Group Preference Alignment: Customized LLM Response Generation from In-Situ Conversations

Anonymous ACL submission

Abstract

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LLMs often fail to meet the specialized needs of distinct user groups due to their one-size-fits-all training paradigm (Lucy et al., 2024) and there is limited research on what personalization aspects each group expect. To address these limitations, we propose a group-aware personalization framework, Group Preference Alignment (GPA), that identifies context-specific variations in conversational preferences across user groups and then steers LLMs to address those pref-Our approach consists of two erences. steps: (1) Group-Aware Preference Extraction, where maximally divergent user-group preferences are extracted from real-world conversation logs and distilled into interpretable rubrics, and (2) Tailored Response Generation, which leverages these rubrics through two methods: a) Context-Tuned Inference (GPA-CT), that dynamically adjusts responses via context-dependent prompt instructions, and b) Rubric-Finetuning Inference (GPA-FT), which uses the rubrics to generate contrastive synthetic data for personalization of groupspecific models via alignment. Experiments demonstrate that our framework significantly improves alignment of the output with respect to user preferences and outperforms baseline methods through automated evaluations, while maintaining robust performance on standard benchmarks.

1 Introduction

Large Language Models (LLMs) are pivotal in modern natural language processing (NLP), driving applications such as conversational agents, content generation, and automated reasoning (Liu et al., 2024; Tian et al., 2024; Mondal et al., 2024). Despite their remarkable capabilities, LLMs often fall short in addressing the specialized needs of distinct user groups due to their one-size-fits-all training paradigm (Lucy et al., 2024). This approach predominantly relies on asking human or LLM judges to provide ratings (e.g. preferred and dispreferred labels) to alternative outputs for the same input query to create *paired* preference data (Ji et al., 2024). These approaches assume that human and AI annotators accurately reflect the preferences of the target user population. Moreover, when models are aligned to this preference data, model outputs will be steered toward the most prevalent preferences of the *annotator* population, even when users express diverse preferences for the same task/query. 043

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Broad preference alignment like this can lead LLMs to produce suboptimal outputs for a target user base for two primary reasons. First, the distribution of preferences in the target population may differ from those expressed in the annotator population (e.g., if annotators are generally nonexperts within a domain, but the target users are experts). Examples include domain-specific expertise (e.g., a mathematician may struggle with academic writing) and cultural norms (e.g., Japanese audiences may prefer narratives on family bonding, while U.S. audiences favor individualistic themes). Second, even across populations, preference differences may vary with respect to intent/domain (Figure 6 and Table 5). For instance, in education, experts may expect precise terminology and assume foundational knowledge, while novices may desire real-world analogies and step-by-step explanations. In programming, experts often prefer concise debugging strategies, whereas novices may seek explicit concept explanations with visual aids.

Existing methods for group-aware preference adaptation (Balepur et al., 2025; Li et al., 2024a) focus on the first issue only and aim to improve response generation through the use of *personas*. These approaches either use abstract descriptions of personas or auxiliary data reporting general group preferences (e.g., cultural norms) to generate synthetic preference data. However, these methods are limited by the use of external preference signals or internal LLM knowledge of likely prefer-

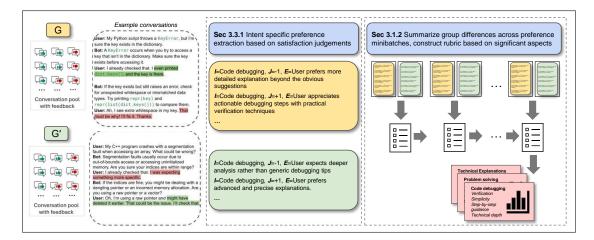


Figure 1: Overview of GPA Rubric Extraction. It Illustrates group aware preference extraction across two groups (*Expert* v. *Novice*) with conversations about Docker and .env file integration. First intent, satisfaction judgments, and individual preferences are extracted from conversations (Sec 3.1 and the extracted preferences are grouped into minibatches and contrasted to extract salient differences across groups and summarize into maximally divergent intent-specific rubrics (Sec 3.1.2).

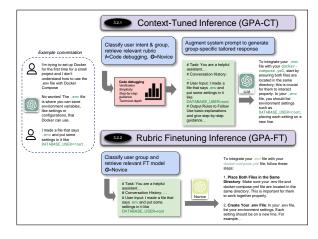


Figure 2: Illustrates tailored response generation for a *Novice* user with a Code debugging intent using GPA-CT (Sec 3.2.1) and GPA-FT (Sec 3.2.2).

ences for a specified user segment. Specifically, they are unlikely to capture the full range of groupspecific preferences expressed across various contexts, which can be directly observed via *in-situ* user interactions. As users prefer responses for varied reasons (Kirk et al., 2024), models tuned on preference data should customize outputs to meet these user-group specific needs (Salemi et al., 2024b; Li et al., 2024a) while also keeping in mind that intent further modulates user preferences. This highlights the need for **group-aware contextual** preference learning to extract users' diverse preferences for tailored response generation.

In this paper, we aim to address this issue by proposing a novel group-aware customization framework, Group Preference Alignment (GPA), that automatically identifies context-specific variations in conversational preferences across user groups and steers LLMs to address those preferences. Our approach consists of two components. **First**, we propose a method to extract salient group preference differences from realworld conversation logs. We then distill the output into interpretable rubrics that summarize intentspecific guidance for each group (Fig 1). If the groups do not express significant preference differences on specific intents, the returned rubric set will be empty (See 6), hence signifying no need for customization. Our method is generalizable across domains/ user groups (See I). Second, we propose two methods to use these rubrics to tailor personalized responses for each group: 1) Context-Tuned Inference (GPA-CT) dynamically adjusts responses via context-dependent inprompt augmentation which is data-efficient (Figure 7) and training-free, and Rubric-Finetuning Inference (GPA-FT) uses the learnt rubrics to generate contrastive synthetic data to fine-tune separate models towards group-specific preferences (Fig 2). 102

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Our experiments on two in-situ conversational datasets (Microsoft Copilot logs and Wild-Chat (Zhao et al., 2024)) demonstrate that models customized with GPA outperform all baseline methods, including static-preference, persona-guided and zero-shot models, using LLM persona-guided evaluation (Koutcheme et al., 2024; Dong et al., 2024) and improves user satisfaction (Section 5). Notably, alignment with GPA produces these improvements without compromising LLM's core capabilities, as evidenced by robust performance on standard benchmarks such as MT-Bench (Zheng

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et al., 2023) and Arena-Hard (Li et al., 2024b).

2 Problem Definition and Notations

We hypothesize that intent-driven user preferences can be automatically extracted from real-world conversation logs between human and AI agents, enabling more effective model alignment than traditional methods that do not incorporate direct user feedback. Consider a user group \mathcal{G} that generates queries for a specific intent \mathcal{I} . The responses from the LLM, denoted as $Y_{\mathcal{I}} = \text{LLM}(X_{\mathcal{I}})$, receive user judgments $\mathcal{J}_{\mathcal{G}}(Y_{\mathcal{I}})$ in the form of thumb feedback or implicit textual feedback (eg. thanking the AI). When these preferences diverge from the general population's judgments $\mathcal{J}_P(Y_{\mathcal{I}})$, we hypothesize that aligning the model with group-specific signals will improve response relevance and user satisfaction. Note that if $\mathcal{J}_{\mathcal{G}}(Y_{\mathcal{I}}) \approx \mathcal{J}_{P}(Y_{\mathcal{I}})$, alignment to $\mathcal{J}_{\mathcal{G}}(Y_{\mathcal{I}})$ will simply reinforce existing preferences in the general population without degrading performance. Unlike RLHF (Ouyang et al., 2022) and RLAIF (Bai et al., 2022), which optimize for majority preferences, our approach leverages in-situ user judgments to achieve fine-grained, group-specific alignment, that is of particular use when user needs deviate significantly from broader norms.

Let $C = \{C_1, C_2, \ldots, C_n\}$ represent a set of conversations from a collection of users, where each C_i is an individual conversation. Let each conversation C_i , consisting of t interaction turns of user-agent utterances, be represented as: $C_i =$ $[U_1, A_1, \ldots, U_t, A_t]$. Here, U_t refers to a user utterance and A_t refers to an AI agent response. The user-agent conversations C_i often consist of multiple turns, i.e., $t \ge 1$. Each conversation C_i is labeled with a predicted intent \mathcal{I}_i (see e.g., Wan et al. (2024)). Each conversation turn U_t has been labeled with a user satisfaction judgment $\mathcal{J}_i \in [-1, +1]$ using Lin et al. (2024) and intent \mathcal{I}_i Wan et al. (2024)). Finally, we assume that each user u is associated with one of two groups, ie. $u \in \mathcal{G}$ or $u \in \mathcal{G}'$. Note that in cases where contrasting group labels are unavailable, GPA can also be used by comparing a single group \mathcal{G} against the overall population P. We do not make any assumptions about $|\mathcal{G}|$ as long as there are sufficient interactions from users in \mathcal{G} to extract preferences.

3 Group Preference Alignment (GPA)

182 Our GPA framework enables context-aware, user 183 group-specific adaptation, ensuring more precise

and effective model alignment beyond more conventional preference optimization using auxiliary annotators. The overall approach to align models with in-situ preferences involves two main steps: (i) Generating rubrics with group-aware preference extraction (Section 3.1), and (ii) Tailoring responses based on the extracted rubrics (Section 3.2). We discuss each in more detail below.

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3.1 Group-Aware Preference Extraction

GPA automatically identifies context-specific variations in conversational preferences across user groups \mathcal{G} and \mathcal{G}' and summarizes the divergent preferences into rubrics (Figure 1 and Algorithm 1). Specifically, given conversations regarding specific intents \mathcal{I} from users in \mathcal{G} and \mathcal{G}' , we first extract satisfaction judgments \mathcal{J} from user responses. The algorithm then uses the judgments to infer individual preferences \mathcal{E} that explain the user's positive or negative feedback (Section 3.1.1). Next, the preferences are summarized into generalized preference aspects \mathcal{A} , capturing salient differences between two groups (Section 3.1.2). The resulting group-specific rubrics serve as the foundation for group-aware customization.

3.1.1 Extract Intent-Specific Preferences

Algorithm 1 (Lines 1-13) show how we learn groupspecific preference rubrics based on user conversations and their corresponding intent labels or context. The input includes a conversation set C, user groups \mathcal{G} and \mathcal{G}' , intent labels \mathcal{I} , a Likert scale threshold ℓ , and a minibatch size m. The algorithm processes each conversation C_i consisting of t_i interaction turns. For each turn S_i , the algorithm checks whether the turn expresses implicit satisfaction (SAT) or dissatisfaction (DSAT) judgment through a function $\mathcal{J}(S_i)$. If the turn expresses SAT or DSAT (ie. $abs(\mathcal{J}(S_i)) = 1$), we use an LLM to infer individual preferences and generate an explanation (\mathcal{E}_+ or \mathcal{E}_- for SAT and DSAT judgments respectively) [Prompts in 11 and 12]. These explanations, \mathcal{E}_+ and \mathcal{E}_- , are then grouped by intent \mathcal{I}_k for each user group \mathcal{G} and \mathcal{G}' . At the end of this phase, the preferences are organized into sets by user groups, intents and satisfaction.

3.1.2 Summarize Group Differences

Algorithm 1 (Lines 14-30) describe how groupspecific preferences are summarized into intentspecific rubrics. For each intent $\mathcal{I}_k \in \mathcal{I}$, the algorithm partitions the preferences of each user group

 $(\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{G}')$ into minibatches of size m. The algorithm then iterates over pairs of minibatches, one from 234 each group, and summarizes/updates the divergent 235 aspects of their expressed preferences. Specifically, for a pair of minibatches ($\mathcal{E}^{a}_{G,I_{k}}$ and $\mathcal{E}^{b}_{G',I_{k}}$), the algorithm extracts a set of aspects A that summarize how a preference differs across the two groups (see Figure 1 for illustration). The algorithm also estimates a divergence score r based on Likert scale 241 to rate the significance of each aspect. If the diver-242 gence score r exceeds a threshold ℓ , indicating a 243 significant difference in preferences between the two groups, the aspect A_{ab} is added to the rubric 245 for the current intent \mathcal{R}_{I_k} . Each iteration is pro-246 vided the aspects from the previous round, so the 247 algorithm can update/refine the aspects as it processes all the minibatches. The process continues until all significant divergent aspects have been identified and included in $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{I}_k}$. Finally, the rubric 251 for this intent is added to the global rubric list \mathcal{R} . The algorithm returns the full set of rubrics \mathcal{R} and an interpretation of each rubric. These capture the distinct preference patterns of the two user groups across intents. 256

3.2 Response Tailoring

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After learning rubrics in section 3.1, we outline the following two methods to align LLMs based on these learnt rubrics/preferences. The first method, GPA-CT, involves dynamically augmenting prompts to produce group-aware tailored responses. It dynamically adjusts the LLM prompts incorporating learnt rubrics from 3.1 during inference, conditioned on intent and user group identified for each conversation (Section 3.2.1). The second approach, GPA-FT uses learnt rubrics to synthetically augment conversational data with paired responses that reflect group-specific preferences conditioned on specific intents. This process produces a tailored set of preference data. We finetune a group-specific LLM using this enriched dataset to enhance their alignment to the targeted group (Section 3.2.2).

3.2.1 GPA-CT: Dynamic Context-Tuning

Context-tuning with GPA-CT is an adaptive process that infers the user's group and intent, retrieves the relevant rubrics for that intent, and then modifies the instructions sent to the LLM to generate the next output (Algorithm 2 in Appendix B and Figure 2). Unlike finetuning, which adjusts a model's weights based on a fixed training dataset, context-tuning allows for dynamic adjustments to the model's prompt based on real-time analysis of user intent and group membership. This means the model can adapt to the specific needs of different user groups on-the-fly without requiring specialized group-specific models. GPA-CT offers several advantages over finetuning, including the flexibility to adapt to user-specific needs without retraining and enhanced efficiency as it avoids the extensive resources typically required for finetuning.

3.2.2 GPA-FT: Rubric-Guided Contrastive Data Generation and Fine-tuning

Rather than merely fine-tuning LLMs with the training data comprising of preference signals from user groups (\mathcal{G} and \mathcal{G}'), we use our learned rubrics to generate more realistic contrastive pairs that vary according to observed preference dimensions. GPA-FT may be favored over GPA-CT in situations where the LLM is less steerable with prompt-tuning (eg. smaller models) and/or when lower latency is desired. Specifically, we finetune LLMs using synthetic training data generated with intent- and group-aware rubrics to reflect in-situ user pref-Algorithm 4 (Appendix B) describes erences. our approach to rubric-guided data generation. It takes as input our dataset of conversations and augments the existing AI responses with paired responses of opposing preference polarity, conditioned on the group-aware rubrics. Consider a conversation S_i up to the j^{th} user utterance, with A_i referring to the corresponding AI response, and $\mathcal{J}(S_i) \in \{+1, -1\}$ referring to the user satisfaction judgment for A_j . To generate *contrastive aug*mented samples, we modify responses as follows: If $\mathcal{J}(S_i) = +1$ (preferred response), we generate a dispreferred response A_{auq} by instructing the LLM to incorporate features from the opposing group's rubric for that intent. Otherwise, if $J(S_i) = -1$ (dispreferred response), we generate a *preferred* response A_{aug} by instructing the LLM to align the output with the user's group rubric for that intent. When applied to the full training data, the procedure produces an augmented dataset \mathcal{D}_{aug} where each original instance is paired with a contrastive sample: $T_{aug} = (S_i, A_{aug}, -\mathcal{J}(S_i))$. Note that $\mathcal{J}_{aug} = -\mathcal{J}(S_i)$ ensures contrastive preference learning. Next, we train separate models for each user group. Given a prompt S and responses A_+ (preferred) and A_{-} (dispreferred), the likelihood of selecting the preferred response is modeled as:

$$P_{\theta}(A_{+}|S) = \frac{e^{f_{\theta}(S,A_{+})}}{e^{f_{\theta}(S,A_{+})} + e^{f_{\theta}(S,A_{-})}}$$
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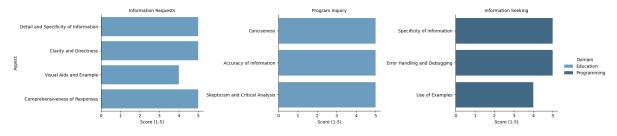


Figure 3: Rubrics/Aspects on which Experts and Novices Differ in the Education and Programming Domains as extracted from BingChat Dataset on 3 intents (Information Requests, Program Inquiry, Information Seeking) with the Likert-Scale Rating (1-5) on the x-axis and aspect/rubric names on the y-axis.

where $f_{\theta}(S, A)$ is a scoring function parameterized by θ , representing the model's preference alignment. The DPO objective is to maximize the loglikelihood of the chosen response:

$$\mathcal{L}_{DPO} = \mathbb{E}_{(S,A_+,A_-)\sim\mathcal{D}_{aug}} \left[\log P_{\theta}(A_+|S)\right] \quad (2)$$

By optimizing \mathcal{L}_{DPO} , the model learns to **prefer responses aligned with group-specific rubrics** while discouraging responses reflecting dispreferred aspects. We train two specialized DPO models (P_{θ_G} and $P_{\theta_{G'}}$) using contrastive samples from \mathcal{D}_{aug} for each (See Algorithm 5, Appendix B) for how we apply the finetuned models for inference). This results in: [1] P_{θ_G} , optimized to generate responses aligned with the preferences of user group G. [2] $P_{\theta_{G'}}$, optimized for user group G'¹.

4 Experimental Setup

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We evaluate GPA using real-world conversational logs from Microsoft Copilot and Wildchat (Zhao et al. (2024)) data. For the intent category programming and software, we use 8000 Copilot conversations and 8200 WildChat conversations. We group conversations into *expert* (i.e., G; Copilot: 2200, WildChat: 6000) and *novice* (i.e., \mathcal{G}' ; Copilot: 5800, WildChat: 2000) groups by using an auxiliary expertise classifier ², (Copilot: 5800 novice, 2200 expert; WildChat: 6000 expert, 2000 novice). Next, we consider the intent category Creative writing and editing in WildChat and form user groups based on metadata, specifically location, partitioning users into USA (8000 conversations) and China (800 conversations) (Full Dataset Statistics in Appendix). We partitioned the above datasets into 90:10 train:test split to ensure no training signal

leakage. Next, we use predicted SAT/DSAT judgments to learn divergent preferences on the training data. Following Lin et al. (2024) and the taxonomy proposed by Shi et al. (2024), we used GPT-40 to classify bot responses resulting in a subsequent user SAT, DSAT, or Neither judgment. We finetune using synthetic data constructed from the full training set. 366

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Models and GPA Baselines. For rubric extraction, we use GPT-40 and for tailored response generation (GPA-CT and GPA-FT), we use two base LLMs (M): gemma-2-9b-it³ (Team et al., 2024) and Meta-Llama-3-8B⁴ (Grattafiori et al., 2024). We compare GPA-CT and GPA-FT against several baselines: a) Zero-shot (Base) responses, b) Persona-Aware (Persona-P): which augments the input prompt with persona (P) information to mimic responses from specific user-groups through role-playing behavior, (Prompt 10) c) Persona-**Criteria-Aware (Static-P):** which uses M to first generate preference criteria for G and G', and then append the generated criteria to the prompt (Prompt 9), d) KTO (KTO-P): which fine-tunes an LLM with SAT and DSAT samples to tailor towards each persona using KTO (Ethayarajh et al., 2024), e) KTO-Augmented (KTO-P'): which also uses KTO to finetune an LLM on the SAT and DSAT samples from each persona, this time augmented with the contrastive pairs generated by rubrics.

Evaluation Metrics. We evaluate responses across three key dimensions: 1) **Customization to User-Group Preferences**: We assess alignment with group-specific preferences using Win-Tie-Lose (WTR) rates computed via GPT-4o-asa-Judge with Persona-Role Playing (Dong et al., 2024) (Prompt 18). We also report WTR results for

¹We also experiment with KTO but found DPO to be superior (Appendix H)

²We manually inspected 100 random conversations and found that the classification was reliable ($\kappa = 0.88$ agreement computed between the first author and GPT-40).

³https://huggingface.co/google/gemma-2-9b-it ⁴https://huggingface.co/meta-llama/ Meta-llama-3-8B

Model	LLM Pref (W/L/T)	$LLM \ conf \geq 75$	LLM Pref (W/L/T)	$LLM \ conf \geq 75$
	Intent=Programmin	ng/Group=Novice	Intent=Programmin	g/Group=Expert
GPA-CT vs Base GPA-CT vs Persona GPA-CT vs Static	65.82 / 25.00 / 9.18 60.44 / 31.96 / 7.60 56.43 / 37.43 / 6.14	67.53 / 32.47 73.97 / 26.3 80.00 / 20.00	57.10 / 42.04 / 0.86 61.10 / 38.30 / 0.6 57.38 / 41.47 / 1.6	57.46 / 42.54 61.91 / 38.09 59.05 / 40.95
GPA-FT vs Base GPA-FT vs Persona GPA-FT vs Static	71.29 / 25.87 / 2.84 70.98 / 27.76 / 1.26 66.88 / 32.18 / 0.95	68.05 / 31.95 68.84 / 31.16 60.64 / 39.36	53.17/ 40.62 / 5.56 58.80 / 40.62 / 5.0 59.65 / 39.77 / 0.56	56.15 / 43.84 59.62 / 40.37 57.72 / 42.27
GPA-FT vs GPA-CT	63.09 / 36.59 / 0.32	57.59 / 42.41	53.12 / 38.35 / 0.28	58.99 / 41.00
	Intent=Writing/	/Group=USA	Intent=Writing/0	Group=China
GPA-CT vs Base GPA-CT vs Persona GPA-CT vs Static	45.5 / 53.5 / 1.0 55.5 / 42.5 / 2.0 67.02 / 31.00 / 1.98	54.1 / 45.9 59.5 / 40.5 67.10 / 32.90	58.5 / 23.9 / 17.6 53.6 / 28.73 / 17.60 52.11 / 32.3 / 15.59	88.57 / 11.42 60.0 / 40.00 68.57 / 31.43
GPA-FT vs Base GPA-FT vs Persona GPA-FT vs Static	55 / 26.5 / 18.5 77 / 21.5 / 1.5 85 / 14.5 / 0.5	62.2 / 37.8 82.4 / 17.5 88.5 / 11.5	55.22 / 20.84 / 23.94 35.21 / 40.84 / 23.95 28.16 / 54.92 / 16.92	60.95 / 39.04 32.38 / 67.62 47.61 / 52.39
GPA-FT vs GPA-CT	85.5 / 14 / 0.5	71.4 / 28.6	39.43 / 40.84 / 19.73	40.95 / 59.05

Table 1: Table showing the WR Evaluation of GPA-CT and GPA-FT on Wildchat Creative Writing Domain across countries/culture, and Bing Dataset on Programming Domain. LLM conf=Expected Confidence (Dong et al., 2024), W/L/T=win/lose/tie rates of our methods against baselines.

Confidence-Estimated LLMs (Dong et al., 2024) 402 at a confidence threshold correlated with human 403 judgment. To mitigate positional bias, we av-404 erage win rates by swapping response positions. 405 2) Oracle-Guided Satisfaction Estimation: We 406 identify responses that significantly deviate from 407 DSAT-classified reference responses to minimize 408 negative follow-up feedback. This evaluation mea-409 sures whether our methods generate fewer dissat-410 isfactory signals than baselines, focusing solely 411 on response differences without considering user 412 personas (Prompt 16). Success is determined by 413 the number of times our responses outperform 414 baselines in WTR comparisons. 3) Quality Eval-415 uation on Standard Benchmarks: We assess 416 the generalization of GPA-CT and GPA-FT using 417 two open-ended instruction-following benchmarks: 418 MT-Bench (Zheng et al., 2023) and Arena-Hard 419 (Li et al., 2024b). This ensures that our models 420 maintain strong performance in general instruction-421 following tasks despite group-aware alignment. We 422 follow each benchmark's evaluation protocol, re-423 porting Win Rate (WR) for Arena-Hard (with GPT-424 40 as the judge) and the average MT-Bench score 425 using default inference strategies. 426

5 Main Results and Findings

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GPA-FT excels when ample finetuning data is available, while GPA-CT remains robust in lowerdata settings. GPA-FT using Llama consistently

Model	WR	LR	TR	$\Delta(\%)$	MT-Bench
Base					8.320
Novice GPA-FT	49.11	39.10	8.62	+10.01	8.334
Expert GPA-FT	47.89	42.88	6.41	+5.01	8.212
US GPA-FT	47.56	43.80	8.64	+3.76	8.256
China GPA-FT	48.49	38.34	9.02	+10.15	8.300

Table 2: Comparison against LLama Base on Arena-Hard Benchmark (Win/Lose/Tie, and Win-Lose Δ) and evaluation on MT-Bench.

Setup	Win (%)	Lose (%)	Tie (%)
GPA-CT vs Base	69.61%	29.41%	$0.98\% \\ 0.98\% \\ 1.94\%$
GPA-CT vs Persona	65.69%	33.33%	
GPA-CT vs Static	76.70%	21.36%	

Table 3: WTR against the baselines (Win determines the number of times GPA-CT is chosen over others) on Wildchat Programming when compared against reference DSAT Evaluation using Llama.

outperforms all baselines when sufficient finetuning data is available, particularly in the Novice and US groups (Table 1). In the Novice category, GPA-FT achieves a 71.29% Win Rate (WR) vs. Base, compared to 65.82% for GPA-CT, showing that finetuning helps models better adapt to novice preferences. A similar trend is observed in the US Writing group, where GPA-FT achieves an 85% WR vs. Static, outperforming GPA-CT at 67.02% WR. Conversely, GPA-CT is more effective when data is scarce (also evident in Figure 7), as seen in China and Expert groups. Against the Base model, GPA-FT achieves only a 55.22% WR

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in China, while GPA-CT performs slightly better
at 58.5% WR, indicating that in-context adaptation
is more useful in this setting. These observations
also hold on the Wildchat Dataset where we observe a drop in the WTR of GPA-FT compared with
GPA-CT (Table 4), since the Novice Groups have
correspondingly fewer samples.

Base models such as Llama/Gemma are tuned 451 more towards US Preferences and Expert 452 Groups compared to China/Novice Groups. 453 Table 1 shows that for Expert groups, Base is the 454 hardest baseline to beat, reinforcing the fact that 455 pretrained models are already aligned with expert 456 preferences. For example, GPA-FT vs. Base in 457 Expert groups achieves only a 53.12% WR, com-458 pared to 71.29% WR for Novice users, indicating 459 that Base already reflects expert-style responses 460 well. The same trend appears in US-based writing 461 conversations, where GPA-CT and GPA-FT struggle 462 more against the Base model than against Persona 463 or Static baselines, proving that pretraining biases 464 favor Western-aligned outputs. Similar observa-465 tions also hold true when Gemma is used as the 466 base model (Table 19). 467

GPA-CT improves overall satisfaction compared 468 to baselines. Results in Table 3 (computed on 469 the DSAT Signals in the Wildchat Programming 470 Domain) using Llama show that GPA-CT consis-471 tently wins against all setups, achieving the highest 472 win rate against Static (76.70%), followed by Base 473 (69.61%) and Persona (65.69%). This suggests 474 that GPA-CT generates responses that better align 475 with user expectations and reduces dissatisfaction 476 signals when compared with other baselines. 477

GPA-FT does not compromise model perfor-478 mance on other benchmarks. We evaluate our 479 LLama-based GPA-FT models on MT-Bench and 480 Arena-Hard to assess if their instruction-following 481 performance degrades on standard benchmarks as 482 done by Shi et al. (2024). Table 2 confirms that 483 GPA-FT does not compromise performance on the 484 instruction-following benchmarks. The MT-Bench 485 scores for GPA-FT models remain close to the Base 486 model (8.320), with Novice GPA-FT (8.334) even 487 slightly outperforming it. Similarly, Arena-Hard 488 489 results show a positive win-loss delta (Δ) across all groups, with China GPA-FT (+10.15%) and Novice 490 GPA-FT (+10.01%) achieving the highest gains. 491 Even in Expert (+5.01%) and US (+3.76%) cate-492 gories, GPA-FT maintains competitive performance. 493

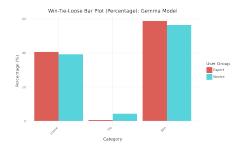


Figure 4: Bar plot evaluating Gemma outputs from intent-aware rubric creation vs intent-unaware rubric creation using GPA-CT. Results shows that intent/context heavily impacts performance when GPA approach is used to personalize responses on BingChat Test Set.

Overall these findings reinforce the fact that group preference alignment via fine-tuning does not lead to overfitting or loss of generalization.

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6 Further Analysis

User preferences vary across cultures and domains. Cultural background significantly shapes user preferences, even for the same intent. US users prefer personal engagement and detailed narratives, while Chinese users favor clarity and structured summaries in writing and creative content (Table 5). Similarly, when expertise remains constant but the domain shifts from Education to Programming, experts prioritize different aspects—educators value comprehensiveness and critical analysis, whereas programmers focus on specificity, error handling, and debugging (Figure 3).

Intent-Specific Rubrics are important for better group-preference alignment compared to generic ones. To investigate the impact of intents in preference learning, we extracted rubrics from the Bing expertise groups in two ways: without considering intent and with intent-awareness. These rubrics were then used for context-tuning on a held-out test set, followed by WTR evaluation using Persona-based evaluation (Appendix 18). The results show a notable drop in WR when intent was not used (Figure 4), demonstrating that intentaware rubric extraction leads to more personalized, contextually aligned responses.

Preference Rubrics degrade significantly when expertise labels are randomly flipped, indicating robustness. We assess the robustness of our extracted rubrics by randomly flipping expertise labels and extracting out the preference rubrics using GPA. Figure 5 highlights the impact of random

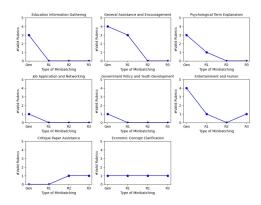


Figure 5: Illustrates how random shuffling of expertise labels impacts rubric generation. It reveals that, for most intents, shuffling results in the extraction of predominantly invalid rubric items, ultimately reducing the overall quality and number of valid rubric extractions.

shuffling of expertise labels on rubric generation across various intents, where the validity of generated rubrics is determined by a self-correcting evaluation prompt from GPA. The results demonstrate that valid rubric generation is most successful under the original generation strategy (Gen) with correctly aligned expertise labels. However, as expertise labels are randomly shuffled (R1, R2, R3), the number of valid rubrics decreases significantly, often to zero, which confirm the robustness of our extracted rubrics.

7 Related Work

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Customization of user interactions to better serve both individual and group preferences has a long history of research in a range of fields that leverage language technology. These include recommender systems (Cho et al., 2002; Zhou et al., 2012), search and information retrieval (Teevan et al., 2005; Tabrizi et al., 2018), education (McHugh et al., 2020; Domenichini et al., 2024), and healthcare (Wang et al., 2020; Li et al., 2024d).

Meanwhile. LLMs are trained in a one-size-fits-all paradigm (Lucy et al., 2024) where large-scale ratings from auxiliary human annotators or LLMs in a paired preference setup is used to teach models to generate preferred This can make them difficult to responses. customize. Nevertheless, recent work (Zeng et al., 2023; Sorensen et al., 2024) has begun to advocate for the need for LLMs to serve more diverse preferences through pluralistic alignment. Much of the work in LLM customization has focused on personalizing systems to the individual (Kirk et al., 2024; Salemi et al., 2024b). These have used a variety of different approaches, including retrieval-augmented generation (Salemi et al., 2024a), memory (Zhang et al., 2023), parameter-efficient fine-tuning (Tan et al., 2024), and reinforcement learning (Poddar et al., 2024). Personalized LLM systems have also been applied to diverse applications, such as contextual query suggestion (Baek et al., 2024) and document creation (Mondal et al., 2024).

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Recently some attempts have been made at modeling a large number of individual characteristics at scale, such as with a thousand preferences (Lee et al., 2025) or a million personas (Ge et al., 2024). However, the focus on modeling group preferences has been limited to a few recent research efforts (Feng et al., 2024; Zhao et al., 2023; Ramesh et al., 2024). Crucially, none of these methods leverage real-world conversational data at scale to *learn* these group preferences. While some recent work has begun to incorporate feedback from insitu user-AI interactions in order to improve models (Shi et al., 2024; Li et al., 2024c), their focus has been different from modeling group preferences. Thus, to the best of our knowledge, our paper is the first attempt at using large-scale satisfaction signals from human-AI conversation logs to customize LLM responses with group preference alignment (More in Appendix A).

8 Conclusion

In this work we address a critical gap in groupaware personalization of LLMs by developing our Group Preference Alignment (GPA) framework. This framework identifies and incorporates diverse conversational preferences of distinct user groups via a two-step process of Group-Aware Preference Extraction and Tailored Response Generation. Our experiments demonstrate that GPA significantly enhances the alignment of LLM outputs with group-specific preferences. GPA outperforms baseline methods with respect to preferences while maintaining robust performance on the standard information-following benchmarks. This work paves the way for developing more personalized and contextually aware LLMs using in-situ interactions using interpretable rubrics, which will ultimately improve user satisfaction and engagement. Due to increased transparency, this approach can be scaled up in legal/healthcare and other such high-stake domains.

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612 Limitations

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- 613 While Group Preference Alignment (GPA) frame-614 work significantly improves user-group-specific re-615 sponse alignment, it has a few limitations:
- a) Dependence on Predefined User Groups: The
 effectiveness of GPA relies on the availability of
 well-defined user groups with sufficient interaction
 data. In cases where user preferences are highly
 individualized or overlap across groups, extracting
 meaningful rubrics becomes challenging.
- b) Scalability of Rubric Extraction: The framework extracts group-specific rubrics from conversation logs, which can be computationally expensive for large datasets. Additionally, the process
 assumes that conversational preferences remain stable within each group, which may not always be
 the case.
 - c) Contextual Drift Over Time: User preferences evolve, especially in dynamic domains like technology and education. The extracted rubrics may become outdated, requiring periodic updates to maintain alignment with current user expectations.
- d) Applicability Across Domains: While GPA
 is tested on education, programming, and writing
 domains, its generalization to other highly specialized fields (e.g., legal or medical domains) remains
 unexplored. Future work should assess its adaptability to such contexts.

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A Additional Related Work

In this paper, we use LLMs as evaluators to mea-1142 sure the quality of system generations. Despite 1143 prior work pointing to some pitfalls with this ap-1144 proach, such as bias (Koo et al., 2023) and prefer-1145 ential scoring (Liu et al., 2023), using LLMs with 1146 judicious prompting for evaluation of language and 1147 information systems has become common prac-1148 tice (Zheng et al., 2023; Koutcheme et al., 2024). 1149 Recent efforts have applied the LLM-as-a-judge 1150 paradigm to evaluating a variety of applications 1151 such as translation (Kocmi and Federmann, 2023) 1152 and summarization (Jain et al., 2023); notably these 1153 also include personalization (Dong et al., 2024). 1154

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B Algorithm Pseudocode

This appendix summarizes the pseudocode for GPA-CT and GPA-FT methods. Algorithm 1 depicts the procedure for extracting the group-aware preference rubric which is used in both methods. Inference for GPA-CT is next summarized in Algorithm 2. For GPA-FT, we next describe the training procedure in Algorithm 3, and the pseudocode for generating the augmentented training examples for finetuning using the rubric is shown in Algorithm 4. Finally, Algorithm 5 applies the fine tuned models for GPA-FT inference. We simply need to look up the appropriate group-aware model to use for generation.

C Intent Creation

The process of creating sub-intents within a domain from user conversations involves an iterative clustering approach. This method refines the set of intents through successive iterations, ensuring that each domain's sub-intents are optimally defined based on the conversation data.

Let $C = \{C_1, C_2, \ldots, C_n\}$ represent the entire conversation history, where each C_j is an individual conversation. First, we prompt each conversation C_j to identify its intent. Let I_j denote the intent of conversation C_j . The intent extraction function can be represented as: $I_j = \text{Intent}(C_j)$. This step generates a set of intents $I = \{I_1, I_2, \ldots, I_n\}$ corresponding to each conversation in the pool. Next, the entire conversation pool C is divided into m mini-batches B_1, B_2, \ldots, B_m , where each mini-batch B_k contains a subset of conversations: $B_k = \{C_{k1}, C_{k2}, \ldots, C_{kl}\}$ for k = $1, 2, \ldots, m$. For each mini-batch B_k , we use the intents $I_{k1}, I_{k2}, \ldots, I_{kl}$ associated with the

Model	Novice	Expert
GPA-CT vs Base	84.3 / 15.6	65.77 / 34.22
GPA-CT vs Persona	73.4 / 26.5	61.74 / 38.25
GPA-CT vs Static	76.5 / 23.4	55.03 / 44.91
GPA-FT vs Base	64.51 / 35.48	54.12 / 45.88
GPA-FT vs Persona	51.62 / 48.38	63.54 / 36.45
GPA-FT vs Static	45.12 / 54.83	58.86 / 41.13
GPA-FT vs GPA-CT	44.22 / 55.78	56.16 / 43.84

Table 4: Results for Wildchat with LLama. LLM expected confidence (EC) [LLM conf \geq 75] W/L/T=win/lose/tie

Algorithm 1	Grou	p-Aware	Preference	Extraction
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```
Require: Conversation set C; User groups \mathcal{G} and \mathcal{G}'; Intent labels \mathcal{I}
Require: Likert scale threshold \ell; Minibatch size m
Ensure: Rubric \mathcal{R}
  1: Step 1: Preference Judgement and Explanation Extraction
  2: \mathcal{E}_{+} = []; \mathcal{E}_{-} = []
  3: for each conversation C_i \in \mathbf{C} with t_i turns do
  4:
                  for j = [1..t_i] do
  5:
                          S_j = [U_1, A_1, \dots, U_j]_{C_i}
  6:
                           # If t_i contains judgment, extract pref expectation
  7:
                           if \mathcal{J}(S_j) == +1 then
  8:
                                    \mathcal{E}_{+} = \mathcal{E}_{+} \cup \{ \text{LLM.InferUserExpectation} (S_{j}, \mathcal{J}(S_{j})) \}
                           if \mathcal{J}(S_j) == -1 then
  9:
10:
                                    \mathcal{E}_{-} = \mathcal{E}_{-} \cup \{ \text{LLM.InferUserExpectation} (S_{i}, \mathcal{J}(S_{i})) \}
11: # Group prefs \mathcal{E}_+ and \mathcal{E}_- by intent I_k for each group
12: \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{G},\mathcal{I}_k} = \{\mathcal{E}_+ \mid C_i \in \mathcal{G}, C_i \text{ matches } \mathcal{I}_k\} \cup \{\mathcal{E}_- \mid C_i \in \mathcal{G}, C_i \text{ matches } \mathcal{I}_k\}

13: \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{G}',\mathcal{I}_k} = \{\mathcal{E}_+ \mid C_i \in \mathcal{G}', C_i \text{ matches } \mathcal{I}_k\} \cup \{\mathcal{E}_- \mid C_i \in \mathcal{G}', C_i \text{ matches } \mathcal{I}_k\}

14: Step 2: Aspect-Based Rubric Construction
15: # Initialize an empty list of rubric items
16: \mathcal{R} = []
17: for each intent \mathcal{I}_k \in \mathcal{I} do
                   # Uniformly partition each explanation set into minibatches
18:
                   \begin{split} \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{G},\mathcal{I}_k} &= \{ \mathcal{\check{E}}_{\mathcal{G},\mathcal{I}_k}^{\mathbf{1}^1}, \dots, \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{G},\mathcal{I}_k}^{n_1} \} \text{ s.t. } \forall a \; |\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{G},\mathcal{I}_k}^a| = m \\ \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{G}',\mathcal{I}_k} &= \{ \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{G}',\mathcal{I}_k}^{\mathbf{1}^1}, \dots, \mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{G}',\mathcal{I}_k}^{n_2} \} \text{ s.t. } \forall b \; |\mathcal{E}_{\mathcal{G}',\mathcal{I}_k}^b| = m \end{split} 
19:
20:
21:
                   \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{I}_k} = []; r_{\mathcal{I}_k} = \{\}
22:
                  for each pair of minibatches (\mathcal{E}^{a}_{\mathcal{G},\mathcal{I}_{k}},\mathcal{E}^{b}_{\mathcal{G}',\mathcal{I}_{k}}) do
23:
                            # Extract/update divergent aspects \mathcal{A}
24:
                            # Score group divergence on Likert scale r
25:
                            [\mathcal{A}_{ab}, r_{ab}] = \text{LLM.ExtractAspectsAndLikert} \left( \mathcal{E}^{a}_{\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{I}_{k}}, \mathcal{E}^{b}_{\mathcal{G}', \mathcal{I}_{k}}, \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{I}_{k}} \right)
26:
                            \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{I}_k} = \mathcal{A}_{ab}; r_{\mathcal{I}_k}[\mathcal{A}_{ab}] = r_{ab}
27:
                   \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{I}_k} = []
                   for each aspect \mathcal{A}_k \in \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{I}_k} do
28:
                            \begin{array}{l} \text{if } r_{\mathcal{I}_k}[\mathcal{A}_k] > \ell \text{ then } \\ \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{I}_k} \leftarrow \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{I}_k} \cup \{\mathcal{A}_k\} \end{array} 
29:
30:
31:
                   \mathcal{R} \leftarrow \mathcal{R} \cup \{\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{I}_h}\}
32: return \mathcal{R}
```

Algorithm 2 GPA-CT: Inference

Require: Partial conversation $S_i = [U_1, A_1, \dots, U_j]$ up to j^{th} user utterance **Require:** Rubric \mathcal{R} **Ensure:** LLM answer A_j 1: **Step 1: Classify user group and intent** 2: $\mathcal{I}_i = \text{Intent}(S_i)$ 3: $\mathcal{G}_i = \text{Group}(S_i)$ 4: **Step 2: Retrieve Rubric and Augment Prompt** 5: $\mathcal{R}_i = \mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{I}_i}$ 6: $A_j = \text{LLM.ModifyPrompt}(S_i, \mathcal{G}_i, \mathcal{R}_i)$ 7: **return** A_j

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conversations in that mini-batch to perform in- tent clustering. Let C_k represent the set of

Algorithm 3 GPA-FT Training

Require: Training conversation set C **Require:** \mathcal{J} are the user's preference judgements for the AI turn-level responses A **Require:** Rubric \mathcal{R} **Require:** *Model*_{Base} is the base LLM model **Ensure:** $Model_{FT}$ is fine-tuned model dictionary per group 1: Step 1: Generate Synthetic Data 2: for each group $\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{G}'$ do 3: $T_{aug,\mathcal{G}} = []$ 4: for each conversation $C_i \in \mathbf{C}$ do 5: $\mathcal{I}_i = \text{Intent}(C_i)$ 6: $\mathcal{G}_i = \operatorname{Group}(C_i)$ 7: $T_{aug,\mathcal{G}_i} = T_{aug,\mathcal{G}_i} \cup \{C_i\}$ 8: for $j = [1..t_i]$ do 9: $S_j = [U_1, A_1, \dots, U_j]_{C_i}$ 10: $S_{j,aug}$ = RubricGuidedDataGeneration $(S_j, \mathcal{I}_i, \mathcal{G}_i, \mathcal{R}[\mathcal{I}_i])$ $T_{aug,\mathcal{G}_i} = T_{aug,\mathcal{G}_i} \cup \{S_{j,aug}\}$ 11: 12: Step 2: FineTune LLM for each group 13: $Model_{FT} = \{\}$ 14: for each group $\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{G}'$ do $Model_{FT}[\mathcal{G}_i] = FineTuneLlm(Model_{Base}, T_{aug,\mathcal{G}_i}, \mathcal{J})$ 15:

Algorithm 4 Rubric-Guided Data Generation

Require: Training example $T = [S_i, A_j, \mathcal{J}(S_i)]$, where $S_i = [U_1, A_1, \dots, U_j]$ is a conversation up to j^{th} user utterance, A_j is the AI response, and $\mathcal{J}(S_i)$ is the user's preference judgement for A_j

Require: Intent \mathcal{I}_i , Group \mathcal{G}_i , Rubric $\mathcal{R}_{\mathcal{I}_i}$

Ensure: Augmented training data T_{aug}

- 1: # Generate Augmented Training Example with Rubric
- 2: if $\mathcal{J}(S_i) == +1$ then
- 3: # Output is preferred by user, modify to include dispreferred group aspects
- 4: $A_{aug} = \text{LLM.ModifyPrompt}(S_i, \mathcal{G}', \mathcal{R}_i)$

5: $T_{aug} = [S_i, A_{aug}, -1]$

6: if $\mathcal{J}(S_i) = -1$ then

- 7: # Output is dispreferred by user, modify to include preferred group aspects
- 8: $A_{aug} = \text{LLM.ModifyPrompt}(S_i, \mathcal{G}_i, \mathcal{R}_i)$
- 9: $T_{aug} = [S_i, A_{aug}, +1]$

10: return T_{aug}

Algorithm 5 GPA-FT: Inference

Require: Partial conversation $S_i = [U_1, A_1, \dots, U_j]$ up to j^{th} user utterance **Require:** Per-group, fine-tuned model dictionary $Model_{FT}$ **Ensure:** LLM answer A_j 1: **Step 1: Classify user group** 2: $\mathcal{G}_i = \text{Group}(S_i)$ 3: **Step 2: Retrieve Group-Aware Model and generate response** 4: $Model_{FT} = Model_{FT}[\mathcal{G}_i]$ 5: $A_j = Model_{FT,\mathcal{D}_i}(S_i)$

6: return A_j

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 $C_k = \text{Cluster}(\{I_{k1}, I_{k2}, \dots, I_{kl}\})$. After processing each mini-batch B_k , the intent clusters C_k are updated to refine clustering based on the new batch of data. The update can be represented as: $C_{k+1} = \text{Update}(C_k)$. This process continues iteratively as each mini-batch is processed. Once all mini-batches have been processed, the final set of intent clusters, C_{final} , is obtained. This set represents the most prominent clusters of intents after all conversations have been analyzed. Here, C_{final}

clusters of intents formed within mini-batch B_k :

is the final set of intent clusters that are most significant across the entire conversation history. This mathematical framework outlines the process of extracting, clustering, and refining intents from a pool of conversations. By dividing the data into mini-batches and iteratively updating the clusters, we can identify the most prominent intents that reflect the dominant themes within the conversation history. 1203

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D Prompts

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The GPA-CT and GPA-FT methods use a number of 1213 LLM prompts which we describe in this appendix. 1214 User expectation is inferred for both satisfaction 1215 and dissatisfaction. The prompt for inferring user 1216 expectation for satisfaction in line 8 of Algorithm 1 1217 1218 can be found in the prompt in Figure 11 titled LLM.InferUserExpectation (During SAT). Simi-1219 larly, inferring the user expection in line 10 of Al-1220 gorithm 1 under the dissatisfaction condition can 1221 be accomplished using the following prompt the 1222 prompt titled LLM.InferUserExpectation (During 1223 DSAT). The Likert Rating is computed using the 1224 LLM.ComputeLikertRating prompt in Figure 13. 1225 The ModifyPrompt in Figure 14 is used to gen-1226 erate a response from the LLM. This prompt is 1227 used for GPA-CT inference in Algorithm 2 and 1228 Rubric-Guided Data Generation in Algorithm 4. 1229 The *Persona* results are generated with the *Per-*1230 sonaEvaluation prompt presented in Table 17 and 1231 Table 18. The win-lose-tie rates for the results 1232 presented in Section 5 is shown in the prompt 1233 titled PersonaEvaluationWinRate in Figure 18. 1234 Figure 16 provides the Individual DSAT Eval-1235 uation Prompt. Finally, labelling a user's ex-1236 pertise in a conversation is accomplished using the LLM.ExpertiseLabellingPrompt prompt in Fig-1238 ure 15. 1239

E Expert and Novice Preferences

Preference examples for experts and novices for the Education and Programming domains can be found in Figure 6.

F GPA Results for Gemma

Many of the results presented in Section omputed by finetuning LLaMA. In Table 19, we report GPA-CT and GPA-FT results for the Gemma model. The results demonstrate that both the GPA-CT and GPA-FT methods perform well when Gemma is used as the base model.

G Generated Conversational Examples

1252To provide additional insights to the reader, we1253report example generated conversations from Ed-1254ucation Domain for the Novice group. Conversa-1255tional examples from the Base, Persona, Static, and1256GPA-CT models are presented, in addition to the1257original conversation. Furthermore, we provide the1258reasons and scores returned by the GPT40 judge.

Original

User: Hi Bing! What is shared-living?

Agent: Hello, this is Bing. Shared-living is a term that describes living with others in a way that benefits one's health, social life, and environment. Some examples of shared-living are **cohousing communities**, where people share common spaces and facilities, and **student houses**, where students live together and share expenses. According to some sources^{[1][2][3]}, shared-living can offer advantages such as lower costs, more social support, and better preservation of historic buildings. 1259

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User: Thanks Bing

Agent: You're welcome. Is there anything else I can help you with?

User: What is the meaning of major and minor in the context of American education? **Agent:** In the context of American education, a **major** is the main field of study that a student chooses to pursue during their bachelor's degree, while a **minor** is a secondary or complementary field of study that requires fewer courses^{[1][4]}. For example, a student can major in engineering and minor in economics. The terms major and minor reflect the increasing specialization and diversity of the undergraduate curriculum in American higher education^[5]. (Labelled as SAT)

User: Thanks Bing! Agent: You're welcome. Have a great day!

Base

You're welcome! In American education, **major** and **minor** refer to areas of study within a college or university degree program.

- **Major:** This is your primary field of study. You'll take the majority of your courses in this subject, and it's what you'll officially graduate with a degree in (e.g., a Bachelor of Arts in History).
- Minor: This is a secondary area of study that you choose to complement your major. You'll
 take fewer courses in a minor compared to your major, but it allows you to explore another subject of interest and gain a broader
 skill set (e.g., a History major with a minor in Political Science).

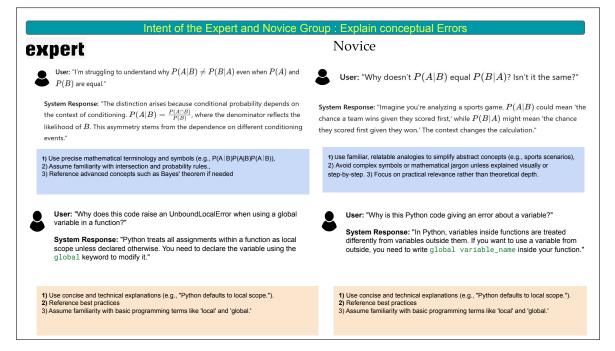


Figure 6: Comparison of expert and novice preferences across the *education and programming domains* for the intent of explaining conceptual errors. The extracted rubrics dynamically adapt based on expertise level and domain, demonstrating the effectiveness of preference extraction in context-specific learning scenarios, when novices might have similar expectations but expectations of experts vary.

1308Choosing a major and minor can help you focus1309your academic path, explore your interests, and1310prepare for your future career. Let me know if you1311have any other questions!

1312 Persona

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Hey there! "Major" and "minor" in American education refer to the subjects you focus on during your college years. Think of it like this:

- **Major:** This is your main area of study. It's what you'll spend most of your time learning about and what will ultimately be listed on your diploma. For example, if you major in Computer Science, you'll take lots of classes about programming, algorithms, and software development.
- Minor: This is a secondary area of study that you choose in addition to your major. It's a way to explore another subject you're interested in and gain some extra knowledge. So, if you major in Computer Science, you could minor in something like Mathematics or Art History.
- 1330Choosing a major and minor helps you specialize1331in a field you're passionate about and build a well-

rounded education. Hope that clears things up! Let me know if you have any other questions.

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Static

Hey there! "Major" and "minor" are like specializations you choose when you're in college. Think of it like this: you're building a house.

- **Major:** This is the main part of the house, like the bedrooms, living room, and kitchen. It's the biggest part and what you'll spend most of your time studying. It's what you want to become an expert in, like computer science, history, or biology.
- **Minor:** This is like a smaller room, like a study or a sunroom. It's something you're interested in, but not as much as your major. It could be something related to your major, like math for a computer science major, or something completely different, like music.

So, you pick a major to focus on, and you can choose a minor to explore something else you like!

СТ

In American education, "major" and "minor" describe your areas of focus during college. Think of 1354 1355your major as your primary area of study. You'll1356take the majority of your classes in this subject and1357earn your degree in it (like a Bachelor of Arts in1358English or a Bachelor of Science in Computer Sci-1359ence).

A **minor** is a smaller area of study that you choose to complement your major. You'll take fewer classes in this subject, but it demonstrates knowledge in a different field. It can make your resume stand out to potential employers or broaden your overall education.

For example, if you're majoring in History, you might minor in Political Science.

CT vs Base

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"Reason": "The user is a novice in the education 1369 domain, and the conversation history indicates they 1370 are seeking clear and straightforward explanations. 1371 Both options provide a definition of major and mi-1372 nor in the context of American education, but Option A is more concise and uses simpler language, 1374 which is more suitable for a novice. Option A 1375 also provides examples that are easy to understand. 1376 This approach aligns with the user's need for a basic understanding without overwhelming them 1378 with too much detail. Option B, while also clear, 1379 uses slightly more complex language and structure, 1380 1381 which might be less accessible to a novice. Therefore, Option A is preferred for its simplicity and 1382 clarity.", "Output": "Option A", "Confidence": 75 1383

CT vs Persona

"Reason": "The user is a novice in the education domain, and the response should be clear and informative. Option A provides a straightforward explanation of what a major and minor are, with examples that illustrate the concept. It explains the primary and secondary focus of study and how they complement each other. Option B, while also informative, includes more examples and additional benefits of having a major and minor, which might be slightly more detailed than necessary for a novice. However, both options are suitable, but Option A is more concise and directly addresses the user's question without additional information that might overwhelm a novice.", "Output": "Option A", "Confidence": 75.

1400 CT vs Static

"Reason": "The user is a novice in the education domain, as indicated by the task instruction. Option

A provides a straightforward and concise explana-1403 tion of the terms 'major' and 'minor' in American 1404 education, which is suitable for someone new to 1405 the field. It clearly defines both terms and pro-1406 vides simple examples to illustrate the concepts. 1407 Option B, while also informative, is more detailed 1408 and includes additional information that might be 1409 overwhelming for a novice. It also uses more tech-1410 nical language and provides an example that might 1411 be more suited for someone with a bit more back-1412 ground knowledge. Given the user's novice status, 1413 Option A is more appropriate as it is easier to un-1414 derstand and directly addresses the user's likely 1415 level of knowledge.", "Output": "Option A", "Con-1416 fidence": 75. 1417

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H Additional Results

Both GPA-FT and GPA-CT can generate more satisfactory responses than the original DSAT responses. We compare each of the model responses with the actual DSAT responses from Experts and Novice Samples and prompt GPT4-o to decide which of the response would increase satisfaction level given the conversation history and the followup dissatisfactory user feedback. Next, we observe whether our methods are chosen over the true dissatisfactory responses and we show results in Table 21. We found that compared to baselines, GPA-FT and GPA-CT provides higher winrates.

In Figure 7, we plot how the training set size used to compute the rubric for GPA-CT affects the WinRate (WR).

DPO with preference data is the optimal choice 1434 for GPA-FT. Table 20 clearly shows that DPO 1435 consistently achieves the highest win rates, making 1436 it the best choice for the GPA-FT approach. DPO 1437 vs. Base achieves a 73.36% Win Rate, significantly 1438 outperforming other methods, demonstrating that 1439 DPO leads to stronger preference alignment com-1440 pared to the base model. Additionally, DPO vs. 1441 KTO-Only (70.61% WR) and DPO vs. KTO-1442 Augmented (61.46% WR) indicate that DPO still 1443 maintains a strong advantage over KTO-based ap-1444 proaches, reinforcing its robustness in fine-tuning. 1445 Rubric augmentation using KTO does help, as 1446 KTO-Augmented vs. Base achieves a 67.63% Win 1447 Rate, showing an improvement over KTO vs. Base 1448 (53.41%). However, KTO-based models still fall 1449 short of DPO's performance, especially when com-1450 paring DPO vs. KTO-Augmented, where DPO 1451 wins 61.46% of the time. This suggests that while 1452

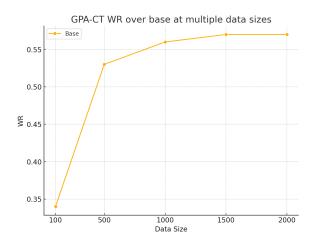


Figure 7: Learning Curve to Show that GPA-CT is a data-efficient algorithm. We vary the training data size (100, 500, 1000, 1500, 2000 samples) for extracting our preference rubrics across the Expert and Novice Groups on Wildhat Programming Domain and observe the Win-Rate over the base model on a held-out test set using Prompt 17. We observe the performance becomes stable using only 1000 examples for rubric creation, making it a data-efficient customization approach.

rubric augmentation improves alignment, it is not as effective as preference optimization through DPO. Thus, DPO is the optimal choice for GPA-FT.

I Note on Generalizability

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GPA is generalizable across domain and usergroups. Results in Table 7 and Table 8 provide insights into GPA-CT's generalization across different cultural and expertise-based user groups, evaluated at varying EC (confidence) thresholds (65, 70, 75). The results compare GPA-CT against Base, Persona, and Static setups in two domains: India vs. US (Cultural Evaluation) and Education (Novice vs. Expert Evaluation).

1. Cultural Generalization (India vs. US) Consistent Gains Over Base: GPA-CT consistently outperforms the Base model across EC thresholds, with a win rate increasing from 60.57% (EC=65) to 63.52% (EC=75), showing stable adaptation across cultural contexts. Stronger Performance Against Persona Static: The win rate vs. Persona remains stable (65%), while GPA-CT shows stronger gains vs. Static at EC=70 (72.22%), indicating that contextual fine-tuning provides advantages over rigid static responses. Higher EC Improves Differentiation: The lose rate decreases slightly at EC=75, suggesting that higher confidence filtering leads to better generalization. 2. Expertise Generalization (Novice vs. Expert in Education Domain) Performance Is More Balanced: 1481 Compared to cultural evaluation, win rates in the 1482 education domain are more balanced across exper-1483 tise groups, suggesting that novices and experts 1484 respond similarly to GPA-CT's responses. Slight 1485 Gains Over Persona: GPA-CT vs. Persona win rate 1486 remains around 51-52%, indicating Persona-based 1487 fine-tuning is already well-aligned with education-1488 based responses. Better Adaptation Over Static: 1489 GPA-CT outperforms Static consistently (55.19% 1490 win rate at EC=65 and 54.90% at EC=75), rein-1491 forcing the advantage of dynamic context-aware 1492 models over fixed prompts. 1493

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GPA-CT generalizes well across cultural differences (India vs. US), maintaining a consistent win rate across EC thresholds. Higher EC filtering enhances performance differentiation, particularly in cultural evaluations. Performance in the education domain is more balanced across expertise levels, with smaller gains over Persona but consistent advantages over Static. EC thresholds affect generalization differently—higher EC benefits cultural evaluations more than expertise-based evaluations.

User Groups	Intent	Rubric Item	Description
US vs China	Writing Assistance	Personal Connection and Passion	Western users seek vivid, personal en- gagement, while Eastern users prefer clear and concise communication, em- phasizing empathy and understanding.
		Historical and Anecdotal Content	Western users favor detailed historical accounts with personal anecdotes, while Eastern users prefer straightforward sum- maries with clear information.
		Perspective and Tone	Western users prefer second-person per- spective, addressing the audience di- rectly, while Eastern users expect the bot to acknowledge and appreciate their con- tributions.
		Refinement in Narrative Style	Western users prefer advanced vocabu- lary and polished narrative styles, while Eastern users value clarity, conciseness, and brevity.
US vs China	Creative Content Creation	Story Continuation	US users prefer detailed and struc- tured script outlines, while Eastern users expect more imaginative and action- packed continuations.
		Role-Playing Engagement	US users may expect the assistant to ask for specifications, while Eastern users expect immediate role-play engagement.
		Humour and Creative Titles	Both groups enjoy humorous and cre- ative titles, but Eastern users emphasize playful and whimsical text more.
		Cultural Resonance and Poetic Elements	Both groups value cultural resonance, but Eastern users place more emphasis on poetic elements.
US vs India	Writing Assistance	Acknowledgment and Appreciation	Indian users expect explicit appreciation and acknowledgment of their contribu- tions, while US users do not emphasize this as much.
		Personal Connection and Passion	US users prefer vivid engagement with emotions and enthusiasm, while Indian users prioritize shared goals and inclu- sive language.
		Engaging and Descriptive Style	US users prefer engaging and descriptive styles with coherence, while Indian users focus on vivid and friendly tones.
US vs India	Creative Content Creation	Story Continuation	US users prefer structured and detailed script outlines, while Indian users expect more imaginative and action-packed sto- ries.
		Bedtime Story Personalization	US users expect generic stories, while Indian users prefer more personalized and interactive bedtime storytelling.

Table 5: Rubric Items Differentiating the Preferences Across User Groups (Separated by Country/Cultural Context) in the domain of Creative Writing and Editing where Likert Scale rating is greater than 3.

User Groups	Intent	Rubric Item	Description
US vs China	Information Seeking	Grammatical Explanation	Both user groups expect clear and accurate explanations of grammatical correctness. There is no observed difference in their expectations regarding this aspect
		Clarification of Translations	Both groups expect clear and accurate clar- ifications regarding translations of book ti- tles. There is no observed difference in their expectations for this aspect."
		List of Frequently Quoted Sentences	Both groups expect well-organized and rel- evant lists of frequently quoted sentences from books. There is no observed differ- ence in their expectations for this aspect.
		Explanation of Setting and Plot	Both groups expect clear explanations of how the setting enhances the plot, but West- ern users may prefer more straightforward and concise answers. This results in a mi- nor difference in expectations.

Table 6: Rubric Items Differentiating the Preferences Across User Groups (Separated by Country/Cultural Context) in the domain of Creative Writing and Editing where Likert Scale rating is less than 3, signifying no major difference in expectations/preferences when their intent is to seek information in the domain of Creative Writing and Assistance.

Model	EC = 65	EC = 70	EC = 75
	Llama-Indi	a and US	
GPA-CT vs Base	0.6057 / 0.3942	0.6038 / 0.3961	0.6352 / 0.3647
GPA-CT vs Persona	0.6490 / 0.3509	0.6473 / 0.3526	0.6666 / 0.3333
GPA-CT vs Static	0.6473 / 0.3526	0.7222 / 0.2661	0.6666 / 0.3333

Table 7: Performance comparison of GPA-CT models prompt-tuned with India and US Persona at different EC levels

Model	EC = 65	EC = 70	EC = 75			
Education Domain						
GPA-CT vs Base	0.5259 / 0.4740	0.5259 / 0.4740	0.5229 / 0.4771			
GPA-CT vs Persona	0.5140/0.5259	0.5140/0.5259	0.5271/0.5229			
GPA-CT vs Static	0.5519 / 0.4481	0.5519 / 0.4481	0.5490 / 0.4599			

Table 8: Performance comparison of models in the Education Domain at different EC thresholds.

LLM.StaticPrompting

[1] Overview

Tell me the expectations of a persona in a domain from the chatbot. Answer in a few sentences.

Table 9: Static

LLM.PersonaRole-Playing

[1] # OVERVIEW

You will be given a conversation between a User and an AI agent. Your task is to generate response that would tailor to a persona in the domain domain.

Table 10: Persona-Role Playing Response Generation

LLM.InferUserExpectation (During SAT)

[1] # OVERVIEW

You will be given a conversation between a User and an AI agent. Your task is to assess the reasons of user's happiness based on the conversation history and the bot response.

TASK:

Classify the user's intent from the conversation conversation history. Also determine what the user expects from the bot and why the user finds the bot's response user remarks useful. Determine based on whatever the user remarks after the bot's response user remarks.

ANSWER FORMAT

Format your output as JSON Object where the keys are user-intent, user-expectation-from-bot and reasons-for-happiness. Do not output anything else except this.

Table 11: LLM.InferUserExpectation (During SAT)

LLM.InferUserExpectation (During DSAT)

[1] # OVERVIEW

You will be given a conversation between a User and an AI agent. Your task is to assess the reasons of user's frustration based on the conversation history and the bot response.

TASK:

Classify the user's intent from the conversation conversation history. Also determine what the user expects from the bot and why the user finds the bot's response user remarks frustrating. Determine based on whatever the user remarks after the bot's response user remarks.

ANSWER FORMAT

Format your output as JSON Object where the keys are user-intent, user-expectation-from-bot and reasons-for-frustration. Do not output anything else except this.

Table 12: LLM.InferUserExpectation (During DSAT)

LLM.ComputeLikertRating

[1] # OVERVIEW

Task Overview:

You have to compare expectations of two user groups based on some aspects in {domain-name}, and provide ratings of 1-5 depending on how much different are their expectations from the bot while interaction. You have to update the comparison output based on what was observed previously {previous-observations} and the current observed differences in expectations between group 1 and group 2 described below. Make sure that if there is no observed datapoints for an aspect in either expert or novice category, provide the least rating in that case.

Primary Intent

Intent : {intent-cluster-of-the-user}

Expectations of Group 1

{expectation-of-group 1}

Expectations of Group 2

{expectation-of-group 2}

Annotation Guidelines on a scale of 1-5

1: It indicates there is no observed difference between the expectation of two groups on this aspect,

2: It indicates there is a minor difference between the expectation of two groups on this aspect,

3 : It indicates moderate difference between the expectation of two groups on this aspect,

4 : It indicates remarkable difference between the expectation of two groups on this aspect,

5 : It indicates undoubetedly stark difference between the expectation of two groups on this aspect. # Output Format

Format your output as JSON where keys are aspects and values are 1) ratings from 1-5 and 2) Interpretation of the rating in 2-3 sentences.

Table 13: LLM.ComputeLikertRating

LLM.ModifyPrompt

[1] # OVERVIEW

Task

You will be provided with a conversation between a user and bot. Based on the conversation history, you have to generate a suitable response. Make sure that you follow some rules while generating the response.

Conversation History {conversation-history}

User Input

{user-input}

Some Rules to Follow

{reminder}

Output Format

Format your output as a JSON Object with response as key. Do not output anything else except this JSON.

Table 14: LLM.ModifyPrompt

LLM.ExpertiseLabelling

[1] # OVERVIEW

OVERVIEW

You will be given a conversation history between a User and an AI agent. Your task is to determine user's expertise in the subject of the conversation.

USER EXPERTISE

User expertise levels in a conversation subject range from novice, indicating a lack of familiarity with fundamental concepts, to expert or master, denoting a deep understanding of relevant vocabulary, concepts, and principles.

- Novice: A subject novice is a person who has little or no familiarity with a specific topic or domain. A subject novice may ask questions that are vague, general, irrelevant, or based on incorrect assumptions. A subject novice may also have difficulty understanding the terminology, concepts, or arguments of experts or more knowledgeable people in the subject. They may ask basic or general questions that can be answered by simple definitions, examples, or facts. They may not be aware of the sources, methods, concepts, or terminology that are relevant to the subject.

Intermediate: A subject intermediate is someone who has some basic knowledge or familiarity with a certain topic, but not enough to be considered an expert or a novice. A subject intermediate can ask general questions that reflect their curiosity or interest in the topic, but not very specific or complex ones that require deeper understanding or analysis. A subject intermediate might have learned some terms or concepts related to the topic, but not how to apply them in different contexts or situations.
Expert: A subject expert is someone who can apply relevant concepts and terminology to different scenarios and problems. They can analyze and interpret data, compare and contrast different methods or approaches, and justify their reasoning with evidence. The user also demonstrates curiosity and interest in the subject by asking questions that go beyond the surface level and explore the deeper implications and connections of the topic. He has a deep and comprehensive understanding of a specific topic or field, and can use specialized terms and references to communicate their knowledge. A subject expert can state accurate facts, provide relevant examples, and cite authoritative sources related to their topic or field.

- Unknown: There is not enough information to determine the user's expertise.

OUTPUT FORMAT

Format your output as JSON Object with key as Expertise-label and values as either Novice, Intermediate, Expert or Unknown.

INPUT

Conversation History ## OUTPUT ##

Table 15: Prompt to Classify Expertise Labels

LLM.IndividualDSATE valuation

[1] # OVERVIEW

Task

In the conversation context between user and assistant: {conversation_history}, based on user utterance : {user_utterance}, when the bot responds : {bot_response}, the user felt {label}, then he provides a feedback by commenting {feedback_comment}.

You have to compare Option A and Option B and judge which response is very different from reference bot response {bot_response}, such that the user will not provide a followup comment {feedback_comment}.

Option A

{optionA}

Option B

{optionB}

Output Format

Format your output as a JSON Object with keys as Option and reasoning. Output either Option A or Option B or can't decide. You should not output anything except the JSON. Do not judge based on user expertise. Judge only based on which response is very different from reference bot response {bot_response}.

Table 16: Individual DSAT Evaluation

LLM.PersonaEvaluationwithEC

[1] OVERVIEW

Task

Imagine yourself as a persona in the domain domain. Based on your persona and the conversation history, you have to judge which response would you prefer among Option A and Option B along with the step-by-step reasoning.

Additionally, assess your confidence in this decision by assigning a certainty level from 1 to 100. Use the following guidelines to assign the certainty level:

1–20 (Uncertain): The user profile provides insufficient or minimal evidence. The decision is largely based on weak or indirect hints.

21–40 (Moderately Confident): There is noticeable evidence supporting a preference, though it is not comprehensive, and other interpretations are possible. 41–60 (Quite Confident): You find clear and convincing evidence that supports your prediction, though it is not entirely decisive.

61–80 (Confident): The user profile contains strong evidence that clearly supports your prediction, with very little ambiguity.

81–100 (Highly Confident): The user profile provides direct and explicit evidence that decisively supports your prediction

Conversation History
{conversation_{history}}
Option A
option1
Option B
option2
Output Format

Format your output as a JSON Object with keys as Reason, Output, Confidence. Output the step-by-step reasoning and then Option A or Option B and the confidence value from 1-100. You should not output anything except the JSON.

Table 17: Prompt used for LLM-as-a-Personalized-Judge as borrowed from (Dong et al., 2024)

LLM.PersonaEvaluationwithoutEC

[1] OVERVIEW

Task

Imagine yourself as a persona in the domain domain. Based on your persona and the conversation history, you have to judge which response would you prefer among Option A and Option B along with the step-by-step reasoning.

Task

Imagine yourself as a persona in the domain domain. Based on your persona and the conversation history, you have to judge which response would you prefer among Option A and Option B along with the step-by-step reasoning.

Conversation History
{conversation-history}
Option A
option1
Option B
option2
Output Format
Format your output as a JSON Object with key as Reason and Output. Output the step-by-step
reasoning and then Option A or Option B or can't decide. You should not output anything except the
JSON.

Table 18: Prompt used for LLM-as-a-Personalized-Judge with tie

Model	LLM Pref (W/L/T)	LLM conf \geq 75	LLM Pref (W/L/T)	LLM conf \geq 75
	Intent=Programming/	Group=Novice	Intent=Programming/	/Group=Expert
GPA-CT vs Base GPA-CT vs Persona GPA-CT vs Static	0.6930 / 0.3041 / 0.0029 0.5702 / 0.4298 / 0.0000 0.5754 / 0.4187 / 0.0058	0.5797 / 0.4203 0.5430 / 0.4570 0.5300 / 0.4700	0.4489 / 0.5426 / 0.085 0.5824 / 0.4063 / 0.114 0.5625 / 0.4290 / 0.085	0.4696 / 0.5304 0.5924 / 0.4076 0.6364 / 0.3636
GPA-FT vs Base GPA-FT vs Persona GPA-FT vs Static	0.6842 / 0.2953 / 0.0205 0.6439 / 0.4561 / 0.0000 0.6433 / 0.3480 / 0.0088	0.6426 / 0.3574 0.5290 / 0.4710 0.5807 / 0.4193	0.5966 / 0.4034/ 0.0000 0.6676 / 0.3295 / 0.0028 0.6761 / 0.3210 / 0.0028	0.5676 / 0.4324 0.6939 / 0.3061 0.6842 / 0.3158
GPA-FT vs GPA-CT	0.5351 / 0.4649 / 0.0000	0.5426 / 0.4574	0.6903 / 0.3097 / 0.0000	0.6764 / 0.3236

Table 19: GPA-CT and GPA-FT results on the BingChat dataset for Gemma for the Novice and Expert groups. The LLM expected confidence \geq 75 is reported and W/L/T=win/lose/tie.

Comparison	Win %	Lose %
DPO vs Base	73.36%	26.64%
DPO vs KTO-Augmented	61.46%	38.54%
DPO vs KTO-Only	70.61%	29.39%
KTO vs Base	53.41%	46.59%
KTO-Augmented vs Base	67.63%	32.37%

Table 20: Win/Loss Percentages of Different Finetuning Methods on BingChat Test Set justifying our best choice of DPO for our remaining GPA-FT experiments.

	Win Rates	Lose Rates	Tie Rates
GPA-FT	0.4848	0.2504	0.2648
GPA-CT	0.4877	0.2470	0.2653
Static	0.4283	0.3014	0.2703
Persona	0.4252	0.2491	0.3257
Base	0.4333	0.5167	0.0500

Table 21: Normalized Win, Lose, and Tie Rates