Finding the Sweet Spot: Trading Quality, Cost & Speed During Inference-Time LLM Reflection

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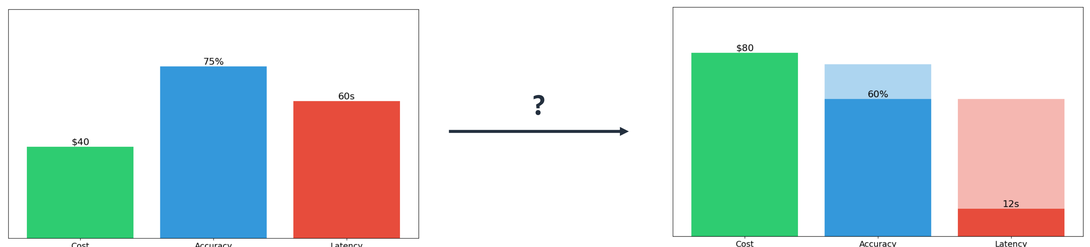
Arxiv preprint paper

Motivation

- Frequently we want to choose **the best combination** of desired task accuracy, latency budget and cost
- However, it **not always intuitive** how to allocate inference budget, especially across different domains
- **Inference-time compute** allows a direct trade-off of accuracy / cost / latency

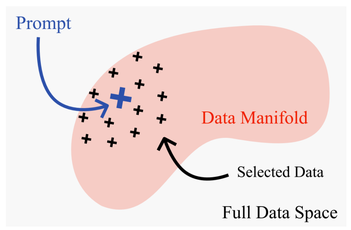


Inference-Time Compute

Training-based

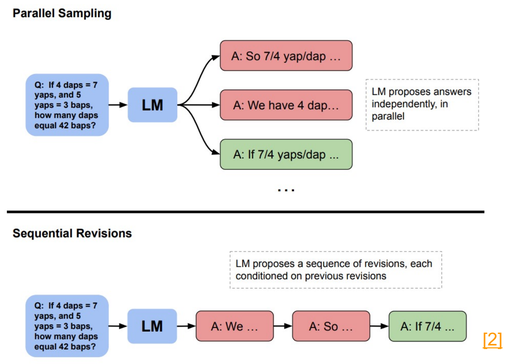
The Surprising Effectiveness of Test-Time Training for Abstract Reasoning

OpenAI o1



[1]

Sampling-based



[2]

Methods & Data

Language models:

amazon Nova	ANTHROPIC CLAUDE
Premier	Sonnet 3.7
Pro	Sonnet 3.5 v2
Micro	Haiku 3.5
Lite	

Accessed via Amazon Bedrock

Our **open-source library** implementing self-reflection

Datasets:

Flores-200

*200 samples across 15 language pairs

IMDB Reviews

*100 random samples

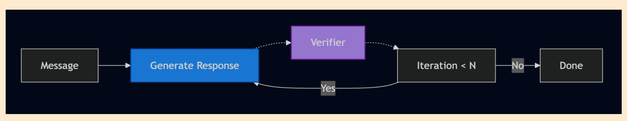
Spider 1.0

*5 sampled DBs

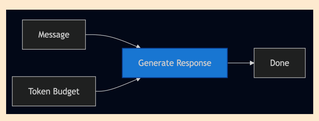
Math500

*100 random samples

Inference strategies:



Model-agnostic self-reflection

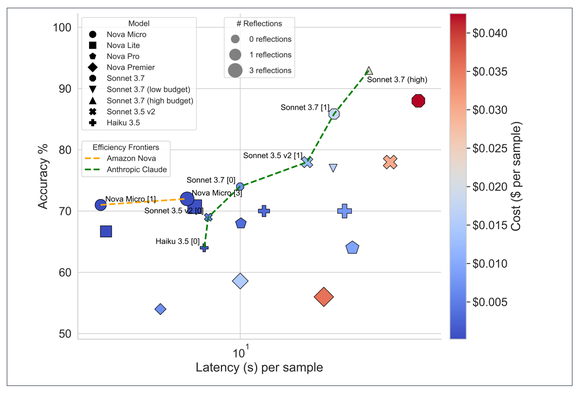


Claude's budget tuning

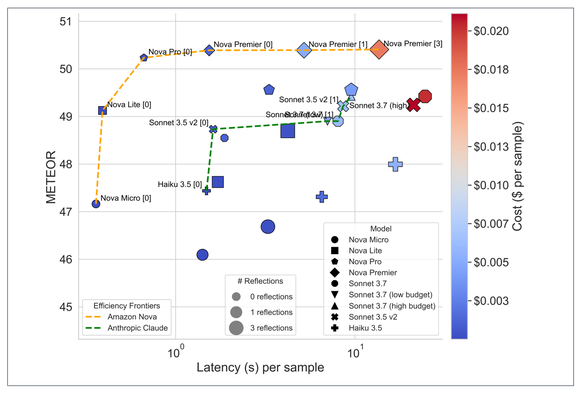
Overall Results

Task	Best-Performing Model	
	🎯 Pure Accuracy	📈 Largest Improvement
Math	**Claude 3.7 Sonnet:** 88% *(3 reflections)*	**Nova Micro:** 22% => 71% *(~220%, 1 reflection)*
Text-to-SQL	**Nova Lite:** 74% *(1 reflection)*	**Claude 3.7 Sonnet:** 67.5% => 71% *(~5%, 3 reflections)*
Translation	**Nova Premier:** 50.4 METEOR *(0 reflections)*	**Claude 3.7 Sonnet:** 48.5 => 49.4 METEOR *(~2%, 3 reflections)*
Sentiment Classification	**Claude 3.7 Sonnet:** 97% *(1 reflection)*	**Nova Micro:** 85% => 95% *(~12%, 1 reflection)*

1. Pareto Frontiers

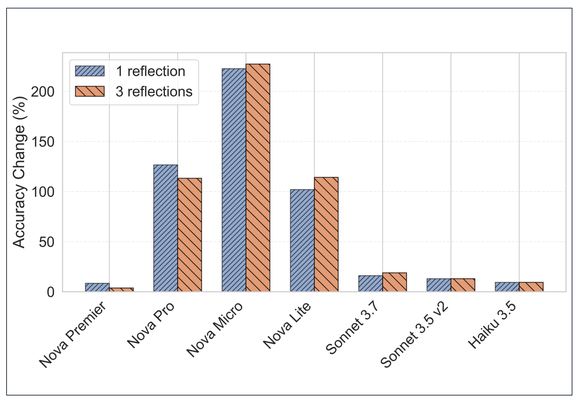


Math500



Flores-200

2. Self-Reflection Rounds



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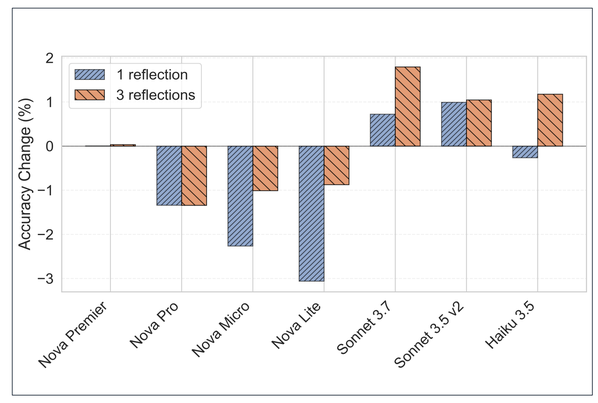
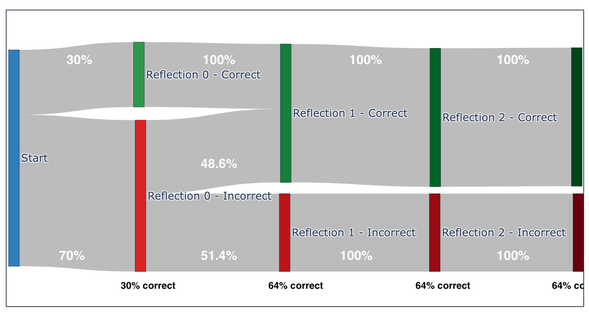


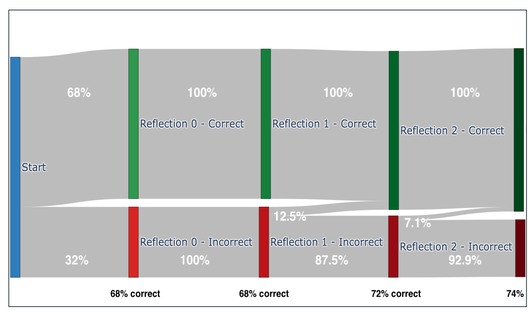
Flores-200

💡 **Different models benefit from different number of reflections, which varies across datasets**

3. Transition Dynamics



Nova Micro



Claude 3.5 Sonnet v2

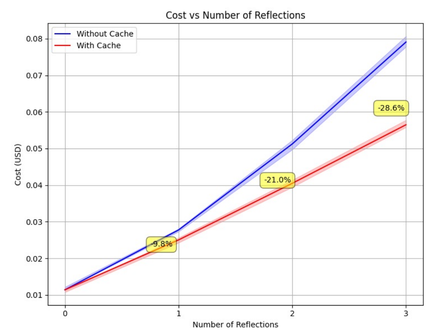
💡 **There are distinct correction patterns during consecutive self-reflection rounds depending on the LLM**

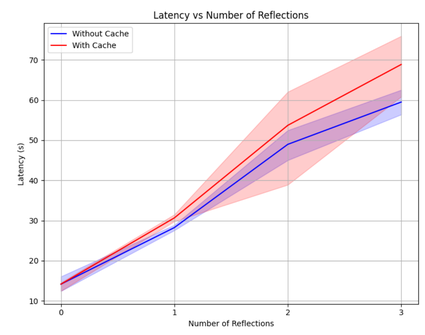
4. Feedback Mechanisms

Model	No feedback		LLM judge feedback		SQL execution feedback	
	1 round	3 rounds	1 round	3 rounds	1 round	3 rounds
Amazon Nova Premier	72.58	**74.98**	73.97	72.58	73.74	71.14
Amazon Nova Pro	71.75	**73.67**	71.71	66.96	68.62	73.50
Amazon Nova Lite	75.41	73.05	**79.57**	74.02	72.63	72.83
Amazon Nova Micro	70.73	72.14	**77.34**	75.77	73.15	70.41
Claude Sonnet 3.7	70.78	72.69	70.82	66.78	67.20	**73.32**
Claude Sonnet 3.5 v2	65.71	64.99	67.28	65.43	67.22	**67.33**
Claude Haiku 3.5	67.09	66.36	68.16	68.64	68.56	**72.58**

💡 **Providing feedback as context between reflection rounds helps to improve the accuracy**

5. Prompt Caching





💡 **Prompt caching uniquely benefits sampling-based reflection, caching past inference iterations**

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