

## 1 Model Description

In this paper, we use two types of Transformer-based models: non-pre-trained models (Trans, L3) and pre-trained models (T5-Base and T5-Large) in our experiments. The number of parameters for these models are shown in Table 1. Mention Flags in the T5-Base models add approximate 5000 trainable parameters. Mention Flags in the T5-Large models add approximate 9000 trainable parameters. We use a single Tesla P100 GPU with 16 GB memory to train our models. Table 2 shows the approximate training time for our models in all three evaluation tasks. We only apply the T5-Large model to the *CommonGen* task.

| Models                | # Total P. | # Trainable P. |
|-----------------------|------------|----------------|
| T5-Base               | 222904 k   | 113276 k       |
| T5-Base + <b>MF</b>   | 222909 k   | 113281 k       |
| T5-Large              | 737669 k   | 402739 k       |
| T5-Large + <b>MF</b>  | 737678 k   | 402739 k       |
| Trans, L3             | 159189 k   | 159189 k       |
| Trans, L3 + <b>MF</b> | 159194 k   | 159194 k       |

Table 1: Model size for all used model in this paper.

| Models      | <i>CommonGen</i> | <i>E2ENLG</i> | <i>nocaps</i> |
|-------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| T5-Base     | 2 h              | 1.5 h         | 30.5 h        |
| + <b>MF</b> | 2.5 h            | 2 h           | 43.5 h        |
| T5-Large    | 6 h              | -             | -             |
| + <b>MF</b> | 7.5 h            | -             | -             |
| Trans, L3   | 1.75 h           | 1.3 h         | 19.3 h        |
| + <b>MF</b> | 2 h              | 1.7 h         | 27.6 h        |

Table 2: Training Time for all used model in this paper.

## 2 Model Hyper-parameters

As discussed above, we use the T5 models and their shallower versions. We do not conduct any model hyper-parameter search. Table 3 shows the training hyper-parameter used in our experiments. In the *CommonGen* task, we use the same batch size as suggested in the Lin et al. (2020). We search the batch size 25, 50, 75, 100 for the *E2ENLG* and *nocaps* task. We search the LR for 1e-4, 5e-4, 1e-3, the LR schedule for constant and with 10% warm-up in the *CommonGen* task. We use the CIDEr score on the *CommonGen* development set.

|             | <i>CommonGen</i> | <i>E2ENLG</i> | <i>nocaps</i> |
|-------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Batch Size  | 192              | 50            | 50            |
| LR          | 5e-5             | 5e-5          | 5e-5          |
| LR Schedule | const.           | const.        | const.        |
| Optimizer   | AdamW            | AdamW         | AdamW         |

Table 3: The training hyper-parameters used in our experiments.

## 3 Datasets

Table 4 shows the number of training data in all three tasks. All of our three datasets follow the same formatting: each training instance has one encoder input sequence and multiple human-annotated ground-truth output sequences. During training, we use all of these output sequences for training. During evaluation, we only feed all encoder input sequences to the model and use the multiple ground-truth output sequences for evaluation. *nocaps* does not release its evaluation and test captions. We submit all data in the *E2ENLG* and *CommonGen* task in the *Data* together with this submission. Due to the large size of the *nocaps* data, we recommend readers to its official website <https://nocaps.org/> for more details. Wang et al. (2021) also share information about the *nocaps* dataset, including captions and visual features. We follow the standard split used in all previous work (Lin et al., 2020; Dušek et al., 2020; Agrawal et al., 2019). As T5 models can handle any words

| Split | <i>CommonGen</i> | <i>E2ENLG</i> | <i>nocaps</i> |
|-------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Train | 33k / 67k        | 4862 / 42k    | 118k / 592k   |
| Val   | 4018 / 993       | 547 / 4672    | 4500 / -      |
| Test  | 6012 / 1497      | 630 / 4693    | 10600 / -     |

Table 4: Training Data Statistics. Input Sequence / Output Sequence for Train/Val/Test split in all three tasks. *nocaps* does not release its ground-truth captions.

in the input and output sequences, we only lower case all of these sequences before feeding them into the model.

## 4 Used Evaluation Metrics

In our experiments, we use following metrics to evaluate the quality of generated output text:

1. CIDEr (Vedantam et al., 2015) is the average cosine similarity between the system output and the reference sentences on the level of n-grams (n=1,2,3,4). The importance of the

individual n-grams is given by the TF-IDF. This is proposed for short text in image captioning tasks.

2. SPICE (Anderson et al., 2016) parses human references and system outputs as scene-graphs and calculate F1 score for the graph matching between system outputs and human references. It captures more long-range dependencies and word relationships than n-gram based metrics. This is proposed for short text in image captioning tasks.
3. BLEU (Papineni et al., 2002) is the harmonic mean of n-gram precision of the system output given the ground-truth reference sentences, with  $n = 1, 2, 3, 4$ . It is lowered by a brevity penalty if the output is shorter than references.
4. NIST (Lin and Hovy, 2003) is a version of BLEU with higher weighting for less frequent (i.e., more informative) n-grams and a different length penalty. It uses  $n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$ .
5. METEOR (Banerjee and Lavie, 2005) measures both precision and recall of uni-grams by aligning the system output with each ground-truth reference sentence. It uses fuzzy matching based on stemming and WordNet synonyms.

## 5 System Output

Table 5 shows some output examples (including positive and negative ones) from our **MF** model and baseline model. In positive examples, our **MF** model completes all input constraints with meaningful sentences. The baseline outputs, missing some of the constraints, do not make much sense. In the negative examples, our **MF** model produces sentences with all constraints satisfied but makes factual errors.

## References

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| Positive Cases                         |  |
|--|--|
| pair, polish, shoe, demonstrate, clean |  |
| T5-B                                   | a woman demonstrates how to clean a pair of shoes                                    |
| + <b>MF</b>                            | a woman demonstrates how to clean and polish a pair of shoes                         |
| GT                                     | the lady demonstrates how to clean and polish a pair of shoes                        |
| guitar, tattoo, stand, front, arm      |  |
| T5-B                                   | a man standing in front of a tattooed guitar   |
| + <b>MF</b>                            | a man with a tattoo on his arm standing in front of a guitar                         |
| GT                                     | a man with tattoo 's on his arms is standing in front of a microphone playing guitar |
| crowd, stage, concert, jump, surfs     |  |
| T5-B                                   | a man jumps and surfs on stage during a concert                                      |
| + <b>MF</b>                            | a man jumps off stage and surfs the crowd during a concert                           |
| GT                                     | a man jumps off the stage and crowd surfs at a concert                               |
| couple, take, park, dog, walk          |  |
| T5-B                                   | a couple is walking their dog in a park  |
| + <b>MF</b>                            | a couple takes their dog for a walk in a park  |
| GT                                     | a couple taking their dogs on a walk through a park outside                          |
| Negative Cases                         |  |
| bench, wife, sit, husband              |  |
| T5-B                                   | a husband and wife sit on a bench  |
| + <b>MF</b>                            | a man sitting on a bench with his wife and husband                                   |
| GT                                     | the husband and wife sit on a bench  |
| ball, catch, dog, jump                 |  |
| T5-B                                   | a dog jumps to catch a ball  |
| + <b>MF</b>                            | a dog jumps on a ball and catches it   |
| GT                                     | the dog jumped to catch the ball   |

Table 5: Representative examples of T5 baseline and **MF** model output in the *CommonGen* task. GT: ground truth text. T5-B: T5 base.

Satanjeev Banerjee and Alon Lavie. 2005. **METEOR: An automatic metric for MT evaluation with improved correlation with human judgments**. In *Proceedings of the ACL Workshop on Intrinsic and Extrinsic Evaluation Measures for Machine Translation and/or Summarization*, pages 65–72, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Association for Computational Linguistics.

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