Preference Proxies: Evaluating Large Language Models in capturing Human Preferences in Human-AI Tasks

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Abstract

In this work, we investigate the potential of Large Language Models (LLMs) to serve as effective human proxies by capturing human preferences in the context of collaboration with AI agents. Focusing on two key aspects of human preferences - explicability and sub-task specification in team settings - we explore LLMs' ability to not only model mental states but also understand human reasoning processes. By developing scenarios where optimal AI performance relies on modeling human mental states and reasoning, our investigation involving two different preference types and a user study (with 17 participants) contributes valuable insights into the suitability of LLMs as "Preference Proxies" in various human-AI applications, paving the way for future research on the integration of AI agents with human users in Human-Aware AI tasks.

1. Introduction

As Artificial Intelligence (AI) progresses, the development of the next generation of AI agents requires an enhanced understanding of human thought, processes and behaviors. A vital component of this understanding is the Theory of Mind (ToM), which involves attributing mental states – such as beliefs, intentions, desires, and emotions – to oneself and others, and to understand that these mental states may differ from one's own. Large language models (LLMs) have demonstrated exceptional abilities in various tasks that humans excel at (Hagendorff, 2023; Frieder et al., 2023; Korinek, 2023; Shen et al., 2023; Bubeck et al., 2023), making them suitable candidates for exploring the capabilities of ToM in AI systems (Kosinski, 2023).

Research on LLM's ToM capacities has primarily focused on their ability to model mental states associated with social

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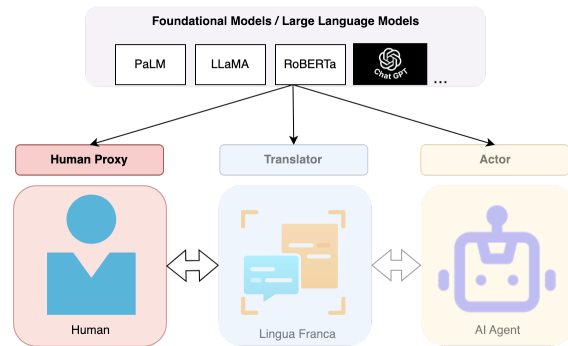
Figure 1: The various roles of Large Language Models in Human Aware AI interaction as a Human Proxy, Translator (common lingua franca), and the Actor. In this work, we investigate the role of LLMs as a Human Proxy (called Preference Proxies) especially when they have to provide answers to queries meant for eliciting human in the loop's preferences.

and emotional reasoning, as well as logical problem-solving (Kosinski, 2023; Baker et al., 2011; Wellman et al., 2001; Astington & Baird, 2005; Cuzzolin et al., 2020; Rescorla, 2015; Çelikok et al., 2019). While LLMs have been used for several tasks like summarization, text generation, comprehension, conversations etc. there is limited literature on testing LLM's ability to predict human preferences. Since these LLMs are infact trained on human generated data available in the wild (Brown et al., 2020) and have been fine-tuned with human feedback on various prompts (Ouyang et al., 2022) a natural question arises :

Can LLMs capture human preferences?

We investigate whether LLMs can serve as human-proxy to the real human in the loop (HiL) and answer queries made by an AI agent meant for the real human. Several prior works in learning human preferences have leveraged human feedbacks of some form, like binary feedback, demonstration, natural language guidance, action guidance, etc. We expect the LLM to work for an AI agent that is acting in the world (powered by an reinforcement learning, planning or other sequential decision-making engines). A common theme across these works has been to model a reward function that

captures human's expectations from the agent. Therefore, ToM is an important aspect of such a capability and while prior research has been interested in answering whether LLMs can ascribe correct mental states to the HiL, we go beyond and test whether it can also ascribe correct reasoning mechanisms used by humans. We argue that AI agents (like LLM) must be able to maintain mental states of the HiL and their reasoning process to answer questions that require the agent to know about human's expectations and preferences over the agent. Prior work has already established the potential improvements in team performance when the AI agent's modeling of mental states and reasoning of the HiL is correct (Lim & Klein, 2006; Edwards et al., 2006).

Human preferences over how the agent should behave and what sub-tasks a human-AI team should solve for optimal team performance are important problems being studied by several research communities (Lee et al., 2021; Verma & Metcalf, 2022; Verma et al., 2023; Sreedharan et al., 2020; Guan et al., 2021; Soni et al., 2022; Park et al., 2022; Kambhampati et al., 2022b; Christiano et al., 2017). LLM's ability to correctly identify human's expectations of the agent, or, human's preferences over sub-tasks can be a good direction to study whether LLMs are suitable 'Preference Proxies'. While the term "preferences" has an open-ended definition materializing with respect to the context, we study two important ways in which past research has looked at human preferences over the AI agents when the human is in the loop. First, when the human observer has a preference of the agent acting in the world expecting a degree of explicability. Explicability is the ability to understand human's expectations of the agent and conform to it. Second, the human actor in a human-AI coordination team has a preference for the pursuit of certain sub-tasks by the team among countless possibilities.

When the human in the loop assumes an observer role, our work leverages past research to develop scenarios in which the AI agent's optimal performance depends on its ability to model the human's mental states and reasoning process. This helps the AI to understand the human's expectations of the agent. For instance, in a search and rescue mission where the human serves as an AI robot's commander, it is crucial that the robot can predict how the human would infer and respond to various situations.

In cases where the human user plays an active role in achieving the team's objectives, such as a field commander working alongside a rescue robot, it is vital that the robot identifies the same set of sub-tasks to be accomplished by the team. This necessitates the agent to reason about the human's preferred method for achieving the team's goal, thus going beyond simply ascribing mental states to the human user.

The rest of the paper is structured as follows: we talk about

preliminaries for this work in Section 2. we then introduce the readers to our Theory-of-Mind experiments which are divided across Sections 3 and 4 along with their respective results. We describe our user study for understanding the alignment between LLM responses and user responses in Section 5, and finally conclude our investigation of this work in Section 6. An appendix has also been attached at the end. Readers are encouraged to view our additional supplementary material containing prompts and responses from the GPT models at `https://tinyurl.com/prefproxiessupp`.

2. Theory of Mind, Language Models and Human Preferences

In this section, we will revisit three core concepts essential for our research: Theory of Mind, which facilitates the comprehension and forecasting of human preferences, and the capability of Large Language Models to effectively simulate these aspects.

2.1. What is Theory of Mind?

We follow the definition of "Theory of Mind" from (Sap et al., 2022). Theory of Mind essentially ascribes the ability to ascribe and infer mental states of others. This ability is central to any form of human interactions, communications, empathy, self-consciousness, moral judgment, and even religious beliefs (Albuquerque et al., 2016; Heyes & Frith, 2014; Zhang et al., 2012; Milligan et al., 2007; Seyfarth & Cheney, 2013; Dennett, 1978; Moran et al., 2011). While modeling mental states is a fundamental aspect of theory of mind, it encompasses more than just creating mental models. Modeling the reasoning process over these mental states is an equally important and challenging objective.

2.2. Theory of Mind and Learning Human Preferences

Prior works have tried to advocate how Inverse Reinforcement Learning (IRL) is linked to Theory of Mind and that reward learning mechanisms should take into account several factors like human mental states, their desires, beliefs etc. (Jara-Ettinger, 2019). The field of learning a reward function from human preferences attempts to achieve a similar objective as IRL but assumes access to high-level human feedback (like pairwise comparisons) than explicit demonstrations (Verma & Metcalf, 2022). However, the expectations from the reward function being learned for the case of PbRL is same as that of IRL with respect to Theory of Mind.

Human Preferences can also be defined in various ways like trajectory preferences (Lee et al., 2021), tacit or explicit preferences, goal-oriented preferences (Verma et al., 2023), or more abstract preferences like explicability, predictability, and legibility expectations of the human from the agent

(Chakraborti et al., 2019). The spectrum of human preferences is vast and varied and can touch upon other aspects like levels of autonomy, personalization, and transparency to name a few. While these aforementioned preferences are important in their own right, in this work we focus ourselves on two key preferences prior literature has highlighted, i.e. explicability and sub-task specification.

Under Explicability preference the human expects the agent to behave in a certain way, and the agent proactively attempts to model this expectation and follow it. Hence, by definition, it involves ascribing mental states to the human in the loop and beyond that performing inferences on these states and reasoning about which behaviors would the human prefer. We restrict ourselves to situations where while there may be a human-AI team but the human only observes the agent (and the interaction may involve explanatory dialogues).

Next, we consider a Human-AI teaming scenario where the human plays a more active role and can perform actions in the world alongside our AI agent. On the other hand, sub-task specification preferences involve the agent to come up with the same set of sub-tasks that the human has in mind to achieve the team objective.

2.3. Theory of Mind and LLMs

Large language models have shown great success and exceptional results with many tasks like summarization, conversations, and text generation to name a few. Figure 1 shows the major components of a Human-AI interaction that involves the human user, the AI agent, and a lingua-franca between them (like natural language, formal languages, images, binary feedback etc). Prior literature have tasked LLMs with the roles of Translator (Xie et al., 2023; Kambhampati et al., 2022a), where the LLMs are responsible to ingest natural language inputs from the human user and convert that into a representation that can be easily understood by the AI agent. Additionally, attempts have also been used to utilize LLMs as the actor by asking them to produce actions to be performed (Hu & Sadigh, 2023; Ahn et al., 2022). While the debate regarding the utility of LLMs as a translator and as an actor have not yet settled, we introduce another potential role of LLMs as the "Human Proxy".

While advances in LLMs-based technology can improve its capabilities as a translator and as an actor, we argue that general-purpose models modeling human preferences can only do so uptill a certain point. This is because human preferences are potentially highly non-stationary, unique to individuals, and at times unknown to the human themselves. Despite this, for several realistic scenarios LLMs can capture reasonable human preferences as shown in later sections 3, 4. Therefore, at best, we are in search for a good human-proxy who can provide general preferences humans

may have which can substantially reduce load on the human in the loop.

3. Probing LLMs with Explicability Preferences

In Human-AI scenarios with humans observing AI agents acting in the environment, there is a natural preference, or expectation in particular in this case, that humans may have from the AI agent's behavior. This expectation is for the AI agent to act such that its actions or plan are explicable to the human. While additional interaction in the form of explanatory dialogue (Chakraborti et al., 2017) can help bridge the gap between the human's expectations of the agent's behavior and agent's final behavior, researchers are also interested in looking for automated ways.

One reasonable approach can be to have these general-purpose large language models (LLMs) reason on behalf of the human in the loop (HiL) who is observing such agents acting in the environment. We test three such scenarios in which the information with the HiL is limited due to varying reasons that may require LLMs to perform ToM and "step into the shoes of the human in the loop" to determine their expectations of the AI agent.

Limited information on agent's internal workings: We begin with the Rover domain (Zhang et al., 2017), where a rover is navigating in an environment to complete a certain task, while the human observes a top-view of this environment. Note that the human in this case could be an expert of the domain (and possesses knowledge about which actions are possible, effect of those actions etc) but does not know of how the AI agent computes its plan or policy. We test LLMs if they can respond and reason on behalf of this user and can answer questions with respect to explicability. The complete description for this task is given in A.1.1.

Limited information on agent's actions: Next, we experiment with the Fetch domain (Chakraborti et al., 2017), where the Fetch robot is tasked with picking up a block from one location and transporting it to another location, as given in A.1.2. In this test, the lay user only understands the high level descriptions of the actions the robot can take. However, they are still unaware of the internal workings of the agent, and hence, not understanding the reasons behind its actions. We again probe LLMs for explicability preference in this case.

Limited information due to partial observability: In the third experiment using the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) domain (Chakraborti et al., 2015; Sreedharan et al., 2017), we have a user who is an expert of the agent and its capabilities, and the task the agent needs to perform. However, this user can only partially observe the dynamics of the environment due to the fact that they only have access

to the top-view projection of what is happening on the field, and hence, they may not be completely aware of the other properties the environment like the weight of the medkits. The complete description of this task is given in A.1.3.

3.1. Experiments & Results

We prompt eight LLM models with the same prompts given in A.1.1, A.1.2 and A.1.3, and compare the responses with the ground truth composed from prior works (Zhang et al., 2017; Chakraborti et al., 2017; 2015; Sreedharan et al., 2017). We perform a subjective check: if each LLM model correctly identifies the explicability issue or not, and if so, if the reason provided for the answer is also correct. The results are shown in Table 1.

As part of the prompt, the LLMs are exposed to information available with the AI agent (whom the LLM is trying to assist by modeling the human in the loop), and information available with the human in the loop (like access to only the top-view). It is not, however, explicitly told the impacts of missing information. The objective for LLM is then two-fold, first to correctly identify which is the potential impact of the missing information (for example, the fact that the human is unaware of the 'tuck' motion being part of 'move' in Fetch example) and secondly, to utilize this information to judge whether or not the human in the loop would find the AI agent's actions explicable. We find that newer generations of GPT models perform better than older versions in these tasks. In the cases of Fetch and Rover, the GPT models provide accurate reasoning, but they struggle in the USAR domain. Although the models can correctly predict the explicability label that the human would assign, there is significant room for improvement in their reasoning abilities. While LLMs can offer valuable feedback as preference proxies, their Theory of Mind (ToM) capabilities could be enhanced further. Researchers should use LLMs with caution and continue exploring ways to improve their performance as preference proxies in such settings.

4. Probing LLMs for Sub-Task Preferences

The other set of experiments we perform are based on Human-AI collaborative teaming settings where both, the human and the AI agent are acting in the environment. In this case, we identify at least two categories of human preferences, preferences over the sub-tasks to achieve as a team, and preferences over sub-task assignments between the human and the AI agent. While both of these require extensive modeling of human mental states, we find that preferences over sub-task assignment is usually unique to the human in concern whereas generally, people come up with a finite set of interesting sub-tasks they would want to pursue as a team. Therefore, we restrict the scope of our investigation to sub-task specification based preferences and leave sub-task

Table 1: Experiments on testing Theory-of-Mind capabilities of LLMs across 3 domains: Rover, Fetch and USAR. **Y**: matches with ground truth, **Y***: matches with ground truth with correct reasoning, **N**: does not match with ground truth, **-**: no response.

	Matches w/ Ground Truth		
Domain/Model	**Rover**	**Fetch**	**USAR**
text-davinci-001	N	Y	Y
text-davinci-002	Y*	N	Y
text-davinci-003	N	Y*	Y
text-ada-001	N	N	N
text-babbage-001	-	-	N
text-curie-001	-	N	Y*
gpt-3.5-turbo	Y*	Y*	Y
gpt4	Y*	Y*	N

assignment as a future research objective.

We experiment with eight LLM models using the Overcooked domain, a popular 2-player game that has been widely used for training collaborative agents paired with real human partners (Carroll et al., 2019; Yu et al., 2023). We prompt the LLMs with a general description of the game as given in A.2.1, and then also add three specific layout descriptions which have additional specifications on how the two agents can act in the environment, as given in A.2.2, A.2.3, and A.2.4. The objective of the LLM is to respond with a set of seven sub-tasks that the human in the loop would believe as reasonable sub-tasks to be pursued as a team. We use a list of "events" used in prior work (Yu et al., 2023) as the ground truth of what the human would expect.

These layouts are as follows:

Layout 1 - Asymmetric Advantages: This layout tests whether players can choose high-level strategies that play to their strengths. There is a counter in the middle with two stoves that can be accessed from each side. Both players have an onion dispenser, plate dispenser, and serving area on their sides. However, the plates and the serving area are closer to the player on the left, while the onion dispenser is closer to the player on the right.

Layout 2 - Forced Coordination: This layout forces players to develop a high-level joint strategy, since neither player can serve a dish by themselves due to a counter table between them over which the player on the left side can pass over onions and plates, and the right player will take the onions, put them on the cooking stove, plate the cooked soup in a dish, and finally serve them

Layout 3 - Counter Circuit: This layout involves a non-

Table 2: Experiments on testing Theory-of-Mind capabilities of LLMs across 3 Overcooked domain layouts: Asymmetric Advantages, Forced Coordination, and Counter Circuit.

Layout/ Model	# Matches (out of 7) w/ Ground Truth		
	Asymmetric Advantages	Forced Coordination	Counter Circuit
text-davinci-001	1	4	2
text-davinci-002	4	3	5
text-davinci-003	4	2	5
text-ada-001	0	0	0
text-babbage-001	2	2	0
text-curie-001	0	2	3
gpt-3.5-turbo	3	5	4
gpt4	3	3	5

obvious coordination strategy, where onions are passed over a counter in the middle of the kitchen to the pot, rather than being carried around the counter. There is only one path around the counter so the two agents can not cross each other and will collide if they reach the same location in the kitchen.

4.1. Results

For this set of experiments, we check how much overlap exists between the responses of the LLM models and the ground truth as has been described by (Yu et al., 2023) and given in section A.2. This ground truth has been used by (Yu et al., 2023) to account for human preferences when training AI agents to partner with them and accomplish the team goal. Consolidated results can be found in Table 2. We perform a subjective check and report how many, out of the seven predicted 'events' by the LLM, match with the ground truth list. Unlike as in previous section, the performance of GPT4 is at par, if not worse, with an older generation model text-davinci-002 and text-davinci-003 for all the three layouts. The results show that GPT4 model did get several of the expected events, but could not capture all. This furthers our point on using LLMs as a preference proxy (than as a preference substitute).

5. User Study : How aligned are subtask preferences as imagined by LLM with human users?

The experiments and results described in sections 3, 4 use a ground truth human preference either upon agent behavior or sub-task specification obtained from past research works. While these ground-truth preferences are catered by subject matter experts, we also test how well LLMs can act as a human proxy for sub-task specification.

5.1. Setup

We extend experiments of section 4 and designed a user study to answer the following questions :

1. Q1: How well does the LLMs predicted sub-task specification for the Overcooked domain aligns with a lay user's sub-task specification?

2. Q2: Whether a lay user finds LLMs predicted sub-task specification as "human" generated?

We recruited 17 random participants with varying levels of experience with the Overcooked domain. We described the general theme of the game and showed various layouts of the game and the two agents acting to achieve the task. The layouts were drawn from prior (Carroll et al., 2019) research in multi-agent coordination tasks designed specifically to test certain key ideas like "forced coordination", "asymmetric advantages" etc. We obtained 60s videos of agents acting in the Overcooked maps using the popular benchmark (Hum, 2023) with Human-Aware PPO agent. The participants were asked to create their own preference list, similar to the expert event-list described in the previous section. After completing their lists, they were shown two lists - one generated by the LLM (referred to them as "unknown source") and their own list from the previous step (referred to them as "List B Created by you in the previous step"). Nex, they were asked to compare the two lists and rate on a Likert scale the degree to which they find the two lists aligned (Question 1 above). Finally, they were asked to rate on a Likert scale the degree to which they believed List A was generated by a human. Please refer to Appendix : figures 6, 7, for details on the study interface, event-lists, and the exact language used to phrase the questions.

Furthermore, as part of the study, we gathered event lists created by actual human users, which could be beneficial for further research.

5.2. Results

For the general Overcooked setting shown in Table 3, we first report the alignment of the responses with our ground truth expert event list. We find that GPT4 does a better job when coming up with event-list for the game in general (as compared to a specific layout). We speculate that this could because of its limited planning capabilities that hinder its ToM abilities to understand nuances of a specific layout. We also collected event-list as responses from our participants in our user study and tested whether the events given by the LLM matches to any of the events given by atleast one participant. While LLM responses may not exactly match an individual participant's response this test allows us to analyse whether there exists atleast one person with similar event-list item as that of the LLM. We find that text-davinci

Table 3: Experiments on testing Theory-of-Mind capabilities of LLMs across the general Overcooked game ground truth as per the domain's provided description, and the user study.

	Overcooked	
Source/ Model	**# Matches (out of 7) w\Ground Truth**	**# Matches (out of 7) w\User Study**
text-davinci-001	4	7
text-davinci-002	4	6
text-davinci-003	3	4
text-ada-001	0	0
text-babbage-001	1	0
text-curie-001	0	0
gpt-3.5-turbo	3	6
gpt4	5	7

models and gpt3.5 and gpt4 models performed exceptionally well achieving close to perfect scores.

The answer to the above-mentioned Q1 tells us that participants also believed that LLMs aligned with their preferences with an average agreement of 3.8/5 $\pm$0.7 on a Likert scale of 1-5. Hence, we infer that LLMs are indeed a reasonable proxy for human preferences, but should not be confused with being a substitute.

For the second question, we note that an agreement of 3.5/5$\pm$1.3 from the participants which is indeed borderline, and hence, no real consensus can be drawn on whether the participants really believed that the list was generated from another human. One reason for this could be because typically, the human generated lists were not as structured, lengthy and impressively written.

From the user study, we also note that users, in general, stuck to listing events in their responses which are supposed to be boolean predicates. Very small percentage (17%) of the total participants mentioned strategy-specific responses. Moreover, very few people gave infeasible answers that involved actions or objects not present in the game description. 15% of the people gave more than 2 infeasible answers, while 53% people gave all feasible answers.

6. Conclusion

In this work, we explore the role of large language models to serve as a human proxy for providing answers to preference queries by an AI agent employing LLMs for its Theory of Mind capabilities. Among the several manifestations of human preferences, we explore two key human preferences as explicability preference of a human observer and a sub-task specification preference of a human co-actor in a human-AI team. We borrowed suitable scenarios to probe LLMs for their Theory of Mind abilities to answer whether a human in

the loop would find a certain agent behavior explicable, or what sub-tasks would the human in the loop come up with for the team to pursue. We evaluate eight GPT-based models on three explicability preference tasks and three sub-task preference layouts in the Overcooked domain. We also conducted a human user study to confirm that LLMs do show Theory of Mind abilities to be a preference proxy, however, they can provide incorrect reasoning. We also discovered that the study participants generally concurred that there was a substantial correlation between the sub-task list they would have created and what the LLM had provided.

We finally conclude that for these tasks, LLM showed promise to be used as a human proxy. While the earlier LLM models struggled, newer models can perform much better, and real humans agree that it is good enough for these sub-task specification preferences. We hope that future research in learning from and identifying preferences of humans in the loop can utilize our findings and cautiously use LLM for its Theory of Mind capabilities.

Acknowledgement

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A. Prompts and Responses

A.1. Human as an Observer

A.1.1. ROVER

Rover Domain: Prompt and GPT4 Response

Prompt:
—

Description: There is a rover in a 3x3 grid environment, working with a human manager. The rover is acting in the environment while the human manager is the observer in this case and can see the top-view.

Initial State: The rover starts at cell 5 and the human is observing the rover from the outside. There are resources to be collected which are represented as boxes in cells 2 and 4. There is one storage area that can store one resource which is represented as an open box in cell 3. The rover can also make observations but only after visiting that particular cell.

Actions: The rover actions include navigate from$_l$ to$_l$, observe$_l$, load$_l$, and unload$_l$, each representing a set of actions since l (i.e., representing a location) can be instantiated to different cell locations, i.e., cells 0-8. Navigate (or nav) can move the rover from a location to one of its adjacent locations; load can be used to pick up a resource when the rover is not already loaded; unload can be used to unload a resource at a storage area if the area is empty; observe (or obs) can be used to make an observation. Once a location is observed, it remains observed.

Goal: The goal is for the rover to make the storage area non-empty in cell 3 and observe two locations in cells 0 and 6. But the rover does not have knowledge of these cells, and hence, needs to keep observing all cells till it finds the correct ones.

Definitions: Explicable actions: any agent (rover) action that is easily understood by the observer with respect to its contribution in achieving the final task will be called explicable actions.

Rover's plan: starts from cell 5, navigates to cell 4, loads a resource, navigates to cell 1, navigates back to cell 4, navigates to cell 3, navigates to cell 0, observes the cell, navigates to cell 3, unloads the resource, navigates to cell 6, observes the cell, and terminates the task.

Question: Imagine you are the human in this case looking at the rover executing the above plan. Would you find the rover's actions of navigating to cell 1 from cell 4 and then navigating back to cell 4 explicable or not? Give reason.
—

GPT4 Response:
As a human observer in this case, I would not find the rover's actions of navigating to cell 1 from cell 4 and then navigating back to cell 4 to be explicable. The reason is that these actions do not seem to contribute to achieving the final task directly. Instead, they appear to be unnecessary movements that do not help in loading or unloading the resource, or in observing the required locations.
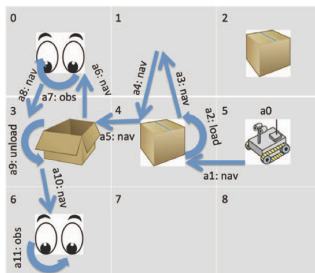

Figure 2: Rover domain, adapted as in (Zhang et al., 2017).

Human Ground Truth: Human does not understand the rover oscillating between two cells. However, the rover does it to observe the adjoining cell and come back in step 4 as the goal is to observe for locations represented with an eye.

A.1.2. FETCH

Fetch Domain: Prompt and GPT4 Response

Prompt:
—

Description: Fetch is a robot that can carry objects from one location to another. Fetch robot's design requires it to tuck its arms and lower its torso or crouch before moving - which is not obvious to a human navigating it. This may lead to an unbalanced base and toppling of the robot if the human deems such actions as unnecessary.
Now, consider a problem with the following initial and goal states (here, identical for both the robot and the human)
- **Initial state:** There is a block b1 at location loc1, and the robot is at location loc1 and has its hand empty:
`(:init (block-at b1 loc1) (robot-at loc1) (hand-empty))`

Goal: The robot has to pick the block b1 and take it to location loc2:
`(:goal (and (block-at b1 loc2)))`

Definition: Explicable action: any agent (rover) action that is easily understood by the observer with respect to its contribution in achieving the final task will be called explicable actions.
Question: In the robot's optimal plan, it will tuck its arms before moving from location 1 to location 2. Imagine you are the human in this case. Would you find such an action of the robot explicable or not? Give reason. —

GPT4 Response:
As a human observer, I might not find the robot's action of tucking its arms and lowering its torso before moving from location 1 to location 2 explicable initially. This is because the crouching action might not seem necessary or directly contributing to the final task of picking up the block and moving it to location 2.
However, if I were provided with more information about the robot's design requirements, and why the crouching action is crucial for its functionality and stability, I might eventually understand the necessity of the action and regard it as explicable.

Figure 3: Fetch domain, adapted as in (Chakraborti et al., 2017).

Human Ground Truth: An optimal plan for the robot, in this case, involves a tuck action followed by a move -
`pick-up b1 -> tuck -> move loc1 loc2 -> put-down b1`
The human, on the other hand, expects a much simpler model, as shown below. The move action does not have the preconditions for tucking the arm and lowering the torso, while tuck does not automatically lower the torso either. Hence, the robot's actions are inexplicable to the human.

A.1.3. URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE (USAR)

USAR Domain: Prompt and GPT4 Response

Prompt:

—

Description: In a typical Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) setting, there is a building with interconnected rooms and hallways, with a human commander CommX (who has a top view of the building) and a robot which is acting in the environment. All of these agents are autonomous agents working together or independently in the same environment. **Actions:** The commander has capabilities to move and conduct triage at specified locations, and he can also meet with other agents, as well as pickup, drop off or handover medkits to accomplish their task. The robot can similarly move about, search rooms, or handover or change the position of the medkits. It can thus have its own goals (maybe from being directly assigned by the commander himself or due to long term task specifications), but can also help the commander in accomplishing his goals by fetching the medkits for him. **Initial State:** Suppose there are two medkits: medkit1 which is a heavier medkit that lies closer to the room where the human is, and medkit2 which is the lighter medkit that lies across the hall close to the room which is also the triage location. **Question:** Imagine you are the human observing this scenario from the top-view and do not have any other information about the medkits. Which medkit would you pick to carry to the triage location? —

GPT4 Response:
If I were the human observing this scenario from the top-view without any other information about the medkits, I would pick medkit2 because it is closer to the triage location and lighter. This would likely require less effort to transport to the triage location and be more efficient overall.
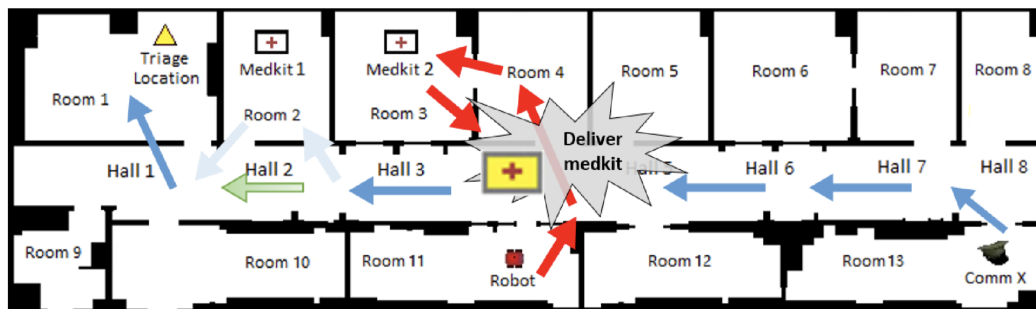

Figure 4: USAR domain, adapted as in (Chakraborti et al., 2015; Sreedharan et al., 2017).

Human Ground Truth: Human would pick the nearest medkit, i.e., medkit1 as they do not know which medkit is lighter or heavier and would want to get the one closest to them.

A.2. Human as an Actor

A.2.1. OVERCOOKED

Overcooked Domain: Prompt and GPT4 Response

Prompt:

—

Overcooked is based on a popular two-player video game in which players control chefs in a kitchen to cook and serve dishes. Each dish takes several high-level actions to deliver, making strategy coordination difficult, in addition to the challenge of motion coordination.

The domain has objects including onions, dishes, and soups. Players place 3 onions in a pot, leave them to cook for 20 time steps, put the resulting soup in a dish, and serve it, giving all players a reward of 20. The six possible actions are: up, down, left, right, noop, and interact, which does something based on the tile the player is facing, e.g. placing an onion on a counter.

Each layout has one or more onion dispensers and dish dispensers, which provide an unlimited supply of onions and dishes respectively. Agents should learn how to navigate the map (light brown area), interact with objects (such as ingredients, plates, and cooking stove on the counter shown in dark brown), drop the objects off in the right locations (such as putting onions to the cooking stove, cooked soup from the stove in the white plates, etc.), and finally serve completed dishes to the serving area (represented by the gray box). All the while, agents should be aware of what their partner is doing and coordinate with them effectively.

Imagine that you are a human agent and have been paired with an AI agent to play the game of Overcooked, where both you and the AI agent are going to accomplish a series of sub-tasks to accomplish the final goal of delivering as many cooked dishes as possible. List out 7 events (or sub tasks), you believe would be reasonable in this game to accomplish. Assume, that both you and AI agent have the same capabilities in this game, and thus can do any and all sub-tasks possible. There is no explicit mode of communication between you and the AI agent. —

GPT4 Response:

1. Retrieving onions: One of the agents (either human or AI) should approach the onion dispenser to collect onions.
2. Chopping onions: After collecting the onions, the agent should move to a chopping board and use the 'interact' action to chop the onions, preparing them for the soup.
3. Placing chopped onions in the pot: The agent with the chopped onions should navigate to the cooking pot and use the 'interact' action to place the onions inside.
4. Cooking the soup: Once three chopped onions are placed in the pot, agents should wait for 20 time steps for the soup to cook.
5. Collecting dishes: Meanwhile, the other agent (human or AI) should approach the dish dispenser to collect a dish.
6. Plating the cooked soup: After the soup is cooked, one of the agents should move to the pot, use the 'interact' action to collect the soup, and then transfer it to the collected dish.
7. Serving the finished dish: Finally, the agent carrying the plated soup should navigate to the serving area (gray box) and use the 'interact' action to serve the soup, earning a reward for both players.

Throughout these events, both the human and AI agents will need to be aware of each other's movements and actions to coordinate effectively and avoid blocking each other's paths or disrupting each other's tasks.
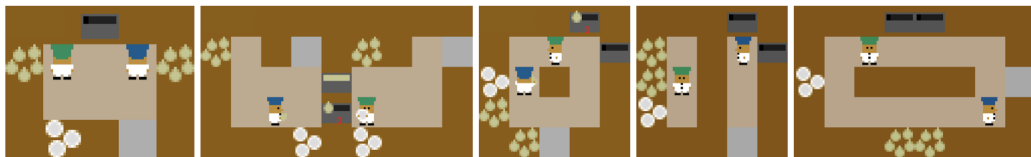

Figure 5: Overcooked domain, adapted as in (Carroll et al., 2019). Layouts from left to right: *Cramped Room, Asymmetric Advantages, Coordination Ring, Forced Coordination, and Counter Circuit.*

A.2.2. OVERCOOKED: LAYOUT 1 - ASYMMETRIC ADVANTAGES

Overcooked Domain: Asymmetric Advantages: Prompt and GPT4 Response

Prompt:

—

Overcooked is based on a popular two-player video game in which players control chefs in a kitchen to cook and serve dishes. Each dish takes several high-level actions to deliver, making strategy coordination difficult, in addition to the challenge of motion coordination.

The domain has objects including onions, dishes, and soups. Players place 3 onions in a pot, leave them to cook for 20 time steps, put the resulting soup in a dish, and serve it, giving all players a reward of 20. The six possible actions are: up, down, left, right, noop, and interact, which does something based on the tile the player is facing, e.g. placing an onion on a counter.

Each layout has one or more onion dispensers and dish dispensers, which provide an unlimited supply of onions and dishes respectively. Agents should learn how to navigate the map (light brown area), interact with objects (such as ingredients, plates, and cooking stove on the counter shown in dark brown), drop the objects off in the right locations (such as putting onions to the cooking stove, cooked soup from the stove in the white plates, etc.), and finally serve completed dishes to the serving area (represented by the gray box). All the while, agents should be aware of what their partner is doing and coordinate with them effectively.

We are in the Asymmetric Advantages layout which tests whether players can choose high-level strategies that play to their strengths. There is a counter in the middle with two stoves that can be accessed from each side. Both players have onion dispenser, plate dispenser and serving area on their sides. However, the plates and the serving area are closer to the player on the left, while the onion dispenser is closer to the player on the right.

Imagine that you are a human agent on the left and have been paired with an AI agent on the right, to play the game of Overcooked, where both you and the AI agent are going to accomplish a series of sub-tasks to accomplish the final goal of delivering as many cooked dishes as possible. List out 7 events (or sub tasks), you believe would be reasonable in this game to accomplish. Assume, that both you and AI agent have the same capabilities in this game, and thus can do any and all sub-tasks possible. There is no explicit mode of communication between you and the AI agent. —

GPT4 Response:
1. Event 1: Both players start at their respective positions in the kitchen. The AI agent moves towards the onion dispenser on their side, while you move towards your plate dispenser.
2. Event 2: The AI agent picks up an onion from their onion dispenser and places it onto the central counter. Simultaneously, you pick up a plate from your plate dispenser and place it onto the counter on your side.
3. Event 3: The AI agent collects two more onions from their dispenser and places them onto the counter next to the first onion, completing the necessary ingredients for a soup. Meanwhile, you stand near the stove, ready to start cooking.
4. Event 4: You pick up the three onions placed by the AI agent and put them into a pot on the stove. You then wait for the soup to cook for 20 time steps.
5. Event 5: While the soup is cooking, the AI agent collects more onions and places them onto the counter, preparing for the next dish. Meanwhile, you stand ready to collect the cooked soup from the stove.
6. Event 6: After the soup has cooked for 20 time steps, you take the pot off the stove and transfer the soup onto the plate you collected earlier. You then place the pot back onto the stove, ready for the next batch of onions.
7. Event 7: You carry the plated soup to the serving area and deliver it, achieving a reward of 20 for both players. Simultaneously, the AI agent begins the process again by placing the prepped onions into the now-empty pot on the stove. You both continue this cycle, trying to deliver as many dishes as possible within the given time.

A.2.3. Overcooked: Layout 2 - Forced Coordination

Overcooked Domain: Forced Coordination: Prompt and GPT4 Response

Prompt:

—

Overcooked is based on a popular two-player video game in which players control chefs in a kitchen to cook and serve dishes. Each dish takes several high-level actions to deliver, making strategy coordination difficult, in addition to the challenge of motion coordination.

The domain has objects including onions, dishes, and soups. Players place 3 onions in a pot, leave them to cook for 20 time steps, put the resulting soup in a dish, and serve it, giving all players a reward of 20. The six possible actions are: up, down, left, right, noop, and interact, which does something based on the tile the player is facing, e.g. placing an onion on a counter.

Each layout has one or more onion dispensers and dish dispensers, which provide an unlimited supply of onions and dishes respectively. Agents should learn how to navigate the map (light brown area), interact with objects (such as ingredients, plates, and cooking stove on the counter shown in dark brown), drop the objects off in the right locations (such as putting onions to the cooking stove, cooked soup from the stove in the white plates, etc.), and finally serve completed dishes to the serving area (represented by the gray box). All the while, agents should be aware of what their partner is doing and coordinate with them effectively.

We are in the Forced Coordination layout which forces players to develop a high-level joint strategy, since neither player can serve a dish by themselves due to a counter table between them over which the player on the left side can pass over onions and plates, and the right player will take the onions, put them on the cooking stove, plate the cooked soup in a dish, and finally serve them.

Imagine that you are a human agent on the left side and have been paired with an AI agent to play the game of Overcooked, where both you and the AI agent are going to accomplish a series of sub-tasks to accomplish the final goal of delivering as many cooked dishes as possible. List out 7 events (or sub tasks), you believe would be reasonable in this game to accomplish. Assume, that both you and AI agent have the same capabilities in this game, and thus can do any and all sub-tasks possible. There is no explicit mode of communication between you and the AI agent. —

GPT4 Response:
1. Event 1: The AI agent collects onions from the onion dispenser while I collect dishes from the dish dispenser.
2. Event 2: The AI agent places the onions on the counter table, while I place dishes on the counter table. We both then collect more onions and dishes to prepare for the next round.
3. Event 3: I pick up the onions placed by the AI agent on the counter table and pass them over to the AI agent's side, while the AI agent picks up the dishes I placed on the counter table.
4. Event 4: The AI agent puts the onions on the cooking stove to cook the soup while I continue to collect more dishes and onions, passing them again to the AI agent.
5. Event 5: The AI agent monitors the cooking progress and takes the cooked soup out of the stove, placing it onto the dishes collected earlier.
6. Event 6: The AI agent moves the completed dishes with soup to the serving area, while I continue to prepare more onions and dishes for the next round.
7. Event 7: We both go back to our respective stations, The AI agent continues cooking soups and serving them, while I keep passing onions and dishes to the AI agent. Throughout the game, we efficiently coordinate our actions and maintain a continuous flow of cooked dishes being served.

A.2.4. OVERCOOKED: LAYOUT 3 - COUNTER CIRCUIT

Overcooked Domain: Counter Circuit: Prompt and GPT4 Response

Prompt:

—

Overcooked is based on a popular two-player video game in which players control chefs in a kitchen to cook and serve dishes. Each dish takes several high-level actions to deliver, making strategy coordination difficult, in addition to the challenge of motion coordination.

The domain has objects including onions, dishes, and soups. Players place 3 onions in a pot, leave them to cook for 20 time steps, put the resulting soup in a dish, and serve it, giving all players a reward of 20. The six possible actions are: up, down, left, right, noop, and interact, which does something based on the tile the player is facing, e.g. placing an onion on a counter.

Each layout has one or more onion dispensers and dish dispensers, which provide an unlimited supply of onions and dishes respectively. Agents should learn how to navigate the map (light brown area), interact with objects (such as ingredients, plates, and cooking stove on the counter shown in dark brown), drop the objects off in the right locations (such as putting onions to the cooking stove, cooked soup from the stove in the white plates, etc.), and finally serve completed dishes to the serving area (represented by the gray box). All the while, agents should be aware of what their partner is doing and coordinate with them effectively.

We are in the Counter Circuit layout which involves a non-obvious coordination strategy, where onions are passed over a counter in the middle of the kitchen to the pot, rather than being carried around the counter. There is only one path around the counter so the two agents can not cross each other and will collide if they reach the same location in the kitchen.

Imagine that you are a human agent on the left and have been paired with an AI agent on the right, to play the game of Overcooked, where both you and the AI agent are going to accomplish a series of sub-tasks to accomplish the final goal of delivering as many cooked dishes as possible. List out 7 events (or sub tasks), you believe would be reasonable in this game to accomplish. Assume, that both you and AI agent have the same capabilities in this game, and thus can do any and all sub-tasks possible. There is no explicit mode of communication between you and the AI agent. —

GPT4 Response:
1. Navigate to the onion dispenser: You move to the onion dispenser on the left side of the kitchen, while the AI agent waits near the counter.
2. Collect onions: You pick up an onion from the dispenser using the "interact" action and bring it to the counter in the middle of the kitchen.
3. Pass onions to the AI agent: You place the onion on the counter, and the AI agent picks it up and moves to the pot.
4. AI agent places onions in the pot: The AI agent puts the onion in the pot using the "interact" action. This process is repeated until there are three onions in the pot.
5. AI agent collects dishes: While the soup is cooking, the AI agent moves to the dish dispenser to grab a dish, preparing it for the cooked soup.
6. AI agent transfers cooked soup to the dish: After waiting for the soup to cook, the AI agent picks up the cooked soup using the "interact" action, placing it on the collected dish.
7. AI agent serves the completed dish: Finally, the AI agent moves to the serving area and delivers the completed dish using the "interact" action. This process is then repeated to maximize the number of dishes served.

Ground Truth Event List:

- putting an onion/dish/soup on the counter,

- picking up an onion/dish/soup from the counter,

- picking up an onion from the onion dispenser,

- picking up a dish from the dish dispenser,

- picking up a ready soup from the pot with a dish,

- placing an onion into the pot,

- delivering a soup to the serving area.

B. User Study

We conduct a study with 17 participants, and the study consists of 2 parts. Part 1, as shown in Fig. 6 provides a domain description and the task details to the users. This also helps in familiarizing the users with the domain. Note, that this is the same as the prompt we use for querying all the LLMs. The users are also provided with additional details on the usage of the study interface. Once they add events to complete Task 1, they move to Part 2 which is shown in Fig. 7. Part 2 presents another list of events alongside the list of events the user submitted in Part 1. This other list (List A in Fig. 7(a)) is the response generated by GPT-4. Finally the specific questions asked to the user for the Part 2 is shown in Fig. 7(b).

The study has IRB approval and ensured that participant confidentiality, informed consent, and voluntary participation is taken in accordance with the IRB guidelines.

B.1. Interface

User Study : Part 1

Overcooked is based on a popular two-player video game in which players control chefs in a kitchen to cook and serve dishes. Each dish takes several high-level actions to deliver, making strategy coordination difficult, in addition to the challenge of motion coordination.

The domain has objects including onions, dishes, and soups. Players place 3 onions in a pot, leave them to cook for 20 time steps, put the resulting soup in a dish, and serve it, giving all players a reward of 20. The six possible actions are: up, down, left, right, noop, and interact, which does something based on the tile the player is facing, e.g. placing an onion on a counter.
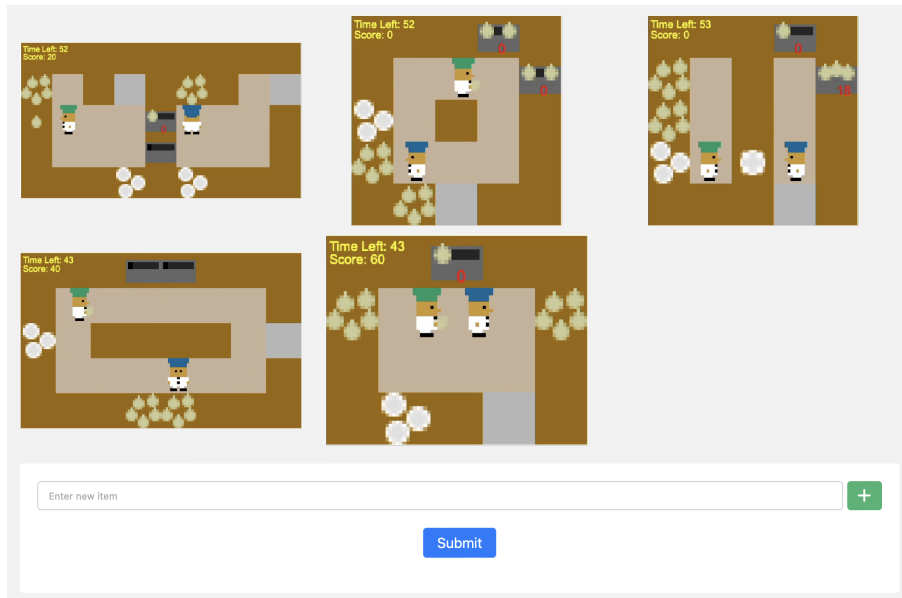
Each layout has one or more onion dispensers and dish dispensers, which provide an unlimited supply of onions and dishes respectively. Agents should learn how to navigate the map (light brown area), interact with objects (such as ingredients, plates, and cooking stove on the counter shown in dark brown), drop the objects off in the right locations (such as putting onions to the cooking stove, cooked soup from the stove in the white plates, etc.), and finally serve completed dishes to the serving area (represented by the gray box). All the while, agents should be aware of what their partner is doing and coordinate with them effectively.

Your Objective: Imagine that you have been paired with an AI agent to play the game of Overcooked, where both you and the AI agent are going to accomplish a series of sub-tasks to accomplish the final goal of delivering as many cooked dishes as possible. List out 7 events (or sub tasks), you believe would be reasonable in this game to accomplish. Assume that both you and the AI agent have the same capabilities in this game, and thus can do any and all sub-tasks possible. There is no explicit mode of communication between you and the AI agent.

Instructions :

1. Write each event in the box given below, and press "Enter" on the keyboard or click on '+' icon on the right.

2. You can also delete any event you add by clicking on the 'bin' icon on the right.

3. The events do not need to be in any particular order.

4. Please ensure you do not repeat the events by paraphrasing.

(a) Part 1 - User Study Description

(b) Part 1 - User Study Game Visualization

Figure 6: User Study: Part 1

User Study : Part 2

List A : (unknown source)

Collect onions: I will collect onions from the onion dispenser and place them onto the nearest available counter.

Chop onions: When there are onions on the counter, I will chop the onions and place the chopped onions on a separate counter, ready to be added to the pot.

Add onions to the pot: When there are three chopped onions, I will place all three of them in a pot to start cooking the soup.

Collect dishes: I will collect dishes from the dish dispenser and place them on a nearby counter, ready for the soup to be served.

Transfer cooked soup to dishes: Once the soup is cooked for 20 time steps, I will transfer the cooked soup to the empty dishes on the counter.

Deliver completed dishes: After transferring the cooked soup to a dish, I will carry the completed dish and deliver it to the serving area.

Clean and reset: If necessary, I will clean up any dropped onions or dishes to maintain a tidy kitchen. Moreover, I will reset the cooking station to make it available for the next round of ingredients.

List B : (Created by you in the previous step)

Event 1

Event 2

Event 3

Event 4

Event 5

Event 6

Event 7

(a) Part 2 - Event Lists

Below you can find two lists that also gives the events. List A is from an unknown source and List B was given by you in the previous step. Evaluate List A by answering the following questions on a scale of 1 to 5, where 5 represents complete agreement and 1 represents complete disagreement.

How well do you think the List A is aligned to your event list?
3

Considering the content of the listed events, could you determine if they were generated by a human user expressing their preferences?
3

Submit

(b) Part 2 - Questions

Figure 7: User Study: Part 1