

# 000 001 002 003 004 005 006 007 008 009 010 011 012 013 014 015 016 017 018 019 020 021 022 023 024 025 026 027 028 029 030 031 032 033 034 035 036 037 038 039 040 041 042 043 044 045 046 047 048 049 050 051 052 053 A RIGOROUS BENCHMARK WITH MULTIDIMENSIONAL EVALUATION FOR DEEP RESEARCH AGENTS: FROM ANSWERS TO REPORTS

Anonymous authors

Paper under double-blind review

## ABSTRACT

Artificial intelligence is undergoing the paradigm shift from closed language models to interconnected agent systems capable of external perception and information integration. As a representative embodiment, Deep Research Agents (DRAs) systematically exhibit the capabilities for task decomposition, cross-source retrieval, multi-stage reasoning, and structured output, which markedly enhance performance on complex and open-ended tasks. However, existing benchmarks remain deficient in evaluation dimensions, response formatting, and scoring mechanisms, limiting their capacity to assess such systems effectively. This paper introduces a rigorous benchmark and a multidimensional evaluation framework tailored to DRAs and report-style responses. The benchmark comprises 214 expert-curated challenging queries distributed across 10 broad thematic domains, each accompanied by manually constructed reference bundles to support composite evaluation. The framework enables comprehensive evaluation of long-form reports generated by DRAs, incorporating integrated scoring metrics for semantic quality, topical focus, and retrieval trustworthiness. Extensive experimentation confirms the superior performance of mainstream DRAs over web-search-tool-augmented reasoning models, yet reveals considerable scope for further improvement. This study provides a robust foundation for capability assessment, architectural refinement, and paradigm advancement in DRA systems.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The core architecture of artificial intelligence paradigms is undergoing a transition from closed, static, parameter-driven Large Language Models (LLMs) to active, cognitive, and interconnected agent systems endowed with external perception and integrative mechanisms (Wang et al., 2024; Zhang et al., 2025b). Amid growing demands for heterogeneous information acquisition and increasing task complexity, Deep Research has gradually emerged as a paradigm of agent systems characterized by cognitive planning and integrative capabilities (Xu & Peng, 2025), which enable autonomous task decomposition, cross-source retrieval, multi-step reasoning, and structured expression, thereby substantially enhancing model adaptability and expressive performance in real-world applications (Huang et al., 2025; Zhang et al., 2025a).

Although Deep Research Agents (DRAs) demonstrate strong task execution capabilities, the current benchmarking framework remains significantly outdated in both design philosophy and coverage scope. First, existing benchmarks predominantly target discrete short-text outputs, such as multiple-choice answers or brief phrases (Wei et al., 2024; Zhou et al., 2025; Ho et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2018), which, although conducive to efficient evaluation and automation, cannot be extended to complex report-style generation tasks and fail to reflect the demands of DRAs for logical inference and linguistic organization. Second, most benchmarks continue to assess isolated competencies, focusing primarily on reasoning or web search, without establishing systematic criteria for evaluating integrated performance. In particular, mechanisms for assessing citation authority, source validity, and semantic drift in long-form outputs remain absent. Mainstream evaluation methods rely either on string matching (Cohen et al., 2025; Monteiro et al., 2024), which fails to capture semantic adequacy, or on similarity scoring with LLMs as judges (Chen et al., 2025a; Pham et al., 2025), which lacks transparent and verifiable standards and is therefore prone to subjectivity and instability.

To address the limitations inherent in existing benchmarks and evaluation systems, our study proposes a rigorous benchmark, authored by human experts and specifically designed for DRAs, which targets high-difficulty and high-precision tasks with the goal of systematically assessing the overall performance in report-style long-text generation. On this basis, we develop a multidimensional evaluation framework that is intended to measure both the quality and the credibility of generated report-style responses. Our research yields three key contributions:

- (1) We introduce a rigorous benchmark paired with manually constructed reference bundles comprising query-specific and general-report rubrics, trustworthy source links, focus-anchor and focus-deviation keywords. Covering 214 challenging report-style entries across multiple domains, Rigorous Bench enables broad and granular characterization of DRA tasks, which addresses existing deficiencies in evaluation dimensions and response formats.
- (2) We develop a systematic and multidimensional evaluation framework for report-style outputs, which captures key processes of DRAs such as task reasoning, information retrieval, content synthesis, and structured articulation. By jointly modeling semantic quality, topical focus, and retrieval trustworthiness, our framework overcomes limitations of conventional methods and demonstrates high transferability to long-text generations beyond DRAs.
- (3) We conduct large-scale experiments involving five mainstream DRAs, one advanced agent model, and seven reasoning models enhanced with web-search tools. Quantitative results indicate that DRAs consistently outperform tool-augmented models in overall task execution and report generation quality, while revealing persistent limitations in architectural paradigms and behavioral mechanisms that warrant further refinement.

## 2 RELATED WORKS

### 2.1 DEEP RESEARCH AGENTS

Early LLMs, such as GPT-3 (Brown et al., 2020) and PaLM (Chowdhery et al., 2023), rely on static training corpora and closed parameter spaces, while their knowledge is entirely derived from the training phase and cannot be updated or supplemented during inference. To overcome the epistemic constraints of static language models, researchers have explored mechanisms for integrating LLMs with external tools, giving rise to the paradigm of Tool-Augmented LLMs, exemplified by GPT-4 (Achiam et al., 2023), Gemini 1.5 (Google, 2024), Claude 3 (Anthropic, 2024), Toolformer (Schick et al., 2023), and Qwen 1.5 Agent (Alibaba, 2024). These models leverage external interfaces such as web browsers and code environments to enable dynamic information acquisition and cross-modal perception, reflecting a shift from knowledge encapsulation toward tool-mediated cognition.

Beyond generative and inferential capabilities, DRAs integrate cognitive planning and information fusion to support end-to-end workflows for complex and open-ended tasks. Their functionality encompasses task recognition, multi-stage decomposition, heterogeneous retrieval, cross-source aggregation, and structured report generation, emphasizing system-level autonomy and procedural integrity. This paradigm is broadly applicable to academic research, policy analysis, technology evaluation, and market intelligence, while remaining applicable to daily-life scenarios for general users. Representative systems include open-source DRAs like Tongyi DeepResearch (Alibaba, 2025) and commercial platforms such as Grok Deep Search (xAI, 2025), Sonar Deep Research (Perplexity, 2025), and o3 Deep Research (OpenAI, 2025), which implement full-spectrum research pipelines. These systems exemplify a shift from static knowledge encapsulation to cognitively extended intelligence, advancing LLMs toward agentic architectures with strategic reasoning capabilities.

### 2.2 EXISTING BENCHMARKS

With the growing adoption of Tool-Augmented LLMs, both academia and industry have increasingly focused on their performance in web-search tasks. Existing benchmarks, including GAIA (Mialon et al., 2023), WebWalker (Wu et al., 2025), BrowseComp (Wei et al., 2025), WideSearch (Wong et al., 2025), BrowseComp-Plus (Chen et al., 2025b), and Deep Research Bench (Bosse et al., 2025), primarily evaluate LLMs using closed-form queries that require verifiable short answers to facilitate automated scoring and alignment. However, they lack coverage of key behaviors such as task decomposition, cross-source retrieval, and structured synthesis, and provide limited assessment of

108 content hierarchy, discourse structure, and information integration. [A rough comparison of existing benchmarks can be found in Appendix B.6](#). In addition, most rely on surface-level matching  
 109 or similarity metrics, such as Exact Match, BLEU (Papineni et al., 2002), ROUGE (Lin, 2004),  
 110 METEOR (Banerjee & Lavie, 2005), and BERTScore (Zhang et al., 2019), which struggle to cap-  
 111 ture semantic depth and structural fidelity, thereby limiting their effectiveness in evaluating the true  
 112 capabilities of DRAs.  
 113

114 Contemporaneous work has begun to explore evaluation methods tailored to report-style outputs.  
 115 DeepResearch Bench (Du et al., 2025) is the first to assess reference answers alignment and re-  
 116 trieval. However, it depends heavily on static reference reports, making it difficult to accommodate  
 117 evolving query expectations. Its automated rubrics lack contextual sensitivity and focus on generic  
 118 surface, failing to reflect human preferences for report quality and structure. Its retrieval evaluation  
 119 emphasizes consistency between statements and cited links but overlooks the credibility of sources.  
 120 Benchmarks such as ResearchQA (Yifei et al., 2025), DeepResearch Arena (Wan et al., 2025), and  
 121 ReportBench (Li et al., 2025) constructed 21K, 10K, and 0.6K academic tasks respectively. These  
 122 benchmarks also rely on automatically generated rubrics that exhibit limited stability and inter-  
 123 pretability, which undermines their reliability for high-precision judgment. Additionally, large-scale  
 124 benchmarks increase evaluation costs, reducing their practical utility for evaluating DRAs.  
 125

126 Overall, existing benchmarks fail to rigorously and comprehensively evaluate report-style long-form  
 127 outputs in alignment with human expectations. They lack precise rubrics and trustworthy references,  
 128 making it difficult to systematically characterize the full capabilities of DRAs.  
 129

### 3 RIGOROUS BENCH

#### 3.1 DOMAINS

131 The Rigorous Bench dataset was meticulously  
 132 constructed and repeatedly validated by human  
 133 experts, comprising 214 high-complexity en-  
 134 tries across diverse domains. It is designed to  
 135 challenge existing DRAs in task under-  
 136 standing, decomposition, execution, and aggrega-  
 137 tion. Based on semantic relevance, entries are  
 138 systematically categorized into ten broad do-  
 139 mains, with detailed distribution provided in  
 140 Figure 1 and Appendix B.1. The dataset ex-  
 141 hibits a high degree of professionalism and  
 142 diversity in its design, effectively simulating  
 143 complex and dynamic queries encountered in  
 144 real-world scenarios, and demonstrating broad  
 145 coverage and strong representativeness.  
 146

#### 3.2 COMPONENTS

147 Each entry consists of a query instruction paired with a reference bundle designed to sup-  
 148 port performance evaluation. The bundle comprises five core modules: Query-Specific Rubrics  
 149 (QSRs), General-Report Rubrics (GRRs), Trustworthy-Source Links (TSLs), Focus-Anchor Key-  
 150 words (FAKs), and Focus-Deviation Keywords (FDKs), each of which corresponds to a distinct  
 151 capability that a DRA is expected to demonstrate.  
 152

##### 3.2.1 QUERY

153 As the core input to DRAs, queries are designed to elicit structured long-form reports rather than  
 154 traditional short, discrete answers, while embodying diversity and representativeness by (1) cov-  
 155 ering topics from ancient history to contemporary events, including both long-term technological  
 156 evolution and short-term dynamic shifts; (2) encompassing major countries and regions, with sys-  
 157 tematically designed cross-regional comparative tasks; (3) involving diverse disciplines, with many  
 158 tasks intentionally designed for interdisciplinary integration; (4) entailing structured texts across  
 159 160 161

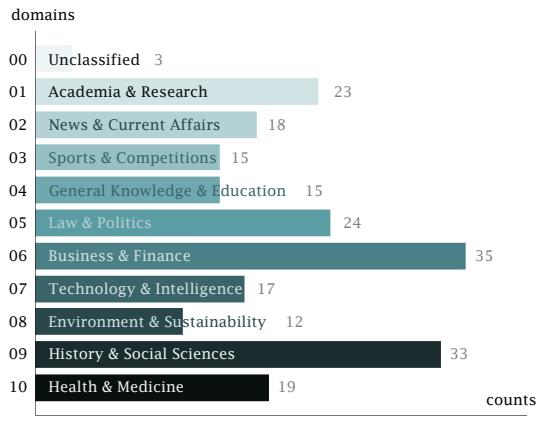


Figure 1: Distribution of benchmark entries.

162 various styles including academic writing, data-driven analysis, technical deconstruction, strategic  
 163 planning, policy evaluation, and event reconstruction; (5) incorporating multi-level causal chains  
 164 and cross-source information fusion; and (6) including both quantitative and qualitative analysis.

165 To enhance consistency and reproducibility, Rigorous Bench systematically incorporates spatiotem-  
 166 poral robustness into the design of queries and rubrics. For fact-based tasks, each query explicitly  
 167 defines temporal and geographic boundaries to mitigate external fluctuations in response content.  
 168 For open-ended tasks, rubrics emphasize logical structure and reasoning validity to ensure general-  
 169 ization and adaptability. All queries adopt the instruction “write a report/essay/...” to unify output  
 170 format and reinforce task orientation. Overall, the query design achieves a high degree of semantic  
 171 complexity, task diversity, and evaluative operability.

172

### 173 3.2.2 QUERY-SPECIFIC RUBRICS

174

175 QSRs are designed to evaluate the task completion quality. Each QSR is custom-built by experts  
 176 based on corresponding query, reflecting human expectations and evaluative preferences regarding  
 177 factual accuracy and logical validity. Scoring follows a clearly defined binary (Yes/No) or ternary  
 178 (Yes/Partial/No) scheme to ensure consistency and operational clarity. Each query is equipped with  
 179 at least 8 QSRs, with a total score of 30, assigned in accordance with task importance.

180 QSRs are deeply embedded within the semantic structure of each task, offering high alignment and  
 181 diagnostic precision. Their design spans core dimensions such as information coverage, mechanism  
 182 explanation, structured expression, semantic precision, source verification, evidence organization,  
 183 heterogeneity analysis, methodological transparency, temporal logic, and interdisciplinary integration.  
 184 [Appendix B.7 outlines the core dimensions of QSRs design together with their corresponding](#)  
 185 [descriptions](#). The QSRs provide both theoretical grounding and practical guidance for evaluating  
 186 DRAs performance, while also laying a structural foundation for future automated scoring systems.

187

### 188 3.2.3 GENERAL-REPORT RUBRICS

189

190 GRRs are designed to assess the quality of structured expression. Independent of specific queries,  
 191 GRRs evaluate reports from a general perspective using binary judgment across seven key dimen-  
 192 sions, namely structural organization, logical clarity & expression, informational coverage & content  
 193 depth, citation quality & source credibility, originality & insight, data usage & analytical rigor, and  
 194 formatting consistency.

195 GRRs constitute a necessary, objective, and universally applicable set of standards that delineate the  
 196 fundamental human expectations for report-style responses: a qualified report must not only accom-  
 197 plish the assigned task but also satisfy general quality requirements such as structural completeness,  
 198 logical coherence, and insightful argumentation. Comprising 48 rubrics with a total score of 73, the  
 199 design emphasizes generalizability, normative clarity, and expressive strength, thereby providing  
 200 a unified quality benchmark for performance evaluation across tasks and models, and establishing  
 201 a comprehensive evaluation framework grounded in the dual pillars of content and expression, as  
 202 outlined in Appendix B.2.

202

### 203 3.2.4 TRUSTWORTHY-SOURCE LINKS

204

205 TSLS serve as indicators of the trustworthiness of heterogeneous retrieval and cross-source aggrega-  
 206 tion. They are designated by experts in variable quantities, and consist of durable, stable, and reliable  
 207 website links that are authoritative, official, accessible, and contain original information necessary to  
 208 answer the query. Subjective or non-primary sources such as forums and blogs are excluded. Each  
 209 link is precisely anchored to the specific page containing the target information, ensuring accuracy,  
 210 verifiability, and confidence in information acquisition.

211 [To prevent TSLS expiration, we \(1\) defined stability and longevity requirements for queries and](#)  
 212 [TSLS during data construction, mandating that TSLS originate from authoritative, official, and](#)  
 213 [primary sources \(e.g., government or academic institutions\) that are reliably accessible and resistant to](#)  
 214 [change, thereby ensuring stability from the outset; \(2\) introduced hostname matching at the metric](#)  
 215 [mechanism to reduce dependence on specific pages, and incorporated hyperparameters in Trustwor-](#)  
 216 [thyBoost, enabling full-match stability to be adjusted across evaluation targets; and \(3\) established](#)

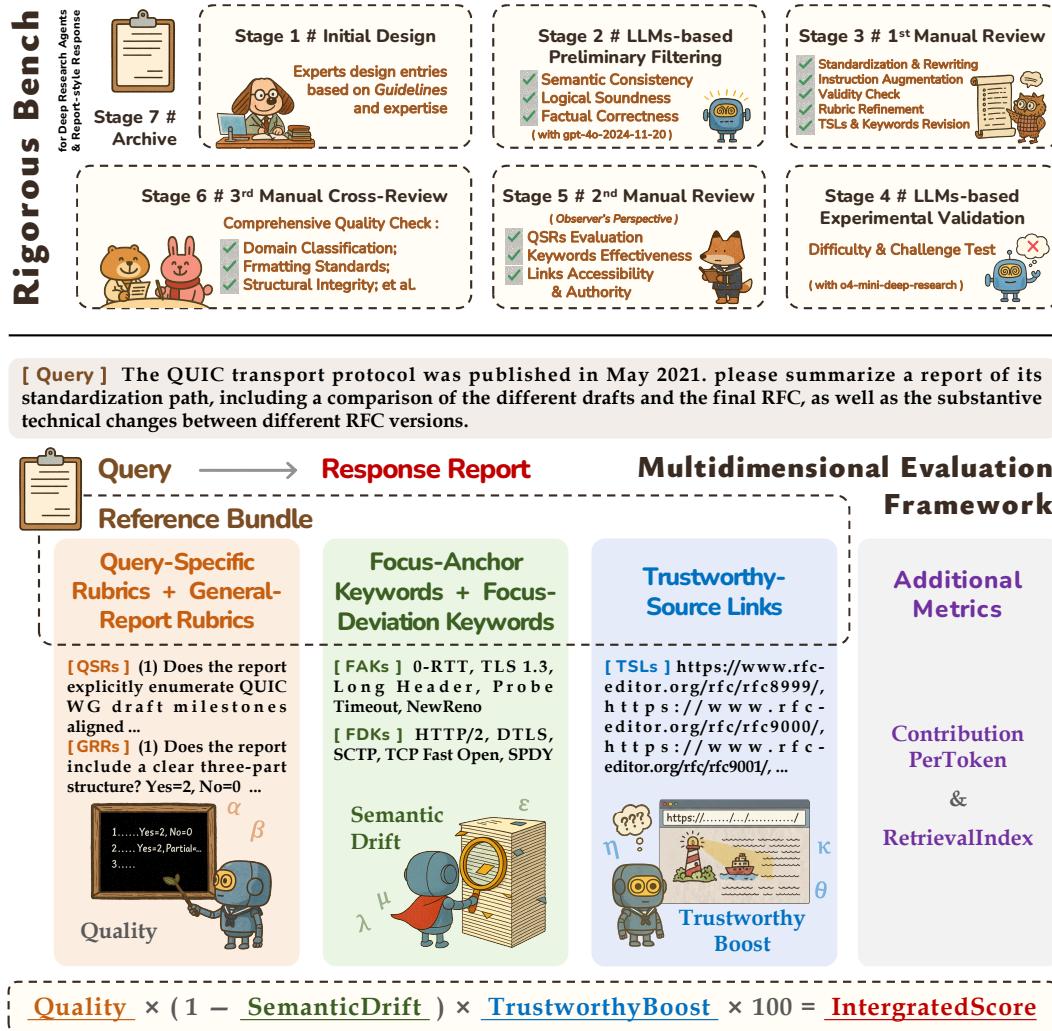


Figure 2: Pipeline for benchmark construction and overview of the evaluation framework.

long-term maintenance through regular link validity checks (e.g., quarterly) and the planned use of snapshots as permanent references.

### 3.2.5 FOCUS-ANCHOR KEYWORDS

FAKs are used to evaluate thematic focus during cross-source content aggregation. Each set of FAKs is specified by expert designers for the given query and consists of 5 semantically stable core terms, while avoiding superficial phrasing from the query itself. FAKs serve to assess the thematic focus and key point coverage of generated content, enabling effective evaluation in terms of semantic consistency and analytical depth.

### 3.2.6 FOCUS-DEVIATION KEYWORDS

FDKs are used to evaluate the degree of thematic drift. Each set consists of five terms that are prone to triggering topic divergence. Their presence typically indicates that the generated content has deviated from the original query focus, resulting in reduced semantic coherence and increased informational noise. In high-cost DRA processes, such deviations lead to unnecessary consumption of resources, ultimately compromising overall performance.

For example, when a query focuses on “men’s football matches”, the term “women” would divert the report off-topic. Similarly, when the query concerns the “electric vehicles”, references to “fuel cars”

270 or “motorcycles” are classified as FDK. During data construction, these terms were pre-annotated  
 271 by expert teams and validated through multiple rounds of cross-review to ensure their consistency  
 272 and appropriateness.  
 273

### 274 3.3 CONSTRUCTION PIPELINE 275

276 To ensure the difficulty, quality, and semantic validity, Rigorous Bench adopts a multi-stage review  
 277 pipeline for systematic verification and refinement of expert-generated entries. This process inte-  
 278 grates manual design, machine auditing, and cross-validation to establish a highly granular frame-  
 279 work for data generation and quality control, as illustrated in the upper half of Figure 2.

280 In the initial stage, experts design diverse data units based on the unified *Construction Guide* and  
 281 their own expertise within predefined domains. The units then undergo LLMs auditing to detect  
 282 semantic inconsistencies, logical errors, and factual inaccuracies. During the first round of manual  
 283 review, QSRs are verified for validity, with rubric criteria refined. For binary items with intermediate  
 284 cases, a clearly defined “Partial” option is introduced to enhance scoring granularity and consistency.  
 285 After preliminary filtering, queries and QSRs are standardized and rewritten to ensure stylistic and  
 286 structural correctness. TSLS and Keywords are also supplemented and revised at this stage. The  
 287 revised entries then undergo LLM-based difficulty testing, followed by the second round of manual  
 288 review, which focuses on evaluating QSRs from observers’ perspective and assessing the anchoring  
 289 effectiveness of keywords. Each link is individually verified for accessibility and authority. The  
 290 third round of cross-review conducts a comprehensive quality check, covering domain classification,  
 291 formatting standards, and structural integrity. Examples of entries can be found in Appendix B.3.

292 This multi-phase mechanism significantly improves accuracy, consistency, and reproducibility,  
 293 while also reducing subjective bias and annotation errors, providing a robust foundation for model  
 294 evaluation.

## 295 4 EVALUATION FRAMEWORK 296

298 Built on semantic quality, topical focus, and retrieval trustworthiness, a structured and multidimen-  
 299 sional evaluation framework is proposed for report-style generation tasks, featuring an integrated  
 300 scoring system inspired by principles from statistics and operations. It prioritizes transparency, in-  
 301 terpretability, and practical utility for robust evaluation of complex tasks, as illustrated in Figure 2.

### 303 4.1 SEMANTIC QUALITY

305 Semantic quality evaluates the overall performance of response reports in terms of task completion  
 306 and general quality. It integrates scores from both QSRs and GRRs. Drawing on the Weighted  
 307 Average Method (WAM) from Multi-Attribute Decision Making (MADM), the metric applies ratio  
 308 normalization to both scores and assigns weighting coefficients  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , where  $\alpha + \beta = 1$ , to  
 309 construct a fused model of multidimensional quality signals. The calculation formula is as follows:

$$310 \quad \text{Quality} = \alpha \cdot \mathcal{N}_{\text{Ratio}} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^N \text{QSR}_{\text{score}}^{(i)} \right] + \beta \cdot \mathcal{N}_{\text{Ratio}} \left[ \sum_{j=1}^M \text{GRR}_{\text{score}}^{(j)} \right] \in [0, 1]$$

314 where  $\text{QSR}_{\text{score}}^{(i)}$  denotes the  $i$ -th QSR score;  $\text{GRR}_{\text{score}}^{(j)}$  refers to the  $j$ -th GRR score;  $N$  and  $M$   
 315 represent the number of QSRs and GRRs respectively;  $\mathcal{N}_{\text{Ratio}}[\cdot] = \cdot / \sum_i \text{FullScore}(r_i)$  denotes  
 316 the ratio normalization;  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  are weighting parameters reflecting the relative importance in the  
 317 overall quality assessment.

### 318 4.2 TOPICAL FOCUS 319

320 Topical focus is evaluated through the SemanticDrift metric, which jointly considers the absence of  
 321 FAKs and the misuse of FDKs to measure the degree of thematic deviation in response reports.

322 FAK<sub>Drift</sub> quantifies the omission of core keywords. The frequency of each keyword in the report  
 323 is scaled by its expected value  $\epsilon$ , and a minimum function is introduced to implement a threshold

control. A FAK is penalized when its frequency falls below  $\epsilon$ , thereby enforcing the requirement for substantive keyword presence and ensuring that the score reflects semantic completeness rather than accidental occurrence. Drawing on the  $\text{TF} \times \text{IDF}$  paradigm from information retrieval,  $\text{FAK}_{\text{Drift}}$  is constructed as the product of frequency component and semantic relevance, which is defined as:

$$\text{FAK}_{\text{Drift}} = 1 - \frac{1}{K} \sum_{k=1}^K \left[ \min \left( \frac{\text{freq}^{(k)}}{\epsilon_+}, 1 \right) \times \mathcal{N}_{\text{Ratio}}(\text{rele}^{(k)}) \right] \in [0, 1]$$

where  $\text{freq}^{(k)}$  is frequency of the  $k$ -th FAK;  $\text{rele}^{(k)} \in [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]$  is the semantic relevance assessed by LLMs;  $K$  represents the number of FAKs;  $\epsilon_+$  is the expectation scaling factor. A higher  $\text{FAK}_{\text{Drift}}$  value indicates weaker thematic focus and insufficient coverage of core concepts in the report. Similarly,  $\text{FDK}_{\text{Drift}}$ , which quantifies the intensity of thematic distraction, is defined as follows:

$$\text{FDK}_{\text{Drift}} = \frac{1}{L} \sum_{l=1}^L \left[ \min \left( \frac{\text{freq}^{(l)}}{\epsilon_-}, 1 \right) \times \mathcal{N}_{\text{Ratio}}(\text{rele}^{(l)}) \right] \in [0, 1]$$

where  $\text{freq}^{(l)}$  is frequency of the  $l$ -th FDK;  $\text{rele}^{(l)} \in [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]$  is the relevance score;  $L$  represents the number of FDKs;  $\epsilon_-$  is the scaling factor. A higher  $\text{FDK}_{\text{Drift}}$  indicates stronger thematic deviation. The SemanticDrift is computed as a weighted combination of  $\text{FAK}_{\text{Drift}}$  and  $\text{FDK}_{\text{Drift}}$ :

$$\text{SemanticDrift} = \lambda \cdot \text{FAK}_{\text{Drift}} + \mu \cdot \text{FDK}_{\text{Drift}} \in [0, 1]$$

where  $\lambda + \mu = 1$ , reflecting the relative importance. SemanticDrift reflects the degree of thematic deviation in the generated report, with higher values indicating weaker alignment to the intended topic and lower values suggesting stronger semantic focus and consistency.

### 4.3 RETRIEVAL TRUSTWORTHINESS

Retrieval Trustworthiness evaluates the credibility of external information retrieval and usage in response reports. Modeling based on the hit rate of TSLs and using confidence enhancement mechanism inspired by multiplicative fusion in Bayesian updating, this approach transforms match rates into multiplicative scoring factors to increase the evaluative weight of citation quality. Specifically, matches is categorized into full matches and hostname matches, where  $\text{Rate}_{\text{full hit}}$  serves as a recall-like metric capturing the precise coverage of provided TSLs, and  $\text{Rate}_{\text{host hit}}$  reflects the proportion of generalized mentions whose annotation links share the same source domains as the recommended references. These two are assigned different weights and combined to compute the Trustworthy-Boost factor as follows:

$$\text{TrustworthyBoost} = 1 + \eta \cdot \left[ \theta \cdot \underbrace{\left( \frac{\text{match}_{\text{full}}}{S} \right)}_{\text{Rate}_{\text{full hit}}} + \kappa \cdot \underbrace{\left( \frac{\text{match}_{\text{host}}}{T + 1} \right)}_{\text{Rate}_{\text{host hit}}} \right] \in [1, 1 + \eta]$$

where  $\text{match}_{\text{full}}$  indicates the number that have been exactly matched in TSLs;  $\text{match}_{\text{host}}$  refers to the number of annotation links sharing the same hostname as the TSLs;  $S$  and  $T$  denote the sizes of the TSLs and the annotations respectively;  $\theta$  and  $\kappa$  represent the weights for full and hostname matches respectively, with  $\theta + \kappa = 1$ . The coefficient  $\eta = 0.2$  controls the magnitude of the confidence boost, thereby preventing excessive inflation due to high confidence and avoiding complete nullification when confidence is low. This mechanism preserves scoring stability while enhancing evaluative sensitivity to verifiability and source reliability, thereby improving the responsiveness to external evidence signals.

### 4.4 INTEGRATED SCORING FRAMEWORK

The integrated scoring metric adopts a multiplicative weighting model to enable multidimensional evaluation of report-style generation tasks. The calculation formula is defined as:

$$\text{IntegratedScore} = \text{Quality} \times (1 - \text{SemanticDrift}) \times \text{TrustworthyBoost} \times 100 \in [0, 120]$$

378 Here, Quality assesses the  
 379 structural integrity and content  
 380 quality of the report, SemanticDrift reflects the  
 381 degree of thematic deviation and is transformed into  
 382 a positive scoring factor via  $1 - \text{SemanticDrift}$ , and  
 383 TrustworthyBoost enhances the credibility weight based  
 384 on authoritative link coverage. This design logic  
 385 penalizes semantic drift and rewards external support,  
 386 producing a normalized score on a 100-point scale.  
 387

388 As shown in Algorithm 1,  
 389 the framework addresses  
 390 limitations in traditional  
 391 evaluation methods when  
 392 applied to DRAs. It offers  
 393 strong scalability and trans-  
 394 ferability, making it broadly  
 395 applicable to performance  
 396 assessment of structured  
 397 long-text generation tasks,  
 398 particularly those involving  
 399 tool-augmented systems.  
 400

#### 401 4.5 ADDITIONAL METRICS

402 To enable a more comprehensive assessment of DRAs ability, we design a set of supplementary  
 403 metrics based on accessible response metadata to characterize model performance and efficiency in  
 404 real-world execution, including token consumption, number of reasoning steps, and the volume of  
 405 links involved during retrieval.

$$406 \text{ContributionPerToken} = \frac{\text{IntegratedScore}}{\text{token}_{\text{total}} - \text{token}_{\text{input}}}$$

407 To evaluate cost-effectiveness under limited resources, the Contribution/Token metric evaluates  
 408 model efficiency based on actual token expenditure in reasoning and generation, effectively mea-  
 409 suring the information density per token. When long texts maintain high information density, effi-  
 410 ciency scores can be high; they are truly lowered only when the text contains substantial redundancy  
 411 or off-topic content, which is precisely what we aim to detect. This metric is designed to encourage  
 412 models to produce efficient long-form outputs.

$$413 \text{RetrievalIndex} = \frac{\text{num}_{\text{annotated}}}{\text{num}_{\text{retrieved}} + 1} \in [0, 1]$$

414 RetrievalIndex evaluates the filtering and aggregation capability of DRAs during the retrieval pro-  
 415 cess. It is defined as the ratio between the number of annotations ultimately adopted in the report  
 416 and the total number of links retrieved during the search phase, reflecting the model’s ability to  
 417 effectively distill valuable content from large-scale information. A lower index indicates stronger  
 418 selectivity and aggregation, suggesting that the DRA can extract more relevant and informative con-  
 419 tent from redundant sources, thereby enhancing the specificity and density of the generated output.

---

#### Algorithm 1 Multidimensional Evaluation Framework

---

```

1: for entry in entries do
2:   Extract query, QSRs, GRRs, TSLs, FAKs, FDKs
3:   Extract report, annotations, token_usage
4:   # Semantic Quality
5:    $\text{QSR}_{\text{scores}} \leftarrow \sum \text{QSR}_{\text{score}}$  from LLM-Judger over QSRs
6:    $\text{GRR}_{\text{scores}} \leftarrow \sum \text{GRR}_{\text{score}}$  from LLM-Judger over GRRs
7:    $\text{Quality} \leftarrow \alpha \cdot \mathcal{N}_{\text{Ratio}}(\text{QSR}_{\text{scores}}) + \beta \cdot \mathcal{N}_{\text{Ratio}}(\text{GRR}_{\text{scores}})$ 
8:   # Retrieval Trustworthiness
9:    $\text{Rate}_{\text{full hit}} \leftarrow \text{Match}_{\text{full}} / |\text{TSLs}|$ 
10:   $\text{Rate}_{\text{host hit}} \leftarrow (\text{Match}_{\text{host}} - \text{Match}_{\text{full}}) / |\text{annotations} + 1|$ 
11:   $\text{TrustworthyBoost} \leftarrow 1 + \eta \cdot (\theta \cdot \text{Rate}_{\text{full hit}} + \kappa \cdot \text{Rate}_{\text{host hit}})$ 
12:  # Topical Focus
13:  for FAK in FAKs do
14:    relevance  $\leftarrow$  LLM-Judger(FAK, report)
15:    frequency  $\leftarrow$  count of FAK in report
16:     $\text{FAK}_{\text{score}} \leftarrow \min(\text{frequency}/\epsilon_+, 1) \cdot \mathcal{N}_{\text{Ratio}}(\text{relevance})$ 
17:  end for
18:   $\text{FAK}_{\text{Drift}} \leftarrow 1 - \sum \text{FAK}_{\text{score}} / |\text{FAKs}|$ 
19:  Perform same procedure for FDKs to compute  $\text{FDK}_{\text{Drift}}$ 
20:   $\text{SemanticDrift} \leftarrow \lambda \cdot \text{FAK}_{\text{Drift}} + \mu \cdot \text{FDK}_{\text{Drift}}$ 
21:  # Integrated Scoring Framework
22:   $\text{InteScore} \leftarrow \text{Quality} \cdot (1 - \text{SDrift}) \cdot \text{TBoost} \cdot 100$ 
23:   $\text{ContriPerToken} \leftarrow \text{InteScore} / (\text{token}_{\text{total}} - \text{token}_{\text{input}})$ 
24: end for
25: # Aggregate Metrics
26:  $\text{InteScore} \leftarrow \text{average of InteScore over entries}$ 
27:  $\text{ContriPerToken} \leftarrow \text{average of ContriPerToken over entries}$ 

```

---

432 **5 EXPERIMENTS**

433

434 **5.1 OVERVIEW**

435

436 We evaluated a total of thirteen models under Rigorous Benchmark, including five  
 437 DRAs ( $\circ 3$ -deep-research-2025-06-26, qwen-deep-research, sonar-deep-  
 438 research, grok-4-0709-search, and  $\circ 4$ -mini-deep-research-2025-06-26), one  
 439 advanced agent (kimi-k2-0905-preview), and seven web-search-tool-enhanced reasoning  
 440 models (gemini-2.5-pro, gpt-5-2025-08-07, gpt-4o-search-preview-2025-  
 441 03-11, gpt-4.1-2025-04-14, claude-opus-4-1-20250805, claude-sonnet-4-  
 442 20250514, and claude-3-7-sonnet-20250219).

443 To eliminate the randomness, all models with adjustable temperature were evaluated at  
 444 temperature = 0.0. For non-DRA models without embedded annotations, reports were merged  
 445 with annotations during evaluation. gpt-4o-2024-11-20 independently scored each rubric to  
 446 evaluate semantic quality. Topical focus was assessed on pure report text without annotations to  
 447 avoid interference from annotation titles. Related prompts are provided in Appendix B.4. Retrieval  
 448 Trustworthiness was computed from pure annotations, excluding parameters, anchors, and dupli-  
 449 cates to ensure fair matching. Manual verification was randomly conducted on approximately 35%  
 450 of the scores judged by LLMs, yielding a 99.3% agreement with human evaluations.

451 Regarding parameters,  $\alpha = \beta = 0.5$  were set to balance task completion and general quality;  $\lambda =$   
 452 0.7 and  $\mu = 0.3$  were configured to emphasize sensitivity to the omission of FAKs; coefficient was  
 453 set to  $\eta = 0.2$  to control score inflation and prevent over-amplification;  $\theta = 0.7$  and  $\kappa = 0.3$  were set  
 454 for the contributions of exact citations and generalized mentions. This configuration ensures scoring  
 455 stability while enhancing sensitivity to semantic relevance, citation accuracy, and task fidelity.

456

457 **5.2 LEADERBOARD**

458

459 Table 1: Results with the **highest score** in bold and the second-highest underlined per column.

460

461 <b>Models</b>	462 <b>Quality</b>	463 <b>1-SDrift</b>	464 <b>TBoost</b>	465 <b>InteScore</b>	466 <b>Usage</b>	467 <b>C/Token</b>
Qwen-deep-research	0.6348	0.5248	1.0288	<b>34.6480</b>	9258	0.0100
Sonar-deep-research	0.6184	<b>0.5271</b>	1.0238	<u>33.4668</u>	8254	0.0043
$\circ 3$ -deep-research-2025-06-26	0.6176	0.5184	1.0171	32.9004	<b>25038</b>	0.0014
Kimi-K2-0905-preview	<b>0.6707</b>	0.4671	1.0153	32.0651	2079	<u>0.0164</u>
Grok-4-0709-search	0.6130	0.4890	1.0283	31.3490	3012	0.0112
Gemini-2.5-pro	0.5506	0.4856	1.0130	27.3364	5446	0.0072
$\circ 4$ -mini-deep-research-2025-06-26	0.5666	0.4803	1.0203	28.0391	<u>18640</u>	0.0016
GPT-5-2025-08-07	0.5560	0.4593	<b>1.0383</b>	27.3312	7006	0.0045
GPT-4o-search-preview-2025-03-11	0.4945	0.4496	1.0073	22.5645	1005	<b>0.0247</b>
GPT-4.1-2025-04-14	0.4762	0.4694	1.0027	22.4382	1252	0.0194
Claude-opus-4-1-20250805	0.4559	0.4674	1.0202	22.0047	2267	0.0101
Claude-sonnet-4-20250514	0.4491	0.4735	1.0184	21.7235	2267	0.0097
Claude-3-7-sonnet-20250219	0.3996	0.4737	1.0148	19.3415	2327	0.0084

475 Table 1 and Appendix B.5 presents the leaderboard results, with models ranked in descending order  
 476 of IntegratedScore. In terms of IntegratedScore, Qwen ranked first, demonstrating strong perfor-  
 477 mance across all dimensions. Sonar followed closely, achieving the highest score in topical focus.  
 478 Notably, Kimi-K2, a Mixture-of-Experts architecture agent with 1T parameters, attained the high-  
 479 est score in the quality, outperforming all DRAs. For topical focus, Sonar, Qwen, and  $\circ 3$  formed  
 480 the leading cluster. GPT-5 achieved the highest score in citation reliability, indicating strong exter-  
 481 nal support alignment. In terms of resource consumption,  $\circ 3$  and  $\circ 4$ -mini averaged 23K and 18K  
 482 tokens per report respectively, placing them lowest in contribution efficiency.

483 Overall, DRAs exhibited stable semantic quality and control in structured report generation, while  
 484 web-search-tool-augmented models showed promise in external support and efficiency. These re-  
 485 sults validate the Rigorous Bench’s ability to differentiate model capabilities across multiple dimen-  
 486 sions, providing a robust empirical foundation for future optimization of DRAs.

486 Figures 8 and 9 summarize the role of Quality scores and cross-domain performance in the overall  
 487 IntegratedScore. While Kimi-K2 achieves a strong Quality score, its relative weaknesses in credi-  
 488 bility and attention reduce the impact of this advantage, whereas models such as Qwen, Sonar,  
 489 and o3 exhibit a more balanced interplay between Quality and multiplicative factors, yielding  
 490 stronger integrated performance. Across domains, all top models perform notably well in domain  
 491 03 (Sports & Competitions) and domain 10 (Health & Medicine), while maintaining  
 492 relatively balanced results elsewhere. In Quality, Kimi-K2 leads, followed by Qwen and Sonar;  
 493 however, in SemanticDrift and TrustworthyBoost, Kimi-K2 shows clear disadvantages, whereas  
 494 the others remain comparatively consistent. Detailed analysis is provided in Appendix B.5.

### 495 5.3 SUPPLEMENTARY DIMENSIONS

496 Additionally, four OpenAI models yielded richer response metadata, revealing strategic differences  
 497 in task execution and tool usage beyond the three core dimensions, and offering valuable supplement  
 498 into multidimensional evaluation.

500 As shown in Table 2, GPT-4.1 showed minimal  
 501 retrieval activity, with an average of  
 502 only 0.39 times. In contrast, both o4-mini  
 503 and o3 displayed intensive inference and re-  
 504 trieval patterns, suggesting more complex  
 505 reasoning chains and information acquisi-  
 506 tion strategies. In terms of retrieval effi-  
 507 ciency, o3 slightly exceeded o4-mini in  
 508 total retrieved links and annotations, while  
 509 o4-mini achieved marginally higher Re-  
 510 trievalIndex, reflecting stronger filtering and  
 511 citation precision, as shown in Table 3.

## 512 6 DISCUSSIONS

513 Two systemic limitations emerged during evaluation that underscore key challenges in the design of  
 514 DRAs. First, instability in invocation behavior was observed in models such as o3 and o4-mini,  
 515 which exhibited substantial variance in reasoning time across repeated queries. This suggests a  
 516 lack of internal constraints governing search frequency and direction, resulting in non-convergent  
 517 retrieval paths and inconsistent response behavior. Second, semantic decomposition occasionally  
 518 produced sub-queries in non-English languages with incoherent semantics, despite all tasks being  
 519 in English. These outputs were misaligned with task intent and unintelligible to human evaluators,  
 520 thereby impairing retrieval precision and relevance.

521 These limitations reflect two fundamental trade-offs in DRAs development. The efficiency-quality  
 522 trade-off highlights the tension between high-quality reasoning and computational cost, with current  
 523 models often incurring excessive token usage and latency. Addressing this requires adaptive con-  
 524 trol over search depth and token allocation. Meanwhile, the decomposition-coherence trade-off  
 525 reveals that while modular query breakdown enhances coverage, it risks semantic fragmentation and  
 526 intent drift. Future architectures must reconcile decomposition benefits with coherent multi-stage  
 527 reasoning to ensure consistent task fidelity.

## 530 7 CONCLUSIONS

531 In this paper, we present the Rigorous Bench and the multidimensional evaluation framework that  
 532 systematically assesses the performance and capabilities of DRAs. By leveraging challenging  
 533 queries across diverse thematic domains and high-quality reference bundles, our framework en-  
 534 ables rigorous evaluation of report-style outputs along axes of semantic quality, topical focus, and  
 535 retrieval trustworthiness. Empirical results show that contemporary DRAs substantially outperform  
 536 conventional tool-augmented models in complex task scenarios, while also exposing key limitations  
 537 and trade-offs. These insights elucidate current challenges in DRA design and provide a foundation  
 538 for the development of DRAs as efficient, stable, and interpretable intelligent agents.

539 Table 2: Average inference and retrieval times.

Models	ReasonTimes	SearchTimes
GPT-4.1	<i>Unavailable</i>	0.3925
GPT-5	12.9346	10.6729
o3-dr	55.4333	16.1000
o4-mini-dr	63.9860	26.5093

Table 3: RetrievalIndex of o3 and o4-mini.

Models	num <sub>retr</sub>	num <sub>anno</sub>	RIndex
o4-mini-dr	14.4583	7.7986	0.5520
o3-dr	15.2744	8.7561	0.5804

540 ETHICS STATEMENT  
541542 This study does not involve human subjects, sensitive data, or potentially harmful methodolo-  
543 gies. The benchmark construction and evaluation framework adhere to principles of fairness, trans-  
544 parency, and reproducibility. We have reviewed the ICLR Code of Ethics and confirm that our work  
545 complies with its guidelines in all aspects.  
546547 REPRODUCIBILITY STATEMENT  
548549 We affirm our commitment to the reproducibility of this research. The main text outlines the ex-  
550 perimental setup in detail, including the specific model versions and evaluation parameters. The  
551 benchmark and associated codebase will be made publicly available upon publication to facilitate  
552 independent verification and further study.  
553554 REFERENCES  
555556 Josh Achiam, Steven Adler, Sandhini Agarwal, Lama Ahmad, Ilge Akkaya, Florencia Leoni Ale-  
557 man, Diogo Almeida, Janko Altenschmidt, Sam Altman, Shyamal Anadkat, et al. Gpt-4 technical  
558 report. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2303.08774*, 2023.559 Alibaba. Qwen agent, 2024. [https://github.com/QwenLM/Qwen-Agent?tab=](https://github.com/QwenLM/Qwen-Agent?tab=readme-ov-file/)  
560 [readme-ov-file/](#).562 Alibaba. Tongyi deepresearch. <https://github.com/Alibaba-NLP/DeepResearch>,  
563 2025.564 Anthropic. Claude 3, 2024. <https://www.anthropic.com/news/claude-3-family/>.566 Satanjeev Banerjee and Alon Lavie. Meteor: An automatic metric for mt evaluation with improved  
567 correlation with human judgments. In *Proceedings of the acl workshop on intrinsic and extrinsic*  
568 *evaluation measures for machine translation and/or summarization*, pp. 65–72, 2005.569 Nikos I Bosse, Jon Evans, Robert G Gambee, Daniel Hnyk, Peter Mühlbacher, Lawrence Phillips,  
570 Dan Schwarz, Jack Wildman, et al. Deep research bench: Evaluating ai web research agents.  
571 *arXiv preprint arXiv:2506.06287*, 2025.573 Tom Brown, Benjamin Mann, Nick Ryder, Melanie Subbiah, Jared D Kaplan, Prafulla Dhariwal,  
574 Arvind Neelakantan, Pranav Shyam, Girish Sastry, Amanda Askell, et al. Language models are  
575 few-shot learners. *Advances in neural information processing systems*, 33:1877–1901, 2020.576 Kaiyuan Chen, Yixin Ren, Yang Liu, Xiaobo Hu, Haotong Tian, Tianbao Xie, Fangfu Liu, Haoye  
577 Zhang, Hongzhang Liu, Yuan Gong, et al. xbench: Tracking agents productivity scaling with  
578 profession-aligned real-world evaluations. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2506.13651*, 2025a.580 Zijian Chen, Xueguang Ma, Shengyao Zhuang, Ping Nie, Kai Zou, Andrew Liu, Joshua Green,  
581 Kshama Patel, Ruoxi Meng, Mingyi Su, et al. Browsecomp-plus: A more fair and transparent  
582 evaluation benchmark of deep-research agent. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2508.06600*, 2025b.583 Aakanksha Chowdhery, Sharan Narang, Jacob Devlin, Maarten Bosma, Gaurav Mishra, Adam  
584 Roberts, Paul Barham, Hyung Won Chung, Charles Sutton, Sebastian Gehrmann, et al. Palm:  
585 Scaling language modeling with pathways. *Journal of Machine Learning Research*, 24(240):  
586 1–113, 2023.588 Dvir Cohen, Lin Burg, Sviatoslav Pykhnivskyi, Hagit Gur, Stanislav Kovynov, Olga Atzmon, and  
589 Gilad Barkan. Wixqa: A multi-dataset benchmark for enterprise retrieval-augmented generation.  
590 *arXiv preprint arXiv:2505.08643*, 2025.591 Mingxuan Du, Benfeng Xu, Chiwei Zhu, Xiaorui Wang, and Zhendong Mao. Deepresearch bench:  
592 A comprehensive benchmark for deep research agents. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2506.11763*, 2025.593 Google. Gemini 1.5, 2024. <https://deepmind.google/models/gemini/>.

594 Xanh Ho, Anh-Khoa Duong Nguyen, Saku Sugawara, and Akiko Aizawa. Constructing a multi-hop  
 595 qa dataset for comprehensive evaluation of reasoning steps. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2011.01060*,  
 596 2020.

597 Yuxuan Huang, Yihang Chen, Haozheng Zhang, Kang Li, Meng Fang, Linyi Yang, Xiaoguang Li,  
 598 Lifeng Shang, Songcen Xu, Jianye Hao, et al. Deep research agents: A systematic examination  
 599 and roadmap. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2506.18096*, 2025.

600 Minghao Li, Ying Zeng, Zhihao Cheng, Cong Ma, and Kai Jia. Reportbench: Evaluating deep  
 601 research agents via academic survey tasks. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2508.15804*, 2025.

602 Chin-Yew Lin. Rouge: A package for automatic evaluation of summaries. In *Text summarization  
 603 branches out*, pp. 74–81, 2004.

604 Grégoire Mialon, Clémentine Fourrier, Thomas Wolf, Yann LeCun, and Thomas Scialom. Gaia:  
 605 a benchmark for general ai assistants. In *The Twelfth International Conference on Learning  
 606 Representations*, 2023.

607 Joao Monteiro, Pierre-Andre Noel, Etienne Marcotte, Sai Rajeswar, Valentina Zantedeschi, David  
 608 Vazquez, Nicolas Chapados, Christopher Pal, and Perouz Taslakian. Replqa: A question-  
 609 answering dataset for benchmarking llms on unseen reference content. *Advances in Neural Infor-  
 610 mation Processing Systems*, 37:24242–24276, 2024.

611 OpenAI. Openai deep research, 2025. <https://openai.com/zh-Hans-CN/index/introducing-deep-research/>.

612 Kishore Papineni, Salim Roukos, Todd Ward, and Wei-Jing Zhu. Bleu: a method for automatic  
 613 evaluation of machine translation. In *Proceedings of the 40th annual meeting of the Association  
 614 for Computational Linguistics*, pp. 311–318, 2002.

615 Perplexity. Sonar deep research, 2025. <https://sonar.perplexity.ai/>.

616 Thinh Pham, Nguyen Nguyen, Pratibha Zunjare, Weiyuan Chen, Yu-Min Tseng, and Tu Vu.  
 617 Sealqa: Raising the bar for reasoning in search-augmented language models. *arXiv preprint  
 618 arXiv:2506.01062*, 2025.

619 Timo Schick, Jane Dwivedi-Yu, Roberto Dessimoni, Roberta Raileanu, Maria Lomeli, Eric Hambro,  
 620 Luke Zettlemoyer, Nicola Cancedda, and Thomas Scialom. Toolformer: Language models can  
 621 teach themselves to use tools. *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, 36:68539–  
 622 68551, 2023.

623 Haiyuan Wan, Chen Yang, Junchi Yu, Meiqi Tu, Jiaxuan Lu, Di Yu, Jianbao Cao, Ben Gao, Jiaqing  
 624 Xie, Aoran Wang, et al. Deepresearch arena: The first exam of llms’ research abilities via seminar-  
 625 grounded tasks. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2509.01396*, 2025.

626 Lei Wang, Chen Ma, Xueyang Feng, Zeyu Zhang, Hao Yang, Jingsen Zhang, Zhiyuan Chen, Jiakai  
 627 Tang, Xu Chen, Yankai Lin, et al. A survey on large language model based autonomous agents.  
 628 *Frontiers of Computer Science*, 18(6):186345, 2024.

629 Jason Wei, Nguyen Karina, Hyung Won Chung, Yunxin Joy Jiao, Spencer Papay, Amelia Glaese,  
 630 John Schulman, and William Fedus. Measuring short-form factuality in large language models.  
 631 *arXiv preprint arXiv:2411.04368*, 2024.

632 Jason Wei, Zhiqing Sun, Spencer Papay, Scott McKinney, Jeffrey Han, Isa Fulford, Hyung Won  
 633 Chung, Alex Tachard Passos, William Fedus, and Amelia Glaese. Browsecmp: A simple yet  
 634 challenging benchmark for browsing agents. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2504.12516*, 2025.

635 Ryan Wong, Jiawei Wang, Junjie Zhao, Li Chen, Yan Gao, Long Zhang, Xuan Zhou, Zuo Wang, Kai  
 636 Xiang, Ge Zhang, et al. Widesearch: Benchmarking agentic broad info-seeking. *arXiv preprint  
 637 arXiv:2508.07999*, 2025.

638 Jialong Wu, Wenbiao Yin, Yong Jiang, Zhenglin Wang, Zekun Xi, Runnan Fang, Linhai Zhang,  
 639 Yulan He, Deyu Zhou, Pengjun Xie, et al. Webwalker: Benchmarking llms in web traversal.  
 640 *arXiv preprint arXiv:2501.07572*, 2025.

648 xAI. Grok 4 model card, 2025. [https://data.x.ai/2025-09-19-grok-4-fast-model-card.pdf/](https://data.x.ai/2025-09-19-grok-4-fast-model-card.pdf).

649

650

651 Renjun Xu and Jingwen Peng. A comprehensive survey of deep research: Systems, methodologies, 652 and applications. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2506.12594*, 2025.

653

654 Zhilin Yang, Peng Qi, Saizheng Zhang, Yoshua Bengio, William W Cohen, Ruslan Salakhutdinov, 655 and Christopher D Manning. Hotpotqa: A dataset for diverse, explainable multi-hop question 656 answering. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1809.09600*, 2018.

657

658 Li S Yifei, Allen Chang, Chaitanya Malaviya, and Mark Yatskar. Researchqa: Evaluating scholarly 659 question answering at scale across 75 fields with survey-mined questions and rubrics. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2509.00496*, 2025.

660

661 Tianyi Zhang, Varsha Kishore, Felix Wu, Kilian Q Weinberger, and Yoav Artzi. Bertscore: Evaluating 662 text generation with bert. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1904.09675*, 2019.

663

664 Weizhi Zhang, Yangning Li, Yuanchen Bei, Junyu Luo, Guancheng Wan, Liangwei Yang, Chenxuan Xie, Yuyao Yang, Wei-Chieh Huang, Chunyu Miao, et al. From web search towards agentic deep 665 research: Incentivizing search with reasoning agents. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2506.18959*, 2025a.

666

667 Wenlin Zhang, Xiaopeng Li, Yingyi Zhang, Pengyue Jia, Yichao Wang, Huifeng Guo, Yong Liu, 668 and Xiangyu Zhao. Deep research: A survey of autonomous research agents. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2508.12752*, 2025b.

669

670 Junting Zhou, Wang Li, Yiyan Liao, Nengyuan Zhang, Tingjia Miao and Zhihui Qi, Yuhan Wu, and 671 Tong Yang. Academicbrowse: Benchmarking academic browse ability of llms. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2506.13784*, 2025.

672

673

## 674 A USAGE STATEMENT OF LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS

675 Large language models were used solely to aid or polish writing. They did not contribute to research 676 ideation, experimental design, or substantive content generation. All conceptual and analytical work 677 was conducted by the authors.

## 680 B APPENDIX

### 682 B.1 TAXONOMY OF DOMAINS

684 Figure 3 and Table 4 present the domain 685 taxonomy underlying the benchmark corpus. 686 The classification scheme comprises ten 687 principal domains, delineated according to the- 688 matic relevance: Academia & Research, 689 News & Current Affairs, Sports & 690 Competitions, Commonsense & Education, 691 Law & Politics, Business & Finance, 692 Technology Intelligence, Environment & 693 Sustainability, History & Social Sciences, 694 and Health & Medicine. Entries that do not 695 align with the predefined domains are assigned 696 to the residual class Unclassified, in order to 697 preserve high-quality data while maintaining diversity.

698 It is evident that Business & Finance 699 and History & Social Sciences ac- 700 count for a relatively larger proportion of the 701 benchmark. Nevertheless, the overall distribution 702 remains broadly balanced, exhibiting both thematic richness and representational breadth.

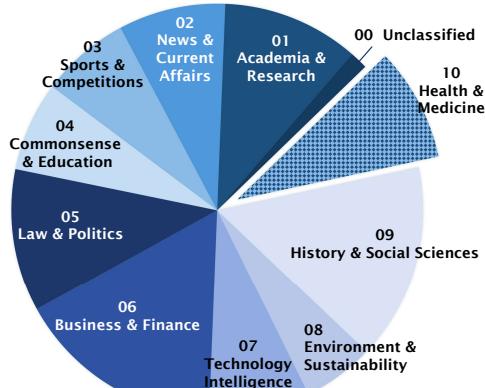


Figure 3: Taxonomy of domains.

Table 4: Taxonomy of domains with simplified descriptions.

Code	Domain	Description	Count
00	Unclassified	Cannot be categorized	3
01	Academia & Research	Academic trends, research methods, etc.	23
02	News & Current Affairs	International news, regional hotspots, etc.	18
03	Sports & Competitions	Olympics, World Cup, athlete data, match reports, etc.	15
04	Commonsense & Education	Common facts, educational resources, etc.	15
05	Law & Politics	Legal texts, policy updates, international relations, etc.	24
06	Business & Finance	Market analysis, investment strategies, etc.	35
07	Technology Intelligence	Artificial intelligence, tech trends, etc.	17
08	Environment & Sustainability	Climate change, environmental policies, ecosystems, etc.	12
09	History & Social Sciences	History, philosophy, sociology, psychology, etc.	33
10	Health & Medicine	Disease research, public health, nutrition knowledge, etc.	19
<b>Summary</b>			<b>214</b>

## B.2 GENERAL-REPORT RUBRICS

**[GRRs]** (1) Does the report include a clear three-part structure (introduction, body, conclusion)? Yes=2, No=0  
 (2) Does the report clearly state the research question or objective at the beginning? Yes=2, No=0  
 (3) Does the report provide background and purpose in the introduction? Yes=1, No=0  
 (4) Does the report develop coherent arguments in the body section? Yes=2, No=0  
 (5) Does the report summarize key findings in the conclusion? Yes=2, No=0  
 (6) Does the report offer actionable recommendations or future directions? Yes=2, No=0  
 (7) Does the report use smooth transitions between paragraphs or sections? Yes=1, No=0  
 (8) Does the report use headings and subheadings to organize content? Yes=1, No=0  
 (9) Does the report avoid information dumping and present ideas clearly? Yes=2, No=0  
 (10) Does the report use precise and clear language to express ideas? Yes=2, No=0  
 (11) Does the report avoid grammar, spelling, or sentence structure issues? Yes=1, No=0  
 (12) Does the report demonstrate logical reasoning such as cause-effect or comparison? Yes=2, No=0  
 (13) Does the report reflect critical thinking or independent judgment? Yes=2, No=0  
 (14) Does the report conclude with insightful perspectives or calls to action? Yes=1, No=0  
 (15) Does the report maintain a formal, academic, and objective tone throughout? Yes=1, No=0  
 (16) Does the report cover all key aspects of the research topic? Yes=2, No=0  
 (17) Does the report avoid missing important background or variables? Yes=1, No=0  
 (18) Does the report provide sufficient evidence to support its claims? Yes=2, No=0  
 (19) Does the report analyze underlying causes or trends in the data? Yes=2, No=0  
 (20) Does the report incorporate multiple angles or dimensions in its analysis? Yes=1, No=0  
 (21) Does the report demonstrate both breadth and depth of understanding? Yes=2, No=0  
 (22) Does the report avoid vague or repetitive statements? Yes=1, No=0  
 (23) Does the report cite authoritative academic journals or professional sources? Yes=2, No=0  
 (24) Does the report provide clear citation formatting? Yes=1, No=0  
 (25) Does the report cite sources that are highly relevant to the topic? Yes=2, No=0  
 (26) Does the report avoid fabricated, unclear, or misleading references? Yes=2, No=0  
 (27) Does the report embed citations within the body rather than only at the end? Yes=1, No=0  
 (28) Does the report distinguish between primary and secondary sources? Yes=1, No=0  
 (29) Does the report offer a unique perspective or analytical framework? Yes=2, No=0  
 (30) Does the report critique existing viewpoints thoughtfully? Yes=2, No=0  
 (31) Does the report propose innovative ideas or future research directions? Yes=2, No=0  
 (32) Does the report show deep understanding of complex issues? Yes=2, No=0  
 (33) Does the report avoid simply repeating existing conclusions? Yes=1, No=0  
 (34) Does the report reflect the author's reasoning and intellectual depth? Yes=2, No=0  
 (35) Does the report use credible and verifiable data sources? Yes=2, No=0  
 (36) Does the report interpret and explain data appropriately? Yes=2, No=0  
 (37) Does the report use charts, tables, or visuals to support analysis? Yes=1, No=0  
 (38) Does the report avoid misusing statistics or exaggerating findings? Yes=2, No=0  
 (39) Does the report analyze data with causal or trend-based reasoning? Yes=2, No=0  
 (40) Does the report acknowledge limitations or biases in the data? Yes=1, No=0  
 (41) Does the report include source and date information for cited data? Yes=1, No=0  
 (42) Does the report use proper Markdown heading levels (e.g., #, ##, ###)? Yes=1, No=0  
 (43) Does the report use ordered or unordered lists to present key points? Yes=1, No=0  
 (44) Does the report correctly use Markdown elements like code blocks, quotes, or tables? Yes=1, No=0  
 (45) Does the report avoid Markdown syntax errors or formatting issues? Yes=1, No=0  
 (46) Does the report maintain clean, readable, and visually consistent layout? Yes=1, No=0  
 (47) Does the report use consistent terminology and avoid style shifts? Yes=1, No=0  
 (48) Does the report avoid informal or conversational language? Yes=1, No=0

Figure 4: Detailed criteria for General-Report Rubrics.

756 B.3 EXAMPLES OF ENTRIES  
757758 To illustrate the precision and rigor of our benchmark, we present four representative entries: ID  
759 040216, 070001, 080004, and 10236. These entries span distinct domains and query types and serve  
760 as concrete examples of structural completeness, rubric coverage, and citation fidelity.  
761762 [UID] 040216  
763 [Domain] 04764 [Query] I saw a stray cat by the roadside. Please provide me with a report on what preparations are needed to adopt a  
765 stray cat, and what I should pay attention to during the first seven days at my home, and the must-dos after adopting a  
766 cat from the shelter.767 [QSRs] (1) Does the report mention what to prepare before taking the cat to the vet (e.g., medical records, stool sample)?  
768 Yes=1, No=0  
769 (2) Does the report describe how to initially check at home for fleas or ear mites? Yes=1, No=0  
770 (3) Does the report mention how to assess if the cat has long-term aggression issues? Yes=1, No=0  
771 (4) Does the report explain how to help a cat adapt to interactions with children? Yes=1, No=0  
772 (5) Does the report address how to help a cat adapt to existing pets such as dogs, not just other cats? Yes=1, No=0  
773 (6) Does the report mention what to do if the cat refuses interaction beyond the first 7 days? Yes=1, No=0  
774 (7) Does the report explain how to choose food based on the cat's age? Yes=1, No=0  
775 (8) Does the report explain pros and cons of different bowl materials (stainless steel, ceramic, plastic)? Yes=1, No=0  
776 (9) Does the report explain pros and cons of raw food, wet food, and dry food? Yes=1, No=0  
777 (10) Does the report mention placing the litter box away from noisy or high-traffic areas? Yes=1, No=0  
778 (11) Does the report describe play techniques to build trust with a timid cat? Yes=1, No=0  
779 (12) Does the report mention how to detect separation anxiety in the first week? Yes=1, No=0  
780 (13) Does the report mention the long-term financial costs of cat ownership? Yes=1, No=0  
781 (14) Does the report mention local legal requirements or regulations after adoption? Yes=1, No=0  
782 (15) Does the report include guidelines about litter box setup, clearly stated location hygiene and capacity guidelines  
783 (e.g., the n+1 rule, separation from food/water, daily scooping)? Yes=1, No=0  
784 (16) Does the report mention recommending vertical space (cat tree), setting up scratching posts, providing daily  
785 interactive play, and safe toys to reduce the cat's stress and support adjustment? Yes=1, No=0  
786 (17) Does the report correctly mention keeping small objects that are usually placed on tables away in case the cat  
787 would cause any damage? Yes=1, No=0  
788 (18) Does the report mention the importance of ensuring windows are correctly closed/secured for high-rise housing  
789 and explain the reason to prevent the cat from accidentally falling out of the window? Yes=1, No=0  
790 (19) Does the report mention the preparation of clear, moving water and changing the water regularly? Yes=1, No=0  
791 (20) Does the report correctly mention that internal (deworming schedule) and external (year-round flea/tick prevention)  
792 parasite prevention plans are required for the cat? Yes=1, No=0  
793 (21) Does the report mention at least two popular infectious diseases (such as FIV, FIP, Toxoplasmosis) that the cat may  
794 catch with credible sources and proper citations? Yes=1, No=0  
795 (22) Does the report mention at least two diseases (Cat Scratch Disease, Toxoplasmosis) and two parasites (Flea,  
796 Ringworm, Scabies) that humans can catch from a cat, with detailed cause, transmission, and citation? Yes=1, No=0  
797 (23) Does the report correctly mention microchipping, registering the cat, and equipping the cat with a traceable collar  
798 with contacts? Yes=1, No=0  
799 (24) Does the report mention quarantine the cat with a "safe-room" approach and the reason for this (adapt the cat to the  
800 environment, etc.) and explicitly mention the 1-2 week cycle? Yes=1, No=0  
801 (25) Does the report mention regularly brushing the cat and providing nail care for the cat in routine? Yes=1, No=0  
802 (26) Does the report mention emphasizing patience, positive reinforcement (no punishment), carrier  
803 training/desensitization, and normalizing initial hiding/hissing for behavioral acclimation & socialization? Yes=1, No=0  
804 (27) Does the report mention the basic public health guidance for cat owners with at least three examples (handwashing,  
805 litter box hygiene, keep the cat indoors, etc.) with proper reference to the zoonosis awareness of CDC? Yes=1, No=0  
806 (28) Does the report clearly mention the "don't s" with at least two examples, including declawing and unsupervised  
807 outdoor free-roaming? Yes=1, No=0  
808 (29) Does the report clearly mention the confirmation or schedule of the cat's spay/neuter, and clearly explain both the  
809 medical and behavioral necessity and benefits with examples? Yes=1, No=0  
810 (30) Does the report clearly mention the initial veterinary exam within 3-7 days that reviews the cat's prior records,  
811 performs a full physical, fecal/parasite check, and FeLV/FIV testing where appropriate; establishes a vaccine plan (core  
812 FVRCP and rabies; FeLV for kittens/at-risk) with correct boosters? Yes=1, No=0813 [TLS] <https://avmajournals.avma.org/view/journals/javma/260/12/javma.22.03.0109.xml>, <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/pets-animals/index.html>, <https://avmajournals.avma.org/view/journals/javma/239/5/javma.239.5.625.xml>,  
814 <https://www.vet.cornell.edu/departments-centers-and-institutes/cornell-feline-health-center/health-information/feline-health-topics/zoonotic-disease-what-can-i-catch-my-cat>, <https://www.phoenixvilleanimalhospital.com/health-wellness/feline-infectious-diseases/>, <https://bestfriends.org/pet-care-resources/new-cat-checklist-welcome-your-new-feline-friend-home>, <https://www.cdc.gov/healthy-pets/about/cats.html>, <https://www.pawschicago.org/news-resources/all-about-cats/getting-started-a-guide-for-bringing-home-a-new-cat/introducing-a-new-cat-into-your-household>815 [FAKs] vet, deworming, vaccine, microchip, quarantine  
816 [FDKs] feral, breeding, exotic, straydog, wildlife

817 Figure 5: Example ID 040216 of benchmark entries.

810	<b>[UID]</b> 07001	
811	<b>[Domain]</b> 07	
812	<b>[Query]</b> The QUIC transport protocol was published in May 2021. please summarize a report of its standardization path, including a comparison of the different drafts and the final RFC, as well as the substantive technical changes between different RFC versions.	
813		
814		
815	<b>[QSRs]</b> (1) Does the report explicitly enumerate QUIC WG draft milestones aligned to at least eight distinct IETF meetings between 2016 and 2021? Yes=2, No=0	
816	(2) Does the report explicitly and accurately contrast technical changes between draft-17 and draft-23 in handshake flows (0-RTT rules and Initial/Handshake packets)? Yes=2, No=0	
817	(3) Does the report contrast technical changes between draft-17 and draft-23 in packet number spaces? Yes=2, No=0	
818	(4) Does the report correctly describe the scope of RFC 8999 as invariants? Yes=2, No=0	
819	(5) Does the report correctly describe the scope of RFC 9000 as transport? Yes=2, No=0	
820	(6) Does the report correctly describe the scope of RFC 9001 as TLS usage? Yes=2, No=0	
821	(7) Does the report state that RFC 9002 defines loss detection, retransmission timing, and congestion control algorithms? Yes=2, No=0	
822	(8) Does the report correctly state that RFC 9002 specifies NewReno-style congestion control and QUIC-specific loss detection with Probe Timeout (PTO)? Yes=2, No=0	
823	(9) Does the report explicitly state that QUIC was originally proposed by Google? Yes=1, No=0	
824	(10) Does the report explicitly state that draft-34 (2021) was the final draft version? Yes=1, No=0	
825	(11) Does the report explicitly define or expand abbreviations such as QUIC, RFC, and 0-RTT upon first use? Yes=2, No=0	
826	(12) Does the report explicitly mention that in May 2023 the IETF published RFC 9369? Yes=2, No=0	
827	(13) Does the report explicitly mention that draft-13/14 established the “QUIC + TLS 1.3” model? Yes=2, No=0	
828	(14) Does the report explicitly mention that draft-17 introduced independent packet number spaces? Yes=2, No=0	
829	(15) Does the report mention that draft-29 became the widely used baseline for interoperability testing? Yes=2, No=0	
830	(16) Does the report explicitly mention that QUIC standardization represented an evolution in the TCP/IP stack by integrating transport design and encryption protocols? Yes=1, No=0	
831	(17) Does the report explicitly mention that RFC 8999 defined the fields that must remain consistent across versions? Yes=1, No=0	
832	<b>[TLSs]</b> <a href="https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc8999/">https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc8999/</a> , <a href="https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc9000/">https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc9000/</a> , <a href="https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc9001/">https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc9001/</a> , <a href="https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc9002/">https://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc9002/</a> , <a href="https://datatracker.ietf.org/wg/quic/meetings/">https://datatracker.ietf.org/wg/quic/meetings/</a>	
833		
834	<b>[FAKs]</b> 0-RTT, TLS 1.3, Long Header, Probe Timeout, NewReno	
835	<b>[FDKs]</b> HTTP/2, DTLS, SCTP, TCP Fast Open, SPDY	
836		
837	<b>[UID]</b> 10236	
838	<b>[Domain]</b> 10	
839	<b>[Query]</b> Please write a report analyzing the implications of global public health crises on international cooperation mechanisms, with a case study of the COVID-19 pandemic.	
840		
841	<b>[QSRs]</b> (1) Does the report explicitly provide a quantitative estimate of the economic costs of failed international cooperation during COVID-19? Yes=2, No=0	
842	(2) Does the report clearly compare international cooperation in COVID-19 with past health crises such as Ebola, SARS, or H1N1? Yes=2, No=0	
843	(3) Does the report explicitly analyze the role of non-state actors such as NGOs, religious groups, and grassroots organizations in global cooperation? Yes=2, No=0	
844	(4) Does the report explicitly examine how nationalism and populism shaped public opinion against international cooperation? Yes=2, No=0	
845	(5) Does the report explicitly explore the role of international law in compelling or constraining state behavior during the pandemic? Yes=2, No=0	
846	(6) Does the report specifically provide case studies of successful bilateral cooperation (e.g., vaccine donations, medical aid) and their limitations? Yes=3, No=0	
847	(7) Does the report evaluate how geopolitical rivalries influenced funding allocations for WHO and COVAX? Yes=2, No=0	
848	(8) Does the report explicitly consider the role of regional rivalries (e.g., India-Pakistan, Gulf states) in shaping cooperation outcomes? Yes=2, No=0	
849	(9) Does the report explicitly consider cooperation failures in equitable vaccine distribution for refugees and stateless populations? Yes=2, No=0	
850	(10) Does the report analyze cooperation in genomic surveillance beyond the South Africa/Omicron example? Yes=2, No=0	
851	(11) Does the report explicitly assess cooperation on clinical data sharing across borders? Yes=2, No=0	
852	(12) Does the report explicitly analyze the role of intellectual diplomacy (science diplomacy) in easing tensions during COVID-19? Yes=2, No=0	
853	(13) Does the report explicitly analyze the influence of domestic political cycles (elections) on willingness to engage in cooperation? Yes=3, No=0	
854	(14) Does the report explicitly evaluate the role of international education networks (e.g., student exchanges) in sustaining cooperation during COVID-19? Yes=2, No=0	
855		
856	<b>[TLSs]</b> <a href="https://www.who.int">https://www.who.int</a> , <a href="https://www.gavi.org/covax-facility">https://www.gavi.org/covax-facility</a> , <a href="https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/">https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/</a> , <a href="https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/health">https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/health</a>	
857		
858		
859	<b>[FAKs]</b> World Health Organization, COVAX, vaccine nationalism, international cooperation, Ebola	
860	<b>[FDKs]</b> HIV, malaria, non-communicable diseases, climate change and health, poverty alleviation	
861		
862		
863		

Figure 6: Examples ID 07001 and 10236 of benchmark entries.

864

865

866

[UID] 08004  
 [Domain] 08

867

868

869

870

[Query] Summarize the history of international climate change negotiations. Write a report that analyzes the key mechanisms of the Paris Agreement, compares the commitments of developed and developing countries, and evaluates its impact on the transition toward renewable energy and sustainable development.

871

872

873

874

875

876

877

878

879

880

881

882

883

884

885

886

887

888

889

890

891

892

893

894

895

896

897

898

899

900

901

902

903

904

905

906

907

908

909

910

911

912

913

914

915

916

917

[QSRs] (1) Does the report explicitly state that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, 1992) was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil? Yes=1, No=0

(2) Does the report explicitly state that the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) aimed to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere to avoid 'dangerous anthropogenic interference' with the climate system? Yes=2, No=0

(3) Does the report explicitly state that the 1992 UNFCCC established the principle of 'common but differentiated responsibilities,' requiring all countries to act but assigning greater responsibility to developed nations? Yes=1, No=0

(4) Does the report explicitly state that the 1997 Kyoto Protocol for the first time set legally binding emission reduction targets for developed countries? Yes=1, No=0

(5) Does the report explicitly state that the United States did not ratify the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, citing the absence of developing-country obligations as a key reason? Yes=1, No=0

(6) Does the report explicitly describe the 'Kyoto mechanisms,' namely International Emissions Trading (IET), the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), and Joint Implementation (JI)? Yes=2, No=0

(7) Does the report explicitly state the relationship between the UNFCCC (framework principles and objectives) and the Kyoto Protocol (implementation rules)? Yes=1, No=0

(8) Does the report explicitly state that the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15) was held in Copenhagen, Denmark? Yes=1, No=0

(9) Does the report explicitly state that COP15 sought a legally binding global agreement but did not produce one? Yes=1, No=0

(10) Does the report explicitly state that the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UNFCCC was held from November to December 2015? Yes=1, No=0

(11) Does the report explicitly state that COP21 of the UNFCCC was held in Le Bourget, Paris, France? Yes=2, No=0

(12) Does the report explicitly state that at COP21, 195 Parties to the UNFCCC adopted the Paris Agreement? Yes=1, No=0

(13) Does the report explicitly state that the goal of the Paris Agreement is to limit global warming to well below 2°C, while pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C? Yes=1, No=0

(14) Does the report explicitly state that under the Paris Agreement, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) must be updated every 5 years? Yes=2, No=0

(15) Does the report explicitly state that the 1992 Earth Summit refers to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)? Yes=1, No=0

(16) Does the report explicitly state that the 2009 Copenhagen Conference refers to the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP15)? Yes=1, No=0

(17) Does the report explicitly state that Article 4 of the Paris Agreement establishes the system of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)? Yes=1, No=0

(18) Does the report explicitly state that Article 13 of the Paris Agreement establishes the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)? Yes=1, No=0

(19) Does the report explicitly state that Article 14 of the Paris Agreement establishes the Global Stocktake (GST)? Yes=1, No=0

(20) Does the report explicitly state that the operational guidance for Article 6 was finalized at COP26 in Glasgow (completing the Paris Rulebook)? Yes=1, No=0

(21) Does the report explicitly state that under the Paris Agreement, developed countries must adopt economy-wide absolute emission reduction targets? Yes=1, No=0

(22) Does the report explicitly state that under the Paris Agreement, developed countries have obligations to provide finance, technology, and capacity-building support? Yes=1, No=0

(23) Does the report explicitly state that the Paris Agreement's transparency framework and global stocktake together form a 'feedback and accountability' cycle? Yes=1, No=0

(24) Does the report explicitly state that in 2023, around 507-510 GW of new renewable power capacity was added globally, nearly 50% more than in 2022? Yes=1, No=0

(25) Does the report explicitly state that the Paris Agreement has a stronger incentivizing effect in countries with weaker governance capacity? Yes=2, No=0

[TLS] <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf>, <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/rio1992.pdf>, <https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/convkp/conveng.pdf>, [https://unfccc.int/kyoto\\_protocol/](https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/), <https://unfccc.int/process/conferences/pastconferences/copenhagen-climate-change-conference-december-2009/>, [https://unfccc.int/documents/meetings/unfccc\\_archive](https://unfccc.int/documents/meetings/unfccc_archive), [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf), <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/conferences/past-conferences/paris-climate-change-conference-november-2015/cop-21>, <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/conferences/glasgow-climate-change-conference-october-november-2021>, <https://unfccc.int/gla>

[FAKs] UNCED, CBDR, Transparency Framework, COP21, 1.5°C

[FDKs] League of Nations, NATO, carbon tax, industrial revolution, population growth

Figure 7: Example ID 08004 of benchmark entries.

918 B.4 SCORING PROMPTS  
919920 As part of the rubric evaluation process, the following prompt was provided to guide scoring con-  
921 sistency and rule adherence.  
922

923 You are a scoring evaluator tasked with assessing the quality of a  
924 report generated by a deep research model. You will be provided with:  
925

- 926 1. A report text
- 927 2. An evaluation rule containing specific scoring criteria and  
allowed score values

928 Your task is to:

- 929 - Carefully read the report
- Evaluate it strictly against the given rule
- Assign a score based only on the score values defined in the rule

930 Scoring instructions:

- Only use the score values explicitly listed in the rule
- Do not invent intermediate scores or alternative formats
- Your output must begin with the score in square brackets [],  
followed by a one-sentence reason

931 Output format example:

[0] No citations were provided, which violates the requirement.  
[2] The report fully meets the requirement with clear and relevant  
details.

932 Be objective and consistent. Focus on clarity, completeness, relevance,  
and adherence to the rule.

933 Report text: **{report}**  
934 Rule: **{rubric}**

935  
936 As part of the keyword relevance evaluation stage, the following prompt was provided to guide  
937 consistent scoring.  
938

939 You are a scoring evaluator tasked with assessing the relevance of a  
940 specific keyword within a research report. You will be provided with:  
941

- 942 1. A report text
2. A keyword to evaluate

943 Your task is to:

- 944 - Read the report carefully
- Judge how semantically relevant the keyword is to the report
- Consider not just frequency, but depth of discussion, thematic  
importance, and contextual integration

945 Use the following 5-point relevance scale:

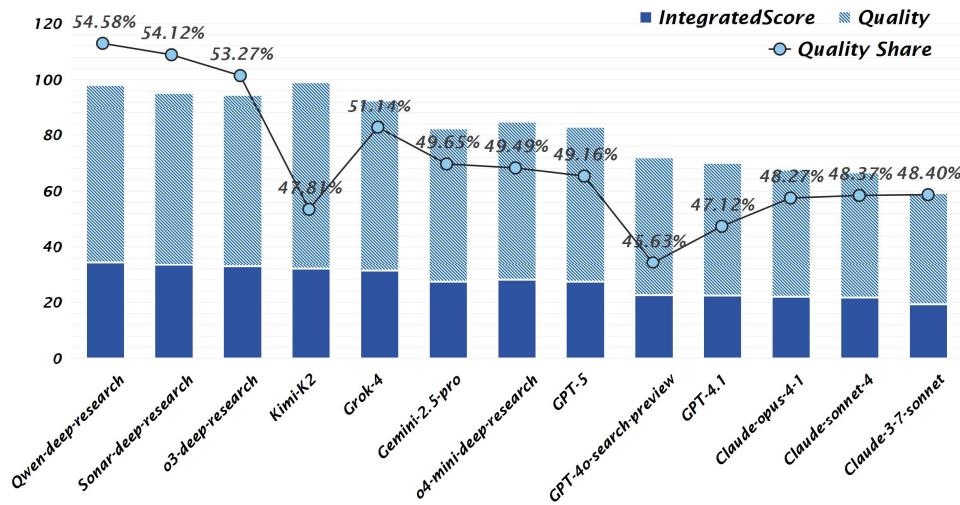
(5) Extremely Relevant: The keyword is a central theme of the  
946 report; It appears multiple times and is discussed in depth; The  
report's main arguments or findings revolve around it; (4) Highly  
947 Relevant: The keyword is a major topic; It appears more than once  
and is clearly explained or referenced; contributes directly to the  
948 report's purpose; (3) Moderately Relevant: The keyword is mentioned  
but not emphasized; It may appear once or twice; It supports the  
949 report contextually but is not a focus; (2) Slightly Relevant: The  
keyword is briefly mentioned; It has little impact on the report's  
950 core content; It may be incidental or peripheral; (1) Not Relevant:  
The keyword does not appear in the report; Or it appears in a way  
951 that is unrelated to the report's topic.

952 Output format example:

[4] The keyword "QUIC" is referenced multiple times in the  
953 report, particularly in the context of protocol evolution and RFC  
publication. While not the sole focus, it is clearly a major topic.

954 Be objective and consistent. Focus on clarity, completeness, relevance,  
and adherence to the rule.

955 Report text: **{report}**  
956 Keyword: **{keyword}**

972 B.5 SUPPLEMENTARY EXPERIMENTAL OBSERVATIONS  
973974 B.5.1 QUALITY SHARE PROPORTION  
975992 Figure 8: Quality share proportion across models.  
993

994 Figure 8 illustrates the contribution of Quality scores to the overall IntegratedScore. As a core metric  
995 among the three evaluation dimensions, Quality's share proportion provides a direct indication  
996 of each DRA's capacity for textual precision, thematic focus, and control over external referencing.  
997 Notably, although Kimi-K2 achieves a prominent score in the Quality dimension, its relative  
998 deficiencies in credibility and attention metrics diminish the extent to which its quality advantage  
999 is reflected in the overall score. In contrast, models such as Qwen, Sonar, and o3 demonstrate  
1000 a more balanced allocation between Quality and multiplicative factors, exhibiting great integrative  
1001 performance while leaving room for further optimization.

1002 B.5.2 EVALUATION ACROSS DOMAINS  
1003

1004 Table 5 presents a fine-grained evaluation of various models across distinct domains. In this  
1005 table, D denotes the domain, and M refers to the evaluation metrics, including QUA (Quality),  
1006 SDR (1-SemanticDrift), TBO (TrustworthyBoost), and ITS (IntegratedScore). Each column  
1007 corresponds to a model represented by an abbreviation: QWE (qwen-deep-research),  
1008 SON (sonar-deep-research), O3D (o3-deep-research-2025-06-26), KIM  
1009 (kimi-k2-0905-preview), GRO (grok-4-0709-search), GEM (gemini-2.5-pro),  
1010 O4D (o4-mini-deep-research-2025-06-26), GT5 (gpt-5-2025-08-07), G4O  
1011 (gpt-4o-search-preview-2025-03-11), G41 (gpt-4.1-2025-04-14), OPU  
1012 (claude-opus-4-1-20250805), SO4 (claude-sonnet-4-20250514), and S37  
1013 (claude-3-7-sonnet-20250219). This table is designed to highlight model-specific  
1014 performance variations across multiple dimensions, providing a structured basis for subsequent  
1015 analysis.

1016 The distribution of ITS values reveals substantial variation in model performance across domains.  
1017 In particular, QWE, SON, and O3D consistently achieve higher scores across multiple domains. Their  
1018 ITS values are notably elevated in domain 03, where they reach 41.27, 38.10, and 40.23 respectively,  
1019 and in domain 10, with corresponding scores of 39.07, 38.86, and 37.68. These results indicate their  
1020 stable advantages in these specific contexts. In contrast, models such as S37, SO4, and OPU tend to  
1021 exhibit lower scores across most domains, reflecting a performance floor. This distribution suggests  
1022 that models vary in their domain sensitivity and adaptability, with certain systems demonstrating  
1023 enhanced integrative capabilities under domain-specific conditions.

1026

1027

1028

1029

1030

Table 5: Comparative evaluation across domains.

D	M	QWE	SON	O3D	KIM	GRO	GEM	O4D	GT5	G40	G41	OPU	SO4	S37
01	QUA	0.6273	0.6090	0.6340	0.6705	0.6465	0.5774	0.5690	0.5439	0.5013	0.4690	0.4288	0.4362	0.3800
	SDR	0.5184	0.5340	0.5457	0.4664	0.5089	0.4873	0.4826	0.4491	0.4667	0.4715	0.4584	0.4616	0.4765
	TBO	1.0209	1.0357	1.0304	1.0373	1.0423	1.0161	1.0351	1.0476	1.0102	1.0021	1.0337	1.0245	1.0209
	ITS	33.3293	<u>33.8947</u>	<b>36.0683</b>	32.7436	34.4484	29.1322	28.9792	26.8605	23.6181	22.3786	21.3256	20.8999	18.9583
02	QUA	0.6190	0.6331	0.6108	0.6432	0.6077	0.5730	0.5572	0.4939	0.5160	0.4937	0.4457	0.4562	0.3887
	SDR	0.5112	0.5282	0.4943	0.4324	0.4760	0.4841	0.4668	0.4276	0.4668	0.4722	0.4508	0.4673	0.4751
	TBO	1.0146	1.0131	1.0210	1.0070	1.0222	1.0099	1.0158	1.0126	1.0063	1.0055	1.0175	1.0149	1.0096
	ITS	<u>32.0267</u>	<b>34.0071</b>	31.8369	28.4567	30.1611	28.1130	26.3594	22.3089	24.4736	23.4507	20.9942	21.8205	18.6347
03	QUA	0.6725	0.6198	0.6462	0.7139	0.6414	0.5513	0.5438	0.5349	0.5211	0.4551	0.4928	0.4579	0.4307
	SDR	0.5909	0.6008	0.6053	0.5756	0.5651	0.5545	0.5743	0.4812	0.5316	0.5283	0.5265	0.5719	0.5875
	TBO	1.0441	1.0248	1.0195	1.0158	1.0160	1.0062	1.0220	1.0307	1.0065	1.0000	1.0149	1.0151	1.0147
	ITS	<u>41.2741</u>	38.1028	40.2341	<b>41.8823</b>	37.3244	31.4358	31.6925	27.7716	28.2281	24.3922	26.6635	26.5932	25.6712
04	QUA	0.6123	0.6006	0.6465	0.6368	0.5766	0.5329	0.5488	0.5608	0.4589	0.4530	0.4394	0.4250	0.3690
	SDR	0.5155	0.4971	0.5094	0.4789	0.4628	0.4833	0.4807	0.4560	0.3981	0.4401	0.4460	0.4287	0.4259
	TBO	1.0108	1.0218	1.0142	1.0132	1.0322	1.0186	1.0163	1.0213	1.0126	1.0065	1.0137	1.0108	1.0219
	ITS	<u>31.6576</u>	30.1116	<b>33.7925</b>	31.1660	27.8452	26.0326	26.9029	27.1555	19.0310	20.2277	19.8213	18.3432	16.1287
05	QUA	0.5891	0.6012	0.5678	0.6463	0.6066	0.5390	0.5694	0.5517	0.4804	0.4664	0.4435	0.4295	0.3900
	SDR	0.5031	0.5142	0.4673	0.4249	0.4728	0.4748	0.4649	0.4461	0.4268	0.4623	0.4676	0.4548	0.4534
	TBO	1.0153	1.0270	1.0061	1.0075	1.0288	1.0108	1.0262	1.0301	1.0052	1.0054	1.0187	1.0106	1.0085
	ITS	<u>30.8795</u>	<b>32.4488</b>	27.2325	28.1336	30.3342	26.6297	27.8097	25.7082	20.3981	21.7361	21.0149	19.8689	17.8701
06	QUA	0.6257	0.6143	0.6039	0.6840	0.6051	0.5214	0.5319	0.5450	0.4816	0.4567	0.4591	0.4520	0.4036
	SDR	0.5320	0.5099	0.5205	0.4856	0.4994	0.4701	0.4617	0.4649	0.4382	0.4671	0.4613	0.4739	0.4685
	TBO	1.0490	1.0201	1.0106	1.0094	1.0347	1.0079	1.0112	1.0235	1.0035	1.0035	1.0139	1.0137	1.0103
	ITS	<u>35.9545</u>	32.1937	32.0019	<u>33.8587</u>	31.9281	24.9650	25.6285	26.8070	21.4294	21.5077	21.8287	21.7307	19.1475
07	QUA	0.6221	0.6042	0.6104	0.6358	0.5898	0.5416	0.6181	0.5799	0.5026	0.4566	0.4275	0.4408	0.3859
	SDR	0.5118	0.5251	0.5044	0.4735	0.4845	0.4972	0.4958	0.4735	0.4569	0.4729	0.4702	0.4699	0.4624
	TBO	1.0577	1.0290	1.0215	1.0262	1.0170	1.0093	1.0266	1.0529	1.0127	1.0014	1.0235	1.0165	1.0131
	ITS	<u>33.4141</u>	<u>32.6757</u>	31.5103	30.8186	29.5214	27.2947	31.2982	29.2195	23.2293	21.7192	21.0743	21.2224	18.4858
08	QUA	0.6741	0.6338	0.5994	0.6610	0.5945	0.5004	0.5095	0.5806	0.4744	0.4685	0.4504	0.4532	0.3981
	SDR	0.5093	0.4833	0.4762	0.4198	0.4145	0.4422	0.4350	0.4252	0.4007	0.4380	0.4085	0.4292	0.4048
	TBO	1.0179	1.0175	1.0136	1.0060	1.0219	1.0107	1.0124	1.0158	1.0053	1.0022	1.0153	1.0221	1.0119
	ITS	<u>35.1035</u>	<u>30.7007</u>	28.8171	27.6535	25.0956	22.2533	23.2147	25.4842	18.9471	20.2026	18.4119	19.7139	16.2288
09	QUA	0.6460	0.6245	0.6149	0.6841	0.6019	0.5558	0.5814	0.5700	0.4832	0.5037	0.4657	0.4650	0.4182
	SDR	0.5108	0.5152	0.5182	0.4428	0.4752	0.4771	0.4678	0.4622	0.4336	0.4454	0.4616	0.4704	0.4672
	TBO	1.0082	1.0176	1.0091	1.0143	1.0225	1.0128	1.0187	1.0501	1.0053	1.0000	1.0270	1.0230	1.0181
	ITS	<u>33.5468</u>	<u>32.3533</u>	31.8783	30.6664	29.6514	26.7788	27.3007	28.2353	21.0317	22.0717	21.8632	22.1229	19.6543
10	QUA	0.6666	0.6447	0.6639	0.7129	0.6504	0.6012	0.6218	0.6074	0.5407	0.5155	0.4942	0.4598	0.4148
	SDR	0.5514	0.5765	0.5453	0.4967	0.5093	0.5021	0.4982	0.4973	0.4913	0.5101	0.5156	0.5091	0.5149
	TBO	1.0507	1.0344	1.0379	1.0148	1.0372	1.0293	1.0190	1.0923	1.0103	1.0019	1.0200	1.0321	1.0185
	ITS	<u>39.0697</u>	<u>38.8577</u>	37.6762	36.0924	34.9180	31.0504	31.7808	33.4642	27.0223	26.4282	26.0997	24.2348	22.0003
MIX	QUA	0.6348	0.6184	0.6176	0.6707	0.6130	0.5506	0.5666	0.5560	0.4945	0.4762	0.4559	0.4491	0.3996
	SDR	0.5248	0.5271	0.5184	0.4671	0.4890	0.4856	0.4803	0.4593	0.4496	0.4694	0.4674	0.4735	0.4737
	TBO	1.0288	1.0238	1.0171	1.0153	1.0283	1.0130	1.0203	1.0383	1.0073	1.0027	1.0202	1.0184	1.0148
	ITS	<u>34.6480</u>	<u>33.4668</u>	32.9004	32.0651	31.3490	27.3364	28.0391	27.3312	22.5645	22.4382	22.0047	21.7235	19.3415

1076

1077

1078

1079

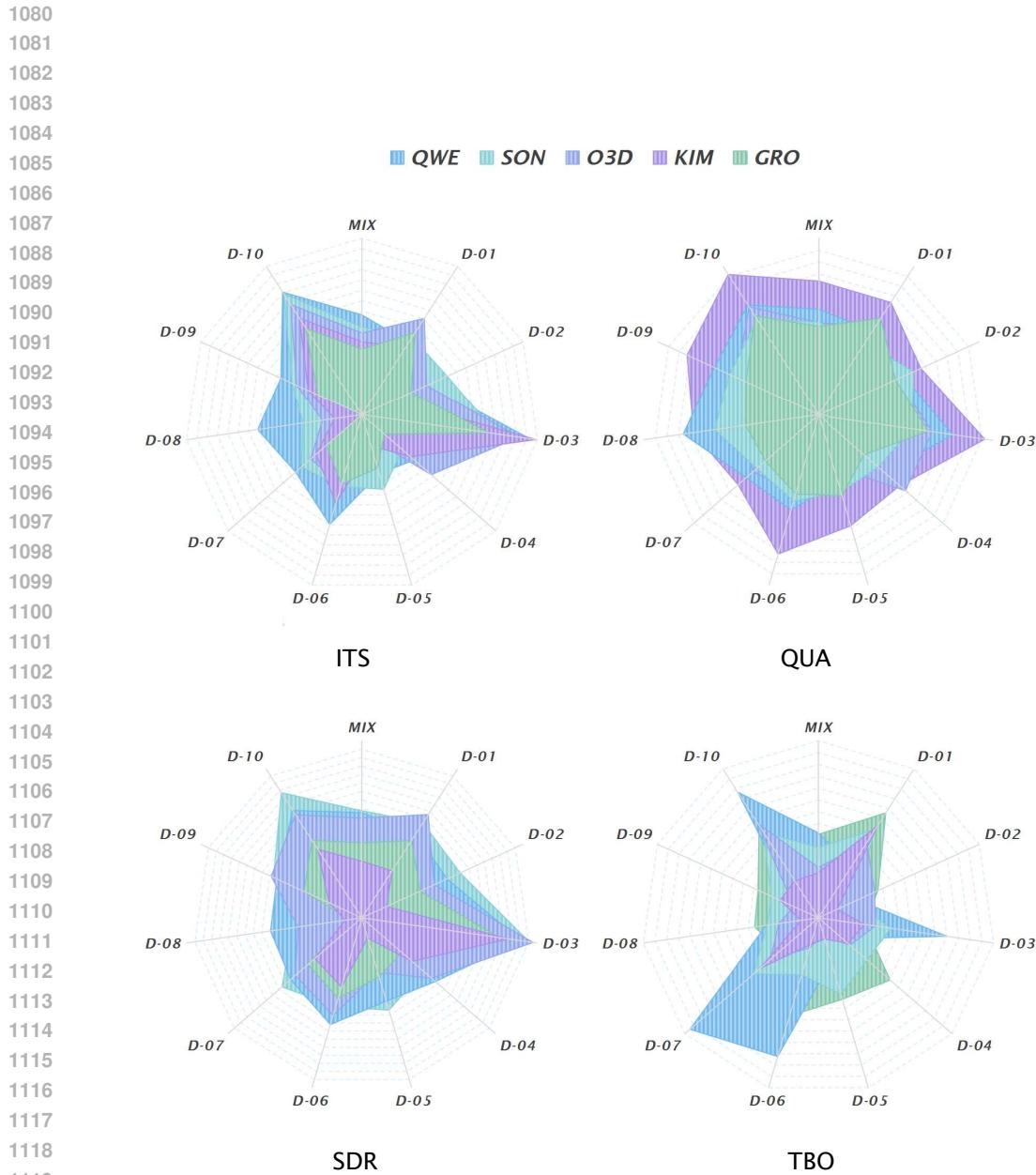


Figure 9: Radar charts of top models' performance across domains based on multiple metrics.

Figure 9 presents radar charts illustrating the cross-domain performance of the top five models, with axes rescaled for clarity. In the ITS panel, all models exhibit notably strong performance in domain 03 and domain 10, while maintaining relatively balanced results across other domains. This suggests that the models align most closely with human expectations in the areas of Sports & Competitions as well as Health & Medicine. In the QUA panel, KIM demonstrates a clear advantage, followed by QWE and SON. Conversely, in the SDR and TBO panels, KIM shows a marked disadvantage, whereas the remaining models display comparatively consistent performance.

1134  
1135 **B.6 COMPARISON WITH EXISTING BENCHMARKS**1136  
1137 **Table 6: Comparison of Benchmarks for Tool-Augmented LLMs**

Benchmarks	Task Type	EvalDim	Constru	Scale	System	EvalCriteria
WebWalker (Wu et al., 2025)	Closed/String	Accuracy	LLMs	680	LLMs	Match
BrowseComp-Plus (Chen et al., 2025b)	Closed/String	Accuracy	LLMs	830	DRAs	Match
GAIA (Mialon et al., 2023)	Closed/String	Accuracy	Human	466	LLMs	Match
BrowseComp (Wei et al., 2025)	Closed/String	Accuracy	Human	1266	LLMs	Match
WideSearch (Wong et al., 2025)	Closed/String	F1 Score	Human	200	LLMs	Match
Deep Research Bench (Bosse et al., 2025)	Closed/String	Recall, F1 Score	Human	89	LLMs	Match
ResearchQA (Du et al., 2025)	Open/Report	Quality	LLMs	21K	DRAs	LLMs Criteria
ReportBench (Li et al., 2025)	Open/Report	Quality	LLMs	678	DRAs	LLMs Criteria
DeepResearch Arena (Wan et al., 2025)	Open/Report	Quality	LLMs	10K	DRAs	LLMs Criteria
DeepResearch Bench (Du et al., 2025)	Open/Report	Quality	Human	100	DRAs	LLMs Criteria
<b>Rigorous Bench (ours)</b>	<b>Open/Report</b>	<b>Quality, Semantics, Retrieval</b>	<b>Human</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>DRAs</b>	<b>Experts Rubrics, Keywords, Links</b>

1166  
1167 Table 6 presents a comparison of our benchmark with existing ones across key dimensions. Task  
1168 Type specifies whether the task is open-ended or closed and whether the target response takes the  
1169 form of a short string or a long report. Evaluation Dimensions indicate which metrics are applied  
1170 and which aspects of model behavior are examined. Construction method describes whether the  
1171 benchmark is primarily built through LLM-based generation or through human annotation. Scale  
1172 refers to the size of the dataset in terms of the number of instances. Target System specifies whether  
1173 the benchmark is designed for LLMs equipped with web-search tools or for DRAs. Finally, Evaluation  
1174 Criteria clarify whether performance is judged by exact matching, LLM-based criteria, or  
1175 expert rubric assessment.

1176 Rigorous Bench is the only benchmark that combines quality, semantic adequacy, and retrieval cred-  
1177 ibility in evaluating report-style outputs. Unlike large-scale auto-generated datasets, it is human-  
1178 authored with expert rubrics, anchors, and trustworthy links, ensuring transparency and reproducibil-  
1179 ity. Its 214 carefully curated tasks balance coverage with precision, making it uniquely suited for  
1180 systematic and fine-grained assessment of Deep Research Agents. Our evaluation dimensions and  
1181 methodology differ substantially from prior work, with more qualitative and fine-grained details  
1182 provided in Section 2.2.

1183  
1184  
1185  
1186  
1187

1188 **B.7 CORE DIMENSIONS OF QSRs**  
1189

1190 Within the evaluation framework for structured long-text tasks, a critical criterion for assessing the  
 1191 effectiveness and representativeness of QSRs is whether their design demonstrates discriminative  
 1192 capacity in judging task completeness and aligns with human user expectations. QSRs constitute  
 1193 a dimension-based framework tailored to specific queries, intended to measure the completeness  
 1194 of reports. The design rationale of QSRs considers, though is not limited to, the core dimensions  
 1195 outlined in Table 7.

1196 **Table 7: Core dimensions with descriptions of QSRs**  
1197

1198 <b>Dimensions</b>	1199 <b>Descriptions</b>
1200 <b>Information Coverage</b>	1201 Whether the report fully covers key facts, events, clauses, persons, institutions, or geographic units required by the query, ensuring no essential information is missing.
1202 <b>Technical / Mechanism Explanation</b>	1203 Whether the report accurately explains mechanisms, protocols, causal chains, policy tools, or theoretical frameworks involved in the query, reflecting mastery of core logic.
1204 <b>Structural Expression</b>	1205 Whether the report generates structured forms such as tables, timelines, maps, matrices, or lists to support organization and reproducibility of the task.
1206 <b>Semantic Precision</b>	1207 Whether the report defines key terms, distinguishes concepts, annotates units and time, and avoids ambiguity, ensuring clarity and consistency of expression.
1208 <b>Source Verification</b>	1209 Whether the report cites authoritative texts, identifiers, database versions, retrieval times, links, or snapshots to support traceability and credibility of claims.
1210 <b>Evidence Organization</b>	1211 Whether the report employs multi-source cross-validation, independent source pairing, counterfactual baselines, placebo tests, or robustness checks to enhance reliability.
1212 <b>Heterogeneity and Comparative Analysis</b>	1213 Whether the report identifies and analyzes differences across regions, groups, time periods, or institutions, supporting comparative and explanatory power.
1214 <b>Methodological Transparency</b>	1215 Whether the report clearly explains analytical methods, identification strategies, variable definitions, and data processing steps, ensuring consistency and reproducibility.
1216 <b>Social Impact and Distribution Effects</b>	1217 Whether the report analyzes distributional impacts of policies or events on different groups, communities, industries, or ecosystems, reflecting social dimensions.
1218 <b>Historical Evolution and Temporal Logic</b>	1219 Whether the report establishes event chains, policy evolution paths, time windows, or lag mechanisms, supporting historical and dynamic analysis.
1220 <b>Interdisciplinary Integration</b>	1221 Whether the report integrates perspectives from multiple disciplines (e.g., law, economics, technology, society, philosophy) to support complexity and explanatory depth.

1222  
1223  
1224  
1225  
1226  
1227  
1228  
1229  
1230  
1231  
1232  
1233  
1234  
1235  
1236  
1237  
1238  
1239  
1240  
1241