# Exploring the Practicality of Generative Retrieval on Dynamic Corpora

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#### Abstract

 Benchmarking the performance of information retrieval (IR) is mostly conducted with a fixed set of documents (static corpora). However, in realistic scenarios, this is rarely the case and the documents to be retrieved are constantly updated and added. In this paper, we focus on conducting a comprehensive comparison be- tween two categories of contemporary retrieval systems, Dual Encoders (DE) and Generative **Retrievals (GR), in a dynamic scenario where**  the corpora are updated. We also conduct an ex- tensive evaluation of computational and mem- ory efficiency, crucial factors for real-world de- ployment of IR systems handling vast and ever- changing document collections. Our results on 016 the StreamingQA benchmark demonstrate that **GR** is more adaptable to evolving knowledge (+ 018 4 – 11%), robust in handling data with temporal information, and efficient in terms of inference **FLOPs**  $(\times 2)$ , indexing time  $(\times 6)$ , and memory  $(x4)$ . Our paper highlights the potential of GR for future use in practical IR systems.

## **<sup>023</sup>** 1 Introduction

 Transformer-based information retrieval (IR) mod- els play a vital role in advancing the field of semantic document search for information- seeking queries. Notably, *Generative Retrieval* (GR) [\(Petroni et al.,](#page-9-0) [2019;](#page-9-0) [De Cao et al.,](#page-8-0) [2020;](#page-8-0) [Wang et al.,](#page-9-1) [2022;](#page-9-1) [Bevilacqua et al.,](#page-8-1) [2022;](#page-8-1) [Tay et al.,](#page-9-2) [2022;](#page-9-2) [Zhou et al.,](#page-9-3) [2022;](#page-9-3) [Lee et al.,](#page-8-2) [2022b,](#page-8-2)[a;](#page-8-3) [Sun](#page-9-4) [et al.,](#page-9-4) [2023;](#page-9-4) [Li et al.,](#page-8-4) [2023b\)](#page-8-4) has recently gained a significant amount of recognition from the research community for its simplicity and high performance However, *Dual Encoder* (DE) [\(Gillick et al.,](#page-8-5) [2018;](#page-8-5) [Karpukhin et al.,](#page-8-6) [2020a;](#page-8-6) [Ni et al.,](#page-9-5) [2021;](#page-9-5) [Gao et al.,](#page-8-7) [2022;](#page-8-7) [Izacard et al.,](#page-8-8) [2022;](#page-8-8) [Ram et al.,](#page-9-6) [2022\)](#page-9-6) con- tinues to hold sway in practical IR systems. This contrast underscores the need for an investigation into their practical applicability. However, there is a lack of comprehensive comparison between DE

and GR in real-world scenarios where knowledge **041** is continually evolving and efficiency is crucial. **042**

To this end, we create a setup called Dy- **043** namic Information Retrieval (DynamicIR) where **044** we conduct an extensive analysis utilizing the **045** StreamingQA benchmark [\(Liška et al.,](#page-8-9) [2022\)](#page-8-9) of 046 four recent state-of-the-art retrieval models: SPI- **047** [D](#page-8-8)ER [\(Ram et al.,](#page-9-6) [2022\)](#page-9-6) and CONTRIEVER [\(Izacard](#page-8-8) **048** [et al.,](#page-8-8) [2022\)](#page-8-8) for DE, and SEAL [\(Bevilacqua et al.,](#page-8-1) **049** [2022\)](#page-8-1) and MINDER [\(Li et al.,](#page-8-4) [2023b\)](#page-8-4) for GR. In our **050** experimental setup, we explore both (1) indexing- **051** based update : updating only the index without any **052** further pretraining and (2) training-based update : **053** further pretraining the parameters on the new cor- **054** pora in addition to updating the index (as shown **055** in Figure [1\)](#page-1-0). Furthermore, we perform extensive **056** comparison for the *efficiency* of each method, tak- **057** ing into consideration the floating-point operations **058** (FLOPs) [\(Kaplan et al.,](#page-8-10) [2020\)](#page-8-10) required for the infer- **059** ence, indexing time, inference latency, and storage **060** footprint. **061**

The findings of our study reveal that GR demon- **062** strates superior practicality over DE in terms of 3 063 different components: adaptability, robustness, and **064** efficiency. (1) *GR exhibits superior adaptability* **065** *to evolving corpus* (Section [5.1\)](#page-4-0). GR outperforms **066** DE, showcasing *4 – 11%* greater adaptability in **067** indexing-based update and training-based update **068** with minimal signs of forgetting and notable acquisition of new knowledge. (2) *GR demonstrates* **070** *greater robustness in handling data with temporal* **071** *information* (Section [5.2\)](#page-5-0). While DE reveals a bias **072** towards lexical overlap of timestamps, showing sig- **073** nificant degradation  $(52.23\% \rightarrow 17.40\%)$  when re- 074 moving the timestamps, GR shows robust retrieval **075** performance. (3) *GR requires lower indexing costs,* **076** *inference flops, and memory* (Section [6\)](#page-6-0). For infer- **077** ence flops, GR has  $O(1)$  complexity with respect  $078$ to the corpus size, requiring *2 times* less computa- **079** tion per query compared to DE which has  $O(N)$  080 complexity, where N represents the corpus size. **081**

<span id="page-1-0"></span>

Figure 1: Structure of DynamicIR. This figure shows the training and inference processes for three setups in DynamicIR. We differentiate each model by color. First, in StaticIR, (A) retrieval models are pretrained on C*initial* and finetuned on the query-document pairs R*initial*. During inference (B), they perform retrieval only with the indexed C*initial*. Second, in Indexing-based Update, (C) we use the same retriever developed from StaticIR and conduct an inference with the indexed C*initial* and C*new*. Lastly, in Training-based Update, (D) we take the pretrained model on C*initial* in StaticIR and continually pretrain it on C*new*. Subsequently, it is finetuned on the combination of *R<sub>initial</sub>* and  $R'_{new}$ . (E) Using the updated retrieval model, we conduct an inference with the indexed  $C_{initial}$  and  $C_{new}$ .

 Regarding indexing, DE necessitates re-indexing each time whenever the model is updated. Nonethe- less, the indexing time itself is *6 times* longer than GR. In terms of storage footprint, GR requires *4 times* less storage by storing the knowledge in its internal parameters.

### **<sup>088</sup>** 2 Related Work

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 Temporal Information Retrieval. Temporal information retrieval [\(Kanhabua and Anand,](#page-8-11) [2016\)](#page-8-11) has long been a subject of interest in the field of information retrieval. However, despite significant work on the temporal updating of *language models* [\(Dhingra et al.,](#page-8-12) [2022\)](#page-8-12), there has been limited focus on temporal *information retrieval* since the rise [o](#page-8-13)f transformer-based models like BERT [\(Devlin](#page-8-13) [et al.,](#page-8-13) [2019\)](#page-8-13) that offer robust contextualized em- beddings. One potential reason is the prohibitive computational cost associated with storing the updated entire document embedding made by DE. Recently, [\(Metzler et al.,](#page-9-7) [2021\)](#page-9-7) underscored the importance of the efficient implementation of incremental learning in search models. With the advent of GR, we argue that this challenge warrants renewed attention.

**108** [D](#page-8-15)ual Encoder. DE [\(Lee et al.,](#page-8-14) [2019;](#page-8-14) [Karpukhin](#page-8-15) **109** [et al.,](#page-8-15) [2020b\)](#page-8-15) refers to a set of model architectures **110** where we project the query and document individually into a fixed sized embedding. Through **111** contrastive learning, the projected embeddings of **112** positive documents are learned to be close to the **113** query and negative documents to be far away. Some **114** works try to train the model in an unsupervised fash- **115** ion with contrastive learning. [\(Izacard et al.,](#page-8-8) [2022;](#page-8-8) 116 [Lee et al.,](#page-8-14) [2019;](#page-8-14) [Sachan et al.,](#page-9-8) [2023\)](#page-9-8). Although **117** external modules such as FAISS [\(Johnson et al.,](#page-8-16) **118** [2019\)](#page-8-16), and ANCE [\(Xiong et al.,](#page-9-9) [2020\)](#page-9-9) can help **119** the efficiency of those models in inference time, **120** these types of models still fall into the limitation **121** that model-dependent embedding dumps need to **122** be made in an asynchronous fashion. **123**

Generative Retrieval. GR initially emerges with **124** the work of [\(De Cao et al.,](#page-8-0) [2020\)](#page-8-0), in which an **125** encoder-decoder model retrieves a document by **126** generating the title of the document from a given **127** query. [\(Tay et al.,](#page-9-2) [2022\)](#page-9-2) introduces DSI that **128** produces a document ID as the output sequence. **129** [\(Wang et al.,](#page-9-1) [2022\)](#page-9-1) and [\(Zhuang et al.,](#page-9-10) [2022\)](#page-9-10) apply **130** query generation, improving DSI's performance **131** significantly. Rather than mapping to simple num- **132** bers for document identifiers, other works explore **133** generating the content itself from documents as **134** identifiers, such as spans [\(Bevilacqua et al.,](#page-8-1) [2022\)](#page-8-1), **135** sentences or paragraphs [\(Lee et al.,](#page-8-2) [2022b\)](#page-8-2), or **136** a mixture of titles, queries, and spans [\(Li et al.,](#page-8-4) **137** [2023b\)](#page-8-4). Other works focus on the broader applica- **138** tion of GR, such as multi-hop reasoning [\(Lee et al.,](#page-8-2) **139** [2022b\)](#page-8-2), contextualization of token embeddings of **140**

Type	Split	Count
Query-Doc pairs	$R_{initial}$ (2007 – 2019) $R'_{new}$ (2020)	99,402 90,000
Evaluation	$Q_{initial}$ (2007 - 2019) $Q_{new}$ (2020) $Q_{total}$ (2007 – 2020)	2,000 3,000 5,000
Corpus	$C_{initial}$ (2007 – 2019) $C_{new}$ (2020) $C_{total}$ (2007 – 2020)	43,832,416 6,136,419 49,968,835
# Tokens	Initial (2007 – 2019) New (2020) Total (2007 – 2020)	7.33B 1.04B 8.37B
# Tokens per passage	Initial (2007 - 2019) New (2020) Total (2007 - 2020)	169.7 167.1 167.5

Table 1: Statistics of the StreamingQA dataset modified for our setup. # Tokens is the total number of words separated by space in each passage.

 retriever [\(Lee et al.,](#page-8-3) [2022a\)](#page-8-3), auto-encoder approach for better generalization [\(Sun et al.,](#page-9-4) [2023\)](#page-9-4), and giv- ing ranking signals [\(Li et al.,](#page-8-17) [2023a\)](#page-8-17). Our work employs GR that utilizes document content as iden-tifiers for temporal information retrieval.

### **<sup>146</sup>** 3 Dynamic Information Retrieval

### **147** 3.1 DynamicIR Task Setup

 Adapting the retrieval models to evolving corpora over time is crucial to better align with real-world scenarios. In order to evaluate the adaptability of retrievers, we create a setup called Dynamic Information Retrieval (DynamicIR). As depicted in Figure [1,](#page-1-0) our experimental setup includes three ap- proaches: (1) *StaticIR*, where the retriever is trained on the initial corpus, (2) *Indexing-based updates*, incorporating the index of newly arrived documents into the existing index without further training on the new corpus; and (3) *Training-based updates*, where the retriever is continually pretrained on the new corpus, along with updating the index.

 To conduct these experiments, we assume that we have an initial corpus C*initial* and a newly introduced corpus C*new*, and datasets of query-**document pairs**  $R_{initial}$  and  $R'_{new}$  from  $C_{initial}$  and  $C_{new}$ , respectively. Unlike  $R_{initial}$ ,  $R'_{new}$  consists of pseudo-queries, which are generated from C*new* using docT5 (detailed explanation is in Section [3.2\)](#page-2-0). Moreover, we assess the retrieval perfor- mance with two types of evaluation sets, Q*initial* and Q*new*, where the answers to the questions are within C<sub>initial</sub> and C<sub>new</sub>, respectively. Each set is **171** employed to assess the forgetting of initial knowl- **172** edge and the acquisition of new knowledge. **173**

StaticIR. In this part, we focus on retrieving doc- **174** uments only from  $C_{initial}$ . The training process 175 begins with pretraining the model on C*initial*, fol- **<sup>176</sup>** lowed by finetuning it with R*initial*. We evaluate it **<sup>177</sup>** only on Q*initial* with pre-indexed C*initial*. **<sup>178</sup>**

Indexing-based Update. In this update setup, **179** we incorporate the new corpus to the retrieval mod- **180** els by updating only the index without any param- **181** eter updates. Since we utilize a retrieval model **182** trained in StaticIR, this updating approach is quick **183** and straightforward. We evaluate the retriever on **184** Q*initial* and Q*new* with pre-indexed C*initial* and C*new*. **<sup>185</sup>**

Training-based Update. In this advanced **186** setup for update, we take the model pretrained **187** on C*initial* and continually pretrain it on C*new*. **<sup>188</sup>** Subsequently, we finetune it using a combination 189 of datasets,  $R_{initial}$  and  $R'_{new}$ . Like indexing-based 190 updates, we evaluate the updated retrieval model on **191** Q*initial* and Q*new* with pre-indexed C*initial* and C*new*. **<sup>192</sup>**

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In DynamicIR, we highlight the importance of **194** striking a balance between retaining existing knowl- **195** [e](#page-8-18)dge [\(McCloskey and Cohen,](#page-9-11) [1989;](#page-9-11) [Kirkpatrick](#page-8-18) **196** [et al.,](#page-8-18) [2017\)](#page-8-18) and incorporating new information. **197** We also highly focus on computational and mem- **198** ory efficiency, since the practical applications like **199** search engines handle vast and ever-changing col- **200** lections of web documents, which is directly re- **201** lated with the practicality. **202**

#### <span id="page-2-0"></span>3.2 Benchmark **203**

To evaluate the performance of retrieval mod- **204** els in a dynamic scenario, we employ STREAM- **205** INGQA [\(Liška et al.,](#page-8-9) [2022\)](#page-8-9) designed for temporal **206** knowledge updates. StreamingQA is the bench- **207** mark that includes both the timestamps of question **208** asked time and document publication dates, which **209** is critical for considering the temporal dynamics. **210** The temporal information is prepended to the text **211** in the format of '*Today is Wednesday, May 6, 2020.* **212** [question]' for question, and '*Thursday, February* **213** *[7](#page-8-9), 2019.* [document text]' for documents [\(Liška](#page-8-9) **214** [et al.,](#page-8-9) [2022\)](#page-8-9). The dataset spans 14 years and in- **215** cludes over 50 million passages, surpassing the **216** content size of Wikipedia, which comprises 21 mil- **217** lion passages, by over  $2 \times$ . 218  Temporal Information. StreamingQA includes a corpus spanning from 2007 to 2020, along with a supervised dataset of question-document pairs cov- ering the years 2007 to 2019. In our work, C*initial* comprises articles from 2007 to 2019 and C*new* consists of articles from 2020. Regarding the su- pervised dataset, the questions in R*initial* are asked in the time range of 2007 to 2019 to query arti-227 cles from this period, and the questions in  $R'_{new}$  are asked in 2020 to query articles from 2020. Notably, all questions in the evaluation dataset Q*initial* and Q*new* are asked in 2020, beginning with the prefix 'Today is [Day], [Month Date] , 2020', although they query articles from 2007 to 2019 (C*initial*) and 2020 (C*new*), respectively.

 **Pseudo-Queries for**  $R'_{new}$  The original Stream- ingQA dataset lacks query-document pairs from C*new*, making it challenging to explore training- based updates. To address this, we generate ad- ditional 90,000 queries from C*new*. To make this, we employ a trained model similar to the one used in docT5<sup>[1](#page-3-0)</sup> for query generation. The size of this additional dataset  $R'_{new}$  is similar to that of  $R_{initial}$ . Examples of generated dataset are in Table [10](#page-13-0) and details of the query construction are explained in Appendix [A.5.](#page-11-0)

#### **<sup>245</sup>** 4 Experimental setup

#### **246** 4.1 Retrieval Models

 [D](#page-9-6)ual-Encoder (DE) We select Spider [\(Ram](#page-9-6) [et al.,](#page-9-6) [2022\)](#page-9-6) and Contriever [\(Izacard et al.,](#page-8-8) [2022\)](#page-8-8) as representative models for DE. Since our experi- ments include a pretraining stage to store the cor- pus itself, we use baselines that focus more on the pretraining methods. As Spider does not in- clude a method for the finetuning stage, we use DPR [\(Karpukhin et al.,](#page-8-6) [2020a\)](#page-8-6) and adhere to its original training scheme such as utilizing in-batch negative training. Implementation details of DE are in Appendix [A.2.1.](#page-10-0)

 Generative Retrieval (GR) We select SEAL [\(Bevilacqua et al.,](#page-8-1) [2022\)](#page-8-1) that employs the sub- strings in a passage as document identifiers and MINDER [\(Li et al.,](#page-8-4) [2023b\)](#page-8-4) that uses a combination of the titles, substrings, and pseudo-queries as iden- tifiers. We choose the two as baselines since unlike other GR models using document IDs as identi- fiers [\(Tay et al.,](#page-9-2) [2022;](#page-9-2) [Wang et al.,](#page-9-1) [2022\)](#page-9-1), SEAL and MINDER can be more effective on updates of

individual pieces of knowledge by autoregressively **267** generating the context using FM-index. FM-index **268** for constrained decoding provides information on **269** all documents in the corpus containing a specific **270** n-gram for every decoding step, thus allowing to **271** retrieve them [\(Bevilacqua et al.,](#page-8-1) [2022\)](#page-8-1). Implemen- **272** tation details of GR are in Appendix [A.2.2.](#page-10-1) **273**

### 4.2 Evaluation **274**

We assess retrieval performance with three evalu-<br>275 ation dataset, Q*initial*, Q*new*, and Q*total*. First, we **<sup>276</sup>** evaluate the retention of initial knowledge by 2,000 **277** questions that should be answered from the C*initial*. **<sup>278</sup>** Second, we assess the acquisition of new knowl- **279** edge by 3,000 questions that should be answered **280** from C*new*. Both sets of 5,000 questions are ran- **<sup>281</sup>** domly extracted from the entire evaluation data of **282** StreamingQA, maintaining the ratio (16.60%) of **283** each question type for initial knowledge and new **284** knowledge. Finally, we assess total performance **285** by calculating the unweighted average of the above **286** two performance. Furthermore, we measure com- **287** putational and memory efficiency to comprehen- **288** sively assess the practicality of retrieval models in **289** Section [6.](#page-6-0) **290** 

## 4.3 Metric **291**

To assess the practicality of retrieval models, we **292** measure the retrieval performance along with the **293** efficiency of each models. For retrieval perfor- **294** mance, we report  $Hits@5$  metric, which measures 295 whether the gold-standard passages is included 296 in the top 5 retrieved passages. Most document **297** search systems do not limit results to one or pro- **298** vide too many; we consider 5 to be a reason- **299** able number for assessment. Additionally, we re- **300** port full results of Hits@k and AnswerRecall@k **301**  $(k \in \{5, 10, 50, 100\})$  in Appendix [A.8.](#page-12-0) Answer 302 Recall measures whether the retrieved passage con- **303** tains an exact lexical match for the gold-standard **304** answer. For retrieval efficiency, we report inference **305** FLOPs (Floating Point Operations), indexing time, **306** inference latency, and storage footprint (Details in **307** Section [6\)](#page-6-0). <sup>308</sup>

## 5 Results and Analysis **<sup>309</sup>**

In this section, we showcase the adaptability and ro- **310** bustness of DE and GR, and provide an analysis on **311** utilizing  $R'_{new}$  and LoRA during the training-based  $312$ update. Our results are summarized as below; **313**

<span id="page-3-0"></span><sup>1</sup> <https://github.com/castorini/docTTTTTquery>

<span id="page-4-1"></span>

† For Contriever, T*online* is measured using faiss-cpu.

Table 2: Results of DynamicIR. Our experiments are divided into 3 setups, (1) StaticIR, (2) Indexing-based updates, and (3) Training-based updates. For each setups, we assess the performance on  $Q_{total}$ ,  $Q_{initial}$ ,  $Q_{new}$ , and  $Q_{new}^{w/o}$  bias where the bias-inducing timestamps are removed. Efficiency is evaluated using 4 metrics on the right side. For Inference Latency, T*online* indicates the time required for query embedding and search, and T*offline* represents the time for loading the indexed corpus. We highlight the best scores in bold for each setup. Additionally, the zero-shot performance for all models is provided in Appendix [6.](#page-10-2)

- **314** GR has greater adaptability in indexing-based **315** and training-based updates (Section [5.1\)](#page-4-0).
- **316** GR better acquires new corpora and is robust **317** in adapting to temporal data (Section [5.2\)](#page-5-0).
- **318** GR better preserves initial knowledge after **319** updates (Section [5.3\)](#page-5-1).
- $\bullet$  Generating  $R'_{new}$  for finetuning always helps **321** learning new corpora (Section [5.4\)](#page-5-2).
- **322** During pretraining on new corpora, apply-**323** ing LoRA on feed-forward networks (FFN) is **324** more beneficial (Section [5.5\)](#page-5-3).

#### <span id="page-4-0"></span>**325** 5.1 Overall adaptability

 In order to assess the adaptability on evolving cor- pora, we examine performance on  $Q_{total}$  in each update setup, comparing it to the performance on *Q<sub>initial</sub>* in StaticIR (See Table [2\)](#page-4-1). This analysis enables us to evaluate the extent to which perfor-mance is maintained after updates.

 First, *in indexing-based updates, GR exhibits 4% greater adaptability to new corpora compared to DE*. Specifically, GR maintains an average per-formance, going from 34.95% (before updates)  $\rightarrow$  33.05% (after updates) for SEAL and 37.90% 336  $\rightarrow$  38.47% for MINDER. Conversely, DE demon-  $337$ strates a 4% degradation on average, decreasing **338** from  $19.65\% \rightarrow 16.50\%$  for Spider and  $16.10\% \rightarrow$  339 11.01% for Contriever. **340**

Second, *In training-based updates, GR shows* **341** *11% greater adaptability to new corpora compared* **342** *to DE*. GR shows a 5% average gain in perfor- **343** mance, increasing from 34.95% (before updates) 344  $\rightarrow$  41.01% (after updates) for SEAL and 37.90% 345  $\rightarrow$  41.54% for MINDER. On the other hand, DE  $\rightarrow$  346 demonstrates a 6% degradation on average, de- **347** creasing from  $19.65\% \rightarrow 19.58\%$  for Spider and 348  $16.10\% \rightarrow 9.82\%$  for Contriever. 349

For DE, we extract the results from  $Q_{new}^{w/o}$  bias  $350$ where the bias-inducing timestamps are removed.  $351$ The total performance is then computed by aver- **352** aging the scores of  $Q_{initial}$  and  $Q_{new}^{w/o}$  bias, instead of  $353$ considering Q*total* indicated in Table [2.](#page-4-1) Because **<sup>354</sup>** unlike GR, DE exhibits a significant inherent bias **355** towards the lexical overlap of timestamps when **356** evaluating Q*new*. We delve deeper into this phe- **<sup>357</sup>** nomenon in the following Section [5.2.](#page-5-0) **358** 

## <span id="page-5-0"></span>**359** 5.2 Acquisition of new knowledge and **360** Robustness towards temporal data

 We assess the ability to acquire new knowledge through performance on Q*new* in both the indexing- based and training-based update setups. For indexing-based updates, Table [2](#page-4-1) shows that *GR excels in retrieving new knowledge with updated indexes, even without parameter updates*. GR achieves 33.50% (SEAL) and 39.70% (MINDER) in Q*new*, which are 2 – 6% higher than the scores in Q*initial* **<sup>369</sup>** . DE achieves 34.03% (Spider) and 28.53% (Contriever) in Q*new*, which are 19 – 31% higher **than the scores in**  $Q_{initial}$ **. The unexpectedly high**  performance of DE with respect to Q*new* originates from the bias (Details are clarified below). Sim- ilarly, for training-based updates, GR shows a 5  $-6\%$  improvement on  $Q_{new}$  compared to  $Q_{initial}$ , while DE demonstrates a substantial 31% increase. The results reveal that *training-based updates are more beneficial for retrieving new knowledge com-pared to indexing-based updates for DE and GR*.

 However, during the updates, *we observe a bias in DE towards the lexical overlap of timestamps* from the unusually high performance on Q*new* not only in training-based updates but also in indexing- based updates where the models never encounter new corpora during training. This phenomenon stems from the temporal information, where all timestamps in the queries and in the documents to be retrieved are set to the year 2020, introducing **bias towards lexical overlap.**  $Q_{new}^{w/o}$  bias in Table [2](#page-4-1) shows that when the bias-inducing timestamps are removed, the performance of Q*new* significantly decreases to a level similar to the performance on Q*initial* **<sup>393</sup>** . For more detailed explanations, refer to Appendix [A.4.](#page-11-1)

#### <span id="page-5-1"></span>**395** 5.3 Forgetting of initial knowledge

 To assess the ability to retain initial knowledge, 397 we analyze the performance on  $Q_{initial}$  in both indexing-based and training-based update setups, **comparing the performance on**  $Q_{initial}$  **in StaticIR.** 

 For GR, Table [2](#page-4-1) demonstrates that the performance on Q*initial* **<sup>401</sup>** is 32.75% (SEAL) and 37.65% (MINDER) in indexing-based updates, and 38.25% (SEAL) and 38.85% (MINDER) in training-based updates, which do not exhibit notable sign of forgetting compared to their scores on Q*initial* **<sup>405</sup>** in StaticIR. We hypothesize that the lack of signs of forgetting in training-based updates may be influenced by the use of language model attributes for learning

<span id="page-5-4"></span>

Model	$R'_{new}$	$Q_{total}$	$Q_{initial}$	$Q_{new}$
	with	$36.99\%$	21.75%	52.23%
Spider $_{DE}$	$w/\alpha$	35.77%	$29.90\%$	41.63%
	with	$23.85\%$	8.20%	39.50%
Contriever $_{DE}$	$w/\alpha$	19.12%	13.90%	24.33%
	with	$41.01\%$	$38.25\%$	$43.77\%$
$SEAL$ GR	$w$ /0	37.91%	37.25%	38.90%
	with	$41.54\%$	38.85%	44.23%
MINDER $_{GR}$	$w/\alpha$	37.80%	38.15%	40.03%

Table 3: Analysis the effectiveness of  $R'_{new}$  with pseudoqueries in training-based updates. In this table, w/o refers only using R*initial* during finetuning. The results in hit  $@5$  show that it is effective to include the  $R'_{\text{new}}$ .

language distributions. Through additional train-  $409$ ing on in-domain data, GR can gain advantages in **410** mitigating the forgetting issue. **411**

On the other hand, DE shows  $a\bar{3} - 4\%$  degrada-  $412$ tion in indexing-based updates, reaching 15.60% **413** (Spider) and  $13.75\%$  (Contriever) and a  $0 - 8\%$  414 decrease in training-based updates, with results of **415** 21.75% (Spider) and 8.20% (Contriever). This ob- **416** servation indicates that *DE tends to forget initial* **417** *knowledge more during updates compared to GR.* **418**

## <span id="page-5-2"></span>**5.4** Effectiveness of  $R'_{new}$  in learning from new 419 corpora **420**

We analyze the effectiveness of utilizing  $R'_{new}$ ,  $421$ query-document pairs where the queries are **422** pseudo-queries [\(Mehta et al.,](#page-9-12) [2022;](#page-9-12) [Zhuang et al.,](#page-9-13) **423** [2023;](#page-9-13) [Lin and Ma,](#page-8-19) [2021;](#page-8-19) [Mallia et al.,](#page-8-20) [2021;](#page-8-20) [Cheri-](#page-8-21) **424** [ton,](#page-8-21) [2019;](#page-8-21) [Wang et al.,](#page-9-1) [2022;](#page-9-1) [Pradeep et al.,](#page-9-14) [2023\)](#page-9-14) **425** generated from C*new* using docT5. Table [3](#page-5-4) shows **<sup>426</sup>** employing  $R'_{new}$  leads to achieve superior perfor-  $427$ mance on  $Q_{total}$  compared to only using  $R_{base}$  (w/o  $428$  $R'_{new}$ ) for both DE and GR.  $429$ 

In particular, GR also enhances its performance **430** on Q*initial*. We believe experiencing benefits on **<sup>431</sup>**  $Q_{initial}$  despite training with  $R'_{new}$  is also attributed  $432$ to the utilization of language models attributes for **433** learning language distributions. On the other hand, **434** in the case of DE, we observe a  $5 - 8\%$  degradation  $435$ in Q*initial*, indicating forgetting. **<sup>436</sup>**

## <span id="page-5-3"></span>5.5 Effectiveness of LoRA applied to FFN for **437 GR** 438

When continually pretraining GR on  $C_{new}$ , we em- 439 ploy LoRA widely recognized for its training ef- **440**

<span id="page-6-1"></span>

Model	LoRA	$Q_{total}$	$Q_{initial}$	$Q_{new}$
$SEAL$ GR	$attn + ffn$	38.08%	37.25%	38.90%
	attn	31.69%	32.00%	31.37%
	$attn + ffn$	39.04%	38.15%	39.93%
MINDER <sub>GR</sub>	attn	38.35%	37.50%	39.20%

Table 4: Analysis of effectiveness according to the application range of LoRA. The results in hit@5 exhibit that activating feed-forward network modules is beneficial, not only for acquiring new knowledge but also for retraining past knowledge.

<span id="page-6-2"></span>

Layer		Projection Avg num of DPs
	FC1	1.1M
FFN	FC2	77 K
	Total	1.87M
	Query	41K
<b>ATTN</b>	Key	35K
	Total	76K

Table 5: Average number of Dynamic Parameters (DPs), the parameters that have large impact on acquiring new knowledge per block. It reveals that DPs are significantly more prevalent in the fully connected layer, exceeding those in the attention layer.

**441** ficiency. In contrast to GR, since DE experiences **442** significant degradation when applying LoRA (Ap-**443** pendix [A.6\)](#page-12-1), we pretrain DE with full parameters.

 Notably, the application of LoRA on feed- forward networks (FFN) yields benefits in adapting to new knowledge. Table [4](#page-6-1) demonstrates its greater effectiveness when applied to both attention and FFN modules compared to applying it only to at- tention modules. As shown in Table [5,](#page-6-2) *Dynamic Parameters* (DPs), identified as the most crucial pa- rameters in learning new knowledge, are  $2 \times$  more prevalent in the FFN layer, exceeding those in the attention layer. Consequently, to better target key parameters for incorporating new knowledge, ex-panding LoRA to FFN proves to be beneficial.

 To identify DPs, we analyze which parameters undergo the most significant change during the ac- quisition of new knowledge. (1) we calculate abso- lute differences of parameters between the model pretrained on C*initial* and the continually pretrained model on C*new* with full parameters. (2) we deter- mine parameters exceeding the 90th percentile of these absolute differences.

<span id="page-6-4"></span>

Figure 2: Inference FLOPs according to the number of instances. The flops for GR on both the static and updated corpus are identical, as it maintains consistent flops regardless of the corpus size unlike DE.

#### <span id="page-6-0"></span>6 Computation & Memory Efficiency **<sup>464</sup>**

In this section, we provide the results of computa- **465** tional and memory efficiency. To measure indexing **466** time and inference latency, we use an 80G A100 467 GPU, keeping the server empty except for our pro- **468** cess throughout the measurement. **469**

**Inference FLOPs.** We analyze the inference 470 FLOPs [†](#page-6-3) of DE and GR to assess their compu- **<sup>471</sup>** tational efficiency. We approximately measure **472** FLOPs per instance using DE*flops* for DE and **<sup>473</sup>** GR*flops* for GR defined as below. We use the nota- **<sup>474</sup>** tion IP for inner product, FW for forward pass, **475** and *Beam* for beam search. 476

$$
DE_{flops} = FW_{flops}^{enc} + C \times IP_{flops}
$$
\n
$$
GR_{flops} = FW_{flops}^{enc} + L \times Beam_{flops}
$$
\n
$$
IP_{flops} = d_{model} + (d_{model} - 1)
$$
\n
$$
FW_{flops} = 2N + 2n_{layer}n_{ctx}d_{attn}
$$
\n
$$
Beam_{flops} = (FW_{flops}^{dec} + IP_{flops} \times |V| \log |V|) \times B
$$
\n
$$
where C is the corpus size, L is the sequence length of output,  $d_{model}$  is dimension of hidden vector, 483
$$

N is the model size,  $n_{layer}$  is the number of lay-  $484$ ers,  $n_{ctx}$  is the length of input context,  $d_{attn}$  is  $485$ the dimension of attention, V is the vocab size, **486** and B is the beam size.  $|V|log|V|$  is the complexity of obtaining possible token successors with **488** FM-index [\(Bevilacqua et al.,](#page-8-1) [2022\)](#page-8-1). We calculate **489** FW*flops* for the transformer based on Table 1 in **<sup>490</sup>** [\(Kaplan et al.,](#page-8-10) [2020\)](#page-8-10) and apply it to the encoder **491** and decoder. **492**

<span id="page-6-3"></span><sup>†</sup> FLOPs (Floating Point Operations) is the number of floating-point arithmetic calculations.

 As shown in Table [2,](#page-4-1) our results reveal that *GR requires 2 times fewer computations per instance over DE*, exhibiting 4.3e+10 for the all three se- tups. In contrast, DE has 9.0e+10 for StaticIR and 1.0e+11 for indexing-based and training-based up- dates. Detailed calculations are in Appendix [A.7.](#page-12-2) Figure [2](#page-6-4) illustrates that GR offers superior effi- ciency as the number of instances increases. More- over, unlike DE, which exhibits  $O(N)$  complexity, where N represents the corpus size, GR maintains a constant  $O(1)$  complexity.

 Indexing Time. There is a difference in the con- cept of indexing between DE and GR. For DE, this involves embedding, which converts the cor- pus into representations using an encoder. In GR, indexing refers the data processing of document identifiers to constrain beam search decoding, en- suring the generation of valid identifiers. Note that we process data without applying sharding.

 As shown in Table [2,](#page-4-1) our results exhibit that *GR*  $(3.1h)$  requires  $6 \times$  less time than DE (20.4h) for *indexing* C*initial and* C*new*. The crucial aspect of indexing is that DE necessitates re-indexing the entire corpus each time whenever the model is up- dated, irrespective of the corpus update. In contrast, GR has a significant advantage in that they do not require re-indexing when the model is changed. This issue becomes even more prominent when the corpus size is substantial.

 Inference Latency. Inference process can be di- vided into two stages: (1) loading a pre-indexed corpus and (2) retrieving, which includes query embedding and search. We classify the former as *offline latency* (T*offline*) and the latter is referred to as *online latency* (T*online*). We measure both. T*online* in [2](#page-4-1) is reported for a single instance.

 Table [2](#page-4-1) shows *GR is 10 times faster than DE when retrieving from updated corpora for* T*offline*. Unlike DE, which stores each passage representa- tion in vector form, GR does not need much time to load the index since it stores knowledge within its parameters. *For* T*online, however, GR is 20 times slower than DE using faiss-gpu*. Although DE requires 2 times more inference flops, it seems that the FAISS [\(Johnson et al.,](#page-8-16) [2019\)](#page-8-16) module con-tributes significantly to the inference speed of DE.

 While online latency remains a challenge in GR, we anticipate that this can be addressed through the development of powerful computing resources or external modules like FAISS for GR in the future.

Storage Footprint. We measure the storage foot- **543** print of the retrieval model and the pre-indexed **544** corpus, which are required for performing retrieval. **545**

Table [2](#page-4-1) indicates that *GR has 4 less storage re-* **546** *quirements over DE for updated corpora*. Notably, **547** the memory requirements for DE are directly af- **548** fected by the corpus size, as they store representa- **549** tions of all documents in vector form outside the **550** retrieval model. In contrast, GR has minimal de- **551** pendence on the corpus size by storing knowledge **552** in its internal parameters. **553**

GR also stores information approximately 4 **554** times more efficiently per passage from the per- **555** spective of information theory. Specifically, we **556** incorporate 6M C*new* to the retrieval model using **<sup>557</sup>** only 3.1M parameters (with LoRA) and an extra **558** 3GB FM-index in training-based updates. That is, **559** when updating using FP16, GR requires approxi-  $560$ mately 501 bytes to store one passage, which is the 561 sum of 1 byte and 500 bytes for the parameters and **562** FM-index, respectively. In contrast, DE demands **563** 2,048 bytes for storing a passage in index with a **564** dimension of 1,024. However, we note that the 565 index of DE is often quantized to FP8 or higher. **566**

#### 7 Conclusion **<sup>567</sup>**

In this work, we conduct an extensive comparison **568** of DE and GR, focusing on their practicality. By **569** establishing a DynamicIR setup, we showcase how **570** retrieval models perform in real-world scenarios **571** where knowledge evolves over time. Although DE  $572$ is more commonly utilized in practical IR systems, **573** our findings highlight GR's superior performance **574** in terms of adaptability, robustness, and efficiency. **575** While online inference latency of GR remains the **576** challenge, it has potential as a practical IR system **577** in the future. This potential stems from GR's high 578 adaptability to evolving knowledge, robustness in **579** handling temporal data without introducing bias, **580** lower memory requirements, fewer inference flops, 581 and reduced indexing time. In this paper, we shed **582** light on the practical advantages of GR on dynamic **583** corpora. **584**

## 8 Limitations **<sup>585</sup>**

Our study has certain limitations. First, the evalua- **586** tion dataset in the StreamingQA benchmark lacks **587** diversity. All timestamps in the queries and in the **588** documents to be retrieved from Q*new* are set to **<sup>589</sup>** the year 2020. This matching may introduce bias **590** towards lexical overlap of temporal information **591**

 when evaluating the acquisition of new knowledge. For a more dynamic evaluation, it is better to con- sider diverse query timestamps. Second, due to the scarcity of datasets that reflect the evolution of knowledge over time, we rely only on Stream- ingQA. While this dataset comprises 50 million articles spanning 14 years, a more comprehensive assessment across various datasets is needed to gen- eralize our findings. Lastly, although our results highlight the numerous advantages of GR in terms of adaptability to new corpora, inference flops, and memory, our evaluation of online inference latency demonstrates that DE has a faster speed over GR, which is attributed from the FAISS module.

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<span id="page-10-2"></span>

Table 6: Zero-shot performance on updated corpora. It demonstrates the zero-shot performance in hit@5 achieved without further training from released checkpoints. Overall, it exhibits a similar trend to our models trained on StreamingQA dataset.

## **<sup>769</sup>** A Appendix

#### **770** A.1 Zero-shot performance of DE and GR

 We conduct zero-shot experiments to assess the base performance of retrieval models on Stream- ingQA, utilizing Spider trained on NQ, Contriever trained on CCNet and Wikipedia, SEAL trained on KILT, and MINDER trained NQ. The results of the zero-shot experiments are presented in in Table [6.](#page-10-2)

#### **777** A.2 Implementation Details

#### <span id="page-10-0"></span>**778** A.2.1 Dual Encoder

 **Spider.** Spider experiments are conducted using 780 8× A100 80GB GPUs, and our implementation [s](#page-9-6)etup is primarily based on Spider. SPIDER [\(Ram](#page-9-6) [et al.,](#page-9-6)  $2022)^{\ddagger}$  $2022)^{\ddagger}$  code. We employ the bert-large- uncased pretrained model (336M) from Hugging- Face, with fp16 enabled and weight sharing, config- uring a batch size of 512 and a maximum sequence length of 240. For the pretraining stage, we run a full epoch with a learning rate of 2e-05 and a warm- up of 2,000 steps. The pretraining data is made by running the spider code on the provided docu- ments from StreamingQA. This yields 95,199,412 pretraining data from base corpus and 21,698,933 from new corpus, which are used for StaticIR and DynamicIR, respectively. It takes about 5 days for pretraining the base model and 25 hours for continual pretraining the updated model. For the finetuning stage, we run for maximum 10 epochs with learning rate of 1e-05 and warm-up of 1,000 steps with batch size of 512. We select the best checkpoint with lowest validation loss.

**800** Contriever. Contriever experiments are done 801 **on 4**× A100 40GB GPUs. We employ bert-**802** large-uncased pretrained model (336M) and follow the paper [\(Izacard et al.,](#page-8-8) [2022\)](#page-8-8) and their **803** official codebase[§](#page-10-4) for the implementation and **804** hyperparameter setup. We adjust the per\_gpu batch **805** size from 256 to 64 to fit in our gpu resource. Total 806 step size is 110,000 for base (warmup 4,000 steps) 807 and 16,000 (warmup 1,000 steps) for continual **808** pretraining on *Cnew*, which is equivalent to one 809 epoch. Learning rate is set to 1e-04. For the **810** finetuning stage, we run contriever for maximum **811** 10 epochs (about 8000 steps, warmup for 100 **812** steps) with eval frequency of 200 steps and select 813 the checkpoint with lowest eval loss. The per\_gpu **814** batch size is set to 32. All the hyperparemeters **815** are the same with the pretraining setup, except the **816** ones mentioned above. **817**

> **818 819**

#### <span id="page-10-1"></span>A.2.2 Generative Retrieval **820**

SEAL. We employ the bart-large pre-trained **821** model (400M) for GR and train the model in **822** [F](#page-8-1)airseq framework for using SEAL.[\(Bevilacqua](#page-8-1) **823** [et al.,](#page-8-1) [2022\)](#page-8-1) [¶](#page-10-5) . Due to this context, when we utilize **824** LoRA method, we implement the method within **825** the Fairseq framework. For the pretraining stage of **826** the base retrieval model in StaticIR, we generate **827** 2 random spans and 1 full passage with the publi- **828** cation timestamp as input for each instance using **829** the past corpus, resulting in 130,897,221 (130M) **830** unsupervised data. We train the initial model on **831**  $16 \times A100$  40GB GPUs with a batch size of 7,400  $832$ tokens and a learning rate of 6e-5. Subsequently, **833** for the finetuning stage in StaticIR using R*initial*, **<sup>834</sup>** we use 10 random spans as document identifiers 835 per question, resulting in 994,020 (994K). We train **836** this model using  $4 \times A10080GB$  GPUs with batch 837 size of 11,000tokens and a learning rate of 6e-5. 838 In the continual pretraining stage for the updated **839** model in training-based updates of DynamicIR, **840** we use 3 random spans and 1 full passage with 841 the publication timestamp as input for each in- **842** stance, utilizing the updated corpus, which results **843** in 24,471,541 (24M) unsupervised data. We train **844** this updated model using  $4 \times A10080GB$  GPUs 845 with a batch size of 11,000 tokens and a learning 846 rate of 1e-4. Subsequently for finetuning stage in **847** training-based update of DynimicIR using R*initial* **<sup>848</sup>** and  $R'_{new}$ , we generate 10 random spans as passage  $849$ identifiers per question, respectively, resulting in **850** 1,894,020(1.8M) data. During inference, we set the **851**

<span id="page-10-3"></span><sup>‡</sup> <https://github.com/oriram/spider>

<span id="page-10-4"></span><sup>§</sup> https://github.com/facebookresearch/contriever

<span id="page-10-5"></span><sup>¶</sup> <https://github.com/facebookresearch/SEAL>

<span id="page-11-2"></span>

MINDER GR	$Q_{total}$	$Q_{initial}$	$Q_{new}$
w/o title	41.54%	38.85%	44.23%
with pseudo-title	40.86%	38.15%	43.57%

Table 7: MINDER with and without Titles as Identifiers. The results in hit@5 indicate that there is little difference between the use of identifiers with and without the title.

#### **852** beam size to 10.

**MINDER.** We use  $2 \times A100 80$ GB GPUs for MINDER experiments. We use the pretrained model which is used for SEAL experiments, since MINDER has identical pretraining process to that of SEAL. For retrieval model of StaticIR, we create MINDER-specific data comprising of 10 spans and 5 pseudo-queries as passage identifiers per ques- tion, resulting in 1,491,030 (1.4M). For retrieval model of training-based updates in DynamicIR, we generate 10 spans and 5 pseudo-queries, resulting in 2,841,030 (2.8M) data. We run all MINDER models for maximum 10 epochs using with max token of 18,000 and a learning rate of 6e-5. During inference, we set the beam size to 10.

## **867** A.3 Difference in the presence of Titles as **868** Identifiers for MINDER

 The original MINDER model employs three com- ponents, titles, substrings, and pseudo-queries, as its identifiers. However, as the StreamingQA dataset lacks title information, we exclude docu- ment titles when constructing the MINDER model. To investigate the impact of this omission on per- formance, we conduct an analysis within training- based updates by fine-tuning utilizing pseudo- queries generated by GPT-3.5. Our results demon- strate that the omission of titles, in comparison to the utilization of pseudo-titles, has a negligible impact on performance as shown in Table [7.](#page-11-2)

## <span id="page-11-1"></span>**881** A.4 Exploration of DE's bias towards lexical **882** overlap of timestamps

 All timestamps in the queries and in the documents to be retrieved are set to the year 2020. In this context, to clarify the bias of DE towards temporal information, we finetune the models using a dataset where query dates are removed. Subsequently, we evaluate the models using an evaluation dataset where query dates are eliminated. This experiment is viable because, out of a total of 5,000 evalua-tion instances, only 7 cases require different doc-

<span id="page-11-3"></span>

Figure 3: Visualization of total performance in DynamicIR. The star marks highlight the change in the gap between Q*initial* and Q*new* of DE before and after the elimination of the bias-inducing factor.

uments for the same question but with different **892** query timestamps. Through the results  $Q_{new}^{w/o}$  bias 893 in Table [8](#page-12-3) compared to Q*new* in Table [2,](#page-4-1) we iden- **<sup>894</sup>** tify that the unexpectedly high performance of DE **895** models stems from the lexical overlap with the **896** timestamp. On the other hand, GR conducts re- **897** trievals more stably with fewer constraints on the **898** lexical characteristics. See the change in the gap be- **899** tween Q*initial* and Q*new* before and after removing **<sup>900</sup>** timestamps in Figure [3.](#page-11-3) 901

## <span id="page-11-0"></span>A.5 Constructing the query-document pairs **902 from new corpus** 903

Reflecting the original evaluation dataset's distri- **904** bution which balanced similar proportions of new **905** (2020) and base (2007 – 2019) data, we replicate **906** this distribution in our query generation based on **907** new corpus. We randomly selected 90,000 pas- **908** sages from the 6 million 2020 passages. Sub- **909** sequently, we finetuned a T5-base model on the **910** query-document pairs from StreamingQA's base **911** corpus, applying a hyperparameter configuration **912** similar to docT5 query generation, feeding date- **913** prefixed passages as input and producing date- **914** prefixed queries as output. The training process **915** comprises three epochs, with each taking roughly **916** 45 minutes on an NVIDIA A6000 GPU. We then **917** use the trained T5 model to generate one pseudo- **918** query for each of the 90,000 selected passages, a **919** process lasting approximately 90 minutes. Ensur- **920** ing alignment with our study's temporal focus, we **921** verify that the date information in the generated **922** queries corresponded to 2020. Following a man- **923**

<span id="page-12-3"></span>

		Indexing-based updates	Training-based updates				
w/o timestamp	$Q^{w/o~bias}_{initial}$	$Q_{new}^{\text{w/o bias}}$	$Q^{w/o~bias}_{initial}$	$Q_{new}^{\text{w/o bias}}$			
Spider $_{DE}$	18.90%	$17.40\%$	18.90%	$17.40\%$			
Contriever $_{DE}$	$6.25\%$	$8.27\%$	9.85%	11.43%			
$SEAL$ GR	35.35%	37.50%	35.30%	39.53%			
MINDER $_{GR}$	36.85%	39.47%	38.45%	43.57%			

Table 8: Ablation Study on the bias towards temporal information. DE shows a lexical bias toward timestamps on  $Q_{new}$  where all queries are asked in 2020 and the gold documents are published also in 2020. When removing the timestamp of query, the performance drastically drops, while GR does not exhibit noticeable changes.

<span id="page-12-4"></span>

Spider $_{\text{DF}}$	$Q_{total}$	$Q_{initial}$	$Q_{new}$
Full parameters	36.99%	21.75%	52.23%
LoRA	26.44%	$10.05\%$	42.83%

Table 9: Spider with and without LoRA when pretraining on C*new*. The results in hit@5 show that DE achieves higher performance when pretraining with full parameters not to apply LoRA

 ual adjustment to ensure the queries are asked in 2020, we assemble the queries and corresponding documents into an additional finetuning dataset for the retrieval models, a process that takes about four hours in total. Examples of the finetuning dataset are in Table [10.](#page-13-0)

#### <span id="page-12-1"></span>**930 A.6 Application of LoRA on DE**

 Unlike GR, LoRA does not improve the retrieval performance of DE. As shown in Table [9,](#page-12-4) it is ev- ident that DE achieves higher performance when pretraining on C*new* with the full parameters rather than using LoRA. The degradation in hit@5 is no-936 but iceable not only in  $Q_{new}$  but also in  $Q_{initial}$ , indicat- ing that the application of LoRA is not beneficial for both retaining initial knowledge and acquiring new knowledge.

### <span id="page-12-2"></span>**940** A.7 Calculation Details of Inference FLOPs

 We provide an approximate calculation of infer- ence flops for DE and GR on updated corpora. For DE using the bert-large-uncased, its config- urations are N=336M, d*model*=1,024, n*layer*=24, n*ctx*=512, and C=50M. For query embedding, *FW<sub>flops</sub>* is 697M, and for searching,  $C \times IP_{flops}$  is 102B. The total inference flops (DE*flops*) amount 948 to approximately  $102B + 697M \approx 102.7B$ . For GR using the bart-large, its configurations are N=400M, d*model*=1,024, n*layer*=12, n*ctx*=1,024,

 $V=50,265, L=10, and B=10.$  For the encoding  $951$ process, FW*flops* is 425M, and for the decoding **<sup>952</sup>** process, FW*flops* is 42.5B. The total inference flops **<sup>953</sup>**  $(GR<sub>flops</sub>)$  amount to approximately  $425M + 42.5B$  954  $\approx 43B$ . 955

Note that for DE, we employ the exhaustive **956** (brute-force) search method adopted by our base- **957** lines. Some models can employ approximate **958** search techniques, such as clustering, introducing **959** a trade-off between speed and accuracy as they **960** conduct exhaustive searches within nearby clusters. **961**

## <span id="page-12-0"></span>A.8 Full performance on Hit and Answer **963 Recall** 964

We present the full results of evaluating the perfor- **965** mance of DE and GR in both StaticIR and Dynami- **966** cIR (indexing-based updates and training-based up- **967** dates). We employ Hit@N and Answer Recall@N 968 metrics, where N is set to 5, 10, 50, and 100, to **969** assess retrieval performance. The results are in **970** Table [11](#page-14-0) and Table [12](#page-14-1) for Hit and Answer Recall, **971** respectively. 972

<span id="page-13-0"></span>

<b>Pseudo-Query</b>	<b>Gold Passage</b>
Today is Sunday, October 25, 2020. When did the pay gap between Pakistani employees and white employees decrease to 2%?	Monday, October 12, 2020. In 2019 median hourly earnings for white Irish employees were 40. 5% higher than those for other white employees at 17.55, while Chinese workers earned 23.1% more at 15.38 an hour and Indian workers earned 14.43 an hour - a negative pay gap of 15.5%. Annual pay gap Breaking down the data by gender, the ONS said ethnic minority men earned $6.1\%$ less than white men while ethnic minority women earned 2.1% more than white women. The ONS added that ethnicity pay gaps differed by age group. Among those aged 30 years and over, those in ethnic minority tend to earn less than those of white ethnicities, it said. In contrast, those in the ethnic minority group aged 16 to 29 years tend to earn more than those of white ethnicities of the same age. Gender pay gap The ONS found that the pay gap of 16% for Pakistani employees aged more than 30 shrank to 2% for those aged 16-29.
Today is Sunday, May 2, 2020. What was the top level of the FTSE 100?	Tuesday, April 28, 2020. But the big weekly shop has made a comeback, with the amount families spend on an average shopping trip hitting a record high. The new tracking data comes after Tesco boss Dave Lewis said the pandemic had changed people's shopping habits, which he said have reverted to how they were 10 or 15 years ago. Meanwhile, is this the end of loo roll wars? Spaghetti hoops have overtaken lavatory paper as the most out-of-stock item in Britain's stores. Follow our guide to minimising your risk of catching Covid-19 while shopping. The oil giant said there would continue to be an exceptional level of uncertainty in the sector. Meanwhile, the FTSE 100 soared to a seven-week high. Follow live updates in our markets blog.
Today is Tuesday, March 24, 2020. Why did President Trump sign an executive order banning hoarding?	Tuesday, March 24, 2020. President Donald Trump signs executive order banning hoarding March 23 (UPI) – President Donald Trump on Monday signed an executive order to prevent hoarding and price gouging for supplies needed to combat the COVID- 19 pandemic. During a briefing by the White House Coronavirus Task Force, Trump and Attorney General William Barr outlined the order which bans the hoarding of vital medical equipment and supplies including hand sanitizer, face masks and personal protection equipment. We want to prevent price gouging and critical health and medical resources are going to be protected in every form, Trump said. The order will allow Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar to designate certain essential supplies a s scarce, which will make it a crime to stockpile those items in excessive quantities. Barr said the limits prohibit stockpiling in amounts greater than reasonable personal or business needs or the purpose of selling them in excess of prevailing market pricesädding that the order is not aimed at consumers or businesses stockpiling supplies for their own operation. We're talking about people hoarding these goods and materials on an industrial scale for the purpose of manipulating the market and ultimately deriving windfall profits, he said.
Today is Tuesday, November 27, 2020. What is the name of the radio channel Joe Biden was on?	Monday, November 16, 2020. 'Heal the damage': Activists urge Joe Biden to move beyond border security As Joe Biden prepares to take office, activists say the president- elect must not only take mean ingful action to stabilize the US-Mexico border, but also reckon with his own history of militarizing the border landscape and communities. Biden has promised to end many of the Trump administration's border policies, but has yet to unveil the kind of bold immigration plan that would suggest a true departure from Obama-era priorities. Cecilia Muoz, Obama's top immigration adviser who memorably defended the administration's decision to deport hundreds of thousands of immigrants, was recently added to Biden's transition team. Biden has stated that he will cease construction of the border wall, telling National Public Radio in August that there will be fiot another foot of wall, and that his administration will close lawsuits aimed at confiscating land to make way for construction. His immigration plan will also rescind Trump's declaration of a national emergency on the southern border, which the Trump administration has used to siphon funds from the Department of Defense to finance construction, circumventing Congress in an action recently declared illegal by an appeals court. Some lawmakers along the border find these developments heartening, after Trump's border wall construction has devastated sensitive ecosystems, tribal spaces, and communities, a nd has been continuously challenged in court.

Table 10: Examples of Finetuning dataset  $R'_{new}$  created by docT5.

<span id="page-14-0"></span>

			hit $@5$		hit $@10$				hit $@50$			hit@100		
Model	Method	Total	initial	New	Total	initial	New	Total	initial	New	Total	initial	New	
	<b>StaticIR</b>	19.65	19.65	$\equiv$	25.40	25.40	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	38.20	38.20	$\equiv$	44.50	44.50	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	
Spider	<b>Index-based Update</b>	24.82	15.60	34.03	30.67	20.20	41.13	44.92	32.80	57.03	51.28	38.45	64.10	
	Train-based Update	36.99	21.75	52.23	43.74	26.95	60.53	58.75	40.40	77.10	64.84	46.95	82.73	
	StaticIR	16.10	16.10	$\qquad \qquad$	20.25	20.25	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	33.80	33.80	$\qquad \qquad$	40.90	40.90	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	
Contriever	<b>Index-based Update</b>	21.14	13.75	28.53	25.17	17.35	36.90	39.44	29.45	54.43	46.26	35.65	62.17	
	Train-based Update	23.85	8.20	39.50	29.26	10.55	47.97	43.66	20.35	66.97	49.64	25.35	73.93	
	StaticIR	34.95	34.95	$\qquad \qquad$	41.80	41.80		57.25	57.25		63.10	63.10	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	
<b>SEAL</b>	<b>Index-based Update</b>	33.13	32.75	33.50	39.64	38.90	40.37	54.14	54.50	53.77	59.71	60.55	58.87	
	Train-based Update	41.01	38.25	43.77	47.99	45.30	50.67	62.90	60.20	65.60	67.79	65.00	70.57	
	StaticIR	37.90	37.90	$\overline{\phantom{m}}$	45.00	45.00		59.60	59.60	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	64.00	64.00	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	
<b>MINDER</b>	<b>Index-based Update</b>	38.68	37.65	39.70	45.27	44.40	46.13	60.87	60.60	61.13	66.13	66.35	65.90	
	Train-based Update	41.54	38.85	44.23	48.29	45.60	50.97	63.12	60.80	65.43	68.43	66.25	70.60	

Table 11: Full results on the Hit of DE and GR.

<span id="page-14-1"></span>

			answer recall $@5$		answer recall $@10$			answer recall $@50$			answer recall $@100$		
Model	Method	Total	initial	New	Total	initial	New	Total	initial	<b>New</b>	Total	initial	New
	StaticIR	37.55	37.55	$\equiv$	47.45	47.45		67.65	67.65	$\equiv$	74.80	74.80	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$
Spider	<b>Index-based Update</b>	44.24	33.45	55.03	52.93	41.50	64.37	70.77	61.70	79.83	76.68	69.20	84.17
	Train-based Update	55.79	41.05	70.53	64.32	49.90	78.73	79.25	68.90	89.60	83.63	75.50	91.77
	<b>StaticIR</b>	28.90	28.90	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	37.60	37.60	-	60.20	60.20	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	68.25	68.25	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$
Contriever	<b>Index-based Update</b>	31.34	25.15	40.63	41.84	34.80	52.40	63.05	55.15	74.90	70.98	64.30	81.00
	Train-based Update	37.14	20.15	54.13	46.54	28.15	64.93	66.21	48.65	83.77	72.33	56.85	87.80
	StaticIR	58.25	58.25	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	66.30	66.30	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	80.45	80.45	$\equiv$	83.60	83.60	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$
SEAL	<b>Index-based Update</b>	55.85	56.80	54.90	63.68	64.45	62.90	77.58	78.95	76.20	81.49	82.75	80.23
	Train-based Update	62.44	59.95	64.93	70.25	68.10	72.40	81.65	80.30	83.00	85.02	84.10	85.93
	StaticIR	59.50	59.50	$\overline{\phantom{0}}$	68.10	68.10	$\equiv$	80.35	80.35	$\overline{\phantom{a}}$	83.75	83.75	۳
<b>MINDER</b>	<b>Index-based Update</b>	54.23	54.45	54.00	62.96	63.75	62.17	76.54	78.00	75.07	79.79	81.20	78.37
	Train-based Update	56.74	55.35	58.13	64.45	63.70	65.20	77.19	77.40	76.97	80.34	80.50	80.17

Table 12: Full results on the Answer Recall of DE and GR.