

# Learning to Represent Edits

My path working with edits, in a nutshell

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# Table of contents

About Me

Understanding Source Code Changes on GitHub

Article Quality Assessment on Wikipedia

Variational Inference for Learning Representations of Natural Language Edits

Edit Aware Representation Learning via Levenshtein Prediction

## About Me

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<https://epochx.github.io/>

- Industrial Engineer from the University of Chile
- Went to Japan in 2013 as a graduate MEXT scholar
- Did my Ph.D. at the University of Tokyo, under the supervision of Yutaka Matsuo <http://ymatsuo.com/>, after graduation I stayed there as a postdoc
- On April 2021 I became researcher at AIST <https://www.airc.aist.go.jp/en/kirt/>, and continued as a visiting assistant professor at University of Tokyo

## About me (2)

- **Research**
  - Interested in multi-modality, specifically on video-and-language (I'm intentionally leaving this topic for a future talk)
  - Learning to understanding and represent source code and natural language edits ([Loyola et al., 2017, 2018](#); [Marrese-Taylor et al., 2019, 2020](#))
- **Misc:** Broad interest in affect in text, including emotion ([Marrese-Taylor and Matsuo, 2017](#); [Balazs et al., 2018](#)) and irony detection ([Ilić et al., 2018](#))
- **Committee Member:** NAACL, EMNLP, ACL, INLG, AAAI
- **Education:** I have been teaching an undergrad class on Introduction to Machine Learning from 2018 to 2022, Co-guiding 1 (+2) Ph.D., 4 (+2) Master's and 2 Interns at the University of Tokyo.

# Understanding Source Code Changes on GitHub

with Pablo Loyola and Yutaka Matsuo

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## Source code inherently reflects human intent

- It encodes the way we command a machine to perform a task
- It is expected that it follows distributional regularities that a proper natural language manifests
- Allows an indirect way of communication between developers

## Automatic code summarization methods

- Can help provide relevant insights to developers, but is static.
- Software development can be seen as a sequence of incremental changes
- Source code changes are critical for understanding program evolution so **how can we extend it to encode code changes into natural language representations?**

# Idea: Code Commits in GitHub

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a GitHub commit page. The browser's address bar shows the URL: `https://github.com/steve-jansen/demo/commit/851d8e35c0f2f97d072ff23ef3a3676ec04dfc96`. The page title is "Update demo.js" and it indicates the commit is on the "master" branch. The commit was authored by "steve-jansen" a minute ago. A summary indicates "Showing 1 changed file with 1 addition and 1 deletion". The diff view shows the file "demo.js" with the following changes:

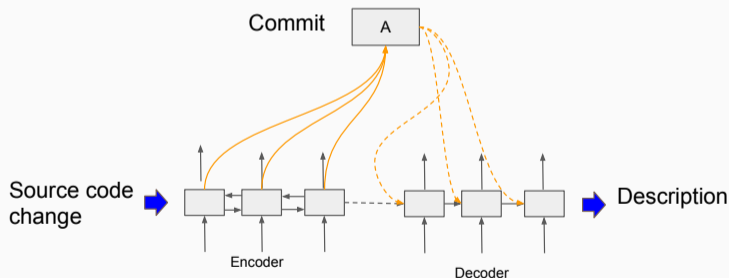
```
@@ -1,2 +1,2 @@
1 - var x = 'Hello, World!';
1 + var x = 'Hello, World!';
2 2
```

Below the diff, there are "0 notes on commit 851d8e3". At the bottom, there is a comment section with a "Write" button, a "Preview" button, and a text input field containing the placeholder text "Leave a comment".



## Proposed approach

- Encoder-Decoder with a global attention mechanism is used to learn more expressive portions of the sequences ([Loyola et al., 2017](#)).
- During testing we use **beam search** to approximate the most likely message.
- Evaluation based on BLEU-4 the standard metric to evaluate machine translation models.



## Experiments and Results

- Data collected from 4 programming languages, ranging 12 active large scale programs.  
**Atomicity assumption:** one file-change per commit
- Baseline: MOSES treating the problem as a phrase-based translation task.

Dataset	<i>atomic</i>			<i>full</i>	
	Val. acc	BLEU	Moses	Val. acc	BLEU
Theano	36.81%	9.5	7.1	39.88%	10.9
keras	45.76%	13.7	7.8	59.30%	8.8
youtube-dl	50.84%	16.4	17.5	53.65%	17.7
node	52.46%	7.8	7.7	53.70%	7.2
angular	44.39%	13.9	11.7	45.06%	15.3
react	49.44%	11.4	10.7	48.61%	12.1
opencv	50.77%	11.2	9.0	49.00%	8.4
CNTK	48.88%	17.9	11.8	44.85%	9.3
bitcoin	50.04%	17.9	13.0	55.03%	15.1
CoreNLP	63.20%	28.5	10.1	62.25%	26.7
elasticsearch	36.53%	11.8	5.2	35.98%	6.4
guava	65.52%	29.8	19.5	67.15%	34.3

## Experiments and Results (2)

	Reference	Generated
keras	Fix image resizing in preprocessing/image Fix test flakes	Fixed image preprocessing . Fix flaky test
Theano	fix crash in the new warning message . remove var not used . Better error msg	Better warning message . remove not used code . better error message .
youtube-dl	[ crunchyroll ] Fix uploader and upload date extraction [ extractor/common ] Improve base url construction [ mixcloud ] Use unicode.literals	[ crunchyroll ] Fix uploader extraction [ extractor/common ] Improve extraction [ common ] Use unicode.literals
opencv	fixed gcc compilation remove unused variables in OCL_PERF_TEST_P ( )	fixed compile under linux remove unused variable in the module

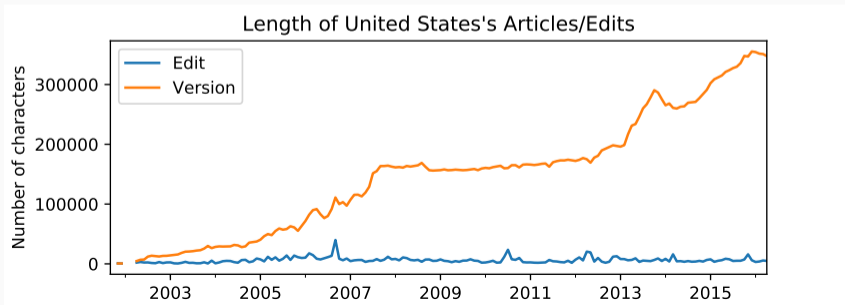
# Article Quality Assessment on Wikipedia

with Pablo Loyola and Yutaka Matsuo

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# Motivation

- Assessing the quality of Wikipedia articles is critical for maintaining its reputation and credibility.
- Existing approaches for quality assessment are:
  - Static (no time dependency is considered).
  - Work at the document-level.
  - Based on a set of predefined hand-crafted features (ORES).
- **Problem:** Article size grows over time, hard to scale.



## Proposed Approach (1)

**Idea:** A model that receives as input only the edit and **returns a measure of article quality**. As edits are usually accompanied by a short description, we explore whether learning to generate this description could help improve quality assessment.

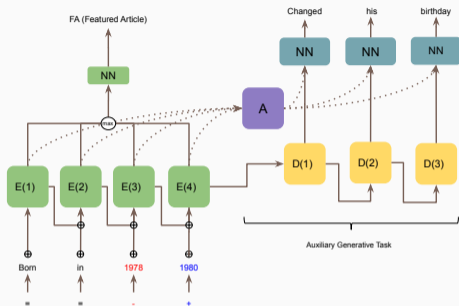
We tokenize each sentence and then use a standard *diff* algorithm to compare each sequence pair, and build an *edit-sentence* based on the alignment, containing **added**, **deleted** and **unchanged** tokens, with the token-level labels +, - and =. For example:

+ **Errare humanum est**, quis nostrud exercitation  
ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo  
consequat.

- **Ut enim ad minim veniam**, quis nostrud  
exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea  
commodo consequat.

Errare humanum est Ut enim ad minim veniam , quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi  
+ + + - - - - - = = = = =  
ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat .  
= = = = =

## Proposed Approach (2)



- Quality assessment is a **multi-class classification** with labels  $\text{Stub} \leq \text{Start} \leq C \leq B \leq \text{GA} \leq \text{FA}$  (Warncke-Wang et al., 2013).
- We incorporate edit messages by adding an **auxiliary generative task**, modeled using seq2seq. This loss is added to the classification cross entropy using a weight based on parameter  $\lambda$ .

# Experiments

- **Data:** we use some of the most edited articles for English and German Wikipedia and obtain quality data using the ORES API ([Warncke-Wang et al., 2013](#)), as a silver standard.
- **Evaluation:** For the classification we used accuracy on the validation set for hyper-parameter tuning and evaluation, and also measured macro-averaged F1-Score. The generative task is evaluated using BLEU.

Model	F1-Score	Accuracy	BLEU
Regular	0.47	0.74	-
+ <i>edit-sentence</i>	0.56	<b>0.80</b>	-
+ <i>diff tags</i>	0.62	0.78	-
+ Generation $\lambda = 0.2$	0.28	0.61	0.25
+ Generation $\lambda = 0.5$	0.33	0.68	0.24
+ Generation $\lambda = 0.8$	0.41	0.77	0.25
+ Generation $\lambda = 0.9$	<b>0.65</b>	0.77	0.22
Only Generation ( $\lambda = 0$ )	-	-	0.23



## Results: Summary

Dataset Model		Test		
		F1-Score	Accuracy	BLEU
Barack Obama	C	0.62	<b>0.91</b>	-
	C+G	<b>0.66</b>	0.88	0.20
Donald Trump	C	<b>0.47</b>	<b>0.78</b>	-
	C+G	<b>0.47</b>	0.77	0.20
Guns n' Roses	C	0.18	<b>0.84</b>	-
	C+G	<b>0.30</b>	0.81	0.20
Xbox 360	C	0.30	0.61	-
	C+G	<b>0.32</b>	<b>0.63</b>	0.31
Chicago	C	0.38	<b>0.72</b>	-
	C+G	<b>0.39</b>	0.71	0.29
Pink Floyd	C	0.35	0.80	-
	C+G	<b>0.37</b>	<b>0.80</b>	0.35
Manchester United F.	C	0.17	0.72	-
	C+G	<b>0.39</b>	<b>0.77</b>	0.43
Wikiclass	C	0.40	0.40	-

# Variational Inference for Learning Representations of Natural Language Edits

with Machel Reid and Yutaka Matsuo

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- Editing documents has become a pervasive component of many human activities ([Miltner et al., 2019](#)).
- **Is it possible to automatically extract rules from these common edits?**
  - Yes! Learning distributed representations of edits ([Yin et al., 2019](#))
- **Can we do better?**

# A Generative Model for Edits

## Proposal

A task based on self-supervision to learn edit representations, where:

- $x_-^{(i)}$  is the original version of an object
- $x_+^{(i)}$  its form after a change has been applied

Then, we assume the following generative process to obtain  $x_+^{(i)}$  from  $x_-^{(i)}$ :

$$p(\mathbf{x}_+|\mathbf{x}_-) = \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(\mathbf{x}_+, z|\mathbf{x}_-)d_{\mathbf{z}} = \int_{\mathbf{z}} p(\mathbf{x}_+|z, \mathbf{x}_-)p(z)d_{\mathbf{z}} \quad (1)$$

Where  $\mathbf{x}_+$  and  $\mathbf{x}_-$  are observed random variables associated to  $x_+^{(i)}$  and  $x_-^{(i)}$  respectively, and  $z$  **represents a continuous latent variable that models the edit process.**

To evaluate models, we propose Performance Evaluation of Edit Representations (PEER).

## Intrinsic evaluation

→ No external data

- Gold-standard performance of the editor (token-level accuracy).
- Visual inspection of the semantic similarity of neighbors in latent space.
- Clustering and visual inspection of clusters.

## Extrinsic Evaluation

→ External data required

- Visual inspection of the 2D-projected edit space on edits for a certain label.
- One-shot performance of the editor on similar edits.
- Ability to capture other properties of the edit (one or many labels associated).

We propose to resort to automatic and more standard evaluations, using BLEU-4, as well as GLEU (Napoles et al., 2015) and a set of downstream tasks.

Three downstream tasks, each associated to a large(r) unlabeled dataset for self-supervised training (intrinsic evaluation) and a small(er) annotated dataset with labels for extrinsic evaluation.

End Task	Training Dataset (unlabeled)	Evaluation Dataset (labeled)
Edit-level article quality classification	WikiAtomicEdits (Faruqui et al., 2018a), WikiEditsMix	WikiEditsMix (4 edit-level quality labels)
MT post-edit type classification	QT21 En-De (Specia et al., 2017)	QT21 En-De MQM (6 post-edit type labels)
Grammar Error Correction difficulty classification	Lang 8 (Bryant et al., 2019)	WI + Locness (3 difficulty CEFR levels)

## Results: Intrinsic Evaluation

Train. Data	Model	Valid		Test	
		BLEU	GLEU	BLEU	GLEU
WikiAtomicSample	Guu	0.63	0.60	0.28	0.26
	Yin	0.81	0.79	0.81	0.79
	EVE	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.82</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>0.82</b>
WikiEditsMix	Guu	0.56	0.53	0.54	0.52
	Yin	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.65</b>	<b>0.65</b>
	EVE	0.58	0.61	0.55	0.57
Lang 8	Guu	0.53	0.43	0.51	0.41
	Yin	0.65	0.58	0.65	0.58
	EVE	<b>0.68</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>0.68</b>	<b>0.60</b>
QT21 De-En	Guu	0.47	0.37	0.32	0.30
	Yin	<b>0.57</b>	<b>0.49</b>	<b>0.57</b>	<b>0.49</b>
	EVE	0.53	0.45	0.54	0.46

## Results: Extrinsic Evaluation

Train. Data	Model	Eval. Data	Accuracy		
			Train	Valid	Test
WikiAtomicSample	Guu	WikiEditsMix	0.738	0.740	0.743
	Yin		0.671	0.672	0.668
	EVE		<b>0.782</b>	<b>0.780</b>	<b>0.774</b>
WikiEditsMix	Guu	WikiEditsMix	<b>0.670</b>	<b>0.668</b>	<b>0.666</b>
	Yin		0.604	0.597	0.600
	EVE		0.637	0.642	0.638
Lang 8	Guu	WI + Locness	0.924	0.856	0.856
	Yin		0.836	0.831	0.831
	EVE		<b>0.971</b>	<b>0.958</b>	<b>0.958</b>
QT21 De-En	Guu	QT21 De-En MQM	0.925	0.896	0.933
	Yin		0.972	0.952	0.964
	EVE		<b>0.999</b>	<b>0.992</b>	<b>0.992</b>



# **Edit Aware Representation Learning via Levenshtein Prediction**

with Machel Reid and Alfredo Solano

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- Most edit representation learning approaches are based on auto-encoding Yin et al. (2019); Marrese-Taylor et al. (2021), using “self-supervised learning“, others produced representations indirectly focusing on edit-centric downstream tasks (Sarkar et al., 2019; Marrese-Taylor et al., 2019)
- **Would a “neural Levenshtein algorithm” be conducive to improved downstream performance on edit-based tasks?**
  - We look at using the **Levenshtein algorithm as a form of supervision** to encourage a model to learn to convert a given input sequence into a desired output sequence

# Levenshtein Prediction

- $x_-$  original version of an object (a sequence of tokens).
- $x_+$  form after a change has been applied (also a sequence of tokens).

We tokenize  $(x_-, x_+)$ , then use the Levenshtein algorithm to identify the text spans that have changed. Let  $x_-^{i:j}$  be the sub-span on  $x_-$  that goes from positions  $i$  to  $j$ "

1. When a span has been inserted at  $x_-^{i:j}$ , such that it appears in  $x_+^{k:j}$ , we label the tokens in the latter as  $w^+$ , and also label token  $x_-^{i-1}$ , as  $+$ .
2. If  $x_-^{i:j}$  has been replaced by the span  $x_+^{k:l}$ , we label the tokens on the respective spans as  $\Leftrightarrow$  and  $w^{\Leftrightarrow}$ .
3. If the span  $x_-^{i:j}$  has been removed from the sequence, we label each token as  $-$ .
4. Tokens that have not been involved in the edit are label with an empty tag, denoted as  $=$ .

## Levenshtein Prediction (2)

As a result of our post-processing, each token in both  $x_-$  and  $x_+$  is mapped to a single Levenshtein operation label:  $\Leftrightarrow$ ,  $w^{\Leftrightarrow}$ ,  $+$  or  $w^+$ .

For example:

- **Input sequence ( $x_-$ ):** “My name is John”
- **Output sequence ( $x_+$ ):** “My last name is Wayne”

Becomes (using white-space tokenization):

[CLS]	My	name	is	John	[SEP]	My	last	name	is	Wayne
=	+	=	=	$\Leftrightarrow$	=	=	$w^+$	=	=	$w^{\Leftrightarrow}$

Thus, the end goal of our task is to predict these token-level Levenshtein operations relevant to transform  $x_-$  into  $x_+$ .

## Data: Pre-training

We leverage large available corpora containing natural language edits:

- WIKIEDITSMIX (Marrese-Taylor et al., 2021)
- WIKIATOMICEDITS (Faruqui et al., 2018b)

Dataset	Edits	Avg. Len
WIKIATOMICEDITS		
Insertions	13.7M	24.5
Deletions	9.3M	25.1
WIKIEDITSMIX	114K	61.6

We use WIKIEDITSMIX for ablation experiments regarding our proposed  $\mathcal{L}_{x_{\Delta}}$  and  $\mathcal{L}_{MLM}$  losses. To evaluate the pre-training phase, we utilize the **overall and per-token F1-score**.

## Data: Downstream Tasks

- **Paraphrasing Detection:** we measure the ability of our edit encoder to model structure, context, and word order information, by means of using PAWS (Yang et al., 2019),
- **Edit-level Article Quality Estimation:** multi-class classification to predict the quality labels on WIKIEDITSMIX (Marrese-Taylor et al., 2021). Concretely, the task is edit-level quality prediction with 4 labels: *spam*, *vandalism*, *attack OK*, each corresponding to a different quality of the edit.
- **Classification of Grammatical Errors:** since grammatical errors consist of many different types, we follow previous work (Marrese-Taylor et al., 2021) and use the GEC difficulty level annotations in the WI + LOCNESS (Bryant et al., 2019) dataset.

We use **accuracy** for PAWS, and **F1-score** for the other datasets. Zero-shot and fine-tuning settings.

- Encoder proposed by [Yin et al. \(2019\)](#), but we omit the copy mechanism proposed in the paper in order to make our results comparable.
- EVE ([Marrese-Taylor et al., 2021](#)), which also uses an auto-encoding loss for training, but does so in variational inference framework.
- The approach by [Guu et al. \(2018\)](#), but skip their sampling procedure.
- ROBERTA-base ([Liu et al., 2019](#)), as our task requires the model to capture structure, context, and word order information, we initialize our model with the ROBERTA-base weights, which we also adopt as a baseline for downstream experiments.

## Results: Ablation Experiments

Results of our ablation experiments on WIKIEDITSMIX:

Model	WikiEditsMix (F1-score)						PAWS		WikiEdits		GEC	
	+	$w^+$	$\Leftrightarrow$	$w^{\Leftrightarrow}$	-	All	ZS	Ft	ZS	Ft	ZS	Ft
$\mathcal{L}_{lev}$	<b>89.4</b>	<b>96.1</b>	90.6	88.6	93.7	<b>91.8</b>	56.8	94.9	56.8	78.1	<b>49.5</b>	52.4
$\mathcal{L}_{lev} + \mathcal{L}_{x\Delta}$	87.8	95.6	89.9	<b>88.7</b>	93.5	91.2	<b>63.8</b>	94.9	56.7	78.2	48.6	<b>53.4</b>
$\mathcal{L}_{lev} + \mathcal{L}_{MLM}$	80.0	94.7	<b>93.8</b>	86.3	<b>95.6</b>	90.2	60.7	<b>95.0</b>	<b>64.8</b>	<b>78.4</b>	48.8	53.1



## Comparison with state-of-the-art

	Model	PAWS	WikiEditsMix	GEC
Zero-shot	RoBERTa	58.1	63.2	<b>50.7</b>
	EARL <sub>Mix</sub>	<b>63.8</b>	56.7	48.6
	EARL <sub>Ins+Del</sub>	62.2	<b>57.0</b>	47.6
Fine-tuning	RoBERTa	94.5	<b>78.9</b>	54.0
	Guu (2018)	-	74.3	85.6
	Yin (2019)	-	66.8	83.1
	EVE (2021)	-	77.4	<b>95.8</b>
	EARL <sub>Mix</sub>	<b>94.9</b>	78.2	53.4
	EARL <sub>Ins+Del</sub>	94.5	78.3	54.5

EARL<sub>Mix</sub> and EARL<sub>Ins+Del</sub> indicate models that have been pre-trained on WIKIEDITSMIX and WIKIATOMICEDITS (Insertions+Deletions), respectively

# Conclusions

- Results on GEC poor because of domain of pre-training is too different to our data, which comes from Wikipedia. Pre-training on a GEC dataset should help (Marrese-Taylor et al., 2021).
- $\mathcal{L}_{MLM}$  generally helps the models attain better performance on the downstream, and that  $\mathcal{L}_{x_{\Delta}}$  sometimes helps as well, specially for PAWS
- Our continued-training loss does not make the model forget the original pre-training, keeping performance on MNLI
- Impact of more data does not seem that important (results on INSERTIONS vs WIKIEDITSMIX are similar).
- Results could be due to pre-training/fine-tuning domain similarity rather than due to the effectiveness of  $\mathcal{L}_{lev}$ .

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