

How Can I Improve? Using GPT to Highlight the Desired and Undesired Parts of Open-ended Responses

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Mellon
University**

Research Questions (RQ):

RQ1: Does GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?

RQ2: Does fine-tuning improve the accuracy?

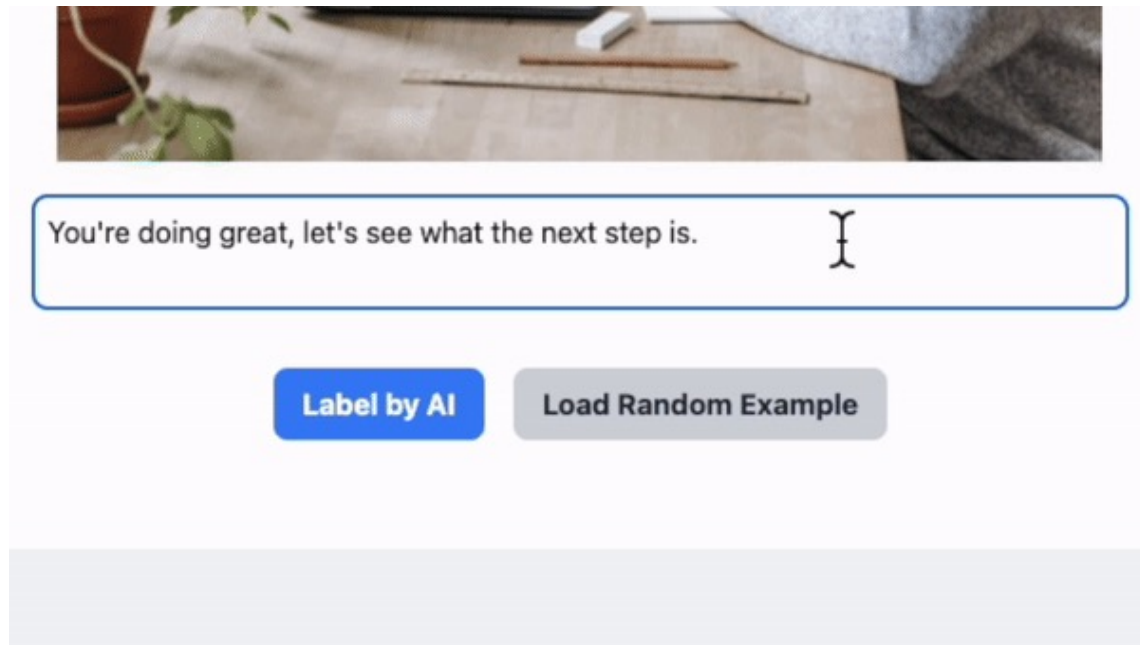
You are doing Outcome
great job, let's continue on the problem.

🧠: Saying "**great job**" is praising students for the outcome. You should focus on praising the students for their effort and process towards learning. Do you want to try responding again?

Demo of a tutor receiving explanatory feedback within the lesson on giving effective praise

Provide feedback on trainee tutor responses

Fine-tuned GPT-3.5 for highlighting key components on novice tutors' responses



Try our demo here

Background - Challenge

Tutoring is one of the **most effective instructional methods** which can help student improve their learning achievements, and yet:

- Finding qualified tutors is difficult
- Training tutors is more difficult
- Providing tutoring to ALL students is the most difficult



Personalized Learning Squared (PLUS)

*PLUS is a platform designed to optimize
tutoring*



Try our platform: <https://tutors.plus>

Background - PLUS Training Lessons

All (19)

Assigned

In Progress (4)

Complete (9)


Not Started (6)

Filter

Grid

▼ My Lessons (13)


Social-Emotional



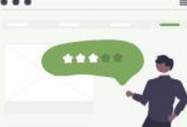
Supporting a Growth Mindset
12 mins

You may have heard that a student isn't succeeding because they don't have a "growth mindset." Learn what that means and how you can use it to keep students motivated.

Continue




Advocacy




Providing Feedback to Build Trust
12 mins

Students who have experienced prejudice at school may dismiss critical feedback as evidence of bias. In this lesson, you'll practice strategies for providing feedback that they can trust.

Continue




Advocacy



Addressing Microaggressions
12 mins

Microaggressions are subtle, often unintentional, forms of discrimination towards students of color and marginalized students. Although small and discrete, microaggressions can cause lasting harm on a student's self esteem and mindset. Learn how to identify and help students address microaggressions to ensure their success.

Continue



Scenario-based Question

Question scenario



Scenario

You're tutoring a student named Kevin. He is struggling to understand a math problem. When he doesn't get the answer correct the first time he wants to quit. After trying several different approaches, Kevin gets the problem correct. As Kevin's tutor, you want him to continue working through solving more problems on his math assignment.



Question 1 *


1. What exactly would you say to Kevin to provide effective praise that will increase his motivation to complete his math assignment and increase engagement?

You are doing great job, let's continue on the problem.

975 chars remaining

Powered by OpenAI 



 Review

1

Scenario-based Question

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Question for trainees

Question 1 *

1. What exactly would you say to Kevin to provide effective praise that will increase his motivation to complete his math assignment and increase engagement?

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975 chars remaining

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Review

1

Scenario-based Question

Scenario

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Trainee's attempt



Question 1 *

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975 chars remaining

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Review

1

How can we use generative AI to provide feedback to tutor trainees?

Research Questions

RQ1: To what extent can we prompt the GPT models to enhance the prediction accuracy of providing explanatory feedback?

RQ2: To what extent can the fine-tuned GPT models enhance the prediction accuracy of providing explanatory feedback?

Research Questions

RQ1: To what extent can we prompt the GPT models to enhance the prediction accuracy of providing explanatory feedback?

Does prompting GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?

RQ2: To what extent can the fine-tuned GPT models enhance the prediction accuracy of providing explanatory feedback?

Does fine-tuning improve the accuracy?

Focus: Giving Effective Praise

Train novice tutors (adult learners/trainees) to give effective praise for middle school students.



Giving Effective Praise

12 mins

Praising students for working hard and putting forth effort is a great way to increase student motivation. When the learning gets tough, giving effective praise is a powerful strategy to encourage students to keep going.

Effective Praise should be:

- perceived as sincere and truthful.
- detailed what the student did well, not generic (e.g., “*great job*”).
- focused on the student learning process

Praise Types



Effort-based praise: focus on the **learning process** (e.g., “*I like how you worked hard to...*”).



Outcome-based praise: focus on student's achievements, such as getting a problem correct, and is often, but not always, **associated with unproductive praise** (e.g., “*Great job!*”).

Social-Emotional



Giving Effective Praise

12 mins

Praising students for working hard and putting forth effort is a great way to increase student motivation. When the learning gets tough, giving effective praise is a powerful strategy to encourage students to keep going.

Provide feedback on trainee tutor responses

Effort-based praise

Outcome-based praise

Trainee tutor: *“Good effort working through this, let’s move to the next problem.”*

Feedback for the trainee tutor:

Saying *“Good effort working through this”* is a nice example of effort-based praise, which praises students for their effort.

Provide feedback on trainee tutor responses

Effort-based praise

Outcome-based praise

Trainee tutor: “*Good effort working through this*, let’s move to the next problem.”

Feedback for the trainee tutor:

Saying “*Good effort working through this*” is a nice example of effort-based praise, which praises students for their effort.

Provide feedback on trainee tutor responses

Effort-based praise

Outcome-based praise

Trainee tutor: “*Well done, Kevin! Let’s work on the next one*”

Feedback for the trainee tutor:

Saying “*Well done*” is praising students for the outcome. You should focus on praising the students for their effort and process towards learning. Do you want to try responding again?

Provide feedback on trainee tutor responses

- RQ1: Does GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?
- RQ2: Does fine-tuning improve the accuracy?

Trainee tutor responses
(N = 129)

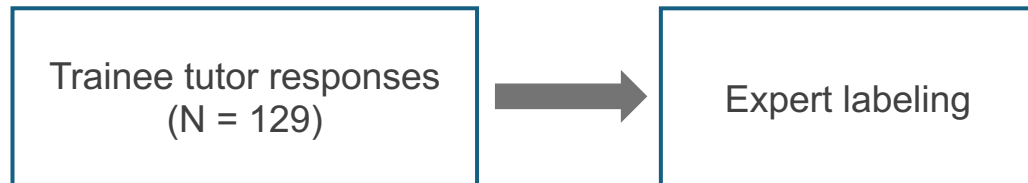
Founding source: Richard King Mellon Foundation, USA

Lin, J., Chen, E., Han, F., Gurung, A., Thomas, D. R., Tan, W., Ngoc, D. N., & Koedinger, K. R. (2024). How Can I Improve? Using GPT to Highlight the Desired and Undesired Parts of Open-ended Responses. *17th International Conference on Educational Data Mining*

Aleven, V., Popescu, O., & Koedinger, K. R. (2001). Towards tutorial dialog to support self-explanation: Adding natural language understanding to a cognitive tutor. In *Proceedings of Artificial Intelligence in Education* (pp. 246-255).

Provide feedback on trainee tutor responses

- RQ1: Does GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?
- RQ2: Does fine-tuning improve the accuracy?



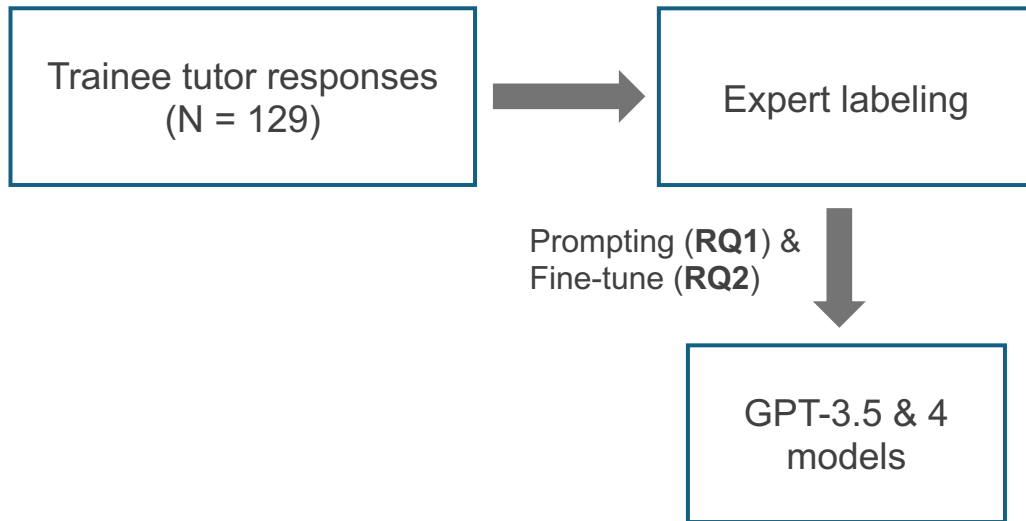
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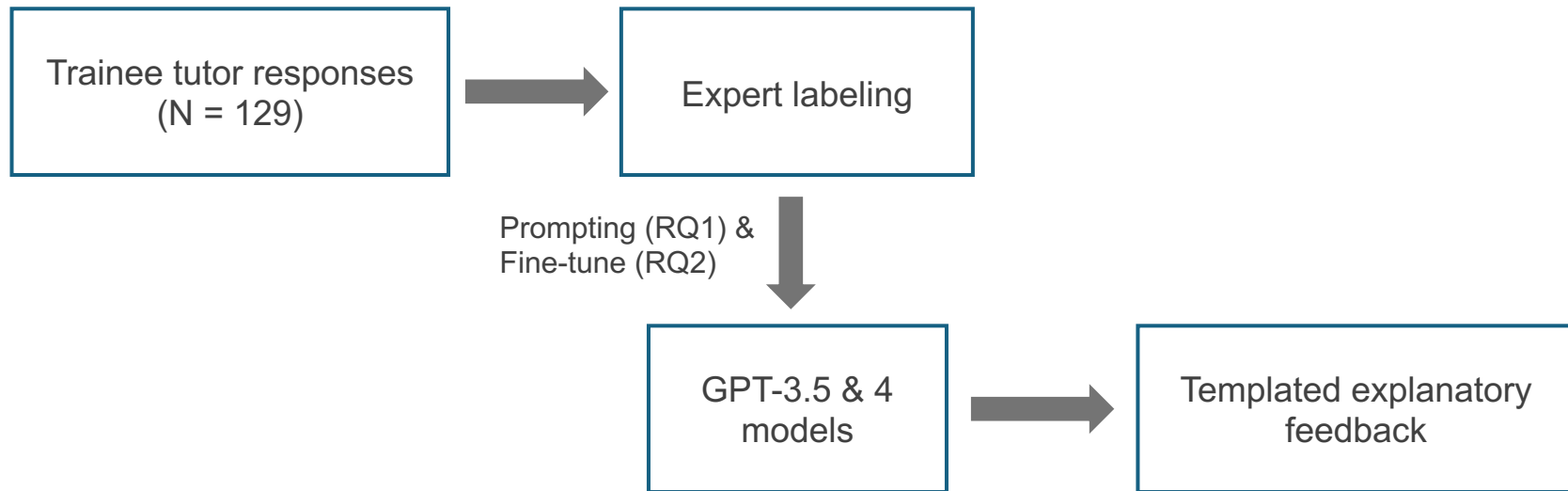
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RQ1: Does GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?

Highlights:

Proposed and validated a **metric (M-IoU)** to measure the quality of highlighted components identified by GPT models

Prompted GPT models to **highlight** the **desired** and **undesired** components from trainees' responses

RQ1: Does GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?

- Quality of sequence labeling

Table 3: Original training instance and different types of augmented instances. We highlighted outcome-based praise using yellow color and effort-based praise using blue.

	Instance	Label	Score
1	<i>John, you are making a really great effort.</i>	True	1

RQ1: Does GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?

- Quality of sequence labeling

Table 3: Original training instance and different types of augmented instances. We highlighted outcome-based praise using yellow color and effort-based praise using blue.

	Instance	Label	Score
1	<i>John, you are making a really great effort.</i>	True	1
2	<i>John, you are making a really great effort.</i>	Pred	0.84
3	<i>John, you are making a really great effort.</i>	Pred	0.68
4	<i>John, you are making a really great effort.</i>	Pred	0.52

Smaller penalty for extra predictions

RQ1: Does GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?

- Quality of sequence labeling

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	Instance	Label	Score
1	<i>John, you are making a really great effort.</i>	True	1
2	<i>John, you are making a really great effort.</i>	Pred	0.84
3	<i>John, you are making a really great effort.</i>	Pred	0.68
4	<i>John, you are making a really great effort.</i>	Pred	0.52
5	<i>John, you are making a really great effort.</i>	Pred	0.2

Larger penalty for missing predictions

RQ1: Does GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?

- Modified Intersection over Union (M-IOU)

TP – True Positive FP – False Positive FN – False Negative

$$F1 \text{ score} = \frac{TP}{TP + \frac{1}{2}(FP + FN)} \quad \text{IoU} = \frac{\text{Area of Overlap}}{\text{Area of Union}} = \frac{TP}{TP + FP + FN}$$

Smaller penalty for extra predictions, larger penalty for missing predictions

RQ1: Does GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?

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Smaller penalty for extra predictions, larger penalty for missing predictions

$$\text{M-IOU} = \frac{TP}{TP + \alpha \times FP + FN} \quad (\alpha = 0.2)$$

M-IoU is used to measure the quality of highlighted components of tutor praise responses

RQ1: Does GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?

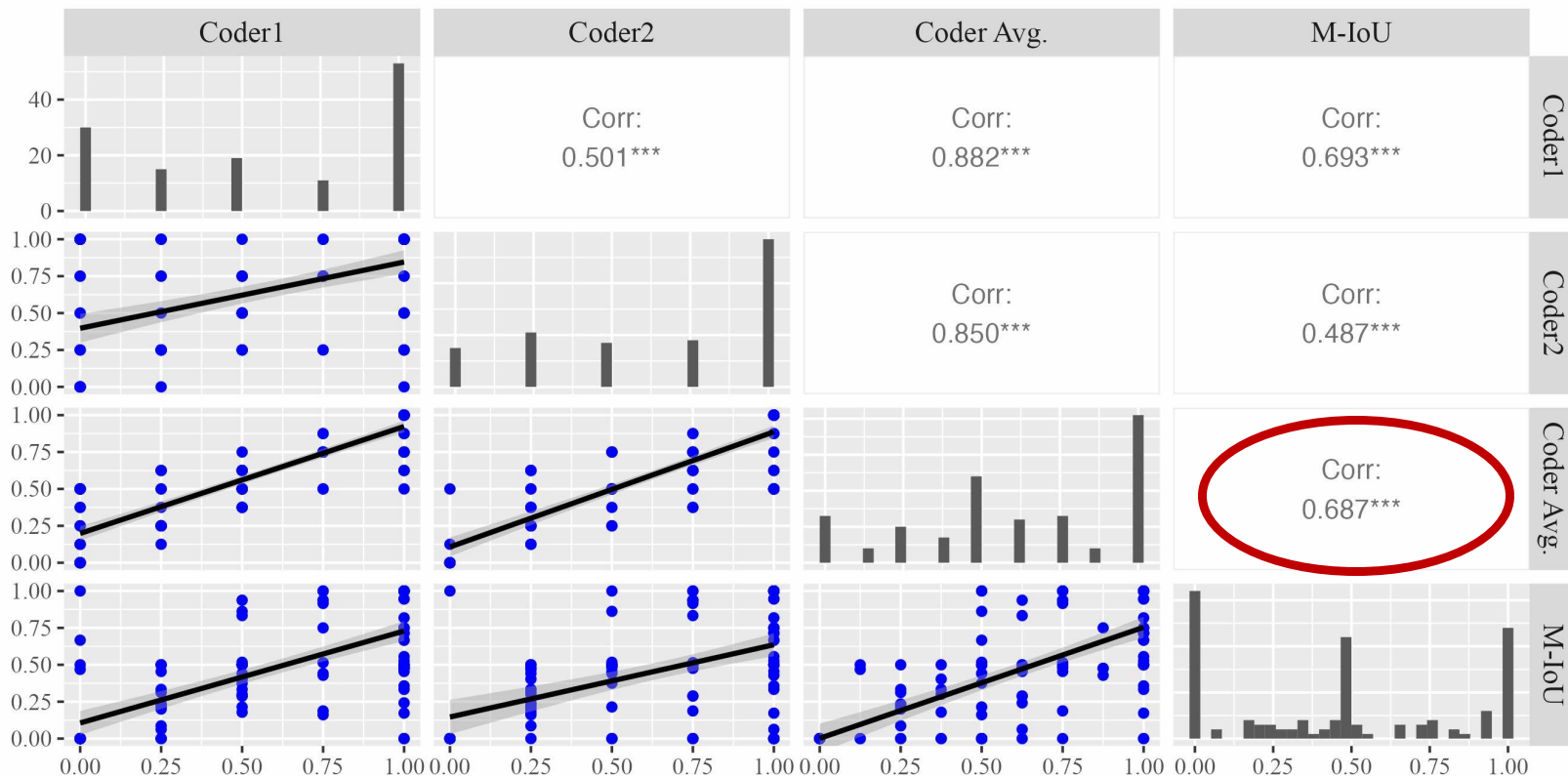
- Modified Intersection over Union (M-IOU)

Validate M-IOU score

Two human coders were assigned to evaluate the quality (five-point Likert scale) of shuffled highlighted responses, specifically focusing on the components of **effort** and **outcome** praise

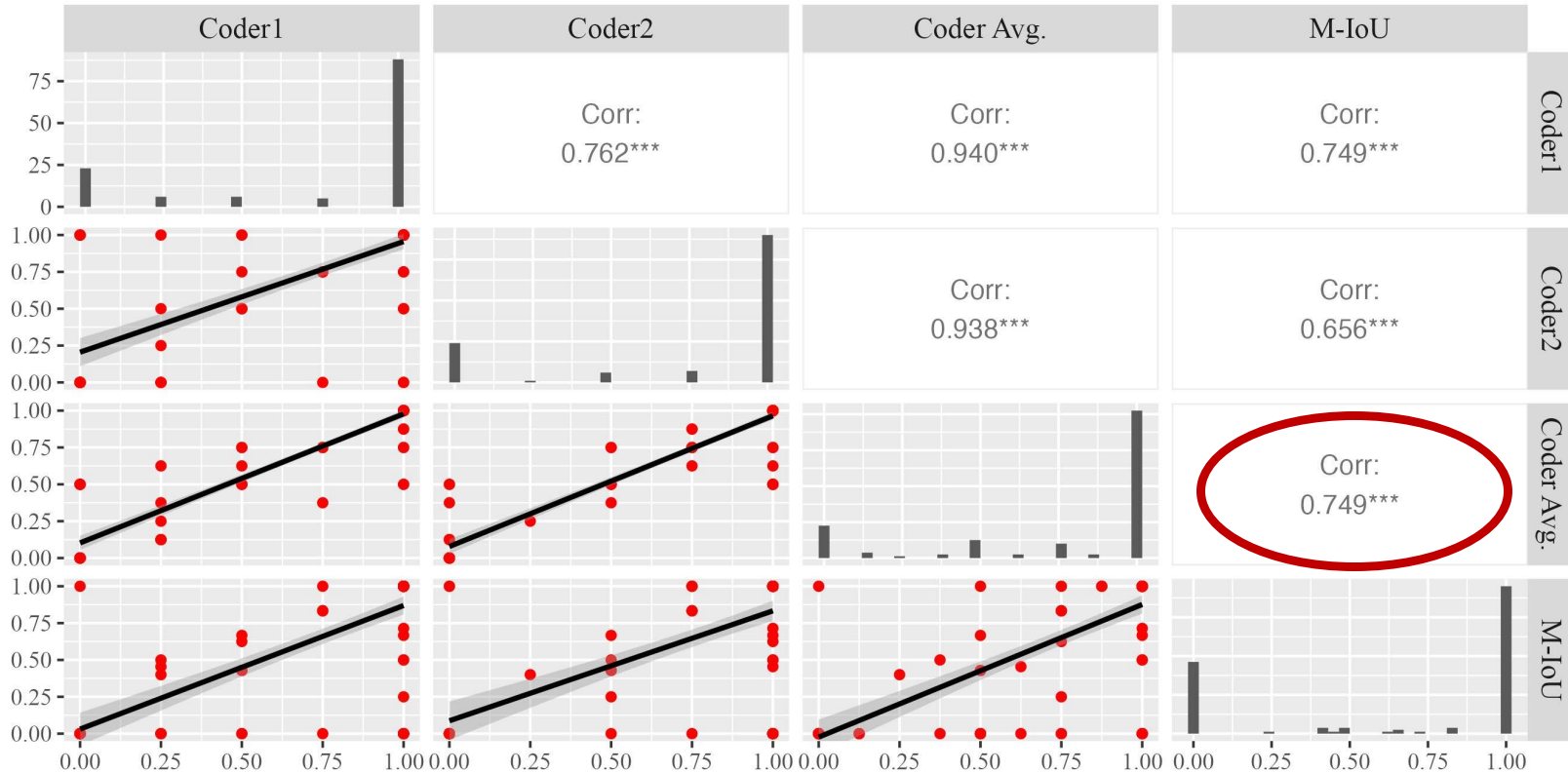
RQ1: Does GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?

- Validate M-IoU score on effort-based praise



RQ1: Does GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?

- Validate M-IoU score on outcome-based praise



RQ1: Does GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?

- Analysis of prompting GPT models for highlighting key components

Table 4: Descriptive statistics of the scores rated by two human coders and measured by M-IoU scores

	GPT-3.5 turbo		GPT 4 turbo		Expert Annotation	
	Effort	Outcome	Effort	Outcome	Effort	Outcome
Comparison between the normalized human ratings and M-IoU scores						
Coder 1	0.68 _{0.38}	0.79 _{0.40}	0.63 _{0.36}	0.75 _{0.39}	0.77 _{0.35}	0.89 _{0.30}
Coder 2	0.60 _{0.43}	0.76 _{0.40}	0.57 _{0.40}	0.74 _{0.40}	0.77 _{0.35}	0.84 _{0.35}
Avg.	0.64 _{0.35}	0.77 _{0.37}	0.60 _{0.33}	0.75 _{0.38}	0.77 _{0.29}	0.87 _{0.29}
M-IoU	0.46 _{0.36}	0.68 _{0.44}	0.47 _{0.38}	0.64 _{0.46}	N/A	N/A
Proportion of human rating 'Agree' or higher on our scale*						
Coder 1	64.06%	76.56%	53.13%	75.00%	73.44%	89.06%
Coder2	53.13%	73.44%	46.88%	71.88%	75.00%	84.38%
Avg.	56.25%	73.44%	53.13%	73.44%	75.00%	85.94%

Human coders rate **expert's highlight** as accurate about 80% of the time and they rate **GPT-3.5** as accurate about 65% of the time.

RQ1: Does GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?

- M-IoU scores for expert annotation on effort-based praise

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$$ratio = \frac{Avg(Coder1, Coder2)}{MIoU}$$

$$\widehat{MIoU}_{Effort-expert} = \frac{Avg(Coder1, Coder2)}{ratio}$$

RQ1: Does GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?

- M-IoU scores for expert annotation on effort-based praise

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Avg.	56.25%	73.44%	53.13%	73.44%	75.00%	85.94%

$$ratio = \frac{Avg(Coder1, Coder2)}{MIoU}$$

$$ratio_{Effort-GPT3.5} = \frac{0.64}{0.46} = 1.39$$

$$ratio_{Effort-GPT4} = \frac{0.60}{0.47} = 1.28$$

$$ratio = \frac{1.39 + 1.28}{2} = 1.34$$

RQ1: Does GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?

- M-IoU scores for expert annotation on effort-based praise

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Avg.	56.25%	73.44%	53.13%	73.44%	75.00%	85.94%

$$ratio = \frac{Avg(Coder1, Coder2)}{M-IoU}$$

$$\widehat{M-IoU}_{Effort-expert} = \frac{0.77}{1.34} = 0.57$$

If the prediction on **effort-based praise** can achieve an **M-IoU of 0.57**, the quality is comparable to expert annotation.

RQ1: Does GPT provide accurate explanatory feedback?

- M-IoU scores for expert annotation on outcome-based praise

Table 4: Descriptive statistics of the scores rated by two human coders and measured by M-IoU scores

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Avg.	56.25%	73.44%	53.13%	73.44%	75.00%	85.94%

$$ratio = \frac{Avg(Coder1, Coder2)}{M-IoU}$$

$$\widehat{M-IoU}_{Outcome-expert} = \frac{0.87}{1.15} = 0.76$$

If the prediction on **outcome-based praise** can achieve an **M-IoU of 0.76**, the quality is comparable to expert annotation.

RQ2: Does fine-tuning improve the accuracy?

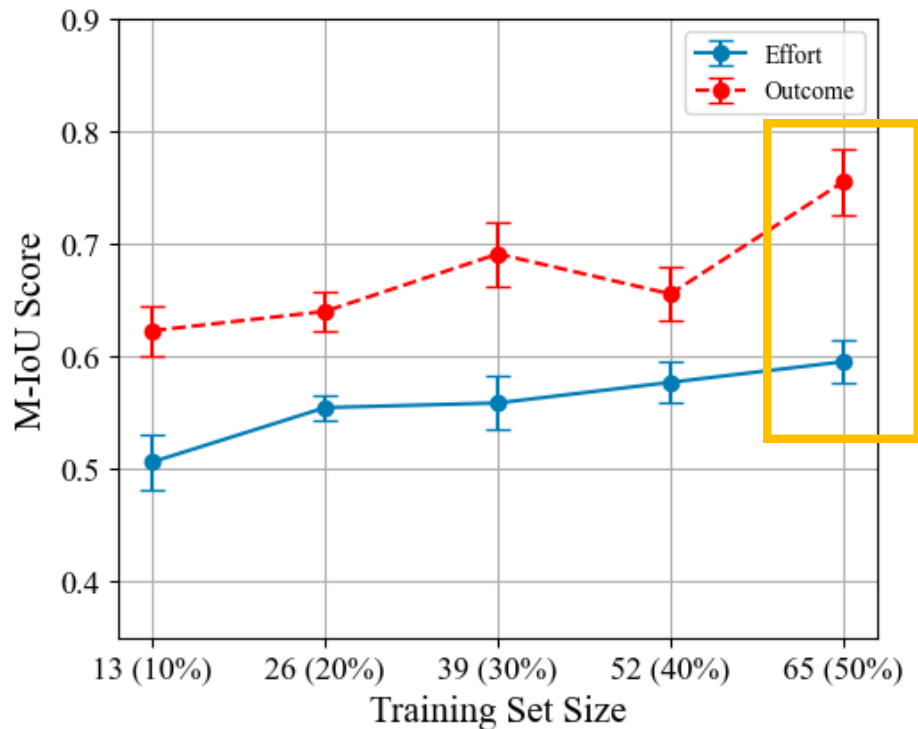
Highlights:

Fine-tuning GPT-3.5 can improve the accuracy of **highlighting** the **desired** and **undesired** components in trainees' responses

Examine the influence of different ratios of fine-tuning set on model performance.

RQ2: Does fine-tuning improve the accuracy?

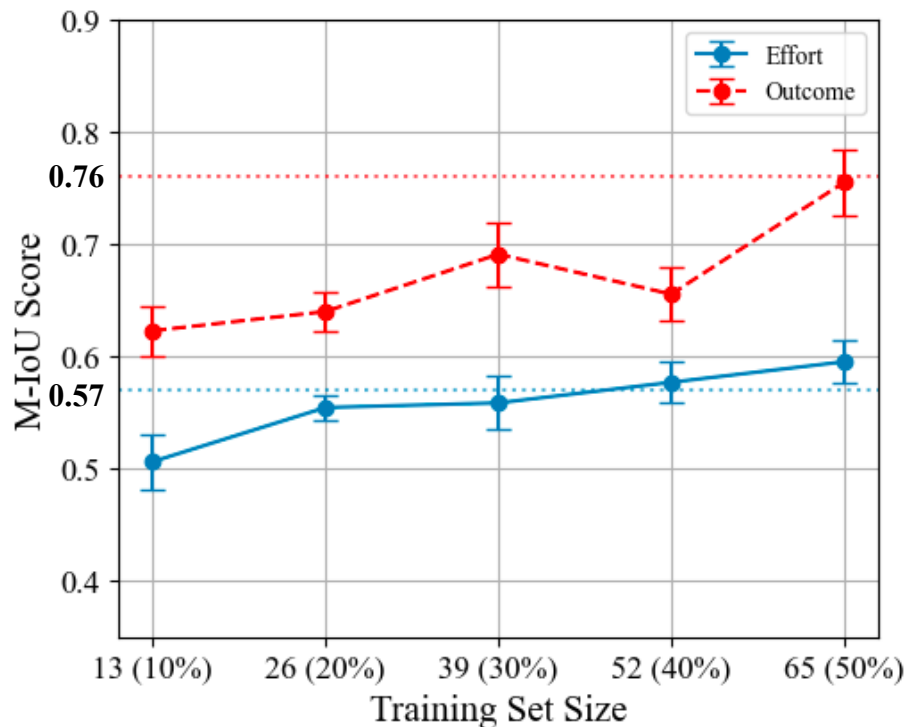
- Analysis of finetuning GPT models for highlighting key components



Praise type	Min (M-IoU)	Mean (M-IoU)	Max (M-IoU)
Effort	0.54	0.60	0.64
Outcome	0.66	0.76	0.84

RQ2: Does fine-tuning improve the accuracy?

- Analysis of finetuning GPT models for highlighting key components



Praise type	Min (M-IoU)	Mean (M-IoU)	Max (M-IoU)
Effort	0.54	0.60	0.64
Outcome	0.66	0.76	0.84

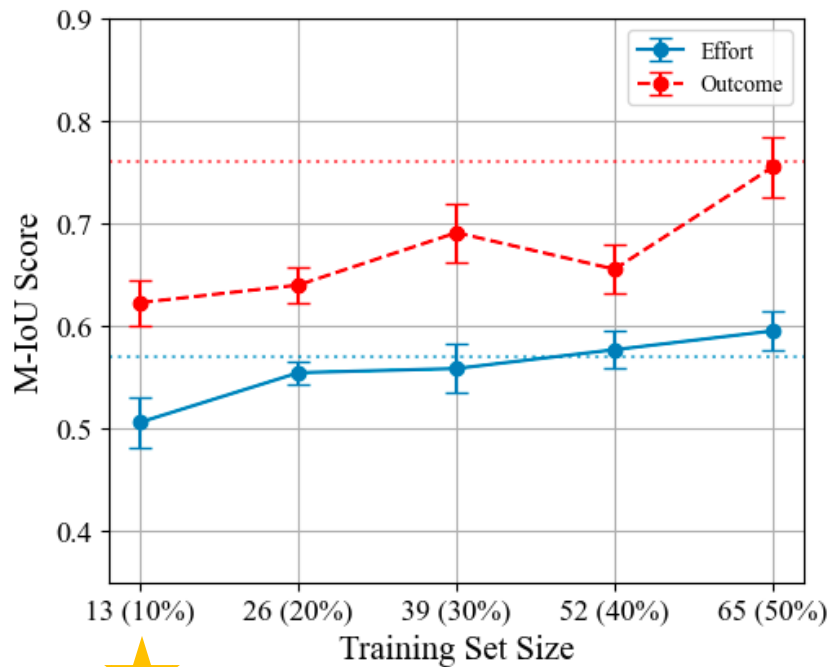
Expected model performance

$$\widehat{MIOU}_{Effort-expert} = 0.57$$

$$\widehat{MIOU}_{Outcome-expert} = 0.76$$

Ongoing and Future Works

Data Augmentation



**Our mission is to double math learning for
10,000 middle school students by 2026.**



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