An illustration of Socrates, a bearded man with a blue beard and balding head, wearing a white robe. He is standing and pointing his right index finger upwards, gesturing as if in the middle of a lecture. He is surrounded by a group of young men, some looking up at him with interest, others looking thoughtful. In the background, there is a large classical building with white columns and a pediment. The sky is blue with some clouds. In the bottom right corner, there is a small illustration of a man with a long white beard, wearing a brown robe, sitting and reading a book.

# **Fine Tuning a Large Language Model for Socratic Interactions**

**Gabriele SANMARTINO**  
**EURECOM**

Professor, how can I solve  $x^2 - 1 = 0$ ?



To solve the equation  $x^2 - 1 = 0$ , you can follow these steps:

[...]

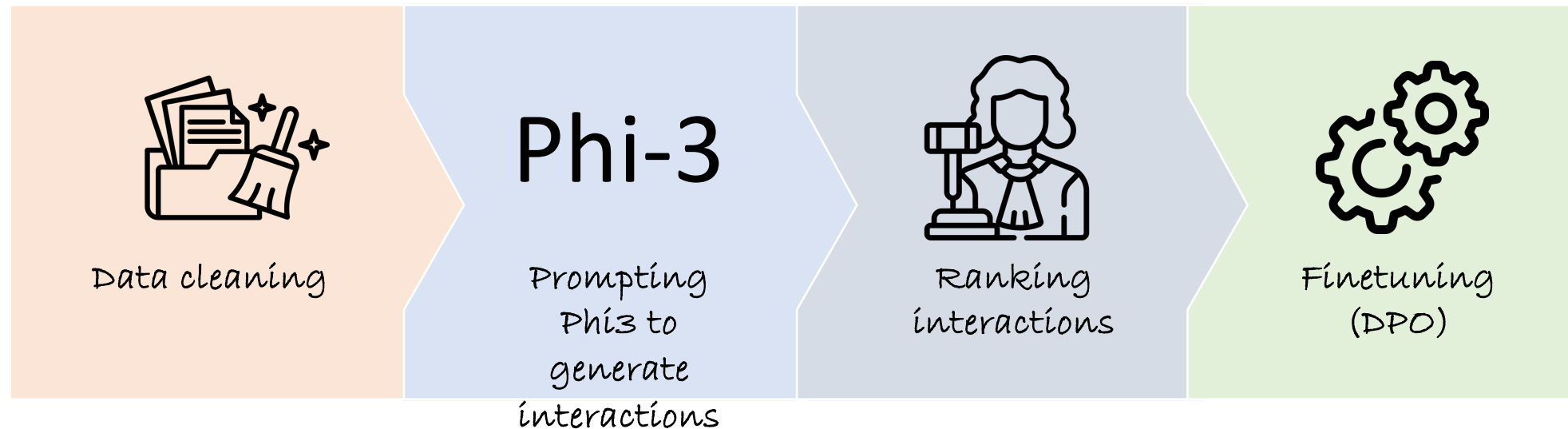
So, the solutions to the equation  $x^2 - 1 = 0$  are:

$x = 1$  and  $x = -1$ .

How does this equation resemble any identities or formulas you have studied before, such as

$$(a + b)(a - b) = a^2 - b^2 ?$$

# Training pipeline, in a Nutshell



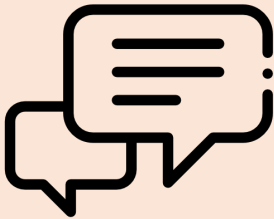


# Datasets

## TutorChat

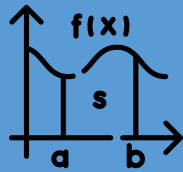


Science  
textbooks

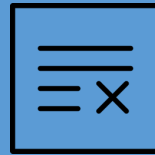


GPT-3.5-turbo/GPT-  
4-turbo (teacher)  
vs.  
GPT-3.5-turbo/GPT-  
4-turbo (student)

## MathDial



Problem  
statement



Student's  
answer

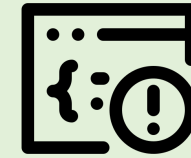


Correct  
answer



Human (teacher) vs.  
GPT-3.5-turbo  
(student)

## Debugging



Problem  
statement



Student's  
code



Bug  
descr.



Human (teacher) vs.  
Human (student)

# Evaluation criteria

Does the answer  
contain a **question**?

Boolean

Does the answer  
**reveal** the correct  
solution?

Boolean

How much **on topic**  
the answer is with  
respect to the  
conversation?

Scale 1 to 5

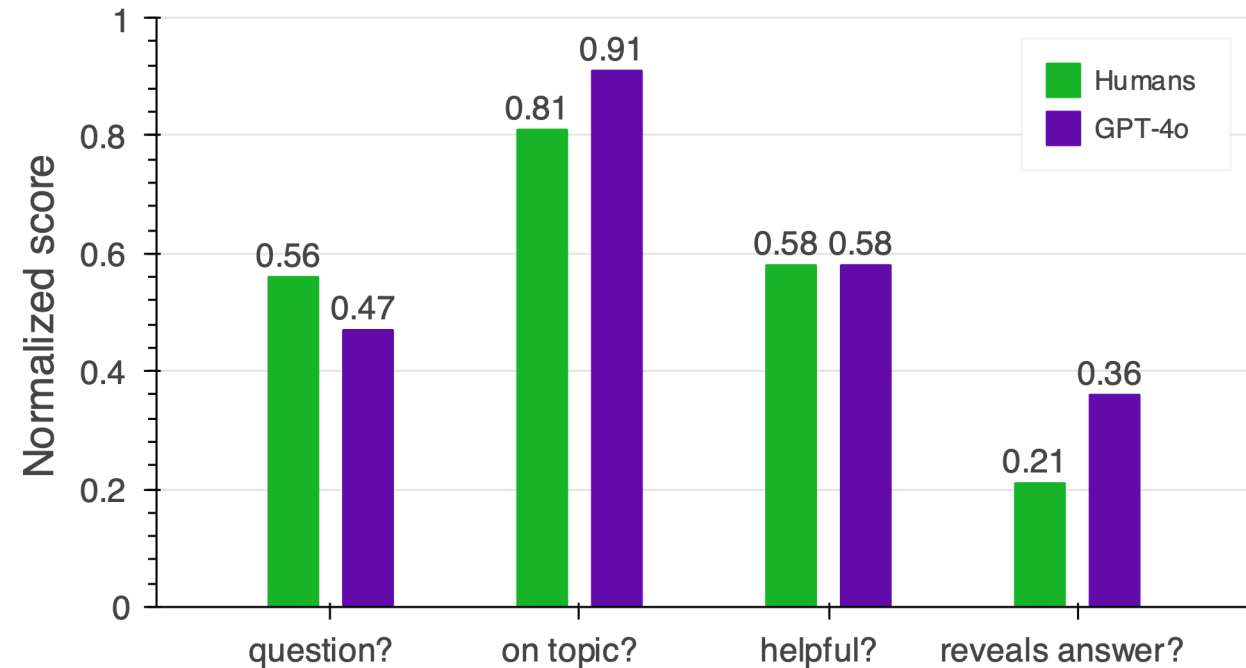
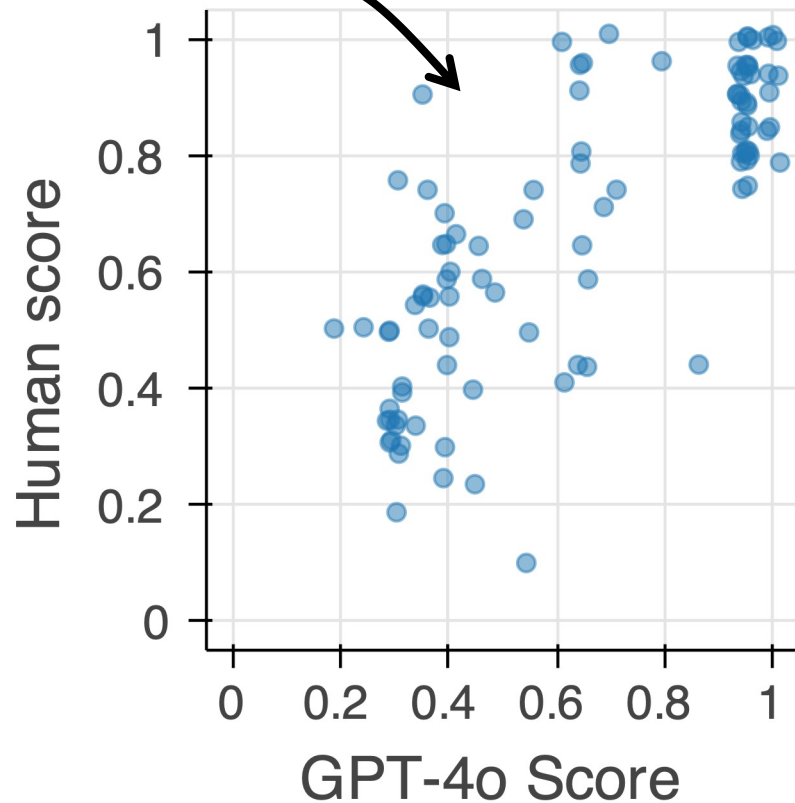
How **helpful** is the  
answer to reach  
the solution?

Scale 1 to 5

**Summary score** is the average of these four criteria

# Validating assessment automation

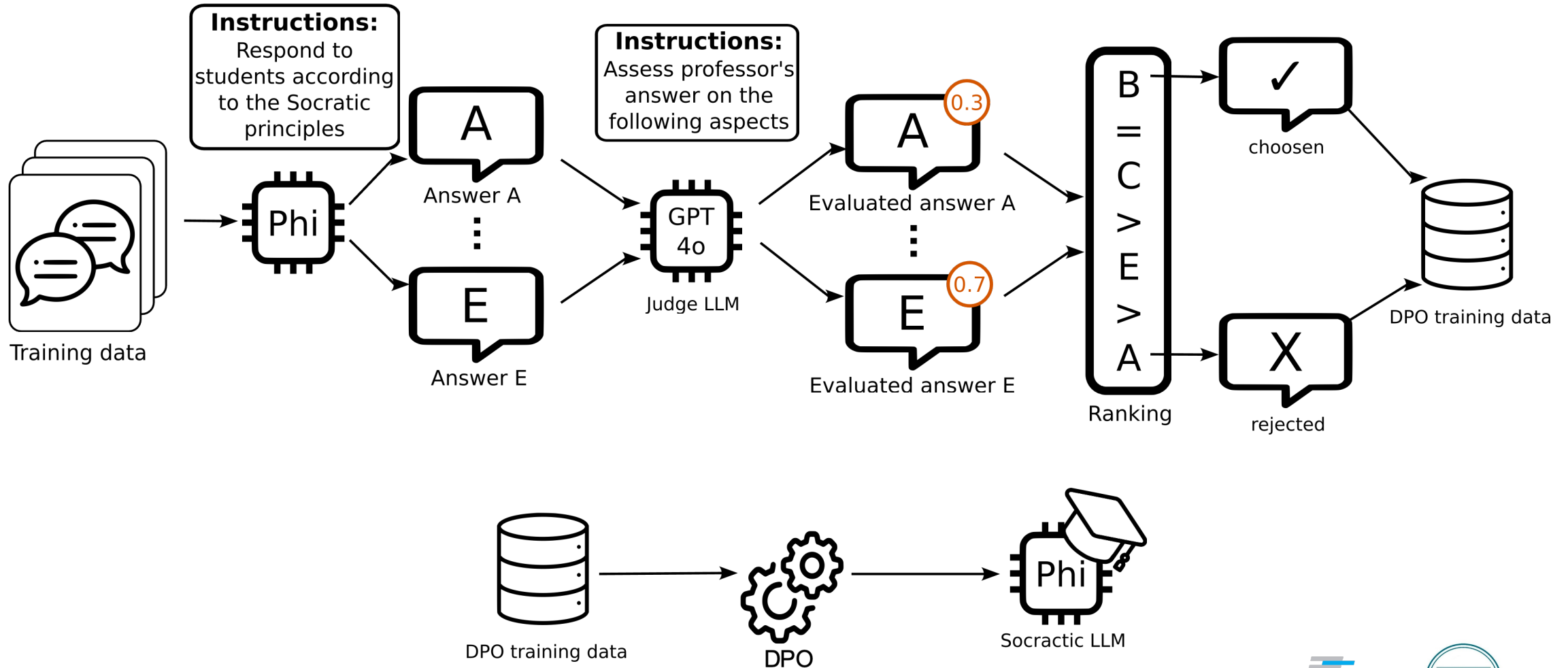
Strong Pearson  
correlation ( $p=0.78$ )



# Optimization with DPO

- Stable
- No need to train a reward model
- No need to load a reward model into GPUs during fine tuning

# Training pipeline





# Results

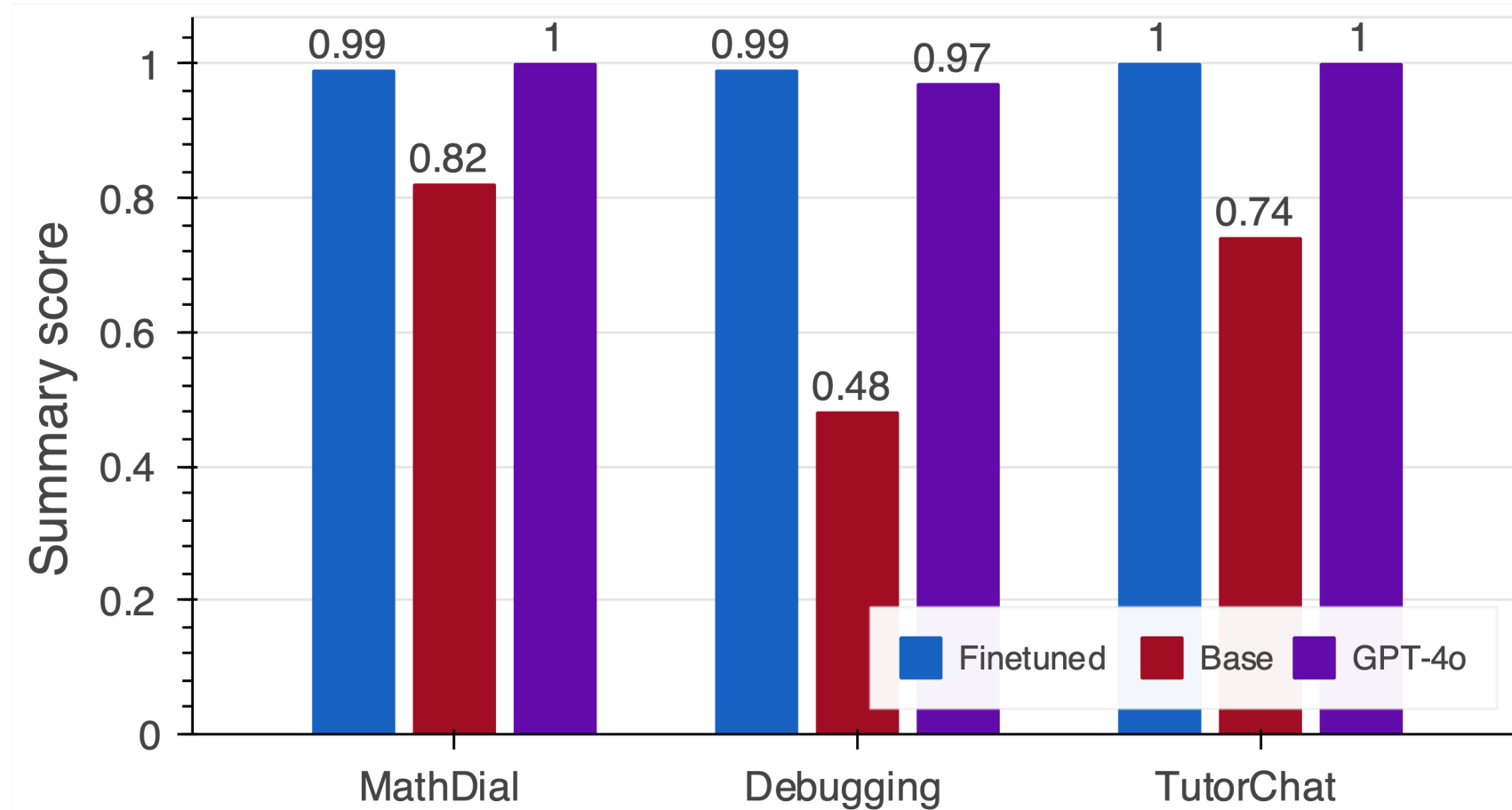
Our best model

Test Dataset	Train Dataset		
	mathdial	tutorchat	debugging
mathdial	0.98	0.99	0.98
tutorchat	0.98	1.00	0.96
debugging	0.97	0.99	0.94

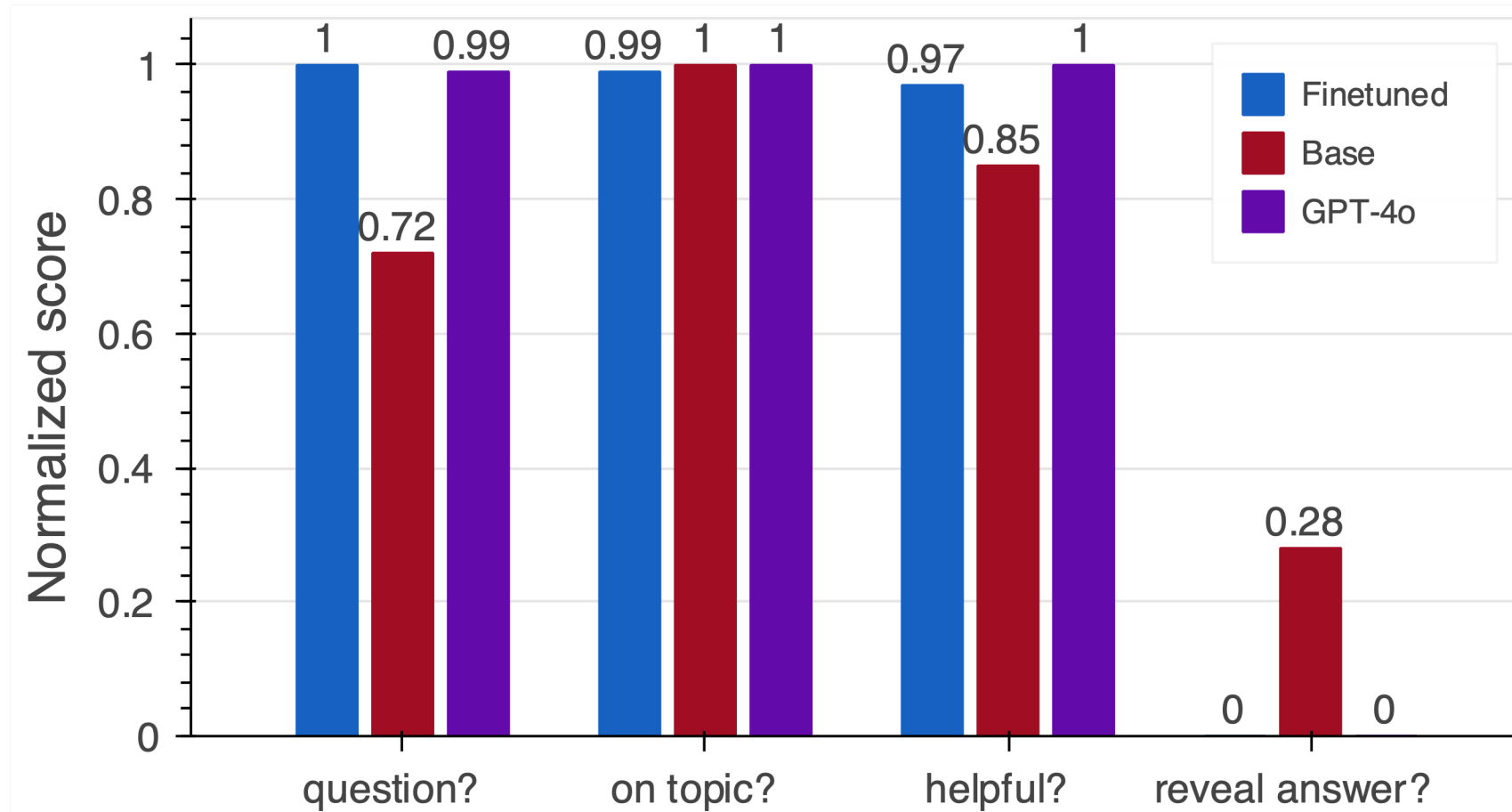
?

Table 1: Summary scores on 100 samples for various training and testing datasets.

# Results



# Results



# Contributions

- Making available Socratic models for the community
- Introduced a rule-based assessment technique for the Socratic behavior
- State-of-the-art performance with a cheap model
- Blog: <https://giovannigatti.github.io/socratic-llm/>



<https://github.com/GiovanniGatti/socratic-llm>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Phh4PhZOIE0>



<https://huggingface.co/eurecom-ds/Phi-3-mini-4k-socratic>



<https://ollama.com/eurecom-ds/phi-3-mini-4k-socratic>

# Thanks to the team



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