

William Oliver

LING 83600

Homework 2 Write-Up

Everything with this assignment went fairly smooth. However, in Part 3: Training, I was unsure as to how I should call the `fairseq-train` command with the bidirectional encoder parameter. I was unable to find it in the documentation, but after searching the internet for an hour or so I saw that the parameter was `--encoder-bidirectional`. Then, I was able to successfully train the model.

The most challenging part of this assignment was Part 4: Evaluation, which involved writing a program to compute the word error rate from the `predictions.txt`. Ultimately, I was able to do it by using regular expressions, for loops, if statements, and a counter, and my word error rate was 17. On this part, I was confused by the hint, “Since there are only 100 examples, multiply WER by 100 and round to the nearest integer.” After conceptualizing how I would go about solving this problem, I realized that no rounding would be involved with my program because there were 100 target-hypothesis pairs that would be tested, so the number of nonidentical pairs would be the word error rate with no further calculation necessary. This caused me to wonder if there was a more proper way to go about this problem that would necessitate rounding. A curiosity that I had on this part of the assignment had to do with my use of regular expressions. I wondered if there was a way to find the word error rate in the data without using regular expressions.

Word Error Rate: 17