Abstract: In this paper, we propose a new method for domain adaptation in Statistical Machine Translation for low-resource domains in English-Vietnamese language. Specifically, our method only uses monolingual data to adapt the translation phrase-table, our system brings improvements over the SMT baseline system. We propose two steps to improve the quality of SMT system: (i) classify phrases on the target side of the translation phrase-table use the probability classifier model, and (ii) adapt to the phrase-table translation by recomputing the direct translation probability of phrases.

Our experiments are conducted with translation direction from English to Vietnamese on two very different domains that are legal domain (out-of-domain) and general domain (in-of-domain). The English-Vietnamese parallel corpus is provided by the IWSLT 2015 organizers and the experimental results showed that our method significantly outperformed the baseline system. Our system improved on the quality of machine translation in the legal domain up to 0.9 BLEU scores over the baseline system,…

Keywords: Machine Translation, Statistical Machine Translation, Domain Adaptation.

1. Introduction

Statistical Machine Translation (SMT) systems [1] are usually trained on large amounts of bilingual data and monolingual target language data. In general, these corpora may include quite heterogeneous topics and these topics usually define a set of terminological lexicons. Terminologies need to be translated taking into account the semantic context in which they appear.

The Neural Machine Translation (NMT) approach [2] has recently been proposed for machine translation. However, the NMT method requires a large amount of parallel data and it has some characteristics such as NMT
system is too computationally costly and resource, the NMT system also requires much more training time than SMT system [3]. Therefore, SMT systems are still being studied for specific domains in low-resource language pairs.

Monolingual data are usually available in large amounts, parallel data are low-resource for most language pairs. Collecting sufficiently large-high-quality parallel data is hard, especially on domain-specific data. For this reason, most languages in the world are low-resource for statistical machine translation, including the English-Vietnamese language pair.

When SMT system is trained on the small amount of specific domain data leading to narrow lexical coverage which again results in low translation quality. On the other hand, the SMT systems are trained, tuned on specific-domain data will perform well on the corresponding domains, but performance deteriorates for out-of-domain sentences [4].

Therefore, SMT systems often suffer from domain adaptation problems in practical applications. When the test data and the training data come from the same domains, the SMT systems can achieve good quality. Otherwise, the translation quality degrades dramatically. Therefore, domain adaptation is of significant importance to developing translation systems which can be effectively transferred from one domain to another.

In recent years, the domain adaptation problem in SMT becomes more important [5] and is an active field of research in SMT with more and more techniques being proposed and applied into practice [5-12]. The common techniques used to adapt two main components of contemporary state-of-the-art SMT systems: The language model and the translation model. In addition, there are also some proposals for adapting the Neural Machine Translation (NMT) system to a new domain [13, 14]. Although the NMT system has begun to be studied more, domain adaptation for the SMT system still plays an important role, especially for low-resource languages.

This paper presents a new method to adapt the translation phrase-table of the SMT system. Our experiments were conducted for the English-Vietnamese language pair in the direction from English to Vietnamese. We use specific domain corpus comprise of two specific domains: Legal and General. The data has been collected from documents, dictionaries and the IWSLT 2015 organisers for the English-Vietnamese translation task.

In our works, we train a translation model with parallel corpus in general domain, then we train a probability classifier model with monolingual corpus in legal domain, we use the classification probability of phrase on target side of phrase translation table to recompute the direct translation probability of the phrase translation table. This is the first adaptation method for the phrase translation table of the SMT system, especially for low-resource language pairs as English-Vietnamese language pair. For comparison, we train a baseline SMT system and a Neural Machine Translation system (NMT) to compare with our method. Experimental results showed that our method significantly outperforms the baseline system. Our system improved the translation quality of the machine translation system on the out-of-domain data (legal domain) up to 0.9 BLEU points compared to the baseline system. Our method has also been accepted for presentation at the 31st Asia Pacific conference on language, information and computation.

The paper is organized as follows. In the next section, we present related works on the problem of adaptation in SMT; Section 3 describes our method; Section 4 describes and discusses the experimental results. Finally, we end with a conclusion and the future works in Section 5.

2. Related works

Domain adaptation for machine translation is known to be a challenging research problem that has substantial real-world application and this has been one of the topics of increasing
interest for the recent years. Recently, the studies of domain adaptation for machine translation have focused on data-centric or model-centric. Some authors used out-of-domain monolingual data to adapted the language model. The main advantage of language model adaptation in contrast with translation model adaptation, these methods use only monolingual out-of-domain data.

For many language pairs and domains, no new-domain parallel training data is available. In [14] machine translate new-domain source language monolingual corpora and use the synthetic parallel corpus as additional training data by using dictionaries and monolingual source and target language text.

In [5] build several specific domain translation systems, then train a classifier model to assign the input sentence to a specific domain and use the specific domain system to translate the corresponding sentence. They assume that each sentence in test set belongs to one of the already existing domains.

In [11] build the MT system for different domains, it trains, tunes and deploys a single translation system that is capable of producing adapted domain translations and preserving the original generic accuracy at the same time. The approach unifies automatic domain detection and domain model parameterization into one system.

In [15] used a source classification document to classify an input document into a domain. This work makes the translation model shared across different domains.

Above related works automatically detected the domain and the classifier model works as a “switch” between two independent MT decoding runs.

There are many studies of domain adaptation for SMT, which can be mainly divided into two categories: data-centric and model-centric. Data-centric methods focus on either selecting training data from out-of-domain parallel corpora based on a language model or generating parallel data. These methods can be mainly divided into three categories:

- Using monolingual corpora.
- Synthetic parallel corpora generation.
- Using out-of-domain parallel corpora: multi-domain and data selection.

Most of the related works in section 2 use monolingual corpora to adapt language model or to synthesize parallel corpora, or models selection which are trained with different domains. The English-Vietnamese is low-resource parallel corpora, thus we propose a
new method which only uses monolingual corpora to adapt the translation model by recomputing the score of phrases in the phrase-table and to update the phrase’s direct translation probability.

In this section, we first give a brief introduction of SMT. Next, we propose a new method for domain adaptation in SMT.

3.1. Overview of phrase-based statistical machine translation

The figure 1 illustrates the process of phrase-based translation. The input is segmented into a number of sequences of consecutive words (so-called phrases). Each word or phrase in English is translated into a word or phrase in Vietnamese, respectively. Then these output words or phrases can be reordered.

![Figure 1. Example illustrates the process of phrase-based translation.](image)

The phrase translation model is based on the noisy channel model [16]. It uses Bayes rule to reformulate the translation probability for translating a input sentence f in one language into output sentence e in another language. The best translation for a input sentence f is as equation 1:

\[ e = \arg \max_e p(e) p(e | f) \]  

The above equation consists of two components: A language model assigning a probability \( p(e) \) for any target sentence e, and a translation model that assigns a conditional probability \( p(e|f) \). The language model is trained with monolingual data in the target language, the translation model is trained with parallel corpus, the parameters of translation model are estimated from a parallel corpus, the best output sentence (e) corresponding to an input sentence (f) is calculated by the after formula 2 and 3.

\[ e = \arg \max_e p(e | f) \]  

\[ e = \arg \max_e \sum_{m=1}^{M} \lambda_m h_m(e, f) \]  

where \( h_m \) is a feature function such as language model, translation model and \( \lambda_m \) corresponds to a feature weight.

The Figure 2 describes the architecture of phrase-based statistical machine translation system. There is some translation knowledge that can be used as language models, translation models, etc. The combination of component models (language model, translation model, word sense disambiguation, reordering model,...).

![Figure 2. Architecture of phrase-based statistical machine translation.](image)
3.2. Translation model adaptation based on phrase classification

One of the essential parts of our experiments is the classifier used to identify the domain of a target phrase in the phrase-table, the accuracy of the classifier is very important in the final translation score of the sentences from the test set data. The Maximum Entropy was chosen to be the classifier for our experiments.

In this section, we first give an introduction of the maximum entropy classifier. Next, we describe our method for domain adaptation in SMT.

3.2.1. The Maximum Entropy classifier

To build a probability classification model, we use the Stanford classifier toolkit\(^1\) with standard configurations. This toolkit uses a maximum entropy classifier with character n-grams features,... The maximum entropy classifier is a probabilistic classifier which belongs to the class of exponential models. The maximum entropy is based on the principle of maximum entropy and from all the models that fit training data, select the one which has the largest estimate probability. The maximum entropy classifier is usually used to classify text and this model can be shown in the following formula:

\[
p(y \mid x) = \frac{\exp(\sum_{k} \lambda_k f_k(x, y))}{\sum \exp(\sum_{k} \lambda_k f_k(x, z))}
\]

where \(\lambda_k\) are model parameters and \(f_k\) are features of the model [17].

We trained the probability classification model with 2 classes which are Legal and General. After training, the classifier model was used to classify a list of phrases in the phrase-table in target side, we consider these phrases to be in the general domain at the beginning. The output of the classification task is a probability of phrase in each domain (\(P(\text{legal})\) and \(P(\text{general})\)), some results of the classification task as in the Figure 3.

\(^1\)https://nlp.stanford.edu/software/classifier.html

Figure 3. Some results of the classification task.

3.2.2. Phrase classification for domain adaptation in SMT

The State-of-the-art SMT system uses a log-linear combination of models to decide the best-scoring target sentence given a source sentence. Among these models, the basic ones are a translation model \(P(e|f)\) and a target language model \(P(e)\).

The translation model is a phrase translation table; this table is a list of the translation probabilities of a specified source phrase \(f\) into a specified target phrase \(e\), including phrase translation probabilities in both translation directions, the example about the structure of phrase translation table as the Figure 4.

Figure 4. Example of phrase translation scores in phrase-table.
In the Figure 4, the phrase translation probability distributions \( \phi(f|e) \) and \( \phi(e|f) \), lexical weighting for both directions. Currently, four different phrase translation scores are computed:

1. Inverse phrase translation probability \( \phi(f|e) \).
2. Inverse lexical weighting \( \text{lex}(f|e) \).
3. Direct phrase translation probability \( \phi(e|f) \).
4. Direct lexical weighting \( \text{lex}(e|f) \).

In this paper, we only conduct the experiments with translation direction from English to Vietnamese, thus we only investigate the direct phrase translation probability \( \phi(e|f) \) of the phrase-table, the translation hypothesis is higher probability \( \phi(e|f) \) value, that translation hypothesis is often chosen more than another, so we use the probability classification model to determine the classification probability of a phrase in the phrase-table, then we recompute the translation probability of phrase \( \phi(e|f) \) of this hypothesis based on the classification probability.

Our method can be illustrated in the Figure 5 and summarized by the following:

1. Build a probability classification model (using the maximum entropy classifier with two classes, legal and general) with monolingual data on legal domain in Vietnamese.
2. Training a baseline SMT system with parallel corpus on general domain with translation direction from English to Vietnamese.
3. Extract phrases on target side of the phrase-table of the baseline SMT system and using the probability classification model for these phrases.
4. Recompute the direct translation probability \( \phi(e|f) \) of phrases of the phrase-table for phrases are classified into the legal label.

4. Experimental Setup

In this section, we describe experimental settings and report empirical results.

4.1. Data sets

We conduct experiments on the data sets of the English-Vietnamese language pair. We consider two different domains that are legal domain and general domain. Detailed statistics for the data sets are given in the Table 1.
Out-of-domain data: We use monolingual data on legal domain in the Vietnamese language, this data set is collected from documents, dictionaries,... consists of 2238 phrases, manually labelled, including 526 in-of-domain phrases (in legal domain and label is lb_legal) and 1712 out-of-domain phrases (in general domain and label is lb_general). Here the phrase concept is similar to the phrase concept in the phrase translation table, this concept means nothing more than an arbitrary sequence of words, with no sophisticated linguistic motivation. This data set is used to train the probability classification model by the maximum entropy classifier with 2 classes, legal and general.

Table 1. The Summary statistical of data sets: English-Vietnamese

| Data Sets       | Language | English | Vietnamese |
|----------------|----------|---------|------------|
|                 | Sentences| 122132  |            |
| Training        | Average Length | 15.93  | 15.58      |
|                 | Words    | 1946397 | 1903504    |
|                 | Vocabulary | 40568  | 28414      |
| Dev             | Sentences| 745     |            |
|                 | Average Length | 16.61  | 15.97      |
|                 | Words    | 12397   | 11921      |
|                 | Vocabulary | 2230   | 1986       |
| General-test    | Sentences| 1046    |            |
|                 | Average Length | 16.25  | 15.97      |
|                 | Words    | 17023   | 16889      |
|                 | Vocabulary | 2701   | 2759       |
| Legal-test      | Sentences| 500     |            |
|                 | Average Length | 15.21  | 15.48      |
|                 | Words    | 7605    | 7740       |
|                 | Vocabulary | 1530   | 1429       |

Additionally, we use 500 parallel sentences on legal domain in English-Vietnamese pair for test set.

In-of-domain data: We use the parallel corpora sets on general domain to training SMT system. These data sets are provided by the IWSLT 2015 organisers for the English-Vietnamese translation task, consists of 122132 parallel sentences for the training set, 745 parallel sentences for development set and 1046 parallel sentences for the test set.

Preprocessing: Data preprocessing is very important in any data-driven method. We carried out preprocessing in two steps:

• Cleaning Data: We performed cleaning in two phases, phase-1: Following the cleaning process described in [18] and phase-2: Using the corpus cleaning scripts in Moses toolkit [19] with minimum and maximum number of tokens set to 1 and 80 respectively.

• Word Segmentation: In English, whitespaces are used to separate words [20] but Vietnamese does not have morphology [21] and [20]. In Vietnamese, whitespaces are not used to separate words. The smallest meaningful part of Vietnamese orthography is a syllable [22]. Some examples of Vietnamese words are shown as follows: single words "nhà" - house, "nhặt" - pick up, "mua" - buy and "bán" - sell. Compound words: “mua-bán” - buy and sell, “bàn-ghế”- table and chair, “cây-cół” - trees, “đường-xá” - street, “hành-chỉnh” -
administration. Thus, a word in Vietnamese may consist of several syllables separated by whitespaces.

We used vntokenizer toolkit [23] to segment for Vietnamese data sets, this segmentation toolkit is quite popular for Vietnamese and we used tokenizer script in Moses to segment for English data sets.

4.2. Experiments

We performed experiments on the Baseline-SMT and Adaptaion-SMT systems:

| Source sentences (on the legal domain) | Target sentences | Reference sentences |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| the working party took note of this commitment... | ...bịt tổ chức việc nik, hoặc dat cam, bất kỳ nơi... |...năm làm việc, nik, hoặc cam bất kỳ nơi... |
| according to the general statistical office, services had accounted for $7.08 percent of vietnam's gdp in 2004 | ...trong khoảng trọng việc sđk, dịch, việc đếm 7.08% |...ước tính năm 2004 |...độ của năm gdp của VN năm 2004 |
| renewable certificates valid for five years were granted by the construction department of cities and provinces | ...giúp chúng nhận lại, tiêu đề, đối tác trong 5 năm mà là |...giúp chúng nhận lại, tiêu đề, đối tác trong 5 năm mà là |...giúp chúng nhận lại, tiêu đề, đối tác trong 5 năm mà là |
| the economic police received specialized training on intellectual property enforcement | ...cảnh sát kinh tế được |...cảnh sát kinh tế được |...cảnh sát kinh tế được |
| administrative measures only applied to acts of low gravity | ...đối xử, chỉ kiểm tra hành chính trong lãnh... |...đối xử, chỉ kiểm tra hành chính trong lãnh... |...đối xử, chỉ kiểm tra hành chính trong lãnh... |
| evidence collected during an administrative procedure could be used by the civil court if necessary in accordance with civil procedure code of 2004 | ...bằng chứng thu được trong ni, mà cho |...bằng chứng thu được trong ni, mà cho |...bằng chứng thu được trong ni, mà cho |
| the Baseline-SMT is a SMT baseline system. This system is the phrase-based statistical machine translation with standard settings in the Moses toolkit [24], this is a state-of-the-art open-source phrase-based SMT system. In our systems, the weights of feature functions were optimized using MERT [25]. The Baseline-SMT is trained on the general domain (in-of-domain) data set and the Baseline-SMT system is evaluated sequentially on the General-test and Legal-test data sets. |

Table 3. Some examples in our experiments.

- The Baseline-SMT is based on the Baseline-SMT system after being adapted to the translation model by recomputing the direct translation probability \( \phi(e|f) \) of phrases in the phrase translation table, the Adaptaion-SMT is evaluated on the Legal-test data set.

We train a language model with 4-gram and Kneser-Ney smoothing was used in all the experiments. We used SRILM[3] [26] as the language model toolkit. For evaluate translation quality of the Baseline-SMT system and Adaptaion-SMT system, we use the BLEU score [27].

For comparison, we also built a Neural Machine Translation (NMT) system use OpenNMT toolkit[4] [28], the NMT system is trained with the default model, which consists of a 2-layer LSTM with 500 hidden units on both the encoder/decoder.

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[2] http://www.statmt.org/moses/
[3] http://www.speech.sri.com/projects/srilm/
[4] http://opennmt.net/
4.2.1. Results

Table 2. The experiment results of the Baseline-SMT system and Adaptaion-SMT system

| SYSTEM                  | BLEU SCORE |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Baseline-SMT (General-test) | 31.3       |
| Baseline-SMT (on Legal-test) | 28.8       |
| Adaptaion-SMT (on Legal-test) | 29.7       |
| Baseline-NMT (on General-test) | 30.1       |
| Baseline_NMT (on Legal-test) | 20.9       |

The Table 2 showed that the baseline systems (the SMT and NMT system) are trained on the general domain data set, if the test data set (here is the General-test data set) is in the same domain as the training data, the BLEU score will be 31.3 for the Baseline-SMT system and 30.1 for the Baseline-NMT system. If the test data set is on the legal domain (here is the Legal-test data set), the BLEU score will be 28.8 for the Baseline-SMT system and 20.9 for Baseline-NMT system.

The Table 2 also showed that the SMT system is adapted by our technique will improve the quality of the translation system. In these experiments, the BLEU score is improved to 0.9 points from 28.8 up to 29.7.

The experiment results also showed that the SMT system has better results than the NMT system when translation systems are trained with the same low-resource domains of English-Vietnamese language pair such as legal domain and some other domains.

4.2.2. Analysis and discussion

Some examples in the Table 3, when systems translate source sentences in legal domain from english to vietnamese language. In the third sentence, the phrase “renewable” in context “renewable certificates valid for five years were granted by the construction departments of cities and provinces” (source sentence column) should been translated into “gia-hạn” as reference sentence but the Baseline-SMT system has translated the phrase “renewable” into “tài-tạo”, the NMT system has translated that phrase into “tài-tạo”, the Google Translate has translated that phrase into “tài tạo” and the Adaptaion-SMT system has translated the phrase "renewable” into “gia-hạn ” like reference sentence.

The first, the Baseline-SMT system has translated the phrase “renewable” into “tài-tạo” because the direct translation probability (4th column in Figure 6) of this phrase in phrase-table of Baseline-SMT system is highest (0.454545), and the direct translation probability into “gia-hạn” is lower (0.090909). Therefore, when the SMT system combines component models as formulas 1, the ability to translate into “tài-tạo” will be higher “gia-hạn”.

Later, apply the phrase classification model to compute the probability of “gia-hạn” and "renewable" phrase in legal domain, the probability of “gia-hạn” is higher than that, then update this value to phrase-table and the direct translation probability\(\phi(\text{elf})\) of phrase are recomputed. Therefore, the Adaptation-SMT has translated “renewable” phrase into “gia-hạn”
Some other examples in the Table 4.2 showed that translation quality of Adaptaion-SMT system is better than the Baseline-SMT system and with low-resource translation domains in English-Vietnamese language, the SMT system has more advantages than the NMT system.

5 Conclusions and future works

In this paper, we presented a new method for domain adaptation in Statistical Machine Translation for low-resource domains in English-Vietnamese language pair. Our method only uses monolingual out-of-domain data to adapt the phrase-table by recomputing the phrase’s direct translation probability $\phi(ef)$. Our system obtained an improved on the quality of machine translation in the legal domain up to 0.9 BLEU points over baseline. Experimental results show that our method is effective in improving the accuracy of the translation.

In future, we intend to study this problem with other domains, the benefits of word embedding in phrase classification and integrate automatically our technique to decode of SMT system.

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