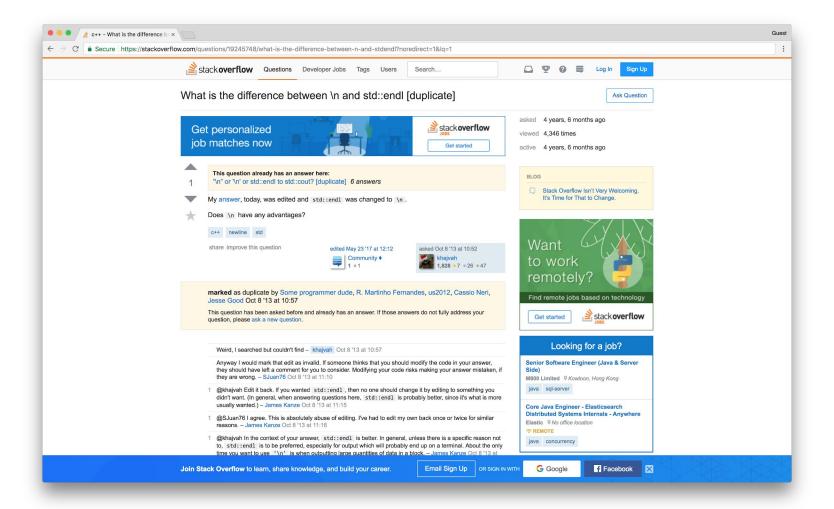
# Transfer Learning for Detecting Question Similarity between Stack Overflow Posts

Victor Kwan



Many duplicate questions arise from <u>lack of</u> <u>problem knowledge</u>, <u>non-matching titles</u>, and lack of knowledge of <u>relevant terminology</u> and <u>buzzwords</u>.

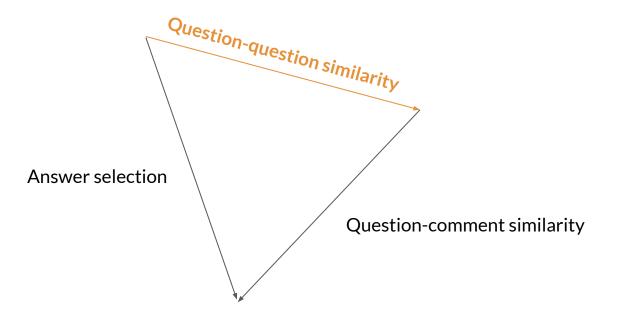
(Ahasanuzzaman et al. 2016)

Check connection is active in ASP.NET?

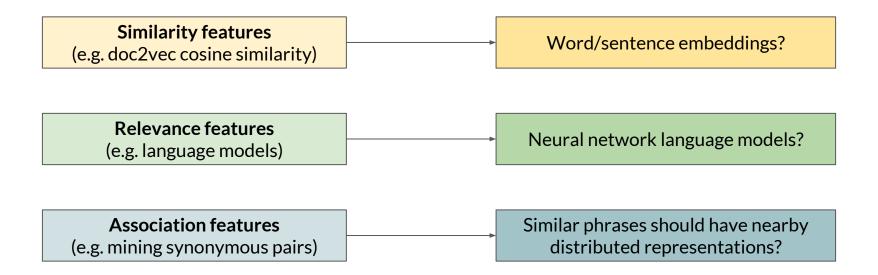
(QID: 761376)

How to check if user is still present?

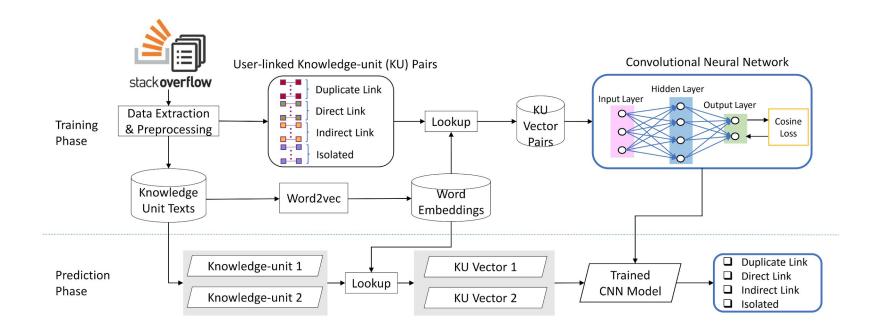
(QID: 3374120)



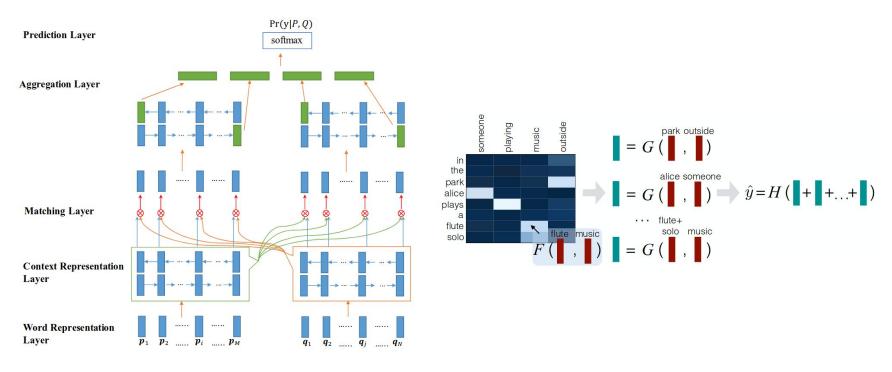
(Nakov et al. 2017)



(Zhang et al. 2017)

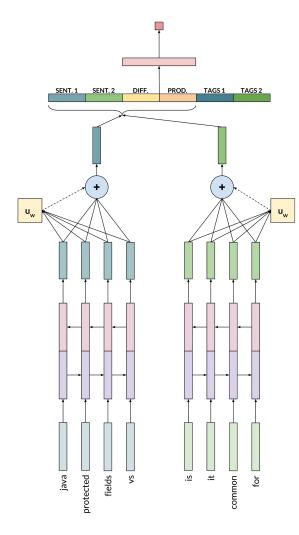


(Xu et al. 2016)



(Wang et al. 2017)

(Parikh et al. 2016)

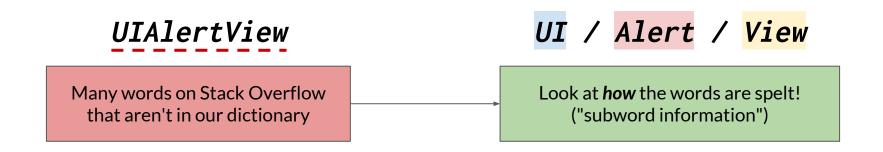


3. The sentence representations, their absolute difference, their element-wise product, and their tags are concatenated for classification.

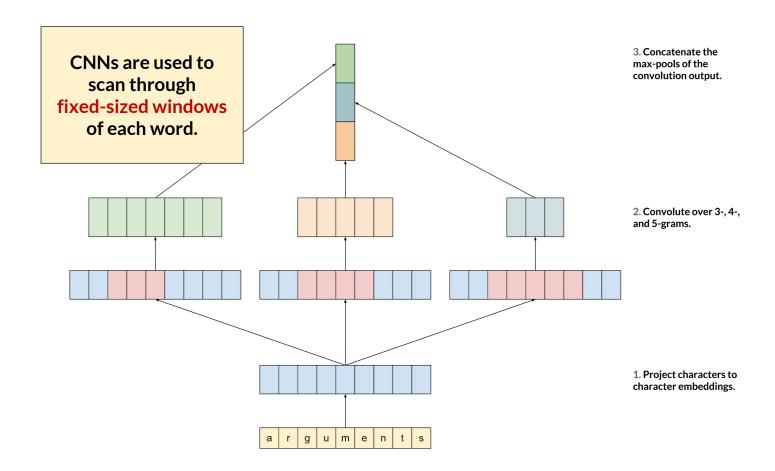
2. Each timestep of the GRU output is compared against the context vector.

1. Concatenated word and character-based embeddings are passed as input into the GRUs.

Classifier: (Mou et al. 2016) Attention: (Yang et al. 2016) GRU: (Cho et al. 2014)



(Bojanowski et al. 2016)



(Seo et al. 2016)

#### An illustration of how the model works Note that we only deal with question <u>titles</u>; the paragraph is produced as an example.

Did you hear? The genome of the banana has been sequenced, an important development in scientist's efforts to produce better bananas. A look at that genome has revealed curious things, said Pat Heslop-Harrison, a plant geneticist at the University of Leicester in England who was a coauthor of the report published this week in the journal Nature. For example, there are regions of the banana genome that don't seem to be involved in making proteins but are shared by many different species of plants, far beyond bananas.



... something in bananas seems to be shared in different species of plants?

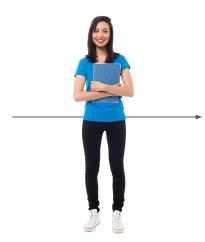
Article: (Mestel, 2012)

Image: <a href="http://pngplay.com/image/1810">http://pngplay.com/image/1810</a>

Did you hear? The genome of the banana has been sequenced, an important development in scientist's efforts to produce better bananas. A look at that genome has revealed curious things, said Pat Heslop-Harrison, a plant geneticist at the University of Leicester in England who was a coauthor of the report published this week in the journal Nature. For example, there are regions of the banana genome that don't seem to be involved in making proteins but are shared by many different species of plants, far beyond bananas.



To develop better bananas, scientists have sequenced the banana genome. Pat Heslop-Harrison says in Nature that the genome reveals curious things. Parts of the genome are shared by many other plants.



To develop better bananas, scientists have sequenced the banana genome. Pat Heslop-Harrison says in Nature that the genome reveals curious things. Parts of the genome are shared by many other plants.



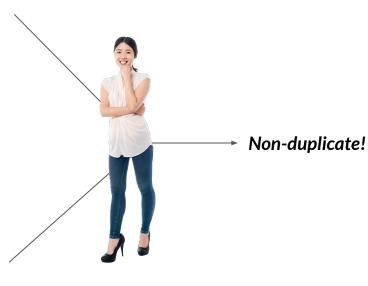
Scientists have sequenced the banana genome and have found that parts are shared by other plants.



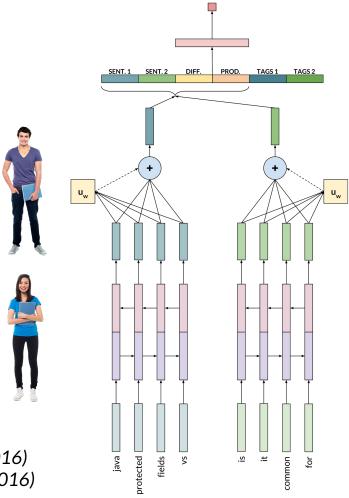
Scientists have sequenced the banana genome and have found that parts are shared by other plants.



Scientists have sequenced the strawberry genome and have found that parts are shared by other plants.



15



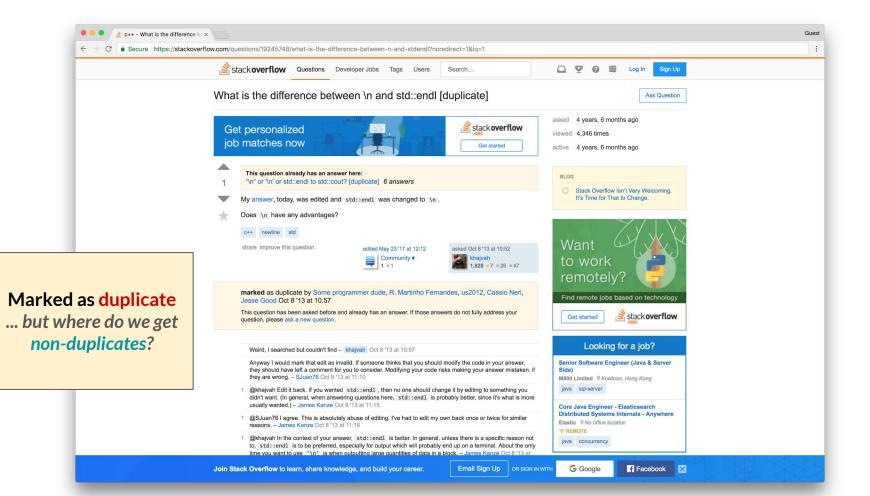
3. The sentence representations, their absolute difference, their element-wise product, and their tags are concatenated for classification.

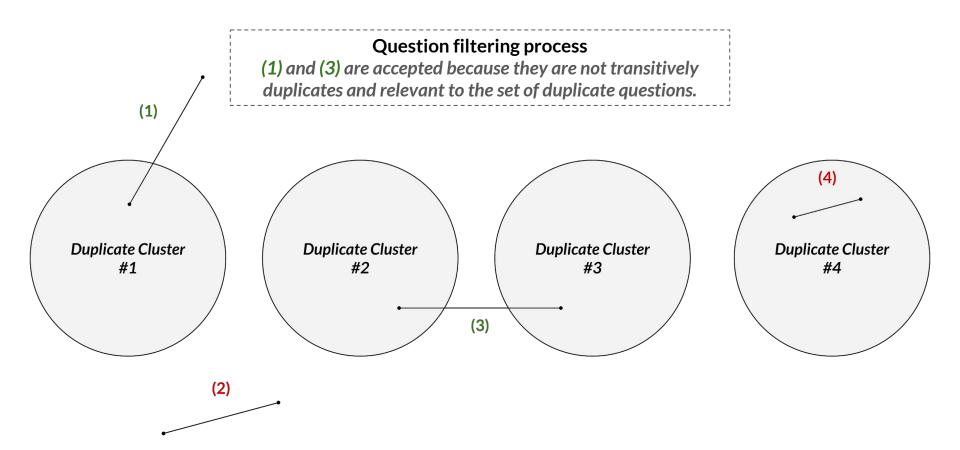


2. Each timestep of the GRU output is compared against the context vector.

1. Concatenated word and character-based embeddings are passed as input into the GRUs.

Classifier: (Mou et al. 2016) Attention: (Yang et al. 2016) GRU: (Cho et al. 2014)





# Quora

Develop some notions about questions on the Quora dataset

149,306 positive examples 255,045 negative examples



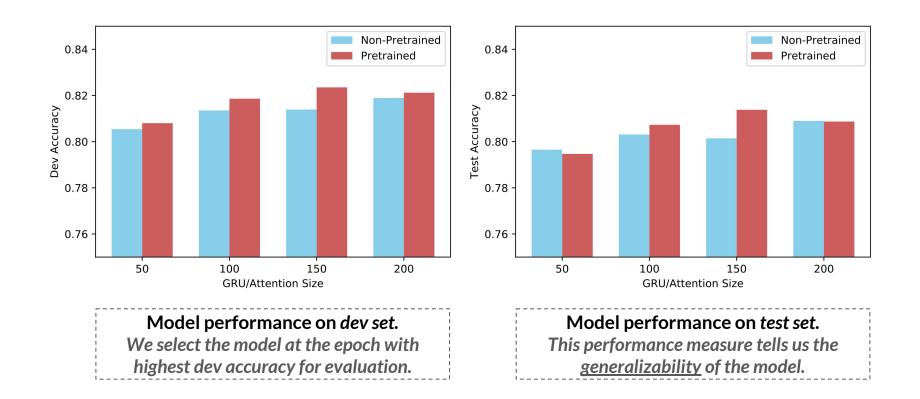
Further tune these notions by training against the Stack Overflow dataset? (Now less likely to fit to noise.)

137,793 positive examples 139,282 negative examples

Configuration	Dev Accuracy	Test Accuracy	Test Macro F-Score
50, non-pretrained	0.805	0.796	0.797
50, pretrained	0.808	0.795	0.795
100, non-pretrained	0.814	0.803	0.803
100, pretrained	0.819	0.807	0.807
150, non-pretrained	0.814	0.801	0.803
150, pretrained	0.824	0.814	0.814
200, non-pretrained	0.819	0.809	0.809
200, pretrained	0.821	0.809	0.809

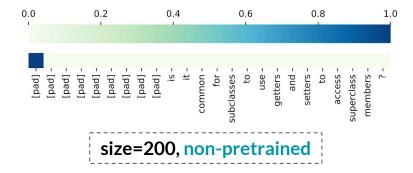
# Hyperparameter tuning results

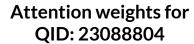
Pretrained models are pretrained against the Quora dataset then tuned against the SO dataset for 50 epochs. The classifier is reinitialized when tuning.



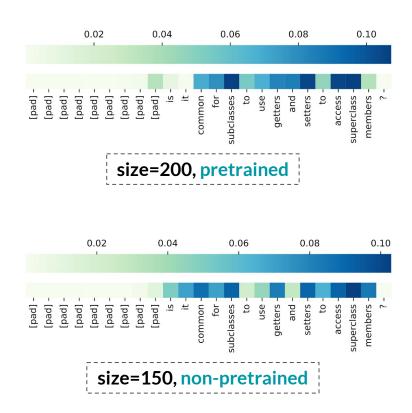
# Pretraining as a form of regularization

(Mou et al. 2016)





Notice that unlike other models, the size=200, non-pretrained model focuses <u>exclusively</u> on the first timestep.

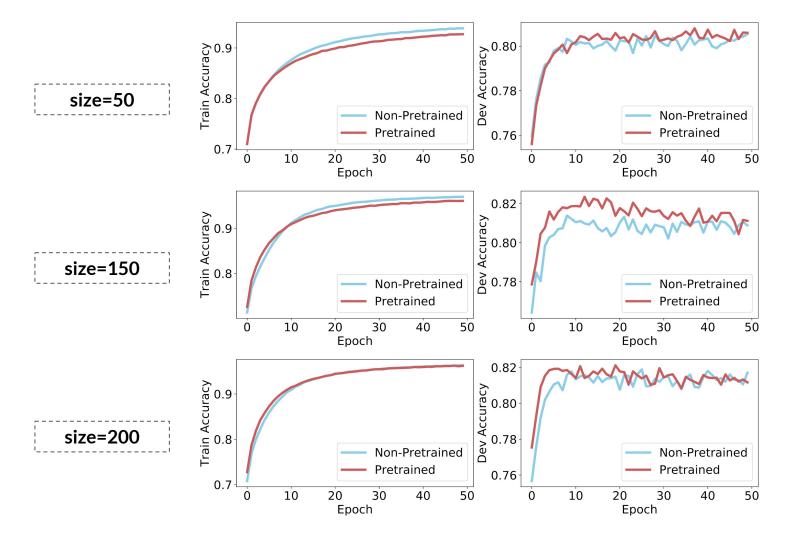




Scientists have sequenced the banana genome and have found that parts are shared by other plants.



Scientists have sequenced the banana genome and have found that parts are shared by other plants.

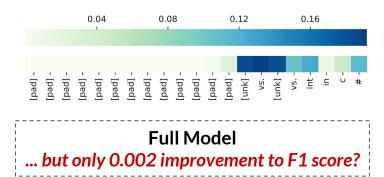


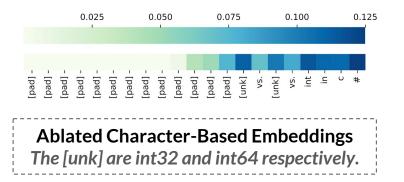
# How effective are our components?

Ablated Component	Dev Accuracy	Test Accuracy	Test Macro F-Score
None	0.824	0.814	0.814
Character-Based Embeddings	0.818	0.811	0.812
Attention Mechanism	0.814	0.803	0.804
Fully-Connected Classifier	0.659	0.652	0.652
Tags	0.812	0.805	0.806

#### Ablation study results

The "ablated" component is removed from the model. Each model is pretrained for 25 epochs and tuned for 25 epochs.





ruby on rails more elegant way to authenticate that users can edit only their own content

how to only user to edit / update / delete their own questions?

(QID: 21632236)

(QID: 3183210)

Our full model outperforms our tag ablated model by 0.008 F1 score.

ruby on rails more elegant way to authenticate that users can edit only their own content

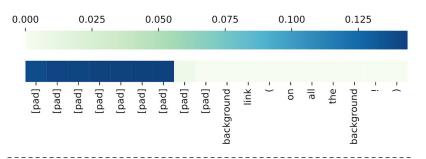
(QID: 3183210)

how to only user to edit / update / delete their own questions?

<ruby-on-rails>

(QID: 21632236)

Our full model outperforms our tag ablated model by 0.008 F1 score.



#### **Ablated Fully-Connected Classifier**

This model variant uses the <u>Manhattan distance</u> to compare sentence representations. The tag-ablated model outperforms this model by 0.154 F1 score.

(Mueller et al. 2016)

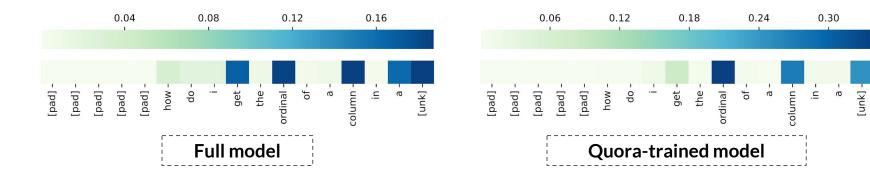
# What's transferred between the **Quora and Stack Overflow datasets?**

Unfrozen Components	Dev Accuracy	Test Accuracy	Test Macro F-Score
All	0.824	0.814	0.814
>= GRU	0.822	0.807	0.807
>= Attention Mechanism	0.785	0.769	0.770
>= Classifier	0.778	0.760	0.761
None		0.522	0.560

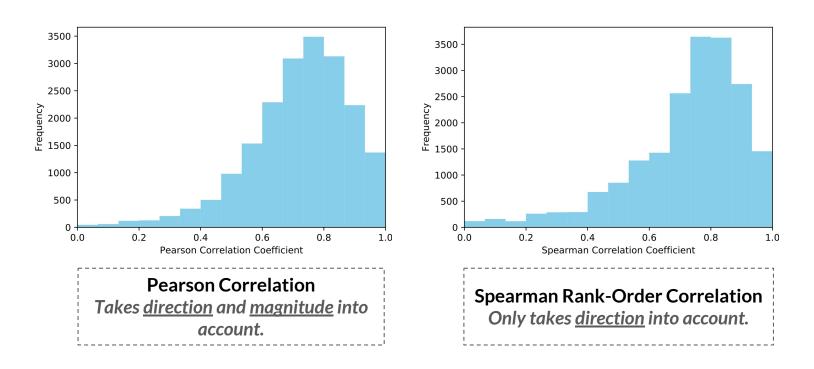
>= indicates that all components <u>including and after</u> the specified component are unfrozen.

#### Unfrozen components study results

Components that are frozen are not tuned. Tuning is carried out over 25 epochs, with the classifier re-initialized.



### Correlation between attention weights produced by Quora-trained and full models



Attention is consistent	
Sentence representations contain relevant information	~
what else could the difference be?	

		Predicted	
		Non-duplicate	Duplicate
Label	Non-duplicate	4826	174
	Duplicate	4601	399

#### **Quora-trained model confusion matrix**

The model has exceptionally poor recall on positive examples (0.080) but comparatively better precision (0.696).

difference between static class and singleton pattern?

what is the main difference between static class & singleton class

(QID: 519520)

(QID: 23566750)

now donald trump is the president of us, what is the impact on india?

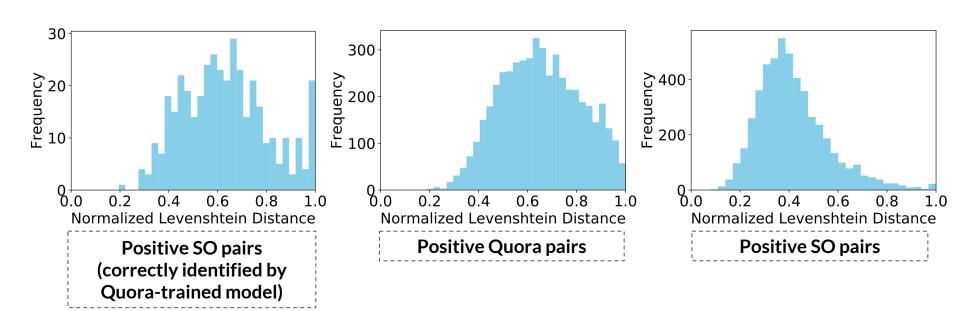
what will be the impact of trump presidency on india?

(QID: 732446)

(QID: 732447)

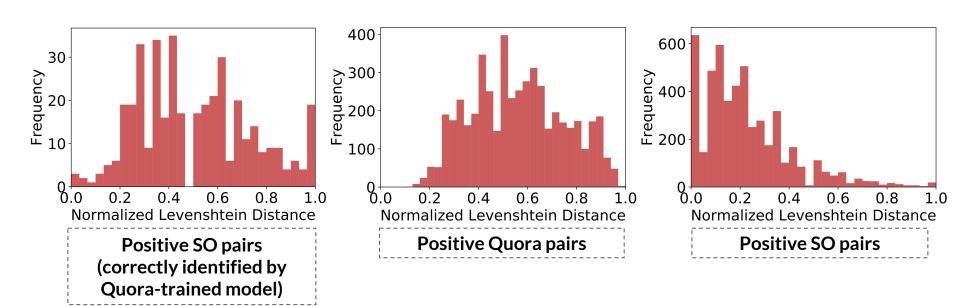
#### Character-based Normalized Levenshtein Distance between question pairs

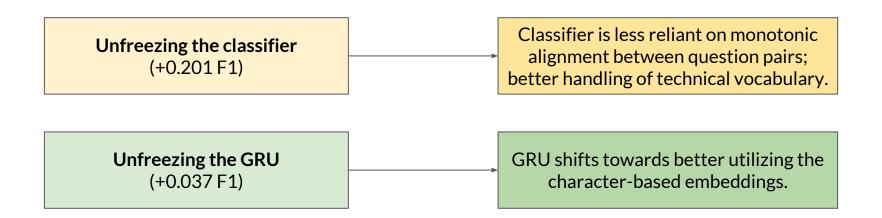
This distance is computed as the LCS overlap, normalized by the longer of the two questions.



#### Token-based Normalized Levenshtein Distance between question pairs

This distance is computed as the LCS overlap, normalized by the longer of the two questions.





get size of file on disk

file size - actual number of bytes used on disk ( not allocated )

(QID: 3750590)

(QID: 13959228)







#### Questions should be clearly written

- Quora requires correct spelling, punctuation, grammar and capitalization to be used in questions. A question should consist of complete sentence(s) and end in a question mark.
- Questions should contain enough information for meaningful answers to be posted, and make clear how answers can meet their expectations.
- Questions should be concise. As a general guideline, questions should generally be no longer than 2 sentences, and only one question should be asked at a time.

#### **Pretraining**

Through pretraining, we see a over one point improvement in both test accuracy and f-score.

We see that pretraining can be an effective form of regularization.

# Model Components

Each of our model components contribute positively to our model performance.

However, we note that character-based embeddings may be prone to overfitting.

# Transferable Representations

We find that our representations are transferable.

Structural differences between Quora and SO questions may motivate using position-invariant models.