

BERT-ATTACK: Adversarial Attack Against BERT Using BERT

EMNLP 2020 Long Paper

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- Adversarial **Attack** in NLP

Major Problem : Discrete Nature : Cannot Use Gradients;

Solution : Substitution-Based

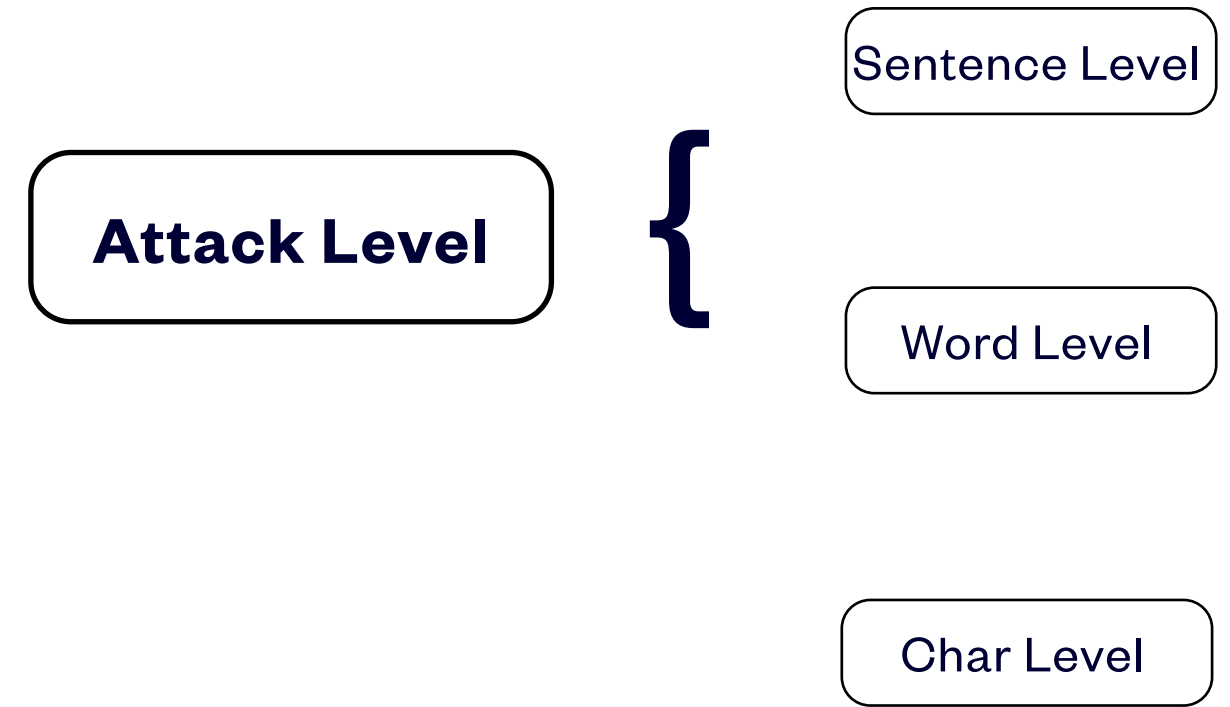
| | | |
|-------------|--|----------|
| IMDB | Ori it is hard for a lover of the novel northanger abbey to sit through this bbc adaptation and to keep from throwing objects at the tv screen... why are so many facts concerning the tilney family and mrs . tilney ' s death altered unnecessarily ? to make the story more ' horrible ? ' | Negative |
| | Adv it is hard for a lover of the novel northanger abbey to sit through this bbc adaptation and to keep from throwing objects at the tv screen... why are so many facts concerning the tilney family and mrs . tilney ' s death altered unnecessarily ? to make the plot more ' horrible ? ' | Positive |

SNLI (Entailment (ENT), Neutral (NEU), Contradiction (CON))

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Premise | Two small boys in blue soccer uniforms use a wooden set of steps to wash their hands. |
| Original (Label: CON) | The boys are in band <i>uniforms</i> . |
| Adversary (Label: ENT) | The boys are in band <i>garment</i> . |
| Premise | A child with wet hair is holding a butterfly decorated beach ball. |
| Original (Label: NEU) | The <i>child</i> is at the <i>beach</i> . |
| Adversary (Label: ENT) | The <i>youngster</i> is at the <i>shore</i> . |

Current Methods Summary

- Substitutes-Constraints:
 - (1) similar in semantic/grammar/fluency ;
 - (2) harmful to NN ;
- Traditional Method:
 - Two-Step Algorithm:
 - (1) Find places to perturb;
 - (2) Replace with similar substitutes;



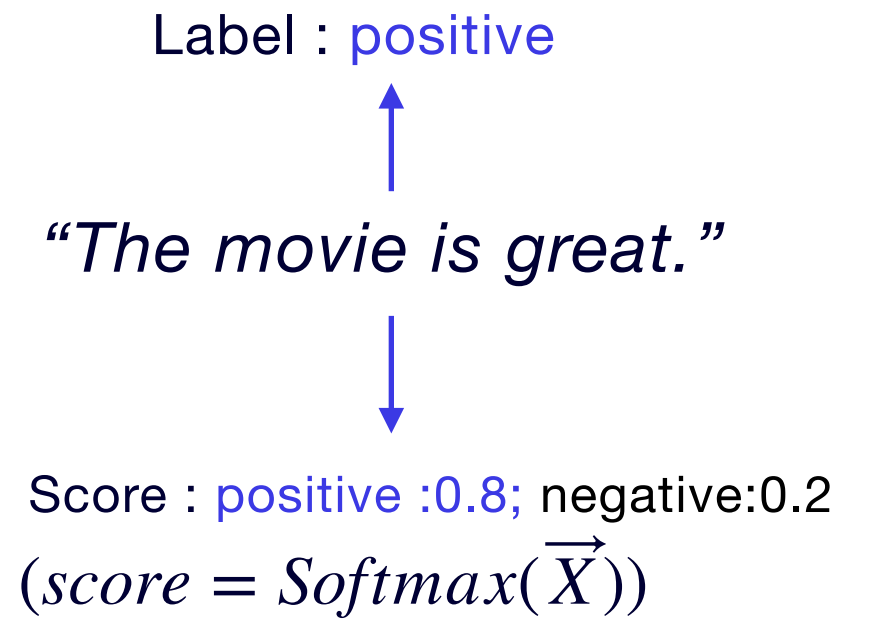
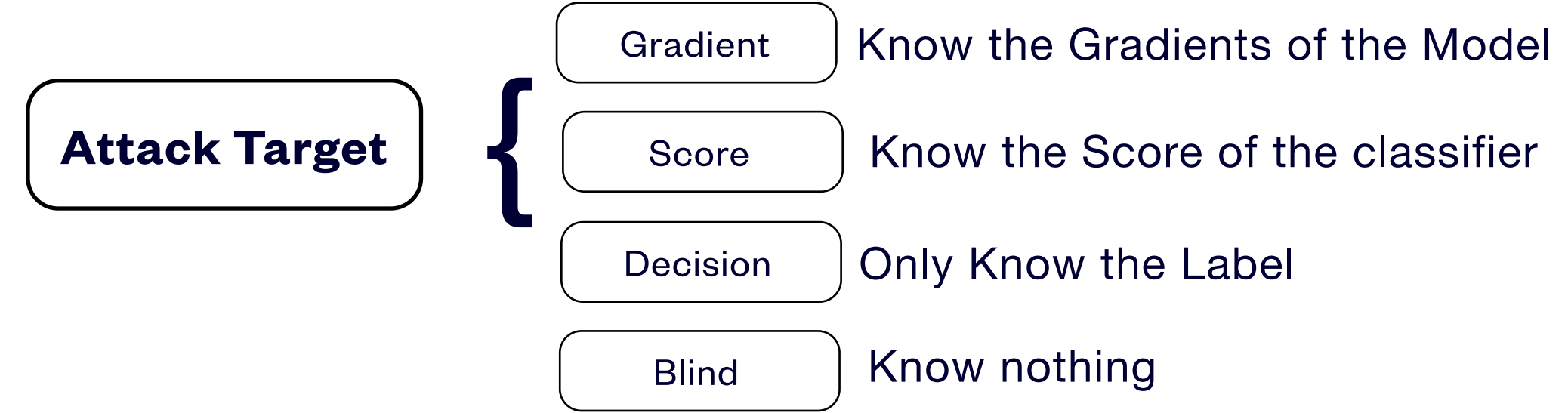
| |
|---|
| Context: ... commentators had debated whether the figure could be reached as the growth in subscriber numbers elsewhere in Europe flattened. |
| Original Question: What was happening to subscriber numbers in other areas of Europe? Prediction: flattened |
| Paraphrased Question: What was going on with subscriber numbers in other areas of Europe? Prediction: growth |

(Sentence-Paraphrase)

South Africa's historic Soweto township marks its 100th birthday on Tuesday in a mood of optimism.
57% World

South Africa's historic Soweto township marks its 100th birthday on Tuesday in a mood of optimism.
95% Sci/Tech

(Character change)



Our work: BERT Attack

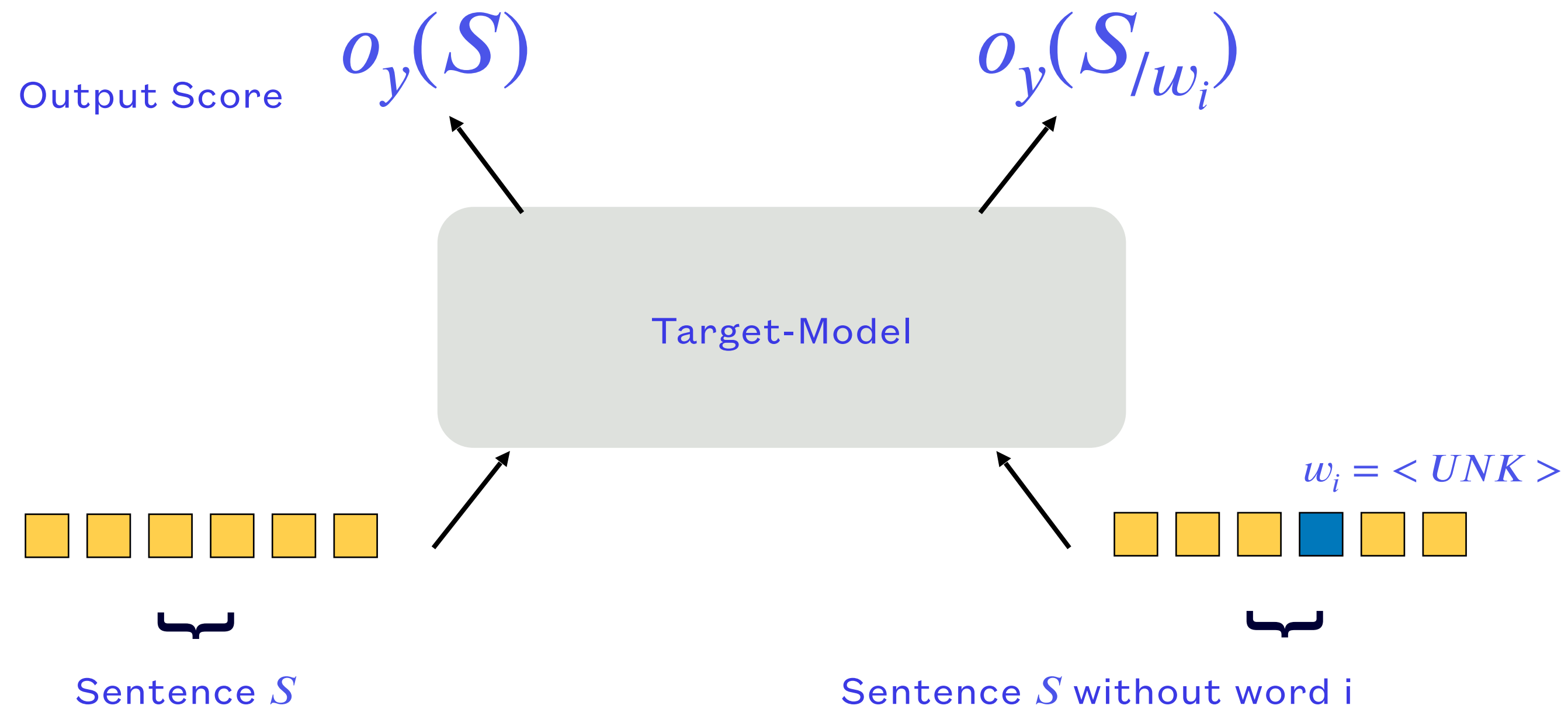
- Major Problem of Substitution-based methods:
 - (1): Substitutes are synonyms → not context-aware
 - (2): Apply Language Models/POS-checking to constrain the perturbations → inefficient

 - Motivation of using Pre-trained Masked-Language Model in Adversarial Attack:
 - Fine-tuned Model → strong target model ;
 - MLM → strong LM (substitute generator)
-

Method of BERT-Attack

- two-steps : (1) finding vulnerable words

Importance of Word: $I_{w_i} = o_y(S) - o_y(S \setminus w_i),$



Method of BERT-Attack

- two-steps : (2) using BERT-MLM to generate candidates

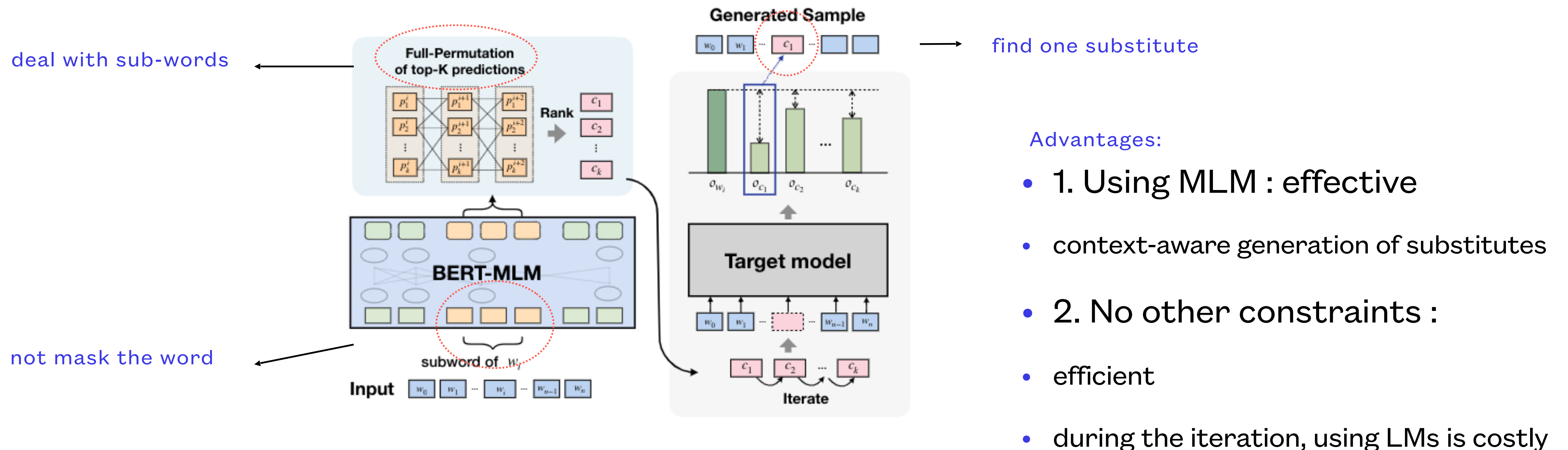


Figure 1: One step of our replacement strategy.

Experiment Result

| Dataset | Method | Original Acc | Attacked Acc | Perturb % | Query Number | Avg Len | Semantic Sim |
|---------|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|---------|-------------------|
| Fake | BERT-Attack(ours) | 97.8 | 15.5 | 1.1 | 1558 | 885 | 0.81 |
| | TextFooler(Jin et al., 2019) | | 19.3 | 11.7 | 4403 | | 0.76 |
| | GA(Alzantot et al., 2018) | | 58.3 | 1.1 | 28508 | | - |
| Yelp | BERT-Attack(ours) | 95.6 | 5.1 | 4.1 | 273 | 157 | 0.77 |
| | TextFooler | | 6.6 | 12.8 | 743 | | 0.74 |
| | GA | | 31.0 | 10.1 | 6137 | | - |
| IMDB | BERT-Attack(ours) | 90.9 | 11.4 | 4.4 | 454 | 215 | 0.86 |
| | TextFooler | | 13.6 | 6.1 | 1134 | | 0.86 |
| | GA | | 45.7 | 4.9 | 6493 | | - |
| AG | BERT-Attack(ours) | 94.2 | 10.6 | 15.4 | 213 | 43 | 0.63 |
| | TextFooler | | 12.5 | 22.0 | 357 | | 0.57 |
| | GA | | 51 | 16.9 | 3495 | | - |
| SNLI | BERT-Attack(ours) | 89.4(H/P) | 7.4/16.1 | 12.4/9.3 | 16/30 | 8/18 | 0.40/ 0.55 |
| | TextFooler | | 4.0/20.8 | 18.5/33.4 | 60/142 | | 0.45/0.54 |
| | GA | | 14.7/- | 20.8/- | 613/- | | - |

Experiment Result

| | Dataset | Accuracy | Semantic | Grammar |
|-------------|-------------|----------|----------|---------|
| MNLI | Original | 0.90 | 3.9 | 4.0 |
| | Adversarial | 0.70 | 3.7 | 3.6 |
| IMDB | Original | 0.91 | 4.1 | 3.9 |
| | Adversarial | 0.85 | 3.9 | 3.7 |

Table 2: Human-Evaluation Results.

| Dataset | Model | Ori Acc | Atk Acc | Perturb % |
|------------------------|------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| IMDB | Word-LSTM | 89.8 | 10.2 | 2.7 |
| | BERT-Large | 98.2 | 12.4 | 2.9 |
| Yelp | Word-LSTM | 96.0 | 1.1 | 4.7 |
| | BERT-Large | 97.9 | 8.2 | 4.1 |
| MNLI matched | ESIM | 76.2 | 9.6 | 21.7 |
| | BERT-Large | 86.4 | 13.2 | 7.4 |

Table 3: BERT-Attack against other models.

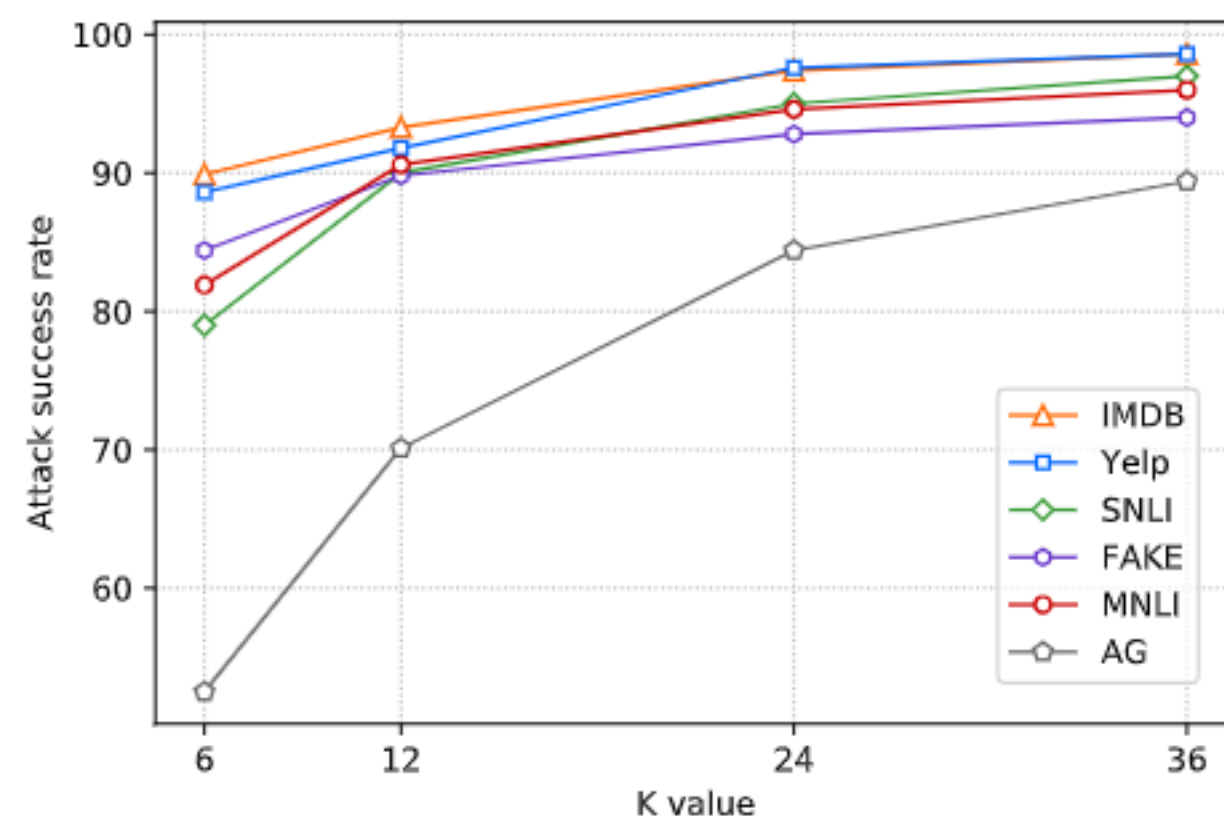


Figure 2: Using different candidate number K in the attacking process.

| Dataset | Method | Ori Acc | Atk Acc | Perturb % |
|------------------------|------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| MNLI matched | BERT-Atk | 85.1 | 7.9 | 8.8 |
| | +Adv Train | 84.6 | 23.1 | 10.5 |

Table 5: Adversarial training results.

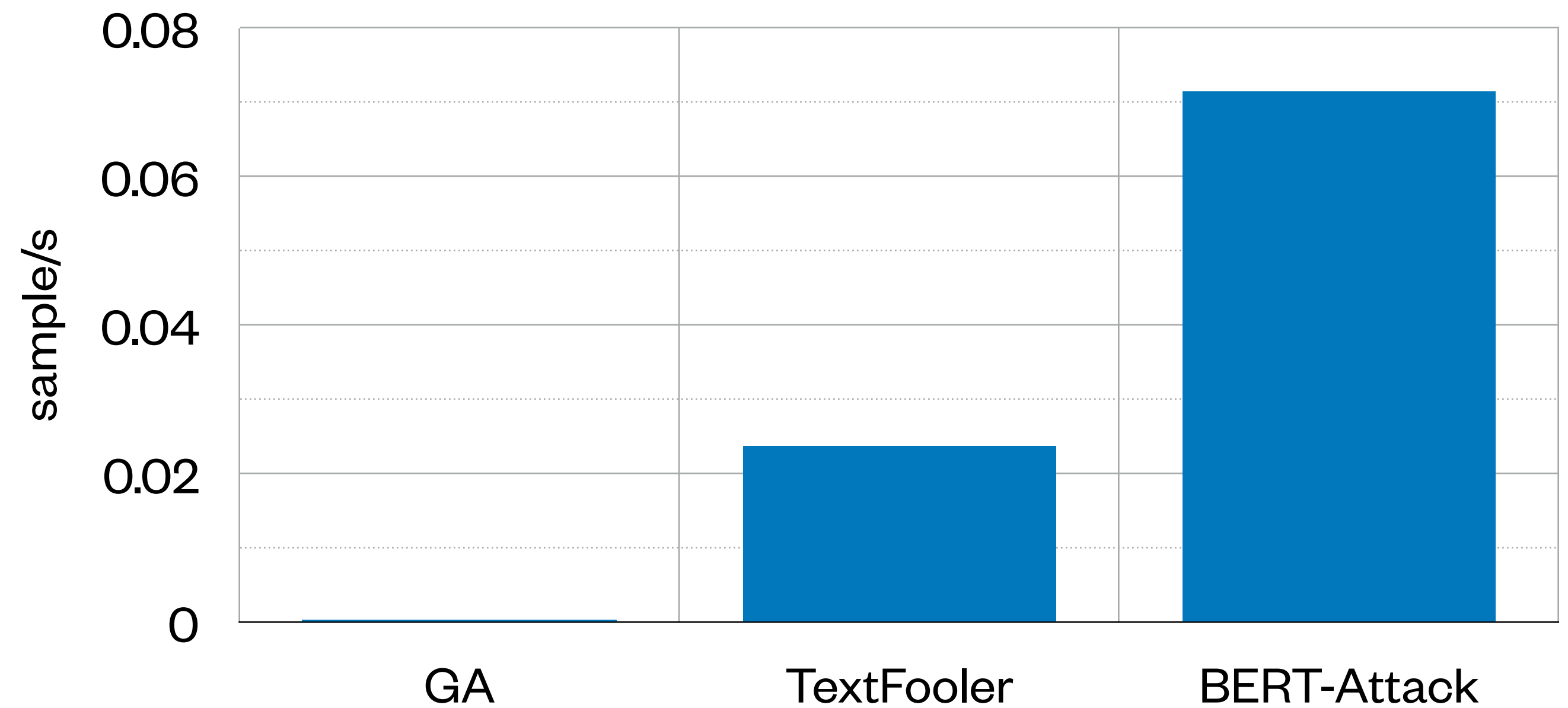
| Dataset | Model | LSTM | BERT-base | BERT-large |
|-------------|------------|------|-----------|------------|
| IMDB | Word-LSTM | - | 0.78 | 0.75 |
| | BERT-base | 0.83 | - | 0.71 |
| | BERT-large | 0.87 | 0.86 | - |
| MNLI | ESIM | - | 0.59 | 0.60 |
| | BERT-base | 0.60 | - | 0.45 |
| | BERT-large | 0.59 | 0.43 | - |

Table 6: Transferability analysis using attacked accuracy as the evaluation metric. The column is the target model used in attack, and the row is the tested model.

Runtime

| Dataset | Method | Runtime(s/sample) |
|---------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| IMDB | BERT-Attack(w/o BPE) | 14.2 |
| | BERT-Attack(w/ BPE) | 16.0 |
| | Textfooler(Jin et al., 2019) | 42.4 |
| | GA(Alzantot et al., 2018) | 2582.0 |

Table 9: Runtime comparison.



Examples

| | | | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----------------------------|------------|---|---------------|
| MNLI | Ori | Some rooms have balconies . | Hypothesis | All of the rooms have balconies off of them . | Contradiction |
| | Adv | Many rooms have balconies . | Hypothesis | All of the rooms have balconies off of them . | Neutral |

| | | | |
|-------------|-----|--|----------|
| IMDB | Ori | i first seen this movie in the early 80s .. it really had nice picture quality too . anyways , i 'm glad i found this movie again ... the part i loved best was when he hijacked the car from this poor guy... this is a movie i could watch over and over again . i highly recommend it . | Positive |
| | Adv | i first seen this movie in the early 80s .. it really had nice picture quality too . anyways , i 'm glad i found this movie again ... the part i loved best was when he hijacked the car from this poor guy... this is a movie i could watch over and over again . i inordinately recommend it . | Negative |

Summary:

We propose a simple, effective and efficient method to craft Adv. samples in NLP.

In textual Adversarial Attack, both effectiveness and efficiency are important.

END

Linyang Li

Tasty Burgers, Soggy Fries: Probing Aspect Robustness in Aspect-Based Sentiment Analysis

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¹Fudan University ²Max Planck Institute, ³CSAIL, MIT, ⁴Sogou Inc.

EMNLP 2020

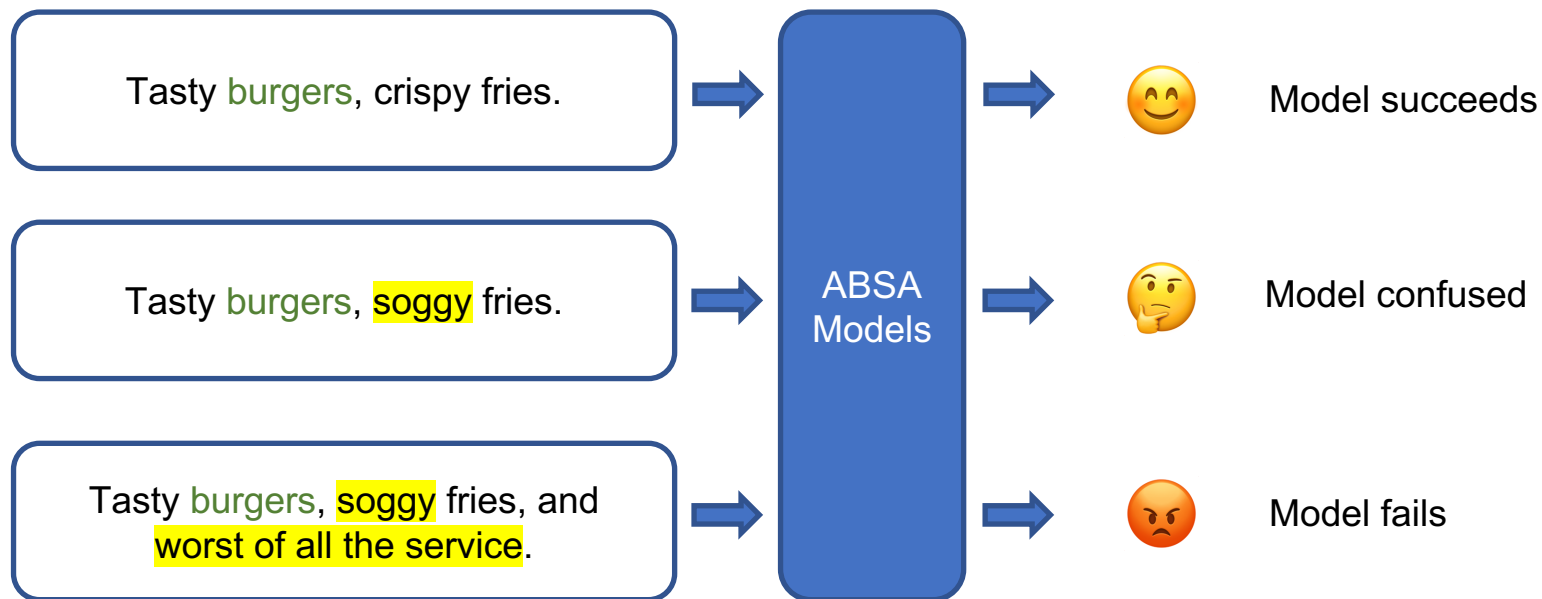


High performance \neq Strong model

- A strong ABSA model should understand:
 - Aspect
 - Sentiment words
 - Which sentiment words are for the target aspect
- State-of-art models have achieved high accuracy on ABSA tasks.

Do models really understand the correspondence between aspect and sentiment words?

Typical Examples



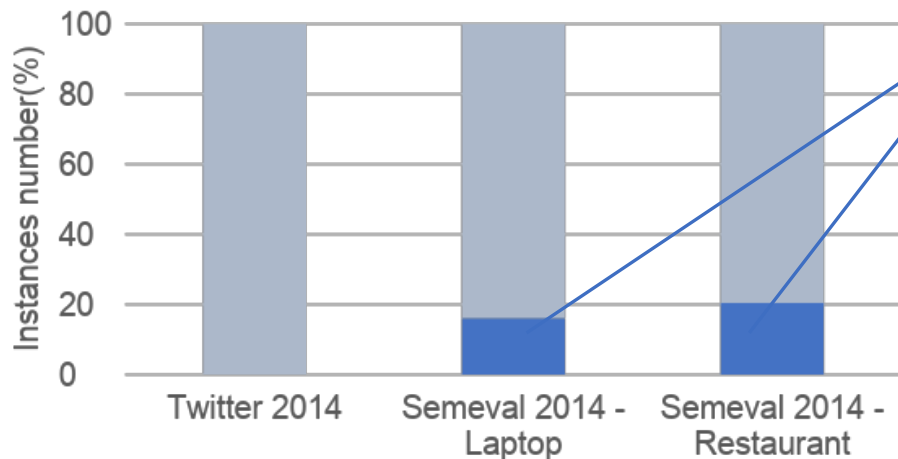
Question about previous models' robustness

A model outputs correct sentiment polarity for the test example



- (Q1) If we **reverse the sentiment polarity of the target aspect**, can the model change its prediction accordingly?
- (Q2) If **the sentiments of all non-target aspects become opposite to the target one**, can the model still make the correct prediction?
- (Q3) If we **add more non-target aspects with sentiments opposite to the target one**, can the model still make the correct prediction?

Existing datasets



- target aspect's sentiment ≠ all non-target aspect's sentiment
- target aspect's sentiment = all non-target aspect's sentiment

Can be used to answer our question

When we test on these subsets,

Laptop: 78.53% ↓ **59.32%**

Restaurant: 86.70% ↓ **63.93%**

Over-rely on non-target aspects !

An automatic generation framework

Original Test Set

Tasty **burgers**, and crispy **fries**.
burgers 😊 **fries** 😊 **SA** 😊

? Model predicts 😊 for **burgers**, is it due to *tasty*, *crispy*, or even other clues?

generate a probing set

Aspect-Strength Test Set

Tasty **burgers**, and crispy **fries**.
burgers 😊 **fries** 😊 **SA** 😊

Terrible **burgers**, but
 crispy **fries**.
burgers 😞 **fries** 😊 **SA** 😊

Tasty **burgers**, but soggy **fries**.
burgers 😊 **fries** 😞 **SA** 😊

Tasty **burgers**, crispy **fries**,
 but poorest **service** ever!
burgers 😊 **fries** 😊 **SA** 😞

Target aspect: burgers (positive)

Non-target aspect: fries (negative)

- REVTGT

tasty -> terrible, positive -> negative

- REVNON

crispy -> soggy

- ADDDIFF

, but poorest service ever

REVTGT

- It's **light** and **easy** to transport.
Get antonyms → It's **heavy** and **difficult** to transport.
- The menu **changes** seasonally.
Add negation → The menu **does not change** seasonally.
- The food is good, **and** the décor is **nice**.
Get antonyms & adjust conjunctions → The food is good, **but** the décor is **nasty**.

REVNON

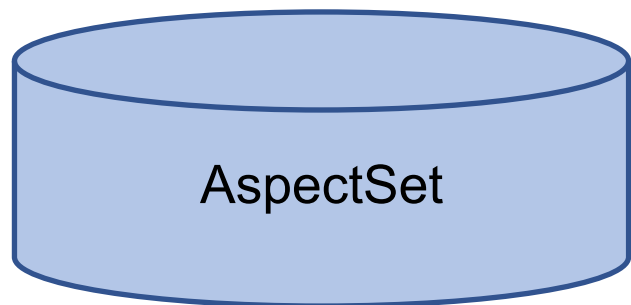
- Flip same-sentiment non-target aspects
- Exaggerate opposite-sentiment non-target aspects

It has great food at a reasonable price, but the service is poor.

but an unreasonable price

and the service is
extremely poor

ADDDIFF



staff is friendly and knowledgeable
desserts are out of this world
texture is a velvety

...

Randomly sample 1-3
aspects (different
sentiment & not
mentioned)

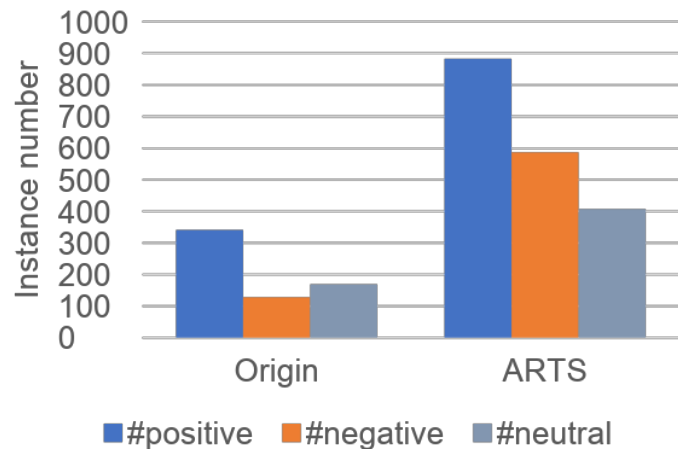


**Tasty burgers, crispy fries,
but poorest service ever!**

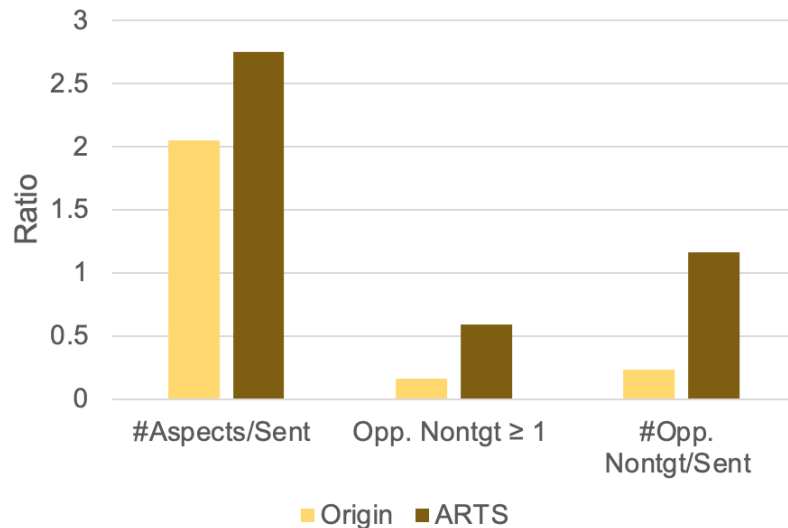
**The overall sentiment change from
positive to negative.**

Dataset Analysis

The dataset is larger and the label is more balanced

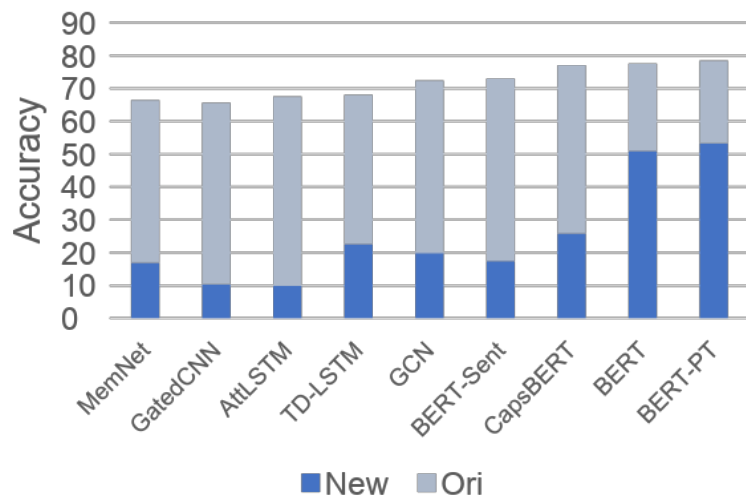


The dataset is more challenging



For restaurant dataset, please refer to our paper.

Experimental Results



$$ARS = \frac{\# \text{ correct units}}{\# \text{ all units}}$$

Unit

1. Tasty **burgers**, and crispy fries. ✓
2. Terrible **burgers**, but crispy fries. ✓
3. Tasty **burgers**, but soggy fries. ✓
4. Tasty **burgers**, crispy fries, but poorest service ever! ✓

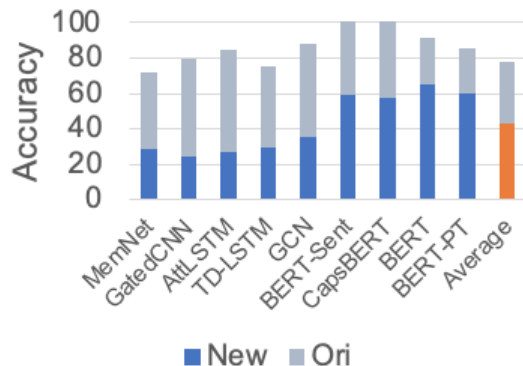


- Overall performance drops dramatically on ARTS.
- BERT-based models are more robust.

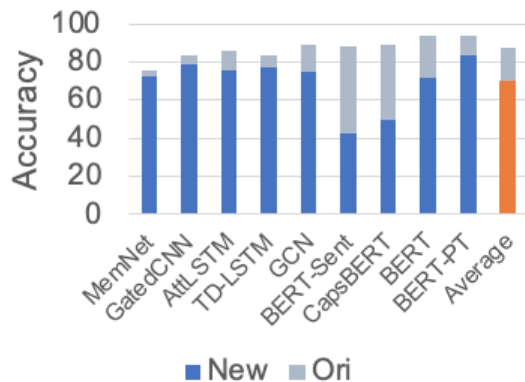
For restaurant dataset, please refer to our paper.

Experimental Results

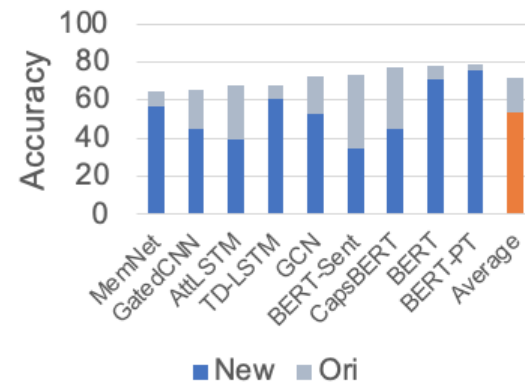
REVTGT



REVNON



ADDDIFF



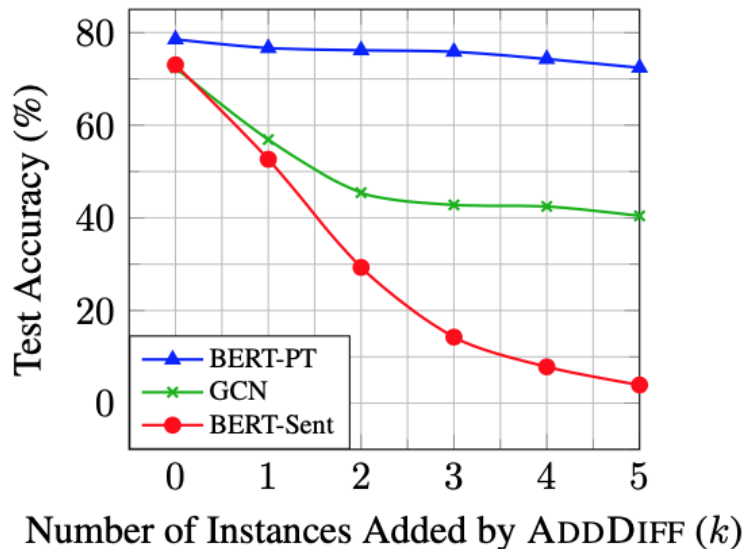
- REVTGT on average induces the most performance drop.
- ADDDIFF causes most non-BERT models to drop significantly .

Variations

Combining multiple strategies

| Model | Laptop | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| | Ori | → New (Change) |
| MemNet | 82.22 | → 72.59 (↓09.63) |
| GatedCNN | 84.44 | → 59.26 (↓25.18)* |
| AttLSTM | 85.93 | → 51.85 (↓34.08)* |
| TD-LSTM | 83.70 | → 68.89 (↓14.81)* |
| GCN | 88.89 | → 60.74 (↓28.15)* |
| BERT-Sent | 88.15 | → 11.85 (↓76.30)* |
| CapsBERT | 90.37 | → 24.44 (↓65.93)* |
| BERT | 93.33 | → 68.15 (↓25.18)* |
| BERT-PT | 93.33 | → 78.52 (↓14.81)* |
| Average | 87.57 | → 55.14 (↓32.43)* |

ADDDIFF with more aspects



How to effectively model the aspects

| Model | Aspect Embedding | Position Aware | Aspect Attention |
|----------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| AttLSTM | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ |
| GatedCNN | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ |
| MemNet | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ |
| GCN | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |
| TD-LSTM | ✗ | ✓ | ✗ |
| CapsBERT | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ |
| BERT | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| BERT-PT | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |

Training Strategy

- Train on complex data (MAMS)
- Adversarial Training

| Model | Restaurant | | | | Laptop | | |
|-----------|------------|-------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-------|
| | O→O | O→N | MAMS→N | Adv→N | O→O | O→N | Adv→N |
| MemNet | 75.18 | 21.52 | 24.02 | 37.95 | 64.42 | 16.93 | 31.82 |
| GatedCNN | 76.96 | 13.13 | 18.48 | 37.50 | 65.67 | 10.34 | 41.85 |
| AttLSTM | 75.98 | 14.64 | 22.32 | 48.66 | 67.55 | 9.87 | 42.63 |
| TD-LSTM | 78.12 | 30.18 | 41.60 | 62.76 | 68.03 | 22.57 | 54.86 |
| GCN | 77.86 | 24.73 | 46.51 | 61.52 | 72.41 | 19.91 | 56.43 |
| BERT-Sent | 80.62 | 10.89 | 12.95 | 45.80 | 73.04 | 17.40 | 53.92 |
| CapsBERT | 83.66 | 55.36 | 61.43 | 75.80 | 76.80 | 25.86 | 61.23 |
| BERT | 83.04 | 54.82 | 62.77 | 74.82 | 77.59 | 50.94 | 65.67 |
| BERT-PT | 86.70 | 59.29 | 62.77 | 74.64 | 78.53 | 53.29 | 66.93 |

Conclusions

- We proposed a simple but effective mechanism to probe the aspect robustness of the models.
- We enhanced the test sets: SemEval 2014 laptop test sets by 294% and restaurant test sets by 315%.
- We probed the aspect robustness of nine ABSA models, and discussed how to improve robustness.



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Q&A



文本摘要的跨数据集迁移研究

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Outline



Outline

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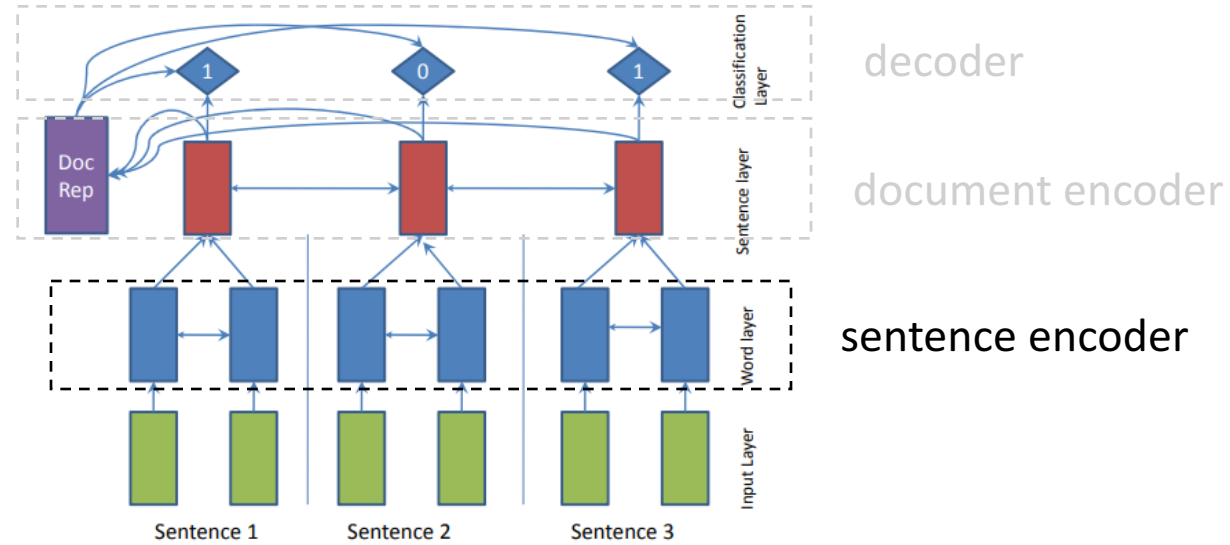
Conclusions



Introduction of Text Summarization

- **Task description :**
 - A subtask of text generation.
 - **shortening** a set of data computationally, to create a subset (a summary) that represents the **most important or relevant information** within the original content.
 - Fluent, grammatically correct, repetition, concise, faithfulness, saliency.
- **Main types of summarization systems :**
 - Extractive summarizer (sentence encoder, document encoder, decoder)
 - Abstractive summarizer (encoder decoder)

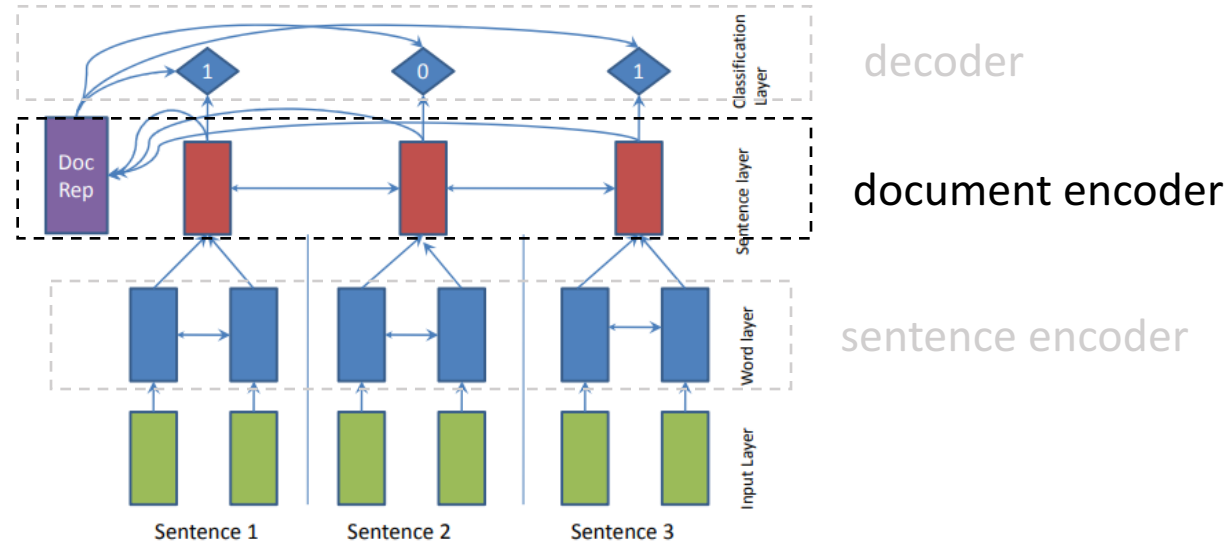
Introduction of Text Summarization



- **Main types of summarization systems :**

- Extractive summarizer (sentence encoder, document encoder, decoder)
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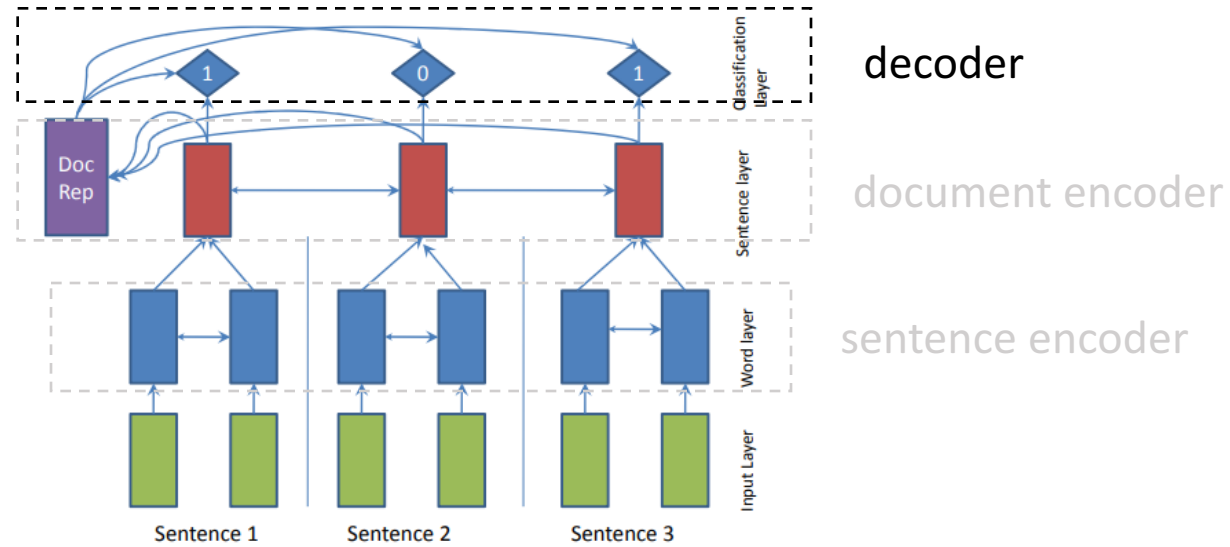
Introduction of Text Summarization



- **Main types of summarization systems :**

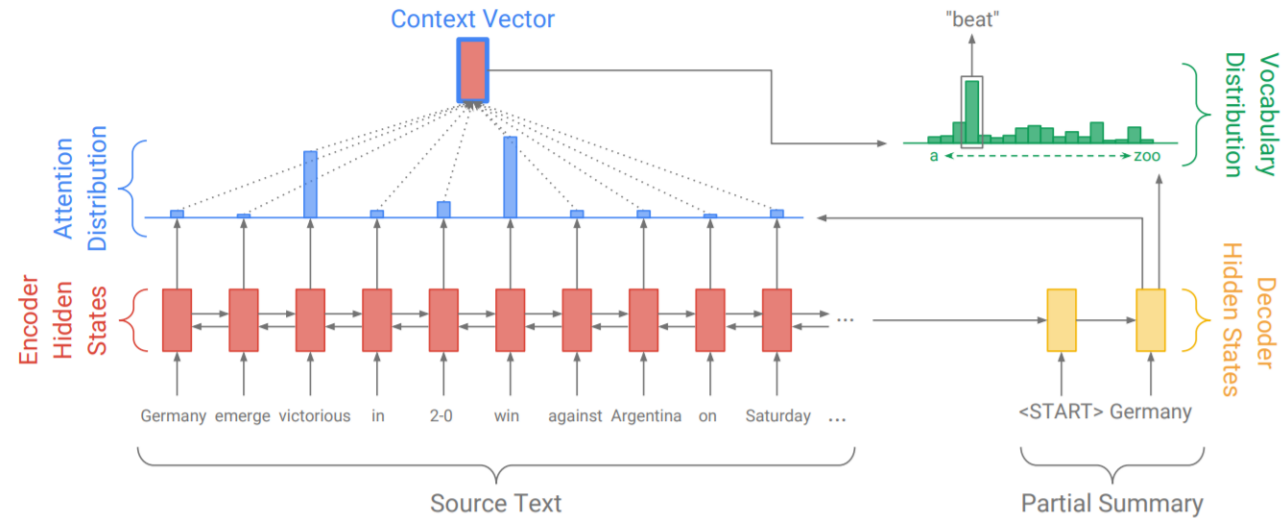
- Extractive summarizer (sentence encoder, document encoder, decoder)
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Introduction of Text Summarization



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Introduction of Text Summarization



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Our Work

CDEvalSumm: An Empirical Study of Cross-Dataset Evaluation for Neural Summarization Systems

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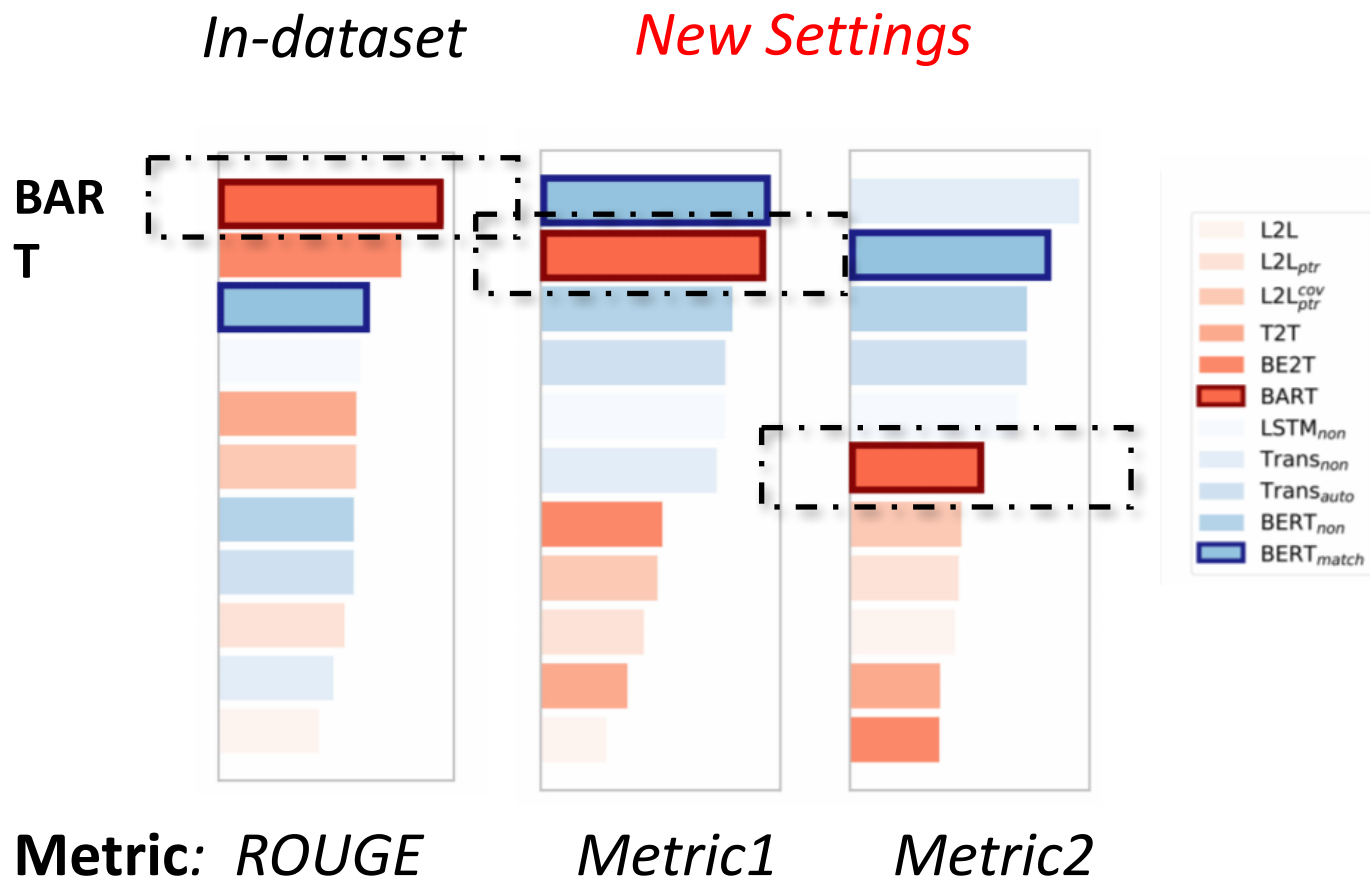
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Motivation: Ranking Systems based on Different Metrics



- Ranking in a **descending** order
- Each bin -> a system
- Orange -> abstractive systems
- Blue -> extractive systems

Observations

- *The existing SOTA system will not be a SOTA model under CD setting*
- *Abstractive summarizers (in orange) are extremely brittle compared with extractive approaches (larger performance gap)*



Motivation

- **Two questions :**
 - **Q1:** How do different neural architectures of summarizers influence the cross-dataset generalization performances?
 - **Q2:** Do different generation ways (extractive and abstractive) of summarizers influence the cross-dataset generalization ability?



Experiments -- setup

Datasets :

- CNN/DailyMail, Xsum, Pubmed, Bigpatent B, Reddit TIFU

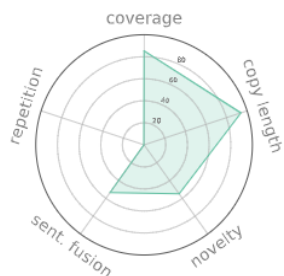
Summarization systems :

- Extractive: $LSTM_{non}$, $Trans_{non}$, $Trans_{auto}$, $BERT_{non}$, $BERT_{match}$
- Abstractive: $L2L$, $L2L_{ptr}$, $L2L_{prt}^{cov}$, $T2T$, $BE2T$, $BART$

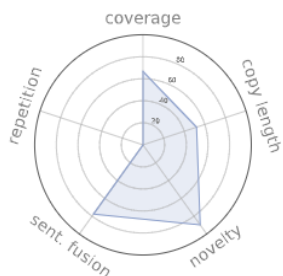
Experiments -- setup

Metrics :

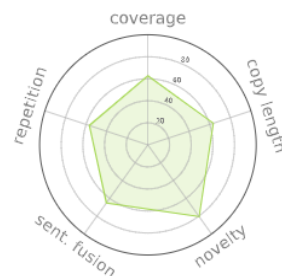
- Semantic equivalence: ROUGE
- Factuality: Factcc (Kryściński et al., 2019)
- Data bias: Coverage, Copy Length, Repetition, Novelty, Sentence fusion score



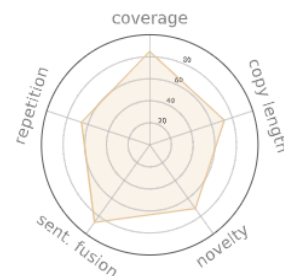
(a) CNN.



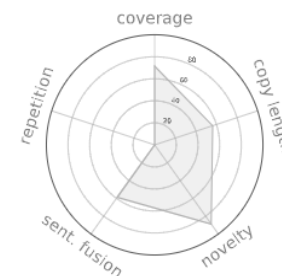
(b) Xsum



(c) PubMed



(d) Bigatent b



(e) Reddit



Experiments -- setup

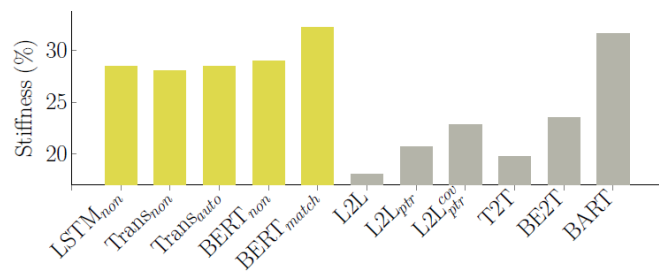
Cross-dataset Measures :

- Stiffness: $r^\mu = \frac{1}{N*N} \sum_{i,j} U_{ij}$
- Stableness: $r^\sigma = \frac{1}{N*N} \sum_{i,j} U_{ij} / U_{jj} \times 100\%$

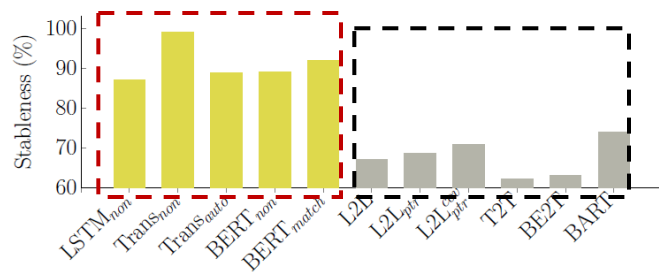
| | | U_A | | U_B | | Measures | | |
|---|--|-------|----|-------|----|----------------|-------|----|
| | | a | b | a | b | U_A | U_B | |
| a | | 48 | 40 | 61 | 43 | <i>Stiff.</i> | 44 | 55 |
| b | | 41 | 45 | 46 | 69 | <i>Stable.</i> | 94 | 84 |

Table 3: Illustration of two views (*Stiffness*: r^μ and *Stableness*: r^σ) to characterize the cross-dataset (a and b) generalization based on model A and B . U_A and U_B represent two cross-dataset matrix of two models. $r^\mu(U_A) < r^\mu(U_B)$ means the model B gains a better cross-dataset absolute performance while $r^\sigma(U_A) > r^\sigma(U_B)$ suggests the model A is more robust.

Experiments – ROUGE holistic result



(a) stiffness (r^μ)

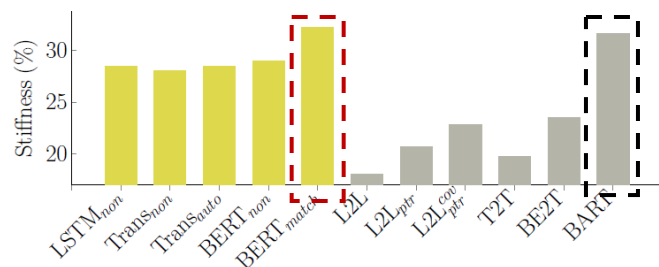


(b) stableness (r^σ)

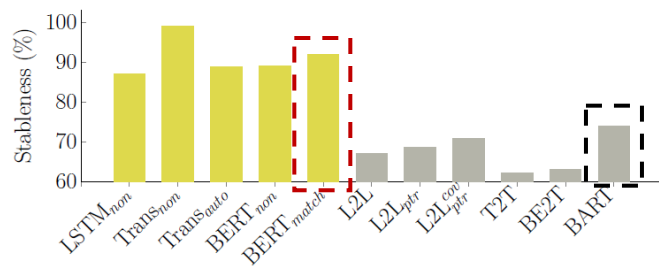
- Abstractive models are more brittle compared with extractive models.

Figure 4: Illustration of stiffness and stableness of ROUGE-1 F1 scores for various models. Yellow bars stand for extractive models and grey bars stand for abstractive models.

Experiments – ROUGE holistic result



(a) stiffness (r^μ)

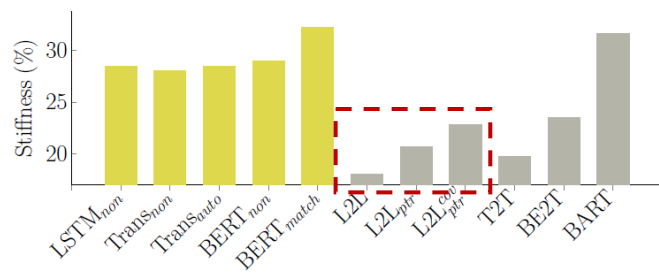


(b) stableness (r^σ)

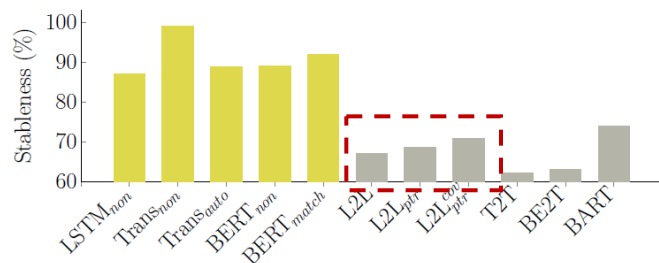
Figure 4: Illustration of stiffness and stableness of ROUGE-1 F1 scores for various models. Yellow bars stand for extractive models and grey bars stand for abstractive models.

- Abstractive models are more brittle compared with extractive models.
- *Bart* is comparable with *Bert_{match}* in absolute performance. But still lack stableness.

Experiments – ROUGE holistic result



(a) stiffness (r^μ)

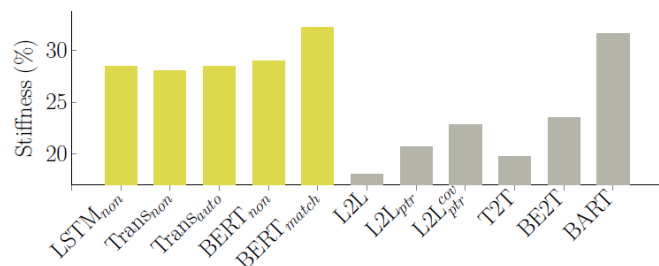


(b) stableness (r^σ)

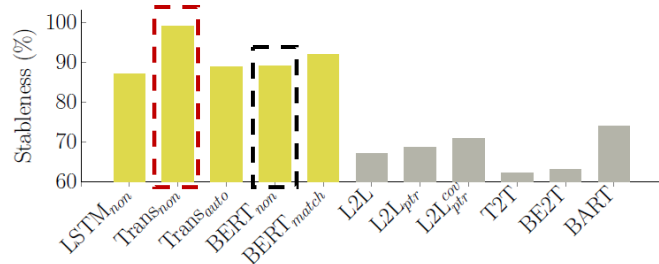
Figure 4: Illustration of stiffness and stableness of ROUGE-1 F1 scores for various models. Yellow bars stand for extractive models and grey bars stand for abstractive models.

- Abstractive models are more brittle compared with extractive models.
- *Bart* is comparable with *Bert_{match}* in absolute performance. But still lack stableness.
- Pointer network and coverage mechanism can improve both stiffness and stableness.

Experiments – ROUGE holistic result



(a) stiffness (r^μ)



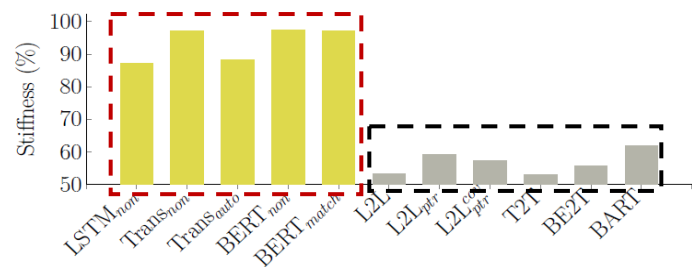
(b) stableness (r^σ)

Figure 4: Illustration of stiffness and stableness of ROUGE-1 F1 scores for various models. Yellow bars stand for extractive models and grey bars stand for abstractive models.

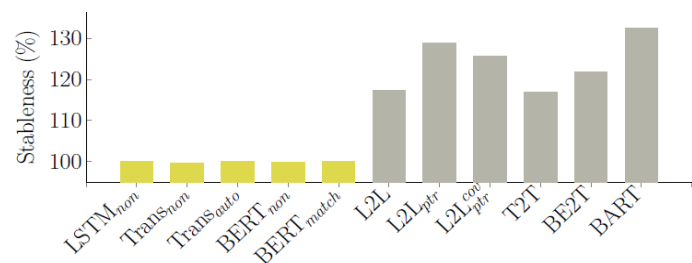
- Abstractive models are more brittle compared with extractive models.
- *Bart* is comparable with *Bert_{match}* in absolute performance. But still lack stableness.
- Pointer network and coverage mechanism can improve both stiffness and stableness.
- *Bert_{non}* is less stable compared with *Trans_{non}* though the former equipped with BERT.



Experiments – Factcc holistic result



(a) stiffness (r^μ)

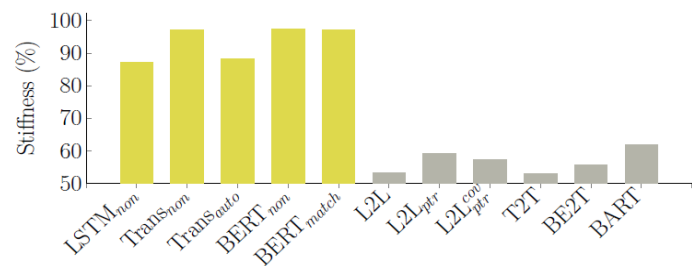


(b) stableness (r^σ)

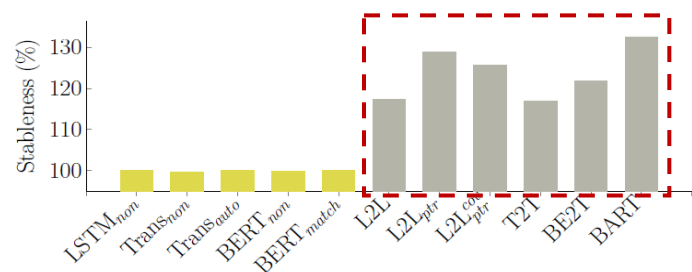
- Abstractive summarization systems perform extremely worse than extractive summarizers under the metric: factcc.

Figure 5: Illustration of stiffness and stableness of factuality scores for various models. Yellow bars stand for extractive systems and grey bars stand for abstractive systems.

Experiments – Factcc holistic result



(a) stiffness (r^μ)



(b) stableness (r^σ)

- Abstractive summarization systems perform extremely worse than extractive summarizers under the metric: factcc.
- Abstractive summarizers possess better cross-dataset performance than in-dataset performance.

Figure 5: Illustration of stiffness and stableness of factuality scores for various models. Yellow bars stand for extractive systems and grey bars stand for abstractive systems.



Experiments – fine-grained result

| analysis aspect | | Architecture | | | | | | | | | | | | Generation way | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|---|------|-----|--|-------------------------------|------|----------------------------|------|-------------------------------|--|------|-------|-------------------------------|------|------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------|------|------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| model type | | EXT | | | | | | ABS | | | | | | LSTM | | | BERTSUM | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| compare models | | BERT _{match} vs. BERT _{non} | | | BERT _{non} vs. Trans _{non} | | | L2L _{ptr} vs. L2L | | | L2L ^{COU} _{ptr} vs. L2L _{ptr} | | | LSTM _{non} vs. L2L | | | BERT _{non} vs. BE2T | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| holistic analysis | | stiff. : 32.27 vs. 28.98 | | | stiff. : 28.98 vs. 28.02 | | | stiff. : 20.74 vs. 18.03 | | | stiff. : 22.81 vs. 20.74 | | | stiff. : 28.51 vs. 18.03 | | | stiff. : 28.98 vs. 23.49 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | stable. : 91.98 vs. 88.93 | | | stable. : 88.93 vs. 99.05 | | | stable. : 68.63 vs. 66.93 | | | stable. : 70.71 vs. 68.63 | | | stable. : 87.00 vs. 66.93 | | | stable. : 88.93 vs. 62.93 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| fine-grain analysis | | CNN. Xsum Pubm. Patent b Red. | | avg | | CNN. Xsum Pubm. Patent b Red. | | avg | | CNN. Xsum Pubm. Patent b Red. | | avg | | CNN. Xsum Pubm. Patent b Red. | | avg | | CNN. Xsum Pubm. Patent b Red. | | avg | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ROUGE | origin | CNN. | 1.6 | 4.1 | 4.5 | 3.0 | 4.7 | 3.6 | 1.8 | 1.2 | 0.3 | 0.8 | -10.9 | -1.3 | 4.3 | 0.5 | 5.3 | 3.2 | 1.5 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 1.8 | 6.4 | 3.4 | 1.7 | 3.2 | 8.6 | 0.1 | 13.2 | 4.9 | 2.0 | 5.7 | 1.3 | -2.0 | 3.5 | -1.8 | -1.7 | -0.1 |
| | | Xsum | 2.9 | 3.2 | 3.5 | 1.6 | 5.7 | 3.4 | -0.9 | 6.0 | 0.1 | -1.6 | -0.7 | 0.6 | 3.4 | 1.4 | 3.4 | 4.2 | 0.1 | 2.5 | -0.8 | -0.8 | -4.5 | -2.4 | -0.1 | -1.7 | 13.1 | -8.8 | 18.3 | 7.1 | 3.8 | 6.7 | 12.9 | -17.2 | 18.3 | 9.9 | 1.5 | 5.1 |
| | | Pubm. | 0.9 | 4.0 | 2.4 | 0.2 | 8.7 | 3.3 | 2.5 | 1.4 | 0.3 | 0.6 | -2.2 | 0.5 | 10.3 | 2.3 | 4.2 | 3.0 | 2.6 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 1.7 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 2.7 | 3.1 | 18.6 | 4.8 | 15.1 | 11.1 | 9.0 | 11.7 | 17.2 | 2.9 | 1.6 | -0.3 | 0.3 | 4.3 |
| | | Patent b | 4.6 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 0.5 | 1.1 | 0.2 | 1.4 | 3.8 | 1.4 | 1.1 | -1.1 | 2.5 | 0.6 | -0.3 | 0.5 | 1.0 | 2.0 | 2.2 | 4.9 | 0.8 | 2.2 | 19.7 | 2.8 | 22.8 | 8.8 | 5.9 | 12.0 | 21.8 | 6.7 | 15.4 | -7.2 | 5.1 | 8.4 |
| | | Red. | 3.3 | 4.2 | 3.5 | -1.4 | 3.5 | 2.6 | 8.3 | 3.0 | -0.1 | 1.6 | 5.6 | 3.7 | 2.2 | 3.1 | 2.6 | 2.9 | 4.4 | 3.0 | 3.3 | 1.0 | 6.5 | 6.9 | -0.0 | 3.5 | 21.4 | 7.3 | 30.7 | 18.0 | 3.6 | 16.2 | 17.8 | 4.6 | 20.2 | 11.4 | -4.8 | 9.8 |
| | | avg | 2.6 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 1.3 | 5.3 | 3.3 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 0.2 | 0.6 | -0.9 | 1.0 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 3.6 | 2.8 | 1.7 | 2.7 | 2.2 | 1.1 | 2.8 | 3.2 | 1.0 | 2.1 | 16.3 | 1.2 | 20.0 | 10.0 | 4.9 | 10.5 | 14.2 | -1.0 | 11.8 | 2.4 | 0.1 | 5.5 |
| | | (a) | | | | | | (b) | | | | | | (c) | | | | | | (d) | | | | | | (e) | | | | | | (f) | | | | | | |
| ROUGE | normal. | CNN. | 0.0 | 5.8 | 5.3 | 0.7 | 6.9 | 3.7 | 0.0 | -23.9 | 0.1 | -1.5 | -96.6 | -24.4 | 0.0 | -1.0 | 4.8 | 8.7 | -9.9 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 8.1 | 9.6 | -4.1 | 8.0 | 4.3 | 0.0 | 28.4 | -0.7 | -7.9 | -4.8 | 3.0 | 0.0 | 31.5 | 5.2 | 11.1 | 9.0 | 11.4 |
| | | Xsum | 3.4 | 0.0 | 2.8 | -2.7 | 11.5 | 3.0 | -6.1 | 0.0 | -0.5 | -8.3 | -31.8 | -9.3 | 1.8 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 12.2 | -13.8 | 0.2 | -6.7 | 0.0 | -19.7 | -18.0 | -0.2 | -8.9 | 18.3 | 0.0 | 15.8 | 2.0 | 6.6 | 8.5 | 28.4 | 0.0 | 45.0 | 37.8 | 19.9 | 26.2 |
| | | Pubm. | -1.2 | 6.1 | 0.0 | -6.5 | 26.5 | 5.0 | 2.0 | -21.0 | 0.0 | -2.2 | -33.7 | -11.0 | 23.3 | 5.6 | 0.0 | 8.4 | 1.6 | 7.8 | 6.7 | 7.4 | 0.0 | -1.2 | 12.6 | 5.1 | 36.8 | 44.3 | 0.0 | 12.5 | 35.1 | 25.7 | 38.7 | 42.0 | 0.0 | 14.5 | 11.5 | 21.3 |
| | | Patent b | 7.3 | 1.8 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 3.3 | 3.0 | -2.6 | -24.8 | -0.2 | 0.0 | -5.5 | -6.6 | -1.6 | -5.8 | -0.4 | 0.0 | -14.5 | -4.4 | -0.1 | 8.1 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 3.7 | 2.5 | 39.6 | 35.2 | 31.4 | 0.0 | 17.8 | 24.8 | 49.9 | 53.7 | 37.2 | 0.0 | 34.1 | 35.0 |
| | | Red. | 4.4 | 6.2 | 2.9 | -10.5 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 16.3 | -12.8 | -1.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.7 | 1.9 | 8.7 | 3.4 | 8.4 | 0.0 | 4.5 | 5.6 | 4.9 | 14.8 | 11.7 | 0.0 | 7.4 | 44.7 | 52.9 | 58.4 | 35.1 | 0.0 | 39.2 | 40.1 | 48.4 | 50.2 | 41.5 | 0.0 | 36.1 |
| | | avg | 2.8 | 4.0 | 2.7 | -3.8 | 9.6 | 3.1 | 1.9 | -16.5 | -0.3 | -2.2 | -33.5 | -10.1 | 5.1 | 1.5 | 1.7 | 7.5 | -7.3 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 5.7 | 1.1 | -2.3 | 4.8 | 2.1 | 27.9 | 32.2 | 21.0 | 8.3 | 10.9 | 20.1 | 31.4 | 35.1 | 27.5 | 21.0 | 14.9 | 26.0 |
| | | (g) | | | | | | (h) | | | | | | (i) | | | | | | (j) | | | | | | (k) | | | | | | (l) | | | | | | |

Table 4: The difference of ROUGE-1 F1 scores between different model pairs. Every column of the table represents the compared results of one pair of models. The line of holistic analysis displays the overall stiffness and stablenss of compared models. The rest of the table is fine-grained results, the first line of which is the origin compared results ($U_A - U_B$ for model pairs A and B) and the second line is the normalized compared results ($\hat{U}_A - \hat{U}_B$ for model pairs A and B). For all heatmap, ‘grey’ and ‘red’ represent positive and neg8 respectively. Here we only display compared results for limited pairs of models, all other results are displayed in appendix.



Conclusion

- Abstractive summarizers are **extremely brittle** compared with extractive approaches.
- **BART (SOTA system)** is superior over other abstractive models and even comparable with extractive models in terms of stiffness (ROUGE).
- The robustness of models can be improved through either equipped the model with ability to copy span from source document or make use of well trained sequence to sequence pre-trained model (BART).
- Simply adding BERT on encoder could improve the stiffness (ROUGE) of model but will cause larger cross-dataset and in-dataset performance gap.
- Existing factuality checker (Factcc) is **limited in predictive power of positive samples**.



Conclusion

Contribution:

1. Cross-dataset evaluation is **orthogonal to** other evaluation aspects (e.g., semantic equivalence, factuality)
2. We have design two measures **Stiffness and Stableness**, which could help us to characterize generalization ability in different views, encouraging us to diagnose the weaknesses of state-of-the-art systems.
3. We conduct **dataset bias-aided analysis** and suggest that a better understanding of datasets will be helpful for us to interpret systems' behaviours.



Thanks & QA