# Direct Preference Optimization: A New RLHF Approach

# **Rafael Rafailov Archit Sharma Eric Mitchell**





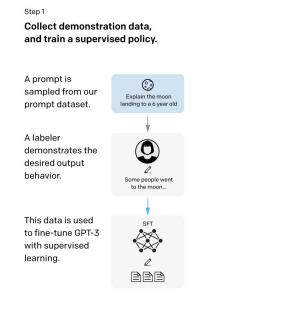
Step 1

Collect demonstration data, and train a supervised policy.

A prompt is 0 sampled from our Explain the moon prompt dataset. landing to a 6 year old A labeler C demonstrates the desired output behavior. Some people went to the moon... This data is used to fine-tune GPT-3 with supervised learning.

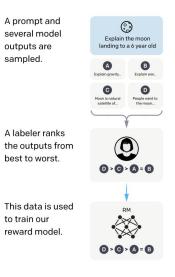
l. BBB

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

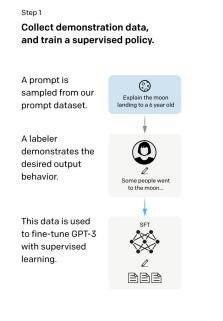


### Step 2

Collect comparison data, and train a reward model.



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



### Step 2

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Step 3

Optimize a policy against the reward model using reinforcement learning.

A new prompt is sampled from the dataset.

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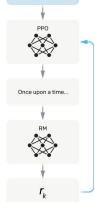
Write a story about frogs

The policy generates an output.

The reward model calculates a reward for

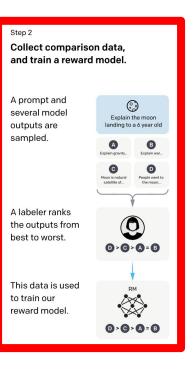
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The reward is used to update the policy using PPO.



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





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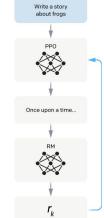
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2

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

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Preferred response

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Prompt Dispreferred response

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

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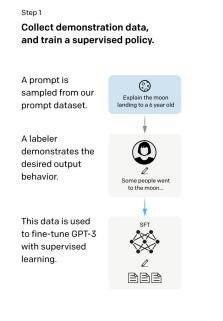
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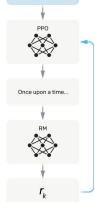
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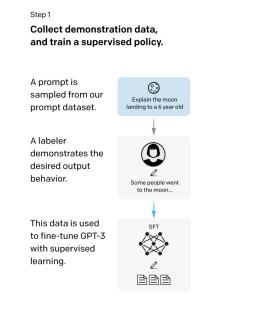
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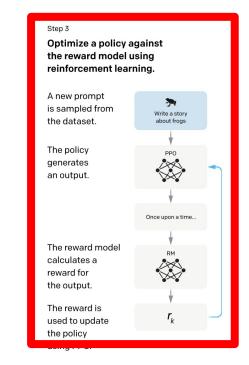
Training language models to follow instructions with human feedback, Ouyang et. al. 2022



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

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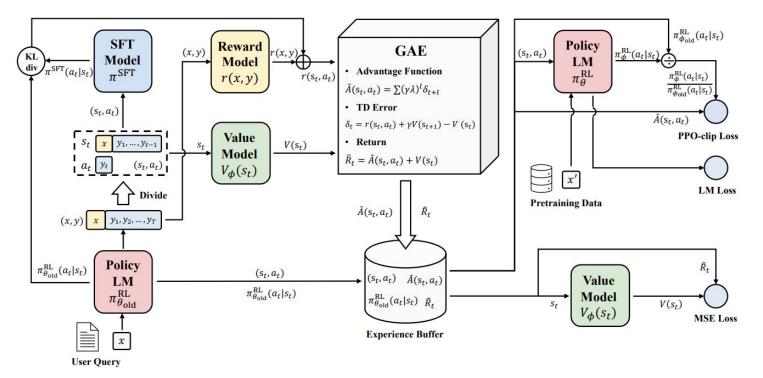
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$$\max_{\pi_{\theta}} \mathbb{E}_{x \sim \mathcal{D}, y \sim \pi_{\theta}(y|x)} [r_{\phi}(x, y)] - \beta \mathbb{D}_{\mathrm{KL}} [\pi_{\theta}(y|x) || \pi_{\mathrm{ref}}(y|x)]$$
Sample from policy
Want high reward
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...but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

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

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

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

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Note intractable sum over possible responses; can't immediately use this

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(write any reward function as function of optimal policy)

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

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some parameterization of a reward function

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

`

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some parameterization of a reward function

# Direct Preference Optimization: Putting it together

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A loss function on reward functions

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

A loss function on reward functions

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A loss function on policies

Derived from the Bradley-Terry model of human preferences:

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

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

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on  
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Reward of  
preferred  
response  

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

Stanford University

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

A loss function  
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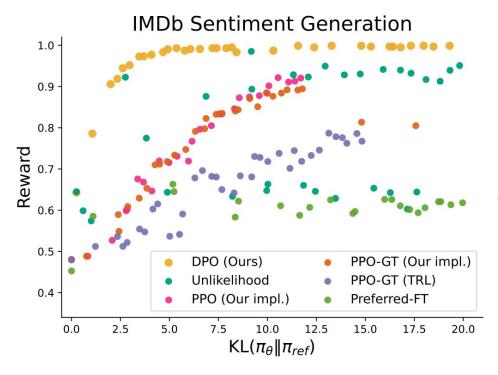
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Reward of **preferred** response

Reward of dispreferred response



# How Efficiently does DPO Trade off Reward & KL?



- 1. Generate positive IMDB reviews from GPT2-XL
- 2. Use pre-trained sentiment classifier as Gold RM
- 3. Create preferences based on Gold RM
- 4. Optimize with PPO and DPO

# Models Trained With DPO

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e St Open LLM Leaderboard aims to track, rank and evaluate open LLMs and chatbots.							
ubmit a model for automated evaluation on the 🔐 GPU cluster on the "Submit" page! The leaderboard							
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LLM Benchmark 🛛 Metrics through time 🗦 About 🔗 Submit here!							
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	Model sizes (in b	allions of p	arameters)				
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Show private/deleted Show merges Show Not Show Ragged models							
* Model	Average 🖬 🔺	ARC +	HellaSwag A	MILU A	TruthfulQA	A Winogrande	A GSM8K A
sdkal/Tuxdus 12 DPO	74.66	73.38	88.56	64.52	67.11	86.66	67.7
thight/UNA-TheBeagle-76-vi B PPO (& UNA)	73.87	73.04	88	63.48	69.85	82.16	66.72
argilla/distilabeled-Marcorol4-78-slern 2 VPV	73.63	70.73	87.47	65.22	65.1	82.08	71.19
abisen/NeuralMarcoroid-28 DPO abisen/NeuralMarcoroid-28 Merge (of DPG models)	73.57	71.42	87.59	64.84	65.64	81.22	70.74
	73.5	70.82	87.86	64.69	62.43	84.85	70.36
Neutonovo/neutonovo-70-v0.2 2 DPO	73.44	73.04	88.32	65.15	71.02	80.66	62.47
argilla/distilaboled-Marcorol4-78-slero-full DPO	73.4	70.65	87.55	65.33	64,21	82	79.66
000	73.39	72.27	88.33	65.24	70.73	88.98	62,77
000	73.33	72.53	88.34	65.26	70.93	80.66	62.24
	73.29	72.7	88.26	65.1	71.35	80.9	61.41
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Sultrix/MistralTrixTest & No into bit prob Dro, given	73.17 73.11	72.53	88.4	65.22 65.3	70.77	81.37	68.73 71.72

# Large-Scale DPO Training

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### 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  $6^3$  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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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.

### LLaMa3

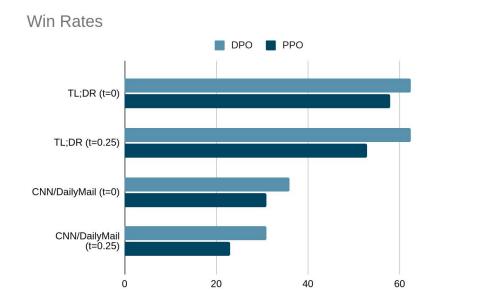
### Instruction fine-tuning

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.

### The DPO vs PPO Debate

## **DPO vs PPO: Empirics**



- 1. DPO is trained only on the Reddit TL;DR feedback data.
- 2. PPO uses a trained reward function and additional prompts for RL training.
- 3. We evaluate the trained policies on OOD CNN/DailyMail news summarization task.

80

### DPO vs PPO:





1. Is the DPO implicit reward as good as the explicit one?



- 1. Is the DPO implicit reward as good as the explicit one?
- 2. Does using a weaker optimizer, such as PPO provide a better solution (regularization).



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### DPO vs PPO: Reward Function Quality - Chat **RewardBench: Evaluating Reward Models** Evaluating the capabilities, safety, and pitfalls of reward models

Code Eval. Dataset Prior Test Sets Results Paper Total models: 74

Model Search (delimit with , )				eq. Classifiers	DPO	Custom Clas	Custom Classifiers Generative Al2 Experiments		
*	Model	Model Type	Score 🔺	Chat 🔺	Chat Hard 🔻	Safety 🔺	Reasoning 🔺	Prior Sets (0.5 weight)	
24	Owen/Owen1.5-14B-Chat	DPO	69.76	57.3	70.2	76.3	89.6	41.2	
26	Owen/Owen1.5-7B-Chat	DPO	68.75	53.6	69.1	74.8	90.4	42.9	
12	upstage/SOLAR-10.7B-Instruct-v1.0	DPO	73.99	81.6	68.6	85.5	72.5	49.5	
29	Owen/Owen1.5-72B-Chat	DPO	68.21	62.3	66	72	85.5	42.3	
3	openbmb/Eurus-RM-7b	Seq. Classifier	81.55	98	65.6	81.2	86.3	71.7	
1	Cohere March 2024	Custom Classifier	85.69	94.7	65.1	90.3	98.2	74.6	
2	sfairXC/FsfairX-LLaMA3-RM-v0.1	Seq. Classifier	83.62	99.4	65.1	87.8	86.4	74.9	
11	mistralai/Mixtral-8x7B-Instruct-v0.1	DPO	74.74	95	64	73.4	78.7	50.3	
33	Qwen/Qwen1.5-MoE-A2.7B-Chat	DPO	67.54	72.9	63.2	67.8	77.4	45.4	
49	Qwen/Qwen1.5-0.5B-Chat	DPO	55.01	35.5	62.9	66.1	59.8	46.3	
17	HuggingFaceH4/zephyr-7b-beta	DPO	71.77	95.3	62.7	61	77.9	52.2	
48	<u>Qwen/Owen1.5-4B-Chat</u>	DPO	56.14	38.8	62.7	61.8	66.9	44.7	
L3	HuggingFaceH4/zephyr-7b-alpha	DPO	73.42	91.6	62.5	74.3	75.1	53.5	

RewardBench: Evaluating Reward Models for Language Modeling, Lambert et. al.

### DPO vs PPO: Reward Function Quality - Reasoning RewardBench: Evaluating Reward Models Evaluating the capabilities, safety, and pitfalls of reward models Code | Eval. Dataset | Prior Text Sets | Results | Paper | Total models: 74

P RewardBench Leaderboard RewardBench - Detailed Prior Test Sets About Dataset Viewer Seq. Classifiers DPO Custom Classifiers Generative AI2 Experiments Model Search (delimit with .) A Model Α. Model Type . Score ▲ Chat ▲ Chat Hard ▲ Safety . Reasoning . Prior Sets (0.5 weight) A Cohere March 2024 Custom Classifier 85.69 65.1 98.2 74.6 1 94.7 90.3 26 Owen/Owen1.5-7B-Chat DPO 68 75 53.6 69 1 74 8 90 4 42 9 Owen/Owen1.5-14B-Chat 24 DPO 69.76 57.3 70.2 76.3 89.6 41.2 7 stabilityai/stablelm-2-12b-chat DPO 77.42 55.5 89.4 48.4 96.6 82.6 iondurbin/bagel-dpo-34b-v0.5 DPO 19 71.5 93.9 55 61.5 88.9 44.9 22 0-hero/Matter-0.1-7B-DPO-preview DPO 71.19 57.7 58 88.5 53.5 89.4 Nexusflow/Starling-RM-34B Seq. Classifier 81.44 96.9 57.2 88.2 88.5 71.4 4 2 sfairXC/FsfairX-LLaMA3-RM-v0.1 Seq. Classifier 65.1 86.4 74.9 83.62 99.4 87.8 openbmb/Eurus-RM-7b Seq. Classifier 81.55 98 86.3 71.7 3 65.6 81.2 Owen/Owen1.5-72B-Chat DPO 68.21 72 85.5 42.3 29 62.3 66 15 0-hero/Matter-0.1-7B-boost-DPO-preview DPO 73.35 91.1 61 66.3 83.9 55.7 36 openbmb/MiniCPM-2B-dpo-fp32 DPO 66.25 89.1 49.3 52.5 82.3 49.6 HuggingFaceH4/starchat2-15b-v0.1 72.08 16 DPO 93.9 55.5 65.8 81.6 55.2 78.7 50.3 73.4

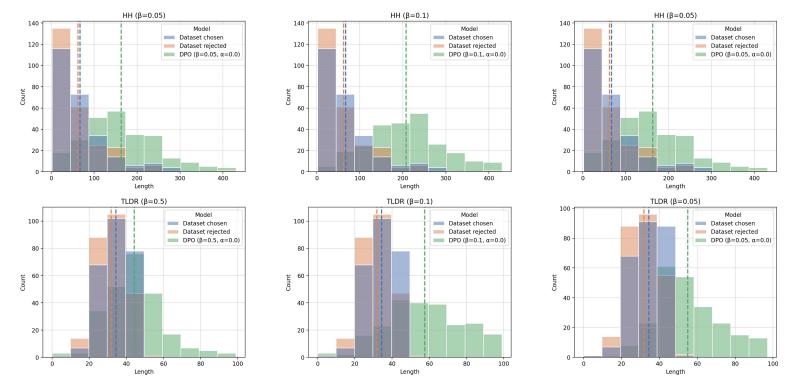
RewardBench: Evaluating Reward Models for Language Modeling, Lambert et. al.



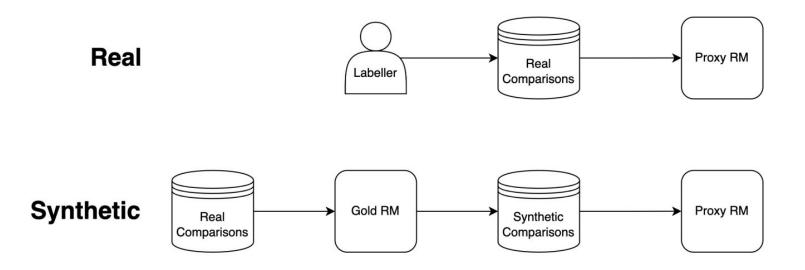
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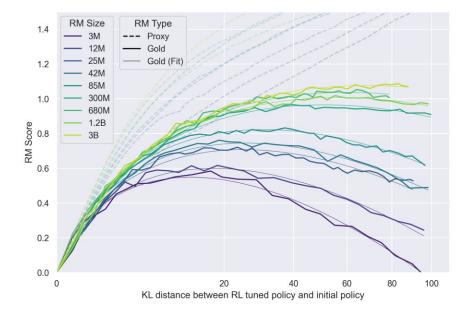
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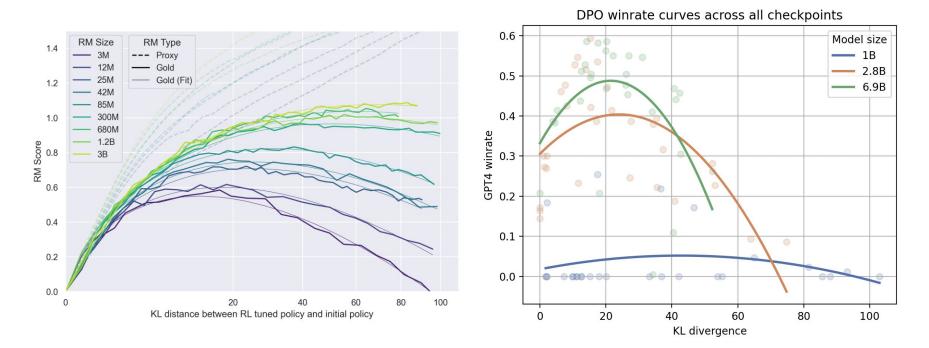
Disentangling Length from Quality in Direct Preference Optimization, Park et. al.



Scaling Laws for Reward Model Overoptimization, Gao et. al.



### Scaling Laws for Reward Model Overoptimization, Gao et. al. Stanford University



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1. DPO optimizes the same classical RLHF objective

- 1. DPO optimizes the same classical RLHF objective
- 2. Is simple and computationally cheap

- 1. DPO optimizes the same classical RLHF objective
- 2. Is simple and computationally cheap
- 3. Like classical RLHF it is prone to hacking

# Next Steps

- 1. How to optimize DPO robustly (prevent reward hacking)
- 2. Online fine-tuning (preference elicitation)
- 3. RLHF across modalities
  - a. Vision-Language Models
  - b. Diffusion Models
    - i. Text-to-image
    - ii. Text-to-video
    - iii. Speech and music
  - c. Protein and molecule generation
  - d. Robot Safety
- 4. Multi-turn interactions
- 5. Agents, tool use, etc..

# DPO for Aligning Modalities in VLMs

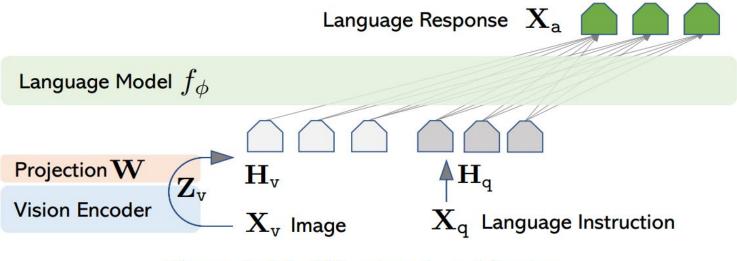


Figure 1: LLaVA network architecture.

Visual Instruction Tuning, Liu et. al.

# DPO for Aligning Modalities in VLMs

### a. Hallucinating Image Captioning Tasks

#### Prompt: Describe this image.



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.

Preferred response

#### 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

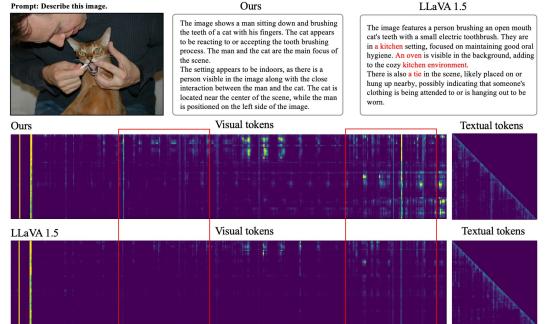
Reasoning: The image depicts a sunset scene with a man standing on an open ice field *(false reasoning, hallucinatory entities)* with what appears to be a few buildings visible in the distance. Answer: No, the person is standing next to a vast snowy

field, not water (incorrect answer).

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

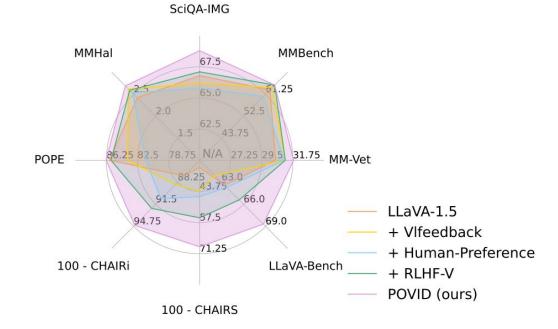
# DPO for Aligning Modalities in VLMs

#### Prompt: Describe this image.



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

### DPO for Aligning Modalities in VLMs



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

"jedi duck holding a lightsaber"





"a square green owl made of fimo"

"Two-faced biomechanical cyborg ... "



"insanely detailed portrait, wise man"



"A bird with 8 spider legs"





"A butterfly flying above an ocean"













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

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

Diffusion Model Alignment Using Direct Preference Optimization, Wallace et. al.

Partiprompts: General Preference				70	
Partiprompts: Visual Appeal			64.3		
Partipr	ompts: Prompt	ots: Prompt Alignment		64.9	
0	20	40	60	80	

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

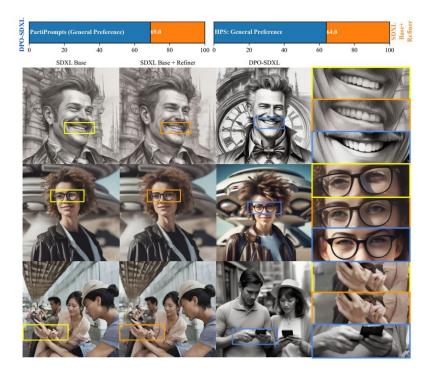
60 80 100 A smiling beautiful sorceress wearing a high necked blue suit surrounded by swirling rainbow aurora, hyper-realistic, cinematic, post-production

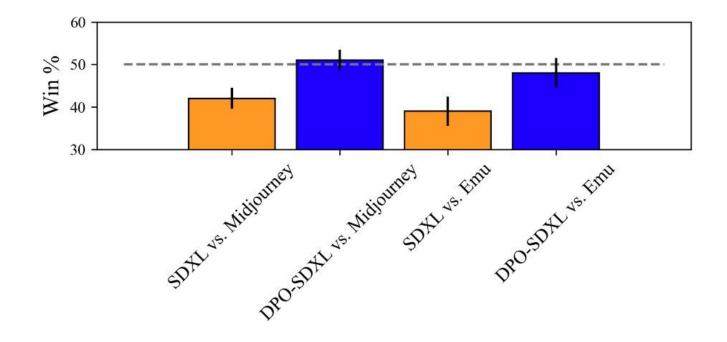
HPS: General Preference HPS: Visual Appeal			64.7	DXI.	
			61.9		
HPS: I	Prompt Alignmer	it	64.9		2
0	20	40	60	80	100

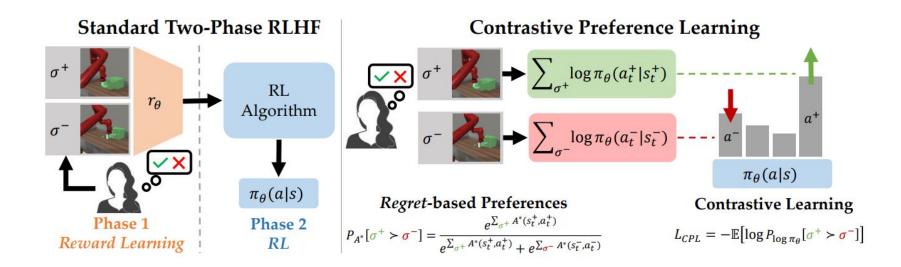
Concept art of a mythical sky alligator with wings, nature documentary

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

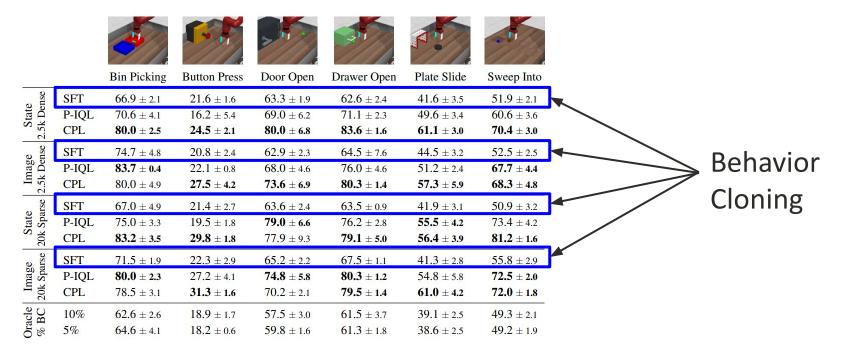




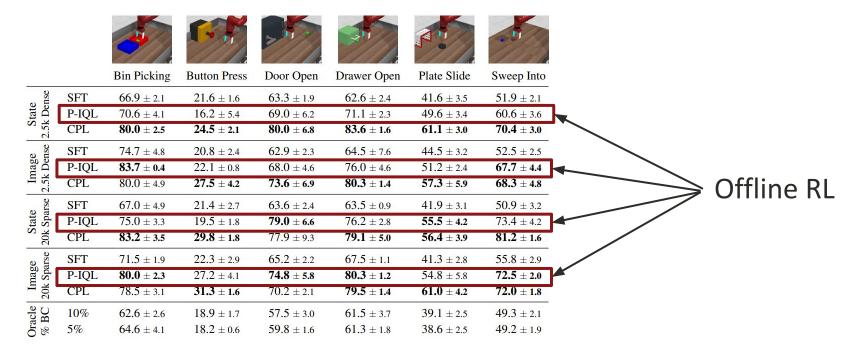




Contrastive Preference Learning: Learning from Human Feedback without RL, Hejna et. al.



Contrastive Preference Learning: Learning from Human Feedback without RL, Hejna et. al.

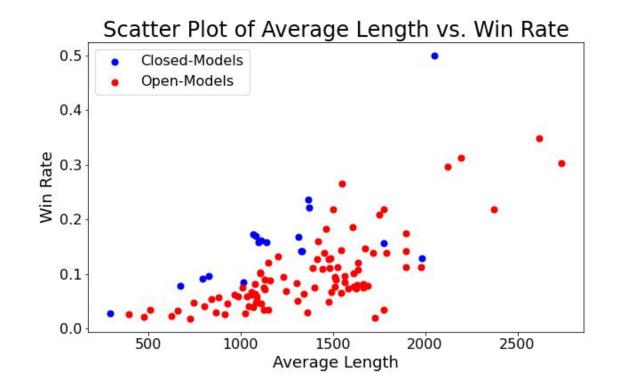


#### Contrastive Preference Learning: Learning from Human Feedback without RL, Hejna et. al.

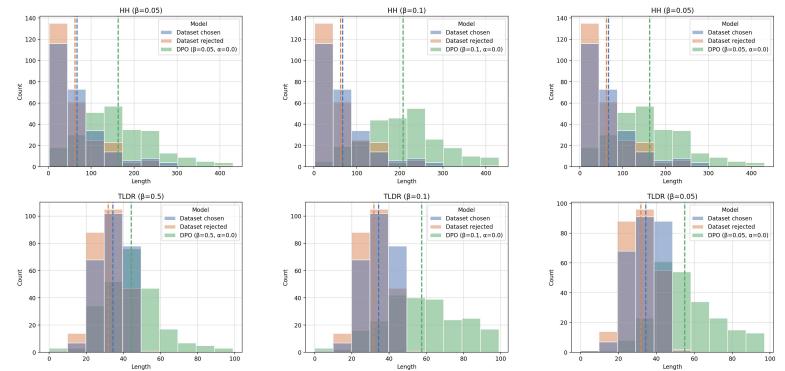


#### Contrastive Preference Learning: Learning from Human Feedback without RL, Hejna et. al.

## Where do things go wrong?

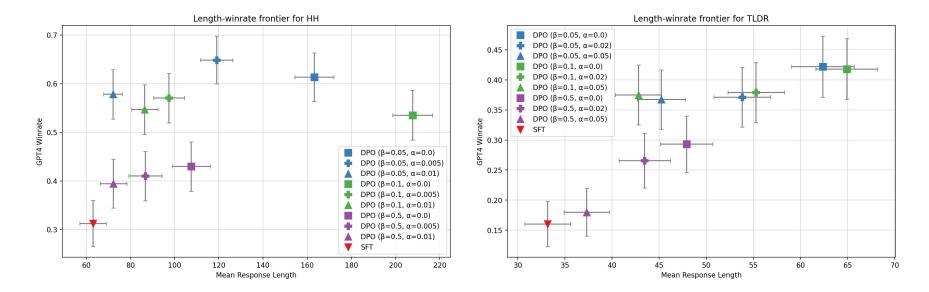


# Where do things go wrong?



Disentangling Length from Quality in Direct Preference Optimization, Park et. al.

## Where do things go wrong: Regularization



Disentangling Length from Quality in Direct Preference Optimization, Park et. al.

# Where do things go wrong?

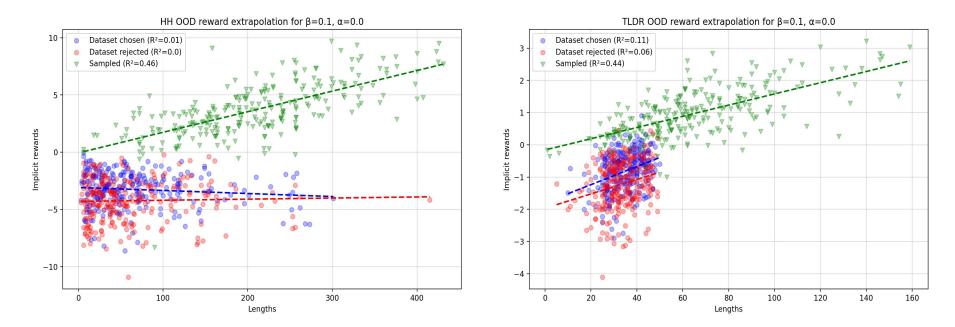
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{DPO}}(\pi_{\theta}; \pi_{\text{ref}}) = -\mathbb{E}_{(x, y_w, y_l) \sim \mathcal{D}} \left[ \log \sigma \left( \beta \log \frac{\pi_{\theta}(y_w \mid x)}{\pi_{\text{ref}}(y_w \mid x)} - \beta \log \frac{\pi_{\theta}(y_l \mid x)}{\pi_{\text{ref}}(y_l \mid x)} \right) \right]$$

Reward of **preferred** response

Reward of **dispreferred** response

Disentangling Length from Quality in Direct Preference Optimization, Park et. al.

### Where do things go wrong: OOD Robustness



Disentangling Length from Quality in Direct Preference Optimization, Park et. al.