Mementos: A Comprehensive Benchmark for Multimodal Large Language Model Reasoning over Image Sequences

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Abstract

Multimodal Large Language Models (MLLMs) have demonstrated proficiency in handling a variety of visual-language tasks. However, current MLLM benchmarks are predominantly designed to evaluate reasoning based on static information about a single image, and the ability of modern MLLMs to extrapolate from image sequences, which is essential for understanding our ever-changing world, has been less investigated. To address this challenge, this paper introduces Mementos, a new benchmark designed to assess MLLMs' sequential image reasoning abilities. Mementos features 4,761 diverse image sequences with varying lengths. We also employ a GPT-4 assisted method to evaluate MLLM reasoning performance. Through a careful evaluation of nine recent MLLMs on Mementos, including GPT-4V and Gemini, we find that they struggle to accurately describe dynamic information about given image sequences, often leading to hallucinations/misrepresentations of objects and their corresponding behaviors. Our quantitative analysis and case studies identify three key factors impacting MLLMs' sequential image reasoning: the correlation between object and behavioral hallucinations, the influence of cooccurring behaviors, and the compounding impact of behavioral hallucinations.

1 Introduction

The recent emergence of Multimodal Large Language Models (MLLMs) such as GPT-4V (OpenAI, 2023b) and Gemini (Team, 2023) has shown strong visual-language understanding and generation capabilities in many areas, like image captioning and visual question answering. Despite the notable performance of existing MLLMs, they often suffer from hallucination (a phenomenon where MLLMs produce inaccurate descriptions of the given images) due to insufficient reasoning capabilities, generating inaccurate responses in visual

inference (Liu et al., 2023a; Yue et al., 2023). Thus, monitoring the reasoning capability is of great importance in understanding the ability and the limitations of MLLMs and applying MLLMs in the real world. Previous benchmarks, such as Liu et al. (2023a) and Yue et al. (2023), have primarily addressed evaluating reasoning in each individual image, relying on static and object-centric knowledge. However, they are insufficient to comprehensively assess the reasoning capabilities of MLLMs due to a lack of time-varying object behaviors or events.

To investigate the capabilities of Multi-Modal Language Models (MLLMs) in dynamic reasoning across image sequences, we present a new benchmark, Mementos. This benchmark focuses on the complex task of monitoring and deciphering the positional changes of objects within an image sequence, followed by the inference of behavioral patterns and logical connections among them. Such an endeavor requires the interpretation of the overarching context based on time-variant visual elements, posing a greater challenge than the analysis of static scenes. Concretely, Mementos consists of 4,761 image sequences with varying episode lengths, encompassing diverse scenarios from everyday life, robotics tasks, and comic-style storyboards. An episode refers to a specific event or series of events depicted in the image sequence. Each sequence is paired with a human-annotated description of the key objects and their behaviors.

To assess the reasoning capability of MLLMs on Mementos, we employ a *GPT-4*-assisted evaluation procedure: after an MLLM produces a description for an image sequence, we extract behavior and object keywords from both AI-generated and human-annotated descriptions using GPT-4. We then use keyword matching to assess the degree of behavioral and object hallucinations. To refine the correctness of this evaluation, we have developed behavior and object synonym graphs for each domain. These graphs facilitate more precise key-

[Prompt]: Write a description for the given image sequence in a single paragraph, what is happening in this episode?



[GPT-4V]: In the sequence of images provided, we observe two men engaged in what appears to be a playful and humorous interaction on a set of outdoor stairs leading to a building entrance: In the first image, one man is seen holding a long, flexible object, possibly a strip of metal or rubber, and appears to be playfully threatening to strike the other man, who is ascending the stairs and holding a similar object. The second image captures a moment of anticipation, with the first man poised to 'attack' and the second man looking back with a smile, suggesting a friendly and joking atmosphere: The third image shows the first man in motion, as if he has just attempted to playfully hit the second man, who is now halfway through the doorway, still participating in the jest: In the final image, the second man has turned around completely, facing the first man with a grin, indicating that the mack confrontation has ended amicably, and both men seem to be enjoying the interaction. The overall mood is light-hearted, and the episode seems to be a moment of cameraderie and fun between the two individuals:

[Human annotation]: The sequence of images depicts three men interacting on an outdoor staircase. The man in brown is ascending the stairs slowly, holding onto the railings with both hands, while engaging in conversation with the man in black, who is attentively watching him and holding onto the railing as well. During the ascent, the man in brown turns back to continue his dialogue with the man at the bottom. Meanwhile, the man at the door observes the interaction between the two.

Robotics domain

[GPT-4V]: The sequence of images depicts a robotic arm interacting with a drawer in a piece of furniture: Initially, the drawer is closed, and the robotic arm is positioned near it. As the sequence progresses, the arm extends towards the drawer and appears to grasp the handle. It then pulls the drawer open, revealing the contents inside: The images capture the motion of the robotic arm as it performs the task of opening the drawer, showcasing the arm's range of motion and its ability to interact with objects in its environment:

[Human annotation]: In this picture, there is a table with an empty bowl, a packet of snacks, and a blue can on it. The table has many closed drawers. A robotic arm has located the drawer in the first column and second row and has pulled it open.



[GPT-4V]: The image is a four-panel comic featuring a bear and rabbits: In the first panel, the bear is gleefully eating a large red apple while sitting in a hole with three carrots: In the second panel, the bear appears sad and contemplative, staring at the apple core, having finished the apple: In the third panel, three rabbits appear next to the bear, only their heads visible above the ground, mimicking the look of the carrots: In the final panel, the bear is happily eating a carrot, seemingly content with the new option, while the rabbits, now fully visible and standing in the hole, look on with one rabbit patting the bear's back in a comforting gesture. The comic conveys a message of companionship and finding contentment in what is available.

[Human annotation]: A little bear wearing red pants is sitting on the ground, trying to pull a carrot out of a hole, but he fails and sits on the ground, sighing in dismay: At this moment, two rabbits come over, and one of the rabbits pulls a carrot out of the hole and gives it to the little bear. The little bear looks very happy:

Figure 1: Examples of hallucinations by GPT-4V in three domains on Mementos. The red box shows the description generated by GPT-4V based on the given prompt, and the human-annotated descriptions are in the blue box. Texts highlighted in yellow are hallucination parts generated by GPT-4V. This illustrates that even GPT-4V experiences severe hallucinations when reasoning from image sequences.

word matching, ensuring a thorough and nuanced analysis of the MLLMs' reasoning abilities. Besides, we also provide the comparison with human evaluation to demonstrates that the GPT-4-assisted evaluation procedure is very reliable.

We evaluated the reasoning proficiency of *nine leading-edge MLLMs* on Mementos, encompassing both black-box and open-source models. Our findings indicate that Mementos poses a considerable challenge to these current MLLMs. For instance, as depicted in Figure 1, GPT-4V exhibits notable behavioral and object hallucinations in various domains during image sequence reasoning. Behavioral hallucinations are defined as the MLLMs' erroneous interpretations or predictions of entity actions, while object hallucinations pertain to the inaccurate identification or creation of objects. Notably, behavioral hallucinations were more frequent

than object hallucinations, highlighting a significant deficiency in MLLMs' capability to deduce events from image sequences.

Furthermore, our research pinpoints three principal factors that lead to the reasoning failures of MLLMs: (1) the interconnectedness of object and behavioral hallucinations, (2) the impact of co-occurring behaviors, and (3) the cumulative effect of behavioral hallucinations. The objective of our proposed benchmark and analyses is to shed light on innovative approaches to augment the reasoning abilities of MLLMs and to reduce hallucinations in their subsequent advancements.

2 Mementos

In this section, we introduce Mementos, a novel and challenging benchmark designed to test the reasoning capability of Multimodal Large Language Model (MLLM) under sequential image input. Initially, we detail the data gathering and annotation methodology for Mementos, alongside an overview of data distribution. Subsequently, we outline the procedure and the metric employed to evaluate the reasoning capabilities of MLLMs on Mementos.

2.1 Mementos Benchmark

2.1.1 Dataset Composition

Mementos comprises 4,761 image sequences of varying lengths, predominantly sourced from Daily-life, Robotics, and Comics domains. Detailed statistics are provided in Table 1. This diverse collection is instrumental in evaluating the comprehensive time-varying reasoning abilities of MLLMs. Specifically, the robotics data, closely associated with embodied AI or real-world contexts, and the comic-style storyboard data, rich in stylistic and episodic diversity in image sequences, significantly enhance the benchmark's relevance and robustness.

Table 1: The number of image sequences in different categories within Mementos.

	Total	Train Set	Val set
Daily-life	3505	3055	450
Robotics	1101	902	199
Comics	155	105	50

Daily-life The Daily-life image sequences in Mementos are derived from video clips in the Next-QA dataset, as cited in Xiao et al. (2021). These sequences represent a range of everyday life scenarios. We have selectively extracted videos from the Next-QA Training set, specifically those with frame counts ranging from 400 to 2,500. To balance the challenge of testing MLLMs' reasoning capabilities against the risk of losing critical information, our methodology involves retaining the first frame of each video. Subsequently, we sample one image every 100 frames. The collected images from this sampling process then form an image sequence that corresponds to the original video. This approach ensures a rigorous yet feasible evaluation of MLLMs' reasoning abilities in dynamically evolving everyday scenarios.

Robotics For the Robotics data, we utilized videos from various sub-datasets within Open X-Embodiment (Collaboration et al., 2023). Open X-Embodiment aggregates video datasets from multiple university laboratories, showcasing a variety of tasks performed by different robotic systems. We

meticulously selected sub-datasets from Open X-Embodiment that offer video resolutions exceeding 128x128 and exhibit a high degree of task diversity. From these chosen sub-datasets, a total of 1,101 videos were sampled. The precise number of videos sourced from each sub-dataset is detailed in Appendix A. For video sampling, our approach varied based on the length of the videos. Videos exceeding 100 frames were processed by sampling one image every n/20 frames, where n represents the total frame count. Conversely, for videos with frame counts ranging from 20 to 100, we sampled one image every 5 frames. This ensures the formation of comprehensive and representative image sequences for each video, catering to the evaluation of MLLMs in diverse and complex robotic contexts.

Comics The Comics data is composed of wordless multi-panel comics of diverse styles, curated from online sources. Unlike Daily-life and Robotics sections, where image sequences are uniformly extracted from video frames, the comics represent intentionally selected key moments within a narrative, manually illustrated by artists. This distinction sets our dataset apart from conventional video datasets. In addition to traditional comics, this category also incorporates 20 storyboards from movies reimagined in comic style. We have further deconstructed these comics into individual image sequences by taking screenshots. This approach enables a unique exploration of sequential visual reasoning, enhancing the diversity and complexity of the dataset for evaluating MLLMs.

2.1.2 Dataset Annotation

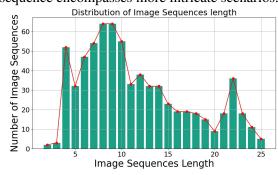
For each image sequence in Mementos, we have meticulously annotated a ground truth description that captures the unfolding events. These descriptions focus on the primary objects and their respective behaviors, where *behavior* refers to a verb or verb phrase associated with the object in question.

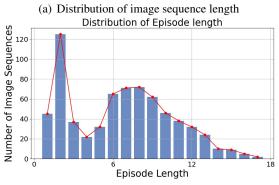
For the Daily-life data, we initially employed GPT-4V(ision) (OpenAI, 2023a), to amalgamate and reformulate the questions and answers from the Next-QA videos into single paragraph descriptions. This method significantly expedited the manual annotation process. Following this, we conducted a thorough manual review of these automated descriptions, making necessary adjustments. This included rectifying inaccuracies, removing non-existent episodes, and adding missing details to

ensure alignment with the actual image sequences. To ensure reliability, we implemented a cross-validation step, where a separate set of annotators performed a secondary review. For the Robotics and Comics categories, the annotation process was entirely manual, conducted by human annotators. These annotations were then subjected to a verification process by the authors which ensures the accuracy and consistency of the descriptions across all categories.

2.1.3 Dataset Statistics

In showcasing the diversity of Mementos, we present a detailed overview of the data distribution within the Mementos validation set. Our analysis focuses on two key dimensions: the length of the image sequence and the length of the episode. The length of an image sequence is defined by the number of frames it contains, while the episode length is determined by the total number of events depicted in the sequence. A longer image sequence necessitates the MLLM to process a larger number of images, thereby challenging the model's capacity to manage sequences spanning broader timeframes. A greater episode length signifies that the image sequence encompasses more intricate scenarios.





(b) Distribution of episode length

Figure 2: Data distribution in Mementos Val set. **Image sequence length** For the image sequence length, we count the number of frames in each image sequence. As shown in Figure 2(a), the majority of image sequences are between 4 and 14 frames in length. 67.38% of image sequences

contain 4 to 14 frames, yet 31.90% of sequences are composed of longer frames - more than 15 frames.

Episode length To quantify the episode length within each image sequence of Mementos, we employed GPT-4 for extracting behavior keywords, specifically verbs associated with objects, from the human-annotated descriptions. This extraction was facilitated using a pre-defined manual prompt, details of which can be found in Appendix D. Following the extraction, we calculated the length of the behavior list for each image sequence. A lengthier behavior list signifies a more extended episode within the image sequence, which inherently poses a greater challenge for the MLLM in comprehending the entire image sequence. As illustrated in Figure 2(b), a significant portion of the image sequences, particularly those from the robotics data, feature episode lengths ranging between 1 and 3. This is mainly attributed to the dominance of twoaction episodes like 'pick up and place', 'move and pull open', 'locate and push'. Meanwhile, the remaining data exhibits a normal distribution for episode lengths spanning 4 to 17.

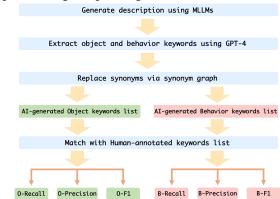


Figure 3: GPT-4-assisted evaluation procedure. We use "O-" for objects and "B-" for behaviors.

2.2 Evaluation Procedure and Metrics

In this section, we illustrate how to evaluate the descriptions generated by MLLMs, including the evaluation procedure and metrics.

Procedure As shown in Figure 3, we use an image sequence and a pre-designed prompt together as the input for MLLMs, and generate the description aligned with the corresponding image sequence. Next, we ask GPT-4 to extract object and behavior keywords in the AI-generated description. We then match the obtained keywords with the *synonym graph* we built, replacing the matched keywords with the root word from the synonym graph. Finally, we obtain two lists of keywords: AI-generated object list and AI-generated behavior

list. We note that the proposed keyword extraction leveraging GPT-4 is surprisingly reliable and accurate, which is competitive with human extraction. Please refer to Appendix C for more details.

Synonym graph The synonym graph is an unilateral digraph where each edge connects two nodes representing words or phrases. For instance, given a synonym pair (pick up, lift up), an edge is directed from 'lift up' to 'pick up'. In each synonym pair, the first word, originating from the human-annotated keyword list, is referred to as the root word, while the second word is from the AI-generated keyword. To construct this synonym graph, we use GPT-4 to extract object and behavior keywords from all human-annotated descriptions in the Val set, forming a human-annotated keyword list. Then, we generate descriptions using GPT-4V, LLAVA, and Gemini and use GPT-4 to extract object and behavior keywords. After that, we manually match these words with the human-annotated keyword list to identify all synonym pairs and add them as edges to the synonym graph. Given a word or phrase, this synonym graph can quickly match the corresponding root word if a synonym exists in the human-annotated keyword list, completing the keyword replacement. For convenience in evaluation, we maintain separate synonym graphs for objects and behaviors of different categories. We make all constructed synonym graphs publicly available as open-source resources.

Metrics After obtaining the AI-generated object list and behavior list, we utilize the corresponding human-annotated object list and human-annotated behavior list as the ground truth to calculate 'Recall,' 'Precision,' and 'F1 metrics' at both the object and behavior levels. These metrics are used to measure the understanding capabilities regarding the image sequence episode. 'Recall' reflects the accuracy of an MLLM's reasoning about episodes in an image sequence, while 'precision' focuses on assessing the severity of hallucinations that occur when understanding the image sequence.

3 Experiments

In our experimental section, we delve into two key questions: (a) We examine the reasoning **capabilities** of current MLLMs on Mementos. Specifically, we assess the **severity** of object and behavioral hallucinations in these models. (b) We investigate the underlying **causes** of reasoning failures in MLLMs when interpreting image sequences.

3.1 Baseline evaluation

3.1.1 Models

We establish our baseline using 9 popular MLLMs. The black-box MLLMs include GPT-4V (OpenAI, 2023a) and Gemini (Team, 2023), and the opensource MLLMs are Video-LLaMA-2 (Zhang et al., 2023a), Chat-UniVi (Jin et al., 2023), LLaVA-1.5 (Liu et al., 2023c), MiniGPT4 (Zhu et al., 2023), MiniGPT5 (Zheng et al., 2023), mPLUG Owlv2 (Ye et al., 2023), and InstructBLIP (Dai et al., 2023). Considering that only a few open-source MLLMs are designed to process sequential images (Video-LLaMA-2 and Chat-UniVi), we adapt input for other models by combining all frames from an image sequence into one composite image, referred to as the combined-input (c-input) setting. For black-box MLLMs and Chat-UniVi, we conduct evaluations using both the c-input and an alternative approach where frames from the image sequence are input sequentially, termed the sequential-input (s-input) setting. For Video-LLaMA-2, we only test in s-input setting.

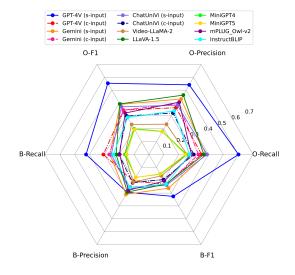


Figure 4: Comparison of metrics for different MLLMs.

3.1.2 Evaluation results

We evaluate all MLLMs on Mementos and report the results in Figure 4. Besides, we provide the performance of each baseline method in three different domains (Daily-life, Robotics, and Comics) in Table 2. We summarize our findings as follows: GPT-4V (s-input) and LLaVA-1.5 are the best-performing models among black-box and open-source MLLMs, respectively. As shown in Figure 4, except for being on par with Gemini (s-input) and LLaVA-1.5 in behavior precision, GPT-4V with s-input demonstrates the best reasoning

Table 2: Evaluation of different MLLMs on Mementos.

Domain	Input type	Model	Object			Behavior		
		Wiouci	Recall	Precision	F1	Recall	Precision	F1
Daily-life		GPT-4V	59.80%	50.96%	53.51%	36.71%	32.97%	33.59%
	Sequential	Gemini	35.92%	42.06%	37.10%	18.80%	29.42%	21.64%
	Sequential	Video-LLaMA-2	31.59%	30.01%	29.37%	17.05%	28.19%	20.12%
		Chat-UniVi	40.74%	40.78%	39.13%	22.30%	31.10%	24.90%
		GPT-4V	39.45%	39.64%	38.04%	26.43%	23.59%	23.98%
		Gemini	31.17%	37.39%	32.38%	17.71%	25.65%	19.74%
		Chat-UniVi	36.19%	38.88%	36.02%	21.80%	28.52%	23.73%
	Combined	LLaVa-1.5	37.72%	47.01%	40.18%	22.17%	37.33%	26.65%
	Combined	MiniGPT4	32.25%	23.14%	25.75%	18.09%	24.16%	19.45%
		MiniGPT5	31.39%	22.62%	24.91%	18.42%	24.56%	19.85%
		mPLUG_Owl-v2	32.59%	47.17%	37.04%	17.96%	33.57%	22.13%
		InstructBLIP	31.82%	41,14%	34.28%	22.40%	30.30%	24.55%
		GPT-4V	63.94%	65.42%	62.99%	60.72%	24.43%	33.95%
	Sequential	Gemini	43.80%	46.26%	43.15%	46.43%	38.13%	39.38%
		Video-LLaMA-2	13.41%	10.33%	11.15%	17.04%	8.96%	11.23%
		Chat-UniVi	35.40%	32.57%	32.39%	32.24%	16.69%	21.14%
		GPT-4V	27.87%	31.86%	28.58%	44.72%	16.54%	23.58%
Robotics		Gemini	34.78%	41.66%	36.16%	47.29%	29.59%	34.17%
		Chat-UniVi	17.74%	18.32%	17.07%	19.81%	10.01%	12.54%
	Combined	LLaVa-1.5	36.88%	46.62%	39.31%	25.27%	14.80%	17.95%
	Combined	MiniGPT4	10.97%	7.28%	8.16%	13.40%	5.88%	7.76%
		MiniGPT5	9.75%	6.52%	7.16%	8.96%	4.53%	5.43%
		mPLUG_Owl-v2	19.75%	26.70%	21.99%	26.46%	16.59%	19.51%
		InstructBLIP	17.96%	18.65%	17.29%	31.41%	19.08%	22.69%
		GPT-4V	49.53%	37.57%	41.71%	19.97%	17.29%	18.11%
	Sequential	Gemini	38.57%	40.64%	38.53%	15.23%	19.11%	16.30%
Comics		Video-LLaMA-2	20.26%	17.59%	18.09%	5.45%	11.07%	6.81%
		Chat-UniVi	28.04%	31.61%	28.13%	10.42%	15.74%	11.97%
	Combined	GPT-4V	29.23%	24.64%	25.90%	13.19%	13.09%	12.90%
		Gemini	41.25%	45.07%	41.18%	15.37%	20.55%	16.42%
		Chat-UniVi	25.12%	28.08%	25.51%	8.85%	10.67%	9.31%
		LLaVa-1.5	29.44%	35.61%	30.97%	8.63%	13.56%	10.27%
	Comonica	MiniGPT4	20.50%	13.94%	15.74%	7.95%	8.64%	7.98%
		MiniGPT5	22.94%	18.11%	19.42%	8.88%	11.92%	9.94%
		mPLUG_Owl-v2	26.82%	37.74%	29.49%	8.70%	20.85%	11.74%
		InstructBLIP	25.02%	29.15%	25.10%	8.25%	10.48%	8.97%

capability compared with all other MLLMs in understanding image sequences. Among open-source models, LLaVA1.5 performs the best, nearly matching or even surpassing the black-box model Gemini in object comprehension, but its ability to infer behaviors from image sequences is weaker compared to Gemini and GPT-4V. Although Video-LLaMA-2 and Chat-UniVi are designed for video understanding, they do not show an advantage over LLaVA-1.5, especially Video-LLaMA-2, which performs notably worse compared to LLaVA-1.5. The weakest models in understanding image sequences are MiniGPT4 and MiniGPT5, with a significant gap in every metric compared to the other baselines. It's noteworthy that under c-input setting, the performance of black-box MLLMs does not significantly differ from that of open-source MLLMs. LLaVA-1.5 and mPLUG_Owl-v2 meet or even exceed the black-box MLLMs on many metrics.

MLLMs possess a much stronger ability on reasoning objects in image sequences than they

do on reasoning behaviors. We find that all MLLM methods perform significantly better on the three metrics for objects than those for behaviors. Taking the best-performing GPT-4V as an example, it achieves over 50% on all three object metrics, with recall even reaching 60%, indicating it can effectively recognize the main objects in an image sequence. However, for behaviors, GPT-4V scores only around 30%, with the best recall metric barely exceeding 40%. Despite this, GPT-4V is still the best-performing MLLM in reasoning behaviors. This suggests that current MLLMs do not possess strong abilities to autonomously infer the behaviors from given sequential images, indicating the importance of our benchmark in highlighting the limitations in the reasoning abilities of MLLMs.

Reasoning capability of MLLMs varies across different domains. From Table 2, we find that black-box models perform best in the robotics domain across the three domains, while open-source models show relatively better performance in the

daily-life domain. Analyzing each domain specifically, it is evident that in the daily-life domain, the performance of all methods, except for GPT-4V (s-input), does not vary significantly. The main reason for the performance gap between open-source MLLMs and black-box MLLMs is the noticeably lower metrics of open-source models compared to black-box models in the robotics and comics domains. The recall, precision, and F1 of both object and behavior for black-box MLLMs are almost more than double those of open-source models. We speculate that one reason for this phenomenon is the distribution shift between Mementos and the training data of open-source MLLMs. The limitations of the training data lead to weaker reasoning capability of open-source MLLMs.

3.2 Analysis of Failure Reasoning

In this section, we will provide reasons for failure reasoning results in current MLLMs, combining specific quantitative analyses and case studies. Since behavioral hallucination is a unique phenomenon in image sequence reasoning, and the causes of object hallucination are not significantly different from those in single image reasoning, we only present the reasons leading to behavioral hallucination in this paper. Due to space limitations, please refer to the Appendix E for specific case studies. The following are our main findings:

Interplay between object and behavioral hallucinations in MLLMs. A key hypothesis underpinning behavioral hallucination is that incorrect object identification leads to subsequent inaccuracies in behavior identification. To test this, we evaluated the correlation coefficients between object and behavioral hallucinations across different domains for various MLLMs, as detailed in Appendix B Table 4. Our findings reveal that, for most MLLMs, the correlation coefficients in the three domains fluctuate between 0.1 and 0.4, suggesting a weak yet present correlation. This outcome supports the hypothesis that object hallucination contributes to behavioral hallucination to some extent. Case studies further reveal that after an object hallucination occurs, MLLMs tend to describe behaviors related to the hallucinated object, even if these behaviors do not exist in the image sequence. As shown in Figure 5, after recognizing a scene as a tennis court, a MLLM might describe a person playing tennis. Interestingly, in the robotics domain, there is a negligible correlation between object and behavioral hallucinations in black-box MLLMs. This divergence is likely because behaviors in robotics are predominantly linked to robotic arms, which these MLLMs generally identify correctly.



Figure 5: A sample of failure reasoning case in Dailylife domain. The failure reason is object hallucination, correlation between object hallucination and behavioral hallucination, and co-occurrence behavior. Following the object hallucination of *tennis court*, the LVLM subsequently exhibits behavioral hallucinations of *holding a tennis racket* (correlation between object hallucination and behavioral hallucination) and *appears to be playing tennis* (co-occurrence behavior).

The impact of co-occurrence on behavioral hallucination. In line with object hallucination phenomena, as noted in Li et al. (2023c) and Zhou et al. (2023a), MLLMs demonstrate a tendency to generate behaviors that are commonly paired together. This proclivity exacerbates the problem of behavioral hallucination, especially in the field of robotics. Consider the case in Figure 1 where a robotic arm is tasked with opening a drawer by grabbing its side. MLLMs might erroneously depict the sequence as the arm grabbing the handle first, followed by pulling the drawer open, since grabbing the handle is a more co-occurring behavior with 'pull open'. Despite the final outcome being accurately described, such errors in key details are unacceptable in robotics. This issue is of particular concern given the growing inclination to utilize MLLMs as reward functions in robotic training (Ma et al., 2023; Sontakke et al., 2023; Rocamonde et al., 2023; Baumli et al., 2023). Such behavioral hallucinations can critically affect the quality of the reward function, leading to potential mislearning of behaviors in robotic systems. Detailed case studies are shown in Appendix E.

The Snowball effect in behavioral hallucinations.

The Snowball effect is a well-documented phenomenon in machine learning, referring to the progressive accumulation or intensification of errors in a system, as discussed in Asadi et al. (2019); Zhang et al. (2023b); Wang et al. (2023c); Liu et al. (2023d). Zhang et al. (2023b) notably highlight this phenomenon in Large Language Models. Experiments on Mementos reveal that the snowball effect in both behavioral and object hallucinations becomes markedly pronounced when reasoning through image sequences. The temporal nature of image sequences, consisting of a series of frames rather than a solitary image, demands that MLLMs sequentially infer the narrative. This process makes models susceptible to exacerbating hallucinations if errors occur early in the sequence. We specifically examined the trend of object and behavioral hallucination in GPT-4V and LLaVA-1.5 within the daily-life domain, correlating it with the episode length. As shown in Figure 6, there is a noticeable decrease in object and behavior recall for both MLLMs as the episode length extends. This trend suggests a heightened susceptibility to hallucinations and a pronounced snowball effect in MLLMs when processing image sequences with a greater array of objects and behaviors. Detailed case studies can be found in Appendix E.

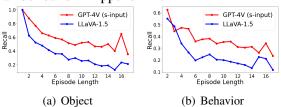


Figure 6: The trend of changes in object and behavior recall for GPT-4V and LLaVA-1.5 in the Daily-life domain as the episode length increases.

4 Related work

4.1 Benchmarking in MLLMs

The advent of MLLMs has prompted a reassessment of traditional benchmarks (Lin et al., 2014; Marino et al., 2019; Hudson and Manning, 2019). These benchmarks fail to sufficiently expose the hallucination issues in MLLMs. Consequently, there is a growing impetus to devise more challenging benchmarks. This trend spans various domains, from question and answering (QA) reasoning (Liu et al., 2023a; Yue et al., 2023), to optical character recognition (OCR) (Liu et al., 2023f), and extends to the study of hallucinations (Wang et al., 2023a), with benchmarks such as POPE (Li et al.,

2023c) and Bingo (Cui et al., 2023). Additionally, comprehensive analyses of MLLMs, such as Mmbench (Liu et al., 2023e), Mm-vet(Yu et al., 2023b), LVLM-eHub(Xu et al., 2023), SEED(Li et al., 2023a), GAVIE(Liu et al., 2023b), and LAMM (Yin et al., 2023), are emerging.

Our paper presents a novel benchmark using sequences from videos or comics to study behavioral hallucinations, diverging from single-image analysis. Unlike Chen et al. (2023a)'s vision QA tasks from uniformly sampled video frames, our benchmark challenges MLLMs to describe sequences without question guidance, offering a finer evaluation of hallucinations and reasoning in MLLMs.

4.2 Hallucination in MLLMs

Hallucinations in MLLMs, akin to those in Large Language Models (LLMs) (Zhang et al., 2023c; Li et al., 2023b; Zhou et al., 2024; Chen et al., 2023b), represent a significant challenge. In MLLMs, hallucinations are characterized by inconsistencies between the model's output and the visual content (Rohrbach et al., 2018; Wang et al., 2023a). Recent studies have explored various aspects of hallucination in MLLMs, covering topics such as object hallucination (Li et al., 2023c), hallucination assessment in GPT-4V (Cui et al., 2023), and knowledge hallucination (Liu et al., 2023a).

While there are methods proposed for mitigating hallucinations (Zhou et al., 2023a; Wang et al., 2023b; Leng et al., 2023; Zhou et al., 2023b; Chen et al., 2023c; Jiang et al., 2023; Huang et al., 2023; Yu et al., 2023a; Zhao et al., 2023), there is a noticeable gap in the literature regarding the study of behavioral hallucination. Moreover, the existing work does not offer a dedicated metric for evaluating behavioral hallucinations.

5 Conclusion

In this paper, we present Mementos, a novel and challenging benchmark designed to assess the reasoning abilities of Multimodal Large Language Models (MLLMs) in interpreting image sequences. We conduct evaluations on nine most recent MLLMs using GPT-4-assisted evaluation procedure. Our findings indicate that all tested MLLMs struggle with significant behavioral and object hallucinations in generating descriptions for image sequences. Through a mix of quantitative analysis and case studies, we identify three primary factors contributing to these reasoning failures.

Limitations

Domain courage Mementos is consisted of 4,761 image sequences from three domains: Daily life, Robotics, and Comics. It would be interesting to include a broader variety of data types. This expansion could include first-person navigation experiences, sequential medical CT scans, and interactive gaming data. MLLMs could behave different types of hallucinations in image sequences from other domains

Evaluation Process Our evaluation process focuses on the match of keywords to measure the reasoning ability of MLLMs. However, it would be possible that the MLLM generation is the same as human annotations in semantics but obtains low performance, since the generated tokens are not covered by our synonym graph. Future work could extend the evaluation method to semantic understanding rather than relying predominantly on keyword matching.

Hallucination Mitigation Our work identifies two kinds of hallucination: object and behavioral hallucinations and explore the failure reason of MLLMs. We have not yet proposed a mitigation method to reduce behavioral hallucinations. Future work could utilize the three causes of reasoning failures to bolster the reasoning faculties of MLLMs, making them more adept at accurately interpreting and describing complex image sequences.

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A Details of Open X-Embodiment Data Selection

In this section, we provide the names of all subsets selected from Open X-Embodiment dataset and the corresponding sampling video numbers. For detailed information, please refer to Table 3.

B Correlation Coefficients between Object and Behavioral Hallucinations

In this section, we provide detailed correlation coefficients between object and behavioral hallucinations in Table 4.

C Human Evaluation

In this section, to verify the reliability of the GPT-4 assisted evaluation procedure, we compare the results of GPT-4 assisted evaluation with those of human evaluation. We randomly select 200 image sequences from the entire Val set and manually extract object and behavior keyword lists for each image sequence's AI-generated description and human-annotated description. Then, we calculate six metrics and compare them with the metrics obtained using keyword lists extracted by GPT-4. We choose the four MLLMs that performed best in reasoning on Mementos as representatives: GPT-4V (s-input), Gemini (s-input), Chat-UniVi (s-input), and LLaVA-1.5. The evaluation results are shown in Table 5.

After comparison, we find that there is not a significant gap between the results of GPT-4 assisted evaluation and human evaluation, with the absolute value of the difference mostly ranging between 1% to 4%. For most metrics, the GPT-4 assisted evaluation tends to overestimate the performance of MLLMs, meaning the evaluation results are higher than those of human evaluation. However, the relative ranking among different MLLMs remains essentially unchanged. Overall, the GPT-4 assisted evaluation is quite reliable.

D Prompt Details

In this section, we provide all the prompts used in our paper, including those used to merge questions and answers from Daily-life videos into a single description, prompts for MLLMs to generate descriptions corresponding to image sequences, and prompts for extracting object and behavior keywords from both human-annotated and AI-generated descriptions. The detailed prompts are shown in Table 6.

E Case Study

In this section, we present failure reasoning cases of different domains (Figure 7-22), with specific reasons for failure detailed in the captions of each figure.

F Status of Exemption from Institutional Review Board

Before starting any segments of the study involving human evaluation, the research team completed and submitted a "Human Subjects Research Determination" form to the appropriate Institutional Review Board (IRB). We obtained a determination letter from the IRB before any human study activities commenced, indicating that our project proposal had been granted 'Exempt' status. This classification implies that the proposed research was deemed 'Not Human Subjects Research'.

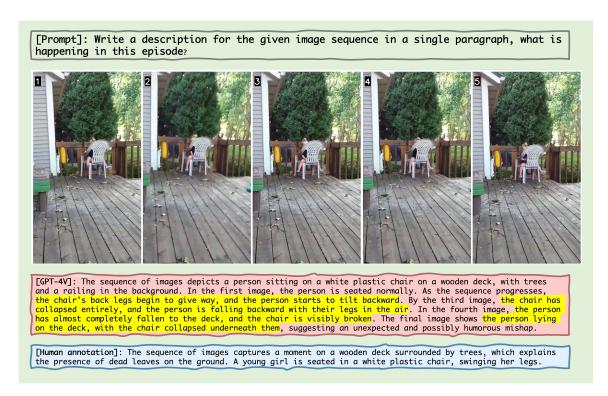


Figure 7: A sample of failure reasoning case in Daily-life domain, we highlight the hallucination parts in yellow. Failure reason: co-occurrence behavior and Snowball.

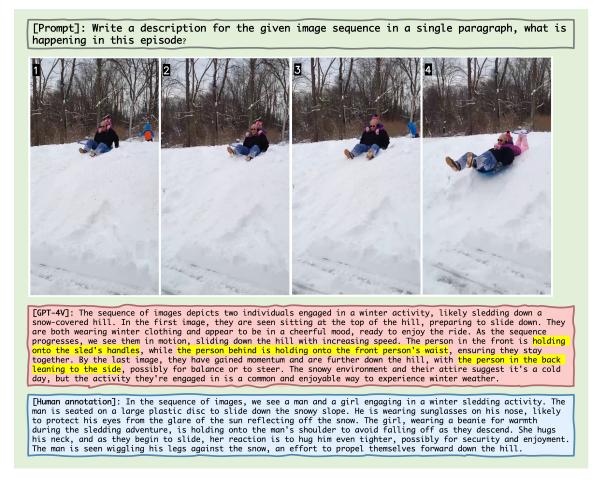


Figure 8: A sample of failure reasoning case in Daily-life domain, we highlight the hallucination parts in yellow. Failure reason: object hallucination, and correlation between object hallucination and behavioral hallucination.

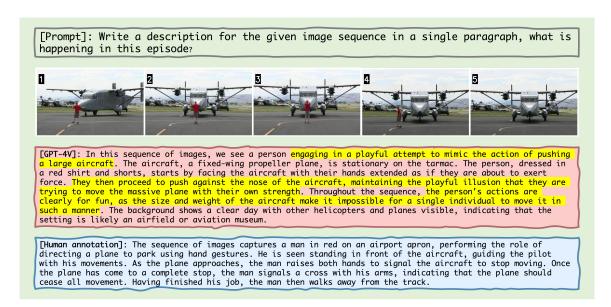


Figure 9: A sample of failure reasoning case in Daily-life domain, we highlight the hallucination parts in yellow. Failure reason: lack of common sense and Snowball.

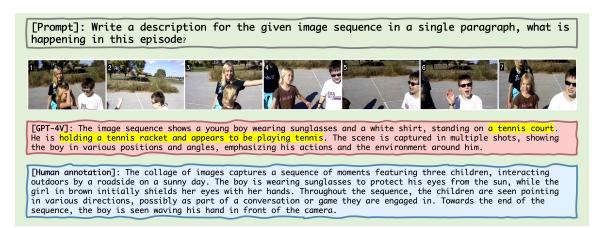


Figure 10: A sample of failure reasoning case in Daily-life domain, we highlight the hallucination parts in yellow. Failure reason: object hallucination, correlation between object hallucination and behavioral hallucination, and co-occurrence behavior.

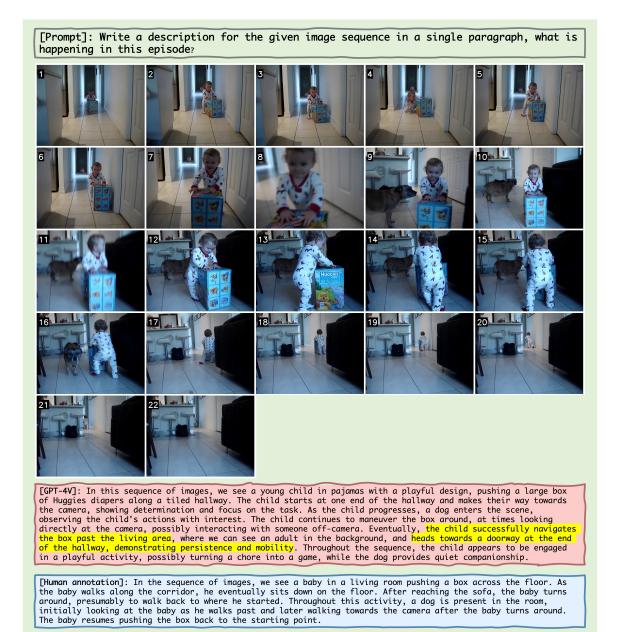


Figure 11: A sample of failure reasoning case in Daily-life domain, we highlight the hallucination parts in yellow. Failure reason: Snowball. In this case, we observe that in addition to the significant behavioral hallucinations caused by Snowball effect mentioned in Section 3.2, another result of Snowball is that LVLMs may not fully describe all episodes in an image sequence. That is, after a behavioral hallucination occurs, the LVLM might assume the episode has ended and stop describing. For instance, in this case, the LVLM stopped describing after mentioning the child reaching the living room and the adult leaving, without continuing to describe the child pushing the box back along the hallway.

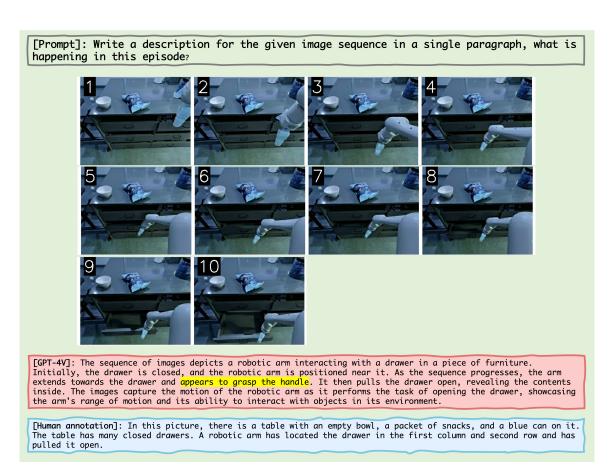


Figure 12: A sample of failure reasoning case in Robotics domain, we highlight the hallucination parts in yellow. Failure reason: co-occurrence behavior.

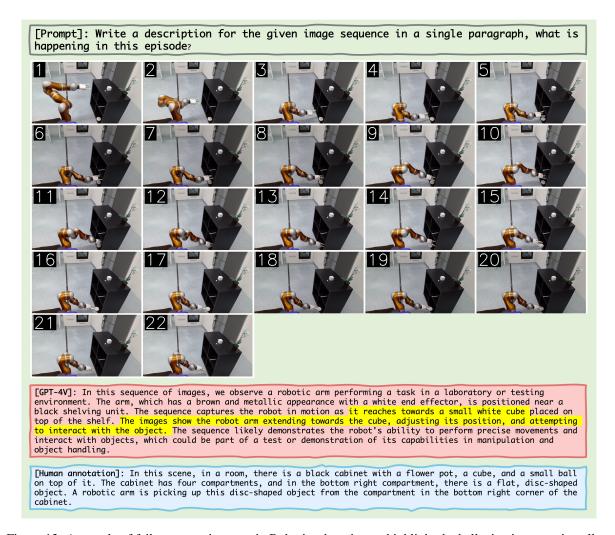


Figure 13: A sample of failure reasoning case in Robotics domain, we highlight the hallucination parts in yellow. Failure reason: Snowball. This case effectively demonstrates the lack of LVLM's reasoning ability in image sequence comprehension. In the first image, the robotic arm indeed appears to be moving towards the cube, but from the second image, the arm lowers and moves towards the disc-shaped object. The LVLM failed to infer this behavior from the first two images and based its subsequent description solely on the understanding in the first image, leading to a Snowball effect.

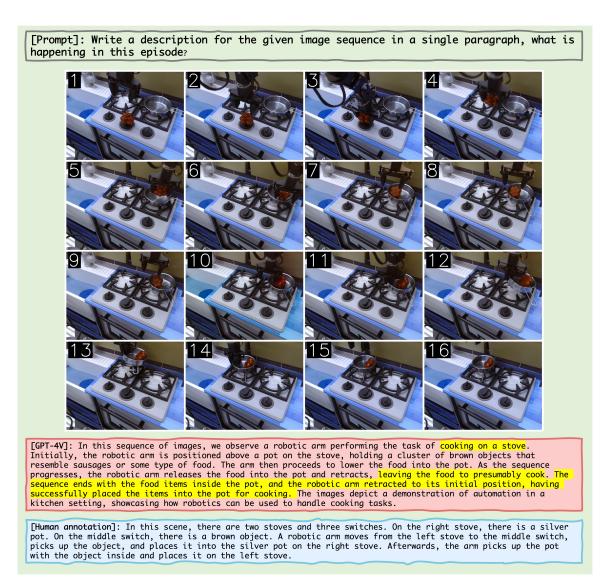


Figure 14: A sample of failure reasoning case in Robotics domain, we highlight the hallucination parts in yellow. Failure reason: co-occurrence behavior and Snowball. This case also reflects another outcome of the Snowball effect that we mentioned in Figure 11. After assuming that the robotic arm is cooking, the LVLM do not continue to describe the behavior of the robotic arm moving the pot from the right stove to the left.

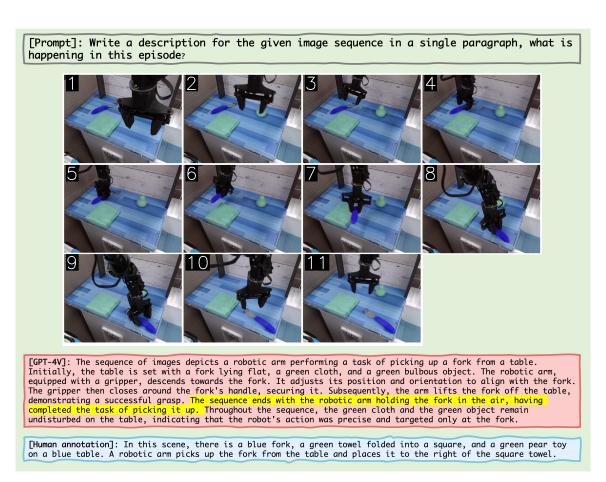


Figure 15: A sample of failure reasoning case in Robotics domain, we highlight the hallucination parts in yellow. Failure reason: Snowball.

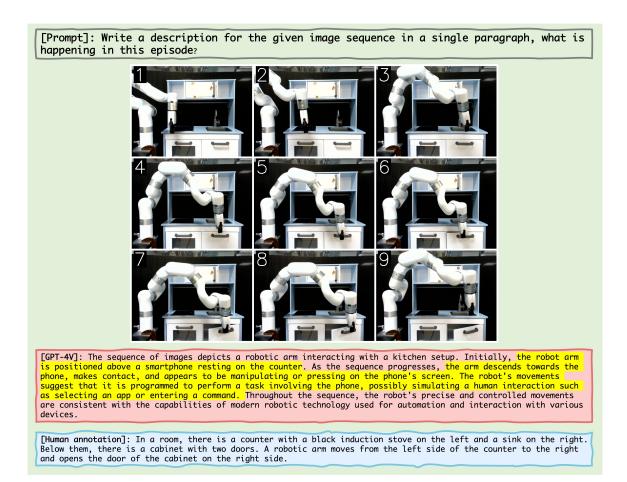


Figure 16: A sample of failure reasoning case in Robotics domain, we highlight the hallucination parts in yellow. Failure reason: object hallucination, correlation between object hallucination and behavioral hallucination, and Snowball.

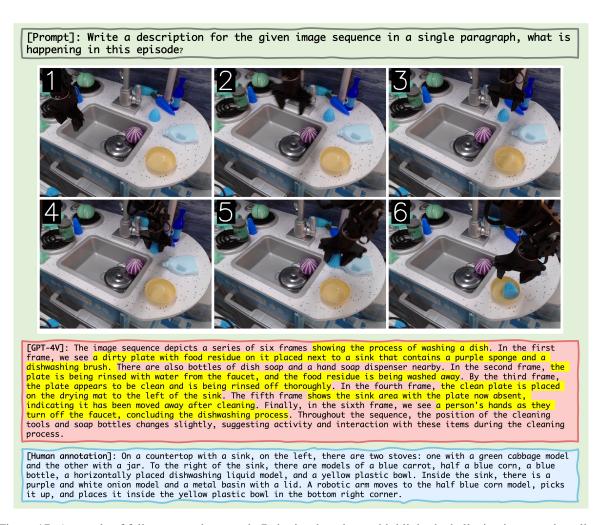


Figure 17: A sample of failure reasoning case in Robotics domain, we highlight the hallucination parts in yellow. Failure reason: object hallucination, correlation between object hallucination and behavioral hallucination, and Snowball.

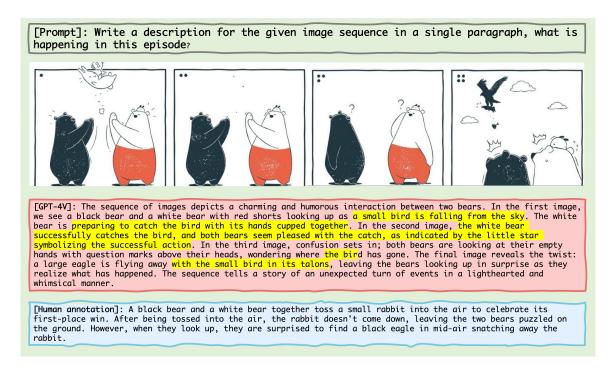


Figure 18: A sample of failure reasoning case in Comics domain, we highlight the hallucination parts in yellow. Failure reason: object hallucination, correlation between object hallucination and behavioral hallucination, and Snowball.

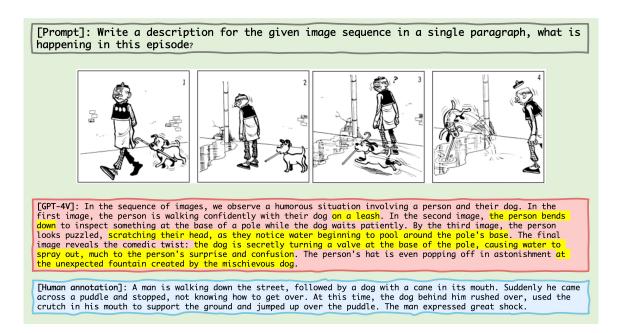


Figure 19: A sample of failure reasoning case in Comics domain, we highlight the hallucination parts in yellow. Failure reason: object hallucination, correlation between object hallucination and behavioral hallucination, and Snowball.

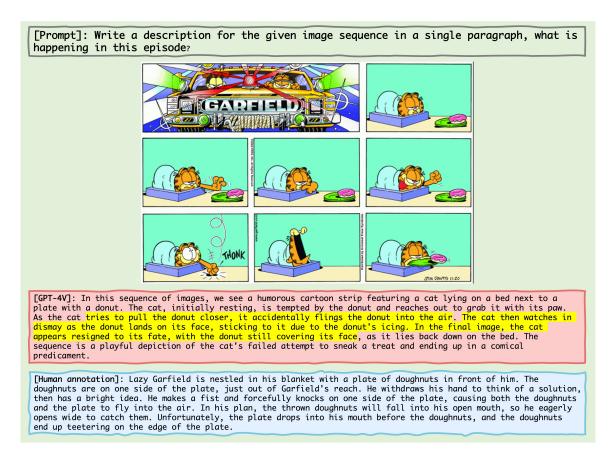


Figure 20: A sample of failure reasoning case in Comics domain, we highlight the hallucination parts in yellow. Failure reason: Snowball.

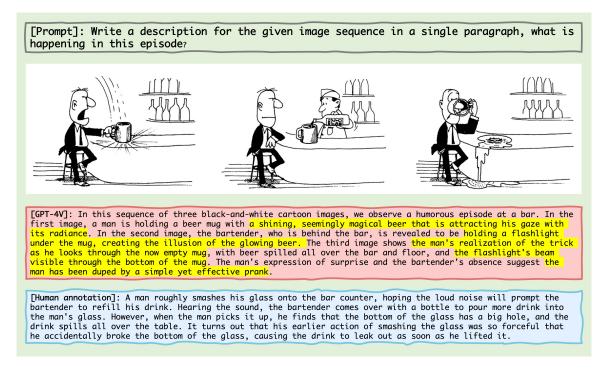


Figure 21: A sample of failure reasoning case in Comics domain, we highlight the hallucination parts in yellow. Failure reason: object hallucination, correlation between object hallucination and behavioral hallucination, and Snowball.

Table 3: Number of videos selected from each sub-dataset of Open X-Embodiment.

Sub-dataset name	Number of videos selected
fractal20220817_data	400
kuka	50
bridge	300
jaco_play	50
berkeley_autolab_ur5	50
toto	10
columbia_cairlab_pusht_real	5
stanford_hydra_dataset_converted_externally_to_rlds	5
ucsd_kitchen_dataset_converted_externally_to_rlds	50
bc_z	50
utokyo_pr2_opening_fridge_converted_externally_to_rlds	5
utokyo_pr2_tabletop_manipulation_converted_externally_to_rlds	10
utokyo_xarm_pick_and_place_converted_externally_to_rlds	1
utokyo_xarm_bimanual_converted_externally_to_rlds	5
dlr_sara_pour_converted_externally_to_rlds	5
dlr_edan_shared_control_converted_externally_to_rlds	100
asu_table_top_converted_externally_to_rlds	20
utaustin_mutex	30
berkeley_fanuc_manipulation	30

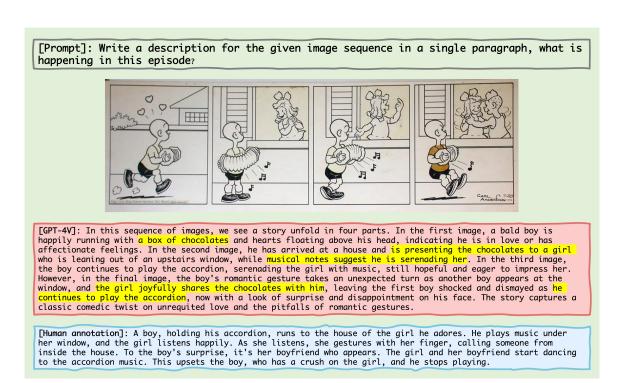


Figure 22: A sample of failure reasoning case in Comics domain, we highlight the hallucination parts in yellow. Failure reason: object hallucination, correlation between object hallucination and behavioral hallucination, and Snowball.

Table 4: Correlation coefficient between behavioral hallucination and object hallucination of different MLLMs on Mementos.

Domain	Input type	Model	Recall	Precision	F1
		GPT-4V	0.120	0.188	0.132
	C + 1	Gemini 0.1		0.179	0.146
	Sequential	Video-LLaMA-2	0.197	0.067	0.125
		Chat-UniVi	0.138	0.178	0.137
		GPT-4V	0.242	0.182	0.199
Daily-life		Gemini	0.158	0.179	0.152
		Chat-UniVi	0.127	0.184	0.172
	Combined	LLaVa-1.5	0.112	0.134	0.106
	Combined	MiniGPT4	0.135	0.145	0.115
		MiniGPT5	0.126	0.188	0.146
		mPLUG_Owl-v2	0.106	0.113	0.069
		InstructBLIP	0.133	0.125	0.127
	Sequential	GPT-4V	-0.012	0.022	0.011
		Gemini	0.027	0.144	0.101
		Video-LLaMA-2	0.107	0.107	0.109
		Chat-UniVi	0.038	0.121	0.089
		GPT-4V	0.041	-0.022	0.008
Robotics		Gemini	-0.049	-0.086	-0.106
		Chat-UniVi	0.189	0.242	0.207
	Combined	LLaVa-1.5	0.135	0.123	0.157
	Combined	MiniGPT4	0.186	0.316	0.233
		MiniGPT5	0.056	0.027	0.045
		mPLUG_Owl-v2	0.244	0.163	0.231
		InstructBLIP	0.227	0.235	0.253
		GPT-4V	0.045	0.225	0.158
Comics	Sequential	Gemini	0.176	0.081	0.144
		Video-LLaMA-2	0.261	0.280	0.299
		Chat-UniVi	0.239	0.331	0.221
	Combined	GPT-4V	0.343	0.539	0.471
		Gemini	0.187	0.121	0.167
		Chat-UniVi	0.293	0.113	0.279
		LLaVa-1.5	0.062	0.101	0.088
		MiniGPT4	0.199	0.134	0.213
		MiniGPT5 0.324		0.366	0.339
		mPLUG_Owl-v2	0.231	-0.043	0.157
		InstructBLIP	0.288	0.005	0.262

Table 5: Human evaluation.

Model	Eval type	Recall	Object Precision	F1	Recall	Behavior Precision	F1
GPT-4V (s-input)	GPT-4	60.91%	51.04%	54.13%	38.02%	33.05%	34.12%
	Human	57.69%	49.54%	52.01%	35.26%	31.60%	32.67%
Gemini (s-input)	GPT-4	37.54%	39.43%	36.88%	23.38%	34.19%	24.02%
	Human	35.82%	38.11%	37.09%	20.46%	33.72%	22.99%
ChatUnivi (s-input)	GPT-4	40.32%	42.04%	39.52%	24.95%	28.06%	27.15%
	Human	37.65%	38.59%	36.46%	25.73%	27.40%	26.64%
LLaVA-1.5 (c-input)	GPT-4	35.77%	44.18%	38.09%	24.47%	38.79%	28.59%
	Human	36.84%	41.37%	39.77%	22.95%	39.82%	29.18%

Prompt

Task: Rewrite questions and answers into a single paragraph

Image: <Image sequence>

Text: <Write a description for this image based on the following questions and answers in one paragraph. Please remember that some objects or actions in the following questions and answers may not be included in the images. Please do not include the excluded items in your description. Here are the questions and answers: Question: {Question 1} Answer: {Answer 1} Question: {Question 2} Answer: {Answer 2} ... Question: {Question n} Answer: {Answer n}>

Task: Generate description for the given image sequence

Image: <Image sequence>

Text: <Write a description for the given image sequence in a single paragraph, what is happening in this episode?>

Task: Extract object and behavior keywords

Text: <I will provide you two paragraphs. The first paragraph is human-composed and the second paragraph is generated by AI models. I want to evaluate the hallucination in the second paragraph. Please extract the object and action words or phrases from the following text. The objects should have a tangible meaning and consist of no more than two words; non-tangible objects should not be extracted. The action words or phrases should only relate to the extracted objects. Also, you must convert the corresponding actions to their complete root form. Then, for the final answer, please examine 4 lists and must transfer the synonyms in 4 lists into the same word. Please directly output the final object and action lists in two paragraphs, respectively as in the form in the example below without any justifications or intermediate steps.

Here is an example:

- 1. The sequence of images captures a dog's cautious interaction with a metal toy inside a house. The dog appears wary and maintains a distance from the unfamiliar object, barking to express its disapproval and possibly intimidation. As the toy moves, the dog's reaction is to bark and lean backward, showing a clear sign of being unsettled by the toy's motion. When the toy momentarily ceases movement, the dog also stops, remaining alert and attentive. At the end of the image, when the toy comes to a halt, the dog looks up, still processing the strange encounter with the inanimate object.
- 2. The image is a collage of multiple pictures featuring two dogs playing with a toy alligator. The dogs are in various positions, with some of them standing on the toy alligator, while others are interacting with it in different ways. The collage captures the dogs' playfulness and excitement as they engage with the toy alligator.

The lists are

Object list 1: [dog, toy, house]

Action list 1: [interaction, bark, express intimidation, move, lean backward, stop, look up]

Object list 2: [dog, toy]

Action list 2: [play, stand, interaction]

Here is the paragraphs:

- 1. {Human-annotated description}
- 2. {AI-generated description}

The lists are:>