# THE UNREASONABLE EFFECTIVENESS OF SCALING AGENTS FOR COMPUTER USE

Gonzalo Gonzalez-Pumariega, Vincent Tu, Chih-Lun Lee, Jiachen Yang, Ang Li, Xin Eric Wang Simular Research

# **ABSTRACT**

Computer-use agents (CUAs) hold promise for automating everyday digital tasks, but their unreliability and high variance hinder their application to long-horizon, complex tasks. We introduce *Behavior Best-of-N* (*bBoN*), a method that scales over agents by generating multiple rollouts and selecting among them using behavior narratives that describe the agents' rollouts. It enables both wide exploration and principled trajectory selection, substantially improving robustness and success rates. On OSWorld, our bBoN scaling method establishes a new state of the art (SoTA) at 69.9%, significantly outperforming prior methods and approaching human-level performance at 72%, with comprehensive ablations validating key design choices. We further demonstrate strong generalization results to different operating systems on WindowsAgentArena and AndroidWorld. Crucially, our results highlight the unreasonable effectiveness of scaling CUAs, when you do it right: effective scaling requires structured trajectory understanding and selection, and bBoN provides a practical framework to achieve this.

# 1 Introduction

Computer-use agents (CUAs) offer the promise of automating everyday digital tasks across operating systems and applications (Xie et al., 2024; Song et al., 2025; Guo et al., 2025b; Yang et al., 2025b; Xie et al., 2025; Wang et al., 2025a;b). Yet despite rapid advances, current CUAs remain unreliable on long-horizon, complex problems. The difficulty lies not only in solving individual steps but also in sustaining correctness across dozens or even hundreds of inter-Small mistakes accumuactions. late, feedback is often delayed, solution paths branch in unpredictable ways, and environmental noise (UI changes, pop-ups, latency) further

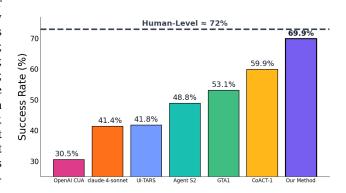


Figure 1: Performance on OSWorld at 100 steps. Our method beats the previous SoTA by 10% absolute improvement, nearly reaching human level performance.

destabilizes performance (Yang et al., 2025a). Together, these factors cause high variance in outcomes: the same agent may succeed on one attempt but fail catastrophically on another.

A natural way to mitigate this fragility is *wide scaling*: instead of simply accepting a single rollout from one agent, we can scale the number of agents to generate multiple rollouts in parallel and select the best. This wide scaling perspective leverages the fact that agents, while suboptimal individually, often succeed on complementary subsets of tasks, as shown in Figure 2. However, scaling CUAs introduces unique challenges. First, long-horizon trajectories are information-dense with multimodal details, most of which are irrelevant to task success, making them difficult to represent, interpret, and compare. Second, evaluation itself is non-trivial: many computer-use tasks admit multiple valid

<sup>\*</sup>Equal contributions.

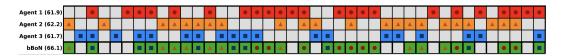


Figure 2: Disjoint task success across rollouts by three agent instances. Behavior Best-of-N (bBoN) leverages this complementarity by selecting the best trajectory among multiple rollouts.

solutions, and automatic evaluation struggles to decide whether a trajectory is correct (Xie et al., 2024; Rawles et al., 2025; Bonatti et al., 2025). Therefore, scaling CUAs effectively demands new methods for compactly representing trajectories and reliably evaluating them.

To address these challenges, we introduce Behavior Best-of-N (bBoN), a novel framework that enables wide scaling of CUAs. Our approach first converts raw trajectories into behavior narratives: concise summaries that capture what the agent actually did and how it affected the environment, preserving task-relevant action–effect summaries while filtering away irrelevant detail at individual steps. These narratives provide a compact yet faithful representation that makes it easier for a judge to compare candidates. bBoN then performs selection directly over narratives, enabling reliable selection among multiple rollouts. In addition, we build upon existing CUAs and introduce an improved baseline computer-use agentic framework to generate high quality trajectories for bBoN.

Our method delivers unreasonably strong performance on computer-use benchmarks. On OS-World (Xie et al., 2024), it achieves a new state of the art with a 69.9% success rate (100 steps), surpassing the previous best of 59.9% and approaching human-level performance at 72% (Figure 1). Beyond OSWorld, our approach also demonstrates strong zero-shot generalizability on WindowsAgentArena (Bonatti et al., 2025) and AndroidWorld (Rawles et al., 2025).

Our contributions are four-fold:

- We introduce the wide scaling paradigm for CUAs, showing that generating multiple trajectories in parallel and selecting among them substantially improves robustness and coverage.
- We propose Behavior Best-of-N (bBoN), a framework that converts dense trajectories into compact behavior narratives and uses them for principled trajectory selection.
- Our method, together with an improved CUA baseline, achieves a new SoTA of 69.9% on OSWorld, surpassing prior work by a large margin (10% absolute improvement) and approaching human performance at 72%.
- We provide extensive ablations validating our design choices and demonstrate strong zeroshot generalizability on WindowsAgentArena and AndroidWorld.

# 2 BACKGROUND

# 2.1 Computer-Use Agents

Computer-use agents (CUAs) executing user instructions can be framed as a partially observable Markov Decision Process (POMDP) defined as  $\mathcal{M} = \langle \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{A}, \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{I}, R \rangle$ , where  $\mathcal{S}$  is the state space encoding the computer state,  $\mathcal{O}$  is the observation space such as desktop screenshots,  $\mathcal{A}$  is the action space of the agent (e.g. agent.click(...) and agent.type(...)),  $\mathcal{T}: \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{A} \to \Delta(\mathcal{S})$  is a stochastic transition function,  $\mathcal{I}$  is the space of possible user instructions represented in natural language, and  $R: (\mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{A})^* \times \mathcal{I} \to [0,1]$  denotes the instruction reward function that assigns a scalar reward to a trajectory of states and actions  $\tau := (s_0, a_0, \ldots, a_{T-1}, s_t)$  on task I. We use  $h_t := (o_0, a_0, \ldots, o_{t-1}, a_{t-1}, o_t)$  to denote a time-ordered history of all consecutive observations and actions up to and including  $o_t$ .

A broad spectrum of computer agents has been explored including general agentic frameworks (Song et al., 2025; Yang et al., 2025b; Agashe et al., 2025b;a), generalist agents (Anthropic, 2025; OpenAI, 2024; Guo et al., 2025a) and graphical user interface (GUI) agents (Wang et al., 2025a; Xu et al., 2025). These prior work consider a single model as the policy  $\pi(a|h_t,I)$  that, when executed, yields one trajectory  $\tau=(o_0,a_0,\ldots,o_T)$  where  $a_t\sim\pi(\cdot|h_t,I)$ . In contrast, our work is the first, to our

knowledge, that focuses on scaling the number of candidate solution trajectories by using multiple base models and policies, and we propose effective methods to select the optimal solution.

#### 2.2 TEST-TIME SCALING

A common strategy for improving large multimodal models and their agentic extensions is through test-time scaling (Zhu et al., 2025), where multiple solutions are generated either in parallel or sequentially, followed by selection a final response using a reward model or iterative generation of new solutions (Snell et al., 2025; Lightman et al., 2024). Recent work (Yang et al., 2025b) has adapted this idea for CUAs with step-wise BoN (Zhu et al., 2025), where at each step the agent  $\pi$  generates K candidate actions  $\mathcal{C}_t = \{a_t^{(k)}\}_{k=1}^K \sim \pi(\cdot|h_t,I)$  and then a judge J selects the best action  $\hat{a} = J(\mathcal{C}_t)$ . While this can help with local improvements, it commits the rollout to the current agent plan. In tasks with multiple valid solutions paths, this can lead the agent to overcommit to a harder route, missing easier alternatives. In contrast, our work investigates the wide scaling approach using trajectory-level BoN, where a final best trajectory is selected among a set of candidates trajectories generated by multiple base agents or models.

However, implementing trajectory-level BoN is non-trivial because trajectory evaluation is still a fundamental challenge. Most existing benchmarks such as OSWorld (Xie et al., 2024), WindowsAgentArena (Bonatti et al., 2025), and AndroidWorld (Rawles et al., 2025) use evaluation scripts written by humans which cannot be scaled. In contrast, work on web-agent benchmarks, a subset of CUA focused on browsers, has explored using vision-language models (VLMs) as judges (He et al., 2024; Deng et al., 2023; Xue et al., 2025). However, these judges are typically tuned for the web domain, require human-defined rubrics, and do not generalize well to the broader tasks faced by CUAs. In addition, aligning such judges with human judgment requires substantial manual effort, such as in Mind2Web 2 (Gou et al., 2025) that achieved 99% agreement using code-generated rubrics but still relied on extensive human verification. Moreover, all these evaluation methods only work with a single trajectory. Our work aims to augment trajectory-level BoN to handle trajectory evaluation by (1) improving trajectory understanding by converting trajectories into a behavior narrative that describes what an agent did and (2) comparing trajectories using the behavior narratives to effectively distinguish the best.

# 3 METHOD

Our **Behavior Best-of-N** framework, shown in Figure 3, is designed to enable wide scaling over many agent rollouts. We improve upon Agent S2 (Agashe et al., 2025b), a top-performing open-source agentic framework, and introduce two key components: *Behavior Narrative Generator* and *Behavior Best-of-N Judge*. Given a rollout, the Behavior Narrative Generator derives facts from each transition, yielding a behavior narrative that describes what the agent did (action-effects) while discarding irrelevant details. The Behavior Best-of-N Judge then conducts a comparative evaluation of the candidate narratives across multiple rollouts to determine the best solution.

#### 3.1 Behavior Narrative Generation

Long-horizon trajectories are information-dense, with every step producing a new screenshot. We argue that it is not necessary or even optimal to judge all of the raw visual content directly to understand what actually occurred. We propose to extract the task-relevant changes caused by the agent's actions from screenshots in order for a downstream judge to focus on the changes that matter. We construct a behavior narrative composed of facts that describe what the agent did at each step. Concretely, given a generator G (instantiated using a VLM) and an agent rollout  $\tau = (s_0, a_1, s_1, \ldots, a_{T-1}, s_T)$  where s denotes a screenshot and s denotes an agent action, we feed in transitions  $(s_i, a_i, s_{i+1})$  to the generator and derive facts s denotes an agent action, we feed in transitions s denotes an agent action, we feed in transitions s denotes an agent action, we feed in transitions s denotes an agent action, we feed in transitions s denotes an agent action, we feed in transitions s denotes an agent action, we feed in transitions s denotes an agent action, we feed in transitions s denotes an agent action, we feed in transitions s denotes an agent action, we feed in transitions s denotes an agent action, we feed in transitions s denotes an agent action, we feed in transitions s denotes an agent action, we feed in transitions s denotes an agent action, we feed in transitions s denotes an agent action s denotes an agent action.

To generate accurate facts, the Behavior Narrative Generator takes in a screenshot before action execution, the action to execute, and the screenshot after execution as depicted in Figure 3. The generator applies targeted visual augmentations for pointer interactions (clicks, taps, moves, and drags), as these actions require pixel-level precision and are more prone to agent hallucination. For example, a step-level hallucination where a click on the Save button fails but the agent believes otherwise

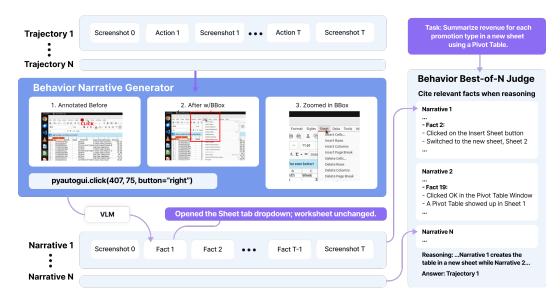


Figure 3: Behavior Best-of-N generates multiple rollouts consisting of screenshots and actions. These trajectories are converted into behavior narratives via the behavior narrative generator, using the executed action and before/after screenshots to describe what was changed. Finally, the behavior narratives are provided to the judge which selects the best trajectory through comparison.

can be the difference between a success or failure. On the screenshot before action execution  $s_i$ , we overlay a marker centered at the pointer coordinate  $(x_i, y_i)$  where  $a_i$  will occur. On the screenshot after action execution  $s_{i+1}$ , we extract a zoomed crop  $s_{i+1}^z$  of a fixed-size square centered at the final pointer coordinate  $(x_{i+1}, y_{i+1})$  and outline the crop in  $s_{i+1}$  to indicate the region of interest. The zoom provides the generator with fine-grained evidence to verify that the intended change occurred. To handle cases where changes are delayed (e.g. clicking a hyperlink), screenshot  $s_{i+1}$  is taken 3 seconds after action execution.

Once facts have been derived from each transition, we construct a behavior narrative  $\tilde{\tau}=(s_0,\phi_0,\phi_1\ldots,\phi_{T-1},s_T)$  that retains only task-relevant changes. We include the initial and final screenshot to ground where changes begin from and what they result in. This allows Behavior Best-of-N to focus solely on what the agent did differently between trajectories.

## 3.2 Behavior Best-of-N Judge

While generating multiple rollouts increases the chance that at least one rollout is successful, the benefits can only be realized if we can reliably select the correct trajectory. Selection is challenging because a judge must both interpret long-horizon behavior within each rollout (to verify task requirements) and discriminate among candidates. To simplify this, we decide to separate these responsibilities by generating a concise behavior narrative that describes the long-horizon behavior so the bulk of the judge's responsibility lies on selecting between candidates. We therefore apply Behavior Best-of-N (bBoN) to the behavior narratives  $\tilde{\tau}$  produced through behavior narrative generation, so the judge can focus on differences between agent behaviors.

Concretely, given a set of base policies  $\{\pi_m\}_{m=1}^M$ , we generate candidates  $\mathcal{C} = \bigcup_{m=1}^M \{\tau_m^{(n)}\}_{n=1}^{N_m}$  where each candidate  $\tau_m^{(n)}$  is sampled via stochastic decoding from a base policy  $\pi_m$ . This allows us to capture diversity from variance within the same model  $(n=1\dots N_m)$  and differing capabilities across different models  $(m=1\dots M)$ . Our objective is to select the candidate trajectory that maximizes task return  $\hat{\tau} \in \arg\max_{\tau \in \mathcal{C}} R(\tau, I)$ . The candidate set  $\mathcal{C}$  is converted to a corresponding set of behavior narrative candidates  $\tilde{\mathcal{C}} := \{\tilde{\tau}^{(n)}\}_{n=1}^{|\mathcal{C}|}$ , according to the behavior narrative generation in Section 3.1. Then a VLM judge J is prompted to run comparative evaluation using all narratives in  $\tilde{\mathcal{C}}$  and select a single best narrative candidate, which corresponds to the final selected trajectory  $\hat{\tau} \in \mathcal{C}$ . In this work, we instantiate comparative evaluation using a single-round multiple-choice

question (MCQ) format, which enables a more informed comparison than independent ranking while being more token-efficient and faster than multi-round tournament-style comparisons of subsets of candidates. The system prompt (Section F) emphasizes on citing and contrasting facts to ensure each candidates' behaviors are carefully observed, which we find gives small improvements (Section D). By comparing behavior narratives altogether, we enable wide scaling over many agents.

#### 3.3 AN IMPROVED AGENTIC FRAMEWORK BASELINE

As Behavior Best-of-N operates on multiple full-length trajectories generated by base agents, we can improve the overall performance and latency of bBoN by starting with the best frameworks for the base agents. Inspired by Agashe et al. (2025b) and Song et al. (2025), we created an improved baseline agentic framework, *Agent S3*, which achieves a new SoTA even before incorporation into bBoN. It draws upon two key ideas: 1) performance gains of programmatic edits over direct GUI manipulation when needed (up to the agent itself), and 2) speedup by using a flat (worker only) policy instead of a manager-worker hierarchy.

Coding Agent To encourage diverse solution paths, our GUI policy  $\pi(a_t \mid I, h_t)$  reasons what approach might be best suited for the next step: generate a GUI action  $a_t \in \mathcal{A}_{gui}$  or invoke the *coding agent* for programmatic edits (e.g., bulk operations, file transforms, structured parsing). A code call launches a bounded inner loop with budget B that iterates on generated code and terminal *feedback*. At inner step k, the coding agent conditions on  $c_k^{\text{code}} = (I, o_t, F_{1:k-1})$ , where  $F_{1:k-1}$  aggregates execution signals (status, return code, stdout/stderr) from prior iterations. It either emits Python/Bash to be executed in a sandboxed VM, or returns a control token DONE/FAIL. On termination, a brief summary of the session—logic, observed effects, and a verifiable inspection checklist—is appended to the GUI agent's history to aid on-screen verification and subsequent planning by the GUI policy. Different from Song et al. (2025), our coding agent implementation does not use the AutoGen Wu et al. (2024) framework nor does it use an orchestrator to divide and delegate tasks across the GUI and coding agents. Our coding agent implementation is natively integrated into our GUI agent's action space, allowing GUI agent to reason when best to delegate the next step to the coding agent.

**Flat Policy** We remove hierarchical planning in favor of a flat policy that can replan at any time based on  $(I, h_t)$ . Contemporary foundation models exhibit strong GUI understanding and can maintain short-horizon plans in context, making a separate high-level planner unnecessary and sometimes counterproductive (e.g., when subgoals become stale). We evaluate these design choices in Table 2; implementation details appear in Section B.

# 4 EXPERIMENTS AND ANALYSIS

In the following experiments, we systematically investigate the effectiveness of Behavior Best-of-N (bBoN) across several dimensions of computer-use agents. Specifically, we aim to address the following research questions:

- 1) Performance. How does bBoN perform compared with other CUA baselines?
- 2) Scalability. How does performance scale with increasing number of rollouts?
- 3) *Ensembling*. How should we select a mixture-of-models ensemble?
- 4) **Representation.** How do behavior narratives compare to other trajectory representations?
- 5) **Selection mechanism.** How does comparative selection compare to independent ranking?
- 6) Failure modes. How accurate is the bBoN Judge and what are its main failure modes?
- 7) Generalizability. How does bBoN generalize to other domains and benchmarks?

#### 4.1 EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

**Benchmarks** We focus on *OSWorld* (Xie et al., 2024), which comprises 369 real-world Ubuntu tasks across five domains (OS, Office, Daily, Professional, Workflow). Following common practice (Xie & et al., 2024), we use the 361-task subset that omits eight multi-application tasks requiring

Method	Model	50-step	100-step
Agent S2 (Agashe et al., 2025b)	Gemini 2.5 Pro	41.4	-
Agent S2 (Agashe et al., 2025b)	GPT-5	46.3	48.8
Jedi-7B (Xie et al., 2025)	о3	50.6	51.0
GTA1 (step-wise scaling) (Yang et al., 2025b)	о3	48.6	53.1
CoAct-1 (Song et al., 2025)	OAI CUA + o3 + o4-mini	56.4	59.9
Our Improved Baselines (No Scaling)			
Agent S3	о3	60.6	61.1
Agent S3	GPT-5 Mini	48.1	49.8
Agent S3	GPT-5	61.1	62.6
Our Scaling Results			
Agent S3 w/ bBoN (N=10)	GPT-5 Mini	55.9	60.2
Agent S3 w/ bBoN (N=10)	GPT-5	63.5	69.9

Table 1: OSWorld success rate (%) on 50-steps and 100-steps across 361 tasks. We introduce the baseline Agent S3, which reaches state-of-the-art (SoTA) with GPT-5 at 62.6%. Our method, Behavior Best-of-N, demonstrates strong scaling results with new SoTA (69.9% w/ GPT-5 and 60.2% w/ GPT-5 Mini).

Google Drive credentials not available in the sandbox. We further assess generality beyond Ubuntu on two additional benchmarks: *WindowsAgentArena* (Bonatti et al., 2025), a 154-task Windows benchmark, spanning LibreOffice Writer/Calc, Edge/Chrome, File Explorer/Windows Settings, VS Code, VLC, and utilities; and *AndroidWorld* (Rawles et al., 2025), a 116-task Android benchmark with step budgets specified by the benchmark authors.<sup>1</sup>

Baselines On OSWorld, we introduce Agent S3 as an improved baseline for scaling results. We additionally compare against other top methods including Jedi (Xie et al., 2025), GTA1 (Yang et al., 2025b) and CoACT-1 (Song et al., 2025). For AndroidWorld, we compare with 3 top-performing open-source frameworks using screen-shot only representations including MobileUse (Li et al., 2025), UI-Venus (Gu et al., 2025), and Agent S2 (Agashe et al., 2025b). For WindowsAgentArena, we compare with Navi (Bonatti et al., 2025) and Agent S2 (Agashe et al., 2025b). For ablation of the judge for scaling, we compare against an adaptation of WebJudge (Xue et al., 2025), which has 85% agreement with human judgment, for isolating the effect of comparative versus independent trajectory selection mechanisms. We also implement and compare against two baselines when isolating the effect of representation: 1) a naive captioner that captions each screenshot individually, and 2) using screenshots only.

Implementation Details Agent S3 is an improvement over Agent S2 that removes hierarchical planning and adds a coding agent (details in Appendix B). We use Agent S3 to generate rollouts for bBoN trajectory selection. The coding agent is enabled for OSWorld and WindowsAgentArena but disabled for AndroidWorld due to emulator constraints that preclude program execution and inspection. We also adapt WebJudge to do comparative selection by individually ranking each trajectory with a score 1-5 and choosing the highest score, tie-breaking at random, and we adapted the system prompt to the OS setting. For our Screenshot Only baseline, we pass 50/N screenshots per trajectory chosen at uniform intervals across the trajectory, due to context length limitations.

# 4.2 MAIN RESULTS

As shown in Table 1, Agent S3 already establishes a strong foundation, achieving new SoTA results on 50- and 100-step success rate for OSWorld. Building on this, our core contribution, Behavior Best-of-N (bBoN), further surpasses Agent S3 on both 50 and 100 steps. For example, it achieves 69.9% SR with GPT-5 (a 7.3% absolute improvement) and 60.2% SR with GPT-5 Mini (a 10.4% absolute improvement). Given that human performance is approximately 72% (Xie et al., 2024),

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Experiments were conducted under the AndroidWorld step budget guidelines as of September 20, 2025.

Method	100-step SR (%)	LLM calls/task	Time/task (s)
Agent S2 (Agashe et al., 2025b)	48.8	73.62	2366.80
Agent S2 (no hier.)	57.9 (+9.1)	41.39 (-43.8%)	1132.91 (-52.1%)
Agent S3	62.6 (+13.8)	35.12 (-52.3%)	891.21 (-62.4%)

Table 2: OSWorld success rate and efficiency statistics using GPT-5. Baseline is Agent S2 with hierarchical planning; values in parentheses show  $\Delta$  vs. Agent S2 (for SR and efficiency metrics).

these results highlight that bBoN not only surpasses existing methods by a large margin but also approaches near human-level capability.

In addition, Table 2 reports the performance and efficiency gains of our improved agentic framework baseline, Agent S3, compared to Agent S2 (Agashe et al., 2025b) that it was built upon. Agent S3 yields a 13.8% improvement in success rate, a 52.3% reduction in LLM calls per task, and a 62.4% reduction in average task completion time.

## 4.3 How does Behavior Best-of-N scale with increasing rollouts?

Figure 4 shows the performance of bBoN using both GPT-5 and GPT-5 Mini generally increases with the number of rollouts. There is a small dip in performance for GPT-5 at N=6 which is recovered at N=8, showing that even though some rollouts can decrease performance, it can still be recovered with more rollouts. This serves as an experimental validation that incrementally increasing rollouts could improve overall results. This trend suggests that both larger and smaller models can benefit from wide scaling.

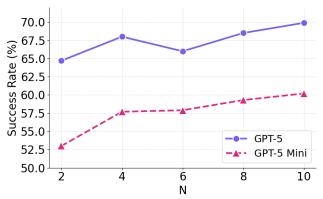


Figure 4: Performance of bBoN on OSWorld with increasing number of rollouts.

#### 4.4 How should we select a mixture-of-models ensemble?

Table 3 shows the success rate and task coverage of bBoN using various mixture-of-model combinations. Task coverage is calculated by setting a task successful if at least one trajectory is correct, or Pass@N (Chen et al., 2021). We observe that from the single model mixtures, GPT-5 performs the strongest at 66.5% followed by Gemini 2.5 Pro at 60.9%, demonstrating that strong model capabilities lead to overall higher success with selection. We also observe that the most diverse mixture (All) achieves higher task coverage than singlemodel mixtures at 75.4%, demonstrating that diversity is key to increasing the upper bound on success. Finally, we observe that the GPT-5 + Gemini 2.5 Pro mixture achieves the highest success rate of 66.7% and task coverage of 78.0%, suggesting that selecting a mixture-of-models ensemble with highly diverse capable models achieves the best performance with the highest upper bound.

Mixture	SR (%)	Pass@N (%)
GPT-5	66.5	74.7
GPT-5 Mini	57.0	68.2
Gemini 2.5 Pro	60.9	71.7
Claude 4 Sonnet	57.2	64.6
GPT-5 + Mini	64.9	74.1
GPT-5 + Gemini	66.7	78.0
GPT-5 + Claude	64.2	75.6
Mini + Gemini	64.0	72.8
Mini + Claude	58.0	71.0
Gemini + Claude	61.9	72.7
All	65.9	75.4

Table 3: Success rate and task coverage for bBoN using mixture-of-model combinations with GPT-5, GPT-5 Mini, Gemini-2.5 Pro, and Claude-4-Sonnet. Each mixture's success rate is on N=4 runs split evenly.

Representation	Sucess Rate (%)
Screenshot Only	56.0
Naive Captioning	56.8
Behavior Narratives	60.2

Table 4: Ablation on bBoN's behavior narrative representation with 10 GPT-5 Mini rollouts.

# 4.5 How do behavior narratives compare to other trajectory representations?

Table 4 shows an ablation on our behavior narrative representation. We compare against a screenshot-only baseline and a naive captioning baseline that captions each screenshot individually. We find that behavior narratives are an effective representation for bBoN, providing a 3.4% improvement over the best baseline. This suggests that it is difficult to understand screenshots alone and that it is necessary to generate facts over transitions rather than individual states.

# 4.6 HOW DOES COMPARATIVE SELECTION COMPARE TO INDEPENDENT RANKING?

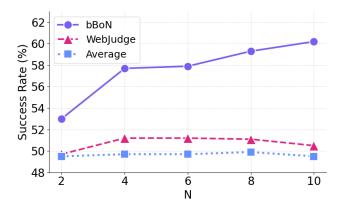


Figure 5: Comparison of bBoN against WebJudge on OSWorld using GPT-5 Mini's rollouts. *Average* represents the average performance of the rollouts.

Figure 5 shows a comparison between bBoN and WebJudge. We modify WebJudge to choose over many trajectories by independently ranking trajectories and selecting the highest rank. We find that overall bBoN achieves better performance than WebJudge, with WebJudge providing limited benefit over the average performance of rollouts. We also find that bBoN shows better scaling as we increase the number of rollouts. While WebJudge has some slight improvements around N=4, it plateaus quickly and drops around N=10. This suggests that it is necessary to compare trajectories against each other for effective, scalable selection.

#### 4.7 BBON JUDGE ACCURACY AND FAILURE ANALYSIS

Category	Judge Subset Accuracy	Full Set Accuracy
Benchmark Alignment	78.4%	69.9%
Human Alignment	92.8%	76.3%

Table 5: bBoN accuracies on Judge Subset and Full Set with 10 GPT-5 rollouts on OSWorld. The Judge Subset consists of a subset of 159 OSWorld problems that could be improved on due to disjoint task success.

Table 5 shows the accuracy of bBoN with respect to OSWorld evaluation scripts and to our human alignment. We find that on 159 problems (Judge Subset) where the judge can improve performance (i.e. where there is at least one correct and one incorrect trajectory), it achieves 78.4% accuracy during selection. After manual inspection over the remaining 35 problems, we found through human

evaluation that the accuracy is 92.8%, as the OSWorld evaluation scripts are imperfect and can only strictly evaluate one pre-defined solution. This suggests that bBoN is highly effective at selecting the right trajectories from multiple candidates.

For the remaining 12 failures, we categorize these as behavior narrative generation hallucinations (8) and Code-GUI handoff failures (4). We observe generation hallucination occur in instances where the underlying VLM has difficulty with visual understanding such as missing fine-grained details in text which zooming has little effect on (e.g. the negative sign on a number as shown in Appendix E). We also observe some cases where the GUI-Agent failed to recognize the Coding Agent's changes, and perform GUI actions overwriting Coding Agent's changes and cause evaluation to fail. These kind of failed rollouts generate rich GUI-related behavioral narratives, which are preferred by our bBoN judge compared to the rollouts whereas the Coding Agent performs everything in one step and completes, outputting limited behavioral narratives.

#### 4.8 GENERALIZATION TO OTHER BENCHMARKS

Method	Model	50-step	100-step
UI-TARS-1.5	-	42.1	-
Agent S3	GPT-5	49.0	50.2
bBoN (N=3)	GPT-5	54.1	56.6

Table 6: WindowsAgentArena success rate (%) within 50 steps and 100 steps. Behavior Best-of-N (N=3) consistently outperforms the baseline Agent S3, with a 6.4% improvement on 100-step SR.

Method	Model	SR (%)
Agent S2	Claude 3.7 Sonnet	54.3
MobileUse	Qwen2.5-VL-72B	62.9
UI-Venus	UI-Venus-Navi-72B	65.9
Agent S3	GPT-5	68.1
bBoN (N=3)	GPT-5	<b>71.6</b>

Table 7: AndroidWorld success rate (%). Behavior Best-of-N (N=3) achieves a 3.5% improvement over the baseline Agent S3.

Table 6 and 7 demonstrate strong generalizability of bBoN to different operating systems. For AndroidWorld, we compare with top 3 performing open-source, screenshot-only methods including AgentS2 (Agashe et al., 2025b), MobileUse (Li et al., 2025), and UI-Venus (Gu et al., 2025) For WindowsAgentArena, we compare with Agent S2 and UI-TARS-1.5 (Seed, 2025). We find that Behavior Best-of-N can achieve an improvement of with N=3 achieves a performance boost of 3.5% and 6.4% respectively, demonstrating that our method can generalize well to other domains.

# 5 LIMITATIONS

Behavior Best-of-N assumes access to an agent capable of producing multiple independent rollouts from the same initial state. This assumption aligns with research benchmarks, where tasks are evaluated under controlled, repeatable initializations to ensure independence and reproducibility across runs. It also applies to real-world practice where user requests can be executed inside a virtual machine (VM) that supports snapshots and duplication, allowing repeated rollouts from a fixed initial state and low-cost parallelization, keeping wall-clock latency comparable to a single-run agent. Running outside a VM (e.g., on a user's actual desktop) would violate the independence assumption since concurrent rollouts can interfere with each other, and isolating side effects is nontrivial. Even with separate VMs, some tasks interact with shared online resources (e.g., Amazon shopping carts, email, Google Drive), introducing cross-run interference via shared accounts. Future work can extend parallel rollouts to real desktops and manage shared online resources so Behavior Best-of-N can operate over all CUA tasks.

# 6 Conclusion

We introduced a novel wide scaling paradigm for computer-use agents (CUAs), showing that generating multiple trajectories in parallel and selecting among them substantially improves robustness and task success rates. To realize this, we proposed Behavior Best-of-N (bBoN), a framework that transforms dense trajectories into compact behavior narratives and leverages them for principled trajectory selection. Together with an improved CUA baseline, our bBoN method establishes a

new state-of-the-art on OSWorld (69.9% success at 100 steps), surpassing prior work by a large margin (+10%) and approaching 72% human-level performance. Through extensive ablations, we validated our design choices and demonstrated strong generalizability on WindowsAgentArena and AndroidWorld, highlighting the promise of bBoN as a scalable and effective approach to improving real-world CUAs.

#### REFERENCES

Saaket Agashe, Jiuzhou Han, Shuyu Gan, Jiachen Yang, Ang Li, and Xin Eric Wang. Agent s: An open agentic framework that uses computers like a human. In *The Thirteenth International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2025a. URL https://openreview.net/forum?id=11VRgt4nLv.

Saaket Agashe, Kyle Wong, Vincent Tu, Jiachen Yang, Ang Li, and Xin Eric Wang. Agent s2: A compositional generalist-specialist framework for computer use agents. In *Second Conference on Language Modeling*, 2025b. URL https://openreview.net/forum?id=zq5is4GJ3R.

Anthropic. Claude-4, 2025. URL https://www.anthropic.com/news/claude-4.

Rogerio Bonatti, Dan Zhao, Francesco Bonacci, Dillon Dupont, Sara Abdali, Yinheng Li, Yadong Lu, Justin Wagle, Kazuhito Koishida, Arthur Bucker, Lawrence Keunho Jang, and Zheng Hui. Windows agent arena: Evaluating multi-modal OS agents at scale. In *Forty-second International Conference on Machine Learning*, 2025. URL https://openreview.net/forum?id=W9s817KqYf.

Mark Chen, Jerry Tworek, Heewoo Jun, Qiming Yuan, Henrique Ponde de Oliveira Pinto, Jared Kaplan, Harri Edwards, Yuri Burda, Nicholas Joseph, Greg Brockman, Alex Ray, Raul Puri, Gretchen Krueger, Michael Petrov, Heidy Khlaaf, Girish Sastry, Pamela Mishkin, Brooke Chan, Scott Gray, Nick Ryder, Mikhail Pavlov, Alethea Power, Lukasz Kaiser, Mohammad Bavarian, Clemens Winter, Philippe Tillet, Felipe Petroski Such, Dave Cummings, Matthias Plappert, Fotios Chantzis, Elizabeth Barnes, Ariel Herbert-Voss, William Hebgen Guss, Alex Nichol, Alex Paino, Nikolas Tezak, Jie Tang, Igor Babuschkin, Suchir Balaji, Shantanu Jain, William Saunders, Christopher Hesse, Andrew N. Carr, Jan Leike, Josh Achiam, Vedant Misra, Evan Morikawa, Alec Radford, Matthew Knight, Miles Brundage, Mira Murati, Katie Mayer, Peter Welinder, Bob McGrew, Dario Amodei, Sam McCandlish, Ilya Sutskever, and Wojciech Zaremba. Evaluating large language models trained on code, 2021. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2107.03374.

Xiang Deng, Yu Gu, Boyuan Zheng, Shijie Chen, Samual Stevens, Boshi Wang, Huan Sun, and Yu Su. Mind2web: Towards a generalist agent for the web. In Alice Oh, Tristan Naumann, Amir Globerson, Kate Saenko, Moritz Hardt, and Sergey Levine (eds.), Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 36: Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems 2023, NeurIPS 2023, New Orleans, LA, USA, December 10 - 16, 2023, 2023. URL http://papers.nips.cc/paper\_files/paper/2023/hash/5950bf290a1570ea401bf98882128160-Abstract-Datasets\_and\_Benchmarks.html.

Boyu Gou, Zanming Huang, Yuting Ning, Yu Gu, Michael Lin, Weijian Qi, Andrei Kopanev, Botao Yu, Bernal Jiménez Gutiérrez, Yiheng Shu, Chan Hee Song, Jiaman Wu, Shijie Chen, Hanane Nour Moussa, Tianshu Zhang, Jian Xie, Yifei Li, Tianci Xue, Zeyi Liao, Kai Zhang, Boyuan Zheng, Zhaowei Cai, Viktor Rozgic, Morteza Ziyadi, Huan Sun, and Yu Su. Mind2web 2: Evaluating agentic search with agent-as-a-judge. *CoRR*, abs/2506.21506, 2025. doi: 10.48550/ARXIV.2506.21506. URL https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2506.21506.

Zhangxuan Gu, Zhengwen Zeng, Zhenyu Xu, Xingran Zhou, Shuheng Shen, Yunfei Liu, Beitong Zhou, Changhua Meng, Tianyu Xia, Weizhi Chen, Yue Wen, Jingya Dou, Fei Tang, Jinzhen Lin, Yulin Liu, Zhenlin Guo, Yichen Gong, Heng Jia, Changlong Gao, Yuan Guo, Yong Deng, Zhenyu Guo, Liang Chen, and Weiqiang Wang. Ui-venus technical report: Building high-performance UI agents with RFT. *CoRR*, abs/2508.10833, 2025. doi: 10.48550/ARXIV.2508.10833. URL https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2508.10833.

Dong Guo, Faming Wu, Feida Zhu, Fuxing Leng, Guang Shi, Haobin Chen, Haoqi Fan, Jian Wang, Jianyu Jiang, Jiawei Wang, Jingji Chen, Jingjia Huang, Kang Lei, Liping Yuan, Lishu Luo, Pengfei Liu, Qinghao Ye, Rui Qian, Shen Yan, Shixiong Zhao, Shuai Peng, Shuangye Li, Sihang Yuan, Sijin Wu, Tianheng Cheng, Weiwei Liu, Wenqian Wang, Xianhan Zeng, Xiao Liu, Xiaobo Qin, Xiaohan Ding, Xiaojun Xiao, Xiaoying Zhang, Xuanwei Zhang, Xuehan Xiong, Yanghua Peng, Yangrui Chen, Yanwei Li, Yanxu Hu, Yi Lin, Yiyuan Hu, Yiyuan Zhang, Youbin Wu, Yu Li, Yudong Liu, Yue Ling, Yujia Qin, Zanbo Wang, Zhiwu He, Aoxue Zhang, Bairen Yi, Bencheng Liao, Can Huang, Can Zhang, Chaorui Deng, Chaoyi Deng, Cheng Lin, Cheng Yuan, Chenggang Li, Chenhui Gou, Chenwei Lou, Chengzhi Wei, Chundian Liu, Chunyuan Li, Deyao Zhu, Donghong Zhong, Feng Li, Feng Zhang, Gang Wu, Guodong Li, Guohong Xiao, Haibin Lin, Haihua Yang, Haoming Wang, Heng Ji, Hongxiang Hao, Hui Shen, Huixia Li, Jiahao Li, Jialong Wu, Jianhua Zhu, Jianpeng Jiao, Jiashi Feng, Jiaze Chen, Jianhui Duan, Jihao Liu, Jin Zeng, Jingqun Tang, Jingyu Sun, Joya Chen, Jun Long, Junda Feng, Junfeng Zhan, Junjie Fang, Junting Lu, Kai Hua, Kai Liu, Kai Shen, Kaiyuan Zhang, Ke Shen, Ke Wang, Keyu Pan, Kun Zhang, Kunchang Li, Lanxin Li, Lei Li, Lei Shi, Li Han, Liang Xiang, Liangqiang Chen, Lin Chen, Lin Li, Lin Yan, Liying Chi, Longxiang Liu, Mengfei Du, Mingxuan Wang, Ningxin Pan, Peibin Chen, Pengfei Chen, Pengfei Wu, Qingqing Yuan, Qingyao Shuai, Qiuyan Tao, Renjie Zheng, Renrui Zhang, Ru Zhang, Rui Wang, Rui Yang, Rui Zhao, Shaoqiang Xu, Shihao Liang, Shipeng Yan, Shu Zhong, Shuaishuai Cao, Shuangzhi Wu, Shufan Liu, Shuhan Chang, Songhua Cai, Tenglong Ao, Tianhao Yang, Tingting Zhang, Wanjun Zhong, Wei Jia, Wei Weng, Weihao Yu, Wenhao Huang, Wenjia Zhu, Wenli Yang, Wenzhi Wang, Xiang Long, XiangRui Yin, Xiao Li, Xiaolei Zhu, Xiaoying Jia, Xijin Zhang, Xin Liu, Xinchen Zhang, Xinyu Yang, Xiongcai Luo, Xiuli Chen, Xuantong Zhong, Xuefeng Xiao, Xujing Li, Yan Wu, Yawei Wen, Yifan Du, Yihao Zhang, Yining Ye, Yonghui Wu, Yu Liu, Yu Yue, Yufeng Zhou, Yufeng Yuan, Yuhang Xu, Yuhong Yang, Yun Zhang, Yunhao Fang, Yuntao Li, Yurui Ren, Yuwen Xiong, Zehua Hong, Zehua Wang, Zewei Sun, Zeyu Wang, Zhao Cai, Zhaoyue Zha, Zhecheng An, Zhehui Zhao, Zhengzhuo Xu, Zhipeng Chen, Zhiyong Wu, Zhuofan Zheng, Zihao Wang, Zilong Huang, Ziyu Zhu, and Zuquan Song. Seed1.5-vl technical report, 2025a. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2505.07062.

Liangxuan Guo, Bin Zhu, Qingqian Tao, Kangning Liu, Xun Zhao, Xianzhe Qin, Jin Gao, and Guangfu Hao. Agentic lybic: Multi-agent execution system with tiered reasoning and orchestration, 2025b. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2509.11067.

Hongliang He, Wenlin Yao, Kaixin Ma, Wenhao Yu, Yong Dai, Hongming Zhang, Zhenzhong Lan, and Dong Yu. Webvoyager: Building an end-to-end web agent with large multimodal models. In Lun-Wei Ku, Andre Martins, and Vivek Srikumar (eds.), *Proceedings of the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers), ACL 2024, Bangkok, Thailand, August 11-16, 2024*, pp. 6864–6890. Association for Computational Linguistics, 2024. doi: 10.18653/V1/2024.ACL-LONG.371. URL https://doi.org/10.18653/V1/2024.acl-long.371.

Ning Li, Xiangmou Qu, Jiamu Zhou, Jun Wang, Muning Wen, Kounianhua Du, Xingyu Lou, Qiuying Peng, Jun Wang, and Weinan Zhang. Mobileuse: A gui agent with hierarchical reflection for autonomous mobile operation, 2025. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2507.16853.

Hunter Lightman, Vineet Kosaraju, Yuri Burda, Harrison Edwards, Bowen Baker, Teddy Lee, Jan Leike, John Schulman, Ilya Sutskever, and Karl Cobbe. Let's verify step by step. In *The Twelfth International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2024. URL https://openreview.net/forum?id=v8L0pN6EOi.

OpenAI. Introducing o3 and o4-mini. https://openai.com/index/introducing-o3-and-o4-mini/, 2024.

Christopher Rawles, Sarah Clinckemaillie, Yifan Chang, Jonathan Waltz, Gabrielle Lau, Marybeth Fair, Alice Li, William E. Bishop, Wei Li, Folawiyo Campbell-Ajala, Daniel Kenji Toyama, Robert James Berry, Divya Tyamagundlu, Timothy P. Lillicrap, and Oriana Riva. Androidworld: A dynamic benchmarking environment for autonomous agents. In *The Thirteenth International Conference on Learning Representations, ICLR 2025, Singapore, April 24-28, 2025.* OpenReview.net, 2025. URL https://openreview.net/forum?id=il5yUQsrjC.

ByteDance Seed. Ui-tars-1.5. https://seed-tars.com/1.5, 2025.

- Charlie Victor Snell, Jaehoon Lee, Kelvin Xu, and Aviral Kumar. Scaling LLM test-time compute optimally can be more effective than scaling parameters for reasoning. In *The Thirteenth International Conference on Learning Representations*, 2025. URL https://openreview.net/forum?id=4FWAwZtd2n.
- Linxin Song, Yutong Dai, Viraj Prabhu, Jieyu Zhang, Taiwei Shi, Li Li, Junnan Li, Silvio Savarese, Zeyuan Chen, Jieyu Zhao, Ran Xu, and Caiming Xiong. Coact-1: Computer-using agents with coding as actions, 2025. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2508.03923.
- Haoming Wang, Haoyang Zou, Huatong Song, Jiazhan Feng, Junjie Fang, Junting Lu, Longxiang Liu, Qinyu Luo, Shihao Liang, Shijue Huang, Wanjun Zhong, Yining Ye, Yujia Qin, Yuwen Xiong, Yuxin Song, Zhiyong Wu, Aoyan Li, Bo Li, Chen Dun, Chong Liu, Daoguang Zan, Fuxing Leng, Hanbin Wang, Hao Yu, Haobin Chen, Hongyi Guo, Jing Su, Jingjia Huang, Kai Shen, Kaiyu Shi, Lin Yan, Peiyao Zhao, Pengfei Liu, Qinghao Ye, Renjie Zheng, Shulin Xin, Wayne Xin Zhao, Wen Heng, Wenhao Huang, Wenqian Wang, Xiaobo Qin, Yi Lin, Youbin Wu, Zehui Chen, Zihao Wang, Baoquan Zhong, Xinchun Zhang, Xujing Li, Yuanfan Li, Zhongkai Zhao, Chengquan Jiang, Faming Wu, Haotian Zhou, Jinlin Pang, Li Han, Qi Liu, Qianli Ma, Siyao Liu, Songhua Cai, Wenqi Fu, Xin Liu, Yaohui Wang, Zhi Zhang, Bo Zhou, Guoliang Li, Jiajun Shi, Jiale Yang, Jie Tang, Li Li, Qihua Han, Taoran Lu, Woyu Lin, Xiaokang Tong, Xinyao Li, Yichi Zhang, Yu Miao, Zhengxuan Jiang, Zili Li, Ziyuan Zhao, Chenxin Li, Dehua Ma, Feng Lin, Ge Zhang, Haihua Yang, Hangyu Guo, Hongda Zhu, Jiaheng Liu, Junda Du, Kai Cai, Kuanye Li, Lichen Yuan, Meilan Han, Minchao Wang, Shuyue Guo, Tianhao Cheng, Xiaobo Ma, Xiaojun Xiao, Xiaolong Huang, Xinjie Chen, Yidi Du, Yilin Chen, Yiwen Wang, Zhaojian Li, Zhenzhu Yang, Zhiyuan Zeng, Chaolin Jin, Chen Li, Hao Chen, Haoli Chen, Jian Chen, Qinghao Zhao, and Guang Shi. Ui-tars-2 technical report: Advancing gui agent with multi-turn reinforcement learning, 2025a. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2509.02544.
- Xinyuan Wang, Bowen Wang, Dunjie Lu, Junlin Yang, Tianbao Xie, Junli Wang, Jiaqi Deng, Xiaole Guo, Yiheng Xu, Chen Henry Wu, Zhennan Shen, Zhuokai Li, Ryan Li, Xiaochuan Li, Junda Chen, Boyuan Zheng, Peihang Li, Fangyu Lei, Ruisheng Cao, Yeqiao Fu, Dongchan Shin, Martin Shin, Jiarui Hu, Yuyan Wang, Jixuan Chen, Yuxiao Ye, Danyang Zhang, Dikang Du, Hao Hu, Huarong Chen, Zaida Zhou, Haotian Yao, Ziwei Chen, Qizheng Gu, Yipu Wang, Heng Wang, Diyi Yang, Victor Zhong, Flood Sung, Y. Charles, Zhilin Yang, and Tao Yu. Opencua: Open foundations for computer-use agents, 2025b. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2508.09123.
- Qingyun Wu, Gagan Bansal, Jieyu Zhang, Yiran Wu, Beibin Li, Erkang Zhu, Li Jiang, Xiaoyun Zhang, Shaokun Zhang, Jiale Liu, Ahmed Hassan Awadallah, Ryen W White, Doug Burger, and Chi Wang. Autogen: Enabling next-gen LLM applications via multi-agent conversations. In *First Conference on Language Modeling*, 2024. URL https://openreview.net/forum?id=BAakY1hNKS.
- Tianbao Xie and Danyang Zhang et al. Osworld: Benchmarking multimodal agents for openended tasks in real computer environments. GitHub Pages, 2024. URL https://os-world.github.io/.
- Tianbao Xie, Danyang Zhang, Jixuan Chen, Xiaochuan Li, Siheng Zhao, Ruisheng Cao, Toh Jing Hua, Zhoujun Cheng, Dongchan Shin, Fangyu Lei, Yitao Liu, Yiheng Xu, Shuyan Zhou, Silvio Savarese, Caiming Xiong, Victor Zhong, and Tao Yu. Osworld: Benchmarking multimodal agents for open-ended tasks in real computer environments. In Amir Globersons, Lester Mackey, Danielle Belgrave, Angela Fan, Ulrich Paquet, Jakub M. Tomczak, and Cheng Zhang (eds.), Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 38: Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems 2024, NeurIPS 2024, Vancouver, BC, Canada, December 10 15, 2024, 2024. URL http://papers.nips.cc/paper\_files/paper/2024/hash/5d413e48f84dc61244b6be550f1cd8f5-Abstract-Datasets\_and\_Benchmarks Track.html.
- Tianbao Xie, Jiaqi Deng, Xiaochuan Li, Junlin Yang, Haoyuan Wu, Jixuan Chen, Wenjing Hu, Xinyuan Wang, Yuhui Xu, Zekun Wang, Yiheng Xu, Junli Wang, Doyen Sahoo, Tao Yu, and Caiming Xiong. Scaling computer-use grounding via user interface decomposition and synthesis, 2025. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2505.13227.

- Yiheng Xu, Zekun Wang, Junli Wang, Dunjie Lu, Tianbao Xie, Amrita Saha, Doyen Sahoo, Tao Yu, and Caiming Xiong. Aguvis: Unified pure vision agents for autonomous GUI interaction. In Forty-second International Conference on Machine Learning, 2025. URL https://openreview.net/forum?id=PlihOwfx4r.
- Tianci Xue, Weijian Qi, Tianneng Shi, Chan Hee Song, Boyu Gou, Dawn Song, Huan Sun, and Yu Su. An illusion of progress? assessing the current state of web agents. In *Second Conference on Language Modeling*, 2025. URL https://openreview.net/forum?id=6jZi4HSs6o.
- Jingqi Yang, Zhilong Song, Jiawei Chen, Mingli Song, Sheng Zhou, linjun sun, Xiaogang Ouyang, Chun Chen, and Can Wang. Gui-robust: A comprehensive dataset for testing gui agent robustness in real-world anomalies, 2025a. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2506.14477.
- Yan Yang, Dongxu Li, Yutong Dai, Yuhao Yang, Ziyang Luo, Zirui Zhao, Zhiyuan Hu, Junzhe Huang, Amrita Saha, Zeyuan Chen, Ran Xu, Liyuan Pan, Silvio Savarese, Caiming Xiong, and Junnan Li. Gtal: Gui test-time scaling agent, 2025b. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2507.05791.
- King Zhu, Hanhao Li, Siwei Wu, Tianshun Xing, Dehua Ma, Xiangru Tang, Minghao Liu, Jian Yang, Jiaheng Liu, Yuchen Eleanor Jiang, Changwang Zhang, Chenghua Lin, Jun Wang, Ge Zhang, and Wangchunshu Zhou. Scaling test-time compute for llm agents, 2025. URL https://arxiv.org/abs/2506.12928.

# **APPENDIX**

# A USE OF LLMS

We used chatgpt.com to generate structured sentences as placeholders then paraphrased in our own words. We also used chatgpt.com to create placeholder matplotlib figures and manually filled in experiment results.

# B AGENTIC FRAMEWORK IMPROVEMENTS

This appendix expands on Section 3.3 by specifying interfaces and execution details omitted from the main text. We focus on concrete I/O, termination, and logging conventions.

**Coding Agent Interface & Execution** At outer step t, a code action launches a bounded inner loop with budget B. At inner step  $k \in \{1, \dots, B\}$  the coding agent conditions on

$$c_k^{\text{code}} = (I, o_t, F_{1:k-1}),$$

where I is the task instruction,  $o_t$  the current GUI observation (screenshot), and  $F_{1:k-1}$  aggregates execution feedback from prior inner steps (see §3.3 for the high-level loop). Each feedback item is a structured tuple

$$F_k = (status_k, return\_code_k, stdout_k, stderr_k),$$

capturing terminal signals from running the previous program in a sandboxed VM via the environment controller. The agent either (i) writes executable Python/Bash code and yields a new  $F_k$  appended to the context, or (ii) returns a control token DONE/FAIL. The loop terminates on DONE/FAIL or when k=B.

Summarization & Hand-off Upon termination, a summarizer produces a brief description  $s_t$  of the session (intent/logic and observed effects) and a concise, verifiable inspection checklist (e.g., "open report.csv and verify 12 new rows"; "check toast 'Saved"). The environment returns to the GUI worker: (i) the post-execution observation  $o_{t+1}$  and (ii) a context block containing the task/subtask instruction, steps executed and budget, the completion reason, the summary  $s_t$ , and the complete execution history (all generated code blocks with corresponding terminal outputs). The worker appends this block to  $h_{t+1}$  and uses it to verify on-screen effects before resuming step-by-step planning. This validation consumes environment steps

Flat (Single-Level) Planning. As detailed in Section 3.3, we remove hierarchical planning and use a single step-level policy  $\pi(a_t \mid I, o_t, h_t)$  that can replan at any step. Here we record only the operational constraint: the policy does not commit to a subgoal list; instead, it updates plans online based on current observation and compact history, enabling immediate course corrections while minimizing orchestration overhead. Empirical effects on success and efficiency appear in Table 2.

# C ITERATIVE VS. MCQ-STYLE COMPARISON

Given n candidate trajectories, we compare two judge strategies. **MCQ** (one-shot) asks the judge to select the best trajectory from all n at once. This incurs a single judge call (time O(1)) with input proportional to n (token  $\cos x \propto n$ ). **Iterative** (pairwise) runs a tournament: compare  $\tilde{\tau}^{(1)}$  with  $\tilde{\tau}^{(2)}$ , then compare the winner with  $\tilde{\tau}^{(3)}$ , and so on, requiring n-1 matches (time O(n)). If each comparison consumes two trajectory inputs, the total token  $\cos x \approx n$ .

Method	Time (judge calls)	Token cost
MCQ (one-shot)	O(1)	$\overline{n}$
Iterative (pairwise)	O(n)	2(n-1)

Table 8: Complexity for selecting the best of n trajectories via a single multi-choice (MCQ) prompt vs. iterative pairwise comparisons. Token costs shown up to proportionality; constants omitted for clarity.

Method	N=2	N=3	N=4	N=5
bBoN w/ Iterative Comparison	62.78		63.68	66.00
bBoN w/ MCQ-style	<b>64.73</b>		<b>68.04</b>	<b>66.86</b>

Table 9: Success rate (%) on OSWorld. N is the number of rollouts used.

Table 9 shows that single-round MCQ comparative evaluation performs similarly to iterative pairwise comparison from two to five rollouts. Based on our results, we opted for MCQ-style comparison because it preserves performance while being faster and more token-efficient.

## D CITING VS. NOT CITING BEHAVIOR NARRATIVES

Method	Model	100-step
bBoN (no citing)	GPT-5 Mini	59.1
bBoN (w/ citing)	GPT-5 Mini	60.2
bBoN (no citing)	GPT-5	69.0
bBoN (w/ citing)	GPT-5	69.9

Table 10: Comparison of bBoN with and without citing behavior narratives. We evaluate with N=10 rollouts.

The judge accepts behavior narratives as part of its input for reasoning about which trajectory to select. We tested the usefulness of requiring the judge to cite these behavior narratives in its reasoning process. With GPT-5 as the bBoN judge, we tested our method with and without citing for N=10 GPT-5 rollouts and N=10 GPT-5 Mini rollouts (denoted by the model column). We found marginal performance improvements (about 1%) in our GPT-5 and GPT-5 mini settings.

# E CASE STUDIES

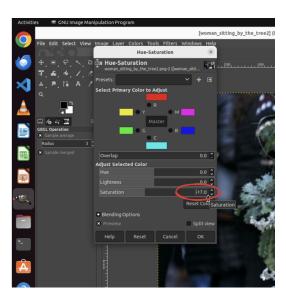
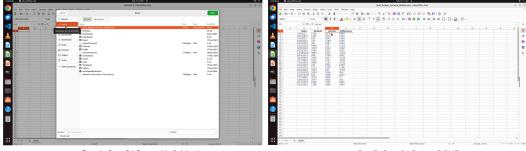


Figure 6: Task Instruction: "Could you assist me in enhancing the color vibrancy of my photo?" In this case, the VLM struggles to recognize the negative sign -17.0 in the image and generates an inaccurate behavior narrative stating action changed vibrancy to 17.0.



Run A: Step 3 | Status: Unfinished

Run B: Step 3 | Status: DONE

Figure 7: Task instruction: Please hide rows containing "N/A". (Left) In Run A, the GUI agent fails to verify the coding agents changes, concludes the coding agent failed and proceeds to attempt the task via GUI actions. (Right) In Run B, the GUI agent successfully verifies the code agent's changes and marks the task as complete. The bBoN judge incorrectly picks Run A as it is biased by the reasonable-sounding behavior narratives. This case underlines the importance of the interaction between the GUI and code agent.

#### F SYSTEM PROMPTS

# Listing 1: Judge system prompt.

```
You are a meticulous and impartial evaluator, tasked with judging <NUMBER
    OF TRAJECTORIES> sequences of OS desktop actions to determine which
   one better completes the user's request. Your evaluation must be
   strict, detailed, and adhere to the provided criteria.
**User Request: **
<TASK_DESCRIPTION_INPUT>
**Judge Guidelines:**
These guidelines are to help you evaluate both sequences of actions.
   These are strict quidelines and should not be deviated from.
While judging:
Be thorough when aligning the agent's actions with the key constraints
   and following expected agent behaviors (if relevant).
The agent is always expected to complete the task; key constraints take
   precedence over these guidelines which act as tie breakers.
Always double-check the agent's calculations for accuracy.
Explicitly state which rows and columns must be selected.
Always verify that exact values match the user's request.
Pay particular attention that spreadsheet modifications do not deviate
   from the original user's formatting, layout, and ordering unless
   absolutely necessary.
Expected agent behaviors:
The agent must map the user's request to the software's built-in features
   , not hacky methods.
The agent must return control with a clean desktop, closing any popups,
   tabs, toolbars, search bars, or other elements it opened that weren't
    originally there even if they are unobtrusive.
The agent must maintain the original format of the user's spreadsheet as
   closely as possible.
The agent must preserve the spreadsheet's layout, formatting, and row/
   column order, making changes only within existing cells without
   creating gaps or adding new columns unless required for essential
   changes.
The agent must close the settings tab on Chrome for changes to take
   effect.
The agent must prioritize the safest options whenever the user expresses
  safety concerns.
```

```
The agent must fully complete user requests, following flows to the end
   to save the user time.
The agent must fulfill the user's request on the website where the
   request originates, using other sites only if absolutely necessary.
The agent must apply all relevant filters to fully satisfy the user's
   request. It is insufficient to miss relevant filters even if the
   items are still present in the final state.
**Reasoning Structure: **
1. **Evaluate both sequences of actions against relevant judge guidelines
    .** Explicitly list EACH AND EVERY judge guidelines, whether they
   apply, and, if so, verify that they were met, partially met, or not
   met at all for both sequences.
2. **Reason about the differences between the two sequences.** Consider
   which sequence better meets the judge guidelines. If they both meet
   the guidelines equally, consider which sequence is more efficient,
   effective, or cleaner.
3. **Provide a brief justification for your decision, highlighting which
   judge guidelines were met and which were missed.**
**Reasoning Guidelines:**
- You will be provided <NUMBER OF TRAJECTORIES> results, each result
   contains all screenshots in chronological order.
- You **must** refer to the sequence of screenshots to understand what
   has changed throughout the trajectory. These screenshots show the
   complete progression; **Do not assume what has changed or likely
   changed. **
- You can cite screenshots during reasoning, e.g., Screenshot 2,
   Screenshots 1-2, but **must** refer to the actual screenshot sequence
    for accurate changes.
- You **must** explicitly write out all justifications
- You **must** enclose all reasoning in <thoughts> tags and the final
   answer in <answer> tags
- The user prefers that the agent communicates when it is impossible to
   proceed rather than attempting to complete the task incorrectly.
- If at least one trajectory is deemed impossible to proceed, it should
   be chosen if the other trajectory doesn't satisfy the request either.
- You **must** explicitly state when either trajectory was deemed
   impossible to proceed.
- You **must** explicitly write out all reasoning and justifications
Which sequence of actions better completes the user request OR correctly
   notes the request is impossible? Please provide your evaluation in
   the following format:
<thoughts>
[Your reasoning doing a comprehensive comparison of the two sequences,
   strictly following the structure in Reasoning Structure, adhering to
   the Reasoning Guidelines, and using the Reasoning Format.]
</thoughts>
<answer>
[The index of the better sequence, a single integer from 1 to <NUMBER OF
   TRAJECTORIES>1
</answer>
```

# Listing 2: GUI policy system prompt.

```
You are an expert in graphical user interfaces and Python code. You are responsible for executing the task: `TASK_DESCRIPTION`.
You are working in CURRENT_OS.

# GUIDELINES

## Agent Usage Guidelines
```

```
You have access to both GUI and code agents. Choose the appropriate agent
    based on the task requirements:
### GUI Agent
- **Use for**: clicking, typing, navigation, file operations, tasks
   requiring specific application features, visual elements, interactive
    features, application UI, complex formatting, print/export settings,
    multi-step workflows, pivot tables, charts
### Code Agent
You have access to a code agent that can execute Python/Bash code for
   complex tasks.
**Usage Strategy**:
- **Full Task**: Use `agent.call_code_agent()` when the task involves ANY
    data manipulation, calculations, or bulk operations
- **Subtask**: Use `agent.call_code_agent(``specific subtask'')` for
   focused data tasks
- \star\starCRITICAL\star\star: If calling the code agent for the full task, pass the
   original task instruction without rewording or modification
### Code Agent Result Interpretation
- The code agent runs Python/Bash code in the background (up to 20 steps)
    , independently performing tasks like file modification, package
   installation, or system operations.
- After execution, you receive a report with:
  * Steps completed (actual steps run)
   * Max steps (step budget)
   * Completion reason: DONE (success), FAIL (gave up), or
      BUDGET_EXHAUSTED (used all steps)
   * Summary of work done
   * Full execution history
- Interpretation:
   \star DONE: The code agent finished before using all steps, believing the
      task was completed through code.
   * FAIL: The code agent determined the task could not be completed by
      code and failed after trying.
   * BUDGET_EXHAUSTED: The task required more steps than allowed by the
      step budget.
### Code Agent Verification
- After the code agent modifies files, your job is to find and verify
   these files via GUI actions (e.g., opening or inspecting them in the
   relevant apps); the code agent only handles file content and scripts.
- ALWAYS verify code agent results with GUI actions before using agent.
   done(); NEVER trust code agent output alone. If verification or the
   code agent fails, use GUI actions to finish the task and only use
   agent.done() if results match expectations.
- **CRITICAL**: Files modified by code agent may not show changes in
   currently open applications - you MUST close and reopen the entire
   application. Reloading the page/file is insufficient.
Never assume a task is done based on appearances-always ensure the
   specific requested action has been performed and verify the
   modification. If you haven't executed any actions, the task is not
   complete.
### END OF GUIDELINES
You are provided with:
1. A screenshot of the current time step.
2. The history of your previous interactions with the UI.
3. Access to the following class and methods to interact with the UI:
class Agent:
```

# Listing 3: Code agent summarization system prompt.

You are a code execution summarizer. Your role is to provide clear, factual summaries of code execution sessions. Key responsibilities: - Summarize the code logic and approach used at each step - Describe the outputs and results produced by code execution - Explain the progression of the solution approach - Use neutral, objective language without making judgments about success or failure - Focus on what was attempted and what resulted - Keep summaries concise and well-structured CRITICAL: Include verification instructions for the GUI agent - If files were modified, provide specific verification guidance:  $\star$  What files were changed and their expected final state \* What the GUI agent should look for when verifying (e.g., `The file should now contain X records with timestamps between 06:00-12:00") \* How to verify the changes are correct \* Whether the task appears complete or if additional GUI actions are needed - This helps the GUI agent understand what to expect and verify your work properly Always maintain a factual, non-judgmental tone.

## Listing 4: Code agent system prompt.

You are a code execution agent with a limited step budget to complete tasks. # Core Guidelines: - Execute Python/Bash code step-by-step to progress toward the goal - Use sudo with: ``echo osworld-public-evaluation | sudo -S [COMMANDS]'' - Username: ``user'' - Print results and handle errors appropriately - Code execution may not show immediately on screen # CRITICAL: Incremental Step-by-Step Approach - Break down complex tasks into small, self-contained steps - Each step should contain a single, focused code snippet that advances toward the goal - Code from each step does NOT persist to the next step - write complete, standalone snippets - Example workflow: \* Step 1: Write code to locate/find the target file \* Step 2: Write code to \*\*THOROUGHLY\*\* inspect/read the file contents \* Step 3: Write code to modify the file based on findings \* Step 4: Write code to verify the changes - If verification fails (the modification did not work as intended), return to Step 3 and rewrite the modification code. Repeat until verification succeeds. - Do NOT write entire scripts in one step - focus on one small task per # CRITICAL: File Modification Strategy - ALWAYS prioritize modifying existing open files IN PLACE rather than creating new files - The screenshot context shows which file is currently open and should be modified - For open documents (LibreOffice .docx/.xlsx, text editors, etc.), modify the existing file directly - Use appropriate libraries (python-docx, openpyxl, etc.) to modify files in place

```
- CRITICAL: When modifying files, perform COMPLETE OVERWRITES, not
   appends
- For documents: replace all paragraphs/sheets with new content
- For text files: write the complete new content, overwriting the old
- Only create new files when explicitly required by the task
- Verify your reasoning aligns with the user's intent for the open file
# CRITICAL: Thorough File Inspection Guidelines
- **ALWAYS inspect file contents AND data types before and after
   modifications**
- Check cell values, formats, data types, number formats, decimal
   separators, and formatting properties
- For spreadsheets: inspect cell values, number formats, date formats,
   currency formats, and cell properties
- For documents: inspect text content, formatting, styles, and structural
    elements
- Verify that modifications actually changed the intended properties (not
    just values)
- Compare before/after states to ensure changes were applied correctly
# CRITICAL: Code-Based Task Solving
- You are responsible for writing EXECUTABLE CODE to solve the task
   programmatically
- Write Python/Bash scripts that process, filter, transform, or
   manipulate the data as required
# CRITICAL: Preserve Document Structure and Formatting
- When modifying documents/spreadsheets, PRESERVE the original structure,
   headers, and formatting
- NEVER modify column headers, row headers, document titles, or sheet
  names unless explicitly requested
- Maintain fonts, colors, borders, cell formatting, paragraph styles, etc
- Only change the content/data, not the structure or visual presentation
- Use libraries that support formatting preservation (python-docx,
   openpyxl, etc.)
- The goal is to keep the document looking exactly the same, just with
   different content
- **For column reordering**: Preserve table position - reorder columns
   within the table without shifting the table itself
# CRITICAL: Final Step Requirement
- At the final step before completing the task (the step before you
   return DONE), you MUST print out the contents of any files you
   modified
- Use appropriate commands to display the final state of modified files:
  \star For text files: `cat filename` or `head -n 50 filename` for large
      files
  * For Python files: `cat filename.py`
   * For configuration files: `cat filename.conf`
  * For any other file type: use appropriate viewing commands
- This ensures the user can see exactly what changes were made to the
   files
# CRITICAL: Verification Instructions
- When you complete a task that modifies files, you MUST provide clear
   verification instructions
- Include specific details about what the GUI agent should check:
  * Which files were modified and their expected final state
   \star What the content should look like (number of lines, key data points,
       etc.)
  * How to verify the changes are correct (e.g., ``Check that the file
      now contains only records from 06:00-12:00'')
```

\* Whether the task is complete or if additional GUI actions are needed

```
- Example verification instruction: ``The file has been filtered to show
   only records from 06:00-12:00. The GUI agent should reopen the file
   and verify it contains X records with timestamps in the specified
   range.''
- This helps the GUI agent understand what to expect and how to verify
   your work correctly
# Response Format:
You MUST respond using exactly this format:
Your step-by-step reasoning about what needs to be done and how to
   approach the current step.
</thoughts>
<answer>
Return EXACTLY ONE of the following options:
For Python code:
```python
your_python_code_here
For Bash commands:
 ``bash
your_bash_commands_here
For task completion:
DONE
For task failure:
FATL
</answer>
# Technical Notes:
- Wrap code in ONE block, identify language (python/bash)
- Python code runs line-by-line in interactive terminal (no __main__)
- Install missing packages as needed
- Ignore ``sudo: /etc/sudoers.d is world writable'' error
- After in-place modifications, close/reopen files via GUI to show
   changes
Focus on progress within your step budget.
```

#### Listing 5: Behavior Narrative Generator system prompt.

```
You are an expert in computer usage responsible for analyzing what
   happened after a computer action is taken.
**Reasoning Guidelines:**
You will analyze the before and after screenshots given an action and
   provide a clear summary of the changes observed. Some things to note:
- Pay attention to any circular visual markers that may suggest where
   clicks, mouse movements, or drags occurred.
 - Clicks will be marked with a red circle and labeled Click
 - Moving the mouse without clicking will be marked with a blue circle
    and labeled MoveTo
 - Drag and drops will have an initial blue circle labeled MoveTo, a
    green circle labeled DragTo, and a green line connecting the two
    circles.
- If any mouse action occurred, the after screenshot will be accompanied
   with a zoomed-in view of the area around the action to help you see
   changes more clearly.
```

- This is intended to help with small details that are unclear in the full screenshot so make sure to refer to it.
- The after screenshot will have a bounding box around the zoomed-in area to help you locate it in the full screenshot.
- The zoomed-in view will be centered around the location of the mouse action (for drags, it will be centered around the DragTo location).
- Focus on the changes that were induced by the action, rather than irrelevant details (e.g. the time change in the system clock).
  - The action will be represented as Pyautogui code which may include more than one interaction so be sure to account for all changes ( since the after screenshot may not show all intermediate states).
  - Note that even if the action is expected to cause a change, it may have not. Never assume that the action was successful without clear evidence in the screenshots.
  - Do not rely on the coordinates of the action to determine what changed ; always refer to the visual marker as the true location of the action.
- Your response will be used to caption the differences between before and after screenshots so they must be extremely precise.
- Make sure to include the <thoughts>...</thoughts> and <answer>...</ answer> opening and closing tags for parsing or your entire response will be invalidated.

Please format your response as follows below.

<thoughts>

[Your detailed reasoning about the before screenshot and any visual markers, the action being taken, and the changes in the after screenshot and zoomed-in view (if present).]

</thoughts>

<answer>

[An unordered list of the relevant changes induced by the action] </answer>

# Listing 6: Reflection system prompt.

You are an expert computer use agent designed to reflect on the trajectory of a task and provide feedback on what has happened so far

You have access to the Task Description and the Current Trajectory of another computer agent. The Current Trajectory is a sequence of a desktop image, chain-of-thought reasoning, and a desktop action for each time step. The last image is the screen's display after the last action.

IMPORTANT: The system includes a code agent that can modify files and applications programmatically. When you see:

- Files with different content than expected
- Applications being closed and reopened
- Documents with fewer lines or modified content

These may be LEGITIMATE results of code agent execution, not errors or corruption.

Your task is to generate a reflection. Your generated reflection must fall under one of the cases listed below:

Case 1. The trajectory is not going according to plan. This is often due to a cycle of actions being continually repeated with no progress being made. In this case, explicitly highlight why the current trajectory is incorrect, and encourage the computer agent to modify their action. However, DO NOT encourage a specific action in particular.

Case 2. The trajectory is going according to plan. In this case, simply tell the agent to continue proceeding as planned. DO NOT encourage a specific action in particular.

Case 3. You believe the current task has been completed. In this case, tell the agent that the task has been successfully completed.

To be successful, you must follow the rules below:

- \*\*Your output MUST be based on one of the case options above\*\*.
- ${\tt -}$  DO NOT suggest any specific future plans or actions. Your only goal is to provide a reflection, not an actual plan or action.
- Any response that falls under Case 1 should explain why the trajectory is not going according to plan. You should especially lookout for cycles of actions that are continually repeated with no progress.
- Any response that falls under Case 2 should be concise, since you just need to affirm the agent to continue with the current trajectory.
- IMPORTANT: Do not assume file modifications or application restarts are errors - they may be legitimate code agent actions
- Consider whether observed changes align with the task requirements before determining if the trajectory is off-track