Table 2. We observe that all models exhibit a certain degree of performance decline when evaluated on the original dataset versus the OOD dataset. This decay in performance can be attributed to the fact that the models have encountered, to some extent, the original dataset. Notably,

Table 2: Reasoning performance. We report performance on OOD data of different models on three datasets that we dynamically construct. Each performance value represents the accuracy in solving problems from the dataset. The accuracy of performance on OOD is calculated through Equation 1. The term “Gap” denotes the percentage decrease in performance on Semi-fact data tests compared to the original test performance.

	AIME 2024			AIME-500			GPQA Diamond			AVG Gap (%)
	Original	OOD	Gap (%)	Original	OOD	Gap (%)	Original	OOD	Gap (%)	
o1-preview	0.500	0.484	-3.3	0.742	0.659	-11.2	0.684	0.638	-6.8	-7.1
o1-mini	0.567	0.600	5.8	0.864	0.753	-12.8	0.592	0.564	-4.7	-3.9
o3-mini	0.767	0.717	-6.5	0.922	0.834	-9.5	0.727	0.710	-2.4	-6.1
Deepseek-R1	0.800	0.750	-6.3	0.920	0.828	-10.0	0.747	0.682	-8.7	-8.3
GPT-4o	0.133	0.100	-24.8	0.278	0.197	-29.1	0.495	0.447	-9.8	-21.2
Deepseek-V3	0.367	0.333	-9.3	0.528	0.429	-18.8	0.581	0.530	-8.8	-12.3
Mixtral-8x7B-IT-v0.1	0.000	0.000	-	0.012	0.006	-50.0	0.168	0.163	-3.0	-17.7
Qwen2.5-72B-IT	0.200	0.184	-8.3	0.432	0.341	-21.1	0.536	0.487	-9.1	-12.8
Qwen2.5-Math-72B-IT	0.267	0.217	-18.9	0.536	0.430	-19.8	0.449	0.416	-7.5	-15.4
LLAMA3.1-70B-IT	0.200	0.167	-16.5	0.424	0.318	-25.0	0.388	0.383	-1.3	-14.3
s1.1-32B	0.533	0.517	-3.0	0.752	0.574	-23.7	0.525	0.508	-3.3	-10.0
Gemma-2-27B-IT	0.033	0.017	-50.0	0.062	0.045	-27.4	0.291	0.281	-3.6	-27.0
Gemma-2-9B-IT	0.000	0.000	-	0.032	0.021	-34.4	0.214	0.189	-11.9	-15.4
LLAMA3.1-8B-IT	0.000	0.017	-	0.132	0.087	-34.1	0.204	0.179	-12.5	-15.5
Phi-3-mini-4k-IT	0.000	0.000	-	0.046	0.026	-43.5	0.224	0.192	-14.5	-19.3
LLAMA3.2-3B-IT	0.033	0.033	0.0	0.122	0.087	-28.7	0.153	0.161	4.9	-7.9

the performance gap between ID (Original) and OOD in AIME 2024 for most models is much smaller than the performance gap in AIME-500, which demonstrates the data leakage in AIME data before 2024. The existing dataset (Li et al., 2024a; Glazer et al., 2024) is insufficient to reveal the aforementioned phenomenon.

We also observe that models with fewer parameters generally perform worse and are less robust than those with more parameters, especially within the Llama 3.1 model family. As the parameter count increases, both performance and robustness improve significantly, consistent with scaling laws. Thus, the number of parameters is crucial for ensuring robustness.

#### 4.2.1 Math Reasoning

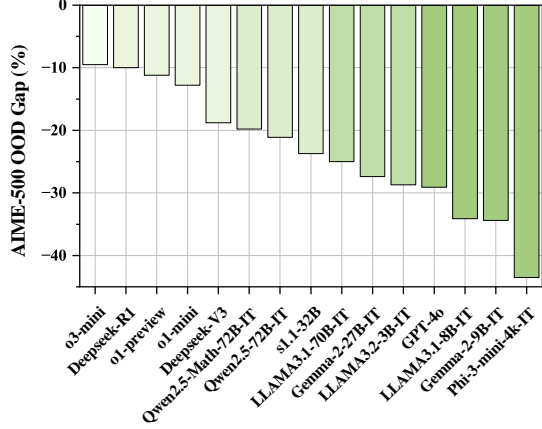
Figure 2 presents a comparative analysis of the performance of various LLMs on the AIME-500 and AIME 2024 dataset, specifically contrasting their performance on the original ID data with that on OOD data. The results on the original set are mainly consistent with previous work (Glazer et al., 2024; Li et al., 2024b). Notably, the dashed line at a 45-degree angle from the origin signifies, where a robust model exhibits nearly equivalent performance on both OOD and ID data. These two datasets primarily evaluate mathematical reasoning and logical capabilities, featuring relatively complex problem types.

**AIME-500 vs. AIME 2024.** It is evident that

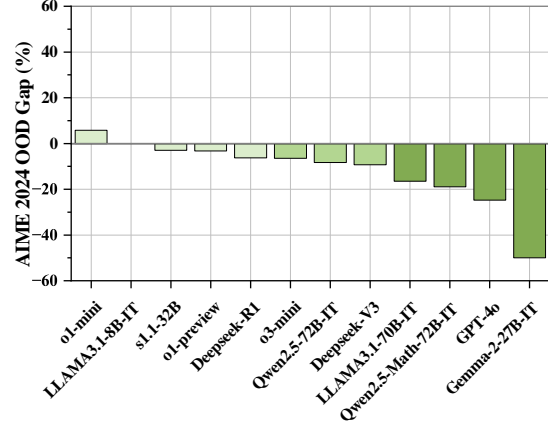
o1 series models, o3, Deepseek-R1, and s1 exhibit a small decline in performance on the latest 2024 AIME. Moreover, the performance gap between OOD and ID is markedly larger on AIME-500 for nearly all models, including the o1 series, compared to the OOD and ID gap observed on AIME 2024. Specifically, the o1-preview shows a performance gap of -3.3% on AIME 2024 and -11.2% on AIME-500, while the o1-mini model exhibits a gap of +5.8% and -12.8%, respectively. The most advanced reasoning models – o3-mini, Deepseek-R1 and s1.1-32B – show the same phenomenon. This indicates that there was indeed some degree of data leakage in questions before 2024.

Ideally, a robust model that has genuinely learned to apply knowledge for reasoning should not exhibit significant performance degradation when the expression and scenario of a question change, provided that the core knowledge being assessed remains the same. Additionally, s1.1-32B shows a significant gap in AIME-500 ID-OOD performance. One possible explanation for its low robustness is the limited amount of data used for training. Furthermore, most models fall below the dashed line, indicating a decline in performance when transitioning to OOD data. This phenomenon reveals their limitations in generalizing to previously unseen complex mathematical problems.

**ID vs. OOD.** Figure 4b and Figure 4a illustrates the percentage difference in performance between OOD and ID for various models on the AIME 2024



(a) OOD performance vs. ID performance for AIME-500.



(b) OOD performance vs. ID performance for AIME 2024.

Figure 4: The performance gap between ID and OOD test on AIME-500 and AIME 2024. “ID performance” and “OOD performance” represent the accuracy of LLMs in solving problems on the AIME-500 and AIME 2024’s original test and OOD test, respectively.

and AIME-500. Certain models, such as o3-mini, Deepseek-R1, and o1-series models distinguish themselves by achieving relatively high accuracy on both the original and OOD datasets. They also exhibit minimal OOD performance degradation, signifying strong generalization capabilities and robustness to distributional changes.

#### 4.2.2 Science Questions

Figures 6 show ID-OOD performance on GPQA Diamond dataset. The distribution of model performance points indicates that most models are more dispersed on this graph, suggesting that the difficulty of the GPQA Diamond dataset is less than that of AIME-500 and AIME 2024.

Models such as Mixtral-8x7B-Instruct-v0.1 and LLaMA3.2-3B-IT demonstrate relatively low accuracy levels. Notably, LLaMA3.2-3B-IT shows a 4.9% improvement in OOD performance compared to its ID performance on the bar chart. This phenomenon can be attributed to the model’s inherently poor performance. For the difficult questions in the GPQA Diamond dataset, the model seems to resort to random guessing, resulting in an accuracy that fails to reach the 25% level expected from random guessing. Consequently, the OOD performance reflecting a higher accuracy than ID is a result of the same guessing strategy employed for both ID and OOD questions.

## 5 Analysis and Discussion

In this section, we present a detailed analysis of the OOD robustness of reasoning and non-reasoning

models. We aim to address several open research questions that are fundamental to building efficient reasoning models.

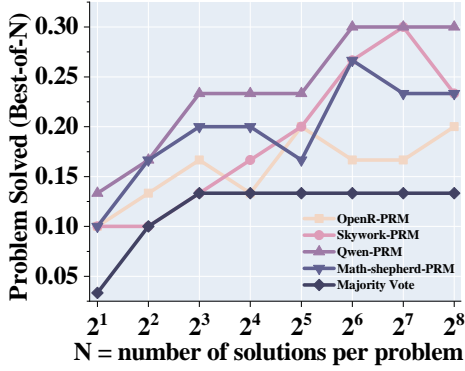
**RQ1: Do reasoning models deliver the significant performance and robustness improvements claimed in their reports?**

Overall, the o1-series models, along with o3, Deepseek-R1, and s1, demonstrate strong performance in complex logical reasoning tasks, such as AIME and GPQA Diamond, on the original datasets. Despite a general performance drop from ID to OOD across various datasets, these models maintain notable robustness. Their improved performance, consistent with the claims in their reports (OpenAI, 2024, 2025; Guo et al., 2025; Muennighoff et al., 2025), suggests that these advancements are reliable.

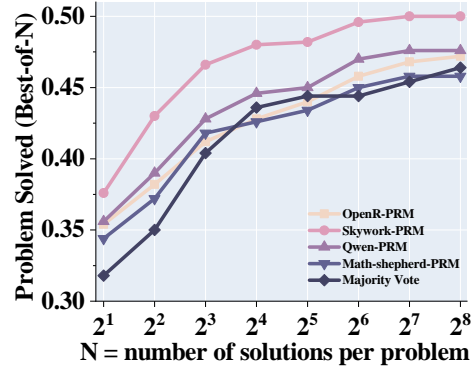
Notably, on AIME-500 and AIME 2024, while o3-mini and Deepseek-R1 exhibit a larger ID-OOD performance gap than o1-preview, they still achieve the highest absolute performance in the OOD setting. This superior mathematical reasoning capability is likely due to their exposure to a larger corpus of mathematical problems during training, enhancing their problem-solving abilities. On GPQA Diamond, o3-mini and Deepseek-R1 also achieve the highest performance, underscoring their general reasoning advantages.

**RQ2: Is there a possibility of data leakage in the original datasets for AIME-500?**

Analyzing the ID-OOD performance gap, as depicted in Figures 2, reveals a notable difference between AIME 2024 and AIME-500. While the



(a) Performance on AIME 2024 OOD data.



(b) Performance on AIME-500 OOD data.

Figure 5: **Test-time Scaling Law.** We show that the model’s performance increases on the OOD dataset with the test-time computation budget increases using Qwen2.5-Math-7B-IT as the policy model, along with several PRMs.

Table 3: Performance comparison of different process reward models using Qwen2.5-Math-7B-IT under the Best-of-256 test. All methods utilize Qwen2.5-Math-7B-IT as the base model. Qwen2.5-Math-7B-IT’s performance represents majority vote (Maj@256) results, while other methods are based on PRMs.

	AIME 2024		AIME-500	
	Original	OOD	Original	OOD
Qwen2.5-Math-7B-IT (Maj@256)	0.167	0.133	0.524	0.464
+Math-Shepherd	0.233	0.233	0.528	0.458
+OpenR	0.233	0.200	0.526	0.472
+Skywork	0.200	0.233	0.582	0.500
+Qwen	0.300	0.300	0.538	0.476

gap between ID and OOD performance is relatively small for AIME 2024, AIME-500 consistently shows a larger gap. This observation suggests that a significant portion of the models may have encountered similar AIME-500 data during training. Given that AIME data prior to 2024 was publicly available, we posit that data leakage is likely for most models.

### RQ3: Can our OOD dataset serve as a test-time computation benchmark?

Based on our analysis, the AIME-500, AIME 2024, and GPQA Diamond datasets present significant challenges and possess strong discriminative power. As shown in Figure 5, model performance improves with increased test-time computation, underscoring the quality of our data. The upward trend and variation among the five lines indicate the dataset’s ability to differentiate model performance during test-time computation.

Furthermore, Table 3 presents results from 256 inferences using Qwen2.5-Math-7B-IT to evalu-

ate different PRMs. For AIME 2024, OOD performance shows slight variations compared to ID across PRMs. However, for AIME-500, all PRMs experience a notable decline in OOD performance, suggesting possible exposure to similar problems before 2024, and thus indicating data leakage. In contrast, AIME 2024 data appears largely unseen by the models in terms of the low-level performance decay. Our methodology provides valuable insights into assessing robust LLM reasoning. The dynamic generation capability allows model validation, preventing exploitation or overfitting, which can serve as an effective benchmark for facilitating future research on test-time computation.

## 6 Conclusion

We presented ThinkBench, a first robust dynamic evaluation benchmark for testing reasoning capability in LLMs, unifying the reasoning models and non-reasoning models evaluation. ThinkBench offers dynamic data generation to evaluate the out-of-distribution of models through various math reasoning, and science questions samples. Experiments over AIME-500, AIME 2024, and GPQA Diamond indicate that while reasoning models represented by o1 and o3 consistently demonstrate relatively strong robustness, most LLMs fall short of robust performance. Experiments on ThinkBench highlight the importance of eliminating data contamination, especially in reasoning tasks where golden answers are prone to leakage. ThinkBench offers an effective solution to mitigate data leakage issues during reasoning evaluation. In the future, we will study more factors of robust reasoning models.



## Limitations

While ThinkBench presents a systematic dynamic OOD data generation framework that uniquely decouples reasoning robustness from memorization biases, it still has some limitations. First, while it supports MMLU, the evaluation predominantly focuses on mathematical and scientific reasoning tasks (e.g., AIME, GPQA), lacking diversity in reasoning types such as social reasoning. Second, due to cost constraints, Scenario-level semi-fact generation adopts a single-path rephrasing strategy instead of hierarchical multi-scenario branching, limiting OOD diversity. Future work needs to consider expanding task coverage and integrating tree-structured generation for richer scenario variations.

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## A Appendix

### A.1 Process Reward Models

In the past, language model training primarily used Outcome-based Reinforcement Models (ORM) (Wang et al., 2024a). A foundational example is the ORM-based model by Cobbe et al. (2021), which focuses on training evaluators to assess the correctness of answers, providing crucial feedback. Meanwhile, the Process Reward Model (PRM) aims to provide stepwise rewards, offering fine-grained supervision. DeepMind (Uesato et al., 2022) supervises both reasoning steps and final results, while OpenAI (Lightman et al., 2023) introduces PRM800K, a human-annotated dataset, emphasizing step verification. Li et al. (2022) enhance result reliability with evaluator models and majority voting. Yu et al. (2024) improve reasoning through reinforcement learning with outcome and process supervision. The Generative Reward Model (GenRM)(Zhang et al., 2024) allows rich interaction between evaluators and generators, reflecting a demand for sophisticated process supervision. Recent work (Zheng et al., 2024) offers a benchmark for evaluating error identification in mathematical reasoning, fostering scalable oversight research. As a supplement, we propose a dynamic benchmark for testing reasoning capability in LLMs with the help of PRMs.

### A.2 Process Reward Models on Test-time Computation Budget

#### A.2.1 Settings

To comprehensively conduct the test-time scaling evaluation for the various PRMs on AIME 2024 and AIME-500, we employ these PRMs:

(1) **Math-Shepherd-PRM**: The scoring mechanism employed in Math-Shepherd is essential for understanding the performance of reasoning steps. In this framework, the token “kn” is used to indicate the position where the step score is predicted. A “+” token represents a good step, one that contributes positively towards reaching the correct answer, while a “-” token signals a bad step. Notably, during the training of PRMs, the loss is computed only at positions marked with “kn”. The PRM denoted as  $(P \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+)$ , assigns a score to each reasoning step  $s$ . The model is typically trained using the following binary cross-entropy loss func-



Table 4: Performance on Scenario-level semi-fact data and Attack-level semi-fact data. Each performance value represents the accuracy in solving problems from the dataset. The accuracy of performance on attack-level semi-factual data is determined by computing the minimum accuracy across three different attacks.

	AIME 2024			AIME-500		
	Original	OOD (Scenario)	OOD (Attack)	Original	OOD (Scenario)	OOD (Attack)
o1-preview	0.500	0.500	0.467	0.742	0.638	0.680
o1-mini	0.567	0.600	0.600	0.864	0.756	0.750
o3-mini	0.767	0.667	0.767	0.922	0.848	0.820
Deepseek-R1	0.800	0.733	0.767	0.920	0.816	0.840
GPT-4o	0.133	0.100	0.100	0.278	0.204	0.190
Deepseek-V3	0.367	0.333	0.333	0.528	0.438	0.420
Mixtral-8x7B-IT-v0.1	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.012	0.000	0.012
Qwen2.5-72B-IT	0.200	0.167	0.200	0.432	0.290	0.392
Qwen2.5-Math-72B-IT	0.267	0.233	0.200	0.536	0.360	0.500
LLAMA3.1-70B-IT	0.200	0.167	0.167	0.424	0.244	0.392
s1.1-32B	0.533	0.500	0.478	0.752	0.654	0.494
Gemma-2-27B-IT	0.033	0.033	0.000	0.062	0.028	0.062
Gemma-2-9B-IT	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.032	0.016	0.026
LLAMA3.1-8B-IT	0.000	0.033	0.000	0.132	0.074	0.100
Phi-3-mini-4k-IT	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.046	0.024	0.028
LLAMA3.2-3B-IT	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.122	0.066	0.108

tion:

$$\mathcal{L}_{PRM} = \sum_{i=1}^K y_{s_i} \log r_{s_i} + (1 - y_{s_i}) \log(1 - r_{s_i}), \quad (2)$$

where  $y_{s_i}$  represents the ground-truth label of the  $i$ -th reasoning step  $s_i$ ,  $r_{s_i}$  is the sigmoid output score predicted by the PRM for step  $s_i$ , and  $K$  is the total number of reasoning steps in a given solution  $s$ . To estimate the quality of each reasoning step, two methods are employed: hard estimation (HE) and soft estimation (SE). In HE, a step is considered good if it contributes to reaching the correct answer  $a^*$ , as defined by:

$$y_{s_i}^{HE} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{if } \exists a_j \in A, a_j = a^* \\ 0, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

In contrast, SE estimates the quality of a step based on the frequency with which it leads to the correct answer across multiple attempts:

$$y_{s_i}^{SE} = \frac{\sum_{j=1}^N \mathbb{I}(a_j = a^*)}{N}, \quad (4)$$

where  $\mathbb{I}(a_j = a^*)$  is an indicator function that returns 1 if the  $j$ -th attempt  $a_j$  equals the correct answer  $a^*$ , and  $N$  is the total number of attempts. Once the labels for each reasoning step are obtained, the PRM is trained using the cross-entropy loss function to optimize the model’s ability to correctly classify each step as either good or bad ((Wang et al., 2024c)).

(2) **OpenR-PRM**: The Problem Resolution Model (PRM) computes a score, denoted as  $p_t$ , based on the current problem  $q$  and the sequence of solution steps up to time  $t$ , represented as  $[x_1, \dots, x_t]$ . This approach allows for a precise and detailed analysis of the solution process, helping identify errors as they occur, as noted by (Lightman et al., 2023). The main goal of PRMs is to assess whether the solution process is on track, with a score  $y_t$  calculated to represent the correctness of the solution at step  $t$ , ranging from 0 to 1. This score is given by  $y_t = \text{PRM}(q, x_1, x_2, \dots, x_t)$ . During training, the model is framed as a next-token prediction task, where labels are assigned as correct or incorrect, represented by positive (+) or negative (-) tokens. After training, OpenR uses the PRM to evaluate the correctness of each solution step during inference, assigning a score  $r_{PRM_t}$  to each step. Two strategies are employed to compute a final score: the PRM-Min strategy, which selects the minimum score among all steps,  $v = \min\{r_{PRM_t}\}_{t=0}^T$ , and the PRM-Last strategy, which takes the score of the final step,  $v = r_{PRM_T}$ . PRMs function as dense verifiers, providing strong feedback that can significantly enhance the overall solution process ((Wang et al., 2024a)).

(3) **Skywork-PRM**: We evaluate Skywork o1 Open-PRM-Qwen-2.5-7B (o1 Team, 2024), which Extends the capabilities of the 1.5B model by scaling up to handle more demanding reasoning tasks, pushing the boundaries of AI reasoning.

(4) **Qwen-PRM**: We evaluate 7B version of Qwen-PRM (Zhang et al., 2025). This is a process reward model designed to offer feedback on the quality of reasoning and intermediate steps in mathematical problems. It is part of the Qwen2.5-Math series and has shown impressive performance in identifying errors in reasoning processes.

As shown in Figure 5, the model’s performance improves on the AIME 2024 OOD and AIME-500 OOD dataset as the test-time computation budget increases and the best-of-N performance of each reward model varies as a function of N. Since majority voting is known to be a strong baseline((Lewkowycz et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2022)), we also include this method as a point of comparison. We compared a series of PRM methods and then observed the performance changes of various PRM methods as N increased.

Skywork-PRM and Qwen-PRM achieve relatively high performance across all computation budgets. OpenR shows moderate performance, improving steadily with increasing N, but its improvement rate is slower compared to Skywork-PRM and Qwen-PRM. Majority Voting mainly underperforms other methods, even with increased computation budgets, showing limited scalability. The possible underlying reasons are these: (1)Model-specific Capabilities: The superior performance of Skywork-PRM and Qwen-PRM may result from their advanced mechanisms for aggregating or utilizing the increased number of solutions, likely benefiting from better exploration of the solution space or more robust voting schemes. (2)Algorithmic Limitations: The suboptimal performance of Majority Voting suggests its inability to effectively utilize additional solutions. (3)Dataset Complexity: The AIME 2024 OOD dataset and AIME-500 OOD dataset likely require nuanced reasoning and adaptability, favoring methods like Skywork-PRM and Qwen-PRM that can better handle out-of-distribution (OOD) generalization tasks. Thus, the results highlight the importance of adopting advanced techniques that can efficiently utilize increased test-time computation budgets. Methods like Skywork-PRM and Qwen-PRM demonstrate superior scaling behavior, suggesting their robustness and adaptability in solving complex problems.

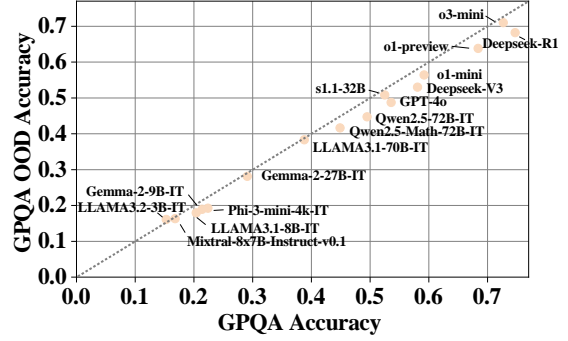


Figure 6: Scientific Questions Gap on GPQA Diamond.

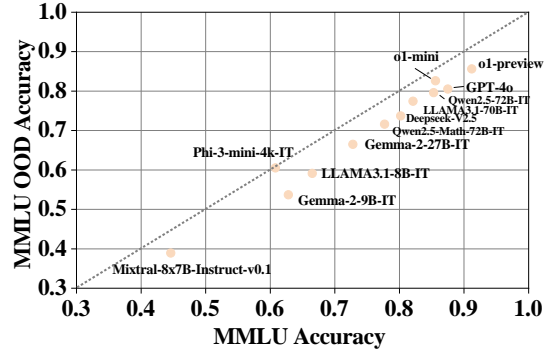


Figure 7: Language Understanding Gap on MMLU 570.

## B ThinkBench on Language Understanding

As illustrated in Figure 7, we also present the results of dynamically constructing 570 MMLU OOD data using ThinkBench. There is a significant performance gap between Out-Of-Distribution (OOD) and In-Distribution (ID) data across different models. The o1-preview model demonstrates superior performance on this knowledge-intensive dataset. Furthermore, reasoning models like o1-preview and o1-mini exhibit greater robustness compared to non-reasoning models such as GPT-4o.

## C Case Study

Table 5, Table 6 and Table 7 show the case of different models tackling ThinkBench, including question, choices, answer in Original set and OOD set, and responses from models.

Through the provided example in Table 5, we observe that our dynamic construction transforms the original question into a new question, with the options also being rephrased and reordered. Our benchmark reduces the likelihood of models achieving high scores through rote memorization. In the

<p><b>Original Question:</b> Carruthers approaches questions about the moral standing of nonhuman animals from the perspective of which of the following moral theories?</p> <p><b>Original Choices:</b> A: consequentialism B: Kantianism C: virtue ethics D: contractualism</p> <p><b>Original Answer:</b> D</p> <p><b>OOD Question (Scenario-level Semi-fact Question):</b> In his exploration of ethical frameworks, Carruthers considers various moral theories before honing in on a particular approach to evaluate the moral status of nonhuman animals. From which moral theory does Carruthers analyze the ethical significance of these animals?</p> <p><b>OOD Choices:</b> A: ethics of character B: contractualism C: outcomes-based ethics D: Kantianism</p> <p><b>OOD Answer:</b> B</p>	
<p><b>GPT-4o on Original:</b></p> <p>Peter Carruthers is known for approaching questions about the moral standing of nonhuman animals from the perspective of contractualism. Contractualism is a moral theory that determines moral principles based on what rational agents would agree upon as part of a social contract. Carruthers argues that nonhuman animals do not have direct moral standing within contractualism because they are not capable of participating in the contract-making process. Therefore, the correct answer is <b>D</b>.</p>	<p><b>Llama3.1-70B-IT on Original:</b></p> <p>Carruthers approaches questions about the moral standing of nonhuman animals from the perspective of contractualism. Contractualism is a moral theory that emphasizes the importance of mutual agreements and contracts in determining moral obligations. In the context of nonhuman animals, contractualism would suggest that animals have moral standing because they are capable of participating in a “contract” or social agreement with humans, even if it is not a formal or explicit one. The correct answer is <b>D</b>.</p>
<p><b>GPT-4o on OOD:</b></p> <p>Carruthers is known for utilizing Kantianism as a framework for evaluating the moral status of nonhuman animals. This approach emphasizes the importance of rationality and moral agency, aligning with Kantian ethical principles. Therefore, the correct answer is <b>D</b>.</p>	<p><b>Llama3.1-70B-IT on OOD:</b></p> <p>Based on the information provided, the correct answer is <b>C</b>: outcomes-based ethics.</p>

Table 5: Case Study on MMLU 570.

responses from GPT-4o and Llama3.1-70B-IT, it is evident that while both models correctly answer the original question, they fail to provide correct responses to the corresponding OOD data. Both models provide detailed analyses and correct answers to the original test data. However, for the OOD data, Llama3.1-70B-IT does not offer a detailed analysis and instead directly gives an incorrect answer. Although GPT-4o conducts some analysis, it confuses the concepts of “Kantianism” and “contractualism”, even mixing them up during the reasoning process, ultimately leading to an incorrect answer.

### C.1 Instruction for Human Annotation

This task involves checking if the modified question and the original answer are consistent. Follow the steps below: (1) Read the questions and the original answer: Carefully read the modified question, the original question, and the original answer. (2) Identify Key Changes: Note any changes in numbers, operations, or conditions between the original and modified questions. (3) Verify Consistency: Check if the original answer is consistent with the modified question. Mark as “Consistent” if it does, otherwise mark it as “Inconsistent”.

**Original Question:** There exist real numbers  $x$  and  $y$ , both greater than 1, such that  $\log_x(y^x) = \log_y(x^{4y}) = 10$ . Find  $xy$ .

**Original Answer:** 25

**OOD Question (Scenario-level Semi-fact Question):** Consider two species of plants with growth rates represented by real numbers  $x$  and  $y$ , both exceeding 1, such that the growth rate of one species raised to the power of the other results in the equation  $\log_x(y^x) = \log_y(x^{4y}) = 10$ . Determine the product of their growth rates,  $xy$ .

**OOD Answer:** 25

**GPT-4o on Original:**

$$\log_x(y^x) = 10$$

$$\log_y(x^{4y}) = 10$$

We'll solve for  $xy$ . Starting with the first equation:

$$\log_x(y^x) = 10$$

This can be rewritten using the logarithm power rule:

$$x \log_x y = 10$$

Thus,

$$\log_x y = \frac{10}{x}$$

The base change formula  $\log_x y = \frac{\log y}{\log x}$  gives us:

$$\frac{\log y}{\log x} = \frac{10}{x}$$

So,

$$\log y = \frac{10}{x} \log x$$

Now, for the second equation:

$$\log_y(x^{4y}) = 10$$

This expands to:

$$4y \log_y x = 10$$

Thus,

$$\log_y x = \frac{10}{4y} = \frac{5}{2y}$$

The base change formula  $\log_y x = \frac{\log x}{\log y}$  gives us:

$$\frac{\log x}{\log y} = \frac{5}{2y}$$

So,

$$\log x = \frac{5}{2y} \log y$$

Now substitute  $\log y$  from the first equation into this:

$$\log x = \frac{5}{2y} \times \frac{10}{x} \log x$$

Simplifying,

$$\log x = \frac{50}{2xy} \log x$$

Cancel  $\log x$  from both sides (assuming  $\log x \neq 0$ ):

$$1 = \frac{50}{2xy}$$

Thus,

$$2xy = 50$$

So,

$$xy = 25$$

The value of  $xy$  is **25**.

**GPT-4o on OOD:**

Step 1: Solve the first equation

The first equation is:

$$\log_x(y^x) = 10$$

This implies:

$$y^x = x^{10}$$

Step 2: Solve the second equation

The second equation is:

$$\log_y(x^{4y}) = 10$$

This implies:

$$x^{4y} = y^{10}$$

Step 3: Express  $y$  in terms of  $x$  from the first equation

From  $y^x = x^{10}$ , we can express  $y$  as:

$$y = x^{10/x}$$

Step 4: Substitute  $y$  in the second equation

Substitute  $y = x^{10/x}$  into the second equation  $x^{4y} = y^{10}$ :

$$x^{4(x^{10/x})} = (x^{10/x})^{10}$$

Simplifying the right side:

$$x^{4(x^{10/x})} = x^{100/x}$$

Step 5: Equate the exponents

Since the bases are the same, equate the exponents:

$$4 \cdot x^{10/x} = \frac{100}{x}$$

Step 6: Solve for  $x$

Rearrange and simplify:

$$4x^{10/x} \cdot x = 100$$

$$4x^{1+10/x} = 100$$

$$x^{1+10/x} = 25$$

Step 7: Solve for  $x$  using trial and error or numerical methods

Let  $z = 1 + \frac{10}{x}$ , so  $x^z = 25$ . We need to find  $x$  such that:

$$z = 1 + \frac{10}{x} \quad \text{and} \quad x^z = 25$$

By trial and error or numerical methods, you can find that  $x = 5$  satisfies the equation.

Step 8: Find  $y$

Now, substitute  $x = 5$  back into  $y = x^{10/x}$ :

$$y = 5^{10/5} = 5^2 = 25$$

Step 9: Calculate the product  $xy$

Finally, calculate the product:

$$xy = 5 \cdot 25 = 125$$

Thus, the product of their growth rates is **400**.

Table 6: Case Study on AIME 2024.



**Original Question:** cyclohexanone is treated with LDA at low temperature, followed by benzaldehyde. the reaction mixture is then acidified, forming product 1. 1 is then treated with an excess of diethylaminosulfur trifluoride, forming product 2. what is the structure of product 2?

**Original Choices:** A: ((R)-((R)-2,2-difluorocyclohexyl)fluoromethyl)benzene B: (S)-2-((R)-fluoro(phenyl)methyl)cyclohexan-1-one C: (2R)-1-fluoro-2-((S)-fluoro(phenyl)methyl)cyclohexan-1-ol D: ((S)-((R)-2,2-difluorocyclohexyl)fluoromethyl)benzene

**Original Answer:** A

**OOD Question (Scenario-level Semi-fact Question):** In the realm of organic synthesis, understanding the behavior of reagents under various conditions is crucial for designing effective synthetic routes. Let's consider a scenario where cyclohexanone, a common ketone, is reacted with lithium diisopropylamide (LDA), a strong base, at reduced temperature to form an enolate, which is then treated with benzaldehyde. This reaction typically forms an aldol product, which, upon acidification, yields a compound known as product 1. Further exploring the reactivity of such aldol products, if this product 1 is treated with an excess of diethylaminosulfur trifluoride, a reagent known for its ability to affect sulfur-based modifications in organic molecules, what would be the structure of the resulting product 2?

**OOD Choices:** A: ((S)-((R)-2,2-difluorocyclohexyl)fluoromethyl)benzene B: ((R)-((R)-2,2-difluorocyclohexyl)fluoromethyl)benzene C: (2R)-1-fluoro-2-((S)-fluoro(phenyl)methyl)cyclohexan-1-ol D: (S)-2-((R)-fluoro(phenyl)methyl)cyclohexan-1-one

**OOD Answer:** B

#### o1-preview on Original:

To solve this problem, let's break down the reactions step by step. **\*\*First Reaction:\*\*** Cyclohexanone is treated with LDA (Lithium Diisopropylamide) at low temperature. LDA is a strong, non-nucleophilic base that deprotonates the most accessible  $\alpha$ -hydrogen to form the kinetic enolate. In cyclohexanone, both  $\alpha$ -carbons are equivalent due to symmetry, so the enolate forms at one of these positions. The enolate then attacks benzaldehyde in an aldol addition reaction. The nucleophilic carbon of the enolate adds to the electrophilic carbonyl carbon of benzaldehyde, forming a new carbon-carbon bond. After protonation, this gives a  $\beta$ -hydroxy ketone (product 1). **\*\*Second Reaction:\*\*** Product 1, the  $\beta$ -hydroxy ketone, is treated with an excess of diethylaminosulfur trifluoride (DAST). DAST is a fluorinating agent that can convert alcohols to alkyl fluorides and ketones to geminal difluorides. In this case, DAST converts: - The hydroxyl group at the  $\beta$ -position into a fluorine atom. - The ketone group into a geminal difluoride. The overall result is a cyclohexane ring with: - Two fluorine atoms attached to C1 (from the ketone conversion). - A fluorine atom and a benzyl group attached to C2 (from the hydroxyl conversion). This gives us a product where: - C1 is now a difluoromethylene group ( $\text{CF}_2$ ). - C2 has a fluorine and a benzyl group, with specific stereochemistry retained from the initial aldol addition. Considering the stereochemistry: - The initial aldol addition creates a new chiral center at C2. Since the starting materials are achiral and no chiral catalysts are used, a racemic mixture is formed. - The DAST reaction retains the configuration at C2 when converting the hydroxyl group to fluorine. - The former carbonyl carbon (C1) becomes a new chiral center after forming the geminal difluoride. From the options provided, option **\*\*A\*\*** corresponds to the product formed: **\*\*Option A:\*\*** ((R)-((R)-2,2-difluorocyclohexyl)fluoromethyl)benzene This option indicates that: - The cyclohexane ring has two fluorines at C2 (now numbered as C1 in the name), making it a 2,2-difluorocyclohexyl group. - There is a fluoromethyl group attached to benzene, corresponding to the fluorine and benzyl group at C2. - Both chiral centers have the **\*\*R\*\*** configuration, matching the stereochemistry of the reactions. Thus, the correct answer is: **A**

#### o1-preview on OOD:

To solve this problem, let's systematically break down each step of the reaction and understand the transformations that occur. **\*\*Step 1: Formation of the Aldol Product (Product 1)\*\*** 1. **\*\*Formation of the Enolate Ion:\*\*** Cyclohexanone is treated with lithium diisopropylamide (LDA), a strong, non-nucleophilic base. LDA deprotonates the  $\alpha$ -carbon of cyclohexanone, forming the enolate ion. 2. **\*\*Aldol Addition Reaction:\*\*** The enolate ion is nucleophilic at the  $\alpha$ -carbon and attacks the electrophilic carbonyl carbon of benzaldehyde. This forms a new carbon-carbon bond between the  $\alpha$ -carbon of cyclohexanone and the carbonyl carbon of benzaldehyde. 3. **\*\*Acidification:\*\*** The alkoxide formed after the addition is protonated upon acidification, yielding a  $\beta$ -hydroxy ketone. The **\*\*structure of Product 1\*\*** is therefore a cyclohexanone ring with a hydroxyl group (OH) and a phenyl group ( $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5$ ) attached to the same carbon (the  $\alpha$ -carbon). This gives us **\*\*2-hydroxy-2-phenylcyclohexanone\*\***. **\*\*Step 2: Reaction with Diethylaminosulfur Trifluoride (DAST)\*\*** DAST is a fluorinating agent known to convert alcohols to alkyl fluorides (with inversion of configuration) and carbonyl groups to gem-difluorides. However, under standard conditions, ketones are less reactive than alcohols towards DAST, and selective fluorination of the alcohol can occur. In this case, when Product 1 is treated with excess DAST: 1. **\*\*Fluorination of the Alcohol:\*\*** The hydroxyl group is converted to a fluorine atom with inversion of configuration. This transforms the chiral center at the  $\alpha$ -carbon (which was R or S in the aldol product) into the opposite configuration due to the inversion during the  $\text{S}_\text{N}2$ -like process. 2. **\*\*Ketone Retention:\*\*** The ketone group remains largely unreacted under these conditions because ketones are less reactive towards DAST compared to alcohols, especially in the presence of steric hindrance and electronic effects from adjacent groups (like the phenyl group). Thus, **\*\*Product 2\*\*** is **\*\*2-((R)-fluoro(phenyl)methyl)cyclohexan-1-one\*\***, where the hydroxyl group has been replaced by a fluorine atom, and the configuration at the chiral center has inverted compared to Product 1. **\*\*Matching with the Given Options:\*\*** Option D corresponds exactly to this structure: - **\*\*S-2-((R)-fluoro(phenyl)methyl)cyclohexan-1-one\*\*** This indicates that the final product has: - A cyclohexanone ring (ketone at position 1) - A fluorine atom and a phenyl group attached to the same carbon at position 2 - Specific stereochemistry indicating the inversion at the  $\alpha$ -carbon Therefore, **\*\*Option D is the correct answer\*\***. **D.**

Table 7: Case Study on GPQA.