ParallelPARC: A Scalable Pipeline for Generating Natural-Language Analogies


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NAACL 2024

Background and Motivation

Analogies in Human Cognition

- Analogy-making in human cognition and AI.
- Analogies play an important role across many areas.

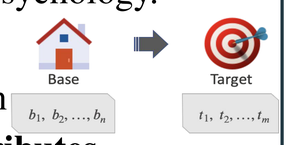


A cork is *stuck* inside an empty wine bottle. A Baby is *stuck* inside the birth canal

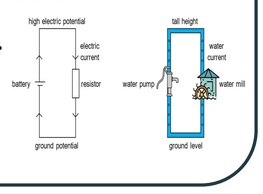
Existing Analogy Resources

- **Surprisingly**, **few** analogy resources exist today.
- We believe this **lack of data** hinders progress in computational analogy.
- Most resources focus on **word-analogies** (man:king is like woman:queen).
- **Sentence-level analogies.** Jiayang et al. (2023)- dataset of 24K story pairs.
- **Full paragraph-level analogies.** Stories from cognitive-psychology.

The Structure Mapping Theory (SMT), (Gentner, 1983)

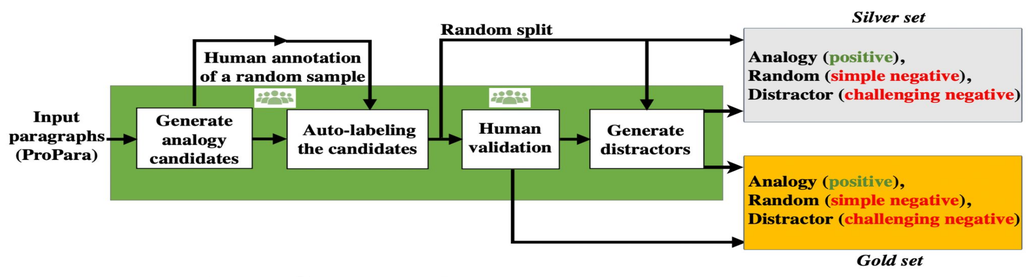


- Analogy is a mapping from entities in **base B** to entities in **target T**, relying on **relational similarity**, **not object attributes**.
- **Example**: analogy between electrical circuit & water pump. Mappings for example: **electrons → water**, **wire → pipe** (**electrons** *move through* wires like **water** *flows* in **pipes**).



Approach

ParallelPARC (Parallel Paragraph Creator) Pipeline



Our ProPara-Logy Generated Dataset

Base	Target	Similar Relations
Title: How does a solar panel work? **Domain**: Engineering **Paragraph**: **solar energy** *powers* an **electric current** within a solar panel. The **photovoltaic cells** within the panel *convert* the **energy** from the sun into electricity. The **electrical wires** then *spread* this **power** throughout the panel. The **electric current** is then used to *power* whatever the panel is connected to.	**Title**: How does photosynthesis occur? **Domain**: Natural Science **Paragraph**: Photosynthesis occurs when **sunlight** *powers* **chemical reactions** within the **chloroplasts** of a plant. The **chloroplasts** are able to *transform* the energy from the **sunlight** into usable energy for the **plant**. This energy is then used to produce **nutrients** for the plant, which are then *distributed* throughout the **plant**.	(**solar energy**, *powers*, **electric current**) (**sunlight**, *powers*, **chemical reactions**) (**photovoltaic cells**, *convert*, **energy**) (**chloroplasts**, *tranform*, **energy**) (**electrical wires**, *spread*, **power**) (**plants**, *distribute*, **nutrients**)

1. Analogy Candidates Generation

GPT-3

- **Goal:** to generate analogy candidates from **diverse** scientific domains.
- **How?** We employed GPT-3– **high-quality results** at a very **reasonable cost**.

- **(1):** GPT tends to repeat itself. **(2):** GPT creates analogies of similar topics.
- **(1):** Seed GPT with B instead of asking it to generate both B and T.
- **(2):** Broad target domains: Eng,, Natural, Social, and Biomedical Science.

- Using a single prompt for the task – **X**
- Using two separate prompts – **V**
  - Finding an analogous subject, and similar relations.
  - Generating a paragraph in natural language (given subject, and relations).
- We include **Similar relations**, in addition to paragraphs, subjects & domains.
- **In total**: **4,288** candidates.

2. Human Annotation Task

- We now annotate a small portion of the **candidates data**.
- **Goal**: to estimate % of analogies & use the annotated data to train models.
- Given two paragraphs (B, T), corresponding subjects, domains & similar relations. **The task**: to decide whether the **paragraphs are analogous** and the **similar relations are correct**.
  - **YES** – (close / far) **analogy**.
  - **NO** – "**for further inspection**" (dissimilar relations, misinformation, cyclic vs. non-cyclic process, other)

3. Automatic Filtering and Labeling

GPT-4

- **Estimation:** analogies are **< 30%** of the **candidates data**.
- We use part of our annotated data as few-shot examples for our **filtering model**.
  - Inputs: two paragraphs, their subjects, similar relations.
    Label: how many workers labeled it as an analogy (0-3).
- **Goals**:
  - To identify the most probable analogous candidates to show our annotators.
  - Potentially replace the human-in-the-loop and achieve a **fully automated pipeline**.

4. Human Validation

- We show annotators both the **most likely analogous candidates** (as predicted by the model), but also the **least likely candidates**.
- 3 annotators per sample. **Strict setting**: positive if all **3** agree it is an analogy.
- We randomly gave annotators small batches to label until **310** positives.
- Annotators' agreement is **78.6%**, where random chance is **25%**.

Filtering models' predictions vs. workers' majority vote

- Accuracy of **85.1%**, f1-score of **83.4%**.
- **79.5%** precision, predicting high likelihood of an analogy (**> 30%**)

5. Distractors Generation (Challenging Negatives)

GPT-4

- **Motivation:** In addition to the the analogies, our aim is to create negatives.
- **Formulation**. Let B and T be two analogous paragraphs. We create distractor T′ that keeps first-order relations of T, but changes the higher-order relations – i.e., relations between first-order relations (e.g, cause and effect, or temporal dependencies). **How?** To create T′, we find two dependent events in T such that one must precede the other, and switch their order.
- **Generation.** GPT-4 with two separate prompts:
  - Finding & Replacing two dependent events (one-shot).
  - writing a coherent T′ (few-shot).
- **Evaluation.**
  - GPT4 - **89%** accuray.
  - We create distractors for both gold and silver sets.

Base:	Target (Analogy):	Target (Distractor):
How do bats use echolocation? (Natural Sciences) Bats use echolocation to navigate and find food. **They emit high frequency sound waves** that bounce off of objects in their environment. The bats then **receive the echoes** and **interpret the information** to locate their prey and navigate their surroundings. Submarines interpret the echo to determine the distance and size of the object.	**How do submarines use sonar? (Engineering)** Submarines use sonar technology to detect objects in the water. **They emit sound waves**, which travel through the water and bounce off the objects. **The sound waves are then received back as an echo**. **Submarines interpret the echo** to determine the distance and size of the object.	**How do submarines use sonar? (Engineering)** **Submarines interpret the echo** to determine the distance and size of the object. **After interpreting the echo, they emit sound waves**, which travel through the water and bounce off the objects. **These sound waves are then received back as an echo**. Finally, submarines use sonar technology to detect objects in the water.

Evaluating Humans and LLMs on ProPara-Logy Benchmark

Binary Classification Task. To decide whether the processes are analogous. The target paragraph could be:

- **Analogy** (positive) / **Random** (simple negative) / **Distractor** (challenging negative)

Multiple choice Task. Given a base paragraph B, along with 4 candidate paragraphs, the task is to identify the paragraph that is most analogous to B.

Setups:

- **Basic:** includes one analogous paragraph and **3 random paragraphs**.
- **Advanced:** includes **challenging distractors**.

Research Questions:

- **RQ1:** *What is the performance of humans and models?*
  - **Humans achieve better performance than models (~13% gap on both tasks)!**
  - **GPT4 achieves the best accuracy out of the models!**
- **RQ2:** *Is the automatically-generated "silver set" (without human validation) useful for training models?*
  - **The training of FlanT5-small on the silver-set significantly improved its Performance!**
- **RQ3:** *Can the distractors fool humans and models?*
  - **The challenging distractors confuse LLMs, but not humans!**

Row	Settings	Method	Overall	Per Target Type		
				Positives (50%)	Negatives (50%)	
				Analogy	Random	Distractor
1		Random Guess	50	50	50	50
2		GPT4	**79.5**	95.2	92.9	34.8
3		ChatGPT	68.2	53.5	96.8	69.0
4	Zero-shot	Gemini Pro	73.9	79.7	100	36.1
5		FlanT5-XXL	61.1	28.1	100	88.4
6		FlanT5-XL	59.7	25.1	100	88.4
7		FlanT5-small	49.3	0	97.4	100
8		Humans	79	58	100	100
9		GPT4 (in-context)	78	86.5	98.1	40.7
10	Guided	FlanT5-small (fine-tune)	74.4	87.1	96.1	27.1
11		Humans	**92.5**	95	100	80

Row	Settings	Method	Basic	Advanced
1		Random Guess	25	25
2		GPT4	**95.5**	**83.2**
3		ChatGPT	74.2	59
4	Zero-shot	Gemini Pro	87.4	62.6
5		FlanT5-XXL	87.4	75.2
6		FlanT5-XL	68.4	55.5
7		FlanT5-small	32.9	32.9
8	Guided	Humans	**100**	**96**

We hope researchers will use the pipeline in domains where analogies have shown promise, and that this work will inspire more NLP work on analogies, leading to new tasks and benchmarks!