

FLOWQA:GRASPING FLOW IN HISTORY FOR CONVERSATIONAL MACHINE COMPREHENSION

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single-turn models

- Question encoding
- Context encoding
- Reasoning
- Answer prediction



Conversational MC

- Existing methods
- just incorporate previous question/answer pairs into the current question and context encoding without modifying higher-level
- FLOWQA
- incorporate the conversation history more comprehensively via a conceptually simple **FLOW mechanism**



- **Conversation flow** can be a representation based of the **context tokens** and inferred by **intermediate machine process** for answering previous questions
- Flow builds **information flow** from **the intermediate representation** C_1^h, \dots, C_{i-1}^h generated for the previous question Q_1, \dots, Q_{i-1} to the current process for answering Q_i , for every h and i



- **Context integration**

pass the current context representation C_i^h for each question i into a **BiLSTM layer**. **All question i ($1 \leq i \leq t$) are processed in parallel** during training

$$\hat{C}_i^h = \hat{c}_{i,1}^h, \dots, \hat{c}_{i,m}^h = \text{BiLSTM}([C_i^h])$$

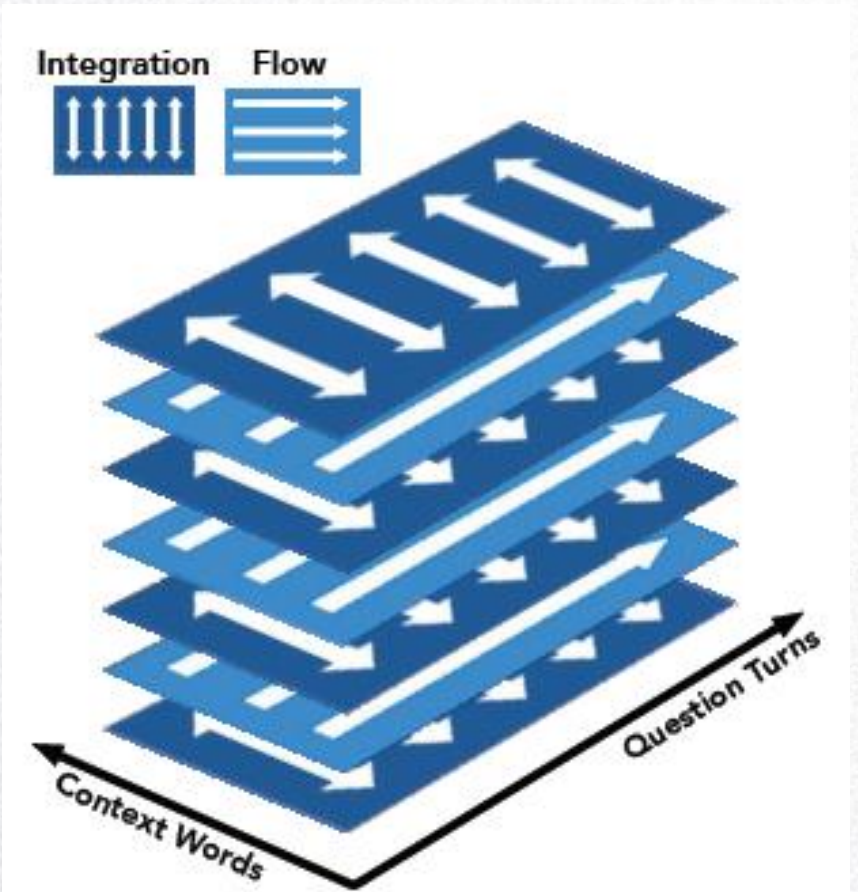


Figure 2: Alternating computational structure between context integration (RNN over context) and FLOW (RNN over question turns).



- **FLOW**

All **context word** $j(1 \leq j \leq m)$ are processed **in parallel**

$$f_{1,j}^{h+1}, \dots, f_{t,j}^{h+1} = \text{GRU}(\hat{c}_{1,j}^h, \dots, \hat{c}_{t,j}^h)$$

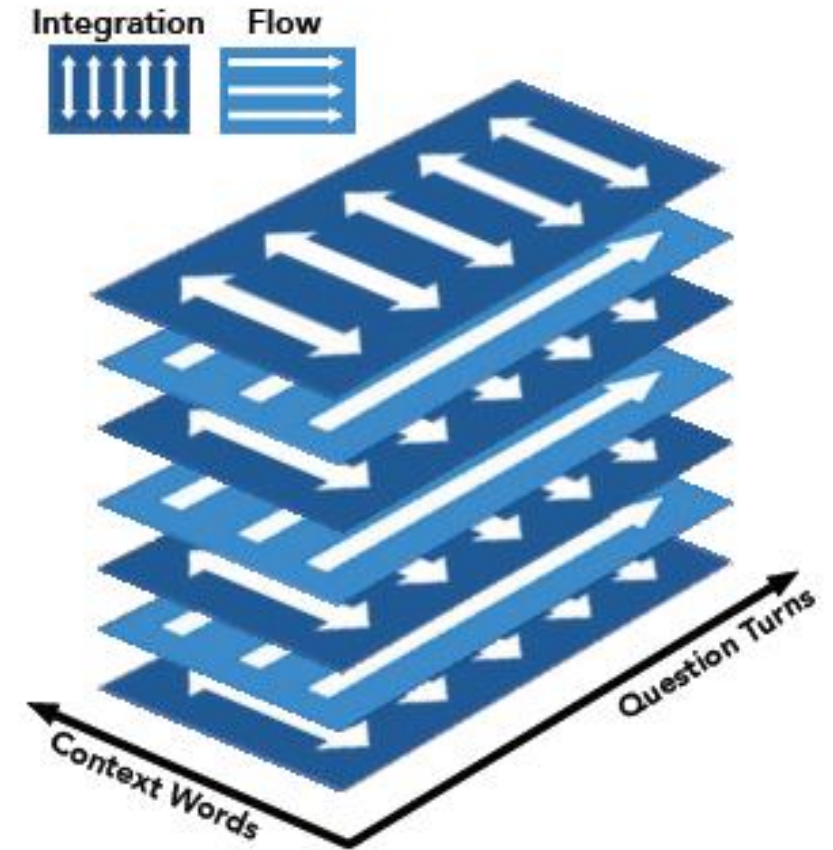


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- Reshape the outputs from the Flow layer back, and concatenate them to the output of the integration

$$F_i^{h+1} = \{f_{i,1}^{h+1}, \dots, f_{i,m}^{h+1}\}$$
$$C_i^{h+1} = c_{i,1}^{h+1}, \dots, c_{i,m}^{h+1} = [\hat{c}_{i,1}^h; f_{i,1}^{h+1}], \dots, [\hat{c}_{i,m}^h; f_{i,m}^{h+1}]$$

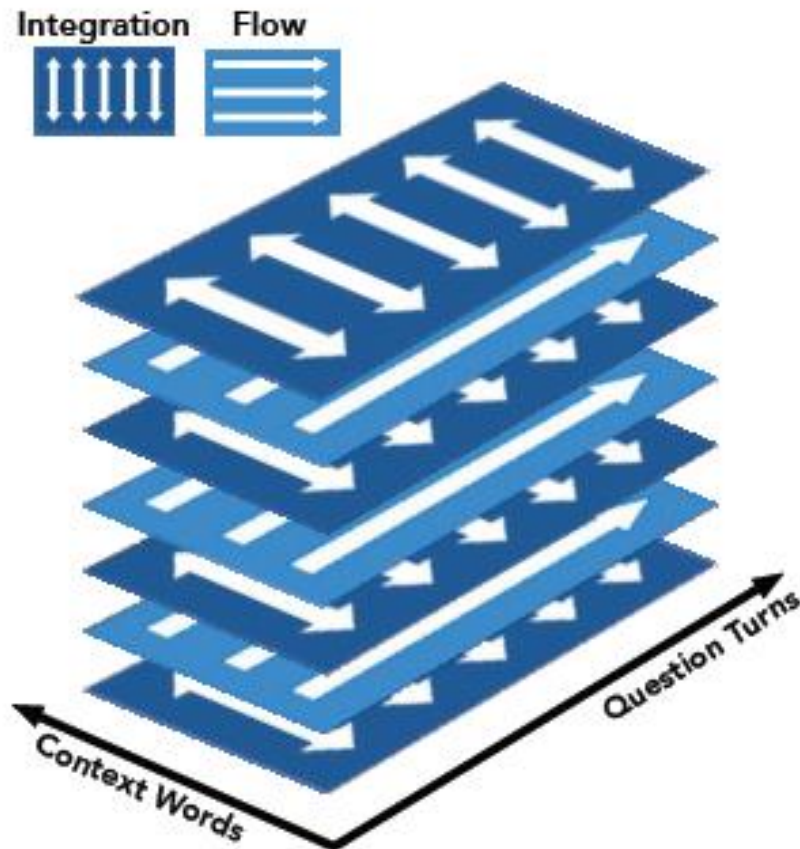
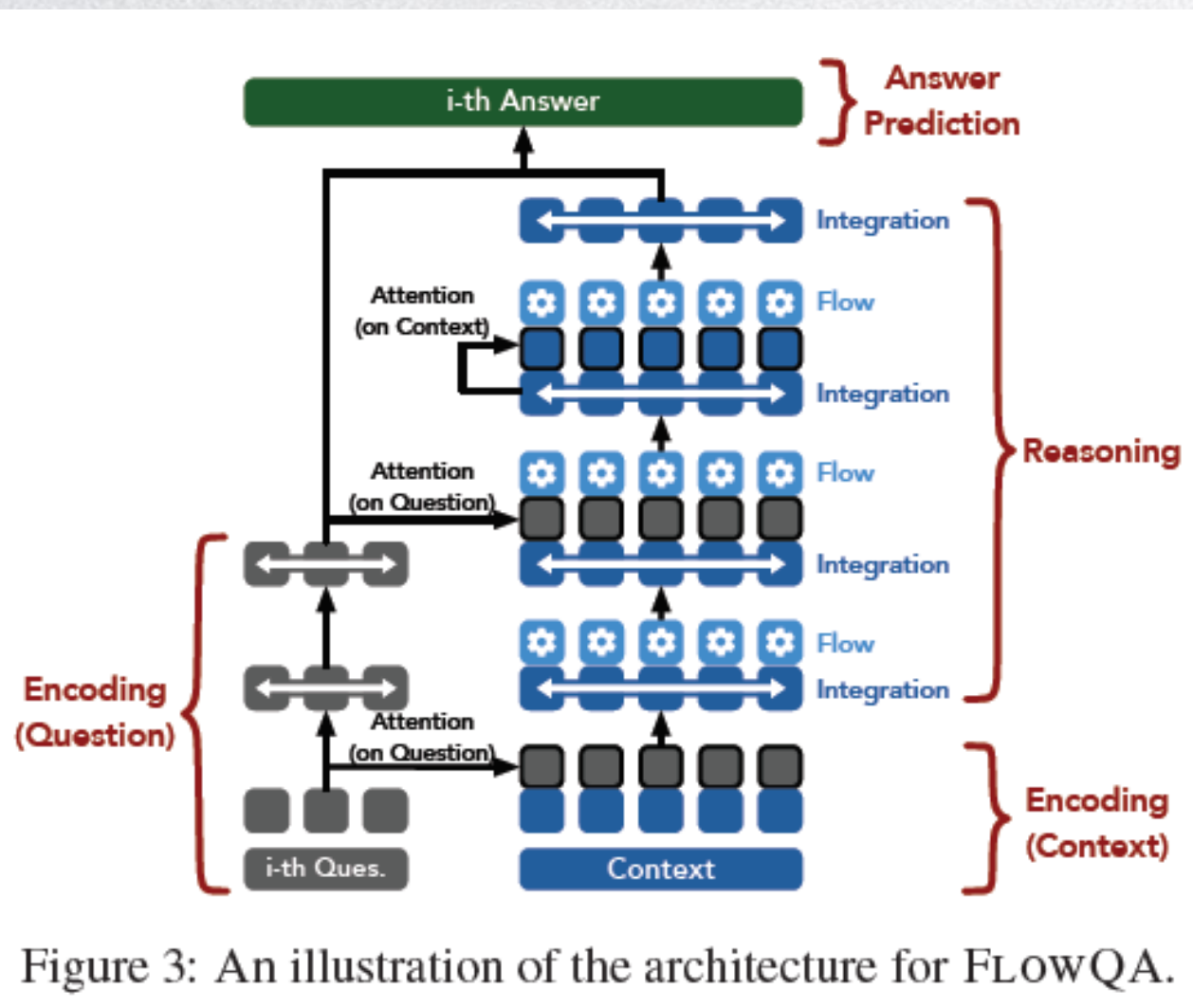


Figure 2: Alternating computational structure between context integration (RNN over context) and FLOW (RNN over question turns).



- FLOWQA is based on the single-turn MC structure with **fully-aware attention**

$$S(x, y) = \text{ReLU}(Ux)^T D \text{ReLU}(Uy)$$

- Initial encoding
- Reasoning
- Answer prediction



QUESTION/CONTEXT ENCODING

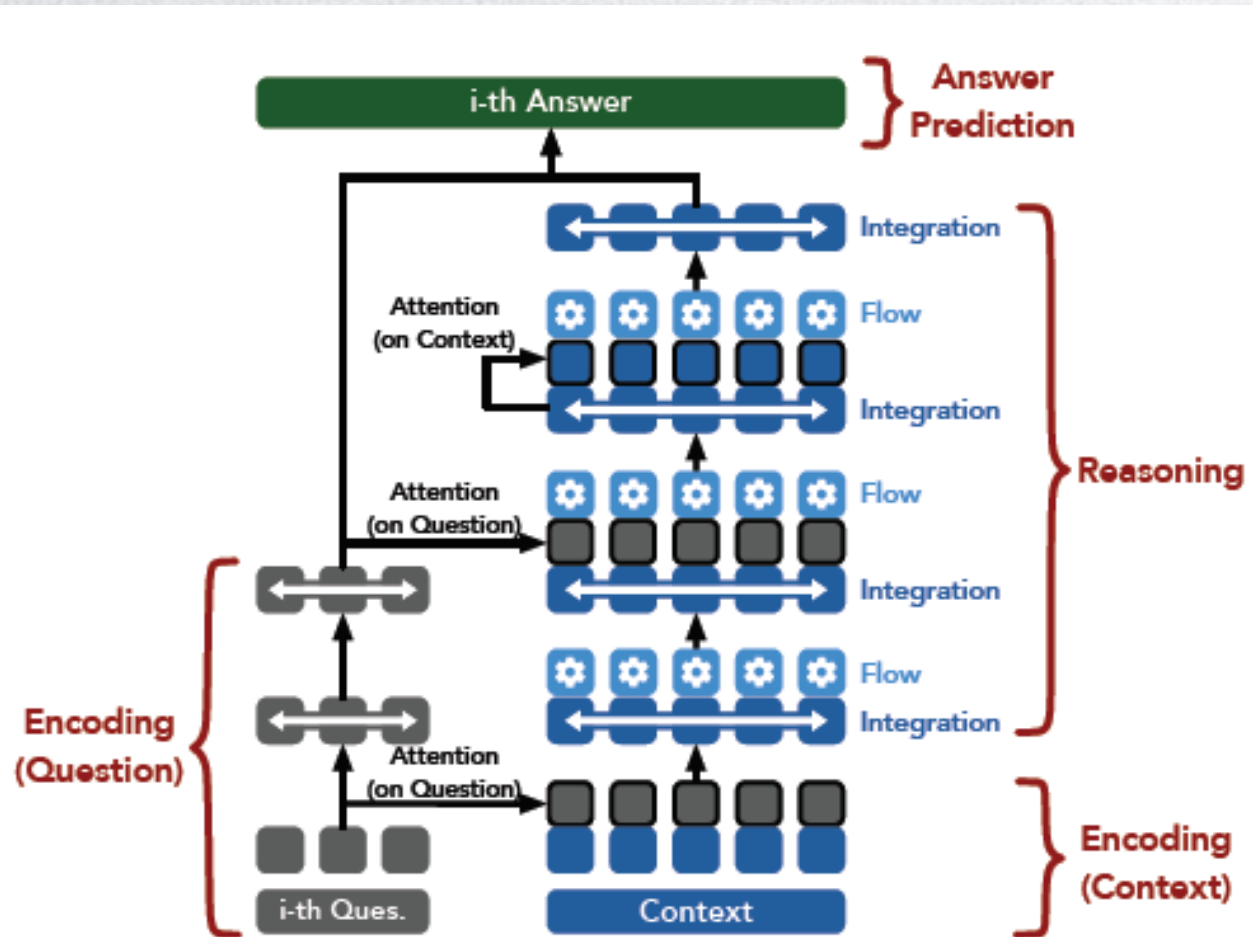


Figure 3: An illustration of the architecture for FLOWQA.

- Word embedding**

Embed the context and question into a sequence of vectors with **pretrained GloVe, CoVe and ELMo**

$$C = \{c_1, \dots, c_m\}$$

$$Q_i = \{q_{i,1}, \dots, q_{i,n}\}$$

- Attention (on Question) in word level**

$$g_{i,j} = \sum_k \alpha_{i,j,k} g_{i,k}^Q, \quad \alpha_{i,j,k} \propto \exp(\text{ReLU}(W g_j^C)^T \text{ReLU}(W g_{i,k}^Q)),$$

- Word embedding
- A binary indicator
- Output from the attention

$$C_i^0 = [c_1; \text{em}_{i,1}; g_{i,1}], \dots, [c_m; \text{em}_{i,m}; g_{i,m}]$$

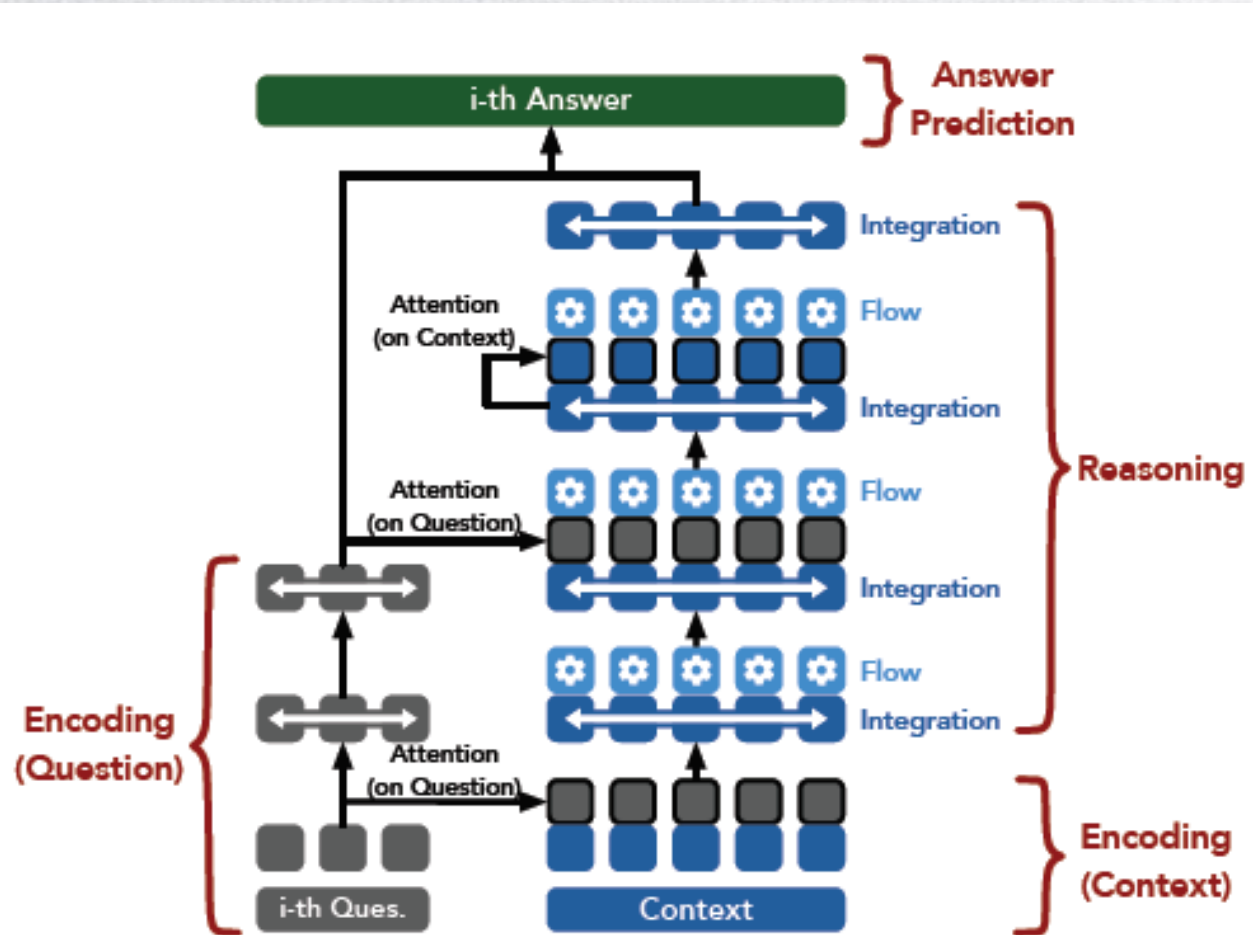


Figure 3: An illustration of the architecture for FLOWQA.

- Question Integration with QHierRNN two layers BiLSTM

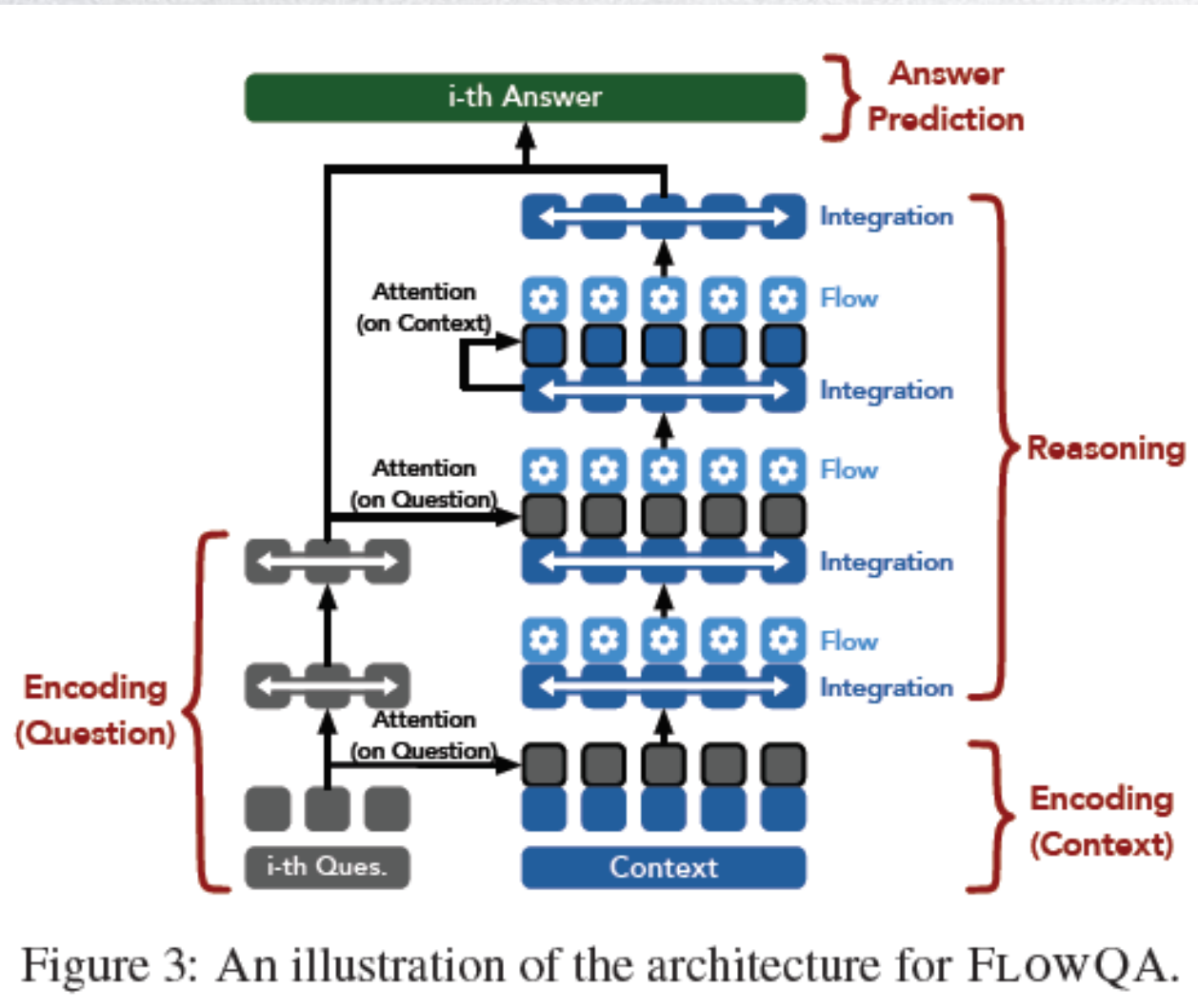
$$Q_i^1 = q_{i,1}^1, \dots, q_{i,n}^1 = \text{BiLSTM}(Q_i)$$

$$Q_i^2 = q_{i,1}^2, \dots, q_{i,n}^2 = \text{BiLSTM}(Q_i^1)$$

- Answer pointer vectors used in answer prediction layer

$$\tilde{q}_i = \sum_{k=1}^n \alpha_{i,k} \cdot q_{i,k}^2, \quad \alpha_{i,k} \propto \exp(w^T q_{i,k}^2)$$

$$p_1, \dots, p_t = \text{LSTM}(\tilde{q}_i, \dots, \tilde{q}_t)$$



- Integration-FLOW *2

$$C_i^1 = \text{IF}(C_i^0)$$

$$C_i^2 = \text{IF}(C_i^1)$$

- Attention(on Question)

$$\hat{q}_{i,j} = \sum_{k=1}^n \alpha^{i,j,k} \cdot q_{i,k}^2, \quad \alpha^{i,j,k} \propto \exp(S([c_i; c_{j,i}^1; c_{j,i}^2], [q_{j,k}^1; q_{j,k}^2; q_{j,k}^2]))$$

- Integration-FLOW

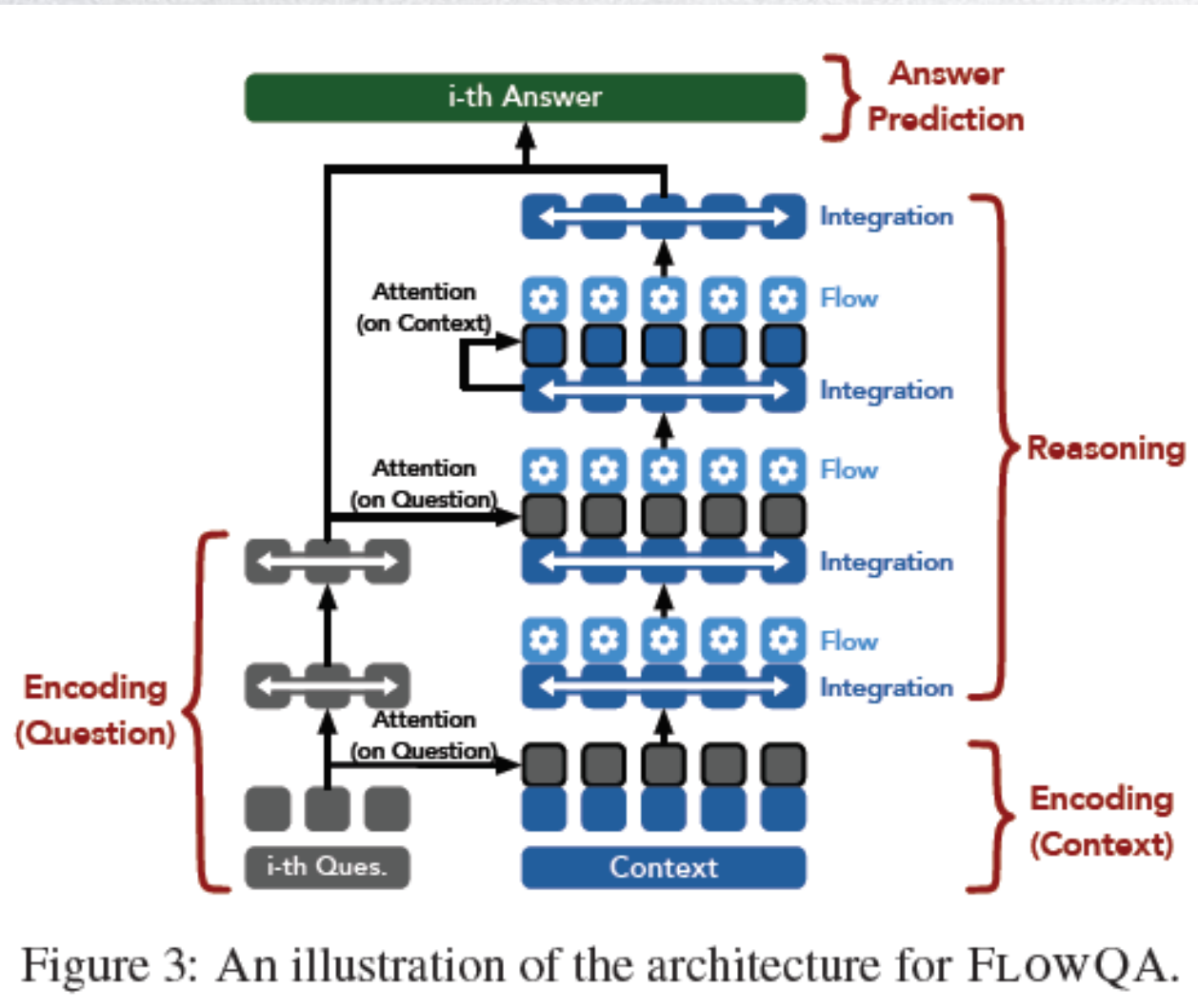
$$C_i^3 = \text{IF}([c_{i,1}^2; \hat{q}_{i,1}], \dots, [c_{i,m}^2; \hat{q}_{i,m}])$$

- Attention(on Context)

$$\hat{c}_{i,j} = \sum_{k=1}^m \alpha^{i,j,k} \cdot c_{j,k}^3, \quad \alpha^{i,j,k} \propto \exp(S([c_{i,j}^1; c_{i,j}^2; c_{i,j}^3], [c_{k,j}^1; c_{k,j}^2; c_{k,j}^3]))$$

- Integration

$$C_i^4 = \text{BiLSTM}([c_{i,1}^3; \hat{c}_{i,1}], \dots, [c_{i,m}^3; \hat{c}_{i,m}])$$



- Estimate the start and end probabilities

$$P_{i,j}^S \propto \exp([c_{i,j}^4]^T W_S p_i), \quad \tilde{p}_i = \text{GRU}(p_i, \sum_{i,j} P_{i,j}^S c_{i,j}^4), \quad P_{i,j}^E \propto \exp([c_{i,j}^4]^T W_E \tilde{p}_i)$$

- Unanswerable question

$$P_i^\emptyset \propto \exp \left(\left[\sum_{j=1}^m c_{i,j}^4; \max_j c_{i,j}^4 \right]^T W p_i \right)$$



	Child.	Liter.	Mid-High.	News	Wiki	Reddit	Science	Overall
PGNet (1-ctx)	49.0	43.3	47.5	47.5	45.1	38.6	38.1	44.1
DrQA (1-ctx)	46.7	53.9	54.1	57.8	59.4	45.0	51.0	52.6
DrQA + PGNet (1-ctx)	64.2	63.7	67.1	68.3	71.4	57.8	63.1	65.1
BiDAF++ (3-ctx)	66.5	65.7	70.2	71.6	72.6	60.8	67.1	67.8
FLOWQA (1-Ans)	73.7	71.6	76.8	79.0	80.2	67.8	76.1	75.0
Human	90.2	88.4	89.8	88.6	89.9	86.7	88.1	88.8

Table 1: Model and human performance (% in F_1 score) on the CoQA test set. (N -ctx) refers to using previous N QA pairs. (N -Ans) refers to providing previous N gold answers.



EXPERIMENTS

	F ₁	HEQ-Q	HEQ-D
Pretrained InferSent	20.8	10.0	0.0
Logistic Regression	33.9	22.2	0.2
BiDAF++ (0-ctx)	50.2	43.3	2.2
BiDAF++ (1-ctx)	59.0	53.6	3.4
BiDAF++ (2-ctx)	60.1	54.8	4.0
BiDAF++ (3-ctx)	59.5	54.5	4.1
FLOWQA (2-Ans)	64.1	59.6	5.8
Human	80.8	100	100

Table 2: Model and human performance (in %) on the QuAC test set. (baselines from (Choi et al., 2018))

	CoQA	QuAC
Prev. SotA (Yatskar, 2018)	70.4	60.6
FLOWQA (0-Ans)	75.0	59.0
FLOWQA (1-Ans)	76.2	64.2
- FLOW	72.5	62.1
- QHierRNN	76.1	64.1
- FLOW - QHierRNN	71.5	61.4
FLOWQA (2-Ans)	76.0	64.6
FLOWQA (All-Ans)	75.3	64.6

Table 3: Ablation study: model performance on the dev. set of both datasets (in % F₁).

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