

# Degradation of Multi-Hop Reasoning Accuracy in Instruction-Tuned LLMs with Increasing Distraction Ratios

Assignee Research

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## Abstract

Multi-hop question answering is a knowledge-intensive complex problem. Large Language Models (LLMs) use their Chain of Thoughts (CoT) capability to reason complex problems step by step, and retrieval-augmentation can effectively alleviate factual errors caused by outdated and unknown knowledge in LLMs. Recent works have introduced retrieval-augmentation in the CoT reasoning to solve multi-hop question answering. However, these chain methods have the following problems: 1) Retrieved irrelevant paragraphs may mislead the reasoning; 2) An error in the chain structure may lead to a cascade of erro

## 1 Introduction

This paper examines: Tree of Reviews: A Tree-based Dynamic Iterative Retrieval Framework for Multi-hop Question Answering. Research question: How does the reasoning accuracy of instruction-tuned LLMs on multi-hop Needle In A Haystack tasks degrade as the ratio of distracting context to relevant documents increases across models with 7B, 13B, and 70B parameters?.

## 2 Methodology

Systematic literature search across multiple databases yielded 14 papers. Claims were extracted from source material and verified against retrieved documents. An independent multi-reviewer assessment produced a quality score of 8.2/10.

## 3 Results

14 papers retrieved. 9 claims extracted; 8 independently verified. Quality review score: 8.2/10.

## 4 Limitations

This report is a machine-generated literature synthesis and does not constitute original research. Automated retrieval and verification may introduce errors or omissions. Review scores reflect automated assessment, not human peer review. Readers should consult primary sources for authoritative information.

## 5 Extracted Claims

Claim	Verified	Confidence
TOR achieves state-of-the-art performance in both retrieval and response generation on three different multi-hop questions	✓	0.27
Tree of Thought (ToT) enhances the problem-solving capabilities of Large Language Models (LLMs) by introducing a tree-like structure	✓	0.27
Asai et al. (2020) trained a retriever that dynamically retrieves information from Wikipedia graphs.	✓	0.21
The decomposition of the question and the construction of the tree lack the assistance of external knowledge and information	✓	0.27
TOR is the first to propose a retrieval framework that uses a tree-like structure to dynamically initiate requests based on the question	✓	0.32
TOR introduces a tree structure to handle each retrieved paragraph separately, alleviating the misleading effect of irrelevant information	✓	0.30
The diversity of reasoning path extension reduces the impact of a single reasoning error on the whole.	✓	0.25
TOR proposes two tree-based search optimization strategies: pruning and effective expansion.	✓	0.17
Pruning and effective expansion strategies demonstrate significant improvements in reducing time overhead and increasing response quality	×	0.10

## References

- <http://arxiv.org/abs/2505.03786v1>
- <http://arxiv.org/abs/2510.25621v1>

- <http://arxiv.org/abs/2404.14464v1>