

# Reading Wikipedia to answer open-domain questions

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# Open-domain questions

What is the capital of Russia?

# Open-domain questions

Who won the 2018 FIFA World Cup?

# Open-domain questions

How many people lived in Australia in 1968?

# Question answering system

**Input:** question in a natural language

**Output:** answer to the input question

# Question answering system

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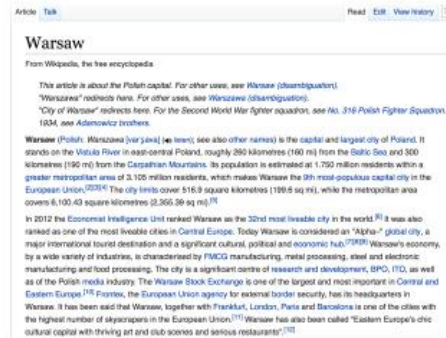
- Contains **up-to-date** knowledge
- Approach is **generic**
- Model is very **precise** while searching for an answer

# DrQA

Q: How many of Warsaw's inhabitants spoke Polish in 1933?

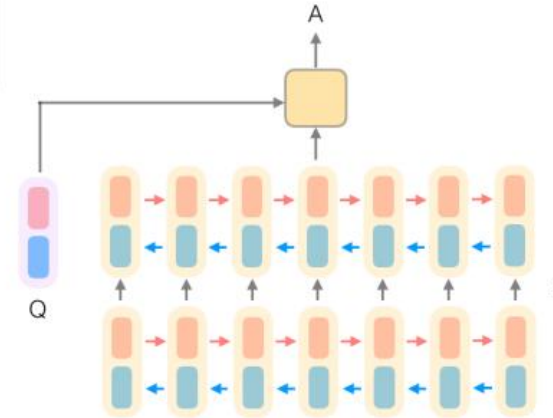


**Document  
Retriever**



**Document  
Reader**

833,500



```
>>> process('What is the answer to life, the universe, and everything?')
```

Top Predictions:

+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+				
Rank	Answer	Doc	Answer Score	Doc Score
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+				
1	42	Phrases from The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy	47242	141.26
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+				

Contexts:

[ Doc = Phrases from The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy ]

The number 42 and the phrase, "Life, the universe, and everything" have attained cult status on the Internet. "Life, the universe, and everything" is a common name for the off-topic section of an Internet forum and the phrase is invoked in similar ways to mean "anything at all". Many chatbots, when asked about the meaning of life, will answer "42". Several online calculators are also programmed with the Question. Google Calculator will give the result to "the answer to life the universe and everything" as 42, as will Wolfram's Computational Knowledge Engine. Similarly, DuckDuckGo also gives the result of "the answer to the ultimate question of life, the universe and everything" as 42. In the online community Second Life, there is a section on a sim called 43. "42nd Life." It is devoted to this concept in the book series, and several attempts at recreating Milliways, the Restaurant at the End of the Universe, were made.

```
>>> process('Who was the winning pitcher in the 1956 World Series?')
```

Top Predictions:

Rank	Answer	Doc	Answer Score	Doc Score
1	Don Larsen	New York Yankees	4.5059e+06	278.06

Contexts:

[ Doc = New York Yankees ]

In 1954, the Yankees won over 100 games, but the Indians took the pennant with an AL record 111 wins; 1954 was famously referred to as "The Year the Yankees Lost the Pennant". In , the Dodgers finally beat the Yankees in the World Series, after five previous Series losses to them, but the Yankees came back strong the next year. On October 8, 1956, in Game Five of the 1956 World Series against the Dodgers, pitcher Don Larsen threw the only perfect game in World Series history, which remains the only perfect game in postseason play and was the only no-hitter of any kind to be pitched in postseason play until Roy Halladay pitched a no-hitter on October 6, 2010.

# Document Retriever

- Articles and questions are compared as **TF-IDF** vectors
- Local word order is taken into account with **n-gram features** (bigrams perform best)
- **Hashing** is used for preserving speed and memory efficiency



# Document Reader

- Question  $q = \{q_1, \dots, q_\ell\}$
- Set of documents with  $n$  paragraphs in total
- Paragraph  $p = \{p_1, \dots, p_m\}$

# Paragraph encoding

Each token  $p_i$  in paragraph  $p$   
is represented as feature vector  $\tilde{p}_i \in \mathbb{R}^d$

# Paragraph encoding

Word embedding

$$f_{emb}(p_i) = \mathbf{E}(p_i)$$

- 300-dimensional GloVe word embeddings
- Fine-tune the 1000 most frequent question words



# Paragraph encoding

## Exact match

$$f_{exact\_match}(p_i) = \mathbb{I}(p_i, q)$$

- $p_i$  exactly matches a word in  $q$
- $p_i$  is a lowercased word from  $q$
- $p_i$  is lemma form of a word from  $q$

# Paragraph encoding

## Token features

$$f_{token}(p_i) = (POS(p_i), NER(p_i), TF(p_i))$$

- POS – Part of Speech
- NER – Named Entity Recognition
- TF – term frequency

# Paragraph encoding

## Aligned question embedding

$$f_{align}(p_i) = \sum_j a_{i,j} \mathbf{E}(q_j)$$

$$a_{i,j} = \frac{\exp(\alpha(\mathbf{E}(p_i)) \cdot \alpha(\mathbf{E}(q_j)))}{\sum_{j'} \exp(\alpha(\mathbf{E}(p_i)) \cdot \alpha(\mathbf{E}(q_{j'})))}$$

$\alpha(\cdot)$  is a single dense layer with ReLU

# Paragraph encoding

$$\tilde{p}_i = (f_{emb}(p_i), f_{exact\_match}(p_i), f_{token}(p_i), f_{align}(p_i)) \in \mathbb{R}^d$$

$$\{\pi_1, \dots, \pi_m\} = LSTM(\{\tilde{p}_i, \dots, \tilde{p}_m\})$$

# Question encoding

$$\{\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_\ell\} = RNN(\{q_1, \dots, q_\ell\})$$

$$\{\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_\ell\} \rightarrow \varphi$$

$$\varphi = \sum_j b_j \varphi_j$$

$$b_j = \frac{\exp(w \cdot \varphi_j)}{\sum_{j'} \exp(w \cdot \varphi_{j'})}$$

# Train and Prediction

- Input:  $\{\pi_1, \dots, \pi_m\}, \varphi$
- Output: for each token  $i$  :  $P_{start}(i), P_{end}(i)$

Choose  $(i, i')$ :

$$i \leq i' \leq i + 15$$

$$\arg \max P_{start}(i) \times P_{end}(i')$$

# Data

- *Wikipedia* for **answering** questions
- *SQuAD* dataset for training and testing **Document Reader**
- *CuratedTREC*, *WebQuestions*, *WikiMovies* for training and testing **full QA system**

# Distantly Supervised Data

- 1) Run Document Retriever and retrieve 5 Wikipedia articles
- 2) Discard all paragraphs without exact match of the answer
- 3) Discard all paragraphs shorter than 25 and longer than 1500 chars
- 4) Discard all paragraphs without name entities from question
- 5) For remaining paragraphs score all positions that match answer using overlap between question and 20-token window
- 6) Save Top 5 paragraphs with highest overlap



# Experiments

# Finding relevant articles

Dataset	Wikipedia Search Engine	Document Retriever
SQuAD	62.7	<b>77.8</b> ↑
CuratedTREC	81.0	<b>86.0</b> ↑
WebQuestions	73.7	<b>75.5</b> ↑
WikiMovies	61.7	<b>70.3</b> ↑

Numbers show the ratio of questions for which answers appear in Top 5 articles returned by each system

# Reader evaluation on SQuAD

Method	Exact Match	F1 Score
Dynamic Coattention Networks	65.4	75.6
Multi-Perspective Matching	66.1	75.8
BiDAF	67.7	77.3
DrQA	69.5 ↑	78.8 ↑

# Ablation analysis of features

Features	F1 Score
Full	78.8
No $f_{token}$	78.0 ↓
No $f_{exact\_match}$	77.3 ↓
No $f_{aligned}$	77.3 ↓
No $f_{aligned}$ and $f_{exact\_match}$	59.4 ↓

# Full Wikipedia Question Answering

## Three versions of DrQA:

- **SQuAD**: A Document Reader model is trained only on the SQuAD training set
- **Fine-Tune**: A Document Reader model is pre-trained on SQuAD dataset and then fine-tuned for each dataset using DS
- **Multitask**: A Document Reader model is trained on the SQuAD dataset and all the DS sources

# Full Wikipedia Results

Dataset	YodaQA	DrQA		
		SQuAD	Fine-Tune	Multitask
All Wikipedia	n/a	27.1	28.4	29.8
CuratedTREC	<b>31.3</b> ↑	19.7	25.7	25.4
WebQuestions	<b>39.8</b> ↑	11.8	19.5	20.7
WikiMovies	n/a	24.5	34.3	36.5

Numbers show exact-match accuracy

# Bibliography

- Chen, Danqi; Fisch, Adam; Weston, Jason; Bordes, Antoine (2017). "Reading Wikipedia to Answer Open-Domain Questions". arXiv: [1704.00051](https://arxiv.org/abs/1704.00051)
- “Question answering” – Wikipedia [Electronic resource], URL: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Question\\_answering](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Question_answering)
- “DrQA” – GitHub [Electronic resource], URL: <https://github.com/facebookresearch/DrQA>