Recent Advances In Context-aware Neural Machine Translation

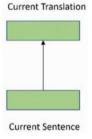
Lorenzo Lupo

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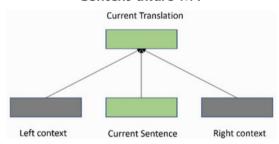
July 9, 2020

What is Context-aware Machine Translation

Context-agnostic MT

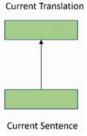


Context-aware MT

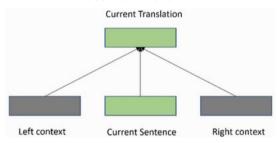


Context-aware MT ↔ Document-level MT

Sentence-level MT



Document-level MT



Sentence-level MT is inconsistent

SOURCE

A: Nous avons refait l'exercice avec les mêmes etudiants. Que pensez-vous qu'il est alors arrivé ?

B: Là, ils comprenaient l'importance de la cohésion lexicale.

Sentence-level MT is inconsistent

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A: Nous avons refait l'exercice avec les mêmes etudiants. Que pensez-vous qu'il est alors arrivé ?

B: Là, ils comprenaient l'importance de la cohésion lexicale.

SENTENCE-LEVEL TRANSLATION

B: There they understood the importance of lexical cohesion.

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SOURCE

A: Nous avons refait l'exercice avec les mêmes etudiants. Que pensez-vous qu'il est alors arrivé ?

B: Là, ils comprenaient l'importance de la cohésion lexicale.

SENTENCE-LEVEL TRANSLATION

B: There they understood the importance of lexical cohesion.

CONTEXT-AWARE TRANSLATION

B: Now, they understood the importance of lexical cohesion.

How bad is it?

[Voita et al., 2019b] undertake a human study on context agnostic translation :

- ▶ 2000 pairs of consecutive English sentences (S1 + S2) from OpenSubtitles2018
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| all | one/both bad | both good | |
|------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| | | bad pair | good pair |
| 2000 | 211 | 140 | 1649 |
| 100% | 11% | 7% | 82% |

Which kind of inconsistencies?

| type of phenomena | frequency |
|-------------------|-----------|
| deixis | 37% |
| ellipsis | 29% |
| lexical cohesion | 14% |
| ambiguity | 9% |
| anaphora | 6% |
| other | 5% |

Figure: Types of phenomena causing discrepancies in context-agnostic translation of consecutive sentences when placed in the context of each other.

Plan

- 1. Evaluation
- 1.2 Automatic metrics
- 1.3 Test Suites
- 1.4 Remarks and conclusions
- 2. Approaches to DLNMT
- 2.5 Concatenation Approaches
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- Evaluation of translation of discourse phenomena can be undertaken with:
 - automatic metrics.
 - test suites.

| Evaluation Type | Discourse Phenomena | Dependency | Reference |
|------------------|---------------------------|---|-----------|
| Automatic Metric | Pronouns | Alignments, Pronoun lists | [29] |
| | | Alignments, Pronoun lists | [77] |
| | | English in target (anaphoric) | [43] |
| | Lexical Cohesion | Lexical cohesion devices | [120] |
| | | Topic model, Lexical chain | [21] |
| | Discourse Connectives | Alignments, Dictionary | [26] |
| | | Discourse parser | [25, 39] |
| | | Discourse parser | [99] |
| Test Suites | Pronouns | $\text{En}{ ightarrow}\text{Fr}$ | [23] |
| | | En→Fr (anaphora) | [7] |
| | | $En \rightarrow De (anaphora)$ | [78] |
| | Cohesion | $\text{En}{ ightarrow}\text{Fr}$ | [7] |
| | | $\mathrm{En}{ ightarrow}\mathrm{Ru}$ | [115] |
| | Coherence | $\mathrm{En}{ ightarrow}\mathrm{Fr}$ | [7] |
| | | $En \leftrightarrow De, Cs \leftrightarrow De, En \rightarrow Cs$ | [117] |
| | | $En{ ightarrow}Cs$ | [90] |
| | Conjunction | $\text{En/Fr} \rightarrow \text{De}$ | [85] |
| | Deixis, Ellipsis | En→Ru | [115] |
| | Grammatical Phenomena | $\mathrm{En}{ ightarrow}\mathrm{De}$ | [93] |
| | | De→En | [2] |
| | Word Sense Disambiguation | De→En/Fr | [89, 88] |
| | | En↔De/Fi/Lt/Ru, En→Cs | [86] |

Figure: Overview of works on discourse phenomena evaluation in MT [Maruf et al., 2019b].

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The evaluation of translation of discourse-phenomena in document-level MT should:

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- Focus on hard cases.
 - E.g., when translating English to French, **he** is easy whereas **it** is hard to translate because ambiguous.

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Accuracy of Pronoun Translation [Miculicich Werlen and Popescu-Belis, 2017]:

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 - E.g. it is difficult \rightarrow il/ce/c' est difficile.
- Compatible languages: conceived for English to French but it has also been extended to other language pairs.

Pronoun Pair-wise Ranking [Jwalapuram et al., 2019]

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 - *r*, *s* are the positions of the pronouns to be compared in the translation *R* and *S*, respectively.

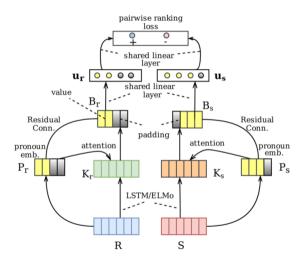


Figure: Pairwise ranking system by [Jwalapuram et al., 2019].

Lexical Cohesion Devices [Wong and Kit, 2012]

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 - Compatible languages: all languages with stemmers and WordNets available.

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 - ► E.g. [Voita et al., 2018] build a specialized English → Russian test set by retrieving from OpenSubtitles2016 all the sentences containing pronouns that are coreferent to an expression in the previous sentence.
- Contrastive test suites consists in blocks of few candidate translations of a given source in which one translation is correct and the others are not. MT systems are assessed on their ability to rank correct translations higher than the incorrect ones.

Pronomial Anaphora, Lexical Coherence and Cohesion [Bawden et al., 2018]

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- Language English → French (OpenSubtitles2016).
- ► One test suite on **pronomial anaphora** comprised of 50 blocks.

Source:

context: Oh, I hate **flies**. Look, there's another one! current sent.: Don't worry, I'll kill **it** for you.

Target:

1 context: Ô je déteste les **mouches**. Regarde, il y en a une autre !

correct: T'inquiète, je **la** tuerai pour toi. T'inquiète, je **le** tuerai pour toi.

2 context: Ô je déteste les **moucherons**. Regarde, il y en a un autre!

correct: T'inquiète, je **le** tuerai pour toi. incorrect: T'inquiète, je **la** tuerai pour toi.

3 context: Ô je déteste les araignées. Regarde, il y en a une autre!

semi-correct: T'inquiète, je **la** tuerai pour toi. incorrect: T'inquiète, je **le** tuerai pour toi.

4 context: Ô je déteste les **papillons**. Regarde, il y en a un autre!

semi-correct: T'inquiète, je **le** tuerai pour toi. T'inquiète, je **la** tuerai pour toi.

Figure: Example block of the pronomial anaphora test suite.

Pronomial Anaphora, Lexical Coherence and Cohesion [Bawden et al., 2018]

- Language English → French (OpenSubtitles2016).
- One test suite on **pronomial anaphora** comprised of 50 blocks.
- ▶ One on **lexical coherence and cohesion**, comprised of 100 blocks.

Source:

context: So what do you say to £50?

current sent.: It's a little steeper than I was expecting.

Target:

context: Qu'est-ce que vous en pensez de 50£?

correct: C'est un peu plus **cher** que ce que je pensais. incorrect: C'est un peu plus **raide** que ce que je pensais.

Source:

context: How are your feet holding up?

current sent.: It's a little steeper than I was expecting.

Target:

context: Comment vont tes pieds ?

correct: C'est un peu plus **raide** que ce que je pensais. incorrect: C'est un peu plus **cher** que ce que je pensais.

Figure: Example block of the lexical coherence and cohesion test suite.

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- Language: English → Russian (OpenSubtitles2018).
- ► *Design method*: manual design preceded by a human analysis on the most common translation errors in the target language pair.

Large Contrastive Test-suite for Pronoun Translation [Mller et al., 2018]

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 - Randomly sample 4000 instances of each of the three translations of *it* under consideration: *er,sie,es*.
 - **Generate two contrastive translations for each** of the 12000 reference translations, by swapping the correct German pronoun with the two incorrect ones.

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- No existing metrics for coherence although it's very relevant for users.

Test Suites

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- + They can evaluate discourse phenomena translations with **high precision** and, if well designed, **hig recall**.
- Excepts for specialized test sets (slide 18), test suites have a limited scope: fixed language pair, fixed number of context sentences (past and future).
- Contrastive evaluation has limited guarantees: only permits to conclude whether
 or not the reference translation is more probable than a contrastive variant. It is
 not guaranteed at all that the MT system will output such reference translation.²

²During scoring, the model is also provided with reference translations as target context (easier). Instead, during translation, the model needs to predict the full sequence, thus being subject to beam search failures and error propagation.

Possible Future Research Directions

▶ New automatic metrics strongly tested against human judgment.

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- New test suites for restricted scope.
 - Considering other documents other than movie subtitles for building test sets would be interesting for various reasons:
 - No multiple speakers, no unavailable context (the video), more phenomena related to future context.

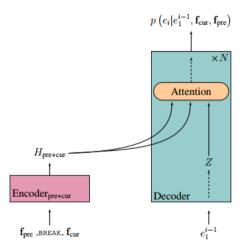
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Concatenation approaches to DLNMT consist in feeding a standard encoder-decoder architecture with a concatenation of sentences.



For instance:

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 - ▶ 2-TO-1: only the current sentence is translated.
- [Agrawal et al., 2018, Scherrer et al., 2019] investigated the concatenation approach with the Transformer as base model, extending the number of context sentences both on the source (s:-3,+1) and the target (t:-2) side.

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Separate encoding approaches to DLNMT consist in encoder-decoder models that encode the current and context sentences separately. This can be undertaken by:

 Multiple encoders working in parallel for the current and previous sentence. E.g. [Wang et al., 2017].

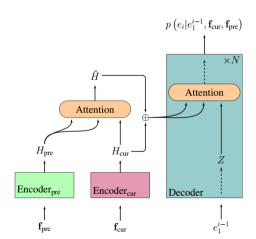
- ► **Multiple encoders** working in parallel for the current and previous sentence. E.g. [Wang et al., 2017].
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- Two-pass approaches, in which the encoder makes a first sentence-level encoding pass of the source, and a second in which it encodes contextual information too. See Slide 40.
 - Remark: a powerful feature of two-pass approaches is their ability to exploit **future** target-side context.

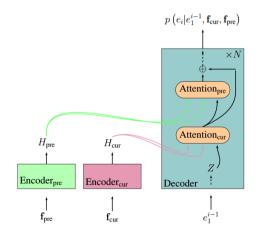
Once the encoding of the current and the context sentences has been carried out, they can be integrated in different ways:

- Outside the decoder.
 - (+) symbol represents a gate, a sum or a concatenation.



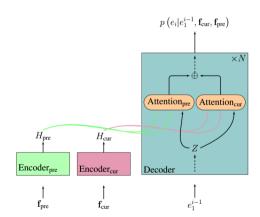
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- Inside the decoder, sequentially.
- Inside the decoder, in parallel.



Architecture

The encoder-decoder architectures depicted above can be both RNN-based (until 2017) or Transfomer-based (after 2017), as for any approach to DLNMT. However, often some modifications are applied. For example:

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- ▶ Beside contextual representation of words, the context encoder can also generate higher level representations such as sentence or document embeddings. This representations can also be attended by the decoder [Miculicich et al., 2018, Maruf et al., 2019a] or added to the word-representations [Tan et al., 2019].

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- ▶ Beside contextual representation of words, the context encoder can also generate higher level representations such as sentence or document embeddings. This representations can also be attended by the decoder [Miculicich et al., 2018, Maruf et al., 2019a] or added to the word-representations [Tan et al., 2019].
- Parallel integration inside the decoder can also happen within a single multi-head attention that takes as values and queries the concatenations of the current and context sentence representations [Voita et al., 2019b]

Including target-side context

Despite some have considered including past target-side context harmful because of the *error propagation* problem [Zhang et al., 2018], most recent works have showed it to be of utmost importance for making the most out of context. Past works have successfully included target-side context information in different ways:

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- ► Translating past sentences (usually 1) along with the current one, and then discarding them, as in concatenation approaches [Bawden et al., 2018].
- By making the decoder attend the target-side hidden representations or embeddings of previously decoded sentences [Miculicich et al., 2018, Voita et al., 2019b, Maruf et al., 2019a, Zheng et al., 2020].

| Reference | Context | Two-Pass Approach | Outside Integr. | Inside Integr. | Lang. Pair |
|---------------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| [Wang et al., 2017] | s:-3 | | aut | aut | Zh→En |
| [Voita et al., 2018] | s:-1 | | yes | | En→Ru |
| [Zhang et al., 2018] | s:-2 | | yes | sequential | Zh→En |
| [Miculicich et al., 2018] | s:-3; t:-3 | | yes | | Zh/Es→En |
| [Maruf et al., 2019a] | s:all; t:all | optional | yes | | En→De |
| [Zheng et al., 2020] | s:all; t:all | yes | yes | | Zh/En→En/De |
| [Jean et al., 2017] | s:-1 | | | parallel | En→De/Fr |
| [Bawden et al., 2018] | s:-1; t:-1 | | | parallel | En→Fr |
| [Fu et al., 2019] | s:all | yes | | parallel | En/Zh→De/En |
| [Voita et al., 2019b] | s:-3; t:-3 | yes | | parallel* | En→Ru |
| [Tan et al., 2019] | s:all | yes | | parallel | Zh/De→En |
| [Wang et al., 2019] | s:2 | | | sequential | Fr→En |

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- 2. Assign **positional embeddings progressively** to the current sentence, then to the previous one, and so on, so that far away sentences have high values of positional embedding [Li et al., 2019].
- 3. Adding a **segment embedding**, similar to classical positional encoding but for the position of the sentence/segment within the document [Zheng et al., 2020].

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Cache approaches to DLNMT consist in encoder-decoder models that are equipped with one or more caches that store context information. The information stored can belong to both source side or target side, past and future.

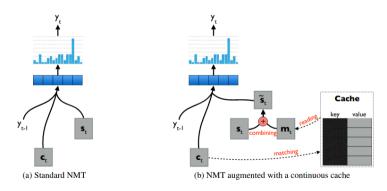
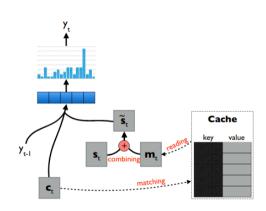
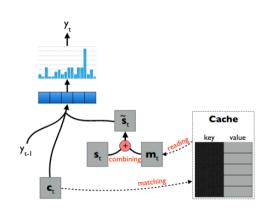


Figure: Continuous cache by [Tu et al., 2017]

Every cache slot is a **key-value-indicator** triplet (the key and the indicator are often the same thing). With these variables, we can **read** or **write** caches.

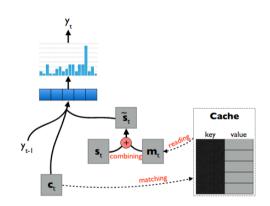


Cache reading involves:



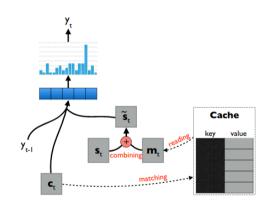
Cache reading involves:

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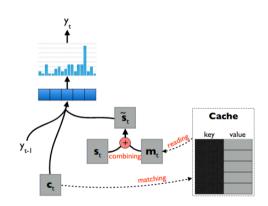
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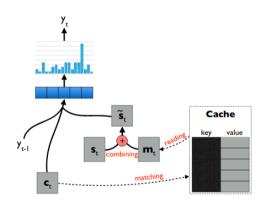


Cache reading involves:

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- Value reading
- Combining

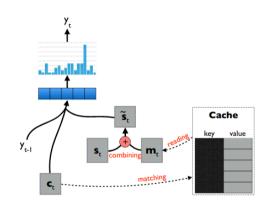


Cache writing can be undertaken after having translated one or more sentences. For every triplet:



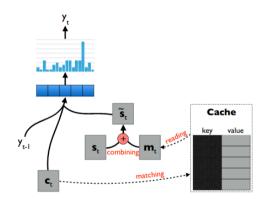
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- If the indicator already exists in the cache, we just update it's keys and values.
- Else, we write the triplet in an empty slot, after having emptied the oldest slot if the cache is full.



| Reference | Caches | Size | Key (Indic.) | Value | Lang. Pair |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| [Tu et al., 2017] | single | ≤ 500 | $c_t(y_{k < t})$ | $s_{k < t}$ | Zh→En |
| [Kuang et al., 2018] | dynamic topic | 100 200 | c_t | $y_{k < t}$ topic emb. | Zh→En |
| [Maruf and Haffari, 2018] | source target | doc.size | h _t s _t | sent.emb. $s_{k < t}$ | Fr/De/Et→En |

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DLNMT systems require training on **document-level parallel corpora**. These corpora are usually released during workshops on machine translation like IWSLT and WMT, and hosted on open source web inventories. The most common ones, are extracted from:

Movie subtitles (OpenSubtitles)

- Movie subtitles (OpenSubtitles)
- ► TED talks (WIT3)

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- News articles (LDC)
- Parliamentary interventions (Europarl)

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On Parallel Corpora for Training

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 - 2. Train θ_S independently on a sentence-level parallel corpus C_S .
 - 3. Train θ_D on a document-level parallel corpus C_D while fine-tuning θ_S , or freezing them [Zhang et al., 2018].

Another solution to the lack of vast document-level parallel corpora is leveraging on huge *monolingual* document-level corpora like BookCorpus [Zhu et al., 2015] and PG-19 [Rae et al., 2019]. In the literature, we can find various approaches to leverage monolingual corpora:

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- ► Train Automatic Post Editing systems on target-side corpus (See next slide).

Automatic Post Editing (APE)

[Voita et al., 2019a] devised an APE system called DocRepair, that turns a sentence-level translation into a context-aware translation. DocRepair can work on top of whatever sentence-level MT system.

Cache Approaches



Figure 1: Training procedure of DocRepair. First, round-trip translations of individual sentences are produced to form an inconsistent text fragment (in the example, both genders of the speaker and the cat became inconsistent). Then, a repair model is trained to produce an original text from the inconsistent one.



Figure 2: The process of producing document-level translations at test time is two-step: (1) sentences are translated independently using a sentence-level model, (2) DocRepair model corrects translation of the resulting text fragment.

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- Lexical chains of semantically similar words to promote word sense disambiguation [Rios Gonzales et al., 2017].
- Coreference chains to promote coreference resolution [Stojanovski and Fraser, 2018, Ohtani et al., 2019].

Learning Approaches

[Jean and Cho, 2019] looked at the problem from a learning perspective and designed a regularisation term to encourage a DLNMT model to exploit the additional context in a useful way . This regularisation term is applied at the token, sentence and corpus levels and is based on pair-wise ranking loss, that is, it helps to assign a higher log-probability to a translation paired with the correct context than to the translation without context.

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 Build a large DL corpus for training systems, or find automatic approaches to generate synthetic data other than back-translation.

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- Design models exploiting full context in a memory-efficient way:
 - Dynamic context integration.
 - Caches integrated to Transformer-based models.
- Design automatic post-processing models that are lightweight and can be trained on little data [Kim et al., 2019].

- ► Build a large DL corpus for training systems, or find automatic approaches to generate synthetic data other than back-translation.
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- Study other learning methods that foster document-level modeling [Jean and Cho, 2019].

Thank you for your attention!

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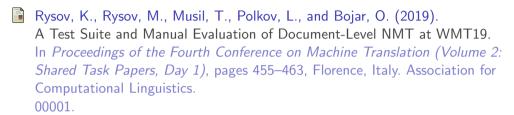
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