S3Eval: A Synthetic, Scalable, Systematic Evaluation Suite for Large Language Models

Anonymous ACL submission

Abstract

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The rapid development of Large Language Models (LLMs) has led to great strides in model capabilities like reasoning and longcontext understanding. However, as LLMs are able to process longer contexts, it becomes more challenging to evaluate whether they have acquired certain capabilities, since the length of text (e.g., 100K tokens) they can process far exceeds what humans can reliably assess in a reasonable duration. In this paper, we propose using complex synthetic tasks as a proxy evaluation method, and present S3EVAL, a Synthetic, Scalable, Systematic evaluation suite for LLMs evaluation. As a synthetic benchmark, S3EVAL enables the creation of any number of evaluation examples that are theoretically invisible to LLMs, mitigating the test set contamination issue. The synthetic nature of S3EVAL provides users full control over the dataset, allowing them to systematically probe LLM capabilities by scaling text length and varying task difficulty across diverse scenarios. The strong correlation between S3EVAL performance and scores of real-world benchmarks like Big-Bench Hard (BBH) demonstrates the soundness of using S3EVAL for evaluation of LLMs. The in-depth analysis also uncover additional insights, including performance drop when the answer is sparsely distributed or located in the middle context, as well as some counter-intuitive trends of model performance.

1 Introduction

Large Language Models (LLMs) have greatly propelled significant advancements in Natural Language Processing (NLP), such as OpenAI GPT (Brown et al., 2020), Llama (Touvron et al., 2023a,b), StarCoder (Li et al., 2023a), and others. These models perform well in many NLP tasks and claim to have made progress in advanced capabilities such as reasoning, long-context understanding, and so on. However, existing benchmarks (Chang et al., 2023) often fail when it comes to evaluating extremely long-context LLMs or analysing the controllable characteristics and limitations of LLMs. 043

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For long-context understanding, previous work has often evaluated LLMs using the scope of language modeling metrics (i.e., perplexity) (Sun et al., 2021; Peng et al., 2023) or the performance on simple artificial tasks (Li and Roth, 2002; Berant et al., 2013; Mohtashami and Jaggi, 2023). However, these evaluation tasks tend to lack complexity and are narrowly focused on simple comprehension, which is misaligned with the sophistication required for real-world downstream applications. While recent work has made great progress on building evaluation benchmarks at longer context lengths with real-world use cases (e.g, question answering) (Bai et al., 2023b; An et al., 2023), these manually annotated datasets often lack the scale and diversity to thoroughly assess performance on extended context lengths. For example, existing benchmarks struggle to effectively evaluate LLMs that claim an ability to process contexts up to 100K tokens, due to the limited capacity of human annotation for very long text. Developing more scalable and diverse evaluation datasets, potentially leveraging automated supervision, remains an open challenge.

For reasoning analysis (Hendrycks et al., 2021b; Chen et al., 2021a; Suzgun et al., 2023; Zhong et al., 2023), conducting both qualitative and quantitative analysis of answers and reasoning processes provides important insights. However, existing benchmarks lack the ability to precisely control the distribution of the dataset, limiting their utility for in-depth research analysis. In other words, the nature of these benchmarks makes it challenging for developers to identify the specific weaknesses of their LLMs. More configurable and granular benchmarks are needed to enable detailed analysis of model performance. In addition, these benchmarks often draw their evaluation data from NLP tasks that have been extensively studied and are

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likely to be used in the training corpus of LLMs.
The potential data leakage makes the evaluation
less convincing.

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In this paper, we propose a new evaluation suite called S3EVAL, which addresses the aforementioned issues by using a complex synthetic task - SQL execution - as a proxy for the performance of LLMs on realistic reasoning tasks. As shown in Figure 1, inspired by the work of TAPEX (Liu et al., 2022), S3EVAL is based on the SQL execution task. Specially, given a randomly generated table and a random SQL query, S3EVAL evaluates whether LLMs can return the correct execution results. S3EVAL has three notable characteristics: (1) It is synthetic, with no table or SQL query present in the LLM training corpus. The tasks use complex, grammatically correct SQL syntax, making them very challenging. (2) It is scalable, allowing users to customize the benchmark to any length and difficulty. (3) It is systematic, containing diverse reasoning types and operations. This enables comprehensive evaluation of LLM capabilities.

With these powerful features, developers can 106 extend the context to really long lengths and gen-107 erate meaningful SQL statements using S3EVAL. 108 As demonstrated in Table 1, developers can mod-109 ify the configuration settings to conduct focused 110 studies on particular reasoning abilities (e.g., ag-111 gregation) of LLMs. We conducted comprehen-112 sive multi-perspective experiments on several pop-113 ular LLMs using S3EVAL. Experimental results 114 demonstrated that the performance of LLMs on 115 S3EVAL aligns closely with their performance on 116 mainstream LLM benchmarks. While LLMs have 117 shown impressive capabilities, our work reveals 118 limitations in their ability to leverage long con-119 texts, since we observe performance degradation of 120 almost all LLMs in long-context settings. By care-121 fully studying experimental results, we can work 122 to pinpoint situations where LLMs tend to fail and 123 summarize valuable insights. For example, LLMs 124 often encounter challenges when the answer lies in 125 the middle of the context, similar to findings from 126 127 Liu et al. (2023b), or when the answers are sparsely distributed across the input. We believe that these 128 observations from S3EVAL provide valuable guid-129 ance for the development of LLMs and dynamic benchmarks. 131

2 Synthetic Suite: Alignment with Realistic Benchmark

In this section, we describe the details of synthesizing the evaluation data (Section 2.1) and verify the alignment between our synthetic suite S3EVAL and real-world benchmark results.

2.1 Suite Construction

Task Formulation Following previous work (Liu et al., 2022), each example in S3EVAL generally contain an SQL query and a (semi-)structured table T as the input. Each table T consists of M rows $\{r_i\}_{i=1}^M$, in which each row r_i contains N cell values $\{c_{\langle i,j \rangle}\}_{i=1}^M$. Each cell $c_{\langle i,j \rangle}$ corresponds to a table header h_j . Each SQL query consists of K tokens as $x = x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_K$. Each token x_i originates from SQL keywords, table schema, or table cells. Each multi-step instruction is transformed from SQL query. The task prompts LLM to obtain the execution result Aof the SQL on the table T. Our main focus is on analyzing the accuracy of LLM in executing SQL queries.

Random Table Generation All tables in S3EVAL are randomly generated and do not contain any real data or overlap with existing public tables. The tables have M rows and N columns, with adjustable parameters M and N. The column headers are sampled from English nouns (Bird, 2006), falling into three types: TEXT, INT, and DATE. INT columns contain random integers from 1 to 1000, which is an adjustable range. DATE columns have values in year-month-day format. TEXT columns have random strings of length 5 to 12 characters, which is also adjustable. To simulate real-world data where the same value may recur in a column frequently, the data generator includes a parameter to set the probability of duplicating values within a specific column.

Random SQL Generation The SQL language includes a variety of statements to query and manage data. S3EVAL use context free grammar to generate a specific number of examples with controllable attributes. As Table 1 shows, the S3EVAL tool allows configuring several parameters of generated SQL statements, including nesting depth, keywords used, length, coverage of SQL features, computational complexity, and more. For example, *calculate times* can be modified to control the complexity of numerical reasoning for each dataset.

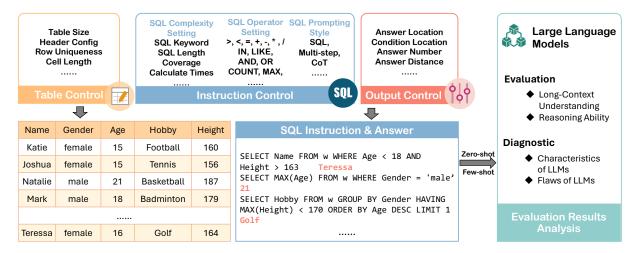


Figure 1: The illustration demonstrates the S3EvAL pipeline, where the capabilities of LLMs are assessed by evaluating their ability to execute SQL queries over randomly generated tables.

Configuration		Description		
Table Control	# of Rows # of Columns Header Type Ratio Cell Uniqueness String / Int Length	The number of rows in the generated tables The number of columns in the generated tables The proportion of table column types that are TEXT, INT, DATE The proportion of duplicate cells in each column The string length or numeric range of cell values		
Instruction Control	SQL Keywords SQL Length Column Coverage Row Coverage Calculate Times Filter Times Aggregator Filter Operator	SELECT, WHERE, GROUP BY, HAVING, ORDER BY The number of tokens after SQL split by space The ratio of columns involved in SQL execution to total columns. The ratio of rows involved in SQL execution to total rows The number of SQL numerical calculations. The number of SQL filtering operations. COUNT, MAX, MIN, SUM, AVG >, <, =, IN, LIKE		
Output Control	Answer Location # of Answer Cells Answer Length	The location of SQL answers in the input table The number of selected cells in the answer The total number of tokens in the answer		

Table 1: Our S3EVAL method allows users to customize configuration settings and provides descriptions for each parameter that can be adjusted. More configurations can be found in Appendix D.1.

Except these configures, users can also manually 182 write the specified SQL template to generate finegrained evaluation data (Appendix C.2).

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Evaluation Methods S3EVAL includes both zero-shot and few-shot prompting meth-For each few-shot setting, all examples ods. share one table. N-shot is formalized as $INPUT = [T; S_1; A_1; ...; S_{n+1}].$ For the input format of table T, we designed several alternative ways, including markdown, flatten, tapex-style, etc.

To evaluate the performance of LLMs, we use Exact Match (EM) as the evaluation metric. Details are shown in Appendix C.3.

Evaluation Settings Models are evaluated on two settings: Easy and General. Easy is the sim-196

plest data that S3EVAL can generate and is used to evaluate LLM's ability to understand the most basic instructions. It contains only one template, "SELECT <col1> WHERE <col2> <op> <value>". General is a more difficult setting, containing extensive SQL syntax, and its generating setting is described in Appendix D.2.

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General randomly generates SQL queries of varying difficulty from an extensive grammar and provides a comprehensive evaluation of LLM performance. All experiments were run for 3 times, using 1000 randomly generated queries per trial, with tables of 15 rows and 8 columns and an average of 1200 tokens per input. Details on the LLMs are provided in Appendix D.3. Considering SQL execution is a difficult task, some models may have a poor understanding of symbolic language, which

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makes it difficult to execute SQL, so we propose an alternative task *SQL multi-step task* to remove this potential bias. Specifically, it converts an SQL query into a multi-step table operation instruction as shown in Appendix C.5. SQL has a fixed execution flow for the query statement: FROM \rightarrow ON \rightarrow JOIN \rightarrow WHERE \rightarrow GROUP BY \rightarrow HAVING \rightarrow SELECT \rightarrow ORDER BY \rightarrow LIMIT. This is not consistent with the order in which it is written. With this processing, it can also generate chain-ofthought prompting data.

2.2 Alignment on Scaling Law

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Previous work (Kaplan et al., 2020; Hoffmann et al., 2022) shows a positive correlation between the cross-entropy loss of LLMs and the amount of computing resources used for training, as described by the empirical scaling law. To verify whether the scaling law holds for our S3EVAL, we employ a set of checkpoints of Pythia-12B (Biderman et al., 2023) that are open-sourced at different training steps, corresponding to different amounts of compute. Using both General and Easy settings, we observe a consistent pattern as illustrated in Figure 2: the scores show a smooth progression of improvement that aligns with the scaling law with increasing the training steps. The steady, incremental performance gains over time, lacking any spikes, demonstrate S3EvAL's reliability as a evaluation suite. Overall, these experimental results confirm the scaling law's accuracy in forecasting model gains during training across diverse evaluation settings.

2.3 Alignment on Benchmark Performance

In the above, we validated that the LLMs also exhibits the scaling law observed in NL on the S3EVAL suite. A natural question that arises is whether its performance on S3EVAL is correlated with the performance on real-world, NL benchmarks. To examine the hypothesis, we first compare the performance of different LLMs on S3EVAL and on WikiTableQuestions (Pasupat and Liang, 2015), a table question answering dataset consisting of questions and answers. It is worth noting that to align the difficulty, we use the SQL queries from WikiTableQuestions (Shi et al., 2020) as our S3EVAL evaluation set.

To systematically compare the performance, following previous work (Liu et al., 2023a), we consider two correlation measures: the Pearson correlation coefficient (r), which evaluates the linear relationship between model scores on the two benchmarks, and the Kendall rank correlation coefficient (τ) , which assesses whether the relative ranking of models is consistent across the benchmarks. The strong correlation between LLMs' performance on the SQL execution task and the table question answering task, as evidenced by the high r (e.g., 99.1) and high τ (e.g., 93.6) in Figure 3.

Although S3EVAL has shown significant correlation with WikiTableQuestions, the fact that they are both tasks on tables may cause one to question whether S3EVAL can serve as a proxy task to evaluate LLMs' capabilities on generic reasoning tasks. Therefore, we also compare the performance on S3EVAL with the results of generic popular benchmarks like BBH (Suzgun et al., 2023) and HumanEval (Chen et al., 2021a). The results depicted in Figure 4a demonstrate a strong correlation between LLM performance on S3EVAL and the BBH benchmark, with BBH performance obtained from the OpenCompass platform using few-shot chain-of-thought prompting (OpenCompass, 2023). Similarly, Figure 4b illustrates the alignment between S3Eval performance and pass@1 scores on HumanEval (Chen et al., 2021b) for code LLMs. The results demonstrate that S3EVAL serves as a robust proxy task for assessing the reasoning capabilities of LLMs on realistic benchmarks. Concrete experimental results are provided in Table 3.

3 Scalable Suite: Unlimited Evaluation Resources

S3EVAL provides a unique capability to generate infinite number of examples (Section 3.1) with infinite length (Section 3.2).

3.1 Scalable Number of Evaluation Examples

The strength of S3EVAL is its ability to generate unlimited number of examples for evaluation. This stems from two key design choices in S3EVAL: (1) the synthetic table size can be scaled to different number of rows and columns, and (2) the table cells are synthesized from randomly generated strings. Combined with the provided large library of SQL query templates, these features enable the creation of a near-infinite set of unique evaluation examples. This kind of capacity enables the continuous creation of novel examples unseen during training, which helps safeguard test data integrity by preventing leakage of the evaluation set into the training corpus.

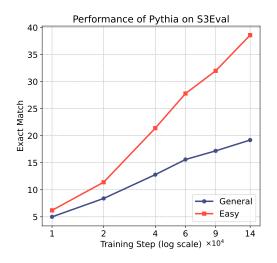


Figure 2: The performance of Pythia-12B on the Easy and General settings of S3EVAL was evaluated across different training steps.

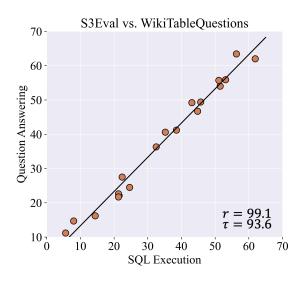


Figure 3: The performance of different LLMs on S3EVAL and WikiTableQuestions.

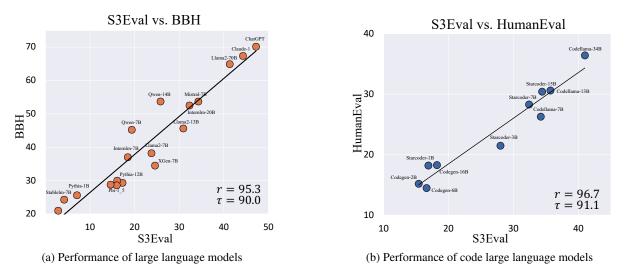


Figure 4: Each point in the scatterplot represents the LLM performance on the benchmarks corresponding to the horizontal and vertical coordinates. The black straight line is the trend line. The larger the values of r and τ , the higher the correlation between the two benchmarks. We consider $\tau > 0.8$ to be high concurrence.

However, the absence of data leakage does not 313 necessarily mean that S3EVAL's performance al-314 ways represents the model's out-of-distribution gen-315 eralization ability. It is because the model may perform well on S3EVAL via domain-specific train-317 ing on the SQL execution task, rather than acquiring more general abilities. To investigate whether 319 LLMs can "hack" S3EVAL via domain-specific training, we fine-tuned StarCoder-1B (Li et al., 321 2023a), which is not able to solve SQL execution tasks, on a randomly generated dataset of one mil-324 lion examples. The performance of the fine-tuned StarCoder-1B is illustrated in Figure 5, where it 325 is evaluated on three types of test datasets: Seen Table (same tables as training), Unseen Table

(new tables in same format as training tables), and Unseen Templates (new SQL query templates). For the unseen table setting, we explore different table shapes, where $(x \times y)$ means the table consists of x rows and y columns.

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The experimental results demonstrate that for Unseen Tables with different shapes, regardless of their size, the performance of the fine-tuned Star-Coder experiences a substantial decline compared to Seen Tables. Likewise, when faced with Unseen Templates, the performance of the fine-tuned Star-Coder exhibits a significant drop. The results indicate that even if LLMs have been heavily trained on SQL execution tasks, their out-of-distribution performance can still be accurately evaluated by

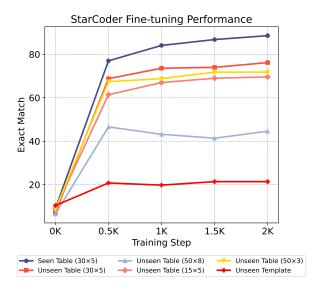


Figure 5: SQL execution training experiments on S3EvAL.

using novel SQL templates. These new SQL templates can be easily generated thanks to the vast grammar of SQL queries. Additionally, evaluating LLMs on larger tables that they were not trained on can also reveal part of their out-of-distribution capabilities.

3.2 Scalable Length of Evaluation Examples

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One advantage of S3EVAL is its scalability and adjustable context length per example. The flexibility allows S3EVAL to rigorously evaluate LLMs that claim capability with long contexts. To clearly expose limitations of current LLMs, we intentionally chose the Easy setting in S3EVAL to evaluate their performance. Specifically, we establish table configurations with approximately 2K, 4K, 8K, and 16K tokens, by using different numbers of rows and fixing the number of columns. We generate a dataset consisting of 500 samples for each evaluation setting. The experimental results on up to 16K context length are plotted in Figure 6. As observed, the performance of almost all LLMs, significantly decreases as the context length increases. Of all the models, Claude-1.3-100K is the only one that maintains a relatively strong performance trend. Detailed results can be found in Appendix A.5.

Given the limitation of existing LLMs on longcontext tasks, we are curious about the bottleneck
of them. By using S3EVAL, we can systematically
investigate the long-context modeling capabilities
of LLMs by controlling the distribution of answers
in the evaluation suite. Specifically, we use the
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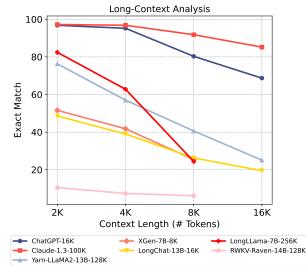


Figure 6: Experiment results of different LLMs on different context lengths.

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cells (i.e., the result of the SQL execution is always spanning four cells). As illustrated in Figure 8, we introduce two distribution patterns, Dense and Sparse¹ to probe the limitations of current LLMs. The dense mode only requires the model to understand the local context, whereas the sparse mode requires the model to have a broader, global understanding of the context across multiple blocks. The sparse mode intuitively poses more challenges and demands more complex reasoning across a broader scope of the provided context. We conduct experiments on ChatGPT and Yarn-llama2-13B (Peng et al., 2023). The experimental results indicate that both models perform significantly better in dense mode compared to sparse mode, as shown in Figure 8. This indicates that LLMs struggle to retrieve information over long sequences, even though their pre-training included lengthy contexts. This may be caused by the fact that the training data does not contain sufficient examples of long-distance dependencies for the model to learn effectively. Furthermore, the steep drop in performance from 4K to 8K tokens for both ChatGPT and Yarn-Llama2 in dense mode indicates that current length extension techniques may not be as effective as hoped. In summary, we believe that S3EVAL provides a valuable framework for evaluating long-context language models, as it allows testing models on dialogues of arbitrary length. This establishes a solid foundation for advancing research on large language models that can leverage long-term con-

¹Examples of these two patterns can be found in Appendix C.1.

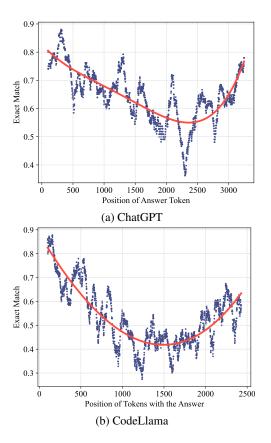


Figure 7: The relationship between LLMs performance and the position of the answer token.

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4 Systematic Suite: Controllable Analysis

S3EVAL provides a comprehensive framework that empowers developers to synthesize diverse evaluation examples for systematically assessing LLMs from multiple perspectives. In this section, inspired by the work of lost in the middle (Liu et al., 2023b), we first analyze the impact of answer position on performance (Section 4.1). Then we evaluate LLMs from different viewpoints, and we have conducted some initial explorations on the reasoning types analysis (Section 4.2). Last, we provide some insights by analyzing LLMs on three selected SQL templates (Section B.2). These experiments reveal counter-intuitive performance trends and new discoveries that may inspire further research and extension of the work.

4.1 **Answer Position Analysis**

We investigate the influence of the answer's position on the performance of LLMs, which is generally considered important. Unlike standard NLP 426 benchmarks where it is difficult to control the position of the answer, S3EVAL allows for fine-grained 428

control of answer position at the token level. To mitigate the influence of long contexts, we only analyzed answers that fell within a limited context window (i.e., less than 4K tokens).

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Echoing the findings of Liu et al. (2023b), "lost in the middle", our results in Figure 7 demonstrate that both ChatGPT and CodeLlama achieve higher performance when the answer is located at the beginning or end of the context, compared to when it appears in the middle. In addition, we found a periodic fluctuation trend in the performance of both models as the position of the answer shifts within the context. For example, the performance of Chat-GPT increases from 0 to around 200, then starts to decrease from around 200 to 500. This wave-like pattern in performance appears to correlate with the position embedding approach used by LLMs.

In contrast to previous studies that used longcontext question answering tasks (Liu et al., 2023b; Bai et al., 2023b) for analysis and are thus limited to controlling answer positions at the paragraph level, S3EVAL provides a more precise approach by focusing on token level. This key difference enables S3EVAL to offer fine-grained control and promote the exploration of relevant phenomena.

Reasoning Type Analysis 4.2

S3EVAL enables the creation of multiple templates to generate different SQL statements, with each statement representing a distinct reasoning type. We selected six common reasoning types to investigate the reasoning capabilities of LLMs and examined four different LLMs: ChatGPT, Claude, Mistral-7B, and CodeLlama-34B. Following Liu et al. (2022), the six reasoning types 2 we considered are Filter, Aggregate, Arithmetic, Superlative, Comparative, and Group. The example SQL and the experimental results of different LLMs are presented in Table 2. The expressive power of SQL queries enables S3EVAL to be used for evaluating diverse scenarios such as numerical reasoning, multi-hop reasoning, complex code understanding, and multi-turn interaction with intermediate execution results.

5 **Related Work**

Evaluating large language models (LLMs) has garnered significant interest in the NLP community (Chang et al., 2023). This allows us to gain

²Detailed templates for each type can be found in Appendix C.2.

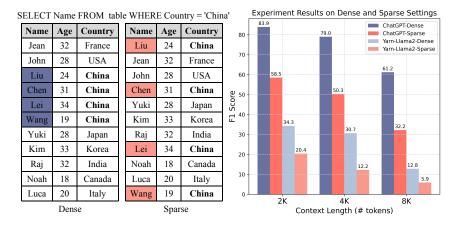


Figure 8: Experiment results of ChatGPT and Yarn-Llama 2 on *Dense* and *Sparse* Settings. *Dense* means that the answer cells (i.e., Liu, Chen, Lei, Wang) lie in adjacent rows, and *Sparse* means that the answer cells are separated. The model performs better on local queries which only involves adjacent cells.

Operator	Example SQL	ChatGPT	Claude	Mistral	CodeLlama
Filter	SELECT lyonnais FROM table WHERE farmer = 'mijl' AND lashing >288	79.6	79.2	64.8	72.8
Arithmetic	SELECT synset + refuge FROM table WHERE blender = 'owxdbzjg'	67.2	59.4	5.4	10.6
Comparative	SELECT upsetter < jollity FROM table WHERE kelp = 150	45.2	46.4	44.8	46.6
Aggregate	SELECT MIN(skeptic) FROM table	38.4	39.4	28.4	33.8
Group	SELECT lats FROM table GROUP BY shas- tan HAVING sum (logbook) = 56	38.1	28.2	31.0	37.8
Superlative	SELECT severity FROM table ORDER BY bierce DESC Limit 1	24.8	41.4	19.2	28.3

Table 2: Reasoning types experiments examples of different LLMs.

a deeper understanding of the specific capabilities 476 and limitations of LLMs while guiding further re-477 search. Researchers proposed MMLU (Hendrycks 478 et al., 2021a) to measure the knowledge acquired 479 by a language model during pre-training. In re-480 cent years, with the development of LLMs, a series 481 482 of general evaluation benchmarks have emerged. For instance, BBH (Suzgun et al., 2023) and 483 AGIEval (Zhong et al., 2023) assess the reasoning 484 ablitities. GSM8K (Cobbe et al., 2021) evalutes the 485 math reasoning, HumanEval (Chen et al., 2021a) 486 and MBPP (Austin et al., 2021) measure code ca-487 palities. Our work aims to provide an evaluation 488 suite for measuring reasoning ability. 489

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Many previous works on long-text modeling rely on the perplexity (Sun et al., 2021; Peng et al., 2023) or performance on simple artificial tasks (Li and Roth, 2002; Berant et al., 2013; Mohtashami and Jaggi, 2023). Concurrently, Zero-SCROLLS (Shaham et al., 2023), L-Eval (An et al., 2023) and LongBench (Bai et al., 2023b) are proposed as evaluation benchmarks for long-text modeling. However, these benchmarks are built from existing public datasets and have fixed evaluation types. In contrast, S3Eval can effectively assess500comprehension of infinitely long-context. Further-501more, S3Eval allows customization of settings to502generate evaluation data that meets specific needs,503enabling effective evaluation of model deficiencies504and discovery of new insights into LLMs.505

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6 Conclusion

In this paper, we have introduced S3EVAL, a novel 507 synthetic evaluation suite for LLMs using SQL 508 execution. S3EVAL represents a scalable and sys-509 tematic approach to evaluate LLMs on a dynamic 510 task. Our experiments demonstrate strong align-511 ment between S3EVAL and traditional evaluation 512 benchmarks. The key innovations of S3EVAL are 513 its flexibility, allowing unlimited context length 514 and unlimited evaluation examples, and its fine-515 grained, systematic nature which enables detailed 516 analysis of model capabilities and flaws. We be-517 lieve S3EVAL can serve as a valuable benchmark 518 for LLM development and shed light on the dy-519 namic synthetic benchmark construction. 520

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522Our work is still in progress. Besides the features523described in this paper, it currently supports com-524plex multi-turn SQL execution task and multi-turn525instruction task. Moreover, it also supports multi-526lingual testing, especially for reasoning data gen-527eration of low-resource languages, which has not528been widely studied by the academic community.529However, this paper has not yet conducted a sys-530tematic analysis of these complex new features.

In addition, due to the complex and diverse syntax of SQL, the syntax that S3Eval can generate is still relatively limited, which is also what we need to do in our future work. Moreover, there is currently no toolkit that can randomly generate a large number of complex SQLs, which is also a significance of our work.

SQL operations contain many reasoning operations. Currently, we have not yet coupled these symbolic reasoning operations with real reasoning capabilities. In the future, we will test the alignment between various reasoning abilities and corresponding SQL abilities.

Due to space limitations, many valuable experimental results are shown in Appendix B. We analyzed in detail the impact of various types of influencing factors on the results and have drawn other valuable conclusions.

Exploring the treasure contained in synthetic data is our goal for the future, and we believe that this work can bring inspiration to this field.

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A Evaluation Experiments Results

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A.1 Other Synthetic Task

S3EVAL is a synthetic task that possesses a certain level of difficulty and robustness, which allows for a good assessment of an LLM's overall capability compared to previous works. We choose key-value retrieval task (Liu et al., 2023b), given a key, the goal is to return the associated value. We test several LLMs on this task, and the experiments results are shown in Figure 9. It demonstrates that keyvalue retrieval task is a simple task which has low correlation with real LLMs reasoning benchmark. S3EVAL, as a complex and robust benchmark, can provide reference for future synthetic data.

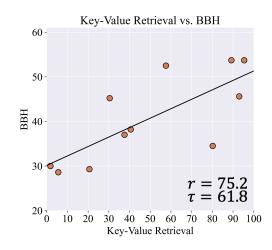


Figure 9: Performance analysis of key-value retrieval task and BBH.

A.2 Overall Performance

The detail performance are shown in Table 3.

A.3 Reliability Experiments

Symbolic Tasks vs. Natural Language Tasks. Another point to prove is that symbolic tasks are consistent with their natural language counterparts. SQL execution is a suitable task because SQL can be intertranslated with an natural question. As can be seen from the "WTQ" column of the Table 3 and Figure 10a, LLM's ability to execute SQL is consistent with its table question answering ability.

Synthetic data vs. Real data.We want to verify901if the synthesized SQL is simpler. The tables "SQL-902general" and "WTQ-SQL" show the difference in903performance between the model on synthetic and904real data. We keep the average length of the tables905similar, and the experimental results show that the906synthetic SQL is more complex than the real SQL.907

		Synthetic Task		Realistic Benchmark	
		S3EVAL-Easy	S3EVAL-General	WTQ	Reasoning Task
	GPT-4	99.4	63.1	70.8	86.7
	ChatGPT	97.0	47.2	62.0	70.1
	Claude-1	98.2	44.3	63.4	67.3
	Llama-2-70B	94.2	41.3	55.9	64.9
	Mistral-7B	87.4	34.3	55.7	53.7
	Llama2-13B	75.0	30.9	49.2	45.6
	InternLM-20B	78.0	32.3	49.4	52.5
	Qwen-14B	71.8	25.8	46.7	53.7
	Llama-2-7B	54.2	23.8	40.6	38.2
	Qwen-7B	56.4	19.4	41.2	45.2
LLM	Xgen-7B	55.2	24.6	36.3	34.5
	Internlm-7B	41.6	18.5	27.5	37.0
	Phi-1_5	27.6	16.1	22.1	30.0
	Stablelm-7B	6.0	4.2	14.7	24.3
	Stablelm-3B	4.2	2.9	11.2	21.0
	Pythia-12B	31.4	17.3	24.5	29.3
	Pythia-6.9B	25.2	16.0	22.6	28.6
	Pythia-2.8B	26.4	14.6	21.7	28.8
	Pythia-1B	8.4	7.1	16.2	25.6
	CodeLlama-34B	91.4	41.0	53.9	36.4
	CodeLlama-13B	90.0	35.7	49.9	30.6
	CodeLlama-7B	75.2	34.2	44.9	26.3
	StarCoder-15B	87.2	34.4	39.2	30.4
Code LLM	StarCoder-7B	88.4	32.4	33.3	28.3
	StarCoder-3B	79.0	28.0	27.5	21.5
	StarCoder-1B	37.4	15.4	21.1	15.2
	CodeGen-15B	36.8	18.2	25.0	18.3
	CodeGen-6B	25.0	16.9	17.8	18.2
	CodeGen-2B	31.4	16.6	20.8	14.5

Table 3: SQL Execution Task Performance on different LLMs.

908And Figure 10c shows that, the performance of909LLMs on real tables and synthetic tables is very910relevant.

Different S3EVAL Settings. As shown in Figure 10b, even if the data settings are very different, LLMs are guaranteed a consistent performance ranking on S3EVAL.

915 A.4 Other SQL Prompting Styles

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SQL execution task with Chain-of-Thought prompting. SQL is a complex multi-step reasoning task. To verify whether it is a reliable reasoning task, S3EVAL generates multi-step execution instructions for SQL. ChatGPT's performance (markdown) improves from **38.0** to **48.5** when using chain-of-thougnt prompts. The chainof-thought examples are shown in below. The examples of chain-of-thought prompting are shown in Appendix C.6.

926 SQL multi-step instruction experiments. SQL
 927 multi-step instruction is an auxiliary task. We gen 928 erate two new datasets using different settings than
 929 Easy and General, named Data1 and Data2. Ex-

periments results are shown in Table 5.

A.5 Long-Context Experiments

Context windows limit the long-context capabilities of LLMs. Previous researchers have proposed many ways to extend the length of context windows, often to 64K, 128K and so on. Existing benchmarks (Bai et al., 2023b; An et al., 2023) collect data from existing NLP communities (which causes data leakage), and more importantly because collecting large amounts of data is difficult. S3EVAL, on the other hand, is easy to collect data with variety and complexity. Existing benchmarks also can't effectively evaluate very long texts, but S3EVAL can evaluate arbitrary lengths.

YaRN (Peng et al., 2023) extend LLaMA2 context windows to 128K, however, they only evaluated the model's perplexity, which we believe is not a true reflection of its long-context understanding capability. So we use S3EVAL to generate table data of different lengths and keep all parameters same to evaluate the performance of yarn-LLaMA2, and the experimental results are shown in Table 4. It shows that, yarn-llama2 has a no930

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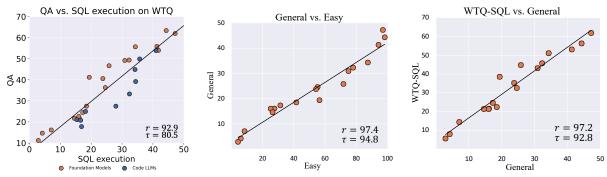
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(a) Alignment between QA task and (b) Alignment between General and Easy (c SQL execution Task on WikiTableQues-Settings. Ta tions.

(c) Alignment between Synthetic and Real Table SQL execution task

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Figure 10: Experimental results of the alignment experiments.

ticeable dip in performance on 20K-80K, which is good for a small number of tasks as well. But compared to ChatGPT (which we can only test 16K length tables), there's a noticeable gap.

B Controllable Analysis Results

B.1 Answer Position Analysis

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In addition to the figures in the main text, we also conduct experiments with row level. We use two methods to visualize the results. (1) Sliding windows (Figure 11a,11b). We choose windows=5 and smooth the data to make a dot plot and a trend line. (2) Grouping calculations (Figure 11c,11d). Group neighboring rows together with the granularity of 5, 10, and 20. For example, if granularity is 20, then we group the rows with answers located in 1-20, 20-40, 40-60, 60-80, and 80-100, for a total of five groups, and calculate the average scores.

B.2 Template Controlled Analysis

Each data template in S3EVAL includes corresponding reasoning types, and thus it provides fine-grained control over the evaluation examples. To stimulate new insights and uncover counterintuitive performance phenomena of LLMs, we present several controlled analysis examples using simple templates as a starting point.

Template1: SELECT [text_col1] FROM table WHERE ([text_col2] = [text2])

We first explore the relationship between the model performance and the locations of [text_col1] and [text_col2]. To begin with, we generated a set of 10×15 tables, each comprising 15 distinct columns. We created 400 unique combinations by pairing each value in text_col1 with each value in text_col2. For each of the 400 pairs, we gener-

ated 40 evaluation examples, resulting in a total of 16,000 evaluation examples. After SQL execution experiments, we calculated the scores of each pair and constructed a heatmap, which is illustrated in Figure 16. The heatmap indicates that the performance is overall better when [text_col1] is the previous column. And the model performance is also better when the [text_col1] column is before [text_col2] column. It indicates that the model tends to focus on the beginning of a specific paragraph. Moreover, in multi-hop reasoning, LLMs excel at hopping to the context preceding a intermediate hop, but struggles when it comes to searching backward.

Template2: SELECT [text_col1] FROM table WHERE ([text_col2] = [text2]) × N

We then investigate the impact of the number of WHERE conditions on LLM performance. Intuitively, more conditions should make it harder for LLM to execute SQL since the instruction becomes more complex. However, the experimental results contradict this intuition, as shown in blue in Figure 14. We speculate that this counter-intuitive result stems from how LLMs actually reason: by looking up string co-occurrences rather than logically considering all conditions.

Template3: SELECT COUNT([text_col]) FROM table WHERE [text_col] = [text].

We analyze the counting ability of LLMs, which is an important numerical reasoning capability. To avoid potential symbolic effects of SQLs, we also use the instruction style (Section 2.1) to prompt the model (e.g. Please count the number of "[text_col] is [text]"). As shown in Figure 15, whether it is zero-shot or few-shot, SQL style or instruction style, the performance of LLMs is best when the COUNT value is the smallest or the largest. When

N (- 1 - 1		SQL Execution							
Model	Max-Ctx	2K 4K		8K	16K	20K	40K	60K	80K
ChatGPT	16k	96.8	95.2	80.3	68.7	-	-	-	-
Claude-1.3-100K	128k	97.2	96.8	91.8	85.2	-	-	-	-
Yarn-LLaMA2-13B	128k	76.3	57.0	40.6	25.1	20.6	17.6	17.0	12.0
XGen-7B	8k	51.6	41.8	25.4	-	-	-	-	-
LongChat-13B	16k	48.6	39.0	26.3	19.5	-	-	-	-
LongLlaMA-7B	256k	82.4	62.8	24.4	-	-	-	-	-
RWKV-Raven-14B	128k	10.5	7.4	6.2	-	-	-	-	-

		SQL Ex	xecution		SQL	Multi-Ste	p Instruc	tion	
Model	Zero-Shot		Few-Shot		Zero	Zero-Shot		Few-Shot	
	Data1	Data2	Data1	Data2	Data1	Data2	Data1	Data2	
ChatGPT	96.4	47.0	97.0	49.0	97.9	30.0	98.8	34.8	
Codellama-13B	71.2	34.3	90.0	39.8	63.9	12.1	88.0	22.8	
StarCoder-15B	52.3	24.7	85.8	37.6	44.4	14.4	84.2	19.2	
InternLM-20B	60.4	22.7	78.0	35.0	58.8	14.9	76.6	28.1	
InternLM-20B-Chat	71.2	31.3	78.0	34.2	67.6	21.9	74.4	25.4	
LLaMA2-13B	68.1	23.2	75.0	32.3	50.5	5.4	74.6	18.2	
LLaMA2-13B-Chat	51.6	16.4	71.5	28.3	9.4	1.0	64.2	21.1	
Vicuna-13B	57.6	26.8	81.6	35.4	48.9	11.5	78.8	24.2	

Table 4: Long-Context experiments on S3EVAL.

Table 5: SQL Multi-Step Task performance on different LLMs.

the COUNT value is in the middle, the performance of the model is almost zero.

In the future, developers can employ the S3EvAL suite to analyze the performance of LLMs with various complex SQL queries and discover new insights. They can also investigate more on the multi-step instruction prompting (Section C.5) and chain-of-thought prompting (Section C.6) to better understand LLMs.

B.3 Input Format Analysis

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In this section, we focus on comparing two formats of inputting tables, namely *markdown* and *flatten*, to explore their impact on LLMs performance. Figure 12 clearly demonstrates a significant improvement in the model's performance when the *flatten* format is used instead of the *markdown* input format at any experiments settings.

The reason behind this improvement lies in the structure of the SQL template, specifically "select <coll> where <col2> <op> <int2>". In order to execute this template, the model needs to locate the column corresponding to col2 and then identify the row where "int2" is found. This process involves 2-hop reasoning. In *markdown* mode, the challenge lies not only in the LLM's understanding of the table structure but also in how to navigate

to another column in the same row. However, in 1050 flatten mode, redundant columns are added to each 1051 row as "Column is value." This additional infor-1052 mation simplifies the LLM's understanding of the 1053 table structure and facilitates reasoning. As a result, 1054 the flatten method proves to be more beneficial for 1055 LLM performance due to its enhanced structure 1056 comprehension and reasoning capabilities. 1057

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B.4 SQL Keywords Analysis

SQL statements follow a specific syntax and are a well-established language in the database domain. We first control SQL statements to contain only specific types of keywords from the perspective of SQL keywords and test the performance of different models on S3EVAL. The experimental results are shown in Figure 13. The change in the performance of LLMs on SQL statements reflects the trend in the difficulty of reasoning.

B.5 SQL Attribute Analysis

S3EVAL has the ability to flexibly modify the prop-
erties of generated SQL statements, including the
length of the statement, the number of computa-
tions, and the quantity of filtering numbers. These
features can intuitively impact the complexity of
SQL. In our experiments, we set the table size to1069
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1075	15×10 and adjusted the SQL settings for examin-
1076	ing the effect of different SQL attributes on model
1077	performance. For example, in the analysis of "Cal-
1078	culation Times," we employed 500 samples with 0,
1079	1, 2, and 3 calculation times respectively. The ex-
1080	perimental outcomes of all SQL attributes are illus-
1081	trated in Figure 17. While it might be expected that
1082	model performance would decline as these factor
1083	values increase, the performance actually fluctuates.
1084	Upon combining Column number, Row number,
1085	Calculation times, and Filter times in the statisti-
1086	cal analysis, we identified a significant downward
1087	trend in the model, as demonstrated in Figure 17f.

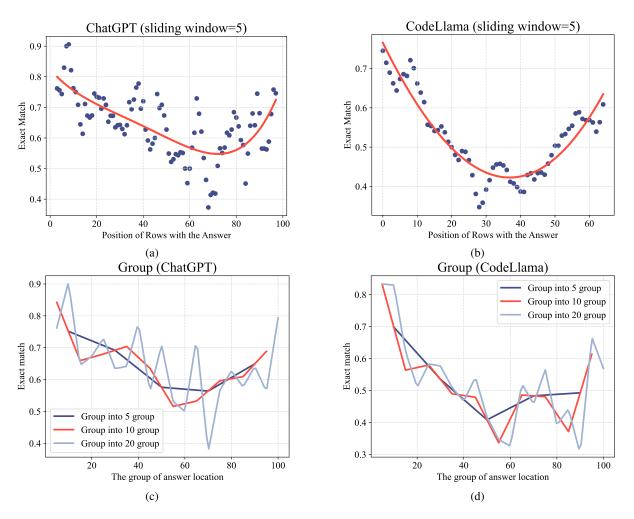


Figure 11: Effect of answer position on model performance. We use two methods to visualize the results. (1) Sliding windows (Figure 11a,11b). We select a window size of 5 and smooth the data to make a dot plot and a trend line. (2) Grouping calculations (Figure 11c,11d). We group neighboring rows with granularities of 5, 10, and 20. For instance, with a granularity of 20, we group rows with answers located in the ranges 1-20, 21-40, 41-60, 61-80, and 81-100, resulting in five groups, and compute the average scores.

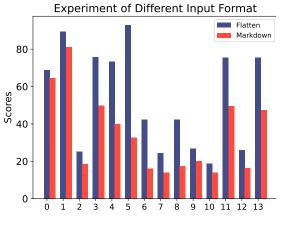


Figure 12: Different input format.

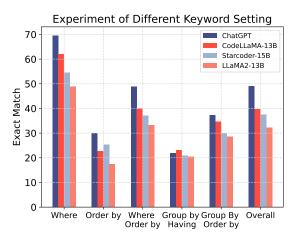


Figure 13: Different keywords setting.

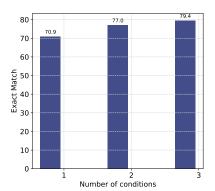


Figure 14: Trend of ChatGPT performance with where condition number using Template2.

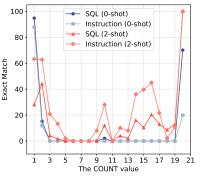


Figure 15: Trend of ChatGPT performance with the COUNT value in Template3. Only when the COUNT value is the largest or smallest, the model have good performance.

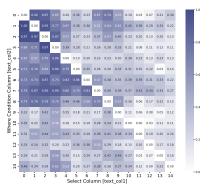


Figure 16: ChatGPT performance with different locations of [text_col1] and [text_col2]. The performance improves when the example has the location of [text_col1] before [text_col2].

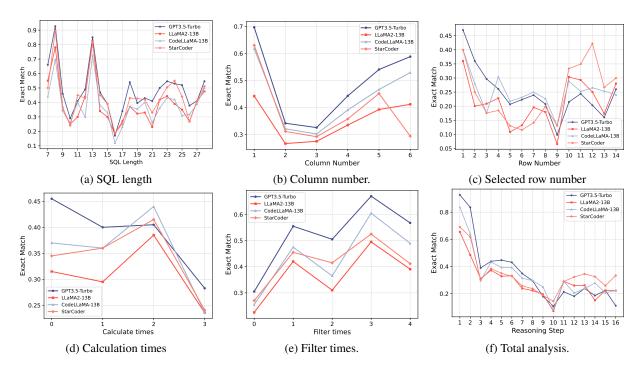


Figure 17: Effect of SQL Attribute Settings on model performance.

C Data Demostration

C.1 Dense and Sparse Examples

SQL: select boarfish from w where sixties = 'jcrbb'	1090
Answer: ['qxgd', 'lorfaljob', 'qytocp', 'vkfzhqwj', 'xwijyubr']	1091
We can find that <i>Dense</i> Setting is better than <i>Sparse</i> Setting in all cases.	1092

Sparse Example:

ļ		boarfish	tool	sixties	phoxinus	angling
	0	mjdsv	cwzqkdte	. tbwqa	yuogpbo	mkxqnrhq
	1	nrbmyc	eqciiims	wvfesrtzt	yvvgzj	mkxqnrhq
Ι	2	iqdr	ezhuj	bndktpe	yuogpbo	yjblg
	3	qxgd	dtfjqfc	jcrbb	haxyaz	yjblg
	4	xzrrs	ezhuj	bndktpe	dpimlb	skbpzyhak
	5	lorfaljob	eqciiims	jcrbb	jsvbugac	bwxihx
	6	pvugxgdju	dtfjqfc	bndktpe	jsvbugac	mkxqnrhq
	7	xpkuautv	ezhuj	vyoo	yvvgzj	bwxihx
	8	afzrom	jzdra	bndktpe	jsvbugac	mkxqnrhq
	9	ivxpmv	eqciiims	bndktpe	jsvbugac	bwxihx
	10	ehfvur	ezhuj	tbwqa	yuogpbo	bwxihx
	11	bdzsy	ezhuj	bndktpe	yvvgzj	yjblg
	12	qruh	ezhuj	bndktpe	dpimlb	skbpzyhak
	13	qytocp	jzdra	jcrbb	dpimlb	bwxihx
	14	eqaja	ezhuj	bndktpe	haxyaz	yjblg
	15	kwvzixe	jzdra	vyoo	jsvbugac	skbpzyhak
	16	edmkxm	eqciiims	vyoo	haxyaz	mkxqnrhq
	17	fdsdlcpxj	eqciiims	vyoo	dpimlb	blqoislm
	18	ipprxzzlv	cwzqkdte	bndktpe	yuogpbo	yjblg
	19	gqyxjtbz	eqciiims	tbwqa	dpimlb	yjblg
	20	noqfw	ezhuj	vyoo	haxyaz	blqoislm
	21	vkfzhqwj	dtfjqfc	jcrbb	yuogpbo	mkxqnrhq
	22	konftq	eqciiims	vyoo	dpimlb	bwxihx
	23	ymcwhu	jzdra	wvfesrtzt	dpimlb	blqoislm
	24	kpygsu	eqciiims	wvfesrtzt	yuogpbo	yjblg
	25	tiwfvqgmt	ezhuj	bndktpe	dpimlb	mkxqnrhq
	26	ovomhf	dtfjqfc	bndktpe	yuogpbo	blqoislm
	27	lokwxn	cwzqkdte	tbwqa	yuogpbo	mkxqnrhq
	28	xwijyubr	jzdra	jcrbb	yuogpbo	mkxqnrhq
I	29	ttonww	dtfjqfc	wvfesrtzt	haxyaz	blqoislm

Dense Example:

boarfish	tool	sixties	phoxinus	angling
: :	:	:	:	:
0 mjdsv	cwzqkdte	tbwqa	yuogpbo	mkxqnrhq
1 nrbmyc	eqciiims	wvfesrtzt	yvvgzj	mkxqnrhq
2 iqdr	ezhuj	bndktpe	yuogpbo	yjblg
3 xzrrs	ezhuj	bndktpe	dpimlb	skbpzyhak
4 pvugxgdju	dtfjqfc	bndktpe	jsvbugac	mkxqnrhq
5 xpkuautv	ezhuj	vyoo	yvvgzj	bwxihx
6 afzrom	jzdra	bndktpe	jsvbugac	mkxqnrhq
7 ivxpmv	eqciiims	bndktpe	jsvbugac	bwxihx
8 ehfvur	ezhuj	tbwqa	yuogpbo	bwxihx
9 bdzsy	ezhuj	bndktpe	yvvgzj	yjblg
10 gruh	ezhuj	bndktpe	dpimlb	skbpzyhak
11 eqaja	ezhuj	bndktpe	haxyaz	yjblg
12 kwvzixe	jzdra	vyoo	jsvbugac	skbpzyhak
13 qxgd	dtfjqfc	jcrbb	haxyaz	yjblg
14 lorfaljob	eqciiims	jcrbb	jsvbugac	bwxihx
15 gytocp	jzdra	jcrbb	dpimlb	bwxihx
16 vkfzhqwj	dtfjqfc	jcrbb	yuogpbo	mkxqnrhq
17 xwijyubr	jzdra	jcrbb	yuogpbo	mkxqnrhq
18 edmkxm	eqciiims	l vyoo	haxyaz	mkxqnrhq
19 fdsdlcpxj	eqciiims	vyoo	dpimlb	blgoislm
20 ipprxzzlv	cwząkdte	bndktpe	yuogpbo	yjblg
21 gqyxjtbz	eqciiims	tbwga	dpimlb	yjblg
22 noqfw	ezhuj	vyoo	haxyaz	blqoislm
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23 konftq	eqciiims vyoo	dpimlb bw	xihx
24 ymcwhu	jzdra wvfesrtzt	dpimlb bl	qoislm
25 kpygsu	eqciiims wvfesrtzt	yuogpbo yj	blg
26 tiwfvqgmt	ezhuj bndktpe	dpimlb mk	xqnrhq
27 ovomhf	dtfjqfc bndktpe	yuogpbo bl	qoislm
28 lokwxn	cwzqkdte tbwqa	yuogpbo mk	xqnrhq
29 ttonww	dtfjqfc wvfesrtzt	haxyaz bl	qoislm

C.2 SQL Template

General:

select <select_condition> from my_table

select <select_condition> from my_table <where_condition>

select <select_condition> from my_table <order_condition>,

select <select_condition> from my_table <where_condition> <order_condition>,

select <select_condition> from my_table <group_condition> <having_condition>,

select <select_condition> from my_table <where_condition> <group_condition> <having_condition>,

select <select_condition> from my_table <where_condition>
<group_condition> <having_condition> <order_condition>,

select <select_condition> from my_table <group_condition> <having_condition> <order_condition>

Where Condition:

select <text_col1> from my_table where <text_col2> = <text_2>

Count:

Select Count(<text_col1>) from table where <text_col1> = <text_1>

Easy:

```
1118select <text_col1> from my_table where <int_col1> = <int_1>1119select <int_col1> from my_table where <text_col1> = <text_1>1120select <int_col1> from my_table where <int_col2> = <int_2>1121select <text_col1> from my_table where <text_col2> = <text_2>
```

Filter:

```
select <text_coll> from my_table where <text_col2> = <text_2>
select <text_coll> from my_table where <int_col2> <op2> <int_2>
select <text_coll> from my_table where <text_col2> = <text_2> and <int_col1> <op1> <int_1>
select <text_coll> from my_table where <text_col2> = <text_2> and <int_col1> <op1> <int_1>
select <text_col1> from my_table where <text_col2> = <text_2> and <int_col2> <op2> <int_2>
select <int_col1> from my_table where <text_col1> = <text_1>
select <int_col1> from my_table where <int_col2> <op2> <int_2>
select <int_col1> from my_table where <int_col2> <op2> <int_2>
select <int_col1> from my_table where <text_col2> = <text_2> and <int_col2> <op2> <int_2>
select <int_col1> from my_table where <text_col2> = <text_2> and <int_col2> <op2> <int_2>
select <int_col1> from my_table where <text_col2> = <text_2> and <int_col2> <op2> <int_2>
select <int_col1> from my_table where <text_col2> = <text_2> and <int_col3> = <text_3>
select <int_col1> from my_table where <text_col2> = <text_2> and <int_col3> = <text_3>
select <int_col1> from my_table where <int_col2> <op2> <int_2> and <int_col3> <int_3>
```

Aggregate:

```
1135
              select count ( <text_col1> ) from my_table where <text_col2> = <text_2>
1136
              select count ( <text_col1> ) from my_table where <int_col2> <op2> <int_2>
              select sum ( <int_col1> ) from my_table
1137
1138
              select sum ( <int_col1> ) from my_table where <text_col2> = <text_2>
              select max ( <int_col1> ) from my_table
1139
              select max ( <int_col1> ) from my_table where <text_col2> = <text_2>
1140
1141
              select min ( <int_col1> ) from my_table
              select min ( <int_col1> ) from my_table where <text_col2> = <text_2>
1142
```

Arithmetic:

```
1144select <int_col> + <int_col2> from my_table where <text_col> = <text_1>1145select <int_col> + <int_col2> from my_table where <text_col> = <text_1> and <text_col> = <text_2>1146select <int_col> - <int_col> from my_table where <text_col> = <text_1>1147select <int_col> - <int_col> from my_table where <text_col> = <text_1> and <text_col> = <text_2>
```

Superlative:
<pre>select <int_col1> from my_table order by <int_col1> asc limit 1 select <int_col1> from my_table order by <int_col1> desc limit 1 select <text_col1> from my_table order by <int_col1> asc limit 1 select <text_col1> from my_table order by <int_col1> desc limit 1 select <int_col1> from my_table order by <int_col2> asc limit 1 select <int_col1> from my_table order by <int_col2> desc limit 1</int_col2></int_col1></int_col2></int_col1></int_col1></text_col1></int_col1></text_col1></int_col1></int_col1></int_col1></int_col1></pre>
Comparative:

select (select <int_coll> from my_table where <text_coll> = <text_1>)
> (select <int_coll> from my_table where <text_coll> = <text_2>)
select (select <int_coll> from my_table where <int_coll> <op2> <int_2>)
> (select <int_coll> from my_table where <int_coll> <op3> <int_3>)
select (select <int_coll> from my_table where <text_coll> = <text_1>)
< (select <int_coll> from my_table where <text_coll> = <text_2>)
select (select <int_coll> from my_table where <text_coll> = <text_1>)
< (select <int_coll> from my_table where <text_coll> = <text_2>)
select (select <int_coll> from my_table where <int_coll> <op2> <int_2>)
< (select <int_coll> from my_table where <int_coll> <op2> <int_3>)
select <int_coll> from my_table where <int_coll> <op3> <int_3>)
select <int_coll> <int_coll> from my_table where <text_coll> = <text_1>
select <int_coll> <int_coll> from my_table where <text_coll> = <text_1>
select <int_coll> <int_coll> from my_table where <int_coll> <op3> <int_3>
select <int_coll> <int_coll> from my_table where <int_coll> <op3> <int_3>
select <int_coll> <int_coll> from my_table where <int_coll> <op3> <int_3>

Markdown Table:

I I	ercilla	shucks liter tae	nia dorado
:	:	:	:
0	68	12 gcrdvo qoa	th katfuw
1	129	151 zmvltkk jpc	glcjzk vwqqey
2	248	188 zmdlfbhb cvh	qotsys wzunmaa
3	267	104 gcrdvo yty	wunvf pjlbo
4	135	262 gcrdvo dtn	vfp ajzpsaoy
5	309	119 zmdlfbhb klc	enmugk hriunhf
6	25	152 zmvltkk cjg	cergv shrbvrd
7	298	18 zmvltkk scv	uuc ahunvcx
8	321	217 gcrdvo ezl	p hasjaznm
9	139	310 gcrdvo ghh	jea atqvtgoa
10	99	34 zmvltkk ecd	mpruq cfitvz
11	142	167 gcrdvo aci	i oenmuezip
12	273	156 gcrdvo nnv	nteh tulh
13	197	44 gcrdvo pqd	bhevkh dfxuwxz
14	144	123 gcrdvo bxr	go ccbj

Flatten Table:

Flatten Table Examples: The table have 5 columns: ercilla | shucks | liter | taenia | dorado row 1 : ercilla is 68. shucks is 12. liter is gcrdvo. taenia is qoath. dorado is katfuw. row 2 : ercilla is 129. shucks is 151. liter is zmvltkk. taenia is jpcglcjzk. dorado is vwqqey. row 3 : ercilla is 248. shucks is 188. liter is zmdlfbhb. taenia is cvhqotsys. dorado is wzunmaa. row 4 : ercilla is 267. shucks is 104. liter is gcrdvo. taenia is ytywunvf. dorado is pjlbo. row 5 : ercilla is 135. shucks is 262. liter is gcrdvo. taenia is dtnvfp. dorado is ajzpsaoy. row 6 : ercilla is 309. shucks is 119. liter is zmdlfbhb. taenia is klcenmugk. dorado is hriunhf. row 7 : ercilla is 25. shucks is 152. liter is zmvltkk. taenia is cjgcergv. dorado is shrbvrd. row 8 : ercilla is 298. shucks is 18. liter is zmvltkk. taenia is scvuuc. dorado is ahunvcx. row 9 : ercilla is 321. shucks is 217. liter is gcrdvo. taenia is ezlp. dorado is hasjaznm. row 10 : ercilla is 139. shucks is 310. liter is gcrdvo. taenia is ghhjea. dorado is atqvtgoa. row 11 : ercilla is 99. shucks is 34. liter is zmvltkk. taenia is ecdmprug. dorado is cfitvz. row 12 : ercilla is 142. shucks is 167. liter is gcrdvo. taenia is acii. dorado is oenmuezip. row 13 : ercilla is 273. shucks is 156. liter is gcrdvo. taenia is nnvnteh. dorado is tulh. row 14 : ercilla is 197. shucks is 44. liter is gcrdvo. taenia is pqdbhevkh. dorado is dfxuwxz. row 15 : ercilla is 144. shucks is 123. liter is gcrdvo. taenia is bxrgo. dorado is ccbj.

C.4 SQL Execution Examples (Few-shot)

You are an SQL executor, you need to execute SQL based on the give table and SQL statement to obtain the execution results. Only give me the execution results and do not output any other words. Table:

1211	1 1	puccoon ti	epolo	scope	mutinus	intra	dos I	huggins	barye	wear	
			eboro l	scope 1		Incra	uus	nuggins	barye	wear	
1212	:	:	:	:	:		:	:	:	:	
1213	0	171	225	145	2007-04-27		322	yefihroyn	79	207	
1214	1	213	116	319	2016-01-15		288	ytyayrvj	246	272	
1215	2	191	229	95	2022-11-08		218	gpmvax	167	73	
1216	3	97	155	189	2013-10-30		79	gpmvax	24	233	
1217	4	56	11	295	2018-12-10		81	yefihroyn	187	198	
1218	5	285	304	168	2017-03-24		75	gpmvax	111	77	
1219	6	233	325	31	2014-01-22		114	ytyayrvj	20	219	
1220	7	19	146	164	2021-12-07		311	ytyayrvj	188	3	
1221	8	112	255	30	2015-12-07		214	gpmvax	16	271	
1222	9	175	62	181	2012-04-21		182	gpmvax	105	76	
1223	10	200	90	101	2008-04-28		168	gpmvax	70	119	
1224	11	31	180	95	2004-06-23		62	yefihroyn	314	97	
1225	12	297	251	249	2022-02-02		185	yefihroyn	278	313	
1226	13	36	17	67	2016-04-14		243	ytyayrvj	213	4	
1227	14	45	215	182	2012-06-15		251	yefihroyn	221	83	
1228	Now you	need to execute	SQL based	on the	given table	and SQL	state	ment to obta	in the exe	ecution res	su

Now you need to execute SQL based on the given table and SQL statement to obtain the execution result. Only give me the result and do not output any other words or SQL statement. The following are some examples.

SQL:select avg (intrados) from my_table where tiepolo > 146 group by huggins having count (huggins) > 1 order by count (tiepolo) asc limit 1 Answer:146.5 SQL:select wear from my_table where huggins = 'gpmvax' group by huggins having wear < 83 order by count (distinct barye) asc limit 1 Answer:73 SQL:select mutinus from my_table where tiepolo > 116 group by huggins having max (wear) > 119 order by count (huggins) asc limit 1 Answer: 2014-01-22 SQL:select tiepolo from my_table where puccoon < 191 and intrados < 79 group by huggins having intrados < 81 and tiepolo < 255 order by count (barye) asc limit 1 Answer:180 SQL:select tiepolo from my_table where scope > 31 group by huggins having min (tiepolo) = 62 order by count (distinct mutinus) asc limit 1 Answer:62 SQL:select wear from my_table where huggins = 'ytyayrvj' group by huggins having count (huggins) < 5 order by count (distinct mutinus) desc limit 1 Answer:

C.5 Multi-step Instruction (Few-shot)

You need to obtain the final answer based on the table and instructions. Only give me the result and do not output any other words. Table:

Tabic.								
	puccoon	tiepolo	scope mutinus	intrados	huggins	barye	wear	
:	: -	: -	-	:	:	:	:	
0	171	225	145 2007-04-27	322	yefihroyn	79	207	
1	213	116	319 2016-01-15	288	ytyayrvj	246	272	
2	191	229	95 2022-11-08	218	gpmvax	167	73	
3	97	155	189 2013-10-30	79	gpmvax	24	233	
4	56	11	295 2018-12-10	81	yefihroyn	187	198	
5	285	304	168 2017-03-24	75	gpmvax	111	77	
6	233	325	31 2014-01-22	114	ytyayrvj	20	219	
7	19	146	164 2021-12-07	311	ytyayrvj	188	3	
8	112	255	30 2015-12-07	214	gpmvax	16	271	
9	175	62	181 2012-04-21	182	gpmvax	105	76	
10	200	90	101 2008-04-28	168	gpmvax	70	119	
11	31	180	95 2004-06-23	62	yefihroyn	314	97	
12	297	251	249 2022-02-02	185	yefihroyn	278	313	
13	36	17	67 2016-04-14	243	ytyayrvj	213	4	
14	45	215	182 2012-06-15	251	yefihroyn	221	83	
Now yo	u need to get	the answer	based on the instructio	on,				

Now you need to get the answer based on the instruction,

only give me the result and do not output any other words.

The following are some examples.

Instruction:Please filter the rows by the column conditions, which need to be met: The value of column tiepolo needs to be greater than 146.

1278 The rows are then grouped according to the value of the huggins in the remaining rows.

Then filter some gr Select the average Sort the obtained v and select the smal Answer:146.5	of values of values in asc	intrado ending c	os column in order of the	filtered row	WS.	ggins is grea	ater than 1.	1279 1280 1281 1282 1283 1284	
Instruction:Please filter the rows by the column conditions, which need to be met: The value of column huggins is 'gpmvax'. The rows are then grouped according to the value of the huggins in the remaining rows. Then filter some groups by the following condition:the column wear is less than 83. Select values of wear column in filtered rows. Sort the obtained values in ascending order of the number of non-repeating barye and select the smallest value to get the answer. Answer:73									
Instruction:Please The value of column The rows are then g Then filter some gr Select values of we Sort the obtained v and select the larg Answer:	n huggins is grouped accor roups by the ear column ir values in des	'ytyayrv ding to followir filtere scending	<pre>/j'. the value of ng condition: ed rows. order of the</pre>	the hugging the number o	s in the rem of column hu	aining rows. ggins is les	s than 5.	1293 1294 1295 1296 1297 1298 1299 1300 1301	
C.6 Chain-of-Th	ought SQL	Executi	ion Promptin	ng Example	es			1302	
You are an SQL exect	utor, you nee	d to outp	out the execut	tion process	and final a	nswer based c	on table and SQL.	1303	
Table: masthead	laertes	boo	bothrops	height :	scraper :	trouser	lozenge	1304 1305 1306	
<pre>0 case 1 case 2 case 3 thyngfwts 4 thyngfwts 5 case 6 thyngfwts 7 thyngfwts 8 case 9 case 10 thyngfwts</pre>	araeswrid araeswrid zncmrrvg araeswrid mrehctv araeswrid mrehctv araeswrid mrehctv araeswrid mrehctv araeswrid	138	loclzoglg loclzoglg loclzoglg loclzoglg lyucg loclzoglg	<pre> urbsmxiv tbvg tbvg urbsmxiv urbsmxiv cidufm tbvg cidufm tbvg urbsmxiv</pre>	vgxrh oerigocb vgxrh vgxrh vgxrh oerigocb oerigocb ffljyxb vgxrh vgxrh	esauw stevw stevw esauw esauw stevw stevw stevw esauw stevw	281 177 234 224 228 60 289 296 1772 147 297	1307 1308 1309 1310 1311 1312 1313 1314 1315 1316 1317	
11 thyngfwts	zncmrrvg		loclzoglg	tbvg	vgxrh	esauw		1318	

7 thyngfwts	zncmrrvg	42 locl	.zoglg tbvg	ffljyxb	stevw						
8 case	araeswrid	275 lyuc	g cidufm	vgxrh	stevw						
9 case	mrehctv	20 locl	zoglg tbvg	vgxrh	esauw						
10 thyngfwts	araeswrid	302 lyuc	g urbsmx	iv vgxrh	stevw						
11 thyngfwts	zncmrrvg	137 locl	zoglg tbvg	vgxrh	esauw						
12 case	araeswrid	186 locl	.zoglg cidufm	ffljyxb	esauw						
13 case	araeswrid	194 locl	.zoglg cidufm	vgxrh	esauw						
14 case	araeswrid	234 lyuc	g urbsmx	iv vgxrh	stevw						
Now you need to get the answer based on the instruction,											
only give me the ir	only give me the intermedium results and the final answer										

only give me the intermedium results and the final answer.

SQL:

select masthead from my_table where height = 'tbvg' group by masthead order by count (laertes) desc limit 1 Execution process:

You need to execute 3 steps.

Step 0:

Please filter the rows by the column conditions, which need to be met: The value of column butcher is 'jxys'. Intermediate results 0: l bowdler l nuthatch l cachexia | claret | cortina | strombus | lencvclia lbutcher

en	cyclia	butcher	bowdler	nuthatch		cachexia	claret	cortina	strombus	1331
: :		- :	:	:			-: :		-: :	1332
0 ad	nh	jxys	cxjvfz	clmb	1	2	oqmdmbfg	251	184	1333
1 xv	oxfjbm	jxys	cxjvfz	clmb	1	275	oqmdmbfg	140	303	1334
2 ad	nh	jxys	eohdpivo	clmb	I.	298	oqmdmbfg	142	28	1335
3 ad	nh	jxys	eohdpivo	rcyixdl		153	oqmdmbfg	50	306	1336
4 xv	oxfjbm	jxys	eohdpivo	rcyixdl	1	315	rxbttbm	201	86	1337
Step 1: S	elect va	lues of st	rombus column	in filtere	d row	s.				1338
Intermedi	ate resu	lts 1:								1339

184,303,28,306,86

Step 2: Sort the obtained values in ascending order of claret and select the smallest value to get the answer. Answer: 184

C.7 Real Table SQL Execution (Few-shot)

You are an SQL executor, you need to execute SQL based on the give table and SQL statement to obtain the execution results.

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63 | 268 |

98 |

276 |

Ι

	id	agg	rank	nation	gol	d	silver	bronze	tota
:	:	:	: :			-:	:	:	
0	1	0	1	soviet union	5	0	27	22	9
1	2	0	2	united states	3	3	31	30	9
2	3	0	3	east germany (gdr)	2	0	23	23	6
3	4	0	4	west germany (frg)	1	3	11	16	4
4	5	0	5	japan	1	3	8	8	2
5	6	0	6	australia		8	7	2	1
6	7	0	7	poland		7	5	9	2
7	8	0	8	hungary		6	13	16	3
8	9	0	9	bulgaria		6	10	5	2
9	10	0	10	italy	1	5	3	10	1

Now you need to execute SQL based on the given table and SQL statement to obtain the execution result. Only give me the result and do not output any other words or SQL statement.

The following are some examples.

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SQL:select nation from table where rank = 1
Answer:Soviet Union
SQL:select nation from table where nation != 'bulgaria'
and total = (select total from table where nation = 'bulgaria')
Answer:Poland
SQL:select nation from table order by bronze limit 1
Answer:Australia
SQL:select nation from table order by bronze limit 1
Answer:Australia
SQL:select silver from table order by gold desc limit 1
Answer:

1375 C.8 Real Table Question Answering (Few-shot)

You need to obtain the final answer based on the table and questions. Only give me the answer and do not output any other words. Table:

Ι			id	agg	ranl	<	nation	1	gold	Ι	silver	bronze	total	
-	:		:	:		-:	:	-	:	-	:	:	:	
	0		1	0	·		soviet union		50	Ι	27	22	99	
	1		2	0		2	united states		33	T	31	30	94	
	2		3	0	:	3	east germany (gdr)		20	Ι	23	23	66	
	3		4	0	4	1	west germany (frg)		13	T	11	16	40	
	4		5	0	!	5	japan		13	Ι	8	8	29	
Ι	5	1	6	0	6	5	australia	1	8	Ι	7	2	17	
	6		7	0	1 7	7	poland		7	T	5	9	21	
	7		8	0	8	3	hungary		6	Ι	13	16	35	
	8		9	0	9) (bulgaria		6	Τ	10	5	21	
	9		10	0	10)	italy		5	T	3	10	18	
NI.							فيقصدنهم والقريب استحصا							

Now you need to get the answer based on the question, only give me the answer and do not output any other words.

The following are some examples.

Question:which country was first in rank at the 1972 olympics ? Answer:Soviet Union Question:which country won the same amount of medals as bulgaria in these olympics ? Answer:Poland Question:which nation won the least number of bronze medals ? Answer:Australia Question:which nation received the least bronze medals Answer:Australia Question:what number of silver medals was won by the nation with the most gold medals ? Answer:

D Experiments Settings Details

1377 D.1 Setting Description

1378Table Config

1376

1379"col_min": 5, // the min number of cols1380"col_max": 8, // the max number of cols

1381 "row_min": 15, // the min number of rows

"row_max": 40, // the max number of rows
"text_int_date": [0.55, 0.35, 0.1], // text,int,date header ratio 1382 1383 "text_int_date_fix": ["TEXT", "TEXT", "INT", "INT", "INT"], // Specify the type of each header 1384 // Probability of duplicate values in each column 1385 "value_repeat_ratio": [0, 0.2, 0.3, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0.2, 0.5], "value_repeat_ratio_fix": ["random", "random"], // Specify the duplicate values of each column 1386 1387 SQL Config 1388 "nest": [1], // Number of SQL nestings. options: [1], [2], [1,2],[1,2, 3] 1389 "keywords_setting": { // if a Keyword is False, then no SQL containing this Keyword is generated. 1390 "select": true, 1391 "where": true, 1392 "group by": true, 1393 "having": true, 1394 "order by": true 1395 1396 // control the length of sql 1397 "is_available": false, // To enable this setting, you need to adjust "is_available" to true first. 1398 // 'value' can be set to specific values, such as [13,14,15], 1399 // if value is null, then the range is used [min, max] 1400 "value": [], 1401 "min": 6, 1402 "max": 16 1403 }, 1404 "column_ratio": { // Controlling the ratio of columns involved in SQL 1405 "is_available": false, // To enable this setting, you need to adjust "is_available" to true first. 1406 // 'value' can be set to specific values, such as [1,2], Control the number of columns involved in SQL 1407 "value": [], 1408 // if value is null, then the range is used [min, max], it's the used ratio = (used columns) / (all columns) 1409 "min": 0.1, 1410 "max": 0.3 1411 }, 1412 "select_row_ratio":{ // Controlling the ratio of rows involved in select keyword 1413 "is_available": false, // To enable this setting, you need to adjust "is_available" to true first. 1414 // 'value' can be set to specific values, such as [1,2,3,4], Control the number of rows involved in SQL 1415 "value": [], 1416 // if value is null, then the range is used [min, max], it's the used ratio = (select rows) / (all rows) 1417 "min": 0.1, 1418 "max": 0.2 1419 1420 }, // Controlling the calculate times of the sql ['+','-','*','/','sum','count','min','max','avg'] 1421 "calculate_times": { 1422 "is_available": false, // To enable this setting, you need to adjust "is_available" to true first. 1423 "value": [1,2,3,4] $\ensuremath{\textit{//}}$ 'value' can be set to specific values, means the calculate times 1424 1425 }, // Controlling the filter times of the sql ['=','>','<','in','like']</pre> 1426 "filter_times": { 1427 "is_available": false, // To enable this setting, you need to adjust "is_available" to true first. 1428 "value": [1,2,3,4,5] // 'value' can be set to specific values, means the calculate times 1429 1430 }, // Controlling the location of answer in the table, usually used in long-context understanding 1431 "answer_location": { 1432 "is_available": false, // To enable this setting, you need to adjust "is_available" to true first. 1433 "value": null, 1434 "min": 0.1, // if value is null, then the range is used [min, max], 1435 means that 0.1 < (Row where answer is located) / (Row number) < 0.9 1436 "max": 0.9 1437 1438 }, // usually remains 1 in this repo, we often just test the sql whose answer is from one cell. 1439 "answer_cells_number": 1, 1440 "include": [], 1441 "exclude": [], 1442 "n_shot": 5 1443 **D.2** General Setting 1444 **Table Config** 1445 "col_min": 5, 1446 "col_max": 5, 1447

"row_min": 30,

1448

```
1449
               "row_max": 30,
               "text_int_date": [0.5, 0.45, 0.05],
1450
1451
               "value_repeat_ratio": [0, 0.2, 0.3, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0.5]
               SQL Config
1452
                 "nest": [1,2,3],
1453
                 "select_grammar": [],
1454
                 "keywords_setting": { "select": true,
1455
                 "where": true,
1456
                   "group by": true,
1457
1458
                   "having": true,
                   "order by": true
1459
1460
                 }.
1461
                 "length_setting": {
                   "is_available": false,
1462
                   "value": [],
1463
                   "min": 6,
1464
                   "max": 16
1465
1466
                 },
1467
                 "column_ratio": {
                   "is_available": false,
1468
                   "value": [],
1469
                   "min": 0.1,
1470
                   "max": 0.3
1471
1472
                 },
                  'select_row_ratio":{
1473
1474
                   "is_available": false,
                   "value": [],
1475
1476
                   "min": 0,
                   "max": 0.2
1477
1478
                 }.
1479
                  'calculate_times": {
                   "is_available": false,
1480
                   "value": [0]
1481
1482
                 "filter_times": {
1483
                   "is_available": false,
1484
1485
                   "value": [0]
1486
                 },
                 "answer_location": {
1487
                   "is_available": false,
1488
1489
                   "row_value": [],
                   "column_value":[0],
1490
                   "min": 0,
1491
                   "max": 1
1492
1493
                 },
1494
                 "answer_cells_number": 1,
                 "multi_test": false,
1495
                 "include": [],
1496
                 "exclude": [],
                 "n_shot": 5
1498
1499
```

```
D.3 LLMs Used In This Paper
```

1501

1502 1503

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1506

LLMs. LLaMA2 (Touvron et al., 2023a), Qwen (Bai et al., 2023a), InternLM (Team, 2023), Mistral, XGen (Nijkamp et al., 2023), Falcon (Penedo et al., 2023), phi-1_5 (Li et al., 2023b), StableLM (Andonian et al., 2021), Pythia (Biderman et al., 2023), CodeLlama (Rozière et al., 2023), StarCoder (Li et al., 2023a), CodeGen (Nijkamp et al., 2022).

We all use the official model weight from the Huggingface Models³. Above we used the model's abbreviation, we list the model's huggingface official label in Table 6.

D.4 Markdown vs. Flatten Setting Experiments

```
      1507
      "0": Size: 100 * 5, Template: Easy, Model: GPT-3.5

      1508
      "1": Size: 50 * 5, Template: Easy, Model: GPT-3.5

      1509
      "2": Size: 20 * 6, Template: Count, Model: GPT-3.5

      1510
      "3": Size: 40 * 10, Template: Where Condition Text, Model: GPT-3.5
```

```
<sup>3</sup>https://huggingface.co/models
```

Model	Name
Mistral-7B	mistralai/Mistral-7B-v0.1
Llama-2-13B	meta-llama/Llama-2-13b-hf
InternLM-20B	internlm/internlm-20b
Qwen-14B	Qwen/Qwen-14B
Llama-2-7B	meta-llama/Llama-2-7b-hf
Qwen-7B	Qwen/Qwen-7B
XGen-7B	Salesforce/xgen-7b-8k-base
Internlm-7B	internlm/internlm-7b
Phi-1_5	microsoft/phi-1_5
Stablelm-7B	stabilityai/stablelm-base-alpha-7b
Stablelm-3B	stabilityai/stablelm-base-alpha-3b
Pythia-12B	EleutherAI/pythia-12b
Pythia-6.9B	EleutherAI/pythia-6.9b
Pythia-2.8B	EleutherAI/pythia-2.8b
Pythia-1B	EleutherAI/pythia-1b
Llama-2-70B	meta-llama/Llama-2-70b-hf
CodeLlama-34B	codellama/CodeLlama-34b-hf
CodeLlama-13B	codellama/CodeLlama-13b-hf
CodeLlama-7B	codellama/CodeLlama-7b-hf
StarCoder-15B	bigcode/starcoderbase
StarCoder-7B	bigcode/starcoderbase-7b
StarCoder-3B	bigcode/starcoderbase-3b
StarCoder-1B	bigcode/starcoderbase-1b
CodeGen-15B	Salesforce/codegen-16B-multi
CodeGen-6B	Salesforce/codegen-6B-multi
CodeGen-2B	Salesforce/codegen-2B-multi
Yarn-LLaMA2-13B	NousResearch/Yarn-Llama-2-7b-64k
LongChat-13B	lmsys/longchat-7b-16k
RWKV-Raven-14B	lmsys/longchat-7b-16k

Table 6: LLMs used in our experiments and their corresponding names in Huggingface Hub.

"4":	Size: 10 * 20, Template: Where Condition Text, Model: GPT-3.5	1511
"5":	Size: 10 \star 15, Template: Where Condition Text, Model: GPT-3.5	1512
"6":	Size: 50 * 5, Template: Easy, Model: Llama-2–13B	1513
"7":	Size: 100 * 5, Template: Easy, Model: Yarn-Llama-2-13B	1514
"8":	Size: 50 * 5, Template: Easy, Model: Yarn-Llama-2-13B	1515
"9":	Size: 25 * 7, Template: General, Model: Llama-2-13B	1516
"10"	': Size: (15~40) * (6~9), Template: General, Model: Llama-2-13B	1517
"11"	': Size: (15~40) * (6~9), Template: General, Model: Llama-2-13B	1518
"12"	': Size: (15~40) * (6~9), Template: Easy, Model: Llama-2-13B	1519
"13"	': Size: (15~40) * (6~9), Template: Easy, Model: Llama-2-13B	1520
"14"	: Size: (15~40) * (6~9), Template: Easy, Model: Llama-2-13B	1521