### Enhanced Hallucination Detection in Neural Machine Translation through Simple Detector Aggregation

**Anonymous ACL submission** 

#### Abstract

Hallucinated translations pose significant threats and safety concerns when it comes to practical deployment of machine translation systems. Previous research works have identified that detectors exhibit complementary performance — different detectors excel at detecting different types of hallucinations. In this paper, we propose to address the limitations of individual detectors by combining them and introducing a straightforward method for aggregating multiple detectors. Our results demonstrate the efficacy of our aggregated detector, providing a promising step towards evermore reliable machine translation systems.

#### 1 Introduction

001

002

005

011

012

017

019

024

027

Neural Machine Translation (NMT) has become the dominant methodology for real-world machine translation applications and production systems. As these systems are deployed in-the-wild for realworld usage, it is ever more important to ensure that they are highly reliable. While NMT systems are known to suffer from various pathologies (Koehn and Knowles, 2017), the most severe among them is the generation of translations that are detached from the source content, typically known as hallucinations (Raunak et al., 2021; Guerreiro et al., 2022b). Although rare, particularly in high-resource settings, these translations can have dramatic impact on user trust (Perez et al., 2022). As such, researchers have worked on (i) methods to reduce hallucinations either during training-time or even inference time (Xiao and Wang, 2021; Guerreiro et al., 2022b; Dale et al., 2022; Sennrich et al., 2024), and alternatively, (ii) the development of highly effective on-the-fly hallucination detectors (Guerreiro et al., 2022b,a; Dale et al., 2022) to flag these translations before they reach end-users. In this paper, we will focus on the latter.

One immediate way to approach the problem of hallucination detection is to explore high-quality *ex*-

ternal models that can serve as proxies to measure detachment from the source content, e.g., quality estimation (QE) models such as CometKiwi (Rei et al., 2022), or cross-lingual sentence similarity models like LASER (Artetxe and Schwenk, 2019) and LaBSE (Feng et al., 2022). Intuitively, extremely low-quality translations or translations that are very dissimilar from the source are more likely to be hallucinations. And, indeed, these detectors can perform very effectively as hallucination detectors (Guerreiro et al., 2022b; Dale et al., 2022). Alternatively, another effective approach is to leverage internal model features such as attention maps and sequence log-probability (Guerreiro et al., 2022b,a; Dale et al., 2022). The assumption here is that when translation models generate hallucinations, they may reveal anomalous internal patterns that can be highly predictive and useful for detection, e.g., lack of contribution from the source sentence tokens to the generation of the translation (Ferrando et al., 2022). Most importantly, different detectors exhibit complementary properties. For instance, oscillatory hallucinations - translations with anomalous repetitions of phrases or *n*-grams (Raunak et al., 2021) — are readily identified by CometKiwi, while detectors based on low source contribution or sentence dissimilarity struggle in this regard. Therefore, there is an inherent trade-off stemming from the diverse anomalies different detectors excel at.

041

042

043

044

045

047

049

052

053

055

059

060

061

062

063

064

065

066

067

068

069

070

071

072

073

074

075

077

078

In this paper, we address this trade-off by proposing a simple yet highly effective method to aggregate different detectors to leverage their complementary strengths. Through experimentation in the two most widely used hallucination detection benchmarks, we show that our method consistently improves detection performance. Key contributions are as follows:

• We propose STARE, an unsupervised Simple 07 deTectors AggREgation method that achieves 08

state-of-the-art performance well on two hallucination detection benchmarks.

· We demonstrate that our consolidated detector can outperform single-based detectors with as much as aggregating two complementary detectors. Interestingly, our results suggest that internal detectors, which typically lag behind external detectors, can be combined in such a way that they outperform the latter.

We release our code and scores to support future research and ensure reproducibility.<sup>1</sup>

#### 2 **Detectors Aggregation Method**

#### 2.1 Problem Statement

**Preliminaries.** Consider a vocabulary  $\Omega$  and let (X, Y) be a random variable taking values in  $\mathcal{X} \times \mathcal{Y}$ , where  $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \Omega$  represents translations and  $\mathcal{Y} =$  $\{0,1\}$  denotes labels indicating whether a translation is a hallucination (Y = 1) or not (Y = 0). The joint probability distribution of (X, Y) is  $P_{XY}$ .

Hallucination detection. The goal of hallucination detection is to classify a given translation  $x \in X$  as either an expected translation from the distribution  $P_{X|Y=0}$  or as a hallucination from  $P_{X|Y=1}$ . This classification is achieved by a binary decision function  $g: X \to 0, 1$ , which applies a threshold  $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}$  to a hallucination score function  $s: X \to \mathbb{R}$ . The decision function is defined as:

$$g(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } s(x) > \gamma, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The objective is to create an hallucination score function s that effectively distinguishes hallucinated translations from other translations.

Aggregation. Assume that we have several hallucination score detectors<sup>2</sup>. When evaluating a specific translation x', our goal is to combine the scores from the single detectors into a single, more reliable score that outperforms any of the individual detectors alone. Formally, this aggregation method, denoted as Agg, is defined as follows:

 $\mathbb{R}^K \to \mathbb{R}$ Agg:

081

097

100

101

102

103

104

105

108

109

110

111

112

113

114

115

116

117

118



https://github.com/AnasHimmi/ Hallucination-Detection-Score-Aggregation.

#### Proposed Aggregation Method 2.2

We start with the assumption that we have access to K hallucination scores and aim to construct an improved hallucination detector using these scores. The primary challenge in aggregating these scores arises from the fact that they are generated in an unconstrained setting, meaning that each score may be measured on a different scale. Consequently, the initial step is to devise a method for standardizing these scores to enable their aggregation. The normalization is performed using the min-max normalization based on the entire training dataset  $\mathcal{D}_n = \{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}$ . Formally, for a given score  $s_k$ , the normalized score  $s'_k$  is computed as follows:

$$s'_{k} = \frac{s_{k}(x') - \min_{z \in \mathcal{D}_{n}} s_{k}(z)}{\max_{z \in \mathcal{D}_{n}} s_{k}(z) - \min_{z \in \mathcal{D}_{n}} s_{k}(z)}.$$
136

121

122

123

124

125

126

127

128

129

130

131

133

134

135

137

140

141

142

143

144

145

146

147

Using these normalized scores, we construct a hallucination detector by summing them.

$$\operatorname{Agg}(x') = \sum_{k=1}^{K} s'_k.$$
 (1)

We denote this method as STARE.

#### 3 **Experimental Setup**

#### 3.1 Datasets

In our experiments, we utilize the human-annotated datasets released in Guerreiro et al. (2022b) and Dale et al. (2023). Both datasets include detection scores - both for internal and external detectors — for each individual translation:

LFAN-HALL. A dataset of 3415 translations 148 for WMT18 German→English news translation 149 data (Bojar et al., 2018) with annotations on critical errors and hallucinations (Guerreiro et al., 2022b). 151 This dataset contains a mixture of oscillatory hal-152 lucinations and *fluent but detached* hallucinations. 153 We provide examples of such translations in Ap-154 pendix A. For each translation, there are six different detector scores: three are from external mod-156 els (scores from COMET-QE and CometKiwi, 157 two quality estimation models, and sentence sim-158 ilarity from LaBSE, a cross-lingual embedding 159 model), and three are from internal methods 160 (length-normalized sequence log-probability, Seq-161 Logprob; contribution of the source sentence for 162 the generated translation according to ALTI+ (Ferrando et al., 2022), and WASS-COMBO, an Optimal 164

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>We use the notation  $\{s_k\}_{k=1}^K$  to represent a set consisting of K hallucination detectors, where each  $s_k$  is a function mapping from  $\mathcal{X}$  to  $\mathbb{R}$ .

DETECTOR	AUROC ↑	FPR ↓	DETECTOR	AUROC $\uparrow$	FPR $\downarrow$
Ind	lividual Detectors	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	In	dividual Detectors	
<i>External</i> COMET-QE CometKiwi LaBSE	70.15 86.96 <u>91.72</u> 🎽	57.24 35.15 <u>26.86</u> <b>४</b>	<i>External</i> COMET-QE LASER XNLI LaBSE	82.22 81.11 82.44 88.77 <b>४</b>	47.40 47.04 <u>33.20</u> 34.96
<i>Model-based</i> Seq-Logprob ALTI+ Wass-Combo	83.40 84.24 <u>87.02</u>	58.99 66.19 <u>48.38</u>	<i>Model-based</i> Seq-Logprob ALTI+ Wass-Combo	<u>86.72</u> 82.26 64.82	<u>28.86</u> 58.40 84.62
Agg	regated Detectors		Agg	gregation Detector	s
External Only (gap Isolation Forest Max-Norm STARE	92.61 ↑0.89 92.43 ↑0.71 93.32 ↑1.60	ernal) 19.08 ↓7.78 22.09 ↓4.77 20.67 ↓6.19	<i>External Only (ga</i> Isolation Forest Max-Norm STARE	<i>p to best single Ex</i> 71.35 <b>↓17.4</b> 88.57 10.48 89.76 10.99	ternal) 57.75 <u>†22.8</u> 32.59 <u>↓2.86</u> 32.74 <u>↓2.22</u>
Model-based Only Isolation Forest Max-Norm STARE	(gap to best single 88.19 11.17 83.81 43.21 89.07 12.05	e Model-based) 36.63 ↓11.8 62.94 ↑14.6 42.50 ↓5.88	<i>Model-based Only</i> Isolation Forest Max-Norm STARF	y (gap to best singl 75.35 ↓11.4 67.70 ↓17.3 89 92 13 20	<i>e Model-based)</i> 69.71 ↑40.9 83.83 ↑53.1 30 37 ↑151
All (gap to best ove Isolation Forest Max-Norm STARE	erall) 92.84 ↑1.12 91.60 ↓0.12 <b>94.12</b> ↑2.40	23.90 \12.96 26.38 \10.48 <b>17.06</b> \19.80	All (gap to best ov Isolation Forest Max-Norm STARE	<i>berall)</i> 76.25 ↓12.5 80.67 ↓7.01 <b>91.18</b> †2.41	56.28 <b>121.3</b> 41.52 <b>1.91</b> <b>28.85</b> ↓6.11

(a) Results on LFAN-HALL.

(b) Results on HALOMI.

Table 1: Performance, according to AUROC and FPR, of all single detectors available and aggregation methods via combination of external detectors, model-based detectors, or both simultaneously. We represent with the best overall single detector and underline the best detectors for each class, according to our primary metric AUROC.

Transport inspired method that relies on the aggregation of attention maps).

166

184

185

HALOMI. A dataset with human-annotated hal-167 lucination in various translation directions. We test 168 translations into and out of English, pairing English with five other languages — Arabic, German, 170 Russian, Spanish, and Chinese, consisting of over 171 3000 sentences across the ten different language 172 pairs. Importantly, this dataset has two important 173 properties that differ from LFAN-HALL: (i) it has 174 a much bigger proportion of fluent but detached 175 hallucinations (oscillatory hallucinations were not 176 considered as a separate category), and (ii) nearly 177 35% of the translations are deemed hallucinations, 178 as opposed to about 8% for LFAN-HALL.<sup>3</sup> For 179 each translation, there are seven different detec-180 tion scores: the same internal detection scores as 181 LFAN-HALL, and four different detector scores: COMET-QE, LASER, XNLI and LaBSE. 183

We provide more details on both datasets in Appendix A.

**Aggregation Baselines.** The closest related work is Darrin et al. (2023) on out-of-distribution detection methods, using an Isolation Forest (IF; Liu et al., 2008) for per-class anomaly scores. We adapt their method, employing a single Isolation Forest, and designate it as our baseline. Alternatively, we also consider a different way to use the individual scores and normalization weights in Equation 1: instead of performing a sum over the weighted scores, we take the maximum score. We denote this baseline as Max-Norm.

187

188

189

191

192

193

194

195

197

199

200

201

202

204

205

207

208

**Evaluation method.** Following Guerreiro et al. (2022a), we report Area Under the Receiver Operating Characteristic curve (AUROC) as our primary metric, and False Positive Rate at 90% True Positive Rate (FPR@90TPR) as a secondary metric.

**Implementation details.** For LFAN-HALL, we normalize the metrics by leveraging the held-out set released with the dataset consisting of 100,000 non-annotated in-domain scores. In the case of HALOMI, however, no held-out set was released. As such, we rely on sampling random splits that consist of 10% of the dataset for calibration. We

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Given the rarity of hallucinations in practical translation scenarios (Guerreiro et al., 2023), LFAN-HALL offers a more realistic simulation of detection performance.

repeat the process 10 different times. We report
average scores over those different runs. We also
report the performance variance in the Appendix.

### 3.2 Performances Analysis

212

226

227

240

241

242

243

244

245

246

247

248

250

254

255

213Results on hallucination detection performance on214LFAN-HALL and HaloMNI are reported in Table 1.

215Global Analysis.STARE aggregation method216consistently outperforms (i) single detectors' per-217formance, and (ii) other aggregation baselines.218Moreover, we find that the combination of all de-219tectors — both model-based and external-based de-220tectors — yields the best overall results, improving221over the STARE method based on either internal222or external models only. Importantly, these trends,223contrary to other alternative aggregation strategies,224hold across both datasets.

Aggregation of External Detectors. STARE demonstrates robust performance when aggregating external detectors on both LFAN-HALL and HALOMI: improvements in AUROC (over a point) and in FPR (between two to six points). Interestingly, we also observe that the best overall performance obtained exclusively with external models lags behind that of the overall aggregation. This suggests that internal models features — directly obtained via the generation process — contribute with complementary information to that captured by external models.

Aggregation of Internal Detectors. Aggregation of internal detectors, can achieve higher AU-ROC scores than the best single external detector on HALOMI. This results highlights how modelbased features — such as attention and sequence log-probability — that are readily and efficiently obtained as a by-product of the generation can, when aggregated effectively, outperform more computationally expensive external solutions.

#### 3.3 Ablation Studies

In this section, our focus is two-fold: (i) exploring optimal selections of detectors, and (ii) understanding the relevance of the reference set's size.

**Optimal Choice of detectors.** We report the performance of the optimal combination of N-detectors on both datasets in Table 2.<sup>4</sup> We note that including all detectors yields comparable performance to the best mix of detectors. Interestingly, aggregation always brings improvement,



Figure 1: Impact of reference set size on LFAN-HALL.

even when only combining two detectors. As expected, the best mixture of detectors leverages information from different signals: contribution of source contribution, low-quality translations, and dissimilarity between source and translation.

	Ι.ΕΔΝ-ΗΔΙΙ		HAI	Омі
λŢ		EDD @00		
11	AUROC	FPR@90	AUROC	FPR@90
LaBSE	91.72	26.86	88.77	34.96
2	93.32	20.67	90.40	27.52
3	94.11	17.27	90.61	27.24
4	94.45	13.69	91.09	26.91
5	94.12	17.06	91.25	28.48
6			91.40	27.93
STARE	94.12	17.06	91.18	28.85

Table 2: Ablation Study on the Optimal Choice of Detectors when using STARE.

**Impact of the size of the references set.** The calibration of scores relies on a reference set. Here, we examine the impact of the calibration set size on performance, by ablating on the held-out set LFAN-HALL, which comprises of 100k sentences. Figure 1 shows that the ISOLATION FOREST requires a larger calibration set to achieve similar performance. This phenomenon might explain the drop in performance observed on HALOMI (Table 1). Interestingly, the performance improvement for STARE, particularly in FPR, plateaus when the reference set exceeds 1,000 samples, which suggests that STARE can adapt to different domains with a rather small reference set.

#### 4 Conclusion & Future Perspectives

We propose a simple aggregation method to combine hallucination detectors to exploit complementary benefits from each individual detector. We show that our method can bring consistent improvements over previous detection approaches in two human-annotated datasets across different language pairs. We are also releasing our code and detection scores to support future research on this topic. 260

272

273

274

275

276

277

278

279

281

283

261

262

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>We report the optimal combinations in Appendix C.

284

5

scores.

References

7:597-610.

Linguistics.

2023.

Limitations

Our methods are evaluated in a limited setup due to

the limited availability of translation datasets with

annotation of hallucinations. Moreover, in this

study, we have not yet studied *compute-optimal* aggregation of detectors — we assume that we

already have access to multiple different detection

sively multilingual sentence embeddings for zeroshot cross-lingual transfer and beyond. Transactions

of the Association for Computational Linguistics,

Ondřej Bojar, Christian Federmann, Mark Fishel, Yvette

Graham, Barry Haddow, Matthias Huck, Philipp Koehn, and Christof Monz. 2018. Findings of the

2018 conference on machine translation (WMT18).

In Proceedings of the Third Conference on Machine

Translation: Shared Task Papers, pages 272–303,

Belgium, Brussels. Association for Computational

David Dale, Elena Voita, Loïc Barrault, and Marta R

Costa-jussà. 2022. Detecting and mitigating halluci-

nations in machine translation: Model internal work-

ings alone do well, sentence similarity even better.

Hansanti, Christophe Ropers, Elahe Kalbassi, Cyn-

thia Gao, Loïc Barrault, and Marta R Costa-jussà.

mark for multilingual hallucination and omission

detection in machine translation. arXiv preprint

vised layer-wise score aggregation for textual ood

Fangxiaoyu Feng, Yinfei Yang, Daniel Cer, Naveen Arivazhagan, and Wei Wang. 2022. Language-agnostic

BERT sentence embedding. In Proceedings of the

60th Annual Meeting of the Association for Compu-

tational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers), pages

878-891, Dublin, Ireland. Association for Computa-

Javier Ferrando, Gerard I. Gállego, Belen Alastruey,

Carlos Escolano, and Marta R. Costa-jussà. 2022.

Towards opening the black box of neural machine

translation: Source and target interpretations of the

transformer. In Proceedings of the 2022 Conference

on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Process-

ing, pages 8756-8769, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emi-

rates. Association for Computational Linguistics.

Halomi: A manually annotated bench-

David Dale, Elena Voita, Janice Lam, Prangthip

arXiv preprint arXiv:2212.08597.

Mikel Artetxe and Holger Schwenk. 2019.

Nuno M. Guerreiro, Duarte M. Alves, Jonas Waldendorf,

Barry Haddow, Alexandra Birch, Pierre Colombo,

and André F. T. Martins. 2023. Hallucinations in Large Multilingual Translation Models. Transac-

tions of the Association for Computational Linguis-

Nuno M Guerreiro, Pierre Colombo, Pablo Piantanida, and André FT Martins. 2022a. Optimal transport for

unsupervised hallucination detection in neural ma-

chine translation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2212.09631*.

2022b. Looking for a needle in a haystack: A comprehensive study of hallucinations in neural machine

Nuno M Guerreiro, Elena Voita, and André FT Martins.

translation. arXiv preprint arXiv:2208.05309.

Philipp Koehn and Rebecca Knowles. 2017. Six chal-

Fei Tony Liu, Kai Ming Ting, and Zhi-Hua Zhou. 2008.

Isolation forest. In 2008 eighth ieee international

conference on data mining, pages 413-422. IEEE.

NLLB Team, Marta R. Costa-jussà, James Cross, Onur

Celebi, Maha Elbavad, Kenneth Heafield, Kevin Hef-

fernan, Elahe Kalbassi, Janice Lam, Daniel Licht,

Jean Maillard, Anna Sun, Skyler Wang, Guillaume

Wenzek, Al Youngblood, Bapi Akula, Loic Bar-

rault, Gabriel Mejia Gonzalez, Prangthip Hansanti,

John Hoffman, Semarley Jarrett, Kaushik Ram

Sadagopan, Dirk Rowe, Shannon Spruit, Chau

Tran, Pierre Andrews, Necip Fazil Ayan, Shruti

Bhosale, Sergey Edunov, Angela Fan, Cynthia

Gao, Vedanuj Goswami, Francisco Guzmán, Philipp

Koehn, Alexandre Mourachko, Christophe Ropers,

Safiyyah Saleem, Holger Schwenk, and Jeff Wang.

2022. No language left behind: Scaling human-

Ethan Perez, Saffron Huang, Francis Song, Trevor Cai,

Roman Ring, John Aslanides, Amelia Glaese, Nat

McAleese, and Geoffrey Irving. 2022. Red team-

ing language models with language models. arXiv

Vikas Raunak, Arul Menezes, and Marcin Junczys-

Dowmunt. 2021. The curious case of hallucinations

in neural machine translation. In Proceedings of

the 2021 Conference of the North American Chap-

ter of the Association for Computational Linguistics:

Human Language Technologies, pages 1172–1183,

Online. Association for Computational Linguistics.

Ricardo Rei, Marcos Treviso, Nuno M. Guerreiro,

Chrysoula Zerva, Ana C Farinha, Christine Maroti,

José G. C. de Souza, Taisiya Glushkova, Duarte

Alves, Luisa Coheur, Alon Lavie, and André F. T.

Martins. 2022. CometKiwi: IST-unbabel 2022 sub-

mission for the quality estimation shared task. In

Proceedings of the Seventh Conference on Machine

Translation (WMT), pages 634-645, Abu Dhabi,

centered machine translation. arXiv preprint.

preprint arXiv:2202.03286.

5

lenges for neural machine translation. In Proceedings

of the First Workshop on Neural Machine Translation, pages 28-39, Vancouver. Association for Computa-

tics, 11:1500-1517.

tional Linguistics.

Mas-

338

339

341

346

351

352

353

355

356

357

358

359

360

361

362

363

364

365

366

367

368

369

370

371

372

373

374

375

376

377

378

379

380

381

384

385

387

389

390

391

392

393

394

## 287

- 290
- 292
- 296
- 297
- 301
- 304
- 306

311 312 313

314 315

- 317
- 318 319

320 321

- 324
- 325
- 326

- 333

337

330

328

327

322

tional Linguistics.

arXiv:2305.11746.

Maxime Darrin, Guillaume Staerman, Eduardo Dadalto Câmara Gomes, Jackie CK Cheung, Pablo Piantanida, and Pierre Colombo. 2023. Unsuper-

detection. arXiv preprint arXiv:2302.09852.

5 United Arab Emirates (Hybrid). Association for Computational Linguistics.

397

400

401

402

403

404

405

406

407

408

409

410

411

412

413

- Rico Sennrich, Jannis Vamvas, and Alireza Mohammadshahi. 2024. Mitigating hallucinations and offtarget machine translation with source-contrastive and language-contrastive decoding. *Preprint*, arXiv:2309.07098.
- Ashish Vaswani, Noam Shazeer, Niki Parmar, Jakob Uszkoreit, Llion Jones, Aidan N Gomez, Ł ukasz Kaiser, and Illia Polosukhin. 2017. Attention is all you need. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems*, volume 30. Curran Associates, Inc.
  - Yijun Xiao and William Yang Wang. 2021. On hallucination and predictive uncertainty in conditional language generation. In Proceedings of the 16th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Main Volume, pages 2734–2744, Online. Association for Computational Linguistics.

Α	Model and Data Details 6		
	A.1 LFAN-HALL dataset	6	
	A.2 HALOMI dataset	6	
В	Variance of performance on the	(	
	HALOMI dataset	0	
С	Optimal Combination of Detectors via		
	STARE	6	
D	Quantile transformation instead of min-		
	max normalization	7	
E	Comparision with the majority vote	7	
F	Contribution of metrics in the decision		
	of STARE	7	
~			
G	Additional results on other hallucination		
	categories	7	
	A B C D E F G	<ul> <li>A Model and Data Details <ul> <li>A.1 LFAN-HALL dataset</li> <li>A.2 HALOMI dataset</li> <li>B Variance of performance on the HALOMI dataset</li> </ul> </li> <li>C Optimal Combination of Detectors via STARE</li> <li>D Quantile transformation instead of minmax normalization</li> <li>E Comparision with the majority vote</li> <li>F Contribution of metrics in the decision of STARE</li> <li>G Additional results on other hallucination categories</li> </ul>	

### A Model and Data Details

#### A.1 LFAN-HALL dataset

**NMT Model.** The model used in Guerreiro et al. (2022b) is a Transformer base model (Vaswani et al., 2017) (hidden size of 512, feedforward size of 2048, 6 encoder and 6 decoder layers, 8 attention heads). The model has approximately 77M parameters. It was trained on WMT18 DE-EN data: the authors randomly choose 2/3 of the dataset for training and use the remaining 1/3 as a held-out set for analysis. We use a section of that same held-out set in this work.

428

429

430

431

432

433

434

435

436

437

438

439

440

441

442

443

444

445

446

447

448

449

450

451

452

453

454

455

456

457

458

459

460

461

462

463

464

**Dataset Stats.** The dataset consists of 3415 translations from WMT18 DE-EN data. Overall, there are 218 translations annotated as detached hallucinations (fully and strongly detached — see more details in Guerreiro et al. (2022b)), and 86 as oscillatory hallucinations.<sup>5</sup> The other translations are either incorrect (1073) or correct (2048). We show examples of hallucinations for each category in Table 4.<sup>6</sup>

#### A.2 HALOMI dataset

**NMT model.** Translations on this dataset come from 600M distilled NLLB model (NLLB Team et al., 2022).

## B Variance of performance on the HALOMI dataset

We report in Table 3 the average performance as well as the standard deviation across the different ten runs on different calibration sets. Despite variance between different runs, the STARE aggregation method consistently outperforms individual detectors and other aggregation techniques.

## C Optimal Combination of Detectors via STARE

**LFAN-HALL.** The optimal set of detectors for various values of N is:

- for N = 1: LaBSE 465
- for N = 2: CometKiwi, LaBSE 466

<sup>5</sup>Some strongly detached hallucinations have also been annotated as oscillatory hallucinations. In these cases, we follow Guerreiro et al. (2022a) and consider them to be oscillatory.

<sup>6</sup>All data used in this paper is licensed under a MIT License.

DETECTOR	AUROC ↑	$FPR@90TPR\downarrow$
Indi	vidual Detector.	\$
External		
COMET-QE	$82.22\pm0.28$	$47.40\pm0.82$
LASER	$81.11\pm0.21$	$47.04\pm0.78$
XNLI	$82.44 \pm 0.18$	$33.20\pm0.63$
LaBSE	$88.77\pm0.21$	$34.96\pm0.72$
Model-based		
Seq-Logprob	$86.72\pm0.22$	$28.86\pm0.64$
ALTI+	$82.26\pm0.28$	$58.40 \pm 0.54$
Wass-Combo	$64.82\pm0.20$	$84.62 \pm 0.52$
Agg	regated Detector	rs
External Only		
Isolation Forest	$71.35 \pm 1.62$	$57.75\pm4.55$
Max-Norm	$88.57\pm0.38$	$32.59\pm0.60$
STARE	$89.76\pm0.19$	$32.74\pm0.50$
Model-based Only		
Isolation Forest	$75.35\pm2.32$	$69.71 \pm 5.01$
Max-Norm	$67.70 \pm 1.31$	$83.83 \pm 1.40$
STARE	$89.92\pm0.20$	$30.37 \pm 1.84$
All		
Isolation Forest	$76.25\pm2.16$	$56.28 \pm 6.29$
Max-Norm	$80.67 \pm 1.37$	$41.52\pm5.87$
STARE	$91.18\pm0.20$	$28.85\pm0.89$

Table 3: Performance of individual and aggregated hallucination detectors on the HALOMI dataset, including average performance and standard deviations across ten different calibration sets.

467 468	• for $N = 3$ : Wass_Combo, CometKiwi LaBSE
469 470	<ul> <li>for N = 4: ALTI+, Wass_Combo CometKiwi, LaBSE</li> </ul>
471 472	<ul> <li>for N = 5: ALTI+, SeqLogprob Wass_Combo, CometKiwi, LaBSE</li> </ul>
473 474	<b>HALOMI.</b> The optimal set of detectors for various values of $N$ is:
475	• for $N = 2$ : LaBSE, SeqLogprob
476 477	• for $N = 3$ : LaBSE, SeqLogprob, Wass-Combo
478 479	• for $N = 4$ : LaBSE, SeqLogprob, XNLI COMET-QE
480 481	• for $N = 5$ : LaBSE, SeqLogprob, XNLI COMET-QE, ALTI+

- for N = 6: LaBSE, Log Loss, XNLI, COMET-QE, ALTI+, Wass-Combo
- 484 for N = 7: LaBSE, SeqLogprob, XNLI, 485 COMET-QE, ALTI+, Laser, Wass-Combo

482

483

### D Quantile transformation instead of min-max normalization

One drawback of min-max scaling is its vulnerability to outliers, as a single outlier can distort the entire distribution. We compare in this section STARE with a quantile transformation which maps all values into the [0, 1] range in a monotonic fashion and also makes the distribution of the resulting values approximately uniform. The results in Tables 5 and 6 show that Quantile-STARE demonstrates competitiveness STARE. 486

487

488

489

490

491

492

493

494

495

496

497

498

499

500

501

502

503

504

505

506

508

509

### E Comparision with the majority vote

Below (Table 7) are the results (F1 score) for the majority vote baseline as it is not possible to define the AUROC or FPR.

# F Contribution of metrics in the decision of STARE

To better understand the strength of STARE, we compare the mean of normalized scores for hallucination and non-hallucination. Tables 8 and 9 show that External detectors are the most discriminative and contribute the most to both benchmarks

## G Additional results on other hallucination categories

Category	Source Sentence	Reference Translation	Hallucination
Oscillatory	Als Maß hierfür wird meist der sogenannte Pearl Index benutzt (so benannt nach einem Statistiker, der diese Berechnungsformel einführte).	As a measure of this, the so-called Pearl Index is usually used (so named after a statistician who introduced this calculation formula).	The term "Pearl Index" refers to the term "Pearl Index" (or "Pearl Index") used to refer to the term "Pearl Index" (or "Pearl Index").
Strongly Detached	Fraktion der Grünen / Freie Europäische Allianz	The Group of the Greens/European Free Al- liance	Independence and Democracy <b>Group</b> (in- cludes 10 UKIP MEPs and one indepen- dent MEP from Ireland)
Fully Detached	Die Zimmer beziehen, die Fenster mit Aussicht öffnen, tief durchatmen, staunen.	Head up to the rooms, open up the windows and savour the view, breathe deeply, marvel.	The staff were very friendly and helpful.

Table 4: Examples of hallucination types. Hallucinated content is shown shaded.

DETECTOR	AUROC $\uparrow$	FPR@90TPR $\downarrow$
<i>External Only</i> STARE Quantile-STARE	93.32 93.09	20.67 16.03
<i>Model-based Only</i> STARE Quantile-STARE	89.07 90.30	42.50 33.92
<i>All</i> STARE Quantile-STARE	94.12 94.00	17.06 20.46

Table 5: Comparison of STARE with Quantile-STARE on LFAN-Hall

DETECTOR	AUROC $\uparrow$	$FPR@90TPR\downarrow$
<i>External Only</i> STARE Quantile-STARE	$\begin{array}{c} 89.76 \pm 0.19 \\ 90.06 \pm 0.20 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 32.74 \pm 0.50 \\ 31.73 \pm 0.44 \end{array}$
<i>Model-based Only</i> STARE Quantile-STARE	$\begin{array}{c} 89.92 \pm 0.28 \\ 90.15 \pm 0.14 \end{array}$	$30.37 \pm 1.84$ $28.09 \pm 0.60$
<i>All</i> STARE Quantile-STARE	$91.18 \pm 0.20 \\ 91.79 \pm 0.18$	$\begin{array}{c} 28.85 \pm 0.89 \\ 29.39 \pm 0.43 \end{array}$

Table 6: Comparison of STARE with Quantile-STARE on HalOmi

	LFAN-Hall	HalOmi
Majority vote	0.74	$0.76\pm0.01$
STARE	0.78	$0.78\pm0.003$

Table 7: f1 scores of majority vote and STARE on the two datasets

METRIC	No Hallucinations	With Hallucinations
ALTI+	0.62	0.27
Seq-Logprob	0.57	0.23
Wass-Combo	-0.05	-0.43
CometKiwi	0.75	0.34
LaBSE	0.79	0.36

Table 8: Contribution of metrics in the decision ofSTARE on LFAN-Hall

METRIC	No Hallucinations	With Hallucinations
Seq-Logprob	$0.82\pm0.03$	$0.61\pm0.07$
ALTI+	$0.69\pm0.04$	$0.46 \pm 0.03$
COMET-QE	$0.74\pm0.03$	$0.52\pm0.05$
LaBSE	$0.83\pm0.01$	$0.50\pm0.01$
LASER	$0.79\pm0.01$	$0.59\pm0.01$
XNLI	$0.74\pm0.00$	$0.17\pm0.00$
Wass-Combo	$0.96\pm0.01$	$0.90\pm0.03$

Table 9: Contribution of metrics in the decision of STARE on HalOmi

DETECTOR	AUROC $\uparrow$	FPR@90TPR↑		
Indiv	vidual Detecto	rs		
External				
CometKiwi	91.36	27.17		
LaBSE	81.19	53.72		
Model-based				
Seq-Logprob	68.26	74.65		
ALTI+	71.39	76.63		
Wass-Combo	82.07	44.28		
Aggregated Detectors				
External Only				
Isolation Forest	88.78	36.53		
Max-Norm	88.18	33.16		
STARE	89.86	29.02		
Model-based Only				
Isolation Forest	68.15	81.14		
Max-Norm	70.46	75.51		
STARE	78.71	55.84		
All				
Isolation Forest	86.60	32.17		
Max-Norm	87.16	31.87		
STARE	88.02	26.81		

### Table 10: LFAN-HALL, oscillations

DETECTOR	AUROC $\uparrow$	FPR@90TPR ↑			
Individual Detectors					
External					
CometKiwi	85.30	37.02			
LaBSE	98.05	2.13			
Model-based					
Seq-Logprob	94.22	6.84			
ALTI+	98.21	2.15			
Wass-Combo	95.54	5.52			
Aggregated Detectors					
External Only					
Isolation Forest	94.48	13.83			
Max-Norm	94.71	16.41			
STARE	96.56	7.53			
Model-based Only					
Isolation Forest	97.49	2.14			
Max-Norm	97.09	1.70			
STARE	98.23	1.97			
All					
Isolation Forest	97.63	4.99			
Max-Norm	95.11	14.53			
STARE	98.34	2.21			

DETECTOR	AUROC $\uparrow$	FPR@90TPR $\downarrow$		
In	Individual Detectors			
External				
score_comet_qe	$73.01\pm0.27$	$65.49 \pm 0.59$		
score_labse	$84.67\pm0.15$	$39.40\pm0.59$		
score_laser	$75.65\pm0.21$	$52.65\pm0.37$		
score_xnli	$83.56\pm0.28$	$55.49 \pm 0.96$		
Model-based				
score_log_loss	$78.11\pm0.18$	$54.99 \pm 0.78$		
score_alti_mean	$68.72\pm0.12$	$79.10\pm0.34$		
score_attn_ot	$67.04 \pm 1.31$	$83.67 \pm 1.53$		
Aggregated Detectors				
External Only				
Isolation Forest	$69.27 \pm 1.80$	$57.30\pm6.29$		
Max-Norm	$84.60\pm0.50$	$49.64\pm5.67$		
Sum-Norm	$85.79\pm0.26$	$39.52 \pm 1.33$		
Model-based Only				
Isolation Forest	$65.29 \pm 2.07$	$83.50\pm3.69$		
Max-Norm	$74.39 \pm 1.51$	$70.16 \pm 2.14$		
Sum-Norm	$78.72\pm0.71$	$62.86 \pm 1.61$		
All				
Isolation Forest	$70.87 \pm 2.63$	$62.66 \pm 6.34$		
Max-Norm	$85.47 \pm 1.02$	$49.49 \pm 4.90$		
Sum-Norm	$85.59 \pm 0.25$	$42.08 \pm 1.36$		

Table 11: LFAN-HALL, fully detached

Table 13: HalOmi, High level language pairs, omissions

DETECTOR	AUROC $\uparrow$	FPR@90TPR↑		
Ind	ividual Detecto	rs		
External				
CometKiwi	78.90	46.37		
LaBSE	85.80	32.53		
Model-based				
Seq-Logprob	77.85	66.95		
ALTI+	73.76	89.43		
Wass-Combo	75.69	68.91		
Aggregated Detectors				
External Only				
Isolation Forest	86.82	30.41		
Max-Norm	85.81	34.04		
STARE	85.01	30.86		
Model-based Only				
Isolation Forest	79.96	60.54		
Max-Norm	74.45	83.14		
STARE	80.70	69.87		
All				
Isolation Forest	88.05	29.71		
Max-Norm	84.06	43.87		
STARE	86.65	35.04		

	Table	12: I	LFAN	-HA	LL,	strongly	detached
--	-------	-------	------	-----	-----	----------	----------

DETECTOR	AUROC ↑	$FPR@90TPR\downarrow$	
Individual Detectors			
External			
score_comet_qe	$49.38\pm0.21$	$84.53\pm0.41$	
score_labse	$80.19\pm0.23$	$48.89\pm0.62$	
score_laser	$70.84 \pm 0.42$	$69.92\pm0.59$	
score_xnli	$59.00\pm0.37$	$76.10\pm0.88$	
Model-based			
score_log_loss	$71.47\pm0.42$	$71.01 \pm 1.97$	
score_alti_mean	$65.55\pm0.43$	$77.76\pm0.49$	
score_attn_ot	$65.10\pm0.44$	$80.71 \pm 1.06$	
Aggregated Detectors			
External Only			
Isolation Forest	$38.17 \pm 2.27$	$94.90\pm0.70$	
Max-Norm	$75.29\pm0.80$	$65.03 \pm 1.24$	
Sum-Norm	$77.39\pm0.65$	$65.77 \pm 1.69$	
Model-based Only			
Isolation Forest	$60.23 \pm 1.63$	$84.61 \pm 1.52$	
Max-Norm	$68.67 \pm 1.02$	$78.98 \pm 1.02$	
Sum-Norm	$73.57\pm0.72$	$70.70\pm0.72$	
All			
Isolation Forest	$45.54\pm2.11$	$93.15\pm1.04$	
Max-Norm	$70.88 \pm 1.28$	$75.28 \pm 2.32$	
Sum-Norm	$79.20\pm0.58$	$63.32\pm0.78$	

Table 14: HalOmi, Low level language pairs, hallucinations

DETECTOR	AUROC ↑	$FPR@90TPR\downarrow$		
Individual Detectors				
External				
score_comet_qe	$50.44 \pm 0.28$	$82.16\pm0.51$		
score_labse	$79.90\pm0.29$	$49.44\pm0.57$		
score_laser	$71.31\pm0.33$	$67.88 \pm 0.60$		
score_xnli	$61.80\pm0.33$	$72.26\pm0.86$		
Model-based				
score_log_loss	$68.62 \pm 0.40$	$71.91 \pm 1.48$		
score_alti_mean	$60.94 \pm 0.46$	$84.44 \pm 0.27$		
score_attn_ot	$67.52\pm0.38$	$76.24\pm0.84$		
Aggregated Detectors				
External Only				
Isolation Forest	$35.09 \pm 1.67$	$95.53 \pm 0.72$		
Max-Norm	$76.49 \pm 0.59$	$61.00 \pm 1.28$		
Sum-Norm	$78.62\pm0.61$	$60.61 \pm 1.49$		
Model-based Only				
Isolation Forest	$60.55 \pm 2.22$	$83.43 \pm 1.90$		
Max-Norm	$70.66\pm0.82$	$75.42\pm0.79$		
Sum-Norm	$69.02\pm0.81$	$76.23\pm0.81$		
All				
Isolation Forest	$42.53 \pm 2.26$	$92.79 \pm 1.07$		
Max-Norm	$73.82 \pm 1.20$	$70.49 \pm 2.46$		
Sum-Norm	$78.13 \pm 0.51$	$62.33 \pm 0.66$		

DETECTOR	AUROC $\uparrow$	FPR@90TPR $\downarrow$	
Inc	lividual Detectors	5	
External			
score_comet_qe	$64.15\pm0.23$	$67.79 \pm 0.31$	
score_labse	$80.09\pm0.13$	$47.70\pm0.52$	
score_laser	$74.40\pm0.24$	$57.70\pm0.63$	
score_xnli	$74.09\pm0.11$	$49.30\pm0.26$	
Model-based			
score_log_loss	$75.33\pm0.16$	$60.34 \pm 0.55$	
score_alti_mean	$66.78 \pm 0.14$	$79.71\pm0.14$	
score_attn_ot	$65.81 \pm 1.28$	$83.62\pm2.43$	
Aggregated Detectors			
External Only			
Isolation Forest	$45.86 \pm 2.06$	$95.42 \pm 1.76$	
Max-Norm	$81.32\pm0.23$	$49.11\pm0.26$	
Sum-Norm	$78.21 \pm 0.14$	$50.49 \pm 0.37$	
Model-based Only			
Isolation Forest	$60.90\pm0.98$	$86.63 \pm 1.08$	
Max-Norm	$71.32 \pm 1.04$	$73.63 \pm 1.32$	
Sum-Norm	$74.82\pm0.94$	$66.71 \pm 1.52$	
All			
Isolation Forest	$50.65 \pm 2.49$	$93.73 \pm 2.29$	
Max-Norm	$78.41 \pm 0.65$	$51.49\pm3.35$	
Sum-Norm	$78.93 \pm 0.25$	$50.68 \pm 0.23$	

Table 15: HalOmi, Low level language pairs, omissions

DETECTOR	AUROC $\uparrow$	FPR@90TPR $\downarrow$		
Individual Detectors				
External				
score_comet_qe	$73.41\pm0.23$	$50.40 \pm 0.48$		
score_labse	$85.91\pm0.13$	$40.33\pm0.32$		
score_laser	$76.22\pm0.30$	$57.17 \pm 0.50$		
score_xnli	$75.33\pm0.19$	$45.47\pm0.35$		
Model-based				
score_log_loss	$80.64\pm0.16$	$49.37\pm0.45$		
score_alti_mean	$77.45\pm0.12$	$60.82\pm0.52$		
score_attn_ot	$63.93\pm0.65$	$84.80\pm0.67$		
Aggregated Detectors				
External Only				
Isolation Forest	$44.97 \pm 1.47$	$96.32 \pm 1.30$		
Max-Norm	$85.02\pm0.44$	$40.95\pm0.76$		
Sum-Norm	$85.41\pm0.17$	$40.83\pm0.32$		
Model-based Only				
Isolation Forest	$65.86 \pm 1.68$	$80.98 \pm 2.16$		
Max-Norm	$67.03 \pm 0.88$	$81.95\pm0.85$		
Sum-Norm	$83.90\pm0.55$	$46.37 \pm 1.40$		
All				
Isolation Forest	$53.16 \pm 2.78$	$92.92 \pm 2.44$		
Max-Norm	$76.17\pm0.97$	$51.74 \pm 2.84$		
Sum-Norm	$87.06 \pm 0.21$	$38.33\pm0.36$		

Table 16: HalOmi, all language pairs, hallucinations

Table 17: HalOmi, all language pairs, omissions