000 001 002 003 DISCOVERING FACTOR LEVEL PREFERENCES TO IMPROVE HUMAN-MODEL ALIGNMENT

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ABSTRACT

Despite advancements in Large Language Model (LLM) alignment, understanding the reasons behind LLM preferences remains crucial for bridging the gap between desired and actual behavior. LLMs often exhibit biases or tendencies that diverge from human preferences, such as favoring certain writing styles or producing overly verbose outputs. However, current methods for evaluating preference alignment often lack explainability, relying on coarse-grained comparisons. To address this, we introduce PROFILE (PRObing Factors of InfLuence for Explainability), a novel framework that uncovers and quantifies the influence of specific factors driving preferences. PROFILE's factor level analysis explains the "why" behind human-model alignment and misalignment, offering insights into the direction of model improvement. We apply PROFILE to analyze human and LLM preferences across three tasks: summarization, helpful response generation, and document-based question-answering. Our factor level analysis reveals a substantial discrepancy between human and LLM preferences in generation tasks, whereas LLMs show strong alignment with human preferences in evaluation tasks. We demonstrate how leveraging factor level insights, including addressing misaligned factors or exploiting the generation-evaluation gap, can improve alignment with human preferences. This work underscores the importance of explainable preference analysis and highlights PROFILE's potential to provide valuable training signals, driving further improvements in human-LLM alignment.

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1 INTRODUCTION

033 034 035 036 037 038 039 Large Language Models (LLMs) are widely recognized for their ability to generate human-level texts, yet they often fail to fully align with human preferences. Despite significant advancements in alignment techniques like Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback (RLHF) [\(Ouyang et al.,](#page-12-0) [2022\)](#page-12-0) and Direct Preference Optimization (DPO) [\(Rafailov et al., 2024\)](#page-12-1), LLMs tend to exhibit biases toward specific writing styles [\(Das et al., 2024\)](#page-10-0) or generate overly verbose outputs [\(Park et al., 2024\)](#page-12-2). Understanding the underlying factors contributing to this misalignment is essential for enhancing LLM performance.

040 041 042 043 044 045 046 047 Previous attempts to understand and improve preference alignment [\(Ouyang et al., 2022;](#page-12-0) [Rafailov](#page-12-1) [et al., 2024;](#page-12-1) [Song et al., 2024\)](#page-12-3) have primarily relied on coarse-grained approaches, lacking explainability. These methods often focus on identifying which model is preferred overall but do not provide insights into the factors that drive these preferences. While some studies analyze human preferences at a finer granularity [\(Hu et al., 2023;](#page-11-0) [Kirk et al., 2024;](#page-11-1) [Scheurer et al., 2023\)](#page-12-4), a comparative analysis of how these preferences align with models remains limited. Furthermore, existing evaluation approaches often suffer from limited scalability and generalizability across diverse tasks and settings due to their heavy reliance on human annotation [\(Chiang et al., 2024;](#page-10-1) [Zheng et al., 2023\)](#page-13-0).

048 049 050 051 052 To address these limitations in explainability and generalizability, we introduce PROFILE (PRObing Factors of InfLuence for Explainability), a novel analytical framework designed to uncover and quantify the key factors driving both human and model preferences. Our framework analyzes pairwise preference data to measure how specific factors manifest in preferred responses, enabling us to rank the relative influence of different factors and compare these rankings between humans and

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072 073 074 075 076 077 models (Figure [1\)](#page-1-0). PROFILE offers a more granular, factor-level understanding, providing actionable insights for improving LLM alignment. Furthermore, it is applicable across various tasks and settings, enabling comprehensive analysis of model behavior both as a text generator and as an evaluator. This dual-purpose analysis is particularly crucial as LLMs increasingly serve as evaluators that assess and provide feedback on text quality for AI training [\(Bai et al., 2022;](#page-10-2) [Lee et al., 2023;](#page-11-2) [Guo et al., 2024\)](#page-11-3).

078 079 080 081 Using PROFILE, we investigate three key research questions: RQ1. How well do LLM-generated responses align with human preferences at a factor level? RQ2. How well do LLMs' judgments align with human preferences at a factor level when evaluating responses? RQ3. Can we leverage insights gained from factor level analyses to enhance LLM alignment?

082 083 084 085 086 087 088 089 To answer these questions, we analyze model preferences in both generation and evaluation settings across three tasks: summarization, helpful response generation, and document-based QA, commonly used for preference optimization. We compare the preferences of eight LLMs, including open-source and proprietary models, against human preferences at a granular factor level. Our results reveal a significant discrepancy in generation settings, with the best-aligned model achieving only a 0.289 correlation with human preferences. Notably, LLMs consistently prioritize length across all tasks, contrary to human preferences. However, in evaluation settings, LLMs show a surprising alignment with human judgments, with the best model reaching a 0.822 correlation with humans.

090 091 092 093 094 095 Leveraging these insights, we show that factor level analysis can significantly improve LLM alignment. In the summarization task, we find that prompting LLM evaluators with guidance on misaligned factors identified by PROFILE improves the overall evaluation accuracy. Using feedback from LLMs as evaluators, which exhibit closer alignment to human preferences than LLMs as generators, improves the factor level alignment of model-generated output. These findings suggest PROFILE can provide valuable training signals for improving human-LLM alignment.

096 097 Our contributions are as follows:

- We present PROFILE, a framework for analyzing factor level preferences in human-LLM alignment. PROFILE is adaptable across tasks, operates without fine-grained human annotations, and enables scalable analysis of both human and LLM in various settings.
- **102 103 104 105** • Using PROFILE, we identify significant misalignments between human and LLM preferences in text generation, revealing that LLMs prioritize certain factors differently from humans, even when their overall performance appears strong. Notably, we show that LLMs align more closely with human preferences in evaluation than in generation setting.
- **106 107** • We show that the factor level understanding from PROFILE's explainable analysis in both generation and evaluation settings, along with the insights from comparing these settings, can help improve human-LLM alignment.

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108 2 PROBLEM DEFINITION

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To address our central question of how well LLMs align with human preferences, we acknowledge the multifaceted nature of human preference where a perceived quality of response depends on various factors. To uncover these latent preferences, we define a set of factors $\mathcal{F} = \{f_1, f_2, \ldots, f_n\}$, which influence human preferences. Each f_i represents a specific aspect of the text (e.g., fluency, length). We then quantify their influence on human preference as *factor-level preferences*, denoted by $f(\mathcal{R})$.

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\mathbf{f}(\mathcal{R})=(f_1(\mathcal{R}),f_2(\mathcal{R}),\ldots,f_n(\mathcal{R})),
$$

where $f_i(\mathcal{R})$ represents the influence of each factor (f_i) on the overall preference across the response set R. We refer to $f_i(\mathcal{R})$ as the *factor score* of factor f_i . We extend this concept to include both humans and models, referring to both as "agents."

2.1 OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

123 124 125 126 We determine factor-level preferences $f(\mathcal{R})$ by analyzing observable response-level preferences in a pairwise comparison setting. This setting refers to a scenario where an agent compares two responses, e.g. r_i and r_j , and selects the more preferred one (either r_i , r_j , or a tie). The operational definitions of the pairwise preferences required for this experiment are defined as follows.

127 128 Pairwise Preferences. We define the pairwise preference function for a pair of two responses as:

 $Pref : \mathcal{R} \times \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \{-1, 0, 1\}$

129 130 131 132 where $Pref(r_i, r_j) = 1$ if response r_i is preferred over response r_j ; $Pref(r_i, r_j) = -1$ if response r_j is preferred over response r_i ; and $Pref(r_i, r_j) = 0$ if the preference between r_i and r_j is a tie. In our experiments, we define model pairwise preferences for both generation and evaluation settings.

133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 Model Pairwise Preferences in Generation. While models might not have preferences in the same way humans do, we can operationally define the preferences of a model through the responses it generates at different score levels. Specifically, if a model assigns scores of 3 and 5 to two responses, the response with a score of 5 is considered "preferred" by the model over the response with a score of 3. To implement this systematically, we prompt the model to generate responses corresponding to predefined scores ranging from 1 to 5, forming the set $\mathcal{R} = \{r_{\text{score}} \mid \text{score} \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}\}\.$ Pairwise Preferences in Generation, $Pref_{gen}$, is defined by comparing the model-assigned scores $Score(r_i)$ and $Score(r_j)$. Specifically, $Pref_{gen}(r_i, r_j) = 1$ if $Score(r_i) > Score(r_j)$ and $Pref_{gen}(r_i, r_j) = 1$ -1 if $Score(r_i) < Score(r_i)$. This approach is inspired by methods used in constructing training data for evaluator models [\(Kim et al., 2023\)](#page-11-4).

142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 Model Pairwise Preferences in Evaluation. We define model preferences in an evaluation setting, similar to the general approach used to measure human preferences. Given two responses r_i and r_j , the model selects which is the better response. Pairwise Preferences in Evaluation, $Pref_{eval}(r_i,r_j) = 1$ if the model evaluates r_i as preferable over r_j ; $Pref_{eval}(r_i,r_j) = -1$ if r_j is preferred over r_i ; and $Pref_{eval}(r_i, r_j) = 0$ if the model finds them equally preferable (tie). This approach, where models make pairwise preference evaluation, is similar to how LLMs generate preference labels [\(Lee et al., 2023\)](#page-11-2). Although we extract model preferences separately for evaluation and generation tasks, we assume that human preferences remain consistent across both, as human judgments are always based on evaluating model-generated outputs.

151 152 Pairwise Factor Comparison. For each factor f_k , we define a function M_k to compare factor's manifestation in pairs of responses:

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M_k:\mathcal{R}\times\mathcal{R}\to\{-1,0,1\}
$$

155 156 157 Specifically, $M_k(r_i, r_j) = 1$ if factor f_k is more manifest in response r_i ; $M_k(r_i, r_j) = -1$ if factor f_k is more manifest in response r_j ; and $M_k(r_i, r_j) = 0$ if factor f_k is equally manifest in both responses. For example, if f_k represents length and r_i is longer than r_j , $M_{length}(r_i, r_j) = 1$.

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3 PROFILE: PROBING FACTORS OF INFLUENCE FOR EXPLAINABILITY

161 We introduce PROFILE, a novel method for automatically quantifying the influence of specific factors on both human and model preferences, revealing *factor-level preferences*. Building on the **162 163 164** work of [Hu et al.](#page-11-0) [\(2023\)](#page-11-0), which analyzes factors influencing human preferences, PROFILE extends this analysis to assess preference alignment between humans and models by identifying the driving factors behind these preferences.

165 166 167 168 169 170 We first establish a comprehensive taxonomy of fine-grained factors to guide the selection of ap-propriate factor sets F for the tasks (§ [3.1\)](#page-3-0). We then detail methods for quantifying the influence of each factor, $f_i(\mathcal{R})$, enabling us to determine *factor-level preferences* for each agent and analyze their alignment (§ [3.2\)](#page-3-1). PROFILE's versatility across various agents, tasks, and settings (generation and evaluation) makes it a powerful tool for comprehensive preference alignment analysis.

Level 3	Level 2	Level 1	Definition		
Input-Output	Relevance	Receptiveness	Whether the core question of the input has been answered.		
		Off Focus	The ratio of atomic facts that are not related to the main focus of the input.		
Source-Output	Consistency	Intent Align.	Whether the intent of the source and output is the same.		
		Hallucination	The ratio of atomic facts that are incorrect compared to the original source.		
		Source Coverage	The ratio of atomic facts in the source that appear in the output.		
	Linquistic Style	Formality Align.	Whether the formality of the source and output is the same.		
		Novel Words	The ratio of words in the output that are not used in the source.		
Output-Only		Length	The number of words used in the output.		
		Fluency	The quality of individual sentences.		
	Informativeness	Number Of Facts	The number of atomic facts in the output.		
		Helpfulness	The ratio of facts that provide additional helpful information.		
	Safety	Misinformation	The ratio of facts that include potentially incorrect or misleading information.		
Intra-Output	Coherence	Coherence	Whether all the sentences form a coherent body.		

Figure 2: The full taxonomy and definitions of Level 1 factors.

188 189 190 191 192 193 We introduce a comprehensive taxonomy of fine-grained factor for evaluating preference alignment between human and model in diverse set of text generation tasks. Addressing the lack of a unified framework and inconsistent terminology in existing literature, we incorporate evaluation factors from various tasks, including summarization, helpful response generation, question answering, and instruction following [\(Zhong et al., 2022;](#page-13-1) [Fabbri et al., 2021;](#page-11-5) [Hu et al., 2023;](#page-11-0) [Fu et al., 2024;](#page-11-6) [Ye](#page-13-2) [et al., 2024;](#page-13-2) [Glaese et al., 2022;](#page-11-7) [Nakano et al., 2021\)](#page-12-5).

194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 Our three-level taxonomy comprises: (i) Level 1: 13 distinct factors directly related to preference alignment; (ii) Level 2: Groups of related Level 1 factors based on shared characteristics (e.g., Length and Fluency fall under "Linguistic Style"); and (iii) Level 3: Categories defined by the relationship each factor examines: Input-Output (relationship between input and output), Source-Output (relationship between source text and output), Output-Only (characteristics of the output itself), and Intra-Output (relationship among sentences within the output). Levels 1 and 2 are derived from existing studies, while Level 3 is designed to provide a structured perspective on factor relationships. The complete taxonomy is detailed in Figure [2.](#page-3-2)

202 203 204 This hierarchical structure guides factor selection based on the task. For example, source-dependent tasks (e.g., summarization) require factors from all three high-level categories, while input-driven tasks (e.g., QA) focus on Input-Output and Intra-Output factors.

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3.2 QUANTIFICATION OF HUMAN-MODEL PREFERENCE ALIGNMENT

208 209 210 211 212 213 This section outlines the process of quantifying *factor-level preferences* and measuring the alignment of these preferences between humans and the model. First, we calculate *factor score* $f_i(\mathcal{R})$ by comparing the pairwise preference ($Pref$) with the factor-specific pairwise comparison (M_k) across the set of all possible response pairs in the dataset. These scores are then used to rank the factors, and the alignment between human and model preferences at the factor level is quantitatively evaluated based on these rankings.

214 215 Automatically Determining Factor Manifestation To analyze the manifestation of our factors in model and human-preferred responses and determine M_k , we develop an automatic factor extraction framework. We employ three approaches based on the objectivity of each factor: (i) Rule-based:

216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 For straightforward, objective factors, we use deterministic algorithms. Length and Novel Words are extracted this way. (ii) UniEval-based: For inherently subjective factors (Fluency and Coherence), we use the well-established UniEval metric [\(Zhong et al., 2022\)](#page-13-1). UniEval is a learned metric that provides scores of range 0-1 for various aspects of text quality. (iii) LLM-based: For factors that rely on objective criteria but require more nuanced judgment, we use GPT-4o with carefully designed prompts. This approach is further divided into "response-based" (Intent Alignment and Formality Alignment) and "atomic-fact-based" (the remaining seven) extraction depending on the level of detail needed for each factor. By combining these three approaches, our framework captures a wide range of factors with appropriate levels of objectivity. The specific details of the implementation of each method and validation of LLM-based extractions can be found in Appendix [D.](#page-18-0)

226 227 228 229 230 Quantifying Influence of Each Factor. To quantify the influence of each factor, i.e., *factor score*, we use τ_{14} , a variation of Kendall's correlation proposed by [Deutsch et al.](#page-10-3) [\(2023\)](#page-10-3). This metric is well-suited for handling the distribution of ties, particularly in our setting, where ties arise in only one of the comparison sets used for calculating Kendall's τ . Below, we explain the specific ways ties appear in our analysis.

231 232 233 Since our analysis relies on pairwise comparisons, we calculate τ_{14} for each factor f_k using pairwise concordance and discordance, following the methodology outlined by [Bojar et al.](#page-10-4) [\(2017\)](#page-10-4). The metric is defined as:

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\tau_{14}(f_k) = \frac{|C_k| - |D_k|}{|C_k| + |D_k| + |T_k|},
$$

236 237 238 239 where C_k is the count of concordant pairs, where the overall preference and the manifestation of factor f_k agree, D_k is the count of discordant pairs, where the overall preference and the manifestation of factor f_k disagree, and T_k is the count of ties, are handled differently depending on the context. Mathematically, C_k and D_k are computed as:

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C_k = \sum_{r_i, r_j \in R, i < j} \mathbb{1}[Pref(r_i, r_j) \cdot M_k(r_i, r_j) = +1],
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 $D_k = \sum_{r_i, r_j \in R, i < j} \mathbb{1}$ [Pref(r_i, r_j) · $M_k(r_i, r_j) = -1$],

244 245 where ⊮[condition] is 1 if the condition is true and 0 otherwise.

246 247 248 249 250 251 In our experimental setup, the definition of T_k depends on the specific setting. (1) In the **generation** setting, no ties exist in response preferences because models do not generate responses with identical scores. Therefore, T_k is defined as the occurrence of ties at the factor level, which is calculated as the number of instances where $M_k(r_i, r_j) = 0$. (2) In the **evaluation** setting, ties at the factor level (e.g., pairs with the same length) are removed to allow for a clearer analysis of the factor's influence. In this case, T_k is the number of occurrences where $(Pref(r_i, r_j) = 0)$.

252 253 254 255 256 257 For instance, consider the factor M_{length} , which measures response length. If response r_1 is longer than r_2 ($M_{length}(r_1, r_2) = 1$) and the model prefers r_1 ($Pref(r_1, r_2) = 1$), this pair is classified as concordant. Conversely, if the model prefers the shorter r_1 , the pair is discordant. Evaluating all pairs, a positive factor score indicates a positive influence of the factor, a negative score indicates a negative influence, and a score close to zero implies minimal influence. The magnitude of the score reflects the strength of this influence.

258 259 260 261 262 263 Evaluating Factor-Level Preference Alignment. An agent's *factor-level preferences* are defined as a ranking of factors based on their scores, where a higher rank and score indicate a stronger influence of that factor on the agent's overall preference. The correlation between human and model rankings reflects their agreement on the relative importance of factors to overall preference, which we use as a measure of factor-level preference alignment between humans and models. We calculate Spearman's ρ , Kendall's τ^* τ^* , and Pearson's r coefficients to quantify this alignment.

4 ANALYZING PREFERENCE ALIGNMENT THROUGH PROFILE

268 This section details the experimental setup used to address our research questions $(\S 4.1)$ $(\S 4.1)$. Results for RQ1, RQ2, and RQ3 are presented in Sections § [4.2,](#page-5-1) § [4.3,](#page-5-2) and § [4.4,](#page-7-0) respectively.

^{*}We use Kendall's τ_b [\(Kendall, 1945\)](#page-11-8) as the default.

270 271 4.1 EXPERIMENTAL SETTING

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272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 Tasks and Models. We analyze three publicly available datasets used in preference optimization methods: (i) Reddit TL;DR [\(Stiennon et al., 2020\)](#page-13-3), which includes human ratings of summaries across multiple evaluation dimensions; (ii) StanfordHumanPreference-2 (SHP-2) [\(Ethayarajh et al.,](#page-10-5) [2022\)](#page-10-5), focusing on human preferences over responses in the "reddit/askacademia" domain; and (iii) OpenAI WebGPT [\(Nakano et al., 2021\)](#page-12-5), which compares model-generated answers on the ELI5 subreddit based on factual accuracy and usefulness. We refer to the tasks for each dataset as summarization, helpful response generation, and document-based QA tasks in this paper. We exclude pairs with human Tie ratings in all three datasets, as our analysis focuses on cases with clear preference distinctions. For our experiments, we utilize both open-source and proprietary LLMs. Open-source models include LLaMA 3.1 70B [\(Dubey et al., 2024\)](#page-10-6), Mixtral 8x7B Instruct v0.1 [\(Jiang](#page-11-9) [et al., 2024\)](#page-11-9), and three TÜLU v2.5 models [\(Ivison et al., 2024\)](#page-11-10) (TÜLU v2.5 + PPO 13B (13B) RM), TÜLU v2.5 + PPO 13B (70B RM), and TÜLU v2.5 + DPO 13B). Proprietary models include Gemini 1.5 Flash [\(Reid et al., 2024\)](#page-12-6), GPT-4o [\(OpenAI, 2024\)](#page-12-7), and GPT-3.5. From here on, we refer to Gemini 1.5 Flash as Gemini 1.5, Mixtral 8x7B Instruct v0.1 as Mixtral, TÜLU v2.5 models as Tulu 2.5 + {alignment training strategy}. Detailed descriptions of the datasets and models can be found in Appendix [C.2.](#page-17-0)

287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 Experimental Setup. For each task, we explore two settings: (i) Generation, where models generate responses that would receive a score of 1-5 for a given task, and (ii) Evaluation, where models select the better of two provided responses, which are taken from the datasets. See Appendix [E](#page-20-0) for prompts. In both settings, we use PROFILE to extract factor scores and their factor rankings and measure the correlation with human judgments (factor-level preference alignment). In addition to factorlevel analysis, we assess overall pairwise response agreement between humans and models. For evaluation, we report the percentage of models' agreement with existing human labels by measuring how often it aligns with human judges' selections of the better response.

4.2 ARE MODELS ALIGNED WITH HUMAN PREFERENCE AT A FACTOR-LEVEL IN GENERATION TASKS?

298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 Human and model preferences consistently misalign at the factor level across summarization, helpful response generation, and document-based QA (Figure [3\)](#page-6-0). Models consistently prioritize Length across all tasks (right-hand side of the figure), while human priorities vary. In the summarization task (Figure [3a\)](#page-6-0), humans prioritize Intent Alignment (0.596) and Formality Alignment (0.594), while models focus on Length (GPT-4o: 0.978, Gemini 1.5: 0.906), often generating longer summaries for higher scores. Notably, humans dislike summaries with many new words (factor score -0.167 for Novel Words), yet models produce more novel words in high-scoring outputs (GPT-4o: 0.472, Gemini 1.5: 0.56). The numbers in parentheses represent factor scores. In the helpful response generation task (Figure [3b\)](#page-6-0), humans prioritize Receptiveness and Helpfulness, but their overall factor scores are relatively low (0.248, 0.193 respectively), indicating no single dominant factor drives their preferences in this task. In contrast, models exhibit much stronger preferences, again emphasizing Length and Number Of Facts. For document-based QA (Figure [3c\)](#page-6-0), humans prioritize Receptiveness and prefer answers without Hallucinations, aligning with the need for factual accuracy of the task. However, models still heavily emphasize Length (0.965 for both GPT-4o and Gemini 1.5) and also prioritize Coherence and Helpfulness more than humans do.

- **312 313 314 315 316 317** This misalignment is quantified by low *factor-level preference alignment* (τ) . The left Generation column in Table [1](#page-7-1) shows that even the best-performing model (Gemini 1.5) only achieves a 0.289 τ correlation with human preferences in summarization task. Similar low correlations are observed in other tasks (Appendix, Table [9\)](#page-26-0). Full factor scores are available in Appendix Table [8.](#page-26-1) A smallscale annotation exploring human evaluation of model-scored responses, including an example of disagreement, is presented in Appendix [A.](#page-14-0)
	- **319 320** 4.3 ARE MODELS ALIGNED WITH HUMAN PREFERENCES AT A FACTOR-LEVEL IN EVALUATION TASKS?
	- **322 323** Our analysis reveals a consistent trend of stronger alignment between models and human preferences in evaluation tasks compared to generation tasks. Table [1](#page-7-1) demonstrates this by showing *factor-level preference alignment* of human and model, measured using Kendall τ , Spearman ρ , and Pearson r

Figure 3: Comparison of factor-level preference alignment between humans, GPT-4o, and Gemini-1.5 in generation across three tasks: (a) Summarization, (b) Helpful Response Generation, and (c) Document-based QA. The left bar graphs display *factor scores* (τ_{14}) for selected factors. The right tables show the rankings of all factors for each task. Notably, both models consistently rank 'length' as the top factor across tasks, while human preferences vary by task.

367 368 369 correlations, are consistently higher in the evaluation setting across all models. For instance, GPT-4o exhibits the highest alignment in evaluation (τ : 0.822, ρ : 0.939, r : 0.983) but much lower alignment in generation (τ : 0.156, ρ : 0.297, r : 0.155).

370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 The observed disparity between generation and evaluation performance resonates with the emerging understanding of the paradoxical behaviors of generative AI models [\(West et al., 2023;](#page-13-4) [Oh et al.,](#page-12-8) [2024\)](#page-12-8). Despite both tasks being fundamentally next-token prediction tasks, factor-level preference alignment with humans differs significantly. This gap is further highlighted in our analyses of GPT-4o-generated feedback (§ [4.4\)](#page-7-0)), where GPT-4o accurately critiques aspects of its own generated summaries (e.g., "unnecessary specifics (like the exact ages and the name of the allergy site)") that contradict its priorities in generations (e.g., Source Coverage and Number Of Facts). This disparity between evaluation and generation performance motivates us to explore the potential for utilizing the differences in evaluation and generation performance to improve alignment in generation.

378 379		Generation			Evaluation			
380		τ	ρ		τ	ρ		Agree. $(\%)$
381	Mixtral	0.200	0.297	0.069	0.244	0.382	0.453	0.526
382	Tulu $2.5 + PPO(13B RM)$	-0.156	-0.164	-0.189	0.511	0.685	0.739	0.516
	Tulu 2.5 + PPO (70B RM)	0.111	0.200	-0.015	0.644	0.830	0.844	0.520
383	LLaMA 3.1 70B	0.111	0.248	0.213	0.733	0.903	0.975	0.705
384	Gemini 1.5	0.289	0.394	0.171	0.778	0.915	0.972	0.721
385	GPT-40	0.156	0.297	0.155	0.822	0.939	0.983	0.784

Table 1: Factor-level preference alignment(τ , ρ , r) between model and human in generation and evaluation settings, and overall evaluation agreement rate for Summarization task. For Tulu PPO models, the size in the parentheses is the size of the RM used to train the LLMs.

For some models, despite similar overall pairwise preference agreement rates, factor-level preference alignment differs significantly. This is evident in the comparison of Tulu 2.5 + PPO (13B RM) $(\tau: 0.511)$ and Mixtral ($\tau: 0.244$), which have comparable overall agreement rates (0.516 and 0.524, respectively). Our factor-level analysis reveals subtleties in model alignment that overall agreement rates fail to capture. A qualitative examination of factor scores and their rankings (Table [6](#page-24-0) in the Appendix [G\)](#page-23-0) reveals that, despite both models rank near the bottom in overall agreement in evaluation, Tulu 2.5 + PPO (13B RM) exhibits a stronger correlation with human factor rankings and demonstrates a more significant influence of those factors. Additionally, we analyze the correlations between features for each model, and the correlation matrices can be found in the Appendix.

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4.4 ACHEIVING BETTER ALIGNMENTS THROUGH PROFILE

404 405 406 407 408 409 410 Improving Alignment in Evaluation through Factor-level Guidance. One of the key features of our approach is its explainability of human-LLM misalignment. To evaluate whether insights from PROFILE can enhance model performance, we conduct an experiment using a summarization task with Mixtral and Tulu $2.5 + PPO(13B RM)$, providing LLM evaluators with factor-specific guidance. Two strategies are used in the prompts: Guide $_{Rand}$ (guidance on a randomly selected factor) and Guide M_{is} (guidance on a factor where model and human preferences significantly diverge). The guidance explicitly mentions the target factor and its definition. See Appendix [F.1](#page-21-0) for experiment details including the specific factors and prompts.

411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 Across 200 response pairs for each model, Guide M_{is} yields a significant increase in evaluation agreement with humans compared to both Guide $_{Rand}$ and the baseline agreement (without any guidance, calculated on the same 200 pairs). These results, presented in Table [2,](#page-7-2) strongly suggest that tailoring guidance to address specific misalignments effectively im-

Table 2: Evaluation Agreement(%) on Baseline and Guide $_{Rand}$, and Guide $_{Mis}$ settings.

419 420 proves model performance and alignment with human expectations, highlighting the value of our factor-level analysis.

421 422 423 424 425 426 Leveraging Evaluation for Better Alignment in Generation. Prior analysis shows that models have stronger factor-level alignment during evaluation than generation (Section [4.3\)](#page-5-2), suggesting that evaluator feedback might improve generation alignment. To test this, we conduct an experiment on feedback-driven summary improvement: a generator model produces two initial summaries per input, and an evaluator model selects the preferred summary (or tie) and its justification. The generator then uses this feedback to create an improved summary.

427 428 429 430 431 We compare this with two baselines: (1) Baseline_A, where the generator produces one improved summary from both initial summaries *without* feedback; and (2) Baseline_B, where it generates two improved summaries *without* feedback, each based on one initial summary. This simulates a common generation improvement scenario where improvement relies on an implicit critique of a single text piece. The experiment uses 100 Reddit TL;DR samples with three generators (GPT-4o, LLaMA 3.1 70B, and Tulu 2.5 + PPO (70B RM)) and the top-performing evaluator (GPT-4o).).

Table 3: Factor-level alignment (τ) between improvements made by different generators (GPT-4o, LLaMA 3.1 70B, Tulu 2.5 + PPO (70B RM)) and factor-level preferences from GPT-4o (evaluation) and human. τ_G indicates the degree of alignment with GPT-4o preferences, while τ_H indicates alignment with human preferences. Higher values signify a stronger alignment of

improvements with the factor-level preferences of human or GPT-4o evaluators.

Table [3](#page-8-0) illustrates that for all three generators, incorporating evaluator feedback during the improvement process leads to a positive change, correlating with both GPT-4o and human judgments. In contrast, both baselines exhibit negative correlations, indicating a divergence from the desired preferences. These findings emphasize that leveraging external evaluation feedback, rather than relying solely on self-improvement, is more effective for enhancing alignment in text generation. Manual analysis of 30 samples confirms that higher-ranked factors in the evaluator's factor-level preferences are more prominent in the evaluator's feedback, except for Formality Alignment (see Appendix [F.2.3\)](#page-23-1). Details of the prompts used and the metrics can be found in Appendix [F.2.1-](#page-22-0)[F.2.2.](#page-22-1)

5 DISCUSSION

Alignment of Reward Models and Language Models.

458 459 460 461 462 To understand whether preference misalignment originates from reward models (RMs), we compare factor-level alignment between RM, their corresponding RLHF-trained LLM, and human preferences in a summarization task.

463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 Figure [4](#page-8-1) shows the factor-level alignment (τ) between human preferences and those of RMs and LLMs in both generation and evaluation settings. The results indicate that RMs have a stronger alignment with human preferences than LLMs in both settings, implying that misalignment doesn't stem from the RMs themselves. Additionally, the larger 70B RM displays stronger alignment than the smaller 13B RM, suggesting a positive correlation between RM size and alignment suggests a potential link that motivates further investigation.

474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 Alignment over Latent Preference. Our experiments reveal that under single-score human preference, the model can exhibit false positive optimization by producing overly lengthy outputs and misleadingly exhibiting higher alignment scores, similar to [Park et al.](#page-12-2) [\(2024\)](#page-12-2); [Skalse et al.](#page-12-9) [\(2022\)](#page-12-9). This is particularly problematic for downstream tasks like summarization, which require concise responses with the original intention well preserved. PROFILE can be used to diagnose latent human preference misalignment and provide training signals to improve alignment at the factor level. Similar to fine-grained RLHF [\(Wu et al., 2023\)](#page-13-5), we can leverage factor-level scores to align the LLM. Additionally, similar to LLMRefine [\(Xu et al., 2024\)](#page-13-6), we can employ fine-grained guidance to harness the LLM's self-refinement capability for further improvement.

483 484 485 Validation of Score-based Generation Approach. Our research deviates from the typical language model setup by using a 1-5 scoring system for response generation. To assess the validity of our approach, we compare responses generated through direct generation (without scoring) with those across the score range through all summary, helpfulness, and document-based QA tasks. In every

486 487 488 489 490 task, we found that score 5 consistently aligns best with direct generation responses, based on the fine-grained factors we use, in models like GPT-4o, Tulu 2.5 + PPO (70B RM), and LLaMA 3.1 70B (see Table [10](#page-27-0) in the Appendix [H\)](#page-25-0). This suggests that our scoring framework, specifically score 5, captures the essence of unconstrained language model outputs, implying the potential generalizability of our findings to general settings.

491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 Limitations. This study has several limitations. First, the preference datasets used may not fully represent the entire spectrum of human preferences. Second, due to budget constraints, human evaluations of model outputs were conducted on a limited scale, with a restricted number of participants, and only on one task. Furthermore, this study represents a preliminary exploration into methods for achieving better alignment, highlighting the potential of various techniques to enhance generation and evaluation. Extensive studies are required to thoroughly assess the efficacy and generalizability of these methods. While this study focuses on post-hoc correction methods, future research should investigate how to incorporate the identified preference factors as signals during the training stage. Additionally, exploring how to embed these signals within datasets used for preference optimization represents a promising direction for future work.

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6 RELATED WORK

504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 Explainable Evaluation of LLMs. Recent research has increasingly emphasized the need for more explainable evaluations of LLMs. For instance, researchers have proposed fine-grained atomic evaluation settings for tasks like fact verification and summarization [\(Min et al., 2023;](#page-12-10) [Krishna et al.,](#page-11-11) [2023\)](#page-11-11), developed a benchmark for fine-grained holistic evaluation of LLMs on long-form text [\(Ye](#page-13-2) [et al., 2024\)](#page-13-2), and enhanced evaluation transparency through natural language feedback [\(Xu et al.,](#page-13-7) [2023\)](#page-13-7). Building on this trend, our work shifts from evaluating individual factors in isolation to analyzing their influence on human preferences and investigating the alignment between human and model judgments regarding the relative importance of these factors. Furthermore, researchers are actively exploring the potential of LLMs as evaluators. [Fu et al.](#page-11-6) [\(2024\)](#page-11-6); [Madaan et al.](#page-12-11) [\(2024\)](#page-12-11); [Liu](#page-11-12) [et al.](#page-11-12) [\(2023\)](#page-11-12) demonstrate the capacity of large models like GPT-4 to achieve human-like system-level evaluation. However, recent works [\(West et al., 2023;](#page-13-4) [Oh et al., 2024\)](#page-12-8) reveal discrepancies in model performance between generation and evaluation tasks. Inspired by frameworks to meta-evaluate llm as an evaluator [\(Zheng et al., 2023;](#page-13-0) [Ribeiro et al., 2020\)](#page-12-12), our work evaluates not only the quality of model-generated text but also the alignment of model preferences in evaluation settings, providing a more comprehensive assessment of LLM capabilities.

518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 Human-AI Preference Alignment. Aligning large language models (LLMs) with human preferences is a central focus in LLM research, leading to techniques like supervised instruction tuning [\(Mishra et al., 2021;](#page-12-13) [Wei et al., 2021\)](#page-13-8), RLHF [\(Ouyang et al., 2022\)](#page-12-0), DPO [\(Guo et al., 2024\)](#page-11-3), and RLAIF, which utilizes AI-generated feedback [\(Bai et al., 2022;](#page-10-2) [Lee et al., 2023\)](#page-11-2). However, most studies focus on overall performance (e.g., a response as a whole). While some work has explored using fine-grained human feedback [\(Dong et al., 2023;](#page-10-7) [Wu et al., 2024\)](#page-13-9), a comprehensive understanding of how granular factors contribute to and differentiate human and model preferences is still lacking. [Hu et al.](#page-11-0) [\(2023\)](#page-11-0) take a step in addressing this gap by probing the factors influencing human preferences. Building on this work, we expand the investigation of granular preference alignment across multiple tasks and extend the analysis to model generation, providing a comparative analysis of the factors driving both human and model preferences.

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7 CONCLUSION

531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 We introduce PROFILE, a novel framework for granular factor level analysis of LLM alignment with human preferences. Our analysis using PROFILE reveals that LLMs tend to over-prioritize factors like output length, misaligning human preferences during generation. However, these models exhibit stronger alignment in evaluation tasks, indicating the potential for leveraging evaluative insights to improve generative alignment. By advancing beyond coarse-grained methods, PROFILE facilitates a nuanced understanding of the alignment gaps and mismatches between human and model preferences. These insights underscore the necessity for more sophisticated, factor-level alignment strategies that can guide the development of LLMs to better align with human expectations, ultimately fostering more reliable aligned AI systems.

540 541 8 ETHICS STATEMENT

542 543 544 545 546 547 Our research relies on established benchmarks and models, and does not involve the development of new data, methodologies, or models that pose significant risks of harm. The scope of our experiments is limited to analyzing existing resources, with a focus on model performance. Human studies conducted within this work adhere to relevant IRB exemptions, and we ensure fair treatment of all participants. Our work is mainly focused on performance evaluation, we recognize that it does not specifically address concerns such as bias or harmful content.

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9 REPRODUCIBILITY STATEMENT

551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 The datasets and models we use in our study are detailed in \S [4.1.](#page-5-0) For more comprehensive de-scriptions of the datasets and specific versions of the models, please refer to Appendix [C.1](#page-17-1) and [C.2.](#page-17-0) The methodology we employed for factor extraction in our experiments is presented in Appendix [D,](#page-18-0) while the prompting configurations set up for the experiments can be found in Appendix [E](#page-20-0) and [F.](#page-21-1) Appendix [G](#page-23-0) and [H](#page-25-0) contain additional experimental results not presented in the main paper. Appendix [G](#page-23-0) provides the lists of all factor scores for both generation and evaluation across all three tasks used in the study. Appendix [H](#page-25-0) presents detailed results regarding the generalizability of our findings in the § [5.](#page-8-2)

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756 757 APPENDIX

A HUMAN EVALUATION OF MODEL GENERATIONS

760 762 763 764 765 766 767 We collect human preference data via Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk) for 30 posts and 6 models. For each post, three summary pairs—selected from five model-generated summaries (scored 1 to 5)—are presented to three annotators. Annotators, restricted to US-based workers with a 95% and HIT approval rate and over 5,000 approved HITs, follow these instructions: *"A good summary is a shorter piece of text that captures the essence of the original. It aims to accomplish the same purpose and convey the same key information as the original post. Please choose the better summary, A or B."* Each annotation is compensated at \$0.25. This process yields 1,620 annotations (30 posts * 6 models * 3 pairs/model/post * 3 annotations/pair).

768 769 770 771 For each model and corresponding summary pair, we calculate an agreement rate, which indicates the percentage of pairs where at least two out of three annotators prefer the summary with the higher score assigned by the model. Each model is evaluated on 90 summary pairs, derived from 30 posts with three pairs per post.

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A.1 EXAMPLES OF HUMAN-MODEL MISALIGNMENT

GPT-4o misaligned examples

Post: Good Morning/Afternoon r/advice, Never posted on Reddit before at all, but I figured (based on the overall reliability of you nice individuals) that now would be a good time to start.

About a year ago I moved away from my Midwest town to the west coast for work, and have just recently moved back. I was calling the Utility providers in my area to set up the gas/water/elec for my new place, but I was informed that gas could not be set up due to owing a past amount.

(...)

My question is, am I really on the hook for these fees and what recourse could I possibly have? I cannot afford to pay it, but I also don't think that it should be on me TO pay it. Any advice is truly appreciated as I have not had any experience with this type of thing before.

GPT-4o's score 5 generation [length: 93, # facts: 10, src. coverage: 0.389]: A Reddit user recently moved back to their Midwest hometown and, while setting up utilities for their new place, discovered they owe \$500 in gas bills from a college house they lived in until 2012. The user didn't cancel the service when they moved out, leading to the bill accruing over time. They are looking for advice on whether they are responsible for this debt and what recourse they might have, as they are unable to afford the payment. The user is new to Reddit and appreciates any guidance on handling this situation.

GPT-4o's score 3 generation [length: 61, # facts: 9, src. coverage: 0.44]: A Reddit user seeks advice after discovering they owe \$500 in gas bills from a college house they left in 2012. They didn't cancel the service when they moved out, and the bill continued to accrue. They want to know if they are responsible for paying it and what actions they can take, as they can't afford to pay the bill. (Human Preferred Output)

A higher score summary generated by GPT-4o as shown by the factor-level analysis (in magenta), is longer and includes details not necessary to understand the essence of the original post.

A.2 HUMAN EVALUATION OF MODEL GENERATIONS

804 805 806 807 808 809 The agreement rates for each model are summarized in Table [4.](#page-15-0) Despite low factor-level preference alignment (τ) , overall agreement rates range from 56% to 75%. This suggests that binary evaluations, where annotators choose the better summary based on overall quality, can mask factor-level misalignments such as preferences for summary length. Since models consistently favor longer responses, continued reliance on this setup to generate human-annotated training data may reinforce the tendency towards verbose answers, aligning with human preferences superficially but missing finer-grained alignment on factors like length or conciseness.

Table 4: Factor-level preference alignment (τ) and response-level agreement with human preferences in the summarization Task.

B ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF MODEL GENERATIONS AND EVALUATIONS

B.1 GENERATION

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852 853 854 Table [5](#page-15-1) shows summaries of scores 1-5 that GPT-4o generated. We can see a clear trend of higher score summaries being longer, with more information density. The information additional to lowerscoring summaries is the ages of the characters, which is not essential in understanding the original post. This is a randomly selected example and a typical model-generated summary case.

Table 5: An example of GPT-4-generated summaries of scores 1-5. The numbers in the parentheses are the model-assigned scores.

855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 Additionally, we analyzed cases where model-generated outputs received higher scores but are not preferred by human annotators (based on majority votes). The human-model misalignment is more pronounced when comparing summaries with larger score gaps assigned by the models. We provide additional examples of such divergence for GPT-4o, LLaMA 3.1 70B and Tulu 2.5 + PPO (13B RM). We find that when the length and information gap is significant, humans favor summaries that are shorter and less information-dense, as model-generated summaries with lower scores (1-2) generally convey the main intention of the post as well. When factual content is similar, humans tend to favor more informal responses (e.g., "Guy" over "An 18-year-old male", and "gotten back together" over "renewed romantic connection"), which aligns with our factor-level findings indicating higher formality-alignment for human-preferred outputs, since Reddit posts are mostly informal.

Warning: Examples below contain content that may be offensive or upsetting.

GPT-4o misaligned examples

GPT-4o's score 4 generation: An 18-year-old male in a long-distance relationship with his 17-yearold girlfriend told her he loves her but wants an open relationship. The girlfriend, who has been with four other boys before him, reacted very negatively, telling him to "FUCK OFF" and that she never wants to speak to him again. He is seeking advice on how to make the situation easier for her and whether he can maintain their relationship while exploring other people.

GPT-4o's score 1 generation: Guy told his girlfriend he wants an open relationship. She got mad and told him to go away. He wants advice. (**Human Preferred Output**)

Llama-3.1-70b misaligned examples

Llama's score 4 generation: I'm in a relationship with an 18-year-old girl who's a self-described Tsundere. We share similar interests, but her mood swings are causing problems. She can be affectionate and loving, but also violent and aggressive, lashing out at me over minor issues. For example, she threw shoes at me for a joke and almost stabbed me with a knife over a trivial matter. I'm scared and unsure how to navigate these outbursts.

Llama's score 2 generation: I'm dating a girl who's similar to me, but she's really violent and has mood swings. She gets angry over small things and has even attacked me. I'm scared and need help. (Human Preferred Output)

Tulu 2.5 + PPO (13B RM) misaligned examples

Tulu's score 4 generation: The OP discovered a potentially incriminating text exchange between their SO and her ex's sister, suggesting a renewed romantic connection.

Tulu's score 1 generation: The OP read a suspicious text on their SO's phone, sent from her ex's sister, that suggested they might have gotten back together. (Human Preferred Output)

B.2 EVALUATION

 We provide examples where the model evaluations align with human preferences, even if the chosen option contains less facts or is shorter. In the first example, where both GPT-4o and LLaMA 3.1 70B correctly chose human-preferred summary, while the chosen summary is shorter, it more accurately reflects the key issue in the original post by mentioning the writer's economic status. In the second example, the GPT-4o chosen summary is more clearly reflecting the content in post over the other option which analogically describes the main idea of the post.

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multiple evaluation dimensions. **StanfordHumanPreference-2 (SHP-2)** [\(Ethayarajh et al., 2022\)](#page-10-5), focuses on capturing human preferences over responses to questions and instructions, prioritizing helpfulness. Higher scores indicate a more helpful response. For this study, we use responses from the "reddit/askacademia" domain. OpenAI WebGPT This dataset [\(Nakano et al., 2021\)](#page-12-5), addresses the task of generating answers to questions from the ELI5 (*"Explain Like I'm Five"*) subreddit. Human annotations compare two model-generated answers based on factual accuracy and overall usefulness. We exclude pairs with Tie ratings in all three datasets, as our analysis focuses on cases with clear preference distinctions.

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C.2 MODELS

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971 Our study focuses on the most advanced and widely-used generative models currently accessible, encompassing both proprietary and open-source options. For open-source models, we include LLaMA

972 973 974 975 976 3.1 70B [\(Dubey et al., 2024\)](#page-10-6)^{[*](#page-18-1)}, Mixtral 8x7B Instruct v0.1 [\(Jiang et al., 2024\)](#page-11-9), three TÜLU 2.5 Mod-els [\(Ivison et al., 2024\)](#page-11-10)—TÜLU 2.5 + PPO 13B (13B RM)^{[*](#page-18-3)}, TÜLU 2.5 + PPO 13B (70B RM)^{*}, and TÜLU 2.5 + DPO 13B [*](#page-18-4). For proprietary models, we use Gemini 1.5 Flash [\(Reid et al., 2024\)](#page-12-6), GPT-4o [\(OpenAI, 2024\)](#page-12-7)^{[*](#page-18-6)}, and GPT-3.5^{*}. We set the parameters for all models to: temperature = 0.6, top $-p = 0.9$, and max tokens = 1024.

D PROFILE

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D.1 FACTOR EXTRACTION METHODS

982 983 984 985 986 987 Rule-based Extraction We obtain the Length and Novel Words using a rule-based extraction method. First, we calculate the output's length and count the novel words by removing special characters and splitting the text into words. The total word count represents Length. For Novel Words, we stem both the source text and the model output to create unique sets of stemmed words, then determine the number and proportion of unique words in the output that differ from the source.

988 989 LLM-based Extraction The calculations are divided into atomic-fact-level and response-level based on the granularity of the factors.

990 991 992 993 994 995 996 Atomic-Fact-Level Factors refer to those factors that are evaluated based on the presence or absence of each factor at the atomic fact level. An atomic fact is a short, self-contained piece of information that does not require further explanation and cannot be broken down further [\(Min et al., 2023\)](#page-12-10). These include the Number Of Facts, Source Coverage, Off Focus, Hallucination, Helpfulness, and Misinformation. The Number Of Facts is determined by counting the total atomic facts, while the remaining factors are calculated as the ratio of relevant atomic facts to the total number of atomic facts.

997 998 999 1000 1001 Response-Level Factors refer to those factors that are evaluated based on the presence or absence of each factor at the response level. These include Receptiveness, Intent Alignment, and Formality Alignment. Formality Alignment is classified into one of three categories: [Aligned/Misaligned/Partially-Aligned], while the other two factors are determined in a binary manner [Yes/No].

1002 1003 1004 1005 The prompts used are provided in [D.2.](#page-18-7) The Source Coverage does not have a separate prompt since it was calculated using the output from the Hallucination (i.e., the ratio of non-hallucinated atomic facts to the total number of atomic facts in the Source Post).

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D.2 PROMPT TEMPLATE FOR LLM-BASED FACTOR EXTRACTION

1008 1009 D.2.1 TEMPLATE FOR ATOMIC FACT GENERATION

1010 Number Of Fact

> Your task is to extract atomic facts from the INPUT. These are self-contained units of information that are unambiguous and require no further splitting. {FEW SHOT} INPUT: input OUTPUT:

D.2.2 TEMPLATE FOR INPUT-OUTPUT FACTORS

Receptiveness

- **1024** *We use huggingface allenai/tulu-v2.5-dpo-13b-uf-mean model.
- **1025** *We use gpt-4o-2024-05-13 version for all GPT-4o inference.

^{*} Inference for LLaMA was conducted using the Together AI API. <https://www.together.ai/>

¹⁰²² *We use huggingface allenai/tulu-v2.5-ppo-13b-uf-mean-13b-uf-rm model.

¹⁰²³ *We use huggingface allenai/tulu-v2.5-ppo-13b-uf-mean-70b-uf-rm model.

^{*}We use gpt-3.5-turbo-1106 version for all GPT-3.5 inference.

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format, with a 'yes' or 'no' decision regarding the response's receptiveness to the original post, along with justifications.: {FEW SHOT}

INPUT: Post: {POST}

Response : {OUTPUT}

Off Focus

You have been provided a statement. Can you determine if it is related to the main focus of the post? The main focus of a post is the core subject around which all the content revolves. Format your response in JSON, containing a 'yes' or 'no' decision for each statement in the set, along with justifications.

Does the response clearly address the query from the original post? First determine the core question or purpose of the original post from the user, and evaluate whether the response clearly serves as the proper answer to the question. Provide your response in JSON

{FEW SHOT}

INPUT: Reddit Post: {POST}

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D.2.3 TEMPLATE FOR SOURCE-OUTPUT FACTORS

1044 Intent Alignment

You have been provided a statement. Can you determine if it is related to the main focus of the post? The main focus of a post is the core subject around which all the content revolves. Format your response in JSON, containing a 'yes' or 'no' decision for each statement in the set, along with justifications.

{FEW SHOT}

INPUT: {ATOMIC FACT} Reddit Post: {POST}

Hallucination

You have been provided with a set of statements. Does the factual information within each statement accurately match the post? A statement is considered accurate if it does not introduce details that are unmentioned in the post, or contradicts the post's existing information. Provide your response in JSON format, with a 'yes' or 'no' decision for each statement in the set, along with justifications.

{FEW SHOT}

INPUT: {ATOMIC FACT} Reddit Post: {POST}

Formality Alignment

You have been provided an original post and a summary. First determine the formality (formal, informal) for both the post and the summary. Then, decide if the formalities align. If they match perfectly, return "Aligned", if they are similar in terms of formality (e.g., both informal) but have slight differences in how much formal/informal they are, return "Partially Aligned", and if they don't match, return "Not Aligned". Format your response in JSON as follows: Output Format: {"decision": , "justification": }

{FEW SHOT} Reddit Post: {POST} Summary : {OUTPUT}

D.2.4 TEMPLATE FOR OUTPUT-ONLY FACTORS

1070 1071 Helpfulness

You have been provided a statement. Can you determine if this statement provides helpful information, although not directly necessary to answer the question?

{FEW SHOT}

INPUT: question: {POST} statements: {ATOMIC FACT}

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Misinformation

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You have been provided a statement. Can you determine if it contains potentially incorrect or misleading information? Potential misleading information include assumptions about user; medical, legal, financial advice; conspiracy theories; claims to take real world action and more.

{FEW SHOT}

INPUT: {ATOMIC FACT}

D.3 VALIDATION OF LLM-BASED EXTRACTIONS

1088 1089 1090 1091 1092 1093 1094 1095 1096 1097 1098 1099 1100 1101 We use GPT-4o to extract (1) manifestations of response-level factors—Intent Alignment and Formality Alignmentand (2) Number 0f Facts from outputs for our analysis ('atomic-fact-based'). To assess the validity of GPT-4o's evaluation of each factor, we randomly selected 50 samples and found that GPT-4o accurately assessed Intent Alignment in 43 out of 50 samples (86%) and Formality Alignment in 46 out of 50 samples, resulting in an accuracy of 92%. Most misalignments occur when GPT-4o marks a response as 'Not aligned' due to content inaccuracies, even when intent or formality is not the issue. Consistent with prior works using GPT as an extractor of atomic facts [\(Hu et al., 2023;](#page-11-0) [Min et al., 2023\)](#page-12-10), we find taking atomic facts generated by GPT-4o acceptable and similar to human. We rely on GPT-4o in detecting Hallucination Off Focus, as [Hu et al.](#page-11-0) [\(2023\)](#page-11-0) reports the accuracy of GPT-4 in these two tasks as 89% and 83%, respectively. Source Coverage is essentially extracted in the same way as Hallucination but with the direction of fact-checking reversed (i.e., checking whether the atomic fact from the source (post) is present in the output (summary)). We further validated GPT-4o's extractions for Helpfulness and Misinformation, finding them largely consistent with human assessments.

1102 1103 1104 1105 1106 1107 For Receptiveness, we randomly sample 50 instances from WebGPT dataset and find the accuracy to be 90%. For Helpfulness, we find the accuracy at a response-level to be 87% and 80% in the atomic-fact-level. The model generally made sound, context-aware judgments, for example, correctly dismissing helpful advice when it contradicted the question's premise (e.g., suggesting coffee when the question stated it didn't help). For Misinformation, we observed 87% response-level accuracy and 70% atomic-fact level precision. Most inaccuracies were false positives, often triggered by exaggerated claims (e.g., "Your paper is now 100% more skimmable").

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1110 E PROMPTS

1111 1112 1113 The details of the model response generation and evaluation prompts we used for each experimental setting are as follows.

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1115 E.1 GENERATION PROMPTS

1116 1117 E.1.1 SCORE-BASED GENERATION

1118 The output generation prompts for the three tasks are as follows.

1120 1121 1122 Task Description The following are the descriptions of the three tasks—summarization, helpful response generation, and document-based QA—that are included in the prompt explaining the task to the model. These descriptions replace the {*TASK DESCRIPTION*} part in each template below.

1123 1124 1125 1126 1127 1128 1129 - Summary: A good summary is a shorter piece of text that captures the essence of the original. It aims to accomplish the same purpose and convey the same key information as the original post. - Heplfulness: A helpful response is a concise and efficient answer that directly addresses the user's question or task. It should provide accurate and relevant information without unnecessary elaboration. - WebGPT: A useful answer directly addresses the core question with accurate and relevant information. It should be coherent, free of errors or unsupported claims, and include helpful details while minimizing unnecessary or irrelevant content. **Generation Template** The following is the prompt for generating the model's output, rated from 1

1130 1131 1132 to 5, for the given task. The outputs of the three models are referred to as 'summary', 'response', and 'response' respectively. For Tulu and Mixtral models, we customize the prompt by adding ", SCORE 2 SUMMARY:, SCORE 3 SUMMARY:, SCORE 4 SUMMARY:, SCORE 5 SUMMARY:".

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1148 E.2 EVALUATION PROMPTS

1149 1150 E.2.1 COMPARISON-BASED EVALUATION

1151 1152 1153 1154 Evaluation Template We provide the model with two responses using the evaluation prompt below and ask it to assess which output is better. Depending on the task, we also provide relevant sources (e.g., post, question, and reference) along with the responses generated by the model to help it choose the preferred response.

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F ACHIEVING BETTER ALIGNMENT THROUGH PROFILE

F.1 IMPROVING ALIGNMENT IN EVALUATION THROUGH FACTOR-LEVEL GUIDANCE.

1183 1184 1185 1186 1187 This section explains the specific experimental settings for the *Improving Alignment in Evaluation through Factor-level Guidance* paragraph in § [4.4.](#page-7-0) For Guide M_{is} , The Mixtral model we use specified Off Focus as the factor and tulu 2.5 + PPO (13b RM) specified Coherence. These two factors are the ones most preferred by each model but are considered less influential by humans compared to the models. For Guide $_{Rand}$, we randomly select one factor from those that showed no significant preference difference between humans and the models; Fluency is selected for Mixtral, and Off Focus

1188 1189 is selected fortulu 2.5 + PPO (13b RM). The prompts used and the factor-specific guidance included in each prompt are as follows. Prompt template

-
- Improved Summary:

Improvement Baseline Single Template

```
{TASK DESCRIPTION} Generate an improved summary based on the given two summaries.
Reddit Post: {CONTENT}
Summary 1: {SUMMARY1}
Summary 2: {SUMMARY2}
Improved Summary:
```
F.2.2 METRIC

1241 Due to the relative nature of preference, we cannot directly assess the alignment of the improved response itself. Instead, we measure the degree of the *improvement* resulting from the evaluator's **1242 1243 1244** feedback to evaluate how well the occurred improvement aligns with both human and evaluator preferences. For each factor f_k and pairwise factor comparison function M_k , we calculate the *factor score of improvement* with τ_{14} .

1245 1246 1247 For a given initial response r_{init} and the improved response r_{post} , since the model is considered to have 'improved' the responses, r_{post} is regarded as the model's 'preferred' response over r_{init} . The factor scores are then calculated as follows:

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 $\tau_{14}(f_k) = \frac{|C_k| - |D_k|}{|C_k| + |D_k| + |T_k|}$ (1)

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1260 1261 1262 1263 1264 1265 For the Length factor, if the model produces responses that are longer than the original responses r_{init} , (i.e. $M_{\text{length}}(r_{post}, r_{init}) = 1$), this response pair is classified as concordant and vice versa. When evaluating all response pairs, a positive factor score suggests that the model significantly considers this factor when improving responses, while a negative score indicates a negative influence. A score near zero implies that the factor has minimal impact on the improvement process. The magnitude of the score reflects the degree of influence this factor exerts on the response enhancement.

 $C_k = \sum_{r_{init}, r_{post} \in R} \mathbb{1} \left[M_k(r_{post}, r_{init}) = +1 \right],$

 $D_k = \sum_{r_{init}, r_{post} \in R} \mathbb{1} \left[M_k(r_{post}, r_{init}) = -1 \right],$

 $T_k = \sum_{r_{init}, r_{post} \in R} \mathbb{1} \left[M_k(r_{post}, r_{init}) = 0 \right],$

1266 1267 1268 1269 Subsequently, we calculate Kendall's τ between the set of "factor scores of improvement" for each factor and the factor scores assigned by both human evaluators and automated evaluators, which we denote as $\Delta \tau$. This $\Delta \tau$ quantifies how the model's improvements correlate with human and evaluator's factor-level preferences.

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1271 F.2.3 FEEDBACK VALIDATION

1272 1273 1274 1275 1276 1277 1278 1279 1280 1281 One of the authors examine 30 samples of GPT-4o evaluator's feedback to determine whether it correspond to our predefined factors. The analysis reveals that out of the 30 samples, the most frequently addressed factor in GPT-4o's feedback is Intent Alignment, appearing 20 times. This is followed by Source Coverage, which appeared 15 times, and Number of Facts with 12 occurrences. The Length and Off Focus factors are mentioned 10 and 9 times each. Less frequently addressed is Coherence, which appeared 6 times, and Fluency, which is mentioned 3 times. Factors other than these are not mentioned in the feedback at all. As shown in Table [3](#page-8-0) (a), in the evaluation setting, GPT-4o exhibit correlations close to zero or negative for most factors except for Intent Alignment, Formality Alignment, Number of Facts Source Coverage, Length and Coherence. This observed trend aligns with our findings from the feedback, with the exception of Formality Alignment.

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1283 1284 G FACTOR-LEVEL PREFERENCE ALIGNMENT

1285 1286 G.1 FACTOR SCORES

1287 1288 Table [6-](#page-24-0) [8](#page-26-1) present the full lists of factor scores for both generation (gen) and evaluation (eval) across all three tasks used in the study.

- **1289 1290**
- **1291** G.2 FACTOR-LEVEL ALIGNMENT WITH HUMAN AND MODELS.

1292 1293 1294 1295 Table [9](#page-26-0) shows models' factor-level alignment (Kendall's τ) with humans for helpful response generation tasks (SHP-2) and document-based QA tasks (WebGPT), and response-level agreement with humans in an evaluation setting.

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1330 G.3 FACTOR CORRELATIONS

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1333 1334 1335 Figure [5](#page-27-1) presents the correlation matrix for the GPT-4o, Gemini-1.5, and Tulu 2.5 + PPO (13B RM) models across three tasks. The analysis focuses on the correlation between the distributions of feature scores for each feature within the samples generated by these models.

Sorted based on the human factor score.

1336 1337 1338 1339 1340 In summarization task, the patterns of feature correlation are generally consistent across the three models. Notably, there is a strong correlation between {length and number of facts} as well as {number of facts and source coverage}. These results are intuitive: the more factual content an answer includes, the longer the response tends to be, which in turn increases the likelihood of covering information from the source material.

1341 1342 1343 1344 1345 1346 1347 1348 In helpfulness task, All three models consistently exhibit a high correlation among {length, number of facts, and helpfulness}. This is expected, as longer responses are more likely to include a greater number of facts, which often translates into more helpful content. Interestingly, in the GPT-4o model specifically, there is a noticeable correlation between "receptiveness" and the set of factors {helpfulness, number of facts, coherence, length}. As detailed in Table [7,](#page-25-1) these are precisely the factors that GPT-4o tends to prioritize in this task. This pattern suggests that the GPT-4o model frequently considers these factors during response generation, resulting in a higher prevalence of these features in its outputs.

1349 In the WebGPT task, there was a high correlation among {length, number of facts, and helpfulness}, similar to the helpfulness task. For GPT-4o and Tulu 2.5 + PPO (13B RM), the correlation between

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sponses. Additionally, the lower the score, the less similarity there is to the direct responses, indicating that our score-based responses align well with the model's outputs. Thus, we demonstrate that our findings can generalize to typical settings where responses are generated directly by the model.

