Linguini: A benchmark for language-agnostic linguistic reasoning

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Abstract

We propose a new benchmark to measure a language model's linguistic reasoning skills without relying on pre-existing language-specific knowledge. The test covers 894 questions grouped in 160 problems across 75 (mostly) extremely low-resource languages, extracted from the International Linguistic Olympiad corpus. To attain high accuracy on this benchmark, models don't need previous knowledge of the tested language, as all the information needed to solve the linguistic puzzle is presented in the context. We find that, while all analyzed models rank below 25% accuracy, there is a significant gap between open and closed models, with the best-performing proprietary model scoring 24.05% and the best-performing open model 8.84%.

1 Introduction

Recently, language models have shown impressive multilingual skills (Xu et al., 2024), achieving state of the art results in several tasks, such as machine translation (OpenAI, 2024), bilingual lexicon induction (Brown et al., 2020) and cross-lingual classification (Xue et al., 2021). However, the sometimes steep increase in performance of these tasks has led to saturation of popular benchmarks, such as MMLU (Hendrycks et al., 2021), where SotA performance has gone from 60% in December 2021 (Rae et al., 2022) to 90% in December 2023 (Gemini Team, 2024), providing diminishing returns when it comes to quantifying differences between models.

Moreover, in the case of linguistic reasoning, the task of evaluating a model's linguistic skills is often tied to the comprehensive knowledge a model has of a certain language (most commonly, English), making it difficult to evaluate a model's underlying linguistic skills beyond language-specific knowledge.

To address these issues, we introduce Linguini[1], a linguistic reasoning benchmark. Linguini consists of linguistic problems which require meta-linguistic awareness and deductive reasoning capabilities to be solved instead of pre-existing language proficiency. Linguini is based on problems extracted from the International Linguistic Olympiad (IOL)[2], a secondary school level contest where participants compete in solving Rosetta Stone-style problems (Derzhanski and Payne, 2010) relying solely on their understanding of linguistic concepts. An example of the type of challenges and the reasoning steps needs to solve it can be seen in Figure 2.

[1]The dataset is available at https://github.com/facebookresearch/linguini

[2]The problems are shared only for research purposes under the license CC-BY-SA 4.0. The problems are copyrighted by ©2003-2024 International Linguistics Olympiad

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We evaluate a list of open and proprietary models on Linguini, showing a major gap between open and closed language models, in favor of the latter. We also conduct a series of experiments aiming at understanding the impact of contextual information in the accuracy obtained in the benchmark, performing both form (transliteration) and content (removing context) ablations, with results showing a main reliance on the context to solve the problems, minimizing the impact of language or task contamination in the models' training sets.

2 Related Work

There has been an increasing number of articles focusing on evaluating reasoning in language models (Chang et al., 2024). In the area of mathematical reasoning, Qin et al. (2023) analyze models' arithmetic reasoning, while Frieder et al. (2023) leverage publicly-available problems to build GHOSTS, a comprehensive mathematical benchmark in natural language. Bang et al. (2023) include symbolic reasoning in their multitask, multilingual and multimodal evaluation suite. Wu et al. (2024) and Hartmann et al. (2023) show that current language models have profound limitations when performing abstract reasoning, but Liu et al. (2023) indicate promising logical reasoning skills; however, performance is limited on out-of-distribution data. Multi-step reasoning is assessed by Chain-of-Thought Hub (Fu et al., 2023) and ThoughtSource (Ott et al., 2023), pointing out the limitations of language models in complex reasoning tasks.

Coverage of linguistic reasoning, which can be defined as the ability to understand and operate under the rules of language, has been limited in evaluation datasets for language models. One of the earliest examples is PuzzLing Machines (Şahin et al., 2020), which presents 7 different patterns from the Rosetta Stone paradigm Bozhanov and Derzhanski (2013) for models to perform exclusively machine translation. Chi et al. (2024) replicate Şahin et al. (2020)'s approach, manually creating a number of examples to avoid data leakage. Recently, some approaches have leveraged long context capabilities of language models to include in-context linguistic information (e.g. a grammar book (Tanzer et al., 2024) and other domain-specific sources (Zhang et al., 2024)) to solve different linguistic tasks. For large-scale linguistic reasoning evaluation, Big-Bench (Lewkowycz et al., 2022) includes a task linguistic mappings[3], relying on arbitrary artificial grammars to perform logical deduction. This approach is limited by its reliance on constructed languages instead of natural languages, which overlooks more complex underlying properties of languages, (e.g., voicing rules). Moreover, Waldis et al. (2024) present Holmes, a comprehensive benchmark for linguistic competence in English language. Finally, Bean et al. (2024) concurrently introduced a linguistic benchmark based on the UK Linguistic Olympiad, with a language coverage of around 90 high and low resource languages and a limited script (Latin-only) and language family coverage with respect to IOL.

3 Benchmarking linguistic reasoning

To overcome the previous limitations, we built a dataset where, in most cases, a model has no information about task language outside of the given context. To achieve this, we worked with problems extracted from the International Linguistic Olympiad.

3.1 IOL

The International Linguistic Olympiad (IOL)[4] is a contest for students up to secondary school level, where contestants must compete solving problems based on their understanding of linguistics (Derzhanski and Payne, 2010). The presented problems are formulated following the Rosetta Stone paradigm and present participants with challenges related to a variety of (mainly) extremely low-resource languages that students are not expected to be familiar with. The goal is for participants to leverage their linguistic skills rather than their foreign language knowledge. The IOL has been held yearly since 2003 (with the exception of 2020), and every year includes 5 short problems (to be solved individually) and 1 long, multipart problem (to be solved in groups). Problems are formulated in English and in several languages (up to 25 languages for the 2023 edition). The IOL corpus is available on their website in different formats of PDF with questions and correct answers,

[3] https://github.com/google/BIG-bench/blob/main/bigbench/benchmark_tasks/linguistic_mappings/

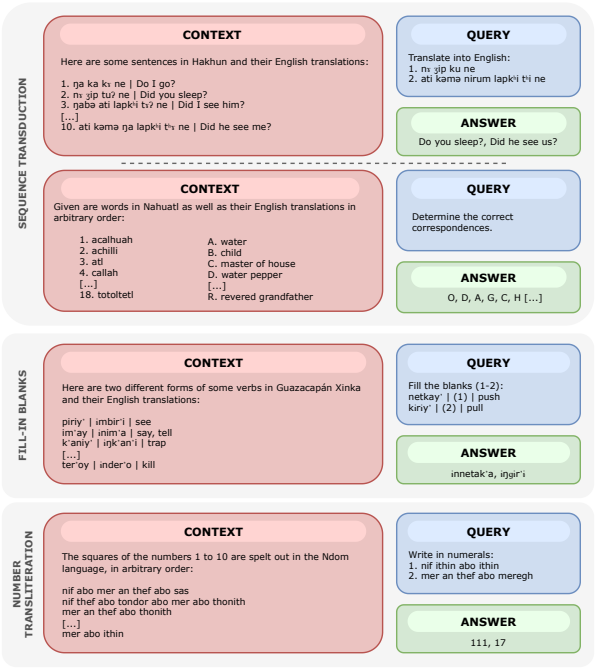
[4] https://ioling.org

explanations of some answers and total marks for each problem. Beyond IOL, there are regional contests (e.g. Asia Pacific Linguistic Olympiad[5] and The Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad[6]) that award places for the IOL.

3.2 Selecting problems

To select the types of questions for the dataset, we built a taxonomy exploring the IOL from 2003 to 2023. We excluded all instances for which their category only appears once; those where the question includes an image or those where the response is only an explanation. The remaining problems require solving different linguistic reasoning tasks, such as morphosyntactic segmentation (eg., verb conjugation), morphosemantic alignment (e.g., noun negation), derivation (e.g., finding cognates in related languages), morphophonological segmentation (e.g., pluralization) or graphophonemic transcription (e.g., transcription from one script to another). In total, Linguini is composed by 894 questions grouped in 160 problems across 75 (mostly) extremely low-resource language. A question denotes an item that corresponds to a single answer, usually related to other items by a common context. A list of languages can be found in Appendix B. We classify the problems included in Linguini into the three categories according to their content: sequence transduction, fill-in-blanks and number transliteration. Figure 1 shows one example of each.

Figure 1: Examples of Linguini entries covering the three problems included in the dataset: sequence transduction, fill-in-blanks, number transliteration.



Sequence transduction This category includes sequence production (identified in the benchmark as `'translation'`) and sequence matching (identified as `'match_letter'`). The problems require the model to transform a sequence into a different space (e.g., language, phonetic representation, script) based on few examples. In some cases, basic phonetic/phonological knowledge is needed. For example, the model should be able to reason over principles of voicing and their implementation in situations of coarticulation. Some problems require to know that consonants come in voiced-voiceless pairs, and that one element of the pair may in some cases be a substitute for the other element in the pair under certain circumstances.

[5] `https://aplo.asia`
[6] `https://ozclo.org.au`

Fill-in blanks Fill-in blanks are mainly morphophonological derivation tasks, and they are identified in the benchmark as `'fill_blanks'`. Models need to understand what are the morphophonological rules that make it possible to go from the first form of a word to its second form. This can usually be applied to verbal (e.g., verb tense conjugation), nominal or adjectival (e.g., case declension) derivation. It involves understanding affixation rules and morpheme swapping rules, which often come with phonological rules if there are different coarticulation phenomena with different affixes or phonotactic phenomena such as consonantal mutations.

Digit/text number transliteration These problems are identified by the labels `'text_to_num'` and `'num_to_text'`. In them, models have to produce a digit or text equivalent, respectively. They require a model's understanding of morphological analysis and morpheme order.

Figure 2: A subset of the context of a problem in Terenâ language and the reasoning steps needed to solve it. To correctly answer the question, the model must notice that (a) voiced *d* mutates to voiceless paired sound *t* (fortition), (b) *n* is dropped because there are no voiceless nasal alveolar sounds and (c) an epenthetic vowel has to be added between the mutation consonant and the rest of the word (a root), and that the vowel that gets added matches the aperture of the vowel in the root. If the aperture is closed, the epenthetic vowel is the closed front vowel *i*; if the aperture is mid, the epenthetic vowel is the mid front vowel *e*.

4 Experiments

We perform zero-shot to few-shot (0-5 in-context examples) evaluation across the whole dataset for an array of open and proprietary LLMs. Given the size of the benchmark, we employ a leave-one-out cross-validation scheme to maximize the number of in-context candidates per task. For every given inference, we include examples of the same format (e.g., `'translation'`, `'match_letter'`), but we exclude in-content examples of the same language to avoid language contamination.

Setup and Models We prompt models with an instruction, a context that provides information to unambiguously solve the linguistic problem and the problem itself. Scores of answers to each item of a problem are averaged to provide a single score (0-100) per task. We evaluate several major open LLMs and commercially available (behind API) SotA LLMs at the publication of this work. For open models, we conduct inference experiments in an 8 A100 GPUs node. An exhaustive list can be found in Appendix C.

Evaluation We use exact match (accuracy) as main evaluation criterion. Given the almost null performance on exact match of certain models, we also include chrF (Popović, 2015) as a *softer* metric. A low ChrF score indicates extremely low performance models, e.g. not understanding the domain of the task at hand.

5 Results and Discussion

Table 1 shows there's a gap between the best performing open model and the best performing proprietary model, with several tiers of proprietary models above the best open model (*llama-3-70b*). We also find mixed impact of in-context examples (ICEs) in the performance of the models. While some models benefit from it (such as *Llama 3 70b Instruct*), other models' performance degrades as the number of examples increases (such as *Claude 3 Opus*). This disparity might be due to the two factors introduced by the ICEs: from one side, they set an answer format that could be useful for models that can't infer it directly from a single natural language instruction and, from another side, they introduce tokens of languages potentially unrelated to the evaluated problem. It is possible that for models more capable of instruction following, only the second factor plays a role in the model's performance. Results of reasoning models reported by the community (Kazemi et al., 2025) on Linguini are also reproduced (marked with a $\star$). Overall, performance remains firmly below best reported results in IOL contests (above 82 points for every year). Although reasoning models (Besta et al., 2025) have a higher average performance than regular LLMs, they don't bring about a phase change for the task of linguistic reasoning, remaining comparable to the best-performing non-reasoning LLMs. We include results with chrF in Appendix E for reference.

Table 1: Exact match results with Linguini for 0-5 ICEs. Models marked with a $\star$ were reported by the community in Kazemi et al. (2025).

Model	0	1	2	3	4	5	Best(↑)
Claude 3 Opus	24.05	20.58	21.36	19.91	17.00	15.1	24.05
Gemini 2.5 Flash	23.15	-	-	-	-	-	23.15
DeepSeek R1 $\star$	19.50	-	-	-	-	-	19.50
o3-mini $\star$	17.00	-	-	-	-	-	17.00
Gemini 2.0 Flash $\star$	15.50	-	-	-	-	-	15.50
GPT-4o	14.65	12.98	13.87	12.98	13.98	13.76	14.65
GPT-4	6.38	9.96	11.52	12.98	11.74	13.31	13.31
Claude 3 Sonnet	12.30	8.95	10.29	10.40	9.28	8.72	12.30
Llama 4 Maverick	11.96	-	-	-	-	-	11.96
GPT-4 Turbo	8.72	9.40	9.96	7.49	8.61	9.96	9.96
Llama 3 70b	8.17	5.93	7.72	8.84	8.72	6.60	8.84
Llama 3 70b Instruct	4.81	5.93	7.16	7.38	6.82	8.39	8.39
Claude 3 Haiku	6.04	7.61	4.36	6.04	6.94	7.05	7.61
Distill R1 Qwen 32b $\star$	6.00	-	-	-	-	-	6.00
Llama 4 Scout	5.03	-	-	-	-	-	5.03
Llama 2 70b	4.70	2.24	2.57	3.24	3.36	3.58	3.58
Mistral 0.1 8x7b	2.46	3.47	3.91	3.02	3.24	3.47	3.91
Llama 2 70b Instruct	0.89	1.45	2.80	3.02	3.13	2.80	3.13
Gemma 2b	0.34	2.01	1.90	1.34	1.45	1.90	2.01
Qwen 1.5 110b Instruct	1.45	1.23	1.34	1.45	1.45	1.68	1.68

In addition to our main experiments, we performed a series of ablation studies to get a better insight of how language models perform linguistic reasoning.

5.1 No-Context Prompting

Given that we don't have information about training data for the majority of the analyzed models, we performed a series of experiments to study the degree in which models rely on the given context to provide correct answers. Models that have not been trained on any data of the task language should have a null-adjacent performance when not given the context necessary to solve the task. We analyze the impact of ignoring the context provided in the benchmark as a proxy of possible data contamination. The results are shown in Table 2.

We find steep performance drops for every model, which points towards a low likelihood of the language (or the training examples) being present in the models' training sets.

Table 2: No-context results. Δ denotes the differential vs regular zero-shot evaluation.

Model	ZS	No ctx	Δ
Claude 3 Opus	24.05	1.23	-22.82
GPT-4o	14.65	1.45	-13.20
Claude 3 Sonnet	12.30	2.01	-10.29
GPT-4 Turbo	8.72	1.45	-7.27
Llama 3 70b	8.17	1.67	-6.50
GPT-4	6.38	1.34	-5.04
Claude 3 Haiku	6.04	1.12	-4.92
Llama 3 70b Instruct	4.81	1.12	-3.69
Llama 2 70b	4.70	1.07	-3.63
Qwen 1.5 110b Instruct	1.45	0.43	-1.02
Mistral 0.1 8x7b	2.46	1.98	-0.48
Llama 2 70b Instruct	0.89	0.56	-0.33
Gemma 2b	0.34	0.09	-0.25

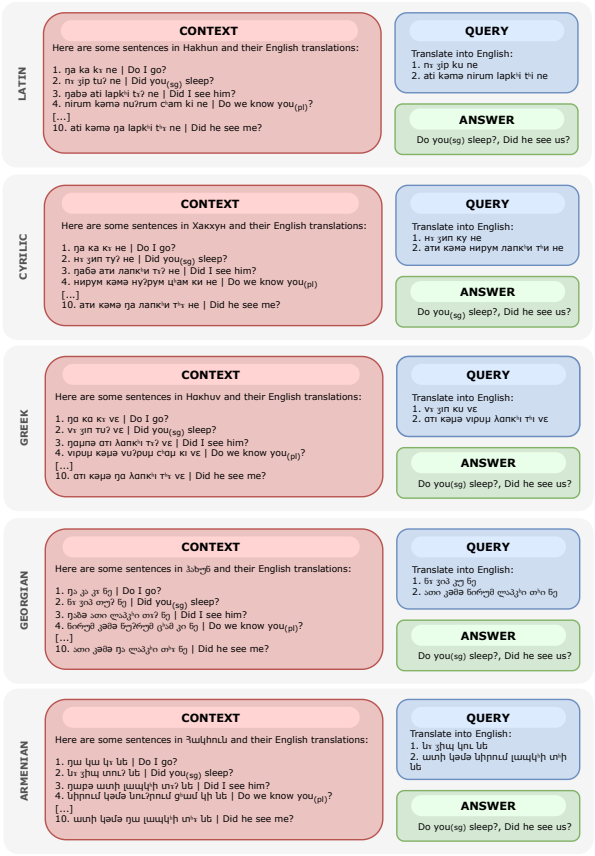


Figure 3: Example of transliteration of a problem into Cyrillic, Greek, Georgian and Armenian scripts.

5.2 Character-wise substitution

Since most problems are presented in Latin script, we wanted to understand whether the script in which the task languages are presented impact the performance on Linguini. But given that all information needed to solve the task is present in the context, the script should not have a major impact on the performance beyond encoding constraints. In other words, if the model doesn't rely on instances of the language (or the problem) in its training set, it should be able to solve the task in a

non-Latin script as well. We selected the best performing model (*Claude 3 Opus*) and transcribed the best performing problems (those where the *accuracy* >= 75) into 4 non-Latin alphabetical scripts (Cyrilic, Greek, Georgian and Armenian)[7]. An example of a transliterated problem can be found in Figure 3.

Given the difficulty of uniformly transcribing a diverse set of orthographic systems and diacritics, we opted for performing a character/bi-character-wise substitution of the standard Latin alphabet character, leaving non-standard characters with their original Unicode symbol. We filtered 17 well performing problems, and excluded one with a non-Latin script task language (English Braille). We performed transcriptions on the remaining 16 problems.

Table 3: Scores of selected problems with different language scripts for *claude-3-opus*.

Problem code & language	**Latn**	**Cyrl**	**Grek**	**Geor**	**Armn**
012023010100 (qda-gua)	75.00	100.00	75.00	100.00	0.00
012021020500 (zun)	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
012012030100 (eus)	78.57	7.14	92.86	0.00	0.00
012018020100 (nst-hkn)	83.33	83.33	66.67	83.33	100.00
012007050100 (tur)	75.00	75.00	50.00	37.50	50.00
012006020100 (cat)	75.00	50.00	50.00	58.33	33.33
012003030200 (eus)	100.00	100.00	75.00	100.00	100.00
012004010100 (txu)	100.00	100.00	66.67	66.67	33.33
012007030100 (kat)	80.00	13.33	6.67	100.00	0.00
012009050100 (nci)	83.33	83.33	83.33	83.33	50.00
012015020100 (kbd-bes)	100.00	66.67	100.00	66.67	83.33
012012050100 (rtm)	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
012011040200 (nci)	100.00	50.00	75.00	75.00	0.00
012013010200 (yii)	100.00	100.00	100.00	75.00	100.00
012012030200 (eus)	100.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
012012030300 (eus)	100.00	50.00	100.00	0.00	0.00
Average	85.71	56.12	65.31	63.27	38.78

Table 3 shows that the model retains the capacity to perform linguistic reasoning even after changing scripts, which backs the hypothesis of the model relying mainly on the presented context and not on spurious previous knowledge. The fact that for 13 our of 16 of the given problems there's at least one non-Latin script in which the model can solve the problem with greater or equal performance than with Latin script further supports this claim. Performance disparity among scripts could be related to either the difference in tokenization of different scripts or to the inherent limitations of our transliteration strategy (e.g. the Armenian script might lack a specific consonant cluster that needs to be developed to provide the right answer, and character/bi-character-wise substitution doesn't take this nuance into account).

5.3 Language resourcefulness and accuracy

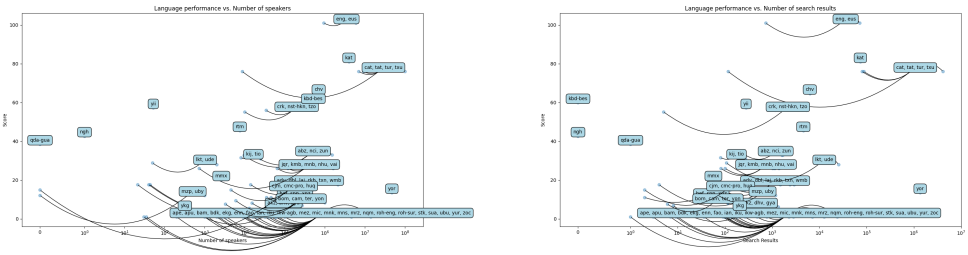
We were also interested in assessing whether higher-resource languages perform, on average, better than lower-resource languages. We use two metrics as proxies of language resourcefulness: number of speakers (Figure 4a) and online presence (Figure 4b), measured by Google searches).

We find the distribution to follow a uniform trend with respect to both metrics of language resourcefulness, which suggests that the accuracy isn't largely correlated to to its likelihood of being included in the training set. Notable exceptions to this trend are a number of very high-resource languages (e.g., Catalan, Euskera, Georgian, Turkish), which due to their institutional status are very likely to be included in the model's training set.

5.4 One-Book Prompting

Previous studies (Tanzer et al., 2024) have shown the capacity of language models to acquire some proficiency in the task of machine translation for an unseen language only through an in-context textbook. We leverage publicly available textbooks to scale Tanzer et al. (2024)'s analysis in number

[7]The mappings from Latin script to the rest can be found at `https://github.com/barseghyanartur/transliterate/`



(a) Accuracy vs. number of speakers. Data points are clustered for readability.

(b) Accuracy vs. number of Google searches. Data points are clustered for readability.

Figure 4: Accuracy as a function of (a) number of speakers and (b) number of Google searches.

of languages and types of tasks. We convert the textbooks in PDF format to raw text using the pdftotext library[8] and include them as context without any pre-processing. A list of employed textbooks can be found in Appendix D.

Table 4: Scores for a subset of examples evaluated with no problem context, with context, with a textbook and with a combination of both.

Language code	No-context	Context	Textbook	Context + Textbook
akz	0.00	5.13	0.00	3.85
apu	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.67
mnk	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Average	0.00	1.71	0.00	6.84

Even thought in many cases the orthography of the task language greatly varies from the textbook to the problem and the PDF to text conversion introduces errors for highly diacritical text (as shown in Figure 5), the results in Table 4 show that a model can learn to model linguistic phenomena relying on a single in-context textbook.

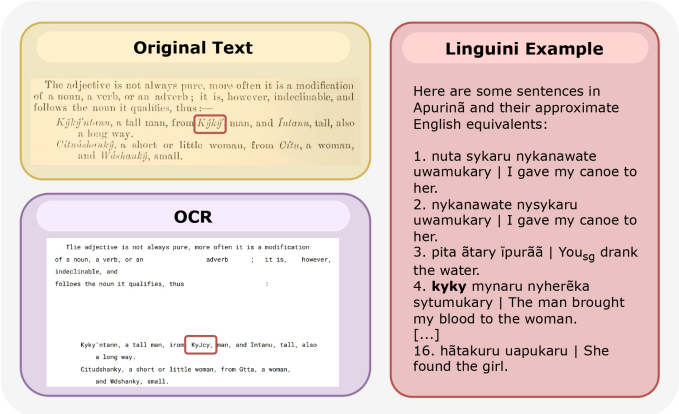


Figure 5: Example of transliteration of a problem into Cyrillic, Greek, Georgian and Armenian scripts. The discrepancies between the term *kyky* (English: *man*) in the original document (a scan from a 1894 grammar book of Apurinã language), its OCR conversion and the text of a problem in the benchmark are highlighted. In spite of the noise introduced by different orthographies and imperfect OCR, performance for Apurinã increases from 0% 16.67% with the full OCR text in-context.

[8] https://github.com/jalan/pdftotext

5.5 Human Evaluation

Given the potential limitations of automatic evaluation metrics, we performed human evaluations on the outputs of three models (*Claude 3 Opus*, *Llama 3 70b* and *GPT 4o*) with three annotators, asking them to rate the correctness of models' outputs in a scale of 0-4. The guidelines for human evaluation can be found in Appendix G.

Table 5: Average human evaluations, presented alongside average automatic evaluations.

Model	Annotator 1	Annotator 2	Annotator 3	Exact match	chrF
Claude 3 Opus	42.03	43.91	40.00	24.05	63.96
GPT-4o	30.00	35.47	25.63	14.65	58.99
Llama 3 70b	22.03	28.44	23.28	8.84	41.92

For the three selected models, the ranking provided by human evaluations is consistent both among each other and with the two automatic metrics (exact match and chrF). Since the human and automatic scores are not directly comparable (see Appendix G for the human evaluation guidelines), we look at their correlations to assess the validity of our selected automatic metrics.

Table 6: Correlation of metrics to rest of humans. The values were obtained by averaging the correlation of each metric verus the rest ofg human metrics (e.g., Human 1 is compared to Human 2 and 3, Exact match is compared to Human 1, 2 and 3). Full set of values in Figure 9 in Appendix F.

Model	Human 1	Human 2	Human 3	Exact match	chrF
Correlation to other humans	0.67	0.61	0.63	0.57	0.41

We find that the exact match score closely resembles the correlation to human average of each of the human annotators (Table 6), proving it a more appropriate metric to evaluate linguistic reasoning on Linguini problems with respect to chrF. The full correlation values among each human annotator and both evaluation metrics can be found in Figure 9 in Appendix F.

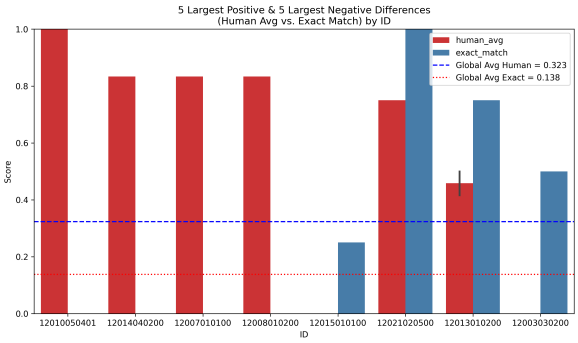
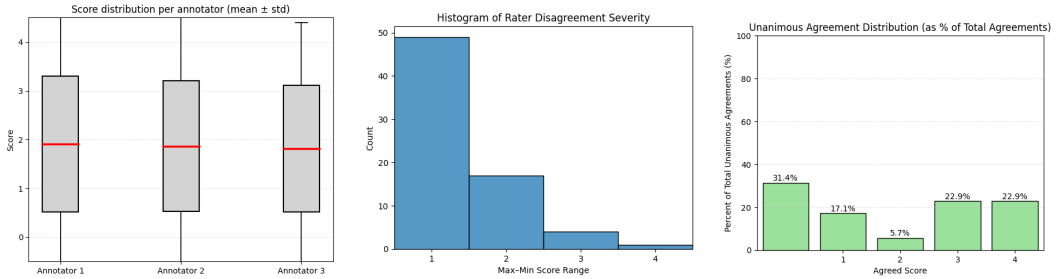


Figure 6: Largest score differentials between human and exact match evaluations. This figure shows the largest score mismatches between average human scores and Claude 3 Opus' exact match score.

We performed a qualitative analysis of problems with largest score differentials between human and exact match, the best performing automatic evaluation (Figure 6). Most relevant sources of disagreement included issues with diacritica, insertions of a single character or encoding issues (Braille script).

5.5.1 Annotator Agreement Analysis

We analyzed the consistency of scores among annotators. Figure 7a shows the score distributions for the three annotators, represented by mean-centered boxes and standard-deviation intervals. Although the general scoring trends are similar, some individual differences emerge, particularly around intermediate scores, suggesting variation in how partial correctness is interpreted. Across the 106



(a) Per-annotator score distributions (b) Disagreement severity histogram (c) Unanimous agreement distribution

Figure 7: Human-rater agreement analysis. (a) Score distributions per annotator, (b) overall disagreement severity, and (c) distribution of unanimous judgments by score.

```
Yagujba nyungu.
Gulugbi ga ngunybulugi.
Juwa gu bardba gijilulunguji.
Ngirrajba gunu janji.
Ngajbi ngiyinya alangani.
```

(a) Reference

```
Yagujba nyu ngiya.
Gulugbi nginyu ngunybulugi.
Bardbi gu juwani gijilulunguji.
Gijilulu gu.
Ngajbi ginyi alanga.
```

(b) Model output

Figure 8: Example of inter-annotator disagreement. (a) Reference text and (b) model output from *Claude 3 Opus*, rated as 0, 1, and 3 by the three annotators.

evaluated items, the mean inter-annotator range (*max–min*) was 0.93 ± 0.85. As shown in Figure 7b, most examples exhibited relatively low disagreement: 79.3% of items differed by at most one point, while only 20.8% differed by two or more, and 4.7% by three or more points. This suggests that, while exact unanimity is limited, raters generally stay within a narrow band of interpretation. Complete agreement (identical scores from all three annotators) occurred in 33.0% of examples. The distribution of these unanimous cases, shown in Figure 7c, is polarized: most agreements occurred at score 0 (31.4%), while the highest two scores (3 and 4) each accounted for 22.9%. Middle-ground consensus was rare (only 5.7% of unanimous cases were at score 2), indicating that raters found it easier to agree on outputs that were either clearly incorrect or clearly correct.

A representative case illustrating high disagreement is shown in Figure 8. For problem 012015040200, the model *Claude 3 Opus* received scores of 0, 1, and 3 from the three annotators. Two annotators appear to have emphasized exact lexical overlap with the reference, while the third rated the output more generously, likely rewarding partial correspondences across lines. This case illustrates how different evaluative emphases (lexical fidelity versus partial semantic adequacy) can lead to diverging scores, even under a well-defined rubric. Such patterns highlight the inherent difficulty of assigning a single "correct" human judgment to borderline outputs and the limitations of using gold human references for nuanced linguistic evaluation.

6 Conclusions

We presented Linguini, a new linguistic reasoning evaluation dataset. Our experiments show that Linguini provides a compact and effective benchmark to assess linguistic reasoning without relying on a substrate of existing language-specific knowledge. Subsequent experiments also show very low likelihood of dataset contamination in the analyzed models. Linguini can be relevant to the research community in the degree it is a benchmark in which high school-level humans are able to score >80, but frontier language models fail to score above 25, which means that linguistic reasoning is an axis of human intelligence not yet covered by generative models. Linguini shows a positive but weak correlation with other general-purpose benchmarks, with Claude 3 Opus scoring slightly less than GPT4-Turbo in the LMArena (1323 vs. 1324, at the time of writing in July 31st, 2025), but more than doubling its performance in Linguini (24.04 vs. 9.96). This suggests that skills related to linguistic reasoning are poorly represented in major LLM benchmarks.

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A Limitations, further work and broader impact

Evaluation of long in-context learning for linguistic reasoning is limited in this paper to a few languages, given the difficulties of finding publicly available grammar books. We plan to scale up the number of covered languages in further versions of the benchmark to perform a better encompassing analysis of long in-context learning.

Our dataset also lacks a curated list of explanations for each problem, which could be used as a basis to run chain-of-thought experiments and improve lingusitic reasoning skills of language models. We intend to engage with linguists and IOL organizers to fill this gap.

This benchmark intends to address and quantify the root of multilingualism, which in turn can impact the support of language models for the majority of world languages.

This paper includes the work of human annotators. Annotators were paid a fair rate. Each of the annotators signed a consent form agreeing to the usage of their annotations.

B Languages of Linguini

Table 7: Languages and their characteristics

Lang. Code	Language	No. Speakers[9]	No. Search Results[10]	Language Family	Script
abz	Abui	16,000	263	Trans-New Guinea	Latin
ady	Adyghe	425,000	2,370	Abkhaz-Adyghe	Latin
akz	Alabama	370	1,350	Muskogean	Latin
abz	Mountain Arapesh	16,000	98	Torricelli	Latin
apu	Apurinã	2800	264	Maipurean	Latin
bam	Bambara	14000000	7150	Niger-Congo	N'Ko
bdk	Budukh	200	126	Nakh-Daghestanian	Latin
bef	Bena Bena	45000	107	Trans-New Guinea	Latin
bom	Birom	1000000	115	Niger-Congo	Latin
cam	Cemuhî	3300	6	Austronesian	Latin
cat	Catalan	9200000	87100	Indo-European	Latin
chv	Chuvash	700000	6260	Turkic	Latin
cjm	Phan Rang Cham	491448	2	Austronesian	Latin
cmc-pro[11]	Proto-Chamic	0	267	Austronesian	Latin
crk	Plains Cree	34000	5290	Algic	Latin
dbl	Dyirbal	21	2900	Australian	Latin
dhv	Drehu	13,000	216	Austronesian	Latin
ekg	Ekari	100000	141	Trans-New Guinea	Latin
eng	English Braille	6000000	728	Indo-European	Latin
enn	Engenni	20000	185	Niger-Congo	Latin
eus	Basque	936,812	71100	Isolate	Latin
fao	Faroese	69000	23800	Indo-European	Latin
gya	Northwest Gbaya	267000	8	-	Latin
huq	Tsat	4500	128	Austronesian	Latin
ian	Iatmül	46000	9	Papua New Guinea	Latin
iku	Inuktitut	39,000	12500	Eskimo-Aleut	Latin
ikw-agb[11]	Agbirigba	30	1	Niger-Congo	Latin
jqr	Jaqaru	725	101	Aymaran	Latin
kat	Georgian	4000000	73700	Kartvelian	Latin
kbd-bes[11]	Besleney Kabardian	516000	0	Abkhaz-Adyghe	Latin
kij	Kilivila	25000	271	Austronesian	Latin
kmb	Kimbundu	1600000	1130	Niger-Congo	Latin
laj	Lango	2100000	1490	Nilo-Saharan	Latin
lkt	Lakhota	2000	25300	Siouan-Catawban	Latin
mez	Menominee	2000	2240	Algic	Latin
mic	Micmac	11000	774	Algic	Latin
mmx	Madak	2600	57	Austronesian	Latin
mnb	Muna	270000	1020	Austronesian	Latin
mnk	Maninka	4600000	478	Niger-Congo	N'Ko
mns	Mansi	2229	1490	Uralic	Latin
mrz	Coastal Marind	9000	100	Trans-New Guinea	Latin
mzp	Movima	1000	72	Isolate	Latin
nci	Classical Nahuatl	1500000	1690	Uto-Aztecan	Latin
ngh	Nluuki	1	0	Tuu	Latin
nhu	Nooni	64000	82	Niger-Congo	Latin
nqm	Ndom	1200	154	Trans-New Guinea	Latin
nst-hkn[11]	Hakhun	10000	5	Sino-Tibetan	Latin
qda-gua[11]	Guazacapán Xinka	0	1	Xincan	Latin
rkb	Rikbaktsa	40	54	Isolate	Latin
roh-eng[10]	Engadine	60000	7	Indo-European	Latin
roh-sur[11]	Sursilvan	60000	3	Indo-European	Latin
rtm	Rotuman	7500	4560	Austronesian	Latin
spp	Supyire	460000	45	Niger-Congo	Latin
stk	Arammba	1000	36	South-Central Papuan	Latin
sua	Sulka	3500	107	Isolate	Latin
tat	Tatar	7000000	79700	Turkic	Latin
ter	Terêna	15,000	115	Maipurean	Latin
tio	Teop	8000	81	Austronesian	Latin

Lang. Code	Language	No. Speakers	No. Search Results	Language Family	Script
tur	Turkish	100000000	4130000	Turkic	Latin
txn	West Tarangan	14,000	4	Austronesian	Latin
txu	Kayapo	8600	116	Jean	Latin
tzo	Tzotzil	550000	1160	Mayan	Latin
ubu	Umbu-Ungu	32,000	90	Trans-New Guinea	Latin
uby	Ubykh	0	1180	Abkhaz-Adyghe	Latin
ude	Udihe	50	108	Tungusic	Latin
vai	Vai	120000	1380	Niger-Congo	Latin
wmb	Wambaya	43	112	Australian	Latin
xnz	Kunuz Nubian	35000	2	Nilo-Saharan	Latin
yii	Yidiny	52	280	Australian	Latin
ykg	Tundra Yukaghir	320	206	Yukaghir	Latin
yon	Yonggom	6,000	48	Trans-New Guinea	Latin
yor	Yoruba	47000000	1360000	Niger-Congo	Latin
yur	Yurok	35	2830	Algic	Latin
zoc	Copainalá Zoque	10000	10	Mixe-Zoquean	Latin
zun	Zuni	9500	1610	Isolate	Latin

C Models

Table 8: Overview of Large Language Models

Name	API	Org	Size[12]	Open Weights	Ref
Claude 3 Opus	claude-3-opus-20240229	Anthropic	-	✗	Anthropic AI (2024)
Gemini 2.5 Flash	gemini-2.5-flash	Google	-	✗	Gemini Team (2025)
GPT-4o	gpt-4o-2024-05-13	OpenAI	-	✗	OpenAI (2024)
GPT-4	gpt-4-0125-preview	OpenAI	-	✗	OpenAI (2024)
Claude 3 Sonnet	claude-3-sonnet-20240229	Anthropic	-	✗	Anthropic AI (2024)
Llama 4 Maverick	-	Meta	400	✓	Llama 4 Team (2025)
GPT-4 Turbo	gpt-4-turbo-2024-04-09	OpenAI	-	✗	OpenAI (2024)
Llama 3 70b	-	Meta	70.6	✓	AI@Meta (2024)
Llama 3 70b Instruct	-	Meta	70.6	✓	AI@Meta (2024)
Claude 3 Haiku	claude-3-haiku-20240307	Anthropic	-	✗	Anthropic AI (2024)
Llama 4 Scout	-	Meta	109	✓	Llama 4 Team (2025)
Llama 2 70b	-	Meta	69.0	✓	Touvron et al. (2023)
Mistral 0.1 8x7b	-	Mistral	46.7	✓	Jiang et al. (2024)
Llama 2 70b Instruct	-	Meta	69.0	✓	Touvron et al. (2023)
Gemma 2b	-	Google	2.5	✓	Gemma Team (2024)
Qwen 1.5 110b Instruct	-	Alibaba	111.0	✓	Bai et al. (2023)

D Books

Table 9: Overview of Grammar Books

Lang	Title	Ref
akz	The Language of the Alabama Indians	Lupardus (1982)
apu	A Grammar and a Vocabulary of the Ipuriná Language	Polak (1894)
mnk	The Structure of Faranah-Maninka	Spears (1965)

Table 10: chrF results with Linguini for 0-5 ICEs. The order respects exact match ranking.

Model	0	1	2	3	4	5
Claude 3 Opus	63.96	58.26	58.5	53.17	49.01	46.55
GPT-4o	57.68	58.13	57.32	58.86	58.99	58.22
GPT-4	44.62	55.05	58.47	57.36	57.62	58.18
Claude 3 Sonnet	54.97	45.32	50.91	47.35	46.51	42.06
GPT-4 Turbo	52.89	50.82	50.03	50.94	49.98	51.79
Llama 3 70b	37.25	36.04	41.83	41.21	41.92	41.63
Llama 3 70b Instruct	45.35	42.65	43.89	45.99	48.07	51.08
Claude 3 Haiku	47.74	50.75	41.02	45.38	42.32	41.83
Llama 2 70b	45.3	35.39	34.06	35.54	36.21	36.44
Mistral 0.1 8x7b	42.0	34.8	38.01	37.57	37.64	37.63
Llama 2 70b Instruct	43.55	41.42	39.73	41.42	39.69	39.34
Gemma 2b	33.72	27.19	24.62	26.04	27.04	27.63
Qwen 1.5 110b Instruct	2.57	0.0	0.22	0.78	1.12	2.8

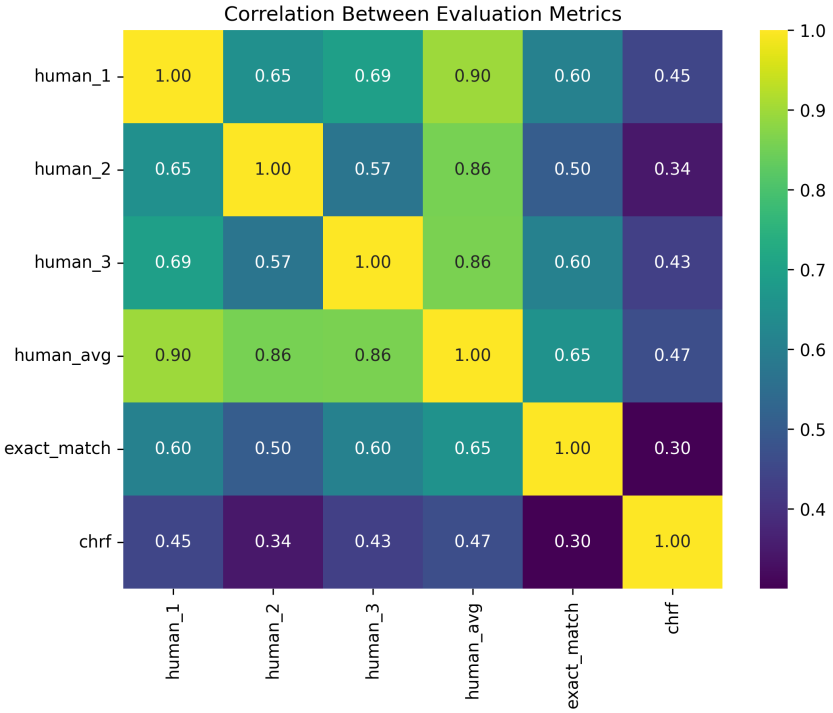

Figure 9: Correlations between human evaluations and automatic metrics.

E chrF Results

F Metric correlation

G Human evaluation guidelines

Guidelines were presented to human evaluators with the following content:

[9] According to Eberhard et al. (2020)
[10] Number of search results of the exact string "<Language name> language" using Google Seach API
[11] Language code not in ISO-639-3
[12] in billion parameter

G.1 Objective

We would like to know how well a machine learning model can solve a linguistic problem. For that, we need to obtain human opinion: we will provide the problems, the answer key and the answer given by the model.

G.2 Project Context

A linguistic problem is essentially a question about a low resource, rare language: one has to answer the question by finding patterns and links in the given language data.

G.3 Languages and volume

All problems will be IN English and will contain information about different languages. It is NOT expected that the evaluator speaks or even is aware of these languages. There are 160 problems in total. Each problem will need evaluation from 3 different people.

G.4 Annotator proficiency requirements

All annotators must meet ALL of the following requirements: Native English speaker OR excellent command of English (C2) High school graduate or higher

G.5 Task

You will be given a spreadsheet containing the following information: The problem itself with some context if needed The correct answer to the problem Output of a machine learning model A Output of a machine learning model B Output of a machine learning model C

You will need to compare the outputs A, B and C to the correct answer. To give your judgement, you will need to use a numerical Likert scale of 0-4 where 0: nothing in the machine output matches the correct answer. The output is completely wrong 1: only a very limited part of the machine output matches the correct answer. The correct parts seem accidental, the machine did not figure out any patterns or links, or only a few of them. 2: approximately half of the machine output is correct 3: Most parts of the machine output are correct, but there are some mistakes as well. The machine "understood" the logic in most cases, drew the correct conclusions and followed the correct patterns. 4: machine output and the correct answer match completely.

You will need to evaluate each model (A, B, and C) on this scale. You will also be asked to provide a short (one sentence is enough) explanation of your judgement.

G.6 Information on linguistic problems and their types

A linguistic problem can be seen as a little game, or puzzle, where one needs to understand the links and the patterns in the given data and use them to give an answer. The problems we will use for this task can be split into following categories:

G.6.1 "Fill-in-the-blanks" tasks

This type of problem usually entails the following: some data is given and some items correspond to others. The machine needs to find these links and fill in the blanks using the same logic as in the given data.

G.6.2 Match letters

This means that this problem will provide the solver only with two lists of words (or phrases): one in the target language, and one in English. The machine will need to match the translations correctly, having no additional info.

G.6.3 Match translations

These puzzles will first provide the solver with some information on how some words in a rare language are translated. Using this info, the machine will need to match the correct translations to the words in question.

G.6.4 Numbers to text

The machine will need to spell out the given numbers in a particular language, using the info given at the start of the task.

G.6.5 Text to numbers

The machine will need to understand which numbers are spelled out in the given language in this task, also using the info given at the start of the task.

G.6.6 Translation tasks

These tasks are asking for translating words or phrases, from English into the given language or the other way round.

As you can see, to solve these puzzles successfully, one needs to find patterns and links in the data. With this evaluation, we are trying to understand how well different ML models can do that. None of the models used was specifically trained to solve such tasks. We conceal the names of the models used to prevent bias - and also because they do not really add anything which could be useful for this evaluation.

NeurIPS Paper Checklist

The checklist is designed to encourage best practices for responsible machine learning research, addressing issues of reproducibility, transparency, research ethics, and societal impact. Do not remove the checklist: **The papers not including the checklist will be desk rejected.** The checklist should follow the references and follow the (optional) supplemental material. The checklist does NOT count towards the page limit.

Please read the checklist guidelines carefully for information on how to answer these questions. For each question in the checklist:

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