ADVANCED LEARNING FOR TEXT AND GRAPH DATA

Lab session 3: NLP Frameworks

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This handout includes theoretical introductions, coding tasks and questions. Before the deadline, you should submit on moodle **or** here a **.zip** file named `Lab<x>_lastname_firstname.pdf` containing a `/code/` folder (itself containing your scripts with the gaps filled) and an answer sheet, following the template available here, and containing your answers to the questions. Your answers should be well constructed and well justified. They should not repeat the question or generalities in the handout. When relevant, you are welcome to include figures, equations and tables derived from your own computations, theoretical proofs or qualitative explanations. **One submission is required for each student. The deadline for this lab is November 22, 2022 11:59 PM**. No extension will be granted. Late policy is as follows: $]0, 24]$ hours late $\rightarrow$ -5 pts; $]24, 48]$ hours late $\rightarrow$ -10 pts; > 48 hours late $\rightarrow$ not graded (zero).

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1 Introduction

Transformer models have been the predominant deep learning models used in NLP for the past several years, with well-known exemplars in GPT-3 [1] from OpenAI and its predecessors, the Bidirectional Encoder Representations from Transformers model (BERT)[3] developed by Google, XLNet [10] from Carnegie Mellon and Google, and many other models and variants besides. Following the paper "Attention is All You Need" [7] from 2017, the unofficial milestone marking the start of the "age of transformers", transformer models have gotten bigger, better, and much closer to generating text that can pass for human writing, as well as improving substantial on statistical loss metrics and standard benchmarks.
In order to pretrain and finetune transformer based language models, multiple frameworks and libraries have been introduced such as Fairseq[6] and HuggingFace's transformers [8].

Fairseq: fairseq is an open-source sequence modeling toolkit developed by Meta AI. Fairseq allows researchers and developers to train custom models for translation, summarization, language modeling, and other text generation tasks. The toolkit is based on PyTorch and supports distributed training across multiple GPUs and machines. Fairseq also supports fast mixed-precision training and inference on modern GPUs.Fairseq provides researchers with smooth implementation of sequence to sequence models. It supports various models such as RoBERTa [5] and BART [4].

HuggingFace: Hugging Face is an NLP-focused startup with a large open-source community, in particular around the Transformers library. HuggingFace/Transformers is a python-based library that exposes an API to use many well-known transformer architectures, such as BERT, RoBERTa, GPT-2 or

DistilBERT, that obtain state-of-the-art results on a variety of NLP tasks like text classification, information extraction, question answering, and text generation. HuggingFace also provides almost 2000 data sets (using the library *datasets*) and layered APIs, allowing programmers to easily interact with those models using almost 31 libraries. Most of them are deep learning, such as Pytorch, Tensorflow, Jax, ONNX, Fastai, Stable-Baseline 3, etc.

In this lab you will learn how to use Fairseq and HuggingFace transformers - The most used libraries by researchers and developers to pretrain and finetune language models - to finetune pretrained language models.

2 Installations

Use this installation guideline if you don't intend to use Google Colab.
To install the packages required in this lab we first recommend that you create a new conda environment to avoid any potential conflicts. For example you can do that by running the following command:

```
conda create -n lab_frameworks python=3.9
```

Then activate the new environment by running:

```
conda activate lab_frameworks
```

2.1 Installing Sentencepiece

In this lab we use the sentencepiece tokenizer[1]. Do install it for python you can simply use the following command.

```
pip install sentencepiece
```

Otherwise, if you want to use it in the command-line check the Github repository.

2.2 Installing Fairseq

We created a fork of the of the official Fairseq project with minor modification to take into considerations the architecture of the model that we used in this lab ($\text{Roberta}_{\text{small}}$). To install the framework run the commands below:

```
git clone https://github.com/hadi-abdine/fairseq.git
cd fairseq
pip install --editable ./
```

Installing from source will make it possible to edit the source code even if this not will be required in our lab. Fairseq and all its dependencies should now be installed on your device.

2.3 Installing HF Transformers

Use the following commands to install the editable package on your device:

```
git clone https://github.com/huggingface/transformers.git
cd transformers
pip install -e .
```

[1] https://github.com/google/sentencepiece

3 The Model

Our pretrained language model is based on RoBERTa[5]. It has four transformer's encoder layers and pretrained with the MLM (Masked Language Model) task for 10 epochs using two Nvidia RTX A6000 GPUs on 8M French documents (approximately 39 GB of French raw text) from the dataset mC4[9]. Our dictionary contains 32k tokens obtained by extracting the most 32k frequent French tokens from the dictionary of XLMR[2].

Question 1
Compute the number of parameters of the model manually.

Hints:

- For details about the architecture check `roberta_small_architecture()` in `fairseq/fairseq/models/roberta/model.py`
- You can omit the biases and the parameters of normalization layers.
- Don't count the parameters of the language model head.

Task 1
Compute the number of parameters using `torch` or `Fairseq` to verify your answer. (**Hint:** you can use `torch.load()` to load the model.

4 Finetuning using Fairseq

To train models using Fairseq you have to:

Task 2
Prepare the data for finetuning. To do so you have to:

1. Use the provided sentencepiece model to tokenize the text.
2. Binarize the data using `fairseq-preprocess` command or the `fairseq/fairseq_cli/preprocess.py` script.

Task 3
Using Fairseq, finetune the pretrained model on the dataset CLS-Books to perform binary text classification:

1. Use three different seeds.
2. For each seed, choose the checkpoint with best validation accuracy.
3. Report the average accuracy and its standard deviation on the test set.

Make sure to use the following hyper-parameters: *batch size*=8, *max number of epochs*: 5, *optimizer*: Adam, *max learning rate*: 1e-05, *warm up ratio*: 0.06, *learning rate scheduler*: linear.

Task 4
Finetune a random checkpoint of the model on CLS-Books and compare the result with the one from the previous task.
hint: in Fairseq to train a randomly initialized model, you can simply replace the value of `--restore-file` with a nonexistent path

5 Finetuning using HF transformers

Task 5
Repeat the experiment of Task 3 using HF transformers. Make sure to use the same hyper-parameters.

Question 2
Open Question: make a comparison between the two frameworks. Which one do you prefer?

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