

Part VIII

Conclusion

Tutorial Summary

Introduction to Open-domain Question Answering

- Problem definition, motivation, applications
- Brief historical review
 - One of the earliest AI challenges
 - TREC QA tracks
 - IBM Watson Deep QA
 - Machine reading comprehension

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Latest development on QA

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- Dense retriever and end-to-end training
 - ORQA - Lee et al. 2019. *Latent Retrieval for Weakly Supervised Open Domain Question Answering.*
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 - T5 - Roberts et al. 2020. *How Much Knowledge Can You Pack Into the Parameters of a Language Model?*

Tutorial Summary

Open-domain QA using KBs and text

- Introduction to open-domain QA using KBs
 - Properties of entity-centric knowledge bases
 - Pros and cons of using KBs for open-domain QA
- Recent work on using both text and KBs
 - Constructing graphs of heterogeneous nodes & edges
 - Sun & Dhingra et al. 2018. *Open Domain Question Answering Using Early Fusion of Knowledge Bases and Text.*
 - Leverage graphs for passage retrieval
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Open problems and future directions

- Hot topic: the two open-domain QA paradigms:
Explicit context retrieval vs. knowledge encoded in models
 - Pros/Cons & Trade-off
 - Impact of large pre-trained models
 - Efficiency & accuracy
- Complete user experience
 - Rationale and evidence to support answers
 - Answer triggering: knowing when it doesn't know
- User interaction and grounding
 - Multi-turn, conversational QA
 - Multi-modal interactions (e.g., VQA, virtual tour guide)

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