Tohoku-AIP-NTT at WMT 2020 News Translation Task

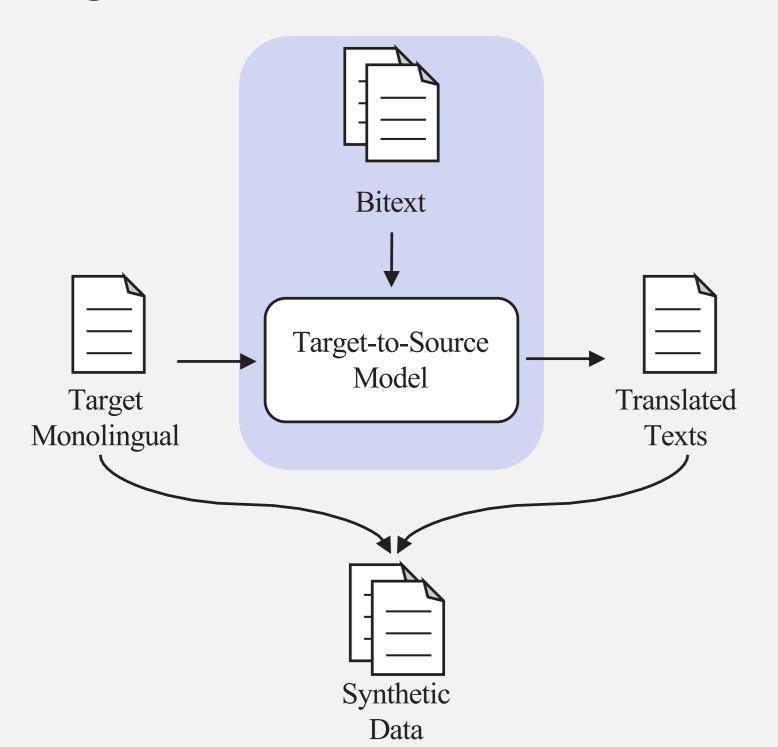




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Overview of Our System

1 Synthetic Data Generation



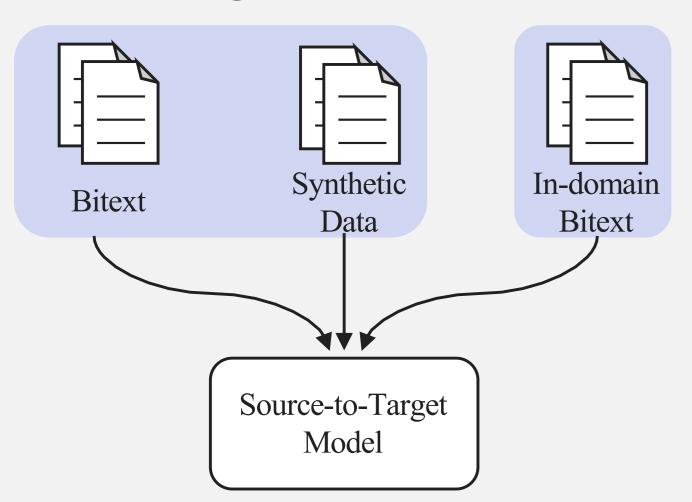
Base Model: Transformer

- Transformer-based Encoder-Decoder model
- More layers $(6 \rightarrow 9)$ and bigger feedforward network $(4,096 \rightarrow 8,192)$

Large-scale Back-translation (BT)

- Back-translated NewsCrawl for En↔De and CommonCrawl for En↔Ja
- 200~300M synthetic data for every language direction

2 Training



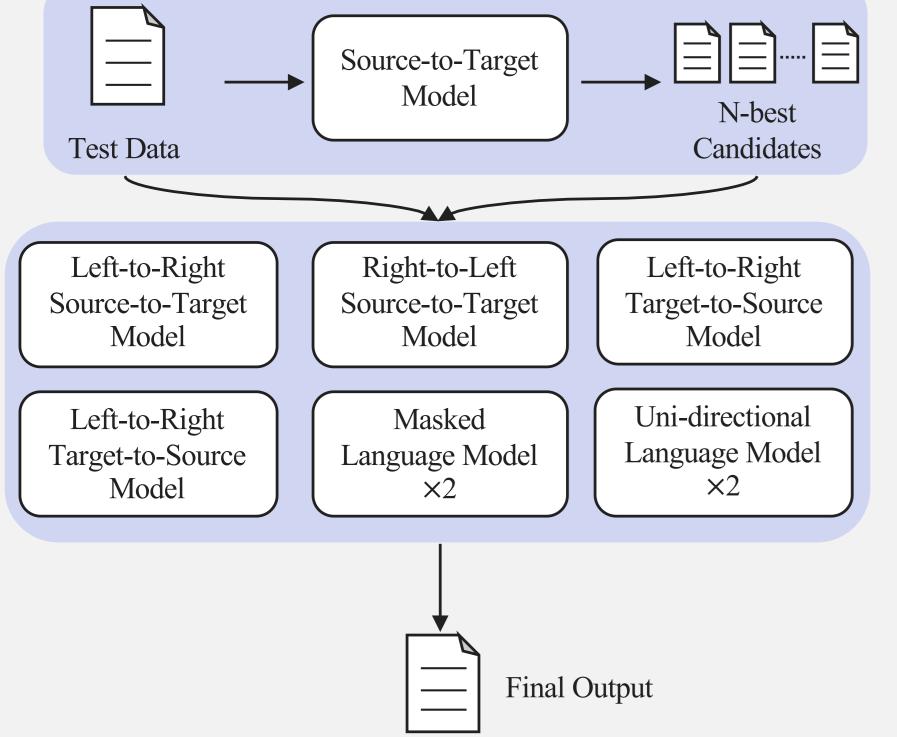
Tagged Back-translation

- Special tag <BT> is prepended to every synthetic data
- Use bitext and synthetic data in 1:1 ratio

Fine-tuning

 Systems are fine-tuned using in-domain news corpus (e.g., newstest20xx)

3 Decoding



Ensemble w/ Right-to-Left Models

- Ensemble of 4 left-to-right (L2R) models and 4 right-to-left (R2L) models
- Generate N-best candidates for final output

Reranking

- N-best candidates are reranked with external generative models
- Minimum Error Rate Training (MERT)-like module is applied to maximize BLEU score on development set

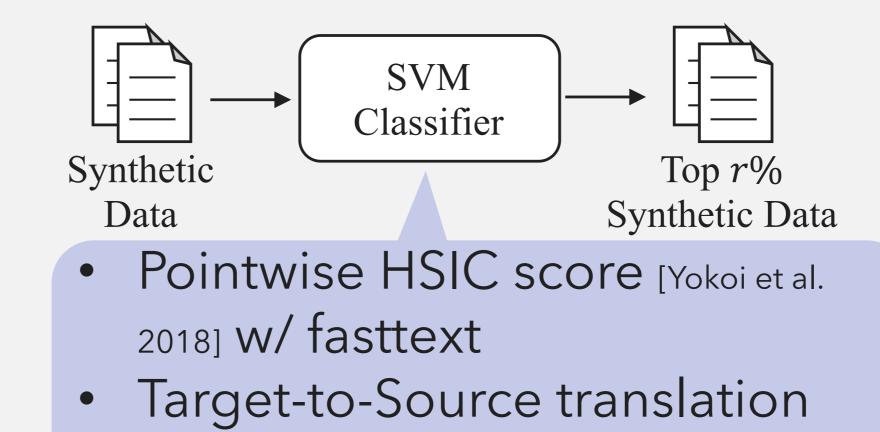
Experimental Results on Development Data

ID Setting	1st place En→De	1st place De→En	4th place En→Ja	2nd place Ja→En
(a) Base Model + Synthetic Data	42.7	42.5	22.0	23.9
(b) (a) + fine-tuning	44.9	42.3	23.1	24.4
(c) (b) x 4 + R2L Models	45.4	43.6	24.2	25.9
(d) (c) + reranking	45.7	43.8	24.9	26.2
- WMT'19 Best	44.9	42.8	_	-

- Participated in 4 language directions: En→De, De→En, En→Ja,
 Ja→En
- Dataset: newstest2019 for En \leftrightarrow De and newsdev2020 for En \leftrightarrow Ja
- Each technique consistenly improved the BLEU score
- Strong results compared to top-performing system from last year

Takeaway from Negative Results

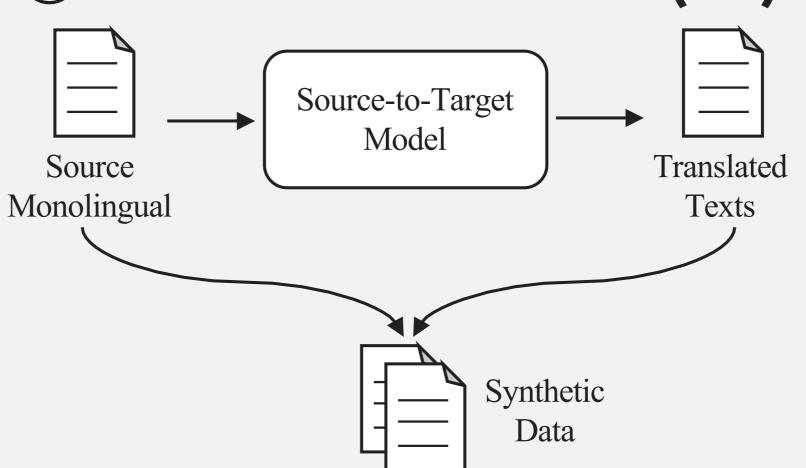
① Synthetic Data Filtering: It Didn't Work



score

Synthetic Data: $r\%$	En→De
100	42.0
50	42.3
33	42.2
25	42.4

2 Forward Translation (FT): Improvements were Marginal



Setting	En→De
Base Model	42.2
Base Model + BT	42.0
Base Model + FT	42.1
Base Model + BT + FT	42.4