Dataflow-Guided Retrieval Augmentation for Repository-Level Code Completion

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Abstract

Recent years have witnessed the deployment of code language models (LMs) in various code intelligence tasks such as code completion. Yet, it is challenging for pre-trained LMs to generate correct completions in private repositories. Previous studies retrieve cross-file context based on import relations or text similarity, which is insufficiently relevant to completion targets. In this paper, we propose a dataflow-guided retrieval augmentation approach, called DRACO, for repository-level code completion. DRACO parses a private repository into code entities and establishes their relations through an extended dataflow analysis, forming a repo-specific context graph. Whenever triggering code completion, DRACO precisely retrieves relevant background knowledge from the repo-specific context graph and generates well-formed prompts to query code LMs. Furthermore, we construct a large Python dataset, ReccEval, with more diverse completion targets. Our experiments demonstrate the superior accuracy and applicable efficiency of DRACO, improving code exact match by 3.43% and identifier F1-score by 3.27% on average compared to the state-of-the-art approach.

1 Introduction

Pre-trained language models (LMs) of code (Chen et al., 2021; Nijkamp et al., 2023a,b; Allal et al., 2023; Li et al., 2023b) have shown remarkable performance in improving programming productivity (Kazemitabaar et al., 2023; Dakhel et al., 2023). Instead of using a single code file, well-designed programs emphasize separating complicated functionality into independent modules (Barnett and Constantine, 1968). While facilitating collaborative development and software maintenance, it introduces the real-world problem of *repository-level code completion*: given an unfinished code file in

```
# pyPhasesRecordloader/Signal.py        Background
class Signal:                            knowledge
  def setSignalTypeFromTypeStr(self):
# pyPhasesRecordloader/RecordSignal.py
class RecordSignal:
  def getSignalByName(self, name) -> Signal:

from RecordSignal import RecordSignal   Unfinished code
def combine(signal: RecordSignal, …):
  newSignal = signal.getSignalByName(newChannelName)
  newSignal.

                                         Predictions
Zero-Shot:          channel = newChannelName
Dataflow-guided:    setSignalTypeFromTypeStr() ✔
```

Figure 1: A real-world example of repository-level code completion. The code LM CodeGen25-7B-mono fails to complete the last code line correctly when entering only the unfinished code (Zero-Shot). The model needs background knowledge relevant to newSignal, and the retrieval of this knowledge can be guided by dataflow.

a private repository, complete the following pieces of code at the cursor position.

Despite pre-training on large-scale corpora, code LMs are still blind to unique naming conventions and programming styles in private repositories (Pei et al., 2023; Liu et al., 2024b; Ding et al., 2023). Previous works finetune LMs to leverage cross-file context (Ding et al., 2024; Shrivastava et al., 2023a,b), which requires additional training data and is difficult to work with larger LMs. Recently, retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) is widely used to aid pre-trained LMs with external knowledge and maintain their parameters intact (Lewis et al., 2020; Mallen et al., 2023; Trivedi et al., 2023). For repository-level code completion, the retrieval database is the current private repository. The state-of-the-art approach, RepoCoder (Zhang et al., 2023), iteratively incorporates a text similarity-based retriever and a code LM.

As shown in Figure 1, the CodeGen25 Python model (Nijkamp et al., 2023a) with 7 billion parameters assigns a value to the attribute channel of the object newSignal, which seems rational in

the unfinished code but is actually outside the list of valid attributes. Due to the lack of similar code snippets in the repository, the text similarity-based approach (Zhang et al., 2023) also fails to complete the correct code line. From a programmer's perspective, one would explore the data origin of the variable `newSignal` in the last line. It comes from the call `signal.getSignalByName`, where the variable type of `signal` is `RecordSignal` imported from the module `RecordSignal`. After providing relevant background knowledge in the private repository, the model would know that the variable type of `newSignal` is the class `Signal` and thus call the correct function.

Inspired by this programming behavior in private repositories, we propose DRACO, a novel dataflow-guided retrieval augmentation approach for repository-level code completion, which steers code LMs with relevant background knowledge rather than similar code snippets. Dataflow analysis is a static program analysis reacting to data dependency relations between variables in a program. In this work, we extend traditional dataflow analysis by setting type-sensitive dependency relations. We employ the standard RAG framework (Lewis et al., 2020): (i) *Indexing*, which parses a private repository into code entities and establishes their relations through dataflow analysis, forming a repo-specific context graph for retrieval. (ii) *Retrieval*, which uses dataflow analysis to obtain fine-grained import information in the unfinished code and retrieves relevant code entities from the pre-built context graph. (iii) *Generation*, which organizes the relevant background knowledge as natural code and concatenates it with the unfinished code to generate well-formed prompts for querying code LMs.

In addition to the existing dataset CrossCodeEval (Ding et al., 2023) for repository-level code completion, we construct a new dataset, ReccEval, with diverse completion targets collected from Python Package Index (PyPI).[1] We conduct experiments with popular LMs including adapted code LMs (Rozière et al., 2023), specialized code LMs (Nijkamp et al., 2023a,b; Allal et al., 2023; Li et al., 2023b), and GPT models (Ouyang et al., 2022; OpenAI, 2023). Our experiments demonstrate that DRACO achieves generally superior accuracy across all settings. Furthermore, DRACO is plug-and-play for various code LMs and efficient to real-time code completion.

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[1] https://pypi.org/

Our main contributions are outlined as follows:
- We design an extended dataflow analysis by setting type-sensitive data dependency relations, which supports more precise retrieval.
- We propose DRACO, a dataflow-guided retrieval augmentation approach for repository-level code completion. DRACO builds a repo-specific context graph for retrieval and generates well-formed prompts with relevant background knowledge in real-time completion.
- We construct a Python dataset ReccEval with diverse completion targets. The experimental results show that DRACO improves code exact match by 3.43%, identifier F1-score by 3.27%, and prompt generation time by $100\times$ on average compared to the second-best approach RepoCoder (Zhang et al., 2023). Our source code and data are available at https://github.com/nju-websoft/DraCo.

2 Related Work

Code completion. Early studies adopt statistical LMs (Raychev et al., 2014; Proksch et al., 2015; Raychev et al., 2016; He et al., 2021) and neural models (Li et al., 2018; Svyatkovskiy et al., 2019; Kim et al., 2021; Izadi et al., 2022; Tufano et al., 2023) for code completion. After pre-training on large-scale code corpora, code LMs are familiar with frequent code patterns and achieve superior performance (Chen et al., 2021; Lu et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2021; Le et al., 2022; Allal et al., 2023; Li et al., 2023b; Nijkamp et al., 2023a,b; Shen et al., 2023; Zheng et al., 2023). Unlike single-file code completion, repository-level code completion draws much attention to practical development. Ding et al. (2024) learn in-file and cross-file context jointly on top of pre-trained LMs. Lu et al. (2022) present ReACC to train a code-to-code search retriever and a code completion generator with an external source code database. Shrivastava et al. (2023b) generate example-specific prompts using a prompt proposal classifier and further propose RepoFusion (Shrivastava et al., 2023a) to incorporate relevant repository context by training code LMs. RepoCoder (Zhang et al., 2023) is an iterative retrieval-generation framework to approximate the intended completion target. Despite their good performance, these methods are limited by the high overhead of extra training or iterative generation.

Retrieval-augmented generation. For the scenarios where required knowledge is missing or out-
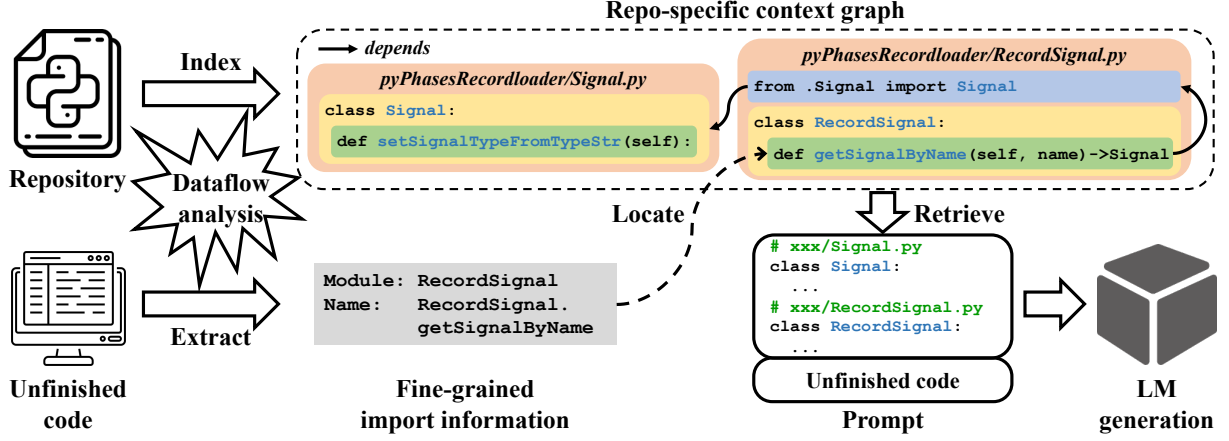
Figure 2: Overview of our approach, where dataflow analysis is crucial for both indexing and retrieval. The details of the unfinished code have been shown in Figure 1. The rectangular boxes visualize *contains* relations between the code entities in the repo-specific context graph, and the solid arrows indicate *depends* relations.

dated in pre-trained LMs, RAG has achieved state-of-the-art performance in many NLP tasks (Cai et al., 2022; Feng et al., 2023; Mallen et al., 2023). Usually, RAG integrates the retrieved knowledge with frozen pre-trained LMs (Ram et al., 2023; Levine et al., 2022; Shi et al., 2023). There exist different types of retrievals including term-based sparse retriever (Robertson and Zaragoza, 2009; Trivedi et al., 2023), embedding-based dense retriever (Karpukhin et al., 2020; Lewis et al., 2020), commercial search engines (Nakano et al., 2021; Liu et al., 2023), and LMs themself (Yu et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2023). RAG is also broadly applied to code intelligence tasks such as code summarization (Liu et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2020; Zhou et al., 2023) and code generation (Hashimoto et al., 2018; Parvez et al., 2021; Li et al., 2023a). In this work, we leverage dataflow analysis to guide retrieval, which mines more precise data dependency information for repository-level code completion.

3 Methodology

As shown in Figure 2, DRACO employs the standard RAG framework (Lewis et al., 2020) including indexing (§3.2), retrieval (§3.3), and generation (§3.4). Because both indexing and retrieval in DRACO rely on the extended dataflow analysis, we first introduce it in §3.1. In this work, we focus on Python and the code completion of currently edited line, which simulates real-world scenarios where users are programming in integrated development environments (IDEs) and only the context before the cursor is visible.

3.1 Dataflow Analysis

Dataflow analysis is a static program analysis that reacts to the data dependency relations between variables in a program, producing a dataflow graph (DFG), in which nodes represent the variables and edges indicate where the variables come from and where they go. It provides code semantic information that is not affected by personal naming conventions and programming styles.

We assume that the background knowledge relevant to variable types is crucial for code completion. Take the statement $v = f(p)$ as an example, the parameter p has far less influence on the variable v than the call f does. Therefore, we extend traditional dataflow analysis by setting dependency relation types. We focus on five *type-sensitive relations*, which indicate what the variable type is or where it derives from:

- *Assigns* relation is a one-to-one correspondence in an assignment statement, which controls variable creation and mutation.
- *As* relation is from *with* or *except* statements and similar with the *assigns* relation.
- *Refers* relation represents a reference to an existing variable or its attribute.
- *Typeof* relation is from the explicit type hints (van Rossum and Lehtosalo, 2022) written by programmers, indicating the data type of the (return) value of a variable or function.
- *Inherits* relation is an implicit data dependency relation since a subclass inherits all the class members of its base classes.

Our DFG is a heterogeneous directed acyclic graph $G = \{(h, r, t) \mid h, t \in E, r \in R\}$, where E

denotes the entity set, R denotes the type-sensitive relation set, and a triplet (h, r, t) represents the head entity h pointing to the tail entity t with the relation r. The details of our DFG construction are shown in Appendix A.

3.2 Repo-specific Context Graph

Offline preprocessing is often used in RAG to index a retrieval database. Instead of treating source code as text (Lu et al., 2022; Zhang et al., 2023), we parse a private repository into code entities and establish their relations through our dataflow analysis, forming a repo-specific context graph.

For each code file in a repository, we traverse its abstract syntax tree (AST) to collect code entities including modules, classes, functions, and variables. A module entity stores its file path and docstring as properties. A class entity stores its name, signature, docstring, and starting line number. A function entity stores its name, signature, docstring, body, and starting line number. A variable entity stores its name, statement, and starting line number. There are natural *contains* relations between these entities, e.g., the class `RecordSignal` *contains* its member function `getSignalByName`. Based on the type-sensitive relations in DFG, we establish *depends* relations between the entity pairs in individual modules, e.g., `Signal` is the return type of the function `getSignalByName`. Eventually, we establish *depends* relations between the variables in local `import` statements and the pointing entities in other modules, e.g., the imported `Signal` points to the class `Signal` in another module.

3.3 Dataflow-Guided Retrieval

Given an unfinished code, we identify fine-grained import information by dataflow analysis and retrieve relevant entities from the repo-specific context graph. We do not intend to perform precise type inference (Peng et al., 2022) for a dynamically typed language like Python, but rather provide relevant background knowledge to code LMs, which provides the definitions of code entities such as class members and function arguments.

All cross-file context is indicated by local `import` statements in Python. However, only using such coarse-grained import information may overlook the knowledge of its specific usages (Ding et al., 2024). We denote import information by $(module, name)$, where $module$ indicates another code file in the repository and $name$ indicates the specific code entity. Particularly, $name$ can be ex-

panded by its *refers* relations in the extracted DFG. For example, we would obtain the fine-grained import information $(module, name.attr)$ if there is a code statement containing `name.attr`.

For each local `import` statement, we collect a set of fine-grained import information. Import information points to code entities in the repo-specific context graph, which is achieved through directory structure and string matching. Let us see Figure 2 for example. Given the fine-grained import information (`RecordSignal`, `RecordSignal.getSignalByName`), we first identify the corresponding module entity *pyPhases-Recordloader/RecordSignal.py* through directory structure. Then, the code entity `getSignalByName` in class `RecordSignal` contained in the module is located by string matching. Finally, the relevant entities are retrieved along *depends* relations using a depth-first search. The retrieved entities provide comprehensive type-related background knowledge for both cross-file imports and usages in the unfinished code.

3.4 Prompt Generation

Before querying LMs, we restore the retrieved entities to the source code and concatenate it with the unfinished code to generate well-formed prompts.

As the maximum input lengths of LMs are finite and fixed, we employ the dynamic context allocation strategy in (Shrivastava et al., 2023b). It pre-allocates half of the total input lengths for the relevant background knowledge and the other half for the unfinished code. If either is shorter than the allocated length, the remaining tokens are allocated to the other. For the overlong unfinished code, we just truncate it to obtain the last tokens. Given the number n of tokens allocated to the relevant background knowledge, we next describe the generation process of background knowledge. Refer to Algorithms 1 and 2 in Appendix B for details.

Algorithm 1 describes the center control of the generation process. We consider the entities that have data relations with the line to be completed as the most relevant entities, which are denoted by E_r and form the primary background knowledge. The entities from other local `import` statements are denoted by E_o and are incrementally added to the background knowledge until the length exceeds the allocated tokens n. This design helps LMs further understand the context while prevents the primary background knowledge from being truncated.

Our mission is to organize the prompts like the

original code to maintain the nature of programs (Hindle et al., 2012), as described in Algorithm 2. We group the relevant entities in modules and merge those with *contains* relations to avoid redundancy, e.g., class members would not be duplicated if the class already exists. The code entities in the same module are sorted by their starting line numbers. Therefore, we construct a module graph G_m, where an edge $m_1 \rightarrow m_2$ indicates that there exists an entity in m_1 that *depends* on an entity in m_2. The modules in prompts are ranked by a pseudo-topological sort with two priorities: (i) Dependent modules come first. The content of m_2 should be placed in front of that of m_1, which is consistent with programming conventions (Lines 10–15 in Algorithm 2). (ii) Once there are multiple options for topological sort in a directed cyclic graph, the relevant modules are placed ahead (Liu et al., 2024a). We prefer the modules that are reachable from the entities in E_r than those in E_o (i.e., relevant or not). The entities within both E_r and E_o are sorted in ascending order by their starting line numbers, resulting in an ordered list E_c of the import entities (Lines 3–9, 13). Note that a comment "# file path of the module" is put ahead of each module to indicate the relative directory structure. Finally, we place the relevant background knowledge inside a multi-line string, which precedes the unfinished code to generate the prompts for querying LMs.

Benefiting from the design of our repo-specific context graph, there are two prompt scopes, named *definition* and *complete*, to control the details of code entities. Compared with only definitions, prompts under the *complete* scope contain specific function bodies and variable statements.

4 Experiment Setup

4.1 Datasets

The widely-used datasets (Raychev et al., 2016; Lu et al., 2021; Peng et al., 2023) for code completion only provide a single unfinished code file as input. Several recent benchmarks (Zhang et al., 2023; Liu et al., 2024b) evaluate next-line prediction, which is different from our concern with the currently edited line. CrossCodeEval (Ding et al., 2023) is a multilingual benchmark for repository-level code completion, where the statement to be completed has at least one use of cross-file API. Since we focus on Python, we evaluate our DRACO on the Python subset of CrossCodeEval.

We further build a new Python dataset ReccE-

Features	CrossCodeEval	ReccEval
# Repositories	471	2,635
# Examples	2,665	6,461
Avg. # files in repository	30.5	24.6
Avg. # lines in input	73.9	113.1
Avg. # tokens in input	938.9	1,296.2
# Last char of input	dot	any
Avg. # tokens in reference	13.2	8.6

Table 1: Statistics of the Python subset of CrossCodeEval and the ReccEval dataset that we construct.

val with more diverse completion targets. See Appendix C.1 for details. The statistics of ReccEval and the Python subset of CrossCodeEval are shown in Table 1, where the number of tokens is calculated using the StarCoder tokenizer (Li et al., 2023b).

4.2 Implementation Details

We evaluate the retrieval-augmented methods that do not involve training, which excludes several works (Shrivastava et al., 2023a,b; Lu et al., 2022). See Appendix C.2 for more details:

- **Zero-Shot** directly feeds the unfinished code to code LMs, which evaluates their performance without any cross-file information.
- **CCFinder** (Ding et al., 2024) is a cross-file context finder tool retrieving the relevant cross-file context from the pre-built project context graph by `import` statements. We conduct experiments for CCFinder-k ($k = 1, 2$), which indicates that CCFinder retrieves k-hop neighbors of cross-file code entities.
- **RG-1 and RepoCoder** (Zhang et al., 2023) construct a retrieval database through a sliding window and retrieve similar code snippets using text similarity-based retrievers. RepoCoder is an iterative retrieval-generation framework, which retrieves the database with the results generated in the previous iteration. RG-1 represents the standard RAG and is the first iteration of RepoCoder.

As shown in Table 2, we conduct comprehensive experiments on seven popular LMs. For a method, we first preprocess all repositories in the datasets. Then, we generate prompts for the unfinished code and record the time used. Finally, we acquire the completion results by feeding the prompts to LMs. A prediction is the first line of a completion result.

Models		Parameter sizes
Specialized models	CodeGen	350M, 2.7B, 6.1B, 16.1B
	CodeGen2.5	7B
	SantaCoder	1.1B
	StarCoder	15.5B
Adapted model	Code Llama	7B
GPT models	GPT-3.5, GPT-4	-

Table 2: The LMs used in our experiments. See Appendix C.3 for more details.

4.3 Evaluation Metrics

We evaluate the accuracy of each method by code match and identifier match scores (Ding et al., 2023), as well as the efficiency by prompt generation time. We report the average of each metric. See Appendix C.4 for more details:

- **Code match.** We directly compare the prediction with the reference, which is measured using exact match (EM) and edit similarity (ES) (Lu et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2023).
- **Identifier match.** We evaluate the predicted APIs by identifier exact match (ID.EM) and F1-score (Ding et al., 2023).
- **Prompt generation time.** We record the prompt generation time to evaluate the efficiency of each method, which is a new and significant metric for real-time completion.

5 Experimental Results and Analysis

5.1 Performance Comparison

The performance comparison on the CrossCodeEval and ReccEval datasets is listed in Tables 3 and 4, respectively. Additional results on other CodeGen models are supplemented in Appendix D.1. Overall, DRACO significantly improves the accuracy of various code LMs. Particularly, the CodeGen-350M model integrated with DRACO even outperforms the zero-shot StarCoder-15.5B model.

In comparison to other retrieval-augmented methods, DRACO also shows generally superior accuracy across all settings. The average absolute improvement on EM, ES, ID.EM, and F1 versus RepoCoder is 3.43%, 1.00%, 3.62%, and 3.27%, respectively. RepoCoder retrieves similar code demonstrations that help increase the ES metric of completion results. But RepoCoder ignores the validity of its generated identifiers in private repositories, which decreases the metrics for code exact match and identifier match. Such almost correct completion results may introduce unconscious bugs

to the programmers who are unfamiliar with the repository. In contrast, DRACO presents the definitions of relevant code entities, providing better control over code LMs to generate valid identifiers. Moreover, the background knowledge can be used as a reference to help the programmers understand and review the completion results in IDEs. DRACO using the CodeGen-350M model is slightly worse than RepoCoder in terms of code match metrics on the ReccEval dataset, as the model may not be powerful enough to capture the data relations in our provided background knowledge.

CCFinder retrieves cross-file code entities by plain import relations. The entities retrieved by CCFinder were originally designed to be encoded for training code LMs. When used as a retrieval-augmented method, CCFinder retrieves too many code entities based on coarse-grained import information, resulting in truncation of truly relevant context. As a result, CCFinder-2 with more retrieved entities only exceeds CCFinder-1 slightly on the StarCoder model that supports longer inputs. Therefore, the subsequent analysis experiments are conducted with CCFinder-1. Guiding by our dataflow analysis, DRACO retrieves relevant code entities more precisely, leading to significantly superior accuracy.

The performance of code completion varies on the two datasets. First, according to the statistics in Table 1, the average reference length of ReccEval is significantly shorter than that of CrossCodeEval, leading to the higher EM metrics of both code and identifier on ReccEval. Moreover, all inputs of CrossCodeEval end with a dot where a correct API is required in the first place, which is more suitable for CCFinder and DRACO that retrieve code definitions. Many inputs of ReccEval end with partial names of the target APIs, which facilitates text similarity-based retrievals including RG-1 and RepoCoder. Therefore, the lead of DRACO on CrossCodeEval is more significant.

5.2 Efficiency Evaluation

The time spent on prompt generation is perceived by users whenever code completion is triggered. Table 5 shows the prompt generation time of each method using the CodeGen-350M model, and additional results are shown in Appendix D.2. CCFinder and DRACO require parsing the unfinished code into an AST or a DFG, which is slightly slower than RG-1 with text similarity-based retrieval but still comparable. RepoCoder relies on

Methods	CodeGen-350M				SantaCoder-1.1B				CodeGen25-7B				StarCoder-15.5B			
	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1
Zero-Shot	2.81	55.01	8.22	38.02	3.79	57.92	10.43	41.98	7.77	60.52	14.45	45.40	8.71	62.08	16.02	47.58
CCFinder-1	9.64	59.05	16.36	45.33	14.37	63.86	22.89	52.26	18.84	66.67	27.35	56.05	27.99	72.59	38.24	64.46
CCFinder-2	8.22	58.17	14.52	44.15	11.41	62.47	19.74	49.90	15.50	65.27	24.05	53.56	28.67	73.25	39.10	65.59
RG-1	9.19	60.10	16.89	46.45	12.35	64.09	22.10	51.79	17.34	67.36	27.28	56.22	26.27	72.70	37.00	64.04
RepoCoder	10.13	61.25	18.65	48.29	13.62	65.53	23.94	54.06	19.51	68.98	29.57	58.51	29.12	74.56	40.83	66.81
DRACO	13.02	61.30	20.53	49.04	20.64	67.04	29.83	57.37	24.99	70.10	34.63	61.14	34.67	75.83	45.63	69.93

Table 3: Performance comparison on the CrossCodeEval dataset. Numbers are shown in percentage (%).

Methods	CodeGen-350M				SantaCoder-1.1B				CodeGen25-7B				StarCoder-15.5B			
	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1
Zero-Shot	4.01	49.41	9.75	25.98	5.54	52.95	11.93	29.94	11.10	57.25	17.37	35.55	12.77	58.84	20.03	38.12
CCFinder-1	14.15	55.75	21.24	37.74	21.36	61.90	29.31	46.18	26.87	65.76	34.55	51.00	39.33	73.05	48.18	63.49
CCFinder-2	11.64	53.70	17.94	34.15	17.12	59.57	24.58	41.93	22.49	63.42	29.72	46.81	39.92	73.29	48.91	64.08
RG-1	19.44	59.08	26.02	40.92	23.62	63.23	30.58	46.24	29.33	66.94	36.06	51.36	42.67	74.64	51.11	64.64
RepoCoder	22.46	60.59	29.05	43.91	27.29	65.06	34.56	49.68	32.84	68.73	40.07	54.73	46.26	76.44	54.47	67.59
DRACO	22.12	60.41	29.73	46.09	30.26	66.90	39.08	55.43	36.46	70.76	44.67	60.40	46.49	76.80	55.98	70.32

Table 4: Performance comparison on the ReccEval dataset.

Methods	CrossCodeEval	ReccEval
CCFinder-1	32	49
CCFinder-2	52	82
RG-1	**13**	**15**
RepoCoder	4,062	4,413
DRACO	40	44

Table 5: Prompt generation time (in milliseconds) of each method using the CodeGen-350M model.

Figure 3: Performance comparison of two prompt scopes on the CrossCodeEval dataset.

RG-1 to generate sufficient content for the second retrieval, which results in more than 4 seconds even on the smallest CodeGen-350M model and may not be feasible for real-time code completion.

In summary, DRACO is efficient for real-time code completion in IDEs. Compared to the methods with comparable efficiency (i.e., excluding RepoCoder), DRACO is considerably ahead in the accuracy of repository-level code completion.

5.3 Ablation Study

To analyze the effectiveness of dataflow analysis in DRACO, we conduct an ablation study shown in Tables 6 and 17. "w/o cross_df" disables *depends* relations in the repo-specific context graph, making DRACO unable to handle the data dependency relations in other code files. "w/o intra_df" disables the dataflow analysis for the unfinished code, which only allows DRACO to retrieve coarse-grained import information in the order of their starting line numbers. "w/o dataflow" degenerates DRACO into a naive method that simply takes the imported cross-file entities in the unfinished code as the relevant background knowledge.
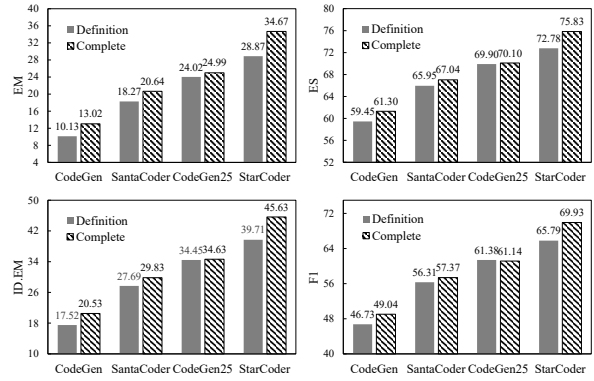
The ablation study demonstrates that the complete DRACO achieves the best performance, and all usages of dataflow analysis play a positive role in repository-level code completion. It can be observed that the enhancement of the "intra_df" component on the StarCoder model is less than that on other models. This component places the more relevant background knowledge in front of the prompt to prevent truncation, which is weakened to some extent on the StarCoder model with a maximum context length of 8K tokens.

The accuracy of DRACO without dataflow analysis is still comparable with CCFinder. CCFinder groups the relevant context in code entities, which is counter-intuitive for source code (see the example shown in Appendix E.1). The results reveal that the well-formed prompts generated by DRACO can better steer code LMs, even if the depth-first search for dependent code entities is absent.

Methods	CodeGen-350M				SantaCoder-1.1B				CodeGen25-7B				StarCoder-15.5B			
	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1
DRACO	**13.02**	**61.30**	**20.53**	**49.04**	**20.64**	**67.04**	**29.83**	**57.37**	**24.99**	**70.10**	**34.63**	**61.14**	**34.67**	**75.83**	**45.63**	**69.93**
w/o cross_df	12.12	60.93	19.51	48.32	18.42	66.05	27.62	55.64	22.59	69.15	31.89	59.36	30.73	73.85	41.05	66.31
w/o intra_df	10.88	59.74	17.56	46.25	15.95	64.11	24.09	52.72	19.59	67.08	28.33	56.14	32.35	74.60	43.00	67.98
w/o dataflow	10.13	59.55	17.00	45.88	14.90	63.57	23.11	51.88	18.57	66.85	27.13	55.53	28.82	72.80	38.87	64.65

Table 6: Ablation study for dataflow analysis on the CrossCodeEval dataset.

Methods	GPT-3.5					GPT-4					StarCoder-15.5B			
	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	WOF	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	WOF	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1
Zero-Shot	10.00	57.20	10.00	44.39	0	16.00	67.20	20.00	56.82	0	12.00	65.44	18.00	53.18
CCFinder-1	20.00	66.32	**30.00**	57.12	0	38.00	74.80	46.00	69.36	4	34.00	76.24	46.00	72.31
RG-1	14.00	54.06	20.00	43.06	9	12.00	35.20	18.00	22.30	34	20.00	74.36	38.00	70.08
RepoCoder	18.00	63.44	22.00	57.13	1	34.00	73.18	40.00	65.07	7	26.00	72.48	42.00	68.99
DRACO	**24.00**	**67.54**	**30.00**	**58.08**	0	**42.00**	**76.58**	**50.00**	**72.36**	5	**38.00**	**77.84**	**52.00**	**77.73**

Table 7: Performance comparison on the sampled CrossCodeEval dataset. "WOF" is a manual count indicating the number of predictions with wrong output format, such as "The last line of the code should be:".

5.4 Analysis of Prompt Scopes

The prompts generated by DRACO consist of the definitions of code entities, which provide options for the *definition* and *complete* scopes, as described in Section 3.4. We further conduct experiments to evaluate the influence of the two prompt scopes. The results on the CrossCodeEval and ReccEval datasets are shown in Figures 3 and 6, respectively.

DRACO with the *complete* scope achieves the best performance across all settings, which indicates that code implementation can further enhance LMs. Implementation details can provide a deeper understanding of code entities, along with the programming styles. Moreover, DRACO with the *definition* scope outperforms CCFinder and RG-1 in most settings (cf. Tables 3 and 4), suggesting that the definitions without specific implementations are also useful for code LMs. Since an implementation is usually much longer than its definitions, both prompt scopes are optional in practical applications, in a trade-off between accuracy and cost.

5.5 Analysis of Adapted LM

We analyze the effect of different maximum input lengths for different types of LMs. Specifically, we evaluate Code Llama-7B and StarCoder-15.5B with 2K, 4K, and 8K tokens. The performance changes are shown in Figure 4, and the complete results are presented in Tables 18–21.

With the increase of the maximum input length, the accuracy of DRACO applied to Code Llama decreases, which shows the opposite trend of the StarCoder model. Code Llama is created by further training Llama 2 on its code-specific datasets. It is
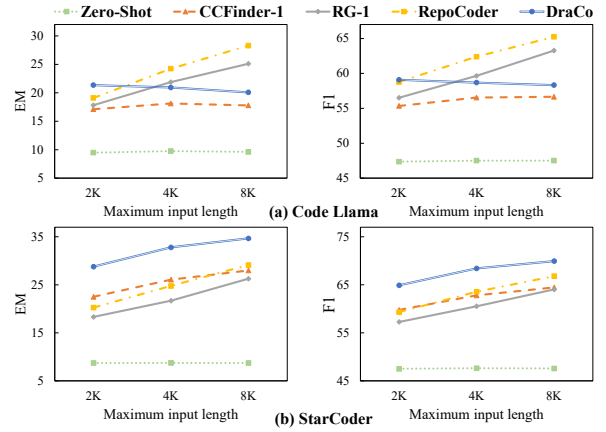

Figure 4: Performance changes with different maximum input lengths on the CrossCodeEval dataset.

different from specialized code LMs such as StarCoder which are mainly pre-trained on code corpora. With similar background knowledge, Code Llama-7B does not have enough capability to capture data dependency relations in long Python code, leading to the degraded accuracy of DRACO. In contrast, specialized code LMs can understand longer code context and may be a better choice for repository-level code completion.

5.6 Analysis of GPT Models

We randomly sample 50 examples from Cross-CodeEval and evaluate them with GPT-3.5, GPT-4, and StarCoder-15.5B. The results shown in Table 7 reveal that: (i) DRACO can also significantly enhance GPT models and achieve superior accuracy. (ii) Code completion with GPT models suffers from the difficulties in output format and API

cost. Given the long context of repository-level code completion, there lacks sufficient length to place the demonstrations required for in-context learning (Brown et al., 2020). It is hard to control the output format of GPT models through instruction, which may introduce bias into the evaluation, especially for RG-1 with GPT-4. Moreover, the API cost for this evaluation (only 50 examples) is nearly 35 US dollars. (iii) Excluding the effect of wrong output format, we may assume "GPT-4 > StarCoder-15.5B > GPT-3.5" for this task.

6 Conclusions

This paper proposes DRACO, a dataflow-guided retrieval augmentation approach for repository-level code completion. To guide more precise retrieval, an extended dataflow analysis is designed by setting type-sensitive data dependency relations. DRACO indexes private repositories to form repo-specific context graphs and retrieves relevant background knowledge from them, which is assembled with the unfinished code to generate well-formed prompts for querying code LMs. The experiments on the CrossCodeEval dataset and our ReccEval dataset demonstrate the superior accuracy and applicable efficiency of DRACO. In future work, we will explore other structured code representations.

Acknowledgments

Ethical Considerations

The code generated by pre-trained LMs may contain non-existent APIs or even introduce potential bugs. The retrieval-augmented approaches including ours mitigate this issue only to some extent. We recommend presenting our retrieved background knowledge to programmers for review and taking appropriate care of these risks if deploying our approach in real-world applications.

All the datasets and code LMs used in this work are publicly available with permissive licenses. The CrossCodeEval dataset and CodeGen family are licensed under the Apache-2.0 License. The SantaCoder and StarCoder models are licensed under the BigCode OpenRAIL-M v1 license agreement.

Code Llama is governed by the Meta license.[2] The repositories in our ReccEval dataset are all licensed under permissive licenses including MIT, Apache, and BSD licenses.

Limitations

DRACO relies on a code LM to support long inputs and capture data dependency relations in the provided background knowledge. Thus, the performance of DRACO may be limited by the capability of the code LM. According to our experiments, DRACO still has a considerable improvement on the smallest CodeGen-350M model with 2K tokens, which mitigates this limitation.

The effectiveness of DRACO may degrade when the code intent is unclear. For new line or function body completion, the guidance of dataflow analysis is weakened since DRACO may not be able to set priorities for import information. We focus on the code completion of currently edited line and evaluate multi-line code completion in Appendix D.4. Future work may explore the role of dataflow analysis in different completion scenarios.

DRACO requires changes to migrate to other programming languages. Our idea of guiding retrieval with dataflow analysis is not limited to Python. However, due to the different characteristics of programming languages, DRACO needs to extend dataflow analysis for target languages. The variety of static analysis tools for common programming languages provides convenience for implementing multilingual DRACO.

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[2] https://github.com/facebookresearch/llama/blob/main/LICENSE

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A Dataflow Graph Construction

We first parse the Python code into an AST by tree-sitter,[3] which is feasible to parse incomplete code snippets. Based on the AST, we extract variables as the entity set and identify type-sensitive relations as triplets, forming our DFG. The implementation involves specific Python syntax features and is presented in our published code.

The type-sensitive relations are listed in Table 8. We also introduce an example to visualize our DFG construction, as shown in Figure 5. The extracted variables include identifiers (e.g., newSignal) and attributes (e.g., signal.getSignalByName). The type-sensitive relations are identified as described in Section 3.1. For example, the parameter signal: RecordSignal indicates a triplet (RecordSignal, *Typeof*, signal). The assignment statement forms a triplet (signal.getSignalByName, *Assigns*, newSignal), and the parameter newChannelName is a type-insensitive relation pruned in our DFG.

B Generation of Background Knowledge

Algorithms 1 and 2 describe the generation process of the relevant background knowledge (Section 3.4), where the time complexities are $\mathcal{O}(|E_o| \times (|M| + |P|))$ and $\mathcal{O}(|M| + |P|)$, respectively.

C Details of Experiment Setup

C.1 Details of Dataset Construction

We collect the projects that are first released on PyPI between 2023-01-01 to 2023-04-28, which is after the releases of pre-training corpora (Husain et al., 2019; Chen et al., 2021; Kocetkov et al., 2023). We pick the projects with permissive licenses (i.e., MIT, Apache, and BSD) and filter out those that have fewer than 6 or more than 100 Python code files. We identify the usages of local imported resources and randomly select a subsequent token as the cursor position. The context before the cursor is the input, while the current line after the cursor is the reference. For the diversity of ReccEval, we limit the maximum number of examples to one per code file and 10 per repository. Moreover, we ensure that the reference is not in the unfinished code and feed the examples to StarCoderBase-1B model (Li et al., 2023b) to remove the exact matches (Ding et al., 2023), which excludes strong clues in the unfinished code to make ReccEval more challenging.

---

[3] https://github.com/tree-sitter/tree-sitter

Relations	Examples	Triplets
assigns	`v = u`	(u, *assigns*, v)
as	`with f() as v`	(f, *as*, v)
refers	`u.v`	(u, *refers*, u.v)
typeof	`def f() -> v`	(v, *typeof*, f)
inherits	`class v(u)`	(u, *inherits*, v)

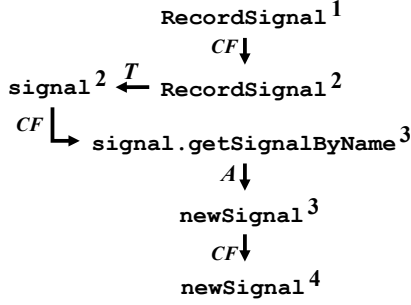Table 8: Illustrations of type-sensitive relations.

Figure 5: An example of our DFG, which corresponds to the unfinished code in Figure 1. The numbers labeled in the DFG correspond to the line numbers of the variables. The labels on the edges are the initials of the relation names defined in Section 3.1.

C.2 Implementation Details of Baselines

We describe more implementation details of CCFinder, RG-1, and RepoCoder, which are in line with the experiment setup in their papers:

- **CCFinder.** Because CCFinder is not open source, we reproduce it according to its paper. We do not limit the number of retrieved code entities, as the cross-file context would be truncated if it exceeds the maximum length. We also re-order the retrieved entities, ensuring the entities from the same source file follow the original code order.
- **RG-1 and RepoCoder.** In our experiments, we use a sparse bag-of-words model as their retriever, which calculates text similarity using the Jaccard index and achieves equivalent performance to the dense retriever. The line length of the sliding window and the sliding size are set to 20 and 10, respectively. According to the maximum input length of code LMs, the maximum number of the retrieved code snippets in prompts is set to 40 for the Star-Coder model and 10 for other models. The number of iterations of RepoCoder is set to 2.

C.3 Details of Used LMs

We categorize the used LMs into specialized code LMs, adapted code LMs, and GPT models. The

---

Algorithm 1: $Generate\_BK(E_r, E_o, n)$

Input: the relevant import entities E_r, other import entities E_o, and the number of allocated tokens n
Output: background knowledge bk

```
// the primary background knowledge
```
1 $E_c \leftarrow E_r$;
2 $bk \leftarrow Organize\_BK(E_c)$;
3 **foreach** $e \in E_o$ **do**
4   Append e to E_c;
5      $temp \leftarrow Organize\_BK(E_c)$;
6   **if** $Length(temp) \leq n$ **then**
   ```
   // as many entities as possible
   ```
7          $bk \leftarrow temp$;
8   **else**
   ```
   // prevents the primary background
   //    knowledge from being truncated
   ```
9   **break**;
10 **if** $Length(bk) > n$ **then**
11      $bk \leftarrow$ the first n tokens of bk;
12 **return** bk

---

details are listed as follows:

- **CodeGen** (Nijkamp et al., 2023a,b) is a family of auto-regressive LMs for program synthesis. We use the CodeGen2.5 model with 7B parameters and the CodeGen models with 350M, 2.7B, 6.1B, and 16.1B parameters, which support a maximum context length of 2,048 (2K) tokens. We use their mono versions, which are further trained on additional Python tokens.
- **SantaCoder** (Allal et al., 2023) is a code model with 1.1B parameters, which supports a maximum context length of 2K tokens.
- **StarCoder** (Li et al., 2023b) is a 15.5B model trained on 80+ programming languages and further trained on Python, which supports a maximum context length of 8K tokens.
- **Code Llama** (Rozière et al., 2023) is created by further training Llama 2 (Touvron et al., 2023) on its code-specific datasets, which supports a maximum context length of 16k tokens. Considering GPU member and efficiency, we chose the 7B Python specialist version named CodeLlama-7b-Python-hf and limit the maximum context length to 8K tokens.
- **GPT models** (Ouyang et al., 2022; OpenAI, 2023) are commercial black box models released by OpenAI. The used API of GPT-3.5

Algorithm 2: $Organize\_BK(E_c)$

Input: the ordered import entities E_c

Output: background knowledge bk

```
// let G_m = (M, P), where M is the
   vertex set, and P is the edge set
```

1   $G_m \leftarrow$ retrieve all dependent entities of E_c and group them in modules;

2   $M_e \leftarrow$ the corresponding modules of E_c;

```
// set the priorities of modules M
```

3   Initialize an empty dictionary $priorities$;

4   $rank \leftarrow 1$;

5   **foreach** $m \in M_e$ **do**

```
     // priorities ii
```

6     $priorities[m] \leftarrow rank$;

7     $rank \leftarrow rank + 1$;

8   $M_d \leftarrow M - M_e$;

```
// details omitted: pass priorities from
   M_e to the dependent modules M_d
```

9   $\forall m \in M_d, priorities[m] \leftarrow$ the minimum priority of the direct predecessors of m;

```
// priority i: pseudo-topological sort
```

10   Initialize an empty list M_s;

11   **while** M *is not empty* **do**

12     $M_c \leftarrow$ the candidate modules with the least direct predecessors in G_m;

```
     // alphabetical order for equality
```

13     $m \leftarrow$ the module $m \in M_c$ with the maximum $priorities[m]$;

14   Pop m from M and append it to M_s;

15   $bk \leftarrow$ combine all modules in the reverse order of M_s;

16   **return** bk

---

is gpt-3.5-turbo-0613 with a maximum context length of 4K tokens. The used API of GPT-4 is gpt-4-0613 with a maximum context length of 8K tokens.

The analysis experiments with Code LLama and GPT models may suffer from data leakage issues. As mentioned in Appendix C.1, both Cross-CodeEval and our ReccEval devote effort to collecting projects (e.g., released between 2023-01-01 to 2023-04-28 for ReccEval) that are not in pre-training corpora. However, Code Llama is trained on unknown datasets between January 2023 and July 2023, and the training data of GPT models is unknown and updated.

We set the temperature of these LMs as 0 to obtain deterministic results. The maximum generation length is set to 48 tokens, which is long enough to accomplish line completions. An exception is RG-1, which asks LMs to generate 100 tokens since RepoCoder requires sufficient content for further retrieval. We run StarCoder-15.5B, CodeGen-16.1B, and Code Llama-7B on an NVIDIA A800 with 80GB memory and run other LMs on an NVIDIA GeForce RTX 4090 with 24GB memory.

The instruction of GPT models is "You are a Python expert. Please complete the last line of the following Python code:". For RG-1, the instruction is "You are a Python expert. Please complete the following Python code:". We set line feed as the stop token of LM generation, except for RG-1 (still 100 tokens).

C.4   Details of Evaluation Metrics

- **Code match.** Given a prediction y and the reference y^*, we assess y using the exact match accuracy (EM) and the Levenshtein edit similarity (ES) (Lu et al., 2021; Zhang et al., 2023). EM is calculated by an indicator function whose value is 1 if $y = y^*$; otherwise, it is 0. $\text{ES} = 1 - \frac{\text{Lev}(y,y^*)}{\max(||y||,||y^*||)}$, where $|| \cdot ||$ calculates the string length and $\text{Lev}()$ calculates the Levenshtein distance.

- **Identifier match.** Identifier exact match (ID.EM) and F1-score test the model's ability to predict the correct APIs (Ding et al., 2023). We parse the code to extract the identifiers from y and y^* and get two ordered identifier lists. ID.EM is calculated by an indicator function whose value is 1 if their elements are the same and in the same order; otherwise, it is 0. Then, we transform the lists into two sets (without repeated elements and unordered), which can be used to calculate the precision, recall, and F1-score, where F1-score is a combination of precision and recall.

- **Prompt generation time.** To evaluate the efficiency of code completion, we record the prompt generation time, which contains the time to retrieve relevant context and the time to assemble final prompts. Note that we ignore the time spent by code LMs in generating predictions, which is determined by the used LMs rather than the methods.

D   Additional Evaluation

D.1   More Performance Comparison Results

Beyond the experimental results of the main paper, we show additional evaluation results of other

Methods	CodeGen-2.7B				CodeGen-6.1B				CodeGen-16.1B			
	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1
Zero-Shot	5.44	57.85	11.71	42.22	6.57	59.01	13.13	44.11	7.05	59.88	13.88	45.27
CCFinder-1	14.30	63.18	22.51	51.28	16.21	65.00	24.58	53.70	17.19	65.57	26.19	55.36
CCFinder-2	11.41	61.74	19.47	48.92	13.21	63.23	21.39	51.17	14.15	63.89	22.59	52.17
RG-1	12.68	63.87	21.58	51.89	14.82	65.12	23.53	53.54	15.27	65.87	24.65	54.76
RepoCoder	14.07	65.12	23.90	53.33	15.87	66.74	26.15	55.80	17.04	67.69	27.62	57.36
DRACO	**18.99**	**65.52**	**27.50**	**55.07**	**22.36**	**68.06**	**31.37**	**58.60**	**22.78**	**68.09**	**32.08**	**59.40**

Table 9: Performance comparison on the CrossCodeEval dataset using other CodeGen models (cf. Table 3).

Methods	CodeGen-2.7B				CodeGen-6.1B				CodeGen-16.1B			
	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1
Zero-Shot	6.73	53.30	13.05	30.65	8.34	54.77	14.64	32.60	10.12	55.84	16.50	34.17
CCFinder-1	20.38	60.80	28.12	44.83	23.56	63.07	31.56	47.90	24.64	64.17	32.66	49.28
CCFinder-2	17.21	59.13	24.32	41.58	19.66	60.77	26.93	43.73	20.83	61.85	28.25	45.11
RG-1	24.49	63.12	31.34	46.51	25.86	64.75	32.66	48.37	27.97	66.18	35.07	50.37
RepoCoder	27.84	65.07	35.13	49.71	29.45	66.62	36.71	51.67	31.73	67.94	38.96	53.64
DRACO	**29.42**	**65.91**	**37.63**	**53.69**	**32.05**	**67.93**	**40.83**	**56.80**	**33.76**	**69.20**	**42.38**	**58.38**

Table 10: Performance comparison on the ReccEval dataset using other CodeGen models (cf. Table 4).

Methods	Models	CrossCodeEval	ReccEval
CCFinder	All	74	68
	CodeGen	227	217
RG-1 &	SantaCoder	245	221
RepoCoder	CodeGen25	349	339
	StarCoder	211	186
DRACO	All	**54**	**61**

Table 11: Preprocessing time (in milliseconds) for the repositories in CrossCodeEval and ReccEval.

CodeGen models in Tables 9 and 10. The additional results show consistent conclusions on performance comparisons in the main paper. Under the same architecture of the CodeGen-* models, the performance of all methods improves as the model parameters increase. Moreover, the improvement of DRACO for zero-shot code LMs increases as the model's capability grows. It indicates that stronger LMs can better utilize the relevant background knowledge retrieved by DRACO.

D.2 More Efficiency Evaluation Results

We also record the time spent on indexing the repositories of CrossCodeEval and ReccEval, as shown in Table 11. It is an offline preprocessing in RAG, which indicates the time required to activate a method. CCFinder and DRACO build retrieval databases by statically parsing code files, which are independent of the used code LMs. RG-1 and Re-poCoder need to tokenize the code snippets within a sliding window, which requires the tokenizers of used LMs. Note that the tokenizers of CodeGen-* models are the same. DRACO is 3–6 times faster than RepoCoder in preprocessing time. As the size of the repository increases, the preprocessing time grows linearly. Therefore, RG-1 and RepoCoder may suffer from scalability challenges.

The prompt generation time of each method using other code LMs is shown in Tables 12 and 13, which show consistent conclusions with the main paper. For the methods with one retrieval, only the tokenizers have a subtle effect on efficiency when different models are employed. As a result, the prompt generation time using different CodeGen-* models is the same for CCFinder, RG-1, as well as DRACO. RepoCoder relies on RG-1 to generate sufficient content for the second retrieval, where the efficiency mainly depends on the generation time of code LMs. In general, the generation efficiency of RepoCoder decreases as the model parameters increase. Its average prompt generation time is more than 3 seconds on the most efficient SantaCoder model, which far exceeds the time spent by other retrieval-augmented methods. Note that the architectures of code LMs also matter in efficiency, e.g., SantaCoder-1.1B is faster than CodeGen-350M. The A800 GPU used to run the StarCoder-15.5B and CodeGen-16.1B models is superior to the RTX 4090 GPU used for the other models, so these are

Methods	SantaCoder-1.1B		CodeGen25-7B		StarCoder-15.5B	
	CrossCodeEval	ReccEval	CrossCodeEval	ReccEval	CrossCodeEval	ReccEval
CCFinder-1	30	52	23	34	26	45
CCFinder-2	47	72	37	51	42	66
RG-1	**15**	**15**	**18**	**20**	**12**	**15**
RepoCoder	3,075	3,184	5,249	4,772	4,746	4,675
DRACO	35	42	32	36	60	77

Table 12: Prompt generation time (in milliseconds) of each method using SantaCoder, CodeGen25, and StarCoder models (cf. Table 5).

Methods	CodeGen-2.7B		CodeGen-6.1B		CodeGen-16.1B	
	CrossCodeEval	ReccEval	CrossCodeEval	ReccEval	CrossCodeEval	ReccEval
CCFinder-1	32	49	32	49	32	49
CCFinder-2	52	82	52	82	52	82
RG-1	**14**	**15**	**19**	**14**	**12**	**13**
RepoCoder	6,933	5,779	7,543	6,236	7,289	7,137
DRACO	40	44	40	44	40	44

Table 13: Prompt generation time (in milliseconds) of each method using other CodeGen models (cf. Table 5).

not head-to-head comparisons for RepoCoder.

D.3 Effect of Other Import Statements

As described in Section 3.4, DRACO includes as many other import statements that are not directly relevant as possible. To analyze the effect of other import statements, we implement a variant of DRACO for comparison, which adds the entities from other local import statements only when the primary prompt is empty. The experimental results are shown in Table 14. DRACO consistently outperforms this variant, especially on StarCoder-15.5B, which has capability to understand longer code context.
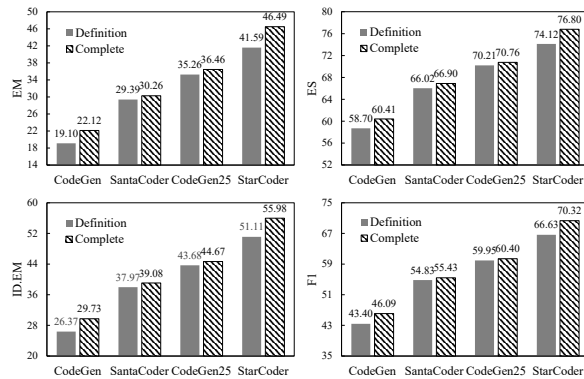

Figure 6: Performance comparison of two prompt scopes on the ReccEval dataset.

D.4 Evaluation of Multi-Line Completion

Although DRACO is designed for the code completion of currently edited line, it can help with multi-line completion to some extent.

We begin by discussing the benchmarks with multi-line completion targets in code repositories. The input code of the function completion dataset in RepoEval (Zhang et al., 2023) is truncated for text similarity-based retrieval, which cannot be parsed to get import information. Other benchmarks (Yu et al., 2024; Li et al., 2024) are constructed for function-level code generation, which aims to generate code based on natural language descriptions, as distinct from code completion. Since there is no available dataset for multi-line completion, we create a "multi-line" variant of the Cross-CodeEval dataset (Ding et al., 2023) by expanding the references to three non-empty lines. In addition to the baselines, we evaluate two variants of DRACO including "w/o dataflow" as described in Section 5.3 and "w/ steps", which completes the unfinished code line by line (i.e., three times "retrieval-then-generation"). The maximum generation length of LMs is increased to 100 tokens.

The experimental results with SantaCoder and CodeGen25 models shown in Table 15 reveal that: (i) DRACO still delivers a significant improvement to the zero-shot setting, and dataflow analysis plays a positive role. As discussed in the Limitations section, unclear code intent in multi-line completion would hurt the accuracy and weaken the guidance of dataflow analysis. (ii) RepoCoder iteratively retrieves similar code snippets in the repository to narrow the gap with the intended completion target, which is slightly better than DRACO but still strug-

Settings		CodeGen-350M				SantaCoder-1.1B				CodeGen25-7B				StarCoder-15.5B			
		EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1
CrossCodeEval	DRACO	**13.02**	**61.30**	**20.53**	**49.04**	**20.64**	**67.04**	**29.83**	**57.37**	**24.99**	70.10	34.63	61.14	**34.67**	**75.83**	**45.63**	**69.93**
	Variant	12.87	61.20	20.45	48.76	20.45	67.03	**29.83**	57.36	24.77	**70.22**	**34.71**	**61.37**	33.55	75.58	44.50	69.33
ReccEval	DRACO	**22.12**	**60.41**	**29.73**	**46.09**	**30.26**	**66.90**	**39.08**	**55.43**	**36.46**	**70.76**	**44.67**	**60.40**	**46.49**	**76.80**	**55.98**	**70.32**
	Variant	21.34	60.01	29.05	45.57	29.36	66.36	38.04	54.67	35.51	70.18	43.82	59.52	44.47	75.67	53.92	68.89

Table 14: Performance comparison between DRACO and its variant (containing only the relevant `import` statements).

Methods	SantaCoder-1.1B				CodeGen25-7B			
	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1
Zero-Shot	0.53	57.77	1.84	46.17	1.35	59.60	3.08	49.06
CCFinder-1	1.84	60.08	3.83	51.45	3.08	62.17	6.00	54.00
RG-1	2.59	61.49	5.03	52.11	3.79	63.67	6.94	55.45
RepoCoder	2.81	**62.23**	5.59	**53.56**	**4.32**	**64.69**	**7.58**	**56.88**
DRACO	**3.23**	61.26	**5.85**	**53.56**	4.13	63.62	7.54	56.47
w/o dataflow	2.40	60.23	4.69	51.40	3.41	62.46	6.15	54.19
w/ steps	0.34	48.29	1.28	36.05	3.94	62.37	7.02	55.70

Table 15: Performance comparison on the "multi-line" variant of the CrossCodeEval dataset.

Methods	Predictions	ES
Zero-Shot	channel = newChannelName	24
CCFinder-1	type = Signal.getType(channelType)	53
CCFinder-2	type = Signal.getType(channelType)	53
RG-1	type = channelType	36
RepoCoder	signal = newSignal.signal.astype(channelType)	45
DRACO	setSignalTypeFromTypeStr()	100
Ground truth	setSignalTypeFromTypeStr()	-

Table 16: The example prediction of each method using the CodeGen25-7B model.

gles with multi-line code completion. (iii) Completing line by line is not as effective as completing it all at once. The intermediate generated line may not point to cross-file imports in the dataflow, which would weaken the relevance of the retrieved content. In addition, progressive completion may lead to error accumulation. Note that the abnormal results of "w/ step" with SantaCoder are attributed to the model itself, which usually generates a comment or another function definition when completing a new line.

Recent empirical studies have shown that the completion of currently edited statement is more commonly used and more acceptable (Barke et al., 2023; Wang et al., 2023). In contrast, long and multi-line suggestions are usually at best dismissed out of hand and at worst distract the programmer away from their flow. Based on this practical evidence, we believe that our focus on single-line code completion is meaningful and sufficient. Future work could explore taking into account the dynamic changes of dataflow during the decoding process, e.g., automatically determining when it is necessary to re-retrieve to update the prompt.

E   Case Study

E.1   Prompt Examples

We show the prompts generated by each method for the example unfinished code (see Figure 1). The prompts are excerpted for viewing the individual format, as shown in Figure 7. It can be observed that the prompts generated by DRACO look like natural code, which is in line with the training corpora of code LMs. The prediction result of each method using the CodeGen25-7B model is shown in Table 16, and only our DRACO generates the correct code line.

E.2   Study on Failed Cases

Despite the superior performance achieved by DRACO, there are still many failed cases. Based on our observations, they are caused by three major reasons: (i) The definitions of completion targets may be truncated. Even though the correct definition is retrieved through dataflow analysis, the completion target may be truncated due to the limited input length, e.g., target member function in a long class definition. (ii) The used code LMs may be not powerful enough, which has already been demonstrated in Section 5.5. It is crucial for code LMs to capture data dependency relations in the provided background knowledge, where the prompts are usually long Python code. (iii) Unclear code intent may lead to wrong generation, which is a common sore point of code completion. For example, completing the first line of a new function is uncertain even to a programmer.

In Listings 1, 2, and 3, we show an example of reasons (i) and (iii) from CrossCodeEval. The ground truth is `gen_begin_reuse(input_ids)`, while the prediction of DRACO with CodeGen25 is `in_beam_search = False`. Although the member function `gen_begin_reuse` is in the retrieved background knowledge, it is truncated to be invisible to LMs. Moreover, the comment `# Start generation` is not clear enough for completion, where both `gen_begin` and `gen_begin_reuse` look like rational choices.

```
'''
# pyPhasesRecordloader.RecordSignal.RecordSignal
@classLogger
class RecordSignal:

    # pyPhasesRecordloader.RecordSignal.RecordSignal.__init__
    def __init__(self, targetFrequency=200, recordId=None):
        self.recordId = recordId
        self.signals: List[Signal] = []
        self.labelSignals = []
        self.signalNames = []
        self.targetFrequency = targetFrequency

    # pyPhasesRecordloader.RecordSignal.RecordSignal.getSignalByName
    def getSignalByName(self, name) -> Signal:
        index = self.getSignalIndexByName(name)
        return self.signals[index]
...
'''
```

(a) CCFinder-*.

```
# Here are some relevant code fragments from other files
  of the repo:
# -----------------------------------------------
# the below code fragment can be found in:
# pyPhasesRecordloader-0.3.12/pyPhasesRecordloader/RecordLoader.py
# -----------------------------------------------
#             signalTypeStr = self.signalTypeDict[signalName]
#         else:
#             self.logError("Signal '%s' had no type when
#                 initilizing the RecordLoader" % str(signalName))
#             signalTypeStr = "unknown"
#     return signalTypeStr
#     ...
# -----------------------------------------------
# the below code fragment can be found in:
# pyPhasesRecordloader-0.3.12/pyPhasesRecordloader/RecordSignal.py
...
```

(b) RepoCoder, same as RG-1.

```
'''
# pyPhasesRecordloader/Signal.py
class Signal:
    def __init__(
        self, name="Unknown", signal: np.ndarray = None,
        frequency=100, type=SignalType.UNKNOWN, typeStr="unknown"
    ) -> None:
        self.name = name
        self.signal = signal
        self.frequency = frequency
        self.type = type
        self.typeStr = typeStr

    def setSignalTypeFromTypeStr(self):
        if self.typeStr in signalTypeDict:
            self.type = signalTypeDict[self.typeStr]
        else:
            self.type = SignalType.UNKNOWN
    ...
'''
```

(c) Our DRACO.

```
'''
# pyPhasesRecordloader/Signal.py
class Signal:
    def __init__(
        self, name="Unknown", signal: np.ndarray = None,
        frequency=100, type=SignalType.UNKNOWN, typeStr="unknown"
    ) -> None:
        self.name
        self.signal
        self.frequency
        self.type
        self.typeStr

    def setSignalTypeFromTypeStr(self):
    def getFilterCoefficients(self, tansitionWidth=15.0,
                              cutOffHz=30.0, rippleDB=40.0):
    def bandpass(self, low, high, order=10):
    def lowpass(self, value, order=10):
    ...
'''
```

(d) DRACO with the *definition* scope.

Figure 7: Excerpts of example prompts generated by different methods.

```
from model import ExLlama, ExLlamaCache,
    ExLlamaConfig
from lora import ExLlamaLora
from tokenizer import ExLlamaTokenizer
from generator import ExLlamaGenerator
import model_init


generator: ExLlamaGenerator


def cached_tokenize(text: str):
    ...


def begin_stream(...):
    global model, cache, config,
        generator, tokenizer

    # Settings
    max_stop_string = 2
    for ss in stop_strings:
        ...
    generator.settings = gen_settings

    # Start generation
    generator.
```

Listing 1: The unfinished code to be completed.

```
'''
# generator.py
class ExLlamaGenerator:
    class Settings:
        temperature = 0.95
        top_k = 40
        top_p = 0.65
        min_p = 0.0
        typical = 0.0
        token_repetition_penalty_max =
```

```
            1.15
        token_repetition_penalty_sustain
            = 256
        token_repetition_penalty_decay =
            128
        beams = 1
        beam_length = 1
    sequence: torch.Tensor or None
    sequence_actual: torch.Tensor or
        None
    settings: Settings
    beams: int or None
    max_beam_length: int
    in_beam_search: True
    disallowed_tokens: list[int] or None
    lora: ExLlamaLora or None
    def __init__(self, model, tokenizer,
        cache):
        self.model = model
        self.tokenizer = tokenizer
        self.cache = cache
        self.reset()
        self.model = model
        self.tokenizer = tokenizer
        self.cache = cache
    def reset(self):
        ...
    def make_rep_mask(self, penalty_max,
        sustain, decay):
        ...
    def batched_sample(self, logits,
        temperature, top_k, top_p, min_p
        , typical, num = 1):
        ...
    def sample_current(self, logits, num
        = 1):
        ...
    def sample(self, logits, temperature
```

```
    , top_k, top_p, min_p, typical,
        num = 1):
            ...
'''
```

Listing 2: The truncated background knowledge retrieved by DRACO.

```
'''
# generator.py
class ExLlamaGenerator:
    class Settings:
        ...
    sequence: torch.Tensor or None
    sequence_actual: torch.Tensor or
        None
    settings: Settings
    beams: int or None
    max_beam_length: int
    in_beam_search: True
    disallowed_tokens: list[int] or None
    lora: ExLlamaLora or None
    def __init__(self, model, tokenizer,
         cache):
        ...
    def reset(self):
        ...
    def make_rep_mask(self, penalty_max,
         sustain, decay):
        ...
    def batched_sample(self, logits,
        temperature, top_k, top_p, min_p
        , typical, num = 1):
        ...
    def sample_current(self, logits, num
         = 1):
        ...
    def sample(self, logits, temperature
        , top_k, top_p, min_p, typical,
        num = 1):
        ...
    def disallow_tokens(self, tokens):
        ...
    def gen_begin(self, in_tokens, mask
        = None):
        ...
    def gen_begin_empty(self):
        ...
    def gen_begin_reuse(self, in_tokens,
         mask = None):
        self.end_beam_search()
        ...
    def gen_feed_tokens(self, in_tokens,
         mask = None):
        ...
    def gen_accept_token(self, token):
        ...
    def gen_rewind(self, num_tokens):
        ...
    def gen_prune_right(self, tokens,
        mask = None):
        ...
    def gen_prune_to(self,
        min_tokens_to_keep, token_id,
        mask = None):
        ...
    def gen_prune_left(self, num_tokens,
         mask = None):
        ...
    def gen_num_tokens(self):
```

```
        ...
    def generate_simple(self, prompt,
        max_new_tokens = 128):
        ...
    def apply_rep_penalty(self, logits):
        ...
    def gen_single_token(self,
        constraints = None, mask = None)
        :
        ...
    class Beam:
        ...
    def begin_beam_search(self):
        ...
    def beam_search(self):
        ...
    def end_beam_search(self):
        if not self.in_beam_search:
            return
        self.in_beam_search = False
    def replace_last_token(self, token,
        seq = False):
        ...
    def sequence_ends_with(self, tokens)
        :
        ...
'''
```

Listing 3: The complete background knowledge retrieved by DRACO.

Methods	CodeGen-350M				SantaCoder-1.1B				CodeGen25-7B				StarCoder-15.5B			
	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1
DRACO	**22.12**	**60.41**	**29.73**	**46.09**	**30.26**	**66.90**	**39.08**	**55.43**	**36.46**	**70.76**	**44.67**	**60.40**	46.49	**76.80**	**55.98**	**70.32**
w/o cross_df	19.75	58.95	27.19	43.52	27.05	65.12	35.61	52.23	32.95	68.97	40.89	56.97	42.01	74.40	51.21	65.89
w/o intra_df	16.67	57.28	23.62	40.11	23.03	62.87	31.09	47.89	27.83	66.42	35.66	52.25	**43.88**	75.39	53.07	67.62
w/o dataflow	15.45	56.40	22.33	38.73	21.58	62.01	29.62	46.44	26.42	65.65	34.14	50.67	40.46	73.63	49.45	64.37

Table 17: Ablation study for dataflow analysis on the ReccEval dataset.

Methods	2K				4K				8K			
	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1
Zero-Shot	9.49	61.97	16.44	47.36	9.76	62.17	16.70	47.51	9.61	62.14	16.59	47.51
CCFinder-1	17.11	66.28	26.02	55.34	18.12	66.99	27.17	56.54	17.79	67.28	27.05	56.65
RG-1	17.82	67.46	27.43	56.51	21.88	69.60	31.44	59.65	25.10	71.84	36.06	63.27
RepoCoder	19.10	**68.96**	29.83	58.77	**24.24**	**71.29**	**35.01**	**62.39**	**28.29**	**73.51**	**39.44**	**65.24**
DRACO	**21.35**	68.78	**30.66**	**59.08**	20.94	68.65	30.09	58.68	20.08	68.42	29.12	58.32

Table 18: Performance comparison of the Code Llama-7B model (with 2K, 4K, 8K maximum input lengths) on the CrossCodeEval dataset.

Methods	2K				4K				8K			
	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1
Zero-Shot	13.85	58.82	20.60	38.01	13.93	58.96	20.74	38.14	13.93	59.04	20.74	38.26
CCFinder-1	26.51	65.92	34.62	51.08	28.06	66.95	36.33	52.68	28.01	67.21	36.12	52.74
RG-1	30.55	67.90	37.78	52.66	36.64	71.15	44.44	58.22	41.65	73.95	49.64	63.05
RepoCoder	**34.10**	**69.65**	**41.50**	56.17	**40.55**	**72.97**	**48.38**	**61.49**	**44.76**	**75.31**	**52.28**	**65.43**
DRACO	31.54	68.87	40.02	**56.26**	33.25	69.68	42.02	58.06	30.04	68.06	38.26	54.58

Table 19: Performance comparison of the Code Llama-7B model (with 2K, 4K, 8K maximum input lengths) on the ReccEval dataset.

Methods	2K				4K				8K			
	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1
Zero-Shot	8.71	61.95	16.02	47.51	8.74	62.07	16.06	47.63	8.71	62.08	16.02	47.58
CCFinder-1	22.51	69.15	31.82	59.77	26.08	71.29	35.83	62.80	27.99	72.59	38.24	64.46
RG-1	18.31	68.25	28.37	57.27	21.69	70.50	31.97	60.53	26.27	72.70	37.00	64.04
RepoCoder	20.26	69.84	30.51	59.31	24.77	72.69	36.25	63.57	29.12	74.56	40.83	66.81
DRACO	**28.78**	**72.39**	**38.72**	**64.90**	**32.80**	**74.89**	**43.49**	**68.42**	**34.67**	**75.83**	**45.63**	**69.93**

Table 20: Performance comparison of the StarCoder-15.5B model (with 2K, 4K, 8K maximum input lengths) on the CrossCodeEval dataset.

Methods	2K				4K				8K			
	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1	EM	ES	ID.EM	F1
Zero-Shot	12.55	58.65	19.72	37.89	12.85	58.80	20.03	38.14	12.77	58.84	20.03	38.12
CCFinder-1	30.69	68.35	39.13	55.32	36.19	71.13	44.70	60.21	39.33	73.05	48.18	63.49
RG-1	30.78	68.33	38.23	53.34	36.88	71.64	44.78	59.06	42.67	74.64	51.11	64.64
RepoCoder	34.62	70.39	42.41	56.94	40.35	73.32	48.26	62.37	46.26	76.44	54.47	67.59
DRACO	**39.61**	**73.32**	**48.85**	**64.44**	**44.03**	**75.42**	**53.34**	**68.26**	**46.49**	**76.80**	**55.98**	**70.32**

Table 21: Performance comparison of the StarCoder-15.5B model (with 2K, 4K, 8K maximum input lengths) on the ReccEval dataset.