

# 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 EMPOWERING EFFICIENCY AND EFFICACY IN WEB-AGENT VIA ENABLING INFO-RICH SEEKING

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## ABSTRACT

Large Language Model (LLM)-based agents have emerged as a transformative approach for open-ended problem solving, with information seeking (IS) being a core capability that enables autonomous reasoning and decision-making. While prior research has largely focused on improving retrieval depth, we observe that current IS agents often suffer from *low search efficiency*, which in turn constrains overall performance. A key factor underlying this inefficiency is the sparsity of target entities in training tasks, which limits opportunities for agents to learn and generalize efficient search behaviors. To address these challenges, we propose WebLeaper, a framework for constructing high-coverage IS tasks and generating efficient solution trajectories. We formulate IS as a tree-structured reasoning problem, enabling a substantially larger set of target entities to be embedded within a constrained context. Leveraging curated Wikipedia tables, we propose three variants for synthesizing IS tasks—Basic, Union, and Reverse-Union—to systematically increase both IS efficiency and efficacy. Finally, we curate training trajectories by retaining only those that are simultaneously accurate and efficient, ensuring that the model is optimized for both correctness and search performance. Extensive experiments conducted on five IS benchmarks—BrowserComp, GAIA, Seal-0, WideSearch, and xbench-DeepSearch—demonstrate that our method consistently achieves improvements in both effectiveness and efficiency over strong baselines.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The LLM-based agents mark a paradigm shift in AI, delivering transformative solutions to challenges once deemed intractable across diverse domains (Guo et al., 2024; Ye et al., 2023). Among their core capabilities, information seeking (IS) plays a crucial role in enabling the cognitive autonomy of these agents. This ability not only drives their adaptability in open-ended tasks but also underpins a new generation of powerful commercial systems, including OpenAI Deep Research (OpenAI, 2025b), Google’s Gemini (Gemini, 2025), and Perplexity AI (Perplexity, 2025), Kimi-Researcher (Team, 2025).

While numerous studies have sought to enhance the IS capabilities of agents through complex question–answering pipelines and advanced fine-tuning strategies (Wu et al., 2025a; Li et al., 2025c;b; Tao et al., 2025; Qiao et al., 2025; Lu et al., 2025), most existing approaches primarily concentrate on improving the search depth, giving comparatively little attention to search efficiency. Our preliminary experiments indicate that current LLM-based agents search inefficiently. As shown in Figure 1, the distribution of valid actions for a competitive IS agent peaks around 0.04, meaning that in most cases, only a small fraction of actions are effective (Wong et al., 2025; Xue et al., 2025). This low valid-action rate reflects suboptimal search behaviors, including redundant query reformulations, retrieval of irrelevant information, and unnecessarily long search chains. Such inefficiencies not only increase computational and time costs but also limit the agent’s overall IS performance.

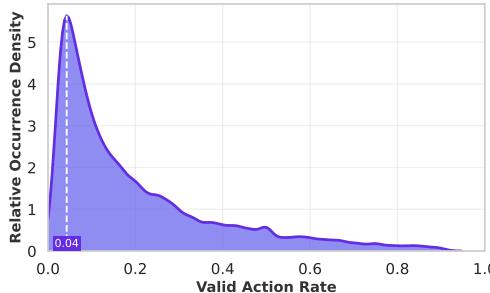


Figure 1: The distribution of valid actions of the agent based on the GPT model on our synthesized IS task. The valid actions are those seeking the correct target entities required by the question.

The design of synthetic training tasks incurs this inefficiency. In typical IS agent setups, the agent begins with a set of known entities and incrementally gathers information to infer all target entities. However, prior work often constructs tasks in which the target entities are overly sparse (Wu et al., 2025a; Li et al., 2025c;b). Such sparsity limits the agent’s exposure to informative cues, reducing opportunities to learn to locate relevant information within a constrained context window. As a result, the agent spends more actions processing irrelevant content, weakening its search strategies, leading to lower performance. Furthermore, it can bias the measurement of search efficiency, which we prove in a later section. This bias makes it difficult to obtain an accurate training signal, thereby obstructing the systematic learning of more efficient search behaviors. These limitations underscore the need to redesign training tasks, enabling optimized seeking efficiency and stronger IS capabilities.

To address these challenges, we propose WebLeaper, a framework designed with two core objectives: (1) to construct new IS tasks containing a substantially larger number of target entities; and (2) to generate solution trajectories that achieve both high accuracy and high efficiency. For the first objective, we model the IS process as a tree-structured reasoning task, which compactly accommodates more target nodes within a limited context. Based on this formulation, we systematically increase task complexity through three dataset variants. First, leveraging curated Wikipedia tables, we synthesize **Basic** version, which directly addresses the challenge of entity sparsity by creating a high-density search space within a single, structured source. To mirror more realistic scenarios that demand integrating information from multiple sources, our **Union** variant constructs tasks that require synthesizing facts across different sources, thereby increasing search ambiguity. Finally, to mitigate the risk of agents adopting simplistic, keyword-based shortcuts, the **Reverse-Union** variant reverses the logical flow, compelling the agent to first deduce intermediate entities from scattered clues before completing the main search task. For the second objective, we construct task-completion trajectories that are filtered according to *Information-Seeking Rate* (ISR) and *Information-Seeking Efficiency* (ISE), retaining only those that solve the task both accurately and efficiently. Models trained on this curated dataset yield our final IS agent.

We conduct extensive experiments to evaluate our approach across five benchmarks: BrowserComp (Wei et al., 2025), GAIA (Mialon et al., 2023), Seal-0 (Pham et al., 2025), WideSearch (Wong et al., 2025), and xbench-DeepSearch (Xbench-Team, 2025). Our method achieves consistent improvements on all benchmarks. Ablation studies on the dataset design further confirm the effectiveness of our proposed components. We summarize our contribution as follows:

- We design a new information-seeking task formulation on a tree-structured reasoning problem, leading to the inclusion of a substantially larger set of target entities within a constrained context. Based on this formulation, we construct the *Basic*, *Union*, and *Reverse-Union* datasets.
- We generate and filter task-solving trajectories using the proposed *Information-Seeking Rate* (ISR) and *Information-Seeking Efficiency* (ISE) metrics, retaining only those trajectories that solve tasks both accurately and efficiently.
- We conduct extensive experiments on five public IS benchmarks, BrowserComp, GAIA, Seal-0, WideSearch, and Xbench-DeepSearch, achieving consistent improvements over strong baselines.

## 2 DEFINITIONS

An Information-Seeking (IS) task challenges an agent to answer a complex natural language question by navigating a vast information space to assemble a complete set of required entities. This process is inherently sequential, involving the progressive discovery of entities, understanding their properties (attributes), and leveraging relationships between them to uncover further entities. This section formally defines the components of such a task and the metrics for evaluating an agent’s performance, emphasizing the importance of identifying both final and intermediate entities in the reasoning chain.

### 2.1 INFORMATION-SEEKING TASK

An entity  $e \in \mathcal{E}$  is the fundamental unit of information. An *Information-Seeking (IS) task* is the process of identifying and collecting a specific set of target entities from  $\mathcal{E}$ , based on a question. Formally, an IS task is a tuple:  $\mathcal{T} = \langle q, R \rangle$ , where  $q$  is the natural language question and  $R \subset \mathcal{E}$  is the set of the target entities that collectively satisfy the conditions posed by  $q$ .

Critically, the required set  $R$  includes not only the final, explicit answers but also all *intermediate entities* that are necessary stepping stones in the reasoning process. Consider the question:

$$q : \text{Which player of a team in the 2004–05 season, who was born in the 1990s?} \quad (1)$$

*This team was founded in 1966 and is an East German football team.*

108 To solve this, an IS agent must seek for information online, and find the target entity set as answer:  
 109  $R = \{Robert\ Rudwaleit, Danny\ Kukulies, \dots\}.$  (2)  
 110

## 111 2.2 INFORMATION-SEEKING AGENT

112 We focus on an *Information-Seeking Agent* that interacts with a web environment to solve an IS task  $\mathcal{T}$   
 113 within the ReAct framework (Yao et al., 2023). The agent’s operation is a sequential decision-making  
 114 process occurring over discrete time steps  $t = 1, \dots, T$ . At each step, the agent analyzes its current  
 115 state (including the initial question and all previously gathered information), generates a thought  
 116 for planning its next move, executes a tool-based action to seek new information, and receives an  
 117 observation from the environment. This entire process is captured in the *agent trajectory* is defined as  
 118

$$\mathcal{H}_T = (q, \tau_1, \alpha_1, o_1, \tau_2, \alpha_2, o_2, \dots, \tau_T, \alpha_T, o_T), \quad (3)$$

119 where  $\tau_i$  is the planning thought,  $\alpha_i$  is the seeking action, and  $o_i$  is the resulting observation at step  $i$ .  
 120 At the end of the process, the agent has obtained a set of entities  $O \subset \mathcal{E}$ , which is the union of all  
 121 unique entities discovered across all steps.

## 122 2.3 QUANTIFYING INFORMATION COLLECTION AND EFFICIENCY

123 To guide an agent towards successfully solving IS tasks, its performance framework must value  
 124 the entire reasoning process, not merely the final output. Our central thesis is that by explicitly  
 125 quantifying the value of *all* required information discovered, we can create a stronger signal for  
 126 learning effective search strategies. To this end, we define principles to formalize the performance  
 127 (the total information gain) and the efficiency (the gain per action) of the agent’s collection process.  
 128

129 **Information-Seeking Rate (ISR)** Recall that  $R$  denotes the set of target ground-truth entities  
 130 for the task, with cardinality  $n = |R|$ .  $O$  is the set of entities actually obtained by the agent  
 131 during its operation. The intersection  $R \cap O$  therefore contains all required entities that were  
 132 successfully retrieved. The *information collection rate* directly measures the fraction of required  
 133 entities successfully obtained by the agent:

$$\text{ISR} = \frac{|R \cap O|}{|R|} = \frac{|R \cap O|}{n}. \quad (4)$$

134 ISR  $\in [0, 1]$ , and higher values indicate more thorough coverage of the required information.  
 135

136 **Information-Seeking Efficiency (ISE)** While ISR measures completeness, the *information collection*  
 137 *efficiency* reflects the average number of action steps to discover the target entity:

$$\text{ISE} = \frac{n}{T}, \quad (5)$$

138 where  $T$  is the total number of steps of the solving trajectory. Higher ISE implies greater IS efficiency.  
 139 The stability of measuring ISE is important for providing unbiased training signals.

140 **Proposition 1** (Variance of ISE). *Let  $X_i$  denote the number of steps the agent takes to discover the  
 141  $i$ -th new entity in  $R$ . Therefore  $\text{ISE} = \frac{n}{T} = \frac{n}{\sum_{i=1}^n X_i}$ . Assume  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  be i.i.d. random variables  
 142 with finite mean  $\mu > 0$  and finite variance  $\sigma^2$ ,  $X_i > 0$  almost surely, then:*

$$\text{Var}(\text{ISE}) = \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{n}\right). \quad (6)$$

143 This proposition shows that as the number of target entities  $n$  grows, measuring ISE becomes a more  
 144 stable and reliable performance metric. The detailed proof is provided in Appendix A.2.  
 145

## 146 3 METHOD

147 To enhance the information efficiency of the IS agent, our approach trains the model on a calibrated  
 148 task  $\mathcal{T} = \langle q, R \rangle$  together with the corresponding task-solving trajectory  $\mathcal{H}$ . In prior IS agent training  
 149 setups, the dataset typically contained only a limited number of target entities ( $R$ ). This design  
 150 substantially restricts the potential improvement in information-seeking efficiency and, in turn, limits  
 151 the agent’s overall capability. The limitation incurs two problems:

- 152 • With a small volume of  $R$ , it is difficult to train the agent to retrieve information efficiently within  
 153 a limited context length.
- 154 • Our method relies on measuring the information-seeking efficiency ISE. As shown in Eq. (6), a  
 155 small set of target entities introduces measurement bias in the ISE metric.

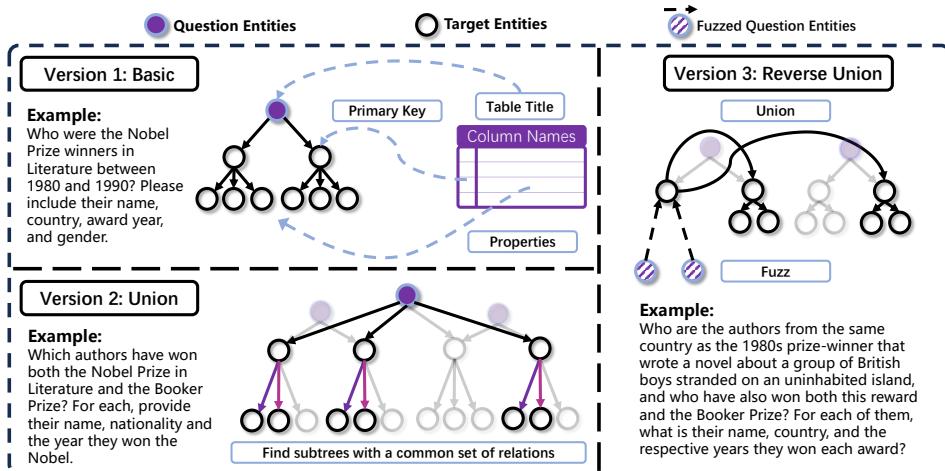


Figure 2: An overview of WebLeaper. The reasoning structure is modeled as a tree. A root entity (question entity) connects to a set of second-layer entities. (a) **Version-I (Basic)** constructs a simple reasoning tree from a single information source. (b) **Version-II (Union)** creates a complex task by finding a maximal union between two trees that share a common set of relations within their subtrees (e.g., both have `has_nationality`). (c) **Version-III (Reverse-Union)** reverses the reasoning process. It provides fuzzied clues (third-layer entities) as question entities, forcing the agent to first deduce a second-layer anchor entity (an entity from the second layer), then other relevant subtrees.

To overcome these shortcomings, we introduce WebLeaper, a novel data synthesis framework specifically designed to boost information-seeking efficiency. Our method consists of two main components: (1) a QA synthesis pipeline for generating calibrated tasks, and (2) a trajectory construction process for producing realistic task-solving sequences. We describe the QA synthesis pipeline and trajectory construction process in detail in the following subsections. For detailed walkthroughs of the examples for each synthesis version, please refer to Appendix A.8.

### 3.1 ENTITY-INTENSIVE TASK SYNTHESIS

#### 3.1.1 VERSION-I: Basic

In an information-seeking task, the reasoning structure matters. We use a tree, denoted as  $T_i$ , to represent this structure, where nodes are entities and edges are relations between them. The IS agent must start with some known entities in the tree and reason along the edges to determine the target ones. To incorporate as many target entities as possible, we use this tree structure for its compact and hierarchical organization.

Synthesizing such a task  $\mathcal{T} = \langle q, R \rangle$  requires a large volume of relevant entities, which is non-trivial. Following the one-entity-at-a-time collection strategy of prior work is prohibitively expensive. Therefore, we exploit the structured tables contained in Wikipedia articles, which encapsulate rich relational information. These tables naturally provide groups of entities connected by specific relationships, enabling us to efficiently construct the reasoning tree  $T_i$ . We crawled approximately 2 million tables from Wikipedia and applied a multi-stage cleaning procedure, retaining only large, well-formed, and structurally homogeneous tables. The detailed data cleaning procedure and construction rationale are described in Appendix A.6.

To construct the reasoning structure illustrated in Figure 2(a), we populate its layers using information from a single table. The entities extracted from the table title form the root of the tree (i.e., the question entities). Next, we employ an LLM to select the most representative, non-redundant column of values from the table—typically the primary key—as the second-layer entities (e.g., ‘Czesław Miłosz’). An edge between the root entity and a second-layer entity indicates that the table contains this entity. The third-layer entities are derived from the remaining columns of the table, with their values representing attributes of the corresponding second-layer entity (e.g., ‘country: Poland’, ‘year: 1980’). In this layer, an edge signifies that the second-layer entity possesses the given property defined by the third-layer entity.

216 Each second-layer entity and its associated third-layer entities form a subtree, which we denote as  $S_{i,j}$ .  
 217 These subtrees, each possessing a set of relations  $\text{Rel}(S_{i,j})$  that connect its layers, represent cohesive  
 218 units of information (e.g., a specific laureate and all their details). The full reasoning tree  $T_i$  is thus  
 219 composed of a set of such subtrees  $\{S_{i,j}\}$ . The question provides the root entities, while all entities  
 220 in the subtrees (both second and third layers) constitute the final answer. The detailed construction  
 221 process and the required reasoning path for the example task are explained in Appendix A.8.1.

222 Notably, we use Wikipedia primarily for two reasons. First, it is a large, comprehensive, widely-used  
 223 encyclopedic resource with broad domain coverage. Second, its semi-structured tables offer rich,  
 224 clean, reliable relational data—ideal for entity-intensive task synthesis—with sufficient quality and  
 225 diversity to build various complex meaningful tasks.

### 227 3.1.2 VERSION-II: Union

228 While effective, the reasoning structure of our basic tasks is derived from single sources, limiting their  
 229 structural complexity and the scope of questions we can pose. To address this, we aim to construct  
 230 tasks with a more intricate reasoning structure that spans multiple information sources by uniting  
 231 reasoning trees from our Basic version that share similar themes and structures.

232 To generate more challenging questions, we propose uniting reasoning subtrees in Basic version  
 233 that share similar themes and structures. A naive approach, such as randomly combining subtrees,  
 234 often results in semantically incoherent questions. To systematically discover the most substantial  
 235 integration opportunities, our approach models this as a Union operation, which identifies multiple  
 236 reasoning trees whose respective subtrees share some common relations.

237 The primary challenge is to systematically search the entire collection of trees to find all groups  
 238 that are suitable for union. To avoid a combinatorial explosion from enumerating all possible  
 239 combinations, we develop an algorithm to efficiently discover only *maximal unions*. This problem is  
 240 formally modeled as Maximal Biclique Enumeration (see Appendix A.7), which effectively identifies  
 241 groups of reasoning subtrees and their shared subtree relations.

242 As illustrated in Figure 2(b), the reasoning trees for “Nobel Prize in Literature laureates” and “Booker  
 243 Prize winners” both contain subtrees where second-layer entities (authors) are connected to third-layer  
 244 entities via relations like ‘has\_nationality’ and ‘has\_name’. Our method identifies this shared subtree  
 245 structure. Relations not shared across all sets of subtrees, such as ‘has\_gender’ (present only in the  
 246 Nobel tree), are discarded during the union.

247 Once a maximal union is identified, we leverage an LLM to synthesize a question based on the  
 248 common features of the selected subtrees. For instance, the question “Which authors have won both  
 249 the Nobel Prize in Literature and the Booker Prize?” requires identifying the two sets of laureates as  
 250 intermediate ‘Target Entities’ and then finding their intersection to produce the final ‘Target Entities’.  
 251 The complete walkthrough is in Appendix A.8.2.

### 252 3.1.3 VERSION-III: Reverse-Union

254 While the Union method generates complex, multi-source tasks, a vulnerability remains: an agent  
 255 could solve the query and use direct keyword searches on the constituent sources (e.g., search ‘Nobel  
 256 Prize winners,’ then ‘Booker Prize winners’). This approach circumvents the intended synthesis of  
 257 information, reducing the cognitive load and failing to stimulate true reasoning capabilities similar to  
 258 WebSailor (Li et al., 2025c). To address this, we introduce Reverse-Union, a paradigm designed to  
 259 enforce a more robust cognitive workflow by reversing the standard reasoning flow. As illustrated in  
 260 Figure 2(c), this method combines two stages to construct a challenging task:

- 261 • **Deductive Fuzz:** This stage implements the fuzz by defining the ‘Question Entities’ as a set of  
 262 descriptive third-layer entities. Instead of being named directly, a central ‘anchor’ entity (an entity  
 263 from the second layer) is described through its corresponding third-layer entities. In the example,  
 264 the description “the 1980s prize-winner that wrote a novel about a group of British boys stranded  
 265 on an uninhabited island” serves as clues in the form of ‘Question Entities’. An agent must first  
 266 deduce from these clues to identify the anchor entity, ‘William Golding’.
- 267 • **Union-based Search Construction:** After fuzzing the anchor, this stage constructs the expansive  
 268 search part of the task, ensuring the anchor serves only as a bridge to the final answer. To achieve  
 269 this, we first select a specific third-layer entity from the anchor’s subtree (e.g., his country) to act  
 270 as a pivot. We then formulate the remainder of the question to compel an agent to use this pivot to  
 271 launch a new search across the unified trees. The final Target Entities are thus defined as the set

270 of second-layer entities that share this pivot attribute (i.e., are also British) and satisfy the original  
 271 intersection condition (i.e., winning both prizes).  
 272

273 By structuring tasks this way, Reverse-Union prevents agents from succeeding with simple keyword  
 274 searching and mandates a more robust, multi-step reasoning process. The detailed process of question  
 275 generation and the required reasoning path are explained in Appendix A.8.3.

### 276 3.2 INFORMATION-GUIDED TRAJECTORY CONSTRUCTION

278 After synthesizing the task, this section elaborates on the construction of task-solving trajectories. As  
 279 shown in Eq.(3), our agent solves a task within the ReAct framework (Yao et al., 2023). We equip the  
 280 agent with the following tools:

- 281 • **Search** This action enables the agent to conduct Google search by several queries. The parame-  
 282 ters of this tool are  $\{queries, filter\_year\}$ , enabling temporal filtering of search results. This tool  
 283 would return the top relevant URLs and their snippets as the observation.
- 284 • **Visit** This action enables the agent to visit multiple URLs. The parameters of this tool are  
 285  $\{urls, goal\}$ . This tool would return the summarized visited paragraphs as the observation.

286 After generating a large set of trajectories by executing our constructed tasks with an open-source  
 287 model, we apply a filtering procedure to select high-quality examples for training. Our goal is to  
 288 retain trajectories that demonstrate both accuracy in collecting the required entities and efficiency in  
 289 the use of actions, in accordance with the metrics defined in Section 2.3. Specifically, we impose the  
 290 following selection criteria:

291 **Coverage Criterion.** We require that the trajectory achieve sufficient completeness in information  
 292 collection. Formally, we keep only those trajectories whose ISR satisfies  $ISR > \alpha$ , where  $\alpha$  is a  
 293 predefined coverage threshold. To compute ISR, we accumulate the obtained target entities in all  
 294 actions. We compute ISR as Eq.( 4).

295 **Efficiency Criterion.** We further require that the trajectory maintain high efficiency in discovering  
 296 useful entities. This translates into selecting those trajectories whose ISE satisfies  $ISE > \beta$ , where  $\beta$   
 297 is a predefined efficiency threshold. For ISE, we accumulate the obtained target entities in **Visit**  
 298 actions. The reason for not including **Search** in ISE is that we observe entities found in **Search** are  
 299 less precise and would be updated by the following **Visit** action. We compute ISR as Eq.(5).

300 Through this filtering process, we ensure that the retained trajectories are both accurate in acquiring  
 301 the target entities and efficient in their action usage, providing strong supervision signals for training  
 302 agents to perform precise and effective information-seeking. This efficiency-oriented filtering is  
 303 effective because it selects trajectories with high valid action density to teach focused planning and  
 304 reduce redundancy, while our entity-intensive tasks provide sufficient high-quality trajectories and  
 305 stabilize ISE ( $Var(ISE) = \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{n})$ ) as a reliable signal, forming a mutually reinforcing cycle.

## 307 4 EXPERIMENTS

### 308 4.1 SETUP

310 **Benchmarks** We conduct extensive evaluations of our method on five challenging QA benchmarks  
 311 that demand complex information-seeking capabilities, namely BrowseComp (Wei et al., 2025),  
 312 GAIA (Mialon et al., 2023), xbench-DeepSearch (xbench-DS) (Xbench-Team, 2025), Seal-0 (Pham  
 313 et al., 2025), and WideSearch (Wong et al., 2025). For GAIA, we adopt the 103-sample text-only  
 314 validation subset (Li et al., 2025d), while for all other benchmarks, we utilize their complete test sets.

315 **Baselines** We select a representative set of mainstream and competitive information-seeking  
 316 agents as our baselines, including proprietary agents (Claude-4-Sonnet (Anthropic, 2025),  
 317 OpenAI-o3 (OpenAI, 2025a), OpenAI DeepResearch (OpenAI, 2025b)) and open-source  
 318 agents (ASearcher (Gao et al., 2025), DeepDive (Lu et al., 2025), DeepDiver-V2 (Team),  
 319 MiroThinker (Team et al., 2025b), Kimi-K2 (Team et al., 2025a), WebExplorer (Liu et al., 2025),  
 320 WebDancer (Wu et al., 2025a), WebSailor (Li et al., 2025c), WebShaper (Tao et al., 2025)).

321 **Training Configurations** To maintain the basic deep search ability, we combine our data with 5,000  
 322 WebSailor-V2 (Li et al., 2025b) data to train the model. We separately merge 5,000 WebSailor-V2  
 323 data with Basic, Union, and Reverse-Union data of WebLeaper, which stimulates the IS ability  
 to a larger degree (with  $\alpha$  in ISR set to 0.3 and  $\beta$  in ISE set to 0.1). On this basis, we employ

324 Table 1: Main results on multiple benchmarks. All benchmarks except WideSearch report Pass@1.  
 325 WideSearch reports Success Rate (SR), Row F1, and Item F1. **Bold** scores indicate the highest values  
 326 among all open-source agents.

328 <b>Model / Framework</b>	<b>BrowseComp</b>	<b>GAIA</b>	<b>xbench-DS</b>	<b>Seal-0</b>	<b>WideSearch</b>		
					329 SR	329 Row F1	329 Item F1
<i>Proprietary Agents</i>							
Claude-4-Sonnet	12.2	68.3	64.6	–	2.3	31.7	57.9
OpenAI-o3	49.7	70.5	66.7	18.9	4.5	34.0	52.6
OpenAI DeepResearch	51.5	67.4	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Open-Source Agents</i>							
ASearcher-Web-32B	5.2	52.8	42.1	–	–	–	–
DeepDive-32B	14.8	–	50.5	–	–	–	–
DeepDiver-V2-38B	13.4	–	53.0	–	–	–	–
MiroThinker-32B-DPO-v0.2	13.0	64.1	–	–	–	–	–
Kimi-K2-Instruct-1T	14.1	57.7	50.0	–	1.1	<b>29.7</b>	<b>54.4</b>
WebExplorer-8B	15.7	50.0	53.7	–	–	–	–
WebDancer-QwQ-32B	3.8	51.5	38.3	–	0.0	9.3	34.5
WebSailor-32B	10.5	53.2	53.3	21.3	0.0	2.1	5.5
WebShaper-QwQ-32B	–	53.3	35.0	–	0.0	9.9	31.5
WebLeaper-Union	22.1	<b>69.9</b>	62.3	35.1	<b>4.0</b>	22.2	34.5
WebLeaper-Reverse-Union	<b>23.0</b>	67.0	<b>66.0</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>4.0</b>	25.8	40.8

345  
 346 Qwen3-30B-A3B-Thinking-250<sup>1</sup> as the base model, trained using Megatron framework<sup>2</sup>. The  
 347 training follows a standard SFT procedure. In our experiments, SFT on the final dataset (approx-  
 348 imately 15k samples) was completed in about 6 to 8 hours on a cluster of 64 H20 GPUs.

349  
**Evaluation Metrics and Inference Hyper-parameters** The overall evaluation follows the settings  
 350 specified by each benchmark. For BrowseComp, GAIA, xbench-DS, and Seal-0, we report the  
 351 pass@1 scores obtained via LLM-as-a-judge evaluation as the final results. For WideSearch, we  
 352 report the success rate (SR) for fully retrieving all target results, along with two F1 scores—Row F1  
 353 and Item F1—which are computed using a combination of string matching and LLM-as-a-judge  
 354 evaluation, in alignment with the official evaluation protocol. During LLM inference, we configure  
 355 the sampling parameters (temperature and top- $p$ ) to 0.6 and 0.95, respectively.

## 356 4.2 OVERALL PERFORMANCE

357  
 358 As shown in Table 1, WebLeaper achieves state-of-the-art performance compared to mainstream open-  
 359 source agents on five challenging information-seeking QA benchmarks. Notably, on benchmarks other  
 360 than BrowseComp and WideSearch, it even delivers performance comparable to, or surpassing, that  
 361 of agents built on Claude-4-Sonnet and OpenAI-o3. Even on the highly challenging BrowseComp  
 362 benchmark, WebLeaper significantly outperforms Kimi-K2-Instruct-1T, despite the latter having a  
 363 much larger parameter scale. It is also worth noting that the Reverse-Union data, which incorporates  
 364 greater task complexity on top of the Union data, employs an fuzz strategy that further facilitates the  
 365 model’s ability to integrate information-seeking with planning and reasoning, thereby enhancing its  
 366 overall information-seeking QA capability.

367  
 368 Crucially, WebLeaper’s robustness is demonstrated by its strong performance on test sets that are not  
 369 limited to Wikipedia. While our agent is trained on Wikipedia-derived data, it is evaluated on five  
 370 diverse, real-world benchmarks that require querying and reasoning over the entire live web. The  
 371 consistent and significant improvements across these varied benchmarks strongly suggest that our  
 372 method learns a generalizable skill of efficient information seeking, rather than overfitting to the  
 373 specific structure of Wikipedia.

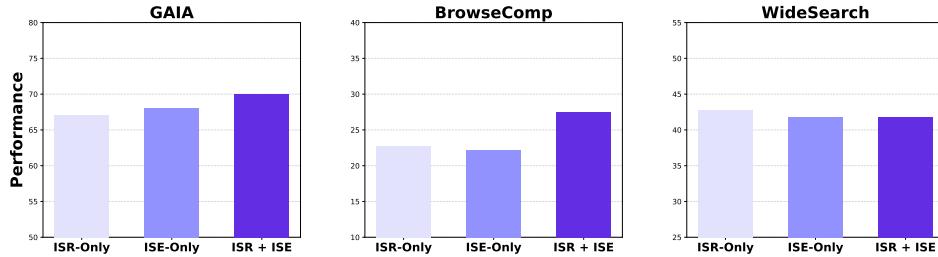
374  
 375 Overall, the observed performance improvements validate that our proposed approaches—entity-  
 376 intensive task synthesis and information-guided trajectory construction—significantly enhance the  
 377 agent’s information-seeking capabilities, even under a modest parameter budget.

378  
 379 <sup>1</sup><https://huggingface.co/Qwen/Qwen3-30B-A3B-Thinking-250>

380  
 381 <sup>2</sup><https://github.com/NVIDIA/Megatron-LM>

378  
 379 Table 2: Ablation study on training results across different data sources (for efficiency considerations,  
 380 we use the WideSearch (English subset) and BrowseComp (200 subset), while the full sets are used  
 381 for the other benchmarks). Numbers in parentheses denote the difference compared to training only  
 382 with the WebSailor-V2-5k data.  $\dagger$  denotes a mixed version that includes the WebSailor-V2-5k data.

Data Source	BrowseComp	WideSearch	GAIA	Seal-0	xbench-DS	Avg.
WebSailor-V2-5k	25.17	33.15	67.69	34.23	60.00	44.05
WebSailor-V2-10k	24.50	38.91	66.02	33.93	62.67	45.21
Basic-5k $\dagger$	20.67 (-4.50)	32.26 (-0.89)	40.78 (-26.91)	30.03 (-4.20)	58.33 (-1.67)	36.41 (-7.64)
Union-5k $\dagger$	27.50 (+2.33)	41.70 (+8.55)	69.90 (+2.21)	35.14 (+0.82)	62.33 (+2.33)	47.31 (+3.26)
Reverse-Union-10k $\dagger$	27.67 (+2.50)	44.07 (+10.92)	66.99 (-0.70)	37.24 (+3.01)	66.00 (+6.00)	48.39 (+4.34)



397  
 398 Figure 3: Ablation study results on information-guided trajectory construction strategies.

#### 4.3 CAPABILITY GAINS INDUCED BY ENTITY-INTENSIVE TASK SYNTHESIS

401 To investigate the effectiveness of our entity-intensive task synthesis method, we conduct a comparative  
 402 analysis against training solely on the WebSailor-V2 dataset (using 5,000 and 1,000 samples,  
 403 respectively), a synthetic corpus specifically designed to stimulate the agent’s deep search capability.

404 As shown in Table 2, we investigate the impact of different entity-intensive task synthesis strategies  
 405 through an ablation study on all these benchmarks. The Basic setting exhibits substantial drops  
 406 across all three datasets compared to WebSailor-V2-5k. This poor performance can be attributed  
 407 to the inherent limitations of the Basic data construction method: tasks generated under this setting  
 408 tend to be overly simple, allowing the model to infer complete answers from only a few information  
 409 sources. Such shortcut patterns encourage the model to overfit to superficial cues rather than learning  
 410 to integrate diverse information, ultimately impairing generalization.

411 In contrast, the Union strategy consistently outperforms WebSailor-V2-5k, achieving an average  
 412 improvement of +3.26. By combining heterogeneous information sources and increasing the com-  
 413 plexity of task construction, Union mitigates the shortcut problem inherent in Basic, forcing the  
 414 model to reason over dispersed and complementary evidence. This leads to more robust performance  
 415 across datasets and demonstrates the effectiveness of the proposed data construction approach.

416 Furthermore, compared to Union, Reverse-Union introduces a certain degree of reasoning com-  
 417 plexity into the information-seeking process, making it more challenging for the model to readily  
 418 identify where to begin entity retrieval. This design particularly enhances the model’s planning and  
 419 decision-making capabilities in information-seeking tasks. The improvement in these abilities is  
 420 clearly reflected in performance, leading to substantial and widespread gains across all benchmarks.

#### 4.4 IMPACT OF INFORMATION-GUIDED TRAJECTORY CONSTRUCTION

423 We compare the proposed information-guided trajectory construction strategies across ISR-Only,  
 424 ISE-Only, and ISR+ISE on three representative benchmarks—GAIA, BrowseComp, and  
 425 WideSearch—to examine the independent and combined effects of ISE and ISR.

426 On GAIA and BrowseComp, ISR+ISE achieves the best performance, suggesting that integrating  
 427 precision and efficiency constraints produces trajectories that are both goal-directed and concise,  
 428 thereby reducing redundant exploration. This indicates that in more complex browsing tasks, relevance  
 429 and efficiency constraints complement each other to generate higher-quality trajectories.

431 In contrast, on WideSearch, the three strategies deliver comparable results, with performance differ-  
 432 ences falling within the margin of variance. This suggests that for broad search tasks, the specific

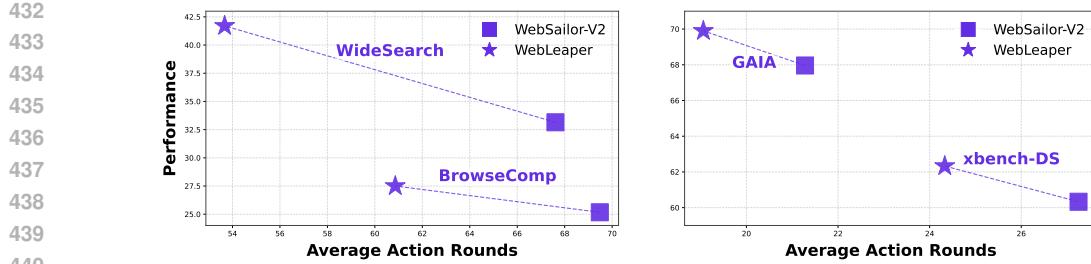


Figure 4: Effectiveness and efficiency comparison between WebLeaper and WebSailor-V2.

choice of trajectory filtering plays a less critical role—likely because training on entity-intensive synthesized data already provides strong broad search capabilities.

#### 4.5 JOINT GAINS IN EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

As illustrated in Figure 4, WebLeaper consistently outperforms the baseline in terms of both effectiveness and efficiency. In the WideSearch and BrowseComp benchmarks, our approach achieves markedly higher performance scores while requiring fewer average action rounds, indicating that the search process is not only more accurate but also more efficient. Similarly, in the GAIA and xbench-DS tasks, our method improves effectiveness while simultaneously reducing the operational cost. This demonstrates that our design enables a more targeted search strategy, resulting in reduced interaction steps without sacrificing—and in fact enhancing—the quality of the results.

Overall, these results validate that our proposed method achieves superior joint optimization of information-seeking efficiency and task performance compared to the baseline. This reflects our key insight: an agent should not merely learn to search, but rather learn to search efficiently and wisely, thereby achieving a better balance between efficiency and effectiveness.

#### 4.6 EXPLORATION ON HYPER-PARAMETERS ISR $\alpha$ AND ISE $\beta$

To validate the robustness of our information-guided trajectory construction (Section 3.2), we conduct a sensitivity analysis of the core filtering hyperparameters:  $\alpha$  (Information-Seeking Rate, ISR, threshold) and  $\beta$  (Information-Seeking Efficiency, ISE, threshold) (both defined in Section 2.3).  $\alpha$  ensures trajectory accuracy by retaining only sequences with sufficient target entity coverage, while  $\beta$  enforces efficiency by excluding overly time-consuming trajectories.

We trained WebLeaper-Reverse-Union with different  $\alpha/\beta$  combinations, using BrowserComp (200 subset) for evaluation; a threshold of 0 disables the corresponding filter. Table 3 shows the results: the highest performance is achieved with  $\alpha = 0.3$  and  $\beta = 0.1$  (our current configuration). Disabling either filter degrades performance, and no filtering yields the lowest score, confirming both constraints are critical for high-quality training data.

The selection of  $\alpha = 0.3$  and  $\beta = 0.1$  balances data quality and quantity. Excessively high thresholds would shrink the dataset below the sample size of baselines, while overly low thresholds introduce low-quality trajectories. This “sweet spot” preserves a comparable sample size while removing poor-quality sequences, ensuring fair baseline comparisons and validating our parameter choice.

#### 4.7 RESULTS ON DIFFERENT BACKBONE

To showcase its broader applicability across diverse model architectures, we evaluate our method on multiple backbones, placing particular emphasis on the Qwen3-4B-Thinking-2507 model. For this comprehensive evaluation, we adopt two training configurations: the baseline setup entails exclusive fine-tuning on 5,000 high-quality samples from the WebSailor-V2 dataset, while our proposed method leverages a mixed training corpus that integrates 5,000 WebSailor-V2 samples with our carefully curated WebLeaper-Reverse-Union data.

Table 3: Performance (Pass@1) on BrowserComp (200 subset) for different  $\alpha$  (ISR threshold) and  $\beta$  (ISE threshold) combinations. A value of 0 disables the filter.

$\beta \setminus \alpha$	0.3	0
0.1	<b>27.5</b>	22.2
0	14.0	13.7

486 Table 4: SFT results on Qwen3-4B-Thinking-2507. **Bold** scores indicate the highest values.  
487

486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539							
<i>Qwen3-4B-Thinking-2507</i>							
WebSailor-V2	16.2	55.3	53.3	30.9	1.5	15.7	30.3
WebLeaper-Reverse-Union	<b>17.7</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>38.1</b>

As illustrated in Table 4, even when deployed on the relatively compact Qwen3-4B-Thinking-2507, training augmented with WebLeaper data delivers consistent and substantial performance enhancements across all evaluated benchmarks relative to the baseline. This result underscores the fundamental nature of the advantages brought by entity-intensive task synthesis and information-guided trajectory construction strategies—advantages that transcend constraints imposed by specific model scales or architectural paradigms, thus validating the generalizability of our approach.

## 5 RELATED WORK

### 5.1 INFORMATION SEEKING AGENT

LLM-powered information-seeking agents can be broadly categorized into 3 streams: (1) enhancing core models via supervised fine-tuning (Zeng et al., 2023; Wu et al., 2025a; Li et al., 2025c;b; Tao et al., 2025; Su et al., 2025; Fang et al., 2025a); (2) advancing agent architecture for improved planning and robustness (Qiao et al., 2025; Xu et al., 2025a; Li et al., 2025a); and (3) developing multi-agent systems for collaborative problem-solving (Wu et al., 2023; Hong et al., 2024). Our work aligns with the first category but addresses a key limitation. Prior methods often train on tasks focused on correctness with single-fact answers, which is insufficient for large-scale information gathering. We posit that the number of entities in an answer—its entity richness—is a critical dimension for evaluating an agent’s completeness and efficiency. This paper aims to bridge this gap by creating and utilizing entity-rich QA data to enhance agent capabilities for comprehensive information acquisition.

### 5.2 AGENT DATA SYNTHESIS

Synthetic data generation is pivotal for agent training, with primary applications in tool use (Wu et al., 2025a; Tao et al., 2025; Shen et al., 2025; Fang et al., 2025b), code generation (Jimenez et al., 2024; SHEN et al., 2025; Xu et al., 2025c; Shao et al., 2025), and GUI automation (Xu et al., 2025b; Sun et al., 2025; Pahuja et al., 2025). These efforts primarily combat data scarcity. Within the information-seeking domain, existing data synthesis approaches increase task difficulty through multi-step reasoning (Wu et al., 2025b;a; Tao et al., 2025) or long-horizon planning (Qiao et al., 2025). We contend that such methods often overlook the semantic richness of the training data itself. In contrast, our approach centers on synthesizing QA data with high entity-level complexity. We hypothesize that this focus on data semantics is a crucial and complementary path to improving agent reasoning and world knowledge alignment.

## 6 CONCLUSION

In this paper, we addressed the critical challenge of low search efficiency in LLM-based information-seeking agents, a bottleneck that constrains their overall performance. We argued that the sparsity of target entities in conventional training tasks is a primary contributor to this inefficiency. To overcome this, we introduced WebLeaper, a novel framework for constructing entity-intensive IS tasks and generating efficient solution trajectories. By formulating IS as a tree-structured reasoning problem and systematically increasing task complexity through our Basic, Union, and Reverse-Union task synthesis variants, we created a rich training environment. Furthermore, our information-guided trajectory curation, using ISR and ISE metrics, ensures that the agent learns from solutions that are both accurate and efficient. Our extensive experiments demonstrated that WebLeaper consistently improves performance across five challenging benchmarks, validating that enhancing search efficiency is a powerful lever for boosting the overall capabilities of IS agents.

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701

702 **A APPENDIX**  
 703

704 **A.1 DECLARATION ON THE USE OF LLMs**  
 705

706 We declare that the use of LLMs during the preparation of this manuscript was strictly limited to  
 707 language-related assistance, such as sentence refinement and grammatical correction. All substantive  
 708 content was independently authored by the authors and rigorously reviewed and verified following  
 709 any LLM-assisted modifications. During the experiments, all usage of LLMs was solely for academic  
 710 research purposes, with no inappropriate applications. Detailed experimental settings are provided in  
 711 the Experiments section of this paper. No other reliance on LLMs is involved in this work.

712 **A.2 PROOF OF PROPOSITION 1**  
 713

714 This appendix provides the detailed mathematical derivation for Proposition 1, as presented in  
 715 Section 2.3. The purpose of this proof is to formally establish that the variance of the Information-  
 716 Seeking Efficiency (ISE) metric is inversely proportional to  $n$ , the number of required entities. This  
 717 property,  $\text{Var}(\text{ISE}) = \mathcal{O}(1/n)$ , demonstrates that ISE becomes an increasingly stable and reliable  
 718 performance measure as the complexity of the task (i.e., the size of  $n$ ) grows.

719  
 720 *Proof.* Recall from the main text that the Information-Seeking Efficiency (ISE) is defined as

$$\text{ISE} = \frac{n}{T}, \quad (7)$$

721 where  $T$  is the total number of action steps taken to discover all  $n$  required distinct entities in the set  
 722  $R$ .

723 **Step 1: Modelling the random variables.** Let  $X_i$  denote the number of steps the agent spends to  
 724 discover the  $i$ -th new required entity in  $R$ . By assumption:

- 725 •  $X_1, \dots, X_n$  are independent and identically distributed.
- 726 •  $\mu := \mathbb{E}[X_i] > 0$  (finite mean).
- 727 •  $\sigma^2 := \text{Var}(X_i) < \infty$  (finite variance).
- 728 •  $X_i > 0$  almost surely (each discovery takes a positive number of steps).

729 The total number of steps is

$$730 T = \sum_{i=1}^n X_i.$$

731 **Step 2: Sample mean and basic properties.** Define the sample mean

$$732 \bar{X} := \frac{T}{n} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n X_i.$$

733 By standard properties of i.i.d. random variables:

$$734 \mathbb{E}[\bar{X}] = \mu, \quad \text{Var}(\bar{X}) = \frac{\sigma^2}{n}. \quad (8)$$

735 From the ISE definition Eq.(5), we have the exact identity

$$736 \text{ISE} = \frac{1}{\bar{X}}.$$

737 **Step 3: Reduction to the variance of a smooth function.** We have  $\text{ISE} = f(\bar{X})$  with  $f(x) = x^{-1}$ .  
 738 Since  $\mu > 0$  and  $X_i > 0$  a.s., the function  $f$  is infinitely differentiable in a neighborhood of  $\mu$ .

739 Write

$$740 \delta_n := \bar{X} - \mu$$

741 so that  $\mathbb{E}[\delta_n] = 0$  and  $\text{Var}(\delta_n) = \sigma^2/n$ . By the Strong Law of Large Numbers,  $\delta_n \rightarrow 0$  almost surely  
 742 as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . Thus, for large  $n$ , with high probability  $|\delta_n| < \mu/2$ , ensuring that a Taylor expansion of  
 743  $f$  around  $\mu$  is valid.

756 **Step 4: Taylor expansion with remainder control.** On the event  $\{|\delta_n| < \mu/2\}$ , we expand  
 757  $f(\mu + \delta_n)$  using Taylor's theorem to second order:  
 758

$$\frac{1}{\mu + \delta_n} = \frac{1}{\mu} - \frac{\delta_n}{\mu^2} + \frac{\delta_n^2}{\mu^3} + R_3(\delta_n), \quad (9)$$

760 where the remainder term satisfies  $|R_3(\delta_n)| \leq C|\delta_n|^3$  for some  $C > 0$  depending only on  $\mu$ .  
 761

762 **Step 5: Mean and second moment calculations.** From Eq.(9):  
 763

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\frac{1}{\bar{X}}\right] = \frac{1}{\mu} + \frac{\mathbb{E}[\delta_n^2]}{\mu^3} + \mathbb{E}[R_3(\delta_n)], \quad (10)$$

$$\mathbb{E}\left[\frac{1}{\bar{X}^2}\right] = \frac{1}{\mu^2} + \frac{\mathbb{E}[\delta_n^2]}{\mu^4} + O(\mathbb{E}[|\delta_n|^3]). \quad (11)$$

768 By Eq.(8),  $\mathbb{E}[\delta_n^2] = \sigma^2/n$ . Also, finite variance plus Hölder's inequality yields  $\mathbb{E}[|\delta_n|^3] = O(n^{-3/2})$ .  
 769

770 Therefore:  
 771

$$\mathbb{E}[1/\bar{X}] = \frac{1}{\mu} + \frac{\sigma^2}{\mu^3 n} + o\left(\frac{1}{n}\right), \quad (12)$$

$$\mathbb{E}[1/\bar{X}^2] = \frac{1}{\mu^2} + \frac{\sigma^2}{\mu^4 n} + o\left(\frac{1}{n}\right). \quad (13)$$

775 **Step 6: Computing the variance.** Using  $\text{Var}(Y) = \mathbb{E}[Y^2] - (\mathbb{E}[Y])^2$  with  $Y = 1/\bar{X}$ :  
 776

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Var}(\text{ISE}) &= \left(\frac{1}{\mu^2} + \frac{\sigma^2}{\mu^4 n} + o\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)\right) - \left(\frac{1}{\mu} + \frac{\sigma^2}{\mu^3 n} + o\left(\frac{1}{n}\right)\right)^2 \\ &= \frac{\sigma^2}{\mu^4 n} + o\left(\frac{1}{n}\right), \end{aligned}$$

781 where the constant term  $\frac{1}{\mu^2}$  cancels exactly.  
 782

783 **Step 7: Conclusion.** We have shown that

$$\text{Var}(\text{ISE}) = \frac{\sigma^2}{\mu^4 n} + o\left(\frac{1}{n}\right),$$

786 which in particular implies the order bound  $\text{Var}(\text{ISE}) = \mathcal{O}(n^{-1})$ .  
 787

788 This completes the proof. □  
 789

### 793 A.3 REINFORCEMENT LEARNING EXPERIMENTS

795 To further explore the potential of WebLeaper's data, we conduct reinforcement learning (RL)  
 796 experiments by applying GRPO to our advanced SFT model. The core goal is to verify whether  
 797 integrating RL can further boost the performance of our best-performing SFT model, leveraging RL's  
 798 strength in optimizing action quality.  
 799

800 RL has proven effective in advanced reasoning tasks by exploring logical step spaces, but its objective  
 801 in the information-seeking domain is distinct: optimizing the quality of external tool actions (e.g.,  
 802 search, visit). We design a dense, granular reward signal based on a soft F-score that combines recall  
 803 (ISR) and precision, creating a rich and accurate learning signal. This reward mainly encourages the  
 804 agent to prioritize "better steps", which is our first motivation. The length of the reasoning content  
 805 main also varies properly for this purpose.

806 Table 5 presents the performance comparison between the SFT baseline and SFT+RL. Results show  
 807 that RL significantly improves performance across all benchmarks: GAIA sees a 3.3-point gain,  
 808 xbench-DS improves by 3.0 points, and WideSearch's Success Rate (SR) jumps by 2.5 points. This  
 809 validates that RL, when combined with WebLeaper's high-quality synthetic data, effectively enhances  
 the agent's action optimization capability in information-seeking tasks.

Model	BrowseComp	GAIA	xbench-DS	WideSearch (SR)	WideSearch (Item F1)
SFT	37.8	69.9	69.0	1.5	45.4
SFT+RL	38.8 (+1.0)	73.2 (+3.3)	72.0 (+3.0)	4.0 (+2.5)	48.5 (+3.1)

Table 5: Performance comparison between SFT and SFT+RL across benchmarks.

#### A.4 CLARIFICATION ON TOOL CALL EFFICIENCY AND REASONING CONTENT LENGTH

Our core objective in introducing ISE filtering is to enhance the *quality and efficiency of tool calls*, not to restrict the length or depth of reasoning content. These two dimensions are fundamentally distinct: tool call efficiency focuses on minimizing redundant, irrelevant, or unnecessary interactions with external tools (e.g., redundant searches, unfocused URL visits), while reasoning content length refers to the performance of the agent’s internal cognitive process (e.g., step-by-step chain-of-thought (CoT) reasoning, intermediate deduction for complex constraints). The ISE metric targets the former—ensuring each tool call contributes meaningfully to entity retrieval—without imposing arbitrary limits on the latter.

Notably, the length of reasoning content dynamically adapts to serve our efficiency goal and the inherent complexity of the task. For tasks requiring deep exploration (e.g., multi-step logical deduction, adaptive constraint satisfaction), the agent’s reasoning process naturally expands to accommodate structured planning (e.g., decomposing complex queries into subgoals, verifying intermediate entities). However, this expanded reasoning is directed toward optimizing tool call precision—e.g., generating more targeted search queries or validating the relevance of retrieved information—rather than indulging in unfocused divergent exploration. For complex tasks like AIME-style problems or long-form CoT reasoning, our framework preserves the necessary cognitive depth by allowing reasoning content to scale with task difficulty, while ISE filtering only suppresses *unproductive tool calls* (e.g., repetitive searches with minor keyword variations) that do not advance the reasoning process.

In summary, strict ISE constraints do not hinder adaptive exploration or complex reasoning. Instead, they decouple tool call efficiency from reasoning length: reasoning content evolves to support targeted, high-quality tool interactions, and task complexity inherently shapes the depth of reasoning—all while ISE ensures tool usage remains purposeful and resource-efficient. This design balances exploration and efficiency, avoiding both tool call redundancy and overly rigid reasoning suppression.

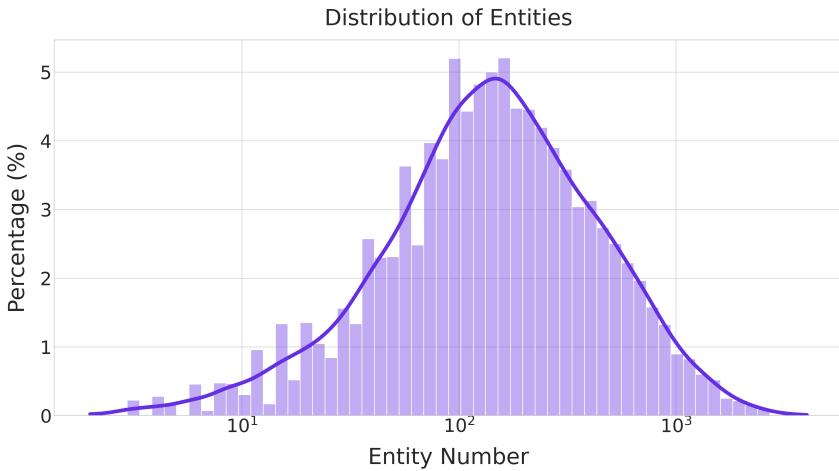
#### A.5 DATA STATISTICS



Figure 5: The distribution of our training data.

Figure 5 illustrates the distribution of our training data.

Figure 6 displays the entity count distribution of our training data. A significant portion of our samples contain at least 100 entities, underscoring the inherent difficulty of our dataset. As formalized in Equation 6, this complexity is crucial for robustly measuring efficiency, which in turn leads to improved overall performance.



#### A.6 DATA CLEANING AND BASIC TASK CONSTRUCTION

This section elaborates on the data processing and construction methodology for the Basic version tasks introduced in Section 3.1.1.

**Rationale for Tree Structure** In information-seeking tasks, the reasoning structure is paramount. We chose a tree structure for our basic tasks because it offers a compact and hierarchical organization of entities. This structure is highly efficient for representing a large number of interconnected entities that stem from a common query concept, mirroring many real-world information-gathering scenarios. A reasoning tree is composed of a root (question entity) and a set of subtrees, where each subtree represents a cohesive unit of information.

**Multi-Stage Table Cleaning** To ensure the quality and suitability of the data used for task synthesis, we crawled approximately 2 million tables from Wikipedia and subjected them to a rigorous multi-stage cleaning procedure. This was essential because raw web tables are often noisy and inconsistent. The stages were as follows:

- **Size Filtering:** We first discarded tables that were either too small (fewer than 10 rows or 3 columns) to capture meaningful relational information, or too large (more than 200 rows or 20 columns) to be processed efficiently and form a coherent task.
- **Semantic and Structural Filtering:** We then removed semantically irrelevant columns that frequently appear in web tables, such as those containing serial numbers, notes, or references. Tables with significant formatting errors (e.g., numerous merged cells that disrupt the relational structure) were also excluded.
- **Isomorphism and Homogeneity:** Finally, we retained only groups of isomorphic tables (tables sharing the same column headers and structure). This step was crucial for ensuring structural homogeneity across our dataset, which is a prerequisite for identifying common subtree structures needed for the Union operation described later.

The resulting collection contains clean, well-structured tables with a set of meaningful fields as columns and multiple rows, where each row can be transformed into a subtree.

**Reasoning Tree Population** To construct the three-layer reasoning tree from a single table, we populate the layers as follows:

- **First Layer (Question Entities):** Entities mentioned in the table’s title or caption are extracted to form the root of the tree.

918

- **Second Layer (Roots of Subtrees):** We employ an LLM to analyze the table’s columns and  
919 select one that contains no duplicate entries. This column is treated as the key, and its values  
920 become the second-layer entities of the tree. Each of these entities serves as the root of a  
921 subtree. The LLM is effective at identifying columns like ‘Name’ or ‘Title’ that serve this unique  
922 identification purpose.

923

- **Third Layer (Leaves of Subtrees):** The values in the remaining columns of the table constitute  
924 the third layer, representing the leaf entities associated with each second-layer entity.

925

926

### A.7 MAXIMAL UNION ALGORITHM FOR TASK SYNTHESIS

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928

929 This section provides the formal definition and algorithmic implementation for discovering maximal  
930 union groups, as introduced in Section 3.1.2. The core of our approach is to reformulate the search  
931 for compatible reasoning trees as a Maximal Biclique Enumeration (refer to 1 problem on a bipartite  
932 graph).

933

#### Problem Formulation

934

935 Let  $\mathcal{T}_{\text{base}} = \{T_1, T_2, \dots, T_N\}$  be our collection of basic reasoning trees. We first construct a bipartite  
936 graph  $G = (U, V, E)$ , where  $U = \mathcal{T}_{\text{base}}$  is the set of all trees, and  $V$  is the set of all unique relation  
937 names found within the subtrees across all trees in  $\mathcal{T}_{\text{base}}$ . An edge  $(T_i, v_j) \in E$  exists if the relation  
938  $v_j$  is present in any subtree of tree  $T_i$  (i.e.,  $v_j \in \text{Rel}(T_i)$ , where  $\text{Rel}(T_i) = \bigcup_k \text{Rel}(S_{i,k})$ ).

939 In this construction, a *maximal union* directly corresponds to a *maximal biclique*  $(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{V})$ , where  
940  $\mathcal{U} \subseteq U$  is a set of trees and  $\mathcal{V} \subseteq V$  is a set of their common relations. Our goal is to find all such  
941 maximal bicliques that satisfy certain size and semantic constraints. Formally, we seek to find all  
942 maximal pairs  $(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{V})$  that satisfy:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{find maximal } (\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{V}) \\ & \text{subject to } \forall T_i \in \mathcal{U}, \mathcal{V} \subseteq \text{Rel}(T_i), \\ & \quad |\mathcal{U}| \geq k_{\min}, |\mathcal{V}| \geq m_{\min}. \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

943 Here, maximality means that no other tree can be added to  $\mathcal{U}$  and no other relation can be added to  
944  $\mathcal{V}$  without violating the biclique property. Solving this by reformulating it as a standard maximal  
945 biclique enumeration problem is computationally efficient compared to an exhaustive search.

946

#### Algorithm and Implementation Details

947

948

- **Input:** A collection of base reasoning trees  $\mathcal{T}_{\text{base}}$ ; a minimum number of trees for a valid union,  
949  $k_{\min}$ ; a minimum number of common relations,  $m_{\min}$ .
- **Goal:** To find all *maximal union groups*, which are the solutions  $(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{V})$  to Eq. (14) that also  
950 satisfy the semantic matching criteria below.
- **Subtree Relation Matching Criteria:** To ensure the semantic coherence of unions, we impose  
951 strict matching criteria. For relations connecting the second and third layers, we require  
952 they share the same standardized name, data type, and domain. For the second-layer entities  
953 themselves (the roots of the subtrees), we relax this constraint, requiring only a match in data  
954 type and domain. This flexibility allows for the union of trees with conceptually similar but  
955 differently named second-layer entities (e.g., fusing a tree where entities are ‘Authors’ with  
956 another where they are ‘Writers’).
- **Output:** A set of maximal union groups  $\mathcal{F}$ , where each element is a tuple  $\langle U', V' \rangle$  that meets  
957 the specified criteria.

958 The process is detailed in Algorithm 1.

959

960

### A.8 DETAILED EXAMPLES OF TASK SYNTHESIS

961

962 This section provides detailed explanations and reasoning walkthroughs for the examples of the three  
963 task synthesis versions presented in Section 3 and Figure 2.

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**Algorithm 1:** Maximal Union Identification Algorithm

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**Input:** A collection of base reasoning trees  $\mathcal{T}_{\text{base}}$ , minimum trees  $k_{\min}$ , minimum common relations  $m_{\min}$ .

**Output:** A set of maximal union groups  $\mathcal{F}$ .

- 1  $\mathcal{F} \leftarrow \emptyset;$   
// 1. Construct the bipartite graph from trees and subtree relations
- 2 Let  $U$  be the set of trees from  $\mathcal{T}_{\text{base}}$  and  $V$  be the set of unique standardized relation names found within the subtrees of all trees in  $\mathcal{T}_{\text{base}}$ ;
- 3 Construct the graph  $G = (U, V, E)$  where an edge  $(u, v) \in E$  exists if tree  $u$  contains the relation  $v$  in its subtrees (i.e.,  $v \in \text{Rel}(u)$ );  
// 2. Enumerate maximal bicliques from the graph
- 4  $\mathcal{B} \leftarrow \text{EnumerateMaximalBicliques}(G);$   
;  
// Leverages standard algorithms like MICA or Eclat
- 5 **for** each maximal biclique  $(U', V')$  in  $\mathcal{B}$  **do**  
// Check size constraints from Eq. (1)  
6   **if**  $|U'| < k_{\min}$  or  $|V'| < m_{\min}$  **then**  
7     **continue**;  
// Validate semantic compatibility of second-layer entities  
8   Let  $T_{\text{id}}, D_{\text{id}}$  be the type and domain of the second-layer entities of the first tree in  $U'$ ;  
9    $\text{is\_compatible} \leftarrow \text{true};$   
10   **for** each tree  $u \in U'$  **do**  
11     **if**  $u$ 's second-layer entity type  $\neq T_{\text{id}}$  or domain  $\neq D_{\text{id}}$  **then**  
12        $\text{is\_compatible} \leftarrow \text{false};$   
13       **break**;  
14     // If all checks pass, add to the set of valid union groups  
15     **if**  $\text{is\_compatible}$  **then**  
16        $\mathcal{F} \leftarrow \mathcal{F} \cup \{(U', V')\};$   
17   **return**  $\mathcal{F};$

### A.8.1 VERSION-I: BASIC

1005 The goal of the basic version is to create a task with a clear, hierarchical reasoning structure derived  
1006 from a single, self-contained set of entities.

**Example Question:** Who were the Nobel Prize winners in Literature between 1980 and 1990? Please include their name, country, award year, and gender.

**Construction Process:** The task is constructed from a single Wikipedia table, forming a reasoning tree. The layers shown in Figure 2(a) are populated as follows:

- **First Layer (question entities):** Derived from the table’s title and a specified constraint, forming the query’s scope: *Literature Nobel Prize, year 1980–1990*.
- **Second Layer (subtree roots):** Populated from the table’s key column (e.g., author names): *Czesław Miłosz, William Golding, ...*.
- **Third Layer (subtree leaves):** Consists of values from the remaining columns, representing attributes for each second-layer entity. For example: *man, Poland, 1980* for Czesław Miłosz. The edges connecting the second to the third layer represent relations like ‘has\_gender’, ‘has\_country’, ‘has\_award\_year’.

**1021 Reasoning Path:** An agent is expected to follow this hierarchical structure:

- **Identify Scope:** Recognize the ‘Question Entities’ from the query: *Nobel Prize in Literature, 1980–1990*.
- **Retrieve Second-Layer Entities:** Retrieve the second-layer entities, which are the authors: Czesław Miłosz, William Golding, ....

1026 • **Gather Attributes:** For each second-layer entity, follow the relations to retrieve their associated  
 1027 third-layer entities, such as Poland, 1980, man for Czesław Miłosz.  
 1028

1029 **A.8.2 VERSION-II: UNION**  
 1030

1031 This version increases structural complexity by requiring the agent to perform relational operations  
 1032 across distinct reasoning trees.

1033 **Example Question:** *Which authors have won both the Nobel Prize in Literature and the Booker  
 1034 Prize? For each, provide their name, nationality and the year they won the Nobel.*

1035 **Construction Process:** Once a maximal union is identified (e.g., between the reasoning trees for ‘No-  
 1036 bel Prize laureates’ and ‘Booker Prize winners,’ which share common relations like ‘has\_nationality’  
 1037 within their subtrees), an LLM generates a task requiring information integration. The LLM is  
 1038 prompted to find an interesting relationship, such as the intersection of the two sets of second-layer  
 1039 entities (authors), and then weave this logic into a natural language question.

1040 **Reasoning Path:** The task is constructed from a *maximal union* of two distinct reasoning trees. To  
 1041 solve this, an agent must:

- 1043 • **Retrieve First Entity Set:** Identify the first concept, ‘Nobel Prize in Literature,’ and retrieve the  
 1044 full set of corresponding second-layer entities from the first tree,  $R_{\text{Nobel}}(\text{T1})$ .
- 1045 • **Retrieve Second Entity Set:** Identify the second concept, ‘Booker Prize,’ and retrieve its full  
 1046 set of second-layer entities from the second tree,  $R_{\text{Booker}}(\text{T2})$ .
- 1047 • **Find Intersection:** Perform a relational join to find the intersection of the two sets of second-  
 1048 layer entities based on name. The final ‘Target Entities’ are the entities present in both sets, such  
 1049 as {*William Golding, J.M. Coetzee, ...*}, along with their requested third-layer attributes.

1051 **A.8.3 VERSION-III: REVERSE-UNION**  
 1052

1053 This version introduces a challenging cognitive workflow by intentionally obfuscating the query’s  
 1054 entry points.

1055 **Motivation and Design:** The Union method, while creating multi-source tasks, has a vulnerability:  
 1056 an agent could solve it with simple keyword searches for each source, bypassing deeper reasoning.  
 1057 Reverse-Union inverts the information flow, forcing an agent to first deduce a core ‘anchor’ entity  
 1058 (a second-layer entity) from descriptive clues and then use that entity as a pivot to expand its search.

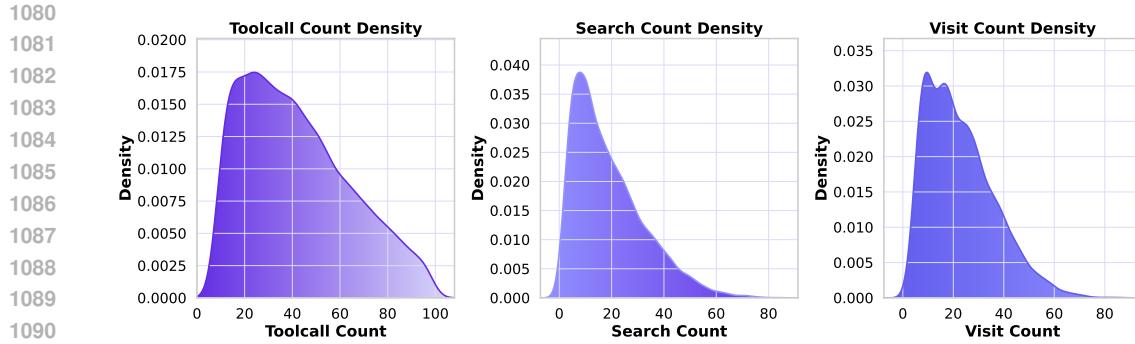
1059 **Example Question:** *Who are the authors from the same country as the 1980s prize-winner that wrote  
 1060 a novel about a group of British boys stranded on an uninhabited island, and who have also won both  
 1061 this reward and the Booker Prize? For each of them, what is their name, country, and the respective  
 1062 years they won each award?*

1063 **Construction Process:** The construction builds upon the unified space from Version-II with a  
 1064 ‘reverse’ logic:

- 1066 • **Source:** We use the unified information space from the Nobel and Booker prize union.
- 1067 • **Select Anchor:** An entity at the intersection of the second layers is chosen as the ‘anchor,’ e.g.,  
 1068 *William Golding*.
- 1069 • **Obfuscate Anchor:** Instead of naming the anchor, unique descriptive clues based on its third-  
 1070 layer attributes are generated: “the 1980s prize-winner” and “wrote a novel about... British  
 1071 boys...” These clues become the ‘Question Entities’.
- 1072 • **Create Union Trigger:** A third-layer attribute of the anchor, his nationality (*British*), is selected  
 1073 as the pivot for the next stage of the query.

1074 **Required Reasoning Process:** To solve this task, an agent must execute a two-stage process:

- 1075 • **Deduction Stage:** The agent must first resolve the descriptive clues (which are third-layer  
 1076 entities) to identify the second-layer anchor entity. The clues “1980s prize-winner” and “novel  
 1077 about stranded British boys” uniquely point to *William Golding*. This inferential step is crucial.

Figure 7: Distribution of *Search*, *Visit*, and total tool call.

- **Union Stage:** Having deduced William Golding, the agent identifies his nationality (a third-layer entity in his subtree): *British*. This becomes the pivot for the main query. The agent must then find all second-layer entities who (1) share this third-layer attribute (*British*) and (2) have won both the Nobel Prize and the Booker Prize. This requires filtering the unified entity space to find the final set of ‘Target Entities’, which includes authors like *William Golding*, *Kazuo Ishiguro*, and *J.M. Coetzee*.

### A.9 TOOL CALL ANALYSIS

As shown in Figure 7, our method involves a significantly large number of actions, including *Search*, *Visit*, and total tool calls. The density distributions indicate that tool calls often exceed several dozen per instance, with many cases surpassing 50 actions. This high frequency of actions reflects the intensive interaction and comprehensive exploration carried out by our approach, ensuring that the method thoroughly leverages available tools to achieve optimal performance.

### A.10 CLARIFICATIONS BETWEEN INFORMATION-SEEKING TASK AND ENTITY MINING

This section clarifies the scope of our entity-centric information-seeking (IS) framework and distinguishes it from mere “entity mining”. We argue that modeling IS through an entity-centric lens is a reasonable, generalizable, and widely-adopted foundation for tackling complex IS tasks, rather than a restrictive simplification.

**Definition and Rationale of Entity-Centric IS** As formally defined in Section 2.1, an IS task is a tuple  $T = \langle q, R \rangle$ , where an agent interprets a natural language question  $q$  and navigates the web to collect a complete set of required entities  $R$ . We define “entities” broadly to include not only final answers (e.g., “Alan Turing”) but also intermediate reasoning stepping stones and attributes (e.g., “1950 Turing Award”) that are critical for coherent inference.

This entity-centric task modeling is powerful for three core reasons: **ENTITIES AS ATOMIC INFORMATION UNITS**. Abstract questions (e.g., about events, procedures, or concepts) ultimately rely on grounding entities (e.g., “subprime mortgages” for the 2008 financial crisis) as building blocks for answers. **UNAMBIGUOUS SEQUENTIAL REASONING**. Discrete entities enable objective progress tracking, such as deducing anchor entities before retrieving related targets (a core mechanism in our Reverse-Union tasks). **CROSS-TASK VERSATILITY**. It generalizes to descriptive, causal, and procedural IS tasks, as all inherently involve collecting and connecting relevant entities.

**Community Consensus and Universality** Our entity-centric view aligns with a growing consensus in the field. Leading works such as WebResearcher (Qiao et al., 2025) model IS as collecting “reasoning entity chains” (analogous to our  $R$ ), DeepDive (Lu et al., 2025) uses “entity coverage rate” (a precursor to our ISR), and industrial systems like MiroThinker (Team et al., 2025b) conceptualize IS as assembling “concept entity graphs”. This paradigm is empirically validated and widely adopted for its effectiveness.

In all, the definition of information-seeking task is different from traditional entity mining. It’s wildly adopted by current agent community.

1134  
1135 A.11 DISCUSSION OF PERFORMANCE ON MULTILINGUAL, OUT-OF-DISTRIBUTION, AND  
1136 PRACTICAL SCENARIO1137 

1138 **1139** WebLeaper’s generalization capability in real-world scenarios is ensured through multiple inherent  
1140 mechanisms and empirical validations: the agent architecture based on the ReAct framework (Yao  
1141 et al., 2023) possesses inherent noise resilience, as its “thinking” stage prior to action enables the  
1142 model to proactively assess the relevance and quality of retrieved information, identify and filter  
1143 redundant noise such as ads and irrelevant snippets, and dynamically adjust search strategies to adapt  
1144 to the messy nature of the real web.

1145 

1146 Centered on real-world and multilingual applicability, our experimental design adopts five benchmarks  
1147 constructed from real web content—BrowserComp (Wei et al., 2025), GAIA (Mialon et al., 2023),  
1148 Seal-0 (Pham et al., 2025), WideSearch (Wong et al., 2025), and xbench-DeepSearch (Xbench-Team,  
1149 2025), which cover common real-world challenges including ambiguous expressions, truncated  
1150 entities, and scattered information. Furthermore, a portion of tasks in xbench-DeepSearch and  
1151 WideSearch are presented in Chinese, making these benchmarks multilingual. Most of the selected  
1152 benchmarks are not derived from Wikipedia, resulting in an out-of-distribution (OOD) evaluation  
1153 setting. This helps mitigate bias in our synthetic data, as the evaluation is decoupled from the source  
1154 of our training data synthesis. WebLeaper consistently outperforms strong baselines across these  
1155 benchmarks, providing direct and robust empirical evidence for its generalization ability.

1156 

1157 Furthermore, the dual-metric trajectory filtering mechanism of ISR (Information-Seeking Rate)  
1158 and ISE (Information-Seeking Efficiency) further enhances the model’s robustness: ISR requires  
1159 the model to fully cover target entities, fostering its persistence and thoroughness in mining key  
1160 information amid noise, while ISE suppresses ineffective “noise-chasing” behaviors and trains the  
1161 model to prioritize high-value actions. Collectively, these designs ensure that WebLeaper can  
1162 effectively excel at complex, noisy real-world application scenarios.

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