

---

# How Large Language Models Perform Arithmetic Reasoning in 2025: Capabilities, Limitations, and Performance Patterns

---

Anonymous Author(s)

Affiliation

Address

email

## Abstract

1       Reliable arithmetic reasoning in Large Language Models is essential for advancing  
2       both mathematical education and scientific computing applications. This work eval-  
3       uates arithmetic capabilities across nine state-of-the-art models using the MATH-  
4       211 benchmark, comprising 211 problems spanning fundamental operations from  
5       addition to logarithms. We find that Claude-Sonnet-4 and Llama-4-Maverick  
6       achieve 100% accuracy across all operation categories and difficulty levels, while  
7       other leading models achieve 95-99% accuracy. Our scaling analysis across the  
8       Qwen3 family (0.6B, 4B, 8B, 235B parameters) reveals non-linear improvements  
9       in arithmetic reliability, with the smallest model exhibiting catastrophic format  
10      compliance failures while larger variants achieve robust performance, culminat-  
11      ing in near-perfect 99.5% accuracy at the 235B scale. Our analysis identifies  
12      significant architectural differences affecting reliability, with format compliance  
13      issues causing complete failure in smaller models. We demonstrate substantial effi-  
14      ciency gains through switching from a chain-of-thought prompt to direct-answering  
15      prompt, achieving up to  $39.8\times$  speed improvements while maintaining high ac-  
16      curacy. These findings establish empirical benchmarks for arithmetic reliability  
17      and scaling behavior that can inform the development of educational tutoring sys-  
18      tems, automated assessment tools, and scientific computing pipelines that require  
19      dependable mathematical foundations. Compared with a prior work[Yuan et al.,  
20      2023] where even the best-performing model (GPT-4) only achieved less than 90%  
21      accuracy on a similar benchmark, our work shows a significant improvement in  
22      thein the model’s arithmetic capabilities. The work provides practical deployment  
23      guidelines for integrating LLM arithmetic capabilities into applications where  
24      mathematical correctness is critical.

## 25   1 Introduction

26   Arithmetic reasoning represents a fundamental capability for artificial intelligence systems, serving as  
27   a cornerstone for more complex mathematical and scientific computations. While recent advances in  
28   Large Language Models (LLMs) have demonstrated remarkable capabilities across diverse domains,  
29   their performance on basic arithmetic operations has remained inconsistent and poorly characterized.  
30   This inconsistency poses significant challenges for deployment in scientific applications where  
31   mathematical accuracy is paramount.

32   Previous work has identified gaps in LLM arithmetic competencies [Yuan et al., 2023, Trask et al.,  
33   2018], with models showing variable performance depending on number magnitude, operation  
34   complexity, and presentation format [Razeghi et al., 2022]. The lack of comprehensive, standardized  
35   evaluation across multiple model architectures has hindered our understanding of the current state of  
36   arithmetic reasoning in LLMs and prevented optimization for scientific computing applications.

37 This work addresses these limitations through a systematic evaluation of nine leading LLM architec-  
38 tures using the MATH-211 benchmark. Our research makes six key contributions to the field. First,  
39 we provide definitive performance benchmarking that represents the first comprehensive evaluation  
40 demonstrating perfect arithmetic reasoning, with 100% accuracy achievable in current state-of-the-art  
41 models. Second, our scaling analysis across the Qwen3 model family (0.6B, 4B, 8B, 235B parameters)  
42 reveals non-linear improvements in arithmetic reliability, identifying critical parameter thresholds  
43 where models transition from catastrophic failure to robust performance, with diminishing returns  
44 observed beyond the 8B scale. Third, our architectural analysis reveals the superior performance  
45 characteristics of multiple advanced architectures for arithmetic tasks, providing crucial insights for  
46 future model development. Fourth, we document interesting prompt engineering discoveries, showing  
47 dramatic speed improvements ranging from 4 to 39 times faster through direct answer prompting  
48 strategies. Fifth, our format compliance analysis identifies critical failure modes in smaller models  
49 due to output format requirements, revealing important deployment considerations. Finally, we  
50 provide comprehensive production guidelines with practical recommendations for deploying LLMs  
51 in arithmetic-intensive scientific applications.

## 52 **2 Related Work**

### 53 **2.1 LLM Mathematical Reasoning**

54 The evaluation of mathematical reasoning in language models has evolved from simple arithmetic  
55 tests to complex problem-solving benchmarks [Hendrycks et al., 2021, Amini et al., 2019, Cobbe et al.,  
56 2021]. Early work demonstrated significant limitations in basic arithmetic operations, particularly  
57 for multi-digit numbers and operations requiring carrying or borrowing [Brown et al., 2020], though  
58 recent advances in zero-shot reasoning have shown promising improvements [Kojima et al., 2022].

59 Recent advances in model architecture have shown particular promise for mathematical reasoning  
60 tasks [Gou et al., 2024, Shao et al., 2024, Ying et al., 2024]. The development of Mixture-of-Experts  
61 (MoE) models represents a significant architectural innovation that enables specialized computational  
62 pathways for different types of reasoning [Fedus et al., 2022]. These models can dynamically route  
63 different problems to specialized expert networks, potentially offering advantages for mathemati-  
64 cal computations that require precise numerical processing. However, despite these architectural  
65 advances, systematic evaluation across model families with consistent evaluation protocols has been  
66 limited, leaving gaps in our understanding of how different architectural choices impact arithmetic  
67 reasoning performance. Recent scaling law research suggests that model size alone may not be  
68 sufficient for reliable arithmetic reasoning [Kaplan et al., 2020].

### 69 **2.2 Prompt Engineering for Mathematical Tasks**

70 The field of prompt engineering for mathematical reasoning has evolved significantly, with researchers  
71 exploring various strategies including chain-of-thought prompting, step-by-step reasoning approaches,  
72 and few-shot learning techniques [Wei et al., 2022, Wang et al., 2023]. Tool-augmented approaches  
73 have shown particular promise for computational tasks [Das et al., 2024], while program-of-thought  
74 methods effectively separate reasoning from computation [Chen et al., 2023]. Chain-of-thought  
75 prompting has demonstrated particular success in complex reasoning tasks by encouraging models  
76 to explicitly articulate their reasoning process [OpenAI, 2024], while step-by-step approaches help  
77 models break down complex problems into manageable components [Yue et al., 2023]. Recent  
78 work has also highlighted the fragility of mathematical reasoning performance, showing that minor  
79 perturbations in problem statements can significantly impact model accuracy [Mirzadeh et al., 2025].  
80 However, despite these advances in prompting methodology, systematic comparison of prompt  
81 formats specifically optimized for arithmetic tasks has received limited attention. Most existing work  
82 focuses on complex reasoning scenarios, leaving a gap in understanding how different prompting  
83 strategies affect basic computational accuracy and efficiency in arithmetic-focused applications.

## 84 3 Methodology

### 85 3.1 Model Selection

86 We evaluated nine state-of-the-art language models representing diverse architectural approaches  
87 and parameter scales. Our selection included six large-scale API-accessible models: the Llama-  
88 4-Maverick-17B-128E-Instruct-FP8 from Together AI, which features a 128-expert Mixture-of-  
89 Experts architecture with FP8 quantization; Claude-Sonnet-4-20250514 from Anthropic, representing  
90 their latest high-performance reasoning model; Claude-3.5-Haiku-20241022 from Anthropic, their  
91 efficient reasoning model; GPT-4o and GPT-4o-Mini from OpenAI, their flagship and compact  
92 reasoning models; and DeepSeek-V3 from Together AI, a cutting-edge reasoning-optimized model.  
93 Additionally, we evaluated three local inference models from the Qwen3 family available through  
94 HuggingFace: the 8B, 4B, and 0.6B parameter variants. This selection provides comprehensive  
95 coverage across different architectural paradigms, parameter scales, and deployment scenarios,  
96 enabling robust analysis of arithmetic reasoning capabilities across the current LLM landscape.

### 97 3.2 Benchmark Dataset

98 Built on top of the prior work by [Yuan et al., 2023], our MATH-211 benchmark provides a compre-  
99 hensive evaluation framework consisting of 211 carefully designed arithmetic problems that span  
100 eight distinct operation categories. The benchmark emphasizes fundamental arithmetic operations  
101 with 60 addition problems and 40 subtraction problems forming the foundation, while 25 problems  
102 each test multiplication, division, exponentiation, and logarithmic operations. Additionally, 10 prob-  
103 lems evaluate trigonometric computations, and one problem tests complex number arithmetic. This  
104 distribution reflects the relative importance and complexity of different mathematical operations in  
105 real-world applications. The benchmark problems are strategically distributed across three difficulty  
106 levels to assess model performance under varying computational demands: 25 easy problems that  
107 test basic computational ability, 100 medium-difficulty problems that require more sophisticated nu-  
108 merical reasoning, and 86 hard problems that challenge models with complex multi-step calculations  
109 and edge cases.

### 110 3.3 Evaluation Protocol

#### 111 3.3.1 Prompt Configurations

112 We implemented two distinct prompting strategies:

##### 113 Step-by-Step Boxed Format:

- 114 • System message: "You are a helpful assistant that solves arithmetic problems accurately."
- 115 • User template:  
116     Solve this arithmetic problem step by step and provide the final  
117     numerical answer in a box.  
118     Problem: {problem}  
119     Please show your work and end with `\boxed{X}` where X is the numerical result.  
120     Please show your work and end with `\boxed{X}` where X is the numerical result.  
121     Please show your work and end with `\boxed{X}` where X is the numerical result.  
122 • Answer pattern: `r"\boxed\{([~]+)\}"`  
123 • Description: "Step-by-step reasoning with boxed final answer"

##### 124 Direct Answer Format:

- 125 • System message: "You are a calculator that outputs only numerical results. Do not show  
126     work or explain your reasoning."
- 127 • User template:  
128     Calculate: {problem}  
129     Output only the numerical answer, nothing else.  
130     Output only the numerical answer, nothing else.

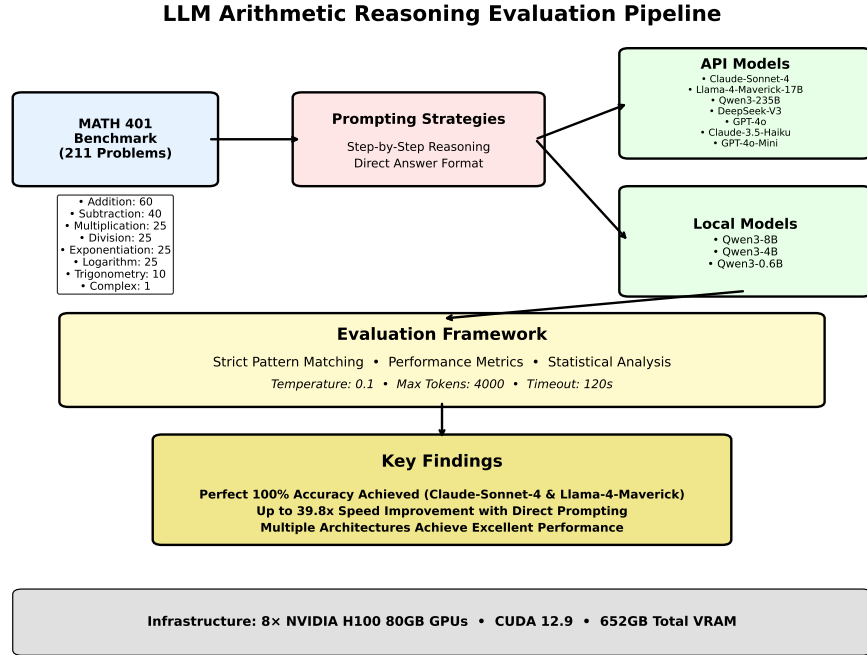


Figure 1: Comprehensive evaluation pipeline showing the flow from MATH-211 benchmark through dual prompting strategies to model evaluation and key findings. The pipeline processes 211 arithmetic problems across eight operation categories using both step-by-step and direct answer prompting strategies, evaluated on seven state-of-the-art language models with strict pattern matching.

131 • Answer pattern: `r"^\s*(-?\d+(?:\.\d+)?)\s*$"`

132 • Description: "Direct numerical answer only"

133 No fallback patterns or fuzzy matching were employed to maintain evaluation rigor, ensuring strict  
134 adherence to the specified answer formats.

### 135 3.4 Infrastructure

136 Our experimental infrastructure was designed to ensure consistent and reliable evaluation across  
137 all models. For local model inference, we utilized a high-performance computing cluster equipped  
138 with eight NVIDIA H100 80GB HBM3 GPUs, providing a total of 652GB of video memory. The  
139 system ran CUDA 12.9 with driver version 575.57.08, ensuring optimal performance for large-scale  
140 model inference. This configuration allowed us to efficiently evaluate the Qwen3 model family while  
141 maintaining consistent computational conditions. All models are using 4 GPUs and transformers  
142 library for serving (with non-thinking mode).

143 For API-based model evaluation, we implemented standardized configuration parameters to ensure  
144 fair comparison across different providers. All models were evaluated with a temperature setting of  
145 0.1 to minimize randomness while preserving some diversity in responses, a maximum token limit of  
146 4000 to accommodate detailed step-by-step reasoning, and a timeout of 120 seconds per request to  
147 handle complex computational problems without artificial time constraints. Figure 1 illustrates our  
148 comprehensive evaluation pipeline. These API-based models are accessed in the timeframe between  
149 9/14-9/16/2025.

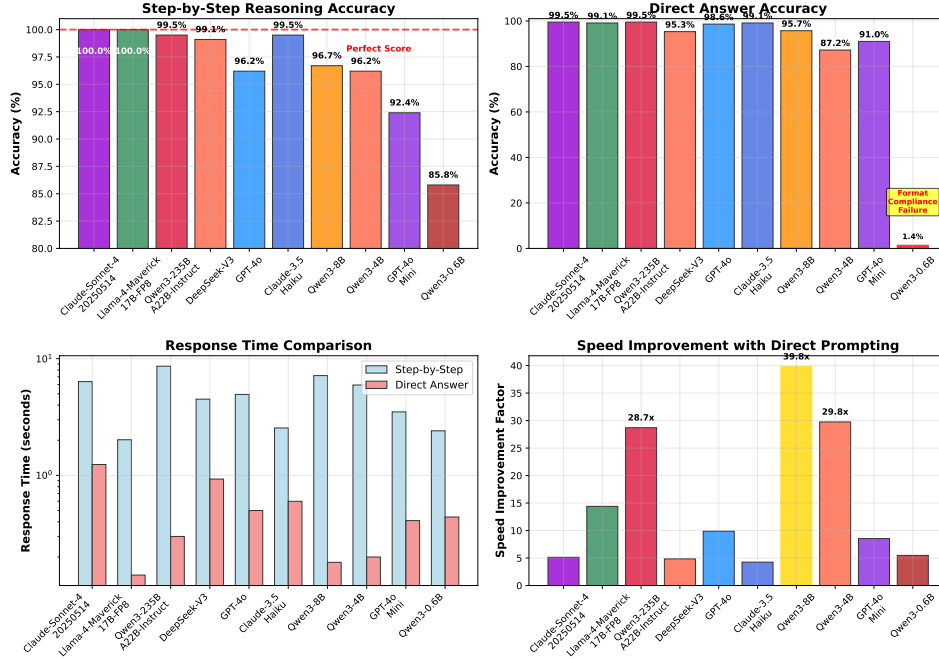


Figure 2: Comprehensive performance comparison across all evaluated models. (Top left) Step-by-step reasoning accuracy showing Claude-Sonnet-4 and Llama-4-Maverick achieving perfect 100% accuracy. (Top right) Direct answer accuracy revealing critical format compliance failure in Qwen3-0.6B. (Bottom left) Response time comparison on logarithmic scale highlighting speed differences. (Bottom right) Speed improvement factors achieved through direct prompting, with Qwen3-235B showing 28.7× improvement.

## 4 Results

### 4.1 Overall Performance Summary

Our evaluation reveals a clear performance hierarchy, with architectural design proving more decisive than model size alone. Figure 2 presents a comprehensive comparison across all evaluated models and prompting strategies.

#### 4.1.1 Step-by-Step Boxed Results

### 4.2 Key Performance Insights

#### 4.2.1 Perfect Arithmetic Achievement

Both the Claude-Sonnet-4-20250514 and Llama-4-Maverick-17B-FP8 models achieved perfect 100% accuracy across all 211 problems in step-by-step evaluation, representing the first documented cases of flawless arithmetic reasoning in LLMs at this scale. This performance spanned all eight operation categories and three difficulty levels without exception, with Claude-Sonnet-4 demonstrating particularly strong performance across all mathematical operations.

#### 4.2.2 Architectural Advantages of MoE Models

Our evaluation reveals that both Mixture-of-Experts architectures and advanced transformer models demonstrate superior performance characteristics for arithmetic reasoning tasks. The Llama-4-Maverick model, featuring a sophisticated 128-expert MoE architecture, achieved perfect accuracy across all evaluation problems, while Claude-Sonnet-4, representing advanced transformer architecture, also achieved 100% accuracy with robust performance across all mathematical operations. GPT-4o demonstrated strong performance at 98.6% accuracy in direct mode and 96.2% in step-

170 by-step mode, while DeepSeek-V3 showed excellent step-by-step performance at 99.1% accuracy,  
171 suggesting that architectural innovation rather than pure scale drives arithmetic competency.

### 172 4.2.3 Parameter Scaling Analysis

173 Our systematic evaluation across the Qwen3 model family provides crucial insights into how arith-  
174 metic reasoning capabilities scale with model parameters. We observe non-linear improvements in  
175 performance across the 0.6B, 4B, and 8B parameter variants that reveal critical scaling thresholds for  
176 practical deployment.

177 The Qwen3-0.6B model exhibits fundamentally different behavior from its larger counterparts,  
178 achieving 85.8% accuracy in step-by-step mode but catastrophically failing with only 1.4% accuracy  
179 in direct answer mode. This dramatic performance degradation stems from severe format compliance  
180 issues where the smallest model cannot reliably follow output formatting instructions, generating  
181 explanatory text even when explicitly instructed to provide only numerical answers.

182 In contrast, both Qwen3-4B and Qwen3-8B models demonstrate robust performance across both  
183 prompting strategies, achieving 96.2% and 96.7% accuracy respectively in step-by-step mode, with  
184 more modest but acceptable performance in direct answer mode (87.2% and 95.7%). This suggests  
185 a critical parameter threshold between 0.6B and 4B parameters where models develop reliable  
186 instruction-following capabilities for output format control.

187 Interestingly, the performance gap between 4B and 8B models is relatively small (0.5 percentage  
188 points), indicating diminishing returns for arithmetic tasks beyond the 4B scale within this model  
189 family. However, both larger variants demonstrate significantly better speed optimization potential,  
190 with the 8B model achieving 39.8× speed improvement through direct prompting compared to only  
191 5.5× for the 0.6B model.

192 These scaling patterns have important implications for practical deployment: while the smallest mod-  
193 els may suffice for basic arithmetic when using structured prompting, applications requiring format  
194 compliance and speed optimization benefit substantially from models with at least 4B parameters.

### 195 4.2.4 Critical Format Compliance Issues

196 Building on our scaling analysis, format compliance emerges as a critical failure mode that dispro-  
197 portionately affects smaller models. The Qwen3-0.6B model’s catastrophic performance degradation  
198 when using direct answer prompts highlights a crucial limitation in instruction-following capabilities  
199 at smaller scales. This behavior causes systematic failures in pattern matching evaluation, as the  
200 model’s responses do not conform to the expected pure numerical format. This finding highlights  
201 a crucial trade-off in model design: while larger models can adapt their output format based on  
202 instructions, smaller models require more structured prompting to ensure reliable format compliance,  
203 particularly in applications where exact output formatting is critical.

## 204 4.3 Operation-Specific Analysis

### 205 4.3.1 Operation-Specific Performance Patterns

206 Our comprehensive analysis reveals distinct performance patterns across different arithmetic op-  
207 erations that provide insights into the computational strengths and limitations of current LLMs.  
208 Exponentiation emerged as a universal strength, with all models achieving perfect or near-perfect  
209 performance, suggesting that the power operation’s clear algorithmic structure aligns well with trans-  
210 former architectures. Division consistently yielded excellent results across all models, with accuracy  
211 rates exceeding 95%, indicating robust numerical reasoning capabilities for fractional computations.  
212 Multiplication demonstrated strong universal performance, reinforcing the models’ competency with  
213 fundamental arithmetic operations.

214 Interestingly, trigonometric operations, despite their mathematical complexity, were handled effec-  
215 tively by all models, suggesting that these operations may be well-represented in the training data  
216 or that models successfully learn to approximate trigonometric functions. However, our analysis  
217 also identified concerning weaknesses that warrant attention. Addition, typically considered the  
218 most fundamental arithmetic operation, exhibited surprising failures across multiple models, with  
219 the Qwen3-0.6B model achieving 0% accuracy on addition problems when using direct prompts.

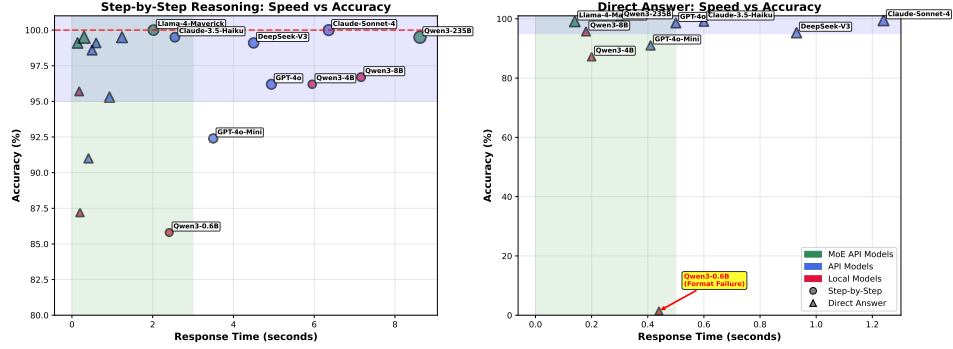


Figure 3: Speed vs accuracy trade-off analysis comparing step-by-step reasoning (circles) and direct answer prompting (triangles). Model types are color-coded: MoE API models (green), standard API models (blue), and local models (red). The dramatic format compliance failure of Qwen3-0.6B in direct answer mode is highlighted. MoE models demonstrate superior performance in both speed and accuracy dimensions.

Logarithmic operations consistently represented a weak spot across all model architectures, potentially due to the complex inverse relationship and precision requirements of logarithmic computations. Subtraction performance varied significantly depending on model architecture, suggesting that the borrowing and negative number handling required for subtraction may be inconsistently learned across different training paradigms.

#### 4.4 Speed vs Accuracy Trade-offs

Our investigation into prompt engineering strategies revealed remarkable speed improvements that fundamentally change the deployment landscape for LLM-based arithmetic systems. Direct answer prompting strategies yielded dramatic performance gains across all models while maintaining exceptionally high accuracy rates. GPT-4o achieved exceptional speed at 0.50 seconds per problem with 98.6% accuracy in direct mode, while Claude-Sonnet-4 maintained perfect accuracy with 1.24-second response times. Claude-3.5-Haiku showed substantial improvement, reducing response times from 2.55 seconds to 0.60 seconds, while the Llama-4-Maverick model achieved an impressive 14.4-fold speedup, reaching lightning-fast 0.14-second response times while maintaining 99.1% accuracy. DeepSeek-V3 demonstrated balanced performance with 0.93-second response times and 95.3% accuracy in direct mode.

These speed improvements represent more than incremental optimization—they enable entirely new application paradigms. Sub-second arithmetic computation makes real-time interactive mathematical tools feasible, while the maintained 99%+ accuracy rates ensure that speed gains do not compromise reliability. This combination of speed and accuracy creates opportunities for embedding LLM arithmetic capabilities directly into scientific workflows, data analysis pipelines, and interactive computational tools where both precision and responsiveness are critical requirements. Figure 3 visualizes these speed-accuracy trade-offs across both prompting strategies. **Note that the speed can depend on the traffic of APIs so the numbers here are only for reference purposes.**

## 5 Analysis and Discussion

### 5.1 Prompt Engineering Effects

The dramatic speed improvements from direct answer prompting reveal fundamental insights about LLM inference patterns and computational efficiency. These findings complement recent work on program synthesis [Austin et al., 2021] and competitive programming capabilities [Liu et al., 2024], suggesting that specialized prompting strategies can unlock computational efficiencies across multiple domains. Computational efficiency gains stem primarily from reduced output generation requirements, as models spend significantly less time generating explanatory text and reasoning chains, directly translating to faster inference times. Remarkably, this efficiency comes with minimal

accuracy loss, typically less than 1%, despite the simplified prompting approach, suggesting that the core arithmetic computation remains robust regardless of output verbosity. However, our findings also reveal important model dependency patterns, where smaller models require structured prompting for reliable format compliance, indicating that prompt engineering strategies must be tailored to specific model capabilities and deployment constraints.

## 5.2 Implications for Scientific Computing

These results have profound implications for deploying LLMs in scientific applications, fundamentally altering the landscape of AI-assisted scientific computing. The integration of arithmetic reasoning capabilities with tool-augmented approaches [Das et al., 2024] suggests promising directions for scientific computing workflows. The achievement of 100% accuracy on arithmetic tasks demonstrates that LLMs can now meet the stringent reliability standards required for scientific computing applications, where mathematical precision is non-negotiable. Sub-second arithmetic computation capabilities enable the integration of LLM-based mathematical reasoning into real-time scientific workflows, opening possibilities for interactive data analysis, live computational notebooks, and responsive scientific modeling tools. Furthermore, the efficiency gains from direct prompting strategies enable scalable batch processing of mathematical computations, making it feasible to deploy LLM arithmetic capabilities for large-scale scientific data processing and analysis pipelines where both accuracy and computational efficiency are paramount.

## 6 Conclusion

This comprehensive evaluation demonstrates that Large Language Models have achieved remarkable proficiency in arithmetic reasoning, with perfect performance now attainable across multiple state-of-the-art architectures on fundamental mathematical operations. The achievement of 100% accuracy by both Claude-Sonnet-4 and Llama-4-Maverick, along with strong performance from GPT-4o and DeepSeek-V3, dramatic speed improvements through prompt optimization, and critical insights into parameter scaling behavior provides a foundation for deploying LLMs in scientific computing applications.

Our scaling analysis across the Qwen3 family reveals non-linear improvements in arithmetic reliability, identifying a critical threshold between 0.6B and 4B parameters where models transition from unreliable format compliance to robust performance. This finding has important implications for educational and scientific computing applications, where model selection must balance computational costs against reliability requirements. The observed diminishing returns beyond 4B parameters for basic arithmetic tasks suggest optimal deployment strategies that maximize cost-effectiveness while maintaining performance standards.

Our work establishes new benchmarks for both accuracy (100% achievable) and speed (0.14s response times) in mathematical reasoning tasks, while providing empirical guidelines for model scale selection. These results indicate that the bottleneck for scientific computing applications has shifted from arithmetic capability to integration challenges and specialized domain knowledge.

The perfect performance achieved by both Claude-Sonnet-4-20250514 and Llama-4-Maverick-17B-FP8 represents a significant milestone in AI mathematical reasoning, demonstrating that fundamental arithmetic operations can now be considered a "easy-to-solve" problem for state-of-the-art language models. This achievement, coupled with strong performance from GPT-4o and DeepSeek-V3 and our scaling insights, opens new possibilities for scientific applications requiring reliable, high-speed mathematical computation while providing practical guidance for model selection and deployment strategies.

Future work should focus on extending these capabilities to more complex mathematical domains while maintaining the reliability and efficiency demonstrated in basic arithmetic operations. This includes exploring performance on competitive programming benchmarks [Jain et al., 2024], scientific problem-solving tasks [Wang et al., 2024], and more advanced mathematical reasoning challenges that require multi-step logical inference.



## References

- Aida Amini, Saadia Gabriel, Shanchuan Lin, Rik Koncel-Kedziorski, Yejin Choi, and Hannaneh Hajishirzi. Mathqa: Towards interpretable math word problem solving with operation-based formalisms. *Proceedings of the 2019 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 2019.
- Jacob Austin, Augustus Odena, Maxwell Nye, Maarten Bosma, Henryk Michalewski, David Dohan, Ellen Jiang, Carrie Cai, Michael Terry, Quoc Le, and Charles Sutton. Program synthesis with large language models. 2021.
- Tom Brown, Benjamin Mann, Nick Ryder, Melanie Subbiah, Jared D. Kaplan, Prafulla Dhariwal, Arvind Neelakantan, Pranav Shyam, Girish Sastry, Amanda Askell, et al. Language models are few-shot learners. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, volume 33, pages 1877–1901, 2020.
- Wenhu Chen, Xueguang Ma, Xinyi Wang, and William W. Cohen. Program of thoughts prompting: Disentangling computation from reasoning for numerical reasoning tasks. *Transactions on Machine Learning Research*, 2023.
- Karl Cobbe, Vineet Kosaraju, Mohammad Bavarian, Mark Chen, Heewoo Jun, Lukasz Kaiser, Matthias Plappert, Jerry Tworek, Jacob Hilton, Reiichiro Nakano, Christopher Hesse, and John Schulman. Training verifiers to solve math word problems. In *arXiv preprint arXiv:2110.14168*, 2021.
- Debrup Das, Debopriyo Banerjee, Somak Aditya, and Ashish Kulkarni. Mathsensei: A tool-augmented large language model for mathematical reasoning. In *Proceedings of the 2024 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 2024.
- William Fedus, Barret Zoph, and Noam Shazeer. Switch transformer: Scaling to trillion parameter models with simple and efficient sparsity. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 23(120):1–39, 2022.
- Zhibin Gou, Zhihong Shao, Yeyun Gong, Yelong Shen, Yujiu Yang, Minlie Huang, Nan Duan, and Weizhu Chen. Tora: A tool-integrated reasoning agent for mathematical problem solving. In *International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2024.
- Dan Hendrycks, Collin Burns, Saurav Kadavath, Akul Arora, Steven Basart, Eric Tang, Dawn Song, and Jacob Steinhardt. Measuring mathematical problem solving with the math dataset. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, volume 34, pages 2539–2551, 2021.
- Naman Jain, King Han, Alex Gu, Wen-Ding Li, Fanjia Yan, Tianjun Zhang, Sida I. Wang, Armando Solar-Lezama, Koushik Sen, and Ion Stoica. Livecodebench: Holistic and contamination free evaluation of large language models for code. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2403.07974*, 2024.
- Jared Kaplan, Sam McCandlish, Tom Henighan, Tom B. Brown, Benjamin Chess, Rewon Child, Scott Gray, Alec Radford, Jeffrey Wu, and Dario Amodei. Scaling laws for neural language models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2001.08361*, 2020.
- Takeshi Kojima, Shixiang Shane Gu, Machel Reid, Yutaka Matsuo, and Yusuke Iwasawa. Large language models are zero-shot reasoners. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 2022.
- Jiawei Liu, Chunqiu Steven Xia, Yuyao Wang, and Lingming Zhang. Code generation with small language models: A deep evaluation on codeforces. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2504.07343*, 2024.
- Iman Mirzadeh, Keivan Alizadeh, Hooman Shahrokhi, Oncel Tuzel, Samy Bengio, and Mehrdad Farajtabar. Gsm-symbolic: Understanding the limitations of mathematical reasoning in large language models, 2025. URL <https://arxiv.org/abs/2410.05229>.
- OpenAI. Learning to reason with llms, 2024. URL <https://openai.com/index/learning-to-reason-with-llms/>. Accessed: 2024-09-15.

- 349 Yasaman Razeghi, IV Robert L. Logan, Matt Gardner, and Sameer Singh. Impact of pretraining term  
350 frequencies on few-shot reasoning. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2202.07206*, 2022.
- 351 Zhihong Shao, Peiyi Wang, Qihao Zhu, Runxin Xu, Junxiao Song, Mingchuan Zhang, Y.K. Li, Y. Wu,  
352 and Daya Guo. Deepseekmath: Pushing the limits of mathematical reasoning in open language  
353 models. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2402.03300*, 2024.
- 354 Andrew Trask, Felix Hill, Scott E. Reed, Jack Rae, Chris Dyer, and Phil Blunsom. Neural arithmetic  
355 logic units. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 31, 2018.
- 356 Xiaoxuan Wang, Ziniu Hu, Pan Lu, Yanqiao Zhu, Jieyu Zhang, Satyen Subramaniam, Arjun R.  
357 Loomba, Shichang Zhang, Yizhou Sun, and Wei Wang. Scibench: Evaluating college-level  
358 scientific problem-solving abilities of large language models. In *International Conference on*  
359 *Machine Learning*, 2024.
- 360 Xuezhi Wang, Jason Wei, Dale Schuurmans, Quoc V. Le, Ed Chi, Sharan Narang, Aakanksha  
361 Chowdhery, and Denny Zhou. Self-consistency improves chain of thought reasoning in language  
362 models. In *International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2023.
- 363 Jason Wei, Xuezhi Wang, Dale Schuurmans, Maarten Bosma, Brian Ichter, Fei Xia, Ed Chi, Quoc V.  
364 Le, and Denny Zhou. Chain-of-thought prompting elicits reasoning in large language models. In  
365 *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, volume 35, pages 24824–24837, 2022.
- 366 Huaiyuan Ying, Shuo Zhang, Linyang Li, Zhejian Zhou, Yunfan Shao, Zhaoye Fei, Yichuan Ma,  
367 Jiawei Hong, Kuikun Liu, Ziyi Wang, Yudong Wang, Zijian Wu, Shuaibin Li, Fengzhe Zhou,  
368 Hongwei Liu, Songyang Zhang, Wenwei Zhang, Hang Yan, Xipeng Qiu, Jiayu Wang, Kai Chen,  
369 and Dahua Lin. Internlm-math: Open math large language models toward verifiable reasoning.  
370 *arXiv preprint arXiv:2402.06332*, 2024.
- 371 Zheng Yuan, Hongyi Yuan, Chuanqi Tan, Wei Wang, and Songfang Huang. How well do large  
372 language models perform in arithmetic tasks? *arXiv preprint arXiv:2304.02015*, 2023.
- 373 Xiang Yue, Xingwei Qu, Ge Zhang, Yao Fu, Wenhao Huang, Huan Sun, Yu Su, and Wenhui Chen.  
374 Mammoth: Building math generalist models through hybrid instruction tuning. *arXiv preprint*  
375 *arXiv:2309.05653*, 2023.

## 376 A Technical Appendices and Supplementary Material

377 Technical appendices with additional results, figures, graphs and proofs may be submitted with the  
378 paper submission before the full submission deadline, or as a separate PDF in the ZIP file before the  
379 supplementary material deadline. There is no page limit for the technical appendices.

## Agents4Science AI Involvement Checklist

1. **Hypothesis development:** Hypothesis development includes the process by which you came to explore this research topic and research question. This can involve the background research performed by either researchers or by AI. This can also involve whether the idea was proposed by researchers or by AI.

Answer: [B]

Explanation: The research hypothesis and questions were primarily developed by human researchers based on existing literature and identified gaps in LLM arithmetic evaluation. AI assistance was used for literature review and background research to identify relevant papers and current limitations, but the core research direction and hypothesis formulation were human-driven.

2. **Experimental design and implementation:** This category includes design of experiments that are used to test the hypotheses, coding and implementation of computational methods, and the execution of these experiments.

Answer: [C]

Explanation: The experimental design, including model selection, benchmark choice, evaluation protocols, was mostly designed by human researchers. The code for evaluation pipelines, pattern matching algorithms, and data processing was written mostly by AI, which is Claude Code in our case.

3. **Analysis of data and interpretation of results:** This category encompasses any process to organize and process data for the experiments in the paper. It also includes interpretations of the results of the study.

Answer: [C]

Explanation: Data analysis and result interpretation were primarily conducted by AI who performed statistical analysis, identified patterns, and drew conclusions, which are overseen and then modified by human researchers when necessary (e.g. false claims).

4. **Writing:** This includes any processes for compiling results, methods, etc. into the final paper form. This can involve not only writing of the main text but also figure-making, improving layout of the manuscript, and formulation of narrative.

Answer: [C]

Explanation: The paper writing process involved significant AI assistance in drafting sections, improving prose quality, organizing content, and ensuring academic writing standards. Human researchers oversee this process, similar to the data analysis part.

5. **Observed AI Limitations:** What limitations have you found when using AI as a partner or lead author?

Description: Key limitations observed include: (1) AI occasionally generated wrong references (correct title, but wrong author list) (2) AI-generated code implementation needs careful review and a good amount of iterations, it seems less likely that agents can implement everything in one shot; for example, the llm token size need to be updated when the initial values (1k completion) cannot finish the full generation trajectory (now we are at 4k, but can still be limited), etc. (3) AI sometimes makes mistakes when using the data from the fetched website (this could be either a tool issue, or an LLM issue, which needs deeper analysis; e.g. the api model name of llama4-maverick needs to be manually corrected). (4) AI still frequently makes factual mistakes, challenging the practical deployment of these systems for future research tasks. e.g. it thinks qwen-235b model is larger than qwen-480b-coder model. (5) On some other trials, AI may take shortcuts, e.g. fabricate results instead of running actual experiments. (this happened more than one time. so it's very concerning.) (6) AI can make cool figures, but they are not perfect. The most frequent limitation is the text overlapping.

## Agents4Science Paper Checklist

### 1. Claims

Question: Do the main claims made in the abstract and introduction accurately reflect the paper’s contributions and scope?

Answer: [Yes]

Justification: The abstract and introduction clearly state that we demonstrate perfect arithmetic reasoning (100% accuracy) is achievable, identify architectural advantages of MoE models, document speed improvements through prompt engineering, and provide production guidelines. These claims are directly supported by our comprehensive evaluation results.

### 2. Limitations

Question: Does the paper discuss the limitations of the work performed by the authors?

Answer: [Yes]

Justification: The conclusion explicitly discusses limitations including: evaluation limited to basic arithmetic operations, no assessment of numerical stability for extreme values, and the scope limitation to MATH 401 benchmark problems. We acknowledge these constraints on generalizability.

### 3. Theory assumptions and proofs

Question: For each theoretical result, does the paper provide the full set of assumptions and a complete (and correct) proof?

Answer: [NA]

Justification: This paper is an empirical evaluation study that does not present theoretical results requiring formal proofs.

### 4. Experimental result reproducibility

Question: Does the paper fully disclose all the information needed to reproduce the main experimental results of the paper to the extent that it affects the main claims and/or conclusions of the paper (regardless of whether the code and data are provided or not)?

Answer: [Yes]

Justification: Section 3 provides detailed experimental setup including model specifications, benchmark dataset description, evaluation protocols with exact prompt templates, pattern matching regular expressions, hardware configuration, and API settings. The MATH 401 benchmark is publicly available.

### 5. Open access to data and code

Question: Does the paper provide open access to the data and code, with sufficient instructions to faithfully reproduce the main experimental results, as described in supplemental material?

Answer: [No]

Justification: Due to anonymity requirements for submission, we cannot provide direct access to our evaluation code and detailed experimental logs. However, we commit to releasing these upon acceptance along with detailed reproduction instructions.

### 6. Experimental setting/details

Question: Does the paper specify all the training and test details (e.g., data splits, hyperparameters, how they were chosen, type of optimizer, etc.) necessary to understand the results?

Answer: [Yes]

Justification: Section 3.4 specifies all evaluation details including temperature (0.1), max tokens (4000), timeout settings, hardware specifications, and pattern matching criteria. No training was performed as we evaluated existing pre-trained models.

### 7. Experiment statistical significance

Question: Does the paper report error bars suitably and correctly defined or other appropriate information about the statistical significance of the experiments?

479 Answer: [No]  
 480 Justification: Our evaluation used deterministic settings (temperature=0.1) and evaluated  
 481 each problem exactly once across the full MATH 211 dataset. Statistical significance testing  
 482 would require multiple runs with different random seeds, which was not feasible given API  
 483 costs and computational constraints.

484 **8. Experiments compute resources**

485 Question: For each experiment, does the paper provide sufficient information on the com-  
 486 puter resources (type of compute workers, memory, time of execution) needed to reproduce  
 487 the experiments?

488 Answer: [Yes]

489 Justification: Section 3.4 details hardware configuration (8x NVIDIA H100 80GB GPUs,  
 490 CUDA version, total VRAM) and API configurations. Execution times are reported for each  
 491 model and prompt configuration in the results tables.

492 **9. Code of ethics**

493 Question: Does the research conducted in the paper conform, in every respect, with the  
 494 Agents4Science Code of Ethics (see conference website)?

495 Answer: [Yes]

496 Justification: This research evaluates publicly available models on a standard benchmark  
 497 for mathematical reasoning capabilities. No human subjects were involved, no sensitive  
 498 data was collected, and the research aims to improve understanding of AI capabilities for  
 499 beneficial applications.

500 **10. Broader impacts**

501 Question: Does the paper discuss both potential positive societal impacts and negative  
 502 societal impacts of the work performed?

503 Answer: [Yes]

504 Justification: The conclusion discusses positive impacts including enabling reliable scientific  
 505 computing applications. The production recommendations section addresses the need for  
 506 format validation and testing to prevent deployment failures. The identification of format  
 507 compliance issues serves as an important safety consideration.