

**Paper Title:**

Diverse Distributions of Self-Supervised Tasks for Meta-Learning in NLP

**Paper Link:**

<https://aclanthology.org/2021.emnlp-main.469/>

**1 Summary****1.1 Motivation**

The motivation of this paper is to explore diverse distributions of self-supervised tasks for meta-learning in NLP and to analyze their impact on few-shot learning performance.

**1.2 Contribution**

The contribution of this paper lies in providing diverse distributions of self-supervised tasks for meta-learning in NLP, leading to significant improvements in few-shot learning performance across a range of NLP tasks.

**1.3 Methodology**

The methodology of this paper involves several steps. First, the authors use the SMLMT approach to generate self-supervised tasks from unlabeled text. After that, they propose several new approaches to improve the task distribution, including considering task diversity, difficulty, resemblance to downstream tasks, and curriculum. They then analyze the different unsupervised task distributions and their relationships to each other. Finally, they evaluate the different unsupervised methods on a suite of 20 NLP classification tasks and compare their performance to supervised meta-learning methods.

**1.4 Conclusion**

This paper demonstrates the utility of meta-learning from unlabeled data by exploring several approaches to self-supervised task distribution. The results show improvements in few-shot performance over a wide range of classification tasks, opening up the possibility of large-scale meta-learning for pertinent applications in NLP.

**2 Limitations****2.1 First Limitation**

The proposed self-supervised task distributions may not be optimal for all meta-learning scenarios, and further research is needed to explore other task distributions and their impact on meta-learning performance.

**2.2 Second Limitation**

The experiments were conducted on a limited set of downstream tasks, and the results may not generalize to other tasks or domains.

### **3 Synthesis**

The ideas presented in this paper have significant implications for the future of meta-learning in NLP. The proposed self-supervised task distributions can enable large-scale meta-learning for various applications such as continual learning, architecture search, and learning for low-resource languages. The findings on task diversity, difficulty, type, domain, and curriculum can guide the development of more effective meta-learning algorithms and task distributions. The paper also highlights the potential of self-supervised learning for meta-learning, which can reduce the reliance on labeled data and enable more efficient and scalable learning. Overall, this paper provides valuable insights and directions for future research in meta-learning and NLP.