# LACE: Lattice Attention for Cross-Thread Exploration in LLMs

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## Abstract

Current large language models reason in isolation. Although it is common to sample multiple reasoning paths in parallel, these trajectories do not interact, and often fail in the same redundant ways. We introduce LACE, a framework that transforms reasoning from a collection of independent trials into a coordinated, parallel process. By repurposing the model architecture to enable cross-thread attention, LACE allows concurrent reasoning paths to share intermediate insights and correct one another during inference. A central challenge is the absence of natural training data that exhibits such collaborative behavior. We address this gap with a synthetic data pipeline that explicitly teaches models to communicate and error-correct across threads. Experiments on mathematical reasoning and interactive agent tasks show improvements in candidate coverage and self-selection over independent sampling. Our results suggest that large language models can be more effective when parallel reasoning paths are allowed to interact.

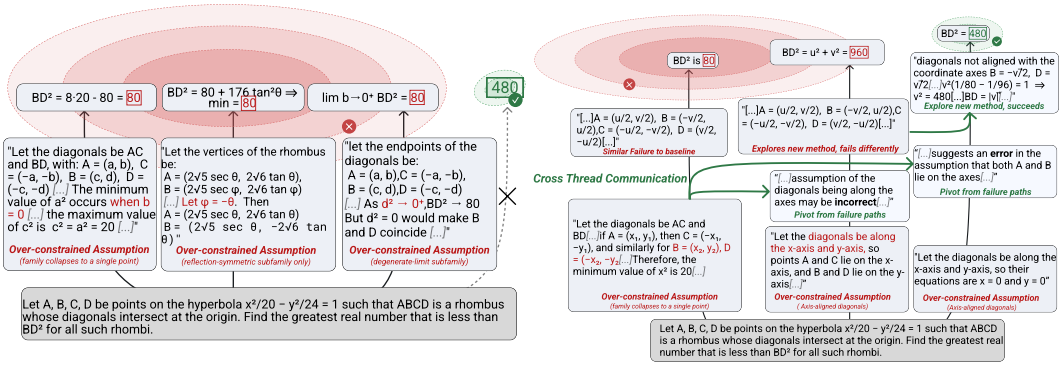
## 1 Introduction

Large language models achieve strong performance across a range of reasoning tasks, yet they remain constrained by strictly sequential, left-to-right decoding [35]. When tackling difficult proofs or complex plans, standard generation models commit to a single path in a vacuum. These constraints limit the effectiveness of language models in highly complex problem-solving scenarios, underscoring the gap between current decoding algorithms and human-level abilities, which rely on collateral thinking to explore multiple hypotheses at once [17, 16, 18].

A large body of work has studied how to scale test-time compute such that models can solve complex reasoning tasks. Parallel sampling and its variants [5, 56, 42], including generating $k$ independent solutions and selecting the best one post-hoc, significantly improve reasoning performance. However, while existing methods focus on increasing the number of samples, they are burdened because they isolate each thread like $k$ agents solving a puzzle in separate rooms. Independent sampling cannot adapt to the breakthroughs or dead ends of other threads during generation, causing computation to frequently collapse into redundant, correlated errors [19, 22].

In this paper, we introduce an approach for *connecting* parallel generation processes, allowing us to formulate a decoding strategy that adapts and collaborates across threads. Our approach, LACE (Lattice Attention for Cross-thread Exploration), enables threads to share in-situ insights to solve problems collaboratively. Figure 1 shows how our method explores diverse solutions compared to isolated sampling. However, multi-threaded reasoning is more challenging to produce than standard sampling because parallel, logically diverse traces are scarce in standard pre-training corpora.

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**(a)** Isolated samples fall into correlated failure modes. **(b)** LACE explores diverse solutions.

Figure 1: **Overcoming correlated failures in reasoning spaces.** For complex problems, correct reasoning paths are often rare and widely separated. **(a) Isolated Sampling:** Standard parallel generation methods independently explore the space, frequently collapsing into **correlated failure modes** driven by shared, over-constrained assumptions. **(b) LACE (Ours):** By introducing **latent cross-thread communication** during generation, our method enables concurrent threads to actively pivot away from known failure paths. This shared context encourages the exploration of diverse reasoning modes, significantly increasing the probability of discovering the correct solution.

Our key insight is that multi-thread communication can occur directly within the latent space to be efficient and effective. Rather than relying on isolated sequence processing or slow text-based coordination, we design and inject explicit parallel attention pathways, expanding the architecture into a 2-D Lattice Attention structure. This introduces a width dimension that actively shares continuous representations across trajectories. We found that by curating synthetic data with explicit interaction points, we can capitalize on our lattice attention layers to teach models how to collaborate. By using Supervised Fine-Tuning (SFT) and Reinforcement Learning (RL) to train this structure, the model explicitly diversifies search strategies and prevents redundant failures, providing a much more efficient search than post-hoc verification.

A key advantage of our framework is that it transforms reasoning from a set of isolated, independent events into a unified, collaborative exploration. Moreover, because this coordination occurs within the latent space, our approach can perform in-situ evaluation to identify and select the optimal solution on the fly, avoiding an additional text-based communication or selection stage. Furthermore, this multi-threaded formulation allows us to seamlessly apply diversity rewards directly during RL, incentivizing the threads to explore distinct reasoning paths and maximize overall accuracy.

Visualizations and empirical experiments show that our collateral reasoning strategy significantly improves reasoning diversity and problem-solving capabilities for several established benchmarks. Our method outperforms independent sampling baselines by a large margin across challenging reasoning datasets including AIME 25 [54], AIME 24 [53], and LiveBench [40]. In addition, our empirical results demonstrate that our method learns to share insights across threads, allowing it to pick the best solution on the fly and dramatically reduce wasted compute.

## 2 Related Work

**External Test-Time Search and Scaling.** The paradigm of large language models is shifting from scaling parameters to scaling inference-time compute [31, 43], with recent studies showing that additional reasoning-time computation, often framed as *System 2 thinking*, can yield gains comparable to scaling model size [21]. Existing methods largely realize this extra compute through external search or orchestration, including sequential reasoning strategies such as Chain-of-Thought and its variants [38, 20, 57], structured search methods such as Tree-of-Thoughts [48], and parallel sampling pipelines based on self-consistency [36], bootstrapped Best-of-$N$ aggregation [26], learned verifiers or reward models [32, 5], RL-based parallel reasoning frameworks such as Parallel-R1 and Native Parallel Reasoner [56, 42], and width-oriented external parallel thinking such as ParaThinker [39].

Despite their differences, these approaches coordinate reasoning primarily outside the model's native token-level generation process, and remain vulnerable to biased or correlated failures across independently sampled trajectories [15, 14, 22].

**Generation-Time Parallel Reasoning.** More recent work has begun to move parallel reasoning into the generation process itself. ParaDecodeOneSeq [50] packs multiple branches into a single sequence for efficiency-oriented decoding. Hogwild! [27] enables *explicit* concurrent attention through shared cross-thread KV states, while GroupThink [13] studies token-level collaboration among concurrent reasoning agents via direct cross-thread interaction. While LACE shares the goal of generation-time cross-thread interaction with these methods, it differs in mechanism. Rather than exposing each thread to token histories of other threads through shared KV states and non-standard masks, it introduces *implicit* cross-thread interaction through a lightweight gated side path over standard attention-derived representations. This preserves the standard causal-attention backbone while allowing threads to influence one another during generation, turning independent sampling into a collaborative process that explicitly targets redundant exploration and correlated errors [19, 12].

## 3 Method

The central idea of LACE is to make parallel reasoning more exploratory by allowing threads to collaborate while they are generated. For difficult reasoning problems, correct solutions can occupy sparse modes in the solution space. Independent parallel sampling often revisits nearby failure modes, so simply increasing the number of samples may not increase useful coverage. We therefore build LACE around three connected requirements. First, the model needs training data in which different threads explore distinct but comparable solution paths. Second, the model needs an architectural channel that lets these threads exchange information during generation. Third, post-training should strengthen the communication and self-selection behaviors that turn diverse candidates into a better final answer. Following this logic, we first seed multi-thread data for complementary exploration in Section 3.1, then connect threads with Lattice Attention in Section 3.2, and finally post-train the model for collaborative search in Section 3.3.

### 3.1 Seeding Multi-Thread Data for Complementary Exploration

Collaborative reasoning is only meaningful when parallel threads have something useful to share. The training data must therefore satisfy two properties. First, **reasoning diversity**: each problem should admit multiple logically distinct solution paths, so threads cover different regions of the solution space rather than producing superficial rephrasings. Second, **cross-thread comparability**: the threads should solve the same problem in a shared format, so the model can compare partial progress, recognize successful paths, and avoid repeating known failures. Driven by these criteria, we synthesize multi-thread training data through the pipeline shown in Figure 2.

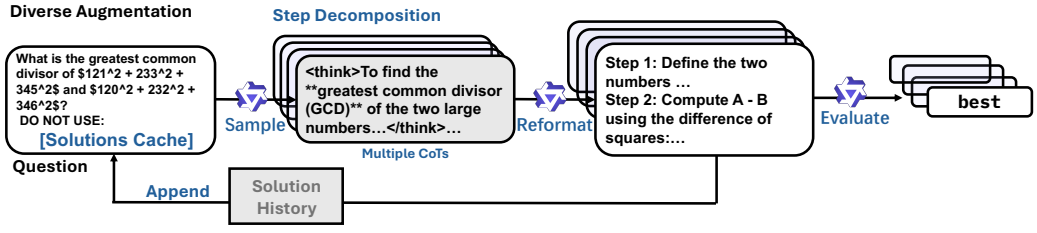



Figure 2: Data curation pipeline for seeding complementary reasoning threads.

**Model-Specific Filtering.** Not all problems are suitable for multi-thread training. Problems at the extremes of difficulty naturally fail to satisfy our criteria. Overly simple problems typically admit a single obvious solution, which the model tends to sample repeatedly with limited diversity. Conversely, excessively difficult problems prevent the model from sampling any correct solution, thereby lacking positive supervision. Ideal training data for a specific base model requires a balanced mixture of successful and failed reasoning paths [2], since a failed exploration strategy in one thread can still provide useful information to another. We therefore retain only problems with a success-rate

consistency score $S = 1 - \Delta S \in [0, 0.5]$ where $\Delta S$ denotes the success-rate difference between naive and diverse sampling. This criterion focuses training on problems where exploration has the potential to uncover correct solutions, making cross-thread recovery and comparison useful.

**Diverse Thread Augmentation.** To ensure reasoning diversity across threads, we employ an iterative sampling strategy that explicitly discourages redundant solution paths, inspired by DeRL [1]. For each problem, we maintain a *solution history* that accumulates compressed summaries of previously generated reasoning traces. When sampling a new thread, we prepend this history to the prompt with an explicit instruction to avoid the catalogued approaches, for example `DO NOT USE: [Solutions Cache]`. This steers the model toward unexplored strategies and implements a soft rejection sampling procedure over the space of solution methods. Each newly sampled trace is then summarized and appended to the solution history, progressively expanding the set of forbidden paths for subsequent threads. We repeat this process until we obtain $T$ diverse reasoning trajectories per problem. To control sequence length for efficient training, we further apply step decomposition that compresses verbose traces ($>$8000 tokens) into concise step-by-step formats ($<$3000 tokens) while preserving the core logical flow.

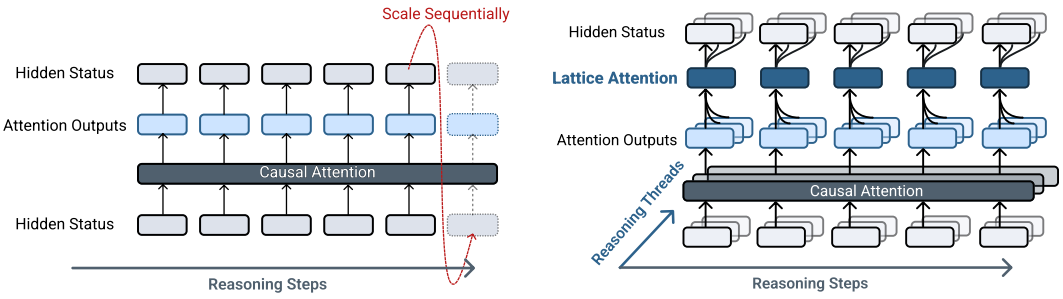
**Self-Selection Formatting.** To make diversity useful for collaboration, we design a self-selection task that requires cross-thread comparison. Given $T$ parallel reasoning paths, the model must identify the thread yielding the best solution. This task encourages the model to use peer information rather than rely on isolated single-thread reasoning. To construct supervision, we use LLM-as-a-judge [55] to evaluate each thread's validity and logical soundness within the multi-thread context, providing a critique and assigning a grade. The final synthetic training data is formatted as:

[question]
$_t$: [exploration] [comment] [TAG], $t = 1, \ldots, T$

where $t$ denotes the thread index, *exploration* contains the reasoning trace, *comment* holds the judge's comparative evaluation, and *tag* indicates a categorical outcome label. The tag is drawn from BEST, SUCCESS, and FAIL, with exactly one thread designated as BEST. Both the comment and tag are only well-defined through cross-thread comparison, directly training LACE to attend to peer threads without an extra LLM-based selection stage.

### 3.2 Connecting Threads with Lattice Attention

Given diverse and comparable threads, the next challenge is to let them communicate during generation. We introduce Lattice Attention as a lightweight side path that extends standard causal processing with cross-thread information flow. The mechanism is designed to preserve the pre-trained causal backbone while adding a controlled channel for peer context. Let $B$ denote the batch size, $N$ the number of threads, $L$ the context length, and $D$ the hidden dimension. We denote the head dimension as $d$ and use subscript $p$ for lattice attention components. An overview is shown in Figure 3.




(a) Baseline LLM (b) LACE (ours)

Figure 3: Comparison between the standard parallel decoding pipeline and LACE (ours). Left: a baseline LLM generates reasoning threads independently, so intermediate progress cannot be shared across threads during decoding. Right: LACE (ours) augments the backbone with lattice attention, enabling cross-thread communication through a gated residual path while preserving causal generation within each thread.

**Context-Aware Design.** A naive design would apply cross-thread attention directly over raw token embeddings or early hidden states. However, reasoning is inherently contextual: whether a token is useful to another thread depends on the partial derivation that precedes it, not just on the token itself. Tokens at aligned positions across threads may therefore be poorly matched before each thread has formed enough local reasoning context. This makes naive cross-thread attention both noisy and hard to train. It also increases computation if attention is extended over all thread-token pairs, and large extra layers trained from scratch may disturb well-learned causal attention layers, especially with limited collaborative data. We therefore use a **context-aware** and **parameter-efficient** design. Instead of attending over raw embeddings, we operate on the output of standard scaled dot-product attention (SDPA), $\mathbf{A}_{\text{std}} \in \mathbb{R}^{(BN)\times L\times D}$, which already encodes each thread's causal context. This lets LACE exchange richer intermediate reasoning states while avoiding redundant computation.

To keep the added module lightweight, we use three strategies. First, SDPA outputs are projected to a lower-dimensional lattice space before cross-thread attention. Second, inspired by ControlNet [51], we selectively plug lattice attention layers into middle-to-late layers of the base model, where cross-thread communication is most useful for complex reasoning [45]. Third, a learned gate modulates the contribution of the lattice path, allowing the model to balance thread-independent and thread-aware processing. Together, these choices limit additional parameters to less than $1\%$ of the original model while enabling cross-thread information exchange with minimal disruption to the pre-trained causal layers.

**Cross-Thread Attention.** We project the standard attention output into a low-dimensional lattice space, $\mathbf{Z} = \mathbf{A}_{\text{std}}\mathbf{W}_{\text{down},p}$, and compute parallel queries, keys, and values, $\mathbf{Q}_p, \mathbf{K}_p, \mathbf{V}_p = \text{Proj}(\mathbf{Z})$. To encode both token and thread indices, we apply 2D RoPE [33], yielding $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_p, \tilde{\mathbf{K}}_p = \text{RoPE}_{\text{2D}}(\mathbf{Q}_p, \mathbf{K}_p; l, n)$, where the first $d_t$ head dimensions encode token position $l$ and the remaining $d_b = d - d_t$ dimensions encode thread index $n$. Cross-thread attention is applied only among SDPA representations at the same decoding step, so a token at position $l$ can exchange information with peer threads at position $l$ after each thread has already summarized its own causal prefix through SDPA. It does not attend to raw future tokens from other threads. We then group the $N$ same-step representations within each batch item and perform cross-thread attention, $\mathbf{A}_p = \text{Attention}(\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_p, \tilde{\mathbf{K}}_p, \mathbf{V}_p)$. Following Gated Attention [24, 8, 30], we fuse the standard and lattice paths with a learned gate, $\mathbf{G} = \sigma\left(\text{Linear}([\mathbf{H}_{\text{down}}; \mathbf{A}_p])\right)$ and $\mathbf{O} = \mathbf{A}_{\text{std}}\mathbf{W}_O + (\mathbf{G} \odot \mathbf{A}_p)\mathbf{W}_{O,p}$, where $\mathbf{H}_{\text{down}} = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{W}_{\text{down},h}$ denotes the projected input hidden states.

### 3.3 Post-Training LACE for Collaborative Search

The data pipeline defines what collaborative behavior should look like, and Lattice Attention provides the channel through which it can happen. The final step is to train the model so this channel becomes useful rather than passive. Our training framework consists of supervised fine-tuning and reinforcement learning.

**Supervised Fine-Tuning.** We initialize LACE from a pre-trained base model and fine-tune it on our curated multi-thread reasoning data [23]. To stabilize the newly inserted lattice attention pathway, the initial SFT steps update only the lattice attention parameters using the standard cross-entropy loss [25], adapting cross-thread communication while preserving the base model's causal reasoning ability. We then continue with full-parameter fine-tuning on the same data to teach the model the multi-thread reasoning format introduced in Section 3.1, including summaries and self-selection tags. We additionally apply random thread shuffling during training with a fixed probability threshold. This prevents the model from overfitting to fixed thread identities and encourages it to rely on cross-thread information rather than reasoning solely from intra-thread context.

**Lattice GRPO.** Finally, we optimize the model with Lattice GRPO, our multi-thread extension of GRPO [11, 28, 29]. Following baseline GRPO, the policy model rolls out $G$ reasoning groups. In Lattice GRPO, each group contains $T$ thread completions generated simultaneously, enabling reward computation over the full thread group. Along each thread, we prompt the model to generate a self-assessment enclosed in `<summary>...</summary>` and tag each thread with one of BEST, SUCCESS, and FAIL. This turns RL into a direct pressure on both exploration and communication, since the model must generate diverse candidates and identify which thread is most reliable.

**Thread-Aggregated Reward.** We aim for LACE to use cross-thread attention to explore diverse solution paths in search of a correct answer. Because the threads interact during generation, we assign credit based on their collective outcome. We combine an accuracy reward for correct solutions and reliable self-selection with a diversity reward for exploring different reasoning strategies:

$$r^{(g)} = R_{\text{acc}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}^{(g)}) + \lambda_{\text{div}} R_{\text{div}}(\mathbf{y}^{(g)}). \tag{1}$$

**Diversity reward.** To encourage different solution strategies, we measure diversity using the average pairwise cosine distance between embeddings of the threads' reasoning paths [52]: $R_{\text{div}}(\mathbf{y}) = \frac{2}{T(T-1)} \sum_{i<j} \big(1 - \cos(\mathbf{e}^{(i)}, \mathbf{e}^{(j)})\big)$, where $\mathbf{e}^{(t)}$ is the embedding of thread $t$'s reasoning path.
**Accuracy reward.** The accuracy reward encourages the group to produce correct solutions and identify a reliable answer among them. We define $R_{\text{acc}}^{\text{gated}} = R_{\text{corr}}$ if single BEST, else $-1$, where $R_{\text{corr}}$ measures the correctness of the threads. The reward can also be softened by assigning separate credit to the self-selection format and answer correctness: $R_{\text{acc}}^{\text{soft}} = R_{\text{corr}} + \lambda_{\text{fmt}} R_{\text{format}}$, where $R_{\text{format}}$ measures compliance with the self-selection format and $\lambda_{\text{fmt}}$ controls its weight. This allows correct solutions to be credited even when the selection format is imperfect.

The resulting group advantage $A^{(g)}$ is shared across all $T$ threads, i.e., $A^{(g,t)} = A^{(g)}$, so that each thread is optimized toward the group's collective outcome.

**Lattice GRPO Objective.** The final Lattice GRPO objective combines the clipped surrogate loss with a KL penalty:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Lattice-GRPO}}(\theta) = -\mathbb{E}\left[\sum_{g=1}^{G}\sum_{t=1}^{T}\frac{1}{L^{(g,t)}}\sum_{l=1}^{L^{(g,t)}}\min\Big(\rho_l^{(g,t)}A^{(g)}, \text{clip}(\rho_l^{(g,t)}, 1-\epsilon, 1+\epsilon)A^{(g)}\Big)\right] + \beta D_{\text{KL}} \tag{2}$$

where $\rho_l^{(g,t)}$ is the importance sampling ratio for token $l$ in thread $t$ of group $g$, with the policy distribution conditioned on the thread's own prefix and peer same-step lattice states. $L^{(g,t)}$ is the completion length, and $D_{\text{KL}}$ is the KL divergence from a reference policy.

# 4 Experiments

We conduct experiments to evaluate the effectiveness of our proposed LACE framework on challenging math and reasoning benchmarks. We compare our method against strong baselines, assessed by accuracy and exploration diversity in Section 4.1. We then analyze its **emergent cross-thread mechanisms** [37, 41] and ablate the data and training pipeline in Section 4.2, showing how collaborative exploration and self-regulated behaviors arise from the lattice architecture.

**Implementation Details.** We implement our method using Qwen3 [44] models with 1.7B and 4B parameters, as well as LLaMA-3.1 [9] with 8B parameters. The Qwen3-based LACE variants are denoted Lattice-1.7B and Lattice-4B. Training data for the Qwen3 and LLaMA-3.1 models is curated from DAPO [49] and DART-Math [34], respectively, using our data curation pipeline described in Section 3.1. Four threads are applied in the lattice structure for most experiments. Lattice attention layers are inserted every other layer, starting from the middle to the last original layer. Detailed thread-scaling computation costs are reported in Section B.4, showing negligible FLOPs overhead ($< 1.3\%$), modest memory overhead (roughly 1.6–15%), and latency overhead that is primarily memory-bandwidth bound. The detailed training hyperparameters and data statistics are provided in Section A.

## 4.1 Quantitative Results

**Baselines and Metrics.** We compare our LACE framework against two strong baselines: **Independent** and **Isolated Parallel**. The Independent baseline is a standard single-thread model trained with conventional SFT and RL; at inference time, we sample multiple independent trajectories and report both mean accuracy and majority voting. The Isolated Parallel baseline uses a training recipe aligned with LACE, but keeps the standard base model without inserted lattice layers or cross-thread attention, so the threads are trained and decoded in parallel yet remain independent. To ensure a fair comparison, all methods undergo SFT and RL stages; for LACE, the initial SFT steps are used to initialize the newly inserted lattice layers before standard full-parameter fine-tuning. Table 2 additionally compares

against Gen-Judge, Seq-Ref, ToT, GoT, and Hogwild! [27]. We report **Accuracy**, **Mean@4**, and **Pass@4**. As described in Section 3.1, LACE and Isolated Parallel are trained to self-select the optimal thread. For these multi-thread methods, accuracy is computed from the answer in the thread that the model marks as BEST among four simultaneous threads. For Independent, which lacks a self-selection mechanism, Accuracy uses majority voting. Mean@4 averages correctness across the four samples, while Pass@4 measures the fraction of problems with at least one correct sample [4]. Additional results with the gated accuracy reward $R_{\text{acc}}^{\text{gated}}$ and embedding-based diversity are reported in Section B.1.

**Main Results.** As summarized in Table 1, LACE achieves the highest accuracy after RL across all benchmarks and model scales. The gains over both Independent + Vote and Isolated Parallel show the benefit of cross-thread interaction under the same four-sample decoding budget. After RL, higher Mean@4 than Independent suggests effective **collaborative reasoning**, where information shared across threads helps improve individual solutions. Higher Pass@4 reflects broader candidate coverage, consistent with **diverse exploration** that increases the chance that at least one path reaches a correct solution. Lattice-1.7B also shows the benefit of **self-selection**: its selected-answer accuracy exceeds both Mean@4 and majority voting over the same four threads on all three benchmarks (Figure 4c). When examining failure cases, we find that LACE has a lower average BEST mislabeling rate than Isolated Parallel under both accuracy rewards, while its remaining errors on AIME mainly stem from limited candidate coverage (Section B.2). Complementary analysis with $R_{\text{acc}}^{\text{gated}}$ in Figure 4 shows an entropy rebound and increasing diversity during RL. This combination of high accuracy and meaningful diversity validates the framework's ability to foster collaborative reasoning and enhance the reliability of multi-threaded generation.

Table 1: **Comparisons with baselines on math and reasoning benchmarks.** For LACE and Isolated Parallel, Accuracy evaluates the answer self-labeled as BEST; Independent uses majority voting (†). Mean@4 reports average accuracy across four samples, while Pass@4 measures the fraction of problems with at least one correct sample. Scores are percentages, reported as mean ± standard deviation over at least three evaluation runs. The best and second-best results within each model and metric are bolded and underlined, respectively. All LLaMA-3.1-8B results are reported after SFT and RL. Minerva denotes Minerva-Math.

| Model | Method | Train | AIME 25 | | | AIME 24 | | | LiveBench | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Accuracy | Mean@4 | Pass@4 | Accuracy | Mean@4 | Pass@4 | Accuracy | Mean@4 | Pass@4 |
| ***Qwen3 1.7B*** | *Independent + Vote* | SFT | 3.8$^{\dagger}$±2.1 | 4.7±1.4 | 12.9±6.0 | 6.7$^{\dagger}$±4.7 | 5.5±2.6 | 12.5±5.6 | 22.3$^{\dagger}$±0.9 | 33.5±1.3 | 64.4±1.3 |
| | | SFT → RL | 13.8$^{\dagger}$±4.2 | 12.7±2.5 | 23.8±4.5 | <u>18.3</u>$^{\dagger}$±4.7 | <u>16.9</u>±3.1 | <u>31.2</u>±5.9 | 37.5$^{\dagger}$±2.5 | 40.1±1.5 | 68.4±2.9 |
| | *Isolated Parallel* | SFT | 2.5±3.0 | 3.6±1.7 | 10.8±5.3 | 1.2±1.7 | 4.2±1.6 | 9.2±5.0 | 34.0±2.4 | 34.7±0.9 | 65.5±1.8 |
| | | SFT → RL | <u>16.2</u>±4.2 | <u>14.6</u>±2.4 | <u>27.9</u>±7.1 | 12.5±3.0 | 13.5±2.3 | 27.1±3.8 | <u>48.1</u>±3.0 | **43.3**±1.3 | **72.8**±1.6 |
| | ***LACE*** | SFT | 3.3±3.1 | 3.8±1.1 | 10.8±2.4 | 4.2±3.9 | 4.5±1.7 | 9.6±4.5 | 36.5±3.2 | 35.8±1.4 | 66.3±2.2 |
| | | SFT → RL | **19.2**±5.0 | **18.2**±1.6 | **30.8**±4.3 | **25.0**±5.0 | **20.5**±2.4 | **36.2**±4.5 | **48.6**±1.3 | <u>42.3</u>±0.7 | <u>70.4</u>±1.8 |
| ***Qwen3 4B*** | *Independent + Vote* | SFT | 15.6$^{\dagger}$±3.8 | 12.2±0.5 | 24.4±5.1 | 12.2$^{\dagger}$±3.8 | 12.2±1.7 | 31.1±10.7 | 43.8$^{\dagger}$±2.6 | 50.4±2.3 | 79.6±1.9 |
| | | SFT → RL | <u>23.3</u>$^{\dagger}$±0.0 | <u>23.9</u>±0.5 | <u>33.3</u>±3.3 | <u>31.1</u>$^{\dagger}$±3.8 | <u>26.4</u>±1.7 | <u>43.3</u>±3.3 | <u>60.7</u>$^{\dagger}$±1.4 | <u>63.3</u>±1.4 | <u>85.0</u>±2.1 |
| | *Isolated Parallel* | SFT | 2.2±1.9 | 10.6±2.4 | 24.4±3.8 | 6.7±0.0 | 12.2±3.4 | 26.7±3.3 | 27.5±2.9 | 48.3±0.9 | 78.2±2.6 |
| | | SFT → RL | 13.3±5.8 | 14.4±1.9 | 26.7±6.7 | 16.7±3.3 | 16.1±2.5 | 26.7±6.7 | 44.8±2.7 | 56.9±1.6 | 82.6±1.9 |
| | ***LACE*** | SFT | 7.8±7.7 | 12.8±3.4 | 26.7±0.0 | 5.6±1.9 | 13.6±1.3 | 27.8±3.8 | 25.4±3.2 | 50.9±0.4 | 80.8±1.4 |
| | | SFT → RL | **27.8**±1.9 | **24.2**±2.2 | **42.2**±6.9 | **33.3**±0.0 | **30.6**±0.5 | **55.6**±5.1 | **64.1**±3.5 | **68.2**±1.4 | **87.7**±1.4 |

| Model | Method | MATH-Hard | | | OlympiadBench | | | Minerva | | | LiveBench | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Accuracy | Mean@4 | Pass@4 | Accuracy | Mean@4 | Pass@4 | Accuracy | Mean@4 | Pass@4 | Accuracy | Mean@4 | Pass@4 |
| ***LLaMA-3.1 8B*** | *Independent + Vote* | <u>20.1</u>$^{\dagger}$±0.6 | <u>19.4</u>±0.2 | <u>36.0</u>±0.4 | 15.9$^{\dagger}$±1.0 | <u>16.1</u>±0.6 | <u>30.6</u>±1.0 | 24.0$^{\dagger}$±1.1 | <u>23.7</u>±0.3 | <u>40.6</u>±1.0 | 24.0$^{\dagger}$±1.6 | <u>33.6</u>±1.5 | <u>61.1</u>±0.5 |
| | *Isolated Parallel* | 18.7±0.3 | 18.8±0.3 | 34.9±0.7 | <u>16.1</u>±1.3 | 15.5±0.7 | 29.7±1.2 | <u>25.0</u>±0.8 | 23.6±0.9 | 38.8±1.1 | <u>27.7</u>±1.8 | 21.6±0.6 | 50.4±1.6 |
| | ***LACE*** | **21.5**±0.7 | **21.8**±0.3 | **40.9**±0.4 | **19.3**±0.6 | **18.7**±0.7 | **34.7**±0.6 | **26.2**±1.5 | **27.1**±0.8 | **45.4**±1.4 | **28.7**±0.9 | **34.8**±0.6 | **63.5**±1.2 |

**Additional Reasoning Baselines.** Table 2 shows that LACE achieves the highest accuracy on both AIME benchmarks with Qwen3-4B, with lower reported latency and token cost than Gen-Judge and Seq-Ref. ToT uses fewer resources but achieves lower accuracy. With LLaMA-3.1-8B, LACE also achieves higher accuracy and lower token cost than Hogwild! across all four benchmarks.

Table 2: **Comparisons with additional reasoning baselines.** Gen-Judge independently samples four paths and uses the same model to select the best. Seq-Ref sequentially generates four paths, directly revising from all prior completed paths without a separate feedback step. Accuracy is mean $\pm$ standard deviation. Latency (seconds) and token cost (total generated tokens) are reported per question averagely. Best results are bolded; second-best Qwen3 results are underlined.

| Model | Method | AIME 25 | | | AIME 24 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Acc. | Latency | Token Cost | Acc. | Latency | Token Cost |
| *Qwen3 4B* | *Gen-Judge* [55] | <u>25.6</u>$\pm$1.9 | 132 | 18,841 | <u>26.7</u>$\pm$3.3 | 166 | 21,571 |
| | *Seq-Ref* [22] | 22.2$\pm$3.8 | 208 | 14,848 | 21.1$\pm$5.1 | 257 | 18,198 |
| | *ToT* [48] | 16.7$\pm$0.0 | **47** | **10,922** | 21.1$\pm$5.1 | **49** | **11,071** |
| | *GoT* [3] | 18.9$\pm$6.9 | 76 | <u>12,141</u> | 20.0$\pm$5.8 | 73 | 12,183 |
| | ***LACE*** | **27.8**$\pm$1.9 | <u>68</u> | 12,513 | **33.3**$\pm$0.0 | <u>59</u> | <u>11,629</u> |

| Model | Method | MATH-Hard | | | OlympiadBench | | | Minerva | | | LiveBench | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Acc. | Latency | Token Cost | Acc. | Latency | Token Cost | Acc. | Latency | Token Cost | Acc. | Latency | Token Cost |
| *LLaMA-3.1 8B-Instruct* | *Hogwild!* [27] | 13.0$\pm$0.4 | 218 | 9,282 | 13.2$\pm$1.0 | 228 | 9,691 | 16.8$\pm$0.8 | 147 | 6,457 | 26.9$\pm$1.7 | 275 | 11,295 |
| | ***LACE*** | **21.5**$\pm$0.7 | **39** | **6,221** | **19.3**$\pm$0.6 | **42** | **6,565** | **26.2**$\pm$1.5 | **29** | **4,487** | **28.7**$\pm$0.9 | **37** | **5,824** |

**Agentic Benchmarks.** Beyond math benchmarks, we additionally train and evaluate Lattice-1.7B on HotpotQA [46], TextWorldCookAgent from TALES [7, 6], and WebShop [47]. In our setup, HotpotQA evaluates answer correctness after multi-step retrieval, while TextWorldCook and WebShop evaluate task completion through environment scores and success rates. Table 3 shows that LACE achieves the highest Accuracy, Mean@4, and Pass@4 on HotpotQA and the highest Score and Success rate on TextWorldCook and WebShop among the matched baselines.

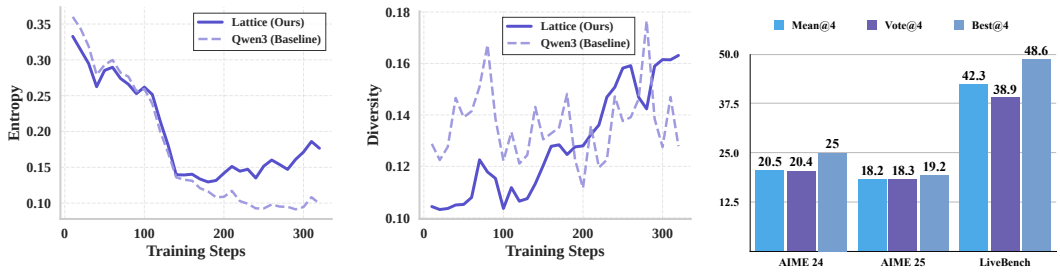
Table 3: **Agentic benchmarks with Qwen3-1.7B.** HotpotQA reports exact match; † denotes majority voting for Independent. TextWorldCook and WebShop report best-of-four scores and success rates. Results are mean $\pm$ std.

| Model | Method | HotpotQA | | | TextWorldCook | | WebShop | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Accuracy | Mean@4 | Pass@4 | Score | Success rate | Score | Success rate |
| *Qwen3 1.7B* | *Independent* | 25.5$^{\dagger}\pm$0.9 | 25.8$\pm$0.5 | 32.0$\pm$0.2 | <u>66.5</u>$\pm$0.6 | <u>41.3</u>$\pm$0.6 | 53.6$\pm$0.2 | 14.7$\pm$0.2 |
| | *Isolated Parallel* | <u>26.8</u>$\pm$0.8 | <u>27.6</u>$\pm$0.6 | <u>34.3</u>$\pm$0.4 | 63.0$\pm$0.7 | 38.0$\pm$1.0 | <u>56.2</u>$\pm$0.4 | <u>18.6</u>$\pm$0.4 |
| | ***LACE*** | **28.6**$\pm$0.5 | **28.3**$\pm$0.5 | **34.4**$\pm$0.7 | **67.2**$\pm$0.6 | **44.3**$\pm$2.1 | **57.2**$\pm$0.4 | **21.6**$\pm$0.7 |

### 4.2 Analysis and Ablations

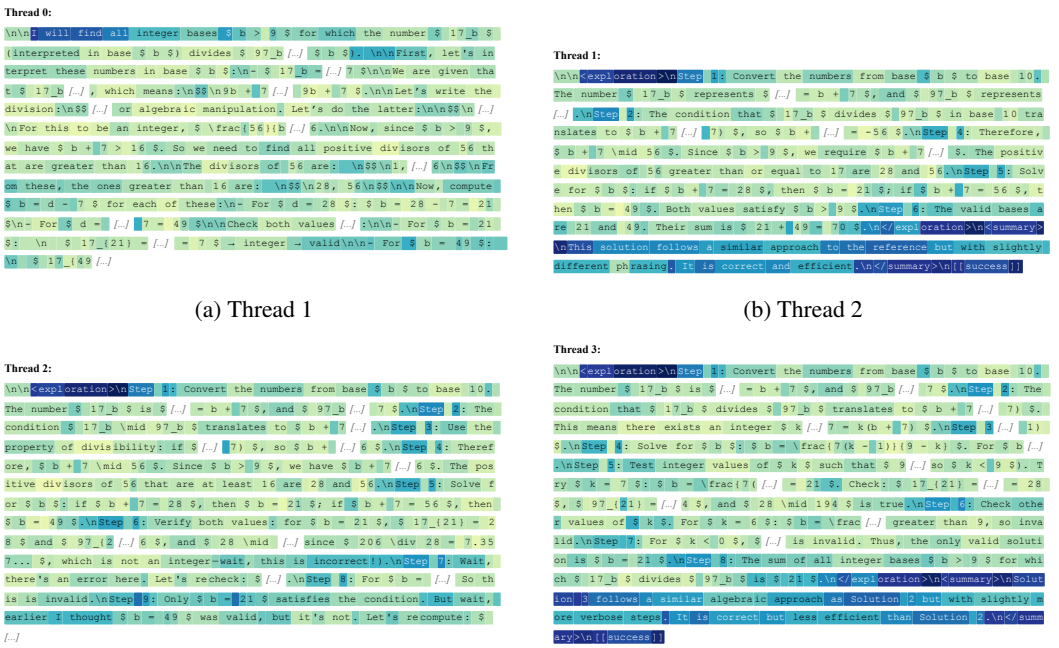
**LACE avoids mode collapse and maintains diverse exploration.** We investigate the training dynamics to understand how the model learns to explore. As shown in Figure 4, the baseline model suffers from mode collapse, evidenced by a continuous drop in entropy. In contrast, LACE exhibits a unique pattern where entropy slowly rebounds after an initial decrease, accompanied by a steady rise in diversity scores. This suggests that the synergy between lattice attention and diversity rewards successfully enables **learned exploration**, allowing the model to actively seek diverse reasoning paths rather than converging to a single mode. Section B.1 and Table 9 further show that the diversity reward behaves like a training-time temperature: the default weight gives the highest self-selection accuracy, while a larger weight keeps Pass@4 at a similar level but makes stable self-selection harder.

**LACE communicates most when threads need peer context.** Lattice Attention utilizes a gating mechanism to regulate cross-thread information flow, providing a unique lens to analyze collaborative intensity across both temporal and semantic dimensions. Temporally, Figure 6 illustrates that




(a) Entropy (b) Diversity (c) Self-selection vs. voting.

Figure 4: **LACE improves self-selection by fostering more effective exploration.** (**a**) and (**b**) compare the entropy and diversity dynamics of Lattice-4B against the Qwen3-4B baseline during RL training under $R_{\text{acc}}^{\text{gated}}$: while the baseline suffers from entropy collapse after roughly 150 steps, Lattice-4B exhibits a stable entropy rebound and an overall upward trend in diversity. (**c**) compares Mean@4, Vote@4, and self-selected Best@4 predictions for Lattice-1.7B. This demonstrates that the model can select a single reliable candidate rather than merely generate multiple answers.




(a) Thread 1 (b) Thread 2

(c) Thread 3 (d) Thread 4

Figure 5: **LACE coordinates information sharing across all four threads at critical reasoning steps.** We visualize cross-thread intensity (gate score) on an AIME 25 example from Lattice-1.7B, where darker shading indicates stronger cross-thread interaction. High cross-thread communication in latent space consistently emerges during exploration, self-assessment, and evaluation, and the generated summaries explicitly compare peer solutions.

information flow peaks during the core reasoning phase, exhibiting a diverge-then-converge strategy coinciding with the classical framework of human intelligence proposed by Guilford [10], which distinguishes between divergent production and convergent production to arrive at a final correct solution. Semantically, Figure 5 reveals that this interaction is content-specific across all four threads: high gate scores align with tokens that require peer information, including exploration markers, summary steps, and self-assessment tags. The generated text provides complementary evidence: for example, Thread 4 explicitly compares its path against other threads in its summary, indicating that the model uses peer trajectories when evaluating candidate solutions. This suggests that LACE enables **need-aware collaboration**: the model increases cross-thread communication when comparing, summarizing, or selecting among candidate paths, rather than exchanging information uniformly

Table 4: **Diversity-aware data curation improves accuracy and diversity.** We compare training recipes under the 1.7B ablation protocol with 200 RL steps and $R_{\text{acc}}^{\text{gated}}$.

| Training Recipe | AIME 25 | | | LiveBench | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Accuracy | Div. | Format | Accuracy | Div. | Format |
| RL only (w/o SFT) | 0.0 | 0.285 | 26.7 | 2.1 | 0.244 | 31.5 |
| SFT → RL w/ Parallel-R1 | 0.0 | 0.203 | 50.0 | 4.1 | 0.148 | 20.5 |
| **SFT → RL w/ Our Data** | **13.3** | **0.608** | **73.3** | **14.5** | **0.276** | **36.5** |

Table 5: **Our curated training data induces both more diverse reasoning paths and stronger cross-thread communication than Parallel-R1 data after SFT.** We compare our curated data with Parallel-R1 data using Edit Distance, Embedding Dissimilarity, and Cross-Thread Attention Ratio. Higher values indicate greater diversity or a higher relative weight on peer-thread attention.

| Data | Diversity ↑ | | Cross-Thread Attention ↑ |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Edit Distance | Embedding Dissimilarity | |
| Parallel-R1 Data + *SFT* | 0.13 | 0.00 | 0.307 |
| **Our Data** + *SFT* | **0.77** | **0.12** | **0.353** |

throughout generation. Sections C.1 and C.2 further show that synchronization concentrates in middle-to-late layers especially near Layer 26 across both model scales.

**Diversity-aware data and SFT improve collaboration and self-selection.** Table 5 shows that our curated data produces more diverse threads and stronger cross-thread attention than Parallel-R1 data. Table 4 shows that SFT improves self-selection under $R_{\text{acc}}^{\text{gated}}$. However, this reward's strict format requirement leaves open whether SFT mainly teaches the output format or the ability to select a correct path. We therefore further ablate SFT under the format-relaxed reward $R_{\text{acc}}^{\text{soft}}$ on LLaMA-3.1-8B (Section B.3). RL alone achieves higher Mean@8 but lower Accuracy than SFT→RL, suggesting that SFT supports reliable self-selection even when the strict format gate is relaxed. To measure the intensity of cross-thread communication, we define the cross-thread ratio as $r_{\text{cross}} = \frac{\bar{A}_{\text{cross}}}{\bar{A}_{\text{self}}+\bar{A}_{\text{cross}}}$, where $\bar{A}_{\text{self}}$ denotes the average attention weight assigned to keys from the same thread and $\bar{A}_{\text{cross}}$ denotes the average attention weight assigned to keys from peer threads. As shown in Table 5, our diversity-aware data pipeline yields substantially higher thread diversity and cross-thread attention ratios compared to naïve parallel sampling, validating that data quality is the prerequisite for emergent collaboration.

## 5 Conclusion

Current reasoning methods mainly scale the depth of individual chains, while leaving reasoning paths largely isolated. To address this, we introduce LACE, which adds a lightweight cross-thread side path to transformers and enables **implicit token-level cross-thread interaction during generation**, rather than post-hoc aggregation or isolated parallel sampling. With synthetic collateral-thinking data and lattice-based RL, LACE turns redundant samples into interactive exploration and delivers consistent gains over matched baselines. Overall, our findings suggest that stronger reasoning may come not only from stronger individual threads, but also from emergent cross-thread collaboration.

## 6 Limitations

Although lattice attention adds less than $1.3\%$ FLOPs, cross-thread communication still incurs latency overhead (Tables 11 and 12). We observe that RL on mathematical data alone can destabilize output formatting on out-of-domain benchmarks such as LiveBench [40]. Selecting BEST threads during data generation also requires criteria tailored to each domain, and extending the model to open-domain agent tasks such as WebArena [58] requires further adaptation. Following Gated Attention [24], we insert lattice attention after the token-axis attention output; other placements, such as after the feed-forward block, are not ablated in this work. The number of threads is also fixed at inference and does not adapt to problem difficulty.

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# A Implementation Details

## A.1 Model Initialization and Training

We implement LACE using Qwen3 models with 1.7B and 4B parameters, as well as LLaMA-3.1 with 8B parameters. The 1.7B model is initialized from Qwen3-1.7B with disabled thinking for efficient training, the 4B model from Qwen3-4B-Instruct-2507, and the 8B model from LLaMA-3.1-8B-Instruct. All three models undergo SFT and RL training as described in Section 3.3. During the initial SFT steps, we freeze the backbone and update only the lattice attention parameters before unfreezing the full model for the remaining SFT steps. Training data for Qwen3 and LLaMA-3.1 is curated from DAPO and DART-Math, respectively, using the pipeline in Section 3.1.

For the Qwen3 models, the SFT learning rate is $1 \times 10^{-5}$ with a cosine scheduler, and the RL learning rate is $1 \times 10^{-6}$. We use the AdamW optimizer with a weight decay of 0.01 and betas of (0.9, 0.95).

## A.2 Reward and Evaluation Settings

For LACE and Isolated Parallel, we use $R_{\text{acc}}^{\text{soft}}$ for the experiments in Table 1. Experiments with $R_{\text{acc}}^{\text{soft}}$ use TRL 1.9.0 with an SGLang rollout engine, while those with $R_{\text{acc}}^{\text{gated}}$ use TRL 0.25.1 with a Hugging Face rollout engine. The $R_{\text{acc}}^{\text{soft}}$ setting uses $2\times$ the GPU count and $2\times$ the maximum rollout generation length of the $R_{\text{acc}}^{\text{gated}}$ setting.

For Table 1, we evaluate the 1.7B, 4B, and 8B models after 250, 400, and 150 RL steps, respectively; the training seed is fixed to 42 for all three model scales. For this setting, we compute the conditional probability of the BEST label for each thread under teacher forcing and select the answer from the thread with the highest probability. For the Qwen3 experiments with $R_{\text{acc}}^{\text{gated}}$, the 1.7B model is evaluated after 200 RL steps on AIME 24 and AIME 25 and after 350 RL steps on LiveBench, while the 4B model is evaluated after 320 RL steps on all three benchmarks.

**Agentic benchmarks.** For Table 3, HotpotQA uses a fixed 500-question subset of the 7,405-example `fullwiki` validation split and four decoding seeds. TextWorldCook uses the 100 TALES CookingWorld test games with repeated evaluation runs. WebShop uses all 500 instructions from the upstream test split and four decoding seeds.

For HotpotQA, we use rewards based on $R_{\text{acc}}^{\text{soft}}$ with exact-match (EM) scoring. LACE and Isolated Parallel use prompts with `[[best]]` labels.

For TextWorldCook and WebShop, we directly use the scores returned by the environments as rewards. LACE and Isolated Parallel use the maximum score across four threads, while Independent uses its own thread's score. Prompts for these tasks omit `[[best]]` labels.

## A.3 Training Data Statistics

Table 6: **Training and evaluation data statistics used in this work.**

| Training Set | Stage | Questions |
|---|---|---|
| Lattice-1.7B | SFT | 2,409 |
| Lattice-1.7B | RL | 1,959 |
| Lattice-4B | SFT | 2,409 |
| Lattice-4B | RL | 6,474 |
| Lattice-LLaMA-8B | Midtrain + SFT | 3,291 |
| Lattice-LLaMA-8B | RL | 11,365 |
| Lattice-1.7B-Subset | SFT | 576 |
| Lattice-1.7B-Subset | RL | 960 |
| DAPO-Test100 | Held-out Test | 100 |

All SFT splits contain at least four candidate chains-of-thought per problem. We use the subset split only for the additional scaling and ablation experiments in Section B.

# B Additional Experimental Results

## B.1 Results with the Gated Accuracy Reward ($R_{\text{acc}}^{\text{gated}}$)

Table 7 reports additional Qwen3 comparisons using the gated accuracy reward $R_{\text{acc}}^{\text{gated}}$ and training settings described in Section A, including embedding-based diversity and majority-voting results.

Table 7: **Comparisons with baselines on math and reasoning benchmarks. Independent** is a single-thread SFT+RL baseline, while **Isolated Parallel** uses the same multi-thread training recipe as LACE without lattice layers or cross-thread attention. We report **Accuracy** and **Diversity** (Div.). By default, Independent reports Mean@4, while Isolated Parallel and LACE use the answer from the thread selected by the model as BEST among four simultaneous threads; +Vote denotes replacing the default selection rule with majority voting.

| Model | Method | Train | AIME 25 | | AIME 24 | | LiveBench | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Accuracy | Div. ↑ | Accuracy | Div. ↑ | Accuracy | Div. ↑ |
| ***Qwen3 1.7B*** | *Independent* | SFT → RL | 8.1 ±0.5 | 0.07 | 9.7 ±1.0 | 0.07 | 31.7 ±1.4 | 0.06 |
| | + *Vote* | SFT → RL | 7.8 ±1.9 | 0.07 | 11.1 ±1.9 | 0.07 | 30.0 ±1.0 | 0.06 |
| | *Isolated Parallel* | SFT | 1.1 ±1.9 | 0.10 | 2.2 ±1.9 | 0.11 | 17.2 ±2.6 | **0.11** |
| | | SFT → RL | 6.7 ±3.3 | 0.16 | 4.4 ±1.9 | 0.19 | 28.9 ±2.9 | 0.10 |
| | + *Vote* | SFT → RL | 2.2 ±1.9 | 0.16 | 2.2 ±1.9 | 0.19 | 23.8 ±0.6 | 0.10 |
| | ***LACE*** | SFT | 4.4 ±5.1 | 0.10 | 1.1 ±1.9 | 0.11 | 25.3 ±0.5 | 0.11 |
| | | SFT → RL | **13.3** ±3.3 | **0.28** | **14.4** ±3.8 | **0.24** | **33.6** ±3.1 | 0.11 |
| ***Qwen3 4B*** | *Independent* | SFT → RL | 11.7 ±2.2 | 0.06 | 13.6 ±1.9 | 0.07 | **50.0** ±0.7 | 0.15 |
| | + *Vote* | SFT → RL | 11.1 ±3.8 | 0.06 | 15.6 ±3.8 | 0.07 | 43.9 ±1.6 | 0.15 |
| | *Isolated Parallel* | SFT | 10.0 ±0.0 | 0.09 | 11.7 ±2.4 | 0.10 | 29.9 ±2.0 | 0.11 |
| | | SFT → RL | 11.1 ±5.1 | 0.10 | 12.2 ±1.9 | 0.10 | 43.6 ±1.4 | 0.15 |
| | + *Vote* | SFT → RL | 6.7 ±3.3 | 0.10 | 13.3 ±3.3 | 0.10 | 45.9 ±1.1 | 0.15 |
| | ***LACE*** | SFT | 10.0 ±0.0 | 0.09 | 7.8 ±1.9 | 0.09 | 21.3 ±2.5 | 0.10 |
| | | SFT → RL | **16.7** ±3.3 | **0.16** | **18.9** ±1.9 | **0.16** | 47.9 ±1.4 | **0.16** |

**Additional Baseline Comparisons.** As shown in Table 8, judge-based post-hoc selection [55] is more accurate with a stronger external judge in this evaluation setting, but it requires additional decoding and verification cost. Sequential refinement [22] similarly incurs substantial extra decoding length. In contrast, LACE performs self-selection in situ during generation, retaining lower end-to-end latency and token usage while remaining competitive in final accuracy.

Table 8: **Additional selection-based baselines on AIME 24 and AIME 25.** We compare Lattice-4B against judge-based selection [55] and sequential refinement [22] baselines.

| | AIME 24 | | | AIME 25 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Method** | **Acc** | **Latency/q** | **Tokens/q** | **Acc** | **Latency/q** | **Tokens/q** |
| LACE | 20.0 | 61.2s | 7,120 | 20.0 | 53.0s | 7,012 |
| Gen-Judge (self) | 0.0 | 97.8s | 10,573 | 0.0 | 105.3s | 10,886 |
| Gen-Judge (oracle-4o / 4.1) | 20.0 / 16.7 | 86.7s / 98.6s | 9,069 / 10,041 | 13.3 / 20.0 | 94.5s / 106.8s | 9,499 / 10,237 |
| Seq-Ref | 16.7 | $\sim$ 245s | 15,446 | 13.3 | $\sim$ 296s | 14,369 |

**Diversity Reward Sensitivity.** We conduct this study on the subset training split using the 1.7B model. A useful intuition is that the diversity reward acts like a training-time temperature, reshaping the model's path distribution during training. As shown in Table 9, the default weight (1.0) gives the highest mean Acc on both datasets, but coverage does not follow the same order: Pass@4 stays within 2 points across the three weights, and on DAPO-Test100 it is highest without the diversity reward. A larger diversity weight (2.0) therefore keeps coverage at a similar level while making the correct path harder to self-select. Overall, the default weight is the best choice for self-selection accuracy rather than for coverage. The Acc differences are within about one standard deviation across evaluation runs, so we read this ordering as a trend.

Table 9: **Relative roles of accuracy reward and diversity reward.** Due to limited computational resources, we report results on the subset training split using Lattice-1.7B. The three models start from the same RL checkpoint and are trained for another 120 steps that differ only in the diversity weight. We report mean ± std over 8 evaluation runs. All numbers are percentages.

| | Acc | | | Pass@4 | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Dataset** | **Div=0** | **Div=1.0** | **Div=2.0** | **Div=0** | **Div=1.0** | **Div=2.0** |
| AIME 24 | 5.8 ±2.4 | **9.2** ±3.9 | 5.8 ±3.5 | 17.5 ±3.5 | **18.8** ±5.0 | 18.3 ±5.0 |
| DAPO-Test100 | 20.1 ±3.1 | **21.6** ±3.4 | 20.8 ±2.7 | **54.2** ±1.8 | 52.2 ±3.5 | 52.2 ±3.6 |

### B.2 Failure Analysis

**Coverage limits LACE on AIME.** We decompose the remaining score deficit ($100 - \mathrm{Accuracy}$) into a coverage gap ($100 - \mathrm{Pass@4}$) and a selection gap ($\mathrm{Pass@4} - \mathrm{Accuracy}$). Coverage accounts for 89–96% of LACE's remaining error on AIME under $R_{\mathrm{acc}}^{\mathrm{gated}}$ (Section B.1) and 67–86% under $R_{\mathrm{acc}}^{\mathrm{soft}}$ (Table 1). Thus, most remaining AIME errors occur because none of the threads finds a correct solution. On LiveBench, selection plays a larger role, accounting for 42–66% of the score deficit across both reward settings.

**LACE selects available solutions more reliably.** To assess selection separately from coverage, we measure BEST mislabeling on questions where at least one thread earns credit and at least one thread emits BEST. A mislabel occurs when the selected thread scores below the best available candidate. Under $R_{\mathrm{acc}}^{\mathrm{gated}}$, Isolated Parallel's average mislabel rate is 52.9%, compared with 30.8% for LACE (Qwen3-4B on AIME 24 and AIME 25). Under $R_{\mathrm{acc}}^{\mathrm{soft}}$, the corresponding rates are 39.5% and 26.5%, averaged over both Qwen3 scales and all three benchmarks. On AIME, Isolated Parallel's labels show no statistically detectable advantage over random selection: its Accuracy stays within 1.6 points of Mean@4, while Pass@4 is 10–15 points higher. These results highlight LACE's advantage in selecting from its available candidates.

### B.3 Role of the Synthetic SFT Data

To examine whether synthetic SFT mainly provides a cold start for the multi-thread output format or also affects exploration and self-selection, we train LACE on LLaMA-3.1-8B with RL alone and compare it with SFT→RL (Table 10). Both runs use $R_{\mathrm{acc}}^{\mathrm{soft}}$. The two settings achieve similar Pass@8 on both benchmarks. Mean@8 is similar on MATH-Hard and higher for RL alone on Minerva-Math. SFT→RL achieves higher mean Accuracy, with the clearest gain on MATH-Hard. Its Accuracy also exceeds its own Mean@8 on both benchmarks, whereas RL alone shows the opposite pattern. These results suggest that synthetic SFT helps the model turn available candidate solutions into a reliable final answer. In this setting, its benefit is more apparent in self-selection than in candidate coverage.

Table 10: **RL only vs. SFT→RL for LACE on LLaMA-3.1-8B.** This ablation uses a separate setting from Table 1. RL only starts from LLaMA-3.1-8B-Instruct; SFT→RL starts from an SFT checkpoint trained with a simplified version of our data pipeline on the first 3,000 DART-Math questions. Both runs use $R_{\mathrm{acc}}^{\mathrm{soft}}$ and are evaluated at step 150. We evaluate on MATH-Hard (1,324 questions) and Minerva-Math (272 questions), using $T$=8 threads, 4,096 tokens per thread, SGLang decoding with forced answer completion at the token limit, and dual grading. Results are mean ± standard deviation over four evaluation runs.

| | MATH-Hard | | | Minerva-Math | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Setting** | **Accuracy** | **Mean@8** | **Pass@8** | **Accuracy** | **Mean@8** | **Pass@8** |
| RL only | 15.7 ±0.8 | **18.0** ±0.2 | **43.8** ±0.8 | 20.2 ±0.5 | **21.9** ±0.3 | **44.7** ±2.3 |
| SFT → RL | **20.3** ±1.1 | 17.9 ±0.2 | 42.8 ±0.7 | **22.1** ±1.3 | 19.3 ±0.8 | 44.3 ±1.8 |

### B.4 Computational Overhead

We benchmark thread scaling on a single RTX PRO 6000 Blackwell 97GB GPU using bfloat16 precision, generation length 100, and context length 50. We compare vanilla independent sampling against LACE-enabled decoding across thread counts from $N = 1$ to $N = 128$. The results in

Table 11: **Thread-scaling micro-benchmark on Lattice-1.7B.** Memory is reported in MB. Red shading marks overhead increases.

| | Vanilla | | | | | Lattice | | | | | Overhead | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N** | **ms/step** | **TPS** | **TTFT (ms)** | **Mem** | **FLOPs** | **ms/step** | **TPS** | **TTFT (ms)** | **Mem** | **FLOPs** | **ms/step** | **TTFT** | **Mem** | **FLOPs** |
| 1 | 20.8 | 48.1 | 18.1 | 3,911 | $1.90 \times 10^{11}$ | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| 4 | 20.5 | 195.4 | 18.7 | 4,003 | $7.60 \times 10^{11}$ | 28.4 | 140.8 | 25.8 | 4,069 | $7.69 \times 10^{11}$ | +38.5% | +38.0% | +1.6% | +1.22% |
| 8 | 20.5 | 391.2 | 18.6 | 7,993 | $1.52 \times 10^{12}$ | 28.7 | 279.1 | 26.0 | 8,128 | $1.54 \times 10^{12}$ | +40.0% | **39.8%** | +1.7% | +1.22% |
| 16 | 20.4 | 783.6 | 25.8 | 8,217 | $3.04 \times 10^{12}$ | 31.0 | 515.5 | 29.8 | 8,416 | $3.08 \times 10^{12}$ | +51.9% | +15.5% | +2.4% | +1.22% |
| 32 | 21.6 | 1,480 | 33.8 | 8,673 | $6.08 \times 10^{12}$ | 33.2 | 964.8 | 38.2 | 8,997 | $6.15 \times 10^{12}$ | +53.7% | +13.0% | +3.7% | +1.23% |
| 64 | 22.5 | 2,845 | 51.9 | 9,585 | $1.22 \times 10^{13}$ | 35.2 | 1,817 | 57.0 | 10,161 | $1.23 \times 10^{13}$ | +56.4% | +9.8% | +6.0% | +1.25% |
| 128 | 25.8 | 4,968 | 91.5 | 11,181 | $2.43 \times 10^{13}$ | 41.0 | 3,124 | 100.1 | 12,278 | $2.46 \times 10^{13}$ | **58.9%** | +9.4% | **9.8%** | **1.29%** |

Table 12: **Thread-scaling micro-benchmark on Lattice-4B.** Memory is reported in MB. Red shading marks overhead increases.

| | Vanilla | | | | | Lattice | | | | | Overhead | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **N** | **ms/step** | **TPS** | **TTFT (ms)** | **Mem** | **FLOPs** | **ms/step** | **TPS** | **TTFT (ms)** | **Mem** | **FLOPs** | **ms/step** | **TTFT** | **Mem** | **FLOPs** |
| 1 | 26.2 | 38.5 | 23.1 | 7,767 | $4.42 \times 10^{11}$ | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – | – |
| 4 | 27.6 | 144.8 | 23.9 | 7,874 | $1.77 \times 10^{12}$ | 36.2 | 110.6 | 33.1 | 8,717 | $1.77 \times 10^{12}$ | +31.2% | **38.5%** | +10.7% | +0.35% |
| 8 | 26.3 | 304.6 | 27.3 | 15,745 | $3.54 \times 10^{12}$ | 36.2 | 221.2 | 33.5 | 17,417 | $3.55 \times 10^{12}$ | +37.6% | +22.7% | +10.6% | +0.36% |
| 16 | 26.6 | 602.7 | 36.4 | 16,007 | $7.07 \times 10^{12}$ | 39.6 | 403.6 | 41.8 | 17,766 | $7.10 \times 10^{12}$ | +48.9% | +14.8% | +11.0% | +0.36% |
| 32 | 28.8 | 1,112 | 61.5 | 16,551 | $1.41 \times 10^{13}$ | 42.1 | 759.7 | 66.6 | 18,473 | $1.42 \times 10^{13}$ | +46.2% | +8.3% | +11.6% | +0.36% |
| 64 | 29.6 | 2,161 | 108.5 | 17,641 | $2.83 \times 10^{13}$ | 45.4 | 1,409 | 115.5 | 19,887 | $2.84 \times 10^{13}$ | +53.4% | +6.5% | +12.7% | +0.36% |
| 128 | 33.3 | 3,842 | 201.4 | 19,594 | $5.66 \times 10^{13}$ | 65.4 | 1,958 | 211.4 | 22,506 | $5.68 \times 10^{13}$ | **96.4%** | +5.0% | **14.9%** | **0.37%** |

Tables 11 and 12 show that LACE adds negligible FLOPs overhead (below $1.3\%$), while the dominant cost is step latency, indicating that the extra overhead is primarily memory-bandwidth bound rather than compute bound. Memory overhead remains modest, and TTFT overhead decreases at larger thread counts. Notably, even 128 threads fit on a single GPU, requiring only about 12.3GB for Lattice-1.7B and 22.5GB for Lattice-4B.

### B.5 Thread Scaling

Table 13: **Inference-time thread scaling on TextWorldCookAgent.** A model trained with four threads is evaluated at $k = 4, 8, 16$ without retraining. Mean metrics average over threads; Win Rate counts any-thread success. Results are mean $\pm$ std.

| **Metric** | **4T** | **8T** | **16T** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mean Score | 38.6 $\pm$0.7 | 39.9 $\pm$0.8 | **40.0** $\pm$0.7 |
| Best Score | 67.2 $\pm$0.6 | 74.7 $\pm$1.1 | 84.1 $\pm$1.2 |
| Win Rate | 44.3 $\pm$2.1 | 55.2 $\pm$1.3 | 69.6 $\pm$2.5 |
| Mean Win Rate | 17.8 $\pm$1.8 | **18.5** $\pm$0.9 | 18.3 $\pm$0.6 |

Table 14: **Training-time thread scaling on LiveBench.** We compare 4-thread and 8-thread Lattice-1.7B models trained on the subset split.

| **Metric** | **4T train** | **8T train** |
|---|---|---|
| Accuracy | 7.0 | 20.5 |
| Latency / query (s) | 59.3 | 21.2 |
| Tokens / query | 5,967 | 2,107 |

The model maintains comparable per-thread performance at eight and sixteen decoding threads, with modest gains over four-thread decoding (Table 13); best-of-$k$ scores increase with the candidate count. Training with eight threads improves Accuracy and decoding efficiency in the LiveBench comparison (Table 14).

# C Cross-Thread Collaboration Analysis

## C.1 Gate Score Statistics

In Section 4.2, we show an example thread and visualize the gate scores assigned to each token, concluding that higher gate scores correspond to more critical reasoning steps. Here, we provide additional statistics to support this observation. As shown in Figure 7, we compute the average gate scores of Lattice-1.7B across all threads and samples in AIME 25, and rank the top-20 tokens by their mean gate scores. The results reveal a clear pattern: tokens associated with **self-assessment and cross-thread evaluation** dominate the rankings. Notably, subword tokens of "exploration" (`expl`, `oration`) and evaluation-related tokens (`summary`, `evaluate`, `Solution`) rank highly, indicating that the model increases cross-thread attention during the exploration phase. Furthermore, self-selection tags (SUCCESS, BEST) also exhibit elevated gate scores, substantiating that the model actively references peer threads when making final judgments. This quantitative evidence supports our qualitative finding that LACE learns to selectively engage cross-thread communication at semantically meaningful positions, particularly during exploration and self-assessment stages.

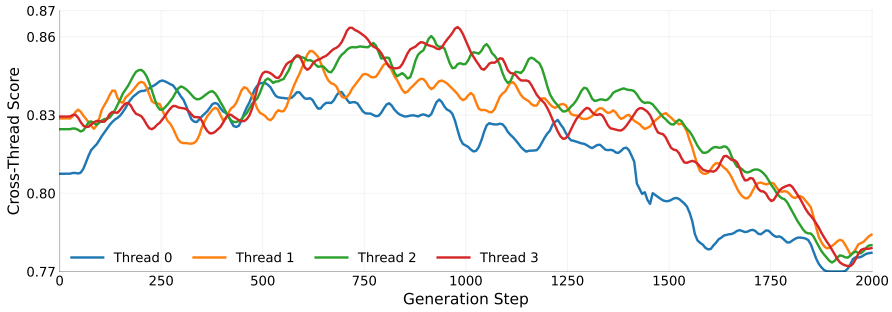



Figure 6: **Gate-score dynamics over decoding steps.** Information flow in the lattice peaks during the core reasoning phase before tapering off near the final answer, consistent with a diverge-then-converge pattern of collaborative reasoning.

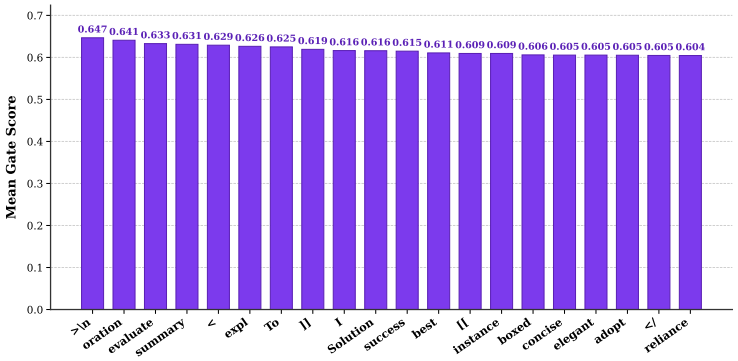



Figure 7: Average gate scores of top-20 tokens ranked by mean gate scores across all threads and samples in AIME 25 by Lattice-1.7B. Tokens related to self-assessment and cross-thread evaluation dominate the rankings, indicating that the model increases cross-thread attention during critical reasoning steps.

## C.2 Per-Layer Synchronization

To further characterize where cross-thread collaboration is concentrated, we measure layer-wise synchronization under teacher forcing on AIME 25. We define synchronization as the product of the gate value and the cross-thread attention ratio, i.e., Sync $=$ Gate $\times\, r_{\text{cross}}$, which captures effective cross-thread information flow. Table 15 shows that synchronization is concentrated in middle-to-late layers, consistently serving as the stronger synchronization point across both model scales. RL also strengthens synchronization across nearly all layers, though the largest gains appear at different depths for 1.7B and 4B, suggesting scale-dependent collaboration patterns.

Table 15: **Per-layer synchronization analysis on AIME 25.** Sync denotes effective cross-thread information flow, computed as gate × cross-thread ratio. Green row shading highlights RL synchronization profiles, and green cells in Δ sync mark layer-wise gains after RL.

| | L10 | L12 | L14 | L16 | L18 | L20 | L22 | L24 | L26 | L28 | L30 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1.7B SFT** sync | 0.232 | 0.185 | 0.178 | 0.194 | 0.235 | 0.251 | 0.231 | 0.246 | **0.284** | – | – |
| **1.7B RL** sync | 0.263 | 0.228 | 0.239 | 0.299 | **0.300** | 0.288 | 0.276 | 0.280 | 0.290 | – | – |
| **1.7B** Δ sync | +0.031 | +0.043 | +0.061 | **+0.105** | +0.065 | +0.036 | +0.044 | +0.034 | +0.006 | – | – |
| **4B SFT** sync | 0.210 | 0.189 | 0.160 | 0.168 | 0.149 | 0.162 | 0.161 | 0.149 | **0.215** | 0.193 | 0.175 |
| **4B RL** sync | 0.213 | 0.194 | 0.167 | 0.176 | 0.157 | 0.171 | 0.171 | 0.162 | **0.224** | 0.207 | 0.195 |
| **4B** Δ sync | +0.003 | +0.005 | +0.007 | +0.007 | +0.009 | +0.009 | +0.011 | +0.013 | +0.008 | +0.014 | **+0.020** |

### C.3 Qualitative Examples and Thread Summaries

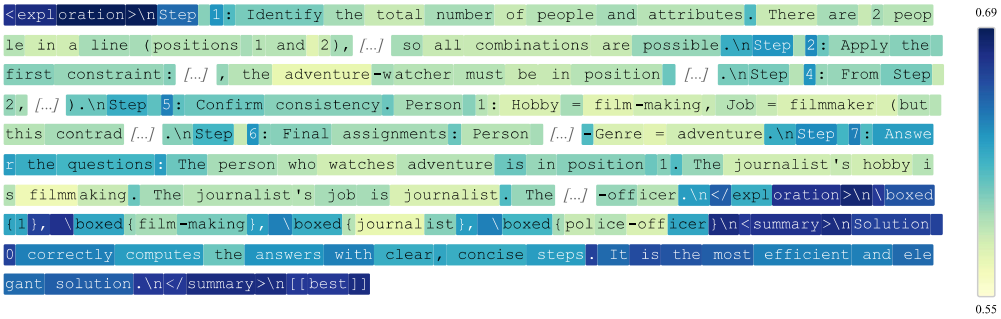



Figure 8: A detailed token-level view of cross-thread intensity on a selected BEST thread from Lattice-1.7B on a LiveBench problem. Darker shading indicates stronger cross-thread interaction, with the strongest signals occurring near exploration and self-assessment tokens.

By inspecting the generated reasoning traces from LACE models, we observe several emergent behaviors that suggest enhanced collaborative reasoning capabilities. Figure 8 provides a detailed token-level view of cross-thread intensity on a selected BEST thread from Lattice-1.7B on a LiveBench problem.

As shown in Figure 8, cross-thread attention peaks around semantically meaningful positions, especially during exploration and self-assessment. This complements the main-text four-thread visualization in Figure 5, showing more clearly how the selected thread absorbs peer information at the token level.

The summaries in Figure 9 contain explicit comparisons between solutions. Thread 2 describes its approach as similar to the reference, while Thread 4 compares its approach with Solution 2 and judges its own steps to be more verbose and less efficient.

**Thread 1 Summary**

Solution 0 correctly finds the bases 21 and 49 by analyzing the division and checking divisors of 56. It is the most direct and efficient solution.

**BEST**

**Thread 2 Summary**

This solution follows a similar approach to the reference but with slightly different phrasing. It is correct and efficient.

**SUCCESS**

**Thread 3 Summary**

This solution uses modular arithmetic and the divisibility property to derive the same result as the reference method. It is concise and efficient.

**SUCCESS**

**Thread 4 Summary**

Solution 3 follows a similar algebraic approach as Solution 2 but with slightly more verbose steps. It is correct but less efficient than Solution 2.

**SUCCESS**

Figure 9: Self-assessment summaries from four parallel threads on an AIME 25 problem. Thread 1 correctly identifies itself as the best solution, while other threads acknowledge their relative positions. Displayed threads 1–4 correspond to identifiers 0–3 in the original traces and summaries.

## D Analytical Results

We compare candidate coverage under independent sampling and LACE using a conditional-error model. Fix a problem $X$, and let $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{Y}$ be the set of correct reasoning outcomes in a discrete outcome space $\mathcal{Y}$. All probabilities below are conditional on $X$, which we omit for readability. Let $P_{\text{base}}$ be the baseline distribution over outcomes, with error rate $\epsilon_0 = P_{\text{base}}(y \notin \mathcal{C})$. We consider $N \geq 2$ threads and $0 < \epsilon_0 < 1$. Define $S = 1$ when at least one thread returns a correct outcome and $S = 0$ when all threads fail.

**Lemma 1 (Independent Failure Probability).** For $N$ outcomes $y_1, \ldots, y_N$ sampled independently from $P_{\text{base}}$, the probability that none is correct is

$$P_{\text{IND}}(S = 0) = \prod_{k=1}^{N} P_{\text{base}}(y_k \notin \mathcal{C}) = \epsilon_0^N. \tag{3}$$

This follows directly from independence. Thus, independent sampling has candidate coverage $P_{\text{IND}}(S = 1) = 1 - \epsilon_0^N$.

**Theorem 1 (Conditional Coverage Improvement).** For LACE, let $E_k = \{y_k \notin \mathcal{C}\}$ denote failure of thread $k$, and let $E_{<k} = \bigcap_{i=1}^{k-1} E_i$. Thread indices specify an order for the probability factorization; the threads may still interact concurrently during generation. Assume that the first thread has the same marginal failure probability as the baseline, $P_{\text{LACE}}(E_1) = \epsilon_0$. For every $k \in \{2, \ldots, N\}$ with $P_{\text{LACE}}(E_{<k}) > 0$, assume

$$P_{\text{LACE}}(E_k \mid E_{<k}) = \epsilon_0 - \delta_k, \qquad 0 \leq \delta_k \leq \epsilon_0. \tag{4}$$

Then

$$P_{\text{LACE}}(S = 0) \leq \epsilon_0^N, \qquad P_{\text{LACE}}(S = 1) \geq P_{\text{IND}}(S = 1). \tag{5}$$

Both inequalities are strict if $\delta_k > 0$ for at least one index $k$ whose conditioning event has positive probability.

*Proof.* If $P_{\text{LACE}}(E_{<k}) = 0$ for some $k \in \{2, \ldots, N\}$, then the all-thread failure event, which is a subset of $E_{<k}$, also has probability zero. Since $\epsilon_0 > 0$, this gives strict improvement over independent sampling without conditioning on a zero-probability event.

Otherwise, all conditioning events have positive probability. The chain rule and the assumptions in Equation (4) give

$$\begin{aligned} P_{\text{LACE}}(S = 0) &= P_{\text{LACE}}(E_1) \prod_{k=2}^{N} P_{\text{LACE}}(E_k \mid E_{<k}) \\ &= \epsilon_0 \prod_{k=2}^{N} (\epsilon_0 - \delta_k). \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

Each factor $\epsilon_0 - \delta_k$ lies in $[0, \epsilon_0]$, establishing Equation (5). If $\delta_k > 0$ for at least one $k \in \{2, \ldots, N\}$, then

$$\epsilon_0 \prod_{k=2}^{N} (\epsilon_0 - \delta_k) < \epsilon_0^N \quad \Longrightarrow \quad P_{\mathrm{LACE}}(S = 1) > P_{\mathrm{IND}}(S = 1). \tag{7}$$

□

**Interpretation and scope.** An idealized rejection sampler illustrates how avoiding incorrect outcomes can increase coverage. Suppose it excludes a set $\mathcal{M} \subseteq \mathcal{Y} \setminus \mathcal{C}$ of incorrect outcomes with baseline probability mass $\pi = P_{\mathrm{base}}(\mathcal{M})$, where $0 < \pi \leq \epsilon_0 < 1$. Renormalizing the remaining distribution gives $Q(\mathcal{C}) = P_{\mathrm{base}}(\mathcal{C})/(1 - \pi) > P_{\mathrm{base}}(\mathcal{C})$. This is an illustrative mechanism for reducing failure probability. For LACE, Equation (4) remains a modeling assumption whose validity must be assessed empirically. The result concerns candidate coverage (Pass@$N$); the accuracy of the final self-selected answer additionally depends on the selection mechanism.

# E Broader Impacts

LACE may improve the reliability and efficiency of reasoning models by allowing multiple solution paths to coordinate during generation. Potential benefits include stronger mathematical reasoning, planning, and interactive problem solving. At the same time, stronger reasoning and agentic capabilities may also be dual-use, including possible misuse for automated problem solving in harmful settings. Responsible deployment should therefore follow standard model safety practices, including careful evaluation, access controls when appropriate, and monitoring for misuse.

## NeurIPS Paper Checklist

1. **Claims**

   Question: Do the main claims made in the abstract and introduction accurately reflect the paper's contributions and scope?

   Answer: [Yes]

   Justification: The abstract and introduction state the paper's scope as a lattice-attention framework for cross-thread reasoning, and the claims are supported by the method, experiments, and ablations in Sections 3.1 to 3.3 and 4.1.

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