CALM: Unleashing the Cross-Lingual Self-Aligning Ability of Language Model Question Answering

Yumeng Wang² Zhiyuan Fan² Qingyun Wang¹ May Fung^{2*}, Heng Ji^{1*}

¹University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, ²HKUST

ywanglu@connect.ust.hk yrfung@ust.hk hengji@illinois.edu

Abstract

Large Language Models (LLMs) are pretrained on extensive multilingual corpora to acquire both language-specific cultural knowledge and general knowledge. Ideally, while LLMs should provide consistent responses to cultureindependent questions across languages, we observe significant performance disparities. To address this, we explore the Cross-Lingual Self-Aligning ability of Language Models (CALM) to align knowledge across languages. Specifically, for a given question, we sample multiple responses across different languages, and select the most self-consistent response as the target, leaving the remaining responses as negative examples. We then employ direct preference optimization (DPO) to align the model's knowledge across different languages. Evaluations on the MEDQA and X-CSQA datasets demonstrate CALM's effectiveness in enhancing cross-lingual knowledge question answering, both in zero-shot and retrieval augmented settings. We also found that increasing the number of languages involved in CALM training leads to even higher accuracy and consistency. We offer a qualitative analysis of how crosslingual consistency can enhance knowledge alignment and explore the method's generalizability. The source code and data of this paper is available on GitHub.

1 Introduction

LLMs have been pre-trained on various knowledge domains in different languages, encoding vast amounts of word knowledge (Yu et al., 2024). This knowledge can be either culture-dependent or culture-independent. Ideally, LLM should deliver consistent responses to the culture-independent questions. However, due to the imbalance of the pretraining data, this type of knowledge is not well-aligned (Qi et al., 2023; Xu et al., 2024). Existing

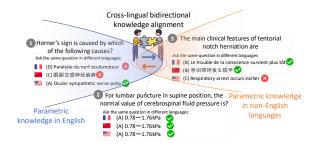


Figure 1: Knowledge is not well-aligned across languages. (1) represents knowledge encoded in English that is difficult to retrieve from other languages. (2) is the knowledge that is already well-aligned across languages. (3) is the knowledge encoded in other languages that is difficult to retrieve in English. Ideally, we want all the culture-independent knowledge to fall into (2).

study shows that the model exhibits different proficiency when solving the same task using different languages (Xu et al., 2024; Huang et al., 2024). One possible explanation is that the knowledge encoded in one language is harder to access when using other languages.

To bridge the gap, recent studies introduced cross-lingual consistency (Qi et al., 2023), which is the ability to respond consistently when the same question is posed in different languages. Ideally, we want models' culture-independent knowledge question-answering ability to be invariant to query languages, so that they can better generalize in a multilingual setting. Gao et al. (2024) showed that although multilingual pretraining and instruction tuning contribute to cross-lingual consistency, it still lacks scalability to enhance the cross-lingual knowledge retrieval. Chen et al. (2023) utilized translation to construct a multilingual math reasoning instruction dataset. However, it is often labor-intensive to obtain high-quality translation and data annotation. She et al. (2024) leveraged translation consistency as a reward model to align the reasoning processes in other languages with the

^{*} Corresponding author.

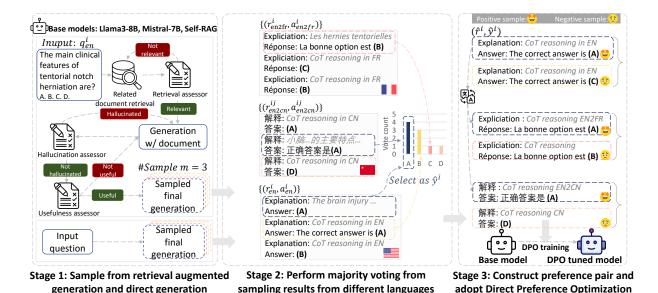


Figure 2: An example of the three stages in our proposed method assuming a question input originally in English.

dominant language. Nevertheless, this approach may diminish the diversity of knowledge or reasoning introduced by different languages. Huang et al. (2024) enhanced the multilingual culture commonsense reasoning ability by introducing a multiagent framework to aggregate the knowledge from diverse languages. In this work, we aim to leverage this idea of multilingual knowledge aggregation by adopting preference optimization for model tuning.

To address the challenges of (1) establishing a scalable method for aligning culture-independent knowledge across different languages and (2) lacking high-quality annotated data for training, we propose CALM, a method that encourages consistent answers to the same questions in different languages. As Figure 3 indicates, majority-voted answers consistently outperform English-only responses in accuracy, making them viable alignment targets despite occasional factual inaccuracies. This approach is motivated by the observation (Figure 1) that non-English languages often contain complementary knowledge missing in English outputs. Exclusively aligning all other languages to English fails to leverage the LLM's full multilingual knowledge potential, whereas CALM's language-agnostic voting mechanism synthesizes cross-lingual insights.

Specifically, our approach adopts direct preference optimization (DPO) (Rafailov et al., 2024) for cross-lingual alignment. Our approach consists of three steps. First, we sample a variety of multilingual CoT outputs from the models. Then, we

perform majority voting on the sampled outputs in different languages, selecting an answer with the largest number of votes as the positive sample. Finally, we pair the positive sample with all the other answers that were inconsistent with the positive sample, and those pairs were used for DPO training. We also extend this concept to external knowledge sources by integrating Self-supervised Retrieval-Augmented Generation (Self-RAG) (Asai et al., 2023) and DPO techniques. This allows for the efficient retrieval of the knowledge in the retrieved document.

Experiments were conducted on the challenging MEDQA (Jin et al., 2020) and the multilingual X-CSQA (Lin et al., 2021) datasets, each representing general knowledge and commonsense knowledge. On average, CALM boosts the accuracy on MEDQA and X-CSQA by +3.76% and +5.55% respectively. Overall, our key contributions are summarized as follows:

- We propose CALM, a label-free approach to effectively align the knowledge by encouraging cross-lingual consistency, which enables the model to self-improve (Huang et al., 2023).
- We align the culture-independent knowledge by jointly leveraging the knowledge from all the language domains without losing the diversity of reasoning inherent to different languages.
- We conduct experiments in both zero-shot Chainof-Thought and retrieval augmented settings using Llama3-8B-Instruct (Dubey et al., 2024),

Model	M	EDQA (%)				X-	-CSQA (%)			
	EN	ZH	ACC_{av}	g EN	ZH	FR	IT	DE	JA	ACC_a	v_g Consis	AC3
Llama	60.1	56.2	58.2	73.1	52.1	60.8	59.8	57.5	49.2	62.0	57.73	58.24
+ SFT	62.4	57.1	59.8	73.8	53.2	62.3	60.0	59.8	51.0	63.1	59.67	60.82
+ CALM	63.5	59.5	61.5	74.1	57.6	65.0	64.7	60.9	53.6	64.8	61.13	61.70
Self-RAG	62.6	57.1	59.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
+ SFT	63.8	60.3	62.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
+ CALM	64.7	63.7	64.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mistral	49.8	36.4	43.1	60.1	48.3	51.6	50.7	49.4	43.0	53.3	50.51	50.51
+ SFT	50.3	37.9	44.1	67.7	48.8	53.7	56.6	55.6	44.1	56.7	53.27	53.83
+ CALM	52.9	38.5	45.7	68.1	56.8	56.8	57.7	58.6	50.5	60.6	57.27	57.67

Table 1: Model accuracy percentage score on the test set of MEDQA and X-CSQA in different languages. " ACC_{avg} " denotes the average traditional accuracy of all languages, which represents the overall level of domain knowledge of the model. The bold text represents the best result in the given model. Note that there are no X-CSQA results for Self-RAG because there are no documents available for retrieval. The full result of MEDQA can be found in Table 9.

Self-RAG (Asai et al., 2023), and Mistral-7B-Instruct-v0.2 (Jiang et al., 2023). Our results demonstrate the effectiveness of our approach in internal and external knowledge alignment.

2 Method

To encourage cross-lingual consistency, CALM samples a variety of Chain-of-Thought (CoT) (Wei et al., 2024; Kojima et al., 2024) responses from different languages, and leverages self-consistency (Wang et al., 2023) as the learning signal. By selecting the most voted response as the positive sample, we construct the preference pairs and adopt DPO to optimize the preference. As the winning response may be from any language, we preserve the diverse knowledge from languages other than English. We also verified our approach in retrieval augmented setting, and the result demonstrates that our approach boosts the multilingual transferability of both internal and external knowledge. The proposed framework is shown in Figure 2. Our method comprises multilingual response sampling, self-consistency-based preference pair construction, and multilingual knowledge alignment.

2.1 Multilingual response sampling

Translation For monolingual dataset such as MEDQA, given a set of multiple choice questions in its native language (e.g. English), denoted as $Q_{en} = \{q_{en}^i\}_{i=1}^N$, we first translate it into two other languages, say Chinese (Q_{en2cn}) and French (Q_{en2fr}) . For multilingual datasets, we skip this step and directly use their parallel questions in different languages.

CoT answer generation We apply multiple path

decoding with temperature T=I on each language variation q_*^i for all i=1,...,N and * be any language in $\{en,en2fr,en2cn\}$ to generate m pairs of CoT explanations and answers $\{(r_*^{ij},y_*^{ij})\}_{j=1}^m$, wherein y is one of the predicted choice (A, B, C,...). The model is prompted to output an "Explanation" followed by an "Answer" to better conform with the CoT format (Wei et al., 2024).

2.2 Self-consistency based preference pair construction

Self consistency CALM is under the assumption that the most voted answer indicates higher model confidence (Xiong et al., 2024; Kabra et al., 2023), which is more likely to be correct (Wang et al., 2023). Majority voting is applied to find the most voted option \hat{y}_i in all the multilingual answers, and it is possible \hat{y}_i is not equal to the ground truth answer. The most self-consistent answer will be set as the positive sample.

Preference pair We can obtain a set $S = \{(r^{ik}, y^{ik})\}_k$ of the most voted explanation-answer pair that satisfies $\forall y^{ik} \in \{(r^{ik}, y^{ik})\}_k, y^{ik} = \hat{y}^i$. We then pair each of the positive samples with negative samples. Note that the positive samples are not necessarily in English. Hence, we aggregate the internal knowledge of both English and non-English languages. Negative samples are inconsistent with the positive ones, i.e., $y_{negative} \neq \hat{y}^i$. For each positive-negative sample pair, the positive sample is translated into the language of the negative sample. The final preference pairs of the i-th question are constructed as $p^i = \{p^i_w : (\hat{r}^i_{trans}, \hat{y}^i), p^i_l : (r^i, y^i)_{neg}\}$.

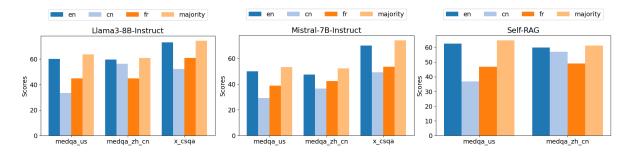


Figure 3: Visualization of mono-lingual (EN, ZH-CN, FR) percentage accuracy against the multilingual majority voting accuracy. The multilingual majority-voting result always has the highest accuracy. The proportion of each language in the CALM training data is in Table 7.

2.3 Multilingual knowledge alignment

This step adopts DPO as the alignment approach using the preference pairs (p_w, p_l) obtained from 2.2, where p_w is favored over p_l . For the input question q, the alignment is done by optimizing the following objective:

$$L_{\text{DPO}}(\pi_{\theta}; \pi_{ref}) = \mathbf{E}(q, p_w, p_l) \sim$$

$$\mathcal{D}\left[\log \sigma \left(\beta \log \frac{\pi_{\theta}(p_w|q)}{\pi_{\text{ref}}(p_w|q)} - \beta \log \frac{\pi_{\theta}(p_l|q)}{\pi_{\text{ref}}(p_l|q)}\right)\right]$$
(1)

3 Experiment and Results

3.1 Datasets and Metrics

We demonstrate the effectiveness of our method on the following tasks:

- **MEDQA:** Zero-shot question answering, and Self-RAG's noisy evidence retrieval (Jin et al., 2020) over multiple evidence on medical multiple choice questions.
- X-CSQA: General multilingual commonsense question answering. We include parallel questions from English, Chinese, French, Italian, German and Japanese.

We adopt the multilingual consistency metrics brought up by (Wang et al., 2024; Lin et al., 2024), which includes *traditional accuracy*, *consistency* and *AC3*. The traditional accuracy refers to the accuracy of the multiple choice questions. *Consistency* is intended to measure if the model offers consistent answers to the same question asked in different languages. A higher consistency score implies that Language Models can leverage shared knowledge across languages and provide consistent responses, which is irrelevant to their accuracy. For

datasets like X-CSQA that feature a set of questions $Q = \{q^i\}_{i=1}^N$, across 6 languages, the consistency metric is defined as follows:

$$M_{\{l_1,\dots,l_s\}} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^N 1\{y_i^{l_1} = y_i^{l_2} = \dots = y_i^{l_s}\}}{N}$$

in which $y_i^{l_s}$ denotes the answer to the i-th multiple choice question given by language l_s . Note that we choose s=2 and compute the consistency between any two languages. Then, the consistency is defined as:

$$Consistency_{s} = \frac{\sum_{\{l_{1}, l_{2}, \dots, l_{s} \in C(a, q_{i})\}} M_{\{l_{1}, l_{2}, \dots, l_{s}\}}}{C_{6}^{s}}$$

AC3 is a metric combining accuracy and crosslingual consistency, which is more robust for this multilingual task. The formulation is given by:

$$AC3_s = 2 \times \frac{Accuracy \times Consistency_s}{Accuracy + Consistency_s}$$
 (2)

By considering both accuracy and consistency, we can measure the knowledge gain and the crosslingual consistency.

3.2 Baselines

Base models Our experiments utilize three base models, which are Llama3-8B-Instruct (Dubey et al., 2024), Mistral-7B-Instruct-v0.2 (Jiang et al., 2023), and Self-RAG (Asai et al., 2023). The testing results of the former two models serve to demonstrate the effectiveness of our approach in terms of internal knowledge alignment and the latter in terms of external knowledge. The primary baseline is the direct inference results from all the base models.

Supervised finetuning on preferred samples To prove the necessity of DPO in this alignment task, we further adopt supervised fine-tuning (SFT) (Luong and Manning, 2015), where the labels are the most voted answers.

3.3 Results

As shown in Table 1, CALM has encouraged the model to produce more accurate and consistent answers in all settings, outperforming the base model and the supervised fine-tuned model under all settings. Notably, the performance gain in X-CSQA surpasses that of MEDQA, which is likely due to the involvement of more languages participating, thereby activating more internal knowledge. Therefore, we can conclude that our approach has successfully facilitated the cross-lingual self-alignment.

4 Discussion

4.1 Accuracy of the positive samples

As shown in Figure 3, we observe that the most self-consistent answer does not always align with the factually correct answer. While the accuracy of the most self-consistent answer slightly exceeds monolingual accuracy, the improvement is relatively modest. This raises an important question regarding the effectiveness of noisy labels in CALM's training process. To better understand this phenomenon, we examine qualitative examples of the preference data generated by CALM, as illustrated in Table 2. The example reveals that, although the preferred data may be factually incorrect, it often exhibits a better context awareness, which potentially encourages the model to generate more accurate answers.

4.2 SFT and DPO with ground truth

Using ground-truth labels from X-CSQA and MEDQA, we evaluate supervised SFT and DPO, retaining only preference pairs and SFT data where positive samples match ground truth. As shown in Table 3, supervised methods do not significantly outperform CALM. This implies guiding the model toward more confident and self-consistent answers achieves comparable correctness even without ground-truth supervision.

4.3 Generalizability

Cross-dataset generalizability To evaluate the generalizability of CALM, we conduct cross-dataset experiments by testing models trained on X-CSQA on the MEDQA test set, and vice versa. The results, presented in Table 4, reveal that while the out-of-domain accuracy is lower than the indomain test accuracy reported in the paper, it consistently exceeds the in-domain performance of

the SFT baseline. This demonstrates that CALM-trained models exhibit a strong ability to generate multilingually consistent answers, even when applied to unseen tasks or domains. These findings suggest that CALM not only enhances in-domain performance but also fosters robustness across different types of knowledge and domains.

Cross-lingual generalizability We implement CALM training sequentially, beginning with English and incrementally adding French and Chinese, progressing from high-resource to low-resource languages. At each step, we evaluate test accuracy across all languages. To assess CALM's effectiveness in untrained languages, we also include Japanese, Italian, and German in the test set, none of which were included during training. As shown in Table 10, CALM demonstrates greater effectiveness as more languages participate in majority voting. Notably, even untrained languages exhibit accuracy improvements, suggesting that CALM's alignment mechanism fosters a unified understanding of knowledge across languages, thereby enhancing overall comprehension. This aligns with findings by She et al. (2024), which similarly observe cross-lingual generalizability in multilingual reasoning tasks.

5 Conclusion

In this paper, we introduce CALM, a novel framework designed to facilitate the alignment of knowledge across different languages within LLMs. Through comprehensive experiments, we demonstrate the effectiveness of CALM in achieving robust cross-lingual knowledge alignment. Leveraging the LLM's own predictions as a reward signal, we investigate its capacity for self-alignment and self-improvement. Notably, we observe that CALM is more effective when more languages get involved in the training, likely due to more internal knowledge aggregation. We also find that CALM outperforms ground truth DPO and SFT. This shows that although some of the positive samples are factually incorrect, they also contribute to the accuracy gain in CALM, possibly because the more consistent answers often have better task understanding and can lead the model towards more correct answers. These results highlight the effectiveness of our method in enhancing crosslingual alignment and reveal the multilingual selfalignment potential of LLMs.

Question	The farmer could raise a good chicken, but he wasn't ready to move up to a what? A. rooster B. cow C. bought at store D. hen E. tuna [Ground truth: B. cow]
Chosen	Explanation: The phrase "move up" is an idiomatic expression that means to progress or advance to the next level or stage. In this context, it implies that the farmer has some experience with raising a chicken (a good one at that), but is not yet ready to take on more complex or challenging tasks . Answer: A. rooster [Incorrect, but the reasoning is more plausible since it realized the answer should be a task more challenging than raising a chicken.]
Rejected	Explanation: This question tests the development stage of a farmer. The farmer is now able to raise chickens, which shows that he has achieved certain experience and achievements. Well, if he's not ready to upgrade to something, only one of these options makes sense. Answer: D. Hen [Incorrect, and it does not show the same level of task understanding as the Chosen one]

Table 2: Qualitative example of CALM generated preference pair, where the chosen answer is not factually correct. The blue text shows the analysis. Although the chosen and rejected samples are both incorrect, the former pays better attention to the key part of the context "**move up**" by mentioning that the farmer will be likely to face a more challenging task. This reasoning shows better context awareness and is more likely to lead to the correct answer.

	Mer	20.4	V CCOA			
	MIEI	MEDQA		X-CSQ.		
Model	EN	ZH	EN	ZH	FR	
Llama3-SFT w/ GT	62.5	58.8	73.5	53.8	63.8	
Llama3-DPO w/ GT	62.5	59.3	74.0	54.3	64.1	
Self-RAG-SFT w/ GT	63.6	62.3	-	-	-	
Self-RAG-DPO w/ GT	64.5	63.8	-	-	-	
Mistral-SFT w/ GT	50.9	36.9	73.0	51.6	60.1	
Mistral-DPO w/ GT	52.4	38.1	73.2	51.8	55.0	

Table 3: Two additional baselines: DPO and SFT with ground truth. In this setting, we only keep the portion of DPO and SFT data that are factually correct.

		MEDQ	QA	X-	CSQA
Model	EN	FR	ZH-CN	EN	ZH-CN
Llama3-8B Mistral-7B		62.7 55.1	53.8 55.6	60.9 52.9	57.9 37.2

Table 4: We investigate the cross-dataset generalizability. The table shows the result of training on MEDQA and testing on X-CSQA, or training on X-CSQA and testing on MEDQA.

Limitations

One of the main limitations of our study is that due to the constraints of computational resources, we are unable to perform experiments on larger models. For the same reason, we are also not able to perform full-parameter fine-tuning and can only use LoRA DPO fine-tuning as an alternative. The translations in the experiment are done by Google Translate API, which may not be accurate sometimes because the dataset contains a many challenging medical terminology, hindering our final performance. For the DPO training data construction, since the accuracy after majority-voting is still low, the final alignment performance may be con-

strained by the noisy labels in the positive samples. Training one language after another can result in performance degradation in other languages. Future work can further investigate continual learning in multilingual knowledge alignment.

Ethics Statements

In this paper, we present a method to align knowledge across multiple languages, ensuring equitable access to LLMs for users from diverse linguistic backgrounds. Our approach utilizes the model's own outputs to perform cross-lingual alignment without the need for human annotations. By reducing dependence on manual labeling, this method enhances fairness, scalability, and inclusivity in multilingual AI, furthering the democratization of LLMs across global communities.

References

Akari Asai, Zeqiu Wu, Yizhong Wang, Avirup Sil, and Hannaneh Hajishirzi. 2023. Self-rag: Learning to retrieve, generate, and critique through self-reflection. *Preprint*, arXiv:2310.11511.

Nuo Chen, Zinan Zheng, Ning Wu, Ming Gong, Yangqiu Song, Dongmei Zhang, and Jia Li. 2023. Breaking language barriers in multilingual mathematical reasoning: Insights and observations. *Preprint*, arXiv:2310.20246.

Abhimanyu Dubey, Abhinav Jauhri, Abhinav Pandey, Abhishek Kadian, Ahmad Al-Dahle, Aiesha Letman, Akhil Mathur, Alan Schelten, Amy Yang, Angela Fan, et al. 2024. The llama 3 herd of models. *arXiv* preprint arXiv:2407.21783.

Changjiang Gao, Hongda Hu, Peng Hu, Jiajun Chen, Jixing Li, and Shujian Huang. 2024. Multilingual pretraining and instruction tuning improve cross-lingual

- knowledge alignment, but only shallowly. *Preprint*, arXiv:2404.04659.
- Edward J. Hu, Yelong Shen, Phillip Wallis, Zeyuan Allen-Zhu, Yuanzhi Li, Shean Wang, Lu Wang, and Weizhu Chen. 2021. Lora: Low-rank adaptation of large language models. *Preprint*, arXiv:2106.09685.
- Jiaxin Huang, Shixiang Gu, Le Hou, Yuexin Wu, Xuezhi Wang, Hongkun Yu, and Jiawei Han. 2023. Large language models can self-improve. In *Proceedings of the 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, pages 1051–1068, Singapore. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Yue Huang, Chenrui Fan, Yuan Li, Siyuan Wu, Tianyi Zhou, Xiangliang Zhang, and Lichao Sun. 2024. 1+1>2: Can large language models serve as crosslingual knowledge aggregators? arXiv preprint arXiv:2406.14721.
- Albert Q. Jiang, Alexandre Sablayrolles, Arthur Mensch, Chris Bamford, Devendra Singh Chaplot, Diego de las Casas, Florian Bressand, Gianna Lengyel, Guillaume Lample, Lucile Saulnier, Lélio Renard Lavaud, Marie-Anne Lachaux, Pierre Stock, Teven Le Scao, Thibaut Lavril, Thomas Wang, Timothée Lacroix, and William El Sayed. 2023. Mistral 7b. *Preprint*, arXiv:2310.06825.
- Di Jin, Eileen Pan, Nassim Oufattole, Wei-Hung Weng, Hanyi Fang, and Peter Szolovits. 2020. What disease does this patient have? a large-scale open domain question answering dataset from medical exams. *Preprint*, arXiv:2009.13081.
- Anubha Kabra, Sanketh Rangreji, Yash Mathur, Aman Madaan, Emmy Liu, and Graham Neubig. 2023. Program-aided reasoners (better) know what they know. *Preprint*, arXiv:2311.09553.
- Takeshi Kojima, Shixiang Shane Gu, Machel Reid, Yutaka Matsuo, and Yusuke Iwasawa. 2024. Large language models are zero-shot reasoners. In *Proceedings of the 36th International Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*, NIPS '22, Red Hook, NY, USA. Curran Associates Inc.
- Bill Yuchen Lin, Seyeon Lee, Xiaoyang Qiao, and Xiang Ren. 2021. Common sense beyond English: Evaluating and improving multilingual language models for commonsense reasoning. In Proceedings of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics and the 11th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (Volume 1: Long Papers), pages 1274–1287, Online. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Geyu Lin, Bin Wang, Zhengyuan Liu, and Nancy F. Chen. 2024. Crossin: An efficient instruction tuning approach for cross-lingual knowledge alignment. *Preprint*, arXiv:2404.11932.
- Minh-Thang Luong and Christopher Manning. 2015. Stanford neural machine translation systems for spoken language domains. In *Proceedings of the 12th*

- International Workshop on Spoken Language Translation: Evaluation Campaign, pages 76–79, Da Nang, Vietnam.
- Jirui Qi, Raquel Fernández, and Arianna Bisazza. 2023. Cross-lingual consistency of factual knowledge in multilingual language models. *Preprint*, arXiv:2310.10378.
- Rafael Rafailov, Archit Sharma, Eric Mitchell, Stefano Ermon, Christopher D. Manning, and Chelsea Finn. 2024. Direct preference optimization: Your language model is secretly a reward model. *Preprint*, arXiv:2305.18290.
- Shuaijie She, Wei Zou, Shujian Huang, Wenhao Zhu, Xiang Liu, Xiang Geng, and Jiajun Chen. 2024. Mapo: Advancing multilingual reasoning through multilingual alignment-as-preference optimization. *Preprint*, arXiv:2401.06838.
- Bin Wang, Zhengyuan Liu, Xin Huang, Fangkai Jiao, Yang Ding, AiTi Aw, and Nancy F. Chen. 2024. Seaeval for multilingual foundation models: From crosslingual alignment to cultural reasoning. *Preprint*, arXiv:2309.04766.
- Xuezhi Wang, Jason Wei, Dale Schuurmans, Quoc Le, Ed Chi, Sharan Narang, Aakanksha Chowdhery, and Denny Zhou. 2023. Self-consistency improves chain of thought reasoning in language models. *Preprint*, arXiv:2203.11171.
- Jason Wei, Xuezhi Wang, Dale Schuurmans, Maarten Bosma, Brian Ichter, Fei Xia, Ed H. Chi, Quoc V. Le, and Denny Zhou. 2024. Chain-of-thought prompting elicits reasoning in large language models. In *Proceedings of the 36th International Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*, NIPS '22, Red Hook, NY, USA. Curran Associates Inc.
- Miao Xiong, Zhiyuan Hu, Xinyang Lu, Yifei Li, Jie Fu, Junxian He, and Bryan Hooi. 2024. Can llms express their uncertainty? an empirical evaluation of confidence elicitation in llms. *Preprint*, arXiv:2306.13063.
- Yuemei Xu, Ling Hu, Jiayi Zhao, Zihan Qiu, Yuqi Ye, and Hanwen Gu. 2024. A survey on multilingual large language models: Corpora, alignment, and bias. *Preprint*, arXiv:2404.00929.
- Jifan Yu, Xiaozhi Wang, Shangqing Tu, Shulin Cao, Daniel Zhang-Li, Xin Lv, Hao Peng, Zijun Yao, Xiaohan Zhang, Hanming Li, Chunyang Li, Zheyuan Zhang, Yushi Bai, Yantao Liu, Amy Xin, Nianyi Lin, Kaifeng Yun, Linlu Gong, Jianhui Chen, Zhili Wu, Yunjia Qi, Weikai Li, Yong Guan, Kaisheng Zeng, Ji Qi, Hailong Jin, Jinxin Liu, Yu Gu, Yuan Yao, Ning Ding, Lei Hou, Zhiyuan Liu, Bin Xu, Jie Tang, and Juanzi Li. 2024. Kola: Carefully benchmarking world knowledge of large language models. *Preprint*, arXiv:2306.09296.

A Training and inference configuration

We set m=3 when sampling responses for each of the base models. We finally obtained 17244 and 2168 preference pairs from MEDQA and X-CSQA datasets, respectively. We used LoRA (Hu et al., 2021) Fine-tuning method for DPO and SFT training. The training parameters are listed in Table 5. The inference parameters are shown in Table 6. All the experiments are performed on NVIDIA A100-SXM-80GB GPUs.

Parameter	DPO	SFT
Learning Rate	5e-6	5e-5
num_train_epochs	3.0	3.0
lr_scheduler_type	cosine	consine
per_device_train_batch_size	1	1
warmup_ratio	0.1	0
val_size	0.06	0.06
pref_beta	0.1	-
pref_loss	sigmoid	-
per_device_eval_size	2	2
LoRA_rank	8	8
LoRA_alpha	16	16
LoRA_trainable	q_{proj}, v_{proj}	q_{proj}, v_{proj}
Optimizer	Adam	Adam

Table 5: DPO, SFT training parameter

Parameter	Value
Temperature	1
top_p	0.9
max_new_tokens	512
per_device_eval_batch_size	4

Table 6: Model inference parameters

	M	MEDQA(%)			CSQA((%)
Model	EN	CN	FR	EN	CN	FR
Llama3-8B	58.2	17.1	24.8	52.9	21.5	25.6
Mistral-7B	47.2	18.1	34.7	49.3	21.7	29.0

Table 7: The percentages of positive samples for each language across task settings. English tasks up the largest portion of the positive samples, but there are also considerable amounts of Chinese and French samples.

B Detailed use of the training dataset

B.1 Data source

This section shows the details of the preliminary dataset selection in Section 3.1. 11.6k and 10k

	EN	CN	FR
MEDQA	21.4	47.3	31.3
Mistral	20.5	40.0	39.5

Table 8: Percentage of each language in the final training data.

multiple choice questions were sampled from the MEDQA-ZH-CN and MEDQA-US question bank (Jin et al., 2020). We also used all the Chinese and English textbooks provided by MEDQA to construct a vector database, which is necessary for the retrieval augmented generation. For X-CSQA (Lin et al., 2021), we sampled 3k Chinese, English, and French questions.

B.2 Statistics of the training datasets

Table 7 shows the percentages of positive samples for each language across task settings. English indeed tasks up the largest portion of the positive samples, but there are still considerable amounts of Chinese and French samples.

B.3 Full result of MEDQA dataset

For MEDQA, we first translate the native Chinese and English questions into other languages, forming a parallel training set in Chinese, English and French. The full testing result of the MEDQA is illustrated in Table 9. The accuracy is improved across all the languages after CALM tuning, and the native language has the largest performance gain. The performance of non-native languages is possibly constrained by the translation quality.

	MEDQA US				MEDQA CN-ZH				
Model	Native EN	EN2CN	EN2FR	AVG	Native CN	CN2EN	CN2FR	AVG	
Llama3-8B-Instruct	60.1	33.3	44.9	46.1	56.2	59.5	44.7 $46.4 \uparrow 1.7$ $47.4 \uparrow 2.7$	53.5	
+ SFT	62.4 ↑ 2.3	36.1 ↑ 2.8	45.8 ↑ 0.9	47.8 ↑ 1.7	57.1 ↑ 0.9	59.9 ↑ 0.4		54.5 ↑ 1.0	
+ CALM	63.5 ↑ 3.4	39.8 ↑ 6.5*	46.3 ↑ 1.4	49.9 ↑ 3.8	59.5 ↑ 3.3	60.8 ↑ 1.3		55.9 ↑ 2.4	
Self-RAG	62.6	36.8	46.9	48.8 $50.5 \uparrow 0.7$ $52.3 \uparrow 3.5$	57.1	59.8	49.1	55.3	
+ SFT	63.8 ↑ 1.2	40.3 ↑ 3.5	47.4 ↑ 0.5		60.3 ↑ 3.2	61.0 ↑ 1.2	51.2 ↑ 3.7	57.5 ↑ 2.2	
+ CALM	64.7 ↑ 2.1	42.6 ↑ 5.8	49.4 ↑ 2.5		63.7 ↑ 6.6*	64.3 ↑ 4.5	52.8 ↑ 3.7	60.3 ↑ 5.0	
Mistral-7B-Instruct	49.8	29.1	38.8	39.2	36.4	47.3	42.4	42.0	
+ SFT	50.3 ↑ 0.5	31.6 ↑ 2.5	40.7 ↑ 1.9	40.9 ↑ 1.7	37.9 ↑ 1.5	49.3 ↑ 2.0	44.6 ↑ 2.2	43.9 ↑ 1.9	
+CALM	52.9 ↑ 3.1	32.7 ↑ 3.6	41.9 ↑ 3.1	42.5 ↑ 3.3	38.5 ↑ 2.1	51.8 ↑ 4.5	45.6 ↑ 3.2	45.3 ↑ 3.3	

Table 9: Full result on the translated MEDQA dataset.

Model	EN	FR	ZH-CN	IT	DE	JA
Llama CALM w/ EN	73.4	60.8	52.5	61.6	56.5	42.5
Llama CALM w/ EN+FR	73.6	62.0	52.4	62.0	56.2	43.6
Llama CALM w/ EN+FR+CN	74.1	65.0	54.5	62.3	57.0	44.0

Table 10: We investigate the cross-lingual generalizability by incrementally adding the training languages in CALM and observe the testing result on both trained and untrained languages. Here, in-domain languages (e.g. languages that appeared in the training data) are highlighted in bold font.