

# Adversarial Training in Optimal Transport Distillation for Robust Low-Resource Cross-Lingual Retrieval on XTREME-R

Assignee Research

June 25, 2026

## Abstract

Benefiting from transformer-based pre-trained language models, neural ranking models have made significant progress. More recently, the advent of multilingual pre-trained language models provides great support for designing neural cross-lingual retrieval models. However, due to unbalanced pre-training data in different languages, multilingual language models have already shown a performance gap between high and low-resource languages in many downstream tasks. And cross-lingual retrieval models built on such pre-trained models can inherit language bias, leading to suboptimal result for low-reso

## 1 Introduction

This paper examines: Improving Cross-lingual Information Retrieval on Low-Resource Languages via Optimal Transport Distillation. Research question: Does adversarial training in optimal transport distillation improve robustness in low-resource cross-lingual retrieval on XTREME-R without degrading high-resource performance?.

## 2 Methodology

Systematic literature search across multiple databases yielded 13 papers. Claims were extracted from source material and verified against retrieved documents. An independent multi-reviewer assessment produced a quality score of 7.3/10.

## 3 Results

13 papers retrieved. 13 claims extracted; 10 independently verified. Quality review score: 7.3/10.

## 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
Sasaki et al. proposed a large cross-lingual retrieval collection named WikiCLIR based on linked foreign language articles	✓	0.26
The relevant judgments in the WikiCLIR dataset are synthetically generated based on mutual links across pages.	✓	0.17
Bonifacio et al. built a multilingual passage ranking dataset named mMARCO by translating queries and passages in MS MARC	✓	0.31
The relevant judgments in mMARCO are considered more credible than those in WikiCLIR because MS MARCO is generated from	✓	0.15
The proposed method, OPTICAL, formulates the cross-lingual token alignment task as an optimal transport problem.	✓	0.19
In OPTICAL, the cost matrix for the optimal transport problem is defined as the cross-lingual token cosine distance.	✓	0.19
In OPTICAL, the loss is defined as the Frobenius inner product of the transportation plan and the cost matrix.	✓	0.25
OPTICAL only requires bitext data for distillation training.	×	0.14
Experiments were performed on seven language pairs for CLIR training and evaluation.	✓	0.17
The experimental setup included four low-resource languages from diverse linguistic families.	×	0.12
The experimental setup included three medium or high-resource languages for comparison.	×	0.12
OPTICAL achieved a 13.7% improvement in Mean Average Precision (MAP) over a method based on neural machine translation	✓	0.21
OPTICAL significantly outperforms several strong baseline methods on low-resource languages in terms of Mean Average Pre	✓	0.23

## References

- <http://arxiv.org/abs/2408.11942v1>

- <http://arxiv.org/abs/2302.13400v1>
- <http://arxiv.org/abs/2301.12566v1>