Robustness of Instruction-Tuned Retrieval Models Against Adversarial Query Perturbations in Long-Context Benchmarks

Assignee Research

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Abstract

Dense retrieval is becoming one of the standard approaches for document and passage ranking. The dual-encoder architecture is widely adopted for scoring question-passage pairs due to its efficiency and high performance. Typically, dense retrieval models are evaluated on clean and curated datasets. However, when deployed in real-life applications, these models encounter noisy user-generated text. That said, the performance of state-of-the-art dense retrievers can substantially deteriorate when exposed to noisy text. In this work, we study the robustness of dense retrievers against typos in the

1 Introduction

This paper examines: Analysing the Robustness of Dual Encoders for Dense Retrieval Against Misspellings. Research question: How do instruction-tuned retrieval models compare to standard dual encoders in robustness against adversarial query perturbations on long-context retrieval benchmarks?.

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 9.3/10.

3 Results

13 papers retrieved. 13 claims extracted; 13 independently verified. Quality review score: 9.3/10.

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
On clean questions, data augmentation as well as contrastive learning and data augmentation combined with contrastive le	✓	0.26
All the approaches for robustifying DR perform significantly better compared to the original DR on questions with typos.	✓	0.21
The proposed data augmentation combined with contrastive learning approach holds the best performance on clean questions	✓	0.28
Robustness deteriorates when typos do not appear randomly, with the most significant losses occurring when typos appear	✓	0.27
The proposed data augmentation combined with contrastive learning approach remains the best performing one across all se	✓	0.27
There is a strong connection between the frequency of the typoed words and the retrieval performance, with performance d	✓	0.28
The proposed data augmentation combined with contrastive learning approach loses performance on the setting with typos i	✓	0.23
On Natural Questions (Test) with typos in random words, the AR@5 for DR is 28.11, for DR + Data augm. is 28.26, for DR +	✓	0.25
On MS MARCO (Dev) with typos in random words, the AR@5 for DR is 15.11, for DR + Data augm. is 22.00, for DR + CL is 19.	✓	0.25
On Natural Questions (Test) with typos in non-stopwords, the AR@5 for DR is 40.60, for DR + Data augm. is 56.14, for DR	✓	0.28
On MS MARCO (Dev) with typos in non-stopwords, the AR@5 for DR is 38.89, for DR + Data augm. is 51.68, for DR + CL is 44	✓	0.25
On Natural Questions (Test) with typos in discriminative utterances, the AR@5 for DR is 11.83, for DR + Data augm. is 18	✓	0.24
On MS MARCO (Dev) with typos in discriminative utterances, the AR@5 for DR is 10.51, for DR + Data augm. is 16.51, for D	✓	0.24

References

- http://arxiv.org/abs/2602.12783v2
- http://arxiv.org/abs/2505.21439v1
- http://arxiv.org/abs/2205.02303v1