

Categoría: Congreso Científico de la Fundación Salud, Ciencia y Tecnología 2023

ORIGINAL

Deep Learning Applied on Arabic language for punctuation marks prediction

Deep Learning aplicado al árabe para la predicción de signos de puntuación

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Citar como: Aboutaib A, Zeroual I, EL Allaoui A. Deep Learning Applied on Arabic language for punctuation marks prediction. Salud, Ciencia y Tecnología - Serie de Conferencias 2023; 2:472. <https://doi.org/10.56294/sctconf2023472>

Recibido: 08-06-2023

Revisado: 07-08-2023

Aceptado: 09-10-2023

Publicado: 10-10-2023

ABSTRACT

In the absence of explicit punctuation, the Arabic language's semantic and contextual nature poses a unique challenge, necessitating the reintroduction of punctuation marks for elucidating sentence structure and meaning. We investigate the impact of sentence length on punctuation prediction in the context of Arabic language processing. Leveraging Deep Neural Networks (DNNs), specifically Bi-Directional Long Short-Term Memory (Bi-LSTM) models. Our study goes beyond restoration, aiming to accurately predict punctuation marks in unprocessed text. The investigation focuses on five primary punctuation marks (.,: and !), contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of predicting diverse punctuation marks in Arabic texts and we have achieved 85 % in accuracy . This research not only advances our understanding of Arabic language processing but also serves as a broader exploration of the relationship between sentence length and punctuation prediction.

Keywords: Deep Learning; Bi-LSTM; NLP; Attention.

En ausencia de signos de puntuación explícitos, la naturaleza semántica y contextual de la lengua árabe plantea un reto único, que hace necesaria la reintroducción de los signos de puntuación para dilucidar la estructura y el significado de las frases. Investigamos el impacto de la longitud de la frase en la predicción de la puntuación en el contexto del procesamiento de la lengua árabe. Aprovechando las redes neuronales profundas (DNN), en concreto los modelos bidireccionales de memoria larga a corto plazo (Bi-LSTM). Nuestro estudio va más allá de la restauración, con el objetivo de predecir con precisión los signos de puntuación en texto no procesado. La investigación se centra en cinco signos de puntuación principales (.,: y !), lo que contribuye a una comprensión más completa de la predicción de diversos signos de puntuación en textos árabes, y hemos logrado un 85 % de precisión. Esta investigación no sólo avanza en nuestra comprensión del procesamiento de la lengua árabe, sino que también sirve como una exploración más amplia de la relación entre la longitud de la frase y la predicción de la puntuación.

Palabras clave: Aprendizaje profundo; Bi-LSTM; PNL; Atención.

INTRODUCTION

In the realm of Arabic language processing, the absence of explicit punctuation presents a formidable challenge, compelling the reintroduction of punctuation marks to elucidate sentence structure and contextual meaning. The inherently semantic and contextual nature of Arabic underscores the critical role of punctuation in conveying precise meaning and distinguishing various components of speech. Punctuation, through correct placement, not only organizes written discourse but also signifies the boundaries between sentences, facilitating the initiation of new ideas and concluding preceding ones.

Motivated by the imperative to enhance automated processing of Arabic texts, While ⁽¹⁾ conclude that the quality of text perplexity can be influenced by punctuation usage. Our research leverages Deep Neural Networks (DNNs), specifically Bi-Directional Long Short-Term Memory (Bi-LSTM) models,⁽²⁾ for predicting punctuation marks. This focus goes beyond mere restoration; our goal is to accurately predict the correct punctuation marks in unprocessed text. This predictive capability holds promise in scenarios where punctuation is absent or requires augmentation for improved text coherence and significance.

The applicability of our research extends beyond punctuation prediction, with potential implications for post-processing tasks in Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR) systems, such as generating automatic subtitles for videos.⁽³⁾ Punctuation errors, identified as a common challenge in Arabic linguistic annotation studies, can be effectively addressed through advanced predictive models.

Several researchers have focused on punctuation prediction for various languages, including Slovenian,⁽⁴⁾ Chinese,⁽⁵⁾ Portuguese,⁽⁶⁾ Arabic,⁽⁷⁾ and others. Additionally, some researchers have explored the development of generalized models for this purpose.⁽⁸⁾

Our investigation delves into the nuanced relationship between sentence length and punctuation prediction in the Arabic language, addressing a significant gap in existing literature. While prior studies have often focused on specific punctuation types, our research concentrates on five primary punctuation marks (.,: and !), allowing for a more comprehensive examination of the complexities associated with predicting diverse punctuation marks in Arabic text.

In ⁽⁹⁾ highlights the importance of punctuation within automatic speech recognition (ASR) and broader cognitive info-communication.⁽¹⁰⁾ The study shows that both text-based and prosody-based approaches can provide reliable punctuation with low latency in practical applications of ASR technology. In the area of lexical features, several methods have been proposed. These include n-gram models,⁽¹¹⁾ transition-based dependency parsing,^(12,13) conditional random fields (CRFs),⁽¹⁴⁾ and deep neural networks.^(16,17) Some systems exploit the encoder-decoder framework with an attention mechanism,⁽¹⁸⁾ a structure widely used in numerous sequence-to-sequence translation tasks.⁽¹⁹⁾ This review highlights the different strategies used to tackle punctuation tasks and provides a broad understanding of the methods used in ASR and related fields.

The structure of our paper aligns with scientific inquiry conventions, commencing with a detailed exposition of our methods. In this section, we elaborate on the models employed and the intricacies of the data used in our experimentation. Bi-Directional Long Short-Term Memory (Bi-LSTM) architectures, chosen for their efficacy in capturing contextual dependencies within sequences, feature prominently. The datasets encompass a rich variety of sentences, meticulously categorized by length, providing a robust foundation for our investigation.

Moving to the results section, we present the outcomes of our rigorous experimentation and comparative analyses. The impact of sentence length on punctuation prediction is systematically explored through dedicated models, each exclusively trained on sentences of a specific length. Our approach ensures a nuanced understanding of how sentence structures influence the predictive efficacy of Bi-LSTM models across various punctuation marks.

In the subsequent discussion, we engage in a thoughtful analysis of our findings, drawing connections between sentence length and the accuracy of punctuation prediction. We scrutinize the nuances revealed by our experiments, considering the implications for the broader field of Arabic language processing. As

we navigate through our results and interpretations, our overarching goal is to shed light on the effectiveness of Bi-LSTM models in capturing the intricate interplay between sentence length and punctuation prediction in Arabic text.

In conclusion, our research contributes valuable insights to the specific domain of Arabic language processing and serves as a broader exploration of the impact of sentence length on punctuation prediction. By adhering to the outlined structure and drawing upon the foundations laid by existing literature, we aim to elevate our understanding of this intricate relationship and pave the way for further advancements in the field.

METHODS

Various deep learning models and techniques have been explored in the field of document analysis research. This paper examines the importance and shortcomings of these approaches, highlighting their effectiveness and limitations. While progress has been made in using deep learning for document analysis, there are still unexplored areas that warrant further investigation. The study highlights the need for future research to delve into these untapped areas and unlock the full potential of deep learning to improve document analysis. In addition, the paper presents the latest deep learning frameworks and provides insights into the cutting-edge tools and technologies that are shaping the landscape of document analysis research,^(20,21) These approaches where we have used in our previous work⁽⁷⁾ to compare many models such as GRU-based⁽²²⁾ and LSTM-based models.

Bi-Directional Long Short-Term Memory (Bi-LSTM) models

In accordance with the findings presented in ^(7,23), we opt for a Bi-LSTM-based model to assess the influence of sentence length on punctuation prediction. Figure 1 presents the architecture of the Bi-LSTM model. Where X_i is the input token, Y_i is the output token, and A and A' are LSTM nodes. The final output of Y_i is the combination of A and A' LSTM nodes.

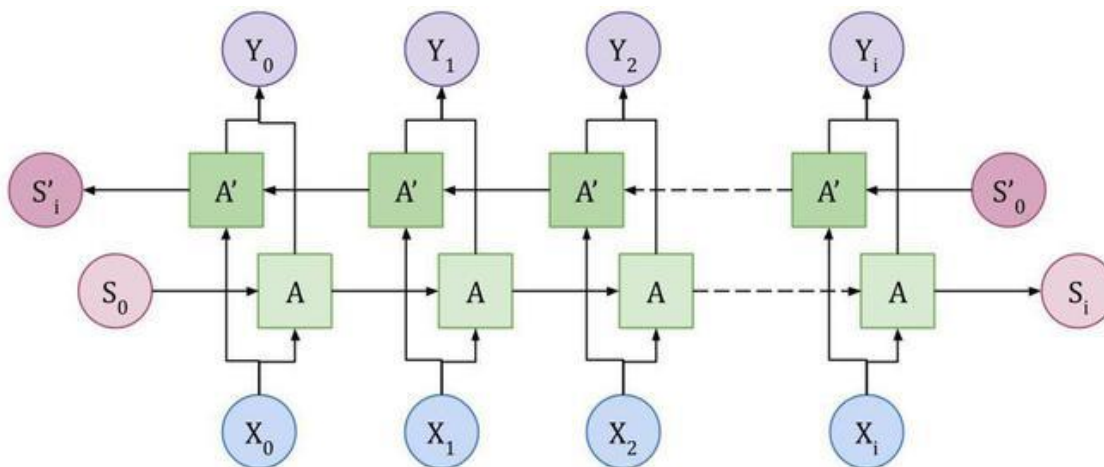


Figure 1. Architecture of the Bi-LSTM model

In the experimental setup, a Bi-LSTM model was chosen for its efficacy in sequence modeling. The architecture featured an embedding layer with an output dimension of 128, aimed at capturing the semantic nuances of the input sentences. The subsequent two LSTM layers,⁽²⁴⁾ each comprising 64 units, provided the model with the capacity to capture long-term dependencies. Dropout regularization with a rate of 0,3 was implemented after each LSTM layer to mitigate overfitting, and a learning rate of 1e-4 facilitated fine-tuning during training using Adam optimizer.⁽²⁵⁾

Dataset

In our dataset,⁽²⁶⁾ an extensive variety of sentence lengths is captured, spanning from succinct sentences composed of merely three words to more extensive ones comprising up to twenty words. The dataset reveals nuanced patterns in punctuation frequencies, showcasing variations tied to differing sentence lengths. This variation reflects not only the diverse structures of sentences but also the distinct stylistic choices employed within the text. The dataset comprises a substantial corpus, encompassing a total of 57M sentences, with an expansive word count totaling 1,170M words. Within this linguistic landscape, a rich vocabulary is evident, consisting of 4M unique words. This comprehensive dataset is particularly well-suited for exploring the intricate interplay between sentence characteristics, punctuation usage, and linguistic styles, making it valuable for research in the realms of deep learning, natural language processing (NLP), and related fields.

The dataset derived from the ArPM corpus⁽²⁶⁾ has been carefully pre-processed, as shown in figure 2. Sentences were tokenized, and punctuation marks were assigned as labels, resulting in a comprehensive dataset of 100k sentences. Each sentence pertained to one of five punctuation marks: period, colon, exclamation, question, and comma. These sentences were organized into sequences of varying lengths (3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17), forming the basis for a nuanced investigation into the impact of sentence length on punctuation prediction.

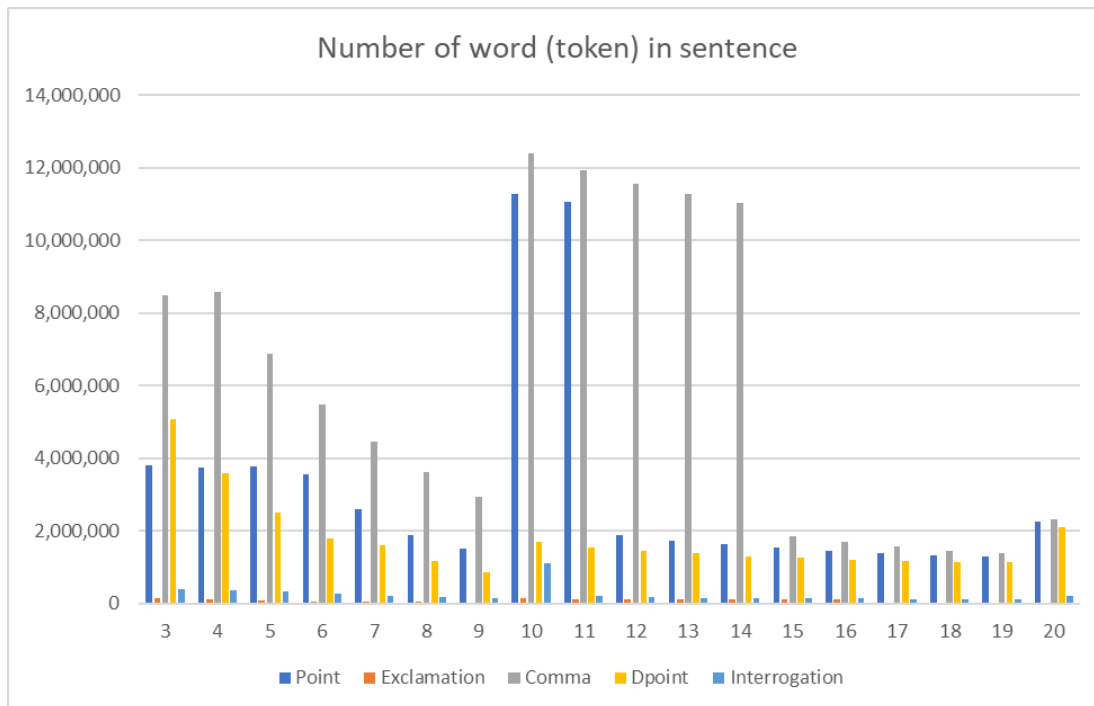


Figure 2. Number of words in a sentence ArPM corpus

Training Model

For the training phase, an innovative approach was adopted. Eight distinct models were trained, each dedicated to a specific sentence length. This deliberate strategy facilitated an in-depth exploration of the model's performance across diverse sentence structures, providing granularity in understanding the interplay between sentence length and punctuation prediction. The tables, denoted as table 1 and table 2, present the empirical results, offering valuable insights into the model's predictive efficacy for each punctuation mark across varying sentence lengths. This meticulous methodology aligns with the rigorous standards of scientific inquiry, ensuring a comprehensive exploration of the research question at hand.

RESULTS

The model's performance varies across different punctuation marks, with periods showing fluctuations, colons demonstrating stability, exclamation marks exhibiting variability, commas indicating robust performance, and question marks displaying some variability with a slight decreasing trend. The analysis provides insights into the model's strengths and potential areas for improvement in predicting different punctuation marks.

Length of sentence(words)	3	5	7	9	11	13	15	17
Metrics (%)	P R	P R	P R	P R	P R	P R	P R	P R
	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Period	51 47	58 52	60 52	47 44	46 43	39 48	40 50	41 45
	49	55	56	45	44	43	44	43
Colon	46 51	44 49	52 55	53 55	49 49	49 39	54 40	51 41
	48	46	53	54	49	43	46	45
Exclamation Mark	59 55	49 47	55 54	57 54	57 61	61 56	53 55	44 50
	57	48	55	55	59	58	54	47
Comma	70 72	64 68	69 71	70 72	68 72	71 69	72 71	72 76
	71	66	70	71	70	70	72	74
Question Mark	83 82	80 78	76 82	75 78	75 72	68 74	73 72	73 70
	83	79	79	76	73	71	73	71

1. Period

- The predictions for the period punctuation mark show some variability, starting at 51, reaching a peak at 60, and then stabilizing in the range of 47 to 56. The overall pattern suggests fluctuations in the model's confidence for predicting periods.

2. Colon

- Predictions for the colon punctuation mark exhibit a relatively stable pattern, with values varying within the range of 44 to 55. This indicates a consistent level of confidence in predicting colons across the given data.

3. Exclamation Mark

- The model's predictions for the exclamation mark show a more varied trend, with values oscillating between 47 and 61. This suggests a range of confidence levels in predicting exclamation marks, indicating potential sensitivity to contextual variations.

4. Comma

- Predictions for the comma punctuation mark reveal a relatively consistent and high range, ranging from 64 to 76. This indicates a robust and stable performance in predicting commas, with the model consistently confident in these predictions.

5. Question Mark

- The model's predictions for the question mark display variations between 68 and 83, with a slight overall decreasing trend. This suggests some variability in the model's confidence for predicting question marks, possibly influenced by specific contexts within the data.

In examining the influence of sentence length on punctuation prediction, distinct patterns emerge for each punctuation mark. The model's predictions for periods exhibit fluctuations, prompting an investigation into whether sentence length correlates with increased confidence in predicting periods. Conversely, predictions for colons remain relatively stable across varying sentence lengths, suggesting a consistent model performance irrespective of sentence length. The varied trend in exclamation mark predictions prompts an exploration of potential connections between sentence length and the model's confidence. For commas, the consistently high prediction range implies that sentence length may have

minimal impact on accuracy. Lastly, the variations and slight decreasing trend in question mark predictions warrant a closer look into how sentence length affects the model's proficiency in predicting question marks, discerning potential challenges or advantages associated with shorter or longer sentences. This nuanced analysis provides valuable insights into the interplay between sentence length and punctuation prediction outcomes.

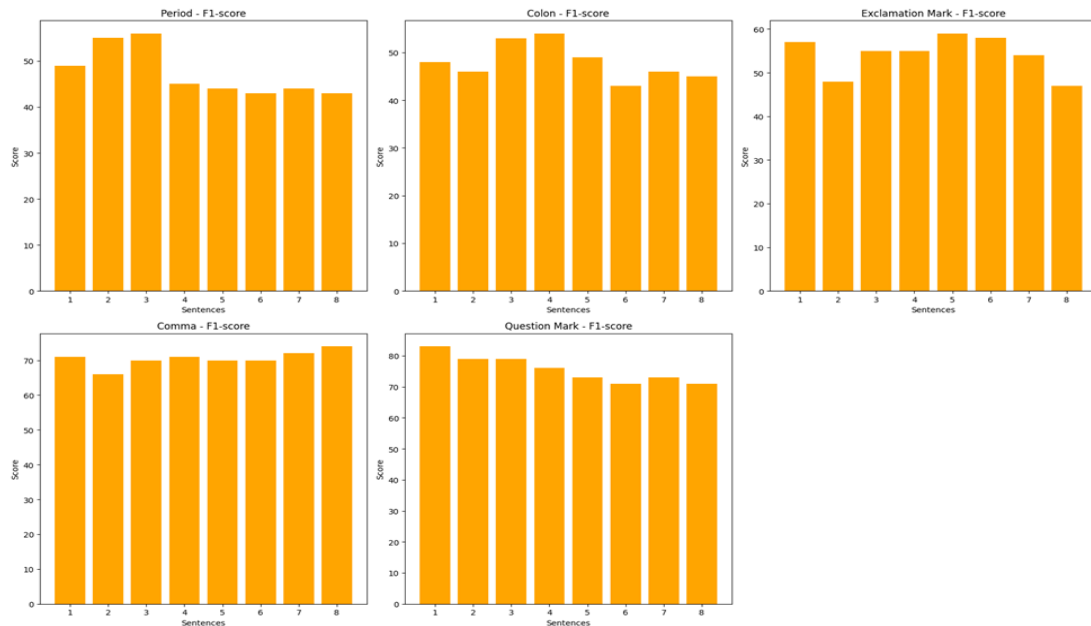


Figure 3: F1-score for Each Punctuation Mark Across Sentences with Different Lengths for Bi-LSTM

Table 2. Bi-LSTM-Att model results (Precision, Recall, F1-score for each length sentence per Mark)																
Length of sentence(words)	3		5		7		9		11		13		15		17	
Metrics (%)	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R	P	R
	F		F		F		F		F		F		F		F	
Period	48	53	54	56	57	55	44	49	46	43	41	41	40	46	43	44
	50		55		56		47		44		41		43		43	
Colon	49	49	46	44	53	51	55	51	48	50	49	36	50	44	50	43
	49		45		52		53		49		41		47		46	
Exclamation Mark	60	55	49	48	54	57	58	57	60	59	59	58	58	56	46	48
	57		48		56		57		59		59		57		47	
Comma	72	71	65	66	70	69	70	71	69	73	66	74	74	70	72	73
	71		65		70		70		71		70		72		73	
Question Mark	84	83	78	79	76	80	78	74	74	72	67	76	70	76	67	75
	83		78		78		76		73		71		73		71	

For Bi-LSTM-Att model we can observe:

1. Period

- Accuracy: Exhibits an incremental trend, rising from 48 to 57.
- Precision: Shows an initial increase from 53 to 56, followed by a slight decrease to 55.
- Recall: Demonstrates an overall incremental pattern, ascending from 50 to 55 and then experiencing a minor decline to 56.

2. Colon

- Accuracy: Varied, with values oscillating between 46 and 55.
- Precision: Initially decreases from 49 to 45, then rises again to 52.
- Recall: Displays fluctuations, with values ranging from 49 to 53.

3. Exclamation Mark

- Accuracy: Varied, with values ranging from 48 to 60.
- Precision: Shows slight variations, generally maintaining values in the mid-50s.
- Recall: Remains relatively stable, with values ranging from 48 to 60.

4. Comma

- Accuracy: Relatively stable, with values around 70.
- Precision: Shows minor fluctuations, maintaining values around 70.
- Recall: Remains consistent, with values around 71.

5. Question Mark

- Accuracy: Varied, with values ranging from 67 to 84.
- Precision: Displays fluctuations, with values ranging from 72 to 83.
- Recall: Shows some variations, with values ranging from 71 to 84.

Specifically, for the period punctuation, there is a discernible incremental trend in accuracy, implying that the predictive performance improves as sentence length increases. However, precision and recall exhibit more nuanced behaviors, with precision initially increasing before experiencing a slight decrease, and recall showing an overall incremental pattern but with a minor decline in the middle.

For colon punctuation, the accuracy trend appears varied, suggesting that sentence length may not have a consistent impact on prediction accuracy. Precision, on the other hand, shows fluctuations, indicating potential sensitivity to sentence length changes. Recall also displays variability, further emphasizing the nuanced impact of sentence length on colon prediction.

The exclamation mark punctuation reveals mixed results, with accuracy and recall exhibiting varied patterns, possibly suggesting a complex relationship with sentence length. Precision remains relatively stable, implying a consistent predictive precision regardless of sentence length.

In the case of the comma punctuation, the stability in accuracy and recall suggests that sentence length might have a limited impact on predicting commas. Precision, with minor fluctuations, indicates a subtle sensitivity to sentence length variations.

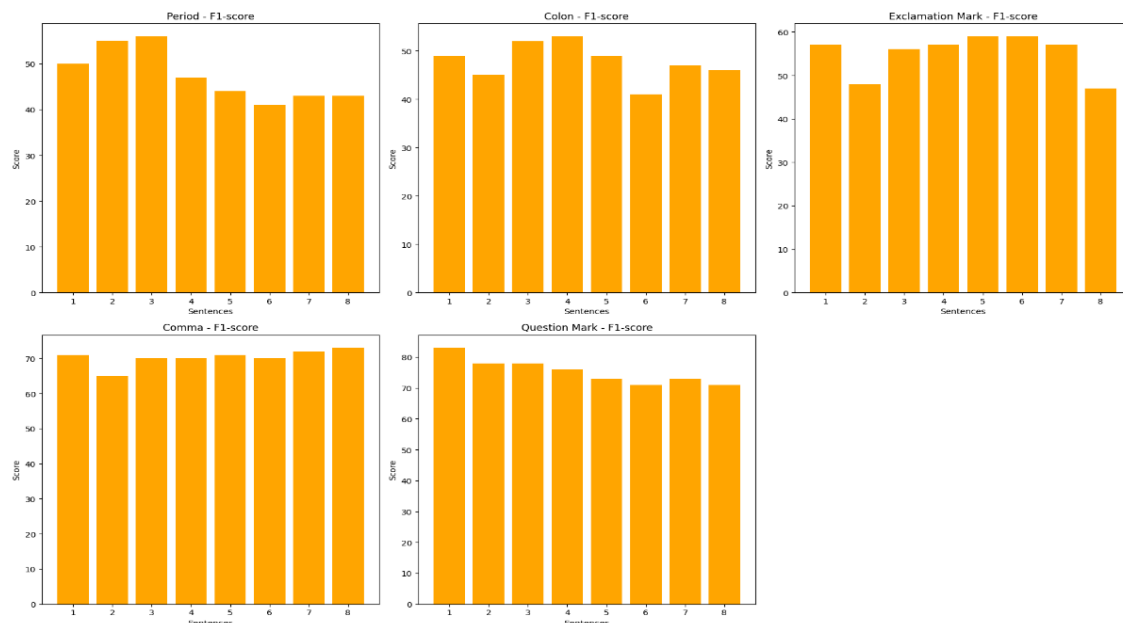


Figure 4. F1-score for Each Punctuation Mark Across Sentences with Different Lengths for Bi-LSTM-Att

Finally, for the question mark punctuation, the data suggests a diverse impact of sentence length on prediction outcomes, with accuracy and recall showing variations and precision displaying sensitivity to changes in sentence length.

Overall, the observed trends underscore the importance of considering sentence length as a factor in punctuation prediction models, with different punctuation marks exhibiting unique sensitivities to varying sentence lengths. Further investigation and fine-tuning of models may be warranted to optimize punctuation prediction across a range of sentence lengths.

DISCUSSION

In comparing the results of the Bi-LSTM model with those of the Bi-LSTM-Att model (the first model incorporating an attention mechanism), several observations can be made.

For the Bi-LSTM model as illustrate in the figure 3:

- Period predictions range from 39 to 60.
- Colon predictions vary between 39 and 55.
- Exclamation mark predictions fluctuate from 44 to 61.
- Comma predictions fall within the range of 66 to 76.
- Question mark predictions span from 70 to 83.

For the Bi-LSTM-Att model as shown in figure 4:

- Period predictions range from 40 to 57.
- Colon predictions vary between 36 and 55.
- Exclamation mark predictions fluctuate from 46 to 60.
- Comma predictions fall within the range of 65 to 74.
- Question mark predictions span from 67 to 84.

Upon comparison, it is evident that the Bi-LSTM-Att model generally yields predictions within a narrower range for each punctuation mark, suggesting a more constrained and potentially focused output. Additionally, the attention mechanism in the Bi-LSTM-Att model appears to contribute to a more refined prediction pattern. The Bi-LSTM-Att model, with its attention mechanism, may offer advantages in scenarios where nuanced attention to certain parts of the input sequence is crucial for improved punctuation prediction.

CONCLUSION

The results offer a clear insight into the influence of sentence length on prediction. Notably, as sentence length increases, there is a slight decrease in prediction accuracy. However, overall, the predictions remain relatively stable, hovering around 5 %, contingent upon the specific punctuation mark in consideration.

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FINANCING

The authors did not receive funding for the development of this research.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

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