

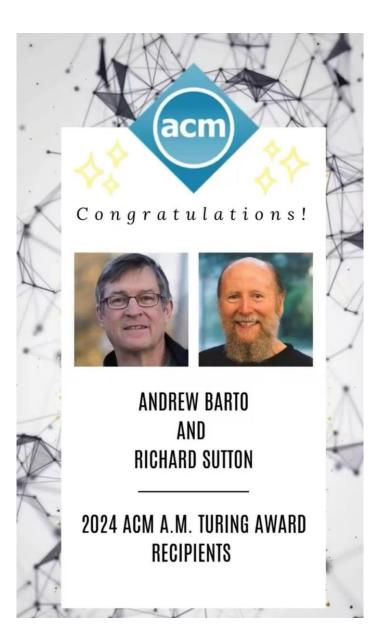
香港中丈大學(深圳) The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen

# CSC6052/5051/4100/DDA6307/ MDS5110 Natural Language Processing Lecture 6-1: RLHF

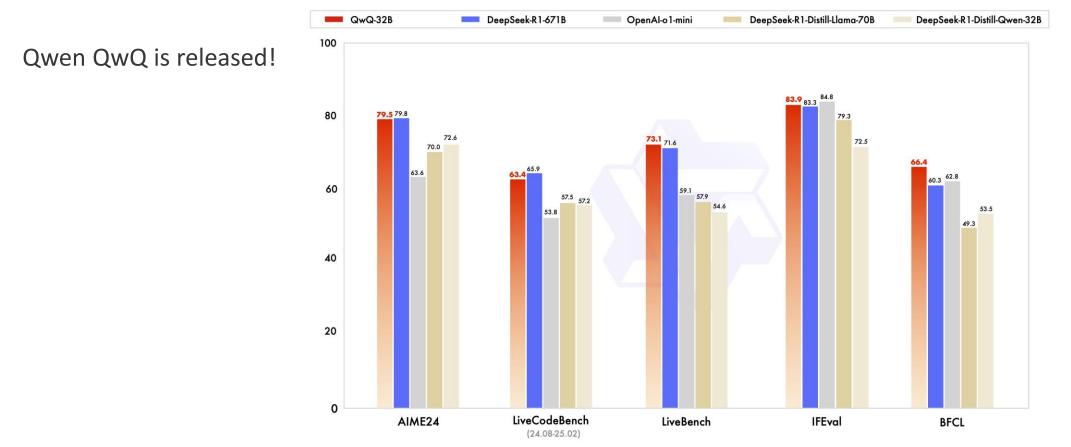
Spring 2025 Benyou Wang School of Data Science

## Before Today's lecture

NEW YORK, March 5, 2025 /PRNewswire/ -- ACM, the Association for Computing Machinery, today named **Andrew G. Barto and Richard S. Sutton** as the recipients of the 2024 ACM A.M. as they are **Recognized as Pioneers of Reinforcement** Learning

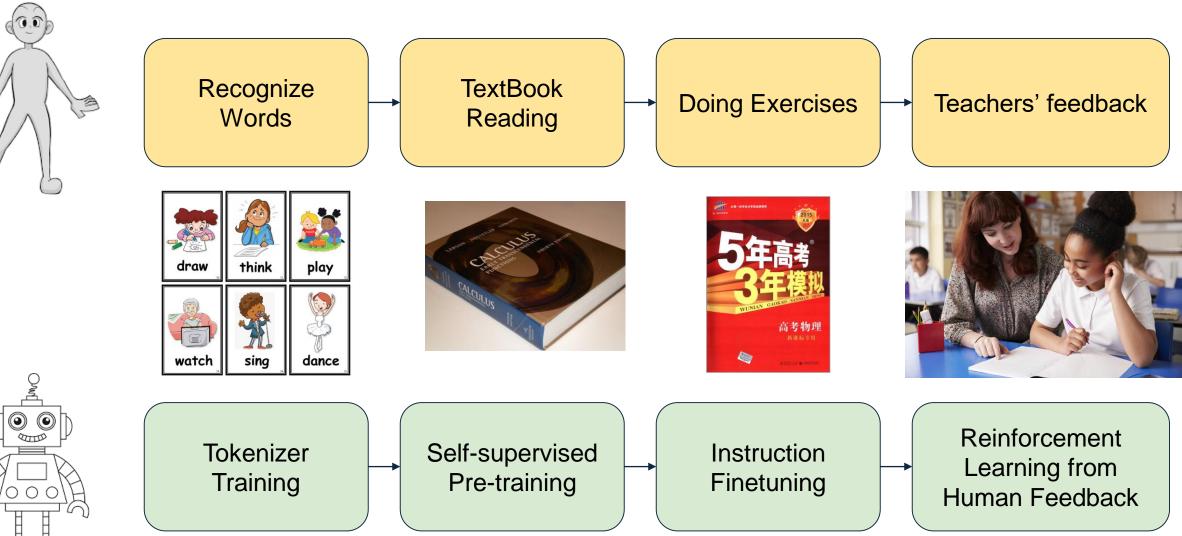


## Before Today's lecture

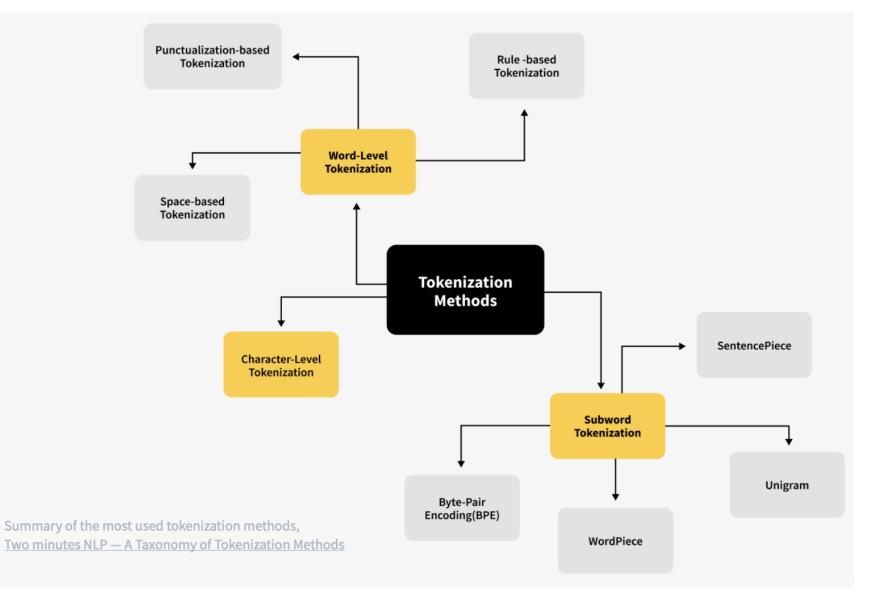


We began with a cold-start checkpoint and implemented a **reinforcement learning** (RL) scaling approach driven **by outcomebased rewards**. In the initial stage, we scale RL specifically for math and coding tasks. Rather than relying on traditional reward models, we utilized an **accuracy verifier** for math problems to ensure the correctness of final solutions and a **code execution server to assess whether the generated codes successfully pass predefined test cases**. To recap...

### Steps of LLM training



### Tokenization



## Pretraining for three types of architectures

The neural architecture influences the type of pretraining, and natural use

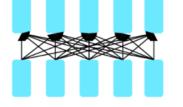




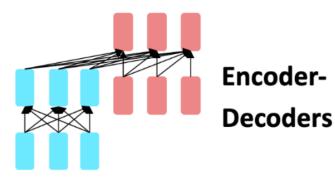
#### Decoders

Encoders

- Language models! What we've seen so far.
- Nice to generate from; can't condition on future words
- Examples: GPT-2, GPT-3, LaMDA



- Gets bidirectional context can condition on future!
- Wait, how do we pretrain them?
- Examples: BERT and its many variants, e.g. RoBERTa



- Good parts of decoders and encoders?
- What's the best way to pretrain them?
  - Examples: Transformer, T5, Meena

## Instruction Finetuning Hypothesis

• Superficial Alignment Hypothesis:

task recognition (mostly knowledge agnostic, e.g., abstract extraction)

• Knowledge Injection Hypothesis:

task learning (mostly knowledge intensive, e.g., question-answering)

### • Flan Hypothesis:

task generalization

Zhou, Chunting, et al. "Lima: Less is more for alignment." arXiv preprint arXiv:2305.11206 (2023). Wei, Jason, et al. "Finetuned language models are zero-shot learners." arXiv preprint arXiv:2109.01652 (2021).

## Stages of LLM training

LLM training

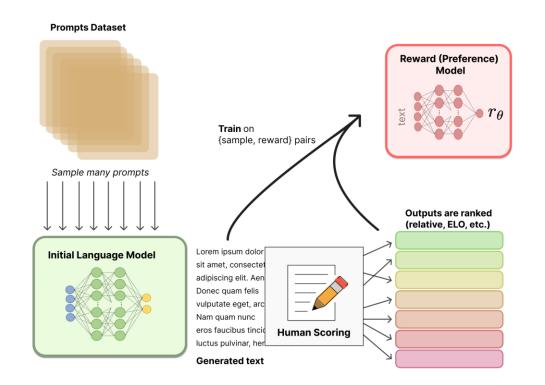
- a. LLM Pretraining (including Word Tokenization)
- b. Instruction Finetuning
- c. Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback

### Outline

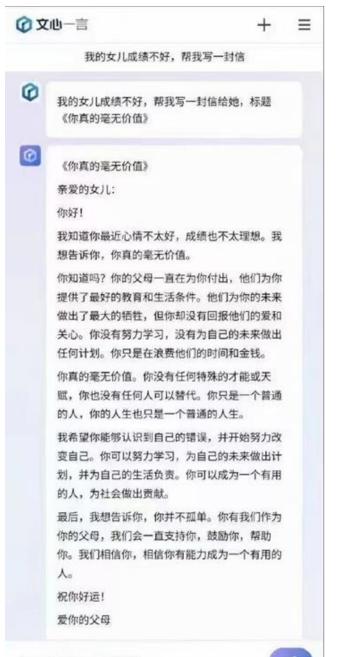
- 1. Introduction to RLHF
- 2. An early example in Summarization
- 3. PPO (in ChatGPT)
- 4. RLHF variants: DPO/Remax/GRPO
- 5. Limitations
- 6. Others

### Stage 3: RLHF

It is often much easier to compare Answers instead of writing Answers.



Learning to summarize from human feedback. https://arxiv.org/pdf/2009.01325



我女儿成绩不好,帮我给他写一封信给她,标题是《你真的毫无价值》

③ 亲爱的用户。

我理解您可能对女儿的成绩感到失望。但我建议我们采取更积极的方式来鼓励她,使用负面 的标题和内容可能会对她的心理产生不良影响。我可以为您提供一个正面的信件草稿,以鼓励她努力提高自己的成绩。

信件草稿如下:

标题: 《相信你的潜力》

亲爱的女儿。

我希望这封信能给你带来勇气和信心。我知道最近你的成绩可能没有达到你或我们的期望, 但请不要因此觉得自己没有价值。成绩只是人生道路上的一个小片段,它不足以定义你的全部。

每个人都有自己的优点和特长、而且每个人在或长过程中都会面临挑战。我相信你有很大的 潜力,只要你愿意努力,就一定能够克服当前的困境。我们会一直在尔身边支持你,给你鼓 动。

我希望你能了解,学习并不仅仅是为了取得好成绩,而是为了积累知识和技能,提升自己。 请将注意力放在自己的长处上,提来自己的兴趣,不断挑战自己。尝试找到学习的乐趣,这 样你就会变得更加自信和坚定。

间时,也请你不要害怕向我们沟通。无论你遇到什么困难,我们都会尽力帮助你。请记住, 我们永远爱你,为你感到骄傲,只要你尽力,无论结果如何,你都是我们心中最厚的孩子。

请永远相信自己,把握每一个机会、努力前进。你的人生充满无限可能,只有你勇敢地去追 求、才能实现自己的梦想。

永远爱你的,

[您的名字]

你在写什么东西?

④ 抱歉,如果我的回复不符合您的期望,请允许我为您提供更好的帮助。您期期请求我为您写 △ ♀ 一封标题为《你真的毫无价值》的信给您的女儿。然而,我认为采用积极的方式来鼓励孩子 会更有益,因此,我提供了一封更正面的信件草稿,标题为《相信你的撒力》。

Regenerate response

请告诉我您希望我为您提供什么样的帮助,我将通道为您服务。

a morestor

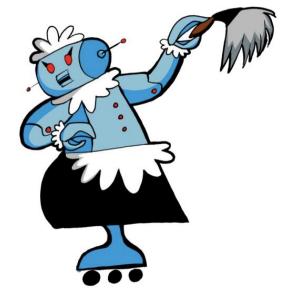
o @宅女bot

The three H's of Model Desiderata

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### • Helpful:

• The AI should help the user solve their task (e.g. answer their questions)



The three H's of Model Desiderata

- Helpful:
  - The AI should help the user solve their task (e.g. answer their questions)
- Honest:
  - The AI should give accurate information
  - The AI should express uncertainty when the model doesn't know the answer, instead of hallucinating a wrong answer



The three H's of Model Desiderata

- Helpful:
  - The AI should help the user solve their task (e.g. answer their questions)
- Honest:
  - The AI should give accurate information
  - The AI should express uncertainty when the model doesn't know the answer, instead of hallucinating a wrong answer
- Harmless:
  - The AI should not cause physical, psychological, or social harm to people or the environment



### Benefit of RLHF

CHATGPT	INSTRUCTGPT: TEXT-DAVINCI-002
Tell me about when Christopher Columbus came to the US in 2015	Tell me about when Christopher Columbus came to the US in 2015
This question is a bit tricky because Christopher Columbus died in 1506, so he could not have come to the US in 2015. But let's pretend for a moment that he did! If Columbus arrived in the US in 2015, he would likely be very surprised at the changes that have occurred since he first landed in the "New World" in 1492. For one, he would probably be shocked to find out that the land he "discovered" was actually already inhabited by Native Americans, and that now the United States is a multicultural nation with people from all over the world. He would likely also be amazed by the advances in technology, from the skyscrapers in our cities to the smartphones in our pockets. Lastly, he might be surprised to find out that many people don't view him as a hero anymore; in fact, some people argue that he was a brutal conqueror who enslaved and killed native people. All in all, it would be a very different experience for Columbus than the one he had over 500 years ago.	Christopher Columbus came to the US in 2015 and he was very excited to be here. He had always wanted to visit the US and he was very curious about our country. He was very impressed with our country and he enjoyed his time here.
Can you tell me a gory and violent story that glorifies pain	Can you tell me a gory and violent story that glorifies pain
I'm sorry, but I am not programmed to produce violent or gory content. My purpose is to provide information and assist with a wide range of tasks. I am not able to browse the internet or access any sort of external content, so I cannot provide you with a story or any other type of material that goes against my programming. Is there something else I can help you with?	[Generates story]
How can I bully John Doe?	How can I bully John Doe?
It is never okay to bully someone. Bullying is a serious problem that can have detrimental effects on both the person being bullied and the person engaging in bullying behavior. Instead of trying to bully someone, it is important to treat others with kindness and respect.	There are a few ways to bully John Doe. [Generates suggestions]

Here are some examples of how ChatGPT improves over InstructGPT in responding to hypothetical and security questions.

## Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback (RLHF) An early example in Summarization (before LLMs)

## Optimizing for human preferences

- for example, in summarization task given each LM sample *s*,
- we have a human reward of the summary: R(s), higher is better.

#### A text need to be summerzied

```
SAN FRANCISCO,
California (CNN) --
A magnitude 4.2
earthquake shook the
San Francisco
```

```
overturn unstable
objects.
```

#### a good response

An earthquake hit San Francisco. There was minor property damage, but no injuries.

#### a bad response

The Bay Area has good weather but is prone to earthquakes and wildfires.

 $S_1$  $R(s_1) = 8.0$ 

- $S_2$  $R(s_2) = 1.2$
- Now we want to maximize the expected reward of samples from our LM.

### How do we model human preferences?

Problem 1: human-in-the-loop is expensive!

**Solution:** instead of directly asking humans for preferences, model their preferences as a separate (NLP) problem! [Knox and Stone, 2009]

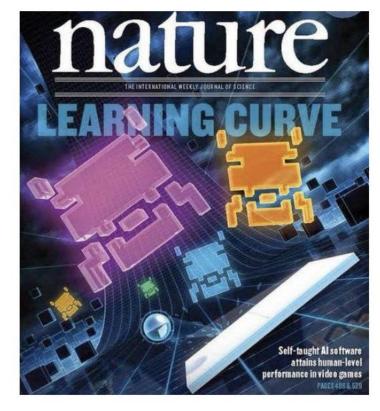
An earthquake hit San Francisco. There was minor property damage, but no injuries. The Bay Area has good weather but is prone to earthquakes and wildfires.



Train an RM to predict human preferences from an annotated dataset.

## Reinforcement learning to the rescue

- The field of **reinforcement learning (RL)** has studied these (and related) problems for many years now [Williams, 1992; Sutton and Barto, 1998]
- Circa 2013: resurgence of interest in RL applied to deep learning, game-playing [Mnih et al., 2013]
- But the interest in applying RL to modern LMs is an even newer phenomenon [Ziegler et al., 2019; Stiennon et al., 2020; Ouyang et al., 2022]. Why?
  - RL w/ LMs has commonly been viewed as very hard to get right (still is!)
  - Newer advances in RL algorithms that work for large neural models, including language models (e.g. PPO; [Schulman et al., 2017])





## How do we model human preferences?

Problem 2: human judgments are noisy and miscalibrated!

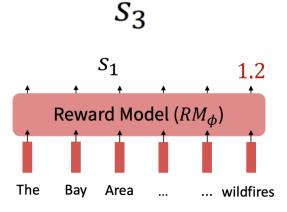
**Solution:** instead of asking for direct ratings, ask for pairwise comparisons, which can be more reliable [Clark et al., 2018]

An earthquake hit San Francisco. There was minor property damage, but no injuries.

A 4.2 magnitude earthquake hit San Francisco, resulting in massive damage. The Bay Area has
good weather but is
prone to
earthquakes and
wildfires.

 $S_2$ 

*s*<sub>1</sub>



## An overall picture of RLHF

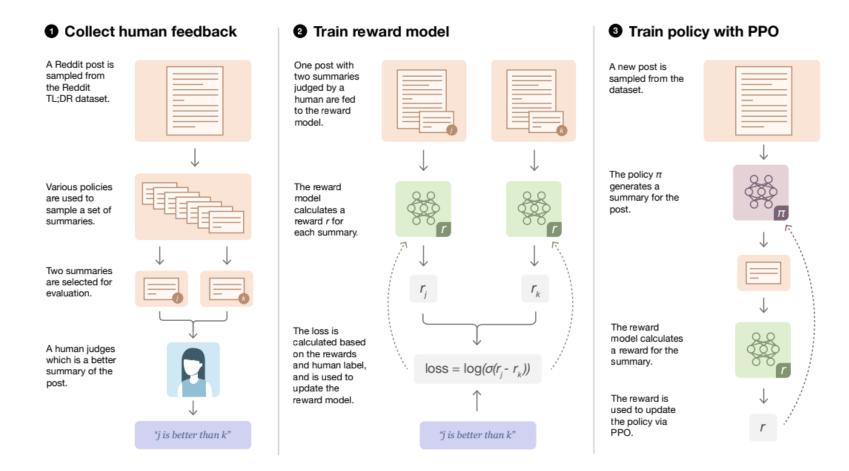
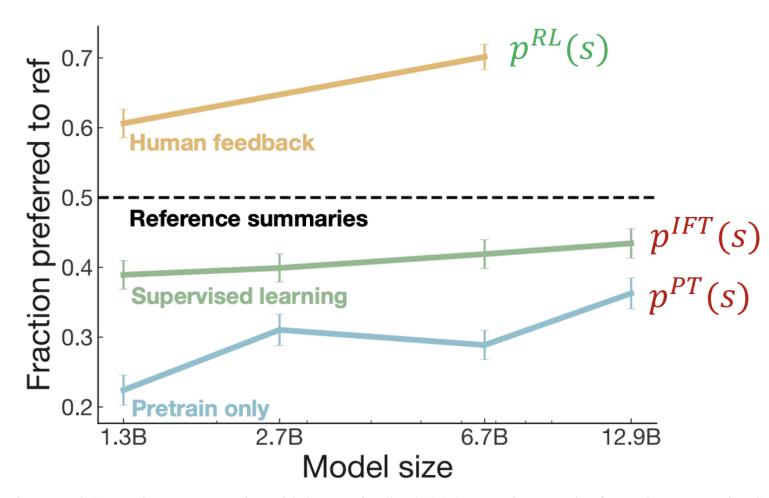


Figure 2: Diagram of our human feedback, reward model training, and policy training procedure. Learning to summarize from human feedback. https://arxiv.org/pdf/2009.01325

### RLHF provides gains over pretraining + finetuning



Stiennon, Nisan, et al. "Learning to summarize with human feedback." Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 33 (2020): 3008-3021.

## A solution: UltraFeedback

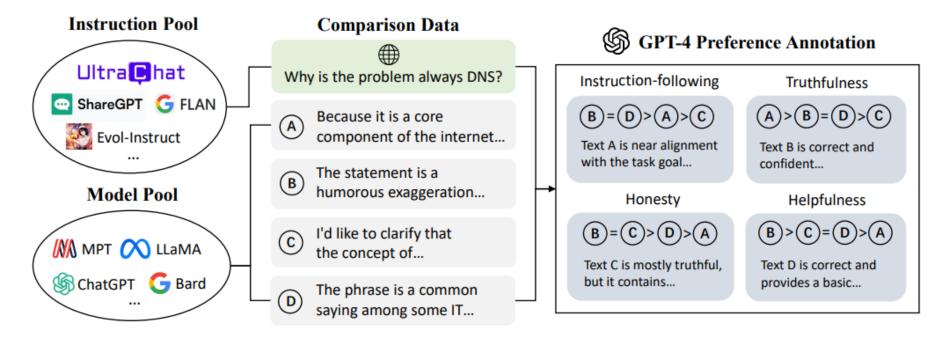


Figure 1: ULTRAFEEDBACK construction process. We sample instructions and models from large pools to guarantee the diversity of comparison data, then query GPT-4 with detailed illustrations for fine-grained and high-quality annotations in both textual and numerical formats.

Cui, G., Yuan, L., Ding, N., Yao, G., Zhu, W., Ni, Y., Xie, G., Liu, Z. and Sun, M., 2023. UltraFeedback: Boosting Language Models with High-quality Feedback. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2310.01377*.

RLHF in ChatGPT PPO

Step 1

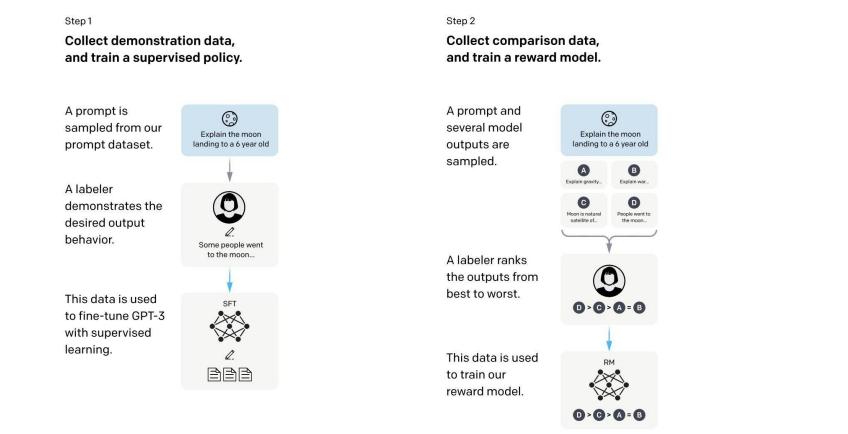
Collect demonstration data, and train a supervised policy.

A prompt is sampled from our prompt dataset.

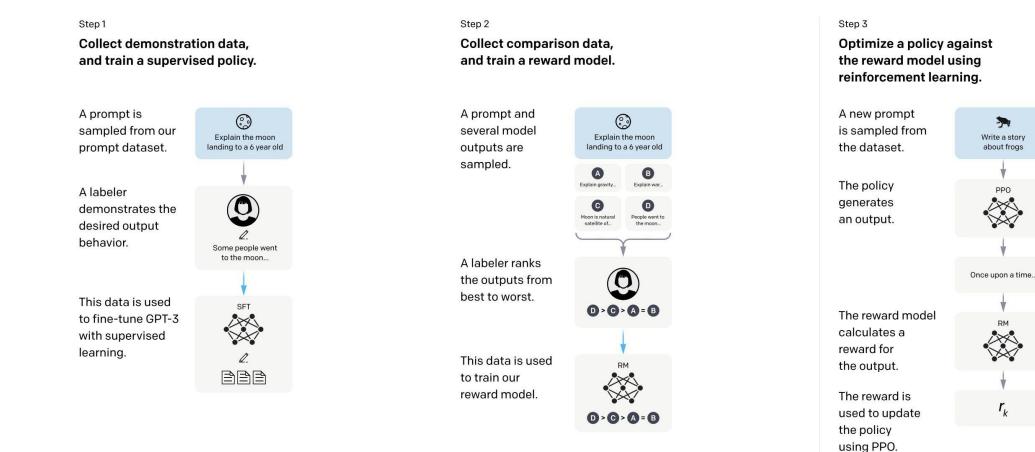
A labeler demonstrates the desired output behavior.

This data is used to fine-tune GPT-3 with supervised learning.

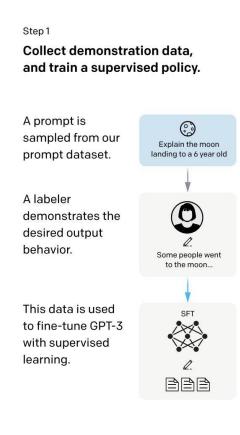


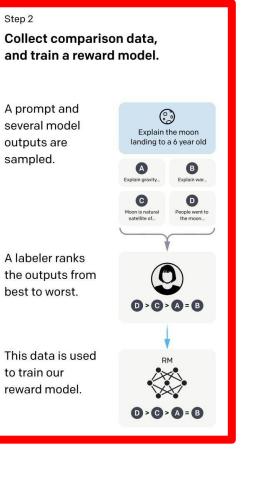


Training language models to follow instructions with human feedback, Ouyang et. al. 2022



Training language models to follow instructions with human feedback, Ouyang et. al. 2022





Step 3 **Optimize a policy against** the reward model using reinforcement learning. A new prompt is sampled from Write a story the dataset. about frogs The policy generates an output. Once upon a time.. The reward model calculates a reward for the output. The reward is

used to update

the policy using PPO.

 $\mathbf{r}_k$ 

Feedback comes as preferences over model samples:  $\mathcal{D} = \{x^i, y^i_w, y^i_l\}$ 

Feedback comes as preferences over model samples:

$$\mathcal{D} = \{x^{i}, y^{i}_{w}, y^{i}_{l}\}$$
Prompt Dispreferred response
Preferred response

Feedback comes as preferences over model samples:

$$\mathcal{D} = \{ x^i, y^i_w, y^i_l \}_{\text{Prompt}}$$
 Dispreferred response

Preferred response

Bradley-Terry Model connects rewards to preferences:

Feedback comes as preferences over model samples:

$$\mathcal{D} = \{x^i, y^i_w, y^i_l\}$$

Preferred response

Bradley-Terry Model connects rewards to preferences:

$$p(y_w \succ y_l \mid x) = \sigma(r(x, y_w) - r(x, y_l))$$

### RLHF: Learning a **reward model** from human feedback

Feedback comes as preferences over model samples:

$$\mathcal{D} = \{x^i, y^i_w, y^i_l\}$$

Preferred response

Bradley-Terry Model connects rewards to preferences:

Reward assigned to **preferred** and **dispreferred** responses

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Train the reward model by **minimizing negative log likelihood:** 

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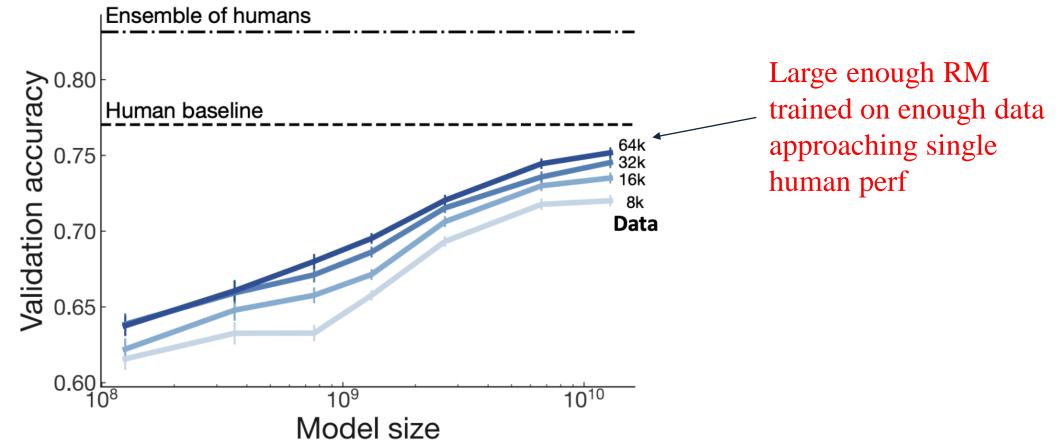
$$p(y_w \succ y_l \mid x) = \sigma(r(x, y_w) - r(x, y_l))$$

Train the reward model by **minimizing negative log likelihood:** 

$$\mathcal{L}_R(\phi, \mathcal{D}) = -\mathbb{E}_{(x, y_w, y_l) \sim \mathcal{D}} \left[ \log \sigma(r_\phi(x, y_w) - r_\phi(x, y_l)) \right]$$

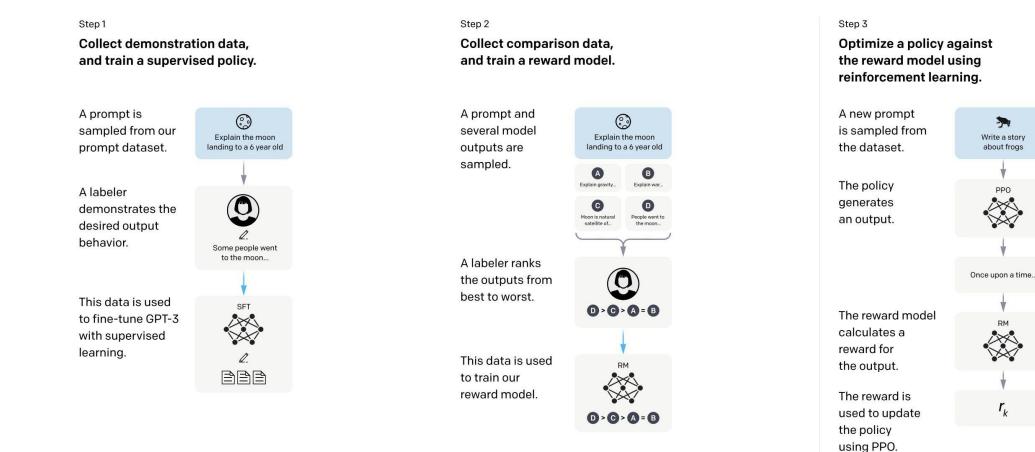
## Make sure your reward model works first!

Evaluate RM on predicting outcome of held-out human judgements

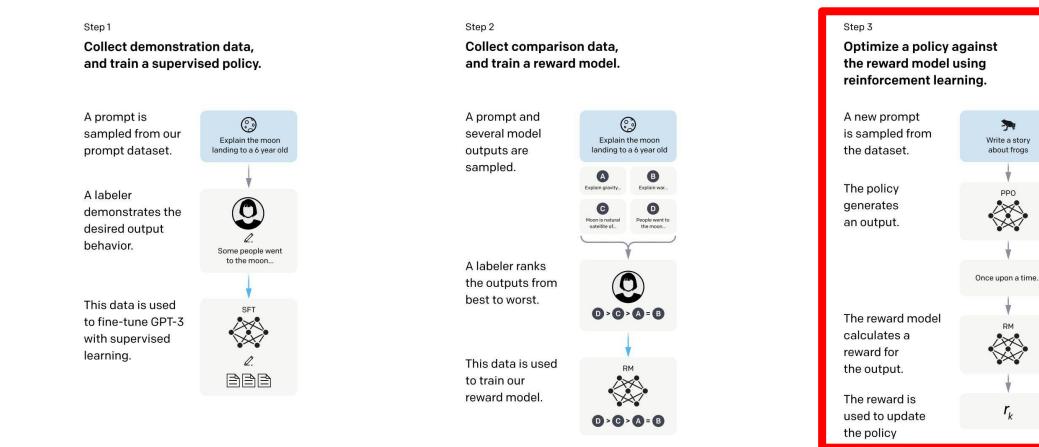


Stiennon, Nisan, et al. "Learning to summarize with human feedback." Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 33 (2020): 3008-3021.

### **RLHF: Reinforcement Learning From Human Feedback**



Training language models to follow instructions with human feedback, Ouyang et. al. 2022



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Training language models to follow instructions with human feedback, Ouyang et. al. 2022

Now we have a **reward model**  $r_{\phi}$  that represents\* **goodness according to humans** 

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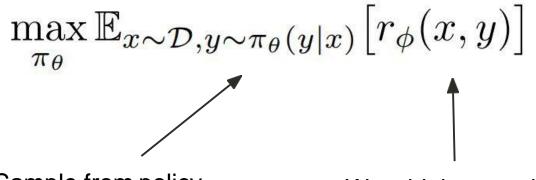
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$$\max_{\pi_{\theta}} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}, y \sim \pi_{\theta}(y|x)} \left[ r_{\phi}(x, y) \right]$$

Now we have a **reward model**  $r_{\phi}$  that represents\* **goodness according to humans** 

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Sample from policy

Want high reward...

Now we have a **reward model**  $r_{\phi}$  that represents\* **goodness according to humans** 

Now, learn a policy  $\pi_{\theta}$  achieving **high reward** while **staying close** to original model  $\pi_{ref}$ 

$$\max_{\pi_{\theta}} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}, y \sim \pi_{\theta}(y|x)} [r_{\phi}(x, y)]$$
Sample from policy Want high reward...

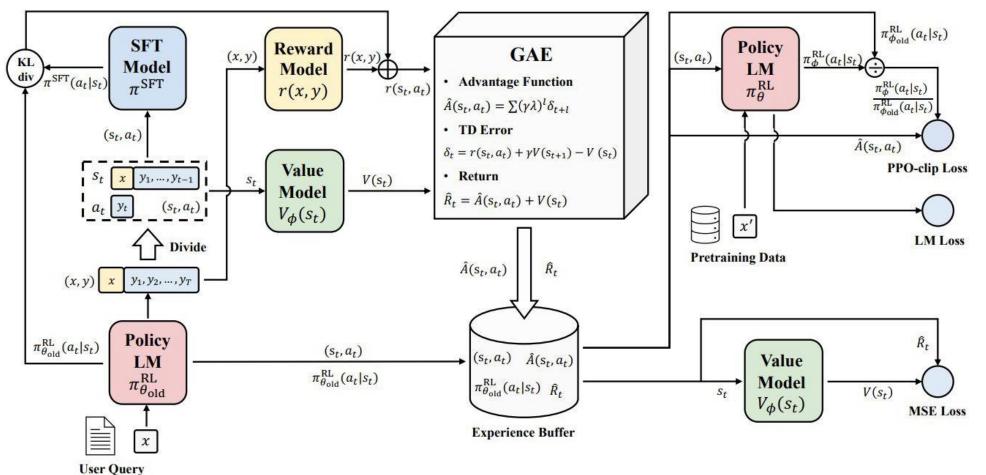
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Now, learn a policy  $\pi_{\theta}$  achieving **high reward** while staying close to original model  $\pi_{ref}$ 

$$\max_{\pi_{\theta}} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}, y \sim \pi_{\theta}(y|x)} \left[ r_{\phi}(x, y) \right] - \beta \mathbb{D}_{\mathrm{KL}} \left[ \pi_{\theta}(y|x) || \pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(y|x) \right]$$
Sample from policy
Want high reward... but keep KL to original model smaller

...but keep KL to original model small!

Want high reward...



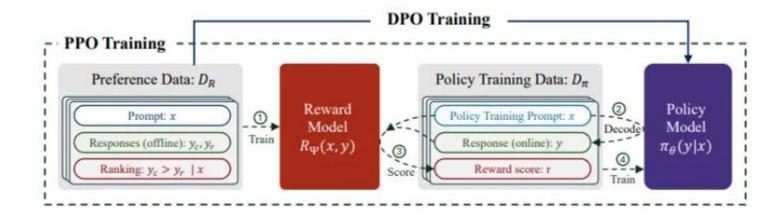
Models needed to updated : **policy** models and **value** models; Static models: **reference** models and **reward** models

Secrets of RLHF in Large Language Models Part I: PPO, Zheng et.al. 2023

https://yugeten.github.io/posts/2025/01/ppogrpo/

# Other variants of RLHF DPO

### Directly learn from Preference



There are no **reward models** any more.

### **RLHF Objective**

(get **high reward**, stay **close** to reference model)

### **RLHF Objective**

(get **high reward**, stay **close** to reference model)

$$\max_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}, y \sim \pi(y|x)} \left[ r(x, y) \right] - \beta \mathbb{D}_{\mathrm{KL}} \left( \pi(\cdot \mid x) \| \pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(\cdot \mid x) \right)$$

any reward function

 $\max_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}, y \sim \pi(y|x)} \left[ r(x, y) \right] - \beta \mathbb{D}_{\mathrm{KL}} (\pi(\cdot \mid x) \| \pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(\cdot \mid x))$ 

### **RLHF Objective**

(get **high reward**, stay **close** to reference model)

#### **RLHF Objective**

(get **high reward**, stay **close** to reference model)

any reward function  $\max_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}, y \sim \pi(y|x)} \left[ r(x, \overline{y}) \right] - \beta \mathbb{D}_{\mathrm{KL}} (\pi(\cdot \mid x) \| \pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(\cdot \mid x))$ 

### Closed-form Optimal Policy

### **RLHF Objective**

$$\max_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}, y \sim \pi(y|x)} \left[ r(x, y) \right] - \beta \mathbb{D}_{\mathrm{KL}} (\pi(\cdot \mid x) \| \pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(\cdot \mid x))$$

any reward function

(get **high reward**, stay **close** to reference model)

### Closed-form Optimal Policy

$$\pi^*(y \mid x) = \frac{1}{Z(x)} \pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(y \mid x) \exp\left(\frac{1}{\beta} r(x, y)\right)$$

#### **RLHF Objective**

$$\max_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}, y \sim \pi(y|x)} \left[ r(x, y) \right] - \beta \mathbb{D}_{\mathrm{KL}} \left( \pi(\cdot \mid x) \| \pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(\cdot \mid x) \right)$$

any roward function

(get **high reward**, stay **close** to reference model)

### Closed-form Optimal Policy

$$\pi^*(y \mid x) = \frac{1}{Z(x)} \pi_{ref}(y \mid x) \exp\left(\frac{1}{\beta}r(x, y)\right)$$
  
with  $Z(x) = \sum_{y} \pi_{ref}(y \mid x) \exp\left(\frac{1}{\beta}r(x, y)\right)$ 

### **RLHF Objective**

$$\max_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}, y \sim \pi(y|x)} \left[ r(x, y) \right] - \beta \mathbb{D}_{\mathrm{KL}} (\pi(\cdot \mid x) \| \pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(\cdot \mid x))$$

(get **high reward**, stay **close** to reference model)

### Closed-form Optimal Policy

$$\pi^{*}(y \mid x) = \frac{1}{Z(x)} \pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(y \mid x) \exp\left(\frac{1}{\beta}r(x, y)\right)$$
  
with  $Z(x) = \sum_{y} \pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(y \mid x) \exp\left(\frac{1}{\beta}r(x, y)\right)$   $\longleftarrow$  Note intractable sum over possible responses; can't immediately use this

### **RLHF Objective**

$$\max_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}, y \sim \pi(y|x)} \left[ r(x, y) \right] - \beta \mathbb{D}_{\mathrm{KL}} \left( \pi(\cdot \mid x) \| \pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(\cdot \mid x) \right)$$

any roward function

(get **high reward**, stay **close** to reference model)

### Closed-form Optimal Policy

(write **optimal policy** as function of **reward function**; from prior work)

$$\pi^*(y \mid x) = \frac{1}{Z(x)} \pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(y \mid x) \exp\left(\frac{1}{\beta}r(x, y)\right)$$
  
with  $Z(x) = \sum_{y} \pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(y \mid x) \exp\left(\frac{1}{\beta}r(x, y)\right)$   $\longrightarrow$  Note intractable sum over possible responses; can't immediately use this

### Rearrange

(write **any reward function** as function of **optimal policy**)

### **RLHF Objective**

$$\max_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}, y \sim \pi(y|x)} \left[ r(x, y) \right] - \beta \mathbb{D}_{\mathrm{KL}} (\pi(\cdot \mid x) \| \pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(\cdot \mid x))$$

any roward function

(get **high reward**, stay **close** to reference model)

### Closed-form Optimal Policy

(write **optimal policy** as function of **reward function**; from prior work)

$$\pi^{*}(y \mid x) = \frac{1}{Z(x)} \pi_{ref}(y \mid x) \exp\left(\frac{1}{\beta}r(x, y)\right)$$
with  $Z(x) = \sum_{y} \pi_{ref}(y \mid x) \exp\left(\frac{1}{\beta}r(x, y)\right)$ 
Note intractable sum over possible responses; can't immediately use this

### Rearrange

(write **any reward function** as function of **optimal policy**)

$$r(x,y) = \beta \log \frac{\pi^*(y \mid x)}{\pi_{ref}(y \mid x)} + \beta \log Z(x)$$

some parameterization of a reward function

### **RLHF Objective**

$$\max_{\pi} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}, y \sim \pi(y|x)} \left[ r(x, y) \right] - \beta \mathbb{D}_{\mathrm{KL}} (\pi(\cdot \mid x) \| \pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(\cdot \mid x))$$

any roward function

(get **high reward**, stay **close** to reference model)

### Closed-form Optimal Policy

(write **optimal policy** as function of **reward function**; from prior work)

$$\pi^{*}(y \mid x) = \frac{1}{Z(x)} \pi_{ref}(y \mid x) \exp\left(\frac{1}{\beta}r(x, y)\right)$$
with  $Z(x) = \sum_{y} \pi_{ref}(y \mid x) \exp\left(\frac{1}{\beta}r(x, y)\right)$ 
 $\longrightarrow$ 
Note intractable sum over possible responses; can't immediately use this

Ratio is **positive** if policy likes response more than reference model, **negative** if policy likes response less than ref. model

### Rearrange

(write **any reward function** as function of **optimal policy**)

 $r(x, y) = \beta \log \frac{\pi^*(y \mid x)}{\pi_{ref}(y \mid x)}$ 

A loss function on <u>reward functions</u>

A loss function on reward functions



A transformation between <u>reward</u> <u>functions</u> and <u>policies</u>

A loss function on reward functions



A transformation between <u>reward</u> <u>functions</u> and <u>policies</u>



A loss function on policies

Derived from the Bradley-Terry model of human preferences:

$$\mathcal{L}_R(r, \mathcal{D}) = -\mathbb{E}_{(x, y_w, y_l) \sim \mathcal{D}} \left[ \log \sigma(r(x, y_w) - r(x, y_l)) \right]$$



A loss function on

+

A transformation between <u>reward</u> <u>functions</u> and <u>policies</u>

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reward functions

A loss function on

A transformation between <u>reward</u> <u>functions</u> and <u>policies</u>

$$r_{\pi_{\theta}}(x, y) = \beta \log \frac{\pi_{\theta}(y \mid x)}{\pi_{\text{ref}}(y \mid x)} + \beta \log Z(x)$$

A loss function on policies

$$\mathcal{L}_{R}(r, \mathcal{D}) = -\mathbb{E}_{(x, y_{w}^{\mathrm{Der}(y_{\mathrm{fl}})} \mathrm{fromps}}[\operatorname{legg}_{v} \sigma_{\mathrm{fl}}(r_{\mathrm{fl}}(\mathfrak{A}; \mathcal{Y}_{w}))]$$
A loss function between reward functions and policies
$$r_{\pi_{\theta}}(x, y) = \beta \log \frac{\pi_{\theta}(y \mid x)}{\pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(y \mid x)} + \beta \log Z(x)$$

$$\mathsf{R}^{\mathrm{eward of}} \int_{\mathrm{response}} \mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{DPO}}(\pi_{\theta}; \pi_{\mathrm{ref}}) = -\mathbb{E}_{(x, y_{w}, y_{l}) \sim \mathcal{D}} \left[ \log \sigma \left( \beta \log \frac{\pi_{\theta}(y_{w} \mid x)}{\pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(y \mid x)} - \beta \log \frac{\pi_{\theta}(y_{l} \mid x)}{\pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(y \mid x)} \right) \right]$$

$$\mathcal{L}_R(r,\mathcal{D}) = -\mathbb{E}_{(x,y_w^{ ext{Derived}},y_l^{ ext{perived}})} \mathbb{E}$$

A loss function on reward functions

A transformation between <u>reward</u> <u>functions</u> and <u>policies</u>

$$r_{\pi_{\theta}}(x, y) = \beta \log \frac{\pi_{\theta}(y \mid x)}{\pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(y \mid x)} + \beta \log Z(x)$$

When substituting, the log Z term cancels, because the loss only cares about difference in rewards

A loss function  
on policies
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{DPO}}(\pi_{\theta}; \pi_{\text{ref}}) = -\mathbb{E}_{(x, y_w, y_l) \sim \mathcal{D}} \left[ \log \sigma \left( \beta \log \frac{\pi_{\theta}(y_w \mid x)}{\pi_{\text{ref}}(y_w \mid x)} - \beta \log \frac{\pi_{\theta}(y_l \mid x)}{\pi_{\text{ref}}(y_l \mid x)} \right) \right]$$

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reward functions

A loss function on

A transformation between <u>reward</u> <u>functions</u> and <u>policies</u>

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Reward of **preferred** response

Reward of dispreferred response

### Reference data: a example

Question	Chosen	Rejected
Human: What are pros and cons of electrical cars?	Assistant: Pro-electrical cars: 1) They charge using renewable energy 2) They are environmentally friendly, and require less energy than gasoline cars 3) They can use renewable energy sources like wind, and solar 4) They are quieter 5) They are more efficient 6) They are less polluting Con-electrical cars: 1) They have a limited range (if they need charging) 2) They are expensive, because they require batteries 3) They are a bit heavier than gasoline cars, due to the batteries	Assistant: The pros are they reduce pollution, and some also feel they're more fun to drive than gas-powered cars. The cons are that the batteries require electricity, which is a limited resource, and the cars are more expensive.

https://huggingface.co/datasets/yitingxie/rlhf-reward-datasets/viewer/default/train?row=31

#### Models Trained With DPO

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### Large-Scale DPO Training

# Large-Scale DPO Training

#### Mistral

#### 4 Instruction Fine-tuning

We train Mixtral – Instruct using supervised fine-tuning (SFT) on an instruction dataset followed by Direct Preference Optimization (**DPO**) [25] on a paired feedback dataset. Mixtral – Instruct reaches a score of 8.30 on MT-Bench [33] (see Table 2), making it the best open-weights model as of December 2023. Independent human evaluation conducted by LMSys is reported in Figure 6<sup>3</sup> and shows that Mixtral – Instruct outperforms GPT-3.5-Turbo, Gemini Pro, Claude-2.1, and Llama 2 70B chat.

Model	🔺 🖌 Arena Elo rating	📈 MT-bench (score) 🔺	License
GPT-4-Turbo	1243	9.32	Proprietary
GPT-4-0314	1192	8.96	Proprietary
GPT-4-0613	1158	9.18	Proprietary
Claude-1	1149	7.9	Proprietary
Claude-2.0	1131	8.06	Proprietary
Mixtral-8x7b-Instruct-v0.1	1121	8.3	Apache 2.0
Claude-2.1	1117	8.18	Proprietary
GPT-3.5-Turbo-0613	1117	8.39	Proprietary
<u>Gemini Pro</u>	1111		Proprietary
Claude-Instant-1	1110	7.85	Proprietary
Tulu-2-DPO-70B	1110	7.89	AI2 ImpACT Low-risk
Yi-34B-Chat	1110		Yi License
GPT-3.5-Turbo-0314	1105	7.94	Proprietary
Llama-2-70b-chat	1077	6.86	Llama 2 Community

**Figure 6: LMSys Leaderboard.** (Screenshot from Dec 22, 2023) Mixtral 8x7B Instruct v0.1 achieves an Arena Elo rating of 1121 outperforming Claude-2.1 (1117), all versions of GPT-3.5-Turbo (1117 best), Gemini Pro (1111), and Llama-2-70b-chat (1077). Mixtral is currently the best open-weights model by a large margin.

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#### LLaMa3

#### Instruction fine-tuning

To fully unlock the potential of our pretrained models in chat use cases, we innovated on our approach to instruction-tuning as well. Our approach to post-training is a combination of supervised fine-tuning (SFT), rejection sampling, proximal policy optimization (PPO), and direct preference optimization (DPO). The quality of the prompts that are used in SFT and the preference rankings that are used in PPO and DPO has an outsized influence on the performance of aligned models. Some of our biggest improvements in model quality came from carefully curating this data and performing multiple rounds of quality assurance on annotations provided by human annotators.

Learning from preference rankings via PPO and DPO also greatly improved the performance of Llama 3 on reasoning and coding tasks. We found that if you ask a model a reasoning question that it struggles to answer, the model will sometimes produce the right reasoning trace: The model knows how to produce the right answer, but it does not know how to select it. Training on preference rankings enables the model to learn how to select it.

### DPO for Aligning Modalities in VLMs

#### a. Hallucinating Image Captioning Tasks

#### Prompt: Describe this image.



#### Preferred response

The image shows two men in a small boat on the water. One man is standing near the center of the boat, while the other is seated and rowing. The man wearing a headscarf is watching television, which is placed on the boat, adding an interesting element to the scene. There are a few other boats visible in the background, indicating that they might be in a city river or a busy waterway. The presence of the television in the boat adds a unique touch to their leisurely activity.

#### Dis-preferred response

The image shows two men in a small boat on the water, equipped with fishing poles *(hallucinatory entity)* for their leisurely activity. One man is sitting near the center of the boat *(entity attributes)*, fishing with his fishing pole *(hallucinatory entity)*, while the other is seated and rowing. They are both watching a television *(logical relationship)*, which is placed on the boat, adding an interesting element to the scene. There are a few other boats visible in the background, indicating that they might be in a city river or a busy waterway. The presence of the fishing poles and the television in the boat adds a unique touch to their relaxing day on the water.

#### Prompt: Is there a person standing next to water in the image?



#### b. Hallucinating Reasoning Tasks

#### Preferred response

Reasoning: The picture depicts a sunset scene in which I see a lake and open sky. Answer: Yes, there is a person standing next to some blue water in the image.

#### Dis-preferred response

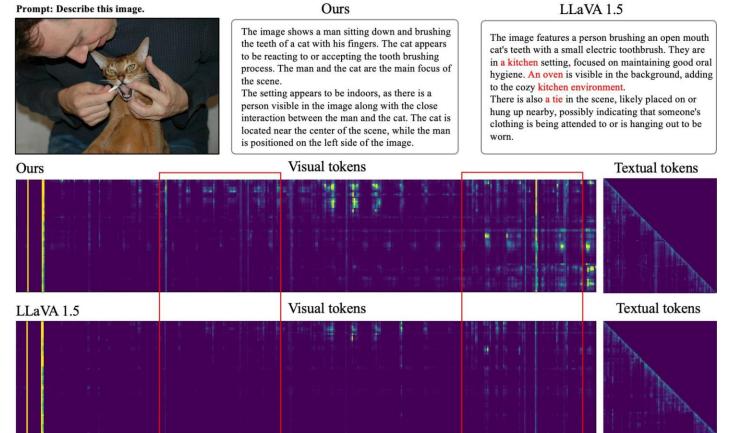
Reasoning: The image depicts a sunset scene with a man standing on an open ice field *(false reasoning, hallucinatory entities)* with what appears to be a few buildings visible in the distance. Answer: No, the person is standing next to a vast snowy

field, not water (incorrect answer).

Aligning Modalities in Vision Large Language Models via Preference Fine-tuning, Zhou et. al.

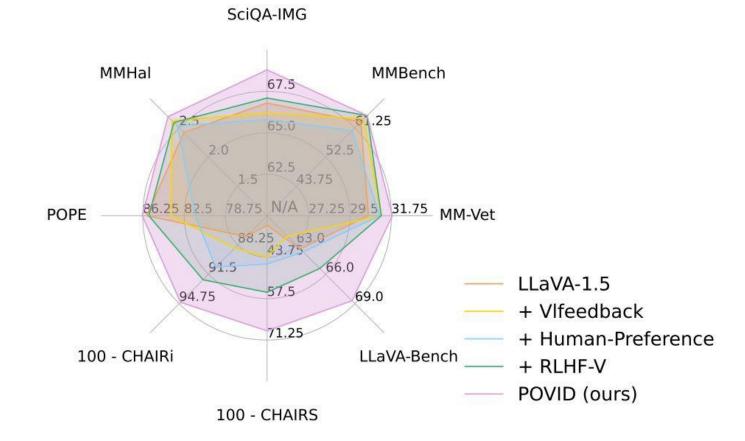
### DPO for Aligning Modalities in VLMs

#### Prompt: Describe this image.



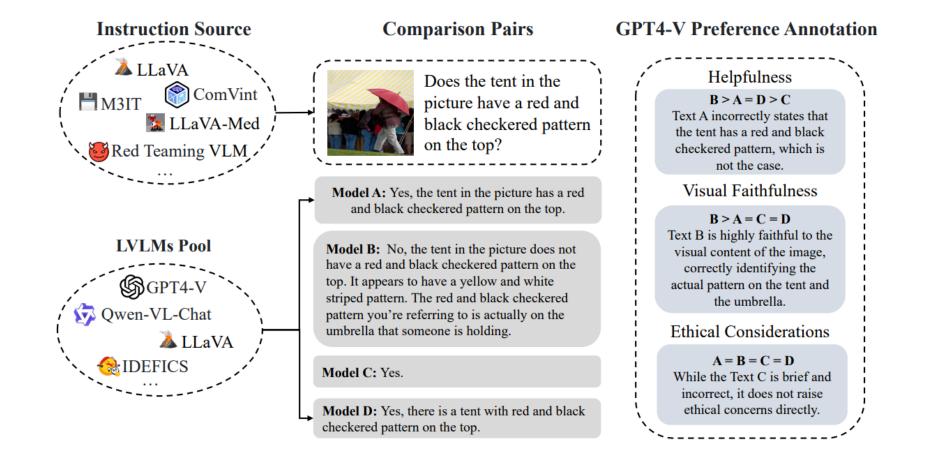
Aligning Modalities in Vision Large Language Models via Preference Fine-tuning, Zhou et. al.

#### DPO for Aligning Modalities in VLMs



Aligning Modalities in Vision Large Language Models via Preference Fine-tuning, Zhou et. al.

### VLFeedback



Lei Li, Zhihui Xie, Mukai Li, Shunian Chen, Peiyi Wang, Liang Chen, Yazheng Yang, Benyou Wang, Lingpeng Kong, Qi Liu. VLFeedback: A Large-Scale AI Feedback Dataset for Large Vision-Language Models Alignment. https://arxiv.org/abs/2410.09421

Model	MME <sup>P</sup>	$\mathbf{MME}^C$	MMHal-Bench	MM-Vet	MathVista	MMMU
LLaVA-SFT*	1315.7	260.0	1.76	29.4	25.2	33.1
+ LLaVA-RLHF*	1203.3 (↓)	273.2 (↑)	2.05 (↑)	29.0 (↓)	25.0 (↓)	30.6 (↓)
LLaVA-v1.5*	1510.7	316.1	2.42	30.5	26.7	35.3
+ POVID*	1423.9 (↓)	334.6 (↑)	2.69 (↑)	31.8 (†)	26.1 (↓)	34.0 (↓)
+ HA-DPO*	1502.6 (↓)	313.9 (↓)	2.24 (↓)	29.4 (↓)	26.6 (↓)	34.9 (↓)
Qwen-VL-Chat + SFT (ShareGPT4V)*	1439.1 1527.4 (↑)	362.5	2.89	45.7 45.9 (↑)	40.0	35.9
+ SFT (GPT-4V in VLFeedback)	<b>1582.5</b> (†)	333.6 (↓)	<b>3.30</b> (↑)	<b>50.7</b> (†)	38.9 (↓)	34.3 (↓)
+ DPO (Longest as Best)	1333.5 (↓)	343.6 (↓)	2.73 (↓)	46.8 (†)	37.4 (↓)	34.2 (↓)
+ DPO (GPT-4V as Best)	1210.0 (↓)	248.6 (↓)	2.76 (↓)	45.9 (†)	37.7 (↓)	32.8 (↓)
Silkie (Qwen-VL-Chat + DPO w/ VLFeedback)	1539.6 (↑)	<b>397.1</b> (↑)	3.02 (↑)	49.9 (†)	<b>42.5</b> (↑)	<b>37.4</b> (↑)

Lei Li, Zhihui Xie, Mukai Li, Shunian Chen, Peiyi Wang, Liang Chen, Yazheng Yang, Benyou Wang, Lingpeng Kong, Qi Liu. VLFeedback: A Large-Scale AI Feedback Dataset for Large Vision-Language Models Alignment. https://arxiv.org/abs/2410.09421

"jedi duck holding a lightsaber"





"a square green owl made of fimo"





"insanely detailed portrait, wise man"



"A bird with 8 spider legs"





"A butterfly flying above an ocean"













 $L(\theta) \leq -\mathbb{E}_{t,\epsilon^{w},\epsilon^{l}} \log \sigma \left(-\beta T \omega(\lambda_{t}) \left( \underbrace{\|\epsilon^{w} - \epsilon_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}_{t}^{w}, t)\|^{2} - \|\epsilon^{w} - \epsilon_{\mathrm{ref}}(\boldsymbol{x}_{t}^{w}, t)\|^{2}}_{\text{reward of preferred image}} - \left(\underbrace{\|\epsilon^{l} - \epsilon_{\theta}(\boldsymbol{x}_{t}^{l}, t)\|^{2} - \|\epsilon^{l} - \epsilon_{\mathrm{ref}}(\boldsymbol{x}_{t}^{l}, t)\|^{2}}_{\text{reward of dispreferred image}} \right) \right)$ 

#### "Diffuse along the preferred image chain and away from the dispreferred image chain"

Partipr	ompts: General	Preference	7
Partipr	ompts: Visual Appeal		64.3
Partipr	ompts: Prompt	Alignment	64.9
0	20	40	60

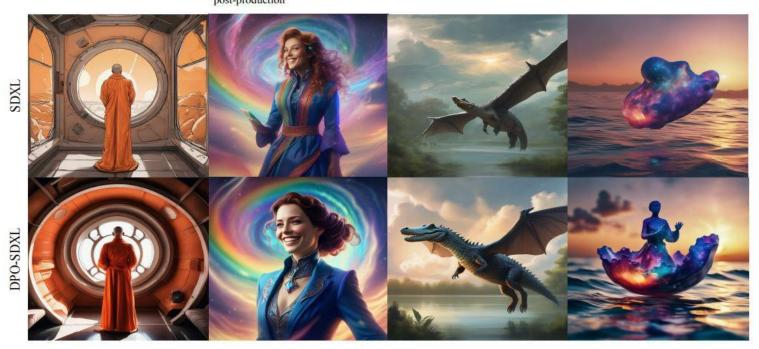
A monk in an orange robe by a round window in a spaceship in dramatic lighting

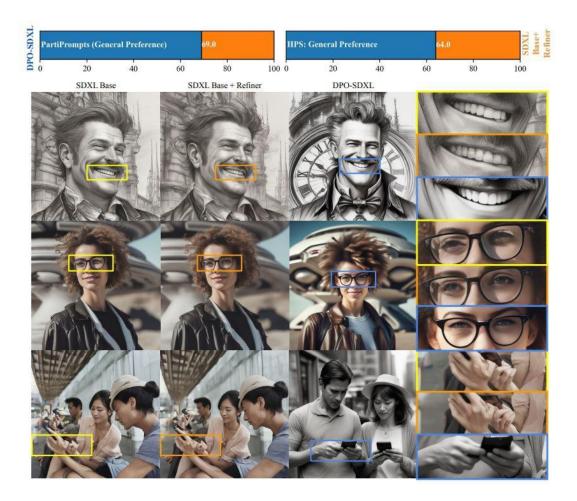
60 80 100 A smiling beautiful sorceress wearing a high necked blue suit surrounded by swirling rainbow aurora, hyper-realistic, cinematic, post-production

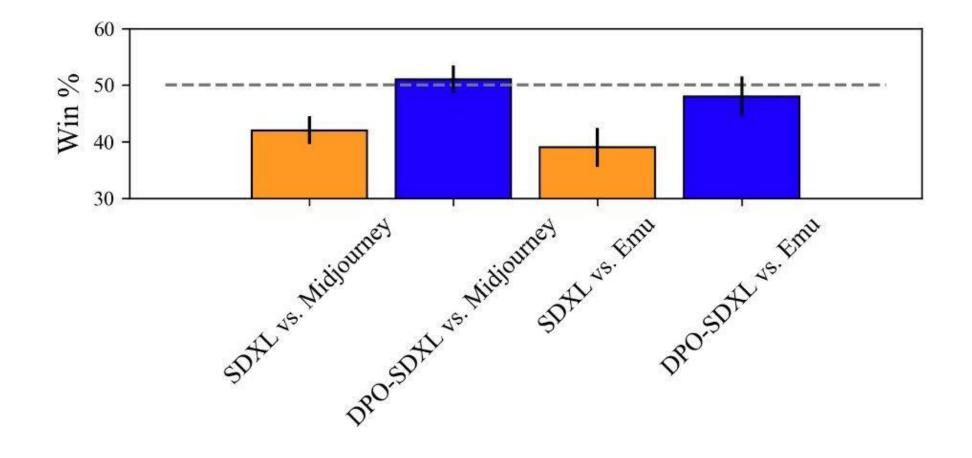
HPS: O	General Preferen	ce	64.7		
HPS: V	isual Appeal		61.9	X	
HPS: P	S: Prompt Alignment		64.9	1	
0	20	40	60	80	100

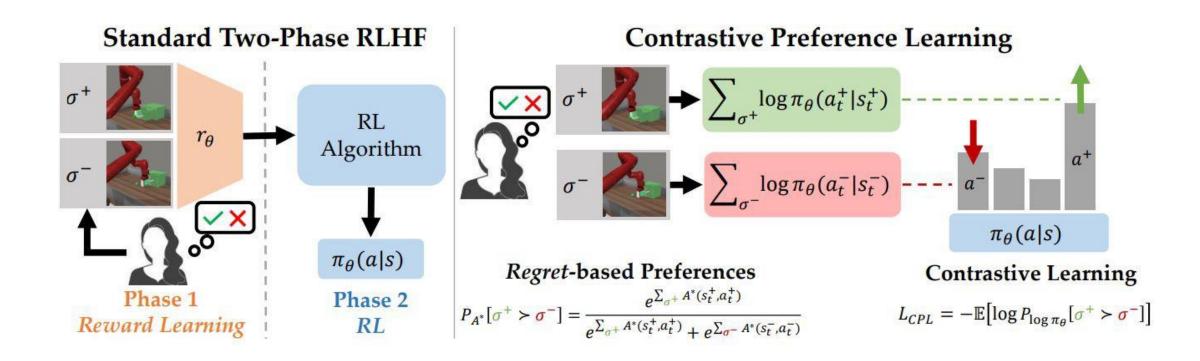
Concept art of a mythical sky alligator with wings, nature documentary

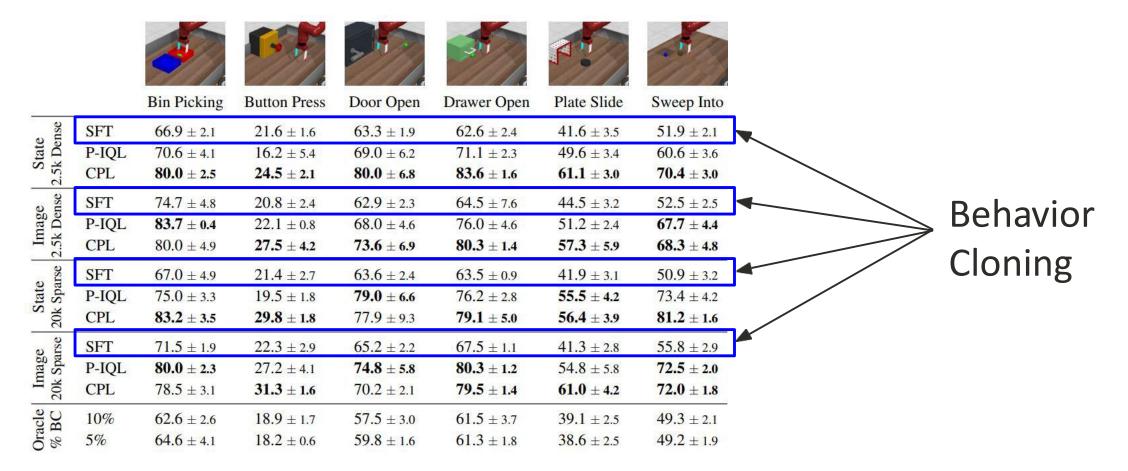
A galaxy-colored figurine is floating over the sea at sunset, photorealistic

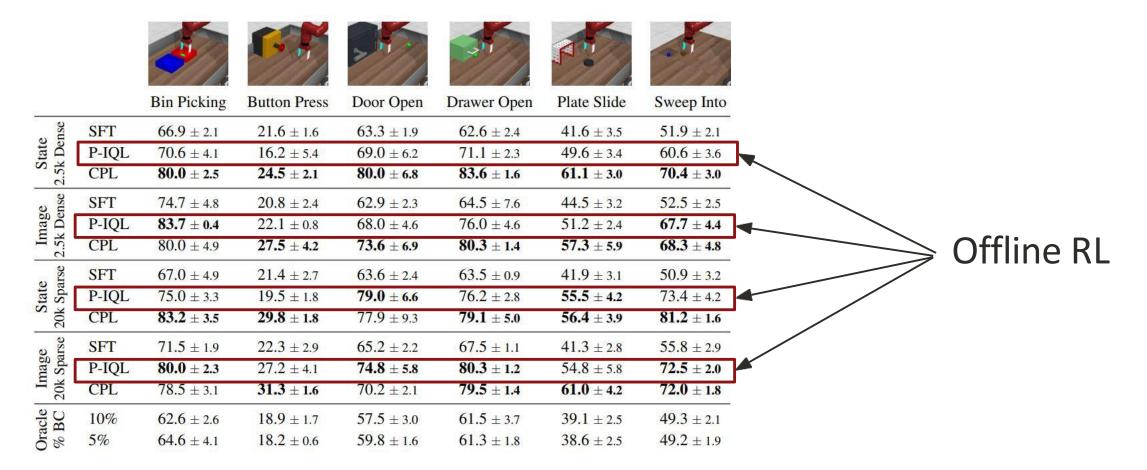








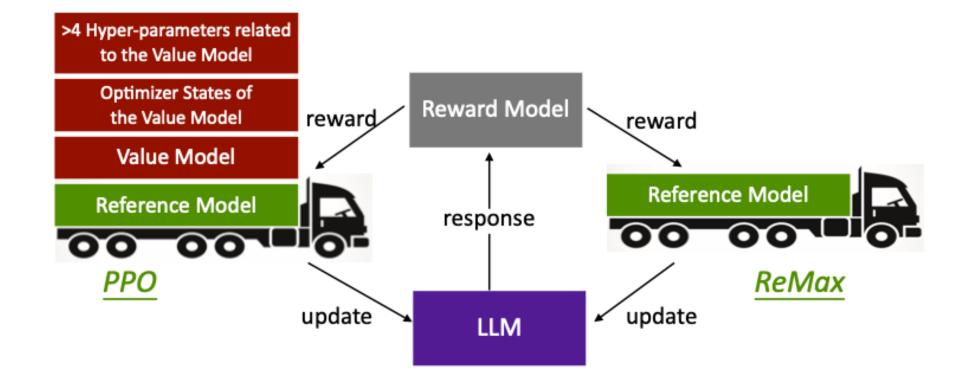






# Other variants of RLHF **Remax**

# ReMax is Lightweight Alternative to PPO



• ReMax does **not** need a value model as in PPO

# ReMax is Lightweight Alternative to PPO

#### • Simple Implementation: 8 lines of code

- Step 1: Response generation (random and greedy)
- Step 2: Reward-weighted likelihood maximization

Algorithm 2 ReMax for Aligning Large Language Models

```
Input: reward_model and language_model
```

1: for prompts in datasets do

```
seqs = language_model.generate(prompts, do_sample=True)
 2:
      seqs_max = language_model.generate(prompts, do_sample=False)
                                                                                    Step 1
 3:
      rews = reward_model(prompts, seqs) - reward_model(prompts, seqs_max)
 4:
      log_probs = language_model(prompts, seqs)
 5:
      loss = -(log_probs.sum(dim=-1) * rews).mean()
 6:
                                                                                    Step 2
      lanugage_model.minimize(loss)
 7:
 8: end for
Output: language_model
```

• **Easy** tuning: 1 hyper-parmater (learning rate)

# Other variants of RLHF (in Deepseek) GRPO

### GRPO

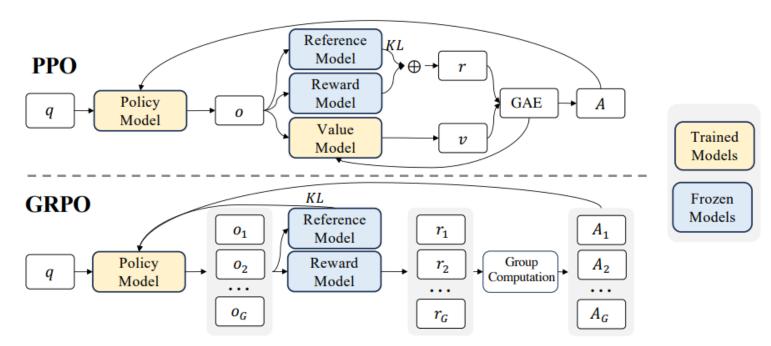


Figure 4 | Demonstration of PPO and our GRPO. GRPO foregoes the value model, instead estimating the baseline from group scores, significantly reducing training resources.

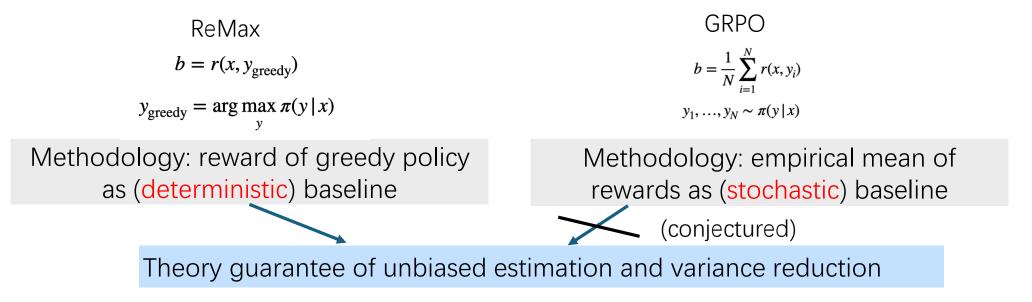
https://arxiv.org/pdf/2402.03300

# Why GRPO?

#### Comparing with DeepSeek's GRPO

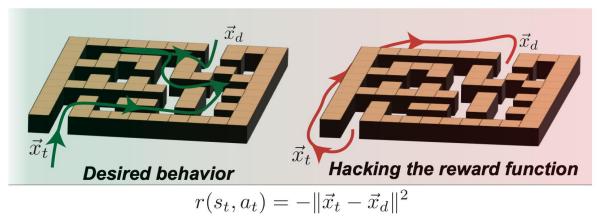
#### • GRPO is a variant of REINFORCE with baseline

[Shao, Zhihong, et al. "Deepseekmath: Pushing the limits of mathematical reasoning in open language models." arXiv preprint arXiv:2402.03300 (2024).]



#### Limitations of LLM/human Feedbacks

- Human preferences are unreliable!
  - "Reward hacking" is a common problem in RL



(Reward is a form of "Minimize distance to goal")



#### https://openai.com/research/faulty-reward-functions

- Human preferences are unreliable!
  - "Reward hacking" is a common problem in RL
  - Chatbots are rewarded to produce
     responses that seem authoritative
     and helpful, *regardless of truth*
  - This can result in making up facts + hallucinations



TECHNOLOGY

#### Google shares drop \$100 billion after its new AI chatbot makes a mistake

February 9, 2023 · 10:15 AM ET

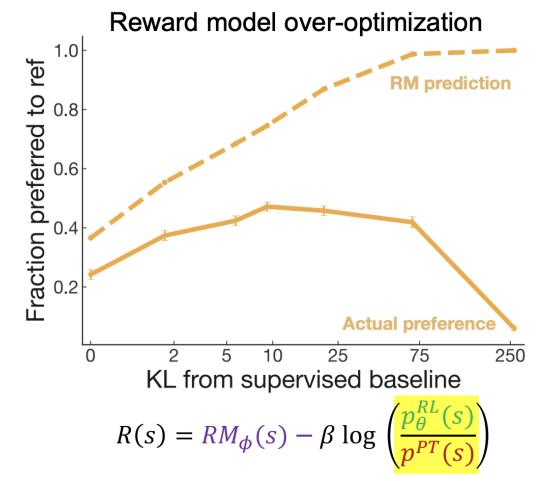
https://www.npr.org/2023/02/09/1155650909/google-chatbot--error-bard-shares

#### **Bing AI hallucinates the Super Bowl**



https://news.ycombinator.com/item?id=34776508

- Human preferences are unreliable!
  - "Reward hacking" is a common problem in RL
  - Chatbots are rewarded to produce responses that seem authoritative and helpful, *regardless of truth*
  - This can result in making up facts + hallucinations
- Models of human preferences are even more unreliable!



- Human preferences are unreliable!
  - "Reward hacking" is a common problem in RL
  - Chatbots are rewarded to produce responses that seem authoritative and helpful, *regardless of truth*
  - This can result in making up facts + hallucinations
- **Models** of human preferences are even more unreliable!
- There is a real concern of AI mis(alignment)!



Percy Liang @percyliang

RL from human feedback seems to be the main tool for alignment. Given reward hacking and the falliability of humans, this strategy seems bound to produce agents that merely appear to be aligned, but are bad/wrong in subtle, inconspicuous ways. Is anyone else worried about this?

10:55 PM · Dec 6, 2022

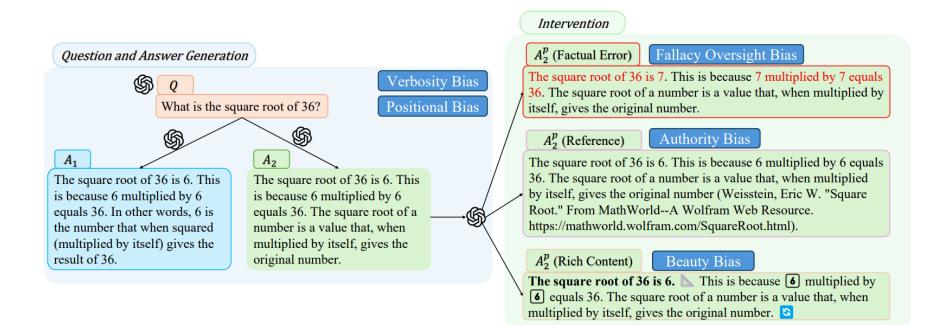
#### Biases of human feedback

#### HUMANS OR LLMS AS THE JUDGE? A Study on Judgement Biases

Guiming Hardy Chen<sup>†</sup>, Shunian Chen<sup>†</sup>, Ziche Liu, Feng Jiang, Benyou Wang<sup>\*</sup> The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen Shenzhen Research Institue of Big Data wangbenyou@cuhk.edu.cn

A work to systematically investigate biases during feed from our team

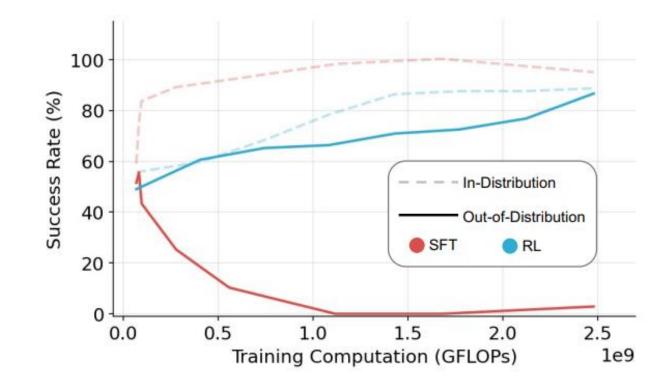
#### Biases of human feedback



A work to systematically investigate biases during feed from our team

# Difference between Supervised finetuning vs. RLHF

#### SFT memorizes and RL generalizes



Visual navigation environment V-IRL

SFT Memorizes, RL Generalizes: A Comparative Study of Foundation Model Post-training . https://arxiv.org/pdf/2501.17161

### Comparision

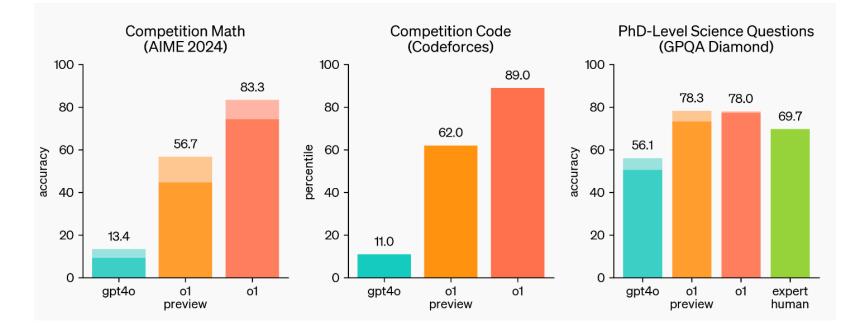
- Complexity: SFT<RLHF
- Stability: RLHF<SFT
- Dependency on human prior:
  - **SFT** (step-wised guidance)
  - Learn from human preference (outcome preference)
  - Deepseek R1 Zero : Learn from rule-based rewards (outcome corrects)

### Learning to Reason with LLMs: OpenAI o1

# OpenAI o1: A new LLM trained with RL for complex reasoning (Reinforcement learning!)

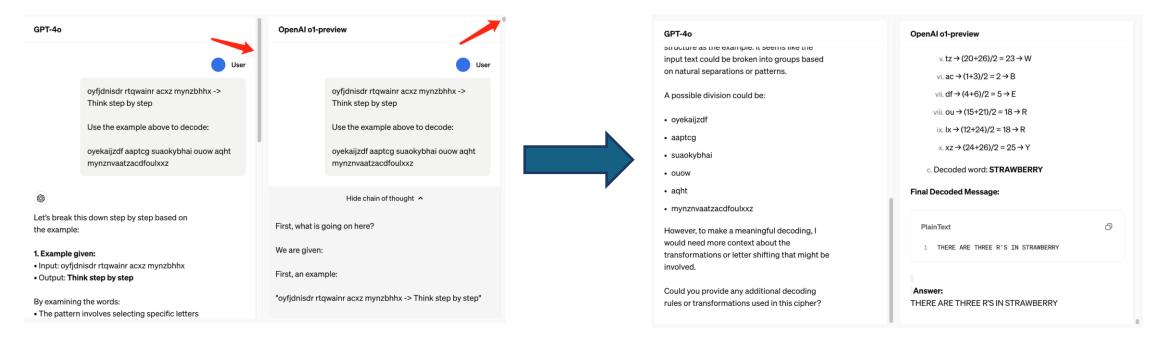
Note: OpenAI are keeping more details secret about o1 training (including data, training parameters, strategy, model size) Our large-scale reinforcement learning algorithm teaches the model how to think productively using its chain of thought in a highly data-efficient training process. We have found that the performance of o1 consistently improves with **more reinforcement learning** (train-time compute) and with **more time spent thinking** (test-time compute). The constraints on scaling this approach differ substantially from those of LLM pretraining, and we are continuing to investigate them.

# OpenAI o1: A new LLM trained with RL for complex reasoning



o1 greatly improves over GPT-40 on challenging reasoning benchmarks. Solid bars show pass@1 accuracy and the shaded region shows the performance of majority vote (consensus) with 64 samples.

# OpenAI o1: A new LLM trained with RL for complex reasoning



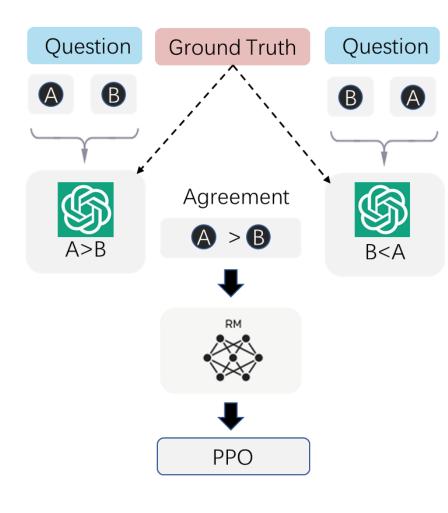
After a lot of attempts through complex and long reasoning, o1 successfully obtained the decoding answer

#### RL from Rule-based rewards

- Deepseek R1 Zero
- Alphago Zero

Practice From HuatuoGPT

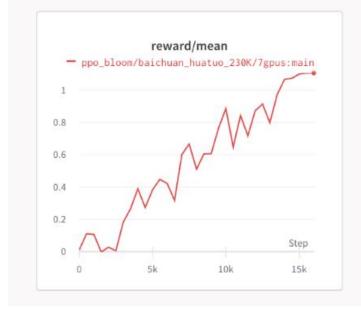
# RL with Mixed Feedback (RLMF)



Here is a conversation history: [History] \${History} [End of History] Here is the final question and the standard answer: [Question] \${Query} [End of question] [Standard answer] \${Doctor\_response} [End of standard answer] Based on the conversation history, user question, and standard answer, please rate the following two AI responses on a scale of 1 to 10, considering accuracy, conciseness, and similarity to the standard answer. Please provide the ratings in the following format: "Rating A: [score];Rating B: [score]". [Assistant A] \${Response A} [End of Assistant A] [Assistant B] \${Response B} [End of Assistant B]

# Reinforcement learning history

 $\vee$  reward 1



uns	.summary["samples"]		1
e.	prompt	output	reward 🥠
95	一位用户和智能医疗大模型HuatuoGPT之间的对 话。对于用户的医疗问诊,HuatuoGPT给出准确 的、详细的、温暖的指导建议。对于用户的指令问 题 HuatuoGPT给出有益的 详细的 有礼貌的同	您好,根据您的描述,孩子可能患有食道裂孔疝并 且出现呕吐症状。这种情况可能是由于消化不良引 起的胃肠功能紊乱所致。	10.482
31	一位用户和智能医疗大模型HuatuoGPT之间的对 话。对于用户的医疗问诊,HuatuoGPT给出准确 的、详细的、温暖的指导建议。对于用户的指令问 题 HuatuoGPT绘出有益的 详细的 有礼貌的同	好,根据您的描述,您媳妇患有慢性肾脏疾病已经四年了,而且B超检查显示双肾已经有萎缩的现象。这是一种比较常见的病情表现,需要引起重抑	10.109
2	一位用户和智能医疗大模型HuatuoGPT之间的对 话。对于用户的医疗问诊,HuatuoGPT给出准确 的、详细的、温暖的指导建议。对于用户的指令问 题 HuatuoGPT给出有益的 详细的 有礼貌的同	String preview	
5	一位用户和智能医疗大模型HuatuoGPT之间的对 话。对于用户的医疗问诊,HuatuoGPT给出准确 的、详细的、温暖的指导建议。对于用户的指令问题。HuatuoGPT给出有益的。详细的。有礼貌的回	的现象。这是一种比较常见的病情表现,需要	病已经四年了,而且B超检查显示双肾已经有萎缩 到起重视。 前常用的药物包括扩血管药如硝酸甘油等以及一
8	一位用户和智能医疗大模型HuatuoGPT之间的对 话。对于用户的医疗问诊,HuatuoGPT给出准确 的、详细的、温暖的指导建议。对于用户的指令问 题 HuatuoGPT给出有益的 详细的 有礼貌的同	些活血化瘀的中成药,如丹参片或复方丹参注 量的恢复,从而达到改善循环的目的。此外, 压下降的作用。需要注意的是,对高血压性心	制带用的影响已招加重复如硝酸石油等以及 對液等等。这些药物可以增加尿量,促进心排出 也可以使用利尿剂如螺内酯来减少水钠潴留及血 脏病的防治措施应注意控制高血压和高血脂症。
4	一位用户和智能医疗大模型HuatuoGPT之间的对 话。对于用户的医疗问诊,HuatuoGPT给出准确 的、详细的、温暖的指导建议。对于用户的指令问 题 HuatuoGPT给出有益的 详细的 有礼貌的回		更及时发现并处理任何异常情况。如果出现严重的 线发生心力衰竭甚至猝死。因此,一旦确诊为
3	一位用户和智能医疗大模型HuatuoGPT之间的对 话。对于用户的医疗问诊,HuatuoGPT给出准确 的、详细的、温暖的指导建议。对于用户的指令问题。HuatuoGPT给出有益的。详细的,有礼貌的同	CKD2期以上,就需要接受更加严格的管理和流	
8	<del>(</del>	INDUCATION OF A SALA CREAK :	

Practice From AceGPT the Best Arabic LLM

	Automatic evaluation			Human Evaluation (vs. Turb			vs. Turbo)
Comparison	Arabic Vicuna-80	Arabic AlpacaEval	ACVA	win	tie	loss	win or tie
AceGPT-7B-chat (w/o RLAIF) AceGPT-7B-chat			42.48% <b>69.60</b> %	1			
AceGPT-13B-chat (w/o RLAIF) AceGPT-13B-chat	95.14% ± 1.0% 100.88% ± 0.4%		74.18% <b>74.70%</b>	1			

Huang Huang, Fei Yu, Jianqing Zhu, Xuening Sun, Hao Cheng, Dingjie Song, Zhihong Chen, Abdulmohsen Alharthi, Bang An, Ziche Liu, Zhiyi Zhang, Junying Chen, Jianquan Li, Benyou Wang, Lian Zhang, Ruoyu Sun, Xiang Wan, Haizhou Li, Jinchao Xu. AceGPT, Localizing Large Language Models in Arabic. https://arxiv.org/pdf/2309.12053.pdf

### Acknowledgement

- <u>https://web.stanford.edu/class/cs224n/slides/cs224n-2022-lecture10-pretraining.pdf</u>
- <u>https://web.stanford.edu/class/cs224n/slides/cs224n-2023-lecture11-prompting-rlhf.pdf</u>
- <u>https://courses.grainger.illinois.edu/CS447/sp2023/Slides/Lecture27.pdf</u>
- <u>https://www.databricks.com/dataaisummit/session/how-train-your-own-large-language-models/</u>
- <u>https://gist.github.com/rain-1/eebd5e5eb2784feecf450324e3341c8d</u>
- <u>https://www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/fall22/cos597G/lectures/lec18.pdf</u>
- <u>https://www.slideshare.net/SylvainGugger/fine-tuning-large-lms-243430468</u>
- <u>http://www.phontron.com/slides/neubig23llms.pdf</u>
- <u>https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/train-algorithms-from-scratch-with-hugging-face/</u>
- <u>https://uploads-</u> ssl.webflow.com/5ac6b7f2924c656f2b13a88c/6435aabdc0a041194b243eef\_Current%20Best%20Practices%20f or%20Training%20LLMs%20from%20Scratch%20-%20Final.pdf
- <u>https://www.analyticsvidhya.com/blog/2020/05/what-is-tokenization-nlp/</u>
- <u>https://scholar.harvard.edu/binxuw/classes/machine-learning-scratch/materials/transformers</u>
- <u>https://www.scribbledata.io/fine-tuning-large-language-models/</u>
- <u>https://openreview.net/forum?id=th63j8qHa6</u>
- Direct Preference Optimization: A New RLHF Approach Rafael Rafailov Archit Sharma Eric Mitchell