Automatic Machine Translation Evaluation

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UdS & DFKI

MT Evaluation

Recap: Manual evaluation

- Scoring, ranking, diagnostic,..,intrinsic, extrinsic etc.
- Time consuming
- Expensive
- Difficult to define and operationalise
- Hard to reproduce: low inter- and intra-rater agreement
- Hard to scale: though see crowdsourcing

Recap:Automatic evaluation

F-Measure

Reference:

`Israeli officials are responsible for airport security.`

System A:

`Israeli officials responsibility of airport safety.`

System B:

`airport security Israeli officials are responsible.`

System C:

`security Israeli are officials responsible airport.`

- **Precision**: how many of the words in output are correct (in ref)?
- **Recall**: how many of the words in reference are in the output?
- **F-score**: harmonic mean of precision and recall

Automatic evaluation

F-Measure

	System A	System B	System C
precision	0.50	1.00	1.00
recall	0.43	0.86	0.86
f-score	0.46	0.92	0.92

- f-measure can reward unintelligible word salad in C if individual words are OK
- Fails to reflect word order!

Automatic Evaluation: BiLingual Evaluation Understudy

BLEU, Papineni, Roukos, Ward and Zhu (2001)

Ref: `Israeli officials are responsible for airport security.`

Sys A: `Israeli`

Sys C: `Israeli officials responsibility of airport safety.`

Look at n-gram overlap, not just word overlap

n-gram precision $n = 1...4$ times a brevity penalty ("recall")

BLEU: =

$$\min\left(1, \exp\left(1 - \frac{|\text{reference}|}{|\text{output}|}\right)\right) \cdot \left(\prod_{n=1}^{4} n - gram \quad precision\right)^{\frac{1}{4}}$$

BLEU$= 0$ if the hypothesis does not have at least one matching n-gram for any one of the n-gram precision $n = 1...4$: systems A and C!

Automatic evaluation

IBM BLEU: Papineni, Roukos, Ward and Zhu (2001)

Reference:

`Israeli officials are responsible for airport security.`

System B:

`airport security Israeli officials are responsible.`

- BLEU: $=$

$$\min\left(1, \exp\left(1 - \frac{|\text{reference}|}{|\text{output}|}\right)\right) \cdot \left(\prod_{n=1}^{4} n - gram \quad precision\right)^{\frac{1}{4}}$$

$$\left(\prod_{n=1}^{4} n - gram \quad precision\right)^{\frac{1}{4}} = \left(\frac{6}{6} \times \frac{4}{5} \times \frac{2}{4} \times \frac{1}{3}\right)^{\frac{1}{4}} = 0.60$$

$$\min\left(1, \exp\left(1 - \frac{|\text{reference}|}{|\text{output}|}\right)\right) = \min\left(1, \exp\left(1 - \frac{7}{6}\right)\right) = 0.87$$

$$BLEU = 0.87 \times .60 = 0.52$$

Automatic evaluation

IBM BLEU: Papineni, Roukos, Ward and Zhu (2001)

- Problem: BLEU assigns 0 to many hypotheses ...
- Meant to work on document, not individual sentence, level
- sBLEU for sentence level ... (smoothed BLEU)

Fancy way of writing BLEU

$$\mathrm{BLEU} = \mathrm{BP} \cdot \exp\left(\sum_{n=1}^{N} w_n \log \mathrm{P}_n\right)$$

- BP: Brevity penalty
- Taking log of n-gram precision (P_n), summing over them and using inverse function of log
- w_n positive weights summing to one

Automatic evaluation

IBM BLEU vs. NIST BLEU vs. ...

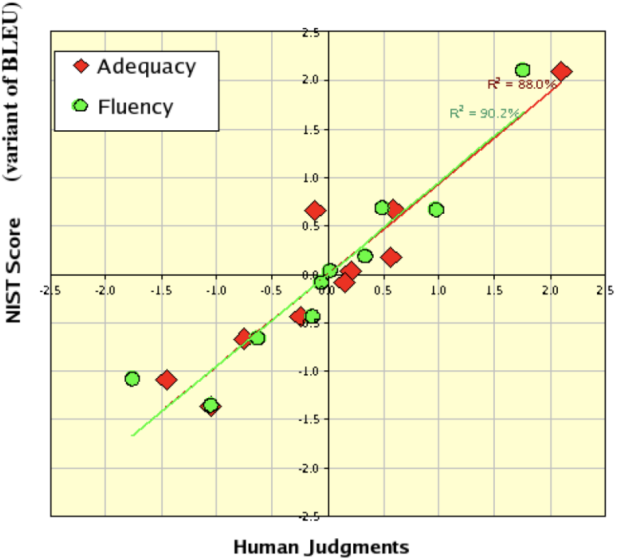
There are several widely used implementations of BLEU.

(Moses `multi-bleu.perl` script, NIST `mteval-vXX.pl` script, etc.)

Results differ because of:

- Different tokenisation approach.
- Different definition of *closest reference* in the brevity penalty estimation.
- SacreBLEU [Pos18]

Correlation with Human Judgement



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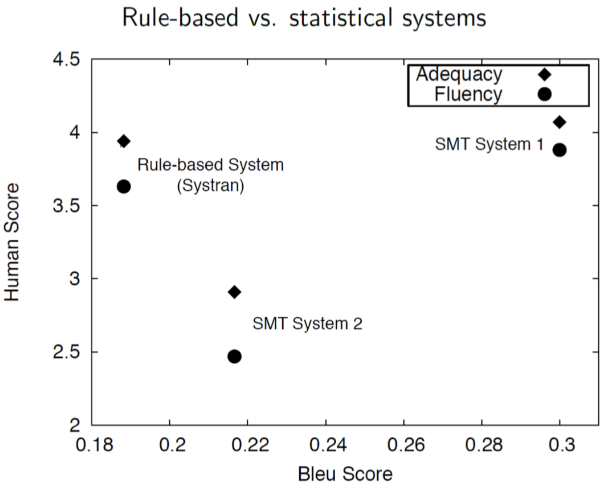

Criticisms of BLEU

- Brevity penalty is not a good measure of recall
- Do not consider global grammaticality
- Punishes perfect paraphrases: Do not consider meaning
  - Yesterday John resigned from the company
  - John quit the company yesterday
- Geometric ngram averaging is volatile to "zero" scores
- Requires exact word matches, but not stemmed word matches, synonym and semantically-related word matches

METEOR: Flexible Matching

- Explicitly aligns the words in the MT output with their corresponding matches in the reference translations
- Exact module: maps two words if they are exactly the same.
- Porter stem module: maps two words if they are the same after they are stemmed using the Porter stemmer
  - Partial credit for matching stems
    - system : Jim walk home
    - reference : Joe walks home
- WN synonymy module: maps two words if they are considered synonyms, based on the fact that they both belong to the same synset in WordNet.
  - Partial credit for matching synonyms
    - system:Jim strolls home
    - reference:Joe walks home

Metric for Evaluation of Translation with Explicit ORdering

$$METEOR = (1 - Pen)F_\alpha$$

$$F_\alpha = \frac{PR}{\alpha P + (1-\alpha)R}$$

*P***recision** and *R***ecall** weighted harmonic mean

$$Pen = \gamma \left(\frac{\text{chunks}}{\text{mapped unigrams}} \right)^\beta$$

Penalty factor, penalises non-contiguous matches

Matches: exact, lemma, synonym, paraphrase

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Automatic Evaluation
TER, [SDS+06]

Translation Edit Rate, TER

$$TER = \frac{\text{Substitutions} + \text{Insertions} + \text{Deletions} + \text{Shifts}}{\text{ReferenceWords}}$$

REF: SAUDI ARABIA denied THIS WEEK information published in the AMERICAN new york times

HYP: THIS WEEK THE SAUDIS denied information published in the new york times

- Insertion: American
- Shifts: this week
- Substitutions: SAUDI ARABIA vs. THE SAUDIS

$$TER = \frac{1+2+1}{13} = 31\%$$

chrF, Popovic (2015)

Character F-score

$$\text{CharF}_\beta = \frac{(1+\beta^2)\text{CharP} \cdot \text{CharR}}{\beta^2 \cdot \text{CharP} + \text{CharR}}$$

- CharP is the character precision, which is the proportion of characters in the output text that also appear in the reference text.
- CharR is the character recall, which is the proportion of characters in the reference text that also appear in the output text.
- β is a parameter that controls the trade-off between precision and recall.
- Typically, β is set to 1 to give equal weight to precision and recall.
- if β is more than 1, recall component is being weighted more relative to the precision component

chrF vs BLEU

- Measures character n-gram overlap instead of word n-grams as in BLEU.
- Reduces sensitivity to sentence tokenisation
- Useful for tasks where word boundaries may not be well-defined
- Character sequences matching helps in recognizing different forms of a single word.
- Assigns partial reward for incorrectly spelled words.

COMET, Rei (2020)

Cross-lingual Optimized Metric for Evaluation of Translation

Important: exact lexical matching is a crude estimate for sentence level similarity in meaning!

- Based on similarity of vector representations.
- Uses cross-lingual embeddings to compare meaning of machine-generated output and reference translation
- Correlates well with human judgments of translation quality
- Can be used in any language pair or domain

COMET, Rei (2020)

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COMET: Basic Modeling Approach

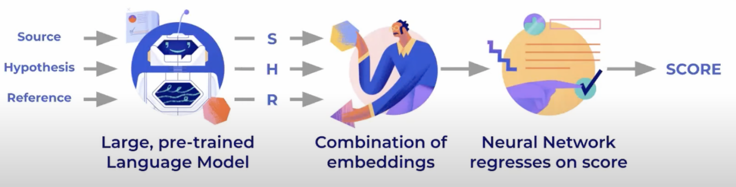

Image Credit: `https://unbabel.com/research/comet/`

Evaluation and Key Performance Numbers

	Language		Reference	Method		Rank
	any	pretrained	needed	string	embeddings	@WMT22
BLEU	✓	✗	✓	n-gram match	✗	19
chrF	✓	✗	✓	n-gram match	✗	16
TER	✓	✗	✓	edit distance	✗	–
COMET	✗	✓	✓	✗	src,hyp,ref	2, 5
UniTE	✗	✓	✓	✗	src,hyp,ref	3
BleuRT	✗	✓	✓	✗	hyp,ref	4
BertScore	✗	✓	✓	✗	hyp,ref	14
COMETKiwi	✗	✓	✗	✗	src,hyp	7
UniTE-Src	✗	✓	✗	✗	src,hyp	9

Table 5.2: Representative MT automatic evaluation metrics and their ranking in the last WMT Metrics Shared Task.

Taxonomy of automatic evaluation metrics

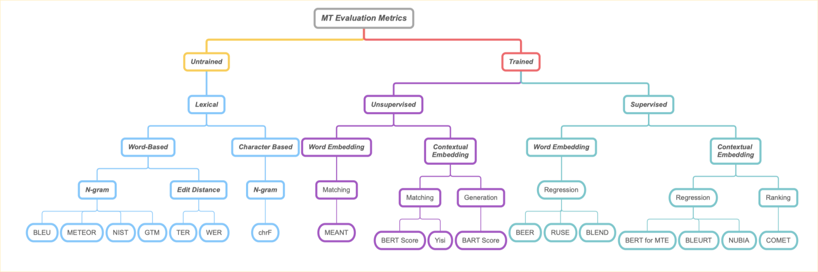

Image: A Survey on Evaluation Metrics for Machine Translation, [LLM$^+$23]

Environment of the automatic evaluation metrics.

Metrics	Pre-Trained Model	Availability (Accessed on 14 February 2023)
BLEU	-	https://github.com/mjpost/sacrebleu
NIST	-	https://www.nltk.org/api/nltk.translate.nist_score.html
METEOR	-	https://github.com/nltk/nltk
CHRF	-	https://github.com/mjpost/sacrebleu
BERTSCORE	roberta-large	https://github.com/Tiiiger/bert_score
BEER	-	https://github.com/stanojevic/beer
BLEURT	bleurt-large-512	https://github.com/google-research/bleurt
BARTSCORE	facebook/bart-large-cnn	https://github.com/neulab/BARTScore

- Evaluation is important in the system development cycle. Automatic evaluation accelerates significatively the process.
- Manual evaluation is still necessary but shows low agreements among annotators
- Up to now, most (common) metrics rely on lexical similarity, but it cannot assure a correct evaluation.
- Current work is being devoted to go beyond lexical similarity.
- Active development of new metrics:
  - syntactic similarity
  - semantic equivalence or entailment
  - metrics targeted at reordering
  - neural network-based metrics, e.g. Bertscore

References

- BLEU [PRWZ02]
- NIST [Dod02]
- METEOR [BL05]
- ROUGE [LO04]
- CharF [Pop15]
- COMET [RSFL20]

References

- GTM [MGT03]
- BLANC [Dod02]
- BertScore [ZKW^{+}19]
- BLEURT [**?**]
- CDER [LUN06]
- ULC [GA06]

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