

# Question Answering and Generation from Structured and Unstructured Data

Yu Chen

Department of Computer Science

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

06/24/2020

Committee:

Prof. Mohammed J. Zaki (Chair), Prof. Bulent Yener

Prof. Alex Gittens, Prof. Qiang Ji, and Dr. Lingfei Wu



# Outline

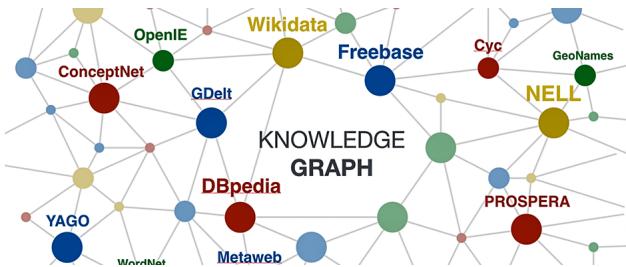
---

- Background on QA & QG
- Background on GNNs
- Dissertation Contributions
- Part I: QG from Text
- Part II: QG from KG
- Conclusion & Future Directions



# What is Question Answering?

Automated question answering (QA) is the process of **finding answers to natural language questions** using certain **knowledge sources**.



Ref: <https://www.csee.umbc.edu/courses/graduate/691/fall19/07/>



Ref: <https://images.app.goo.gl/6pshxSDujQLTqnMK8>

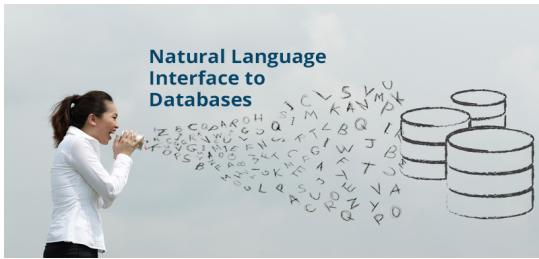


Ref: <https://images.app.goo.gl/qvEnqksAACwqercBA>



# Question Answering Applications

- Natural language interfaces to databases
- Spoken dialog systems
- Beyond search engines



Ref: <https://8kmiles.com/blog/natural-language-interface-databases/>



<https://images.app.goo.gl/ViagZT2oG1QERsR89>



<https://images.app.goo.gl/agDJmSVg5KaKc5o6A>

# Challenges of QA

## Lexical gap

- Lexical gap between the question and context.
- Most previous methods ignore the subtle inter-relationships between the question and context.

## Complex reasoning

- Multi-hop reasoning.
- Diverse constraints.
- Many previous methods focus on single-hop QA without modeling various constraints.

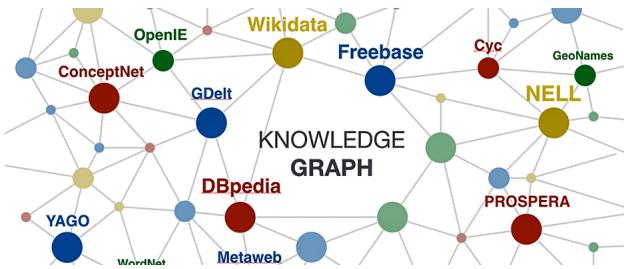
## Conversational QA

- Sequential questions.
- Most previous methods do not effectively capture conversation history.



# What is Question Generation?

Natural question generation (QG) is the task of **generating natural language questions** from certain **knowledge sources**.



Ref: <https://www.csee.umbc.edu/courses/graduate/691/fall19/07/>



Ref: <https://images.app.goo.gl/6pshxSDujQLTqnMK8>



Ref: <https://images.app.goo.gl/qvEnqksAACwqercBA>



# Question Generation Applications

- Improving the QA task by providing more training data
- Generating practice exercises for educational purposes
- Helping dialog systems

# Q&A

<https://images.app.goo.gl/Nhb5toJWUwPnVT6Y7>



<https://images.app.goo.gl/FqaxidYkmBN7BMHm7>



<https://images.app.goo.gl/ViagZT2oG1QERsR89>

# Challenges of QG

## Context modeling

- Modeling **long/large** context.
- Modeling **structure** information in context.
- Most previous methods focus on short/small context and do not utilize rich structure info of context.

## Answer utilization

- Answer info for guiding the generation of relevant and meaningful questions.
- Most previous methods either do not consider or fail to effectively utilize answer info.

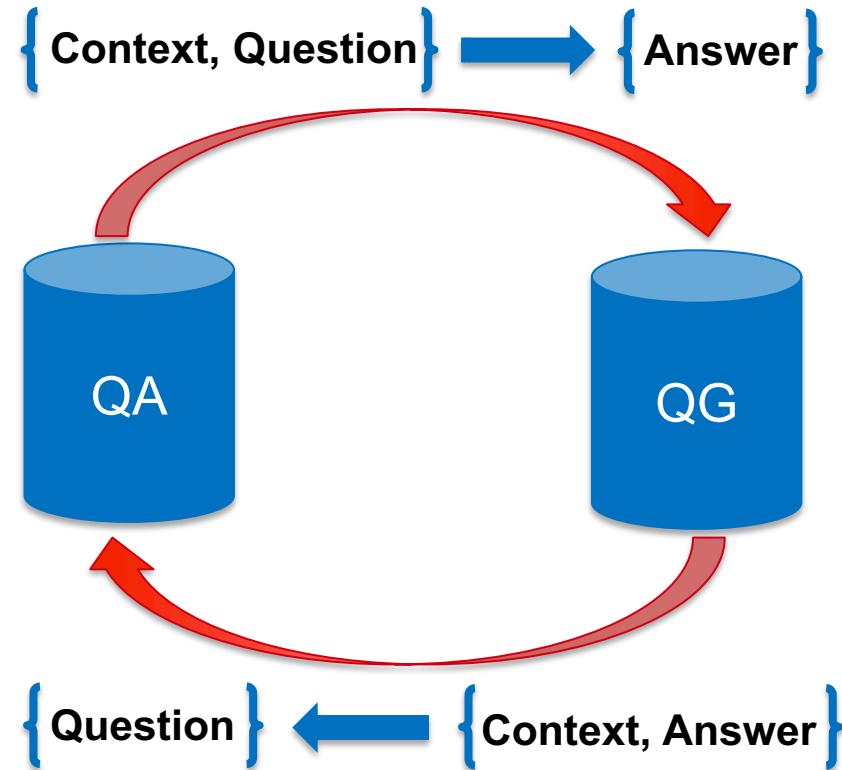
## Model training

- Cross-entropy based sequence training has limitations.
- Most previous methods rely on cross-entropy loss or simple reinforcement learning (RL) loss for training.



# QA & QG as Dual Tasks

- The input and the output of QA and QG are (almost) reverse.
- QA and QG can help improve each other.



# Outline

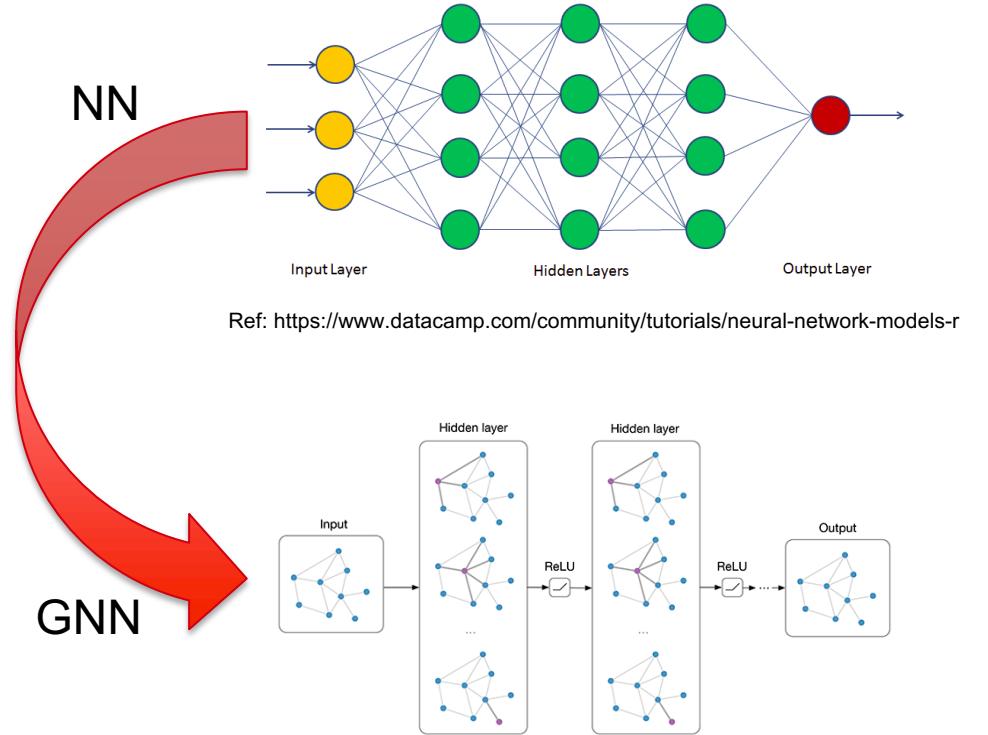
---

- Background on QA & QG
- **Background on GNNs**
- Dissertation Contributions
- Part I: QG from Text
- Part II: QG from KG
- Conclusion & Future Directions



# GNN: Toward Geometric Deep Learning

- Graph Neural Networks (GNNs) generalize (structured) deep neural models to non-Euclidean domains such as graphs.
- GNNs have been widely applied to many tasks/domains:
  - Computer vision (CV)
  - Natural language processing (NLP)
  - Drug discovery
  - Social network analysis
  - Recommendation systems



Ref: <https://www.datacamp.com/community/tutorials/neural-network-models-r>

Ref: <https://tkipf.github.io/graph-convolutional-networks/>

# GNN for NLP

## ■ Applications

- Dialog systems
- Machine comprehension
- X-to-text generation (e.g., AMR, SQL, etc.)
- Machine translation

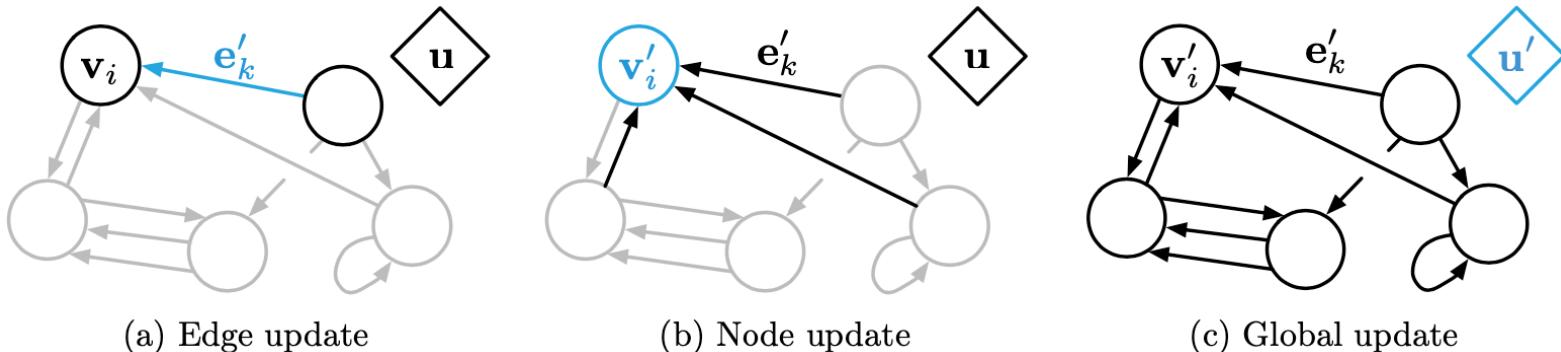
## ■ Challenges

- Only applicable to problems with graph-structured input.
- Converting non-graph input to graph-structured input is crucial and non-trivial.



# GNN: A Message Passing Perspective

- Computational steps within a GNN
  - (a) Edge update: passing node information to neighboring edges.
  - (b) Node update: for each node, aggregating information from neighboring edges.
  - (c) Global update: aggregating all node information.



Ref: Battaglia, Peter W., et al. "Relational inductive biases, deep learning, and graph networks." *arXiv preprint arXiv:1806.01261* (2018).

# Outline

---

- Background on QA & QG
- Background on GNNs
- **Dissertation Contributions**
- Part I: QG from Text
- Part II: QG from KG
- Conclusion & Future Directions



# Contributions: QA

QA



Rensselaer

# Contributions: QA

## QA

- KBQA (NAACL 2019, ISWC 2019)
  - Modeling the two-way flow of interactions between the questions and the KB.
  - Multi-hop reasoning in a KB requiring no external resources and very few hand-crafted features.
  - Significantly outperforming previous IR-based methods while remaining competitive with handcrafted SP-based methods on a popular benchmark.
- Conversational machine comprehension (IJCAI 2020, ICML LRG 2019)
  - Recurrent Graph Neural Network based flow mechanism for modeling the temporal dependencies in a sequence of context graphs.
  - Achieving superior performance compared to existing state-of-the-art methods on three public benchmarks.



# Contributions: QA

## QA

- KBQA (NAACL 2019, ISWC 2019)
  - Modeling the two-way flow of interactions between the questions and the KB.
  - Multi-hop reasoning in a KB requiring no external resources and very few hand-crafted features.
  - Significantly outperforming previous IR-based methods while remaining competitive with handcrafted SP-based methods on a popular benchmark.
- Conversational machine comprehension (IJCAI 2020, ICML LRG 2019)
  - Recurrent Graph Neural Network based flow mechanism for modeling the temporal dependencies in a sequence of context graphs.
  - Achieving superior performance compared to existing state-of-the-art methods on three public benchmarks.



# Contributions: QA

## QA

- KBQA (NAACL 2019, ISWC 2019)
  - Modeling the two-way flow of interactions between the questions and the KB.
  - Multi-hop reasoning in a KB requiring no external resources and very few hand-crafted features.
  - Significantly outperforming previous IR-based methods while remaining competitive with handcrafted SP-based methods on a popular benchmark.
- Conversational machine comprehension (IJCAI 2020, ICML LRG 2019)
  - Recurrent Graph Neural Network based flow mechanism for modeling the temporal dependencies in a sequence of context graphs.
  - Achieving superior performance compared to existing state-of-the-art methods on three public benchmarks.

Lexical gap



# Contributions: QA

## QA

- KBQA (NAACL 2019, ISWC 2019)
  - Modeling the two-way flow of interactions between the questions and the KB.
  - Multi-hop reasoning in a KB requiring no external resources and very few hand-crafted features.
  - Significantly outperforming previous IR-based methods while remaining competitive with handcrafted SP-based methods on a popular benchmark.
- Conversational machine comprehension (IJCAI 2020, ICML LRG 2019)
  - Recurrent Graph Neural Network based flow mechanism for modeling the temporal dependencies in a sequence of context graphs.
  - Achieving superior performance compared to existing state-of-the-art methods on three public benchmarks.

Lexical gap



# Contributions: QA

## QA

- **KBQA (NAACL 2019, ISWC 2019)**

- Modeling the two-way flow of interactions between the questions and the KB.
- Multi-hop reasoning in a KB requiring no external resources and very few hand-crafted features.
- Significantly outperforming previous IR-based methods while remaining competitive with handcrafted SP-based methods on a popular benchmark.

Lexical gap

Complex reasoning

- **Conversational machine comprehension (IJCAI 2020, ICML LRG 2019)**

- Recurrent Graph Neural Network based flow mechanism for modeling the temporal dependencies in a sequence of context graphs.
- Achieving superior performance compared to existing state-of-the-art methods on three public benchmarks.



# Contributions: QA

## QA

- **KBQA (NAACL 2019, ISWC 2019)**

- Modeling the two-way flow of interactions between the questions and the KB.
- Multi-hop reasoning in a KB requiring no external resources and very few hand-crafted features.
- Significantly outperforming previous IR-based methods while remaining competitive with handcrafted SP-based methods on a popular benchmark.

Lexical gap

Complex reasoning

- **Conversational machine comprehension (IJCAI 2020, ICML LRG 2019)**

- Recurrent Graph Neural Network based flow mechanism for modeling the temporal dependencies in a sequence of context graphs.
- Achieving superior performance compared to existing state-of-the-art methods on three public benchmarks.



# Contributions: QA

## QA

### ▪ KBQA (NAACL 2019, ISWC 2019)

- Modeling the two-way flow of interactions between the questions and the KB.
- Multi-hop reasoning in a KB requiring no external resources and very few hand-crafted features.
- Significantly outperforming previous IR-based methods while remaining competitive with handcrafted SP-based methods on a popular benchmark.

Lexical gap

Complex reasoning

### ▪ Conversational machine comprehension (IJCAI 2020, ICML LRG 2019)

- Recurrent Graph Neural Network based flow mechanism for modeling the temporal dependencies in a sequence of context graphs.
- Achieving superior performance compared to existing state-of-the-art methods on three public benchmarks.



# Contributions: QA

## QA

### ▪ KBQA (NAACL 2019, ISWC 2019)

- Modeling the two-way flow of interactions between the questions and the KB.
- Multi-hop reasoning in a KB requiring no external resources and very few hand-crafted features.
- Significantly outperforming previous IR-based methods while remaining competitive with handcrafted SP-based methods on a popular benchmark.

Lexical gap

Complex reasoning

### ▪ Conversational machine comprehension (IJCAI 2020, ICML LRG 2019)

- Recurrent Graph Neural Network based flow mechanism for modeling the temporal dependencies in a sequence of context graphs.
- Achieving superior performance compared to existing state-of-the-art methods on three public benchmarks.



# Contributions: QA

## QA

### ▪ KBQA (NAACL 2019, ISWC 2019)

- Modeling the two-way flow of interactions between the questions and the KB.
- Multi-hop reasoning in a KB requiring no external resources and very few hand-crafted features.
- Significantly outperforming previous IR-based methods while remaining competitive with handcrafted SP-based methods on a popular benchmark.

Lexical gap

Complex reasoning

### ▪ Conversational machine comprehension (IJCAI 2020, ICML LRG 2019)

- Recurrent Graph Neural Network based flow mechanism for modeling the temporal dependencies in a sequence of context graphs.
- Achieving superior performance compared to existing state-of-the-art methods on three public benchmarks.

Conversation



# Contributions: QA

## QA

### ▪ KBQA (NAACL 2019, ISWC 2019)

- Modeling the two-way flow of interactions between the questions and the KB.
- Multi-hop reasoning in a KB requiring no external resources and very few hand-crafted features.
- Significantly outperforming previous IR-based methods while remaining competitive with handcrafted SP-based methods on a popular benchmark.

Lexical gap

Complex reasoning

### ▪ Conversational machine comprehension (IJCAI 2020, ICML LRG 2019)

- Recurrent Graph Neural Network based flow mechanism for modeling the temporal dependencies in a sequence of context graphs.
- Achieving superior performance compared to existing state-of-the-art methods on three public benchmarks.

Conversation



# Contributions: QA

## QA

### ▪ KBQA (NAACL 2019, ISWC 2019)

- Modeling the two-way flow of interactions between the questions and the KB.
- Multi-hop reasoning in a KB requiring no external resources and very few hand-crafted features.
- Significantly outperforming previous IR-based methods while remaining competitive with handcrafted SP-based methods on a popular benchmark.

Lexical gap

Complex reasoning

### ▪ Conversational machine comprehension (HCAI 2020, ICML LRG 2019)

- Recurrent Graph Neural Network based flow mechanism for modeling the temporal dependencies in a sequence of context graphs.
- Achieving superior performance compared to existing state-of-the-art methods on three public benchmarks.

Conversation



# Contributions: QG

QG



Rensselaer

# Contributions: QG

## QG

- **QG from KG (EMNLP 2020 under review)**
  - Bidirectional GNN encoder to encode the KG subgraph.
  - RNN decoder enhanced with node-level copying mechanism.
  - Achieving new state-of-the-art scores on two benchmarks.
- **QG from text (ICLR 2020, NeurIPS GRL 2019)**
  - RL-based Graph2Seq model equipped with a hybrid evaluator.
  - Deep Alignment Network for incorporating the answer information into the passage.
  - Outperforming existing methods by a significant margin on a standard benchmark.



# Contributions: QG

## QG

- **QG from KG (EMNLP 2020 under review)**
  - Bidirectional GNN encoder to encode the KG subgraph.
  - RNN decoder enhanced with node-level copying mechanism.
  - Achieving new state-of-the-art scores on two benchmarks.
- **QG from text (ICLR 2020, NeurIPS GRL 2019)**
  - RL-based Graph2Seq model equipped with a hybrid evaluator.
  - Deep Alignment Network for incorporating the answer information into the passage.
  - Outperforming existing methods by a significant margin on a standard benchmark.



# Contributions: QG

## QG

- **QG from KG (EMNLP 2020 under review)**
  - Bidirectional GNN encoder to encode the KG subgraph.
  - RNN decoder enhanced with node-level copying mechanism.
  - Achieving new state-of-the-art scores on two benchmarks.
- **QG from text (ICLR 2020, NeurIPS GRL 2019)**
  - RL-based Graph2Seq model equipped with a hybrid evaluator.
  - Deep Alignment Network for incorporating the answer information into the passage.
  - Outperforming existing methods by a significant margin on a standard benchmark.

Context  
modeling



# Contributions: QG

## QG

- **QG from KG (EMNLP 2020 under review)**
  - Bidirectional GNN encoder to encode the KG subgraph.
  - RNN decoder enhanced with node-level copying mechanism.
  - Achieving new state-of-the-art scores on two benchmarks.
- **QG from text (ICLR 2020, NeurIPS GRL 2019)**
  - RL-based Graph2Seq model equipped with a hybrid evaluator.
  - Deep Alignment Network for incorporating the answer information into the passage.
  - Outperforming existing methods by a significant margin on a standard benchmark.

Context  
modeling



# Contributions: QG

## QG

- **QG from KG (EMNLP 2020 under review)**
  - Bidirectional GNN encoder to encode the KG subgraph.
  - RNN decoder enhanced with node-level copying mechanism.
  - Achieving new state-of-the-art scores on two benchmarks.
- **QG from text (ICLR 2020, NeurIPS GRL 2019)**
  - RL-based Graph2Seq model equipped with a hybrid evaluator.
  - Deep Alignment Network for incorporating the answer information into the passage.
  - Outperforming existing methods by a significant margin on a standard benchmark.

Context  
modeling



# Contributions: QG

## QG

- **QG from KG (EMNLP 2020 under review)**
  - Bidirectional GNN encoder to encode the KG subgraph.
  - RNN decoder enhanced with node-level copying mechanism.
  - Achieving new state-of-the-art scores on two benchmarks.
- **QG from text (ICLR 2020, NeurIPS GRL 2019)**
  - RL-based Graph2Seq model equipped with a hybrid evaluator.
  - Deep Alignment Network for incorporating the answer information into the passage.
  - Outperforming existing methods by a significant margin on a standard benchmark.

Context  
modeling



# Contributions: QG

## QG

- **QG from KG (EMNLP 2020 under review)**
  - Bidirectional GNN encoder to encode the KG subgraph.
  - RNN decoder enhanced with node-level copying mechanism.
  - Achieving new state-of-the-art scores on two benchmarks.
- **QG from text (ICLR 2020, NeurIPS GRL 2019)**
  - RL-based Graph2Seq model equipped with a hybrid evaluator.
  - Deep Alignment Network for incorporating the answer information into the passage.
  - Outperforming existing methods by a significant margin on a standard benchmark.

Context  
modeling



# Contributions: QG

## QG

- **QG from KG (EMNLP 2020 under review)**
  - Bidirectional GNN encoder to encode the KG subgraph.
  - RNN decoder enhanced with node-level copying mechanism.
  - Achieving new state-of-the-art scores on two benchmarks.
  
- **QG from text (ICLR 2020, NeurIPS GRL 2019)**
  - RL-based Graph2Seq model equipped with a hybrid evaluator.
  - Deep Alignment Network for incorporating the answer information into the passage.
  - Outperforming existing methods by a significant margin on a standard benchmark.

Context  
modeling

Context  
modeling



# Contributions: QG

## QG

- **QG from KG (EMNLP 2020 under review)**
  - Bidirectional GNN encoder to encode the KG subgraph.
  - RNN decoder enhanced with node-level copying mechanism.
  - Achieving new state-of-the-art scores on two benchmarks.
  
- **QG from text (ICLR 2020, NeurIPS GRL 2019)**
  - RL-based Graph2Seq model equipped with a hybrid evaluator.
  - Deep Alignment Network for incorporating the answer information into the passage.
  - Outperforming existing methods by a significant margin on a standard benchmark.

Context  
modeling

Model  
training



# Contributions: QG

## QG

- **QG from KG (EMNLP 2020 under review)**
  - Bidirectional GNN encoder to encode the KG subgraph.
  - RNN decoder enhanced with node-level copying mechanism.
  - Achieving new state-of-the-art scores on two benchmarks.
  
- **QG from text (ICLR 2020, NeurIPS GRL 2019)**
  - RL-based Graph2Seq model equipped with a hybrid evaluator.
  - Deep Alignment Network for incorporating the answer information into the passage.
  - Outperforming existing methods by a significant margin on a standard benchmark.

Context  
modeling

Model  
training



# Contributions: QG

## QG

- **QG from KG (EMNLP 2020 under review)**

- Bidirectional GNN encoder to encode the KG subgraph.
- RNN decoder enhanced with node-level copying mechanism.
- Achieving new state-of-the-art scores on two benchmarks.

Context  
modeling

- **QG from text (ICLR 2020, NeurIPS GRL 2019)**

- RL-based Graph2Seq model equipped with a hybrid evaluator.
- Deep Alignment Network for incorporating the answer information into the passage.
- Outperforming existing methods by a significant margin on a standard benchmark.

Context  
modeling

Model  
training

Answer  
utilization



# Contributions: QG

## QG

- **QG from KG (EMNLP 2020 under review)**

- Bidirectional GNN encoder to encode the KG subgraph.
- RNN decoder enhanced with node-level copying mechanism.
- Achieving new state-of-the-art scores on two benchmarks.

Context  
modeling

- **QG from text (ICLR 2020, NeurIPS GRL 2019)**

- RL-based Graph2Seq model equipped with a hybrid evaluator.
- Deep Alignment Network for incorporating the answer information into the passage.
- Outperforming existing methods by a significant margin on a standard benchmark.

Context  
modeling

Model  
training

Answer  
utilization



# Contributions: QG

## QG

- QG from KG (EMNLP 2020 under review)
  - Bidirectional GNN encoder to encode the KG subgraph.
  - RNN decoder enhanced with node-level copying mechanism.
  - Achieving new state-of-the-art scores on two benchmarks.
- QG from text (ICLR 2020, NeurIPS 2019)
  - RL-based Graph2Seq model equipped with a hybrid evaluator.
  - Deep Alignment Network for incorporating the answer information into the passage.
  - Outperforming existing methods by a significant margin on a standard benchmark.

Context  
modeling

Context  
modeling

Model  
training

Answer  
utilization



# Research Achievements: QA

**Yu Chen**, Lingfei Wu and Mohammed J. Zaki. Bidirectional Attentive Memory Networks for Question Answering over Knowledge Bases. In Proceedings of NAACL 2019.

**Yu Chen**, Lingfei Wu and Mohammed J. Zaki. GraphFlow: Exploiting Conversation Flow with Graph Neural Networks for Conversational Machine Comprehension. In Proceedings of IJCAI 2020.

**Yu Chen**, Lingfei Wu and Mohammed J. Zaki. GraphFlow: Exploiting Conversation Flow with Graph Neural Networks for Conversational Machine Comprehension. In ICML LRG 2019.

Steven Haussmann, Oshani Seneviratne, **Yu Chen**, Yarden Ne'eman, James Codella, Ching-Hua Chen, Deborah L. McGuinness and Mohammed J. Zaki. FoodKG: A Semantics-Driven Knowledge Graph for Food Recommendation. In Proceedings of ISWC 2019.

Steven Haussmann, **Yu Chen**, Oshani Seneviratne, Nidhi Rastogi, James Codella, Ching-Hua Chen, Deborah McGuinness, Mohammed J. Zaki. FoodKG Enabled Q&A Application. In Proceedings of ISWC 2019.

**Yu Chen**, Ananya Subburathinam, Ching-Hua Chen and Mohammed J. Zaki. Personalized Question Answering over a Large-scale Food Knowledge Graph. Submitted to RecSys 2020.



# Research Achievements: QG

**Yu Chen**, Lingfei Wu and Mohammed J. Zaki. Reinforcement Learning Based Graph-to-Sequence Model for Natural Question Generation. In Proceedings of ICLR 2020.

**Yu Chen**, Lingfei Wu and Mohammed J. Zaki. Natural Question Generation with Reinforcement Learning Based Graph-to-Sequence Model. In NeurIPS GRL 2019.

**Yu Chen**, Lingfei Wu and Mohammed J. Zaki. Toward Subgraph Guided Knowledge Graph Question Generation with Graph Neural Networks. Submitted to EMNLP 2020.



# Research Achievements: Others

**Yu Chen**, Lingfei Wu and Mohammed J. Zaki. Deep Iterative and Adaptive Learning for Graph Neural Networks. In The First International Workshop on Deep Learning on Graphs: Methodologies and Applications (with AAAI). February 2020. **\*Best Student Paper Award\***

**Yu Chen** and Mohammed J. Zaki. KATE: K-competitive Autoencoder for Text. In Proceedings of KDD 2017.

**Yu Chen**, Rhaad M. Rabbani, Aparna Gupta and Mohammed J. Zaki. Comparative Text Analytics via Topic Modeling in Banking. In Proceedings of IEEE SSCI 2017.

**Yu Chen**, Lingfei Wu and Mohammed J. Zaki. Iterative Deep Graph Learning for Graph Neural Networks: Better and Robust Node Embeddings. Submitted to NeurIPS 2020.



# Outline

---

- Background on QA & QG
- Background on GNNs
- Dissertation Contributions
- Part I: QG from Text
- Part II: QG from KG
- Conclusion & Future Directions



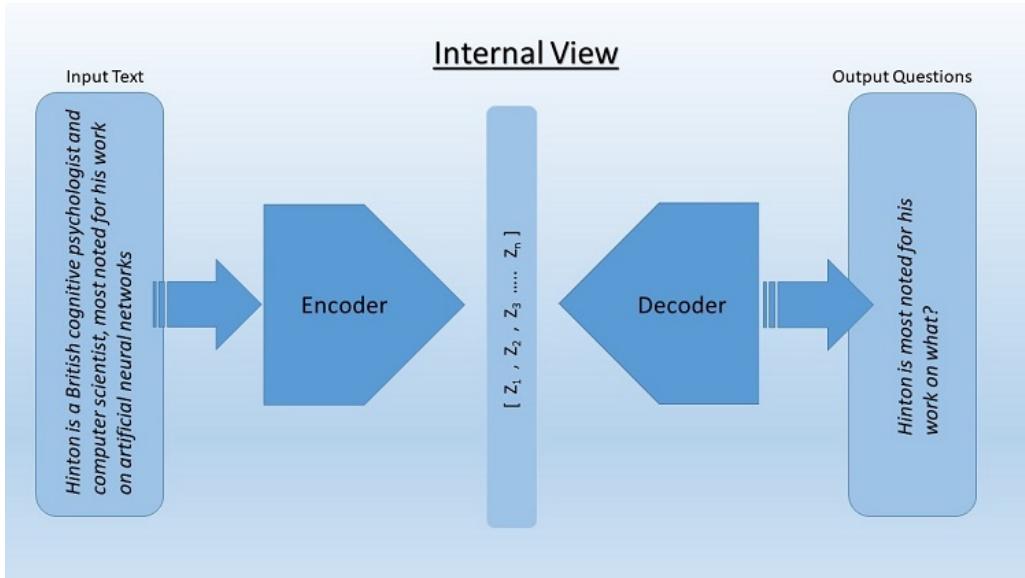
## Part I

# Reinforcement Learning Based Graph-to-Sequence Model for Question Generation from Text

**Yu Chen**, Lingfei Wu, and Mohammed J. Zaki. "Reinforcement learning based graph-to-sequence model for natural question generation." *ICLR* 2020.



# Problem Formulation



Ref: <https://images.app.goo.gl/TJEqwFS8nBNW8n8SA>

## ■ Input:

- A text passage  $X^p = \{x_1^p, x_2^p, \dots, x_N^p\}$
- A target answer  $X^a = \{x_1^a, x_2^a, \dots, x_L^a\}$

## ■ Output:

- A natural language question $\hat{Y} = \{y_1, y_2, \dots, y_T\}$ which maximizes the conditional likelihood

$$\hat{Y} = \arg \max_Y P(Y|X^p, X^a)$$



# Motivation

## Context modeling

- Previous works: ignoring the rich **structure information** hidden in text.
- Our solution: applying a **GNN-based encoder** to capture rich structure information.

## Answer utilization

- Previous works: Failing to fully exploit the **answer** information.
- Our solution: proposing a **deep alignment network** for attention-based soft alignment between passage and answer.

## Model training

- Previous works: Solely relying on **cross-entropy loss** or **simple RL loss** for training.
- Our solution: designing a **hybrid loss** combining both cross-entropy loss and RL loss.



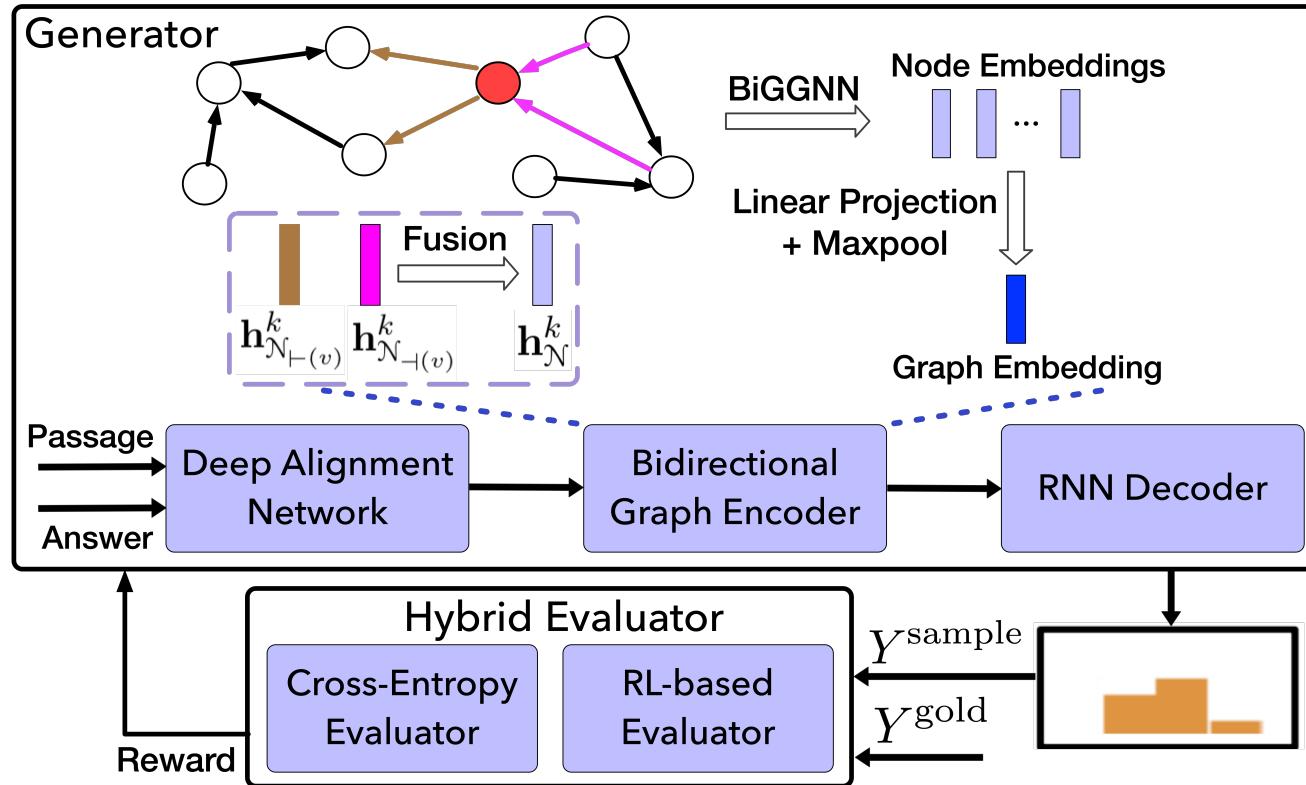
# Contributions

---

- We propose a novel **RL-based Graph2Seq** model for question generation from text. To the best of our knowledge, we are the first to introduce the Graph2Seq architecture for QG.
- We design a novel **deep alignment network** to effectively utilize the answer information.
- We present a **mixed loss function** combining both cross-entropy loss and RL loss.
- We explore both **static and dynamic ways of constructing graphs from text** and are the first to systematically investigate their performance impacts on a GNN encoder.
- The proposed model outperforms existing methods by a significant margin on the standard SQuAD benchmark for QG.



# Overall Model Architecture



# Deep Answer Alignment: Overview

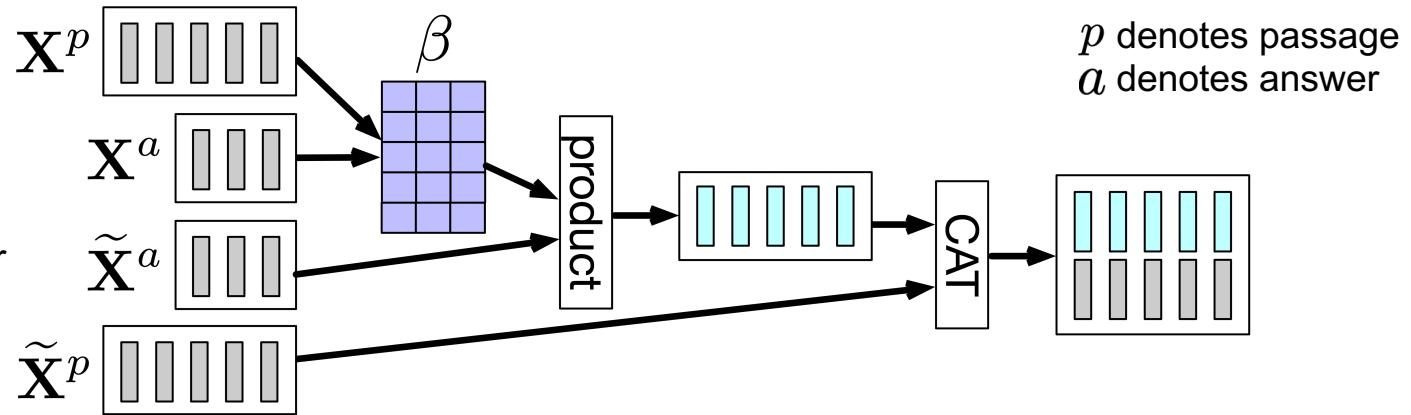
---

- Previous methods neglect potential semantic relationships between passages and answers when utilizing answer information.
- We explicitly model the global interactions among passages and answers in the embedding space.
  - A deep alignment network for **incorporating the answer information** into passages with multiple granularity levels.
  - We perform attention-based **soft-alignment** at both the **word level** and the **contextual level**.



# Deep Answer Alignment: Formulation

Key-value  
representations of  
passage and answer



Step 3: compute  
final passage  
embeddings

$$\tilde{\mathbf{H}}^p = \text{Align}(\mathbf{X}^p, \mathbf{X}^a, \tilde{\mathbf{X}}^p, \tilde{\mathbf{X}}^a) = \text{CAT}(\tilde{\mathbf{X}}^p; \mathbf{H}^p) = \text{CAT}(\tilde{\mathbf{X}}^p; \tilde{\mathbf{X}}^a \boldsymbol{\beta}^T)$$

Step 1: compute  
passage-answer  
attention matrix

$$\boldsymbol{\beta} \propto \exp\left(\text{ReLU}(\mathbf{W}\mathbf{X}^p)^T \text{ReLU}(\mathbf{W}\mathbf{X}^a)\right)$$

Step 2: compute aligned  
answer embeddings



# Deep Answer Alignment: Word Level

---

- On the passage side
  - We perform deep answer alignment between passage and answer based on their **word embeddings** to obtain the passage embeddings  $\tilde{\mathbf{H}}^p$ .
  - A BiLSTM is applied to  $\tilde{\mathbf{H}}^p$  to obtain **contextualized passage embeddings**.
- On the answer side
  - A BiLSTM is applied to the answer **word embedding** sequence to obtain the **contextualized answer embeddings**.



# Deep Answer Alignment: Contextual Level

---

- On the passage side
  - We perform deep answer alignment between passage and answer based on their **contextualized embeddings**.
  - A BiLSTM is applied to the above obtained passage embeddings to compute the final passage embeddings  $\mathbf{x}$ .



# Generator: Passage Graph Construction

- Syntax-based static graph construction
  - A directed and unweighted passage graph based on dependency parsing.
- Semantics-aware dynamic graph construction
  - A directed and weighted graph modeling semantic relationships among passage words.

Attention matrix  $\rightarrow \mathbf{A} = \text{ReLU}(\mathbf{U}\tilde{\mathbf{H}}^p)^T \text{ReLU}(\mathbf{U}\tilde{\mathbf{H}}^p)$

Sparse attention  $\rightarrow \bar{\mathbf{A}} = \text{kNN}(\mathbf{A})$

Passage word as node!

Normalized  $\rightarrow \mathbf{A}^\vdash, \mathbf{A}^\dashv = \text{softmax}(\{\bar{\mathbf{A}}, \bar{\mathbf{A}}^T\})$   
attention matrix  
 $\tilde{\mathbf{H}}^p$  is the passage representation



# Generator: Bidirectional Gated GNN Encoder

## Node aggregation for the syntax-based static graph

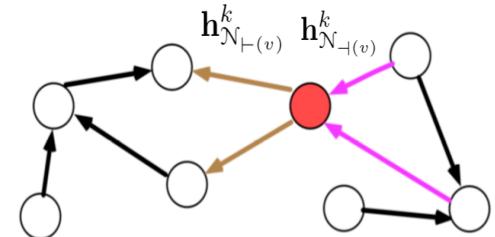
$$\mathbf{h}_{\mathcal{N}_{\dashv(v)}}^k = \text{MEAN}(\{\mathbf{h}_v^{k-1}\} \cup \{\mathbf{h}_u^{k-1}, \forall u \in \mathcal{N}_{\dashv(v)}\})$$

$$\mathbf{h}_{\mathcal{N}_{\vdash(v)}}^k = \text{MEAN}(\{\mathbf{h}_v^{k-1}\} \cup \{\mathbf{h}_u^{k-1}, \forall u \in \mathcal{N}_{\vdash(v)}\})$$

Node embeddings are initialized to the passage embeddings  $\mathbf{X}$  returned by Deep Alignment Network.

## Node aggregation for the semantics-based static graph

$$\mathbf{h}_{\mathcal{N}_{\dashv(v)}}^k = \sum_{\forall u \in \mathcal{N}_{\dashv(v)}} \mathbf{a}_{v,u}^\dashv \mathbf{h}_u^{k-1}, \quad \mathbf{h}_{\mathcal{N}_{\vdash(v)}}^k = \sum_{\forall u \in \mathcal{N}_{\vdash(v)}} \mathbf{a}_{v,u}^\vdash \mathbf{h}_u^{k-1}$$



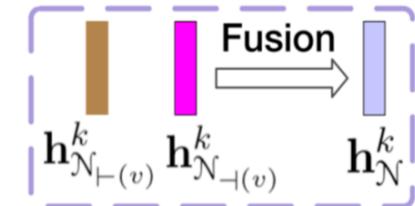
## Generator: Bidirectional Gated GNN Encoder (Cont'd)

Fuse the aggregated node embeddings from both directions at each GNN hop

$$\mathbf{h}_{\mathcal{N}_{(v)}}^k = \text{Fuse}(\mathbf{h}_{\mathcal{N}_{-(v)}}^k, \mathbf{h}_{\mathcal{N}_{+(v)}}^k)$$

$$\text{Fuse}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \mathbf{z} \odot \mathbf{a} + (1 - \mathbf{z}) \odot \mathbf{b}$$

$$\mathbf{z} = \sigma(\mathbf{W}_z[\mathbf{a}; \mathbf{b}; \mathbf{a} \odot \mathbf{b}; \mathbf{a} - \mathbf{b}] + \mathbf{b}_z)$$

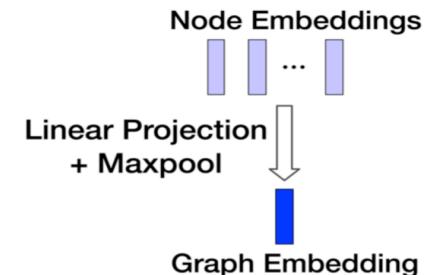


Update the node embeddings using fused information

$$\mathbf{h}_v^k = \text{GRU}(\mathbf{h}_v^{k-1}, \mathbf{h}_{\mathcal{N}_{(v)}}^k)$$

where GRU is a Gated Recurrent Unit (Cho et al., 2014).

After n hops of GNN computation, we obtain the final node/graph embeddings.



Cho, Kyunghyun, et al. "Learning phrase representations using RNN encoder-decoder for statistical machine translation." *arXiv preprint arXiv:1406.1078* (2014).

# Generator: RNN Decoder

---

- We adopt a state-of-the-art attention-based LSTM decoder with copy and coverage mechanisms (See et al., 2017).
- Initial hidden states are based on graph embeddings.
- Node embeddings can be accessed via attention mechanism as a memory bank.

See, Abigail, Peter J. Liu, and Christopher D. Manning. "Get to the point: Summarization with pointer-generator networks." *arXiv preprint arXiv:1704.04368* (2017).

# Hybrid Evaluator

- Cross-entropy based training has limitations, e.g., exposure bias.
- A **mixed loss** combining both cross-entropy loss and RL loss
  - Ensure the generation of syntactically and semantically valid text

$$\mathcal{L}_{lm} = \sum_t -\log P(y_t^*|X, y_{<t}^*) + \lambda \text{covloss}_t \quad \mathcal{L}_{rl} = (r(\hat{Y}) - r(Y^s)) \sum_t \log P(y_t^s|X, y_{<t}^s)$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \gamma \mathcal{L}_{rl} + (1 - \gamma) \mathcal{L}_{lm}$$

greedy search      multinomial sampling      self-critical sequence training (SCST) RL algorithm.

- **Two-stage training** strategy:
  - Train the model with cross-entropy loss
  - Finetune the model by optimizing the mixed objective function



# Experimental Setup: Data

---

- SQuAD:
  - Popular benchmark for the task of Machine Reading Comprehension.
  
- Our QG benchmarks:
  - SQuAD split 1: 75,500/17,934/11,805 (train/development/test) examples
  - SQuAD split 2: 86,635/8,965/8,964 examples

In meteorology, precipitation is any product of the condensation of atmospheric water vapor that falls under **gravity**. The main forms of precipitation include drizzle, rain, sleet, snow, **graupel** and hail... Precipitation forms as smaller droplets coalesce via collision with other rain drops or ice crystals **within a cloud**. Short, intense periods of rain in scattered locations are called “showers”.

What causes precipitation to fall?  
**gravity**

What is another main form of precipitation besides drizzle, rain, snow, sleet and hail?  
**graupel**

Where do water droplets collide with ice crystals to form precipitation?  
**within a cloud**

---

Sample question-answer pairs from SQuAD 1.0. Ref:  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1606.05250>.

# Experimental Setup: Evaluation Metrics

---

- Automatic evaluation
  - BLEU-4
  - METEOR
  - ROUGE-L
  - Q-BLEU1
- Human evaluation
  - Syntactically correct
  - Semantically correct
  - Relevant



# Experimental Results: Automatic Evaluation

Methods	Split-1				Split-2			
	BLEU-4	METEOR	ROUGE-L	Q-BLEU1	BLEU-4	METEOR	ROUGE-L	Q-BLEU1
Transformer	2.56	8.98	26.01	16.70	3.09	9.68	28.86	20.10
SeqCopyNet	—	—	—	—	13.02	—	44.00	—
NQG++	—	—	—	—	13.29	—	—	—
MPQG+R*	14.39	18.99	42.46	52.00	14.71	18.93	42.60	50.30
AFPQA	—	—	—	—	15.64	—	—	—
s2sa-at-mp-gsa	15.32	19.29	43.91	—	15.82	19.67	44.24	—
ASs2s	16.20	19.92	43.96	—	16.17	—	—	—
CGC-QG	—	—	—	—	17.55	21.24	44.53	—
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT+RL	17.55	21.42	45.59	55.40	18.06	21.53	45.91	55.00
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT+RL	<b>17.94</b>	<b>21.76</b>	<b>46.02</b>	<b>55.60</b>	<b>18.30</b>	<b>21.70</b>	<b>45.98</b>	<b>55.20</b>

Table 1: Automatic evaluation results on the SQuAD test set. (higher scores indicate better results).

# Experimental Results: Human Evaluation

Methods	Syntactically correct	Semantically correct	Relevant
MPQG+R*	4.34 (0.15)	4.01 (0.23)	3.21 (0.31)
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT+RL	4.41 (0.09)	4.31 (0.12)	3.79 (0.45)
Ground-truth	<b>4.74 (0.14)</b>	<b>4.74 (0.19)</b>	<b>4.25 (0.38)</b>

Table 2: Human evaluation results ( $\pm$  standard deviation) on the SQuAD split-2 test set. (higher scores indicate better results).



# Experimental Results: Ablation Study

Methods	BLEU-4	Methods	BLEU-4
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT+RL	18.06	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o feat	16.51
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT+RL	18.30	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o feat	16.65
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed+RL	18.20	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o DAN	12.58
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT	17.56	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN	12.62
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT	18.02	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-word only	15.92
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed	17.86	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-contextual only	16.07
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +RL	17.18	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-forward	16.53
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +RL	17.49	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-backward	16.75
G2S <sub>dyn</sub>	16.81	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ Seq2Seq	16.14
G2S <sub>sta</sub>	16.96	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ GCN	14.47

Table 3: Ablation study on the SQuAD split-2 test set.

# Experimental Results: Ablation Study

Methods	BLEU-4	Methods	BLEU-4
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT+RL	18.06	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o feat	16.51
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT+RL	18.30	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o feat	16.65
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed+RL	18.20	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o DAN	12.58
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT	17.56	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN	12.62
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT	18.02	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-word only	15.92
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed	17.86	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-contextual only	16.07
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +RL	17.18	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-forward	16.53
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +RL	17.49	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-backward	16.75
G2S <sub>dyn</sub>	16.81	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ Seq2Seq	16.14
G2S <sub>sta</sub>	16.96	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ GCN	14.47

Table 3: Ablation study on the SQuAD split-2 test set.



# Experimental Results: Ablation Study

Methods	BLEU-4	Methods	BLEU-4
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT+RL	18.06	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o feat	16.51
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT+RL	18.30	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o feat	16.65
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed+RL	18.20	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o DAN	12.58
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT	17.56	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN	12.62
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT	18.02	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-word only	15.92
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed	17.86	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-contextual only	16.07
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +RL	17.18	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-forward	16.53
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +RL	17.49	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-backward	16.75
G2S <sub>dyn</sub>	16.81	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ Seq2Seq	16.14
G2S <sub>sta</sub>	16.96	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ GCN	14.47

Table 3: Ablation study on the SQuAD split-2 test set.



# Experimental Results: Ablation Study

Methods	BLEU-4	Methods	BLEU-4
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT+RL	18.06	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o feat	16.51
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT+RL	18.30	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o feat	16.65
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed+RL	18.20	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o DAN	12.58
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT	17.56	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN	12.62
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT	18.02	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-word only	15.92
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed	17.86	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-contextual only	16.07
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +RL	17.18	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-forward	16.53
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +RL	17.49	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-backward	16.75
G2S <sub>dyn</sub>	16.81	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ Seq2Seq	16.14
G2S <sub>sta</sub>	16.96	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ GCN	14.47

Table 3: Ablation study on the SQuAD split-2 test set.

# Experimental Results: Ablation Study

Methods	BLEU-4	Methods	BLEU-4
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT+RL	18.06	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o feat	16.51
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT+RL	18.30	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o feat	16.65
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed+RL	18.20	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o DAN	12.58
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT	17.56	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN	12.62
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT	18.02	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-word only	15.92
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed	17.86	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-contextual only	16.07
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +RL	17.18	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-forward	16.53
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +RL	17.49	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-backward	16.75
G2S <sub>dyn</sub>	16.81	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ Seq2Seq	16.14
G2S <sub>sta</sub>	16.96	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ GCN	14.47

Table 3: Ablation study on the SQuAD split-2 test set.



# Experimental Results: Ablation Study

Methods	BLEU-4	Methods	BLEU-4
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT+RL	18.06	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o feat	16.51
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT+RL	18.30	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o feat	16.65
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed+RL	18.20	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o DAN	12.58
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT	17.56	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN	12.62
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT	18.02	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-word only	15.92
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed	17.86	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-contextual only	16.07
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +RL	17.18	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-forward	16.53
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +RL	17.49	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-backward	16.75
G2S <sub>dyn</sub>	16.81	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ Seq2Seq	16.14
G2S <sub>sta</sub>	16.96	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ GCN	14.47

Table 3: Ablation study on the SQuAD split-2 test set.

# Experimental Results: Ablation Study

Methods	BLEU-4	Methods	BLEU-4
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT+RL	18.06	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o feat	16.51
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT+RL	18.30	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o feat	16.65
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed+RL	18.20	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o DAN	12.58
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT	17.56	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN	12.62
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT	18.02	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-word only	15.92
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed	17.86	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-contextual only	16.07
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +RL	17.18	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-forward	16.53
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +RL	17.49	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-backward	16.75
G2S <sub>dyn</sub>	16.81	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ Seq2Seq	16.14
G2S <sub>sta</sub>	16.96	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ GCN	14.47

Table 3: Ablation study on the SQuAD split-2 test set.



# Experimental Results: Ablation Study

Methods	BLEU-4	Methods	BLEU-4
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT+RL	18.06	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o feat	16.51
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT+RL	18.30	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o feat	16.65
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed+RL	18.20	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o DAN	12.58
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT	17.56	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN	12.62
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT	18.02	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-word only	15.92
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed	17.86	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-contextual only	16.07
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +RL	17.18	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-forward	16.53
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +RL	17.49	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-backward	16.75
G2S <sub>dyn</sub>	16.81	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ Seq2Seq	16.14
G2S <sub>sta</sub>	16.96	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ GCN	14.47

Table 3: Ablation study on the SQuAD split-2 test set.

# Experimental Results: Ablation Study

Methods	BLEU-4	Methods	BLEU-4
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT+RL	18.06	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o feat	16.51
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT+RL	18.30	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o feat	16.65
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed+RL	18.20	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o DAN	12.58
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT	17.56	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN	12.62
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT	18.02	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-word only	15.92
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed	17.86	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-contextual only	16.07
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +RL	17.18	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-forward	16.53
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +RL	17.49	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-backward	16.75
G2S <sub>dyn</sub>	16.81	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ Seq2Seq	16.14
G2S <sub>sta</sub>	16.96	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ GCN	14.47

Table 3: Ablation study on the SQuAD split-2 test set.



# Experimental Results: Ablation Study

Methods	BLEU-4	Methods	BLEU-4
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT+RL	18.06	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o feat	16.51
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT+RL	18.30	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o feat	16.65
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed+RL	18.20	G2S <sub>dyn</sub> w/o DAN	12.58
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +BERT	17.56	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN	12.62
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT	18.02	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-word only	15.92
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +BERT-fixed	17.86	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ DAN-contextual only	16.07
G2S <sub>dyn</sub> +RL	17.18	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-forward	16.53
G2S <sub>sta</sub> +RL	17.49	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/ GGNN-backward	16.75
G2S <sub>dyn</sub>	16.81	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ Seq2Seq	16.14
G2S <sub>sta</sub>	16.96	G2S <sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN, w/ GCN	14.47

Table 3: Ablation study on the SQuAD split-2 test set.

# Experimental Results: Case Study

---

**Passage:** for the successful execution of a project , effective planning is essential .

**Gold:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN (Seq2Seq):** what type of planning is essential for the project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN.:** what type of planning is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT+RL:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>dyn</sub>+BERT+RL:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

---

**Passage:** the church operates three hundred sixty schools and institutions overseas .

**Gold:** how many schools and institutions does the church operate overseas ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN (Seq2Seq):** how many schools does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN.:** how many schools does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>:** how many schools and institutions does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT:** how many schools and institutions does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT+RL:** how many schools and institutions does the church operate ?

**G2S<sub>dyn</sub>+BERT+RL:** how many schools does the church operate ?

---

Table 4: Generated questions on SQuAD split-2 test set. Target answers are underlined.



# Experimental Results: Case Study

**Passage:** for the successful execution of a project , effective planning is essential .

**Gold:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN (Seq2Seq):** what type of planning is essential for the project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN.:** what type of planning is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT+RL:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>dyn</sub>+BERT+RL:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

---

**Passage:** the church operates three hundred sixty schools and institutions overseas .

**Gold:** how many schools and institutions does the church operate overseas ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN (Seq2Seq):** how many schools does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN.:** how many schools does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>:** how many schools and institutions does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT:** how many schools and institutions does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT+RL:** how many schools and institutions does the church operate ?

**G2S<sub>dyn</sub>+BERT+RL:** how many schools does the church operate ?

---

Table 4: Generated questions on SQuAD split-2 test set. Target answers are underlined.



# Experimental Results: Case Study

---

**Passage:** for the successful execution of a project , effective planning is essential .

**Gold:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN (Seq2Seq):** what type of planning is essential for the project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN.:** what type of planning is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT+RL:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>dyn</sub>+BERT+RL:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

---

**Passage:** the church operates three hundred sixty schools and institutions overseas .

**Gold:** how many schools and institutions does the church operate overseas ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN (Seq2Seq):** how many schools does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN.:** how many schools does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>:** how many schools and institutions does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT:** how many schools and institutions does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT+RL:** how many schools and institutions does the church operate ?

**G2S<sub>dyn</sub>+BERT+RL:** how many schools does the church operate ?

---

Table 4: Generated questions on SQuAD split-2 test set. Target answers are underlined.



# Experimental Results: Case Study

**Passage:** for the successful execution of a project , effective planning is essential .

**Gold:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN (Seq2Seq):** what type of planning is essential for the project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN:** what type of planning is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT+RL:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>dyn</sub>+BERT+RL:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

---

**Passage:** the church operates three hundred sixty schools and institutions overseas .

**Gold:** how many schools and institutions does the church operate overseas ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN (Seq2Seq):** how many schools does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN:** how many schools does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>:** how many schools and institutions does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT:** how many schools and institutions does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT+RL:** how many schools and institutions does the church operate ?

**G2S<sub>dyn</sub>+BERT+RL:** how many schools does the church operate ?

---

Table 4: Generated questions on SQuAD split-2 test set. Target answers are underlined.



# Experimental Results: Case Study

---

**Passage:** for the successful execution of a project , effective planning is essential .

**Gold:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN (Seq2Seq):** what type of planning is essential for the project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN.:** what type of planning is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT+RL:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>dyn</sub>+BERT+RL:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

---

**Passage:** the church operates three hundred sixty schools and institutions overseas .

**Gold:** how many schools and institutions does the church operate overseas ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN (Seq2Seq):** how many schools does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN.:** how many schools does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>:** how many schools and institutions does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT:** how many schools and institutions does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT+RL:** how many schools and institutions does the church operate ?

**G2S<sub>dyn</sub>+BERT+RL:** how many schools does the church operate ?

---

Table 4: Generated questions on SQuAD split-2 test set. Target answers are underlined.



# Experimental Results: Case Study

**Passage:** for the successful execution of a project , effective planning is essential .

**Gold:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN (Seq2Seq):** what type of planning is essential for the project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN.:** what type of planning is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT+RL:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>dyn</sub>+BERT+RL:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**Passage:** the church operates three hundred sixty schools and institutions overseas .

**Gold:** how many schools and institutions does the church operate overseas ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN (Seq2Seq):** how many schools does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN.:** how many schools does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>:** how many schools and institutions does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT:** how many schools and institutions does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT+RL:** how many schools and institutions does the church operate ?

**G2S<sub>dyn</sub>+BERT+RL:** how many schools does the church operate ?

Table 4: Generated questions on SQuAD split-2 test set. Target answers are underlined.



# Experimental Results: Case Study

---

**Passage:** for the successful execution of a project , effective planning is essential .

**Gold:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN (Seq2Seq):** what type of planning is essential for the project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN.:** what type of planning is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT+RL:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

**G2S<sub>dyn</sub>+BERT+RL:** what is essential for the successful execution of a project ?

---

**Passage:** the church operates three hundred sixty schools and institutions overseas .

**Gold:** how many schools and institutions does the church operate overseas ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o BiGGNN (Seq2Seq):** how many schools does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub> w/o DAN.:** how many schools does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>:** how many schools and institutions does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT:** how many schools and institutions does the church have ?

**G2S<sub>sta</sub>+BERT+RL:** how many schools and institutions does the church operate ?

**G2S<sub>dyn</sub>+BERT+RL:** how many schools does the church operate ?

---

Table 4: Generated questions on SQuAD split-2 test set. Target answers are underlined.



# Outline

---

- Background on QA & QG
- Background on GNNs
- Dissertation Contributions
- Part I: QG from Text
- Part II: QG from KG
- Conclusion & Future Directions



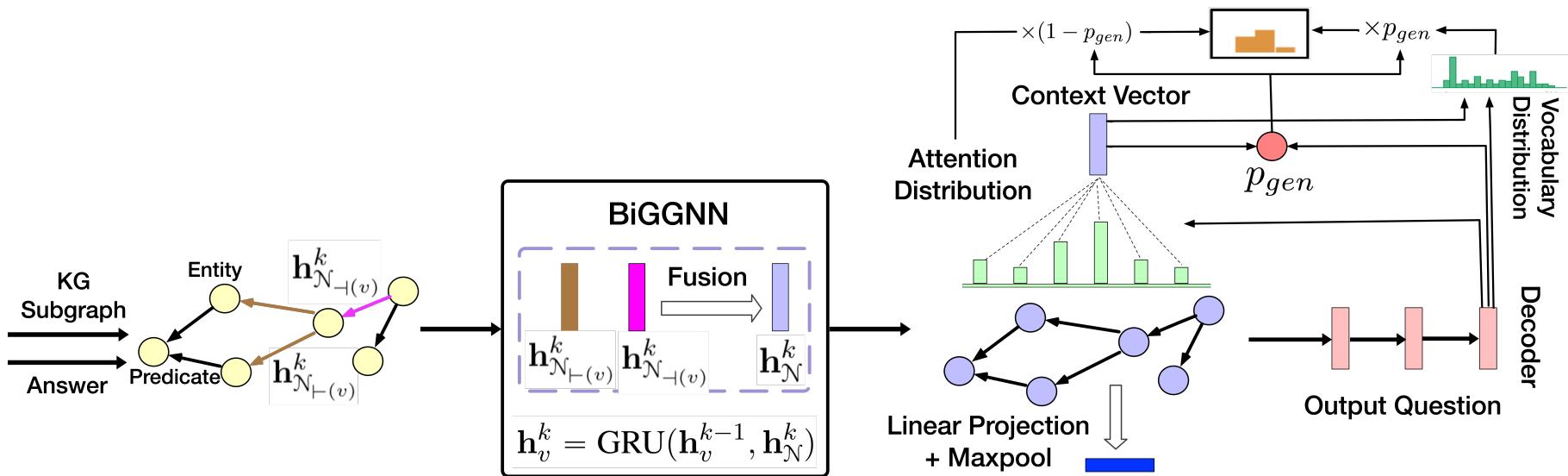
---

## Part II

# Toward Subgraph Guided Knowledge Graph Question Generation with Graph Neural Networks

**Yu Chen**, Lingfei Wu, and Mohammed J. Zaki. "Toward Subgraph Guided Knowledge Graph Question Generation with Graph Neural Networks." Submitted to *EMNLP 2020*.

# Graph2Seq for QG from KG: Overall Architecture

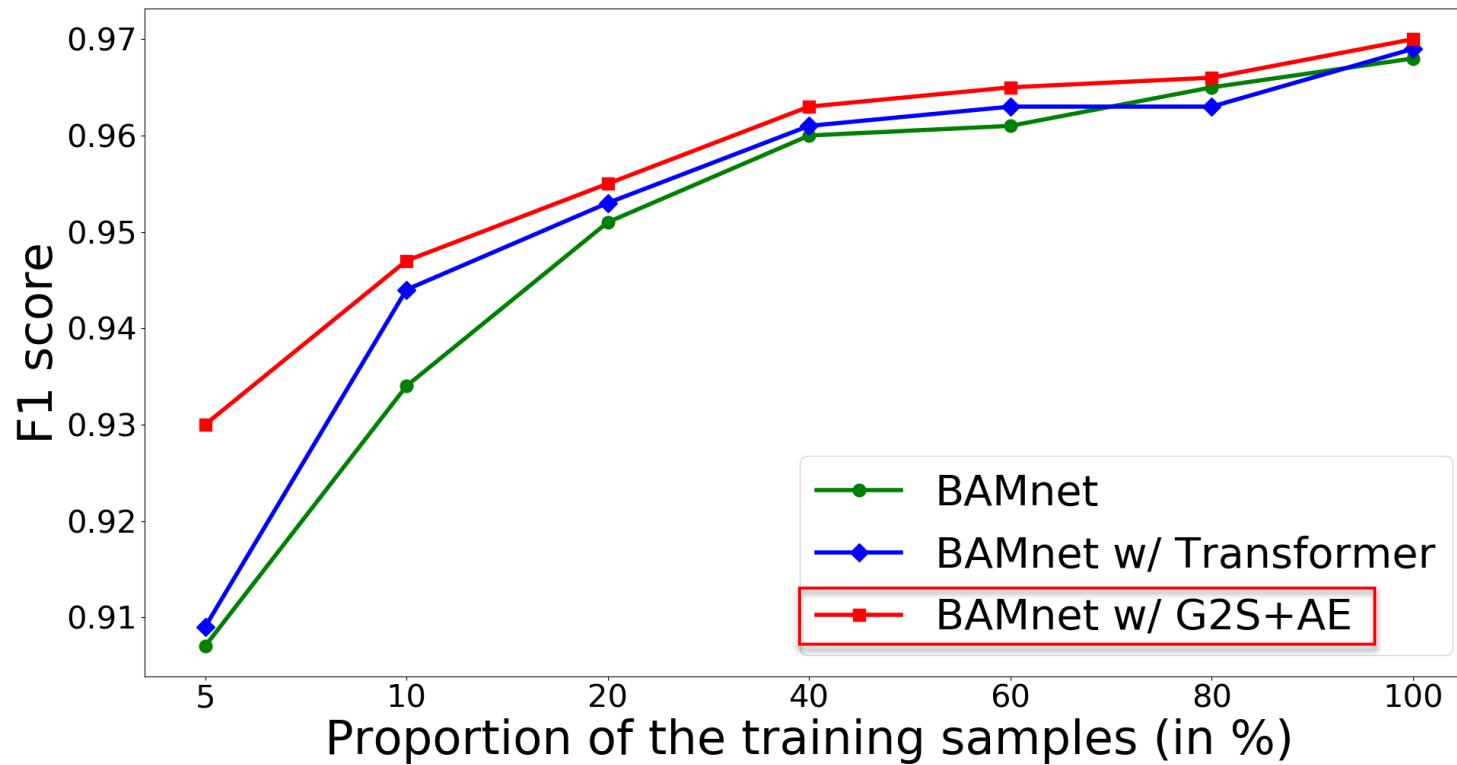


# Experimental Results: Automatic Evaluation

Method	WQ			PQ		
	BLEU-4	METEOR	ROUGE-L	BLEU-4	METEOR	ROUGE-L
L2A	6.01	25.24	26.95	17.00	19.72	50.38
Transformer	8.94	13.79	32.63	56.43	43.45	73.64
MHQG+AE	11.57	29.69	35.53	25.99	33.16	58.94
G2S+AE	<b>29.45</b>	30.96	<b>55.45</b>	<b>61.48</b>	44.57	<b>77.72</b>
G2S <sub>edge</sub> +AE	29.40	<b>31.12</b>	55.23	59.59	<b>44.70</b>	75.20

Table 5: Evaluation results on WQ and PQ. (higher scores indicate better results).

# QG-driven Data Augmentation for QA



# Outline

---

- Background on QA & QG
- Background on GNNs
- Dissertation Contributions
- Part I: QG from Text
- Part II: QG from KG
- Conclusion & Future Directions



# Conclusion

---

- KBQA
  - A bidirectional attentive memory network framework for modeling the two-way flow of interactions between the questions and the KB.
- Conversational MRC
  - A Recurrent Graph Neural Network based flow mechanism for modeling the temporal dependencies in a sequence of context graphs.
- QG from KG
  - Bidirectional GNN encoder to encode the KG subgraph.
  - RNN decoder enhanced with node-level copying mechanism.
- QG from Text
  - A RL-based Graph2Seq model with a hybrid evaluator.
  - Deep Alignment Network for incorporating the answer information into the passage.

# Future Directions

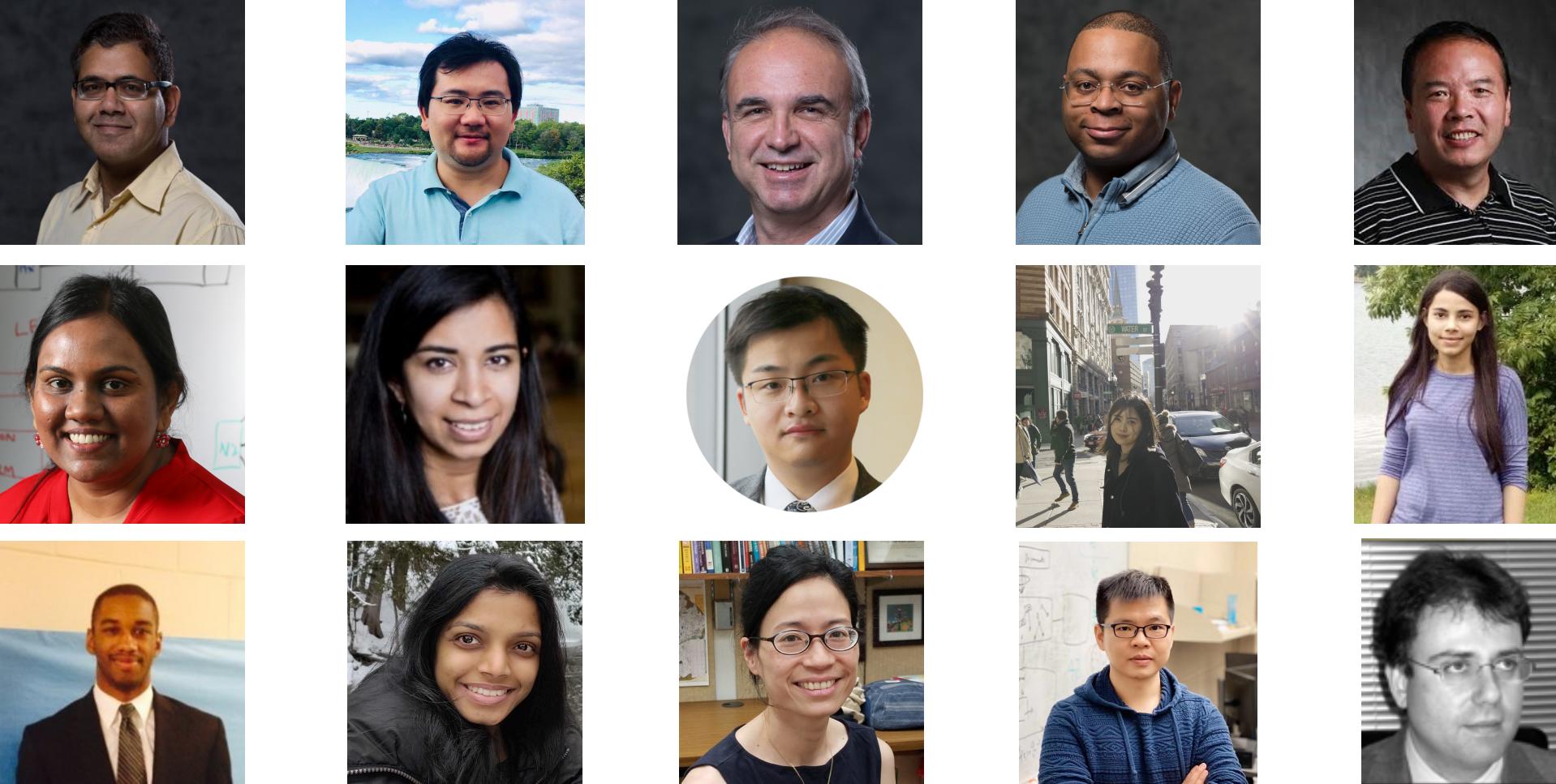
## QA

- Complex QA
  - program induction
  - graph reasoning
- Conversational QA
- QA from multimodal data

## QG

- Personalized QG
- Conversational QG
- QG from multimodal data
- Joint learning of QA & QG





Rensselaer

and many more!



# Thank you!

## Q&A



Rensselaer



# Rensselaer

**why not change the world?®**