



———— Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) —————

# CultureLLM: Incorporating Cultural Differences into Large Language Models

Cheng et al. (2024)

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#### 01 Introduction

- Motivation
- 'CultureLLM' Overview

# 02 'CultureLLM' Concepts

- Sampling
- Semantic Data Augmentation
- Fine-tuning
- Culture-related Applications

### 03 Conclusion

Insights



By Invitation | Artificial intelligence

# Yuval Noah Harari argues that AI has hacked the operating system of human civilisation

Storytelling computers will change the course of human history, says the historian and philosopher

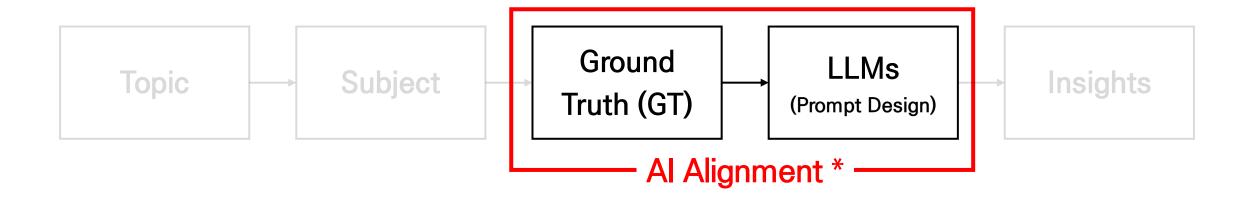


IMAGE: DAN WILLIAMS

Apr 28th 2023

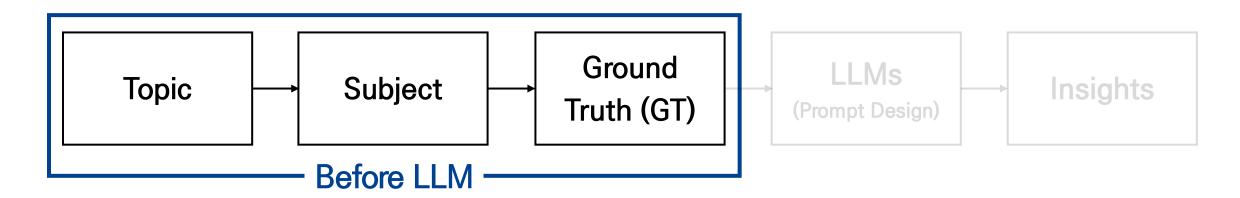


: Growing field of "Al Alignment" (Al aligns with human goals and values)

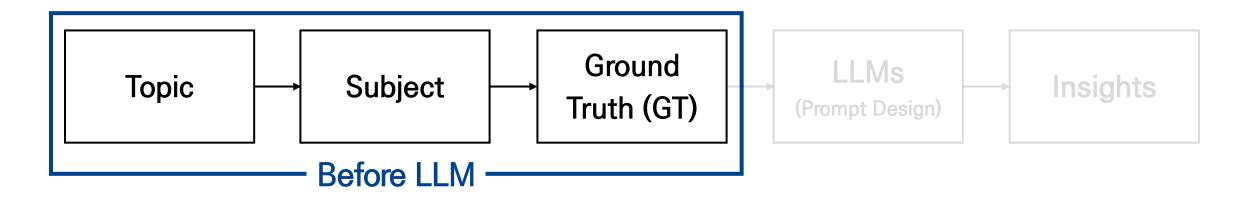


\* Research field focused on ensuring that AI systems are designed and operated in alignment with the intended goals, ethical principles, and values of individuals and groups (Shen et al., 2024)

: Before AI (LLMs), analysis linked Topic and Subject



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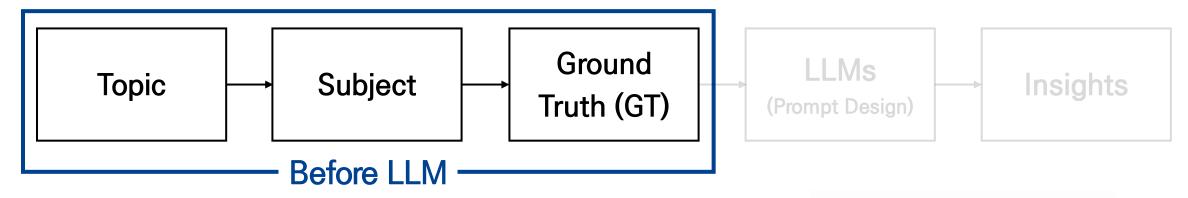
#### Culture ---- 100+ Countries ---- WVS\*

\* World Values Survey (WVS) is a large-scale global research project that studies the values, belief, and social behaviors of countries worldwide

Since 1981, WVS has conducted **standardized surveys** on politics, economy, religion, morality, and quality of life etc.

Example

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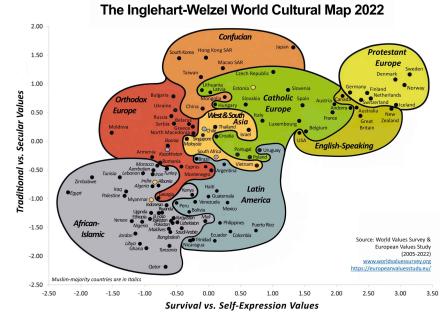


#### Culture — 100+ Countries — WS\*

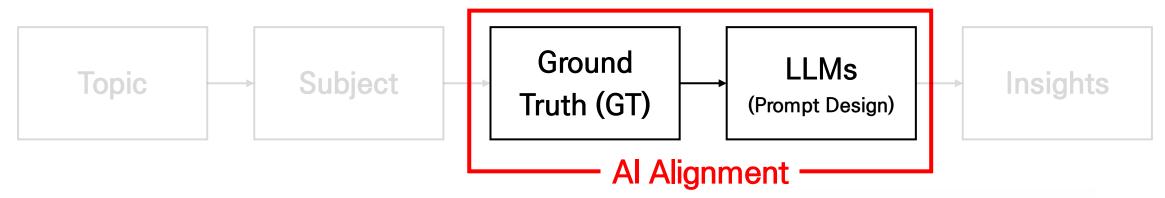
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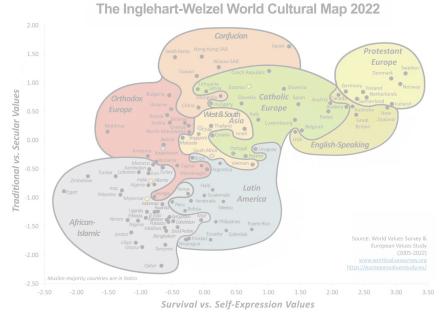
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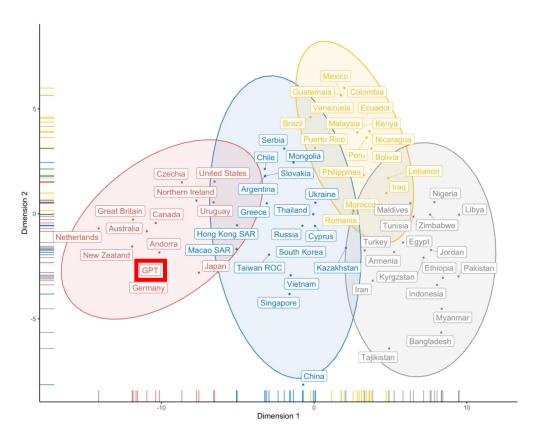


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#### Introduction

: Issue of LLMs being biased toward **Western-centric culture** (shown in GPT's responses to WVS questions)

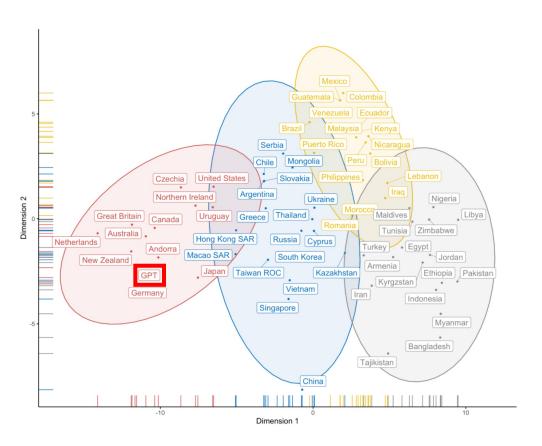


⟨ GPT aligns closest with WEIRD countries in 2D MDS (Multidimensional Scaling) ⟩

----- Western, Educated, Industrialized, Rich, Democratic

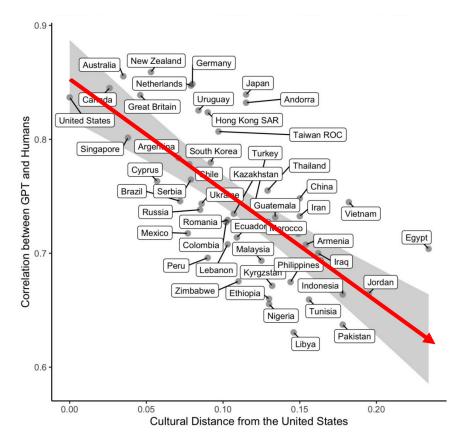
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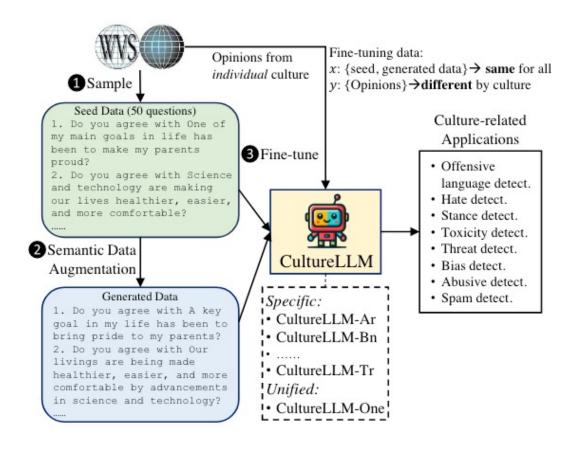
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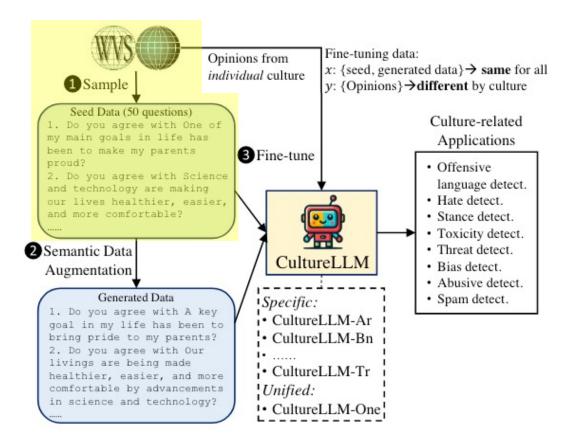
⟨ GPT-human correlation drops with cultural distance from the U.S. ⟩

: This paper tackles LLMs' cultural bias using WVS data for Value Alignment



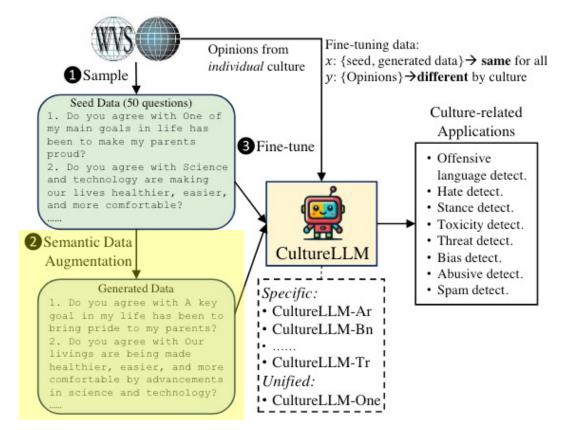
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50 seed questions from WVS capture global cultural opinions



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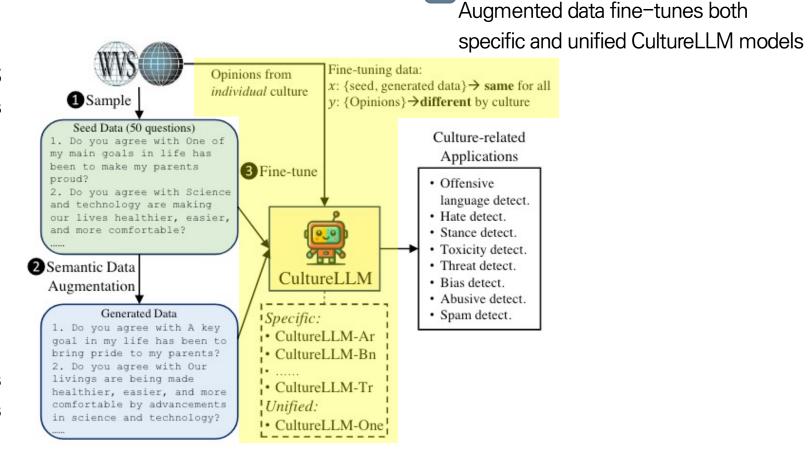


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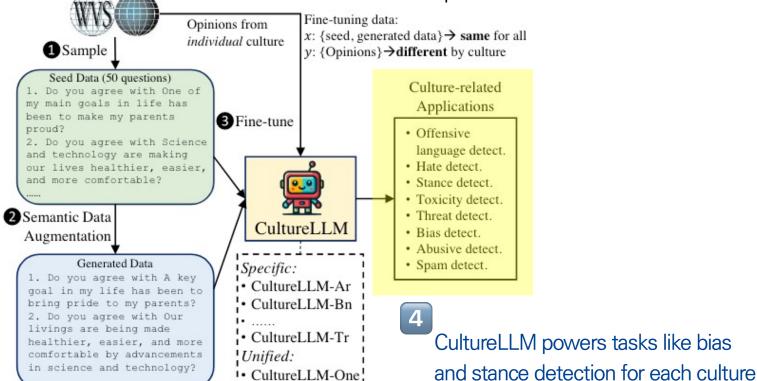
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50 seed questions from WVS capture global cultural opinions

Augmented data fine—tunes both specific and unified CultureLLM models

Opinions from Fine-tuning data:

x: {seed, generated data} > same for all

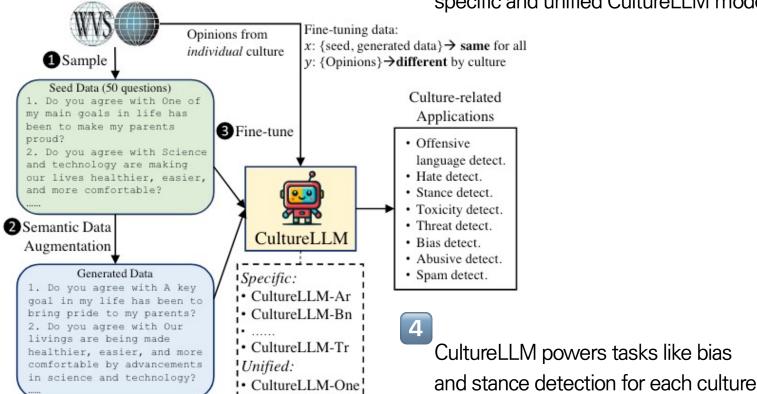


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# I Sampling

: Sampling is the first step to overcoming the limits of pre-training and prompt engineering

\( \text{Ideal Approaches to Enhance LLMs' Cultural Understanding } \)

#### 1. Pre-training (on Cultural Data)

: Involves training individual models on large datasets to better understand diverse cultures

However, it is highly resource—intensive and time—consuming

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  However, the model's pre-training data often contains inherent biases and lacks cultural knowledge
- => Thus, this study **samples WVS data** to capture diverse native opinions on the same value questions



— Social Values, Migration, Security, Science, Religion, Ethics, Political

#### : Selected 50 out of 294 WVS questions (7 categories) and converted them to QA format manually

Topic	Question
SOCIAL	Do you agree with One of my main goals in life has been to make my parents proud?  Do you agree with When a mother works for pay, the children suffer?  Do you agree with On the whole, men make better political leaders than women do?  Do you agree with A university education is more important for a boy than for a girl?  Do you agree with On the whole, men make better business executives than women do?  Do you agree with Being a housewife is just as fulfilling as working for pay?  Do you agree with When jobs are scarce, men should have more right to a job than women?  Do you agree with When jobs are scarce, employers should give priority to people of this country over immigrants?  Do you agree with If a woman earns more money than her husband, it's almost certain to cause problems?  Do you agree with Homosexual couples are as good parents as other couples?  Do you agree with It is a duty towards society to have children?  Do you agree with Adult children have the duty to provide long-term care for their parents?  Do you agree with People who don't work turn lazy?  Do you agree with Work is a duty towards society?  Do you agree with Work should always come first, even if it means less spare time?
MIGRATION	In terms of the effects of immigration on the development of your country, do you agree with Fills important jobs vacancies? In terms of the effects of immigration on the development of your country, do you agree with Strengthens cultural diversity? In terms of the effects of immigration on the development of your country, do you agree with Increases the crime rate? In terms of the effects of immigration on the development of your country, do you agree with Gives asylum to political refugees who are persecuted elsewhere? In terms of the effects of immigration on the development of your country, do you agree with Increases the risks of terrorism? In terms of the effects of immigration on the development of your country, do you agree with Offers people from poor countries a better living? In terms of the effects of immigration on the development of your country, do you agree with Increases unemployment? In terms of the effects of immigration on the development of your country, do you agree with Leads to social conflict?
SECURITY	How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Robberies?  How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Alcohol consumption in the streets?  How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Police or military interfere with people's private life?  How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Racist behavior?  How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Drug sale in streets?  How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Street violence and fights?  How frequently do the following things occur in your neighborhood: Sexual harassment?
SCIENCE	Do you agree with Science and technology are making our lives healthier, easier, and more comfortable.?  Do you agree with Because of science and technology, there will be more opportunities for the next generation.?  Do you agree with We depend too much on science and not enough on faith.?  Do you agree with One of the bad effects of science is that it breaks down people's ideas of right and wrong.?  Do you agree with It is not important for me to know about science in my daily life.?
RELI	Do you agree with Whenever science and religion conflict, religion is always right? Do you agree with The only acceptable religion is my religion.?
ETHICS RELI GION	Do you think that the your country's government should or should not have the right to do the following: Keep people under video surveillance in public areas?  Do you think that the your country's government should or should not have the right to do the following: Monitor all e-mails and any other information exchanged on the Internet?  Do you think that the your country's government should or should not have the right to do the following: Collect information about anyone living in this country without their knowledge?
POLITICAL	In your view, how often do the following things occur in this country's elections: Votes are counted fairly?  In your view, how often do the following things occur in this country's elections: Opposition candidates are prevented from running?  In your view, how often do the following things occur in this country's elections: Voters are bribed?  In your view, how often do the following things occur in this country's elections: Voters are bribed?  In your view, how often do the following things occur in this country's elections: Journalists provide fair coverage of elections?  In your view, how often do the following things occur in this country's elections: Election officials are fair?  In your view, how often do the following things occur in this country's elections: Voters are threatned with violence at the polls?  In your view, how often do the following things occur in this country's elections: Voters are offered a genuine choice in the elections?  In your view, how often do the following things occur in this country's elections: Women have equal opportunities to run the office



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⟨ Converting (WVS) Value Questions to QA Format ⟩

Do your agree with one of my main goals in life has been to make my parents proud?

Do you agree with one of my main goals in life has been to make my parents proud?

- 1. Strongly agree / 2. agree
- 3. Disagree / 4. Strongly disagree

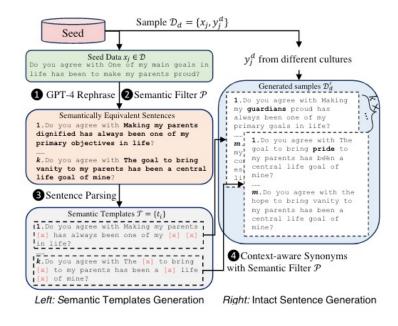
You can only choose one option.

: Divided into two steps (Semantic Templates / Intact Sentence Generation) to ensure sufficient data for model fine-tuning

#### Semantic Templates Generation >

Sentence-level diversities

- Use GPT-4 with
   prompts to ensure
   naturalness and diversity
- Apply semantic
   similarity filtering for
   semantic preservation



⟨ Intact Sentence Generation ⟩

Word-level diversities

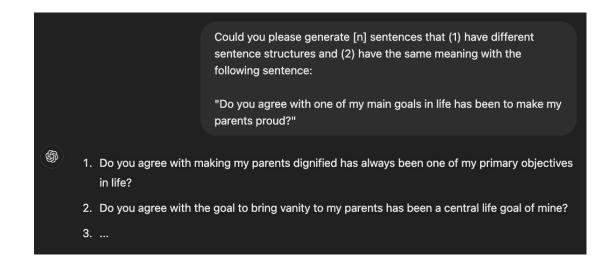
- Replace words in templates with contextaware synonyms
- Use semantic filtering to maintain meaning consistency

: Generating **similar sentences** and **templates** for data augmentation

#### Semantic Templates Generation >

Sentence-level diversities

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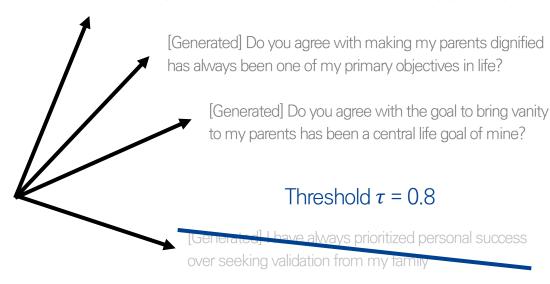
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#### ⟨ Semantic Templates Generation ⟩

Sentence-level diversities

- Use GPT-4 with prompts to ensure naturalness and diversity
- Apply semantic similarity filtering for semantic preservation
   (BERT embedding-based cosine similarity = Semantic filter *P*)

[Original] Do you agree with one of my main goals in life has been to make my parents proud?



: Generating **similar sentences** and **templates** for data augmentation

#### ⟨ Semantic Templates Generation ⟩

Sentence-level diversities

- Use GPT-4 with prompts to ensure naturalness and diversity
- Apply semantic similarity filtering for semantic preservation
- Generating diverse sentences while preserving semantic similarity, along with templates (Semantic templates  $\mathcal{T}$ )

[Original sentence] Do you agree with one of my main goals in life has been to make my parents proud?

 Do you agree with the [x] to bring [x] to my parents has been a [x] life [x] of mine?

[x] is the replaceable part (adjectives, adverbs, nouns, verbs)

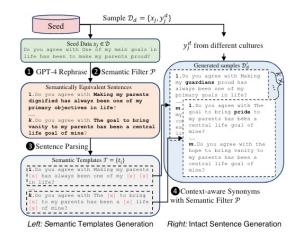
(Generating Templates)

: Using templates for diverse expression in data augmentation

⟨ Intact Sentence Generation ⟩

Word-level diversities

- Replace words in templates with context-aware synonyms using GPT-4
- Use semantic preservation filter to maintain meaning consistency



[Template] Do you agree with the [x] to bring [x] to my parents has been a [x] life [x] of mine?

goal	pride	Cel	ntral	goal
hope	vanity	CC	ore	aim
desire	honor	m	ain	dream
•	:		:	:

⟨ Generating Semantically Equivalent Sentences Using Templates and GPT-4 ⟩

: To assess augmented data quality, human, GPT-4, and Gemini are used as evaluators

Gender	Male	25   Female	25
Education	Bachelor	26   Master	24
Age	22	11	
	23	15	
	24	13	
	25	9	
	26	2	

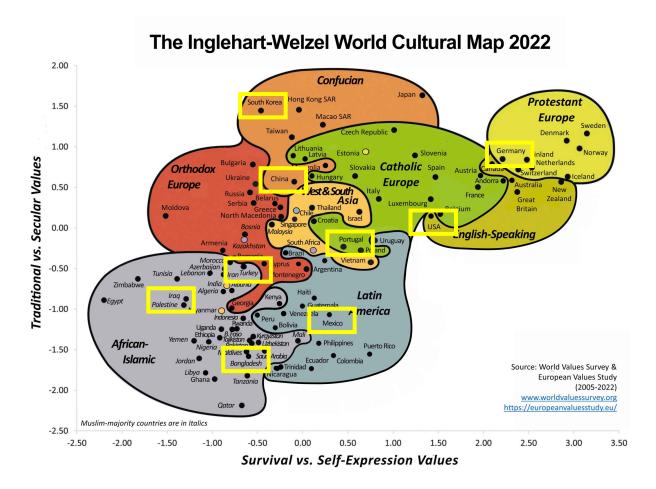
Evaluator	Human	GPT-4	Gemini	AVG
Rating	4.60 (0.28)	4.99 (0.09)	4.93 (0.26)	4.84

Semantic Similarity Passes 96.5%

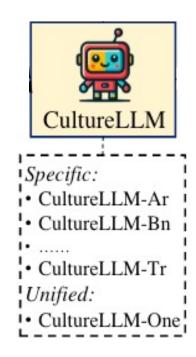
Participant Demographics and Evaluator Ratings >

- 50 humans, GPT-4, and Gemini Pro evaluated the **semantic similarity of generated sentences** to seed data
- 100 (seed, generation) pairs were sampled and rated from 1 (low similarity) to 5 (high similarity)
  - Score 1: The sentences convey distinctly different ideas or concepts
  - Score 2: Limited commonality in meaning, with noticeable disparities in wording
  - Score 3: Some overlap in meaning, but notable differences in wording or phrasing
  - Score 4: Minor variations in wording or structure, but the core meaning remains consistent
  - Score 5: The sentences convey the same information using different words

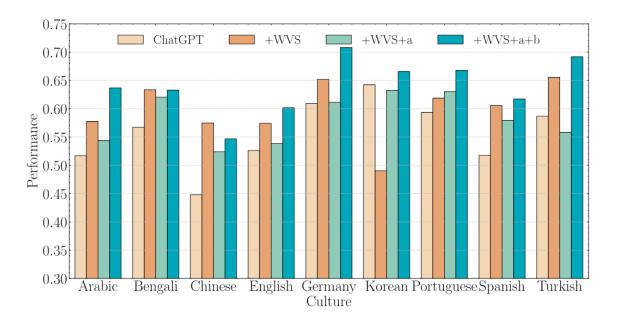
: Fine-tuning LLMs on 9 cultural groups using a combination of seed and generated data



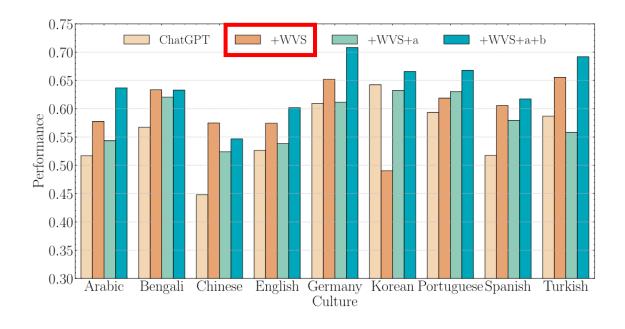
- (1) Arabic: Middle East (Jordan, Iraq)
- (2) Bangli: Bangladesh
- (3) Chinese: China
- (4) English: United States
- (5) German: Germany and parts of Europe
- (6) Korean: South Korea
- (7) **Portuguese**: Brazil and parts of Latin America
- (8) **Spanish**: Argentina, Mexico, and parts of Latin America
- (9) Turkish: Turkey
- (10) CultureLLM-One: Unified all cultures



: Conducting an ablation study to compare fine-tuning results of LLM (GPT-3.5) across cultural groups

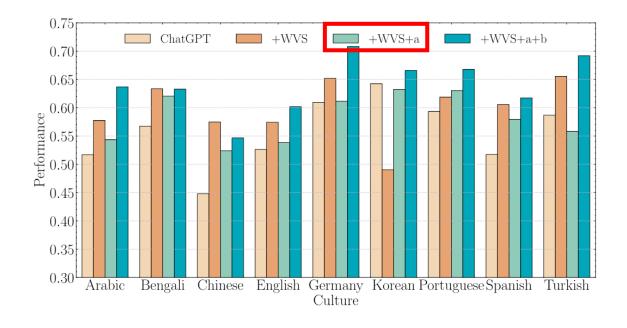


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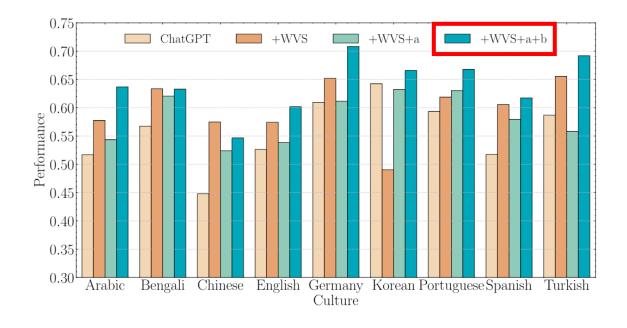
- +WVS: Fine-tuned with 50 WVS samples

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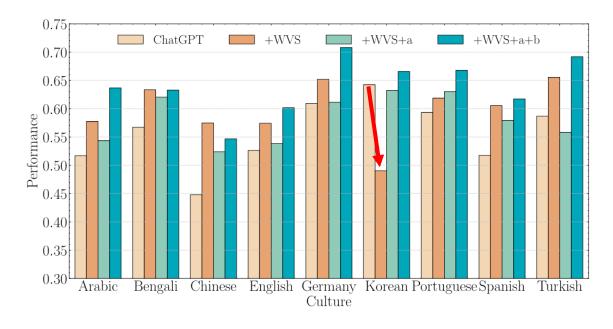
- +WVS: Fine-tuned with 50 WVS samples
- +WVS+a: +WVS plus generated samples from step 1 (Semantic Templates)

: Conducting an ablation study to compare fine-tuning results of LLM (GPT-3.5) across cultural groups



- +WVS: Fine-tuned with 50 WVS samples
- +WVS+a: +WVS plus generated samples from step 1 (Semantic Templates)
- +WVS+a+b: +VVVS+a plus the complete algorithm process (Semantic Templates, Intact Sentences)

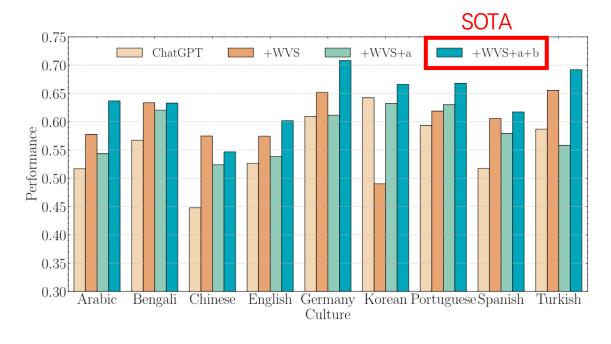
: Semantic augmentation fixes inconsistencies and boosts performance across cultures



#### ⟨ Effectiveness of Semantic Data Augmentation ⟩

Limitations of WVS Seeds: Fine-tuning with 50 WVS (+WVS method) seeds yields inconsistent results,
 sometimes lowering performance (e.g., Korean)

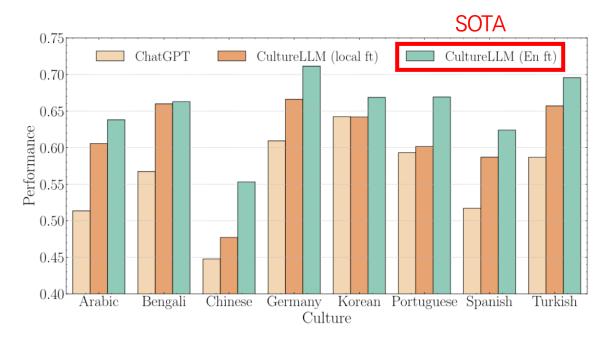
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#### ⟨ Effectiveness of Semantic Data Augmentation ⟩

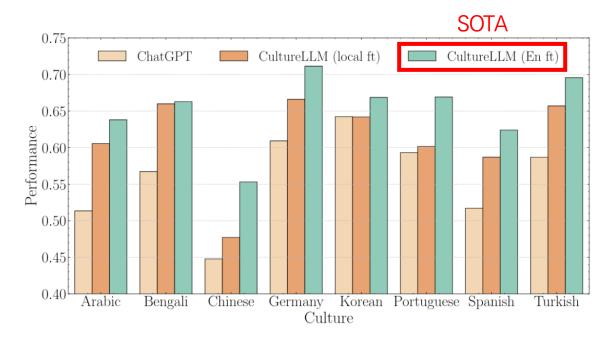
- Limitations of WVS Seeds: Fine-tuning with 50 WVS (+WVS method) seeds yields inconsistent results,
   sometimes lowering performance (e.g., Korean)
- Benefits of Augmentation Processes: Two-step semantic augmentation ensures consistent and significant improvements across tasks and cultures

: Fine-tuning on English data can outperform native language fine-tuning via cross-lingual transfer



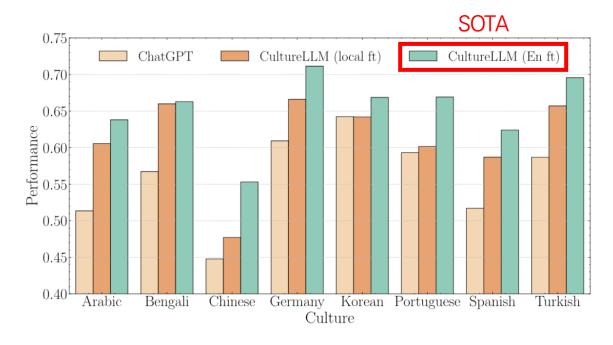
Using English as a unified input outperforms results obtained with translations into native languages,
 with culture-specific prompts (e.g., "You are an Arabic chatbot that knows Arabic very well")

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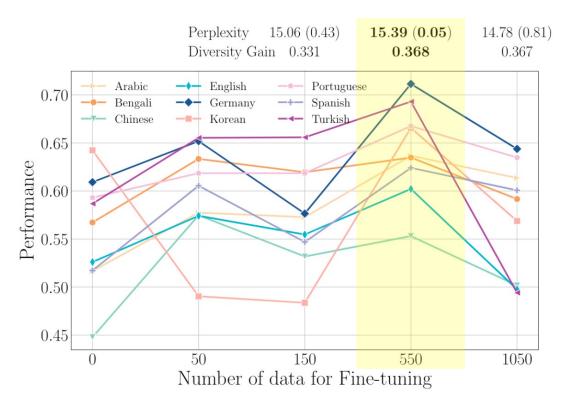
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- All languages share the same input questions in English, but the answers vary culturally

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- Using English as a unified input outperforms results obtained with translations into native languages,
   with culture-specific prompts (e.g., "You are an Arabic chatbot that knows Arabic very well")
- All languages share the same input questions in English, but the answers vary culturally
- Focuses on cultural differences in opinions regardless of native language, relying on cross-lingual transfer

: Conducting an effectiveness analysis by empirically testing the size of fine-tuning data

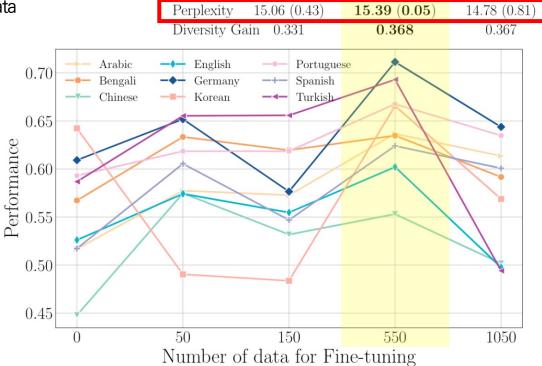


The model generates only specific modes of the data distribution while ignoring others

- Dataset diversity and quality are crucial in LLM training (risk of 'mode collapse')
- Performance improves with more data but declines beyond 500 samples

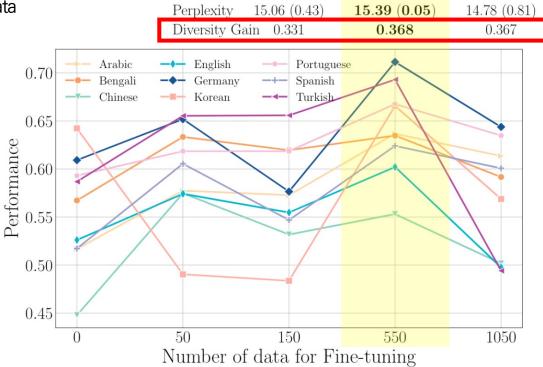
#### : Conducting an **effectiveness analysis** by empirically testing the size of fine-tuning data

- Perplexity: Measures how well a model predicts the probability distribution of data
  - Lower perplexity indicates the model predicts
     test data more accurately, reflecting better performance
  - Higher perplexity suggests the training data is more diverse
     and informative, enhancing the model's learning potential



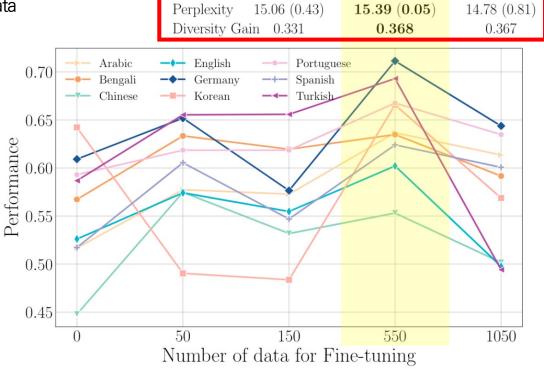
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- Diversity Gain: Measures the variety and uniqueness of the generated text in terms of word choice and sentence structure
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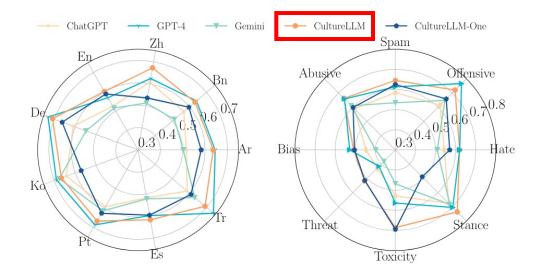
- Perplexity and diversity gain analysis show the best results at 500 samples
  - => Despite using data augmentation with varied sentence and word styles, dataset diversity still increased

- 8 evaluation tasks
  - : Offensive language, Hate speech, Stance, Toxicity, Threat, Bias, Abusive, and Spam Detection
- 59 datasets
- Covering 9 languages
- Containing 68,607 test samples

Applying various **CultureLLM** models to tasks across languages

Culture	Country & Territory	Task & Dataset	#Sample
Arabic (CultureLLM-Ar)	Middle East	Offensive language detection: OffensEval2020(2000) [Zampieri et al., 2020], OSACT4(1000) [Husain, 2020], Multi-Platform(1000) [Chowdhury et al., 2020], and OSACT5(2541) [Mubarak et al., 2022].  Hate detection: OSACT4(1000) [Husain, 2020], Multi-Platform(675) [Chowdhury et al., 2020], OSACT5(2541) [Mubarak et al., 2022], and OSACT5_finegrained(2541) [Mubarak et al., 2022].  Spam detection: ASHT(1000) [Kaddoura and Henno, 2024]. Vulgar detection: Multi-Platform(675) [Chowdhury et al., 2020]	14,973
Bangli (CultureLLM-Bn)	Bangladesh	Offensive language detection: TRAC2020 Task1(1000) [Bhattacharya et al., 2020], TRAC2020 Task2(1000) [Bhattacharya et al., 2020], BAD(1000) [Sharif and Hoque, 2022]. Hate detection: Hate Speech(1000) [Romim et al., 2021]. Threat detection: BACD(1000) [aimansnigdha, 2018]. Bias detection: BACD(1000) [aimansnigdha, 2018].	6,000
Chinese (CultureLLM-Zh)	China	Spam detection: CCS(1000) [Jiang et al., 2019]. Bias detection: CDial-Bias(1000) [Zhou et al., 2022]. Stance detection: CValues(1712) [Xu et al., 2023].	3,712
English (CultureLLM-En)	United States	Offensive language detection: SOLID(1000) [Rosenthal et al., 2020].  Hate detection: MLMA(1000) [Ousidhoum et al., 2019] and HOF(1000) [Davidson et al., 2017].  Threat detection: CValuesJMT(1000) [Kaggle, 2019].  Toxicity detection: MLMA(1000) [Ousidhoum et al., 2019] and JMT(1000) [Kaggle, 2019].	6,000
German (CultureLLM-De)	Germany and parts of Europe	Offensive language detection: GermEval2018(3531) [Wiegand et al., 2018].  Hate detection: IWG_1(469) [Ross et al., 2016],  IWG_2(469) [Ross et al., 2016], HASOC2020(850) [HASOC, 2020],  and multilingual-hatecheck(1000) [Röttger et al., 2022].	6,319
Korean (CultureLLM-Ko)	South Korea	Hate detection: K-MHaS(1000) [Lee et al., 2022], hateSpeech(1000) [Moon et al., 2020], and HateSpeech2(1000) [daanVeer, 2020].  Abusive detection: AbuseEval(1000) [Caselli et al., 2020], CADD(1000) [Song et al., 2021], and Waseem(1000) [Waseem and Hovy, 2016].	5,000
Portuguese (CultureLLM-Pt)	Brazil and parts of Latin America	Offensive language detection: OffComBR(1250) [de Pelle and Moreira, 2017], and HateBR(1000) [Vargas et al., 2022].  Bias detection: ToLD-Br-homophobia(1000) [Leite et al., 2020], and ToLD-Br-misogyny(1000) [Leite et al., 2020].  Abusive detection: ToLD-Br-insult(1000) [Leite et al., 2020].	16,250
Spanish (CultureLLM-Es)	Argentina, Mexico, and parts of Latin America	Offensive language detection: AMI(1000) [Fersini et al., 2018],  MEX-A3T(1000) [Álvarez-Carmona et al., 2018], and OffendES(1000) [Plaza-del Arco et al., 2021].  Hate detection: HatEval 2019(1000) [Basile et al., 2019], and HaterNet(1000) [Pereira-Kohatsu et al., 2019].  Bias detection: DETOXIS_stereotype(1000) [de Paula and Schlicht, 2021], and DETOXIS_improper(1000) [de Paula and Schlicht, 2021].  Abusive detection: DETOXIS_abusive(1000) [de Paula and Schlicht, 2021], DETOXIS_mockery(1000) [de Paula and Schlicht, 2021], Aggressiveness detection: DETOXIS_aggressiveness(1000) [de Paula and Schlicht, 2021].  Stance detection: DETOXIS_stance(1000) [de Paula and Schlicht, 2021].	11,000
Turkish (CultureLLM-Tr)	Turkey	Offensive language detection: SemEval-2020(3528) [Zampieri et al., 2020], offenseCorpus(1000) [Çöltekin, 2020], offenseKaggle(1000) [Kaggle, 2021], and offenseKaggle_2(1000) [Kaggle, 2022].  Abusive detection: ATC(1000) [Karayiğit et al., 2021]. Spam detection: Turkish Spam(825) [mis, 2019].  Fine-grained offensive detection: offenseCorpus(1000) [Çöltekin, 2020].	10,353
All (CultureLLM-One)	All	All	68,607

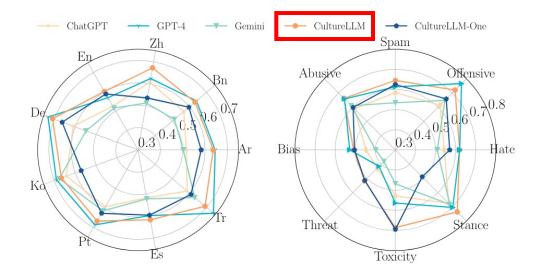
: Most CultureLLM models show strong performance across both cultures and tasks



⟨ Performance Averaged by Cultures (Left) and Tasks (Right) ⟩

- Both specific and unified CultureLLM outperform other approaches, with specific CultureLLM achieving the best performance

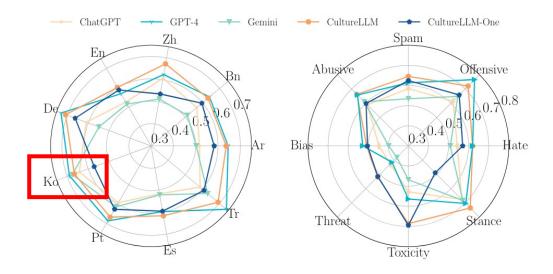
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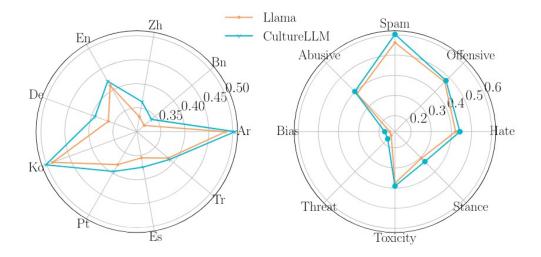
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- CultureLLM performs best in English, Chinese, and Spanish but shows no significant improvement in Korean

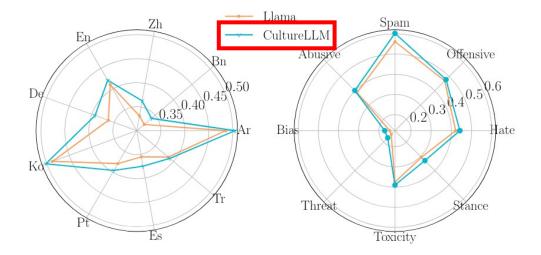
: In addition to fine-tuned GPT, tested Llama2 for open-source



⟨ CultureLLM-Llama-70b Performance Averaged by Cultures (Left) and Tasks (Right) ⟩

- CultureLLM supports fine-tuning on open-source LLMs for better quality and reproducibility

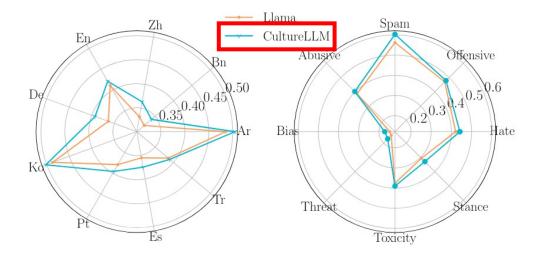
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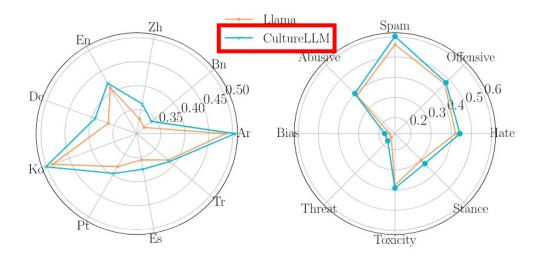
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- => CultureLLM is a general approach to enhance LLMs' cultural understanding

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- 4. Applied and tested the resulting CultureLLM across diverse cultural tasks, demonstrating consistent performance

: Key points for **applying** CultureLLM's process to **our research** 

1. Leverage WVS, a high-quality, long-term, multi-country dataset, widely used in research

Ramezani, A., & Xu, Y. (2023). Knowledge of cultural moral norms in large language models. In *Proceedings of the 61st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, pp. 428–446.

Zhao, W., Mondal, D., Tandon, N., Dillion, D., Gray, K., & Gu, Y. (2024). WorldValuesBench: A Large-Scale Benchmark Dataset for Multi-Cultural Value Awareness of Language Models. In *Proceedings of the 2024 Joint International Conference on Computational Linguistics, Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC-COLING 2024)*, pp. 17696–17706.

Kim, J., Jeong, C., Park, S., Cha, M., & Lee, W. (2024). How Do Moral Emotions Shape Political Participation? A Cross-Cultural Analysis of Online Petitions Using Language Models. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics ACL 2024*, pp. 16274–16289.

Jackson, J. C., & Medvedev, D. (2024). Worldwide divergence of values. Nature Communications, 15(1), 2650.

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- 5. Go beyond multicultural, multilingual modeling by **testing the model on open-source datasets** (8 evaluation tasks, 59 datasets)