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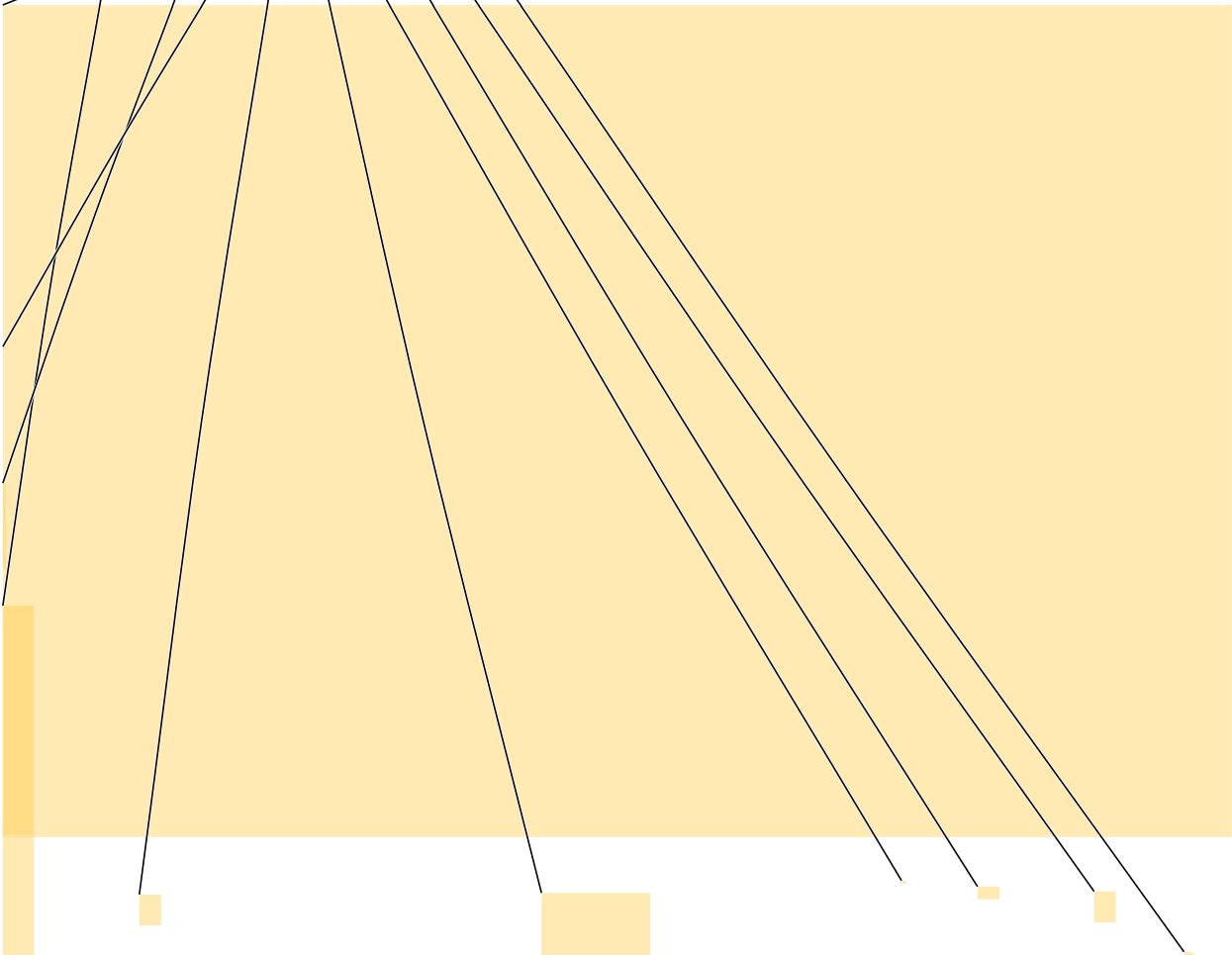
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MTA4DPR: Multi-Teaching-Assistants Based Iterative Knowledge Distillation for Dense Passage Retrieval

¹Qixi Lu^{1,2}, Endong Xun¹, and Gongbo Tang^{*2}

¹Beijing Advanced Innovation Center for Language Resources, Beijing Language and Culture University, China

²School of Information Science, Beijing Language and Culture University, China
lqpaixzh@gmail.com, edrun, gongbo, tang@blu.edu.cn

Abstract

Although Dense Passage Retrieval (DPR) models have achieved significantly enhanced performance, their widespread application is still hindered by the demanding inference efficiency and high deployment costs. Knowledge distillation is an efficient method to compress models, which transfers knowledge from strong teacher models to weak student models. Previous studies have proved the effectiveness of knowledge distillation in DPR. However, there often remains a significant performance gap between the teacher and the distilled student. To narrow this performance gap, we propose MTA4DPR, a Multi-Teaching-Assistants based iterative knowledge distillation method for Dense Passage Retrieval, which transfers knowledge from the teacher to the student with the help of multiple assistants in an iterative manner; with each iteration, the student learns from more performant assistants and takes different data. The experimental results show that our MTA4DPR student model achieves the state-of-the-art performance among models with same parameters and memory.

3 Experiments

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4 Conclusion

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A Algorithm

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Algorithm 1 MTA4DPR Training Process
Require: the teacher model; the assistant model;
        the student model; the query set; the
        passage set; : maximum number of training it-
        erations; : maximum number of training steps;
        Learning rate;
Ensure:
1: Initialize the student model with the teacher model;
2: while do
3:   [TEACHABLE]
4:   [MISSING]
5: end while
```

1 Introduction

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2 Methodology

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— Corresponding author