AES-Multi Scoring

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, pre-trained models have become dominant in most natural language processing (NLP) tasks. However, in the area of Automated Essay Scoring (AES), pre-trained models such as BERT have not been properly used to outperform other deep learning models such as LSTM. In this paper, we introduce a novel multi-scale essay representation for BERT that can be jointly learned. We also employ multiple losses and transfer learning from out-of-domain essays to further improve the performance. Experiment results show that our approach derives much benefit from joint learning of multi-scale essay representation and obtains almost the state-of-the- art result among all deep learning models in the ASAP1 task. Our multi-scale essay representation also generalizes well to Common- Lit Readability Prize (CRP2) data set, which suggests that the novel text representation proposed in this paper may be a new and effective choice for long-text tasks.

1.INTRODUCTION

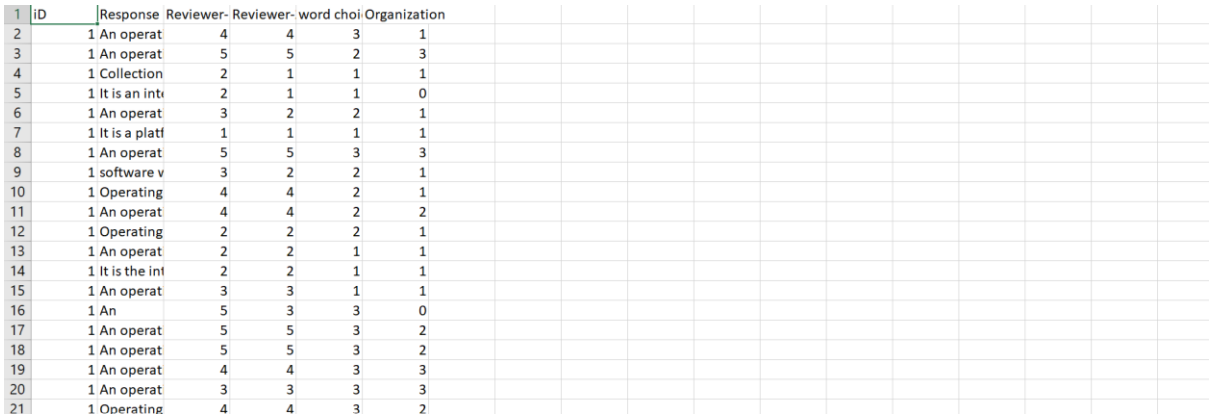
AES is a valuable task, which can promote the development of automated assessment and help teachers reduce the heavy burden of assessment. With the rise of online education in recent years, more and more researchers begin to pay attention to this field. AES systems typically consist of two modules, which are essay representation and essay scoring module. The essay representation module extracts features to represent an essay and the essay scoring module rates the essay with the extracted features. When a teacher rates an essay, the scores are often affected by multiple signals from different granularity levels, such as token level, sentence level, paragraph level and etc. For example, the features may include the numbers of words, the essay structure, the master degree of vocabulary and syntactic complexity, etc. These features come from different scales of the essay. This inspires us to extract multi-scale features from the essays which represent multi-level characteristics of the essays. Most of the deep neural networks AES systems use LSTM or CNN. Some researchers attempt to use BERT in their AES systems but fail to outperform other deep neural networks methods. We believe previous approaches using BERT for AES suffer from at least three limitations. First, the pre-trained models are usually trained on sentence level, but fail to learn enough knowledge of essays. Second, the AES training data is usually quite limited for direct fine tuning of the pre-trained models in order to learn better representation of essays. Last but not least, mean squared error is commonly used in the AES task as the loss function. However, the distribution of the sample population and the sorting properties between samples are also important issues to be considered when designing the loss functions as they imitate the psychological process of teachers rating essays. Different optimizations can also bring diversity to the final overall score distribution and contribute to the effectiveness of ensemble learning.

2.PROBLEM STATEMENT

Due to COVID 19 outbreak, an online educational system has become inevitable. In the present scenario, almost all the educational institutions ranging from schools to colleges adapt the online education system. The assessment plays a significant role in measuring the learning ability of the student. Most automated evaluation is available for multiple choice questions, but assessing short and essay answers remain a challenge. The education system is changing its shift to online-mode, like conducting computer-based exams and automatic evaluation. It is a crucial application related to the education domain, which uses natural language processing (NLP) and Machine Learning techniques. The evaluation of essays is impossible with simple programming languages and simple techniques like pattern matching and language processing. Here the problem is for a single question, we will get more responses from students with a different explanation. So, we need to evaluate all the answers concerning the question. This Multi-Scoring will evaluate the response as scoring, word choice and organization.

3.DATASETS AND ATTRIBUTES

For this project the dataset is customized dataset. It consists of the response which need to be evaluated for reviewer1,2, Word choice and Organization. The dataset has 512 responses with in score of 0 to 5.



	iD	Response	Reviewer-	Reviewer-	word choi	Organization
2	1	An operat	4	4	3	1
3	1	An operat	5	5	2	3
4	1	Collection	2	1	1	1
5	1	It is an int	2	1	1	0
6	1	An operat	3	2	2	1
7	1	It is a platf	1	1	1	1
8	1	An operat	5	5	3	3
9	1	software v	3	2	2	1
10	1	Operating	4	4	2	1
11	1	An operat	4	4	2	2
12	1	Operating	2	2	2	1
13	1	An operat	2	2	1	1
14	1	It is the int	2	2	1	1
15	1	An operat	3	3	1	1
16	1	An	5	3	3	0
17	1	An operat	5	5	3	2
18	1	An operat	5	5	3	2
19	1	An operat	4	4	3	3
20	1	An operat	3	3	3	3
21	1	Operating	4	4	3	2

482	1	AnÃ Operi	3	3	3	2
483	1	An operati	3	3	3	3
484	1	operating	2	2	2	1
485	1	An operati	2	2	2	1
486	1	It is a	2	2	2	1
487	1	An Operat	4	4	3	3
488	1	AnÃ Operi	4	4	3	3
489	1	operating	2	2	2	1
490	1	An operati	3	3	3	2
491	1	Which act	1	1	2	0
492	1	It works at	0	0	1	0
493	1	An operati	2	2	2	1
494	1	operating	0	0	1	0
495	1	Operating	1	1	2	1
496	1	It tells abo	0	0	1	0
497	1	An operati	2	2	2	2
498	1	An operati	2	2	2	2
499	1	Operating	1	1	2	1
500	1	An operati	2	2	2	1
501	1	The OS he	1	1	2	1
502	1	Operating	1	1	2	1
503	1	It is the op	1	1	2	1
504	1	Required t	1	1	1	0
505	1	It is an int	2	2	2	2
506	1	Operating	0	0	1	0
507	1	An operati	2	2	2	1
508	1	1.An oper	3	3	3	2
509	1	An Operat	4	4	4	3
510	1	It is a coll	4	4	4	3
511	1	It is a	2	2	2	1
512	1	Operating	2	2	2	2
513	1	Operating	2	2	2	1
514	1	Operatin	2	2	2	2

OSNLP (1)

4.RELATED WORK

The dominant approaches in AES can be grouped into three categories: traditional AES, deep neural networks AES and pre-training AES. Traditional AES usually uses regression or ranking systems with complicated hand- crafted features to rate an essay. These handcrafted features are based on the prior knowledge of linguists. Therefore, they can achieve good performance even with small amounts of data. Deep-Learning Neural Networks AES has made great progress and achieved comparable results with traditional AES recently.

While the handcrafted features are complicated to implement and careful manual design makes these features less portable, deep neural networks such as LSTM or CNN can automatically discover and learn com- plex features of essays, which makes AES an end-to-end task. Saving much time to design features, deep neural networks can transfer well among different AES tasks. By combining traditional and deep neural network approaches, AES can even obtain a better result, which benefits from both representations. Pretraining AES uses the pre-trained language model as the initial essay representation module and fine tune the model on the essay training set. Though the pre-trained methods have achieved the state of the art performance in most NLP tasks, most of them fail to show an advantage over other deep learning methods in AES task. As far as we know, the work from Cao et al. (2020) and Yang et al. (2020) are the only two pre- training approaches which surpass the other deep learning methods. Their improvement mainly comes from the training optimization. Cao et al. (2020) employ two self-supervised tasks and domain adversarial training, while Yang et al. (2020) combine regression and ranking to train their model.

4.1 Multi-scale Essay Representation

We obtain the multi-scale essay representation from three scales: token-scale, segment-scale and document-scale.

Token-scale and Document-scale Input We apply one pre-trained BERT (Devlin et al., 2019) model for token-scale and document-scale essay representations. The BERT tokenizer is used to split the essay into a token sequence T1 = [t1, t2, ...tn], where ti is the token and n is the number of the tokens in the essay. The token we mentioned in this paper all refer to Word Piece, which is obtained by the sub-word tokenization algorithm used for BERT. We construct a new sequence T2 from T1 as following. L is set to 510, which is the max sequence length supported by BERT.

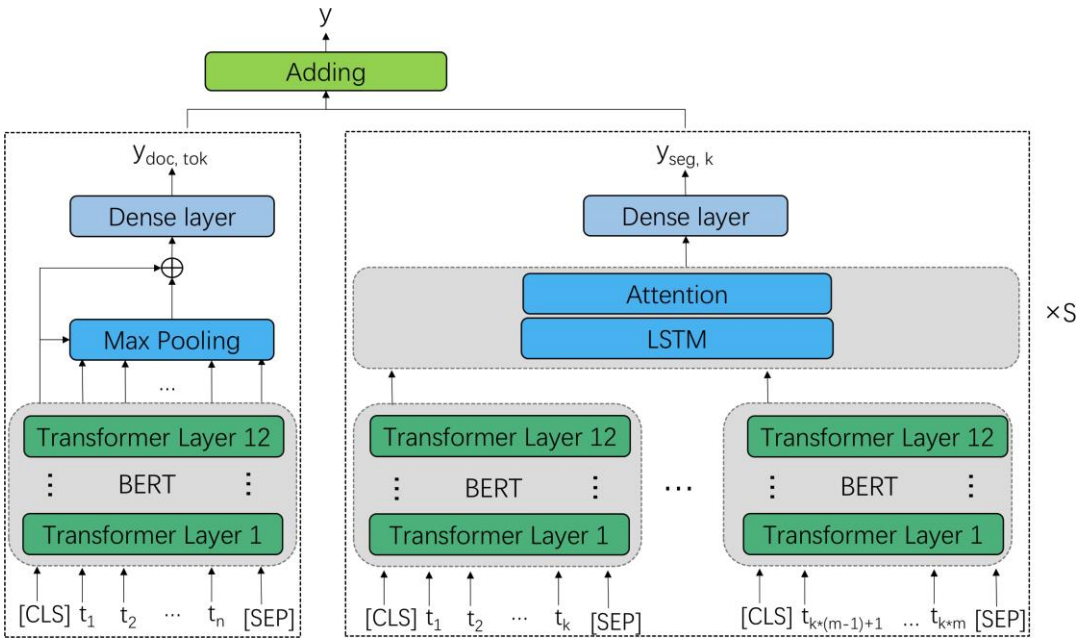


Figure 1: **multi-scale essay representation.**

5.CONCLUSION

In this paper, we propose a novel multi-scale essay representation approach based on pre-trained language model, and employ multiple losses and transfer learning for AES task. We almost obtain the state of the art result among deep learning models. In addition, we show multi-scale representation has a significant advantage when dealing with long texts. One of the future directions could be exploring soft multi-scale representation. Introducing linguistic knowledge to segment at a more reasonable scale may bring further improvement.

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