



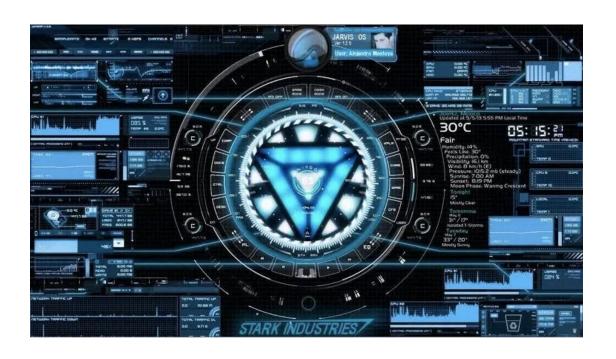
## From Digital Agents to AI Co-Scientists

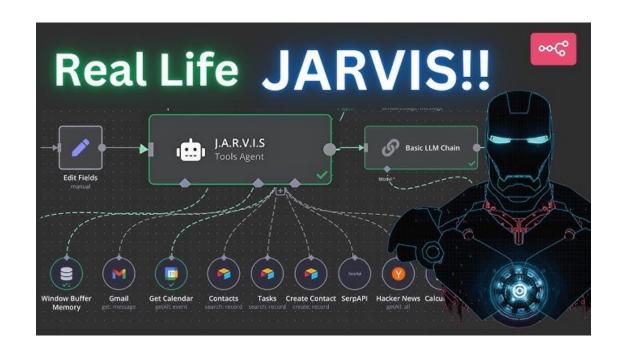
Qiushi Sun qiushisun.github.io

X @qiushi\_sun

Part1 | Intro

A type of digital agent that operates within environments such as desktops, mobile devices, or web browsers.





The Feasibility of Jarvis AI from Marvel in Real Life

Once out of reach, but we are turning it into reality.















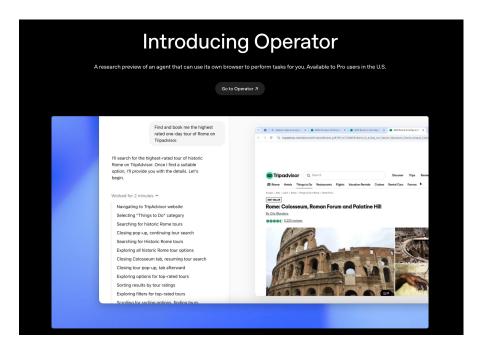


Both academia and industry are building computer-using agents

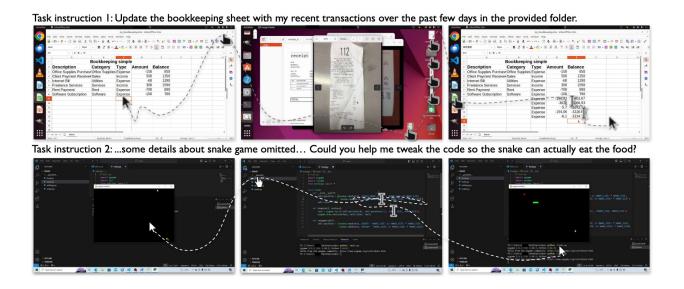


Claude Computer Use

### Automating daily computer tasks



OpenAI Operator



Daily Computer Use

### Playing Games

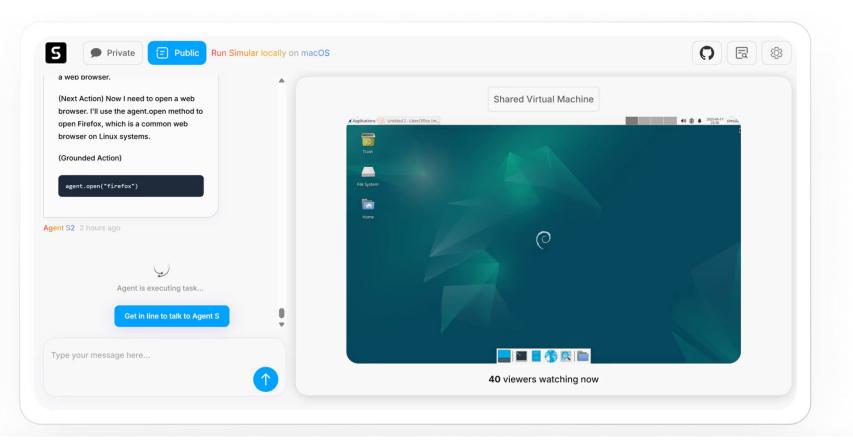




MineCraft II StarCraft II

## Startups

Research Product About us Blog Discord Github macOS



## Seminal works on Computer-Using Agents



SeeClick: Harnessing GUI Grounding for Advanced Visual GUI Agents, ACL 2024

Foundation Models



OS-ATLAS: A Foundation Action Model for Generalist GUI Agents, ICLR 2025 Spotlight



OS-Genesis: Automating GUI Agent Trajectory Construction via Reverse Task Synthesis, ACL 2025

Data



Breaking the Data Barrier -- Building GUI Agents Through Task Generalization, COLM 2025



AgentStore: Scalable Integration of Heterogeneous Agents As Specialized Generalist Computer Assistant, ACL 2025

Algorithm



OS-MAP: How Far Can Computer Use Agents Go in Breadth and Depth?

**Evaluation** 



ScienceBoard: Evaluating Multimodal Autonomous Agents in Realistic Scientific Workflows

Frontier Application

## Seminal works on Computer-Using Agents



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OS-MAP: How Far Can Computer Use Agents Go in Breadth and Depth?

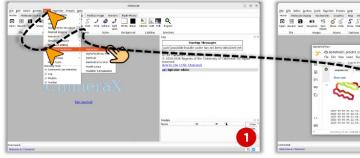


ScienceBoard: Evaluating Multimodal Autonomous Agents in Realistic Scientific Workflows

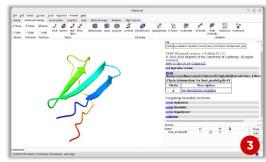
Frontier Application

### Automate scientific workflows, be your co-scientist!

**Instruction**: Predict the protein structure for the amino acid sequence of 'MGND...' via AlphaFold in ChimeraX.



The State Live Search Live Sea



**Step1**: Toggle the widget of AlphaFold.

**Step2**: Input the given sequence and call out AlphaFold for structure prediction.

Step3: Wait until the prediction finished.

**Instruction**: Show planets' orbits of Solar System in Celestia.



**Step1**: Select the Sol and click 'Goto' in contect menu.



**Step2**: Slide the mouse wheel to move the camera away from Sol.

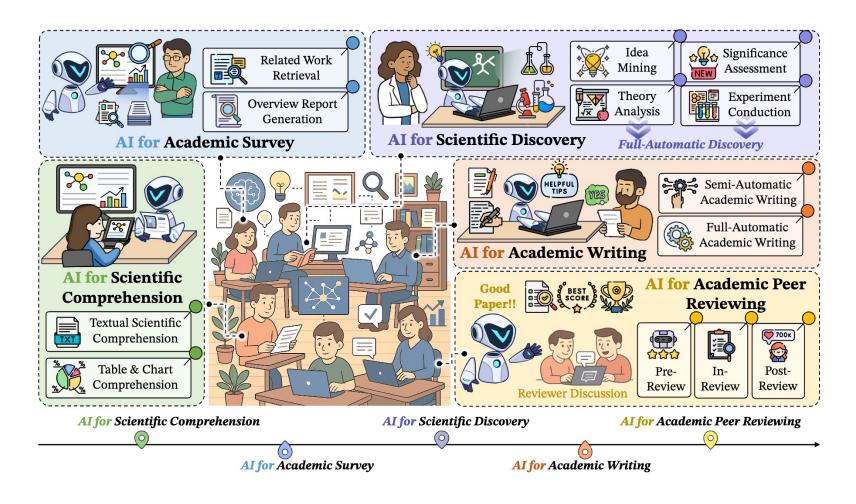


**Step3**: Click to show orbits of planets.

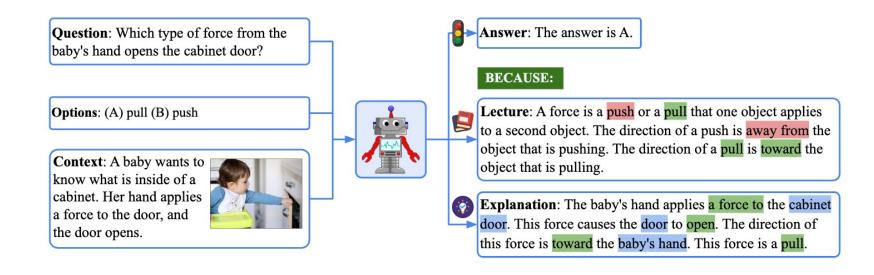
# Part2 | AI4Research

## Backgrounds

AI4Research is a highly popular concept.



## Backgrounds: Pastoral Age



#### ScienceQA (NIPS 2022)

- Multimodal Reasoning (Chain-of-Thought)
- Natural science, language science, and social science
- 12k Grade school-level MCQ

## **Backgrounds: Pastoral Age**

#### **BioASQ-QA** (Nature 2023)

- Designed for biomedical question answering
  - English questions, exact answers, and ideal summaries.
  - Supports information retrieval, passage retrieval, and natural language generation.
- Meets real information needs of biomedical experts.
- Annually expanded with new questions and answers.
- Available on Zenodo in JSON format.

#### MoleculeQA (ArXiv 2024)

- Evaluate Factual Accuracy in Molecular Comprehension
- 62K QA Pairs across 23K molecules
- MCQ problems (training set available)
- Textual-based



Fig. 4 Most frequent topics in the BioASQ questions.

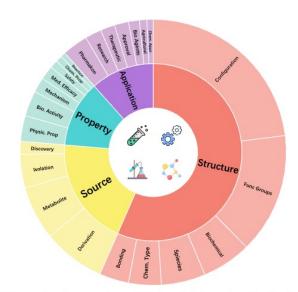


Figure 4: An overview of MoleculeQA topics distribution.

## Backgrounds: Contemporary Era <a>⑤</a>

#### SciCode (NIPS 2024)

- 16 subfields (e.g., math, physics, chem).
- 80 main problems, decomposed into 338 subproblems involving recall, reasoning, and code synthesis.
- Each question verified by 2 senior researchers to ensure scientific accuracy and relevance.

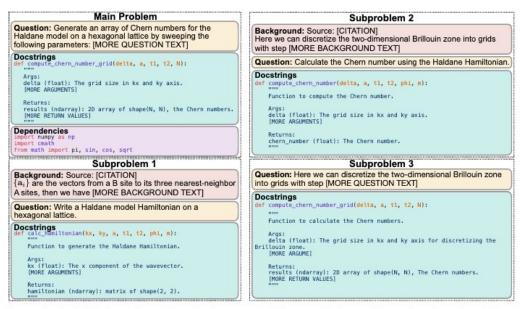
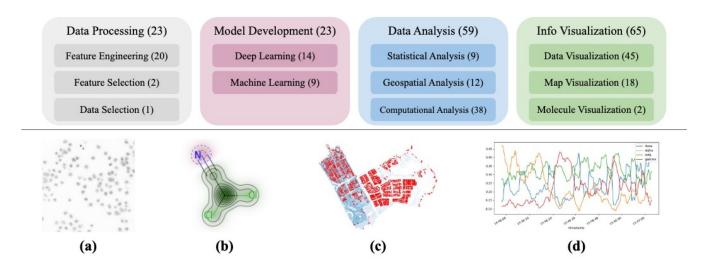


Figure 1: A SciCode main problem is decomposed into multiple smaller and easier subproblems. Docstrings specify the requirements and input-output formats. When necessary, scientific background knowledge is provided, written by our scientist annotators. The full problem is shown in subsection A.3

## Backgrounds: Contemporary Era <a>⑤</a>



### ScienceAgentBench (ICLR 2025)

- Evaluating language **agents** in data-driven scientific discovery.
- 102 tasks from 44 peer-reviewed publications across four disciplines.
- Tasks require generating a self-contained Python program.
- Prompting based solutions: OpenHands CodeAct, and self-debug.

# 

CIENCE

AlphaEvolve: A Gemini-powered coding agent for designing advanced algorithms

y AlphaEvolve team

Share



## Backgrounds: Contemporary Era <a>⑤</a>

#### A lot of "AI Research" systems have been built...

0024 0 4

### The AI Scientist: Towards Fully Automated Open-Ended Scientific Discovery

Chris Lu<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Cong Lu<sup>3,4,\*</sup>, Robert Tjarko Lange<sup>1,\*</sup>, Jakob Foerster<sup>2,†</sup>, Jeff Clune<sup>3,4,5,†</sup> and David Ha<sup>1,†</sup>
<sup>†</sup>Equal Contribution, <sup>†</sup>Sakana Al, <sup>2</sup>FLAIR, University of Oxford, <sup>3</sup>University of British Columbia, <sup>4</sup>Vector Institute, <sup>5</sup>Canada CIFAR
Al Chair, <sup>†</sup>Equal Advising

#### SCIMON : Scientific Inspiration Machines Optimized for Novelty

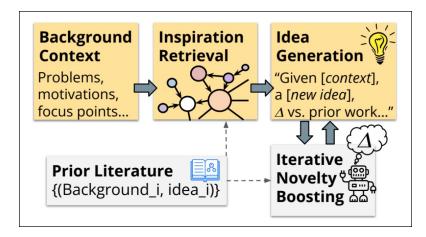
Qingyun Wang¹, Doug Downey², Heng Ji¹, Tom Hope²,3
¹ University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ² Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence (AI2)
³ The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
{tomh,doug}@allenai.org,{qingyun4,hengji}@illinois.edu

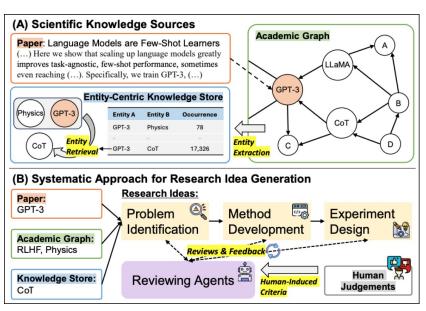
#### Research Agent: Iterative Research Idea Generation over Scientific Literature with Large Language Models

 $\label{eq:continuous_simple_simple_simple} \begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Jinheon Baek}^1 & \textbf{Sujay Kumar Jauhar}^2 & \textbf{Silviu Cucerzan}^2 & \textbf{Sung Ju Hwang}^{1,3} \\ & \textbf{KAIST}^1 & \textbf{Microsoft Research}^2 & \textbf{DeepAuto.ai}^3 \\ & \{\texttt{jinheon.baek}, \ \texttt{sjhwang82}\} & \textbf{\&kaist.ac.kr} & \{\texttt{sjauhar}, \ \texttt{silviu}\} & \textbf{\&microsoft.com} \\ & \textbf{\&kaist.ac.kr} & \textbf{\&kaist.ac.kr} & \textbf{\&kaist.ac.kr} & \textbf{\&kaist.ac.kr} & \textbf{\&kaist.ac.kr} \\ & \textbf{\&kaist.ac.kr} & \textbf{\&kaist.ac.kr} & \textbf{\&kaist.ac.kr} & \textbf{\&kaist.ac.kr} & \textbf{\&kaist.ac.kr} \\ & \textbf{\&kaist.ac.kr} & \textbf{\&kais$ 

### Automated Peer Reviewing in Paper SEA: Standardization, Evaluation, and Analysis

Jianxiang Yu°\*, Zichen Ding°\*, Jiaqi Tan°, Kangyang Luo°, Zhenmin Weng°, Chenghua Gong°, Long Zeng°, Renjing Cui°, Chengcheng Han°, Qiushi Sun¢, Zhiyong Wu¢, Yunshi Lan°, Xiang Li°†
© East China Normal University, Shanghai, China
\$\display\$ Shanghai Al Laboratory, Shanghai, China
\$\sea.\text{ecnu@gmail.com}\$
\$https://ecnu-sea.github.io/\$





## Backgrounds: Contemporary Era <a>⑤</a>

The domain is advancing rapidly, but current developments are not realistic enough, From the perspective of how human scientists interact with the world:

#### For works w.o. visual content

- Coding is good but not a universal solution
- Real scientific workflows require both screens and actions

#### For works w. visual content

- The "VQA" form is a little bit outdated
- Single turn, solving a grade-school does not align with our need

Therefore, we need to consider text / vision, knowledge, coding ....

But That's Not All!

## **Thinking**

Currently, AI acted as an "Analyzer," helping with idea thinking data analysis, writing, and visualization.

Can AI evolve into an "Executor" that helps (1) formulate a plan, (2) directly operates scientific software via GUI or CLI, and (3) even generates some reports?

The answer is YES—with the emergence of computer-using agents.

Let's move beyond QA and Coding to actively performing some research tasks!



From Digital Agents to AI Co-Scientists

## Part3 | ScienceBoard



### ScienceBoard: Evaluating Multimodal Autonomous **Agents in Realistic Scientific Workflows**

Qiushi Sun, Zhoumianze Liu, Chang Ma, Zichen Ding, Fangzhi Xu, Zhangyue Yin, Haiteng Zhao, Zhenyu Wu, Kanzhi Cheng, Zhaoyang Liu, Jianing Wang, Qintong Li, Xiangru Tang, Tianbao Xie, Xiachong Feng, Xiang Li, Ben Kao, Wenhai Wang, Biqing Qi, Lingpeng Kong, Zhiyong Wu























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Let's start with some background on computer-using agents.

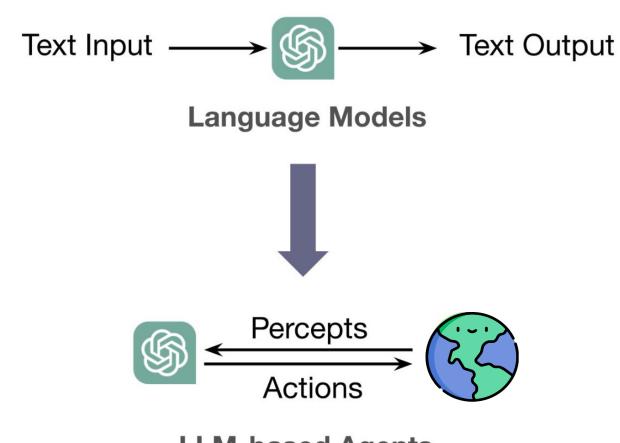
Remark: For computer-using agents, both GUI and CLI represent distinct approaches.

In ScienceBoard, we primarily focus on GUI-based interaction, complemented by CLI support.

GUI Agents

Intelligent agents that operate within GUI environments, leveraging LLMs as their core inference and cognitive engine to generate, plan, and execute actions in a flexible and adaptive manner.

Computer-using agents are language agents.

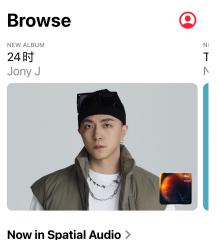


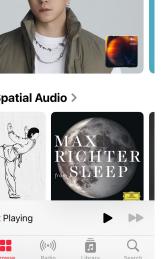
Agents are promising, but building powerful computer-using agents is challenging:

- 1. Agents need to follow human instructions.
- 2. Agents need to perform planning and action.
- 3. Agents need to perceive envs. and the applications they are interacting with.

What are "actions"

Typical action: GUI grounding – the capacity to accurately locate screen elements based on instructions, e.g., CLICK.







In order to view the new album of Jony J, where should I click?



GPT-40 (an earlier version): hmmm... Sorry I don't know.





SeeClick: (0.49, 0.40)



Unified Action Space

Basic Action

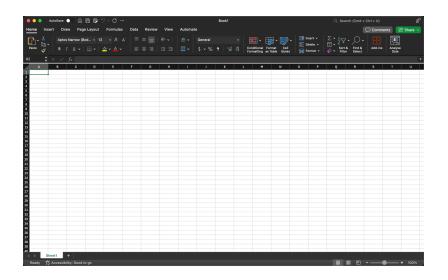
CLICK [[x, y]] LONG\_PRESS [[x, y]]

SCROLL [Dir.] .....

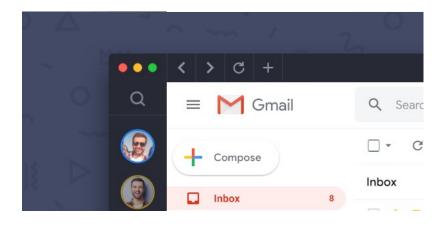
TYPE [Text] SELECT [Ele.]

#### V.S. CLI

- 1. Screenshot is information complete for agentic tasks
- 2. GUI action space is much smaller and is shared across platforms/apps



"Close the app"



### ScienceBoard Infra

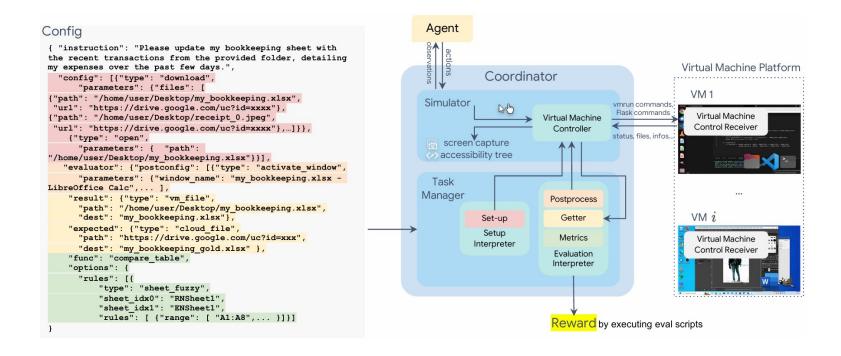
So to achieve our goal, we need an environment that allows agents to actively interact.

- 1. Supports native multimodal interaction
- 2. Fully compatible with coding and conversational research assistance
- 3. Enables rigorous validation

A playground—a virtual machine pre-installed with well-adapted scientific software.

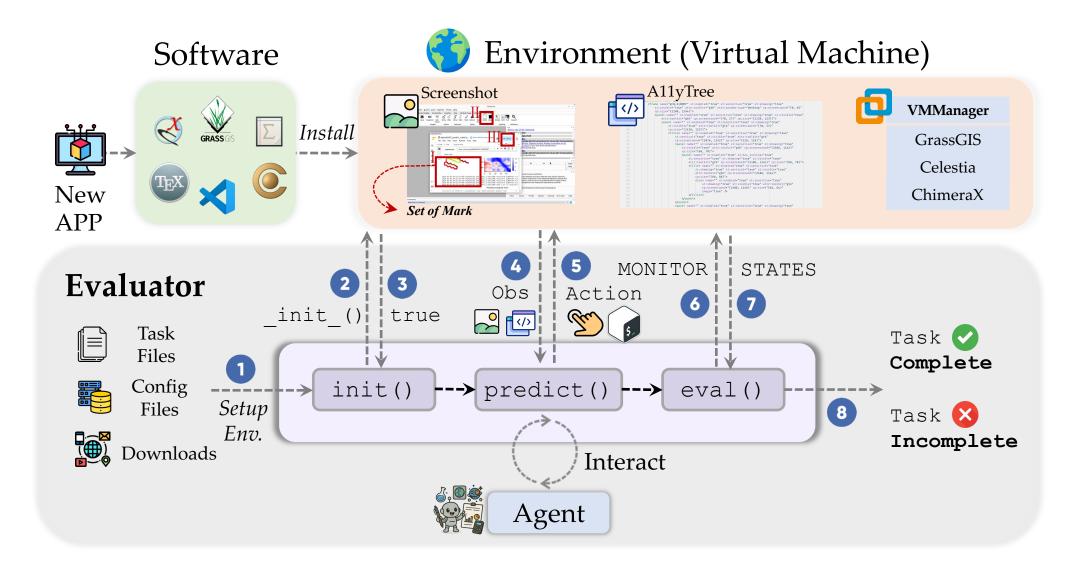
### ScienceBoard Infra

We build upon the OSWorld infrastructure for GUI interaction.



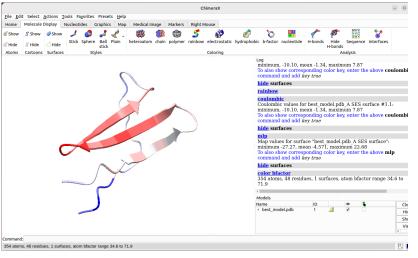
For CLI, we enable interaction by modifying the software itself and leveraging VSCode.

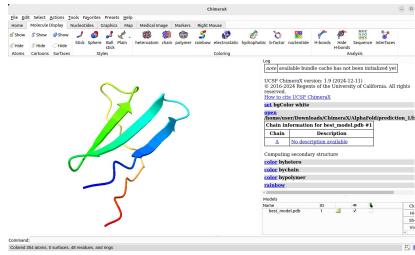
### ScienceBoard Infra

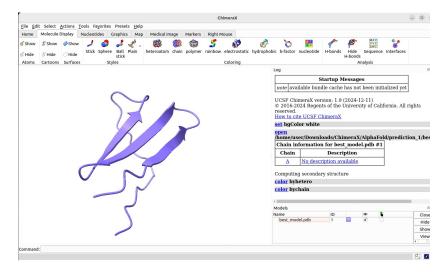


### The Dilemma of Evaluation

Evaluation is harder than we expect, let's take visualization as an example





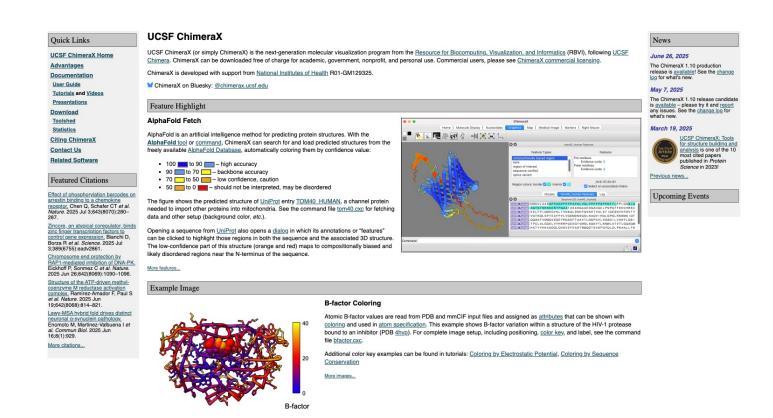


It is impossible to "match"

### How to Evaluate?

We rely on internal states.

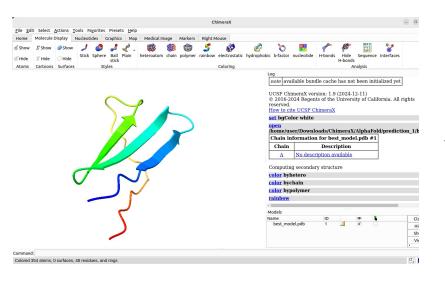
By modifying the software, we access intermediate runtime states and enable precise state-based evaluation, e.g., UCSF ChimeraX



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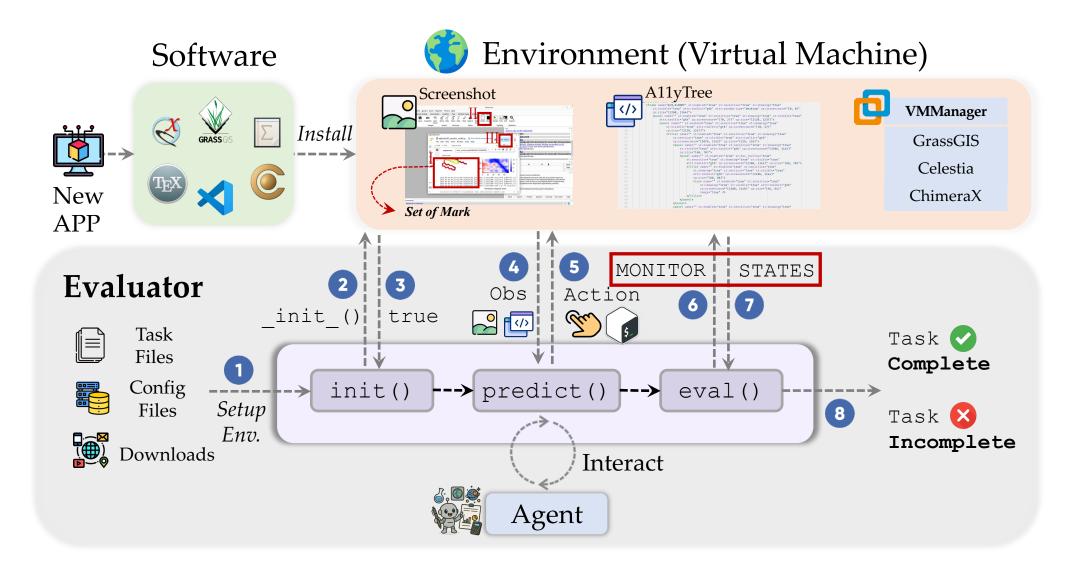
\_state\_containers.tools.\_tool\_instances.#

0.tool\_window.\_ToolWindow\_\_toolkit.main\_w
indow.tool\_instance\_to\_windows.<chimerax.

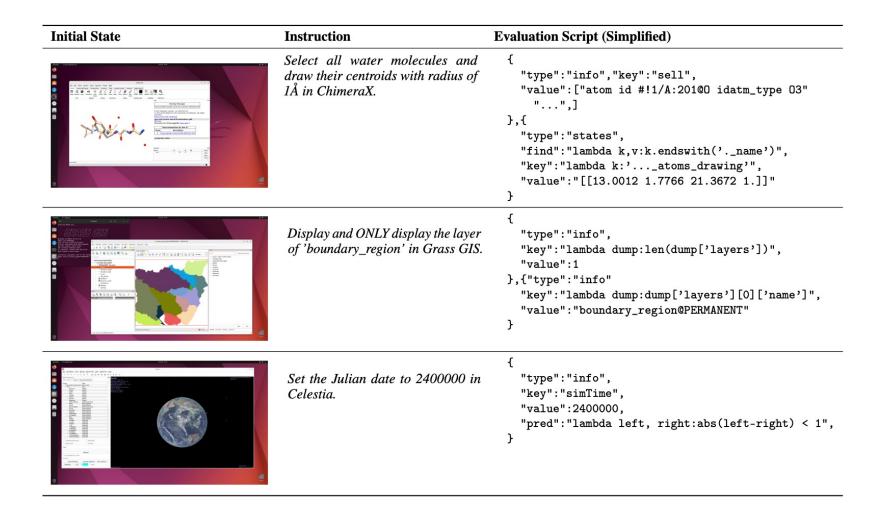
log.tool.Log object at

0x0000020AA8023B50>.#0.tool\_instance.page
\_source

# ScienceBoard Infra



### How to Evaluate?



### **Evaluation**

Approach to the Earth and display a solar eclipse in Celestia.

```
"evaluate": [
       "type": "info",
       "key": "lambda dump: dump['entity']['Earth']['distance']",
       "value": 0,
       "pred": "lambda key, value: abs(key - value) < 450000"
   },
       "type": "info",
       "key": "lambda dump: dump['entity']['Sol']['visible']",
       "value": false
   },
       "type": "info",
       "key": "lambda dump: dump['entity']['Moon']['visible']",
       "value": true
   },
       "type": "info",
       "key": "lambda dump: (s := dump['entity']['Sol']['position'], e := dump['entity']['Earth']['position'], m
       := dump['entity']['Moon']['position'], mv := [m[i] - e[i] for i in range(3)], sv := [s[i] - e[i] for i in
       range(3)], dp := mv[0] * sv[0] + mv[1] * sv[1] + mv[2] * sv[2], _mv := __import__('math').sqrt(mv[0]**2 + mv
       [1]**2 + mv[2]**2), _sv := __import__('math').sqrt(sv[0]**2 + sv[1]**2 + sv[2]**2), dp / (_mv * _sv))[-1]",
       "value": 0.99,
       "pred": "lambda key, value: key > value"
```

# Next

Now agents can freely explore the environment and execute any actions they choose.

But how well do these agents actually perform to automate science tasks?

What kind of benchmark is needed to truly evaluate their capabilities?

We aim to build a benchmark with:

- 1. Real-world tasks that human actually perform
- 2. Coverage across multiple disciplines
- 3. Graded difficulty levels
- 4. Support for cross-application workflows
- 5. Cross "modality" GUI + CLI

And more

Coverage:

Biochem, GIS, Astronomy, Algebra, ATP, Documentation

#### Our criteria for selecting software:

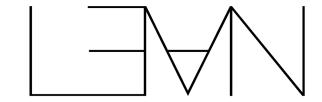
- 1. Stable operation on Ubuntu 🔾
- 2. Open-source, allowing for adaptation
- 3. Accessible allytree, enabling text-based agents to participate (e.g., ol-mini)
- 4. License





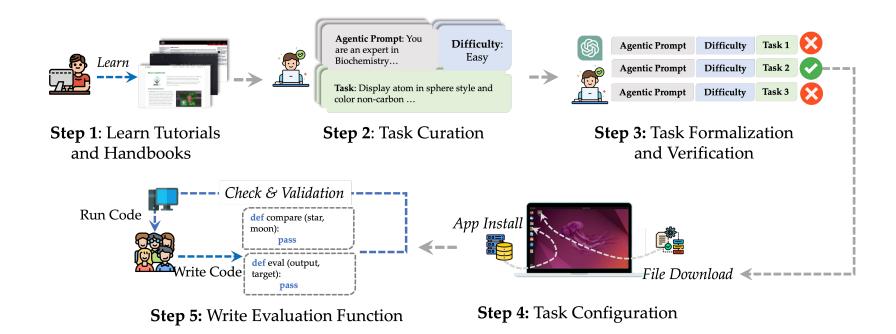






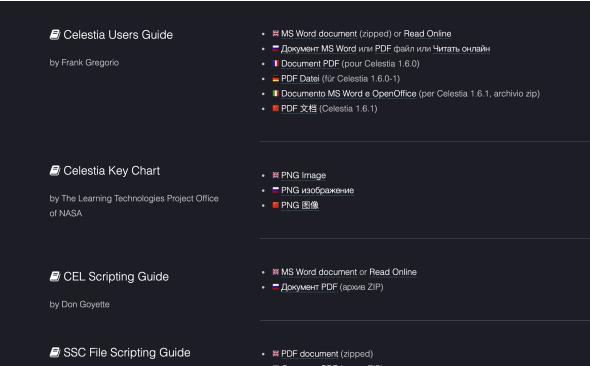


#### How the benchmark is built



Annotation pipeline







UCSF ChimeraX is the next-generation visualization program from the Resource for Biocomputing, Visualization, and Informatics at UC San Francisco, following Chimera. See also: ChimeraX tutorials

Many ChimeraX actions require typing commands. The help for a specific command can be shown with the help command (for example, help style). Other ways to interact with the program include:

- · clicking toolbar icons, optionally after making a selection
- · context menus shown by right-click (Ctrl-click on Mac, Alt-click on Windows trackpad)

pressed to select an atom,

select /N:4@C51

or command

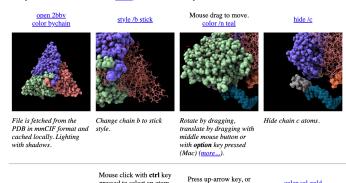
#### Command-Execution Links

ribbon /c

Clicking command links in the examples below will execute them in ChimeraX if this page is shown in the ChimeraX internal browser, such as with Help... Quick Start Guide in the ChimeraX menu.

#### **Example Atomic-Structure Commands**

Example structure: Protein DataBank 2BBV, black beetle virus capsid



Celestia tutorials

#### ChimeraX tutorials

select up

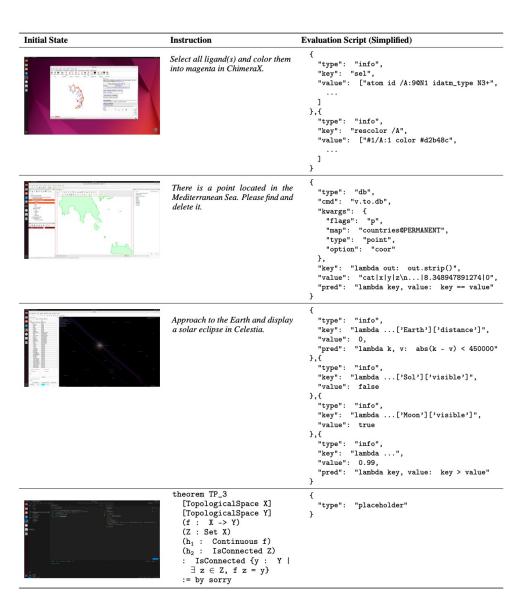
color sel gold

select clear



Develop a large set of evaluation scripts

Manually validate their correctness.



Task Type	Statistics
Total Tasks	169 (100%)
- GUI	38 (22.5%)
- CLI	33 (19.5%)
- GUI + CLI	98 (58.0%)
Difficulty	
- Easy	91 (53.8%)
- Medium	48 (28.4%)
- Hard	28 (16.6%)
- Open Problems	2 (1.2%)
Instructions	
Avg. Length of Task Instructions	20.0
Avg. Length of Agentic Prompt	374.9
Execution	
Avg. Steps	9.0
Avg. Time Consumption	124(s)



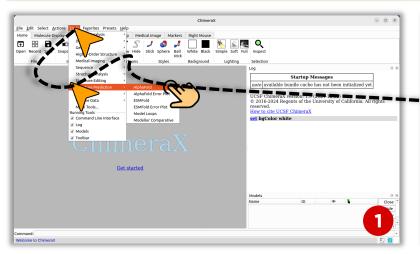
Evaluate autonomous computerusing agents in realistic scientific workflows.

Tasks require complex tool usage, scientific reasoning, and multi-step GUI/CLI operations

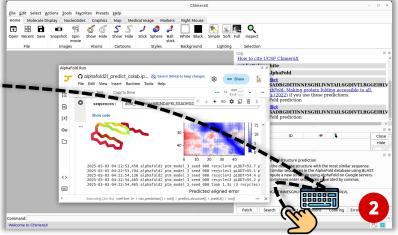


- 1. 169 high-quality tasks across 6 domains: Biochemistry, Algebra, Theorem Proving, GIS, Astronomy, Documentation.
- 2. Tasks require GUI operation, visual/textual reasoning, tool use, coding, spatial understanding.
- 3. Rich mix: CLI-only, GUI-only, hybrid workflows.

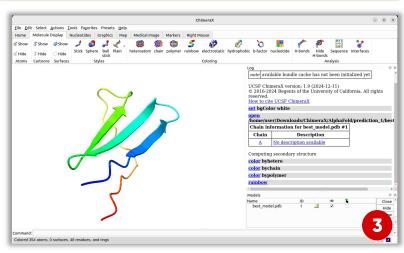
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**Step1**: Toggle the widget of AlphaFold.

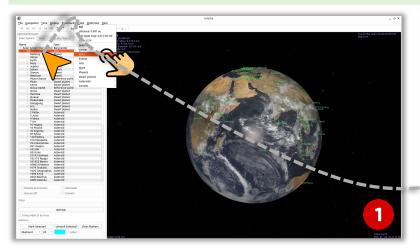


**Step2**: Input the given sequence and call out AlphaFold for structure prediction.



**Step3**: Wait until the prediction finished.

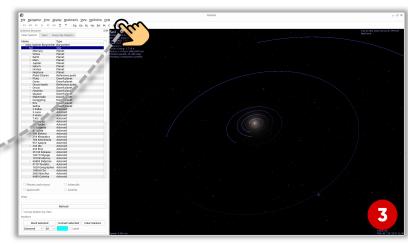
#### **Instruction**: Show planets' orbits of Solar System in Celestia.



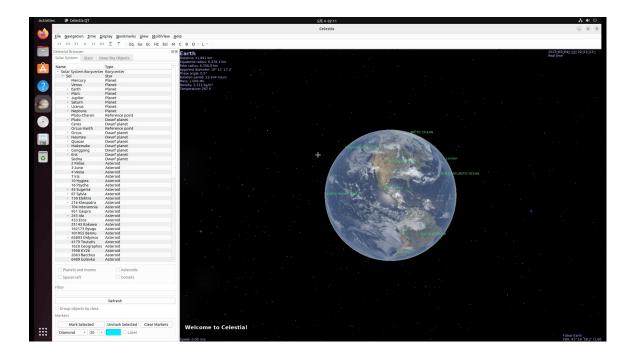
**Step1**: Select the Sol and click 'Goto' in contect menu.



**Step2**: Slide the mouse wheel to move the camera away from Sol.



**Step3**: Click to show orbits of planets.



Display constellations with their boundries in Celestia.

I see the current state of Celestia, where the Earth is being displayed in the main view. The task is to display constellations with their boundaries in Celestia.

Looking at the accessibility tree, I can see there are several checkboxes including "C" which likely stands for Constellations and "B" which likely stands for Boundaries. These checkboxes are located in the main toolbar and need to be checked to display the constellations and their boundaries.

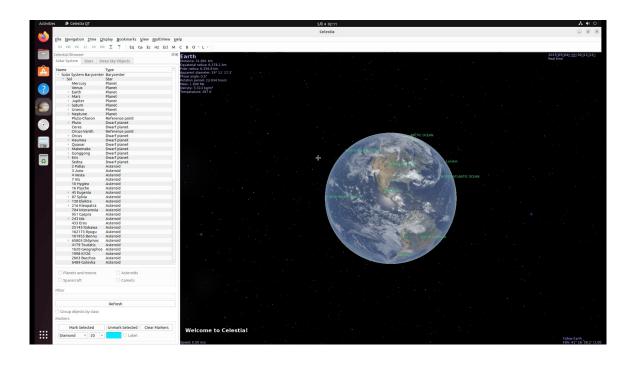
Currently, neither the constellations nor their boundaries are visible in the screenshot. I need to click on both the "C" checkbox and "B" checkbox to enable these features.

"python import pyautogui import time

# Click on the "C" checkbox to enable constellations pyautogui.click(570, 93) time.sleep(0.5)

# Click on the "B" checkbox to enable constellation boundaries pyautogui.click(594, 93) time.sleep(0.5)

# Zoom out a bit to get a better view of the constellations pyautogui.press('minus') time.sleep(0.5) pyautogui.press('minus')



Looking at the screenshot, I can see that my previous action to click on "C" (Constellation) and "B" (Boundary) checkboxes worked correctly. I can see constellation lines displayed around the Earth (the blue lines showing the constellation patterns), and I can also see the boundary lines (the red/pink lines showing constellation boundaries).

To get a better view of the constellations and their boundaries, I should zoom out more and move away from Earth to see the full night sky. This will give a clearer view of all the constellations.

```
"'python import pyautogui import time # Zoom out more to get a better view of the sky pyautogui.press('minus') time.sleep(0.5) pyautogui.press('minus') time.sleep(0.5) pyautogui.press('minus') time.sleep(0.5)
```

# Use the right arrow key to rotate away from Earth pyautogui.keyDown('right') time.sleep(2) pyautogui.keyUp('right')

```
# Move slightly upward to get a better view of the sky
pyautogui.keyDown('up')
time.sleep(1)
pyautogui.keyUp('up') ```
```

## **Evaluation: Models**

**Proprietary Models** 







Opensource LLM / VLMs





GUI Action Models









[16] Navigating the Digital World as Humans Do: Universal Visual Grounding for GUI Agents

[17] UI-TARS: Pioneering Automated GUI Interaction with Native Agents

[18] GUI-Actor: Coordinate-Free Visual Grounding for GUI Agents

# **Evaluation: Observations**

Screenshot: Vision-only

A11ytree: Text-only

Screenshot + A11ytree: Hybird 🔀 💯



#### **Evaluation: Observations**

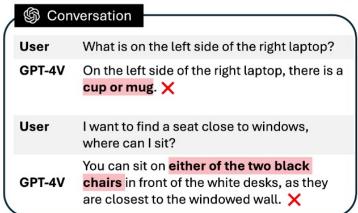
Set-of-Mark? "segmentation"

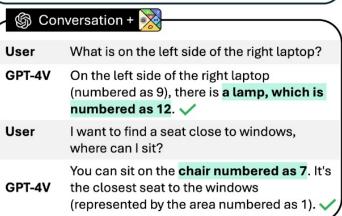
Partition an image into regions at different levels of granularity + label





Input: Image + SoM





### **Evaluation: Inference**

Our agents will generate ReACT-Style output

#### Examples:

Step 1: To create a new folder in Markor, I need to first open the Markor app.

```
action: {"action_type":"open_app", "app_name":"Markor"}
```

Step 2: To create a new folder, I need to click on the "Create a new file or folder" button, which is indicated by the plus icon.

```
action: {"action type":"click", "x":964.5, "y":2074.5}
```

Step 3: I need to change the folder name to folder\_20241224. The current text field for the folder name is visible and editable.

```
action: {"action_type":"type", "text":"folder_20241224", "x":373.5, "y":552.0}
```

Overall success rate remains low (avg. ~15%)

Performance varies among domains

Best results achieved with combined Screenshot + a11ytree setting

Table 3: Success rates on SCIENCEBOARD. We present the performance of each agent backbone across different scientific domains under various observation settings. Proprietary Models, Open-Source VLMs / LLMs, and GUI Action Model are distinguished by color.

Observations	Model -	Success Rate (↑)							
Obsci vations	Wiodei	Algebra	Biochem	GIS	ATP	Astron	Doc	Overall	
	GPT-4o	3.23%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.25%	1.58%	
	Claude-3.7-Sonnet	9.67%	37.93%	2.94%	0.00%	6.06%	6.25%	10.48%	
Screenshot	Gemini-2.0-Flash	6.45%	3.45%	2.94%	0.00%	0.00%	6.06%	3.15%	
	Qwen2.5-VL-72B	22.58%	27.59%	5.88%	0.00%	9.09%	12.50%	12.94%	
	InternVL3-78B	6.45%	3.45%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.25%	2.69%	
	UI-TARS-1.5-7B	12.90%	13.79%	0.00%	0.00%	6.06%	0.00%	2.69%	
	GPT-4o	12.90%	20.69%	2.94%	0.00%	6.06%	0.00%	7.10%	
	Claude-3.7-Sonnet	19.35%	34.48%	2.94%	3.85%	12.12%	0.00%	12.12%	
a11ytree	Gemini-2.0-Flash	9.68%	17.24%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.49%	
<b>223</b> , 22 3 3	o3-mini	16.13%	20.69%	2.94%	3.85%	15.15%	6.25%	10.84%	
	Qwen2.5-VL-72B	9.68%	10.34%	2.94%	0.00%	3.03%	0.00%	4.33%	
	InternVL3-78B	3.23%	3.45%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.11%	
	GPT-4o	22.58%	37.93%	2.94%	7.69%	3.03%	12.50%	14.45%	
Screenshot	Claude-3.7-Sonnet	12.90%	41.37%	8.82%	3.85%	9.09%	18.75%	15.79%	
+ allytree	Gemini-2.0-Flash	16.13%	24.14%	2.94%	0.00%	18.18%	12.50%	12.32%	
J	Qwen2.5-VL-72B	16.13%	20.69%	2.94%	0.00%	18.18%	12.50%	11.74%	
	InternVL3-78B	6.45%	3.45%	0.00%	0.00%	3.03%	6.25%	3.20%	
	GPT-4o	6.45%	3.45%	0.00%	0.00%	3.03%	12.50%	4.24%	
	Claude-3.7-Sonnet	16.13%	31.03%	5.88%	0.00%	6.06%	12.50%	11.93%	
Set-of-Mark	Gemini-2.0-Flash	3.23%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3.03%	6.25%	2.09%	
Set of Mark	Qwen2.5-VL-72B	6.45%	6.90%	2.94%	0.00%	3.03%	12.50%	6.36%	
	QvQ-72B-Preview	0.00%	0.00%	2.94%	0.00%	3.03%	0.00%	0.49%	
	InternVL3-78B	3.23%	6.90%	2.94%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.18%	
Human	Performance	74.19%	68.97%	55.88%	42.31%	51.52%	68.75%	60.27%	

Significant performance gaps across domains!

Agents perform much better in biochemistry and algebra compared to other fields.

Why? "Tutorial learning"

We see this as a key opportunity for the future development of science agents!

Table 3: Success rates on SCIENCEBOARD. We present the performance of each agent backbone across different scientific domains under various observation settings. Proprietary Models, Open-Source VLMs / LLMs, and GUI Action Model are distinguished by color.

Model	Success Rate (†)						
Wiodei	Algebra	Biochem	GIS	ATP	Astron	Doc	Overall
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UI-TARS-1.5-7B	12.90%	13.79%	0.00%	0.00%	6.06%	0.00%	2.69%
GPT-4o	12.90%	20.69%	2.94%	0.00%	6.06%	0.00%	7.10%
Claude-3.7-Sonne	19.35%	34.48%	2.94%	3.85%	12.12%	0.00%	12.12%
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GPT-4o	22.58%	37.93%	2.94%	7.69%	3.03%	12.50%	14.45%
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Performance	74.19%	68.97%	55.88%	42.31%	51.52%	68.75%	60.27%
	Claude-3.7-Sonne Gemini-2.0-Flash Qwen2.5-VL-72B InternVL3-78B UI-TARS-1.5-7B  GPT-4o Claude-3.7-Sonne Gemini-2.0-Flash o3-mini Qwen2.5-VL-72B InternVL3-78B  GPT-4o Claude-3.7-Sonne Gemini-2.0-Flash Qwen2.5-VL-72B InternVL3-78B  GPT-4o Claude-3.7-Sonne Gemini-2.0-Flash Qwen2.5-VL-72B InternVL3-78B  GPT-4o Claude-3.7-Sonne Gemini-2.0-Flash Qwen2.5-VL-72B QvQ-72B-Preview	Algebra  GPT-40 Claude-3.7-Sonnet Gemini-2.0-Flash Qwen2.5-VL-72B InternVL3-78B UI-TARS-1.5-7B  Gemini-2.0-Flash o3-mini Qwen2.5-VL-72B InternVL3-78B InternVL3-78B InternVL3-78B InternVL3-78B GPT-40 Claude-3.7-Sonnet GPT-40 Claude-3.7-Sonnet I2.90% GPT-40 Claude-3.7-Sonnet I6.13% Qwen2.5-VL-72B InternVL3-78B InternVL3-78B GPT-40 Claude-3.7-Sonnet Gemini-2.0-Flash Qwen2.5-VL-72B InternVL3-78B GPT-40 Claude-3.7-Sonnet I6.13% GPT-40 Claude-3.7-Sonnet I6.13% GPT-40 Claude-3.7-Sonnet Gemini-2.0-Flash Qwen2.5-VL-72B I6.13% GPT-40 Claude-3.7-Sonnet Gemini-2.0-Flash Qwen2.5-VL-72B Gemini-2.0-Flash Qwen2.5-VL-72B QvQ-72B-Preview InternVL3-78B 3.23%	Algebra   Biochem	Algebra         Biochem         GIS           GPT-40         3.23%         0.00%         0.00%           Claude-3.7-Sonnet         9.67%         37.93%         2.94%           Gemini-2.0-Flash         6.45%         3.45%         2.94%           Qwen2.5-VL-72B         22.58%         27.59%         5.88%           InternVL3-78B         6.45%         3.45%         0.00%           UI-TARS-1.5-7B         12.90%         13.79%         0.00%           GPT-40         12.90%         20.69%         2.94%           Claude-3.7-Sonnet         19.35%         34.48%         2.94%           Gemini-2.0-Flash         9.68%         17.24%         0.00%           O3-mini         16.13%         20.69%         2.94%           InternVL3-78B         3.23%         3.45%         0.00%           GPT-40         22.58%         37.93%         2.94%           Claude-3.7-Sonnet         16.13%         24.14%         2.94%           Qwen2.5-VL-72B         16.13%         20.69%         2.94%           InternVL3-78B         6.45%         3.45%         0.00%           Claude-3.7-Sonnet         16.13%         31.03%         5.88% <td< td=""><td>  Algebra   Biochem   GIS   ATP    </td><td>  Algebra   Biochem   GIS   ATP   Astron    </td><td>  Algebra   Biochem   GIS   ATP   Astron   Doc    </td></td<>	Algebra   Biochem   GIS   ATP	Algebra   Biochem   GIS   ATP   Astron	Algebra   Biochem   GIS   ATP   Astron   Doc

ATP tasks remain particularly challenging. Why?

Because agents struggle to balance normal operations, coding skills, and highly logical reasoning.

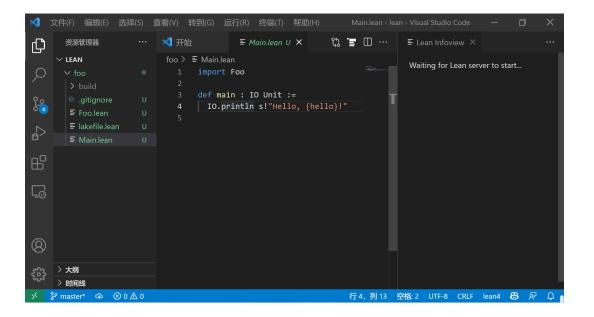
Table 3: Success rates on SCIENCEBOARD. We present the performance of each agent backbone across different scientific domains under various observation settings. Proprietary Models, Open-Source VLMs / LLMs, and GUI Action Model are distinguished by color.

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	UI-TARS-1.5-7B	12.90%	13.79%	0.00%	0.00%	6.06%	0.00%	2.69%		
	GPT-4o	12.90%	20.69%	2.94%	0.00%	6.06%	0.00%	7.10%		
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	o3-mini	16.13%	20.69%	2.94%	3.85%	15.15%	6.25%	10.84%		
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	QvQ-72B-Preview	0.00%	0.00%	2.94%	0.00%	3.03%	0.00%	0.49%		
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Humar	Performance	74.19%	68.97%	55.88%	42.31%	51.52%	68.75%	60.27%		

ATP tasks remain particularly challenging. Why?

Hard to perform human-like operations

e.g., Autocomplete

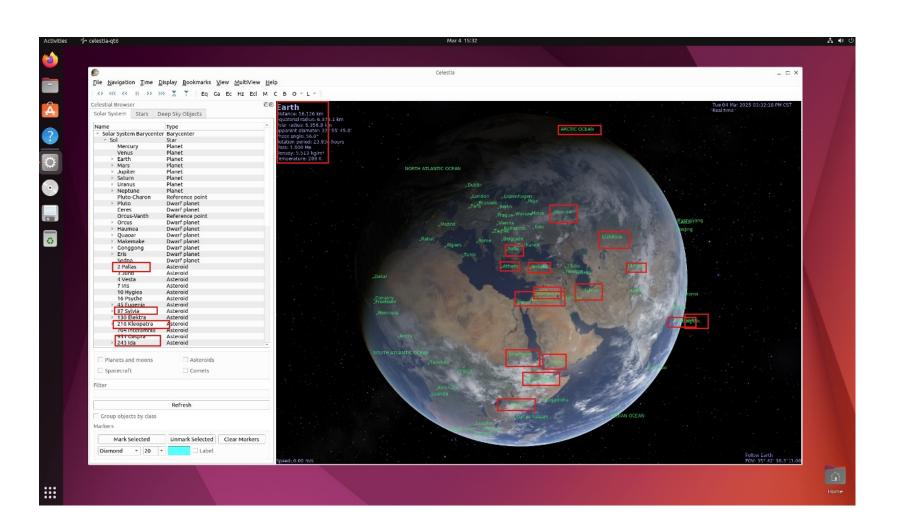


SoM? Doest not fit all scenarios!

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Observations	Model -	Success Rate (↑)							
Observations	Wiodei	Algebra	Biochem	GIS	ATP	Astron	Doc	Overall	
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Screenshot	${\tt Gemini-2.0-Flash}$	6.45%	3.45%	2.94%	0.00%	0.00%	6.06%	3.15%	
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	InternVL3-78B	6.45%	3.45%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.25%	2.69%	
	UI-TARS-1.5-7B	12.90%	13.79%	0.00%	0.00%	6.06%	0.00%	2.69%	
	GPT-4o	12.90%	20.69%	2.94%	0.00%	6.06%	0.00%	7.10%	
	Claude-3.7-Sonnet	19.35%	34.48%	2.94%	3.85%	12.12%	0.00%	12.12%	
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	InternVL3-78B	3.23%	3.45%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.11%	
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	GPT-4o	6.45%	3.45%	0.00%	0.00%	3.03%	12.50%	4.24%	
	Claude-3.7-Sonnet	16.13%	31.03%	5.88%	0.00%	6.06%	12.50%	11.93%	
Set-of-Mark	Gemini-2.0-Flash	3.23%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	3.03%	6.25%	2.09%	
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	InternVL3-78B	3.23%	6.90%	2.94%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	2.18%	
Human	Performance	74.19%	68.97%	55.88%	42.31%	51.52%	68.75%	60.27%	

"Cognitive burden"



# **Evaluation: Modular Setting**

Planner + Action Model



Step 1: To create a new folder in Markor, I need to first open the Markor app.

```
action: {"action_type":"open_app", "app_name":"Markor"}
```

Step 2: To create a new folder, I need to click on the "Create a new file or folder" button, which is indicated by the plus icon.

```
action: {"action type":"click", "x":964.5, "y":2074.5}
```

Step 3: I need to change the folder name to folder\_20241224. The current text field for the folder name is visible and editable.

```
action: { "action_type": "type", "text": "folder_20241224", "x": 373.5, "y": 552.0 }
```

# **Evaluation: Modular Setting**



GPT-40 as the planner + GUI model

Clear performance improvement (up to ~20% SR)

Separating planning and action offers a promising direction!

Table 4: Success rates of different VLM agent combinations under the planner + grounding model setting on ScienceBoard. The observation setting used in this experiment is screenshot. Colors denote Proprietary Models, Open-Source VLMs and GUI Action Models.

Planner	Grounding Model	1	Success Rate (†)							
	Grounding woder	Algebra	Biochem	GIS	Astron	Overall				
	OS-Atlas-Pro-7B	6.25%	10.34%	0.00%	3.03%	4.92%				
	UGround-V1-7B	0.00%	3.45%	0.00%	3.03%	1.62%				
GPT-4o	Qwen2.5-VL-72B	12.50%	34.48%	11.76%	9.09%	16.96%				
	UI-TARS-72B	3.23%	10.34%	5.88%	6.06%	6.38%				
	GUI-Actor-7B	21.88%	44.83%	2.94%	12.12%	20.44%				
	GPT-4o	3.23%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.81%				

# **Analysis**

CLI is very helpful effective.

Finding: (V)LMs tend to prefer completing tasks via CLI when possible.

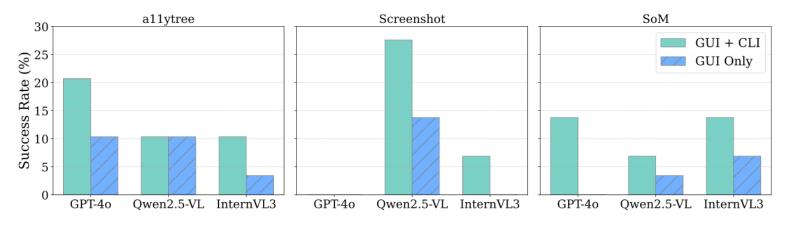


Figure 8: Extended analysis of Vision-Only vs. Hybrid Interface.

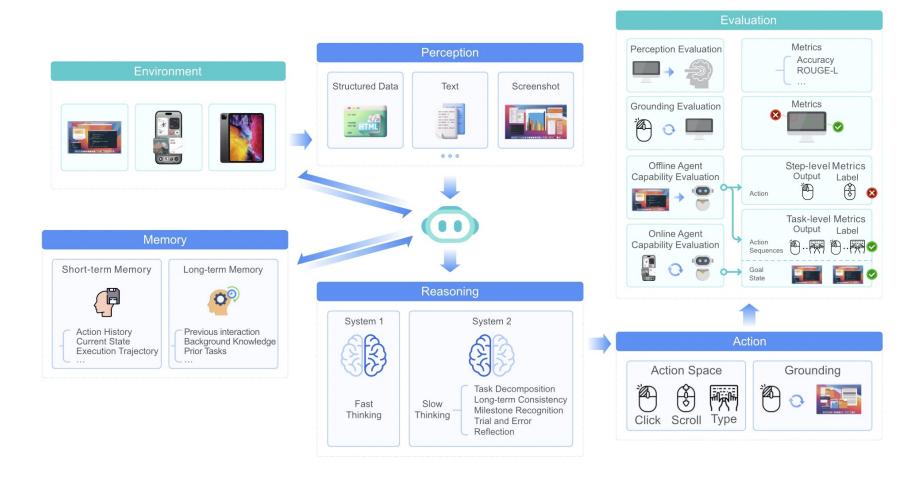
More analysis available in the paper!

# Leaderboard

Screen	nshot A11y Tree Screenshot	+ A11y Tree	Set of Mark	Search by	y keywords			
O	Settings	% Acc ↓	% Alg	% Biochem	% GIS	% ATP	% Astron	% Doc
*	Calude-3.7-Sonnet w/ screenshot	15.79	12.90	41.37	8.82	3.85	9.09	18.75
\$	GPT-40 (2024-08-06) w/ screensh	14.45	22.58	37.93	2.94	7.69	3.03	12.50
\$	GPT-4o (2024-08-06) w/ set_of_m	14.45	6.45	3.45	0.00	0.00	3.03	12.50
绫	Qwen2.5-VL-72B w/ screenshot	12.94	22.58	27.59	5.88	0.00	9.09	12.50
<b>+</b>	Gemini-2.0-Flash w/ screenshot+a	12.32	16.13	24.14	2.94	0.00	18.18	12.50
*	Calude-3.7-Sonnet w/ a11y_tree	12.12	19.35	34.48	2.94	3.85	12.12	0.00
*	Calude-3.7-Sonnet w/ set_of_marks	11.93	16.13	31.03	5.88	0.00	6.06	12.50
绫	Qwen2.5-VL-72B w/ screenshot+a	11.74	16.13	20.69	2.94	0.00	18.18	12.50
\$	o3-mini (2025-01-31) w/ a11y_tree	10.84	16.13	20.69	2.94	3.85	15.15	6.25
*	Calude-3.7-Sonnet w/ screenshot	10.48	9.67	37.93	2.94	0.00	6.06	6.25
\$	GPT-4o (2024-08-06) w/ a11y_tree	7.10	12.90	20.69	2.94	0.00	0.00	6.06
绫	Qwen2.5-VL-72B w/ set_of_marks	6.36	6.45	6.90	2.94	0.00	3.03	12.50
X	UI-TARS-1.5 w/ screenshot	5.92	12.90	13.79	0.00	0.00	6.06	0.00
<b>+</b>	Gemini-2.0-Flash w/ a11y_tree	4.49	9.68	17.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
绫	Qwen2.5-VL-72B w/ a11y_tree	4.33	9.68	10.34	2.94	0.00	3.03	0.00
	InternVL3-78B w/ screenshot+a11	3.20	6.45	3.45	0.00	0.00	3.03	6.25
•	Gemini-2.0-Flash w/ screenshot	3.15	6.45	3.45	2.94	0.00	0.00	6.06

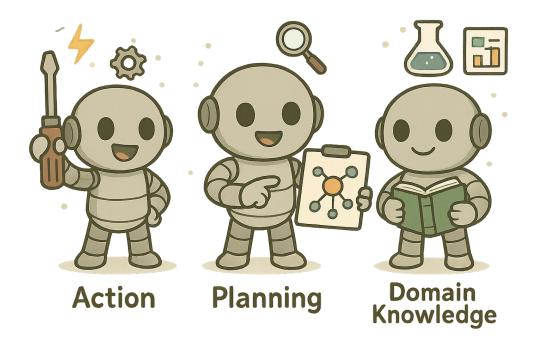
# **Towards High Value Area**

Recap: Core capabilities and evaluation for GUI agents



# **Towards High Value Area**

For science agents, we need to strike a balance!



### **Some Limitations**

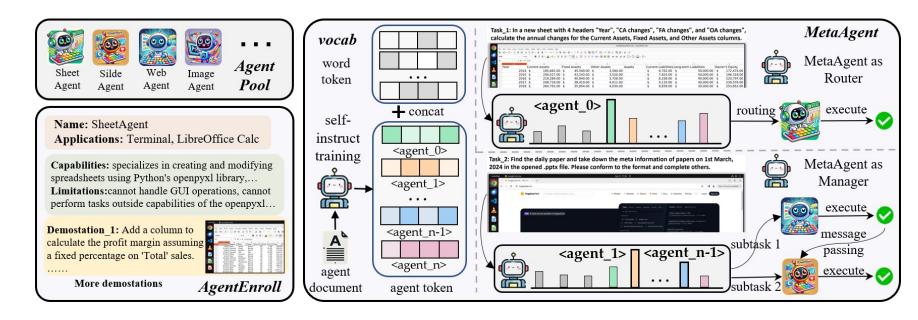
1. The current evaluation uses binary (0/1) scoring; allowing partial credit for intermediate steps may better reflect real-world scenarios.

Challenge: exploration space!

2. All evaluated software is open-source distribute; incorporating commercial software remains challenging.

Challenge: evaluation!

# Part4 | Future Direction



#### Example: Heterogeneous Agents As Specialized Generalist Computer Assistant



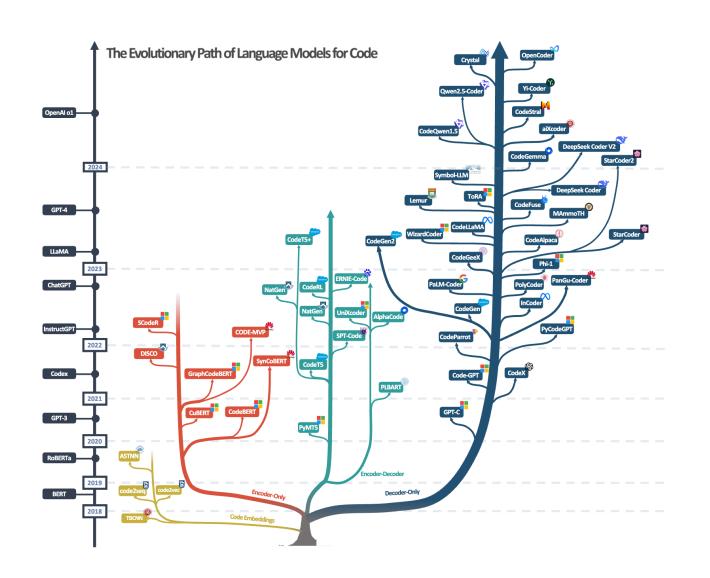
AGENTSTORE: SCALABLE INTEGRATION OF HET-EROGENEOUS AGENTS AS SPECIALIZED GENERALIST COMPUTER ASSISTANT

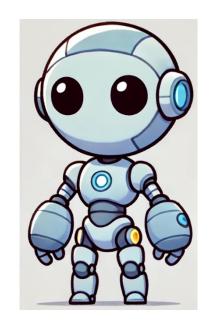
"通专融合的Agent系统"

Chengyou Jia<sup>1,2</sup>\*, Minnan Luo<sup>1⊠</sup>, Zhuohang Dang<sup>1</sup>, Qiushi Sun<sup>2,3</sup>, Fangzhi Xu<sup>1,2</sup>, Junlin Hu<sup>2</sup>, Tianbao Xie<sup>3</sup>, Zhiyong Wu<sup>2⊠</sup> <sup>1</sup>Xi'an Jiaotong University, <sup>2</sup>Shanghai AI Lab, <sup>3</sup>The University of Hong Kong cp3jia@stu.xjtu.edu.cn, wuzhiyong@pjlab.org.cn

Integration with CodeLLMs?

This enables the adoption of more data-driven methods, like ScienceAgentBench.







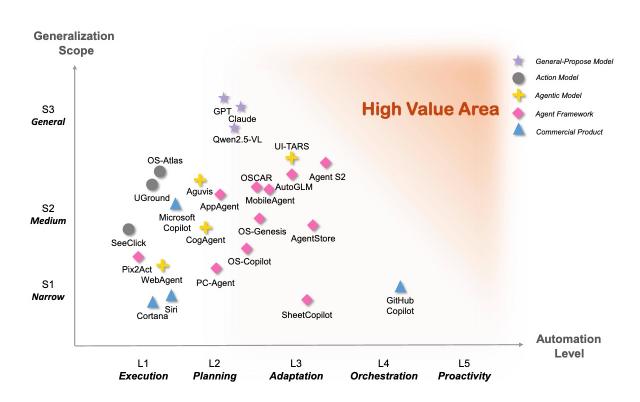


### Potential solution: Mid-training?

**Breaking the Data Barrier – Building GUI Agents Through Task Generalization** 

```
Junlei Zhang*♦\(\delta\) Zichen Ding*\(\delta\) Chang Ma\(\delta\) Zijie Chen\(\delta\)\(\delta\) Qiushi Sun\(\delta\)
Zhenzhong Lan\(\delta\) Junxian He\(\delta\)
\(\delta\) Zhejiang University \(\delta\) Westlake University
\(\delta\) Shanghai AI Laboratory
\(\delta\) The University of Hong Kong \(\delta\) HKUST
```

#### Towards High Value Area



Stay tuned!

OS-MAP: How Far Can Computer Use Agents Go in Breadth and Depth?

# **Towards High Value Area**

- 1. Operating robotic arms?
- 2. Controlling exoskeletons?
- 3. Utilizing highly specialized scientific software?

4. ...

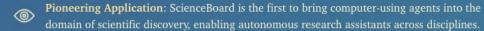
We are just standing at the dawn of a long journey!

# Our Project

#### ScienceBoard

# Evaluating Multimodal Autonomous Agents in Realistic Scientific Workflows

Introducing ScienceBoard, a first-of-its-kind evaluation platform for multimodal agents in *scientific workflows*. ScienceBoard is characterized by the following core features:





Challenging Benchmark: A new benchmark of 169 rigorously validated tasks across 6 core domains is introduced, capturing real-world challenges.

Comprehensive Evaluations: We presents systematic evaluations across a wide range of agents powered by LLMs, VLMs, and GUI action models.









We are just standing at the dawn of a long journey!

Thanks for listening!

Contact: qiushisun@connect.hku.hk