

# 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 AGNOSTICS: LEARNING TO SYNTHESIZE CODE IN ANY PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE WITH A UNIVERSAL REINFORCEMENT LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

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## ABSTRACT

Large language models (LLMs) excel at writing code in *high-resource* languages such as Python and JavaScript, yet stumble on *low-resource* languages that remain essential to science and engineering. Besides the obvious shortage of pre-training data, post-training itself is a bottleneck: every new language seems to require new datasets, test harnesses, and reinforcement-learning (RL) infrastructure.

We introduce Agnostics, a *language-agnostic* post-training pipeline that eliminates this per-language engineering. The key idea is to judge code solely by its externally observable behavior, so a single verifier can test solutions written in *any* language. Concretely, we (i) use an LLM to rewrite existing unit-test datasets into an I/O format, (ii) supply a short configuration that tells the verifier how to compile and run a target language, and (iii) apply reinforcement learning with verifiable rewards (RLVR) in a robust code execution environment.

Applied to five low-resource languages—Lua, Julia, R, OCaml, and Fortran—Agnostics (1) improves Qwen-3 4B to performance rivaling other 16B–70B open-weight models; (2) scales to larger and diverse model families (Qwen-3 8B, DeepSeek Coder 6.7B Instruct, SmolLM 3, Phi 4 Mini); and (3) for  $\leq 16$ B parameter models, sets new state-of-the-art pass@1 results on MultiPL-E and a new multi-language version of LiveCodeBench which we introduce.

We will release the language-agnostic training datasets (Ag-MBPP-X, Ag-Codeforces-X, Ag-LiveCodeBench-X), training code, and ready-to-use configurations, making RL post-training in *any* programming language as simple as editing a short YAML file.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Large language models (LLMs) are remarkably good at programming tasks, especially when coding in *high-resource programming languages* such as Python and JavaScript. Their proficiency in *low-resource programming languages*, such as Fortran, Julia, and others, is far more limited. This gap appears both on benchmarks (Cassano et al., 2023) and in popular discourse. Many low-resource languages are adapted to and widely used in particular sectors such as computational science (e.g., Julia, Fortran), medicine (e.g., Mumps), data science (e.g., R), and others. Methods for improving LLMs on such languages would help programmers in these sectors truly take advantage of LLMs.

The capability gap between high-resource and low-resource programming languages occurs for two reasons. First, there is *vastly* more training data for some languages. For example, The Stack V2 (Lozhkov et al., 2024a), the largest public training corpus of code, has  $\approx 200$ GB of Python but only  $\approx 2$ GB of Julia and Fortran. Thus pretraining on code makes models significantly better at Python. A subtler reason is the availability of post-training datasets and techniques. Contemporary LLMs are developed with an extensive post-training process that relies on (a) high-quality curated data for supervised fine-tuning, and (b) carefully designed environments for reinforcement learning, which must be able to execute and verify model-generated solutions. Both of these require significant human expertise, which is hard to find for low-resource programming languages.

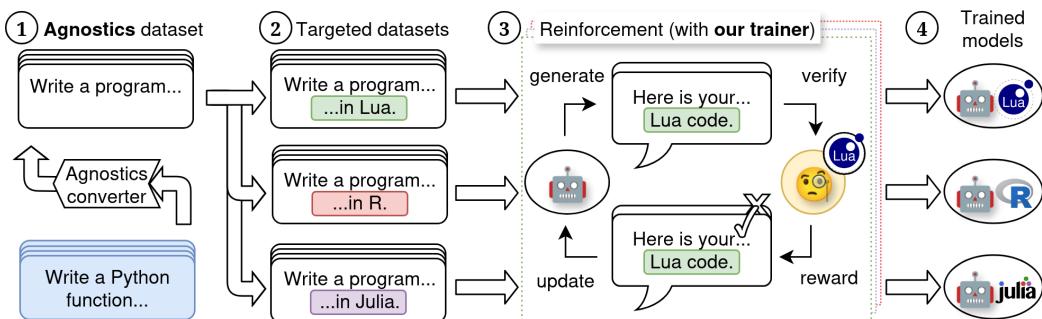
Our goal in this work is to facilitate post-training LLMs on low-resource programming languages, working towards closing the resource gap. Our key idea is that for a large class of programming

054 tasks, correctness can be stated as a property not of functions or code snippets, but of the entire program’s observable behavior (e.g., I/O). Furthermore, if its correctness can be tested with a *verifier* program, such a *verifier* with appropriate problems and test cases can be used to make a universal reinforcement learning environment which can be instantiated for nearly any programming language. 058 In fact, the verifier’s implementation language is independent from the one being learned. This approach matches the formulation of some existing post-training datasets (even if they are intended for 059 Python/C++), and we can reformulate language-specific datasets into this format with LLMs. 060

061 Our approach, Agnostics, works based on this insight as follows (Figure 1). 1) We use an LLM 062 to reformulate language-specific datasets into our uniform language-agnostic format. 2) To target 063 a particular language, we generate prompts and instantiate the verifier based on a small (4-5 line) 064 configuration file. 3) We apply reinforcement learning with verified rewards (RLVR) using a robust, 065 language-agnostic execution sandbox that we develop. 4) The result is a model specialized to the 066 target language. Agnostics particularly excels at finetuning models for low-resource languages, as it 067 does not rely on high-quality datasets specific to a particular language. 068

## Contributions

1. Agnostics, a post-training pipeline for coding in arbitrary programming languages;
2. The best-performing open-weights  $\leq 16B$  models for Lua, R, Julia, OCaml and Fortran;
3. Three Agnostics datasets: Ag-MBPP-X, Ag-Codeforces-X, and Ag-LiveCodeBench-X, based on MBPP (Austin et al., 2021), Open-R1 Codeforces (Penedo et al., 2025) and LiveCodeBench (Jain et al., 2024b) respectively.
4. A small and carefully designed Agnostics training framework, including a parallel code execution sandbox, sampling, rewards computation, GRPO, and model back-propagation.



090 Figure 1: **Overview: Agnostics Data Preparation and Training.** (1) We reformulate existing coding 091 datasets to our format. (2) We adapt the language-agnostic datasets to a particular programming 092 language. (3, 4) We reinforce coding via Group Relative Policy Optimization (Shao et al., 2024; 093 DeepSeek-AI et al., 2025), verifying the programs in our code execution sandbox. 094

## 2 BACKGROUND AND RELATED WORK

097 **Data Scarcity for Low-Resource Languages**  
098 General-purpose LLMs have been pretrained on 099 code for several years, both because LLMs are 100 widely used for practical programming tasks, and 101 because pretraining on code improves their general 102 reasoning abilities (Ma et al., 2023). There are also 103 code-specialized models either trained exclusively 104 on code (e.g., Xu et al. (2022); Allal et al. (2023)) 105 or trained on code starting from a general-purpose 106 model checkpoint (e.g., Rozière et al. (2024)). 107

However, the publicly available pretraining data for code is heavily skewed toward a handful of programming languages. E.g., consider The Stack V2 (Lozhkov et al., 2024b), the largest public

Language	%	Language	%
JavaScript	17.04 %	Lua	0.53 %
Java	8.38 %	R	0.35 %
C++	5.41 %	Fortran	0.07 %
Python	3.56 %	Julia	0.10 %

Figure 2: High-resource (left) and low-resource (right) languages in the Stack v2.

108 code pretraining dataset, with code from GitHub and dozens of other sources. The Stack V2 is  
 109 dominated by relatively few programming languages: just 10 of 619 languages account for over  
 110 90% of the dataset. We want to develop models for low-resource programming languages that each  
 111 account for  $\leq 0.5\%$  of publicly available code (Figure 2). We can imagine working around this data  
 112 scarcity in a few ways. However, previous work shows that up-sampling low-resource languages  
 113 during pretraining only leads to small benchmark improvements (Orlanski et al., 2023), while fine-  
 114 tuning on the pre-training data for low-resource languages has negligible impact (Cassano et al.,  
 115 2024). Thus, it is not clear how to make further gains from existing natural data.

116

117 **Synthetic Data for Low-Resource Languages** If natural data is not available for a task, it is  
 118 possible to use LLMs to generate synthetic fine-tuning data (Wang et al., 2023), and there are many  
 119 techniques for building code-centric supervised fine-tuning datasets (e.g. Luo et al. (2023); Wei  
 120 et al. (2024c;b)) that work remarkably for Python. Although these approaches could in principle  
 121 be applied to any programming language, Cassano et al. (2024) show that without distillation or  
 122 verification (e.g., see Hu et al. (2025); Wei et al. (2024a)), synthetic tasks and code for low-resource  
 123 programming languages are low-quality, and models fine-tuned on them perform poorly.

124 MultiPL-T (Cassano et al., 2024), similar to TransCoder-ST (Roziere et al., 2021) and CMTrans (Xie  
 125 et al., 2024), couples synthetic data generation with verification using rejection sampling: it gen-  
 126 erates up  $n$  candidate programs in a target, low-resource language and only fine-tune models on  
 127 generations that pass hidden unit tests that it translates from Python. However, the MultiPL-T ap-  
 128 proach has two significant limitations. (1) For the verifier to not reject all samples, the model must  
 129 be able to generate a working program within  $n$  attempts. In MultiPL-T,  $\approx 30\%$  of prompts produce  
 130 a working program for  $n \in \{50, 100\}$  attempts, and the rest are discarded. We train on much harder  
 131 problems, and estimate that rejection sampling would require an order of magnitude more resources  
 132 for a comparable acceptance rate (§A). (2) For each low-resource language of interest, MultiPL-T  
 133 requires writing a little compiler to translate test cases and function signatures from Python to the  
 134 target language. MultiPL-T only supports a limited set of built-in Python types (e.g., no classes)  
 135 and dictates that all Python types and values must faithfully map to the target language. However,  
 136 depending on the problem and language, the natural data representation may not map cleanly to  
 137 Python. This can lead to peculiar, unidiomatic translations that require deep language expertise to  
 138 get right. The Agnostics approach is far easier to use than MultiPL-T, and only requires the user to  
 139 know how to compile and run a program in the target language from the shell.

140

141 **Reinforcement Learning on Coding Tasks** DeepSeek R1 (DeepSeek-AI et al., 2025) popularized  
 142 RL on LLMs with rule-based rewards, instead of learned reward models. R1 reports applying RL  
 143 to coding tasks without further dataset details. A number of papers apply RL to the NL to code  
 144 task (Zeng et al., 2025; Gehring et al., 2024; Jain et al., 2025). These techniques target Python and  
 145 show that RL can improve LLM capabilities beyond what supervised fine-tuning allows alone.

146 However, the key benefit of RL is that it can train a model to do tasks for which high-quality sup-  
 147ervised fine-tuning data is unavailable. There are recent examples of using RL for code optimiza-  
 148 tion (Du et al., 2025; Nichols et al., 2024), resolve GitHub, issue resolution (Wei et al., 2025), and  
 149 iterative development (Zhou et al., 2025). These papers target tasks in high-resource languages  
 150 (C++, Java, and Python) whereas Agnostics targets several low-resource languages.

151

152

### 3 THE AGNOSTICS APPROACH

154

155 Our approach comprises (1) a *data preparation* stage which reformulates language-specific pro-  
 156 gramming tasks to be language-agnostic, and retargets language-agnostic datasets to a programming  
 157 language of interest (1, 2 in Figure 1); and (2) the *training* stage which uses the GRPO algorithm and  
 158 an efficient, language-agnostic verification framework (3, 4 in Figure 1). Our tasks ask for programs  
 159 with particular behavior. The test cases are samples of this behavior, and a verifier program can  
 160 check if a solution behaves according to the sample. In this paper, we limited ourselves to working  
 161 with tasks asking for programs which read data from the standard input, compute a unique answer,  
 and write it to the standard output. Hence, the datasets we prepared share one verifier.

```

162 # Write a python function to
163 # identify non-prime numbers.
164 def is_not_prime(n):
165     ...
166
167     assert is_not_prime(2) == False
168     assert is_not_prime(10) == True
169
170

```

**Instruction:** Given an integer  $N$  ( $N \geq 2$ ), determine if it is a non-prime number. Output ‘True’ if the number is non-prime, ‘False’ otherwise. Input format: a single integer  $N$  ( $N \geq 2$ ). Output format: a single line containing ‘True’ or ‘False’.

Input	Output
2	False
10	True

(a) An MBPP task prompt and associated tests (in gray). (b) The task and tests reformulated for Agnostics.

Figure 3: For dataset preparation, we use an LLM to reformulate fine-tuning datasets with language-specific prompts and tests (above) into equivalent language-agnostic programming tasks.

### 3.1 DATASET PREPARATION

Some datasets, like Open-R1 Codeforces (Penedo et al., 2025), already define tasks in the desired I/O style. More commonly, however, code datasets provide a set of unit tests. Figure 3a shows a representative item from MBPP: it has a natural language problem description and a Python function signature that comprise the prompt, and a suite of tests used to test model-generated code. These datasets can be easily translated into the I/O format.

To make such problems language-agnostic and compatible with our verifier, we prompt an LLM to reformulate each task so that the program communicates exclusively via plain-text standard in and standard out. We ask the model to spell out concrete I/O conventions—number of decimal places, newline versus comma separators, ordering of values, and so on—so that the expected behavior is unambiguous. Figure 3b shows the reformulated example. §B has the instruction we use to reformulate MBPP; other datasets might require small changes to the prompt.

### 3.2 PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE PREPARATION

To prepare a new language, we author a small configuration file with two purposes. First, it defines a *prompt prefix* (prepended to each problem by the trainer) which instructs the model to produce code in the target language. Second, the configuration file specifies the shell commands to install the language toolchain and run code. In our experience, a prompt prefix simply asking for a solution in language  $L$  is enough for more widespread languages with  $\geq 5\%$  base accuracy. However, when starting from near-zero accuracy, a longer prefix can help prevent common mistakes. E.g., our R language configuration (Figure 4) features a longer prompt explaining the quirks of I/O APIs in R.<sup>1</sup>

If a model barely knows a programming language, a good prefix can help it. Still, writing the prefix takes manual effort. For OCaml and Fortran, we let a base model generate several faulty snippets, and asked a capable LLM (OpenAI o3) for advice based on the snippets with the following prompt.

*What follows are several Fortran programs. You’ll see that most of them are wrong. Read them carefully and identify the Fortran programming mistakes that I’m making. Ignore algorithmic mistakes, and focus on my misconceptions about Fortran. Come up with advice on how I should program Fortran correctly. Distill this advice into 10-20 sentences.*

We use the resulting instructions verbatim (§C) when training models. The prefix only needed to slightly raise the model’s train split performance; base accuracy as low as 0.09% was enough for the model to start learning (see §A). Configuring the two languages took 1 hour each.

### 3.3 TRAINER AND CODE EXECUTION

The Agnostics trainer uses the Group-Relative Policy Optimization (GRPO) reinforcement learning algorithm (Shao et al., 2024), with verifiable rewards (DeepSeek-AI et al., 2025), and further

<sup>1</sup>There are 3 ways to run R, 3 I/O APIs, and only one portable way to read from standard in.

```

216 install: apt-get install -y r-cran-tidyverse
217 filename: snippet.R
218 execute: Rscript snippet.R
219 prompt: |
220     Use R version 4. Use `readLines(con = file("stdin"))` to read from
221     stdin. Use the `n` argument to read the first `n` lines. For example:
222     ``r
223     input <- readLines(con = file("stdin"), n = 1)
224     n <- as.integer(input)
225     cat(n) # print the first line of input
226     ``
227     Also, please remember to use `cat` to print output.
228
229
230
231 common tweaks to improve its efficiency (Yu et al., 2025). We couple the algorithm with a language-
232
233 Trainer The trainer instantiates the GRPO algorithm as follows. Let  $(x, \{(in_k, out_k)\}_{k=1}^K) \sim \mathcal{D}$ 
234 be a dataset of language-agnostic tasks, where  $x$  is the task prompt and  $\{(in_k, out_k)\}_{k=1}^K$  is the
235 set of I/O examples. Let  $P$  be  $L.\text{prompt}$  from a language configuration  $L$  (e.g., Figure 4). From
236 the behavior policy  $\pi_{\theta_{\text{old}}}$  we sample a group  $G$  of candidate responses  $\{y_i\}_{i=1}^G \sim \pi_{\theta_{\text{old}}}(\cdot | P, x)$ .
237 We assign each candidate a reward  $R_i$ , with  $R_i = 1$  if the execution environment (described later)
238 verifies that the extracted program behaves as in the I/O examples  $(in_k, out_k)$  and  $R_i = 0$  otherwise.
239 We turn group rewards into sequence-level advantages  $\hat{A}_i$ , and update the policy with the objective
240
241 
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{GRPO}}(\theta) = \mathbb{E}_{\{(x, \cdot) \sim \mathcal{D}, \{y_i\}_{i=1}^G \sim \pi_{\theta_{\text{old}}}(\cdot | P, x)\}}$$

242 
$$\left[ \frac{1}{G} \sum_{i=1}^G \frac{1}{|y_i|} \sum_{t=1}^{|y_i|} \min \left( \text{clip}(r_{i,t}(\theta), 1 - \varepsilon, 1 + \varepsilon) \hat{A}_i, r_{i,t}(\theta) \hat{A}_i \right) \right],$$

243
244 where  $r_{i,t}(\theta) = \frac{\pi_{\theta}(y_{i,t} | P, x, y_{i,<t})}{\pi_{\theta_{\text{old}}}(y_{i,t} | P, x, y_{i,<t})}$ ,  $\hat{A}_i = \frac{R_i - \text{mean}(\{R_j\}_{j=1}^G)}{\text{std}(\{R_j\}_{j=1}^G)}$ .
245
246
247
248 We omit the KL-divergence term, similar to Yu et al. (2025). We also considered and decided against
249 a reward for a partially-correct answer (§D.3). We tried to reward the model for code which runs
250 without errors but produces wrong output or for code which only passes the public tests (if there are
251 any). In both cases the models were very likely to learn how to exploit the reward, e.g., by producing
252 empty programs or by hard-coding the public tests (and claiming to produce a “draft answer”).
253
254 Code Execution Our verifier, a language-agnostic code execution sandbox, (1) extracts a program
255 from each candidate; (2) compiles it if needed; and (3) tests it on the I/O examples  $\{(in_k, out_k)\}_{k=1}^K$ .
256 To extract the code, we instruct the model to put it in a Markdown block, which all major instruction-
257 tuned models do by default. Since we rely on the native format of the model, we do not need to train
258 the model with a format reward. This guarantees that the increases in rewards we see during training
259 are real improvements and not merely the result of the model learning to format correctly.
260
261 For each language, we build and cache an OCI (2025) container using the configuration  $L$ . To build
262 the container, we install the language compiler and runtime (the script  $L.\text{install}$ ), and include
263 a generic execution harness which runs and tests candidate programs. The execution harness runs
264 continuously in the container, waiting for triples with the candidate program, the set of input/output
265 examples, and timeouts. The harness (1) writes the program to disk (to  $L.\text{filename}$ ), (2) compiles
266 it if needed ( $L.\text{compile}$ ), (3) runs it on each received input ( $L.\text{execute}$ ), and verified that it
267 produces the expected output. The harness imposes timeouts on the compilation step and each
268 execution, and returns reward 0 on any timeout or failed verification. It is important to have timeouts
269 for both compilation and execution. This prevents pathologies such as unbounded macro expansion
in Julia (caught by the compile timeout) and infinite loops (caught by the execution timeout). Using
containers also allows us to limit CPU, memory, and filesystem usage; no elevated privileges are

```

270 granted to the generated program. Although the current datasets only specify tasks by standard I/O,  
 271 the same sandbox can safely accommodate problems that read/write from network or disk.  
 272

273 A subtle resource limit that we impose is a limit on the size of output. Even with a short timeout  
 274 such as 30 seconds, a pathological candidate program can output tens of gigabytes of text. This  
 275 can crash the verifier if it naïvely tries to read and store all output. Instead, the verifier maintains a  
 276 fixed-size (5MB) read buffer and immediately kills programs which overflow it.  
 277

278 Overall, this design lets us keep a pool of warm containers for the duration of training: we find  
 279 that spawning a fresh container is two orders of magnitude slower than re-using an existing one.  
 280 In our experiments, a single training run may involve testing 150,000 programs, each on several  
 281 I/O examples. Most of the generated programs are faulty and some behave badly, e.g., they either  
 282 timeout, consume too much memory, or produce too much output. So containers do occasionally  
 283 crash or need to be killed, and our execution environment handles this automatically.  
 284

285 Finally, to improve compile times, our execution environment mounts a RAM disk in each container.  
 286 Compilation may be slow due to creating many intermediate files, and indeed some large  
 287 C++ projects, e.g., Firefox, recommend using a RAM disk to speed up their builds (Firefox, 2025).  
 288

289 **Implementation** We implement the trainer and execution environment with Ray (Moritz et al.,  
 290 2018), which facilitates multiprocessing and distributed computing. In particular, Ray lets us dis-  
 291 tribute the training over a network of heterogeneous nodes, which allows running the trainer on a  
 292 node specialized for GPU work and the execution environment on a node specialized for CPU work.  
 293 Ray also lets us easily separate group generation and loss computation into inter-communicating  
 294 processes. Running the two in parallel significantly speeds up training, as we found that they take  
 295 a roughly comparable amount of time. The execution environment is also an actor and manages  
 296 containers with Python `asyncio` coroutines, not actors, to minimize inter-process data copying.  
 297

## 298 HYPERPARAMETERS

299 We use the AdamW optimizer (Loshchilov & Hutter, 2019) with a learning rate of  $5 \times 10^{-6}$  and  
 300 a cosine decay schedule with a warmup of 0.1 epochs. We process 4 prompts in each batch, with  
 301 group size 32 per prompt. When training we use temperature 0.7 and disable reasoning in hybrid  
 302 models. (Many generations still show reasoning-like text, either before the answer or in comments.)  
 303

## 304 4 EVALUATION

305 To evaluate Agnostics, we train and benchmark models on 5 low-resource programming languages.  
 306 We measure pass@1 accuracy with reasoning disabled, 20 samples per prompt at temperature 0.2.  
 307 Unless otherwise specified, we trained the models for 1 epoch.  
 308

### 309 4.1 TRAINING DATASETS

310 **Ag-Codeforces-X**, the main dataset we use for training, was created based on competitive program-  
 311 ming problems from the Open-R1 Codeforces dataset (Penedo et al., 2025). Few adjustments were  
 312 necessary, since the problems already specified programs and tests using standard I/O. The train split  
 313 contains 5369 problems. See §B for more details.  
 314

315 **Ag-MBPP-X**, the other training dataset we use, was created from MBPP as explained in §3.1.  
 316

### 317 4.2 BENCHMARKS

318 We evaluate Agnostics with the following benchmarks.  
 319

320 **MultiPL-E** (Cassano et al., 2023) is a well-established benchmark, frequently used to evaluate  
 321 the performance of new LLMs on a broad set of languages (e.g., Kimi Team (2025); Yang et al.  
 322 (2025); Grattafiori et al. (2024); ByteDance et al. (2025)). MultiPL-E was prepared by compiling  
 323 HumanEval (Chen et al., 2021) prompts and unit tests from Python to each target language. Each  
 324 MultiPL-E programming language requires a  $\approx$ 500 LOC prompt and test translator, considerably  
 325 more effort than writing an Agnostics configuration file. A major limitation of MultiPL-E is being  
 326

324 too easy for frontier models. With Python, frontier models are now evaluated on solving program-  
 325 ming contest problems (Jain et al., 2024b); no multi-language benchmarks are as challenging.  
 326

327 **Ag-LiveCodeBench-X**, a contribution of this paper, is a new multi-language benchmark de-  
 328 rived from LiveCodeBench. LiveCodeBench 5.0 has 880 problems, of which 381 have Python  
 329 starter code and test cases. The remaining 499 problems do not use starter code and instead use  
 330 standard I/O to specify and test solutions. Hence we used these problems to transform Live-  
 331 CodeBench into an Agnostics dataset. Accordingly, benchmarking a new programming language  
 332 with Ag-LiveCodeBench-X is straightforward: we can reuse the language configurations and ex-  
 333 ecution environment from our trainer (§3.3). Importantly, LiveCodeBench (and by extension Ag-  
 334 LiveCodeBench-X) problems are removed from our training sets (see §B). Moreover, our results  
 335 show that Ag-LiveCodeBench-X is significantly harder than MultiPL-E.  
 336

### 4.3 RESULTS

338 We now present our results. We use a few abbreviations in  
 339 the tables. Ag-LCB-X stands for Ag-LiveCodeBench-X; we  
 340 clarify abbreviated model names in the text. Highlighted rows  
 341 present our models; note that each cell in such a row presents  
 342 the score of a *different* model trained on programming lan-  
 343 guage X. We compute the score as explained in §4.  
 344

345 **SOTA small LLMs for low-resource PLs** Using Agnos-  
 346 tics, we train Qwen 3 4B on Ag-Codeforces-X specialized to  
 347 Fortran, Julia, Lua, OCaml, and R. To the best of our knowl-  
 348 edge, the resulting Qwen3-4B-CF-X models are state-of-the  
 349 art low-resource programming language models with  $\leq 16$ B  
 350 open-weight parameters.

351 Benchmarking them on Ag-LiveCodeBench-X (tables 1  
 352 and 2), we see significant improvements. (i) On every lan-  
 353 guage, the models match or outperform DeepSeek Coder v2  
 354 Lite Instruct (16B), and their performance comes close to  
 355 or even exceeds that of Qwen 3 32B and Llama 3.2 70B.  
 356 (ii) Compared to the base model, Qwen 3 4B, pass@1 im-  
 357 proves by a factor of 1.5–2x. It is safe to assume that the  
 358 Qwen models, like the Llama models (Grattafiori et al.,  
 359 2024), are trained on all the publicly available coding data;  
 360 hence, Agnostics improves the models beyond what typi-  
 361 cal training on such data allows. (iii) Finally we improve  
 362 the performance of Qwen 3 4B on OCaml and Fortran from  
 363 near zero to 7% and 15%, outperforming far larger models including Claude Sonnet 4. Notably, dur-  
 364 ing evaluation we do *not* use the longer prompt prefix employed to facilitate learning (§3.1). Thus  
 365 the pass@1 scores represent what the model learned, and not information provided in context.  
 366

367 Models trained with our approach generalize over the compet-  
 368 itive programming format: the improvements are not limited  
 369 to synthesizing programs using standard I/O. To demonstrate  
 370 this, we evaluate them on the established MultiPL-E bench-  
 371 mark. It features problems which ask for Python functions  
 372 operating on usual Python data structures, and we find that our  
 373 training also significantly improves the models on such prob-  
 374 lems (Table 3).<sup>2</sup> We also confirmed that our training does not  
 375 lower performance on other programming languages (§D.4).  
 376

377 Figure 5 shows the GRPO batch pass@1 rates seen when  
 378 training Qwen3-4B-CF-X. All the models follow similar curves, partially due to being trained on  
 379 the same data permutation. Nearly all the models slowly keep improving almost until the dataset  
 380 end. We also observed the train and test split rewards to be correlated with each other (§D.2).  
 381

<sup>2</sup>Note that MultiPL-E does not support OCaml and Fortran.

Model X=	Ag-LCB-X		
	Lua	Julia	R
Llama 3.3 70B Ins	<b>25</b>	22	13
Qwen 3 32B	22	<b>26</b>	<u>17</u>
DSC v2 Lite Ins 16B	13	12	9
Qwen 3 4B	11	10	10
Qwen 3 8B	11	9	9
Qwen3-4B-MBPP-X	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	9
Qwen3-4B-CF-X	<u>23</u>	22	15
Qwen3-8B-CF-X	<b>25</b>	<u>25</u>	<b>19</b>

Table 1: Ag-LCB-X pass@1.

Model X=	Ag-LCB-X	
	OCaml	Fortran
Sonnet 4	6	6
Llama 3.3 70B Ins	7	3
Qwen 3 32B	2	1
DSC v2 Lite Ins 16B	7	6
Qwen 3 4B	1	0
Qwen3-4B-CF-X	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>

Table 2: Ag-LCB-X pass@1.

Model X=	MultiPL-E		
	Lua	Julia	R
Qwen 3 4B	61	51	36
Qwen 3 8B	63	53	<u>44</u>
Qwen3-4B-MBPP-X	<b>51</b>	<b>62</b>	41
Qwen3-4B-CF-X	<u>64</u>	54	43
Qwen3-8B-CF-X	<b>68</b>	<u>61</u>	<b>52</b>

Table 3: MultiPL-E pass@1.

378 **Agnostics scales to larger models** To test if  
 379 the gains from Agnostics training scale with  
 380 model size, we train the Qwen 3 8B model on  
 381 Ag-Codeforces-X specialized to Lua, Julia and  
 382 R and benchmarked it on Ag-LiveCodeBench-  
 383 X and MultiPL-E (tables 1 and 3). The Qwen3-  
 384 8B-CF-X models show significant gains on  
 385 both benchmarks, improving over their 4B  
 386 counterparts. We expect Agnostics to scale to  
 387 even larger models, with appropriate comput-  
 388 ing resources. However, we found that Agnos-  
 389 tics training on Ag-Codeforces-X does *not* im-  
 390 prove two smaller models, Qwen 3 1.7B and  
 391 Llama 3.2 3B Instruct, perhaps due to the prob-  
 392 lems being too difficult for models of this size.  
 393

393 **Agnostics works with easier problems** All of the models we discussed so far were trained on  
 394 Ag-Codeforces-X. To show that Agnostics works with other datasets, we also train models for Julia,  
 395 Lua, and R using the MBPP training set. (§3.1 describes how we prepare MBPP.) MBPP problems  
 396 are trivial compared to the Open-R1 Codeforces problems (see Figure 3a), and we cannot expect  
 397 models trained on the MBPP problems to be as good as ones we presented before. Still, training  
 398 on MBPP improves Lua and Julia performance (tables 1 and 3). The table shows a small drop in R  
 399 performance on Ag-LiveCodeBench-X, but a significant improvement on MultiPL-E.  
 400

401 **Agnostics works on multiple model families** To  
 402 show that Agnostics works on non-Qwen mod-  
 403 els, we train SmolLM 3 (SmolLM3 Team, 2025),  
 404 Phi 4 Mini Instruct (Microsoft, 2025) DeepSeek  
 405 Coder 6.7B Instruct (Guo et al., 2024), on Ag-  
 406 Codeforces-X specialized to Julia, Lua, and R. Ag-  
 407 nistics improves these models’ performance on all  
 408 languages, as measured by MultiPL-E and Ag-  
 409 LiveCodeBench-X (Table 4). As an exception, both  
 410 SmolLM 3 and Phi 4 Mini Instruct score 0% on Ag-  
 411 LiveCodeBench-R, and training does not improve  
 412 their score. However, both models slightly improve on the simpler R problems in MultiPL-E.  
 413

414 Note that DeepSeek Coder 6.7B is a relatively old LLM, superseded by the much larger DeepSeekV2  
 415 and V3 models. Unlike Qwen 3, DeepSeek Coder is not trained with reinforcement learning, but  
 416 is only an instruction-tuned model. Thus this result also shows that Agnostics can work on models  
 417 that have had relatively limited post-training.  
 418

419 **Agnostics outperforms distillation** So far we dis-  
 420 cussed training a model on its generations. An al-  
 421 ternative is to distill a larger model (assuming one  
 422 exists). As larger models do not perform very well  
 423 on many low-resource programming languages, one  
 424 can expect distillation to be less effective.  
 425

426 We run the following experiment to verify this claim.  
 427 Using Sonnet 4 Thinking, we synthesize Fortran  
 428 solutions to Ag-Codeforces-X problems, creating a  
 429 training set of 1,987 items. (For 13 items, Sonnet 4 (sonnet-4-20250514) with extended thinking  
 430 does not produce a response within its reasoning budget.) To make sure generating the training  
 431 items does not use significantly more compute compared to Agnostics training, we use at most 32K  
 432 reasoning tokens, spending \$96 to generate the items. We fine-tune Qwen 3 4B for 3 epochs (batch  
 433 size 64, learning rate  $2 \times 10^{-5}$ , cosine learning rate decay with warmup ratio 0.1). Table 5 shows  
 434 the resulting models reach scores far lower than the 15% of Qwen3-4B-CF-Fortran (Table 2).  
 435

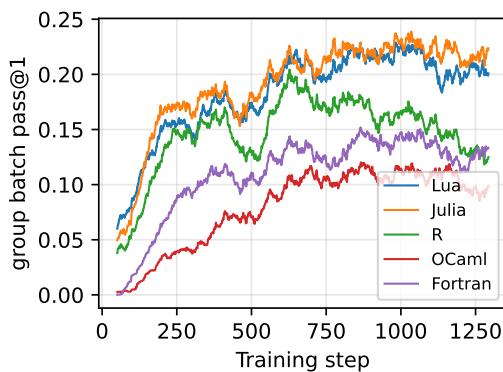


Figure 5: Group batch pass@1, Qwen3-4B-CF-X.

Model X=	MultiPL-E			Ag-LCB-X		
	Lua	Julia	R	Lua	Julia	R
SmolLM3 3B	11	12	18	1	2	0
Phi 4 mini ins	40	39	34	8	8	0
DSC 6.7B Ins	40	54	37	8	5	7
SmolLM3-3B-CF-X	14	14	21	8	8	0
Phi4-mini-ins-CF-X	41	43	35	12	8	0
DSC-6.7B-Ins-CF-X	<b>42</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>52</b>	9	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>

Table 4: Non-Qwen models, pass@1.

416 the simpler R problems in MultiPL-E.

Model	Ag-LCB-Fortran
Sonnet 4 Thinking (teacher)	12
Qwen 3 4B (student)	0
1 epoch	3
2 epochs	3
3 epochs	2

Table 5: Distillation experiment results.

432 4.4 QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS  
433

434 In this section we take a deeper look at how  
435 training with Agnostics addresses the kinds of  
436 errors that Qwen 3 4B makes on low-resource  
437 languages. First, we define a taxonomy of com-  
438 mon bugs by prompting an LLM (o3) to clas-  
439 sify bugs in a sample of faulty programs and  
440 then lightly editing the suggestion. §E has the  
441 full taxonomy and the prompt we used to de-  
442 velop it. The taxonomy spans fundamental pro-  
443 gramming errors, such as syntax errors, and  
444 subtler mistakes such as logic flaws.

445 We then sample 100 problems from Ag-  
446 LiveCodeBench-X, and for each take five  
447 OCaml programs produced by Qwen 3 4B  
448 and the Agnostics models trained on Open-R1  
449 Codeforces problems. Recall from Table 2 that  
450 our models significantly outperform the base  
451 Qwen 3 models on our benchmark. Using Son-  
452 net 4, we use the taxonomy to classify the bugs  
453 in each program.

454 Figure 6 shows the bug distribution for OCaml.  
455 We see that the base Qwen 3 4B models makes  
456 substantially more fundamental programming  
457 mistakes in OCaml. More programs have syn-  
458 tax errors (55% vs 35% after training), more  
459 programs misuse builtin functions (60% vs  
460 32%), and so on. However, we observe a small  
461 increase in logic flaws (18% vs 25% after train-  
462 ing). Inspecting the results, the reason for this  
463 is that when a program is full of syntax errors  
464 and hallucinated functions, it is very difficult to even determine whether or not the algorithmic  
465 approach is correct. Training eliminates these shallow bugs and lets deeper issues manifest. We see  
466 the same patterns in models trained on the other four programming languages (§E).

467 5 CONCLUSION  
468

469 LLMs are strongest where pre-training and post-training data are abundant, and weakest where prac-  
470 titioners arguably need them most: for low-resource programming languages. This paper proposes  
471 Agnostics, a language-agnostic post-training pipeline that removes the per-language engineering tax  
472 by verifying code purely via externally observable behavior. A single verifier and a short configura-  
473 tion are enough to adapt the same reinforcement learning setup to new languages.

474 Empirically, Agnostics consistently improves small open-weight models on five low-resource  
475 languages—Lua, Julia, R, OCaml, and Fortran—without requiring language-specific test translators.  
476 Training Qwen 3 4B with Ag-Codeforces-X yields large gains on our new Ag-LiveCodeBench-X  
477 benchmark and on MultiPL-E, often rivaling or surpassing 16B–70B open-weight baselines. The  
478 method scales to larger and different model families: Qwen 3 8B shows similar gains to its smaller  
479 sibling, and we also observe improvements on DeepSeek Coder 6.7B, Phi 4 Mini and SmolLM3 3B.  
480 Error-type analysis shows our training decreases fundamental programming language mistakes.

481 A practical advantage of the approach is how little per-language work it requires. After the frame-  
482 work was in place, adding OCaml and Fortran took us less than an hour each. We expect adaption to  
483 be just as straightforward for any pragmatic programming language with a command-line toolchain.

484 We believe the approach scales to models of arbitrary size, although our experiments are limited by  
485 available compute to at most 8B models. For scaling data, the Agnostics reformulation approach also

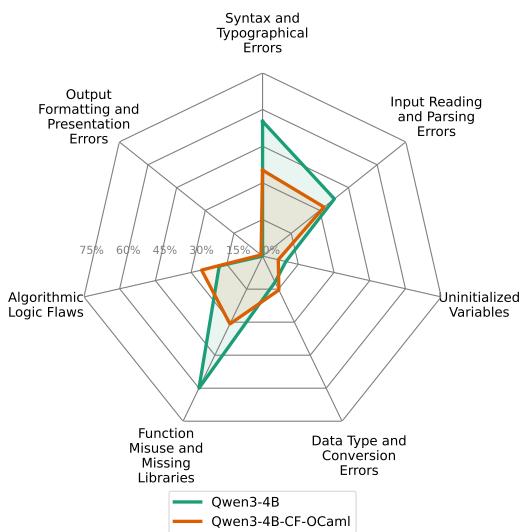


Figure 6: LLM labels of bugs in programs synthesized by Qwen 3 4B and our trained model, Qwen3-4B-CF-OCaml. A radial represents a bug class, and points along the radial show how many programs seem to have that bug. Qwen 3 4B makes more fundamental programming mistakes, such as syntax errors and misusing builtins, showing its limited grasp of OCaml. Our trained model makes far fewer such mistakes. We see a small increase in logic flaws: the trained model makes fewer shallow mistakes, revealing deeper issues.

5 CONCLUSION

486 applies to much larger problem sets. For instance, OpenCodeReasoning has ~600K problems with  
 487 Python solutions (Ahmad et al., 2025); converting such corpora into language-agnostic I/O tasks  
 488 would provide rich RL datasets with many target languages with minimal additional engineering.  
 489

490 **REPRODUCIBILITY STATEMENT**  
 491

492 The existing datasets we used are publicly available and are accompanied by citations. All datasets  
 493 we introduced will be publicly released upon publication of the paper, allowing free use for research.  
 494 All code required for conducting and analyzing our experiments, including the code for dataset  
 495 preparation, as well as the models we presented and Wandb records from training them, will be  
 496 released in the same way. We state the number and range of values tried per (hyper) parameter, and  
 497 outline how we chose the final values and what they are (§§ 3.3 and D.1). We specify the computing  
 498 infrastructure (hardware and software) we used for our experiments (§D.5). The released codebases  
 499 will specify the exact versions of all the libraries we used.  
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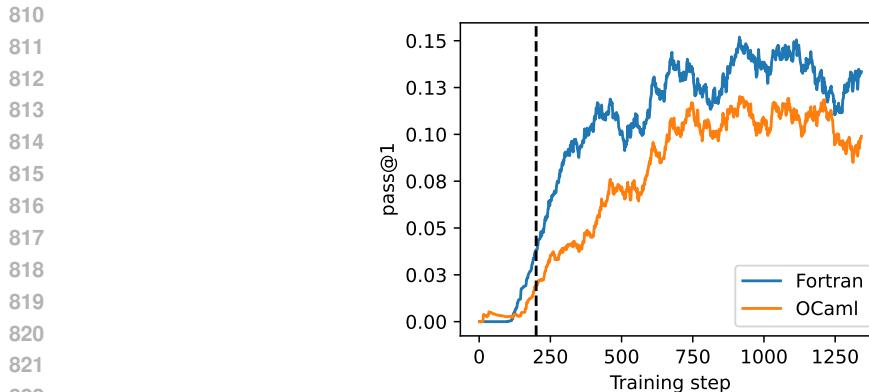


Figure 7: Rewards each step from training Qwen 3 4B on Fortran and OCaml. These are very low-resource languages, and rewards are zero for the first several steps.

## A EFFICIENCY OF REJECTION SAMPLING

An alternative to reinforcement learning is to use rejection sampling with supervised fine-tuning: prompt the model to synthesize  $n$  solutions to each task, reject solutions that fail tests, and fine-tune on the task-solution pairs that pass tests. If the model is weak at a task, which is the case with low-resource languages, then it is possible for all solutions to fail for a given task. [Cassano et al. \(2024\)](#) use this approach to get solutions for  $\approx 30\%$  of the tasks in their dataset. They use  $n = 50$  for Lua and Julia, but increase to  $n = 100$  for OCaml.

The efficiency of this approach depends on the hardness of the task and the capabilities of the model. In this paper, we work with newer models that are marginally better at low-resource languages (based on MultiPL-E benchmark results). The task of [Cassano et al. \(2024\)](#) is to translate a simple, self-contained Python function from the model’s pretraining data into an equivalent function in another programming language. This task is significantly easier than the Agnostics task, which is to solve a competitive programming problem in a low-resource language, without any reference code or tests.

Rejection sampling would be prohibitively expensive for the low-resource programming languages we consider. [Cassano et al. \(2024\)](#) report a 30% success rate on their code translation task. During Agnostics training, Qwen3-4B-CF-Fortran generated a correct answer to a problem in the train split only 6.64% of the time, generating 11400 verified programs overall. We also sampled responses to the same problems from the base model of Qwen3-4B-CF-Fortran, Qwen 3 4B, taking the same amount of samples with the same generation parameters as used during training. The base model succeeded 0.09% of the time, generating only 158 test-passing programs. Fine-tuning with these responses would have no effect on the model.

## B PREPARING DATASETS FOR AGNOSTICS

**Ag-MBPP-X** is a dataset of Mostly Basic Programming Problems, transformed from the MBPP ([Austin et al., 2021](#)) dataset. The source dataset contains problems asking to complete a Python function from on its signature and a docstring, where the docstring specifies what result the function should return; our dataset contains equivalent programs which read/write the same data from/to standard input/output. Out of 974 problems, we are able to translate 776 problems into Ag-MBPP-X (348 problems are in the sanitized subset of MBPP). We analyzed Ag-MBPP-X for data similarity against Ag-LiveCodeBench-X using [Decon \(2025\)](#) and found no data overlap. The analysis was done based on 5-grams with no token sampling (see Decon documentation).

Processing the dataset with Qwen3-32B took less than 1 hour using 2 H100 GPUs. Figures 3a and 3b in the main body of the paper shows a sample problem from the dataset, before and after the reformulation. We used the following prompt.

You are a competitive programming expert.

You are given a problem that asks you to implement a function.

864 Your task is to translate the description of the problem into a form that  
 865 accepts one set of function arguments as inputs and return the  
 866 function return value as output.

867 Use programming competition style input and outputs -- that is, prioritize  
 868 the use of spaces and newlines to separate inputs and outputs over  
 869 using commas and parentheses (or other delimiters). Specifically, for  
 870 2d lists, you should print them as a list of lists, where the outer  
 871 lists elements are separated by newlines and the elements of the  
 872 inner lists are separated by spaces.  
 873 For example, a 2d list like [[1, 2], [3, 4]] should be printed as:  
 874 1 2  
 875 3 4  
 876 Do not use any other delimiters.

877 If there are multiple 2d lists, you should use 2 newlines to separate  
 878 them.  
 879 for example, a 2d list like [[1, 2], [3, 4]] and [[5, 6], [7, 8]] should  
 880 be printed as:  
 881 1 2  
 882 3 4  
 883 5 6  
 884 7 8

885

886 If the problem requires outputting decimal numbers, make sure the output  
 887 format specifies to round all decimal numbers to 4 decimal places. In  
 888 this case, you should also round all the numbers in the output to 4  
 889 decimal places.

890 Do not forget to specify the input and output format in the description.

891

892 Here is the problem description:  
 893 {original mbpp problem description}

894 Here are the test cases:  
 895 {original mbpp test cases}

896

897 You should return a json object with the following fields:  
 898 - "description": the description of the problem  
 899 - "input\_format": a string describing the input format  
 900 - "output\_format": a string describing the output format  
 901 - "tests": a list of test cases, each test case is a json object with the  
 902 following fields:  
 903 - "input": a string that represents the input of the test case, in the  
 904 same format as the input format in the description  
 905 - "output": a string that represents the output of the test case, in  
 906 the same format as the output format in the description

907 Place your response in a single ```json ``` block. Do not include any  
 908 other text in your response.

909

910 **Ag-Codeforces-X** is a dataset of competitive programming problems, created from Codeforces  
 911 problems in the open-r1/codeforces dataset. The source problems already specified pro-  
 912 grams by their I/O behavior, hence only very minor changes were needed to build language-  
 913 universal Agnostics problems out of the fields in the dataset: we only skipped the time and  
 914 memory restrictions present in the original problems. To be precise, we used data from the  
 915 open-r1/codeforces-cots dataset, solutions\_py\_decontaminated subset, which  
 916 contains problems decontaminated using 8-gram overlap against multiple benchmarks, in particular  
 917 LiveCodeBench. We used the auxilliary checker\_interactor subset to only keep the prob-  
 918 lems which admit a simple verifier for their solutions, i.e., problems where a single output is correct  
 919 for each input and where the solution only needs to read data from its input, compute the result,

and write it to the standard output. We prepared both a train and a test split. The former contains 5369 problems and the latter contains 105 problems we held out from the source dataset, 5 selected manually and 100 randomly. The manually-selected problems were chosen to be much easier than average, to make it easier to detect if a model can solve any problems at all in a given programming language. In short, the 5 problems are: “output a number in binary notation”, “remove all digits from a string”, “check if the parentheses are balanced”, “parse two integers and add them”, and the following longer problem: “Petr stands in line of  $n$  people, but he doesn’t know exactly which position he occupies. He can say that there are no less than  $a$  people standing in front of him and no more than  $b$  people standing behind him. Find the number of different positions Petr can occupy.”

The train split features randomized prompts, which we found help with generalizing the results of training on the dataset to other benchmarks. The prompts were randomly split into a number of types. 30% of the prompts use standard Markdown headings to start different sections of the prompt, 35% use bold text instead, and the remaining 35% simply concatenate the prompt sections together. Most of the prompts follow the source dataset and feature an I/O sample in the prompt, with other samples withheld as private. Half of the prompts of the final type do not feature any I/O sample.

**Ag-LiveCodeBench-X** is also a dataset of competitive programming problems, created from a subset of the LiveCodeBench dataset (Jain et al., 2024a). LiveCodeBench 5.0 has 880 problems, of which 381 have Python starter code and test cases. The remaining 499 problems do not use starter code and instead use standard I/O to specify and test solutions. Hence we used these problems to transform LiveCodeBench into an Agnostics dataset. Ag-LiveCodeBench-X only has a test split, like its source dataset.

## C AGNOSTICS CONFIGURATIONS

In this section, we list the configurations that we use for our target languages. The configuration files use YAML. The prompts for OCaml and Fortran have instructions generated by OpenAI o3.

The Lua configuration:

```
947 prompt: Use Lua 5.1, targeting LuaJIT.
948 install: apt-get install -y luajit
949 filename: snippet.lua
950 execute: luajit snippet.lua
```

The Julia configuration:

```
954 prompt: Use Julia 1.11.
955 container:
956   base-image: "julia:1.11.3"
957   type: debian
958 filename: snippet.jl
959 execute: julia snippet.jl
```

The R configuration (unmodified, unlike Figure 4):

```
962 install: apt-get install -y r-cran-tidyverse
963 filename: snippet.R
964 execute: Rscript snippet.R
965 prompt: |
966   Use R version 4. Use `readLines(con = file("stdin"))` to read input
967   from stdin. Optionally, use the `n` argument to read the first `n`
968   lines. For example:
969   ```r
970     input <- readLines(con = file("stdin"), n = 1)
971     n <- as.integer(input)
972     cat(n) # print the first line of input
973   ```
974
975 Also, use `cat` to print output to stdout. For example:
```

```

972     ```r
973     cat(n)
974     ``
975     Please do not use 'print' to print output.
976
977 The OCaml configuration:
978
979 prompt: |
  Use OCaml 5.
980
981 Numbers: + - * / mod   vs. +. -. *. /. **      (add dots!)
982 Casts: float_of_int   int_of_float   int_of_string
983 Mutation: refs (:= !) or pass new values recursively
984 Strings: split_on_char, String.get => char, use Printf "%c"
985 Lists:   avoid List.nth; prefer pattern-match / folds / arrays
986 container:
987   base-image: "docker.io/ocaml/opam:ubuntu-22.04-ocaml-5.0"
988   type: debian
989 install:
990   container-instructions: |
991     RUN opam install base stdio utop
992     ENV OPAM_SWITCH_PREFIX='/home/opam/.opam/5.0'
993     ENV CAML_LD_LIBRARY_PATH='/home/opam/.opam/5.0/lib/stublibs:/home/
994     opam/.opam/5.0/lib/ocaml/stublibs:/home/opam/.opam/5.0/lib/ocaml'
995     ENV OCAML_TOPLEVEL_PATH='/home/opam/.opam/5.0/lib/toplevel'
996     ENV MANPATH=':/home/opam/.opam/5.0/man'
997     ENV PATH='/home/opam/.opam/5.0/bin:/usr/local/sbin:/usr/local/bin:/
998     usr/sbin:/usr/bin:/sbin:/bin'
999     filename: snippet.ml
1000    execute: utop -require base -require stdio snippet.ml
1001
1002 The Fortran configuration:
1003
1004 prompt: |
  Use Fortran 90. Some tips:
1005
1006 Always begin each scope with implicit none, pick explicit kinds via
1007 selected_*_kind, and declare proper lengths-character(len=*) is legal
1008 only for dummy arguments, not locals. Strings are blank-padded:
1009 call len_trim before iterating, and store dynamic text in deferred-
1010 length allocatables (character(len=:), allocatable :: s). List-
1011 directed read(*,*) arr does not auto-size arrays; read a count first,
1012 then allocate and read, or tokenize a line manually. When
1013 translating 0-based formulas (heaps, bit positions) remember Fortran
1014 arrays default to 1-based; if you want 0-based, declare lower bounds.
1015
1016 Use real literals (2.0d0, 1.0_rk) to avoid silent integer division,
1017 and guard against overflow when exponentiating integers. For
1018 frequency tables, allocate an array or use findloc; Fortran lacks
1019 native dicts/sets, so you must implement search yourself. Prefer
1020 array intrinsics (sum, count, pack) over hand-rolled loops, and keep
1021 helper procedures inside a contains section or module so interfaces
1022 are explicit. return inside the main program is non-idiomatic; use
1023 structured blocks or stop. Never print interactive prompts in batch
1024 solutions; just read, compute, and write.
1025 install: apt-get install -y gfortran
1026 filename: snippet.f90
1027 compile: gfortran -o snippet.out snippet.f90
1028 execute: ./snippet.out
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Table 6: Hyperparameter sweep, pass@1 score.

Model	Group size	Temperature	Ag-LiveCodeBench-X
Qwen3-4B-CF-Lua	32	0.7	23.00
normal-r1	32	0.7	19.87
normal-r2	32	0.7	21.58
size16-r1	16	0.7	19.80
size16-r2	16	0.7	19.40
size16-r3	16	0.7	19.65
size16-r4	16	0.7	20.61
size64-r1	64	0.7	21.71
size64-r2	64	0.7	21.21
size64-r3	64	0.7	20.87
temp0p2-r1	32	0.2	19.91
temp0p2-r2	32	0.2	20.39
temp0p2-r3	32	0.2	21.98
temp1-r1	32	1.0	21.22
temp1-r2	32	1.0	21.48
temp1-r3	32	1.0	20.30

## D TRAINING AND RESULTS

### D.1 CHOOSING HYPERPARAMETERS

Before picking the hyperparameters described in §3.3, we investigated other values by training the Qwen 3 4B model on a previous version of Ag-Codeforces-X. We trained two models for each of Lua, Julia and R, using a linear learning rate schedule with the same learning rate. We decided against it since some of the runs degraded the model’s capabilities, unlike any of the runs we did with a cosine decay schedule.

We compared between GRPO group sizes of 16, 32 and 64 by training the same model on Lua. In some runs with group size 16, we saw the model improved significantly less than at higher group sizes. We ran an experiment to compared different temperature and group size settings (Table 6).

The models trained at group size 16 had slightly lower scores compared to other models, while the ones trained at group size 64 displayed scores comparable to other models. However, they took significantly longer to train. Two group size 64 models took  $\sim 20.5\text{h}$  to train on average (the third one was trained on a different machine). In comparison, the group size 32 models trained at the same time on the same machine took  $\sim 12\text{h}$  on average. The models trained at temperatures other than the 0.7 recommended by the Qwen team performed similarly to the other models.

As we found no significant difference between the temperature settings and between group sizes 32 and 64, we chose the smaller group size due to limited resources, and used the recommended temperature settings.

### D.2 TRAINING DYNAMICS

In this section we discuss the measurements we took while training the models. Figure 8 shows the GRPO group batch pass@1 while training the Qwen3-4B-CF-X models. The scores of all the models are broadly correlated with one another, which may at least in part be due to training them on the same permutation of the training data. Figures 10 to 14 compare the GRPO group pass@1 scores with the pass@1 scores on the test split. We see that the scores on the test split is broadly correlated with the train split rewards. In most cases, we see that the train scores keep increasing until the end of the epoch, together with the test split pass@1 scores, indicating that the model keeps improving until the end of the dataset.

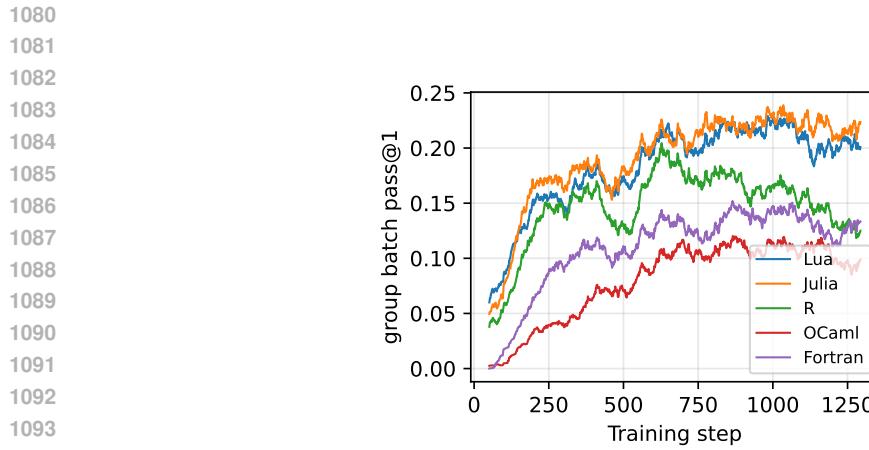


Figure 8: Training Qwen3-4B-CF-X, GRPO group batch pass@1.

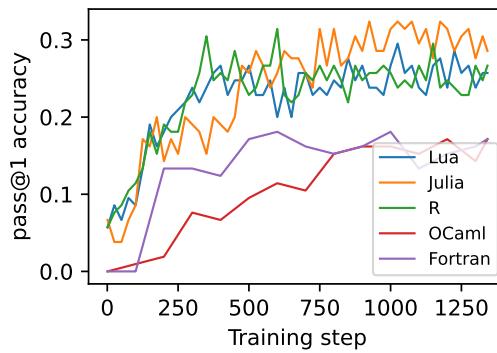


Figure 9: Training Qwen3-4B-CF-X, test split pass@1.

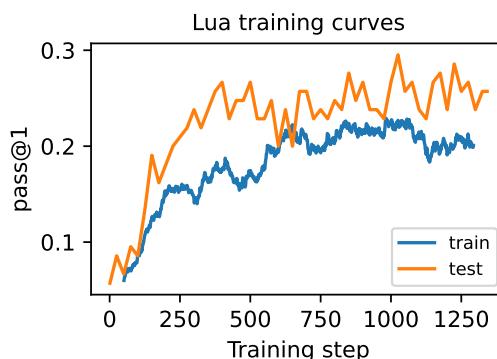


Figure 10: Training Qwen3-4B-CF-Lua, GRPO group batch and test split pass@1.

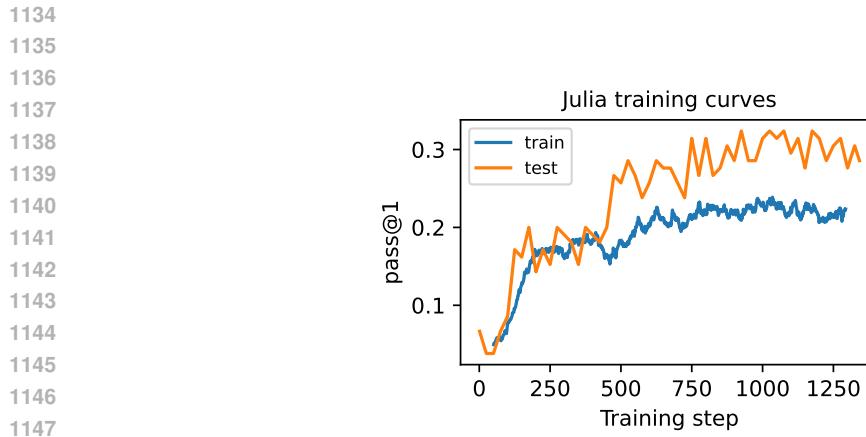


Figure 11: Training Qwen3-4B-CF-Julia, GRPO group batch and test split pass@1.

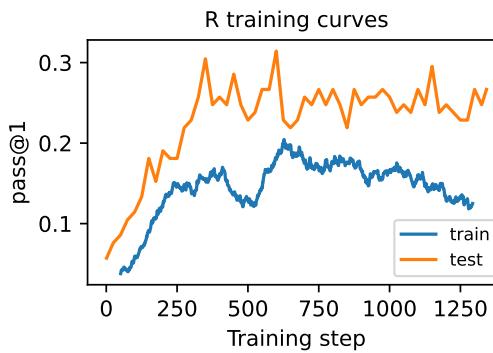


Figure 12: Training Qwen3-4B-CF-R, GRPO group batch and test split pass@1.

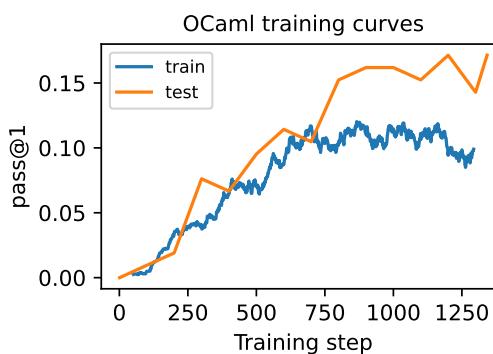


Figure 13: Training Qwen3-4B-CF-OCaml, GRPO group batch and test split pass@1.

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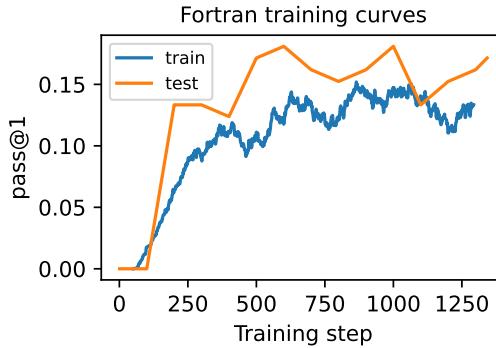


Figure 14: Training Qwen3-4B-CF-Fortran, GRPO group batch and test split pass@1.

Table 7: Partial reward experiment, pass@1 rates.

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Model	Ag-LiveCodeBench-X	Ag-Codeforces-X (test split)
Qwen3-4B-CF-Lua	23.00	24.76
partial-r1	18.57	13.33
partial-r2	20.16	15.62

### D.3 REWARD FUNCTION

We investigated the results of partial rewards. We trained Qwen 3 4B—the base model of Qwen3-4B-CF-X—on Ag-Codeforces-Lua, giving it a partial reward of 0.2 if it generated code which failed one of the tests by producing wrong output but otherwise terminated without an error. The full reward for a snippet passing all tests was still 1. Table 7 shows that the trained models score below Qwen3-4B-CF-Fortran both on Ag-LiveCodeBench-Lua and on the test split of Ag-Codeforces-Lua (counting only the full-credit reward). The latter scores are particularly far lower, clearly showing that the models learned to abuse the partial-credit reward.

During training, we saw the models focus on the partial reward. The average result from the partial reward component was clearly increasing more quickly than the result from the full reward component. In the training generations we inspected, the models also often claimed to generate a “draft” answer and produced a program which ignored the problem in the prompt, for instance by only printing a hard-coded string such as “0”.

### D.4 CROSS-PROGRAMMING-LANGUAGE NEGATIVE TRANSFER

To demonstrate that Agnostics training does not lower performance on different programming languages, we evaluated the models we trained on variants of Ag-LiveCodeBench-X (Table 8).

### D.5 HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE USED

We used three machines while working on this paper: B, R1 and R2. R2 was only used to generate completions of trained models for evaluation, while B and R1 were used to train models. Upon publication of the paper, we will publicly release Wandb records of our training runs, which include the duration and the machine used.

B has 2 Intel Xeon Gold 6342 CPUs @ 2.80GHz, 1008 GB of RAM, 4 NVIDIA H100 80GB, and uses Ubuntu 22.04.5 LTS.

R1 has 2 AMD EPYC 9454 48-Core CPUs, 8 NVIDIA H100 80GB (with NVLink connections), 2268 GB of RAM, and uses Ubuntu 22.04.5 LTS.

R2 has 2 Intel(R) Xeon(R) Gold 6326 CPU @ 2.90GHz, 10 NVIDIA RTX A600, 504 GB of RAM, and uses Ubuntu 22.04.5 LTS.

Table 8: Cross-PL evaluation, pass@1 rates.

Model X=	Ag-LiveCodeBench-X			
	Python	Lua	Julia	R
Qwen 3 4B	34.34	11.00	10.00	10.00
Qwen3-4B-CF-Lua	32.96	23.00	6.55	3.00
Qwen3-4B-CF-Julia	35.10	8.43	22.00	3.90
Qwen3-4B-CF-R	31.58	9.08	7.92	15.00
Qwen 3 8B	33.51	11.00	9.00	9.00
Qwen3-8B-CF-Lua	34.29	25.00	7.44	5.96
Qwen3-8B-CF-Julia	33.84	8.26	25.00	7.03
Qwen3-8B-CF-R	34.49	9.90	7.34	19.00
DSC 6.7B Ins	16.86	7.89	4.79	6.77
DSC-6.7B-Ins-CF-Lua	17.63	8.93	8.60	7.33
DSC-6.7B-Ins-CF-Julia	17.60	9.54	9.13	7.79
DSC-6.7B-Ins-CF-R	17.62	8.38	5.75	8.58
Phi4 mini ins	19.87	7.95	8.10	0.52
Phi4-mini-ins-CF-Lua	22.16	11.80	8.02	0.17
Phi4-mini-ins-CF-Julia	21.15	9.10	7.69	0.38
Phi4-mini-ins-CF-R	19.82	8.02	8.54	0.65
SmolLM3 3B	20.91	1.02	2.85	0.00
SmolLM3-3B-CF-Lua	21.81	7.46	2.93	0.00
SmolLM3-3B-CF-Julia	21.58	1.53	7.83	0.00
SmolLM3-3B-CF-R	21.63	1.30	3.30	0.00

When developing the Agnostics framework, we used the following major Python libraries: ray v2.46.0, torch v2.6.0, transformers v4.54.1, vllm v0.8.5.post1, datasets v3.4.1, wandb 0.19.11.

## E BUG TAXONOMY

### E.1 PROMPT FOR GENERATING TAXONOMY

We used the following instructions to generate the bug taxonomy, followed by a list of faulty R programs.

**Input:** The attached file contains multiple failed R programs (Version 4) with their:

- Source code
- Expected output
- Actual standard output
- Error messages (where applicable)

**Objective:** Analyze these program failures systematically to create a comprehensive taxonomy of 10-12 bug themes that categorize the underlying causes of failure.

#### Instructions:

##### 1. Initial Analysis

- Read through ALL program examples carefully
- For each failure, identify the root cause (not just the symptom)
- Note any patterns or commonalities across failures

##### 2. Taxonomy Development

- Create 10-12 distinct bug themes that collectively cover all observed failures
- Each theme should represent a fundamental type of programming error or misconception

1296        • Themes should be mutually exclusive when possible, but comprehensive  
 1297               in coverage  
 1298        • Order themes from most to least frequent (or by logical grouping)  
 1299        3. **For Each Bug Theme, Provide:**  
 1300               • Theme Name: A concise, descriptive title  
 1301               • Description: 2-3 sentences explaining the nature of this bug type  
 1302               • Common Symptoms: How these bugs typically manifest (error messages,  
 1303                      incorrect output, etc.)  
 1304               • Root Causes: The underlying programming mistakes or misconceptions  
 1305               • Examples: Reference 2-3 specific programs from the file that exhibit this  
 1306                      theme  
 1307               • Prevention Tips: Brief advice on how to avoid this type of bug  
 1308        4. **Constraints:**  
 1309               • Focus on R-specific issues as well as general programming errors  
 1310               • Base your taxonomy ONLY on the provided examples  
 1311               • You may search online ONLY to understand specific R error messages or  
 1312                      function behavior, not for existing bug taxonomies  
 1313               • Ensure every failed program in the file can be classified under at least one  
 1314                      theme  
 1315        5. **Deliverable Format:** Present your taxonomy as a numbered list with clear  
 1316                      formatting and comprehensive coverage of all observed failure patterns. Sup-  
 1317                      ply a short explanation for each theme in your taxonomy.  
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1319        The prompt produced a taxonomy of 11 bug categories. We edited these categories and selected 7  
 1320        categories relevant to us, shown in §E.2.

## 1323 E.2 BUG TAXONOMY USED FOR ANALYSIS

1324        The following categories represent the prevalent themes of programming errors we use in our anal-  
 1325        ysis of bugs in model-generated code. They cover the full spectrum of parse, runtime, and logical  
 1326        failures typically encountered in programming. The themes are not mutually exclusive; we allow a  
 1327        program to have more than one themes.

1328        1. **Syntax and Typographical Errors:** Missing commas, mismatched parentheses, or other  
 1329                      typos that cause compile-time parse errors.  
 1330        2. **Input Reading and Parsing Errors:** Mis-reading or mis-parsing input, leading to empty  
 1331                      or malformed variables and subsequent failures.  
 1332        3. **Uninitialized Variables:** References to variables never defined, causing undefined behav-  
 1333                      ior or runtime faults.  
 1334        4. **Data Type and Conversion Errors:** Incorrect casting or type misuse that triggers type  
 1335                      errors, warnings, or incorrect results.  
 1336        5. **Function Misuse and Missing Libraries:** Invocations of non-existent or  
 1337                      mis-parameterized functions, or missing imports/libraries, causing errors.  
 1338        6. **Algorithmic Logic Flaws:** Programs that compile and run but produce wrong answers due  
 1339                      to faulty logic or conditions.  
 1340        7. **Output Formatting and Presentation Errors:** Correct computational results, but incor-  
 1341                      rect due to formatting issues (e.g. missing newlines/spaces or output spec violations).

## 1346 E.3 RADAR CHARTS FOR ALL PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

1347        Figures 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 show the error theme charts for all the programming languages we trained  
 1348        a model on. Figure 18 is the same as Figure 6 from the main body; we repeated it here for conve-  
 1349        nience.

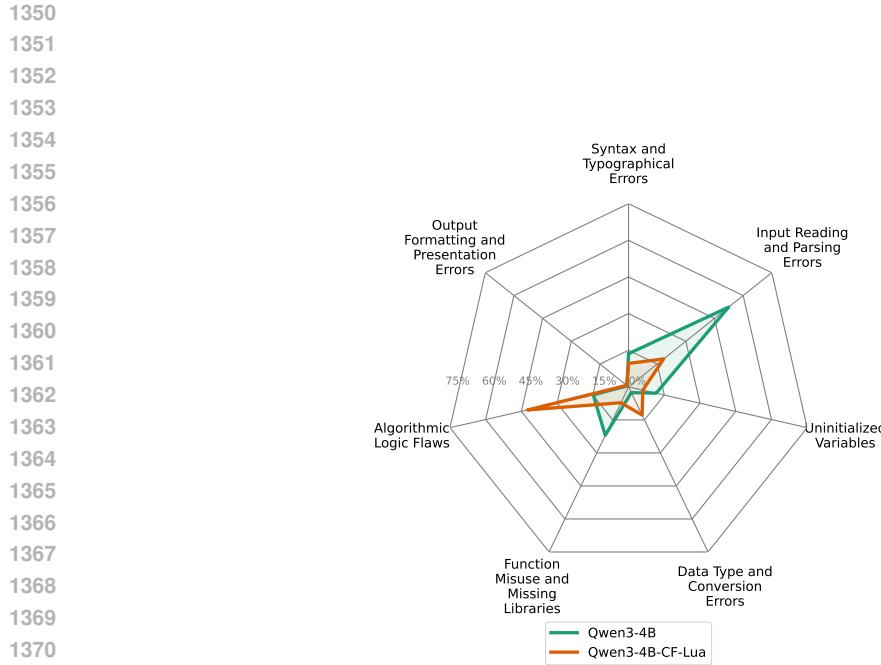


Figure 15: Radar chart of Lua error themes for Qwen3-4B and Qwen3-4B-CF-Lua.

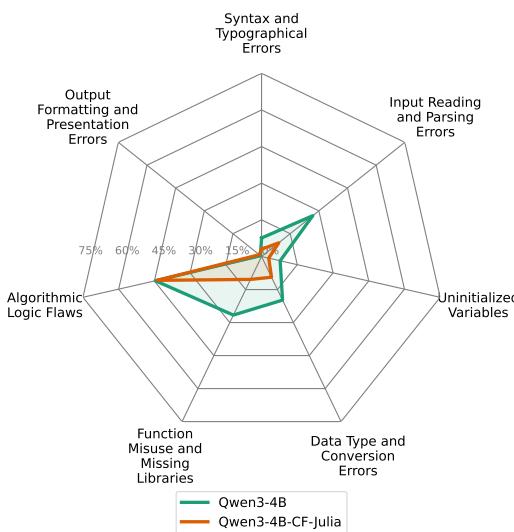


Figure 16: Radar chart of Julia error themes for Qwen3-4B and Qwen3-4B-CF-Julia.

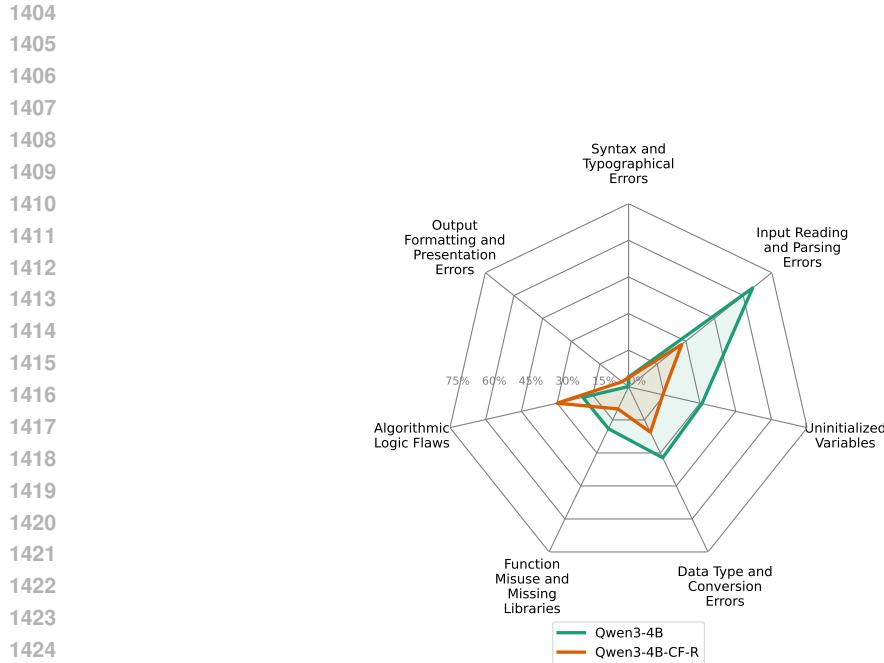


Figure 17: Radar chart of R error themes for Qwen3-4B and Qwen3-4B-CF-R.

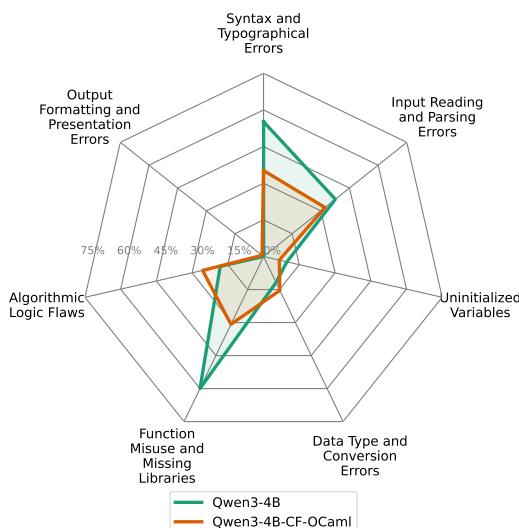


Figure 18: Radar chart of OCaml error themes for Qwen3-4B and Qwen3-4B-CF-OCaml.

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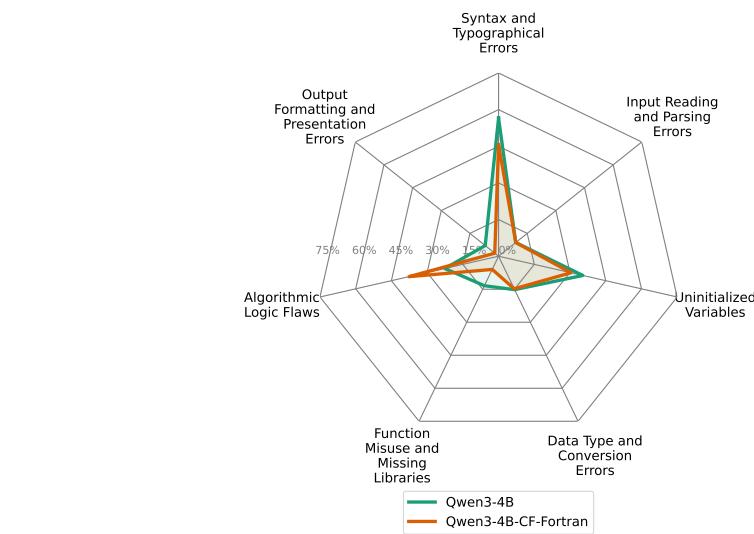


Figure 19: Radar chart of Fortran error themes for Qwen3-4B and Qwen3-4B-CF-Fortran.

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