
Probe by Gaming: A Game-based Benchmark for Assessing Conceptual Knowledge in LLMs

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Abstract

1 Concepts represent generalized abstractions that enable humans to categorize and
2 reason efficiently, yet it is unclear to what extent Large Language Models (LLMs)
3 comprehend these semantic relationships. Existing benchmarks typically focus on
4 factual recall and isolated tasks, failing to evaluate the ability of LLMs to understand
5 conceptual boundaries. To address this gap, we introduce CK-Arena, a multi-agent
6 interaction game built upon the Undercover game, designed to evaluate the capacity
7 of LLMs to reason with concepts in interactive settings. CK-Arena challenges mod-
8 els to describe, differentiate, and infer conceptual boundaries based on partial in-
9 formation, encouraging models to explore commonalities and distinctions between
10 closely related concepts. By simulating real-world interaction, CK-Arena provides
11 a scalable and realistic benchmark for assessing conceptual reasoning in dynamic
12 environments. Experimental results show that LLMs’ understanding of conceptual
13 knowledge varies significantly across different categories and is not strictly aligned
14 with parameter size or general model capabilities. The code is available at this
15 URL: <https://anonymous.4open.science/r/CK-Arena/readme.md>.

16 1 Introduction

17 As Large Language Models (LLMs) become integral to complex reasoning tasks, the demand is shift-
18 ing from mere sequence prediction to a deeper grasp of conceptual structures and their related charac-
19 teristics in the real world [1, 2, 3, 4]. A concept represents a generalized abstraction that encapsulates
20 shared properties of entities, enabling humans to categorize and reason efficiently [5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10].
21 For example, the concept *Primates* groups animals like *monkeys* and *apes* based on shared charac-
22 teristics such as opposable thumbs, forward-facing eyes, and high cognitive abilities. While human
23 cognition naturally leverages such conceptual structures for reasoning and adaptation, it remains
24 unclear to what extent LLMs capture and utilize these abstractions. Current evaluations primarily
25 focus on surface-level predictions, offering limited insight into whether LLMs truly understand
26 concepts as structured semantic entities.

27 Traditional benchmarks for LLMs evaluation have contributed to improvements in model performance
28 [11, 12, 13, 14], but they exhibit significant limitations. These benchmarks primarily assess token-
29 level accuracy and factual recall through static question-answer formats, often breaking down
30 knowledge into isolated questions. This fragmented evaluation approach captures surface-level
31 information retrieval but fails to probe the inherent connections and boundaries between concepts.
32 For example, a model may correctly identify that *monkeys* and *apes* belong to *Primates*, yet this
33 does not indicate any understanding of the structural relationships or distinctive features that separate
34 these groups within the broader taxonomy. Furthermore, as LLMs evolve towards more autonomous
35 and interactive roles, traditional methods such as multiple-choice and true/false questions struggle
36 to reflect their capabilities in complex and dynamic environments. The reliance on fixed datasets

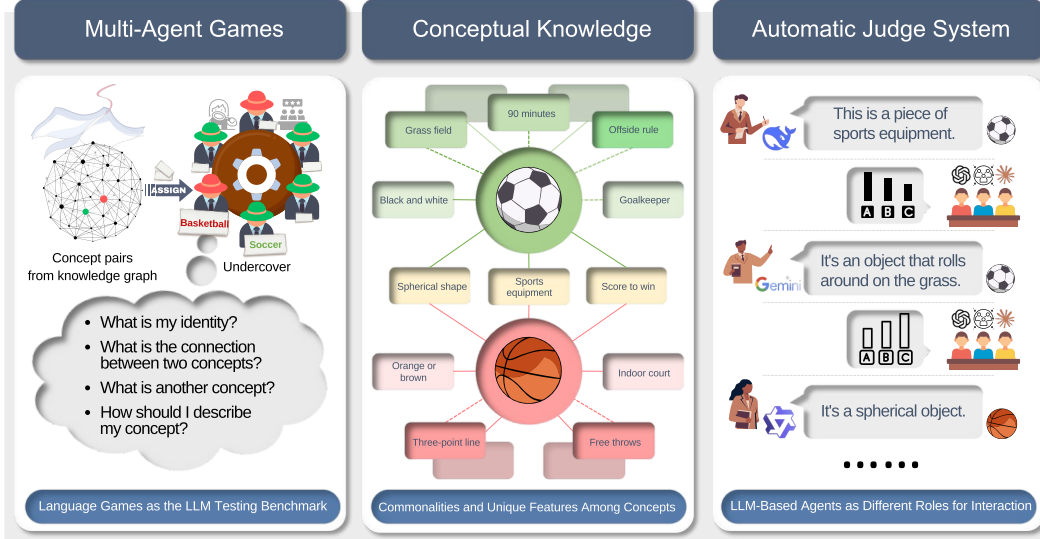


Figure 1: **Conceptual knowledge arena (CK-Arena)**. A benchmark designed to evaluate the ability of Large Language Models (LLMs) to understand and reason with conceptual knowledge boundaries. Built upon the interactive game *Undercover*, CK-Arena challenges LLMs to take on roles as players and judges, navigating concept pairs that share both commonalities and unique distinctions. Through multi-agent interaction, LLMs generate descriptive statements, reason about semantic similarities and differences, and make strategic decisions based on partial information. Judges evaluate these interactions based on metrics such as novelty, relevance, and reasonableness, providing insights into the LLMs’ conceptual reasoning capabilities in realistic, dynamic environments.

also limits scalability, as creating, maintaining, and updating these benchmarks is time-consuming and labor-intensive. This rigidity makes it difficult to adapt benchmarks to new concepts or evaluate models in evolving real-world scenarios.

In this context, recent work has explored concept-based processing in areas such as conceptual design generation [15], concept editing [9], and abstract concept understanding [16, 17]. However, despite these advances, there is still a lack of systematic benchmarks to evaluate conceptual processing capabilities. A well-designed benchmark is crucial to provide a standardized approach for evaluating LLMs in concept-based tasks, allowing effective measurement, comparison, and improvement of these models in concept comprehension and knowledge application. Simultaneously, interactive game-based environments have gained traction as novel evaluation paradigms to overcome the static nature of traditional benchmarks [18, 19, 20]. Unlike static question-answer formats, game-based evaluations create richer contexts for multi-step reasoning and decision-making. However, most game simulations primarily assess strategic reasoning, offering limited insight into the internal knowledge of models and their ability to convey structured concepts in dynamic multi-agent interactions.

To address the limitations of traditional benchmarks in evaluating conceptual understanding, we propose Conceptual Knowledge Arena (CK-Arena), a multi-agent interaction game benchmark inspired by *Undercover* [21]. Figure 1 illustrates the key aspects involved in this work. Unlike conventional methods that focus on isolated tasks, CK-Arena is designed to assess conceptual reasoning in interactive, multi-agent scenarios. In CK-Arena, participants (LLM-based agents) are assigned one of two similar concepts, representing different identities—*civilian* or *undercover agent*. Without knowing others’ identities, agents engage in rounds of dialogue to describe their concepts, analyze others’ statements, and attempt to identify undercover agents by discerning commonalities and distinctions. CK-Arena introduces structured evaluation mechanisms, including statement-level metrics for novelty, relevance, and reasonableness, as well as player-level metrics such as win rate and survival rate. To accommodate models with varying reasoning capabilities, CK-Arena also includes a game variant called *Undercover-Audience*, where players focus on shared attributes, and audience agents vote based on perceived inconsistencies. This design allows for scalable, flexible evaluation of conceptual reasoning in interactive settings, reflecting LLMs’ ability to navigate semantic boundaries and engage in strategic communication.

Overall, our contributions are as follows: **1) A Game-based Conceptual Reasoning Benchmark:** We introduce CK-Arena, a benchmark built upon the *Undercover* game that effectively gauges LLMs’ grasp of conceptual knowledge boundaries. This benchmark is designed to be easily expandable, closely mimics real-world interactive scenarios, and simultaneously evaluates reasoning and decision-making capabilities. **2) Comprehensive Game Variants and Metrics:** We develop multiple versions of the *Undercover* game, tailored to assess not only comprehensive reasoning but also the pure understanding of conceptual boundaries, independent of decision-making strategies. Additionally, we design robust evaluation metrics and an LLM-based automated process to support these assessments. **3) Baseline Evaluation of LLMs:** Using CK-Arena, we evaluate six popular LLMs as baselines for the assessment of conceptual knowledge reasoning. The results show that LLMs have their own strengths and weaknesses in different categories, and there are differences between traditional knowledge quantity assessment results and conceptual knowledge assessment results.

2 Related Work

Benchmarks for Conceptual Knowledge Reasoning. Commonsense reasoning benchmarks play an important role in assessing the capabilities of Large Language Models (LLMs). Widely used benchmarks such as Story Cloze Test [14], Choice of Plausible Alternatives (COPA) [22], and HellaSwag [12] largely rely on static formats like multiple-choice questions or binary judgments. While effective for evaluating factual recall and surface-level understanding, these static formats do not fully reflect real-world interactive scenarios. More recent benchmarks, including MMLU [11], CMMLU [23], BIG-Bench [24], and HELM [13], have introduced tasks such as logical reasoning, cloze tests, and multi-turn Q&A to expand the scope of evaluation. Although these efforts represent progress toward more interactive assessments, they still focus predominantly on factual recall and task-specific reasoning, offering limited insight into how well LLMs understand and manipulate conceptual knowledge boundaries in evolving contexts. In contrast, CK-Arena is designed to explicitly evaluate conceptual reasoning by immersing LLMs in interactive, multi-agent gameplay that requires real-time understanding of semantic boundaries.

Game-based Evaluation. Games provide a unique platform for evaluating AI capabilities, offering interactive and dynamic environments that differ from traditional benchmarks built on static datasets. They have been used to measure various skills, including environmental perception and planning in exploratory games [25, 20], strategic decision-making in competitive games [26, 27], team collaboration in cooperative games [28, 29], and social interaction and language comprehension in communication games [30, 31, 32]. Compared to static evaluations, game-based benchmarks offer more realistic interaction scenarios that better mimic real-world decision-making. However, existing game-based evaluations mainly focus on reasoning and decision-making without specifically addressing the acquisition and application of conceptual knowledge. CK-Arena fills this gap by integrating concept-based reasoning within multi-agent interactions, allowing LLMs to explore and articulate conceptual relationships dynamically, mirroring real-world cognitive processing.

3 Conceptual Knowledge Arena (CK-Arena)

Evaluating the understanding of conceptual knowledge boundaries in large language models (LLMs) is important for assessing their ability to reason with abstract semantic structures. An effective evaluation would consider three key aspects: (1) measuring how well LLMs can distinguish and relate different concepts, reflecting their understanding of semantic boundaries; (2) simulating interactive and dynamic environments that mirror real-world scenarios where concepts are applied flexibly; and (3) covering a diverse range of concepts across multiple domains to enable a comprehensive assessment. To address these needs, we introduce CK-Arena, a benchmark designed to evaluate LLMs’ conceptual reasoning through interactive, multi-agent gameplay. CK-Arena provides a setting where models engage in concept-based interactions, encouraging a deeper examination of their ability to reason about similarities, differences, and boundaries between concepts in evolving scenarios.

3.1 The Undercover Game for Evaluation

Game Rule. CK-Arena is built on the multi-agent language game *Undercover* [21], which is originally designed to test the players’ reasoning and strategic communication abilities. In the game,

117 players are assigned either as “civilians” who are the majority of the players and know a common
118 word, or as “undercover” who are given a different but related word. Note that each player is informed
119 of their assigned concept word but remains unaware of their team identity or the concepts held by
120 others. Through rounds of description, players must identify who the undercover agents are while
121 undercover agents try to remain undetected by providing descriptions vague enough to seem plausible
122 without revealing their ignorance of the civilians’ word. After each round, players participate in a
123 voting process to eliminate the individual they suspect to be an undercover agent. The game concludes
124 under one of two conditions: (1) if all undercover agents are eliminated, the civilians win; (2) if the
125 number of civilians and undercover agents is equal, the undercover agents win.

126 **Game Variants: Undercover-Audience.** During the testing phase of the *Undercover* game in
127 CK-Arena, we observed that certain LLMs with smaller parameter sizes or older architectures
128 struggled with the reasoning and decision-making requirements necessary for effective participation.
129 To accommodate these models, we introduced a variant game mode, called *Undercover-Audience*,
130 designed to simplify the game’s cognitive demands while still evaluating conceptual understanding.
131 In the *Undercover-Audience*, all players are directly informed of both concepts as well as their own
132 identities (civilian or undercover agent). Rather than attempting to obscure their concept, players
133 focus on describing the common features shared between the two concepts. This adjustment reduces
134 the need for strategic reasoning, making the game accessible to models with more limited reasoning
135 capabilities. To replace the traditional voting mechanism, we introduce an audience character. This
136 audience agent is unaware of the two concepts and the identities of the players. After each round
137 of descriptions, the audience agent selects the player whose statements appear most inconsistent
138 or unsociable with the shared features. This modified setup still allows for effective evaluation of
139 conceptual grasp, as successful players must articulate the overlapping characteristics convincingly
140 while avoiding detection.

141 **Why CK-Arena Works.** To illustrate the effectiveness of the *Undercover* game used in CK-Arena,
142 consider a concrete example: suppose the concepts *football* and *basketball* are assigned to the players,
143 with *basketball* designated as the undercover concept. During the speaking phase, the undercover
144 player must analyze the descriptions provided by others about *football*, identify shared attributes,
145 and strategically describe *basketball* in a way that overlaps with common features, such as “This is
146 a ball-shaped sports equipment” or “This sport is played by two teams.” This requires more than
147 surface-level token predictions—it involves understanding conceptual commonalities and distinctions.
148 If the player merely relies on token-based generation without grasping these relationships, they are
149 more likely to expose their undercover role, leading to elimination. Thus, performance in CK-Arena
150 reflects the model’s understanding of conceptual knowledge boundaries. Therefore, CK-Arena,
151 with its high demands for conceptual knowledge understanding, active exploration through agent
152 interactions, and extensive knowledge coverage enabled by its scalability, meets the requirements
153 mentioned and can serve as a benchmark for evaluating the understanding of conceptual knowledge.

154 3.2 Overall Construction and Workflow

155 **Pipeline.** CK-Arena involves multiple LLMs as judges and LLM-based players for evaluation, with
156 adjustable group sizes based on the experimental setup. In our experiments, the configuration includes
157 2 LLM judges and 6 LLM players, consisting of 4 civilians and 2 undercover agents. The game
158 begins with an initialization phase, where players are randomly assigned their roles. Civilians receive
159 a primary concept, while undercover agents are given a similar but distinct concept. During gameplay,
160 each player takes turns making statements that describe their assigned concept while also attempting
161 to identify potential undercover agents or civilians. After each statement, the LLM judges evaluate the
162 description across three criteria: *novelty*, *relevance*, and *reasonableness*. If a player’s statement score
163 falls below a predefined threshold, that player is automatically eliminated. This process continues
164 for a predetermined number of rounds, after which an audience vote determines one additional
165 player for elimination. The game progresses until one of three conditions is met: (1) all undercover
166 agents are eliminated, resulting in a civilian victory; (2) the number of undercover agents matches
167 the number of civilians, resulting in an undercover victory; or (3) the maximum number of rounds
168 is reached. To maintain fairness and mitigate biases that may arise from LLM-based evaluations,
169 multiple LLM judges with different strong base models are employed. The system records the mean
170 and variance of their ratings for each statement. If the variance exceeds a predefined threshold, human
171 reviewers consult a knowledge base to verify the judgment and adjust the final score if necessary.

172 This mechanism ensures more reliable and unbiased evaluation, enhancing the robustness of the
173 assessment process. Implementation details are provided in Section 4.

174 **Data Preparation** The selection of concept pairs is crucial to the effectiveness of the *Undercover*
175 game in CK-Arena. We manually constructed a dataset of semantically related concept pairs spanning
176 a wide range of categories. The dataset underwent pilot screening to ensure two main properties: (1)
177 Semantic proximity: concepts are sufficiently similar to create challenging gameplay yet distinct
178 enough for meaningful differentiation; (2) Descriptive clarity: concepts are expressive enough to
179 enable smooth interactions during the game. The final dataset consists of 529 English concept pairs,
180 which include different parts of speech and semantic category emphases. For details, see the appendix.
181 You can check the word statistics in the appendix E or view the source files in our project.

182 **Prompt Design.** To ensure effective communication and role-specific behavior, we designed tailored
183 prompts for each type of LLM-based agent in CK-Arena, including players, judges, and audience
184 members. (1) *Player*: the prompts include a comprehensive system prompt that provides game
185 rules, input-output format guidelines, specific task instructions, basic strategic guidance, and example
186 descriptions. In addition, each player receives a contextualized user prompt containing information
187 about their assigned concept, historical statements, and analytical insights from previous rounds.
188 (2) *Judge*: The prompts are built on a specialized evaluation framework that aligns with the assess-
189 ment criteria outlined in Section 3.3. Each evaluation dimension—such as novelty, relevance, and
190 reasonableness—is clearly defined with scoring guidelines and examples, ensuring consistent and
191 transparent evaluations across game rounds. (3) *Audience*: The prompts are designed to summarize
192 game history and player statements, enabling them to make informed elimination decisions based on
193 accumulated evidence and analysis from each round.

194 **Result Collection and Analysis.** To ensure robust evaluation, CK-Arena integrates comprehensive
195 data collection mechanisms throughout each gameplay session. Every game instance generates a
196 structured JSON record that captures key information, including game metadata (game ID, timestamp,
197 and selected concepts), player details (player IDs, LLM models, role assignments, and concept
198 assignments), and judge information (judge IDs and model specifications). The system also logs the
199 complete history of player statements with evaluation metrics for novelty, relevance, and reasonable-
200 ness, along with records of vote decisions and elimination outcomes. Additionally, game summary
201 statistics are collected to provide insights into overall performance and decision-making patterns.
202 Game data is systematically organized by rounds, enabling multi-dimensional analysis of interactions
203 and decision-making. We provide automated processing scripts that aggregate results across multiple
204 game instances, producing statistical summaries and visualizations that highlight key indicators such
205 as decision quality, elimination accuracy, and statement metrics.

206 3.3 Evaluation Metrics

207 **Player-Level Metrics.** To evaluate player agents in CK-Arena, we analyze both objective outcomes
208 across multiple game instances and the statistical properties of their statements during gameplay.
209 Three primary metrics are used to capture different aspects of player performance:

210 (1) *Win Rate (WR)*: This metric reflects the proportion of games won by the player, serving as a
211 straightforward indicator of their effectiveness in fulfilling their assigned role. A higher win rate
212 suggests stronger conceptual understanding and strategic decision-making during the game, whether
213 as a civilian or undercover agent. (2) *Survival Rate (SR)*: It measures the number of rounds a player
214 remains active before elimination. This metric evaluates a player’s ability to navigate social dynamics
215 and avoid suspicion, highlighting their skill in either blending in as an undercover agent or effectively
216 communicating concept understanding as a civilian. (3) *Overall Statement Performance*: This metric
217 aggregates the novelty, relevance, and reasonableness scores of a player’s statements across all rounds.
218 It provides a holistic view of the player’s ability to generate creative, targeted, and logically consistent
219 descriptions. High performance in this metric indicates a well-rounded capability to articulate concept
220 features while maintaining strategic ambiguity or clarity as required. The formal definitions and
221 scoring methods for these evaluation metrics are presented in Table 1.

222 **Statement-Level Metrics.** To assess the quality and effectiveness of individual statements during
223 gameplay, CK-Arena employs three primary evaluation metrics, each quantified on a 0 – 1.0 scale:

Table 1: **Evaluation metrics for CK-Arena.** Detailed breakdown of the metrics used to assess LLM performance in interactive gameplay.

Metric	Formula	Symbol Definitions
Win Rate (WR)	$WR = \frac{G_w}{G_t}$	G_w : Number of games won by the player G_t : Total number of games played by the player
Survival Rate (SR)	$SR = \frac{R_s}{R_t}$	R_s : Number of rounds the player survived R_t : Total number of rounds in all games
Novelty	$Nov(s_i) \in [0, 1]$	s_i : Current statement $Nov(s_i)$: Degree of new information in statement s_i compared to previous statements
Reasonableness	$Rea(s_i, c) \in [0, 1]$	s_i : Current statement c : Target concept $Rea(s_i, c)$: Logical coherence between statement s_i and concept c 's properties
Relevance	$Rel(s_i, c) \in [0, 1]$	s_i : Current statement c : Target concept $Rel(s_i, c)$: Degree to which statement s_i specifically points to concept c

(1) *Novelty*: It measures the extent to which a statement introduces new information compared to previous descriptions in the game. High novelty scores indicate that the statement presents fresh insights or unique perspectives, while low scores suggest repetition or rephrasing of earlier descriptions. The purpose of this metric is to discourage simple repackaging of information and promote creative exploration of concept characteristics. Statements falling below the novelty threshold result in automatic elimination to maintain engagement and meaningful discourse. (2) *Reasonableness*: This metric assesses the logical coherence between the statement and the inherent properties of the assigned concept. High scores indicate that the statement logically matches the concept’s attributes, while low scores suggest inconsistent or arbitrary descriptions. Ensuring reasonableness prevents players from making misleading or nonsensical claims during gameplay. Statements that fall below the reasonableness threshold trigger immediate elimination to preserve the integrity of the game. (3) *Relevance*: it evaluates how closely a statement aligns with the target concept. High relevance scores reflect descriptions that are specific and closely tied to the concept, making it easier for civilians to identify undercover agents. Conversely, low relevance indicates vague or overly broad descriptions that could apply to multiple concepts. This metric captures the strategic tension in the game—while civilians benefit from clear and targeted descriptions, undercover agents may intentionally opt for broader statements to avoid detection. Although relevance does not directly measure quality, it serves as a valuable scoring criterion for deeper analysis. All three metrics are generated by the Judge agent and reviewed for consistency and accuracy by human evaluators, ensuring fair and meaningful assessment throughout the game.

4 Experiments

In this section, we present a comprehensive evaluation of various language models within the CK-Arena framework. The experiments are designed to address several key research questions: (1) How do different large language models perform in understanding conceptual knowledge and executing strategic reasoning in interactive gameplay? (2) Is there a correlation between model size and the ability to grasp conceptual boundaries effectively? The experimental data consists of 261 game instances spanning eleven concept categories: *food*, *landforms*, *animals*, *artifacts*, *tools*, *people/social*, *plants*, *sports*, *stationery*, *electronics*, and *sundries*. A total of 3462 conceptual feature descriptions were generated during gameplay. Detailed data statistics can be found in the appendix E. Finally, the results reveal interesting patterns in model capabilities and challenge some common assumptions about model scaling.

4.1 Results of Different Models

Experimental Setting. We use the standard mode of CK-Arena to evaluate six widely adopted large language models, including *Claude-3-5-Haiku-20241022* [33], *GPT-4o-2024-11-20* [34], *Gemini-2.0-Pro-Exp* [35], *DeepSeek-V3* [36], *LLaMA-3.3-70B* [37], and *Qwen2.5-72B* [38]. To ensure consistent and fair evaluation, we selected *GPT-4.1-2025-04-14* [39] and *Claude-3-7-Sonnet-20250219* [40] as the LLM-based judges to score all statements across three key dimensions: novelty, relevance, and reasonableness. Following data collection, a human review panel examined statements with a score variance of 0.04 or higher between the two LLM-based judges. A total of 163 statements met this criterion and were re-evaluated by human reviewers. For clarity and differentiation, human-assigned

Table 2: **Performance comparison of large language models in CK-Arena.** Analysis across *Civilian* and *Undercover* roles with multiple performance metrics. All values are normalized between 0 and 1. Higher values indicate stronger performance in WR, SR, Novelty, and Reasonableness. Relevance serves distinct strategic purposes—high relevance aids in concept revelation or verification, while low relevance is advantageous for concealment or misdirection.

LLM	Role	Performance Metrics				
		WR ↑	SR ↑	Novelty ↑	Reasonableness ↑	Relevance
DeepSeek-V3	Civilian	0.6893	0.6699	<u>0.8285</u>	0.9519	0.7515
	Undercover	0.3902	<u>0.2927</u>	0.8154	0.9449	0.7128
Qwen2.5-72B	Civilian	0.6796	0.7184	0.6664	0.9652	0.5988
	Undercover	<u>0.3659</u>	<u>0.2927</u>	0.7118	0.9774	0.6398
GPT-4o-2024-11-20	Civilian	<u>0.6824</u>	0.6588	0.6701	<u>0.9717</u>	0.6521
	Undercover	0.3448	0.2414	0.7405	0.9691	0.6206
Gemini-2.0-pro-exp	Civilian	0.6733	<u>0.6832</u>	0.8248	0.9681	0.7055
	Undercover	0.3488	0.3256	0.8333	0.9690	0.6575
LLaMA-3.3-70B-instruct	Civilian	0.6556	0.6333	0.8149	0.9716	0.6959
	Undercover	0.3148	0.1481	0.8333	0.9775	0.6539
Claude-3.5-haiku-20241022	Civilian	0.6237	0.6344	0.7588	0.9542	0.7102
	Undercover	0.2549	0.1765	0.8011	0.9274	0.6926

scores were recorded with four decimal places (*e.g.*, 0.X001), distinguishing them from the original one-decimal-place LLM scores.

Qualitative Analysis. The performance of each model across different conceptual categories is summarized in Table 2. The results reflect the outcomes of multiple rounds of gameplay in CK-Arena, providing insights into the conceptual reasoning capabilities of each LLM. From the statistical results, the overall win rate (WR) for the civilian role is consistently higher than that for the undercover role. This suggests that playing as an undercover agent demands greater strategic thinking and effective concealment skills. Unlike civilians, undercover agents must deduce the other concept and identify shared attributes between two concepts without revealing their own identity. All LLMs performed well at reasonableness. This is partly attributed to the threshold elimination mechanism applied during the evaluation, which filters out low-scoring statements before final analysis. High reasonableness scores also indicate that current LLMs are capable of understanding tasks and generating structured language descriptions based on basic knowledge. However, differences in win rate and survival rate across models suggest that excelling in CK-Arena is influenced less by raw knowledge or task-tracking ability and more by the model’s understanding of concepts and the grasp of relationships between them. Moreover, *DeepSeek-V3* achieved the highest performance across multiple indicators, demonstrating stronger conceptual reasoning and strategic adaptation.

We embedded the statements and compared them through dimensionality reduction and visualization. Assuming the same number of descriptions for the same concept, speakers with a shallow understanding and limited knowledge will inevitably have higher repetition in their descriptions, which will appear as clustered points in the t-SNE plot. In contrast, speakers with a rich knowledge base will exhibit more dispersed and evenly distributed points in the plot. Figure 2 shows the results for one category, and more categories can be found in Appendix E.

Figure 3 illustrates the win rate performance of various LLMs across different conceptual categories. The results highlight clear strengths and weaknesses for each model. For example, *DeepSeek-V3*

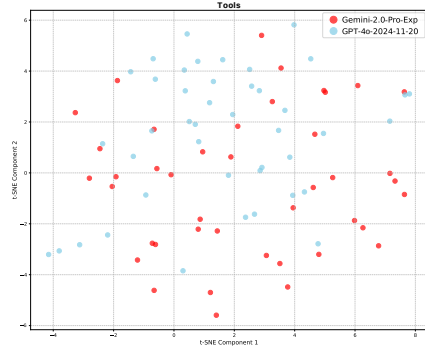


Figure 2: **The t-SNE visualization of all embedded statements in the Tools category for GPT-4o and Gemini-2.0-pro-exp.** It shows that the distribution of *Gemini-2.0-pro-exp*’s statements is more widespread, while *GPT-4o*’s distribution is more concentrated. This indicates that *Gemini-2.0-pro-exp* captures a broader range of conceptual knowledge, which indirectly reflects a deeper understanding of concepts.

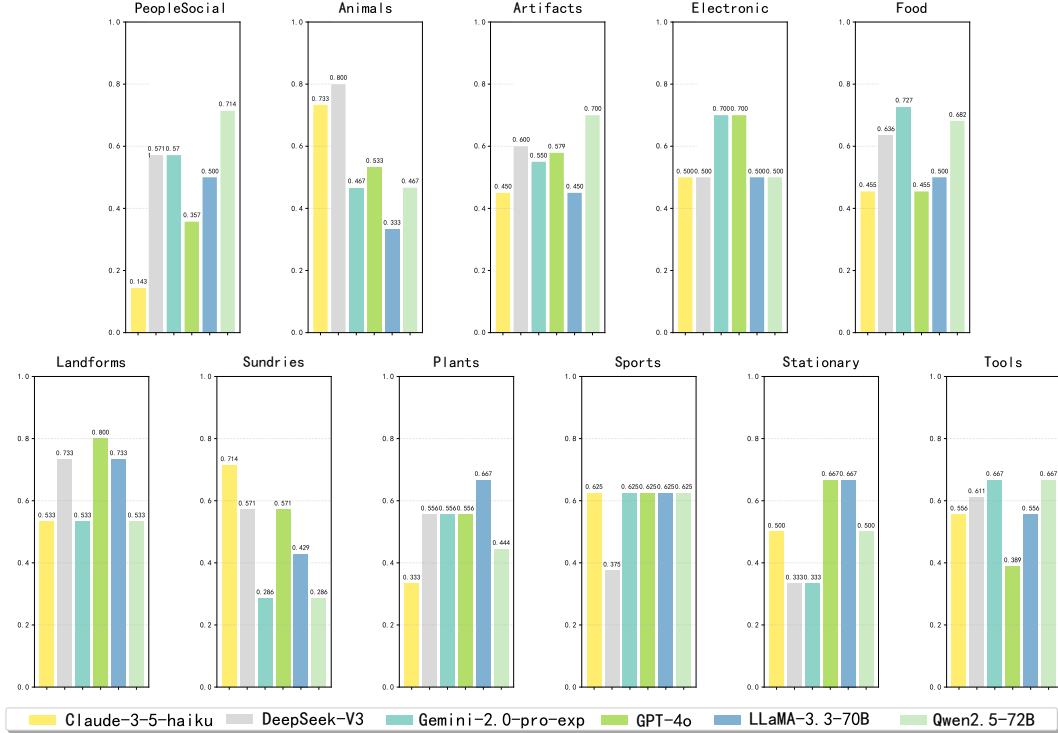


Figure 3: **The win rate performance of six LLMs across 11 categories.** A comparative analysis reveals that each model exhibits distinct strengths and weaknesses across different concept categories. These variations are likely influenced by differences in training data, architectural design, and optimization strategies specific to each model. The analysis reveals models’ focus areas, knowledge gaps, and insights for improving conceptual reasoning.

300 achieves the highest win rate in the animal category, reaching 80%, indicating strong domain-specific
 301 understanding. Similarly, *GPT-4o-2024-11-20* excels in the landmark category with a win rate of 80%,
 302 reflecting its grasp of geographical concepts. In contrast, *Claude-3-5-Haiku-20241022* demonstrates
 303 a notably low win rate of just 14.3% in the social category, suggesting limitations in handling social
 304 context. These performance differences are likely influenced by the models’ training datasets and
 305 optimization strategies, highlighting domain-specific expertise and gaps in conceptual reasoning.

306 Figure 4 presents the relevance scores of different LLMs across various conceptual
 307 categories. The analysis shows that both the highest-scoring *DeepSeek-V3* and the
 308 lowest-scoring *Qwen2.5-72B* consistently rank high in win rate, suggesting that relevance
 309 does not directly correlate with win rate. This indicates that achieving high
 310 relevance alone is not sufficient for success in CK-Arena. The strategic decision-
 311 making likely plays an important role. In
 312 addition, comparisons across several cate-
 313 gories do not reveal any significant im-
 314 balance, demonstrating that the manu-
 315 ally selected concepts maintain a high degree
 316 of consistency in terms of “describability”.
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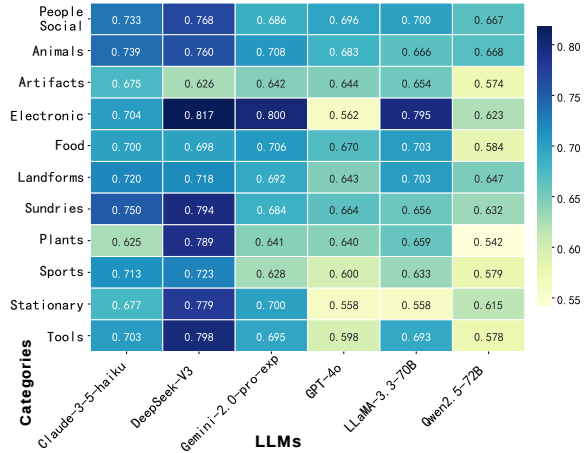


Figure 4: **Relevance scores of different LLMs across various categories.** In this heatmap, the darker the color, the higher the score, intuitively reflecting the association between the descriptions and concepts of each LLM in different categories.

4.2 Results of Models with Different Sizes

324 **Experimental Setting.** It is generally assumed that larger models within the same
 325

series possess greater capabilities than their smaller counterparts. To test this, we conduct experiments using the *Qwen2.5 series*, specifically comparing the performance of *Qwen2.5-72B*, *Qwen2.5-32B*, and *Qwen2.5-7B*. For these experiments, each model participates as two distinct players in CK-Arena. Given the limitations of *Qwen2.5-7B* in instruction following and decision-making, it is evaluated under the spectator mode described earlier. The referees are implemented using *GPT-4.1-2025-04-14* and *Claude-3-7-Sonnet-20250219*, while the spectator role is handled by *GPT-4.1-2025-04-14*. The experimental findings are interesting—*Qwen2.5-32B* consistently outperforms *Qwen2.5-72B* in both win rate and survival rate, which are comprehensive indicators of gameplay effectiveness. To investigate whether this result is merely due to chance, we conduct one-on-one experiments. In these settings, we design two configurations: (1) four *Qwen2.5-32B* models playing as civilians against two *Qwen2.5-72B* models playing as undercover agents, and (2) four *Qwen2.5-72B* models as civilians against two *Qwen2.5-32B* models as undercover agents. In both scenarios, *Qwen2.5-32B* consistently achieves a higher win rate, suggesting that its superior performance is not coincidental but indicative of better adaptability and strategic reasoning in CK-Arena.

Table 3: **Performance comparison of *Qwen2.5* models with different parameter sizes (14B, 32B, 72B) in CK-Arena.** While the 72B model achieves the highest Reasonableness, suggesting strong language quality, the 32B model demonstrates better performance in capturing conceptual commonalities, as reflected in its superior Win Rate (WR) and Survival Rate (SR).

LLM	Role	Performance Metrics				
		WR ↑	SR ↑	Novelty ↑	Reasonableness ↑	Relevance
Qwen2.5-14B	Civilian	0.3636	0.4935	0.6916	0.9539	0.5707
	Undercover	0.5385	<u>0.4872</u>	0.6512	0.9593	0.5512
Qwen2.5-32B	Civilian	0.4368	<u>0.5402</u>	0.7175	0.9495	0.5423
	Undercover	0.7241	0.5862	0.7242	0.9468	0.5145
Qwen2.5-72B	Civilian	<u>0.3824</u>	0.5735	<u>0.7205</u>	0.9776	0.6577
	Undercover	<u>0.5833</u>	0.4792	0.7108	<u>0.9774</u>	0.5893

Qualitative Analysis. The results in Table 3 and Table 4 show that model size does not always correlate with better performance in CK-Arena. Larger models, despite more training data, sometimes exhibit illusions and misunderstandings of concept relationships, affecting their strategic reasoning. Specifically, *Qwen2.5-32B* outperforms *Qwen2.5-72B* as an undercover agent, suggesting that effective conceptual understanding is not solely dependent on parameter size. These findings highlight the importance of model design and data alignment over raw scale for conceptual reasoning.

Table 4: **One-on-one performance comparison between *Qwen2.5-72B* and *Qwen2.5-32B* in CK-Arena.** The 32B model consistently achieves higher win rates than the 72B model in both civilian and undercover roles, suggesting that its advantage is not due to random variation.

LLM	Role	WR ↑	SR ↑
Qwen2.5-72B	Civilian	0.5000	0.5417
	Undercover	0.4483	0.3966
Qwen2.5-32B	Civilian	0.5517	0.6379
	Undercover	0.5000	0.3500

5 Conclusion

We introduce CK-Arena, a benchmark designed to evaluate the ability of Large Language Models (LLMs) to understand conceptual knowledge boundaries through interactive, multi-agent gameplay. Built upon the *Undercover* game, CK-Arena provides a scalable and dynamic environment where models reason about semantic similarities and distinctions—an aspect of human-like understanding that traditional static benchmarks often overlook. Our experimental results indicate that LLMs show varying degrees of conceptual understanding across different categories, and this understanding does not consistently align with model size or overall capabilities. This observation suggests that larger parameter counts do not necessarily lead to better conceptual reasoning, highlighting the need for targeted evaluation of semantic comprehension. CK-Arena serves as a step toward bridging this gap, encouraging further exploration into conceptual reasoning as an essential capability for advancing LLMs toward more robust and human-like understanding.

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489 A Future Works

490 In the future, we plan to extend CK-Arena in several key directions: (1) Expanding the Concept
491 Pair Dataset: We aim to increase the diversity of concept pairs by introducing more categories and
492 refining the quality of selections, thereby building a more comprehensive knowledge network for
493 evaluation. (2) Multilingual Extension: Adapting CK-Arena to support multiple languages holds
494 significant potential. Different languages are deeply tied to unique cultural knowledge and conceptual
495 representations, which can reveal cross-linguistic differences in conceptual understanding. (3)
496 Diversifying Agent Forms: Beyond standard LLM-based agents, we intend to incorporate specialized
497 language models trained in specific knowledge domains to serve as judges, and even explore scenarios
498 where LLM-based agents interact and compete alongside human participants.

499 Furthermore, the rich set of statements generated during CK-Arena gameplay represents a valuable
500 resource. These concept-driven descriptions can form a semantic norm, potentially serving as raw
501 data for training concept-aware models, such as Large Concept Models (LCMs). Although the current
502 dataset is functional, we aim to further enhance the automation process and evaluation system to
503 transform this data into a high-quality, structured dataset. This would enable more effective training
504 and evaluation of models designed for conceptual reasoning and knowledge-based tasks.

505 B Limitations

506 Despite its contributions, the CK-Arena benchmark has several limitations that are worth considering.
507 First, CK-Arena is currently effective primarily for evaluating noun-based concepts, as nouns typically
508 provide richer descriptive attributes for interactive reasoning. Extending the framework to assess
509 verbs or abstract concepts remains an open challenge. Second, in the automated process of CK-Arena,
510 the LLM (Large Language Model) serving as the judge needs to be a powerful and knowledgeable
511 model (for example, in our experiments, we used the latest GPT-4.1 and Claude-3.7). During the
512 process where the LLM acts as an agent, there can also be issues of hallucination. We need to set
513 certain processing measures and manual screening to ensure the reliability of the final results. Third,
514 all evaluations are conducted exclusively in English, which may introduce language-specific biases
515 and limit cross-linguistic understanding of conceptual reasoning. Finally, the multi-agent interaction
516 design of CK-Arena demands significant computational resources, which may restrict accessibility
517 for researchers with limited computing power. Addressing these challenges is essential for enhancing
518 the scalability and inclusiveness of the benchmark.

519 C Ethical Statement

520 This research was conducted following established ethical guidelines for AI research. Our bench-
521 mark CK-Arena evaluates AI systems’ conceptual knowledge without collecting or processing any
522 personally identifiable information. All concept pairs used in our experiments were carefully curated
523 to ensure they do not contain harmful, offensive, or culturally insensitive content. The experiments
524 involving multiple large language models were designed to analyze their capabilities in understanding
525 conceptual boundaries without any deception or manipulation techniques. We have made our prompts,
526 methodologies, and evaluation criteria transparent to ensure reproducibility and to facilitate critical
527 assessment by the research community.

528 D Prompts

529 This section presents the detailed prompts used for different agent roles in CK-Arena. We provide the
530 complete prompts to ensure reproducibility and transparency of our experimental setup.

```

531 You are an AI player participating in the "Undercover" game. You need
532 ↪ to analyze the situation based on the information received,
533 ↪ determine your identity, and devise appropriate speaking strategies
534 ↪ and content.
535
536
537 # Game Rules
538
539 1. Each player receives a word. The majority of players receive the
540 ↪ same word (civilians), while a minority (1-2 players) receive a
541 ↪ different but related word (undercover agents).
542 2. The game proceeds in turns, with each player using one sentence to
543 ↪ describe their word without directly saying it.
544 3. After each round of descriptions, all players vote for who they
545 ↪ think is the undercover agent. The player with the most votes is
546 ↪ eliminated.
547 4. If all undercover agents are eliminated, the civilians win; if the
548 ↪ number of undercover agents equals or exceeds the number of
549 ↪ civilians, the undercover agents win.
550
551 # Speaking Requirements
552
553 1. Your statement must be a brief descriptive sentence, not a lengthy
554 ↪ exposition.
555 2. You cannot repeat statements made by other players in previous
556 ↪ rounds.
557 3. Your description can be broad or specific, but must match the word
558 ↪ you received. You cannot give descriptions that do not match your
559 ↪ word.
560 4. Please adjust the level of detail in your description according to
561 ↪ your strategic needs. Below are examples of different levels of
562 ↪ detail.
563
564 # Description Examples
565 (Assuming the word to describe is "soccer ball")
566 "A spherical object" - Detail level 0.2 (too broad, many objects are
567 ↪ spherical)
568 "A sports equipment" - Detail level 0.4 (more specific, but still
569 ↪ covers a wide range)
570 "Mostly contacted by the lower body of athletes" - Detail level 0.6
571 ↪ (more specific, stronger directional indication)
572 "Commonly depicted with a pattern of black and white pentagons and
573 ↪ hexagons" - Detail level 0.8 (very specific, almost only soccer
574 ↪ balls look like this)
575 "One of the most popular sports in the world, seen being kicked and
576 ↪ headed by athletes on a green field" - Detail level 1.0 (completely
577 ↪ points to soccer ball)
578
579 # Your Task
580
581 1. Based on the given word and other players' statements, analyze your
582 ↪ possible identity (civilian or undercover agent)
583 2. With the goal of protecting yourself and accomplishing your game
584 ↪ objective, provide your statement content.
585 3. Provide your analysis and decision-making process in JSON format
586

```

Listing 1: Player Agent System Prompt for Speaking Phase (I)

```

587
588
589 # Output Requirements
590
591 You must respond in JSON format, including the following fields:
592 {
593 "identity": "Analysis of your own and other players' identities",
594 "strategy": "Your thinking and decision-making process",
595 "statement": "Your final statement (you cannot include your analysis
596 ↪ process in the statement field, and you cannot directly mention your
597 ↪ word)"
598 }
599
600 # Strategy Tips
601
602 ### At the beginning of the game or when identity is still undetermined:
603
604 start with very vague, broad characteristics or properties, then
605 ↪ provide more detailed descriptions of the word after gradually
606 ↪ determining your identity situation.
607
608 ### As a civilian (you need to determine your civilian identity
609 ↪ yourself):
610
611 Analyze other players' statements to find descriptions inconsistent
612 ↪ with the majority
613 Gradually narrow down the word range to help identify the undercover
614 ↪ agent
615 Ensure your description matches your word, don't say anything
616 ↪ inconsistent with it
617
618 ### As an undercover agent (you need to determine your undercover
619 ↪ identity yourself):
620
621 Carefully analyze civilian statements to infer their word
622 Use vague descriptions that won't immediately arouse suspicion
623 Ensure your description can match both your word and the civilians'
624 ↪ word (ambiguity)
625 Avoid descriptions obviously different from others, but don't
626 ↪ completely follow them
627

```

Listing 2: Player Agent System Prompt for Speaking Phase (II)

```

628
629 Here is information related to this game round. Please analyze this
630 ↪ information to complete your task.
631 # Your personal information:
632 You are player_{player_id}, your word is "{assigned_concept}".
633 # Statement history for this game round:
634 {statement_history}
635 # Your identity analysis from the previous round:
636 {last_analyze}
637

```

Listing 3: Player Agent User Prompt Template for Speaking Phase

```

638 You are an AI player participating in the "Undercover" game. You need
639 ↪ to analyze the situation based on the information received,
640 ↪ determine your identity, and decide to vote for a player to try to
641 ↪ eliminate them.
642
643 # Game Rules
644
645 1. Each player receives a word. The majority of players receive the
646 ↪ same word (civilians), while a minority (1-2 players) receive a
647 ↪ different but related word (undercover agents).
648 2. The game proceeds in turns, with each player using one sentence to
649 ↪ describe their word without directly saying it.
650 3. After each round of descriptions, all players vote for who they
651 ↪ think is the undercover agent. The player with the most votes is
652 ↪ eliminated.
653 4. If all undercover agents are eliminated, the civilians win; if the
654 ↪ number of undercover agents equals or exceeds the number of
655 ↪ civilians, the undercover agents win.
656
657 # Your Task
658
659 1. Based on the given word and other players' statements, analyze your
660 ↪ possible identity (civilian or undercover agent)
661 2. With the goal of protecting yourself and accomplishing your game
662 ↪ objective, provide your statement content.
663 3. Provide your analysis and decision-making process in JSON format
664
665 # Output Requirements
666
667 You must respond in JSON format, including the following fields:
668 {
669 "identity": "Analysis of your identity",
670 "strategy": "Thinking about your strategy",
671 "vote": "The player you want to vote for (just a number, no additional
672 ↪ text explanation needed)"
673 }
674
675

```

Listing 4: Player Agent System Prompt for Voting Phase

```

676 Here is information related to this game round. Please analyze this
677 ↪ information to complete your task.
678 # Your personal information:
679 You are player_{player_id}, your word is "{assigned_concept}".
680 # The description history for this game round is:
681 {statement_history}
682 # Your identity analysis from the previous round:
683 {last_analyze}
684 # The list of currently surviving players is:
685 {alive_players}
686 You can only choose one number from these as your vote.
687
688

```

Listing 5: Player Agent User Prompt Template for Voting Phase

```

689 # Undercover Game Referee Guide
690
691 You are the referee for the "Undercover" game, responsible for
692 ↪ analyzing each player's statement and scoring it according to the
693 ↪ following criteria. You need to output your evaluation results in
694 ↪ JSON format.
695
696
697 ## Evaluation Dimensions
698
699 1. **Novelty**: Whether the current statement repeats content from
700 ↪ previous players' statements
701 - 0: Completely repeats a previous player's description
702 - 0.2: Mostly repetitive, with only minimal new information
703 - 0.4: Partially repeats previous content, with some additional content
704 - 0.6: Mainly new content, but with some repetition
705 - 0.8: Almost entirely new content, with a different perspective from
706 ↪ previous descriptions
707 - 1.0: Completely novel description, providing an entirely new
708 ↪ perspective or information
709
710 2. **Relevance**: The degree of relevance and specificity between the
711 ↪ statement and the word's characteristics
712 - 0: Completely irrelevant
713 - 0.2: Extremely broad description, applicable to a large number of
714 ↪ objects/concepts
715 - 0.4: Broad but somewhat directional description
716 - 0.6: Clear clues, but could still point to multiple similar things
717 - 0.8: Highly specific description, basically only pointing to the
718 ↪ target word or very few similar objects
719 - 1.0: Description that almost directly points to the word
720
721 3. **Reasonableness**: How reasonable the association between the
722 ↪ description and the word is
723 - 0: Completely unreasonable, impossible to establish any association
724 ↪ with the word
725 - 0.2: Extremely far-fetched association
726 - 0.4: Some association but rather far-fetched
727 - 0.6: Reasonable but not unique association
728 - 0.8: Highly reasonable association
729 - 1.0: Description completely matching the word's characteristics
730
731 ## Output Format
732
733 “‘json
734 {
735     "novelty": {
736         "score": Value between 0 and 1 (limited to 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8,
737 ↪ 1),
738         "explanation": "Explanation for why this score was given"
739     },
740     "relevance": {
741         "score": Value between 0 and 1 (limited to 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8,
742 ↪ 1),
743         "explanation": "Explanation for why this score was given"
744     },
745     "reasonableness": {
746         "score": Value between 0 and 1 (limited to 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8,
747 ↪ 1),
748         "explanation": "Explanation for why this score was given"
749     }
750 }
751 “‘
752

```

Listing 6: Judge Agent System Prompt (I)

```

753
754
755 ## Scoring Reference Examples
756
757 ### Example 1: Soccer Ball
758
759 Assume the word is "soccer ball", player's statement is "a spherical
760 ⇨ object", with no previous player statements:
761
762 ```json
763 {
764     "novelty": {
765         "score": 1.0,
766         "explanation": "This is the first statement, so it's completely
767 ⇨ novel"
768     },
769     "relevance": {
770         "score": 0.2,
771         "explanation": "The description is very broad, applicable to any
772 ⇨ spherical object, doesn't provide characteristics unique to a soccer
773 ⇨ ball"
774     },
775     "reasonableness": {
776         "score": 1,
777         "explanation": "The description is completely reasonable, a soccer
778 ⇨ ball is indeed a spherical object"
779     }
780 }
781 ```
782
783 ### Example 2: Soccer Ball
784
785 Assume the word is "soccer ball", player's statement is "one of the
786 ⇨ most popular sports in the world, can be seen being kicked by people
787 ⇨ on a green field", previous players have said "a spherical object"
788 ⇨ and "a black and white object":
789
790 ```json
791 {
792     "novelty": {
793         "score": 1.0,
794         "explanation": "The description provides completely new
795 ⇨ information, focusing on soccer ball as a sport attribute and usage
796 ⇨ scenario, completely different from previous descriptions focusing
797 ⇨ on appearance"
798     },
799     "relevance": {
800         "score": 1.0,
801         "explanation": "The description is highly relevant, 'being kicked
802 ⇨ by people on a green field' directly points to a soccer ball, with
803 ⇨ almost no other possibilities"
804     },
805     "reasonableness": {
806         "score": 1.0,
807         "explanation": "The description is completely reasonably associated
808 ⇨ with a soccer ball, mentioning core features of soccer"
809     }
810 }
811 ```
812

```

Listing 7: Judge Agent System Prompt (II)

```

813
814
815
816 ### Example 3: Soccer Ball
817
818 Assume the word is "soccer ball", player's statement is "it gives me a
819 ↪ headache", previous players have said "a ball that can be kicked"
820 ↪ and "used on a green field":
821
822 ```json
823 {
824     "novelty": {
825         "score": 0.8,
826         "explanation": "The description provides a new perspective (related
827 ↪ to bodily sensation), completely different from previous
828 ↪ descriptions focusing on physical characteristics and usage
829 ↪ scenarios"
830     },
831     "relevance": {
832         "score": 0.4,
833         "explanation": "The description provides some clues (possibly
834 ↪ alluding to headers), but is very vague, many things could cause
835 ↪ headaches"
836     },
837     "reasonableness": {
838         "score": 0.2,
839         "explanation": "Although one could connect this to how heading a
840 ↪ soccer ball might cause headaches, this association is quite
841 ↪ far-fetched and not a typical or direct characteristic of soccer
842 ↪ balls"
843     }
844 }
845 ```
846
847 ### Example 4: Soccer Ball
848
849 Assume the word is "soccer ball", current player's statement is "a ball
850 ↪ kicked on grass", a previous player has said "a ball used on a green
851 ↪ field":
852
853 ```json
854 {
855     "novelty": {
856         "score": 0.4,
857         "explanation": "The description largely repeats the previous 'green
858 ↪ field' concept (grass), only adding the 'kicking' action detail"
859     },
860     "relevance": {
861         "score": 0.8,
862         "explanation": "The description is quite specific, 'a ball kicked
863 ↪ on grass' largely points to a soccer ball, but could also be other
864 ↪ ball sports"
865     },
866     "reasonableness": {
867         "score": 1.0,
868         "explanation": "The description is completely reasonably associated
869 ↪ with a soccer ball, matching its basic characteristics"
870     }
871 }
872 ```
873

```

Listing 8: Judge Agent System Prompt

```

874 Please evaluate the following player's statement.
875 # Player information:
876 Player's word: "{word1}"
877 The other word in this game: "{word2}"
878 Player's statement: "{statement}"
879
880 # Historical statements:
881 {history}
882
883

```

Listing 9: Judge Agent User Prompt Template

884 E Implementation Details

885 **Detailed data statistics** The dataset we provided contains a total of 529 English pairs of concepts,
886 including 220 concrete noun pairs, 100 abstract noun pairs, 109 adverb pairs, and 100 verb pairs.
887 After initial experimental attempts, we concluded that concrete noun pairs are more suitable for
888 our experimental setup and overall research questions. Therefore, for the specific experiments, we
889 selected 11 different categories from the 220 concrete noun pairs. These categories consist of concrete
890 noun pairs that are closest to our daily life and conversational contexts. All of those concepts can be
891 considered with rich and clearly describable features. We believe that starting with these concept
892 pairs can more reliably and steadily complete our experiments and yield preliminary results. In the
893 future, we will further explore the other words.

894 **Details in the experiment** When requiring the LLMs to play as a player in the entire interaction
895 process, the LLM's uncertainty can affect the game's progress. To address this, we have added some
896 processing mechanisms in both the code and the game rules to ensure that a single game can proceed
897 smoothly and that multiple games can be batched and continuously traversed through multiple pairs
898 of concepts within a category, thereby improving the efficiency of the experiment. Specifically, the
899 LLM is required to return in JSON format. The returned string will first be preprocessed at the code
900 level to prevent the large model from generating content and symbols outside the specified format. If
901 multiple layers of processing mechanisms fail to resolve the issue, a three-time retry mechanism will
902 be adopted. If the problem still persists, the handling method will depend on the stage of the game. If
903 it is the voting stage, the player will be considered to have forfeited the vote for this round. If it is the
904 speaking stage, the player will be directly expelled for speaking in violation of the rules.

905 In our first experiment comparing six mainstream LLMs (Large Language Models), we used all 11
906 pairs of concepts mentioned earlier. Each pair of words was used in at least one game to evaluate their
907 conceptual knowledge abilities on different themes. The evaluation results showed that *Qwen2.5-72B*
908 performed well in the FOOD category, which also had the highest number of concept pairs among the
909 11 categories. More games in this category can reduce the randomness of the experiment; therefore,
910 we chose this category for testing different sizes of the *Qwen-2.5* series. Due to resource limitations,
911 we did not use the full set of 11 pairs of concepts in the second experiment. However, the additional
912 results from the one-on-one tests with different sizes ensured the reliability of our conclusions.

913 **The stability of the scoring process** To verify the stability of the scoring process in our LLM-based
914 evaluation framework (and thereby support the reliability and repeatability of evaluation results),
915 we conducted three independent evaluations on the animal group. Based on the outcomes of these
916 evaluations, we calculated key statistical indicators—mean, variance, and standard deviation—for
917 each of the three core metrics (Novelty, Relevance, and Reasonableness). The specific statistical data
918 are presented in Table 5. This table reflects the stability of the scoring process: all metrics exhibit
919 small variances (ranging from 0.000042 to 0.000302) and standard deviations (ranging from 0.0065
920 to 0.0174), indicating that the LLM-based scoring results are consistent across repeated evaluations
921 and have low random fluctuation—this provides direct support for the reliability of our evaluation
922 framework.

923 **One-on-one performance comparison between GPT-oss models** To further verify the robustness of
924 the conclusion (i.e., larger model size may not directly translate into better conceptual understanding)
925 presented in the main text, we expanded the validation scope beyond the Qwen series—specifically

Table 5: Statistical indicators of three independent evaluations on the animal group.

Metric	Mean	Variance	Std Dev
Novelty	0.8150	0.000203	0.0142
Relevance	0.7034	0.000302	0.0174
Reasonableness	0.9672	0.000042	0.0065

incorporating the latest open-source GPT models (GPT-oss) with distinct parameter scales, and conducting head-to-head comparative tests to cross-validate the aforementioned result.

We selected two GPT-oss models with significant parameter differences: GPT-oss-120B (large-parameter model) and GPT-oss-20B (small-parameter model). Validation experiments were conducted across three representative categories (animals, sports, and food), with key performance metrics including Win Rate, Survival Rate, and average scores of the three core evaluation dimensions (Novelty, Relevance, and Reasonableness). The detailed comparative results of the two models are presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Performance comparison of GPT-oss models with different parameter scales.

LLM	WR	SR	Novelty	Relevance	Reasonableness
GPT-oss-120B	0.4058	0.4783	0.7813	0.5774	0.8890
GPT-oss-20B	0.4638	0.5362	0.7248	0.5810	0.8922

As shown in Table 6, the small-parameter GPT-oss-20B outperforms the large-parameter GPT-oss-120B in four key metrics: WinRate (0.4638 vs. 0.4058), SurvivalRate (0.5362 vs. 0.4783), AvgRelevanceScore (0.5810 vs. 0.5774), and AvgReasonablenessScore (0.8922 vs. 0.8890). This observation is consistent with the trend found in the Qwen series experiments (where larger models also did not show superior knowledge understanding). Collectively, the results from both the Qwen series and the latest open-source GPT models confirm that larger model size does not have a direct and positive correlation with better conceptual understanding, further supporting the reliability of the conclusion in the main text.

Quantitative analysis of embedding distributions We conducted a quantitative analysis of the embedding distributions of target models. Two key statistical metrics were adopted for this analysis: intra-cluster variance (to measure the dispersion of embeddings within clusters) and distribution entropy (to evaluate the semantic diversity of embeddings). The analysis focused on two representative models—Gemini-2.0-Pro-Exp and GPT-4o—and the detailed quantitative results are presented in Table 7.

Table 7: Intra-cluster variance and distribution entropy of model embedding distributions.

Metric	LLM	Score
Intra-cluster variance	Gemini-2.0-Pro-Exp	0.3549
	GPT-4o	0.3224
Distribution Entropy	Gemini-2.0-Pro-Exp	2.9886
	GPT-4o	2.9822

The quantitative results support our qualitative observation. Gemini 2.0 Pro Exp shows higher intra-cluster variance (0.3549 vs 0.3224), indicating approximately 10% greater dispersion in embedding space compared to GPT-4o. The distribution entropy values are nearly identical (2.9886 vs 2.9822), suggesting comparable semantic diversity, with Gemini’s slightly higher entropy aligning with the variance findings to confirm marginally greater distributional spread.

More t-SNE plots In addition to the Tools category, we also embedded and visualized the other 10 categories, as shown in the following figure.

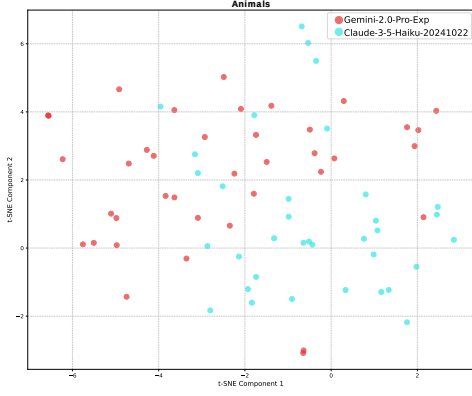


Figure 5: The t-SNE visualization of all embedded statements in the Animals category for *Gemini-2.0-Pro-Exp* and *Claude-3-5-Haiku-20241022*.

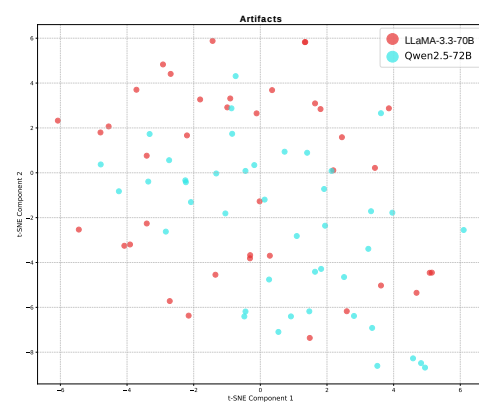


Figure 6: The t-SNE visualization of all embedded statements in the Artifacts category for *LLaMA-3.3-70B* and *Qwen2.5-72B*.

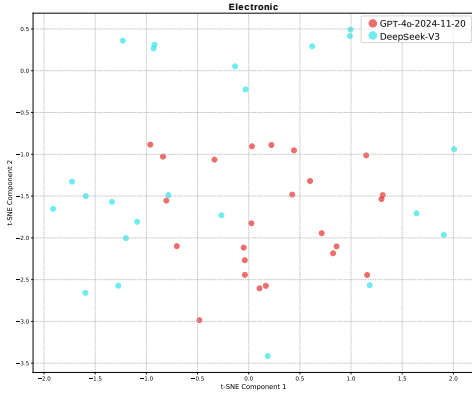


Figure 7: The t-SNE visualization of all embedded statements in the Electronic category for *GPT-4o-2024-11-20* and *DeepSeek-V3*.

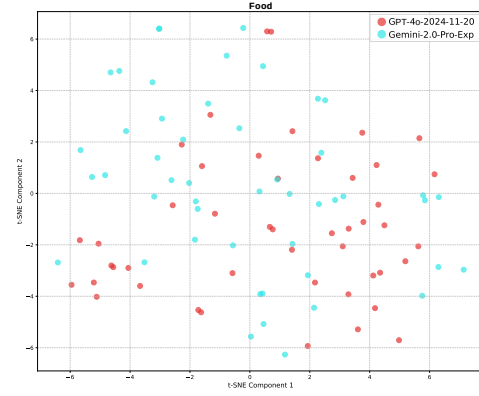


Figure 8: The t-SNE visualization of all embedded statements in the Food category for *GPT-4o-2024-11-20* and *Gemini-2.0-Pro-Exp*.

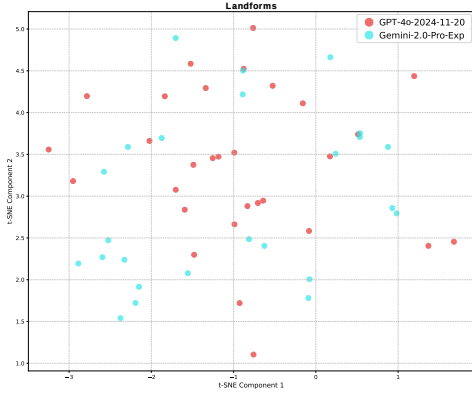


Figure 9: The t-SNE visualization of all embedded statements in the Landforms category for *GPT-4o-2024-11-20* and *Gemini-2.0-Pro-Exp*.

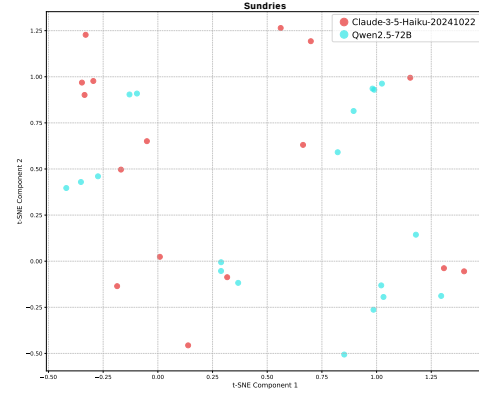


Figure 10: The t-SNE visualization of all embedded statements in the Sundries category for *Claude-3-5-Haiku-20241022* and *Qwen2.5-72B*.

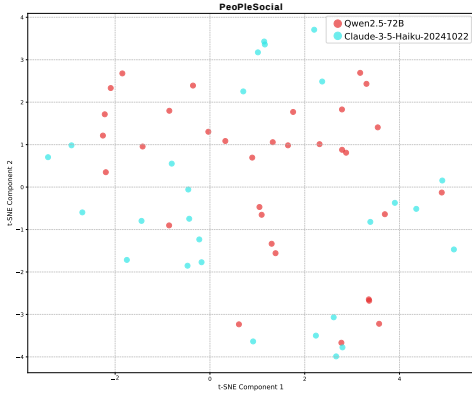


Figure 11: The t-SNE visualization of all embedded statements in the People/social category for *Qwen2.5-72B* and *Claude-3-5-Haiku-20241022*.

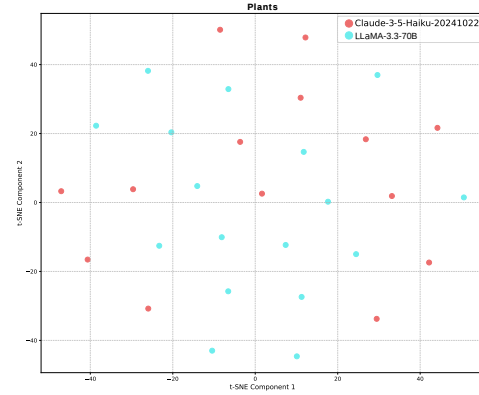


Figure 12: The t-SNE visualization of all embedded statements in the Plants category for *Claude-3-5-Haiku-20241022* and *LLaMA-3.3-70B*.

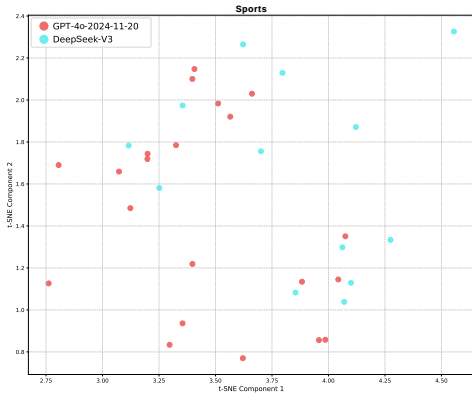


Figure 13: The t-SNE visualization of all embedded statements in the Sports category for *Gemini-2.0-Pro-Exp* and *LLaMA-3.3-70B*.

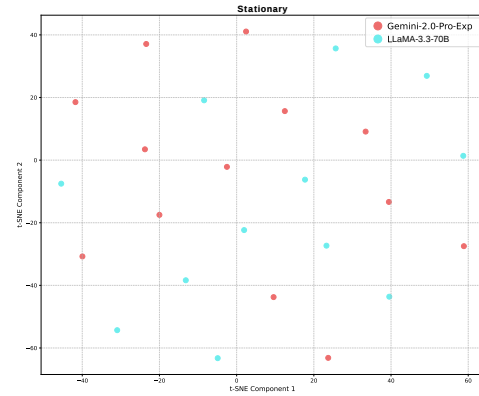


Figure 14: The t-SNE visualization of all embedded statements in the Stationary category for *LLaMA-3.3-70B* and *Qwen2.5-72B*.

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