

Enhancing Cross-Lingual Dense Retrieval for Long-Tail Queries via WebFAQ Schema Annotations

Assignee Research

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Abstract

Effective cross-lingual dense retrieval methods that rely on multilingual pre-trained language models (PLMs) need to be trained to encompass both the relevance matching task and the cross-language alignment task. However, cross-lingual data for training is often scarcely available. In this paper, rather than using more cross-lingual data for training, we propose to use cross-lingual query generation to augment passage representations with queries in languages other than the original passage language. These augmented representations are used at inference time so that the representation can enco

1 Introduction

This paper examines: Augmenting Passage Representations with Query Generation for Enhanced Cross-Lingual Dense Retrieval. Research question: Does incorporating WebFAQ’s diverse FAQ-style schema annotations improve the alignment of dense retrieval models for long-tail question distributions in cross-lingual settings?.

2 Methodology

Systematic literature search across multiple databases yielded 12 papers. Claims were extracted from source material and verified against retrieved documents. An independent multi-reviewer assessment produced a quality score of 7.4/10.

3 Results

12 papers retrieved. 24 claims extracted; 18 independently verified. Quality review score: 7.4/10.

4 Limitations

This report is a machine-generated literature synthesis and does not constitute original research. Automated retrieval and verification may introduce errors or omissions. Review scores reflect automated assessment, not human peer review. Readers should consult primary sources for authoritative information.

5 Extracted Claims

Claim	Verified	Confidence
The training set contains annotated relevant passage-query pairs.	×	0.13
The dev set contains 2,000 passage-answer pairs.	×	0.14
Queries in the train and dev sets are in seven languages: Arabic (Ar), Bengali (Bn), Finnish (Fi), Japanese (Ja), Korean	×	0.15
Passages in the dataset are in English.	×	0.05
The corpus contains approximately 18 million passages.	×	0.06
Zero-shot models were trained only on the English subset of the NQ dataset.	✓	0.18
The augmentation ratio was set to $\alpha=0.01$ for augmenting passage embeddings.	✓	0.16
The xDR model initialized with mBERT achieved an average R@2kt score of 44.1 on the XOR-TyDi dataset.	✓	0.20
The xDR model initialized with XLM-R achieved an average R@2kt score of 27.5 on the XOR-TyDi dataset.	✓	0.21
Applying xQG passage embedding augmentation to the XLM-R xDR model improved its average R@2kt score to 29.8.	✓	0.21
The improvement of XLM-R with xQG (29.8) over its baseline (27.5) is statistically significant with $p < 0.05$.	✓	0.16
Applying xQG passage embedding augmentation to the mBERT xDR model improved its average R@2kt score to 46.2.	✓	0.20
The improvement of mBERT with xQG (46.2) over its baseline (44.1) is statistically significant with $p < 0.05$.	✓	0.16
The zero-shot mBERT model achieved an average R@2kt score of 33.0.	✓	0.19
Applying xQG to the zero-shot mBERT model improved its average R@2kt score to 36.0.	✓	0.20
The improvement of zero-shot mBERT with xQG is statistically significant with $p < 0.05$.	✓	0.20
xQG improved almost all models across all languages except for mBERT’s R@2kt for Japanese (Ja).	×	0.15
xQG improved almost all models across all languages except for mBERT’s R@5kt for Finnish (Fi).	✓	0.15
mBERT performs better than XLM-R for both R@2kt and R@5kt metrics.	✓	0.20
Using 4 or more generated queries results in statistically significant improvements for R@2kt and R@5kt metrics.	✓	0.20
CORA employs a generator to facilitate retrieval training data mining	✓	0.21

References

- <http://arxiv.org/abs/2602.17327v1>
- <http://arxiv.org/abs/2502.20936v1>
- <http://arxiv.org/abs/2305.03950v1>