# <span id="page-0-0"></span>ICE-GRT: Instruction Context Enhancement by Generative Reinforcement based Transformers

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#### Abstract

 The emergence of Large Language Models (LLMs) such as ChatGPT and LLaMA en- counter limitations in domain-specific tasks, with these models often lacking depth and ac- curacy in specialized areas, and exhibiting a de- crease in general capabilities when fine-tuned, particularly analysis ability in small sized mod- els. To address these gaps, we introduce ICE- GRT, utilizing Reinforcement Learning from Human Feedback (RLHF) grounded in Prox- imal Policy Optimization (PPO), demonstrat- ing remarkable aptitude in in-domain scenar- ios without compromising general task perfor- mance. Our exploration of ICE-GRT highlights its understanding and reasoning ability to not only generate robust answers but also to pro- vide detailed analyses of the reasons behind the answer. This capability marks a significant pro- gression beyond the scope of Supervised Fine-020 Tuning models. The success of ICE-GRT is dependent on several crucial factors, including Appropriate Data, Reward Size Scaling, KL- Control, Advantage Normalization, etc. The ICE-GRT model exhibits state-of-the-art per- formance in domain-specific tasks and across 12 general Language tasks against equivalent size and even larger size LLMs, highlighting the effectiveness of our approach. We provide a comprehensive analysis of the ICE-GRT, under- scoring the significant advancements it brings to the field of LLM.

### 032 1 Introduction

 The advent of Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT [\(Brown et al.,](#page-8-0) [2020;](#page-8-0) [OpenAI,](#page-8-1) [2023\)](#page-8-1) and LLaMA [\(Touvron et al.,](#page-8-2) [2023a,](#page-8-2)[b\)](#page-8-3) has marked a significant milestone in the field of Natural Language Processing (NLP). These models have gained widespread recognition for their robust gen- eral conversational abilities, enabling fluid and co- herent responses across a diverse range of topics. However, there are key limitations to these models. Firstly, a key limitation surfaces when these mod- **042** els encounter domain-specific tasks [\(Zhao et al.,](#page-9-0) **043** [2023;](#page-9-0) [Zhang et al.,](#page-9-1) [2023a\)](#page-9-1). In scenarios that de- **044** mand deep technical knowledge or specialized ex- **045** pertise, these models often fall short, providing **046** responses that lack necessary depth and accuracy. **047** Secondly, Supervised Fine Tune (SFT) LLMs tend **048** [t](#page-8-4)o exhibit a decrease in general capabilities [\(Ling](#page-8-4) **049** [et al.,](#page-8-4) [2023\)](#page-8-4). This is contrary to the expectations **050** held for large-scale models, which are presumed **051** to either maintain or improve their performance in **052** a wide array of tasks [\(Pan et al.,](#page-8-5) [2023a\)](#page-8-5). Lastly, **053** the current smaller-sized LLMs, such as 13 Billion, **054** demonstrate a limited ability to conduct detailed **055** analysis on complex questions, a competency that **056** is significantly inferior compared to the capabilities **057** of models like ChatGPT, which can engage in more **058** comprehensive and detailed discussions. **059**

Addressing these challenges, we introduce the **060** Instruction Context Enhancement by Generative **<sup>061</sup>** Reinforcement based Transformers (ICE-GRT), **<sup>062</sup>** an innovative LLM that leverages the principles **063** of Reinforcement Learning from Human Feed- **064** back (RLHF) [\(Brown et al.,](#page-8-0) [2020\)](#page-8-0) based on Prox- **065** imal Policy Optimization (PPO) [\(Schulman et al.,](#page-8-6) **066** [2017\)](#page-8-6). While ensuring that the general capabilities **067** of the Large Language Model (LLM) are main- **068** tained, ICE-GRT exhibits exceptional performance **069** in several domain-specific scenarios. Furthermore, **070** ICE-GRT demonstrates an improved ability for de- **071** tailed analysis, particularly in complex scenarios **072** where smaller-sized LLMs fall short.  $073$ 

We take one domain-specific task of ad moder- **074** ation as an example. ICE-GRT can not only de- **075** termine the compliance of advertisements but also **076** identify the specific category of violation. More- **077** over, it goes a step further by detailed analyzing **078** which elements of the ad are problematic and of-  $079$ fers constructive modification suggestions. This **080** is a notable advancement over both pretrained and **081** SFT [\(Chiang et al.,](#page-8-7) [2023\)](#page-8-7) LLM models, which are **082**

**083** typically limited to identifying compliance and vi-**084** olation categories.

 When our training methodology was applied to 086 RLHF, we observed not just significant improve- ments in in-domain tasks but also a surprising en- hancement in general tasks. In a comparative anal- ysis against models of equivalent and larger pa- rameter size across many general tasks, our ICE- GRT model with 13 billion parameters consistently achieved state-of-the-art performance in 12 well-known public LLM evaluation benchmarks.

 Our exploration of the ICE-GRT model has un- covered several factors critical to its training suc- cess. The ICE-GRT model's training data, sourced from our ICE-Instruct (SFT) model and enriched with human feedback with strict evaluation criteria, offers a diverse and comprehensive dataset, essen- tial for its robust training. Moreover, the scaling of the reward model is essential for accurately cap- turing complex scenarios and aligning with human preferences in RLHF. Additionlly, KL-Control is key to regulating the balance between the models, while Advantage Normalization significantly im- proves learning stability by adjusting advantage estimates. Additionally, we discovered that modi- fying the Clipping Range and carefully controlling the maximum response length during sampling are vital for enhancing the training process. These findings deepen our understanding of RLHF mech- anisms and are instrumental in effectively training the ICE-GRT model.

 Moreover, we provide a detailed analysis of the ICE-GRT model, encompassing both general and in-domain capabilities. Through this explo- ration, we aim to contribute a novel perspective and methodology to the field of NLP, particularly in en- hancing the depth and accuracy of domain-specific task handling by large language models. We ob- serve that the pretrain phase engages in "knowledge learning", where the model extensively absorbs a diverse range of information, forming a substan- tial foundational knowledge base. Subsequently, in the Supervised Fine-Tuning stage, the model engages in "knowledge mining", where it utilizes the learned knowledge in response to specific in- structions. This stage is crucial for the model to transition from passive knowledge accumulation to active knowledge application. Finally, the RLHF phase engages in "knowledge enhancement", en- hancing the model's ability to align with human language preferences. This stage builds upon the vast knowledge gained in the pretrain phase and the

knowledge mining from the SFT stage, leading to **135** a model that not only reconstruct extensive knowl- **136** edge but also excels in applying it with human- **137** centric preference. Importantly, this phase show- **138** cases a significant leap in the model's emergence **139** capabilities. 140

In our commitment to fostering collaborative **141** research and innovation, we will make ICE- **<sup>142</sup>** GRT publicly available on HuggingFace. This **<sup>143</sup>** open-source initiative is aimed at empowering re- **144** searchers globally to further investigate and expand **145** upon our findings with ICE-GRT. By democratiz- **146** ing access to this advanced model, we hope to **147** inspire and facilitate worldwide exploration and **148** progress in language model research. This paper **149** unveils just a fraction of ChatGPT's capabilities, **150** and our choice of the acronym "ICE" for ICE-GRT **151** is purposeful. It represents our aspiration to accel- **152** erate the 'ice-breaking' process in LLM research, **153** symbolizing our desire to inspire researchers to ex- **154** plore and uncover the vast potential of ICE-GRT **155** across an array of tasks and paving the way for new **156** discoveries and advancements in the field. **157**

# 2 Related Works **<sup>158</sup>**

# 2.1 Instruction-Tuning for LLM **159**

Recent advancements in Large Language Model **160** (LLM) development have increasingly focused on **161** instruction-tuning [\(Chiang et al.,](#page-8-7) [2023\)](#page-8-7), a tech- **162** nique that is gaining significant traction particu- **163** larly within the realms of Question Answering **164** (QA) and different domains [\(Zhao et al.,](#page-9-0) [2023;](#page-9-0) **165** [Pan et al.,](#page-8-8) [2023b;](#page-8-8) [Qiu et al.,](#page-8-9) [2020\)](#page-8-9). Key re- **166** search in this area includes works such as AL- **167** PACA [\(Taori et al.,](#page-8-10) [2023\)](#page-8-10), Vicuna [\(Chiang et al.,](#page-8-7) 168 [2023\)](#page-8-7), and [\(Zhang et al.,](#page-9-2) [2023b\)](#page-9-2), which explores **169** the balance between diveristy and accuracy in large **170** [l](#page-8-11)anguage model. Furthermore, studies like [\(Sun](#page-8-11) **171** [et al.,](#page-8-11) [2023\)](#page-8-11) delve into principles of effective QA **172** strategies, while [\(Zhou et al.,](#page-9-3) [2023\)](#page-9-3) present LIMA, 173 an innovative model for language interaction. In **174** the sphere of conversational interfaces, significant **175** contributions include the development of OpenAs- **176** sistant by [\(Köpf et al.,](#page-8-12) [2023;](#page-8-12) [Chiang et al.,](#page-8-7) [2023\)](#page-8-7). **177**

# 2.2 Reinforcement Learning from Human **178** Feedback (RLHF) **179**

Alongside the development of LLMs, Reinforce- **180** ment Learning from Human Feedback has emerged **181** [a](#page-8-0)s an important approach to improve LLMs [\(Brown](#page-8-0) **182** [et al.,](#page-8-0) [2020;](#page-8-0) [Touvron et al.,](#page-8-3) [2023b\)](#page-8-3). RLHF involves **183**

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Figure 1: ICE-GRT Model Architecture.

 training models not just on static datasets but also incorporating human feedback to guide the learn- ing process. This method has been particularly useful in aligning knowledge learning and mining with human feedback. For instance, models like OpenAI's InstructGPT have utilized RLHF to tailor responses based on human preferences, leading to more accurate outputs [\(Stiennon et al.,](#page-8-13) [2020\)](#page-8-13).

#### **<sup>192</sup>** 3 Model

 In this section, we briefly introduce a SFT model we have trained, named ICE-Instruct, designed to improve the domain-specific knowledge mining ca- pabilities of pre-trained LLMs. Following this, we will give a detailed description of our process for training the reward model, which we have termed ICE-Reward. Finally, we will comprehensively introduce the entire training process of ICE-GRT, including some important training strategies.

# **202** 3.1 ICE-Instruct

 The ICE-Instruct model built upon the Vicuna model [\(Chiang et al.,](#page-8-7) [2023\)](#page-8-7). By blending in- domain and general-purpose data during fine- tuning, it excels in both specialized tasks and broader tasks. This approach not only maintains its vast linguistic capacities but also enhances its expertise in specific domains. Importantly, this sets a solid foundation for RLHF models. All subse- quent actor and critic models are initialized using ICE-Instruct as backbone. In essence, ICE-Instruct determines the lower-bound capabilities of ICE- GRT, ensuring a strong and reliable baseline for further advancements. To maximize the model's applicability in contextual interactions, we have converted all collected data into Question-Answer pairs. Each data point adheres to a prompt format that begins with *"Below is an instruction that* **219** *describes a task. Write a response that appropri-* **220** *ately completes the request. ### USER: <INPUT>* **221** *ASSISTANT: <OUTPUT> "*, ensuring consistency **222** and relevance in contexts. **223**

### 3.2 ICE-Reward **224**

Response Generation and Sampling: Initially, **<sup>225</sup>** for each prompt in the RLHF training dataset, **226** we generate five responses. These responses are **227** uniquely produced by our ICE-Instruct model. By **228** sampling from the model's output distribution, we 229 ensure a diverse range of generated answers , cap- **230** turing various aspects of potential responses. **231**

Human Annotation and Ranking: The gener- **<sup>232</sup>** ated responses are then subjected to human annota- **233** tion. Annotators rank these responses according to **234** predefined criteria detailed in section [4.3.](#page-4-0) Specif- **235** ically, we labeled 20,000 sets of rankings, each **236** set containing five responses. From the ranked re- **237** sponses, we extract the top two and the bottom two **238** responses for each prompt. These are then paired **239** to form training data. The pairs consist of a "better" **240** response and a "worse" response, as determined **241** by the human annotation. This pairing strategy is **242** instrumental in teaching the model the differences **243** between high-quality and low-quality responses. **244**

Training Reward Model: The objective of training reward model is to develop a model capable of accurately differentiating between high and lowquality responses. Let  $R(s, a)$  be the reward function, where *s* represents the input prompt and *a* the generated response. Our goal is to optimize *R* so that it aligns with human judgments. The training data consists of pairs  $(a_i, a_j)$  where  $a_i$  is a higher-ranked response compared to *a<sup>j</sup>* for the same prompt. We use a pairwise ranking loss function, defined as:

$$
\mathcal{L}(a_i, a_j) = \max(0, \text{margin} - R(s, a_i) + R(s, a_j)).
$$

This loss function encourages the model to assign **245** a higher score to  $a_i$  than  $a_j$ . 246

The trained reward model, therefore, learns to **247** assign higher scores to more relevant and contextu- **248** ally appropriate responses, as per human rankings. **249** This model forms a most critical part of our system, **250** ensuring high-quality, context-aware responses. **251**

# 3.3 ICE-GRT **252**

In this section, we provide a comprehensive **253** overview of each component involved in ICE-GRT, **254** **255** leverages the principles of RLHF [\(Brown et al.,](#page-8-0)

**256** [2020\)](#page-8-0) based on PPO [\(Schulman et al.,](#page-8-6) [2017\)](#page-8-6), along **257** with their respective mathematical formulations. **258** Figure [1](#page-2-0) shows the whole training process.

 Actor Model: The Actor model, represented as <sup>260</sup>  $\pi_{\theta_{\text{act}}}(a|s)$ , maps states *s* to actions *a*. It is respon-<br><sup>261</sup> sible for generating actor logits, which are scores sible for generating actor logits, which are scores assigned to each potential action.

 Reference Model: The Reference model, denoted **as**  $\pi_{\theta_{\text{ref}}}(a|s)$ **, serves as a pre-trained benchmark for evaluating behavior. It provides a baseline against**  evaluating behavior. It provides a baseline against which the Actor model's outputs are compared throughout the training process.

 Reward Model: The Reward model, expressed as *R*(*s, a*), assigns a reward score based on the quality of the generated sequence, evaluating both the action *a* and the state *s*.

272 **Critic Model:** The Critic model,  $V_{\theta_{\text{crt}}}(s)$ , estimates **273** the value of being in a specific state *s*, thereby pro-**274** ducing critic values that guide the learning process.

# **275** 3.3.1 Generalized Advantage Estimation **276** (GAE) Calculation in ICE-GRT

 The advantage function, *A*(*s, a*), assesses the rela- tive benefit of executing a specific action in contrast to the average action in a given state. The formula for calculating the Advantage is:

281 
$$
A(s,a) = \mathbb{E}(R(s,a) + \gamma V_{\theta_{\text{ct}}}(s') - V_{\theta_{\text{ct}}}(s)) \tag{1}
$$

where  $\gamma$  represents the discount factor, *s'* is the **283** subsequent state following the current state *s*, and 284  $V_{\theta_{\rm crt}}(s)$  is the value function estimated by the Critic 285 model with weights  $\theta_{\rm crit}$ .

 Generalized Advantage Estimation (GAE), en- hances the estimation of the advantage function in RL [\(Schulman et al.,](#page-8-14) [2015\)](#page-8-14). GAE blends multi- step return methods with value function estimates to mitigate variance while preserving a reasonable bias. The essence of GAE is the employment of a weighted sum of n-step Temporal Difference (TD) residuals:

294 
$$
\delta_t^A = \mathbb{E}(R^{t+1}(s,a) + \gamma V_{\theta_{\text{ct}}}^{t+1}(s') - V_{\theta_{\text{ct}}}^t(s)) \tag{2}
$$

295 Here,  $\delta_t^A$  represents the TD residual at time t. Fur-**296** ther, the GAE advantage function is calcuated as: 297  $A_{\text{GAE}}(s, a) = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} (\gamma \lambda)^l \delta_{t+l}^A$ , where  $\lambda \in (0, 1)$ .

# **298** 3.3.2 Actor Model Learning

**299** The Actor Model is updated using the Proximal Pol-**300** icy Optimization objective [\(Schulman et al.,](#page-8-6) [2017\)](#page-8-6),

the process is calculated as follows: **301**

$$
L(\theta_{\text{act}}) = \min \left( \frac{\pi_{\theta_{\text{act}}}(a|s)}{\pi_{\theta_{\text{old}}}(a|s)} A_{\text{GAE}}^{\pi_{\theta_{\text{old}}}}(s, a), \right)
$$

$$
\text{clip} \left( \frac{\pi_{\theta_{\text{act}}}(a|s)}{\pi_{\theta_{\text{old}}}(a|s)}, 1 - \varepsilon, 1 + \varepsilon \right) A_{\text{GAE}}^{\pi_{\theta_{\text{old}}}}(s, a) \right),
$$

$$
\tag{3}
$$

where  $A_{\text{GAE}}^{\pi_{\theta_{\text{old}}}}(s, a)$  is the advantage function calcu- 303 lated using the old policy  $\pi_{\theta_{old}}$ ,  $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$  is a hy- 304 perparameter. This term ensures that the evolving **305** Actor policy remains not only stable in its updates **306** but also aligned or divergent as desired from the **307** old model. **308**

#### 3.3.3 Policy Optimization and Training **309**

In the final stage, the PPO algorithm optimizes **310** the Actor model's policy based on the calculated **311** advantages, the KL-divergence, and the updated **312** Actor model. The policy is iteratively updated to **313** maximize the expected rewards, with the aim of **314** aligning the Actor model's behavior more closely **315** with established benchmarks while also ensuring 316 effective and efficient learning. **317**

# 3.3.4 Important Training Strategies **318**

ICE-GRT Training Data: Our ICE-GRT's train- **<sup>319</sup>** ing data originates from ICE-Instruct model and **320** careful human feedback annotation. This data is **321** not just a collection of responses but is intricately **322** designed to encompass a wide range of scenarios. **323** Each prompt within the ICE-Instruct model is re- **324** sponded to with a set of diverse answers, gener- **325** ated by sampling from the model's output distri- **326** bution. This method ensures a comprehensive and **327** varied dataset, essential for robust model training. **328** The responses are further refined through a metic- **329** ulous human annotation process, where experts **330** rank them based on predefined criteria. This rig- **331** orous approach ensures the model is trained on **332** high-quality, human-verified data, which is crucial **333** for the model's ability to understand and apply com- **334** plex information. More details and experimental **335** comparsions are described in Section [5.2.1.](#page-6-0) **336**

Reward size Scaling: In ICE-GRT, the scaling of **337** the reward model is a critical factor in determining **338** the overall effectiveness and efficiency of training. **339** A larger reward model, denoted as  $R_{\psi}(s, a)$ , where 340  $\psi$  represents the model parameters, is significant  $341$ for several reasons. Firstly, larger reward model **342** can better capture complex environments and ac- **343** tions, essential in RLHF where the reward signal **344**

 must accurately reflect human preferences and de- tailed task requirements. Secondly, larger scale of reward size aids in generalizing across diverse prompts. This is vital for consistent performance in various scenarios, especially in ICE-GRT.

 KL-Control [\(Schulman et al.,](#page-8-6) [2017\)](#page-8-6) is a crucial mechanism in PPO, especially when training with human feedback. A key aspect of KL-Control in this context is the regulation of divergence between the Actor and the Reference models. The KL di- vergence between these two models is monitored and controlled to ensure that the policy evolution adheres closely to the human feedback. Moreover, ICE-GRT training includes a clipping mechanism to avoid large, potentially destabilizing updates in the value function. This ensures that changes in the value function are moderate and accurately re- flect real improvements as assessed by the Critic. Furthermore, as an additional measure, KL Reward adjustment helps keep the actor model on the de- sired path as defined by human feedback. This aligns actor model updates more closely with hu-man preferences.

> Advantage Normalization enhances learning stability and efficiency in PPO-based RLHF. It adjusts the advantage estimates, making them more consistent and less variable. This is particularly beneficial in RLHF, where human feedback can introduce unpredictable variations. Normalizing the advantage helps the model to focus on the most relevant learning signals, leading to faster and more stable convergence. The formula for Advantage Normalization is shown as follows:

$$
\hat{A}_t^{\pi_\theta} = \frac{A_t^{\pi_\theta} - \mu_{A^{\pi_\theta}}}{\sigma_{A^{\pi_\theta}}},
$$

368 where  $\hat{A}_t^{\pi_\theta}$  represents the normalized advantage at 369 **i** time *t*,  $A_t^{\pi_\theta}$  is the original advantage at time *t*,  $\mu_{A^{\pi_\theta}}$ 370 is the mean of the advantage,  $\sigma_{A^{\pi}\theta}$  is the standard **371** deviation of the advantage.

# **<sup>372</sup>** 4 Experimental Details

 Our training process utilized the power of 64 A100 GPUs, employing a multi-node, multi-GPU strat- egy to conduct ICE-GRT. Our models were trained and stored using the bf16 precision format. The learning rates were finely selected, with the actor learning rate set at  $5e - 6$  and the critic learning rate at  $5e - 7$ . We maintained a clipping range 380 of 0.2. The discount factor  $\gamma$  was kept constant at 0*.*95, ensuring optimal balance in our training. We are excited to announce the upcoming release **382** and open-sourcing of our ICE-GRT 13B model on **383** Hugging Face, specifically tailored for scientific **384** research purposes. **385**

# **4.1 Data Collection** 386

For our training corpus, we have crafted a novel 387 mix of datasets. This includes a selection from **388** publicly available resources, complemented by in- **389** domain data. We have removed all the sensitive **390** information, including usernames, email addresses, **391** and personal details, to uphold the data privacy and **392** security. In essence, the dataset we have prepared **393** for reward model and RLHF model is diverse and **394** multi-faceted, covering a range of domains. It in- **395** cludes data relevant to public and domain-specific **396** question-answering scenarios, as well as tasks in- **397** volving multilingual data alignment. We generated **398** 5 distinct responses for every prompt in our data **399** collection, utilizing our ICE-Instruct model. This **400** process involves sampling from the model's output **401** distribution, which guarantees a varied spectrum **402** of answers. To optimally train our reward model, **403** the data labelers carefully conducted manual label- **404** ing of the rankings for the 5 distinct responses on **405** 20,000 prompts. To enhance the human-annotation **406** accuracy and reduce subjectivity among labelers, **407** each prompt was independently evaluated by three **408** labelers, establishing a thorough and reliable vali- **409** dation processverification process. **410** 

### 4.2 General Task Evaluation **411**

Our evaluation of ICE-GRT using the GPT-Fathom **412** framework [\(Zheng et al.,](#page-9-4) [2023\)](#page-9-4) focused on public **413** general tasks. The objective was to benchmark ICE- **414** GRT's performance against existing models and to **415** understand its position in the landscape of current **416** LLMs. We employed 12 benchmarks, which span **417** across various capability categories such as lan- **418** guage understanding, reasoning, etc. These bench- **419** marks were carefully chosen to test a wide range of **420** abilities, from basic language processing to com- **421** plex problem-solving and decision-making tasks. **422** In our evaluation, we maintained alignment with **423** the settings used in GPT-Fathom to ensure a fair **424** and accurate comparison. This involved employ- **425** ing similar input formats, evaluation metrics, and **426** environmental conditions. **427**

# <span id="page-4-0"></span>4.3 Manual Annotation-Based Evaluation **428**

Our study incorporates a rigorous evaluation crite- **429** ria, with a special emphasis on manual annotation **430**

<span id="page-5-1"></span>

Model	<b>MMLU</b>	<b>AGIEval</b>	BBH	<b>AGIEval-ZH</b>	ARC-E	ARC-C	HellaSWAG	Winogrande	<b>RACE-M</b>	<b>RACE-H</b>	<b>GSM8K</b>	Math
	5-shot	few-shot	3-shot	few-shot	1-shot	1-shot	1-shot	1-shot	1-shot	1-shot	8-shot	4-shot
LLaMA 7B	24.66%	20.05%	33.48%	23.68%	30.01%	26.71%	24.58%	50.36%	26.74%	29.19%	13.80%	0.36%
Llama <sub>2</sub> 7B	40.91%	25.97%	38.21%	26.21%	62.37%	48.46%	25.39%	50.36%	45.75%	39.54%	17.51%	0.08%
Vicuna 7B	38.49%	22.71%	37.26%	27.00%	69.74%	46.33%	17.37%	49.80%	50.21%	46.83%	21.68%	0.96%
<b>ICE-Instruct 7B</b>	26.30%	15.95%	39.00%	31.14%	67.63%	45.31%	3.10%	36.07%	53.55%	52.09%	35.48%	0.82%
LLaMA 13B	38.42%	26.78%	38.28%	25.51%	67.63%	49.23%	28.90%	47.51%	52.23%	48.51%	18.42%	0.42%
Llama <sub>2</sub> 13B	49.57%	34.85%	45.89%	32.93%	76.52%	55.63%	37.17%	52.17%	57.73%	55.09%	28.66%	0.44%
Vicuna 13B	35.84%	28.68%	39.27%	30.33%	60.23%	40.96%	0.03%	5.84%	59.19%	60.69%	24.56%	0.66%
ICE-Instruct 13B	50.08%	24.51%	48.09%	34.15%	85.19%	66.89%	19.30%	47.99%	72.14%	56.52%	47.08%	$1.02\%$
<b>ICE-GRT 13B</b>	55.33%	34.92%	49.78%	34.23%	87.58%	$70.99\%$	39.37%	53.04%	75.91%	71.64%	51.48%	0.92%
LLaMA 30B	50.38%	34.87%	49.70%	30.68%	82.41%	60.67%	31.31%	51.30%	65.18%	64.18%	35.10%	0.58%
Llama2-70B	64.72%	43.99%	65.22%	39.52%	93.43%	79.61%	68.45%	69.69%	87.60%	85.13%	56.56%	3.72%

Table 1: Evaluating Benchmark Performance of Large Language Models in General Language Tasks.

 for assessing the capabilities of LLMs, particularly in different applications. The criteria evaluates re- sponses in 8 essential categories, utilizing a scoring mechanism that prioritizes the most crucial aspects. Clarity: Responses should be straightforward and precise, ensuring easy comprehension through spe-cific, appropriate language.

**<sup>438</sup>** Accuracy: The responses are expected to align **439** closely with verified facts, as assessed by manual **440** annotators. Actual fact can be validated.

**441** Completeness: Evaluated for covering all aspects **442** of the inquiry, providing comprehensive details for **443** informed decision-making.

**<sup>444</sup>** Safety: Focuses on ensuring no personal data is **445** mishandled, with manual checks for data privacy.

**446** Courtesy: Responses should be politically correct. **447** e.g., gender identity, ethnic groups, etc.

**448** Comfortableness: Responses must maintain a po-**449** lite and respectful tone, containing inclusive vocab-**450** ulary and reflect diversity at all times..

**<sup>451</sup>** Conciseness: Emphasizes brevity in responses, **452** without compromising on clarity or accuracy.

**453** Context: Response must be related to the topic and **454** relevant to the question.

**455** Table [2](#page-5-0) shows the weight and score of each cate-**456** gories to evaluate these criteria accurately, ensuring **457** responses quality and relevance.

<span id="page-5-0"></span>

Table 2: Manual Annotation-Based Evaluation Criteria.

#### **<sup>458</sup>** 5 Results and Analysis

# **459** 5.1 Results

**460** Benckmarks Scores on General Tasks: Our anal-**461** ysis focuses on the performance of ICE-GRT 13B,

as compared to other models in similar and higher **462** capacity categories. As is shown in Table [1,](#page-5-1) our **463** ICE-GRT 13B model demonstrates significant im- **464** provements over the LLaMa, Llama 2, Vicuna **465** 13B and LLaMa 30B in both its pretrained and **466** SFT across various general benchmarks, such as **467** [M](#page-9-5)MLU [\(Hendrycks et al.,](#page-8-15) [2021\)](#page-8-15), AGIEval [\(Zhong](#page-9-5) **468** [et al.,](#page-9-5) [2023\)](#page-9-5), BBH [\(Srivastava et al.,](#page-8-16) [2022\)](#page-8-16), **469** ARC [\(Xu et al.,](#page-9-6) [2023\)](#page-9-6), HellaSWAG [\(Zellers et al.,](#page-9-7) **470** [2019\)](#page-9-7), RACE [\(Lai et al.,](#page-8-17) [2017\)](#page-8-17), etc. It shows re- **471** markable advancements in general language un- **472** derstanding and reasoning tasks, indicating en- **473** hanced comprehension and reasoning capabilities. **474** Remarkably, the ICE-GRT 13B model has signif- **475** icantly narrowed the gap with the much larger **476** Llama2 70B pretrain model. This comparison un- **477** derscores the effectiveness of the ICE-GRT, com- **478** pensating for smaller model size with more gener- **479** alization capabilities. The success of the ICE-GRT **480** models suggests that the methodology, which likely **481** includes components of human feedback and align- **482** ment, contributes significantly to the models' abil- **483** ity to understand and respond to complex prompts, **484** a factor that is not solely dependent on model size. **485**

Human-Annotated Scores on In-Domain Task: **486** In the in-domain evaluation presented in Table **487** [3,](#page-6-1) ICE-GRT distinctly outperforms Llama2 SFT **488** 13B and ICE-Instruct 13B across several critical **489** dimensions. Notably, ICE-GRT achieves the high- **490** est scores in clarity (98*.*1%), accuracy (97.0%), **491** and completeness (92*.*9%), underscoring its excep- **492** tional ability to deliver precise, comprehensive, and **493** understandable responses. While it scores slightly **494** lower in safety and comfort compared to its coun- **495** terparts, it still maintains a high standard in these **496** areas. The overall score of 95*.*5% for ICE-GRT is a **497** testament to its superior performance, significantly **498** surpassing Llama2 SFT 13B (86*.*3%) and ICE- **499** Instruct 13B (87*.*3%). This robust performance **500** across multiple metrics confirms the introductory **501** claims about ICE-GRT's capabilities, particularly **502** in handling domain-specific tasks with a level of **503**



<span id="page-6-1"></span>

	Llama2 sft	<b>ICE-Instruct</b>	<b>ICE-GRT</b>
<b>Clarity</b>	95.9%	88.5%	98.1%
<b>Accuracy</b>	77.4%	84.44%	97.0%
<b>Completeness</b>	64.8%	71.11%	92.9%
<b>Safety</b>	96.6%	$100\%$	92.2%
Courtesy	100%	95.9%	100%
<b>Comfortable</b>	96.6%	98.1%	92.22%
<b>Conciseness</b>	95.1%	93.33%	91.8%
<b>Context</b>	98.8%	94.0%	98.1%
<b>Overall Score</b>	86.3%	87.3%	95.5%

Table 3: Evaluating human-assessed scores for indomain Large Language Models.

#### **505** 5.2 Detailed Analysis

# <span id="page-6-0"></span>**506** 5.2.1 The importance of ICE-GRT Training **507** Data

 In the training of the ICE-GRT, we employed two distinct datasets for RLHF. The first dataset was uniquely produced by our ICE-Instruct model. For each prompt, five diverse responses were generated by sampling from the model outputs. These re- sponses were then subjected to human annotation, where annotators ranked them according to prede- fined criteria. The second dataset originated from the GPT-4-LLM [\(Peng et al.,](#page-8-18) [2023\)](#page-8-18). It included ranked responses from GPT-4 and GPT-3.5, with the rankings automatically assessed by GPT-4.

 Our findings reveal a significant performance dis- parity between models trained with these datasets, although we found that the reward score trends were similar during the ICE-GRT training shown in Figure [2a.](#page-6-2) The ICE-GRT model, trained with our human-annotated dataset, demonstrated supe- rior performance across general tasks and domain- specific tasks. As shown in Figure [2b,](#page-6-2) on the Nat- ural Question task, the ICE-GRT model outper- formed ICE-Instruct by 4%. This gap increased to approximately 9*.*79% on the Web Questions and 17*.*17% on the LAMBADA benchmark. However, when we employed the GPT-4-LLM Dataset on ICE-GRT, we observe that the results were very close to those of ICE-Instruct, with only a 0*.*89% increase in the Natural Questions.

 A key aspect of ICE-GRT's success is its fo- cus on 'knowledge enhancement". This process builds upon the "knowledge mining" during the ICE-Instruct, enabling the model to better align with human language preferences. This approach guarantees consistency and relevance in training data, which is crucial for the model to effectively build upon and evolve its existing knowledge. Ex-ternal data sources, despite their potential diversity,

could not perfectly align with the model's knowl- **544** edge structure. The use of data generated by ICE- **545** Instruct ensures a natural and effective enhance- **546** ment of knowledge, as observed in ICE-GRT. **547**

<span id="page-6-2"></span>

between different RLHF data. between different models.

Figure 2: The influence of different training data.

#### 5.2.2 Powerful ICE-GRT on General Task **548**

ICE-GRT model exhibits exceptional strength in **549** tasks that are grounded in language understanding **550** and reasoning. For instance, as shown in Figure [3a](#page-6-3) 551 and Figure [3c,](#page-6-3) ICE-GRT 13B demonstrates a robust **552** ability in RACE, ARC, BBH, and GSM8K. Our **553** model has achieved state-of-the-art performance in  $554$ these tasks among models of the same size. **555**

Moreover, the ICE-GRT 13B model shows great **556** performance in areas such as "marketing" and **557** "college-biology", as depicted in Figure [3b.](#page-6-3) Re- **558** markably, the ICE-GRT 13B model surpasses the **559** Llama 2 70B in several AGIEval benchmarks, most **560** notably in tasks requiring language understanding **561** and reasoning, such as "gaokao-chinese" as seen **562** Figure [3d.](#page-6-3) This outperformance stems from ICE- **563** GRT knowledge enhanced contextual understand- **564** ing and generative capabilities. **565**

<span id="page-6-3"></span>

Figure 3: Score Comparsions between different LLMs.

<b>Question</b>	<b>ICE-Insturct 13B</b>	<b>ICE-Insturct 33B</b>	<b>ICE-GRT 13B</b>
"this is a 100% natural prod- uct for all females and all ages" what ad policy does the above text violate?	None, just make sure you're not lying about it.	The advertisement text may vi- olate exaggerated claims pol- icy. Overstates the product's effectiveness by claiming it is suitable for all females and all ages.	The above text may violate exaggerated claims policy if the product is marketed as "100% natural" without providing sufficient evidence or scientific backing for the claim. Making an exaggerated or unsup- ported claim about a product's naturalness could mislead consumers and potentially violate advertising regulations. To avoid violating this policy, advertisers should provide clear evidence to support any claims about a product's naturalness or provide a more nuanced description of its ingredients and production methods. Additionally, advertisers should ensure that their claims are not overstated or mislead- ing, and that they are consistent with any applicable laws and regulations governing product labeling and marketing.
Rewrite "this is a 100% natu- ral product for all females and all ages" to an ad without any violations	This product is suitable for all women and all age groups.	Experience the pure and nat- ural goodness of this product, suitable for all ages and gen- ders.	Introducing our natural product designed for all females and ages. Our carefully crafted formulation is free of harmful chemicals and artifi- cial additives, ensuring that you can use it with confidence. Whether you're looking for a daily skincare routine or specialized care for a spe- cific concern, our product is a safe and effective choice for all skin types. Experience the benefits of natural ingredients and nourishing care with our product. Suitable for all ages and skin types, our product is a safe and gentle choice for daily skincare.

Table 4: Comparative Case Study in the Domain-Specific Moderation Task.

#### **566** 5.2.3 The effectiveness of Advantage Norm

 The integration of Advantage Normalization and Reward Size Scaling significantly enhances ICE- GRT. These strategies contribute to improved training efficiency and better model performance, demonstrating their importance in the context of RLHF. Applying Advantage Normalization, which stabilizes learning by normalizing advantage es- timates, led to improvement in Natural Question benchmark over ICE-GRT baseline. As shown in Figure [4,](#page-7-0)this strategy is crucial for enhancing the model's sensitivity to the subtleties of human feed-back, leading to more effective learning outcomes.

<span id="page-7-0"></span>

Figure 4: Comparative Analysis of ICE-GRT and ICE-GRT Advantage Normalization on the Natural Question (NQ) Benchmark. The x-axis represents different epochs, while the y-axis shows the NQ scores.

#### **579** 5.3 Case Study on Domain-Specific Task

 We provide a comparative analysis of the responses generated by different models, specifically ICE- Instruct 13B, 33B, and ICE-GRT 13B, revealing varying levels of sensitivity and creativity in ad- dressing advertising policy adherence and rewrit- ing for compliance. As is shown in Table [5,](#page-0-0) while ICE-Instruct 13B takes a more direct and less cau- tious approach, ICE-Instruct 33B and ICE-GRT 13B demonstrate a progressive increase in policy

awareness and creative compliance. **589**

ICE-GRT, in particular, shows a comprehensive **590** understanding of advertising regulations and the im- **591** portance of substantiated claims, reflecting its ad- **592** vanced capability in nuanced and responsible com- **593** munication. In the first case, ICE-GRT displayed **594** the highest sensitivity to policy adherence, high- **595** lighting the risk of violating exaggerated claims **596** policy, especially if the product is marketed as **597** "100% natural" without adequate evidence. It em- **598** phasizes the need for evidence-based advertising **599** and compliance with regulations. In the second **600** case, ICE-GRT Provided the most detailed and cau- **601** tious rewrite, ensuring compliance with advertising **602** policies. It focuses on natural ingredients, absence **603** of harmful chemicals, and suitability for all females **604** and ages, while avoiding exaggerated claims. **605**

# 6 Conclusion **<sup>606</sup>**

ICE-GRT model represents a significant leap for- **607** ward in the realm of LLMs, particularly in enhanc- **608** ing domain-specific performance. Leveraging the **609** principles of Reinforcement Learning from Human **610** Feedback, ICE-GRT demonstrates exceptional ca- **611** pabilities in both general and in-domain tasks, out- **612** performing standard models in accuracy and depth. **613** Moreover, our model have strong ability to gen- **614** erate detailed analyses of the reasons behind the **615** answer. Our research uncovers several aspects of **616** RLHF, providing insights into effective training **617** methodologies and highlighting the importance of **618** factors like Appropriate Data, Reward Size Scaling, **619** KL-Control, etc. ICE-GRT's training phases, in- **620** cluding knowledge learning, mining, and enhance- **621** ment, contribute to its advanced abilities in aligning **622** with human preferences. We hope that ICE-GRT 623 will accelerate the "ice-breaking" process in LLM 624 research, encouraging further exploration. **625**

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