

# Self-Augmentation Improves Zero-Shot Cross-Lingual Transfer

Fei Wang<sup>†</sup>, Kuan-Hao Huang<sup>‡</sup>, Kai-Wei Chang<sup>‡</sup> and Muhao Chen<sup>†</sup>

<sup>†</sup>University of Southern California <sup>‡</sup>University of California, Los Angeles  
{fwang598, muhaoche}@usc.edu {khhuang, kwchang}@cs.ucla.edu

## Abstract

Zero-shot cross-lingual transfer is a central task in multilingual NLP, allowing models trained in languages with more sufficient training resources to generalize to other low-resource languages. Earlier efforts on this task use parallel corpora, bilingual dictionaries, or other annotated alignment data to improve cross-lingual transferability, which are typically expensive to obtain. In this paper, we propose a simple yet effective method, SALT, to improve the *zero-shot* cross-lingual transfer of the multilingual pretrained language models without the help of such external data. By incorporating code-switching and embedding mixup with self-augmentation, SALT effectively distills cross-lingual knowledge from the multilingual PLM and enhances its transferability on downstream tasks. Experimental results on XNLI and PAWS-X show that our method is able to improve zero-shot cross-lingual transferability without external data.<sup>1</sup>

## 1 Introduction

Zero-shot cross-lingual transfer is integral to many multilingual NLP tasks (Ma and Xia, 2014; Artetxe and Schwenk, 2019; Ahmad et al., 2019). For some NLP tasks, the task-specific training data are often not evenly provided in terms of quantity and quality for distinct languages, and may even be unavailable for particularly low-resource languages. Zero-shot cross-lingual transfer allows models trained in languages with sufficient training resources to generalize to other low-resource languages. Earlier efforts on this task use parallel corpora, bilingual dictionaries, or other annotated alignment data to improve cross-lingual transferability, which are typically expensive to obtain (Chi et al., 2021; Yang et al., 2022; Qin et al., 2020; Lee et al., 2021; Krishnan et al., 2021).

<sup>1</sup>Our code is available at <https://github.com/luka-group/SALT>.

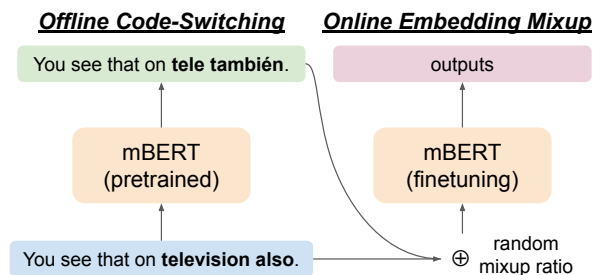


Figure 1: SALT distills the cross-lingual counterpart of each token from the multilingual PLM for code-switching and applies embedding mixup to improve the diversity of self-augmented features.

Recent analyses show that multilingual pretrained language models (PLMs) possess rich cross-lingual knowledge to facilitate the transfer (Pires et al., 2019; Conneau et al., 2020a; Huang et al., 2021). However, when being finetuned on a specific task in the source language, multilingual PLMs may catastrophically forget cross-lingual knowledge (Liu et al., 2021; Chalkidis et al., 2021). We argue that cross-lingual knowledge possessed by multilingual PLMs can be distilled and incorporated into task training data to preserve and improve models’ cross-lingual transferability when fine-tuning on downstream tasks.

In this paper, we focus on the setting where no external cross-lingual alignment data are available and propose a simple yet effective Self-Augmented Language Transfer (SALT) method for multilingual PLMs. SALT introduces two self-augmentation techniques on monolingual task-specific training data as shown in Fig. 1. Before task training, an *offline* technique based on cross-lingual code-switching first uses the PLM to predict a cross-lingual counterpart of each token in the given training sample. Accordingly, this technique generates a cross-lingual augmentation of the training sample by substituting the tokens with their cross-lingual counterparts. During task training, an *on-*

*line* self-augmentation technique based on embedding mixup (Zhang et al., 2018) randomly perturbs the representation of the training sample between the source and target languages. SALT allows the information about context-specific alignment of tokens to be distilled from the multilingual PLM, and to be further enhanced through perturbed training.

Experimental results on XNLI and PAWS-X benchmarks demonstrate that SALT achieves more improvements on zero-shot transferability than previous SOTA methods (Lewis et al., 2020; Huang et al., 2021). With self-augmentation on three target languages, SALT achieves 1.4% improvement on 15 languages of XNLI and 4.1% on 6 languages of PAWS-X in terms of average accuracy comparing with the base model.

## 2 Self-Augmentation

Our method distills cross-lingual token-level alignment from the multilingual PLM and incorporates the knowledge to task-specific data through code-switching. To further improve the diversity of augmentation for better generalization, we also apply a random embedding mixup. Following are the details of these two techniques.

### 2.1 Self-Augmentation with Code-Switching

SALT adopts a modified masked language modeling (MLM) method to distill cross-lingual token translation pairs. As multilingual PLMs, such as mBERT (Devlin et al., 2019) and XLM-R (Conneau et al., 2020a), are pre-trained with MLM, we can directly mask these models to predict cross-lingual tokens. Specifically, SALT makes two modifications to the original MLM learning objective. First, we let the model predict tokens only in a specific target language, and disregard all tokens not belonging to this language. Tokens in each target language are collected from a monolingual vocabulary list.<sup>2</sup> Second, to ensure that the semantics of predictions are similar to original tokens, we do not mask the original tokens when inputting the sentence to the multilingual PLM. This seeks to help the PLM better infer cross-lingual counterpart tokens given the references of original tokens in the input context.

Generated token-level cross-lingual substitutions with high enough predicted probabilities are used

<sup>2</sup>We adopt the top 10,000 words by frequency in target languages at [https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Wiktionary:Frequency\\_lists](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Wiktionary:Frequency_lists).

for code-switching. In this work, we adopt a fixed probability threshold for all target languages. We also predict synonyms in the source language with SALT. Since predicted probability in the source language and target languages are of different scales, we assign a different threshold for synonym prediction. This self-augmentation process is done offline before task training.

### 2.2 Self-Augmentation with Embedding Mixup

To further improve the diversity of self-augmented features and reduce the noise introduced by code-switching through smoothing, we propose an *online* self-augmentation technique based on cross-lingual embedding mixup (Guo et al., 2019). Specifically, for each token  $t_i$  in the generated sentence from code-switching, we interpolate its embedding with that of the original token  $s_i$  before code-switching. In detail, given the embedding of original token  $h_{s_i}$  and embedding of the substituted token  $h_{t_i}$ , the mixed up token embedding is generated as

$$h_i = r \cdot h_{s_i} + (1 - r) \cdot h_{t_i},$$

where  $r = \{r_j\}$ ,  $r_j \in [0, 1]$  is a random vector. In the embedding mixup, the interpolation coefficient of each embedding dimension  $j$  is independently generated from a uniform distribution to allow for more diverse combinations of embeddings in two languages. Applying this self-augmentation technique allows for randomly perturbing the training instance between the source and target language representation, leading to further improved transferability of the obtained task model.

### 2.3 Training

In this work, we use English as the source language and consider three target languages for code-switching, i.e. French, German and Spanish<sup>3</sup>. Before training the task model, on each original training sample in the source language, we generate an augmented sample in each target language *offline* with code-switching, where all predicted high-probability token substitutions are applied. Then during training, we further apply embedding mixup

<sup>3</sup>We compute the overlap between the model’s vocabulary and the word list of each evaluation language, and select the top three languages with the highest overlap ratio. Note that Chinese, Japanese, and Korean are not selected because their words will be tokenized to characters by the model tokenizer used in this study.

Model	en	ar	bg	de	el	es	fr	hi	ru	sw	th	tr	ur	vi	zh	avg.	w/en
<i>without external data</i>																	
mBERT	80.8	64.3	68.0	70.0	65.3	73.5	73.4	58.9	67.8	49.7	<b>54.1</b>	60.9	57.2	69.3	67.8	64.3	65.4
mBERT*	81.8	64.7	67.0	69.6	66.1	74.7	73.9	59.7	68.8	50.0	53.7	60.8	58.0	70.5	68.8	64.7	66.0
+RS-ADV	81.9	64.9	68.3	<b>71.7</b>	66.5	74.4	<b>74.5</b>	59.6	68.8	48.8	50.6	61.7	<b>59.2</b>	70.0	69.4	64.9	66.0
+RS-RP	<b>82.6</b>	65.4	68.7	70.5	67.2	<b>75.0</b>	74.1	59.8	69.5	48.4	50.5	59.7	57.9	70.5	69.7	64.8	66.0
+SALT	82.4	<u>65.9</u>	<u>69.6</u>	70.4	<u>67.8</u>	<u>75.0</u>	<u>74.5</u>	<u>61.1</u>	<u>69.6</u>	<u>50.6</u>	53.5	<u>62.0</u>	58.9	<u>70.9</u>	<u>69.8</u>	<u>65.7</u>	<u>66.8</u>
<i>with external data (not directly comparable to our approach)</i>																	
+RS-DA	81.0	66.4	69.9	71.8	68.0	74.7	74.2	62.7	70.6	51.1	55.7	62.9	60.9	71.8	71.4	66.6	67.6
+CoSDA-ML	82.9	68.0	72.7	74.1	70.9	76.9	76.7	65.5	73.2	51.0	59.8	63.9	62.3	73.6	73.8	68.7	69.7

Table 1: Average accuracy of zero-shot cross-lingual transfer on XNLI with 5 different random seeds. We provide detailed results of 15 languages and their average (w/ and w/o English). The highest scores are in bold. Significant improvements in comparison with mBERT baseline by t-test ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) are underlined. We also provide results of methods with external data as the referenced upper bound. \* We reproduce mBERT with our code base. Other baseline results are from previous papers.

to these augmented samples where the interpolation coefficient vector  $r$  is dynamically sampled in each step of training for each instance. While both self-augmentation techniques automatically switch and perturb the original training samples towards the target language(s), the labels on those training samples remain unchanged. Hence, the final task model is trained directly on the self-augmented training samples by optimizing the original learning objective of the task. This allows for robust zero-shot transfer of the task model by using only monolingual training data in the source language.

### 3 Experiment

In this section, we evaluate SALT to demonstrate that self-augmentation methods improve zero-shot cross-lingual transfer.

#### 3.1 Setup

Following Huang et al. (2021), we consider two cross-lingual datasets. XNLI is a natural language inference (NLI) dataset, including premise-hypothesis pairs in 15 languages labeled as entailment/neutral/contradiction. PAWS-X is a paraphrase identification dataset, including sentence pairs in six languages with binary labels. On both datasets, we train and validate models with English data, and test them with data in all languages. We report the average accuracy of five-run experiment.

**Baseline.** We compare SALT with two SOTA zero-shot cross-lingual transfer methods without any external data. RS-ADV and RS-RP (Huang et al., 2021) enhance transferability by respectively adding adversarial and random embedding pertur-

bation during task training on English data. We also provide results of three methods that use external data. RS-DA (Huang et al., 2021) augments training data by replacing words with predefined synonyms (Alzantot et al., 2018). CoSDA-ML (Qin et al., 2020) creates code-switching data with bilingual dictionaries. SCOPA (Lee et al., 2021) extends CoSDA-ML by mixing the hidden states of original and code-switched data with a fixed ratio.

**Implementation Details.** We evaluate the proposed method based on mBERT. For both sentence pair classification tasks, self-augmentation is conducted separately on each sentence. We augment one code-switched instance per language (including English, French, Spanish, and German) for each original instance. For other hyper-parameters, we follow the training scripts by Huang et al. (2021). More details are in Appx. §A.

#### 3.2 Results

Tab. 1 shows the results on XNLI, where we observe that previous methods without external data have a positive influence on a few languages but have a negative influence on other languages. Their average improvement is however lesser in comparison to SALT which leads to an average improvement in accuracy by 1% as well as significant improvements in 9 out of 15 languages over mBERT. Our method also outperforms other baselines by at least 0.8% in terms of average accuracy (both w/ and w/o en). The results indicate that the model can benefit from cross-lingual knowledge distilled from itself. Moreover, augmenting the data to three target languages can bring improvements to all 14 target languages. For example, the

Model	en	de	es	fr	ja	ko	zh	avg.	w/ en
<i>without external data</i>									
mBERT	94.0	85.7	87.4	87.0	73.0	69.6	77.0	80.0	82.0
mBERT*	93.9	84.5	87.9	87.2	74.2	76.1	79.8	81.6	83.4
+RS-ADV	93.7	86.5	88.5	87.8	76.1	75.3	80.4	82.4	84.0
+RS-RP	<b>94.5</b>	87.4	<b>90.0</b>	<b>89.5</b>	77.9	<b>77.5</b>	<b>82.0</b>	<b>84.1</b>	<b>85.5</b>
+SALT	94.2	<b>87.9</b>	89.9	89.1	<b>78.6</b>	77.4	81.8	<b>84.1</b>	<b>85.5</b>
<i>with external data (not directly comparable to our approach)</i>									
+RS-DA	93.5	87.8	88.8	88.8	79.3	78.3	81.5	84.1	85.4
+CoSDA-ML	-	87.3	90.0	89.6	79.4	79.5	83.0	84.8	-
+SCOPA	-	88.6	90.3	89.7	81.5	80.1	84.1	85.7	-

Table 2: Average accuracy of zero-shot cross-lingual transfer on PAWS-X.

Model	avg.	avg. (incl. en)
SALT	<b>84.1</b>	<b>85.5</b>
- en-only	83.4	84.8
- w/o mixup	83.3	84.7
mBERT	81.6	83.4

Table 3: Ablation study on PAWS-X test set. *en-only* indicates only substitute original tokens to other English tokens. *w/o mixup* means embedding mixup is not used.

improvements on ar, bg, el, hi, tr and zh are 1.2%, 2.6%, 1.7%, 1.4%, 1.2% and 1.0%. Experiment on PAWS-X also shows that SALT can improve model performance in comparison with the vanilla setting (Tab. 2). However, RS-RP is also effective on this task and achieves comparable results. Considering that NLI requires inferring the logical consequence that can be dependent on various components of the two sentences, this complex reasoning process benefits more from the robust training of SALT. On the other hand, as a simpler task based on sentence similarity, paraphrase identification can be sufficiently improved based on random perturbation.

**Generalized Setting.** We further evaluate SALT in a generalized setting (Lewis et al., 2020; Huang et al., 2021) on XNLI. The new setting pairs up sentences from two different languages as the premise and the hypothesis, converting the original test data from 15 languages to 225 language pairs. SALT achieves 0.5% of improvement over the best baseline and 2.2% over the vanilla PLM in average. Full results on all language pairs are in Appx. §B. Despite the vocabulary gap between training and inference for baselines, SALT reduces this gap by code-switching and mixup.

**Ablation Study.** To further investigate the incorporated techniques in SALT, we conduct an ablation

study on PAWS-X as shown in Tab. 3. Offline code-switching solely improves the average accuracy by 1.7%, while online embedding mixup further improves it by 0.8%. We also evaluate the influence of involved target languages in SALT. Code-switching with only English synonyms distilled from PLMs can bring an improvement of 1.8%, while involving three target languages further improves the performance by 0.7%.

## 4 Related Work

Zero-shot cross-lingual transfer has become an emerging research topic since it potentially reduces the effort of collecting labeled data for low-resource languages (Ahmad et al., 2019; Hu et al., 2020; Dufter and Schütze, 2020; Ruder et al., 2021; Chai et al., 2022; Huang et al., 2022). Earlier works directly apply multilingual PLMs, such as multilingual BERT (Devlin et al., 2019), XLM (Conneau and Lample, 2019), and XLM-R (Conneau et al., 2020a), and achieve surprisingly well performance on this setting. Recently, the performance is further improved with additional auxiliary data, such as parallel translation pairs (Chi et al., 2021; Wei et al., 2021; Yang et al., 2022; Feng et al., 2022), bilingual dictionaries (Cao et al., 2020; Qin et al., 2020; Liu et al., 2020b; Krishnan et al., 2021; Lee et al., 2021), and syntactic features (Subburathinam et al., 2019; Meng et al., 2019; Ahmad et al., 2021a,b).

Our work aligns more with another line of research that studies zero-shot cross-lingual transfer *without* using additional annotations. This includes unsupervised embedding alignment (Artetxe et al., 2020; Conneau et al., 2020b), robust training (Huang et al., 2021), and meta-learning (Nooralahzadeh et al., 2020). Our idea is motivated



by the self-augmentation techniques (Feng et al., 2021; Xu et al., 2021) that are mostly explored for monolingual tasks, and the mixup techniques (Zhang et al., 2018; Lee et al., 2021; Yang et al., 2022) which seeks to smooth the embedding space.

## 5 Conclusion

In this paper, we propose SALT, a self-augmentation method for zero-shot cross-lingual transfer of PLMs. SALT distills cross-lingual knowledge from PLMs and incorporates them into task training data through an offline code-switching technique, and an online embedding mixup technique to improve transferability with a smoothed representation space. Experiments and analyses based on XNLI and PAWS-X demonstrate promising improvement to SALT in terms of cross-lingual transfer without using external data.

## Acknowledgement

We appreciate the reviewers for their insightful comments and suggestions. Fei Wang was supported by the Annenberg Fellowship at USC and the Amazon ML Fellowship. Muhao Chen was supported by the NSF Grants IIS 2105329 and ITE 2333736, by the Air Force Research Laboratory under agreement number FA8750-20-2-10002, by two Amazon Research Awards and a Cisco Research Award. Computing of this work was partly supported by a subaward of NSF Cloudbank 1925001 through UCSD.

## Limitations

In this study, we adopt a fixed threshold to select tokens for code-switching. However, the optimal thresholds for different languages and instances can vary. Future research can develop efficient search algorithm to optimize the thresholds. While we have limited the proposed technique to discriminative natural language understanding tasks, future research can extend the proposed technique to generative multilingual PLMs, such as mT5 (Xue et al., 2021) and mBART (Liu et al., 2020a), on text generation tasks (Duan et al., 2019; Chen et al., 2021). Furthermore, we have opted for English as the source language. However, extending the application of SALT to other source languages could enhance the comprehensiveness of this study.

## References

- Wasi Ahmad, Zhisong Zhang, Xuezhe Ma, Eduard Hovy, Kai-Wei Chang, and Nanyun Peng. 2019. On difficulties of cross-lingual transfer with order differences: A case study on dependency parsing. In *Proceedings of the 2019 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies, Volume 1 (Long and Short Papers)*, pages 2440–2452.
- Wasi Uddin Ahmad, Haoran Li, Kai-Wei Chang, and Yashar Mehdad. 2021a. Syntax-augmented multilingual BERT for cross-lingual transfer. In *Proceedings of the 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*.
- Wasi Uddin Ahmad, Nanyun Peng, and Kai-Wei Chang. 2021b. GATE: graph attention transformer encoder for cross-lingual relation and event extraction. In *Thirty-Fifth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*.
- Moustafa Alzantot, Yash Sharma, Ahmed Elgohary, Bo-Jhang Ho, Mani Srivastava, and Kai-Wei Chang. 2018. [Generating natural language adversarial examples](#). In *Proceedings of the 2018 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, pages 2890–2896, Brussels, Belgium. Association for Computational Linguistics.
- Mikel Artetxe, Sebastian Ruder, and Dani Yogatama. 2020. On the cross-lingual transferability of monolingual representations. In *Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*.
- Mikel Artetxe and Holger Schwenk. 2019. Massively multilingual sentence embeddings for zero-shot cross-lingual transfer and beyond. *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 7:597–610.
- Steven Cao, Nikita Kitaev, and Dan Klein. 2020. Multilingual alignment of contextual word representations. In *8th International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*.
- Yuan Chai, Yaobo Liang, and Nan Duan. 2022. Cross-lingual ability of multilingual masked language models: A study of language structure. In *Proceedings of the 60th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*.
- Ilias Chalkidis, Manos Fergadiotis, and Ion Androutsopoulos. 2021. Multieurlex-a multi-lingual and multi-label legal document classification dataset for zero-shot cross-lingual transfer. In *Proceedings of the 2021 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, pages 6974–6996.
- Guanhua Chen, Shuming Ma, Yun Chen, Li Dong, Dongdong Zhang, Jia Pan, Wenping Wang, and Furu Wei. 2021. Zero-shot cross-lingual transfer of neural machine translation with multilingual pretrained encoders. In *Proceedings of the 2021 Conference on*

- Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, pages 15–26.
- Zewen Chi, Li Dong, Furu Wei, Nan Yang, Saksham Singhal, Wenhui Wang, Xia Song, Xian-Ling Mao, Heyan Huang, and Ming Zhou. 2021. Infoxlm: An information-theoretic framework for cross-lingual language model pre-training. In *Proceedings of the 2021 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies (NAACL-HLT)*.
- Alexis Conneau, Kartikay Khandelwal, Naman Goyal, Vishrav Chaudhary, Guillaume Wenzek, Francisco Guzmán, Édouard Grave, Myle Ott, Luke Zettlemoyer, and Veselin Stoyanov. 2020a. Unsupervised cross-lingual representation learning at scale. In *Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, pages 8440–8451.
- Alexis Conneau and Guillaume Lample. 2019. Cross-lingual language model pretraining. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 32: Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems 2019 (NeurIPS)*.
- Alexis Conneau, Shijie Wu, Haoran Li, Luke Zettlemoyer, and Veselin Stoyanov. 2020b. Emerging cross-lingual structure in pretrained language models. In *Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*.
- Jacob Devlin, Ming-Wei Chang, Kenton Lee, and Kristina Toutanova. 2019. BERT: pre-training of deep bidirectional transformers for language understanding. In *Proceedings of the 2019 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies (NAACL-HLT)*.
- Xiangyu Duan, Mingming Yin, Min Zhang, Boxing Chen, and Weihua Luo. 2019. Zero-shot cross-lingual abstractive sentence summarization through teaching generation and attention. In *Proceedings of the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, pages 3162–3172.
- Philipp Dufter and Hinrich Schütze. 2020. Identifying necessary elements for bert’s multilinguality. In *Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*.
- Fangxiaoyu Feng, Yinfei Yang, Daniel Cer, Naveen Arivazhagan, and Wei Wang. 2022. Language-agnostic BERT sentence embedding. In *Proceedings of the 60th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*.
- Steven Y. Feng, Varun Gangal, Jason Wei, Sarath Chandar, Soroush Vosoughi, Teruko Mitamura, and Eduard H. Hovy. 2021. A survey of data augmentation approaches for NLP. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL-Findings)*.
- Hongyu Guo, Yongyi Mao, and Richong Zhang. 2019. Augmenting data with mixup for sentence classification: An empirical study. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1905.08941*.
- Junjie Hu, Sebastian Ruder, Aditya Siddhant, Graham Neubig, Orhan Firat, and Melvin Johnson. 2020. XTREME: A massively multilingual multi-task benchmark for evaluating cross-lingual generalisation. In *Proceedings of the 37th International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*.
- Kuan-Hao Huang, Wasi Ahmad, Nanyun Peng, and Kai-Wei Chang. 2021. Improving zero-shot cross-lingual transfer learning via robust training. In *Proceedings of the 2021 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, pages 1684–1697.
- Kuan-Hao Huang, I-Hung Hsu, Prem Natarajan, Kai-Wei Chang, and Nanyun Peng. 2022. Multilingual generative language models for zero-shot cross-lingual event argument extraction. In *Proceedings of the 60th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*.
- Jitin Krishnan, Antonios Anastasopoulos, Hemant Purohit, and Huzefa Rangwala. 2021. Multilingual code-switching for zero-shot cross-lingual intent prediction and slot filling. In *Proceedings of the 1st Workshop on Multilingual Representation Learning*, pages 211–223.
- Dohyeon Lee, Jaeseong Lee, Gyewon Lee, Byung-gon Chun, and Seung-won Hwang. 2021. Scopa: Soft code-switching and pairwise alignment for zero-shot cross-lingual transfer. In *Proceedings of the 30th ACM International Conference on Information & Knowledge Management*, pages 3176–3180.
- Patrick S. H. Lewis, Barlas Oguz, Ruty Rinott, Sebastian Riedel, and Holger Schwenk. 2020. MLQA: evaluating cross-lingual extractive question answering. In *Proceedings of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*.
- Yinhan Liu, Jiatao Gu, Naman Goyal, Xian Li, Sergey Edunov, Marjan Ghazvininejad, Mike Lewis, and Luke Zettlemoyer. 2020a. Multilingual denoising pre-training for neural machine translation. *Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, 8:726–742.
- Zihan Liu, Genta Indra Winata, Zhaojiang Lin, Peng Xu, and Pascale Fung. 2020b. Attention-informed mixed-language training for zero-shot cross-lingual task-oriented dialogue systems. In *The Thirty-Fourth AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*.
- Zihan Liu, Genta Indra Winata, Andrea Madotto, and Pascale Fung. 2021. Preserving cross-linguality of pre-trained models via continual learning. In *Proceedings of the 6th Workshop on Representation Learning for NLP (ReplANLP-2021)*, pages 64–71.

- Xuezhe Ma and Fei Xia. 2014. Unsupervised dependency parsing with transferring distribution via parallel guidance and entropy regularization. In *Proceedings of the 52nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Volume 1: Long Papers)*, pages 1337–1348.
- Tao Meng, Nanyun Peng, and Kai-Wei Chang. 2019. Target language-aware constrained inference for cross-lingual dependency parsing. In *Proceedings of the 2019 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing and the 9th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (EMNLP-IJCNLP)*.
- Farhad Nooralahzadeh, Giannis Bekoulis, Johannes Bjerva, and Isabelle Augenstein. 2020. Zero-shot cross-lingual transfer with meta learning. In *Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*.
- Telmo Pires, Eva Schlinger, and Dan Garrette. 2019. How multilingual is multilingual bert? In *Proceedings of the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, pages 4996–5001.
- Libo Qin, Minheng Ni, Yue Zhang, and Wanxiang Che. 2020. Cosda-ml: multi-lingual code-switching data augmentation for zero-shot cross-lingual nlp. In *Proceedings of the Twenty-Ninth International Conference on International Joint Conferences on Artificial Intelligence*, pages 3853–3860.
- Sebastian Ruder, Noah Constant, Jan Botha, Aditya Siddhant, Orhan Firat, Jinlan Fu, Pengfei Liu, Junjie Hu, Dan Garrette, Graham Neubig, and Melvin Johnson. 2021. XTREME-R: towards more challenging and nuanced multilingual evaluation. In *Proceedings of the 2021 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*.
- Ananya Subburathinam, Di Lu, Heng Ji, Jonathan May, Shih-Fu Chang, Avirup Sil, and Clare R. Voss. 2019. Cross-lingual structure transfer for relation and event extraction. In *Proceedings of the 2019 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing and the 9th International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing (EMNLP-IJCNLP)*.
- Xiangpeng Wei, Yue Hu, Rongxiang Weng, Luxi Xing, Heng Yu, and Weihua Luo. 2021. On learning universal representations across languages. In *9th International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*.
- Thomas Wolf, Lysandre Debut, Victor Sanh, Julien Chaumond, Clement Delangue, Anthony Moi, Pierric Cistac, Tim Rault, Rémi Louf, Morgan Funtowicz, et al. 2019. Huggingface’s transformers: State-of-the-art natural language processing. *arXiv preprint arXiv:1910.03771*.
- Yifei Xu, Jingqiao Zhang, Ru He, Liangzhu Ge, Chao Yang, Cheng Yang, and Ying Nian Wu. 2021. Sas: Self-augmented strategy for language model pre-training. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2106.07176*.
- Linting Xue, Noah Constant, Adam Roberts, Mihir Kale, Rami Al-Rfou, Aditya Siddhant, Aditya Barua, and Colin Raffel. 2021. mt5: A massively multilingual pre-trained text-to-text transformer. In *Proceedings of the 2021 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies*, pages 483–498.
- Huiyun Yang, Huadong Chen, Hao Zhou, and Lei Li. 2022. Enhancing cross-lingual transfer by manifold mixup. In *10th International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*.
- Hongyi Zhang, Moustapha Cisse, Yann N Dauphin, and David Lopez-Paz. 2018. mixup: Beyond empirical risk minimization. In *International Conference on Learning Representations*.

## A Implementation Details

We implement our model based on Huggingface Transformers (Wolf et al., 2019). We apply the uncased base version of mBERT model consisting of 110M parameters. We set the probability threshold for token substitution to 1e-3 for English synonym replacement and 1e-7 for code-switching in other languages. We run experiments with a NVIDIA GeForce RTX 2080 GPU. It takes about 1 hour for training on PAWS-X and 5 hours on XNLI.

## B Results of Generalized Setting

Results for SALT, RS-RP and vanilla mBERT on XNLI under generalized setting are shown in Tab. 4, Tab. 5 and Tab. 6 respectively. Baseline results of RS-RP and vanilla mBERT are copied from Huang et al. (2021).

	en	es	de	fr	bg	ru	el	th	sw	vi	ar	zh	hi	ur	tr	avg.
en	82.9	73.2	67.5	72.3	66.5	67.4	60.7	46.6	40.4	67.4	62.1	68.7	56.9	53.6	55.2	62.8
es	74.9	75.4	64.6	70.7	64.4	66.1	61.1	44.9	39.7	64.6	61.0	63.8	55.0	50.2	54.3	60.7
de	72.9	68.9	70.0	68.0	63.9	66.3	59.4	45.1	40.3	63.5	60.5	62.7	56.8	54.2	55.1	60.5
fr	75.9	72.2	66.0	74.3	64.2	65.3	60.6	45.5	39.7	65.2	62.0	64.5	55.4	52.0	54.7	61.2
bg	69.8	66.0	61.6	64.2	69.6	66.5	59.3	45.5	38.9	60.2	60.2	60.4	54.8	50.6	53.0	58.7
ru	70.6	67.0	63.3	65.4	65.0	69.8	58.2	44.2	38.7	61.6	59.9	61.1	54.3	50.1	52.9	58.8
el	64.9	63.7	59.1	62.2	60.3	60.5	67.9	45.6	40.2	59.4	59.0	56.3	53.0	49.8	52.1	56.9
th	55.0	52.9	49.8	52.0	51.5	51.7	50.8	53.5	37.9	53.2	52.5	51.1	48.4	47.1	46.0	50.2
sw	54.2	52.6	48.9	50.5	49.9	49.5	49.2	42.6	50.3	49.9	50.8	49.7	47.5	47.1	47.2	49.3
vi	69.8	63.3	59.2	63.1	58.2	61.1	57.0	46.3	38.5	71.0	57.3	64.8	52.9	49.1	49.2	57.4
ar	65.7	62.6	57.6	61.4	59.2	59.9	57.1	45.5	39.2	59.3	66.3	58.0	54.1	51.5	51.9	56.6
zh	69.8	62.5	58.4	61.7	57.7	59.5	53.1	43.9	38.3	63.0	57.0	70.3	50.8	48.0	49.4	56.2
hi	62.2	57.8	56.4	57.4	56.5	57.5	54.9	45.4	38.7	56.5	56.3	56.4	61.9	55.6	52.0	55.0
ur	61.0	54.6	54.3	56.6	52.9	55.1	51.2	43.6	38.9	54.0	55.3	54.3	57.2	58.9	50.1	53.2
tr	62.2	57.8	56.0	56.8	56.3	55.5	54.2	43.7	39.9	55.4	55.4	55.7	54.0	51.4	62.2	54.4
avg.	67.5	63.4	59.5	62.4	59.7	60.8	57.0	45.5	40.0	60.3	58.4	59.8	54.2	51.3	52.3	56.8

Table 4: Results for SALT on XNLI.

	en	es	de	fr	bg	ru	el	th	sw	vi	ar	zh	hi	ur	tr	avg.
en	82.6	71.2	65.9	70.3	62.0	65.7	57.0	44.1	40.9	64.1	58.9	65.7	52.8	49.2	51.2	60.1
es	74.9	75.0	65.4	71.2	63.0	65.6	59.5	44.5	40.8	62.9	60.1	62.6	52.5	48.7	51.7	59.9
de	72.6	68.0	70.5	67.4	61.7	64.9	58.0	44.4	41.4	61.0	58.8	61.4	53.6	50.4	52.2	59.1
fr	74.7	71.6	65.2	74.1	62.1	64.8	58.4	44.4	40.8	62.7	59.5	62.4	52.7	48.9	51.7	59.6
bg	68.5	66.0	62.9	65.1	68.7	66.8	59.4	45.1	41.1	59.7	59.4	59.7	53.5	49.6	51.8	58.5
ru	69.9	67.1	63.5	65.9	65.0	69.5	58.2	44.7	40.9	60.8	59.2	60.6	53.1	49.5	51.5	58.6
el	63.9	63.3	59.3	62.0	59.8	61.0	67.2	44.7	41.3	57.3	57.7	55.7	51.4	48.2	50.7	56.2
th	56.4	54.1	51.7	53.3	51.9	52.9	51.0	50.5	40.1	52.5	51.8	51.3	48.2	46.3	46.8	50.6
sw	54.1	52.3	49.6	50.9	49.1	49.7	48.6	41.8	48.4	48.7	49.8	48.1	45.4	44.5	47.1	48.6
vi	69.9	65.0	60.5	64.1	58.6	61.8	56.0	45.1	40.4	70.5	57.4	63.4	51.5	48.0	49.1	57.4
ar	64.9	62.8	58.7	61.7	58.7	60.7	56.3	44.7	41.1	58.1	65.4	57.1	52.2	49.6	50.3	56.1
zh	71.1	64.8	60.8	64.1	59.0	61.6	53.9	43.5	40.8	63.0	56.8	69.7	50.9	47.8	49.7	57.2
hi	62.2	58.9	56.7	57.9	56.5	58.3	54.3	44.5	40.8	55.3	55.8	55.3	59.8	54.2	50.4	54.7
ur	61.2	56.7	56.1	57.3	54.4	57.0	53.2	43.7	40.8	54.1	56.3	54.6	56.9	57.9	49.9	54.0
tr	62.4	59.2	57.0	58.6	56.7	57.9	54.2	43.7	40.9	54.8	55.1	54.9	52.2	48.8	59.7	54.4
avg.	67.3	63.7	60.3	62.9	59.1	61.2	56.4	44.6	41.4	59.0	57.5	58.8	52.4	49.4	50.9	56.3

Table 5: Results for RS-RP on XNLI.



	en	es	de	fr	bg	ru	el	th	sw	vi	ar	zh	hi	ur	tr	avg.
en	82.3	70.3	65.8	69.7	60.5	63.1	55.3	44.6	41.1	63.9	57.7	64.6	52.0	49.5	52.3	59.5
es	73.5	74.3	62.9	69.0	60.5	63.7	57.3	44.6	40.6	61.4	57.9	60.8	50.4	47.1	51.6	58.4
de	71.8	65.5	70.8	65.6	59.5	63.3	55.8	44.3	41.0	60.2	56.5	60.1	52.5	49.4	52.0	57.9
fr	73.6	69.0	64.0	73.8	59.5	63.1	55.7	44.1	40.5	62.2	57.3	61.6	51.1	48.5	51.8	58.4
bg	67.8	63.7	60.8	62.5	68.2	64.2	56.0	44.2	39.9	57.4	56.3	57.8	51.2	47.2	50.3	56.5
ru	69.1	65.2	62.6	64.4	62.7	68.7	55.0	44.2	39.9	59.0	56.7	58.6	50.6	46.8	50.0	56.9
el	62.7	61.4	58.0	60.2	57.1	57.7	66.4	44.4	40.5	56.4	55.6	54.0	49.6	46.8	50.7	54.8
th	54.8	52.0	49.9	51.3	49.1	50.4	49.0	53.0	39.4	51.1	49.9	49.3	45.9	44.8	45.4	49.0
sw	54.2	51.2	48.7	50.5	47.2	47.9	47.9	41.8	50.0	48.5	49.1	48.5	45.4	44.4	45.8	48.1
vi	67.4	60.3	57.4	61.2	52.9	57.1	52.9	44.2	39.8	70.3	53.3	62.0	49.2	45.9	47.5	54.8
ar	63.9	60.4	57.0	59.5	54.5	57.1	53.3	43.9	40.4	55.4	64.8	55.2	50.3	48.4	49.9	54.3
zh	67.9	59.9	57.2	59.9	53.4	56.5	50.4	42.7	39.6	60.8	53.5	69.2	48.0	45.7	48.0	54.2
hi	61.4	55.5	55.0	55.3	52.6	54.4	51.9	43.8	40.3	53.8	53.1	53.7	59.7	52.7	49.9	52.9
ur	60.1	54.0	53.9	55.1	48.8	51.5	49.6	41.9	39.7	50.0	52.1	52.3	54.4	57.7	48.2	51.3
tr	61.0	55.1	53.6	55.1	52.0	52.6	50.9	42.4	40.7	52.3	52.0	53.2	49.7	47.3	60.9	51.9
avg.	66.1	61.2	58.5	60.9	55.9	58.1	53.8	44.3	40.9	57.5	55.1	57.4	50.7	48.1	50.3	54.6

Table 6: Results for mBERT on XNLI.