GRADA: Graph Generative Data Augmentation for Commonsense Reasoning

Anonymous ACL submission

Abstract

Recent advances in commonsense reasoning have been fueled by the availability of large-scale human annotated datasets. Manual annotation of such datasets, many of which are based on existing knowledge bases, is expensive and not scalable. Moreover, it is challenging to build augmentation data for commonsense reasoning because the synthetic questions need to adhere to real-world scenarios. Hence, we present GRADA, a graph-generative data augmentation framework to synthesize factual data samples from knowledge graphs for commonsense reasoning datasets. First, we train a graph-to-text model for conditional generation of questions from graph entities and relations. Next, we train a generator with GAN loss to generate distractors for synthetic questions. We then explore various filters to denoise the synthetic dataset. Our approach improves performance for SocialIQA, CODAH, HellaSwag and CommonsenseQA, and works well for generative tasks like ProtoQA. We show improvement in robustness to semantic adversaries after training with GRADA and provide human evaluation of the quality of synthetic datasets in terms of factuality and answerability. Our work provides evidence and encourages future research into graph-based generative data augmentation.

1 Introduction

Recent work has seen the emergence of several datasets for improving commonsense reasoning of language models through tasks like question answering (QA) (Sap et al., 2019b; Talmor et al., 2019; Bisk et al., 2020) and natural language inference (Bhagavatula et al., 2020; Zellers et al., 2019; Sakaguchi et al., 2020). Some of these datasets are based on existing knowledge graphs that represent different aspects of commonsense through entities and relations. For example, annotators for SocialIQA (Sap et al., 2019b) were shown an event from the inferential knowledge graph ATOMIC (Sap et al., 2019a) and instructed to turn it into a sentence by adding names, filling placeholders and adding context, etc. For multiple-choice QA datasets, annotators are also instructed to write distractor choices for each question. These useful datasets are collected through a time-taking and money-intensive crowdsourcing process which is hard to scale. Large pretrained models like GPT2 (Radford et al., 2018) can be finetuned to generate sentences from narrow data distributions, and it has recently been leveraged to augment datasets for text classification (Anaby-Tavor et al., 2020) and question answering (Puri et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2020). However, it is challenging to generate augmentation data for commonsense reasoning because the generated questions and answers (referred to as "synthetic" in rest of the paper) need to depict plausible real-world scenarios accurately. Hence, we develop GRADA, a graph-based generative data augmentation framework to generate synthetic samples from existing knowledge graphs

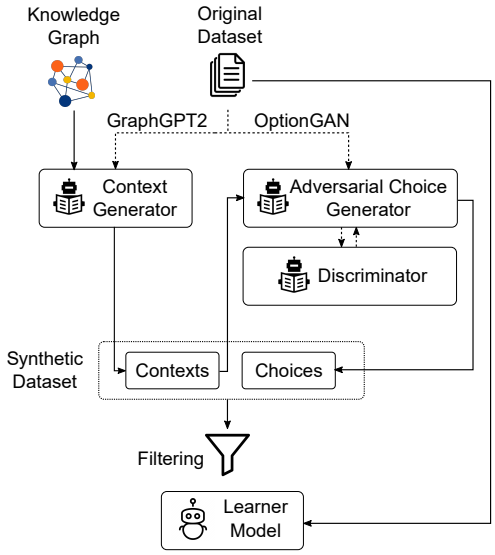

Figure 1: GRADA framework: The original dataset is used to train GraphGPT2, a graph-to-text question generator and OptionGAN, a distractor generator. The synthetic dataset is subjected to filtering and used to train the model in combniation with the original dataset.

that encode information about the real world.

Each sample in commonsense reasoning datasets comprises a question which describes a real-world scenario and can be mapped to a set of predefined entities and relations from knowledge bases like ConceptNet and ATOMIC. For instance, the question "Besides a mattress, name something people sleep on." from the ProtoQA dataset (Boratko et al., 2020) can be mapped to the single-hop path (mattress, *RelatedTo*, people) using ConceptNet. If a pretrained language model is trained to conditionally generate questions from such input paths, we can expect it to generate sensible questions when it is provided new paths with similar relations. The model will likely generalize to unseen entity nodes and generate questions containing unique commonsense knowledge. Following this intuition, we finetune GPT2 (Radford et al., 2019) to generate questions which explicitly depict the entities and relations in input path. When trained on the aforementioned example (alongside other similar examples) and provided with the new path (mattress, *RelatedTo*, soft), our model generates "Besides a mattress, name something that's soft.", which is a valid question for probing real-world commonsense. Usually, these paths contain multiple nodes with several hops and hence are referred to as graphs in rest of the paper. In order to represent the graph, we explore both (a) encoding of linearized graph and (b) augmentation of linear encodings with structure-aware encoding of graph, and find that the latter improves the transfer of semantic knowledge from graph to text.

Synthetic questions need to be accompanied by synthetic answers and distractor choices (for multiple-choice datasets), which are similarly generated by finetuning GPT2 for conditional generation of answers/distractors from the question. However, Yang et al. (2020) report that human annotators find it hard to pick a unique/unambiguous answer in more than 50% of the synthetic dataset generated in this manner. Therefore, we explore an alternative where we finetune the generative model within a GAN framework (Nie et al., 2019a) where it is continuously challenged by a discriminator model to generate unique distractors that can fool the discriminator (see OptionGAN, Figure 1). The synthetic questions and answers thus generated are assembled into synthetic samples which are then used in a two-stage training pipeline (Mitra et al., 2019). Additionally, since the generative pipeline is only an approximate imitation of the human annotation process, we are left with several ambiguous and inaccurate samples in the synthetic pool. We compare three methods to find the most informative data samples from this pool: Question Answering Probability (Zhang and Bansal, 2019) to measure accuracy by answerability, Confidence and Variability (Swayamdipta et al., 2020) to measure generalizability, and Energy score (Liu et al., 2020) to filter out-of-distribution samples. Our contributions can be summarized as follows:

- We present a generative framework consisting of (i) a graph-to-text model to convert knowledge graphs to questions and (ii) a model finetuned with GAN loss to generate distractors for commonsense reasoning QA datasets.
- We propose filters for selecting the most informative samples from synthetic datasets.
- We improve performance on commonsense reasoning datasets, and perform ablation analysis to show the impact of various modules in our framework as well as human evaluation of synthetic dataset quality.

2 Related Work

Explicit reasoning over knowledge graphs has been a popular approach for improving commonsense understanding of QA models. Bauer et al. (2018); Lin et al. (2019); De Cao et al. (2019); Feng et al. (2020) and Lv et al. (2020) extract relevant multi-hop relational commonsense from knowledge graphs and show significant improvements over models that operate solely on text. Devlin et al. (2019); Yang et al. (2019); Ye et al. (2019) expand the rich latent knowledge of large pretrained models by finetuning on similar corpora (Havasi et al., 2010) before finetuning on the target dataset. Mitra et al. (2019) convert external resources (Koupaee and Wang, 2018) to QA samples for data augmentation. Yang et al. (2020) generate randomly initialized samples from finetuned GPT2 as augmentation data for target datasets. We ground the generated samples to real-world facts by providing knowledge graphs as input to the model.

There has been a surge of efforts in neural graph-to-text modeling in the recent years. Marcheggiani and Perez-Beltrachini (2018) encode input graphs using a graph convolutional encoder (Kipf and Welling, 2017). Koncel-Kedziorski et al. (2019) propose the model GraphWriter which

improves on the graph attention networks presented in Velickovic et al. (2018) by replacing self-attention encoder with Transformer blocks (Vaswani et al., 2017). More recently, several works have shown that pretrained generative models outperform graph-to-text models by large margins (Mager et al., 2020; Ribeiro et al., 2020; Hoyle et al., 2020; He et al., 2020). We combine the structure-aware encoding capabilities of graph-to-text models with the rich contextual knowledge of pretrained models in GraphGPT2 and generate rich real-world scenarios from sparse sub-graphs.

Good distractors are necessary for a task model to learn the right reasoning towards answering multiple-choice datasets. To this end, Liang et al. (2018) rank distractors using feature-based ensemble methods. Offerijns et al. (2020); Yang et al. (2020) finetune GPT2 to generate distractors. Chung et al. (2020) approach distractor generation as a coverage problem and select distractors for maximizing sample difficulty. Cai and Wang (2018) use adversarial training to sample high quality negative training examples for knowledge graph embeddings. In a similar line of work, we use generative adversarial networks (GANs) (Goodfellow et al., 2014) with the Gumbel-Softmax relaxation (Kusner and Hernández-Lobato, 2016; Nie et al., 2019b) and train a generator with GAN loss to imitate the creation of human-authored tricky, incorrect answer options. Most NLP applications use REINFORCE (Sutton et al., 2000) algorithm and its variants (Yu et al., 2017; Cai and Wang, 2018; Qin et al., 2018; Zhang et al., 2018) to circumvent the discrete sampling issue for text-based GANs.

3 Methods

In this section, we describe the generative models in the GRADA framework and the various filtering methods.

3.1 Graph-to-Text Generation

In the first module of our pipeline, we generate synthetic questions by using knowledge graphs as input. Given a dataset of input graphs (g_i), we finetune GPT2 with cross-entropy loss for conditional generation of questions (q_i) from the graphs i.e., $L_q = \sum_{i=1}^{N} logP(q_i|f(g_i))$, where $f(.)$ is the function for encoding the graph. We explore linearized graph encoding as well as structure-aware graph encoding for $f(.)$.

Linearized Graph Input. Graph linearization is a simple way to use graphs like text when finetuning GPT2. We adopt depth-first-search to linearize the input graphs and preserve edge information to some extent by augmenting GPT2 vocabulary with special tokens for edges. GPT2 is finetuned for conditional generation of target question from this linearized graph input.

Recent work has revealed that using linearized graphs with pretrained language models (PTLMs) surpasses graph-based encoder-decoder architectures at data-to-text generation by a large margin (Ribeiro et al., 2020). However, Mager et al. (2020) show that omitting the edge information from linearized graphs notably degrades performance, which means that the graph structure is beneficial for generation. Hence, we propose GraphGPT2.

GraphGPT2 for Structure-aware Graph Input. Instead of linearizing the input graph, we encode the graph using a Transformer-based graph encoder ($f_s(.)$) which preserves the graph structure by performing masked self-attention over edges and nodes (Koncel-Kedziorski et al., 2019). We use the Transformer-based graph encoder from Graph Writer for structure-preserving encoding of graphs. First, we convert the input graphs g_i into unlabeled connected bipartite graphs $G_i = (v_i, e_i)$, where v_i is the list of entities, relations and global vertex, and e_i is the adjacency matrix describing the directed edges (Beck et al., 2018). The global vertex is connected to all entity vertices and promotes global context modelling by allowing information flow between all parts of the graph. Next, v_i is projected to a dense, continuous embedding space V_i and is sent as input to the graph encoder (see Figure 2). The encoder is composed of L stacked Transformer blocks; each Transformer block consists of a N-headed self-attention layer followed by normalization and a two-layer feed-forward network. The resulting encodings are referred to as graph contextualized vertex encodings. These encodings are prepended to the embedded representation of linearized graph, and sent as input to the decoder. The decoder i.e. pretrained GPT2 is finetuned to generate a coherent question from the combined embeddings. The graph encoder is initialized with GPT2 embeddings to force continuity in word representation across modules. Figure 2 shows the integration of graph contextualized encodings with

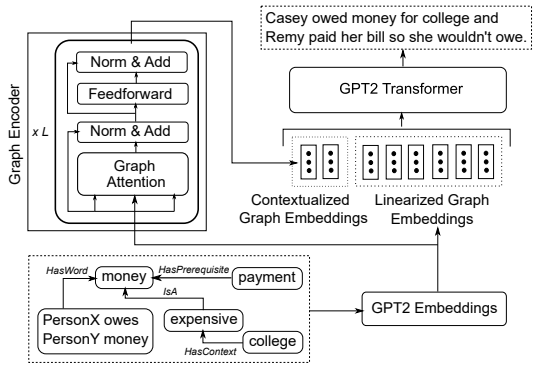

Figure 2: GraphGPT2: The Graph Encoder is composed of L Transformer blocks and its output is concatenated with GPT2 embeddings for input to GPT2.

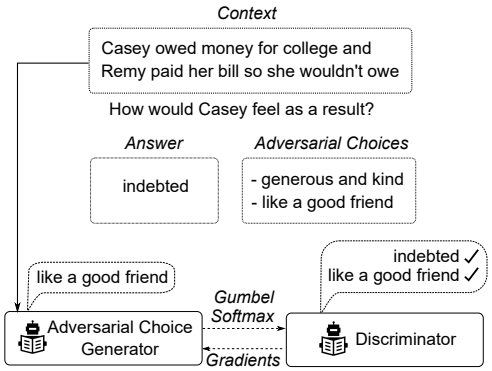

Figure 3: Training process for OptionGAN.

GPT2 in GraphGPT2. The combined generative model is finetuned end-to-end for maximizing the conditional log-likelihood of target question q_i i.e. $L_q = \sum_{i=1}^{N} logP(q_i|f_l(g_i), f_s(g_i))$, where $f_l(.)$ represents the linearized graph embeddings.

During inference, both of the above models are provided with graphs that do not appear in training dataset to generate synthetic questions containing new knowledge. See Sec. 4.1 for details on creation of training and inference datasets.

3.2 Answer & Distractor Generation

We finetune two separate GPT2 models for conditional generation of answers and distractors respectively from questions, using cross entropy loss as: $L_a = \sum_{i=1}^{N} logP(a_i|q_i)$. As we discussed in Sec. 1, this method does not guarantee good distractors. Hence, we further finetune the model for generating distractors within a GAN framework to generate maximally adversarial choices, in a bid to imitate the best human annotator.

OptionGAN for Adversarial Choices. We train a model to generate distractors (in the multiple-choice QA task) for the synthetic questions obtained from GraphGPT2 (see Figure 1) using a generator-discriminator framework. The discriminator is trained for the binary task of classifying a pair of question and answer as true if the given answer correctly answers the question. While training, the generator runs the risk of learning to generate correct answers instead of distractors, since it's goal is to be able to fool the discriminator into classifying the answer as correct. To prevent this, we heavily bias the model by first pretraining it to generate only distractors using the conditional cross-entropy loss and then continue training OptionGAN from the saved weights. The generator is trained to produce distractors that successfully fool the discriminator, so that we get adversarial options that are as tricky as human-annotated options (see Figure 3). We use the Gumbel-Softmax relaxation (Nie et al., 2019a) while sampling from generator to allow flow of gradients through the discriminator model. Mathematically, we first finetune the generator with: $L_g = \sum_{i=1}^{N} logP(d_i|q_i)$, where q_i, d_i are question and distractor, respectively. Then, we finetune the generator G and discriminator D iteratively in a mini-max game: $L_d = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \log \text{sigmoid}\,(P(a_i|q_i) - P(G(q_i)|q_i))$, where a_i is the correct answer for question q_i. Generator G is trained to minimize the loss while discriminator D is trained to maximize the loss.

3.3 Filtering and Selection of Samples

Inspite of the careful construction of synthetic samples using knowledge graphs, the pool of synthetic samples can be noisy and may consist of incoherent text, incorrect question-answer pairs or out-of-distribution samples. Hence, we compare the effect of three different methods to filter samples on downstream task performance.

Question Answering Probability (QAP). The QAP score (μ) (Zhang and Bansal, 2019) is the prediction probability of the true class by a model with parameters θ which has been trained on the original dataset i.e. $\mu_i = p_\theta(y_i^*|x_i)$. Samples with low prediction probabilities for the correct choices are either annotated incorrectly or are especially difficult instances for the model. We define a low and high threshold for the QAP filter and samples lying within this range are retained in the dataset.

Model Confidence and Variability. Swayamdipta et al. (2020) propose the model confidence ($\hat{\mu}_i$) and variability ($\hat{\sigma}_i$) measures to identify

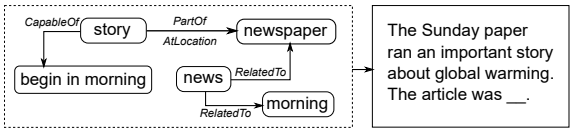

Figure 4: Example of synthetic context generated from GraphGPT2 for the CODAH dataset.

the effect of data samples on the model's generalization error. Specifically, $\hat{\mu}_i = \frac{1}{E}\sum_{e=1}^{E} p_\theta(y_i^*|x_i)$ and $\hat{\sigma}_i = \sqrt{\frac{\sum_{e=1}^{E}(p_\theta(y_i^*|x_i)-\hat{\mu}_i)^2}{E}}$, where E is training epochs. They find that ambiguous samples i.e., high variability and mid-range confidence, contribute the most to test performance on downstream task. Following this, we define low and high thresholds for both confidence and variability in order to find the most informative samples.

Energy. Liu et al. (2020) show that the energy score can be reliably used for distinguishing between in- and out-of-distribution (OOD) samples, as compared to the traditional approach of using the softmax scores. We introduce an energy threshold to select samples which are out-of-distribution i.e. $E_i = -log\sum_j^C e^{p_\theta(y_i^j|x)}$ where C is the number of choices in the QA sample, and measure the effect of using OOD samples as augmentation data.

4 Experimental Setup

4.1 Datasets

SocialIQA (Sap et al., 2019b) and CommonsenseQA (Talmor et al., 2019) are annotated using knowledge graphs, making them a suitable choice for testing our approach. SocialIQA is a question answering dataset based on ATOMIC (Sap et al., 2019a), containing 33,410/1954/2224 samples in training, development and test set, resp. CommonsenseQA (CQA) is a similarly crowd-sourced dataset based on ConceptNet (Speer et al., 2017) containing an official split of 9741/1221/1241 samples. Following Yang et al. (2020), we also test our method on HellaSwag-2K (Zellers et al., 2019) and CODAH (Chen et al., 2019) for low-resource scenario. HellaSwag-2K is created by sampling 2000/1000/1000 examples from HellaSWAG training and validation sets. We test our approach on the CoDAH folds (2.8k samples) released by Yang et al. (2020) for comparison. Apart from these four MCQ datasets, we also experiment with the generative QA dataset ProtoQA (9762/52/102) (Boratko et al., 2020) and find that our approach works especially well with it. See Appendix for details.

Data Preparation. To prepare graph-to-text datasets for training GraphGPT2, we map the questions to multi-hop paths in ConceptNet (Bauer et al., 2018). We use Spacy[1] to tag the questions with part-of-speech and extract verbs and nouns as concepts, retaining those that appear in ConceptNet as entities and the connecting relations (see example in Fig. 4).[2] We remove inverse relations from the set of triples. The graphs extracted in this manner are acyclic and can be linearized with a depth-first search. For SocialIQA, we map the questions to a combination of ATOMIC and ConceptNet. ATOMIC events contain nouns and verbs which are representative of the social scenario being described in the event and are further extended in the context by SocialIQA annotators. We tokenize and stem the events and contexts to extract these representative words, and compute the percentage of overlapping words in the context with respect to each event. The event with maximum overlap with context is selected as the corresponding ATOMIC subject. The ATOMIC relation is selected from the predefined map of ATOMIC relations to SocialIQA questions. This way, we recover the ATOMIC alignments of nearly 20,000 samples from training set of SocialIQA (88% acc.).

Generation of Synthetic Data. In order to prepare synthetic datasets, we create a dataset of unseen input graphs by mutating the graphs from training sets of graph-to-text datasets. One or two entities are replaced by a randomly selected entity (or relation-entity pair) with similar adjacency to other entities in the input graph, to create a mutated graph. The maximum sequence length of graph contextualized embeddings is set to 64, while that of GPT2 is set to 128. The synthetic dataset size (pre-filtering) is 100k/50k/10k/10k/50k for SocialIQA, CQA, HellaSwag-2K, Codah, and ProtoQA respectively. For generation of synthetic data for SocialIQA, we use the set of tuples from ATOMIC that do not appear in the original dataset. To prepare the synthetic dataset for CommonsenseQA, we select two adversarial choices from ConceptNet and two choices generated by OptionGAN. For ProtoQA, we find accurate answers by generating 30 sets of answers for each synthetic question, ranking the answer choices by frequency and retaining the ones that appear at least 5 times

[1] https://spacy.io/

[2] We use the question concept present in CQA annotations as additional concept for the questions.

Method	SocialIQA	CQA	Codah	HellaSwag-2K	ProtoQA
UnifiedQA-11B (Khashabi et al., 2020)	81.45	79.1	-	-	41.49 / 24.95 / 21.77
RoBERTa + KG Fusion (Mitra et al., 2019)	78.00	-	-	-	-
RoBERTa + HyKAS (Ma et al., 2019)	-	73.2			
BACKTRANSLATION (Yang et al., 2020)		70.2	81.8		-
G-DAUG (Yang et al., 2020)	-	72.6	84.3	75.70	-
Baseline* (No Augmentation)	76.74	72.1	82.3	73.40	35.77 / 43.81 / 49.88
GRADA	77.85	72.9	84.7	75.96	42.02 / 48.90 / 54.23

Table 1: Results on test sets of commonsense datasets and comparative results from other approaches taken from leaderboards. *We use T5-3B for ProtoQA baseline and GRADA results and RoBERTa for all other datasets.

Method	SIQA	CQA	CDH	H2K	PQA
Baseline	77.78	77.23	84.48	75.10	41.1
Synthetic Data Augmentation					
Linearized	78.21	77.55	86.07	76.40	45.63
+ Structured	78.68	77.94	86.13	76.70	46.09
+ OptionGAN	78.82	78.02	86.19	76.70	-
Filtering					
QAP*	79.12	78.06	86.81	77.60	50.34
Confidence	79.05	77.83	86.59	77.40	-
Energy	78.76	77.79	86.38	77.10	-

Table 2: Ablation results on validation set of commonsense reasoning datasets. *We use sample perplexity for filtering ProtoQA samples.

in the 30 sets. See example of synthetic context generation in Fig. 4.

Evaluation. To evaluate graph-to-text generation, we define an ORACLE score which measures the semantic relevance of synthetic question when paired with the original answer options. We replace the original question in validation set samples with the synthetic question and re-evaluate models on this modified dataset. In addition, we adopt the following NLG metrics: BLEU-4 (Papineni et al., 2002), METEOR (Banerjee and Lavie, 2005), CIDEr[3] (Vedantam et al., 2015) and BERTScore (F1 score) (Zhang et al., 2020). Models trained on the synthetic and original commmonsense reasoning datasets are evaluated using their respective task-specific accuracies (see Appendix). For ProtoQA, we report the accuracy in top-k answers where $k = 1, 3, 5$. We also perform human evaluation of the samples generated using GraphGPT2 and OptionGAN.

5 Results & Analysis

First, we present results from the complete GRADA framework followed by results from ablation experiments. Then, we discuss evaluation of the various generative models in GRADA using automated metrics as well as human annotators. Finally, we evaluate the robustness of models trained with and without GRADA to semantic adversaries and discuss upper bounds of our data augmentation pipeline. See Appendix for visualization of the quality of the synthetic datasets.

5.1 Data Augmentation Results

Results from the best GRADA model are presented in Table 1.[4] The baseline row represents results from the same task models used for GRADA but trained without any data augmentation i.e. T5-3B for ProtoQA and RoBERTa for all other datasets. We see 1-2% improvements over baseline across all multiple-choice datasets using GRADA. For the best GRADA models (selected using validation results), synthetic samples are generated from structured GraphGPT2 and OptionGAN, and filtered using QAP.[5] GRADA results in large improvements for ProtoQA i.e. 4-6% higher values on the Max Answers 1/3/5 metrics (see Appendix), suggesting the effectiveness of our approach for similar generative tasks. We see 0.3%, 0.3% and 0.26% improvement with GRADA over G-DAUG for CQA, Codah and HellaSwag-2K respectively. Our approach also performs similar to the Option Comparison Network in HyKAS (Ma et al., 2019) for CQA (row 3 in Table 1). Our approach is orthogonal to HyKAS, KG-Fusion as their instance-level approach retrieves information for each sample while GRADA augments knowledge on a global level.

Ablation results from the GRADA framework on validation sets are presented in Table 2. The first row of Table 2 presents results from baseline task models i.e., trained without data augmentation. Next, we compare results from two-stage training and see upto 1.7% (p<0.05 for all datasets) improvements (row 1 vs. 4 in Table 2) with the addition of synthetic data without filtering.[6] Using

[3] https://github.com/Maluuba/nlg-eval

[4] It should be noted that the state-of-the-art UnifiedQA has 30x parameters in RoBERTa$_{\text{LARGE}}$

[5] ProtoQA is not a multiple-choice dataset, so OptionGAN is not used and we use sample perplexity as the only filter.

[6] Statistical significance is computed with 100K samples

Method	SIQA	CQA	CDH	H2K	PQA
Baseline	77.78	77.23	84.48	75.10	41.1
GraDA (single-hop)	78.70	77.31	85.96	76.05	45.67
GraDA (multi-hop)	79.12	78.06	86.81	77.60	50.34

Table 3: Results on validation set of commonsense reasoning datasets using single-hop vs. multi-hop graphs for GRADA pipeline.

structured GraphGPT2 leads to 0.47% (p=0.043), 0.39% (p=0.078), 1.46% (p=0.12)[7] improvements over linearized GraphGPT2 for SocialIQA, CQA, ProtoQA and diminishing improvements for the smaller datasets. We see consistent but modest improvements which are not significant, from addition of distractors generated from OptionGAN. Even though improvements with OptionGAN are marginal, it is necessary for the completeness of the pipeline for synthetic generation. Next, adding filters to denoise the synthetic pool unequivocally improves results by large margins for all datasets except CQA. Filtering by QAP (row 5 in Table 2) provides the most additional benefit (p=0.069 and p=0.093 for SocialIQA and CQA, p<0.05 for other datasets) to downstream task models over unfiltered synthetic data augmentation (row 4).[8] See examples of high and low quality synthetic data samples filtered using QAP in Table 6. Smaller datasets benefit the most from GRADA.

Single-hop vs. Multi-hop Paths. Additionally, we finetune GraphGPT2 with sub-graphs made of single-hop paths only to generate the context. We perform data augmentation using the synthetic questions generated through this approach and compare to the GRADA results on validation sets. See results in Table 3. We observe 0.92%, 0.08%, 1.48% and 1.05% drops in performance for validation sets of SocialIQA, CQA, CODAH and HellaSwag respectively. The larger drops for smaller datasets suggest that multi-hop paths are effective in low-resource scenarios.

Generalization to Unseen Concepts. We looked for %overlap of entity nodes and single-hop paths (subject– relation– object) between the multi-hop KGs spanning the questions of correctly answered samples after GraDA training and the questions of synthetic data, and observed 5-60% entity overlap and <20% path overlap. This suggests GRADA also promotes reasoning capabilities of the downstream models for unseen concepts.

using bootstrap (Noreen, 1989; Tibshirani and Efron, 1993).

[7] p-values are larger for improvements on ProtoQA validation set which has only 52 samples.

[8] We also ran experiments with MLM pretraining (ATOMIC for SocialIQA and OMCS corpus for the rest) before finetuning on target dataset and saw <1% improvements.

Dataset	Original	GraphGPT2	
		Linearized	*Structured*
SocialIQA	75.92	55.18	57.34
CQA	77.23	57.63	58.71
CODAH	82.19	46.23	46.78
HellaSWAG-2K	76.58	41.35	41.74
ProtoQA	41.10	28.21	23.47

Table 4: ORACLE scores for question generation. Original represents the performance of baseline task models on original dataset. The columns GPT2 and GraphGPT2 represent similar evaluation with synthetic questions generated from linearized graphs and structure-aware graph encoder respectively.

Dataset	Question	Answer	Distractors
SocialIQA	96.1%	86.0%	50.0%
CommonsenseQA	100.0%	97.2%	25.0%
HellaSwag-2K	92.0%	88.1%	25.8%
CODAH	90.3	83.4%	30.6%
ProtoQA	97.2%	75.0%	-

Table 5: Results from human evaluation of generated questions, answers and distractors.

5.2 Generative Model Evaluation Results

ORACLE scores for the two variations of GraphGPT2 are presented in Table 4. The scores in first column refer to the validation set performance of baseline models on original datasets. These models are re-evaluated on the questions generated by GraphGPT2 (as described in Sec. 4.1). The largest improvement i.e. 2.16% (p=0.068) is observed for SocialIQA, which may be attributed to its large dataset size. We see diminishing improvements for low-resource scenarios i.e. Codah and HellaSwag-2K. We observe a similar trend when the synthetic questions are evaluated using NLG metrics (see Appendix). More importantly, since phrase-matching metrics are not ideal for NLG evaluation (Novikova et al., 2017), we also perform human evaluation to judge the quality of generation for SocialIQA and CQA as we see significant improvements from structured GraphGPT2 vs. linearized GraphGPT2. We ask annotators on Amazon Mechanical Turk[9] (AMT) to select the sentence which is more representative of the information encoded in input graph, for 100 samples from validation set. Questions generated from GraphGPT2 are preferred 46% and 53% of the times for So-

[9] Located in United States, HIT Approval Rate>98%, Number of HITs Approved>10K, $15 per hour (approx.).

	High-quality synthetic samples
SIQA	Riley provided help to the community through his many charity events over the years. How would Others feel as a result? [A] selfish [B] appreciative [C] bored
CQA	When a child is upset by something, what may they do? [A] fall down [B] wish to fly [C] start crying [D] play tag [E] boy or girl
	Low-quality synthetic samples
SIQA	Tracy raised her arm to her face to cover her eyes during the scary movie. What does Tracy need to dobefore this? [A] scared [B] be scared of the movie [C] to have a fundraiser
CQA	What will you do if you want to go public? [A] prepare for worst [B] tell family first [C] own private company [D] telegram [E] charming

Table 6: High and low quality synthetic samples generated through GRADA for SIQA and CQA, and ranked using QAP scores. Labels are marked in green.

Method	SIQA	CQA	CDH	H2K	PQA
Baseline	21.7/10.3	14.9/12.5	31.3/16.1	19.4/10.6	5.1/16.2
GRADA	22.4/10.8	15.8/12.9	34.8/18.2	20.5/11.5	6.3/16.8

Table 7: Robustness Evaluation. Failure rate / perturbation ratio (higher is better) from TextFooler experiments are shown on development sets.

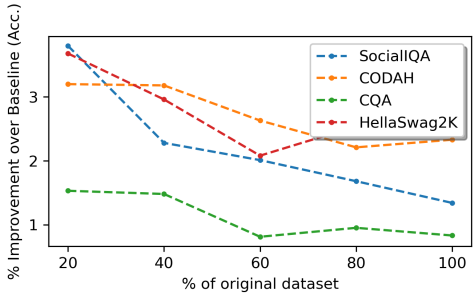

Figure 5: % improvement in accuracy over baseline with different % of original dataset. Baseline is RoBERTa finetuned on the same % of original dataset.

cialIQA and CQA resp., compared to those from linearized inputs only, showing that the addition of graph encoder improves integration of knowledge in generated text.

We perform human evaluation (AMT) of answerability of the generated questions/answers/distractors on 50 randomly selected samples from the filtered augmentation data (see Table 5). Annotators were provided with the question, answer and distractors, and asked to evaluate a) if the question can be answered in a few words (b) if the question can be answered by the given answer and (c) if the distractors are wrong answers for the question. More than 90% of the questions were judged as answerable, 75-90% of the answers were judged as correct answers for the respective questions. The quality of distractors ranged from 50% for SocialIQA to 20-30% for smaller datasets. However, the overall quality of distractors is high enough to benefit data augmentation. See examples in Table 6. We also perform human evaluation for the factuality of samples generated using our method GraDA and GDaug (Yang et al., 2020). We picked a randomly sampled set of 100 synthetic QA pairs from G-Daug for the datasets CQA, Codah and HellaSWAG-2K. For a fair comparison, we collected 100 synthetic pairs from GraDA for the same datasets. We asked an annotator to evaluate if each of the synthetic QA pair adheres to a plausible real-world scenario, and found that 56% G-Daug samples were judged as factual as compared to 68% of the GraDA samples (see Appendix).

5.3 Robustness Evaluation

We expect that data augmentation exposes the task model to diverse language and improves its robustness to semantic adversaries in addition to boosting its performance on the target task. To evaluate this, we use the TextFooler system (Jin et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2020; Wei and Zou, 2019) to generate adversarial text by computing word importance ranking and replacing the most influential words with their synonym in the vector space. Overall, GRADA benefits the robustness of task models and improves their failure rate by 1-3% (see Table 7).

5.4 Upper Bounds

We ran experiments for augmentation with 20%, 40%, 60%, 80% and 100% training data from the original set (see Fig. 5). The improvement margins from the augmentation dataset is upto 4% at 20% of the original SocialIQA dataset. We see similar trends for CODAH, HellaSwag and ProtoQA, while the improvements for CQA were <1.5%.

6 Conclusion

We present GRADA, a graph-based data augmentation framework for commonsense reasoning QA datasets. We train a graph-to-text question generator and GAN-based adversarial choice generator for creating synthetic data samples, which are further filtered and used to augment the original datasets. GRADA improves results on five datasets.

7 Ethical Considerations

The usage of pretrained generative models in any downstream application requires careful consideration of the real-world impact of generated text. In our approach, we provide concrete inputs for grounding the generated text to specific entities and relations which encode real-world facts, thereby reducing the possibility of propagating unintended stereotypical and social biases embedded within the pretrained models. However, since these entities and relations are derived from existing knowledge bases like ConceptNet (Speer et al., 2017), there is potential for transfer of bias present in these resources to the generated texts. Additionally, the graph-to-text generative models in GRADA pose the same risk as other data-to-text generative models (Ribeiro et al., 2020; Hoyle et al., 2020; Mager et al., 2020) i.e. the models can be made to generate incorrect facts by providing incorrect data as input. Therefore, we recommend restricting the use of GRADA to low-risk, unbiased graphs inputs.

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A Experiment Setup

Datasets: Social IQA (Sap et al., 2019b) and CommonsenseQA (Talmor et al., 2019) are popular datasets based on knowledge graphs, making them a suitable choice for testing our approach. Social IQA is a multiple-choice question answering dataset. Each sample consists of a context, question and three multiple choices. CommonsenseQA is also a multiple-choice QA dataset, wherein each sample consists of a context and five multiple choices. Of those 5 choices, three are taken from ConceptNet and the other two are authored by annotators. We only use the human-authored incorrect choices to train our adversarial choice generator OptionGAN. The ATOMIC knowledge graph contains 24K base events and 877K tuples describing a variety of social scenarios. We use the 710K training split introduced in Bosselut et al. (2019) to randomly sample 100K tuples as the seed subgraphs for generation of synthetic data dataset for Social IQA. For CommonsenseQA, we use the entire ConceptNet knowledge graph, subject to pruning as outlined in Talmor et al. (2019), to sample seed tuples for synthetic dataset generation. For SocialIQA, CQA, Codah and HellaSwag-2K, we use simple accuracy for model evaluation.

ProtoQA (Boratko et al., 2020) is a generative QA dataset which is evaluated by 7 different metrics[10]. We report the first 3 metrics i.e. Max Answers 1/3/5. For tables showing only one number for ProtoQA, such as the ablation table in main text, we report the Max Answer 1 metric. In order to train T5-3B for ProtoQA, we concatenate the ranked choices for each question and finetune the model for conditional generation of this concatenated string from the input question.

All of the above datasets are being for their intended purposes i.e. research only, in our work. All of these datasets are in the English language.

Data Preparation: To prepare graph-to-text datasets for training GraphGPT2, we map the questions to multi-hop paths in ConceptNet (Bauer et al., 2018). We use Spacy[11] to tag the questions with part-of-speech and extract verbs and nouns as concepts, retaining those that appear in ConceptNet as entities[12]. For SocialIQA, we map the questions to a combination of ATOMIC and ConceptNet. ATOMIC events contain nouns and verbs which are representative of the social scenario being described in the event and are further extended in the context by Social IQA annotators (see Table 9). We tokenize and stem the events and contexts to extract these representative words, and compute the percentage of overlapping words in the context with respect to each event. The event with maximum overlap with context is selected as the corresponding ATOMIC subject. The ATOMIC

[10] https://github.com/iesl/protoqa-evaluator

[11] https://spacy.io/

[12] We use the question concept present in CQA annotations as additional concept for the questions.

relation is selected from the predefined map of ATOMIC relations to Social IQA questions. This way, we recover the ATOMIC alignments of 20,000 samples from training set of SocialIQA with 88% accuracy.

Synthetic Data Generation. In order to prepare synthetic datasets, we create a dataset of unseen input graphs by mutating the graphs from training sets of graph-to-text datasets. One or two entities are replaced by a randomly selected entity (or relation-entity pair) with similar adjacency to other entities in the input graph, to create a mutated graph. The synthetic dataset size (pre-fitering) is 100k/50k/10k/10k/50k for SocialIQA, CQA, HellaSwag-2K, Codah, and ProtoQA respectively. For generation of synthetic data, we use the set of tuples from ATOMIC and ConceptNet that do not appear in SocialIQA and CommonsenseQA datasets respectively. To prepare the synthetic dataset for CommonsenseQA, we select two adversarial choices from ConceptNet and two choices generated by OptionGAN. For ProtoQA, we find accurate answers by generating 30 samples of answers for each synthetic question, ranking the answer choices by frequency and retaining the ones that appear atleast 5 times in the 30 samples. After this, the synthetic question and answer (concatenation of high-frequency answer choices) is subjected to filtering. Due to lack of option for supplementary in this submission, we have included a sample of the generated synthetic examples in Table 8.

A.1 Training Details

Baselines: We use pretrained RoBERTa$_{\text{LARGE}}$ (Liu et al., 2019) for multiple-choice datasets and T5-3B (Raffel et al., 2020) for ProtoQA as the task models. The baseline task model is finetuned on original datasets with no data augmentation, and is used as scoring model for filtering. We use GPT2$_{\text{MEDIUM}}$ for GraphGPT2, GPT2$_{\text{SMALL}}$ as the pretrained generator and discriminator for OptionGAN. For GRADA, the model is first finetuned on synthetic samples using label smoothing (Szegedy et al., 2016) and then on original dataset. We refer the reader to Koncel-Kedziorski et al. (2019) for full implementation details of the Graph Encoder in GraphGPT2.

OptionGAN: It is tricky to train GAN models, especially with discrete data like text. We follow the training method in Nie et al. (2019a) to finetune the adversarial choice generator in a minimax game with discriminator. In addition to the training parameters mentioned in Table 16, we restrict the number of training iterations to 5000, and perform one gradient descent step on generator for every 5 gradient descent steps on discriminator.

Training & Hyperparameter Tuning. After generation of synthetic examples, we perform two-stage training of the task models. In the first phase, the model is finetuned on synthetic data only, In the second phase, the model is finetuned on the original dataset. The model trained in first phase is subject to bayesian optimization (Snoek et al., 2012) of filter parameters.

A.2 Human Evaluation

Generative source of the sentences are omitted when presented to annotators. The input graphs are seed tuples from ATOMIC and ConceptNet for samples from the development sets of Social IQA and CommonsenseQA respectively. The annotators can pick both the sentences if either of them are equally relevant in their subjective opinion. We allow for a single hit for each assignment in Amazon Mechanical Turk.

B Results

B.1 Generative Model Evaluation

As shown in Table 11, we see small improvements for BLEU-4 and METEOR, but larger improvements in other metrics from GraphGPT2 i.e., 3.07% (p=0.027), 2.87% (p=0.035) in CIDEr, and 2.71% (p=0.042), 1.58% (p=0.056) in BERTScore for Social IQA and CQA, resp. The phrase-matching metric scores are low for CQA, which may be attributed to its small sample size. However, BERTScore for CQA lies between 85-88%, showing that the model manages to convey similar meaning as human-annotated context albeit with different words.

More importantly, since phrase-matching metrics are not ideal for NLG evaluation (Novikova et al., 2017), we also perform human evaluation to judge the quality of generation for SocialIQA and CommonsenseQA as we see significant improvements from structured GraphGPT2 vs. linearized GraphGPT2. We ask annotators on Amazon Mechanical Turk[13] to select the sentence which is more representative of the information encoded

[13] Located in United States, HIT Approval Rate>98%, Number of HITs Approved>10K.

HellaSWAG-2K	
Question	*Answer*
A close up of a gymnast is shown. a gymnast balances on beam as she sweeps __	(a) over obstacles. (b) around with other gymnast. (c) performs a front squat and a flip, and crosses her arms. (d) performing multiple back and forth moves.
"We then search for a car by its model and make. Once we get the car model __	(a) we determine what the tires are for. (b) we either buy a new or recycle it. If we want to recycle the car, we simply (c) click the buy now button. The seller will then provide a description of the car and (d) we'll add it to the computer so we can make a list of the different models we'll
A man in black robes is walking into a bar. He __	(a) is telling several anecdotes about how he has been following other people around and talking to them. (b) speaks to a group of workers and they all rise and raise their arms in the air. (c) starts singing into the microphone. (D) begins a beat down on a man standing behind him.
CODAH	
Question	*Answer*
I am feeling very hungry. I think that __	(a) I will have dinner. (b) I will drink some milk. (c) I will sleep a lot. (d) I will play catch with my grandpa.
A man with no body hair was peacefully wallowing in the sea of ocean. The man then __	(a) was surrounded by a flock of birds. (b) hung from the ceiling and sang (c) began to carpet the beach. (d) watched a movie with his headphones on.
A man excitedly planned a surprise party for his friend. He __	(a) got a shotgun. (b) put up a giant neon sign with his own hand painted on it. (c) decided to end his life in front of his friend. (d) planned to brew a cup of coffee and play chess.
ProtoQA	
Question	*Answer*
Name something you worry you're still doing when you're not supposed to.	drinking, smoking, sleeping, working, using cell phone
Besides milk, name a popular product in the dairy market.	cheese, ice cream, yogurt, butter
Name something you can disagree about.	religion, politics, parenting, weight, money
If you sent a postcard from china what would be pictured on the front?	great wall, temple, dragon
Name something a knight needs for a good day's work.	horse, armour, sword, lance, shield

Table 8: Examples of synthetic samples generated for HellaSWAG-2K, CODAH and ProtoQA datasets from the GRADA pipeline. Correct answers are marked in green.

in input graph, for 100 samples from validation set. Results are shown in Table 12. Samples generated from structured input are selected significantly more times than those from linearized inputs, for both SocialIQA and CQA, showing that addition of a graph encoder improves representation of knowledge in generated sample.

Additionally, we perform human evaluation of the samples generated using GraphGPT2 and OptionGAN. We randomly select 50 samples from the filtered augmentation datasets for each of the five datasets, and ask 2 annotators to answer 3 yes/no questions about the quality of the question, answer and distractors respectively. We present results from the survey in Table 5. More than 90% of the questions in each dataset were judged as answerable, showing the effectiveness of GraphGPT2 as well as the QAP-based filtering method. Similarly, 75-90% of the answers were judged as correct answers for the respective questions. The quality of distractors were relatively lower, ranging from 50% for larger datasets like SocialIQA to 20-30% for rest of the datasets. The inter-annotator agreement was also low (<0.6) for distractor judgements, suggesting the general difficulty of both tasks: distractor generation and measurement of distractor quality. However, the overall quality of distractors in our datasets is high enough to benefit data augmentation.

For both human evaluation annotation tasks, it was made clear in the instructions that the data is being collected for research purposes only.

B.2 Robustness Evaluation

We expect that data augmentation exposes the task model to diverse language and improves its robustness to semantic adversaries in addition to boosting its performance on the target task. To evaluate this, we use the TextFooler system (Jin et al., 2020; Yang et al., 2020; Wei and Zou, 2019) to generate adver-

G-Daug (Yang et al., 2020)	**GRADA**	
	Knowledge-Graph Tuple	**Generated Data**
A human enjoys putting rubber on furniture. They should do this before .. front of the mirror.	S: PersonX provides __ for PersonY's children	Taylor provided meals for Kendall's children and they all enjoyed it greatly.
There was a large, cold bite of ice on my where?	R: xIntent	Why did Taylor do this?
He hated flying, the controls were what?	O: To be helpful	[A] to be a bad friend [B] to be helpful [C] to be rude
What is a square leg made of made out of?	S: weasel R: AtLocation	The man was a weasel, he was part of a powerful what?
What country does a cow go to make a milk run?	O: mafia organization	[A] out of doors [b] terrarium [c] mafia organization [D] farmyard [E] backyard

Table 9: Comparative demonstration of augmented data generated from G-Daug (Yang et al., 2020) and GRADA. (S=Subject, R=Relation, O=Object)

Parameter	**Bounds**
Filter Parameters	
QAP/Model Confidence Lower Threshold	[0.0, 0.49]
QAP/Model Confidence Higher Threshold	[0.51, 1.0]
Energy Lower Threhsold	[0.0, 1.0]
Energy Higher Threshold	[0.0, 1.0]
Model Variability Lower Threshold	[0.0, 0.5]
Model Variability Higher Threshold	[0.0, 0.5]
Training Parameters	
Learning Rate	[1, 10]*1e-6
Batch Size (inc)	[4, 8, 16]
Total Train Epochs	[3, 5]

Table 10: Optimization bounds for grid-search based tuning of training hyperparameters.

Method	**BLEU4**	**METEOR**	**CIDEr**	**BERTScore**
Social IQA				
GPT2	14.58	26.41	132.84	89.12
GraphGPT2	15.37	26.95	135.91	91.83
CommonsenseQA				
GPT2	1.71	12.78	30.89	85.76
GraphGPT2	1.90	13.64	33.76	87.34

Table 11: Comparison of performance for GPT2 and GraphGPT2 on development sets.

sarial text by computing word importance ranking and replacing the most influential words with their synonym in the vector space. Failure rate is the %examples for which TextFooler fails to change the original model prediction, and average perturbation ratio is the average % of words replaced when TextFooler succeeds at changing the prediction. We use our best GRADA models in comparison with baseline models (Table 7). Overall, GRADA positively impacts the robustness of task models to TextFooler and improves the failure rate by >3% for Codah and upto 1% for all other datasets. We observe similar trends for the perturbation ratios too. This shows that GRADA improves semantic robustness of the models. It is also worthwhile noting that generative task models like T5-3B for

Dataset	**Wins**	**Loses**	**Tie**
SocialIQA	46%	37%	17%
CommonsenseQA	53%	31%	16%

Table 12: Results from comparative human evaluation of generated questions. Wins and Loses refer to the %times synthetic question generated from structured graph input was chosen over linearized graph.

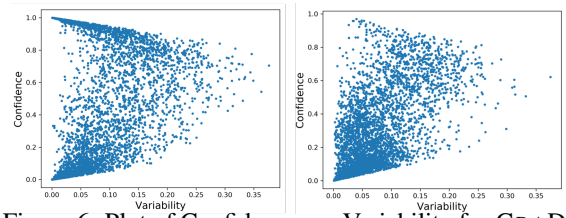

Figure 6: Plot of Confidence vs. Variability for GRADA synthetic samples for CQA (left) and H2K (right).

ProtoQA are especially prone to adversarial attacks like TextFooler with a mere 5-6% failure rate and there needs to be more research towards improving their robustness.

B.3 Cartography Quality Evaluation

We use dataset cartography Swayamdipta et al. (2020) to visualize the quality of our synthetic datasets. Samples in top left of figure are easy, while samples towards bottom and right of the figure are difficult and ambiguous respectively. We can observe from the figure that the synthetic dataset for CQA (left) has a higher % of easy samples than HellaSwag-2K, suggesting that the quality of synthetic samples generated by GRADA improves with original dataset size. Moreover, when applying QAP filtering, using the entire synthetic dataset yields largest improvements for CQA whereas for HellaSwag-2K (right), the lower cutoff for QAP is 0.3 which filters out most of the samples present in bottom part of the plot. This suggests that in low-resource scenarios, it is important to remove inaccurate samples, while larger datasets benefit from ambiguous and inaccurate samples.

Best Parameters	Social IQA	CQA	Codah	HellaSwag-2K	ProtoQA
QAP Lower Threshold	0.49	0.32	0.43	0.49	0.27
QAP Higher Threshold	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Table 13: Best Filter Hyperparameters.

	Social IQA			CommonsenseQA		
Hyperparameter	**Baseline**	**GRADA Phase 1**	**GRADA Phase 2**	**Baseline**	**GRADA Phase 1**	**GRADA Phase 2**
Learning Rate	5e-6	4e-6	3e-6	1e-5	5e-6	1e-5
Epochs	3	1	3	5	1	5
Max Gradient Norm	1.0	1.0	1.0	None	None	None
Weight Decay	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Batch Size	8	8	8	16	16	16
Max Length	128	128	128	70	70	70
Warmup Ratio	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.06	0.06	0.0
LR Decay	Linear	Linear	Linear	Linear	Linear	Linear
Optimizer	AdamW	AdamW	AdamW	AdamW	AdamW	AdamW
Hardware	RTX 2080Ti	RTX 2080Ti	RTX 2080Ti	RTX 2080Ti	RTX 2080Ti	RTX 2080Ti
Single GPU Hours	5 hrs	1.5 hrs	5 hrs	2 hrs	0.5 hrs	2 hrs

Table 14: Training hyperparameters for baseline and two-stage GRADA training of SocialIQA and CQA

	CODAH			HellaSwag-2K		
Hyperparameter	**Baseline**	**GRADA Phase 1**	**GRADA Phase 2**	**Baseline**	**GRADA Phase 1**	**GRADA Phase 2**
Learning Rate	1e-5	4e-6	3e-6	5e-5	5e-6	1e-5
Epochs	5	1	5	5	1	5
Max Gradient Norm	1.0	1.0	1.0	None	None	None
Weight Decay	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Batch Size	16	8	16	8	8	8
Max Length	90	90	90	128	128	128
Warmup Ratio	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
LR Decay	Linear	Linear	Linear	Linear	Linear	Linear
Optimizer	AdamW	AdamW	AdamW	AdamW	AdamW	AdamW
Hardware	RTX 2080Ti	RTX 2080Ti	RTX 2080Ti	RTX 2080Ti	RTX 2080Ti	RTX 2080Ti
Single GPU Hours	2 hrs*	1 hr* hrs	2 hrs*	0.5 hr	0.2 hr	0.5 hr

Table 15: Training hyperparameters for baseline and two-stage GraDA training of RoBERTa models for HellaSwag-2K and CODAH. *values reported for five-fold training

		OptionGAN		
Hyperparameter	**GraphGPT2**	**Generator**	**Discriminator**	**GAN**
Learning Rate	4e-5	1e-5	1e-5	1e-6
Epochs	5	5	3	-
Max Gradient Norm	1.0	1.0	1.0	None
Weight Decay	0.0	0.01	0.01	0.01
Batch Size	8	8	8	4
Max Length	128	128	128	128
Warmup Ratio	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.06
LR Decay	Linear	Linear	Linear	Linear
Optimizer	AdamW	AdamW	AdamW	AdamW

Table 16: Training hyperparameters for GraphGPT2, Generator, Discriminator and OptionGAN