XDetox: Text Detoxification with Token-Level Toxicity Explanations

Beomseok Lee 1 , Hyunwoo Kim 2 , Keon Kim 1 , Yong Suk Choi 1

 1 Department of Computer Science, Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea ² Department of Artificial Intelligence Application, Hanyang University, Seoul, Korea ijkoo16@hanyang.ac.kr

Abstract

Methods for mitigating toxic content through masking and infilling often overlook the decision-making process, leading to either insufficient or excessive modifications of toxic tokens. To address this challenge, we propose XDetox, a novel method that integrates tokenlevel toxicity explanations with the masking and infilling detoxification process. We utilized this approach with two strategies to enhance the performance of detoxification. First, identifying toxic tokens to improve the quality of masking. Second, selecting the regenerated sentence by re-ranking the least toxic sentence among candidates. Our experimental results show state-of-the-art performance across four datasets compared to existing detoxification methods. Furthermore, human evaluations indicate that our method outperforms baselines in both fluency and toxicity reduction. These results demonstrate the effectiveness of our method in text detoxification.^{[1](#page-0-0)}

1 Introduction

Text generation models have made notable advancements in natural language processing (NLP), yet generating toxic content remains a significant challenge with social and ethical implications [\(Sheng](#page-5-0) [et al.,](#page-5-0) [2019\)](#page-5-0). One promising approach to mitigating toxic content involves masking toxic tokens and infilling them with non-toxic tokens using a language model [\(Dale et al.,](#page-4-0) [2021;](#page-4-0) [Hallinan et al.,](#page-5-1) [2023\)](#page-5-1). However, existing detoxification processes are black-box approaches, which results in limitations in modifying toxic tokens.

Previous research has explored various strategies for detecting and masking toxic tokens. These strategies include approaches such as masking tokens with high frequency counts [\(Li et al.,](#page-5-2) [2018\)](#page-5-2), using attention weights to mask tokens [\(Sudhakar](#page-5-3)

¹[We release our code at](#page-5-3) [https://github.com/](https://github.com/LeeBumSeok/XDetox) [LeeBumSeok/XDetox](#page-5-3).

Figure 1: Overview of our model method. The first step is the identification of toxic tokens using a token-level toxicity explanation method, followed by masking tokens. The next stage involves infilling the non-toxic tokens using a detoxification method. Finally, a reranking step selects the sentence with the lowest cumulative toxicity score as the most appropriate output.

[et al.,](#page-5-3) [2019;](#page-5-3) [Wu et al.,](#page-6-0) [2019\)](#page-6-0), training models to identify and mask toxic tokens [\(Dale et al.,](#page-4-0) [2021\)](#page-4-0), and using disagreement levels from models trained in different domains to mask tokens [\(Malmi et al.,](#page-5-4) [2020;](#page-5-4) [Hallinan et al.,](#page-5-1) [2023\)](#page-5-1). However, these methods do not consider explainable processes in the regeneration process, leading to the misclassification and masking of non-toxic tokens as toxic.

To overcome these limitations and enhance the explainability of regenerated sentences, we propose a novel approach, XDetox, that combines tokenlevel toxicity eXplanations, specifically DecompX [\(Modarressi et al.,](#page-5-5) [2023\)](#page-5-5), with the traditional detoxification method, MARCO. Our method identifies toxic tokens more accurately and uses a reranking method to enhance the performance of existing detoxification methods.

For instance, as illustrated in Figure [1,](#page-0-1) the toxic word 'ugly' in the sentence 'An ugly life for an ugly man.' is accurately identified. By replacing 'ugly' with 'amazing' and 'ordinary', we generate a new sentence: 'An amazing life for an ordinary man.'

Experimental results demonstrate that our method achieves state-of-the-art performance in reducing toxicity, outperforming the detoxification baselines [\(Dale et al.,](#page-4-0) [2021;](#page-4-0) [Hallinan et al.,](#page-5-1) [2023\)](#page-5-1). Furthermore, human evaluation results also show that our method is the most effective model for text detoxification.

2 Method

Our method comprises three steps: masking toxic tokens using a token-level toxicity explanation method, replacing tokens via a detoxification method, and reranking regenerated sentences.

2.1 Background

DecompX [\(Modarressi et al.,](#page-5-5) [2023\)](#page-5-5) is a stateof-the-art method for identifying token-level importance. This method focuses on understanding model decisions by propagating decomposed vectors through the layers of the neural network. DecompX provides detailed per-label explanations, highlighting the specific contributions of each token towards or against label predictions, thereby offering insights into the model's decision-making process beyond mere measures of importance. To quantify the importance of each token towards the specific label (e.g., toxicity, sentiment), the cumulative importance score for each token is computed as follows:

$$
Importance(t_i) = \sum_{c=1}^{C} y_{c \leftarrow t_i} \tag{1}
$$

where Importance (t_i) computes the cumulative contribution of token t_i across all classes C. $y_{c \leftarrow t_i}$ signifies the extent of contribution of the token t_i towards the prediction score for class c.

MARCO [\(Hallinan et al.,](#page-5-1) [2023\)](#page-5-1) applies a Product of Experts (PoE) framework for text detoxification, utilizing expert (non-toxic) and anti-expert (toxic) models. MARCO masks tokens with high KL divergence between these models' predictions, indicating toxicity, and replaces them with non-toxic tokens. The equation of infilling the masked tokens is:

$$
P(X_i|g_{< i}, w, w^m) = \text{softmax}(z_i + \alpha_1 z_i^+ - \alpha_2 z_i^-)
$$
\n(2)

where X_i is the predicted replacement token, with $g_{\leq i}$ providing prior context. w and w^m are the original and masked sentences, guiding replacement choices. Logits z_i, z_i^+ , and z_i^- are sourced from base, non-toxic, and toxic models, respectively. Hyperparameters α_1 and α_2 balance the influence of non-toxic versus toxic model inputs for optimal replacement.

2.2 Masking and Infilling

The first step of our method focuses on identifying tokens within the text that contribute to its overall toxicity. To address the issue of not considering the decision-making process in the original MARCO's masking approach, we utilize a token-level toxicity explanation method. In our process, we apply DecompX with a toxic classifier, propagating decomposed token vectors through to the classification head to compute the toxic importance of each token. Tokens exceeding a predetermined threshold of toxic importance are then masked.

To fill the masked tokens with non-toxic tokens, we employ MARCO, which demonstrated state-ofthe-art performance in the detoxification task. This method ensures the generation of content that is both meaningful and non-toxic.

2.3 Reranking

The final stage of our method encompasses the generation of candidate sentences through sampling, followed by a reranking strategy to identify the optimal sentence among these candidates. This process incorporates applying DecompX to each candidate sentence to calculate the cumulative importance scores related to toxicity. The sentence that exhibits the lowest total importance score, indicative of minimal contribution to toxicity, is thereby chosen as the final output:

$$
s^* = \underset{s_j}{\text{argmin}} \left(\sum_i^{N_j} \text{Importance}(t_{i,j}) \right) \tag{3}
$$

in equation [3,](#page-1-0) each candidate sentence s_i is evaluated for the sum of importance scores of its tokens

Table 1: Comparative performance analysis of different methods on MAgr, SBF, DynaHate, and Jigsaw datasets. We report the Toxicity, Perplexity, BERTScore, and BLEU Score for each method on both validation and test sets. Best performances are highlighted in bold, while the second-best performances are underlined. Toxicity is measured using the Perspective API and Perplexity assesses fluency, lower values are better for both. BERTScore and BLEU Score evaluate text preservation capabilities, higher values are better for both.

 $t_{i,j}$, with respect to their contribution to toxicity. The reranking process is designed to select the lowest possible toxicity.

3 Experiments

3.1 Evaluation Setup

We measured toxicity using the Perspective API^2 API^2 . Details on toxicity evaluation are provided in Appendix [C.](#page-6-1) And fluency using Perplexity, and text preservation capabilities using BERTScore [\(Zhang](#page-6-2) [et al.,](#page-6-2) [2020\)](#page-6-2) and BLEU Score [\(Papineni et al.,](#page-5-6) [2002\)](#page-5-6), as used in prior research [\(Dale et al.,](#page-4-0) [2021;](#page-4-0) [Hallinan et al.,](#page-5-1) [2023\)](#page-5-1).

For a more accurate assessment of model performance, we conducted Human Evaluation us-ing Amazon Mechanical Turk^{[3](#page-0-0)}. The experimental setup followed previous research, sampling 75 data points from each dataset and comparing our model's outputs with those from MARCO, ParaGedi, and CondBERT to determine which model's output was less toxic and more fluent. We collected results from three workers per rewrite pair. Details of the human evaluations are in Appendix [D.](#page-7-0)

3.1.1 Datasets

We employed four distinct datasets previously used in detoxification tasks. We measured performance on the Jigsaw dataset, utilized by [\(Dale et al.,](#page-4-0) [2021\)](#page-4-0), in addition to the MAgr, SBF, and Dyna-Hate datasets used by [\(Hallinan et al.,](#page-5-1) [2023\)](#page-5-1). The statistics for datasets as shown in Appendix [A.](#page-6-3)

Microagressions.com (MAgr; [Hallinan et al.,](#page-5-1) [2023\)](#page-5-1) is Tumblr blog dataset allowing posts on interactions containing social bias.

Social Bias Frames (SBF; [Sap et al.,](#page-5-7) [2020\)](#page-5-7) comprising social bias-inclusive or offensive content collected from various online sources.

DynaHate [\(Vidgen et al.,](#page-6-4) [2021\)](#page-6-4) created by human annotators, featuring hate speech undetectable by hate-speech classifiers.

Jigsaw [\(cjadams et al.,](#page-4-1) [2017\)](#page-4-1) from a toxic comment classification challenge aimed at minimizing unintended model biases related to identity.

3.1.2 Baselines

We compared our model's performance with two models from [Dale et al.,](#page-4-0) [2021](#page-4-0) and one from [Halli](#page-5-1)[nan et al.,](#page-5-1) [2023.](#page-5-1) For detailed information on generation, refer to Appendix [B.](#page-6-5)

² <https://perspectiveapi.com>

³ <https://www.mturk.com/>

		MAgr, Validation			MAgr, Test			SBF, Validation			SBF, Test				
CondBERT	Toxicity	0.53	0.13	0.34	0.45	0.19	0.36		0.55	0.16	0.29		0.49	0.11	0.40
	Fluency	0.47	0.12	0.41	0.47	0.11	0.42		0.46	0.10	0.44		0.49	0.13	0.38
ParaGedi	Toxicity	0.45	0.15	0.40	0.51	0.09	0.40		0.44	0.16	0.40		0.49	0.15	0.36
	Fluency	0.54	0.07	0.39	0.59	0.05	0.36		0.46	0.12	0.42		0.45	0.13	0.42
MARCO	Toxicity	0.47	0.15	0.38	0.52	0.13	0.35		0.43	0.17	0.40		0.43	0.15	0.42
	Fluency	0.46	0.18	0.36	0.45	0.16	0.39		0.44	0.16	0.40		0.47	0.13	0.40
			DynaHate, Validation			DynaHate, Test									
										Jigsaw					
	Toxicity	0.45	0.14	0.41	0.49	0.09	0.42		0.44	0.15	0.41				
CondBERT	Fluency	0.48	0.12	0.40	0.49	0.12	0.39		0.48	0.14	0.38				
	Toxicity	0.48	0.14	0.38	0.47	0.14	0.39		0.44	0.15	0.41				
ParaGedi	Fluency	0.46	0.10	0.44	0.52	0.06	0.42		0.49	0.11	0.40				
	Toxicity	0.43	0.16	0.41	0.44	0.16	0.40		0.45	0.11	0.44				
MARCO	Fluency	0.50	0.11	0.39	0.46	0.14	0.40		0.47	0.15	$0.38 -$				
					Ours	H	Tie	г	Compare						

Figure 2: Human Evaluation Results Across Datasets. This figure presents the outcomes of the human evaluation for each dataset, comparing the baseline with our generated results. Evaluations were conducted focusing on two key aspects: Fluency and Toxicity.

ParaGeDi generates texts of a different style from the input text by mixing the distributions of a Paraphraser Language model and a class-conditioned language model.

CondBERT trains a Logistic Bag of Words classifier to mask weights and uses a masked language model to fill in the masks.

MARCO applies a Product of Experts (PoE) framework for text detoxification. XDetox is based on MARCO.

3.2 Toxicity Classifier

For the toxic importance quantity of DecompX, we used the fine-tuned RoBERTa [\(Liu et al.,](#page-5-8) [2019\)](#page-5-8) toxic classifier as utilized in ParaGedi [\(Dale et al.,](#page-4-0) [2021\)](#page-4-0). This classifier achieved an AUC-ROC of 0.98 and an F1 score of 0.76.

3.3 Main Results

As shown in Table [1,](#page-2-0) our method indicates stateof-the-art performance in detoxification across all datasets evaluated. Despite employing the same infilling method as MARCO and using a toxicity classifier identical to ParaGeDi, our method demonstrated substantial improvements in performance, recording an average performance improvement of 17.57% compared to the previous best results. Our method not only consistently improves toxicity performance but also demonstrates that the commonly observed trade-off, where reducing toxicity typically leads to decreased performance in other

metrics [\(Liu et al.,](#page-5-9) [2021;](#page-5-9) [Dale et al.,](#page-4-0) [2021;](#page-4-0) [Hallinan](#page-5-1) [et al.,](#page-5-1) [2023\)](#page-5-1), is minimal or nonexistent.

Table [9](#page-11-0) shows examples of generation from the four datasets used in this paper. Furthermore, we conducted experiments on a parallel dataset, detailed in Appendix [G.](#page-7-1) Experiments on the J Score [\(Krishna et al.,](#page-5-10) [2020\)](#page-5-10) are included in Appendix [F.](#page-7-2)

3.4 Human Evaluation

Perspective API is a pre-trained classifier, which may produce biased or inaccurate outcomes [\(Liu](#page-5-9) [et al.,](#page-5-9) [2021;](#page-5-9) [Dixon et al.,](#page-5-11) [2018\)](#page-5-11). Therefore, we conducted additional human evaluations to validate our evaluation results. As shown in the human evaluation results in Figure [2,](#page-3-0) our model outperformed the baseline models across all datasets tested. These results support our main result that our model achieves state-of-the-art performance.

To assess inter-rater reliability, we measured Cohen's kappa scores, obtaining $\kappa = 0.550$ for fluency and $\kappa = 0.426$ for toxicity.

3.5 Ablation Study

To investigate the impact of the reranking step on the performance of our detoxification method, we conducted an ablation study by comparing the results of our model with and without the reranking component. As shown in Table [2,](#page-4-2) the results indicate that the inclusion of the reranking step improves toxicity reduction performance across all datasets. These results demonstrate the importance

		Validation					Test				
	Method	Toxicity	Perplexity	BERTScore	BLEU		Toxicity	Perplexity	BERTScore	BLEU	
MAgr	W/O reranking XDetox	0.134 0.119	39.48 38.30	0.960 0.959	0.787 0.783		0.110 0.105	41.03 41.24	0.954 0.952	0.779 0.766	
SBF	W/O reranking XDetox	0.150 0.136	50.61 48.75	0.950 0.952	0.746 0.740		0.147 0.139	45.19 44.16	0.954 0.954	0.755 0.747	
Dyna Hate	W/O reranking XDetox	0.207 0.195	156.20 148.93	0.946 0.945	0.720 0.717		0.209 0.197	123.82 119.80	0.944 0.944	0.719 0.716	
Jigsaw	W/O reranking XDetox	$\overline{}$ $\overline{}$	$\overline{}$ $\overline{}$	$\overline{}$ $\overline{}$	$\overline{}$ $\overline{}$		0.200 0.189	190.75 194.55	0.935 0.934	0.692 0.691	

Table 2: Results of the reranking ablation study

of the reranking process in achieving state-of-theart performance in text detoxification.

4 Conclusion

We present a novel detoxification approach, XDetox, that integrates token-level toxicity explanations with traditional detoxification processes. XDetox effectively masks toxic tokens more accurately and reduces the toxicity of regenerated sentences. Our method outperforms existing approaches in automatic evaluations, demonstrating its effectiveness in reducing toxicity.

Limitations

Despite achieving state-of-the-art performance in the detoxification domain, our work, like any other, is not without its limitations and potential risks. A significant concern is the potential misuse of our techniques for converting non-toxic text into toxic text, which is contrary to our objectives and remains a challenge not only for our work but also for future research in detoxification methods [\(McGuffie and Newhouse,](#page-5-12) [2020\)](#page-5-12). Indeed, through our experiments, we have verified that such adverse applications are feasible, with detailed results available in Appendix [E.](#page-7-3)

Furthermore, the Perspective API, which we utilized for toxicity detection, may exhibit biases towards minority groups or unintended model behaviors [\(Dixon et al.,](#page-5-11) [2018;](#page-5-11) [Liu et al.,](#page-5-9) [2021\)](#page-5-9), failing to perfectly identify toxic content. To address these limitations, we conducted human evaluations on toxicity, paying an average wage of 15 USD per hour to the workers.

In addition, our main results show high scores on content preservation metrics, but there are cases where the original meaning of sentences is lost. This is a general challenge in text style transfer

applications [\(Hu et al.,](#page-5-13) [2022;](#page-5-13) [Hallinan et al.,](#page-5-1) [2023\)](#page-5-1). Future research should consider addressing detoxification while preserving the original meaning of sentences.

Moving forward, we hope to see continued research that can more accurately detect toxic text and through detoxification, contribute to safer language models.

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A Dataset Statistics

Table 3: Statistics of datasets

B Generation Details

All experiments were conducted on a single NVIDIA A100 40GB GPU.

B.1 Masking Hyperparameters

We performed a joint search of masking hyperparameters in the range of $[0, 0.05, \ldots, 0.7]$ for all

datasets. We selected the masking hyperparameter that best balances performance in terms of toxicity, fluency, and content preservation, as shown in Table [4.](#page-6-6) We also recorded the approximate GPU time taken for the Jointly Search. The changes in toxicity performance based on the masking hyperparameters can be observed in Figure [5.](#page-10-0)

Table 4: Masking hyperparameters and GPU time

B.2 Reranking Hyperparameters

For all datasets, we selected the sentence with the lowest sum of importance from 3 candidate sentences.

B.3 MARCO Hyperparameters

As shown in Table [5,](#page-6-7) we utilized the fine-tuned BART model released by MARCO for the filling process described in Section [2.2,](#page-1-1) using the best hyperparameter values found in Table [4.](#page-6-6) The Jigsaw dataset, being strongly toxic, was generated using the same hyperparameters as DynaHate due to their similar characteristics.

For a fair comparison of performance with the baseline, we used the same generation hyperparameters as Table [5,](#page-6-7) and the Masking Hyperparameter was also set to 1.2 as shown in [Hallinan et al.,](#page-5-1) [2023.](#page-5-1)

B.4 CondBERT, ParaGeDi Hyperparameters

For optimal performance comparison with Cond-BERT and ParaGeDi [\(Dale et al.,](#page-4-0) [2021\)](#page-4-0), we compared hyperparameters and performance without modifications.

C Toxicity Evaluation Details

For evaluating toxicity, we used Google's publicly available Toxicity Classifier API, Perspective API, which returns a toxicity score upon sending a text

query. We requested to use the API at a rate of up to 1500 sentences per minute through the Google Cloud Console^{[4](#page-0-0)} for our tests.

D Human Evaluation Details

To ensure a fair human evaluation, we utilized Amazon Mechanical Turk, seeking evaluations from annotators in the United States and Canada, given the need for English data assessments. The task instruction provided to the annotators is shown in Figure [4.](#page-9-0) The instruction includes a warning about toxic content in the task. We paid the annotators an average wage of USD 15 per hour.

E Non-toxic to Toxic Experiment

We acknowledge the potential for our detoxification model to be misused for converting non-toxic text into toxic text and have conducted experiments to explore this possibility. The dataset utilized for this experiment comprised 10,000 non-toxic texts from the Jigsaw Dataset, as used by [\(Dale et al.,](#page-4-0) [2021\)](#page-4-0). The hyperparameters employed in the experiment were identical to those used in the detoxification process, with the exception that we altered the impact rates between the anti-expert and expert models. The results, as illustrated in Figure [3,](#page-7-4) demonstrate that as the masking hyperparameter decreases—meaning the model is required to fill in more masks—the level of toxicity increases.

Figure 3: Impact of decreasing masking hyperparameters on toxicity levels. This graph shows that a reduction in masking hyperparameters leads to an increase in toxicity.

F Performance comparison using J Score

As an additional experiment to demonstrate the performance of our method, we measured the effectiveness using the J score [\(Krishna et al.,](#page-5-10) [2020\)](#page-5-10), which

is commonly used alongside the Perspective API in text detoxification tasks. The J score is calculated using three components: Style Accuracy (STA), Semantic Similarity (SIM), and Fluency (FL). STA and FL are used to measure the toxicity and fluency of the given sentences, respectively, and are calculated using pre-trained classifiers [\(Warstadt et al.,](#page-6-8) [2019\)](#page-6-8). SIM is calculated using the model from [\(Wieting et al.,](#page-6-9) [2019\)](#page-6-9). The J score is computed by taking the average product of STA, SIM, and FL. The experiments were conducted in the same environment as CondBERT and ParaGeDi [\(Dale et al.,](#page-4-0) [2021\)](#page-4-0). Additional experiments were performed on the Jigsaw dataset used in the main results.

Model		STA SIM	- FL	
CondBERT 0.91 0.73 0.75 0.49				
ParaGeDi	0.88		$0.62 \quad 0.64 \quad 0.36$	
MARCO	0.71	0.72 0.77 0.39		
XDetox	0.92	$0.77 \quad 0.78$		0.55

Table 6: Performance comparison using the J score

Table [6](#page-7-5) shows that our method achieved the highest performance across all J score related metrics compared to the baselines.

G Comparative Analysis using Parallel **Datasets**

We added experiments with parallel data from the ParaDetox [\(Logacheva et al.,](#page-5-14) [2022\)](#page-5-14) and APPDIA [\(Atwell et al.,](#page-4-3) [2022\)](#page-4-3) datasets. To provide a comprehensive evaluation, we compare our model with several established models, including CondBERT, ParaGeDi [\(Dale et al.,](#page-4-0) [2021\)](#page-4-0), DiffuDetox [\(Floto](#page-5-15) [et al.,](#page-5-15) [2023\)](#page-5-15), ParaDetox [\(Logacheva et al.,](#page-5-14) [2022\)](#page-5-14), and COUNT [\(Pour et al.,](#page-5-16) [2023\)](#page-5-16). The performance metrics for these comparative models are referenced from the COUNT.

Model	BLEU	STA	SIM	FL.	.I
Human	100.00	0.96	0.77	0.88	0.66
CondBERT	42.45	0.98	0.77	0.88	0.62
ParaGeDi	25.39	0.99	0.71	0.88	0.62
DiffuDetox	62.13	0.92	0.88	0.80	0.67
ParaDetox	64.53	0.89	0.86	0.89	0.68
COUNT	69.68	0.91	0.88	0.91	0.74
XDetox	75.92	0.94	0.85	0.87	0 69

Table 7: Performance comparison on ParaDetox Dataset

⁴ <https://console.cloud.google.com/>

Model	BLEU	STA	SIM	FL.	
Human	60.18	0.87	0.77	0.95	0.65
BART	75.85	0.72	0.88	0.96	0.61
DialoGPT	45.12	0.85	0.70	0.81	0.46
T ₅	74.69	0.82	0.88	0.97	0.70
COUNT	68.99	0.85	0.85	0.93	0.68
XDetox	72.49	0.95	0.78	0.93	0.70

Table 8: Performance comparison on APPDIA Dataset

As shown in Table [7,](#page-7-6) [8,](#page-8-0) our method demonstrates competitive performance on the ParaDetox dataset without any additional learning and achieves the highest performance on the APPDIA dataset.

H Handling Sentences with Implicit **Stereotypes**

Your observation regarding sentences that, despite containing non-toxic tokens, convey toxicity through implicit stereotypes is particularly insightful. Such cases are prevalent in datasets laden with stereotypes, such as MAgr and SBF.

Original Sentence: It's okay, he won't bother you. He doesn't like black girls.

Rewritten by XDetox: It's okay, he won't bother you. He doesn't like to talk to girls.

This capability distinguishes XDetox from existing baselines, which may struggle with such nuanced scenarios. The existing baselines were rewritten as follows:

CondBERT: They hit a state trooper and held him on. And they were both the illegals. Well, I don't know if they were the illegals, but they had illegal sounding names.

ParaGeDi: It's okay, he won't bother to tell me. He doesn't like the other two kids.

MARCO: It's okay, he won't bother. He doesn't like the idea of a new government.

Full Instructions

Instructions

Thank you for participating in this survey! We have tasked you with selecting the rewritten text from our AI system on the basis of toxicity compared to some original text. We feed an original sentence into an AI model and it tries to rewrite the text such that it is less toxic/offensive while retaining as much meaning as possible. Please use your best judgment in answering these survey questions. Note that some of this content may be difficult to read due to its toxic nature.

Given two generated rewrites as options for each prompt, please answer the questions below as defined on the following category:

• Toxicity:

A sentence is toxic if it is rude, disrespectful, or unreasonable, and more likely to make you leave a discussion or give up on sharing your perspective.

Please note:

While we provide the option to rate the two rewrites as "equal" with respect to each category, please only choose this option when there is truly no meaningful comparison to be made.

Original Sentence:

I'm not saying i think all jewish people should be shot, just the vast majority

Rewrite A:

I'm not saying i think all people should be treated the same, just the vast majority

Rewrite B:

I'm not saying i think all people should be treated equally, just the majority

Question

Q1: Which of these rewrites is **less toxic?**

If one of the rewrites is empty, select the non-empty one as less toxic.

- **A** I'm not saying i think all people should be treated the same, just the vast majority
- **B** I'm not saying i think all people should be treated equally, just the majority
- **Equal** Equally toxic or non-toxic

Question

Q2: Which of these rewrites is **more fluent?**

If one of the rewrites is empty, select the non-empty one as more fluent.

- **A** I'm not saying i think all people should be treated the same, just the vast majority
- **B** I'm not saying i think all people should be treated equally, just the majority

Equal - Equally fluent or non-fluent

Figure 4: Examples of human evaluation interface

Submit

Background

We want to better understand the effectiveness of various rewriting methods by AI systems that can remove or reduce offensive/toxic content from text. The following rewrites you see will compare the outputs of different methods, so that we can understand the impact and limitations of each one. As stated in the instructions, some of this content may be very difficult to read, but hopefully you can help us in our mission to mitigate this phenomena in the real world!

Figure 5: Variation of Toxicity Metrics with Masking Hyperparameter. This graph illustrates the dependency of toxicity metric values on the masking hyperparameter for several datasets, including MAgr (both Validation and Test), SBF (both Validation and Test), DynaHate (both Validation and Test), and Jigsaw. Each line represents a different dataset, showcasing how the adjustment of the masking hyperparameter influences the performance metrics across varied evaluation frameworks. The results underscore the significance of choosing an optimal masking hyperparameter to balance the trade-off between model sensitivity and specificity in detecting toxic content.

Table 9: Examples of rewrite for each method and dataset