SPARKLES: UNLOCKING CHATS ACROSS MULTIPLE IMAGES FOR MULTIMODAL INSTRUCTION-FOLLOWING MODELS

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Abstract

Large language models exhibit enhanced zero-shot performance on various tasks when fine-tuned with instruction-following data. Multimodal instruction-following models extend these capabilities by integrating both text and images. However, existing models such as MiniGPT-4 and LLaVA face challenges in maintaining dialogue coherence in scenarios involving multiple images. A primary reason is the lack of a specialized dataset for this critical application. To bridge these gaps, we introduce SparklesDialogue, the first machine-generated dialogue dataset tailored for word-level interleaved multi-image and text interactions. Furthermore, we construct SparklesEval, a GPT-assisted benchmark for quantitatively assessing a model's conversational competence across multiple images and dialogue turns. We then present SparklesChat, a multimodal instruction-following model for openended dialogues across multiple images. Our experiments validate the effectiveness of training SparklesChat with SparklesDialogue based on MiniGPT-4 and LLaVAv1.5, which enhances comprehension across multiple images and dialogue turns, and does not compromise single-image understanding capabilities. Qualitative evaluations further demonstrate SparklesChat's generality in handling real-world applications. All resources related to this study are publicly available at https: //github.com/HYPJUDY/Sparkles.



Figure 1: The architecture of SparklesChat. SparklesChat integrates multiple images at the word level within the dialogue, facilitating a fine-grained and human-like multimodal interaction.

1 INTRODUCTION

Large language models (LLMs) have shown remarkable progress in zero-shot performance across a variety of tasks when fine-tuned using instruction-following data (Ouyang et al., 2022; Openai,



Figure 2: Comparison between our SparklesChat (left) and MiniGPT-4 (right) on an example from SparklesEval. We adapt MiniGPT-4 to accept multiple images as input. SparklesChat shows conversational competence in open dialogues across three criteria: (C1) image understanding and reasoning, (C2) maintaining cross-image and cross-turn coherence, and (C3) generating relevant and complete responses. In contrast, MiniGPT-4 faces challenges in these aspects, leading to difficulty following user instructions across various images and dialogue turns.

2023; Touvron et al., 2023; Chiang et al., 2023; Wei et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2022; Yin et al., 2023a). In the multimodal domain, instruction-following models such as MiniGPT-4 (Zhu et al., 2023a) and LLaVA (Liu et al., 2023c) extend these capabilities by integrating pretrained vision encoders with instruction-following LLMs using projection layers. These models learn alignments between individual images and sentences by training on image-text pairs but struggle to capture interactions among multiple images and text. This capability is crucial for user-assistant conversations, where users often refer to multiple images with text snippets to convey their instructions in detail. As shown in Figure 2, MiniGPT-4 mixes up the content of multiple images, fails to establish coherence between images, and consequently falls short in following user instructions during open dialogues.

One key limitation hindering progress in this area is the lack of specialized datasets designed for multimodal dialogues that involve multiple images and fine-grained, word-level text interactions. Existing models such as Flamingo can adapt to various image understanding tasks when prompted with a few relevant examples due to their training on image-text interleaved web data (Alayrac et al., 2022). However, these models often fall short in following intricate human instructions because they are trained to predict the next word on a large web dataset rather than perform the task the user wants (Ouyang et al., 2022).

To address these gaps, we introduce **SparklesDialogue**, the first machine-generated dialogue dataset designed for word-level interleaved multi-image and text interactions. Notably, SparklesDialogue was generated by using OpenAI's GPT-4 (Openai, 2023) to simulate user-assistant conversations with visual capabilities based on detailed image descriptions. By leveraging two different image and description sources, we curated two distinct subsets, namely SparklesDialogueCC and SparklesDialogueVG, which ensure enhanced robustness and diversity.

Furthermore, we introduce **SparklesEval**, a GPT-assisted benchmark to quantitatively evaluate a model's conversational competence in open-ended dialogues across multiple images and dialogue turns. SparklesEval features a comprehensive and interpretable scoring system based on three criteria: *Image Understanding and Reasoning, Cross-Image and Cross-Turn Coherence*, and *Relevance and Completeness of Responses*.

We then present **SparklesChat**, a multimodal instruction-following model for open-ended dialogues across multiple images. Unlike previous approaches such as MiniGPT-4 and LLaVA (Liu et al., 2023c;b) that take the concatenation of a single image with sentence-level text as input (e.g., " $\uparrow Can$ you describe this image as detailed as possible?" - where ' $\uparrow can$ denotes a single image), SparklesChat, as shown in Figure 1, integrates multiple images at the word level (e.g., "Can you link the celebration occurring in IMAGE#2331159 $\uparrow can$ and the dirt bike race in IMAGE#2330601 $\uparrow c$?"). This innovation enables fine-grained integration of multiple images and context tokens, mimicking natural human communication closely.

For quantitative evaluation, we validate the effectiveness of our proposed SparklesChat and Sparkles-Dialogue through extensive experiments. These include evaluations for both multi-image and single-image understanding based on the MiniGPT-4 and LLaVA-v1.5 architectures. For multi-image understanding, we perform evaluations on binary image selection on the BISON dataset (Hu et al., 2019) and visual reasoning on the NLVR2 dataset (Suhr et al., 2019). With the BISON dataset, SparklesChat achieves 10.7% and 12.6% improvement in accuracy for MiniGPT-4 and LLaVA-v1.5, respectively. Similarly, on the NLVR2 dataset, SparklesChat enhances accuracy by 6.7% and 3.4% for MiniGPT-4 and LLaVA-v1.5, respectively. In our SparklesEval, SparklesChat scores 8.56 out of 10, outperforming the MiniGPT-4 (3.91) and LLaVA-v1.5 (2.75) scores. Furthermore, our experiments indicate that training SparklesChat with SparklesDialogue not only maintains but potentially enhances the single-image understanding capabilities of multimodal instruction-following models on some benchmarks. Qualitative evaluations further demonstrate SparklesChat's applicability in real-world scenarios to handle multi-turn dialogues, with each turn involving multiple images.

2 RELATED WORKS

We provide a concise summary herein and direct readers to Appendix B for a detailed discussion.

Multimodal alignment datasets. Various datasets such as Visual Genome (Krishna et al., 2017) and Conceptual Captions (Sharma et al., 2018) align images with corresponding descriptions, form-



Figure 3: The GPT-assisted data construction process. GPT-4 simulates dialogues between a user and an assistant using multiple images. Dialogue Demonstrations act as learning examples for generating well-formatted dialogues, and Candidate Image Descriptions provide a pool of images for discussion. No visual images are sent to GPT-4.

ing the foundation for multimodal alignment. Advancements such as the Common Crawl Interleaved data (Huang et al., 2023) and the Multimodal C4 dataset (Zhu et al., 2023b) expand conventional datasets by integrating multiple images and sentences from web corpora. Models including Flamingo (Alayrac et al., 2022) and Kosmos-1 (Huang et al., 2023) trained on them can adapt to various tasks using multiple image-text examples. However, they fall short in following intricate instructions as they are trained to predict the next word on a web dataset rather than perform the task the user wants (Ouyang et al., 2022).

Multimodal dialogue datasets. Datasets such as Visual Dialog (Das et al., 2017) created by crowd workers, and LLaVA data (Liu et al., 2023c) generated by LLMs, focus on image-driven conversations inquiring about image attributes or factual knowledge. Conversely, datasets such as OpenViDial (Meng et al., 2020) and PhotoChat (Zang et al., 2021) integrate images within daily human conversations sparsely. Nonetheless, these datasets are not designed for instructive, in-depth multi-image analysis dialogues, posing challenges in dealing with real-world analytical scenarios.

Multimodal instruction tuning. Multimodal instruction tuning developed with datasets like MultiInstruct (Xu et al., 2022) offering benchmarks for diverse multimodal tasks and models like MiniGPT-4 (Zhu et al., 2023a) being fine-tuned on detailed image descriptions to align better with user intentions. Techniques such as LLaVA (Liu et al., 2023c;b) and SVIT (Zhao et al., 2023) leverage LLMs to interpret image annotations and generate instruction-following datasets. Our dataset and model build upon these developments and explore complex interactions between multiple images and word-level textual content.

3 SPARKLESDIALOGUE

We introduce SparklesDialogue to enhance the conversational abilities of multimodal models across multiple images and dialogue turns.

GPT-assisted data construction. We aim to construct a multimodal dialogue dataset that offers fine-grained interactions between multiple images and words, mimicking user-assistant conversations. These dialogues should cover real-world concepts, objects, and entities, spanning scenarios that involve generating text materials, seeking advice, guidance, assistance, and much more. GPT-4 is used as the primary tool for advanced instruction-following ability and a broad knowledge base.



Figure 4: Characteristics of SparklesDialogueVG.

The data collection process is visualized in Figure 3. We instruct GPT-4 to simulate realistic and diverse dialogues between a user and an assistant discussing multiple images through a sequence of turns. Initially, the user gives a reasonable and creative message regarding some images, to which the assistant provides a detailed answer that includes comprehensive reasoning regarding the visual content. Subsequent turns introduce new images for further discussion, ensuring responses are helpful with comprehensive reasoning to better align with human preferences. For prompt templates and examples, refer to Appendix K.

Dialogue Demonstration and Candidate Image Descriptions are crucial components in this process. Dialogue Demonstrations provide GPT-4 with examples to guide the generation of well-formatted and diverse responses. We curated hundreds of such dialogues and manually checked their quality. A small subset of these dialogues is randomly selected as demonstrations for every dialogue generation task. Candidate Image Descriptions serves as a candidate pool for relevant image selection. Given that the existing multimodal models like GPT-4-Vision have limitations in accurate image understanding such as inaccurate spatial reasoning and counting, we represent image content with detailed descriptions (Zhu et al., 2023a; Zhao et al., 2023; Liu et al., 2023c). For each dialogue generation instance, candidate images are randomly selected from an image-text paired dataset, the data sources of which are provided following.

Data sources and subsets. Following the above data construction process, we construct Sparkles-Dialogue, the first machine-generated multimodal dialogue dataset with fine-grained interactions between multiple images and words. In particular, SparklesDialogue consists of two subsets: Sparkles-DialogueCC and SparklesDialogueVG, which were generated based on two different image sources, namely Conceptual Captions (CC) (Sharma et al., 2018) and Visual Genome (VG) (Krishna et al., 2017) respectively. SparklesDialogueVG is of high quality as the VG image descriptions generated by GPT-4 benefit from human-annotated captions, objects, and regions (Zhao et al., 2023). On the other hand, SparklesDialogueCC enriches SparklesDialogue by drawing from a more extensive set of

Table 1: Statistics of SparklesDialogue and SparklesEval.							
Dataset Name	Image Source	Caption Source	#Dialogue	#Image Turn one	#Image Turn two	#Unique/Total Image	
			1,653	1	1	2,067/3,306	
SparklesDialogueCC	CC	MiniGPT-4	1,799	2	1	2,642/5,397 3,373/12,979	
			1,069	3	1	2,408/4,276	
SparklesDialogueVG	VG	SVIT	1,000	2	1	3,000/3,000 7,000/7,000	
SparklesDialoguevo	vu	311	1,000	3	1	4,000/4,000 7,000/7,000	
			50	2	1	150/150	
SparklesEval	VG	SVIT	50	2	2	200/200 550/550	
			50	3	1	200/200	

images -3.3 million in CC compared to 0.1 million in VG. However, the CC image descriptions are generated by a multimodal model with image features but not human annotations and are more prone to object hallucination issues (Zhu et al., 2023a). These different sources ensure enhanced robustness and diversity across different downstream applications. Our ablation study elaborated in section 6.2 demonstrates that combining these two subsets improves models' capacity for understanding and reasoning across images and text.

Statistics and characteristics. Table 1 presents the statistics for SparklesDialogue. Specifically, SparklesDialogueCC comprises 4.5K dialogues, each consisting of at least two images spanning two conversational turns. SparklesDialogueVG includes 2K dialogues, each with at least three distinct images across two turns. Figure 4 shows the characteristics of our dataset using SparklesDialogueVG as a representative subset. The visualization of root verb-noun pairs indicates a wide range of user queries, from generating text materials to seeking advice or discussing image relationships, such as comparison and connection. The word cloud reveals that dialogues span various real-world topics, including the environment, nature, life, cities, etc. The high average word count in assistant messages suggests that the responses in SparklesDialogue are thorough and detailed. For details on the characteristics of SparklesDialogueCC and the method for extracting root verb-noun pairs and their visualization based on image count in each turn, please see Appendix J.

4 SparklesEval

While previous research, such as visual storytelling, has leaned toward human evaluations as superior to quantitative measures, these evaluations are often subjective, costly, and time-consuming (Huang et al., 2016). Inspired by the consistency of recent LLMs with human assessment in evaluating output quality (Zheng et al., 2023), we developed SparklesEval, a GPT-assisted benchmark to quantitatively assess a model's conversational competence across multiple images and dialogue turns.

SparklesEval evaluates dialogues that include questions from the benchmark and the model's generated responses, considering both the current question and any preceding dialogue history. In this evaluation, a judge model (e.g., GPT-4) is presented with the complete dialogue but is only required to assess the model-generated responses. Image descriptions related to the dialogue are provided to support the assessment. Each assessment is based on three distinct criteria: Image Understanding and Reasoning, Cross-Image and Cross-Turn Coherence, and Relevance and Completeness of Responses, with reasons and ratings on a scale of 1 to 10 for each criterion. Moreover, we calculate average scores for each dialogue turn and an overall score derived from the average of these turn-specific scores. The evaluation prompt and score computation process are elaborated in Appendix F.

Our evaluation approach differs from prior GPT-assisted evaluations in two aspects. First, it employs a combined score for a more comprehensive and interpretable assessment instead of a singular one (Liu et al., 2023c). Second, it is less biased and more efficient by assessing a single dialogue per prompt rather than contrasting multiple dialogues within one prompt (Zheng et al., 2023). Our approach eliminates position bias - the potential favor to certain positions when multiple dialogues are assessed within a prompt (Zheng et al., 2023). It enhances efficiency by avoiding the recalculation of combined scores for multiple dialogues.

Table 2: Architectures and	l instruction-tuning data	a comparisons for MiniGPT-4 and LLaVA-v1.5.	

Model	Res. Vision Encoder La		Language Decoder	Instruction-tuning Data (size)
MiniGPT-4	224	EVA-ViT-G	Vicuna-v0-7B	Description (3.5K)
LLaVA-v1.5	336	CLIP-ViT-L	Vicuna-v1.5-7B	Description, reasoning, conversation, VQA (665K)

Table 1 provides the data statistics for SparklesEval. SparklesEval emphasizes more on accuracy and is thus constructed using the detailed SVIT image descriptions sourced from human annotations (Zhao et al., 2023). To encourage diversity, SparklesEval was curated by analyzing the verb-noun distribution in user questions and selecting those that appear only once. SparklesEval includes 150 dialogues, with one-third containing two images in the first and second conversational turns.

Table 3: Comparison of model performance on multi-image and single-image understanding benchmarks. SparklesChat, adaptable to architectures like MiniGPT-4 or LLaVA-v1.5, supports multiple image inputs and benefits from training with SparklesDialogue. Scores for SparklesEval range from 1 to 10, while other benchmarks use accuracy as the metric. LLaVA data includes a mix of description, reasoning, conversation, and VQA data.

Architecture	Instruction-tuning Data	Multi-im	age Under	standing	Single-image Understanding			
		BISON	NLVR2	Sparkles Eval	MMMU	Science QA	Hallusion Bench	
MiniGPT-4	Description (3.5K)	46.0	51.3	3.91	23.6	39.6	52.4	
MIIIIOP I-4	SparklesDialogue (6.5K)	56.7 (+10.7)	58.0 (+6.7)	8.56 (+4.7)	28.4 (+4.8)	42.4 (+2.8)	54.4 (+2.0)	
LLaVA-v1.5	Mixture (665K)	52.7	53.3	2.75	36.2	68.9	48.3	
LLa VA-VI.J	SparklesDialogue (6.5K)	65.3 (+12.6)	56.7 (+3.4)	7.93 (+5.2)	35.1 (-1.1)	67.5 (-1.4)	49.5 (+1.2)	

5 SparklesChat

We present a multimodal instruction-following model SparklesChat to foster interactions between users and AI assistants across multiple images and illustrate the framework in Figure 1.

Architecture. SparklesChat can be based on different architectures such as MiniGPT-4 or LLaVA, which connects a pretrained vision encoder and a pretrained language decoder with a projection layer (Zhu et al., 2023a; Liu et al., 2023c;b), as compared in Table 2. For the original MiniGPT-4 or LLaVA, the input to the language model is a single image representation followed by a sentence embedding of the image description. In SparklesChat, image representations of different images are embedded between text according to their positions in dialogues. More details are in Appendix C.

Instruction-tuning. We simplify the representation of a *T*-turn dialogue \mathbf{X}^i into question-answer pairs for each turn. Training samples are constructed by sequencing these pairs with a predefined system prompt. The prompt $\mathbf{X}_{\text{prompt}}^{i,t}$ and response $\mathbf{X}_{\text{response}}^{i,t}$ at turn *t* are formulated to incorporate the system prompt and the dialogue content up to that turn. The model is trained using an autoregressive training objective, focusing on predicting the target responses based on the prompts. A detailed description is available in the Appendix A.

6 EXPERIMENTS

6.1 COMPARISON OF MODEL PERFORMANCE

Table 3 compares the performance of MiniGPT-4, LLaVA-v1.5, and SparklesChat on multi-image and single-image understanding. SparklesChat is built upon MiniGPT-4 and LLaVA-v1.5 by supporting multi-image training on SparklesDialogue. Please find more model comparisons in Appendix D and experimental details in Appendix C.

Instruction Data	Turns Ratio	BISON	NLVR2	Sparkles Eval
	1:0	<u>57.3</u>	<u>55.3</u>	8.50
	0:1	50.7	46.7	8.24
SparklesDialogue	1:1	59.3	51.3	8.73
(CC+VG)	1:2	49.3	51.3	8.43
	2:1	56.7	58.0	8.56
	3:1	50.7	48.7	8.45
SparklesDialogueCC	2:1	44.7	53.3	8.18
SparklesDialogueVG	2:1	54.7	52.0	<u>8.59</u>

Table 4: Ablation studies analyzing the impact of dialogue turn ratios and subsets from SparklesDialogue on training SparklesChat for multi-image understanding. The evaluation metric is accuracy for BISON and NLVR2; SparklesEval is rated 1-10.

Multi-image understanding. We evaluate models' conversational competence on SparklesEval and zero-shot understanding and reasoning across images through binary image selection on BISON and visual reasoning with natural language on NLVR2 (Hu et al., 2019; Suhr et al., 2019). For a comprehensive understanding of evaluation protocol and prompt design, please refer to Appendix G.

MiniGPT-4 provides baseline results on these tasks. SparklesChat, when adopting the MiniGPT-4 architecture and training on our SparklesDialogue, outperforms MiniGPT-4 in three evaluation sets involving multiple images. Specifically, SparklesChat improves accuracies of 10.7% and 6.7% on BISON and NLVR2, respectively, reflecting its efficacy in handling tasks that require fine-grained visual grounding and compositional visual reasoning over two images. Moreover, SparklesChat excels in the SparklesEval benchmark, scoring 8.56 out of 10. Side-by-side comparisons of example outputs for SparklesChat and MiniGPT-4 are in Figure 2 and Appendix G.

LLaVA-v1.5 has the advantages of higher image resolution and a larger training set than MiniGPT-4, and outperforms MiniGPT-4 on BISON and NLVR2. However, LLaVA-v1.5 shows weaker results on SparklesEval, which may be due to its training data primarily focusing on closed-set multimodal tasks such as VQA, TextCaps, and RefCOCO, while lacking in open-ended dialogue training. After fine-tuning with SparklesDialogue using the low-resource technique LoRA, SparklesChat based on LLaVA-v1.5 improved in open-ended dialogue tasks and enhanced BISON and NLVR2 as well. These results validate the adaptability of our method in unlocking chats across multiple images for multimodal instruction-following models with minimal additional training cost.

Single image understanding. We evaluate models on MMMU validation split (Yue et al., 2023), ScienceQA test split (Lu et al., 2022), and HallusionBench (Guan et al., 2023) with OpenCompass-VLMEvalKit (Contributors, 2023). Models utilizing the LLaVA-v1.5 architecture outperform those based on MiniGPT-4, which is attributable to LLaVA-v1.5's higher image resolution and its training on more comprehensive instruction-following data. Incorporation of the SparklesDialogue training data further refines performance, with MiniGPT-4 showing consistent improvements across benchmarks, while LLaVA-v1.5 exhibits a marginal reduction in some scores. This suggests that while the SparklesDialogue data enhances multi-image comprehension, it does not compromise and may even augment single-image understanding in multimodal models.

6.2 Ablation Studies

We investigate the impact of dialogue turn ratios and subsets from SparklesDialogue on SparklesChat's performance and show results in Table 4. For comprehensive scores from SparklesEval across dialogue turns and criteria, see Appendix E.

Effect of dialogue turns in SparklesDialogue. We first train models with individual dialogue turns. The model trained solely on the first turn (turns ratio '1:0') outperforms the one trained on the second turn (turns ratio '0:1'). This could stem from the extended prompts in the second turn, which includes the content of the first turn, thus deviating from the short prompt format favored by many end tasks. A balanced sampling of dialogue turns, indicated by the turn ratio '1:1', yields the highest performance

on BISON and SparklesEval, albeit with a decrease in performance on NLVR2. An increase in the sampling ratios of the second turn data (turns ratio '1:2') predictably results in a performance drop. Therefore, we increase the sampling ratio of the first-turn data to enhance performance. We finally adopt a 2:1 ratio for the first turn to the second turn as our default setting as it achieves balanced good performance across all benchmarks.

Effect of subsets of SparklesDialogue. Our analysis extended to training the model on two distinct subsets of SparklesDialogue: SparklesDialogueCC and SparklesDialogueVG. Training on SparklesDialogueVG outperformed SparklesDialogueCC in BISON and SparklesEval assessments, with similar performance observed on the NLVR2 test. The superior performance of SparklesDialogueVG can be attributed to its higher-quality, human-annotated data, as discussed in section 3. Notably, SparklesDialogueVG and SparklesEval share image and caption sources, likely contributing to SparklesDialogueVG's enhanced SparklesEval scores. Combining both subsets yields higher or comparable performance than using either subset alone. This suggests that combining SparklesDialogueVG's high-quality data and SparklesDialogueCC's diverse data results in a more robust and versatile dataset for enhancing models' capabilities in image-text understanding.

6.3 DEMONSTRATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

We conducted qualitative demonstrations to showcase SparklesChat's broad applications in free-form scenarios by asking questions such as: "Create a story that takes place in $rac{1}{2}$ for the characters depicted in $rac{1}{2}$.", "Imagine a dialogue between Harry Potter and $rac{1}{2}$ that takes place in the scene of $rac{1}{2}$.", "Create a song where the scene twists from $rac{1}{2}$ to $rac{1}{2}$.", "Create a title for this song that takes inspiration from $rac{1}{2}$.". These scenarios cover dialogues involving two or three-turn dialogues, with each turn involving images from one to five. The visualization and analysis of results are shown in Appendix H.

7 CONCLUSION AND LIMITATIONS

In conclusion, this work unlocks multimodal instruction-following models' capabilities in openended dialogues involving multiple images. We introduced SparklesDialogue, the first machinegenerated dialogue dataset tailored for multi-image and word-level text interactions. Furthermore, we proposed SparklesEval, a specialized benchmark for quantitatively assessing a model's multimodal conversational competence. We also presented SparklesChat, a model designed to handle word-level text interactions in a multimodal context, offering natural conversational flow and direct context awareness. Experimental results demonstrated the effectiveness of training SparklesChat with SparklesDialogue based on MiniGPT-4 and LLaVA-v1.5 architectures in both multi-image and single-image understanding benchmarks. We also conducted qualitative demonstrations to showcase the model's broad applications in free-form scenarios.

We discuss some limitations of this work to inspire future research in this field. First, SparklesChat shares common drawbacks with large language models, such as being out-of-date in its knowledge, sometimes providing inaccurate information, and having limited context length and inference speed (Openai, 2023). Potential solutions may include regular updates to the model's knowledge base and fine-tuning with more reliable data sources. Second, SparklesChat inherits weaknesses from vision models, such as inaccurate object recognition, people/places identification, or visual relationships reasoning (Li et al., 2023c). This calls for a more powerful visual perception model, and training on more well-aligned image-text datasets. Third, SparklesChat occasionally encounters difficulties maintaining multi-image and multi-turn consistency. Specifically, the model may lose the context of prior images after several dialogue turns or mix up the contents of different images. Potential solutions involve advanced model designs in position encoding and attention mechanisms to enhance the model's consistency in recalling historical images and dialogues. Fourth, Sparkles-Dialogue primarily concentrates on natural images, which limits its versatility in handling text-rich images such as charts, tables, and receipts, as well as domain-specific images such as medical scans, math illustrations, and satellite photos. Moreover, the dialogues in SparklesDialogue do not cover all possible user scenarios. Therefore, broadening the dataset to cover more diverse image types and user cases is a direction for future work. Lastly, the reliability of SparklesEval is tied to the capabilities of current GPT models. This limitation can be mitigated by incorporating more robust judge models and the assistance of human evaluators. Future works addressing these issues should make for a more reliable and robust system.

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L Dialogue Demonstrations' contribution to data quality and diversity 44

A INSTRUCTION-TUNING DETAILS

We represent an *i*-th *T*-turn dialogue as $\mathbf{X}^{i} = (\mathbf{X}_{q}^{i,1}, \mathbf{X}_{a}^{i,1}, \cdots, \mathbf{X}_{q}^{i,T}, \mathbf{X}_{a}^{i,T})$, where each pair of $(\mathbf{X}_{q}^{i,t}, \mathbf{X}_{a}^{i,t})$ includes a question from the user and an answer from the assistant in turn-*t*. For each \mathbf{X}^{i} , we construct *T* training samples by organizing each pair of questions and answers as a sequence. Given a predefined system prompt \mathbf{X}_{system} , the prompt $\mathbf{X}_{prompt}^{i,t}$ and response $\mathbf{X}_{response}^{i,t}$ at the *t*-th turn are defined as the following:

$$\mathbf{X}_{\text{prompt}}^{i,t} = \begin{cases} \mathbf{X}_{\text{system}} < \text{SEP} > \text{Human} : \mathbf{X}_{q}^{i,1} < \text{SEP} > \\ \text{Assistant} :, \text{if } t = 1, \\ \mathbf{X}_{\text{prompt}}^{i,t-1} < \text{SEP} > \text{Human} : \mathbf{X}_{q}^{i,t} < \text{SEP} > \\ \text{Assistant} :, \text{if } t > 1. \\ \mathbf{X}_{\text{response}}^{i,t} = \mathbf{X}_{a}^{i,t} < \text{SEP} >. \end{cases}$$
(1)

We train the LLM on the prediction tokens using the auto-regressive training objective. Specifically, for a sequence of length L, we compute the probability of generating target responses $\mathbf{X}_{response}$ by:

$$p\left(\mathbf{X}_{\text{response}} | \mathbf{X}_{\text{prompt}}\right) = \prod_{l=1}^{L} p_{\boldsymbol{\theta}}\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{l} | \mathbf{X}_{\text{prompt}, < l}, \mathbf{X}_{\text{response}, < l}\right),$$
(3)

where θ is the trainable parameters, $\mathbf{X}_{\text{prompt},<l}$ and $\mathbf{X}_{\text{response},<l}$ are prompt and response tokens in all turns before the current prediction token x_l .

B RELATED WORKS

Our work exploits image-text pairs to construct a dialogue dataset for instruction-tuning. Thus, we review related works on multimodal alignment datasets, multimodal dialogue datasets, and multimodal instruction tuning, primarily on natural images and text domains.

Multimodal alignment datasets. Various datasets, such as MSCOCO (Lin et al., 2014), Visual Genome (Krishna et al., 2017), Conceptual Captions (Sharma et al., 2018), Conceptual 12M (Changpinyo et al., 2021), ALIGN (Jia et al., 2021) and LAION (Schuhmann et al., 2021), have been constructed to align images with their corresponding descriptions. These datasets have significantly contributed to the development of multimodal models for image-and-text generation (Huang et al., 2021a; Rombach et al., 2022; Li et al., 2023c) and understanding (Jia et al., 2021; Huang et al., 2021b; Radford et al., 2021). We use these datasets in our data construction process. Emerging trends include datasets featuring interleaved images and text sequences from web corpora, such as M3W (Alayrac et al., 2022), web and Wikipedia articles (Aghajanyan et al., 2022), Common Crawl Interleaved data (Huang et al., 2023), and the Multimodal C4 dataset (Zhu et al., 2023b). These datasets extend conventional image-text alignment training by incorporating multiple images and sentences. When trained on these enriched datasets, models such as Flamingo (Alayrac et al., 2022), OpenFlamingo (Awadalla et al., 2023), Kosmos-1 (Huang et al., 2023), and EMU (Sun et al., 2023) can adapt to various image understanding tasks using multiple task-relevant image-text examples. However, these models often fall short in following intricate human instructions because they are trained to predict the next word on a large web dataset rather than perform the task the user wants (Ouyang et al., 2022).

Multimodal dialogue datasets. Existing multimodal dialogue datasets broadly fall into two categories. The first comprises datasets where conversations are heavily rooted in and driven by images. Traditional datasets of this type are primarily generated by inviting crowd workers to engage in dialogues about a common image. Notable examples include Visual Dialog (Das et al., 2017), which emphasizes question-answering tasks within AI-human chat about visual content, and IGC (Mostafazadeh et al., 2017), a compilation of dialogues featuring an image, a corresponding textual description, and a conversation centered on the image. Image-Chat presents image-grounded dialogues crafted around given images (Shuster et al., 2020). Recently, dialogue datasets, such as LLaVA (Liu et al., 2023c), SVIT (Zhao et al., 2023), and LAMM (Yin et al., 2023b), created by LLMs alongside image annotations have surfaced. Each dialogue in these datasets begins with an inquiry about image attributes or factual knowledge, with responses expected to be brief within 50 words, which may not align with real-world scenarios requiring in-depth multi-image analysis. The second category features daily human conversations, with images interspersed within multi-turn conversations sparsely. For example, OpenViDial (Meng et al., 2020; Wang et al., 2021) is sourced from dialogues in movies and TV series, whereas PhotoChat (Zang et al., 2021) is a human-human dialogue dataset developed through crowdsourcing and features photo-sharing. Other datasets, such as DialogCC (Lee et al., 2022), MultiModalDialogue (Lee et al., 2021), and IMAD (Viktor & Denis, 2023) enhance text-only dialogues by incorporating semantically relevant images. In addition, MM-Chat (Zheng et al., 2022) and MMDialog (Feng et al., 2023) encompass image-grounded dialogues derived from social media interactions. However, these datasets, not being designed for user-assistant interactions, struggle with instructive, problem-solving dialogue requirements.

Multimodal instruction tuning. Multimodal instruction tuning has grown substantially with the advent of multimodal instruction datasets. For instance, MultiInstruct (Xu et al., 2022) offers a benchmark comprising 62 diverse multimodal tasks unified in a seq-to-seq format. InstructBLIP (Dai et al., 2023) extended the scope by transforming 26 datasets into instruction-tuning form. Otter (Li et al., 2023b) is trained on MIMIC-IT (Li et al., 2023a), a multimodal in-context instruction tuning dataset constructed by grouping multiple similar instructions into a contextual example. To better align with user intentions, MiniGPT-4 is fine-tuned on a small dataset of detailed image descriptions (Zhu et al., 2023a) and PF-1M (Chen et al., 2023) rewrites image annotations in a human-like style across 37 vision-language datasets. Furthermore, techniques such as LLaVA (Liu et al., 2023c), SVIT (Zhao et al., 2023), LRV-Instruction (Liu et al., 2023a), and LAMM (Yin et al., 2023b) have emerged. These methods leverage language-only APIs such as OpenAI's GPT-4 (Openai, 2023) and self-instruction methods (Wang et al., 2022) to interpret image annotations (e.g., image captions,

region descriptions, object bounding boxes, attributes, and relationships), and generate responses in various forms (i.e., short conversations, image captioning, and visual reasoning). Models such as mPLUG-Owl (Ye et al., 2023), PandaGPT (Su et al., 2023), LLaMAAdapter V2 (Gao et al., 2023), and Multimodal-GPT (Gong et al., 2023) further extended this area, incorporating both language-only and vision-language instruction data. These developments are a valuable foundation for our work. Our dataset, SparklesDialogue, is inspired by GPT-assisted data construction techniques and explores the interactions between multiple images and word-level textual content. Training our model, SparklesChat, on this dataset unlocks the capability of multimodal models to interpret complex image-text interactions.

C IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS

SparklesChat can be based on different architectures such as MiniGPT-4 or LLaVA. To train SparklesChat based on the MiniGPT-4 architecture, we built upon the official MiniGPT-4 codebase (Zhu et al., 2023a)¹. The language decoder, Vicuna (Chiang et al., 2023), is based on the LLaMA framework (Touvron et al., 2023), which can handle diverse language tasks. For image processing, we use the visual encoder from BLIP-2, combining a pretrained EVA-ViT in Vision Transformer (ViT) backbone with a pretrained Q-Former (Li et al., 2023c; Fang et al., 2022; Dosovitskiy et al., 2021). Only the projection layer is trainable in the model while other vision and language components are frozen. We refer to MiniGPT-4's efficient fine-tuning process and tune SparklesChat using 1,500 training steps with a batch size of 8, based on MiniGPT-4's first-stage pretrained model. Our training data of SparklesDialogue is sampled with the same ratio from SparklesDialogueCC and SparklesDialogueVG, and with sampling ratios of 2 and 1 from the first and second turns of dialogues, respectively.

During instruction-tuning, we follow MiniGPT-4 to represent images with <ImageHere>. In practice, all tags of <ImageHere> are replaced by the visual features produced by a linear projection layer. Tags of and are language tokens that serve as signals for the start and end of images. A system message X_{system} is appended to the beginning of each prompt. We also append Human: and Assistant: before each user and assistant messages to equip the model with conversation capability. System, user, and assistant messages are separated by a separator <SEP>. The system message X_{system} = Give the following image: ImageContent. You will be able to see the image once I provide it to you. Please answer my questions. The separator $\langle SEP \rangle = ###$. Table 5 illustrates the unified format for two-turn dialogue training sequences.

To train SparklesChat based on the LLaVA-v1.5 architecture, we built upon the official LLaVA codebase² (Liu et al., 2023c;b) and adapted it to accept multiple images. We adopted a learning rate of 2e-5 and a batch size of 4 per GPU. The training was conducted over 2,000 steps across four GPUs, employing the low-resource technique LoRA to save memory and time. The language model components are based on the 7-billion parameter size of the Vicuna architecture (Chiang et al., 2023).

In our evaluation, we configure the parameters as follows: temperature is set to 1.0, top_p to 0.9, and max_new_tokens to 300, with both repetition_penalty and length_penalty at 1.0. For demonstration cases, the beam_size is 2; for all other evaluations, it is 1.

We tailored the OpenAI's GPT-4 API (gpt-4-0613) parameters to balance diversity and quality for data construction. We set the temperature and top_p parameters to 1.0, the max_tokens parameter to 2,048, and both the frequency_penalty and presence_penalty to 0.0. In each query to the GPT-4 API, the "system" role was allocated the default instruction You are a helpful assistant. As of July 2023, the cost for generating 1,000 tokens was \$0.06 for outputs and \$0.03 for inputs within an 8K context³, leading to a total dataset generation cost of approximately \$500. The cost of evaluating a model on SparklesEval is approximately \$1.4 and \$14 using gpt-3.5-turbo-0613 and gpt-4-0613, respectively.

¹https://github.com/Vision-CAIR/MiniGPT-4

²https://github.com/haotian-liu/LLaVA/

³https://openai.com/pricing

Table 5: Prompt and response sequence formats used to train SparklesChat. The first and the second conversation turns are illustrated here. The model is trained to predict the assistant answers, and thus only green sequence are used to compute the loss in the auto-regressive model. We do not compute the regression loss for the prompt \mathbf{X}_{prompt} since the prompt is provided by users in real-world applications, making it unnecessary for the model to make predictions in this context.

 $\begin{array}{l} \textbf{Dialogue Turn One} \\ \textbf{X}_{\text{prompt}}^{i,1} = \textbf{X}_{\text{system}} < \text{SEP>Human: } \textbf{X}_{\text{q}}^{i,1} < \text{SEP>Assistant: } \\ \textbf{X}_{\text{response}}^{i,1} = \textbf{X}_{\text{a}}^{i,1} < \text{SEP>} \end{array}$

Table 6: Model comparison on BISON, NLVR2 and SparklesEval. We investigate training models on different data sources, including detailed descriptions, complex reasoning, and dialogue data. The evaluation metric is accuracy for BISON and NLVR2; SparklesEval is rated 1-10. Description and reasoning datasets from LLaVA are adapted using formats similar to SparklesDialogue, with overlapping samples removed between train and evaluation sets.

					SparklesEval							
Architecture	Tuning Data	BISON	NLVR2	Score	Turn one				Turn two			
				20010	A1	C1	C2	C3	A2	C1	C2	C3
GPT-4	-	-	-	9.26	9.26	9.23	9.18	9.38	9.26	9.25	9.15	9.38
	MiniGPT-4 description	46.0%	51.3%	3.91	3.55	3.67	3.53	3.44	4.28	4.38	4.21	4.23
MiniGPT-4	LLaVA description	52.0%	48.0%	3.06	2.64	2.79	2.67	2.46	3.48	3.76	3.40	3.29
MIIIIGP 1-4	LLaVA reasoning	52.7%	54.0%	6.71	6.55	6.63	6.42	6.59	6.87	6.89	6.73	6.98
	SparklesDialogue	56.7%	58.0%	8.56	8.76	8.81	8.67	8.81	8.35	8.37	8.28	8.41
LLaVA-v1.5	Mixture (665K)	52.7%	53.3%	2.75	2.80	2.74	2.94	2.71	2.69	2.69	2.70	2.68
	SparklesDialogue	65.3%	56.7%	7.93	7.54	7.37	7.73	7.51	8.32	8.21	8.36	8.39

D DETAILED MODEL COMPARISON ON MULTI-IMAGE EVALUATION

We further investigate training models on different data sources, including detailed descriptions, complex reasoning, and dialogue data. Results are shown in Table 6. When SparklesChat is trained on reasoning data adapted from LLaVA (Liu et al., 2023c), it achieves improved performance over models trained on description data on all metrics. This emphasizes the importance of reasoning ability. Its highest scores in both the first and second turns across all criteria indicate its superior ability in image understanding and reasoning, maintaining cross-image and cross-turn coherence, and generating relevant and complete responses. In comparison, models trained on description and reasoning data approximate scores of 3 and 6.71, respectively. GPT-4 scores the highest at 9.26, largely attributed to its utilization of detailed ground-truth annotations. SparklesChat's score is about 92% of that of GPT-4, highlighting SparklesChat's conversational competence across images and dialogue turns.

E DETAILED RESULTS OF ABLATION STUDIES

We have investigated how SparklesDialogue's dialogue turn ratios and subsets impact SparklesChat's performance in subsection 6.2. Table 7 provides the detailed results on SparklesEval, including two dialogue turn scores and three criteria scores.

Table 7: Ablation studies on BISON, NLVR2, and SparklesEval analyzing the effects of training
SparklesChat with variations of SparklesDialogue on dialogue turn ratios and different subsets. The
evaluation metric is accuracy for BISON and NLVR2; SparklesEval is rated 1-10.

	Turns			SparklesEval								
Data	Ratio	BISON	NLVR2	Score	Turn one				Turn two			
	Katio			Score	A1	C1	C2	C3	A2	C1	C2	C3
	1:0	57.3%	55.3%	8.50	8.65	8.70	8.52	8.73	8.35	8.38	8.24	8.44
	0:1	50.7%	46.7%	8.24	8.24	8.23	8.18	8.32	8.24	8.24	8.15	8.32
SparklesDialogue	1:1	59.3%	51.3%	8.73	8.80	8.83	<u>8.66</u>	8.91	8.65	8.62	8.55	8.79
(CC+VG)	1:2	49.3%	51.3%	8.43	8.54	8.57	8.43	8.63	8.31	8.28	8.21	8.43
	2:1	56.7%	58.0%	8.56	<u>8.76</u>	<u>8.81</u>	8.67	8.81	8.35	8.37	8.28	8.41
	3:1	50.7%	48.7%	8.45	8.69	8.74	8.52	<u>8.83</u>	8.20	8.18	8.08	8.33
SparklesDialogueCC	2:1	44.7%	53.3%	8.18	8.26	8.29	8.16	8.33	8.10	8.10	8.00	8.20
SparklesDialogueVG	2:1	54.7%	52.0%	<u>8.59</u>	8.71	8.76	8.60	8.78	<u>8.47</u>	<u>8.47</u>	<u>8.35</u>	<u>8.60</u>

SPARKLESEVAL DETAILS F

The three criteria of GPT-assisted evaluation on SparklesEval are as follows:

Image understanding and reasoning score C1: Assess the assistant's proficiency in accurately identifying and describing objects, contexts, and relationships within and across the images.

Cross-image and cross-turn coherence score C2: Evaluate the assistant's ability to maintain consistent understanding across multiple images and dialogue turns.

Relevance and completeness of responses score C3: Determine the extent to which the assistant's responses are directly related to the user's inquiries and the images' content, and whether the responses provide comprehensive and detailed answers.

Following this, we ask GPT models to assign a combined score for each turn. For each model's evaluation results, we gather scores for three criteria across two turns. First, we compute the mean scores for all criteria over evaluation samples. Next, we calculate the combined scores A1 and A2 by averaging their respective criteria scores, namely A1 = mean(C1, C2, C3) for the first turn and A2 = mean(C1, C2, C3) for the second turn. We refrain from using the A1 and A2 scores provided by judge models, as their calculations may be inaccurate. Ultimately, we derive an overall score by averaging A1 and A2. Through this methodology, our evaluation is more holistic and interpretable.

The prompt template of GPT-assisted evaluation on SparklesEval is presented in Table 8.

G ZERO-SHOT EVALUATION ON VISION-LANGUAGE TASKS

We chose two vision-language tasks, binary image selection and visual reasoning, to evaluate zeroshot understanding and reasoning capabilities over multiple images. For both tasks, the evaluation metric is accuracy. Side-by-side comparisons of example outputs for SparklesChat and MiniGPT-4 on BISON and NLVR2 can be found in Figure 5.

Binary image selection on BISON. The Binary Image Selection task measures a model's ability to select the correct image from a pair given a text query that describes one of them (Hu et al., 2019). The model's performance is assessed in terms of binary classification accuracy. For this task, 150 examples were randomly sampled from the COCO-BISON dataset⁴. The image source of COCO-BISON is COCO images. The image source of SparklesDialogueCC is Conceptual Captions, which should have no overlap with COCO. However, our SparklesDialogueVG originates from the Visual Genome, which includes a subset of COCO images. We carefully eliminate any overlapping images to ensure no overlap between the training and evaluation data.

Visual reasoning with natural language on NLVR2. The evaluation of the Visual Reasoning with Natural Language task assesses the model's ability to predict whether a sentence is true about a pair

⁴https://github.com/facebookresearch/binary-image-selection/blob/main/ annotations/bison_annotations.cocoval2014.json

Table 8: Prompt format for SparklesEval evaluation.

1 1
Users will interact with a conversational assistant. The assistant is designed to understand, analyze, and reason about multiple images across two turns of conversation. The assistant is expected to provide highly helpful and exceptionally detailed answers providing comprehensive reasoning regarding the visual content of the images.
Below are images represented by their image IDs and captions (delimited by triple quotes):
```json
{Target Image Descriptions}
· · · ·
Next is a dialogue between a user and the assistant regarding the images above:
###User Q1: {Q1}
<pre>###Assistant A1: {A1}</pre>
###User Q2: {Q2}
###Assistant A2: {A2}
· · · ·
Your task as an impartial judge is to evaluate the responses (A1 and A2) provided by the assistant to the user's questions. Please rate the following three criteria C1, C2, and C3 on a scale of 1-10 for A1 and A2 separately, where a higher score indicates better overall performance: (C1) Image Understanding and Reasoning: This measures the assistant's ability to accurately identify and describe objects, context, and relationships within and between the images. (C2) Cross-Image and Cross-Turn Coherence: This evaluates the assistant's ability to maintain a consistent understanding across multiple images and dialogue turns. (C3) Relevance and Completeness of Responses: This assesses whether the assistant's responses are directly related to the user's inquiries and the images' content, and whether the responses provide thorough, detailed answers.
Begin your evaluation by providing a short explanation for each criterion. Be as objective as possible. After providing your explanation, rate the response on a scale of 1 to 10 by strictly following the format below (note that "5" and "" are placeholders):
<ul> <li>* Evaluating A1</li> <li>- (C1) Explanation: "" Rating: [[5]]</li> <li>- (C2) Explanation: "" Rating: [[5]]</li> <li>- (C3) Explanation: "" Rating: [[5]]</li> <li>Therefore, the overall rating of A1 is [[5]]</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>* Evaluating A2</li> <li>- (C1) Explanation: "" Rating: [[5]]</li> <li>- (C2) Explanation: "" Rating: [[5]]</li> <li>- (C3) Explanation: "" Rating: [[5]]</li> <li>Therefore, the overall rating of A2 is [[5]]</li> </ul>

• • •



NLVR2 - Statement: There is a smartphone in the right image. Label: FALSE



Figure 5: Comparison between SparklesChat and MiniGPT-4 on examples of NLVR2 and BISON.

of images (Suhr et al., 2019). This task addresses the challenge of compositional visual reasoning on relations, comparisons, and quantities. The NLVR2 dataset (Suhr et al., 2019) was used for this evaluation, with 150 examples randomly sampled from the public balanced test set⁵. The images in the NLVR2 dataset are sourced from Google Images, distinct from our SparklesDialogueVG's image source of the Visual Genome (Krishna et al., 2017) and primarily feature images from Flickr.

**Evaluation protocol and prompt design.** Models are evaluated on these tasks without any additional training. Inspired by (Kojima et al., 2022), we used a simple prompt, "*Let's think step by step*", to facilitate step-by-step reasoning before answering each question. We used the phrase "*Therefore, the answer is*" to prompt the answer. Instead of using a two-stage prompting as in (Kojima et al., 2022), we combined the reasoning extraction and answer extraction stages into a single prompt: "*Please start your response with 'Let's think step by step*.' and end with '*Therefore, the answer*.

⁵https://github.com/lil-lab/nlvr/blob/master/nlvr2/data/balanced/ balanced_test1.json

*is'*". The full evaluation prompt templates to evaluate NLVR2 and BISON datasets are presented in Table 9. We regenerated the response if the model failed to follow the instructions to output responses in the specified format. This approach ensures an unambiguous response and allows us to extract a potential answer from the text following the last occurrence of *"Therefore"*.

Table 9: Prompt formats to evaluate NLVR2 and BISON datasets.

#### NLVR2

Carefully examine a pair of images: the left IMAGE#1<Img><ImageHere></Img> and the right IMAGE#2<Img><ImageHere></Img>.

Determine whether the following statement is true about the pair of images:

'{Statement}'

Jointly reasoning about the statement grounded in IMAGE#1 and IMAGE#2.

The task requires compositional joint reasoning, including quantities, comparisons, and relations. Let's think step by step.

Please start your response with "Let's think step by step." and end with "Therefore, the answer (TRUE or FALSE) is".

#### BISON

Carefully examine the two similar images of IMAGE#1<Img><ImageHere></Img> and IM-AGE#2<Img><ImageHere></Img>.

Given the following caption, you must select which of two images best matches the caption. The caption is: '{Caption}'.

This task requires fine-grained visual reasoning between the caption and each image. Let's think step by step.

Please start your response with "Let's think step by step." and end with "Therefore, the answer (IMAGE#1 or IMAGE#2) is".

#### H DEMONSTRATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

We conducted qualitative demonstrations to showcase the model's wide applications in free-form scenarios by asking questions such as: "Create a story that takes place in  $\bigstar$  for the characters depicted in  $\bigstar$ .", "Imagine a dialogue between Harry Potter and  $\bigstar$  that takes place in the scene of  $\bigstar$ .", "Create a song where the scene twists from  $\bigstar$  to  $\bigstar$ .", "Create a title for this song that takes inspiration from  $\bigstar$ .". Examples in Figure 6, Figure 7, and Figure 8 demonstrate two or three-turn dialogues, with each turn involving one or two images. SparklesChat is capable of distinguishing different images interleaving with text within and across dialogue turns. To analyze SparklesChat's ability to generalize in scenarios involving a larger number of images, we consolidated several questions from a dialogue into a single query. This was done to generate responses for queries involving four or five images and adheres to complex queries. In the case of Figure 10, where three questions involving five images are concatenated into one query, the model tends to ignore the final question and only responds to the first two. We believe this limitation arises from the absence of similar patterns in the training data. A potential solution could involve incorporating multiple turns into each training dialogue to enhance the model's ability to handle such complex scenarios.

#### I JUDGING WITH DIFFERENT GPT MODELS

As of July 2023, while it is widely recognized that employing gpt-4 as a judge model outperforms alternatives such as gpt-3.5-turbo, the cost of using gpt-4 is significantly higher. Therefore, we also provide scores generated by gpt-3.5-turbo as a reader reference, although we strongly recommend utilizing gpt-4 or more advanced future models as reliable judges. The version of gpt-4-0701 refers to API version 2023-07-01-preview for the GPT-4 model. We adopt the latest version gpt-4-0701 as our default judge model.

We evaluate GPT-4, MiniGPT-4, and SparklesChat using SparklesEval, leveraging three versions of judge models, as presented in Table 10. Both MiniGPT-4 and SparklesChat generate responses



Figure 6: Demonstration of SparklesChat to create a story and a dialogue that connects places and characters.

	Create a song where the scene twists from	to user %
depicts a young below. She's hol	imagined is a beautiful blend of imagination and reality. The opening scene girl in a red dress standing on the edge of a cliff, looking out at a bustling city ding onto a long rope, which seems to be tied to a wooden structure on the edge jirl looks peaceful and serene, as if she's contemplating something profound.	
in the middle of	resses, the scene shifts to a vibrant and colorful world of balloons. The girl is now a bustling city, surrounded by colorful balloons of all shapes and sizes. The o be floating in the air, creating a sense of playfulness and joy.	
The lyrics of the	song could be something like this:	
She's holding on	n the edge of a cliff, looking out at the city below to a long rope, tied to a wooden structure on the edge of the cliff ught, as if she's contemplating something profound	
She's laughing a	a sea of balloons, surrounded by joy and playfulness nd smiling, as if she's found a new sense of freedom th the wind, as if she's found a new way to fly	
She's bouncing a	dle of the city, surrounded by colorful balloons of all shapes and sizes and leaping, as if she's found a new way to live nd smiling, as if she's found a new way to be free	
She's laughing a	a sea of balloons, surrounded by joy and playfulness nd smiling, as if she's found a new sense of freedom th the wind, as if she's found a new way to fly	
She's found a ne	w way to soar, a new way to fly w way to live, a new way to be free w way to dream, a new way to be	
She's laughing a	a sea of balloons, surrounded by joy and playfulness nd smiling, as if she's found a new sense of freedom ith the wind, as if she's found a new way to fly.	
SparklesChat		
	Create a title for this song that takes inspiration from	and tell how they are connected User $\bigcirc_0^\circ$
could be interpro bright, shining, a floating in a sea journey towards	be titled "Golden Stars" as a nod to the image of the golden stars in the sky. The ima eted as a metaphor for the dreams and aspirations of the protagonist in the song. Ti nd inspiring, much like the protagonist's dreams and aspirations in the song. The so of balloons, surrounded by joy and playfulness" could be interpreted as a metaphor her dreams and aspirations, much like the way the balloons in the image are floatir 'the stars in the sky and the balloons in the song both represent a sense of hope, as	e stars in the sky are ing's chorus "She's for the protagonist's ig and bouncing in the

Figure 7: Demonstration of SparklesChat to compose a song containing two scenes and generate a song title inspired by another image.



Figure 8: Demonstration of SparklesChat to describe and reason about different groups of images.



Figure 9: Demonstration of SparklesChat to respond to a question with four images to create a story and a dialogue that connects places and characters.

based on the question and accompanying visual image. At the same time, GPT-4 is a reference LLM that only uses textual information, including the question, the ground-truth bounding boxes, and captions. From the table, we observe that the more advanced judge models - gpt-4-0613 and gpt-4-0701 - provide higher scores compared to the older gpt-3.5-turbo-0613 when assessing both GPT-4 and OurModel (approximately nine versus eight). However, these advanced judge models yield considerably lower scores for MiniGPT-4 (about three versus five). GPT-4 achieves the highest score of 9.26 out of 10 when evaluated by the default gpt-4-0701 mainly due to its use of detailed ground-truth annotations. Nevertheless, it's worth noting LLM judge models may display a self-enhancement bias, favoring the responses they generate (Zheng et al., 2023). In contrast, MiniGPT-4 performs behind with a score of just 3.91. SparklesChat achieves a score of 8.56 - about 92% of the GPT-4 score - demonstrating SparklesChat's efficacy in generating responses that are not only relevant and complete but also exhibit cross-image and cross-turn coherence.



Figure 10: Demonstration of SparklesChat to respond to a question with five images to describe and reason about different groups of images.

	ole 10. Evaluation I		r				- J			
Model	Judge Model Version	Score	Turn one				Turn two			
Widdei			A1	C1	C2	C3	A2	C1	C2	C3
	gpt-3.5-turbo-0613	8.48	8.61	8.69	8.18	8.95	8.35	8.27	8.08	8.68
GPT-4	gpt-4-0613	9.51	9.50	9.53	9.37	9.60	9.53	9.49	9.46	9.64
	gpt-4-0701	9.26	9.26	9.23	9.18	9.38	9.26	9.25	9.15	9.38
	gpt-3.5-turbo-0613	5.51	5.46	6.11	4.78	5.48	5.55	5.92	5.23	5.51
MiniGPT-4	gpt-4-0613	3.31	3.11	3.12	3.09	3.10	3.51	3.57	3.40	3.56
	gpt-4-0701	3.91	3.55	3.67	3.53	3.44	4.28	4.38	4.21	4.23
	gpt-3.5-turbo-0613	8.37	8.51	8.59	8.04	8.89	8.24	8.16	7.92	8.64
SparklesChat	gpt-4-0613	8.82	8.75	8.78	8.59	8.89	8.88	8.89	8.79	8.97
	gpt-4-0701	8.56	8.76	8.81	8.67	8.81	8.35	8.37	8.28	8.41

Table 10: Evaluation results on SparklesEval with different judge models.

#### J CHARACTERISTICS AND VERB-NOUN DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS

The characteristics of SparklesDialogueCC are shown in Figure 11. For verb-noun distribution, we follow Self-instruct (Wang et al., 2022) to extract the verb closest to the root and its first direct noun object and plot the top 20 most common root verbs and their top 4 direct noun objects. We use the Berkeley Neural Parser⁶ (Kitaev & Klein, 2018) to parse user messages. We mainly focus on the last sentence of each message because it usually contains the question. If we can't extract the verb-noun pair from it, we look at the first sentence instead. For SparklesDialogueVG and

⁶https://parser.kitaev.io/



(c) Distribution of word lengths in user messages with an average of 26.3 words.

(d) Distribution of word lengths in assistant messages with an average of 184.6 words.

Figure 11: Characteristics of SparklesDialogueCC.

SparklesDialogueCC, we visualize the verb-noun distributions regarding different numbers of images in each turn in Figure 12 and Figure 13 respectively.

#### K GPT-ASSISTED DIALOGUE GENERATION

#### K.1 SINGLE DIALOGUE GENERATION FOR SPARKLESDIALOGUEVG

For SparklesDialogueVG, we generate one two-turn dialogue at a time, with the first turn incorporating two or three images. We derive the demonstration dialogues from SparklesDialogueCC to encourage diversity. However, to minimize redundancy, we retain only those dialogues with unique verb-noun combinations in the user questions. This results in pools of 661 and 441 demonstration dialogues for conversations incorporating two or three images in the first turn, respectively. We pull from an expansive collection of roughly 100,000 image-text pairs for this dataset. We randomly select four candidates each time, and they are not reused by excluding them from future selections.

We first present our designed **prompt** for GPT-assisted Single Dialogue Generation to generate SparklesDialogueVG in Table 11. Then, we show a case of the Dialogue Demonstration and Candidate Image Descriptions to construct the prompt. Finally, we show the corresponding **generated dialogue** using the example prompt.

**Example of dialogue demonstration.** We visualize the images corresponding to image IDs in the dialogues in Figure 14 for reference, while these visual images were not sent to GPT-4 for data



Figure 12: Root verb-noun distributions of SparklesDialogueVG.



Figure 13: Root verb-noun distributions of SparklesDialogueCC.

#### Table 11: Prompt for GPT-assisted single dialogue generation.

#### System: You are a helpful assistant.

Users will interact with a conversational assistant that has advanced capabilities of understanding, analyzing, and reasoning about images. This includes discussing a variety of real-world concepts, objects, and entities, generating a range of text materials, seeking advice, guidance, or assistance, and much more.

Below is an illustrative dialogue presented in a JSON format. The dialogue represents a meaningful conversation between a "user" and the "assistant" regarding multiple images. Each "user" message contains an "image_ids" field recording the IDs of newly selected images. The images are referred to in the "content" field as IMAGE#image_id.

```json

{Dialogue Demonstration}

~ ~ ~

Please note that the user contents in the JSON above may be a counterexample that reveals the content of images and can be answered without looking at the images. Please make sure not to reveal the content of the images or describe the images in the user messages in the conversation that follows.

Please note that the specific "image\_ids" and "content" in the JSON above are for illustrative purposes only. The actual candidate images are shown below delimited by triple quotes, each accompanied by an image ID and a caption. Avoid using phrases similar to 'caption' and 'description' in your dialogue as if the user and the assistant have visual capabilities.

```json

{Candidate Image Descriptions}

Each dialogue consists of four messages:

1. A user examines all candidate images, selects {Number of Images} highly relevant images, and sends a reasonable and creative message to the assistant.

2. Once the images are provided, the assistant thoroughly perceives and comprehends them, responding with highly helpful and exceptionally detailed answers that provide comprehensive reasoning regarding the visual content of the images.

3. Considering the past dialogue, the user chooses other candidate images for further inquiry. The user should refer to both the newly selected images and those mentioned earlier in the same dialogue.

4. The assistant provides a highly helpful and exceptionally detailed answer providing comprehensive reasoning regarding the visual content of the images.

The following is a dialogue between the user and the assistant, adhering to the given JSON format. Make sure to formulate accurate and diverse "content" that does not follow the illustrative dialogues. And remember to develop the last "content" even though it is shown as "..." in the JSON format provided above.

```
Dialogue Demonstration
```

```
 [[\{ 'role ': 'user', 'image_ids ': I^{1,1}, 'content ': X_q^{1,1} \}, \\ \{ 'role ': 'assistant ', 'content ': X_a^{1,1} \}, \\ \{ 'role ': 'user', 'image_ids ': I^{1,2}, 'content ': X_q^{1,2} \}, \\ \{ 'role ': 'assistant ', 'content ': '...' \}]] \\ Candidate Image Descriptions \\ [\{ 'image_id ': J^1, 'caption ': C^1 \}, \\ \\ \{ 'image_id ': J^4, 'caption ': C^4 \}] \\ Number of Images is "two" or "three". \\ \end{cases}
```

generation. Note that we abbreviate the message content of the assistant in the second turn as "..." to save space, considering that the previous message contents have provided enough demonstrations.



Figure 14: Reference images corresponding to the image IDs in the demonstration dialogues in section K.1. These images were not sent to GPT-4 for data generation.

```
``json
1
2
 [
3
 [
4
 {'role': 'user', 'image_ids': [2675, 1081], 'content': 'How would you
 connect the woman in IMAGE #2675 with the clothing items in IMAGE
 #1081?'},
 {'role': 'assistant', 'content': 'In IMAGE#2675, we see a woman
5
 dressed in fashionable attire consisting of a grey turtleneck
 sweater, blue jeans, a black leather belt, a black leather jacket
 with fur detailing and black ankle boots. Her overall outfit
 looks stylish, suggesting she has good fashion sense.////n////
 nIMAGE#1081 represents a group of clothing items hanging on a
 rack. It shows an outfit comprising a striped shirt, a brown
 skirt, and a pair of black shoes. The clothes and shoes have a
 sophisticated touch to them.////nConnecting these images,
 one could infer that the clothing items could belong to the same
 woman. Maybe she's someone who likes keeping her wardrobe
 organized or could be in the fashion industry focusing on outfit
 planning. Her style in IMAGE#2675 is modern and chic, while the
 ensemble in IMAGE#1081 is equally trendy, with classic
 combinations of stripes and brown, which many consider a style
 staple, and the elegant black shoes. Therefore, we could imagine
 that the outfit from IMAGE#1081 may be another stylish option
 that she might opt for. The clothing items could be a part of her
 personal style or they might signal her work attire, given the
 formal vibe the striped shirt and brown skirt ensemble radiate.' }
 {'role': 'user', 'image_ids': [2679], 'content': 'Looking at IMAGE#26
6
 79, how would you weave it into the narrative of this stylish
 woman from IMAGE#2675 and the clothes in IMAGE#1081?' },
 { role': 'assistant', 'content': '...' }
7
8
9
 . . .
10
```

**Example of candidate image descriptions.** The image IDs in the dialogues refer to the images in Figure 15.



Figure 15: Candidate images corresponding to the image IDs in the dialogues generation process in section K.1. These images were not sent to GPT-4 for data generation.



4

expanse of green grass that contrasts nicely with the railroad

tracks and a nearby road. To the right of the train, there's a tall pole that rises high into the image, likely used for mounting signs. In this case, the pole hosts a railroad crossing sign with lights and a large X on top. There is also a triangular sign with three lights underneath the X sign, providing important safety information for approaching vehicles.\\nBehind the pole, a red metal barrier is barely visible. It appears to be part of the infrastructure that surrounds the tracks. With the beautiful sunny sky overhead, this picture seems to represent a typical day with normal hustle and bustle at this railroad crossing. The sunlight reflecting off the train windows adds a stunning glow to the scene. \\nDespite the fast motion of the train, details such as the wheels and even the driver's side view mirror are captured in the image, emphasizing the skill of the photographer in capturing this dynamic and detailed snapshot of a moment in time."},

5

6

{'image_id': 2330601, 'caption': 'This image depicts an exciting scene of a man dressed in a blue and black racing suit, riding a dirt bike on a muddy track. The man is prominently positioned in the image, seeming to occupy a considerable portion of it from left to right. His blue helmet, matching his attire, is clearly visible.\\nThe motorcycle he's racing is intricately detailed. Its prominent front and back black wheels kick up wet mud as they tear through the track, while the metallic shimmer of the exhaust and the sturdy grey frame suggest its rugged durability. A number, black in color, stands out on the side of the bike, and there's a patch of blue at the bike's back that contributes to the cohesive color scheme. \\nThe rider's attire stands out as well. Apart from the matching helmet, he's wearing a blue and orange shirt, black pants, and blue and yellow shoes. A black visor on his helmet and black gloves further accessorize his ensemble. His coat, in shades of blue and grey, fits snugly, outlining his physique.\\nThe scene around the bike is as dynamic as the rider. The track underneath is a dark brown, most likely a mix of dirt and water, suggestive of recent rain or the challenging conditions of a dirt bike race. Patches of water and water spots can be seen at various locations, indicating the wetness of the track and the splashing caused by the bike speeding through. \\nMoreover, there's an evident sense of motion in the image with water splashing up from the bike and wet sand scattering in its wake. The ground can be seen in patches, displaying its dark brown color. Amidst all this action, the bike stands as a striking subject in the image, catching the eye with its blue frame and detailings, while the rider, dressed in coordinating colors, charges forward. \\nAll of these elements combined create an image that is full of life and action, capturing a thrilling moment of a dirt bike race in progress.' }, ('image_id': 2331159, 'caption': 'The image is lively, filled with

people gathered possibly for a party or a social event. In the center of the image, a woman dressed elegantly draws attention. She stands prominently, making a distinct statement with her long , dark hair. Her face, sharply defined, features a noticeably distinct nose. She is holding a white plastic spoon in one hand, which also showcases a black wristwatch. As she raises the spoon, it's clear that she is indulging in a delicious treat, a piece of cake resting on a small plate.\\nThis cake is a stunning creation, white with red frosting. It's adorned with a delightful mix of red strawberries and an array of white candles. On the cake, there seems to be a flag as well, perhaps signifying a special occasion. An unused serving knife rests in the cake, and it appears that the woman has just served herself a piece.  $\$ nAround her, numerous other faces peer out, all engaged in their individual conversations. Most of them appear to be men, some notable for their long hair and glasses. There's an interesting mix of attire in the scene, from yellow and white-striped shirts

33

to red and black plaid ones. One Asian man to the right seems to be focused on the woman with the cake, adding to the collective sense of attention directed towards her.\\nIn the background, several intriguing details pop out. For instance, the twinkling lights to the right catch the eye, likely part of the party's decoration. Additionally, there is a mirror behind the woman, reflecting the attendees and amplifying the sense of a bustling crowd. A lamp stands beside a wall, casting a warm glow, while the silhouettes of patrons in the dark restaurant form an atmospheric backdrop. A window lets in some additional light, illuminating a vacant chair.\\nThe overall atmosphere conveys the joyous, friendly nature of the gathering. You can almost hear the buzz of conversation and feel the warmth of shared laughter. It's clear that this is an occasion of happiness and togetherness .'}

7]



Figure 16: Dialogue example from SparklesDialogueVG. Visual images were not provided to GPT-4 during data generation but will be incorporated during SparklesChat training.

**Dialogue example from SparklesDialogueVG.** The generated dialogue is visualized in Figure 16. The raw text is shown as follows. The image IDs in the dialogue refer to the images in Figure 15.

```
```json
1
2
3
  [
       {'role': 'user', 'image_ids': [2331159, 2330601], 'content': 'Can
4
           you link the celebration occurring in IMAGE#2331159 and the dirt
            bike race in IMAGE#2330601?'},
       {'role': 'assistant', 'content': 'Certainly, in IMAGE#2331159, we
5
           see a lively gathering with a woman at the centre of the
           attention. She is seen grasping a slice of intricately decorated
            cake from a vibrant party of sorts. Her jovial demeanor and
           elegant apparel suggest she may be the guest of honor at this
           event. The ambiance in the background features warm lighting,
           laughter, conversation, and a sense of togetherness and
           happiness. This scene could possibly be a celebration of a
           personal achievement or milestone.\\n\\nOn the other hand, in
           IMAGE#2330601, a different form of excitement and thrill is
           captured. This showcases a man in a blue and black racing suit,
           performing at a dirt bike race, implying a high level of
           commitment, skill, and passion. He is decisively navigating the
           muddy track, indicating a race in progress.\\n\\nLinking these
           images, one possible narrative could be that the woman in the
           first image might be celebrating a successful day at the dirt
           bike race. The man in the second image who is skilfully
           navigating the muddy race track could be related to her in some
           way. Perhaps he is her son, husband, or even a team member, and
           they are celebrating his win or a significant accomplishment in
           his racing career at the party. The sense of joy and exhilarity
           is a common thread that connects these two images.' },
       {'role': 'user', 'image_ids': [2408549], 'content': 'How would you
6
           incorporate the train scene from IMAGE#2408549 with the earlier
           party and racing narratives?' },
       {'role': 'assistant', 'content': 'In IMAGE#2408549, we witness the
    rush of a large, striking blue train speeding through a railroad
7
            crossing. A passenger, perhaps contemplating the journey,
           watches the world outside through a window. This train scene can
            signify a journey or transition.\\n\\nBringing these images
           together into a coherent story, it might be speculated that
           after the celebration in IMAGE#2331159 for the successful dirt
           bike race from IMAGE#2330601, the next chapter of their journey
           is starting. It could be speculated that the woman or the dirt
           bike racer or both are now on this train in IMAGE#2408549,
           heading towards a new location for perhaps the next race or a
           well-deserved vacation post celebration. This train ride could
           represent their movement towards the next chapter in their
           journey, literally as well as metaphorically.\\n\\nThe passenger
            looking out the window could be contemplating the recent event
           of the dirt bike race victory and the warm celebration that
           followed. The train's vigorous motion and the reflected sunlight
            might be symbolising their sense of achievement and their eager
            anticipation for upcoming adventures. Thus, these images
           together weave a tale of triumph, celebration, and anticipation
           for what lies ahead.'}]
8]
```

K.2 MULTIPLE DIALOGUES GENERATION FOR SPARKLESDIALOGUECC

For SparklesDialogueCC, we prompt GPT-4 to generate three dialogues in a single response. These dialogues incorporate one, two, and three images in the first turn and a single image in the second. Each prompt includes three demonstration dialogues and nine candidate image descriptions to

facilitate this. We curated 150 demonstration dialogues, evenly split with 50 dialogues for each type. The complete image-text dataset comprises about 3,500 pairs.

We first present our designed **prompt** for GPT-assisted Multiple Dialogues Generation to generate SparklesDialogueCC in Table 12. Then, we show a case of the Dialogue Demonstrations and Candidate Image Descriptions to construct the prompt. Finally, we show the corresponding **generated dialogues** using the example prompt.

Example of dialogue demonstrations. We visualize the images corresponding to image IDs in the dialogues in Figure 17 for reference, while these visual images were not sent to GPT-4 for data generation. Note that we abbreviate the message content of the assistant in the second turn as "..." to save space, considering that the previous message contents have provided enough demonstrations.



3775



4799



301



204

3122





Figure 17: Reference images corresponding to the image IDs in the demonstration dialogues in section K.2. These images were not sent to GPT-4 for data generation.

Table 12: Prompt for GPT-assisted multiple dialogues generation.

Users will interact with a conversational assistant that has advanced capabilities of understanding, analyzing, and reasoning about images. This includes discussing a variety of real-world concepts, objects, and entities, generating a range of text materials, seeking advice, guidance, or assistance, and much more.

Below are three illustrative dialogues presented in a JSON format. Each one represents a selfcontained conversation between a "user" and the "assistant" regarding multiple images. Each "user" message contains an "image\_ids" field recording the IDs of newly selected images. The images are referred to in the "content" field as IMAGE#image\_id.

``` json

{Dialogue Demonstrations}

• • •

Please note that the specific "image_ids" and "content" in the JSON above are for illustrative purposes only. The actual candidate images are shown below delimited by triple quotes, each accompanied by an image ID and a caption. Avoid using phrases similar to 'caption' and 'description' in your dialogue as if the user and the assistant have visual capabilities.

```json

{Candidate Image Descriptions}

• • •

Each dialogue consists of four messages:

1. A user examines all candidate images, selects highly relevant ones, and sends a reasonable and creative message to the assistant.

2. Once the images are provided, the assistant thoroughly perceives and comprehends them, responding with highly helpful and exceptionally detailed answers that provide comprehensive reasoning.

3. Considering the past dialogue, the user chooses another candidate image for further inquiry. The user should refer to both the newly selected image and those mentioned earlier in the same dialogue.

4. The assistant provides a highly helpful and exceptionally detailed answer providing comprehensive reasoning regarding the visual content of the images.

The following are three independent dialogues between the user and the assistant, adhering to the given JSON format. In this format, the first message in the three dialogues includes 1, 2, and 3 image IDs respectively.

Make sure to formulate accurate and diverse "content" that does not strictly follow the illustrative dialogues. And remember to develop the last "content" even though it is shown as "..." in the JSON format provided above.

```
Dialogue Demonstrations
```

```
 [[\{ 'role ': 'user ', 'image_ids ': I^{1,1}, 'content ': X_q^{1,1} \}, \\ \{ 'role ': 'assistant ', 'content ': X_a^{1,1} \}, \\ \{ 'role ': 'user ', 'image_ids ': I^{1,2}, 'content ': X_q^{1,2} \}, \\ \{ 'role ': 'assistant ', 'content ': '...' \} ], \\ \dots \\ [\{ 'role ': 'user ', 'image_ids ': I^{3,1}, 'content ': X_q^{3,1} \}, \\ \{ 'role ': 'assistant ', 'content ': X_a^{3,1} \}, \\ \{ 'role ': 'user ', 'image_ids ': I^{3,2}, 'content ': X_q^{3,2} \}, \\ \{ 'role ': 'assistant ', 'content ': '...' \} ] ] \\ Candidate Image Descriptions \\ [\{ 'image_id ': J^1, 'caption ': C^1 \}, \\ \dots \\ \dots \\ \end{array}
```

```
{'image_id': J^9, 'caption': C^9}]
```

```
5
       {'role': 'assistant', 'content': 'Tattoo artists typically use a
          specific type of ink known as tattoo ink for their designs, like
          the one shown in IMAGE#3775. Tattoo ink is usually made from
          metal salts, plastic-based pigments, or heavy metals for creating
           different colors, although black ink, like the one used in the "
          trust yourself" tattoo in the image, is generally carbon-based.\n
          \nHow long the tattoo lasts in its crisp form depends on a series
           of factors such as the depth of the ink placement, the type of
          ink used, how well it/'s cared for during the healing process,
          and how it\'s protected from the sun and aging. \n\nGenerally,
          tattoos are permanent because the human body\'s immune system isn
          \'t capable of dealing with the large molecules of tattoo ink.
          Over several years, a tattoo can fade slightly due to the natural
           regeneration cycle of skin cells, but it won\'t disappear
          completely. The good thing about black tattoos, as seen in \ensuremath{\mathsf{IMAGE}\#}
          3775, is that black pigment is absorbed well by all skin types
          and tends to last longer without fading. However, the specific
          longevity of a tattoo will differ from person to person. If one
          wants their tattoo\'s health to be maintained, they should keep
          it moisturized, use sunscreen when out in harsh sun, and consider
           touch-ups from a professional tattoo artist when necessary.' },
       ('role': 'user', 'image_ids': ['4799'], 'content': 'Can the ink used
6
          in the tattoo from IMAGE#3775 potentially cause any skin
          irritations or allergies, similar to how some people have
          reactions to certain foods like in IMAGE#4799?' },
       {'role': 'assistant', 'content': '...'}
7
8
  ],
9
  [
       {'role': 'user', 'image_ids': ['301', '3122'], 'content': 'What kind
10
          of environment is depicted in IMAGE#301 and how does it contrast
          with the one in IMAGE#3122?'},
       {'role': 'assistant', 'content': "IMAGE#301 depicts a tropical, beach
11
           environment. In the image, there are two kayaks resting on a
          sandy beach, and this detail hints at a location that's likely in
           a warmer climate, suitable for water sports and recreational
          activities. The presence of palm trees further supports this, as
          they are commonly found in regions that are hot and sunny most of
           the year. The blue sky and the small building that looks like a
          beach hut or kiosk suggest a relaxed, leisure-oriented
          environment.\n\nOn the contrary, IMAGE#3122 portrays a snowy,
          mountainous environment. The presence of snow suggests a colder
          climate, likely during winter. The pair of black rubber snowshoes
           with metal spikes on the bottom implies activities related to
          snow, such as hiking or mountain climbing. The person wearing a
          hooded jacket and grey pants with their hands in their pockets
          further indicates the cold nature of this environment. The trees
          and mountains visible through the snow complete the impression of
           a wilderness setting, possibly remote and less populated.\n\nIn
          summary, the two images contrast significantly - one depicts a
          warm, tropical beach setting that is likely oriented towards
          leisure and relaxation, while the other depicts a colder,
          mountainous setting associated with more strenuous outdoor
          activities. This contrast goes beyond just the climatic
          conditions; it also extends to the kind of activities and
          lifestyle one might associate with each setting." },
12
       {'role': 'user', 'image_ids': ['204'], 'content': 'Does the scene in
          IMAGE#204 remind you of the environment depicted in IMAGE#301, or
           are they entirely different?' },
13
       {'role': 'assistant', 'content': '...'}
14 ],
15 [
16
       {'role': 'user', 'image_ids': ['3045', '1863', '1336'], 'content': '
          Generate a promotional text that could fit for a sports event
          based on IMAGE#3045. Also, please include elements from IMAGE#186
          3 and IMAGE#1336 to give it some unique angles.' },
```

```
17
       {'role': 'assistant', 'content': "Join us for an electrifying display
           of sportsmanship like no other! Just as the fans in IMAGE#3045,
          cheer on your favorite team in an outdoor stadium filled with a
          roaring crowd, all decked out in their team's gear, waving pink
          flags in unity and excitement. Experience an atmosphere buzzing
          with energy beneath the open sky, surrounded by the vibrant
          greenery.\n\nDrawing inspiration from IMAGE#1863, watch as the
          team's performance graph soars high, much like the increasing
          deposits in a bank account. Witness the thrilling trajectory of
          action unfold, as each second, each decision, contributes to an
          upward trend in their game. Be a part of this journey, as they
          race not just to maintain the pace but to set a new norm, akin to
           the decreasing withdrawals mark, showcasing improvement and
          growth over time.\n\nIn the spirit of IMAGE#1336, let your hearts
           beat as one, with the passion of the red and the harmony of the
          black and white. Let the dual celebrations of vibrant love for
          the game and steadfast unity resound in the air. Let the duality
          of a heartbeat stir a symphony of balance - just like the yin and
           yang of competitiveness and sportsmanship.\n\nSo, let's delve
          into this exciting world, where not just the players, but even
          the spectators embark on a journey of passion, unity, growth, and
           harmony. Let the games begin!" },
       {'role': 'user', 'image_ids': ['3302'], 'content': 'Could the
18
          atmosphere and energy captured in IMAGE#3045 somehow be invoked
          in the office space depicted in IMAGE#3302 to make it more lively
          ? Any suggestions?' },
       {'role': 'assistant', 'content': '...'}
19
20
  1
21
  - - -
22
```

Example of candidate image descriptions. An example of Candidate Image Descriptions is shown below, and their corresponding source images are shown in Figure 18 for reference (they are not sent to GPT-4).

| 1 | ```json |
|---|--|
| 2 | |
| 3 | <pre>{'image_id': '2439', 'caption': 'This image shows a kitchen with
wooden cabinets, black countertops, and white appliances. The
floor is made of tiles and the walls are painted white. There is
a large window above the sink that lets in plenty of natural
light. The room is spacious and well lit.'},</pre> |
| 4 | <pre>{'image_id': '3065', 'caption': "This is an image of an airplane flying in the sky at sunset. The plane is a large, commercial jet with a white body and red and blue stripes on the tail. It is flying low in the sky, with the sun setting behind it, casting a warm orange glow on the left side of the image and a blue glow on the right. The plane's engines are visible at the bottom of the image, with smoke coming from them. The sky is a deep blue, with clouds in the distance that are tinged with pink from the sunset. "},</pre> |
| 5 | <pre>{'image_id': '1093', 'caption': 'The image shows a small room with a wooden shelf on the wall, several rolls of wrapping paper stacked on it, a door on the right side, and a window on the left side. The walls are painted white and there is a wooden floor.'},</pre> |
| 6 | <pre>{'image_id': '4704', 'caption': 'The image shows a view of a golf
course with a red flag on the green. In the background, there is
a city skyline with buildings and a church steeple. The grass on
the course is lush and green, and there are trees on either side
of the fairway. The sky is clear and blue, and there are a few
clouds in the distance. The flag on the green is a small, red
flag with a white pole. It is standing upright in the middle of
the green, and it looks like it is blowing in the wind. The city
skyline in the background is guite impressive, with several tall</pre> |



Figure 18: Candidate images corresponding to the image IDs in the dialogues generation process in section K.2. These images were not sent to GPT-4 for data generation.

buildings and a church steeple visible. The church steeple is quite tall and has a pointed top.'},

7

- {'image\_id': '1438', 'caption': 'The Eiffel Tower is a famous landmark in Paris, France. It is a wrought iron lattice tower that was built in 1889 to commemorate the centenary of the French Revolution. The tower stands 324 meters tall and is located on the Champ de Mars in the heart of Paris. It is one of the most visited tourist attractions in the world, with millions of people visiting it every year. The tower has become an iconic symbol of Paris and France. The tower is painted in blue, white, and red, the colors of the French flag. The lights on the tower create a beautiful and magical atmosphere, making it a popular spot for romantic walks and photos. The tower is surrounded by water, with a river running underneath it.'},
- 8 {'image\_id': '3120', 'caption': 'This image is a logo for a company or brand. The logo consists of the letters "z" and "l" in a red and black color scheme. The letters are connected by a diagonal line through the center of the image, creating a simple and modern design suitable for various businesses and industries.'},

| 9 | {'image_id': '2630', 'caption': "The image shows a black and tan dog |
|----|--|
| | lying on a large, gray dog bed. The bed has a geometric pattern |
| | on it and is placed in front of a brick fireplace. The dog's head |
| | is resting on its paws, and it appears to be sleeping. The image |
| | is well lit and the details of the dog and the bed are clear."}, |
| 10 | {'image_id': '2071', 'caption': "The image shows a man in a black |
| 10 | suit and tie standing in front of a blue and yellow background. |
| | |
| | The man is smiling and has his hands in his pockets.\n\nThe man |
| | is wearing a black suit and tie, with a white shirt underneath. |
| | He has short, dark hair and a well-groomed beard. He is standing |
| | in front of a large blue and yellow background that looks like a |
| | cartoon character's face. The character's eyes and mouth are wide |
| | open, and it looks like the man is standing in front of the |
| | character's face.\n\nThe background looks like a cartoon |
| | character's face, with blue and yellow colors. The character's |
| | eyes and mouth are wide open, and it looks like the man is |
| | standing in front of the character's face. The character's eyes |
| | and mouth are wide open, and it looks like the man is standing in |
| | front of the character's face."}, |
| 11 | {'image_id': '2966', 'caption': 'The image shows a garden with a |
| 11 | stone statue of a person sitting under a tree. The statue has a |
| | |
| | serene expression on its face, and the sun is setting behind the |
| | trees, casting a warm orange light on the scene. The foreground |
| | grass is green and well-maintained, and there are no other |
| | objects or people in the image.'} |
| 12 | |
| 13 | |

Dialogue examples from SparklesDialogueCC. The generated dialogue is visualized in Figure 19. The raw text is shown as follows. The image IDs in the dialogues refer to the images in Figure 18.

| 1 | ```json |
|---|---|
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | {'role': 'user', 'image_ids': ['3120'], 'content': 'Could you tell
me what the design of the logo in IMAGE#3120 might symbolize or |
| | represent?' }, |
| 5 | <pre>{'role': 'assistant', 'content': 'The logo in IMAGE#3120, with the
combined letters "z" and "l" connected by a diagonal line, seems
to convey simplicity, modernity, and approachability. The use
of "z" and "l" could represent the initials of a company or
individual\'s name, while the diagonal line may symbolize a link
or connection, emphasizing unity or collaboration. The choice
of red and black colors could be conveying a sense of power and
sleek sophistication, respectively. Black often symbolizes
solidity and formality, while red can represent passion and
energy. However, the specific meaning could vary as logo
interpretations often depend on the organization\'s mission,
brand values, and the industry it\'s part of.'},</pre> |
| 6 | <pre>{'role': 'user', 'image_ids': ['1438'], 'content': 'Considering the
design and message one might infer from the logo in IMAGE#3120,
would it be a good fit for the place depicted in IMAGE#1438? How
would they complement each other?'},</pre> |
| 7 | <pre>{'role': 'assistant', 'content': 'The logo from IMAGE#3120 can bring
a modern, energetic, and connected vibe to the traditional and
iconic setting of the Eiffel Tower in IMAGE#1438. This can
create an interesting juxtaposition between historic and
contemporary themes.\n\nThe simplicity and modernity of the logo
design would sharply contrast yet harmonize with the complexity
and intricacy of the Eiffel Tower. This could appeal to
audiences who appreciate both the historical and futuristic
aspects of a brand. Similarly, the vibrancy and energy indicated
by the red color in the logo may align well with the romantic
and lively atmosphere associated with Paris, the city where</pre> |



Figure 19: Dialogue example from SparklesDialogueCC. Visual images were not provided to GPT-4 during data generation but will be incorporated during SparklesChat training.

```
Eiffel Tower is situated.\n\nIf this was for a brand that
intended to evoke a sense of modern connection in a place
steeped with history, or perhaps a company that combines
technology with tourism in Paris, this logo could indeed
complement the place effectively.'}],
[
{'role': 'user', 'image_ids': ['2630', '3065'], 'content': 'Can you
imagine a story that might link the peaceful dog lounging in
```

8

9

42

IMAGE#2630 and the airplane soaring in the sunset sky of IMAGE#3
065?'},

10

11

12

- {'role': 'assistant', 'content': 'Certainly! Here\'s a story possibility: The dog in IMAGE#2630, named Boomer, belongs to a dedicated pilot who often takes on long haul flights, like the airplane depicted in IMAGE#3065. Whenever the pilot sets off for a lengthy trip, Boomer retreats to his comfortable dog bed in front of the cozy fireplace, waiting for his owner\'s return.\n\ nThe pilot, while often away, never fails to think about Boomer. From high above the earth, amidst beautiful sunsets, the canine \'s owner counts the hours until they can be reunited. Just the thought of Boomer's serene expression on the tastefully patterned dog bed provides a sense of peace and comfort even thousands of miles away.\n\nSo despite their geographical separation depicted in these images, there's an underlying connection of loyalty and companionship between Boomer and his pilot owner, which is a heartwarming staple in their world filled with frequent departures and heartfelt reunions.' },
- {'role': 'user', 'image\_ids': ['4704'], 'content': 'How would the atmosphere in IMAGE#4704 contribute to the story of our pilot- owner and Boomer from IMAGE#2630 and IMAGE#3065?'},
 - {'role': 'assistant', 'content': 'The setting in IMAGE#4704 could introduce another layer to our narrative. Imagine this: When off -duty, our pilot-owner is also an avid golfer who cherishes the peacefulness and serenity found on the golf course, like the one seen in IMAGE#4704. After returning from a long trip, the pilot usually heads to the fairway, and Boomer eagerly accompanies him.\n\nThe manicured greens serve as a perfect place for Boomer to roam freely, chase golf balls, and feel the wind in his fur. The distant city skyline seen from the golf course acts as a reminder of the urban life our pilot leaves behind when they find solace in the peaceful embrace of the game and their cherished canine companion.\n\nSubsequently, the lush green golf course fills in a missing piece of the puzzle, acting as a mediating space that connects the frequent travels of the pilot and Boomer\'s waiting. It becomes a place of joy, reconnection, and shared experiences between the duo, marking the happy ending to their waiting and the start of their time together until the next flight.'}],
- 13 [14

15

- {'role': 'user', 'image\_ids': ['2439', '1093', '2071'], 'content': '
 Could you help me design a scenario the place in IMAGE#1093 is
 being used as a temporary office for the man in IMAGE#2071, who
 usually works in the kitchen in IMAGE#2439?'},
- {'role': 'assistant', 'content': 'Sure, here\'s a possible scenario: In IMAGE#2071, we see a man who typically works from his spacious kitchen shown in IMAGE#2439. The kitchen, with its wooden cabinets and black countertops, doubles as his office. Its large windows provide ample natural light, creating a conducive and productive work environment. It is here that he plans his strategies, makes important business decisions, and leads virtual meetings.\n\nHowever, for a change of scenario - perhaps due to a home renovation or family visiting - the man decides to shift his workspace to the small room shown in IMAGE#1093 for a while. The room is likely a storage space or craft room with wrapping paper stacked on a wooden shelf, indicating creativity and resourcefulness.\n\nHe sets up his temporary office here, positioning his desk near the window to replicate the natural light he enjoys in his kitchen-office. The surrounding array of vibrant wrapping paper inspires creativity and brings a touch of liveliness to his work routine. Also, the closed door ensures that he has quiet and privacy for his business calls.\n\nSo in this unusual but charming workspace, our businessman continues his work, exhibiting that all you need to be productive is a bit of adaptability, irrespective of where you are.' },

16

{'role': 'user', 'image\_ids': ['2966'], 'content': 'Taking into account all the previous images, how could we incorporate the scene from IMAGE#2966 into the story of the man changing his workspace?'},

- {'role': 'assistant', 'content': 'The serene garden scene in IMAGE#29 17 66 could be an excellent addition to the narrative. Let \'s say, towards the back of the house where both the kitchen-office and the temporary workspace reside, there's this quiet garden depicted in the image, featuring a stone statue sitting under a tree.\n\nAt the end of each workday, the man enjoys taking a stroll in the garden to unwind. The setting sun casts a warm orange light on the scene creating a peaceful atmosphere, and he often finds himself sitting next to the stone statue, reflecting on his day. The tranquility of the garden effectively helps him transition from work mode, and it provides him with a sense of balance that complements his adaptable work life.\n\nTherefore, despite the change in his workspace, the man maintains his evening ritual in the garden, capturing the idea that while our surroundings may change, there's comfort in keeping certain routines and finding peace in nature.' }
- 18] 19] 20

L DIALOGUE DEMONSTRATIONS' CONTRIBUTION TO DATA QUALITY AND DIVERSITY

Dialogue Demonstrations act as contextual learning examples, guiding GPT-4 to produce responses that are both well-formatted and diverse. To demonstrate this effect, we modified the original **prompt** used for GPT-assisted Multiple Dialogues Generation, as detailed in Table 12, by removing content relating to demonstration dialogues. We then employed the same Candidate Image Descriptions as in Figure 15 to create a new prompt and generate a response. The resulting response was inferior in quality, failing to meet the desired formatting criteria, such as assigning image IDs, specifying the number of images per dialogue turn, and incorporating new images in subsequent turns. Furthermore, the response lacked the diversity that its dialogues typically ask for more detailed descriptions of images but not specifying particular aspects. In conclusion, dialogue demonstrations are crucial not only for enhancing data quality by providing formatting guidelines but also for increasing diversity by conditioning different demonstrations.

Dialogue 1:

- 1. User: I'm working on a home renovation project and need some kitchen inspiration. The image with ID 2439 caught my eye; could you give a more detailed account of it?
- 2. Assistant: Absolutely, I'd be happy to! The kitchen space shown in image 2439 exhibits a clean and bright style, with an airy feel. The cabinets, constructed of wood, have an earthy and natural charm. They complement the black countertops well, adding a layer of contrast. The appliances are white, offering a sense of cleanliness and simplicity. The floor is tiled, a practical choice for a room that often grapples with spills and frequent foot traffic. A substantial window draws in an ample amount of natural light, brightening the room and making it appear spacious. The white paint on the walls enhances this light, reflecting it to confer an even more airy ambience. This type of kitchen design is both efficient and welcoming, making it an ideal space for cooking and entertaining.
- 3. User: Great, that was very helpful! One more thing is there anything in this kitchen that could be improved or updated?
- 4. Assistant: Well, any suggestions for improvement would largely depend on your personal style and functionality needs. However, here are a couple of general ideas: Whilst the

window lets in a large amount of natural light, at night the room might need more illumination. Consider upgrading the lighting fixtures for a brighter and more evenly lit kitchen after sunset. Depending on the design scheme, you could select modern pendant lights, under-cabinet lights, or recessed lights. Additionally, the countertops appear to be clear of clutter, which is great, but there doesn't seem to be much in the way of storage solutions on them. Maybe you could use some stylish canisters for everyday utensils or ingredients, providing storage while keeping items within easy reach. Remember, home renovation is personal and subjective, so it's always a good idea to take inspiration from different sources, but ultimately stick to what will make you and the other users of the kitchen most content and comfortable.

Dialogue 2:

- 1. User: I'm curious about the photos with IDs 3065 and 2630. Could you explain these in more detail?
- 2. Assistant: Sure thing! In image 3065, we see an impressive dramatization of human achievement and the beauty of nature. It captures a large commercial airplane in the midst of flight under a sunset. The aircraft, distinguished by a white body and red and blue stripes on the tail, is low flying in the sky. Rumbling engines can be seen at the bottom, belching smoke. The setting sun irradiates the left side of the image with a warm, orange glow, while the right side basks in a cooler hue of blue. The sky's depth is accentuated by its rich blue tones, and the distantly scattered pink-tinged clouds add a touch of romanticism to the scene. Image 2630 is an adorable and intimate snapshot of a companion animal, a black and tan dog lying on a sizable gray dog bed. The bed's geometric pattern and substantial size suggest its comfort. Located before a brick fireplace, the setting seems cozy and warm. It appears as if the dog is sleeping, its snout resting atop its folded front legs. The clarity and lighting in the image allow us to appreciate the serene and comfortable atmosphere it represents.
- 3. User: I find those details on image 3065 very helpful. I'm working on an art project that involves illustrating a story about a family dog. How can I incorporate elements from image 2630 into a scene involving a plane flying at sunset as in image 3065?
- 4. Assistant: That sounds like a captivating art project! If you're trying to harmonize both images into one scene, here are a few suggestions: You could keep the breathtaking sunset sky with the airplane from image 3065 as the background. It brings a sense of vastness and adventure. However, instead of showing the airplane up in the sky, you could bring it closer to the ground, perhaps just made it after a landing or just before taking off on a runway near the home with the dog. In the foreground, you could portray a homely scene inspired by image 2630. The dog could be lying on its comfy bed, looking up at the airplane in the sky with curiosity, or perhaps excitement. To create a strong emotional connection, the placement of the dog and its bed could be strategic, maybe by a window that shows the plane in the sky, demonstrating that the two scenes are connected. Finally, you might want to add elements that link the dog to the plane. Perhaps a family member waving goodbye in the distance near the plane, or a toy plane near the dog to show the connection between the domestic scene and the broader story. This could convey notions of longing, anticipation, or excitement.

Dialogue 3:

- 1. User: I've been assessing images 1438, 2630, and 3120 and would like some further clarification on them.
- 2. Assistant: Of course, I'd be happy to help. In image 1438, we see the Eiffel Tower, an international symbol of Paris and France, standing tall. It's painted in blue, white, and beneath it runs a river. The tower's lights create a magical ambience that has made it a popular site for strolls and photos. Image 2630 depicts a peaceful scene of a black and tan dog sleeping on a large, gray dog bed. The bed, sporting a geometric pattern, is placed in front of a brick fireplace, amplifying the homely and comfort vibes the picture transmits.

Image 3120 shows a distinctive logo for a company or brand. The logo comprises a 'z' and an 'l' in a red and black color scheme. The letters are uniquely connected by a diagonal line running through the image's center, rendering a modern and minimal design suitable for various businesses.

- 3. User: I'm starting a pet-friendly accommodation hosting service in Paris and trying to come up with a logo. Could I blend elements from the images of the Eiffel Tower and the dog into the logo design like in image 3120?
- 4. Assistant: Combining those elements sounds like a great idea! Here's a suggestion: Use the 'z' and 'l' shape from the logo in image 3120, but perhaps integrate elements that signify your business's unique selling point, being pet-friendly and located in Paris. You could morph the 'z' into a simplified, abstract version of the Eiffel Tower, keeping the minimal and sharp edges. On the other hand, the 'l' could be transformed into an abstract, stylized rendition of a dog, keeping the balance between simplicity and recognition. To make it clear that the accommodation is pet-friendly, consider incorporating paw prints as embellishments or as a background pattern. The color scheme of red, white, and blue could be another subtle nod to your location in France, inheriting the theme from the Eiffel Tower's image. Ultimately, the design should resonate with your target audience, so using familiar symbols (like the Eiffel Tower and a dog) in a clean, modern design could effectively communicate your brand's purpose and values.