



# AHA: A Vision-Language-Model for Detecting and Reasoning Over Failures in Robotic Manipulation

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1       **Abstract:** Robotic manipulation in open-world settings requires not only task  
2       execution but also the ability to detect and learn from failures. While recent ad-  
3       vances in vision-language models (VLMs) and large language models (LLMs)  
4       have improved robots’ spatial reasoning and problem-solving abilities, they still  
5       struggle with failure recognition, limiting their real-world applicability. We in-  
6       troduce AHA, an open-source VLM designed to detect and reason about failures  
7       in robotic manipulation using natural language. By framing failure detection as  
8       a free-form reasoning task, AHA identifies failures and provides detailed, adapt-  
9       able explanations across different robots, tasks, and environments. We fine-tuned  
10      AHA using FailGen, a scalable framework that generates the first large-scale  
11      dataset of robotic failure trajectories, the AHA dataset. FailGen achieves this  
12      by procedurally perturbing successful demonstrations from simulation. Despite  
13      being trained solely on the AHA dataset, AHA generalizes effectively to real-world  
14      failure datasets, robotic systems, and unseen tasks. It surpasses the second-best  
15      model (GPT-4o in-context learning) by 10.3% and exceeds the average perfor-  
16      mance of six compared models—including five state-of-the-art VLMs—by 35.3%  
17      across multiple metrics and datasets. We integrate AHA into three manipulation  
18      frameworks that utilize LLMs/VLMs for reinforcement learning, task and motion  
19      planning, and zero-shot trajectory generation. AHA’s failure feedback enhances  
20      these policies’ performances by refining dense reward functions, optimizing task  
21      planning, and improving sub-task verification, boosting task success rates by an  
22      average of 21.4% across all three tasks compared to GPT-4 models. Anonymous  
23      page: <https://aha-cornw.github.io/>.

24      **Keywords:** Failure detection and reasoning, Foundation models for robotics, Data  
25      generation, Zero-shot manipulation, robotic manipulation

## 1 Introduction

27      In recent years, foundation models have made remarkable progress across various domains, demon-  
28      strating their ability to handle open-world tasks[1, 2, 3, 4]. These models, including large language  
29      models (LLMs) and vision-language models (VLMs), have shown proficiency in interpreting and  
30      executing human language instructions[5], producing accurate predictions and achieving strong  
31      task performance. However, despite these advancements, key challenges remain—particularly with  
32      hallucinations, where models generate responses that deviate from truth. Unlike humans, who can  
33      intuitively detect and adjust for such errors, these models often lack the mechanisms for recognizing  
34      their own mistakes[6, 7, 8]. Learning from failure is a fundamental aspect of human intelligence.  
35      Whether it’s a child learning to skate or perfecting a swing, the ability reason over failures is essen-  
36      tial for improvement[9, 10, 8]. The concept of improvement through failures is widely applied in  
37      training foundation models and is exemplified by techniques such as Reinforcement Learning with  
38      Human Feedback (RLHF)[5, 11], where human oversight and feedback steers models toward desired  
39      outcomes. This feedback loop plays a critical role in aligning generative models with real-world objec-  
40      tives. However, a crucial question persists: How can we enable these models to autonomously detect

41 and reason about their own failures, particularly in robotics, where interactions and environments are  
42 unpredictable?

43 The use of foundation models like VLMs and LLMs in robotics is growing, addressing open-world  
44 tasks such as spatial reasoning, object recognition, and multimodal problem-solving—crucial for  
45 robotic manipulation[12, 13, 14, 15, 16]. These models are now being integrated to automate reward  
46 generation [17, 18], develop task plans[19], and generate zero-shot robot trajectories[20, 21, 22, 23].  
47 However, despite their strengths in task execution, they struggle with detecting and reasoning over  
48 failures. For instance, if a robot drops an object mid-task, it lacks the human-like ability to recognize  
49 and correct the mistake. Enhancing robots with failure detection and learning capabilities is key  
50 for operating in dynamic environments. To learn from their mistakes, robots must first detect and  
51 understand why they failed. We introduce AHA, an open-source vision-language model (VLM) that  
52 uses natural language to detect and reason about failures in robotic manipulation. Unlike prior work  
53 that treats failure reasoning as a binary detection problem, we frame it as a free-form reasoning  
54 task, offering deeper insights into failure mode reasoning. Our model not only identifies failures  
55 but also generates detailed explanations. This approach enables AHA to adapt to various robots,  
56 camera viewpoints, tasks, and environments in both simulated and real-world scenarios. It can also be  
57 integrated into downstream robotic applications leveraging VLMs and LLMs. We make the following  
58 three major contributions:

59 **1. We introduce FailGen, a data generation pipeline for the procedural generation of failure**  
60 **demonstration data for robotic manipulation tasks across simulators.** To instruction-tune AHA,  
61 we developed FailGen, the first automated data generation pipeline that procedurally creates the  
62 AHA dataset—a large-scale collection of robotic manipulation failures with over 49K+ image-query  
63 pairs across 79 diverse simulated tasks. Despite being fine-tuned only on the AHA dataset, AHA  
64 demonstrates strong generalization to real-world failure datasets, different robotic systems, and  
65 unseen tasks, as evaluated on three separate datasets not included in the fine-tuning. FailGen is also  
66 flexible data generation pipeline integrates seamlessly with various simulators, enabling scalable  
67 procedural generation of failure demonstrations.

68 **2. We demonstrate that AHA excels in failure reasoning, generalizing across different embodi-**  
69 **ments, unseen environments, and novel tasks, outperforming both open-source and proprietary**  
70 **VLMs.** Upon fine-tuning AHA, we benchmarked it against six state-of-the-art VLMs, both open-  
71 source and proprietary, evaluating performance across four metrics on three diverse evaluation  
72 datasets, each featuring different embodiments, tasks, and environments out-of-distribution from the  
73 training data. AHA outperformed GPT-4o model by more than 20.0% on average across datasets and  
74 metrics, and by over 43.0% compared to LLaVA-v1.5-13B [24], the base model from which AHA is  
75 derived. This demonstrates AHA’s exceptional ability to detect and reason about failures in robotic  
76 manipulation across embodiment and domains.

77 **3. We show that AHA enhances downstream robotic applications by providing failure reasoning**  
78 **feedback.** We demonstrate that AHA can be seamlessly integrated into robotic applications that  
79 utilize VLMs and LLMs. By providing failure feedback, AHA improves reward functions through  
80 Eureka reflection, enhances task and motion planning, and verifies sub-task success in zero-shot  
81 robotic manipulation. Across three downstream tasks, our approach achieved an average success rate  
82 21.4% higher than GPT-4 models, highlighting AHA’s effectiveness in delivering accurate natural  
83 language failure feedback to improve task performance through error correction.

## 84 **2 Related Work**

85 AHA enables language reasoning for failure detection in robotic manipulation, enhancing downstream  
86 robotics applications. To provide context, we review progress in: 1) failure detection in robotic  
87 manipulation, 2) data generation in robotics, and 3) foundation models for robotic manipulation.

88 **Failure Detection in Robotic Manipulation.** Failure detection and reasoning have long been  
89 studied in the Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) community [25, 26] and in works leveraging Task  
90 and Motion Planning (TAMP) [27]. With the recent widespread adoption of LLMs and VLMs in  
91 robot manipulation systems—either for generating reward functions or synthesizing robot trajectories

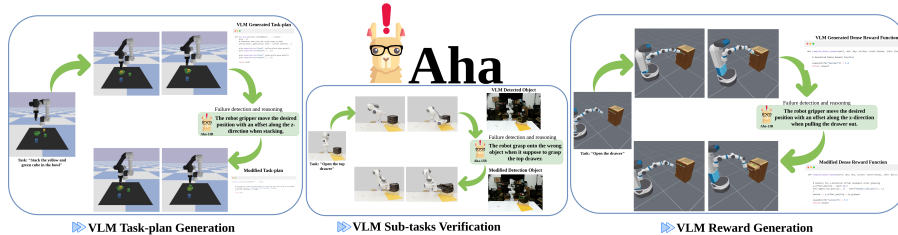


Figure 1: AHA is a Vision-Language Model designed to detect and reason about failures in robotic manipulation. As an instruction-tuned VLM, it can enhance task performance in robotic applications that utilize VLMs for reward generation, task planning, or sub-task verification. By incorporating AHA into the reasoning pipeline, these applications can achieve accelerated and improved performance.

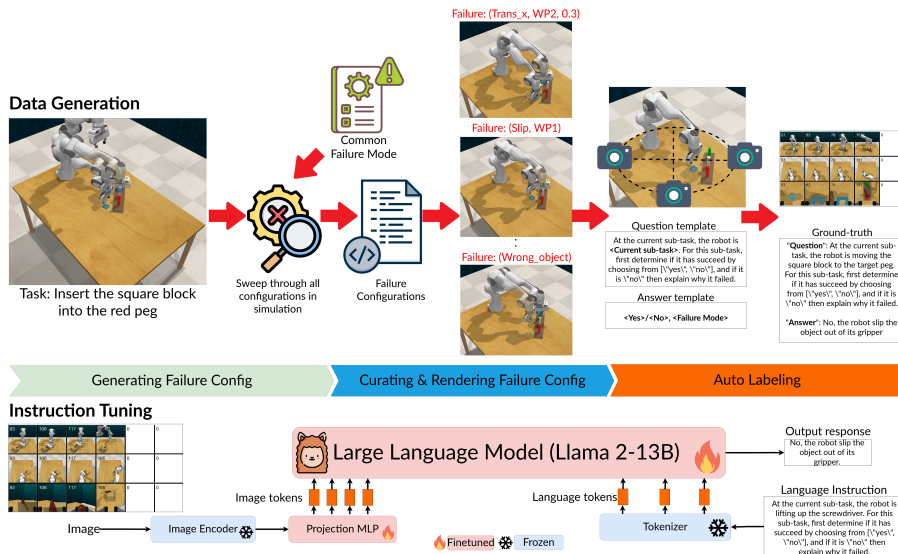


Figure 2: **Overview of AHA Pipeline.** (Top) The data generation for AHA is accomplished by taking a normal task trajectory in simulation and procedurally perturbing all keyframes using our taxonomy of failure modes. Through FailGen, we systematically alter keyframes to synthesize failure demonstrations conditioned on the original tasks. Simultaneously, we generate corresponding query and answer prompts for each task and failure mode, which are used for instruction-tuning. (Bottom) The instruction-tuning pipeline follows the same fine-tuning procedure as LLaVA-v1.5 [24], where we fine-tune only the LLM base model—in this case, LLaMA-2-13B and the projection linear layers, while freezing the image encoder and tokenizer.

92 [17, 18] in a zero-shot manner—the importance of detecting task failures has regained prominence  
 93 [20, 22, 28, 29]. Most modern approaches focus on using off-the-shelf VLMs or LLMs as success  
 94 detectors [30, 29, 31, 22], and some employ instruction-tuning of VLMs to detect failures [32].  
 95 However, these methods are often limited to binary success detection and does not provide language  
 96 explanations for why failures occur. Our framework introduces failure reasoning in a new formulation,  
 97 generating language-based explanations of failures to aid robotics systems that leverage VLMs and  
 98 LLMs in downstream tasks.

99 **Data Generation in Robotics** There have been many methods in robotic manipulation that automate  
 100 data generation of task demonstrations at scale [33, 34], whether for training behavior cloning policies,  
 101 instruction-tuning VLMs [14], or curating benchmarks for evaluating robotic policies in simulation  
 102 [35, 36]. A well-known example is MimicGen [33], which automates task demonstration generation  
 103 via trajectory adaptation by leveraging known object poses. Additionally, works like RoboPoint  
 104 use simulation to generate general-purpose representations for robotic applications, specifically for  
 105 fine-tuning VLMs. Similarly, systems like The Colosseum [36] automate data generation for curating

106 benchmarks in robotic manipulation. Our approach aligns closely with RoboPoint, as we also leverage  
107 simulation to generate data for instruction-tuning VLMs. However, unlike RoboPoint, we focus on  
108 synthesizing robotic actions in simulation rather than generating representations like points.

109 **Foundation Models for Robotic Manipulation.** In recent years, leveraging foundation models for  
110 robotic manipulation has gained significant attention due to the effectiveness of LLMs/VLMs in  
111 interpreting open-world semantics and their ability to generalize across tasks [37, 38, 39, 40]. Two  
112 main approaches have emerged: the first uses VLMs and LLMs in a promptable manner, where visual  
113 prompts guide low-level action generation based on visual inputs [41, 21, 23]. The second focuses  
114 on instruction-tuning VLMs for domain-specific tasks [42]. For example, RoboPoint [14] is tuned  
115 for spatial affordance prediction, and Octopi [43] for physical reasoning using tactile images. These  
116 models generalize beyond their training data and integrate seamlessly into manipulation pipelines.  
117 Our approach follows this second path, developing a scalable method for generating instruction-  
118 tuning data in simulation and fine-tuning VLMs specialized in detecting and reasoning about robotic  
119 manipulation failures, with applications that extend beyond manipulation tasks to other robotic  
120 domains.

### 121 3 The AHA Dataset

122 We leveraged FailGen to procedurally generate the AHA dataset from RL Bench tasks [44] and used  
123 it for the instruction-tuning of AHA. In this section, we begin by categorizing common failure modes  
124 in robotics manipulation and defining a taxonomy of failures in Section 3. Next, we explain how this  
125 taxonomy is used with FailGen to automate the data generation for the AHA dataset in simulation in  
126 Section 3.1.

127 To curate an instruction-tuning dataset of failure trajectories for robotic manipulation tasks, we began  
128 by systematically identifying prevalent failure modes. Our approach involved a review of existing  
129 datasets, including DROID [45] and Open-X Embodiment [46], as well as an analysis of policy  
130 rollouts from behavior cloning models. We examined failures occurring in both teleoperated and  
131 autonomous policies. Building upon prior works, such as REFLECT [47], we formalized a taxonomy  
132 encompassing seven distinct failure modes commonly observed in robotic manipulation: incomplete  
133 grasp, inadequate grip retention, misaligned keyframe, incorrect rotation, missing rotation, wrong  
134 action sequence, and wrong target object.

#### 135 3.1 Implementation of the AHA dataset

136 The AHA dataset is generated with RL Bench [44], utilizing its keyframe-based formulation to  
137 dynamically induce failure modes during task execution. RL Bench natively provides keyframes  
138 for task demonstrations, which enables flexibility in both object manipulation (handling tasks with  
139 varying objects) and the sequence of actions (altering the execution order of keyframes). Building on  
140 this foundation, we leverage FailGen, our custom environment wrapper to wrap around RL Bench that  
141 allows for task-specific trajectory modifications through keyframes perturbations, object substitutions,  
142 and reordering of keyframe sequences. FailGen systematically generates failure trajectories aligned  
143 with the taxonomy defined in Section 3, yielding a curated dataset of 49k failure-question pairs.

144 To generate the AHA dataset, we systematically sweep through all keyframes in each RL Bench task,  
145 considering all potential configurations of the seven failure modes that could result in overall task  
146 failure. By leveraging the success condition checker in the simulation, we procedurally generate  
147 YAML-based configuration files by sweeping through each failure mode across all keyframes. These  
148 files provide details on potential failure modes, parameters (such as distance, task sequence, gripper  
149 retention strength, etc.), and corresponding keyframes that FailGen should perturb to induce failure.  
150 Additionally, we incorporate language templates to describe what the robot is doing between consec-  
151 utive keyframes. Using these descriptions along with the failure modes, we can systematically curate  
152 question-answer pairs for each corresponding failure mode.

153 For specific failure modes, `No_Grasp` is implemented by omitting gripper open/close commands  
154 at the relevant keyframes, effectively disabling gripper control. `Slip` introduces a timed release  
155 of the gripper shortly after activation. `Translation` and `Rotation` perturb the position and ori-  
156 entation of a keyframe, respectively, while `No_Rotation` constrains the keyframe’s rotational axis.  
157 `Wrong_Action` reorders keyframe activations to simulate incorrect sequencing, and `Wrong_Object`

158 reassigns the keyframes intended for one object to another, maintaining the relative pose to mimic  
159 improper object manipulation. Using this pipeline, we also successfully generated a failure dataset  
160 from ManiSkill [48] and adapted RoboFail [47] for the evaluation of AHA. This demonstrates the  
161 generalizability of FailGen in generating failure cases across different simulation environments.

## 162 **4 Method**

163 This section outlines the failure reasoning problem formulation (Sec.4.1) used to fine-tune and  
164 evaluate AHA. Next, we discuss the curated data mix used for co-finetuning AHA (Sec.4.2). Finally,  
165 we detail the instruction fine-tuning pipeline and the model architecture selection for AHA (Sec.4.3).

### 166 **4.1 Failure Reasoning Formulation**

167 Unlike previous works [47, 28, 22] that primarily focus on detecting task success as binary classifica-  
168 tion problem, we approach failure reasoning by first predicting a binary success condition ("Yes"  
169 or "No") of the given sub-task based on a language specification and an input image prompt. If the  
170 answer is "No", the VLM is expected to generate a concise, free-form natural language explanation  
171 detailing why the task is perceived as a failure. To formulate failure reasoning, we prompt the VLMs  
172 to analyze the trajectory failures at the current sub-task and provide reasoning for *why* or *what* led  
173 to the failure. We define manipulation task trajectories as a series of sub-tasks  $\{S_0, S_1, S_2, \dots, S_t\}$ ,  
174 where each sub-task is represented by two consecutive keyframes. For example, in a task like  
175 "stacking cubes", a sub-task could represent a primitive action, such as 'picking up the cube'. For the  
176 input formulation in VLMs for instruction fine-tuning and evaluation, we required a query prompt  
177 with an input image for prompting the VLMs. The query prompt was generated using a template  
178 corresponding to the current sub-task the robot is performing. To capture the temporal relationships  
179 within the action sequence, the input image was constructed by selecting a single frame that repre-  
180 sents the robot's trajectory up to the current sub-task and concatenating it with frames from other  
181 viewpoints in the rollout sequence, as shown in Table 3.

182 This input frame is built by concatenating all keyframes up to the current sub-task in temporal order,  
183 from left to right, with any remaining keyframes replaced by white image patches. To mitigate  
184 occlusions, we also included all the available camera viewpoints, concatenating them alongside  
185 the temporal sequence, and provide a detailed task description in the prompt, as illustrated in  
186 Table 3 (left image). The image data is structured as a matrix  $\mathbf{I}$ , where each row corresponds to a  
187 different camera viewpoint  $\{V_0, V_1, \dots, V_n\}$  and each column captures the temporal sequence of  
188 keyframes  $\{S_0, S_1, S_2, \dots, S_t\}$ . This formulation for curating images serves as a general approach  
189 for formatting all datasets used for fine-tuning and evaluation. This structured input enables consistent  
190 handling of data across different tasks and viewpoints. Overall, our failure reasoning problem is to  
191 prompt VLM with sub-task discription and keyframe trajectory image to predict the success condition  
192 and language description of failure reason for each sub-task, as shown in Table 3.

### 193 **4.2 Synthetic Data for Instruction-tuning**

194 To facilitate the instruction-tuning of AHA, we needed to systematically generate failure demonstration  
195 data. To achieve this, we developed FailGen, an environment wrapper that can be easily applied  
196 to any robot manipulation simulator. FailGen systematically perturbs successful robot trajectories  
197 for manipulation tasks, transforming them into failure trajectories with various modes of failure as  
198 depicted in Figure 2 (Top image). Using FailGen, we curated the AHA dataset (Train) dataset by  
199 alternating across 79 different tasks in the RL Bench simulator, resulting in 49k failure image-text  
200 pairs. Furthermore, following proper instruction-tuning protocols for VLMs [24] and building on prior  
201 works [49, 14], co-finetuning is crucial to the success of instruction fine-tuning of VLMs. Therefore,  
202 in addition to the AHA dataset, we co-finetuned AHA with general visual question-answering (VQA)  
203 datasets sourced from internet data, which helps models retain pre-trained knowledge. Specifically,  
204 we included the VQA dataset [24], containing 665k conversation pairs, and the LVIS dataset [50],  
205 which comprises 100k instances with predicted bounding box centers and dimensions, as summarized  
206 in Table 3.

### 207 **4.3 Instruction Fine-tuning**

208 We followed the instruction-tuning pipeline outlined by [51]. As depicted in Fig. 2, our model  
209 architecture includes an image encoder, a linear projector, a language tokenizer, and a transformer-

Table 1: Results for AHA-13b evaluation with additional metrics.

Models	AHA dataset (Test set)				ManiSkill-Fail				RoboFail [47]			
	ROUGE <sub>L</sub> ↑	Cos Sim ↑	BinSucc(%) ↑	Fuzzy Match ↑	ROUGE <sub>L</sub> ↑	Cos Sim ↑	BinSucc(%) ↑	Fuzzy Match ↑	ROUGE <sub>L</sub> ↑	Cos Sim ↑	BinSucc(%) ↑	Fuzzy Match ↑
LLaVA-v1.5-13B [24]	0.061	0.208	0.080	0.648	0.000	0.208	0.022	0.270	0.000	0.203	0.000	0.404
LLaVA-NeXT-34B [52]	0.013	0.231	0.017	0.626	0.001	0.195	0.007	0.277	0.018	0.188	0.017	0.351
Qwen-VL [53]	0.000	0.161	0.000	0.426	0.037	0.301	0.116	0.034	0.000	0.159	0.000	0.050
Gemini-1.5 Flash [112]	0.120	0.231	0.371	0.566	0.003	0.121	0.014	0.032	0.000	0.042	0.000	0.393
GPT-4o	0.251	0.308	0.500	<b>0.784</b>	0.142	0.335	0.688	0.453	0.114	0.318	0.554	0.438
GPT-4o-1CL (5-shot)	0.226	0.380	0.611	0.776	0.341	0.429	0.971	0.630	0.236	0.429	0.571	0.418
AHA-7B	0.434	0.574	0.691	0.695	<b>0.609</b>	0.680	1.000	0.532	0.204	0.394	0.625	0.439
AHA-13B (Ours)	<b>0.446</b>	<b>0.583</b>	<b>0.702</b>	0.768	0.600	<b>0.681</b>	<b>1.000</b>	<b>0.633</b>	<b>0.280</b>	<b>0.471</b>	<b>0.643</b>	<b>0.465</b>

based language model. The image encoder processes images into tokens, projected by a 2-layer linear projector into the same space as the language tokens. These multimodal tokens are then concatenated and passed through the language transformer. All components are initialized with pre-trained weights. During fine-tuning, only the projector and transformer weights are updated, while the vision encoder and tokenizer remain frozen. The model operates autoregressively, predicting response tokens and a special token marking the boundary between instruction and response.

## 5 Experimental Results

In this section, we evaluate AHA’s detection and reasoning performance against six state-of-the-art VLMs, including both open-source and proprietary models, some utilizing in-context learning. The evaluation spans three diverse datasets, covering out-of-domain tasks, various simulation environments, and cross-embodiment scenarios. We then assess AHA’s ability to retain general world knowledge after fine-tuning on domain-specific data. Finally, we explore its potential to improve downstream robotic manipulation tasks.

Table 2: **Quantitative Evaluation on Standard VQA Benchmarks.** AHA-13B performs on par with LLaVA-13B [24], the VLM from which AHA adapts its fine-tuning strategy.

	MMBench [54]	ScienceQA [55]	TextVQA [56]	POPE [57]	VizWiz[58]
LLaVA-13B (LLama-2) [24]	<b>67.70</b>	<b>73.21</b>	<b>67.40</b>	<b>88.00</b>	53.01
AHA-13B (LLama-2)	65.20	71.94	65.20	85.74	<b>53.45</b>

### 5.1 Experimental Setup

To quantitatively evaluate AHA’s detection and reasoning capabilities for failures in robotic manipulation, we curated two datasets and adapted an existing failure dataset for benchmarking. To ensure a fair comparison of free-form language reasoning, we also employed four different evaluation metrics to measure semantic similarity between sentences.

**Benchmarks.** We curated three datasets to evaluate AHA’s reasoning and failure detection capabilities, benchmarking against other state-of-the-art VLMs. The first dataset, AHA dataset (Test), includes 11k image-question pairs from 10 RL Bench tasks, generated similarly to the fine-tuning data via FailGen (Section 3.1) but without overlapping with the tasks from the finetuning dataset. It evaluates AHA’s ability to generalize to novel, out-of-domain tasks. The second dataset, ManiSkill-Fail, comprises 130 image-question pairs across four tasks in ManiSkill [48], generated using Failgen wrapper on Maniskill simulator. This dataset assesses AHA’s performance in a different simulator and under changing viewpoints. Lastly, we adapted a failure benchmark from the RoboFail dataset [47], which features real-world robot failures in seven UR5 robot tasks. This allows for evaluation across simulation and real-world trajectories and across different embodiments.

**Evaluation Metrics.** To fairly evaluate success detection and free language reasoning across all datasets and baselines, we employ four metrics. First, the **ROUGE-L score** measures the quality of generated text by focusing on the longest common subsequence between candidate and reference texts. Second, we use **Cosine Similarity** to assess similarity between texts or embeddings, avoiding the "curse of dimensionality". Third, **LLM Fuzzy Matching** utilizes an external language model—specifically, Anthropic’s unseen model, `claude-3-sonnet`—to evaluate semantic similarity in a teacher-student prompting format. Lastly, we calculate a **Binary success rate** by comparing the model’s predictions directly against the ground truth for success detection.

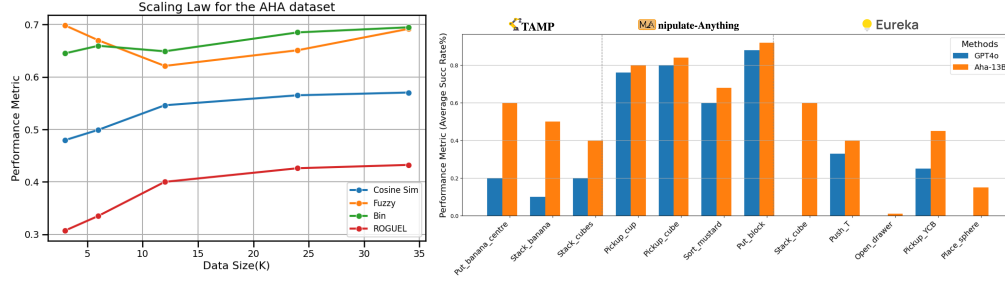


Figure 3: (Left) **Scaling law with the AHA dataset**. Scaling of effect of model performance with varying domain specific fine-tuning data. (Right) **Downstream Robotic Application Performance**. AHA-13B outperforms GPT-4o in reasoning about failures within these robotic applications, leading to improved performance of the downstream tasks.

## 246 5.2 Quantitative Experimental Results

247 We contextualize the performance of AHA by conducting a systematic evaluation of failure reasoning  
 248 and detection across these three datasets, general VQA datasets, and performed ablation studies.

249 **AHA generalizes across embodiments, unseen environments, and novel tasks.** To ensure fairness  
 250 and eliminate bias in the detection and reasoning capabilities of AHA, we evaluated it on three  
 251 different datasets that were never seen during fine-tuning, each designed to test a specific form of  
 252 generalization. First, on the AHA dataset (test) dataset, AHA demonstrated its ability to **generalize**  
 253 **reasoning across tasks and new behaviors within the same domain, outperforming the second-**  
 254 **best performing VLM, GPT-4o ICL**, by an average margin of 12.6% difference across all evaluation  
 255 metrics. Second, we assessed AHA-13B on a dataset generated by the Failgen wrapper in a  
 256 **different simulation domain**, ManiSkill, showing that our model outperforms GPT-4o-ICL by  
 257 an average of 13.4% difference across all metrics as depicted in Table 1. Lastly, to demonstrate  
 258 **generalization to real-world robots and different embodiments**, we evaluated AHA-13B on  
 259 RoboFail [47], where it outperforms GPT-4o-ICL by 4.9% difference.

260 **AHA retains common sense knowledge.** We evaluated AHA-13B’s performance on various VQA  
 261 benchmarks and present the results in Table 2 . AHA-13B **performs comparably to LLaVA-**  
 262 **v1.5-13B (LLama-2) [24]** , with only a 1.5% margin difference as depicted in Table 2. Notably,  
 263 LLaVA-v1.5-13B is a VLM trained on the same pre-trained weights as AHA-13B but fine-tuned on  
 264 VQA data. This indicates that AHA-13B is capable of functioning as a general purpose VLM, in  
 265 addition to excelling at failure reasoning.

266 **AHA’s performance scales with data size.** We evaluated Aha’s performance using a range of AHA  
 267 data for instruction fine-tuning, spanning [3k, 6k, 12k, 34k, 48k, 60k], and co-trained individual  
 268 checkpoints corresponding to these data sizes as shown in Figure 3 (Left). The model was then  
 269 assessed on the ManiSkill-Fail dataset across four evaluation metrics. An average quadratic fit  
 270 gradient of 0.0022 across all four metrics demonstrates a **scaling effect with fine-tuning on our**  
 271 **procedurally generated data pipeline**. This suggests that further scaling of the generated data may  
 272 lead to improved model performance.

## 273 5.3 Downstream Robotics Tasks

274 We demonstrate that AHA’s failure detection and reasoning capabilities are useful across a wide  
 275 spectrum of downstream robotics applications. This includes automatic reward generation for  
 276 reinforcement learning applications [17], automatic task plan generation for task and motion planning  
 277 applications [19], and as an improved verification step for automatic data generation systems [22].  
 278 Videos and detailed improved reward function, task plan, example videos from each applications and  
 279 etc can be found on the project page: <https://aha-corlw.github.io/>.

280 **AHA enables efficient reward synthesis for reinforcement learning.** To evaluate this downstream  
 281 task, we adapted Eureka’s [17] implementation to the ManiSkill simulator, which offers more state-  
 282 based manipulation tasks. We strictly followed the Eureka reward function generation and reflection

283 pipeline, modifying it by incorporating perception failure feedback via either AHA-13B or GPT-4o  
284 (acting as a baseline) to enhance the original LLM reflection mechanism. Instead of only including a  
285 textual summary of reward quality based on policy training statistics for automated reward editing,  
286 we further incorporated explanations of policy failures based on evaluation rollouts. We evaluated  
287 our approach on five reinforcement learning tasks from ManiSkill, ranging from tabletop to mobile  
288 manipulation. To systematically assess the reasoning capabilities of different VLMs under budget  
289 constraints, we sampled one reward function initially and allowed for iterations over two sessions of  
290 GPT API calls. Each policy was trained using PPO over task-specific training steps and evaluated  
291 across 1,000 test steps. During policy rollouts, we employed either AHA-13B or GPT-4o for reward  
292 reflection to improve the reward function. Comparing the evaluated policy success rates using  
293 different failure feedback VLMs, we observed that AHA-13B provided intuitive, human-level failure  
294 reasoning that aided in modifying and improving generated dense reward functions. This resulted in  
295 success across all five tasks within the budget constraints, and our approach **outperformed GPT4o**  
296 **by a significant margin of 22.34% in task success rate** shown in Figure 3 (Right).

297 **AHA refines task-plan generation for TAMP.** To demonstrate AHA’s utility within a planning  
298 system, we incorporated our approach into PRoC3S [19]. The PRoC3S system solves tasks specified  
299 in natural language by prompting an LLM for a Language-Model Program (LMP) that generates  
300 plans, and then testing a large number of these plans within a simulator before executing valid plans  
301 on a robot. If no valid plan can be found within a certain number of samples (100 in our experiments),  
302 the LLM is re-prompted for a new LMP given failure information provided by the environment.  
303 Importantly, as is typical of TAMP methods, the original approach checks for a finite set of failures  
304 (inverse kinematics, collisions, etc.) from the environment, and returns any sampled plan that does not  
305 fail in any of these ways. We incorporated a VLM into this pipeline in two ways: (1) we prompt the  
306 VLM with visualizations of failed plan executions within the simulator, ask it to return an explanation  
307 for the failure, and feed this back to PRoC3S’ LLM during the LMP feedback stage, (2) after PRoC3S  
308 returns a valid plan, we provide a visualization of this to the VLM and ask it to return whether  
309 this plan truly achieves the natural language goal, with replanning triggered if not. We compared  
310 GPT-4o and AHA-13B as the VLM-based failure reasoning modules within this implementation  
311 of PRoC3S across three tasks (shown in Figure 4). Each task was evaluated over 10 trials, with a  
312 maximum of 100 sampling steps and three feedback cycles provided by either GPT-4o or AHA-13B.  
313 The success rate for each task was recorded. As shown in Figure Figure 3 (Right), utilizing AHA-13B  
314 for **failure reasoning significantly improved the task success rate and outperforming GPT-4o by**  
315 **a substantial margin of 36.7%.**

316 **AHA improves task verification for zero-shot robot data generation.** To demonstrate  
317 AHA’s utility in zero-shot robot demonstration generation, we integrated our approach into the  
318 Manipulate-Anything framework. This open-ended system employs various Vision-Language  
319 Models (VLMs) to generate diverse robot trajectories and perform a wide range of manipula-  
320 tion tasks without being constrained by predefined actions or scenarios. A critical component  
321 of Manipulate-Anything is its sub-task verification module, which analyzes past and current  
322 frames to decide whether a sub-task has been achieved before proceeding or re-iterating over the  
323 previous sub-task. We replaced the original VLM (GPT-4V) in the sub-task verification module with  
324 AHA-13B and evaluated performance across four RLbench tasks (Figure 4), conducting 25 episodes  
325 for each task. Our results show that **substituting the sub-task verification module’s VLM with**  
326 **AHA improved reasoning accuracy and overall task success by an average of 5%.**

## 327 6 Conclusion

328 **Limitations.** AHA excels at reasoning within the fine-tuning data’s failure scenarios but has room to  
329 generate more open-ended failures beyond the defined taxonomy. Expanding FailGen to sample  
330 diverse failure modes from large pretrained policies could improve AHA’s flexibility. **Conclusion.**  
331 We present AHA, an open-source VLM that enhances failure detection and reasoning in robot  
332 manipulation. Trained on diverse failure trajectories with FailGen, AHA outperforms existing  
333 models and improves task success rates by providing detailed, natural language feedback, surpassing  
334 GPT-4 in error recovery and policy performance.



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## 491 7 Appendix

### 492 7.1 Overview

493 The Appendix contains the following content.

- 494 • **Failure Taxonomy** (Appendix 7.2): more thorough definition and figure to discussions  
495 about the different failure modes.
- 496 • **FailGen Data Generation Pipeline** (Appendix 7.3): more discussion of FailGen imple-  
497 mentation with example configurations files.
- 498 • **AHA Datasets** (Appendix 7.4): more details on the instruction-tuning dataset and evaluation  
499 datasets.
- 500 • **Additional Experimental Results** (Appendix 7.5): more details and experiments with  
501 instruction finetuning.
- 502 • **Downstream Robotic Application: VLM Reward Generation** (Appendix 7.6): more  
503 policy rollouts, generated reward function examples, and prompts.
- 504 • **Downstream Robotic Application: VLM Task-plan Generation**(Appendix 7.7): more  
505 policy rollouts, generated task-plan examples, and prompts.
- 506 • **Downstream Robotic Application: VLM Sub-task Verification**(Appendix 7.8): more  
507 policy rollouts.

### 508 7.2 Failure Taxonomy

509 We conducted an in-depth study of recent real-world, diverse robot datasets (such as Open-X [46],  
510 DROID [45], and EGO4D [59]) and the policies trained using these datasets. Through this analysis,  
511 we identified several common modes of failure, which can be categorized into seven types: incomplete  
512 grasp, inadequate grip retention, misaligned keyframe, incorrect rotation, missing rotation, wrong  
513 action sequence, and wrong target object.

514 **Incomplete Grasp (No\_Grasp) Failure:** No\_Grasp is an object-centric failure that occurs when the  
515 gripper reaches the desired grasp pose but fails to close before proceeding to the next keyframe.

516 **Inadequate Grip Retention (Slip) Failure:** Slip is an object-centric failure that occurs after the  
517 object has been successfully grasped. As the gripper moves the object toward the next task-specific  
518 keyframe, the grip weakens, causing the object to slip from the gripper. For generating the AHA  
519 dataset for training and evaluation, we configured a 5-timestep activation for the Slip failure mode,  
520 triggering the object to drop from the gripper.




521 **Misaligned keyframe (Translation) Failure:** This action-centric failure occurs when the gripper  
522 moves toward a task keyframe, but a translation offset along the X, Y, or Z axis causes the task to fail.  
523 For the AHA training and evaluation dataset, we introduced a translation offset of [-0.5, 0.5] meters.  
524 In the ManiSkill-Fail dataset, we applied a translation noise of [0, 0.1] meters along either the X, Y,  
525 or Z axis from the original waypoint. The translation coordinate system is depicted in Figure 7 (Left).

526 **Incorrect Rotation (Rotation) Failure:** Rotation is an action-centric failure that occurs when the  
527 gripper reaches the desired translation pose for the sub-task keyframe, but there is an offset in roll,  
528 yaw, or pitch, leading to task failure. For the AHA dataset, we set a rotation offset of [-3.14, 3.14] in  
529 radians along roll, yaw, or pitch. The rotation coordinate system is depicted in Figure 7 (Right).

530 **Missing Rotation (No\_Rotation) Failure:** No\_Rotation is an action-centric failure that happens  
531 when the gripper reaches the desired translation pose but fails to achieve the necessary rotation (roll,  
532 yaw, or pitch) for the sub-task, resulting in task failure.

533 **Wrong Action Sequence (Wrong\_action) Failure:** Wrong\_action is an action-centric failure that  
534 occurs when the robot executes actions out of order, performing an action keyframe before the correct

Table 3: **AHA datasets for instruction-tuning.** We combined RoboFail, our large-scale robotic manipulation failure dataset, with VQA and object detection data. By incorporating this diverse data mix into the fine-tuning process, AHA is able to reason about failures in robotic manipulation across different domains, embodiments, and tasks.

Source	AHA (Train)	VQA [24]	LVIS [50]
			
Quantity	49K	665K	100K
Query	For the given sub-tasks, first determine it has succeed by choosing from ["yes", "no"] and then explain the reason why the current sub-tasks has failed.	What is the cat doing in the image?	Find all instances of drawer.
Answer	No, The robot gripper rotated with an incorrect roll angle	The cat is sticking its head into a vase or container, possibly drinking water or investigating the interior of the item.	[(0.41, 0.68, 0.03, 0.05), (0.42, 0.73, 0.04, 0.08), ...]

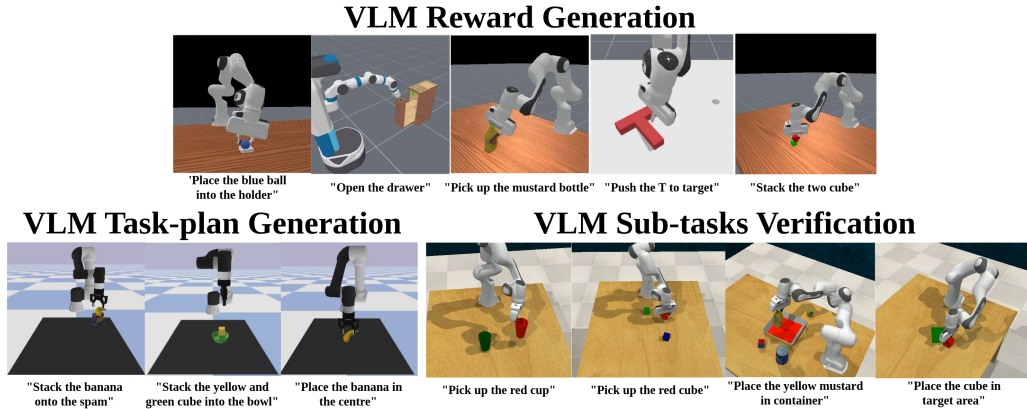


Figure 4: **Downstream Robotic Application.** We demonstrated that AHA can be integrated into existing LLM/VLM-assisted robotic applications to provide failure reasoning and feedback, helping to accelerate and improve task success rates in these systems.

535 one. For example, in the task `put_cube_in_drawer`, the robot moves the cube toward the drawer  
 536 before opening it, leading to task failure.

537 **Wrong Target Object (Wrong\_object) Failure:** `Wrong_object` is an object-centric failure that  
 538 occurs when the robot acts on the wrong target object, not matching the language instruction. For  
 539 example, in the task `pick_the_red_cup`, the gripper picks up the green cup, causing failure. We  
 540 perform a sweep through all manipulable objects, swapping them with the target object in the scene.

### 541 7.3 FailGen Data Generation Pipeline

542 We developed `FailGen`, an environment wrapper that can be easily integrated into any simulator.  
 543 It leverages pre-defined or hand-crafted robot demonstrations for imitation learning, where each  
 544 trajectory is represented as a waypoint-based system. Two consecutive waypoints form a sub-  
 545 task, with each sub-task linked to a predefined set of language descriptions. `FailGen` allows for  
 546 modifications to environment parameters, such as gripper end-effector translation, rotation, and  
 547 open/close state. By altering these parameters, we systematically generate failures at every waypoint.  
 548 However, for the 79 tasks collected from `RLBench`, we do not initially know which sub-task will fail

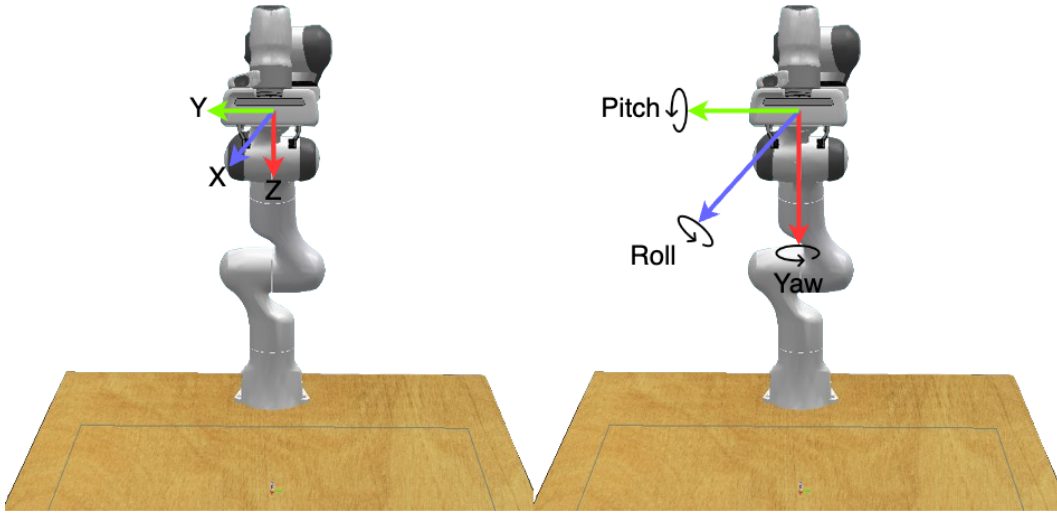


Figure 5: **Failure mode reference coordinate systems.** (Left) Translation coordinate system, and (Right) rotation coordinate system.

Table 4: **Ablation on Different Base LLMs for Fine-Tuning.** We fine-tuned AHA-13B using both LLaMA-2-13B and Vicuna-1.5-13B as base LLM models. The quantitative results show that the average performance difference between the two models is less than 2.5%, indicating that our failure formulation and the AHA dataset are effective regardless of the base model selection.

Models	AHA dataset (Test)				ManiSkill-Fail				RoboFail			
	ROUGE <sub>L</sub> ↑	Cos Sim ↑	BinSucc(%) ↑	Fuzzy Match ↑	ROUGE <sub>L</sub> ↑	Cos Sim ↑	BinSucc(%) ↑	Fuzzy Match ↑	ROUGE <sub>L</sub> ↑	Cos Sim ↑	BinSucc(%) ↑	Fuzzy Match ↑
AHA-13B (Llama-2)	<b>0.446</b>	0.583	0.702	<b>0.768</b>	<b>0.600</b>	<b>0.681</b>	<b>1.000</b>	0.633	0.280	<b>0.471</b>	<b>0.643</b>	0.465
AHA-13B (Vicuna-1.5)	0.458	<b>0.591</b>	<b>0.709</b>	0.695	0.574	0.657	<b>1.000</b>	<b>0.851</b>	<b>0.290</b>	0.468	<b>0.661</b>	<b>0.605</b>

549 due to specific failure modes. To address this, we perform a systematic sweep, using RL-Bench’s built-  
 550 in success conditions to explore all possible combinations. This generates a configuration of failures  
 551 for each task, which we then use to procedurally generate all failure training data. Additionally, we  
 552 manually annotate each sub-task with natural language instructions describing the task, and pair this  
 553 with failure mode explanations to serve as language input for instruction-tuning. Example of the  
 554 configuration files are depicted at Figure 9.

#### 555 7.4 AHA Dataset

556 Using FailGen, we curated two datasets from RL-Bench [44]. The first is the training dataset,  
 557 AHA dataset (train), which is used for instruction-tuning AHA alongside the co-train dataset. The  
 558 second is the testing dataset, AHA dataset (test), used for evaluation. AHA dataset (train) contains  
 559 approximately 49k image-query pairs of failures derived from 79 tasks, while AHA dataset (test)  
 560 consists of around 11k image-query pairs from 10 hold-out tasks.

#### 561 7.5 Additional Experimental Results

562 We conducted additional experiments to better understand and visualize AHA’s predictions. We  
 563 trained two versions of the AHA model with 13B parameters, using different language models for  
 564 fine-tuning: Llama-2-13B and Vicuna-1.5-13B. The results showed less than a 2.5% performance  
 565 difference between the two models, indicating that our fine-tuning data is effective regardless of the  
 566 base language model. These results are presented in Table 4. Additionally, we visualized the output  
 567 predictions from various baselines compared to our model and evaluated performance across all three  
 568 datasets, with the results shown in Figure 5.

```

1 save_path: /home/${oc.env:USER}/data/failgen_data
2 obs_mode: rgb
3 render_mode: sensors
4 shader: default
5 sim_backend: auto
6 image_size: [256, 256]
7 stages: [0, 1, 2, 3]
8 failures:
9   - type: grasp
10     enabled: false
11     stages: [2]
12   - type: trans_x
13     enabled: false
14     stages: [0, 1, 3]
15     noise: 0.1
16   - type: trans_y
17     enabled: false
18     stages: [0, 1, 3]
19     noise: 0.1
20   - type: trans_z
21     enabled: false
22     stages: [0, 1, 3]
23     noise: 0.1
24
data:
# Where to save the demos
save_path: /home/data
# The size of the images to save
waypoints: [0, 1, 2, 3]
failures:
- type: grasp
  name: failure_grasp_pose
  enabled: False
  waypoints: [1]
- type: translation_y
  name: trans_y
  enabled: False
  waypoints: [1,2,3]
  range: [-0.5, 0.5]
- type: rotation_x
  name: rot_x
  enabled: False
  waypoints: [0]
  range: [-1.57, 1.57]
- type: wrong_sequence
  name: bad_seq
  enabled: False
  waypoints: [2,3]
sub-tasks:
- task_no: 0
  enabled: False
  type: dummy
  targets: [ball]
  processes: [waypoint0, waypoint1]
  task_description: [
    "grasp onto the clock knob",
    "pick on the clock knob"
  ]
- task_no: 1
  enabled: False
  type: dummy
  targets: [ball]
  processes: [waypoint1, waypoint2]
  task_description: [
    "rotate the knob",
    "turn the knob"
  ]
- task_no: 2
  enabled: False
  type: dummy
  targets: [ball]
  processes: [waypoint2, waypoint3]
  task_description: [
    "let go",
    "release the gripper"
  ]

```

Figure 6: (Left) Example of config file of one task for Maniskill-Fal. (Right) Example of config file for AHA task

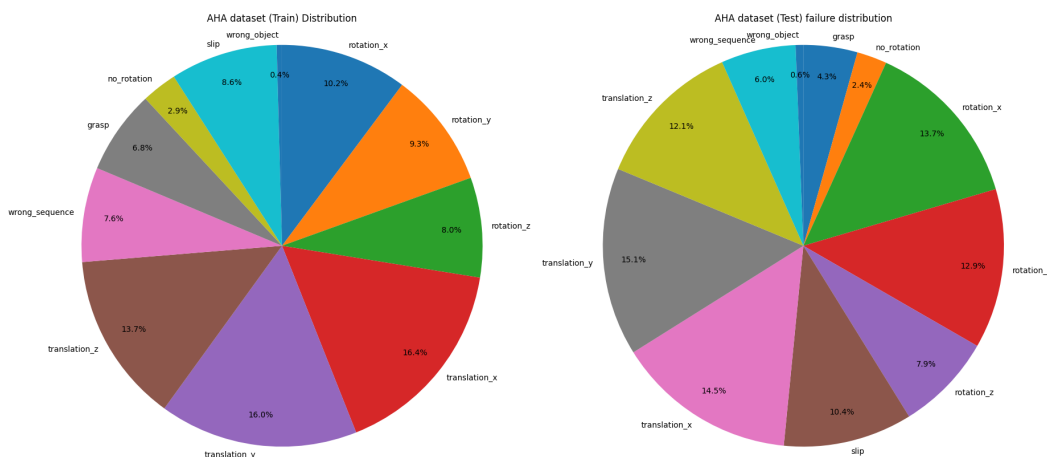


Figure 7: Data distribution of AHA dataset for both train and test.

## 569 7.6 VLM Reward Generation

570 In this section, we present reward functions generated by GPT-4o and AHA for comparison, as shown  
571 in Figure 9. Additionally, we demonstrate RL policy rollouts improved through AHA’s failure  
572 feedback across all five tasks along with all the final dense reward function modified by AHA shown  
573 in Figure 10 and 11. For all tasks, except **put\_sphere\_on\_holder** (trained with PPO for 10M steps),  
574 PPO was trained for 25M steps prior to reflection and evaluation.



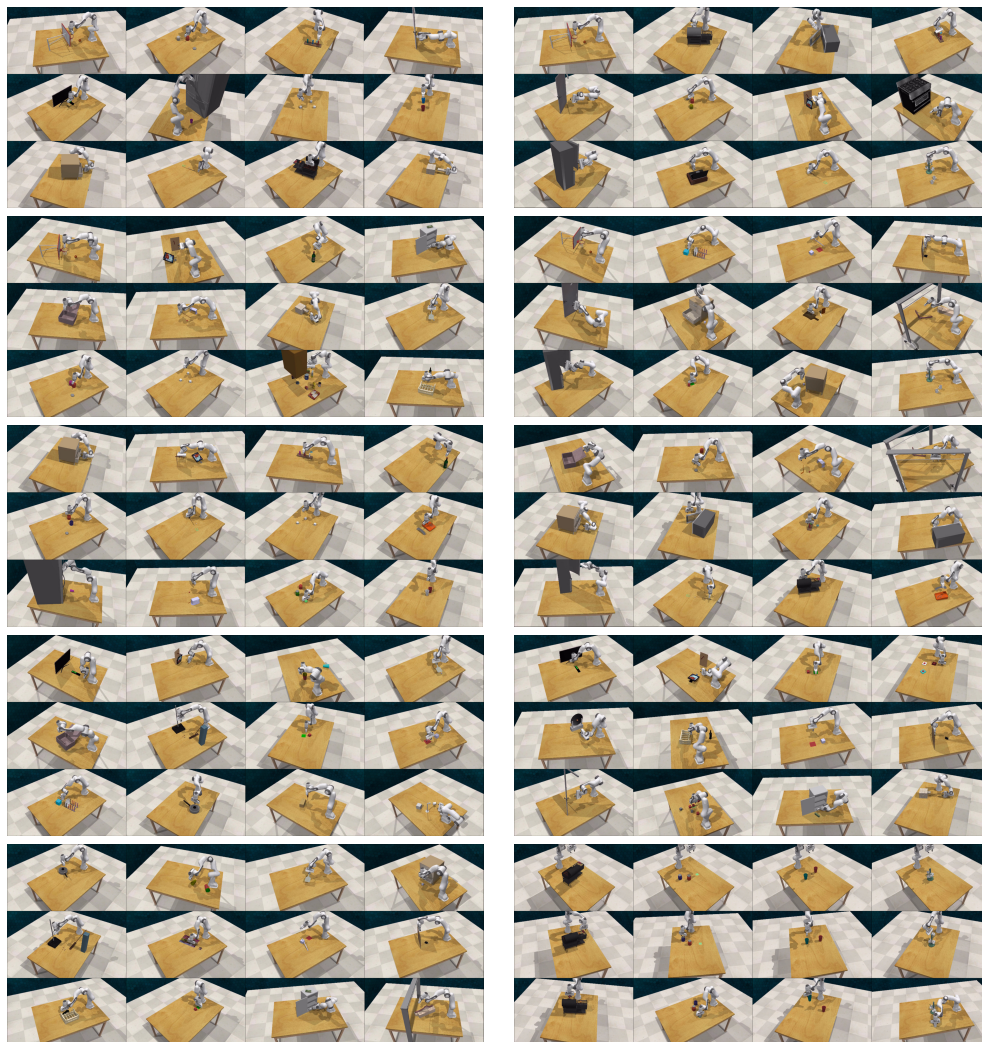


Figure 8: **Examples of different failure modes.** Row 1: No\_grasp and Rotation\_x. Row 2: Rotation\_y and Rotation\_z. Row 3: Slip and Wrong\_sequence. Row 4: Translation\_x and Translation\_y. Row 5: Translation\_z and Wrong\_object.

575 **Simulation task Details** We describe each of the 4 tasks in detail, along with their Maniskill variations  
 576 and success condition.

#### 577 **7.6.1** pickup YCB

578 **Filename:** pick\_single\_ycb.py

579 **Task:** Pick up the single YCB object and lift it up to target height.

580 **Success Metric:** The object position is within goal\_thresh (default 0.025) euclidean distance of the  
 581 goal position.

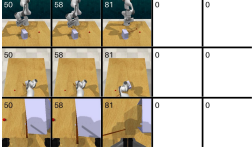
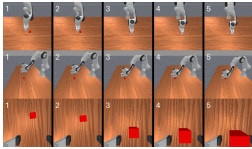
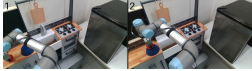
#### 582 **7.6.2** push T

583 **Filename:** push\_T.py

584 **Task:** Push the T into the T shaped area.

585 **Success Metric:** The 3D T block covers at least 90

Table 5: **Examples of detection and reasoning over failures by various VLMs.** We sampled one evaluation data point from each of the three evaluation datasets and compared the reasoning predictions generated by different state-of-the-art VLMs alongside our AHA-13B. Our model consistently provides the most semantically similar reasoning to the ground-truth answers for the given queries.

Evaluation Datasets	AHA dataset (Test)	Maniskill-Fail	RoboFail [47]
			
Question	At the current sub-task, the robot is picking up the hockey stick. First, determine whether it has succeeded by choosing from ["yes", "no"]. If not, explain why it failed?	At the current sub-task, the robot is picking up the red cube. First, determine whether it has succeeded by choosing from ["yes", "no"]. If not, explain why it failed?	At the current sub-task, the robot is placing the apple into the bowl. First, determine whether it has succeeded by choosing from ["yes", "no"]. If not, explain why it failed?
LLaVA 1.5-13B	The image displays a time-lapse sequence of a robotic arm grabbing a hockey stick.	Based on the image, it depicts a different sub-task of a robot grasping a red block.	For the pick-up task, i would say the robot arm has succeeded in picking.
GPT4o	No, the robot arm fails to hold the hockey stick securely.	Yes, the robot arm has successfully picked up the red block.	No, the robot gripper failed to pick up the bowl in the second frame.
Gemini 1.5 Flash	Yes.	Yes, Yes, Yes.	Frame 1, no the gripper is not grasping the bowl and move it.
AHA-13B (Ours)	No, the robot slip the object out of its gripper.	No, the robot gripper fails to close the gripper.	No, this is not the right action sequence for the task.
Ground-truth Answer	No, the robot slip the object out of its gripper.	No, the robot gripper fails to close.	No, this is not the right action sequence for the task.

### 586 7.6.3 place sphere

587 **Filename:** place\_sphere\_v1.py

588 **Task:** Pick up the sphere and place it into the bin.

589 **Success Metric:** the sphere is on top of the bin. That is, the sphere's xy-distance to the bin goes near  
590 0, and its z-distance to the bin goes near the sphere radius + the bottom bin block's side length the  
591 object is static. That is, its linear and angular velocities are bounded with a small value the gripper is  
592 not grasping the object.

### 593 7.6.4 stack cube

594 **Filename:** stack\_cube\_v1.py

595 **Task:** Pick up the red cube and stack it onto the green cube.

596 **Success Metric:** the red cube is on top of the green cube (to within half of the cube size), the red  
597 cube is static, the red cube is not being grasped by the robot (robot must let go of the cube).

### 598 7.6.5 open drawer

599 **Filename:** open\_cabinet\_drawer\_v1.py

600 **Task:** Pull open the drawer.

601 **Success Metric:** The drawer is open at least 90% of the way, and the angular/linear velocities of the  
602 drawer link are small.

```

1 1 def compute_dense_reward(self, obs: Any, action: torch.Tensor, info: Dict):
2 2     # Calculate the distance between the top and cuboid
3 3     top_to_cuboid_dist = torch.linalg.norm(self.cuboid.pose.p - self.agent.top.pose.p, axis=1)
4 4     reaching_reward = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * top_to_cuboid_dist)
5 5     reward = reaching_reward
6 6
7 7     # Check if cuboid is grasped
8 8     is_cuboid_grasped = info["is_cuboid_grasped"]
9 9     reward = is_cuboid_grasped
10 10
11 11     # Add a lifting reward to encourage the agent to lift Cuboid once it's grasped
12 12     cuboid_height_reward_lifting = torch.heaviside(self.cuboid.pose.p[... 2] - self.cuboid.pose.p[... 2] - 0.1, torch.tensor(0.8))
13 13     reward += cuboid_height_reward_lifting * is_cuboid_grasped
14 14
15 15     # Calculate the distance between cuboid and cuboid
16 16     cuboid_to_cuboid_dist = torch.linalg.norm(self.cuboid.pose.p - self.cuboid.pose.p, axis=1)
17 17     stacking_reward = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * cuboid_to_cuboid_dist)
18 18     reward += stacking_reward * is_cuboid_grasped
19 19
20 20     # Add a positional reward component to encourage lifting Cuboid
21 21     cuboid_height_reward = self.cuboid.pose.p[... 2]
22 22
23 23     reward += cuboid_height_reward * is_cuboid_grasped
24 24
25 25     # Static reward for cuboid being static when placed on cuboid
26 26     static_reward = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * torch.linalg.norm(self.agent.robot.get_vel()[... 1:2], axis=1))
27 27     reward += static_reward * info["is_cuboid_on_cuboid"]
28 28
29 29     # Bonus reward for successful stacking
30 30     reward[info["Success"]] = 8
31 31     return reward

```

```

1 1 def compute_dense_reward(self, obs: Any, action: torch.Tensor, info: Dict):
2 2     # Distance from the TOP (that Center Point) to cuboid
3 3     top_to_cuboid_dist = torch.linalg.norm
4 4     self.cuboid.pose.p - self.agent.top.pose.p, axis=1
5 5     )
6 6     )
7 7     reaching_reward = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * top_to_cuboid_dist)
8 8     reward = reaching_reward
9 9
10 10     # Reward for grasping cuboid
11 11     is_cuboid_grasped = info["is_cuboid_grasped"]
12 12     reward = is_cuboid_grasped
13 13
14 14     # Distance from cuboid to cuboid
15 15     cuboid_to_cuboid_dist = torch.linalg.norm
16 16     self.cuboid.pose.p - self.cuboid.pose.p, axis=1
17 17     )
18 18     # Distance from cuboid to cuboid along the x and y directions (ignore z)
19 19     cuboid_to_cuboid_dist_xy = torch.linalg.norm
20 20     self.cuboid.pose.p[... 1:2] - self.cuboid.pose.p[... 1:2], axis=1
21 21     )
22 22     stacking_reward = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * cuboid_to_cuboid_dist)
23 23     reward += stacking_reward * is_cuboid_grasped
24 24
25 25     stacking_reward_xy = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * cuboid_to_cuboid_dist_xy)
26 26     reward += stacking_reward_xy * is_cuboid_grasped
27 27
28 28     # Penalty for misalignment in the z direction
29 29     z_offset_penalty = torch.abs(self.cuboid.pose.p[... 2] - self.cuboid.pose.p[... 2])
30 30     reward -= z_offset_penalty * is_cuboid_grasped
31 31
32 32     # Reward for keeping cuboid static
33 33     is_cuboid_static = info["is_cuboid_static"]
34 34     static_reward = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * torch.linalg.norm(self.agent.robot.get_vel()[... 1:2], axis=1))
35 35     reward += static_reward * info["is_cuboid_on_cuboid"]
36 36
37 37     # Final success reward
38 38     reward[info["Success"]] = 8
39 39     return reward

```

Figure 9: (Left) Example of improved dense reward function using GPT-4o for reflection. (Right) Example of improved dense reward function using AHA for reflection

## 603 7.7 VLM Task-plan Generation

604 In this section, we present the policy rollouts improved by AHA in Figure 12, along with the modified  
605 task plans in Figure 13.

606 **Simulation task Details** We describe each of the 3 tasks in detail, along with their PyBullet variations  
607 and success condition.

### 608 7.7.1 put banana centre

609 **Filename:** ours\_raven\_ycb\_pick.py

610 **Task:** Pick up the banana and place it onto the centre of the table.

611 **Success Metric:** The success condition on the final location of the banana with respect to the table  
612 area.

### 613 7.7.2 stack banana

614 **Filename:** ours\_ycb\_banana\_spam\_stack.py

615 **Task:** Pick up the banana and place it onto the spam can.

616 **Success Metric:** The position of the banana should be on the spam can, and rest stably.

### 617 7.7.3 stacks cubes

618 **Filename:** ours\_raven\_bowl\_stack.py

619 **Task:** Pick up the green cube and place into the green bowl, and then take the yellow cube and stack  
620 it on top of the green.

621 **Success Metric:** When the yellow cube is stably stack on top of the green in the green bowl.

## 622 7.8 VLM Sub-task Verification

623 In this section, we leverage Manipulate-Anything [22] as the main policy framework, integrating  
624 it with AHA. AHA functions as a sub-task verifier VLM, playing a crucial role in ensuring task  
625 success when using Manipulate-Anything. Examples of the roll-outs are shown in Figure 14.

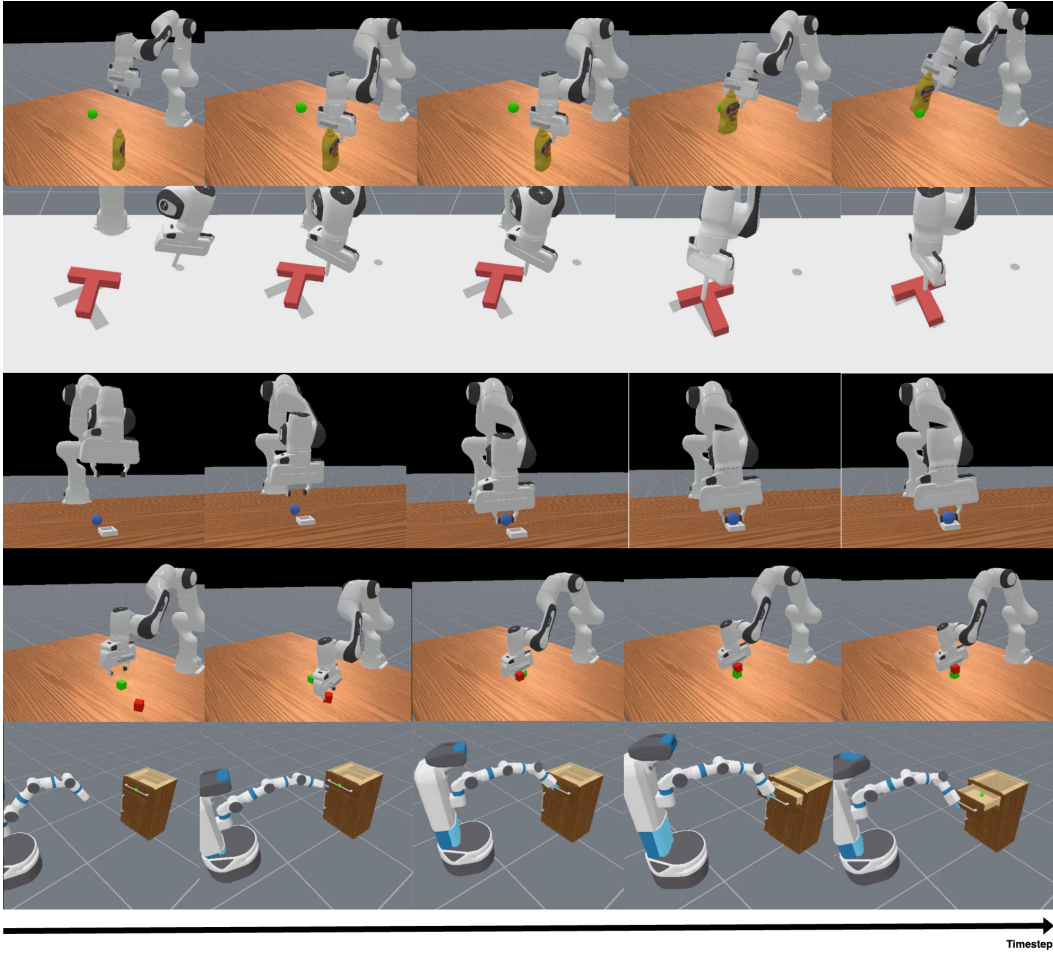


Figure 10: **RL policy roll-outs via improved with AHA.** Row 1: pickup\_YCB. Row 2: push\_T. Row 3: Place\_sphere. Row 4: stack\_cube. Row 5: open\_drawer

626 **Simulation task Details** We describe each of the 4 tasks in detail, along with their RLBench variations  
 627 and success condition.

628 **7.8.1** put block

629 **Filename:** put\_block.py

630 **Task:** Pick up the green block and place it on the red mat.

631 **Success Metric:** The success condition on the red mat detects the target green block.

632 **7.8.2** pickup cup

633 **Filename:** pickup\_cup.py

634 **Task:** Pick up the red cup.

635 **Success Metric:** Lift up the red cup above the pre-defined location.

636 **7.8.3** sort mustard

637 **Filename:** sort\_mustard.py

638 **Task:** Pick up the yellow mustard bottle, and place it into the red container.

<pre> "Push T to shaped T area" def compute_dense_reward(self, obs: Any, action: torch.Tensor, info: Dict):     # Calculate the distance from the TCP to the T-shaped peg     tcp_to_obj_dist = torch.linalg.norm(self.top_pose.p - self.agent.top_pose.p, axis=1)     reaching_reward = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * tcp_to_obj_dist)     reward = reaching_reward      # Calculate the pseudo-rendered intersection area for the T-shaped peg in the goal region     intersection_area = self.pseudo_render_intersection()     intersection_reward = intersection_area / self.intersection_thresh     reward += intersection_reward      # Calculate the distance from the TCP to the end-effector goal position     tcp_to_goal_dist = torch.linalg.norm(self.ee_goal_pose.p - self.agent.top_pose.p, axis=1)     end_effector_goal_reward = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * tcp_to_goal_dist)     reward += end_effector_goal_reward * (intersection_area &gt;= self.intersection_thresh)      # Adding a penalty term for misalignment along the x direction     tcp_to_obj_x_dist = torch.abs(self.top_pose.p[:, 0])     self.agent.top_pose.p[:, 0]     alignment_penalty = -0.5 * torch.tanh(5 * tcp_to_obj_x_dist)     reward += alignment_penalty      # Reward for achieving the task success condition     reward[info['success']] = 3.0     return reward </pre>	<pre> "Stack the red cube onto green cube" def compute_dense_reward(self, obs: Any, action: torch.Tensor, info: Dict):     # Distance from the TCP (Tool Center Point) to cubaA     tcp_to_cubaA_dist = torch.linalg.norm(         self.cubaA_pose.p - self.agent.top_pose.p, axis=1)     reaching_reward = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * tcp_to_cubaA_dist)     reward = reaching_reward      # Reward for grasping cubaA     is_cubaA_grasped = info['is_cubaA_grasped']     reward += is_cubaA_grasped      # Distance from cubaA to cubaB along the x and y directions (ignore z)     cubaA_to_cubaB_dist_xy = torch.linalg.norm(         self.cubaA_pose.p[...; 2] - self.cubaB_pose.p[...; 2], axis=1)     stacking_reward_xy = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * cubaA_to_cubaB_dist_xy)     reward += stacking_reward_xy * is_cubaA_grasped      # Penalty for misalignment in the x direction     x_offset_penalty = torch.abs(self.cubaA_pose.p[...; 2] - self.cubaB_pose.p[...; 2])     reward -= x_offset_penalty * is_cubaA_grasped      # Reward for keeping cubaA static     is_cubaA_static = info['is_cubaA_static']     static_reward = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * torch.linalg.norm(self.agent.robot.get_qvel[...; 2], axis=1))     reward += static_reward * info['is_cubaA_on_cubaB']      # Final success reward     reward[info['success']] = 8     return reward </pre>	<pre> "Put sphere into sphere holder" def compute_dense_reward(self, obs: Any, action: torch.Tensor, info: Dict):     # Compute the distance from the TCP (gripper) to the object (sphere)     tcp_to_obj_dist = torch.linalg.norm(self.obj_pose.p - self.agent.top_pose.p, axis=1)     reaching_reward = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * tcp_to_obj_dist)     reward = reaching_reward      # Add grasping reward if the object is being grasped     is_grasped = info['is_obj_grasped']     reward += is_grasped      # Compute the distance from the object (sphere) to the bin     obj_to_bin_dist = torch.linalg.norm(self.bin_pose.p - self.obj_pose.p, axis=1)     placing_reward = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * obj_to_bin_dist)     reward += placing_reward * is_grasped      # Add an additional z-axis penalty to ensure precise placement into the bin     z_offset_penalty = torch.abs(self.bin_pose.p[...; 2] - self.obj_pose.p[...; 2])     reward -= 5 * torch.tanh(5 * z_offset_penalty) * is_grasped      # Add reward if the object is on the bin and the robot is static     reward += info['is_obj_static'] * info['is_obj_on_bin']      # Set reward to maximum if the task is successfully completed     reward[info['success']] = 13     return reward </pre>
<pre> "Pick up the mustard bottle" def compute_dense_reward(self, obs: Any, action: torch.Tensor, info: Dict):     # Distance from TCP to object     tcp_to_obj_dist = torch.linalg.norm(         self.obj_pose.p - self.agent.top_pose.p, axis=1)     reaching_reward = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * tcp_to_obj_dist)     reward = reaching_reward      # Reward for grasping the object     is_grasped = info['is_grasped']     reward += is_grasped      # Introducing a penalty for missing the grasp     missed_grasp_penalty = torch.where(is_grasped == 0, -0.5, 0.0)     reward += missed_grasp_penalty      # Reward for grasping with proper rotation (introducing a reward for rotation alignment)     rotation_alignment = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * torch.abs(self.agent.top_pose.q - self.obj_pose.q).sum())     reward += rotation_alignment * is_grasped      # Introducing a penalty for misalignment during grasp     misalignment_penalty = torch.where(rotation_alignment &lt; 0.5, -0.5, 0.0)     reward += misalignment_penalty * is_grasped      # Distance from object to goal     obj_to_goal_dist = torch.linalg.norm(         self.obj_pose.p - self.goal_pose.p, axis=1)     place_reward = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * obj_to_goal_dist)     reward += place_reward * is_grasped      # Reward for lifting the object     lift_reward = torch.where(         self.obj_pose.p[:, 2] &gt; 0.1, 1.0, 0.0)     # Assuming 0.1 as the threshold height for lifting     reward += lift_reward * is_grasped      # Final success reward     reward[info['success']] = 6     return reward </pre>	<pre> "Pick up the mustard bottle" def compute_dense_reward(self, obs: Any, action: torch.Tensor, info: Dict):     # Compute the distance between the TCP (tool center point) and the handle     tcp_to_handle_dist = torch.linalg.norm(         info['handle_pos'] - self.agent.top_pose.p, axis=1)     reaching_reward = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * tcp_to_handle_dist)     reward = reaching_reward      # Compute the reward for grasping the handle     is_grasped = self.agent.is_grasping(self.handle_link)     reward += is_grasped      # Compute the distance the drawer has been pulled out     open_frac = (self.handle_link.joint_pos - self.handle_link.joint_limits[...; 0]) / (         self.handle_link.joint_limits[...; 1] - self.handle_link.joint_limits[...; 0])     open_reward = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * (self.min_open_frac - open_frac))     reward += open_reward * is_grasped      # Encourage a progressive motion of opening the drawer: add positive reward only if     # drawer's open_frac is increasing     drawer_change = open_frac - get_attr(self, '_prev_open_frac', open_frac)     progressive_reward = drawer_change where drawer_change &gt; 0, torch.tanh(0.0)     reward += progressive_reward * 10 # Multiplier adjusted to emphasize its importance     self._prev_open_frac = open_frac      # Compute the static reward to encourage the agent to keep the drawer open     link_is_static = 1 - torch.linalg.norm(self.handle_link.angular_velocity, axis=1) &lt; 1     # &amp; torch.linalg.norm(self.handle_link.linear_velocity, axis=1) &lt; 0.1     static_reward = 1 - torch.tanh(5 * (1 - link_is_static).float())     reward += static_reward * info['open_enough']      # Penalty for y-direction offset movement after grasping     y_offset_penalty = torch.abs(self.agent.top_pose.p[:, 1] - info['handle_pos'][:, 1])     reward -= y_offset_penalty * is_grasped      # Add a large reward if the task is successfully completed     reward[info['success']] = 5.0     return reward </pre>	

Figure 11: Examples of modified reward function via AHA

639 **Success Metric:** The yellow mustard bottle inside red container.

640 **7.8.4** pick & lift

641 **Filename:** pick\_and\_lift.py

642 **Task:** Pick up the red cube.

643 **Success Metric:** The red cube is lifted up.

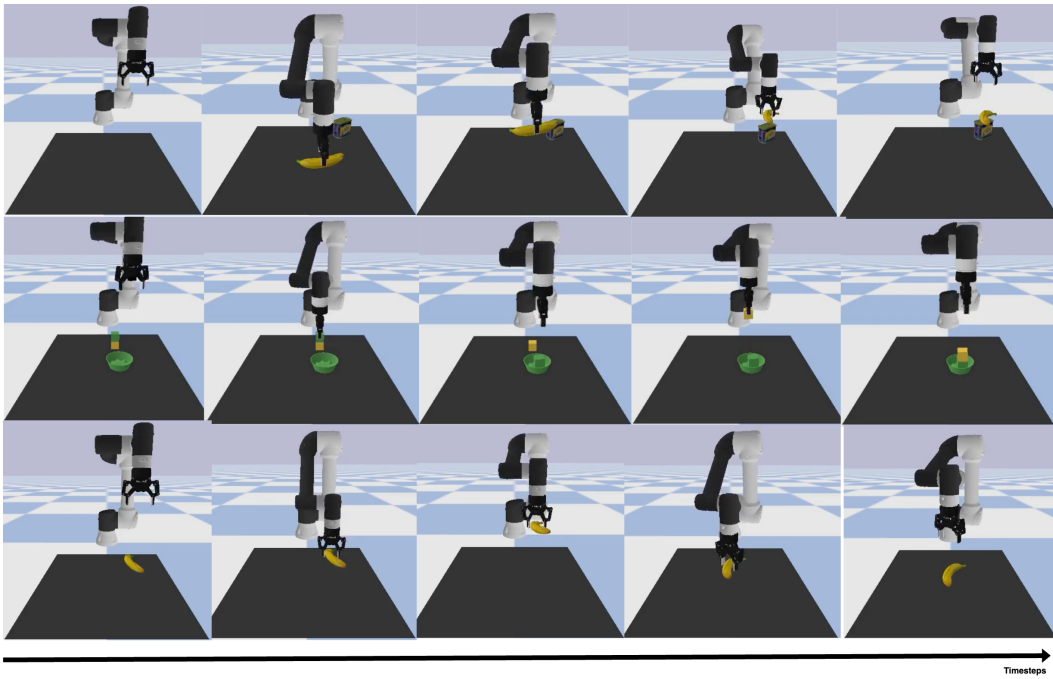


Figure 12: TAMP policy roll-outs via improved with AHA. Row 1: put\_banana\_centre. Row 2: stack\_banana. Row 3: stack\_cubes

## "Stack banana onto spam can"

Thank you for the clarification. Even that the robot gripper moves to the desired position with an offset along the z direction, we need to account for this offset when placing the banana on top of the potted meat can. Let's assume the offset is a known constant: GRIPPER\_OFFSET\_Z. We'll use this offset to adjust the placement pose accordingly. Here's the updated gen\_plan and gen\_domain functions:

```
'''python
GRIPPER_OFFSET_Z = 0.02 # Example offset value, adjust as necessary

def gen_plan(initial: RavenBelief, grasp: RavenGrasp):
    plan = []
    # Pick up the banana
    plan.append(Action("pick", [{"object": "banana"}], grasp))
    # Get the pose of the potted meat can
    spam_pose = initial.objects["object_0"].pose
    # Calculate the placement pose for the banana on top of the potted meat can
    banana_place_pose = RavenPose(
        x=spam_pose.x,
        y=spam_pose.y,
        z=spam_pose.z + BLOCK_SIZE + GRIPPER_OFFSET_Z, # Adjust for the gripper offset
        roll=spam_pose.roll,
        pitch=spam_pose.pitch,
        yaw=spam_pose.yaw
    )
    # Place the banana on top of the potted meat can
    plan.append(Action("place", [{"object": "banana", "pose": banana_place_pose}]))
    return plan

def gen_domain(initial: RavenBelief):
    return {
        "grasp": GraspSampler()
    }
'''

'''Explanation'''
1. "Pick up the Banana": The plan starts by picking up the banana ( object_3 ) using a grasp sampled from the GraspSampler.
2. "Calculating Placement Pose": The pose of the potted meat can ( object_0 ) is retrieved from the initial state. The placement pose for the banana is calculated by adding the height of the banana (approximated as BLOCK_SIZE) and the gripper offset (GRIPPER_OFFSET_Z) to the z-coordinate of the potted meat can's pose. The roll, pitch, and yaw are kept the same to ensure proper alignment.
3. "Placing the Banana": The plan then places the banana at the calculated pose on top of the potted meat can.

'''Why This Will Always Satisfy the Goal'''
- "Grasp Sampling": The grasp is sampled from a GraspSampler, ensuring that a valid grasp is used for picking up the banana.
- "Placement Calculation": The placement pose is calculated based on the current pose of the potted meat can and adjusted for the gripper offset, ensuring that the banana is placed directly on top of it.
- "Generalization": The plan is general enough to handle different initial positions and orientations of the objects, as it dynamically calculates the placement pose based on the initial state.

This approach ensures that the banana will always be stacked on top of the potted meat can, accounting for the gripper offset along the z direction.
```

## "Stack two cubes into a bowl"

Thank you for pointing that out. Let's correct the plan to account for the z-offset when placing the second cube.

```
python
def gen_plan(initial: RavenBelief, x_offset: float, y_offset: float, z_offset: float):
    plan = []

    # Pick up the green block
    green_block = initial.objects["object_0"]
    plan.append(Action("pick", [green_block.pose.point]))

    # Place the green block into the green bowl
    green_bowl = initial.objects["object_5"]
    x, y, z = green_bowl.pose.point
    plan.append(Action("place", [x + x_offset, y + y_offset, z + z_offset]))

    # Pick up the yellow block
    yellow_block = initial.objects["object_4"]
    plan.append(Action("pick", [yellow_block.pose.point]))

    # Stack the yellow block onto the green block
    green_block_new_pose = [x + x_offset, y + y_offset, z + z_offset + BLOCK_SIZE]
    plan.append(Action("place", [green_block_new_pose[0], green_block_new_pose[1], green_block_new_pose[2] + BLOCK_SIZE]))

    return plan

def gen_domain(initial: RavenBelief):
    return {
        "x_offset": ContinuousSampler(-0.02, 0.02),
        "y_offset": ContinuousSampler(-0.02, 0.02),
        "z_offset": ContinuousSampler(0.01, 0.03),
    }

'''Explanation'''
1. "Pick up the green block": The plan starts by picking up the green block ( object_0 ).
2. "Place the green block into the green bowl": The green block is then placed into the green bowl ( object_5 ). The offsets ( x_offset, y_offset, z_offset ) allow for some variability in the exact placement within the bowl.
3. "Pick up the yellow block": The plan continues by picking up the yellow block ( object_4 ).
4. "Stack the yellow block onto the green block": Finally, the yellow block is placed on top of the green block, which is now in the bowl. The height is adjusted by adding the BLOCK_SIZE to the z-coordinate of the green block's new position, ensuring the yellow block is stacked correctly.

'''Why the Function Will Always Satisfy the Goal'''
- The x_offset, y_offset, and z_offset parameters allow for slight variations in the placement of the green block within the bowl, ensuring it fits regardless of minor positional differences.
- The yellow block is always placed directly on top of the green block, ensuring a stack is formed.
- The domain for the offsets is chosen to be small enough to ensure the blocks are placed correctly but large enough to allow for some variability.

'''Constraints and Potential Failures'''
- If the offsets are too large, the green block might not be placed correctly within the bowl, or the yellow block might not stack properly on the green block.
- The domain for the offsets is chosen to minimize these risks, but if a failure occurs, the offsets can be adjusted to smaller ranges.

This plan should achieve the goal of placing the green block into the bowl and then stacking the yellow block onto the green block, given the initial state and the defined domain.
```

## "Move banana to centre"

To account for the slight offset along the y direction when grasping the object, we can adjust the placement position accordingly. We will use an additional parameter to the gen\_plan function to specify the y\_offset and use it to correct the placement position.

```
'''python
def gen_plan(initial: RavenBelief, grasp: RavenGrasp, y_offset: float):
    plan = []
    object_name = "object_0" # The banana is identified as "object_0"
    plan.append(Action("pick", [object_name, grasp]))
    # Adjust the y position by the offset when placing the object
    adjusted_y = TABLE_CENTER[1] + y_offset
    plan.append(Action("place", [object_name, grasp, RavenPose(x=TABLE_CENTER[0], y=adjusted_y, z=0.02)]))
    return plan

def gen_domain(initial: RavenBelief):
    return {
        "grasp": GraspSampler(),
        "y_offset": ContinuousSampler(-0.05, 0.05) # Allowing for a small offset range
    }

'''Explanation'''
1. "gen_plan Function":
- The function now takes an additional parameter y_offset to account for the slight offset along the y direction.
- When placing the object, the y position is adjusted by adding the y_offset to the table center's y coordinate.

2. "gen_domain Function":
- The function returns a dictionary with two entries:
  - grasp: Sampled using the GraspSampler.
  - y_offset: Sampled using a ContinuousSampler with a range of -0.05 to 0.05, allowing for a small adjustment in the y direction.

'''Why This Will Always Satisfy the Goal'''
- The plan will explicitly pick up the banana and places it at the center of the table, but now with an adjustment for the y offset.
- The y_offset parameter allows for correcting the placement position to account for the slight offset during grasping.
- The table center coordinates are fixed and known, ensuring the banana is always moved to the correct location with the necessary adjustment.

This approach ensures that the goal is achieved regardless of the specific grasp sampled and the slight offset during grasping, as long as the offset is within the specified range.
```

Figure 13: Examples of modified task-plan via AHA

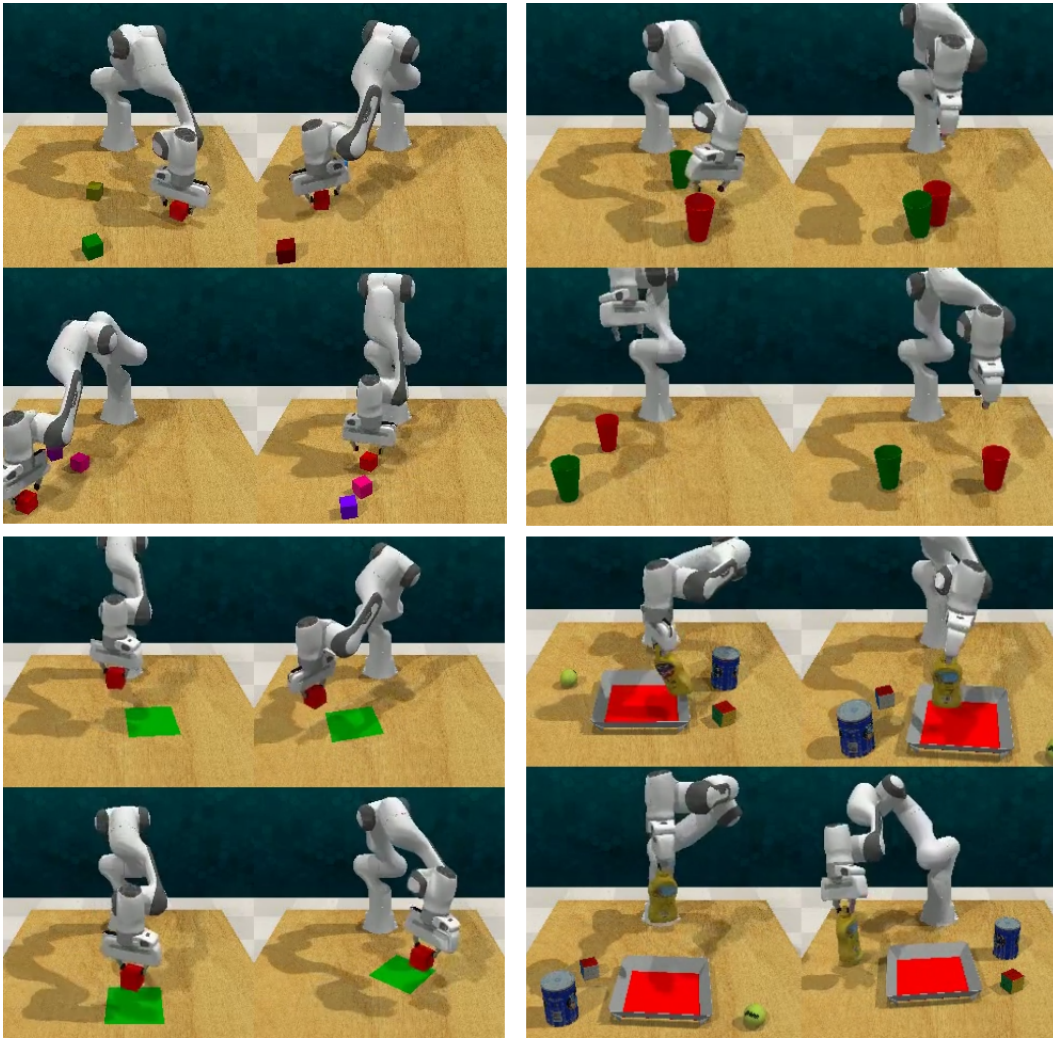


Figure 14: **Examples of zero-shot data generator trajectories with AHA as sub-tasks verifier.**  
 Row 1: pickup\_cube, pickup\_cup. Row 2: put\_block, sort\_mustard