Multi-Passage Machine Reading Comprehension with Cross-Passage Answer Verification

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Outline

Background / Motivation

- Machine Reading Comprehension (MRC)
- Why Multi-Passage MRC is Challenging?

Model Architecture

- Answer Boundary Prediction
- Answer Content Modeling
- Cross-Passage Answer Verification
- Joint Training and Prediction

Experiments

- Results on MS-MARCO and DuReader
- Ablation Study
- Quantitative Analysis

Conclusion



Passage: ... Tesla later approached Morgan to ask for more funds to build a more powerful transmitter. When asked where all the money had gone, Tesla responded by saying that he was affected by the Panic of 1901, which he (Morgan) had caused Morgan was shocked by the reminder of his part in the stock market ...

Question: On what did Tesla blame for the loss of the initial money?

[from SQuAD v1.1^[1]]

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Single-passage MRC

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Answer: Panic of 1901

[from SQuAD v1.1^[1]]

Single-passage MRC

- Different types: cloze test, entity extraction, span extraction, multiple-choice ...
- Various models: Match-LSTM^[2], BiDAF^[3], R-Net^[4], QANet^[5]...
- Very impressive performance

Reading the Web to Answer Questions?

 how many teams will be in the 2022 world cup?
 ↓
 Q

 2022 FIFA World Cup - Wikipedia
 Mitipedia.org/wiki/2022_FIFA_World_Cup ▼

 In the end, there were five bids for the 2022 FIFA World Cup: Australia, Japan, Qatar, South Korea and the United States.

 Teams: 32 (from 5 or 6 confederations)
 Dates: 21 November – 18 December

 Host country: Qatar
 Venue(s): 8 or 12 (in 5 or 8 host cities)

2018 FIFA World Cup qualification - Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_FIFA_World_Cup_qualification •

United Arab Emirates Ahmed Khalil (16 goals each). \leftarrow 2014 \cdot 2022 \rightarrow . The 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification process was a series of tournaments organised by the six FIFA confederations to decide 31 of the 32 teams which will play in the 2018 FIFA World Cup, with the suspension of their football association by FIFA on 30 May 2015.

Teams: 210 (from 6 confederations) Goals scored: 2,454 (2.81 per match) Matches played: 872

Qataris considering a 48-team option for 2022 World Cup - The ... https://www.washingtonpost.com/...team...2022-world-cup/.../64dae0e6-8214-11e8-b3b...

5 days ago - The organizers of the **2022 World** Cup in Qatar are open to talks about a ... power it apparently gained is key to any progress on the tournament expansion. ... **32** nations from which 16 winners would join 16 seeded teams in a ...

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- Multiple passages are retrieved.
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• But they give different answers!



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- Search engine is employed.
- Multiple passages are retrieved.
- All of them seem relevant.
- But they give different answers!

Key challenge :

Much more misleading candidates

Question: What is the difference between a mixed and pure culture?

Passages:

- 1) A culture is a society's total way of living and a society is a group that live in a defined territory and participate in common culture. While the answer given is . . .
- 2) ... The mixed economy is a balance between socialism and capitalism. As a result, some institutions are owned and maintained by ...
- 3) A pure culture is one in which only one kind of microbial species is found whereas in mixed culture two or more microbial species formed colonies. Culture on the . . .
- 4) ... A pure culture comprises a single species or strains. A mixed culture is taken from a source and may contain multiple strains or species. A contaminated ...
- 5) ... It will be at that time when we can truly obtain a pure culture. A pure culture is a culture consisting of only one strain. You can obtain a pure culture by picking ...
- 6) A pure culture is one in which only one kind of microbial species is found whereas in mixed culture two or more microbial species formed colonies. A pure culture . . .

Question: What is the difference between a mixed and pure culture?

Passages:

Correct

- 1) A culture is a society's total way of living and a society is a group that live in a defined territory and participate in common culture. While the answer given is . . .
- 2) ... The mixed economy is a balance between socialism and capitalism. As a result, some institutions are owned and maintained by ...
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Question: What is the difference between a mixed and pure culture?

Passages:

Partially Correct

- 1) A culture is a society's total way of living and a society is a group that live in a defined territory and participate in common culture. While the answer given is . . .
- 2) ... The mixed economy is a balance between socialism and capitalism. As a result, some institutions are owned and maintained by ...
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Passages:

Incorrect

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Passages:



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Passages:











Input

Question

Passage 1

Passage 2

... Pa

Passage n

Question and Passage Encoding



• Encoding with Bi-LSTM:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}_{t}^{Q} &= \text{BiLSTM}_{Q}(\mathbf{u}_{t-1}^{Q}, [\mathbf{e}_{t}^{Q}, \mathbf{c}_{t}^{Q}]) \\ \mathbf{u}_{t}^{P_{i}} &= \text{BiLSTM}_{P}(\mathbf{u}_{t-1}^{P_{i}}, [\mathbf{e}_{t}^{P_{i}}, \mathbf{c}_{t}^{P_{i}}]) \end{aligned}$$

Question-Passage Matching



- Bi-directional Attention Flow (Seo et al., 2016)
- Dot attention matrix:

$$\mathbf{S}_{t,k} = \mathbf{u}_t^{Q\mathsf{T}} \cdot \mathbf{u}_k^{P_i}$$

Answer Boundary Prediction



• Start and end pointer:

 $g_k^t = \mathbf{w}_1^{a^{\mathsf{T}}} \tanh(\mathbf{W}_2^a[\mathbf{v}_k^P, \mathbf{h}_{t-1}^a])$ $\alpha_k^t = \exp(g_k^t) / \sum_{j=1}^{|\mathbf{P}|} \exp(g_j^t)$ $\mathbf{c}_t = \sum_{k=1}^{|\mathbf{P}|} \alpha_k^t \mathbf{v}_k^P$ $\mathbf{h}_t^a = \mathrm{LSTM}(\mathbf{h}_{t-1}^a, \mathbf{c}_t)$

Answer Content Modeling



Cross-Passage Answer Verification



- Ans-to-ans Attention: $s_{i,j} = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } i = j, \\ \mathbf{r}^{A_i \mathsf{T}} \cdot \mathbf{r}^{A_j}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ $\alpha_{i,j} = \exp(s_{i,j}) / \sum_{k=1}^{n} \exp(s_{i,k})$ $\tilde{\mathbf{r}}^{A_i} = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \alpha_{i,j} \mathbf{r}^{A_j}$
- Verification score:

 $g_i^{v} = \mathbf{w}^{v \mathsf{T}}[\mathbf{r}^{A_i}, \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^{A_i}, \mathbf{r}^{A_i} \odot \tilde{\mathbf{r}}^{A_i}]$ $p_i^{v} = \exp(g_i^{v}) / \sum_{j=1}^{n} \exp(g_j^{v})$

Joint Training and Prediction

- Three objectives:
 - Finding the boundary of the answer
 - Predicting whether each word should be included in the answer
 - Selecting the best answer from all the candidates
- Training Loss:

$$\mathcal{L}_{joint} = \mathcal{L}_{boundary} + \beta_1 \mathcal{L}_{content} + \beta_2 \mathcal{L}_{verify}$$

• Prediction:

$$Score = S_{boundary} \times S_{content} \times S_{verify}$$

Experiments Setup

• Datasets: MS-MARCO^[6] and DuReader^[7]:

	Language	Search Engine	Size	Questions with Multi Annotated Answers	Questions with Multi Answer Spans
MS-MARCO	English	Bing	100K+	9.93%	40.00%
DuReader	Chinese	Baidu	200K+	67.28%	56.38%

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• Hyper-parameters (tuned on the dev set):

Word Embedding	Character Embedding	Hidden Size	L2	Optimizer	Learning Rate	Batch Size	β_1	β_2
300-D Glove	30-D Random	150	3e-4	Adam	4e-4	32	0.5	0.5

Main Results

Model	ROUGE-L	BLEU-1
FastQA_Ext	33.67	33.93
Match-LSTM	37.33	40.72
ReasoNet	38.81	39.86
R-Net	42.89	42.22
S-Net	45.23	43.78
Our Model	46.15	44.47
S-Net (Ensemble)	46.65	44.78
Our Model (Ensemble)	46.66	45.41
Human	47	46

Model	ROUGE-L	BLEU-4
Match-LSTM	39.0	31.8
BiDAF	39.2	31.9
PR+BiDAF	41.8	37.6
Our Model	44.2	41.0
Human	57.4	56.1

Tab 2. Performance on DuReader test set

Tab 1. Performance on MS-MARCO test set

Ablation Study on MS-MARCO Dev Set

Model	ROUGE-L	Δ
Complete Model	45.65	-
- Answer Verification	44.38	-1.27
- Content Modeling	44.27	-1.38
- Joint Training	44.12	-1.53
-Yes/No Classification	41.87	-3.78
Boundary Baseline	38.95	-6.70

Question: What is the difference between a mixed and pure culture		Scores	
Answer Candidates:	Boundary	Content	Verification
[1] A culture is a society's total way of living and a society is a group	$1.0 imes 10^{-2}$	$1.0 imes \mathbf{10^{-1}}$	1.1×10^{-1}
[2] The mixed economy is a balance between socialism and capitalism.	1.0×10^{-4}	4.0×10^{-2}	3.2×10^{-2}
[3] A pure culture is one in which only one kind of microbial species is	5.5×10^{-3}	7.7×10^{-2}	1.2×10^{-1}
[4] A pure culture comprises a single species or strains. A mixed	2.7×10^{-3}	8.1×10^{-2}	1.3×10^{-1}
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[6] A pure culture is one in which only one kind of microbial species	5.8×10^{-3}	9.1×10^{-2}	$2.7 imes \mathbf{10^{-1}}$
•••••		•••••	

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•••••			

Boundary / content / verification scores are usually positively relevant

	Scores	
Boundary	Content	Verification
$1.0 imes 10^{-2}$	$1.0 imes \mathbf{10^{-1}}$	1.1×10^{-1}
1.0×10^{-4}	4.0×10^{-2}	3.2×10^{-2}
5.5×10^{-3}	7.7×10^{-2}	1.2×10^{-1}
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5.8×10^{-4}	7.9×10^{-2}	5.1×10^{-2}
5.8×10^{-3}	9.1×10^{-2}	$\mathbf{2.7 imes 10^{-1}}$
	$1.0 \times 10^{-2} \\ 1.0 \times 10^{-4} \\ 5.5 \times 10^{-3} \\ 2.7 \times 10^{-3} \\ 5.8 \times 10^{-4} \\ \end{bmatrix}$	BoundaryContent 1.0×10^{-2} 1.0×10^{-1} 1.0×10^{-4} 4.0×10^{-2} 5.5×10^{-3} 7.7×10^{-2} 2.7×10^{-3} 8.1×10^{-2} 5.8×10^{-4} 7.9×10^{-2}

More commonality --> larger verification score

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Correct answer is selected	l by consi	dering ve	rification!

— start probability





Visualization of the Probability Distribution





When the answer is long, boundary words carry little information.



Content words reflect the real semantics of this answer.

Conclusion

- Multi-passage MRC: much more misleading answers
- End-to-end model for multi-passage MRC:
 - Find the answer boundary
 - Model the answer content
 - Cross-passage answer verification
 - Joint training and prediction
- SOTA performance on two datasets created from real-world web data:
 - MS-MARCO (English)
 - DuReader (Chinese)

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Thank you!

Q & A

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