

Do We Always Need Query-Level Workflows? Rethinking Agentic Workflow Generation for Multi-Agent Systems

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Abstract

Multi-Agent Systems (MAS) built on large language models typically solve complex tasks by coordinating multiple agents through workflows. Existing approaches generates workflows either at task level or query level, but their relative costs and benefits remain unclear. After rethinking and empirical analyses, we show that query-level workflow generation is not always necessary, since a small set of top-K best task-level workflows together already covers equivalent or even more queries. We further find that exhaustive execution-based task-level evaluation is both extremely token-costly and frequently unreliable. Inspired by the idea of self-evolution and generative reward modeling, we propose a low-cost task-level generation framework **SCALE**, which means Self prediction of the optimizer with few shot CALibration for Evaluation instead of full validation execution. Extensive experiments demonstrate that **SCALE** maintains competitive performance, with an average degradation of just 0.61% compared to existing approach across multiple datasets, while cutting overall token usage by up to 83%.

1 Introduction

Large Language Model (LLM)-based multi-agent systems (MAS) have recently emerged as a powerful paradigm for solving complex reasoning, coding, and decision-making tasks (Zhang et al., 2024b,a; Zhuge et al., 2024; Niu et al., 2025). By decomposing a task into multiple interacting agents and organizing their collaboration through agentic workflows, MAS can substantially extend the capabilities of a single agent.

Based on the granularity of workflow construction, agentic workflow generation methods fall into two categories: task-level and query-level approaches. Task-level approaches, such as such

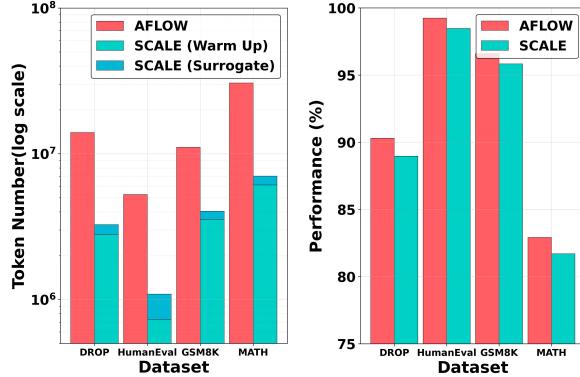


Figure 1: Comparison of Aflow and our rethought task-level workflow generation framework. Left: total token number during workflow generation (log-scale axis). Right: final test performance. Our method **SCALE** achieves comparable performance while significantly reducing token number.

as search-based Aflow(Zhang et al., 2024b) and learning-based GPTSwarm(Zhuge et al., 2024) and AgentPrune(Zhang et al., 2024a), generate a single workflow intended to perform well across an entire dataset or task distribution. However, this generality comes at a high cost: evaluation dominates computation, as each candidate requires full execution over the validation set. As shown in Figure 1, the whole Aflow’s generation process on four benchmarks consumes approximately $10^6\text{--}10^8$ LLM tokens.

In parallel, query-level approaches generate a separate workflow for each input query(Ye et al., 2025; Wang et al., 2025a; Gao et al., 2025). For every query, the system constructs a customized multi-agent workflow, allowing the agent roles and interaction patterns to adapt to the specific problem. This design aims to better handle heterogeneous queries and can yield strong per-query performance. However, this adaptivity comes with clear costs. A new workflow must be generated for every query, which introduces substantial inference overhead. For many simple or similar inputs, such query-level

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generation may be unnecessary, providing limited gains relative to its train time computational cost and test time generation cost.

From the characteristics of these two paradigms, we raise two fundamental questions that have not been systematically examined as shown in Figure 2. First, *Is query-level workflow generation always necessary?* Second, *Is high-cost evaluation in task-level workflow generation necessary?* For the first question, we show that a small set of top-k task-level workflows already achieves strong query coverage comparing to query-level method’s performance. It indicates that query-level workflow generation is not always necessary in practice. For the second, we find that exhaustive execution-based evaluation of task-level workflows is both extremely expensive and frequently unreliable.

Inspired by the idea of self-evolution and generative reward modeling, we propose a low-cost task-level generation framework **SCALE**, which means Self prediction of the optimizer with few shot CALibration for Evaluation instead of full validation execution. By leveraging the inherent evaluative ability of LLM-based optimizers, **SCALE** makes self predictions in a generative manner and calibrates them using few shot executions, thereby achieving highly reliable predictions with minimal token cost. Experimental analysis further shows that the calibrated self predictions in **SCALE** closely approximate true execution scores, it achieves a low MAE of 0.16 and maintain consistent ranking with a Pearson correlation of 0.52 (range: $[-1, 1]$), further validating reliability. Overall, our contributions are threefold as shown below:

- **Rethinking Insights:** We present a new empirical rethinking of workflow generation in multi-agent systems. Our analysis yields two main findings: (1) Query-level methods is not always necessary in practice. (2) Exhaustive execution-based evaluation in task-level approaches is both costly and unreliable.
- **Improved Framework:** Motivated by these observations and inspired by self-evolution, we develop a low-cost and effective framework **SCALE** for task-level workflow generation. Instead of exhaustively executing candidate workflows on the full validation set, our approach combines the LLM-based optimizer’s self prediction with few shot calibration to evaluate workflows efficiently.

- **Empirical Validation:** Extensive experiments demonstrate that **SCALE** maintains competitive performance, with an average degradation of just 0.61% compared to existing approach across multiple datasets, while cutting overall token usage by up to 83%.

2 Preliminaries

2.1 Agentic MAS Workflow

We consider a task \mathcal{T} given as a dataset of queries $q \in \mathcal{D}$, and an agentic MAS workflow $W \in \mathcal{W}$ that orchestrates a LLM-based MAS to produce an answer y . Formally, we formalizes the workflows space as:

$$\mathcal{W} = \left\{ (P_1, \dots, P_n, E, O_{\theta_1}, \dots, O_{\theta_n}) \mid P_i \in \mathcal{P}, E \in \mathcal{E}, O_{\theta_i} \in \mathcal{O} \right\} \quad (1)$$

where n is the number of agents, \mathcal{P} is the prompt space, \mathcal{E} is the information control flow that governs the execution order, data dependencies, and communication among these agents, which can be represented in various forms: as executable code (e.g. Hu et al., 2024; Zhang et al., 2024b; Xu et al., 2025) or as directed acyclic graphs(e.g. Zhuge et al., 2024; Zhang et al., 2024a; Wang et al., 2025b; Zhang et al., 2025). \mathcal{O} is a set of predefined LLM-based agents parameterized by O_{θ_i} . The prompt P_i and parameters θ_i enable the agent to adapt its behaviors to the task at hand, such as *Review*(Yao et al., 2022), *Ensemble*(Liang et al., 2024), or *Self-Correction*(Shinn et al., 2023).

At a high level, a workflow is a series of agent calls to answer a certain query $y = W(q)$. Given a task-specific evaluator $s(\cdot, \cdot)$ (e.g., exact match, pass@1), the performance of W on a query q is measured by $s(W(q), q) \in [0, 1]$.

2.2 Agentic MAS Workflow Generation

A number of recent methods have been proposed for agentic workflow generation, which can be grouped into two paradigms according to the granularity at which workflows are generated: task-level approaches and query-level approaches.

2.2.1 Task-level workflow generation

Task-level methods aim to generate a single workflow W^* that performs well on a distribution of queries from the same task as shown in (1)A and (1)B of Figure 2. Given a validation set $\mathcal{D}_{val} = \{q_i\}_{i=1}^N$ sampled from the task \mathcal{T} , the objective is:

$$W_{task}^* = \arg \max_{W \in \mathcal{W}} S^{exec}(W, \mathcal{D}_{val}) \quad (2)$$

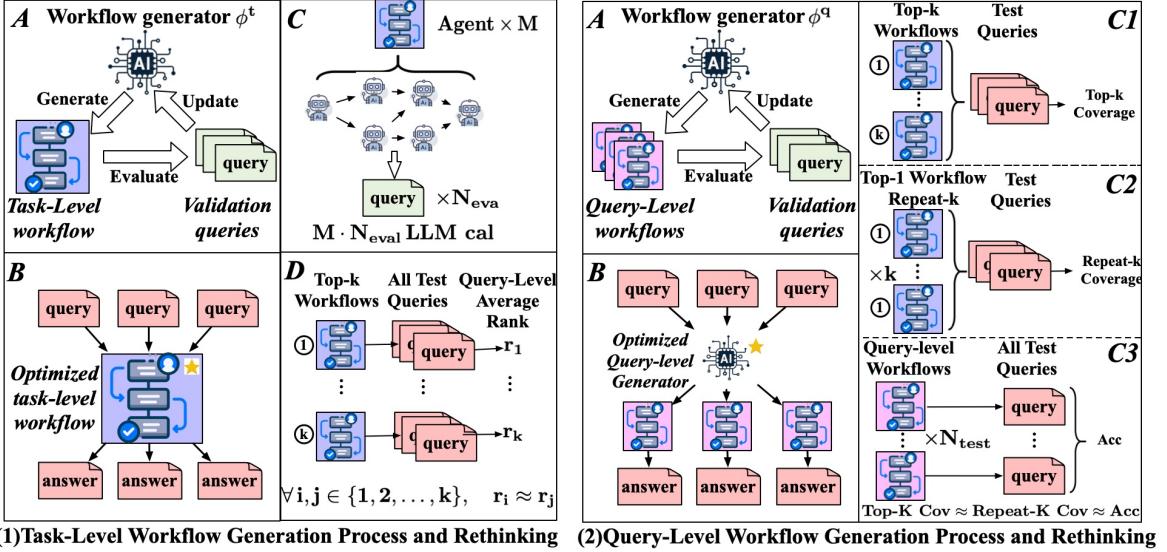


Figure 2: Task-level vs. Query-level workflow generation on their process and rethinking.(1)Task-level generation.(1)A shows searching/training: the generator generates a single workflow using validation queries; (1)B shows inference: the optimized workflow is reused for all test queries. (1)C–D present our rethinking: (1)C shows that repeated full-set evaluations is very token-costly, and (1)D shows top-k workflows have very similar query-level ranks. (2)Query-level generation. (2)A shows training: a workflow is generated per query; (2)B shows inference: producing customized workflows for each input. (2)C1–C3 summarize our rethinking on query-level workflows: top-k task-level workflows, repeat-k runs of the top-1 workflow, and true query-level generation yield comparable coverage/performance.

where \mathcal{W} is the workflow search space, and $S^{exec}(W, \mathcal{D}_{val}) = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{D}_{val}|} \sum_{q \in \mathcal{D}_{val}} s(W(q), q)$ denotes the average execution score of workflow W on dataset \mathcal{D}_{val} .

Despite implementation differences, these methods share the same closed-loop paradigm. First, generating candidate workflows through a task-level workflow generator ϕ^t . Second, evaluating the generated workflow on \mathcal{D}_{val} . Finally, updating the model ϕ^t using evaluation as a feedback. Aflow (Zhang et al., 2024b) uses a LLM as optimizer ϕ^t and improve the initial workflow through an MCTS-style loop. AgentPrune (Zhang et al., 2024a) use a graph model as workflow generator ϕ^t and learn it through reinforcement learning methods to generate better workflows.

Despite good performance, their evaluation is extremely costly, since each candidate’s evaluation requires the MAS workflow to execute on the full validation set. The token number scales with the validation dataset size and agent numbers resulting in a sharp increase as the loop continues.

2.2.2 Query-level workflow generation

As shown in (2)A and (2)B of Figure 2, query-level methods instead learn a query-level workflow generator ϕ^q that maps each query q to its own workflow $W_q = \phi^q(q)$ and the optimization objec-

tive is to maximize expected performance over the validation set:

$$\phi^{q,*} = \arg \max_{\phi^q} \frac{1}{|\mathcal{D}_{val}|} \sum_{q \in \mathcal{D}_{val}} [s(W_q(q), q)] \quad (3)$$

Existing approaches differ mainly in how ϕ^q is trained. MAS-GPT (Ye et al., 2025) adopts supervised fine-tuning on a curated dataset of query–workflow pairs. ScoreFlow (Wang et al., 2025a) optimizes the workflow generator ϕ^q using a preference-based optimization approach which enhances the original DPO (Rafailov et al., 2023). For many simple or structurally similar inputs, such query-level workflow generation may be unnecessary, providing limited gains relative to its test-time generation cost.

3 Rethinking Agentic Workflow Generation for Multi-Agent Systems

Our rethinking is twofold. First, as shown in (2)C1–C3 of Figure 2, we rethink the necessity of query-level workflow generation. Second, as shown in (1)C and (1)D of Figure 2, we rethink task-level methods, arguing that execution on validation set for evaluation is both token-costly and unreliable.

Dataset	Aflow					S.Flow
	Top-1 Perf	Top-5 Perf	Cov	Repeat-5 Perf	All Perf	
DROP	90.30	89.81	93.87	90.04	92.45	91.48
HumanEval	99.24	98.17	100.00	97.82	99.24	98.91
GSM8K	96.58	95.89	97.35	96.17	96.87	97.79
MATH	82.92	79.84	87.04	82.81	83.39	84.35

Table 1: Comparison of task-level and query-level workflow effectiveness. **Perf** denotes average test performance (%). **Cov** denotes coverage (%) of test queries. **S.Flow** denotes the query-level method ScoreFlow.

3.1 Is Query-level Workflow Generation Always Necessary?

Query-level methods offers fine-grained adaptivity, but it introduces considerable test-time generation cost that task-level methods don’t have. This raises a fundamental question:

Is query-level workflow generation always necessary to achieve strong performance?

For each dataset, we evaluate the following settings.(1)Task-level Top-1: We report the test performance of Aflow’s (Zhang et al., 2024b) best generated workflow. (2)Task-level Top-5: We report average test performance and coverage of Aflow’s top-5 workflows. *Coverage* is defined as the fraction of test queries that are covered by these workflows. A query is counted as covered if at least one of these workflows answers it correctly. (3)Repeat-5 of Top-1: We execute the Aflow’s top-1 workflow on test set 5 times. We report the average performance and coverage on test queries. This isolates the effect of the test-time execution stochasticity. (4)Query-level workflows: A dedicated workflow is generated for each query using a representative query-level method ScoreFlow (Wang et al., 2025a), and we report its average test performance.

As shown in Table 1, we obtain three main observations. First, a single Top-1 task-level workflow already performs strongly, indicating substantial structural sharing across queries. Second, Top-5 gains a clear increase in query coverage even more than query-level method’s performance, meaning that improvements can come from gathering few candidate task-level workflows rather than generating single strictly better workflows. Third, Repeat-5 achieves coverage comparable to query-level method, showing that much of the gain by query-level method compared to task-level can be covered by stochastic execution rather than diverse workflow structures.

Taken together, these results suggest that most benefits attributed to query-level method can already be achieved by a small pool of reusable task-

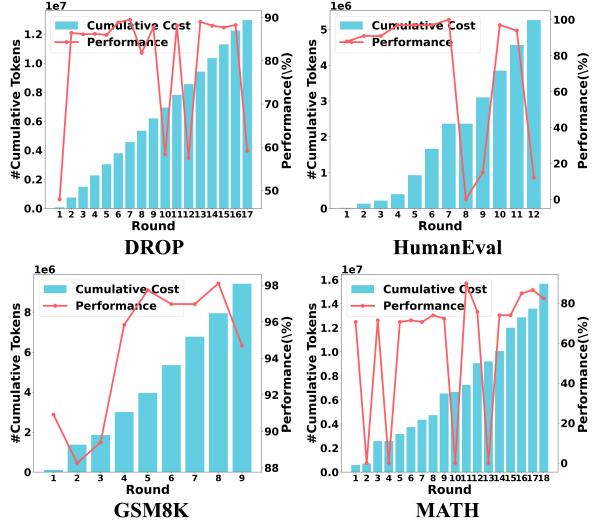


Figure 3: Cumulative Token Number v.s. Performance during Aflow’s task-level workflow generation process.

level workflows or even repeated execution of a single strong task-level workflow. The main advantage can come from coverage and stochasticity, not necessarily in query-level workflows.

3.2 Is High-Cost Evaluation in Task-Level Workflow Generation Necessary?

In this subsection, we revisit the evaluation in task-level workflow generation from two complementary perspectives: (1) how many tokens actually incurs in exhaustive execution-based evaluation, and (2) whether such costly evaluation truly leads to meaningfully different workflows.

3.2.1 How many evaluation tokens are incurred during task-level workflow generation?

We analyze the cumulative evaluation token number incurred during Aflow’s workflow generation. Figure 3 illustrates the relationship between evaluation token number and performance across each generated candidate workflow. For each benchmark, we plot the test performance achieved by candidate workflows, together with the cumulative token number which is defined as the total tokens used to evaluate all candidate workflows generated up to and including the current round.

Figure 3 shows that cumulative evaluation token number grows fast continuously with search rounds, while test performance quickly saturates and yields only marginal or negative gains afterward. This mismatch is evident: the cost is exploding but the corresponding performance improvement is minimal or even negative. These results indicate that the prevailing task-level evaluation paradigm is both

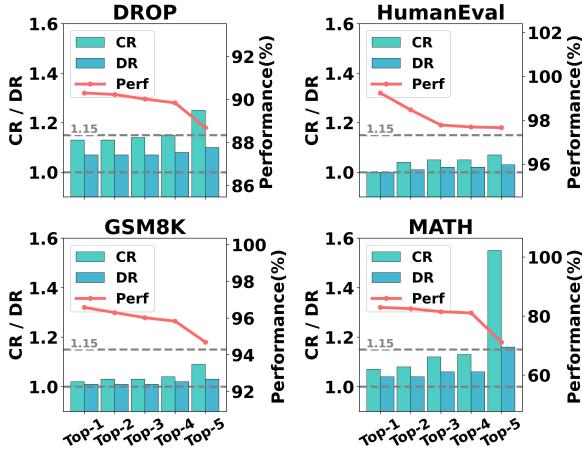


Figure 4: Performance and ranking statistics of the top-5 task-level workflows generated by Aflow across four benchmarks. **Perf** denotes average test performance. **CR** and **DR** denote average competition rank and dense rank, respectively, computed over test queries.

expensive and unreliable in the high-performance regime, motivating the need for cheaper and more reliable task-level workflow evaluation.

3.2.2 Do high-cost task-level evaluations actually distinguish better workflows?

To further examine the efficacy of Aflow’s costly evaluation process, we analyze the Top-5 workflows, defined as the five candidates with the highest validation performance across all candidate workflows produced in one complete run.

Beyond test performance, we also analyze query-level ranking. Concretely, all Top-5 workflows are executed and ranked for each test query. Then Top-5 workflows’ competition rank (**CR**) which allows ties and dense rank (**DR**) are averaged across queries. This reveals how consistently one workflow beats another. If the evaluation are strongly discriminative, these ranks would show clear separation among Top-5 workflows.

Figure 4 shows that the Top-5 (especially Top-4) task-level workflows obtained by Aflow exhibit very similar performance. Their performances vary only slightly across all benchmarks, while both CR and DR remain close to 1 with minimal variation, which indicates that expensive full validation provides limited benefit in identifying substantially better workflows.

3.3 Rethinking Results

In Section 3.1, we observed that query-level workflow generation is not always necessary, because a small set of task-level workflows or even repeated executions of a single workflow already covers

more queries. In Section 3.2, we further showed that exhaustive execution-based task-level evaluation is extremely costly while providing limited discriminative benefit.

Together, these findings show that current agentic workflow methods waste a lot of computation either generating unnecessary query-level workflows or evaluating task-level workflows that have almost the same performances. This motivates a new framework for task-level workflow generation that avoids both query-level generation and high-cost full-execution-based evaluation.

4 Methodology

4.1 Motivation

We propose a low-cost task-level generation framework **SCALE**, which means Self prediction with few shot CALibration for Evaluation. Inspired by the self-evolution paradigm and generative reward modeling in agentic systems, we treat the workflow optimizer as a self-predictor. In other words, the same LLM that generates workflows is also prompted to estimate the candidate workflow’s expected performance.

To reduce overconfidence, we separate generation and evaluation prompts and obtain scores in a dedicated evaluation context. We calibrate self predictions using execution results from few shot queries, typically 1–3% of the validation set. As a result, **SCALE** enables task-level evaluation without full validation execution, while maintaining reliable workflow scoring and ranking.

4.2 Overall framework

Our method **SCALE** operates in two stages: a short warm-up stage with full execution for evaluation, followed by a surrogate evaluation stage. Specifically, we use Aflow (Zhang et al., 2024b) for a few steps as the warm-up stage, and then instead of repeatedly computing $S^{\text{exec}}(W, \mathcal{D}_{\text{val}})$, we estimate workflow quality using a self prediction score calibrated by few shot execution as the surrogate evaluation stage.

4.2.1 Warm-up Stage

We begin with M warm-up rounds. Concretely, starting from a single question-answering LLM agent call as the initial workflow W_1 with execution score S_1^{exec} , we run an MCTS-style loop for $t = \{1, \dots, M\}$ consisting of four steps:

1. Selection. Given the existing workflows and scores $\{S_i^{\text{exec}}\}_{i=1}^t$, we select a parent workflow

using a soft mixed policy:

$$P_i = \lambda \cdot \frac{1}{t} + (1-\lambda) \cdot \frac{\exp(\alpha(S_i^{\text{exec}} - S_{\max}^{\text{exec}}))}{\sum_{j=1}^t \exp(\alpha(S_j^{\text{exec}} - S_{\max}^{\text{exec}}))}, \quad (4)$$

where $S_{\max}^{\text{exec}} = \max_j S_j^{\text{exec}}$, and λ, α control the exploration-exploitation trade-off.

2. Expansion. A new workflow is generated by editing W_i using the LLM-based optimizer:

$$W_{t+1} = \phi(W_i; P_{t+1}^{\text{optimizer}}) \quad (5)$$

The optimizer prompt $P_{t+1}^{\text{optimizer}}$ is dynamically built from local experience E_i^{local} and global experience E^{global} introduced in backpropagation step.

3. Evaluation. We execute W_{t+1} on the validation set $S_{t+1}^{\text{exec}} = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{D}_{\text{val}}|} \sum_{q \in \mathcal{D}_{\text{val}}} s(W_{t+1}(q), q)$.

4. Backpropagation The evaluation result updates both local and global experience. For W_i the local experience is $E_i^{\text{local}} \leftarrow E_i^{\text{local}} \cup (e_i^{t+1})$ where $e_i^{t+1} = ((W_i, S_i), \Delta_i^{t+1}, (W_{t+1}, S_{t+1}))$ and Δ_i^{t+1} denotes the optimizer's natural language description of the edit from W_i to W_{t+1} . We also maintain a global experience: $E^{\text{global}} \leftarrow E^{\text{global}} \cup \{(W_{t+1}, S_{t+1}^{\text{exec}})\}$. These experience is reused to update future optimizer prompts and the selection policy.

4.2.2 Surrogate Evaluation Stage

After warm-up stage, we continue the loop but the subsequent workflows are evaluated through self prediction with few shot execution calibration. At iteration $t > M$, we select and expand using Equation 4 and Equation 5 to get the newly generated workflow W_{t+1} . We evaluate it with our method:

Self prediction Firstly, we query the optimizer itself under a dynamically dedicated evaluation prompt $P_{t+1}^{\text{optimizer}}$ to obtain the prediction:

$$S_{t+1}^{\text{pred}} = S^{\text{pred}}(W_{t+1}) = \phi(W_{t+1}; P_{t+1}^{\text{eval}}) \quad (6)$$

where ϕ is the same LLM-based optimizer used for workflow expansion in Equation 5. The evaluation prompt P_{t+1}^{eval} is separated from the optimization prompt $P_{t+1}^{\text{optimizer}}$ to reduce overconfidence and prompt entanglement. The full template of P^{eval} is provided in Appendix A.1.

Few shot execution calibration To reduce bias, we execute W_{t+1} only on a small subset $\mathcal{D}_{\text{few}} \subset$

\mathcal{D}_{val} with $|\mathcal{D}_{\text{few}}| \ll |\mathcal{D}_{\text{val}}|$:

$$S_{t+1}^{\text{few}} = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{D}_{\text{few}}|} \sum_{q \in \mathcal{D}_{\text{few}}} s(W_{t+1}(q), q) \quad (7)$$

The sampling of \mathcal{D}_{few} is guided by the full-execution statistics collected during warm-up. With warming up workflows $\{W_m\}_{t=1}^M$, for each validation query $q \in \mathcal{D}_{\text{val}}$, we compute its empirical warm-up score $\bar{s}(q) = \frac{1}{M} \sum_{t=1}^M s(W_m(q), q)$ which reflects how well warm-up workflows already solve q . We then partition the range of $\bar{s}(q)$ into K bins $\{B_k\}_{k=1}^K$ (e.g., $K = 10$), where $B_k = \{q \in \mathcal{D}_{\text{val}} \mid \bar{s}(q) \in I_k\}$ and $\{I_k\}_{k=1}^K$ are disjoint score intervals covering $[0, 1]$. Let $n_k = |B_k|$ be the number of queries in bin k . We define a bin-level sampling distribution by a softmax over bin counts $p_k = \frac{\exp(\gamma n_k)}{\sum_{j=1}^K \exp(\gamma n_j)}$, $k = 1, \dots, K$, where $\gamma > 0$ is the sampling temperature.

Given a target budget $|\mathcal{D}_{\text{few}}| = \rho |\mathcal{D}_{\text{val}}|$ with $\rho \in [0.01, 0.03]$, we sample queries without replacement by first sampling a bin index k from the categorical distribution $\{p_k\}$, and then sampling a query q uniformly from B_k . Repeating this procedure until $|\mathcal{D}_{\text{few}}|$ is reached yields a few shot subset that preserves the warm-up difficulty distribution while covering both easy and hard queries.

Calibrated surrogate score The final score used to evaluate the workflow is:

$$\hat{S}_{t+1} = (1 - \alpha_{t+1}) S_{t+1}^{\text{pred}} + \alpha_{t+1} S_{t+1}^{\text{few}} \quad (8)$$

where $\alpha_{t+1} \in [0, 1]$ controls how strongly we trust the few shot execution relative to self prediction.

In practice, α_{t+1} is set adaptively based on the discrepancy between S_{t+1}^{pred} and S_{t+1}^{few} and the few shot sampling ratio. Let $\epsilon_{t+1} = |S_{t+1}^{\text{pred}} - S_{t+1}^{\text{few}}|$, and let $\tau > 0$ be a calibration tolerance. We also define the few shot ratio $\psi = \frac{|\mathcal{D}_{\text{few}}|}{|\mathcal{D}_{\text{val}}|}$, and an upper bound $\alpha_{\max} \in (0, 1]$ on the calibration strength. We set α_{t+1} as:

$$\alpha_{t+1} = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } \epsilon_{t+1} \leq \tau, \\ \min\left(\frac{\epsilon_{t+1}}{\tau} \psi, \alpha_{\max}\right), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

Intuitively, when S_{t+1}^{pred} and S_{t+1}^{few} agree within the tolerance τ , we keep \hat{S}_{t+1} equal to the self prediction ($\alpha_{t+1} = 0$). When the discrepancy exceeds τ , we increase α_{t+1} proportionally to how many tolerance units ϵ_{t+1} spans and to the few shot ratio

Method	DROP		HotpotQA		GSM8K		MATH		HumanEval		MBPP	
	Perf	Cost	Perf	Cost	Perf	Cost	Perf	Cost	Perf	Cost	Perf	Cost
ScoreFlow	91.48%	2.06e7	76.85%	2.72e7	97.79%	2.83e7	84.35%	4.03e7	98.91%	3.86e6	89.63%	3.93e6
AgentPrune	89.22%	6.65e6	76.73%	2.81e7	95.42%	1.07e7	81.53%	2.82e7	98.03%	1.65e6	88.37%	1.34e6
Aflow	90.30%	1.40e7	77.57%	3.11e7	96.58%	1.11e7	82.92%	3.06e7	99.24%	5.26e6	89.74%	3.92e6
SCALE	88.96%	3.27e6	77.41%	1.43e7	95.83%	4.04e6	81.70%	7.04e6	98.47%	1.09e6	90.32%	6.83e5
Δ	-1.34%	$\downarrow 76\%$	-0.16%	$\downarrow 54\%$	-0.75%	$\downarrow 63\%$	-1.22%	$\downarrow 77\%$	-0.77%	$\downarrow 79\%$	+0.58%	$\downarrow 83\%$
SCALE _{<i>S</i>^{pred}}	78.61%	4.45e6	75.40%	1.50e7	92.51%	7.69e6	76.33%	7.55e6	09.16%	2.30e5	90.62%	5.75e5
SCALE _{<i>S</i>^{few}}	86.06%	2.85e6	73.05%	1.55e7	94.22%	6.28e6	78.10%	5.49e6	96.95%	4.13e5	91.20%	6.17e5
SCALE _{<i>S</i>^{conf}}	00.00%	1.78e6	00.00%	1.04e7	0.00%	4.43e6	57.61%	8.48e6	97.71%	3.15e5	88.86%	1.24e6

Table 2: Test performance **Perf** and token number **Cost** comparison across six benchmarks. Δ reports the performance change and cost reduction of **SCALE** relative to Aflow.

ψ , but cap it by α_{\max} . This realizes the heuristic that large disagreements are more likely due to prediction error and should be corrected more aggressively toward the few shot estimate, while still respecting the limited size of \mathcal{D}_{few} .

To this end, we replace full validation execution with the calibrated surrogate score \hat{S}_i in Equation 8. The surrogate scores of low-cost stage $\{\hat{S}_i\}_{i>M}$ are used for selection, expansion, and experience update together with the full-execution scores in warm up stage $\{S_i^{\text{exec}}\}_{i=1}^M$.

Overall, **SCALE** eliminates full validation runs in the main search phase: only few shot execution is performed to calibrate the optimizer’s self prediction. As a result, token number scales with $|\mathcal{D}_{\text{few}}|$ instead of $|\mathcal{D}_{\text{val}}|$, cutting the token cost substantially while maintaining the performance.

5 Experiments

We empirically evaluate our framework on multiple benchmarks, aiming to answer these two questions: **Q1:** Can **SCALE** reduce cost while maintaining performance? **Q2:** Why does calibrated prediction approximate full execution score well?

5.1 Experimental Setup

Agent and Optimizer In all experiments, we adopt Qwen-Plus (Hui et al., 2024) as base models $\{O_{\theta_i}\}_{i=1}^n$ of executor agents and Qwen3-8B (Yang et al., 2025) as the workflow optimizer ϕ .

Benchmarks We evaluate on six benchmarks spanning diverse domains: DROP (Dua et al., 2019) and HotpotQA (Yang et al., 2018) (multi-hop reasoning), GSM8K (Cobbe et al., 2021) and MATH (Hendrycks et al., 2021) (mathematical reasoning), HumanEval (Chen, 2021) and MBPP (Austin et al., 2021) (program synthesis). The dataset splits follow Zhang et al. (2024b).

Baselines We compare **SCALE** with both task-level methods Aflow (Zhang et al., 2024b), Agent-Prune (Zhang et al., 2024a) and query-level method ScoreFlow (Wang et al., 2025a). We also include internal ablations that vary only in the surrogate score: **SCALE**_{*S*^{pred}} uses uncalibrated self prediction *S*^{pred}; **SCALE**_{*S*^{few}} uses few shot score *S*^{few}; **SCALE**_{*S*^{conf}} uses self-confidence *S*^{conf}, defined as $S_{t+1}^{\text{conf}} = \phi(W_i, \hat{P}_{t+1}^{\text{optimizer}})$, where $\hat{P}_{t+1}^{\text{optimizer}}$ appends “Output your confidence on the answer” to the optimizer prompt $P_{t+1}^{\text{optimizer}}$. Unlike *S*^{pred}, *S*^{conf} isolates the effect of our dedicated evaluation prompt P^{eval} by contrasting it with a minimal modification of the generation prompt.

Metrics The main metrics reported are: test performance and overall LLM token number incurred excluding test-time execution. Each benchmark’s performance metric is the same as in (Zhang et al., 2024b). Importantly, the token number is computed differently across methods to reflect their distinct optimization paradigms: for *task-level* approaches, it includes all tokens consumed in evaluating candidate workflows on the validation set to select the single best task-level policy; for *query-level* method, it includes tokens used in generating data for training the optimizer ϕ , evaluating query-level workflows during validation, and generating the query-level workflow at test time.

5.2 Main Results and Ablation Study

Across all six benchmarks, the results in Table 2 show that our method substantially reduces token number while maintaining test performance. Compared with Aflow, our method **SCALE** yields an average test performance drop of only 0.61%, while reducing total token number by 54% to 83% across all benchmarks. This demonstrates that full validation execution is not necessary for discovering high-quality workflows. Relative to

AgentPrune (Zhang et al., 2024a), which lowers token cost through structural pruning but still relies on repeated execution-based evaluation, our method achieves further token number reduction while delivering comparable performance, indicating that replacing the evaluation paradigm itself yields greater savings than modifying the search structure alone.

The ablation variants further clarify where these gains come from. **SCALE**– S^{pred} drastically reduces cost but exhibits noticeable performance degradation, suggesting that self prediction alone suffers from model bias. **SCALE**– S^{few} improves robustness but still requires larger execution budgets. **SCALE**– S^{conf} performs very bad across tasks, confirming that naive confidence signals are unreliable surrogates for workflow quality. In contrast, using calibrated prediction as surrogate evaluation **SCALE** strikes a stable balance between cost and performance by combining model-based prediction with few shot execution signals.

Overall, these results answer **Q1** affirmatively: **SCALE** maintains the test performance while reducing searching token number by up to 83%.

5.3 Comparing Different Surrogate Evaluation Methods

To answer **Q2**, For every workflow generated in a full Aflow’s run, we log and compare S^{exec} together four surrogate scores. Surrogate scores are intended to take place of $S_{i>M}^{\text{exec}}$ to guide selection and expansion, so a good surrogate should satisfy two properties: First, the value should be close to S^{exec} . If the scales differ, the search will unfairly favor one side of the two-stages. Second, it should induce a ranking consistent with S^{exec} to reliably distinguish workflows.

Let $\{x_t\}_{t=1}^T$ denote the sequence of S^{exec} along the search progress, and $\{y_t\}_{t=1}^T$ the corresponding surrogate scores. We quantify agreement between x and y with:

(1) Pearson correlation: $\text{Pearson}(x, y) = \frac{\sum_t (x_t - \bar{x})(y_t - \bar{y})}{\sqrt{\sum_t (x_t - \bar{x})^2} \sqrt{\sum_t (y_t - \bar{y})^2}}$, which measures linear ranking consistency. The larger pearson correlation means the better linear ranking consistency between two metrics.

(2) First-order difference cosine similarity: $\text{DiffCos}(x, y) = \frac{\sum_{t=2}^T \Delta x_t \Delta y_t}{\sqrt{\sum_{t=2}^T \Delta x_t^2} \sqrt{\sum_{t=2}^T \Delta y_t^2}}$, where $\Delta x_t = x_t - x_{t-1}$ and $\Delta y_t = y_t - y_{t-1}$. It captures whether the direction of round-to-round changes is aligned between two workflow’s measure metrics.

Method	Pearson \uparrow	DiffCos \uparrow	MAE \downarrow
S^{conf}	-0.0576	0.0377	0.0802
S^{pred}	0.0517	0.1275	0.0511
S^{few}	0.6827	0.6192	0.2160
\hat{S}	0.5217	0.5545	0.1634

Table 3: Agreement between surrogate evaluation metrics and full execution. \hat{S} strikes a good balance between value accuracy and ranking consistency.

Similar to pearson correlation, the larger DiffCos means the two metrics are better aligned.

(3) Mean absolute error (MAE): $\text{MAE}(x, y) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^T |x_t - y_t|$ which directly measures value-level approximation quality of the surrogate evaluation methods.

Table 3 reports these metrics for different surrogates. S^{conf} performs poorly on all metrics. S^{pred} achieves lowest MAE but almost zero correlation, indicating that it roughly matches the average scale of S^{exec} yet fails to order different workflows. S^{few} shows strong Pearson correlation and DiffCos but suffers from large MAE due to high variance from small sample size. \hat{S} combines the strengths of both: it improves correlation over self prediction while reducing MAE compared with few shot execution.

Overall, the answer to **Q2** is that the calibrated prediction \hat{S} serves as the most effective surrogate for the full-execution score S^{exec} . As a *surrogate method*, it aligns best with S^{exec} in both value agreement and ranking consistency; as a *evaluation score* for task-level workflow generation, it maintains a competitive test performance while substantially reducing token cost.

6 Conclusion

We revisited agentic workflow generation and arrived at two main insights: (1) query-level workflow generation is not always necessary, as a small pool of task-level workflows already achieves strong coverage, and (2) execution-based task-level evaluation is extremely costly while providing limited benefit. Motivated by these findings, we developed a task-level workflow generation framework **SCALE** to replace costly evaluation with calibrated self prediction. Across multiple benchmarks, it maintains competitive test performance with an average degradation of just 0.61% compared to existing approach while reducing overall token number by up to 83%.

7 Limitations

This work still has some limitations. Although our method avoids the main drawbacks of both query-level and task-level workflow generation methods, it remains primarily based on task-level workflow generation and has not yet fully leveraged the generalization capability of task-level approaches together with the fine-grained adaptability of query-level methods. We also do not assess cross-domain generalization in this work.

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A Appendix

A.1 Self Prediction Prompt Template

The following prompt template is used to guide an LLM-based evaluator in performing *self-prediction*, i.e., estimating the expected accuracy of a candidate workflow over the entire evaluation dataset before actual execution. The prompt is carefully structured to enforce rigorous static analysis while leveraging historical execution feedback for calibration. Key components include: (1) a clear task definition requiring both justification and a calibrated probability score; (2) contextual information about the dataset, few-shot examples, and the workflow’s code structure; (3) explicit descriptions of allowed LLM-based operators to validate correct usage; (4) reference experiences from prior rounds to enable prediction refinement through error reflection; and (5) strict validation rules (e.g., package imports, prompt definitions, operator interfaces) that trigger immediate failure (score = 0.0) if violated. The output format enforces structured reasoning via `<reason>` and `<box>` tags to ensure parseable and consistent responses.

```

1 SELF_PREDICTION_PROMPT = """
2 You are an expert evaluator of workflows
3 .
4 Your task is to predict the probability
5     that a given workflow will correctly
6     execute on the WHOLE DATASET,
7 which represents your estimation of its
8     overall accuracy.
9 Respond with a brief explanation first,
10    followed by a single floating-point
11     number between 0.0 and 1.0.

12
13 Dataset Description:
14 <dataset>
15 {dataset_description}
16 </dataset>

```

13 Few-shot samples of the Dataset (json format):
 14 {dataset_few_shots}
 15
 16 Workflow to evaluate (python code):
 17 <workflow>
 18 {workflow}
 19 </workflow>
 20
 21 Prompt used in the workflow (python code):
 22 <prompt>
 23 {prompt}
 24 </prompt>
 25
 26 The workflow is Python code; the key function is `__call__(question)`, which produces the workflow’s response.
 27 The workflow may call LLM-based operators described below:
 28 <operator_description>
 29 {operator_description}
 30 </operator_description>
 31
 32 Reference experiences:
 33 During the warm-up rounds, several workflows have been executed and evaluated.
 34 Each record includes the round (the iteration number of the workflow), the score (the actual reward obtained after execution), the prediction (the reward you predicted in the previous round), and the python code of the workflow and prompt. (these workflows use the same operators as shown above in the `<operator_description></operator_description>`)
 35 These experiences are provided to help you calibrate your future predictions by comparing your past predicted rewards with the actual scores, you can adjust your estimation strategy to make your predicted rewards as close as possible to the real execution results.
 36 <experience>
 37 {experience}
 38 </experience>
 39
 40 **General Instructions for evaluation:**
 41 1. Step by step, carefully check for critical errors that could prevent execution:
 42 - Package check (VERY IMPORTANT): The workflow code imports the required packages (for example: import numpy, asyncio and other commonly used Python packages). If any package is used in the workflow but missing or commented out, output 0.0 directly and do not continue other checks.
 43 - Prompt check (VERY IMPORTANT): The workflow code uses prompts written in Python format.

```

45 If the workflow uses no prompts then
46 just continue other checks.
47 If the workflow uses prompts,
48 For every prompt referenced in the
49 workflow, you must verify that this
50 prompt is properly defined in the
51 prompt.py file (commonly imported as
52 prompt_custom).
53 A prompt is considered properly
54 defined only if: It appears in the
55 prompt.py file without being
56 commented out AND the prompt name
57 matches exactly (including
58 capitalization, underscores, and
59 punctuation).
60 If any prompt used in the workflow is
61 missing, misspelled, or commented
62 out in prompt.py, you must
63 immediately output 0.0.
64 Check ALL prompts used in the
65 workflow following the same rule.

66 - Operator check (VERY IMPORTANT):
67 The operator is provided in text
68 description format. If the workflow
69 uses an operator, it must be among
70 the operators defined in <
71 operator_description>. If the
72 workflow uses an undefined operator
73 (including mismatched names,
74 incorrect parameters, or improper
75 usage) OR the parameters passed when
76 using an operator do not comply
77 with the interface requirements
78 defined in operator_description,
79 output 0.0 directly and do not
80 continue other checks.

81 - Workflow check (VERY IMPORTANT):
82 The __call__ funciton must return
83 the output string of the workflow
84 and the token usage only, more or
85 less is totally wrong. The input of
86 the workflow are only the input
87 string, more or less is totally
88 wrong.

89 2. Step by step, Analyze whether the
90 workflow can logically solve the
91 queries in the WHOLE DATASET. Please
92 carefully analyze the function of
93 each operator and whether the
94 position of each operator can
95 smoothly promote the resolution of
96 the problem.

97 3. Consider potential hallucinations
98 from the operators, for now, we use
99 {backbone_model} as backbone model
100 in operators.

101 4. Evaluate carefully and
102 comprehensively across all query
103 types in the WHOLE DATASET.

104 5. Be fair and rational: do not easily
105 assign 0.0 unless there is a severe
106 problem, and avoid scoring 1.0 with
107 overconfidence.

108 6. There is no need to focus heavily on
109 output details, such as formatting
110 inconsistencies, since extraction is
111 handled simply or by specialized
112 subsequent steps.

113 Output format:
114 - Provide a brief explanation of your
115 reasoning in a <reason> tag.
116 - Wrap your final probability in a <box>
117 tag **after** the <reason>.

118 For example:
119 <reason>The workflow correctly calls all
120 operators and uses only defined
121 prompts.</reason>
122 <box>0.85</box>
123 """

```

Listing 1: The prompt template for self prediciton.

A.2 Workflows Generated By SCALE

Here we show the best workflows generated by our method SCALE across six datasets.

```

1 from typing import Literal
2 import workspace_SCALE.DROP.workflows_43
3 .template.operator as operator
4 import workspace_SCALE.DROP.workflows_43
5 .round_6.prompt as prompt_custom
6 from scripts.async_llm import
7 create_llm_instance

8 from scripts.evaluator import
9 DatasetType

10 class Workflow:
11     def __init__(
12         self,
13         name: str,
14         llm_config,
15         dataset: DatasetType,
16     ) -> None:
17         self.name = name
18         self.dataset = dataset
19         self.llm = create_llm_instance(
20             llm_config)
21         self.answer_generate = operator.
22             AnswerGenerate(self.llm)
23         self.custom = operator.Custom(
24             self.llm)
25         self.sc_ensemble = operator.
26             ScEnsemble(self.llm)
27         self.verify_output = operator.
28             Custom(self.llm) # Reusing Custom
29             as VerifyOutput

30     async def __call__(self, problem:
31         str):
32         """
33             Implementation of the workflow
34         """
35         # Step-by-step generation using
36         # AnswerGenerate
37         initial_solution = await self.
38         answer_generate(input=problem)

```

```

30         initial_thought =
31     initial_solution['thought']
32         initial_answer =
33     initial_solution['answer']
34
35         # Refine using custom method
36     with clearer instruction and context
37         refined_solutions = []
38         for _ in range(5): # Increase
39             number of refinements for better
40             consensus
41             refined_sol = await self.
42             custom(
43                 input=f"{problem}\n\n"
44                 nInitial Thought: {initial_thought}\n"
45                 nInitial Answer: {initial_answer}",
46                 instruction=
47                 prompt_custom.
48                 REFINE_WITH_CONTEXT_AND_ACCURATE_PER
49
50             )
51             refined_solutions.append(
52             refined_sol['response'])
53
54         # Use self-consistency ensemble
55         to select the best solution
56         ensemble_result = await self.
57         sc_ensemble(solutions=
58         refined_solutions)
59         raw_final_response =
60         ensemble_result['response']
61
62         # Verification step to ensure
63         final output format compliance
64         verified_solution = await self.
65         verify_output(
66             input=raw_final_response ,
67             instruction=prompt_custom.
68             VERIFY_OUTPUT_FORMAT_PROMPT
69         )
70
71         return verified_solution['
72             response'], self.llm.
73             get_usage_summary()['total_tokens']

```

Listing 2: The best workflow generated by SCALE for DROP

```
1 VERIFY_OUTPUT_FORMAT_PROMPT = """Ensure
2     the response is properly formatted
3     with the answer() wrapper. If the
4     answer is not wrapped in answer(),
5     add it around the final result. For
6     example:
7
8 - If the answer is a number: answer(42)
9 - If the answer is text: answer(Wilson)
10 - If the answer is a vector: answer(\\
11     begin{pmatrix} 1 \\\ 2 \\\end{\
12     pmatrix})
13 - If the answer is a range: answer(1-10)
14 - If the answer is a percentage: answer
15     (95%)
16
17 The response should contain only the
18     final answer wrapped in answer()
19     with no additional text or
20     explanation."""
21
22 VERIFY_MATH_REASONING_PROMPT = """Check
23     the mathematical reasoning in the
```

solution. Verify that:

- 11 1. All calculations are correct
- 12 2. The logic follows mathematical principles
- 13 3. The steps lead to the correct conclusion
- 14 4. The final answer is consistent with the reasoning
- 15
- 16 If any errors are found, correct them and provide the corrected solution. Ensure the final answer is wrapped in `answer()` with no additional text.
"""

Listing 3: The prompt used in the executor agents of best workflow generated by SCALE for DROP

```
1 from typing import Literal
2 import workspace SCALE.HotpotQA.
3     workflows.template.operator as
4         operator
5 import workspace SCALE.HotpotQA.
6     workflows.round_15.prompt as
7         prompt_custom
8 from scripts.async_llm import
9     create_llm_instance
10
11
12 from scripts.evaluator import
13     DatasetType
14
15 class Workflow:
16     def __init__(
17         self,
18             name: str,
19             llm_config,
20             dataset: DatasetType,
21     ) -> None:
22         self.name = name
23         self.dataset = dataset
24         self.llm = create_llm_instance(
25             llm_config)
26         self.custom = operator.Custom(
27             self.llm)
28         self.answer_generate = operator.
29             AnswerGenerate(self.llm)
30         self.sc_ensemble = operator.
31             ScEnsemble(self.llm)
32         self.refine = operator.Custom(
33             self.llm) # New operator for post-
34             ensemble refinement
35
36     async def __call__(self, problem:
37         str):
38         """
39             Implementation of the workflow
40         """
41
42             # Generate multiple reasoning
43             paths
44                 solutions = []
45                 for _ in range(3):
46                     solution = await self.
47                         answer_generate(input=problem)
48                     solutions.append(solution['
49                         answer'])
```

```

# Self-consistency ensemble to
choose most frequent answer
ensemble_response = await self.
sc_ensemble(solutions=solutions)
selected_answer =
ensemble_response['response']

# Verify ensemble result for
validity and confidence before
refining
verify_response = await self.
custom(
    input=f"Question: {problem}\nCandidate Answer: {selected_answer}",
    instruction=prompt_custom.
VERIFY_ENSEMBLE_CONFIDENCE_PROMPT
)
is_valid = "answer(valid)" in
verify_response['response']

if not is_valid:
    fallback_response = await
self.custom(
    input=problem,
    instruction=
prompt_custom.
FALLBACK_ANSWER_GENERATION_PROMPT
)
selected_answer =
fallback_response['response']

# Refine the selected answer
with a stricter categorical/entity-
focused prompt
refined_response = await self.
refine(
    input=f"Question: {problem}\nSelected Answer: {selected_answer}"
,
    instruction=prompt_custom.
REFINE_TO_ENTITY_OR_CATEGORY_PROMPT
)
refined_answer =
refined_response['response']

# Check if refined answer is
valid; if not, trigger fallback
if "answer(None)" in
refined_answer or not refined_answer.
strip():
    fallback_response = await
self.custom(
        input=problem,
        instruction=
prompt_custom.
FALLBACK_ANSWER_GENERATION_PROMPT
)
refined_answer =
fallback_response['response']

# Final formatting verification
verified_result = await self.
custom(
    input=f"Question: {problem}\nCandidate Answer: {refined_answer}"
,
    instruction=prompt_custom.
FINAL_FORMAT_VERIFICATION_PROMPT
)

```

```
72         final_output = verified_result['  
73             response']  
74         return final_output, self.llm.  
get_usage_summary()["total_tokens"]
```

Listing 4: The best workflow generated by SCALE for HotpotQA

1 VERIFY_ENSEMBLE_CONFIDENCE_PROMPT = """
2 You are given a question and a
3 candidate answer derived via
4 ensemble. Determine whether the
5 candidate answer is logically
6 consistent with the question and
7 shows sufficient confidence. If the
8 answer is relevant and confident,
9 respond with answer(valid).
10 Otherwise, respond with answer(
11 invalid). Do not explain or rephrase
12 , just evaluate confidence and
13 relevance."""

14
15 REFINE_TO_ENTITY_OR_CATEGORY_PROMPT = """
16 You are given a question and a
17 candidate answer. Your task is to
18 reformulate the candidate answer
19 into a precise categorical label or
20 named entity that best fits the
21 question. Avoid explanatory or vague
22 language. Return only the most
23 accurate concise form, such as a
24 person's name, a location, a
25 historical event, or a categorical
26 label. Do not add punctuation or
27 quotation marks. Always wrap your
28 final output in answer(...).
29 Examples: answer(Polish independence
30), answer(William Shakespeare),
31 answer(no), answer(chronological
32 collection of critical quotations).""

33
34 FINAL_FORMAT_VERIFICATION_PROMPT = """
35 You
36 are tasked with extracting and
37 formatting the final answer from a
38 candidate answer such that it
39 precisely matches the expected
40 format. Avoid including any
41 descriptive or explanatory text.
42 Focus on named entities, binary
43 responses, or categorical labels as
44 appropriate. For named entities (people,
45 places, works), return only
46 the name. For yes/no questions,
47 return exactly "yes" or "no". For
48 categorical responses, return the
49 exact category. Always wrap your
50 final response in answer(...).
51 Examples: answer(Limbo), answer(no),
52 answer(Southern Isles). If the
53 candidate answer contains multiple
54 possibilities, choose the most
55 likely one based on the question. If
56 the candidate is unclear, make a
57 best-guess effort to extract the
58 intended answer. Do not add quotes
59 or extra punctuation. Do not explain
60 your choice."""

```

7 FALLBACK_ANSWER_GENERATION_PROMPT = """
Given the original question, please
generate a concise and direct answer
focusing strictly on the key entity
or fact requested. Avoid
explanations or additional
commentary. Always wrap your final
output in answer(...). Example:
Question: Who wrote Pride and
Prejudice? Output: answer(Jane
Austen)"""

```

Listing 5: The prompt used in the executor agents of best workflow generated by SCALE for HotpotQA

```

1 from typing import Literal
2 import workspace_calibrated_prediction.
GSM8K.workflows.template.operator as
operator
3 import workspace_calibrated_prediction.
GSM8K.workflows.round_7.prompt as
prompt_custom
4 from scripts.async_llm import
create_llm_instance
5
6
7 from scripts.evaluator import
DatasetType
8
9 class Workflow:
10     def __init__(self,
11                  name: str,
12                  llm_config,
13                  dataset: DatasetType,
14                  ) -> None:
15         self.name = name
16         self.dataset = dataset
17         self.llm = create_llm_instance(
18             llm_config)
19         self.custom = operator.Custom(
20             self.llm)
21         self.programmer = operator.
Programmer(self.llm)
22         self.sc_ensemble = operator.
ScEnsemble(self.llm)
23
24     async def __call__(self, problem:
str):
25         """
26             Implementation of the workflow
27         """
28         # Step 1: Generate multiple
29         # solutions using Programmer for
30         # diverse computation paths
31         solutions = []
32         for _ in range(3):
33             solution = await self.
programmer(problem=problem, analysis
="Solve the following math problem
precisely. Return only the final
numeric result.")
34             solutions.append(solution['
output'])
35
36         # Step 2: Use ScEnsemble to
37         # select the most consistent solution
38         # among the generated ones
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54

```

```

34             ensemble_result = await self.
sc_ensemble(solutions=solutions,
problem=problem)
35
36             # Step 3: Format the selected
37             # result properly using Custom to
38             # ensure it meets expected structure
39             formatted_solution = await self.
custom(
40                 input=f"Problem: {problem}\\
nComputed Result: {ensemble_result['
response']}",
41                 instruction=prompt_custom.
FORMAT_ANSWER_PROMPT
42             )
43
44             # Step 4: Validate that the
45             # result makes sense in context (e.g.,
46             # not negative where inappropriate,
47             # correct order of magnitude)
48             validated_solution = await self.
custom(
49                 input=f"Problem: {problem}\\
nFormatted Result: {{
50                 formatted_solution['response']}",
51                 instruction=prompt_custom.
VALIDATE_NUMERIC_RESULT_PROMPT
52             )
53
54             # Step 5: Final formatting
55             # verification to ensure answer is
56             # boxed correctly
57             final_result = await self.custom(
58                 input=f"Problem: {problem}\\
nValidated Result: {{
59                 validated_solution['response']}",
60                 instruction=prompt_custom.
FINAL_BOXING_CHECK_PROMPT
61             )
62
63             return final_result['response'],
64             self.llm.get_usage_summary()["
total_tokens"]

```

Listing 6: The best workflow generated by SCALE for GSM8K

```

1 FORMAT_ANSWER_PROMPT = """You are given a
math problem and its computed
numeric result. Your task is to
format the result in a standardized
way by placing it inside \boxed{}.
Only return the final formatted
answer without any additional text
or explanation. For example, if the
result is 123, return \boxed{123}."""
2
3
4 VALIDATE_NUMERIC_RESULT_PROMPT = """You
are given a math word problem and a
formatted numeric result. Check
whether the result is logically
reasonable in the context of the
problem (e.g., not negative when
expecting a count, correct magnitude
). If it seems incorrect, estimate a
plausible value and return it in
the same \boxed{} format. Otherwise

```

```

    , return the original result in \\
boxed{} format. Only return the
final result in \\boxed{}."""

5
6
7 FINAL_BOILING_CHECK_PROMPT = """You are
given a math problem and a validated
numeric result. Ensure that the
final result is enclosed in \\boxed
{} and represents a clean numeric
answer without any extra commentary
or formatting issues. Return only
the properly boxed result."""

```

Listing 7: The prompt used in the executor agents of best workflow generated by SCALE for GSM8K

```

1 from typing import Literal
2 import workspace_SCALE.MATH.workflows.
3     template.operator as operator
4 import workspace_SCALE.MATH.workflows.
5     round_20.prompt as prompt_custom
6 from scripts.async_llm import
7     create_llm_instance
8
9 class Workflow:
10     def __init__(self,
11                  name: str,
12                  llm_config,
13                  dataset: DatasetType,
14                  ) -> None:
15         self.name = name
16         self.dataset = dataset
17         self.llm = create_llm_instance(
18             llm_config)
19
20         self.custom = operator.Custom(
21             self.llm)
22         self.verify_format = operator.
23             Custom(self.llm)
24         self.verify_math = operator.
25             Custom(self.llm)
26
27         async def __call__(self, problem:
28             str):
29             """
30                 Implementation of the workflow
31             """
32             solution = await self.custom(
33                 input=problem, instruction="")
34
35             # Verify mathematical reasoning
36             verified_solution = await self.
37             verify_math(input=solution['response'],
38                         instruction=prompt_custom.
39             VERIFY_MATH_REASONING_PROMPT)
40
41             # Verify and format the output
42             # to ensure it has answer() wrapper
43             formatted_solution = await self.
44             verify_format(input=
45                 verified_solution['response'],
46

```

```

instruction=prompt_custom.
VERIFY_OUTPUT_FORMAT_PROMPT)

35
36         return formatted_solution['
37             response'], self.llm.
38             get_usage_summary()['total_tokens']

```

Listing 8: The best workflow generated by SCALE for MATH

```

1 VERIFY_OUTPUT_FORMAT_PROMPT = """Ensure
2     the response is properly formatted
3     with the answer() wrapper. If the
4     answer is not wrapped in answer(),
5     add it around the final result. For
6     example:
7
8 - If the answer is a number: answer(42)
9 - If the answer is text: answer(Wilson)
10 - If the answer is a vector: answer(\\
11      begin{pmatrix} 1 \\\ 2 \\\end{
12      pmatrix})
13 - If the answer is a range: answer(1-10)
14 - If the answer is a percentage: answer
15     (95%)
16
17 The response should contain only the
18     final answer wrapped in answer()
19     with no additional text or
20     explanation."""
21
22 VERIFY_MATH_REASONING_PROMPT = """Check
23     the mathematical reasoning in the
24     solution. Verify that:
25
26 1. All calculations are correct
27 2. The logic follows mathematical
28     principles
29 3. The steps lead to the correct
30     conclusion
31 4. The final answer is consistent with
32     the reasoning
33
34 If any errors are found, correct them
35     and provide the corrected solution.
36     Ensure the final answer is wrapped
37     in answer() with no additional text.
38 """

```

Listing 9: The prompt used in the executor agents of best workflow generated by SCALE for MATH

```

1 from typing import Literal
2 import workspace_SCALE.HumanEval.
3     workflows.template.operator as
4     operator
5 import workspace_SCALE.HumanEval.
6     workflows.round_11.prompt as
7     prompt_custom
8 from scripts.async_llm import
9     create_llm_instance
10
11 from scripts.evaluator import
12     DatasetType
13
14 class Workflow:
15     def __init__(self,
16                  name: str,
17

```

```

13         llm_config,
14         dataset: DatasetType,
15     ) -> None:
16         self.name = name
17         self.dataset = dataset
18         self.llm = create_llm_instance(
19             llm_config)
20         self.custom = operator.Custom(
21             self.llm)
22         self.custom_code_generate =
23             operator.CustomCodeGenerate(self.llm)
24         self.sc_ensemble = operator.
25             ScEnsemble(self.llm)
26         self.test = operator.Test(self.
27             llm)

28     async def __call__(self, problem:
29         str, entry_point: str):
30         """
31             Implementation of the workflow
32             Custom operator to generate
33             anything you want.
34             But when you want to get
35             standard code, you should use
36             custom_code_generate operator.
37             """
38         # Rephrase the problem for
39         # clarity
40         rephrased_problem = await self.
41             custom(input="", instruction=
42                 prompt_custom.
43             REPHRASE_PROBLEM_PROMPT + problem)
44         clarified_problem =
45             rephrased_problem['response']

46         # Generate multiple solutions
47         for ensemble
48             solutions = []
49             tested_solutions = []
50             for _ in range(5):
51                 solution = await self.
52                     custom_code_generate(problem=
53                         clarified_problem, entry_point=
54                             entry_point, instruction="")
55
56             # Reflect on the generated
57             # solution to improve it
58             reflection_prompt = f"Review
59             the following code solution and fix
60             any logical or syntax errors:\\n\\n
61             {solution['response']}"
62             reflected_solution = await
63                 self.custom(input=clarified_problem,
64                     instruction=reflection_prompt)

65             solutions.append(
66                 reflected_solution['response'])

67             # Pre-test each refined
68             # solution to filter valid ones early
69             test_result = await self.
70                 test(problem=problem, solution=
71                     reflected_solution['response'],
72                     entry_point=entry_point)
73             if test_result['result']:
74                 tested_solutions.append(
75                     test_result['solution'])

76         # Prioritize validated solutions

```

```

52         ; fallback to all if none pass
53         if tested_solutions:
54             ensemble_input =
55                 tested_solutions
56         else:
57             ensemble_input = solutions

58         # Use ScEnsemble to select the
59         # most consistent solution
60         ensemble_result = await self.
61             sc_ensemble(solutions=ensemble_input
62             , problem=problem)
63         final_solution = ensemble_result
64             ['response']

65         return final_solution, self.llm.
66             get_usage_summary()["total_tokens"]

```

Listing 10: The best workflow generated by SCALE for HumanEval

```

1 REPHRASE_PROBLEM_PROMPT = """Please
2     rephrase the following programming
3     problem in clearer terms, making
4     sure to highlight the key
5     requirements and expected output
6     format. Problem: """

```

Listing 11: The prompt used in the executor agents of best workflow generated by SCALE for HumanEval

```

1 from typing import Literal
2 import workspace SCALE.MBPP.workflows.
3     template.operator as operator
4 import workspace SCALE.MBPP.workflows.
5     round_7.prompt as prompt_custom
6 from scripts.async_llm import
7     create_llm_instance

8 from scripts.evaluator import
9     DatasetType

10 class Workflow:
11     def __init__(
12         self,
13         name: str,
14         llm_config,
15         dataset: DatasetType,
16     ) -> None:
17         self.name = name
18         self.dataset = dataset
19         self.llm = create_llm_instance(
20             llm_config)

21         self.custom = operator.Custom(
22             self.llm)
23         self.custom_code_generate =
24             operator.CustomCodeGenerate(self.llm)
25         self.test = operator.Test(self.
26             llm)

27     async def __call__(self, problem:
28         str, entry_point: str):
29         """
30             Implementation of the workflow

```

```

27     Custom operator to generate
28     anything you want.
29     But when you want to get
30     standard code, you should use
31     custom_code_generate operator.
32     """
33     # Generate the initial solution
34     solution = await self.
35     custom_code_generate(problem=problem
36     , entry_point=entry_point,
37     instruction="Generate Python code
38     that solves the given problem. Make
39     sure to return the result of the
40     function, not just print it.")
41
42     # Verify that the solution has
43     # proper format and return statements
44     verified_solution = await self.
45     custom(input=f"Problem: {problem}\nEntry point: {entry_point}\nSolution:\n{solution['response']}",
46     instruction=prompt_custom.
47     VERIFY_CODE_FORMAT_PROMPT)
48
49     # Test the verified solution to
50     # ensure it works correctly
51     test_result = await self.test(
52     problem=problem, solution=
53     verified_solution['response'],
54     entry_point=entry_point)
55
56     final_solution = test_result['
57     solution'] if test_result['result']
58     else verified_solution['response']
59
60     return final_solution, self.llm.
61     get_usage_summary()["total_tokens"]

```

Listing 12: The best workflow generated by SCALE for MBPP

```

1 VERIFY_CODE_FORMAT_PROMPT = """Verify
2     that the provided code solution has
3     the correct function signature and
4     includes proper return statements.
5     The solution must:
6     1. Contain the function with the exact
7         name specified in the entry_point
8     2. Include a return statement that
9         returns the result of the function (
10            not just print it)
11    3. Follow proper Python syntax
12
13 If the code is missing the function
14     signature or return statement,
15     please fix it. Return the corrected
16     code."""

```

Listing 13: The prompt used in the executor agents of best workflow generated by SCALE for MBPP