Consensus Attention-based Neural Networks for Reading Comprehension

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2016-12-15 Osaka, Japan
OUTLINE

• Introduction

• Existing Cloze-style Reading Comprehension Dataset

• Chinese Dataset: People Daily & Children’s Fairy Tale (PD&CFT)

• Consensus Attention Sum Reader (CAS Reader)

• Experiments & Observations

• Further Reading & Conclusion
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INTRODUCTION

• Definition of RC

• Macro-view
  • To learn and do reasoning over world knowledge

• Micro-view
  • Read an article, and answer the questions based on it
Introduction

- Key points in RC
- Document
- Query
- Candidates
- Answer

*Example is chosen from the MCTest dataset (
**Introduction**

- Key points in RC
  - Document
  - → Query
  - Candidates
- Answer

James the Turtle was always getting in trouble. Sometimes he'd reach into the freezer and empty out all the food. Other times he'd sled on the deck and get a splinter. His aunt Jane tried as hard as she could to keep him out of trouble, but he was sneaky and got into lots of trouble behind her back.

One day, James thought he would go into town and see what kind of trouble he could get into. He went to the grocery store and pulled all the pudding off the shelves and ate two jars. Then he walked to the fast food restaurant and ordered 15 bags of fries. He didn't pay, and instead headed home.

His aunt was waiting for him in his room. She told James that she loved him, but he would have to start acting like a well-behaved turtle.

After about a month, and after getting into lots of trouble, James finally made up his mind to be a better turtle.

1) What is the name of the trouble making turtle?

   A) Fries
   B) Pudding
   C) James
   D) Jane

*Example is chosen from the MCTest dataset ( )
Introduction

• Key points in RC

• Document

• Query

• → Candidates

• Answer

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Introduction

• Key points in RC
  • Document
  • Query
  • Candidates
  • → Answer

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CAS Reader - Introduction
8/45

*Example is chosen from the MCTest dataset ( )
Introduction

• A main obstacle in the research on RC

• NO MUCH DATA!

• The related works are often started from providing the relevant corpus, and then proposing some technical insights in solving them

• Recently, Cloze-style Reading Comprehension has become enormously popular in the community
Introduction

• Why cloze-style reading comprehension?

• Representative (as we all have done these things during our youth) and relatively easy (the answer is a single word) to start with

• Explore the general relationship between the document and query

• The data is relatively easy to collect
**Introduction**

- Cloze-style RC comprises of
  - Document: the same as the general RC
  - Query: a sentence with a blank
  - Candidate (optional): several candidates to fill in
  - Answer: a single word that exactly match the query (the answer word should appear in the document)
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# Related Works

- CNN & Daily Mail (Hermann et al., 2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original Version</th>
<th>Anonymised Version</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Context</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The BBC producer allegedly struck by Jeremy Clarkson will not press charges against the “Top Gear” host, his lawyer said Friday. Clarkson, who hosted one of the most-watched television shows in the world, was dropped by the BBC Wednesday after an internal investigation by the British broadcaster found he had subjected producer Oisin Tymon “to an unprovoked physical and verbal attack.” …</td>
<td>the <em>ent381</em> producer allegedly struck by <em>ent212</em> will not press charges against the “<em>ent153</em>” host, his lawyer said friday. <em>ent212</em>, who hosted one of the most - watched television shows in the world, was dropped by the <em>ent381</em> wednesday after an internal investigation by the <em>ent180</em> broadcaster found he had subjected producer <em>ent193</em> “to an unprovoked physical and verbal attack.” …</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Query**         |                    |
| Producer X will not press charges against Jeremy Clarkson, his lawyer says. | producer X will not press charges against *ent212*, his lawyer says. |

| **Answer**        |                    |
| Oisin Tymon       | *ent193*           |
**RELATED WORKS**

- Children’s book test (Hill et al., 2015)

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**Step 1:** Choose 21 sentences

"Well, Miss Maxwell, I think it only fair to tell you that you may have trouble with those boys when they do come. Forewarned is four armed, you know. Mr. Cropper was opposed to our hiring you. Not, of course, that he had any personal objection to you, but he is set against female teachers, and when a Cropper is set there is nothing on earth can change him. He says female teachers can’t keep order. He’s started in with a spit at you on general principles, and the boys know it. They know he’ll back them up in secret, no matter what they do, just to prove his opinions. Cropper is sly and slippery, and it is hard to corner him."

"Are the boys big?" queried Esther anxiously.

"Yes. Thirteen and fourteen and big for their age. You can’t whip ‘em — that is the trouble. A man might, but they’d twist you around their fingers. You’ll have your hands full, I’m afraid. But maybe they’ll behave right after all."

Mr. Baxter privately had no hope that they would, but Esther hoped for the best. She could not believe that Mr. Cropper would carry his prejudices into a personal application. This conviction was strengthened when he overtook her walking from school the next day and drove her home. He was a big, handsome man with a very suave, polite manner. He asked interestedly about her school and her work, hoped she was getting on well, and was sending rascals of his own to send soon. Esther knew Baxter had exaggerated matters a little.

**Step 2:** Choose first 20 sentences as Context

**Step 3:** Choose 21st sentence as Query

**Step 4:** Choose other 9 similar words from Context as Candidate

---

**S:**
1. Mr. Cropper was opposed to our hiring you.
2. Not, of course, that he had any personal objection to you, but he is set against female teachers, and when a Cropper is set there is nothing on earth can change him.
3. He says female teachers can’t keep order.
4. He’s started in with a spit at you on general principles, and the boys know it.
5. They know he’ll back them up in secret, no matter what they do, just to prove his opinions.
6. Cropper is sly and slippery, and it is hard to corner him."
7. "Are the boys big?"
8. queried Esther anxiously.
9. "Yes.
10. Thirteen and fourteen and big for their age.
11. You can’t whip ‘em — that is the trouble.
12. A man might, but they’d twist you around their fingers.
13. You’ll have your hands full, I’m afraid.
14. But maybe they’ll behave right after all."
15. Mr. Baxter privately had no hope that they would, but Esther hoped for the best.
16. She could not believe that Mr. Cropper would carry his prejudices into a personal application.
17. This conviction was strengthened when he overtook her walking from school the next day and drove her home.
18. He was a big, handsome man with a very suave, polite manner. He asked interestedly about her school and her work, hoped she was getting on well, and was sending rascals of his own to send soon. Esther knew Baxter had exaggerated matters a little.

**C:** Baxter, Cropper, Esther, course, fingers, manner, objection, opinion, right, spite.

**q:** She thought that Mr. _______ had exaggerated matters a little.

**a:** Baxter

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CAS Reader - Related Works

14/45
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CAS Reader - Outline

15/45
PD & CFT

- A Chinese Reading Comprehension dataset: People Daily and Children’s Fairy Tale (PD&CFT)

- Features
  - First Chinese cloze-style RC datasets, which add language diversity in this task
  - Along with the traditional news datasets (People Daily), we also provide a out-of-domain dataset (Children’s Fairy Tale)
PD & CFT

- People Daily
  - Web-crawled news data, about 60k documents

- Children’s Fairy Tale
  - Web-crawled children’s reading material, about 1K documents
  - Contains virtualized characters, which is unable to use the common knowledge learned by large-scale data
  - Auto-set: automatically generated; Human-set: manually selected, those questions that depend on LM or cooccurrence is removed
PD & CFT

• Statistics of PD&CFT

• Note that, the CFT dataset is only served as the out-of-domain test sets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>People Daily</th>
<th></th>
<th>Children's Fairy Tale</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Train</td>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Test</td>
<td>Test-auto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Query</td>
<td>870,710</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>1,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max # tokens in docs</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>536</td>
<td>634</td>
<td>318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max # tokens in query</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg # tokens in docs</td>
<td>379</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg # tokens in query</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary</td>
<td>248,160</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## PD & CFT

### Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Query</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>人民网 1月 1日 记者 《纽约时报》报道，美国华尔街股市在 2013年的最后一天继续上涨，和全球股市一样，都以最高纪录或接近最高纪录结束今年的交易。</td>
<td>策略</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>《纽约时报》报道，标普 500 指数今年上升 29.6%，为 1997 年以来的最大涨幅；道琼斯平均指数上升 26.5%，为 1996 年以来的最大涨幅；</td>
<td>The so-called “silly money” XXXXX is that, to buy and hold the common combination of U.S. stock.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>纳斯达克指数上涨 38.3%。</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>12月 31 日以来，由于就业前景看好和经济增长明年可能加速，消费者信心上升。</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>工商协会报告，12月消费者信心上升到 78.1，明显高于 11 月的 72。</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>另据《华尔街日报》报道，2013年是 1995 年以来美国股市表现最好的一年。</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>投资美国股市的明智做法是追求“傻钱”跑。</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>所谓的“傻钱” XXXXX，其实就是买入并持有美国股票这样的普通组合。</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>这个策略要比冲基金和其它专业投资者使用的更为复杂的投资方法效果好得多。</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>As reported by Business Association report, consumer confidence rose to 78.1 in December, significantly higher than 72 in November.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Also as &quot;Wall Street journal&quot; reported that 2013 is the best U.S. stock market since 1995.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>In this year, to chase the “silly money” is the most wise way to invest in U.S. stock.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>The so-called “silly money” XXXXX is that, to buy and hold the common combination of U.S. stock.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>This strategy is better than other complex investment methods, such as hedge funds and the methods adopted by other professional investors.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step 1: select one sentence in the (truncated) document

1. People Daily (Jan 1). According to report of “New York Times”, the Wall Street stock market continued to rise as the global stock market in the last day of 2013, ending with the highest record or near record of this year.
2. “New York times” reported that the S&P 500 index rose 29.6% this year, which is the largest increase since 1997.
3. Dow Jones industrial average index rose 26.5%, which is the largest increase since 1996.
4. NASDAQ rose 38.3%.
5. In terms of December 31, due to the prospects in employment and possible acceleration of economy next year, there is a rising confidence in consumers.
6. As reported by Business Association report, consumer confidence rose to 78.1 in December, significantly higher than 72 in November.
7. Also as “Wall Street journal” reported that 2013 is the best U.S. stock market since 1995.
8. In this year, to chase the “silly money” is the most wise way to invest in U.S. stock.
9. The so-called “silly money” strategy is that, to buy and hold the common combination of U.S. stock.
10. This strategy is better than other complex investment methods, such as hedge funds and the methods adopted by other professional investors.
PD & CFT

• Step2: choose one word in this sentence

• Only named entity and common noun is considered

1  ||| People Daily (Jan 1). According to report of “New York Times”, the Wall Street stock market continued to rise as the global stock market in the last day of 2013, ending with the highest record or near record of this year.
2  ||| “New York times” reported that the S&P 500 index rose 29.6% this year; which is the largest increase since 1997.
3  ||| Dow Jones industrial average index rose 26.5%, which is the largest increase since 1996.
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6  ||| As reported by Business Association report, consumer confidence rose to 78.1 in December; significantly higher than 72 in November.
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8  ||| In this year, to chase the “silly money” is the most wise way to invest in U.S. stock.
9  ||| The so-called “silly money” strategy is that, to buy and hold the common combination of U.S. stock.
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1  ||| People Daily (Jan 1). According to report of "New York Times", the Wall Street stock market continued to rise as the global stock market in the last day of 2013, ending with the highest record or near record of this year.
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6  ||| As reported by Business Association report, consumer confidence rose to 78.1 in December, significantly higher than 72 in November.
7  ||| Also as "Wall Street journal" reported that 2013 is the best U.S. stock market since 1995.
8  ||| In this year, to chase the "silly money" is the most wise way to invest in U.S. stock.
9  ||| **The so-called “silly money” XXXXX is that, to buy and hold the common combination of U.S. stock.**
10 ||| This strategy is better than other complex investment methods, such as hedge funds and the methods adopted by other professional investors.
Step4: the removed word becomes the answer to the query

The so-called “silly money” **XXXXX** is that, to buy and hold the common combination of U.S. stock.

strategy
## PD & CFT

- Comparison of three Cloze-style RC datasets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dataset</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Blank Type</th>
<th>Doc</th>
<th>Query</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CNN/DM</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>News</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>News Article</td>
<td>Summary w/ a blank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBTtest</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>Story</td>
<td>NE,CN,V,P</td>
<td>20 consecutive sentences</td>
<td>21th sentence w/ a blank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD&amp;CFT</td>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>News, story</td>
<td>NE,CN</td>
<td>Doc w/ a blank</td>
<td>the sentence that blank belongs to</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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We propose an extension to the AS Reader (Kadlec et al., 2016), which is a popular framework on close-style reading comprehension task.

Modification

- Instead of blending query representations into one, we can take EVERY individual query words to generate a document-level attention respectively.
CAS Reader

- AS Reader (Kadlec et al., 2016)

![Diagram of AS Reader](image)

The diagram illustrates the process of the AS Reader, including input text embedding, recurrent neural networks, dot products, softmax over words in the sentence, and the probability of the answer:

\[ P(\text{Obama}|q, d) = \sum_{i \in I(\text{Obama}, d)} s_i = s_j + s_{j+5} \]
CAS Reader

- Neural Architecture

\[
P("Mary" | D, q) = \sum_{i \in \{"Mary" \subseteq D\}} s_i = s_j + s_k
\]
CAS Reader

- Step 1: Transform document and query into contextual representations using GRU

\[ e(x) = W_e \times x, \text{ where } x \in D, Q \]  
\[ h_s(x) = \text{GRU}(e(x)), h^\prime_s(x) = \overrightarrow{\text{GRU}}(e(x)) \]  
\[ h_s(x) = [h_s(x); h^\prime_s(x)] \]
CAS Reader

• Step2: Generate several document-level attentions in terms of every word in the query

\[ P(\text{Mary}|D,q) = \sum_{i \in \{\text{Mary} \in D\}} s_i = s_j + s_k \]

\[
\alpha(t) = \text{softmax}(h_{doc} \odot h_{query}(t))
\]
• Step3: Induce a consensus attention over these individual attentions with heuristic functions.
Step 4: Applying sum-attention mechanism (Kadlec et al., 2016) to get the final probability of the answer.
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EXPERIMENTS

• Setups

  • Embedding Layer: randomly initialized with uniformed distribution
    \( \sim [-0.1, 0.1] \)

  • Hidden Layer: GRU with random orthogonal initialization (Saxe et al., 2013), and gradient clipping to 10 (Pascanu et al., 2013)

  • Vocabulary: set a shortlist of 100k for PD&CFT condition. No vocabulary truncation on CNN and CBT.

  • Optimization: Adam (Kingma and Ba, 2014) with initial LR=0.0005. Batch size is set to 32.
EXPERIMENTS

• Setups

  • Statistics of CNN & CBT NE/CN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CNN News</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>CBT NE</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th>CBT CN</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Train</td>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Test</td>
<td>Train</td>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Test</td>
<td>Train</td>
<td>Valid</td>
<td>Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># Query</td>
<td>380,298</td>
<td>3,924</td>
<td>3,198</td>
<td>108,719</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>120,769</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Max # candidates</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg # candidates</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg # tokens</td>
<td>762</td>
<td>763</td>
<td>716</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>448</td>
<td>461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary</td>
<td>118,497</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>53,063</td>
<td></td>
<td>53,185</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Dimensions of neural units and Dropout rate (Srivastava et al., 2014)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Embed. # units</th>
<th>Hidden # units</th>
<th>Dropout</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CNN News</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBT Test NE</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBT Test CN</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People Daily &amp; CFT</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• All models are trained on Tesla K40 GPU

• Implementation is done with Theano (Theano Developing Team, 2016) and Keras framework (Chollet, 2015)
EXPERIMENTS

• Results on PD&CFT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>People Valid</th>
<th>Daily Test</th>
<th>Children’s Fairy Tale Test-auto</th>
<th>Test-human</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AS Reader</td>
<td>64.1</td>
<td>67.2</td>
<td>40.9</td>
<td>33.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS Reader (mode: avg)</td>
<td>65.2</td>
<td>68.1</td>
<td>41.3</td>
<td>35.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS Reader (mode: sum)</td>
<td>64.7</td>
<td>66.8</td>
<td>43.0</td>
<td>34.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS Reader (mode: max)</td>
<td>63.3</td>
<td>65.4</td>
<td>38.3</td>
<td>32.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Heuristic comparison: avg > sum >> max

• Dramatic drop in out-of-domain test sets
## Experiments

- Results on CNN and CBT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CNN Valid</th>
<th>CNN Test</th>
<th>CBT Test NE Valid</th>
<th>CBT Test NE Test</th>
<th>CBT Test CN Valid</th>
<th>CBT Test CN Test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deep LSTM Reader†</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td>57.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attentive Reader†</td>
<td>61.6</td>
<td>63.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impatient Reader†</td>
<td>61.8</td>
<td>63.8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human (context+query)†</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>81.6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>81.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSTMs (context+query)†</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>51.2</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>62.6</td>
<td>56.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MemNN (window + self-sup.)†</td>
<td>63.4</td>
<td>66.8</td>
<td>70.4</td>
<td>66.6</td>
<td>64.2</td>
<td>63.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford AR‡</td>
<td>72.4</td>
<td>72.4</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS Reader‡</td>
<td>68.6</td>
<td>69.5</td>
<td>73.8</td>
<td>68.6</td>
<td>68.8</td>
<td>63.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAS Reader (mode: avg)</td>
<td>68.2</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>74.2</td>
<td>69.2</td>
<td>68.2</td>
<td>65.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Modest improvements over AS Reader
OUTLINE

• Introduction

• Existing Cloze-style Reading Comprehension Dataset

• Chinese Dataset: People Daily & Children’s Fairy Tale (PD&CFT)

• Consensus Attention Sum Reader (CAS Reader)

• Experiments & Observations

• Further Reading & Conclusion
**FURTHER READING**

- Attention-over-Attention Neural Network for Reading Comprehension (Cui et al., 2016)

FURTHER READING

• Generating and Exploiting Large-scale Pseudo Training Data for Zero Pronoun Resolution (Liu et al., 2016)

• arxiv: https://arxiv.org/abs/1606.01603
CONCLUSION

• PD & CFT: A Chinese Cloze-style RC dataset

• the first Chinese RC dataset, aiming to enriching the diversity in RC task

• Human-selected test set is much more harder than the one that is automatically generated, and brings much difficulties

• Consensus Attention-based Reader (CAS Reader)

• By taking every word in the query, we can generate consensus attention via several doc-level attentions
Related Links

• PD & CFT datasets

  • https://github.com/ymcui/Chinese-RC-Dataset

• General training tips & Leaderboard of Cloze-style RC (updates irregularly)

  • https://github.com/ymcui/Eval-on-NN-of-RC

• Personal website (slides will be uploaded to this)

  • http://ymcui.github.io


• François Chollet. 2015. Keras. https://github.com/fchollet/keras.


REFERENCES


Thank You!