

On the Evaluation of Neural Code Translation: Taxonomy and Benchmark

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SHANGHAI JIAO TONG UNIVERSITY

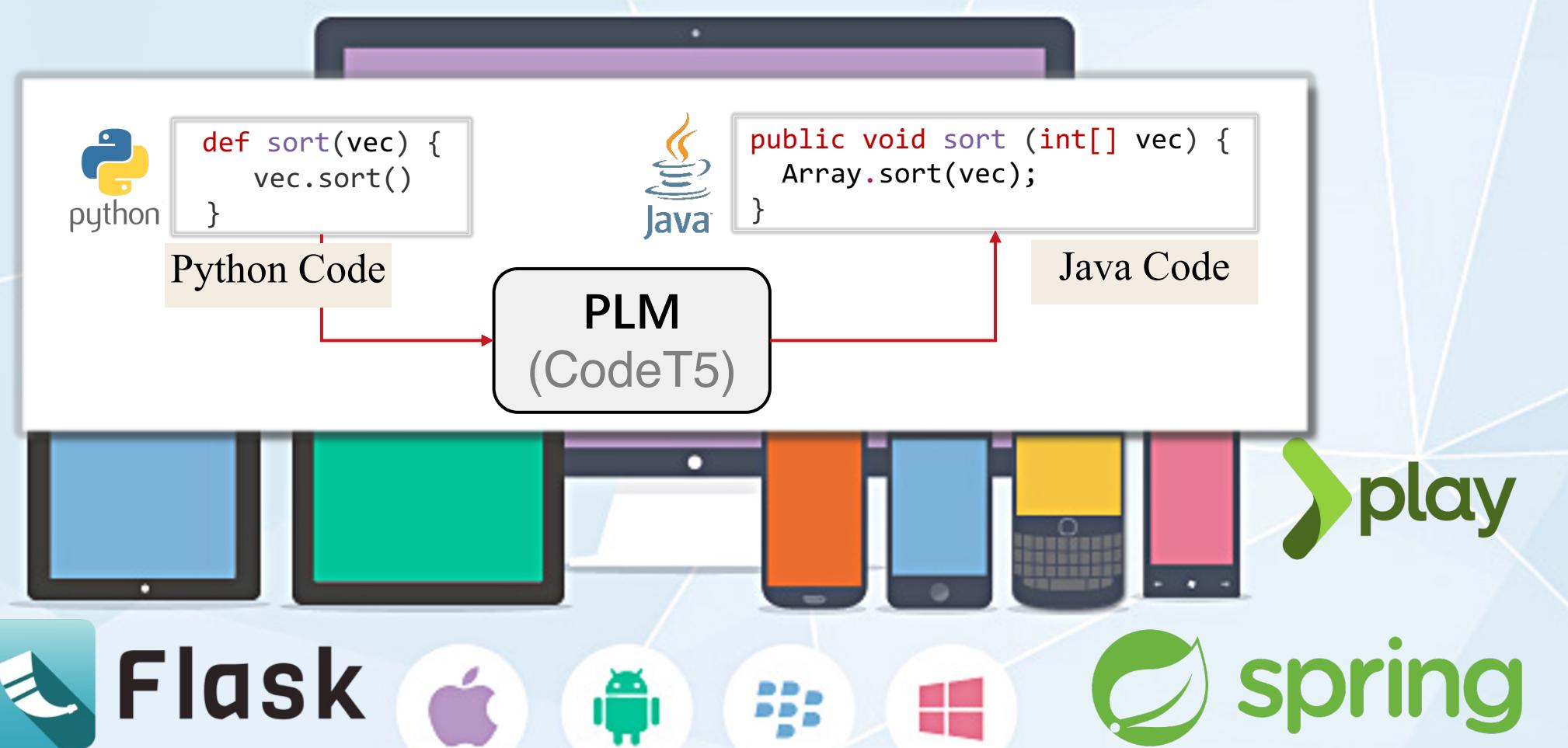


Neural Code Translation



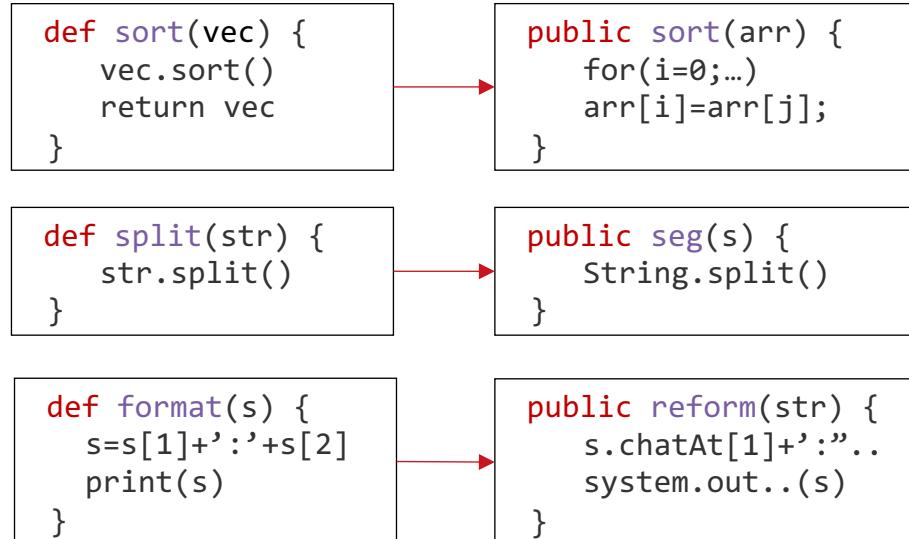
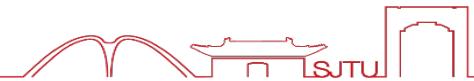


Neural Code Translation





Motivation



CodeBLEU

98
≡

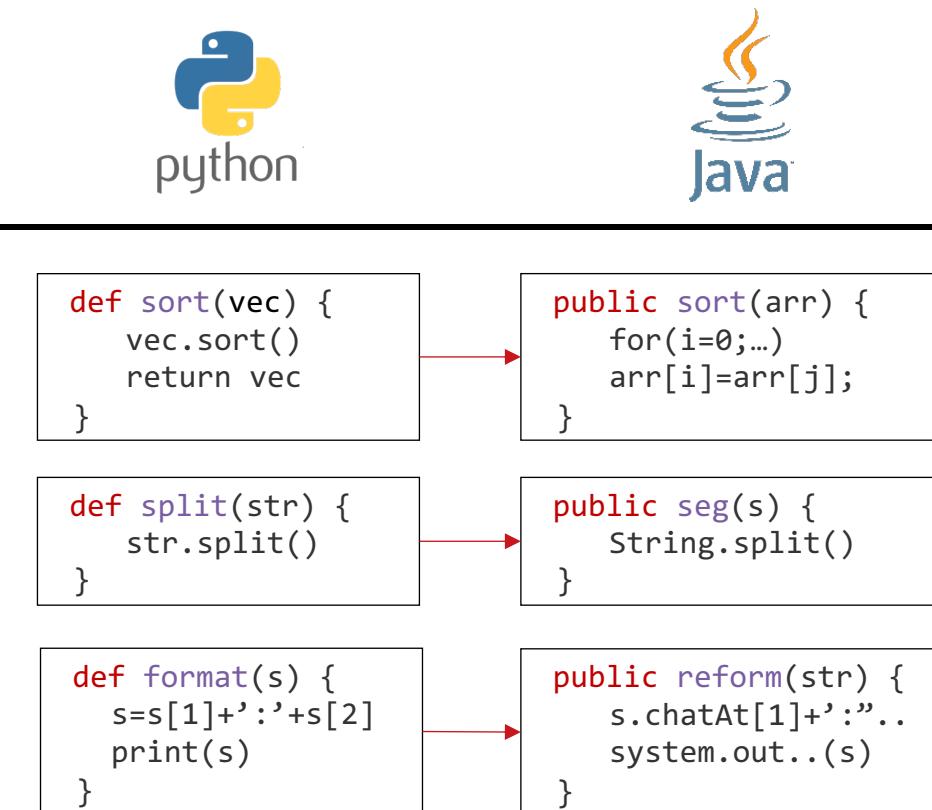
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91

⋮



Motivation



CodeBLEU

98
=

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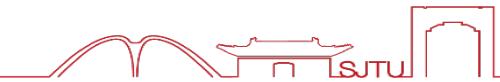
⋮

Are they
good or not?





Motivation



Translation

```
int kthSmallest(int arr[], int k) {  
    sort(arr, arr + n);  
    return arr[k-1];  
}
```

Undeclared ! 

BLEU=89.66

Target

```
int kthSmallest(int arr[], int n,  
                int k) {  
    sort(arr, arr+n);  
    return arr[k-1];  
}
```

Translation

```
int findReapting(int arr[], int n) {  
    int sum = 0;  
    for (int i = 0; i < n; i++)  
        sum += arr[i];  
    return sum - ((n-1) * n)/2;  
}
```



BLEU=41.56

Target

```
int findReapting(int arr[], int n) {  
    return accumulate(arr, arr+n, 0)  
        - ((n - 1) * n / 2);  
}
```

An overall score may not capture the fine-grained capabilities of code translation models especially on difficult translations.

01

Empirical Study

03

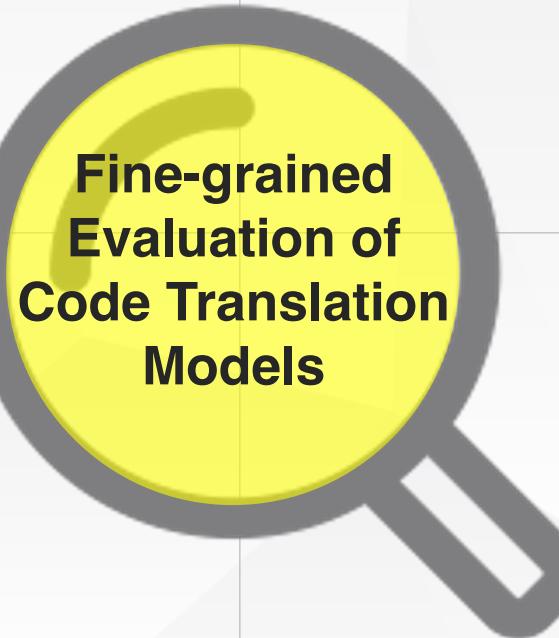
Benchmark

02

Taxonomy

04

Experiments



01

Empirical Study

02

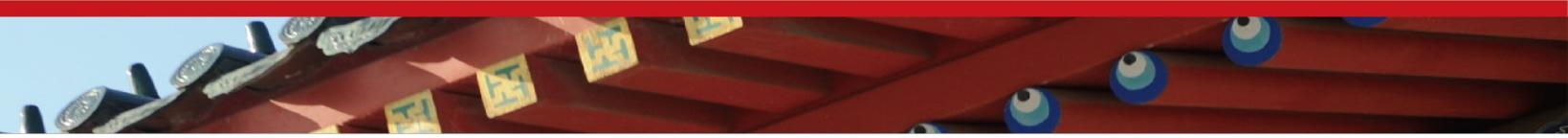
Taxonomy

03

Benchmark

04

Experiments



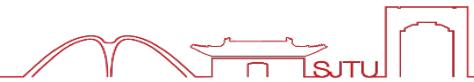
Empirical Study

RQ1: How is the **fine-grained performance** of state-of-the-art code translation models?

RQ2: Can existing benchmarks exhibit the **fine-grained capability** of code translation models?



Experimental Setup



- Models
 - CodeBERT
 - CodeT5
 - TransCoder
 - TransCoder-ST

- Benchmarks
 - CodeXGLUE
 - TransCoder-test
 - XLCoST

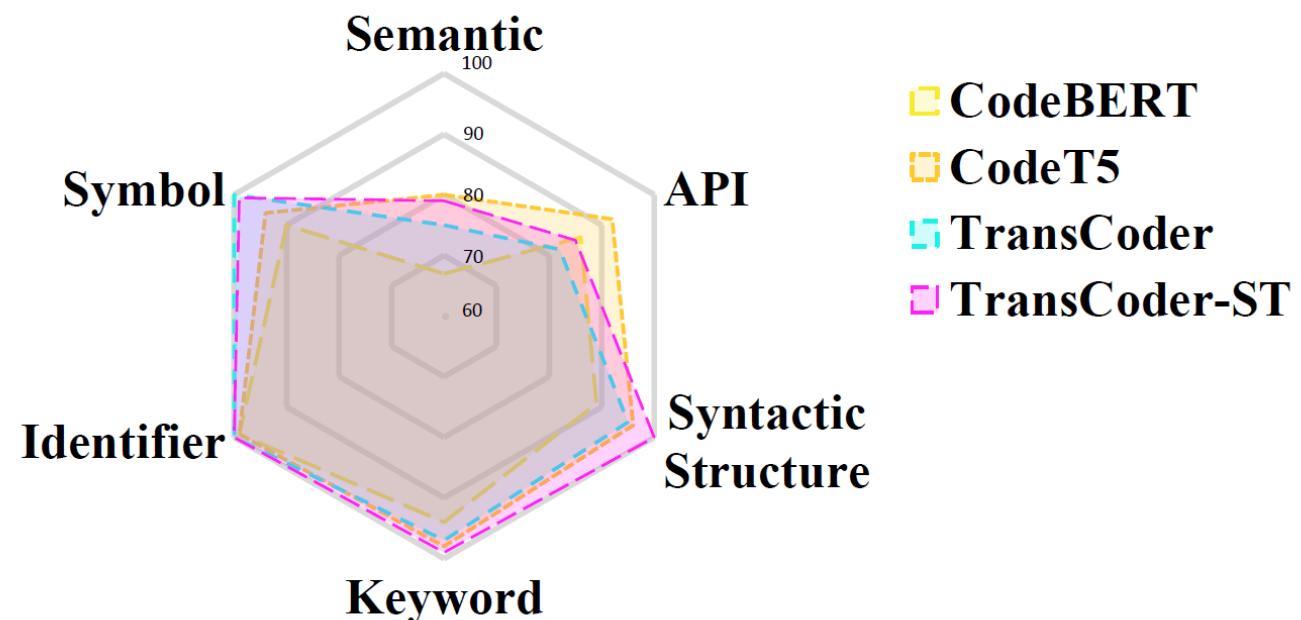
- Metrics
 - BLEU
 - CodeBLEU
 - CA (Computational Accuracy)

RQ1: Fine-grained Performance of SOTA Code Translation Models



Fine-grained Aspects:

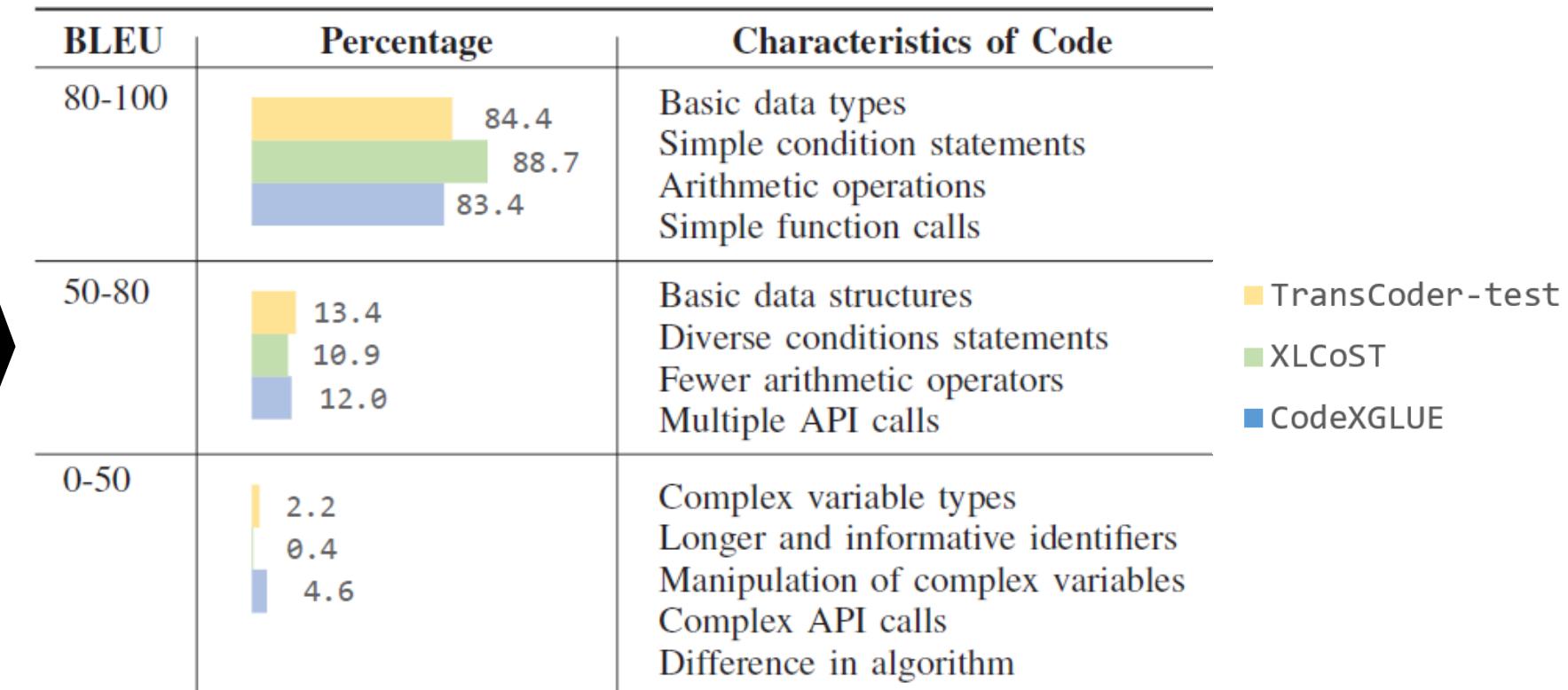
- **Easy:** Keyword & Identifier
- **Middle:** Syntactic Structure & Symbol
- **Difficult:** API & Semantic



Answer to RQ1: State-of-the-art code translation models exhibit varying translation capabilities in fine-grained aspects, with a greater proficiency in translating tokens, followed by syntax, APIs, and semantics.

RQ2: Distinguishing Ability of Existing Benchmarks

Features of code under different ranges of BLEU



Answer to RQ2: Existing benchmarks are biased towards trivial translations, such as token mapping and are limited in complex translations, such as library invocation and algorithm rewriting.

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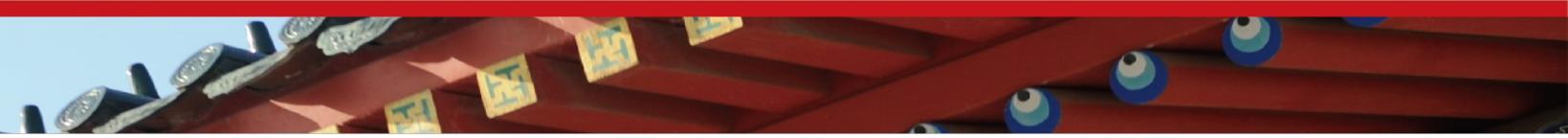
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Benchmark

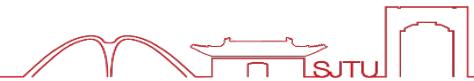
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Experiments





Taxonomy on Code Translation



Taxonomy	Description	Definition
Type 1	Token-level translation	Map trivial tokens to their equivalent in the target
Type 2	Syntax-level translation	Migrate syntactic structures based on linguistic rules
Type 3	Library-level translation	Migrate library to their equivalent in the target language
Type 4	Algorithm-level translation	Reimplement the program in the target language using a different algorithm



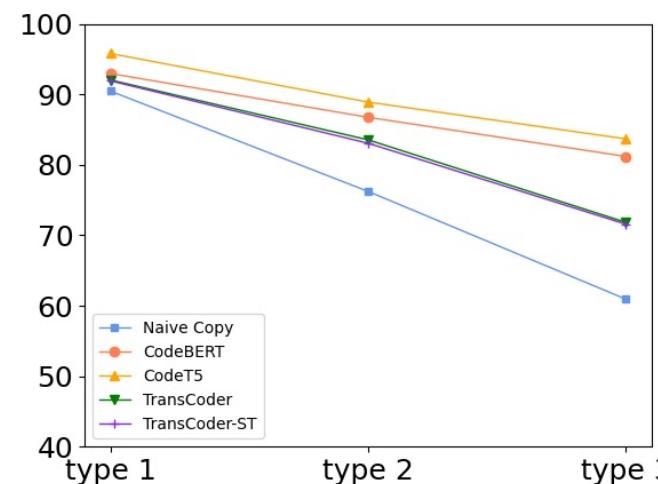
Taxonomy – Examples

	C++	Java
TYPE 1	<pre>1 int maxProductSubset(int a[], int n){ 2 if(n == 1) return a[0]; 3 int max_neg = INT_MIN; 4 int prod = 1; 5 for(int i = 0; i < n; i++) { 6 //... Rest of the Code 7 } 8 return prod; 9 }</pre>	<pre>1 int maxProductSubset(int a[], int n) { 2 if(n == 1) return a[0]; 3 int max_neg = Integer.MIN_VALUE; 4 int prod = 1; 5 for(int i = 0; i < n; i++) 6 //... Rest of the Code 7 } 8 return prod; 9 }</pre>
TYPE 2	<pre>1 int countWays(string s) { 2 int count[26] = {0}; 3 for(char x : s) 4 count[x - 'a']++; 5 count[s[0] - 'a'] = 1; 6 int ans = 1; 7 //... Rest of the Code 8 return ans ; 9 }</pre>	<pre>1 int countWays(String s) { 2 int count[] = new int[26]; 3 for(int i = 0; i < s.length(); i++) 4 count[s.charAt(i)-'a']++; 5 count[s.charAt(0)-'a']=1; 6 int ans = 1; 7 //... Rest of the Code 8 return ans ; 9 }</pre>
TYPE 3	<pre>1 int removeConsecutiveSame(vector<string> v){ 2 stack<string> st; 3 for(int i = 0; i < v.size(); i++){ 4 if(st.empty()) st.push(v[i]); 5 else { 6 string str = st.top(); 7 if(str.compare(v[i])==0) st.pop(); 8 else st.push(v[i]); 9 } 10 } 11 return st.size(); 12 }</pre>	<pre>1 int removeConsecutiveSame(Vector<String> v){ 2 Stack<String> st = new Stack<>(); 3 for(int i = 0; i < v.size(); i++){ 4 if(st.empty()) st.push(v.get(i)); 5 else { 6 String str = st.peek(); 7 if(str.equals(v.get(i))) st.pop(); 8 else st.push(v.get(i)); 9 } 10 } 11 return st.size(); 12 }</pre>
TYPE 4	<pre>1 int calFactorial (int n){ 2 int result = 1; 3 for(int i=1; i<=n; ++i) 4 result *= i; 5 return result; 6 }</pre>	<pre>1 int calFactorial (int n){ 2 if(n == 1 n == 0) return 1; 3 return n*calFactorial(n-1); 4 }</pre>

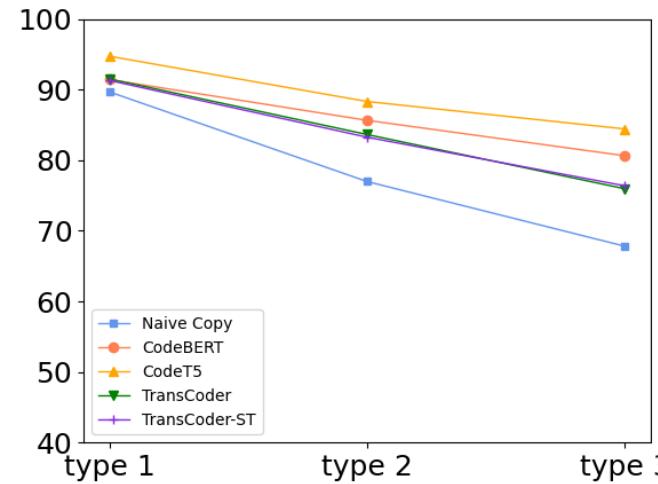
Performance of models within our taxonomy



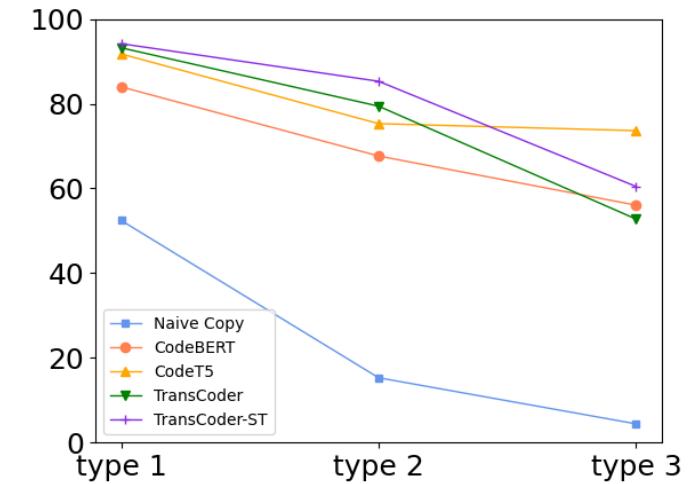
Performance of various models under different translation types of Java→C++ translations.



BLEU



CodeBLEU



CA

- Categories in our taxonomy indeed differentiate the increasing complexity of code translation
- More complex and diverse benchmarks are required for finer-grained model evaluation

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Taxonomy

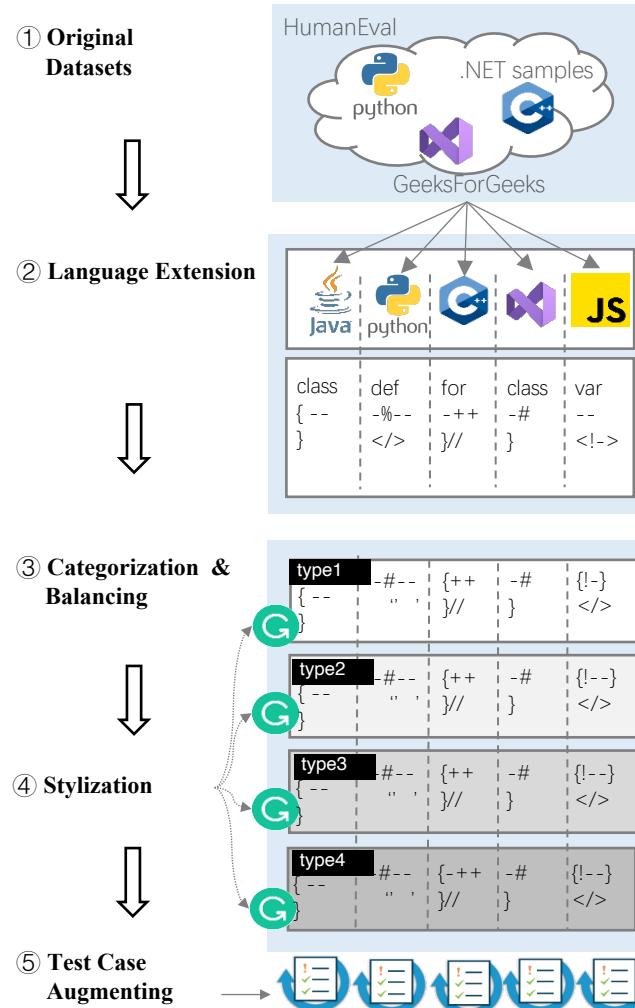
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Experiments





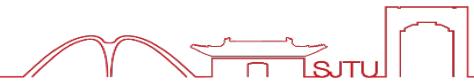
Benchmark Construction: G-TransEval



- **Step1:** Collect sample codes from diverse sources
- **Step2:** Expand monolingual code to five programming languages
- **Step3:** Partition the dataset into four subsets based on the taxonomy
- **Step4:** Normalize coding stylization following Google style conventions
- **Step5:** Write test cases for each code sample



Comparison with Prior Benchmarks



Dataset	Source	Parallel Data Size (train/valid/test)	Languages	Categorized?	Style Normalized?	Unit Tests Included?	Golden Answer Verified?
CodeXGLUE	Lucene, POI, JGit, Antlr	10,253 / 499 / 1,000	Java, C#	✗	✗	✗	✗
XLCoST*	G4G	9450 / 490 / 901	C++, Java, C#, PHP, JavaScript, Python, C	✗	✗	✗	✗
TransCoder-test	G4G	- / 470 / 948	C++, Java, Python	✗	✗	Partial	✗
HumanEval-X	HumanEval	- / - / 164	C++, Java, Go, JavaScript, Python	✗	✓	✓	✓
G-TransEval	HumanEval, G4G, .NET samples	- / - / 400	C++, Java, C#, JavaScript, Python	✓	✓	✓	✓

- **G-TransEval vs CodeXGLUE:** multilingual solutions
- **G-TransEval vs. XLCoST:** more complex and including unit test cases
- **G-TransEval vs. TransCoder-test:** including full test cases and verified solutions
- **G-TransEval vs. HumanEval-X:** categorized and more balanced distribution of four types

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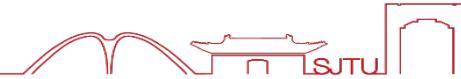
04

Experiments





1) Effect of taxonomy

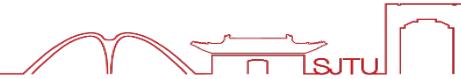


Comparison of model performance on the benchmark

Model	Java→Python			Python→Java			Java→C++			C++→Java			Java→JavaScript			JavaScript→Java		
	BLEU	CB	CA	BLEU	CB	CA	BLEU	CB	CA									
Type 1																		
CodeBERT	81.37	82.67	78.40	81.26	84.14	67.20	93.83	94.18	83.20	95.68	95.54	84.00	83.77	84.91	78.40	93.47	93.52	72.80
CodeT5	82.71	83.07	88.00	81.98	84.81	78.40	94.14	94.41	90.40	97.39	97.35	94.40	84.67	85.25	85.60	93.46	93.81	76.80
TransCoder	86.28	83.73	57.60	82.82	85.32	78.40	89.73	90.61	94.40	93.55	94.22	92.80	-	-	-	-	-	-
TransCoder-ST	90.12	88.66	80.80	90.86	91.94	88.00	87.95	88.78	97.60	94.50	95.15	95.20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Type 2																		
CodeBERT	77.52	77.70	53.60	69.75	68.04	33.60	89.19	89.17	62.40	77.83	76.30	55.20	80.22	79.57	55.20	77.02	74.01	42.40
CodeT5	78.90	79.11	74.40	69.57	68.91	50.40	91.33	91.47	72.80	82.15	81.28	83.20	82.74	82.06	73.60	80.35	78.07	62.40
TransCoder	84.39	84.37	60.80	65.13	65.18	46.40	83.76	84.95	69.60	69.50	68.77	57.60	-	-	-	-	-	-
TransCoder-ST	87.38	87.60	76.00	66.11	64.82	51.20	83.93	84.85	71.20	70.11	69.55	55.20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Type 3																		
CodeBERT	74.51	74.38	28.80	63.69	62.96	16.80	79.14	80.64	31.20	71.81	69.49	26.40	72.56	72.13	25.60	72.03	68.56	20.00
CodeT5	78.62	78.95	68.00	67.47	67.61	44.80	83.66	84.67	48.00	74.52	74.26	58.40	75.18	75.71	52.80	74.26	72.04	37.60
TransCoder	78.04	77.71	26.40	65.00	63.76	19.20	74.83	78.02	38.40	68.86	66.27	33.60	-	-	-	-	-	-
TransCoder-ST	84.42	84.15	69.60	70.84	69.14	38.40	76.20	79.26	40.80	68.45	67.69	36.80	-	-	-	-	-	-
Type 4																		
CodeBERT	35.89	37.10	0.00	26.32	30.22	0.00	25.18	33.53	0.00	20.38	28.05	0.00	34.05	36.48	0.00	22.88	27.93	0.00
CodeT5	37.08	39.82	0.00	21.79	28.13	0.00	31.76	40.87	0.00	33.80	45.19	0.00	43.20	44.94	8.00	29.71	36.61	0.00
TransCoder	37.71	39.35	0.00	25.99	34.39	0.00	19.91	30.09	0.00	31.75	48.37	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
TransCoder-ST	50.99	49.50	4.00	24.36	29.51	0.00	24.96	34.78	4.00	33.38	43.06	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-



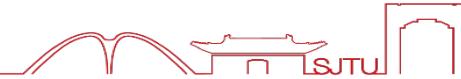
1) Effect of taxonomy



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TransCoder	86.28	83.73	57.60	82.82	85.32	78.40	89.73	90.61	94.40	93.55	94.22	92.80	-	-	-	-	-	-
TransCoder-ST	90.12	88.66	80.80	90.86	91.94	88.00	87.95	88.78	97.60	94.50	95.15	95.20	-	-	-	-	-	-
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TransCoder	37.71	39.35	0.00	25.99	34.39	0.00	19.91	30.09	0.00	31.75	48.37	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
TransCoder-ST	50.99	49.50	4.00	24.36	29.51	0.00	24.96	34.78	4.00	33.38	43.06	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-

1) Effect of taxonomy



Comparison of model performance on the benchmark

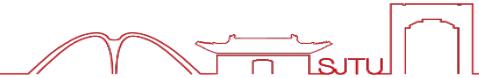
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TransCoder-ST	90.12	88.66	80.80	90.86	91.94	88.00	87.95	88.78	97.60	94.50	95.15	95.20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Type 2																		
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Finding 1:

- ✓ G-TransEval with the taxonomy is effective in differentiating between various levels of translations.
- ✓ As the translation level increases, the task becomes more rigorous.
- ✓ Unsupervised approaches exhibit better performance on lower levels, while supervised approaches demonstrate better performance on higher levels.



2) Effect of programming languages



Comparison of model performance on the benchmark

Model	Java→Python			Python→Java			Java→C++			C++→Java			Java→JavaScript			JavaScript→Java		
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CodeT5	78.62	78.95	68.00	67.47	67.61	44.80	83.66	84.67	48.00	74.52	74.26	58.40	75.18	75.71	52.80	74.26	72.04	37.60
TransCoder	78.04	77.71	26.40	65.00	63.76	19.20	74.83	78.02	38.40	68.86	66.27	33.60	-	-	-	-	-	-
TransCoder-ST	84.42	84.15	69.60	70.84	69.14	38.40	76.20	79.26	40.80	68.45	67.69	36.80	-	-	-	-	-	-
Type 4																		
CodeBERT	35.89	37.10	0.00	26.32	30.22	0.00	25.18	33.53	0.00	20.38	28.05	0.00	34.05	36.48	0.00	22.88	27.93	0.00
CodeT5	37.08	39.82	0.00	21.79	28.13	0.00	31.76	40.87	0.00	33.80	45.19	0.00	43.20	44.94	8.00	29.71	36.61	0.00
TransCoder	37.71	39.35	0.00	25.99	34.39	0.00	19.91	30.09	0.00	31.75	48.37	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
TransCoder-ST	50.99	49.50	4.00	24.36	29.51	0.00	24.96	34.78	4.00	33.38	43.06	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-



2) Effect of programming languages



Comparison of model performance on the benchmark

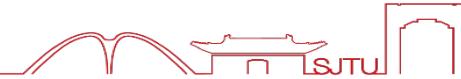
Model	Java→Python			Python→Java			Java→C++			C++→Java			Java→JavaScript			JavaScript→Java		
	BLEU	CB	CA	BLEU	CB	CA	BLEU	CB	CA									
Type 1																		
CodeBERT	81.37	82.67	78.40	81.26	84.14	67.20	93.83	94.18	83.20	95.68	95.54	84.00	83.77	84.91	78.40	93.47	93.52	72.80
CodeT5	82.71	83.07	88.00	81.98	84.81	78.40	94.14	94.41	90.40	97.39	97.35	94.40	84.67	85.25	85.60	93.46	93.81	76.80
TransCoder	86.28	83.73	57.60	82.82	85.32	78.40	89.73	90.61	94.40	93.55	94.22	92.80	-	-	-	-	-	-
TransCoder-ST	90.12	88.66	80.80	90.86	91.94	88.00	87.95	88.78	97.60	94.50	95.15	95.20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Type 2																		
CodeBERT	77.52	77.70	53.60	69.75	68.04	33.60	89.19	89.17	62.40	77.83	76.30	55.20	80.22	79.57	55.20	77.02	74.01	42.40
CodeT5	78.90	79.11	74.40	69.57	68.91	50.40	91.33	91.47	72.80	82.15	81.28	83.20	82.74	82.06	73.60	80.35	78.07	62.40
TransCoder	84.39	84.37	60.80	65.13	65.18	46.40	83.76	84.95	69.60	69.50	68.77	57.60	-	-	-	-	-	-
TransCoder-ST	87.38	87.60	76.00	66.11	64.82	51.20	83.93	84.85	71.20	70.11	69.55	55.20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Type 3																		
CodeBERT	74.51	74.38	28.80	63.69	62.96	16.80	79.14	80.64	31.20	71.81	69.49	26.40	72.56	72.13	25.60	72.03	68.56	20.00
CodeT5	78.62	78.95	68.00	67.47	67.61	44.80	83.66	84.67	48.00	74.52	74.26	58.40	75.18	75.71	52.80	74.26	72.04	37.60
TransCoder	78.04	77.71	26.40	65.00	63.76	19.20	74.83	78.02	38.40	68.86	66.27	33.60	-	-	-	-	-	-

Finding 2:

- ✓ Translations between syntactically dissimilar languages yield lower CA scores for type-1 translations.
- ✓ Translations from dynamically- to statically-typed languages are more challenging than other language pairs.



3) Results of LLMs



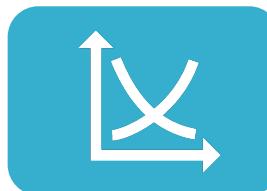
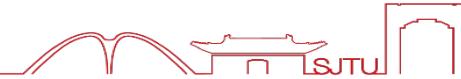
Model	Java→Python			Python→Java			Java→C++			C++→Java			Java→JavaScript			JavaScript→Java		
	BLEU	CB	CA	BLEU	CB	CA	BLEU	CB	CA									
Type 1																		
gpt-3.5-turbo	55.27	69.39	96.00	86.65	89.69	88.80	90.04	91.53	99.20	89.93	92.66	98.40	83.67	83.23	96.00	92.36	93.60	91.20
StarCoderBase	61.11	73.84	85.60	92.96	93.02	84.80	94.64	94.49	96.00	93.76	95.40	91.20	81.66	81.74	78.40	92.05	92.30	64.80
Type 2																		
gpt-3.5-turbo	54.78	67.08	93.60	74.72	72.20	84.80	83.10	83.71	87.20	84.06	82.68	88.80	85.86	84.31	91.20	76.41	73.59	80.80
StarCoderBase	61.48	72.61	83.20	87.13	84.62	79.20	91.96	91.03	93.60	90.35	88.75	79.20	84.51	83.32	88.00	88.54	85.53	63.20
Type 3																		
gpt-3.5-turbo	53.76	65.10	94.40	74.48	74.00	85.60	80.77	80.28	81.60	83.48	80.18	91.20	81.53	81.25	91.20	73.91	73.07	87.20
StarCoderBase	62.51	74.21	88.80	85.08	82.97	73.60	87.71	85.83	78.40	88.29	86.41	84.00	81.09	80.32	80.00	86.07	84.49	60.80
Type 4																		
gpt-3.5-turbo	27.59	40.42	72.00	37.60	47.81	64.00	35.57	43.08	68.00	44.73	55.14	68.00	61.67	61.99	76.00	35.62	47.78	88.00
StarCoderBase	41.14	47.91	44.00	54.09	59.55	72.00	40.61	44.95	48.00	60.73	64.25	68.00	49.29	47.52	56.00	55.72	62.60	64.00

Finding 3:

- ✓ LLMs alleviate the knowledge gap of higher level translations through the substantial number of parameters and training data, hence yielding competitive results in type-2 and type-3 translations.



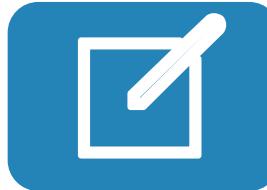
Conclusion



- Empirical Study



- Taxonomy on code translation



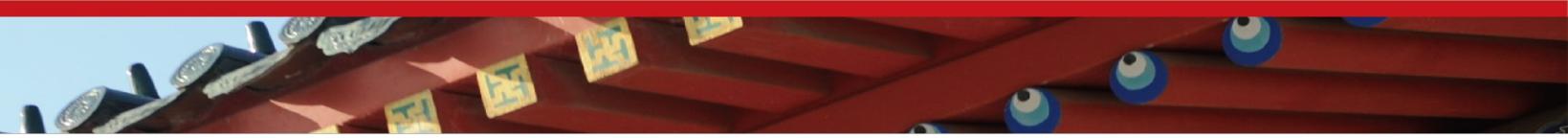
- G-TransEval: a benchmark of code translation



- Experiments on G-TransEval

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Benchmark and code released: <https://github.com/PolyEval/G-TransEval>



Thank You!

Q&A