Sana Labs

Sana Labs wins all categories in Duolingo's global AI competition

The Duolingo SLAM competition was launched to improve the state-of-the-art of personalization in the education sector and benchmark current approaches. The task being to predict future mistakes that learners of English, Spanish, and French will make based on the mistakes they have made in the past. Using Sana Labs' machine learning platform, Sana Labs were able to transcend the limits of traditional approaches leading to the first place on both metrics on all three datasets.

STOCKHOLM March 24 2018 - As online education increase in popularity, vast amounts of student learning data become available, which can and should be used to drive personalized instruction. While there have been some recent advances in domains like mathematics, modeling second language acquisition (SLA) is more nuanced, involving the interaction of lexical knowledge, morpho-syntactic processing, and other skills.

Participating teams are provided with transcripts from millions of exercises completed by thousands of students over their first 30 days of learning on Duolingo. These transcripts are annotated for token (word) level mistakes, and the task is to predict what mistakes each learner will make in the future.

Novel and interesting research opportunities in this task:

- There was three (3) tracks for learners of English, Spanish, and French. Teams are encouraged to explore features which generalize across all three languages.
- Anonymized user IDs and time data will be provided. This allows teams to explore various personalized, adaptive SLA modeling approaches.
- The sequential nature of the data also allows teams to model language learning (and forgetting) over time.

By accurately modeling student mistake patterns, this challenge sheds light on both (1) the inherent nature of L2 learning, and (2) effective ML/NLP engineering strategies to build personalized adaptive learning systems.

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About Duolingo
Duolingo is a free, award-winning, online language learning platform. Since launching in 2012, more than 200 million students from all over the world have enrolled in one of Duolingo's 80+ game-like language courses, via the website or mobile apps. For comparison, that is more than the total number of students in the entire U.S. school system. The company's mission is to make education free, fun and accessible to all. Duolingo is designed to feel like a game and scientifically proven to be effective. More on the Duolingo SLAM Challenge here: http://sharedtask.duolingo.com/

About Sana Labs
Sana Labs is a global company with HQ in Sweden, that develops artificial Intelligence for education. By applying recent breakthroughs in Machine Learning, Sana individualizes digital educational courses based on every student's unique learning patterns. Education companies around the globe subscribe to Sana Labs' fullstack ML-platform through APIs to recommend the optimal next step for each student when learning a course, - increasing engagement and learning outcomes in every given situation. Our interdisciplinary team consists of leading engineers and scientists with backgrounds ranging from Imperial College, Google, Spotify to CERN. Sana Labs handles millions of content recommendations daily for forward-thinking education companies around the world. Visit www.sanalabs.com

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