PhoMT: A High-Quality and Large-Scale Benchmark Dataset for Vietnamese-English Machine Translation

Long Doan∗, Linh The Nguyen∗, Nguyen Luong Tran∗,
Thai Hoang† and Dat Quoc Nguyen
VinAI Research, Hanoi, Vietnam
{v.longdct, v.linhnt140, v.nguyent12, v.thaihq5, v.datnq9}@vinai.io

Abstract

We introduce a high-quality and large-scale Vietnamese-English parallel dataset of 3.02M sentence pairs, which is 2.9M pairs larger than the benchmark Vietnamese-English machine translation corpus IWSLT15. We conduct experiments comparing strong neural baselines and well-known automatic translation engines on our dataset and find that in both automatic and human evaluations: the best performance is obtained by fine-tuning the pre-trained sequence-to-sequence denoising autoencoder mBART. To our best knowledge, this is the first large-scale Vietnamese-English machine translation study. We hope our publicly available dataset and study can serve as a starting point for future research and applications on Vietnamese-English machine translation. We release our dataset at: https://github.com/VinAIResearch/PhoMT.

1 Introduction

Vietnam has achieved rapid economic growth in the last two decades (Baum, 2020). It is now an attractive destination for trade and investment. Due to the language barrier, foreigners usually rely on automatic machine translation (MT) systems to translate Vietnamese texts into their native language or another language they are familiar with, e.g. the global language English, so they could quickly catch up with ongoing events in Vietnam. Thus the demand for high-quality Vietnamese-English MT has rapidly increased. However, state-of-the-art MT models require high-quality and large-scale corpora for training to be able to reach near human-level translation quality (Wu et al., 2016; Ott et al., 2018). Despite being one of the most spoken languages in the world with about 100M speakers, Vietnamese is referred to as a low-resource language in MT research because publicly available parallel corpora for Vietnamese in general and in particular for Vietnamese-English MT are not large enough or have low-quality translation pairs, including those with different sentence meaning (i.e. misalignment).

Two main concerns are detailed as follows:

• High-quality Vietnamese-English parallel corpora are either not publicly available or small-scale. Ngo et al. (2013) and Phan-Vu et al. (2019) present two corpora each comprising of 800K sentence pairs, however, these two corpora are not publicly available. Thus, the Vietnamese-English parallel corpus IWSLT15 (Cettolo et al., 2015) of 133K sentence pairs extracted from TED-Talks transcripts is still considered as the standard benchmark for MT when it comes to Vietnamese. Recently, the OPUS project (Tiedemann, 2012) provides 300K+ sentence pairs extracted from the TED2020 v1 corpus of TED-Talks transcripts (Reimers and Gurevych, 2020).

• Larger Vietnamese-English parallel corpora are noisy, e.g. see discussions on the 300K-600K sentence pair corpora of JW300 (Agić and Vulić, 2019), OPUS’s GNOME and QED (Abdelali et al., 2014) in Section 2.1, and on the OpenSubtitles corpus (Lison and Tiedemann, 2016) in Section 2.2. Recently, CCAligned (El-Kishky et al., 2020) and WikiMatrix (Schwenk et al., 2021) are created by using LASER sentence embeddings (Artetxe and Schwenk, 2019) and margin-based sentence alignment to mine parallel sentences from comparable web-document pairs. Though containing millions of Vietnamese-English parallel sentence pairs, they still have a large proportion of misalignment and low-quality translation pairs. In particular, we randomly sample from each corpus 100 sentence pairs and manually inspect their quality. We find that only 37/100 CCAligned pairs and 31/100 WikiMatrix pairs are at a high-quality translation level.

∗The first three authors contributed equally to this work.
†Work done during internship at VinAI Research. Email: qthai912@cs.washington.edu
As the first contribution, to help handle the two concerns above, we present a high-quality and large-scale Vietnamese-English parallel dataset, named PhoMT, that consists of 3.02M sentence pairs. Here, from PhoMT, we also prepare 38K sentence pairs with manually qualitative inspection, that are used for validation and test. We believe that our dataset construction process will help develop more efficient data creation strategies for other low-resource languages. As the second contribution, we empirically investigate strong baselines on our dataset, including Transformer-base, Transformer-big (Vaswani et al., 2017) and the pre-trained sequence-to-sequence denoising auto-encoder mBART (Liu et al., 2020), and compare these baselines with well-known automatic translation engines. We find that mBART obtains the highest scores in terms of both automatic and human evaluations on both translation directions. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first large-scale empirical study for Vietnamese-English MT. As our final contribution, we publicly release our PhoMT dataset for research or educational purposes. We hope PhoMT together with our empirical study can serve as a starting point for future Vietnamese-English MT research and applications.

2 Our PhoMT dataset

Our dataset construction process consists of 4 phases. The 1st phase is to collect parallel document pairs. The 2nd phase is a pre-processing step that is to produce cleaned and high-quality parallel document pairs and then extract sentences from these pairs. The 3rd phase is to align parallel sentences within a pair of parallel documents. The 4th phase is a post-processing step that is to filter out duplicated parallel sentence pairs and manually verify the quality of validation and test sets.

2.1 Collecting parallel document pairs

We collect the parallel document pairs from publicly available resources that contain original English documents and their corresponding Vietnamese-translated version. WikiHow: It is an online knowledge base of how-to guides that are available in multiple languages. We employ a multilingual WikiHow-based document summarization corpus (Ladhak et al., 2020) that contains 6616 pairs of WikiHow English articles and their Vietnamese-translated variant. TED-Talks: We use the TED2020 v1 corpus (Reimers and Gurevych, 2020) that includes 3123 English-Vietnamese subtitle pairs of TED talks. OpenSubtitles: We employ the latest version v2018 of the OpenSubtitles corpus (Lison and Tiedemann, 2016) that contains 3886 parallel movie and TV subtitles. MediaWiki: We also use parallel documents from the MediaWiki content translation data dump. News & Blogspot: We collect English and Vietnamese-translated versions of news and Blogspot articles from eight websites for English learners. See URLs for the described resources in the Appendix.

Here, we do not include available corpora of JW300 (Agić and Vulić, 2019), OPUS’s GNOME and QED (Abdelali et al., 2014). We manually check 100 randomly sampled pairs from the 600K Vietnamese-English sentence pair corpus JW300 and find that there are 71 high-quality translation pairs. However, it is worth noting that JW300 can introduce potential bias because of its religious domain. GNOME from OPUS contains 600K sentences pairs, in which most Vietnamese target sentences include many original translatable technical English words, thus not natural. QED has 340K sentence pairs, however, our investigation finds that about a half of the QED pairs are from the TED-Talks transcripts (Reimers and Gurevych, 2020); and from the remaining sentence pairs, we randomly sample 100 pairs and find that only 43 pairs have a high-quality translation.

2.2 Pre-processing

We find that not all of 3886 English-Vietnamese parallel document pairs in OpenSubtitles have a high-quality translation. We manually inspect each OpenSubtitles pair and remove 574/3886 (15%) document pairs with a low-quality translation, thus remaining 3312 pairs. In MediaWiki, there are original English paragraphs appearing in some Vietnamese target documents, that have not been translated into Vietnamese yet. We employ the language identification module of fastText (Joulin et al., 2017) to identify and filter those English paragraphs out of the Vietnamese documents. We also remove reference sections and tables that appear in some MediaWiki and Blogspot documents.

To extract sentences for parallel sentence alignment in the next phase, we perform (tokenization and) sentence segmentation by using the Stanford CoreNLP toolkit (Manning et al., 2014) and RDRSegmenter (Nguyen et al., 2018) from the Vn-
Table 1: Our dataset statistics. "#doc", "#pair", "#en/s" and "#vi/s" denote the number of parallel document pairs, the number of aligned parallel sentence pairs, the average number of word tokens per English sentence and the average number of syllable tokens per Vietnamese sentence, respectively. “OpenSub” abbreviates OpenSubtitles.

CoreNLP toolkit (Vu et al., 2018) for English and Vietnamese, respectively.

2.3 Aligning parallel sentence pairs

To align parallel sentences within a parallel document pair, our approach first employs the strong neural MT engine Google Translate to translate each English source sentence into Vietnamese. Then we use three toolkits of Hunalign (Varga et al., 2007), Gargantua (Braune and Fraser, 2010) and Bleualign (Sennrich and Volk, 2011) to perform sentence alignment via alignment between the Google-translated variants of the English source sentences and the Vietnamese target sentences. Finally, we only select sentence pairs that are aligned by at least two out of three toolkits as the output of our alignment process.

The quality of our sentence alignment output is shown in Section 2.4. Here, we discuss alignment coverage rates. On the same TED2020 v1 corpus, the automatic alignment approach OPUS (Tiedemann, 2012), based on word alignments and phrase tables, aligns a total of 326K Vietnamese sentences, while our approach aligns 350K Vietnamese ones (i.e. a 7.5% relative improvement). Then we randomly split each domain into training/validation/test sets on document level with a 98.75/0.60/0.65 ratio, resulting in 2977999 training, 18876 validation and 19291 test sentence pairs.

2.4 Post-processing

On the alignment output from the previous phase, we normalize punctuations, remove all duplicate sentence pairs within and across all document pairs, and also remove sentence pairs where the reference English sentence contains either only a single word token or swear words. Then we randomly split each domain into training/validation/test sets on document level with a 98.75/0.60/0.65 ratio, resulting in 2977999 training, 18876 validation and 19291 test sentence pairs.

To qualify our dataset, we manually inspect each sentence pair in the validation and test sets. Here, each pair is inspected by two out of the first three co-authors independently: one inspector checks about \((18876 + 19291) \times 2 / 3 = 25K\) sentence pairs in 125 hours on average (i.e. 200 sentences/hour). After cross-checking, we find that in the validation set, 32 sentence pairs (0.17%) are misaligned (i.e. completely different sentence meaning or partly preserving the sentence meaning); and 125 pairs (0.66%) are low-quality translation ones (i.e. mostly or completely preserving the sentence meaning, however, the Vietnamese target sentence is not naturally smooth). In the test set, there are 27 misaligned sentence pairs (0.14%) and 113 low-quality translation pairs (0.59%). Note that performing a similar manual inspection on the training set is beyond our current human resource; however, with small proportions of misalignment and low-quality

\(^1\)https://object.pouta.csc.fi/OPUS-TED2020/v1/moses/en-vi.txt.zip wherein duplicate removal is not performed.

\(^2\)See the Appendix for an additional discussion.

\(^3\)Regarding removals, punctuations are not taken into identifying sentence pair duplication or computing sentence length. On OpenSubtitles, we also remove sentence pairs where the reference English sentence consists of two tokens.
translation on the validation and test sets at the sentence pair level, we believe that our training set attains a high-quality standard. Lastly, we remove those 32 + 125 + 27 + 113 = 297 pairs, resulting in 18719 validation and 19151 test sentence pairs of high quality for final use.

3 Experiments

3.1 Experimental setup

We conduct experiments on our PhoMT dataset to study: (i) a comparison between the well-known automatic translation engines (here, Google Translate and Bing Translator) and strong neural MT baselines, and (ii) the usefulness of pre-trained sequence-to-sequence denoising auto-encoder. In particular, we use the baseline models: Transformer-base, Transformer-big (Vaswani et al., 2017), and the pre-trained denoising auto-encoder mBART (Liu et al., 2020). We report standard metrics TER (Snover et al., 2006) and BLEU (Papineni et al., 2002), in which lower TER and higher BLEU indicate better performances. We compute the case-sensitive BLEU score using SacreBLEU (Post, 2018). See the Appendix for implementation details. Here, we select the model checkpoint that obtains the highest BLEU score on the validation set to apply to the test set.

3.2 Automatic evaluation results

Table 2 presents TER and BLEU scores obtained by the automatic translation engines and the neural baselines on the validation and test sets for the English-to-Vietnamese (En-to-Vi) and Vietnamese-to-English (Vi-to-En) translation setups. Clearly, the baselines obtain significantly better TER and BLEU scores than the automatic translation engines for both En-to-Vi and Vi-to-En setups on both validation and test sets. It is likely because Google Translate and Bing Translator are trained on other parallel resources. Here, Transformer models obtain 1.5+ points absolute better than both

| Model                  | Validation set | Test set |
|------------------------|----------------|----------|
|                        | En-to-Vi       | Vi-to-En |
|                        | TER↓ BLEU↑     | TER↓ BLEU↑ |
| Transformer-base       | 42.77 43.01    | 43.32 38.26 |
| Transformer-big        | 42.13 43.75    | 43.08 39.04 |
| mBART                  | 41.56 44.32    | 41.44 40.88 |

Table 3: BLEU scores for each resource domain on the test set. Here, “BloS”, “TedT”, “MedW”, “WikH” and “OpeS” abbreviate Blogspot, TED-Talks, MediaWiki, WikiHow and OpenSubtitles, respectively.

Google Translate and Bing Translator, in which Transformer-big outperforms Transformer-base. In addition, mBART achieves the best performance among all models, reconfirming the quantitative effectiveness of multilingual denoising pre-training for neural MT (Liu et al., 2020).

We present BLEU scores on the Vi-to-En test set for each resource domain and sentence length bucket in Tables 3 and 4, respectively. Table 3 shows that the highest BLEU scores are reported for MediaWiki (wherein documents share and link common events or topics), followed by the ones reported for News and TED-Talks. Three remaining resource domains Blogspot, WikiHow and OpenSubtitles contain less common topic-specific document pairs, thus resulting in lower scores. In Table 4, we find that models produce lower BLEU scores for short- and medium-length sentences (i.e. < 20 tokens) than for long sentences. This is not surprising as a major proportion of short- and medium-
length sentences are from OpenSubtitles, while longer sentences generally come from MediaWiki, News and TED-Talks. Note that we observe similar findings for the TER results as well as on the validation set and in the En-to-Vi setup. See additional results w.r.t. each domain and sentence length in the Appendix.

Figure 1 presents BLEU scores of Transformer-base on the validation set for the Vi-to-En setup when varying the numbers of training sentence pairs. Those scores clearly show the effectiveness of larger training sizes.

We also perform an experiment to additionally show that our curation effort has paid off. In particular, as not all of our data are overlapping with OPUS, for a fair comparison, we sample a set of 1.55M non-duplicate Vietnamese-English sentence pairs from OPUS’s OpenSubtitles, which has the same size as our PhoMT’s OpenSubtitles training subset and do not contain pairs appearing in our OpenSubtitles validation and test subsets. We train two Transformer-base models for Vi-to-En translation: one trained using the sampled OPUS’s OpenSubtitles set and another one trained using our OpenSubtitles training subset. Hyper-parameter tuning is performed using our OpenSubtitles validation subset in the same manner as presented in the Appendix. We evaluate the models using our OpenSubtitles test subset. We find that Transformer-base trained using the sampled OPUS’s OpenSubtitles set produces a significantly lower Vi-to-En BLEU score on our OpenSubtitles test subset than the one trained using our OpenSubtitles training subset (29.72 vs. 31.11), clearly showing the effectiveness of our quality control. Note that as shown in Table 3, Transformer-base trained using the whole PhoMT’s training set obtains a higher Vi-to-En BLEU score at 32.29 on our OpenSubtitles test subset. Thus this experiment also reconfirms the positive effect of a larger training size.

3.3 Human evaluation results

We also conduct a human-based manual comparison between the outputs generated by the two automatic translation systems and our three neural baselines. For each translation direction, we randomly sample 100 source sentences in the test set; and for each sentence sample, we anonymously shuffle the translation outputs from five systems. Here, each sampled pair satisfies that any two out of five translation outputs are not exactly the same. We then ask three external Vietnamese annotators to choose which translation they think is the best. The inter-annotator agreement score computed for Fleiss’ kappa coefficient (Fleiss, 1971) between the three annotators is 0.63 which is relatively substantial. Our fourth co-author hosts and participates in a discussion session with the three annotators to resolve annotation conflicts.

Table 2 shows final results, where mBART gains the highest human evaluation scores, thus demonstrating its qualitative effectiveness for both En-to-Vi and Vi-to-En translation. Table 2 also shows that human preference is not always correlated with the automatic metrics TER and BLEU. For example, in the En-to-Vi setup, though Transformer models have 2+ points better TER and BLEU than Google Translate, they are less preferred by humans than Google Translate (13 vs. 23 and 18 vs. 23). A detailed study is beyond the scope of our paper, but it is worth investigating in future work.

4 Conclusion

We have presented PhoMT—a high-quality and large-scale Vietnamese-English parallel dataset of 3.02M sentence pairs. We empirically conduct experiments on our PhoMT dataset to compare strong baselines and demonstrate the effectiveness of the pre-trained denoising auto-encoder mBART for neural MT in both automatic and human evaluations. We hope that the public release of our dataset can serve as the starting point for further Vietnamese-English MT research and applications.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank the anonymous reviewers for their helpful feedback.

4Annotators have a proficient English level at IELTS 7.0+ with a reading score of 8.0+ (paid 0.25USD per sample).
5The fourth co-author is not involved in both the post-processing step (Section 2.4) and the development of MT systems. He does not know which model produces which translation. He also has a proficient English level.
References

Ahmed Abdelali, Francisco Guzman, Hassan Sajjad, and Stephan Vogel. 2014. The AMARA Corpus: Building Parallel Language Resources for the Educational Domain. In Proceedings of the Ninth International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation, pages 1856–1862.

Željko Agić and Ivan Vulić. 2019. JW300: A Wide-Coverage Parallel Corpus for Low-Resource Languages. In Proceedings of the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, pages 3204–3210.

Mikel Artetxe and Holger Schwenk. 2019. Massively multilingual sentence embeddings for zero-shot cross-lingual transfer and beyond. Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics, 7:597–610.

Anja Baum. 2020. Vietnam’s Development Success Story and the Unfinished SDG Agenda. IMF Working Papers, 20(31):1–31.

Fabienne Braune and Alexander Fraser. 2010. Improved Unsupervised Sentence Alignment for Symmetrical and Asymmetrical Parallel Corpora. In Proceedings of the 23rd International Conference on Computational Linguistics: Posters, pages 81–89.

M. Cettolo, J. Niehues, S. Stüker, L. Bentivogli, R. Cattoni, and Marcello Federico. 2015. The IWSLT 2015 Evaluation Campaign. In Proceedings of the International Workshop on Spoken Language Translation.

Shuoyang Ding, Adithya Renduchintala, and Kevin Duh. 2019. A Call for Prudent Choice of Subword Merge Operations in Neural Machine Translation. In Proceedings of Machine Translation Summit XVII Volume 1: Research Track, pages 204–213.

Ahmed El-Kishky, Vishrav Chaudhary, Francisco Guzmán, and Philipp Koehn. 2020. CCAigned: A Massive Collection of Cross-Lingual Web-Document Pairs. In Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing, pages 5960–5969.

Joseph L. Fleiss. 1971. Measuring nominal scale agreement among many raters. Psychological bulletin, 76(5):378.

Armand Joulin, Edouard Grave, Piotr Bojanowski, and Tomas Mikolov. 2017. Bag of Tricks for Efficient Text Classification. In Proceedings of the 15th Conference of the European Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Volume 2, Short Papers, pages 427–431.

Diederik P. Kingma and Jimmy Ba. 2014. Adam: A Method for Stochastic Optimization. arXiv preprint, arXiv:1412.6980.

Faisal Ladhak, Esin Durmus, Claire Cardie, and Kathleen McKeown. 2020. WikiLingua: A New Benchmark Dataset for Cross-Lingual Abstractive Summarization. In Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP 2020, pages 4034–4048.

Pierre Lison and Jörg Tiedemann. 2016. OpenSubtitles2016: Extracting Large Parallel Corpora from Movie and TV Subtitles. In Proceedings of the Tenth International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation, pages 923–929.

Yinhua Liu, Jiatao Gu, Naman Goyal, Xian Li, Sergey Edunov, Marjan Ghazvininejad, Mike Lewis, and Luke Zettlemoyer. 2020. Multilingual Denoising Pre-training for Neural Machine Translation. Transactions of the Association for Computational Linguistics, 8:726–742.

Christopher Manning, Mihai Surdeanu, John Bauer, Jenny Finkel, Steven Bethard, and David McClosky. 2014. The Stanford CoreNLP Natural Language Processing Toolkit. In Proceedings of 52nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics: System Demonstrations, pages 55–60.

Quoc Hung Ngo, Werner Winawer, and Bartholomáus Wloka. 2013. EVBCorpus - A Multi-Layer English-Vietnamese Bilingual Corpus for Studying Tasks in Comparative Linguistics. In Proceedings of the 11th Workshop on Asian Languages Resources, pages 1–9.

Dat Quoc Nguyen, Dai Quoc Nguyen, Thanh Vu, Mark Dras, and Mark Johnson. 2018. A Fast and Accurate Vietnamese Word Segmenter. In Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation, pages 2582–2587.

Myle Ott, Sergey Edunov, Alexei Baevski, Angela Fan, Sam Gross, Nathan Ng, David Grangier, and Michael Auli. 2019. fairseq: A Fast, Extensible Toolkit for Sequence Modeling. In Proceedings of the 2019 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Demonstrations, pages 48–53.

Myle Ott, Sergey Edunov, David Grangier, and Michael Auli. 2018. Scaling Neural Machine Translation. In Proceedings of the Third Conference on Machine Translation: Research Papers, pages 1–9.

Kishore Papineni, Salim Roukos, Todd Ward, and Wei-Jing Zhu. 2002. Bleu: a Method for Automatic Evaluation of Machine Translation. In Proceedings of the 40th Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics, pages 311–318.

Hong-Hai Phan-Vu, Viet Trung Tran, Van Nam Nguyen, Hoang Vu Dang, and Phan Thuan Do. 2019. Neural Machine Translation between Vietnamese and English: an Empirical Study. Journal of Computer Science and Cybernetics, 35(2):147–166.
Appendix

Parallel document-level corpora

Last access: 19/12/2020

WikiHow:
- [https://github.com/esdurmus/Wikilingua](https://github.com/esdurmus/Wikilingua)

TED-talks:
- [https://object.pouta.csc.fi/OPUS-TED2020/v1/raw/en.zip](https://object.pouta.csc.fi/OPUS-TED2020/v1/raw/en.zip)
- [https://object.pouta.csc.fi/OPUS-TED2020/v1/raw/vi.zip](https://object.pouta.csc.fi/OPUS-TED2020/v1/raw/vi.zip)

MediaWiki:
- [https://dumps.wikimedia.org/other/contenttranslation](https://dumps.wikimedia.org/other/contenttranslation) (version: November 2020)

OpenSub:
- [https://object.pouta.csc.fi/OPUS-OpenSubtitles/v2018/raw/en.zip](https://object.pouta.csc.fi/OPUS-OpenSubtitles/v2018/raw/en.zip)
- [https://object.pouta.csc.fi/OPUS-OpenSubtitles/v2018/raw/vi.zip](https://object.pouta.csc.fi/OPUS-OpenSubtitles/v2018/raw/vi.zip)

News:
- [https://songngu.dayhoctienganh.net/page/1](https://songngu.dayhoctienganh.net/page/1)
- [https://toomva.com/doc-bao-anh-viet/pc=8?page=0](https://toomva.com/doc-bao-anh-viet/pc=8?page=0)
- [http://cep.com.vn/news](http://cep.com.vn/news)
- [https://www.hrw.org/languages?language=vi&page=0](https://www.hrw.org/languages?language=vi&page=0)
- [http://vietanhsongngu.com/hoc-tieng-anh-bai-mau-tintuc-c5.htm](http://vietanhsongngu.com/hoc-tieng-anh-bai-mau-tintuc-c5.htm)
- [https://baosongngu.com/chuyen-muc/world](https://baosongngu.com/chuyen-muc/world)
- [https://baosongngu.com/chuyen-muc/vn](https://baosongngu.com/chuyen-muc/vn)
- [https://baosongngu.com/chuyen-muc/bbc](https://baosongngu.com/chuyen-muc/bbc)
Discussion on the alignment coverage rate

OPUS (Tiedemann, 2012) also provides a corpus of 350K sentence pairs extracted from a newer version of the MediaWiki content translation dump (version: 02 April 2021), wherein duplicate pair removal is not performed. Note that the number of our MediaWiki sentence pairs is bigger at 500K (without taking duplicate pairs into account), thus again showing that our alignment approach is more effective than the OPUS alignment approach.

Discussion on the use of Google Translate

To align parallel sentences within a parallel document pair as described in Section 2.3, we first translate each English source sentence into Vietnamese by using Google Translate. Here, the use of Google Translate in this step is via utilizing the “Google-Translate” function in Google Sheets. However, we later find that this “GoogleTranslate” function in Google Sheets produces lower performance scores than using the Google Translate API in both automatic and human evaluation setups. Therefore, in our result tables, we report “Google Translate” scores accounted for the Google Translate API on the validation and test sets.

Implementation details

We employ Transformer and mBART implementations from fairseq (Ott et al., 2019). For both Transformer models (Vaswani et al., 2017), following Ding et al. (2019), we use subword-nmt to learn joint BPE with 32K merge operations (Sennrich et al., 2016). For mBART, we fine-tune the pre-trained sequence-to-sequence model mBART25 (Liu et al., 2020). Here, mBART25 is pre-trained on a Common Crawl dataset of 25 languages, which contains 300GB of English texts and 137 GB of Vietnamese texts. Following Vaswani et al. (2017), we use beam search with a beam size of 4 and length normalization of 0.6 for decoding. Due to the model size, we apply batch sizes of 16K tokens for Transformer-base, 8K tokens for Transformer-big and 4K tokens for mBART. We optimize the models using Adam (Kingma and Ba, 2014) and run for 30 training epochs, wherein the Adam initial learning rate is warmed up for the first epoch. In addition, we also perform grid search to select the initial learning rate from \{1e-4, 3e-4, 5e-4, 7e-4\} for Transformer models and from \{1e-5, 3e-5, 5e-5, 7e-5\} for mBART. For both English-to-Vietnamese and Vietnamese-to-English translation setups, the optimal learning rates selected for Transformer-base, Transformer-big and mBART are 5e-4, 3e-4 and 5e-5, respectively. Here, we evaluate each model 8 times during every training epoch, and then select the model checkpoint that obtains the highest BLEU score on the validation set to apply to the test set.

We compute the detokenized and case-sensitive BLEU score using SacreBLEU (with the signature “BLEU+case.mixed+numrefs.1+smooth.exp+tok.1-3a+version.1.5.1”). Similarly, we also compute the detokenized and case-sensitive TER score (with the option “-N” of normalization).

Additional results

Tables 5 and 6 present details of TER and BLEU scores on the validation and test sets for each domain. In addition, we show TER and BLEU scores for each sentence length bucket in Table 7 and Table 8, respectively.
| Model          | En-to-Vi | Vi-to-En | News | BloS | TedT | MedW | WikH | OpeS | News | BloS | TedT | MedW | WikH | OpeS |
|---------------|----------|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Google Translate | 35.97   | 47.26   | 49.37 | 24.89 | 51.65 | 60.70 | 42.21 | 51.25 | 46.94 | 30.99 | 51.08 | 50.29 |
| Bing Translator | 36.07   | 47.45   | 50.51 | 23.17 | 55.53 | 57.43 | 42.72 | 52.38 | 49.46 | 30.17 | 55.92 | 48.57 |
| Transformer-base | 32.85   | 47.62   | 49.34 | 23.55 | 49.19 | 53.29 | 39.18 | 51.91 | 48.25 | 29.64 | 51.45 | 46.67 |
| Transformer-big | 32.56   | 46.91   | 48.78 | 22.57 | 48.96 | 52.65 | 37.68 | 50.89 | 47.49 | 29.94 | 50.95 | 46.28 |
| mBART          | 30.97   | 45.78   | 47.87 | 22.26 | 47.71 | 52.67 | 36.16 | 48.98 | 45.75 | 27.54 | 49.01 | 45.56 |

| Model          | News | BloS | TedT | MedW | WikH | OpeS |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Google Translate | 45.46 | 33.05 | 46.45 | 27.02 | 53.32 | 60.71 |
| Bing Translator | 46.44 | 33.56 | 46.83 | 26.03 | 56.28 | 57.62 |
| Transformer-base | 52.63 | 35.24 | 33.51 | 65.60 | 35.32 | 27.42 |
| Transformer-big | 53.39 | 36.17 | 34.00 | 34.00 | 35.80 | 27.95 |
| mBART          | 54.82 | 36.99 | 34.84 | 67.42 | 37.03 | 28.18 |

| Model          | News | BloS | TedT | MedW | WikH | OpeS |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Google Translate | 41.35 | 31.29 | 36.15 | 61.80 | 30.97 | 23.45 |
| Bing Translator | 40.63 | 30.55 | 35.58 | 63.36 | 30.19 | 24.89 |
| Transformer-base | 50.00 | 47.26 | 41.34 | 36.40 | 35.80 | 30.27 |
| Transformer-big | 49.64 | 46.68 | 40.64 | 37.46 | 35.80 | 27.95 |
| mBART          | 54.82 | 36.99 | 34.84 | 67.42 | 37.03 | 28.18 |

| Model          | News | BloS | TedT | MedW | WikH | OpeS |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Google Translate | 48.77% | 30.87% | 13.65% | 4.46% | 1.45% | 0.80% |
| Bing Translator | 52.54% | 34.07% | 17.34% | 6.25% | 2.13% | 1.05% |
| Transformer-base | 54.55% | 36.17% | 19.28% | 7.56% | 2.78% | 1.28% |
| Transformer-big | 53.93% | 37.02% | 20.09% | 8.12% | 2.53% | 1.33% |
| mBART          | 54.82% | 36.99% | 34.84% | 67.42% | 37.03% | 28.18% |

| Model          | News | BloS | TedT | MedW | WikH | OpeS |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Google Translate | 26.64 | 38.72 | 44.62 | 48.28 | 49.72 | 52.05 |
| Bing Translator | 29.23 | 38.93 | 44.76 | 48.37 | 49.04 | 53.15 |
| Transformer-base | 31.48 | 41.65 | 47.22 | 49.44 | 49.19 | 52.01 |
| Transformer-big | 31.92 | 42.29 | 47.90 | 49.98 | 50.67 | 53.59 |
| mBART          | 32.73 | 42.95 | 48.63 | 50.65 | 51.40 | 54.08 |

| Model          | News | BloS | TedT | MedW | WikH | OpeS |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Google Translate | 27.00 | 37.17 | 44.20 | 46.58 | 48.52 | 50.57 |
| Bing Translator | 29.68 | 37.46 | 44.07 | 46.23 | 48.12 | 50.17 |
| Transformer-base | 32.03 | 39.40 | 45.86 | 47.16 | 48.18 | 48.76 |
| Transformer-big | 32.36 | 40.48 | 46.45 | 48.13 | 49.39 | 50.18 |
| mBART          | 33.15 | 40.93 | 47.35 | 48.68 | 49.80 | 51.15 |

| Model          | News | BloS | TedT | MedW | WikH | OpeS |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Google Translate | 26.64 | 38.72 | 44.62 | 48.28 | 49.72 | 52.05 |
| Bing Translator | 29.23 | 38.93 | 44.76 | 48.37 | 49.04 | 53.15 |
| Transformer-base | 31.48 | 41.65 | 47.22 | 49.44 | 49.19 | 52.01 |
| Transformer-big | 31.92 | 42.29 | 47.90 | 49.98 | 50.67 | 53.59 |
| mBART          | 32.73 | 42.95 | 48.63 | 50.65 | 51.40 | 54.08 |

| Model          | News | BloS | TedT | MedW | WikH | OpeS |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Google Translate | 27.00 | 37.17 | 44.20 | 46.58 | 48.52 | 50.57 |
| Bing Translator | 29.68 | 37.46 | 44.07 | 46.23 | 48.12 | 50.17 |
| Transformer-base | 32.03 | 39.40 | 45.86 | 47.16 | 48.18 | 48.76 |
| Transformer-big | 32.36 | 40.48 | 46.45 | 48.13 | 49.39 | 50.18 |
| mBART          | 33.15 | 40.93 | 47.35 | 48.68 | 49.80 | 51.15 |