

Task 3

Describe your understanding of WordPiece tokenization.

WordPiece tokenization is a subword tokenization technique that is similar to BPE. It differs in the way the score for each candidate token is calculated. WordPiece calculates the score by using the following formula:

$$score = \frac{freq_of_pair}{freq_of_first_element \cdot freq_of_second_element}$$

First, WordPiece adds special tokens used by the model to the vocabulary followed by all characters that occur in the corpus. The initial alphabet thus contains all the characters present at the beginning of a word and the characters present inside a word preceded by the WordPiece prefix (`##`). Next, it calculates the score for all pairs of elements and adds the element with the highest score to the vocabulary. This process is then repeated until the desired vocabulary size is reached. Even though WordPiece calculates scores for only pairs of elements (not triplets or more), thanks to its repetitive nature and adding the created elements to the vocabulary, it creates tokens with more than just two characters.

Compare the tokenization with WordPiece and word tokenization.

The word tokenization and WordPiece tokenization produced almost identical results. The only difference was that the WordPiece separated the apostrophe and the s in the word daughter's, resulting in three tokens ("daughter", "'", "s"). Word tokenization solved it by using only two tokens ("daughter", "s"). WordPiece tokenization also included special tokens [CLS] and [SEP] which are used by the BERT model.