

# Synergetic Interaction Network with Cross-task Attention for Joint Relational Triple Extraction

Da Luo \*, Run Lin\*, Qiao Liu\*, Yuxiang Cai, Xueyi Liu, Yanglei Gan, Rui Hou

University of Electronic Science and Technology of China

(\* Co-First Author, \* Corresponding author)



May, 2024

# Outline

---

1

Introduction

2

Proposed Framework

3

Experiments

4

Future Work

# Outline

---

1

Introduction

2

Proposed Framework

3

Experiments

4

Future Work

# Task Definition

---

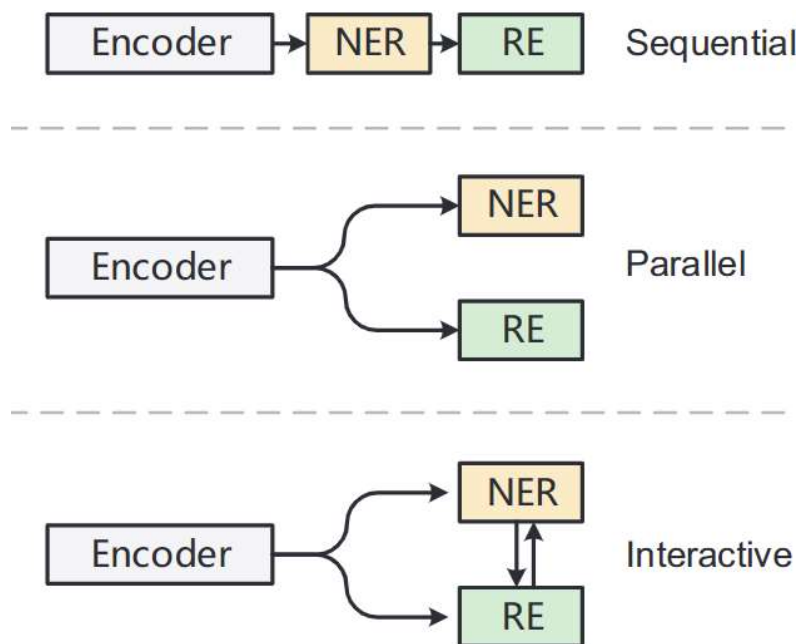
**Calvin** had a delicious **lasagna** near the University of Turin, Italy

| Subject | Relation | Object  |
|---------|----------|---------|
| Calvin  | Eat      | lasagna |

Joint relational triple extraction simultaneously identifies entities and their relations in text to create relational triples **<Subject, Relation, Object>**.

# Related Works

Recent methods have explored three main categories:



- Sequence encoding method

- MHSM (Bekoulis et al., 2018b), CASREL (Wei et al., 2020), AT (Bekoulis et al., 2018a)

- Parallel encoding method

- Graphrel (Fu et al., 2019), DYGIE++ (Wadden et al., 2019)

- Interactive encoding method

- RIN (Sun et al., 2020), MD-RNN (Wang and Lu, 2020),
- PFN (Yan et al., 2021), MGE (Xiong et al., 2022)

# Contributions

---

- We present a novel synergetic interaction network that enables **effective bi-directional interaction** between NER and RE sub-tasks by **leveraging contextual association**.
- Our proposed method leverages a **cross-task attention mechanism** to boost interaction between NER and RE sub-tasks, enhancing contextual comprehension and inference capabilities while ensuring efficient computational and memory use.
- The experimental results on three standard benchmarks indicate that our method performs **better than state-of-the-art baselines**.

# Outline

---

1

Introduction

2

Proposed Framework

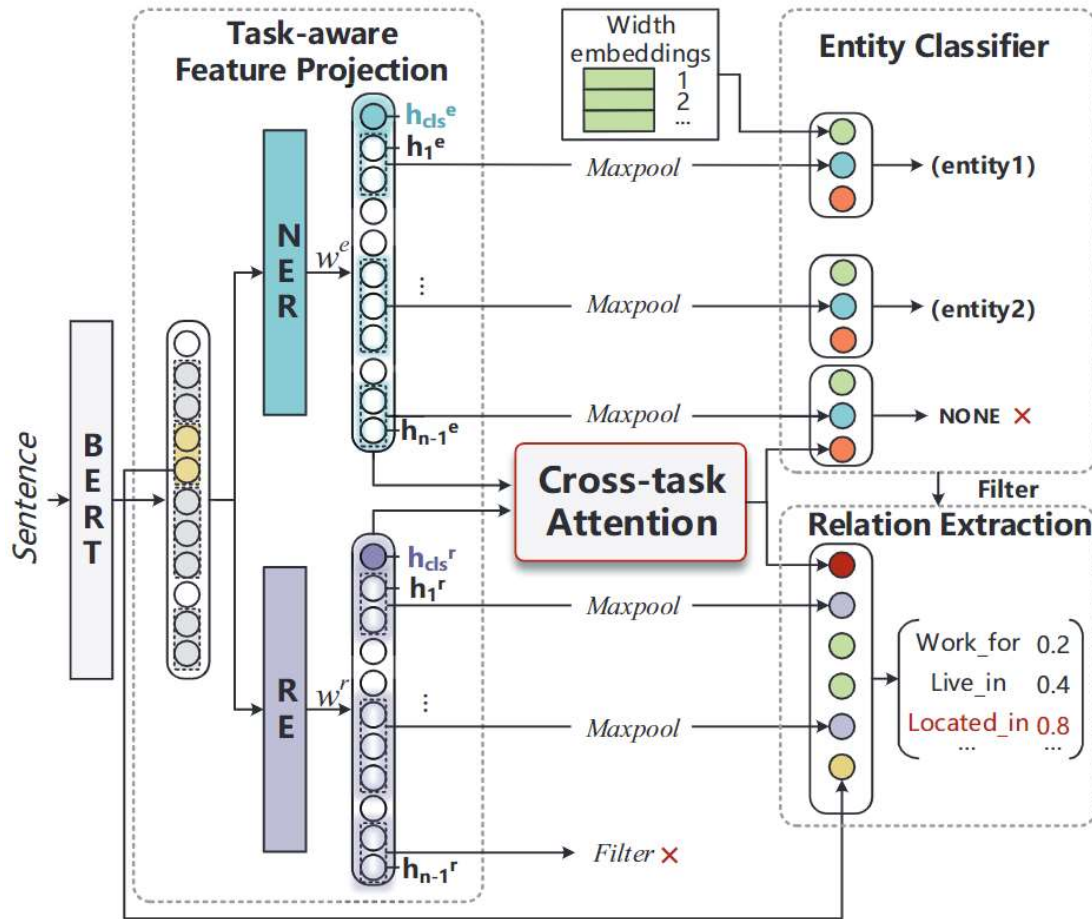
3

Experiments

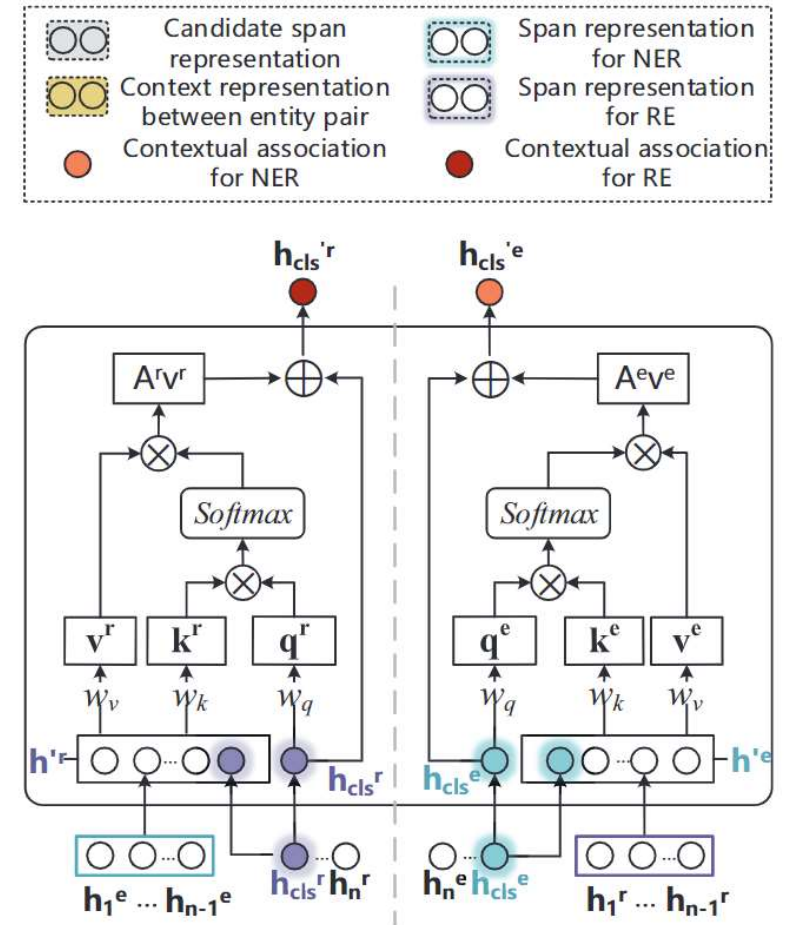
4

Future Work

# Model Overview



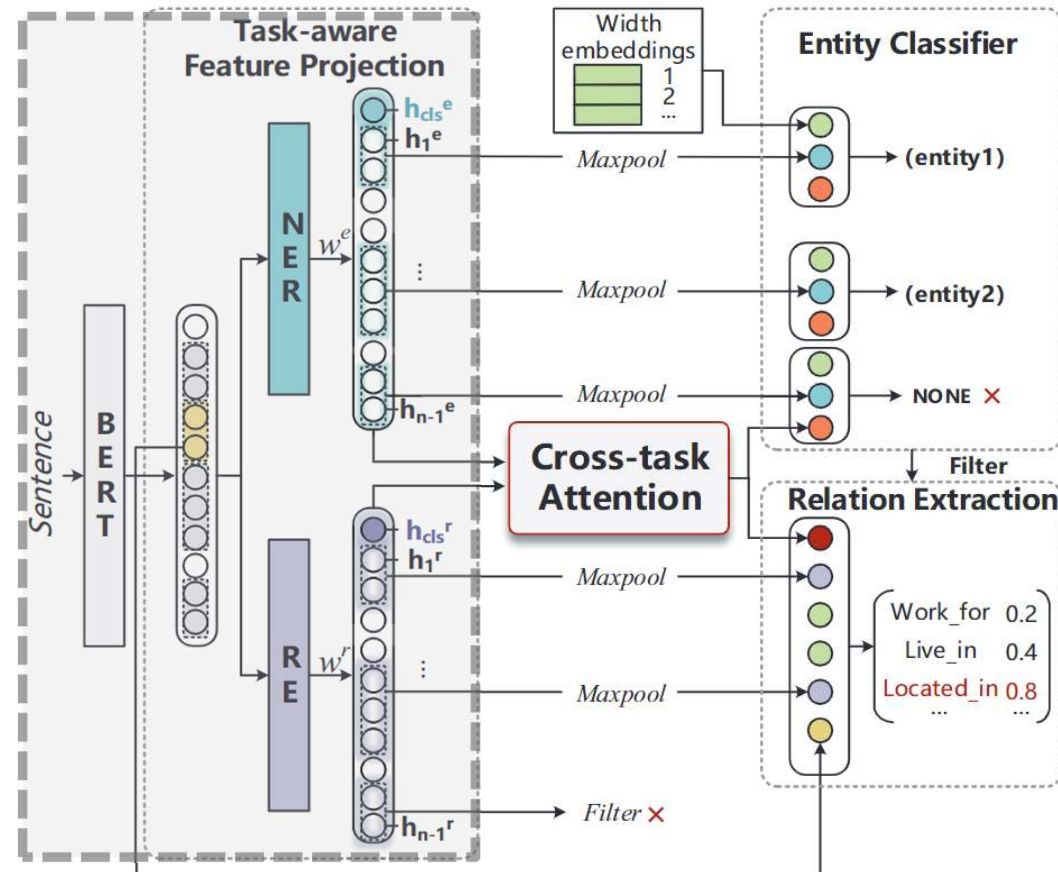
(a) Framework of SINET



(b) Cross-task Attention Mechanism



# Input Layer



(a) Framework of SINET

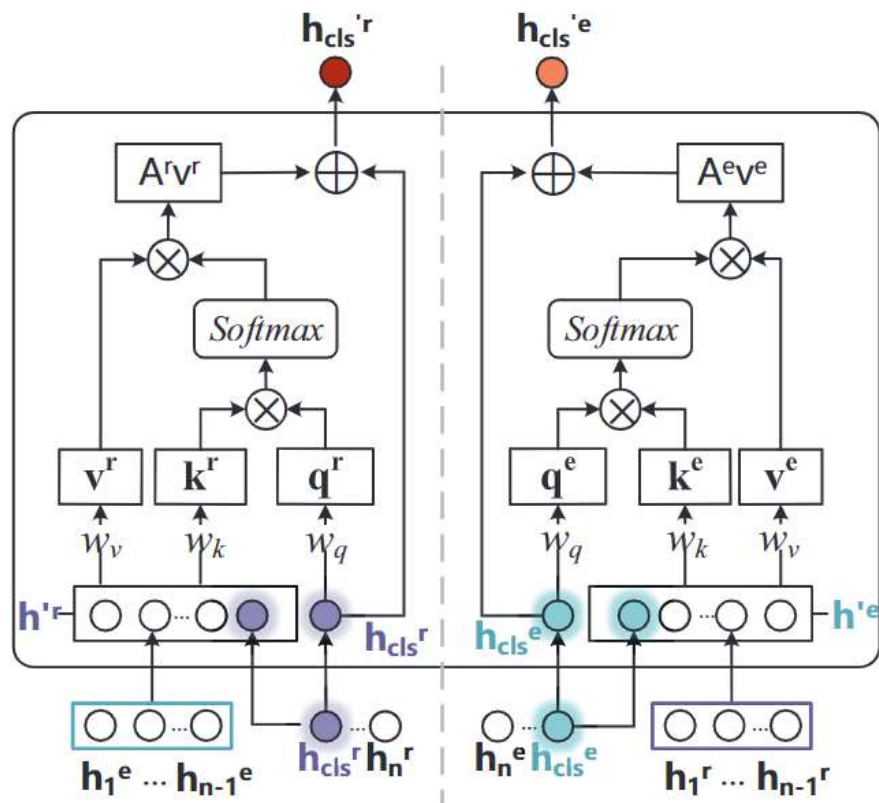
- the input sentence  $X$  of BERT encoder :

$$Y_{enc}(X) = \{h_{cls}, h_1, h_2, \dots, h_n | h_i \in \mathbb{R}^{d \times 1}\}$$

- Task-aware representation:

$$h_i^e = f^e(h_i) = w^e h_i, h_i^r = f^r(h_i) = w^r h_i$$

# Cross-task Attention Mechanism (CTAM)



(b) Cross-task Attention Mechanism

- Representation combination between task-aware features:

$$h_i^{e'} = [h_i^r; h_{cls}^e], h_i^{r'} = [h_i^e; h_{cls}^r]$$

- Model the contextual associations between NER and RE:

$$q^e = w_q h_{cls}^e, k^e = w_k h^{e'}, v^e = w_v h^{e'}$$

$$q^r = w_q h_{cls}^r, k^r = w_k h^{r'}, v^r = w_v h^{r'}$$

$$A^e = softmax(q^e k^{eT} / \sqrt{d/h})$$

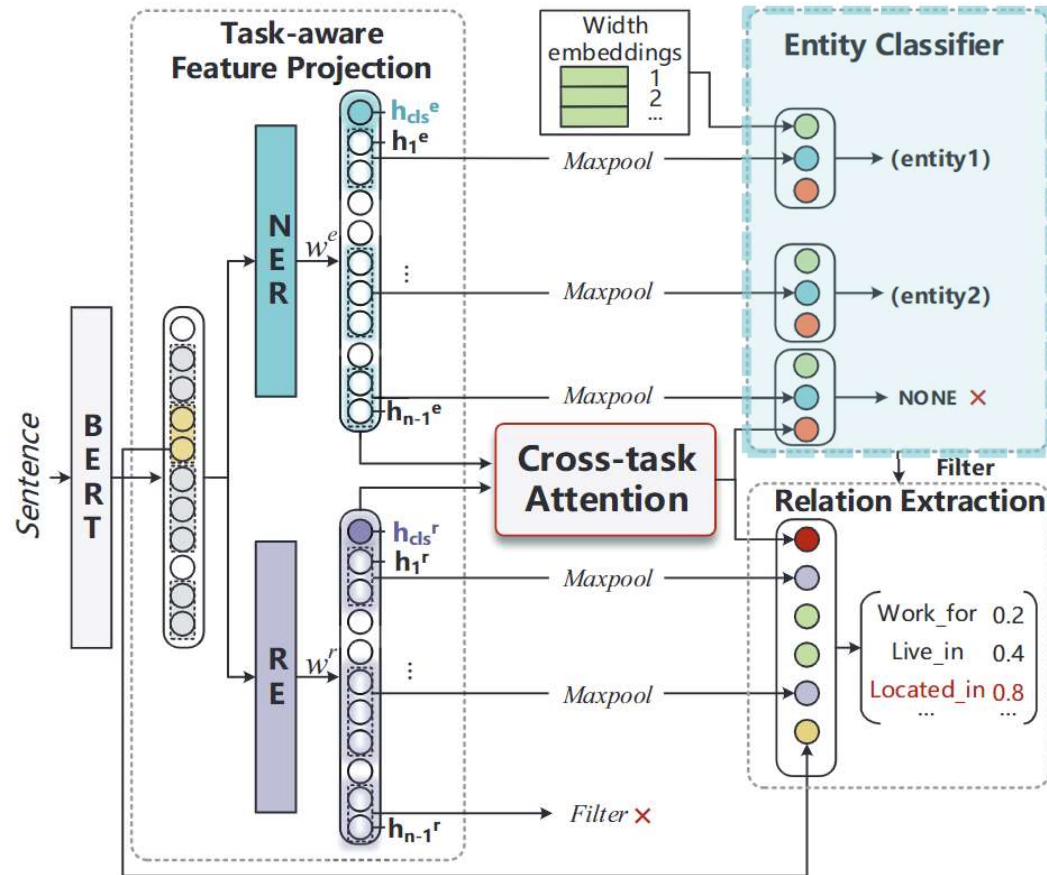
$$A^r = softmax(q^r k^{rT} / \sqrt{d/h})$$

$$h_{cls}^{e'} = A^e v^e + h_{cls}^e, h_{cls}^{r'} = A^r v^r + h_{cls}^r$$

- Output of CTAM with Layer normalization:

$$h_{cls}^{e'} = LN(h_{cls}^{e'}), h_{cls}^{r'} = LN(h_{cls}^{r'})$$

# Entity Classifier



(a) Framework of SINET

- The entity span representation:

$$s_i^e = \text{Maxpool}(h_i^e, h_{i+1}^e, \dots, h_j^e)$$

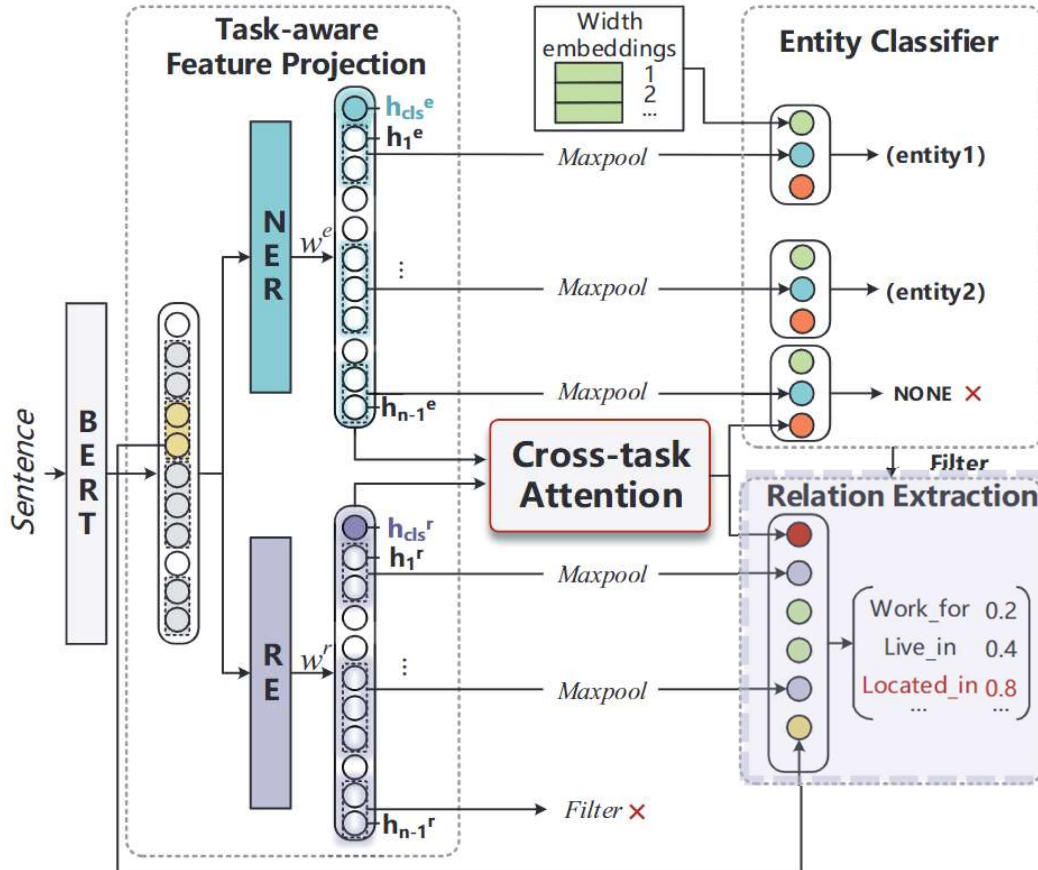
- The input to entity classifier:

$$e_i = [s_i^e; w_k; h_{cls}^e]$$

- $e_i$  is then fed to a Feed-forward Neural Network:

$$y^e = \text{softmax}(w_{ner}e_i + b^e)$$

# Multi-label Relation Extraction



(a) Framework of SINET

- The relation span's embeddings:

$$s_i^r = \text{Maxpool}(h_i^r, h_{i+1}^r, \dots, h_j^r)$$

$$e(s_1) = [s_1^r; w_k], e(s_2) = [s_2^r; w_k]$$

- The local context,  $c(s_1, s_2)$ , is derived from BERT embeddings of tokens between two entity spans using max pooling.

- The input to relation classifier:

$$r_1 = [e(s_1); c(s_1, s_2); e(s_2); h_{cls}^r]$$

$$r_2 = [e(s_2); c(s_2, s_1); e(s_1); h_{cls}^r]$$

- $r_1$  and  $r_2$  are passed to the relation classifier:

$$y^r = \text{Sigmoid}(w_{re}r_{1/2} + b^r)$$

# Outline

---

1

Introduction

2

Proposed Framework

3

Experiments

4

Future Work

# Datasets & Evaluation Metrics

---

- Datasets

- ACE04, ACE05 (Walker et al., 2005)
- SciERC (Luan et al., 2018)

- Evaluation Metrics

- **micro F1-score**
- One evaluation metric for NER
  - **Ent:** requires both correct type and boundary.
- Two evaluation metrics for RE
  - **Boundaries evaluation (Rel):** considers a triple prediction correct only if the predicted relation and the boundaries of two spans are correct.
  - **Strict evaluation (Rel+):** requires predicted entity types to be correct in addition to satisfying the conditions of the boundaries evaluation.



# Main Results

| Model  | Encoder | ACE04        |              |              | ACE05        |              |              | SciERC       |              |              |
|--|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|  |         | Ent          | Rel          | Rel+         | Ent          | Rel          | Rel+         | Ent          | Rel          | Rel+         |
| SPTree (Miwa and Bansal, 2016)               | Bb      | 81.80        | -            | 48.40        | 83.40        | -            | 55.60        | -            | -            | -            |
| SciIE (Luan et al., 2018)                    | SciB    | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | 64.20        | 39.30        | -            |
| DYIE (Luan et al., 2019)                     | Bb      | 87.40        | 59.70        | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            |
| DYIE++ (Wadden et al., 2019)                 | Bb      | -            | -            | -            | 88.60        | 63.40        | -            | -            | -            | -            |
| DYIE++ (Wadden et al., 2019)                 | SciB    | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | 67.50        | 48.40        | -            |
| Multi-turn QA (Li et al., 2019)              | Bb      | 83.60        | -            | 49.40        | 84.80        | -            | 60.20        | -            | -            | -            |
| Two are Better than One (Wang and Lu, 2020)  | ALB     | 88.60        | -            | 59.60        | 89.50        | -            | 64.30        | -            | -            | -            |
| SPE (Wang et al., 2020)                      | SciB    | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | 66.90        | -            | 33.60        |
| SpERT (Eberts and Ulges, 2020)               | SciB    | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | 70.33        | 50.84        | -            |
| SPAN <sub>Multi-Head</sub> (Ji et al., 2020) | Bb      | -            | -            | -            | 89.59        | 65.24        | -            | -            | -            | -            |
| PURE (Zhong and Chen, 2021)                  | ALB     | 88.80        | 64.70        | 60.20        | 89.70        | 69.00        | 65.60        | -            | -            | -            |
| PURE (Zhong and Chen, 2021)                  | SciB    | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | 66.60        | 48.20        | 35.60        |
| PFN (Yan et al., 2021)                       | ALB     | 89.30        | -            | 62.50        | 89.00        | -            | 66.80        | -            | -            | -            |
| PFN (Yan et al., 2021)                       | SciB    | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | 66.80        | -            | 38.40        |
| MGE (Xiong et al., 2022)                     | ALB     | 89.30        | -            | 63.80        | 89.70        | -            | <b>68.20</b> | -            | -            | -            |
| MGE (Xiong et al., 2022)                     | SciB    | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | 68.40        | -            | 39.40        |
| SINET (Ours)                                 | Bb      | <u>88.27</u> | <u>60.86</u> | <u>57.34</u> | <u>88.58</u> | <u>66.18</u> | <u>62.83</u> | -            | -            | -            |
|  | SciB    | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | -            | <b>72.59</b> | <b>51.01</b> | <b>40.13</b> |
|  | ALB     | <b>90.53</b> | <b>66.53</b> | <b>64.65</b> | <b>90.56</b> | <b>69.04</b> | 65.71        | -            | -            | -            |

# Ablation Study

## ● Effects of synergetic interaction

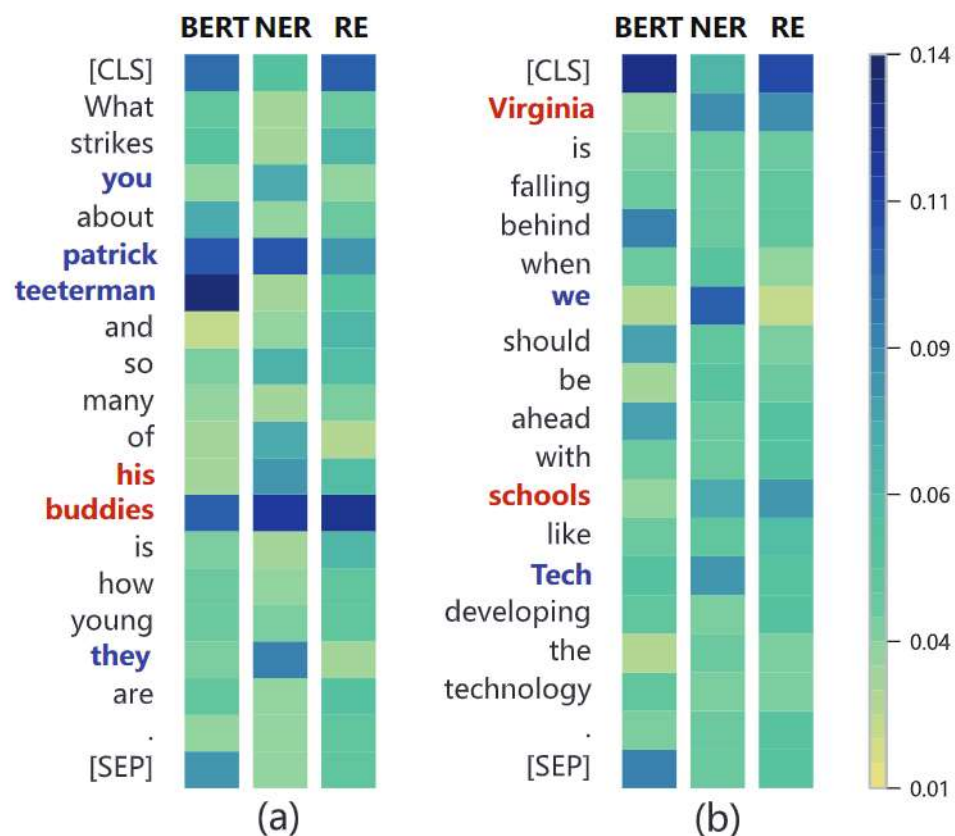
| Settings |                              | Ent          | Rel          | Rel+         |
|----------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| SciERC   | Base                         | 73.99        | 50.49        | 41.85        |
|          | Base+TAP                     | 74.48        | 50.54        | 41.94        |
|          | Base+TAP+CTAM <sub>NER</sub> | 74.26        | 50.36        | 42.70        |
|          | Base+TAP+CTAM <sub>RE</sub>  | 74.01        | 49.84        | 41.63        |
|          | Base+TAP+CTAM                | <b>74.65</b> | <b>50.99</b> | <b>42.91</b> |
| ACE05    | Base                         | 86.57        | 63.70        | 60.42        |
|          | Base+TAP                     | 86.75        | 63.83        | 60.56        |
|          | Base+TAP+CTAM <sub>NER</sub> | 86.76        | 63.80        | 60.35        |
|          | Base+TAP+CTAM <sub>RE</sub>  | 86.83        | 64.09        | 60.98        |
|          | Base+TAP+CTAM                | <b>86.85</b> | <b>64.67</b> | <b>61.42</b> |

- **Base:** Directly feed the output from the BERT encoder into the entity and relation classifiers without additional encoding or interaction.
- **Base+TAP:**  $h_{cls}^e$  and  $h_{cls}^r$  generated by the TAP, are utilized for NER and RE respectively.
- **Base+TAP+CTAM<sub>NER</sub>:**  $h_{cls}^{'e}$  obtained from CTAM, and  $h_{cls}^r$  obtained from TAP are leveraged for NER and RE respectively.
- **Base+TAP+CTAM<sub>RE</sub>:**  $h_{cls}^e$  obtained from TAP, and  $h_{cls}^{'r}$  obtained from CTAM are leveraged for NER and RE respectively.
- **Base+TAP+CTAM:**  $h_{cls}^{'e}$  and  $h_{cls}^{'r}$  obtained from CTAM are leveraged for NER and RE respectively.



# Case Study

## ● Visualization



- **In-triple entities:** Entities and relations that form a valid relational triple, representing a meaningful relationship within the context.

golden triple:

<"his", "PER-SOC", "buddies">

<"Virginia", "PART-WHOLE", "schools">

- **Out-of-triple entities:** Entities may be semantically linked in the text but do not form a valid relational triple.

# Model Efficiency

- Efficiency

| Model  |                            | FLOPs (M)      | Inference Time (s) |
|--------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| SciERC | SPAN <sub>Multi_Head</sub> | 3892.93        | 21                 |
|        | PFN                        | 1517.51        | 34                 |
|        | SINET                      | <b>1279.25</b> | <b>11</b>          |
| ACE05  | Two are Better than One    | <b>3867.13</b> | 117                |
|        | PFN                        | 26970.74       | 134                |
|        | SINET                      | 26113.61       | <b>65</b>          |

Comparison of model efficiency on Sci-ERC (SciBERT) and ACE05 (ALBERT-xxlarge-v1).

# Outline

---

1

Introduction

2

Proposed Framework

3

Experiments

4

Future Work

# Future Work

---

- We will further optimize the effect of SINET in relational triple extraction and its computational efficiency, striving for the best balance between performance and efficiency.
- We attempt to apply and improve Cross-task Attention Mechanism to more NLP tasks, such as the Aspect Sentiment Triplet Extraction (ASTE) task and other interactive tasks.

# THANKS FOR YOUR LISTENING



- Code available at <https://github.com/AONE-NLP/RTE-SINET>
- If you have problem, feel free to send email to [runlin@uestc.edu.cn](mailto:runlin@uestc.edu.cn), [qliu@uestc.edu.cn](mailto:qliu@uestc.edu.cn)



Synergetic Interaction Network with Cross-task Attention  
for Joint Relational Triple Extraction