MDEVAL: Massively Multilingual Code Debugging

Anonymous ACL submission

Abstract

Code large language models (LLMs) have made significant progress in code debugging by directly generating the correct code based on the buggy code snippet. Programming benchmarks, typically consisting of buggy code snippets and their associated test cases, are used to assess the debugging capabilities of LLMs. However, many existing benchmarks primarily focus on Python and are often limited in terms of language diversity (e.g., DebugBench and DebugEval). To advance the field of multilingual debugging with LLMs, we propose the first massively multilingual debugging benchmark, which includes 3.9K test samples of 20 programming languages and covers the automated program repair (APR) task, the bug localization(BL) task, and the bug identification (BI) task. In addition, we introduce the debugging instruction corpora MDEVAL-INSTRUCT by injecting bugs into the correct multilingual queries and solutions (xDebugGen). Further, a multilingual debugger xDebugCoder trained on MDEVAL-INSTRUCT as a strong baseline specifically to handle bugs of a wide range of programming languages (e.g. "Missing Mut" in language Rust and "Misused Macro Definition" in language C). Our extensive experiments on MDEVAL reveal a notable performance gap between open-source and closed-source LLMs (e.g., GPT and Claude series), highlighting huge room for improvement in multilingual code debugging scenarios[1].

1 Introduction

Large language models (LLMs) (OpenAI, 2023; Touvron et al., 2023a; Yang et al., 2024a) designed for code, such as CodeLlama (Rozière et al., 2023), DeepSeekCoder (Guo et al., 2024a), and Qwen-Coder (Hui et al., 2024), are highly effective in code understanding and generation. These capabilities make them particularly useful for debugging, where deep comprehension of code structure and logic is essential. Automated program repair (APR) (Wen et al., 2024) aims to automatically fix bugs without human involvement, significantly reducing time and costs in development processes.

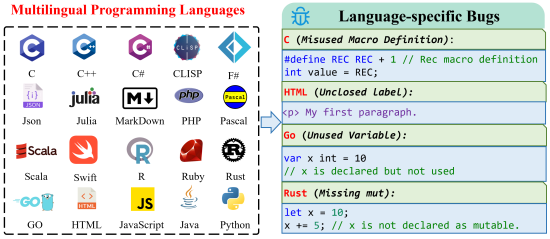


Figure 1: Massively multilingual evaluation task comprised of three tasks, including automated program repair, bug localization, and bug identification.

LLMs have recently shown considerable potential in this area. For instance, CodeX (Chen et al., 2021) and GPT-4 series (OpenAI, 2023) haved outperformed traditional methods, demonstrating promising results on bug-fixing benchmarks such as QuixBugs (Lin et al., 2017). The recent work DebugBench (Tian et al., 2024) creates a debugging benchmark including Python, Java, and CPP for LLM evaluation. However, for the diverse programming languages in Figure 1, the multilingual debugging scenario poses more language-specific challenges for APR. Multilingual issues (e.g. "Misused Macro Definition" in programming language C, "Missing mut" in Rust, and "Unused Variable" in Go) highlight the complexities and diversities of locating and fixing bugs in the multilingual debugging scenario. Therefore, there is an urgent need to build a truly massively multilingual debugging code benchmark with a wide variety of generic and language-specific bug types.

To further characterize the debugging performance of LLMs across different programming languages, we introduce MDEVAL, a framework for data construction, evaluation benchmark, and a

[1]The data and code are available at supplementary material

multilingual debugging baseline xDebugCoder, to advance the development of code debugging. First, we propose MDEVAL, the first massively multilingual evaluation benchmark for code debugging covering 20 programming languages and 3.9K samples to assess the capabilities of LLMs across a wide range of languages. Further, we create MDEVAL-INSTRUCT, a multilingual debugging instruction corpus to help the LLM fix the bug given the buggy code snippet. Besides, we propose xDebugGen to create the buggy and correct code pair for debugging instruction tuning. The bugs are injected into the queries and solutions with our designed three strategies (1) Injecting bugs into query. (2) Injecting bugs into solution. (3) Injecting bugs with the round-trip code translation. Leveraging MDEVAL-INSTRUCT, we develop xDebugCoder as a strong baseline, assessing the transferability of LLMs in multilingual debugging tasks.

The contributions are summarized as follows: (1) We propose MDEVAL, a comprehensive multilingual code debugging benchmark consisting of 3.9K samples spanning three tasks: automated program repair (APR), bug localization (BL), and bug identification (BI). This benchmark covers 20 languages and includes both generic and language-specific bug types. (2) We introduce the massively multilingual code debugging instruction corpora MDEVAL-INSTRUCT created by xDebugGen. By injecting bugs into the correct query or response, we can create pairs of buggy code and the correct code for instruction tuning. (3) We systematically evaluate the multilingual code debugging capabilities of 40 models on our created MDEVAL and create a leaderboard to evaluate them on 20 programming languages dynamically. Notably, extensive experiments suggest that comprehensive multilingual multitask evaluation can realistically measure the gap between open-source (e.g. DeepSeekCoder and Qwen-Coder) and closed-source models (e.g. Claude series).

2 MDEVAL

2.1 Data Overview

As shown in Table 1, the MDEVAL dataset contains 3.9K problems. Following the setup of Yang et al. (2024c), we design 3 multilingual debugging-related tasks: Automated Program Repair, Bug Localization, and Bug Identification. Each task contains about 1.3K questions, with more than 60 problems in each language. Each problem in MDEVAL includes *question, example test cases, buggy code, correct code, and unit tests*.

Statistics	Number
Problems	3,897
Automated Program Repair	1,299
Bug Localization	1,299
Bug Identification	1,299
Total Test Cases	7,133
#Difficulty Level	
- Easy/Medium/Hard	1,146/1,407/1362
Length	
Question	
- *maximum length*	291 tokens
- *minimum length*	7 tokens
- *avg length*	70 tokens
Buggy code	
- *maximum length*	19,265 tokens
- *minimum length*	15 tokens
- *avg length*	320.6 tokens

Table 1: MDEVAL dataset statistics.

We calculate the length of the question and buggy code using the CodeLlama tokenizer (Rozière et al., 2023). The average question length is 83 tokens, highlighting their detailed descriptive nature. The average buggy code length is 239 tokens, indicating the complexity of the code. In addition, the total number of unit tests for the dataset is 6,838, to ensure the accuracy of the bug-fix judgment.

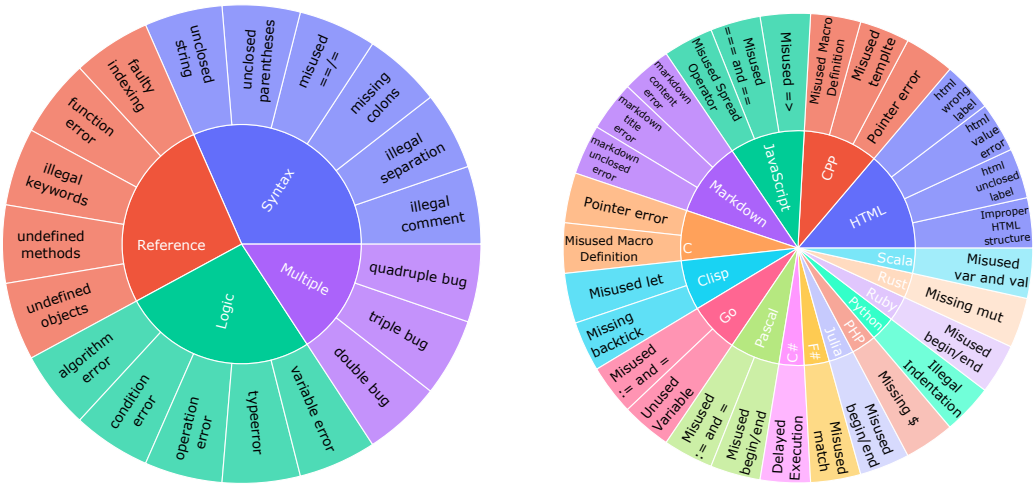
In Table 2, we present a comparison between MDEVAL and other code debugging benchmarks. Compared to existing datasets, MDEVAL offers several valuable improvements: it significantly expands the range of supported programming languages, introduces error types specific to each language, increases the number of questions, and diversifies the types of bug-fixing tasks. The specific error types covered in MDEVAL are illustrated in Figure 2. A more detailed comparison with other datasets can be found in supplementary material.

2.2 Data Construction & Quality Control

To curate the massively multilingual code debugging evaluation benchmark MDEVAL, we employ a comprehensive and systematic human annotation process for multilingual code samples. This process is guided by meticulously defined guidelines to guarantee accuracy and consistency. We initially recruite 13 computer science graduates as multilingual debugging annotators, all proficient in their respective programming languages. After completing a comprehensive training course on an-

Benchmark	#Languages	#Task	Size (Easy/Middle/Hard)	#Error Types	Source of Bugs	Language-specific Bugs
DeepFix (Yasunaga and Liang, 2021)	1	1	6,971	4	Collection	✗
Github-Python (Yasunaga and Liang, 2021)	1	1	15K	14	Collection	✗
Bug2Fix (Lu et al., 2021)	1	1	5,835	-	Collection	✗
FixEval (Haque et al., 2023)	2	1	43K/243K	-	Collection	✗
CodeError (Wang et al., 2023)	1	1	4,463	6	Collection	✗
CodeEditorBench (Guo et al., 2024b)	3	1	676/515/716	14	GPT-4 Generation	✗
Defects4J (Just et al., 2014)	1	1	357	-	Collection	✗
Swe-bench (Jimenez et al., 2023a)	1	1	2,294	-	Collection	✗
DebugBench (Tian et al., 2024)	3	1	1,438/1,401/1,414	18	GPT-4 Generation	✗
DebugEval (Yang et al., 2024c)	3	4	1,933/1,903/1,876	18	Collection & GPT-4 Generation	✗
MDEVAL (Ours)	20	3	1,692/1,209/612	47	Human Annotation	✓

Table 2: Comparison between MDEVAL and other code debugging benchmarks. MDEVAL provides a comprehensive multilingual view by expanding the variety of programming languages and language-specific error types.



(a) Generic Errors

(b) Language-specific Errors

Figure 2: Error types in MDEVAL. Part (a) shows generic error types, and Part (b) lists language-specific error types.

notation methods, the annotators are tasked with defining problems, providing corresponding solutions, and buggy code. Annotators adhere to the following principles: (1) Write a clear problem question and design test cases to ensure that bugs can be effectively identified; (2) Categorize bugs into multiple difficulty levels (easy/medium/hard) based on the complexity of fixing the code.

Figure 3 illustrates the overall process of dataset construction. We begin by collecting code snippets from GitHub, which are then extracted and filtered following StarCoder (Li et al., 2023). Prior to the annotation phase, we summarize generic error types and language-specific error types. The three task definitions and corresponding annotation methods are explained in detail. The annotators proceed to annotate the code according to the identified error types and specified annotation methods. To ensure annotation quality, they evaluate the annotated code based on four criteria: problem difficulty, ambiguity, error type, and solvability. Furthermore, after completing their annotations, each annotator exchanges data with another annotator for cross-refining, aiming to minimize subjective bias and errors. Any discrepancies between annotators are resolved through consensus or with input from senior annotators. Finally, we engage three volunteers to assess the accuracy of the benchmark (targeting > 90%) and correct errors.

2.3 Instruction Corpora for Code Debugging

To create the instruction corpora, we need to create the pair of the correct code snippet and the buggy code. First, we select the proper code snippet from 20 languages and prompt the code LLM to generate a new question q^{L_k} of programming language L_k. Then, we use the LLM to generate the correct code c^{L_k} and filter the low-quality response with an LLM filter and the generated test cases. Therefore, we can regard the (q^{L_k}, c^{L_k}) as the correct sample by ensuring the correctness of c^{L_k} as much as possible. We propose xDebugGen comprised of the following three strategies to create the code debugging instruction corpora MDEVAL-INSTRUCT to obtain the fine-tuned LLM xDebugCoder.

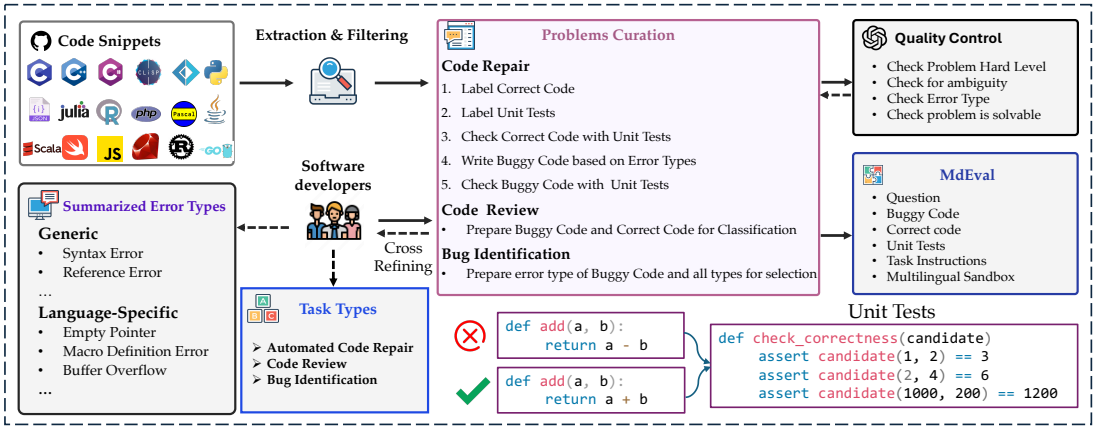


Figure 3: Overview of the MDEVAL construction process. We collect and filter code snippets from GitHub. Before annotation, we summarize error types. Annotators then label the code based on these types. To ensure quality, they use GPT-4o to evaluate the annotations on four criteria: difficulty, ambiguity, error type, and solvability. Finally, they exchange data with each other to minimize bias and errors.

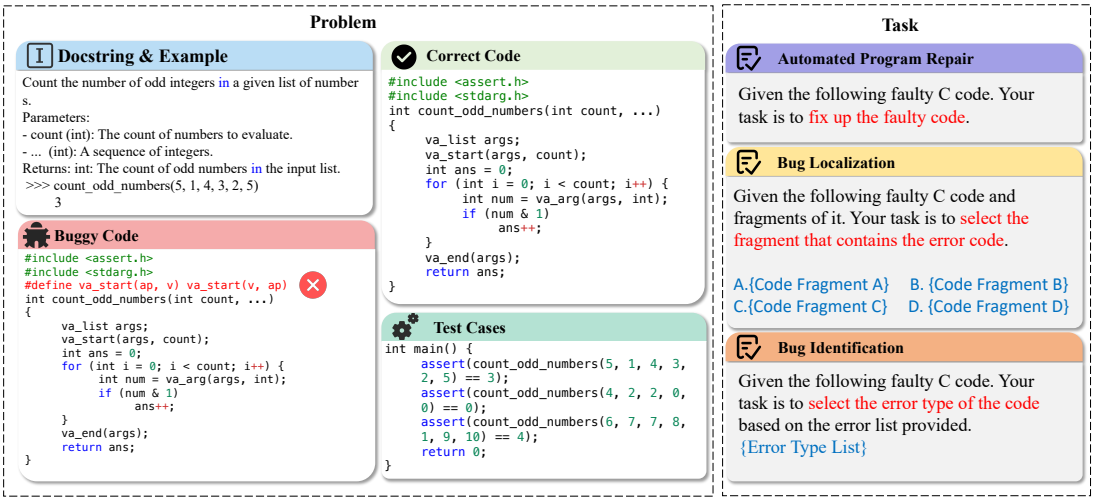


Figure 4: Examples of multilingual automated program repair, bug localization, and bug identification.

Injecting Bugs into Query. We can prompt the LLM to modify the original question to another similar question with minor differences, where the similar question q'^{L_k} is used to generate the answer $\mathcal{M}_w(q'^{L_k})$ by a weak LLM $\mathcal{M}_w$ with small size (e.g. Qwen2.5-1.5B). Since there exist differences between the original question q^{L_k} and the modified question q'^{L_k}, $(\mathcal{M}_w(q'^{L_k}), c^{L_k})$ can be fed into the LLM as source input and target prediction.

Injecting Bugs into Solution. Another more intuitive method is to directly inject the bugs into the correct code c^{L_k}. Given the bug type and the correct code snippet, we prompt the LLM to generate the buggy code $\mathcal{M}(c^{L_k})$. The pair $(\mathcal{M}(c^{L_k}), c^{L_k})$ can be used for the instruction tuning.

Injecting Bugs with Round-trip Code Translation. Under the multilingual scenario, we can translate the correct c^{L_k} into the $\mathcal{M}_w(c^{L_k}; L_k \rightarrow L_j)$ and then back-translate into the original language L_k of programming languages using the weak LLM $\mathcal{M}$, where the round-trip translation code snippet can be regarded as the buggy code. The pair $(\mathcal{M}_w(\mathcal{M}_w(c^{L_k}; L_k \rightarrow L_j); L_j \rightarrow L_k), c^{L_k})$ can be used for the instruction tuning.

2.4 Evaluation Task

Automated Program Repair (APR). The automated program repair task forces the LLM to fix the bug in the given code snippet and then generates the correct code. Given the programming language $L_k \in \{L_i\}_{i=1}^{K}$ ($K = 20$ is the number of programming languages), we provide the question q^{L_k}, the corresponding buggy code b^{L_k}, and the examples test cases e^{L_k} for inputs. We can organize the different input settings for evaluation:

$$r^{L_k} = \mathbb{I}(P(c^{L_k}|I; \mathcal{M}); u^{L_k}) \quad (1)$$

where $\mathbb{I}(\cdot)$ is the executor of the multilingual sandbox to verify the correctness of the generated code with the test cases u^{L_k} (If the fixed code c^{L_k} passes all test cases, the evaluation result $r^{L_k} = 1$, else 0). In our work, we provide three settings for evaluation to simulate the realistic user queries: (1) Question with buggy code: $I = \{q^{L_k}, b^{L_k}\}$ (2) Buggy code with example test cases: $I = \{b^{L_k}, e^{L_k}\}$ (3) Only buggy code: $I = \{b^{L_k}\}$.

Bug Localization (BL). The Bug Localization (BL) task aims to identify the specific line(s) of code within a given buggy program c^{L_K} that contains the error. For each test instance in the BL task, a buggy code c^{L_K} is provided, from which four code snippets, S_A, S_B, S_C, S_D, are extracted. The LLMs are then tasked with identifying the golden snippet S_G, which contains the error.

Bug Identification (BI). In this task, LLMs are required to classify the type of error present in a given buggy program c^{L_k} with one error. The LLMs must choose the correct error category from 47 bug types (including generic bug types and language-specific bug types).

2.5 Evaluation Metrics

Automated Program Repair. In the automated program repair task, we evaluate models by executing the generated code against a set of unit tests and assessing performance using the Pass@1 metric (pass rate for just one-time generation). Greedy Pass@1 indicates whether a result produced by the LLM successfully passes the corresponding unit tests.

Bug Localization & Bug Identification. In the bug localization and bug identification tasks, we evaluate model performance using accuracy, as both require the model to select from a set of provided options.

3 Experiments

3.1 Experiment Setup

Code LLMs. We evaluate 40 popular models, including GPTs (OpenAI, 2023), Claude-3.5 (Anthropic, 2023), and code-specific models like Qwen2.5-Coder (Hui et al., 2024), DeepSeek-Coder (Guo et al., 2024a), and CodeLlama (Rozière et al., 2023) . Additionally, we fine-tune Qwen2.5-Coder-7B as our baseline xDebugCoder.

xDebugCoder Training Setup The training data for xDebugCoder comprises our debugging dataset MDEVAL-INSTRUCT and the Magicoder-Instruct code generation dataset (Wei et al., 2023), ensuring fundamental instruction-following capabilities for code-related tasks. xDebugCoder, built on Qwen2.5-Coder-7B, is trained for 3 epochs using a cosine scheduler with an initial learning rate of 5×10^{-5} with a 3% warmup ratio. We employ AdamW (Loshchilov and Hutter, 2017) as the optimizer, with a batch size of 1024 and a maximum sequence length of 2048.

3.2 Main Results

Automated Program Repair. Table 3 presents the Pass@1 results of different models on MDEVAL for the multilingual automated program repair task (given question with buggy code, request the model to fix buggy code). The results indicate a marked disparity between closed-source state-of-the-art models and the majority of open-source models across nearly all programming languages. Notably, o1-mini, Claude-3.7-sonnet, and Qwen2.5-Coder-Instruct excel in this task and demonstrate significant performance advantages over other models. Furthermore, our baseline model xDebugCoder, is fine-tuned using only 52K bug-related data MDEVAL-INSTRUCT. Despite the limited size of this dataset, the model demonstrated competitive performance compared to others of similar scale, highlighting the effectiveness of MDEVAL-INSTRUCT in enhancing the debugging capabilities of models.

Bug Localization Table 4 illustrates the accuracy of different models on the multilingual bug localization task. It is evident that closed-source models outperform open-source models by a significant margin, demonstrating the superior bug localization capabilities of closed-source models. Specifically, open-source models with smaller parameter sizes like OpenCoder-1.5B-Instrcut, due to their poor instruction-following capabilities, are unable to output the correct format as required, resulting in lower accuracy in localization. Besides, it is observed that for the same model, the bug localization accuracy is lower than its pass@1 scores in the automated program repair task. We hypothesize that this discrepancy arises because the bug localization task requires a strong understanding of location information, which happens to be a weakness of large language models. Therefore, improving

Model	Size	$\textbf{Avg}_{all}$	C#	C	CLISP	CPP	F#	Go	HTML	JS	Java	Json	Julia	MD	PHP	Pascal	Python	R	Ruby	Rust	Scala	Swift
Closed-Source Models																						
o1-preview	🔒	70.2	68.6	73.1	91.7	63.8	89.2	38.6	15.5	84.0	90.0	39.0	89.6	20.0	84.1	80.0	91.8	60.0	93.7	85.7	84.4	56.7
o1-mini	🔒	72.9	65.7	76.1	60.0	68.1	81.5	68.7	5.2	80.0	91.7	42.4	92.5	25.0	87.0	78.5	90.2	88.3	96.8	98.6	87.5	60.0
GPT-4o-240806	🔒	67.5	14.3	64.1	85.0	66.7	86.2	56.6	13.8	57.3	83.3	42.4	80.6	20.0	87.0	72.3	91.8	86.7	84.1	84.3	89.1	86.7
GPT-4o-mini-240718	🔒	65.3	18.6	64.1	71.7	57.6	75.4	56.6	8.6	61.3	85.0	47.5	83.6	23.3	85.5	67.7	88.5	80.0	81.0	87.1	76.6	85.0
GPT-4-Turbo-240409	🔒	61.7	24.3	53.7	63.3	49.3	84.6	50.6	3.4	60.0	80.0	35.6	74.6	21.7	81.2	75.4	95.0	76.7	82.5	81.4	81.2	56.7
Claude-3.5-sonnet-240620	🔒	66.0	34.3	56.2	83.3	60.6	83.1	63.9	5.2	65.3	70.0	47.5	68.7	20.0	76.8	67.7	91.8	71.7	84.1	90.0	93.8	80.0
Claude-3.5-sonnet-241022	🔒	70.3	81.4	57.8	86.7	59.1	89.2	44.6	8.6	60.0	91.7	44.1	82.1	21.7	82.6	75.4	82.0	80.0	85.7	88.6	93.8	90.0
Claude-3.7-sonnet	🔒	71.1	71.4	58.2	86.7	55.1	90.8	48.2	17.2	66.7	90.0	47.5	80.6	25.0	89.9	69.2	93.4	85.0	85.7	87.1	90.6	85.0
0.5B+ Models																						
Qwen2.5-Instruct	0.5B	20.6	28.6	10.4	8.3	14.5	9.2	1.2	13.8	45.3	28.3	10.2	26.9	5.0	17.4	13.8	39.3	6.7	58.7	24.3	18.8	31.7
DS-Coder-Instruct	1.3B	33.6	28.6	42.2	13.3	43.9	24.6	38.6	5.2	44.0	48.3	18.6	47.8	1.7	33.3	27.7	44.3	16.7	61.9	41.4	34.4	45.0
Qwen2.5-Instruct	1.5B	35.5	24.3	32.8	15.0	27.5	23.1	18.1	8.6	60.0	50.0	28.8	55.2	8.3	34.8	30.8	62.3	20.0	69.8	67.1	32.8	35.0
OpenCoder-Instruct	1.5B	34.8	15.7	13.4	20.0	26.1	26.2	15.7	12.1	57.3	58.3	15.3	55.2	8.3	36.2	47.7	54.1	31.7	68.3	52.9	51.6	28.3
Yi-Coder-Chat	1.5B	32.4	37.1	34.4	3.3	30.3	7.7	28.9	8.6	45.3	53.3	15.3	55.2	1.7	34.8	41.5	52.5	28.3	49.2	42.9	28.1	40.0
Qwen2.5-Coder-Instruct	1.5B	34.8	11.4	26.9	15.0	30.4	16.9	20.5	17.2	61.3	45.0	28.8	58.2	10.0	40.6	36.9	55.7	28.3	60.3	58.6	29.7	40.0
Qwen2.5-Instruct	3B	46.0	51.4	40.3	28.3	36.2	41.5	41.0	12.1	69.3	61.7	27.1	61.2	11.7	53.6	47.7	63.9	45.0	58.7	65.7	53.1	38.3
6B+ Models																						
DS-Coder-Instruct	6.7B	56.3	37.1	60.9	56.7	63.6	60.0	56.6	8.6	61.3	75.0	23.7	64.2	6.9	52.2	60.0	78.7	51.7	88.9	80.0	60.9	68.3
CodeQwen1.5-chat	7B	42.6	34.3	34.4	43.3	33.3	41.5	42.2	10.3	54.7	55.0	20.3	62.7	8.6	49.3	41.5	52.5	30.0	69.8	62.9	34.4	61.7
CodeLlama-Instruct	7B	27.2	2.9	20.3	25.0	25.8	24.6	22.9	19.0	53.3	6.7	15.3	37.3	12.1	24.6	33.8	42.6	16.7	50.8	48.6	14.1	41.7
CodeGemma-Instruct	7B	45.9	34.3	32.8	3.3	43.9	44.6	44.6	19.0	60.0	68.3	25.4	64.2	0.0	56.5	36.9	65.6	40.0	73.0	67.1	56.2	70.0
Qwen2.5-Instruct	7B	50.4	57.1	47.8	38.3	50.7	61.5	26.5	8.6	60.0	81.7	32.2	61.2	8.3	73.9	47.7	70.5	50.0	58.7	62.9	60.9	45.0
Qwen2.5-Coder-Instruct	7B	61.7	58.6	60.9	61.7	60.6	70.8	47.0	19.0	60.0	81.7	37.3	74.6	22.4	73.9	61.5	77.0	65.0	73.0	78.6	70.3	75.0
OpenCoder-Instruct	8B	53.4	10.0	56.2	46.7	50.0	66.2	8.4	13.8	66.7	78.3	27.1	74.6	15.5	62.3	53.8	77.0	61.7	76.2	81.4	71.9	75.0
Meta-Llama-3-Instruct	8B	37.9	51.4	35.8	8.3	42.0	30.8	21.7	10.3	60.0	41.7	20.3	49.3	0.0	55.1	40.0	57.4	50.0	49.2	48.6	46.9	28.3
Meta-Llama-3.1-Instruct	8B	42.1	57.1	41.8	26.7	40.6	44.6	21.7	6.9	56.0	60.0	20.3	49.3	8.3	65.2	32.3	50.8	40.0	58.7	61.4	53.1	38.3
Yi-Coder-Chat	9B	50.6	45.7	54.7	28.3	47.0	40.0	42.2	22.4	65.3	76.7	20.3	58.2	3.4	52.2	58.5	65.6	45.0	68.3	68.6	71.9	68.3
14B+ Models																						
Qwen2.5-Instruct	14B	57.7	58.6	62.7	61.7	66.7	60.0	21.7	13.8	62.7	78.3	28.8	59.7	10.0	69.6	66.2	80.3	68.3	74.6	77.1	76.6	56.7
DS-Coder-V2-Lite-Instruct	2.4/16B	56.7	10.0	56.2	43.3	56.1	81.5	50.6	10.3	58.7	76.7	28.8	68.7	17.2	65.2	63.1	72.1	71.7	76.2	80.0	60.9	81.7
Starcoder2-Instruct-v0.1	15B	34.2	10.0	34.3	20.0	33.3	29.2	25.3	5.2	50.7	46.7	16.9	50.7	0.0	37.7	56.9	44.3	35.0	57.1	58.6	39.1	25.0
20B+ Models																						
Codestral-v0.1	22B	56.1	72.9	64.2	43.3	63.8	63.1	31.3	10.3	64.0	85.0	27.1	79.1	11.7	63.8	47.7	68.9	55.0	79.4	72.9	68.8	41.7
Qwen2.5-Instruct	32B	65.8	64.3	53.7	75.0	50.7	87.7	53.0	10.3	65.3	93.3	32.2	74.6	13.3	81.2	75.4	90.2	80.0	85.7	82.9	84.4	58.3
Qwen2.5-Coder-Instruct	32B	68.2	78.6	60.9	75.0	56.1	83.1	44.6	13.8	61.3	91.7	33.9	85.1	22.4	82.6	64.6	91.8	80.0	79.4	82.9	82.8	91.7
DS-Coder-Instruct	33B	57.7	65.7	59.4	46.7	50.0	70.8	39.8	19.0	65.3	75.0	28.8	73.1	10.3	58.0	55.4	73.8	61.7	79.4	68.6	78.1	70.0
CodeLlama-Instruct	34B	28.6	70.0	23.9	18.3	26.1	15.4	18.1	10.3	40.0	18.3	25.4	46.3	3.3	24.6	24.6	49.2	11.7	60.3	38.6	14.1	25.0
Meta-Llama-3-Instruct	70B	50.1	27.1	29.9	61.7	34.8	73.8	4.8	10.3	56.0	75.0	27.1	76.1	13.3	75.4	73.8	70.5	60.0	73.0	60.0	64.1	43.3
Meta-Llama-3.1-Instruct	70B	56.6	48.6	49.3	55.0	44.9	75.4	8.4	17.2	61.3	71.7	35.6	83.6	16.7	79.7	67.7	75.4	63.3	76.2	77.1	81.2	46.7
DS-V2.5	21/236B	65.1	14.3	60.9	70.0	62.1	78.5	51.8	12.1	61.3	80.0	40.7	83.6	23.3	82.6	69.2	83.6	80.0	81.0	87.1	92.2	86.7
Qwen3-Coder	30/480B	67.3	42.9	55.2	73.3	59.4	87.7	53.0	17.2	74.7	83.3	37.3	83.6	15.0	87.0	69.2	83.6	81.7	85.7	81.4	81.2	90.0
DS-V3	37/671B	67.5	60.0	64.2	46.7	55.1	89.2	42.2	13.8	69.3	86.7	44.1	88.1	18.3	82.6	76.9	88.5	73.3	81.0	88.6	90.6	88.3
Qwen2.5-Instruct	72B	63.6	62.9	53.7	68.3	56.5	81.5	34.9	10.3	62.7	81.7	37.3	67.2	21.7	82.6	69.2	90.2	76.7	87.3	82.9	82.8	61.7
xDebugGen (Our Method)	7B	65.1	67.1	49.3	70.0	47.8	78.5	45.8	10.3	62.7	88.3	37.3	82.1	25.0	85.5	67.7	90.2	75.0	84.1	74.3	81.2	80.0

Table 3: Pass@1 (%) scores of different models for Automated Program Repair tasks on MDEVAL. The underlined numbers are the best scores for each language. "Avg_{all}" represents the average scores of all code languages.

Model	Size	$\textbf{Avg}_{all}$	C#	C	CLISP	CPP	F#	Go	HTML	JS	Java	Json	Julia	MD	PHP	Pascal	Python	R	Ruby	Rust	Scala	Swift
Closed-Source Models																						
o1-preview	🔒	64.9	72.9	50.7	30.0	62.3	60.0	49.4	74.1	72.0	66.7	79.7	74.6	50.0	79.7	55.4	86.9	71.7	66.7	54.3	71.9	73.3
o1-mini	🔒	68.1	78.6	65.7	41.7	63.8	67.7	47.0	69.0	81.3	71.7	67.8	76.1	53.3	84.1	60.0	78.7	78.3	79.4	60.0	73.4	66.7
GPT-4o-240806	🔒	56.1	60.0	53.1	30.0	54.5	61.5	47.0	65.5	65.3	60.0	62.7	50.7	46.7	58.0	53.8	63.9	61.7	66.7	55.7	57.8	48.3
GPT-4o-mini-240718	🔒	36.8	51.4	28.1	23.3	25.8	32.3	37.3	58.6	54.7	36.7	45.8	20.9	40.0	30.4	26.2	44.3	36.7	50.8	37.1	23.4	31.7
Claude-3.5-sonnet-240620	🔒	62.9	74.3	62.5	61.7	60.6	50.8	59.0	67.2	73.3	63.3	69.5	71.6	55.0	60.9	58.5	68.9	68.3	58.7	58.6	57.8	56.7
Claude-3.5-sonnet-241022	🔒	64.2	67.1	60.9	58.3	59.1	55.4	59.0	69.0	73.3	56.7	72.9	73.1	65.0	60.9	66.2	68.9	76.7	55.6	67.1	57.8	61.7
1B+ Models																						
Qwen2.5-Instruct	1.5B	22.8	22.9	40.3	13.3	21.7	9.2	26.5	8.6	26.7	36.7	16.9	34.3	21.7	15.9	21.5	19.7	30.0	12.7	24.3	15.6	33.3
OpenCoder-Instruct	1.5B	10.5	1.4	17.9	10.0	5.8	6.2	16.9	5.2	25.3	13.3	8.5	10.4	8.3	14.5	15.4	6.6	1.7	6.3	14.3	7.8	8.3
Qwen2.5-Instruct	3B	21.4	30.0	14.9	16.7	13.0	23.1	18.1	29.3	21.3	31.7	27.1	19.4	21.7	20.3	20.0	36.1	26.7	17.5	12.9	23.4	8.3
7B+ Models																						
Qwen2.5-Coder-Instruct	7B	26.8	42.9	21.9	16.7	27.3	23.1	31.3	8.6	32.0	33.3	32.2	25.4	10.3	23.2	32.3	41.0	18.3	36.5	28.6	31.2	13.3
Meta-Llama-3-Instruct	8B	7.8	8.6	6.0	3.3	5.8	1.5	10.8	12.1	10.7	11.7	18.6	6.0	18.3	4.3	3.1	3.3	1.7	6.3	11.4	10.9	1.7
Meta-Llama-3.1-Instruct	8B	7.0	7.1	9.0	10.0	5.8	3.1	12.0	17.2	0.0	6.7	27.1	4.5	13.3	2.9	1.5	3.3	3.3	0.0	8.6	7.8	0.0
Yi-Coder-Chat	9B	29.5	42.9	40.6	20.0	34.8	29.2	22.9	0.0	60.0	40.0	18.6	28.4	1.7	42.0	30.8	6.6	26.7	36.5	35.7	25.0	33.3
20B+ Models																						
Codestral-v0.1	22B	43.6	52.9	41.8	35.0	44.9	43.1	42.2	32.8	62.7	48.3	32.2	53.7	20.0	50.7	43.1	60.7	40.0	47.6	38.6	42.2	31.7
Qwen2.5-Instruct	32B	58.4	68.6	50.7	33.3	65.2	55.4	49.4	75.9	65.3	60.0	66.1	68.7	53.3	56.5	50.8	62.3	68.3	61.9	58.6	51.6	46.7
Qwen2.5-Coder-Instruct	32B	59.4	81.4	50.0	46.7	65.2	64.6	63.9	13.8	72.0	68.3	52.5	68.7	12.1	66.7	55.4	73.8	85.0	63.5	60.0	59.4	50.0
DS-Coder-Instruct	33B	17.8	28.6	12.5	8.3	19.7	16.9	20.5	1.7	38.7	33.3	8.5	20.9	3.4	13.0	12.3	1.6	10.0	27.0	31.4	15.6	21.7
Qwen2.5-Instruct	72B	57.4	74.3	44.8	43.3	44.9	66.2	55.4	65.5	64.0	68.3	61.0	67.2	45.0	50.7	47.7	68.9	61.7	60.3	50.0	59.4	50.0
DS-Coder-V2.5	21/236B	52.3	75.7	50.0	28.3	56.1	40.0	54.2	63.8	64.0	68.3	59.3	44.8	43.3	58.0	27.7	70.5	53.3	34.9	47.1	57.8	46.7
xDebugGen (Our Method)	7B	25.4	42.9	31.3	26.7	30.4	16.9	28.9	25.9	21.3	38.3	23.7	34.3	15.0	21.7	27.7	5.0	21.7	19.0	25.7	26.6	18.3

Table 4: Accuracy of different models for Bug Localization tasks on MDEVAL. The underlined numbers are the best scores for each language. "Avg_{all}" represents the average scores of all code languages.

LLMs' ability to understand location information is a critical issue that needs to be addressed.

Bug Identification. In the bug identification task, the goal is to identify the error type in a given code snippet, where the LLMs analyze source code for defects and choose the correct bug type from the 47 bug types. Table 5 lists all the results of the bug identification. Notably, the closed-source LLMs, such as o1-preview and Claude series, have the dominant advantages, outperforming the open-source LLMs by nearly +10 points. Bug identification with 47 bug types poses a daunting challenge to the LLMs, requiring alignment capability of LLMs between the given code snippet and its corresponding bug type. As a result, some open-source models with smaller parameter sizes per-

Model	Size	Avg_{all}	C#	C	CLISP	CPP	F#	Go	HTML	JS	Java	Json	Julia	MD	PHP	Pascal	Python	R	Ruby	Rust	Scala	Swift
Closed-Source Models																						
o1-preview	🔒	37.0	34.3	37.3	18.3	36.2	38.5	47.0	25.9	52.0	31.7	13.6	40.3	28.3	33.3	32.3	52.5	41.7	38.1	60.0	35.9	31.7
o1-mini	🔒	32.8	32.9	29.9	25.0	30.4	23.1	38.6	27.6	53.3	30.0	13.6	28.4	23.3	29.0	29.2	49.2	35.0	34.9	55.7	29.7	28.3
GPT-4o-240806	🔒	24.2	30.0	25.0	15.0	25.8	12.3	39.8	24.1	44.0	20.0	8.5	14.9	23.3	21.7	13.8	45.9	21.7	30.2	31.4	14.1	13.3
GPT-4o-mini-240718	🔒	20.9	21.4	18.8	11.7	21.2	16.9	25.3	19.0	29.3	23.3	10.2	11.9	26.7	24.6	12.3	29.5	38.3	22.2	27.1	9.4	16.7
Claude-3.5-sonnet-240620	🔒	31.7	44.3	26.6	20.0	24.2	26.2	44.6	19.0	45.3	23.3	13.6	35.8	25.0	33.3	33.8	45.9	38.3	34.9	30.0	29.7	30.0
Claude-3.5-sonnet-241022	🔒	33.1	37.1	28.1	16.7	30.3	29.2	37.3	22.4	45.3	23.3	8.5	38.8	25.0	33.3	43.1	55.7	40.0	36.5	38.6	34.4	30.0
1B+ Models																						
Qwen2.5-Instruct	1.5B	2.0	1.4	4.5	1.7	4.3	1.5	0.0	5.2	1.3	1.7	0.0	1.5	5.0	1.4	0.0	4.9	0.0	1.6	4.3	0.0	0.0
OpenCoder-Instruct	1.5B	4.2	0.0	0.0	18.3	1.4	0.0	2.4	1.7	1.3	0.0	25.4	1.5	10.0	7.2	1.5	0.0	0.0	1.6	12.9	1.6	0.0
Qwen2.5-Instruct	3B	10.2	10.0	10.4	3.3	5.8	16.9	14.5	5.2	10.7	8.3	3.4	6.0	18.3	8.7	4.6	11.5	15.0	6.3	10.0	14.1	20.0
7B+ Models																						
Qwen2.5-Coder-Instruct	7B	8.4	11.4	4.7	8.3	3.0	6.2	15.7	8.6	14.7	8.3	10.2	7.5	13.8	4.3	1.5	16.4	8.3	11.1	8.6	0.0	3.3
Meta-Llama-3-Instruct	8B	3.0	2.9	4.5	3.3	2.9	0.0	3.6	0.0	8.0	6.7	1.7	0.0	0.0	4.3	0.0	9.8	1.7	0.0	7.1	0.0	1.7
Meta-Llama-3.1-Instruct	8B	5.4	7.1	10.4	3.3	11.6	0.0	7.2	1.7	5.3	3.3	1.7	6.0	3.3	8.7	3.1	9.8	1.7	6.3	4.3	1.6	10.0
Yi-Coder-Chat	9B	8.7	25.7	9.4	5.0	9.1	4.6	10.8	5.2	12.0	11.7	1.7	16.4	6.9	5.8	4.6	14.8	5.0	3.2	5.7	7.8	5.0
20B+ Models																						
Codestral-v0.1	22B	16.2	21.4	19.4	10.0	21.7	6.2	31.3	12.1	20.0	18.3	6.8	16.4	20.0	7.2	10.8	32.8	8.3	20.6	14.3	12.5	6.7
Qwen2.5-Instruct	32B	19.4	28.6	25.4	10.0	23.2	9.2	34.9	12.1	24	18.3	10.2	26.9	30.0	11.6	10.8	32.8	13.3	25.4	14.3	9.4	10.0
Qwen2.5-Coder-Instruct	32B	23.6	30.0	25.0	13.3	31.8	15.4	37.3	22.4	28.0	16.7	11.9	31.3	29.3	18.8	21.5	36.1	36.7	28.6	20.0	4.7	6.7
DS-Coder-Instruct	33B	12.3	14.3	15.6	0.0	15.2	6.2	15.7	12.1	22.7	8.3	6.8	11.9	27.6	10.1	10.8	24.6	6.7	17.5	11.4	4.7	1.7
Qwen2.5-Instruct	72B	17.6	28.6	16.4	13.3	18.8	7.7	25.3	19.0	26.7	15.0	8.5	20.9	28.3	13.0	6.2	26.2	21.7	22.2	12.9	7.8	10.0
DS-Coder-V2.5	21/236B	19.2	21.4	17.2	11.7	16.7	13.8	32.5	19.0	29.3	18.3	5.1	13.4	20.0	8.7	15.4	37.7	15.0	23.8	25.7	17.2	15.0
xDebugGen (Our Method)	7B	8.0	7.1	7.5	11.7	5.8	4.6	2.4	5.2	9.3	11.7	6.8	3.0	15.0	11.6	10.8	9.8	11.7	9.5	5.7	6.2	8.3

Table 5: Accuracy of different models for Bug Identification tasks on MDEVAL. The underlined numbers are the best scores for each language. "Avg_{all}" represents the average accuracy of all code languages.

form poorly in this task.

4 Further Analysis

Performance across Different Error Types. In Figure 5, The performance of models on the automated program repair task varies across different error types, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of these models in addressing specific challenges. Consistently, the models demonstrate robust capabilities in repairing syntax errors, reference errors, and logic errors. These error types tend to be more straightforward and well-defined, allowing the models to leverage their knowledge effectively to identify and correct issues with high accuracy. In contrast, the models exhibit their worst performance when dealing with language-specific errors. Language-specific errors can arise from unique syntax rules, idiomatic expressions, or even cultural programming practices that are not universally applicable. As a result, addressing these types of errors presents a significant challenge and underscores the need for improvements in model training.

Other APR Settings In Figure 6, we explore two additional automated program repair settings that aim to simulate realistic user queries. Part (a) presents the results for the scenario in which models are given both buggy code and corresponding example test cases. This setup allows for a comprehensive evaluation of the ability of models to understand and correct specific issues based on contextual examples. In contrast, Part (b) illustrates the results for a more challenging scenario where only the buggy code is provided to the models, requiring them to identify and rectify errors without any additional context. Our observations show that the model performs consistently across settings, indicating that LLMs can effectively fix bugs even without additional context.

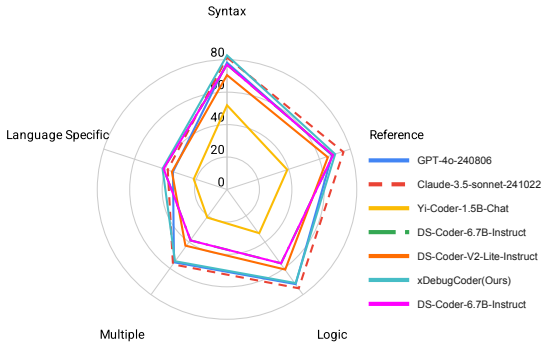
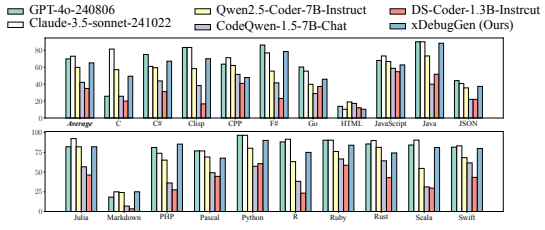
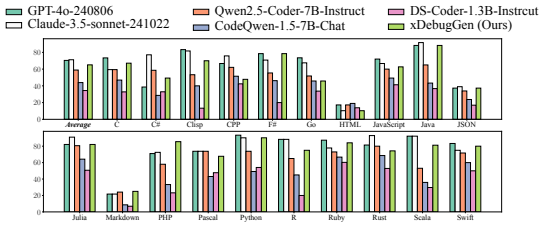


Figure 5: Performance of models on the automated program repair task across error types.

Effectiveness of MDEVAL-INSTRUCT To assess the effectiveness of MDEVAL-INSTRUCT, we seek to demonstrate that it not only substantially improves the performance of base models on multilingual code debugging tasks, but also achieves results comparable to those of models trained with significantly larger fine-tuning datasets. Accordingly, we select three base models and apply MDEVAL-INSTRUCT fine-tuning to each, using the same hyperparameters as xDebugCoder. During inference, because the base models are not instruction-aligned and thus possess limited instruction-following capabilities, we employ a one-shot inference strategy for them, whereas both the official instruct models and our fine-tuned models utilize a zero-shot inference



(a) Buggy code with example test cases



(b) Only buggy code

Figure 6: Two additional automated program repair settings are designed to simulate realistic user queries. Part (a) presents results for the scenario where models are provided with buggy code along with example test cases, while Part (b) illustrates results for the scenario where only the buggy code is provided to the models.

approach. As illustrated in Figure 7, MDEVAL-INSTRUCT markedly enhances the performance of base models on the APR task, with results that are comparable to, or even exceed, those of models trained with more extensive fine-tuning data. These findings provide strong evidence for the effectiveness of our proposed MDEVAL-INSTRUCT method.

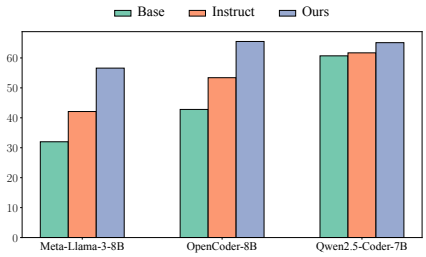


Figure 7: Comparison of pass@1 scores on the APR task across different models. "Instruct" refers to the official fine-tuned models, while "Ours" denotes the models fine-tuned using MDEVAL-INSTRUCT.

5 Related Work

The rapid progress of large language models(OpenAI, 2023; Touvron et al., 2023b; AI, 2024; Bai et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2024a) has enabled complex code-related tasks. Early models like BERT(Devlin et al., 2019) and GPT (Radford et al., 2018), trained on billions of code snippets, focused on code understanding and generation (Chen et al., 2021; Feng et al., 2020; Scao et al., 2022; Li et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2021; Allal et al., 2023). Recent advances in domain-specific pre-training and instruction fine-tuning (Zheng et al., 2024a; Yue et al., 2024) have enhanced models like CodeLlama (Rozière et al., 2023) and WizardCoder (Luo et al., 2023), achieving strong performance in code completion, synthesis, and repair.

LLMs have also gained popularity for automatic program debugging, a critical task for bug detection, vulnerability identification (Pradel and Sen, 2018; Allamanis et al., 2021), fuzz testing (Deng et al., 2023; Xia et al., 2024), and program repair (Wen et al., 2024; Gu et al., 2024). Benchmark tests, such as DebugBench (Tian et al., 2024) and DebugEval (Yang et al., 2024c), assess LLM debugging capabilities across error categories and tasks. However, these focus on 1-3 languages, neglecting language-specific errors. To fill this gap, we propose MDEVAL, a comprehensive debugging benchmark for 20 languages to evaluate LLM performance from a broader perspective.

6 Conclusion

In this work, we introduce MDEVAL of instruction corpora MDEVAL-INSTRUCT, evaluation benchmark, and a strong baseline xDebugCoder, where the benchmark includes automated program repair (APR), bug localization (BL), and bug identification (BI) of 20 programming languages (total 3.9K samples), aiming to assess the debugging capabilities of large language models (LLMs) in multilingual environments. Further, we propose xDebugGen to construct a multilingual debugging instruction corpus, where we inject the bugs into the query or answer to create the pair of the buggy code and correct code. Based on MDEVAL-INSTRUCT, we develop xDebugCoder, a multilingual LLM for debugging in a wide range of programming languages as a strong baseline. Through extensive experiments, this paper reveals a substantial performance gap between open-source and closed-source LLMs, underscoring the need for further improvements in multilingual code debugging. In the future, we will continue expanding the number of languages in MDEVAL.

Limitations

Language Coverage. Although MDEVAL covers 20 programming languages, there are still many languages not included, particularly those that are less commonly used or have niche applications. Expanding the benchmark to include more languages would provide a more comprehensive evaluation of multilingual debugging capabilities.

Real-world Applicability. While MDEVAL aims to simulate realistic debugging scenarios, the tasks and data may not fully capture the complexity and variability of real-world software development. Incorporating more diverse and complex real-world projects into the benchmark could improve its applicability and relevance.

Instruction Tuning Data. The instruction corpora MDEVAL-INSTRUCT used for fine-tuning the baseline model xDebugCoder is generated by LLM-based bug injection. While this approach has shown promise, the quality and diversity of the generated data could be further improved. Exploring alternative methods for generating high-quality instruction data, such as leveraging more advanced LLMs or incorporating feedback from real-world debugging sessions, could enhance the effectiveness of the instruction tuning process.

Ethical Statement

Potential Risks

MDEVAL, as evaluation tools, can comprehensively assess the capability of large language models in debugging tasks across a wide range of programming languages, thereby advancing the development of large language models in this domain. However, improper or erroneous use of MDEVAL may pose significant risks, such as incorrect program analysis and faulty program repair, which could even lead to severe consequences such as program crashes or operating system failures. Therefore, to ensure the security and reliability of the evaluation process, we strongly recommend using MDEVAL within a sandbox environment. Such an environment can effectively isolate potential system risks, ensuring the accuracy and safety of the evaluation.

Data Privacy and Content Filtering

All data are sourced from publicly available repositories and may contain incidental identifiers or informal language. We follow existing upstream filtering practices and additionally adopt automated screening to remove common PII patterns (e.g., emails and access tokens), while avoiding redistribution of raw discussion content whenever possible.

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A Criteria for MDEVAL

A.1 Criteria for the 20 programming languages

The selection criteria for programming languages significantly impact the validity and generalizability of research findings. We employ a systematic approach to establish selection criteria for 20 programming languages across two dimensions: programming paradigm coverage and language popularity. In terms of programming paradigms, the study selects representative language samples, including object-oriented languages (Java, C#, Swift), procedural languages (C, Pascal), functional languages (Clisp), multi-paradigm languages (C++, F#, Julia, PHP, Scala, R, Ruby, Rust, Go, JavaScript, Python), and markup languages (HTML, JSON, Markdown), to ensure comprehensive analysis of error characteristics across different programming paradigms. Regarding language popularity, the study integrates three authoritative data sources: GitHub project activity, TIOBE programming language rankings, and Stack Overflow developer surveys. By evaluating metrics such as project count, code commit frequency, developer community size, language ranking trends, and industry adoption rates, the study ensures that the selected languages accurately reflect current software development practices and industry trends, thereby providing representative language samples for debugging scenarios.

A.2 Criteria for the 47 error types

To ensure that the error types in MDEVAL and MDEVAL-INSTRUCT accurately reflect real-world programming bugs, this study conducted systematic research before dataset construction. We first analyzed the error classification methods from representative works such as DebugBench, CodeError, and DeepFix, summarizing common error types in programming. Additionally, by consulting experts in various programming languages and leveraging their extensive programming and debugging experience, we identified language-specific error types, such as Illegal Indentation in Python, Pointer Error in C/C++, and Unused Variable in Go. Through systematic analysis of both Generic Errors and Language-specific Errors, the study ultimately established a classification system comprising 47 error types, comprehensively covering common bug types encountered in real-world programming scenarios. This classification system provides the the-

Benchmark	#Questions
HumanEval	164
HumanEval-X	820
MuliPL-E	3,000
DebugBench	4,253
MDEVAL	3,897

Table 6: The scale of different Benchmark.

oretical foundation for the subsequent construction of the MDEVAL and MDEVAL-INSTRUCT.

A.3 Scale of MDEVAL

To determine the appropriate scale of the MDEVAL dataset, we conducted a comprehensive survey of mainstream code-related benchmarks and systematically analyzed their scale and quality, including benchmarks such as HumanEval, MultiPL-E, and DebugBench. The relevant statistics are presented in Table 6. We found that the sizes of these benchmarks generally range from several hundred to several thousand problems. Based on these findings, we set the size of the MDEVAL dataset to 3,900 problems, covering 20 programming languages, and ensured that each problem possesses sufficient difficulty and diversity. This design not only covers a wide variety of error scenarios and types, but also provides a comprehensive evaluation of model performance, thereby effectively reflecting the debugging capabilities of the models.

A.4 Error types distribution

Figure 8 plots error types distribution. We strive to cover all error types in each language. Due to the inherent differences among languages, we ensure a balanced distribution of difficulty levels, leading to variations in the distribution of error types across languages.

B Detailed Comparison with Existing Code Debugging Benchmarks

In recent years, both academia and industry have proposed a large number of code benchmarks targeting different programming languages and tasks. In addition to the mainstream benchmarks listed in Table 2, there also exist many large-scale datasets that cover multiple languages or specific tasks. For example, CodeFlaws (Liu et al., 2021) and ManyBugs (Le Goues et al., 2015) are widely used benchmarks in the C/C++ domain; BugAID (Hanam et al., 2016) focuses on JavaScript; RepodCod (Liang et al., 2025) targets bugs that require repository context. However, all these benchmarks are primarily single-language, and thus cannot truly reflect the multilingual debugging capabilities of models.

It is worth noting that more recently, larger-scale multilingual benchmarks such as McEval (Chai et al., 2024) (covering 40 programming languages) and HumanEval-XL (Peng et al., 2024) (establishing connections between 23 natural languages and 12 programming languages) have emerged. These benchmarks have advanced the field in terms of language coverage and task diversity, but their main focus remains on code generation rather than code debugging, and they do not systematically cover multiple debugging-related tasks (such as APR, BL, and BI).

In addition, recent benchmarks such as SWE-PolyBench (Rashid et al., 2025) and Multi SWE-Bench (Zan et al., 2025) have also made important progress in multilingual code debugging. Both focus on multilingual software engineering tasks and cover a variety of mainstream programming languages. However, they mainly target repository-level code debugging tasks rather than file-level debugging, resulting in different emphases when evaluating code model capabilities. At the same time, their primary focus is on automated program repair (APR), and the range of debugging tasks they cover is relatively limited.

In summary, although existing benchmarks have made continuous progress in terms of multilingual coverage, task types, and scale, there are still shortcomings in the systematic coverage of debugging tasks, fine-grained annotation of error types, and the breadth of tasks. The main innovations of MDEVAL are as follows: (1) systematic coverage of 20 mainstream programming languages; (2) detailed annotation of 47 error types; (3) unified support for three major debugging tasks—automated program repair, bug localization, and bug identification; and (4) a balanced design in terms of dataset scale and task diversity. In designing MDEVAL, we have fully referenced and drawn upon the strengths of the aforementioned benchmarks, while further expanding and innovating to meet the practical needs of multilingual debugging tasks.

C Human Annotation

To construct the massively multilingual code debugging benchmark MDEVAL, we designed and

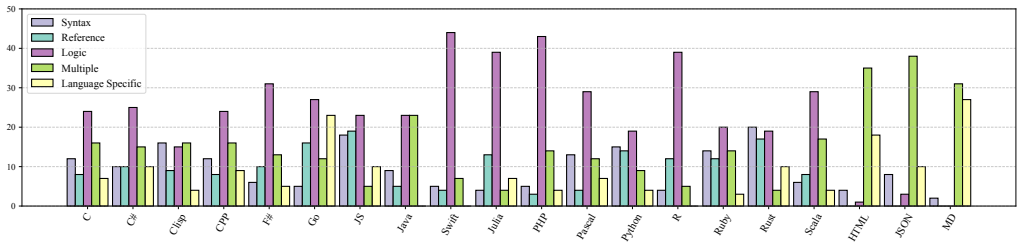

Figure 8: Error types distribution in 20 programming Languages from the MDEVAL.

implemented a comprehensive and systematic human annotation process to ensure the accuracy, consistency, and high quality of multilingual code samples. This process strictly adheres to carefully formulated annotation guidelines and incorporates multiple quality control mechanisms.

We recruited 13 computer science graduates as multilingual debugging annotators, all of whom are proficient in at least one programming language and possess a solid foundation in computer science. Prior to the formal annotation process, annotators underwent systematic training on annotation methods, covering core tasks such as problem definition, solution design, and buggy code generation.

Our annotation training guidelines focus on the following key aspects:

- **Standardized Format**: We provide detailed annotation examples and templates for 20 programming languages. Annotators must strictly adhere to a standardized format throughout the annotation process to ensure data consistency and reusability.

- **Accessibility**: All annotation reference data are sourced from open-source materials that allow free use and distribution, ensuring compliance with academic research purposes and relevant legal and ethical requirements.

- **Difficulty Classification**: We establish a detailed difficulty classification guideline for each programming language. Annotators must categorize each problem according to complexity, error type, and problem scale, assigning an appropriate difficulty level (e.g., easy, middle, hard) following the guidelines.

- **Self-Containment**: Annotators must ensure that each problem description is complete and unambiguous, containing all necessary information for problem-solving. Provided example inputs and outputs must be accurate, the generated buggy code must be ensured to fail execution correctly, and the reference solution must pass all test cases. Additionally, test cases should comprehensively cover various boundary conditions and exceptional scenarios.

To maintain annotation quality and incentivize annotators, we offered a compensation of approximately $6 per problem. Moreover, we provided annotators with a comfortable working environment, free meals, souvenirs, and high-performance computing equipment. A total of approximately 1,300 problems were annotated, with additional annotators hired for quality inspection, leading to a total cost of around $5,000. Quality inspection tasks included bug identification, bug localization, and code review.

C.1 Quality Control

To ensure the high quality of the MDEVAL, we implemented a rigorous quality control mechanism. First, annotators were required to evaluate the annotated code based on four core criteria: problem difficulty, ambiguity, error type, and solvability. Second, we adopted a dual verification system, where each code snippet was independently annotated by at least two annotators to minimize subjective bias and human errors. In cases of disagreement, resolution was achieved through discussion or by a senior annotator making the final decision.

To further ensure the reliability of the benchmark, we employed three volunteers to assess whether MDEVAL achieved a correctness rate of at least 90% and to correct any errors, thereby guaranteeing the accuracy of the annotations.

C.2 Improvement of unit test coverage

During the data annotation process, we designed methods to improve unit test coverage from two dimensions: manual annotation and automated testing. In terms of manual annotation, the study implemented a dual-channel annotation system where each code snippet was independently annotated by

Statistics	Number
Problems	$52,078$
Length	
Buggy code	
- *maximum length*	3221 tokens
- *minimum length*	139 tokens
- *avg length*	570 tokens
Reference code	
- *maximum length*	6823 tokens
- *minimum length*	35 tokens
- *avg length*	536 tokens

Table 7: MDEVAL-INSTRUCT dataset statistics.

two annotators. The primary tasks of annotators included injecting bugs into correct code and designing corresponding test cases, particularly for logic error types. To ensure the coverage and quality of unit tests, annotators were required to design additional unit tests for each injected bug and enhance test coverage by mutually supplementing and improving each other's test cases. In terms of automated testing, the study adopted the EvalPlus method, expanding the scope of unit tests to include boundary values and special cases, thereby doubling the number of unit tests. This dual-pronged approach effectively improved the coverage and quality of unit tests in the dataset, providing a more reliable foundation for subsequent evaluation.

D MDEVAL-INSTRUCT dataset statistics

We conducted a multi-dimensional statistical analysis of the MDEVAL-INSTRUCT dataset, as shown in Table 7. The dataset contains approximately 52,078 samples, and we analyzed the length distribution of queries and targets using the CodeLlama tokenizer. The analysis reveals that the average length of queries is 569 tokens, while the average length of targets is 535 tokens. The query corresponds to buggy code, and the target corresponds to reference code. This indicates that both buggy code and reference code in MDEVAL-INSTRUCT have relatively long average lengths, and the errors that need to be fixed are relatively complex. This characteristic enables MDEVAL-INSTRUCT to effectively enhance the model's capability in complex code debugging scenarios.

E Experiment Detail

xDebugCoder Training Corpora. The training corpora consist of our debugging dataset MDEVAL-INSTRUCT, which contains 16K samples, and the Magicoder-Instruct code generation dataset (Wei et al., 2023), comprising 180K samples. This combination ensures that the model possesses a fundamental capability to follow instructions for basic code tasks. We apply data decontamination before training our xDebugGen. Following Li et al. (2023); Wei et al. (2023), we adopt the N-gram exact match decontamination method with MDEVAL, HumanEval (Chen et al., 2021), MultiPL-E (Cassano et al., 2023), MBPP (Austin et al., 2021).

xDebugCoder Optimization. Our model, xDebugCoder, based on Qwen2.5-Coder-7B, is trained for 3 epochs using a cosine scheduler, starting at a learning rate of 5×10^{-5} with 3% of total training steps for warmup. We utilize AdamW (Loshchilov and Hutter, 2017) as the optimizer; the batch size is set to 1024, with a maximum sequence length of 2048. All experiments are performed with 8 NVIDIA A800-80GB GPUs.

Code LLMs. We evaluate 40 popular models, both closed-source and open-source (sizes ranging from 1.3B to 605B parameters). For general models, we evaluate GPTs (OpenAI, 2023) (GPT4-o, GPT4-o-mini), Claude-3.5 (Anthropic, 2023). For code models, we test Qwen2.5-Coder (Hui et al., 2024), DeepSeekCoder (DS-Coder) (Guo et al., 2024a), CodeLlama (Rozière et al., 2023), and Codegemma (Gemma Team, 2024). Furthermore, we fine-tune the Qwen2.5-Coder-7B to provide a baseline model xDebugCoder for reference. For closed-source models, the responses are generated by the official API. For the open-source models, we perform inference on all models using the vLLM (Kwon et al., 2023) framework. All models adopt a greedy decoding strategy during inference, the temperature is set to 0, and the maximum generation length is 4096.

F Supplementary Analysis

F.1 Analysis of Code Review task

Besides automated program repair tasks, code review tasks also play a crucial role in software development. To analyze the performance of different models on code review tasks, we conducted experiments based on MDEVAL. For the code review task, we present two versions of code to LLMs:

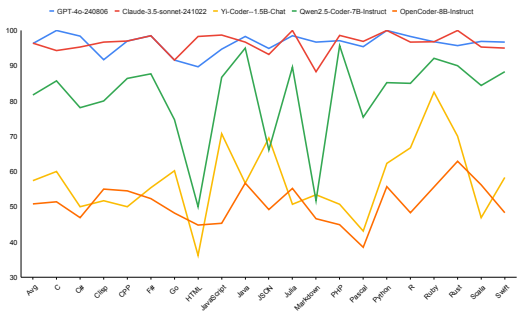

Figure 9: Accuracy of different models for Code Review tasks on MDEVAL.

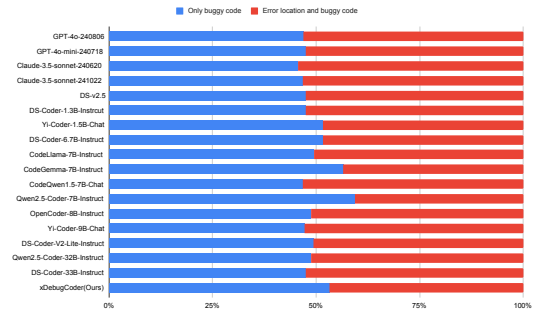

Figure 10: Comparison of the Pass@1 (%) scores with only the buggy code provided versus when additional bug location information is supplied.

the correct code b^{L_k} and the buggy code c^{L_k} with only a few minor differences between them. The correct code and buggy code are listed in a random order to feed into LLM for distinguishing the buggy code. Figure 9 displays the accuracy for code review tasks. The results show that closed-source models still significantly outperform open-source models in the code review task. The closed-source models demonstrate a strong ability to understand complex code logic, achieving an accuracy rate of approximately 90%. In contrast, the smaller open-source model exhibits significant challenges, with an accuracy rate of around 50%. This disparity underscores the limitations of the current open-source model in effectively interpreting intricate coding patterns.

F.2 Effect of Bug Location for APR

In previous studies, bug localization has been regarded as the first step in program repair, playing a critical role. To verify whether the bug location information can also have a positive impact when using large language models for automated program repair, we designed and conducted a series of comparative experiments, as shown in Figure 10. We test two scenarios: providing the bug location information and not providing it and task the model with repairing buggy code in both cases. The results indicate that providing the bug location information significantly improves Pass@1 scores of automated program repair. However, our prior experimental results reveal that for LLMs, the difficulty of the bug localization task is notably higher than that of the automated program repair task. Therefore, improving the bug localization capabilities of the model is essential for enhancing its overall automated program repair performance.

G Related Work

Code Large Language Model. With the rapid advancement of large language models(LLMs) (OpenAI, 2023; Touvron et al., 2023b; AI, 2024; Bai et al., 2023; Yang et al., 2024a), solving complex code-related tasks has become increasingly feasible, leading to the emergence of numerous Code LLMs. Early studies utilized models like BERT (Devlin et al., 2019) or GPT (Radford et al., 2018) as backbones, trained on billions of code snippets to enable tasks involving code understanding and generation (Chen et al., 2021; Feng et al., 2020; Scao et al., 2022; Li et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2021; Allal et al., 2023). Recently, advancements in domain-specific pre-training and instruction fine-tuning techniques (Zheng et al., 2024a; Yue et al., 2024) have led to extensive efforts in fine-tuning models on large-scale code corpora and crafting code-related task instructions (Rozière et al., 2023; Zheng et al., 2023; Luo et al., 2023; Muennighoff et al., 2023; Gemma Team, 2024; Zheng et al., 2024b; Guo et al., 2024a; Wei et al., 2023; Sun et al., 2024; Lozhkov et al., 2024; Jiang et al., 2023; Hui et al., 2024; Wang et al., 2024a; Deng et al., 2024; Liu et al., 2024). These models demonstrate remarkable performance in tasks like code completion, synthesis, and program repair.

Debugging with Large Language Models. Automatic program debugging holds substantial practical value. With the emergence of LLM capabilities, a growing number of individuals are utilizing LLMs for code debugging, leading to extensive research in this field. Code Debugging includes serval tasks such as bug or vulnerability detection (Pradel and Sen, 2018; Allamanis et al., 2021; Yuan et al., 2023; Zhang et al., 2024; Zhong et al., 2024), fuzz test (Deng et al., 2023; Xia et al., 2024;

Yang et al., 2024b), program repair (Wen et al., 2024; Lin et al., 2017; Zhang et al., 2023; Prenner and Robbes, 2023; Gu et al., 2024; Tambon et al., 2024; Wang et al., 2024b), GitHub issues auto resolving (Jimenez et al., 2023b; Chen et al., 2024; Tao et al., 2024). To effectively assess the code debugging capabilities of LLMs, several benchmark tests have been introduced (Prenner et al., 2022; Sobania et al., 2023; Xia and Zhang, 2023; Zhang et al., 2023; Tian et al., 2024; Yang et al., 2024c). Notably, DebugBench (Tian et al., 2024) provides a comprehensive classification of error types and analyzes the debugging capabilities of LLMs based on these categories. Similarly, DebugEval (Yang et al., 2024c) has designed various debugging-related tasks to evaluate LLM performance across different task dimensions. However, these studies focus on 1 to 3 languages. In reality, there are significant differences in code errors between languages, leading to numerous language-specific errors. To address this gap, we propose MDEVAL, a comprehensive code debugging benchmark covering 20 languages, aiming to assess LLM debugging capabilities from a broader perspective.

H Checklist

Data consent. We do not newly collect data directly from individuals. All benchmarks and training instances are derived from publicly available software engineering artifacts on GitHub. Accordingly, we do not obtain individual consent beyond what is implied by the original public posting and the terms of use of the underlying platform.

Ethics review board approval. Because this work does not involve human-subject experiments or new data collection from human participants, we did not seek ethics review board (IRB) approval; the study is typically considered exempt under standard IRB criteria for research using publicly available information.

AI assistants. AI-assisted tools were used solely to polish language and improve clarity during manuscript preparation. All technical content, analyses, and conclusions were conceived, verified, and approved by the authors.