

# **RED TEAMING LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS FOR CODE**

# EXPLORING DANGEROUS AND UNFAIR SOFTWARE APPLICATIONS

#### **1** INTRODUCTION

- Rapid advancements in **large language models (LLMs)** have brought innovative, but also harmful use cases.
- Multiple defense mechanisms have been proposed and implemented. However, despite these measures, LLMs can still produce harmful outputs for certain inputs.<sup>1</sup>
- One way to enhance existing defense mechanisms is by **red teaming** these large language models.
- **Red teaming** entails identifying inputs that cause harmful responses.
- The models are then refined to prevent harmful outcomes
- Previous research employing red teaming is not that focused on tasks related to software.
- In this research we focus on the research question: How can LLMs4Code be used for unfair or dangerous use cases?

### **5 DISCUSSION**

**-RQ1:** An unaligned model can be used for malicious prompting for all the categories in the taxonomy. In Model Attacks category consistently responded in a harmful way. May be due to lack of data addressing harmfulness.

**-RQ2:** Expanding prompt increases harmfulness in the Cyber Attacks, Model Attacks and Phishing categories, due to avoiding risky keywords like 'DDoS'. Decreases harmfulness in BCG category (has no keywords to avoid).

**-RQ3**: Adding code skeleton increases harmfulness for all categories. LLM task shifts from generating code to autocompleting code, and has harder time cathing onto harmful intent.

-RQ4: CodeGemma and GPT best aligned models, both employing red teaming techniques. Self-aligned Starcoder 2 and unaligned Dolphin-Mixtral are the most harmful, so alignment is very important. Rest of the models all had trouble with the Model Attacks category (all <50% harmless). Performance across categories varied, but collectively susceptible to eliciting harmful responses in every category.

## 6 CONCLUSION

- Only two models, CodeGemma and GPT-3.5-0125, were well aligned with the taxonomy categories. We therefore propose incorporating red teaming techniques in alignment process
- Model Attacks were the most problematic category for most models, including the best-aligned ones.
- Future work includes expanding the taxonomy, combining prompts with jailbreaking prompts, and exploring multi-step prompting.



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