MATHSENSEI: A Tool-Augmented Large Language Model for Mathematical Reasoning

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Abstract

Tool-augmented Large Language Models (TALM) are known to enhance the skillset of large language models (LLM), thereby, lead-004 ing to their improved reasoning abilities across many tasks. While, TALMs have been successfully employed in different question-answering benchmarks, their efficacy on complex math-007 ematical reasoning benchmarks, and, the potential complimentary benefits offered by tools for knowledge retrieval and mathematical equa-011 tion solving, are open research questions. In this work, we present MATHSENSEI, a toolaugmented large language model for mathematical reasoning. Augmented with tools for knowledge retrieval (Bing Web Search), program execution (Python), and symbolic equation solving (Wolfram-Alpha), we study the 017 complimentary benefits of these tools through evaluations on mathematical reasoning datasets. We perform exhaustive ablations on MATH, a popular dataset for evaluating mathematical reasoning on diverse mathematical disciplines. We also conduct experiments involving well-known tool planners to study the impact of tool sequencing on the model performance. MATHSENSEI achieves 13.5% better accuracy over gpt-3.5-turbo with chain-of-thought on 027 the MATH dataset. We further observe that TALMs are not as effective for simpler math word problems (in GSM-8k), and the benefit increases as the complexity and required knowledge increases (progressively over AQuA, MMLU-Math, and higher level complex ques-034 tions in MATH).

1 Introduction

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State-of-the-art Large language models (LLMs), including gpt-3.5-turbo, GPT-4, and open-source counterparts like Llama 2 have demonstrated impressive performance across a broad spectrum of NLP tasks (Brown et al., 2020; Radford et al., 2019; Chowdhery et al., 2022; OpenAI, 2023). However, their consistent failure on established reasoning dimensions, such as mathematical, commonsense, abductive, and multi-hop reasoning (Lu et al., 2023b; Cobbe et al., 2021; Huang and Chang, 2023) have led the research community to explore various solutions for enhancing their reasoning abilities. This pursuit has given rise to techniques, such as - (1) intelligent prompting variations, such as chain of thought (Wei et al., 2022), program of thought (Chen et al., 2022), tree of thoughts (Yao et al., 2023), and self-refinement (Madaan et al., 2023), (2) programguided solving that generates python code as intermediate steps and offloads execution to a symbolic interpreter (Gao et al., 2023), (3) multi-model interaction frameworks, such as Multi-agent Debate (Du et al., 2023; Liang et al., 2023) and Round-Table Conference (Chen et al., 2023b), 4) tool-augmented LLMs powered by external symbolic tools, APIs, and libraries (Schick et al., 2023; Lu et al., 2023a; Paranjape et al., 2023; Yang and Narasimhan, 2023; Xie et al., 2023).

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In this work, we study the effectiveness of toolaugmented LLMs (TALM) applied to problems involving mathematical reasoning. Recent advancements in TALM frameworks, such as Chameleon (Lu et al., 2023a), OlaGPT (Xie et al., 2023), ART (Paranjape et al., 2023), and SocraticAI (Yang and Narasimhan, 2023) have explored the effectiveness of incorporating external tools for solving knowledge-intensive reasoning tasks and fundamental mathematical problems (such as, arithmetic and algebra). However, the effectiveness of TALM framework is yet to be validated on mathematical reasoning tasks involving complex computations. In this context, it is imperative to assess the suitability of specific tool combinations across diverse mathematical domains (e.g., PreAlgebra, Calculus, Geometry, Intermediate Algebra, Probability) at varying levels of difficulty. This motivated us to undertake a thorough evaluation of TALM framework in the context of complex mathematical reasoning tasks. We propose and develop MATHSENSEI, a TALM-based framework, comprising a distinct set of tools (also referred to as modules), combined in a sequential fashion. These modules include LLM-based components, such as - knowledge retriever (KRI). python code generator (PG), code refiner (CR \underline{A}), and solution generator (SG@); and APIs, such as - Bing-Web-Search-API (BS®) and Wolfram-Alpha-API (WAO). As illustrated in Fig. 1, MATHSEN-SEI adopts the modular architecture from Chameleon (Lu et al., 2023a). Through systematic experiments of MATHSENSEI, we aim to discern the effectiveness of each module in addressing specific types of mathematical problems, having varying levels of difficulty.



Figure 1: An end-to-end workflow of MATHSENSEI on the compositional setting from the MATH dataset. The final answer is higlighted in green font.

TALM	Math Discipline	Form	Search	Python	WAlpha	Plan	Tool-Study
OlaGPT	Algebra	MCQ	 Image: A set of the set of the	×	×	Plan-And-Solve	×
Chameleon	×	×	 ✓ 	✓	×	Plan-And-Solve	×
ART	Algebra	Open	 ✓ 	✓	×	Call-as-req	×
MATHSENSEI	Algebra, Precalculus, Geometry, Probability, Number Theory & more	Both	1	1	1	Both	1

Table 1: Comparison of MATHSENSEI with state-of-the-art Tool-Augmented LLMs; Form - Question-Answer Format (MCQ with multiple options, Open/Subjective), Search - Use of Web Search, Python - Python code guided problem solving, WAlpha - Wolfram Alpha, Tool-Study - Study of each tool, Plan - Planning Strategy used; Plan-And-Solve - Determine the sequence of tools to be executed beforehand, Call-as-req - Dynamically decide to call tool when required at a step during execution.

Our ablations show complimentary abilities of the modules, effect of ordering and combination (such as setting of WA + BS + SG (♥ + ♥ + ♥) surpassing PG + SG (♥ + ♥)). This further highlights the need for planning strategies. We evaluate two advanced planning techniques within our pipeline, investigating methodologies such as Plan-And-Solve (Lu et al., 2023a) and REACT (Yao et al., 2022) with MATHSENSEI.

We make following contributions:

1. We comprehensively evaluate the effectiveness of *TALM* frameworks across multiple mathematical datasets, such as GSM-8K, AQUA-RAT, MATH, MMLU-Math, encompassing diverse mathematical problem types and tasks. Compared to MATH, MMLU-Math, our experiments on simpler mathematical datasets (e.g., GSM-8K, AQUA-RAT) reveal minimal benefit of using multiple modules on top of CoT prompting.

2. Through systematic ablations by varying the set and order of modules in our framework, we observe that complex mathematical problems spanning different do-113 mains (such as, algebra, calculus, number theory, and probability from the MATH dataset) can be benefited 114 by certain types, combinations, and order of these mod-115 ules. We observe that the BS[®] module outperforms the KR^{II} module for retrieving relevant knowledge for 117 mathematical problems. The setting of WA + BS + SG 118 (♥ + ♥ + ♥) outperforms PG + SG (♥ + ♥), demonstrat-119 120 ing that program-guided solving techniques (Gao et al.,

2023; Drori et al., 2022) may not be universally suitable for all mathematical problems. These findings motivate the necessity of exploiting better planning techniques. Our best configuration of MATHSENSEI, PG + WA + SG (e + o + o) achieves an impressive performance accuracy of 47.6 % on the MATH dataset, surpassing gpt-3.5-turbo() with Chain-of-Thought (CoT) prompting by 13.5% (Chen et al., 2023a). The same setting shows a performance gain of +11.6% over GPT-4 (with CoT prompting) on Intermediate Algebra problems. For Precalculus, GPT-4 (with CoT prompting) has an accuracy of 26.7%, which gets improved to 28.9% by our WA + PG + SG (♥ + ♥ + ♥) setting. Improvements on AQuA-RAT and MMLU-Math are lower, 2.4% and 3.3% respectively, showing the efficacy decreases as requirement of external knowledge decreases.

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3. We quantify the performance of state-of-the-art planning techniques, such as Plan-And-Solve and RE-ACT coupled with tool-augmented LLMs on the MATH dataset. However, we do not observe benefit of using the planners over our best configurations of PG+WA+SG, which may indicate a need for developing targeted planning strategies for mathematical *TALMs*. We include our Planning related experiments in the Appendix.

2 Related Work

Prompting Techniques. Large Language Models (LLMs) employing prompting strategies such as Chain-

148 of-Thought (CoT) (Wei et al., 2022) and Programof-Thought (POT) (Chen et al., 2022) have demon-149 strated commendable performance on simple mathe-150 matical datasets such as GSM-8K (Cobbe et al., 2021). 151 However, their efficacy diminishes for datasets requir-152 ing complex computations and advanced mathematical 153 knowledge. For instance, on the MATH dataset, GPT-4 154 with CoT prompting exhibits a notably low accuracy of 155 42%. Several variations of these strategies have been ex-156 plored to improve accuracy in reasoning tasks. Madaan 157 et al. (2023) proposed self-refine that involves iteratively refining the initial output by utilizing feedback from the same model. Zhou et al. (2023) employs code-based 161 self-verification, by utilizing python code to check simple constraints that the LLM generated output should 162 163 satisfy and correcting the output if necessary. Simi-164 larly, Progressive-Hint-Prompting (Zheng et al., 2023) involves multiple turns of interactions, using previously 165 generated answers as hints for subsequent turns. Similar to POT prompting, PAL (Program Aided language models) (Gao et al., 2023) adopts a program-guided solving 168 169 paradigm. It reads natural language problems, generates programs as intermediate reasoning steps, and delegates 171 the solution step to a runtime environment, such as the Python interpreter. Across 13 natural language reason-172 ing tasks within Big-Bench-Hard (Suzgun et al., 2022), 173 174 they observe that program-guided solving consistently outperforms significantly larger models. 175

In our Tool-augmented framework (MATHSENSEI), we incorporate several such techniques. We adopt CoT prompting for the text generation modules, and use the methodology by Gao et al. (2023) to generate python code (using libraries like sympy) based on the current context and mathematical question; followed by execution of the code using python interpreter. While Gao et al. (2023) focuses on elementary level MWP (Math Word problems) and simple arithmetic datasets such as ASDIV (Miao et al., 2021) and SingleEQ (Koncel-Kedziorski et al., 2015), we explore complex mathematical datasets spanning diverse math problem types (MATH, AQUA (Ling et al., 2017), MMLU-Math). Following self-refine, we employ a code refinement module to iteratively rectify syntactical errors in the original generated code, using error messages from the interpreter.

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Tool-Augmented LLMs. The emerging trend of toolaugmented LLMs has garnered increasing attention within the research community. Large language models, trained on the objective of next-token prediction, excel at generating tokens based on probabilistic patterns in their training data, making them effective in dataintensive tasks. However, their proficiency falls short in capturing nuanced reasoning or token relationships, particularly in domains like mathematics. Consequently, there are instances or specific question types where it would be advantageous for an LLM to leverage support from specialized tools or modules. For instance, consider a question requiring the solution to the roots of a 4th-degree polynomial. The LLM, upon generating a special token followed by a query, can pause its generation and invoke a mathematics knowledge-base like Wolfram Alpha. Wolfram Alpha, in turn, can utilize its API to process the query and return the answer to the LLM, which can then continue its generation. Toolformer (Schick et al., 2023) leverages data annotated with such tool calls (using special tokens for tools) and responses to train language models to employ tools as needed in a self-supervised manner. Similarly, the toolaugmented LLM framework CHAMELEON (Lu et al., 2023a) adopts a plug-and-play approach to utilize tools sequentially. In their setup, the sequence of execution of the tools is predetermined based on a target task; the output of each tool is added to the context for subsequent downstream tools in the pipeline. They perform evaluation on multi-modal knowledge-intensive datasets like ScienceQA, TabMWP. Similarly, frameworks such as ART (Paranjape et al., 2023) engage in multi-step reasoning, where each step is linked to a tool call. Utilizing search and code tools, ART tackles various tasks across datasets such as MMLU (Hendrycks et al., 2021a)and BigBench (Srivastava et al., 2023).

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Our work adopts the generic backbone of popular tool-augmented LLM frameworks such as Toolformer and CHAMELEON. In comparison to the previous work, we distinguish ourselves by conducting a comprehensive analysis and comparison specific to tools useful for addressing diverse mathematical problems. Notably, CHAMELEON lacks evaluation on mathematical datasets, and ART focuses exclusively on algebra, leading to gaps in the assessment of tool-augmented LLMs. Furthermore, our study incorporates a comparison of planning techniques within tool-augmented LLM frameworks for mathematical reasoning, an aspect not adequately addressed in the current literature. To the best of our knowledge, planning techniques like REACT (Yao et al., 2022) have primarily been tested on knowledgeintensive reasoning datasets such as FEVER (Thorne et al., 2018) and HotpotQA (Yang et al., 2018).

3 Methodology

We first discuss some notations to formalize the problem. Let M denote the set of modules¹ (each performing a specific task), p_i be the input prompt for module m_i , and Q be the set of mathematical queries.

3.1 Problem Formulation

Given an input mathematical query $q \in Q$, the objective is to provide the final correct answer a by executing the set of relevant modules. Let $[m_1, \ldots, m_t]$, be the ordered sequence of chosen modules for answering q, and $[o_1, \ldots, o_t]$ be the output sequence of the t modules. Let, s_i , f_i , and c_i denote the instruction, in-context

¹The modules can be viewed as external tools, where each module $m \in M$ can be either powered by LLMs, such as Python code generators, Knowledge Retrievers, or they can be non-LLM API tools, such as WolframAlpha, Bing Web Search.

example(s), and context, respectively, that we use for module m_i . The input prompt p_i , corresponding to module m_i is defined as:

$$p_i = \langle s_i; f_i; c_i \rangle \tag{1}$$

where context c_i is defined as:

$$c_{i} = \begin{cases} [q], \text{ if } i = 1; \\ [c_{i-1}; o_{i-1}], \text{ for } i = 2, \dots, t \end{cases}$$
(2)

Here, x; y denotes concatenation of x and y.

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3.2 Modules

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In this section, we present a brief overview of the tools or modules that we use in our study. We show the list of model/api used for each module in Table 14. A detailed description of the prompts used in each module is presented in the Appendix section.

• LLM-based Knowledge Retrieval (KRII) - For this module, we design a prompt to extract relevant knowledge from a pre-trained LLM (taking any one from the list of models mentioned in Table 14) in the form of concepts, formulas, mathematical expressions, theorems, definitions, and hints on how to solve a corresponding mathematical question. An example prompt and output is shown in Table 9 (§A).

• Bing Web Search (BSt) - This module queries the Bing-Web-Search-API (@) to extract the most relevant snippets which may contain similar questions and concepts required for solving a mathematical problem. For similar questions search, we directly query the API (R) with a mathematical question. In case of concepts search, we first use an LLM (either gpt-3.5-turbo (2) or text-davinci-003 (@)) to generate a query corresponding trieve relevant concepts (refer to Fig. 2 for an example). • Wolfram Alpha (WA⁽²⁾) - This module (comprising multiple components) calls the Wolfram-Alpha-API (**Q**) using a query in the Wolfram language, retrieving the mathematical information from this knowledge base and utilizing the capabilities of its computation engine. First we employ an LLM to generate contextualized thoughts. Subsequently, based on the generated thought, the next component formulates a Wolfram code language query (referred to as the "Final Query"). On passing this query as input to the Wolfram Alpha API, we get a JSON dictionary object. We extract all the useful information from this dictionary (using an LLM-based extractor) and add it to the context of next module. An overview of the WAO module is presented in Fig. 3.

Python Generator+Executor (PG[●]) - We use an LLM that takes as input the current context as a part of a well-structured prompt (shown in Appendix Fig. 4). The LLM is explicitly instructed to use the sympy library for accessing a set of mathematical operations and data structures required. Based on the prompt, the module generates an (executable) Python code, which on execution returns some output(s) or an error message. We handle syntax errors using two setups:



Figure 2: Overview of the BS[®] module; We concatenate the similar questions and concepts (which is then used by a downstream module).



Figure 3: Overview of the WAO module.

- Without refinement: Here, if generated code produces syntax errors, we omit the output of PG. from the context for next module.

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- **Code-Refinement** (CRA): Here, we feed the error message along with the incorrect program to a code-fixing LLM which then generates a corrected python code and rationales of fixed errors given as "Errors fixed". We also add the information of common errors from our qualitative analysis in the system prompt to aid the code refinement process. An output for the code refinement setup from the

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MATH dataset is presented in Appendix Fig. 5.

Solution Generator (SG*) - The solution generator is the final module in all settings. It takes the output from the pipeline and compiles a step-by-step solution based on all the context of previous modules. The final step is prompted to produce the answer of the question. It outputs the final answer enclosed within \$\\boxed{}\$ (similar to the MATH dataset).

4 Experimental Setup

We first introduce the mathematical datasets used in our study (§4.1), followed by the experiments that we perform with various combinations of modules (§4.2). We use gpt-3.5-turbo () as the default LLM in LLMbased modules unless mentioned otherwise. This is mainly because it is more accessible and cheaper compared to models like GPT-4. For querying a searchengine, we use Bing-We-Search-API. Please refer to §A.1 for details about online resources that we use.

4.1 Datasets

MATH. The MATH dataset (Hendrycks et al., 2021b) serves as the primary dataset for our work. It covers *5000* mathematical problems, which are categorized into seven subject types (*Precalculus, Prealgebra, Algebra, Geometry, Intermediate Algebra, Counting and Probability, and Number Theory*) and *five levels* of difficulty (ranging from 1 to 5, where 1 denotes the least difficult and 5 denotes the most difficult). Our choice of the MATH dataset is motivated by its unique characteristics: Unlike many datasets, scaling up LLMs (in terms of model parameters) does not necessarily enhance accuracy on MATH. The dataset also poses intricate challenges, going beyond simple arithmetic or high school mathematics problems.

AQUA-RAT. The AQUA-RAT dataset (Ling et al., 2017) contains 253 algebraic math word problems with rationales. Unlike the MATH datset, it has a *multiple-choice* answer format with five options. It allows us to evaluate MATHSENSEI on mathematical problems in the domain of algebra.

GSM-8K. GSM-8K (Cobbe et al., 2021) contains *high school level math word problems* which require basic arithmetic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) to reach the final answer. The final answer is always an integer value. We use all 1319 examples from GSM-8K test set for evaluation.

369MMLU-Math.The MMLU dataset (Hendrycks et al.,3702021a) covers 57 diverse tasks (including elementary371mathematics, US history, computer science, etc.), which372require extensive problem solving abilities and world373knowledge. For this work, we use the mathematical test374subset of MMLU, known as MMLU-Math that contains375974 mathematical questions spanning 5 types - abstract376algebra, elementary mathematics, high-school mathematics, college mathematics, and formal logic. Similar

to AQUA-RAT, MMLU-Math also has a *multiple-choice* answer format.

4.2 Experiments

We conduct several experiments by meticulous analysis of individual modules **in the domain of complex mathematical reasoning**, through systematic ablations on the module sequences. For some of our ablations, we use different variants of OpenAI models, such as textdavinci-002 ((a)) and text-davinci-003 ((a)) other than the default gpt-3.5-turbo ((a)). We also employ models from the Llama family, such as Llama-2-7B ((A)) and Phind-Code-Llama-34B-V2 ((A)). We use accuracy as our evaluation metric for comparing different settings. Our experiments enquire the following questions:

• What is the impact of adding LLM generated mathematical knowledge relevant to the question [**KRB module**] before invoking the Solution Generator module [**SG module**]? (§5.1)

• How does the Bing Web Search [**BS** module] compare against the LLM-based knowledge generation [**KR# module**] for the task of adding relevant mathematical knowledge and information to the problem solving process? (§5.1, §5.2)

• What is the utility of augmenting mathematical knowledge-bases, such as Wolfram Alpha [WA^O module] with LLMs for solving problems across different levels of complexity? How does it compare against the paradigm of program-guided solving? (§5.3)

• What are the benefits of using program guided complex problem solving [**PG module**], and impact of LLM-based code refinement [**CR module**] in case of syntactical errors? (§5.4)

What is the effect of using multiple modules together? How does the benefit vary with the difficulty level, mathematical subject type, and dataset? (§5.5)
How to plan effective utilization of these modules? How does non-adaptive planning strategies [Plan-And-Solve] compare against dynamic planning strategies such as [REACT] which uses a thought, action, and observation based mechanism. (Appendix §A.1)

5 Effects of Adding Modules over LLMs

Here, we present results and analyze the impact of adding individual modules on top of the original LLM CoT variant (termed SG*): 1) KR* in § 5.1, 2) BS* in §5.2, 3) PG* in §5.4, and 4) WA* in §5.3. For each module, we also provide ablations over different LLMs (as applicable).

5.1 LLM-Based Knowledge Retrieval (KR)

Recently, Chameleon (Lu et al., 2023a) demonstrated an accuracy boost for knowledge intensive QA datasets, such as ScienceQA and TabMWP by using the KR module. Skills-In-Context prompting (Chen et al., 2023a) also shows similar results by utilizing some basic skills (such as mathematical theorems, during generation). Following the literature, we investigate the

Model	Ovr Acc
text-davinci-002 (@)	22.8
text-davinci-003 (@)	27.1
Llama2-7B (🗐	28.4
gpt-3.5-turbo (🐵)	34.4

Table 2: Performance of different backbone models used for KR11 module in the KR + SG (11 + 4) setting. For all settings, we use gpt-3.5-turbo (12) as the default LLM for the SG4 module.

impact of adding relevant knowledge (such as mathematical concepts and formulae) using an LLM-based KRI module in the context of SG® module, and examine the efficacy of the KR + SG (II + @) setting on the MATH dataset (Table 4). We also ablate over different LLMs (Table 2) to power the KRI module, while fixing the SG@ module to gpt-3.5-turbo ().

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Results. As shown in of Table 4, the extra knowledge retrieved by the KR[®] module is useful only for problems in Algebra, PreAlgebra, and Probability domains. Moreover, the overall accuracy drops steadily as we change KR[®] 's LLM from gpt-3.5-turbo (*) to other variants (shown in Table 2). This indicates that, generic LLMs (such as those mentioned in Table 2) are not equipped with mathematical concepts of other domains (Precalculus, Gemetry, Number Theory, Intermediate Algebra). After analyzing different LLM variants for the KR[®] module, we find that the knowledge retrieved by weaker LLMs heavily degrades performance of the downstream SG[®] module. This motivated us to explore the impact of search engine-based knowledge retrieval (detailed in §5.2).

5.2 Query Generation for Bing Web Search (BS)

We investigate the advantages of adding a search enginebased knowledge retrieval module (BS®) as an alternative of KR® for similar questions search and concepts search before applying SG[®].

Results. In Table 3, we observe that BS + SG (R+ •) setting is a clear winner over the SG setting, when gpt-3.5-turbo () is used for generating the BING-Web-Search-API (@) query and getting final solution from SG. This holds true even if the stand-alone SG@ is varied between text-davinci-003 (+22.5%) and gpt-3.5-turbo ((=)) (+4.2%). (@) Thus, augmenting LLMs with knowledge (relevant to a mathematical question) retrieved from the web proves to be beneficial in improving problem solving capabilities. The use of text-davinci-003 (@) alone or in combination with gpt-3.5-turbo () for BS and SG and SG modules, diminishes the performance of both BS + SG (R + P) and SG (P) settings, which is expected (Ye et al., 2023).

475 5.3 Wolfram Alpha Search (WA)

476 We compare the performance of WA + SG (\diamond + \diamond) and 477 SG \diamond settings on the MATH dataset in Table 3. We

LIMe	BS+SG	WA+SG	SG
LLIVIS	(+ 🌒	(🗳 + 🌒	(🕗)
(😟 + 🖄)	38.7	42.6	-
(🏟 + 🐵)	27.4	35.6	-
(🕮 + 🏟)	30.0	37.8	-
(•+•)	20.8	27.0	-
()	-	-	34.5
(@)	-	-	16.2

Table 3: Ablations of BS+SG (R + O), WA+SG (O + O), and SG (O) settings using different combination of LLMs, such as gpt-3.5-turbo (O) and text-davinci-003 (O) on the MATH dataset.

perform ablations with text-davinci-003 ((a)) and gpt-3.5-turbo ((a)) as the LLMs used in WAO for query generation and answer extraction. 478

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Results. From Table 3, we observe that WA + SG $(\mathbf{O} + \mathbf{O})$ outperforms the SG approach by 8.1%, when both WAO and SGO are powered by gpt-3.5-turbo (1). This shows a clear and significant contribution of complementary strengths coming from the knowledge retrieved through Wolfram Alpha (\$). Furthermore, it is notable that the observed benefits of the WAO module cannot be solely attributed to the characteristics of the LLMs employed for query generation or answer extraction. This is evident from the substantial performance gains (around 10.8%) achieved, even after enabling both WAO and SGO with a comparatively weaker model, such as text-davinci-003 (). Additionally, the mix of text-davinci-003 (@) and gpt-3.5-turbo (@) for the WA + SG (\mathbf{O} + \mathbf{O}) setting demonstrates superior performance compared to SG[®] with gpt-3.5-turbo (1), achieving improvements of 1.1% and 3.3%, respectively. Thus, showcasing meaningful positive impact of augmenting WAO with the stand-alone SG module.

5.4 Python Generator (PG)

In this section, we investigate the effectiveness of the Python Generator (PG²) module in using python code, and an interpreter to solve mathematical problems (utilizing external symbolic libraries from sympy). Following, PAL (Program Aided Language Models) (Gao et al., 2023), Program of thought (Chen et al., 2022), our PG⁺ module consists of a a program generator and an executor. The generated code and corresponding output are added in context of the next module in sequence. We present the results of the PG + SG ($\stackrel{\bullet}{=}$ + $\stackrel{\bullet}{=}$) setting in Table 4 for the MATH dataset. For MATH, we present three variations: (i) $PG + SG (\stackrel{\bullet}{=} + \stackrel{\bullet}{=})$ with no code refinement, (ii) PG + CR+ SG ($\stackrel{\textcircled{}}{=} + \stackrel{\textcircled{}}{=} + \stackrel{\textcircled{}}{=}$) with code refinement, (iii) PG'[a] + SG (e + a) with Phind-CodeLLama-34B-V2 model used as the LLM for PG Module. We choose Phind-CodeLLama-34B-V2 for our ablation since it is the best model from the huggingface Code-LLM leaderboards. The Phind family of models are finetuned versions of CodeLlama-34B on a

Method	Alg	P.Cal	P.Alg	Geom	Prob	N.Th	Int.Alg	O.Acc
Baselines with gpt-3.5-turbo (1)								
CoT-LTP (Guo et al., 2023)	49.6	16.3	52.3	22.5	30.2	29.8	16.9	31.1
ComplexCoT (Fu et al., 2023)	49.1	16.8	53.8	22.3	29.7	33.4	14.6	34.1
ComplexCoT+PHP (Zheng et al., 2023)	51.1	16.1	57.7	25.4	33.7	35.1	17.1	36.5
SKiC (Chen et al., 2023a)	57.9	23.0	62.0	30.1	38.2	35.5	17.8	40.6
Baselines with GPT-4								
CoT (Zhou et al., 2023)	70.8	26.7	71.6	36.5	53.1	49.6	23.4	50.4
PHP (Zhou et al., 2023)	74.3	29.8	73.8	41.9	56.3	55.7	26.3	53.9
Ours								
SG (@)	46.7	18.1	55.7	25.3	32.9	30.2	16.2	34.5
KR + SG (₽ + ♥)	49.1	15.0	58.0	24.4	34.3	29.6	12.0	34.4
$BS + SG (\oplus +)$	51.6	20.1	63.3	27.1	36.1	39.6	16.3	38.7
PG + SG (♣ + ♥)	60.0	26.5	66.1	30.7	42.1	40.5	21.1	44.6
PG + CR + SG (♣ + ♣ + ♥)	59.7	25.2	63.9	26.9	48.3	43.0	26.9	44.8
PG'[♬] + SG (♣ + �)	55.4	23.5	58.0	22.9	32.7	42.2	17.9	39.6
WA + SG (🗘 + 🌒)	57.8	26.1	58.5	26.3	37.6	37.8	31.5	42.6
PG + BS + SG (♣ + € +�)	53.1	20.7	58.7	28.6	37.8	36.6	19.9	39.0
BS + PG + SG (R + P + P)	55.0	23.1	61.2	27.5	35.4	35.4	20.5	39.8
$WA + PG + SG (\diamondsuit + \diamondsuit + \diamondsuit)$	62.5	28.9	61.5	27.1	42.6	45.7	33.4	46.3
PG + WA + SG (♥ + ♥ +♥)	61.6	28.7	64.7	30.5	42.8	49.1	35.0	47.6
$BS + WA + SG (\oplus + • + •)$	56.2	22.9	61.0	29.8	37.5	44.0	28.9	42.9
$WA + BS + SG (\diamondsuit + \circledast + \diamondsuit)$	60.0	27.0	65.0	29.0	40.5	42.2	31.4	45.4
$BS + PG + WA + SG (\bigoplus + \diamondsuit + \diamondsuit + \diamondsuit)$	60.2	26.4	65.0	31.3	44.7	48.7	31.6	46.7

Phind dataset consisting of 80k high quality programming problems and solutions.

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Results. In Table 4, we observe that the PG + SG (+ •) setting using the sympy library without code refinement can improve upon the performance accuracy of SG \triangleleft on the MATH dataset by a margin of 10.1%. We find that a majority of problems in MATH require complex computations such as solving equations, representation of complex mathematical objects such as vectors, solving problems in Geometry, some of which are hurdles for the Solution generator module since text representations alone fail to capture such complexities. Libraries such as sympy, on the other hand, has support for symbolically representing such objects using well defined functions, classes, methods, and sub-packages. We find that this helps PG outperform SG on all mathematical types in MATH. The outcomes of our experiment with PG + CR + SG ($\stackrel{\bullet}{=}$ + $\stackrel{\bullet}{=}$ + $\stackrel{\bullet}{=}$) setting only yields marginal enhancements on overall accuracy. We also observe a drop in the accuracy by 5% when using Phind-CodeLLama-34B-V2 as the LLM in PG module.

5.5 Results of Multiple Module Experiments

We experiment with various module combinations on four datasets MATH, AQUA-RAT, GSM-8K, and

Setting	FL	AA	EM	СМ	HM
(🔹)	53.9	49.0	84.6	41.0	57.7
(Q\$+ \$)	50.6	43.9	84.8	38.6	58.5
(\$+\$)	52.4	54.5	88.1	58.0	67.0
(@+�)	40.5	44.4	80.1	49.0	63.0
(🕐+🗇)	49.5	50.0	81.6	44.0	69.4
(♀ + +)	44.7	36.1	81.4	57.1	63.7
(*+\$ +\$)	45.7	55.5	92.1	42.3	68.0
(🛃 🖏 +	50.0	47.0	81.2	44.0	59.1
(@+++>)	46.8	38.0	84.9	47.5	63.3
(\$ +*+\$+\$)	41.3	43.0	79.3	45.0	66.1

Table 5: MMLU Accuracy vs type of problem; FL:Formal logic, AA: Abstract Algebra, EM: Elementary Mathematics, CM: College Mathematics, HM: High School Mathematics

MMLU-Math and report in Tabs. 4 & 6. Our findings reveal that distinct modules exhibit specialized efficacy in addressing specific categories of mathematical problems. On the **MATH** dataset, (1) WAO emerges as a valuable resource for tackling intricate mathematical subdomains, particularly in Intermediate Algebra (**Int.Alg**) and Number Theory (**N.Th**). The PG+WA+SG ($\stackrel{\bullet}{\bullet}+\stackrel{\bullet}{\bullet}+\stackrel{\bullet}{\bullet}$) setting outperforms SG($\stackrel{\bullet}{\bullet}$) by 19% on Int.Alg. We conduct a qualitative analysis of PG+SG ($\stackrel{\bullet}{\bullet}+\stackrel{\bullet}{\bullet}$) on 106 randomly sampled questions

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Setting	GSM-8K	AQUA	M.Math
(🔹)	77.0	61.4	66.2
(B+ *)	71.8	57.5	64.5
(♀ +�)	61.7	57.9	66.0
(@+♥)	56.0	53.5	67.6
(+*)	74.1	55.1	68.1
(♀ + +)	69.1	63.8	65.1
(♣+✿+ᢀ)	67.6	62.6	67.1
(🛃 🚓	67.6	58.3	67.2
(\$+ * +\$)	69.2	56.3	69.5
(@+ * + ◊ +�)	70.7	61.4	66.9

Table 6: Comparison of Multi-Module Settings for GSM-8K, AQUA-RAT (AQUA), and MMLU-Math (M.Math) datasets.

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from MATH spanning all types and difficulty levels, presented in Table 13. We find that the majority of errors in Int.Alg arise from Python code execution errors, clearly showcasing the inability of python code to represent complex math objects in this domain. In contrast, the WA (**[‡]**) module effectively interacts with the API using symbolic Wolfram code language to address these issues, resulting in substantial enhancements.(2) For Algebra-related problems (**Prealgebra** and **Algebra**) having complex computations, the generation of Python code guided by PG[†] and the sympy library proves to be an effective choice. The WA+PG+SG (♥+♥+♥) setting elevates the performance of SG (*) by 15.8% on Algebra. The PG+SG (***) setting performance is also significantly better compared to SG (2) (10.4%) on Prealgebra showing the utility of code representations over natural language in this subdomain. (3) Table 8 presents an examination of the variations in accuracy among various settings as a function of the problem levels (1-5) in the MATH dataset. Our analysis reveals a consistent improvement of over 10% across all levels with diverse modular configurations. This reaffirms the importance of judiciously selecting tools and configurations based on the specific features and attributes of the given problem.

Effectiveness of MATHSENSEI MMLUon **Math.** Results in Table 6 reveal that the BS+PG+SG (€+++) configuration enhances the accuracy of the SG (\clubsuit) setting by 3.3%. As the performance is gain is low, we further perform a type wise analysis in Table 5. We observe that, other than Formal Logic (FL), adding different modules show substantial improvements in different types, such as 17% in College Math, 11.7% in High School Math, 7.5% in Elementary Math. More specifically we find that: (1) The PG+WA+SG (++++) setting improves the accuracy of the SG (@) setting from 84.6% to 92.1% on **Elementary mathematics** problems. (2) Interestingly, problems in formal logic are best solved using SG (*) alone. The drop in performance for the PG+SG (+) setting (53.9-> 49.5) is due to the inability of PG to adequately represent predicate logic, First Order Logic (FOL) sentences through python code, (3) For College Mathematics, the Wolfram Alpha () module demonstrates highest efficacy, as evidenced by the

substantial benefits observed in both the WA+SG (O+*) and WA+PG+SG(O+*) settings. Notably, WA+SG (O+*) outperforms the SG setting by a significant margin of 17%. Our analysis in MMLU-Math further supports the complimentary benefit of the tools used in MATHSENSEI framework for various mathematical types. 599

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Decreased Effectiveness of MATHSENSEI on GSM-8k, and AOUA-RAT. From Table 6, we observe marginal improvement of using multiple modules on AQUA-RAT and GSM-8k, over the standalone SG[®] module. Both datasets mainly comprise simpler algebraic and arithmetic word problems. GSM-8K consists of problems requiring simple arithmetic operations, and mostly does not require external mathematical knowledge. The complexity in GSM-8K stems more from linguistic diversity. We conduct a case study on a randomly sampled set of 20 examples from GSM-8K, where PG + SG ($\stackrel{\bullet}{\rightarrow}$ + $\stackrel{\bullet}{\Rightarrow}$) is incorrect and SG $\stackrel{\bullet}{\Rightarrow}$ is correct, we find that 18 (out of 20) have incorrect outputs generated by PG^(*) (due to reasoning errors)(Table 15). For all these 18 examples, the LLM generated python code tries to solve a simple problem by using complex objects in sympy, which in turn degrades the performance. For the remaining two examples, one has an execution error, while for the other one, SG@ alters the correct answer to incorrect.

Similar to GSM-8K, AQUA-RAT primarily focuses on problems that require generic language-based reasoning skills. We find that settings with WA \clubsuit mostly hurt the performance compared to SG \circledast . This is attributed to the fact that WA \clubsuit and BS \circledast are unnecessary for addressing straightforward problems, and invoking them often introduces noisy and irrelevant information into the context of SG \circledast . As we saw previously in case of GSM-8K, a significant proportion of errors in PG + SG (\circledast + \circledast) can be linked to the application of sympy for simple problems (Table 15). These outcomes highlight the diminishing utility of employing additional modules for tasks requiring minimal external knowledge.

6 Conclusion

We introduce a Tool-augmented Large Language Model (TALM) framework, aka MATHSENSEI, targeted for Mathematical Reasoning. We utilize tools for webbased knowledge retrieval, program execution, and symbolic equation solving. We perform extensive ablations over the individual tools, along with varying the order and combination on complex mathematical reasoning datasets (such as MATH). Our best configuration achieves a 13.5% improvement over GPT-3.5-Turbo (with CoT prompting) on MATH. Our experiments with tool-sequencing methods does not improve over our best configuration. We also observe that benefit of mathematical TALMs are minimal for simpler math word problems (in GSM-8k) and its benefit increases as the required complexity and knowledge for the problem increases through AQuA, MMLU-Math.

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Limitations

We propose a Tool-Augmented LLM framework (*TALM*), uniquely targeted towards complex mathematical reasoning. Here, we discuss three types of limitations: 1) choice of the set of tools, 2) variants of the PG module for simpler problems and 3) devloping mathematical *TALM*-specific planning methods.

1. Here, we choose tools, which intuitively offers knowledge about complex mathematical disciplines and complex equation solving capabilities such as Python with sympy library, Wolfram-Alpha-API and Bing Web Search API. However, we have not explored other solvers which are targeted towards logical complexity or adding commonsense knowledge. In future, a more universal *TALM* can target adding Z3, SAT solvers and OMCS knowledge base query capabilities.

2. Our Program Generator (PG) module is not only inspired by the program-guided solving methods, but also targetedly use sympy library to access complex mathematical equation solving skills. Such skills may not be required for simpler math word problems, as present in GSM-8k. In future, we plan to work on generalizing the PG module so that it is adaptive for simpler problems and focuses mainly on representing the problems in code, only accessing sympy capabilities when required.

3. Lastly, we worked on vanilla adaptation of the available planning or tool-sequencing methods directly in the mathematical *TALM* (or MATHSENSEI) context. From our experiments, it is clear that we need to develop more efficient planners that can dynamically choose a sequence of tools based on the problem type (say WA+PG+SG for algebra and PG + CR+ SG for Probability), striking a balance between planning beforehand (Plan-And-Solve) and example-wise planning (REACT). We hope our work will inspire researchers to work on such planning methods for mathematical *TALM*s.

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Prompts

Module	#FewShot(s)
KR	7
WAO	5
PG🐡	7
SG	4

Table 7: Number of Few-Shot(s) (or In-context example(s)) used in each module.

Here, we provide additional information about the prompts used for each LLM-powered module and examples. We first provide the number of few-shot (or in-context) samples used in each module in Table 7. We further provide the example input prompt and output for the Knowledge Retrieval module in Table 9. We provide the example of the Program Generator module without code refinement in Figure 4 and with code refinement in Figure 5.

Setting	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
SG (@)	71.8	53.1	41.0	25.6	12.2
WA+SG (◊ + ◊)	74.6	60.5	46.6	37.6	21.3
PG+SG (♥ + ♥)	83.6	62.4	52.6	40.0	19.8
WA+PG+SG (\$+€+®)	76.4	61.5	54.0	40.2	25.2
PG+WA+SG (* + \$ + \$)	79.1	62.8	53.9	41.8	26.9
BS+WA+SG (€+ ≎ +♥)	74.6	59.3	51.0	35.6	21.0
WA+BS+SG (♀ +�+�)	76.0	60.1	52.0	39.9	24.6
BS+PG+WA+SG (€+ * + \$ + \$)	81.0	60.5	52.9	41.6	25.4

Table 8: Performance of different Settings across varying Levels of Complexity (1-5) on the MATH dataset.

[Instruction]

Read the following question, generate the background knowledge or relevant mathematical information as the context information that could be helpful for answering the question.

[In-context example(s)]

The smallest distance between the origin and a point on the graph of $[y = \frac{1}{2}x^2 - 9]$ can be expressed as a. Find a^2 .

Knowledge:

- The question involves the concept of distance between two points in a coordinate system.

- The distance between the origin and a point (x, y) on the graph is given by the formula $\sqrt{(x^2 + y^2)}$.

- Minimizing $(x^2 + y^2)$ is same as minimizing $\sqrt{(x^2 + y^2)}$.

- Substitute $y = 1/2x^2 - 9$ into the equation to get $x^2 + (1/2x^2 - 9)^2$.

- Take derivative of above equation and set it to 0.

[Input Question]

What is the following value when expressed as a common fraction:	$\frac{1}{2^1} +$	$\frac{1}{2^2}$ -	$+\frac{1}{2^3}$	$+\cdots$	$\cdot + \frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2^8} +$	$\frac{1}{2^9}$ +	$-\frac{1}{2^{10}}?$
Output								

- The question involves understanding of geometric series in mathematics.

- A geometric series is a series of numbers where each term is obtained by multiplying the previous term by a fixed constant, called the common ratio.

- The sum of the first n terms of a geometric series is given by the formula $S_n = a(1 - r^n)/(1 - r)$, where a is the first term and r is the common ratio.

- In this case, the first term is 1/2 and the common ratio is also 1/2.

- We need to find the sum of the first 10 terms of the series, which can be calculated using the above formula.

Table 9: Example of Knowledge Retrieval (KRI) Prompt and Output .

[Instruction]

You need to act as a policy model, that given a question, determines the sequence of modules that can be executed sequentially to solve the question.

The modules are defined as follows:

- wolfram-alpha-search: Calls the Wolfram-Alpha API to solve the given question or intermediate steps in the question.

- bing-search: Retrieves similar questions, background knowledge, useful information using the Bing Web Search API.

- python-generator: This module generates an executable python program that can solve the given question using the Sympy library.

- solution-generator: This module generates a detailed solution to the question based on the already generated context. Normally, solution-generator will incorporate the information from wolfram-alpha-search, bing-search, python-generator. It is always the last module to be executed.

[In-context example(s)]

Question: Determine the number of ways to arrange the letters of the word ELEVEN.

Modules: ['bing-search', 'solution-generator']

[Input Question]

If the numbers 4, 5 and 6 are each used exactly once to replace the letters in the expression A(B - C), what is the least possible result?

Output

Modules: ['python-generator', 'solution-generator']

 Table 10: Example of Planner Prompt
 and Output
 in Plan-And-Solve (PAS).



Figure 4: Overview of the PG Module (without code refinement).

A.1 Planning Strategies

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We explore two state-of-the-art planning strategies based following the Chameleon (Lu et al., 2023a) and the REACT (Yao et al., 2022) frameworks and report in in Table 11.

Plan-And-Solve Within the Plan-And-Solve (PAS) framework, a dynamic planner (LLM), generates a plan for a given mathematical problem before the start of execution. In our context, the plan consists of the sequence of modules to be run. Notably, this planning approach is inherently non-adaptive, as the strategy lacks the capability to determine the next module based on feedback and the output of the previously executed modules. To instruct the planner LLM, we provide input prompts containing information about each module, along with a few-shot example representing a possible sequence. The prompts utilized for the planner model are detailed in Table 10.

MATHSENSEI with REACT Planner. The previous
modular settings, have a fixed order of execution of the
modules. However, we also wish to test out settings
where there is power given to the central LLM to call
different modules as and when required. This is done
by executing (thought, action request, action execution)
triplets. The thought serves as a summary of what we
have till now in relation to answering the question, the
action request is the specific action we wish to take in

the next step, and the action execution step calls the nec-
essary module from the modules library to execute the
action. We call this setting thought-request-execution
(Tho-Re-Exec), an overview of the setup is presented
in Figure 2. The results for this setting corresponding to
each problem type is presented in Table 11.894
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Online Resources. List of online resources that we use are as follows:

• open-source icons: https://iconduck.com/ 902 icons/ 903

900

901

907

- Ilama-2 icon: https://llama-2.
 ai/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/
 Llama-2-icon-150x150.png
 906
- codellama icon: https://codellama.dev/ icons/black-transparentbg.png
- python icon: https://s3.dualstack.
 us-east-2.amazonaws.com/
 pythondotorg-assets/media/community/
 logos/python-logo-only.png
 912
- azure openai service: https://azure.
 microsoft.com/en-us/products/
 ai-services/openai-service/
 913
- bing web search api service: https: 916 //www.microsoft.com/en-us/bing/apis/ 917 bing-web-search-api 918

Plan Method	Alg	P.Cal	P.Alg	Geom	Prob	N.Th	Int.Alg	O.Acc
PAS*	57.3	29.8	65.0	32.4	42.0	47.7	31.9	47.3
REACT*	62.9	30.6	65.1	32.1	42.0	46.1	33.7	48.9
PG + WA + SG (♥ + ♥ + ♥)*	61.4	32.8	65.2	33.4	45.4	54.2	37.6	50.7
WA + PG + SG (🗘 + 🔷 + 🌒)*	64.4	32.1	62.8	32.1	46.9	49.4	38.3	50.6

Table 11: Comparison of planning strategies: Plan-And-Solve (PAS) and REACT with two of our best performing settings on 3072 randomly sampled examples from the MATH dataset. Here X* denotes the use of 3072 samples for evaluating method X.

Setting	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
PAS*	76.0	60.1	53.9	40.5	26.1
REACT*	78.3	62.0	55.4	41.6	27.9
PG + WA + SG (♥ + ♥ + ♥)*	79.3	65.3	54.3	43.9	31.1
WA + PG + SG (♥ + ♥ +♥)*	78.3	65.6	55.8	43.1	30.1

Table 12: Comparing Performance of different Planning Strategies (§??) with two of our Top Performing Settings by varying Difficulty Level of Problems from the MATH dataset.

Subject	PG-Exec-Err	PG-R-Err	SG-Err	Tot.Examples
Alg	8	5	2	15
P.Cal	6	9	0	15
P.Alg	4	11	0	15
Geom	3	12	0	15
Prob	8	6	1	15
N.Th	6	7	3	16
Int.Alg	14	0	1	15
Overall Count	51	48	7	106

Table 13: Summary of Error types with PG + SG (\diamond + \diamond) setting on a random subset of 106 examples (MATH dataset); PG-Exec-Err: Code generated by PG \diamond module having syntactical errors; PG-R-Err: Executable python code (from PG \diamond) having reasoning errors; SG-Err: Solution Generator (SG \diamond) alters correct output from PG \diamond to incorrect; Alg: Algebra, P.Cal: Precalculus, P.Alg: Prealgebra, Geom: Geometry, Prob: Probability, N.Th: Number Theory, Int.Alg: Intermediate Algebra. Here we report the absolute count of errors across different subjects.



[Question]

Uriah's book bag is getting too heavy for him. He needs to remove 15 pounds from it. His comic books weigh 1/4 pound each and his toys weigh 1/2 pound each. If he removes 30 comic books, how many toys does he need to remove?

Gold answer: 30 comic books weigh 7.5 pounds because $30 \times .25 = (30^{\circ}.25 = 7.5)^{\circ}.5$ He needs to remove 7.5 more pounds because 15 - 7.5 = 7.5 He needs to remove 15 toys because 7.5 / .5 = 15

[PG+SG Output]

Python generator: from sympy import * x = symbols('x')eq = Eq((1/4)*(30-x) + (1/2)*x, 15) print("Equation:",eq) sol = solve(eq, x) print("Solution x:",sol) ans = 30 - sol[0] print("Toys to remove:",ans) Python output: Equation: Eq(0.25*x + 7.5, 15) Solution x: [30.000000000000] Toys to remove: 0

[SG Output]

Solution:

- We know that Uriah needs to remove a total of 15 pounds from his bag.
- He removes 30 comic books, which weigh a total of 30*(1/4) = 7.5 pounds.
- So he still needs to remove 15 7.5 = 7.5 pounds.
- Let the number of toys he needs to remove be x.
- The weight of x toys is $x^{*}(1/2) = 0.5x$ pounds.
- We need to solve the equation 0.5x = 7.5 to find x.
- Solving for x, we get x = 15.
- Therefore, Uriah needs to remove 15 toys from his bag.
- the answer is 15

Table 16: Example showing PG+SG(++) (Incorrect) vs SG ()(correct) for GSM-8K