
Multistage BiCross Encoder: Team GATE Entry for MLIA Multilingual Semantic Search Task 2



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University
Of
Sheffield.



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The WeVerify and SoBigData++ projects have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreements No 825297 and 871042

Overview

1. Introduction
 2. Problem Statement
 3. Proposed Approach
 4. Evaluation and Results
 5. Conclusion
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How to build effective semantic search systems?

- Accurate retrieval of reliable relevant data



Ref. NIST Text Retrieval Conference (TREC) logo

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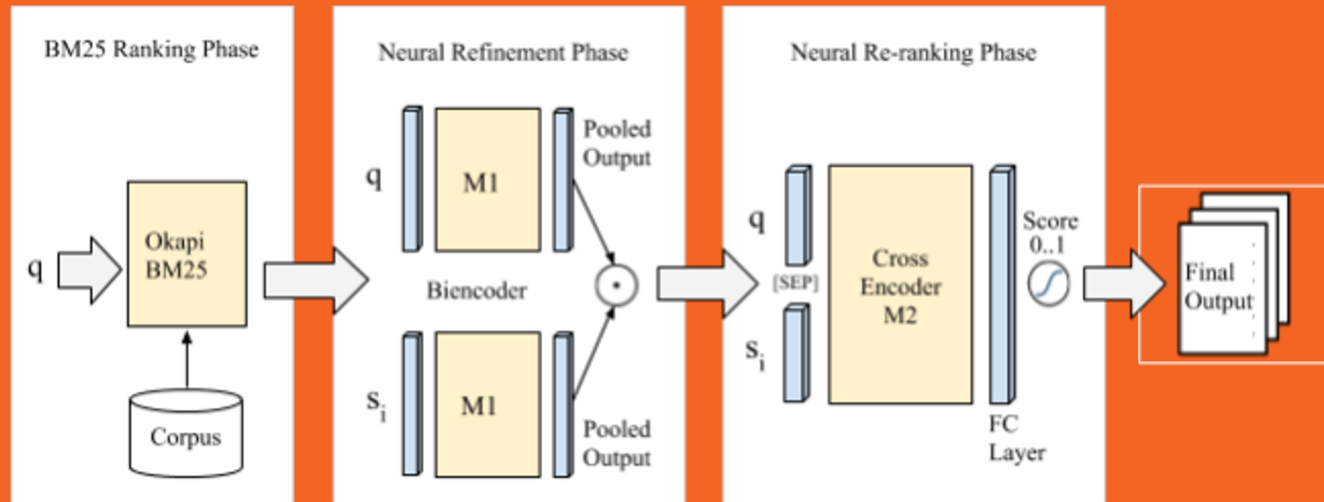
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- Accurate retrieval of reliable relevant data
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- Support for multilingual search

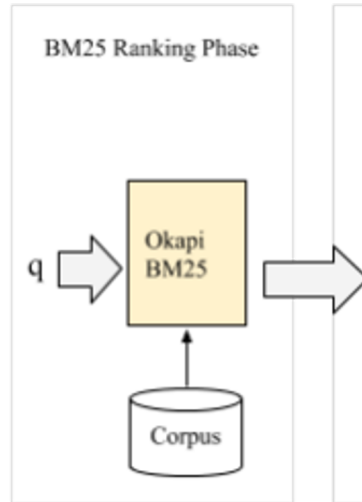


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3. Multistage BiCross Encoder

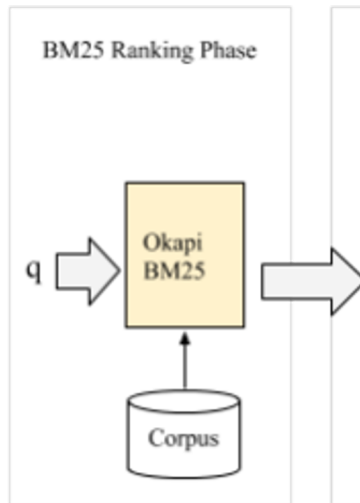


3.1 BM25 Ranking Phase



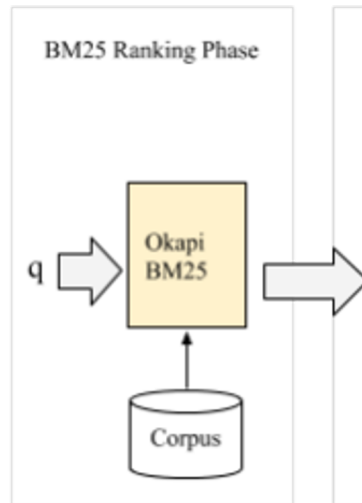
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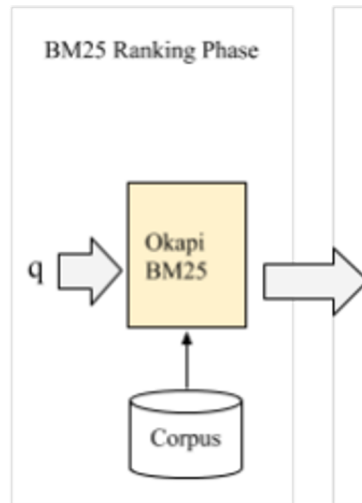
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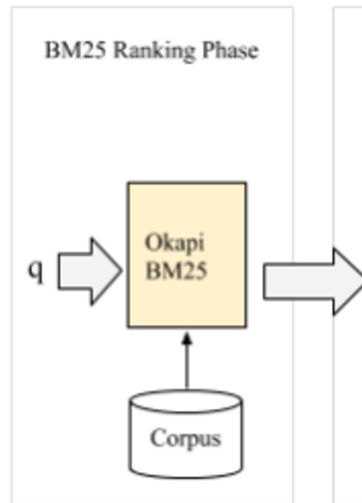
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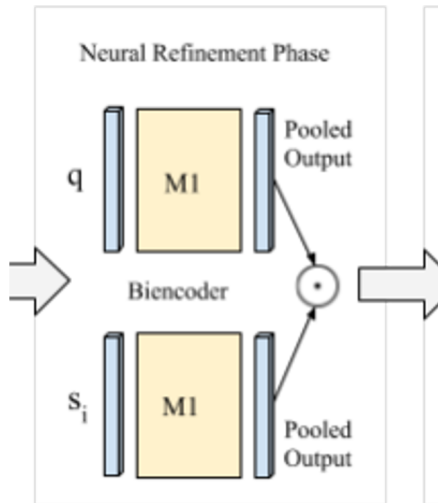
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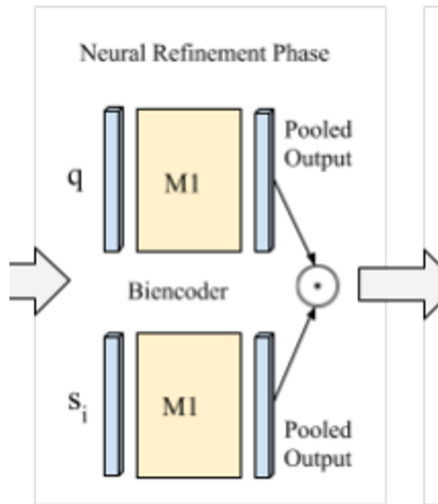
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3.2 Neural Refinement Phase

- In this phase, bi-encoder is used to encode both query and document individually into contextualised representations. In the same vector space, query and relevant document lie in proximity of each other and can be efficiently retrieved using cosine similarity.

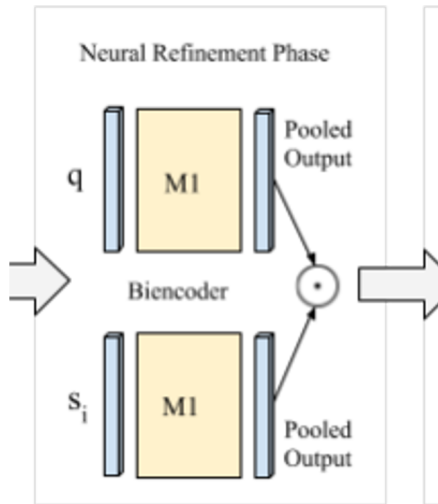


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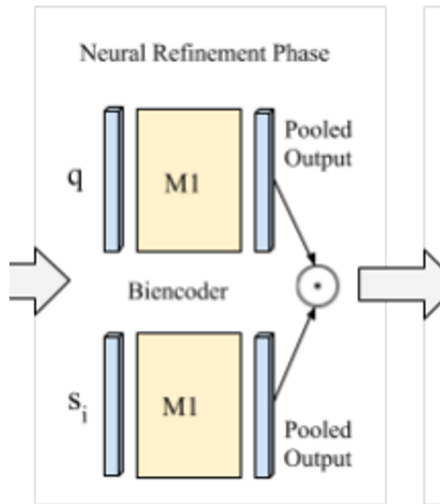
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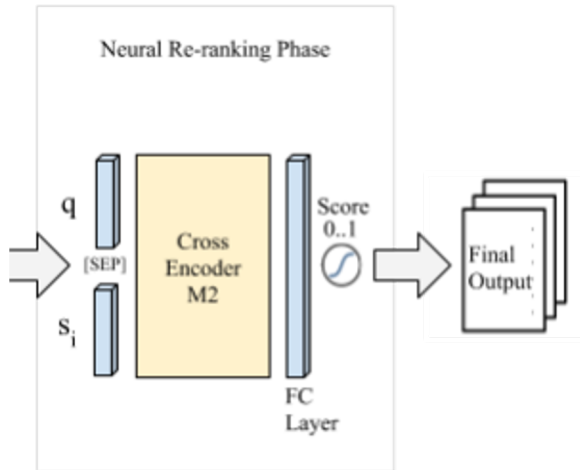
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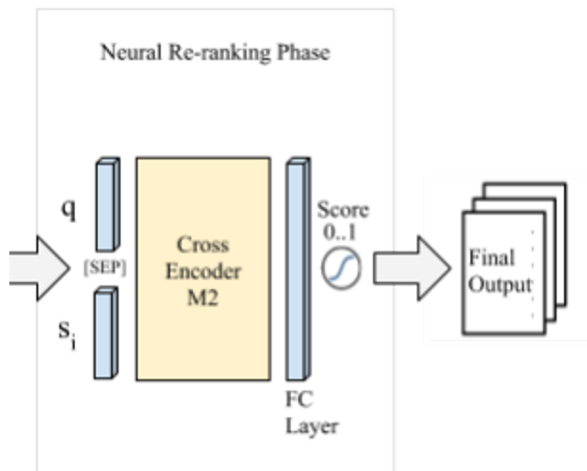
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- Used sentence-level evidence where relevance score of each document is determined by combining the top k scoring sentences in the document (Yang et al. 2019)
- This stage will filter out all the semantically unrelated documents from BM25 retrieved documents.

3.2 Neural Re-ranking Phase



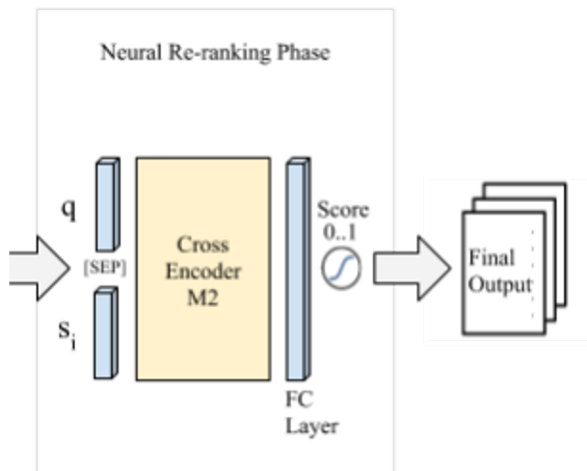
- Transformer-based cross-encoder is used performs full self-attention over query and document pair to get the relevance score which is used to rank the final list documents with respect to the query

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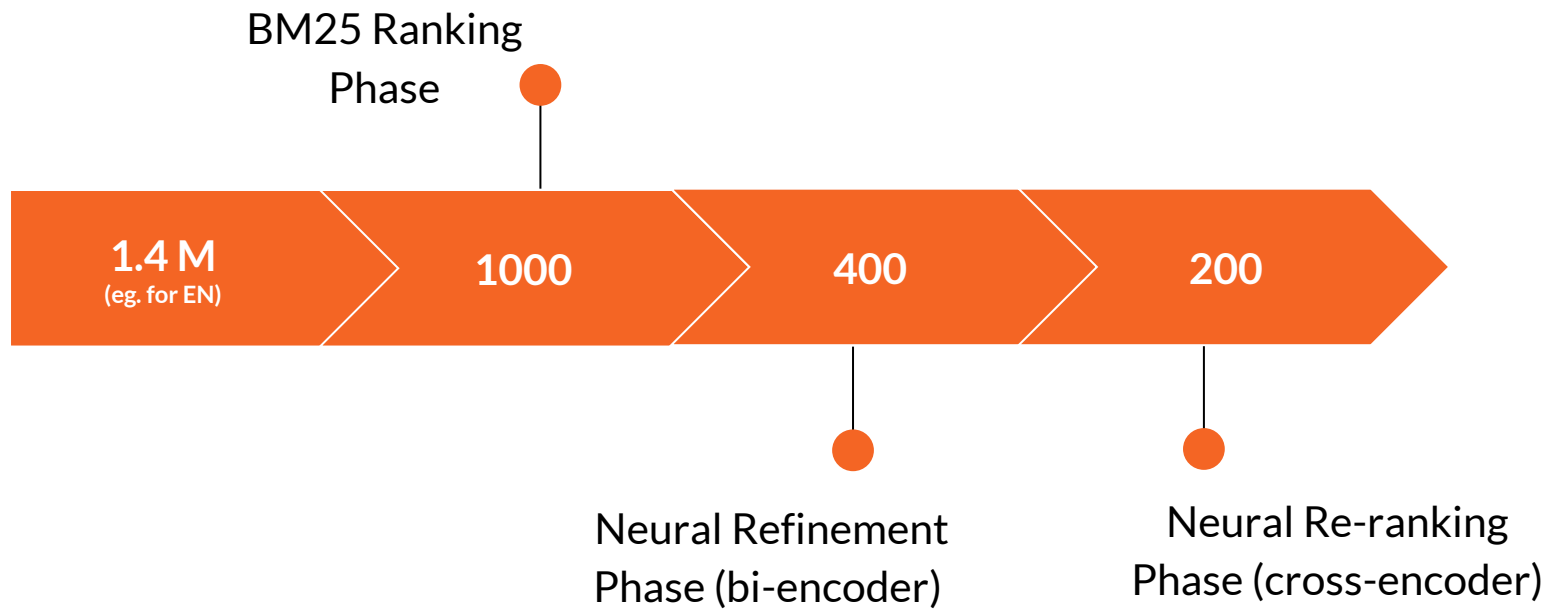


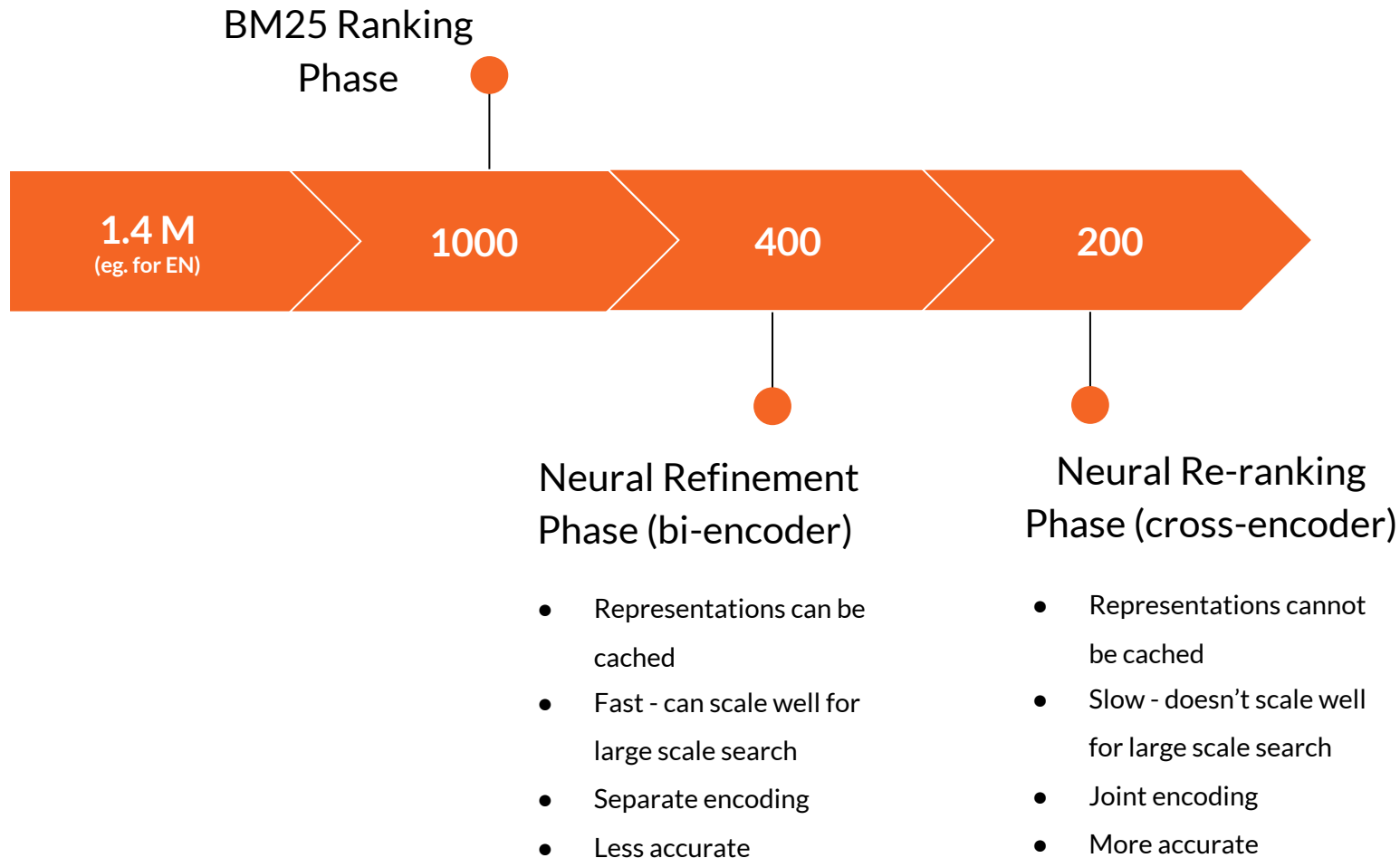
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- In this, both query tokens and the document tokens separated by [SEP] token are passed to the model and the output of [CLS] token is passed to the linear layer with sigmoid activation to get relevance scores from 0 to 1 as illustrated.

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- Directly used the output of cross-encoder but for some runs, we also combined scores from previous stages using various fusion algorithms including score-based and rank-based fusion algorithms.





Evaluation and Results

Run ID	P@5	P@10	MAP	NDCG@10	NDCG	Rprec	Recall
gatenlp_run5	0.9333	0.9000	0.2944	0.8331	0.5187	0.3486	0.4382
gatenlp_run3	0.9200	0.8900	0.2912	0.8223	0.5155	0.3484	0.4375
gatenlp_run2	0.9000	0.7967	0.2560	0.7775	0.4925	0.3215	0.4278
gatenlp_run1	0.8867	0.8633	0.2776	0.8139	0.5067	0.3310	0.4411
gatenlp_run7	0.8667	0.8800	0.2719	0.8212	0.5014	0.3305	0.4292
CUNIMTIR_Run1	0.5933	0.4800	0.1145	0.4254	0.2802	0.1976	0.2613
CUNIMTIR_Run3	0.3600	0.3233	0.0609	0.2712	0.1444	0.1046	0.1278
CUNIMTIR_Run4	0.3533	0.3267	0.0530	0.2688	0.1422	0.0940	0.1239
ims_bm25_1k	0.3067	0.2433	0.0688	0.2391	0.2418	0.1579	0.2595
ims_bm25_2k	0.2400	0.1833	0.0478	0.1744	0.1789	0.1277	0.2028
ims_bm25_3k	0.2067	0.1633	0.0396	0.1413	0.1582	0.1075	0.1930
ims_bm25_4k	0.1933	0.1533	0.0367	0.1546	0.1483	0.1037	0.1677
gatenlp_run10	0.9200	0.8767	0.3427	0.8108	0.6255	0.3711	0.6334
ims_nlex	0.8933	0.9000	0.3055	0.8365	0.5740	0.3408	0.5593
gatenlp_run8	0.8867	0.8533	0.2999	0.8126	0.6092	0.3295	0.6334
ims_c-bm25	0.8600	0.8267	0.2771	0.7592	0.5945	0.3089	0.6482
ims_v-csum	0.8533	0.8233	0.2999	0.7693	0.6092	0.3450	0.6516
ims_bm25	0.7200	0.6900	0.2269	0.6202	0.5264	0.2673	0.6079
CUNIMTIR_Run5	0.6867	0.6900	0.1908	0.5780	0.4574	0.2364	0.5160
CUNIMTIR_Run1	0.6800	0.5033	0.1659	0.4928	0.4450	0.2223	0.5148
ims_nsle	0.5067	0.5133	0.1595	0.4084	0.4145	0.2205	0.4837
CUNIMTIR_Run3	0.4800	0.3367	0.0882	0.2944	0.2500	0.1221	0.2986
CUNIMTIR_Run2	0.4667	0.3033	0.0646	0.3005	0.2379	0.1163	0.2683
CUNIMTIR_Run4	0.4267	0.3400	0.0658	0.2809	0.2200	0.1051	0.2662

Run ID	P@5	P@10	MAP	NDCG@10	NDCG	Rprec	Recall
gatenlp_run37	0.8333	0.7933	0.2043	0.7263	0.3705	0.2806	0.3086
gatenlp_run25	0.8133	0.7767	0.2154	0.7455	0.3808	0.2795	0.3111
gatenlp_run28	0.8067	0.7767	0.2113	0.7478	0.3768	0.2758	0.3086
gatenlp_run34	0.7933	0.7833	0.2173	0.7383	0.3769	0.2858	0.3086
gatenlp_run31	0.7933	0.7867	0.2246	0.7362	0.3790	0.2873	0.3086
sinai_sinai1	0.5200	0.4867	0.0900	0.4629	0.2177	0.1557	0.1767
sinai_sinai2	0.4400	0.4067	0.0631	0.3868	0.1835	0.1284	0.1537
sinai_sinai4	0.3600	0.3067	0.0535	0.2904	0.1738	0.1243	0.1594
sinai_sinai3	0.2267	0.1733	0.0284	0.1820	0.1121	0.0786	0.1011
sinai_sinai5	0.2267	0.1733	0.0155	0.1832	0.0634	0.0407	0.0444
ims_bm25_1k	0.2067	0.1867	0.0577	0.1812	0.1944	0.1366	0.2142
ims_bm25_2k	0.2000	0.1800	0.0591	0.1745	0.2003	0.1402	0.2275
ims_bm25_3k	0.1733	0.1433	0.0444	0.1359	0.1744	0.1196	0.2072
ims_bm25_4k	0.0867	0.0800	0.0309	0.0793	0.1535	0.1046	0.1900
ims_c-bm25	0.7000	0.6933	0.1654	0.6346	0.3993	0.2224	0.4084
ims_v-csum	0.6867	0.7133	0.1697	0.6604	0.3797	0.2171	0.3612
ims_csum	0.6800	0.6200	0.1720	0.5822	0.3769	0.2259	0.3779
ims_bm25	0.6133	0.5800	0.1458	0.5263	0.3540	0.2020	0.3740
sinai_sinai1	0.5200	0.4867	0.1000	0.4629	0.2839	0.1560	0.2928
sinai_sinai2	0.4400	0.4067	0.0715	0.3868	0.2436	0.1285	0.2618
sinai_sinai4	0.3600	0.3067	0.0626	0.2904	0.2368	0.1247	0.2689
sinai_sinai5	0.2267	0.1733	0.0157	0.1832	0.0693	0.0408	0.0550
sinai_sinai3	0.2267	0.1733	0.0342	0.1820	0.1644	0.0788	0.1906

Table 1. Performance of different monolingual English runs. Best results are bolded. **Table 2.** Performance of different monolingual Spanish runs. Best results are bolded.

Run ID	P@5	P@10	MAP	NDCG@10	NDCG	Rprec	Recall
gatenlp_run26	0.8800	0.7533	0.3505	0.7490	0.5672	0.3773	0.5267
gatenlp_run29	0.8600	0.7400	0.3302	0.7324	0.5406	0.3651	0.4926
gatenlp_run32	0.8133	0.7367	0.3161	0.7180	0.5297	0.3593	0.4926
gatenlp_run35	0.8133	0.7267	0.3125	0.7116	0.5268	0.3541	0.4926
gatenlp_run38	0.7867	0.6400	0.2752	0.6436	0.5030	0.3269	0.4926

Table 3. Performance of different monolingual French runs. Best results are bolded.

Run ID	P@5	P@10	MAP	NDCG@10	NDCG	Rprec	Recall
gatenlp_run30	0.9067	0.8767	0.4537	0.8234	0.6403	0.4794	0.6253
gatenlp_run27	0.9000	0.8667	0.4629	0.8211	0.6488	0.4858	0.6339
gatenlp_run36	0.8733	0.8267	0.4442	0.7772	0.6377	0.4843	0.6253
gatenlp_run33	0.8733	0.8300	0.4531	0.7793	0.6399	0.4972	0.6253
gatenlp_run39	0.7733	0.7700	0.4227	0.7078	0.6200	0.4601	0.6253
ims_bm25_1k	0.1667	0.1633	0.0700	0.1475	0.2288	0.1413	0.3063
ims_bm25_2k	0.1667	0.1600	0.0793	0.1515	0.2176	0.1388	0.2769
ims_bm25_4k	0.1467	0.1433	0.0629	0.1396	0.1967	0.1120	0.2589
ims_bm25_3k	0.1400	0.1367	0.0650	0.1276	0.1924	0.1163	0.2488
ims_v-csum	0.7267	0.6733	0.3447	0.6341	0.6174	0.3737	0.7080
ims_csum	0.6267	0.5700	0.3072	0.5315	0.5731	0.3507	0.6940
ims_c-bm25	0.6133	0.5633	0.2890	0.5150	0.5667	0.3131	0.7114
ims_bm25	0.5933	0.5333	0.2869	0.4912	0.5572	0.3173	0.6924

Table 4. Performance of different monolingual German runs. Best results are bolded.

Run ID	P@5	P@10	MAP	NDCG@10	NDCG	Rprec	Recall
gatenlp_en2es_run49	0.8533	0.7367	0.1579	0.7042	0.3214	0.2273	0.2565
gatenlp_en2es_run52	0.8200	0.7700	0.1666	0.7368	0.3287	0.2286	0.2565
gatenlp_en2es_run40	0.8067	0.7733	0.1740	0.7211	0.3277	0.2380	0.2565
gatenlp_en2es_run43	0.8000	0.6867	0.1538	0.6555	0.3155	0.2287	0.2565
gatenlp_en2es_run46	0.7733	0.6367	0.1439	0.6330	0.3120	0.2231	0.2565
gatenlp_en2fr_run53	0.8400	0.7467	0.2870	0.7245	0.4993	0.3220	0.4452
gatenlp_en2fr_run41	0.8267	0.7033	0.2811	0.6980	0.4966	0.3294	0.4452
gatenlp_en2fr_run44	0.7667	0.6667	0.2527	0.6622	0.4801	0.3107	0.4452
gatenlp_en2fr_run47	0.7400	0.6300	0.2378	0.6234	0.4633	0.2980	0.4360
gatenlp_en2fr_run50	0.7133	0.6700	0.2506	0.6521	0.4712	0.3054	0.4360
gatenlp_en2de_run42	0.8000	0.7600	0.2776	0.7300	0.4546	0.3307	0.3950
gatenlp_en2de_run54	0.7733	0.7267	0.2680	0.7007	0.4484	0.3221	0.3950
gatenlp_en2de_run51	0.7200	0.6867	0.2475	0.6568	0.4334	0.3029	0.3907
gatenlp_en2de_run45	0.7133	0.6700	0.2474	0.6444	0.4349	0.3076	0.3950
gatenlp_en2de_run48	0.6867	0.6433	0.2292	0.6099	0.4187	0.2978	0.3907

Table 5. Performance of different bilingual Spanish (en2es), French (en2fr) and German (en2de) runs. Best results are bolded.



Conclusion

1. We found Multistage BiCross Encoder to be highly effective at achieving state-of-the-art performance on a wide range of metrics, including precision (P@10 & P@10) and NDCG at top ranks, R-precision, mean average precision and high recall for all the retrieved documents. Also, fine-tuning bi-encoder and cross-encoder model on TC+IFCN (or Cross_TC+IFCN) data proved to be beneficial and helped in achieving the highest scores.
2. For monolingual English runs, fine-tuning the bi-encoder model trained STS data gave the highest scores. For monolingual runs other than English, where we used multilingual models, the scores of German runs are comparatively higher, followed by French and Spanish runs respectively.
3. Overall, we find that runs which use key_conv as query perform better than Udel's query and t5 query. Apart from this, we couldn't find any single model which performs good for all the languages as different models and methods give distinct results for different metrics.

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For future rounds, we plan to make further improvements to our approach, as well as extensively explore BiCross encoder for document retrieval for future research.

Thanks

Arxiv Preprint: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2101.03013>



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