

The SIGMORPHON 2019 Shared Task: Morphological Analysis in Context and Cross-Lingual Transfer for Inflection

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Abstract

The SIGMORPHON 2019 shared task on cross-lingual transfer and contextual analysis in morphology examined transfer learning of inflection between 100 language pairs, as well as contextual lemmatization and morphosyntactic description in 66 languages. The first task evolves past years’ inflection tasks by examining transfer of morphological inflection knowledge from a high-resource language to a low-resource language. This year also presents a new second challenge on lemmatization and morphological feature analysis in context. All submissions featured a neural component and built on either this year’s strong baselines or highly ranked systems from previous years’ shared tasks. Every participating team improved in accuracy over the baselines for the inflection task (though not Levenshtein distance), and every team in the contextual analysis task improved on both state-of-the-art neural and non-neural baselines.

1 Introduction

While producing a sentence, humans combine various types of knowledge to produce fluent output—various shades of meaning are expressed through word selection and tone, while the language is made to conform to underlying structural rules via syntax and morphology. Native speakers are often quick to identify disfluency, even if the meaning of a sentence is mostly clear.

Automatic systems must also consider these constraints when constructing or processing language. Strong enough language models can often reconstruct common syntactic structures, but are insufficient to properly model morphology. Many languages implement large inflectional paradigms that mark both function and content words with a varying levels of morphosyntactic information.

For instance, Romanian verb forms inflect for person, number, tense, mood, and voice; meanwhile, Archi verbs can take on thousands of forms (Kibrik, 1998). Such complex paradigms produce large inventories of words, all of which must be producible by a realistic system, even though a large percentage of them will never be observed over billions of lines of linguistic input. Compounding the issue, good inflectional systems often require large amounts of supervised training data, which is infeasible in many of the world’s languages.

This year’s shared task is concentrated on encouraging the construction of strong morphological systems that perform two related but different inflectional tasks. The first task asks participants to create morphological inflectors for a large number of under-resourced languages, encouraging systems that use highly-resourced, related languages as a cross-lingual training signal. The second task welcomes submissions that invert this operation in light of contextual information: Given an unannotated sentence, lemmatize each word, and tag them with a morphosyntactic description. Both of these tasks extend upon previous morphological competitions, and the best submitted systems now represent the state of the art in their respective tasks.

2 Tasks and Evaluation

2.1 Task 1: Cross-lingual transfer for morphological inflection

Annotated resources for the world’s languages are not distributed equally—some languages simply have more as they have more native speakers willing and able to annotate more data. We explore how to transfer knowledge from high-resource languages that are genetically related to low-resource languages.

The first task iterates on last year’s main task: morphological inflection (Cotterell et al., 2018).

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Instead of giving some number of training examples in the language of interest, we provided only a limited number in that language. To accompany it, we provided a larger number of examples in either a related or unrelated language. Each test example asked participants to produce some other inflected form when given a lemma and a bundle of morphosyntactic features as input. The goal, thus, is to perform morphological inflection in the low-resource language, having hopefully exploited some similarity to the high-resource language. Models which perform well here can aid downstream tasks like machine translation in low-resource settings. All datasets were resampled from UniMorph, which makes them distinct from past years.

The mode of the task is inspired by Zoph et al. (2016), who fine-tune a model pre-trained on a high-resource language to perform well on a low-resource language. We do not, though, require that models be trained by fine-tuning. Joint modeling or any number of methods may be explored instead.

Example The model will have access to type-level data in a low-resource target language, plus a high-resource source language. We give an example here of Asturian as the target language with Spanish as the source language.

Low-resource target training data (Asturian)

facar	“fechu”	V;V.PTCP;PST
aguar	“aguà”	V;PRS;2;PL;IND
⋮	⋮	⋮

High-resource source language training data (Spanish)

tocar	“tocando”	V;V.PTCP;PRS
bailar	“bailaba”	V;PST;IPFV;3;SG;IND
mentir	“mintió”	V;PST;PFV;3;SG;IND
⋮	⋮	⋮

Test input (Asturian)

baxar V;V.PTCP;PRS

Test output (Asturian)

“baxando”

Table 1: Sample language pair and data format for Task 1

Evaluation We score the output of each system in terms of its predictions’ exact-match accuracy and the average Levenshtein distance between the predictions and their corresponding true forms.

2.2 Task 2: Morphological analysis in context

Although inflection of words in a context-agnostic manner is a useful evaluation of the morphological quality of a system, people do not learn morphology in isolation.

In 2018, the second task of the CoNLL–SIGMORPHON Shared Task (Cotterell et al., 2018) required submitting systems to complete an inflectional cloze task (Taylor, 1953) given only the sentential context and the desired lemma – an example of the problem is given in the following lines: A successful system would predict the plural form “dogs”. Likewise, a Spanish word form “ayuda” may be a feminine noun or a third-person verb form, which must be disambiguated by context.

The _____ are barking.
(dog)

This year’s task extends the second task from last year. Rather than inflect a single word in context, the task is to provide a complete morphological tagging of a sentence: for each word, a successful system will need to lemmatize and tag it with a morphosyntactic description (MSD).

The	dogs	are	barking	.
the	dog	be	bark	.
DET	N;PL	V;PRS;3;PL	V;V.PTCP;PRS	PUNCT

Context is critical—depending on the sentence, identical word forms realize a large number of potential inflectional categories, which will in turn influence lemmatization decisions. If the sentence were instead “The barking dogs kept us up all night”, “barking” is now an adjective, and its lemma is also “barking”.

3 Data

3.1 Data for Task 1

Language pairs We presented data in 100 language pairs spanning 79 unique languages. Data for all but four languages (Basque, Kurmanji, Murrinhpatha, and Sorani) are extracted from English Wiktionary, a large multi-lingual crowd-sourced dictionary with morphological paradigms for many lemmata.¹ 20 of the 100 language pairs are either

¹The Basque language data was extracted from a manually designed finite-state morphological analyzer (Alegria et al., 2009). Murrinhpatha data was donated by John Mansfield; it

distantly related or unrelated; this allows speculation into the relative importance of data quantity and linguistic relatedness.

Data format For each language, the basic data consists of triples of the form (lemma, feature bundle, inflected form), as in Table 1. The first feature in the bundle always specifies the core part of speech (e.g., verb). For each language pair, separate files contain the high- and low-resource training examples.

All features in the bundle are coded according to the UniMorph Schema, a cross-linguistically consistent universal morphological feature set (Sylak-Glassman et al., 2015a,b).

Extraction from Wiktionary For each of the Wiktionary languages, Wiktionary provides a number of tables, each of which specifies the full inflectional paradigm for a particular lemma. As in the previous iteration, tables were extracted using a template annotation procedure described in (Kirov et al., 2018).

Sampling data splits From each language’s collection of paradigms, we sampled the training, development, and test sets as in 2018.² Crucially, while the data were sampled in the same fashion, the datasets are distinct from those used for the 2018 shared task.

Our first step was to construct probability distributions over the (lemma, feature bundle, inflected form) triples in our full dataset. For each triple, we counted how many tokens the inflected form has in the February 2017 dump of Wikipedia for that language. To distribute the counts of an observed form over all the triples that have this token as its form, we follow the method used in the previous shared task (Cotterell et al., 2018), training a neural network on unambiguous forms to estimate the distribution over all, even ambiguous, forms. We then sampled 12,000 triples without replacement from this distribution. The first 100 were taken as training data for low-resource settings. The first 10,000 were used as high-resource training sets. As these sets are nested, the highest-count triples tend to appear in the smaller training sets.³

is discussed in Mansfield (2019). Data for Kurmanji Kurdish and Sorani Kurdish were created as part of the Alexina project (Walther et al., 2010; Walther and Sagot, 2010).

²These datasets can be obtained from <https://sigmorphon.github.io/sharedtasks/2019/>

³Several high-resource languages had necessarily fewer, but on a similar order of magnitude. Bengali, Uzbek, Kannada,

The final 2000 triples were randomly shuffled and then split in half to obtain development and test sets of 1000 forms each.⁴ The final shuffling was performed to ensure that the development set is similar to the test set. By contrast, the development and test sets tend to contain lower-count triples than the training set.⁵

Other modifications We further adopted some changes to increase compatibility. Namely, we corrected some annotation errors created while scraping Wiktionary for the 2018 task, and we standardized Romanian t-cedilla and t-comma to t-comma. (The same was done with s-cedilla and s-comma.)

3.2 Data for Task 2

Our data for task 2 come from the Universal Dependencies treebanks (UD; Nivre et al., 2018, v2.3), which provides pre-defined training, development, and test splits and annotations in a unified annotation schema for morphosyntax and dependency relationships. Unlike the 2018 cloze task which used UD data, we require no manual data preparation and are able to leverage all 107 monolingual treebanks. As is typical, data are presented in CoNLL-U format,⁶ although we modify the morphological feature and lemma fields.

Data conversion The morphological annotations for the 2019 shared task were converted to the UniMorph schema (Kirov et al., 2018) according to McCarthy et al. (2018), who provide a deterministic mapping that increases agreement across languages. This also moves the part of speech into the bundle of morphological features. We do not attempt to individually correct any errors in the UD source material. Further, some languages received additional pre-processing. In the Finnish data, we removed morpheme boundaries that were present in the lemmata (e.g., `puhe#kieli` \mapsto `puhekieli` ‘spoken+language’). Russian lemmata in the GSD treebank were presented in all uppercase; to match

Swahili. Likewise, the low-resource language Telugu had fewer than 100 forms.

⁴When sufficient data are unavailable, we instead use 50 or 100 examples.

⁵This mimics a realistic setting, as supervised training is usually employed to generalize from frequent words that appear in annotated resources to less frequent words that do not. Unsupervised learning methods also tend to generalize from more frequent words (which can be analyzed more easily by combining information from many contexts) to less frequent ones.

⁶<https://universaldependencies.org/format.html>

the 2018 shared task, we lowercased these. In development and test data, all fields except for form and index within the sentence were struck.

4 Baselines

4.1 Task 1 Baseline

We include four neural sequence-to-sequence models mapping lemma into inflected word forms: soft attention (Luong et al., 2015), non-monotonic hard attention (Wu et al., 2018), monotonic hard attention and a variant with offset-based transition distribution (Wu and Cotterell, 2019). Neural sequence-to-sequence models with soft attention (Luong et al., 2015) have dominated previous SIGMORPHON shared tasks (Cotterell et al., 2017). Wu et al. (2018) instead models the alignment between characters in the lemma and the inflected word form explicitly with hard attention and learns this alignment and transduction jointly. Wu and Cotterell (2019) shows that enforcing strict monotonicity with hard attention is beneficial in tasks such as morphological inflection where the transduction is mostly monotonic. The encoder is a biLSTM while the decoder is a left-to-right LSTM. All models use multiplicative attention and have roughly the same number of parameters. In the model, a morphological tag is fed to the decoder along with target character embeddings to guide the decoding. During the training of the hard attention model, dynamic programming is applied to marginalize all latent alignments exactly.

4.2 Task 2 Baselines

Non-neural (Müller et al., 2015): The Lemming model is a log-linear model that performs joint morphological tagging and lemmatization. The model is globally normalized with the use of a second order linear-chain CRF. To efficiently calculate the partition function, the choice of lemmata are pruned with the use of pre-extracted edit trees.

Neural (Malaviya et al., 2019): This is a state-of-the-art neural model that also performs joint morphological tagging and lemmatization, but also accounts for the exposure bias with the application of maximum likelihood (MLE). The model stitches the tagger and lemmatizer together with the use of jackknifing (Agić and Schlueter, 2017) to expose the lemmatizer to the errors made by the tagger model during training. The morphological tagger is based on a character-level biLSTM embedder that produces the embedding for a word,

Team	Avg. Accuracy	Avg. Levenshtein
AX-01	18.54	3.62
AX-02	24.99	2.72
CMU-03	58.79	1.52
IT-IST-01	49.00	1.29
IT-IST-02	50.18	1.32
Tuebingen-01†	34.49	1.88
Tuebingen-02†	20.86	2.36
UAlberta-01*	48.33	1.23
UAlberta-02*†	54.75	1.03
UAlberta-03*†	8.45	4.06
UAlberta-04*†	11.00	3.86
UAlberta-05*	4.10	3.08
UAlberta-06*†	26.85	2.65
Baseline	48.55	1.33

Table 2: Task 1 Team Scores, averaged across all Languages; * indicates submissions were only applied to a subset of languages, making scores incomparable. † indicates that additional resources were used for training.

and a word-level biLSTM tagger that predicts a morphological tag sequence for each word in the sentence. The lemmatizer is a neural sequence-to-sequence model (Wu and Cotterell, 2019) that uses the decoded morphological tag sequence from the tagger as an additional attribute. The model uses hard monotonic attention instead of standard soft attention, along with a dynamic programming based training scheme.

5 Results

The SIGMORPHON 2019 shared task received 30 submissions—14 for task 1 and 16 for task 2—from 23 teams. In addition, the organizers’ baseline systems were evaluated.

5.1 Task 1 Results

Five teams participated in the first Task, with a variety of methods aimed at leveraging the cross-lingual data to improve system performance.

The University of Alberta (UAlberta) performed a focused investigation on four language pairs, training cognate-projection systems from external cognate lists. Two methods were considered: one which trained a high-resource neural encoder-decoder, and projected the test data into the HRL, and one that projected the HRL data into the LRL, and trained a combined system. Results demonstrated that certain language pairs may be amenable to such methods.

HRL-LRL	Baseline	Best	Team	HRL-LRL	Baseline	Best	Team
adyghe-kabardian	96.0	97.0	Tuebingen-02	hungarian-livonian	29.0	44.0	it-ist-01
albanian-breton	40.0	81.0	CMU-03	hungarian-votic	19.0	34.0	it-ist-01
arabic-classical-syriac	66.0	92.0	CMU-03	irish-breton	39.0	79.0	CMU-03
arabic-maltese	31.0	41.0	CMU-03	irish-cornish	24.0	34.0	it-ist-01
arabic-turkmen	74.0	84.0	CMU-03	irish-old-irish	2.0	6.0	it-ist-02
armenian-kabardian	83.0	87.0	it-ist-01	irish-scottish-gaelic	64.0	66.0	CMU-03
asturian-occitan	48.0	77.0	CMU-03	italian-friulian	56.0	78.0	CMU-03
bashkir-azeri	39.0	69.0	it-ist-02	italian-ladin	55.0	74.0	CMU-03
bashkir-crimean-tatar	70.0	70.0	CMU-03	italian-maltese	26.0	45.0	CMU-03
bashkir-kazakh	80.0	90.0	it-ist-01	italian-neapolitan	80.0	83.0	CMU-03
bashkir-khakas	86.0	96.0	it-ist-02	kannada-telugu	82.0	94.0	CMU-03
bashkir-tatar	68.0	74.0	it-ist-02	kurmanji-sorani	15.0	69.0	CMU-03
bashkir-turkmen	94.0	88.0	it-ist-01	latin-czech	20.1	71.4	CMU-03
basque-kashubian	40.0	76.0	CMU-03	latvian-lithuanian	17.1	48.4	CMU-03
belarusian-old-irish	2.0	10.0	CMU-03	latvian-scottish-gaelic	48.0	68.0	CMU-03
bengali-greek	17.7	74.6	CMU-03	persian-azeri	46.0	69.0	CMU-03
bulgarian-old-church-slavonic	44.0	56.0	CMU-03	persian-pashto	27.0	48.0	CMU-03
czech-kashubian	52.0	78.0	CMU-03	polish-kashubian	74.0	78.0	CMU-03
czech-latin	8.4	42.0	CMU-03	polish-old-church-slavonic	40.0	58.0	CMU-03
danish-middle-high-german	72.0	82.0	it-ist-02	portuguese-russian	27.5	76.3	CMU-03
danish-middle-low-german	36.0	44.0	it-ist-01	romanian-latin	6.7	41.3	CMU-03
danish-north-frisian	28.0	46.0	CMU-03	russian-old-church-slavonic	34.0	64.0	CMU-03
danish-west-frisian	42.0	43.0	CMU-03	russian-portuguese	50.5	88.4	CMU-03
danish-yiddish	76.0	67.0	it-ist-01	sanskrit-bengali	33.0	65.0	CMU-03
dutch-middle-high-german	76.0	78.0	it-ist-01 / it-ist-02	sanskrit-pashto	34.0	43.0	CMU-03
dutch-middle-low-german	42.0	52.0	it-ist-02	slovak-kashubian	54.0	76.0	CMU-03
dutch-north-frisian	32.0	46.0	CMU-03	slovene-old-saxon	10.6	53.2	CMU-03
dutch-west-frisian	38.0	51.0	it-ist-02	sorani-irish	27.6	66.3	CMU-03
dutch-yiddish	78.0	64.0	it-ist-01	spanish-friulian	53.0	81.0	CMU-03
english-murrinhpatha	22.0	42.0	it-ist-02	spanish-occitan	57.0	78.0	CMU-03
english-north-frisian	31.0	42.0	CMU-03	swahili-quechua	13.9	92.1	CMU-03
english-west-frisian	35.0	43.0	CMU-03	turkish-azeri	80.0	87.0	it-ist-02
estonian-ingrian	30.0	44.0	it-ist-02	turkish-crimean-tatar	83.0	89.0	CMU-03 / it-ist-02
estonian-karelian	74.0	68.0	it-ist-01	turkish-kazakh	76.0	86.0	it-ist-02
estonian-livonian	36.0	40.0	it-ist-02	turkish-khakas	76.0	94.0	it-ist-01
estonian-votic	25.0	35.0	it-ist-01	turkish-tatar	73.0	83.0	it-ist-02
finnish-ingrian	54.0	48.0	it-ist-02	turkish-turkmen	86.0	98.0	it-ist-01
finnish-karelian	70.0	78.0	it-ist-01	urdu-bengali	49.0	67.0	CMU-03
finnish-livonian	22.0	34.0	CMU-03 / it-ist-01	urdu-old-english	20.8	40.3	CMU-03
finnish-votic	42.0	40.0	it-ist-02	uzbek-azeri	57.0	70.0	CMU-03
french-occitan	50.0	80.0	CMU-03	uzbek-crimean-tatar	67.0	67.0	CMU-03
german-middle-high-german	72.0	82.0	CMU-03	uzbek-kazakh	84.0	72.0	CMU-03
german-middle-low-german	42.0	52.0	it-ist-02	uzbek-khakas	86.0	92.0	it-ist-01
german-yiddish	77.0	68.0	it-ist-01	uzbek-tatar	69.0	72.0	CMU-03
greek-bengali	51.0	67.0	CMU-03	uzbek-turkmen	80.0	78.0	CMU-03
hebrew-classical-syriac	89.0	95.0	CMU-03	welsh-breton	45.0	86.0	CMU-03
hebrew-maltese	37.0	47.0	CMU-03	welsh-cornish	22.0	42.0	it-ist-01
hindi-bengali	54.0	68.0	CMU-03	welsh-old-irish	6.0	6.0	CMU-03
hungarian-ingrian	12.0	40.0	it-ist-01	welsh-scottish-gaelic	40.0	64.0	CMU-03
hungarian-karelian	62.0	70.0	it-ist-02	zulu-swahili	44.0	81.0	CMU-03

Table 3: Task 1 Accuracy scores

HRL–LRL	Baseline	Best	Team	HRL–LRL	Baseline	Best	Team
adyghe–kabardian	0.04	0.03	Tuebingen-02	hungarian–livonian	2.56	1.81	it-ist-02
albanian–breton	1.30	0.44	it-ist-02	hungarian–votic	2.47	1.11	it-ist-01
arabic–classical-syriac	0.46	0.10	CMU-03	irish–breton	1.57	0.38	CMU-03
arabic–maltese	1.42	1.37	CMU-03	irish–cornish	2.00	1.56	it-ist-01
arabic–turkmen	0.46	0.32	CMU-03	irish–old-irish	3.30	3.12	it-ist-02
armenian–kabardian	0.21	0.14	CMU-03 / it-ist-01	irish–scottish-gaelic	0.96	1.06	CMU-03
asturian–occitan	1.74	0.80	it-ist-01	italian–friulian	1.03	0.72	it-ist-02
bashkir–azeri	1.64	0.69	it-ist-02	italian–ladin	0.79	0.60	CMU-03
bashkir–crimean-tatar	0.39	0.42	CMU-03	italian–maltese	1.39	1.23	CMU-03
bashkir–kazakh	0.32	0.10	it-ist-01	italian–neapolitan	0.40	0.36	it-ist-02
bashkir–khakas	0.18	0.04	it-ist-02	kannada–telugu	0.60	0.14	CMU-03
bashkir–tatar	0.46	0.33	CMU-03	kurmanji–sorani	2.56	0.65	CMU-03
bashkir–turkmen	0.10	0.12	it-ist-01	latin–czech	2.77	1.14	CMU-03
basque–kashubian	1.16	0.42	CMU-03	latvian–lithuanian	2.21	1.69	CMU-03
belarusian–old-irish	3.90	3.14	CMU-03	latvian–scottish-gaelic	1.16	1.00	CMU-03
bengali–greek	2.86	0.59	CMU-03	persian–azeri	1.35	0.74	CMU-03
bulgarian–old-church-slavonic	1.14	1.06	CMU-03	persian–pashto	1.70	1.54	CMU-03
czech–kashubian	0.84	0.36	CMU-03	polish–kashubian	0.34	0.34	CMU-03
czech–latin	2.95	1.36	CMU-03	polish–old-church-slavonic	1.22	0.96	CMU-03
danish–middle-high-german	0.50	0.38	it-ist-02	portuguese–russian	1.70	1.16	CMU-03
danish–middle-low-german	1.44	1.26	it-ist-01	romanian–latin	3.05	1.35	CMU-03
danish–north-frisian	2.78	2.11	CMU-03	russian–old-church-slavonic	1.33	0.86	CMU-03
danish–west-frisian	1.57	1.27	it-ist-02	russian–portuguese	1.04	0.66	CMU-03
danish–yiddish	0.91	0.72	Tuebingen-01	sanskrit–bengali	1.79	1.13	CMU-03
dutch–middle-high-german	0.44	0.36	it-ist-02	sanskrit–pashto	1.54	1.27	it-ist-02
dutch–middle-low-german	1.34	1.16	it-ist-02	slovak–kashubian	0.60	0.34	CMU-03
dutch–north-frisian	2.67	1.99	CMU-03	slovene–old-saxon	2.23	1.14	CMU-03
dutch–west-frisian	2.18	1.18	it-ist-02	sorani–irish	2.40	0.99	CMU-03
dutch–yiddish	0.53	0.72	Tuebingen-01	spanish–friulian	1.01	0.61	CMU-03
english–murrinhpatha	1.68	1.10	it-ist-02	spanish–occitan	1.14	0.57	it-ist-01
english–north-frisian	2.73	2.22	it-ist-02	swahili–quechua	3.90	0.56	CMU-03
english–west-frisian	1.48	1.26	it-ist-02	turkish–azeri	0.35	0.22	it-ist-01
estonian–ingrian	1.56	1.24	it-ist-02	turkish–crimean-tatar	0.24	0.14	CMU-03
estonian–karelian	0.52	0.62	it-ist-02	turkish–kazakh	0.34	0.16	it-ist-02
estonian–livonian	1.87	1.47	it-ist-02	turkish–khakas	0.80	0.06	it-ist-01
estonian–votic	1.55	1.17	it-ist-02	turkish–tatar	0.37	0.21	it-ist-02
finnish–ingrian	1.08	1.20	it-ist-02	turkish–turkmen	0.24	0.02	it-ist-01
finnish–karelian	0.64	0.42	it-ist-01	urdu–bengali	1.12	0.98	CMU-03
finnish–livonian	2.48	1.71	it-ist-01	urdu–old-english	1.72	1.20	CMU-03
finnish–votic	1.25	1.02	it-ist-02	uzbek–azeri	1.23	0.70	CMU-03
french–occitan	1.22	0.69	it-ist-01	uzbek–crimean-tatar	0.49	0.45	CMU-03
german–middle-high-german	0.44	0.32	it-ist-02	uzbek–kazakh	0.20	0.32	CMU-03
german–middle-low-german	1.24	1.16	it-ist-02	uzbek–khakas	0.24	0.18	it-ist-01
german–yiddish	0.46	0.72	Tuebingen-01	uzbek–tatar	0.48	0.35	CMU-03
greek–bengali	1.21	1.02	CMU-03	uzbek–turkmen	0.32	0.42	CMU-03
hebrew–classical-syriac	0.14	0.06	CMU-03	welsh–breton	0.90	0.31	CMU-03
hebrew–maltese	1.24	1.10	CMU-03	welsh–cornish	2.44	1.50	it-ist-01
hindi–bengali	1.18	0.72	UAlberta-02	welsh–old-irish	3.36	3.08	CMU-03
hungarian–ingrian	2.60	1.46	it-ist-01	welsh–scottish-gaelic	1.22	1.08	CMU-03
hungarian–karelian	0.90	0.50	it-ist-01	zulu–swahili	1.24	0.33	CMU-03

Table 4: Task 1 Levenshtein scores

The Tuebingen University submission (Tuebingen) aligned source and target to learn a set of edit-actions with both linear and neural classifiers that independently learned to predict action sequences for each morphological category. Adding in the cross-lingual data only led to modest gains.

AX-Semantics combined the low- and high-resource data to train an encoder-decoder seq2seq model; optionally also implementing domain adaptation methods to focus later epochs on the target language.

The CMU submission first attends over a decoupled representation of the desired morphological sequence before using the updated decoder state to attend over the character sequence of the lemma. Secondly, in order to reduce the bias of the decoder’s language model, they hallucinate two types of data that encourage common affixes and character copying. Simply allowing the model to learn to copy characters for several epochs significantly outperforms the task baseline, while further improvements are obtained through fine-tuning. Making use of an adversarial language discriminator, cross lingual gains are highly-correlated to linguistic similarity, while augmenting the data with hallucinated forms and multiple related target language further improves the model.

The system from IT-IST also attends separately to tags and lemmas, using a gating mechanism to interpolate the importance of the individual attentions. By combining the gated dual-head attention with a SparseMax activation function, they are able to jointly learn stem and affix modifications, improving significantly over the baseline system.

The relative system performance is described in Table 5, which shows the average per-language accuracy of each system. The table reflects the fact that some teams submitted more than one system (e.g. Tuebingen-1 & Tuebingen-2 in the table).

5.2 Task 2 Results

Nine teams submitted system papers for Task 2, with several interesting modifications to either the baseline or other prior work that led to modest improvements.

Charles-Saarland achieved the highest overall tagging accuracy by leveraging multi-lingual BERT embeddings fine-tuned on a concatenation of all available languages, effectively transporting the cross-lingual objective of Task 1 into Task 2. Lemmas and tags are decoded separately (with a joint

encoder and separate attention); Lemmas are a sequence of edit-actions, while tags are calculated jointly. (There is no splitting of tags into features; tags are atomic.)

CBNU instead lemmatize using a transformer network, while performing tagging with a multilayer perceptron with biaffine attention. Input words are first lemmatized, and then pipelined to the tagger, which produces atomic tag sequences (i.e., no splitting of features).

The team from Istanbul Technical University (ITU) jointly produces lemmatic edit-actions and morphological tags via a two level encoder (first word embeddings, and then context embeddings) and separate decoders. Their system slightly improves over the baseline lemmatization, but significantly improves tagging accuracy.

The team from the University of Groningen (RUG) also uses separate decoders for lemmatization and tagging, but uses ELMo to initialize the contextual embeddings, leading to large gains in performance. Furthermore, joint training on related languages further improves results.

CMU approaches tagging differently than the multi-task decoding we’ve seen so far (baseline is used for lemmatization). Making use of a hierarchical CRF that first predicts POS (that is subsequently looped back into the encoder), they then seek to predict each feature separately. In particular, predicting POS separately greatly improves results. An attempt to leverage gold typological information led to little gain in the results; experiments suggest that the system is already learning the pertinent information.

The team from Ohio State University (OHIOSTATE) concentrates on predicting tags; the baseline lemmatizer is used for lemmatization. To that end, they make use of a dual decoder that first predicts features given only the word embedding as input; the predictions are fed to a GRU seq2seq, which then predicts the sequence of tags.

The UNT HiLT+Ling team investigates a low-resource setting of the tagging, by using parallel Bible data to learn a translation matrix between English and the target language, learning morphological tags through analogy with English.

The UFAL-Prague team extends their submission from the UD shared task (multi-layer LSTM), replacing the pretrained embeddings with BERT, to great success (first in lemmatization, 2nd in tag-

Team	Lemma Accuracy	Lemma Levenshtein	Morph Accuracy	Morph F1
CBNU-01†	94.07	0.13	88.09	91.84
CHARLES-MALTA-01	74.95	0.62	50.37	58.81
CHARLES-SAARLAND-02†	95.00	0.11	93.23	96.02
CMU-02	92.20	0.17	85.06	88.97
CMU-DataAug-01‡	92.51	0.17	86.53	91.18
Edinburgh-01	94.20	0.13	88.93	92.89
ITU-01	94.46	0.11	86.67	90.54
NLPCUBE-01	91.43	2.43	84.92	88.67
OHIOSTATE-01	93.43	0.17	87.42	92.51
RUG-01†	93.91	0.14	90.53	94.54
RUG-02	93.06	0.15	88.80	93.22
UFALPRAGUE-01†	95.78	0.10	93.19	95.92
UNTHILTLING-02†	83.14	0.55	15.69	51.87
EDINBURGH-02*	97.35	0.06	93.02	95.94
CMU-Monolingual*	88.31	0.27	84.60	91.18
CMU-PolyGlot-01*†	76.81	0.54	60.98	75.42
Baseline	94.17	0.13	73.16	87.92

Table 5: Task 2 Team Scores, averaged across all treebanks; * indicates submissions were only applied to a subset of languages, making scores incomparable. † indicates that additional external resources were used for training, and ‡ indicates that training data were shared across languages or treebanks.

ging). Although they predict complete tags, they use the individual features to regularize the decoder. Small gains are also obtained from joining multilingual corpora and ensembling.

CUNI-Malta performs lemmatization as operations over edit actions with LSTM and ReLU. Tagging is a bidirectional LSTM augmented by the edit actions (i.e., two-stage decoding), predicting features separately.

The Edinburgh system is a character-based LSTM encoder-decoder with attention, implemented in OpenNMT. It can be seen as an extension of the contextual lemmatization system Lematus (Bergmanis and Goldwater, 2018) to include morphological tagging, or alternatively as an adaptation of the morphological re-inflection system MED (Kann and Schütze, 2016) to incorporate context and perform analysis rather than re-inflection. Like these systems it uses a completely generic encoder-decoder architecture with no specific adaptation to the morphological processing task other than the form of the input. In the submitted version of the system, the input is split into short chunks corresponding to the target word plus one word of context on either side, and the system is trained to output the corresponding lemmas and tags for each three-word chunk.

Several teams relied on external resources to

improve their lemmatization and feature analysis. Several teams made use of pre-trained embeddings. CHARLES-SAARLAND-2 and UFALPRAGUE-1 used pretrained contextual embeddings (BERT) provided by Google (Devlin et al., 2019). CBNU-1 used a mix of pre-trained embeddings from the CoNLL 2017 shared task and fastText. Further, some teams trained their own embeddings to aid performance.

6 Future Directions

In general, the application of typology to natural language processing (e.g., Gerz et al., 2018; Ponti et al., 2018) provides an interesting avenue for multilinguality. Further, our shared task was designed to only leverage a single helper language, though many may exist with lexical or morphological overlap with the target language. Techniques like those of Neubig and Hu (2018) may aid in designing universal inflection architectures. Neither task this year included unannotated monolingual corpora. Using such data is well-motivated from an L1-learning point of view, and may affect the performance of low-resource data settings.

In the case of inflection an interesting future topic could involve departing from orthographic representation and using more IPA-like representations, i.e. transductions over pronunciations. Differ-

Language (Treebank)	Baseline	Best	Team	Language (Treebank)	Baseline	Best	Team
UD_Afrikaans-AfriBooms	98.41	99.15	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Italian-PostWITA	95.60	97.95	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Akkadian-PISANDUB	66.83	67.82	CBNU-01 / EDINBURGH-01	UD_Italian-PUD	95.59	95.06	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Ambharic-AIT	98.68	100.00	Multiple	UD_Japanese-GSD	97.71	99.65	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_AncientGreek-Perseus	94.44	95.24	EDINBURGH-01	UD_Japanese-Modern	94.20	98.67	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_AncientGreek-PROIEL	96.68	97.49	EDINBURGH-01	UD_Japanese-PUD	95.75	99.36	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Arabic-PADT	94.49	96.08	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Komi_Zyryan-IKDP	78.91	89.84	RUG-02
UD_Arabic-PUD	85.24	87.13	EDINBURGH-01	UD_Komi_Zyryan-Lattice	82.97	87.91	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Armenian-ArmTDP	95.39	95.96	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Korean-GSD	92.25	94.21	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Bambara-CRB	87.02	92.71	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Korean-Kaist	94.61	95.78	EDINBURGH-01
UD_Basque-BDT	96.07	97.19	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Korean-PUD	96.41	99.57	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Belarusian-HSE	89.70	92.51	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Korean-PUD	92.29	94.80	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Breton-KEB	93.53	93.83	OHIOSATE-01	UD_Kurmanji-MG	98.17	99.20	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Bulgarian-BTB	97.37	98.36	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Latin-ITTB	89.54	93.49	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Buryat-BDT	88.56	90.19	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Latin-Perseus	96.41	97.37	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Cantonese-HK	91.61	100.00	Multiple	UD_Latvian-LVTB	95.59	97.23	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Catalan-AnCora	98.07	99.38	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Lithuanian-HSE	86.44	87.44	OHIOSATE-01
UD_Chinese-CFL	93.26	99.76	CBNU-01 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Marathi-UFAL	75.61	76.69	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Chinese-GSD	98.44	99.98	CBNU-01 / CMU-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Naija-NSC	99.33	100.00	Multiple
UD_Coptic-Scriptorium	95.80	97.31	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_North_Sami-Gitella	93.04	93.47	OHIOSATE-01
UD_Croatian-SET	95.32	97.52	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Norwegian-Bokmaal	98.00	99.19	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Czech-CAC	97.82	99.45	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Norwegian-Nynorsk	97.85	99.00	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Czech-CLTT	98.21	99.47	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Norwegian-NynorskLIA	96.66	98.22	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Czech-FicTree	97.66	99.01	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Old_Church_Slavonic-PROIEL	96.38	97.23	EDINBURGH-01
UD_Czech-PDT	96.06	99.42	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Persian-Seraji	95.82	97.94	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Czech-PUD	93.58	98.13	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Polish-LFG	95.18	97.43	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Danish-DDT	96.16	98.33	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Polish-SZ	97.08	98.69	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Dutch-Alpino	97.35	98.62	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Portuguese-Bosque	93.70	99.11	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Dutch-LassySmall	96.63	98.21	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Portuguese-GSD	97.08	99.11	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_English-EWT	97.68	99.19	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Romanian-Nonstandard	95.86	96.74	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_English-GUM	97.41	98.63	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Romanian-RRT	96.94	98.60	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_English-LiNES	98.00	98.62	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Russian-GSD	95.67	97.77	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_English-ParTUT	97.66	98.52	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Russian-PUD	91.85	95.76	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_English-PUD	95.29	97.89	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Russian-SynTagRus	95.92	99.01	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Estonian-EDT	94.84	97.09	EDINBURGH-01	UD_Russian-Taiga	89.86	100.00	UNTHILTING-02
UD_Faroese-OFT	88.86	89.53	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Sanskrit-UFAL	64.32	67.34	CMU-Monolingual-01
UD_Finnish-FTB	94.88	96.64	EDINBURGH-02	UD_Serbian-SET	96.72	98.19	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Finnish-PUD	88.27	89.98	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Slovak-SNK	96.14	97.57	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Finnish-TDT	95.53	96.60	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Slovenian-SSJ	96.43	98.87	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_French-GSD	97.97	99.01	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Slovenian-SST	94.06	97.20	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_French-ParTUT	95.69	96.66	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Spanish-AnCora	98.54	99.46	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_French-Sequoia	97.67	99.01	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Spanish-GSD	98.42	99.30	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_French-Spoken	97.98	99.52	postDeadline_RUG-01	UD_Swedish-LiNES	95.85	98.30	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Galician-CTG	98.22	98.96	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Swedish-PUD	93.12	96.63	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Galician-TreeGal	96.18	98.65	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Swedish-Talbanken	97.23	98.62	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_German-GSD	96.26	97.65	ITU-01	UD_Tagalog-TRG	78.38	91.89	Multiple
UD_Gothic-PROIEL	96.53	97.03	EDINBURGH-01	UD_Tamil-TTB	93.86	96.43	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Greek-GDT	96.76	97.24	EDINBURGH-01	UD_Turkish-IMST	96.41	96.84	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Hebrew-HTB	96.72	98.17	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Turkish-PUD	86.02	89.03	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Hindi-HDTB	98.60	98.87	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Ukrainian-IU	95.53	97.85	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Hungarian-Szeged	95.17	97.47	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_UpperSorbian-UFAL	91.69	93.74	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Indonesian-GSD	99.37	99.61	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Urdu-UDTB	96.19	96.98	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Irish-IDT	91.69	92.02	OHIOSATE-01	UD_Vietnamese-VTB	99.79	100.00	CMU-02 / UNTHILTING-02
UD_Italian-ISDT	97.38	98.88	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Yoruba-YTB	98.84	98.84	Multiple
UD_Italian-ParTUT	96.84	98.87	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02				

Table 6: Task 2 Lemma Accuracy scores

Language (Treebank)	Baseline	Best	Team	Language (Treebank)	Baseline	Best	Team
UD_Afrikaans-AfriBooms	0.03	0.02	Multiple	UD_Italian-PosTWTITA	0.11	0.05	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Akkadian-PISandUB	0.87	0.85	OHIOSSTATE-01	UD_Italian-PUD	0.08	0.04	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Amhharic-ATT	0.02	0.00	Multiple	UD_Japanese-GSD	0.04	0.01	Multiple
UD_AncientGreek-Perseus	0.14	0.12	EDINBURGH-01	UD_Japanese-Modern	0.07	0.01	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_AncientGreek-PROIEL	0.08	0.06	EDINBURGH-01 / EDINBURGH-02	UD_Japanese-PUD	0.07	0.01	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Arabic-PADT	0.16	0.11	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Komi_Zyrian-IKDP	0.38	0.23	RUG-01 / RUG-02
UD_Arabic-PUD	0.41	0.37	EDINBURGH-01	UD_Komi_Zyrian-Lattice	0.34	0.25	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Armenian-ArmTDP	0.08	0.07	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Korean-GSD	0.18	0.11	Multiple
UD_Bambara-CRB	0.27	0.10	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Korean-Kaist	0.09	0.06	EDINBURGH-01
UD_Basque-BDT	0.09	0.06	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Korean-PUD	0.06	0.01	Multiple
UD_Belarusian-HSE	0.17	0.12	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Kurmanji-MG	0.39	0.10	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Breton-KEB	0.16	0.13	ITU-01	UD_Latin-ITTB	0.04	0.02	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Bulgarian-BTB	0.07	0.05	ITU-01 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Latin-Perseus	0.21	0.13	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Buryat-BDT	0.27	0.22	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Latin-PROIEL	0.08	0.05	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Cantonese-HK	0.28	0.00	Multiple	UD_Latvian-LVTB	0.07	0.05	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Catalan-AnCora	0.04	0.01	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Lithuanian-HSE	0.25	0.24	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Chinese-CFL	0.10	0.01	NLPCUBE-01	UD_Marathi-UFAL	0.86	0.57	CMU-Monolingual-01
UD_Chinese-GSD	0.02	0.01	Multiple	UD_Najia-NSC	0.01	0.00	Multiple
UD_Coptic-Scriptorium	0.09	0.06	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_North_Sami-Gitella	0.14	0.13	EDINBURGH-01 / OHIOSSTATE-01
UD_Croatian-SET	0.09	0.05	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Norwegian-Bokmaal	0.03	0.01	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Czech-CAC	0.05	0.01	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Norwegian-Nynorsk	0.04	0.01	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Czech-CLT	0.04	0.01	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Norwegian-NynorskLJA	0.08	0.03	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Czech-FicTree	0.04	0.02	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Old_Church_Slavonic-PROIEL	0.08	0.06	EDINBURGH-01
UD_Czech-PUD	0.06	0.01	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Persian-Seraji	0.19	0.15	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Czech-PUD	0.10	0.03	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Polish-LFG	0.08	0.04	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Danish-DDT	0.06	0.03	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Polish-SZ	0.08	0.04	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Dutch-Alpino	0.05	0.03	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Portuguese-Bosque	0.05	0.02	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Dutch-LassySmall	0.06	0.03	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Portuguese-GSD	0.18	0.05	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_English-EWT	0.12	0.01	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Romanian-Nonstandard	0.08	0.06	Multiple
UD_English-GUM	0.05	0.02	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Romanian-RRT	0.05	0.02	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_English-LinES	0.04	0.02	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Russian-GSD	0.07	0.04	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_English-ParTUT	0.04	0.02	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Russian-PUD	0.18	0.08	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_English-PUD	0.07	0.03	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Russian-SynTaggRus	0.08	0.02	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Estonian-EDT	0.11	0.05	EDINBURGH-01	UD_Russian-Taiga	0.21	0.00	UWTHILTLING
UD_Faroese-OFT	0.20	0.18	ITU-01	UD_Sanskrit-UFAL	0.85	0.82	CMU-Monolingual-01
UD_Finnish-FTB	0.11	0.08	Multiple	UD_Serbian-SET	0.06	0.03	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Finnish-PUD	0.24	0.18	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Slovak-SNK	0.06	0.04	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Finnish-TDT	0.10	0.07	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Slovenian-SSJ	0.06	0.02	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_French-GSD	0.04	0.02	Multiple	UD_Slovenian-SST	0.12	0.05	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_French-ParTUT	0.07	0.05	RUG-02 / post_deadline-RUG-01	UD_Spanish-AnCora	0.03	0.01	Multiple
UD_French-Sequoia	0.05	0.02	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Spanish-GSD	0.03	0.01	Multiple
UD_French-Spoken	0.04	0.01	post_deadline-RUG-01	UD_Swedish-LinES	0.08	0.03	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Galician-CTG	0.04	0.02	Multiple	UD_Swedish-PUD	0.10	0.05	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Galician-TreeGal	0.06	0.03	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Swedish-Taibanken	0.05	0.02	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_German-GSD	0.08	0.04	ITU-01	UD_Tagalog-TRG	0.49	0.19	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / ITU-01
UD_Gothic-PROIEL	0.07	0.06	OHIOSSTATE-01	UD_Tamil-ITTB	0.14	0.07	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Greek-GDT	0.07	0.06	EDINBURGH-01	UD_Turkish-IMST	0.08	0.06	EDINBURGH-01 / ITU-01 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Hebrew-HTB	0.06	0.03	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Turkish-PUD	0.34	0.28	ITU-01
UD_Hindi-HDTB	0.02	0.01	Multiple	UD_Ukrainian-IU	0.10	0.03	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Hungarian-Szeged	0.10	0.05	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Upper_Sorbian-UFAL	0.12	0.10	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Indonesian-GSD	0.01	0.01	Multiple	UD_Urdu-UDTB	0.07	0.06	Multiple
UD_Irish-IDT	0.18	0.16	OHIOSSTATE-01	UD_Vietnamese-VTB	0.02	0.00	CMU-02 / UNTHILTLING
UD_Italian-ISDT	0.05	0.02	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Yoruba-YTB	0.01	0.01	Multiple
UD_Italian-ParTUT	0.08	0.02	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02				

Table 7: Task 2 Lemma Levenshtein scores

Language (Treebank)	Baseline	Best	Team	Language (Treebank)	Baseline	Best	Team
UD_Afrikaans-AfriBooms	84.90	99.23	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Italian-PoSTWTITA	70.09	96.88	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Akkadian-PISANDUB	78.22	89.11	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Italian-PUD	80.78	96.37	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Ambharic-ATT	75.43	89.79	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Japanese-GSD	85.47	98.41	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_AncientGreek-Perseus	69.88	91.94	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Japanese-Modern	94.94	97.47	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_AncientGreek-PROIEL	84.55	92.94	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Japanese-PUD	84.33	98.63	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Arabic-PADT	76.78	95.66	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Komi_Zyrian-IKDP	35.94	75.78	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Arabic-PUD	63.07	85.04	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Komi_Zyrian-Lattice	45.05	69.78	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Armenian-ArmTDP	64.38	93.34	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Korean-GSD	79.73	96.77	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Bambara-CRB	76.99	93.93	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Korean-Kuist	84.30	97.85	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Basque-BDT	67.76	92.52	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Korean-PUD	76.78	94.67	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Belarusian-HSE	54.22	89.93	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Kurmanji-MG	68.10	85.57	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Breton-KEB	76.52	91.14	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Latin-ITTB	77.68	97.64	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Bulgarian-BTB	79.64	98.01	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Latin-Perseus	55.06	87.76	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Buryat-BDT	64.23	88.56	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Latin-PROIEL	82.16	93.68	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Cantonese-HK	68.57	94.29	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Latvian-LVTB	70.33	95.78	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Catalan-AnCora	85.57	98.82	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Lithuanian-HSE	41.43	80.14	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Chinese-CFL	76.71	94.09	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Marathi-UFAL	40.11	67.75	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Chinese-GSD	75.97	97.13	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Najia-NSC	66.42	96.57	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Coptic-Scriptorium	87.73	96.22	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_North_Sami-Giella	66.87	92.46	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Croatian-SET	71.42	94.42	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Norwegian-Bokmaal	81.27	98.25	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Czech-CAC	77.26	98.48	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Norwegian-Nynorsk	81.75	98.11	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Czech-CLTJ	72.60	95.81	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Norwegian-NynorskLIA	74.20	96.80	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Czech-FicTree	68.34	97.13	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Old_Church_Slavonic-PROIEL	84.13	93.01	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Czech-PDT	76.70	98.54	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Persian-Seraji	86.84	98.31	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Czech-PUD	60.67	95.03	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Polish-LFG	65.72	97.13	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Danish-DDT	77.22	97.98	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Polish-SZ	63.15	95.11	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Dutch-Alpino	82.07	98.12	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Portuguese-Bosque	78.05	96.22	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Dutch-LassySmall	76.78	98.50	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Portuguese-GSD	83.87	99.03	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_English-EWT	80.17	97.85	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Romanian-Nonstandard	74.71	95.01	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_English-GUM	79.57	97.52	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Romanian-RRT	81.62	98.19	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_English-Lines	80.30	97.77	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Russian-GSD	63.37	94.92	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_English-ParTUT	80.31	96.65	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Russian-PUD	60.68	91.15	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_English-PUD	77.59	96.67	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Russian-SynTagRus	73.64	98.38	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Estonian-EDT	74.03	97.23	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Russian-Taiga	52.06	92.09	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Faroese-OFT	65.32	87.70	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Sanskrit-UFAL	29.65	50.75	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Finnish-FTB	72.89	96.85	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Serbian-SET	77.05	97.02	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Finnish-PUD	70.07	95.62	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Slovak-SNK	64.04	95.41	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Finnish-TDT	74.84	97.15	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Slovenian-SSJ	73.82	97.04	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_French-GSD	84.20	98.31	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Slovenian-SST	69.57	92.76	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_French-ParTUT	81.67	95.78	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Spanish-AnCora	84.35	98.79	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_French-Sequoia	81.50	98.15	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Spanish-GSD	81.90	95.88	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_French-Sproken	94.48	98.60	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Swedish-Lines	76.93	94.75	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Galician-CTG	86.65	98.44	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Swedish-PUD	79.97	95.85	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Galician-TreeGal	76.40	96.21	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Swedish-Talbanken	81.37	98.09	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_German-GSD	68.35	90.43	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Tagalog-TRG	67.57	91.89	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Gothic-PROIEL	81.00	91.02	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Tamil-TTB	73.33	91.63	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Greek-GDT	77.44	95.95	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Turkish-IMST	62.94	92.27	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Hebrew-HTB	81.15	97.67	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Turkish-PUD	66.30	87.63	post_deadline_RUG-01
UD_Hindi-HDTB	80.60	93.65	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Ukrainian-IU	63.59	95.78	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Hungarian-Szeged	65.90	95.03	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Upper_Sorbian-UFAL	57.70	87.02	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Indonesian-GSD	71.73	92.48	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Urdu-UDTB	69.97	80.90	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Insh-IDT	67.66	86.37	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Vietnamese-VTB	69.42	94.54	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Italian-ISDT	83.72	98.49	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Yoruba-YTB	73.26	93.80	CMU-DataAug-01
UD_Italian-ParTUT	83.51	98.72	UFALPRAGUE-01				

Table 8: Task 2 Morph Accuracy scores

Language (Treebank)	Baseline	Best	Team	Language (Treebank)	Baseline	Best	Team
UD_Afrikaans-AfriBooms	92.87	99.40	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Italian-PosTWITA	87.98	97.90	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Akkadian-PISANDUB	80.41	89.06	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Italian-PUD	92.24	98.42	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Ambaic-ATT	87.57	93.15	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Japanese-GSD	90.64	98.21	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_AncientGreek-Perseus	88.97	96.72	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Japanese-Modern	95.64	97.50	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_AncientGreek-PROIEL	93.55	97.88	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Japanese-PUD	89.64	98.49	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Arabic-PADT	91.82	97.65	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Komi-Zyrian-IKDP	59.52	82.99	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Arabic-PUD	86.35	94.66	RUG-01	UD_Komi-Zyrian-Latice	74.12	82.99	RUG-01 / RUG-02
UD_Armenian-ArmTDP	86.74	96.66	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Korean-GSD	85.90	96.27	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Bambara-CRB	88.94	95.55	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Korean-Kaist	89.45	97.58	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Basque-BDT	87.54	96.30	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Korean-PUD	88.15	96.76	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Belarusian-HSE	78.80	95.68	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Kurmanji-MG	86.54	91.28	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Breton-KEB	88.34	93.79	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Latin-ITB	93.12	98.96	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Bulgarian-BTB	93.85	99.18	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Latin-Perseus	78.91	94.65	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Buryat-BDT	80.94	90.50	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Latin-PROIEL	91.42	97.87	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Cantonese-HK	76.80	92.83	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Latvian-LVTB	89.55	98.04	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Catalan-AncCora	95.73	99.45	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Lithuanian-HSE	67.39	87.97	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Chinese-CFL	82.05	93.21	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Marathi-UFAL	69.71	80.19	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Chinese-GSD	83.79	97.04	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Naija-NSC	76.73	95.47	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Coptic-Scriptorium	93.56	97.17	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_North_Sami-Giella	85.45	95.33	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Croatian-SET	90.39	97.82	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Norwegian-Bokmaal	93.17	99.02	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Czech-CAC	93.94	99.48	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Norwegian-Nynorsk	92.85	98.97	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Czech-CLTJ	92.61	98.32	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Norwegian-NynorskLIA	89.21	97.39	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Czech-FicTree	90.32	98.90	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Old_Church_Slavonic-PROIEL	91.17	97.13	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Czech-PDT	94.23	99.47	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Persian-Seraji	93.76	98.68	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Czech-PUD	85.73	98.23	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Polish-LFG	88.73	98.86	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Danish-DDT	90.19	98.68	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Polish-SZ	86.24	98.11	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Dutch-Alpino	91.25	98.62	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Portuguese-Bosque	92.36	98.26	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Dutch-LassySmall	87.97	98.83	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Portuguese-GSD	91.73	99.10	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_English-EWT	90.91	98.52	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Romanian-Nonstandard	91.70	97.65	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_English-GUM	89.81	98.11	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Romanian-RRT	93.88	98.89	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_English-LiMES	90.58	98.30	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Russian-GSD	87.49	97.95	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_English-ParTUT	89.46	97.35	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Russian-PUD	84.31	96.27	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_English-PUD	87.70	97.58	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Russian-SyntagRus	92.73	99.23	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Estonian-EDT	91.52	98.69	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Russian-Taiga	76.77	95.56	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Faroese-OFT	85.73	93.98	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Sanskrit-UFAL	57.80	69.63	RUG-01 / RUG-02
UD_Finnish-FTB	89.08	98.38	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Serbian-SET	91.75	98.64	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Finnish-PUD	87.77	97.98	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Slovak-SNK	88.04	98.24	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Finnish-TDT	90.66	98.54	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Slovenian-SSJ	90.12	98.80	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_French-GSD	94.63	99.07	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Slovenian-SST	82.28	96.20	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_French-ParTUT	92.19	97.97	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Spanish-AncCora	95.35	99.40	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_French-Segouia	93.04	99.11	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Spanish-GSD	93.95	98.08	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_French-Spoken	94.80	98.65	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Swedish-LiMES	89.99	97.67	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Galician-CTG	91.35	98.29	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Swedish-PUD	90.49	97.40	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Galician-TreeGal	89.33	97.88	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Swedish-Talbanken	92.65	99.05	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_German-GSD	88.91	95.90	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Tagalog-TRG	87.07	95.04	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02 / UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Gothic-PROIEL	90.02	96.64	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Tamil-TTB	89.22	96.00	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Greek-GDT	93.45	98.37	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Turkish-IMST	86.10	96.30	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Hebrew-HTB	91.79	98.47	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Turkish-PUD	87.62	94.96	post_deadline_RUG-01
UD_Hindi-HDTB	93.92	98.04	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Ukrainian-IU	86.81	98.10	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Hungarian-Szeged	87.62	98.25	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Upper_Sorbian-UFAL	81.04	93.51	UFALPRAGUE-01
UD_Indonesian-GSD	86.12	95.16	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Urdu-UDTB	89.46	93.45	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Irish-IDT	81.58	91.46	UFALPRAGUE-01	UD_Vietnamese-VTB	78.00	94.02	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02
UD_Italian-ISDT	94.46	99.19	CHARLES-SAARLAND-02	UD_Yoruba-YTB	85.47	94.19	CMU-DataAug-01
UD_Italian-ParTUT	93.88	99.21	UFALPRAGUE-01				

Table 9: Task 2 Morph F1 scores

ent languages, in particular those with idiosyncratic orthographies, may offer new challenges in this respect.⁷

Only one team tried to learn inflection in a multilingual setting—i.e. to use all training data to train one model. Such transfer learning is an interesting avenue of future research, but evaluation could be difficult. Whether any cross-language transfer is actually being learned vs. whether having more data better biases the networks to copy strings is an evaluation step to disentangle.⁸

Creating new data sets that accurately reflect learner exposure (whether L1 or L2) is also an important consideration in the design of future shared tasks. One pertinent facet of this is information about inflectional categories—often the inflectional information is insufficiently prescribed by the lemma, as with the Romanian verbal inflection classes or nominal gender in German.

As we move toward multilingual models for morphology, it becomes important to understand which representations are critical or irrelevant for adapting to new languages; this may be probed in the style of (Thompson et al., 2018), and it can be used as a first step toward designing systems that avoid “catastrophic forgetting” as they learn to inflect new languages (Thompson et al., 2019).

Future directions for Task 2 include exploring cross-lingual analysis—in stride with both Task 1 and Malaviya et al. (2018)—and leveraging these analyses in downstream tasks.

7 Conclusions

The SIGMORPHON 2019 shared task provided a type-level evaluation on 100 language pairs in 79 languages and a token-level evaluation on 107 treebanks in 66 languages, of systems for inflection and analysis. On task 1 (low-resource inflection with cross-lingual transfer), 14 systems were submitted, while on task 2 (lemmatization and morphological feature analysis), 16 systems were submitted. All used neural network models, completing a trend in past years’ shared tasks and other recent work on morphology.

In task 1, gains from cross-lingual training were generally modest, with gains positively correlating with the linguistic similarity of the two languages.

⁷Although some work suggests that working with IPA or phonological distinctive features in this context yields very similar results to working with graphemes (Wiemerslage et al., 2018).

⁸This has been addressed by Jin and Kann (2017).

In the second task, several methods were implemented by multiple groups, with the most successful systems implementing variations of multi-headed attention, multi-level encoding, multiple decoders, and ELMo and BERT contextual embeddings.

We have released the training, development, and test sets, and expect these datasets to provide a useful benchmark for future research into learning of inflectional morphology and string-to-string transduction.

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