Machine Translation using sequence 2 sequence model

by LinguaLinkers

P23DS015-Neha Patel P23DS028-Adwitiya Gaurav

Content Table

Machine translation

Sequence to sequence learning

Basic steps of seq2seq modelling using keras

Code Snippet

Machine Translation

Machine translation is the process of automatically translating text or speech from one natural language to another using computational algorithms and models. The goal of machine translation is to enable communication and understanding between people who speak different languages without the need for human translators.

- 1. **Data Collection**: Machine translation systems require large amounts of parallel text data, known as parallel corpora, consisting of sentences or documents in multiple languages and their translations.
- 2. **Preprocessing**: The collected data is preprocessed to clean and tokenize the text, handle punctuation, remove special characters, and normalize the text to ensure consistency.
- 3. **Model Selection**: Machine translation models can be categorized into different types based on their underlying algorithms such as rule based, statistical, neural machine translation.
- 4. **Inference**: Once trained, the machine translation model can be used to translate new input text from the source language to the target language. During inference, the model processes the input text using its learned parameters and generates the corresponding translation.
- 5. **Evaluation**: The quality of machine translation systems is evaluated using metrics such as BLEU (Bilingual Evaluation Understudy), METEOR (Metric for Evaluation of Translation with Explicit Ordering), TER (Translation Edit Rate), and human evaluations. These metrics measure the similarity between the machine-generated translations and human reference translations.

Sequence 2 sequence learning

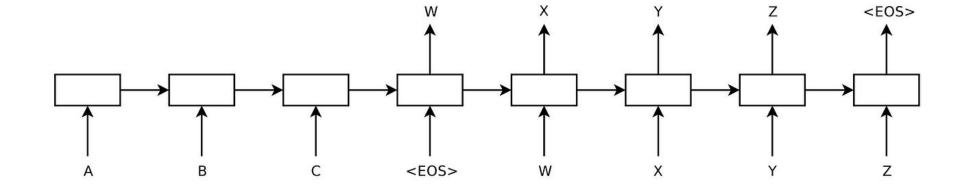
Sequence-to-sequence learning (Seq2Seq) is about training models to convert sequences from one domain (e.g. sentences in English) to sequences in another domain (e.g. the same sentences marathi).

This can be used for machine translation or for free-from question answering (generating a natural language answer given a natural language question) -- in general, it is applicable any time you need to generate text.

There are multiple ways to handle this task, either using RNNs or using 1D convnets. Here we will focus on RNNs.

In the general case, input sequences and output sequences have different lengths (e.g. machine translation) and the entire input sequence is required in order to start predicting the target. This requires a more advanced setup, which is what people commonly refer to when mentioning "sequence to sequence models" with no further context. Here's how it works:

- A RNN layer (or stack thereof) acts as "encoder": it processes the input sequence and returns its own internal state. Note that we discard the outputs of the encoder RNN, only recovering the state. This state will serve as the "context", or "conditioning", of the decoder in the next step.
- Another RNN layer (or stack thereof) acts as "decoder": it is trained to predict the next characters of the target sequence, given previous characters of the target sequence. Specifically, it is trained to turn the target sequences into the same sequences but offset by one timestep in the future, a training process called "teacher forcing" in this context. Importantly, the encoder uses as initial state the state vectors from the encoder, which is how the decoder obtains information about what it is supposed to generate. Effectively, the decoder learns to generate targets[t+1...] given targets[...t], conditioned on the input sequence.



In inference mode, i.e. when we want to decode unknown input sequences, we go through a slightly different process:

- 1) Encode the input sequence into state vectors.
- 2) Start with a target sequence of size 1 (just the start-of-sequence character).
- 3) Feed the state vectors and 1-char target sequence to the decoder to produce predictions for the next character.
- 4) Sample the next character using these predictions (we simply use argmax).
- 5) Append the sampled character to the target sequence
- 6) Repeat until we generate the end-of-sequence character or we hit the character limit.

Implementing a basic seq2seq model for english to marathi translation using keras

1. **Data Preparation**:

- Gather a parallel corpus containing English sentences and their corresponding translations in Marathi.
- Preprocess the data by tokenizing the sentences, converting them into sequences of integers, and padding them to ensure they all have the same length.

2. Model Architecture:

- Build an encoder-decoder architecture using Keras.
- The encoder takes the input English sequence and generates a fixed-size context vector that captures the meaning of the input sentence.
- The decoder takes the context vector and generates the output Marathi sequence one token at a time.
- Both the encoder and decoder are recurrent neural networks (RNNs), typically implemented using Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) or Gated Recurrent Unit (GRU) cells.
- The final output of the decoder is a probability distribution over the Marathi vocabulary, indicating the likelihood of each word in the output sequence.

3. **Model Training**:

Train the Seq2Seq model on the parallel corpus using teacher forcing.

- Teacher forcing is a technique where, during training, the decoder is fed the correct target tokens from the previous time step as input, rather than its own predictions.
- The loss function used during training is typically categorical cross-entropy, which measures the difference between the predicted and actual probability distributions over the vocabulary.

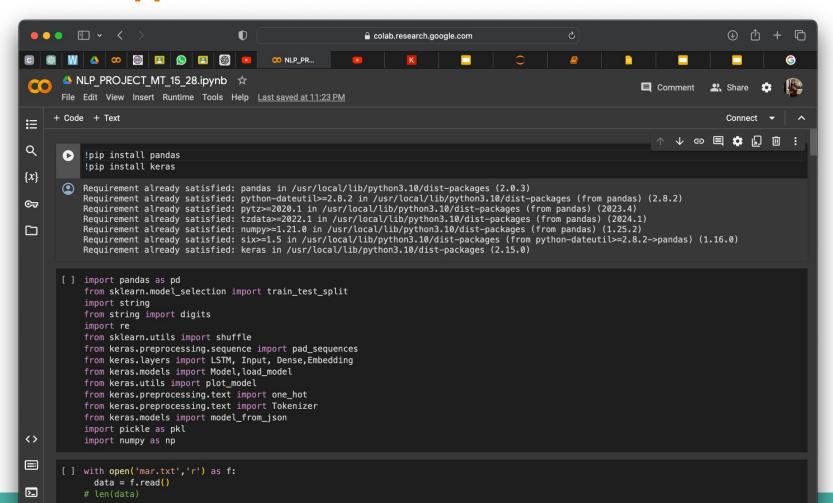
2. Inference:

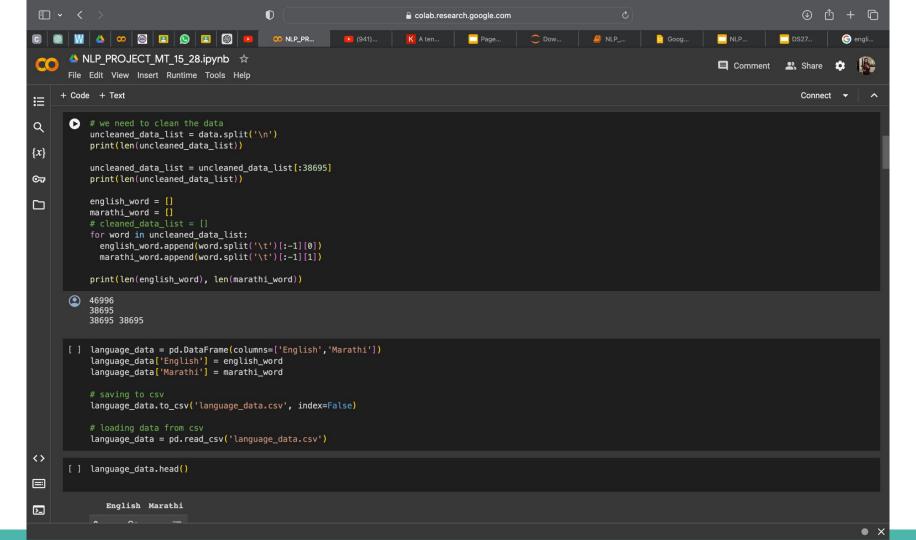
- During inference (i.e., translation of new sentences), the encoder-decoder model is used to generate the Marathi translation of the input English sentence.
- The encoder processes the input sentence to generate the context vector.
- The decoder starts with a special "start of sequence" token and iteratively generates the output tokens one by one until it generates an "end of sequence" token or reaches a maximum length.
- At each step, the decoder's output token is fed back into the decoder as input for the next step, along with the current context vector.

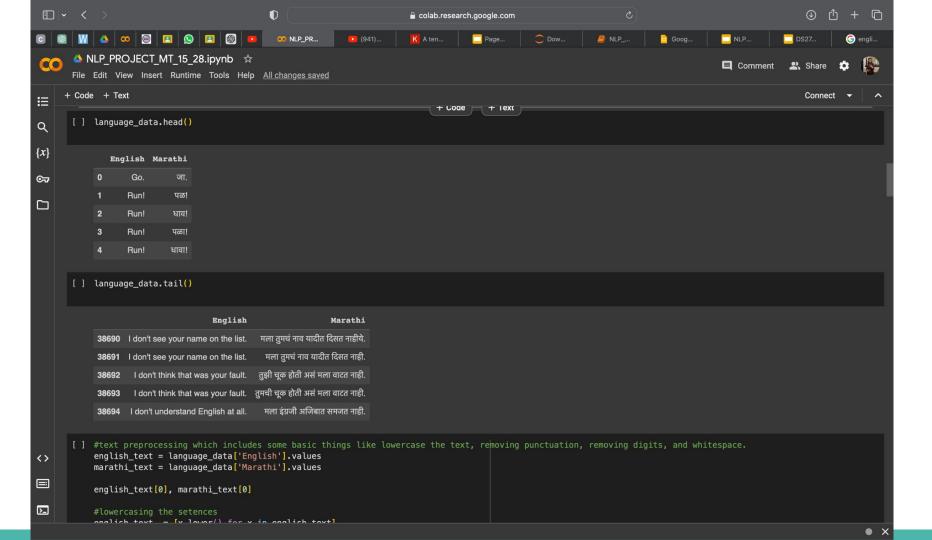
3. Model Evaluation:

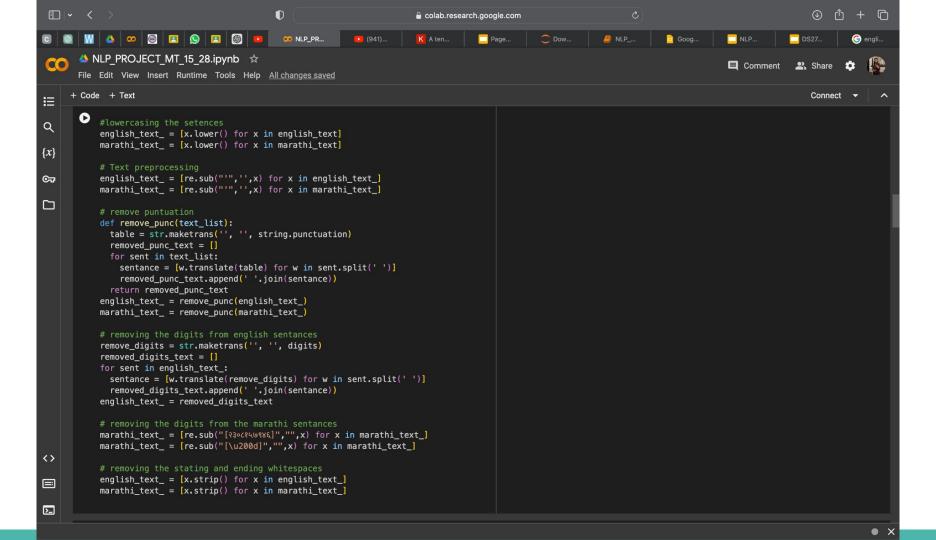
- Evaluate the performance of the trained model using metrics such as BLEU score, which measures the similarity between the predicted and reference translations.
- Additionally, perform qualitative analysis by inspecting sample translations to assess the model's fluency and accuracy.

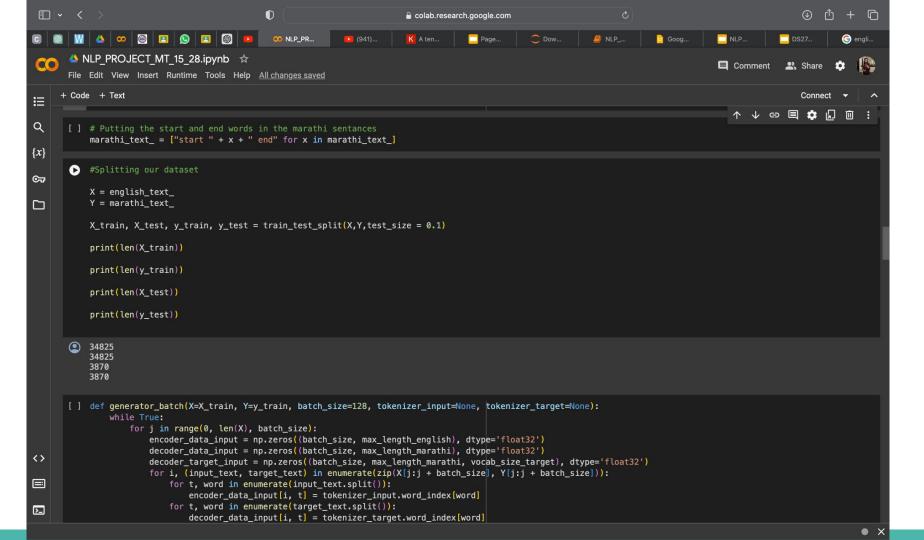
Code snippet

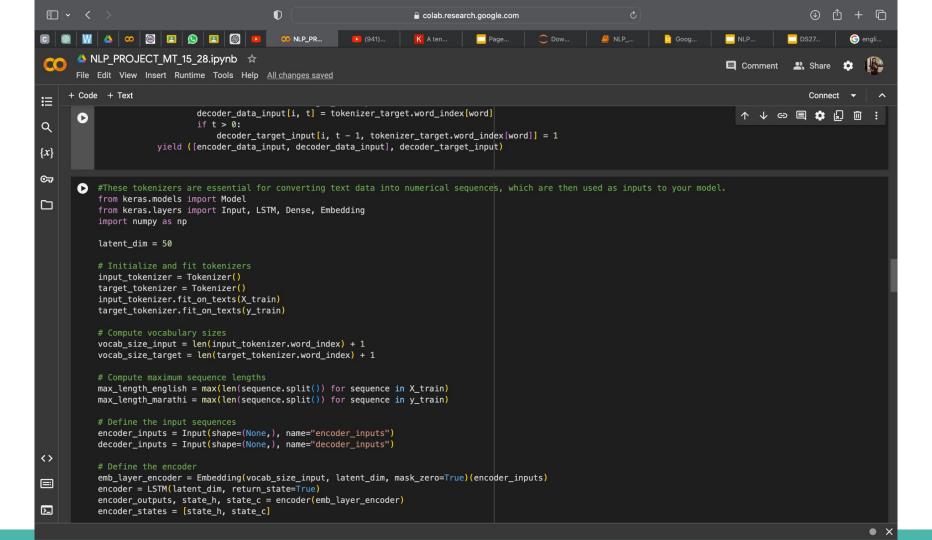


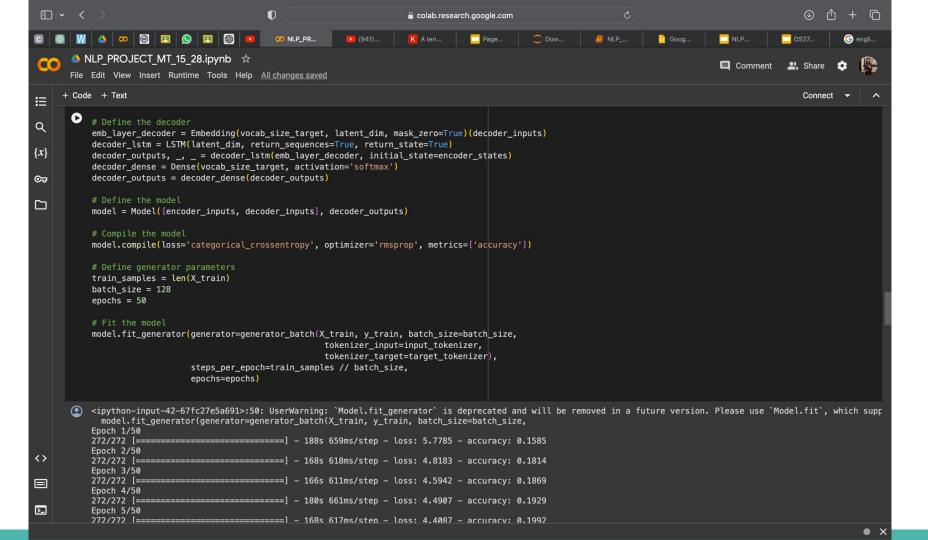


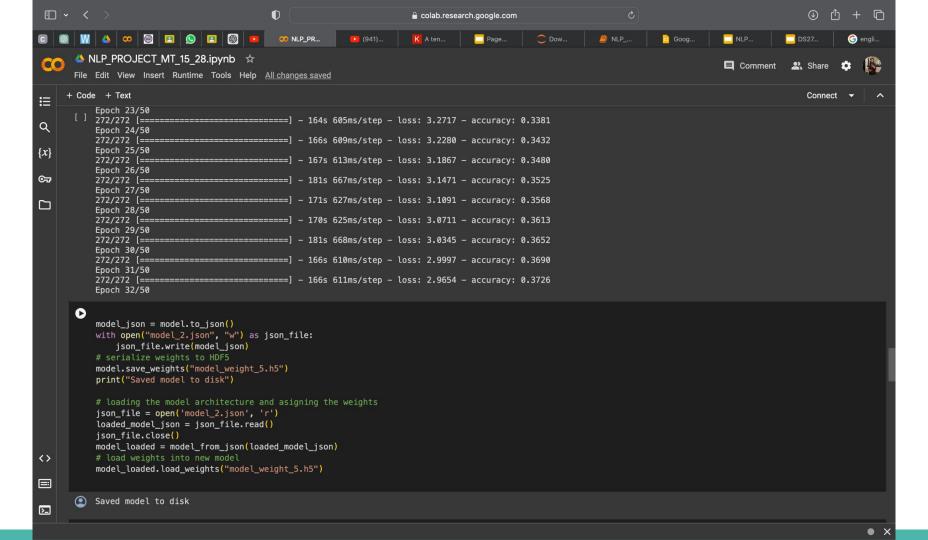


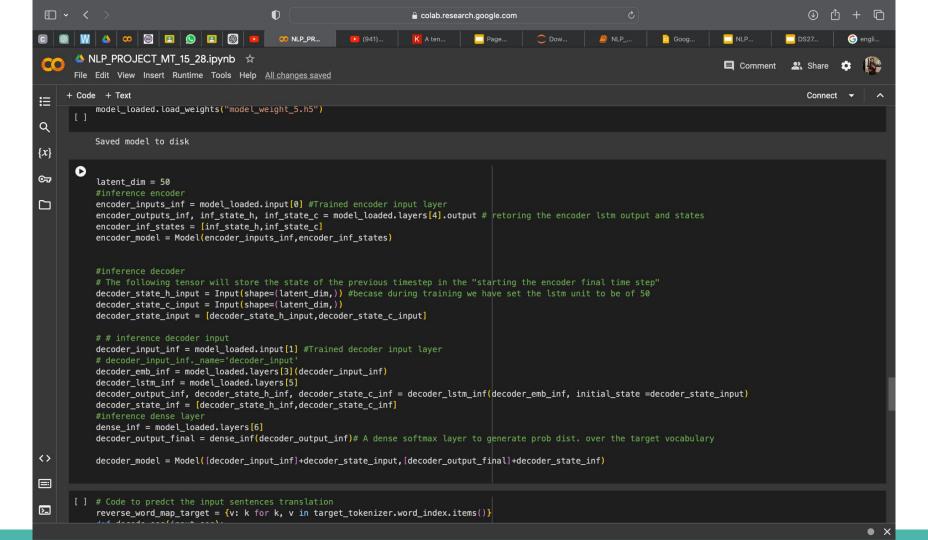


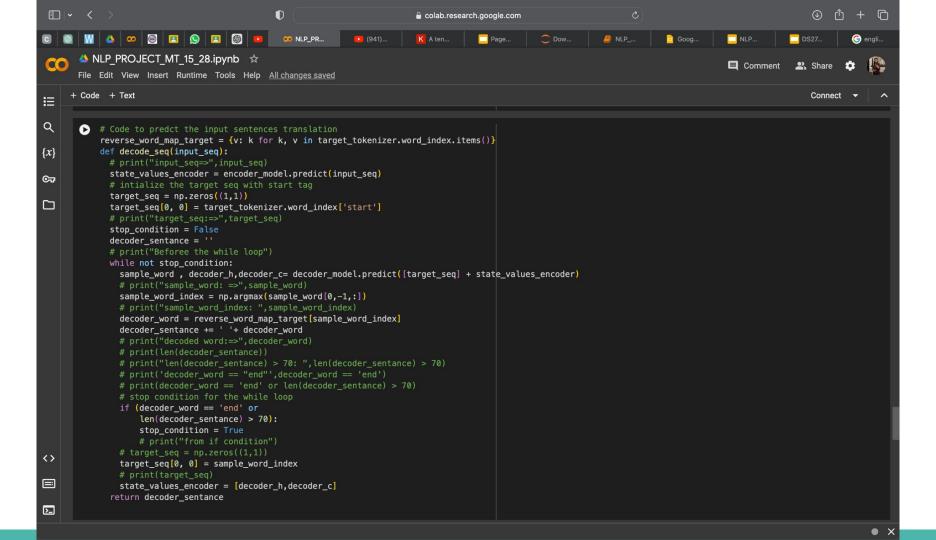


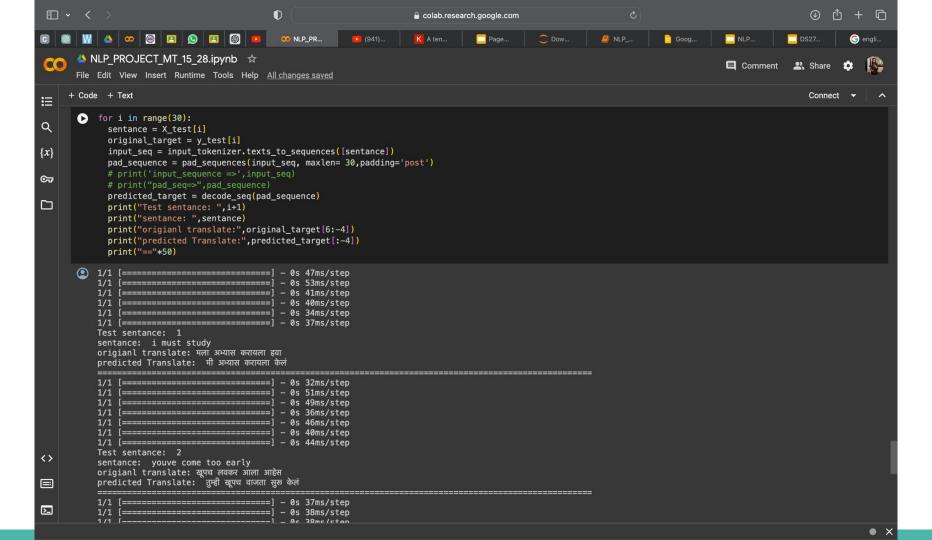


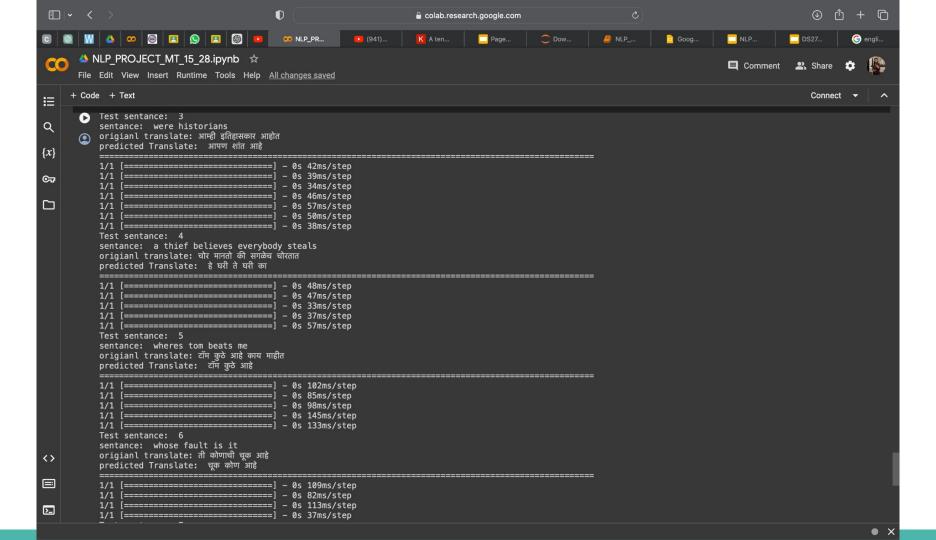


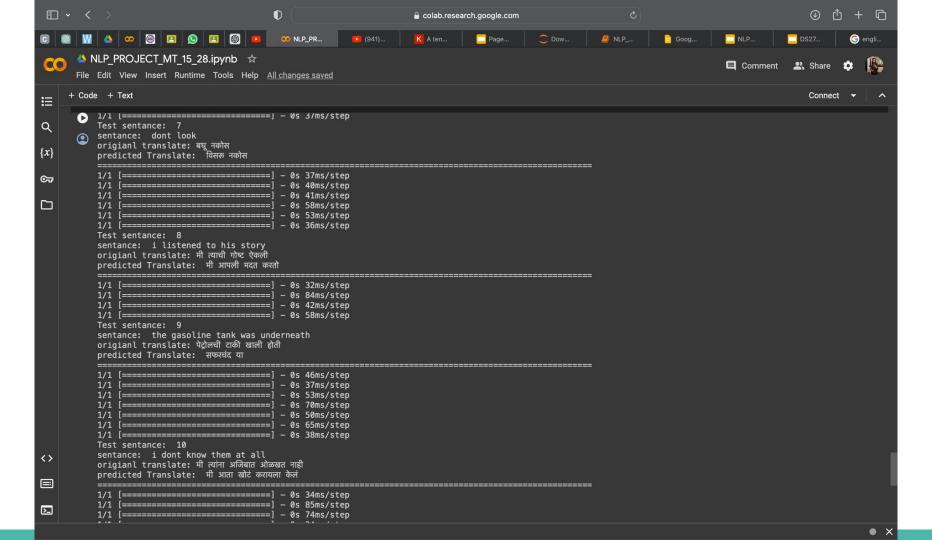


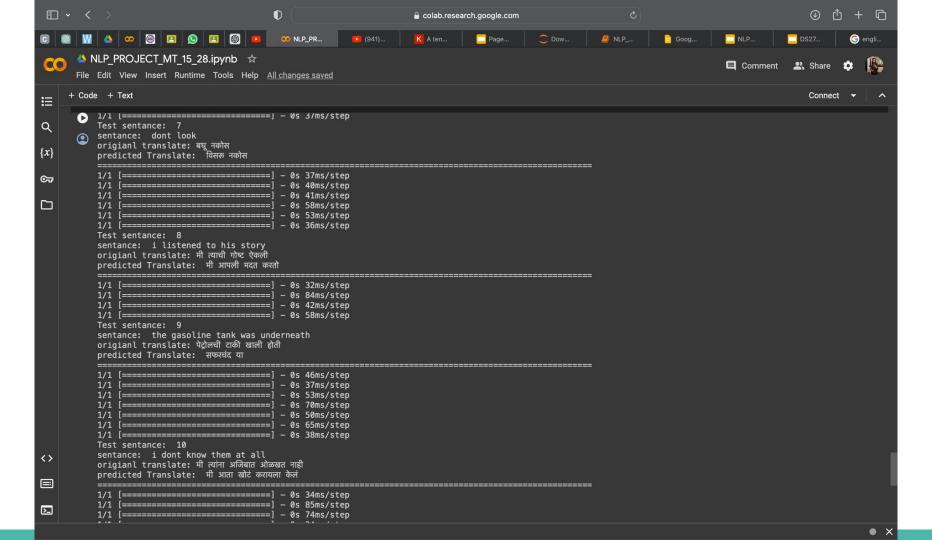












Sequence-to-sequence (Seq2Seq) models for machine translation have several advantages and disadvantages compared to other approaches. Let's compare Seq2Seq models with two other common machine translation approaches: Statistical Machine Translation (SMT) and Transformer-based models.

1. Statistical Machine Translation (SMT):

- Advantages:
 - SMT models are based on probabilistic models and linguistic rules, making them interpretable and easy to understand.
 - They can handle rare or unseen words better than neural network-based models.

• Disadvantages:

- SMT models require hand-crafted features and extensive engineering of linguistic rules, which can be labor-intensive and time-consuming.
- They struggle with capturing long-range dependencies and contextual information effectively.
- Performance tends to degrade with the complexity of languages and the size of the vocabulary.

2. Transformer-based Models (e.g., BERT, GPT):

- Advantages:
 - Transformer-based models excel at capturing long-range dependencies and contextual information through self-attention mechanisms.
 - They can handle large vocabularies and diverse language pairs effectively.
 - Pre-trained transformer models (e.g., BERT, GPT) can be fine-tuned for specific translation tasks, leveraging transfer learning.

Disadvantages:

- They require large amounts of computational resources and data for training, making them less accessible for smaller organizations or research projects.
- Transformer models can be less interpretable compared to traditional SMT models, making it harder to debug or understand model behavior.
- Fine-tuning pre-trained transformer models for machine translation tasks may require substantial computational resources and expertise.

3. Seq2Seq Models:

- Advantages:
 - Seg2Seg models are simpler to implement and train compared to transformer-based models.
 - They are effective at capturing the overall structure of the input sequence and generating coherent output sequences.
 - Seq2Seq models can be trained end-to-end, allowing for joint optimization of both the encoder and decoder.

• Disadvantages:

despite their limitations in southwing sounday longuage matterns.

- They struggle with handling long input sequences and capturing fine-grained contextual information.
- Performance may degrade when translating between languages with different word orders or morphological structures.
- Seq2Seq models may suffer from exposure bias and generate generic or repetitive translations, especially for rare or complex sentences.

In summary, Seq2Seq models offer a balance between simplicity and effectiveness, making them suitable for various machine translation tasks. However, transformer-based models have shown superior performance in recent years, especially for large-scale and complex translation tasks, albeit at the cost of increased computational requirements. SMT models remain relevant for tasks where interpretability and linguistic rules play a crucial role,

Thankyou