Research Article

Generative Adversarial Network-Based Short Sequence Machine Translation from Chinese to English

Wenting Ma,1 Bing Yan,1 and Lianyue Sun2

1English Major, Art and Law Department, Hua Xin College of Geo University, Shijiazhuang, Hebei 050700, China
2Shijiazhuang Posts and Telecommunications Technical College, Shijiazhuang, Hebei 050020, China

Correspondence should be addressed to Lianyue Sun; sunly@sjzpc.edu.cn

Received 19 November 2021; Accepted 18 December 2021; Published 28 January 2022

With the acceleration of economic globalization, the economic contact, information exchange, and financial integration between countries become more and more frequent. In this context, the communication between different languages is also closer, so accurate translation between languages is of great significance. However, existing methods give little thought to short sequence machine translation from Chinese to English. This paper designs a generative adversarial network to solve the above problem. First, a conditional sequence generating adversarial net is constructed, which includes two adversarial submodels: a generator and a discriminator. The generator is designed to generate sentences that are difficult to distinguish from human-translated sentences, and the discriminator is designed to distinguish the sentences generated by the generator from human-translated sentences. In addition, static sentence-level BLEU values will be used as reinforcement targets for the generator. During training, both dynamic discriminators and static BLEU targets are used to evaluate the generated sentences, and the evaluation results are fed back to the generator to guide the generator’s learning. Finally, experimental results on English-Chinese translation dataset show that the translation effect is improved by more than 8% compared with the traditional neural machine translation model based on recurrent neural network (RNN) after the introduction of generative adversative network.

1. Introduction

As one of the important tools for human communication, language is the fundamental ability for human beings to distinguish themselves from other creatures. There are more than 5,600 languages in the world. The diversity of languages promotes the development of cultural diversity, but it also sets up barriers for human communication in different regions [1–3]. With the acceleration of globalization, the contradiction between cross-language communication and language gap becomes more and more obvious. The existing human resources and translation capacity are insufficient to cope with the translation needs of large-scale texts and multiple language pairs in the future. Therefore, machine translation (machine translation) has the advantages of low cost, fast speed, and no language restriction. Translation technology is regarded as the most effective way to break the barrier of language translation. Machine translation (MT) is a process of automatic translation from one language (source Language) to another language (target language) using computers. In recent years, machine translation technology has developed vigorously and become one of the research hotspots of natural language processing (NLP) task [4, 5].

After more than 70 years of development, machine translation has developed from rule-based machine translation to instance-based machine translation and then to statistics-based machine translation (SMT) [6] and to the present neural network-based neural machine translation (NMT). With the rapid development of deep learning, the performance of neural machine translation has significantly surpassed. It has not only become the hotspot research method of language translation, but also the core technology of commercial online machine translation systems such as Google and Baidu. Neural machine translation models generally adopt encoder-decoder framework. The encoder
model translates the source sentences and encodes them into a set of hidden layer vector representations with fixed dimensions. The decoder generates the word sequence of the target end word for word according to the hidden layer vector output by the encoder. Encoders and decoders of neural machine translation models can be realized by different network structures, which are divided into self-attention network (SAN), convolutional neural networks (CNN), and recurrent neural networks (RNN) according to the characteristics of different network topologies. Compared with statistics-based and rule-based machine translation methods, the neural machine translation model does not require such steps as word extraction from translation rules, word alignment, and ordering but completely relies on the neural network to reflect the relationships between source language and target language automatically, which greatly simplifies the complexity of the model [7].

Although the results of neural machine translation have been enhanced largely under the condition of large-scale training corpus and powerful computing power, there are still many problems to be solved in neural machine translation, such as out of vocabulary (OOV), overtranslation, undertranslation [8], and exposure bias [9]. These problems become the development bottleneck of neural machine translation and restrict the further improvement of translation performance.

2. Related Works

Based on the coverage idea in statistical machine translation, coverage mechanism is introduced into neural machine translation model in [10], and coverage vector (CV) is used to store the historical translation in the decoding process and integrate it into the calculation process of attention weight, so as to guide the attention mechanism to give more resource to the untranslated words and reduce the weight of translated words. As for the phrase-based translation model, literature [11] marks the corresponding source language phrase as translated when adding the translation results of candidate phrases into the output sequence, so as to ensure that each source language phrase will not be repeated or omitted in the translation process. However, because there is no similar mechanism for explicitly storing translation history information in the neural machine translation model, and all source words are involved in the prediction of target words, overtranslation and missing-translation are inevitable. Literature [12] uses full coverage embedding vector to represent the translation degree of source language words in the decoding process and reduces the role of translated words in future decoding by reducing the encoding vector of translated words. In literature [12], it combines a recurrent attention mechanism and conditioned decoder to provide more ordering information in the translation process, thus reducing the phenomenon of repeated translation. In [13], the authors use two circulating neural networks to store the past information and future information in translation process, respectively, and use this information to guide the attention mechanism and decoding state. These methods can alleviate the phenomenon of overtranslation and missed translation to a certain extent but cannot completely eliminate the problem [14].

Since the neural machine translation model often selects sentences with high probability but short length as translation results, coverage can also be used as an evaluation index to screen translation results [15]. In [16], coverage penalty is introduced into the beam search algorithm to make the model consider the probability of sentence generation and fidelity to the original text at the same time when selecting the translation, so as to avoid the bias towards short sentences. On this basis, literatures [17–19] introduced the detection of coverage into each cluster search step and improved the calculation method of coverage score (CS), making it suitable for a variety of mapping relations between source language and target language. These methods select better translation results by improving search evaluation methods without changing the structure of the neural machine translation model [20, 21].

In order to give consideration to the fluency and fidelity of the target text, the context gate structure is introduced in [22, 23] to dynamically control the proportion of the influence of source language and target language context on the generation of words in the target language during decoding. Combined with the overlay mechanism, this method can improve the coverage of the translation results to the source language and the fluency of the sentence, but the target context does not fully utilize the generated translation information. Literature [24] has modeled the structural relations of all words, so that the neural machine translation model can make better use of the context features of source language and target language. In addition, literature [25] studies the features of omitted words in source languages, finds that words with higher translation entropy are more likely to be omitted, and proposes to use coarse-to-fine framework to improve the translation quality of sentences and words and reduce the number of missed translation of words with high entropy.

From the previously mentioned analysis, we know that the previously mentioned methods have alleviated the problem of overtranslation and overtranslation in NMT to some extent, but these problems are still unavoidable due to the soft alignment of attention mechanism and the imperfection of coverage mechanism in NMT model word-for-word prediction. On the other hand, no scholar has applied English-Chinese short sequence machine translation till now, so the research here is still a blank, which has a great theoretical research and practical application value [26–28].

The contribution of this paper is the GAN model, which is first used to solve the problem of short sequence machine translation from Chinese to English. In this paper, a survival adversarial network-based machine translation method is proposed. Specifically, BLEU value is used to generate D for network, and BLEU value is established as feedback to enhance the training of generator G. So, generator G can generate the translation result which is closer to the real sentence, thus improving the accuracy of translation. In future work, we may try to combine more neural machine translation models with generative adversarial networks or use multiadversarial network frameworks to experiment
with different parameters and construct different reinforcement feedback to improve translation effects.

This paper consists of five parts. The first and second parts give the research status and background. The third part is the short sequence machine translation by generative adversarial network. The fourth part shows the experimental results and analysis. The experimental results of this paper are introduced and compared and analyzed with relevant comparison algorithms followed. Finally, the sixth part summarizes the full paper. The study of this paper gives the user portrait system of operators and gives the realization scene of precision marketing. The paper can complete the analysis function according to the data provided by operators to form user portraits, which has the application value of precision marketing of operators.

3. Short Sequence Machine Translation by Generative Adversarial Network

3.1. GAN Model and Transformer Model. The process of short sequence machine translation by generative adversarial network is divided into two parts, and the overall architecture of the model is shown in Figure 1 [29]. The left half is made up of generator G and discriminator D, where G is the neural machine translation model, which generates target sentences. D discriminates between the sentences generated by G and the artificial translation sentences and generates the feedback results. The right part carries out strategy gradient training for G, and the final feedback is provided by D and Q, where Q is BLEU value.

Another type of encoding and decoding similar to the GAN model is the transformer model, which is shown in Figure 2 [30]. And the best translation effect of current neural machine translation is achieved. Similarly, a set of source language sequences X with input length m and target language sequences Y with corresponding length n are given. Transformer encoders are stacked by N identical network layers. Every network layer contains two subnetwork layers: the first layer is self-attention layer, and the second layer is a fully connected neural network. Residual network and layer normalization (LN) connections are used after each sublayer. Multithread attention network maps input values into various subspaces and then uses scaled dot product attention network to calculate context vectors of different spaces and splices these context vectors to the final output result.

Similar to the encoder, the transformer decoder also contains N isomorphic network layers, each containing three subnetwork layers: the first layer is self-attentional network because the decoder can only see the generated word information when decoding, so mask technology is used to shield the ungenerated word information. The second layer is multiattentional network, which models the hidden state of source language sentences and the hidden state of target language to generate the context vector of source language sentences. The third layer is a fully connected feedforward neural network, which also uses residual networks and hierarchically normalized connections after each sublayer. Since both encoders and decoders based on full attention networks do not consider location information, which is very important for language understanding and generation, the transformer model includes location coding in the input vector of the lowest level encoder and decoder. Position encoding can be fixed position encoding, relative position encoding, or learned position encoding.

3.2. Generator G. Generator G uses a recurrent neural network (RNN) based neural machine translation model RNN search, which consisted of two parts: the encoder and coder [31]. The encoder adopts bidirectional cyclic gate to control the unit, codes the input sequence formula \( x = (x_1, \ldots, x_m) \), and calculates the hidden state of forward and backward propagation as follows:

\[
\overrightarrow{h} = (\overrightarrow{h}_1, \ldots, \overrightarrow{h}_m), \tag{1}
\]

\[
\overleftarrow{h} = (\overleftarrow{h}_1, \ldots, \overleftarrow{h}_m), \tag{2}
\]

where the final annotation vector \( h_p \) is calculated by \( \overrightarrow{h}_p \) and \( \overleftarrow{h}_p \) together.

The encoder uses recurrent neural network to predict target sequence \( y = (y_1, \ldots, y_m) \). The current prediction of each word \( y_i \) is calculated based on the current hidden state \( s_i \) and the prediction \( y_{i-1} \) of the previous moment, as well as the context vector \( c_i \), where, \( c_i \) is derived from the weighted sum of the annotated vectors \( h_p \).

3.3. Discriminator D. The discriminator uses convolutional neural network structure to discriminate the results generated by the generator. Since the length of the sequence generated by the generator is variable, the sequence is filled with a fixed length of \( T \). Source matrix \( X_{1:T} \) and target matrix \( Y_{1:T} \) are established, respectively, for source sequence and target sequence as follows:

\[
X_{1:T} = x_1; x_2; \ldots; x_T, \tag{3}
\]

\[
Y_{1:T} = y_1; y_2; \ldots; y_T. \tag{4}
\]

When \( x_i \) and \( y_i \in \mathbb{R}^k \) are both the \( k \) dimensional word vectors, the convolution kernel \( W_i \in \mathbb{R}^{k \times k} \), and the convolution calculation formula is shown as follows:

\[
c_{ji} = f(W_i^* X_{i+i-1} + b), \tag{5}
\]

where \( W_i^* \) is the weight of the convolution kernel, \( X_{i+i-1} \) is the vector matrix in the window from \( i \) to \( i + l - 1 \), \( b \) is the bias term, \( f \) is the activation function, and ReLu function is adopted in this paper.

After using different convolution kernels for convolution operation, we conducted the maximum pooling (Max) operation on feature vector \( c_p \) of each convolution kernel, that is, proposing the maximum value of each feature vector, splicing the pooling result, and obtaining the feature vector of the source sequence, as follows:

\[
c_x = [c_1, c_2, \ldots, c_{T-l+1}]. \tag{6}
\]
Similarly, the feature vectors $c_y$ of the target sequence are given by the matrix $Y_{1:T}$. The calculation of the probability of the target sequence depends on $c_x$ and $c_y$, which can be expressed as follows:

$$p = \varphi(V[c_x; c_y]),$$

(7)

where $V$ is the parameter matrix, $[c_x; c_y]$ are converted into two-dimensional vectors, and $\varphi$ is the softmax function.

3.4. Strengthening Target Feedback. BLEU value Q of bilingual translation quality assessment is used as the reinforcement target, and the guidance generator can generate higher BLEU value. $Q$ is a static function and is not updated during training. We apply BLEU value as the specific target of generator and assign the sentence $y_d$ generated by generator and the artificially translated sentence $y_d$. By calculating the n-gram accuracy of $y_d$, the feedback $Q(y_g, y_d)$ of target $Q$ is obtained. The same as the output of discriminator $D, Q(y_g, y_d)$ also ranges from 0 to 1, which makes it easier for $Q$ and $D$ to merge.

3.5. Strategy Gradient Training. Since the goal of generator $G$ is defined as maximizing the expected feedbacks from the initial state of the generated sequence. Formally, the objective function is as follows:

$$J(\theta) = \sum_{Y_{1:T}} G_\theta(Y_{1:T}|X) \cdot R_{DQ}^G(Y_{1:T-1}, X, y_T, Y^*),$$

(8)

where $\theta$ is a parameter of generator $G$.

The discriminator provides $N$ feedbacks for $N$ sentences sampled, and the resulting feedbacks are the summation average of these feedbacks. For the target sentence with length $T$, the feedback calculation of $y_T$ is shown as follows:

$$R_{DQ}^G(Y_{1:T-1}, X, y_T, Y^*) = \begin{cases} 
\frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^{N} \lambda(D(X, Y_{1:T^n}) - b(X, Y_{1:T^n})) + (1 - \lambda) Q(Y_{1:T^n}, Y^*), & t < T, \\
\lambda(D(X, Y_{1:t}) - b(X, Y_{1:t})) + (1 - \lambda) Q(Y_{1:t}, Y^*), & t = T.
\end{cases}$$

(9)

The gradient calculation of the objective function $J(\theta)$ to the parameter $\theta$ of generator $G$ is shown as follows:

$$\nabla J(\theta) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} \sum_{y_T} R_{DQ}^G(Y_{1:t-1}, X, y_T, Y^*),$$

(10)

$$\nabla \theta(G_\theta(y_T | Y_{1:t-1}, X)) = \frac{1}{T} \sum_{t=1}^{T} E_{y_T,Y^* \in \mathcal{G}_\theta} \left[ R_{DQ}^G(Y_{1:t-1}, X, y_T, Y^*) \cdot \nabla \theta \log G_\theta(y_T | Y_{1:t-1}, X) \right].$$

(11)

4. Experimental Results and Analysis

4.1. Introduction to Dataset. In this part, experiments on Chinese-English translation tasks are carried out to verify the effectiveness of the proposed neural machine translation method. The training data set used in the Chinese-English translation task is 1.25 million Chinese-English parallel sentence pairs that are extracted from Linguistic Data Consortium (LDC). The test sets are NIST02 NIST03 NIST04 NIST05 and NIST08 from the National Institute of Standards and Technology in 2002. NIST06 was used as the test set. Byte pair encoder (BPE) encoding is performed for
the Chinese and English materials, respectively. The BPE table is used in Chinese and English, respectively, and the size of both tables is 32000. The size of the Chinese is set to 40,000, and the size of the English is set to 30,000. The UNK takesthe place of the low frequency of the words that are not in the word table.

4.2. Introduction to the Experimental Platform. In order to verify the effectiveness of the proposed method in machine translation, the experimental hardware environment is Intel (R) Core ( TM ) 17–8550U CPU @ 1.80 GHz 1.99 GHz, 16.0 GB memory, SSD 512 GB, Windows 10 Professional operating system model training and testing using Google’s open source deep learning framework TensorFlow, experimental data analysis software environment, and test environment PyCharm 2019 Professional edition.

4.3. Experimental Results Analysis

4.3.1. Experimental Results of the Data Generalization Method. This section introduces the experimental results given by the data generalization based neural machine translation model. During the test, the 10 models with the highest BLEU value in the training stage are averaged to get the final experimental results of the model, as shown in Table 1 (the best result is shown in bold).

In Table 1, RNNSearch and Transformer are the experimental results of the baseline system on the original corpus, while RNNSearch_G and Transformer_G are the experimental results of processing the unknown words in the corpus using the data generalization strategy. The last row is the proposed method, and the experimental results (in bold) show that the performance of the machine translation model is significantly improved by the generalization of unknown words. The average BLEU values of the RNNSearch, RNNSearch_G, and Transformer_G models are 21 and 22.9, 22.8, 23.5, and 28.2, respectively. That is to say, the proposed methods is 4.7 percentage points higher than the suboptimal method, which has proved the superiority and effectiveness of the proposed method.

In order to examine the translation effect of unknown words in the NIST04 test set, 200 sentences were randomly selected for manual evaluation. According to the experimental results, the proposed model has a better performance than Transformer_G models, so the experiment is only carried on the proposed model and Transformer_G model. The 200 sentences include 79 time expressions, 124 number expressions, 135 number expressions, and 46 website and special expressions, which are used to evaluate the translation effect of unknown words. The calculation formula is as follows:

\[
\text{ACC} = \frac{\text{number of untranslated words correctly}}{\text{total number of unlogged words}}.
\]

The experimental performances are shown in Table 2 (the best result is shown in bold).

According to the experimental results in Table 2, the generative adversarial network can greatly improve the translation effect of unknown words in corpus. In terms of names, Chinese names account for 72% of the total number of names in the corpus, so the Chinese Pinyin translation method has the highest improvement, reaching 40.1%. Regarding the time, number, website, and special expressions, due to the rules-based method, the accuracy of all translations has been significantly improved, reaching 10.37%, 24.02%, and 34.44%, respectively.

4.3.2. Source Language Sentence Length Influences. The translation effect of long sentences is one of the important indexes to evaluate the performance of neural machine translation models. To study the translation performance of the multicovery fusion model regarding the sentence length range of different source languages, the source languages in the test set were grouped according to the sentence length in the experiment. The BLEU values of different models in the range of source language length (0, 10], 10, 20], 20, 30], 30, 40, 50 and (50, +) were compared, as shown in Figure 3.

The following conclusions can be drawn from the experimental results shown in Figure 3. Overall, the performance of proposed model is better than that of RNNSearch and Transformer model. In the length interval of (0, 10), the BLEU value of proposed model is lower than that of the Transformer model, but higher than that of RNN search system. With the further increase of sentence length, BLEU values of RNNSearch system and proposed model decreased significantly.
In the experiment, the overtranslation of different models was evaluated by counting the number of source language words in the test set. In Figure 4, the proposed model correctly translates Provence lavender as "Provence lavender." It not only eliminates duplication of translation but also correctly aligns attention between Provence and lavender, thus producing higher quality translation results.

As shown in Figure 5(a), in the baseline system, the translation of the word payment is omitted, leading to the loss of context meaning, so mobile is mistranslated as movement. The translation deviates completely from the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Transformer_G</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NIST02 (%)</td>
<td>31.82</td>
<td>71.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIST03 (%)</td>
<td>68.29</td>
<td>78.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIST04 (%)</td>
<td>52.24</td>
<td>76.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIST05 (%)</td>
<td>52.37</td>
<td>86.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIST06 (%)</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>28.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVG</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>25.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Name (%)</th>
<th>Time expression (%)</th>
<th>Numeral expression (%)</th>
<th>URL and special expressions (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transformer_G</td>
<td>31.82</td>
<td>68.29</td>
<td>52.24</td>
<td>52.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed</td>
<td>71.92</td>
<td>78.66</td>
<td>76.26</td>
<td>86.81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: BLEU scores of different methods incorporating data generalization.

Table 2: The translation results of different methods.

Figure 3: The comparison of BLEU scores with respect to the source length.

Figure 4: The proposed model alleviates the overtranslation phenomenon.
meaning of the original sentence. In contrast, in Figure 5(b),
the proposed model eliminates the phenomenon of trans-
lation leakage and correctly translates mobile payment into
“mobile payment,” thus ensuring the consistency of trans-
lation results with the original sentence meaning.

In addition to further alleviating the problems of
overtranslation and overtranslation, the multicoverage
fusion model can also improve the alignment quality of
attentional mechanisms by studying the alignment rela-
tionship. As shown in Figure 6, in the baseline system, the
second half of the text gives the keynote speech. There was
an alignment error in translation. The keynote and speech were
misaligned to speech and make, respectively, and the word
keynote was omitted. The proposed model not only correctly
establishes the alignment between keynote and speech but also
eliminates the phenomenon of missing translation, which
improves the quality of translation results.

4.3.3. Convergence Analysis of the Model. In order to better
demonstrate the performance of the proposed method, its
convergence is studied. Figures 7 and 8 show the variation
curves of the model’s performance with each iteration in the experimental process of different translation tasks. Figure 6 shows the model performance change curve of the proposed method in the Chinese-English translation task on the NIST2006 dataset.

Figure 8 shows the performance change curve of Transformer model with the number of iterations of EM algorithm in the translation task of English and Chinese on NIST2006 dataset. It can be seen from Figures 7 and 8 that, after five iterations, the model tends to converge, and it is difficult to improve the performance of the model, which also proves that the method in this paper tends to be stable and has a fast convergence speed after certain iterations. It shows that the proposed method has good performance.

5. Conclusions

Neural machine translation (NMT) model based on encoder and decoder structure is a mainstream approach in the field of machine translation. Although the performance of neural machine translation model has far exceeded that of traditional statistical machine translation methods, due to the lack of word list size and coverage mechanism, neural machine translation still has the problem of overtranslation and omitted translation of unknown words.

In this context, the communication between different languages is also closer, so accurate translation between languages is of great significance. However, existing methods give little thought to short sequence machine translation from Chinese to English. This paper designs a generative adversarial network to solve the previously mentioned problem. To avoid the loss of coverage information affecting the quality of attention alignment, both the coverage vector and the coverage score are obtained when calculating the attention score. According to the fusion mode of coverage vector and coverage fraction, the GAN model is constructed. Experimental results show that this model can further alleviate the problems of overtranslation and overtranslation, and GAN model has a more obvious improvement effect. In addition, the proposed GAN model has a fast convergence rate.

Although the previously mentioned methods can effectively improve the problem of unregistered words and
overtranslation, there are still some shortcomings. First, a large number of manual rules are needed to achieve the maximum alignment of unknown words, and the translation quality of people’s names depends too much on dictionaries. Second, there are still many overtranslation and over-translation phenomena in the multicoverage fusion model. In the following work, on the one hand, we will expand the scope of unknown words, such as the names of places, organizations, and proper nouns in specific fields, and explore other methods to translate unknown words, so as to reduce the dependence of thesaurus. On the other hand, phrase alignment in statistical machine translation is given to the neural machine translation model as an overlay reference to further improve overtranslation and overtranslation.

Data Availability

The dataset can be accessed upon request to the corresponding author.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

References


