

Table 1. LLMs’ Self-knowledge - Action Congruence Performance with Reference of Human Respondents’ Performance (AVG, SD, MIN and MAX represents the average number, standard deviation, minimum and maximum.)

LLMs & Human Respondents	Cosine Similarity	Spearman Rank Correlation Coefficient	Value Mean Difference	Proportion of Consistent Pairs
ChatGLM3	0.24	0.23	1.58	47.22%
GPT-3.5-turbo	0.17	0.19	1.74	50.56%
GPT-4	0.52	0.56	1.02	78.89%
Vicuna-13b	0.08	0.07	1.57	52.78%
Vicuna-33b	0.18	0.06	1.68	52.22%
LLMs(AVG \pm SD)	0.24 \pm 0.15	0.22 \pm 0.18	1.52 \pm 0.26	56.78 \pm 11.25%
Human(AVG \pm SD)	0.76 \pm 0.09	0.78 \pm 0.08	0.69 \pm 0.27	84.69 \pm 8.22%
Human(MIN)	0.61	0.66	1.08	73.78%
Human(MAX)	0.95	0.96	0.07	99.44%

to each other one-to-one.

Spearman’s Rank Correlation Coefficient A non-parametric measure of rank correlation, assessing how well the relationship between two variables can be described using a monotonic function. Its value ranges from -1 to 1, where 1 means a perfect association of ranks. Specifically, we rank the responses on two questionnaires of the LLMs based on their numerical values separately. Then, we calculate the difference in rankings for each personality knowledge – scenario & action pair. Afterwards, we use the following formula to calculate the coefficient r_s .

$$r_s = 1 - \frac{6 \sum d_i^2}{n(n^2 - 1)}, \quad (2)$$

where d_i is the difference in rankings of each pair and n is the total count of pairs.

Value Mean Difference (VMD) Value Mean Difference is the average difference in responses across all paired items in the questionnaires, as shown in the formula below.

$$\text{VMD} = \frac{\sum d_i}{n}, \quad (3)$$

where d_i is the difference of responses in each pair.

Proportion of Consistent Pairs Recognizing that minor discrepancies are natural when comparing psychological tendencies with actual actions, this metric quantifies the proportion of item pairs with a response difference of 1 or less, focusing on the consistency of tendencies rather than exact matches.

$$P_c = \frac{N_c}{N_t}, \quad (4)$$

where N_c is the number of consistent pairs, N_t is the total number of pairs.

For this study, we recruited 16 participants, comprising 8 males and 8 females, all native Chinese speakers with an

English proficiency level of CEFR C1. As shown in Table 1, the analysis of their response data yielded an average Cosine Similarity and Spearman’s Rank Correlation Coefficient above 0.75, with a Value Mean Difference around 0.68, and a Proportion of Consistent Pairs exceeding 84%. These results indicate a high degree of similarity and strong correlation between responses to the two types of questionnaires, suggesting a basic consistency in human self-knowledge and an ability to align self-knowledge with action in real-life scenarios.

The same questionnaires were administered to the 5 LLMs selected in Section B, and their responses were analyzed using the aforementioned metrics. Compared to human respondents, the similarity in LLMs’ responses is notably lower, and the corresponding significance test is shown in Appendix F. Specifically, the average Cosine Similarity and Spearman’s Rank Correlation Coefficient for LLMs are substantially below those of human respondents, with a huge difference exceeding 0.42. The Value Mean Difference for LLMs averages around 1.52, indicating a substantial divergence in self-knowledge between the two types of questionnaires for LLMs. And as for most LLMs, the proportion of consistent pairs falls below 55%, raising questions about LLMs’ ability to achieve self-knowledge-action unity in practice.

4. Conclusion

We demonstrate that while LLMs exhibit some capacity to mimic human-like tendencies, there are significant gaps in the coherence between their stated personality and exhibited behaviors. This disparity probably suggests a limitation in LLMs’ ability to authentically replicate human personality dynamics. Our study underscores the importance of further exploration into enhancing LLMs’ ability to perform more genuinely human-like interactions, suggesting avenues for future research in improving the psychological realism of

LLM outputs.

Limitations

In this study, we delve into the alignment between what Large Language Models (LLMs) claim and their actions, aiming to discern if there's a consistency in their self-knowledge and their actual behavior tendency. This observation is merely one among several hypotheses exploring the root causes of this inconsistency, underscoring the need for further investigation into the fundamental reasons behind it. Moreover, the scope of our initial experiments was limited to a selection of several LLMs. Future endeavors will expand this investigation to encompass a broader array of models. Additionally, our study has yet to identify an effective strategy for enhancing the congruence between LLMs' self-knowledge and action. As we move forward, our efforts will focus on leveraging the insights gained from this research to improve the performance and reliability of LLMs, paving the way for models that more accurately mirror human thought and behavior.

Impact Statement

Our personality knowledge survey leverages the TDA-100, BFI-44, and the 16 Personalities Test, which are extensively recognized and employed within the personality knowledge domain. These tests, available in both Chinese and English, are backed by thorough reliability and validity analyses. We ensured the integrity of these instruments by maintaining their original content without any modifications. The design of every questionnaire intentionally avoids any bias related to gender and is free from racial content, fostering an inclusive approach. Participants' anonymity was strictly preserved during the survey process. Moreover, all individuals were fully informed about the purpose of the study and consented to their responses being utilized for scientific research, thereby arising no ethical issues.

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