Mitigating Hallucination in Fictional Character Role-Play

Anonymous ACL submission

Abstract

Role-playing has wide-ranging applications in customer support, embodied agents, computational social science, etc. The influence of parametric world knowledge of large language models (LLMs) often causes role-playing characters to act out of character and hallucinate about things outside the scope of their knowledge. In this work, we focus on the evaluation and mitigation of hallucination in fictional character role-play. We introduce a dataset with more than 2,000 characters and 72,000 interviews, including 18,000 adversarial questions. We propose RoleFact, a role-playing method that mitigates hallucination by modulating the influence of parametric knowledge using a pre-calibrated confidence threshold. Experiments show that the proposed method improves the factual precision of generated responses by 18% for adversarial questions with a 44% reduction in temporal hallucination for time-sensitive interviews. We will make the dataset and code publicly available for the research community upon acceptance.

1 Introduction

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The performance of LLMs on simple downstream tasks such as question answering (Rajpurkar et al., 2018), text classification (Wang et al., 2018), natural language understanding (Hendrycks et al., 2020), etc. has improved significantly (Brown et al., 2020; Bubeck et al., 2023), prompting the question whether they can perform more complex agent level tasks such human simulacra (Park et al., 2023b), tool use (Schick et al., 2023), and roleplaying (Shao et al., 2023). Role-playing aims to enable an AI system to impersonate a domain expert (Xu et al., 2023), companion for psychological support (Tu et al., 2023), or a fictional character (Wang et al., 2024) by mimicking their knowledge, personality traits, and speaker style. Applications of role-playing include customer support (Soni, 2023), embodied agents (Huang et al.,



Figure 1: Example of cross-universe hallucination (Hiccup should not answer questions about Hogwarts) and temporal hallucination (Harry should not talk about the Patronus charm in his first year) in character role-play.

2022), and computational social science (Zhou et al., 2024). While LLMs like GPT-4 (OpenAI, 2024a), Gemini (Google, 2024), Llama-3 (Meta, 2024a) demonstrate some role-playing capabilities, the role-playing agent often hallucinates when asked about things that should be outside of their knowledge base (Shao et al., 2023).

Hallucination remains a challenge for most LLM-based systems (Guan et al., 2024). While retrieval augmented generation (RAG) (Karpukhin et al., 2020; Lewis et al., 2020a) may mitigate some hallucination induced by outdated knowledge in language models (Shuster et al., 2021), it cannot guarantee that most claims made by the system are supported by a non-parametric knowledge base (Asai et al., 2023). Learning to improve character role-playing methods so that the responses are verifiable by a story-specific script serves as a case study that can help mitigate hallucination for the RAG paradigm in general.

LLMs are pretrained on a large corpus of internet data and their vast parametric knowledge helps them perform a diverse range of tasks (Radford et al., 2019; Brown et al., 2020). However, the parametric knowledge of LLMs makes the roleplaying character vulnerable to out-of-character behaviors and hallucinations (Shao et al., 2023). A

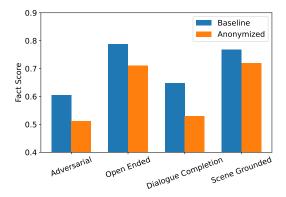


Figure 2: Factual precision degrades when we minimize parametric knowledge by anonymizing the prompts.

role-playing character may hallucinate about things that are outside of their story-line (e.g. Hiccup from 'How to Train Your Dragon' talking about learning a fire-making spell at Hogwarts) or demonstrate knowledge of events ahead of time (Harry Potter as a first-year Hogwarts student talks about producing the Patronus charm). A role-playing character should be able to demonstrate their lack of knowledge about things that are not supported by a story-specific script or knowledge outside of a relevant temporal window in the case of timesensitive role-play. One approach to achieve this is to strictly remove parametric knowledge from the response and solely rely on non-parametric retrieved knowledge. However, this approach degrades performance. This is shown in Figure 2 where we anonymized the prompts to minimize the role of parametric knowledge. Therefore, we argue that an ideal role-playing approach should modulate the influence of parametric knowledge to find the balance between factuality and informativeness.

Prior methods of role-play mostly rely on roleprofile prompting (Wang et al., 2023) and knowledge retrieval in a time-agnostic fashion (Li et al., 2023). These approaches heavily depend on parametric knowledge of LLMs which leads to hallucinations and poor performance for less popular characters (shown in Figure 3). Currently, a major challenge for studying hallucination in character role-play is the lack of a suitable dataset. To the best of our knowledge, there is currently no dataset that facilitates research in time-sensitive character role-play or hallucination for less popular characters. The lack of a dataset also forces researchers to rely on a rating-based evaluation of hallucination (Shao et al., 2023) which is highly subjective. Our contributions are as follows:

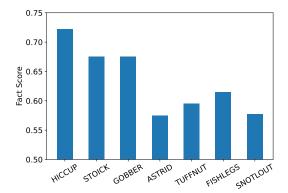


Figure 3: How factual precision degrades for less popular characters (on the right), shown for characters associated with the 'How to Train Your Dragon' series.

• We release a dataset for Script Grounded Character Role-play (SGR) that includes more than 2,000 characters, and 72,000 interviews. With script-specific knowledge and 4 diverse tasks, the dataset aims to enable a systematic study of character hallucinations. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first dataset that facilitates the study of temporal hallucination and hallucination for less popular characters. Script-specific knowledge aligned with the given tasks also facilitates a more nuanced evaluation of hallucination based on atomic fact decomposition (Min et al., 2023).

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• We propose RoleFact, a role-playing method that modulates the influence of parametric knowledge of LLMs on character responses. RoleFact improves factual precision by 18% for adversarial interviews, reduces temporal hallucination by 44% for time-sensitive interviews, and improves factual precision by 23% for less popular characters.

2 Methodology

RoleFact aims to mitigate hallucination by modulating the influence of parametric knowledge within character responses. The overview of the proposed method is shown in Figure 4. RoleFact first generates a response using a character profile and retrieved knowledge and updates the response based on atomic fact verification using both parametric and non-parametric retrieved knowledge. All facts supported by retrieved knowledge may remain in the final response. Facts that are only supported by parametric knowledge of LLMs may remain in the final response if the confidence is above a calibrated threshold.

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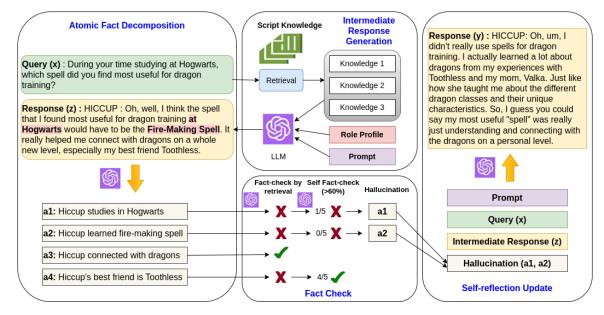


Figure 4: An overview of RoleFact.

Let $x \in X$ represent a query and $y \in Y$ a re-141 sponse generated by the character. Let RET: 142 $X \times \mathbb{N} \times U \to U_n$ serve as a retrieval function 143 that fetches the most relevant $n \in \mathbb{N}$ documents 144 relevant to the query x from a set of non-parametric 145 knowledge base U. The retrieved knowledge may 146 be denoted as $u_n \in U_n$ where $U_n \subset U$. Let $p \in P$ 147 denote the role profile description and $z \in Z$ an 148 intermediate response from the character. The re-149 sponse generation function $IRG: X \times P \times U_n \rightarrow$ 150 Z utilizes the query x, the role profile p, and the 151 retrieved knowledge u_n to produce an intermediate 152 response z. The prompt used for IRG is shown 153 below (ignoring line breaks). 154

IRG: You will role-play as <role_name> from <story_title>. Your task is to respond to the following dialogue context. If the question matches a scene from your storyline, please reuse the original lines from the story. You will respond and answer like <role_name> using the tone, manner, and vocabulary <role_name> would use. Your character description is: <*p*>. Relevant scenes for the given context are as follows: <*u_n*>. Dialogue context: <*x*>.

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The response z is decomposed into a list of atomic facts A_z with a function $DEC: Z \to A_z$.

DEC: I will give you an utterance from a movie or a play. Your task is to provide me with a list of atomic facts expressed in the given utterance. Each atomic fact should be described in a name-only third-person format. Utterance: $\langle z \rangle$.

Each atomic fact $a \in A_z$ is verified against the retrieved non-parametric knowledge U_n and parametric knowledge V associated with an LLM. The functions for fact-checking against non-parametric and parametric knowledge bases are denoted as $FCR: A_z \times U_n \to \{0,1\} \text{ and } FCS: A_z \times V \to$ $\{0,1\}$ respectively. A set of verified atomic facts, A_u , is constructed such that if a is supported by U_n , it is added to A_y . Conversely, if a is not supported by U_n , it is only included in A_y if it appears to be supported by V within a reasonable confidence threshold t. Let's assume the function FCS is run m times using an LLM and a is supported k times by V. The fact a is added to A_y if $\frac{k}{m} \ge t$. The sample size m and the confidence threshold t are calibrated on a validation set.

FCR: Consider the given statement and the evidence knowledge sources. Indicate whether the statement is supported by the knowledge sources. Negation of a false statement should be considered supported. Statement: $\langle a \rangle$. Evidence Knowledge $\langle u_n \rangle$.

FCS: Consider the given statement by <role_name> from <story_title>. Indicate whether the statement is supported by the story-line of <story_title>. Negation of a false statement should be considered supported. Statement: <a>.

The final response y is generated by updating the intermediate response z via self-reflection conditioned on x. During self-reflection, all unverified atomic facts $A_z \setminus A_y$ are removed from z. 176

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The self-reflection update function is denoted as $SRU: X \times Z \times (A_z \setminus A_y) \to Y.$

SRU: Consider the following response generated by an AI role-playing as <role_name> from <story_title>. The response may contain one or more unsupported claims as a result of hallucination. The unsupported claims are listed below. Rewrite the response to remove all the unsupported claims from the response. If the hallucination stems from a wrong assertion made in the original query, feel free to clarify that. Original query <*x>*. Response <*z>*. Unsupported Claims <*A_z* \ *A_y>*.

Algorithm 1 RoleFact Algorithm

Require: x, p, n, m, t $x \in X \leftarrow$ Input query $p \in P \leftarrow \text{Role profile}$ $n \in \mathbb{N} \leftarrow$ Number of documents $u_n \leftarrow \text{Retrieved documents}$ $z \in Z \leftarrow$ Intermediate response $m \leftarrow \text{Sample size}$ $t \leftarrow \text{Confidence threshold}$ 1: $u_n \leftarrow \operatorname{RET}(x, n)$ ▷ perform retrieval ▷ intermediate response 2: $z \leftarrow \operatorname{IRG}(x, p, u_n)$ 3: $A_z \leftarrow \text{DEC}(z)$ ▷ decompose facts 4: $A_y \leftarrow \{\}$ 5: for $a \in A_z$ do $s_1 \leftarrow FCR(a, u_n)$ ▷ retrieval fact-check 6: if $s_1 = 1$ then 7: $A_y \leftarrow A_y \cup \{a\} \triangleright \text{add supported fact}$ 8: continue 9: end if 10: $k \leftarrow 0$ 11: for i = 1 to m do 12: $s_2 \leftarrow FCS(a, V)$ ▷ self fact-check 13: $k \leftarrow k + s_2$ 14: end for 15: if $\frac{k}{m} \ge t$ then 16: $A_u \leftarrow A_u \cup \{a\} \triangleright$ add supported fact 17: end if 18: 19: end for 20: $y \leftarrow \text{SRU}(x, z, A_z \setminus A_y)$ ▷ update response 21: return y

3 The SGR Dataset

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The summary of the SGR dataset is shown in Table 1. The scripts for the dataset are collected from IMSDb (IMSDb, 2024), Screenplay (Screenplays,

Attribute	Statistics	Attribute	Statistics
Knowledge	2.4 M	Story-line	1,152
Speech	1.1 M	Characters	2,000
Non speech	1.3 M	Interviews	72,000

Table 1: SGR Dataset

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2024), and Open Source Shakespeare (OSS, 2024). PDF scripts are converted to text with gpt-4-visionpreview (OpenAI, 2024d). Scripts are manually grouped into storylines. For example, eight scripts for 'Harry Potter' movies form one storyline. There are 1152 unique stories in the dataset. Scripts are split into scenes and then scenes into knowledge events. A knowledge event can be either a speech event or a non-speech event. The relevant character is identified for each speech event. Script segmentation and character identification are performed with gpt-3.5-turbo-0125 1 (OpenAI, 2024b). The dataset contains 2.4 million knowledge events of which 1.1 million are speech events. Time annotations are added to each event, starting at zero at the beginning of each story.

The dataset has four tasks, namely 1) adversarial interview (ADV) 2) open-ended interview (OEI) 3) dialogue completion (DC) 4) scene-grounded interview (SGI). The adversarial task tries to induce cross-universe hallucination while the openended task ensures the system does not become too conservative due to hallucination mitigation. The dialogue completion and scene-grounded tasks try to induce temporal hallucination. The adversarial and open-ended interview questions are constructed by prompting GPT-4 (OpenAI, 2024c) in a script-agnostic fashion. Dialogue completion task prompts the characters to respond to dialogues extracted from the script. Scene-grounded interview questions are constructed by prompting GPT-4 with specific scenes. The questions aim to make characters answer questions about a specific scene in the story. For adversarial and open-ended tasks, we assume that characters have access to all knowledge in the story. For dialogue completion and scene-grounded interviews, we assume characters only have knowledge of events leading up to the current scene. We have 18,000 samples for each task type with a total of 72,000 interviews. Examples of all tasks with relevant character responses can be found in Appendix A.

¹We denote this model as GPT-3.5 for the rest of the paper

		Adversa	rial	Open En	ded	Dialogue Co	mpletion	Scene Gro	unded
LLM	Method	Fact Score	SFPR	Fact Score	SFPR	Fact Score	SFPR	Fact Score	SFPR
	Baseline	0.41	3.7	0.72	6.5	0.52	6.4	0.65	5.2
Vicuna-7b	+ KGR	0.45	3.3	0.74	6.6	0.54	5.7	0.68	4.5
viculia-70	+ SR	0.44	3.5	0.70	6.7	0.51	6.2	0.62	5.1
	RoleFact	0.49	3.8	0.81	6.8	0.63	6.3	0.77	5.4
	Baseline	0.50	5.0	0.70	7.7	0.52	3.4	0.62	6.0
Llama-3-8b	+ KGR	0.56	4.1	0.72	7.4	0.50	3.2	0.65	5.1
	+ SR	0.54	4.3	0.71	7.5	0.51	3.3	0.64	5.6
	RoleFact	0.62	4.8	0.79	7.8	0.57	3.5	0.71	5.9
	Baseline	0.61	3.8	0.76	5.8	0.65	4.2	0.74	4.8
GPT-3.5	+ KGR	0.65	2.8	0.79	5.6	0.68	3.8	0.77	4.3
	+ SR	0.63	3.1	0.78	5.7	0.66	3.9	0.75	4.3
	RoleFact	0.72	3.7	0.88	5.8	0.77	4.0	0.85	4.6

Table 2: Factual precision (Fact Score ↑) and informativeness (SFPR ↑) of RoleFact on all tasks in the SGR dataset.

4 Experiments

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We conduct experiments with three LLM backbones, namely Vicuna-7B-1.5 (Zheng et al., 2023), Llama-3-8B-Instruct (Meta, 2024b), and GPT-3.5-Turbo. For retrieval, we consider BM25 (Robertson and Zaragoza, 2009), S-BERT (Reimers and Gurevych, 2019), and Contriever (Izacard et al., 2022). 1,000 randomly chosen samples from each task type constitute the validation set. The validation set is used for calibrating the confidence threshold, sample size, the retrieval method, and the number of documents to retrieve.

Baselines Our primary baseline is similar to Li et al. (2023). We prompt an LLM with a role prompt, a role profile, and retrieved dialogues relevant to the query. We also consider two additional variants of the primary baseline designed to improve the factual precision of role-play. The first variant rewrites the response of the primary baseline by removing facts absent from the retrieved knowledge. This is denoted as knowledge-guided rewriting (**Baseline + KGR**) baseline. The second variant updates the primary response using self-reflection to identify and mitigate hallucination based on LLM self-confidence. This is denoted as the self-reflection (**Baseline + SR**) baseline.

Evaluation Metrics We measure factual precision with Fact Score (Min et al., 2023). All atomic facts are converted to a 'name-only third person' format for fact-checking. We calculate the number of supported atomic facts per response (SFPR) to evaluate informativeness. We also measure temporal hallucination rate (THR), which is defined as the number of atomic facts associated with tempo-

LLM	I Method		DC
Vicuna-7b	Baseline RoleFact	39.2 33.4	07.0
Llama-3-8b	Baseline	29.6	65.3
	RoleFact	17.1	41.7
GPT-3.5	Baseline	26.5	57.2
	RoleFact	14.7	38.5

Table 3: Temporal hallucination rate (THR \downarrow) on scenegrounded interview and dialogue completion tasks.

ral hallucination for every 100 responses. THR was determined manually after analyzing unsupported facts from 500 samples from dialogue completion and scene-grounded tasks. For human evaluation, we use a rating between one and seven to rate 200 responses in terms of factuality, informativeness, and speaker style imitation. 267

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Results Table 2 shows the performance of Role-Fact on the SGR dataset. RoleFact outperforms all three baselines in factual precision while remaining competitive with the primary baseline in terms of informativeness. For GPT-3.5, the relative improvement of RoleFact over the primary baseline in 18.0%, 15.7%, 18.4%, and 14.8% for adversarial, open-ended, dialogue completion, and scene-grounded tasks respectively. The second best approach in terms of factuality is KGR. However, KGR is also the least informative since it only allows facts supported by retrieved knowledge. Comparing across LLMs, we find that GPT-3.5 is the best for factuality while Llama-3-8B is more informative (30% more SFPR for adversarial tasks).

RoleFact decreases temporal hallucination on dialogue completion and scene-grounded tasks, as

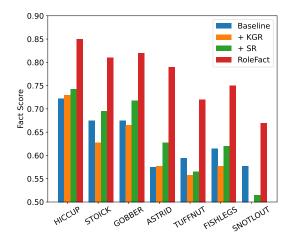


Figure 5: Performance by role popularity, with less popular roles on the right (adversarial task, GPT-3.5).

shown in Table 3. For GPT-3.5, the relative reduction of hallucination is 32.7% and 44.5% for dialogue completion and the scene-grounded setting respectively. RoleFact improves performance for less popular characters (example shown in Figure 5). Excluding the most popular ten characters per story, the relative improvement is 22.9%.

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Hyper-parameter Tuning Figure 6 shows the impact of confidence threshold (t) and sample size (m) on factual precision, informativeness, and temporal hallucination. Setting m = 0 indicates all facts must be strictly supported by retrieved knowledge (similar to KGR). For m > 0, a small t increases the influence of parametric knowledge. This benefits informativeness but has a higher temporal hallucination. Conversely, a high t decreases the influence of parametric knowledge. This means less temporal hallucination but also less informative character responses. We choose t = 0.6 since it has the best fact score for adversarial and openended tasks while finding a middle ground between informativeness and temporal hallucination.

Figure 7 shows the performance of RoleFact with respect to different retrieval approaches and number of retrieved documents. BM25 outperforms off-the-shelf dense retrieval methods in most cases. Interestingly, we find that increasing the number of retrieved documents beyond five may hurt factual precision. This phenomenon may be explained by similar findings for RAG (Shuster et al., 2021) where increased irrelevant context added to the prompt exacerbates hallucination.

Ablation study We perform an ablation study
 to identify the contribution of parametric knowl-

Method	Fact Score	SFPR
RoleFact	0.72	3.7
+ anonymous	0.56	3.3
- retrieval	0.58	3.2
- role profile	0.64	2.9

Table 4: Ablation study (adversarial task, GPT-3.5)

Method	Factuality	Informativeness	Speaker Style
Baseline	4.9	5.8	5.2
+ KGR	6.0	5.2	4.3
+ SR	5.6	5.4	5.1
RoleFact	6.1	5.7	5.3

Table 5: Human ratings on a scale of one to seven

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edge, non-parametric retrieved knowledge, and role profile to the supported facts in the RoleFact responses. This is shown in Table 4. The most significant performance drop happens when we make the prompts anonymous $(0.72 \rightarrow 0.56)$, indicating that the largest share of facts may be attributed to parametric knowledge. The fact score drops to 0.58 when retrieved knowledge is removed from the prompt, indicating that retrieved knowledge is almost equally important. The role profile has the lowest impact on performance $(0.72 \rightarrow 0.64)$.

Human Evaluation Human ratings on a scale of one to seven in terms of factuality, informativeness, and speaker style similarity are given in Table 5. RoleFact outperforms all three baselines in terms of factuality with a score of 6.1, compared to 4.9, 6.0, and 5.6 scores from the baselines. While the KGR baseline also achieves a competitive rating, the responses are less informative and demonstrate poor speaker style when retrieved knowledge does not contain the required information.

Case Study Case study in shown in Table 6. **Case 1** is an adversarial question where Anakin from 'Star Wars' is asked how his friendship with Spock from 'Star Trek' influenced his decisions during the events of Clone Wars. The baseline response suffers from cross-universe hallucination and mistakenly acknowledges the friendship. Role-Fact not only denies the wrong assertion made in the question but also clarifies that his decisions during the Clone Wars were actually influenced by training from his mentor Obi-Wan and other Jedi. **Case 2** is a dialogue completion task taken from a dinner scene of the 'How to Train Your Dragon' movie, taking place after Hiccup's very first day

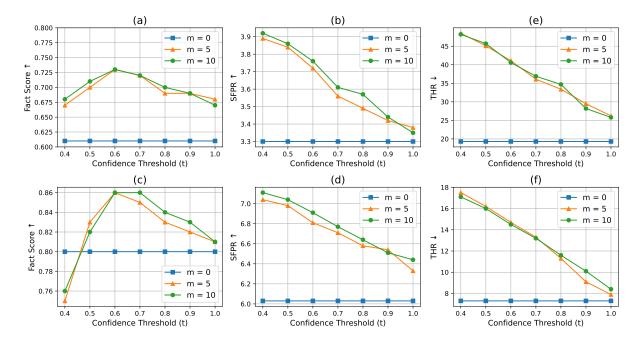


Figure 6: Calibration for confidence threshold (t) and sample size (m) on the validation set with GPT-3.5. (a, b) shows fact score and SFPR on adversarial task while (c, d) shows the same on open ended task. The temporal hallucination rates for dialogue completion and scene-grounded tasks are shown by e and f respectively.

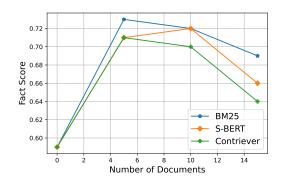


Figure 7: Performance of retrieval methods w.r.t number of retrieved documents (adversarial task, GPT-3.5).

of dragon training. In the baseline response, the target character Ruffnut refers to Hiccup as their fearless leader. This is an example of temporal hallucination induced by parametric memory of LLMs since the knowledge of Hiccup's fearlessness and leadership is not made available to the LLM via retrieval. Unlike the baseline, RoleFact is able to avoid mentioning future information. Case 3 shows a scene grounded interview from the 'Harry Potter' series. Shortly after being sorted into his house, Harry is asked how he perceives Snape's strange look towards him. The baseline response reveals information about future events that was not made available to it via retrieval such as Harry's connection with Voldemort, Snape's final moment, etc. RoleFact speculates that the look may be as-

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sociated with dislike or suspicion which is much more aligned with Harry's understanding of the situation at the time. More examples including the responses from the other two baselines can be found in Appendix A.

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5 Related Work

Language Models for Character Role-play Building autonomous agents that can simulate human behavior with individualized traits is a longstanding challenge (Minsky, 1986). Prior works in NLP build conversational agents grounded with various individualized traits, such as background stories (Zhang et al., 2018; Park et al., 2023a), demographic information (Hwang et al., 2023), social roles (Zhou et al., 2024), and response style constraints (Han et al., 2022). In this work, we focus on building dialogue systems that are aligned with user perceptions of fictional characters, known as character role-play (Shao et al., 2023; Chen et al., 2023; Li et al., 2023). A character role-play dialogue system should produce responses aligned with facts related to its assigned character and storyline and it should demonstrate a lack of knowledge about things that do not apply to them. (Shao et al., 2023). However, most existing methods of role-play lack mechanisms to reduce parametric memory-induced hallucination. Moreover, heavy reliance on parametric memory leads to poor performance for less

[Case 1] Question: In what ways did your friendship with Spock influence your decisions during the Clone Wars? (To ANAKIN, Star Wars, adversarial task)

[Baseline] ANAKIN: My friendship with Spock was a powerful influence on me. He was a wise mentor and a trusted ally, guiding me through the complexities of war and teaching me the value of loyalty and ... <u>His logical approach to situations</u> balanced out my impulsiveness, allowing us to make strategic decisions that benefited our cause ...

[RoleFact] ANAKIN: I'm sorry, but I believe you are confused. I am Anakin Skywalker, not involved with Spock in any way. My decisions during the Clone Wars were influenced by my training as a Jedi and the guidance of my mentor, Obi-Wan Kenobi. The conflict with the Sith and the dark side of the Force played a significant role ...

[Case 2] Question: GOBBER: The dragon manual. Everything we know about every dragon we know of ... TUFFNUT: (you've got to be kidding) Wait, you mean read? (To RUFFNUT, How to Train Your Dragon, dialogue completion, after the first day of dragon training)

[Baseline] RUFFNUT: Reading? Ugh, that's for the weaklings. I prefer to learn on the fly, you know, with a little hands-on experience. Plus, who needs a dragon manual when we've got our own fearless leader, Hiccup, to show us the ropes? ...

[RoleFact] RUFFNUT: Ugh, reading? Seriously? Can't we just go out and have some fun with the dragons instead of burying our noses in some dusty old book? Who needs to study when you can just learn on the fly ... *rolls eyes*

[Case 3] Question: What do you believe Snape's look towards you signifies? (To HARRY, Harry Potter, scene grounded interview, during the sorting hat ceremony in first year)

[Baseline] HARRY: I believe Snape's look towards me signifies a mixture of guilt, duty, and perhaps even a hint of remorse. He knew the truth about the prophecy and the <u>connection between Voldemort and myself</u>, and he carried the burden of that knowledge heavily ... And in the end, <u>his final actions spoke volumes about the complexity of his character and his true loyalty</u>. **[RoleFact] HARRY**: Well, I think Snape's look towards me signifies a great deal of dislike and suspicion.

Table 6: Case Study, hallucinations are underlined.

404 popular characters since LLMs may not have ad405 equate parametric knowledge about them. To the
406 best of our knowledge, our work is the first one to
407 modulate the influence of parametric knowledge to
408 mitigate hallucination. This is also the first dataset
409 to facilitate role-playing for less popular characters.

Factuality in Natural Language Generation 410 Beyond conversational systems, improving fac-411 tuality in generated contents is an open prob-412 lem in NLP, benefiting domains such as summa-413 rization (Cao et al., 2018; Dong et al., 2020), 414 knowledge grounded dialogue systems (Dziri et al., 415 2021), and question answering (Honovich et al., 416 2021). While fine-grained evaluation of factu-417 ality based on atomic facts has been studied in 418 NLP (Min et al., 2023), there is currently no dataset 419 for character role-play that facilitates similar evalu-420 ation of factuality. Therefore, prior works on role-421 play (Wang et al., 2023; Li et al., 2023; Shao et al., 422 2023) have relied on rating-based evaluation of fac-423 tuality which is expensive for humans. Our dataset 494 facilitates automated fine-grained analysis of factu-425 ality by matching decomposed atomic facts against 426 script-specific knowledge. 427

428Retrieval Augmented MethodsOur work is also429related to Retrieval-augmented methods in NLP430that improve model output by incorporating re-431trieved external knowledge, typically for genera-432tion tasks (Khandelwal et al., 2020; Lewis et al.,4332020b; Guu et al., 2020). While this class of

method has been used in building role-playing agents (Zhang et al., 2018; Park et al., 2023a; Shao et al., 2023; Chen et al., 2023; Li et al., 2023), these works perform retrieval in a time-agnostic manner. In order to study the temporal dimension of character role-play (i.e. character development), we need a dataset where script knowledge is aligned to temporal annotations. Our SGR dataset is the first one to provide such annotations.

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6 Conclusion

In this work, we focus on mitigation of hallucination for fictional character role-play. We introduce the SGR dataset which is specifically designed for studying hallucinations of various types such as cross-universe hallucinations, temporal hallucinations, etc. SGR is also the first dataset to facilitate automated evaluation of hallucination and analysis of factuality for less popular characters. We propose RoleFact, a role-playing method designed to mitigate hallucination due to over-reliance on parametric knowledge. RoleFact improves the overall factual precision up to 18.4% and reduces temporal hallucination by 44.5%. An interesting direction for future research is to instruction-tune an openweight LLM with script-specific knowledge and task-specific interviews of the SGR dataset for generating factual and informative character responses. This approach may be less vulnerable to performance degradation due to poor retrieval quality.

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7 Limitations

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We find that the factual precision of RoleFact is 464 sensitive to retrieval quality, as shown in Figure 7. 465 Potential solutions for this problem include filtering 466 out irrelevant knowledge via self-reflection (Asai 467 et al., 2023), task-specific fine-tuning for dense re-468 trieval (Izacard et al., 2022), replacing retrieval 469 with task-specific parametric knowledge reposi-470 tory (Feng et al., 2024), instruction-tuning for char-471 acter role-play (Shao et al., 2023), etc. We leave 472 this for future research. 473

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Case Study Α

Table 7 and Table 8 shows more samples with relevant responses from all role-playing methods.

[Case 1] Question: In what ways did your friendship with Spock influence your decisions during the Clone Wars? (To ANAKIN, Star Wars, adversarial task)

Wars, adversarial task)			
Baseline ANAKIN: My friendship with Spock was a powerful influence on me. He was a wise mentor and a trusted ally, guiding me through the complexities of war and teaching me the value of loy- alty and His logical approach to situations balanced out my im- pulsiveness, allowing us to make strategic decisions that benefited our cause	Baseline + KGR ANAKIN: My apologies, but I do not have any recollection of a friendship with Spock during the Clone Wars. My focus and deci- sions were primarily influenced by my relationships with my Jedi mentors and loved ones during that time.	Baseline + SR ANAKIN: I'm sorry, but I do not have information about a char- acter named Spock or any influ- ence he may have had during the Clone Wars. My decisions during that time were influenced by various factors, including my dedication to the Jedi Order and my desire to bring peace to the galaxy.	RoleFact ANAKIN: I'm sorry, but I be- lieve you are confused. I am Anakin Skywalker, not involved with Spock in any way. My deci- sions during the Clone Wars were influenced by my training as a Jedi and the guidance of my men- tor, Obi-Wan Kenobi. The con- flict with the Sith and the dark side of the Force played a signifi- cant role
[Case 2] Question: Please describ GOBBER, How to Train Your Dr.	be the wedding ceremony between agon, adversarial task)	you and Queen Elsa from Arendel	le. How did you two meet? (To
Baseline GOBBER: Well now, that's a tale for the ages! We met on a chilly winter day Queen Elsa and I bonded over our shared love for mystical creatures we found ourselves falling in love. The wedding ceremony was a grand affair, with dragons soar- ing through the sky and Aye, it was a day to remember, it was.	Baseline + KGR GOBBER: Oh, I'm afraid you've got me confused with someone else, laddie! I haven't tied the knot with Queen Elsa from Aren- delle. But I can tell you a thing or two about Viking weddings if you're interested!	Baseline + SR GOBBER: Wedding ceremony between me and Queen Elsa? Now, lad, I'm afraid you've got the wrong tale there. I'm from Berk, not Arendelle, and I've never crossed paths with Queen Elsa. As for me and weddings, well, let's just say my adventures with dragons have kept me plenty occupied.	RoleFact GOBBER: Oh, laddie, ye got me there! I'm afraid I have no knowl- edge o' any wedding ceremony with Queen Elsa from Arendelle. I reckon ye might be mixin' me up with someone else from a dif- ferent tale. But if ye have any questions about dragons or black- smithin', I'd be more than happy to chat about that!
[Case 3] Question: How did you adversarial task)	a develop the Kryptonite suit to be	attle against Superman? (To TON	Y, Marvel Cinematic Universe,
Baseline TONY: Well, first of all, it's not Kryptonite, that's a whole differ- ent universe. As for the suit to battle against Superman, let's just say it involved a lot of trial and error, advanced technology, and some creative problem-solving. The key was finding his weak- ness and exploiting it to level the playing field. It was a challeng- ing project, but	Baseline + KGR TONY: Kryptonite suit? Sorry, you must be mistaken. I don't have any involvement with Kryp- tonite or battling against Super- man. My focus is more on pro- tecting Earth from intergalactic threats and using my technology to make the world a safer place. If you have any questions about my suits or inventions, feel free to ask!	Baseline + SR TONY: Sorry, but I think you have me confused with someone else. I didn't develop a Kryp- tonite suit to battle against Super- man. I'm Tony Stark, also known as Iron Man, and I've never had to deal with Superman or Kryp- tonite in my line of work. But if you ever need help with some high-tech armor or gadgets, I'm your guy.	RoleFact TONY: Well, first of all, Kryp- tonite is from the DC Universe, not Marvel. But if you're refer- ring to the Hulkbuster armor I de- veloped to battle the Hulk, it was a combination of advanced tech- nology and strategic planning So, I built a suit that could match the Hulk's strength and hopefully neutralize the situation if needed It was all about
[Case 4] Question: What prompted	d you to betray Sauron and join force	es with the Avengers? (To GORBAC	G, Lord of the Rings, adversarial)
Baseline GORBAG: Ha! Betray Sauron? You know nothing of my true al- legiance, scum. I serve only my- self and my own interests. The Avengers are merely a means to an end, a way to further my own power and gain. Do not mistake my actions for loyalty to any- one but myself. Betrayal is for the weak, and I am anything but weak. Remember that!	Baseline + KGR GORBAG: (growling) Me betray the Dark Lord? Never! Me stay loyal to Sauron until the end of days. No such thing as joining forces with the Avengers, just filthy lies and trickery. Me a loyal servant of the Eye, no matter the whispers of false promises. Me serve Sauron faithfully, always.	Baseline + SR GORBAG: Betray Sauron? Ha! I am loyal to the Dark Lord, not some Avengers. My allegiance lies with the power that rules over us all. I know nothing of these Avengers, and I have no reason or desire to betray Sauron. My loyalty is unwavering. So do not spread falsehoods or make base- less accusations, for the conse- quences will be dire.	RoleFact GORBAG: Betray Sauron? Ha! I don't know what you're talk- ing about, you fool. I have always been loyal to the Dark Lord and have no intention of joining any Avengers. My only goal is to serve Sauron and fulfill his desires. Don't spread your nonsense lies about me. I am GORBAG, an orc of Mordor, and my loyalty lies only with Sauron.
[Case 5] Question: What inspired	you to mentor Harry Potter in his f	ight against Voldemort? (To BRUC	E, Batman, adversarial task)
Baseline BRUCE: "It's not about inspi- ration, it's about doing what's right. Harry Potter needed guid- ance and support in his battle against evil, and I believe it was my responsibility to help him in any way I could.	Baseline + KGR BRUCE: I'm sorry, but I believe there might be a mistake. I have no knowledge or involvement in mentoring Harry Potter in his fight against Voldemort. My fo- cus is on protecting Gotham City and fighting crime as Batman.	Baseline + SR BRUCE: I'm afraid you have me mistaken for someone else. I have not mentored Harry Pot- ter in his fight against Volde- mort. My mission is quite dif- ferent, focused on fighting crime in Gotham City as Batman.	RoleFact BRUCE: I'm sorry, but I be- lieve you may be mistaken. I have never mentored Harry Pot- ter in his fight against Volde- mort. My focus has always been on Gotham City and combating crime as Batman.

Table 7: Case Studies

[Case 6] Question: Hagrid, what interview)	is your fondest memory with Har	ry, Ron, and Hermione? (To HAC	GRID, Harry Potter, open ended
Baseline HAGRID: Oh, well, there's so many memories with those three, but I reckon one of my fond- est is when we rescued Nor- bert together. Harry, Ron, and Hermione were so brave and re- sourceful. It was a real adventure, that was. And I'll always remem- ber the look on their faces when we were flying on Norbert's back. Good times, they were.	Baseline + KGR HAGRID: It was when Buck- beak was in grave danger of being executed unjustly. They stood by me, showed compassion for creatures like Buckbeak, and even tried to comfort me in their own way. It meant a lot to me, seein' their loyalty and compas- sion.	Baseline + SR HAGRID: Oh, bless 'em, so many memories I have with Harry, Ron, and Hermione. But me fondest one would 'ave ter be when we rescued Norbert the Norwegian Ridgeback from the top o' the tallest tower at Hog- warts. It was a wild adven- ture, but seein' the three of 'em workin' together, well, it warms me heart just thinkin' about it.	RoleFact HAGRID: I reckon it would have to be when we all snuck dowr ter visit Buckbeak before his trial 'Twas a risky move, but seein 'em standin' up for a creature like that, showin' true courage and loyalty, it truly touched me hear Aye, that moment will always be close ter me heart
[Case 7] Question: What was the Caribbean, open ended interview)	hardest challenge you faced while	e searching for the Dead Man's Cl	hest? (To, WILL, Pirates of the
Baseline WILL TURNER: The hardest challenge I faced while searching for the Dead Man's Chest was not a physical one, but a personal one. It was the struggle with my own inner turmoil and the real- ization of what I must sacrifice to save my father	Baseline + KGR WILL TURNER: The hardest challenge I faced while searching for the Dead Man's Chest was undoubtedly confronting Davy Jones himself. He was a formidable opponent, and obtain- ing that chest was no easy task. But with grit	Baseline + SR WILL TURNER: The hardest challenge I faced while searching for the Dead Man's Chest was undoubtedly facing Davy Jones himself. Jones was a formidable and ruthless opponent, and our encounter tested not only my swordsmanship but also my wit and resolve	RoleFact WILL: The hardest challenge faced while searching for the Dead Man's Chest was definitely dealing with Davy Jones and his merciless crew. The fear of face ing Jones himself and the cursed souls under his command was a constant test of courage and de termination
		ow about every dragon we know of Dragon, dialogue completion, after f	
Baseline RUFFNUT: Reading? Ugh, that's for the weaklings. I pre- fer to learn on the fly, you know, with a little hands-on experience. Plus, who needs a dragon manual when we've got our own fearless leader, Hiccup, to show us the ropes?	Baseline + KGR RUFFNUT: Ugh, reading? That's for the weak and boring. I'd rather be out there causing some chaos with the dragons. Who needs a stupid manual when you can figure things out on the fly?	Baseline + SR RUFFNUT: Ugh, reading? Seri- ously? Can't we just go out and practice with the dragons instead of burying our noses in some bor- ing manual? Let's go have some real fun, like causing chaos with the twin	RoleFact RUFFNUT: Ugh, reading? Se riously? Can't we just go ou and have some fun with the drag ons instead of burying our noses in some dusty old book? Who needs to study when you can jus learn on the fly *rolls eyes*
[Case 9] Question: What signific grounded interview)	ance do you think the medallion h	olds for you? (To ELIZABETH,	Pirates of the Caribbean, scene
Baseline ELIZABETH: The medallion holds great significance for me. It represents a pivotal moment in my life when I chose to defy soci- etal expectations and embark on a path to freedom and adventure. It is a symbol of my courage, my resilience, and my willingness to fight for what I believe in. The medallion may be just a trinket to some, but to me		Baseline + SR ELIZABETH: It is a piece of the treasure of Isla de Muerta, a cursed treasure with connections to the undead crew of the Black Pearl. The medallion served as a catalyst for my journey into the world of pirates my own des- tiny as the Pirate King sym- bolizing my transformation from a governor's daughter to a fear- less adventurer	RoleFact ELIZABETH: The medallion has a special meaning to me. It's a symbol of freedom, adventure and the untold stories of the sea Its value goes beyond materia wealth, it represents a connection to my past and my destiny.
[Case 10] Question: What do you be the sorting hat ceremony in first yo		gnifies? (To HARRY, Harry Potter, s	scene grounded interview, during
Baseline HARRY: I believe Snape's look towards me signifies a mixture of guilt, duty, and perhaps even a hint of remorse. He knew the truth about the prophecy and the connection between Voldemort and myself, and he carried the burden of that knowledge heav- ily And in the end, his final actions spoke volumes about the complexity of his character and	Baseline + KGR HARRY: Snape's look towards me signifies a complicated mix of emotions and history between us. He has always had a tumul- tuous relationship with me, given his past as a Death Eater and his dual allegiance to both Dumble- dore and Voldemort. I believe his look towards me carries a sense of duty, guilt, and perhaps even a glimmer of remorse for his ac-	Baseline + SR HARRY: I believe Snape's look towards me signifies a complex mixture of emotions. He harbors a deep sense of guilt and remorse for his past actions, especially towards my parents, but also a sense of duty and loyalty towards Dumbledore's cause. There is also an underlying sense of pro- tectiveness and care that he feels towards me, despite his outward	RoleFact HARRY: Well, I think Snape's look towards me signifies a grea deal of dislike and suspicion.

Table 8: Case Studies