



CCL 2018自然语言处理国际前沿动态综述

阅读理解方向

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内容概要



- 阅读理解任务简介
- 阅读理解领域近期研究趋势
 - 数据集（任务）
 - 模型方法
 - 技术评测
- 报告总结
- 参考文献



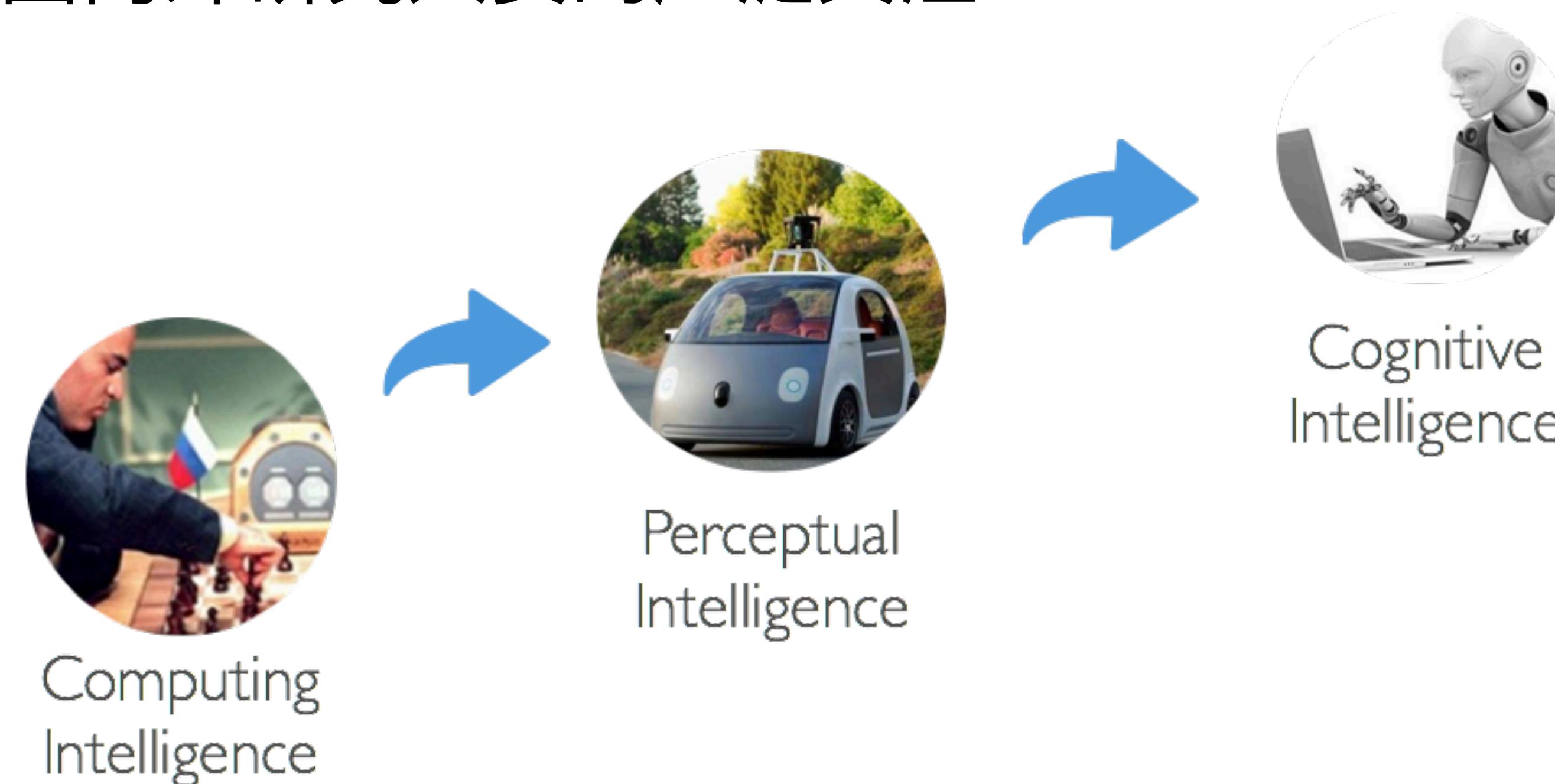
阅读理解任务简介



阅读理解任务简介



- 人工智能的一个重要目标是让机器能听会说，能理解会思考
- 机器阅读理解 (Machine Reading Comprehension, MRC) 作为认知智能的典型任务受到国内外研究人员的广泛关注



阅读理解任务简介



- 多数情况下，阅读理解任务包含如下几个要素
 - **Document**: 需要机器阅读的篇章
 - 根据篇章的数量，可分为单文档阅读理解以及多文档阅读理解等
 - **Question**: 根据篇章内容所提出的问题
 - 根据问题的类型，可分为填空型或者用户提问型等
 - **Candidate**: 候选答案
 - 根据任务的不同，会有一些候选答案，例如选择型阅读理解等
 - **Answer**: 答案
 - 根据任务的不同，答案可能是单个词、篇章片段、生成出来的句子等



前期阅读理解发展





阅读理解领域近期研究趋势



论文数量趋势

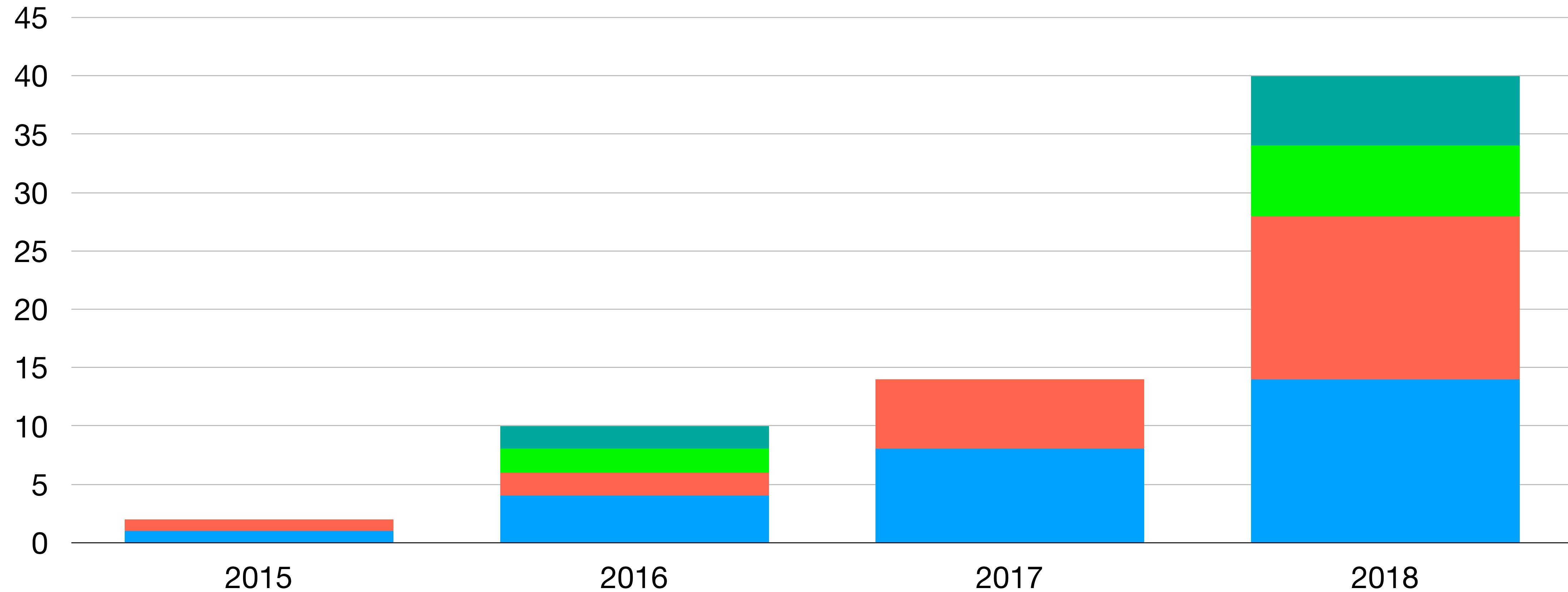


ACL

EMNLP

NAACL

COLING



*相关数据统计自ACL Anthology: <http://aclanthology.info/>

**NAACL无17年数据

***COLING只在双数年份召开



论文数量趋势

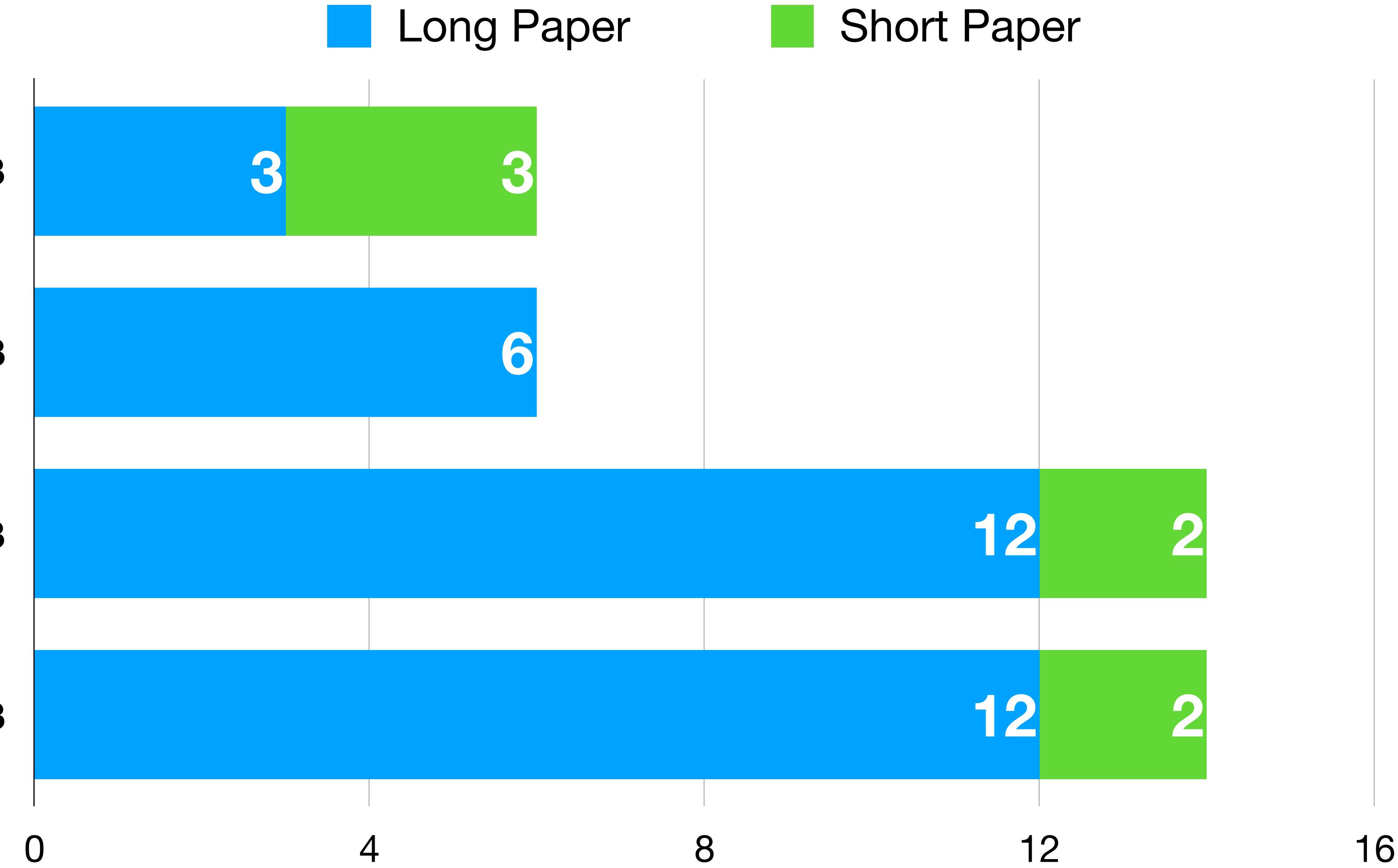


NAACL-HLT-2018

COLING 2018

ACL 2018

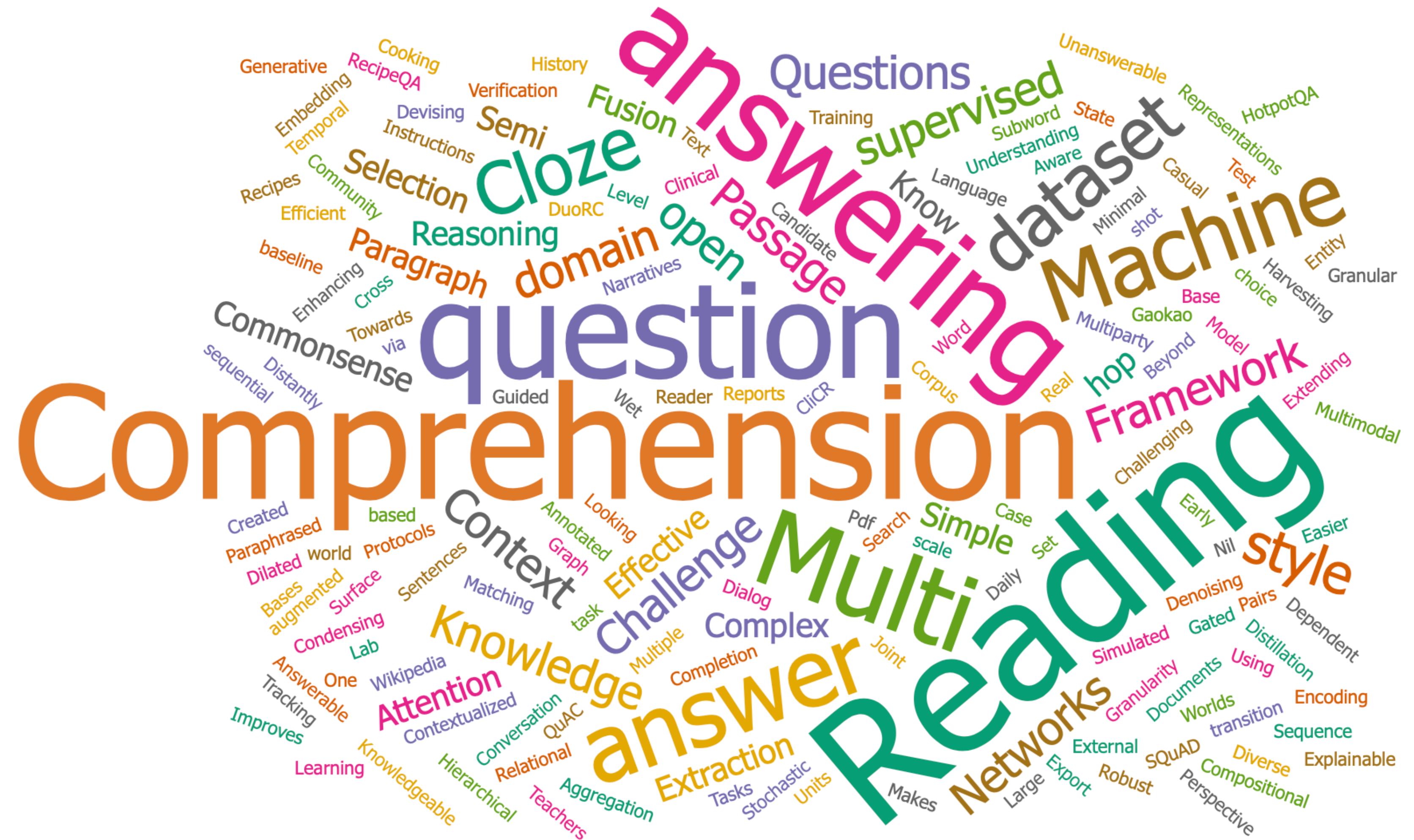
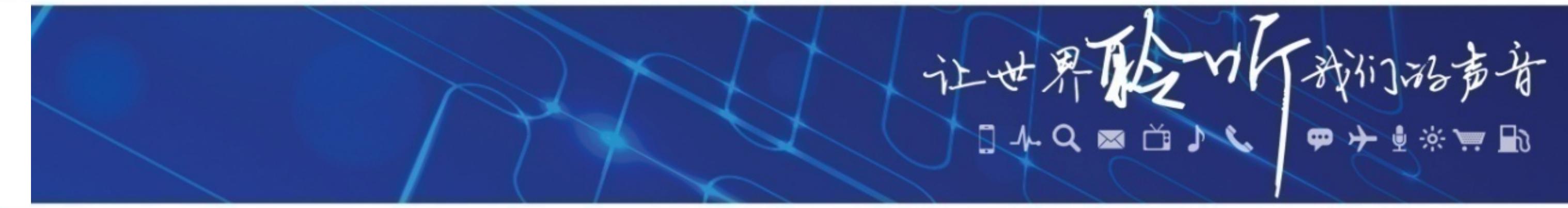
EMNLP 2018



*相关数据统计自ACL Anthology: <http://aclanthology.info/>



论文标题词云



*Image generated by <https://wordsift.org>



数据集发展趋势



- 面向更复杂，更接近真实应用场景的数据集



- **SQuAD 1.1 → SQuAD 2.0**
- 2016年6月，斯坦福大学发布了Stanford Question Answering Dataset (SQuAD) 数据集，开启了阅读理解数据集的新篇章
- 2018年7月，斯坦福大学发布了SQuAD 2.0，对原有数据集进行了扩充，加入了“不可回答的问题”，进一步考验机器阅读能力
 - 任务类型：预测问题是否可答，对于可答问题给出篇章中的连续片段作为答案
 - 数据量：10万个问题

Know What You Don't Know: Unanswerable Questions for SQuAD

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Article: Endangered Species Act

Paragraph: “...Other legislation followed, including the Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929, a [1937 treaty](#) prohibiting the hunting of right and gray whales, and the [Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940](#). These [later laws](#) had a low cost to society—the species were relatively rare—and little [opposition was raised](#).”

Question 1: “Which laws faced significant [opposition](#)? ”

Plausible Answer: [later laws](#)

Question 2: “What was the name of the [1937 treaty](#)? ”

Plausible Answer: [Bald Eagle Protection Act](#)





- **CoQA: Conversational Question Answering**
- 阅读理解任务向其他NLP任务的渗透
- 斯坦福大学提出了CoQA数据集用于评测阅读理解技术
在多轮对话过程中的应用
 - 任务类型：两个人阅读给定的一段短文，一个人来提问，另一个人来回答
 - 数据量：12.7万个问题
- **任务难点**
 - 标准答案依赖于但不再是篇章中的某个连续片段
 - 多轮对话中的指代消解问题对问题理解提出新的挑战

CoQA: A Conversational Question Answering Challenge

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Jessica went to sit in her rocking chair. Today was her birthday and she was turning 80. Her granddaughter Annie was coming over in the afternoon and Jessica was very excited to see her. Her daughter Melanie and Melanie's husband Josh were coming as well. Jessica had ...

Q₁: Who had a birthday?

A₁: Jessica

R₁: Jessica went to sit in her rocking chair. Today was her birthday and she was turning 80.

Q₂: How old would she be?

A₂: 80

R₂: she was turning 80

Q₃: Did she plan to have any visitors?

A₃: Yes

R₃: Her granddaughter Annie was coming over



技术发展趋势-I



- 第一点：重视引入外部知识
- 当前问题
 - 多数阅读理解模型采用完全端到端的模型结构，很难了解其中的运行机理
 - 某些问题除了篇章本身的信息之外还需要外部知识才能正确解答
- 解决方案
 - 建立相关数据集，使得问题需要融合外部知识才能解答
 - 在现有模型基础上运用外部知识，进一步提升阅读理解系统效果
- 代表工作：SemEval-2018 Task 11, ARC Challenge等



技术发展趋势-I



- **SemEval-2018 Task 11: Machine Comprehension using Commonsense Knowledge**
 - 任务描述：对给定的篇章进行理解，并根据给定问题从两个候选答案中挑选出一个正确答案（其中回答问题会涉及到常识）
 - 考查内容：上下文理解、常识判断
- **AI2 ARC Challenge**
 - 形式：从自由文本中抽取知识，解答给定的单项选择题
 - 包括：14M自由文本知识，7787个选择题
 - 目前最优系统在挑战集效果上仅能达到约30%的准确率（随机猜测约25%）

The screenshot shows the SemEval-2018 International Workshop on Semantic Evaluation website. The main title is "SemEval-2018 International Workshop on Semantic Evaluation Sponsored by SIGLEX". Below the title, it says "SemEval-2018 Task 11: Machine Comprehension using Commonsense Knowledge". It indicates the task is organized by simono and the current server time is Oct. 20, 2018, 7:09 a.m. UTC. The task status is "Evaluation Phase" (highlighted in orange), running from Jan. 8, 2018, midnight UTC to Jan. 30, 2018, midnight UTC. The "Post-Evaluation Phase" is shown as "Competition Ends Never". There is also a small owl logo.



技术发展趋势-II



- 第二点：采用大规模数据预训练的模型
- 当前问题
 - 多数阅读理解数据集的训练样本较少（几千 ~ 十几万）
 - 阅读理解更多依赖的是上下文的理解，而非对某一个单词的关注，独立的词向量很难表征更加丰富的语义信息
- 解决方案
 - 采用大规模数据预训练的模型一定程度上缓解数据稀疏的问题（OOV等）
 - 根据上下文动态生成文本的表示，在向量表示中包含更多文本语义层次信息
- 主要代表工作：ELMo、OpenAI GPT、BERT等



技术发展趋势-II



- **ELMo: Embeddings from Language Models**
 - NAACL-HLT-2018最佳论文奖，发布至今引用量已超过120+
 - 采用大规模语料（1B），使用大隐层维度（输出维度1024）训练双向语言模型BiLM
 - 训练使用3张GTX 1080，训练10轮共计花费两周时间
 - 简单易用，直接加在词向量平行的位置中
 - 目前已成为（在计算资源充足情况下）各NLP任务的标配

Deep contextualized word representations					
Matthew E. Peters [†] , Mark Neumann [†] , Mohit Iyyer [†] , Matt Gardner [†] , {matthewp, markn, mohiti, mattg}@allenai.org					
Christopher Clark*, Kenton Lee*, Luke Zettlemoyer ^{†*} {csquared, kentonl, lsz}@cs.washington.edu					
[†] Allen Institute for Artificial Intelligence *Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering, University of Washington					

TASK	PREVIOUS SOTA	OUR BASELINE	ELMO + BASELINE	INCREASE (ABSOLUTE/RELATIVE)
SQuAD	Liu et al. (2017)	84.4	81.1	85.8
SNLI	Chen et al. (2017)	88.6	88.0	88.7 ± 0.17
SRL	He et al. (2017)	81.7	81.4	84.6
Coref	Lee et al. (2017)	67.2	67.2	70.4
NER	Peters et al. (2017)	91.93 ± 0.19	90.15	92.22 ± 0.10
SST-5	McCann et al. (2017)	53.7	51.4	54.7 ± 0.5

Peters et al., 2018. Deep Contextualized Word Representations



技术发展趋势-II



- **BERT: Bidirectional Encoder Representation from Transformers**
 - 在Open AI Transformers的基础上进一步提出深层双向Transformers
 - 无需设计复杂的任务相关的网络设计
 - 训练使用了BookCorpus以及Wikipedia和数据，共计词数量达到了33B
 - 训练使用了 $16 \times 4 = 64$ 块TPU，共计4天时间
 - 有人估算过使用GPU需要将近1年的时间
 - 官方宣称10月末放出相关预训练模型和代码

BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding

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Google AI Language

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System	Dev EM	Dev F1	Test EM	Test F1
Leaderboard (Oct 8th, 2018)				
Human	-	-	82.3	91.2
#1 Ensemble - nlnet	-	-	86.0	91.7
#2 Ensemble - QANet	-	-	84.5	90.5
#1 Single - nlnet	-	-	83.5	90.1
#2 Single - QANet	-	-	82.5	89.3
Published				
BiDAF+ELMo (Single)	-	85.8	-	-
R.M. Reader (Single)	78.9	86.3	79.5	86.6
R.M. Reader (Ensemble)	81.2	87.9	82.3	88.5
Ours				
BERT _{BASE} (Single)	80.8	88.5	-	-
BERT _{LARGE} (Single)	84.1	90.9	-	-
BERT _{LARGE} (Ensemble)	85.8	91.8	-	-
BERT _{LARGE} (Sgl.+TriviaQA)	84.2	91.1	85.1	91.8
BERT _{LARGE} (Ens.+TriviaQA)	86.2	92.2	87.4	93.2

Devlin et al., 2018. BERT: Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding



技术发展趋势-III



- 第三点：阅读理解与其他NLP任务的结合
- 解决阅读理解任务的主要要点可归纳为三点
 1. 对于篇章内容的理解
 2. 对于问题的理解
 3. 篇章和问题之间的联系
- 篇章和问题的理解是阅读理解任务中最基础且不可或缺的内容
- 篇章和问题的理解（狭义）→ 上下文理解（广义）



技术发展趋势-III



- 阅读理解技术应用在多轮对话生成任务
 - 篇章和问题的理解（阅读理解）→ 对话流和Query的理解（多轮对话）
 - 在Ubuntu、OpenSubtitles等数据集上获得良好效果的

Context-Sensitive Generation of Open-Domain Conversational Responses

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Models	Ubuntu			OpenSubtitles		
	Coherence	Naturalness	Diversity	Coherence	Naturalness	Diversity
LSTM	0.930	0.477	0.069	0.963	0.443	0.099
HRED	0.967	0.490	0.141	0.963	0.443	0.098
VHRED	1.010	0.507	0.140	0.986	0.473	0.093
CVAE	0.987	0.513	0.140	1.000	0.477	0.114
WSI	1.010	0.507	0.141	1.013	0.490	0.110
HRAN	1.027	0.510	0.147	1.033	0.477	0.109
Dynamic	0.987	0.507	0.158	1.013	0.477	0.109
Static	1.070	0.513	0.150	1.027	0.497	0.110

Zhang et al., COLING2018. Context-sensitive Generation of Open-Domain Conversational Responses



技术发展趋势-III



- 第四点：面向特定数据集的研究
- SQuAD 1.1：仅预测篇章片段
 - 设计更加复杂的篇章和问题的交互计算：SAN (Liu et al., 2018), SLQA (Wang et al., 2018)
 - 生成额外的训练数据：QANet (Yu et al., 2018),
- SQuAD 2.0：判断答案是否可答，对于可答问题需要预测篇章片段
 - 设计额外的损失函数：RMR+Verifier (Hu et al., 2018), U-Net (Sun et al., 2018)
 - 答案验证：RMR+Verifier, Answer Verifier (Tan et al., 2018)
- 选择型阅读理解：从给定的多个选项中选出一个正确答案
 - 计算篇章、问题、选项三者之间的关系：Co-Matching (Wang et al., 2018), HMA (Chen et al., 2018)



中文技术评测



- 各大研究机构纷纷举办阅读理解相关技术评测，中文机器阅读理解技术研究持续推进，阅读理解技术的受众语种范围不断扩大
- CCL 2017首次举办了中文机器阅读理解评测，今年是系列评测的第二届
 - 主办方：中国中文信息学会计算语言学专委会 (CIPS-CL)
 - 承办方：哈工大讯飞联合实验室 (HFL)
 - 冠名方：科大讯飞股份有限公司
- 两届评测共吸引了超过200支队伍报名，报名人数近千人，形成了良好口碑



报告总结



报告总结



- 数据集：面向更接近真实应用场景，难度更大的阅读理解数据集
- 技术趋势
 - 对于特定类型问题引入外部知识加以解决
 - 大规模数据预训练模型的应用
 - 交叉任务之间的联系，将阅读理解技术推广到其他NLP任务中
- 中文阅读理解研究蓬勃发展，研究队伍不断壮大
- 关注效果提升，但也更要关注模型没能解决的问题



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谢谢大家

