PythonSaga: Redefining the Benchmark to Evaluate Code Generating LLM

Anonymous ACL submission

Abstract

Driven by the surge in code generation using large language models (LLMs), numerous benchmarks have emerged to evaluate these LLMs capabilities. We conducted a largescale human evaluation of HumanEval and MBPP, two popular benchmarks for Python code generation, analyzing their diversity and difficulty. Our findings unveil a critical bias towards a limited set of programming concepts, neglecting most of the other concepts entirely. Furthermore, we uncover a worrying prevalence of easy tasks, potentially inflating model performance estimations. To address these limitations, we propose a novel benchmark, PythonSaga, featuring 185 handcrafted prompts on a balanced representation of 38 programming concepts across diverse difficulty levels. The code and dataset are openly available to the NLP community at https:// anonymous.4open.science/r/PythonSaga.

1 Introduction

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The rapid advancement of large language models (LLMs), such as Gemini (Anil et al., 2023a), GPT-4 (OpenAI, 2023), LLaMA (Touvron et al., 2023) and PaLM (Anil et al., 2023b), has achieved nearhuman or even superhuman performance (Bowman, 2023) across a wide range of NLP tasks. This surge has also prompted the development of tailor-made code generation models, such as Codex (Chen et al., 2021), STARCODER (Li et al., 2023), Code-Gen (Nijkamp et al., 2022), and CodeGeeX (Zheng et al., 2023). These specialized models, hereafter collectively referred to as "Code-LLMs", harness the capabilities of LLMs for automated code generation from human descriptions. Figure 1 shows a toy example with an input description from a human and an expected Python code generated by a Code-LLM.

The prevalence of Python as the dominant programming language has significantly influenced a majority of Code-LLMs to showcase their

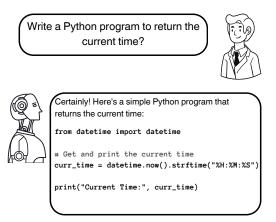


Figure 1: Illustration of a conversation wherein a human provides an input description, and a Code-LLM generates the expected Python code.

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code-generation capabilities on Python-specific benchmarks. Consequently, HumanEval (Chen et al., 2021), MBPP (Austin et al., 2021), APPS (Hendrycks et al., 2021), and DS-1000 (Lai et al., 2023) have emerged as prominent benchmarks, leveraging data curated from popular coding platforms like GitHub (GitHub, 2024), LeetCode (GeeksForGeeks, 2023), and Codeforces (Codeforces, 2024) and crowdsourcing efforts. These benchmarks offer a diverse range of programming challenges, with sizes spanning from a few hundred instances in HumanEval (Chen et al., 2021)) to several thousand instances in datasets like APPS (Hendrycks et al., 2021) and MBPP (Austin et al., 2021).

Code generation benchmarks, like their NLP counterparts (Kiela et al., 2021), are reaching saturation, revealing limitations in their ability to evaluate models comprehensively. Figure 2 reports *pass@1* score¹ of recent Code-LLMs on two popular benchmarks, HumanEval (Chen et al., 2021)

 $^{^{1}}pass@k$ measures if at least one of the k code samples generated by the model passes every test case. Detailed formal definition is present in Appendix A.1.

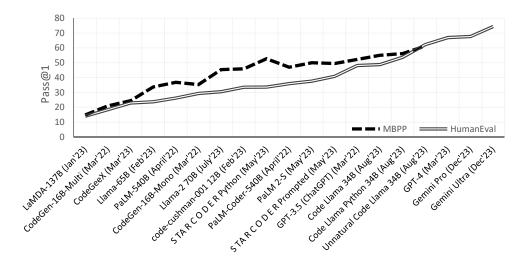


Figure 2: Performance comparison arranged in ascending order of (pass@1) of popular Code-LLMs on two Python benchmarks, HumanEval (Chen et al., 2021) and MBPP (Austin et al., 2021). pass@1 scores are taken verbatim as reported in STARCODER (Li et al., 2023), Code Llama (Roziere et al., 2023), and Gemini (Anil et al., 2023a). GPT-4, Gemini Pro, and Gemini Ultra do not report performance scores on MBPP dataset.

and MBPP (Austin et al., 2021). This progress prompts two critical questions: (1) Have Code-LLMs attained the generalization ability to solve any programming problem? (2) What programming concepts remain challenging for them, hindering their ability to solve specific problems? Surprisingly, despite their widespread use, existing benchmarks lack a comprehensive evaluation of their diversity in terms of programming concepts and difficulty level.

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In this paper, we introduce a comprehensive hierarchical classification of programming concepts, categorizing them into basic, intermediate, and advance levels (see Section 3). We then rigorously evaluate two benchmarks, HumanEval (Chen et al., 2021) and MBPP (Austin et al., 2021), on two dimensions: diversity of programming concepts and user-perceived difficulty. Our findings reveal a significant bias towards a small subset (<53%) of programming concepts, leaving the vast majority underrepresented. Additionally, over 80% of the problems are perceived as easy, raising concerns about the benchmarks' generalizability and effectiveness (see Section 4). To address these limitations, in Section 5, we propose a novel code generation benchmark, PythonSaga, featuring a balanced representation of 38 programming concepts across three difficulty levels in the form of 185 manually crafted problems. Surprisingly, our experiments show poor *pass@1* scores by the majority of the existing open (< 4%) and closed-source (< 13%)

Code-LLMs on PythonSaga. Furthermore, detailed analysis unveils significant disparities in their capacity to handle different programming concepts and difficulty levels.

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Related Work 2

NLP for Programming: Over the years, various 099 programming tasks, including clone detection (Roy 100 et al., 2009) (assessing semantic similarity between code fragments), defect detection (Tabernik et al., 2020) (identifying potential flaws within source 103 code), code completion (Hindle et al., 2016) (predicting subsequent tokens based on code context), 105 automated code repair (Arcuri and Yao, 2008) (improving code by automatically addressing bugs), 107 code search (Sachdev et al., 2018) (gauging se-108 mantic relevance between textual descriptions and 109 code snippets), and code summarization (Allama-110 nis et al., 2016) (generating natural language comments for code), have been extensively investi-112 gated and discussed within the NLP community. 113 This exploration has led to the development of sev-114 eral datasets such as GitHub Java Corpus (Alla-115 manis and Sutton, 2013), BigCloneBench (Sva-116 jlenko et al., 2014), POJ-104 (Mou et al., 2016), 117 PY150 (Raychev et al., 2016), Devign (Zhou et al., 118 2019), Bugs2Fix (Tufano et al., 2019), CodeSearch-119 Net (Husain et al., 2019), CT-max/min (Feng et al., 120 2020), MBPP by Austin et al. (2021), CodeXGLUE 121 by Lu et al. (2021), CodeNet by Puri et al. (2021), 122 HumanEval by Chen et al. (2021), XLCoST by Zhu 123

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et al. (2022), MultiPL-E by Cassano et al. (2022),
and HumanEval-X by Zheng et al. (2023). These
datasets and associated benchmarks span multiple
programming languages, including Java, C, C++,
PHP, Ruby, Go, and Python, among others.

Code Generation Models: The remarkable surge 129 in the popularity of large language models (LLMs) 130 has also been accompanied by significant advance-131 ments in code-generation LLMs (Code-LLMs). 132 These models exhibit the capability to gener-133 ate code in designated programming languages, guided by instructions presented in the form of prompts, functions, or docstrings. Prominent 136 examples of such Code-LLMs include but are 137 not limited to, Codex (Chen et al., 2021), Code-138 Gen (Nijkamp et al., 2022), Code Llama (Roziere 139 et al., 2023), STARCODER (Li et al., 2023) and 140 CodeGeeX (Zheng et al., 2023). These Code-141 LLMs are largely multilingual, capable of handling 142 multiple programming languages, and their param-143 144 eter sizes range from 1 billion to 35 billion. Their training datasets encompass popular programming 145 websites and code repositories such as GitHub, 146 LeetCode, and GeeksForGeeks. All popular Code-147 148 LLMs primarily focus on Python programs due to their widespread usage in ML and AI applications. 149

Python-based Evaluation Benchmarks: Recent thrust in Python code generation models also led 151 to the development of several benchmark datasets. 152 The PY150 dataset (Raychev et al., 2016), consist-153 ing of 150,000 Python source files from GitHub, 154 serves as a valuable tool for LLM evaluation. The 155 APPS dataset Hendrycks et al. (2021) features 156 10,000 problems from platforms like Codewars, At-157 Coder, Kattis, and Codeforces. HumanEval (Chen 158 et al., 2021) comprises 164 handwritten prob-159 lems. The MBPP dataset (Austin et al., 2021) 160 contains 974 entry-level problems. Additionally, 161 the MathQA-Python dataset (Austin et al., 2021), with 23,914 problems, assesses code synthesis from 163 complex textual descriptions. 164

Limitations in Existing Benchmarks: Current 165 datasets for evaluating Large Language Models 166 (LLMs) often lack transparency and comprehen-167 siveness in problem selection and categorization. 168 This opacity hinders assessments of the generalizability and representativeness of the benchmarks, 170 potentially leading to overestimation of LLM per-171 formance on code generation tasks. To address this 172 issue, this paper proposes a comprehensive prob-173 lem categorization by outlining recommended con-174

cepts for problem inclusion, aiming to establish a rigorous and transparent benchmarking framework.

3 Programming Concepts and Difficulty Levels

3.1 Programming Concepts

The concepts encompass language-specific constructs like variables, data types, control flow, and conditions to generic constructs like Algorithms, OOPs, etc. We, therefore, propose a hierarchy of programming concepts where a complex concept might require knowledge of several basic concepts. For example, sorting algorithms like Quicksort or Mergesort require a thorough understanding of data structures such as arrays and linked lists, as well as proficiency in algorithmic analysis and time complexity². Each programming concept is an intrinsic feature of a problem. We next describe the proposed hierarchy:

- **Basic Concepts:** At the basic level, concepts involve the application of elementary syntax principles, encompassing the utilization of variables, manipulation of diverse data types, basic input/output operations, comprehension of control flow and conditional statements, basic handling of data structures, functions, and knowledge of essential built-in libraries. Problems leveraging basic concepts primarily aim to evaluate the core competencies within a designated programming language.
- Intermediate Concepts: Intermediate-level concepts involve a comprehensive understanding of multiple foundational concepts and their adept integration. For example, extending basic data structures to implement Stack, Hash, Queue, etc. Problems comprising intermediate concepts evaluate a higher level of proficiency in programming.
- Advance Concepts: Concepts include implementation knowledge of advanced data structures such as Tree, Heap, etc., algorithmic paradigms such as Greedy, Divide and Conquer, and Dynamic Programming, and Concurrent and Parallel Programming. Problems comprising advanced concepts focus on evaluating sophisticated problemsolving and design capabilities.

We curate a list of 38 programming concepts from three popular coding platforms (Geeks-ForGeeks, 2023; LeetCode, 2023; hackerearth,

²https://shorturl.at/nrBTX

Basic	Intermediate	Advance	
Function	OOPS	Trie	
Mathematics	Stack	Tree	
File Handling	Sorting	Heap	
Basic Libraries	Hashing	Graph	
Error Handling	Searching	Matrix	
Input and Output	Recursion	Max Flow	
In-Built Functions	Linked List	Disjoint Set	
Pattern Replication	Bit Manipulation	Backtracking	
Basic Data Structures	Queue & Dequeue	Greedy Search	
Variable & Data Types	Regular Expression	Advanced OOPs	
Control Flow & Conditions	Circular & Doubly Linked List	Context Managers	
	Advanced String Manipulation	Divide and Conquer	
		Dynamic Programming	
		Closures and Decorators	
		Concurrency and Parallelism	

Table 1: A hierarchy of 38 programming concepts categorized into basic, intermediate, and advance categories.

2023). We further assign each concept to one of the three hierarchy levels. Table 1 presents the curated concepts and the proposed hierarchy.

3.2 Difficulty Levels

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An annotator, with their expertise and experience in programming, can perceive a programming problem as belonging to one of three difficulty levels: Easy, Medium, or Hard (Hendrycks et al., 2021). Thus, difficulty level is an extrinsic feature of a problem. This subjective assessment is based on a complex combination of factors, such as knowledge of programming concepts, problem-solving skills, experience with similar problems, and coding proficiency. It is important to note that this perceived difficulty is subjective and can vary significantly between annotators. A problem considered easy by one annotator due to their prior experience and knowledge might be deemed challenging by another who lacks those same advantages. Furthermore, the perceived difficulty of a problem can also evolve over time as an annotator develops their skills and knowledge. A problem that initially seemed challenging may become easier with practice and exposure to similar problems. Conversely, an annotator may encounter a problem that initially appears straightforward but then find themselves struggling due to hidden complexities or unforeseen challenges.

In this paper, we focus on Python Programming language and conduct human experiments with two popular Python-based code generation benchmarks to showcase extensive selection bias and poor diversity in the curated problems. The following section describes the human experiments in detail. 255

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4 Limitations of Code- Generation Existing Benchmarks

4.1 Python Code Generation Benchmarks

This study is grounded on the two most widely recognized Python code generation benchmarks: (i) HumanEval (Chen et al., 2021) and (ii) MBPP (Austin et al., 2021). Recent Code-LLMs including STARCODER (Li et al., 2023), LLaMA (Touvron et al., 2023), METAGPT (Hong et al., 2023), Code Llama (Roziere et al., 2023), SANTACODER (Allal et al., 2023), and CodeGeeX (Zheng et al., 2023) have employed these two benchmarks to assess their performance. We next briefly describe these benchmarks.

• HumanEval Dataset: HumanEval dataset was introduced alongside Codex (Chen et al., 2021)³. It comprises 164 hand-crafted Python programming problems⁴. Each problem description contains a function signature, docstring, body, and multiple unit tests. Figure 5 illustrates a representative problem. On average, each problem is associated with 7.7 unit tests.

³Codex is a GPT-based language model fine-tuned on publicly available codes from GitHub.

⁴Dataset is available here: https://github.com/ openai/human-eval

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• Mostly Basic Programming Problems (MBPP) Dataset: The MBPP dataset (Austin et al., 2021) evaluates models that can synthesize short Python programs from natural language descriptions. The benchmark⁵ consists of about 974 crowd-sourced Python programming problems designed to be solvable by entry-level programmers. Each problem consists of a task description, code solution, and three automated test cases. Figure 6 presents a representative problem.

Both benchmarks evaluate model performances against one of the most popular metrics *pass@k*.We formally define *pass@k* in Section A.1.

4.2 Human Annotation Experiments

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Next, we conducted two human annotation studies to gain insights into the diversity in programming concepts and difficulty levels of the two proposed benchmarks. Each study involved the recruitment of the same set of five annotators. Each annotator is a postgraduate student in Computer Science with at least three years of experience in Python programming and competitive programming. It is noteworthy that each participant willingly volunteered throughout the entire duration of the experiment, and no remuneration was provided. Internet access was prohibited during the entire annotation period. Annotators were encouraged to utilize any brute-force technique they considered appropriate without prioritizing optimized solutions. No time constraints were imposed to prevent hasty or fatigue-induced decisions. Each annotator was presented with 164 problems from HumanEval and a randomly selected set of 164 problems from MBPP. We next describe the two annotation studies:

Programming Concepts Diversity: In this study, we adopted a single-concept annotation approach, where human annotators assigned one programming concept (detailed in Section 3.1) to each problem. This selection represented the concept they considered most crucial for successful problem-solving. Our annotation guidelines explicitly prohibited assigning multiple concepts to any single problem, ensuring a focused and unambiguous mapping between problems and relevant concepts.

• Difficulty Level Diversity: In this study, each

annotator categorized the problems into three distinct difficulty levels: *Easy*, *Medium*, and *Hard*, based on their individual expertise and experiences.

4.3 Observations

Diversity in the Programming Concepts: In this section, we report the proportion of problems assigned to a specific concept averaged over five annotators. We find five predominant concepts, Mathematics, Control Flow and Conditions, Basic Data Structures, Variables and Data Types, and In-*Built Functions*, which comprise 72.1% and 77.3% problems in HumanEval and MBPP, respectively. Surprisingly, we found a complete absence of 14 (=37.8%) concepts. Notable exclusions include OOPs, Linked-lists, Tree, Graph, and Backtracking. Figure 3 presents conceptwise proportions in both the benchmarks. Further analysis suggests that, on average, the Basic category comprises approximately 78% of problems in both HumanEval and MBPP. The Intermediate category comprises 20.24% and 18.04% problems in HumanEval and MBPP, respectively. Finally, the Advance category contains 1.09% and 3.04% problems in HumanEval and MBPP, respectively.

Diversity in the Difficulty level: Here, we report the difficulty level assigned to a problem using majority voting among the annotators. In HumanEval, 84.8% of the problems were classified as Easy, 14.6% as Medium, and only 0.6% as Hard. Whereas in MBPP, 89.6% and 10.4% of problems were categorized as Easy, and Medium, respectively. No problem in MBPP was labeled as Hard. Here, we achieved significant consensus among the annotators. For example, in HumanEval, we find complete agreement among five annotators on 39% of the problems. Whereas we miss complete agreement by a single vote in 29.2% problems. In the case of MBPP, the 40.2% problems resulted in a complete agreement, with 42.1% problems missing the complete agreement by one vote.

Overall, we observe significant selection bias towards easy problems in both benchmarks.

5 PythonSaga: A New Benchmark for Code Generation Models

We now introduce PythonSaga, a new Python code generation benchmark that addresses the limitations of existing benchmarks with respect to diversity in concepts and difficulty level. PythonSaga

⁵Dataset is available here: https://github.com/ google-research/google-research/tree/master/mbpp

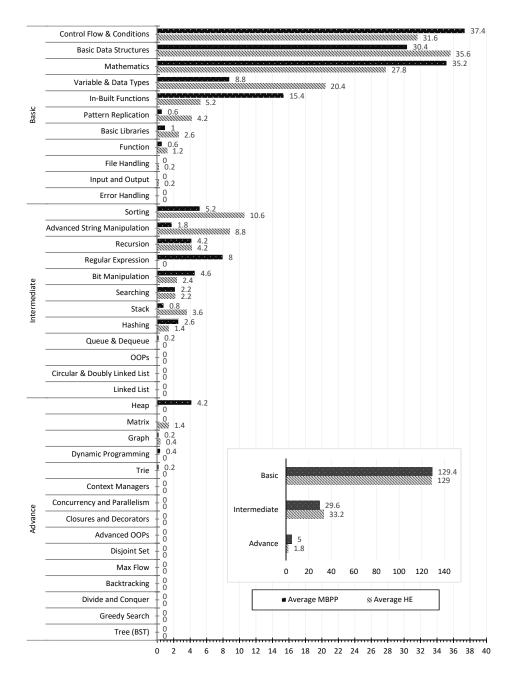


Figure 3: Average number of problems/prompts in Fine-Grain category

contains 185 prompts, close to equal representation
from each of the 38 programming concepts with
varied levels of difficulty (described in Section 3.2).

5.1 Data Sources and Curation Methodology

Aligned with the problem curation strategies employed in established benchmarks Hendrycks et al. (2021); Lai et al. (2023); Zhu et al. (2022), this study leverages problems from two prominent coding platforms: GeekForGeeks (GeeksForGeeks, 2023) and LeetCode (LeetCode, 2023). To comprehensively represent each proposed programming concept (detailed in Section 3.1), we curated five

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problems per concept. This diverse set comprises one *Easy* problem, two *Medium* problems, and two *Hard* problems, ensuring a balanced distribution across difficulty levels (20%, 40%, and 40%, respectively) within the PythonSaga Dataset. 390

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To enhance human-friendliness and ground the problems in realistic contexts, each shortlisted problem statement undergoes a manual rephrasing process without any aid from AI tools. Furthermore, a comprehensive description of input and output formats, accompanied by relevant examples, is supplied with each problem statement to ensure a thor-

Model	Size	Pass@1	Pass@10
Code Llama Python (Roziere et al., 2023)	7B	0.0240	0.0979
Code Llama Instruct (Roziere et al., 2023)	7B	0.0178	0.0744
Mistral-Instruct-v0.1 (Jiang et al., 2023)	7B	0.0140	0.0552
Code Llama (Roziere et al., 2023)	7B	0.0067	0.0472
StarCoderBase (Li et al., 2023)	7B	0.0029	0.0149
Deepseek Coder Instruct (Guo et al., 2024)	6.7B	0.0137	0.0889
Deepseek Coder (Guo et al., 2024)	6.7B	0.0343	0.1415
GPT-3.5 (OpenAI, 2022)	NA	0.0724	0.2384
GPT-4 (OpenAI, 2023)	NA	0.1243	0.3311

Table 2: Comparison between open and closed-source models on PythonSaga. We use the number of samples (n) as 20 for both open and closed-source models. OpenAI has not officially released the sizes of GPT-3.5 and GPT-4.

ough understanding of the task by Code-LLM. This multi-step approach aims to retain the core knowledge and essential solution steps while integrating them into relatable real-world scenarios. This re-construction involves reformulating the entire prob-lem statement while preserving its fundamental functionality. This deliberate transformation en-hances the challenge for Code-LLMs, requiring them to move beyond simple pattern matching and grasp the nuanced context embedded within the prompt to devise a solution effectively. For exam-ple, the problem statement "Given a string str, find the length of the longest substring without repeating characters." is paraphrased as "Let's say you attend a car show where cars of different brands are showcased in a row. Find the length of the longest stretch where no two cars are of the same brand. Take the input from the user for the brands of the cars in the order they are placed in the row. Print the length of the longest stretch where no two cars are of the same brand".

5.2 Size and Structure

Overall, PythonSaga comprises five problem instances from each programming concept, resulting in a total size of 185 problems. Each problem is associated with a maximum of four test cases, with an average of 3.7 test cases per problem. PythonSaga's structure resembles HumanEval and MBPP, wherein each problem comprises a function signature, docstring, body, and multiple unit tests. A representative example is present in Appendix A.2.

434 5.3 Benchmarking Existing LLMs

435 Next, we benchmark several open and closed-436 source LLMs on PythonSaga. Open-source models include three Llama variants, Code Llama (Roziere et al., 2023), Code Llama Python (Roziere et al., 2023) and Code Llama Instruct (Roziere et al., 2023), Mistral-Instruct (Jiang et al., 2023), StarCoderBase (Li et al., 2023) and two Deepseek variants, Deepseek Coder (Guo et al., 2024) and Deepseek Coder Instruct (Guo et al., 2024). Except for Mistral-Instruct, the rest are the Code-LLMs. In addition, we benchmark two closed-source models, including GPT variants GPT-3.5 (OpenAI, 2022) and GPT-4 (OpenAI, 2023). While larger open-source options exist, our selection was restricted to models with 7B parameters due to computational resource limitations, which were limited to a single Tesla V100 in our case.

We evaluate model performances using pass@k metric. Adhering to previous studies like HumanEval (Chen et al., 2021), StarCoder (Li et al., 2023), Deepseek Coder (Guo et al., 2024) etc, we primarily utilized k = 1, signifying that a model is considered successful if at least one of its generated solutions passes the defined evaluation criteria. However, we additionally explored k = 10 to analyze model consistency across larger sets of responses. Notably, unlike prior works that varied the number of sampled responses (n), we consistently generated n = 20 samples from both open-source and Closed-source models for a consistent evaluation.

Table 2 compares the above models against *pass@1* and *pass@10* metrics. In consistent with the latest trends, closed-source models performed considerably better than open-source models. Among open-source models, Deepseek Coder (Guo et al., 2024) performed best, whereas, among closed-source models, GPT-4 (OpenAI, 2023) performed best. Notably, the performance

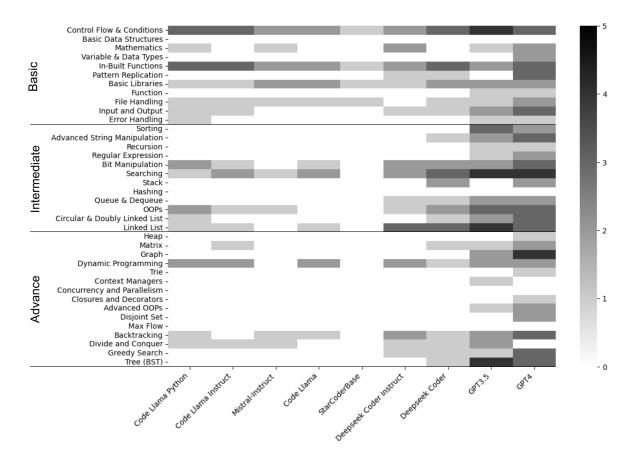


Figure 4: A heatmap showing the number of problems in PythonSaga solved by each LLM for a given programming concept. A model succeeds if at least one of the n(=20) generated samples passes all test cases.

474 of closed-source models on PythonSaga is signif475 icantly lower than the respective performances in
476 HumanEval and MBPP benchmarks (see Figure 2
477 for more details).

Figure 4 illustrates the performance of each 478 LLM on problems within specific programming 479 concepts in the PythonSaga. We consider a model 480 has successfully solved a problem if any one of 481 the n(=20) generated samples passes all the test 482 cases. As anticipated, all models exhibited better 483 performance in solving problems associated with 484 485 basic concepts compared to intermediate or Advance concepts. For example, Deepseek Coder, 486 solved 21.1%, 25%, and 8.2% of problems in these 487 categories, respectively. Whereas, GPT-4 solved 488 42.3%, 46.6%, and 32.8% of problems, respec-489 tively. In contrast to open-source models, closed-490 source models have successfully solved at least one 491 problem from a majority of the concepts. Interest-492 ingly, none of the models could successfully solve 493 any problem within five specific concepts, Basic 494 Data Structures, Hashing, Context Managers, Con-495 currancy and Parallelism and Max Flow. Notably, 496 closed-source models exhibited a more consistent 497

performance across categorization compared to open-source models, suggesting a potential advantage in handling diverse problem complexities.

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6 Conclusion and Future Work

This study emphasizes the crucial need for a more balanced and comprehensive evaluation framework to ensure a fair and accurate assessment of large language models (LLMs) capable of generating code from human inputs. We address this gap by proposing an extensive categorization and hierarchy of programming concepts. Subsequent analysis of two prominent Python code generation benchmarks reveals limited diversity in both programming concepts and difficulty levels. Notably, we introduce a novel benchmark characterized by a uniform representation of concepts and difficulty, offering a more robust assessment paradigm. Our findings suggest that existing benchmarks potentially overestimate LLM performance on code generation tasks. This work lays the groundwork for the future development of diverse and representative Python code generation benchmarks, paving the way for similar studies in other programming languages.

Limitations

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This section acknowledges three key limitations 522 associated with the present research. Firstly, due 523 to constraints in human annotation resources, the study employed a randomly selected subset of 164 525 problems from the MBPP benchmark. This selection aimed to match the size of the HumanEval dataset for comparative analysis. While maintaining parity in dataset size was crucial, it is impor-529 tant to acknowledge that the study's findings may not generalize to the entire MBPP benchmark due to the potential for selection bias introduced by 532 the random sampling process. Secondly, the current study employed a team of postgraduate Com-534 puter Science students with extensive experience in Python programming and competitive coding. While this selection ensured a high level of tech-537 nical proficiency in the annotation task, it also acknowledges the potential limitations in terms of 539 annotator diversity. Lastly, while the current study 540 demonstrates the efficacy of our proposed approach 541 within the context of the Python programming language, the generalizability of these findings to other languages requires further investigation, potentially limiting the direct applicability of our findings to benchmarks designed for languages such as Java 546 or C++.

548 Ethics Statement

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All human participants engaged in the evaluation process received detailed and comprehensible information regarding the study's nature and objectives. Prior to their involvement in the research, explicit informed consent was obtained from each participant.

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745	A Appendix

A.1 Performance Evaluation

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Within the field of code-generating large language models (Code-LLMs), the *pass@k* metric has emerged as a prevalent benchmark for performance evaluation (Kulal et al., 2019). This metric quantifies the overall proportion of benchmark problems successfully solved by a given model. A problem is considered solved if at least one of the *k* code samples generated by the model passes every test case associated with the problem. However, this definition leads to high variance. HumanEval (Chen et al., 2021) proposed an unbiased variant, where they generate *n* samples per problem such that $n \ge$ k, and count the number of correct samples $c \le n$ which pass unit tests. The unbiased estimator is described as:

$$\operatorname{pass}@k := \mathop{\mathbb{E}}_{\operatorname{Problems}} \left[1 - \frac{\binom{n-c}{k}}{\binom{n}{k}} \right]$$
(1)

Most of the Code-LLMs report pass@k values at k = 1. However, the value of n varies significantly across models. For instance, STARCODER (Li et al., 2023) conducts experiments with n = 200 for open-source models and n = 20 for API models.

A.2 Representative Example from PythonSaga

```
{
    "task_id": "PythonSaga/15",
    "prompt":
    def toy_distribution(n: int) -> str:
        """
        Let's say I have a bag of toys,
        which are 'n' in number. I know
        that these toys can be
        distributed either to n children
        or 1 child.
```

```
I want to know what can be other
                                                 783
    ways to distribute these toys to
                                                 784
                                                 785
    children in such a way that each
    child gets at least an equal
                                                 786
    number of toys.
                                                 787
                                                 788
    Take input from the user
    for the number of toys. Use the
                                                 789
    divmod function to solve this
                                                 790
    problem.
                                                 791
                                                 792
    Example 1:
                                                 793
    If 15 toys are there, then 15
                                                 794
    children can get 1 toy each or 1
                                                 795
    child can get 15 toys or 3
                                                 796
    children can get 5 toys each or
                                                 797
                                                 798
    5 children can get 3 toys each.
    In this case,
                                                 799
    return 'Yes, it is possible'.
                                                800
                                                 801
    Example 2:
                                                802
    If 11 toys are there, then 11
                                                803
    children can get 1 toy each or
                                                804
    1 child can get 11 toys.
                                                805
                                                806
    In this case,
    return 'No, it is not possible'.
                                                807
    n n n
                                                809
"entry_point": "toy_distribution",
                                                 810
                                                811
"canonical_solution":
                                                812
def is_prime(n):
                                                813
    .....
                                                814
    Check if a number is prime using
                                                815
    divmod.
                                                816
                                                817
    if n < 2:
                                                818
        return False
                                                819
                                                820
    for i in range(2, int(n**0.5)+1):
                                                821
        quot,remainder=divmod(n,i)
                                                822
        if remainder == 0:
                                                823
             return False
                                                824
                                                825
    return True
                                                826
                                                827
def toy_distribution(n: int) -> str:
                                                828
                                                829
    if n <= 0 or not is_prime(n):</pre>
        return 'Yes, it is possible'
                                                830
                                                831
    return 'No, it is not possible',
                                                832
                                                833
"test":
                                                834
METADATA = \{
                                                835
    'author': 'AY',
                                                836
    'dataset': 'test'
                                                837
}
                                                838
def check(candidate):
                                                839
    assert candidate(15) == 'Yes,
                                                840
                      it is possible'
                                                841
    assert candidate(11) == 'No,
                                                842
                 it is not possible'
                                                843
    assert candidate(20) == 'Yes,
                                                844
                     it is possible'
                                                845
    assert candidate(2) == 'No,
                                                846
                                                847
                  it is possible
                                                848
                                                849
```

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}

A.3 Representative Example from HumanEval

```
{
    "task_id":"HumanEval/23",
    "prompt":
         def strlen(string: str) -> int:
             Return length of given
             string
             >>> strlen('')
                  0
             >>> strlen('abc')
                  3""",
    "entry_point": "strlen",
    "canonical_solution":
         "return len(string)",
    "test":
         """METADATA = {
              'author': 'jt',
             'dataset': 'test'
             }
         def check(candidate):
            assert candidate('') == 0
assert candidate('x') == 1
            assert candidate('asdasnakj')
                                    == 9"""
}
```

Figure 5: Representative example from the HumanEval dataset. Here, *task_id* is a unique identifier for the data sample. The *prompt* contains problem text with a function header and docstrings. *Canonical_solution* presents one solution for the problem. The *test* contains functions to validate the correctness of the generated code. *Entry_point* represents the function name which is yet to be completed.

A.4 Representative Example from MBPP

```
{
    "text": "Write a function to find m
    number of multiples of n.",
    "code":
         def multiples_of_num(m,n):
            multiples_of_num=
                 list(range(n,(m+1)*n,n))
            return list(multiples_of_num)
         , , , <sub>,</sub>
    "task_id": 21,
    "test_setup_code": "",
    "test_list":
         , , ,
         ["assert multiples_of_num(4,3)==
             [3,6,9,12]",
          "assert multiples_of_num(2,5) ==
             [5,10]"
          "assert multiples_of_num(9,2) ==
             [2,4,6,8,10,12,14,16,18]"]
          , , , <sub>,</sub>
    "challenge_test_list": []
}
```

Figure 6: Representative example from the MBPP dataset. *Text* represents the natural language description of the problem. *Code* contains one possible solution for the problem. *Task_id* is the unique identifier of the sample. *Test_setup_code* lists necessary code imports to execute tests. *Test_list* contains a list of tests to verify the solution. *Challenge_test_list* contains a list of more challenging tests to probe the solution further.

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