

CS11-737 Multilingual NLP

Multilingual Neural Machine Translation Model Architecture

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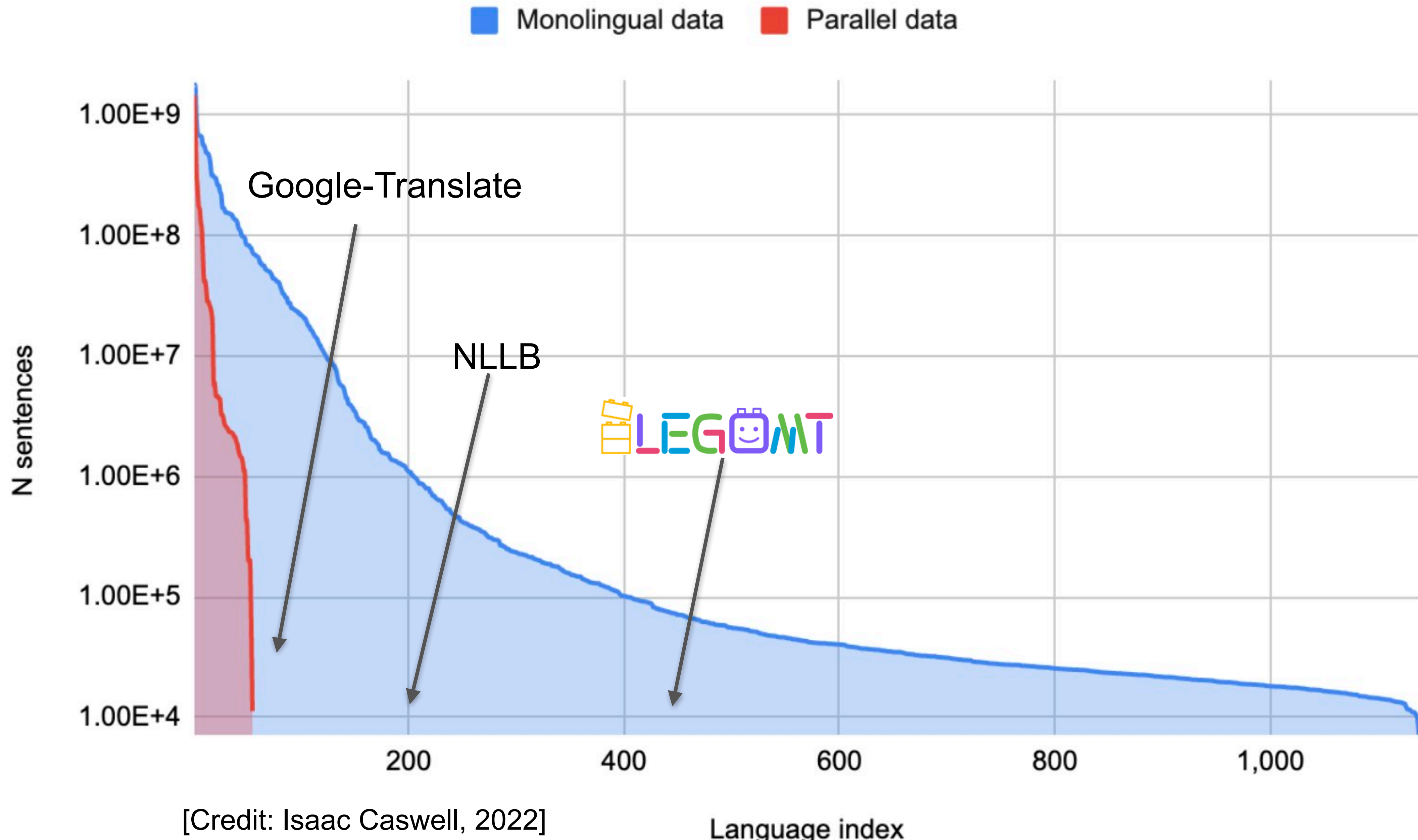
<https://lileicc.github.io/course/11737mnlp23fa/>



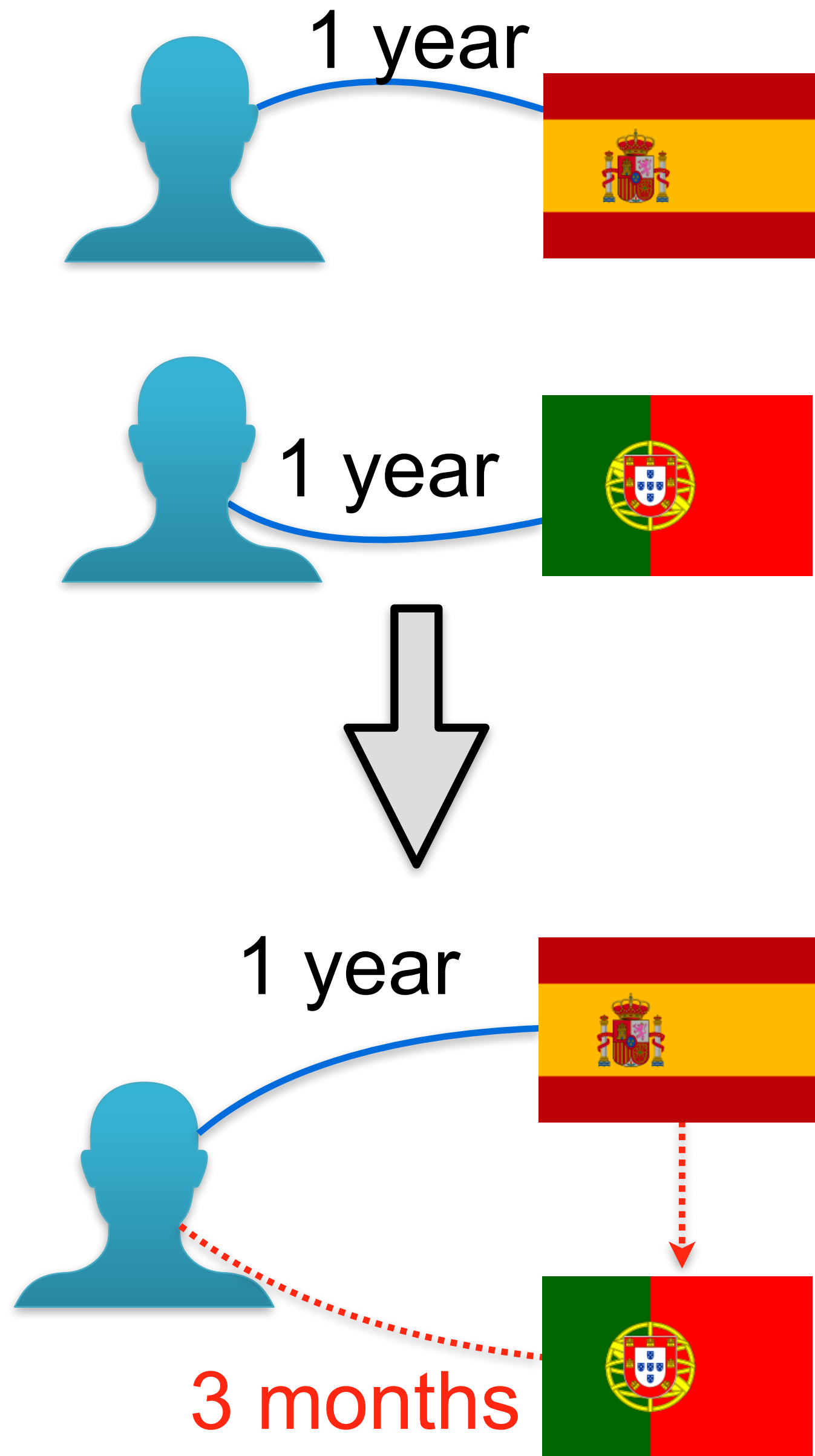
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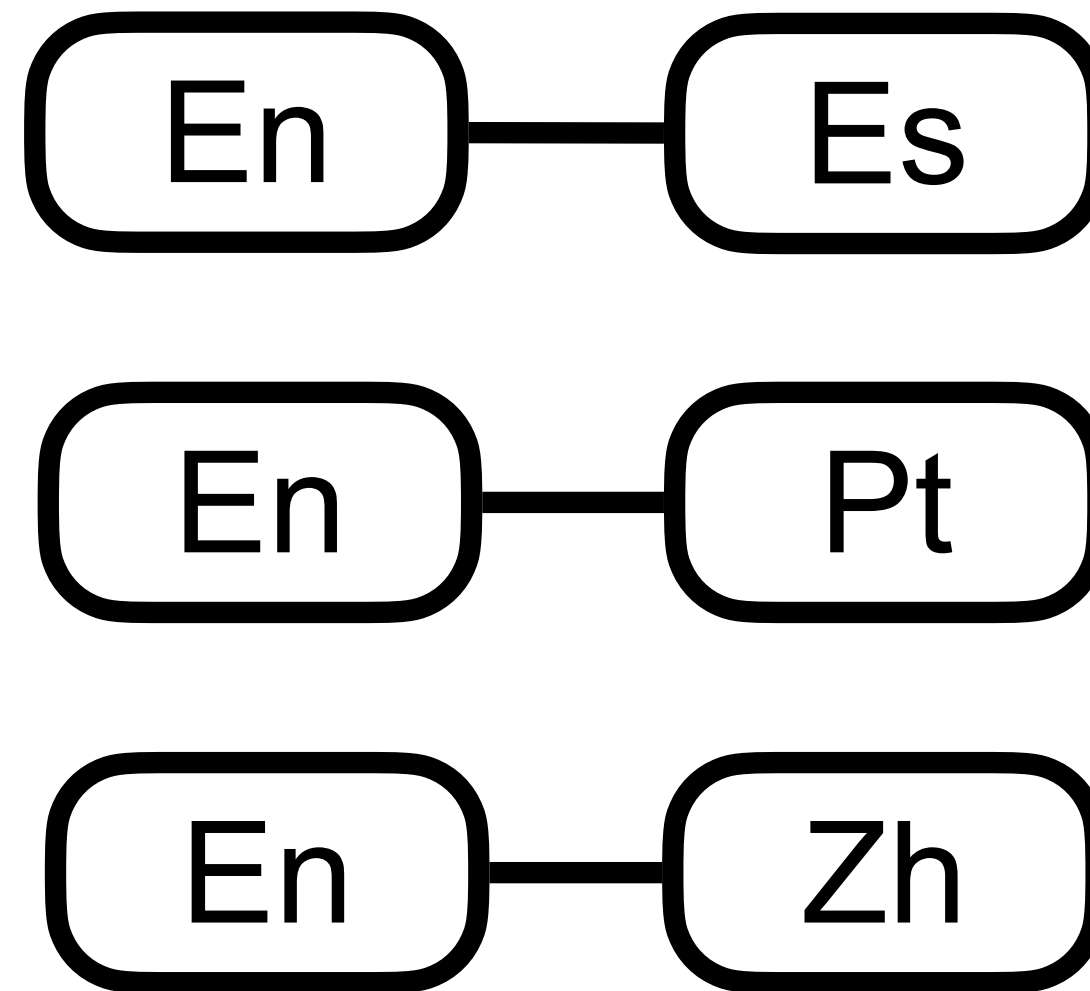
Language Data



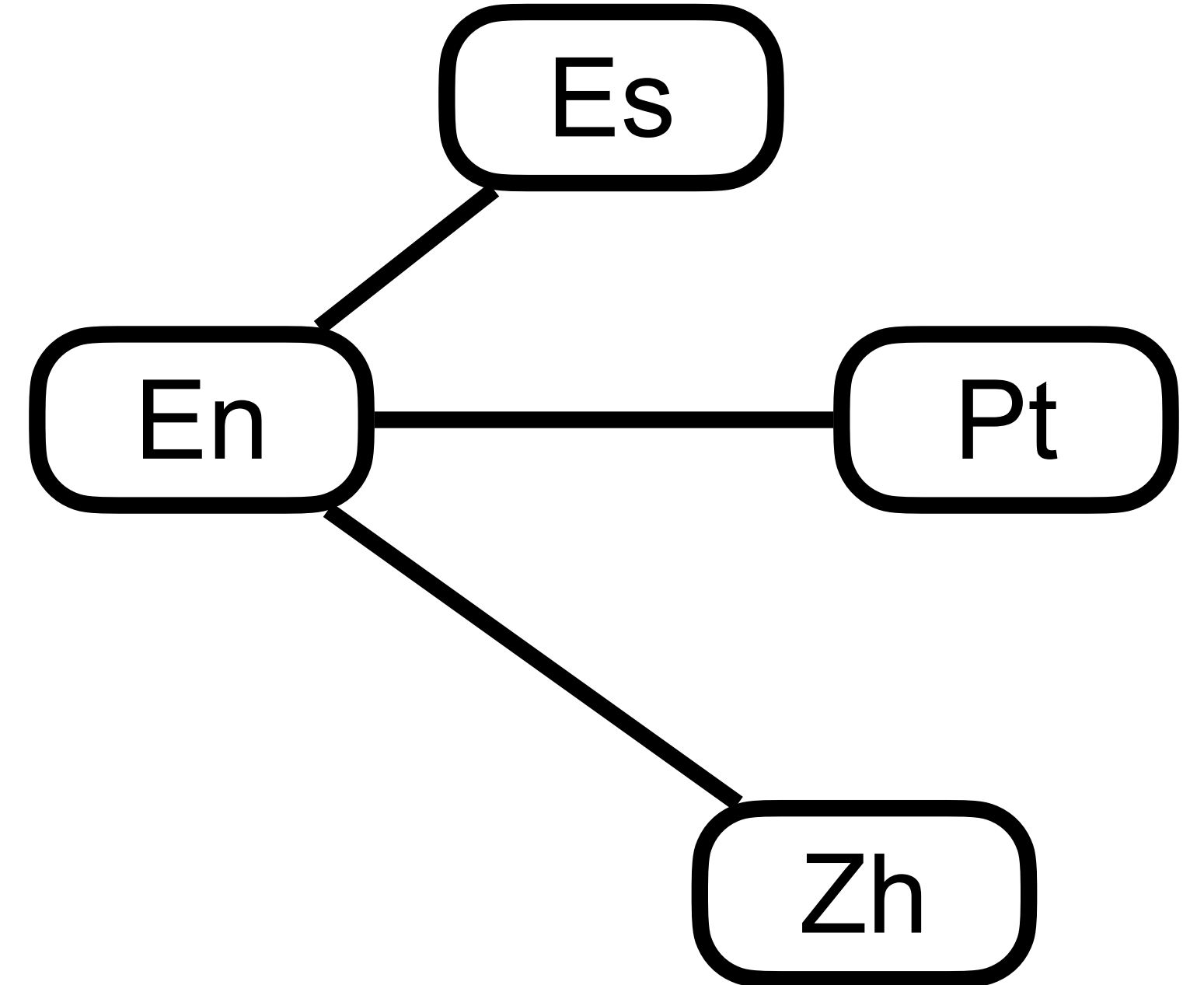
Training Multilingual MT Jointly



Bilingual MT

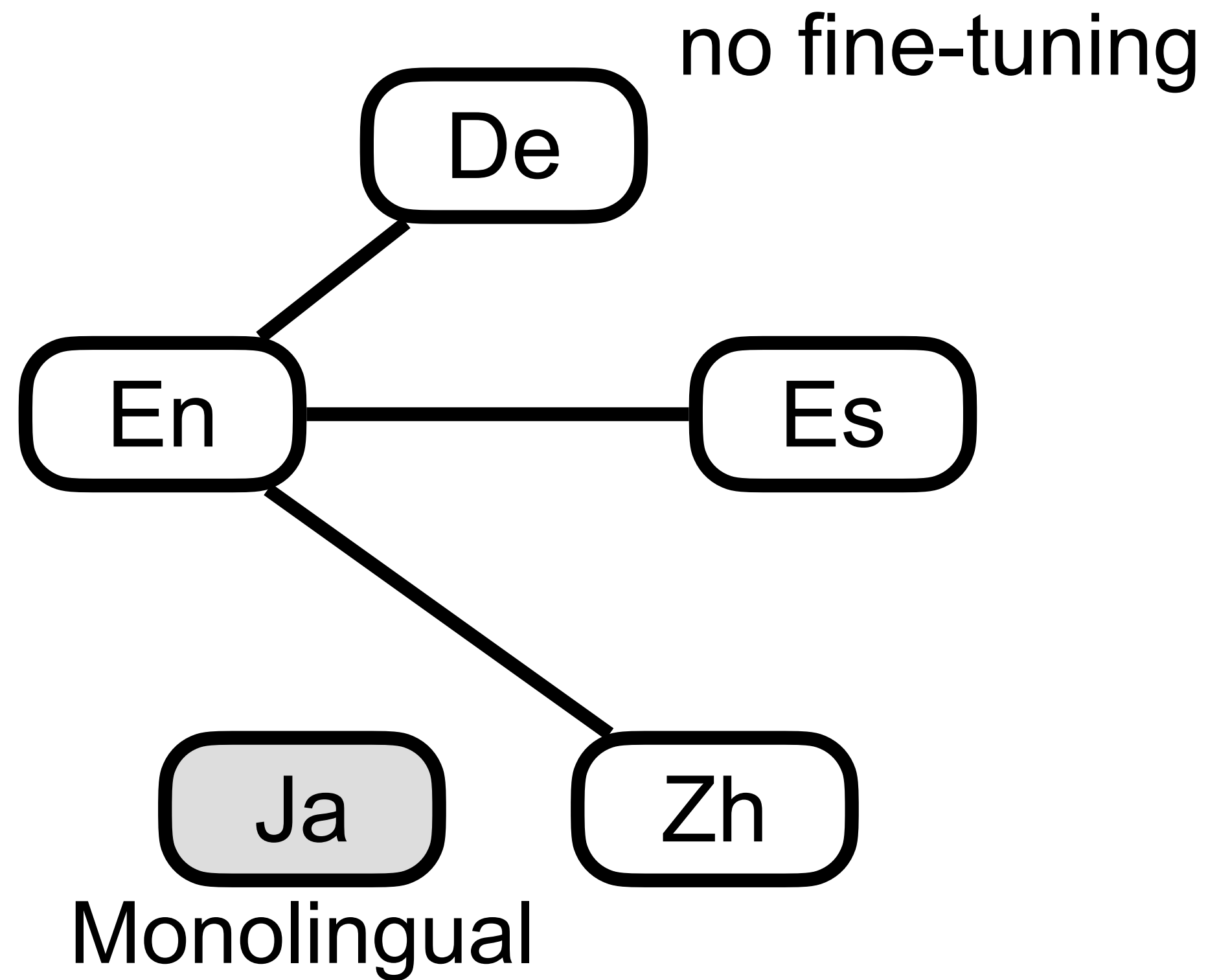


Multilingual Training

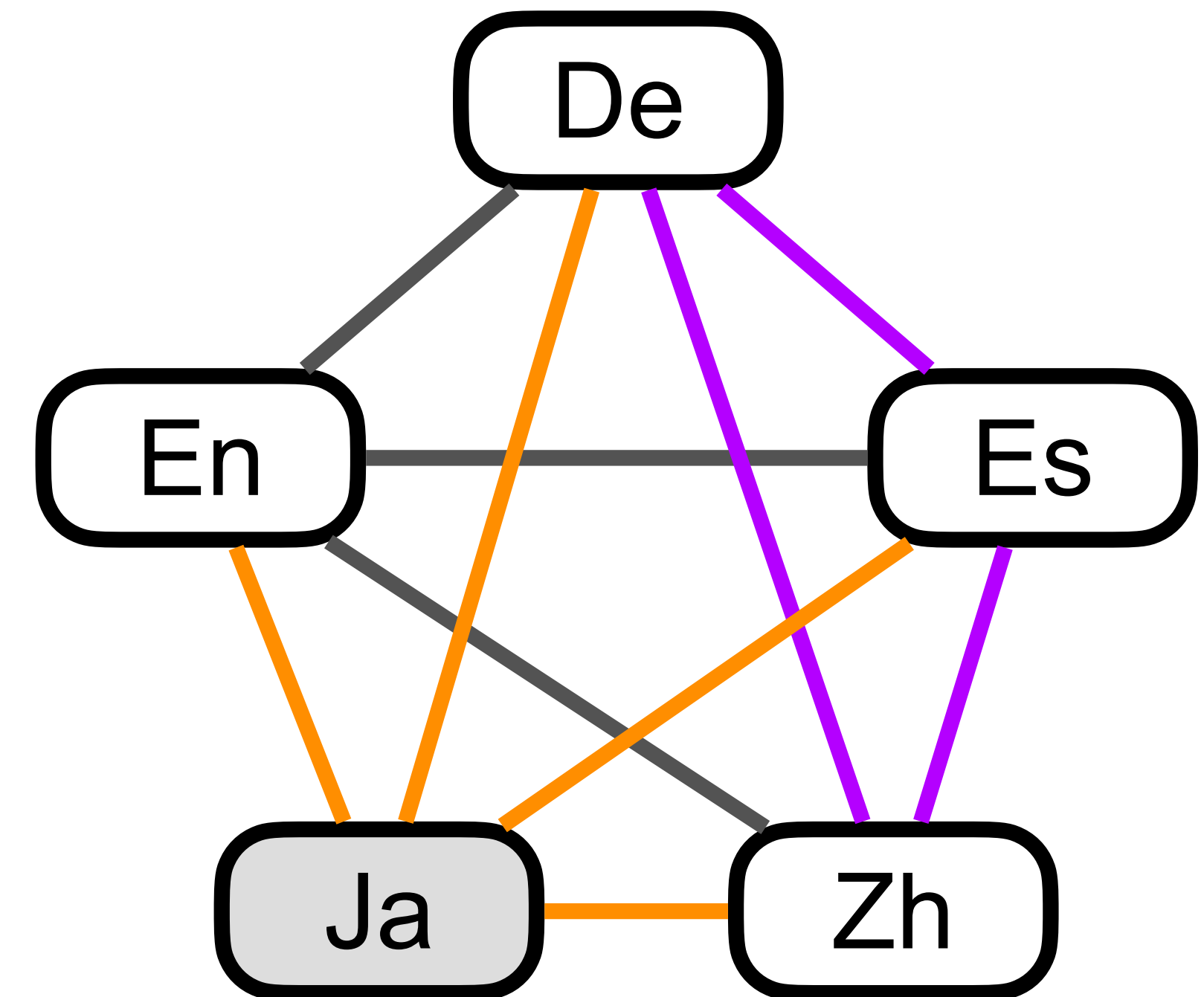


Many-to-Many Multilingual NMT

Training



Testing



Why Multilingual NMT?

- Develop one model to translate between all language pairs.
- Model-side: Languages with rich resource could benefit those with low resource
 - Similar languages share tokens
- Serving-side: only one model deployment versus of many deployments. Simpler workload and job management and scheduling.
 - Many languages would have much few requests but still need to occupy the servers.

MNMT Categorization

- Many-to-one:
 - Many source language to a target language
 - Usually the target is English
- One-to-Many:
 - One source language to many target languages
 - Usually the source is English
- Many-to-many:
 - Many source language to many target languages
 - Should include non-English pairs (often low-resource or zero-resource setting), very challenging!
- Which is simpler?

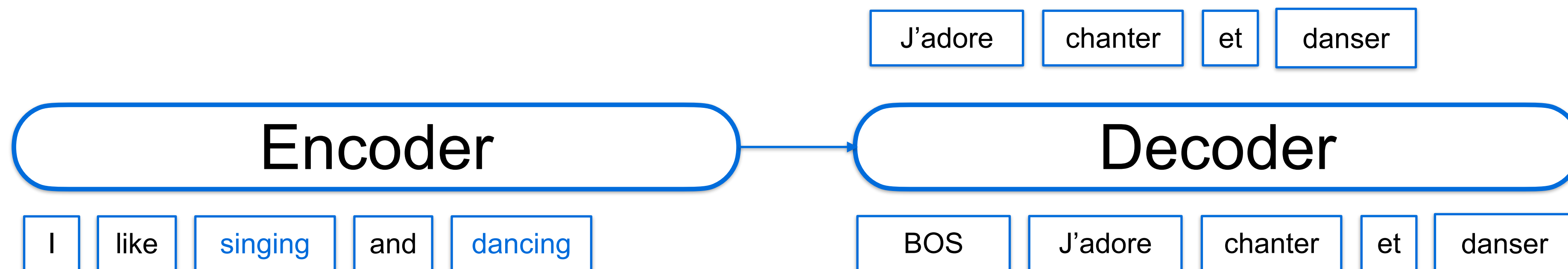
MNMT Fine-tuning Testing

- Exotic (Unseen) pair
 - Both the testing source language and target language appeared in the training, but the source-target pair never appeared in the training
 - Also known as zero-shot MNMT
- Exotic (Unseen) source
 - Testing source language never occur in the training
- Exotic (Unseen) target
 - Testing target language never occur in the training
- Exotic (Unseen) full
 - Neither the source language nor the target language for testing occur in the training
 - Is it even possible? Yes, for the pre-train fine-tuning paradigm.

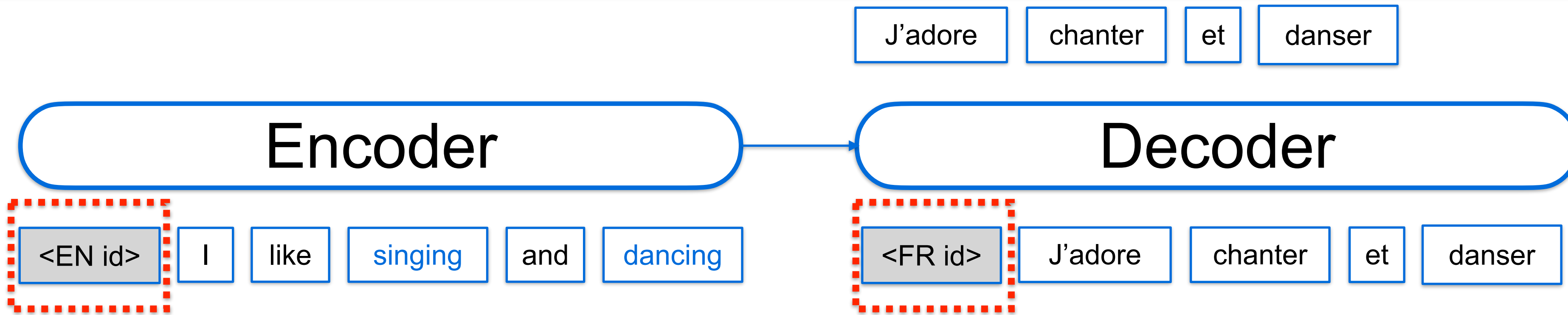
MNMT with Language Tags

A single model for Multilingual NMT

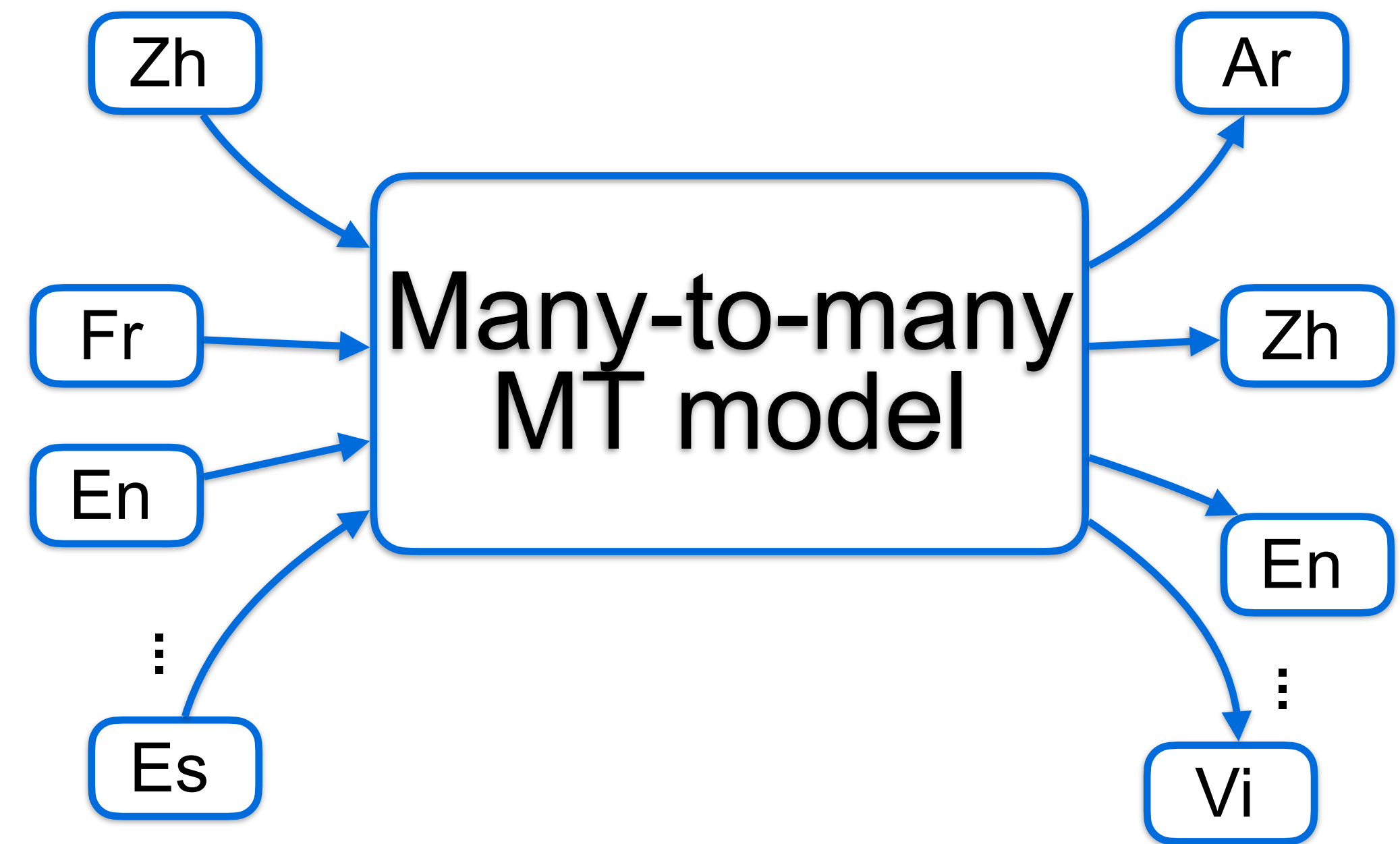
- Language-specific encoding (@en@car, @de@automobile)
- But hard to learn a joint embedding.
- Challenge:
 - large vocabulary (twice many)
 - how does the model know it is to translate into German or French?



Multilingual Machine Translation - Language Tag

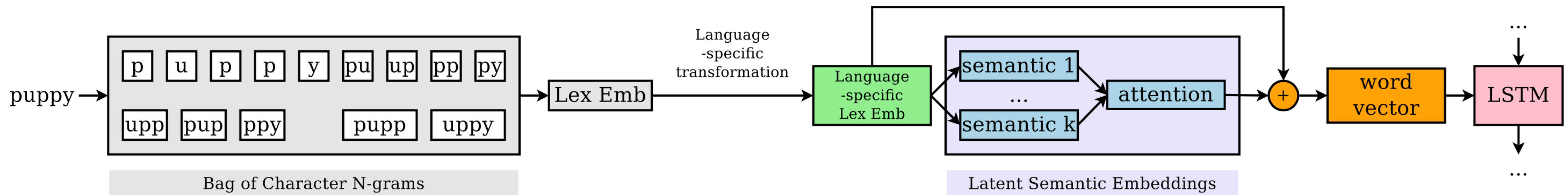


- One model can translate between many languages.
- Language Tag is used to indicate the source and target language.
- Vocabulary is built jointly



Vocabulary

- Single joint vocabulary [Johnson 2017]
 - combine all corpus together, and apply BPE
- Soft-decoupled encoding [Wang et al 2019]
- Even better: learned vocabulary [Xu 2021], (later in class)



Google's MNMT

- Training 12 language pairs together
- LSTM-s2s:
 - 8 layer LSTM encoder, 1st layer bidirectional
 - 8 layer LSTM decoder with attention

Table 4: Large-scale experiments: BLEU scores for single language pair and multilingual models.

Model	Single	Multi	Multi	Multi	Multi
#nodes	1024	1024	1280	1536	1792
#params	3B	255M	367M	499M	650M
En→Ja	23.66	21.10	21.17	21.72	21.70
En→Ko	19.75	18.41	18.36	18.30	18.28
Ja→En	23.41	21.62	22.03	22.51	23.18
Ko→En	25.42	22.87	23.46	24.00	24.67
En→Es	34.50	34.25	34.40	34.77	34.70
En→Pt	38.40	37.35	37.42	37.80	37.92
Es→En	38.00	36.04	36.50	37.26	37.45
Pt→En	44.40	42.53	42.82	43.64	43.87
En→De	26.43	23.15	23.77	23.63	24.01
En→Fr	35.37	34.00	34.19	34.91	34.81
De→En	31.77	31.17	31.65	32.24	32.32
Fr→En	36.47	34.40	34.56	35.35	35.52
ave diff	-	-1.72	-1.43	-0.95	-0.76
vs single	-	-5.6%	-4.7%	-3.1%	-2.5%

Google's MNMT Zero-shot

- Bilingual pivot
- Multilingual joint
- What is missing in the table?
 - Multilingual pivot

Table 5: Portuguese→Spanish BLEU scores using various models.

	Model	Zero-shot	BLEU
(a)	PBMT bridged	no	28.99
(b)	NMT bridged	no	30.91
(c)	NMT Pt→Es	no	31.50
(d)	Model 1 (Pt→En, En→Es)	yes	21.62
(e)	Model 2 (En↔{Es, Pt})	yes	24.75
(f)	Model 2 + incremental training	no	31.77

zero-shot

no longer zero-shot, since additional Pt-Es pairs are used.

Google's MNMT Zero-shot

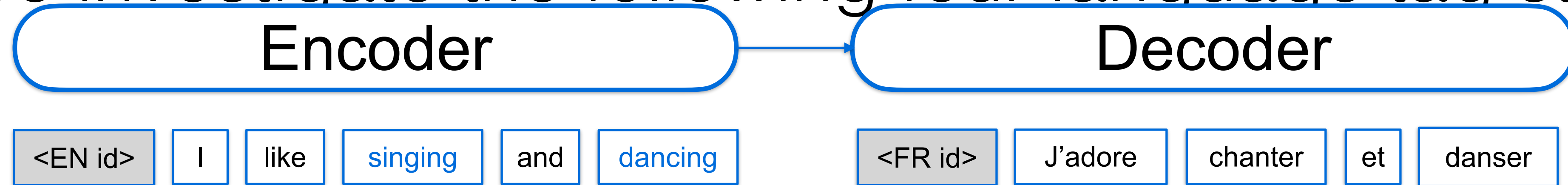
- MNMT is worse than pivot on zero-shot directions

Table 6: Spanish→Japanese BLEU scores for explicit and implicit bridging using the 12-language pair large-scale model from Table 4.

	Model	BLEU
	NMT Es→Ja explicitly bridged	18.00
zero-shot	NMT Es→Ja implicitly bridged	9.14

Source Language Tag or target Language Tag?

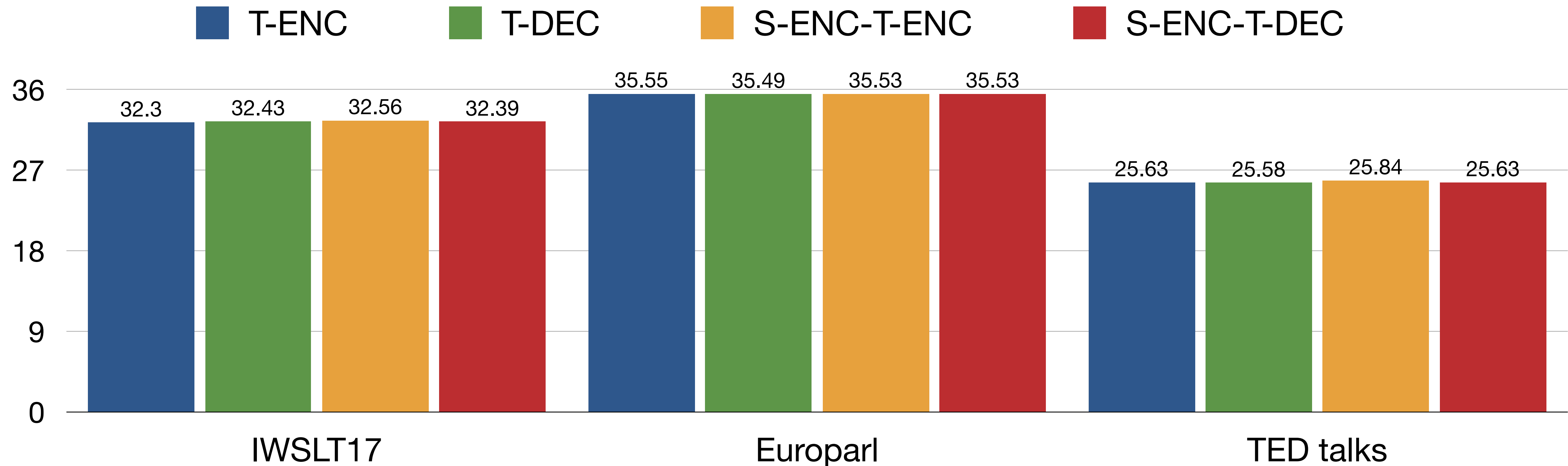
- We investigate the following four language tag str



Strategy	Source sentence	Target sentence
Original	Hello World!	¡Hola Mundo
T-ENC	__es__ Hello World!	¡Hola Mundo
T-DEC	Hello World!	__es__ ¡Hola Mundo
S-ENC-T-ENC	__en__ __es__ Hello World!	¡Hola Mundo
S-ENC-T-DEC	__en__ Hello World!	__es__ ¡Hola Mundo

Language Tag Does not Affect Performance on Supervised Directions

Supervised directions: The directions which has been seen together in the training time.



Mixed Source Language can still be Translated

- {Ja, Ko} -> En
- Japanese: 私は東京大学の学生です。 → I am a student at Tokyo University.
- Korean: 나ㄴㄴㅡㄴㄴ쿄 ㅁㄴ학ㄴㅇ 학ㅁㅇㅅㅂㅇ입니다. → I am a student at Tokyo University.
- Japanese/Korean: 私は東京大学ㅁㅎㄱㅇㅁㅅ입ㅣㄴ다. → I am a student of Tokyo University.

Mixed Decoder for Target Language

- En -> {Ja, Ko}
- Either generate Japanese or Korean

Table 8: Gradually mixing target languages Ja/Ko.

w_{ko}	I must be getting somewhere near the centre of the earth.
0.00	私は地球の中心の近くにどこかに行っているに違いない。
0.40	私は地球の中心近くのどこかに着いているに違いない。
0.56	私は地球の中心の近くのどこかになっているに違いない。
0.58	私は 지구 중심의 가까이에 어딘가에도 착하고 있어야 한다.
0.60	나는 지구의 센터의 가까이에 어딘가에도 착하고 있어야 한다.
0.70	나는 지구의 중심 근처 어딘가에도 착해야 합니다.
0.90	나는 어딘가 지구의 중심 근처에도 착해야 합니다.
1.00	나는 어딘가 지구의 중심 근처에도 착해야 합니다.

Multilingual NMT with mTransformer

- Model: Transformer-base (6e6d, 512) ==> mTransformer
- Data: TED-talk, 59 languages, 116 directions

	Az-En	Be-En	Gl-En	Sk-En	Avg.		Ar-En	De-En	He-En	It-En	Avg.
# of examples	5.9k	4.5k	10k	61k	20.3k	# of examples	213k	167k	211k	203k	198.5k
Neubig & Hu 18						baselines	27.84	30.5	34.37	33.64	31.59
baselines	2.7	2.8	16.2	24	11.42	many-to-one	25.93	28.87	30.19	32.42	29.35
many-to-one	11.7	18.3	29.1	28.3	21.85	many-to-many	28.32	32.97	33.18	35.14	32.4
Wang et al. 18	11.82	18.71	30.3	28.77	22.4						
Ours											
many-to-one	11.24	18.28	28.63	26.78	21.23						
many-to-many	12.78	21.73	30.65	29.54	23.67						

Limitation of mTransformer: does not work for Many-to-Many En-X

	En-Az	En-Be	En-Gl	En-Sk	Avg.
# of examples	5.9k	4.5k	10k	61k	20.3k
baselines	2.16	2.47	3.26	5.8	3.42
one-to-many	5.06	10.72	26.59	24.52	16.72
many-to-many	3.9	7.24	23.78	21.83	14.19

	En-Ar	En-De	En-He	En-It	Avg.
# of examples	213k	167k	211k	203k	198.5k
baselines	12.95	23.31	23.66	30.33	22.56
one-to-many	16.67	30.54	27.62	35.89	27.68
many-to-many	14.25	27.95	24.16	33.26	24.9

Table 3: En \rightarrow X test BLEU on the TED Talks corpus

Even More Languages

- mTransformer
 - 6e6d, 1024 -> 8192
 - 473m parameters
- 103 Languages (inc. En)
 - 64k vocah

# of language pairs	102
examples per pair	
min	63,879
max	1,000,000
average	940,087
std. deviation	188,194
total # of examples	95,888,938

	Ar	Az	Be	De	He	It	Nl	Ro	Sk	Tr	Avg.
baselines	23.34	16.3	21.93	30.18	31.83	36.47	36.12	34.59	25.39	27.13	28.33
many-to-one	26.04	23.68	25.36	35.05	33.61	35.69	36.28	36.33	28.35	29.75	31.01
many-to-many	22.17	21.45	23.03	37.06	30.71	35.0	36.18	36.57	29.87	27.64	29.97

Table 5: X→En test BLEU on the 103-language corpus

	Ar	Az	Be	De	He	It	Nl	Ro	Sk	Tr	Avg.
baselines	10.57	8.07	15.3	23.24	19.47	31.42	28.68	27.92	11.08	15.54	19.13
one-to-many	12.08	9.92	15.6	31.39	20.01	33	31.06	28.43	17.67	17.68	21.68
many-to-many	10.57	9.84	14.3	28.48	17.91	30.39	29.67	26.23	18.15	15.58	20.11

Table 6: En→X test BLEU on the 103-language corpus

More language trained together, but

	Ar-En	En-Ar	Fr-En	En-Fr	Ru-En	En-Ru	Uk-En	En-Uk	Avg.
5-to-5	23.87	12.42	38.99	37.3	29.07	24.86	26.17	16.48	26.14
25-to-25	23.43	11.77	38.87	36.79	29.36	23.24	25.81	17.17	25.8
50-to-50	23.7	11.65	37.81	35.83	29.22	21.95	26.02	15.32	25.18
75-to-75	22.23	10.69	37.97	34.35	28.55	20.7	25.89	14.59	24.37
103-to-103	21.16	10.25	35.91	34.42	27.25	19.9	24.53	13.89	23.41

mTransformer Zero-shot Performance

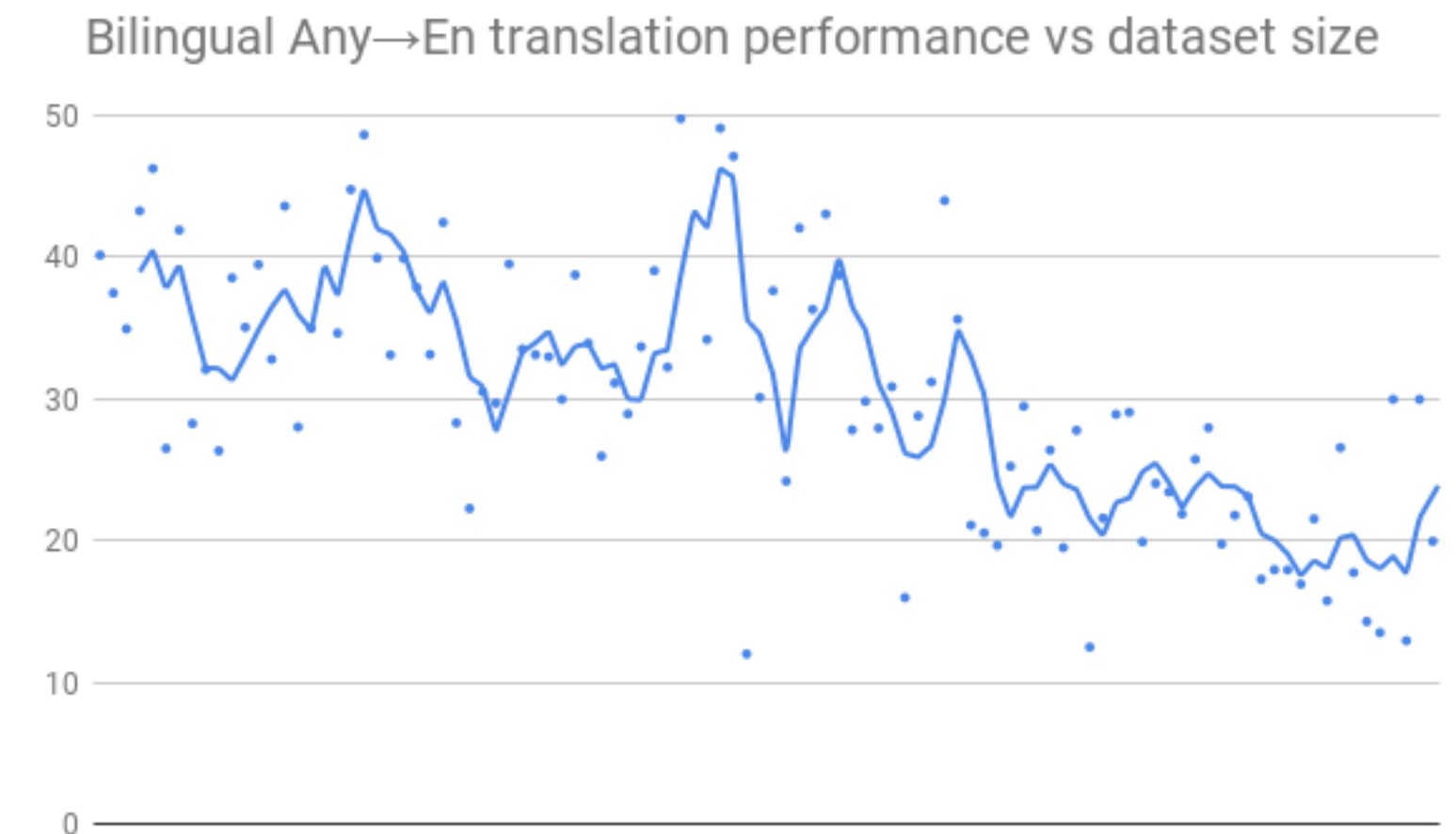
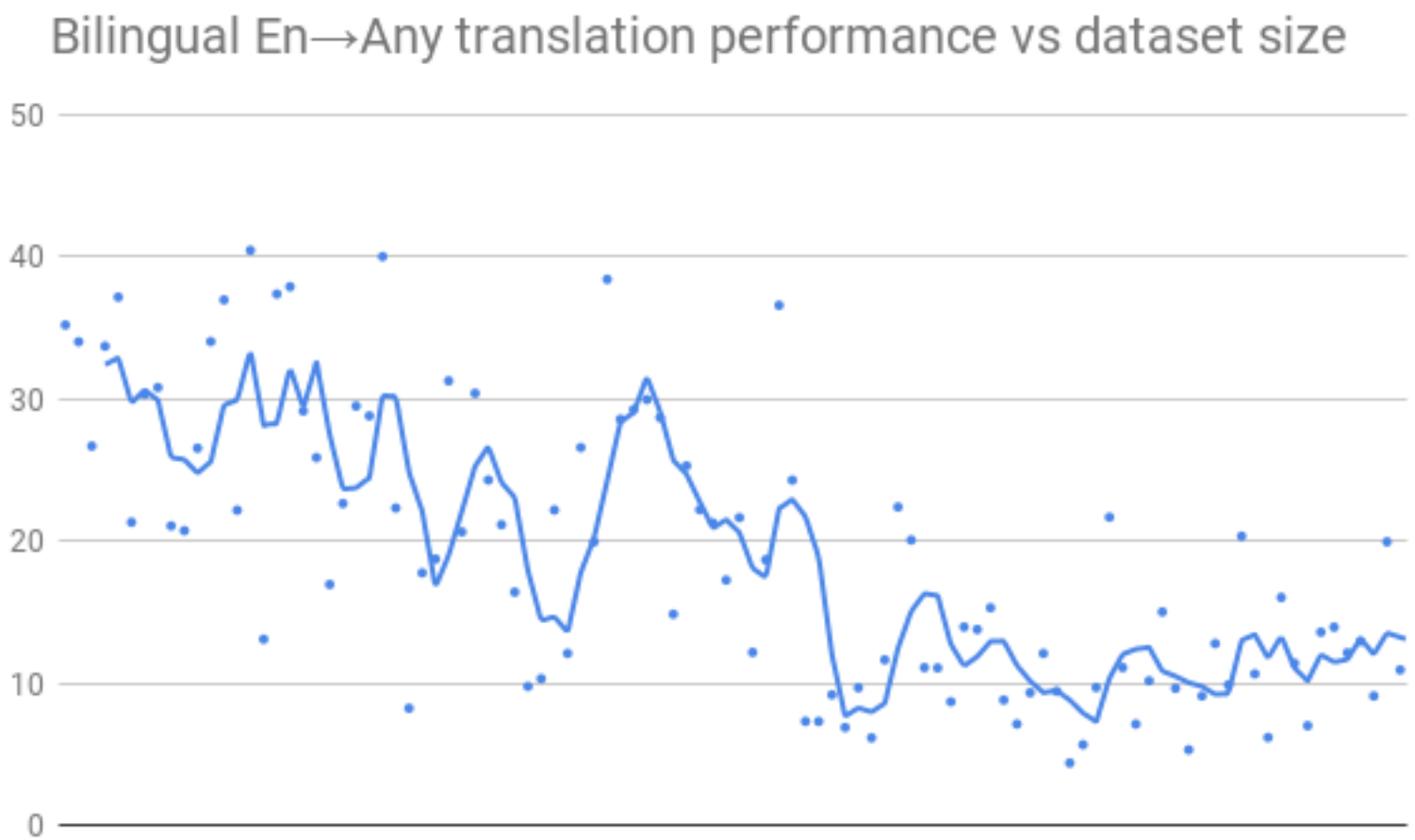
	Ar-Fr	Fr-Ar	Ru-Uk	Uk-Ru	Avg.
5-to-5	1.66	4.49	3.7	3.02	3.21
25-to-25	1.83	5.52	16.67	4.31	7.08
50-to-50	4.34	4.72	15.14	20.23	11.1
75-to-75	1.85	4.26	11.2	15.88	8.3
103-to-103	2.87	3.05	12.3	18.49	9.17

Table 8: Zero-Shot performance while varying the number of languages involved

Bigger Data

- Data: 25 billion sentence pairs in 103 languages
- Model: mTransformer with 375million params (larger than Transformer-big)

<i>En</i> → <i>Any</i>	High 25	Med. 52	Low 25
Bilingual	29.34	17.50	11.72
<i>All</i> → <i>All</i>	28.03	16.91	12.75
<i>En</i> → <i>Any</i>	28.75	17.32	12.98
<i>Any</i> → <i>En</i>	High 25	Med. 52	Low 25
Bilingual	37.61	31.41	21.63
<i>All</i> → <i>All</i>	33.85	30.25	26.96
<i>Any</i> → <i>En</i>	36.61	33.66	30.56



Sampling of Data

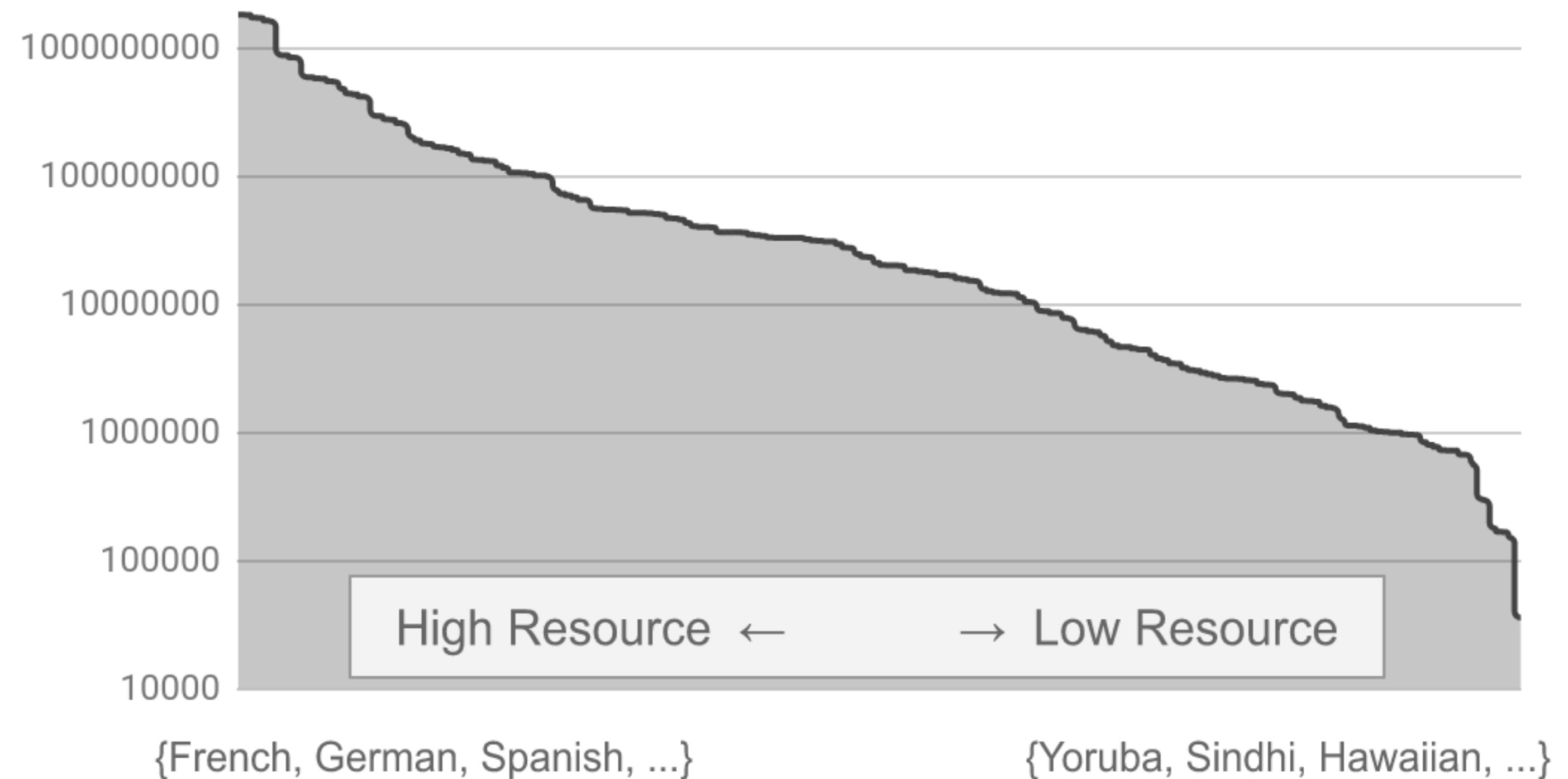
- sample data prob w.r.t

$$p^{\frac{1}{T}}$$

<i>En</i> → <i>Any</i>	High 25	Med. 52	Low 25
$T_V = 1$	27.81	16.72	12.73
$T_V = 100$	27.83	16.86	12.78
$T_V = 5$	28.03	16.91	12.75

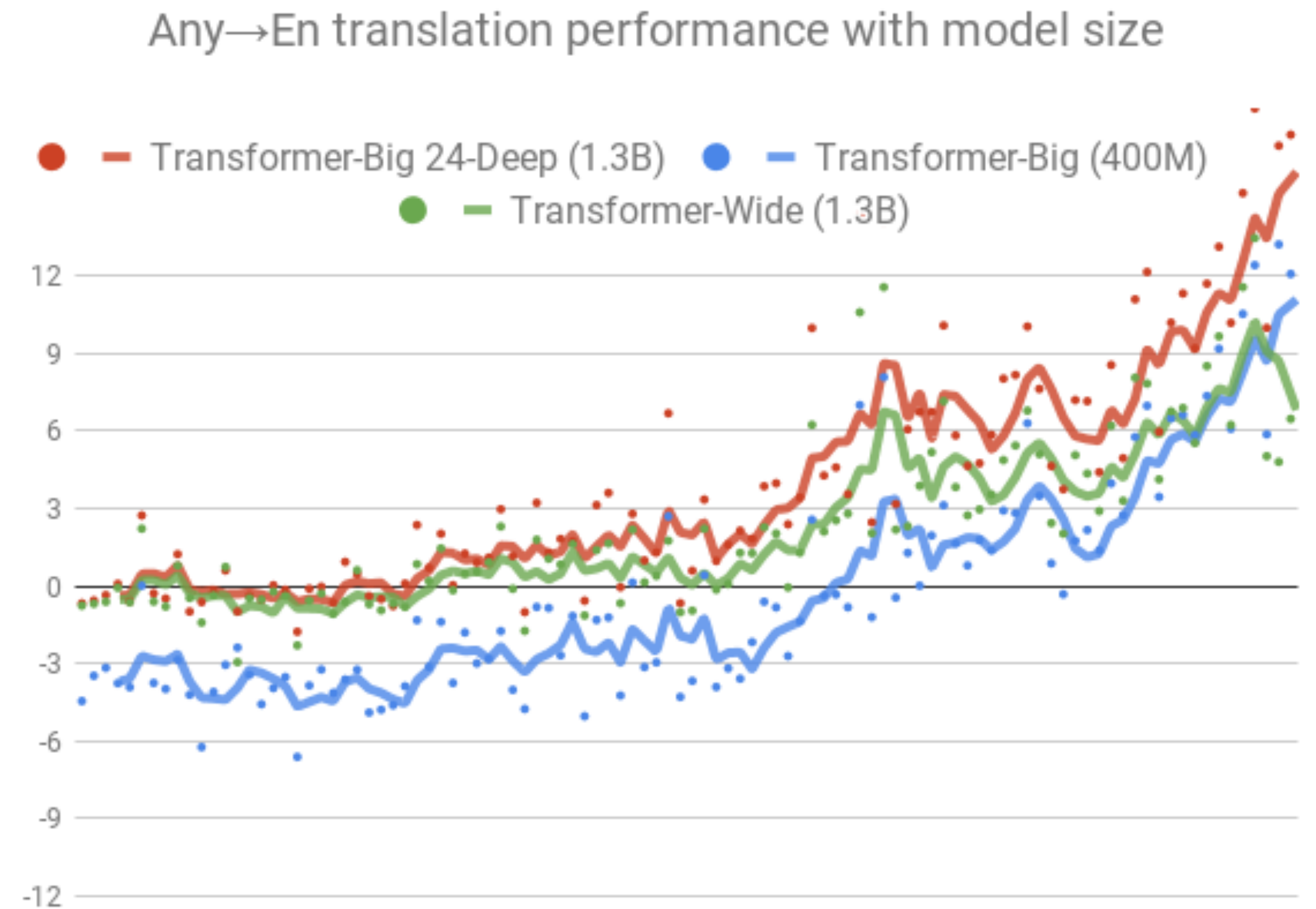
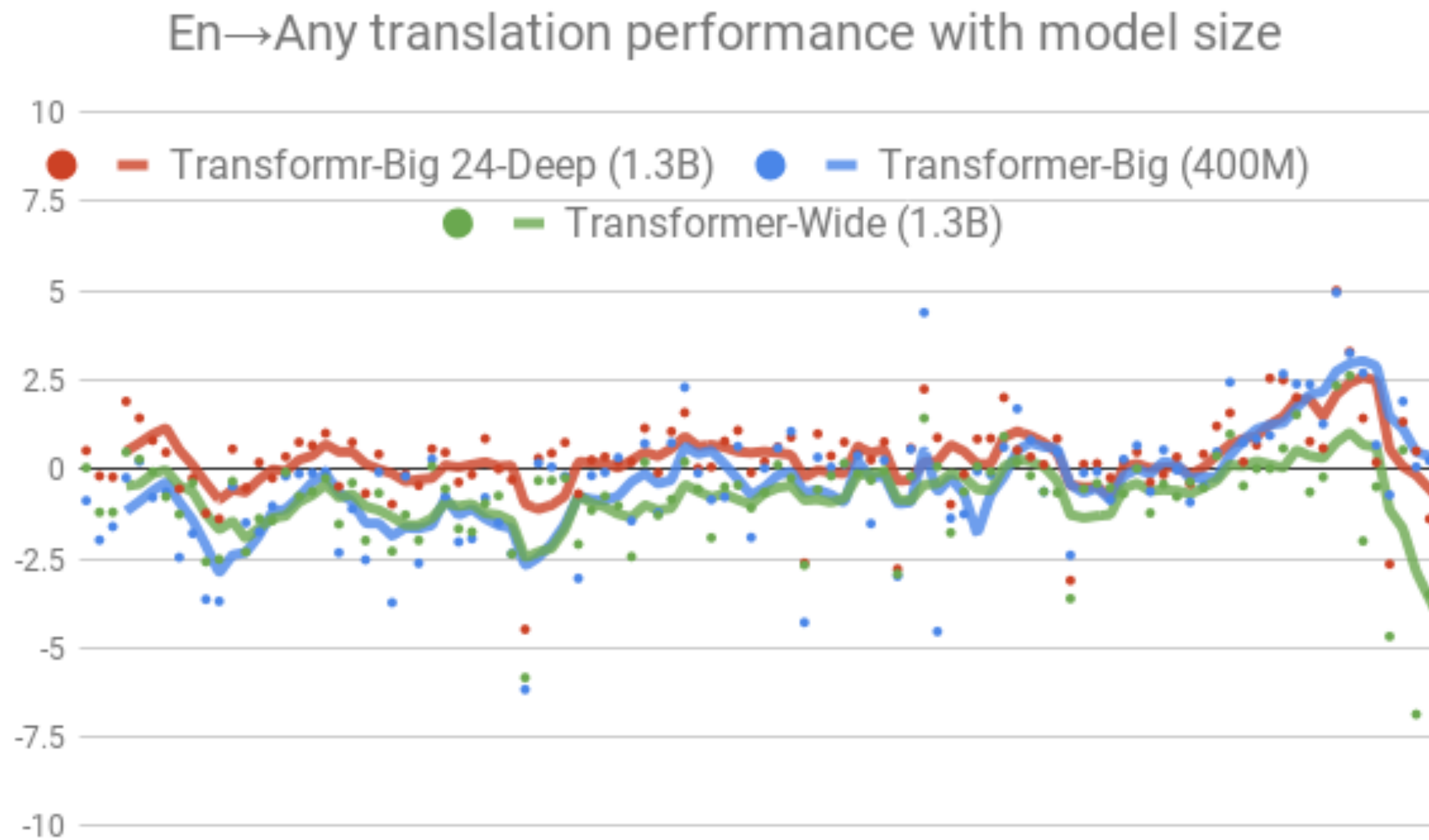
<i>Any</i> → <i>En</i>	High 25	Med. 52	Low 25
$T_V = 1$	33.82	29.78	26.27
$T_V = 100$	33.70	30.15	26.91
$T_V = 5$	33.85	30.25	26.96

Data distribution over language pairs



Bigger Model

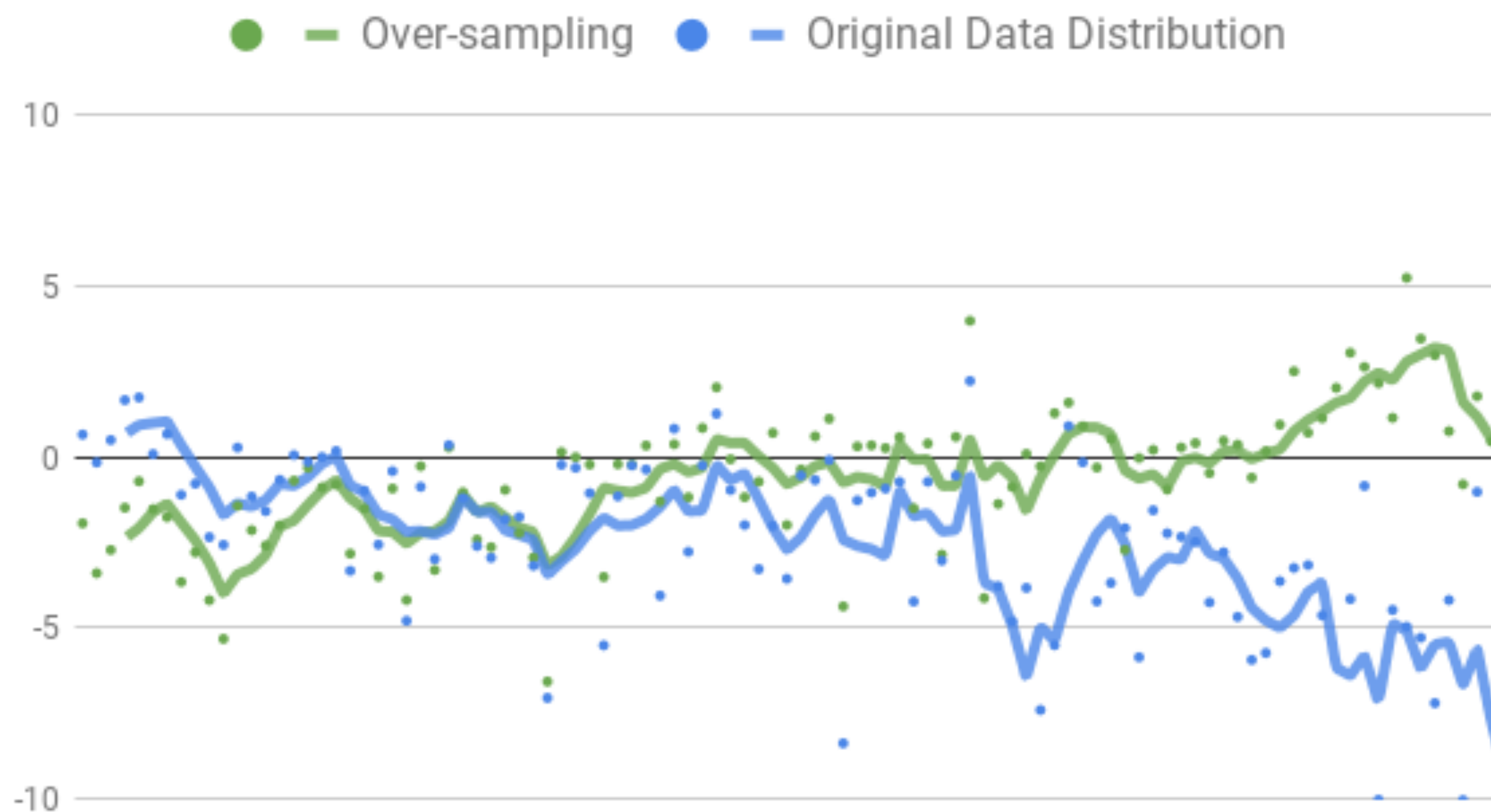
- mTransformer:
 - 400m, 1.3B wide (12e12d), 1.3B deep (24e24d)
 - Deep is better than wide!



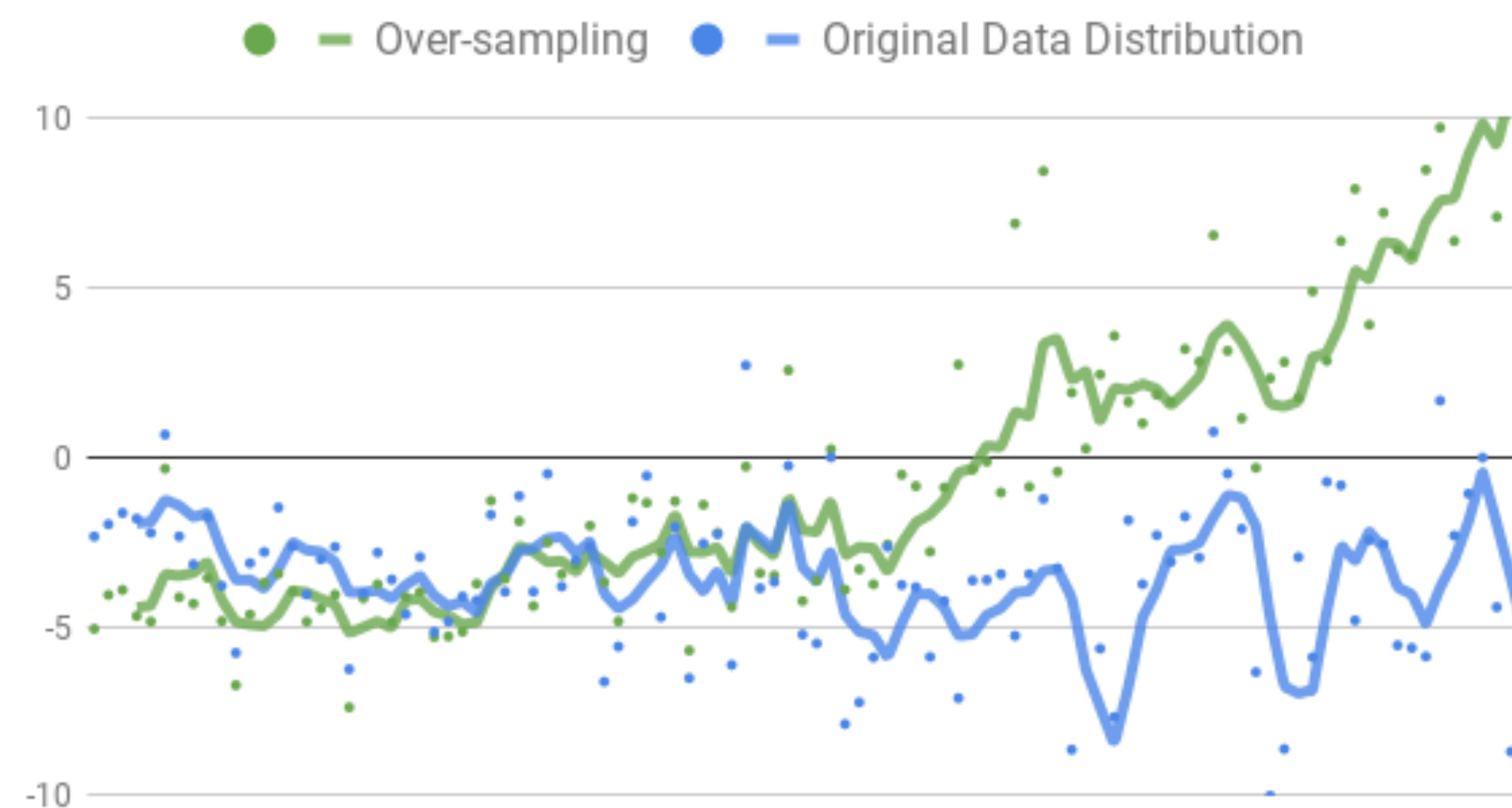
Limitation

- mTransformer boosts performance on low-resource languages but not high-resource
- Zero-shot directions are not usable yet.

En→Any translation performance with multilingual baselines



Any→En translation performance with multilingual baselines



MT w/ Adapter

Parameter Interference issue for MNMT

- Insufficient model capacity
 - the sharing model capacity has to be split for different translation directions



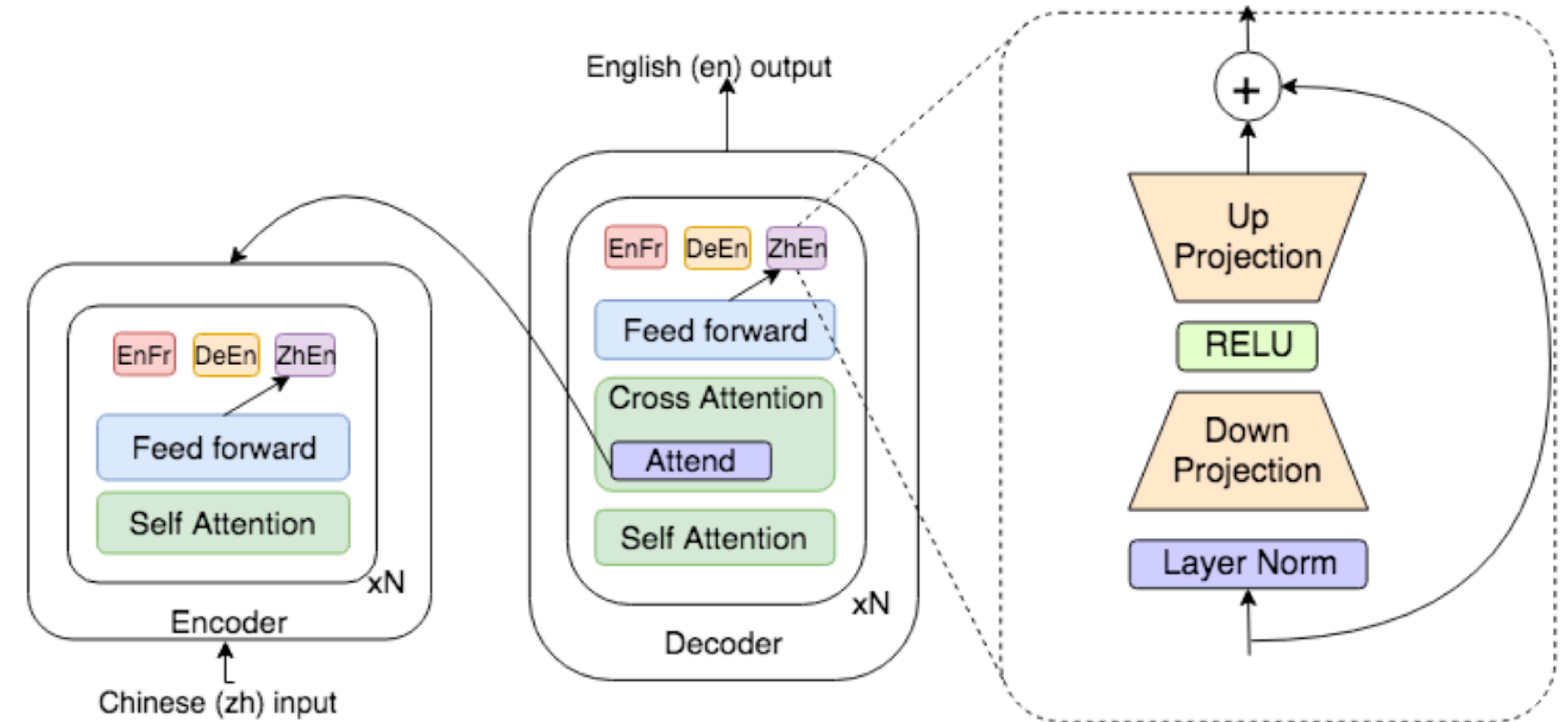
Bilingual



Multilingual

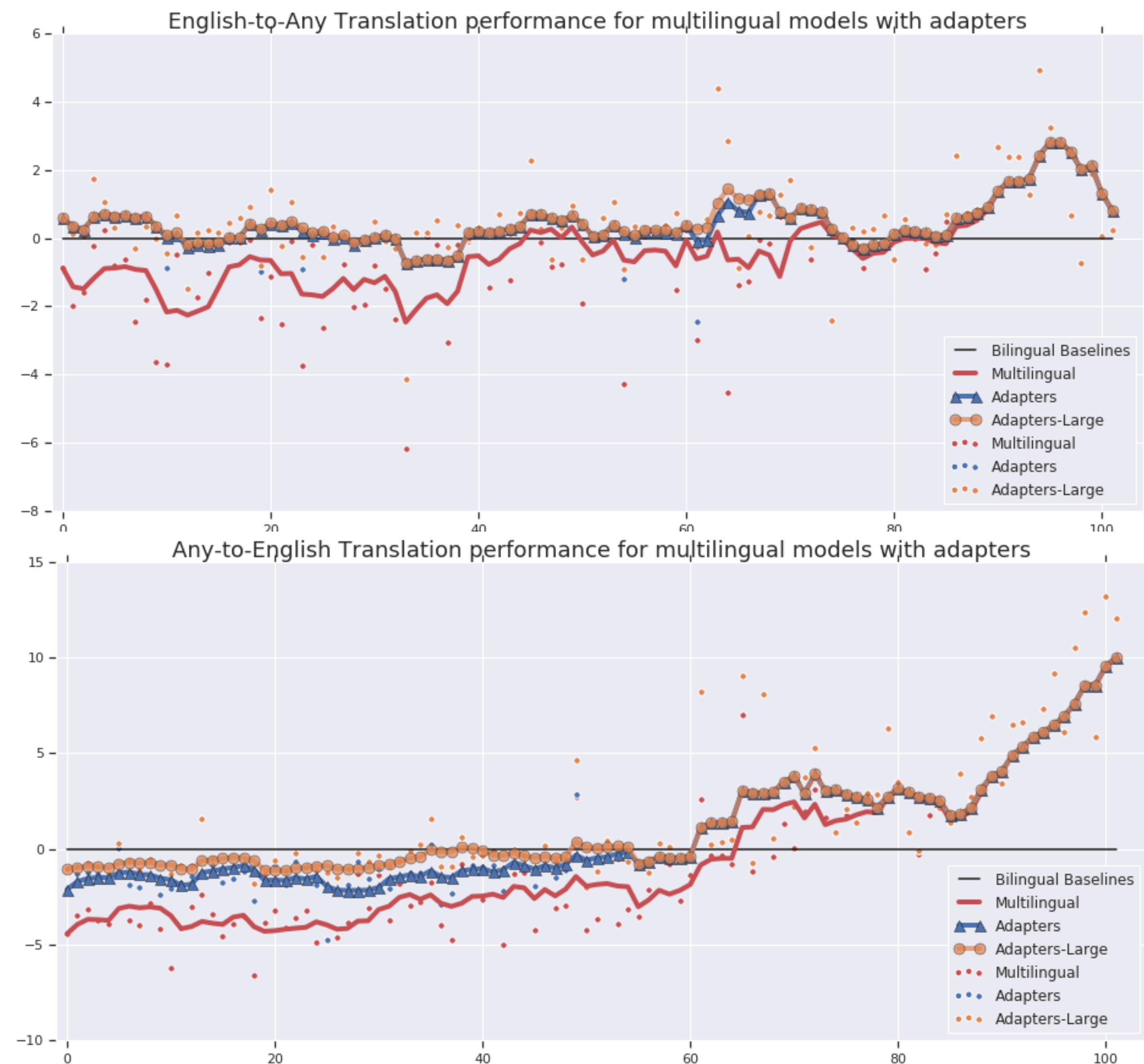
Multilingual NMT with Serial Adapter

- For each layer, adding language-specific module
- $z \sim = \text{LNT}(z_i)$.
- $h = \text{relu}(W z \sim)$
- $x = Wh + z$
- Could be used for both domain adaptation and MNMT
- Joint training the whole architecture



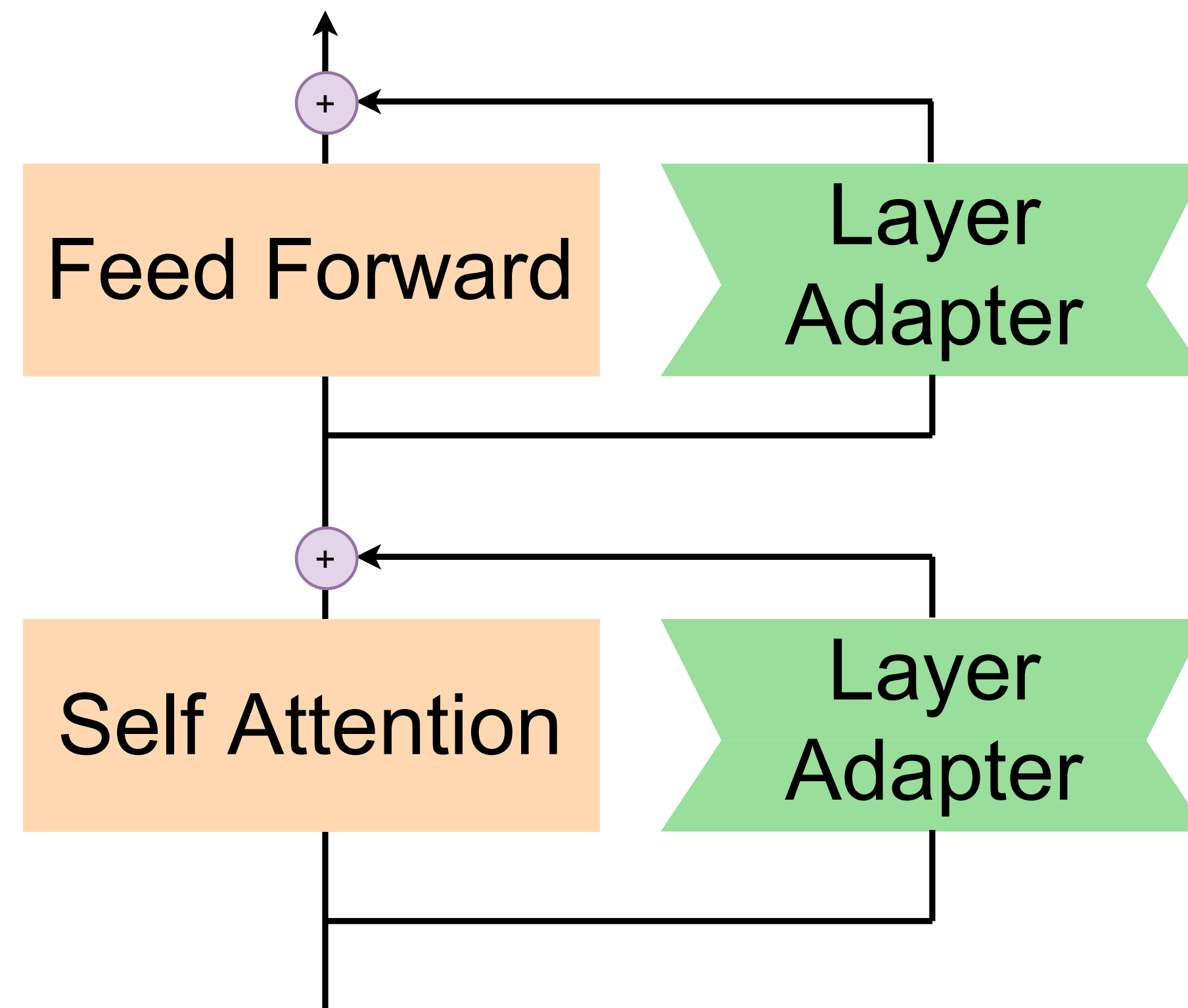
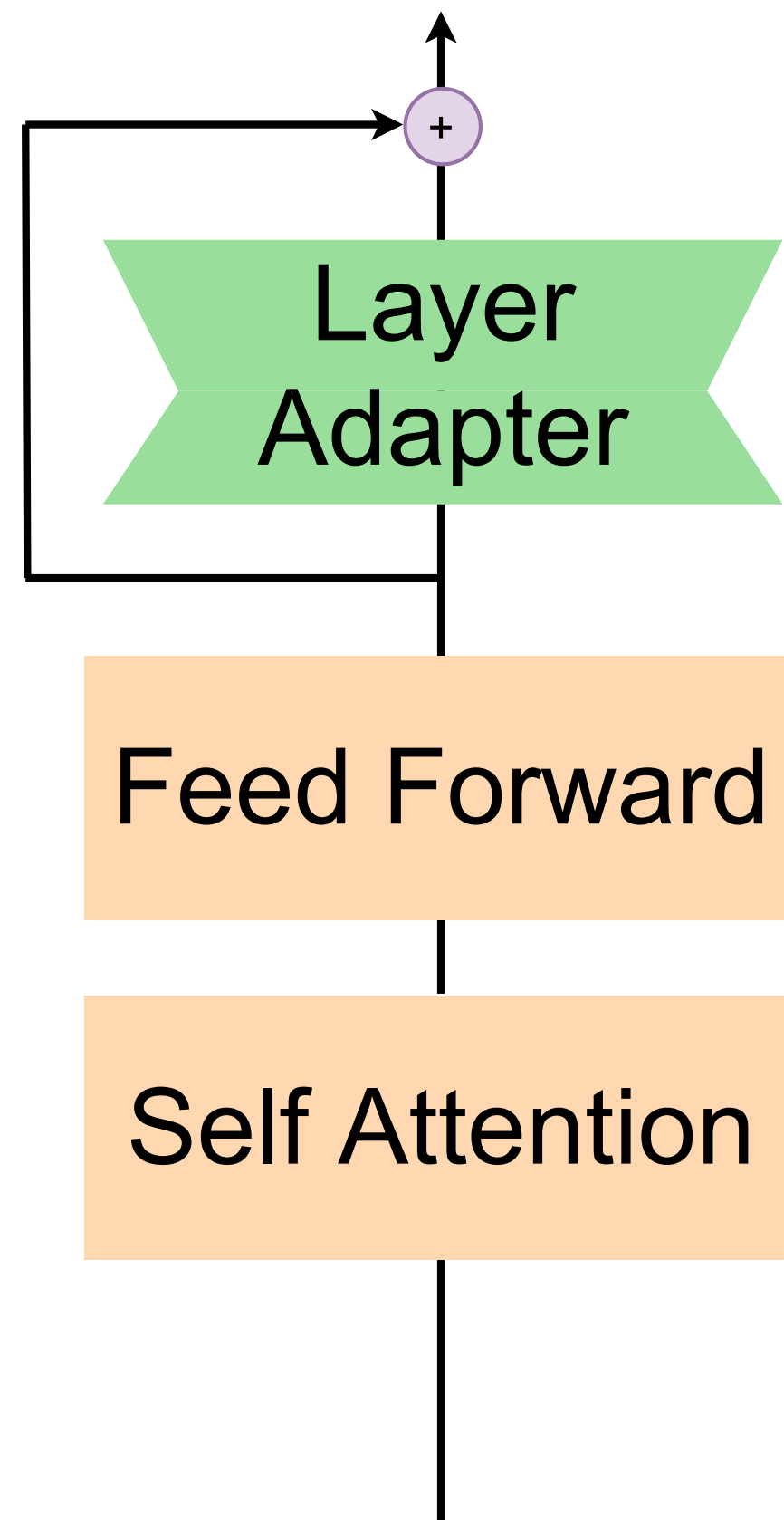
Serial Adapter improves Multilingual Translation

- on rich-resource lang.
- But serial-adapter is not plug-and-play
 - Joint training mTransformer+SA will be better than training mTransformer, fix, and train adapter.
 - Adapter has tight integration with the main architecture.



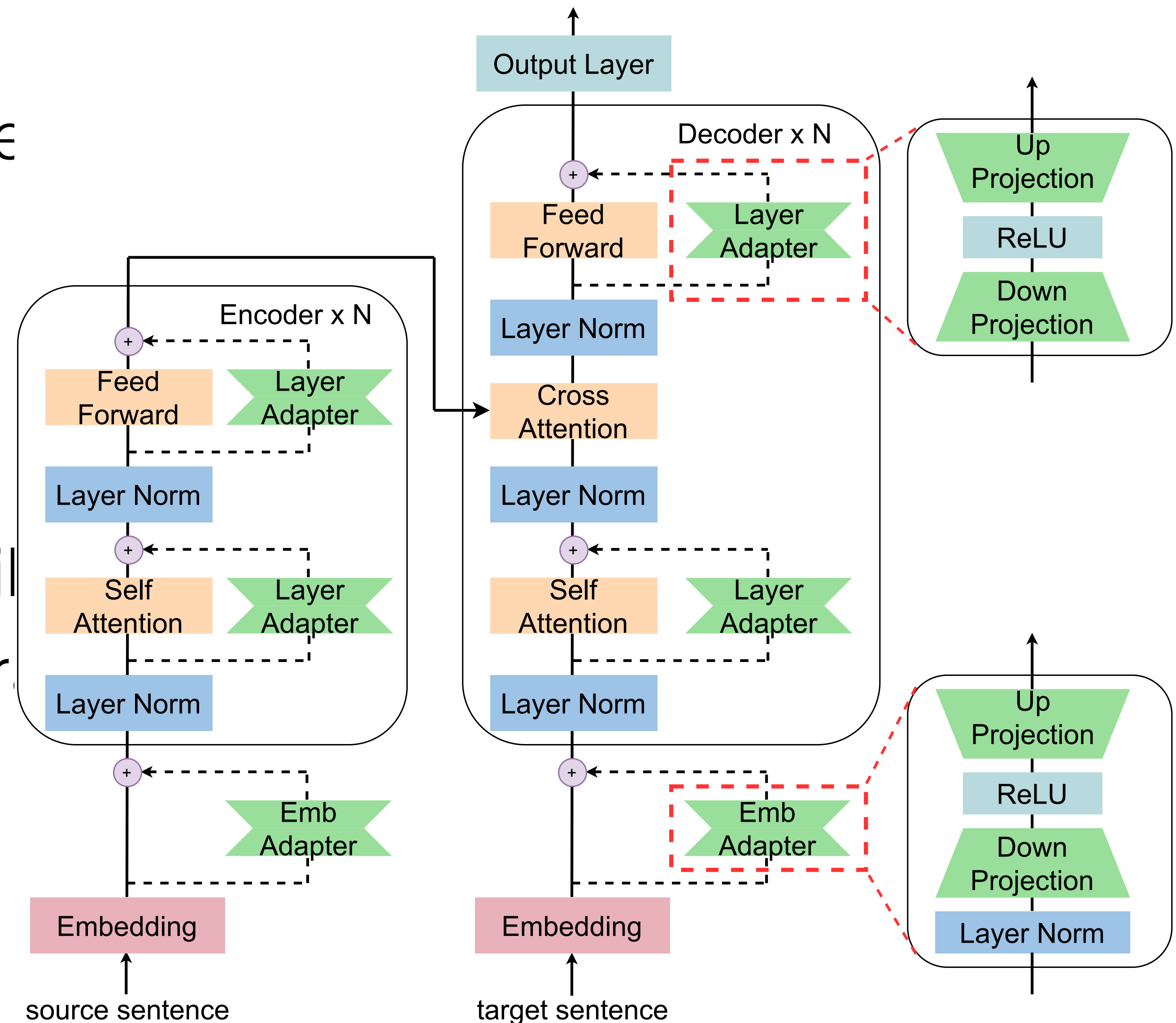
Counter Interference

- Which adapter will remove noise?



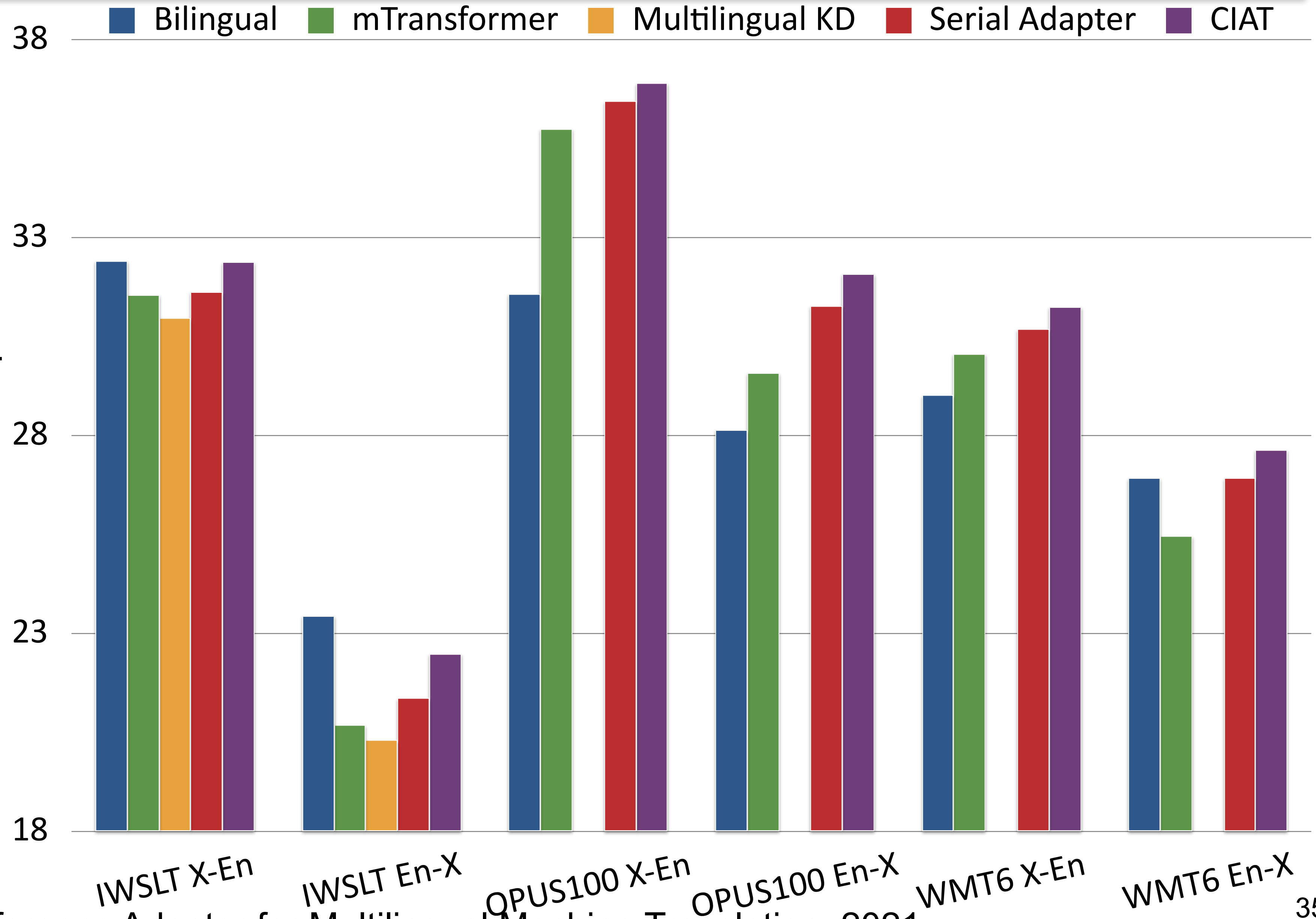
Parallel Adapter - CIAT

- Design rationale:
 - process before multilingual inte
- Embedding adapter
- Parallel layer adapter
- Training:
 - Pretrain mTransformer on multil
 - Fix mTransformer and train par
 - pairs



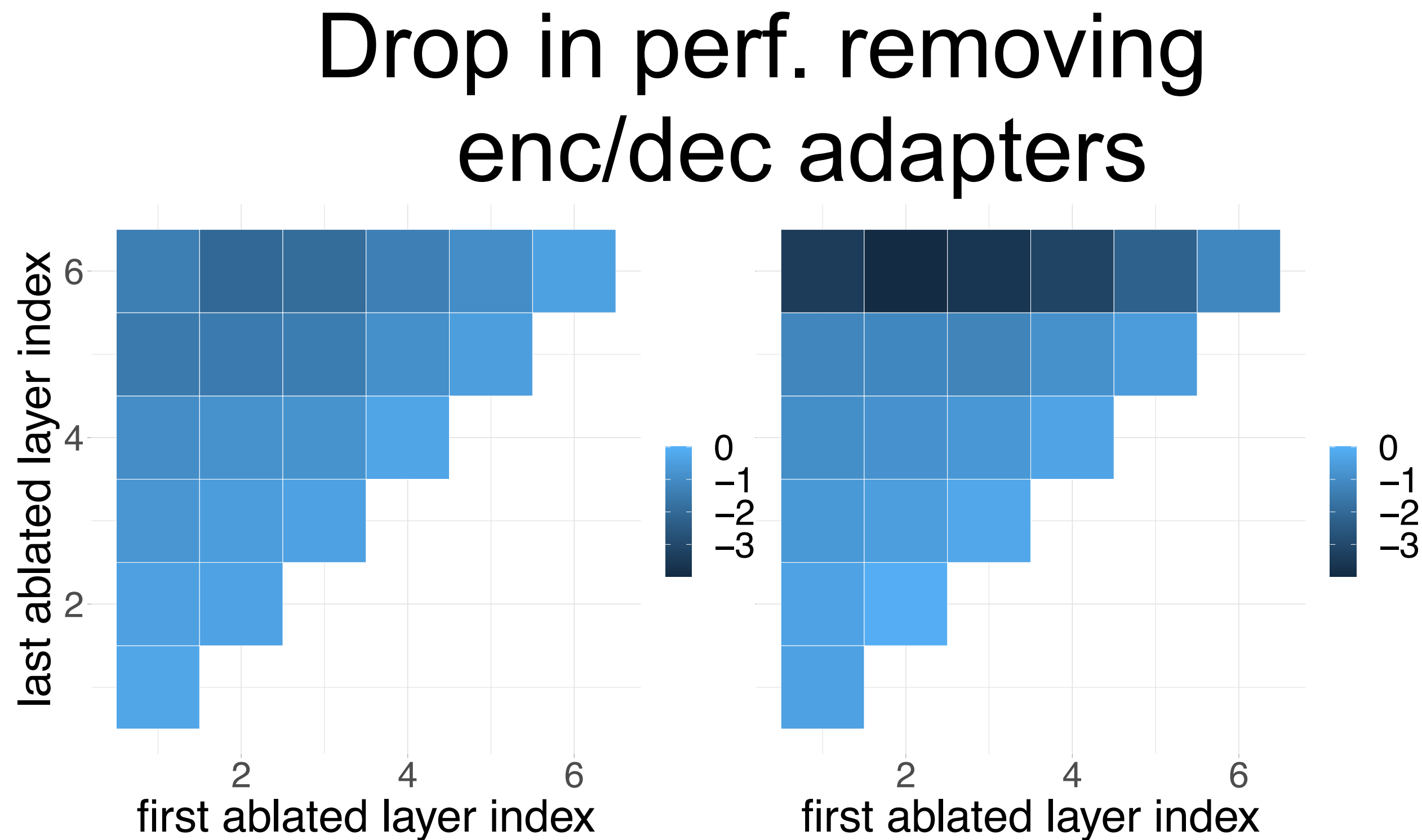
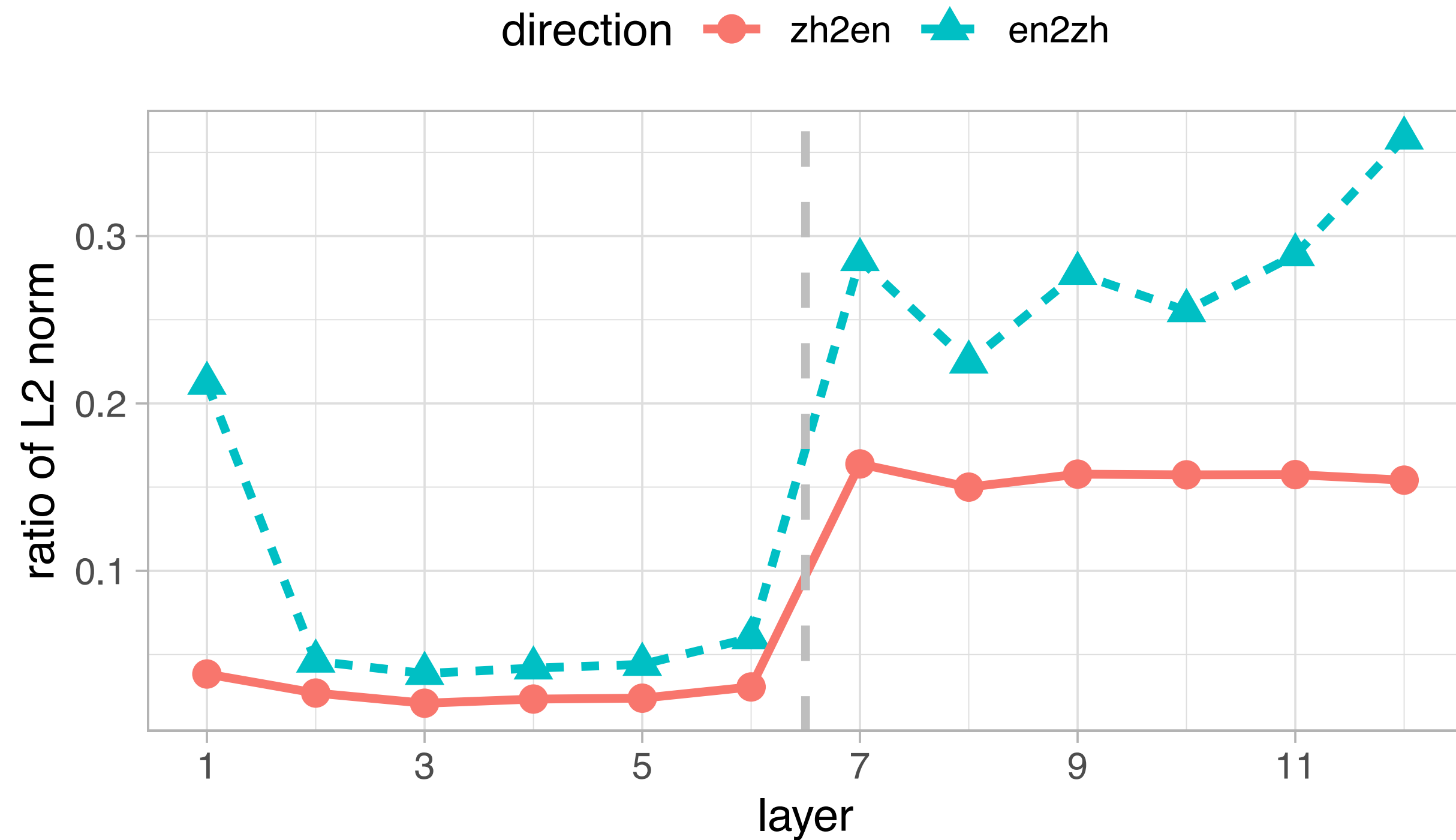
Comparing MNMT w/ Adapters

- mTransformer could be worse than bilingual Transformer
- Both serial adapter and parallel adapter (CIAT) improves mTransformer
- Parallel even beat bilingual Transformer! Serial adapter does not.



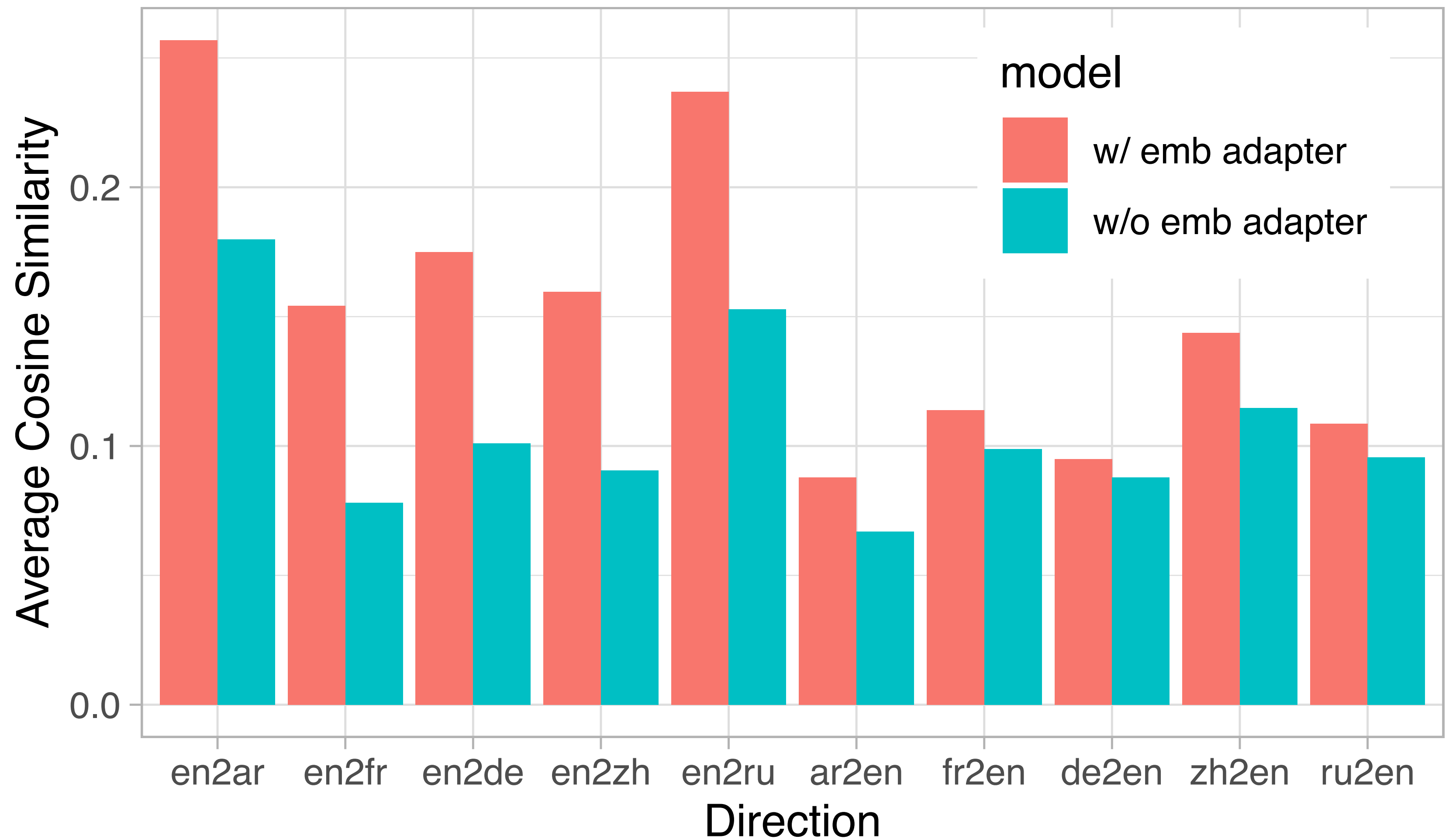
Which layer-adapter are more important?

- Upper decoder layer adapter is more important



Embedding Adapter is also important!

- Embedding adapter enhance the word embedding similarity between language pairs



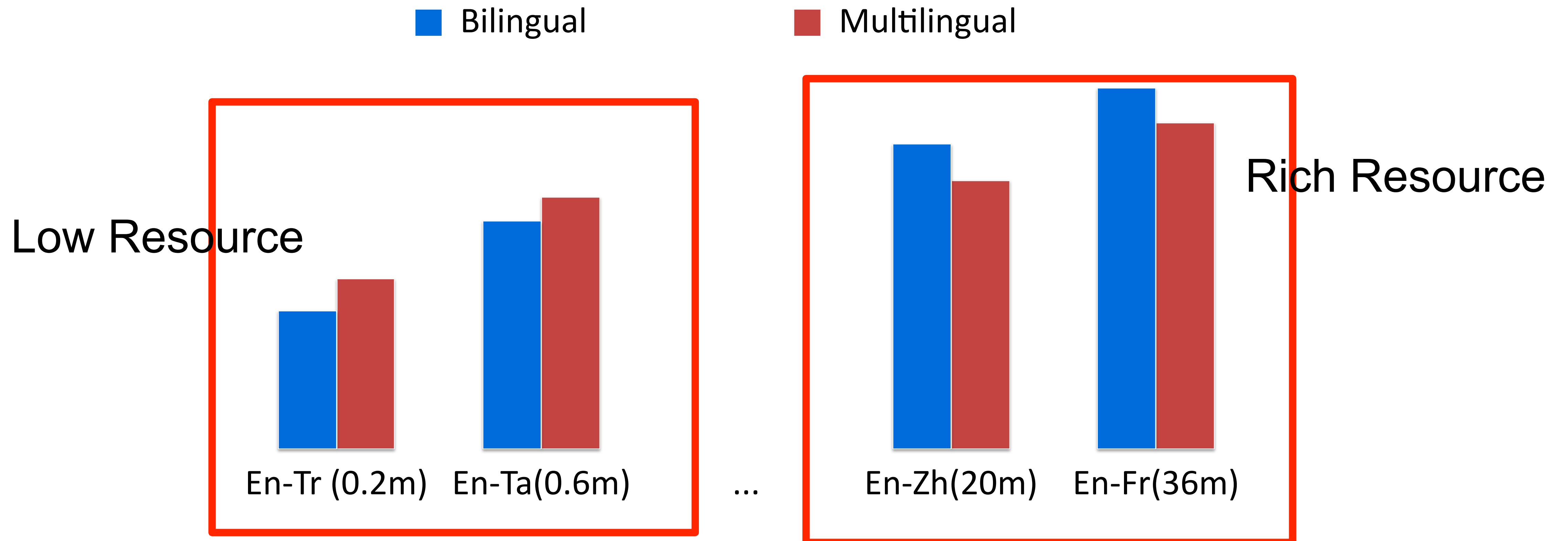
Benefit of MNMT w/ Adapter

- Improve the performance on MNMT, even beat Bilingual NMT
 - Reducing interference among large languages
 - Boost performance on zero-shot setting
- With a fraction of overhead
 - Bilingual Transformer-big: $N \times 242\text{m}$
 - mTransformer: 242m
 - mTransformer+Serial Adapter: $242\text{m} + N \times 12.6\text{m}$
 - mTransformer+parallel adapter (CIAT): $242\text{m} + N \times 12.6 \sim 27.3\text{m}$
- Plug-and-play: CIAT only needs to finetune adapter

Exploiting Model Capacity with Language-specific Subnet

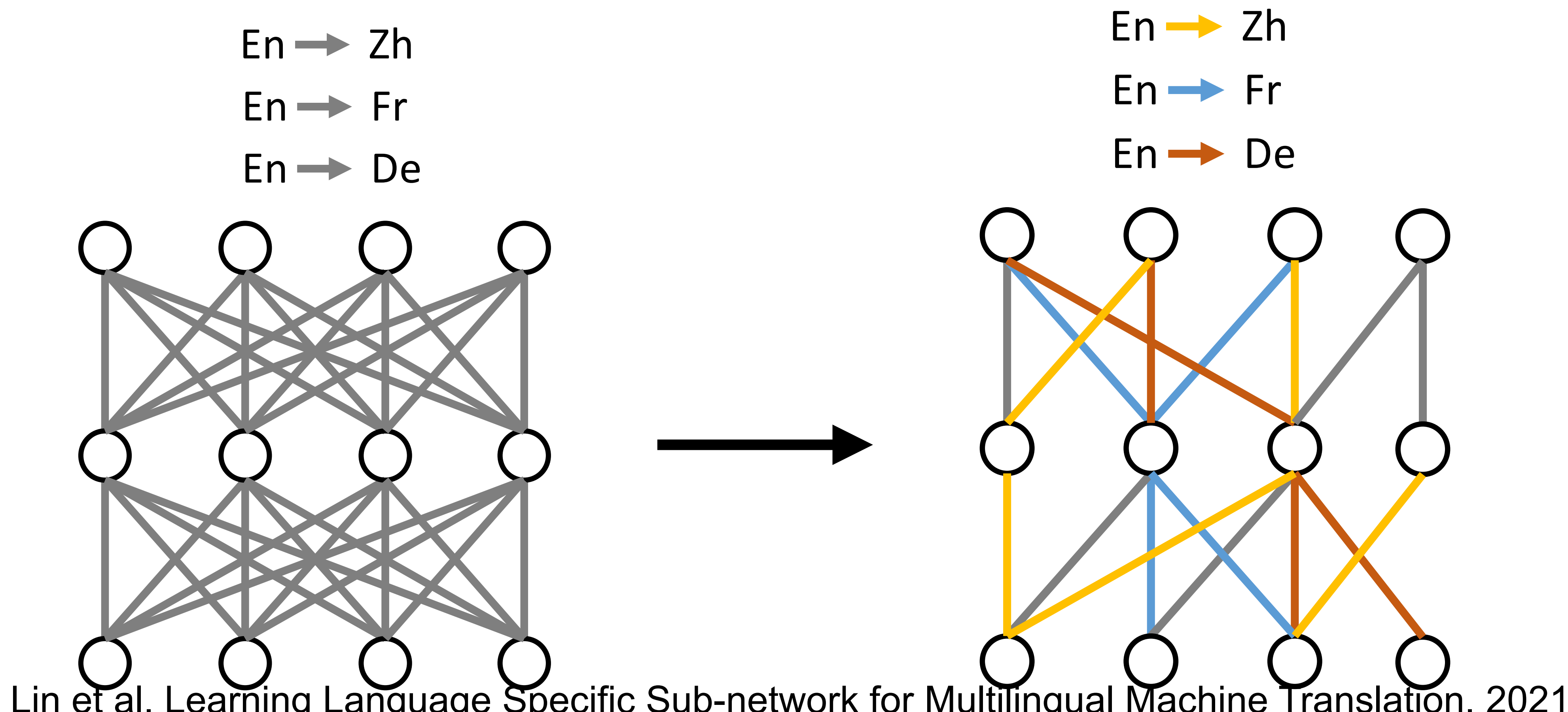
Challenge of Multilingual NMT

- Challenge: Performance degradation for rich-resource
 - caused by **Parameter Interference**



Language-Specific Sub-network (LaSS)

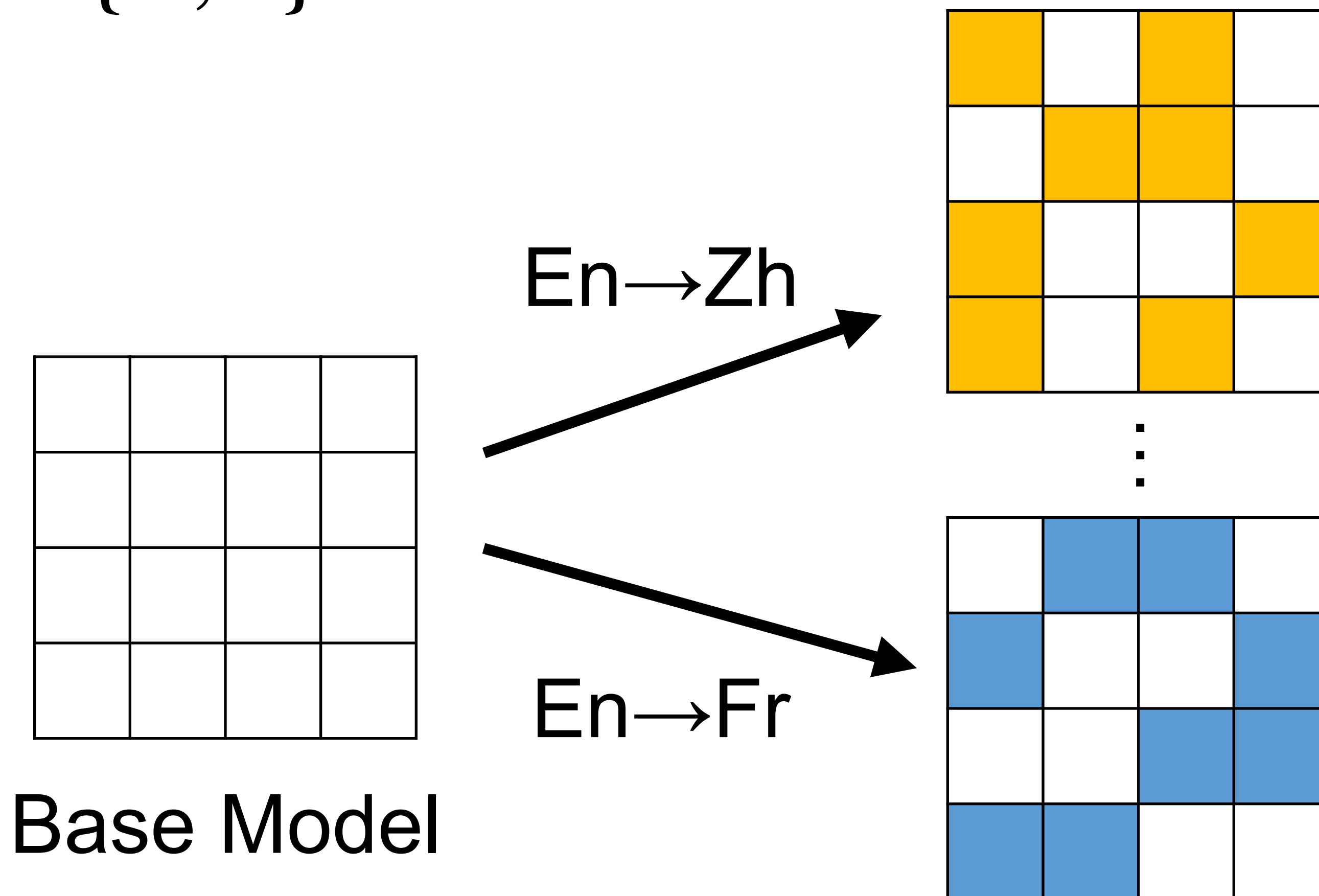
- Each direction has
 - **shared parameters** with other directions
 - preserves its **language-specific parameters**



LaSS overall framework

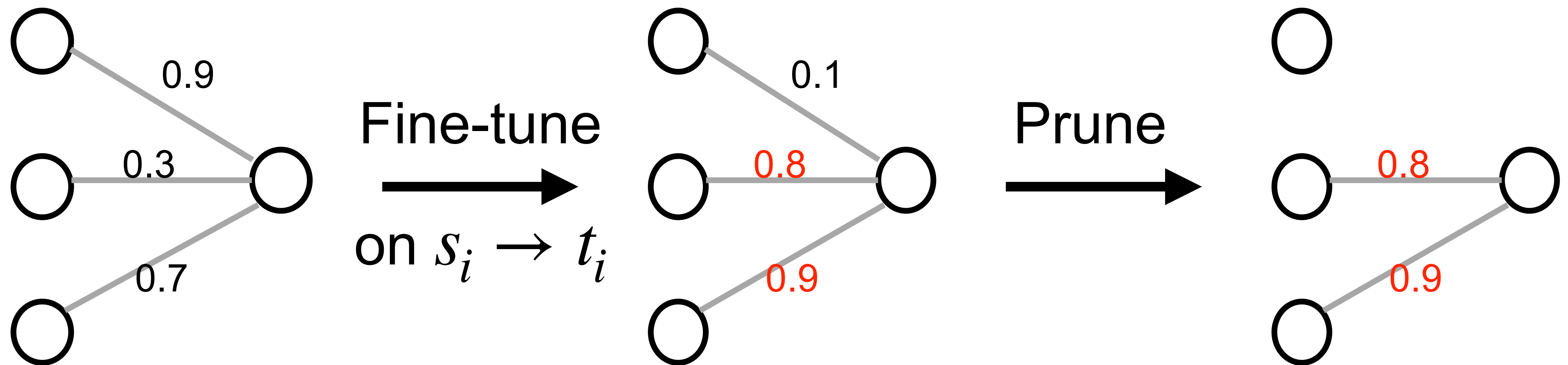
- For each language pair $s_i \rightarrow t_i$, a sub-network is selected from base model θ_0 indicated by a binary mask

$$\mathbf{M}_{s_i \rightarrow t_i} \in \{0,1\}^{|\theta|}$$



How to find language-specific sub-network: Intuition

- Fine-tuning and pruning
 - Fine-tuning on $s_i \rightarrow t_i$ **amplifies** important weights and **diminishes** the unimportant weights.



How to find language-specific masks

- Start with a vanilla multilingual model θ_0 jointly trained on $\left\{ \mathcal{D}_{s_i \rightarrow t_i} \right\}_{i=1}^N$
- For each language pair $s_i \rightarrow t_i$, fine-tuning θ_0 on $\mathcal{D}_{s_i \rightarrow t_i}$ respectively
- Rank the weights in fine-tuned model and prune the lowest α percent to obtain $\mathbf{M}_{s_i \rightarrow t_i}$

Structure-aware Joint Training

- Further continue to train θ_0 through structure-aware updating after obtaining $\mathbf{M}_{s_i \rightarrow t_i}$

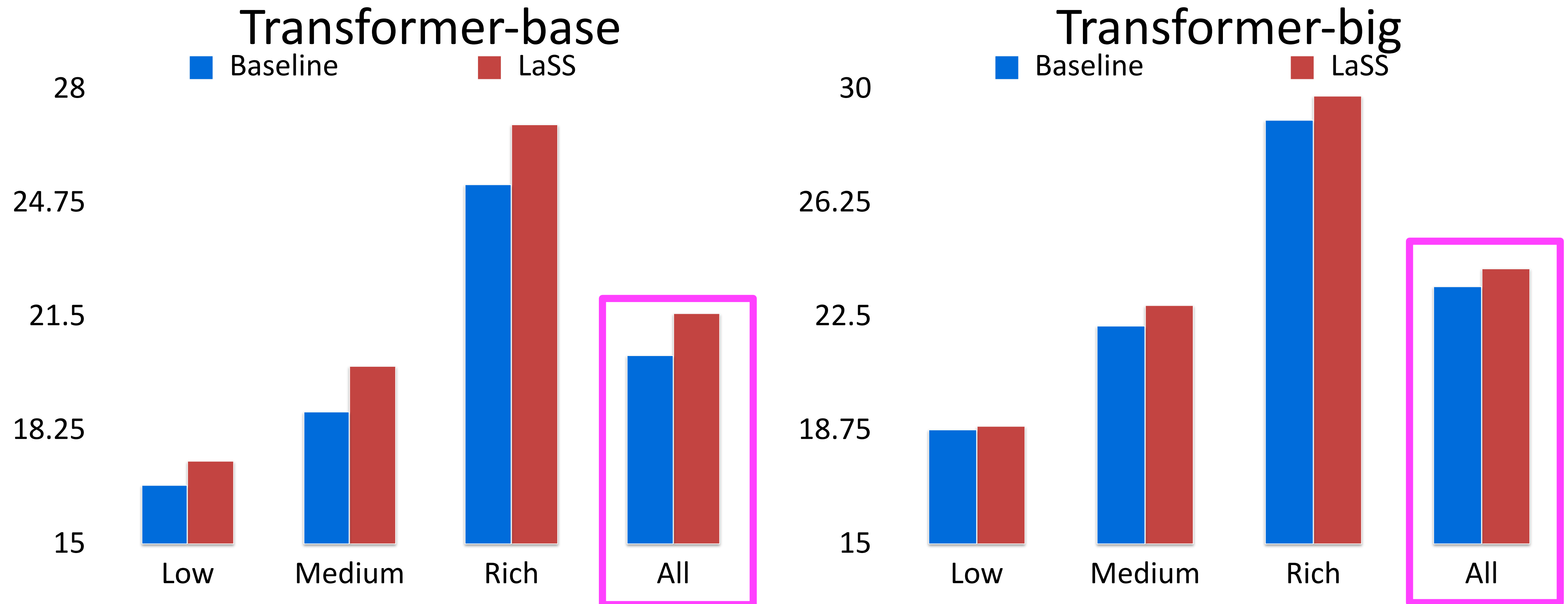
- Create batch $\mathcal{B}_{s_i \rightarrow t_i}$ full of samples from $s_i \rightarrow t_i$

- Forward and backward with sub-network

$$\theta_{s_i \rightarrow t_i} = \left\{ \theta_0^j \mid \mathbf{M}_{s_i \rightarrow t_i}^j = 1 \right\}$$

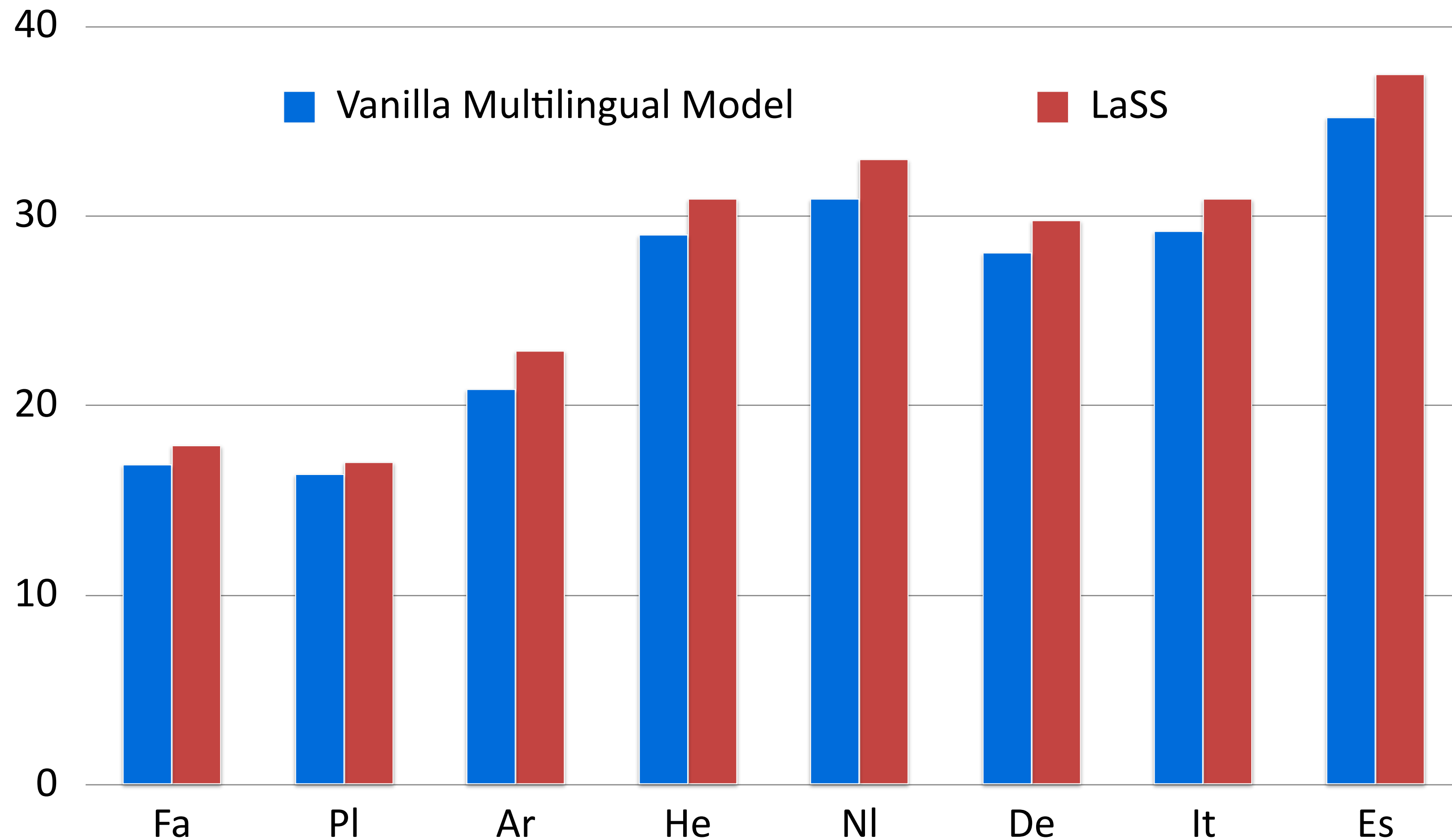
Efficacy in alleviating Parameter Interference

- LaSS obtains consistent gains for both Transformer-base and Transformer-big



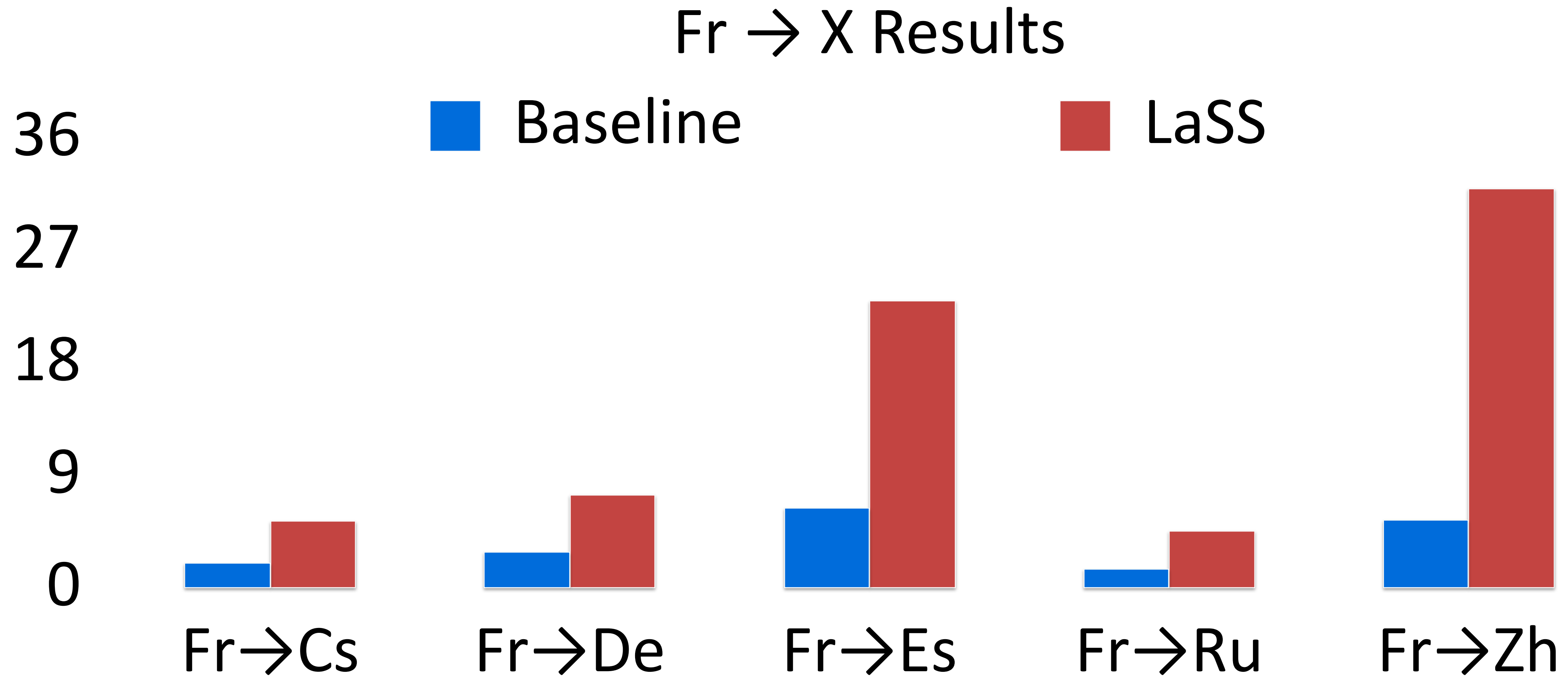
Efficacy in alleviating Parameter Interference

- LaSS obtains consistent performance gains.
 - IWSLT



LaSS obtains large gains in zero-shot translation

- An average of **8.3** BLEU gains on **30** language pairs
- **26.5** BLEU gains for Fr→Zh



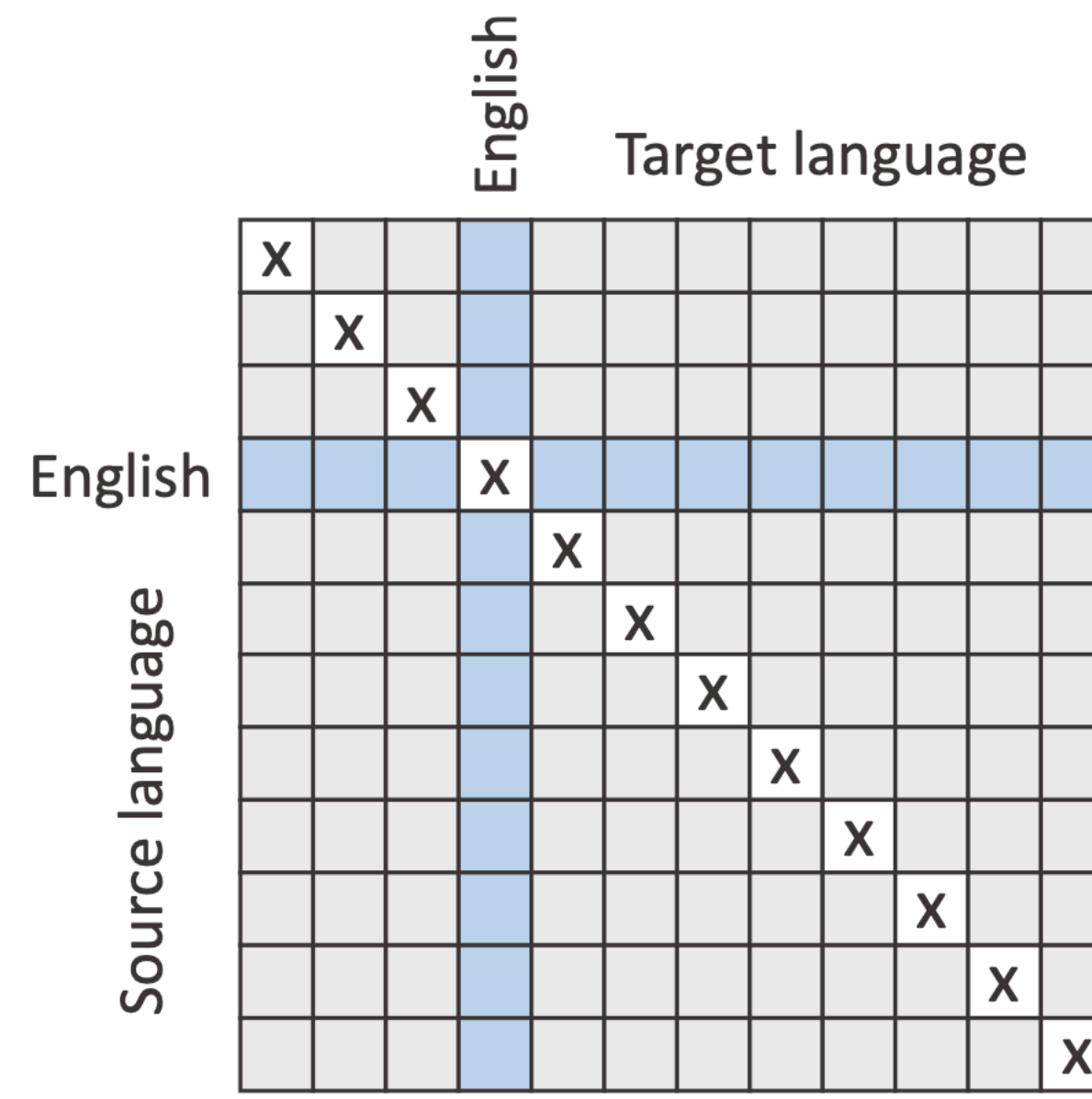
Benefits of Language-specific Subnet

- The same number of parameters, no extra parameter
- Improved performance on both rich-resource and zero-shot translation directions.

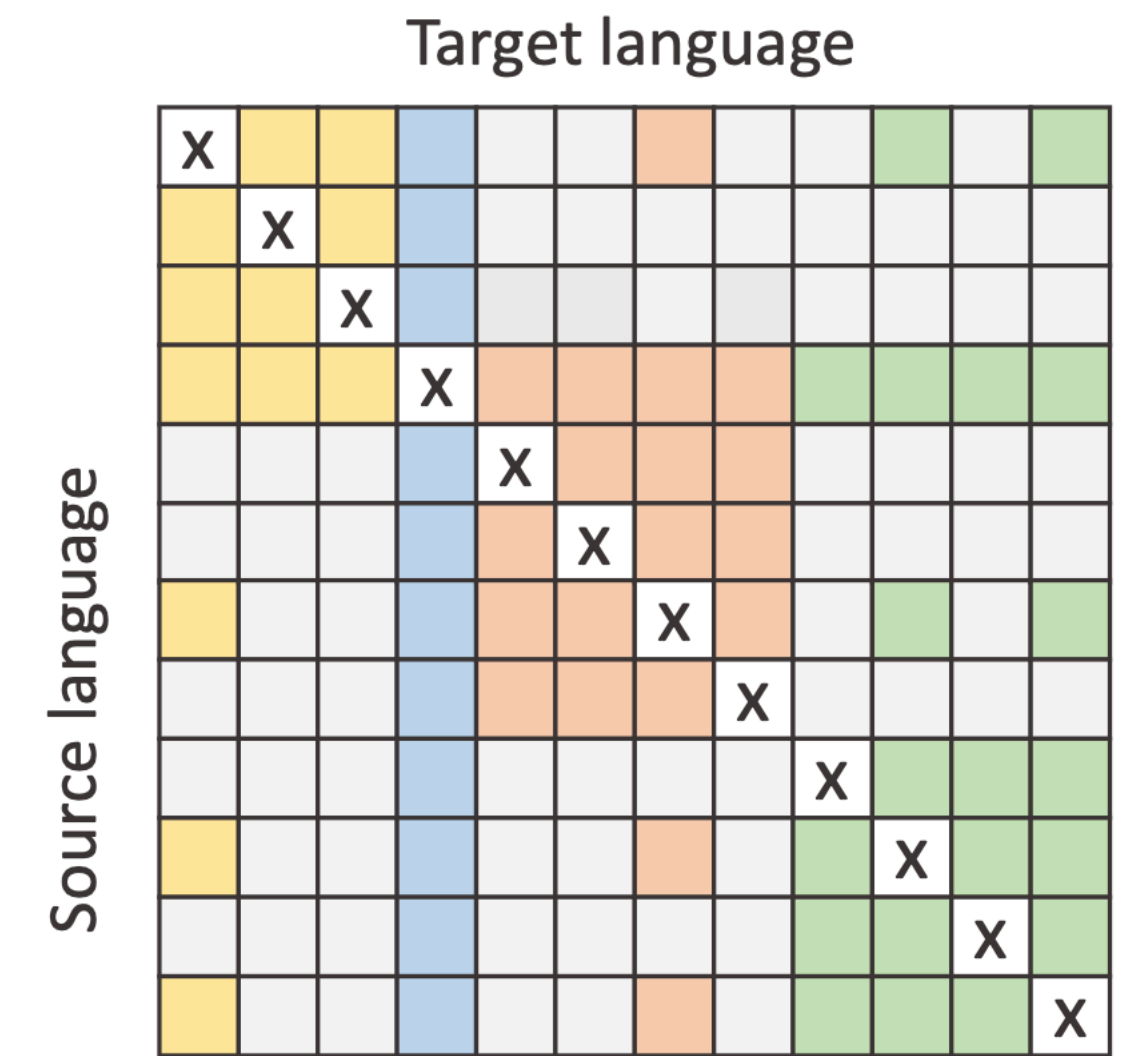
What do we need for larger scale?

Full Many-to-Many MNMT

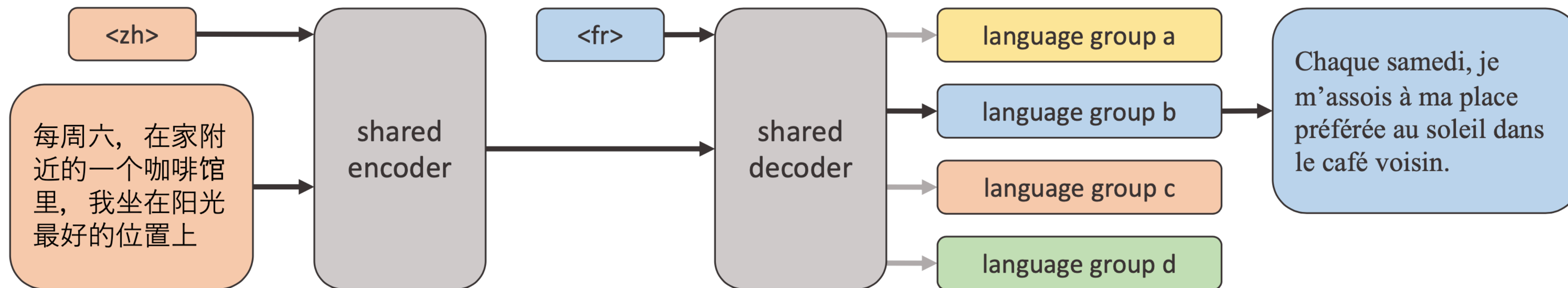
- Previous many-to-many MNMT does not work well on non-English pairs



(a) English-Centric Multilingual



(b) M2M-100: Many-to-Many Multilingual Model



(c) Translating from Chinese to French with Dense + Language-Specific Sparse Model

100 Language Benchmark

- WMT — 13 languages
- WAT — Burmese-English
- IWSLT — 4 languages
- FLORES— Sinhala and Nepali \leftrightarrow English
- TED—The TED Talks data set⁴ (Ye et al., 2018) contains translations between more than 50 languages; most of the pairs do not include English. The evaluation data is n-way parallel and contains thousands of directions.
- Autshumato— 11-way parallel data set comprising 10 African languages and English from the government domain. Half-half split.
- Tatoeba— 692 test pairs from mixed domains where sentences are contributed and translated by volunteers online. The evaluation pairs we use from Tatoeba cover 85 different languages.

Data mining for parallel corpus

- CCAIaligned [El-Kishky et al 2020]
 - use LASER encoder to produce sentence embedding
 - for every Eng sentence, use vector search engine (e.g. FAISS) to search candidate aligned sentence by comparing sentence embedding
 - parallel or comparable web-document pairs in 137 languages aligned with English.
- Use language family as bridge to mine
 - non-English pairs
- Total Training Data: 7.5B parallel sentences, corresponding to 2200 directions.

Direction	Test Set	BLEU		
		Published	M2M-100	Δ
Without Improvement				
English-Chinese (Li et al., 2019)	WMT'19	38.2	33.2	-5.0
English-Finnish (Talman et al., 2019)	WMT'17	28.6	28.2	-0.4
English-Estonian (Pinnis et al., 2018)	WMT'18	24.4	24.1	-0.3
Chinese-English (Li et al., 2019)	WMT'19	29.1	29.0	-0.1
With Improvement				
English-French (Edunov et al., 2018)	WMT'14	43.8	43.8	0
English-Latvian (Pinnis et al., 2017)	WMT'17	20.0	20.5	+0.5
German-English (Ng et al., 2019)	WMT'19	39.2	40.1	+0.9
Lithuanian-English (Pinnis et al., 2019)	WMT'19	31.7	32.9	+1.2
English-Russian (Ng et al., 2019)	WMT'19	31.9	33.3	+1.4
English-Lithuanian (Pinnis et al., 2019)	WMT'19	19.1	20.7	+1.6
Finnish-English (Talman et al., 2019)	WMT'17	32.7	34.3	+1.6
Estonian-English (Pinnis et al., 2018)	WMT'18	30.9	33.4	+2.5
Latvian-English (Pinnis et al., 2017)	WMT'17	21.9	24.5	+2.6
Russian-English (Ng et al., 2019)	WMT'19	37.2	40.5	+3.3
French-English (Edunov et al., 2018)	WMT'14	36.8	40.4	+3.6
English-German (Ng et al., 2019)	WMT'19	38.1	43.2	+5.1
English-Turkish (Sennrich et al., 2017)	WMT'17	16.2	23.7	+7.5
Turkish-English (Sennrich et al., 2017)	WMT'17	20.6	28.2	+7.6
Average		30.0	31.9	+1.9

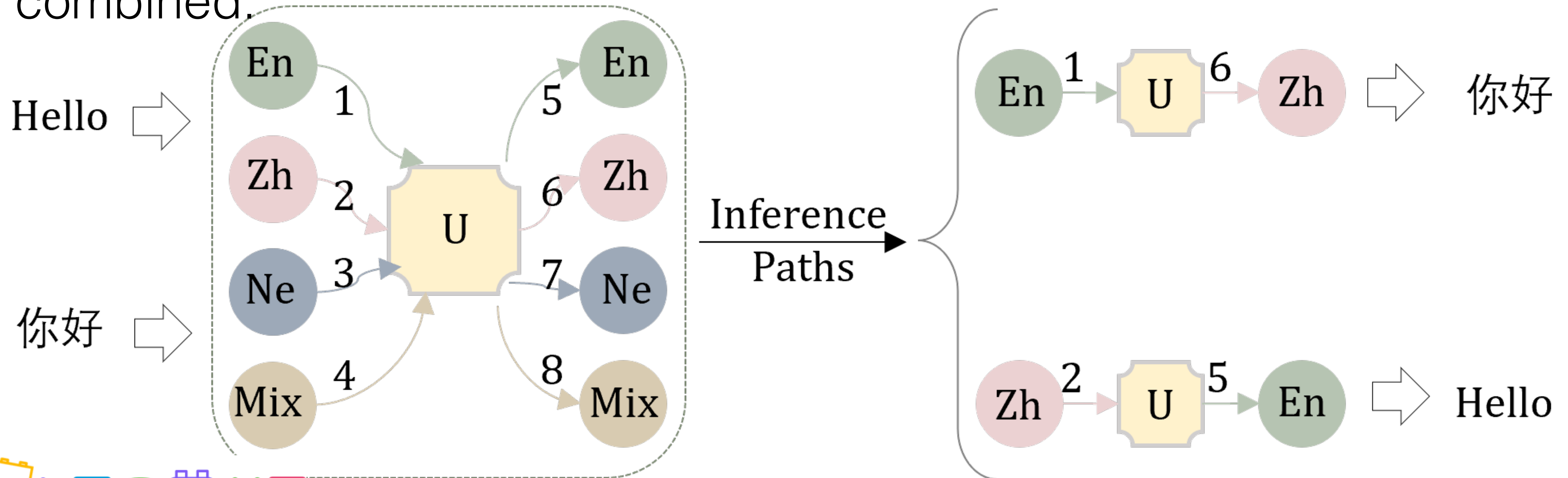
LegoMT



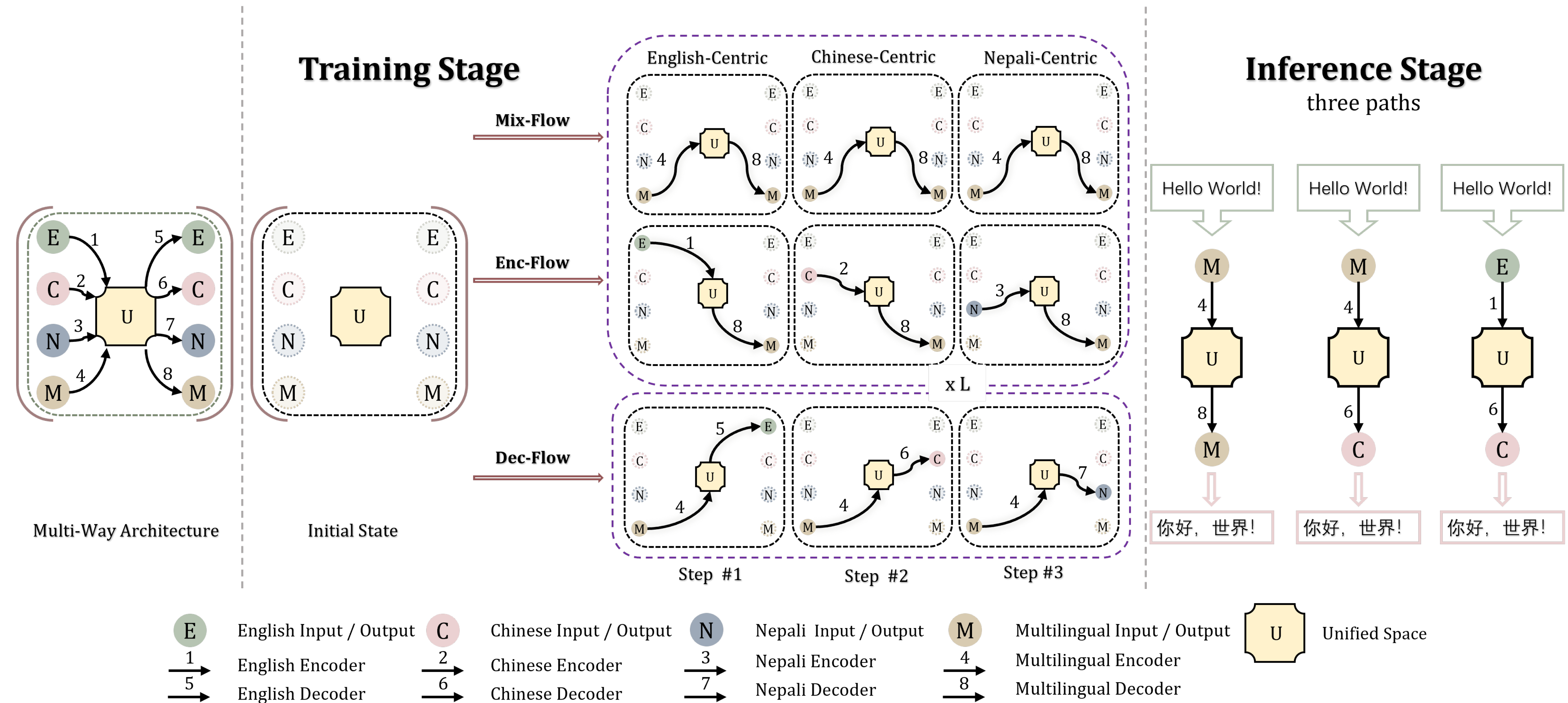
Lego-MT: Detachable Architecture

Each branch contains a complete encoder-decoder for a language/ language group.

7 branches for central languages, and 1 branch for all languages combined.



Data Flow in Lego-MT



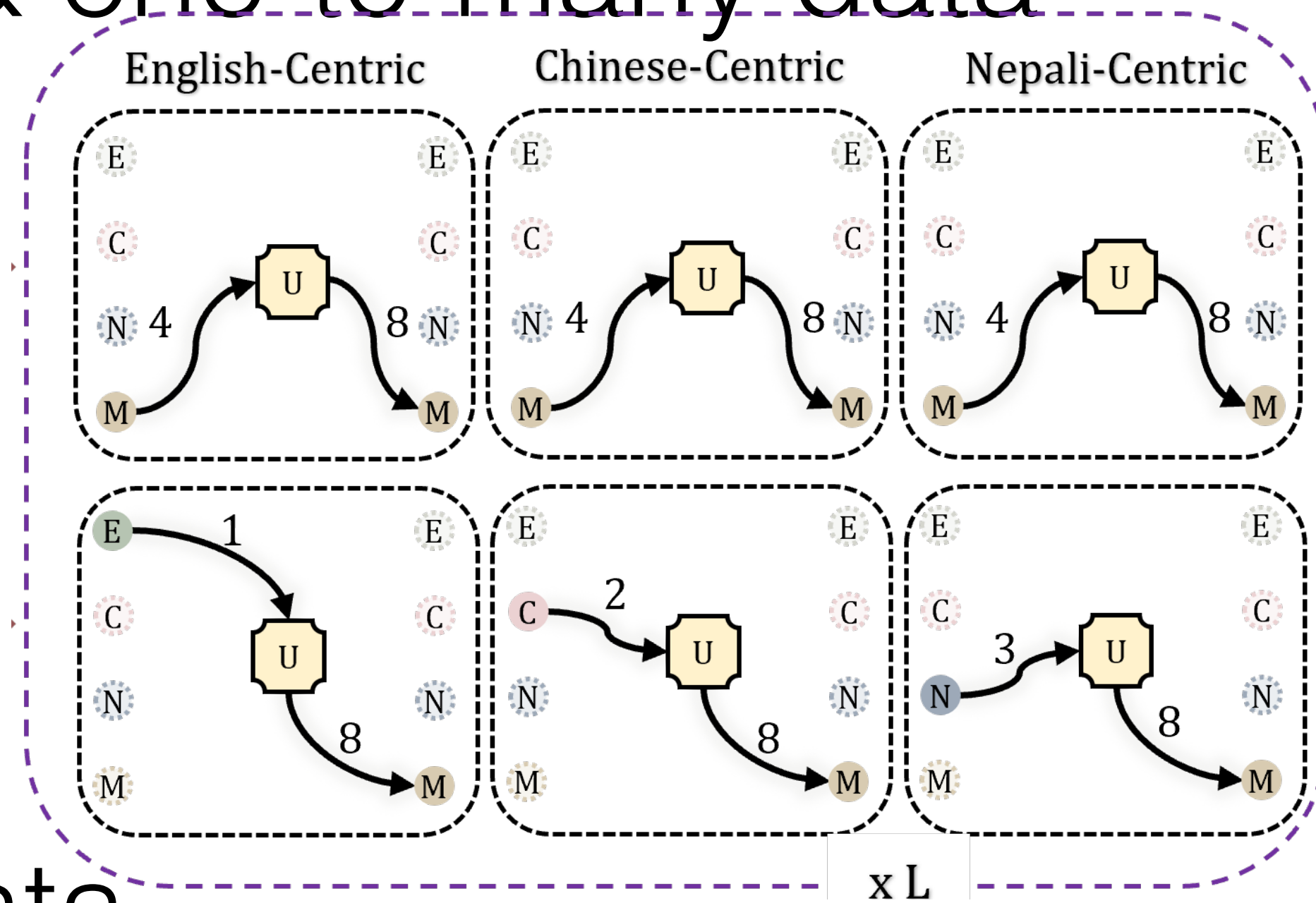
Lego-MT Two-stage Training

- 1st stage: training on many-to-many & one-to-many data

$$\min L_{mix} + L_{enc}$$

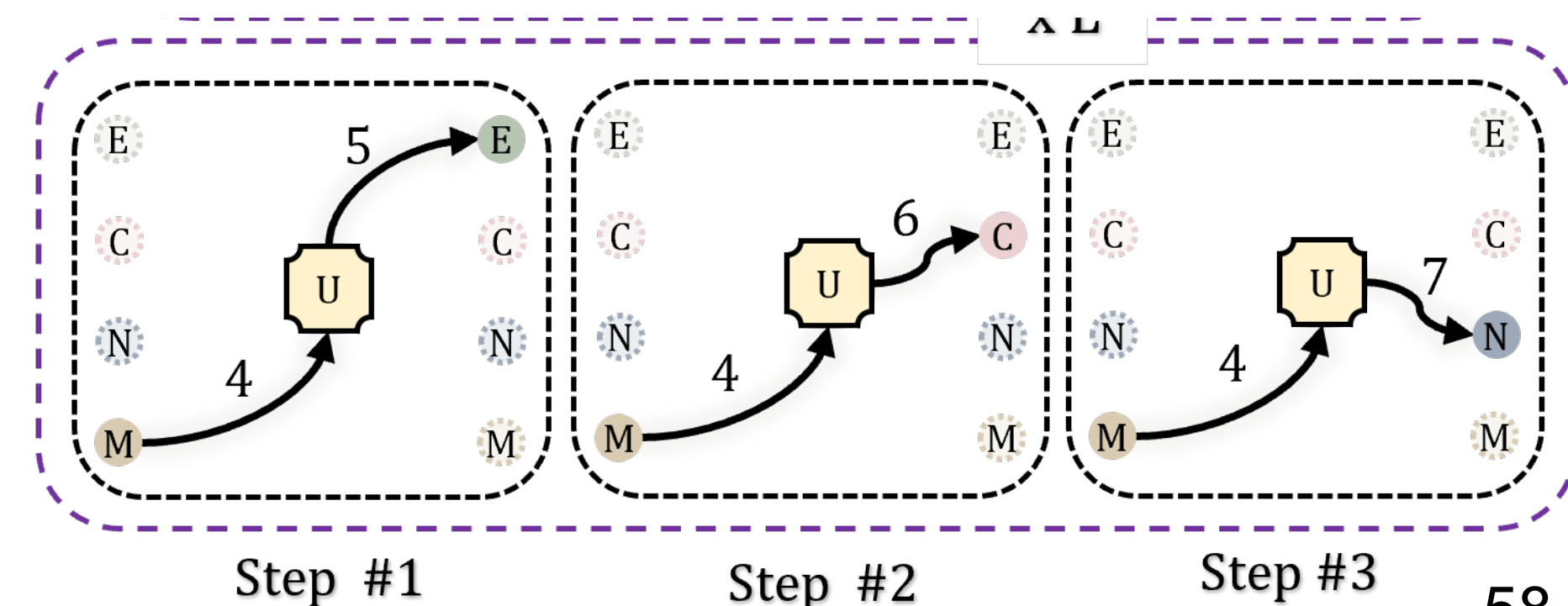
$$L_{mix} = - \sum_{x,y \sim D_{multi}} \log P_{\theta_{mix}}(y|x)$$

$$L_{enc} = - \sum_{x,y \sim D_{lg \rightarrow}} \log P_{\theta_{enc}}(y|x)$$



- 2nd stage: training on many-to-one data

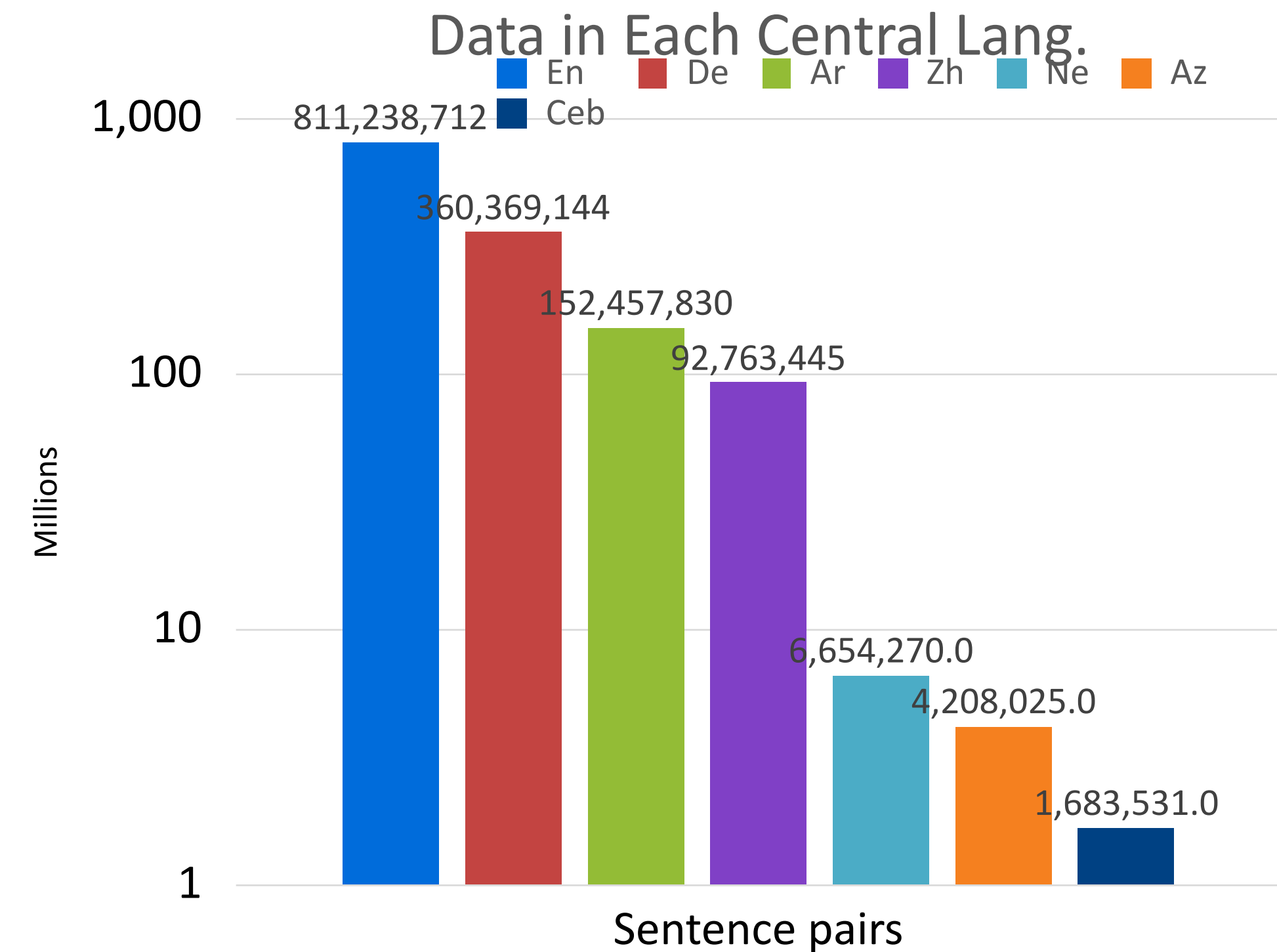
$$L_{dec} = - \sum_{x,y \sim D_{\rightarrow lg}} \log P_{\theta_{dec}}(y|x)$$



Fix the encoder of mix-flow branch

Multi-centric Data for 433 Languages

- Training Data
 - 1.3B sentence pairs collected from OPUS
 - 433 languages including 7 central languages
- Testing:
 - Flores-101 Devtest, human written translation pairs covering 101 languages.
 - 7×85 translation directions
- Evaluation Metric:
 - spBLEU, same in Flores-101



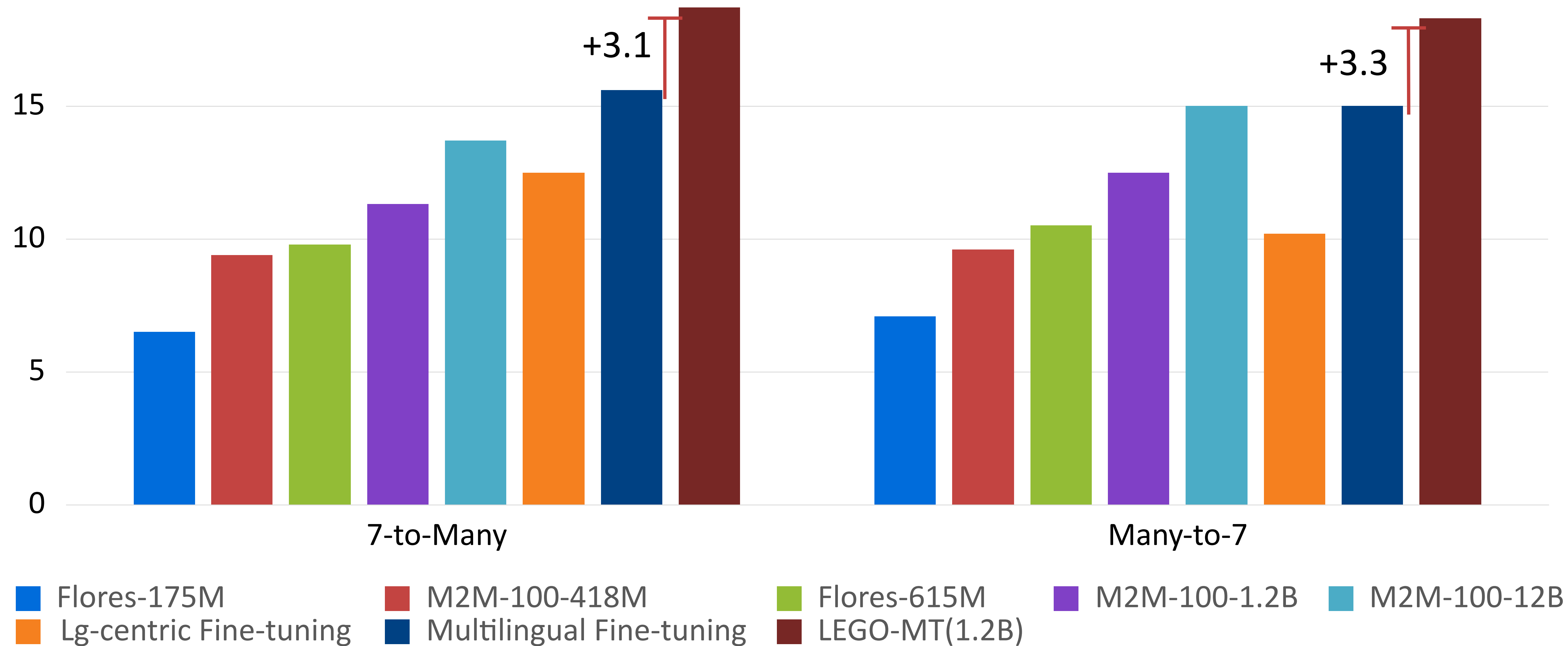
Lego-MT Model Configuration



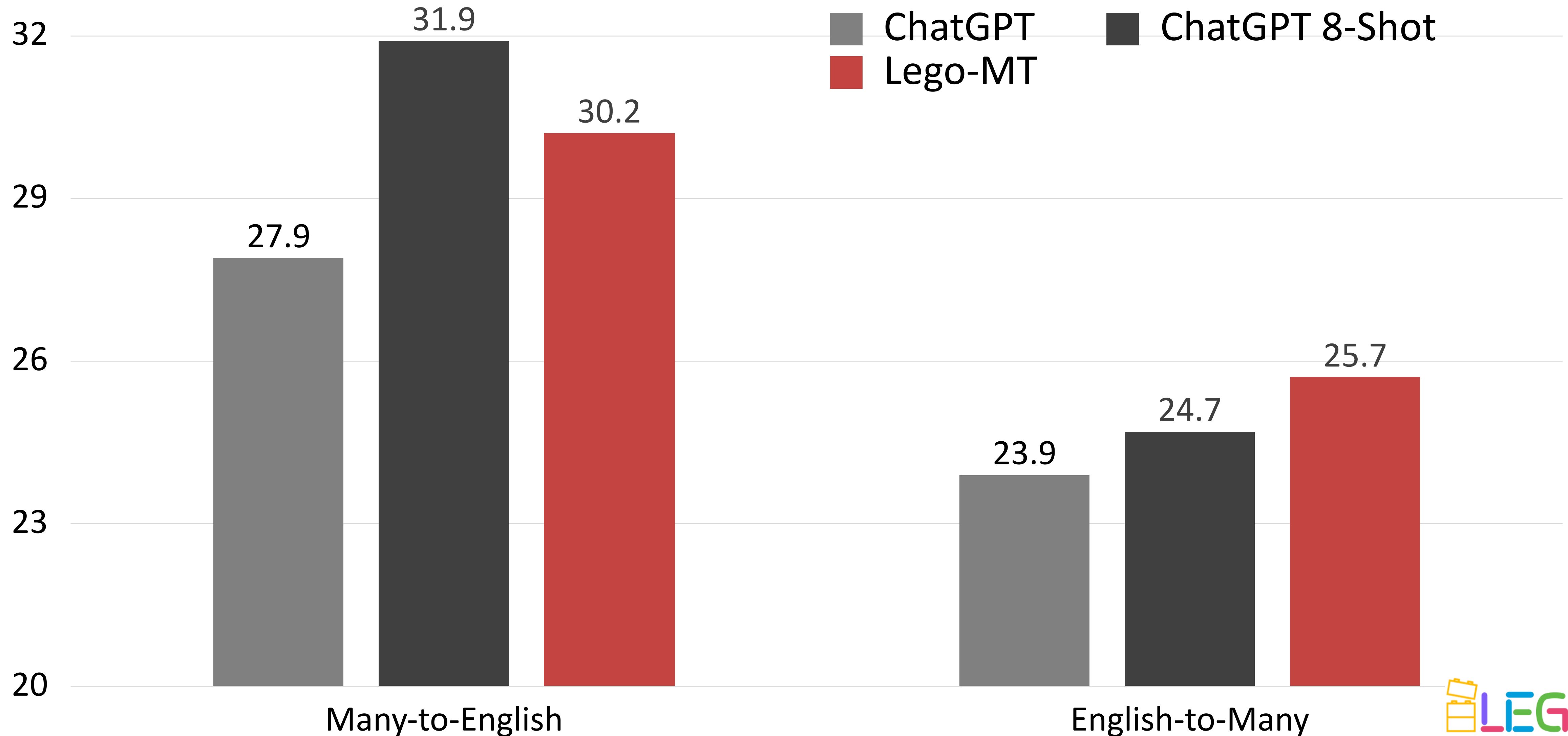
- Model Parameters
 - Each Flow: 0.6B parameters
 - Total Training Parameters:
 - ▶ $9.6\text{B} = 1.2\text{B} (\text{Mix-Flow}) + 0.6 * 7 (\text{Enc-Flow}) + 0.6 * 7 (\text{Dec-Flow})$
 - Inference Parameter:
 - ▶ 1.2B (Each branch can be independently loaded during inference)
 - ▶ We use Mix-flow for multilingual evaluation
- Training Setting
 - Max token 8000
 - The training of all centric languages is conducted in random order
 - Training duration: 15 days on 32 A100 GPUs.

LEGO-MT 1.2B outperforms M2M-100 12B!

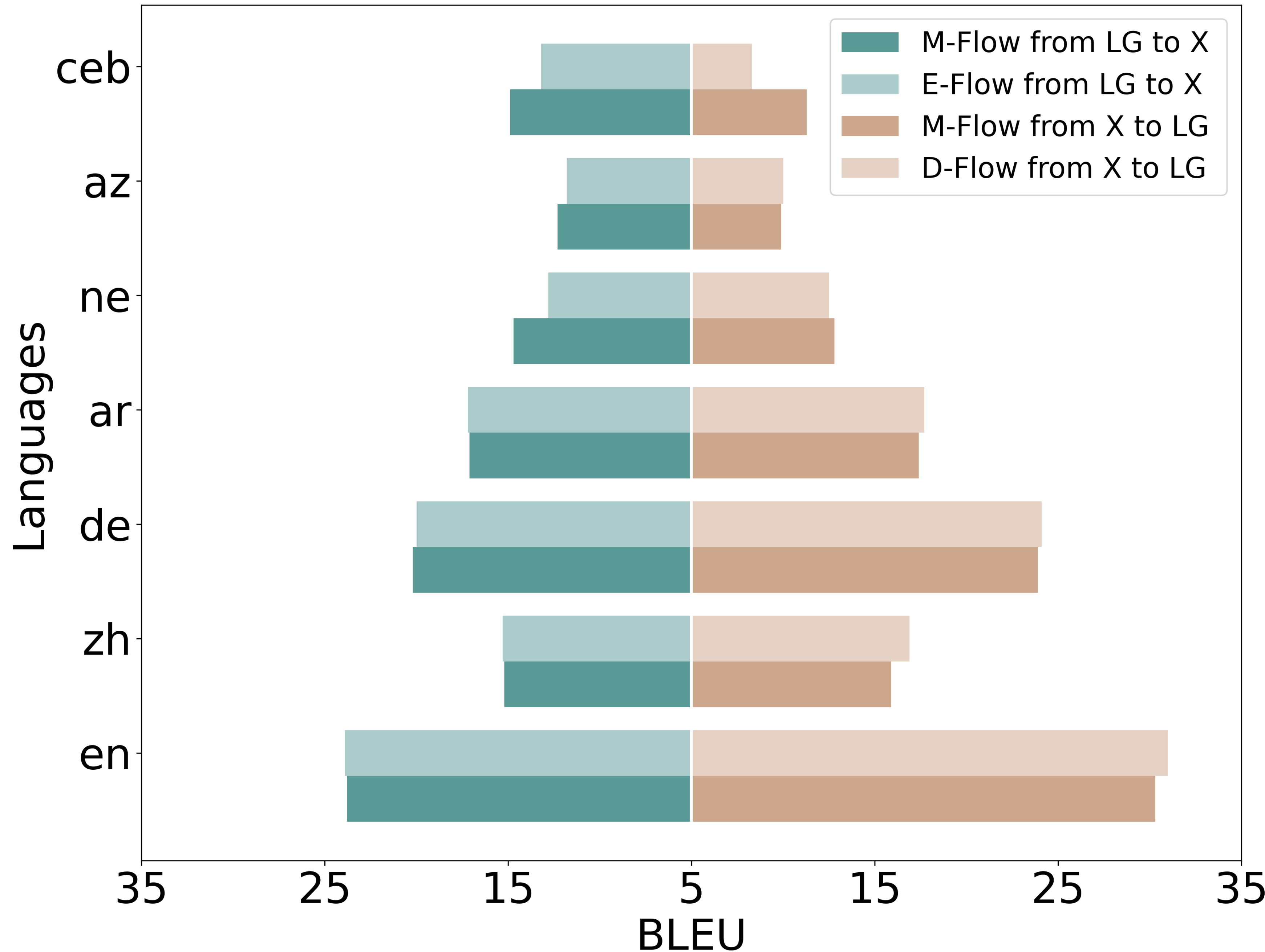
20 spBLEU



Lego-MT surpasses plain ChatGPT



W?



Language Presentation

Reading

- Yuan et al. LegoMT: Learning Detachable Models for Massively Multilingual Machine Translation, 2023
- Johnson et al. Google's Multilingual Neural Machine Translation System: Enabling Zero-Shot Translation. 2017
- Aharoni et al. Massively Multilingual Neural Machine Translation. 2019
- Arivazhagan et al. Massively Multilingual Neural Machine Translation in the Wild: Findings and Challenges. 2019
- Bapna & Firat, Simple, Scalable Adaptation for Neural Machine Translation, 2019
- Zhu et al. Counter-Interference Adapter for Multilingual Machine Translation. 2021
- Lin et al. Learning Language Specific Sub-network for Multilingual Machine Translation. 2021

Reading

- Sennrich et al. Improving Neural Machine Translation Models with Monolingual Data. ACL 2016.
- Cheng et al. Semi-Supervised Learning for Neural Machine Translation. ACL 2016.
- Artetxe et al. Unsupervised Neural Machine Translation. 2018
- Lample et al. Unsupervised Machine Translation Using Monolingual Corpora Only. 2018
- He et al. Dual Learning for Machine Translation. 2016.
- Gulcehre et al. On Using Monolingual Corpora in Neural Machine Translation. 2015
- Edunov et al. Understanding Back-translation at Scale. 2018.