

Large-scale Retrieval & Language Model

Jimblin

Overview

- Context-Aware Document Term Weighting for Ad-Hoc Search (*WWW2020*)
- Pre-training Tasks for Embedding-based Large-scale Retrieval (*ICLR2020*)
- ColBERT: Efficient and Effective Passage Search via Contextualized Late Interaction over BERT (*SIGIR2012*)

Context-Aware Document Term Weighting for Ad-Hoc Search

Zhuyun Dai
Carnegie Mellon University
zhuyund@cs.cmu.edu

Jamie Callan
Carnegie Mellon University
callan@cs.cmu.edu

Motivation & Contribution

- Bag-of-words document representations is limited by the shallow frequency-based term weighting scheme. (tf.idf, bm25)
- This paper uses the contextual word representations from BERT to generate more effective document term weights.

Methodology

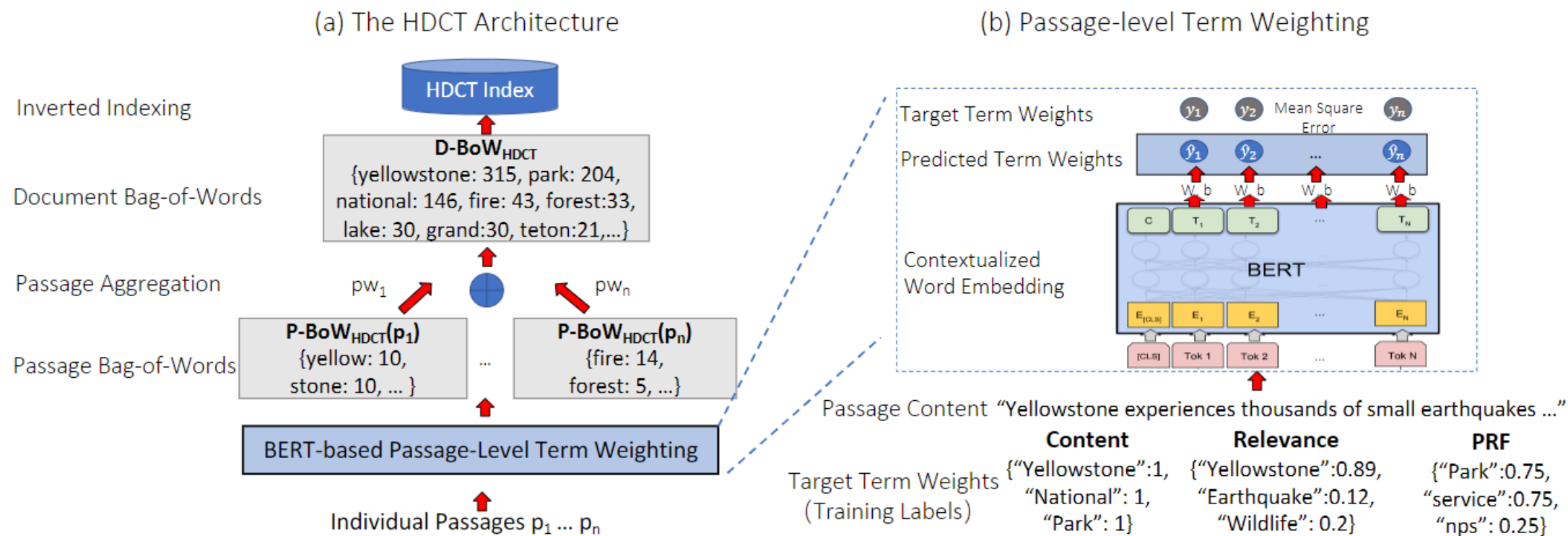
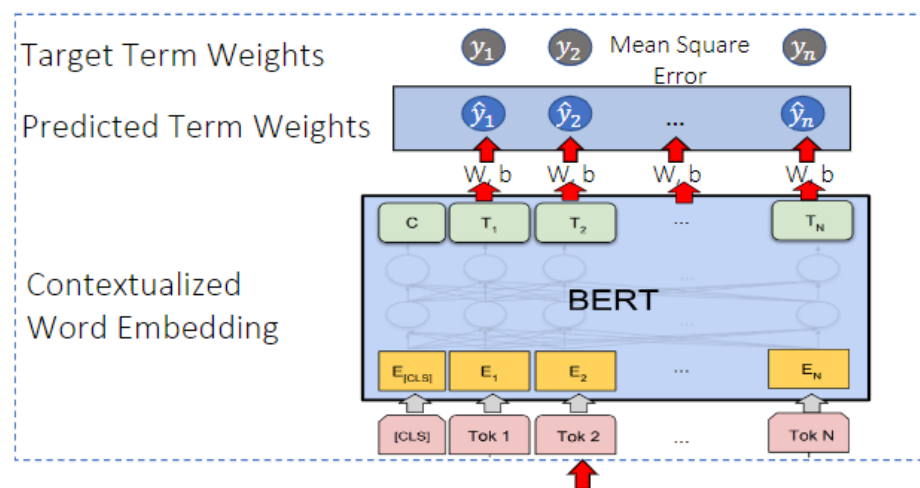


Figure 1: The HDCT architecture.

Passage-Level Term Weighting

(b) Passage-level Term Weighting



Passage Content "Yellowstone experiences thousands of small earthquakes ..."

一个doc分为多个passage，获取每个passage的向量表示。

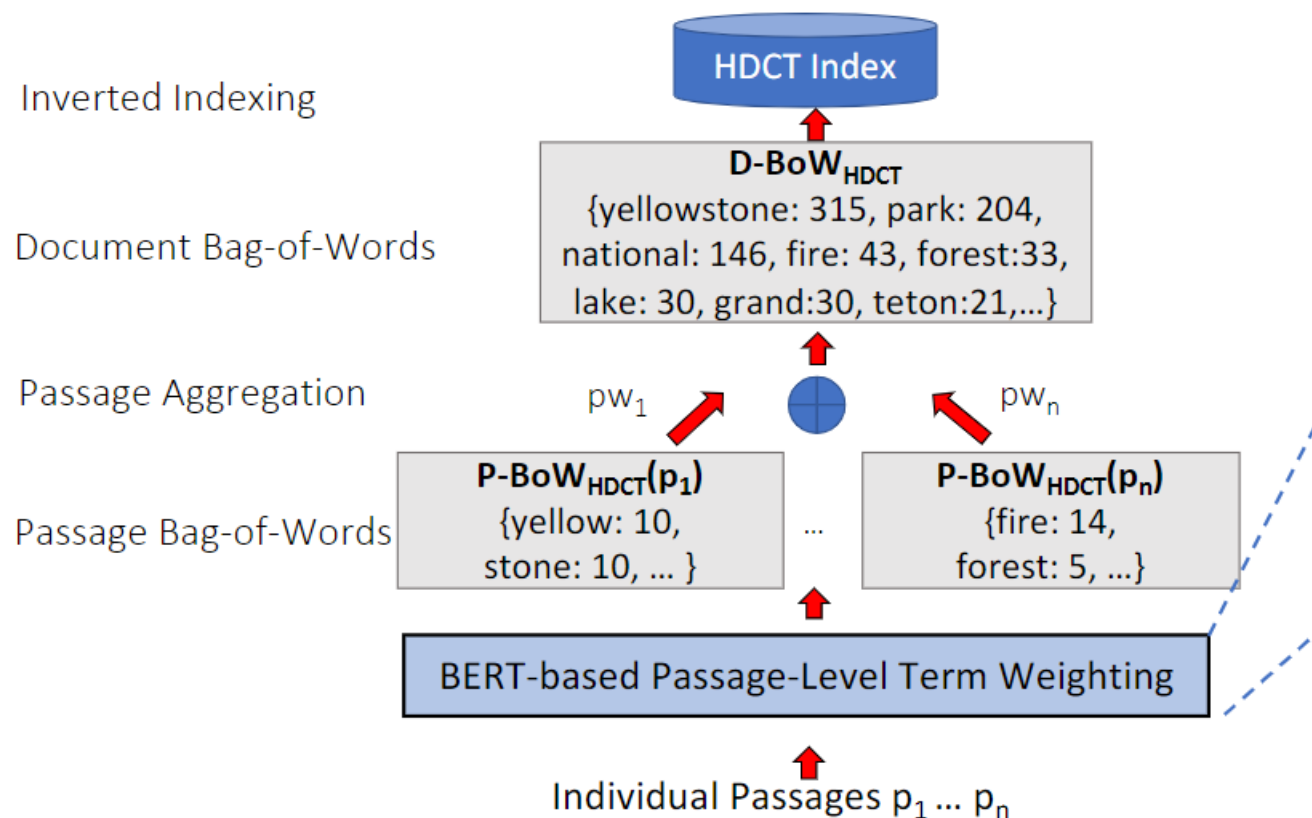
$$\hat{y}_{t,p} = w \cdot T_{\text{BERT}}(t, p) + b.$$

$$tf_{\text{BERT}}(t, p) = \text{round}(N * \sqrt{\hat{y}_{t,p}}).$$

$$\text{P-BoW}_{\text{HDCT}}(p) = [tf_{\text{BERT}}(t_1, p), \dots, tf_{\text{BERT}}(t_m, p)].$$

Document-Level Term Weighting

(a) The HDCT Architecture



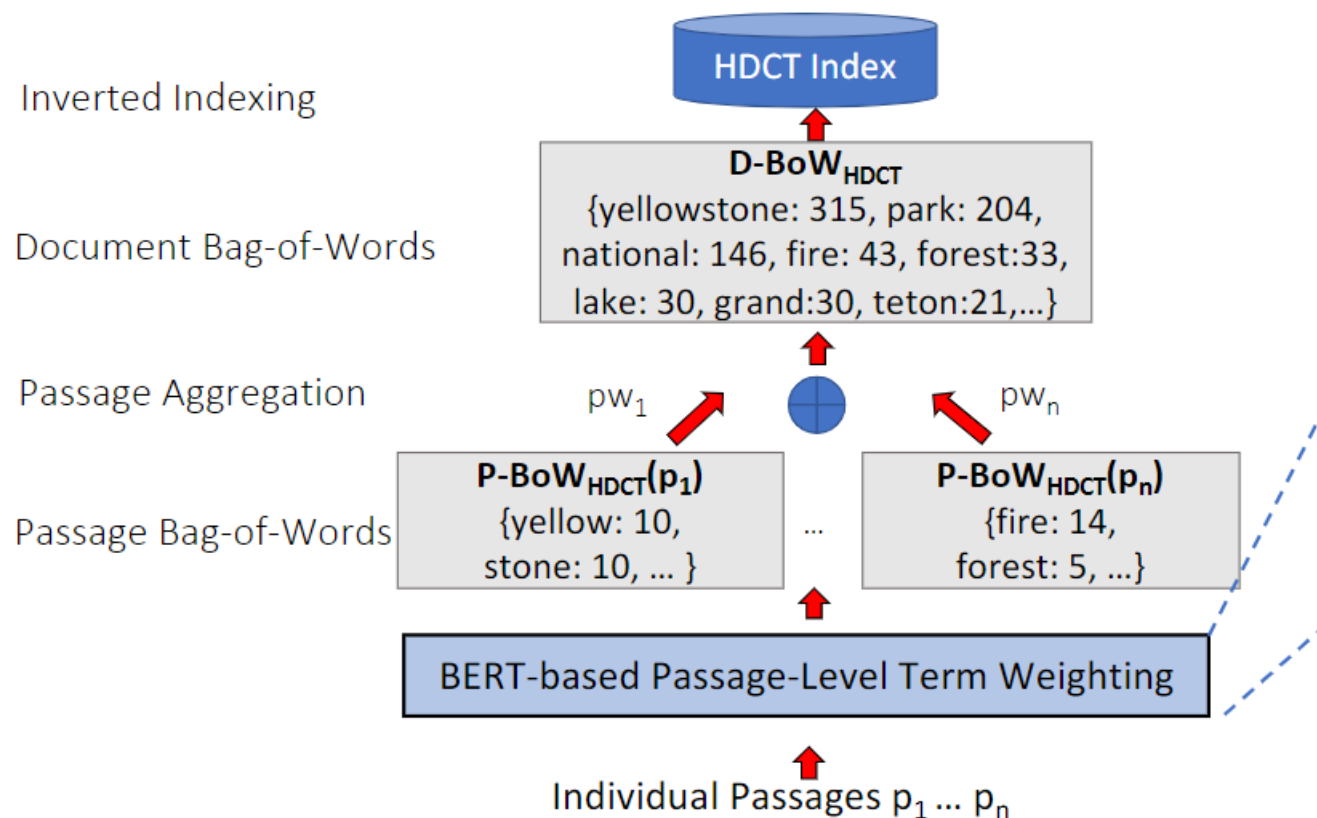
$\{P\text{-BoW}_{\text{HDCT}}(p_1), \dots, P\text{-BoW}_{\text{HDCT}}(p_n)\}.$

$$D\text{-BoW}_{\text{HDCT}}(d) = \sum_{i=1}^n pw_i \times P\text{-BoW}_{\text{HDCT}}(p_i).$$

$pw_i=1$: 表示每个段落的重要性一致;
 $pw_i=1/i$: 表示段落的重要性在递减, 第一个段落比较重要, 最后一个段落比较不重要。

Retrieval with HDCT Index

(a) The HDCT Architecture

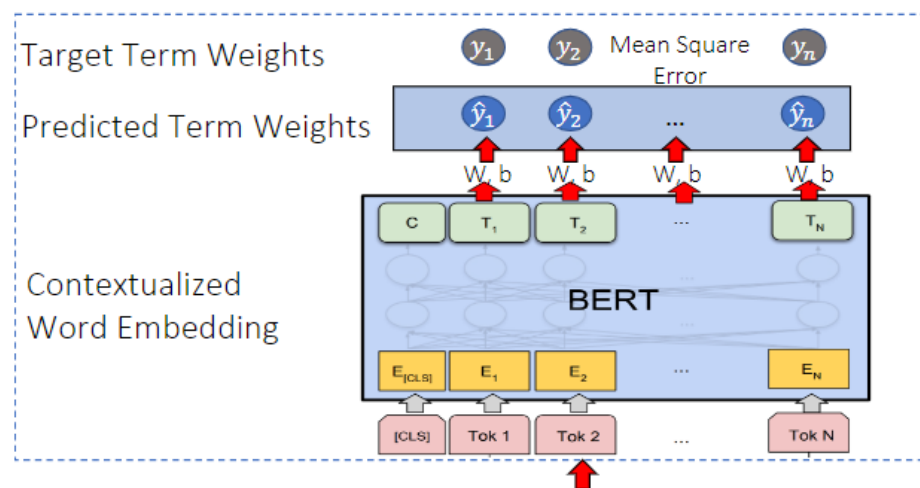


将BM25算法中的idf权重替换为HDCT权重

$$Score(Q, d) = \sum_i^n IDF(q_i) \cdot \frac{f_i \cdot (k_1 + 1)}{f_i + k_1 \cdot (1 - b + b \cdot \frac{dl}{avgdl})}$$

Training Strategy For HDCT

(b) Passage-level Term Weighting



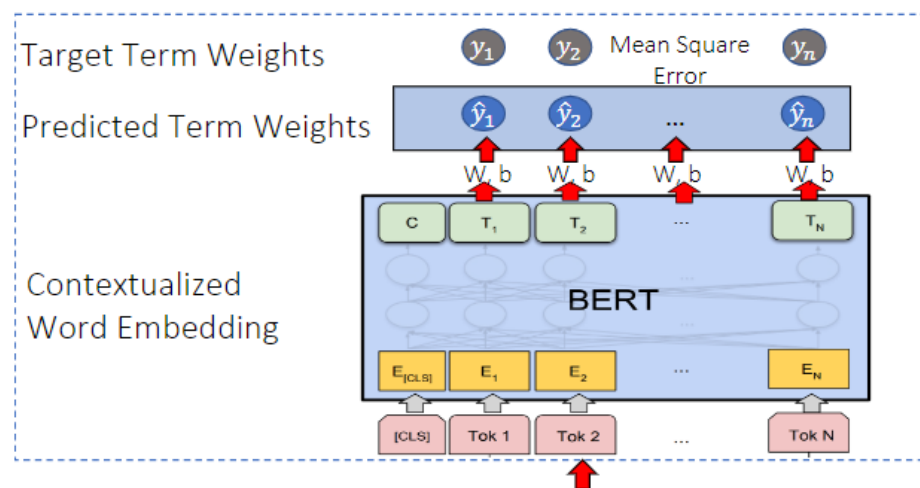
$$MSE = \sum_p \sum_{t \in p} (y_{t,p} - \hat{y}_{t,p})^2.$$

Passage Content "Yellowstone experiences thousands of small earthquakes ..."

	Content	Relevance	PRF
Target Term Weights (Training Labels)	{ "Yellowstone":1, "National": 1, "Park": 1}	{ "Yellowstone":0.89, "Earthquake":0.12, "Wildlife": 0.2}	{ "Park":0.75, "service":0.75, "nps": 0.25}

Training Strategy For HDCT

(b) Passage-level Term Weighting



Passage Content “Yellowstone experiences thousands of small earthquakes ...”

	Content	Relevance	PRF
Target Term Weights (Training Labels)	{“Yellowstone”:1, “National”: 1, “Park”: 1}	{“Yellowstone”:0.89, “Earthquake”:0.12, “Wildlife”: 0.2}	{“Park”:0.75, “service”:0.75, “nps”: 0.25}

1、Supervision from Document Content

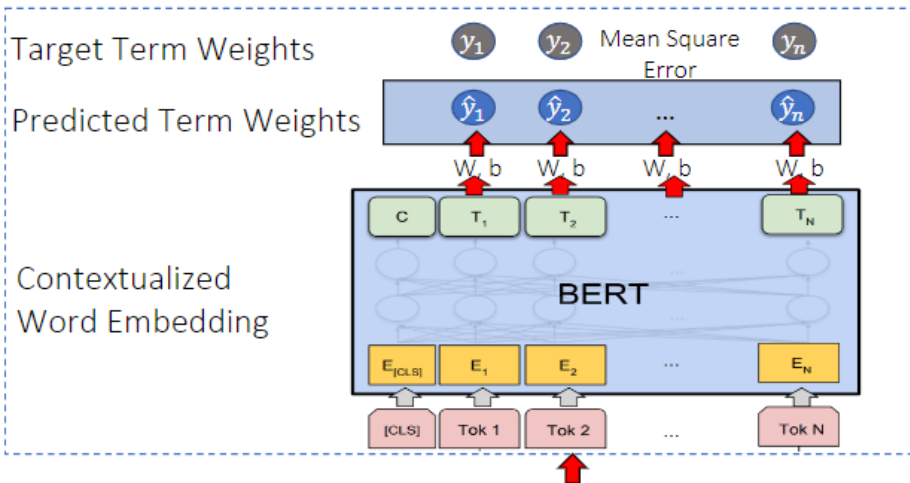
Formally, given a training document d , its passages $\{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$, and its reference field $F_d = \{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$, the content-based weak-supervision approach generates labels as the following:

$$y_{t,p} = \frac{|F_{d,t}|}{|F_d|}, p \in \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}, \quad (8)$$

where t is token from passage p , and $\frac{|F_{d,t}|}{|F_d|}$ is percentage of field instances that contain t . When there is a single instance, e.g., a

Training Strategy For HDCT

(b) Passage-level Term Weighting



Passage Content "Yellowstone experiences thousands of small earthquakes ..."

	Content	Relevance	PRF
Target Term Weights (Training Labels)	{ "Yellowstone":1, "National": 1, "Park": 1}	{ "Yellowstone":0.89, "Earthquake":0.12, "Wildlife": 0.2}	{ "Park":0.75, "service":0.75, "nps": 0.25}

2、Supervision from Relevance and Pseudo-Relevance Feedback

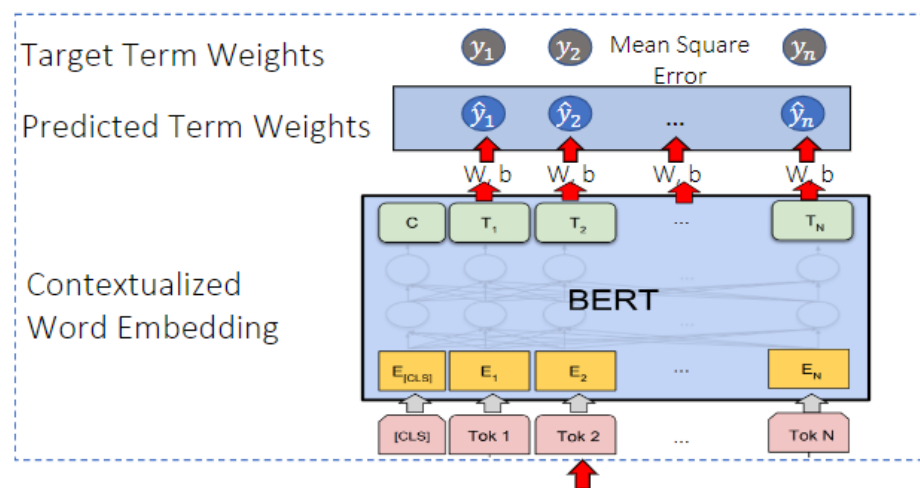
Given a training document d , its passages $P_d = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$, and its relevant queries $Q_d = \{q_1, \dots, q_b\}$, we generate the *relevance-based* training labels as follows:

$$y_{t,p} = \frac{|Q_{d,t}|}{|Q_d|}, p \in \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}. \quad (9)$$

t is a term from passage p in document d . $\frac{|Q_{d,t}|}{|Q_d|}$ is the percentage of d 's relevant queries that mention term t . If most of d 's queries all

Training Strategy For HDCT

(b) Passage-level Term Weighting



Passage Content "Yellowstone experiences thousands of small earthquakes ..."

	Content	Relevance	PRF
Target Term Weights (Training Labels)	{ "Yellowstone":1, "National": 1, "Park": 1}	{ "Yellowstone":0.89, "Earthquake":0.12, "Wildlife": 0.2}	{ "Park":0.75, "service":0.75, "nps": 0.25}

3、Global Labels for Local Term Weighting

It takes an existing retrieval system, e.g., BM25, to retrieve documents for the queries. For each query, the top K retrieved documents are considered to be pseudo-relevant to the query. It then collects a document's pseudo-relevant queries, PRF- Q_d , and generates the PRF-based training labels using the same way as Eq (9):

$$y_{t,p} = \frac{|PRF-Q_{d,t}|}{|PRF-Q_d|}, p \in \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}. \quad (10)$$

Experiment

Table 2: Effectiveness of content-trained HDCT indexes on the ClueWeb09-C dataset. * indicates statistically significant improvements over *tf*, the standard inverted index using term frequency.

ClueWeb09-C		Title Query						Description Query					
Retrieval Model	Indexing Term Weight	MRR		NDCG@20		MAP@1000		MRR		NDCG@20		MAP@1000	
BM25	<i>tf</i>	0.493	–	0.307	–	0.248	–	0.570	–	0.321	–	0.238	–
	HDCT-title	0.592*	20%	0.342*	11%	0.254	3%	0.608	7%	0.362*	13%	0.257*	8%
	HDCT-inlink	0.586*	19%	0.356*	16%	0.265*	7%	0.625	9%	0.377*	17%	0.264*	11%
BM25FE	<i>tf</i>	0.591	–	0.322	–	0.250	–	0.651	–	0.357	–	0.269	–
	HDCT-title	0.604	2%	0.358*	11%	0.263*	5%	0.663	2%	0.376*	5%	0.274	2%
	HDCT-inlink	0.615	4%	0.361*	12%	0.270*	8%	0.643	-1%	0.385*	8%	0.280*	4%
BM25+RM3	<i>tf</i>	0.563	–	0.350	–	0.278	–	0.581	–	0.351	–	0.257	–
	HDCT-title	0.610*	8%	0.369*	6%	0.280	1%	0.634*	9%	0.386*	10%	0.276*	7%
	HDCT-inlink	0.630*	12%	0.397*	14%	0.298*	7%	0.663*	14%	0.399*	14%	0.285*	11%

BM25FE is an ensemble of BM25 rankers on different document fields.

BM25+RM3 is a popular query expansion technique

Experiment

ClueWeb09-B	Title Query						Description Query					
Method	MRR		NDCG@20		MAP@100		MRR		NDCG@20		MAP@100	
1 BM25, <i>tf</i>	0.477	-12%	0.272	-8%	0.154	-4%	0.471	-6%	0.234	-7%	0.134	-7%
2 BM25FE, <i>tf</i>	0.530 ¹	-2%	0.268	-9%	0.157	-3%	0.511 ¹³	3%	0.250 ¹	-0%	0.139 ¹	-4%
3 BM25+RM3, <i>tf</i>	0.520 ¹	-4%	0.294 ¹²	-0%	0.164 ¹	+2%	0.473	-6%	0.249 ¹	-1%	0.138	-5%
4 LeToR	0.543	–	0.295 ¹²	–	0.161 ¹	–	0.503 ¹²	–	0.251 ¹	–	0.145 ¹²³	–
5 BERT-FirstP	0.538 ¹⁴	-1%	0.286 ¹²	-3%	0.166 ¹²	+3%	0.532 ¹²³⁶	+6%	0.272 ¹²³⁴	+8%	0.151 ¹²³⁶	+4%
6 BM25, HDCT	0.543 ¹²³⁴	+0%	0.303 ¹²³⁵	+3%	0.163 ¹	+1%	0.510 ¹³	+1%	0.267 ¹²³⁴	+6%	0.143 ¹³	-1%
7 BM25FE, HDCT	0.543 ¹²³⁴	+0%	0.303 ¹²³⁵	+3%	0.163 ¹	+1%	0.521 ¹²³⁴	+3%	0.271 ¹²³⁴	+8%	0.145 ¹²³	+0%
8 BM25+RM3,HDCT	0.597 ¹⁻⁷	+10%	0.326 ¹⁻⁷	+11%	0.180 ¹⁻⁷	+12%	0.525 ¹²³⁴⁶	+4%	0.274 ¹²³⁴⁶	+9%	0.148 ¹²³	+2%

LeToR is a popular feature-based learning-to-rank method
BERT-FirstP is a neural BERT-based re-ranker

Experiment

Table 7: Effectiveness of HDCT when trained with relevance labels and pseudo-relevance labels. Dataset: MS-MARCO-Doc. Superscripts 1-5 indicate statistically significant improvements over the corresponding methods, as labeled in the second column.

MS-MARCO-Doc		Dev Query	
Retrieval Model	Indexing Term Weight	MRR	
BM25FE	1 <i>tf</i>	0.283	–
	2 HDCT-title	0.300 ¹³	+6%
	3 HDCT-PRFaol	0.291 ¹	+3%
	4 HDCT-PRFmarco	0.307 ¹²³	+8%
	5 HDCT-supervised	0.320 ¹²³⁴	+13%

HDCT-PRFmarco was trained with the PRF-based weak supervision strategy using BM25FE.

Table 1: Visualization of an HDCT weighted passage. Deeper color represents higher weights.

a troll is generally someone who tries to get attention by posting things everyone will disagree, like going to a susan boyle fan page and writing susan boyle is ugly on the wall.

Conclusion

- HDCT better captures key terms in a passage than tf.
- HDCT allows efficient and effective retrieval from an inverted index.
- A content-based weak-supervision strategy is presented to train HDCT without using relevance labels.
- Widely used in online system.

PRE-TRAINING TASKS FOR EMBEDDING-BASED LARGE-SCALE RETRIEVAL

Wei-Cheng Chang*, Felix X. Yu, Yin-Wen Chang, Yiming Yang, Sanjiv Kumar

Carnegie Mellon University & Google

`{wchang2, yiming}@cs.cmu.edu, {felixyu, yinwen, sanjivk}@google.com`

Motivation & Contribution

- BERT-style model has succeeded in re-ranking the retrieved documents.
- Using BERT-style model in the retrieval phase remains less well studied.

Methodology

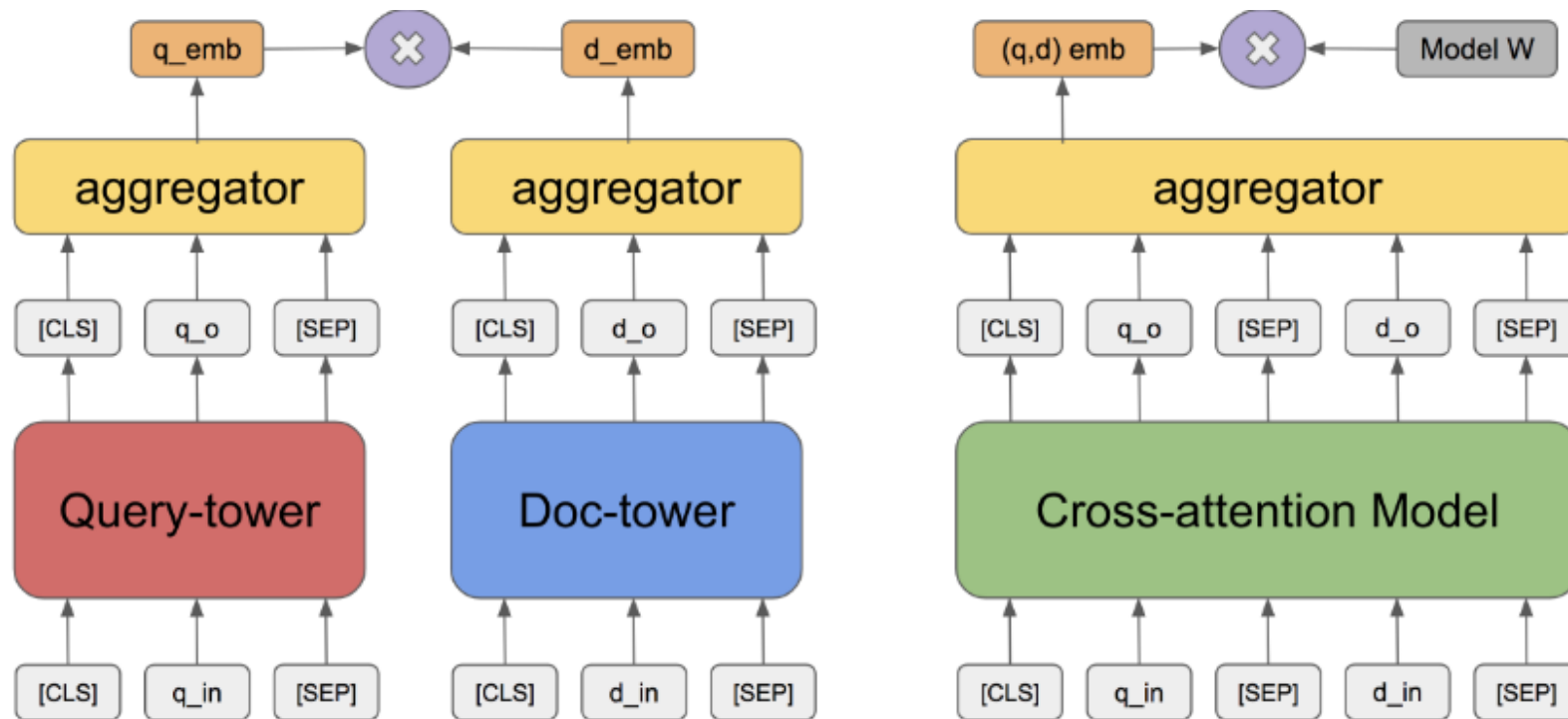


Figure 1: Difference between two-tower models and cross-attention models. Following previous works, we consider [CLS] embedding and average pooling as the aggregator's output for the two-tower Transformer model and the two-tower MLP model, respectively.

$$\text{Inference } f_{\theta,w}(q, d) = \psi_{\theta}(q \oplus d)^T w, \quad \text{Learning } p_{\theta}(d|q) = \frac{\exp(f_{\theta}(q, d))}{\sum_{d' \in \mathcal{D}} \exp(f_{\theta}(q, d'))},$$

three pre-training tasks

Inverse Cloze Task (ICT) Given a passage p consisting of n sentences, $p = \{s_1, \dots, s_n\}$, the query q is a sentence randomly drawn from the passage, $q = s_i, i \sim [1, n]$, and the document d is the rest of sentences, $d = \{s_1, \dots, s_{i-1}, s_{i+1}, \dots, s_n\}$. See (q_1, d) in Figure 2 as an example. This task captures the semantic context of a sentence and was originally proposed by Lee et al. (2019).

Career and research [edit]

After his PhD he worked at the University of Sussex, and (after difficulty finding funding in Britain)^[26] the University of San Diego, and Carnegie Mellon University.^[1] He was the founding director of the Gatsby Charitable Foundation Neuroscience Unit at University College London,^[1] and is currently^[27] a professor in the computer science department at the University of Toronto. He holds a Canada Research Chair in Machine Learning, and is currently an advisor for the *Machines & Brains* program at the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. Hinton taught a free online course on Deep Neural Networks on the education platform Coursera in 2012.^[28] Hinton joined Google in March 2013 when his company, Gradient Descent Inc., was acquired. He is planning to "divide his time between his university research and his work at Google".^[29] Hinton's research investigates ways of using neural networks for machine learning, memory, perception and symbol processing. He has authored or co-authored over 200 peer reviewed publications.^{[2][30]}

three pre-training tasks

Body First Selection (BFS) We propose BFS to capture semantic relationship outside of the local paragraph. Here, the query q_2 is a random sentence in the first section of a Wikipedia page, and the document d is a random passage from the same page (Figure 2). Since the first section of a Wikipedia article is often the description or summary of the whole page, we expect it to contain information central to the topic.

Geoffrey Everest Hinton CC FRS FRSC^[11] (born 6 December 1947) is an [English Canadian cognitive psychology scientist](#), most noted for his work on [artificial neural networks](#). Since 2013 he divides his time working for [Google](#) and the [University of Toronto](#).^{[12][13]}

q_2 With [David E. Rumelhart](#) and [Ronald J. Williams](#), Hinton was co-author of a highly cited paper published in 1986 the [backpropagation](#) algorithm for training multi-layer neural networks,^[14] although they were not the first to propose approach.^[15] Hinton is viewed by some as a leading figure in the [deep learning](#) community and is referred to by some as "Godfather of Deep Learning".^{[16][17][18][19][20]} The dramatic image-recognition milestone of the [AlexNet](#) designed by [Alex Krizhevsky](#)^[21] for the [ImageNet](#) challenge 2012^[22] helped to revolutionize the field of computer vision.^[23] Hinton was awarded the 2018 [Turing Prize](#) alongside [Yoshua Bengio](#) and [Yann LeCun](#) for their work on deep learning.^[24]

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Education [\[edit\]](#)

Hinton was educated at [King's College, Cambridge](#) graduating in 1970, with a [Bachelor of Arts](#) in experimental psychology. He continued his study at the [University of Edinburgh](#) where he was awarded a [PhD](#) in [artificial intelligence](#) in 1978 for a thesis supervised by [Christopher Longuet-Higgins](#).^{[3][25]}

three pre-training tasks

Wiki Link Prediction (WLP) We propose WLP to capture inter-page semantic relation. The query q_3 is a random sentence in the first section of a Wikipedia page, and the document d is a passage from another page where there is a hyperlink link to the page of q_3 (Figure 2). Intuitively, a hyperlink link indicates relationship between the two Wikipedia pages. Again, we take a sentence from the first section because it is often the description or summary of the topic.

d1

Hinton's research investigates ways of using neural networks for machine learning, memory, perception and sym
He has authored or co-authored over 200 peer reviewed publications.^{[2][30]}

q_3

d2

Machine learning (ML) is the scientific study of algorithms and statistical models that computer systems use to p
specific task without using explicit instructions, relying on patterns and inference instead. It is seen as a subset of
intelligence. Machine learning algorithms build a mathematical model based on sample data, known as "training c
make predictions or decisions without being explicitly programmed to perform the task.^{[1][2]:2} Machine learning alg
used in a wide variety of applications, such as email filtering and computer vision, where it is difficult or infeasible
conventional algorithm for effectively performing the task.

Machine learning is closely related to computational statistics, which focuses on making predictions using comput
of mathematical optimization delivers methods, theory and application domains to the field of machine learning. D
field of study within machine learning, and focuses on exploratory data analysis through unsupervised learning.^[3]
application across business problems, machine learning is also referred to as predictive analytics.

Contents [show](#)

Experiment

train/test ratio	Encoder	Pre-training task	R@1	R@5	R@10	R@50	R@100
1%/99%	BM-25	No Pretraining	41.86	58.00	63.64	74.15	77.91
	BoW-MLP	No Pretraining	0.14	0.35	0.49	1.13	1.72
	BoW-MLP	ICT+BFS+WLP	22.55	41.03	49.93	69.70	77.01
	Transformer	No Pretraining	0.02	0.06	0.08	0.31	0.54
	Transformer	MLM	0.18	0.51	0.82	2.46	3.93
	Transformer	ICT+BFS+WLP	37.43	61.48	70.18	85.37	89.85
5%/95%	BM-25	No Pretraining	41.87	57.98	63.63	74.17	77.91
	BoW-MLP	No Pretraining	1.13	2.68	3.62	7.16	9.55
	BoW-MLP	ICT+BFS+WLP	26.23	46.49	55.68	75.28	81.89
	Transformer	No Pretraining	0.17	0.36	0.54	1.43	2.17
	Transformer	MLM	1.19	3.59	5.40	12.52	17.41
	Transformer	ICT+BFS+WLP	45.90	70.89	78.47	90.49	93.64
80%/20%	BM-25	No Pretraining	41.77	57.95	63.55	73.94	77.49
	BoW-MLP	No Pretraining	19.65	36.31	44.19	62.40	69.19
	BoW-MLP	ICT+BFS+WLP	32.24	55.26	65.49	83.37	88.50
	Transformer	No Pretraining	12.32	26.88	34.46	53.74	61.53
	Transformer	MLM	27.34	49.59	58.17	74.89	80.33
	Transformer	ICT+BFS+WLP	58.35	82.76	88.44	95.87	97.49

Table 3: Recall@k on SQuAD. Numbers are in percentage (%).

Experiment

Index	Ablation Configuration			R@100 on different train/test ratio			
	#layer	Pre-training task	emb-dim	1%	5%	10%	80%
1	4	ICT	128	77.13	82.03	84.22	91.88
2	4	BFS	128	72.99	78.34	80.47	89.82
3	4	WLP	128	56.94	68.08	72.51	86.15
4	12	No Pretraining	128	0.72	3.88	6.94	38.94
5	12	MLM	128	2.99	12.21	22.97	71.12
6	12	ICT	128	79.80	85.97	88.13	93.91
7	12	ICT+BFS+WLP	128	81.31	87.08	89.06	94.37
8	12	ICT+BFS+WLP	256	81.48	87.74	89.54	94.73
9	12	ICT+BFS+WLP	512	82.84	88.05	90.03	94.60

Conclusion

- Models with random initialization (No Pretraining) or the unsuitable token-level pre-training task (MLM) are no better than the robust IR baseline BM-25 in most cases.

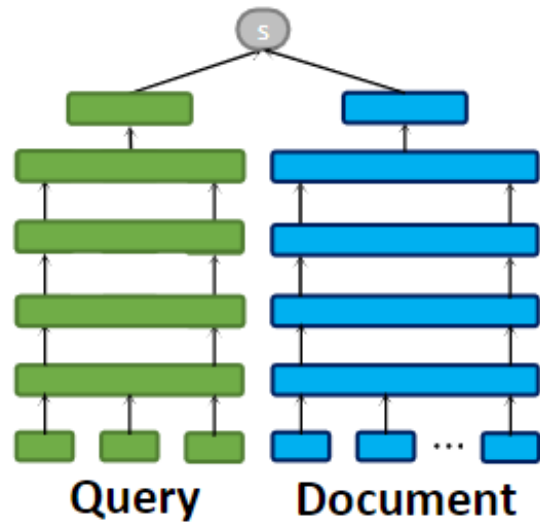
ColBERT: Efficient and Effective Passage Search via Contextualized Late Interaction over BERT

Omar Khattab
Stanford University
okhattab@stanford.edu

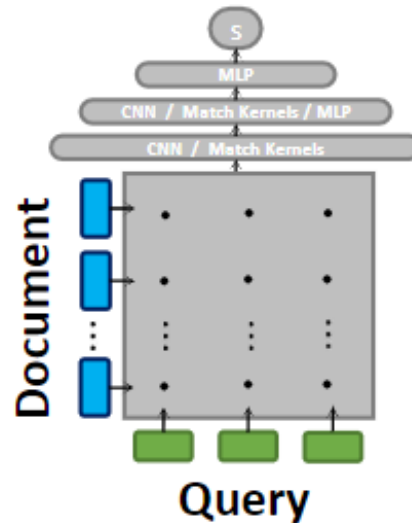
Matei Zaharia
Stanford University
matei@cs.stanford.edu

Motivation & Contribution

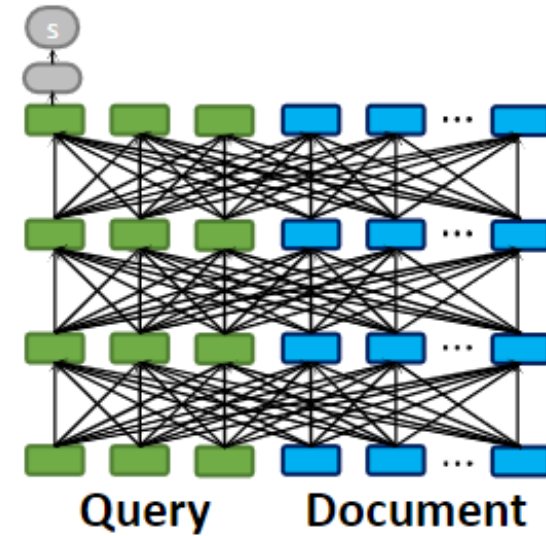
- A novel ***late interaction*** paradigm for estimating relevance between a query and a document



(a) Representation-based Similarity
(e.g., DSSM, SNRM)

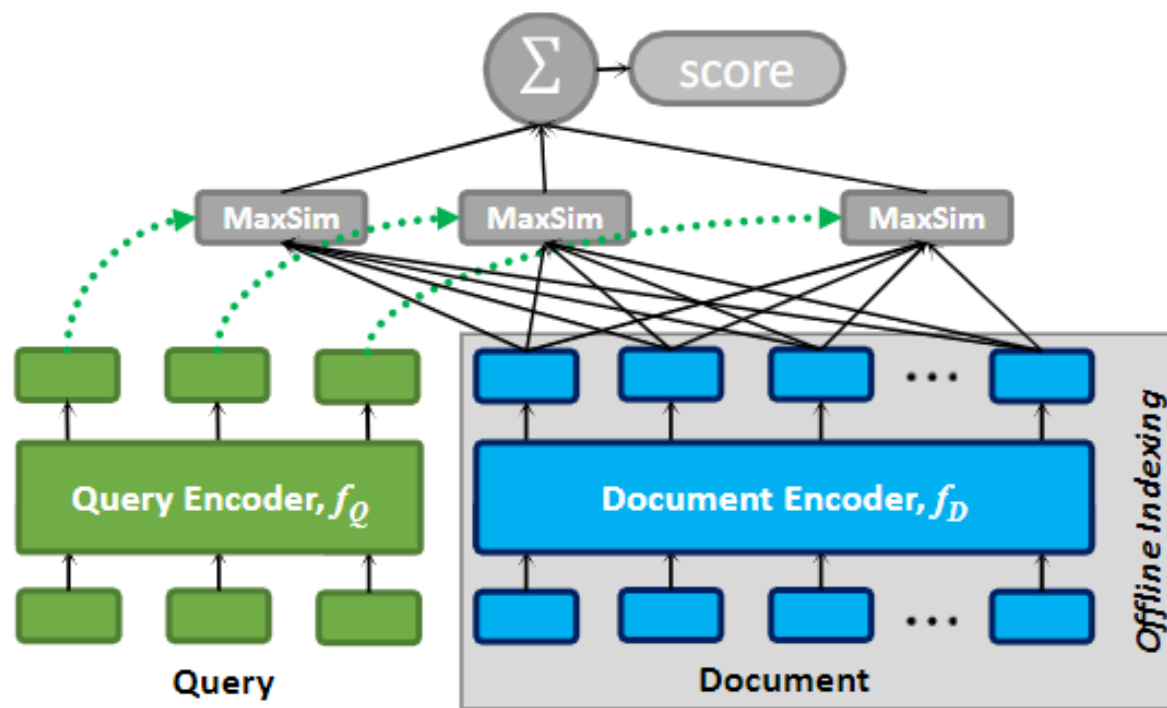


(b) Query-Document Interaction
(e.g., DRMM, KNRM, Conv-KNRM)



(c) All-to-all Interaction
(e.g., BERT)

Methodology



Late Interaction

$$S_{q,d} := \sum_{i \in [|E_q|]} \max_{j \in [|E_d|]} E_{q_i} \cdot E_{d_j}^T$$

Learning

$$p_{\theta}(d|q) = \frac{\exp(f_{\theta}(q, d))}{\sum_{d' \in \mathcal{D}} \exp(f_{\theta}(q, d'))},$$

Figure 3: The general architecture of ColBERT given a query q and a document d .

two-stage to retrieve the top-k documents

- the first is an approximate stage aimed at filtering (faiss, facebook)
- the second is a refinement stage

Experiment

Method	MRR@10 (Dev)	MRR@10 (Eval)	Re-ranking Latency (ms)	FLOPs/query
BM25 (official)	16.7	16.5	-	-
KNRM	19.8	19.8	3	592M (0.085×)
Duet	24.3	24.5	22	159B (23×)
fastText+ConvKNRM	29.0	27.7	28	78B (11×)
BERT _{base} [25]	34.7	-	10,700	97T (13,900×)
BERT _{base} (our training)	36.0	-	10,700	97T (13,900×)
BERT _{large} [25]	36.5	35.9	32,900	340T (48,600×)
ColBERT (over BERT _{base})	34.9	34.9	61	7B (1×)

Table 1: “Re-ranking” results on MS MARCO. Each neural model re-ranks the official top-1000 results produced by BM25. Latency is reported for re-ranking only. To obtain the end-to-end latency in Figure 1, we add the BM25 latency from Table 2.

Experiment

Method	MRR@10 (Dev)	MRR@10 (Local Eval)	Latency (ms)	Recall@50	Recall@200	Recall@1000
BM25 (official)	16.7	-	-	-	-	81.4
BM25 (Anserini)	18.7	19.5	62	59.2	73.8	85.7
doc2query	21.5	22.8	85	64.4	77.9	89.1
DeepCT	24.3	-	62 (<i>est.</i>)	69 [2]	82 [2]	91 [2]
docTTTTTquery	27.7	28.4	87	75.6	86.9	94.7
ColBERT _{L2} (re-rank)	34.8	36.4	-	75.3	80.5	81.4
ColBERT _{L2} (end-to-end)	36.0	36.7	458	82.9	92.3	96.8

Table 2: End-to-end retrieval results on MS MARCO. Each model retrieves the top-1000 documents per query *directly* from the entire 8.8M document collection.

Experiment

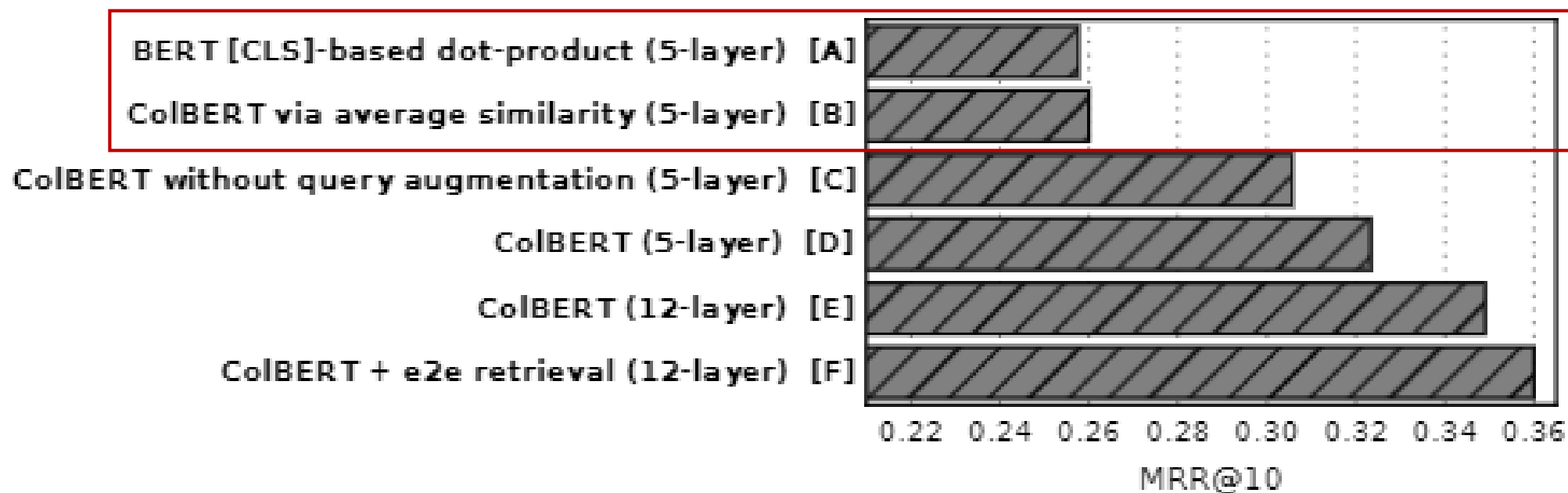


Figure 5: Ablation results on MS MARCO (Dev). Between brackets is the number of BERT layers used in each model.

Conclusion

- ColBERT can leverage the expressiveness of deep LMs while greatly speeding up query processing.
- Easy to implement
- SOTA

END!